

# absolute india

VOL. 9, ISSUE 185, MUMBAI | SUNDAY, APRIL 17, 2022 | ₹5 | PAGE 08

PUBLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM MUMBAI, BHOPAL AND NEW DELHI



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## INDIAN MONSOON THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE

India has witnessed average monsoon rainfall changing, for example, a long dry spell in August and exceptionally high rainfall in September, as happened in 2020. Year 2021 saw excess rainfall in August. In a manner, the larger climatological changes are now finding manifestation on ground.

Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is the difference in warming/cooling of the west Indian Ocean and the east Indian Ocean. La Nina is associated with the cooling over the central and east Pacific Ocean. An El Nino (as against La Nina) is generally associated with deficient/surplus monsoon rainfall over India.



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Scientists have already warned of changing climatic conditions. The Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has sounded code red and warned of erratic rainfall pattern for South Asia, more so for India.

There are a number of factors that have an impact on India's southwest monsoon season. "El Nino, La Nina are the major factors affecting the monsoon rainfall. Then, there is the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD). Last year, the major drivers were from the Atlantic. September (weather) is

mainly governed by the polar region," Union Earth Sciences Secretary, M. Ravichandran said.

The rainfall patterns are changing, not just spatial but also intra-seasonal. "If we look at the decadal change, there is no long-term change for the country as a whole. But, there is temporal variability. Within the season itself, sometimes there are large dry spells and sometimes there are large wet spells, though total rainfall remains the same. (so) there is an impact of climate change - number of days of heavy rainfall is increasing and number of days of light to moderate rainfall is decreasing," India

Meteorological Department's Director General, Meteorology, Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said. "That is the reason why there are sometimes longer dry spells and longer wet spells."

The IMD has already done climate variability and climate change analysis at state level and district level. "From that, we find that up to 2018, there are certain trends visible in it."

"If we look at the spatial distribution and the rainfall distribution, we could attribute it to climate change. But the regional impact of climate change, with respect to specific districts etc. needs further investigation," Mohapatra said.

## K'taka govt adopts Dalit boy who faced 'untouchability'

### HUMAN GOVERNMENT

The incident had taken place when the family of the boy had gone to the Marutheshwara temple in Miyapur village to get the 'abhisek (ritual)' done on the occasion of the birthday of his son Vinay. They had to stop at the main entrance of the temple as Dalits are not allowed inside and priests would perform rituals and bless them.

There is a tradition of pieces of coconut being placed on either side of the doors of the main entrance. The boy ran and took one of the pieces of the coconut from there and it was observed by the upper caste people.

Later, a fine of Rs 25,000 was imposed on the family for letting the boy pick up the coconut piece saying that the sanctity of the temple has been lost. The news came out and it made headlines. After which the police were forced to take action.



Team Absolute | Bengaluru

The Karnataka government has decided to adopt the boy who faced the trauma of "untouchability" at his village for entering the temple.

As per sources, the government will bear the entire expenditure of the four-year-old boy's education.

Minister for Social Welfare Kota Srinivas Poojari has confirmed it. However, talking to reporter, Chandrashekar Shivappa Dasar, a 29-year-old father of the victim boy stated that after the incident they have been forced to move out of the village. "In my village, we lived in our house and somehow managed to find livelihood. Now, we have to pay rent and also struggle for earnings," he explains.

"We don't want funds, financial assistance. I

want a loan to be given by the government. Let them take my house and little land as mortgage. Lend me help to stand financially independent," he says.

"What my son had gone through, no one should ever. After the incident, he does not allow me to go near the temple fearing that people would assault me. Whenever he sees police, he gets traumatised," he said.

The government has decided to get the boy admitted in a reputed school for first to fifth standard. From sixth to tenth grade, he would be given direct admission in Morarji Desai Residential School without entrance. For II PUC also, he would be given a place in Morarji Desai Hostel. The Social Welfare department would sponsor graduation studies of his choice and if he wants to pursue a professional course like MBBS, the government would also take care of the fees, sources said.

Karnataka government has proudly announced a scheme in the name of Dasar's son Vinay to bridge the gap between upper caste and Dalits in rural areas. It is called the 'Vinaya Samarasya Scheme'. Dasar, the father of the boy, has got a Rs 1 lakh loan from the government and feels that at least he should have been given a loan of Rs 5 lakh to restructure his life. The family was allegedly forced to move out of Miyapur village following the police action against the practice of untouchability including the arrest for five persons belonging to upper caste.



## Maha, Delhi girls bag bronze at Hungary Maths Olympiad

Team Absolute | Mumbai

All four contestants representing India at the 11th European Girls' Mathematical Olympiad in Hungary have bagged bronze medals, an official said here on Monday.

The winners -- three Class XII students and one Class X student -- included two girls from Maharashtra and two sisters from Delhi.

They are: Ananya R.

Ranade from Pune, Sanika A. Borade from Nashik, Anushka Aggarwal and Gunjan Aggarwal, both from Delhi. The students and were accompanied by their leaders/observers including Aditi S. Phadke, Puklit Sinha and Rohinee Joshi.

Incidentally, Ananya and Anushka missed the silver by just one point at the EGMO-2022 held after two years owing to the pandemic.

All the four winners shall

return to India on Tuesday and will be accorded a felicitation at the Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education (HBCSE) in Mumbai on Wednesday morning.

A premier research and development institution in science, technology and mathematics education, the HBCSE is India's nodal centre for Olympiads in maths, physics, chemistry, biology, astronomy and junior science.

## MERCEDES-BENZ EV THREATENS TESLA WITH RECORD 1,000 KM ON SINGLE CHARGE

NEW YORK/LONDON | Agencies

In a strongest challenge to Elon Musk's Tesla in the electric vehicle (EV) market, Mercedes-Benz has unveiled its long-range 'Vision EQXX' concept car that travelled over 1,000 kms on a fully charged battery -- longest-ever distance covered by an EV on a single charge to date.

According to the automaker, the journey from Germany to the south of France started in cold and rainy conditions, and was undertaken at regular road speeds, including prolonged fast-lane cruising at up to 140 km/hour. "The battery's state of charge on arrival was around 15 per cent, amounting to a remaining range of around 140 kms, and the average consumption was a record-breaking



low of 8.7 kWh per 100 kms," the company said in a statement.

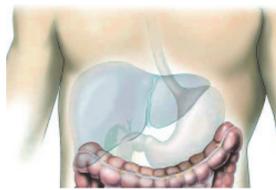
The route profile - from motorway to mountain passes, including roadworks - and the weather conditions presented the Vision EQXX with a wide variety of challenges.

According to the company, the

lightweight design concept of the VISION EQXX is comprehensive -- from the materials used to innovative bionic structures that deliver a favourable power-to-weight ratio.

The car has sustainable carbon-fibre-sugar composite material used for the upper part of the battery, which

is also used in Formula 1, and the rear floor manufactured using an aluminium casting process. The innovative design approach resulted in a weight saving of up to 20 per cent compared to a conventionally manufactured component. The aerodynamically highly efficient solution increases the range by 20 kms. The Mercedes-Benz EV poses a tough challenge to other electric luxury sedan leaders, including the Porsche Taycan, Audi E-tron GT, and the upcoming Tesla Roadster. The automaker plans to go fully electric by 2030, setting a target for half of its global sales to comprise plug-in hybrids and EVs by 2025. Mercedes' lineup will have nine models by the end of the year, including electrified versions of its E-Class and B-Class vehicles.



**New York:** About 25 per cent or one in four adults worldwide has a liver condition, often undiagnosed, that raises risk for heart disease, according to a new American Heart Association scientific statement.

The condition, called nonalcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD), occurs when abnormally elevated amounts

## 1 in 4 adults suffer missed liver disorder linked to heart disease

of fat are deposited in the liver, sometimes resulting in inflammation and scarring.

"NAFLD is a common condition that is often hidden or missed in routine medical care. It is important to know about the condition and treat it early because it is a risk factor for chronic liver damage and cardiovascular disease," said P. Barton Duell, chair of the statement writing committee. The statement is published in

the Association's peer-reviewed journal Arteriosclerosis, Thrombosis, and Vascular Biology.

There are two types of NAFLD: one when only fat is present in the liver (called non-alcoholic fatty liver), and the other when inflammation and scarring are also present (called non-alcoholic steatohepatitis, or NASH).

NAFLD often raises risk of heart disease and is the leading cause of death in people with the liver condi-

tion. The diseases share many of the same risk factors, including metabolic syndrome (elevated blood sugar and blood triglycerides, increased abdominal fat and high blood pressure); Type 2 diabetes; impaired glucose tolerance (prediabetes); and obesity.

However, people with NAFLD are at higher risk of heart disease than people who have the same heart disease risk factors without the liver condition.

## Manchester United to bring former football players to India for supporting young talents

**New Delhi:** Seven former Manchester United stars including, Peter Schmeichel, Nemanja Vidic, Mikael Silvestre, Louis Saha, Quinton Fortune, Wes Brown and Ronny Johnsen will take part in the finale of the second season of 'United We Play' in Chennai on April 24. The initiative will support young football players in India by giving them a platform to showcase their skills. The second season of 'United We Play' was launched earlier this year with a virtual interaction with Manchester United legend Dimitar Berbatov, where he spoke about the importance of grassroots development and initiatives like United We Play that encourage young footballers to participate in sports. Five players will be shortlisted during the finale in Chennai and subject to travel allowances, they will be given a once in a lifetime opportunity to visit Old Trafford to participate in exciting activities like a matchday experience, training session with Manchester United Soccer School coaches, and legend interactions. The legends will be part of various activities and events planned to maximise engagement with club supporters and football fans in India. In the lead up to the visit, Apollo Tyres who is organizing the event, will be conducting various contests on social media in which select winners will receive a once in a lifetime chance to meet the Legends.



## 5 Ways Gen Z is Changing the Listening Habits in India's Music

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Indian music industry is undergoing a revolution, and Gen Z is driving the change. Gone are the days when people had to listen to a record, turn on the radio, or rely entirely on MTV to hear their favourite songs. Today, a slew of self-made superstars have risen to prominence with their own independent labels - written, produced, and streamed from the privacy of their own bedrooms.

The Impact of the Internet: Without a doubt, the Internet has had the greatest impact on the creation, distribution, and consumption of music content in India and around the world. In the last decade, terms like YouTube, TikTok, and Social Media Influencer have become commonplace, as more and more people embrace the streaming era. As more songs become available online, more people are turning to platforms such as Apple Music, Spotify, and others to listen to what is now known as "bedroom pop."

Unconventional Genre: People were sur-



prised that such a sound existed when I performed my first flashup in 2017. To be honest, I wouldn't have been able to find those songs from all over the world if it hadn't been for the shifting narratives in the global music space. I knew most people, especially the young, go to

YouTube for music, so I had to launch the release there. I just released my second flashup, #MagicMomentsFlashup, and the response has been incredible, with 3.5 million views in just a week.

New ways of getting heard (and seen):

Gone are the days when you had to wait in line with a slew of other aspiring artists for your big break. Today, there are many independent music producers who have risen to prominence simply by creating amazing covers of songs performed by well-known artists and posting them online. In the name of Gen Z, these singers do this because there is a ready audience online.

More Playlists, less albums: Playlists are made by combining a list of one's favourite songs into a folder on a digital device, rather than having a CD with 10 or more songs by the same artist. This limitless list is created and best enjoyed with headphones using music apps and platforms.

Diversity is now the name of the game: This is due to the fact that you have unrestricted access to a wide range of sounds. According to Forbes' 2018 Music Consumption Study, more than 90 per cent of Gen Z listen to more than five musical genres on a regular basis. And it doesn't really matter where the song comes from; as long as it's trendy, recommended in an online community, or shared by a "online" friend, it's fine.



