

absolute india

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AGAINST EXECUTIVE TYRANNY DRAPED IN DISCIPLINARY POWER, SAYS SC ON MANDATORY COVID VAX

NO FORCED JABS

THE SUPREME COURT ON MONDAY SAID THE MATERIAL PROVIDED BY THE CENTRE DOES NOT WARRANT THE CONCLUSION THAT RESTRICTED EMERGENCY USE APPROVALS WERE GRANTED TO COVISHIELD AND COVAXIN IN HASTE, WITHOUT THOROUGH REVIEW OF RELEVANT DATA.

“It is true that to be vaccinated or not is entirely the choice of the individual. Nobody can be forcefully vaccinated as it would result in bodily intrusion and violation of the individual's right to privacy, protected under Article 21 of the Constitution. Persons who are keen to not be vaccinated on account of personal beliefs or preferences, can avoid vaccination, without anyone physically compelling them to be vaccinated.”



CASES RISE IN INDIA BUT DON'T PANIC

New Delhi: Despite the presence of several Omicron sub variants and even the recombinant XE variant, the number of fresh Covid infections in India are relatively low with most states reporting less than 1,000 new cases per week. Immunity from vaccination and previous infections are acting as a major deterrent, said experts here on Monday. India on Monday reported 3,157 new Covid-19 cases, a decline from the 3,324 infections registered the previous day, according to the Union Health Ministry. "Covid numbers are high so can't say it is not spreading, but fortunately it is mostly mild cases," Dr Mrinal Sircar, Director & HOD - Pulmonology & Critical Care, Fortis Hospital, Noida, said.

The bench said it is satisfied that the current vaccination policy of the government is informed by relevant considerations and cannot be said to be unreasonable or manifestly arbitrary.

As a state government had argued that there is limited scope of judicial review in matters of policy framed on the basis of expert opinion, the bench noted that it is neither within the domain of the courts nor the scope of judicial review to embark upon an inquiry as to whether a particular public policy is wise or whether better public policy can be evolved. Justice Rao, who authored the judgment on behalf of the bench, said the scope of judicial review when examining a policy of the government is to check whether it violates the fundamental rights of the citizens or is opposed to the provisions of the Constitution, or opposed to any statutory provision or manifestly arbitrary.

The top court verdict came on a plea, which advocate Prashant Bhushan argued on behalf of Dr Jacob Puliyeel, a former member of the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation. The plea had challenged vaccine mandates issued by various state governments, raised apprehension on children vaccination, and raised non-disclosure of segregated clinical trial data in public domain as well, improper collecting

BILL GATES WARNS OF MORE FATAL COVID VARIANT

London: Billionaire Bill Gates has warned that Covid pandemic is far from over, with the worst remaining yet to unfold. Stressing on the need for increasing global surveillance, the Microsoft founder and philanthropist warned of the likelihood of an even more fatal and transmissible variant of Covid, the Financial Times reported.



Gates stated that even though he does not want to sound gloomy, yet the risk of a more virulent variant is more than 5 per cent. "We're still at risk of this pandemic generating a variant that would be even more transmissible and even more fatal," he was quoted as saying.

"It's not likely, I don't want to be a voice of doom and gloom, but it's way above a 5 per cent risk that this pandemic, we haven't even seen the worst of it," he added.

This is not the first time that Gates warned of a potential global threat posed by viruses.

In 2015, he first cautioned publicly that the "world was not ready for the inevitable next pandemic" and that viruses, not war, pose the greatest risk of "global catastrophe".

and reporting of adverse effects of Covid vaccines.

Maharashtra: Heat wave claims 25, Mahabaleshwar hill-station bakes at 31 degrees

Of the (25) heat-wave tragedies, 15 have been reported from Vidarbha, comprising 11 in Nagpur, 3 in Akola and one in Amravati districts, six deaths from Marathwada comprising 2 from Jalna and one each from Parbhani, Hingoli, Osmanabad and Aurangabad, and 4 from Jalgaon in north Maharashtra.

CENTRE WRITES TO STATES, UTS ABOUT PLAN ON HEAT-RELATED ILLNESS

New Delhi: Amid rising heat wave and temperature touching 46 degrees Celsius at several places, the Union Health Ministry wrote a letter to all states and UTs about the National Action Plan on heat-related illnesses. The letter reads further that the Health Department of the State must continue efforts on sensitisation and capacity building of medical officers, health staff, grass-root level workers on heat illness, and early recognition and management.



FATAL FOR THOSE WITH COMORBIDITIES'

According to medical experts, the rapid increase in heat may compromise the body's ability to regulate temperature and can result in illnesses, including heat cramps, dizziness, fainting, exhaustion, heatstroke and hyperthermia. Some of these can be fatal. Further, those with cardiovascular problems, diabetes and other comorbidities, are at a higher risk so they should completely avoid going in the sun.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The ongoing unprecedented heat wave in Maharashtra - with mercury rising to 46 degrees Celsius in some areas - has claimed at least 25 lives so far, the highest since 2016, with the number of heat-stroke cases standing at around 375, officials said on Monday.

The state Health Department's Surveillance Officer Dr. Pradeep Awate said that with the temperatures soaring to record highs in the past 100 years, Maharashtra has witnessed

the highest - 25 - fatalities due to the heat wave, with many more suffering.

"Chandrapur is among the global hotspots with temperatures hovering around 46 degrees Celsius. However, the IMD has said that in the next few days, there may be respite from the heat as pre-monsoon showers are likely in many parts of the state," Awate told reporter, while urging people to take full precautions.

Ironically, the usually cool hill-station of Mahabaleshwar - where people from all over the state flock during summer - has become a furnace at 31 degrees, while its neighbouring twin, Panchgani recorded 32 degrees - yet, making them the "coolest" locales in the state. Large parts of the state have been reeling under temperatures between 35 and 46 degrees since March-end onwards, particularly northern, and central parts of the state besides the traditional hotspots of Marathwada and Vidarbha boiling between 40C-46C.

Modi, Scholz discuss overall strategic partnership, global developments

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday met German Chancellor Olaf Scholz on Monday and discussed cooperation under their overall strategic partnership, as well as regional and global developments.

The meeting was held prior to the sixth-round of Biennial Inter-Governmental Consultations (IGC) between India and Germany.

Prime Minister Modi, who reached Berlin on the first-stage of Europe tour, was accorded a ceremonial guard of honour and received by Chancellor Scholz at the Federal Chancellery. The two leaders thereafter met in one-on-one format, followed by delegation level talks.

"Discussions covered key areas of bilateral cooperation under the overall strategic partnership, as well as regional and global developments," the Ministry of External Affairs said in a statement.

The Prime Minister Office in a tweet stated: "The Inter-Governmental



Consultation between India and Germany illustrate the special nature of this friendship. Prime Minister @narendramodi, Chancellor Scholz and top Ministers from India and Germany meet in Berlin."

INDIA, GERMANY SIGN TWO AGREEMENTS ON FOREST, AGRO-ECOLOGY

New Delhi: As one of the deliverables of the 6th India-Germany Inter-Governmental Consultations (IGC), India and Germany on Monday signed -- virtually -- a joint declaration on Forest Landscape Restoration and on agro-ecology and sustainable management of natural resources.

The Joint Declaration of Intent on Forest Landscape Restoration was signed -- virtually -- between India's Environment Minister, Bhupendra Yadav and Germany's Minister for Environment, Nature Conservation, Steffi Lemke.

It will provide the platform to further advance the partnership between the two countries and support in areas such as conservation and restoration, climate protection and conservation of bio-diversity, the government said.

IMRAN KHAN CALLS OUT BIDEN ADMINISTRATION FOR REGIME CHANGE 'CONSPIRACY'

Team Absolute | Islamabad

Islamabad: Ousted Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan on Monday openly called out the Joe Biden administration of the US for its alleged involvement in a regime change "conspiracy" in Pakistan, Geo News reported. But the Joe Biden administration denied any role in the process. Khan, in a tweet, asked the Biden administration whether its involvement in the regime change "conspiracy" had lessened or increased the anti-American sentiment in Pakistan.

"My question for the Biden Administration: By indulging in a regime change conspiracy to remove a democratically elected PM of a country of over 220 mn people to bring in a puppet PM, do you think you have lessened or increased anti-American sentiment in Pakistan," Khan said, Geo News reported.



DOCTORS' BODY URGES HEALTH MINISTER TO POSTPONE NEET PG 2022

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Federation of All India Medical Association (FAIMA) wrote to Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Monday, requesting him postpone the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET PG 2022) scheduled for May 21.

The doctors urged the minister to postpone the NEET PG 2022 for a reasonable period of time so that the current NEET PG 2021 aspirants get sufficient time to prepare for the same.

"MCC announced on April 30 that the provisional stray vacancy round of NEET PG counselling, the results of which had been previously announced on April 29, was made NULL & VOID, and the final result of the stray vacancy will be released on Tuesday. As soon as this is completed,



the state governments can conduct a mop-up round. Several states have already released dates for the same, most of which revolve around the middle of May," read the letter.

In the wake of so many barriers to overcome, the candidates of NEET PG 2021 deserve a fair chance to participate in the ongoing counselling process and also get adequate time to prepare for the upcoming NEET PG 2022, the letter added.

CBI RAIDS 8 LOCATIONS, SEIZES DOCUMENTS IN FRESH CASE AGAINST CHOKSI

New Delhi: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Monday said that it has lodged a new case against fugitive Mehul Choksi and his company Gitanjali Gems for allegedly defrauding the Industrial Finance Corporation of India Ltd to the tune of Rs 22 crore between 2014-18.

After lodging the case the CBI also conducted raids at eight premises of the accused valuers in Mumbai and Kolkata which led to the recovery of incriminating documents. A complaint was received from IFCI Limited against Gitanjali Gems Ltd, its director Mehul Choksi, three valuers -- Narendra Jhaveri, Pradip C. Shah and Shrenik R. Shah -- and a private firm Surajmal Lallu Bhai & Co, for causing an alleged loss of Rs 22.06 crore to IFCI Ltd.

Choksi, who is wanted in India by the CBI and the ED in the Rs 13,500 crore Punjab National Bank (PNB) fraud case had gone missing from the island nation on May 23, last year sparking a massive manhunt.

STUDENTS TURNED TEACHERS AND MAKE TEACHING FUN

The group brainstormed and recalled all the tricks they had learnt in their school days to make theories, formulae, and equations, simpler and fun for the children to understand.

Classes are held under the Yamuna bridge and the dropout is almost zero.

Students from other colleges are also joining in the campaign and teach the students subjects that will help them in life.

Team Absolute | Prayagraj

A group of five students decided to turn teachers for slum children and 20 months later, the initiative has turned into a full-blown campaign that now has over 80 students in this district of Uttar Pradesh. "We saw slum children begging outside a temple and working as rag-pickers. We decided to teach them on Sundays but it was difficult convincing and motivating them. We visited their homes with eatables and promised to give them more if they came to study. Slowly, the numbers increased and we could see that they were keen to learn," says Shiv



Pratap Singh Rana, a law student and a key member of the group. This group of students also distributes stationery, slippers, eatables, and clothes to slum kids who do not have any monetary support. Parents

of these students - seeing their commitment to the cause - have now started donating funds. Since most of these children are supporting their families, the challenge was keeping them engaged.

'TIME TO GO TO THE REAL MASTERS', PK DROPS HINT ON NEXT STEP

Patna: Election strategist Prashant Kishor on Monday dropped a hint about what his next step will be. He said that after the experience of the last 10 years, the time has come to go to the 'real master', i.e., the public. Prashant Kishor, who hails from Bihar, has been an election strategist for different political parties including BJP, Congress, Janata Dal (United), Trinamool Congress (TMC) and others. Kishor said he will no longer make a strategy for others, but will start a new chapter in politics. PK, as he is widely known as, on Monday indicated that he would again meet the people of his home state Bihar. Prashant Kishor said in a tweet on Monday, "My

quest to be a meaningful participant in democracy & help shape pro-people policy led to a 10 yr rollercoaster ride! As I turn the page, time to go to the Real Masters, THE PEOPLE, to better understand the issues & the path to Jan Suraj - Peoples Good Governance! According to sources, Prashant Kishor is expected to travel widely in Bihar. So far, he has not clarified anything about what will be the name of the party. But sources said that PK will soon launch his political party. According to sources, during his tour in Bihar, he will stay away from the ruling BJP-Janata Dal (United) alliance as he has avoided meeting Nitish Kumar.



STOCK OF FERTILISERS FOR KHARIF SEASON EXCEEDS DEMAND, SAYS GOVT

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Stating that there is more stock for supply of fertilisers for this kharif season than the demand this year, the Centre on Monday asked the states to not create either a panic situation or spread misinformation related to fertilisers.

"With the government's proactive steps in pre-positioning urea, DAP and NPK and other fertilisers supply, currently, we have more stock for supply of fertilisers for this kharif season than the demand," Union Chemicals and Fertilisers Minister, Mansukh Mandaviya said.

