

absolute india

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NORMAL MONSOON EXPECTED ACROSS INDIA: IMD

RAINFALL DECREASING OVER NE

New Delhi: While announcing the second phase long range forecast for the Southwest Monsoon, IMD director general (meteorology) Mrutyunjay Mohapatra told a media conference: "Monsoon seasonal rainfall over the four homogeneous rainfall region is most likely to be 'above normal' for Central India (more than 106 per cent of its Long Period Average (LPA) and South Peninsula (more than 106 per cent of its LPA) while rainfall is most likely to be 'normal' over northeast India (96-106 per cent of its LPA) and northwest India (92-108 per cent of its LPA)."

As per this year's forecast, among the northeastern states, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland would be receiving normal to above normal rainfall while for Mizoram, Tripura and Manipur, the IMD has predicted a possibility of below normal rainfall. LPA for rainfall is based on observational data from 1971-2020 for the southwest monsoon. It is different for country as a whole and also for the four main homogeneous regions, including the north east India. The LPA for northeast India based on 1971-2020 data is 1,367.3 mm.



Team Absolute | New Delhi

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Tuesday announced that the crucial-for-farming southwest monsoon in the country as a whole is most likely to be normal with a quantitative forecast of 103 per cent of the Long Period Average (LPA). A normal monsoon rainfall is within the range of 96 to 104 per cent of the LPA. The IMD introduced the new LPA

this April, based on rainfall data from 1971-2020 for the southwest monsoon season, replacing the data from 1961-2010. The LPA is 87 cm or 870 mm. "Quantitatively, the monsoon season (June to September) over the country is likely to be 103 per cent of the LPA with a model error of plus/minus 4 per cent," IMD's Director General (meteorology) Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said at a press conference.

The monsoon rain would be above normal in central and

southern India (with more than 106 per cent of LPA) while it is most likely to be normal in the northeast (with 96-106 per cent of LPA of this region) and northwest India (with 92-108 per cent of LPA of this region).

The IMD also issued the forecast for what is called the monsoon core zone -- which consists of most of the rain-fed agricultural regions in Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh and Odisha -- which, it said, would be above normal (more than

106 per cent).

"La Nina conditions are expected to continue throughout the monsoon period. Also, we are dependent on a dynamic system. All the statistical parameters, including all multimodal ensemble forecast -- surface air temperature, surface temperature over Pacific etc -- the consensus is for normal, but not 99 per cent but 103 per cent," Mohapatra explained about the revised quantitative forecast compared with what was

announced in April.

La Nina conditions are likely to prevail over the equatorial Pacific Ocean and there is a possibility of development of negative Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) conditions over the Indian Ocean during the monsoon season.

IOD is the difference in the temperatures of west Indian Ocean and east Indian Ocean. La Nina is associated with cooling over the central and east Pacific Ocean.

Centre clears entire GST compensation payable to states till date



Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Centre has cleared the entire amount of Goods and Service Tax (GST) compensation payable to states up to May 31, by releasing an amount of Rs 86,912 crore, an official statement said on Tuesday.

The payment was made to assist the states in managing their resources and ensuring that their programmes, especially the expenditure on capital, is carried out successfully during the financial year, it said.

"This decision has been taken despite the fact that only about Rs 25,000 crore is available in the GST Compensation Fund. The balance is being released by the Centre from its own resources pending collection of cess," the statement added. The GST system was introduced in the country in July 2017 and states

were assured compensation for loss of any revenue arising on account of implementation of GST as per the provisions for a period of five years.

Bi-monthly GST compensation to states for the period 2017-18, and 2018-19 was released on time out of the Compensation Fund. While the states' protected revenue has been growing at 14 per cent compounded growth whereas the cess collection did not increase in the same proportion, Covid-19 further increased the gap between protected revenue and the actual revenue receipt including reduction in cess collection, it added. Thus, in order to meet the resource gap of the states due to short release of compensation, the Centre has borrowed and released Rs 1.1 lakh crore in 2020-21 and Rs 1.59 lakh crore in 2021-22 as back-to-back loans to meet a part of the shortfall in cess collection.

Delhi Minister Satyendar Jain sent to ED's custody till June 9

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A court here on Tuesday sent Delhi Health Minister Satyendra Jain, arrested by the Enforcement Directorate in a money-laundering case, to the agency's custody till June 9.

Jain, who was arrested on Monday evening, was produced before Special CBI Court Judge Geetanjali Goel of the Rouse Avenue Court.