# SEVERAL HURT AS CLASHES BREAK OUT IN DELHI'S JAHANGIRPURI, POLICE ON HIGH ALERT

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Violent clashes broke out between two groups in the Jahangirpuri area of the National Capital on Saturday evening, in which several people as well as police personnel were injured.

The Delhi Police are yet to furnish any details about the incident. However, sources said that violence erupted after there was stone pelting during a Shobha Yatra taken out in the area.

A Fire Department official told reporter that they received several calls in the evening regarding arson in the area.

"We can't respond to such requests, but at 6.43 p.m., we got a call about a fire incident at a shop in the Jahangirpuri area after which two fire tenders were immediately pressed into service," the official said. The official further informed that two fire engines are still in the area as a precautionary measure.

The injured have been shifted to the Babu Jagjeevan Ram hospital. Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday evening spoke to Delhi Police Commissioner Rakesh



Asthana to take stock of the situation after widespread clashes were reported from Delhi's Jahangirpuri area following alleged stone pelting on a Shobha Yatra, leaving several persons injured, including cops.

Sources said the Delhi Police chief has also briefed the officials in the Ministry of Home Affairs regarding the present situation in the violence-hit area.

A Fire Department official told reporter that they received several calls in the evening regarding arson in the area.

Meanwhile, Delhi Police Commissioner Rakesh Asthana said on Saturday night that the situation is under control in Northwest Delhi's Jahangirpuri area, where violent clashes broke out after stones were allegedly pelted at a Hanuman Jayanti procession.

"In today's incident in NW District, the situation is under control. Adequate additional force has been deployed in Jahangirpuri and other sensitive areas," the Asthana said.

He further informed that senior

officers have been asked to remain on the ground and closely supervise the law and order situation and undertake patrolling. Strict action will be taken against the guilty, he said.

"Citizens are requested to not to pay heed to any rumour or fake news on social media," Asthana said.

"Spoke to the LG. He assured that all steps are being taken to ensure peace and that the guilty will not be spared. The incident of stone pelting on the procession is highly condemnable. Strict action should be taken against those who are guilty. I appeal to all people -- keep peace by holding each other's hand. I appeal to everyone to maintain peace as the country cannot progress without it. The Central government has the responsibility to maintain peace in the national capital; appeal to people to maintain peace."

Arvind Kejriwal, Chief Minister, Delhi

# GKPD urges govt to take measures to ensure security of Kashmiri Pandits still living in Kashmir

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Global Kashmiri Pandit Diaspora (GKPD) has expressed its deep anguish at the condition of community members living in the valley in the "prevailing atmosphere of fear and insecurity".

While the community was driven out from the valley steadily from 1986 in trickles, the flood of exodus peaked in 1989 to 1990. However less than 1,000 families decided to stay by placing their trust in the local community. These families have turned out to be "children of lesser God".

GKPD said they have been denied all rights, which are due to an Indian.

"Shunned by every government in the last 32 years, they have continued to live a miserable life. The recent attack on such a person, who was incidentally providing health care services, clearly demonstrates that our community continues to live at the whims and fancies of the radical elements in the valley," it said.

"To compound the misery, our PM Package employees, who are posted all over the valley as per a mistaken policy decision of Government of India, have received a letter threatening them to face death if they do not leave the valley immediately," GKPD said.

"The question that begs asking is what the wisdom behind this policy was of employing our community youth under the PM Package and then posting them all over the valley without providing them a safe working envi-



ronment. Their misery is further compounded by forcing them to sign an undertaking that their posting will always remain in the valley and cannot be transferred," GKPD said. "This is a draconian rule, which does not exist anywhere in India. The sadistic pleasure drawn by the local administration by denying them equal rights as J&K Government employees by refusing them full pay and promotion avenues is clear testimony of the silent oppression against our community."

Whatever the wisdom behind framing the rules of employment of PM Package, it clearly defies understanding. In retrospect, it clearly emerges that Governments have "used the community youth as sacrificial lambs to peddle a narrative of normalcy in the valley".

"The Government is welcome to pursue its line of thinking and policy implementation, but it will not be allowed to use our community as tools of convenience. Our community with all our might and resources available to us will resist this.

# Police question three for putting up saffron flags outside JNU

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Delhi Police have bound down three persons for defacing public property outside the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) campus in the national capital on Friday, an official said.

In a case where a person is bound down, he/she is not booked under any legal provision but released subject to the condition that he/she will appear before the police for further probe. The three members of 'Hindu Sena' -- a right wing organisation -- had put up saffron flags outside JNU, forcing the police to initiate legal action and remove the said flags from there. "Three persons who were involved in the offence were bound down as per the legal procedure. The vehicle used in commission of



offence has been seized," said Deputy Commissioner of Police (Southwest), Manoj C. Apart from saffron flags, some banners were also put up outside the campus that read 'Bhagwa JNU'. Hindu Sena national vice-president, Surjit Yadav, said

that 'saffron' was insulted by the 'anti-saffron' people in JNU. "We respect each and every religion and every thought process. The Hindu Sena will not tolerate the way the saffron is being insulted in JNU," Yadav said.

# TWO DIE, 8 INJURED IN A STAMPEDE IN TN

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Chennai: Two persons - a male and a female - died and eight were injured in a stampede at Lord Kallazhagar entering the Vaigai river festival in Tamil Nadu's Madurai, said the police.

A huge crowd had gathered to witness the festival as it was held after two years owing to Covid-19 ban. According to police, a male and a female died and eight got injured in the stampede while returning after witnessing the festival.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin announced a solatium of Rs 5 lakh to the families of the dead and a compensation of Rs 2 lakh to the severely injured and Rs 1 lakh to those who suffered normal injuries.

# 13 Oppn parties flag growing communal tension, say 'shocked at PM's silence'

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A week after violence was reported from several parts of the country on Ram Navami, leaders of 13 opposition parties, including Sonia Gandhi, Sharad Pawar, Mamata Banerjee, M.K. Stalin and Hemant Soren, issued a joint appeal on Saturday urging the people to maintain peace and harmony.

The leaders also questioned the 'silence' of the Prime Minister in this matter, saying they are anguished the way the society is being 'polarised' and expressed concern over the volume of 'hate' speeches doing the rounds. "We are extremely anguished at the manner in which issues related to food, dress, faith, festivals and language are being deliberately used by sections of the ruling establishment to polarise our society," the appeal said.

The leaders said they are concerned with the growing incidents of hate speech in the country by people, who appear to have official patronage and against whom no meaningful and strong action is being taken. "We strongly condemn the recent outburst of communal violence witnessed



across several states in the country. We are deeply concerned, as reports indicate that there is a sinister pattern in the areas where these incidents have occurred. Incendiary, hate speeches preceded the aggressive armed religious processions unleashing communal violence," the appeal read. The opposition leaders said they are extremely pained at the manner in which social media and the audio-visual platforms are being 'misused' with official 'patronage' to spread hatred and prejudice.

"We are shocked at the silence of the Prime Minister, who has failed to speak against the words and actions of those who propagate bigotry and those who, by their words and actions, incite and provoke our

society. This silence is an eloquent testimony to the fact that such private armed mobs enjoy the luxury of official patronage. The leaders said they are committed to combat and confront the poisonous ideologies, which are attempting to entrench divisiveness in the society.

"We reiterate our firm conviction that our country will prosper only if it respects, accommodates and celebrates its many diversities in full measure. We appeal to all sections of the people to maintain peace and foil the sinister objective of those who wish to sharpen communal polarisation. We call upon all our party units across the country to independently and jointly work for maintaining peace and harmony," it said. The appeal was signed by Sonia Gandhi (Congress), Sharad Pawar (NCP), Mamata Banerjee (TMC), M.K. Stalin (DMK), Sitaram Yechury (CPI-M), Hemant Soren (JMM), Farooq Abdullah (NC), Tejashwi Yadav (RJD), D. Raja (CPI), Debabrata Biswas (Forward Bloc), Manoj Bhattacharya (RSP), P.K. Kunhalikutty (IUML), and Dipanker Bhattacharya (CPIML-Liberation).

# NIA chargesheets three ISIS recruiters

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Saturday filed a supplementary chargesheet against three accused -- Muhammad Tauqir Mahmood, Zohaib Manna and Mohammed Shihab -- for allegedly recruiting innocent youth for terror outfits ISIS/ISIL/Daesh.

The chargesheet was filed under the relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code before the NIA special court in Bengaluru.

In 2020, the NIA had lodged this case after the examination of Abdur Rahman, an alleged accused in an Islamic State Khorasan Province (ISKAP) case, which led to the unravelling of an IS module wherein the names of



various persons responsible for radicalising and funding the visits of Muslim youth from Bengaluru to ISIS areas such as Syria had emerged.

The NIA had earlier filed chargesheet against two accused persons in connection with this case.

The investigation revealed that Mahmood and Manna were involved in radicalising and recruiting gullible Muslim youth into the IS fold through the 'Quran Circle' group.

They were also involved in raising and receiving funds to finance the visit of radicalised Muslim youth to Syria.

Mahmood and Shihab had earlier visited Syria illegally to establish connection with IS terrorists.

# Interstate drug trafficker held with 15 kg cannabis

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Delhi police has arrested an interstate drug supplier and confiscated 15 kg of cannabis from his possession, an official said on Saturday.

The accused was identified as Surjeet (28), a resident of Uttar Pradesh's Etah district.

Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (South Delhi) Harsha Vardhan said that a tip-off regarding movement of an interstate drug peddler near MB Road, Saket was received on April 15 after which the police immediately swung into action and constituted a team to nab the accused.

The police laid a trap at a specified location and apprehended accused Surjeet. From his possession, three packets containing total 15.3 kg cannabis were recovered.



Accordingly, the police registered a case under section 20 of the NDPS Act. Further probe is on, the official added.

# Withdraw lookout notice against Aakar Patel, don't apologise: Court tells CBI

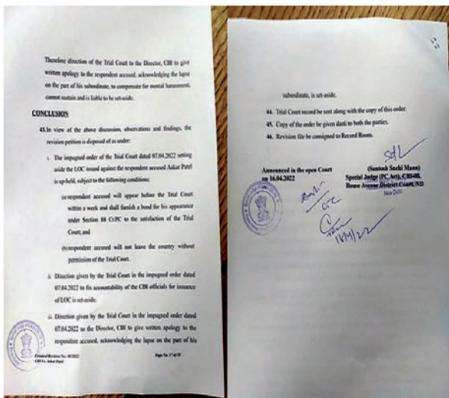
Team Absolute | New Delhi

Delhi court on Saturday upheld an earlier order directing the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to withdraw its Look Out Circular (LOC) issued against Aakar Patel, former Chairman of Amnesty International, India, in a case relating to the alleged violation of Foreign Contributions Regulation Act (FCRA).

At the same time, the court set aside the direction issued to CBI director to apologise to Patel for the agency's action against him.

"The direction of the trial court to the Director, CBI, to give written apology to the respondent accused, acknowledging the lapse on the part of his subordinate, to compensate for mental harassment, cannot sustain and is liable to be set aside," the court noted in its order.

The court directed Patel not to leave the country with-



out its prior permission. Patel will have to appear before the trial court within a week and furnish a bond for his appearance under Section 88 of the Cr.PC.

Patel was on his way to the US when he was stopped from leaving the country at the Bengaluru airport on April 6 citing an LOC issued

against him by the CBI in connection with a case under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010.

He was again stopped from travelling to the US at the Bengaluru airport on April 8, though a Delhi metropolitan magistrate's court had allowed him to travel abroad earlier in the day.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has said severe heat wave conditions in isolated pockets are likely over Rajasthan during April 17-19 and Punjab, Haryana-Chandigarh-Delhi on April 17-18.

Heat wave conditions in isolated pockets is very likely over the same areas till April 19; over Himachal Pradesh till April 18; over Jammu division during April 16-18; over Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh during April 17-19 and over Bihar and Saurashtra-Kutch in Gujarat on Saturday.