"Despite the pandemic and rise in prices of raw materials at international level, we have managed to keep the fertilisers' price at a very minimum rate by increasing subsidies, so that our farmers don't suffer. This year, around Rs 2.5 lakh crore subsidy will be given to farmers."

While jointly reviewing the fertiliser situation with Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Tomar during a meeting with the Agriculture Ministers of states/UTs, Mandaviya



also advised the states to keep providing farmers with adequate and accurate information regarding availability and to not create either a panic situation or misinformation related to fertiliser stocks.

Earlier, the Union Cabinet had approved the proposal of the Department of Fertilisers for Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) rates for phosphatic and potassic (P&K) fertilisers

for Kharif Season 2022 (from April 1, 2022 to September 30, 2022) worth Rs 60,939.23 crore, including support for indigenous fertiliser (SSP) through freight subsidy and additional support for indigenous manufacturing and imports of DAP.

The increase in the international prices of di-ammonium phosphate (DAP) and its raw materials has been primarily absorbed by the Centre,

which has decided to provide a subsidy of Rs 2,501 per bag on DAP instead of the existing subsidy of Rs 1,650 per bag which is a 50 per cent increase over the last year's subsidy rates.

The increase in the prices of DAP and its raw material is in the range of approximately 80 per cent. "It will help farmers to receive notified P&K fertilisers on subsidised, affordable and reasonable rates and support the agriculture sector," the Minister added. Stressing on the need to tackle the issues of malpractices like hoarding, black-marketing or diversion of fertilisers, he said that the government will take strict action in case of such scenarios. Observing that fertiliser is an important component of agriculture production and the government's objective is to reduce import dependency on various fertilisers, Tomar said: "We are committed to ensuring availability of affordable fertilisers to our farmers. In order to reduce the agricultural import dependence, we should work together to become AtmaNirbhar in the agriculture sector too."

Hardik Patel drops Congress from Twitter bio, fuels talks of political switch

AHMEDABAD | Agencies

Ahead of any state elections, it is common for political leaders to switch sides. And Gujarat, which is going to the polls later this year, is no different on this count.

Gujarat Congress working president Hardik Patel, the face of the reservation movement of 2016-17 who joined the grand old party in 2019, is the latest in the state to fuel talks of a political somersault after he dropped the party's name from his Twitter bio on Monday.

The phrase 'Working President of the Gujarat Congress' is now missing from Hardik Patel's Twitter bio, which reads: "Proud Indian Patriot. Social and Political Activist. Committed to a better India."

Recently, Patel had changed his WhatsApp profile picture from the Congress tricolour scarf to one with a saffron scarf. He even deleted Congress from his WhatsApp bio. The move had sparked



speculation over his possible political switch. Even during the recent Yuva Swabhimann Sammelan at Tapi, where Youth Congress national President B.V. Srinivas was present, Patel was seen wearing a non-Congress plain white scarf. Asked about the change in WhatsApp profile picture, Hardik had said that everyone changes their DPs every five days, and he also did the same. On the other hand, Patel has also criticised national Congress leaders on various platforms of late.

Last Tuesday, he had tweeted: "I am in Congress

currently. I hope the central leaders find a way so that I continue to remain in the Congress. There are others who want Hardik to leave the Congress. They want to break my morale."

In a few interviews recently, Hardik had blamed national Congress leaders by saying that he is not getting due respect as Gujarat Congress President, as no one consults him nor gives him any major responsibility.

He recently said in an interview that he considers himself as a 'Hinduvasi' and 'Rambhakt'.

Delhi's peak power demand touches record high for May first week at 6,194 MW

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The peak power demand in Delhi on Monday rose to 6,194 MW, setting a new record for the first week of May.

The peak power demand was recorded at 6,194 MW at 3.34 p.m. on Monday, as per the realtime data of State Load Dispatch Centre, Delhi. The peak power demand was 6,048 MW on Sunday.

The peak power demand had gone up to 6,197 MW in April, which was also an all-time high for the month under review. Intense heat-wave in several parts of the country has led to an unprecedented rise in power demand this year.

Union Power Minister R.K. Singh on Saturday



reviewed the coal stock situation in different thermal power plants, including those supplying power to the distribution companies in Delhi, and directed the concerned officials to ensure uninterrupted power supply. Last week, Delhi

Power Minister Satyendar Jain had held an emergency meeting over the coal crisis in Delhi. He also wrote to the Centre requesting it to ensure adequate coal availability in the power plants supplying electricity to Delhi.

SHO IN UP'S CHANDAULI SUSPENDED AFTER WOMAN'S DEATH IN RAID

CHANDAULI | Agencies

The Station House Officer (SHO) of a police station in Uttar Pradesh's Chandauli district has been suspended after a 21-year-old girl died after she was allegedly assaulted by policemen during a raid.

The police has denied the allegations, saying the woman appeared to have committed suicide.

The alleged incident took place on Sunday evening when the police raided the house of gangster Kanhaiya Yadav in Manrajpur village to arrest him after a non-bailable warrant was issued.

Yadav had been accused in a case of illegal sand mining.

However, as the police officials could not find Yadav at his home, they allegedly tried to take his brother with them.

Yadav's daughter, Nisha, tried to stop the police, following which she was allegedly beaten by the officers.

In a video widely shared on social media, a woman could be seen saying that her elder sister was killed by the police. On being asked if she had also been beaten up, the woman replied in the affirmative.



house officer (SHO) of Saiyedraja police station after which she died."

Singh said that Yadav's younger daughter was also allegedly beaten and has suffered serious injuries. She has been admitted to a local hospital for treatment.

"The SHO has been suspended and the process is underway to lodge an FIR after getting a complaint from the family of the deceased," Singh added.

Ankur Agarwal, Chandauli Superintendent of Police, said: "The police raid party, which had women constables as well, went to look for Kanhaiya Yadav and did not find the accused at his home and so they left. Prima facie it appears that the death is due to some domestic issue or suicide, we are awaiting the post-mortem report."

The incident led to violent protests on Sunday night in the district.

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav has demanded that a case of murder should be registered against the guilty policeman.

"Police has become killer in UP," Akhilesh Yadav wrote in a tweet. "Innocent civilians are being killed continuously by the BJP government."

PM Modi's 8 years of 'misgovernance' is case study on how to ruin economies: Rahul

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday hit out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi saying that his eight years of "misgovernance" is a case study on how to ruin economy. He tweeted: "PM Modi's 8 years of misgovernance is a case study on how to ruin what was once one of the world's fastest growing economies."

The Congress has been attacking the government on issues power crisis, unemployment, farmers' issues and inflation.

Recently, the Congress had termed the power crisis, "artificial" and said: "We demand that this artificial power crisis, which is created due to mismanagement of coal, be immediately resolved and people be provided relief by providing 24x7 power supply this summer," Congress Gaurav Vallabh had said.

The party is likely to focus on the economic issues in the upcoming brain-storming session in Udaipur. The party has formed various committees which are meeting to put forth the agenda for



Power Crisis
Jobs Crisis
Farmer Crisis
Inflation Crisis

PM Modi's 8-years of misgovernance is a case study on how to ruin what was once one of the world's fastest growing economies.

the session.

Primary focus of the party is the economy and farmers' issues. The party thinks that inflation is hitting the people hard. The rising prices of fuel and edible oils have disrupted the household budget and people are suffering because of price rise of flour to daily use items.

The party has been protesting over the issue of inflation all over the country.

MAN GETS WIFE RAPED TO FRAME RIVALS

Badaun (Uttar Pradesh): In a shocking incident, a man got

his friend to rape his wife so that he could frame his rivals, police said on Monday.

According to the police, the incident took place on Sunday when the 22-year-old woman was taken on a bike to a forest in the Sahsawan area by her husband. The friend was also called to the forest and he raped the woman twice, officials added.

The husband later called the police helpline and alleged that two people had sexually assaulted his wife. The woman told the police that her husband wanted to frame two people in their village to settle scores with them. An FIR has been registered against the man and the friend. Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Rural, Siddharth Verma, said that the man has been detained and the hunt is on for his friend.



Officials collecting funds for NGO run by close aides of Delhi BJP chief: Sisodia

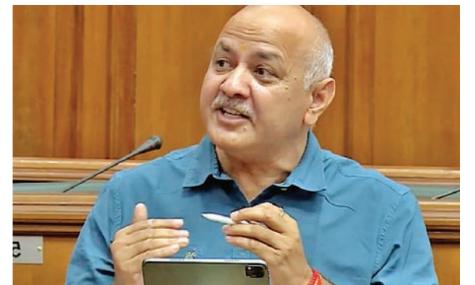
Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi, Manish Sisodia, on Monday alleged that the BJP has put government officials on the job to collect funds for an NGO run by close associates of Delhi BJP chief Adesh Gupta.

"An NGO -- 'Drop in Ocean' -- was set up by BJP leaders to pocket crores of rupees in the name of digital classrooms," said Sisodia in a statement released by the Aam Admi Party (AAP).

He alleged that the BJP signed an MoU with the NGO run by its own people to rob the MCD and the people of Delhi in its 'last days' in the corporation.

"The BJP is finding innovative ways of corruption in the



MCD in the penultimate month of its 17-year misrule," he said. Sisodia further said, "MCD signed an MoU with an NGO to digitalise the classrooms. The MoU stated that the NGO will raise funds for digitalisation of classrooms through corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives. Instead of adhering to

the MoU, the BJP has directed high-ranking officials of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi to seek funds for the NGO from businessmen."

Sisodia added that receiving CSR funds for schools is not new, but deputing corporation officials to arrange CSR money for an NGO is a first of its kind in the country.

BJP AGAIN HITS OUT AT KIRAN MAZUMDAR-SHAW



The BJP once again hit out at Biocon chairperson Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw and asked the 'self-appointed custodians of morality' to speak up against the school's diktat asking students to carry Bibles.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The BJP used the signing of MoU for setting up the largest semiconductor fabrication unit in Karnataka to hit out at Shaw. Karnataka department of Industries and Commerce said that the state will soon be home to India's first and largest semiconductor fabrication unit. "Karnataka will soon be home to India's first and largest semiconductor fabrication unit! The #Indian #Semiconductor Manufacturing Company ISMC has announced an investment of Rs. 22,900 crores (\$3 billion) - a proud moment for the state," Invest In Karnataka' state department of Industries and Commerce tweeted on Sunday.

Late Sunday evening, quoting 'Invest in Karnataka', in-charge of BJP's national information and technology department, Amit Malviya Asaid, "Nation 3 billion dollars is massive. Lot more than what Kiran Mazumdar and her ilk, who

were lecturing the BJP Govt in Karnataka, can count to. Incidentally, did any of these self appointed custodians of morality speak up against Clarence school's diktat asking students to carry Bible?"

Amid the call of boycotting Muslim traders in Karnataka by some group on March 30, Shaw tweeted, "Karnataka has always forged inclusive economic development and we must not allow such communal exclusion- If ITBT became communal it would destroy our global leadership. A@BSBommai please resolve this growing religious divide."

Malviya then hit back at Biocon chairperson and said, "It is unfortunate to see people like Kiran Shaw impose their personal, politically coloured opinion, and conflate it with India's leadership in the ITBT sector. Rahul Bajaj once said something similar for Gujarat, it is today a leading automobile manufacturing hub. Go figure."

Two killed, 24 injured in two road accidents in Bihar



PATNA | Agencies

Two children were killed and as many critically injured after a speeding truck plowed into a house in Bihar's Supaul district on Monday morning.

The incident occurred at NH 327E Pipra-Triveniganj road at Gaghar village. The victims were asleep in their house located on the road-

side.

The house belongs to one Anil Ram. The deceased have been identified as Shrawan Kumar (5) and Saraswati Kumari (7)-- the son and daughter of Anil Ram. His wife Ranjana Devi and 3-year-old son Laxman Kumar have sustained critical injuries are undergoing treatment in Supaul Sadar hospital. The bodies have

been sent for post-mortem. The errant driver and the helper of the truck are on the run.

In a separate incident, 20 persons, including children, sustained injuries after a speeding car rammed them in Bihar's Muzaffarpur district late on Sunday night. The accident occurred at Ufraul village under Saraiya police station on Vaishali-Muzaffarpur road around 11 p.m. The car overturned after falling into a pit.

The incident took place when family members and relatives of a villager Sudhir Thakur were on their way for 'Navtan Puja' in the nearby temple. When they were walking on the road, a speeding car rammed them and as a result, they fell into the pit. Two occupants of the car, who were allegedly in an inebriated state, were beaten up by the angry relatives of the victims. They also destroyed the car.

The injured were admitted to the common health centre in Saraiya.

