

# absolute india

VOL. 5, ISSUE 198, NEW DELHI | SUNDAY, MAY 29, 2022 | ₹5 | PAGE 08

PUBLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM NEW DELHI, MUMBAI AND BHOPAL

**NATION** >  
Cooperation is a great medium for self-sufficiency: PM Modi...



**HOLLYWOOD** > 06  
Sriya Lenka becomes the first Indian K-pop star...



**SPORTS** > 07  
Rublev advances to fourth round after beating Garin...



186 metric tonnes of plastic waste collected in 3 hrs in Tamil Nadu creates

## WORLD RECORD

Nine adjudicators from four organisations -- The Elite World Records, Asian Records Academy, Indian Records Academy, and Tamilian book of Records -- certified the record.

In a statement on Saturday, the Ranipet district administration said that 20,000 volunteers drawn from all sections of society collected 186.914 metric tonnes of waste within three hours on Friday. The drive commenced at 7 a.m.

The intensive cleaning drive was held across 288 village panchayats, six municipalities, and eight town panchayats in the district. Single-use plastics were recovered from residential buildings, empty plots, roads, highways, companies, and commercial establishments.



Team Absolute | Chennai

Tamil Nadu's Ranipet district has created a world record with 20,000 volunteers collecting 186.914 metric tonnes of plastic waste in just three hours. With this, the district has surpassed Switzerland which collected 128 metric tonnes in the same time

span. The Ranipet district collector M. Bhaskarapandian was the driving force behind the drive. The district collector while speaking to IANS pointed out: "The event was held to spread the message on environment protection and that our existence is threatened due to environmental degradation. We must protect it and

pass it on to the next generation." He had earlier conducted inspections and searches across the shops and establishments and confiscated a large volume of single-use plastics. The single-use plastics that are confiscated are shredded into pieces and used for mixing in the road construction work.

## IIT Madras develops first-of-its-kind 'Rotary Furnace'



Team Absolute | Chennai

The MSW generated in India is around 133 million tonnes a year of which more than 85 per cent ends up in landfills. The total solid waste generation in Tamil Nadu is 14,600 tonnes/day with around 5,400 tonnes/day generated in Chennai (TNPCB, 2021). The MSW generation is increasing at 13 per cent a year with a current per capita generation of around 0.5-1 kg/day.

After the segregation and utilisation of bio-organic wastes for composting, vermin-composting and biogas generation, more than 2,500 tonnes/day of bio-inorganic waste, including plastics and high calorific value matter are dumped in the landfills.

The Indian solid waste management industry is worth \$13.62 billion by 2025.

Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) developed an indigenous municipal solid waste combustor pilot plant based on a first-of-its-kind 'Rotary Furnace Technology' to efficiently process un-segregated municipal solid waste generated in India. This Combustor Plant was inaugurated on Friday by V. Kamakoti, Director, IIT Madras, was deployed within the Combined Cycle Demonstration Plant premises at the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited factory at Trichy. Developed completely indigenously, this facility can process up to one tonne of un-segregated municipal solid waste (MSW) per day and generate steam as the main output along with clean gaseous emissions and ash as a by-product. This initiative was part of the Uchchar Avishkaar Yojana (UAY) project funded by BHEL and the Union Ministry of Education. It was developed by IIT Madras Researchers at National Centre for Combustion Research and Development (NCCRD). R Vinu, Associate Professor, Department of Chemical Engineering, IIT Madras, led the project. The entire process from installation to commissioning was completed within six months. Kamakoti said, "Waste management is becoming an important issue that necessitates solutions that can scale and also help in quick and safe disposal. The first-of-its-kind Solid Waste Combustor developed by IIT Madras not only addresses the scale and safe disposal issues, but also generates heat resulting in a waste-to-wealth creation." "It has already been well-tested at IIT Madras for a variety of mixed wastes and up to 40 per cent moisture in the feedstock. The Pilot Plant also contains robust emission treatment units including a bag filter, wet scrubber and dry scrubber to filter and capture the pollutants ensuring emissions are well within the norms," a statement from IIT, Madras said.

## Goa village that emerges once a year remains underwater

PANAJI | Agencies

Kurdi, a submerged village in south Goa, emerges once every year, when summer is at its peak and the catchment area of the Selaulim dam nearby dries up.

This year, thanks to unseasonal, but heavy pre-monsoon showers, Kurdi has remained underwater. This has led to cancellation of the Sameshwar Maha Utsav, an annual festival held at the Sameshwar temple when it surfaces in the summer months of April and May.

The cancellation of the festival has led to disappointment, especially among the former residents of the village, who were relocated by the government, after the construction of the Selaulim dam in whose catchment, the village lies submerged most of the year.

Gurucharan Kurdikar, a software engineer working in Bangalore, said that the Maha Utsav had started in the year 2015 with a gathering of few people. It rose to around 6,000 people in the year 2019. "For last eight years, the displaced villagers are having celebrations at the temple. However, we couldn't hold it for the last two years because of COVID restrictions and even this year as the temple remains underwater," said another villager.

Some locals had complained that failure of dam authorities to release water



for irrigation, fearing shortage of potable water, had resulted in the temple remaining in knee deep water. Sameshwar temple dedicated to lord Shiva has remained intact despite being submerged for at least ten months in a year. About 630 houses located in this area were rehabilitated to other nearby villages for the construction of a dam which provides water to most parts of Goa. Now the whole area of this village (old Kurdi) remains underwater.

The dam was constructed five decades ago. Since then the displaced villagers visit the temple and offer a prayer in April and May when water recedes.

## Mumbai's Kanheri Caves to come alive with 3D virtual tours

4-As the 1,200-2,200 year old caves fall in the core area of the forest, electricity and water supply were not available but now power is supplied through solar energy sources.

The Kanheri Caves, one of the major tourist attractions in the country's commercial capital, are chiselled out of a massive basaltic rock outcrop and demonstrate Buddhist style of art and architecture in its sculptures, pillars, stupas, relief carvings, paintings and inscriptions.

Dating between 1st CE to 10th CE, the complex has around 109 caves, mostly monasteries, some chaityas and viharas, and flourished as a centre of learning under the Satavahana, Triakutakas, Vakatakas and Shilaharas rulers and donations by merchants of that region.



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Mumbai's ancient centre of learning, the Kanheri Caves - located on hills deep inside the Sanjay Gandhi National Park, Borivali - will now come alive with a 3D virtual tour of its sprawling monastic complex along with an Interpretation Centre. The newly-inaugurated Interpretation Centre will facilitate visitors' engagement by highlight-

ing the outstanding features and uniqueness of the principal caves with the help of 11 illustrative panels. The trail map of Kanheri Caves, situated on several hills around 1,550 feet tall, will help visitors save time and the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is finalising a 3D virtual tour of the entire complex.

Launching a host of tourist amenities here on Monday, Union Tourism Minister G. Kishan Reddy

said Kanheri Caves are a part of our ancient heritage as they provide evidence of evolution and our past. Stressing on the PPP model for protecting, preserving and propagating the heritage treasures for the future, he said that Indian Oil Foundation is providing the upgraded tourist facilities - a pavilion, a custodian quarter, booking office, landscaping, etc, here in collaboration with the ASI.

## KGF'S BAD EFFECT: HYDERABAD LAD TRIES SMOKING, LANDS IN HOSPITAL

Team Absolute | Hyderabad

After smoking a pack of cigarettes for the first time, a teenager in Hyderabad, developed severe cough and throat ache complications needing medical attention.

Doctors at Century Hospital, a leading multi-specialty healthcare provider in the city, on Saturday announced they have successfully treated a teenager who inspired by "Rocky Bhai", a character of KGF movie series, smoked cigarettes and fell severely sick. The boy needed immediate medical attention to provide relief from the after-effects of smoking cigarettes, along with strong counselling.

A resident of Rajendranagar in Hyderabad, the 15-yr-old boy, whose



name has been withheld to protect child's identity, was rushed to Century Hospital when his parents learnt that he smoked a packet of cigarettes after watching KGF2 movie three times in just two days. The boy watched the movie in the second week of its release in theaters and was inspired by "style" of the lead character "Rocky Bhai" and wanted to ape him by smoking for the first time, only to fall severely sick in the process,

the hospital officials stated.

Commenting on the case, Dr Rohith Reddy Pathuri, Consultant Pulmonologist, Century Hospital said: "Movies are a highly influencing element of our society. Characters like 'Rocky Bhai' have a cult following and young minds do get influenced by the acts of these demigods on the screen. Parents of adolescents must ensure they keep a watch on what their children are doing, and what factors are influencing their child's acts. Instead of regretting later, it is important parents play a role in creating awareness about the ill-effects of acts like smoking tobacco and consuming alcohol. Beating up children post the act, like in this case, might not always produce the best result."

## Was Teen when RR first won the IPL title in 2008

Samson said he was playing an Under-16 game somewhere in Kerala in 2008 when the RR-CSK final took place. He perhaps wouldn't have imagined that one day he would be guiding the team into the final of the IPL.

Team Absolute | Ahmedabad

Rajasthan Royals skipper Sanju Samson was in his teens when the legendary Shane Warne and Pakistan's pace

bowler Sohail Tanvir guided the team to victory in the inaugural IPL season in 2008.

Cut to 2022, and 14 years later Samson has recollections of the magical day when the Warne-led Royals won by three wickets against the Mahendra Singh Dhoni-led Chennai Super Kings. It was only befitting that Warne was at the crease when the winning runs were scored at the DY Patil Stadium on June 1, 2008. Samson conceded that the toss has played a crucial role all through the tournament, given the dew factor that comes into play in the night matches at all the venues. "Yes, definitely, the toss made it much easier for us. The toss plays a huge part. The pitch plays completely different in

the second innings. We are very fortunate to have Jos (Buttler). Touch wood, one more match to go (final against Gujarat Titans)."

The 27-year-old Samson conceded that the tournament had been very "tough" for the side with all the ups and downs.

"It was really tough. But we (are) used to bouncing back in the IPL. It is a long tournament where you go up and down. The wicket, bowling first, was a bit sticky and helping the fast bowlers. The bounce was good, which made it easier to hit the spinners (playing second). But our fast bowlers bowled really well. We needed to close very well with DK (Dinesh Karthik) and (Glenn) Maxwell there," added Samson.



## LATA MANGESHKAR WAS AN AVID PHOTOGRAPHER: SONU NIGAM

Team Absolute | Mumbai

An artiste in the true sense,

Lata Mangeshkar was a legendary personality who had ruled the singing industry with her magical voice. Apart from singing, Lata had some other interests too that talked a lot about her creative personality, which television show 'Naam Reh Jaayega' is bringing to the fore. Not many people are aware that Lata was an ace photographer and would take her camera along everywhere she travelled. Singer Sonu Nigam has revealed her interest in photography. He said, "Lataji used to love clicking photos. Whenever she had time she used to go for jungle safaris and used to click a lot of photos. In fact, she had a huge collection of photos, and very soon we will be expecting a book launch of her photographic collection."

Star Plus' 8-episode series 'Naam Reh Jaayega', has more than 20 of the biggest Indian artistes join hands to pay tribute to the legendary Lata Mangeshkar.





# COOPERATION IS A GREAT MEDIUM FOR SELF-SUFFICIENCY: PM MODI

AHMEDABAD | Agencies

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday addressed a seminar of leaders of various cooperative institutions on 'Sahakar Se Samridhi' at Mahatma Mandir, Gandhinagar.

Chief Minister of Gujarat Bhupendra Patel, Union Ministers Amit Shah, Mansukh Mandaviya, Members of Parliament, MLAs, Ministers from the Gujarat Government, and leaders of the cooperative sector were among those present on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister welcomed thousands of farmers who gathered at the Mahatma Mandir. He said cooperation is a great medium for self-sufficiency of the village. It has the energy of AtmaNirbhar Bharat. He said Pujya Bapu and Patel showed us the way for bringing self-sufficiency to villages. Along those lines, today we are moving ahead on the path of developing a model cooperative village. Six villages in Gujarat have been chosen where all the cooperative-related activities would be implemented, he said.