The northwest (NW) India region that got respite from severe to very severe heat wave till last week due to western disturbance (WD) may continue to get similar respite -- that of lowering of maximum temperatures by 1-2 degrees Celsius compared to 42-43 degrees Celsius earlier -- after April 19 as the IMD on Friday has predicted a fresh WD is likely to affect NW India from that

Heat wave conditions likely over NW India, MP till April 19: IMD



day. On Friday, the highest maximum temperature at 43.7 degrees Celsius was reported from Bankura in Gangetic West Bengal even as heat wave conditions were observed in isolated pockets over west Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Bihar and Gangetic West Bengal.

Stations that recorded a maximum temperature of 43 degrees Celsius or more include Chandrapur, Maharashtra (43), Daltonganj, Jharkhand (43.6) and Panagarh, Odisha (43.1).

IMD bulletin said a gradual rise in maximum temperatures by 2-4 degrees Celsius very likely over northwest India during next four days and no significant change thereafter; no significant change in maximum temperatures very likely over central India during next 24 hours and rise by 2-3 degrees Celsius thereafter and no significant change in maximum temperatures very likely over rest of the parts of the country.

“ Lust, anger and greed are the three gates to self-destructive hell. Bhagavad Geeta

## Bypolls: TMC, Congress, RJD win; BJP draws blank

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has faced a setback in one Lok Sabha seat and four assembly constituencies, in the by-polls results declared on Saturday. Former union minister and Trinamool Congress candidate Shatrughan Sinha won from Asansol Lok Sabha seat by over 3 lakh votes. Former minister in the Narendra Modi government and Trinamool Congress candidate Babul Supriyo won from Ballygunge assembly constituency. Among the Lok Sabha and assembly constituencies where polling was held, only one - Asansol, was won by the BJP in the previous election. Supriyo won from Asansol Lok Sabha seat twice in 2014 and 2019, and was made the minister of state in the Narendra Modi government. During the cabinet reshuffle in July last year, Supriyo was dropped from the union council of ministers. Later, he resigned from BJP and Lok Sabha to join the Trinamool Congress. Actor-turned-politician, Sinha defeated BJP's Agnimitra Paul. Sinha had started his political career with the BJP and left the party to join Congress before 2019 Lok



Sinha polls. Later, he joined Mamata Banerjee's Trinamool Congress. Last month, West Bengal chief minister Banerjee announced Sinha as the Trinamool Congress candidate. The by-polls for Asansol were necessitated after Supriyo resigned to join the Trinamool Congress last year. Supriyo, fielded from Ballygunge assembly constituency by the Trinamool, defeated BJP's Keya Ghosh and CPI-M's Saira Shah Halim. The Ballygunge assembly by-polls were necessitated after the death of West Bengal minister Subrata Mukherjee. In the Bochahan assembly constituency, opposition RJD candidate Amar Kumar Paswan defeated BJP's Baby Kumari by over 36,000 votes.

The Congress won two assembly constituencies, one each in Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra. Congress candidate Jayshri Chandrakant Jadhav from Kolhapur North in Maharashtra defeated BJP's Satyajit Kadam by over 19,000 votes. From Chhattisgarh's Khairagarh, Congress' Yashoda Nilamber Verma won. The BJP which is riding high on its recent assembly polls in four out of five states felt a little setback with the by-polls results. "Except in Bihar where the party is in power, the results are on expected lines. In Asansol, we lost the seat we won twice... the leadership will review the result in the coming days," a senior BJP functionary said.

### MASSIVE DECLINE IN BJP'S VOTE SHARE IN WB

Kolkata: As Trinamool Congress swept the bypolls for both Asansol Lok Sabha and Ballygunge assembly constituencies in West Bengal on Saturday, the massive decline in vote share for the BJP in both these seats have kept the saffron camp worried with just around two years left for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. In the Ballygunge Assembly constituency, the BJP candidate, Keya Ghosh, finished third by managing only 12.8 per cent of the total votes polled. In the 2021 Assembly elections, BJP's Loknath Chatterjee not only finished second, but also secured 20.50 per cent votes. However, despite Trinamool's Babul Supriyo winning from Ballygunge, the party will ponder over its declining vote share there. Supriyo's victory margin came down to just 20,2208 votes, from the massive victory margin of 75,359 when the party's erstwhile legislator from Ballygunge, late Subrata Mukherjee, won in 2021. This time, Trinamool's vote percentage declined to 49.7 per cent from 70.60 per cent in 2021.

## Prashant Kishor presents roadmap for 2024 polls to Congress

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Political strategist Prashant Kishor on Saturday presented a detailed roadmap for the 2024 elections before Congress interim President Sonia Gandhi and party's top leaders. After the presentation, Sonia Gandhi set up a committee to look into the suggestions. "Prashant Kishor has given a detailed presentation for the 2024 election and Congress president has deputed a small group to look into it and report to her within a week and after that a final decision will be taken," General Secretary organisation K.C. Venugopal said. Sources mentioned that Prashant Kishor said during the meeting the Congress party must target up to 400 seats out of 543 for 2024 and work on alliances wherever the party was weak.

Sources also said that Kishor is likely to join the Congress formally soon.

Earlier the meeting, called by Sonia Gandhi to discuss issues related to 'Chintan Shivir' and upcoming polls, was attended by party's senior leaders -- Ambika Soni, Digvijaya Singh, Mallikarjun Kharge, Rahul Gandhi and Ajay Maken.

The meeting lasted for more than two hours and political strategist Prashant Kishor exited from the backdoor after giving the presentation. Notably, Kishor has met the Gandhi several times in the past few weeks.

The Congress is gearing up to call a Congress Working Committee (CWC) meeting ahead of the

'Chintan Shivir'. The CWC will meet to finalise the agenda for the Shivir.

Senior Congress leaders have been meeting regularly to work on the agenda.

Sonia Gandhi has assigned this task to senior lead-



ers such as Ambika Soni and Mukul Wasni, who have been holding talks with other leaders to finalise the agenda for the CWC and the Chintan Shivir.

## ASSAM: 8 KILLED IN STORM, LIGHTNING STRIKE



Team Absolute | Guwahati

At least eight persons, including three teenagers, were killed in lightning strikes and severe storms accompanied

by heavy showers that lashed several districts of Assam since Thursday, officials said on Saturday.

Officials of Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA)

said storms, rains and lightning lashed 12 districts during the last 48 hours affecting around 20,300 people in 592 villages.

Of the eight people killed, four died in Dibrugarh district, three in Barpeta, and one in Goalpara district.

The storm uprooted scores of trees, many electric poles, damaged 7,400 houses -- fully and partially, in Dibrugarh, Barpeta, Kamrup (Metro), Kamrup (Rural), Nalbari, Chirang, Darrang, Cachar, Golaghat, Karbi Anglong, Udalguri and Goalpara districts.

The India Meteorological Department has predicted that heavy rainfall and thundershowers are likely to continue at a few places over Assam and Meghalaya.

## BABY DIES AS AUTO STOPPED FOR ANDHRA MINISTER'S PROCESSION

Amaravati: An eight-month-old baby died due to the delay in reaching hospital as the auto-rickshaw carrying her was stopped allegedly for a procession of Andhra Pradesh's newly-appointed Women and Child Welfare Minister, Usha Sricharan. The incident occurred near Kalyandurgam in Anantapur district on Friday night. According to Ganesh and Eshwaramma, they were taking their sick child to the Rural Development Trust (RDT) hospital when their auto-rickshaw was stopped by the police for the minister's procession. The couple alleged that a half-an-hour delay in taking the baby to the hospital resulted in her death. The procession was taken out to welcome Usha Sricharan, who was visiting her constituency for the first time after being inducted into the state Cabinet earlier this week. The police had stopped traffic for the procession and as a result the auto carrying the child also got stuck.

## Mann announces 300 units of free power in Punjab

Chandigarh | Agencies

Fulfilling its major pre-poll promise, the Aam Aadmi Party's government in Punjab led by Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Saturday announced 300 units of free electricity from July 1 in Punjab. Addressing the newly recruited officers and employees of Punjab State Transmission Corporation (PSTCL) at a function here, Mann said the government would provide 600 units of free electricity to every household every two months. The Chief Minister said the rates of industrial and commercial units would also not be hiked, besides continuing free electricity for the agricultural sector. Mann further announced



to waive off bills up to 2 KW load till December 31, 2021. He said Punjab would be the second state after Delhi to provide free power to the people in the country. Mann said Punjab despite being the power producing state it was not still able to provide free or cheaper electricity to the people due to the wrong agreements done by

the previous governments. "There are still some hiccups in providing cheaper and free electricity to the people such as transmission losses, coal issues and some legal issues which his government is working to sort out," added the Chief Minister. He also said his government is committed to provide the cheapest electricity to the

## RETIRED COP, BROTHER KEPT MOTHER LOCKED UP FOR 10 YEARS

Chennai | Agencies

In a shocking incident, a 72-year-old woman was kept locked up by her two sons here for the past ten years. Retired police inspector, identified as Shanmughasundaram, and his brother Venkitesan, an employee with Doordarshan, had locked their mother Gnanajothi (72) at her home. The incident came to light on Friday when the state social welfare departments helpline number 181 received a call on the plight of the woman. Two female staff members, Vimala and Divya, rushed to the woman's residence at Kauvery nagar along with the police. The neighbours informed the police that her sons had locked the woman for the past ten years and used to serve her biscuits and bread on a weekly basis. The woman shouted at the rescuers and was taken to the hospital.



Police said that she would be shifted to a psychiatric hospital after initial medication. The woman's husband was an employee of Doordarshan and after he passed away their daughter had taken care of the mother. Two years after the demise of her father, the daughter also died. After this, according to police the ordeal of the woman began. Both the sons did not take her responsibility. Though Shanmughasundaram was staying nearby and Venkitesan at Pudukottai, both neglected her.

## AT 366, COVID CASES MORE THAN DOUBLED IN DELHI IN LAST 7 DAYS

New Delhi: With the national capital reporting 366 fresh Covid cases at a positivity rate of 3.95 per cent on Friday, Delhi has seen over two-fold rise in new infections in the last one week, as per the health bulletin released by the Delhi government. On a positive note, for the third consecutive day, no Covid related death was reported from the city, with its overall Covid death toll remaining static at 26,158. On Thursday, a total of 325 fresh Covid cases were reported at a positivity rate of 2.39 per cent. From April 8, when the city reported 146 fresh Covid cases at a positivity rate of 1.39 per cent, cases more than doubled to 366 on Friday. The daily caseload has been on the rise for the last few days with the positivity rate also jumping from 1.34 per cent on April 4 to 3.95 per cent on Friday. On April 9, a total of 160 cases were recorded at a positivity rate of 1.55 per cent. The caseload dipped slightly on April 10 to 141, before rising again from Monday. On April 12, the city reported 202 cases at a positivity rate 1.71 per cent, which went up to 299 cases at 2.49 per cent on April 13. On Thursday, Delhi reported the highest number of fresh cases in 40 days at 325, with a positivity rate of 2.39 per cent. On the same pattern, the number of home isolation cases has shown an upward trend in the last one week.



## RIGHT TIME FOR 'ONE NATION ONE LANGUAGE': BJP

### ANTI-HINDI AGITATION IN TN

Chennai: The past few days saw an action replay from Tamil Nadu political parties against Union Home Minister Amit Shahs recent comments on having Hindi as the alternative to English. Political parties such as the ruling DMK, opposition AIADMK, PMK, MDMK and others came out against Shah's statement. The DMK's daily, 'Murasoli', on its part, came out with an article against Shah's views. According to DMK MP Kanimozhi, the imposing link language will not unite the country, but instead break it.



