

# absolute india

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## Calcutta HC cancels all OBC certificates issued in Bengal after 2010

Kolkata | Agencies

The Calcutta High Court on Wednesday cancelled all the Other Backward Class (OBC) certificates issued in West Bengal after 2010.

The ruling by the division bench of Justice Tapabrata Chakraborty and Justice Rajasekhar Mantha effectively means that all OBC certificates issued by the current Trinamool Congress regime that came to power in 2011 now stand cancelled.

Following the order, over 5,00,000 OBC certificates issued since 2010 cannot be used for seeking reservations for jobs now.

However, there is an exemption for those who have already secured jobs using the certificates issued during that period, as the latest order will have no impact on them, the bench ruled.

While passing the order, the bench observed that since the certificates issued after 2010 were not issued in accordance with the prescribed legal procedures, they stand cancelled.

The bench ruled that the state Assembly will now decide who all are eligible to apply for OBC certificates. It also said that the West Bengal Backward Class Commission will now



decide the list of caste categories that can be included in the OBC list.

As per the rule, the Commission recommends the list and forwards the same to the state Assembly which takes the final decision on this count. In the past, there have been several complaints relating to irregularities in issuing OBC certificates in West Bengal, as a result of which several eligible persons were deprived of the certificates as several non-eligible candidates were included in the list.

### I don't accept this order: Mamata Banerjee

"I do not accept this order of the Calcutta High Court. Recently the Calcutta High Court also cancelled around 26,000 jobs in state-run schools. I did not accept that order as well. I will not take any names. Whoever passed it, but I must say that this order favours the BJP. Hence we will not accept it. The reservation for OBCs will continue."

The Chief Minister linked the Calcutta High Court's order with the recent statement by Prime Minister Narendra Modi that the Congress and other allies of the Opposition INDIA bloc, if voted to power, have plans to reduce the quota for OBCs and give the same to Muslims.

## STOP CAMPAIGN SPEECHES THAT MAY DIVIDE SOCIETY": POLL BODY

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Election Commission, criticised over what many called its kid-glove treatment of the BJP and its leaders, today read the Riot Act to the ruling party as well as the Opposition for campaigning along the lines of "caste, community, language, and religion". The party in power at the election time has extra responsibility. No unlimited extra space should go to the opposition either, the Commission said ahead of the last two phases of election.

"Political parties will have to take primary responsibility for the conduct of their candidates, star campaigners in particular. Campaign speeches by those holding high positions are of more seri-

ous consequences," the Commission said.

The BJP -- as the ruling party at the Centre -- has been asked to stop campaign speeches that may divide society.

The Commission said it expects the BJP to "fully align campaign methods to the practical aspects of the composite and sensitive fabric of India".

The star campaigners of the party have to adhere to the Model Code direction that "No Party or candidate shall include in any activity which may aggravate existing difference or create mutual hatred or cause tension between different castes and communities, religious or linguistic," the Commission said.

"India's socio-cultural milieu is an enduring preserve cannot be made a

casualty to elections," the Commission said. The two big parties are not allowed to weaken the heritage of quality electoral experience of Indian voter, the poll body said. The poll body's statement came amid massive criticism of its handling of Model Code violation allegations against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Congress's Rahul Gandhi. After each party filed petitions against the other's leader, the Commission sent notices to the respective party chiefs.

The critics have also questioned the Commission's silence about Model Code Violation complaints and its findings. The poll body has also been criticised for discontinuing the traditional practice of holding press briefings after every phase of election.

## SHAH RUKH KHAN HOSPITALISED IN AHMEDABAD DUE TO DEHYDRATION

Ahmedabad: Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan was admitted to the KD Hospital in Ahmedabad on Wednesday after reportedly suffering a heat stroke. The actor reached Ahmedabad on Tuesday to watch the Indian Premier League (IPL) match between his franchise Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) and Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH), which KKR won at the Narendra Modi Stadium here to reach the final. "The actor was suffering from dehydration amid a high temperature of 45-degree Celsius in Ahmedabad. He is under medical observation although his health is stable. Security has been tightened around the hospital," sources said.



## INDI Alliance has diseases worse than cancer: PM Modi

Shrawasti | Agencies

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Wednesday that the INDIA bloc is afflicted with diseases like communalism, casteism and nepotism that are "worse than cancer" and can destroy the nation.

"The INDIA Alliance has diseases worse than cancer. They can destroy the whole of India if they spread. These three diseases -- of being extremely communal, extremely racist and extremely nepotistic -- can be more destructive for the country than cancer," said PM Modi while addressing an election rally in Uttar Pradesh's Shravasti. Seeing the massive gathering, the Prime Minister said that the love and enthusiasm of people "clearly shows" that the INDIA Alliance of SP-Congress has "completely collapsed" and the entire country is chanting 'phir ek baar, Modi sarkar'. "The BJP does not want the old Uttar Pradesh to be back and this is my guarantee that I will not allow it," he said. Continuing further, he said that the Congress party wanted to give reservation rights to Muslims by taking away the benefits from SC/ST and OBCs but he would never allow it.

"My guarantee is that I will remain a 'chowkidar' for the weaker sections and their rights. I will not allow any tampering with the reservation issue," he added.



The Prime Minister said that a top Congress leader who "worked like a commando for the Shehzada" used to call him an 'incumbent Prime Minister' but after the fifth phase, he too has stopped ridiculing him.

"I just saw some videos in which people can be seen climbing onto the dais. When I asked, I was told that these people had been brought for the INDIA rally on payment but the money had not been given to them. How can you trust such people and can they do any good for you?" he asked.

The Prime Minister further said that the 2024 elections would decide the future of the country.

## Pune Porsche case: Accused minor's bail cancelled, detained to juvenile home till June 5

Pune | Agencies

In a significant development, the Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) on Wednesday cancelled the bail granted to a minor -- charged with killing two persons with his speeding Porsche early on May 19 -- and has detained him in a juvenile rehabilitation home for 14 days.

The JJB's order came three days after it had granted bail to the minor boy -- son of a prominent Pune realtor -- barely 15 hours after the accident, and asked him to write an essay, serve with traffic police and take medical help to de-addict himself, sparking a huge public and political row.

The state police went in appeal against the JJB order before a Sessions Court, which directed it to go back to the JJB and seek a review of the previous



order, which was granted on Wednesday.

The Pune Police also informed the JJB that the investigators have enhanced the charges by adding a new IPC Section

185 to the chargesheet, besides Section 304 pertaining to culpable homicide not amounting to murder.

In a related development, the boy's father, Vishal S. Agarwal was remanded

to two days police custody, along with three others arrested, including the owner and managers of two eateries where the youngsters' brigade had partied on Saturday-Sunday night.

## 20 People In Intensive Care After "Extreme Turbulence" In Singapore Airlines Flight

Bangkok: Twenty people were in intensive care in Bangkok hospitals on Wednesday after a terrifying high-altitude plunge on a flight from London during which an elderly passenger died and more than 100 were injured.

Singapore Airlines flight SQ321 hit "sudden extreme turbulence" over Myanmar 10 hours into its journey to Singapore on Tuesday, abruptly rising and plunging several times. One passenger said people were thrown around the cabin so violently they put dents in the ceiling during the drama at 11,300 metres (37,000 feet), leaving dozens with head injuries. Photos from inside the plane show the cabin in chaos, strewn with food, drinks bottles and luggage, and with oxygen masks dangling from the ceiling. The plane, carrying 211 passengers and 18 crew, made an emergency landing at Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi Airport, where medical staff used gurneys to ferry the injured to ambulances waiting on the tarmac.

## PREPARATIONS FOR RESTRUCTURING OF CAPITAL PROJECT ADMINISTRATION (CPA) STOPPED IN SHIVRAJ GOVERNMENT

Bhopal: Preparations are underway to reconstitute the Capital Projects Administration (CPA), which was closed by the Shivraj government on March 3, 2022. Chief Secretary Veera Rana has called a meeting of officials of Public Works and Urban Development and Housing Department on May 28, in which the works related to parks, government buildings and roads of Bhopal will be reviewed after the closure of CPA.

In the year 2021, when the condition of the roads of Bhopal city deteriorated due to excessive rainfall, the then Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan expressed his displeasure in the review meeting and gave instructions to close the CPA. The Urban Development and Housing Department presented the proposal in the Cabinet on March 3, 2022, which was approved.

After this, the work of CPA road and building maintenance was handed over to the Public Works Department and the responsibility of maintaining the parks was handed over to the Forest Department, but this did not bring any improvement in the situation. The condition of the gardens worsened. Minister Krishna Gaur wrote a letter to Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav requesting him to consider the restructuring of CPA on the basis of development of parks and forest area.

## Truecaller to let users create digital version of their voice using Microsoft's new tech

Team Absolute | New Delhi

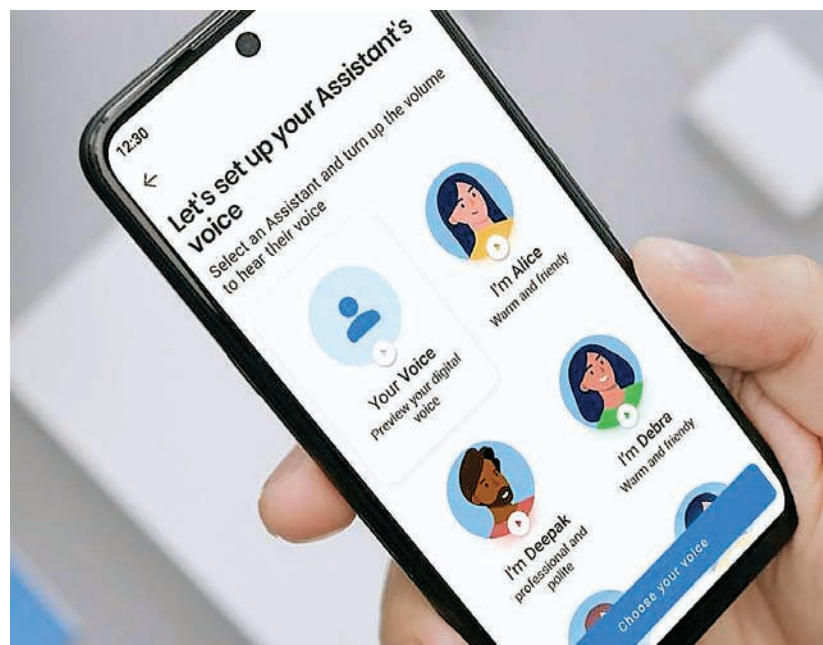
Leading caller identification app Truecaller on Wednesday announced a partnership with Microsoft to utilise the new 'Personal Voice' technology from the tech giant's Azure AI Speech which will allow users to create a digital version of their own voice to use inside the AI Assistant.

Introduced in 2022, Truecaller's AI Assistant incorporates a multitude of AI technologies that can automatically answer phone calls for you, screen calls, take messages, respond on your behalf, or record the call for your later viewing.

"The personal voice feature allows our users to use their own voice, enabling the digital assistant to sound just like them when handling incoming calls," Raphael Mimoun, Product Director and General Manager, Truecaller Israel, said in a statement.

"This groundbreaking capability not only adds a touch of familiarity and comfort for the users but also showcases the power of AI in transforming the way we interact with our di

The addition of Microsoft's Personal Voice tech to Truecaller's AI Assistant



means that if you already have Assistant on your app, you can have your callers hear a replicated and authentic version of your voice instead of one of the many digi-

tal assistants on offer.

This feature is being rolled out gradually across all of Truecaller's markets, the company said.

## Easy process for new driving license from June 1

No need for driving test in RTO, it can be done in private driving school



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Now, one does not need to give a test in RTO to get a driving license and you will be able to get your driving license from a private training center or driving school. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has announced new rules for getting a driving license in India. These new rules will come into effect from June 1, 2024.

These institutions will be authorized to conduct tests for license eligibility and issue

certificates. The government's new rules aim to reduce pollution. For this, by making car emission rules stricter, about 9 lakh old government vehicles will be removed from the roads in different phases.

According to the new rules, the fine for speeding is between Rs 1,000 and Rs 2,000. However, if a minor is caught driving, a heavy fine of Rs 25,000 will be imposed. Apart from this, the vehicle owner's registration card will be canceled and the minor will be ineligible for a license till the age of 25 years.