After inaugurating the Nano Urea (Liquid) Plant at IFFCO, Kalol, he said that the power of a full sack of



urea has come into a half-liter bottle, leading to huge savings in transportation and storage. The plant will produce about 1.5 lakh bottles of 500 ml per day. He said that 8 more such plants will be established in the country in the coming days. "This will reduce foreign dependence with regard to urea and will save the country's money. I am confident that this innovation will not remain confined to urea. In the future other

nano fertilizers will be available to our farmers", he said. The Prime Minister informed that India is the second-largest consumer of urea in the world but only the third-largest producer. After the formation of the government in 2014, the government did 100 per cent neem coating of urea. This ensured that the farmers of the country got enough urea. Simultaneously, the work of restarting 5 closed fertilizer

factories in UP, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, and Telangana was initiated. UP and Telangana factories have already started production, and the other three factories also will soon start working, he said.

Talking about the import dependence with regard to urea and phosphate and potash-based fertilizers, the Prime Minister dwelled on high prices and lack of availability in the global market due to the pandemic and war. He said that the sensitive government did not allow the problems to be passed on to the farmers and despite the difficult situation did not let any crisis of fertilizer take shape in India. A urea bag costing Rs 3500 is made available to the farmer for Rs 300 while the government bears Rs 3200 per bag.

Similarly on a bag of DAP, the government bears Rs 2500 as opposed to Rs 500 borne by the earlier governments. The Union Government gave a subsidy of Rs 1,60,000 crore last year, this year this subsidy is going to be more than Rs 2 lakh crore, the Prime Minister informed.

The Prime Minister promised to do whatever was necessary in the interest of the farmers of the country.

The PM greeted and met the cooperative representatives.

# India slams OIC-IPHRC's stand on Yasin Malik's life term

Team Absolute | New Delhi

India has strongly condemned the remarks of Organisation of Islamic Cooperation-Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission (OIC-IPHRC) on NIA sentencing Kashmiri separatist Yasin Malik to life imprisonment in a terror funding case.

Terming the remark "unacceptable", Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said on Friday: "India finds unacceptable the comments made by OIC-IPHRC today criticising India for the judgement in the case of Yasin Malik. Through these comments, OIC-IPHRC has implicitly expressed support for the terrorist activities of Yasin Malik, which were documented and presented in the Court. The world seeks zero tolerance of terrorism and we urge OIC not to justify it any manner."

Taking to Twitter, the OIC had said: "OIC-IPHRC condemned illegal conviction of prominent Kashmiri politician Mr. Yassen Malik on concocted charges following sham trial in India.



He is imprisoned under inhumane conditions which are reflective of systemic Indian bias and persecution of Kashmiri Muslims in IOJK."

"Such acts of blatant human rights violations against innocent Kashmiris are aimed at denying Kashmiris their legitimate

right to self determination. It not only constitute travesty of Indian justice but also exposed the claims of democracy," it said in another tweet.

The two tweets sparked a huge controversy forcing the MEA to release a statement condemning the OIC's stand.

# Over Rs 100cr GST billing scam unearthed in MP

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) department of Madhya Pradesh has busted a fake GST credit racket involved in generating and passing fake invoices of more than Rs 100 crore, an official said on Saturday.

Based on inputs, the officials of the CGST department along with the police claimed to have arrested two persons from Surat in Gujarat. The official on Saturday said that two persons, the key operator of the alleged fake racket and one of his close accomplices were arrested during a raid on May 25 and they were taken to Indore. Details of more than 500 fake firms along with incriminating documents, materials, data, and



several mobile phones have been recovered from their possession. Besides, around 300 bogus firm seals and letter pads were also recovered during the search operation. "They used forged documents, addresses and fake identities to register firms and to generate and pass fake GST credit using multiple layers of transactions. They were routing the transactions through mobile digital wallet accounts

linked with different mobile numbers avoiding conventional banking channels, they also seem to be involved in identity theft besides defrauding the government revenues," said Partha Roy Chowdhury, principal commissioner of CGST and Central Excise, Indore.

Chowdhury further said that both the arrested persons are currently on remand for further investigation.

# India supplying 1,160 MW power to B'desh, 1,500 MW more in pipeline: Jaishankar

GUWAHATI | Agencies

External Minister Dr S. Jaishankar on Saturday said that India has been supplying 1,160 MW of electricity to Bangladesh and 1,500 MW more is already in the pipeline.

Addressing the "NADI (River) Conclave 2022" here, he also said that India is collaborating on a series of road projects in Bangladesh, including improving the Ashuganj River Port-Akhaura Land Port Road under a LoC of more than \$400 million.

"The road project connecting Baruerhat to Ramgarh on the India-Bangladesh border, which will increase Tripura's road connectivity with Bangladesh, is also being implemented under another LoC of \$80.06 million," he said.

The Minister said that overland movement of goods is taking place using 28 notified Land Customs Stations (LCSs) and three Integrated Check Posts (ICPs) along the border.

He also noted that the "Maitree Bridge" over the Feni, connecting Sabroom in Tripura, to Ramgarh in Bangladesh, was opened by both the Prime Ministers in March 2021 and negotiations are also



underway to operationalise the BBIN Motor Vehicle Agreement to ensure seamless vehicular movement.

With the success of four "Border Haats" - two

each in Meghalaya and Tripura, nine new haats (markets) are being set up - three in Meghalaya, four in Tripura and two in Assam.

Jaishankar also said that cross-border power transmission lines and digital connectivity infrastructure offer additional dimensions of connectivity, adding that the international gateway between Agartala and Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh is helping to provide faster internet access and broadband services in Tripura.

"We will be reviewing all these developments and more at the Joint Consultative Commission Meeting with my Bangladesh counterpart in mid-June," he said.

With its completion, Sikkim will have access to Nepal's East-West Highway, with a boost to trade and tourism in both countries. The game changing potential is evident, he pointed out.

The External Affairs Minister said that hydropower too offers great scope for cooperation, and this is relevant even more in an era of climate action. There is an established tradition in this regard between Bhutan and India and a rapidly emerging one now between Nepal and India.

# 2 Hizbul terrorists killed in encounter at J&K's Anantnag



SRINAGAR | Agencies

Two Hizbul Mujahideen terrorists were killed in an encounter in Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag district on Saturday, police said.

"Killed terrorists identified as Ishaq Ah Ganie R/O Chakwangund, Anantnag and Yawar Ayub Dar R/O Dogripora, Awantipora, affiliated with proscribed terror outfit HM. The duo were involved in several terror crimes," Jammu and Kashmir

Police tweeted, quoting Inspector General Police, Kashmir zone, Vijay Kumar.

The firefight took place after a joint team of security forces cordoned off the area and launched a search operation on the basis of specific information about presence of terrorists.

As security forces zeroed in on the spot where terrorists were hiding, they came under a heavy volume of fire and retaliated, triggering the encounter.

# AAP NOMINATES TWO PADMA AWARDEES FOR RS SEATS

Chandigarh: The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Saturday nominated environmentalist Sant Balbir Singh Seechewal and entrepreneur, philanthropist and social activist Vikramjit Singh Sahni as its candidates for Rajya Sabha seats from Punjab. Both the Rajya Sabha nominees are Padma Shri awardees.

The term of Rajya Sabha members from Punjab, Ambika Soni (Congress) and Balwinder Singh Bhunder (Shiromani Akali Dal) will end on July 4.

Balbir Singh Seechewal was awarded the Padma Shri for rejuvenating the 160 km-long tributary of the Satluj and Beas rivers, while Vikramjeet Singh Sahni has evacuated over 500 Afghan Hindus and Sikhs and rehabilitated them, besides ensuring free education for their children.

# BJP's Bihar MLA Rashmi Verma struggling to get control over own property

PATNA | Agencies

A property dispute between BJP's Bihar lawmaker Rashmi Verma and her relative came into the public domain after a video of their quarrel was posted on social media on Saturday.

Verma, a second-time MLA of Narkatiaganj Assembly constituency in West Champaran district, claimed it was an old property dispute as her brother-in-law Ashish Verma and his wife Madhu Verma are not giving her the share of the ancestral property.

"We have had a long dispute over the property since 1990. My husband had demanded several times but they did not give him his own land. My husband is dead now, still they are not giving me



and other relatives the property," Verma told reporter.

"My husband has 18 brothers and sisters and they have several acres of land in the district. Ashish

Verma and his wife were elder to my husband. He initially thought that the lands were being taken care of by his brother. Hence, when it is needed, we will take it from

them. That was my husband's thinking. On the other hand, Ashish Verma and Madhu Verma are thinking to grab the property," she added.

"On Saturday, we went to a litchi garden which belongs to us. Immediately Madhu Verma and her daughter arrived and were involved in a verbal duel with us. I retaliated. My official bodyguards were present there and they tried to intervene in the matter. We want our legal rights. We are not demanding anything more than that," she said.

An official of Sahodara police station said that the matter has not come before them, and hence, they are unable to comment on it.

Contacted for comments, Ashish Verma or Madhu Verma refused to comment.

# Gurugram man murdered by brother-in-law, mother-in-law

GURUGRAM | Agencies

In a shocking murder case reported from Gurugram, a man was allegedly killed by his brother-in-law by repeatedly striking him on the head with an iron rod, with the support of his mother, and the crime sought to be passed over as an accident, police said on Saturday.

After the murder reported from Nathupur village in DLF Phase-3 area, the accused, identified as Suraj Rai and Malti Rai, both residents of West Bengal's North 24 Parganas, have been arrested.

According to the police, information was received on Thursday that a person named Shubhankar Bhadra, who used to sell utensils, has died due to injuries caused by falling from the stairs inside his house.

Bhadra's wife told the police that she lived with her husband, her mother and her brother-in-law and



his family in U-block of Nathupur. On May 25, she had gone to a mall with her sister-in-law and nephew

when she got a call that her husband had fallen down the stairs inside the house, and had been admitted to a

private hospital, where he died during treatment.

An autopsy report of the deceased disclosed that the cause of death was nine injuries on his head. Consequently, an FIR under charges of murder was registered, the police said. During the probe, a team of police station DLF Phase-3 led by Inspector Sandeep arrested the duo.

"Rai revealed that he used to invest money in the stock market, and he had suffered a loss and there was a hot argument between him and the victim on the matter. Due to this altercation, Rai killed Bhadra by hitting him on the head with an iron rod. After killing him, he and his mother misled the police and his family members. They told a concocted story that the deceased died due to injuries after falling from the stairs," the SHO said.

The iron rod used in the crime has also been recovered by the police.

# Poverty toll: Mother poisons three children; attempts suicide

KOLKATA | Agencies

Abject poverty has prompted a mother to poison her two daughters and a son, and then attempt suicide. The two daughters have already died while the mother and the son are currently admitted to a hospital in critical condition.

The incident took place on late Friday night at Kalinagar village in West Bengal's Birbhum. The neighbours said that Serina Bibi used to stay at Kalinagar village with her two daughters and a son. Her husband and the father of the three children stays outside the country for professional reasons.

According to the local residents, Serina Bibi often used to complain that her husband stopped sending money for the last seven months, due to which she was unable to bear the expenses for the minimum necessities of her children.

The locals also informed the police that she had frequent quarrels with her husband on this issue over phone. She even had heated arguments with her husband on Friday night.



It is learnt that on late Friday night Serina Bibi first poisoned her children with pesticides and then she consumed that. On Saturday morning, hearing a groaning sound, the neighbours broke open the door.

The two daughters, Hasi Khatun (13) and Khushi Khatun (10) had already died by then.

Serina Bibi and her son, Irfan Sheikh (7) were immediately admitted to Burdwan Medical College & Hospital. Their condition continues to remain critical.

# absolute india

VOL. 5, ISSUE 198, NEW DELHI | SUNDAY, MAY 29, 2022 | ₹5 | PAGE 08

PUBLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM NEW DELHI, MUMBAI AND BHOPAL

“Vice Is like a fury to the vicious mind, And turns delight itself to punishment.”