Team Absolute | New Delhi

As a controversy erupted after Union Home Minister Amit Shah commented that Hindi should be accepted as an alternative language to English but not to local languages, the BJP, criticising the opposition parties, said that it is the right time to go for 'One Nation One Language'. Presiding over the 37th meeting of the Parliamentary Official

Language Committee on April 7, Shah had said, "Hindi should be accepted as an alternative language to English but not to local languages." Former Member of Parliament from Kerala and BJP National Vice President A P Abdullakutty told correspondent that with a little support from the central government, the country can go for 'One Nation One Language' like One Nation, One 'Tax' for communication purposes. Abdullakutty claimed that due

### ANOTHER ATTEMPT TO DIVERT ATTENTION FROM REAL PROBLEMS: WB LEADERS

Kolkata: Anti-BJP political leaders from West Bengal have described this Hindi language imposition attempt as not just an attempt to divide the Hindi-speaking and non-Hindi speaking people, but also a clandestine bid by the Union government to divert attention from burning issues like price rise etc.

to the increasing influence of Hindi cinema, social media, and new technology, the majority of the new generation in Tamil Nadu and Kerala are speaking better Hindi.

### CONG TO OPPOSE HINDI 'IMPOSITION' ON NON-HINDI SPEAKING STATES

New Delhi: The Congress said that the BJP is testing the waters by creating an issue and promoting division in the country but the party will oppose any such move when the government enforces it. Congress Leader of Opposition in the Karnataka Legislative Council B K Hariprasad told IANS: "It's not an easy thing as the non-Hindi speaking states will not accept it and we will oppose any such move. However I speak Hindi, but people will not accept this, the government should see the history, see what had happened before on the issue."



## AFTER MUSLIM CLERICS OBJECT, POLICE CANCEL PERMISSION FOR HANUMAN JAYANTI PROCESSION IN OLD CITY OF BHOPAL

► THE DECISION CAME AFTER A DELEGATION OF MUSLIM CLERICS LED BY QAZI SYED MUSHTAQ ALI NADWI MET DGP SUDHIR SAXENA AND HOME MINISTER NAROTTAM MISHRA. THE POLICE SAID THAT THE PROCESSION CAN PASS THROUGH OTHER PARTS OF THE CITY EXCEPT FOR THE OLD CITY AREA OF BHOPAL.

Team Absolute | Bhopal



Muslim community welcomed the procession of Lord Hanuman on the occasion of Hanuman Jayanti with shower of flower petals to mark peace and brotherhood.

The Bhopal Police on Saturday cancelled the permission granted for the Hanuman Jayanti procession in the old city of Bhopal citing security reasons. The Police said that the procession can pass through other parts of the city except for the old city area of Bhopal.

The decision came after a delegation of Muslim clerics led by Qazi Syed Mushtaq Ali Nadwi met DGP Sudhir Saxena and Home Minister Narottam Mishra. The clerics in the city raised concerns over the per-

mission granted for the Hanuman Jayanti procession. They said that conducting procession in the Muslims-dominated localities would be fraught with danger.

According to the reports, the vice-president of Jai Maa Bhavani Hindu Sangathan (JMBHS), Naveen Khare, had sought permission to initiate the Hanuman Jayanti procession from the Khedapati Hanuman Temple. As per the rituals, the procession was supposed to pass through the old city of Bhopal and other parts of the city. The Police on

April 16 however denied permission for the procession in the old city of Bhopal, which is a Muslim-dominated area. Last week, a Ram Navami procession in the Khargone area of Madhya Pradesh was attacked while passing through Muslim dominated locality that led to communal riots disrupting peace in the state. Stones were pelted at the procession that began in the Talab Chowk area of Khargone on April 10.

The Bhopal Police is on high alert ahead of the Hanuman Jayanti procession and has arranged drones to

monitor the situation in the city today. Also, a heavy police force has been deployed in the city to ensure peace and harmony during the procession. The festival of Hanuman Jayanti is celebrated to mark the birth anniversary of Lord Hanuman. The procession in Bhopal will begin at 4.30 pm today. The Bhopal Police have also assured that the festival will be celebrated with peace and enthusiasm and that special care will be taken to ensure that nobody's religious sentiments are hurt.

## CM Reviewed the Preparations

### Mukhya Mantri Kanya Vivah Yojana Will Start Again From April 21

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that the popular Mukhya Mantri Kanya Vivah Yojana, which provides assistance to families for the marriage of daughters, is being re-launched in the state. It was postponed during the Corona period. Now the scheme is being started with increased assistance amount and better arrangements. For the effective operation of the scheme, the concerned staff in all the districts has to be sensitive and play an active role. The cooperation of social organisations will also be obtained. A mass marriage will be organised under the scheme on April 21 at Nasrullaganj in Sehore district. Chief Minister Chouhan will be present in this programme.

Chouhan was discussing with the senior officers at his residence on Saturday regarding the re-launch of the Mukhya Mantri Kanya Vivah Yojana. Chouhan received information about the preparations being made by the Sehore district administration through video conference.



Chouhan said that there should be complete transparency in the implementation of the scheme. Programmes should be organised with the participation of public representatives and they should be included in the committees. The programme of Sehore district should be such that it becomes a model for other districts. The scheme has been commendable. Therefore, the programme should also be memorable.

Chouhan said that the initiative of giving gifts etc. at the social level to the daughters who are getting married is commendable.

Collector Sehore informed about the arrangements made for the programme

being held on April 21 under the Mukhya Mantri Kanya Vivah Yojana. It was told in the presentation that committees have been formed for mass marriages. Arrangements have been made for the reception of bride, groom and family members, varmala (wedding garland), hospitality of guests, band baja (band and orchestra) and fireworks. The gifts to be given to the couples have been arranged after deliberations. In the scheme, provision of Rs. 55 thousand per beneficiary daughter includes material worth Rs. 38 thousand, cheque of Rs. 11 thousand and organising expenditure of Rs. 6 thousand.

## Woman beats up delivery boy

■ In an alleged video which appeared on social media, a woman was seen beating up a delivery boy of online food website 'Swiggy' with shoes on a busy road in Madhya Pradesh's Jabalpur district on Friday.



tried to stop the young woman but she boldly said, "I am hurt, not you." The woman was riding a scooter when she came in front of the delivery boy and lost her balance, following which she started abusing and beating him. After the video went viral, the local police called the boy to inquire about the matter and it came to know that the woman beat him up because his two-wheeler collided with the woman's scooter at a busy road. An FIR was lodged against the woman at the Omti police station in Jabalpur district.

Police said the incident took place during Thursday afternoon while the complaint was registered on Friday. The delivery boy has been identified as Dilip Vishwakarma (25), a resident of Natal Charaganwa in Jabalpur city. He told the police that he had gone outside for a pizza delivery. According to the police, the scooter is registered in the name of a woman Madhu Singh, a resident of Gif, New Richhai Colony. "FIR has been lodged and we are searching for the woman," said a police official.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

In an alleged video which appeared on social media, a woman was seen beating up a delivery boy of online food website 'Swiggy' with shoes on a busy road in Madhya Pradesh's Jabalpur district on Friday.

The enraged woman beat the delivery boy in front of the people and kicked him with her shoes. Some people

## Teenage boy injured in Khargone violence regains consciousness: Doctor

■ Teenage boy - Shivam Shukla who was severely injured during the communal violence in Madhya Pradesh's Khargone district and being treated at CHL hospital in Indore has regained consciousness on Saturday, said one of the doctors treating him.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Teenage boy - Shivam Shukla who was severely injured during the communal violence in Madhya Pradesh's Khargone district and being treated at CHL hospital in Indore has regained consciousness on Saturday, said one of the doctors treating him.

The doctor said that the 16-year-old boy regained consciousness but

was still with ventilator support in the ICU ward. "A team of doctors is continuously monitoring the boy's health condition and he has now started responding to some instructions, but it will take some time to recover," he added. "Our first priority was to make the patient conscious as he was in a completely unconscious stage since he was brought to the hospital. Now, he has regained consciousness but complete recovery will take some time. We hope that he will be fully recovered in the next few days," Dr Nikhilesh Jain of CHL Hospital told IANS.

As per the information, Shivam



had gone to participate in Ram Navami procession carried out on April 10. A group of people started pelting stones at the procession following which later

resulted into a communal riot. The boy had received severe injury on his head during the clash and was taken to a nearby hospital in Khargone by the police. Later he was shifted to CHL hospital Indore. Earlier on Thursday, the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) had issued a notice to Khargone district administration and sought a reply on the matter. The

commission has also sought an action taken report against the people responsible for injuring the boy.

The NCPCR in a letter to District Collector Anugraha P. said, "The Commission has taken suo-moto cognizance of a news report on Twitter wherein it has been brought to the notice of the commission that a 16-year-old boy was severely injured in stone pelting by one religious community during a procession on the occasion of Ram Navami."

It further added, "It is informed that the said religious community not only indulged in stone pelting but also in massive violence. Further, it is also informed to the Commission through the said news report that the condition of the minor boy is very critical." The commission has asked the administration to initiate an inquiry and lodge an FIR as it is seen that the violations of provisions are cognizable in nature.

## Contribution of town and country planning in development of urban areas significant



Team Absolute | Bhopal

Public Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr. Prabhuram Choudhary has said that town and country planning plays an important role in the development of urban areas. Choudhary said this in the inaugural session of the two-day conference of 70th National Town and Country Planners on Friday, April 15.

Choudhary said that Institute of Town Planners India (ITPI) has been continuously contributing to the development of the country since

the year 1951. This year ITPI is organizing a conference in Bhopal in the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. The theme of the conference is "Urban India-Spatial Planning Efforts in the 75th Year". Discussions will also take place in the conference on re-imagining India's urban future, expanding India's urban planning capacity, resilience of Indian cities and making local, regional plans in the cities of Madhya Pradesh.

He said that the cities of the future need to be technologically equipped, smart with safe, well-planned and smooth transport management. Simultaneously, the planning strategies need to be innovative, far-reaching, sustainable and inclusive. There is a need to enhance urban and regional planning capabilities. Minister Dr. Choudhary said that urban planning institutions and other educational institutions have an important role to play in enhancing urban and regional planning capabilities. Principal Secretary Urban Development and Housing Shri Manish Singh, officials of ITPI and subject experts were present.

## CM PLANTED GULMOHAR AND PINK CASSIA SAPLINGS IN SMART GARDEN



Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted Gulmohar and Pink Cassia saplings at Smart Garden at Shyamla Hills on Saturday along with the office bearers of Bharti Sanstha Amar Gaikwad, Sanjay Singh and Bharti Singh. The organisation works in the fields of environmental protection and education. The Gulmohar planted today is considered one of the most beautiful trees in the world. It is also rich in medicinal properties. The bark and leaves of Pink Cassia are used in making Ayurvedic medicines.

## CM reviews situation of Khargone

### Government to give total cooperation to injured and affected victims: CM

■ Damaged houses will be constructed and repaired  
■ Destroyed means of livelihood will be restarted

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan reviewed the situation of Khargone with senior officials. He said that now there is total peace in Khargone. All possible assistance will be extended by the state government to the injured and the affected. The government

stands with the citizens. The number of houses that have been either set on fire or damaged by the rioters during the riots are 10 and the partially damaged houses are 70. Chief Minister Chouhan said that it has been decided that the houses that have been fully destroyed will be reconstructed and partially damaged houses will be repaired.

Chouhan said that free arrangements have been made for the treatment of those injured in the riots. The injured will not be allowed to suffer. Also, those whose means of livelihood have

been affected, they will be helped to re-establish their livelihood. The number of such persons is 16.

Chouhan said that full compensation will be given for the losses caused to the citizens in the riots the arrangement of which will be made by the state government. Later, the rioters will be made to compensate for the losses. Chief Minister said that no person will be allowed to face crisis alone. Necessary assistance will be given to families to conduct marriage of girls who were to be married, but could not due to the riots.

