

# absolute india

VOL. 7, ISSUE 234, BHOPAL | SUNDAY, JULY 03, 2022 | ₹5 | PAGE 08

PUBLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM BHOPAL, MUMBAI AND NEW DELHI

**NATION** > 02

Telangana CM KCR launches scathing attack on PM Modi...



**HOLLYWOOD** > 06

Bruce Willis wanted to continue working despite aphasia...



**SPORTS** > 07

Rain brings early in Edgbaston after Bumrah runs through...



**15-YEAR STUDY DETAILS ORIGINS, DIVERSITY OF EVERY KNOWN MINERAL**

## DISCOVERING THE LIFE

A 15-year study led by the Carnegie Institution for Science details the origins and diversity of every known mineral on the Earth, a landmark body of work that will help reconstruct the history of life on the earth, guide the search for new minerals and ore deposits, predict possible characteristics of future life, and aid the search for habitable planets and extraterrestrial life.

Once mineral genesis is factored in, the number of "mineral kinds" -- a newly-coined term -- totals more than 10,500, a number about 75 per cent greater than the roughly 6,000 mineral species recognized by the International Mineralogical Association (IMA) on the basis of crystal structure and chemical composition alone.

Composed of one part iron to two parts sulfide (FeS<sub>2</sub>), pyrite is derived and delivered via meteorites, volcanoes, hydrothermal deposits, by pressure between layers of rock, near-surface rock weathering, microbially-precipitated deposits, several mining-associated processes, including coal mine fires, and many other means.



Shaunna Morrison detail a novel approach to clustering (lumping) kindred species of minerals together or splitting off new species based on when and how they originated.

According to the paper, nature created 40 per cent of earth's mineral species in more than one way -- for example, both abiotically and with a helping hand from cells -- and in several cases used more than 15 different recipes to produce the same crystal structure and chemical composition. Of the 5,659 recognized mineral species surveyed by Hazen and colleagues, nine came into being via 15 or more different physical, chemical and/or biological processes -- everything from near-instantaneous formation by lightning or meteor strikes, to changes caused by water-rock interactions or transfor-

mations at high pressures and temperature spanning hundreds of millions of years.

And, as if to show she has a sense of humour, nature has used 21 different ways over the last 4.5 billion years to create pyrite (aka Fool's Gold) -- the mineral world's champion of diverse origins.

Pyrite forms at high temperature and low, with and without water, with the help of microbes and in harsh environments where life plays no role whatsoever.

To reach their conclusions, Hazen and Morrison built a database of every known process of formation of every known mineral.

Relying on large, open-access mineral databases, amplified by thousands of primary research articles on the geology of mineral localities around the world, they identified 10,556 different combinations of minerals and modes of formation, detailed in the paper, "On the paragenetic modes of minerals: A mineral evolution perspective."

Team Absolute | New Delhi

In twin papers published by American Mineralogist and sponsored in part by NASA, Carnegie scientists Robert Hazen and

## SW monsoon covered entire country six days ahead: IMD



Team Absolute | New Delhi

The southwest monsoon covered the entire country on Saturday, six days ahead of its scheduled date, as per the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

"The southwest monsoon has further advanced into the remaining parts of north Arabian Sea, Gujarat and Rajasthan. Thus, it has covered the entire country on Saturday, against the normal date of July 8," IMD senior scientist R.K. Jenamani said.

The IMD data shows that in the last 20 years, the SW monsoon had covered the whole country exactly on July 8 only once, in 2011. The ear-

liest it had covered the whole country was in 2013 on June 16 while the most delayed was in 2006 when it covered the whole country on July 24.

After hitting the Kerala coast on May 27, three days ahead of its scheduled arrival, the monsoon has had slow progress over the south peninsular areas and central India. Then, in absence of favourable systems, rather because of a weak system, there was no advancement of monsoon for four to five days in between before finally it touched Delhi NCR and large parts of NW Indian plains on June 30, three days behind schedule. On July 1, the IMD had said the conditions are favourable for further

advancement of monsoon into remaining parts of Rajasthan and Gujarat during next two days. "When we say during the next two days, it can mean any time during those 48 hours. That way, our prediction is correct, said a meteorologist.

Meanwhile, for July, the IMD has predicted "normal to above normal" rainfall probability likely over some parts of north India, central India and most parts of south peninsula while it forecast "normal to below normal" rainfall over most parts of east and northeast India and areas adjacent to the east central India and some parts of west south Peninsular India.

## Jasprit Bumrah hits most runs in an over of Test Cricket

India stand-in captain Jasprit Bumrah bludgeoned a hapless Stuart Broad for 29 runs to create a world record for maximum runs off a single over in Test cricket.



BIRMINGHAM | Agencies

India skipper Jasprit Bumrah on Saturday claimed a world record in his debut Test match as a captain as he scored 35 runs off veteran England pacer Stuart Broad in the 84th over on day two of the scheduled fifth Test against England at Edgbaston on Saturday.

Before Bumrah hammered Broad for four fours, two sixes besides picking up a single from the eight-ball over which also included a no-ball and five wides, India were 377/9 with England's chances of keeping them under 400 looking bright.

Bumrah pulled the first ball from Stuart Broad in the 84th over for a boundary.

Broad again dug it short and it went high over wicket-keeper Sam Billings' head for five wides. More agony followed for him as Bumrah bludgeoned a friendly full toss over mid-on for another boundary and then got an inside edge to fine leg for yet another boundary.

Bumrah fell while trying to swat Broad over deep square leg, but the ball sailed comfortably for the fourth boundary of the over. Another short ball from

Broad was pulled brilliantly by Bumrah over fine leg for six, giving him the world record for scoring most runs in an over of Test cricket -- 35. In the process of inflicting a whirlwind carnage over Broad and England, Bumrah surpassed the previous record which was in the hands of Brian Lara, George Bailey and Keshav Maharaj at 28. Bumrah remained unbeaten on 31 off 16 balls and added 41 for the last wicket along with Mohammed Siraj (2) as India ended their first innings on 416 in 84.5 overs.

## 'BIASED AND INACCURATE', INDIA SLAMS US RELIGIOUS PANEL REPORT

New Delhi: India on Saturday termed the US Commission on International Religious Freedom's (USCIRF) comments expressing concern over the government's action against critics and calling out the country for violations of religious freedom as "biased and inaccurate".

Arindam Bagchi, spokespersons in the Ministry of External Affairs, said that USCIRF continues to misrepresent facts time and again in its statements and reports in pursuance of its motivated agenda.

He said that these comments reflect a severe lack of understanding of India and its constitutional framework, its plurality and its democratic ethos.

"We have seen the biased and inaccurate comments on India by the US Commission on International Religious Freedom," said Bagchi in response to media queries on the comments on India made by the USCIRF.

## We are answerable to the Constitution and Constitution alone: CJ

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Chief Justice of India (CJI) N.V. Ramana said the political party in power believes that every governmental action is entitled to judicial endorsement, and the opposition expects the judiciary to advance their political positions. However, it is only the judiciary that is answerable to the Constitution.

The CJI was speaking at a felicitation organised by the Association of Indian Americans in San Francisco on Friday.

Justice Ramana said with the change in government, policies do change, however no sensible government would alter the policies to slow down the growth of its own territory.

"Unfortunately, we do not come across such sensibility and maturity in India too often, whenever there is a change in government," he added.

Citing the 75th year of gaining independence, Justice Ramana said: "with some sense of regret I must add here that we still haven't learnt to appreciate wholly the roles and responsibilities assigned by the Constitution to each of the institutions."

He added that the party in power believes that every governmental action is entitled to judicial endorsement, and the Opposition expects the judiciary to



advance their political positions and causes. Justice Ramana said this flawed thinking of all hues flourishes in the absence of proper understanding among people about the Constitution and the functioning of the democratic institutions. "It is the vigorously promoted ignorance among the general public which is coming to the aid of such forces whose only aim is to run down the only independent organ, i.e., the judiciary. Let me make it clear. We are answerable to the Constitution and Constitution alone."

The Chief Justice further emphasized on promoting constitutional culture and also spread awareness about the roles and responsibilities of individuals and institutions. He said, under the Constitution, people are entrusted with the task of passing judgment on the rulers, once every five years.

"The people of India have done their job remarkably well so far. We should have no reason to doubt the collective wisdom of our people. Significantly, the voter in rural India is more proactive in discharging this task when compared to their urban, educated and well to do counterparts."

CJI Ramana added it is the tolerance and inclusive nature of American society that is able to attract the best talents from all over the world, which in turn is contributing to its growth.

"This principle of inclusivity is universal. It needs to be honoured everywhere in the world, including in India. Inclusivity strengthens the unity in society which is key to peace and progress. We need to focus on issues that unite us. Not on those that divide us," he said.

He said the Constitution should not be viewed as a static, unchanging document. "I am reminded of what I read on the wall of Thomas Jefferson Memorial in Washington D.C. a few days ago, and I quote: 'laws and institutions must go hand in hand with the progress of the human mind. As that becomes more developed, more enlightened, as new discoveries are made, new truths discovered and manners and opinions change, with the change of circumstances, institutions must advance also to keep pace with the times.'"

## Two Indian teenagers win Diana Award 2022 for humanitarian work

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Anvi Singh from Gurugram and Ayush Gharat from Bengaluru, both students associated with the Future Leaders programme, have been conferred with Diana Award 2022 for going above and beyond in their daily life to create and sustain positive change.

The awards were conferred on Friday night virtually as the ceremony happened in London. Singh, 17, helps underprivileged children get mainstream learning through her project 'Neev'. And through her project 'Aashwas', Gharat, 18, has been providing aid to frontline health workers by conducting fun sessions for



them and raising funds to provide 2,500 PPE kits.

The Diana Award was established in the memory of Diana, Princess of Wales. The award is given by a charity by the same name and has the support of both her sons, the Duke of Cambridge, and the Duke of Sussex. The Diana Award develops and inspires positive change in the lives of young people and is considered one of the highest accolades a young person can receive for social action or humanitarian efforts.

## 7.2 BN MINUTES IN A WEEK 'STRANGER THINGS' BREAKS NIELSEN'S STREAMING RECORD

LOS ANGELES | Agencies

The hit OTT series 'Stranger Things' has become the most-viewed programme in a single week as per the market research and measurement company Nielsen's newly released streaming Top 10 records, reports 'Variety'.

The science fiction drama was viewed for 7.2 billion minutes between May 30 and June 5, which was Season 4 Volume 1's first full week of availability, easily landing in the No. 1 position on the chart.

Previously, 'Tiger King' and 'Ozark' were the only titles to have crossed 5 billion minutes viewed in one week, both reaching that milestone in March 2020. 'Variety' notes



that the premiere weekend of Season 4 Volume 1 also landed at No. 1. Between the May 27 debut and the end of the viewing window on May 29, the series brought in 5.1 billion minutes viewed. Netflix's self-reported numbers for the premiere weekend, according to 'Variety', indicate that 'Stranger Things'

Season 4 Volume 1, which consists of seven episodes clocking in at roughly nine hours, was viewed for 286.8 million hours -- or roughly 17.2 billion minutes. However, because Nielsen combines viewership of all available seasons, a more apt comparison would be Netflix's reporting that

between May 23 and May 29, Seasons 1, 2, 3 and 4 were viewed for a combined 371.3 million hours -- or 22.3 billion minutes -- versus Nielsen's 5.1 billion. Still, because Netflix measures viewing across all devices while Nielsen counts only TV viewing, a discrepancy remains.

## Amarinder Singh likely to be named NDA candidate for Vice President

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Former Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh is in the race to become the next Vice President of India.

Sources said that the NDA is likely to name the former Punjab Chief Minister as its candidate for the Vice President's post. "Several names are doing the rounds of which the prominent ones are Amarinder Singh, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi. The vice presidential candidate will be finalised by the top BJP leadership and the Parliamentary Board," said a BJP insider. Singh is currently in London for a back surgery. However, a close aide of the former Punjab Chief Minister said that



no confirmation has been received yet proposing Singh's name as NDA's nominee for the Vice President's post. There is also a buzz in BJP circles that incumbent Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu could be given a second term, but as of now there have been no official deliberations on this. Singh left the Congress and formed the Punjab Lok Congress after he was removed from the post of Punjab Chief Minister last year. He contested the recent Punjab Assembly polls in alliance with the BJP.



# TELANGANA CM KCR LAUNCHES SCATHING ATTACK ON PM MODI

HYDERABAD | Agencies

Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrababu Naidu on Saturday came down heavily on the BJP government at the Centre led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, accusing it of killing democracy and federal system in the country.

He also alleged that the Centre is letting loose repression on those raising their voice against him.

Hours before Modi's arrival in Hyderabad to attend BJP's national executive meeting, Naidu launched a bitter attack on him and dared him to answer his questions at the BJP public meeting scheduled in the city on Sunday.