Ben Jonson

## NW INDIA, CENTRAL INDIA TO SEE MERCURY RISE, RAIN ELSEWHERE

# HOT AND COLD

► THE IMD WARNED THAT SOUALLY WEATHER (WIND SPEED 40-50 KMPH, GUSTING TO 60 KMPH) IS VERY LIKELY OVER SOUTHWEST ARABIAN SEA DURING NEXT FIVE DAYS, OVER SOUTHEAST ARABIAN SEA, LAKSHADWEEP AREA ALONG AND OFF SOUTH KERALA COAST AND COMORIN AREA ON MAY 29 AND 30 AND OVER NORTHEAST ARABIAN SEA AND ADJOINING NORTH GUJARAT COAST ON MAY 28 AND 29. FISHERMEN ARE ADVISED NOT TO VENTURE INTO THESE AREAS.



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Even as half the country is receiving pre-monsoon showers, the plains of northwest India and large parts of central India are set to witness a rise of 2-3 degrees Celsius in maximum temperatures, India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Saturday. The southern peninsular region is already in the countdown mode to welcome the southwest monsoon while east and NE India too

are witnessing rainfall.

Under the influence of westerly winds from Arabian Sea over the south peninsular India in lower tropospheric levels, widespread light/moderate rainfall with thunderstorm/ lightning is very likely over Kerala, Mahe, and Lakshadweep Islands and isolated rainfall over Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, Puducherry & Karaikal during next five days. Isolated heavy rainfall is also likely over Kerala and Mahe till

June 1 and over Lakshadweep on May 30. Under the influence of a trough in westerlies and southwesterly winds from Bay of Bengal to northeast India at lower tropospheric levels, scattered to fairly widespread light/moderate rainfall is very likely over northeast India and sub-Himalayan West Bengal and Sikkim and isolated to scattered rainfall with isolated thunderstorm/ lightning/ gusty winds over Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha and Gangetic West Bengal next five days. Isolated heavy rainfall is also

“Gradual rise in maximum temperatures by 2-3 degrees Celsius is very likely over most parts of northwest India during next three days while gradual rise in maximum temperatures by 2-3 degrees Celsius is very likely over most parts of central India during next two days. No significant heat wave conditions are very likely over the country during next five days.”

IMD bulletin

likely over sub-Himalayan West Bengal and Sikkim on May 30 and 31, over Arunachal Pradesh on May 1, over Assam and Meghalaya till June 1 and over Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram & Tripura on May 29, 31, and June 1, the IMD said.

## First cases of Omicron's B.A. 4, B.A.5 sub-variants detected in Maharashtra

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Maharashtra on Saturday reported its first Covid case of the BA.4 and BA.5 subvariants of Covid's Omicron strain. The subvariants have been detected in at least 7 people from Pune. A total of four infections caused by the BA.4 sub-strain of Omicron coronavirus variant, and three cases of BA.5 sub-strain have been detected. The cases of this subvariant have been reported in the state, days after the Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG) on Saturday confirmed cases

with BA.4 and BA.5 variants in Tamil Nadu and Telangana for the first time in India. As per the INSACOG report, 19-year-old female in Tamil Nadu was found infected with the BA.4 variant of SARS-CoV-2 and a male from Telangana was tested positive for the BA.5 variant. "BA.4 and BA.5 are subvariants of the Omicron variant circulating globally. These were reported first from South Africa earlier this year and are now reported from several other countries," INSACOG had said in a statement. It also added that these variants have not been associated with disease severity or increased hospitalisation.

### PRESIDENT IN THE CITY



President Ram Nath Kovind has said that it is our goal to provide good health services to the last person in the last row. Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and his team deserve applause for the work they are doing for better education and health facilities in Madhya Pradesh. President dedicated new health institutions of the state and performed bhoomi-pujan in a programme organized at Motilal Nehru Stadium on Saturday.

## Bihar to allow exploration of "India's Largest" Gold reserve

Patna | Agencies

The Bihar government has decided to accord permission for exploration of the "country's largest" gold reserve in Jamui district, a senior official said on Saturday. As per a Geological Survey of India (GSI) survey, around 222.88 million tonnes of gold reserve, including 37.6 tonnes of mineral-rich ore, are present in Jamui district. "The state Mines and Geology Department is in consultation with agencies engaged in exploration, including GSI and the National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC), for exploration of gold reserves in Jamui. "The consultation process started after analysing the GSI findings which indicated the presence of gold in areas such as Karmatia, Jhajha and Sono in Jamui district," Additional Chief Secretary cum Mines



Commissioner Harjot Kaur Bamhraha told news agency. She said the state government is likely to sign an MoU with a central agency or agencies for G3 (preliminary) stage exploration within a month's time. In certain areas, G2 (general) exploration can also be carried out, Ms Bamhraha said. Union Minister of Mines Pralhad Joshi had last year informed the Lok Sabha that Bihar holds the highest share of India's gold reserves. In a written reply,

he had said that Bihar has 222.885 million tonnes of gold metal, which amounts to 44 per cent of the total gold reserves in the country. "As per the National Mineral Inventory, the total resources of primary gold ore in the country as on 1.4.2015 are estimated at 501.83 million tonnes with 654.74 tonnes of gold metal and out of this, Bihar is endowed with 222.885 million tonnes (44 per cent) of ore containing 37.6 tonnes of metal," Mr Joshi had said.

## "60 LAKH GOVT POSTS VACANT": BJP'S VARUN GANDHI JOBS CENTRE

New Delhi: Continuing to raise the issue of unemployment, BJP MP Varun Gandhi on Saturday said over 60 lakh sanctioned central and state government posts are vacant in various sectors when joblessness is at its highest level in three decades.

The MP from Pilibhit in Uttar Pradesh Saturday tweeted a chart mentioning government jobs sector-wise. "While crores of youth are frustrated and disappointed due to non-availability of recruitment, there are 60 lakh 'sanctioned posts' vacant in the country if 'government figures' are to be believed," Varun said. These statistics are startling when unemployment is at its highest level in three decades, he said. Questioning where the budget has gone for these sanctioned posts, Gandhi said it is the right of youth to know about it. Earlier this week as well, he had raised the issue of vacancy in government posts while asserting that job aspirants have been desperate and paying the price for administrative incompetence. Gandhi had openly come out in support of protesting farmers against the now-repealed three farm laws, while his party-led government at the Centre was defending the laws. He has been taking stands on people-centric issues which are not in line with the BJP's official position. The three-time Lok Sabha MP was also not seen campaigning for his party during the recent assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh. The Gandhi scion was once BJP's national general secretary and perceived as its prominent youth face especially in Uttar Pradesh politics.

## Hijab row: Only uniforms are allowed, says K'taka Minister

Koppal | Agencies

While commenting on the resurfacing of the hijab issue in Dakshina Kannada district, Karnataka Education Minister B.C. Nagesh on Saturday categorically stated that only uniforms are allowed in school and college campuses across the state. He further said that the order of the Karnataka High Court must be followed regarding the issue. The Minister's remark comes after hundreds of students from Mangaluru's University College staged a protest on Thursday against wearing hijab in classrooms. The students



expressed anger at the authorities for allowing this despite the court and government orders. In his statement on Saturday, the Education Minister also said that textbooks were already being printed, adding that "there is history and nationalism in the syllabus". He blamed the opposition Congress of creating confusion among students and also in the state regarding the textbook revision row.

## JACQUELINE GETS COURT'S NOD TO TRAVEL ABROAD

New Delhi: Actress Jacqueline Fernandez, who is under the radar of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with her alleged links with conman Sukesh Chandrashekar, has got the court's permission to travel abroad from May 31 to June 6. Jacqueline, who wants to attend the International Indian Film Academy Awards in Abu Dhabi, had approached the Patiala House court, seeking its nod for her visit to the UAE, France, and Nepal. The ED has interrogated Jacqueline multiple times and recorded her statement after her alleged friendship with Chandrashekar came to light. In the Rs 200 crore money laundering case involving Chandrashekar, the ED had last month attached gifts and properties worth Rs 7 crore given to the Sri Lankan actress, terming them proceeds of crime.

## RUSSIA'S "INVINCIBLE" HYPERSONIC MISSILE HITS TARGET 1,000 KM AWAY

Moscow: Russian forces Saturday announced a latest successful test of their Zircon hypersonic cruise missile as Moscow steps up its Ukraine offensive. The missile was fired from the Admiral Gorchkov frigate stationed in the Barents Sea and "successfully hit" a target stationed 1,000 kilometres (625 miles) away in the White Sea in the Arctic, the defence ministry said. The ministry added the test was undertaken as part of ongoing "testing of new weapons". The first official Zircon test, which President Vladimir Putin described as a "great event," came in October 2020. Other tests followed, from the same frigate and from a submerged submarine. The latest test of a hypersonic weapon comes as Russia looks to be making ground in its offensive launched in Ukraine in late February. The weapon can reach speeds of between five and ten times the speed of sound and has a maximum range of around 1,000 kilometres. In March, Moscow said it had used for the first time in combat its high-precision Kinzhal, or dagger, hypersonic missile. Putin has described the missiles as a family of new "invincible" arms in Russia's arsenal. The new generation-weaponry, unveiled by Putin in 2018, are more difficult to track and intercept by missile defence systems than conventional weapons, owing to their speed but also as they are launched at lower altitude towards their target.

## "NO IMPOSITION": VICE PRESIDENT AMID 'HINDI IMPERIALISM' CHARGE ON BJP

Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu at an event in Tamil Nadu's Chennai on Saturday indicated his position on the language imposition debate which might run afoul of his former party BJP.

Team Absolute | Chennai

Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu on Saturday said the Central and the state governments should work together. Unveiling former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and DMK President late M. Karunanidhi's bronze statue at the Omandur Government Estate, Naidu said it is "Team India". "Both the Central and the state governments should work together," he said. Naidu added that when the states develop, the nation as a whole will develop. Pointing out that persons in other parties are only political rivals with a different ideology and not enemies. Stressing that all belong to the "great country India", Naidu said "politicians should respect each other

and not treat leaders of other parties as enemies". "Mother, Mother Tongue and Motherland are important. Nothing is wrong in learning another language. But mother tongue comes first," he said. According to him, there should not be imposition of any language on the populace and there should also not be any opposition to another language. Naidu said Karunanidhi is an iconic leader who had put people at the centre of all his actions like the farmer's market, health insurance and others.

## NCB busts drug syndicate, arrests 9 with Rs 500 cr worth of heroin

The investigation revealed that Nigerian kingpin from Delhi used to ask Indian lady handler to organise lady carriers who would fly abroad from India and bring such luggage concealed with drugs. They were paid for each trip along with all travel expenses by the cartel.

“The NCB Team was successful in nabbing the Nigerian kingpin of this Heroin racket and three more female African associates. In this operation 34.89 kg of high grade heroin was seized, eight persons arrested and three more African ladies were apprehended from various locations of Bengaluru, Itarsi and Delhi. Thus, based on one single input, NCB managed to successfully bust and neutralized the entire Heroin syndicate operating across India.”

NCB official

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A Pan India drug syndicate was busted by the The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) in which they arrested eight foreign women and one handler and recovered 69 kg high quality heroin worth Rs 500 crore.



A senior NCB official said that the officers of Bengaluru wing seized 7 kg heroin from a female passenger who was coming from Zimbabwe. The heroin was concealed in the false bottom of her suitcase. She reached Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru airport from Zimbabwe on May 24. The said lady was apprehended along with her associate at the airport. "Both the ladies were interrogated thoroughly, during which they revealed that one similar bag was kept in the lodge where they were staying and immediately the

search of room resulted in the recovery of similar type of bag and 6.890 kg of Heroin," said an NCB official. In the technical analysis, it came to light that three more women passengers with similar consignment have boarded the Rajdhani Express and left from Bengaluru for Delhi. The NCB worked on the technical intelligence and narrowed down the carriers and detected that they had got down near Itarsi, Madhya Pradesh. "Consequently, the Indore Zonal team recovered 21 kg Heroin from three similar trolley bags and apprehended three women from a lodge," said the official. The NCB further learnt in the investigation that the handler of these women is based at Bengaluru. He was identified and intercepted at KIA Bengaluru. He was interrogated in which he revealed about the details of their Nigerian kingpin and other handlers based in Delhi. The investigation of this case is in progress.