## Health Fairs Will Be Organised At All Block Levels: Choudhary

■ Basic Health Facilities Will Be Made Available In the Fair  
■ Unique Health Identity Card Will Be Made With Ayushman Card  
■ Fairs Will Become Means to Raise Awareness about the Prevention of Communicable and Non-Communicable Diseases and Health

the common citizens, Ayushman cards to the eligible people, providing unique health identity cards in the digital mission and raising awareness about



health among the general public in various health programmes. MPs, ministers in charge of the districts, MLAs and public representatives will also participate in the health fairs. Health Minister Dr. Choudhary was discussing with the media representatives regarding the information and arrangements made in the health fairs today. Commissioner Health Sudam Khade was also present.

Choudhary informed that free of cost arrangements will be made in the health fairs regarding basic checkup for screening and treatment for early detection of disease,

availability of medicines, tele-consultation with subject experts. Tele-consultation is to be done at all health and wellness centres through e-Sanjeevani from April 16, 2022. Arrangement of ambulance will also be available to refer serious patients as per the requirement.

Choudhary informed that separate counters would be made to register the patients coming to the health fair on the basis of age group. In this, an ANC counter will also be made for pregnant women. In these, subject-specialist doctors will provide services for health examination and treatment. Paediatricians for health examination and treatment of children, gynaecologists for females and pregnant women, med-

ical specialists for diabetes, high blood pressure, chronic cough, fever etc., ophthalmologists for cataract, glaucoma, eye problems, ENT specialists for ear, nose and throat related problems, orthopedists for joint and bone problems, psychiatrists for mental patients besides other subject experts will also be present. Along with this, arrangements for tele-consultations have also been made if required, so that the public can get comprehensive and various types of free treatments in health fairs. Health awareness, family planning counselling, mental health test, oral cancer, cataract detection, vaccination, TB and leprosy detection, availability of blood donation along with medical treatment have also been ensured in these fairs.

The Health Minister said that detailed guidelines have been issued to the District Collector and Chief Medical and Health Officer for the successful organisation of the health fairs at the state level.

## Swachhhta Pakhwada begins at IGRMS with Swachhhta Pledge

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Under the Swachhhta Pakhwada at Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya (IGRMS), Bhopal, all the journalists and museum workers present were administered the oath of cleanliness by Deepak Kumar Chaudhary, Conservation Associate of the museum. After that message of director of the museum Praveen Kumar Mishra was read. That clean India will not be successful only through one person, this work can be completed only with the cooperation of every person, and one step taken by us will help in making the entire museum complex clean.

P Shankar Rao, Program Coordinator of Swachhhta Pakhwada, while answering the questions of the journalists of electronic and print media, said that the goal of cleanliness is to keep the entire museum complex clean, just as food, water, air, house, and clothes are necessary in the life of a human being, cleanliness is also necessary. A clean person has a glow on his face, everyone sees him with respect, so always be clean and try his best to keep cleanliness around him too.

Under the programs of Swachhhta Pakhwada



special cleanliness program, on the topic of importance of cleanliness and health for prevention of covid-19 special lecture by health expert, essay writing competition for museum employees and poster-painting competition for school children and Exhibition, and a special cleaning drive of the archaeological site under the joint aegis of the Archaeological Survey of India, prize distribution etc programmes will be organized. A heritage walk of the open air exhibition mythological trail, will also be organized on the occasion of World Heritage Day and at the end of the fortnight, to the winners of the poster-painting competition and the essay writing competition, 1st prize- Rs. 1000/-, 2nd prize- Rs. 700/-, 3rd prize- Rs. 500/-, consolation prize - Rs. 300/- and certificates will be given.



# NO QUESTION OF REMOVING LOUDSPEAKERS FROM MOSQUES OR TEMPLES: PATIL

The government notification has come amid ongoing controversy over the use of loudspeakers in mosques, an issue raised by Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) chief Raj Thackeray.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Mumbai: Maharashtra government on Saturday issued instructions against using loudspeakers beyond the permitted decibel limit and warned with legal action in case of violation. Maharashtra Home Minister DilipWalse Patil said, "Clear instructions have been given that loudspeakers are allowed within the permitted decibel limit and if anyone violates that then legal action will be taken." "Court stated that from 10 pm till 6 am loudspeakers should not be played. There is no question of removing loudspeakers from mosques or temples that have taken permission to put on loudspeakers. People should not take law and order in their hands," he added. The government notification has come amid ongoing controversy over the use of loudspeakers in mosques, an issue raised by Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS)

chief Raj Thackeray. Thackeray had asked the Maharashtra government to remove the loudspeakers from mosques and warned of "putting loudspeakers in front of the mosques and playing Hanuman Chalisa." He even reiterated his warning to the state government that they should shut loudspeakers in mosques by May 3. Earlier in the day, Raj Thackeray's Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) put up a poster outside the Saamana Office in Mumbai asking Sanjay Raut to "shut down his loudspeaker" in response to Shiv Sena leader's reported remark terming Raj Thackeray the "Owaisi of Maharashtra". The MNS poster also has a picture of Raut's car that the party had turned upside down in the past reminding the Shiv Sena leader of the incident. "Whom did you call Owaisi? Sanjay Raut shut down your loudspeaker, whole Maharashtra facing problem due to it or else we will shut down your loudspeaker in MNS style," read the poster outside the office.

# MVA'S CONG CANDIDATE WINS KOLHAPUR NORTH ASSEMBLY BYPOLL

On expected lines, the ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) supported Congress candidate Jayashree Jadhav swept the Kolhapur North constituency by-election, the results of which were announced on Saturday. Jadhav secured 54.4% of the votes, defeating Satyajit (Nana) Kadam of the BJP by a margin of over 18,000 votes. Kadam is the nephew of local strongman MahadeoraoMahadik.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

On expected lines, the ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) supported Congress candidate Jayashree Jadhav swept the Kolhapur North constituency by-election, the results of which were announced on Saturday. She defeated her main rival, Bharatiya Janata Party nominee Satyajit Kadam with a comfortable margin of nearly 18,900 votes in the elections held two days ago. The bypoll for the erstwhile royal seat of the Chhatrapatis was necessitated following the death of Congress MLA Chandrakant Jadhav who succumbed to Covid-19 in December 2021. Top leaders of the Shiv Sena-Nationalist Congress Party-Congress hailed Jayashree Jadhav's victory saying that the people of Kolhapur had rejected outright the BJP's divisive politics of Hindutva and hatred vis-a-vis the MVA's all-inclusive developmental agenda. Jayashri Jadhav is the wife of Chandrakant Jadhav, a local entrepreneur who won the seat in the 2019 assembly elections. Chandrakant died in December last



year due to Covid-19 related complications, necessitating the by-election on Tuesday. Jayashri Jadhav secured 54.4% of the votes, defeating Satyajit (Nana) Kadam of the BJP by a margin of over 18,000 votes. Kadam, the nephew of local strongman MahadeoraoMahadik, got 76,123 votes as compared to Jayashri Jadhav's 94,717 votes.

Kolhapur (North) has long been considered a Shiv Sena stronghold but Chandrakant Jadhav breached the Sena's bastion in 2019 when he defeated its two-term lawmaker Rajesh Kshirsagar. It was only after the 2019 elections that the Shiv Sena and the Congress stitched a new coalition with the Sharad Pawar's Nationalist Congress Party, the Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi, or

MVA. But Jayashri Jadhav's campaign took a hit in the early phase because the local Shiv Sena leaders were unhappy that a Congress leader, and not someone from the Sena was the coalition's candidate.

The BJP did attempt to tap into the resentment of local Shiv Sainiks, even accusing its leadership for digressing from its earlier focus on Hindutva by aligning with the Congress to stay in power. But a virtual rally by chief minister and Shiv Sena president Uddhav Thackeray helped consolidate Sena votes for Jayashri Jadhav. A BJP leader suggested that the party wasn't able to mobilise its supporters among the brahmin and mercantile communities such as the Gujaratis to reach the polling stations on voting day. The constituency comprises the old areas of Kolhapur city such as Rajarampuri, Shahupuri, Laxmipuri and Bawda. Ruling MVA leaders see the by-election victory as a verdict on the popularity of the MVA after the BJP's spectacular victory in four of the five states where assembly elections were held.

# Mob shouting 'Allahu Akbar,' 'Islam Zindabad' disrupt Ambedkar Jayanti procession

The situation turned communal when the mob started chanting "Allahu Akbar" and "Islam Zindabad" slogans. They reportedly misbehaved with the women who were also a part of the procession.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A procession taken out to mark the 131st birth anniversary of Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar in Sangamner, Maharashtra on April 14, turned communal when a mob of 100-120 fanatics created ruckus and chanted provocative slogans like "Allahu Akbar" and "Islam Zindabad" during the procession. According to reports, several women were also molested by these riotous youths during the incident, the video of which has gone viral on

social media. In the video dated April 15, a huge crowd of youth was seen marching through the main road carrying green and red flags featuring symbols of the moon and stars. The situation turned communal when the mob started chanting "Allahu Akbar" and "Islam Zindabad" slogans. They reportedly misbehaved with the women who were also a part of the procession. Following the incendiary incident, police filed a case against around 100 to 120 miscreants under

the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Prevention Act (Atrocities) for inciting religious sentiments, attempting to cause riots, assault, and molestation of women. The recent incident on Ambedkar Jayanti is the latest in a string of communal clashes that has engulfed the country since the Hindu festival of Ram Navami. Several videos surfaced, showing fanatics indulging in stone-pelting, arson and vandalism in places like Rajasthan's Karauli, Madhya Pradesh's Khargone and

Jharkhand's Lohardaga on the occasion of Ram Navami. On April 10, when Islamists were pelting stones and petrol bombs at Hindus celebrating Ram Navami in Khargone, Madhya Pradesh, a 16-year-old boy Shivam became the victim of the violence. Shivam Shukla was part of the procession on Ram Navami. As per reports, the broken skull bones had punctured the brain, and a clot had formed. Surgery was performed on Shivam by the doctors to save his life. He is now in ICU, struggling for his life.

# PFI threatens MNS chief over demand for loudspeaker ban

Maharashtra PFI leader issues open threat to MNS chief Raj Thackeray over call for loudspeaker ban

Team Absolute | Mumbai

An FIR had been registered against Popular Front of India (PFI) Mumbai President, Abdul Mateen Shekhani for organising an illegal gathering where he allegedly gave an inciting speech on Friday. Mumbai is a Muslim-dominated area of Thane rural in Maharashtra. The PFI leader was booked under IPC section 188 and sections 37(3) and 135 of the Maharashtra Police Act. In response to MNS chief Raj Thackeray's statement on the removal of loudspeakers from mosques, PFI Mumbai President MatimShekhani stated during a protest on Friday, "Chhedenge to chodengenahi" (we

will not spare you if you tease us). He had added, "some people are trying to disrupt peace. Some have problems with Azaan while some have problems with madrassas and mosques. PFI wants peace, but don't provoke us otherwise we won't spare. If any mosques, madrassa or loudspeaker is touched, PFI will lead the struggle." PFI office-bearer Abdul Matin Shekhani had also said that the demonstrations were being held to highlight atrocities against Muslims following incidents of violence in some states on Ram Navami on April 10. After the matter came to light, the Mumbai Police registered a case against Shekhani for holding a meeting without permission and making inflammatory speeches. While registering a case under section 188 of IPC and section 37(3) and 135 of the Maharashtra Police Act, the police said that the PFI leader had not taken prior permission before organising the event.

# Infant killed, 5 sugarcane farm labourers injured in road accident in Nashik

THE INJURED WERE TAKEN TO THE YEOLA RURAL CIVIL HOSPITAL WHERE UPON ARRIVAL IT WAS FOUND THAT THERE WAS A 2-YEAR-OLD CHILD WITH THEM WHO WAS REPORTEDLY KILLED



Nashik | Agencies

A sugarcane farm labourers' truck met with a road accident in Maharashtra's Nashik here on Saturday.