NINE INJURED IN PAAN SHOP FIRE IN BIHAR'S MUNGER



Patna: Nine persons sustained burns, including five who were seriously injured after fire broke out in a paan shop in Bihar's Munger on Monday, police said. Police said that the seriously injured have been admitted to the Sadar hospital. The accident took place at Rani Talab locality under Haveli Kharagpur police station, as paan shop vendor Pankaj Bind was illegally selling petrol in bottles, police said. While some children were playing around the paan vend, they accidentally set one bottle afire and the blaze engulfed the entire vend while also spreading to adjoining houses. While local residents managed to douse the flame, many people, including the paan vendor, and seven members of a family trapped inside their house, were badly injured.



DAUGHTERS SHOULD CONTRIBUTE TO THE SOCIETY AND COUNTRY'S DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRESS: CM

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that the 'Maa Tujhe Pranam Yojana', which had been postponed due to Covid, was started with the aim of instilling the spirit of patriotism and courage in the youth by sending them on journeys to international borders. The scheme is being relaunched today by sending the Ladli Laxmis of the state to the Wagah and Hussainiwala borders of Punjab. The journey which has started with daughters being sent to the border, will prove to be fruitful in creating a spirit of dedication for the country and instill confidence in the youth.

The programme began with the national song Vande Mataram. Chief Minister Chouhan flagged off 178 Ladli Laxmis going to Wagah and Hussainiwala borders of Punjab under the scheme. Chief Minister handed over the national flag and mementoes to be presented to the brave soldiers posted on the border to the team in-charge leading the



group of Ladli Laxmi's.

Chouhan said that 43 lakh daughters have been benefited so far from Ladli Laxmi Yojana, started in the state since 2007. Arrangements have been made by the state government to provide necessary assistance and guidance to ensure a bright future of Ladli Laxmis so that they remain active in every field and achieve their goals. While inspiring the Ladli Laxmis, Chief Minister said that Ladli Laxmi means- 'Setting a big goal, being full of self-confidence

and staying firm on your decisions.' Chouhan while getting emotional said that 'today my daughters have grown up.' May God shower blessings on them, and daughters should be able to contribute in the development and progress of the country and society. Chief Minister said that Ladli Laxmi Diwas would be celebrated in every village and city of the state on May 8. Chouhan said that Anubhav Yatras are being organized under 'Maa Tujhe Pranam' scheme with the purpose of showing respect

to the jawans who stood for the defense of the country on the international borders, to pay homage to the martyrs who laid down their lives while protecting the country and to expose the youth of the state to the difficult conditions of the international border. Chief Minister while motivating the daughters going on the Yatra said that they should talk to the soldiers about their experiences and work challenges. They should apply a tilak of the soil from the border area, bring the soil with you and share your travel experiences with the people of your city, village, locality and also apply the tilak of the same soil on your relatives and acquaintances.

After the relaunch of the scheme, 20 Ladli Laxmis from Bhopal division, 31 from Indore division, 15 from Gwalior, 26 from Ujjain, 11 from Narmadapuram, 15 from Shahdol, 12 from Rewa, 9 from Chambal, 26 from Sagar, and 31 Ladli Laxmis from Jabalpur division will visit Wagah border. They will be accompanied by 12 officers of Sports department and 6 police constables.

CM GREETES ON AKSHAYA TRITIYA FESTIVAL

Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has greeted the people of the state on Akshaya Tritiya festival. He has said that we consider it auspicious to get married on this holy day. It is my wish that all the wedding rituals (Panigraha Sanskars) are completed with enthusiasm and gaiety. Chief Minister Chouhan said that vigilance is necessary to ensure that child marriages do not take place anywhere in the state. This social evil can be stopped only with the awareness and activism of all of us. There is also a provision for imprisonment and fine for being found to be involved in child marriage or for cooperating in such marriage.

Dalit family denied access to cremation platform; 3 held

Three persons from the village allegedly stopped a family from performing the last rites on the facility's platform

Team Absolute | Guna

A Dalit family was allegedly stopped by some people from performing the last rites of a relative on an elevated platform at a cremation ground in Madhya Pradesh's Guna district, following which police arrested three persons, an official said on May 2.

Later, the funeral was performed on a land near the platform.

The incident took place on Friday in Chandpura village under Kumbhraj police station area, 62 km from the Guna district headquarters, and a video of it also surfaced on social media.

In the clip, a person was purportedly heard saying the family was not allowed to use the cremation ground's platform for the funeral.

After the death of local resident

ident Kanhaiya Ahirwar (70), his family members took the body to the cremation ground, but three persons from the village allegedly stopped them from performing the last rites on the facility's platform, Kumbhraj police station in-charge Sanjeev Mawai said.

The family then performed the man's last rites on a land near the crematorium's platform, he said.

After getting information about the matter, the police reached the spot.

The police later arrested three persons, identified as Narayan Singh Meena, Rambharose Meena, and Dilip Meena, and registered a case against them under provisions of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, the official said.

Chief Minister Planted Neem and Karanj Saplings

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted Neem and Karanj saplings along with the members of Shivlok Greens Residents Welfare Committee in the Smart City Garden. Senior journalist and Editor Rajendra Dhanotia planted saplings in the memory of his father Late Ramchandra Dhanotia on his first death anniversary. Dhanotia's mother Leela Devi Dhanotia and members of his family were also present.



cleanliness. The committee has set up a sewage treatment plant in the colony and made arrangements to use the treated water received from sewage in the plants and gardens. Mohan Mishra, Upma Mishra, Rakhi Ahirwar, Pooja Patel and Ravi Shankar Goswami of the committee participated in plantation

along with Chief Minister Chouhan. Among the saplings planted today, Neem may be bitter in taste but its benefits are like nectar. Neem is also very useful from environmental point of view. Karanj is considered important in Ayurvedic medicine. Karanj is also used in religious works.

The committee launched a campaign with the cooperation of the colony residents to make compost from wet waste in the colony and use that manure in the trees and plants and sanitation works are being done with people's participation to maintain

ELECTRIC BUS SERVICE STARTS ON BHOPAL-INDORE ROUTE

FOUR ELECTRIC BUSES WERE ROLLED OUT FOR THE BHOPAL-INDORE ROUTE ON SUNDAY AND MORE BUSES ARE EXPECTED TO COME UP SOON. CHECK TICKET PRICE AND OTHER DETAILS.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh got its first inter-city electric bus service on the Indore-Bhopal route on Sunday. At least four intercity electric buses have been launched by GreenCell Mobility company and the numbers are expected to reach 40 soon.

The environmentally friendly e-buses, each costing Rs 2.5 crore, were flagged off from Indore at 7 am carrying 14 passengers to Bhopal and they brought 24 people back to the city. The newly-launched electric bus is expected to leave for Bhopal at 5 pm in the evening.

Company's sales head Dhawal Solanki was quoted by Times Now as saying, "We have launched electric buses from Bhopal to Indore and we have been carrying out trials for the past one month. Once charged, these buses can run up to 280 kilometres. After the bus reaches Bhopal, it needs to be charged to come back to Indore."

People have to shell out Rs 224 to travel from



Indore to Bhopal, local media reports said. The company has named the bus Aloe Bus.

Solanki further added, "As of now, we have launched 4 electric buses on the inter-city route and within ten to fifteen days, the company will acquire ten more buses. Once we acquire more buses, the bus services will become operational

from morning till night. We are planning to build two lounges for passengers to provide them with comfort while travelling. Passengers will be served coffee and newspapers while travelling."

The bus will start from Rajiv Gandhi Chowk in Indore and will pass through Naulakha, Sarwate Bus Stand, Pipalyahana, Radisson, Dewas,

CHIEF MINISTER GREETES THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE ON EID-UL-FITR

Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has extended his greetings and best wishes to the people of the state on the auspicious occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr.

Chouhan has extended his greetings and best wishes to the people of the state on the auspicious occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr. Chief Minister Chouhan has said that the festival of Eid-ul-Fitr gives the message of peace, harmony, unity and harmony. Chouhan has appealed to celebrate the festival of Eid as per Indian tradition with mutual brotherhood and goodwill.

Madhya Pradesh Police Give Bike To Boy Delivering Food On Bicycle

IN CHARGE OF THE VIJAY NAGAR POLICE STATION, TEHZEEB QAZI CLAIMED ON MONDAY THAT HE RECENTLY OBSERVED JAY HALDE DRENCHED IN PERSPIRATION WHILE CYCLING RAPIDLY TO DISTRIBUTE FOOD PACKS IN MP.

Team Absolute | Indore

A compassionate approach, some Indore police officers purchased a motorbike for a 22-year-old employee of an online food delivery service after witnessing him working hard on his bicycle to deliver food packages to people's houses, news agency PTI reported.

In charge of the Vijay Nagar police station, Tehzeeb Qazi claimed on Monday that he recently observed Jay Halde drenched in perspiration while cycling rapidly to distribute food packs. "After talking to the man, we came to know that his family is facing financial problems and he does not have the money to buy a motorcycle," the official was quoted by PTI in his report. Qazi and other Vijay Nagar police officers then contributed funds to make an initial payment at an automotive showroom and purchase a motorbike for Halde.

According to the official, the delivery guy has informed the police that he would pay the remaining instalments himself.

Expressing gratitude to the Police for their gesture, Halde said, "Earlier I used to deliver six to eight food parcels on my bicycle, but now I am delivering 15-20 food parcels at night while moving around on the motorbike."

GOVERNOR ATTENDS THE CONDOLENCE MEETING OF RAJENDRA SINGH KAUL



Bhopal: Governor Mangubhai Patel attended the condolence meeting on the death of Rajendra Singh Kaul, an employee posted in Raj Bhavan Secretariat. He paid tributes to the departed soul by observing silence for two minutes. Expressing profound grief on the untimely demise of Late Kaul, the Governor has prayed to God for the peace to the departed soul and strength to the family to bear the great sorrow.

Khargone administration changes decision,relaxes curfew for 9 hours

Earlier, the administration had announced a 24-hour curfew on May 2 and 3 and asked Khargone residents to celebrate the Eid-ul-Fitr and Akshaya Tritiya festivals at home

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Khargone administration has changed its previous decision and announced a relaxation in curfew for nine hours on Monday in the Madhya Pradesh city, where violence was reported during a Ram Navami procession on April 10, officials said. Earlier, the administration had announced a 24-hour curfew on May 2 and 3 and asked Khargone residents to

celebrate the Eid-ul-Fitr and Akshaya Tritiya festivals at home.

But, Indore's Divisional Commissioner Pawan Sharma and Inspector General of Police Rakesh Gupta reached Khargone on Sunday night and held a meeting with officials, following which the decision was changed. The curfew in the city has been relaxed for nine hours - from 8 am to 5 pm - on Monday, Special Armed Force Commandant Ankit Jaiswal, posted temporarily in Khargone, told reporters late Sunday night.

Additional forces have been deployed to beef up security in Khargone, the IPS officer said. The decision about 24-hour curfew on Tuesday is being reviewed in consultation with people, he said. Eid-ul-Fitr, which marks the culmination of the fasting month of Ramzan, will be celebrated in the country on Tuesday as

the moon was not sighted on Sunday evening. The festival of Akshaya Tritiya, considered auspicious for beginning new ventures, marriages and expensive investments such as in gold, will also be celebrated on May 3. Curfew was clamped in Khargone after the violence on April 10, during which shops and houses were damaged, vehicles torched and stones hurled. Since April 14, the local administration has been relaxing the curfew for some hours. As per the district administration's order, the curfew relaxation will not be applicable to petrol pumps and for the sale of kerosene from Public Distribution System (PDS) shops. During the curfew relaxation period, shops selling milk, vegetables, medicines, and barber's shops among others, are allowed to remain open, but religious places have been asked to remain closed.

HOW A SMALL TOWN IN MP DESTROYED 450-YEAR-OLD FUNCTIONAL WATER SYSTEM

Team Absolute | Burhanpur

In many Indian cities, the dangers of global warming and fears over the resultant water scarcity have led to efforts towards reviving ancient water systems. However, Madhya Pradesh stands out for quite the opposite -- destroying a five-century-old, fully-functional water system in Burhanpur district.

At the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav in January this year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi called for improving India's water systems so the nation could save itself from the scarcity of drinking water. In fact, several sources provide abundant water in India, but due to the collapse of their supply systems, the dependence on groundwater, which is also depleting, has increased.

During the Farooqui reign (1500-1600 AD) in Madhya Pradesh's Bahadurpur town -- 8km from Burhanpur -- water for drinking and irrigation was collected and transported to villages through underground canals, whereas rainwater for the same purposes was stored in a nearby pond. The advanced build of the canals allowed their flow to continue uninterrupted for more than 450 years.

However, 10 years ago, the village panchayat tampered with the canal in an attempt to clean it

without consulting experts. As a result, the latch in the canal for oxygen supply collapsed, and since then, the flow of water has stopped. With this, a major source of water that was functional for centuries died. The area now gets its water from tubewells.