During the course of the hearing, senior advocate N. Hariharan, appearing for Jain, strongly argued for bail, citing Jain has been cooperating with the probe agency and that the submissions are a reproduction of the charge sheet registered in 2017.

The case is not for police remand, counsel argued, stating Jain "is not going to run away, he will be available".

He also argued that there is no evidence that the money was hawala.

"My house been searched on two occasions. My bank accounts also seized. The entire material is with them. I'm given share in these companies as a consultant. I was an



architect. What company does is none of my business. Even today it's same share percentage. The land is in the name of those companies," he argued.

On the other hand, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing on behalf of the ED, argued for 14 days custody.

UNION HEALTH MINISTRY ISSUES GUIDELINES FOR MONKEYPOX

Team Absolute | New Delhi

In view of the increasing number of Monkeypox cases being reported from the non-endemic countries, the Union Health Ministry on Tuesday issued 'Guidelines on Management of Monkeypox Disease'.

The guidelines have been issued as part of a proactive and risk-based approach for management of Monkeypox and to ensure advance preparedness across the country.

However, the ministry confirmed that no case of Monkeypox has been reported from India as on date.

Monkeypox is an orthopoxvirus, a family that includes the now eradicated smallpox virus. It may now be endemic in the UK and Europe, leading experts have warned, as the virus normally confined to areas of Africa continues to spread around the world. Last Friday, a World Health Organization report had said that the virus has spread to more than 20 countries, with about 200 confirmed cases and over 100 suspected cases in nations where it is typically not



found. As per the guidelines issued by the Health Ministry, a confirmed case is laboratory confirmed for Monkeypox virus by detection of unique sequences of viral DNA, either by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and/or sequencing. All the clinical specimens should be transported to the apex laboratory of ICMR-NIV (Pune) routed through the Integrated Disease Surveillance

Programme (IDSP) network of the respective district or state.

The guidelines include epidemiology of the disease including host, incubation period, period of communicability and mode of transmission; contact and case definitions; clinical features and its complication, diagnosis, case management, risk communication, guidance on Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) and use

of personal protective equipment. The guidelines stress on surveillance and rapid identification of new cases as the key public health measures for outbreak containment, mandating the need to reduce the risk of human-to-human transmission.

It also explains the IPC measures, IPC at home, patient isolation and ambulance transfer strategies, additional precautions that needs to be taken care of and duration of isolation procedures.

As per the guidelines, contacts should be monitored at least daily for the onset of symptoms for a period of 21 days from the last contact with a patient or their contaminated materials during the infectious period.

The guidelines explain in detail about raising awareness and educating people about the measures for Monkeypox virus like avoiding contact with any material of the sick person, isolation of infected patient, practising good hand hygiene and using appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) when caring for patients.

Backdoor channels active to revive India-Pak ties

Hamza Ameer | Islamabad

The development is being seen as a major step with an intent to push forward the relationship between India and Pakistan towards normalcy through bilateral engagements, talks and addressing each other concerns to find a mutual ground of understanding.

Relations between the two countries have remained strained for years now and took a turn for the worse in August 2019 when India revoked special status of Jammu and Kashmir.

In response, Pakistan downgraded diplomatic ties and suspended bilateral trade and insisted that until India reverses its decision, there can be no talks on any issue between the two countries.

With Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in the ruling and a coalition government set in place, Islamabad and New Delhi have been working towards activating backdoor channels for talks to revive the stalled relationship between the nuclear powered neighbours.

"Even before the government of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif took charge, the two countries were talking to each other, albeit quietly," said an informed source.

"Those contacts have led to the renewal of the ceasefire understanding in February 2021 and since then the truce is holding, with no major incident of ceasefire violation."

While the ceasefire agreement gave hopes of a forward movement towards more engagements on bilateral level between the two countries, it did not yield any positive results of openings during the tenure of former Prime Minister Imran Khan.

However, under the new government set-up in Pakistan, there is renewed efforts by the two sides to explore ways and means to de-escalate tensions and revive the stalled relations. "Call it backchannels, Track-II or behind-the-scene talks, I can only confirm that relevant people in both countries are in touch



with each other," another official source said. It should be noted that immediate results of these back channel engagements are unlikely as both sides have put forward tough preconditions for resumption of dialogue, the source added. "Pakistan's policy is clear. We want to engage with everyone, including India. However, Narendra Modi's hardline government may not show flexibility on the issue of Kashmir." India is inclined to the re-engagement but reluctant to offer something that would help Pakistan resume the dialogue," the source added. The source also revealed that Western countries, including the US and UK, "India is eager to first resume trade and then other ties with Pakistan. New Delhi is willing to meet wheat shortage of Pakistan by entering into a government-to-government agreement."