# MAHARASHTRA GOVT SEEKS ACTION AGAINST SAMEER WANKHEDE

Maharashtra Minister Nawab Malik, who is currently in jail in an Enforcement Directorate case, had carried out a series of 'exposes' on Wankhede

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Referring to the Bombay High Court verdict granting him bail last year, state Home Minister Dilip Walse-Patil said the decision of the judiciary has come.

"There was no truth in the allegation against Aryan Khan and that is why (now) his name has been removed from the chargesheet," he said.

"I think that the Centre has also taken cognizance of this whole matter... There is also information about action against the concerned officer. If anyone is falsely implicating an innocent person, then action should be taken against them. I think action will be taken against Sameer Wankhede," said Walse-Patil, a senior NCP leader.

It may be recalled, Maharashtra Minister Nawab Malik, who is currently in jail in an Enforcement Directorate case, had carried out a series of "exposes" on Wankhede.



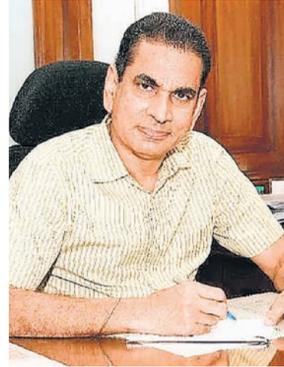
Among other things, Malik had alleged that Wankhede had submitted a forged caste certificate and got the post reserved for a scheduled caste when he was a Muslim by birth. He had also alleged that Wankhede is the owner of a bar in Navi Mumbai and he received the licence for the bar when he was only 17 years old.

Wankhede was accused of making fake raids by arranging fake witnesses to extort money. "We have always maintained that the NCB is a very credible organisation having impeccable track record but the way things were happening in recent times put question marks on the conduct of the organisation," said NCP chief spokesperson Mahesh Bharat Tapase.

Shiv Sena chief spokesperson Sanjay Raut said that Malik deserves appreciation for "exposing" Wankhede.

Asked whether he would seek action, he said, "Why should we demand? Can't the government see how he implicated a young boy in a false drug case and destroyed his life. The boy was jailed for a month. Is this justice?" Congress general secretary Sachin Sawant said, "Questions still unanswered. It was clear that some NCB officials were involved in a big extortion racket. There was a serious violation of procedures in the NCB handbook in the drugs on cruise case."

## MUMBAI CIVIC CHIEF EMPANELLED IN RANK OF SECRETARY BY UNION GOVERNMENT



Mumbai: Mumbai civic chief IS Chahal on Saturday said he had been empanelled in the rank of Secretary by the Union government.

Taking to social media to share the information, Chahal, who has won widespread praise for his effective handling of the Covid-19 pandemic in Mumbai over the past two years, said "this (empanelment) is one of the most important milestones in the career of an IAS officer".

However, it is not clear in which Central government department Chahal, who has been Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation chief since May 2020, will be working.

## MAHARASHTRA RAJYA SABHA POLLS

# MVA govt, NCP cornered, misled Sambhaji Chhatrapati: Fadnavis



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Senior BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis on Friday said the MVA government and NCP chief Sharad Pawar misled and cornered Sambhaji Chhatrapati in the run up to the polls for six Rajya Sabha seats from Maharashtra.

Sambhaji Chhatrapati, a descendant of Shivaji Maharaj and prominent Maratha leader, who had announced that he would contest the RS polls as an Independent, had, earlier in the day, said he was pulling

out after failing to garner support for his re-election bid.

"The way MVA treated Sambhaji Chhatrapati is highly condemnable. It seems the (state) government deliberately cornered him. When he had approached me and informed that he wished to contest as an Independent, I had made it clear that if he managed to get support across parties, I will speak to our high command (about giving extra party votes to him)," Fadnavis said.

Lashing out at the NCP

supremo, the former chief minister said, "Pawar was aware this time his party will have to give its extra votes to Shiv Sena for the latter's second seat. Still, he misled Sambhaji Chhatrapati and ensured there would be more confusion."

Despite knowing that the Sena would field two candidates and that the NCP would have to support its MVA ally, Pawar had said if Sambhaji contests as an Independent, then NCP's additional votes would go to him, Fadnavis further alleged.

# CM ASKS PEOPLE TO WEAR MASK AS COVID CASES RISE

On April 15, the state had just 681 active positive cases, which has gone up steadily to 2,175 cases as on May 25. Similarly, on April 15, the state had just 69 new cases. This has gone up to 480 new cases by May 25. A huge portion of this increase in cases comes from the spike in cases in Mumbai.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Voices of concern were raised at the Maharashtra Cabinet meeting on Thursday over the rising number of Covid cases in the state, especially since April. Mumbai and Pune are seeing more cases and the weekly positivity rate of the two districts is higher than that of the state.

The weekly positivity rate in Mumbai is at 3.17% and at 2.16% in Pune much higher than the entire state's rate which stands at 1.59%.

On April 15, the state had just 681 active positive cases, which has gone up steadily to 2,175 cases as on May 25. Similarly, on April 15, the state had just 69 new cases. This has gone

up to 480 new cases by May 25. A huge portion of this increase in cases comes from the spike in cases in Mumbai.

The government has been anxious over this development as, in the last seven days, 67.27% of the increase in cases in the state was from Mumbai alone. The district has 1,561 active cases.

The issue was discussed at the Maharashtra cabinet meeting on Thursday. After the meeting, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray issued a statement, exhorting people to wear masks and follow Covid appropriate behaviour.

However, the numbers are still considerably lower than last year's.



For instance, in April 2021, the state used to get more than 60,000 new cases per day at the height of the pandemic.

"We removed the restriction of wearing masks on April 2 and within

a span of 15 days the cases have gone up. If cases continue to go up, masks have to be made compulsory," said a state government official.

He added that this decision has to be taken by the government since the number of people admitted to hospitals is still quite low. Of the 2,000-odd cases, only 93 people have been admitted in hospital. Of these, 20 have been admitted in ICU and one patient is on ventilator. The state has vaccinated 92.27% of its population above 18 years. However, the vaccination coverage in rural areas is still not up to the standards with districts like Nandurbar, Beed and Hingoli still not able to give their entire population the first dose of the vaccine.

# Maharashtra State Board Exams Results in 2nd week of June

Team Absolute | Mumbai

As per officials, the students can now heave a sigh of relief as results will be declared by the 2nd week of June. Tentative date for the results to be announced has been stated as the 10th of June. What might delay the release of the results could be the effect of teachers of unaided schools protesting the evaluation process. The teachers of unaided schools had begun protests demanding 100% support of government grants for their schools. But before the demonstration by teachers of unaided schools could have any adverse effect, a strict warning was issued by the Maharashtra State Board of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education (MSB-SHSE). The notice given to quell the protest was that the protesting teacher's schools

Students of class 12 Maharashtra Board anxiously await their results which is likely to be declared by the 2nd week of June, board officials said.

would lose their accreditation and, at the same time, might not be considered an examination centre in the future.

Having calmed the teacher's protest, the board officials explained the process of examination answer papers. The officials were quick to issue the warning so that the evaluation process was not delayed due to this protest. Board officials claimed that answer scripts were not evaluated and sent to the board on time, on condition of anonymity. The evaluation by teachers is not the final process, the officials explained. However, after evaluation, papers are sent to the moderators, who then compile and process them for all the students. Then the results are declared on the MSB-SHSE website.

# Woman Arrested For Cheating Investors Of Over Rs 1.8 Crore

The economic offences wing (EOW) of the Thane crime branch arrested Shraddha Srikant Palande from Dehu Road of Pune earlier this week.

Team Absolute | Thane

The Thane police in Maharashtra have arrested a 53-year-old woman from Pune for allegedly cheating investors of over ₹ 1.8 crore, an official said on Saturday.

Acting on a tip-off, the economic offences wing (EOW) of the Thane crime branch arrested Shraddha Srikant Palande from Dehu Road of Pune earlier this week, assistant police inspector Jagdish Panhale said.

An offence under section 420 (cheating) and other relevant provisions of the IPC and MPIDA was registered with the Kasarwadavali police station against Shraddha and her husband

Srikant Pandurang Palande, who had been on the run for eight months, he said.

The couple had set up a consultancy and lured investors by promising them lucrative returns for investing in Forex trading. The duo took money from investors and failed to pay interest and return the principal amount, the official said.

The accused had cheated 29 investors to the tune of Rs 1.82 crore, he said.

The accused woman was presented before a local magistrate who remanded her to police custody till May 31, while her husband is still at large, the official added.

# Over 15,000 Nurses Of State-Run Hospitals On Indefinite Strike

More than 15,000 nurses from state-run hospitals, including about 1,500 in Mumbai, will be on strike from today.



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Over 15,000 nurses of state-run hospitals in Maharashtra went on indefinite strike from Saturday to protest against the state government's decision to outsource recruitment of nurses to a private agency, their association said.

The Maharashtra State Nurses Association (MSNA) had earlier called for a two-day strike on May 27-28.

"None of our demands have been met. So we are going on indefinite strike from May 28," general secretary of the MSNA Sumitra Tote said on Friday.

If the recruitment of nurses is out-

sourced, they will be vulnerable to exploitation and receive lower remuneration, she said.

More than 15,000 nurses from state-run hospitals, including about 1,500 in Mumbai, will be on strike, Tote added. The MSNA has also asked for payment of nursing and education allowances to its members.

The Centre and some states pay nursing allowance of RS 7,200. The benefit should be extended to nurses in Maharashtra too, Ms Tote said.

Meanwhile, Maharashtra on Friday recorded 536 new coronavirus infections the highest one-day rise in cases since March 3 - but zero pandemic-related

fatalities, the health department said. The tally of active cases crossed the 2,500-mark, it said.

On March 3, the state had recorded 544 new infections. The state's COVID-19 caseload rose to 78,84,865 while death toll stood unchanged at 1,47,858. The case fatality rate in Maharashtra is 1.87 per cent.

On Thursday, the state had recorded 511 new cases and one death. State capital Mumbai alone recorded 351 new coronavirus cases on Friday. The number of active cases rose to 2,568. Sangli, Dhule, Jalna, Latur, Hingoli, Akola, Buldhana, Yavatmal and Gondia districts have zero active cases.

# 'Aryan Khan started smoking Ganja as student in the US', statement to NCB

Aryan Khan, 23, the son of Bollywood mega-star Shah Rukh Khan and producer Gauri Khan, admitted to the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) that he started smoking Ganja (cannabis) in 2018 while studying for graduation in the US.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Aryan Khan, 23, the son of Bollywood mega-star Shah Rukh Khan and producer Gauri Khan, admitted to the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) that he started smoking Ganja (cannabis) in 2018 while studying for graduation in the US.

The 'voluntary statement' of Aryan, made under NDPS Act, 1985, Sec 67, before Ashish Ranjan, IO, is part of the final complaint lodged before the Special NDPS Court by the NCB on Friday (May 27), and came to light hours after the superstar-son was exonerated from the case.

He claimed that at that time, he was suffering from certain sleep disorders and he had read articles on the Internet informing Ganja (also known as bhang, pot, grass, etc) could help.

Unaware of what lay in store for him ahead, Aryan revealed that he was friends with another co-accused Arbaaz Merchant since the past seven-eight years and even the latter smoked Ganja and Hashish.

At Arbaaz's coaxing, Aryan admitted he occasionally tried smoking Hashish (Charas) but did not relish it much.