# ARVIND KEJRIWAL'S FIRST COMMENTS ON SWATI MALIWAL ASSAULT ROW

**Team Absolute** | New Delhi  
 In his first direct reaction to the alleged assault on his party's Rajya Sabha MP Swati Maliwal, which has kicked up a political firestorm, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has said he expects that a fair investigation will be conducted and justice will be done. The Aam Aadmi Party chief stressed, however, that there are two versions of the event. Maliwal has alleged that she was assaulted by Kejriwal's personal assistant, Bibhav Kumar, at the chief minister's residence on May 13. The AAP leader claimed Kumar had kicked her in the chest, stomach and pelvic area and had brutally "dragged her and pulled her shirt up". Kumar has been arrested and was sent to the custody of the Delhi Police till Thursday. In an interview with news agency the AAP chief said the alleged assault is "sub-judice" and him commenting on it could affect the proceedings. "But I expect there will be a fair investigation. Justice should be served. There are two versions of the event.



Police should investigate both versions fairly and justice should be done," he said. Hitting back strongly at the chief minister, Maliwal said it was ironic that the person who had "assassinated her character" and called her a "BJP agent" was now calling for a free and fair investigation. "After unleashing the entire army of



leaders and volunteers at me, calling me a BJP agent, assassinating my character, leaking edited videos, victim shaming me, roaming around with the accused, letting him re enter the crime scene and tamper evidences and protesting in favour of the accused, the Chief Minister, in whose drawing room I was beaten up, has finally said that he wants free and fair

investigation in the matter," the MP said in a post on X. The alleged assault on Maliwal has prompted attacks on the AAP and Kejriwal from the BJP. The party's president, JP Nadda, had questioned Mr Kejriwal's silence on the issue and said that it shows his "double character and dual standards". Delhi Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena had also waded into the row on Tuesday and said, "I would have expected that, at least for the sake of propriety, my chief minister would have come clean, rather than being evasive and dodgy. His deafening silence speaks volumes of his stance on safety of women." This had prompted a strong response from the Aam Aadmi Party, which said Mr Saxena's statement proves that Maliwal "is working for the BJP". "With the elections on, the BJP is bringing a new conspiracy daily, from liquor scam to Swati Maliwal to foreign funding. The BJP is losing badly, so they are trying to love their prospects by using the Swati Maliwal issue," the party said.

## Priyanka Gandhi to hold roadshow for Ajay Rai in Varanasi on May 25

Varanasi (UP) | Agencies

Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra will campaign and hold a roadshow in favour of Ajay Rai, the party's state president and candidate in Varanasi, on May 25. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is seeking a third consecutive term from Varanasi. Ajay Rai said on Wednesday, "Yes, Priyanka Gandhi will campaign and hold a roadshow in Varanasi on May 25." Rai has been camping here for the past few weeks. Priyanka Gandhi Vadra is one of the Congress's star campaigners. She along with her brother Rahul Gandhi and other senior party leaders, has been campaigning in different states. Priyanka camped in Rae Bareilly to campaign for party candidates -- Rahul Gandhi in Rae Bareilly and her family



loyalist K.L. Sharma in Amethi -- from May 6 till the end of campaigning there on May 18.

Polling in Varanasi will take place in the seventh and final phase of elections on June 1.

## LS polls over, now focus on drought, farmers: Maha Congress tells govt

Mumbai | Agencies

The Congress on Wednesday urged the ruling MahaYuti government in Maharashtra to pay attention to the problems of severe water shortages, agricultural woes, and farmers' plight now that the Lok Sabha elections are over in the state. Speaking to mediapersons here, Maharashtra Congress President Nana Patole said that large parts of the state are grappling with severe water shortage for drinking, livestock, and agriculture purposes. "Most dams and reservoirs are virtually running empty with little or no water, people in thousands of villages and hamlets have no drinking water. There is no water for



fodder animals and agriculture," Patole claimed. Under the grim scenario and with monsoon at least another fortnight away, he called upon the state government to make drinking water arrangements in every water scarcity region, fodder for the animals and farming purposes. Elaborating further, Patole said that people in the state, especially the rural women, are facing great hardships to get bare minimum drinking water, their animals have no

fodder and water, which in turn is hitting milk production. "Many cities and towns are getting water once in 10-12 days, at least 23 districts are experiencing severe water crises and the situation is serious in Marathwada. We had warned in January that the state would be facing water problems, but the MahaYuti allies were busy with infighting and preparing for the elections," claimed Patole. Now that the elections are over, the government must pay attention to the people's woes and take immediate steps to resolve the water-fodder crisis, start fodder camps, and deploy tankers to rush water to the critical regions, he urged.

# MP govt floats tenders for 5 PPP model medical colleges

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Giving a push to its ambitious proposal to establish new medical colleges under the public-private-partnership (PPP) model, the Madhya Pradesh government has floated tenders for it. Deputy Chief Minister Rajendra Shukla on Wednesday informed that a complete roadmap has been prepared for inviting tenders and a meeting will be called soon after the results of the ongoing Lok Sabha elections are announced on June 4. It would be the first time that medical colleges will be established on the PPP model in Madhya Pradesh. A proposal for this has already been approved by the Chief Minister Mohan Yadav led Madhya Pradesh cabinet in March this year. "In the first phase, five medical colleges will be opened under the PPP model. Tenders for some of these projects have been floated. We will proceed



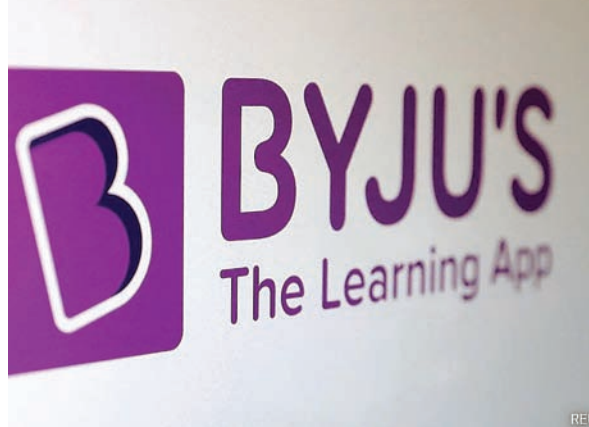
further on the basis of the private parties," Shukla, who is also MP's health minister, said. This model will reduce the investment cost and

the investor will only need to build the medical college and not a hospital along with it. For the establishment of medical colleges under the PPP model, the government will provide land at the collector's guideline rates to investors, he said. He added that six new government-run medical colleges will become operational from the next academic year. "With these six, the number of government-run medical colleges in MP will increase to 20. Five medical colleges (PPP model) will be added in the next two years, and then we will have 25 medical colleges," he said. The minister informed that the state government is preparing to establish one medical college in every district. There are 53 districts in Madhya Pradesh, including two - Maunjanj (separated from Rewa district) and Pandhurna (separated from Chhindwara district), which were made districts during the assembly elections in November last year.

# BYJU'S starts new batches in 240 centres across India

Team Absolute | New Delhi

BYJU'S Tuition Centres (BTCs), India's largest and strongest network of learning centres, have started batches for the 2024-25 academic session in full swing across their 240 locations. BTCs provide classroom-based programs for K-12 students, complemented by access to BYJU'S entire digital learning universe. For the current academic year, BYJU'S has dropped the annual fee for BTCs to just INR 36,000, making it more affordable than even neighbourhood tuition classes, while offering a far superior quality of curriculum, pedagogy, and delivery. BYJU'S has also seen a strong inbound interest for the role of teachers, receiving nearly 1200 applications per day over the last two months. On May 19th, Byju



Raveendran, Founder and CEO of BYJU'S, addressed all BTC centre heads and shared an innovative new business model, based on intrapreneurship. "I want you to see yourselves as part-owners of these centres, not just managers," he said. Under this model, BTC centre heads will receive a share of profits from

their centre's operations, provided they meet minimum thresholds for admissions and quality over a one-year period. "We have invested crores of rupees in each centre. And you get to part-own it, free of cost! There is a floor we have prepared for you. But there is no ceiling. How much you want to grow is up

to you," he added. The heads have also been empowered to hire their own teams and even rehire former BYJU'S employees. "BTCs have huge potential to transform the supplementary education experience for millions of students across India," said Byju Raveendran. "With the right programs, dedicated teachers, enabling technology and a sustainable financial model, I believe we can take BTCs to remarkable heights in terms of both scale and impact." The 240 hybrid learning centres of BTC, with the 300 plus centres of Aakash, make the BYJU'S group one of the largest networks of learning centres across India with presence across diverse locations like Bilaspur, Kharar, Dibrugarh, Vapi, Latur, Asansol, Dhule, and Tirupati, taking quality education to the deepest parts of India.

## NORTH BLOCK RECEIVES BOMB THREAT MAIL, BOMB DISPOSAL SQUAD RUSHED TO SPOT

New Delhi: The North Block in the national capital, which houses multiple ministries including the Ministry of Home Affairs, received a bomb threat on Wednesday afternoon, sources said, adding that a search operation is underway at the premises. Police sources said a team of bomb disposal squad along with fire tenders and sniffer dogs have been rushed to the spot. According to fire department officials, a call from the police was received at 3:37 p.m. after which two fire tenders were dispatched to the North Block. Further details are awaited. The latest threat comes days after several hospitals in Delhi, the Indira Gandhi International Airport and the Tihar Jail were targeted with bomb threat emails, alleging the presence of explosives on their premises.

## Rajasthan sizzles: Met dept warns of mercury shooting up to 48 degree celsius in next 72 hours

Jaipur | Agencies

Reeling under a severe heat wave, Pilani in Rajasthan was the hottest place registering a temperature of 47.2 degree celsius while almost all the other cities recorded a temperature ranging between 43 to 47 degrees in the last 24 hours, Met officials said on Wednesday. They warned that the temperature will touch 45 to 48 degrees in some parts of the state in the next 72 hours. According to RS Sharma, Director, Met centre, Jaipur, "The minimum temperature in some parts of the state is likely to be 2-5 degrees Celsius above the average." A severe heat wave in Rajasthan will increase the maximum and minimum temperatures by another 2-3 degrees in the next 72 hours. This will lead to nights becoming warm too due to an increase in minimum temperatures in the next five days, he said.



"There is a possibility of a heat wave at most places in the state and a severe heat wave at some places in the next two days. On May 23-24, there is a strong possibility of the maximum temperature touching the range of 45-48 degrees and a severe heat wave hitting some parts of Jodhpur, Bikaner, Jaipur, Kota and Bharatpur divisions."

Meanwhile, Barmer in Rajasthan was the second hottest place and recorded 46.2 degrees celsius temperature, Ganganagar registered 46.3, Phalodi registered 46 degrees, Bikaner was 44.8 degree celsius, Bikaner was 44.8 degree celsius, Kota was 44.8 degree celsius and Jaipur was 44.4 degree celsius.

## RAJASTHAN HIGH COURT MIGHT SOON GET 10 NEW JUDGES

Lalit Sharma | Jaipur

The High Court Collegium has sent the names of 10 advocates from Jaipur and Jodhpur to the Supreme Court Collegium for their appointment as High Court judges. These include advocates Sandeep Taneja, Sheetal Mirdha, Anand Sharma, Anurup Singhi, and Bipin Gupta from Jaipur. From Jodhpur, advocates Vinay Jain, Baljinder Singh Sandhu, Sandeep Shah, Mukesh Rajpurohit, and Sunil Beniwal are included. Taneja has been made Additional Advocate General by the current BJP government, while Sheetal Mirdha was Additional Advocate General during the previous Congress government. Similarly, Sandeep Shah and Sunil Beniwal also served as Additional Advocate Generals during the previous Congress government. Meanwhile, Anand Sharma from Jaipur and Mukesh Rajpurohit from Jodhpur are advocates for the central government. According to sources, the central government has requested an IB report on these names, and soon these names will be sent to the Supreme Court Collegium for consideration along with the IB report.