KCR, as Naidu is popularly known, was addressing a meeting organised by his Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) after welcoming Yashwanth Sinha, who is joint candidate of opposition parties for Presidential elections.

"Definitely a change will come. There were several Prime Ministers before you. People gave them the opportunity and they played their role," KCR said.

KCR also alleged that the Modi is busy toppling state governments.

"So far you have toppled nine governments,"



he said.

On a statement by a Union minister that BJP can topple the government in Telangana too as it did in Maharashtra, KCR said he is waiting for it. "We are waiting for it, so that we could become free and topple you in Delhi," he said.

KCR also slammed the Centre for its coal import policy. He questioned the need for importing coal when India has sufficient coal stocks for 100 years. He alleged that to benefit his corporate friends, the Prime Minister is importing coal and forcing states to use 10 per cent of

the imported coal.

The Chief Minister also said the Telangana government has refused to buy imported coal. He pointed out that the price of imported coal is Rs 25,000 to Rs 30,000 per tonne against Rs 4,000 per tonne price of domestic coal.

KCR said India is facing humiliation at the international level due to the policies adopted by the Centre to create division among people and spread hate.

He also wanted to know the results of the 'Make in India' campaign, claiming that the investors are pulling out their investments from the country. The TRS leader also asked when will India become a \$5 trillion economy if it grows at its current pace.

KCR claimed that while the Centre merely coined a slogan, neighbouring China showed the results on the ground. China, which once had lower growth than India, has become a \$16 trillion economy while India is still at \$3.1 trillion, he said. "In China, there is less talk and more action, therefore the outcome is its pacing economy. Here all talk, no work, so no outcome," he said. "Make in India is a big lie. People are losing their jobs and labourers are on the road," KCR added.

# While opposing PM, oppn attacking country, says BJP

HYDERABAD | Agencies

Hitting out at the opposition parties, BJP chief J.P. Nadda on Saturday said that while opposing the Prime Minister they have started opposing the country.

Nadda was speaking at two days BJP's National Executive Committee (NEC) meeting which started here on Saturday.

Speaking about Nadda's inaugural address, Union Minister Smriti Irani said, "While our president spoke about constructive politics of BJP under the leadership of Prime Minister he reflected on the destruction opposition parties are thrusting upon the people of the country. That the opposition is mostly family oriented. Opposition parties have time and again tried to ensure that the policies and programmes of the government which are dedicated to building a resurgent India, are met with destruction and disruption."

"Nadda ji said that while opposing Prime Minister Modi, they (opposition parties) have started opposing the country. It is unfortunate that opposition parties are unaware about the responsibility."

Irani also said that Nadda in his address paid homage to BJP workers of West Bengal and Kerala who met with many challenges and were slaughtered and assaulted, while party workers in Jammu and Kashmir con-



fronted those who wanted to break India.

She further said that during his address, the BJP chief mentioned the pro-poor welfare policies of the Modi government. "BJP chief spoke elaborately on government schemes on Jan Dhan Yojana which has provided economic support to close to 45 crore people, PM Awas Yojana which provided more than three crore houses, Ayushman Bharat and others," Irani said.

She said that Nadda also congratulated the BJP workers in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Manipur and Goa for their majestic win in recent state assembly polls.

# BJP to reach out to 20 cr homes through 'Har Ghar Tiranga' prog

HYDERABAD | Agencies

BJP national vice-president Vasundhara Raje on Saturday said two resolutions will be passed during National Executive Committee (NEC) meeting and topics or issues of political resolution will be decided by the Committee.

She also said that party will launching several new outreach programmes like 'Har Ghar Tiranga' and further strengthen 'panna pramukh'. The BJP NEC will also make a statement on state of affairs in Telangana.

Sharing the details of national office-bearers' meet, former Rajasthan Chief Minister Raje said that the two resolutions one political and second economic will be passed in the NEC after discussion.

"During national office-bearers meet, draft of resolutions was discussed," she said. Asked about recent killing in Udaipur and Supreme Court's comment on Nupur Sharma's controversial statement, Raje said that topics of political resolution will be decided by the NEC. She informed that the recent Assembly polls of Uttar Pradesh, Manipur, Uttarakhand and Goa, local bodies polls, bypolls of



Rampur, Azamgarh and Tripura were also discussed.

She said that as part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', the BJP will launch 'Har Ghar Tiranga' to connect with people and to make it a large movement. "We are trying to reach out 20 crore homes during the campaign," she said. "The national office-bearers meet also emphasise on more pravas of leaders so that they stay among the people." Emphasis also given on further strengthening of booth. "It has been decided to form team of 200 active workers at each booth, form Whatsapp group," she said.

# FATHER-SON DUO MAKE VIDEO OF MARRIED WOMAN, BLACKMAIL HER FOR MONEY

BENGALURU | Agencies

Bengaluru: Karnataka police have lodged a case against father and son for blackmailing a married woman with her private video in Mysuru, police said on Saturday.

The police have launched a hunt for the accused father and son after the woman approached Hebbal police in Mysuru city.

Hebbal Layout residents Govindaraju and his son Pramod have been made accused in this case. The police said that the victim stayed very close to the house of the accused persons.

They made a video in their mobile of her taking a bath when the victim's husband had gone to work. The accused had been blackmailing the victim for two years for money. They also harassed her sexually, police said. They threatened the victim that they would make the video viral on social media and also would send it to her husband. The victim, fed up with the threat and blackmailing by father and son, decided to lodge a complaint against them. The police have taken up further investigation in the case.

# K'taka cop allegedly rapes step-daughters, wife seeks CBI probe

BENGALURU | Agencies

In a shocking incident, a police inspector attached to Karnataka police department is accused of raping his step-daughters. His wife has sought a CBI probe into the matter.

Police sources explained on Saturday that based on the petition by the wife, the High Court bench headed by Justice M. Nagarasanna has already issued a notice to the government in this regard. The accused police inspector is identified as T.R. Srinivas.

The wife in her complaint stated that she separated from her first husband in 2005. She then met Srinivas and developed intimacy. Accused Srinivas promised her that he would take care of her two daughters from the first marriage and married her in 2012.

Few years after marriage, the



accused's attitude towards her changed. She alleged that he forced her to watch porn movies at home. When questioned, he tied her up with a rope and assaulted her. The victim complained that the accused impregnated her sister; and when she was not at home, he raped her daughters as well. The victim mentioned in her complaint that the case was lodged

in J.C. Nagar police station on June 1, but no action was initiated against the accused officer.

However, the police colluding with the accused have booked a case of blackmail against her.

The Home Department is going to take a call on the issue and make submission to Karnataka High Court in this regard.

# Delhi Court denies bail to Alt News co-founder Zubair, sends him to 14-day police custody

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Delhi Court on Saturday rejected the bail application of Alt News co-founder Mohammed Zubair in connection with the 2018 contentious tweet case and allowed the Delhi Police for further 14-day judicial custody of the fact-checker.

Zubair was produced before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Snigdha Sarvaria at Patiala House Court as his four-day judicial custody in the case, in which he had allegedly hurt the sentiments of a community through a tweet, ended on Saturday.

After hearing the detailed arguments of the parties, the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate refused to grant relief to him.

During the course of the hearing, Advocate Vrinda Grover appearing for Zubair, placed on record an application to record that the electronic device and hard disc were seized, arguing that till date no hash



value or clone is generated by cyber-crime.

Atul Shrivastava, the newly-appointed Special Public Prosecutor for Delhi Police, argued that as per the CDR analysis, Zubair has accept-

ed funds through Razor gateway, from Pakistan, Syria which needs further investigation. The new charges invoked against Zubair are under sections 120B (criminal conspiracy) and 201 (Causing disap-

pearance of evidence) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and sec. 35 of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act. Earlier, he was charged under the Indian Penal Code's Sections 153A (promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence) and 295A (deliberate and malicious acts, intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs) for one of his objectionable tweets. As per the FIR, accused Zubair had used a screengrab of an old Hindi movie which showed an image of a hotel, with its board reading 'Hanuman Hotel' instead of 'Honeymoon hotel'. In his tweet, Zubair had written, "BEFORE 2014: Honeymoon Hotel. After 2014: Hanuman Hotel". The Delhi High Court on Friday issued notice to the Delhi Police on a plea moved by Zubair challenging the Patiala House court order allowing his police custody and seizure of his laptop in connection with the alleged objectionable tweet.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

At least 12 people have been arrested in the national capital for allegedly running a fake call centre and duping the citizens of the US on the pretext of redeeming gift cards, the police said on Saturday.

The arrested individuals have been identified as Adarsh, Naveen, Pradeep, Md. Saifuddin, Nitin, Praveen Chauhan, Rahul, Brijesh, Sahiba Khatun a.k.a. 'Twinkle, Abha, Monika and Mohit Verma.

Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police Pawan Kumar said an information was received in Neb Sarai police station that a call centre duping citizens was operating at IGNOU Road, Neb Sarai. Accordingly, a team was constituted which



laid a trap near Balhara Hospital, IGNOU Road, Neb Sarai. A raid was conducted and it was found that a set-up of computers and accessories were installed in the premises. Several persons were receiving the calls and were engaged in communicating with the people. They were

impersonating themselves as Amazon representatives," the police officer said.

By using software tools such as Teamviewer, Zoho Assist, they duped the victim and caused the wrongful loss through gift cards redeemed on Amazon.

# Assam man arrested for supporting Udaipur murder

GUWAHATI | Agencies

A man was arrested in Assam's Hailakandi district for allegedly supporting the gruesome murder of tailor Kanaihya Lal in Rajasthan's Udaipur, police said on Saturday.

Samsul Laskar was taken into custody for a comment on Facebook where he allegedly supported the killing, a senior police officer said.

A case was registered against Laskar under various sections of the IPC and the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act after a local BJP leader lodged a police complaint.

An FIR was lodged on the complaint and Laskar was



arrested on Thursday night. Superintendent of Police, Haikhanadi, Gaurav Upadhyay told reporter that the man was produced before the court on Friday and he was sent to two days police custody. "We are looking into all angles of this matter," he added.

# Trinamool MLA Nirmal Maji now accused of comparing Mamata Banerjee with Allah

KOLKATA | Agencies

Trinamool Congress legislator Nirmal Maji, who is already in the centre of a controversy after he described Mamata Banerjee as an incarnation of Maa Sarada, is now accused of comparing the chief minister with Allah.

The lone All India Secular Front (AISF) legislator in West Bengal Assembly, Nawshad Siddiqui made this allegation by releasing a video message which he shared with a section of the media. To recall, AISF contested the 2021 West Bengal Assembly polls in alliance with Left Front and Congress.

Siddique has started his video message with the refer-

ence Maji describing the chief minister as the incarnation of Maa Sarada, the wife and spiritual consort of Ramakrishna Paramahansa.

"Trinamool Congress Nirmal Maji recently drew a comparison between Maa Sarada and the chief minister, Mamata Banerjee. Quite naturally such a comparison has created grievances in the minds of the Hindus. Ramakrishna Math and Ramakrishna Mission have also objected to such comments by issuing a statement. Now it is learnt that the same legislator at a different place has drawn comparison between Allah and the chief minister. This is against the faith of the peo-



reporter.

However, he did not specify where exactly Maji was heard or seen drawing the said comparison.

In his statement, Siddique has termed both the instances as the worst examples of flattery and had sought an official statement from the chief minister, Mamata Banerjee on this count. He had also sought action against Maji for such statements. "Such comments

can create tension in the society and hamper the spirit of communal harmony," he concluded.

Maji kept himself incommunicado since the video message was released. There was no official statement from any Trinamool Congress leader also till this report was filed. Earlier, on his comments connecting Maa Sarada and the chief minister, Maji was censured by a section of the party leadership, although the chief minister herself had remained silent till date.

They said that over 50,714 hectares crop area is still inundated in 1,934 villages in 27 districts while the flood situation is deteriorating due to incessant rains in the state.

# Assam Floods: Over 22.17 lakh marooned, toll rises to 174

GUWAHATI | Agencies

Over 22.17 lakh people in 27 of Assam's 35 districts are still marooned due to the ongoing floods, which, along with landslides, have killed 174 people so far, officials said on Saturday.

The officials of the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) said that since April, 156 people lost their lives in pre-monsoon and monsoon floods while 18 others died in landslides in different districts of Assam.

They said that over 50,714 hectares crop area is still inundated in 1,934 villages in 27 districts while the flood situation is deteriorating due to incessant rains in the state. Over 2.77 lakh men, women and children took

shelter in 404 relief camps with the district administrations setting up relief and distribution centres in the flood-hit districts.

An ASDMA official said that after visiting the flood-affected districts, two Inter-Ministerial Central Teams (IMCT) on Saturday held a meeting with Chief Secretary Jishnu Barua and other Assam government officials. Senior officials from the Indian Army, Indian Air force, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), NHAI, NHIDCL and FCI also attended the meeting.

The Chief Secretary requested the IMCT to submit a report to the Centre so that the state can get more central funds to deal with the flood situation.