Aryan, along with his friends Pratik, Manav and Arbaaz had gone to the Mumbai International Cruise Terminal (ICT) in his Mercedes car around 15.30 (on Oct 2, 2021) to board the Cordelia Cruise, and Arbaaz had promised to bring Hashish for that party.

While crossing the check-in point at the ICT, Aryan said he was intercepted by NCB's IO Ashish Ranjan Prasad and even introduced to the then Mumbai Zonal Director Sameer Wankhede as a Gazetted Officer, subjected to a personal search after explaining his rights. During that physical search, no

drugs were recovered from Aryan and he gave up his mobile phone when demanded by the NCB.

After checking some messages, the officer asked Aryan whether he knew Arbaaz Merchant, to which he said yes - and with whom he was to share a cabin in the Cordelia Cruise ship.

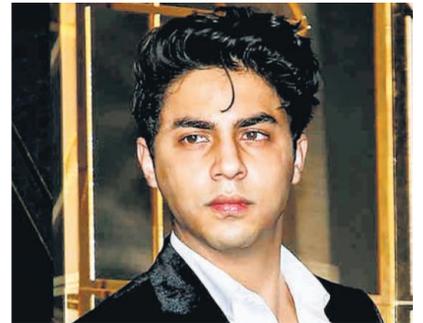
When the IO asked Aryan whether he deals with narcotic drugs, he replied that he was into consumption of only natural drugs like Ganja or Hashish.

Aryan also revealed that Arbaaz had taken out and handed over a small quantity of Charas to the NCB IO Ashish Ranjan Prasad, and said what was recovered (from Arbaaz) was for consumption only and probably procured by him from Bandra, after which the NCB team tested the Charas with some kit and sealed it in a pouch.

Later, the NCB team thoroughly searched all the cabins allotted to Aryan and his friends, and served with a notice to appear immediately before the NCB Mumbai Office to give his voluntary statement.

In the questioning, Aryan confessed to making the 'incriminating WhatsApp drug chats' on his mobile phone and signed on the chats transcript.

The conversation with his friend Archit pertaining to a poker game and procurement of Weed from him in return for a Rs 80,000 loan which he (Archit) was unable to repay, through some supplier he knew in Powai and



Bandra. After all this, the stunned Aryan was arrested by NCB Mumbai Superintendent VV. Singh on October 3, 2021, at 2 p.m. under NDPS Act, 1985, Sec 8A, 22(b), 27 and 35 - triggering one of the biggest news events of the year after the Covid-19 pandemic.

The bewildered Aryan was enlightened on the arrest charges through his Memo of Arrest which he countersigned as a receipt and the information was related to Shah Rukh Khan and his family members.

After completing the medico-legal formalities he was produced before the Sessions Court which remanded him to NCB custody and later in judicial custody, totally spending around 28 nights in the dank cell of Arthur Road Central Jail.

After he was given a 'clean chit' by the NCB's Special Investigation Team on Friday, there is a huge clamour to take action against the ex-NCB Mumbai head Wankhede and his team along with certain Bharatiya Janata Party activists, who allegedly conspired to trap the unsuspecting Aryan and others in the sensational case.



# LINKING YOGA, AYURVEDA WITH RELIGION IS UNFORTUNATE: PRESIDENT KOVIND

President Ram Nath Kovind on Saturday said that associating Ayurveda and Yoga with a particular religion or community is "unfortunate."



Team Absolute | Bhopal

President Ram Nath Kovind on Saturday said that associating Ayurveda and Yoga with a particular religion or community is "unfortunate." President Kovind made the observation while inaugurating Arogya Manthan programme "One-Nation One Health System" organised by 'Arogya Bharti'. The President hailed Arogya Bharti for working in an organised manner with a holistic approach of making citizens healthy. He praised the institution for expanding its activities at the national level. "When every individual is healthy, all the families will be healthy. If each family is healthy then every village and every city will be healthy and thus the whole country will be healthy," Kovind said. The President said that under the National Health

Policy announced in the year 2017, the government aims to make quality health services accessible to all at an affordable cost. "It is also the aim of this policy to arrange health facilities for all in a comprehensive and holistic manner," he added. He further said that to achieve these goals, the cooperation of all sections of society, especially the aware citizens, along with the participation of government and private sector institutions is essential. Meanwhile, the president also expressed his gratitude to the scientists from across the world for their efforts to fight against the Covid-19 pandemic. "For the last two-and-a-half years, the world has been suffering from the unprecedented Covid-19 pandemic. Doctors and scientists from across the world with their research and efforts saved people's lives. I express my gratitude to sci-

entists," the President said. The President's three-day visit to Madhya Pradesh began on Friday evening with his arrival to the state capital Bhopal. He was accorded a grand welcome by Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Governor Mangubhai Patel. On Saturday, he will be performing bhoomi-pujan of 10 urban health institution buildings, costing Rs 154 crore, and dedicate newly constructed buildings of four health institutions, costing Rs 72 crore, at Motilal Nehru Stadium. He will also perform bhoomi-pujan of the 182-bedded Regional Institute of Respiratory Diseases which is being built at a cost of Rs 55 crore. He will go to Ujjain to take part in 'Ayurveda Mahasammelan' and offer prayers at the Lord Mahakaleshwar Temple on Sunday and return to Delhi via Indore the same day.

# Only 9-13 pc quota for OBCs in panchayat polls: Kamal Nath attacks BJP govt

MP only state to ensure local bodies' polls with OBC quota, says minister

Team Absolute | Bhopal

MP Congress chief Kamal Nath has accused the BJP government of doing grave injustice to the other backward classes (OBC) community in the state, highlighting that OBCs have got only 9-13 per cent quota in the panchayat elections announced on Friday.



On Saturday, Nath tweeted: "In 2022 panchayat polls, the BJP government has given only 11.2 per cent seats of district (zilla) panchayat members to OBC community, only 9.5 pc seats for Janpad panchayat president posts, only 11.5 pc for Janpad panchayat members and only 12.5 pc seats for sarpanchs (head of village panchayats)." Nath further said: "Not only this, OBCs have got zero posts of district panchayat members in 19 districts, zero posts of Janpad panchayat presidents in 28 districts and zero posts of Janpad panchayat members in 10 districts." Earlier in the day, the MP Congress had tweeted to claim that OBC seats had reduced by 60 per cent (compared to previous polls of 2014-15) this time. The official handle of the party claimed that the district panchayat member posts had come down by 61 per cent and in 13 districts, OBC quota had become

nil. "There is loss everywhere except Bhopal and Guna districts," the MP Congress said. The state government has undertaken a process for fresh reservation of seats as per Supreme Court directives, based on the report of the MP State OBC Welfare Commission. The official statistics on reserved seats is not yet available in the compiled manner. The Congress has been alleging that the fresh process has only reduced the number of reserved seats for the OBC commu-

nil. As per the population-based norms, scheduled tribes get 20 per cent and scheduled castes 16 per cent quota in the state, leaving 14 per cent quota for OBCs in keeping with the 50 per cent cap on total quota set by the Supreme Court. However in places where SC/ST population is high, OBCs might not get any quota and in places with less SC/ST population, OBCs can get up to 35 per cent quota, according to the proposal of the OBC welfare commission. Speaking on

behalf of the government, urban development minister Bhupendra Singh said that Congress has been trying to dent the OBC rights in the state. "It was Congress that went to High Court five times and then to Supreme Court. It opposed the OBC quota and this led to the SC scrapping the OBC quota for local bodies' polls. But our government and the chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan made best efforts and ensured that the local bodies' polls were held with OBC quota. We have become the first state in the country to do so," the minister said. Singh further said "the OBC seats have increased in many places and it has reduced in some places. In urban local bodies, 73 seats are reserved for OBCs now for Nagar Parishad (municipal council) presidents, which is same as earlier, for Nagar Palika (municipality) presidents, the OBC seats have increased from 25 to 28 while in Nagar Nigams (municipal corporations), four seats are still reserved for OBCs." He however did not give any statistics for the reserved seats in panchayat polls. Meanwhile, the minister also indicated that the urban local bodies' polls might be held immediately after the panchayat polls (to be held in June-July) and the process might be finished by August first week.

# Urban body elections in to be held in July-August, reservation for the post of Chairmen on May 31

REVISED RESERVATION FOR THE POSTS OF MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS AND MUNICIPAL COUNCILS CHAIRMEN WILL BE HELD IN BHOPAL ON TUESDAY

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Urban body elections will be completed by August. The process of body elections will start immediately after the Panchayat elections. Urban Administration and Development Minister Bhupendra Singh gave indications of this. Here the State Election Commission has also intensified the preparations for the civic polls. For the upcoming general elections of urban bodies, the process of revised reservation for the posts of president will be done at Rabindra Bhavan, Bhopal on 31 May 2022. Commissioner Urban Administration

and Development Nikunj Kumar Srivastava has informed that in compliance with the order of the Supreme Court, for the upcoming general elections to the municipal councils and municipal councils of the state, under the Madhya Pradesh Municipality (Reservation of the post of mayor and chairman) Rules, 1999, the chairman The process of revised reservation of posts will be done on 31st May 2022 from 3 PM in the auditorium of Rabindra Bhavan, Bhopal. Urban Administration and Development Minister Bhupendra Singh said in a conversation with the media that the Congress had decided such a process in which horse-trading takes place. This is the reason why the Congress government did not conduct elections in 2019. BJP has always been against familyism, corruption and horse-trading. Singh gave this statement in a discussion with the media today. Singh said that the Panchayat elections will be over in July and after that the urban body elections are likely to be

held. In such a situation, there is a possibility of body elections being held in the first week of August. It is noteworthy that on Friday, State Election Commissioner Basant Pratap Singh had also expressed the possibility of urban body elections being held during the rains. He said that urban bodies are located in urban areas and there is no special effect of rain there. The polling party does not even have any problem in reaching, so the State Election Commissioner had talked about conducting the Panchayat elections before the rains and then holding the urban body elections. Singh said on the allegations of fraud in reservation with OBCs in Kamal Nath's panchayat elections, that the BJP government is conducting elections with OBC reservation. OBC reservation was nullified by the court because of Congress. OBCs have been able to get reservation due to the efforts of Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan. Singh said that Madhya Pradesh is the first state in the country where OBCs have got reservation in elections.

# CM PLANTED BANYAN AND NEEM SAPLINGS



Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted the saplings in the Smart City Garden along with Pankaj Shrivastava, the editor of Patrika newspaper and the Patrika team. Chouhan planted Banyan and Neem saplings. Yogendra Singh, Rajiv, Sunil Mishra, Praveen, Ravindra Tomar, Sumit of Patrika newspaper participated in the plantation. Neem, which is abundant in antibiotic elements, is known as supreme medicine. Banyan tree is also called Vat Vriksha or Bad. Banyan has religious significance, as well as according to Ayurveda, it is possible to cure many diseases from the banyan tree.

# Congress to send Vivek Tankha to RS for 2nd time

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Madhya Pradesh Congress has decided to send senior advocate Vivek Tankha to the Upper House (Rajya Sabha) for the second term from the state. The announcement was made by former chief minister and state Congress president Kamal Nath on Saturday, putting an end to all speculations. Talking to the press on Saturday, Kamal Nath said, "The party has finalised senior advocate Vivek Tankha's name for Rajya Sabha from Madhya Pradesh." The tenure of three Rajya Sabha members from Madhya Pradesh, two of them from the BJP (MJ Akbar and Sampatiya Uikey) and the Congress' Vivek Tankha, will come to end on June 29. At present, there are 11 seats for Rajya Sabha from Madhya Pradesh, out of which the BJP has eight members while Congress has three. The state Congress has cleared its candidate for Rajya Sabha, however, the BJP is yet to take a final decision in this regard. A senior Congress spokesper-



son told IANS that Tankha will be filing his nomination for Rajya Sabha soon. The Congress had sent Tankha to the Upper House in 2016. Tankha was one of the youngest advocate generals of Madhya Pradesh (16 February 1999 to 15 November 2003). He was offered a judgeship by a bench of MP High Court in April 1998 but he declined for personal reasons. Also, he was the first lawyer from Madhya Pradesh to have been appointed Additional Solicitor General of India. He had played a major role in resolving disputes between Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh after the latter was created in November 2000.