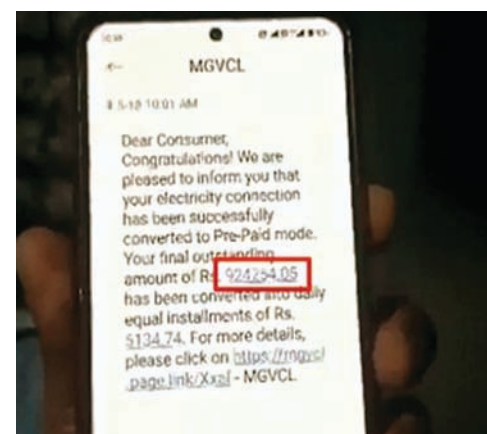


**Rajasthan High Court facing a shortage of judges -** The total sanctioned number of judges in the Rajasthan High Court is 50, but currently, only 32 judges are working. Meanwhile, the High Court is struggling with a backlog of cases. As of Wednesday, May 21, 6,63,162 cases are pending in the Rajasthan High Court. Out of these, 2,77,795 cases are pending in the Jodhpur main bench and 3,85,367 cases are pending in the Jaipur bench.

# Vadodara resident gets Rs 9.24 lakh electricity bill, MGVCCL admits mistake

Vadodara | Agencies

Amid the growing complaints against the newly installed smart electricity meters in Gujarat's Vadodara, a consumer received a bill of Rs 9.24 lakh for a month's consumption. Rahish, a Subhanpura resident living in a rented house, received an SMS from Madhya Gujarat Vij Corporation Limited (MGVCL) stating that his bill balance was Rs 9.24 lakh. Upon investigation, MGVCL discovered an error in their billing system, leading to an exorbitant bill. The customer's actual balance was corrected to Rs 1,037, which will be credited to his smart meter account. Another resident from Riddhi Siddhi Flats in the Subhanpura area faced a similar issue. His usual electricity bill was around Rs 2,000, but he received an SMS indicating his bill had skyrocketed to over Rs nine lakh, with an option to pay Rs 5,000 in instalments. He has been renting out the flat for seven years, and was unaware of any smart meter installation at his residence, highlighting the lack of



communication from the power company. The controversy surrounding Madhya Gujarat Vij Corporation Limited (MGVCL)'s installation of smart electricity meters in Vadodara continues to grow with consumers reporting a series of issues that have caused frustration.

MGVCL has installed 25,000 smart meters across the city, and many users claim their prepaid amount of Rs 2,000 is consumed within a week of installation. "The smart meter app prompts consumers to recharge their accounts four times and disconnects power when the balance reaches minus Rs 300. The new meters charge Rs 4.29 per unit, a significant increase from the previous rate of Rs 2.79 per unit. This has further aggravated consumer concerns, with some experiencing disconnections at inconvenient times, such as midnight, and speedy depletion of their recharge amounts," sources said. The implementation of smart meters in Vadodara has been contentious since the election period, with reports indicating that meters were installed without adequately informing residents. While the power company views smart meters as a futuristic and beneficial step, many consumers see them as a daily headache. Complaints have been pouring in from various parts of the city, with frustrated residents frequently visiting the power company's offices to express their grievances.





## DEVELOPMENT IS VISIBLE EVERYWHERE AND GOONS ARE SEEN IN JAIL

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav in support of BJP candidate Pankaj Choudhary from Maharajganj Lok Sabha seat of Uttar Pradesh, Ramkola in support of BJP candidate Vijay Kumar Dubey from Kushinagar Lok Sabha seat, Jaunpur in support of BJP candidate Kripashankar Singh from Jaunpur Lok Sabha seat. While addressing the public meetings organized in 2017, he said that today the development that has taken place in the country and states is visible in the market and those who were corrupt, goons and scoundrels are visible in jail. This is India of the 21st century and there is democracy here. No one's dictatorship will last. Since the independence of the country, Congress has continuously tried to cut the roots of Sanatan Dharma. For 70 years, Congress kept questioning Lord Shri Ram and demanding proof of his existence. Due to the mistakes of Congress, the borders of the country were unsafe, but now the enemy is afraid. It is very important to have Prime Minister Narendra Modiji to destroy the enemies of the country.

Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav said that the country became independent in 1947. At the same time, a temple of Lord Shri Ram should



have been built in Ayodhya, but for 70 years Congress kept questioning the existence of Lord Shri Ram kept asking for proof of his existence. Because of Congress, Lord Shri Ram remained sitting in a tent for 70 years. Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav said that due

to the mistakes of Congress, China captured more than one lakh kilometers of Indian land. This stigma has been on the forehead of our country for a long time. During the Congress rule, the borders around the country were unsafe. Now the country is safe during the tenure of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He said that earlier tiffin bombs and bicycle bombs used to explode in the country. People were afraid to leave their homes, but now the trace of terrorism has been eradicated from the country.

Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav said that Congress and its arrogant alliance leaders are saying that if Modiji comes, they will destroy the reservation, but the work of abolishing the reservation has been done by the Congress governments. At present, there is a Congress government in Karnataka and Telangana and their governments have cut the reservation of the poor and tribals there and given it to a particular class.

BJP talks about Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas and Sabka Vishwas. This Congress and its arrogant alliance leaders are as arrogant as Ravana and this time the people of the country will break their arrogance. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that this time Bharatiya Janata Party will win with more than 400 seats and will create a record. BJP will win all 29 seats of Madhya Pradesh.

## Kamal Nath cornered the Election Commission on the changes in voting figures

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Lok Sabha elections are going on in the country, five phases of voting have taken place. Former Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Kamal Nath has cornered the Election Commission regarding the changes in real-time voting and subsequent revised figures. Kamal Nath has demanded from the Commission to clarify the situation immediately.

Former Chief Minister Kamal Nath wrote on Twitter, "In the ongoing Lok Sabha elections in the country, there has been an increase of 1.07 crore votes so far in the real time voting and later in the revised voting data released by the Election Commission. The percentage of votes in the real time and revised data is 'Such a huge increase is unprecedented and shocking.'"

Kamal Nath raised questions on the change in figures and urged the Commission to immediately clarify the situation. The election process should be free and fair as well as transparent. Due to lack of transparency, sometimes even the right process appears wrong. The Election Commission should come forward to remove all confusion and doubts and explain clearly how such a huge difference in the vote figures came about and what is the reason for it?

The process of five phases of voting has



been completed. Voting is to be held in the remaining two phases. So far, voting has been held in five phases on April 19, April 26, May 7, May 13 and May 20. Now voting will be held in the coming days on 25th May and 1st June. The results will come on June 4.

If we talk about Madhya Pradesh, voting has taken place on 29 seats here in the first two phases on 19th and 26th April. These days all the big leaders of the state are busy campaigning in other states.

## Justice Sheel Nagu appointed Acting Chief Justice of Madhya Pradesh HC

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Centre has notified the appointment of Justice Sheel Nagu as the Acting Chief Justice of the Madhya Pradesh High Court. Justice Nagu will succeed outgoing Chief Justice Ravi Malimath, who will demit office on May 24.

Justice Malimath assumed charge as the Chief Justice of Madhya Pradesh High Court on July 1, 2021.

Justice Nagu, who was enrolled as an advocate on October 5, 1987, practised civil and constitutional law in Jabalpur under the high court. Born on January 1,



1965, Justice Nagu is the senior most judge in the MP high court. He was appointed as an additional judge in the

high court on May 27, 2011, before becoming a permanent judge on May 23, 2013.

## Rape of a mentally handicapped in Sendhwa, angry people took to the streets

Team Absolute | Barwani

In Sendhwa of Barwani district of Madhya Pradesh, a young man made a nine-year-old mentally handicapped girl the victim of his lust. When this incident came to light, people came out on the streets and a situation of tension was created. Heavy police force has been deployed to prevent tension from escalating. Police have arrested the accused.

According to the information, on Tuesday night, an auto driver coaxed and took away a mentally challenged nine-year-old innocent child in Sendhwa police station area. He raped the innocent child. The injured girl was taken to the health center of Sendhwa for treatment, where if the condition did not improve, she was referred to the district hospital of Barwani. The condition of the innocent child remains stable. Due to the accused belonging



to a particular community, the anger of the local people increased and a large number of people gathered at the old bus stand on Wednesday.

They blocked the wheel. Superintendent of Police Puneet Gehlot, who reached the spot, assured the protesters that strict action would be taken against the accused. The people who came out on the streets to protest demanded that the accused should be given such punishment so that no other person can even think of committing such a crime. Notably, the Mohan Yadav government of the state has even bulldozed the houses of the accused involved in the heinous crime. The people of Sendhwa have demanded similar action.

In view of the possibility of increasing tension in Sendhwa, police force has been deployed and senior officers are present at the spot. The police have taken the accused into custody. But, his identity has not been revealed.

## Congress announce reward on Akshay Bam in Indore

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Congressmen are still venting their anger against Akshay Bam, who left the Congress candidature and joined BJP. After the voting, some Congress leaders have now started a campaign to get Akshay Bam arrested. In old cases, warrants have been issued against him. The Bam is still absconding. Meanwhile, some Congress leaders have announced that a cash reward will be given to anyone who reveals his address.

Congress executive Akshay Devendra Yadav and his associates have pasted posters of the Bam escaping outside the railway station. Congress leaders have pasted some posters on the walls as well as behind the auto rickshaws. Congressmen are announcing that a reward of Rs 5100 will be given to anyone who gives information about the missing bomb and its



address. During this, some Congress leaders also raised slogans against Akshay Bam.

Two days ago, the same Congress leader had also reached Khajrana police station. They had demanded that the police should speed up the process of finding the Bam. Congressmen are alleging that on one hand a warrant has been issued against the Bam, on the other hand the administration has put security outside the house of the same person under pressure from BJP.

## Will Shivraj's son Kartikeya Singh Chauhan contest from Budhni or someone else... Discussion begins in BJP

Team Absolute | Bhopal

If Shivraj Singh Chauhan wins from Vidisha Lok Sabha seat and resigns from the post of MLA, then by-election will be held on Budhni Assembly seat. The name of Shivraj Singh's son Kartikeya Chauhan is running fast on this seat. It is another matter that Shivraj himself is against familyism and has been continuously attacking Congress in this regard. It remains to be seen whether familyism prevails in Budhani's case or someone else is made the candidate.

Vidisha seat is considered a stronghold of BJP. Shivraj Singh himself is confident of his record victory with BJP. Shivraj Singh Chauhan has been MP from this seat 5 times before. Therefore, it is believed that this time also his victory is certain.

Chief Minister's elder son Kartikeya is always seen



active in Budhni assembly constituency of Sehore district. Due to his continuous activism, there are speculations about his entry into politics. The political buzz has already intensified regarding the by-election to be held on Budhni Assembly seat. If Shivraj Singh Chauhan wins from Vidisha Lok Sabha seat and resigns from the post of MLA, then by-election will be held on Budhni Assembly seat. The name of Shivraj Singh's son Kartikeya Chauhan is running fast on this seat. It is worth noting

that Kartikeya Singh Chauhan does not hold any position related to power or organization. Only after the results of Lok Sabha elections (Lok Sabha Election 2024) will it be known what strategy BJP makes for the by-elections. Only time will tell whether BJP, which has always raised questions on familyism, gives tickets to its leaders' sons in the by-elections or not. But if by-elections are held on Budhni assembly seat, then at present Kartikeya Singh Chauhan is considered a strong contender.

## Debt-ridden Madhya Pradesh government preparing to sell properties: Jitu Patwari

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Amidst the continuously increasing debt in Madhya Pradesh, Congress State President Jitu Patwari made a big allegation on Wednesday. He has said that the state government is preparing to sell the properties and give them on rent.

Congress state president Patwari wrote on X, "A shocking information is coming to light. The Madhya Pradesh government, which is in debt of Rs 3 lakh 73 thousand crores, is selling the properties of different departments of the state government present in other states of the country and Preparations are being made to give it on rent. The Finance Department has also written a letter to all the departments asking for information. It is being asked that how much property is there in which state and in what form, what is its value? If any property case is going on in



the court or there is any kind of dispute, then this information should also be given.

He further said that Chief Minister Mohan Yadav has started following the tradition of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. When the loans stopped coming after taking loans, an option was found to sell the state's property.

Citing media reports, the Congress State President said that the purpose of this exercise is to collect data of properties of various departments located outside Madhya Pradesh, so that funds can be raised by selling them or giving them on rent. Along with

the current condition of the property, information about its value has also been sought. The Congress State President raised questions on the Chief Minister's economic advisors and also directly attacked the Chief Minister for trying to save his property. He has demanded that the Madhya Pradesh government, which is stuck in a deep and serious phase of economic anarchy, should tell the people of the state the reality of the government treasury. Also disclose the status and liabilities of loans taken in the last 20 years. A white paper should be issued along with it. State Congress President Patwari has made these allegations when the state government is busy preparing for the upcoming budget. After the results of the Lok Sabha elections, there will be an assembly session in July and during this the state government will present the budget.

