

absolute india

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INDIA CAN ACHIEVE CLEAN ENERGY INDEPENDENCE BY 2047: US STUDY

Examining India's three most energy intensive sectors -- power, transport and industry, the study, titled *Pathways to Atmanirbhar Bharat*, which translates to "self-reliant India", determined that achieving energy independence will generate significant economic, environmental, and energy benefits. This includes \$2.5 trillion in consumer savings through 2047, reducing fossil fuel import expenditure by 90 per cent or \$240 billion per year by 2047, enhancing India's industrial competitiveness globally, and enabling India's net-zero commitment ahead of schedule.

- India is the third largest energy consumer in the world and its energy demand will quadruple in the coming decades, thanks to the rapid economic growth.
- Currently, it must import 90 per cent of the oil, 80 per cent of the industrial coal, and 40 per cent of the natural gas it consumes. Price and supply volatility in the global energy markets, as witnessed in recent years, strain India's foreign exchange reserves, resulting in economy-wide inflation.



never been stronger. India has achieved the world's lowest renewable energy prices and has found some of the world's largest lithium reserves," said Nikit Abhyankar, Berkeley Lab scientist and the lead author of the study.

"This can propel India towards cost-effective energy independence in a way that is economically and environmentally advantageous." The study shows that India's energy independence pathway would involve the power sector installing more than 500 GW of non-fossil

electricity generation capacity by 2030, a goal already announced by the government, followed by an 80 per cent clean grid by 2040 and 90 per cent by 2047.

Nearly 100 per cent of new vehicle sales could be electric by 2035. Heavy industrial production could shift primarily to green hydrogen and electrification: 90 per cent of iron and steel, 90 per cent of cement, and 100 per cent of fertilizers by 2047.

Most of the lithium needed (estimated 2 million tons by 2040) for

manufacturing new electric vehicles and grid-scale battery storage systems could be produced domestically using newly discovered reserves.

In addition, Indian industry must transition to clean technologies such as EV and green steel manufacturing. India is one of the world's largest auto and steel exporters, with their largest markets in EU countries committed to carbon neutrality and a potential carbon border adjustment tariff. The study finds that India has a unique advantage to leapfrog to a clean energy future since the bulk of its energy infrastructure has yet to be built.

India's growing energy demand offers a significant runway of 15 years for the existing fossil energy assets to transition to clean energy. This transition will be important to do in concert with the most affected communities, ensuring an equitable transition for the country's workforce. This energy transition would require significant policy support, including deployment mandates for clean technologies, financial and policy support for emerging technologies such as green hydrogen, and investment in domestic manufacturing capacity.

COVID-19 PANDEMIC LIKELY TO SETTLE AS SEASONAL FLU THIS YEAR: WHO

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Covid-19 pandemic, which has so far claimed more than seven million deaths globally, may likely end up being as public health emergency of international concern this year and pose a seasonal flu threat, the World Health Organization (WHO) has said. "I'm confident that this year we will be able to say that Covid-19 is over as a public health emergency of international concern," WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said at a media briefing. "And I think we're coming to that point where we can look at Covid-19 in the same way we look at seasonal influenza," he added.

The WHO chief said that Covid will continue to pose a threat to human health. It will turn into a "virus that will continue to kill, but a virus that is not disrupting our



society or disrupting our hospital system".

He added that the virus may become more transmissible but not cause severe disease.

Covid-19 was marked as pandemic on March 11, 2020.

"We declared a global health emergency to spur countries to take decisive action, but not all countries did," he said on Friday.

"Three years later, there are almost seven million

reported deaths from Covid-19, although we know that the actual number of deaths is much higher."

He noted that for the first time, the weekly number of reported deaths over the past four weeks has been lower than the time the virus was declared a pandemic.

Yet more than 5,000 deaths have been reported per week. It is "too many for a disease that can be prevented and treated", the WHO chief said.

HELICOPTER JOYRIDES FOR TOURISTS BEGIN IN JAIPUR

Jaipur: Tourists can now enjoy the aerial view of the Pink City. From Friday, the service for seeing various tourist spots here by helicopter -- Aravali forests and Amer Fort, Nahargarh, Jaigarh, Jalmahal, Hawa Mahal -- are available. The cost for this joy ride is Rs 5000-7000. This facility will also be available in other cities of the state, including Jodhpur and Udaipur. Preparations are also on to start a helicopter service for visiting religious places of Rajasthan. Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation (RTDC) is planning for this. RTDC chairman Dharmendra Rathore said that after Jaipur, helicopter joyrides will be started in Udaipur as well. Also, a special circle is being prepared for the devotees coming to visit the temple. Under this, devotees will be able to go to Khatushyam ji, Salasar Hanuman temple and Pushkar by helicopter. After this, helicopter joyrides will be started at other tourist places, including Ranthambore and Ghana Bird Sanctuary (Bharatpur). The idea is also going on to start cruise tourism in Chambal, said Rathore.

Woman approaches Bihar court for bail to toddler son

Team Absolute | Patna

Police in Bihar's Begusarai had registered an FIR against a 2-year-old toddler in 2021!

The incident came to light when the toddler's mother Priyanka Devi, holding her son in her lap, reached the district court to seek bail for him. When people learnt about this case, they assembled at the place to see the toddler, who was booked under the Pandemic act for breaching police barricades during the second wave of Covid-19. "The Begusarai police registered an FIR (Case number 224/2021) against 8 persons including the toddler under the relevant sections of the Pandemic act on April 10, 2021 in Mufassil police station. At that time, police had barricaded a place in my village named Suja. The barricades were broken by the other seven persons but Begusarai police booked my son as well who was just 2 years old at that time. The current age of my son is 3 and half years now," Priyanka said. "I came here to seek bail for my son in this case," she added.



A senior lawyer, however, convinced her to return to the village, telling her that a case cannot be lodged against a child who is less than 7 years old. The act of Begusarai police was illegal and an application was filed in the court to dismiss the FIR against him.

Under section 82 of Indian Penal Code, there is a provision that police cannot register FIR against a child having less than 7 years old, as children of such age are deemed to not commit crimes and are not liable to be punished.

'Gulabi Gang' sari finds its way to London exhibition

Lucknow | Agencies

The Design Museum of London, in an attempt to celebrate the movement of rural women's empowerment, has decided to exhibit the 'pink sari' in an exhibition on Indian fashion "Offbeat Sari" that will open in May.

The 'pink sari' is a symbol of women sisterhood, popularised by the vigilante group of Bundelkhand known as 'Gulabi Gang'. The Gulabi Gang members, wearing pink saris, fight against oppression, beating pink sticks on the ground. This extraordinary women's movement started by Sampat Pal in 2006 has drawn global attention.

Sampat Pal said: "Gulabi Gang's fight has reached foreign lands. I was happy when called to France for the first time in 2008. We have now grown to 11 lakh members. I am



sending my sari along with blouse, petticoat and stick to London by a courier to be displayed there."

The Gulabi Gang was launched to seek justice against those accused of "committing atrocities against women" or indulging in corruption.

Priya Khanchandani, the curator of the exhibition, in an email sent to Sampat Pal said: "Dear Gulabi Gang, I have followed your incredible work for up to a decade now and hope you

don't mind me getting in touch. I would love to include a pink sari belonging to the Gulabi Gang in the exhibition as an example of the sari as an object of resistance and wondered if you might be able to lend a pink sari worn by one of your members to us. Would you be willing to lend us a sari worn by Sampat Pal or another key member of the group?"

She wrote, "I would be honoured to tell the story of the Gulabi Gang's work to audiences here in the UK and to display the sari among a carefully chosen selection of saris reflecting the story of contemporary India today." The exhibition, titled "The Offbeat Sari", focusses on the sari as a contemporary fashion garment. It celebrates the sari as an innovative, forward-thinking object which has been absorbent of cultural influences and been a vessel for the expression of identity.

WPL will push standard of women's game forward: Heather Knight

Mumbai: England captain Heather Knight, who is currently playing for Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) in the inaugural edition of the Women's Premier League (WPL), feels the tournament has the bright potential to push the standard of women's cricket forward and bring in investment.

"When the men's IPL started, you saw a shift in the game. And that's definitely the case here. The money involved is just crazy and I think the standard has been very strong.

There are going to be so many benefits from it. It is going to push the standard of the game forward and bring in investment," Knight said on the first episode of Sky Cricket's Diggers and Lyds podcast.

Talking about her experience of playing WPL in India, she said, "The passion for cricket out here (in India) is unbelievable. It's such an amazing place to play. Cricketers here are treated like gods. They just love the game so much. Indian fans are the noisiest in the world, for me."

Ratan Tata appointed to 'Order of Australia' for bolstering bilateral ties

Team Absolute | New Delhi

India's top industrialist and philanthropist Ratan Tata has been appointed to the 'Order of Australia' for distinguished service to the Australia-India relationship, particularly to trade, investment, and philanthropy, Australia's Governor General has announced.

As of 2022, Ratan Tata, the Chairman Emeritus of Tata Sons and former Chairman of Tata Group, has a net worth of Rs 3800 crore.

"In recognition of his support for the Australia-India relationship, he is worthy of formal national recognition with an appointment as an Honorary Officer in the General Division of the Order of Australia (AO)," a statement by the office of Governor General read.

"Delighted at the Australian Governor-General's announce-



ment to appoint Mr Ratan Tata an Honorary Officer in the Order of Australia (AO) for distinguished service to the Australia-India relationship, particularly to trade, investment & philanthropy," Barry O'Farrell, Australia's High Commissioner to India, tweeted on Friday.

"His work includes supporting

development and creating opportunity across a wide range of fields including health, nutrition, education, water, agriculture, the environment and energy, social justice and inclusion, digital transformation, disaster relief, and women's economic empowerment," the statement said.

Kareena's son doesn't eat until he hears 'Naatu Naatu'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood actress Kareena Kapoor Khan, whose streaming talk show 'What Women Want', released its fourth season on Friday, has revealed that her younger son Jehangir absolutely loves dancing to the Oscar winning song 'Naatu Naatu' and that he doesn't eat unless the song is played for him.

The actress told reporter, "Jeh only eats his dinner when we play 'Naatu Naatu' and he wants the original version not the Hindi dub version of the song. The song touches a 2 year old's heart, it shows that they have created something spectacular with the film and the song". With India bagging two Oscars at the 95th Academy Awards, it has brought a sense of pride for every Indian. Kareena feels proud to be a member of the fraternity that's bringing accolades for the country on the international platform.

She said, "I'm very proud to see the audience watching more movies, be it Hindi films, regional films, parallel films or documentaries. People are taking Indian cinema a lot more seriously and as a member of the fraternity it fills my heart with so much pride and gratitude towards our audience".





PMS MODI, HASINA INAUGURATE INDIA-BANGLADESH ENERGY PIPELINE



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Bangladesh counterpart Sheikh Hasina on Saturday jointly inaugurated the India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline (IBFP) in a virtual mode.

The foundation stone for the construction of this pipeline was laid by both Prime Ministers in September 2018. Numaligarh Refinery Ltd has been supplying petroleum products to Bangladesh since 2015 and this is the second cross-border energy pipeline between India and its eastern neighbour, an official statement said.

Cooperation in the power and energy sector has become one of the hallmarks of India-Bangladesh relations. The IBFP is the first cross

border energy pipeline between India and Bangladesh with a capacity to transport 1 million metric ton per annum (MMTPA) of High-Speed Diesel (HSD) to Bangladesh. Enhanced connectivity with Bangladesh will further strengthen people to people linkages between two sides.

Bangladesh is India's top-most development partner and its largest trade partner in the region. The operationalisation of the Friendship Pipeline will enhance ongoing energy cooperation between the two countries and will further growth in Bangladesh, particularly in the agriculture sector.

PM Modi thanked PM Hasina for her constant guidance on the project and expressed his wish to continue working with her for the benefit of the people of the two countries.