# BJP FORMS 18-MEMBER POLL COMMITTEE

The state unit of the BJP in Madhya Pradesh has formed an 18-member election committee following approval from the party's national president J.P. Nadda.

The committee includes state BJP president Vishnu Dutt Sharma; Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan; Union Ministers Jyotiraditya Scindia, and Narendra Singh Tomar; BJP's national general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya; Union Minister of State Paggan Singh Kulaste; former state BJP president Rakesh Singh; Madhya Pradesh Cabinet Minister Narottam Mishra; Lal Singh Arya; Jaibhan Singh Pavaia; Rajendra Shukla; Bhupendra Singh; Hitanand; Kavita Patidar; and Om Prakash Dhurve. The special invitee members in the committee are Shiv Prakash (co-organization minister of state BJP),

Murlidhar Rao (state in-charge) and Pankaja Munde (co-incharge). "The committee has been formed after seeking approval from the national president JP Nadda," Vishnu Dutt Sharma said. Nadda will visit Madhya Pradesh on June 1 during which he will be meeting the core committee members. He will meet the state's working committee members to review the BJP's ongoing preparations regarding the Assembly polls scheduled next year. He will also review the progress reports of the individual members of the state working committee assigned to them.

# Time for Country to develop Cardio Metabolic Medicine as a new speciality: Dr Manoria

The Second World Congress on Cardio Metabolic Medicine starts tomorrow in Mumbai.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Cardiometabolic diseases are reaching an alarming and epidemic proportion through out the globe and imposing an ever increasing burden on the healthcare systems resulting in increased morbidity and mortality. The second world congress on Cardio Metabolic Medicine is being organised on the 28, 29th

May 2022 at The Hotel Leela Mumbai to bring attention to this speciality , said Executive President Dr PC Manoria. Emphasizing the unique nature of Cardiometabolic diseases which often co-exist in the same patient, Dr Manoria said and that very often such cases are beyond the reach of a physician or a single super specialist. The idea of organising the World

Congress on Cardio metabolic medicine is to develop a ew sub speciality of medicine and to create cardio metabolic physicians who will be able to comprehensively evaluate and treat these diseases. A galaxy of speakers who have excelled in their fields will be deliberating during the conference. The luminaries include globally renowned cardio metabolic physician from San Francisco Dr

Prakash C Deedwania, Dr Enas A Enas lipid expert from Chicago, Dr Naveen C Nanda from Alabama who is widely regarded as the father of Echocardiography, Dr Venkata S Ram, internationally acclaimed thought leader on Hypertension, Dr Giusseppe Rosano, heart failure specialist from London and many other experts from different parts of the world.

# Will withdraw cases against people from both sides: CM

The move came on a day when the Madhya Pradesh Election Commission announced the civic body elections in three phases, starting from June 25, 2022.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Friday announced to withdraw cases registered against Dalits as well as upper caste people in connection with the April 2018 violence in the backdrop of a Supreme Court verdict overturning the provisions of SC-ST Atrocities Act. The move came on a day when the Madhya Pradesh Election Commission announced the civic body elections in three phases, starting from June 25, 2022. The violent clashes had broken out in Gwalior-Chambal region on April 2 in 2018 on a Dalit organisation's call. The violence had left seven dead and dozens injured. The Supreme Court on March 20, 2018, had protected a public servant against arrest under the SC-ST Atrocities Act-1989 without a preliminary inquiry, overturning the provisions in the Act that has provision of immediate arrest. Interacting with reporters on Friday morning, Chouhan said, "On April 4 in 2018, Madhya Pradesh saw violent clashes, specifically in Gwalior-Chambal region, between various communities owing to some misunderstanding. This led to various cases being registered against brothers of the SC/ST community as well as those from the general category. I had



gone there recently with my cabinet ministers where Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia was also present. Members from both communities met me separately and both agreed that cases registered against members of both the communities should be taken back." Chouhan further added that "we consulted all stake-holders; Scindia was present; we also spoke to Union Minister Narendra Tomar. It was decided that cases

registered against both communities will be taken back in the interest of communal harmony." In the Gwalior-Chambal region which has 34 Assembly seats, the Congress won 26 seats in 2018 whereas the BJP, which had won 20 seats in 2014, could bag only 7. Although the saffron party regained some seats in the 2020 bypolls after Jyotiraditya Scindia joined the party. The Dalits comprise at least 20 per cent of population in Chambal with the Jatavs being the most dominant. In Bhind, the police had booked more than 50 people, and had detained hundreds of locals. In Morena, the police had named and booked 134 people, announcing rewards between Rs 5,000 and Rs 10,000 against 12 absconding Dalit leaders. Similarly, in Gwalior, police had booked more than 100 people, and arrested many as suspects under sections 147, 148, 149, 307, 336, 353, 186, 188 and 341 of the IPC. According to officials, the cases that are to be withdrawn will be decided between Home and Law departments with the final files being put before the court by the Home Department after consulting the Law Department. Incidentally, soon after coming to power in 2018, the Congress had announced to withdraw all cases of 'political vendetta' filed against Dalit and farmers during the previous BJP government.

# CM PAYS TRIBUTE TO SAVARKAR



Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan paid homage to Vinayak Damodar Savarkar on his anniversary. Chouhan paid floral tributes by garlanding his picture in the auditorium of his residence. To break the shackles of subjugation of Maa Bharti, Veer Savarkar, the son of motherland who chose the darkness and torture of cellular jail believed that the meaning of life is to live and die for the motherland. Savarkar was a great revolutionary, freedom fighter, historian, nationalist leader and thinker of India. He is often addressed as Swatantraveer, Veer Savarkar. Veer Savarkar was born on 28 May 1883 in Bhagur village near Nashik in Maharashtra. He founded a revolutionary organisation called Abhinav Bharat Society. Veer Savarkar was the national president of All India Hindu Mahasabha. Veer Savarkar was sent to Cellular Jail after being sentenced to Kalapani in the Nashik case. Veer Savarkar suffered atrocities in jail for a long period of ten years.



# HARRY STYLES PLEDGES \$1 MN FOR GUN SAFETY NONPROFIT

Los Angeles | Agencies

Harry Styles has joined the building-up chorus of politicians, civic leaders and Hollywood figures in condemning the epidemic of gun violence in America. Styles announced he'll be partnering with the nonprofit Everytown for Gun Safety during his upcoming North American tour and donating over \$1 million in proceeds to it, along with Live Nation, reports 'Variety'.

"Along with all of you, I have been absolutely devastated by the recent string of mass shootings in America, culminating at the latest in Robb

Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas," Styles' Instagram post reads.

"On our North American tour, we will be partnering with Everytown, who work to end gun violence, donating to support their efforts and sharing their suggested action items," Styles added. The post has a simple but telling caption: "End gun violence."

Styles is not the only major musician to speak out on the issue. Earlier, on Tuesday, Taylor Swift tweeted that she was "filled with rage and grief" by the Texas shooting as well as others in Buffalo and Laguna Woods. "We, as a nation, have become conditioned to unfathomable and unbearable heart-

break," Swift wrote.

## Being a single mother Stacey Solomon shares the financial struggles



Los Angeles | Agencies

She gave birth to her first child, Zachary, back in 2008. And Stacey Solomon, who is now a mum-of-four, has opened up about the financial struggles of becoming a single mother at just 17. Talking on Friday's episode of Loose Women, the 32-year-old said that the government benefits she received at the time 'saved my life'.

The star explained that she was given a Sure Start Grant, which provides mothers with financial aid to help with a new baby. She shared: 'I was given a Sure Start Grant, which is what it was called at the time, and I can't tell you how much that saved my life'. 'My working tax credits saved our lives, we could not have got by without those.'

She continued to explain that she relied on government help to buy essentials such as baby milk and supplies. 'The milk tokens that we used to get, to help us buy SMA and milk and stuff from the shops that we couldn't afford,' she carried on. But taking the conversation back to the present, Stacey used the opportunity to express how difficult it is for single mothers under today's government.

She told her fellow panellists: 'All of that got abolished, some of my friends who are in similar circumstances now, don't even have those opportunities. They're completely taken away from people.'



**SRIYA LENKA BECOMES THE FIRST INDIAN K-POP STAR**

Los Angeles | Agencies

Two Korean pop groups that always make it to the headlines are BTS and Blackswan. While the former is an all-boy group, the latter only has girls in it. Now, here's an exciting piece of news for Indians who love to listen to K-pop songs. 18-year-old Sriya Lenka, who belongs to Odisha, has joined the K-pop group, Blackswan. DR Music took to Instagram to make an official announcement about it. Along with Sriya, a Brazilian girl name Gabi has also been selected to be a part of the band. DR Music posted on Instagram, "Sriya and Gabi were finally selected as members of blackswan after participating the global audition program for last 6 months. With their debut, we will be back with the new blackswan."

In another post, they wrote, "'Cygnus', which means constellation of swan, is a project to discover and to train trainees to become stars like the Cygnus. Sriya and Gabi are the first generation of Cygnus, will be introduced soon. Thank you for your interest and support. And the Cygnus project will be continues in the future."

## Alexis Bledel announces SHOCK EXIT from The Handmaid's Tale

Los Angeles | Agencies

Alexis Bledel has shockingly announced her departure from her Emmy-winning role on The Handmaid's Tale, which has begun filming its fifth season. 'After much thought, I felt I had to step away from The Handmaid's Tale at this time,' said the 40-year-old actress, who has been on the show since season one. 'I am forever grateful to Bruce Miller for writing such truthful and resonant scenes for Emily, and to Hulu, MGM, the cast and crew for their support,' she told Variety.

Based on the 1985 novel by Margaret Atwood, the show takes place in a patriarchal dystopia called Gilead founded on what used to be the United States.

Women are reduced to a status far beneath that of men, deprived of such basic rights as being permitted to read or use money. Alexis played Emily Malek, who was a Handmaid under the name of Ofglen until she escaped to Canada and who now works for the Mayday resistance.



## David Walliams plans wild drag-themed stag do for pal Simon Cowell

Los Angeles | Agencies

David Walliams has revealed his grand plans for Simon Cowell's stag do ahead of his wedding to Lauren Silverman next month. The Britain's Got Talent judge, 50, told how he would want to organise a wild drag-themed night for the music mogul, 62, if he were in charge of the planning, remarking that his idea would be Simon's 'worst nightmare'. Meanwhile, despite the pair's close relationship, David admitted that he 'genuinely doesn't know'



the date of Simon and Lauren's nuptials as he hasn't yet received his invitation. Speaking to The Sun about his stag idea, David said: 'I would organise it but I don't

think he will really want me to. I don't think our tastes would align on a stag night. I would do something like a drag stag, where I say all guys have to go in drag, and I don't think that is what Simon would actually like.'

And while David shared his excitement about the stag, he also admitted he was in the dark about the main event, explaining he 'genuinely' didn't know when it was as he's yet to receive a formal invitation.

He explained: 'I genuinely don't know the date of the wedding. I certainly haven't received an invite and I think people have read that as I'm not invited, but I don't think anyone is yet. I think only they know when and where it is going to be.'



**HALLE BERRY AND MARK'S NEW MOVIE IS 'SHUT DOWN' IN LIVE AMMO DRAMA**

Los Angeles | Agencies

The set of Halle Berry and Mark Wahlberg's action film, Our Man From Jersey, was reportedly shut down after crew found what they thought was live ammunition. The actors, 55 and 50, have been filming in London for the new Netflix distributed action thriller, which was announced last year.

But the shooting was seemingly interrupted as members of the film crew reportedly found a crushed balloon gas canister which looked like live ammunition. According to The Sun, a source explained the incident as 'quite alarming', noting that emergency reinforcements were brought onto the set.