## CBI Inspector Rahul Raj dismissed in nursing scam, 10 new accused including DSP-Inspector made, FIR on 23 till now

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The CBI on Tuesday announced 10 new accused in the case of taking bribe to investigate the Madhya Pradesh Nursing College scam. These include DSP and an Inspector of CBI. Now the total number of accused in the case has increased to 23 including 4 CBI officers. At the same time, CBI Inspector Rahul Raj was dismissed.

The new accused DSP Ashish Prasad and Inspector Rishikant Asathe live in Shivaji Nagar, Bhopal. Earlier, CBI Inspector Rahul Raj and Sushil Kumar Majoka have been arrested.

Following the complaint of bribery of officers, 7 core teams of CBI and 3 to 4 auxiliary teams had raided 31 locations in Bhopal, Indore, Ratlam and Jaipur of Rajasthan. A total of Rs 2.33 crore in cash, four gold biscuits and 36 digital devices were seized. More than 150 unauthorized documents were also found from the accused.

CBI sources say that now the entire investigation team has come under suspicion in this case. The investigation team formed on the orders of Madhya Pradesh High Court had given the investigation report of 308 nursing col-



leges out of 600. This team had declared the government college of Rewa unfit. At the same time, there are many colleges which were not fit and were declared fit. Now the CBI officers of Delhi are keeping the officers of Bhopal away from the entire case and gathering information about every suspect. For this, a team has gone to Delhi with the accused arrested till Monday.

Investigation has revealed that CBI Inspector Rahul Raj was running a gang of extortion in lieu of inspection of nursing colleges. Rahul's team had to investigate 60 colleges. He had prepared a team of middlemen in different districts. He kept in constant touch with them and also held meetings with them. The time and day of the inspection was informed in advance to the college with which the deal was final-

ized. Rahul Raj used to send the amount received from the extortion to Dharampal, a resident of Jhalawar, Rajasthan. For this also the network of this gang was used.

During the CBI raid, Inspector Rahul Raj was first arrested while taking Rs 10 lakh. Four other people who gave bribe were also detained. These included Suma, wife of nursing college owner Anil Bhaskaran. The CBI has also arrested three women, including Om Goswami, Ravi Bhaduria and Jugal Kishore, who were working as brokers.

A CBI team raided the house of Inspector Rahul Raj in Professor Colony in Bhopal. During the search, Rs 7 lakh 88 thousand in cash and gold biscuits of 100 grams each were found. Rahul was awarded the Union Home Minister Medal for Excellent Investigation in August 2023. He was among the 15 CBI officers who received this honour.

Meanwhile, Inspector Sushil Majoka was sent to CBI, Bhopal on deputation from Madhya Pradesh Police.

After the arrest of the accused, many revelations have been made in this case. The accused were using special code words like buttermilk glass, pickle jar in bribe transactions.

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EXTRACT OF STANDALONE / CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 2024

Particulars	STANDALONE		CONSOLIDATED					
	For the quarter ended on		For the quarter ended on		For the year ended			
	31.03.2024	31.12.2023	31.03.2024	31.03.2023	31.03.2024	31.03.2023		
Total Income	1,953.87	1,706.05	6,579.46	4,910.47	1,953.87	1,706.05	6,579.46	4,910.47
Net Profit Before Tax	121.90	85.22	320.08	341.17	121.90	85.22	320.08	341.17
Net Profit After Tax	95.43	74.82	246.83	240.40	95.43	74.82	246.83	240.40
Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit/Loss for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	91.40	79.41	275.64	260.72	88.38	80.33	272.86	260.31
Paid up Equity Share Capital (Face Value of Re.10 Each)	1,016.10	1,016.10	1,016.10	1,016.10	1,016.10	1,016.10	1,016.10	1,016.10
Reserve (excluding Revaluation Reserves as per balance sheet of previous accounting year)			1,347.29	1,086.59			1,356.59	1,096.28
Earnings per share (before and after extraordinary items) (Face Value of Re.10/Share)	0.90	0.78	2.71	2.57	0.87	0.79	2.69	2.56
(a) Basic	0.90	0.78	2.71	2.57	0.87	0.79	2.69	2.56
(b) Diluted	0.90	0.78	2.71	2.57	0.87	0.79	2.69	2.56

NOTE:  
1. The above financial results are prepared in accordance with Indian Accounting Standards ('Ind AS') prescribed under Section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with the relevant rules thereunder and in terms of Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 as amended. The same were, as reviewed by the Audit Committee, considered and approved by the Board of Directors at their meeting held on 21.05.2024.  
2. The above is an extract of the detailed format of year ended financial results filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (LODR) Regulations, 2015. The full format are available on the website of the Stock Exchange at www.nseindia.com and www.bseindia.com and also on the website of the company at www.wewinlimited.com.  
3. The Company is primarily engaged in the business of Customer Relationship Management (CRM) Services including Call Centres and Support Centre Services. There are no reportable segments, which singly or in aggregate qualify for separate disclosure as per provision of the relevant Ind AS 108 'Operating Segments'.  
4. Corresponding previous period's figures have been reworked, regrouped, rearranged and reclassified wherever necessary to conform with current period's figures.

Place: Bhopal  
Date: 21.05.2024

For & on behalf of Board of Directors  
**We Win Limited**  
Sd/-  
Abhishek Gupta  
(Chairman)  
(DIN: 01260263)





EDITOR'S SPECS

World sees India on cusp of economic take-off

Internationally there is a growing optimism that India is on the cusp of a long-awaited economic take-off, according to the RBI's monthly bulletin released on Tuesday. It states that recent indicators are pointing to a quickening of the momentum of aggregate demand and non-food spending is being pushed up by the green shoots of rural spending recovery. The RBI bulletin points out that while revising India's GDP growth upwards by close to 2 percentage points for 2023-24, the IMF's April 2024 World Economic Outlook (WEO) alludes to the robustness of growth expected in 2024 and 2025 as "reflecting continuing strength in domestic demand and a rising working-age population." It highlights that India is expected to continue to experience broadly stable and rapid growth according to the OECD, while inflation should moderate further provided food prices remain insulated from extreme weather events. The OECD's May 2024 Economic Outlook points to strong momentum in India in recent monthly indicators and expects "strong investment and improving business confidence in India ... to sustain real GDP growth". There is also a worldwide focus on the transformation of the physical infrastructure, including highways, ports and airports. India's power sector has attained 100 per cent electrification and has been integrated into a single grid across the country. There has been a leap in renewable energy capacity creation, with India becoming the world's third-largest renewable energy producer. It has attained world leadership in leveraging the digital public infrastructure for payment efficiency, financial inclusion and direct benefit transfers. India's digital public infrastructure - the India Stack - is boosting productivity, and efficiency and generating employment, besides enabling better targeting of fiscal transfers. It further highlights that recent indicators are pointing to a quickening of the momentum of aggregate demand in the personal consumption space.

Special on Buddha Purnima - 23 May 2024

Lord Buddha: The architect of religious and individual evolution

Lalit Garg

Gautam Buddha is a beacon of spiritual awakening. His public welfare thinking, and deeds are timeless that have been guiding the society for ages. His birth anniversary is celebrated on Buddha Purnima, and his Nirvana Day also occurred on the day of Buddha Purnima. On this day, Gautam Buddha blossomed in his fullness; he remained engaged in the search for his own perfection, as well as the perfection of human society that became a timeless inspiration and possibility of perfection. On this Day, Buddha was born, left this world for Heavenly Abode, attained divine knowledge and salvation. Buddha Purnima is an important day not only for the followers of Buddhism, but for the entire human race. Buddha Purnima is the biggest festival day for the followers of Buddhism. A series of celebrations are organized on this day in different fashions. In different countries, celebrations are organized according to their peculiar customs and culture. For example, Sri Lankans celebrate Buddha Purnima as 'Vesak' festival, which is a corrupt form of the word 'Vaisakha'. On this day, lamps are lit in Buddhist houses, which are decorated with flowers. Buddhist followers from all over the world make pilgrimage to Bodhi Gaya, a city in Bihar, and offer prayers. The Bodhi Tree is worshipped there in this city. Garlands and colourful flags are decorated on its branches. Milk and perfumed water are poured on this Holy Tree's roots. Lamps are lit around the tree. Food and clothes are donated as alms to the poor. Mahatma Gautam Buddha was the founder of Buddhism. During his life, he always taught people the values of non-violence, love and compassion. Gautam Buddha was born in a royal family in Lumbini, Nepal in 563 BC. Mahatma Buddha is considered to be one of the most important and greatest Indian spiritual thinkers, an accomplished monk, social reformer, and a religious leader. He touched the hearts not only of influential people, but also the common people, and brought positive changes in their lives. Hence, he can be called the architect of a religious revolution as well as a personal and ideological revolution. His revolutionary speech is not only indicative of his revolutionary personality, but also a sharp sarcasm on religious, social distortions and superstitions that serves as an inspiration for change, which changed the direction of life of countless people around the globe. Before becoming a monk, Buddha was Prince Siddhartha of Kapilvastu. In search of peace, he left home, family, kingdom etc. at the age of 27. While travelling, Siddhartha reached Samath near Kashi, where his heart changed. Here he did severe penance under the Bodhi tree in Bodhi Gaya. After severe penance, Siddhartha attained enlightenment and became famous as the great monk Gautam Buddha and illuminated the whole world with his knowledge. When Buddha saw the people of his era surrounded by ignorance regarding religious-social, spiritual and other rituals, and found the common people bogged deep in ignorance in the name of religion, saw women being insulted, saw atrocities against Shudras - then his heart was stirred in sympathy for



the people. The Himalayan efforts he made to elevate the life of the people are amazing and astonishing. According to Buddha, it is better to win over oneself than to win thousands of battles in life. If you win over yourself, then victory will always be yours. No one can snatch it away from you. Gautam Buddha says that a person can never end evil with evil. To end it, a person has to take the help of love. All the big things in the world can be won with love. According to Buddha, happiness always increases by sharing. It never decreases. One should be afraid of a deceitful and evil friend, rather than a wild animal. A wild animal can harm your body, but a bad friend can harm your intellect. According to Gautam Buddha, three things can never be kept hidden in life. They are- Sun, Moon and Truth. In reality, the main objective of both governance and religious governance is to lead the people on the right path. But the dictators of governance are themselves creatures suffering from illusion, so they are not able to be completely successful in the work of social reform. Well, if someone cannot erase something from his own heart, how can he erase it from thousands of other hearts? The foundation of a government is not laid on the ground of love, affection and goodwill; it is usually laid on the foundation of fear, terror and oppression. This is the main reason that a government, even while protecting justice, morality and peace amongst the people, cannot establish a more permanent system. Whereas a religious government is based on mutual love and goodwill, as a result, it fundamentally changes the heart of the society by showing the path of truth and by removing sinfulness from all sides. It establishes permanent justice, morality and peace. Lord Buddha ultimately came to the conclusion that this incurable disease of India is not going to be cured by ordinary political movements. For this, the whole life will have to be sacrificed; leaving the attachment to a petty family, the ideal of a 'world family' will have to be adopted. One cannot mingle with the common people by dressing up in royal attire. To reach there, one will have to accept voluntary smallness, that is, one will have to accept monkhood. The greatest gift of Buddha to humanity is to end discrimination. It is an irony that on this land of Buddha, untouchability and discrimination still exist in some form or the other. At that time, the society was divided into different classes due to untouchability. When Lord Buddha talked about mutual unity by considering everyone as equal, a large num-

ber of people started becoming followers of Buddhism. A few decades ago, Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar adopted Buddhism along with a large number of his followers so that they could get an equal position in Hindu society. It is very important even today to give practical form to the principle of equality of Buddhism. Basically, Buddhism remained in line with Hinduism, and Mahatma Buddha started a revolutionary and reformist movement by staying within Hinduism. It is a big expectation of the present era to highlight his contribution in the context of social revolution. Only by doing this, will we be able to build a healthy society. Buddha preached an egalitarian society. Where there is passion and hatred, inequality flourishes. From this point of view, the source of all problems is attachment and hatred. A person keeps wandering in the corridors of inequality to nourish his selfishness, to display ego, to humiliate others, to grab power and wealth. Before coming among the people, before sharing his life experiences, before doing severe penance, Buddha made him alone, made he empty. He underwent rigorous penance. He learned the truth of life. Then he said that do not let anything enter inside you which can pollute the inner world. Do not see badly, do not listen to bad, and do not say badly. This message of emptiness is the path to happiness, peace, and samadhi. He said to become your own lamp - be your own lamp. Because day and night being surrounded by resolutions and options, happiness-sadness, joy-sadness, being scorched by the worries of tomorrow, carrying the burden of stress, in such a situation, how and when can the mind be empty? How can it become balanced? How can one become meditative? To achieve these spiritual conditions, the practice of living in the present moment is necessary. Neither the memory of the past, nor the worry of the future - can help you. One who learns to live today should understand that he has attained the meaning of human life and only a society made up of such people can be balanced, healthy and egalitarian. There is a need to inculcate the teachings of Mahatma Buddha in life for building an advanced and balanced society, and to inculcate Buddha-like qualities in every person. Only by doing this, can we make the society healthy? Do not limit Buddha to mere teachings; rather make Buddha a part of your life, incorporate Buddha in your life.