The Shaker Pond According to archaeologist Kamaruddin Falak, the last emperor of the Farooqui dynasty, Bahadur Shah Farooqui, founded Bahadurpur. Due to lack of drinking water here, a pond --the Shaker Talaab -- was constructed 6km from the town, and underground tunnels made of mud bricks were built to bring water from this pond to its residents.

The water was purified while it travelled to Bahadurpur. For this, chimney-like kundhs were constructed, because of which the water received oxygen and was purified when it came in contact with it. This water was stored in more than two dozen wells built in the town. These wells and stepwells exist to this day.

Local resident Azhar Ahmed called the water structure built before the Mughal period "fascinating". But it was closed down 10 years ago due to the short-sightedness of the panchayat, Azhar



said. No efforts were made to revive it, while residents continued to depend on tubewells for water supply. "Till 10 years ago, water in this town was free, but now, we have to pay Rs 200 a month," Ahmed said. "The ancient water structure can still be revived under supervision of archaeologists."

The Sayyid households here had the major wells and stepwells that brought in the flowing water from the Shaker Pond. Even today, these families manage two wells and stepwells. According to Sayyad Mumtaz Ali, there's a well in his house that "we have kept as a heritage. Although it is dry, we keep it covered. They say that someday, water will flow into the well again".

Water table down 400 metres Bahadurpur in Burhanpur district has a population of 9,645, according to the 2011 Census. As few as 1,943 families reside here. Till 10 years ago, residents of the town were dependent on the water system of the Shaker Pond, which even irrigated

767 hectares. Over the years, because of groundwater exploitation, the water level in Burhanpur district -- already in Madhya Pradesh's semi-critical zone -- plunged 400 meters. Today, 70.57 per cent water in Burhanpur district is obtained from groundwater sources. A two-day workshop organised last month in the area under the government initiative, Jal Shakti Abhiyan, found that Burhanpur district is at the lowest level in underground recharge.

India leads in groundwater use Indians are at the forefront in the use of groundwater in the world, though we lag behind in saving rainwater. A joint study by IIT-Kharagpur and Canada's Athabasca University revealed that Indians use 230 cubic km of groundwater every year, which is a quarter of the world's groundwater use. At the same time, India is able to save only 8 per cent of its annual rainfall, which is the lowest in the world.

Apart from India, China and the US are the highest exploiters of groundwater sources -- but India alone matches the combined amount that these two countries consume.

Furthermore, according to the Central Ground Water Board, the groundwater level in India fell by 61 per cent between 2007 and 2017.

RECITATION OF VANDE MATARAM HELD AT MANTRALAYA



Bhopal: The mass recitation of national song Vande Mataram and the national anthem "Jana Gana Mana" was held today at Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Park at Mantralaya. The Police Band presented melodious tunes on the occasion. Public Health and Family Welfare Minister Prabhuram Choudhary, Additional Chief Secretary Shailendra Singh, Secretary Srinivas Sharma along with officers and employees of Mantralaya, Satpura and Vindhyaachal Bhawan were present.



EDITOR'S SPECS

Congress banks on caste again

The Congress is mulling several options, including a Dalit or a Brahmin face, for the post of state chief in Uttar Pradesh after the party suffered a poll debacle in the recent Assembly elections. The party could win only two seats in the 403-member Assembly. Party sources said that the Congress is searching for options among the Dalit and Brahmin communities. The party has limited options as its prominent Dalit face is P.L. Punia, who is party in-charge for Chhattisgarh, while the Brahmin face is Pramod Tiwari but his daughter Aradhna Mishra is legislative party leader. The Congress lost the Assembly elections badly and got only 2 per cent votes, but party sources say that the Congress will be consistent in approach as now the public knows that the Samajwadi Party can't defeat the BJP and the BSP is a spent force. So the Congress will grow in the state and next elections will be for the Lok Sabha, where the Congress will pitch itself directly against the BJP, sources added. Though Brahmins and non Jatav Scheduled Caste voters mostly voted for the BJP but the Congress leaders insist that there is a chance of making inroads by giving more prominence to the communities that are feeling sidelined. The party will appoint working presidents in which one of the faces will be from the minority community and the recent meeting between Azam Khan and Pramod Krishnam has sparked a speculation in the political circles. Acharya Pramod Krishnam met Samajwadi Party (SP) leader Mohd Azam Khan in the Sitapur jail on April 25. It has been more than a month since Uttar Pradesh Congress chief Ajay Kumar Lallu resigned after the party's humiliating defeat in 2022 Assembly elections.

France rejects far-right

Asad Mirza

CHANGING FACE OF THE FRENCH POLITICS

French President Emmanuel Macron clinched another five-year term in the Elysee Palace, becoming the third politician to achieve this feat. His victory also bought sighs of relief, from Brussels to Washington. Macron beat out far-right nationalist Marine Le Pen in the presidential elections, a contest that risked shattering the Western alliance against Russia, and jeopardising the very survival of the European Union (EU). In 2017, 39-year-old Macron shot to power as an outsider, with a 32-point lead over Le Pen, by promising to modernise what he called a 'arthritis, over-regulated country'. In the past five years, he streamlined French labour laws, scrapped the wealth tax. But he was forced to drop an increase in fuel tax, when the plan sparked the so-called 'yellow vest' movement, with explosive protests rocking the country for months in 2018 and 2019. Further the Ukraine war thrust Macron into the role as the EU's major conduit to Russian President Vladimir Putin. This time, Macron won 58.54 per cent of the vote, with a shrunken margin of 16.4 per cent of victory. This signals the fraught political divide in the French electorate, in addition about 28.2 per cent of the electorate did not vote at all, the highest abstention rate since 1969, with many people saying in recent days that they rejected both choices on the ballot. This echoes the sentiment across France, particularly amongst its young population. They consider Macron as lesser of the two evils, due to his policies in the last five years. Furthermore Macron tried more to be seen as an international statesman and leading the EU, after the UK's exit and focusing less on country's political issues. In his victory speech the night of April 24, when the run-off election was held, Macron accepted that many in this country voted for him not because they support his ideas but to keep out those of the far-right.

The main cause of concern after the French presidential elections is that they mainstreamed the underlying far-right sentiments in the French society. This resulted in the emergence of Le Pen and another far-right party, the Reconquete!, run by Eric Zemmour, which advocates xenophobia, anti-immigration and anti-Islam. In his victory speech in May 2017, Macron had promised to stop the rise of the far-right party and fight political extremism. But five years later, the far-right party has become stronger, forcing Macron to take a more defensive position. The results also gave the far right its biggest share of the votes in the presidential elections, so far. Hard-left presidential candidate Jean-Luc Melancon, who came a close third behind Le Pen in the first round, immediately labelled the forthcoming parliamentary elections a "third round" of the presidential election. France today seems to be under the peril of the far-right. Le Pen increasing her votes by 7.5 per cent is clear proof of it. Besides, Macron, who has espoused a very provocative anti-Islam discourse and made controversial statements on Islam, was re-elected. This official French discourse and these actions feed the discourse of French identity and the acceptance of Islamophobia and xenophobia in the public space. In the end, the election came down to which candidate French voters dislike the least: a President who is largely seen as out of touch with France, or a contender best known for her anti-Arab and anti-Muslim hate that has been further normalised by Macron, the media and the Parisian elite in the last five years.

CHALLENGES BEFORE MACRON

If Macron wants to consolidate his victory then firstly he needs to



ensure that in the forthcoming parliamentary elections on June 12-19, his party La Republique en Marche (LaREM) and its allies secure a majority of 289 MPs in the 577-seat lower house. Secondly, Macron needs to control inflation and rising prices of gas and electricity. He would also have to introduce measures and greater support for the low-paid and self-employed, besides implementing the pension reforms he failed to implement in his first mandate, raising the retirement age progressively to 65 by 2031. At the international level he'll have to secure the EU's external borders and controlling clandestine migration, developing a European economic "growth model" based on hi-tech investment, in the remaining two months of France's six-month presidency of the EU. Macron's wish to be an outspoken defender of western values with a clear desire to shape world events may consolidate further during these two months. Most importantly he'll have to reconnect with the French voters, particularly the young and rural voters. About two-thirds of the electorate did not vote for him. The Guardian in its editorial opines that

Macron has acknowledged this and he must prioritise rebuilding ties with those who stayed away, or lent him their vote solely to block Le Pen. He has promised to listen and consult more. He will have to. In fact during the last five years, the disenchantment of the younger population increased and was successfully exploited at both ends of the political discourse, by Melancon on the Left and Le Pen and Zemmour on the Right. To set things right for both France and himself, Macron will have to work hard to win back this disgruntled constituent and also the absentees. This coupled with demands to change the presidential role as fashioned by General Charles de Gaulle have long pointed to fundamental defects in France's Fifth Republic, and there have been demands for a changed system of governance, Macron will have to tackle that too prudentially.

INDO-FRENCH TIES

Indian Prime Minister Narendra

Modi is expected to meet Macron on May 4 in Paris. Indo-French ties have strengthened during the recent years, but at the forthcoming meeting both leaders should aim for far-reaching and long-lasting agreements - economic, military, nuclear, geographical, keeping bilateral interests in mind. Now with UK out of the EU, France could act as India's gateway to the EU. Both countries enjoy a strong partnership in defence, which could be extended to other sectors too. Bilateral trade in 2021 increased for both countries. In addition France has emerged as a major source of FDI for India with more than 1,000 French businesses already functioning in India. The highest French FDI equity inflows are in the services sector. The Macron-Modi meeting could be utilised to further increase these thriving ties.

(Asad Mirza is a political commentator based in New Delhi. The views expressed are personal)

international

RUSSIA'S CHIEF PROPAGANDIST THREATENS TO 'PLUNGE BRITAIN INTO DEPTHS OF THE SEA'

London | Agencies

Russian state media has urged President Vladimir Putin to wipe the UK off the map using his most-powerful nuclear weapons. Dmitry Kiselyov, a man often known as "Putin's mouthpiece", used his Sunday night show to call for attacks on the UK with a Poseidon underwater drone that he said would trigger a 1,600ft radioactive tidal wave and "plunge Britain to the depths of the ocean". The Daily Mail reported. The drone "has capacity for a warhead of up to 100 megatonne", Kiselyov claimed and added that it also has several thousand times the strength of the bomb dropped on Hiroshima, which would "raise a giant wave, a tsunami, up to 1,640ft high" enough to reach halfway up Scafell Pike, the tallest point in England. Speaking against a background graphic showing the UK being erased from the world map, Kiselyov added: "This tidal wave is also a carrier of extremely



high doses of radiation. Surging over Britain, it will turn whatever is left of them into radioactive desert, unusable for anything. How do you like this prospect?" Kiselyov also threatened the UK with an attack by Sarmat 2, Russia's latest nuclear missile which was tested by Putin a fortnight ago, which he claimed could also completely destroy the country with just a single impact. "(Their) island is so small that one Sarmat missile is enough to drown it once and for all," he said. "(It) is capable of destroying an area the size of Texas or England. A single launch, Boris, and there is no England anymore", the Daily Mail quoted Kiselyov as saying. Kiselyov's remarks follow a pattern that has developed on Russian state media in recent days of threatening Britain with nuclear holocaust, based on the false premise that Prime Minister Boris Johnson has threatened to carry out a nuclear strike on Russia without consulting NATO.

BLASTS ROCK MOLDOVA AS FEARS RISE THAT PUTIN COULD BE EYEING NEXT TARGET FOR INVASION

London | Agencies

Russia stoked fears that Moldova may be next in President Vladimir Putin's firing line after blasts rocked part of the tiny nation, Daily Mail reported. When asked about the risks of war spilling into Ukraine's neighbour after explosions rattled its Transnistria region, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said, "Moldova should worry about their own future. Because they're being pulled into Nato." Transnistria is a breakaway region in the east of Moldova where ethnic Ukrainians and Russians outnumber Moldovans. The tensions come as UK Defence Secretary Ben Wallace predicted that Putin could use Russia's Victory Day to announce an intensification of the Ukrainian onslaught and perhaps an opening of new theatres of war. Wallace said that the Russian President whose advances in Ukraine are far behind expectations might declare war on the world's Nazis' at the May 9 parade, which sees Moscow mark the Soviet Union's victory over Hitler. Wallace told LBC Radio: "I would not be surprised... that he is probably going to declare on May Day that "we are now at war with the world's Nazis and we need to mass mobilise the Russian people." Analysts had predicted that Putin wanted to be in a position where he could declare some form of victory on May 9. But with Russian progress on the battlefield being less than conclusive, he may now seek to escalate further.