AISF's Siddique assaulted at DA agitation site by Trinamool panchayat member

Kolkata | Agencies

Nashad Siddique, the lone All India Secular Front member in the West Bengal Assembly, was on Saturday assaulted on the dais at the protest venue of the joint forum of state government employees staging a relay fast and a sit-in demonstration to demand pending dearness allowance dues.

Siddique had been on the dais to express solidarity with the agitating employees. As he was addressing the protesters, a man wearing a black trouser, a camouflage-pattern shirt and cap and carrying a helmet, suddenly came up to him.

"What have you done for the sake of the minority community?" he asked Siddique after stopping him from speaking. In response, the MLA said he does not intend to do anything only and specifically for the minority. "I want to work for all - majority or minority," he said.

At this, the stranger immediately lost his cool and immediately pushed the legislator heavily. However, those present at the dais immediately intervened and did not give him any



chance to assault Siddique further. Some of the agitators present on the dais in fury tried to attack the stranger, but were stopped by Siddique. "Leave him. This is nothing but a drama and an attempt to malign your movement," Siddique was heard saying.

The assailant was handed over to the police and late in the evening,

identified as Abdul Salam akas Tota, an elected Trinamool Congress gram panchayat member of Bankra-II village in adjoining Howrah district.

He is known to be a close confidant of district Trinamool leader and former minister Rajib Banerjee.

However, the local Trinamool leadership distanced itself from him. Sheikh Meher Ali, the deputy chief of

Bankra-II panchayat, said that although Salam continues to be a member of the panchayat, he has no connection with the ruling party any more.

"There are many cases pending against him. So, the party maintains a distance from him," Ali said.

Just before the attack on him, Siddique said that the state government's excuse of lack of funds for not paying the dearness allowance arrears was baseless. "But lots of money is spent by the government behind fairs and festivals. The state government should stop such wasteful expenditure and pay the legitimate dues of the state government," he said.

Siddique later told newsmen that the stranger was a plant by some vested interests to create confusion at the agitation venue. "But those who are present here are all educated people and hence, the stranger was handed over to police. I hope the police should now probe honestly to track the masterminds behind this incident... the police are supposed to protect this agitation dais as per court order," he said.

BJP trying to topple Delhi govt through no-confidence motion: AAP

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Aam Aadmi Party on Saturday alleged that Bharatiya Janata party is trying to topple its government through bringing a motion of no-confidence in the Delhi Assembly.

Addressing the media, AAP Rajya Sabha MP Raghav Chadha said that the BJP was trying to topple the AAP government in Delhi by introducing a no-confidence motion.

"The BJP wants to topple Delhi's Kejriwal government by bringing in a no-confidence motion in the Delhi Assembly. BJP is now luring and threatening AAP MLAs to join their party. BJP has also approached several AAP MLAs to support the no-confidence motion," he claimed.

The AAP leader further claimed that the BJP is giving two options to the MLAs -- either join the party or probe agency ED and CBI will get



after them.

"BJP is giving these two options to many of our MLAs and is clearly luring them to leave Arvind Kejriwal and join the BJP so that they can defeat Kejriwal's government with the help of this no-confidence motion," Chadha claimed.

While speaking on the recent arrest of Kiran Patel, who was impersonating as the additional director of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), AAP leader said, "A normal party worker from BJP's Gujarat unit, Kiranbhai Patel, had identified himself as the additional

director of the PMO and had been staying in Kashmir for last six months... He had been calling meeting of the security departments, transferring IAS officers... If you (BJP) want to investigate then probe this type of snooping."

While responding to the latest FIR filed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) against Sisodia for allegedly keeping tabs on the opposition parties and the government officials among others. The CBI has accused Sisodia of collecting 'political intelligence' through the Delhi government department's 'Feedback Unit' that was allegedly set up in 2015.

Chadha said that the BJP and central government should orient their probe agency's focus on those who are misusing the central agencies, security forces and police in the name of the central government rather than Sisodia and others.

NCSC takes cognizance of derogatory remarks by Ram Rahim

Chandigarh | Agencies

Taking cognizance of a viral news video wherein self-styled jailed godman and Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim, who is undergoing a 20-year sentence for raping his two disciples, was purportedly delivering derogatory remarks against Guru Ravidas and Sant Kabir, the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) on Saturday issued a notice to the Punjab government and sought an action-taken report.

As per information, the jailed godman has been booked under Section 295-A of the IPC by the Jalandhar police for allegedly using improper language for Guru Ravidas and Sant Kabir in one of his public addresses and for talking about the wrong history regarding them, which has hurt the sentiments of the Ravidasia community.

Meanwhile, the commission, on the orders of its Chairman Vijay Sampla, asked the Chief Secretary, the Director General of Police, the Divisional Commissioner (Jalandhar division), the Deputy Inspector General of Police (Jalandhar Range), the Deputy Commissioner and the Senior Superintendent of Police (Rural) to investigate the matter and to submit



the report immediately.

Sampla cautioned the officers that if the action-taken report is not received within the stipulated time, then the commission might exercise the powers of the civil court and issue summons for their personal appearance before the commission in Delhi.

How did man impersonating PMO official get Z-plus security, asks Tejashwi

Patna | Agencies

Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Prasad Yadav on Friday asked the Narendra Modi-led Central government how Kiran Patel, who impersonated a PMO official, obtained Z plus security and roamed in Jammu and Kashmir for 4 months.

Conman Kiran Patel went to military posts in the Uri sector passing himself as a senior functionary of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and was accorded complete government protocols, he said.

Tejashwi Yadav also shared a photograph of Kiran Patel purportedly standing with Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

"What is the relation between Kiran Patel and Amit Shah? How he obtained Z plus security from the government and how he became the Special Secretary in the PMO. It is a



serious security lapse and the Narendra Modi government needs to answer it," he said.

"The Narendra Modi government has sent all central agencies to target opposition leaders but the security agencies have to take care of this. I firmly believe that Kiran Bhai Patel obtained confidential and classified information which is a serious threat to the nation,"

Tejashwi Yadav claimed.

The impostor arrested on Thursday for posing as a top official of the PMO was on his third 'VVIP' visit to Jammu and Kashmir when his luck failed him, an official said on Friday.

Patel was picked up from the Lalit Grand Palace Hotel in Srinagar after the police got suspicious about his credentials.

Raj CM announces formation of 19 new districts; BJP terms it political stunt

Jaipur | Agencies

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot announced the formation of 19 new districts in the state and also declared three new divisions namely Sikar, Pali and Banswara.

His announcement is seen as a master stroke in a way as Gehlot has struck a regional as well as the political balance in the formation of new districts.

By announcing such a large number of districts simultaneously, the Congress leader also attempted to diminish the impact of anti-incumbency. If fewer districts would have been announced, then resentment could have developed from other places before the elections.

In order to give relief to the areas where demand was rising due to the long distance from the division headquarters, efforts were made by the ruling party to balance the demand of the people by announcing Pali, Sikar and Banswara divisions.

Gehlot also ensured that the BJP's temple agenda would get snatched.

The BJP has been accusing the Congress government of "breaking" temples, banning processions on the day of Ram Navami.

To counteract such allegations, Gehlot has made several announcements for the development of major temples of the state and to speed up religious



tourism in state.

Apart from developing Jaipur's Govind Devji temple on the lines of Ujjain's Mahakal temple, he also announced preparing DPR for the development of Khatushyam ji, Salasar, Tripurasundari, Karnaimata, Kailadevi, Mehandipur Balaji, Ramdevra temple, Khole ke Hanuman, Veer Tejaji temple and Sanwaliya temple. Further, he also

announced spending Rs 100 crore on Beneshwar Dham.

The announcement to form Pushkar Development Authority for the development of Tirtharaj Pushkar also gives a reply to BJP's allegations. Gehlot has in a way tried to sideline the issue of BJP by focusing on the development of religious areas.

Gehlot also has a focus on social engineering before the elections. To help castes, he announced the formation of the Veer Tejaji Board which is an attempt has been made to help the Jat community. Meanwhile former Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje said, "The new announcements of the Congress government are just an attempt to fulfill its personal political interests. In this effort, they have put the entire economic system of Rajasthan at stake. The consequences of which will have to be borne by the people of the state and the state in the years to come. Many important facts have been ignored in the process of creating new districts. Because of which, instead of the ease that would result from the formation of new districts, the public will have to face administrative complications."

"The Chief Minister has tried to politicise the budget without keeping in mind the worrying fiscal indicators of the state, which is unfortunate," she added.

'Will chop off hands of those who dishonour Hindu daughters'

Patna | Agencies

BJP's Lok Sabha MP and Union Minister Ashwini Kumar Choubey has said that he will chop the hands of those who dishonour "the daughters belonging to Sanatan Dharma".

"The daughters of Sanatan Dharma are the daughters of our country. Whoever plays with their honour and dignity, I will chop their hands. Still, if the leaders of the RJD believe that they will give their daughters (for marriage) to people of other communities, they are free to do so. India is a Hindu country and it will remain so," Choubey said on Saturday.

The Minister's remarks came a day after Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) legislator



Bhai Virendra said "daughters of BJP leaders L.K. Advani and Murlidhar Joshi were married to Muslim men". Bhai Virendra also said that "BJP leaders should save their daughter from Muslims".

Reacting to that, Santosh Singh, another BJP leader and an MLC, said: "The RJD leaders have become mentally bankrupt. If any Muslim youth even points any finger towards the daughters of the Hindu community, I will chop their finger."

YouTuber surrenders in Bihar over fake videos of migrants attacked in TN

Patna | Agencies

After facing heat from the Bihar Police, infamous YouTuber Manish Kashyap, who is accused of spreading rumours about attacks on Bihar migrant labourers in Tamil Nadu, surrendered before the Bettiah police on Saturday.

The police, in its official statement confirmed that Kashyap went to Jagdishpur police station in Bettiah district and surrendered.

"Due to joint action of West Champaran district police and Economic Offence Unit (EOU), Manish Kashyap surrendered in Jagdishpur police station," said Upendra Nath Verma, Superintendent of Police (SP) of West Champaran district.

Following his surrender, the enforcement agencies have stopped the property attachment process of Kashyap's



house located in the Majholia locality of Bettiah city.

Manish Kashyap along with three others was booked under the charge of making a fabricated video where migrant labourers from Bihar were purportedly seen getting thrashed by local Tamilians. The videos that were uploaded by him and three other accused on social media turned out to be fake. Subsequently, Bihar Police's EOU, which is the investigating agency in this case, registered two FIRs against

them. Following the FIR, Kashyap went absconding and was said to be moving in Delhi and Noida. During this period, he gave interviews to various media organisations as well. He had also challenged Bihar deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav.

Bihar Police on the other hand, went for the legal process and obtained the warrant from the respective court for the property attachment of Kashyap's house. The Bettiah police initiated the property attachment process and removed doors, windows, rooftop, walls and other valuables in the last two days.

Due to this, Kashyap came under pressure and surrendered in the police station. So far, the Bihar Police have arrested three offenders -- Rakesh Ranjan Kumar, Manish Kashyap and Aman Kumar, and the fourth one, Youraj Singh is on the run.