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international

Activists confirm release of Chinese vlogger who reported on Covid-19

Beijing | Agencies Chinese citizen journalist Zhang Zhan, who had been serving a four-year sentence for reporting on the early stages of the Covid-19 pandemic in locked-down Wuhan, has been released from prison, according to supporters. The former lawyer had been sentenced to four years in prison for critical reports on the coronavirus outbreak in Wuhan. She had posted videos, livestreams and essays about what she saw there. On Tuesday night, supporters published a video of the journalist and former lawyer on the social media platform X, in which she said the police took her to her brother's flat in Shanghai.



The organisation Reporters Without Borders (RSF) also posted the video, in which Zhang says she was released on May 13 and sent to her brother's home. "Although Chinese journalist Zhang Zhan was able to share a video today confirming her release from

prison after four years, we're worried about her situation under strict surveillance," RSF said in the post. "Our call for her full and unconditional release remains urgent." According to press reports, after her arrest in May 2020, Zhang went on a hunger

strike, causing her to be force-fed at times. Her weight reportedly dropped to 40 kilograms. RSF and human rights activists from Amnesty International repeatedly called for her release and international pressure on the Chinese government. After the then-unknown virus spread across Wuhan at the end of 2019, a lockdown was imposed on the metropolis of 11 million people at the end of January 2020. Officially, China has reported only about 1,20,000 deaths caused by the virus to the World Health Organization (WHO). However, various international estimates estimate the death toll in China at around 1 million.

US claims Russia likely launched space weapon into orbit last week

Washington | Agencies The US has claimed that Russia launched what is likely a space weapon capable of attacking other satellites in low Earth orbit, US Pentagon spokesman Patrick Ryder announced. Ryder added that the launch took place on May 16, and the Russian satellite is now in the same orbit as a US government satellite. When asked whether the Russian satellite threatened the US satellite, Ryder said: "Well, it's a space defence weapon in the same orbit as a US government satellite." American UN representative Robert Wood had previously expressed views similar to Ryder's. The Pentagon stated that it is not the first time Russia has launched such space weapons, referring to 2019 and 2022. On Monday, a UN resolution tabled by Russia against an arms race in space failed in the UN Security Council. The draft resolution received seven votes in favour, while seven countries, including the US, voted against it. US representative Robert Wood accused Moscow of using manipulative



tactics after Russia vetoed a US resolution against nuclear weapons in space last month. In February, reports in the US warned about Russia's nuclear ambitions in space, stating that the nuclear potential of weapons directed against satellites could pose a threat to national and international security. The US government responded to the reports, accusing Russia of developing military capabilities for use against satellites, with President Joe Biden assuring that there is no nuclear danger facing Americans or people anywhere in the world. Russian President Vladimir Putin responded to the reports and said that Russia is against the deployment of nuclear weapons in space.

Millions attend funeral procession for Iran's Raisi in Tehran

Tehran | Agencies Millions of mourners flocked to a funeral procession in Tehran on Wednesday after the death of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi in a helicopter accident, footage from Iran's state television showed. The broadcaster showed the country's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, leading a prayer ceremony in front of the victim's coffins. The procession then made its way from Tehran University towards Freedom Square along crowded streets filled with mourners. Raisi, Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian and seven other people were killed when their helicopter crashed in a mountainous area of north-western Iran on Sunday. In the wake of the crash, Khamenei ordered five days of national mourning, ending on Friday. Wednesday's funeral ceremony was attended by numerous high-ranking political and military representatives, as well as foreign dignitaries, the state news agency IRNA said. Raisi is to be buried in his home town of Mashhad on Thursday at the shrine of Imam Reza, the eighth imam of Shia Islam. High-ranking representatives of friendly states are expected to attend, including Russian parliamentary leader Vyacheslav Volodin. Iran's state railway company has organised special trains to take mourners from Tehran to the north-eastern city of Mashhad.



Netanyahu says he has no plans for Israeli settlements in Gaza

Tel Aviv | Agencies Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has told US media that Israel has no plans to build settlements in the Gaza Strip once the war there is over. "Resettling Gaza... was never in the cards," Netanyahu said in an interview with the US broadcaster CNN on Tuesday. "Some of my constituents are not happy about it, but that's my position." Several of the right-wing nationalist Ministers in Netanyahu's coalition had repeatedly spoken out in favour of resettling the Gaza Strip with Jewish settlers. National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir even declared on Tuesday that he would like to live there himself. As soon as Palestinian militant organisation Hamas is defeated, sustainable demilitarisation of the Gaza Strip must be achieved,



Netanyahu told CNN, adding that "the only force that can prevent the resurgence of terrorism for the foreseeable future is Israel". "At the same time we want -- I want -- a civilian administration that is run by Gazans who are neither Hamas nor committed to our destruc-

tion." On Saturday, Benny Gantz, a member of Israel's war Cabinet, said that he and other members of his centre-right National Union Party would leave Netanyahu's government if the Prime Minister did not present a plan for the post-war order in the Gaza Strip by June 8. The 64-year-old retired Army General and former Defence Minister joined the war Cabinet as a Minister without portfolio. The parties involved sought to demonstrate national unity in the wake of the attacks led by Hamas and other extremist groups on October 7, in which more than 1,200 people were killed. The unprecedented attack triggered the Gaza war as Israel responded with massive airstrikes and a ground offensive. The National Union is an opposition party. In opinion polls, it is currently far ahead of Netanyahu's Likud party. Netanyahu has previously said he wanted the territory to remain under Israeli military control for the foreseeable future. So far, he has refused to present a plan for the administration and reconstruction of the Gaza Strip after the end of the war.

Biden accuses Trump of using 'Hitler's language' in newspaper mock-up

Washington | Agencies US President Joe Biden has accused his predecessor and likely election opponent Donald Trump of using Nazi rhetoric following the publication of a video referencing a "unified Reich." Trump is using "Hitler's language. That's not America's," Biden said in a campaign video released on Tuesday. In the short clip, the Democrat holds a phone in his hand and says, referencing the video: "Is this on his official account? Wow." On Monday, Trump shared a video, which was later deleted, on his social media site Truth Social, showing mocks of newspaper articles that would be written if Trump won the presidential election in November. Among the bits of text featured was a subheading referring to "the creation of a unified Reich." The term "empire" in German is often associated with the Third Reich under Adolf Hitler's Nazi regime from 1933-1945. The word Reich in the video presumably refers to the founding of the German Reich in 1871,



with the text being taken from a Wikipedia entry on World War I, according to US media. According to the reports, the video was created using a ready-made newspaper article mask. It has also been used in other clips circulating online. Other newspaper headlines in the video published on Trump's platform also make reference to World War I. Trump's team later confirmed that the clip had been removed from his account. A spokeswoman for his campaign team said that it "was not a campaign video, it was created by a random account online and reposted by a staffer who clearly did not see the word."

Biden also attacked the Republican, who is hoping to return to the White House, at a campaign event in Boston on Tuesday. The 81-year-old said that "the threat that Trump poses is greater in the second term than it was in the first," according to reporters travelling with him. He called Trump "a little unhinged" and accused him of seeking revenge after losing the 2020 presidential election. Biden and Trump are guaranteed to face off on November 5 in a rematch of the 2020 vote after both achieved the required number of delegates to be nominated as candidates of the Democratic and Republican parties, respectively. Trump has been using radical rhetoric in his election campaign, including hateful and dehumanizing language, as well as making racist statements and inciting hatred against minorities. The 77-year-old also compared Biden's government to the Gestapo, the official secret police of Nazi Germany.





# Six villagers feared drowned as boat flips in Maha's Solapur dam

Team Absolute | Solapur

At least six villagers were missing and feared drowned, while one swam ashore after a motorboat overturned in a sudden storm at Solapur's Ujani dam waters, officials said here on Wednesday.

The incident happened late Tuesday night. This morning, the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) rushed a specialised team to the site and launched a rescue effort to trace the missing persons, the officials said. According to locals, the tragedy occurred when the launch with seven people was sailing from Kugaon village in Solapur to the Kalashi village in Pune on the opposite bank. The Solapur Police said that as per preliminary information, the motorboat with seven passengers set sail from Kugaon to Kalashi but midway a sudden thunderstorm accompanied by strong winds lashed the vicinity, churning up strong waves in the lake waters in which the small vessel overturned. At least one person on board, a Solapur assistant police inspector Rahul



Dongre, managed to swim safely to the opposite (Pune) shore while the others went missing in the darkness and have not yet been found till noon. Their identities are given as Gokul D. Jadhav, 30; his wife Komal, 25; and their kids, including three-year-old daughter Mahi, and one-year-old son Shubham; a villager Gaurav Dongre

and the boatman Anurag Avghade, 35. The policeman Dongre, who swam safely to Kalashi, sounded an alarm and alerted the villagers, the Pune Police and district administration besides other rescue authorities which rushed to the tragedy spot, but could do little in the darkness with sporadic rain. This morning, the NDRF deployed

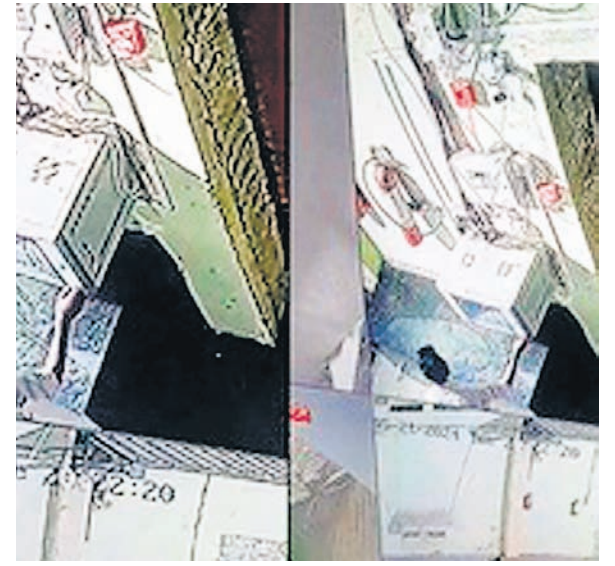
a team which started the search with expert divers, boats, ropes and other equipment, and further details are awaited. Baramati MP and Nationalist Congress Party (SP) Working President Supriya Sule rushed to the spot and took stock of the situation and the rescue operations.

# MVA Ahmednagar LS candidate's 'wake-up call' to security as man lurks outside EVM strongroom

Team Absolute | Ahmednagar (Maharashtra)

The opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi-Nationalist Congress Party (SP) legislator and Lok Sabha candidate Niles D. Lanke has alleged a potential security breach after an unidentified man was seen lurking outside the EVM strongroom, here on Wednesday.

Lanke, 45, an INDIA-MVA candidate pitted against Bharatiya Janata Party's Dr. Sujay Vikhe-Patil for the Ahmednagar LS constituency -- which went to the polls on May 13 -- has posted a purported video of the alleged security laxity on social media. "Security people, wake up a bit now... A trespasser has reached upto the (EVM's) warehouse," said Lanke's cryptic X tweet, highlighting the security breach, though there has been no official reaction so far. He pointed out how the person managed to gain



entry despite the 3-tier tight security deployed around the strongroom where the EVMs used in the recent LS elections in Ahmednagar constituency, are stored before the vote counting on June 4. He walked right up to the warehouse shutter and tried to smash the CCTV cameras installed there, but was

detected by Lanke's workers. "If my colleagues could detect this man then why can't the triple security layer notice him... The fence is now eating the grass and attempts are being made to 'steal democracy' while the administration is just watching with eyes wide open," said Lanke.