MARCOS JR. CONTINUES TO LEAD IN PHILIPPINE PRESIDENTIAL RACE SURVEY

Manila | Agencies

Philippine presidential candidate Ferdinand Marcos Jr. continues to lead the race just a week before the May 9 election, according to a survey released on Mondays. A national survey by Pulse Asia conducted from April 16 to 21 with 2,400 people aged 18 and above said that the son of late President Ferdinand Marcos "remains the choice for President" by 56 per cent of likely voters, reports Xinhua news agency. Presidential voter preferences are "essentially constant" between March and April, the pollster said, adding that Marcos Jr. registered "majority voting figures in most geographic areas (54 to 67 per cent) and all economic classes (56 to 57 per cent)." Trailing Marcos Jr. in the second place is incumbent Vice President Maria Leonor Robredo, with 23 per cent. The voting preference ratings of the other presidential candidates remained low at a single-digit or less. Boxing icon-turned-senator Emmanuel Pacquiao was in third place with 7 per cent, Manila City Mayor and former actor Francisco Domagosa with 4 per cent; and former-national-police-chief-turned senator Panfilo Lacson with 2 per cent. The survey also showed Davao City



Mayor Sara Duterte-Carpio maintained a commanding lead in the vice-presidential race. Pulse Asia said 55 per cent of the Filipinos would vote for the daughter of incumbent President Rodrigo Duterte. Pulse Asia said Carpio "has majority voting figures in Metro Manila (51 per cent), Mindanao (80 per cent), and every socio-economic grouping (51 per cent to 60 per cent)". In the Philippines, the President and Vice President are elected separately, though Marcos Jr. and Carpio are running on the same ticket as tandem. The national and local elections are scheduled for May 9 in the Southeast Asian country. There are 10 presidential candidates and nine vice-presidential candidates. The Philippine Constitution permits the President to serve a single six-year term.

Ausoppn party maintains lead ahead of May election

Canberra | Agencies

Australia's opposition Labor Party remains in a leading position in the federal election to be held this month at the campaign's halfway point, new opinion polls revealed on Monday. According to the latest Newspoll, which was published by The Australian newspaper on Monday, Labor leads the governing Coalition 53-47 on a two-party preferred basis, reports Xinhua news agency. It marks the 18th consecutive poll where Labor leads the government and the fourth in a row with a 6-point margin. If that swing is applied on a uniform basis across the country, it could result in Labor winning 79 out of 151 seats in the lower house of Parliament, and forming government for the first time since 2013.

Thirty-eight per cent of Newspoll respondents said they intend to vote Labor as their first preference at the election on May 21, up from 37 per cent in late April, while support for the Coalition remained steady at 36 per cent. By comparison, the Coalition received 41.4 per cent of first preference votes in the 2019 election, in which it won 77 House of Representatives seats, and Labor 33.3 per cent. Labor leader Anthony Albanese also narrowed the gap on Prime Minister Scott Morrison as voters' preferred leader, with 39 per cent choosing him compared to 45 per cent for the incumbent premier. In February 2021 Morrison led the measure by 61-26. A separate poll published by Nine Entertainment newspapers showed Labor is leading 54-46 on a two-party preferred basis.



Morrison started the second half of the campaign on Monday by announcing a re-elected Coalition would spend A\$70 million (\$49 million) over four years to ease cost of living pressures for seniors. Under the scheme, an additional 50,000 older Australians would be given access to the Commonwealth Seniors Health Card (CSHC), entitling them to cheaper health care and medication.

IRAN VOWS TO CONTINUE NUKE TALKS UNTIL INTERESTS PROTECTED

Tehran | Agencies

Iran has pledged to continue the talks on reviving the 2015 nuclear deal until its "national interests are completely and comprehensively protected", official media reported. The remarks were made by Ali Bahadori-Jahromi, spokesman of the Iranian government, in response to talk that the US is close to admitting the failure of the Vienna nuclear talks, reports Xinhua news agency. The nuclear negotiations are among Iran's top priorities, Bahadori-Jahromi noted. Iran will continue efforts within the framework of the international diplomatic mechanisms until it protects its economic interests and nuclear rights, the spokesman added. In July 2015, Iran signed with the world powers a nuclear deal, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), in which Tehran agrees to curb its nuclear program in return for the removal of



the international sanctions on it. However, former US President Donald Trump pulled Washington out of the agreement in May 2018 and reimposed unilateral sanctions on Iran, prompting the latter to gradually drop some of its nuclear commitments under the agreement. Since April 2021, several rounds of talks have been held in the Austrian capital between Iran and the remaining JCPOA parties to revive the deal. Iran insists on securing guarantees that the US government would not abandon the deal again and lifting the sanctions in a verifiable manner.

NAWAZ SHARIF'S CONVICTION ORDER MAY BE SUSPENDED

Islamabad | Agencies

Pakistan Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah said the incumbent government is considering the suspension of former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's conviction order. "Powers to suspend the conviction lie with the government and the judiciary," The News quoted Sanaullah as saying to a private news channel. He added that the government had the powers to commute, reduce or suspend anyone's sentence. If an innocent is wrongly convicted, there is way that the sentence is suspended and they are given a chance to approach the court in a proper way, the Interior Minister said. Late last month, the government issued a new passport with 10-year validity to the former premier to return to Pakistan. The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supreme was barred by the Supreme Court in 2017 from holding public office and subsequently went abroad for medical treatment after serving just a few months of a 10-year jail sentence on corruption charges. He has been living in London for the last two years since being let out of jail.





RAJ THACKERAY'S SPEECH AIMED AT DIVIDING SOCIETY: WALSE PATIL

The Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) head had accused the NCP chief of playing caste politics in Maharashtra, and said he was allergic to the word 'Hindu.'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra Home Minister Dilip Walse Patil on Monday said MNS chief Raj Thackeray's speech in Aurangabad, wherein he remained firm on the May 3 deadline for removal of loudspeakers from mosques, was aimed at "creating a divide in society", and hinted at action against him. Walse Patil also said Mr Thackeray's speech at a rally in Aurangabad on Sunday was centred around attacking only NCP president Sharad Pawar, whose party currently shares power with the Shiv Sena and Congress in

Maharashtra.

The Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) head had accused the NCP chief of playing caste politics in Maharashtra, and said he was allergic to the word 'Hindu'.

"His speech was an attempt to create a divide in society and hatred. Police will listen to his speech and decide what is objectionable and a decision will be taken on this," Walse Patil said.

The minister also said the Aurangabad police commissioner will see what conditions laid down by the police, while granting permission for Raj Thackeray's rally, were violated.

The Aurangabad police chief will take a legal opinion and send a report to his seniors, Walse Patil said.

"A call will be taken accordingly. I will talk to top officials tomorrow and by then, we will also get a report from Aurangabad. The government will take a decision on this," the minister said and appealed to people to maintain calm.

At the rally in Aurangabad in the state's Marathwada region, Raj Thackeray had said he was firm on the May 3 deadline for removal of loudspeakers, which he termed as a nuisance, from mosques, and added that if it was not done, then all

Hindus should play Hanuman Chalisa outside these religious places.

The MNS chief had said if the Uttar Pradesh government could remove the loudspeakers, what was stopping the Maharashtra government, led by his estranged cousin Uddhav Thackeray, from doing so.

However, in a veiled attack on Raj Thackeray, the chief minister had on Sunday said he does not pay attention to "new players" of Hindutva. Without naming the MNS, the CM also said the party was making experiments to see if any cause was working for it or not.

Raj Thackeray 'allows' Ramzan Eid sans trouble

▶ IN A SURPRISE MOVE, MAHARASHTRA NAVNIRMAN SENA PRESIDENT RAJ THACKERAY ON MONDAY SAID MUSLIMS WILL NOT BE DISTURBED FROM CELEBRATING RAMZAN EID ON TUESDAY.



Team Absolute | Mumbai

In a surprise move, Maharashtra Navnirman Sena President Raj Thackeray on Monday said Muslims will not be disturbed from celebrating Ramzan Eid on Tuesday.

"Tomorrow is Ramzan Eid. Muslims must celebrate this festival with joy. As per the pre-decided programmes of Akshaya Tritiya, do not perform 'aartis' tomorrow," he appealed to all his partymen.

Raj Thackeray made it clear that the MNS shall not create problems for celebrating any festival, as the issue of loudspeakers is not a religious one but a social cause.

On the loudspeakers matter, he said he would announce his plan of action on Tuesday via social media.

The development came a day after he breathed fire at loudspeakers on mosques at his huge rally in Aurangabad, earning the ire of most political parties in the state, especially the ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi.

At the Sunday night rally, he reiterated his ultimatum of yanking off loudspeakers from all religious places, particularly mosques, by Wednesday failing which his party workers would blare out Hanuman Chalisa at double decibel levels in the state. Raj Thackeray came in for massive criticism from the Shiv Sena-Nationalist Congress Party-Congress, Samajwadi Party, Sambhaji Brigade, wabhimaniShetkariSanghata na, Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi and other top leaders for his utterances laced with hidden threats.

Nawab Malik in critical condition, says lawyer, seeks interim bail on humanitarian grounds

NCP leader Nawab Malik, who is currently in judicial custody, was arrested on February 23, under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) linked to fugitive gangster Dawood Ibrahim and his aides. After his health deteriorated, the Maharashtra minister filed a bail application on medical grounds in the Special Court on April 28.

Malik, arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in a money laundering case, has been hospitalized and his condition is critical.

The 62-year-old Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader, who is currently in judicial custody, was arrested on February 23, under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) linked to fugitive gangster Dawood Ibrahim and his aides.

After his health deteriorated, the minister filed a bail application on medical grounds in the Special Court on April 28. His advocate Tarraq Sayyed moved the plea for interim bail before special judge RN Rokade.

Malik had earlier told the court that he was

unwell due to kidney ailments and had swelling in his legs.

During the hearing of the matter on Monday, Malik Lawyers said the minister was taken to JJ Hospital on a stretcher after his health deteriorated in Arthur Road prison and added that he has been sick for 3 days, while seeking interim medical bail on humanitarian grounds.

On this, the ED's lawyer asked why his health condition had not been communicated before and asked for the next hearing. However, the court said the health of the accused is more important.

Last month, the ED had filed an over 5,000-page charge sheet in the case against Malik.

MUMBAI AIRPORT TO REMAIN SHUT 6 HRS ON MAY 10

Mumbai: The Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport here will remain shut for all flight operations for six hours on May 10 to carry out pre-monsoon maintenance and repairs, an official said on Monday. For this purpose, both runways, RWYs 14/32 and 09/27, shall be closed for all flight operations on May 10 between 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. A NOTAM has already been issued to all airlines and normal operations would resume that day after the maintenance works on the two runways are completed at 5 p.m. The CSMA has advised all passengers to check the May 10 flight schedules with their respective airlines to avoid any inconveniences.

Sizzling heat may have claimed 25 lives in Maharashtra, highest in six years

▶ AS MANY AS 25 PEOPLE ARE SUSPECTED TO HAVE DIED DUE TO HEATSTROKE IN MAHARASHTRA THIS YEAR WHICH IS THE HIGHEST IN SIX YEARS, AS PER THE DATA FROM THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The last time Maharashtra witnessed a high number of heatstroke deaths was in 2016

when 19 people died due to heatstroke.

A total of 381 cases of heatstroke were reported to the health department till May 1, 2022.

The highest number of deaths due to heatstroke has been reported in Nagpur with 11 deaths, followed by 5 in Aurangabad and 4 in Nashik.

Nagpur division has 300 cases which are the highest in the state.

Dr Jayanta Sarkar, Head of Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC) Mumbai said that the isolated parts of north Madhya Maharashtra will experience a heatwave between May 4 to May.

The isolated parts of north Madhya Maharashtra which comprises Dhule, Nandurbar, Jalgaon and Ahmednagar districts will experience a heatwave between May 4 to May 6. Other regions like Konkan

and Goa area, Marathwada and South Madhya Maharashtra will not see any heatwave-like conditions.

Dr Sarkar further said though Marathwada will not experience a heatwave the maximum temperature in the region will remain high and close to 40 degrees Celsius or above.

"The reason of heatwave in north Madhya Maharashtra is because of warm and dry waves from northwest India and western disturbances which is the main source of rainfall during this period, have been largely dry," Dr Sarkar added.

For the past few weeks, parts of the country have been reeling under intense heatwave with the mercury soaring high and average maximum temperature reaching 35.9 and 37.78 degrees Celsius in the northwest and central India respectively.

Nearly 60 per cent non-Marathis in Mumbai say they have never been treated badly

▶ AS MANY AS NEARLY 60 PER CENT OF NON-MARATHI RESPONDENTS IN MUMBAI HAVE SAID THAT THEY HAVE NEVER BEEN TREATED BADLY BY LOCAL MARATHIS.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

As many as nearly 60 per cent of non-Marathi respondents in Mumbai have said that they have never been treated badly by local Marathis.

As per an IANS-CVoter survey, the question was posed to only those

who were born outside Maharashtra.

The question posed was when you are outside your home, have you or any of your family members ever been treated badly by local Marathis?

As per the survey, 59.9 per cent said they have never been treated badly while 22.5 per cent said sometimes they have been treated badly, and 10.4 per cent said they have been often treated badly.