# absolute india

“Religion is regarded by the common people as true, by the wise as false, and by the rulers as useful.”  
Lucius Annaeus Seneca

VOL. 7, ISSUE 234, BHOPAL | SUNDAY, JULY 03, 2022 | ₹5 | PAGE 08

PUBLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM BHOPAL, MUMBAI AND NEW DELHI

ANGRY MOB ATTACKS UDAIPUR MURDER ACCUSED OUTSIDE COURT; HURLS SLIPPERS, BOTTLES

## PROPHET ROW

The accused were thrashed by the mob as well as lawyers who were waiting outside the court premises when the accused were being escorted by the police. A heavy police force was deployed outside the NIA court where a large group of people gathered and raised slogans when the accused were being brought out of the court.

The NIA court sent all the four accused, including prime accused Mohammad Riyaz and Ghouse Mohammad, to 10-day NIA remand till July 12.

A few lawyers inside the courtroom premises also demanded death punishment for the accused. When the two prime accused were escorted outside the court by the police, an infuriated crowd attacked them with bottles and slippers.

Team Absolute | Jaipur



An angry mob attacked the two main accused in the Udaipur tailor murder case outside the premises of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) court here on Saturday.

On June 28, a tailor named Kanhaiya Lal was beheaded in broad daylight inside his tailoring shop on a crowded lane in Udaipur for allegedly supporting suspended BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma over her controversial remarks on Prophet Muhammad. The prime accused -- Mohammad Riyaz and Ghouse Mohammad -- even filmed the act and uploaded it on social media.

While Riyaz and Ghouse Mohammad were arrested that day itself, two more persons, identified as Mohsin and Asif, were arrested on Thursday in connection with Kanhaiya Lal's murder. The NIA is probing the matter with support from the Anti-Terrorist Squad and Special Operations Group (SOG) of the Rajasthan Police.

### Kolkata Police issues lookout notice against Nupur Sharma

Kolkata: Kolkata Police, on Saturday, issued lookout notice against suspended BJP leader Nupur Sharma, whose controversial comments about Prophet Muhammad had created nationwide stir and tension last month.

A senior official of the city police informed that they were forced to issue the lookout notice as Sharma did not turn up after she was sent two notices for appearance for interrogation. Kolkata Police is the first to issue a lookout notice against Sharma on this issue. First, Narkeldanga Police Station, under the eastern suburban division of Kolkata Police, had issued a similar summons to Sharma for questioning at the said police station on June 20.



Then a fresh notice was issued by Amherst Street police station on June 25. However, in both the cases, she had sent a last moment email communique to the city police expressing her inability to appear seeking more time for the same. The city police official informed that different individuals have filed 10 FIRs in different police stations against



### UDAIPUR ACCUSED PIC WITH BJP LEADER GOES VIRAL, PARTY DENIES CONNECT

Jaipur: A major controversy has erupted after a picture of Udaipur murder accused Riyaz Attari with leader of the opposition Gulabchand Kataria went viral on social media.

The picture is reportedly from a 2018 event.

Also, an old post of a worker associated with BJP Minority Morcha surfaced in which he has described Riyaz as a BJP worker.

However, BJP in Rajasthan on Saturday denied the allegation and said that the Udaipur accused has never been a member of the party.

Sharma. Already, a motion condemning Nupur Sharma's controversial comments has been passed in the West Bengal assembly. Soon after Sharma's controversial comments went viral, there was severe tension in several minority-dominated pockets in West Bengal in districts like Kolkata and adjacent Howrah, Murshidabad, and Nadia.



### MANIPUR LANDSLIDE TOLL 27 AS 8 MORE BODIES FOUND, OVER 40 MISSING

Imphal | Agencies

With recovery of eight more bodies on Saturday, the death toll in Thursday's catastrophic landslides in Manipur's Noney district, triggered by incessant rains, has reached 27, including 22 Territorial Army personnel, while over

40 more people are still missing, officials said.

Official reports said that more than 80 persons are feared to have been buried alive after the massive mudslide in the under-construction railway infrastructures at Tupul in western Manipur.

Officials said that 13 injured Territorial Army sol-

diers and five civilians have been extricated even as rescue operations by the army, and central and state agencies were on at full pace since the past three days.

Meanwhile, fresh landslides were also reported since Friday night near Tupul and adjoining areas making the situation further critical.

### 'Don't buy from Muslim vendors' notice surfaces in Guj village

Team Absolute | Ahmedabad

An alleged gram panchayat notification bearing the name of the Sarpanch directing shopkeepers and residents not to buy anything from Muslim vendors is doing the rounds at a village in Gujarat's Banaskantha district.

The notification says if anyone is seen buying goods from Muslim vendors, he or she would be fined Rs 5,100, and the fine amount would be used for 'Gaushalas'.

The letter dated June 30 mentions that the rule has been introduced in the aftermath of the gruesome killing of a tailor in Udaipur on June 18. The letter has a stamp on it along with the Sarpanch's 'signature'. Five members have signed the letter including, one name written

in Gujarati, Patel Jethabhai.

When the Sarpanch, Patel Mafiben Virabhai, was contacted, her husband Virabhai Patel received the call and told reporter: "My wife is not a Sarpanch anymore since last November."

"I am also a member of the village administration... none of us wrote that letter. We are trying to find out who has written it, signed and put a stamp. There is no one called Patel Jethabhai in our village. Someone is trying to spoil our image."

Reacting to the notification, Congress MLA Gulabsinh Rajput from Tharad constituency in Banaskantha told reporter: "India is a democratic country and no one can issue such a 'farman'. This is misuse of power and designation."

### 'Issue apology or else...': Congress to BJP on 'doctored' Rahul video



Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Congress on Saturday demanded an appropriate apology from BJP on behalf of party leaders who shared a 'doctored' video clips of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi. "Furthermore, I expect that you will immediately issue an appropriate apology on behalf of your colleagues who have acted with such reckless disregard towards the truth", said Congress General Secretary In-Charge of Communication, Jairam Ramesh in a letter to BJP president J.P. Nadda.

He said, "I am appalled to note that sever-

al of your party colleagues have been deliberately and enthusiastically sharing mischievous reportage that occurred on a news channel at 9 p.m. yesterday (July 1, 2022)", adding that the original video was Rahul Gandhi's comment on the SFI violence on his Wayanad office but it was deliberately and mischievously doctored to appear as if it was a comment on the heinous murder of Kanhaiya Lal in Udaipur.

The Congress said that it was immediately brought to the attention of all concerned that the reportage was false and deliberately misleading. "What is of even greater concern, is that several of your party colleagues, including Shri Rajyavardhan Rathore, MP, Shri Subrat Pathak MP, Shri Kamlesh Saini, MLA and others, have enthusiastically and without verification published and shared the deliberately fabricated and distorted reportage," Ramesh said in the letter.

We expect that you and your party colleagues will cease and desist from spreading such falsehoods, said Jairam Ramesh.

"If this apology is not issued today, we will take appropriate legal action against your party and its leaders who insist and persist in using the social media in such a blatantly irresponsible and criminal manner," he concluded in the letter.

### INDIA LOGS 17,092 FRESH COVID CASES, 29 DEATHS

New Delhi: India witnessed a marginal rise in its daily Covid tally with 17,092 new cases in the past 24 hours, against previous day's 17,070 count, the Union Health Ministry said on Saturday. In the same period, 29 Covid deaths were recorded taking the nationwide death toll to 5,25,168. Meanwhile, the active caseload has also increased to 1,09,568, accounting for 0.25 per cent of total positive cases. The recovery of 14,684 patients in the last 24 hours took the cumulative tally to 4,28,51,590. Consequently, the recovery rate stands at 98.54 per cent. Meanwhile, the Daily Positivity rate has also marginally increased to 4.14 per cent, while the Weekly Positivity Rate currently stands at 3.56 per cent. Also in the same period, a total of 4,12,570 tests were conducted across the country, increasing the overall tally to over 86.32 crore. As of this morning, the Covid-19 vaccination coverage exceeded 197.84 crore, achieved via 2,57,98,020 sessions. Over 3.68 crore adolescents have been administered with a first dose of Covid-19 jab since the beginning of vaccination drive for this age bracket.

### AMARNATH YATRA

### INTEGRATED FACILITY FOR VIRTUAL POOJA, HAVAN & PRASAD BOOKING LAUNCHED

Srinagar | Agencies

In order to provide an opportunity to millions of devotees across the globe who could not come for the Amarnath Yatra this year, the Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board (SASB) has extended the online facility for performing virtual 'pooja', 'havan', 'darshan' and 'prasad' booking to all devotees for a personalised experience of the holy cave shrine.

It was informed on Saturday that the devotees can book their slots and get prasad delivered at their doorsteps.

The CEO of SASB, Nitishwar Kumar, said that the online services can be booked through the shrine board's website -- [www.shriamarnathjishrine.com](http://www.shriamarnathjishrine.com) -- by clicking the 'Book Online Pooja/Havan/Prasad' link, and also



through the board's mobile application which can be downloaded from Google Play.

The charges are -- Rs 1,100 for virtual pooja, Rs 1,100 for prasad booking with 5 gm silver coin of Shri Amarnathji, Rs 2,100 for prasad booking with 10 gm silver coin, and Rs 5,100 for the special havan or combination of any of the above.

The virtual pooja or havan would be carried out by the priests at the cave shrine by pronouncing the name and 'gotra' of the devotee along with chanting of 'mantras' and 'shlokas'.

### RUSSIAN STRIKES IN ODESA KILL 21 PEOPLE

Kiev: Ukrainian authorities have confirmed that at least 21 people, including a child, were killed due to Russian missile strikes in the southern Odesa region. In a statement, the State Emergency Service of Ukraine (DSNS) said 16 people were killed when one missile hit a nine-storey building in the village of Serhiyivka on Friday night, the BBC reported. A separate strike on a holiday resort in the same village led to five fatalities, including the 12-year-old child. According to the DSNS, 38 people, including six children, were also injured in the strikes, which Russia has again denied firing. Ukrainian officials claimed that three missiles were launched from Russian warplanes over the Black Sea, reports the BBC. Odesa regional administration spokesman Serhiy Bratchuk said Soviet-era X-22 missiles were believed to have been used.

### NDA is Nitish and Nitish is NDA: JD-U

Patna | Agencies

Leaders of Bihar's ruling JD-U are upbeat after coalition ally BJP's top leadership made it clear that Nitish Kumar will remain Chief Minister till the 2025 Assembly elections, and went on to call him the JD-U Parliamentary Board President Upendra Kushwaha on Saturday said: "Nitish Kumar is NDA and NDA is Nitish Kumar" in Bihar, evoking memories of one-time Congress President and former Bihar Government Dev Kant Barooah, who once said: "India is Indira and Indira is India", about then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

"Nitish Kumar has been the leader of NDA ever since it was formed on ground and

he will remain as leader of the NDA until his NDA exists in Bihar. I want to tell those leaders who are living in misbelief to avoid misleading our workers and supporters. It would give the wrong message among them. Those leaders should remember that the NDA is Nitish Kumar and Nitish Kumar is NDA in Bihar," he said.

Kushwaha's statement came in wake of Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan coming to Patna, meeting Nitish Kumar, and publicly announcing that he will remain Chief Minister till the next Assembly elections.

The leaders of BJP's Bihar unit, especially state President Sanjay Jaiswal, were critical of the Nitish Kumar government in the past.

### 'DILUTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL JURISPRUDENCE'

EXPERTS SLAM PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ENVIRONMENT, WATER, AIR ACTS BY GOVERNMENT

The T.S.R. Subramanian Report of 2014 was the first major environmental reform brought about by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and this dilution got a boost based on self-regulation by the corporate/industry sector in 'utmost good faith', Saldanha said, adding that following the nation-wide outcry and criticism, the then Environment Minister backed out only to bring the Environmental Laws Amendment Bill of 2015, which too was heavily slammed by the civil society.



Nivedita Khandekar | New Delhi

A day after the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change announced its intention to bring about amendments to the Environment, Water and Air Acts for decriminalisation of relatively minor offences, experts have slammed the proposed move terming it as dilution of environmental jurisprudence.

On Friday, the ministry put out proposed amendments to decriminalise the existing provisions of three important legislations -- Environment (Protection) Act, 1986; Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974; and Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.

Apart from decriminalisation, the proposed amendments to the three basic building laws also proposes creation of an earmarked fund that can be utilised for paying compensation to the affected parties, for restoration of the environment or for reparation. The three funds are to be named 'Environmental Protection Fund', 'Water Pollution Remediation Fund' and 'Air Pollution Remediation Fund'. The proposed amendments are directed at two kinds of changes. First, it is carving out the criminal or civil liability based on a hierarchy of non-compliance or legal offence, as defined by the Environment Ministry.