The source told the publication: 'It was quite alarming and there was no hesitation in phoning the police, who arrived quite promptly.'



Los Angeles | Agencies

Dua Lipa currently touring her Future Nostalgia album around the world. on Thursday, fans at the Mediolanum Forum Assago in Milan gasped as Dua Lipa slipped and fell over while performing on stage, before being swiftly helped to her feet by a backing dancer. The pop star, 26, was dancing around in a

**Dua Lipa FALLS OVER while performing on stage**

pink jumpsuit and belting out her smash hit single Be The One, when she lost her footing, much to the shock of the packed-out audience. Lightly jogging around the front of the stage, Dua suddenly slipped and fell to the ground with a thud. Sweeping her long brunette tresses behind herself, the singer quickly regained her composure before continuing on with her performance.



**ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY**

Gemma Chan



## IPL 2022: High flying Gujarat Titans eye maiden title against confident Rajasthan Royals (preview)

After almost two months of action, the 2022 edition of the Indian Premier League is at its deciding point, where newbies Gujarat Titans and inaugural champions Rajasthan Royals will square off against each other to lift the glittering silverware at the Narendra Modi Stadium here on Sunday.

For Gujarat, winning the trophy at their home ground will be the perfect ending to their season of firsts, where they exceeded every pre-tournament expectation, becoming the table-toppers and then earning a direct ticket to the title clash.

For Rajasthan, making an appearance in the final after winning their only title in 2008, it will be a golden opportunity to pay a superb tribute to their leader of the inaugural trophy run and leg-spin legend, Shane Warne.

Ahmedabad | Agencies

The Hardik Pandya-led side were written off by many even before the tournament had begun while their mega auction strategy wasn't deemed great. Many wondered if Pandya, fighting his own battles with form and injury and out of action since the 2021 Men's T20 World Cup, can inspire the new entrants while taking care of his own game.

Moreover, England opener Jason Roy pulled out of the tournament citing bio-bubble environment. Despite all odds, Gujarat stunned everyone with their consistency, becoming the first team to enter the playoffs and eventually, be in the final. Gujarat's reasons for success have been all performing as a collective and chipping in with role clarity.

Apart from Pandya the batter and his captaincy being the surprise package of the tournament, openers Shubman Gill and Wriddhiman Saha, middle-order aggressors David Miller and Rahul Tewatia, pace spearhead Mohammed Shami, along with other members in the attack and Rashid Khan doing his own thing with ball and bat, have been great contributors to Gujarat's success in different stages

### HEAD TO HEAD

WATCH THEM IN ACTION FROM 8:00 P.M. ON SUNDAY, MAY 29, AT THE NARENDRA MODI STADIUM, AHMEDABAD

The GUJARAT TITANS, led by HARDIK PANDYA, are the IPL newbies, but they have dishd out a wonderful brand of cricket to reach all the way to the final

RR under SANJU SAMSON also were pretty consistent this season, though they lost the two matches they played against the Titans, who have a clear 2-0 advantage

of the mega event.

On the other hand, Rajasthan had a great auction strategy where they got highly experienced players and are now seeing the results with them now in sight of bagging just their second IPL trophy. The Sanju Samson-led side will also be buoyed to reverse the 0-2 head-to-head trend against Gujarat in IPL 2022.

Their spin base is covered by leading wicket-taker and purple cap winner Yuzvendra Chahal with senior off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin showing his all-round exploits while the pace attack of Trent Boult, Prasidh Krishna and Obed McCoy have been operating at an optimum level.

Their top order has revolved around orange-cap holder Jos Buttler, who's now got four centuries in the tournament, equalling Virat Kohli's record with an unbeaten 106 in the Qualifier 2 against Royal Challengers Bangalore on Friday apart from Shimron Hetmyer's finishing exploits.

Overall, there is very little to separate between Gujarat and Rajasthan apart from their road to the final. But Sunday's title clash will be the one to decide the difference between Gujarat and Rajasthan in taking the silverware home.

### Women's T20 Challenge

## SUPERNOVAS BEAT VELOCITY BY 4 RUNS TO WIN THE TITLE

Pune | Agencies

West Indian all-rounder Deandra Dottin's impressive performance with both bat and ball powered Supernovas to the 2022 Women's T20 Challenge title with a four-run win over Velocity in a thrilling final at the Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium, here on Saturday.

It was the third title for Harmanpreet Kaur led Supernovas, who had earlier won the first two editions of the tournament in 2018 and 2019 before losing to Trailblazers in the final in 2020. The tournament was not held last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Dottin's attacking fifty (62 off 44) guided Supernovas to 165-7 in 20 overs after being put in to bat. With the ball, she took two wickets for 28 runs in her four overs to play a crucial role in restricting Velocity to 161 for eight. Chasing a target of 166 runs for victory, Shafali Verma and Yastika Bhatia got Velocity off to a brisk start in the chase. However, Shafali had to depart for an 8-ball 15 in the third over bowled by Dottin.

Bhatia scored a boundary off Ecclestone but she handed a catch



back to the bowler soon after. Kiran Navgire, who played a match-winning knock in her last game, couldn't do anything as she was bowled by Ecclestone for a 13-ball duck.

After a couple of quiet overs, South African batter Laura Wolvaardt eased the pressure a bit by scoring two boundaries off Vastrakar in the ninth over. But Chantham was out lbw in the same over and by the time the 11th was completed, Velocity had lost half their side with their captain Deepti, bowled by the Velocity captain, the Supernovas were well-placed to finish in the vicinity of 180, having reached 131/2 at the end of the 15th over. But a collective bowling effort by the opposition bowlers in the last five overs dented their innings and Supernovas finished with 165-7 on the board. Captain Deepti Sharma, Kate Cross and Simran Bahadur took two wickets apiece, while Ayabonga Khaka got one for Velocity.

Wolvaardt and Rana tried to keep up, scoring some much-needed boundaries, but Alana King bagged the wickets of both Rana and Radha in the same over while Dottin picked up her second by sending Kate Cross (13 off 7) back after being hit for two fours, to further dent Velocity's chances. However, Wolvaardt (65 not out off 40) and Simran Bahadur (20 not out off 10) struck a six apiece off King in the 18th over, which brought the equation to 34 off the last two overs. Vastrakar, who bowled the penultimate over, gave 17 runs as Wolvaardt and Simran hit crucial boundaries. Velocity needed 17 runs from the final over but left-arm spinner Sophie Ecclestone (2/28), the No. 1 ranked T20I and ODI bowler, con-

ceded just 12 runs to win the match despite Wolvaardt hitting a six off the first ball. Earlier, Dottin stitched 73 runs for the opening wicket with Priya Punia (28) and added 58 for the second wicket with in-form captain Harmanpreet Kaur (43 off 29 balls).

Despite Dottin getting out to Deepti, bowled by the Velocity captain, the Supernovas were well-placed to finish in the vicinity of 180, having reached 131/2 at the end of the 15th over. But a collective bowling effort by the opposition bowlers in the last five overs dented their innings and Supernovas finished with 165-7 on the board. Captain Deepti Sharma, Kate Cross and Simran Bahadur took two wickets apiece, while Ayabonga Khaka got one for Velocity.

#### Brief scores

Supernovas 165/7 in 20 overs (Deandra Dottin 62, Harmanpreet Kaur 43; Deepti Sharma 2-20, Kate Cross 2-29) beat Velocity 161/8 in 20 overs (Laura Wolvaardt 65 not out, Simran Bahadur 20 not out; Alana King 3-32, Sophie Ecclestone 2-28, Deandra Dottin 2-28) by 4 runs.

### Asia Cup hockey

## India take revenge beat Japan 2-1 in Super 4s

At a venue in which the Indian men's hockey team has suffered two morale-shattering defeats to Japan -- at the Asian Games in 2018 and a 2-5 defeat in the preliminary round here a few days ago, coach Sardar Singh's team exacted some revenge as it emerged 2-1 winner in a Super 4s Pool encounter in the Asia Cup 2022, on Saturday.

Jakarta | Agencies

India pulled off a stunning 2-1 win in the Hero Asia Cup 2022 Super 4s match against Japan at the GBK Sports Complex Hockey Stadium, here on Saturday. Manjeet (8'), and Pawan Rajbhar (35') starred for India, scoring the two goals for the team. Takuma Niwa (18') scored the sole goal for Japan in the match.

The match started with Japan earning an early Penalty Corner, but Yoshiki Kirishita's dragkick went wide off the mark. Raiki Fujishima struck the ball into the back of the nets in the next minute,



but the umpire had blown his whistle before the shot was taken due to an infringement in the lead-up, and the goal was disallowed. Manjeet showcased individual brilliance from the left flanks in

the 8th minute, as he broke through Japan's defence to give India a 1-0 lead. Nilam Sanjeep Xess had a chance to double India's lead from a Penalty Corner as the first quarter came to an end.

## Fazza Dubai Para-badminton: Bhagat, Dhillon, Joshi, Parmar storm into semis



Dubai | Agencies

Paralympic gold medalist Pramod Bhagat had to dig deep to defeat fellow junior Nehal Gupta as Indian shuttlers maintained a strong show entering the semi-finals of several events at the ongoing 4th Fazza Dubai Para-badminton International 2022 here.

Bhagat, who won two gold medals at the recent Bahrain Para-badminton International 2022, had to come back from a game down to beat Gupta 18-21,

21-15, 21-11 and admitted to having taken time to get to adjust to the game.

Gupta now aims to bring variation to his game and improve his physical strength. In men's singles SL4, Tarun Dhillon also advanced to the semifinals and is expected to meet Indonesian Freddy Setiawan in the finals.

Dhillon overcame a second game scare from Korea's Cho Nadan to advance 21-15, 20-22, 21-14 in the quarters. The Haryana-based shuttler also entered the men's doubles SL3-SL4 semifinals with part-

ner Nitesh Kumar.

The women's SL3 semifinal lineup has three Indians with reigning world champion Manasi Joshi set to face Australia's Celine Aurelie Vinot while Mandeeep Kaur meets experienced Parul Parmar in the other semifinal. Joshi is also through to the mixed doubles SL3-SU5 semifinal with partner Ruthvik Ragupathi after they pulled off a come from behind win over the new pairing of Bhagat and Manisha Ramadass 21-12, 16-21, 19-21.

### French Open

## RUBLEV ADVANCES TO FOURTH ROUND AFTER BEATING GARIN

Paris | Agencies

World No 7 Andrey Rublev advanced to the fourth round of the French Open after beating Cristian Garin 6-4, 3-6, 6-2, 7-6(11), here on Saturday.

Rublev dropped sets against Soonwoo Kwon and Federico Delbonis en route to the third round, where he was once again made to work hard by Garin. The Russian rallied from a double break down in the fourth set and saved five set points in the fourth-set tie-break before sealing his win on his fifth match point.

Rublev is making his fourth appearance in Paris, with his best result a run to the quarter-finals in 2020. He will look to match that achievement when he plays Jannik Sinner in the fourth round.

With his victory, the 11-time tour-level titlist has improved to 28-7 on the season and 10-3 on clay. Rublev has captured ATP Tour trophies on hard in Marseille and Dubai and on



clay in Belgrade last month. Only Carlos Alcaraz (4) has more titles in 2022. On the other hand, Garin was aiming to advance to the fourth round in the French capital for the second consecutive year. The World No 37 reached the semi-finals in Houston before he advanced to the quarter-finals in Rome.

## SWIATEK BEATS KOVINIC, BEGU HALTS JEANJEAN

Paris: World No 1 Iga Swiatek extended her winning streak to 31 with a 6-3, 7-5 defeat of Danka Kovinic in the third round of the French Open, here on Saturday. With her win in over 1 hour and 30 minutes, Swiatek, the 2020 champion, has now reached the second week in all four of her Roland Garros appearances and she has won 17 of her 19 matches at the tournament.

Her active winning streak, which stretches back to February and encompasses titles in Doha, Indian Wells, Miami, Stuttgart and Rome, is the fourth-longest of the 21st century.