<p>CHANGE OF NAME</p> <p>I, BHANDARE PITAMBAR PANDURANG is legally Father of No. 4581111W NK BHANDARE BAJRANG PITAMBAR presently residing at Gundevadi road, Mallewadi Sangli Maharashtra Pin-416410 have changed my name from PITAMBAR PANDURANG BHANDARE to BHANDARE PITAMBAR PANDURANG vide affidavit No. 75AA 781722.</p>	<p>CHANGE OF NAME</p> <p>I PUROHIT DARSHNABEN is legally wife of No. 572491A NB/SUB RAJPUROHIT ROHITKUMAR RAMESHBHAI presently residing at ramajimandir same, Khimiyana Patan, Gujrat Pin:384220 have changed my name from DARSHANABEN to PUROHIT DARSHNABEN vide Affidavit No. 75AA 781718.</p>
<p>CHANGE OF NAME</p> <p>I, No. 4572979P HAV CHANDAN GIRI s/o PURAN GIRI residing at Village GWARDPAJEENA, Gwardbhil Kot, Bageshwar, Dangoli, Uttarakhand Pin-263635 have changed my daughter's name from KUMARI SONAM to SONAM GOSWAMI vide affidavit No. Bf 705611.</p>	<p>CHANGE OF NAME</p> <p>I BHANDARE PAMABAI PITAMBAR is legally Mother of No. 4581111W NK BHANDARE BAJRANG PITAMBAR presently residing at Gundevadi road, Mallewadi Sangli Maharashtra Pin-416410 have changed my name from PAMABAI to BHANDARE PAMABAI PITAMBAR vide Affidavit No. 75AA 781720.</p>

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Honesty is the first chapter in the book of wisdom. Thomas Jefferson

SUSPENSE OVER ARREST OF RADICAL AMRITPAL SINGH IN PUNJAB CONTINUES

Punjab Police on Saturday launched a massive state-wide search operation against Sikh radical Amritpal Singh, head of 'Waris Punjab De'. A total of 78 persons have been arrested so far, while, several others have been detained. Several, including Amritpal Singh, are on the run and a massive manhunt has been launched to nab them, the police said in a statement on Twitter.

- ▶ Six gunmen of Amritpal Singh, the chief of 'Waris Punjab De', were also arrested. They were taken into undisclosed location.
- ▶ Internet services in Punjab were suspended after the arrests.
- ▶ Supporters of Amritpal Singh have been sharing videos of police vehicles chasing Singh's cavalcade in Moga district.
- ▶ Anticipating disturbance of peace, a large contingent of the paramilitary force was deployed outside his native village, Jallapur Khaira, in Amritsar district.



accompanying him and carrying ammunition were arrested but Amritpal Singh, the chief of 'Waris Punjab De', managed to escape by changing his vehicle that was chased by the police to another one. Meanwhile, the number of arrested people owing allegiance to Amritpal Singh rose to 78. Some police officials told reporter that he has been zeroed in Sarhi village in Nakodar tehsil in Jalandhar district where he was convinced to surrender. A house-to-house search operation in villages in Nakodar is on, said a senior official. Even the central paramilitary forces have been

tehsil. They had closed on his vehicles two to three times but Amritpal Singh managed to escape. Section 144 has been imposed in many districts of the state. The police have also increased security in the state. In addition, all vehicles are being checked at the Punjab-Haryana border. Thirty-year-old Amritpal Singh, a pro-Khalistan fiery propagator and self-styled preacher, has been running 'separatist' propaganda through speeches. Three cases, including two of delivering hate speeches, have been pending against him. On the radar of Central investigating agencies, he has drawn comparisons to Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale owing to his similar looks and donning a navy blue turban, a white chola, and a sword-sized kirpan. On February 23, an armed mob led by Amritpal Singh clashed with police and laid siege to a police station near Amritsar, demanding the release of one of their colleagues who had been taken into custody in an alleged kidnapping case. Six policemen were injured in the bloody clash. Police officials had later clarified that they were

unable to control the crowd as they were carrying a physical copy of Sri Guru Granth Sahib, also called Bir in Punjabi, as a shield. As the Internet was suspended on Saturday, Punjab Police urged people to maintain peace and harmony and not to spread panic, fake news or hate speech. 'Punjab Police is working to maintain law and order,' the Punjab Police tweeted. 'All mobile internet services, all SMS services (except banking & mobile recharge) & all dongle services provided on mobile networks, except voice call, in the territorial jurisdiction of Punjab shall be suspended from 18th March (12:00 hours) to 19th March (12:00 hours) in the interest of public safety.' Reacting to Amritpal's purported arrest, Congress MP Ravneet Singh Bittu said the man who 'used to talk about taking up arms for Khalistan is today running away fearing the police'. 'Does a Sikh ever run away? He would have faced the police if he had courage. He is running around in the streets like a jackal. I used to say earlier, too, that he has come to get our children killed. He is a man of (intelligence) agencies,' he said.

DON'T WANT TO JOIN ISSUES WITH LAW MINISTER: CHIEF JUSTICE



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Not every system is perfect but this is the best system available, Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud said on Saturday while defending the Collegium system of judges appointing judges, a major bone of contention between the government and judiciary. Speaking at the India Today Conclave, 2023, the CJI said judiciary has to be protected from outside influences if it has to be independent. 'Not every system is perfect but this is the best system we have developed. But the object was to protect the independence of the judiciary, which is a cardinal value. We

have to insulate the judiciary from outside influences if the judiciary has to be independent,' Chief Justice Chandrachud said. The CJI also responded to Law Minister Kiren Rijiju voicing displeasure over the Supreme Court Collegium revealing the government's reasons for not approving the names recommended by it for appointment as judges of constitutional courts. 'What is wrong about having a difference in perception? But, I have to deal with such differences with a sense of robust constitutional statesmanship. I do not want to join issues with the law minister, we are bound to have differences of perceptions,' the Chief Justice said. Rijiju has been quite vocal against the Collegium system and once even called it 'alien to our Constitution'. Justice Chandrachud said there is absolutely no pressure from the government on how to decide cases. 'In my 23 years of being a judge, no one has told me how to decide a case. There is absolutely no pressure from the government. The Election Commission judgment is proof that there is no pressure on the judiciary,' the Chief Justice said. The Supreme Court had recently ruled the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner and election commissioners will be done by the President on the advice of a committee comprising the Prime Minister, Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha and the Chief Justice of India.

Trump expects to be "Arrested" on Tuesday, calls for protests

NEW YORK | Agencies

Former US President Donald Trump said he expects to be "arrested" on Tuesday over hush money allegedly paid to a porn star before the 2016 election, calling on his supporters to protest. Citing a "leak" from the Manhattan district attorney's office, Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform on

Saturday morning: "Leading Republican candidate & former President of the United States of America will be arrested on Tuesday of next week. Protest, take our nation back!" The investigation centers on \$130,000 paid weeks before the 2016 polls to stop Stormy Daniels, whose real name is Stephanie Clifford, from going public about an affair she says she had with Trump years

earlier. Prosecutors are weighing whether to charge Trump in the case. If the Manhattan district attorney were to indict Trump, the 76-year-old would become the first former president to be charged with a crime. Trump's lawyer told CNBC on Friday evening that his client would surrender to face criminal charges if he was indicted by a Manhattan grand jury.

ARREST WARRANT AGAINST VLADIMIR PUTIN OVER UKRAINE WAR CRIME ALLEGATIONS

The Hague: The International Criminal Court on Friday announced an arrest warrant for Russian President Vladimir Putin on the war crime accusation of unlawfully deporting Ukrainian children. The Hague-based ICC said it had also issued a warrant against Maria Lvova-Belova, Russia's presidential commissioner for children's rights, on similar charges. Moscow dismissed the orders as "void." Russia is not a party to the ICC so it was unclear if or how Putin could ever end up in the dock. War-battered Ukraine welcomed the ICC announcement, with President Volodymyr Zelensky hailing the "historic decision." The court's shock notice came hours after other news with the potential to significantly impact Russia's war on Ukraine, including a Moscow visit from Chinese leader Xi Jinping and more fighter jets for Kyiv's forces.

Human remains found at Rapid Metro construction site in Delhi

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Human remains and a bunch of hair, yet to be identified as male or female, were found near the Rapid Metro construction site near Delhi's Sarai Kale Khan area on Saturday, police said. Deputy Commissioner of Police, Southeast, Rajesh Deo said that information was received at Sunlight colony police station around noon regarding human body parts being found near the Sarai Kale Khan ISBT, adjoining the flyover, in the area of under construction site of Rapid Metro. "A police team was dispatched to the spot where they found some human body parts in various stages of decomposition and a bunch of hair." The DCP said that the crime scene was inspected by the crime team and



forensic experts and the remains found have been transferred to AIIMS Trauma hospital for further proceedings. A search is being made to identify the recovered human body," said the DCP. The human remains are yet to be identified as male or female. The DCP said that prima facie a case of homicide is made out and an FIR under section 302 (murder) of the Indian Penal Code is being registered.

Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway, opened by PM 6 days ago, flooded after rains 10 hours ago

Team Absolute | Bengaluru

The Bengaluru-Mysuru highway in Karnataka, inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi six days ago, was inundated after heavy rains in the Ramanagara region of the state on Friday night. The highway road, built at Rs 8,480 crore, was waterlogged near the Ramanagara district, neighbouring Bengaluru. The water remained stagnant in the underbridge on the highway, leading to a series of bumper-to-bumper accidents that resulted in slow-moving vehicles and long periods of traffic jams on the highway. This is the same underbridge that flooded last year when Karnataka received unprecedented rains. Some distressed commuters lashed out against Chief Minister BS Bommali and the PM for damage to their vehicles, and questioned whether the highway was ready for inauguration. Another agitated commuter,



Nagaraju, who said his vehicle was the first in the bumper-to-bumper accidents, questioned who would be held responsible for the accidents. They would have cleared the waterlogging in 10 minutes if the PM were to arrive, he said. PM Modi on March 12 inaugurated

the 118 km long Bengaluru-Mysuru expressway, which reduced the travel time from three hours to about 75 minutes. The six lane Bengaluru-Nidaghatta-Mysuru section of NH 275 is expected to act as a catalyst for socio-economic development in the region.

Warrants against Imran Khan cancelled after day-long chaos



ISLAMABAD | Agencies

Islamabad's Additional District and Sessions Judge Zafar Iqbal on Saturday cancelled the arrest warrants issued against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan in the Toshakhana case, media reports said. The decision was made after the former Prime Minister marked his attendance outside the Islamabad Judicial Complex, where he was supposed to be indicted in the case, Express Tribune reported. The hearing was sched-

uled to take place on Saturday, but due to the turbulence and chaos witnessed as police and PTI workers clashed outside the complex, the hearing was adjourned till March 30, it said. Judge Zafar Iqbal stated that the situation was not conducive to hold the hearing and appearance, and all those who had gathered there should disperse peacefully. The judge earlier allowed Imran Khan to leave after his attendance was marked outside the G-11 Judicial Complex amid unrest between police and party supporters.

BRS-BJP poster war in Hyderabad turns ugly

Team Absolute | Hyderabad

The poster war between Telangana's ruling BRS and opposition BJP turned ugly with new posters emerging in Hyderabad on Sunday, showing Chief Minister K. Chandrababhan Rao's daughter K. Kavitha as a culprit in Delhi excise policy scam case. The posters target CM KCR, his son KTR, Kavitha and other family members. A wall poster with pictures of KCR, KTR, Kavitha, Harish Rao appears like a film poster. The film title is "Kalvakuntla Dongalamutha" (Kalvakuntla gang of thieves). "Story, screenplay, dialogues and direction by KCR", reads the poster. Another poster carries photographs of Kavitha with liquor bottles and comments about her alleged involvement in the case. These posters by BJP are apparently in response to those stuck by Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) supporters a few days ago showing BJP national general secretary B. L. Santhosh as a criminal and wanted and targeted Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his promise of Rs 15 lakh. Posters had come up in



different parts of the city. "Talented in MLA poaching," reads the poster. It also announced 'reward'. "Sanction of Modi's promise of Rs 15,00,000." The posters came up ahead of Kavitha's second round of questioning by the ED in Delhi on Thursday. She, however, did not appear before the agency, citing a hearing by the Supreme Court of a petition filed by her challenging the summons. BRS leaders alleged Santhosh ran away from probe into



MLAs' poaching case by not appearing before the Special Investigation Team (SIT). The BRS supporters had also put up posters last week when Kavitha appeared before the ED for the first time. Through the posters, the BRS tried to depict how the BJP government at the Centre used "raid detergents" to clean tumcoats. The posters carried the images of Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia and Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma who had corruption

allegations levelled against them before switching from Congress to the BJP. With hashtag "Bye Bye Modi", the posters show how the "raid detergents" painted tainted leaders saffron. The posters also carried picture of Kavitha before and after the raid with catchline "True colors never fade". Hitting back at the BRS, the BJP had also put up posters and hoardings targeting the ruling party over defections.