The injured were taken to the Yeola Rural Civil Hospital where upon arrival it was found that there was a 2-year-old child with them who was reportedly killed, while two labourers were severely injured and three other labourers faced minor injuries, according to Karishma Sonawane, Duty Doctor. The cause of the accident is yet unknown. Further details are awaited in the matter.

# Woman Killed Over "Salty" Breakfast

A man killed his wife for serving him breakfast with "too much salt". A similar incident occurred a day earlier when a woman was shot in the abdomen by her father-in-law apparently after he got annoyed when she did not serve him breakfast along with his morning tea.

Thane | Agencies

Maharashtra: A man allegedly killed his 40-year-old wife at their residence in Bhayandar township in Maharashtra's Thane district after breakfast made and served by her had "too much salt", the police said today. The incident occurred on Friday morning in Thane's Bhayandar East, following which the

police arrested the accused, they said. "The man, identified as Nilesh Ghagh, 46, strangled his wife, Nirmala, to death around 9:30 am after eating his breakfast. He was angry as the 'k'chadi' (a food item made of rice and lentils) cooked by her and which she served to him for breakfast contained too much of salt," an official of the Mira Bhayandar-Vasai Virar police com-

missionerate told Press Trust of India. "He killed her using a long piece of cloth," he said. After being alerted, the police reached the spot and sent the woman's body for a forensic test to the local government hospital, the official said, adding that the police were investigating the incident. An case under section 302 (murder) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) was registered against the man at the local police station. A similar

incident had occurred on Thursday in which a woman was shot in the abdomen by her father-in-law apparently after he got annoyed when the woman did not serve him breakfast along with his morning tea. The 42-year-old woman, a resident of Thane's Rabodi locality, suffered bullet injuries in her abdomen and died while undergoing treatment at a private hospital on Friday morning, the police said.

# In a first, Maharashtra app maps workers' migration for portability of ICDS scheme

The state government's women and child development (WCD) department launched it as a pilot project in November last year in six districts with high tribal population including Gadchiroli, Chandrapur, Amravati, Jalna, Palghar and Nandurbar.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In a first of its kind project in the country, the Maharashtra government has developed a website-based migration tracking system (MTS) application to map the movement of vulnerable seasonal migrant workers through individual unique identity numbers. The state government's women and child development (WCD) department launched it as a pilot project in November last year in six districts with high tribal population including Gadchiroli, Chandrapur, Amravati, Jalna, Palghar and Nandurbar. The MTS project is envisaged to maintain the continuity of the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) like nutrition supply, immunisation and health check-up etc. to migrant beneficiaries including children aged up to 18 years, lactating mothers and pregnant women registered with the

anganwadi centres. Their migration will be tracked for ensuring the portability of the ICDS for their families in their destination districts within or outside the state until their return to their native places. Despite recording a huge distress-driven seasonal migration of workers, Maharashtra, like other states, does not have any institutionalised mechanism to enumerate it. So, through this initiative, the state has sought to capture the data of intra-district, inter-districts and interstate migration of such workers. In light of the pilot project, the WCD department has now decided to roll it out across the state, focusing especially on the rural belts. "As seen during the Covid lockdowns, a large number of women and children had got displaced and missed on their nutrition, vaccination and other services under the ICDS scheme. So, we decided to make a real-time map of the influx and efflux of the seasonal migration so that we can port the facilities to the place of migration with the help of the District Project Officers of that area," said Maharashtra WCD principal secretary Idzes Kundan. "Once they return to their habitats, the facilities can be ported back." "Maharashtra is the first state in India to develop such an app for the tracing and porting of ICDS facilities to anganwadi beneficiaries during their seasonal migration," said Kundan. She said the initiative was

kicked off when Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray visited Palghar in February 2021, where he noticed food security issues among migrant workers, especially women and children. For the pilot project's implementation, Maharashtra's districts tied up with Gujarat's Surat and Telangana's four districts including Adilabad, Nirmal, Mancheril and Asifabad. The WCD officials visited these districts and provided training to their officials in this regard. "To facilitate the project, we have shared the MTS app with both the states. Also, we have redesigned the app in Gujarati for Gujarat, and in English for Telangana officials," said Tiksha, a Maharashtra WCD official. The app is the brainchild of Chandrapur district CEO Mittali Sethi, with the WCD department later adding more features to customise it as per the needs of anganwadi workers. Explaining the project's implementation, Tiksha said the anganwadi workers have to first register the migrating beneficiaries from their areas on the MTS website app on their laptops or mobile phones by using the workers' identity cards like Aadhar, PAN card, or ration cards etc. "Other than names, the anganwadi workers have to mention the age, weight, height of the migrant children, who will be placed in nutritional categories like severe, moderate or acute. Depending on this data, the nutrition benefits will be allocated to the chil-

dren in their new locations." Once a beneficiary migrates to a new district, CDPO (Child Development Project Officer) and beat supervisors of that belt can log into the app's dashboard and trace her through their field functionaries and resume the ICDS services for her family. However, there have been many cases where the migrants could not be traced. From Palghar alone as of February 15, a total of 6,462 registered beneficiaries migrated, of which 1,711 could not be found while the tracing of 2,553 others were continuing. A total of 2,174 remaining beneficiaries got their ICDS benefits ported, even as 21 people have returned to their native places. Besides logging the inter-district migration in Maharashtra, the app reveals significant details. For instance, most migrant workers from Gadchiroli district head to neighbouring Telangana. A high "in-migration" has been recorded in Karnataka from Chandrapur and Jalna districts. The workers from Palghar and Nandurbar migrate to neighbouring Gujarat. Madhya Pradesh sees a large influx of seasonal migrants from Amravati. "Jalna is situated in the middle of the state, at an equal distance from Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka, with most of the migrants opting to head to the latter. So, with detailed analysis, we would be able to gauge the socio-economic patterns behind it," added Dr Raju.

# Actress and pioneer of TV content Manju Singh passes away



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Veteran actress, showbiz personality and one of the pioneers of television content, Manju Singh has passed away following an illness, her family said here on Saturday. The family said she passed away in Mumbai on Thursday. "With profound grief, we inform you about the demise of our Manju Singh. She lived a beautiful and inspiring life, devoted to her family and her craft. From 'Manju Didi' to 'Manju Nani'

she will be truly missed by all," said the family in a terse media announcement, without more details. Ranked among the pioneers of the TV industry since its fledgling days in the early 1980s, Singh started with what was the first sponsored programme on the small screen, 'Show Theme'. She subsequently went on to produce several memorable television programmes, ranging from serials, children shows, spiritual to activism and other meaningful topics for the Doordarshan in the early era of colour telecast. Some of them included 'Ek Kahani', 'Swaraj', 'Adhikaar' and anchored the kids' show 'Khe! Khilone' which was among the longest running shows then. Singh also acted in a few Hindi films, prominently as Ratna Sharma, the sister of the main lead Ramprasad D. Sharma (Amol Palekar) in Hrishikesh Mukherjee's rib-tickling award-winning comedy of 'Golmaal'.



# KATE HUDSON

## OUTCLASS KALEY CUOCO FOR 'KNIVES OUT' SEQUEL

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress-producer Kaley Cuoco, who is gearing up for the second season of 'The Flight Attendant', badly wanted to star in the sequel of 'Knives Out', in a role that eventually went to Kate Hudson, reports 'Deadline'.

The actress opened up this week to 'Glamour' magazine about one part that got away. On being asked if there was ever a role she wanted that she couldn't get, even after her success on 'The Big Bang Theory'.

She told the magazine, "Oh, yes. It was actually quite recent. It was the sequel for Knives Out," she told the magazine. "And I was convinced [the part was mine]. Kate Hudson ended up getting it. But I was so convinced that my bags were packed for Greece. And then I didn't get it."

She added, "I was so devastated. And I'm not [normally] devastated over roles. I had done chemistry reads, I had done Zooms. And I didn't get it. I cried and I cried all night long. And it went to Kate, who's great."

As per 'Deadline', Cuoco didn't stay down for long. The very next day, she said, she got a call about 'Meet Cute', the film she shot with Pete Davidson last year. She didn't want to read the script, but finally gave in.

"And when I did, I said, 'This is the most magical little script.' And I would've never gotten it if I [got] Knives. I couldn't be happier with how things turned out."

However, the actress is hopeful about getting the role in the third instalment of the film, she said, "Maybe I'll get to audition for the third one."



# OLIVIA THIRLBY JOINS CHRISTOPHER NOLAN'S 'Oppenheimer'

Los Angeles | Agencies

The Darkest Hour actress Olivia Thirlby is set to join the cast of Christopher Nolan's biographical feature film Oppenheimer.

The film is based on the Pulitzer Prize-winning book American Prometheus: The Triumph and Tragedy of J. Robert Oppenheimer by Kai Bird and the late Martin J. Sherwin. However, details with regards to her role are not yet clear, reports Deadline.

The film will document the life of Manhattan Project

leader J. Robert Oppenheimer (essayed by Cillian Murphy), the theoretical physicist whose work on the Manhattan Project led to the creation of the atomic bomb.

As per Deadline', Thirlby joins a star-studded ensemble that also includes Emily Blunt, Florence Pugh, Robert Downey Jr., Matt Damon, Rami Malek, Benny Safdie, Josh Hartnett, Dane DeHaan, Jack Quaid, Matthew Modine, Dylan Arnold, David Krumholtz, Alden Ehrenreich, David Dastmalchian, Olli Haaskivi, Jason Clarke, James

D'Arcy, Michael Angarano, Guy Burnet, Danny Deferrari, Matthias Schweighfer, Gary Oldman, Harrison Gilbertson, Emma Dumont, Devon Bostick, Trond Fausa, Christopher Denham and Josh Zuckerman.

Nolan is directing from his own screenplay and producing alongside Emma Thomas and Atlas Entertainment's Charles Roven. 'Deadline' reports that the production is taking place in New Mexico, California and New Jersey, and the film is set to arrive in cinemas on July 21, 2023.

Los Angeles | Agencies

New Orleans-born composer-singer Jon Batiste, who registered five wins at the 64th Annual Grammy Awards, is all set to venture into a new artform of acting as he has joined the cast of the coming-of-age period drama, 'The Color Purple' directed by Blitz Bazawule, reports 'Variety'.

The musical movie, produced by Warner Bros. is an adaptation of Alice Walker's iconic American novel of the same name as well as the Oscar-nominated 1985 film from Steven Spielberg and

After dominating Grammys, Jon Batiste to make acting debut



Tony Award-winning Broadway musical that it inspired. As per 'Variety', Oprah Winfrey, who made her feature acting debut in that movie, is producing the new project under her Harpo Films banner.

The film will see Spielberg returning to produce for his Amblin Entertainment. Scott Sanders and Quincy Jones, both of whom produced the Broadway musical, are also producers. Alice Walker, Rebecca Walker, Mara Jacobs, Carla Gardini, Kristie Macosko Krieger and Adam Fell are executive producers.

'Variety' has reported that Batiste is set to portray Grady, husband to Shug Avery (played by Taraji P. Henson). His character is described as "the epitome of charm and eloquence." He has joined the ensemble cast, led by Fantasia Barrino, which boasts Danielle Brooks, Henson, Colman Domingo, Corey Hawkins, H.E.R., Halle Bailey, Ciara, Elizabeth Marvel, David Alan Grier, Tamala J. Mann, Phylicia Pearl Mpsai, Deon Cole, Stephen Hill, Oscar winner Louis Gossett Jr. and Aunjanue Ellis.