To another question on whether outsiders are a threat to Marathi language and culture, which was asked only to Marathis, 58.3 per cent said the outsiders are not a threat, while 25 per cent said they are a threat to a great extent, while 8.3 per cent said they are a threat to some extent.

On Maharashtra Day which falls every year on May 1, residents of the city revealed starting preferences and opinions during a survey conducted by C Voter for IANS in the last week of



April. Among the many questions asked about political, social and local issues, one was: Who do you think has been the most influential politician in Mumbai since Maharashtra became a state in 1960? While the media in Delhi seems to think that

Sharad Pawar, the formidable and veteran chief of the Nationalist Congress Party, should be the pick, residents of Mumbai were of the opinion that the late Balasaheb Thackeray has been the most influential politician.

The respondents were divided into two categories: those born in Maharashtra and those born outside the state. Both categories overwhelmingly favoured Balasaheb Thackeray.

More than 46 per cent of local Marathis chose Balasaheb Thackeray while more than 50 per cent of non-Marathis picked him as their choice. Sharad Pawar, who could possibly lead the opposition challenge to Narendra Modi in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, is nowhere close to the founder of Shiv Sena. Just about 8.4 per cent of local Marathis opted for Pawar while a meagre 4.5 per cent of non-Marathis opted for him.

▶ COVID IN MAHARASHTRA: MAHARASHTRA HEALTH MINISTER RAJESH TOPE SAID THAT MAHARASHTRA GOVERNMENT HAS CURRENTLY DECIDED TO "WAIT AND WATCH."

Team Absolute | Aurangabad

Maharashtra Health Minister Rajesh Tope has said there is no need for making face masks

compulsory in the state as of now, but if there is an increase in new COVID-19 cases, then face coverings will be made mandatory.

Tope was speaking to reporters in Aurangabad on Saturday, when Maharashtra reported 155 new coronavirus cases, as against 148 on Friday.

"The figures are growing in small spaces which is alarming. Hence, Prime Minister Narendra Modi (recently) held a meeting with chief ministers of states and told them to be on alert. As of today, there is no need for restrictions. But, if the cases go up, we will have to impose restrictions and make masks compulsory," he said.

Tope said they have currently decided to "wait and watch". "We need to pay

attention to the vaccination against COVID-19 in age group of 12-14 and 15-17 years. There are some challenges in this as schools are now closed. If any protocols are issued by the Centre for 6-12 years age group, we will implement them on a fast pace", Mr Tope said.

The minister also said that though the vaccination is not mandatory, "we have to show people the advantages of getting inoculated and convince them to take the jabs."

Maharashtra had done away with all the COVID-19 related restrictions on April 2 on the occasion of Gudhi Padwa, the Marathi New Year.

However, Tope had then urged people to wear masks voluntarily to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Bombay High Court seeks compliance report from Maharashtra govt, civic bodies on action against illegal hoardings

The court allowed the petitioners to issue notice to political parties which were made respondents in the case. It will examine the state and civic bodies' response during the next hearing on June 30.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Bombay High Court Monday directed the Maharashtra government and all civic bodies in the state, including municipal corporations and councils, to give a report on steps taken to remove illegal banners, hoardings, posters, arches, advertisements. The court asked the authorities to file an affidavit informing it as to how they identify which hoarding is illegal and how much revenue is generated from legal hoardings. It allowed the petitioners to issue notice to political parties which were made respondents in the case.

The court will examine the state and civic bodies' response during the next hearing on June 30.

A division bench of Chief Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice V G Bishit was hearing pleas, including the contempt plea initiated by the high court on its own, claiming non-compliance of its orders to pull down illegal hoardings and that political parties are flouting the said order everyday and defacing public places.

On January 31, 2017, a division bench, led by Justice Abhay S Oka (currently a Supreme Court judge), had directed the state and all civic bodies to ensure no illegal hoardings come up in public places and that the implementation of the provisions of the municipal laws shall be made at the level of every ward. The court had also asked the state to appoint a secretary or secretaries who are IAS officers to monitor and supervise the implementation of court directives. "The involvement of political class makes the job of the municipal officers and police very difficult when it comes to taking an action against the illegal sky-signs and setting the criminal law in

motion against wrongdoers...rampant display of illegal hoardings, banners, arches, etc continues unabated in the state. All this results in a defacement of the properties in our cities and towns. The declaration of making our cities as "smart cities" has remained on paper," the high court had held in its 2017 judgement.

The petitioners said that despite such directives and undertakings given by political parties that they would not allow display of any illegal hoardings, posters, digital flexes, arches in public places for any occasions the assurances are not met and therefore action must be taken against them. The court had earlier asked the authorities to file compliance reports of the steps taken by them to remove illegal hoardings and the last report was submitted in 2018. "Four years have passed since then. We want an updated report from the state and commissioners of all municipal corporations and chief officers of all district councils on steps taken against illegal hoardings and banners," the bench said.

'It's not Kavi Pradeep': Kin slams offensive video of the national poet

Nearly 25 years after his passing, a video purportedly depicting India's National Poet Ramchandra N. Dwivedi -- renowned as Kavi Pradeep -- and making certain distasteful remarks on India's Freedom, has left his descendants speechless.



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Nearly 25 years after his passing, a video purportedly depicting India's National Poet Ramchandra N. Dwivedi -- renowned as Kavi Pradeep -- and making certain distasteful remarks on India's Freedom, has left his descendants speechless.

The undated video's introduction says: "Dadasaheb Phalke Award laureate Kavi Pradeep - Piercing Questions - What did we gain on Aug. 15?"

"It starts with the interviewer asking a query to a senior citizen, seemingly my late father... The unidentified interviewee makes leading, venomous statements, and even issues a call to not celebrate Independence Day (August 15), but observe it as a 'Mourning Day'...". Mitul Pradeep, the daughter of the legendary poet, told IANS.

She rued how such a shocking video has gone viral on all social media networks when the country is celebrating the 75th Anniversary of our hard-earned Independence.

"It's hurting me so much... We categorically declare - that the person in the video is not 'Kavi Pradeep'. My entire family in Mumbai and Madhya

Pradesh is outraged how such things are allowed to be perpetrated on the public domain without any checks from the concerned authorities," Mitul said.

Kavi Pradeep (1915-1998) is renowned for his penning the timeless ode to the Indian soldier -- "Ae Mere Watan Ke Logon" -- besides scores of other patriotic or nationalistic poems/songs in his five-decade long poetic career. In the video, the unknown person questions the 'gains' of Freedom, alleging that it benefited the Muslims who got two nations (Pakistan and East Pakistan, later Bangladesh), cutting out one-third of India. He argued that the British wanted to grant Independence only in June 1948, but it was allegedly 'advanced' by 10 months to favour "one man" (Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru) and keep out the likes of Muhammad Ali Jinnah, Netaji Subhash Chandra

Bose and even Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel -- asking if "there was a big conspiracy". The interviewee said that during the tragedies of Partition when rivers of blood were flowing, Nehru was 'cavorting' with joy, accepting felicitations from all over at the division of the country, and hence 1-Day deserved to be a day of 'Tragedy'. "I am writing to the Mumbai Police, Home Departments in Maharashtra and Centre to get to the bottom of this... Find out who are the mischief-mongers who have made this video, who's the person resembling my illustrious father making such outrageous comments, either on his own or produced by some vested interests," said a grim Mitul. She said it was saddening and disturbing that in these days of unbridled social media, such appalling stuff is being peddled in the name of a national icon and celebrity poet like Kavi Pradeep.



Los Angeles | Agencies

JAVIER BARDEM, PENELOPE CRUZ WIN HONOURS AS 'THE GOOD BOSS'

the international feature film category.

A production of Reposado PC and The Mediapro Studio, in association with MK2, the film reunites the key talent behind 'Mondays in the Sun'.

New York-based Cohen Media Group has all US rights. The eight-episode series, Netflix's 'The Kingdom', is produced by Argentina's K&S Films and created by screenwriter Claudia Pineiro.

The show took series, series creator and supporting actor in a series. Chino Darin, Nancy Duplaa and Furriel star in a psychological thriller which kids off with an Argentine presidential candidate being murdered only to be replaced by the leader of an evangelist church.

The series has topped Netflix charts in Argentina. A second season is in production.

Hailed by Variety as Almodovar's best movie since 'All About My Mother', 'Parallel Mothers' took three official prizes.

Aitana Sanchez-Gijon scooped supporting actress. Original music and art direction prizes went to regular Almodovar collaborators Alberto Iglesias and Antxon Gomez respectively. Almodovar's feature also scored best picture and actress (Penelope Cruz) Audience Awards.

A coming-of-age thriller set against the background of the

malambo dance culture on the Argentine-Peru border, Juan Pablo Felix's 'Karnaval' won first feature. Edson Sidonie's Buenos Aires-based Bikini Films lead produces.

Jose Zelada's 'Ainbo: Spirit of the Amazon', a Peru-US-Netherlands production walked off with animated feature. Sold by Edward Noeltner's Cinema Management Group, the feature has grossed \$12 million at the global box office, despite being released in theatres during the pandemic.

Best documentary went to a 2021 Berlinale Panorama Audience Award winner, Luis Bolognesi's 'The Last Forest', a depiction of illegal mining on the lands of the Yanomami, an indigenous people living in the Brazil-Venezuela border rainforest.

The Honorary Platino Award was won by Carmen Maura, the legendary star of breakthrough Almodovar titles, 'Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown', 'What Have I Done to Deserve This?', who went on to build a career in France, winning a Cesar for her performance in Philippe Le Guay's 'The Women on the 6th Floor'.

The Platino Awards are promoted by Madrid-based Egeda, the biggest rights collection society in the Spanish-speaking world, and the Federation of Ibero-American Film and Audiovisual Producers (Fipca).

Golda Rosheuvel gets Equality Award at Human Rights Campaign gala

Los Angeles | Agencies

'Bridgerton' star Golda Rosheuvel, the openly gay actor who plays the illustrious Queen Charlotte on the show, was presented the Equality Award at this year's Human Rights Campaign gala in New York.

"Being authentic and true to who I am has been something that I've championed in my own life, so to be able to get up there tonight and speak my journey is really important," Rosheuvel told 'Variety' before accepting her award.

"That one person who's struggling might hear it and be confident enough to step (up) in their own life."

She later went on to tell everyone present that "nobody should have to choose between being publicly out and being a successful actor". Rosheuvel recently opened up to Marc Malkin on the 'Just for Variety' podcast about how a lesbian director once advised her to stay in the closet. A number of political speakers also took the stage to advocate for LGBTQ+ equality, including Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and New York state Governor Kathy Hochul.



Benedict Cumberbatch and Elizabeth Olsen are all set to break records

Los Angeles | Agencies

Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness, the forthcoming Marvel picture, has yet to be released, yet it is already breaking box office records. With four days until its premiere, the Benedict Cumberbatch and Elizabeth Olsen starrer has already raked in a whopping 20 crore in advance ticket purchases. According to industry predictions, the picture has a chance to have one of the best-ever opening days for a Hollywood film in India.

The advance booking statistics for Doctor Strange 2 have already eclipsed those for Spider-Man: No Way Home,

which was a major smash in India.

Given that Doctor Strange films are not as popular as Spider-Man or Avengers films, industry experts predict that its opening day statistics will not exceed those of such flicks.

A report states, By the time the advance concludes on Thursday night, it would most likely look like a 30 crore net opening day, especially at the larger multiplexes. The issue could be slower day-to-day movement because the advance for this film has been open for about a month, so a lot will have been baked into the advance, and it may not have the mass appeal of the Avengers or Spiderman flicks, keeping the film under

30 crore net.

Except for No Way Home, Hollywood films have struggled at the box office in India since the pandemic. Doctor Strange 2, on the other hand, appears to be bucking the pattern. Marvel has branded the film as its lynchpin for the summer of 2022, and it has that going for it. Doctor Strange 2 deals with the concept of variants and the universe, thus there's a chance that multiple actors will appear in cameo roles, either as variations of existing characters or reprising roles from previous franchises. Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness, directed by Sam Raimi, will be released in theatres on May 6, 2022.

Thandiwe Newton caught visiting cannabis store

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Thandiwe Newton was seen visiting a cannabis store following split from her husband Ol Parker. The 49-year-old was spotted stopping by marijuana dispensary High Tide in the Californian city in pictures obtained by Daily Mail. She was seen holding a green apple, which had been partly eaten, and carrying a paper bag when leaving the store, reports aceshowbiz.com.

Weed is legal for recreational and medicinal purposes in Malibu. Meanwhile, High Tide "aims to provide the highest quality, organic, lab-tested cannabis products", according to its official website.

For the solo outing, Thandiwe, who has been rumoured dating musician Lonr, sported a fleece and khaki cargo trousers with a white-and-red sneakers.

She wore her braided hair in a half-up, half-down style and sported a black cap. She also carried an animal print bag.