# One more arrested by ED in Rs 263 cr tax refund scam case

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Enforcement Directorate (ED), Mumbai zonal office has arrested one more person in the Rs 263 crore Tax Deducted at Source (TDS) scam case, an official said on Wednesday, adding that the total number of arrested is now five.

The accused identified as Purshottam Chavan was arrested on Monday and was subsequently produced before the Special PMLA Court here.

Chavan has been sent to ED custody till May 27. Earlier, four persons were arrested in this case -- Tanaji Mandal Adhikari, Rajesh Brijlal Batreja, Bhushan Patil and Rajesh Shetty. The financial probe agency had initiated an investigation on the basis of an FIR registered by CBI under various sections of IPC, 1860 and the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1986



against Tanaji Mandal Adhikari and others for fraudulently generating and issuance of TDS refunds from Income Tax Department to the tune of Rs 263.95 crore. As per the probe agency, in this case, immovable/movable properties to the tune of Rs 168 crore have been identified and seized/attached so far. A Prosecution Complaint has also been filed on September 11 against Adhikari and 10 others, cognizance of which has also been taken by the Special PMLA Court.

# PUNE PORSCHE CRASH CASE NCP(SP) MLA'S FAMILY RECALLS SON'S HARASSMENT IN SCHOOL

Team Absolute | Pune

The Nationalist Congress Party (SP) MLA and former minister Prajak P. Tanpure's family remembers the days when their son was studying in school as a classmate of the same drunken 17-year-old boy who killed two persons while speeding his father's Porsche May 20.

The legislator's wife Sonali P. Tanpure took to social media on Wednesday, saying she recalled "those days again" when the accused - the son of a prominent Pune realty developer - was studying in the same class as her son. "At that time, my son suffered a lot at the hands of some of his (the builder's son) friends. I had even complained about it to their parents, but did not get a proper response," rued Sonali. Finally, left with no options, the Tanpure family decided to change the school of their son to avoid his torture at the hands of the other brats. "The scars of those traumatic incidents are still there on his (son's) mind. If the parents had noticed the bad tendencies of their child in time, then such a terrible crime would not have hap-



pened," said Sonali, on the Porsche crash that left Maharashtra shaken. Her husband and Rahuri MLA Tanpure said the incident by a rich man's wayward kid has cut short the lives of the two young victims who hailed from a small town with big dreams to make success in life. In all this, Tanpure pointed out how, not only the boy and his rich family, but the entire system, including the liberal home department, government and police are equally responsible for the tragedy. "The authorities are committing the sin of destabilising the social order by supporting the influential big people. It's only because of the alert people present there and the pressure built by the citizens and the media that is leading to some effective action now," said Prajak Tanpure. Sonali sought justice for the families of the two well-educated victims, aged 24 -- Ashwini Koshta and Aneesh Awadhya -- who were killed instantly in the Porsche speeding at a dizzying 200 kmph speed which was barely captured as a fleeting shadow in the CCTVs installed at Kalyani Nagar junction.

# Be reasonable, Bombay HC tells BMC; restrains it from sacking doctor-teacher on maternity leave

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Bombay High Court on Tuesday restrained the city civic body from terminating the services of a doctor, appointed as a teacher on contract at a corporation-run hospital, for taking maternity leave beyond what was permitted to her. A vacation bench of Justices Arif Doctor and Somasekar Sundaresan said the civic authorities should be reasonable in their approach towards the issue, reported news agency. The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) assured the HC that no "precipitative action" would be taken against the woman as far as her termination was concerned until her plea is heard next month. The bench was hearing a petition filed by Seemantani Bose challenging a decision taken by the Bhabha Hospital authorities saying she was not eligible for the mandated six-month maternity leave as she was a contractual employee. As per the hospital, Bose could avail only seven days leave. The bench on Tuesday said it would



hear the plea on June 12 and added that until then the BMC authorities should be reasonable in their approach and not take any action against her. The HC recorded the statement of the civic body's

advocate, Prashant Kamble, that no "precipitative action" would be taken against Bose as far as her termination was concerned until the plea is heard in June. The court also asked the BMC to release her dues. "We make it clear that all entitlements of the petitioner, if due in accordance with law, shall be paid over to the petitioner, and pendency of this petition shall not come in the way," the bench said. Bose, an MBBS and MS in obstetrics and gynaecology, was appointed as a teacher-junior consultant at the Bhabha Hospital on December 1, 2023. Her plea, filed through advocate Swaraj Jadhav, contended that Bose was appointed on a contract basis for 6 months on a post which had a provision for automatic renewal of employment on expiry of that period unless communicated otherwise. In March this year, Bose wrote to the hospital's deputy superintendent seeking maternity leave from April for a period of six months as her delivery was due last month. The deputy superintendent, however, told her she could go on maternity leave without pay since she is working on a contractual basis.

# PUNE PORSCHE CRASH: MAHA DYCM FADNAVIS SLAMS RAHUL GANDHI'S ATTEMPTS TO 'POLITICISE' TRAGEDY

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bharatiya Janata Party's Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Wednesday slammed Congress leader Rahul Gandhi over his statement on the Pune Porsche crash case. Speaking to media persons here, Fadnavis said that such a statement did not bring glory to a person like Rahul Gandhi and he should have refrained from it. "Rahul Gandhi was probably not aware of the strict action taken by the Pune Police in this case. So it is not proper for him to politicise such a sensitive issue in this manner just for getting votes every time," said Fadnavis. He was referring to the



Congress leader's late Tuesday video statement questioning the 'privileged treatment' meted out to the accused rich brat by making him write an essay, do social service and undergo medical counselling to give up alcohol. Drawing comparisons, Rahul Gandhi said that when any autorickshaw drivers, cabbies, bus or truck drivers kill anybody unintentionally, they are dumped in prison for 10 years and even the jail keys are thrown away.

# SWATI MALIWAL ASSAULT CASE: CM KEJRIWAL'S EX-PS BIBHAV KUMAR TAKEN TO THREE LOCATIONS IN MUMBAI

Team Absolute | New Delhi/Mumbai

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's former personal secretary (PS) Bibhav Kumar, who is accused of assaulting AAP Rajya Sabha member and former DCW chief Swati Maliwal, was taken to three locations in Mumbai, said police sources privy to the probe. "Kumar had formatted his phone in one of the locations, which was revealed after technical investigation," said the source. According to police, Kumar had formatted his phone on May 17, citing a malfunction. Sources suspect that Kumar before formatting his phone had transferred data to another person's device. Kumar was taken to Mumbai on Tuesday and was brought back on Wednesday. On May 18, CM Kejriwal's close aide Bibhav Kumar was arrested in connection with the assault on Maliwal and produced late at night before a local court which sent him



to a five-day police custody. Kumar was also taken to CM's residence on Monday where the crime scene was recreated. Delhi Police registered a case against Kumar after he allegedly assaulted Swati Maliwal at the Chief Minister's residence on May 13. The FIR includes charges under sections 308 (attempt to commit culpable homicide), 341 (wrongful restraint), 354(B) (assault or use of criminal force to woman with intent to disrobe), 506 (criminal intimidation), and 509 (word, gesture, or act intended to insult the modesty of a woman) of the Indian Penal Code at the Civil Lines police station.

# Voter turnout improves marginally in Thane, Kalyan LS seats

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's bastion, Thane, on Monday witnessed a low turnout but an upward trend was witnessed as Kalyan, which is being contested by the CM's son Shrikant Shinde, registered a 50 per cent turnout on Monday. The figures for 2009 and 2019 were a mere 34 per cent and 45 per cent respectively. Thane recorded a 52.09 per cent turnout, reflecting a similar trend. The average turnout in Thane, Kalyan and Bhiwandi was 53.92 per cent where 55.30 per cent of male voters, 52.32 per cent of female voters and 20 per cent of transgender individuals eligible to vote exercised their franchise on May 20. Despite being the battleground where the son of the CM is in the fray, half of the residents didn't turn up to vote at polling stations in Kalyan. As per information made available by the Election Commission of India, the constituency witnessed a little above



50 per cent voting with the Ambarnath and Mumbra constituencies experiencing the lowest turnout-47 per cent and 49 per cent respectively. But this is not the first time Kalyankars have shown little interest in the democratic process. In 2019, the voting turnout was hardly 45 per cent. Thane also witnessed a similar trend. The seat is seeing a close

fight between Shiv Sena's Naresh Mhaske and the Sena (UBT)'s Rajan Vichare. In Bhiwandi, the polling percentage was low like earlier elections. The only exception was Palghar, which is mostly a rural area. As was the case in 2019, more than 60 per cent of voters turned up at polling stations to select their candidate.

# MUMBAI CRIME BRANCH FORMS SIT TO PROBE GHATKOPAR HOARDING COLLAPSE INCIDENT

Mumbai: The Mumbai Crime Branch has formed a six-member Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the Ghatkopar hoarding collapse incident, officials said on Wednesday, reported news agency. 17 people died and 75 were left injured after a massive billboard collapsed due to strong winds earlier in the month. Bhavesh Bhide, the owner of the company that put up the giant billboard, was arrested by the Mumbai Crime Branch from Udaipur in Rajasthan last week and brought to Mumbai. Officials added that police are investigating how Bhide was awarded the hoarding contract and how much he earned. "Mumbai Crime Branch forms a SIT to probe into the incident. The SIT will now investigate the matter. The SIT comprises 6 officers. The SIT has checked the residence of prime accused Bhavesh Bhide and seized important documents from there. He has a total of 7 bank accounts in different banks," an official statement said on Wednesday. "The police are also investigating how Bhide got the hoarding contract and how much he earned. SIT has also recorded the statements of a few officials in the company of Bhavesh Bhide," the statement added. A day after the Ghatkopar hoarding collapse incident, BJP leader Kirit Somaiya took a jibe at the previous Maharashtra government. "I want to inform you that Uddhav Thackeray became the Chief Minister on November 28, 2019. This property comes under the jurisdiction of the then-Maharashtra Government. The land jurisdiction doesn't come under Central Government or Railway Ministry."





# Kelly Rowland Seemingly Has Heated Exchange at Cannes

Los Angeles | Agencies

Kelly Rowland seemed to get into it with a staff member while she walked the red carpet at the Cannes Film Festival on Tuesday, May 21. A new video shows her seemingly to get heated while talking to a security guard or usher while walking up the steps at the film festival. While it's not clear what exactly she had the heated exchange about, she seemed to be very upset with the staff member she was talking to.

While walking the red carpet, Kelly, 43, was greeted by a staff member who tried to usher her up the steps. After reaching the first landing, she turned back and



waved at photographers, when the staff member came up and put her arm out and seemed to try to get her to move up the stairs. The staff member had her arm up around the "Motivation" singer and Kelly appeared to be speaking to her as she ushered her away. Shortly after though, Kelly turned and seemed to scold her, pointing her finger at her.

Kelly continued walking up the stairs and a blonde woman joined her and began talking to the staff member. The actress then turned around and appeared to say more to the staff member, continuing to point her finger, but it's unclear what she was saying.

## Jessica Madsen knows she's done her 'job right' if she gets hateful messages

London | Agencies

Actress Jessica Madsen is over the moon that people are in a "love-hate" relationship with her 'Bridgerton' character Cressida Cowper. In a joint interview, Madsen said that she has received "interesting comments and some interesting DMs" about her character, reports people.com. In the third season of the series, Cressida forged an unlikely friendship with Eloise Bridgerton amid the fallout of Eloise learning Penelope Featherington was Lady Whistledown. Cressida also competed for the attention of the same suitor, Lord Debling, as Penelope, which made fans question her true intentions.

"I mean, people are not the biggest fan of her," she shared, and added that she receives messages that read: "Thank you for letting me hate you so much" or "I love hating you so much."

Madsen joked that she responds to the messages, saying, "You're welcome."

Talking about how it feels to receive hate for a part she plays, the actress said: "It makes me feel like I've done my job right."

"I really don't take those things personally. The internet is wild. But I like it when people who I meet appreciate the show. Yeah. That's always lovely."