# FASHION INFLUENCER TWEETS ON RIHANNA'S SPLIT WITH A\$AP ROCKY

Los Angeles | Agencies

Fashion writer Louis Pisano stirred a pot with his tweet when he claimed that singer-actress Rihanna split up with her boyfriend ASAP Rocky (stylized as A\$AP Rocky) after he cheated on her with Amina Muaddi, who is the shoe designer at Rihanna's fashion label Fenty.

However, the claims were soon refuted by 'TMZ' and they cited sources close to the couple along with Amina. As per 'TMZ', putting the rumours to rest, Amina said in a statement, "I've always believed that an unfounded lie spread on social media doesn't deserve any response or clarification, especially one that is so vile. I initially assumed that this fake gossip - fabricated with such malicious intent - would not be taken seriously."

She continued, "However in the last 24hrs hou I've been reminded that we live in a society that is so quick to speak on topics regardless of factual



basis and that nothing is off limits. Not even during what should be one of the most beautiful and celebrated times in one's life."

"Therefore I have to speak up as this is not only directed towards me but it is related to people I have a great amount of respect and affection for. While Rih is continuing to live her serene, best dressed pregnancy life and I go back to my business - I wish

everyone a beautiful Easter weekend", she concluded.

Meanwhile, Pisano, who has earned the reputation of Instagram's messy influencer, has deleted his earlier tweet after he found himself in a tornado of backlash. His original tweet read, "Rihanna & A\$AP Rocky have split. Rihanna broke up with him after she caught him cheating with shoe designer Amina Muaddi."

# KJ APA, ISABEL MAY BAG LEAD ROLES IN 'THE WONDER TWINS'

Los Angeles | Agencies

New Zealand actor-singer KJ Apa, who is known for his work in 'Riverdale' and '1883' actress Isabel May have been signed for lead roles in the live-action DC comedy, 'The



Wonder Twins' for HBO Max.

The plotline for the project is under wraps, reports 'Variety'.

While Apa is set to portray the shapeshifter Zan, May will essaye the role of Jayna, who is known for her talent of transforming into an animal. As per 'Variety', the characters made their debut on 'The All-New Super Friends Hour' from Hanna-Barbera and then appeared in 'The World's Greatest Super Friends', 'Super Friends and Super Friends: The Legendary Super Powers Show'. Both the characters who are from planet Exxor, have been trained by DC superheroes. 'Variety' further states that Adam Szykiel, who co-wrote 'Black Adam' and 'Rampage', will make his directorial debut on the popular DC comics intellectual property from a script he wrote. Production is set to begin this summer in Atlanta with Marty Bowen and Wyck Godfrey's Temple Hill taking the onus of production.

# ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Amanda Holden

# Amber Heard's ex-assistant alleges actress's claims of physical abuse are false

Los Angeles | Agencies

The ongoing legal battle between 'Pirates of the Caribbean' star Johnny Depp and his ex-wife Amber Heard has taken an interesting turn as Heard's former assistant Kate James, has testified against her boss's claims of physical abuse at the hands of Depp in the court, reports 'Insider'.

Heard is being sued by her ex-husband, Johnny Depp, for \$50 million, on allegations that she defamed him by describing herself as a "figure representing domestic violence" in a

2018 op-ed in the 'Washington Post'. As per 'Insider', Heard responded to the lawsuit by countersuing Depp, and alleging that he physically assaulted her on 10 occasions throughout their relationship. The couple parted ways in 2016, after Heard filed for a protective order in court, with what appeared to be a bruise on her face.

Depp's attorneys presented a prerecorded video of Kate to the jurors. During her period of working for Heard as her personal assistant from 2012 to 2015, Kate argued that she never witnessed Heard and Depp getting into verbal or physical altercations, nor did she notice any evidence of domestic violence during her regular visits to the couple's respective homes. However, she said Heard did contact her in distress after arriving back at their home in Los Angeles after a private flight with Depp in May 2014. For the said incident, Heard alleged in court filings that Depp kicked her and threw objects at her on the flight because he was upset about a romantic scene she had filmed the day prior with James Franco.





## IPL 2022

# RAHUL'S CENTURY IN 100TH IPL MATCH LEADS LUCKNOW'S 18-RUN WIN OVER MUMBAI

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Lucknow Super Giants captain K.L. Rahul marked his 100th IPL appearance with a swash-buckling century which set up their convincing 18-run win over Mumbai Indians at the Brabourne Stadium on Saturday.



run continued as he nicked behind off Avesh Khan. Young Dewald Brevis continued from where he left off in his 49-blitz against Punjab Kings, crunching Khan through point for four on his very first ball. He got another four through an outer edge off Ravi Bishnoi and clubbed Dushmantha Chameera with a straight bat for a six over long-on. Brevis slapped Khan for

back-to-back fours through mid-wicket and down the ground before the pacer took out the right-hander with a full toss hit straight to extra cover to fall for a 13-ball 31. Just three balls after Brevis fell, Ishan Kishan chopped on to his stumps off Marcus Stoinis. Suryakumar Yadav and Tilak Varma rotated strike well. The 64-run stand off 48 balls for the fourth wicket

ended as Jason Holder's yorker rattled Varma's off-stump. In the next over, Yadav tried to pull a short ball from Bishnoi but mistimed to deep square leg. Kieron Pollard kept Mumbai in the game by smacking sixes off Chameera over wide long-on and deep mid-wicket before crunching a four through wide long-on off Khan.

Pollard's flick off went straight to long-on off Chameera, making it a case of so close yet so far again for Mumbai.

### Brief scores

Lucknow Super Giants (K.L. Rahul 103 not out, Manish Pandey 38; Jaydev Unadkat 2/32, Murugan Ashwin 1/33) beat Mumbai Indians (Suryakumar Yadav 37, Dewald Brevis 31; Avesh Khan 3/30, Marcus Stoinis 1/13) by 18 runs

# IPL 2022: Hazelwood's 3/28; Karthik, Maxwell fifties help Royal Challengers beat Delhi Capitals by 16 runs

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Josh Hazlewood claimed 3/28 after Dinesh Karthik and Glenn Maxwell set the platform with attacking half-centuries as Royal Challengers Bangalore defeated Delhi Capitals by 16 runs in Match 27 of IPL 2022 here on Saturday.



Hazlewood bowled with superb control and prised out three middle-order wickets to restrict Delhi Capitals at the Wankhede Stadium here. He got good support from Mohammed Siraj (2/31) and Wanindu Hasaranga, who removed the dangerous David Warner (66) as Delhi Capitals could manage only 173/7 in 20 overs, chasing RCB's 189/5 build on attacking half-centuries by Dinesh Karthik (66 not out) and Glenn Maxwell (55). Skipper Rishabh Pant (34 off 17 balls) tried to rally the middle and lower order but none of them stayed long enough to support him -- Virat Kohli plucked off a superb one-handed catch off a mistimed hit -- as Capitals fell short eventually, slumping to their third defeat in five matches.

With this win, the Royal Challengers moved up to eighth points from six matches, the same as Gujarat Titans and Lucknow Super Giants but were placed third with a lower net run rate.

David Warner had raised hopes of Delhi Capitals, successfully chasing the target of 190 as he struck his 52nd half-century in the Indian Premier League. He and Prithvi Shaw had given the innings a blazing start, raising 50 runs in the fifth over before the Mumbai batter got out, caught by Anuj Rawat off Siraj, mistiming an attempted slog on leg-side.

Warner continued in the same fashion, hitting some brilliant shots all around the ground. He completed his fifty off 30 deliveries and was looking good for a big one when he was trapped lbw by Sri Lankan spinner Wanindu Hasaranga and Delhi Capitals slumped to 94/2 in the 12th over.

Pant tried to continue the good work, hitting 34 off 17 deliveries with three fours and two sixes. But Rovman

Powell, Lalit Yadav and Mitchell Marsh failed to contribute much as Delhi Capitals lost their way. With 45 needed off the last three overs, it was too much for the likes of Axar Patel, Shardul Thakur and Kuldeep Yadav to pull off.

Earlier, RCB could manage only 40/2 in the powerplay but it soon became 40/3 as Virat Kohli departed two balls into the seventh over when Lalit Yadav caught the former India captain short of his crease with a brilliant throw, falling over. That spelled trouble for RCB as openers Anuj Rawat (0) and skipper Faf du Plessis (8) were back in the dugout with the score reading 13.

Though losing Maxwell at that juncture looked like a setback for RCB but Karthik and Shahbaz Ahmed ensured they reached a defendable total in the end.

### Brief scores

Royal Challengers Bangalore 189/5 in 20 overs (Glenn Maxwell 55, Dinesh Karthik 66 not out, Shahbaz Ahmed 32 not out; Shardul Thakur 1/27) beat Delhi Capitals 173/7 in 20 overs (David Warner 66, Rishabh Pant 34; Josh Hazlewood 3/28, Mohammed Siraj 2/31).

## 75TH SANTOSH TROPHY

# West Bengal beat Punjab 1-0 in the opener

Malappuram (Kerala) | Agencies

The 32-times winner West Bengal kicked off their campaign in the 75th Santosh Trophy with a narrow 1-0 victory over eight-time champions Punjab in the opening game of the national football championships here on Saturday.

Right from the start, the tournament's two most successful teams attacked with fervour, intent on grabbing all three points to gain a strong foothold in Group A.

The chances flowed at both ends fairly quickly. In the 8th minute, Jashandeep Singh's free-kick from the left, curved and dipped to force West Bengal goalkeeper Priyant Kumar Singh into a save. The rebound was too quick for Amarpreet Singh to capitalise as the ball rolled wide.

Punjab had not conceded a single goal

through their qualifying campaign, but here against West Bengal they faced their stiffest test, conceding possession often in the first half, and goalkeeper Harpreet Singh was called into action from multiple corners. In the 20th minute, Harpreet made his first real save of the game, parrying Basu Deb Mandi's long-range swerving shot to safety.

And yet, it was Punjab who could have gone into the break with the lead. A long ball from deep was misjudged by West Bengal captain Monotosh Chakladar in defence, and the ball fell to Tarun Slathia a few yards outside the box. Slathia collected it neatly and charged in, with only goalkeeper Priyant to beat, but dragged his shot wide. The two teams went into the break, locked goalless.

West Bengal held on to ensure they had a winning start to the tournament.

## BILLIE JEAN KING CUP

# INDIA BEAT NEW ZEALAND 2-1 TO STAY IN GROUP I

Antalya (Turkey) | Agencies

The Indian women's tennis team defeated New Zealand 2-1 in its fourth Billie Jean King Cup 2022 Asia/Oceania Group I tie and avoided relegation to Group II for next year, here.

India's No 1 player in women's singles Anika Raina and Rutuja Bhosale won their respective singles rubbers but Riya Bhatia and Sowjanya Bavisetti lost their doubles match on the clay courts of the MTA Tennis Academy.

The 26-year old Bhosale, ranked 477 in the world, played the opening singles match against world No



1342 Valentina Ivanov and took the first set convincingly. The Indian faced stiff resistance in the second set but eventually won the

match 6-1, 7(7)-6(3) in one hour and 20 minutes on late Friday. Meanwhile, Anika Raina, ranked 319, had to fight hard in the first set

before cruising in the next for a 7-5, 6-3 win against Kiwi No 1 Paige Hourigan in a clash, which lasted for one hour and 34 minutes.

However, the Indian women's doubles team of Sowjanya Bavisetti and Riya Bhatia, faltered once again and lost the dead rubber to Paige Hourigan and Erin Routliffe 2-6, 0-6 in one hour and 3 minutes. India will play their final tie against South Korea.

However, with back-to-back wins against Indonesia and New Zealand, they have already secured a third or fourth finish in the pool of six teams. The Indian women's tennis team had lost to Japan and China in its opening two matches. The Billie Jean King Cup, formerly known as the Fed Cup, is a world team championship for women's.