The actress has been going through a turbulent period in her life after she abruptly exited 'Magic Mike's Last Dance' and following her split from her husband of 24 years, Ol Parker.



AMBER HEARD FIRES PR TEAM OVER 'BAD HEADLINES'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Amber Heard fired her PR team and switched to a new firm after she reportedly became frustrated following a week of 'bad headlines' during the defamation trial brought by her ex-husband and actor Johnny Depp, a new report claimed.

According to dailymail.co.uk, Heard was being represented by Precision Strategies, which she suddenly ditched in favour of LA-based consulting firm Shane Communications. She made the move in apparent hopes that she might receive more favourable coverage this week - during which time she is expected to take to the stand and testify.

"She doesn't like bad headlines," an unnamed source told the New York Post, which first reported the news, reports dailymail.co.uk.

Another source told the newspaper that Heard, 36, is "frustrated with her story not being told effectively."

The A-list trial in Virginia, which started on April 11 and is set to last another three weeks, has so far seen Depp, 58, claim he was the victim of domestic abuse during his four days of testimony - with his bodyguard on Thursday even describing in detail the wounds on the actor's face allegedly sustained during a confrontation with Heard.



Meghan Markle's animated series axed

Los Angeles | Agencies

Streaming giant Netflix has cancelled the development of 'Pearl', an animated series created by Duchess of Sussex Meghan Markle, in its move to cut costs. The show, which was announced last year, is one of several projects being dropped by the streaming giant, the BBC reported. Last month, Netflix revealed a sharp fall in subscribers and warned millions more are set to quit the service. Archewell Productions, the company formed by the Duke and Duchess of Sussex, announced last year that Meghan would be an executive producer of 'Pearl'.

The series was planned to centre on the adventures of a 12-year-old girl, who is inspired by influential women from history.



ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Julia Fox



IPL 2022

KNIGHT RIDERS BEAT RAJASTHAN ROYALS BY SEVEN WICKETS

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A clinical all-round performance with bat and ball helped Kolkata Knight Riders beat Rajasthan Royals by seven wickets in Match 47 of IPL 2022 at the Wankhede Stadium here on Monday.

After Kolkata Knight Riders bowlers made full use of the conditions, bowled good line and length and restricted Rajasthan Royals to a modest 152/5 in 20 overs, skipper Shreyas Iyer (34 off 32), Nitish Rana (48 not out off 37) and Rinku Singh (42 not out off 23) batted sensibly in the low-scoring match to seal a fine win for Kolkata Knight Riders.

Rajasthan Royals could manage a below-par 152/5 in 20 overs thanks mainly to a half-century by skipper Sanju Samson (54) and a breezy cameo by Shimron Hetmyer (27 off 13).

Iyer and Rana shared a 60-run partnership for the fourth wicket and Rana then added 66 runs for the fourth wicket stand with Rinku Singh as Kolkata Knight Riders reached 158/3 in 19.1 overs to register a comfortable win.

The win took KKR to eight points from 10 matches as they occupy the seventh position, hanging on to slim hopes of making it to the play-offs.

Rajasthan Royals remained in the third position with 12 points from 10 games, still in a good position to battle it out for a place in the next stage.

Chasing a target of 153, Kolkata never looked in



trouble thanks to the well-controlled innings by skipper Shreyas Iyer and Nitish Rana, who shared a 60-run partnership for the second wicket off 43 deliveries that kept their hopes alive.

They had got together after KKR had stumbled to

32/2 in the power-play, losing Aaron Finch (4), playing on to get bowled once again, this time off young Kuldeep Sen, and his new partner Baba Indrajith (15 off 16) early.

Iyer and Rana took their time to build the innings, though they managed to keep the run rate in control. Anyway, they didn't had a lot to chase and they managed that by hitting timely fours. Iyer blasted spinner Yuzvendra Chahal for a bit six in the 12th over to bring up fifty of the partnership. He had started off by hitting Kuldeep Sen for a four off the first ball he faced but later played without any hurry to build a platform from which Rana and Rinku Singh could lead the team to victory. Rana top-scored for Knight Riders with an unbeaten 48 off 37 deliveries and along with Rinku Singh figured in an unfinished 66-run partnership for the fourth wicket to help Knight Riders romp home to victory with five deliveries to spare.

Rana and Rinku Singh smashed 17 runs off the 19th over bowled by Prasad Krishna to make things further easier for KKR.

Brief scores:

Rajasthan Royals 152/5 in 20 overs (Jos Buttler 22, Sanju Samson 54, Shimron Hetmyer 27 not out; Tim Southee 2/46) lost to Kolkata Knight Riders 158/3 in 19.1 overs (Shreyas Iyer 34, Nitish Rana 48 not out, Rinku Singh 42 not out; Kuldeep Sen 1/28, Trent Boult 1/25) by seven wickets.

Raducanu advances as Muguruza, Sakkari shown the door in Madrid Open

Madrid | Agencies

Garbine Muguruza's unhappy relationship with the Madrid Open continued when the No. 7 seed crashed out of the Round of 32 after a 6-3, 6-0 defeat to Ukraine's Anhelina Kalinina.

Kalinina had already shown she is an effective clay-court player by defeating Sloane Stephens of the United States and she gave Muguruza few options in a match that lasted just 81 minutes.

The Spanish player was hampered by a calf problem and especially struggled in the second set with a heavy strapping on her lower leg. Xinhua reports. Muguruza wasn't the only seed to go out of the tournament with sixth seed American Danielle Collins suffering a heavy 6-1, 6-1 defeat to Canadian Bianca Andreescu.

Fourth seed Maria Sakkari is also out of the tournament after failing to hold onto a first-set lead against Daria Kastakina. After taking the first set 6-3, Sakkari lost the second set 6-3 and was overwhelmed 6-1 in the decisive set. US Open champion Emma Raducanu of Britain continued her adaptation to clay with a convincing 6-2, 6-1 win over Ukraine's Marta Kostyuk.

"I'm definitely very happy with my performance. Marta's a great opponent, we've played several times in the juniors and once



last year. I knew it was always going to be a really tough battle so I went out there trying to be really aggressive and it definitely paid off," said Raducanu after her match.

Switzerland's world No. 75 Jil Teichmann produced another minor upset as she enjoyed a 6-4, 6-4 victory over Leylah Fernandez of Canada, who was ranked 17th in Madrid.

Twelfth seed Jessica Pegula qualified for the round of 16 thanks to a straight set 6-3, 6-3 win over Kaia Kanepi from Estonia.

National Equestrian Championship: Raju Singh, Maj Anant Rajpurohit emerge victorious

Meerut | Agencies

Raju Singh and Maj Anant Rajpurohit emerged winners of Pre Novice Eventing and Novice Eventing respectively in the National Equestrian Championship (NEC) at the RVC Centre & College, here on Monday.

The event, organised by the Equestrian Federation of India (EFI), marks the last competitive event in the federation's calendar as the EFI has successfully conducted all the events as per the schedule.

In Pre Novice Eventing, Dfr. Rana Pratap Singh and Maj Apurva Dabade grabbed second and third position respectively while in the



Novice Eventing, Sthavi Asthana became the second and L/Dfr. Avdesh got the third position.

As part of the riding calendar, EFI had also conducted selection trials for the upcoming 19th Asian Games

to be held in September this year at Hangzhou, China. The federation is in the process of finalising the selection and names of athletes who will represent the country will be announced shortly.

STOKES HAS GOT CHANCE TO SHAPE ENGLAND TEST TEAM, SAYS ATHERTON

London | Agencies

Former England captain Michael Atherton is excited at the prospect of newly-appointed Test skipper Ben Stokes getting a chance to mould England in his way and direct the side's fortunes towards a different direction in the longest format of the game.

Last week, on Thursday, Stokes was appointed as the Test captain after Joe Root stepped down from the role in April. His first assignment as the full-time Test captain will be a three-match home Test series against current World Test Championship (WTC) winners New Zealand, starting at Lord's from June 2.

"Ben Stokes will be his own man; he has got a chance to shape that team now and take it in a different direction. There may not be a coach in place in time. These things go through a process; I think May 6 is



when job applications close and June 2 is the first Test match. That's quite tight. That's not a bad thing in my

view. I don't think since Sir Andrew Strauss that an England captain has really grabbed hold of a dressing

room," said Atherton to Sky Sports News.

Atherton further felt that if a coach is not there with England in time for the first Test, it wouldn't be a bad thing for England, who are currently seated at bottom of points table of the second WTC cycle. "If there is no coach in there, it will be a chance for Ben to absolutely grab hold of it, mould the team and say 'this is the way we're going to run things.'"

"When (Paul) Farbrace was interim coach before (Trevor) Bayliss came in (2015), that was actually when Stokes came back into the side (against New Zealand), so it's not a disaster if a coach is not in place by June 2."

Atherton, who captained England 54 times in Test cricket between 1993 and 2001, was also pleased with new managing director Rob Key splitting men's team coaching jobs into white-ball and red-ball formats.

Tsitsipas slams Wimbledon's decision to ban Russian, Belarusian players

Madrid | Agencies

World No.4 Stefanos Tsitsipas is the latest tennis star to slam Wimbledon's decision to ban Russian and Belarusian players from competing, describing the decision as 'not nice'.

The world No.4 Tsitsipas is not the first star to slam the ban, as he joins the likes of Novak Djokovic, Rafael Nadal and Andy Murray in criticising Wimbledon's decision.

Greek star Tsitsipas has defended his fellow players and criticised the decision. "It is not nice that they are not allowed to play, I believe. They have done nothing wrong to be automatically defaulted from that competition," Tsitsipas was quoted as saying by express.co.uk.

Ian Hewitt, chairman of the All England Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club, announced in April that Russian and Belarusian players will not be allowed to play in the UK this



summer following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The decision means the likes of Daniil Medvedev, Andrey Rublev, Aryna Sabalenka, world No.15 Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova and Victoria Azarenka will all miss out on the Grand Slam this year.

British star Murray also echoed these thoughts but does

believe there is 'no right answer' to the difficult situation surrounding Russian and Belarusian athletes.

He commented: "My understanding of the guidance was that Russians and Belarusians can play if they sign a declaration that they're against the war and the Russian regime."

IWL: ARA FC BEAT HANS 3-0

Bhubaneswar | Agencies

ARA FC earned their second win in the Hero Indian Women's League after beating Hans Women's FC 3-0 at the Capital Ground here on Monday.

ARA FC made a quick start in the first half as they got the lead as soon as the 10th minute of the game. Manisha volleyed home with precision a rebound from the crossbar earning her side the lead.

Thereafter the game opened up with both sides creating a lot of chances. The gameplay turned quite intense but none failed to find the back of the net.

In the 37th minute ARA forward Neha got an open chance but side netted when Hans custodian Namrata Kaur fumbled and lost the ball leaving an open net.

Going into the break, things remained the same as ARA took a slender lead of 0-1.

After the breather, ARA seemed more confident and sharp on their target. And just near the hour mark, Nisha netted from a terrific setpiece making it 0-2 for ARA. Poonam passed the ball to Neha while she smashed it with power from the edge of the box.

Hans got their best chance in the 63rd minute to open their scoring when Jyoti Burrett tried to lob the keeper but ended up hitting the woodwork.

Finally, Manisha scored the winner making it a brace for herself in the 88th minute. She netted the ball by putting it through the Hans custodian's legs.

After this win, ARA now has 6 points from 5 matches and are placed 7th in the league table.

Getting out on 99 is painful but it feels good if I contribute in a winning cause: Gaikwad

Pune | Agencies

Chennai Super Kings opener Ruturaj Gaikwad has said that getting out on 99 is always painful, but the fact that he contributed to the win against Sunrisers Hyderabad at the MCA Stadium on Sunday made him forget the disappointment.

Gaikwad's 99 off 57 balls and an equally belligerent unbeaten 85 off 55 by Devon Conway helped the defending champions notch 202/2 and then restricted SRH to 189/6 for a 13-run victory. Gaikwad was out in the 18th over as he tried to cut a slower length ball angled away from him. But he failed to keep it down, giving an easy catch to Bhuvneshwar Kumar at backward point. He and Conway stitched together a record-breaking 182-run partnership in the game.

"Getting out on 99 made me a little sad, but I am happy that I was able to contribute to a win. Whether it's 99 or 100, winning the game is important," Gaikwad, who was the orange cap winner in CSK's title campaign last year, said. "It's always special to score big at your home ground, but more importantly, I'm happy because I contributed towards the team's win," Gaikwad said in an interview on iplt20.com. "It felt good to play well in front of family and friends."

"There was no pressure of performing in front of family and friends, but I wanted to



make them proud. Doing well in front of them is a big achievement. I was waiting for the moment and, thankfully, it happened," he added. The right-hand batter further heaped praise on Conway, saying he enjoyed batting with the Kiwi.