## CHAD MICHAEL MURRAY MAKES RARE COMMENT ABOUT SOPHIA

Los Angeles | Agencies

Chad Michael Murray recalled his past marriage with former co-star Sophia Bush in an interview on Tuesday, May 21. These One Tree Hill alumni were previously in a two-year relationship, followed by a marriage that lasted five months in the early 2000s. "I was a baby. I didn't know up, down, left, right," stated the One Tree Hill protagonist to The Cut. The father of three added, "You move out there and you go, 'Well, what am I supposed to do now? Get married? That's exciting!'"

Chad and Sophia first met on the set of the popular teen drama, in which their characters were ironically each other's love interest. Though they hit it off in 2003, their rela-

tionship became rocky and resulted in Sophia seeking to annul their marriage in early 2006. A couple months after her request was rejected, the two were permitted a divorce that year in December.

Brooke Davis even chimed in on the subject during a 2018 interview with Andy Cohen on Radio Andy. "Everybody's been 22 and stupid," she said. "People won't let it go. Can you imagine the idiot you dated when you were a senior in high school — if people still would not stop talking to you about?"

"It was not a thing [marriage] I really wanted to do," expressed Sophia to Andy. She clarified in the 2018 interview, "How do you let everybody down?" after Andy asked how she got so deep into a marriage if she was not prepared.

## Dan Radcliffe is excited for 'Harry Potter' series

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actor Daniel Radcliffe says he is excited to watch the upcoming 'Harry Potter' series.

However, he refrained from sharing whether he would make a guest star or cameo appearance.

"Like the rest of the world, (I'm) very excited to watch as an audience member," Radcliffe told E! News, reports deadline.com.

Radcliffe was further pressed about what he would say if he was approached to return to Hogwarts, and he said: "I'm gonna be a politician about this and not deal in hypotheticals."

The 34-year-old actor essayed Harry Potter for the first time in the eponymous film series. He was just twelve years old at that time, and gained the spotlight since then.

From 'Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone' in 2001 to 'Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 2' in 2011, the star played the titular role in all eight of the series' movies.



## When Chad Michael Murray couldn't leave his hotel room due to his agoraphobia

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actor Chad Michael Murray spoke about how fame took a toll on his mental health and how he couldn't leave his hotel room due to agoraphobia, an anxiety disorder that involves the fear of going into crowded spaces or sometimes leaving one's home.

During an interview with The Cut, the 42-year-old opened up about his struggle with agoraphobia. He said it began following his success from 'One Tree Hill', saying that everything seemed great on the outside but he was "far more fragile than I ever put on."

"Everyone starts telling you 'Yes. But I was walking around with a really pained heart,' he said, reports people.com.

"I was around 23 and I had an event in Miami, but I couldn't leave my hotel room. The world felt like it was closing in; I was having anxiety attacks."

Murray said things started to change

after his 25th birthday.

"I woke up and felt unsettled. I didn't like the direction that I was going in my life. I went to church, and I got a tattoo of a cross on my left wrist, and I was like, 'I'm going to move myself in faith.'"

The actor recommitted himself to Christianity at 25, and explained that a combination of religion and therapy helped him with his career and mental health.

"I remember in my younger 20s, I'd wake up and say, 'Oh, I've got to go to work.' And that's a very different place to even start your day."

"It's just a very different mindset where I have gratitude. I get to go to work and I love that opportunity to just spread love, try to elevate energy, and respect the craft. Instead of coming at it as a disgruntled, tired 21-year-old."

Others who have battled with agoraphobia include names such as Zac Efron and Linda Evangelista.

## Camila Cabello says Buddhism helps her cope with pressures of fame

Los Angeles | Agencies

Pop star Camila Cabello shared that she has found several "mechanisms" to cope with the pressures of fame, including embracing Buddhist philosophical ideas.

"I don't think I would've changed when I started (in the music industry), because so many parts of my personality today are because of the tools and the skills and ... some adaptive and some maladaptive mechanisms that I had to develop to survive and thrive," Cabello said on the 'Armchair Expert' podcast.

"For example, I'm really into Buddhism. That would have never happened, because I need those tools - being calm and being able to pull through. But also, it carries over to other life stuff where I feel like I'm wiser than I would have been."

The 'Senorita' hitmaker tasted huge success as part of Fifth Harmony and as a solo artist.

But, she is constantly making small adjustments in order to find the ideal balance in her life, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

"Life is like riding a bike and you're constantly balancing. It's like ... 'Oh, a little more weight here!' Just, like, tiny adjustments."

Cabello also spoke about how the COVID-



19 pandemic proved to be a turning point for her, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

The singer managed to develop several new skills - including learning how to cook and how to drive during the pandemic.

"I grew up fast but then there have been times ... like, for example, Covid when I learned how to drive and I learned how to cook, and I was just living the most normal life."

## ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



JLo





### IPL 2024

# RR BEATS RCB TO MEET SRH IN QUALIFIER 2

Ahmedabad | Agencies

Rajasthan Royals went up and down in their chase of 173 but finally managed to end their five-match winless streak with a four-wicket win over Royal Challengers Bengaluru in the Eliminator match of Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024 at the Narendra Modi Stadium on Wednesday.

With this result, RR have ended RCB's dream comeback run and six-game winning streak after being at the bottom of the points table to now set up a clash with Sunrisers Hyderabad in Qualifier 2 at Chennai. The winner of Qualifier 2 clash at Chennai will face Kolkata Knight Riders in the final on Sunday.

After Avesh Khan (3-44) and Ravichandran Ashwin (2-19) starred in a disciplined bowling effort to restrict RCB to 172/8, Yashasvi Jaiswal top-scored with 45, followed by Riyan Parag (36), Shimron Hetmyer (26) and Rovman Powell (16 not out) propelled RR to complete the chase in 19 overs. Chasing 173, Kohler-Cadmore earned a reprieve when Glenn Maxwell shelled a simple catch in the deep and went on to take two fours off Dayal. Jaiswal and Sanju Samson collectively took three boundaries off Swapnil Singh, but the former fell when his attempt to scoop took a glove edge behind against Green. In the next over, Samson stepped out against Karn Sharma and missed a wide ball to be stumped easily. There was more cheer for RCB as Virat Kohli executed a superb



throw from the deep after running to his left from deep square leg and had a casual Dhruv Jurel run-out. Hetmyer began to calm RR's nerves. He drove and slashed Dayal for two fours, as the equation for RR became 19 off 18 balls. With 13 runs needed off

12 balls, Powell toe-ended a square drive and edged in the third-man region to collect consecutive fours off Ferguson. Powell finished off the chase with a gentle loft down the ground to ensure RR have a shot at entering the final.

### Brief scores

Royal Challengers Bengaluru 172/8 in 20 overs (Rajat Patidar 34, Virat Kohli 33; Avesh Khan 3-44, Ravichandran Ashwin 2-19) lost to Rajasthan Royals 174/6 in 19 overs (Yashasvi Jaiswal 45, Riyan Parag 36; Mohammed Siraj 2-33, Karn Sharma 1-19) by four wickets

# Sumit Nagal to make Wimbledon men's singles main draw debut

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Indian tennis star Sumit Nagal is all set for his Wimbledon main draw debut. His participation marks the first time in five years that an Indian will compete in the Wimbledon singles draw. The main draw of the grass court major is scheduled to begin on July 1.

Nagal has competed at Wimbledon once before, in the qualifying rounds in 2018, where he lost in straight sets to Poland's Kamil Majchrzak. The last Indian to play in the Wimbledon singles draw was Prajnesh Gunneswaran in 2019.

The 26-year-old, who is currently ranked 94 in the ATP rankings, has achieved a new career-high men's singles ranking of 80 last month.

Nagal won the Junior Wimbledon Boys' Doubles title in 2015 with his Vietnamese partner Nam Hoang Ly. Notably, Ramanathan Krishnan was the first Indian to win the a junior's Wimbledon title in 1954.

He will also make his Roland Garros main draw debut on clay this month. The main draw matches at the second Grand Slam of the year begin on May 26.

Sumit Nagal secured his place in the main draw of the men's singles thanks to his career-high world ranking of 80. He is the first Indian male player to qualify for the French Open main draw since Prajnesh in 2019.

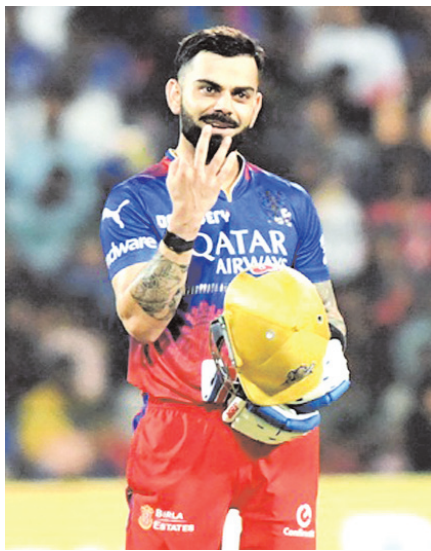


Nagal recently stunned world No. 38 Matteo Arnaldi at the Monte Carlo Masters, where he became the first Indian tennis player to qualify for the main draw of the ATP Masters 1000 tournament in 42 years.

# 'I'm not a big stats guy, never watched analysis of any bowler', says Kohli

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Head of the IPL 2024 Eliminator between Rajasthan Royals (RR) and the Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB), Virat Kohli has revealed that he is "not a big stats guy" and never really watched the analysis of any bowler instead he trusts his own instinct and react to the ball. The right-handed batter has been in scintillating form this season and has been scoring at a strike rate of 155.60, the highest of his IPL career. He currently sits at the top of the orange cap standings with 708 runs. "I like to keep things very simple. I am not a big stats guy. I have never really watched the analysis of any bowler, the wrist positions, where the ball is, because the guy might do something different on a particular day. I have to adapt. I have to trust my own eyes, my own instinct and react to the ball and find the best solutions in any situation possible. And when you are thinking on your feet, you will find solutions to the situations that arise," said Kohli in the video posted by Star Sports. Kohli is also 266 runs short to break his record of 973 runs in a season (2016). Although it is unlikely that he touches the record, he could potentially play up to three games more this season, if the team is to reach the final which could propel him to the elusive record. "I don't think a computer sim-



ulation can tell you the situation you are going to be in. It can't prepare you for that. So, finding solutions is a very in the moment process. As I said, I have based my cricket on the basics of the game. I keep my game very similar in all three formats of the game and for me it's just playing the game at a very different tempo," added the former Indian skipper.

# Euro 2024: We have to be a team that creates history, says captain Andy Robertson

Edenborough | Agencies

Head of the upcoming Euro 2024, Scotland have announced a 28-member provisional squad that will play the upcoming international friendlies against Gibraltar and Finland. Two members of the provisional squad will be cut before they submit their final squad for the European Championship.

"We have to be the team that creates history. Getting out of the group has to be our aim. It's a tough group but we believe we can give any team a game. If we do that and manage to get out of the group, we'll be the first Scotland team to ever do that," said the Scottish captain to Sky Sports.

It will not be an easy journey for the Scotland team if they are going to make it out of a tough group A. The team will be playing the opening match of the tournament against hosts Germany on June 15 before facing Switzerland and Hungary who are also placed in their group.

"We've been trying to create our



history and our own story within a nation with a lot of good teams in the past and legends of the game. We're aiming to create a small part of history and we've done that by reaching two tournaments but being able to

qualify outside the group would be a massive step, accelerate us further and give us more belief than we've already got," added the Liverpool left wing-back.

Scotland 28-member provisional

squad: Goalkeepers: Angus Gunn (Norwich City), Zander Clark (Hearts), Craig Gordon (Hearts), Liam Kelly (Motherwell).

Defenders: Andy Robertson (Liverpool), Kieran Tierney (Real Sociedad), Jack Hendry (Al Eitihad), Ryan Porteous (Watford), Liam Cooper (Leeds United), Scott McKenna (FC Copenhagen), Grant Hanley (Norwich City), Greg Taylor (Celtic), John Souttar (Rangers), Anthony Ralston (Celtic), Ross McCrorie (Bristol City).

Midfielders: Callum McGregor (Celtic), Ryan Christie (Bournemouth), Billy Gilmour (Brighton & Hove Albion), John McGinn (Aston Villa), Kenny McLean (Norwich City), Scott McTominay (Manchester United), Stuart Armstrong (Southampton), Ryan Jack (Rangers).