Second, the EPA amendments attempt to delink non-submission of reports/studies from offences leading to loss of life or injury, but there may be cause and effect relationship between the two," said Kanchi Kohli, a senior researcher with Delhi-based think-tank Centre for Policy Research. Kohli pointed at the serious issue with the proposed amendments that will increase the amounts of financial penalties and recommend the creation of management funds where the money will be collected.

Leo Saldanha, Coordinator of Bengaluru's Environment Support Group (ESG), an advocacy NGO that also files petitions against environmental and forest law violations, drew attention to the exercise of dilution of environmental laws that had started in 2003-04 during NDA-I rule and continued through till the current dispensation took it to further levels of dilution.

Charting out the chronology, Saldanha said that it was in 2004 when then Environment Secretary Pradipto Ghosh had proposed to turn India's environmental jurisprudence based on criminal jurisprudence to civil.



# CM SHINDE, REBEL MLAS RETURNING TO MUMBAI FROM GOA ON SPECIAL FLIGHT

# SHINDE GOVT, DETHRONED MVA TO CLASH FOR SPEAKER'S ELECTION ON SUNDAY

The stage is set for the first major battle, the election of Maharashtra Legislative Assembly Speaker to be held on Sunday, with the Shinde government and Maha Vikas Aghadi candidates filing their nominations here on Saturday.

**▶ MAHARASHTRA CM EKNATH SHINDE ALONG WITH HIS FACTION OF MLAS LEFT GOA RESORT FOR MUMBAI. SHINDE AND MLAS WILL TAKE SPECIAL FLIGHT FROM GOA TO REACH MUMBAI.**



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Chief Minister Eknath Shinde had said that since a session of the Assembly had been convened by the Governor of Maharashtra on July 3 and 4, his comrades would be leaving for Mumbai on Saturday. Shinde, who returned to Goa at about 3.30 am on Saturday, held a meeting with his faction of Shiv Sena MLAs before leaving the resort for Mumbai. The MLAs and Shinde's supporters, who have been lodged at

the Taj Resort and Convention Centre in Panaji's Dona Paula since Wednesday, left for Mumbai along with Shinde. Shinde had said that since a session of the Assembly had been convened by the Governor of Maharashtra on July 3 and 4, his

comrades would be leaving for Mumbai on Saturday. After swearing in as Chief Minister on Thursday, he returned to Goa in the early hours of the day on Friday as well as Saturday. Earlier, Aurangabad MLA Sanjay Shirsat, who has been lodged at the

hotel with his breakaway colleagues, said, "We will have a meeting with Shindesaheb and then we will be informed about when to leave for Mumbai." Sources said the MLAs have been informed that they would be leaving the hotel for Mumbai by 2.30 pm to 3 pm, tentatively. The MLAs, who have been out of Maharashtra for the last 11 days, are slated to return to Mumbai after hopping from one five-star hotel to another in Surat, then Guwahati and finally in Panaji. On Friday, Deepak Kesarkar, spokesperson for the Shinde faction of the Shiv Sena, had said, "I want to clearly state that there has been no discussion on awarding ministerial berths to anybody and none of us have asked for any either. We are now the legislature party of the Shiv Sena and earlier it used to happen, according to the rules of the party, that when the party takes a decision everyone accepts it; but now Shindesaheb will do this very democratically. He will have a discussion with all of us before he takes a decision. Some names are being floated only to create rifts among MLAs."

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The stage is set for the first major battle, the election of Maharashtra Legislative Assembly Speaker to be held on Sunday, with the Shinde government and Maha Vikas Aghadi candidates filing their nominations here on Saturday.

The Chief Minister Eknath Shinde-led government, which took office on June 30, has fielded Bharatiya Janata Party MLA Rahul Narwekar while the Opposition MVA alliance has nominated Shiv Sena MLA Rajan Salvi for the crucial post. The Congress, which had claim to the post in the previous regime, has given it up in favour of the Shiv Sena after holding dis-

ussions among the three allies including Nationalist Congress Party.

"We have filed the nomination of Sena MLA Salvi and the decision was reached after consultations among the three parties," said Congress leader Balasaheb Thorat. On Friday, the Congress had strongly objected to the Speaker's election on the basis of a letter by Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari stating it could not be held due to a case pending in the court.

"We don't understand the urgency to call a Special Assembly Session on Sunday. There is a case pending in the Supreme Court. When we were in the (MVA) government, the Governor kept

telling us for months that since the matter is sub-judice, he cannot allow the Speaker elections. Then, how has he permitted it for the new government," Thorat demanded. BJP MLC Pravin Darekar expressed confidence that given the numbers, the party nominee Narwekar will easily win the Speaker elections.

Congress leader Nana Patole was the last Speaker, who was elected late in 2019 after the MVA government headed by Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray took over. However, Patole quit the post in Feb. 2021 after he was appointed as the state Congress President and since then, NCP's Deputy Speaker Narhari Zirwal was officiating.

## 'Will reply legally', says rebel Sena MLA on removal of Eknath Shinde

Reacting to the removal of Eknath Shinde, now Chief Minister of Maharashtra, as leader of party (Shiv Sena), rebel MLA Deepak Kesarkar said that they will reply to it legally, but sender should introspect whether he is doing insult to the people of Maharashtra or not.

Panaji | Agencies

Reacting to the removal of Eknath Shinde, now Chief Minister of Maharashtra, as leader of party (Shiv Sena), rebel MLA Deepak Kesarkar said that they will reply to it legally, but sender should introspect whether he is doing insult to the people of Maharashtra or

not. Shiv Sena President Uddhav Thackeray 'removed' Eknath Shinde as a 'Shiv Sena Leader' for allegedly indulging in 'anti-party' activities. The letter said: "You have been indulging in anti-party activities and have voluntarily given up your membership of Shiv Sena."

Kesarkar, who is still campaigning in Goa along with other rebel MLAs and Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, on Saturday addressed a press conference and said that Shinde has received a letter saying he has been removed as leader of the party organisation. "There is one tradition that the leader of the House, who gets elected and becomes chief minister, doesn't limit to one party. He is the leader of all parties in the House. This is why he is called the leader of the house. When he enters assembly, ruckus or business taking

place gets paused till he sits on his chair. This is the respect to that chair," Kesarkar said.

"And when you say that you have removed the leader of the house from the party, you need to think of the people of Maharashtra, whether you are insulting them or not," he said. "We will not speak anything against Uddhav Thackeray (as all respects him), but we will reply to the legal letter sent by him. We will take legal advice to reply to the legal letter," Kesarkar said. "Shinde is still our leader, all who had elected on the ticket of Shiv Sena had chosen him as leader of the organisation. Nobody can snatch it (right) from him, and those who tried it, we have approached the Supreme Court. I don't want to comment on it. But again and again such things are taking place," Kesarkar said.

## As BJP revelled, Devendra Fadnavis held key meetings with cops, others

While the delirious Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) erupted in celebrations on Friday, Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis was closeted in a series of meetings including with top police officials, party sources said here on Saturday.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

While the delirious Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) erupted in celebrations on Friday, Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis was closeted in a series of meetings including with top police officials, party sources said here on Saturday.

Fadnavis' absence along with some other leaders, at the revelry became a point of discussion amid speculation that he was still in a dark mood after the post of DyCM was abruptly thrust on him by the party top leadership on Thursday (June 30). An aide close to him claimed that on the contrary, Fadnavis had a series of meetings tied up with several top police brass, party leaders and officials as he could be handling several sensitive portfolios, including probably the home depart-



ment. The meetings were to chalk out strategies ahead of the Special Assembly Session of Maharashtra Legislative Assembly on July 3-4 to elect the new Speaker and to seek the 'vote of confidence' for the new government headed by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde. Late in the night, Shinde-Fadnavis also held a separate meeting to ensure the legislature session goes off smoothly and to strategise the crucial cabinet formation process, likely to be set in motion after the confidence vote.

On Friday, hundreds of BJP leaders and workers toasted the new regime of Shinde-Fadnavis taking oath on June 30 after the fall of the Maha Vikas Aghadi government headed by ex-CM Uddhav Thackeray - ending a 10-day long political crisis created by a rebellion in the Shiv Sena.

## DURING MAHA POLITICAL CRISIS, UDAIPUR-TYPE MURDER WENT UNNOTICED

**▶ AS THE COUNTRY'S ATTENTION WAS DIVERTED TO THE MAJOR POLITICAL CRISIS THAT ERUPTED IN MAHARASHTRA LATE ON JUNE 20, AN UDAIPUR-STYLE MURDER OF A MAN WHO ALLEGEDLY SHARED A SOCIAL MEDIA POST SUPPORTING EX-BHARATIYA JANATA PARTY SPOKESPERSON NUPUR SHARMA WENT UNNOTICED, OFFICIALS SAID.**

Nagpur | Agencies

As the country's attention was diverted to the major political crisis that erupted in Maharashtra late on June 20, an Udaipur-style murder of a man who allegedly shared a social media post supporting ex-Bharatiya Janata Party spokesperson Nupur Sharma went unnoticed, officials said.

On June 21, a chemist of Amravati, identified as one Umesh Prahladrao Kolhe, was brutally stabbed to death for endorsing Nupur Sharma's posts on Prophet Muhammad that raged into a major political issue.

Comparisons are now being drawn between Kolhe's killing and the dastardly hacking of an Udaipur tailor Kanhaiya Lal, in similar circumstances on June 28.

While the City Kotwali Police Station is probing the matter, Amravati Police Commissioner Dr Aarti Singh said till now five persons have been nabbed and further investigations are underway.

As per the probe, Kolhe, 54, shut his pharmacy, Amit Medical Stores, and was returning home around 10.15 on June 21 evening on his two-wheeler, with son Sanket, 27 and his wife Vaishnavi on another vehicle.

As they reached from Prabhakar Chow to the MCNH School, two unidentified men on a motorcycle suddenly accosted Kolhe and forced him to a stop.

One of them whipped out a knife, repeatedly stabbed him in the neck even as another accomplice came and after Kolhe fell down, the trio escaped on their motorcycle.

Seeing this, Sanket stopped his bike, and got locals to help his profusely bleeding father to a nearby hospital where he succumbed soon afterwards.

The Bharatiya Janata Party MLC Dr Anil Bonde has demanded a thorough probe into the incident, pointing out that the masterminds are still at large.

The case is being handed over to the National Investigation Agency and further details are awaited, with some Muslim customers of Kolhe said to be among the suspects.

The shocking incident practically went unnoticed as Maharashtra grappled a major political crisis that had erupted the previous night leading to the collapse of the Maha Vikas Aghadi government 10 days later.

Panaji | Agencies

Shiv Sena's rebel MLA Deepak Kesarkar on Saturday said that they will not celebrate victory of the floor test, however there will be a grand celebration when the state of Maharashtra achieves considerable development.

Speaking to media persons in Panaji, Kesarkar said that he has already apologised for MLAs dancing after Eknath Shinde was sworn-in as Chief Minister of Maharashtra.

"In the video which went viral (of dance by MLAs), not all from that group were

MLAs, maybe one or two were there. Even that mistake should not have happened," he said.

"We are here to serve the people, we have a big responsibility on our shoulder. After winning this battle, our sentiments are with the development of Maharashtra. We will not hold any celebration as we have said before. Even if we win the floor test, then also we will not celebrate. But in future when the Maharashtra develops, then we will hold a grand celebration," he said.

He said that Shinde's focus is to provide a helping hand to distressed farmers and to

stop incidents of suicides.

"Many farmers commit suicide in Maharashtra, but nobody till date has taken it as a mission to stop it. Now we want to stop the incidents of suicide and create a new Maharashtra," he said.

Kesarkar said that in Maharashtra, 49 per cent of the people live in rural areas, out of which 80 per cent are dependent on agriculture.

"So it is our duty to see that Mechanization of agriculture takes place, and we are committed to that. That is why I said that our fight was not for power, but for the betterment of Maharashtra," he said.

## IANS-CVoter Snap Poll: Majority Indians believe new Maha govt will survive till next Assembly polls

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Rebel Shiv Sena leader Eknath Shinde is the new Chief Minister of Maharashtra. Former Chief Minister and BJP stalwart Devendra Fadnavis will work as his deputy in the new dispensation.

Shinde will be heading the new government that will comprise Shiv Sena rebels, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and some independent legislators.

Shinde has claimed that he has the support of around 40 of 55 Shiv Sena MLAs and 10 independent legislators. BJP has 106 MLAs in the house of 288 members. The new government will face a floor test on July 4, to prove majority in the house. The new government is expected to win the floor test comfortably.

CVoter-IndiaTracker conducted a nationwide survey on behalf of IANS to know people's views about the survival of the new government till the next Assembly elec-

tions due in October 2024. During the survey, while the majority of respondents, 65 per cent, said that the new government will complete its tenure, 35 per cent disagreed with the sentiment.

Interestingly, while the majority of NDA voters, 81 per cent, asserted that the new government in Maharashtra will function smoothly till next Assembly polls in the state, views of opposition supporters were divided on the issue.