Two Blinkit delivery boys assaulted in Delhi, FIR registered

New Delhi: Two delivery boys of Blinkit app were allegedly thrashed by some men for not having a change to be returned to them, in West Delhi's Rajouri Garden area, an official said on Saturday. Police said that they have registered an FIR in connection with the incident. According to police, a police control room call was received at Rajouri Garden police station wherein information of physical assault on Blinkit delivery boys was given following which a police team rushed to the spot. "On enquiry, it was found that two boys namely Aman, a resident of Begampur area and Gurpal Singh, a resident of Raghunagar, were physically assaulted at a house in Rajouri Garden," said a senior police official. The statement of injured Gurpal Singh was recorded wherein he alleged that he went to the house to deliver groceries worth Rs 1655. "One Tarun Suri opened the door and he started misbehaving with delivery boys over change of money. The argument led to physical assault to the delivery boys.



AFTER MOST DEMANDS ACCEPTED, AIKS CALLS OFF MAHA FARMERS' 'LONG MARCH'

Two days after the Maharashtra government conceded most of the demands of the agitating farmers, the All India Kisan Sabha (AIKS) on Saturday called off the 175-kms 'long march'.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The decision was taken after a meeting of the top AIKS leaders this afternoon at Vasind, Thane, where the 'long march' had halted since Thursday, said spokesperson P.S. Prasad.

AIKS leaders announced before the huge gathering that the 'long march' and agitation has been called off with immediate effect and now all the matters would be discussed with the state government panel.

On Friday, after Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's statement in the Assembly, the administration issued the necessary orders and sent them to all departments and district authorities.

"From today morning (March 18), the order copies and the implementation schedules have been handed over to us and the 'long march' has been called off," said Prasad. However, there have been mur-



murms of discontent at the dole of Rs 350/quintal -- against the AIKS

demand of Rs 600/quintal -- for onion growers, to which Prasad said

that the leaders would raise it before the government panel meeting, though certain other points/issues in the charter of demands have been resolved satisfactorily.

Last Monday (March 13) over 15,000 farmers launched the 'long march' -- third in five years after 2018, 2019 -- for their 17-point charter of demands, and it was scheduled to reach Mumbai on March 20.

After the state government bowed and held two rounds of negotiations -- first with a ministerial delegation which went to Thane (March 15) and then in Mumbai (March 16) -- most of the demands were accepted.

Shinde even appealed to the farmers to call off the agitation and the 'long march', but the AIKS's wary leaders cited past experiences and vowed that till the GRs and orders were issued within two days, the farmers would halt in Vasind, or they would resume the walkathon to Mumbai.

Top AIKS leader dropped from Maha govt panel on farmers' demands

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In an unexpected move, the Maharashtra government has dropped All India Kisan Sabha General Secretary Dr. Ajit Nawale from a committee constituted to oversee the implementation of the farmers' demands, officials said here on Saturday.

Soon after the government accepted many of the demands of the peasants -- currently on halt in Vasind, Thane en route their 'long march' -- a panel was formed for the purpose of implementing the same.

From the AIKS side, the names forwarded were AIKS President Dr. Ashok Dhavale, Dr. Nawale, CPI(M) MLA Vinod Nikole and ex-legislator Jiva Pandu Gavti.

The shocking discovery was made when the farmers' leaders went to check the minutes of the meeting with Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis and others on Friday.

The AIKS leaders even asked the secretaries why Dr. Nawale's name was missing from the panel, but did not get any clear reply.



The AIKS leaders have pointed fingers at Fadnavis, claiming he is opposed to Dr. Nawale's inclusion in the panel owing to the latter's aggressive stance.

"This is not the first time, even after the previous agitation, Fadnavis had attempted to divide the farmers and then excluded me from the delegation meetings with the government. This is conveying a wrong impression to the farmers," Dr. Nawale said.

However, Dr Nawale said that this time there are two powerful leaders -- Gavti and CPI(M) MLA Vinod Nikole

who are capable of taking on the government and ensuring that the farmers are not let down.

Party leaders claim that Fadnavis -- then the CM -- was reportedly irked after Dr. Nawale deftly resisted efforts to drive a wedge among the farmers after their strike in June 2017.

Meanwhile, the farmers' leaders have said that the state government's orders on the implementation part have been received and a decision whether to continue or end the 'long march' will be taken later in the day.

Superstar Rajinikanth's visit 'delights' Thackeray family



Team Absolute | Mumbai

South Indian superstar Rajinikanth called on the Thackeray family at their 'Matoshri' home here on Saturday afternoon, in what was described as a "courtesy call".

Rajinikanth, in a simple shirt and jeans, was accorded a warm welcome by Shiv Sena-UBT President and ex-Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, his wife Rashmi

and their sons Aditya and Tejas.Later, Aditya - an ex-Minister - tweeted a picture of the family greeting the legendary actor, draping a shawl around his shoulder and offering a large bouquet of flowers against a backdrop of a portrait of the late Balasaheb Thackeray. "An absolute delight to have Shri Rajinikanthji at Matoshri once again," said Aditya, as the star came to their home after 13 years. A party office-bearer

said that Rajinikanth's visit was purely a "courtesy call", and there was no political angle to it as the Tamil actor was a strong follower of the late Balasaheb Thackeray. Around 13 years ago in October 2010, Rajinikanth had come here to meet Balasaheb Thackeray, they had hugged each other, Rajinikanth had sought his blessings, and the two had developed a great personal rapport.

BJP-Shiv Sena target 200-seat win in next Maha Assembly polls

A day after his purported statements on seat sharing ignited a row, the state Bharatiya Janata Party President Chandrashekar Bawankule on Saturday clarified that along with its ruling ally, Shiv Sena led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, the target would be to bag at least 200 seats out of 288 in the next Assembly elections.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The statement came after Bawankule's remarks -- that the BJP would contest 240 seats and give the remaining 48 seats to Shiv Sena, with no mention of the independents -- ignited a row with the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi attacking him.

Even ruling partner Shiv Sena legislator Sanjay Shirsat indirectly slammed Bawankule's utterances saying he must have said it in 'over excitement' and pointedly asked: "Are we stupid to contest only 48 seats?" Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut said that Bawankule's statement is part of a design to finish off all smaller parties and even the Shinde Shiv Sena will not be spared.

State Congress President Nana Patole said "what is in (Bawankule's) tummy was on his tongue" and now Shinde will have to watch out.

Going a step further, Nationalist Congress Party state President Jayant Patil said this is an indicator that 'Shinde group' will be wiped out by the BJP.



"The BJP will insist that the Shinde Shiv Sena should contest the next elections on its (Lotus) symbol... That will be the beginning of the end of Shinde Sena," Patil warned darkly.

Bachu Kadu, the leader of the 10-strong independent legislators supporting the Shinde regime, said that "we are only offering support to the government".

"We are only supporting the Shinde-Devendra Fadnavis from outside, and are not part of their alliance. When we join their alliance, then the issue of seat-sharing will crop up and we will see," Kadu declared. Rattled by the unexpected fallout, Bawankule Saturday hurriedly contended that his statement was 'selectively shown and misinterpreted' to convey a wrong impression.

"There has been no discussion on any seat-sharing formula with the Shiv Sena so far... But we shall target to win over 200 seats in the elections," Bawankule claimed. Incidentally, on Thursday, the MVA had also faced a similar fracas over an alleged seat-sharing formula for the 48 Lok Sabha constituencies -- 21 for Sena (UBT), 19 for NCP and eight for the Congress -- but all parties had dismissed the figures circulating in the electronic media as 'fake'.

AADITYA THACKERAY WRITES TO CENTRE ABOUT RISING AIR POLLUTION IN MUMBAI

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Yuva Sena leader Aaditya Thackeray on Saturday wrote to the Centre raising the issue of air pollution in Mumbai, citing widespread construction activities and lack of effective supervision to control them.

In a letter to Bhupender Yadav, Union minister for environment, forest and climate change, Thackeray also said Maharashtra does not have an independent environment minister to look into the issue.

"In the past 6 months, the air quality in Mumbai has consistently been rated as 'Poor' to 'Very Poor' on the AQI (air quality index). Other

cities in Maharashtra are also posting concerning air quality numbers," he said.

The entire city is undergoing construction, causing a large amount of dust and debris, much of which is left unattended and unchecked. Measures are needed to help the Urban Development Department and local bodies understand the consolidated impact construction has on the city's environment, he said.

"Construction activity in Mumbai is widespread and lacks effective supervision," the former state environment minister said.

As per the System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting And Research (SAFAR), Mumbai's air

quality index stood at a "moderate" 159 on Saturday. Flagging rising air pollution in Mumbai, the city civic body recently set up a panel to suggest dust control measures.

The city has refineries and fertiliser plants on its eastern coast, and the round-the-clock industrial activity there is having a direct impact on the air quality in the city, Aaditya Thackeray said.

Residents in the vicinity of places like Mahul or Wadala are feeling the impact of the poor air quality and foul smell, he added. Thackeray said the Centre should evaluate and relocate these plants away from the city.

In 2022, Mumbai launched its Climate Action Plan, which was

heralded by the climate policy community and covered by acclaimed journals worldwide.

He also asked to direct the relevant stakeholders in the city's civic administration to establish a climate cell as was suggested by the policy plan.

With G20 events being held in the city, its global reputation is at stake, he said. Most importantly, the health of the citizens should take precedence over political differences, Thackeray said.

He said climate change has had a serious impact on the city's weather patterns, changing the speed and direction of winds, and causing polluted air to remain within the city instead of flowing towards the coast.

Court acquits man accused of raping minor, says 'Consensual Relationship'

Team Absolute | Thane

A 24-year-old man from Maharashtra's Navi Mumbai who was accused of raping a minor girl has been acquitted by a special court, with the judge calling it a case of consensual relationship.

The order by Special Judge (POCSO) VV Virkar was passed on March 15. It was made available on Saturday.

The man was booked under the Protection of Children from Sexual

Offences (POCSO) Act in 2014 for allegedly eloping with his neighbour to Tuljapur and raping her promising that he would marry her. On a complaint by the girl's mother, police later traced the two.

In her order, the judge said it appears to be a case of consensual relationship "which is apparent from the history given by the prosecutrix to the Medical Officer".

Since it was not proved that the girl was not below 18 years of age, abduction

charges cannot be pressed against the man, said the court.

"When it is consensual relationship, even though it is assumed for a while that the prosecutrix at that time of incident was 17 years plus 6 months, which is an age of understanding and discretion and the prosecutrix being on the verge of attaining majority, the act of sexual intercourse with the prosecutrix cannot be termed as rape," said the court, acquitting the man.

NCB DISPOSES OF 855 KG OF SEIZED DRUGS

Mumbai: The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) on Friday disposed of 855.33 kg of seized drugs on its 38th Raising Day, an official said. NCB Mumbai also initiated a special Anti Drugs Awareness Campaign, he said.

Among other places, it was organized at the CSM Terminous, whose facade was illuminated with the NCB's logo colours and its motto "SAY NO TO DRUGS, YES TO LIFE".

5 MN FOOD DELIVERIES DAILY IN MUMBAI, YET RIDERS STRUGGLE TO SURVIVE

Quaid Najmi | Mumbai

One of the greatest blessings of the Smartphone Internet era is the ease of ordering snacks, food and desserts from anywhere in the city/town or the district, for self, family, parties, social or corporate events.

Through one or more of the hundreds of Apps, one can place the most outrageous orders, ranging from the humble 'Vada-Pav' to 'Shawarmas' - and every possible dish in between.