Forwards: Lyndon Dykes (Queen's Park Rangers), Che Adams (Southampton), Lawrence Shankland (Hearts), Ben Doak (Liverpool), James Forrest (Celtic).

# FIH Pro League: Indian women's hockey team goes down 0-5 to Argentina



Antwerp | Agencies

The Indian women's hockey team lost 0-5 to Argentina in its first match in the European leg of the FIH Hockey Pro League 2023/24. Agustina Gorzelany (13'), Valentina Raposo (24'), Victoria Miranda (41'), and Julieta Jankunas (53', 59') netted goals for Argentina.

In the opening quarter, India focused on maintaining ball possession and controlling the game's pace. However, Argentina responded with intense pressure, earning multiple penalty corners, but they were unable to capitalise due to some excellent saves by Indian goalkeeper Bichu Devi Kharibam.

Despite this, Argentina continued to control the game, and Agustina Gorzelany (13') eventually converted a penalty corner with a well-placed shot

just before the quarter ended. India started the second quarter with a determined effort to equalise, adopting an aggressive approach.

However, Argentina's solid defense and effective counter-attacks thwarted India's attempts. The South American team further extended its lead when Valentina Raposo (24') converted a penalty corner with a well-executed variation. Sofia Toccalino trapped the injection, pushed it to the right channel, and set up Raposo, who struck a powerful hit on goal. By halftime, Argentina comfortably led 2-0, firmly in control.

In the third quarter, India showed significant improvement, persistently pressuring Argentina and frequently testing their defense. They came close to scoring several times but narrowly missed.

Argentina continued their offensive efforts and were rewarded when Victoria

Miranda (41') dribbled past some Indian defenders and scored with an elevated shot, extending their lead to 3-0 by the end of the quarter.

During the fourth and final quarter, India focused on maintaining possession and making frequent circle entries. Deepika had a notable chance to score but her reverse hit was saved by Argentina's goalkeeper Cristina Casentino.

Argentina then switched to a counter-attacking strategy, which proved effective. Julieta Jankunas (53') received a pass from Sofia Cairo, controlled the ball with her back to the goal, and fired it into the top corner, making it 4-0. Just before the match ended, Jankunas (59') scored her second goal, sealing a 5-0 victory for Argentina.

The Indian team will next face Belgium on Thursday.

# Malaysia Masters: Sindhu beats Gilmour to enter Rd-2

Kuala Lumpur | Agencies

Two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu moved to the second round of the Malaysia Masters after beating Kirsty Gilmour of Scotland, here at Axiata Arena on Wednesday.

Fifth seed Sindhu, who won the Malaysia Masters in 2013 and 2016, registered a 21-17, 21-16 win over the world no. 22 Scot.

This is the 28-year-old Indian's seventh tournament of the year. She returned from injury at the Badminton Asia Team Championships in February. Sindhu recently sat out the Uber Cup and Thailand Open to focus on her preparation for the Paris 2024 Olympics.

Youngsters Ashmita Chaliha, Unnati Hooda and Aakarshi Kashyap are the



others Indians in the women's singles main draw and they will be in the action later in the day.

In the mixed doubles, B Sumeeth

Reddy and Sikky Reddy defeated Lui Chun Wai and Fu Chi Yan of Hong Kong 21-15, 12-21, 21-17 to enter the second round.

# T20 World Cup: Nepal's Lamichhane denied USA visa over old rape case

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Nepal cricketer Sandeep Lamichhane is unlikely to travel to the United States of America (USA) and West Indies (WI) for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 after the US Embassy in Nepal denied him a visa over an old rape case. "And the @USEmbassyNepal did it again what they did back in 2019, they denied my Visa for the T20 World Cup happening in the USA and West Indies. Unfortunately, I am sorry to all the well-wishers of Nepal Cricket," Lamichhane wrote on 'X'.

The Patan High Court on May 15 acquitted Lamichhane in the rape case after the Kathmandu District Court sentenced him to eight years in jail in January. Sandeep was available for the T20 World Cup squad after he was found innocent.



However, Nepal already announced the 15-player squad led by Rohit Paudel

but with the ICC rule of allowing the teams to make changes to their squad until

May 25, it was certain that Lamichhane might get picked.





## SHAH RUKH KHAN HOSPITALISED IN AHMEDABAD DUE TO DEHYDRATION

Team Absolute | Ahmedabad

**B**ollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan was admitted to the KD Hospital in Ahmedabad on Wednesday after reportedly suffering a heat stroke. The actor reached Ahmedabad on Tuesday to watch the Indian Premier League (IPL) match between his franchise Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) and Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH), which KKR won at the Narendra Modi Stadium here to reach the final.

"The actor was suffering from dehydration amid a high temperature of 45-degree Celsius in Ahmedabad. He is under medical observation although his health is stable. Security has been tightened around the hospital," sources said.

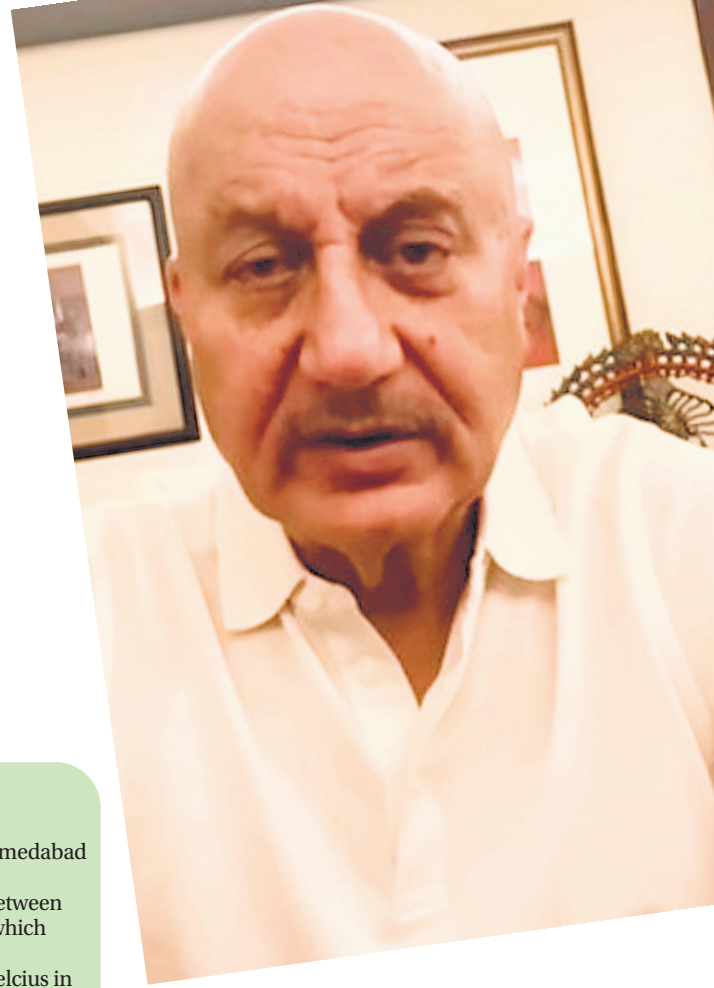
Actor Juhi Chawla visited the actor at the hospital.

An official statement from the hospital is expected later on Wednesday.

After KKR's victory on Wednesday, Shah Rukh Khan marked the occasion by taking a victory lap in the stadium along with his daughter Suhana and youngest son AbRam.

During the lap, he delighted thousands of fans with his iconic arms outstretched pose. He also shared warm moments with the KKR players. Known for his supportive nature, the actor also spoke to the SRH players to lift their morale after the match.

## Anupam Kher warns fans about fake video circulating under his name



Team Absolute | Mumbai

**A**claimed actor Anupam Kher took to social media to alert his followers about a deceptive video circulating under his name.

In his message, Kher cautioned his fans against a fraudulent video created by an individual named Rehan Malik, who operates a Telegram channel called 'Rehan Malik - Honest Tipper'. This channel is reportedly linked to a betting site.

Kher's tweet reads: "BEWARE: A friend sent me this video! Where one #RehanMalik has made my fake video and posted it on his #TelegramChannel under the name of 'Rehan Malik - Honest Tipper'! It is a betting site. Please don't get conned by it! Thanks. @CPMumbaiPolice @Mum\_CyberPolice."

The fake video features Kher, who's returning to the director's chair after two decades with 'Tanvi The Great', apparently endorsing the betting site. This tactic aims at misleading viewers into believing that Kher supports or is associated with the platform, thereby lending it unwarranted credibility.

By tagging the official handles of the Mumbai Police Commissioner and the Mumbai Cyber Police, Kher has also sought the intervention of law enforcement to address the issue. Their action is crucial in tracking down the perpetrator and preventing further dissemination of the fake video.



## JACQUELIENE FERNANDEZ SOAKS UP THE 'SUN, MOVIES AND MAGIC OF CANNES'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

**A**ctress Jacqueliene Fernandez, who has walked the prestigious red carpet at the 77th Cannes Film Festival, on Wednesday, treated fans to mesmerising pictures of herself in a white strapless structured ensemble from the French Riviera. Jacqueliene, who was last seen in the movie 'Cirkus' took to Instagram and dropped a string of photos, wherein we can see her in a strapless white knee-length dress, with pearl embroidery on it.

For makeup, the 'Housefull 3' actress opted for brown lips, eyeliner, thick brows and contoured cheeks. She tied her hair in a bun with some strands of hair left loose on her forehead. She accessorised the look with a diamond necklace and a ring. Jacqueliene is smiling candidly for the cameras, as she soaks up the sun. The post is captioned: "Soaking up the sun, the movies and the magic of Cannes!" The diva walked the ramp for BMW India for the premiere of 'The Substance' at Cannes.



## Hindi film 'Kooki' from Assam screened at Cannes

Team Absolute | Guwahati

**B**efore its official nationwide release on June 28, 'Kooki', a Hindi feature film made in Assam, was screened at the Cannes Film Festival 2024. The screening of the film directed by Pranab J. Deka took place at the Palais H auditorium at 11.30 pm local time on Tuesday. Film enthusiasts and distributors from various countries were present at the screening, who showered praise on the movie.

Producer Junmoni Devi Khaund and actress Ritisha Khaund attended the screening and engaged in discussions with the audience.

Junmoni Khaund said that France, Morocco, and several other countries have expressed interest in releasing 'Kooki' in their respective nations.

Actress Ritisha Khaund said, "I am thankful to the almighty that 'Kooki' is receiving so much love, not only in my state and the country, but also by the global audience. I must thank my director Pranab J Deka, all the actors, and the entire team who guided me in the process and made things easier for me."

The film narrates the journey of a rape victim and the multiple stages and mental trauma she goes through.

## DIVYANKA SHARES GLIMPSES OF HER 'MUCH-NEEDED STRESS BUSTER' WITH HUBBY VIVEK

Team Absolute | Mumbai

**T**he actor-couple Divyanka Tripathi Dahiya and Vivek Dahiya were on a much-needed vacation to hill station Mahabaleshwar in Maharashtra, and on Wednesday, Divyanka shared a peek into their "stress buster" trip.

Taking to Instagram, Divyanka, who is known for her work in 'Chintu Chinki Aur Ek Badi Si Love Story' shared a Reel video, which features the lovebirds enjoying the lush green mountainous landscape of Mahabaleshwar, and cooking and eating yummy food.

The post is captioned: "A much-needed stress buster. Do share, what de-stresses you?"

The actress, who has recently recovered from a fractured forearm, last featured in 'Adrishyam' as Inspector Parvati Sehgal. It stars Eijaz Khan as Ravi Verma.



## KJo shares funny BTS picture of Janhvi wearing face mask on forehead

Team Absolute | Mumbai

**A**ctress Janhvi Kapoor, who is gearing up for her upcoming movie 'Mr. & Mrs. Mahi', had a gala time shooting for the movie as is evident in the behind-the-scenes pictures from the sets.

On Wednesday, producer-director Karan Johar reshared a set of BTS pictures posted by the director of the film, Sharan Sharma.

In one of the pictures, Janhvi can be seen wearing

surgical masks on her face and forehead.

The picture shows her dressed in a pink voluminous salwar suit.

The other pictures in the carousel show the team in a discussion around the shots and the briefing by the director.

Janhvi will be seen essaying the role of a cricketer opposite Rajkumar Rao in the film, which is produced by her mentor Karan Johar.



## INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Ananya Pande