WILL NOT WORK WITH CONGRESS AGAIN IN FUTURE: PK

Patna:

Political strategist-turned-politician Prashant Kishor on Tuesday asserted that he will not associate with the Congress in future.

"This is the party responsible for breaking my track record of winning. It is not improving and even it may drown me. Hence, I will never work with the Congress again," Kishor said with folded hands at an interaction with media in Vaishali, where he was to prepare ground for his Jan Suraj campaign.

"In the last 10 years, I was involved in 11 elections and only one I lost in Uttar Pradesh in 2017. At that time, I was associated with the Congress party. It has broken my winning record." I was associated with the BJP in the 2014 Lok Sabha election, then the JD-U in 2015, 2017 in Punjab, 2019 with Jagan Mohan Reddy in Andhra Pradesh, 2020 in Delhi with (Arvind) Kejriwal and 2021 in West Bengal and Tamil Nadu," Kishor said.



Hardik Patel to join BJP on June 2

Ahmedabad | Agencies

Patidar Anamat Andolan Samiti (PAAS) convener and former Gujarat Congress working president Hardik Patel will join the BJP on Thursday.

Confirming the development, BJP spokesman Bharat Dangar said that Patel, along with his supporters, will join the saffron party in the presence of the party state president C.R. Patil and former Deputy Chief Minister Nitin Patel at 12 p.m.

Shweta Brahmabhatt, who had contested Assembly elections from Maninagar constituency on Congress symbol, is also set to join the BJP the same day, party sources said.

Last month, during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Gujarat visit, she had a one-on-one with him. Reacting to this development, PAAS leader Alpesh Kathiriya said: "I got to learn about it from the media. Hardik has not spoken to me regarding this. I wish him luck for the new



journey, but the road ahead will be bumpy as he has to address pending issues of the community and ensure that cases against the Patidars are withdrawn and a family member of those who lost their lives during agitation get a government job."

Calling him an "opportunist", Sardar Patel Group leader Lalji Patel said that because of Hardik Patel, those leading the Patidar movement were targeted by the community members when he joined the Congress. Now that he is joining the BJP, the leaders will have to face more problems, he added.



NOT A PM, JUST A 'PRADHAN SEVAK': NARENDRA MODI

SHIMLA | Agencies

Donning a Himachali cap, Narendra Modi on Tuesday said in the last eight years of his government, he never thought of himself as the Prime Minister but considered him as a 'pradhan sevak' (prime servant) of the country.

All these years were devoted to welfare of the people, good governance and security of each Indian.

"No goal is impossible for capability of New India," Modi said addressing a huge gathering at the historic Ridge.

"In the last eight years not even once did I vision myself as the PM. Only when I sign documents do I have the responsibility of the PM but as soon as the file is gone, I'm no longer a PM. I'm just a 'pradhan sevak' of 130 crore people who are everything in my life and my life is also for you," he said.

Amid the chants of "Vande Mataram" and "Bharat Mata ki Jai", Prime Minister Modi earlier reached Himachal Pradesh capital to participate in the Garib Kalyan Sammelan. On arrival, he was extended a rous-



ing reception by party workers and sympathisers, some donning traditional dresses, who were awaiting his arrival for several hours. Many women were present en route, waving their hands at the Prime Minister's arrival. Amid the presence of Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur, whom Modi described as his friend, and Union Minister Anurag Thakur on the dais, Modi in his 40-minute

address in Hindi said: "Today is a very special day in my life. I am privileged that I was given a chance to honour my motherland. I am thankful to you all who have come in such a large number to bestow their blessings." Saying that nearly 200 crore Covid-19 vaccine doses have been administered in India so far, he said: "During this Covid-19 pandemic, I also got the chance to take care of the children

who lost their parents to the disease. Our government took the decision to look after these children. I also sent some monetary assistance to these children through cheques yesterday."

Sounding poll bugle in Himachal Pradesh later this year, Modi listed out the achievements of the BJP government in Centre. "Before 2014, there was concern about the security of the country, today we are proud of surgical air strike.

"This family of 130 crore Indians is all I have, you people are everything in my life and this life too is for you.