# Zverev claims emotional win at Monte Carlo, sets up semifinal with Tsitsipas

Monaco | Agencies

In a nail-biting match at the Monte Carlo Country Club, Alexander Zverev of Germany got out his best form in the tie-break of the deciding set as the second seed eliminated Jannik Sinner of Italy 5-7, 6-3, 7-6 (5) to reach his second semifinal at Monaco.

The two players produced 10 breaks in total in the marathon match which lasted over three hours.

The German fought back twice from a break down in the third set and finally forced the tough battle to a tie-break before the 24-year-old Zverev sew up the win 7-5 after Sinner's backhand netted.

"It means a lot, definitely, especially with how this year has been going so far for me. I have lost long matches like that, so I'm happy I



won this one," said the emotional Zverev, who roared with delight on the winner.

Storming into the quarterfinals without dropping a set, the world No. 3 has the opportunity to close

the gap with Serbian Novak Djokovic and Russian Daniil Medvedev on the ATP rankings, as he will move within 235 points of top-ranked Djokovic if he finishes the week with a title in the opening clay-court Masters of the season.

Zverev had already tasted the victory in Rome and Madrid, meaning that Monte Carlo is the only ATP Masters 1000 tournament on clay court that he has never won.

Next for the German will be defending champion Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece, who has also survived a three-set thriller to advance. Under the floodlights on Court Rainier III, the third seed squandered a 5-2 lead in the second set, before clawing back from 0-4 down in the decider to secure the victory 6-2, 6-7 (3), 6-4 after two hours and 45 minutes.

## DANISH OPEN SWIMMING

# Sajan Prakash clinches gold, Vedaant Madhavan bags silver

Copenhagen (Denmark) | Agencies

Ace Indian swimmer Sajan Prakash clinched the gold medal in the men's 200m butterfly event at the Danish Open 2022, here.

Competing for the first time in an international meet this year, Sajan clocked 1:59.27 seconds to finish on the top of the podium. Denmark's Heorhij Lukashov followed in 1:59.89 and Oliver Sogaard-Andersen (2:02.81) came third on Friday night.

The 28-year-old Prakash clocked the national record timing of 1:56:38 in the 200m butterfly, last year, to become the first Indian swimmer to qualify for the Olympics directly by breaching 'A' standard time. He also became the first and only Indian swimmer to make it to two Olympic Games.

At the last Asian Games in 2018, the Kerala swimmer finished fifth in the 200m butterfly event after becoming the first Indian



swimmer since 1986 to qualify for the finals. Meanwhile, in the men's 1500m freestyle event, 16-year-old Vedaant Madhavan, son of Indian actor R Madhavan, achieved his personal best time of 15:57.86 to clinch the silver medal in the 10-swimmer final. Vedaant was beaten to the finish line by Alexander Bjorn (15:50.18). Frederik Lindholm (16:02.22) clinched the bronze, an olympics.com report said.

# Deepak Chahar vows to come back stronger from back injury



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Chennai Super Kings (CSK) pace bowler Deepak Chahar, who was ruled out of the entire IPL 2022 season on Friday due to a back injury, has posted an emotional message on social media saying he "really wanted to play" this season but unfortunately has to miss out this time around.

In a massive blow for the Ravindra Jadeja-led defending champions, the 29-year-old picked up a back injury at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Bengaluru while rehabilitating from a quadriceps injury sustained during the third T20I against West Indies in February.

"Chennai Super Kings bowler Deepak Chahar has been ruled out of the TATA Indian Premier League (IPL) 2022 owing to a back injury," the league said in a statement on Friday.

Chahar wrote on Instagram: "Sorry guys, unfortunately I will be missing out this season of IPL due to an injury. Really wanted to play but will come back better and stronger like I have always done. Thanks for always supporting me with your love and wishes. Need your blessings. See you soon."

Chahar was an integral part of CSK's fourth championship win in IPL 2021, claiming 14 wickets from 15 games at an economy of 8.35. He was the team's powerplay enforcer with the ball and also an able lower-order hitter, which got the franchise to spend Rs 14 crores to pick him at the mega auction ahead of this season.

The pacer sustained the injury days after the auction and missed the subsequent series against Sri Lanka while rehabilitating at the NCA. The initial assessment by the NCA physios projected that Chahar was set to miss a major chunk of the IPL 2022 and his quick recovery kept CSK hopeful of a return in late April but the back injury setback put an end to all those hopes.

## WOMEN'S FOOTBALL LEAGUE

# MANISHA SCORES FIVE AS HOLDERS GOKULAM KERALA WIN 12-0

Bhubaneswar | Agencies

Defending champions Gokulam Kerala FC began their defence in the Indian Women's Football League (IWL) on a thumping note, scoring a dozen goals against Odisha Police in their opening match on Saturday.

India international Manisha Kalyan led the rampage by scoring five goals, while also providing a couple of assists.

The focus was on Gokulam Kerala and Manisha as they started their campaign on Saturday, the second day of the league.

Odisha Police began the game positively and held their defence strongly against a barrage of Gokulam Kerala attacks. However, the defending champions eventually found a breakthrough in the 17th minute via Manisha who poked the ball past goalkeeper Sanjukta Tirkey to open the scoring.

In the 24th minute, Manisha scored from close range to make it 2-0.

Immediately after the restart, Myanmar international Win Tun, with her sheer pace, rounded the Odisha Police goalkeeper to make it 3-0, handing complete charge of the game to Gokulam.

Meanwhile, Manisha went on to net her third goal at the half-hour mark from a Soumya Guguloth assist. In a quick-fire addition, Dangmei Grace scored from a tap-in before Kalyan made it 6-0 right before the half-time whistle.



On the other hand, in red-hot form, Manisha Kalyan scored her fifth with an equally brilliant assist from Dalima Chhibber, and then Elshaddai sealed the fate of the match in the 85th minute to make it 12-0.

## SETHU FC WIN 6-1

Sethu Fc started well as they found the back of the net twice in the first seven minutes of the game. Elizabeth Katunga opened the scoring, followed by Indian international Anju Tamang. Within the first quarter of the match, the former champions made their intent very clear. They continued to dominate across the field as they increased the lead in the 15th minute with a goal from Mariyammal, finishing off a move initiated by Anju. The Madurai-based side was too dominant and their rivals struggled to control the momentum. The 4th and 5th goals came in the 22nd and 24th minutes respectively with Sanju and Lalrampari finding the back of the net. Changing over, it was quite a task for Rukmani to overturn as they were 0-5 down. The debutants, however, introduced some fresh pairs of legs but it didn't change the script much. After the hour mark, Sethu FC continued to press and their players entered the rival box almost at will. That led to their 6th goal -- Renu poking it in from close range in the 70th. Rukmani managed to pull a consolation goal in the 79th minute with Reet Kashyap rushing in behind the Sethu defence to put it in.



## Ektaa enters reality show to celebrate five years of her OTT platform

Team Absolute | Mumbai

**T**czarina Ektaa R Kapoor has entered the reality show 'Lock Upp'. She had a gala time with the contestants and also talked about her favourite contestants.

Both Kangana Ranaut and Ekta praised Munawar Faruqi for his game and called him 'brainy'.

Ekta said Munawar is "an interesting kaidi". She further revealed names of her favourite contestants on the show and said:

"I'll mention my five favourite Kaidis and I don't care if others feel bad about it." She took name of her favorite 5 inmates: Payal Rohtagi, Azma Fallah, Anjali Arora, Zeeshan Khan and Poonam Pandey. With Kangana Ranaut as the host and controversial celebrity

contestants as kaidi for 72 days in jail, the show has garnered 200+ MN viewers.

Speaking about ALTBalaji as it celebrates its fifth anniversary, Ektaa R Kapoor shared: "This is an overwhelming moment for all of us at ALTBalaji. It's been a glorious journey and the best time to be in the OTT business where we are charting a new

course by creating path-breaking content." "We believed in creating and delivering a variety of content to our viewers and we started the year on a powerful note with our reality show 'Lock Upp'. I want to thank viewers across India for their continued love and support," she added.



I'm so glad to be alive and to witness such amazing performances: Sonali Bendre

song being performed in such a different way. Sadiya also matched up to Vartika's level and the whole act was just a treat to the eyes. I am extremely stunned by this performance," she added. The dance reality show judged by Sonali Bendre, Mouni Roy and Remo D'Souza airs on Zee TV.

## I would like to play a cop on OTT: Anuj Sachdeva

Team Absolute | Mumbai

**O**ver the years, Anuj Sachdeva has essayed quite a few characters, but the one role that's eluded him is his dream role - of playing a man in uniform.

Anuj is currently playing the ideal son, brother, lover boy Cheeranjeev Chaudhary in the TV show 'Woh Toh Hai Albelaa' and his character is being loved by his well-wishers and fans.

The actor is now keen to explore the OTT place simultaneously with a character that he has never played on screen - that of a cop or a police officer. "I want to play a cop/ an officer in uniform, basically do an intense, performance-oriented role which has been my forte as an actor."

Sachdeva was recently seen in an OTT mini-series 'Ek Extra Mile' on Voot and his comic timing in the show was highly revered.

Sachdeva made his OTT debut in 2018 with Shitty Ideas Trending's 'Bin Bulaye Mehmaan season 2' and was later seen in Zoom Studio's 'The Reunion'. He also played a significant role in Amazon Prime's 'Breathe'.

Talking about his OTT debut, he said: "Bin Bulaye Mehmaan Season 2' was offered to me at a time when I had no experience in the digital space. Shitty Ideas Trending was known for its comedy web series and I was keen to collaborate with them. Mohit Hussein directed the show and I enjoyed being a part of it as it helped me evolve as an actor."



## Chhavi Mittal is fighting breast cancer

Team Absolute | Mumbai

**A**ctress Chhavi Mittal known for her roles in TV shows and movies has revealed on her Instagram handle about her struggle of fighting with breast cancer.

The actress had written an emotional and inspiring note to share how she is dealing with the illness.

"Dear breasts, This is an appreciation post for you. The first time I noticed your magic was when you gave me immense pleasure.. but your importance peaked when you fed both my babies. Today it's my turn to stand by you when one of you fights cancer. Its not the best thing to happen, but it doesn't have to bog my spirits down."

She further wrote that it is not going to be easy for her to deal with it but she is prepared to fight with it.

"It's not going to be easy, but it doesn't have to be tough. I might not look the same again, but it doesn't have to make me feel different. A big cheer for all breast cancer survivors.. you have no idea how much inspiration I draw from you today."

The actress and mother of two added: "And also, for those of you who already know, thank you for being so supportive. Every call

you make, every msg you send, every visit you pay me.. is appreciated no end and that's all that makes a difference." After the post her fans and friends dropped their early recovery messages.



## Kajal Aggarwal pens emotional post for husband

Team Absolute | Chennai

**A**ctress Kajal Aggarwal, who is in the family way, has penned an emotional post to her husband Gautam Kitchlu, to not just thank him for his love and care during her pregnancy, but to also let him know what an amazing father he will make.

Taking to Instagram, the actress on Thursday wrote, "Dear Husband, Thank you for being the greatest husband + to-be-dad a girl could ask for. Thank you for being so selfless, for waking up with me almost every night while I had morning' sickness, for camping out on the couch with me for weeks because it was the most comfy place for me to sleep, for immediately texting the doctor and taking me to mom's house to put my legs up during the braxton hicks contractions and never hesitating or making me feel bad, for always making sure I'm well fed, well hydrated and comfortable, for taking care of me and lastly for loving me through it all."

"Before our sweet baby comes, I want you to know how wonderful you are and that you will be an amazing father as well!"

"In the past eight months, I have watched you become the most loving dad. I know how in love with this baby you are and how much you care already- it makes me feel so lucky that our baby will have a father who loves unconditionally, be there no matter what and have an extraordinary role model to look up to."



Chahatt Khanna