Once the App accepts the order, a series of precision processes are triggered right from inside the kitchens to the delivery boys/girls who pick it up, and finally ring your doorbell - all within 30-60 minutes - for that joyous, drooling smile...!

Simple as it may sound, the delivery business is actually bizarre and complex, involving a lot of human elements, the critical being the delivery boys-girls who serve as the 'last-mile' link between the food outlets and the hungry customer. One such delivery boy-cum Area Manager attached to an app-based company, G. V. Kishore, 35, of Borivali, shares some insights into the low-profile business that quietly 'delivers' with clockwork precision and an efficiency that could merit a top Sigma rating.

There are an estimated 500,000 carriers (delivery boys/girls) in Mumbai alone who effect an average of around 10 deliveries daily, coming to more than 50,00,000 parcels being rushed from one place to another for nearly



18 hours daily, with the weekend numbers bulging by at least 25 percent. "Besides, there are the corporate food deliveries that would account for another 25-30 lakh parcels on weekdays but crashes on weekends. After the Covid-19 pandemic, most companies have discontinued their in-house canteens barring beverages and now allow employees to order food online with discounted corporate coupons," said Kishore.

Another deliverer from Ghatkopar, Sanjay Chauhan, 31, serving through various Apps, haunts corporate offices with big and small food packets daily, and supplements his income with weekend home deliveries. For many of the big or multinational fast-food outlets, the boys-girls are on a basic salary of between Rs 12,000-Rs 15,000 per month, six working days, plus between Rs 25-45/parcel delivery, plus the tip given on the app or at the time of handing over the packet.

Here, there's a catch as the delivery person must foot the scooter-motorcycle fuel and maintenance of upto Rs 12,000, plus the concerned app's commission and service charges of another up to Rs 5,000, leaving a net monthly pay of barely Rs 28,000.

There is huge competition with thousands of youngsters queuing up to work as delivery boys-girls daily, and most outlets keep 'hiring' to keep the existing carriers on their toes.

Both Kishore and Chauhan said that even with the kind of critical services they provide, there is absolutely no job security, hire-and-fire policy even for seniors, "use-and-throw", no unions, no formal salary structures or any government forum for redressal of their grievances. They said that in the past few years, owing to the economic conditions, some highly qualified persons with double degrees or doctorates, laid-off professionals who used to earn lakhs of rupees each month, have taken up the delivery option, at least to tide over the crisis.



IMPORTANT ROLE OF JAN ABHIYAN PARISHAD IN PUBLIC WELFARE: CHIEF MINISTER CHOUHAN

The Council will be the nodal agency for public participation in the schemes; Now it is mandatory for voluntary organizations to register in the Council's portal.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that by uniting voluntary organizations of the state, the Jan Abhiyan Parishad, which has been associated with the works of environment protection, implementation of schemes and public welfare in adverse circumstances like Corona, is the nodal agency for public participation in government schemes. Will be made along with this, it will be mandatory for every voluntary organization working in the state to get registered in the Council's portal. The Council is playing an important role in the field of public welfare. Due to this, all the people associated with the Council should work resolutely in the Laddi Bahna Yojana started for the empowerment of sisters and the resolution to build a new Madhya Pradesh. Chief Minister Chouhan was addressing the state-level Mahakumbh of the Prasfutan Samitis of Jan Abhiyan Parishad working in the state, mentors of Chief Minister's Community Leadership



Development Course and members of voluntary organizations in the state at Bhopal's Jamboree Ground. Chief Minister Chouhan inaugurated the conference by lighting the lamp. In the beginning Saraswati Vandana and national anthem Vande Mataram were sung. The program started with the worship of girls and sisters. The Chief Minister was welcomed by

sisters from different places of the state. Chief Minister Shri Chouhan also welcomed the sisters by covering them with a shawl. The Chief Minister released the Council's booklet "Prerna Path" and other publications. Chief Minister was felicitated. Finance, Planning and Economic Statistics Minister Jagdish Deora, public representatives and a large number of

women and representatives of institutions were present in the programme.

Chief Minister said that the Jan Abhiyan Parishad has done a wonderful job. It is a federation of voluntary organisations, which has now become a banyan tree. The council has done excellent work in areas like water conservation, drug-free and energy saving. In the year 2019, instead of encouraging the then government, the activities of the council were stopped. Financial assistance given to fledgling institutions was stopped. People associated with social service were pricking the then government. Chief Minister Chouhan said that living for others is the real life. There is no point in living just for yourself.

Chief Minister Chouhan said that the council is working diligently to make the schemes of the government accessible to the public. Miracles can be done only by uniting the society. The miracle of public welfare will happen only when the society stands with the government. Madhya Pradesh government wants to take the

state to new heights. The Chief Minister said that there was a time when there was no facility of roads. There was lack of electricity and irrigation. Today Madhya Pradesh is self-sufficient in these areas.

Announcements of Chief Minister

Madhya Pradesh Jan Abhiyan The council will be the nodal agency to ensure public participation in public welfare schemes run by all government departments of the state.

It is mandatory for every NGO working in Madhya Pradesh to register in the Jan Abhiyan Parishad portal and upload annual reports and activities, so that transparency and accountability can be ensured.

Every department of the state government will hand over the work of publicity, survey and all the work of public participation to the Jan Abhiyan Parishad.

TRAINER AIRCRAFT CRASHES IN BALAGHAT, 2 PILOTS MISSING

Balaghat: An aircraft with two trainee pilots on board crashed in Madhya Pradesh's Balaghat district on Saturday, Press Trust of India reported quoting the police.

The charred body of a man was found in the mountains of Lanji and Kimapur areas, about 40 km from the Balaghat district headquarters, near the crash site, Superintendent of Police Sameer Saurabh told PTI in the evening.

He said efforts are on to identify the body while a search is on for the missing woman trainee pilot. As per the preliminary information, the trainer aircraft had taken off from the Birsai airport in the Gondia district of Maharashtra, the police officer said. Further details are awaited.

Karni Sena disrupts Rapper MC Stan's Indore concert, accuses him of polluting young minds

Team Absolute | Indore

Activists of the Karni Sena created a ruckus at rapper MC Stan's concert in Madhya Pradesh's Indore, and halted the show midway, alleging that he used foul language in his songs, which polluted young minds. According to eyewitnesses, the concert organised at a hotel in Lasudia area on Friday night was halted midway, upsetting fans of the rapper, who won season 16 of the reality TV show Bigg Boss. The police had to use mild force to clear the unrelenting protesters. Karni

Sena's district unit president Anurag Pratap Singh Raghav on Saturday said, "MC Stan is spreading obscenity among youngsters by using foul language in his songs." Stan used foul language and sang songs containing obscenities in front of the young audience during his performance, following which Karni Sena activists took charge of the show, forcing the rapper to leave the venue, Raghav claimed. Meanwhile, some videos of the ruckus surfaced on social media, in which the activists can be seen taking control of the stage after the rapper's departure.

PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION ON "LIFE OF HOUSE SPARROW"

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Regional Museum of Natural History (RMNH), Bhopal (A regional centre of National Museum of Natural History, New Delhi); Madhya Pradesh Tiger Foundation Society and Bhopal Birds Conservation Society, Bhopal has jointly inaugurated A Photographic Exhibition on "Life of House Sparrow" on 18th March, 2023 to mark the "World Sparrow Day. Arvind Purohit, Officer on Special Duty of Raj Bhawan inaugurated this exhibition to create awareness among the general public towards Domestic Sparrow.

Dr. Manoj Kumar Sharma,



Scientist-in-Charge of RMNH; Dr. Beenish Rafat, Scientist-C & Manik Lal Gupta, Scientist-C of RMNH; Shilpi Diwakar, Protocol Officer, Raj Bhawan, Dr. Sangeeta Rajgir and Shri Mohd. Khaliq from Bhopal Birds were present during the inauguration of exhibition.

34 photographs of 23 photographers like Jai Tripathi, Lubna Rashid, Jitendra Singh Kirar, Meenu Sharma, Yasser Ali Sheikh, Vishwa Mohan Khare, Apoorva Lakshmi, Colonel Prasant Nikam, Kuldeep Lodhi, Ashok Bathri, ParagVatsa, Kshitij Patle, Saill

SANT HIRDARAM GIRLS COLLEGE HONORED BY AMERICAN INDIA FOUNDATION

Bhopal: American India Foundation (AIF) had organized Stakeholder Engagement Ceremony in joint collaboration with DELL Technologies to felicitate the Stakeholders who provided opportunity for them to conduct skill related workshops. AIF is a non-profit American organization that is devoted to accelerating social and economic change in India. Sant Hirdaram Girls College in collaboration with AIF has conducted Communication Skills Training Workshop to hone the skills of the students.

Dr. Meenu Tahilyani, Convener, T&P Cell was felicitated and honoured on behalf of the Institution in recognition for the participation and collaboration for Future Workspace Skills Training, 2022-23. Dr. Dalima Parwani, Principal said that collaborating with such organizations always help in accomplishing the workshops at a faster pace and in a more satisfied way. She further added that when people work together towards a common aim, they can each use their experiences & skills to contribute to its success. The Management appreciated the efforts of the T&P Cell and extended best wishes for future endeavors.



SOULFUL DANCE PERFORMANCE OF "RAM'S SHAKTI PUJA"

Cultural programs in the International Ramayana Convention

Team Absolute | Bhopal

In the cultural program held at the International Ramayana Convention, the group dance of Mahakavi Niral's immortal work "Ram Ki Shakti Puja" was given by Dr. Vijaya Sharma and her group. In the cultural program on the first day of the two-day program at Manas Bhawan by Tulsi Manas Pratishthan, along with this presentation, Bharat Natyam's well-known artist Kumari Pavani Trivedi and Mrs. Neerja Saxena gave an attractive presentation of Dashavatar dance drama. All the performances enthralled and enthralled the audience.

Former Additional Chief Secretary Manoj Srivastava and Executive President of Tulsi Manas Pratishthan Raghunandan Sharma, Director Ramayana Center Bhopal Rajesh Srivastava, President Ramcharit Bhavan America Om Prakash Gupta, Secretary Tulsi Manas Pratishthan Kailash Joshi were present in the program.

The main theme of the presentation is the worship of Shakti by Lord Shri Ram for the salvation of Mother Sita during the Ram Ravana war. Jamwant advises Shiram to worship Shakti. For this, 108 lotuses have to be offered to Lord Shiram. Lord Shri Ram starts worship. Shakti tests them and hides a lotus. Shiram becomes worried. Then he realizes that his mother calls him Rajeev Nayan, his eyes are like lotus. Lord Shri Ram takes out one of his eyes to offer it to Mother Power, then Mother Shakti appears there and blesses Lord Shri Ram with victory. All the emotions are presented with utmost subtlety and effectively by the dance group. The description of this poem by the artists has been so alive that it seems that some tragedy is being presented in front of the eyes. The cast included Kumari Priyamvada Mittal, Kumari Bipasha Lad Jain, Yogita Jhagani, Poonam Raipure, Priyanshi Shipankar, Diksha Manohar, Sakhi Ahirwar, Disha Nema. Directed by Dr. Vijaya Sharma, sung by Dr. Rajkumari Sharma and music by Prakash Shujalpur.

Free eye test camp organized at Raj Bhavan on World Glaucoma Day

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A free eye check-up camp was organized at Raj Bhavan on World Glaucoma Day. Governor Mangubhai Patel also got his eyes tested in the camp. The Governor inaugurated the camp by lighting the lamp and cutting the ribbon. He made the ophthalmologist doctors take a pledge for creating public awareness regarding glaucoma. Along with this, information regarding disease treatment and eye care was obtained from the doctors. Governor Shri Patel also discussed with the citizens who came for eye test in the camp. It is worth



mentioning that on World Glaucoma Day, a free eye test camp was organized at Sandipani Auditorium of Raj Bhavan. In the camp, the eye specialists of Red Cross Society Bhopal conducted eye test and provided necessary treatment and consultation.