In another game, Romania's Irina-Camelia Begu returned to the fourth round at Roland Garros for the first time since 2016, defeating French wildcard Leolia Jeanjean 6-1, 6-4. Ranked No. 63, Begu withstood a surge from Jeanjean in the second set to close out the win after 1 hour and 25 minutes.

Begu, who previously reached the fourth round at the 2015 Australian Open and 2016 French Open, will next face either No.11 seed Jessica Pegula or 2021 semifinalist Tamara Zidansek for a spot in her first major quarterfinal.



## Rudranksh makes it through qualification at Baku Shooting World Cup

Team Absolute | New Delhi

India's Rudranksh Balasaheb Patil carried forward his good form from the recently concluded Junior World Cup to make it through to the last eight stage of the Men's 10m Air Rifle on competition day one of the ISSF World Cup Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun in Baku, Azerbaijan.

The final stages are set for Sunday. India has fielded a 12-member Rifle-only squad in this World Cup.

Rudranksh, who emerged triumphant in the same event at the Junior World Cup held three weeks back, shot 628.8 to finish fourth in the 78-strong qualification field. Lazar Kovacevic of Serbia topped the field with a 630.6 after 60-qualifying shots.



Among the other Indians in the field, Deepak Kumar shot 626.8 to finish 15th, Paarth Makhija shot 624.7 for a 26th place finish while Deaflympics champion Dhanush Srikanth ended 35th after having shot a score of 623.8. Meanwhile, in the Women's 10m Air Rifle, Elavenil Valarivan was India's best finisher with 629.1, followed by Shreya Agrawal with 627.0 and Ramita with 626.2. None of the women made it to the next stage.

## 2022 ARRC: Rajiv, Senthil earn points for India team in race 1

Sepang International Circuit (Malaysia): Saturday turned out to be a day of gaining points for the Honda Racing India team's rider duo of Rajiv Sethu and Senthil Kumar in the first race of Round 2 FIM Asia Road Racing Championship (ARRC), here.

Bagging seven points for the solo Indian team at ARRC, both Rajiv and Senthil maintained steady performance till the last lap in Saturday's race.

Starting 16th on the grid, Rajiv overtook Indonesian rider Fitriyansyah Kete in the first lap itself. From the 2nd lap onwards, Rajiv continued to ride at 14th till lap 4. Thereafter, he consecutively moved 1 position up on lap 5 and lap 6. Continuing to maintain his momentum, Rajiv crossed the finish line at 12th with a time of 20:12.398, earning four points for the team.

Senthil Kumar too showcased his full power on the racetrack on Saturday. Clocking the best lap time of 2:29.301, Senthil has recorded his new fastest lap time at the Sepang International Circuit. Avoiding all mistakes and keeping a steady momentum till the end, Senthil finished lapped back home right after his teammate Rajiv. After the 13th position finish, Senthil Kumar adds three points to his kitty.

## RISING BADMINTON STAR UNNATI SET TO ROCK KIYG

Chandigarh: Rohetak in Haryana is known more for physical, contact sports like wrestling, hockey, basketball and volleyball -- sports in which the district has done very well over the years. However, a budding shuttler is hoping to put badminton in the list of medals for Haryana at the Khelo India Youth Games set to start here in a few days. Unnati Hooda, who recently burst onto the badminton horizon, has given the city a different star with her smashes, drop shots, crisp returns, and slick netplay.

Come June 3, this Class X pass out from DBG Senior Secondary Public School, Rohetak will be one of the names to watch out for at the Khelo India Youth Games. She has set her eyes on the gold already. Though the baby of the contingent, Unnati, 15, has turned out to be a threat to many established stars too, recently getting the better of even Saina Nehwal at the India Open.



## Pak Women complete 3-0 clean sweep against Sri Lanka

Karachi | Agencies

Pakistan Women held their nerve to win the low-scoring third T20I on the final ball to complete a 3-0 clean sweep against Sri Lanka, here on Saturday.

Chasing a modest target of 108, a measured captain's knock from Bismah Maroof (15 not out) ensured Pakistan's win.

Earlier, Sri Lanka decided to bat first after winning the toss and got off to a promising start, with openers Chamari Athapaththu and Hasini Perera putting on a 69-run opening stand. The batters

continued to rotate the strike and occasionally hit boundaries to end the Powerplay at 31/0.

Sri Lanka reached the three-figure mark with a couple of boundaries and finished their innings on 107/8. In reply, Pakistan opener Iram Javed got the chase underway with a couple of boundaries in the opening over and looked aggressive right away.

Muneeba, who had anchored the innings also lost her wicket after making a handy contribution of 25 runs. Skipper Bismah Mahroof sent other batters ahead of her, and Aliya Riaz and Ayesha

Naseem were now in charge of getting Pakistan across the finish line. Pakistan was however determined to get the hosts over the line, and they batted with Kainat Imtiaz all the way to the end to help Pakistan win on the final ball of the match.

#### Brief scores

Sri Lanka Women 107/8 in 20 overs (Hasini Perera 24, Athapaththu 37) lost to Pakistan Women 108/6 in 20 overs (Muneeba Ali 25; Oshadi Ranasinghe 3-18, Kavisha Dilhari 2-28) by 4 wickets.



# KGF 3

## HRITHIK ROSHAN TO JOIN IN

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Yash Chopra's KGF franchise is India's largest box office success. With the release of KGF: Chapter 2, the third instalment, KGF 3, was also announced, leaving fans ecstatic. The film industry is already buzzing with rumours that Bollywood actor Hrithik Roshan has been approached for a role in the third instalment. The film's producers responded to the rumours by emphatically denying them.

In an interview with a news portal, Vijay Kiragandur clarified the situation around Hrithik's casting by saying, "KGF: Chapter 3 will not happen this year. We have some plans, but Prashanth (Neel) is busy with Salaar at the moment while Yash will be announcing his new movie soon. Therefore, we need them to come together at the right time when they are free to begin work on KGF 3. As of now, we don't have a fixed date or time as to when the work on the third instalment will start." "Once we have finalised the dates, we will be in a better position to zero down on the celebrity cast," he continued. When the process of casting more performers begins, their

availability at that moment will be crucial. Everything hinges on the start of production on the third instalment."

Prashanth Neel directed KGF Chapter 2 has managed to live up to the expectations created by Chapter 1. Sanjay Dutt, Raveena Tandon, and Srinidhi were among the film's ensemble cast members.

Anurag Vyas : City of my dreams Mumbai made me independent



Team Absolute | Mumbai

'Naagin' actor Anurag Vyas feels apart from a successful career in acting, the city of dreams Mumbai has made him more independent. He says: "After coming to Mumbai, I have become a more independent individual. When I was in my hometown Rajasthan, My mom used to take care of everything. But Now I have learned how to cook for myself, infact I'm enjoying cooking and exploring different recipes. The city of dreams has made me really independent and I'm grateful about it."

He continues: "I personally believe Independence can be seriously good for our self-esteem. Having a belief in our own opinions, choices and actions give us a confidence boost like no other. If you were to constantly worry about what other people thought, you would never be able to be who you are. "If you don't have faith in yourself you will always second guess yourself, and that is no way to be. So I choose to take a step away from that and be confident and independent. And today I started believing in myself." He says: "I'm not worried about being typecast. As an actor I wish to grow portraying promising and challenging roles. I'm happy with my acting graph. As an actor with time for sure I'll take up different roles. But right now I don't wish to miss opportunities coming my way."

## AAMIR KHAN ENJOYS PANIPURI AT EVENT

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood star Aamir Khan was seen enjoying panipuri at the trailer preview of his upcoming film held in Mumbai. The trailer is all set to release on May 29 at the IPL 2022 final. The actor was seen enjoying the street food and even welcomed the media at the event. The film, featuring Kareena Kapoor Khan, Aamir Khan, Naga Chaitanya and Mona Singh, is all set to release in August. Aamir was seen clad in a white tee with harem pants and a pink shirt over it. He teamed it up with brown boots and his cool glasses. Aamir wrote in his Instagram post: "Catch the Laal Singh Chaddha trailer live from the 1st innings, 2nd timeout of the T20 Finals tomorrow."



## Vivek Agnihotri, Pallavi Joshi to embark on 'Humanity Tour'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Post the humongous success of aThe Kashmir Files', which raked in Rs 350 crores worldwide, director Vivek Agnihotri and producer-actor Pallavi Joshi are set to embark on the 'Humanity Tour'. The phenomenal response to the all-time blockbuster has inspired the powerful and visionary duo - Vivek Ranjan Agnihotri and actor Pallavi Joshi to start a 'Humanity Tour'.

While Vivek and Pallavi had travelled to the USA last year to showcase 'The Kashmir Files' at special screenings before its release, the director-actor duo has consciously decided to travel across multiple locations abroad for a month and spread the culture of India through the 'Humanity Tour'.

Vivek Agnihotri said "We did a very successful aright to justice' tour in the US for a month and there came a demand from the people in Europe. So we decided to take this humanity tour by traveling to some of the prestigious places like the British Parliament, Scottish Parliament, Human Rights Organisation, and the top universities of the world such as Oxford, Cambridge, and Imperial. We will also visit humanitarian organizations like the Jews and the holocaust in Germany. We thought that it is very important for the world to know that if any solution to terrorism and hate is possible, it is possible only through fundamental induct, principles, and values. So Pallavi and I are in this very hectic Europe tour to spread the Indian message of humanity, and why India is going to play a major role in world peace".

With the vision to give back to the society and mankind, the makers of the truth teller movie have decided to call it 'Humanity Tour' as their agenda is to spread love and awareness about India's rich culture and highlighting 5000 years of emotions and peace messages across the world through their inspiring speeches. The 'Humanity Tour' will have a few impactful screenings, also including a visit to Jewish Museum.

Vivek added "Also, it was important that The Kashmir Files have proved

to the world how we have tolerated the violence of terrorism with peaceful mes-

sages and therefore it is a great opportunity for Indians to showcase themselves as a peaceful and humanitarian society".

Shedding light on the 'Humanity Tour', Pallavi Joshi says "When I decided to produce The Kashmir Files, the cause of humanitarianism was in my mind. Not only have we managed to bring the truth out but have also sent out a very strong message of humanitarian, peace, and zero tolerance for terrorism. I am extremely proud of the fact that this message has reached far and wide and hence institutions, and popular universities have invited us for a lecture series worldwide. This endorses peace and humanity for the entire world.



## SUDHANSHU PANDEY SHARES THROWBACK PIC FROM HIS MODELLING DAYS

Team Absolute | Mumbai

We often get nostalgic while looking at our past. 'Anupamaa' fame Sudhanshu Pandey also went down memory lane and shared a picture of his modelling days on Instagram. The actor is receiving a lot of love and attention from his fans for his role. He shared a picture when he used to be a model at the age of 20 or 21. Looking at his picture many fans commented that aging has not changed him much and asked for the tips also. The 47-year-old actor wrote: "Sometimes it's good to remind yourself about where you started and where you have reached. So that when you look back, you look up, and thank God for all that he has blessed you with. Forever grateful to Mahakaal. The journey began then and continues till now I can't thank him enough."



## Payal Rohatgi, Sangram Singh to tie the knot on July 9

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Popular TV actress Payal Rohatgi and her boyfriend wrestler Sangram Singh have revealed that they both are planning to get married on July 9 and added that it is going to be the destination wedding in Ahmedabad or Udaipur.

According to reports, the wedding is going to be a low-key affair with just close friends and family members.

In an interview with the media, Sangram shared that with the help of his mother and sister, the two have finally decided on the wedding date.

He also added that they even planned to get married earlier but because of the loss of their family members, Payal and Sangram couldn't tie the knot.

"The plan had to be suspended twice because we suffered the loss of our dear ones. I always knew that I wouldn't get a partner like Payal and it was only a matter of time before we got married. Neither Payal nor her family has ever forced me to take the plunge," he informed the media.



## INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Tara Sutaria