During the survey, while 53 per cent of opposition voters stressed that the new government will complete its term, 47 per cent don't think so. The survey revealed differences in the opinion of different social groups on the issue. While 76 per cent Upper Caste Hindus (UCH), 73 per cent Other Backward Classes (OBC) and 72 per cent Scheduled Castes (SC) stated that the new government will survive, 59 per cent Muslims expressed completely different opinions on the issue.

## ANS-CVoter Snap Poll: Indians divided on BJP's decision to make Shinde Maha CM

**▶ PUTTING AN END TO THE POLITICAL UNCERTAINTY IN MAHARASHTRA, SHIV SENA REBEL EKNATH SHINDE WAS SWORN IN AS THE STATE'S 20TH CHIEF MINISTER ON JUNE 30.**

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Putting an end to the political uncertainty in Maharashtra, Shiv Sena rebel Eknath Shinde was sworn in as the state's 20th Chief Minister on June 30.

Senior BJP leader and former Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis took oath as Deputy Chief Minister. Shinde's rebellion in the Shiv Sena brought about the collapse of Uddhav Thackeray-led Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government. Thackeray resigned as the Chief



Minister on June 29 after the Supreme Court refused to stay the Maharashtra Governor's direction to hold a floor test in the assembly on June 30. In a surprise turn of events, addressing a press conference, Fadnavis announced that Shinde would be the next Chief Minister.

Though Fadnavis had announced that he will not take any position in the new Maharashtra government, the BJP leadership asked him to join the new dispensation as Shinde's deputy.

CVoter-IndiaTracker conducted a nationwide survey on behalf of IANS to know people's views about BJP's decision to make Shinde Chief Minister of

the state. The survey revealed that Indians were divided in their views about BJP's decision on the issue. According to the survey data, while 55 per cent respondents opined that BJP has taken the right decision by making Shinde the head of the new government, 45 per cent respondents disagreed. Predictably during the survey, NDA and opposition voters were divided in their views on the issue. While 78 per cent of NDA voters backed the BJP's decision, 60 per cent of opposition supporters did not. Differences in opinion were evident across ethnic divides.

While 67 per cent Upper Caste Hindus (UCH) and 65 per cent Other Backward Classes (OBC) applauded the decision, 78 per cent Muslim respondents expressed completely opposite views. Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) were divided in their opinion on the issue, the survey revealed. While 52 per cent SC respondents expressed their views in favour of the BJP's decision, 48 per cent opposed the move. Similarly, while 52 per cent ST respondents approved the decision, 48 per cent shared a different opinion.

## We will easily win floor test, Speaker election: Eknath Shinde

Reacting to Shiv Sena President Uddhav Thackeray's statement that a 'deserter cannot be a Shiv Sena CM', Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde said on Friday that he has the support of more than two-third Sena MLAs and hence they (Shiv Sena rebels and the BJP) will easily win the floor test.

Panaji | Agencies

Reacting to Shiv Sena President Uddhav Thackeray's statement that a 'deserter cannot be a Shiv Sena CM', Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde said on Friday that he has the support of more than two-third Sena MLAs and hence they (Shiv Sena rebels and the BJP) will easily win the floor test.

had said that a person who has sidelined the Sena cannot be called a 'Shiv Sainik' CM.

While leaving for Mumbai from Goa, Shinde told media-persons at the Dabolim airport that he is going ahead with the ideology of Balasaheb Thackeray.

"We have enough support... We will easily win the floor test and even the Speaker's election. There is no doubt in it and there is nothing to worry about. The picture is very clear," Shinde said. Stating that he is committed to the overall development of Maharashtra, Shinde said, "Right now I am going to Mumbai to hold a meeting of the disaster management committee." "We have enough numbers and are working as the Shiv Sena legislative party. We are committed towards the development of Maharashtra. We are the Shiv Sainiks of Balasaheb and we are taking ahead his Hindutva agenda. All the pending projects in Maharashtra shall be completed now," he said.

Earlier on Friday, Thackeray



# CM CHOUHAN HOLDS ROADSHOW IN RAIN; SEEKS VOTES FOR PARTY CANDIDATES

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on July 02 held a roadshow for local body elections in Bhopal. Chouhan started his mega roadshow from Govindpura assembly constituency and all the ward candidates were also present on the occasion.

The local body polls in Madhya Pradesh is scheduled on July 06 and July 13. The elections will be held for 413 urban bodies including 16 municipal corporations, 99 municipalities and 298 city councils.



party candidates in the upcoming urban body elections.

Chouhan started his mega roadshow from Govindpura assembly constituency and all the ward candidates were also present on the occasion. CM Chouhan reached Misrod along with MLA Krishna Gaur and BJP Mayoral candidate Malti Rai around 10:30 am on Saturday and addressed a public gathering.

He said, "All the necessary civic amenities including bridges, culverts, roads, parks will be developed in Misrod. Along with this, schemes of poor welfare which includes free ration, pucca houses, etc will also be given."

"I have freed 21,000 acres of land from the possession of land mafias, which will be used for the welfare of the poor. Only BJP can do the work of poor welfare and development," he added.

Chouhan addressed the general meeting in Misrod. During this, he said that all the necessary civic amenities including bridges, culverts, roads, parks will be strengthened in Misrod. Along with this, schemes of poor welfare like free ration to pucca houses will be given. After the program, Chouhan started the roadshow. He embarked on a roadshow from Govindpura and ended it in Bhanpur locality.

The roadshow was of around 20 kilometres and around 18 candidates rode on the campaign chariot from different places on the occasion.

During the roadshow, a sudden rainfall started at Hoshangabad road area but Chouhan continued the roadshow amid rain. He interacted with the public and sought votes for the party candidates.

After the general meeting, Chouhan rode on the propaganda chariot. After this his road show started. This road show passed through different wards of Govindpura assembly. It ended in Bhanpur area. During this, in the 20-km roadshow, 18 candidates rode on the campaign chariot from different places. During the roadshow, suddenly it started raining on Hoshangabad Road. The road show did not stop even in the midst of this rain. Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan also did a road show in this situation and interacted with the people and accepted their greetings. If there will be a BJP candidate in the ward and the mayor will also be of the BJP, then there will be no problem in any work. Development will get faster, Chouhan added.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan held a massive road show amid rain in the city on Saturday and sought votes for the

# Why Shivraj feels stomach ache on my interests, Kamal Nath

## Verbal war intensifying between Chouhan and Nath



Team Absolute | Chhindwara

While commenting on Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan's remark against him not having proper interest in Civic body polls MPCC president Kamal Nath here on Saturday hit back saying why Shivraj has stomach ache on his interests.

was in Chhindwara and had commented on Nath saying he has no interest in Civic body polls. "Why Shivraj's stomach aches on where I have interest and where I don't," added Nath.

Attacking the Chief Minister further, Nath went on to claim that Madhya Pradesh team has recently won Ranji Trophy but Chouhan has won a world cup in telling lies. The Chief Minister had

even accused then Kamal Nath government of discontinuing Sambal scheme. Nath while speaking to the media on Saturday in Chhindwara retaliated saying his government never stopped this scheme, only renamed it to Savera. Samabl was a key scheme launched by Chouhan ahead of 2018 assembly polls and was meant to help out those from economically weaker sections.

On Friday Chouhan who

# The torch of 44th Chess Olympiad will reach Bhopal on Monday

## TT GRAND PROGRAM WILL BE HELD IN NAGAR STADIUM WITH SPORTS MINISTER SCINDIA AS CHIEF GUEST

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The 44th Chess Olympiad is being organized for the first time in India by the Central Government with the aim of promoting the game of Chess, creating awareness and celebrating the 75th Amrit Mahotsav of Independence. Chess Olympiad torch relay will pass through 75 cities of the country. Chess torch relay will reach Bhopal on Monday 4th July.

The Olympiad torch will reach Indore from Goa on Sunday evening and depart for Ujjain. Higher Education Minister Mohan Yadav will welcome the Chess Torch Relay at Vikram Kirti Mandir Auditorium of Vikram University in Ujjain. The

Olympiad Torch Relay will also visit Ujjain's Mahakal temple and major places of the city.

On Monday, the Chess Olympiad torch relay was held at IPS Indore, Indore. Arrival at the academy. Water Resources, Fishermen Welfare and Fisheries Development Minister Tulsi Silavat will welcome him in the function organized here. The torch relay in Indore will leave for Bhopal while visiting the main places of the city including Lalbagh Palace. TT in Bhopal Sports and Youth Welfare Minister Yashodhara Rajee Scindia will welcome the Olympiad Chess Torch Relay in the grand program to be held at the Nagar Stadium. The torch will leave for Sanchi at 2:15 pm on the same day. The

torch relay will be welcomed on reaching Sanchi Stupa at 3:15 pm. The Olympiad torch relay will leave for Jhansi at 3:45 from Sanchi.

Chase torch relay on Tuesday at 11 am LNIPE. Will reach Gwalior, where the Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar will welcome the Olympiad torch. The torch relay will leave for New Delhi at 12:30 pm after visiting the Gwalior Fort and the major places of the city.

It is noteworthy that the Chess Olympiad is going to be held in India from July 28 to August 10. In the Chess Olympiad to be held in Mahabalipuram, Chennai, about two thousand players from 188 countries will perform the game of check and beat.

# STONES PELTED ON POLLING PARTY BUS, 3 INJURED

Indore: Three persons, including a member of a polling party returning from a polling booth after second phase of voting in panchayat elections, were injured on late Friday night when a group of people pelted stones in Dhar district of Madhya Pradesh.

SDOP Dilip Singh Bidwal said stones were pelted at the vehicle carrying the polling team in newly constituted Garwal gram panchayat of Gandhwani Janpad.

After the second phase of voting, the polling officials carried out counting of votes, romping supporters of one Bhangadi Bai to burst crackers assuming she had taken the lead. "Supporters of one of the woman candidates (later identified as Resham Bai) in the fray started pelting stones after she was found trailing during the counting," he said. A bus, which was ferrying the polling party back to the district headquarter, was hit by stones. A police vehicle was also damaged. "Windshields of the vehicles broke in the stone pelting" the SDOP said, adding that three persons including a member of the polling party sustained minor injuries in the incident. Dhar police has registered a case against Resham Bai, Badaam Singh, Jitendra, Mahendra, Fitesh, Urmila and around 50 unknown persons while further investigation was under way, Bidwal said.

# MP Board makes changes in rules to minimise errors in marksheets and admit cards

## Students to get dummy admit cards as soon as they fill exam forms

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh Board of Secondary Education has made changes in rules to minimise the errors in marksheets and admit cards. Students will be issued dummy admit cards and enrollment cards within seven days of the last date to apply for the examination, so that errors can be rectified immediately.

The Madhya Pradesh Board of Secondary Education has issued several guidelines by issuing the Admission Policy 2022-23. This time the board has issued guidelines by making changes in the application of the board exam

form, said the public relations officer of the board, Mukesh Malviya.

The state education board has given instructions that dummy admit cards and enrollment cards are being issued so that any errors can be rectified. The dummy admit card will be downloaded by the school principals and distributed to the students. After making amendments, the principal will have to send the declaration form to the board.

Board officials say that this time there will be no amendment in the admit card nor in the subject at the time of examination. Every year about 18 lakh

students appear in the 10th and 12th board exams.

From this session, 10th and 12th students of MP Board will not be able to change the subject right at the time of examination- a facility that was available to the students till the day of the commencement of the examination.

Apart from this, the students joining the schools will be able to enroll in class IX from July 15 to September 30. On the basis of the enrollment of class IX, students will be able to fill the form of class X examination from July 15 to September 30.

After 15th December, a late fee of Rs 10,000 will be charged for filling the examination form.

# 47TH FOUNDATION DAY OF RATAPANI SANCTUARY CELEBRATED IN VAN VIHAR

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The 47th Foundation Day of Ratapani Sanctuary, replete with all its natural beauty, housing more than 40 tigers and 249 species of birds, was celebrated at Van Vihar National Park today. Principal Secretary Forest Ashok Varnwal congratulated the management and staff for the foundation day of the sanctuary and the facilities provided to the tourists here.

It is worth mentioning that Ratapani Sanctuary was established on 2 July 1956. It is located in the Obaidullaganj forest division of Raisen district, spread over an area of 8259 square kilometers which is a suitable habitat for wild animals and birds.

Varnwal inaugurated the exhibition on the heritage of Ratapani Sanctuary. In the exhibition, murals, waterfalls, historical palaces, bawadiyas, bird variations were dis-



played. He released Ratapani Sanctuary Bird Survey Report, Van Vihar Insect Survey Report, Van Vihar Butterfly Conservation Report and Van Vihar Social Media Platform Poster. Also, Van Vihar software based online ticketing upgradation was

launched. Chief Conservator of Forests and Director Van Vihar HC Gupta presented a summary of the activities of Van Vihar and the Divisional Forest Officer, Obdullaganj briefed about the Ratapani Sanctuary. Principal Chief Conservator of

Forests and Chief of Forest Force Shri RK Gupta, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) Jasveer Singh Chauhan along with officers of Forest Department and retired senior officers were present.