Junk food can cause hypertension, Kidney diseases in children

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Kidney diseases in children are different from adults. Children who suffer from kidney disease have some common symptoms like: swelling around face, eyes, abdomen, burning micturition or difficulty in micturition, crying during micturition, no weight gain and bony deformities.

Among all kidney disease Nephrotic syndrome is most common in children which results into loss of protein in urine and low serum albumin. Approximately 90% of the patients are responsive to corticosteroids and referred to as steroid sensitive nephrotic syndrome. Approximately 40% to 50% cases of steroid sensitive nephrotic syndrome develop frequently relapsing course and require medications other than steroids. Rest of the 10% cases of nephrotic syndrome do not respond to steroids and are referred to as steroid resistant nephrotic syndrome and these children will require kidney biopsy.

Parents of children suffering from nephrotic syndrome are expected to do daily urinary protein by dipstick.



This help clinician to know whether the child has achieved remission or not. The importance of doing dipstick is crucial when the child is normal as treatment can be initiated early (when urinary protein is +3 for 3 days) to avoid complications of oedema. Apart from nephrotic syndrome recurrent urinary tract infection in children can cause damage to kidney. Therefore, children with urinary tract infection require detailed investigations to avoid the complications. Hereditary renal diseases are common in pediatric age.

Renal tubular disorders are one of those hereditary kidney disorders requiring specialized tests such as provocative tests and genetic testing. In AIIMS Bhopal we have tested more than 100 patients with renal tubular disorders from seven centres across India in an ongoing Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) project.

Dr. Girish Chandra Bhatt, Additional Professor, Pediatrics, AIIMS Bhopal informed that with change in lifestyle and increasing consumption of junk food by chil-

dren, there has been an increase in prevalence of hypertension in children. Various studies have shown a prevalence of 5% to 8% in healthy children, while the risk of hypertension is higher in at risk conditions such as obesity, renal disease, cardiac disease, sickle cell disease and endocrinology disorders.

American Academy of Paediatrics (AAP) guidelines on hypertension recommends to measure the BP of children annually starting at age of 3 years in healthy children and at each visit in children with risk factors. After recording of elevated blood pressure at screening we need to monitor blood pressure of 24 hours by Ambulatory Blood Pressure Monitoring (ABPM) in children, the same facility is being provided at AIIMS Bhopal. In a published article from AIIMS Bhopal about 25% of obese children and 65% of CKD children have ambulatory hypertension.

Every Monday, Dept of Pediatrics at AIIMS Bhopal runs special Clinic of Pediatric Nephrology and Hypertension to address problem and solutions for children with kidney disease.

Digvijay Singh fiercely attacked the BJP government

Team Absolute | Guna

Former CM of the state and Rajya Sabha MP Digvijay Singh has made a big attack on the BJP. In the press conference held in Guna, he said that BJP can change its attitude. We cannot change our destiny. Varun Gandhi belongs to BJP, Maneka Gandhi belongs to BJP, never asked them why they did not keep about Nehru ji. If Rahul Gandhi used to say Rahul Nehru as his name, then they (BJP) would say that they are changing their parentage. The kind of language used by Modi ji, a case of breach of privilege is made out against him. That's why the privilege motion has been brought. Digvijay Singh said that the Congress party requests the government about Hindenburg report, which has alleged violations of several laws by Adani's compa-

nies, to be probed by the JPC. This is not the first demand of JPC. JPC has been formed 7 times, 6 times by Congress and once in Atal ji's government.

They expunged the entire speech of Rahul Gandhi considering it unparliamentary. Similarly, Kharage's speech in Rajya Sabha regarding Hindenburg Report and Adani was deleted. What is the reason? This is an example of how Parliament and the process of Parliament are not being allowed to move forward. To suppress it, Rahul Gandhi said something abroad, objecting to it and demanding an apology. There are at least 20 instances when the opposition party members went abroad and criticized the Prime Minister and the government from 1950 till date. Modi ji criticized Congress about 12 times in many countries of the world, criticized the gov-

ernment of India, in which Congress and Atal ji's government are also included in it. Modi said that he was ashamed to say that he was born in India. Nothing has happened so far and I have come to clean up the mess that has been left. Did it hurt India's honor or not? Singh further said, what Rahul Gandhi said? He Said that my voice is suppressed. Democracy is in danger. He has said all these things in the last 6-7 months in the country. PM Modi's secrets should not be exposed in Adani's case, all this drama and gimmick is happening for him. And now the process of suspending him from Parliament has started.

Digvijay Singh said that I want to ask that Varun Gandhi belongs to BJP, Maneka Gandhi belongs to BJP, never asked them why they did not keep name of Nehru ji.



I feel the most beautiful during sex: Naomi Scott

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Naomi Scott, who is married to Jordan Spence, feels at her most beautiful during "good sex".

The 'Aladdin' actress married soccer player Jordan Spence, who she met at church when she was just 16, in 2014 after four years of dating and she admitted she thinks she looks her best when they are making love, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

She told Britain's Harper's Bazaar magazine: "I feel the most beautiful during sex, good sex. I genuinely think there's something so beautiful about it."

The star and her sportsman spouse enjoy spa sessions featuring extreme temperatures because the sauna and ice bath combinations are "so good" for their health.

She said: "My husband and I like going to plunge pools and saunas. It's so good for your health; it lowers inflammation."

"We do an infrared sauna where you're in there for 10-15 minutes and then you do the ice bath for two minutes. The first time is really hard but once your body gets used to it, it's really great. It helps you sleep better."

When it comes to other people, Naomi thinks there is nothing more beautiful than seeing someone "at peace" with themselves.

Asked what beauty is to her, she said: "When someone's at peace with themselves and fully accepts who they are. There can be moments of insecurities, which we all have as humans, but at the core, being at peace with one self. That's the most beautiful thing."

The 'Distant' actress can always be "comforted" by familiar food smells and she loves it when someone cooks for her. She said: "It always comes back to food. My mum's curry or when she cooks her dhal - there's something about it that makes me feel comforted. If I'm somewhere and I smell Indian food, I feel at home. If your mum or someone is cooking for you, it's a way they show their love."



Taylor Swift kicks off Eras tour in Arizona with huge 44-song set

Los Angeles | Agencies

Taylor Swift rocked a dazzling pink rhinestone leotard before changing into a sizzling black bodysuit when she kicked off her record-breaking Eras tour with a leggy performance in Arizona.

The superstar who recently dropped four new songs took over the Phoenix suburb of Glendale this weekend, drawing an estimated 150,000 superfans to the city, which the Mayor renamed in her honor.

Swift stunned on stage at the State Farm Stadium in 'Swift City,' flaunting her incredible figure and giving a powerhouse performance that did not disappoint. The 12-time Grammy winner conquered the stage in shimmering knee-high boots and sheathed her legs in nude tights. At one point in her jaw-dropping performance, Taylor sipped into a bedazzled silver blazer before donning a fringed champagne minidress and a sultry one-legged black bodysuit adorned with ruby red snakes.

Some of her other striking looks included a pale purple pleated dress with ruffles, which she appeared to wear during some of her more relaxed tunes. The show ended up featuring a staggering 44 songs throughout the evening, including the extended 10-minute version of All Too Well, which was featured as a bonus track on the rerecorded version of her hit album Red. In total, she performed for 3 hours and 15 minutes. Although her new Midnights songs got significant spots in the setlist, Taylor made sure to play some of her recent tunes from her surprise releases Folklore and Evermore. One of her sets featured a see-through cabin that she sat upon while singing, which was reminiscent of a set design she previously employed while performing Folklore songs. Fans of Taylor's earlier country music got a special treat toward the end of her show when she performed an acoustic version of her first-ever single Tim McGraw, which became a top 40 hit.



She also showed off some of her guitar-playing skills with an acoustic version of her Folklore song Mirrorball.

'I'M A TECHNICAL IDIOT'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood actress Sharon Stone broke down in tears during a heartfelt speech at a charity fundraiser as she told the audience she lost "half her money to this banking thing." The Hollywood actress gave an emotional speech at the Women's Cancer Research Fund's 'An Unforgettable Evening' event in Beverly Hills, California in which she urged audience members to pledge their cash to the good cause - and admitted she was still determined to help despite suffering a huge financial setback, reports femalefirst.co.uk. During her turn on stage at the Four Seasons' Beverly Wilshire hotel, Sharon told the crowd: "I know that thing that you have to get on and figure out how to text the money is difficult. I'm a technical idiot, but I can write a f***** cheque. And right now, that's courage too, because I know what's happening. I just lost half my money to this banking thing, and that doesn't mean that I'm not here." Sharon did not give any more details about the cause of her money troubles, but her revelation comes shortly after the headline-grabbing demise of Silicon Valley Bank which collapsed this week and caused instability in the financial markets.

During her speech - which she gave on receiving the charity's Courage Award - the 'Basic Instinct' star also addressed her grief over the death of her brother Patrick Stone, who passed away in February at the age of 57 after a battle with heart disease. She went on: "My brother just died, and that doesn't mean that I'm not here. This is not an easy time for any of us." "This is a hard time in the world, but I'm telling you what, I'm not having some politician tell me what I can and cannot do. How I can and cannot live and what the value of my life is and is not. So stand up. Stand up and say what you're worth. I dare you. That's what courage is."



Sharon Stone breaks down as she admits losing 'half her money'



Los Angeles | Agencies

As Zendaya spends time with her boyfriend Tom Holland's family, MailOnline takes a look at the couples who spawned Hollywood's most famous duo.

He might be one of Hollywood's most famous actors but it appears that Tom's dad was winning awards long before he was. The Kingston born star, 26, is currently showing his American girlfriend around his home town, with the actress seen enjoying a stroll with his mum and dad. Tom's dad Dominic has enjoyed a long career in comedy and first began performing stand-up at The Comedy Cafe in London back in 1991.

But it was his BBC Four radio show in 2000, The Small World of Dominic Holland that landed him a Comic Heritage Award.

The comedic title is a reference to Dominic's height of 5 feet 6 inches, and it seems that the apple doesn't fall too far from the tree with Tom himself often mocking his own height of 5 feet 8 inches as Zendaya stands a few inches taller.

Dominic has since written a book about being overtaken by his son's success, titled Eclipsed: Turns Out that Spider-Man Does Have A Dad Afterall.

'How does a kid called Tom Holland, who never had a speaking part in a school play find himself playing Marvel's Peter Parker?' The bio quips.

Last year, the comedian revealed how his is on hand to keep his son grounded, he told The Daily Mail's Emily Prescott: 'I reckon 99 per cent of celebrities are completely interchangeable. I remind Tom of that a lot!'

Zendaya spends time with Tom Holland's parents

MACKLEMORE HAS LIKENED ADDICTION TO ALLERGY

Los Angeles | Agencies

American rapper Macklemore has likened addiction to allergy. In the wake of his latest album's release, the 'Can't Hold Us' hitmaker made an appearance on health podcast 'On Purpose with Jay Shetty' and opened up about his sobriety journey, reports aceshowbiz.com. Looking back at how he became addicted, the Grammy-winning rapper began by stating: "The easiest way for me to describe it is that it was like an allergy." He further elaborated in the latest episode of the health podcast: "It was once I had a sip or a hit or a sniff or whatever it was, I wanted more and I couldn't turn that off. And I never could."

When asked about how he came to the decision to recover, Macklemore said that he had to ask himself: "Life or death. What do I choose?" He continued by explaining: "I had been lucky enough that I had already been to rehab. I had already understood that this is the disease of addiction. This is an incurable disease." "This is something that I don't graduate from. This is something that I don't go into remission - like this will be with me forever," the artist went on sharing. He added: "And as a daily reprieve and a daily practice, what am I doing for my recovery?" Macklemore also gushed over his supportive wife, Tricia Davis, who had been supporting him through his sobriety and battle with addiction.



ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Emily Ratajkowski



WPL 2023

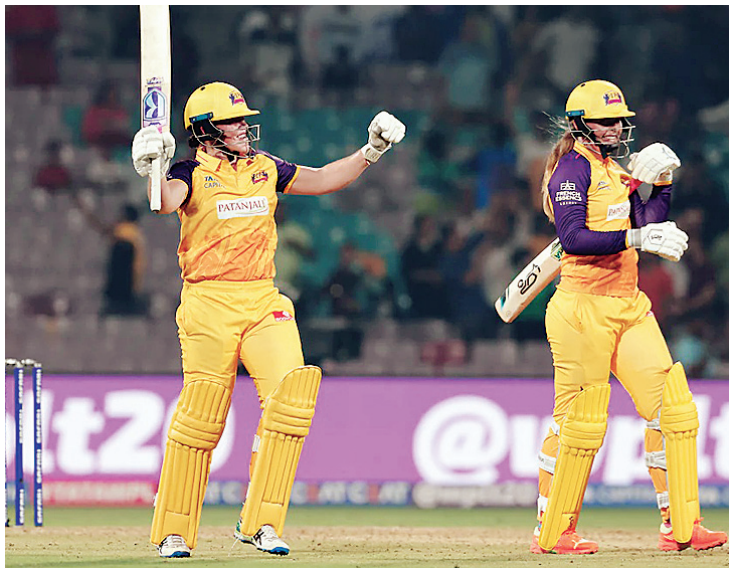
GRACE HARRIS STARS AS UP WARRIORZ HAND MUMBAI INDIANS FIRST DEFEAT

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Sophie Ecclestone, Grace Harris and Tahlia McGrath starred as UP Warriorz defeated Mumbai Indians by five wickets at the DY Patil Stadium. Chasing 128, UPW finished with 129/5 in 19.3 overs as Ecclestone sealed the win by six.

This was MI's first defeat of the season as their unbeaten run in the tournament has finally come to an end. Harris made 39 while McGrath was out on 38. UP Warriorz lost three wickets quickly in their chase though with Hayley Matthews, Issy Wong and Nat Sciver-Brunt picking up a wicket each.

Earlier, Ecclestone took three wickets while Deepti Sharma took a couple of wickets besides effecting a couple of run outs as Mumbai Indians struggled to 127-all out in 20 overs. UP Warriorz captain Alyssa Healy won the toss and opted to bowl first against table-toppers MI.



MI is on a winning streak of five matches while UPW have lost their previous two matches. A win today

will go a long way in helping UPW secure a top-three berth. Meanwhile, Harmanpreet Kaur and

Co will look to extend their unbeaten run but UPW will be itching to bounce back after a close defeat against Royal Challengers Bangalore in their previous match. Mumbai have 10 points while UP are at the third place with just two wins in five matches. Alyssa Healy, Tahlia McGrath and Grace Harris have been the key for UPW in the batting department as their Indian batters have not lived up to the expectations so far in the tournament. While almost everything has gone well for MI as the batters have fired in every match and the bowlers have also put up collective efforts.

Brief scores

Mumbai Indians 127 all out in 20 overs (Hayley Matthews 35, Issy Wong 32; Sophie Ecclestone 3-15, Rajeshwari Gayakwad 2-16) lost to UP Warriorz 129/5 in 19.3 overs (Tahlia McGrath 38, Garce Harris 39; Amelia Kerr 2-22) by 5 wickets.

Women's World Boxing C'ships

Preeti records sensational win against Perijoc; Nitu, Manju also prevail

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Indian pugilist Preeti defied the odds as she stunned the 2022 World Championships silver medalist Lacramioara Perijoc in a thrilling encounter while Nitu Ghanghas and Manju Bamboriya also secured emphatic victories in the Mahindra IBA Women's World Boxing Championships here on Saturday.

The tenacious Preeti (54kg) who won bronze at the 2022 Asian Championships registered her second win of the ongoing tournament being held at the Indira Gandhi Sports Complex here, as she conquered the Romanian Perijoc with a 4-3 win on points after the bout was



reviewed. The Indian will now face another silver medalist of last year's World Championships Jutamas Jitpong of Thailand in the Round of 16.

In the 48kg category, the 2022 Commonwealth Games champion Nitu Ghanghas comfortably got the better of Kang Do-Yeon of South Korea with a win by RSC in the first round.

With Nitu's relentless attack showing no signs of slowing down, the referee stopped the bout in the first

round and handed the Indian her first win of the tournament. She will face Sumaiya Qosimova of Tajikistan in the next round.

After Preeti and Nitu's triumphs, Manju (66kg) also won her bout against Cara Wharerau of New Zealand with a unanimous decision and ensured a clean sweep for the Indian pugilists on the third day of the tournament. The Indian will now take on the top-seeded Navbahor Khamidova of Uzbekistan in her next bout.

Asian Billiards

Advani, Damani, Shrikrishna storm into semis of 100-up format

Doha | Agencies

India's ace cueist Pankaj Advani stormed into the semifinals of the Asian Billiards Championship here on Saturday as two of his compatriots -- Brijesh Damani and Shrikrishna Suryanarayanan -- too made it to the last-four stages.

Advani defeated Praput Chaithanasukan of Thailand in a quarterfinal clash in the 100-up format.

Advani, the multiple-times winner of the World, Asian and National billiards and snooker titles in various formats, got the better of Praput Chaithanasukan 5-1 in their last-eight stage clash in the Qatar capital on Saturday.

In the semifinal, Advani will take on Pauk Sa of Myanmar, who got the better of India's Rupesh Shah 5-2 in the quarterfinals.

India is guaranteed a place in the final as Brijesh Damani and Shrikrishna Suryanarayanan will meet in an all-Indian affair in the second semifinal. Both overcame Indian opponents in the quarterfinals -- Damani prevailed 5-4 over Dhruv Sitwala



while Shrikrishna defeated Saurav Kohari 5-3 in the other quarterfinal.

Advani came up with a break of 93 to win the first frame 100-76 but his Thai opponent compiled a break of 74 to win the second 63-101 and tied the scores.

The Indian ace compiled another 93 break in the third frame to win it 100-43 and surged to a 2-1 lead. He maintained his upper hand in the next three games winning them 101(78)-00, 100-65, 100-12 to emerge victorious. Earlier, Advani had defeated Thaha Irshath of Sri Lanka 4-0 in the first league match of the Asian Billiards Championship 2023.

WPL 2023

SOPHIE DEVINE BLITZKRIEG HELPS RCB THRASH GUJARAT GIANTS

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Sophie Devine put up a brilliant display of power-hitting as she missed scoring the fastest century in women's T20 cricket, hitting 99 off 36 balls as Royal Challengers Bangalore thrashed Gujarat Giants by eight wickets with 27 balls to spare in Match 16 in the Women's Premier League (WPL) 2023 here on Saturday.

Devine produced one of the best innings in T20 cricket in the maiden edition of WPL as Royal Challengers Bangalore blazed to 189/2 in 15.3 overs, after restricting Gujarat Giants to 188/4 in 20 overs.

The win maintained RCB's chances of making it to the playoffs as they moved to the fourth spot, ahead of the Giants who too have four points but have an inferior Net Run Rate.

Devine, who blasted some of the biggest sixes at Brabourne stadium, and became the top scorer in WPL with 266 runs to take the Orange Cap, muscled her way to her half-century off just 20 balls, hitting six boundaries



and four maximums as she gave RCB a big start along with skipper Smriti Mandhana (37 off 31), who seems to

get going for the first time in the tournament. Ellyse Perry (19 not out) and Heather Knight (22 not out) propelled Royal Challengers Bangalore to an eight-wicket win and kept them in the race for a place in the playoffs.

Earlier, Gujarat Giants' Wolvaardt, who had struck a four off the second ball she faced off Meghan Schutt, scored magnificent half century. She raced to her half-century off 35 balls.

But just when it looked like they will take Gujarat Giants to a big score, Wolvaardt got out.

Dayalan Hemalatha (16 not out off 6) and Harleen Deol (12 off 5) blasted 22 runs off the final over, as Gujarat reached a big score.

Brief scores

Gujarat Giants 188/4 in 20 overs (Laura Wolvaardt 68, Ashleigh Gardner 41, Sabbhini Meghana 31; Shreyanka Patil 2-17, Sophie Devine 1-23) lost to Royal Challengers Bangalore 189/2 in 15.3 overs (Sophie Devine 99, Smriti Mandhana 37; Sneha Rana 1-25) by 8 wickets.

IPL 2023

Michael Bracewell joins RCB as replacement for Will Jacks

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) has signed New Zealand's Michael Bracewell as a replacement for England batter Will Jacks for the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2023.

Jacks was signed by RCB for INR 3.2 crore at the player auction but he sustained a muscle injury while fielding in England's second ODI against Bangladesh in Mirpur. After scans and consultation with a specialist, he was forced to pull out of the IPL.

His replacement, Bracewell, has played 16 T20Is, scored 113 runs and picked up 21 wickets for New Zealand.



The 32-year old Bracewell, who has never previously played in the IPL, will join RCB at his base price of INR 1 Crore. Royal Challengers play their first game of the IPL

2023 against Mumbai Indians on April 2. It will be their first fixture at their home ground, Bangalore's M Chinnaswamy Stadium, since May 2019.

APRC ASIA RALLY

GAURAV GILL TAKES LEAD; KARNA KADUR IN THIRD AFTER DAY 2

Chennai Arjuna Awardee and three-time Asia Pacific Rally Championship (APRC) winner, Gaurav Gill and co-driver Aniruddha Rangnekar piloted the Subaru Impreza with admirable control and authority after the rain in the Avisa stage made the dirt track slippery in the FIA APRC Asia Rally Cup here on Saturday.

Their efforts help them garner a comfortable lead at the end of Day 2 at the Madras International Circuit. Gill, the rain-master, established a handsome lead of 1min 18 seconds over his main opposition, Thailand's Mana Pornsrircherd (co-driver Menil Thanayaphat) of the Toyota Rally Team, in the penultimate stage of the day.

Clocking 18min 54.8sec in Special Stage 6 (SS6) at Avisa due to controlled aggression, Gill protected his lead in the last stage of the day at the 'Track Stage' at SS7.

Earlier, he began Saturday cautiously, with the Super Special Stage, a mix of tarmac and dirt, and the Thailand pair, who is making their international debut in India, neutralized his overnight advantage as the final day offers two more stages at Avisa and the Track at MIC each, both in reverse direction on Sunday. Behind the Toyota pair, Karna Kadur and his navigator Nikhil Pai, last year's winners of the Asia Rally Cup, were in third place, followed by Kolkata's former ERC winner in his class, Amitrajit Ghosh (co-driver Ashwin Naik) and Bengaluru brothers Chetan Shivram (co-driver Dilip Sharan).

All England Open

India's challenge ends as Gayatri-Treesa lose in semis

Birmingham | Agencies

India's campaign at the prestigious All England Open Championships came to an end with a semifinal loss to the women's doubles pair of Gayatri Gopichand and Treesa Jolly here on Saturday.

Playing at Axiata Arena, the Indian duo lost to the South Korean pair of Ha Na Baek and So Hee Lee 10-21, 10-21. The Indians caused a stir last year by making the semifinals after being promoted from the reserves list, where they went down in two sets to China's Zhang Shu Xian and Zheng Yu.

In the semifinal, Gayatri and Treesa pair got off to a poor start and was trailing the Koreans after the opening



exchanges. The Indians rallied to reduce the scoreboard deficit midway through but a flurry of unforced errors cost them the opening game.