Hockey Rankings

India men move up to third, women ride Pro League show to best-ever seventh position

Mumbai | Agencies

Good performance in their respective FIH Pro League matches helped the Indian men's and women's hockey teams move up in FIH World Rankings -- the men moving up a place to third and the women jumping two spots to seventh.

Three wins and a draw over England (3-3 and 4-3) and Germany (3-0 and 3-1) helped India, with 2503.349 points, move ahead of the Netherlands, who dropped to fourth with 2465.707 points.

India men are now placed behind Australia and Belgium as the top of the men's rankings remained unaltered -- Australia are ranked No 1 with 2842.258 points after a successful four-match test series against Malaysia; Belgium are in second place with 2763.486 points. India and Netherlands hold third and fourth places respectively with Germany (2248.019), Argentina (2179.069), England (2079.512) and New Zealand (1798.247) following behind. France are in ninth at 1728.013, Spain follow with 1720.526. Malaysia, Canada and South



Africa sit in 11th, 12th and 13th positions.

The Indian women's team too leads the standings in FIH Pro League with 22 points from eight matches. They have four (3 points each) outright wins, one win in shootout (2 points) and two defeats in shootout (1 point each). They also bagged six points for the two matches against England women that were scheduled on April 2-3 in Bhubaneswar but were cancelled due to suspected Covid-19 cases in the English squad. Consequently, it was agreed between the FIH and the two nations that the 6 points available for these 2 matches be awarded to India.

Naomi Osaka brushes off injury, reveals surprising plan for Wimbledon

Madrid | Agencies

Former World No.1 Naomi Osaka brushed off any long-term injury concerns after her 6-3, 6-1 loss to Sara Sorribes Tormo in the second round of the Madrid Open here.

The 24-year-old Japanese said on Sunday that she has been trying to focus on her net game as the four-time Grand Slam champion is preparing to play in the mixed doubles in Wimbledon.

"So I have been really trying to focus on my net game because I'm going to play mixed doubles in Wimbledon. I know, shocking, right? I'm shocked too," Osaka revealed.

After a strong opening performance to defeat Anastasia Potapova

6-3, 6-1 in the first round, Osaka sported a heavily taped lower leg as she took the court against Spanish Sorribes Tormo. However, she said it will be fine.

"I felt something in my Achilles after my last match, and I wasn't really able to hit yesterday because I wanted it to go away," Osaka told reporters after the match.

"I felt it again today and I tried to take an ibuprofen (a pain killer) during the match but I probably should have taken it way sooner than I did. But, yeah, I'm sure it will be fine," she said.

Osaka said she experienced similar pain in her Achilles after the Miami Open a few years ago and will get an ultrasound to better understand the issue.





CANCER SHOULD NOT BE THE REASON TO STOP LIVING YOUR LIFE: CHHAVI MITTAL

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Chhavi Mittal recently underwent surgery after she was diagnosed with Breast Cancer. Ever since she was diagnosed with it, the actress has been vocal about it and sharing inspiring and motivational posts on her social media handle.

Keeping up with the trajectory, she recently shared a thought-provoking post about how Cancer should not be the reason to stop living your life. Chhavi recalled

being nervous and unsure before her salon session. Chhavi shared, "As per doctor's orders, I had gone down to the salon at the hospital to get a hair wash. She recommended that it's safer than trying to do it myself. I agreed. I wouldn't deny that I was nervous and unsure, but only about whether I'd be able to walk that much. I was definitely looking forward to anything that would remotely make me feel normal!"

Sharing what she resorts to in order to feel normal Chhavi said, "Last evening I came back home and went for a late evening walk with my bestie coz again, I just wanted to feel normal. May I take a moment here and assert that cancer is not

something ANYBODY is happy about getting. But if someone does get it, it shouldn't be the reason to be morose, scared or uncertain or to stop living your life. In fact it's all the more reason to live your life to the fullest!

And for the care givers, these little things matter. more than you think.... to uplift someone's mood and turn them away from the precipice of negativity."

Shweta Tripathi Sharma reveals what appeals her to chose project

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actors choose to work in multiple projects for different reasons. For some, the script matters, for some the way a project is being shot. Similarly, Shweta Tripathi Sharma who will soon be seen in the role of Sunaina in Disney+ Hotstar's upcoming social thriller 'Escapade Live' had her own set of reasons to be a part of this one of a kind web series.

Shedding light on her character, she added, "Sunaina is sunshine in a human form, and everybody needs a Sunaina in their life, and by that, I mean unconditional support but at the same time a critic. She's someone who's not going to lie to you because she loves you or cares about you. 'Escapade Live' is a fictional story, which finds its essence in exploring the lengths content creators and tech giants are willing to travel to achieve their aspirations. The series is set to premiere on Disney+ Hotstar from May 20.

"I am drawn towards drama. I like stories that have interesting characters and the emotional quotient, that for me is the hook, how I emotionally respond when I listen to a story, how I connect to a character. These are things which are extremely important, besides the script."

NEETU KAPOOR AND RANBIR KAPOOR HOP ON THE TRENDING FEATHER CHALLENGE



Team Absolute | Mumbai

The first song from Aamir Khan and Kareena Kapoor's Laal Singh Chaddha, 'Kahani,' has created its own filter. The 'feather Challenge' has taken the internet by storm, with celebrities such as Kareena Kapoor, Ranbir Kapoor, and Aamir Khan taking part. After much anticipation and release of film's first song 'Kahani,' the song has instantly become everyone's favourite symphony. Its success is making headlines all the time, and we're not surprised!

The filter's aesthetic presence is attractive to the eyes, which is one of the reasons why it has become a trend today. The task entails blowing on a feather to the music of 'Kahani,' a song from the film. The feather challenge has fully captured social media users, as a result of which it has taken over the platform.

Neetu Kapoor and Ranbir Kapoor, a mother-son combination, recently joined in on the craze. Both of them looked to enjoy themselves while taking part in Kahani's feather challenge.

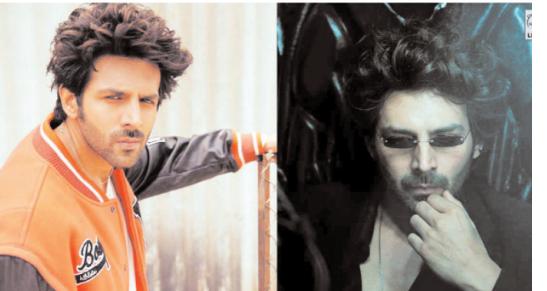
The video was made much better by Ranbir's adorable face and Neetu's timeless beauty.

Laal Singh Chaddha is planned to release on August 11th, 2022, and promises to take us on an emotional journey. Advait Chandan directed the comedy-drama, which stars Aamir Khan and Kareena Kapoor in major roles.

TITLE TRACK FROM KARTIK AARYAN'S UPCOMING IS A REMAKE OF THE OG TRACK?

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The title song for Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2 is out, and it features Kartik Aaryan in a black suit, doing a mix of tap dancing and moonwalking. A cat appears in the song as he grooves to the beats, which are partially identical to the original Akshay Kumar version. The song is, however, a far cry from the upbeat original, which had Akshay grooving in a tee and denim. In under 24 hours, Kartik released the song in four cities: Chandigarh, Lucknow, Delhi, and Gurgaon.



The track has been sung by Neeraj Shridhar with music recreated by Tanishk Bagchi and Pritam and additional lyrics by Mandy Gill.

Kartik, Tabu, Kiara Advani, and Sanjay Mishra are among the new cast members in Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2. Rajpal Yadav, who played the priest Chhota Pandit in the previous film, is the only returning cast member.

Priyadarshan directed the 2007 film, which starred Akshay Kumar as a psychiatrist tasked with determining the cause of mysterious events in a mansion. Kartik Aaryan plays a character identical

to Akshay Kumar's in the sequel. This year's Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2 will be released on May 20. It's worth noting that this will be Kartik's first collaboration with Kiara and Tabu, as directed by Anees Bazmee.

There have been numerous comparisons between Kartik and Akshay since the film's announcement since the Pyaar Ka PUNCHAMA actor is stepping into Khiladi Kumar's shoes for the horror-comedy. To this, Kartik said, "It's better not to compare, I love him as an actor. We have tried our best to do it our way".

Shilpa Shetty raises the bar for fitness freaks, did a workout session on a bus

Team Absolute | Mumbai

When it comes to Bollywood star Shilpa Shetty, the actress dons several hats. She is an actor, a businesswoman, a mother, and above all she is a fitness lover. The Hungama 2 actress is a frequent social media user and an inspiration to all fitness enthusiasts. She frequently updates her Instagram with news from her life. Recently actress posted a video of herself working out inside an empty bus.

Shilpa Shetty posted a video on social media in which she can be seen squeezing into a bus for some pull-ups, push-ups, and lunges. She also washed the bus's handles following her workout session.

While sharing the video, the actress wrote, "Monday motivation on the go... only because the bus was empty! Squeezed in some pull-ups, push-ups, and lunges on my way back home: 2 MISSIONS ACCOMPLISHED! FIT INDIA and SWACHH BHARAT ABHIYAN!"

Shilpa Shetty also walked the runway at Bombay Times Fashion Week 2022 this year. With her appearance, the actress captivated the audience and even spun her way down the runway. Shilpa looked stunning in a multi-hued lehenga, which she finished off with a little body paint. Her followers couldn't believe she was in her late 40s because of her immaculate walk and beauty. On the professional front, Shilpa Shetty will next be featured in Rohit Shetty's cop universe, in which she will play a key role. The actress posted the news alongside her first look from the show, writing, "Ready to set the OTT platform on fire for the first time Superr Thrilled to join The Action King Rohit Shetty in his Cop Universe! #IndianPoliceForceOnPrime, now filming!" In addition to Rohit Shetty's cop world, Shilpa Shetty will appear in Nikamma.



Will Kajol and Shahrukh Khan reunite after 7 years?

Team Absolute | Mumbai

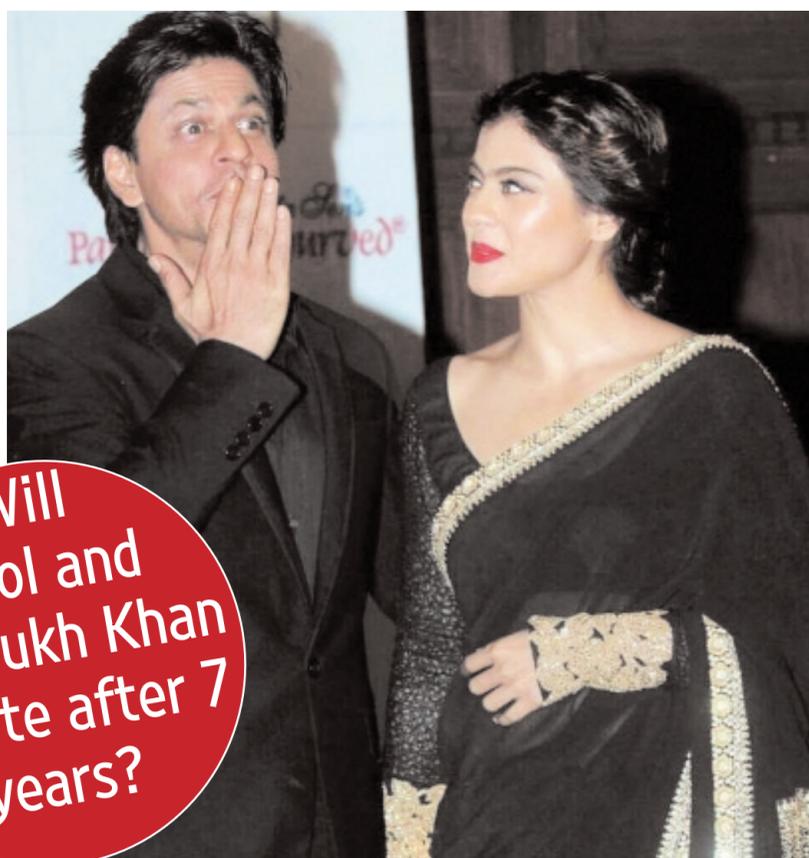
Kajol and Shahrukh Khan are undoubtedly one of the most loved on-screen jodi. The two were last seen sharing screen space in Dilwale. According to rumours doing rounds on the internet, they will soon collaborate once again, for a special performance in Karan Johar's next directorial Rocky Aur Rani Ki Prem Kahani.

Reportedly, Shah Rukh Khan and Kajol will be seen making a brief appearance. It will either be a song or a cameo performance.

However, there is no confirmation regarding the same from the end of makers.

Well, if recent reports are to be believed, the two are not going to

be a part of the film. Shahrukh Khan and Kajol have won our hearts with their sizzling chemistry in classic films like Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge and Kuch Kuch Hota Hai, Dilwale amongst others. For the unversed, Ranveer Singh and Alia Bhatt starer Rocky Aur Rani Ki Prem Kahani is slated to release in theatres in 10 February 2023.



Athena Shetty