# Cops apprehend two with seven stolen bikes, illicit liquor

Two youths were arrested by the joint team of the Crime Branch and Lasudia police station staff for allegedly carrying illicit liquor in the city. The cops also recovered over seven stolen bikes from them.

Team Absolute | Indore

Two youths were arrested by the joint team of the Crime Branch and Lasudia police station staff for allegedly carrying illicit liquor in the city. The accused are

from Uttar Pradesh and Vidisha.

The cops also recovered over seven stolen bikes stolen from them. The accused were identified as Vishwanath Chouhan of Prayagraj and Biharilal of Vidisha.

According to an official, acting on a tip-off, two persons on a bike were caught by the police while they were carrying illicit liquor to deliver it in the city. About 6 litres of liquor were seized from the accused. Notably, when the police officers asked about the documents of their bike, the miscreants were unable to show the same. Later, they allegedly confessed that the bike had been stolen by them. Following a lead given by the accused, the police

recovered six other stolen bikes. Further, the accused informed the police that the bikes were stolen from Khajrana, Lasudia and MIG area of the city.

The accused were handed over to the Lasudia police station staff for further action. They are being interrogated about other bike thefts in the city as well. The accused have been booked under relevant Sections of Excise Act and Indian Penal Code.

Similarly, a year ago, a team of the Excise Department seized illicit liquor and vehicles worth Rs 3.25 lakh. The police had stated that information was received that a car travelling down a road in Tejaji Nagar was carrying illicit liquor.

# CM CHOUHAN PLANTS NEEM, PEEPAL AND MOULSHREE SAPPLINGS



Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh planted Neem, Peepal and Moulshree saplings in the Smart City Garden along with the members of "We Care Social Welfare Society Bhopal" and two-year-old boy Grant Mishra.

Society members Atib Zubair, Kashish, Mohd. Areeb Khan, Ankita Shrivastava, i Harsh Singh and Neelendra were present during the plantation. Along with them, Krutika Mishra, Anshul Mishra, Asha Mishra, Supriya Mishra also planted saplings. The Peepal planted today is considered a tree that purifies the environment. It also has religious and Ayurvedic significance. Moulshree is a medicinal tree, it has been used in Ayurveda for centuries.

# MP civic polls:

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) is trying its luck in the municipal elections for the first time in Madhya Pradesh, promising free water, better schools and healthcare facilities.

Aam Aadmi Party national convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal while leading a roadshow in Singrauli on Saturday said the Congress and BJP have cheated the people of Madhya Pradesh and announced that his party would provide free water, electricity and health care if voted to power in the upcoming local body polls. The party has chosen mayoral candidates for 14 out of 16 municipal corporations in the state, the AAP's state unit chief Pankaj Singh said on Saturday. "We have chosen mayoral candidates in 14 out of 16 municipal corporations. We have also fielded candidates for corporators post." The elections to 413 urban bodies in Madhya Pradesh will be held on July 6 and 13. The party chief and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal take out a roadshow in support of his

# AAP TESTING ELECTORAL WATERS WITH PROMISE OF FREE WATER BETTER SCHOOLS

## The BJP and the opposition Congress in MP will also have to contend with the Asaduddin Owaisi-led All India Majlis-E-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM), which too is making its local body poll debut.

party's mayoral candidate Rani Agrawal in Singrauli during the day.

"Our major poll plank for the municipal elections is free water. We are going to make water tax-free in the urban civic bodies where we win," Singh said. He further claimed that schools in the state were in a bad shape. As many as 22,000 institutions were shut down in the 2018. Private schools, mainly of BJP leaders, were thriving, while the government-run institutions were shutting down, he alleged. At least 42,000 schools did not have drinking water facility, where either handpumps or taps were not functioning, the AAP leader claimed, adding that 67,000 schools did not have electricity. "We want to improve schools and healthcare facilities in the municipal limits," he said. Apart from the AAP, the All India Majlis-E-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) will also make its maiden foray into the municipal polls in the state. AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi has

been addressing public meetings in several parts of the state in the run up to the polls.

"The Congress and the BJP have cheated you. Give us a chance. I assure you Singrauli will be developed like Delhi where people are availing free water, electricity and health care. Only one party can do it," Kejriwal said at a public gathering while leading an impressive roadshow for his party's mayoral candidate Rani Agrawal in Singrauli. "I request the people of Madhya Pradesh to vote for our candidates in the civic elections. Give us one opportunity. If we don't work, kick us out. You have seen the Congress and BJP and their games so far. They don't work. They indulge in setting to rule for five years alternatively," he claimed. He said the people of Delhi ended this trend by giving AAP massive mandates, which led to the city buzzing with development, and citizens getting good schools and health care, 24-hour free electricity.

# JNCHRC STAFFERS ALSO SEEK AUDIT FROM GOVT AGENCY

Bhopal: After doctors, now employees' union has demanded audit from government agency in financial irregularities in Jawaharlal Nehru Cancer Hospital and Research Centre (JNCHRC) on Saturday.

The employees union, in letter to JNCHRC Chairperson, has raised the issue like financial irregularities and said that it makes dent in reputation of the institute. The union has demanded immediate intervention for bringing transparency in working of the Hospital. The letter has also been sent to divisional commissioner, Bhopal collector, registrar firm and society, Bhopal, Dean Gandhi Medical college, Principal Secretary health. Divisional commissioner and GMC dean are government nominee in the managing committee of the trust.

Earlier, doctors on June 27, had written similar memorandum to Chairperson demanding ouster of Chief Executive officer (CEO) Divya Joshi from institute. Doctors had blamed CEO responsible for chaos in JNCHRC.



## MICHAEL JACKSON'S NEPHEW SAYS IT'S EASY TO TARGET THE LATE KING OF POP

London | Agencies

Michael Jackson's nephew TJ Jackson has come out in the defence of his uncle since the former can't defend himself from all the gossip, speculations and conspiracy theories, for obvious reasons, reports 'Female First UK'.

TJ, (son of Tito Jackson) said "I think it's awful, to be honest. I think it's very sad. I think it's in a way disgusting because what sells in this world is negativity. People like to gossip, people like scandals. My uncle is not here to defend himself, so he's an easy target. He was always an easy target, because he was always quiet."

"But now that he's no longer with us, there couldn't be an easier target. Everyone knows who Michael Jackson is. So it's an easy story to sell. But I truly believe the truth always wins out," he added.

He also expressed his wish to make a biopic on his uncle, the one which stays true to the fact, "To become, you know, sex symbols for our huge band and number one in the early 70s as black kids is an incredible accomplishment. That story needs to be amplified in my opinion. So I think there will be a Jackson story, a biopic."

## George Clooney, Julia Roberts to reunite on screen for upcoming

London | Agencies

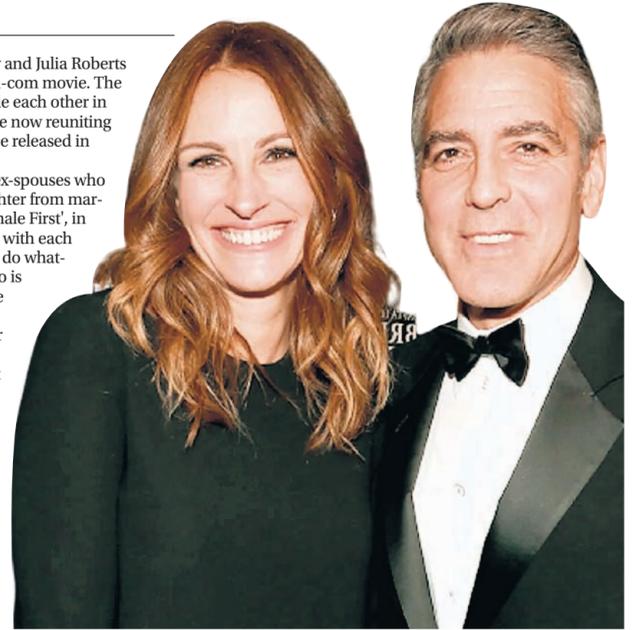
Hollywood stars George Clooney and Julia Roberts are set to reunite for a new rom-com movie. The two previously starred alongside each other in the 'Ocean's' film franchise, and they're now reuniting in 'Ticket to Paradise', which is set to be released in October, reports 'Female First UK'.

The Hollywood duo will appear as ex-spouses who team up in an effort to stop their daughter from marrying a man she's just met. As per 'Female First', in the movie, their characters are at odds with each other - but they're both determined to do whatever it takes to stop their daughter, who is played by Kaitlyn Dever, from tying the knot in Bali.

Julia hasn't starred in a rom-com for years. But the 'Pretty Woman' actress recently rubbished the suggestion that she's been reluctant to shoot another rom-com.

The Oscar-winning star said, "People sometimes misconstrue the amount of time that's gone by that I haven't done a romantic comedy as my not wanting to do one."

"If I had read something that I thought was that 'Notting Hill' level of writing or 'My Best Friend's Wedding' level of madcap fun, I would do it."



## 'TEXAS CHAINSAW' STAR ALEXANDRA DADDARIO MARRIES BOYFRIEND

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood actress Alexandra Daddario, who is known for her work in 'Baywatch' and 'Texas Chainsaw 3D', has tied the nuptial knot with her boyfriend Andrew Form, reports 'People'.

The two got married in New Orleans, and the bride did so in a silk wool gown by Danielle Frankel that could not have been more perfect for the setting.

"I fell in love with Danielle Frankel's dresses," Alexandra told 'Vogue'. "I followed them on Instagram. They sent me a message, and we chatted, and when I went to their studio, I just felt beautiful in everything. I chose my dress because it felt like it belonged in New Orleans and was the right choice for the Louisiana heat."

Daddario and Form met by chance during the pandemic, when they bumped into each other on the street in New York. They got engaged at the end of 2021, and Daddario shared her happiness on Instagram, writing, "The absolutely most wonderful man, you handle nonsense, loss, life, difficulty, people, with grace and compassion."

She added that Form took the "worst moments" of her life and made everything better.



## Captain Jack Sparrow is back; popular Disneyland ride reopens

Los Angeles | Agencies

Before the fans get all excited, it's the Captain Jack Sparrow attraction that has reopened at Disneyland for enthusiastic fans -- after a few technical hiccups, reports 'Deadline'.

The ride, which was installed at the theme park in 1967, was closed for refurbishment on March 14 and was originally scheduled to reopen in "summer 2022", and then July 1.

Disneyland dropped the rope, according to 'Deadline', on Friday (Pacific Standard Time) and fans were there en masse to experience the revamp.

First impressions are that little has changed beyond maybe some sound

improvements and a bit of cleanup. That's notable since the attraction's main attraction, Johnny Depp in the form of Captain Jack Sparrow, has been through a few things during the closure.

Questions have swirled about Depp's future as a franchise star and, while the jury is still out on another Pirates film -- or whether he'd even want to do one -- Disney could have easily taken this opportunity to excise the star from the classic ride, but it didn't. Five years ago ahead of the



release of 'Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales', Depp himself popped up in full Captain Jack costume and makeup at several points along the ride's path to surprise fans.

## DENZEL WASHINGTON TO RECEIVE PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM

Los Angeles | Agencies

Celebrated actor Denzel Washington's list of accolades keeps getting bigger. The latest addition to the list is the Presidential Medal of Freedom, reports 'Variety'.

President Joe Biden announced the 17 honourees on Friday. Presented annually, the medal recognises public figures who have made notable contributions to American society, culture, politics or world peace.

The awards are presented in a ceremony at the White House every July.

'Variety' notes that Washington is the only actor or entertainment figure recognised this year, although sports figures Simone Biles and Megan Rapinoe are also among the medal winners.

The Medal of Freedom recipients will be feted on July 7, three days after the US Independence Day.



## ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Christine Quinn

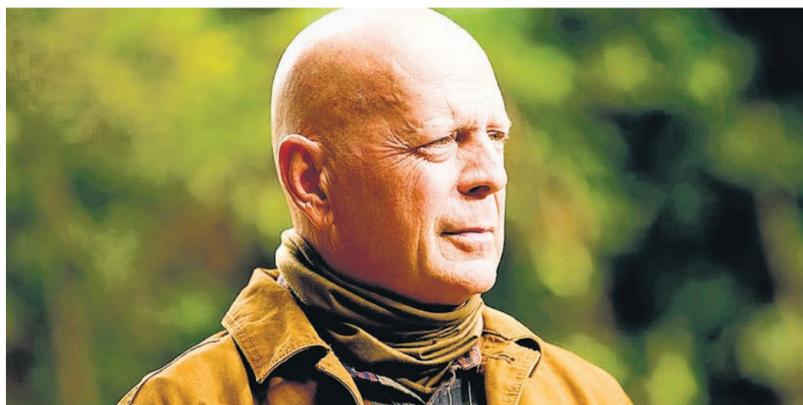
## Bruce Willis wanted to continue working despite aphasia diagnosis

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood superstar Bruce Willis is undergoing treatment for aphasia. An attorney for the 'Die Hard' actor recently revealed that he wanted to continue starring in filmmaker Randall Emmett's movies following his aphasia diagnosis, reports 'Newsweek'.