After the change of sides, the Indian pair failed to shift the momentum into their favour and the Koreans raced to a solid 11-2 lead. Despite engaging in long rallies, the

Indians were unable to get back into the match as the Koreans put on a clinical display to bag the 46-minute-long duel. The duo had started their campaign with a 21-18, 21-14 straight games victory against the seventh-seeded Thai pair of Jongkolphan Kititharakul and Rawinda Prajongjai, their first

KL Rahul has done really well to keep selectors interested ahead of WTC final: Ravi Shastri

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Former India head coach Ravi Shastri believes that wicketkeeper-batter KL Rahul did really well in the first ODI against Australia to keep the national selectors interested ahead of the World Test Championship (WTC) final against the same opposition later in June.

"He has really done well to keep the selectors interested ahead of the WTC final. Two things, one for the ODI series when Rohit Sharma returns and the other for the WTC final. India can bolster their batting if Rahul can keep wickets," Shastri said.

Shastri also claimed Rahul can bat in the middle-order and be the wicketkeeper India needs in the WTC final. Against Australia, in the absence of Rishabh Pant, KS Bharat kept wickets in all four matches, but got mixed results with bat and gloves.

"Rahul can bat in the middle-order No. 5 or No. 6. In England, you have to generally keep wickets from far behind. You don't have to



keep up to the spinners a lot. He has 3 more ODIs to go before the IPL. He can cement his place in that Indian team," added Shastri.

The WTC final between India and Australia will be played from June 7-11 at The Oval. This will be India's second straight appearance in the WTC final, having lost to New Zealand in the 2021 tie at Southampton.

Indian Wells

SABALENKA CRUISES INTO FINAL WITH WIN OVER SAKKARI

Indian Wells (USA) | Agencies

World No 2 Aryna Sabalenka cruised into her third final of the season with a 6-2, 6-3 victory over last year's runner-up, No.7 seed Maria Sakkari, in the Indian Wells Masters semifinals.

Sakkari had beaten Sabalenka in their last two clashes, which came in the group stages at the WTA Finals in both 2021 and 2022. But Sabalenka prevailed in 1 hour and 23 minutes in the Californian desert on Friday, increasing her head-to-head lead over Sakkari to 5-3.

Sabalenka has compiled a 17-1 win-loss record this season, and she has lost only five sets in her 18 matches this year. She is now tied with Caroline Garcia (17-7) for the most WTA main-draw match-wins in 2023.

Sabalenka has also won five of her last six matches against Top 10 opposition. A victory in the final would make Sabalenka the first player to win three titles in 2023, having prevailed at the Australian



Open and Adelaide International 1. Belinda Bencic (Adelaide International 2 and Abu Dhabi champion) is the only player other than Sabalenka to have won two titles this season. The 24-year old Sabalenka finished the match with 21 winners to Sakkari's nine, and she converted five of her ten break points.

RYBAKINA DOMINATES SWIATEK, SETS UP FINAL CLASH WITH SABALENKA

Indian Wells (USA) | Reining Wimbledon champion Elena Rybakina advanced to her first WTA 1000 final after ending No.1 Iga Swiatek's title defense at the Indian Wells Masters.

The World No.10 notched her second win over Swiatek this season, winning 6-2, 6-2 in Friday night's semifinals. Having defeated Swiatek in the fourth round of the Australian Open in January, Rybakina is now the second woman ever to defeat a reigning World No.1 at the Australian Open and Indian Wells in the same year after Lindsay Davenport in 2000. She is also the first player to win multiple matches over a reigning No.1 since 2019.

Rybakina will face World No.2 Aryna Sabalenka for the title on Sunday in a rematch of the electric Australian Open final in January. There, Sabalenka edged Rybakina 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 to win her first major title. Sabalenka leads the head-to-head 4-0 but all their matches have gone the full three sets. Serving at 61% first serves in, Rybakina won 82% of her first serve points (28/34) and was a perfect 5 for 5 on break points.



CHITRANGDA SINGH

shares a glimpse
of her first shot from

upcoming
movie

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Chitrangda Singh shared a behind-the-scenes moment of her first shot from her upcoming film 'Gaslight'. She shared that this is the "most complex" role she has played so far. Chitrangda took to Twitter, where she shared a clip of her shooting for the film, which will release on March 31. "My first day! My first shot as Rukmani! bts This is probably the most complex role I have played so far...so special! So grateful...so excited," Chitrangda wrote as the caption. The film also stars Vikrant Massey and Sara Ali Khan. 'Gaslight' is a psychological thriller and sees Sara essaying an especially ailed character. The film, produced by Ramesh Taurani, Tips Films Ltd and Akshai Puri, 12th Street Entertainment and directed by Pavan Kirpalani, also stars Chitrangda Singh, Akshay Oberoi and

Rahul Dev. 'Gaslight' will drop on Disney+ Hotstar on March 31, 2023.



Raveena Tandon recreates 'Tip Tip Barsa Paani' with Norwegian group

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood actress Raveena Tandon was seen dancing with Norwegian dance group Quick Style on her iconic number 'Tip Tip Barsa Paani'.

Quick Style took to Instagram, where they shared a video dancing with Raveena. The group start grooving to the beats of the song, while the actress joined them from behind.

Quick Style captioned the post: "Different when you do it with the originals."

The track is from the 1994 film 'Mohra', starring Akshay Kumar, Suniel Shetty and Raveena Tandon. It was sung by Udit Narayan and Alka Yagnik. The film was a major box office success, and went on to become the second highest-grossing Indian film of that year only behind 'Hum Aapke Hain Koun'.

On the work front, Raveena will next be seen in 'Ghuchadi' directed by Binoy Gandhi. It stars Sanjay Dutt and Raveena Tandon with Parth Samthaan, Khushali Kumar and Aruna Irani in pivotal roles.

EVERY GIRL WILL RELATE TO MY CHARACTER IN THE SERIES : ESHA DEOL



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood actress Esha Deol while talking about playing a freelance journalist in the web series 'Hunter - Tootega Nahi Todega' said that every girl will relate to her, adding she enjoyed doing stunts for her role.

She said: "My character Divya is someone that every girl will fall in love with. She is confident, smart, witty, and has got some kickass action moves, I mean the action sequences I shot gave me an adrenaline rush and was such a wonderfully satisfying experience."

Esha started her career in 2002 with the film 'Koi Mere Dil Se Poochhe' opposite Aftab Shivdasani.

Later, she also acted in 'Kuch To Hai', 'Chura Liyaa Hai Tumne', 'Yuva' and was part of the multistarrer film 'Dhoom' which gave her immense success that was followed by 'Dus', 'No Entry' among others.

After being part of the psychological crime thriller series 'Rudra: The Edge of Darkness', the actress will be seen next in the upcoming web series 'Hunter' starring Bollywood actor Suniel Shetty as ACP Vikram Sinha.

Sharing her happiness about joining the web series, Esha said: "I am super excited for 'Hunter - Tootega Nahi Todega', it is an action-packed roller-coaster ride filled with emotion and drama... it is masy and the characters are very intriguing."

'Hunter Tootega Nahi, Todega' featuring Suniel Shetty, Esha Deol, Rahul Dev, and Barkha Bisht, will premiere on March 22 on Amazon miniTV.

KAPIL SHARMA REMEMBERS KK, SINGS 'SACH KEH RAHA HAI DEEWANA'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor and stand-up comedian Kapil Sharma paid tribute to late singer K.K. by singing one of his most famous tracks 'Sach Keh Raha Hai Deewana', from the 2001 film 'Rehnaa Hai Terre Dil Mein' starring R. Madhavan, Saif Ali Khan, and Dia Mirza in lead roles.

Kapil welcomed Bollywood actress Dia Mirza on his show and shared a video on his Instagram handle from the sets while singing the song and the audience responded with excitement.

Kapil wrote in the caption: "This was not planned, diamirzaofficial was there in our show n I just started humming the lines of this beautiful song n suddenly all the people started singing this song with me aur woh b bahut sur me, this is the power of good music..Attribute to our loving KK."

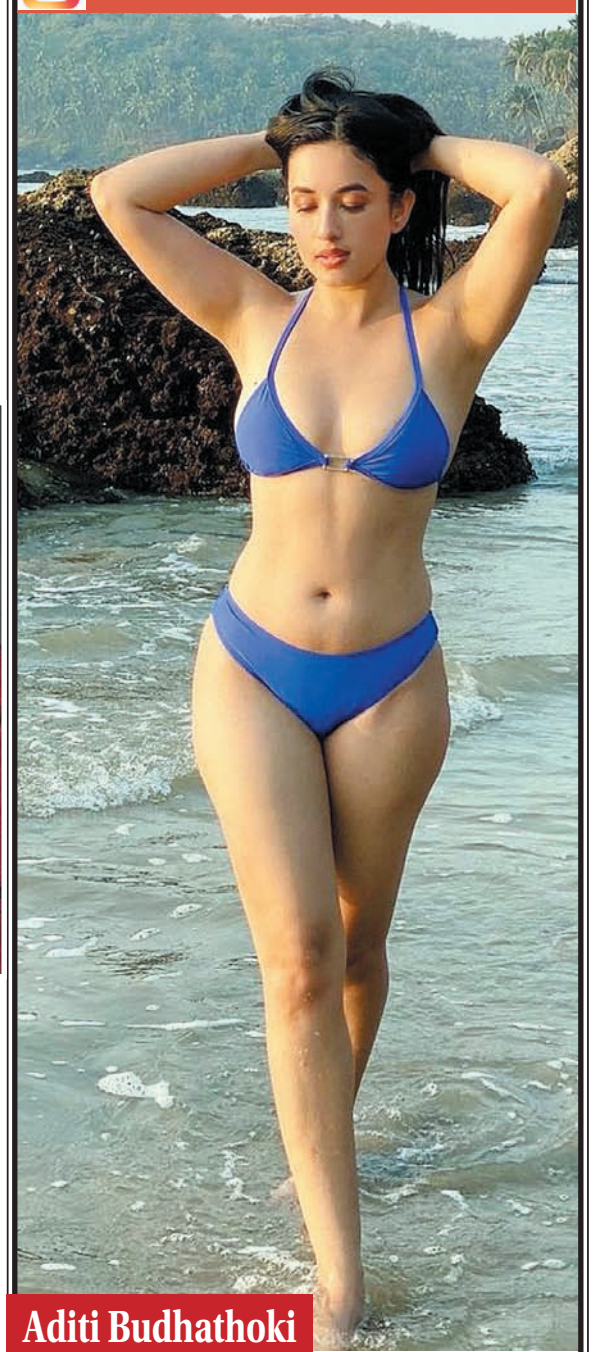
Comedian Rajiv Thakur mentioned: "It was a great moment."

Another fan wrote: "For those missing iconic KK."

One of Kapil's fans appreciated his voice and wrote: "Love your voice keep singing sir."



INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Aditi Budhathoki

MC Stan recalled his journey in the music industry



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Popular rapper MC Stan recalled his journey in the music industry and how he made his name in showbiz. Hailing from Pune, Maharashtra, and music became his first love after listening to Qawwali played at his home and he dropped his first single 'Wata' in 2018, after that, there was no looking back for him.

He shared: "Since childhood, I was used to listening to Qawwali a lot because my father used to play them all the time. I was not even aware of what kind of music was being created in foreign lands. Then I came across the rap culture where I heard people saying English words pretty fast and somewhere I got connected to it and I found it very cool."

The 'Bigg Boss 16' winner, who is known for his unique dressing style and hairdo added further on how he relates to rap and

thought of connecting rap music to Hindi and making it popular in the country.

"I actually could relate to it as rap emerged from black people's struggles of coming out of poverty. So I thought of taking it up in my mother language Hindi and portraying my roots and values through rap," he added.

MC Stan appeared on 'The Kapil Sharma Show' along with famous internet personalities Bhuvan Bam, Harsh Gujaral, and Dolly Singh. During the show, MC Stan talked about one of his popular compositions 'Khuja Mat' and what inspired him to create this song. He shared: "There was no such inspiration behind the song. There was a beef going on between my friend and me, so in rapping. He dissed each other like a competition. So I wrote this rap in the form of a diss for him."

'The Kapil Sharma Show' airs on Sony Entertainment Television.