It was announced in March that Willis, 67, is stepping away from acting after his diagnosis with the condition. Aphasia can impair language by impacting the "production or comprehension" of speech and the ability to read or write, according to the National Aphasia Association.

The 'Los Angeles Times' recently published a lengthy feature that listed a host of allegations against Emmett, which he



has denied.

The report also revealed that Willis continued to work with frequent collaborator Emmett amid his ongoing health issues.

Responding to the report, Willis' attorney, Martin Singer, told the publication in a statement: "My client continued working after his medical diagnosis because he wanted to work and was able to do so, just like many others diagnosed with aphasia who are capable of continuing to work."

"Because Mr. Willis appeared in those films, they could get financed," the attorney added. "That resulted in literally thousands of people having jobs, many during the COVID-19 Pandemic."



## ENG v IND, 5th Test

# RAIN BRINGS EARLY IN EDGBASTON AFTER BUMRAH RUNS THROUGH TOP-ORDER

Birmingham | Agencies

Rain brought an early end to the second session on day two of the rescheduled fifth Test between England and India at Edgbaston on Saturday. At tea, England are 60/3 in 15.1 overs, trailing India by 356 runs with skipper Jasprit Bumrah running through the top-order to pick 3-30 in seven overs.

The session, majorly dominated by rain, had Ollie Pope swivel-pulling a Mohammed Shami bouncer through deep square leg for a boundary. But in the next over, Bumrah bowled outside the off-stump and found the outer edge of Zak Crawley on an expansive drive pounced safely by third slip.

Joe Root had some nervous moments; beaten twice by Bumrah before almost chopping onto his stumps off Shami. Bumrah beat the outer edge of Pope and bowled two more balls before rain stopped play for the second time in the day.

After an interruption of an hour and 45 minutes, with a loss of 26 overs, Root drove Bumrah through mid-off before Pope cut Shami through backward point. With condi-



### Brief scores

India 416 in 84.5 overs (Rishabh Pant 146, Ravindra Jadeja 104; James Anderson 5-60, Matthew Potts 2-105) lead England 60/3 in 15.1 overs (Joe Root 19 not out, Jasprit Bumrah 3-30) by 356 runs

tions helpful, Bumrah and Shami kept things tight, with the India skipper looking more lethal.

Bumrah troubled Pope more in the 11th over, getting one to jag back in and beat the inner edge to sow seeds of doubt. After neat defence and a no-ball, Bumrah bowled one fuller and outside the off-stump, enticing Pope to drive away from the body. Pope fell into the trap and the second slip on rebound caught the catch coming off the thick edge of the bat.

Jonny Bairstow got a streaky

boundary off a leading edge from Bumrah but was solid in pulling Mohammed Siraj through deep square leg. Root, who had been cautious till then, attempted a wild swing through the covers off Shami but was beaten before rain stopped play again and brought an early end to the session.

Earlier, rain forced early lunch after India grabbed control of the match, making 416 in 84.5 overs in the first innings before Bumrah castled Alex Lees to leave England at 16/1 in three

overs. Ravindra Jadeja reached his third Test century, making a splendid 104. Bumrah then hit a crucial 16-ball 31, including taking 29 runs off pacer Stuart Broad in an over of 35 runs, claiming the record for the most expensive over in Test cricket.

For England, who leaked 78 runs in 11.5 overs to wrap India's innings, James Anderson picked his sixth five-wicket haul (5-60) against India in Test cricket.

### Absolutely bizarre: Shastri on Bumrah's carnage against Broad

"Now don't tell me I was again on the mic, when 35 runs were scored. I thought I'd seen it all, but not really, you know 36 from Yuvraj (Singh), 36 I had hit myself. And today what I saw was bizarre. It's something we would have never imagined, the world record from Jasprit Bumrah, batting at number 10 as captain of India for the first time, going past (Brian) Lara, George Bailey and Keshav Maharaj."

# Can't tell how tough time was: Sakshi Malik

New Delhi | Agencies

Olympic bronze medalist Sakshi Malik on Saturday revealed that she has gone through a tough time in the last two years but the national trials helped in getting her 'confidence' and 'mojo' back and the wrestler is determined to win the medal at the Commonwealth Games, scheduled to begin from July 28 in Birmingham.

Sakshi had grabbed a place in the 62kg weight category in the national squad in May. It had taken the 29-year-old Sakshi five bouts to finally beat her nemesis -- 20-year-old Sonam Malik -- in the selection trials to earn that place.

The 2014 Olympics wrestling bronze medalist recently won the gold medal at the UWW Ranking Series in Kazakhstan. However, the grappler believes that it was the national trial that gave her more confidence than the Ranking Series triumph.

"I have been struggling for the last two years. And when I won the trials (for CWG) I



was so relieved at that time. Yes, I bagged gold in Ranking. It was also important but the win in the trials was something I felt great about.

"I can't tell how tough time was for me, losing bouts made me feel bad and I used to speak about my problems with my husband only and he would support me. I never believed in aggressive fighting, my style is simple to

attack and defence but I faced rough fights too. Hair pulling and breaking fingers is what I am talking about. One of my opponents used to do it. But I believe that when you love a sport you must follow what is right. And it helped me," an emotional Sakshi told reporter.

Further talking about her preparations for CWG, she said that the training is "going great guns".

## S8UL is first Indian group to be nominated for a global esports award

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Proving yet again India's growing stature in the world, S8UL became the first Indian esports group to be nominated for the prestigious global "Esports Awards" in the 'Content Group of the Year' category. S8UL co-founder Naman Mathur aka Mortal has been nominated for 'Esports Personality of the Year'.

The esports awards are regarded as the most popular and significant annual awards in the industry globally. It is the world's top honour for the excellence and accomplishments of athletes and teams in the Esports industry worldwide.

S8UL is the brainchild of the country's three veteran esports players, Naman Mathur aka Mortal, Animesh Agarwal aka 8Bit Thug and Lokesh Jain aka Goldy, who created this organisation to shape the Indian gaming industry into a mix of professional gameplay and engaging content for the audiences.

In two years since its inception, S8UL has not only won major tournaments but has also emerged as a national sensation. With top creators and gamers on their roster, S8UL has been actively promoting the acceptance and appeal of gaming content in India through



their online platforms like YouTube, Instagram, discord, etc. S8UL is in contention for the award along with nine other top international organisations, such as 100 Thieves, FaZe Clan, One True King and Full Squad Gaming. Mortal has been nominated alongside other top athletes like Faker and Goldenboy. He is also the only Indian esports athlete to be nominated in the history of the global "Esports Awards". Earlier, he was nominated for the Streamer of the Year in 2020 and 2021 and claimed second place on both occasions.

# India's boxer Kalaivani storms into final in Elorda Cup; Kuldeep in semis

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Indian boxer Kalaivani Srinivasan entered the final with a dominating victory while Kuldeep Kumar progressed into the semifinals of the Elorda Cup in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan on Saturday.

According to information received here, Kalaivani demonstrated excellent skills against Uzbekistan's Farzona Fozilova in the women's 48kg semifinal. The Chennai-born boxer's powerful blows and the persistent attack didn't allow her opponent any opportunity to settle down as she comfortably won by unanimous decision in the end.

Kuldeep provided India a winning start on the fourth day of the competition but had to work hard for the victory. Kuldeep faced a stiff challenge from the local boy Kairat Yernur



in the nail-biting men's 48kg quarter-final encounter. However, with a cautious approach and precise attack, he

notched up a close 3-2 win.

Meanwhile, another boxer in the men's section, Yashpal lost to

Kazakhstan's Aslanbek Shymbergenov by a 0-5 margin in the 71kg quarterfinal. Among women, Babita Bisht (81kg), Jyoti (52kg) and Neema (63kg) signed off with bronze medals after defeats in the semifinals. While Babita suffered a defeat against China's Zheng Lu by the 'Referee Stops the Contest' verdict, Jyoti and Neema conceded identical 0-5 losses against Uzbekistan's Feruza Kazakova and Kazakhstan's Anar Tursynbek respectively. Savita's challenge also came to an end in the quarterfinals as she was handed a 0-5 loss by the Tokyo Olympics bronze medalist Japan's Namiki Tsukimi in the 50kg category. Later on Saturday night, 2021 Youth World champions Gitika (48kg) and Alfiya Pathan (+81kg), and Lalita (70kg) will fight in the semifinals while Rajni (50kg) will play her quarter-final.

# A rivalry has developed between India and England on the hockey field: Captain Savita

Amstelveen (Netherlands) | Agencies

As India look set to take on England in their opening Pool B game of the FIH Women's Hockey World Cup Spain and Netherlands 2022 on July 3, captain Savita believes a rivalry has developed between the two teams over the last few years, which has seen players from both sides bring their 'A' game to the fore whenever they clash.

The Indian women's hockey team and England have shared an exciting rivalry with encounters between the two teams going down to the wire on most occasions. Though at the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games, India lost the bronze-medal match to Great Britain 3-4, many players from that GB squad will take on India as they represent



England on Sunday, in their inaugural match here.

At the previous edition of the World Cup in London in 2018, India matched the performance of England with a 1-1 draw in the round-robin league match. Earlier that year, the Indian women's team had beaten England 2-1 in the group stage of the Commonwealth Games in Gold Coast, but had lost to them in the

bronze-medal match. The two teams had gone neck-and-neck in the 2006 World Cup where they drew 1-1 as well as the 2002 Champions Challenge 3-3 and had lost 1-0 in the 1998 Women's World Cup group league match. Going by stats, the game on Sunday promises to be thrilling. Talking about India's opponent, Savita said, "Even though as a team, we would be focused on our own per-

formance, England and India have faced off in some very close encounters and undoubtedly a rivalry has developed over the past three-four years in particular.

"Some of our players want to challenge their goalkeeper Maddie Hinge, who has been quite exceptional at the goalpost. And they also have some very experienced players like Laura Unsworth, Giselle Ansley, their Captain Hollie Pearne-Webb and Lily Owsley who will bring their 'A' game against us," Savita added.

India and England were scheduled to play a double-header in the FIH Pro League earlier this year, which would have given insights into their game. But the match was cancelled. However, India remain optimistic about their chances here at the World Cup.

## Wimbledon 2022

# Harmony Tan overcomes Katie Boulter, reaches fourth round

London | Agencies

Unseeded French woman Harmony Tan, playing in the third round of a Grand Slam for the first time, wasted no time in extending her stay here, beating Britain's Katie Boulter at the Wimbledon on Saturday.

Harmony Tan had defeated Serena Williams in the first round while Katie had gotten the better of 2021 Wimbledon finalist Karolina Pliskova.

The two giant-killers faced each other in the first match of the day on No.2 Court and the French woman was in unstoppable form as she beat her opponent 6-1, 6-1.

The 25-year-old Boulter was playing the third round of a major for the first time. Boulter is ranked No.118 while Tan is placed No. 115, so with the two players separated by only 18 points in the rankings, their clash was expected to be close. But composed from the word go, the nerveless Frenchwoman was



always in charge as she forged her way to victory in just 51 minutes.

"I don't think I believe it yet," she told the crowd on No.2 Court after the match.

"If I sleep a little bit tonight, maybe I will believe it tomorrow. Today was really good tennis although I don't know why. It's amazing. I like grass. And I like to play with slice and volley, so I'm really happy. It was very emotional after the first round against Serena, and now I'm just playing match by match."

## Cricketers across the world wonderstruck with Rishabh Pant's heroics

Edgbaston | Agencies

Cricketers across the world were wonderstruck by Rishabh Pant's heroics with the bat on the opening day of the rescheduled fifth Test against England on Friday, with the likes of Michael Vaughan, West Indian legend Ian Bishop and Sachin Tendulkar taking to social media to congratulate the player on his century-making feat amid extremely trying circumstances.

Pant produced a phenomenal innings of 146 runs off just 111 balls rescuing India from a precarious position on the opening day in Edgbaston. His partnership with Ravindra Jadeja (83 not out) started with India struggling at 98/5, eventually helping the team past the 300-run mark with a magnificent 222-run stand for the sixth wicket.

Pant's innings saw many current and former cricketers heap praise on the 24-year-old for producing one of the most entertaining and crucial innings of his young career.

Sachin Tendulkar posted images of Pant playing some magnificent shots and wrote, "Simply awesome @RishabhPant17! Well



done. Crucial innings by @imjadeja. Rotated the strike well and played some amazing shots."

Former India captain and the current BCCI president Sourav Ganguly tweeted, "Special exhibition of test match batting under pressure. @RishabhPant17 @imjadeja ..can't get better than this ..get to 375 tmrw."

# Belgium twin stars shine at opening stage of Tour de France in Copenhagen

Copenhagen | Agencies

Belgium's Yves Lampaert and Wout van Aert finished one-two at the opening stage of Tour de France as the most northerly Tour start in history took place through the wet streets and boulevards of the Danish capital city of Copenhagen on Friday afternoon.

Denmark, the 10th country to host the Grand Depart, saw its capital city divided by makeshift barriers as racers navigated the first stage of 13.2 kilometres long single start.

Jeremy Lecoq of France was the first of 175 riders, including 10 Danes, to roll down the starting ramp and begin racing on the city's wet roads, Xinhua reports.

The slippery conditions caused three crashes, including two pre-



race favourites, Stefan Bissegger and Christophe Laporte, as well as the Australian Jack Bauer.

Despite the occasionally treacherous conditions, Lampaert and Van Aert won the first and second places of the opening stage, with times of

15 minutes and 17 seconds and 15 minutes and 23 seconds respectively. Defending champion Tadej Pogacar from Slovenia finished third, while the single-start world champion from Italy, Filippo Ganna, placed fourth. Mads Pedersen and

Jonas Vingegaard were the fastest Danes but both came in 15 seconds behind Lampaert, whose victory lays a solid foundation for Saturday's second stage in Denmark.

The second stage of the Tour moves 30 kilometres west of Copenhagen to the city of Roskilde, where riders will compete for the yellow jersey in a 202.2-kilometre race with modest climbs between Roskilde and Nyborg.

In 2022, four countries, Denmark, Belgium, Switzerland and France, will be represented on the Tour de France map, the most since 2017.

It is the second time Denmark has hosted a Grand Tour start. The inaugural Giro d'Italia began in the Danish city of Herning, 310.3km northwest of Copenhagen, in 2012.



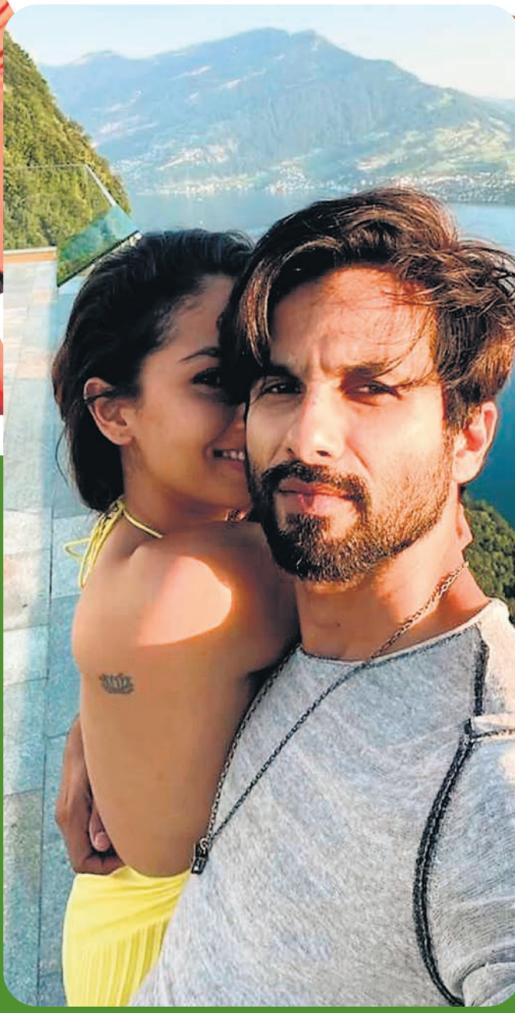
## RANBIR'S BIG DREAM: TO PLAY VILLAIN ONCE IN HIS LIFETIME

Team Absolute | Mumbai

**B**ollywood star Ranbir Kapoor harbours the dream of essaying a negative character. The actor expressed his wish to do so and spoke about his love for the bad boys of Hindi cinema. The actor listed out some of his favourite on-screen villains -- the iconic Amjad Khan as Gabbar Singh in 'Sholay', Amrish Puri as Mogambo in 'Mr. India', Sanjay Dutt as Kancha Cheena in 'Agnepath', Ranveer Singh as Alauddin Khilji in 'Padmaavat' and Shah Rukh Khan in 'Darr'.

"We invariably side with the hero," Ranbir said. "But if there was no villain for the hero to show his heroism, how would a hero be a hero? I have a dream that once I will do a negative role and people will tell their kids 'so jaa, so jaa nahi toh Ranbir aa jayega!'"

He added: "As our cinema evolves, the villain's character too is becoming more and more complex and interesting. I'm looking forward to the bad guys we are yet to watch, to the actors who will scare us out of our seats and to the villains that will redefine evil."



## Kiara Advani talks about the joys of being helmed by S. Shankar

Team Absolute | Mumbai

**K**iara Advani, who is enjoying the success of her recently released films 'Jug Jugg Jeeyo' and 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2', said her first-ever pan-India project, 'RC15', starring Telugu actor Ram Charan and directed by S. Shankar, has been quite a unique experience for her.

From the look to the world of the story, it was a very different journey for her, and that was the most exciting part.

Kiara said: "Even though I am not allowed to reveal much about the story and my character just now yet, I can say, it is a different world altogether. We know the genius Shankar sir is, he can turn any story and character larger than life. He is like a magician and working with him is a huge learning lesson for me."

"I am like a sponge on the set, constantly observing everything happening around us. We have been shooting since November last year and I will go for our next schedule soon. It is my first pan-India film, super excited I am!" she said.

Shankar, a multiple award-winning Tamil director, is best known for his films 'Gentleman', 'Jeans', 'Indian' and '2.0'.

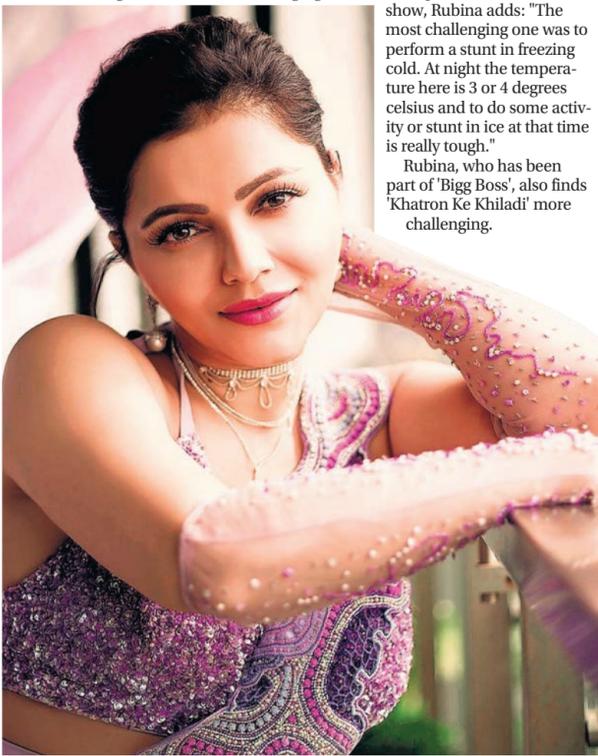


## Rubina Dilaik opens up on dangers of doing stunts

Team Absolute | New Delhi

**T**he well-known TV actress Rubina Dilaik shares her experience of being part of 'Khatron Ke Khiladi 12' and the reason to say 'yes' to the show. She says: "Initially more than excitement, there was nervousness. Maybe I sound foolish but when I was going to do 'Big Boss', I had not seen that show and similarly, I had never followed this show. But as I am doing stunts, slowly I am understanding its format." On the question why she said, 'yes', she replies: "I did not have a daily soap running at this point in time. So, I said yes. And of course this is one of the biggest reality shows that Indian television has, and being a part of it is definitely important and honourable for an artist."

While sharing about the most challenging stunt that she performed on the show, Rubina adds: "The most challenging one was to perform a stunt in freezing cold. At night the temperature here is 3 or 4 degrees celsius and to do some activity or stunt in ice at that time is really tough." Rubina, who has been part of 'Big Boss', also finds 'Khatron Ke Khiladi' more challenging.



## SHAHID SHARES VACAY PICS WITH MIRA, FANS CALL HER SHAHID'S 'REAL PREETI'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

**K**abir Singh star Shahid Kapoor is currently on a vacation with his wife Mira Rajput and their kids, Misha and Zain, in Switzerland. The actor recently took to his social media and shared a picture with Mira who was in a backless yellow dress. He had his hand around her waist as she looked away from the camera.

He also shared a picture with Mira, on his feed. It showed Mira with her head on his shoulder. The mountain range can be seen in the background in blue as the sun shines on them. A fan commented on his post, "What a fabulous both you looking."

Another wrote, "So cute." A fan even wrote, "Kabir Singh ki asli Preeti."

Many also blessed the couple in the comments section. Meanwhile, on the work front, Shahid will be soon making his OTT debut with his series 'Farzi'.

## Sidharth Malhotra, Chris Pratt discuss food, fitness, playing military men

Team Absolute | Mumbai

**B**ollywood actor Sidharth Malhotra and Hollywood star Chris Pratt recently engaged in a conversation over their love for Indian food, fitness, and essaying the role of an armed force officer on the occasion of the release of Pratt's upcoming OTT series 'The Terminal List'.

While Sidharth was seen as the Kargil war-hero Captain Vikram Batra (PVC) in Bollywood film 'Shershaah', Chris Pratt essays the role of US Navy SEAL James Reece in 'The Terminal List'.

"It's kind of surprising to see you in this kind of a role. While watching the trailer, I kept thinking that you will crack a joke!" Sidharth said.

Chris agreed to Sidharth's statement and said, "It's true that you would expect some kind of a joke or goofing around from me when you see me in a film. 'The Terminal List' is definitely not that, and you will realise that early on, right from the

pilot episode of the series."

In the video, Pratt also tried to decode Indian foods such as Chicken 65 and Bheja Fry. Chris' funny guesswork on Chicken 65 left Sidharth in splits, asking for an illustration of Chris' version of the food. Pratt promised to visit India and try some 'brain fry' someday.



## Dabboo Mallik on son Amaal Mallik's song:- Today I am a proud father

Team Absolute | Mumbai

**A**maal Mallik who has been a household name with his heart-touching music and equally impressive voice. The actor is all set to bring us another soulful melody titled 'Chalo Theek Hai'.

Ahead of release, an exclusive preview of the song was held at a studio in Mumbai in the presence of Amaal Mallik, Manpreet Kaur Kaile, Dabboo Mallik and

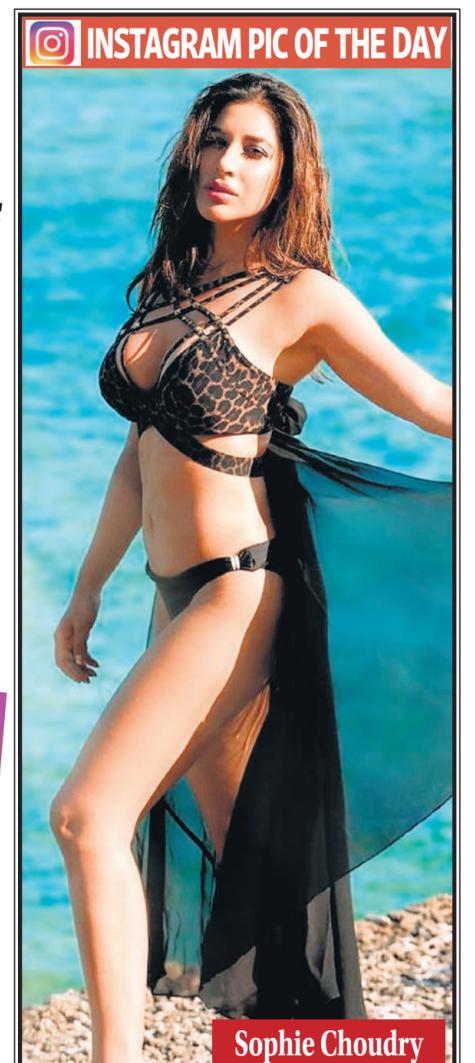
makers of the music video.

Talking about the decision of acting in the song Amaal Mallik said that, "Like singing and composing songs, now I have started enjoying acting too. I thoroughly enjoyed while shooting this song. During the shoot I totally relied on the director of the music video Krish which is his first song as a director. I must say that my co-star Manpreet Kaur Kaile has also done a fabulous job in the song. She acted like a seasoned artist and we had lot of fun

together while shooting the amazing song."

During the preview of the music video Amaal Mallik's father Dabboo Mallik also made his presence felt. He said, "Today I am a proud father as Amaal has not only done a good job as a singer and composer but as an actor too."

Not only this, but he also acknowledged the hard work that went behind making this song.



Sophie Choudry