"I repeat the resolve that I will do whatever I can, for the welfare of everyone, for the honour of every Indian, for the security of every Indian and for the prosperity of every Indian and a life of happiness and peace for everyone."

The Prime Minister said the government is trying to give a permanent solution to the problems which were earlier assumed to be permanent.

Earlier, the Prime Minister was accorded a rousing reception at the Annadale helipad by the Governor and the Chief Minister, besides senior party leaders.

FIRST PERSON ARRESTED IN MOOSEWALA KILLING SENT TO 5-DAY POLICE CUSTODY

CHANDIGARH | Agencies

Manpreet Singh, the first arrest in the killing of famed singer-turned-politician Sidhu Moosewala was produced before a Mansa court in Punjab on Tuesday and was sent to police custody for five days.

A team of Punjab Police along with sleuths of the Uttarakhand STF had arrested Manpreet Singh from Dehradun on Monday. He was suspected to have provided "key logistical support" in the murder of the Punjabi singer. Singh, a resident of Faridkot in Punjab, was reportedly trying to hide among pilgrims, who were scheduled to go on a yatra to Hemkund in Chamoli district when the police nabbed him.

Meanwhile, the cremation of Moosewala was held in his native village Moosa in Mansa district on Tuesday.

After much delay to get the consent of his father, the postmortem of Moosewala was conducted by a five-member forensic team of doctors from Patiala and Faridkot medical colleges at the Civil Hospital in Mansa.



Tens of thousands of Moosewala's fans and followers gathered outside his palatial bungalow to pay tributes and attended his funeral.

Officials told IANS the singer-turned-politician's wailing parents gave consent for the postmortem of their only child after Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann announced to set up a judicial commission under a sitting judge of Punjab and

Haryana High Court to probe his killing.

Moosewala's song 'The Last Ride' was reportedly a tribute to rapper Tupac Shakur, who was shot dead in his car at the age of 25 in 1996. Moosewala, whose real name was Shubhdeep Singh Sidhu, 29, was shot dead while driving his vehicle in Mansa district on Sunday, a day after his security cover was withdrawn.

Cong reaches out to Azad, but tension simmering

Team Absolute | New Delhi

After the Congress denied nomination to some hopeful veterans for the Rajya Sabha polls, sources said that Sonia Gandhi has reached out to Ghulam Nabi Azad.

The sources said that she spoke to Azad on Sunday evening over the phone. However, the details were not made public. The move indicates that she wants to douse the fire and quell any discontent. Azad was one of the prime movers of the G-23 and one of the vocal voices within the party over reforms.

Another veteran hopeful, Anand Sharma has also been denied the Rajya Sabha nomination. Tension simmering in the party units in Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan over outsiders being nominated from the Upper House. The party leaders are questioning the move, but the Chief Ministers have not said anything against the party's choice of candidates. Both



states will go to polls next year. The names of Congress veteran leaders like Ghulam Nabi Azad, Anand Sharma and Veerappa Moily did not figure in the Rajya Sabha candidate's list, and the trio were hopeful to be nominated, but it was the loyalists who got the tickets.

The loyalists include mostly the GenNext leaders, but Mukul Wasnik and P. Chidambaram did find a place.

BJP CENSORS DILIP GHOSH, BARS HIM FROM SPEAKING TO MEDIA

KOLKATA | Agencies

The BJP central leadership has censored Bengal MP Dilip Ghosh from speaking against a section of party leaders or making statement on any public forum against any of his party colleagues, but it in West Bengal or anywhere else.

BJP's national general secretary and headquarters in-charge, Arun Singh, in a letter to Ghosh pointed out that certain statements and outbursts by the latter have not only angered the state party leaders, but also embarrassed the central leadership.

"This was pointed out to you on several occasions by the party leadership in the fond hope that you will take note," read Singh's letter.

Such comments by Ghosh, who is also the party's national vice-president, might create dissatisfaction, unrest and alienation among party ranks, which is unacceptable, Singh



said. Singh said that he is writing the letter following instructions from the party's national President J.P. Nadda. "On the instructions of J.P. Nadda Ji, I wish to convey to you the party's



deep anguish and concern at issuance of such statements and advise you to always refrain from going to the media or any public forum, about your own colleagues either in the state of West Bengal or

anywhere else," the letter quoted Singh as saying.

On May 20, Ghosh was relieved of the party's organisational responsibilities in his home state West Bengal, and entrusted with the task of expanding the party's base in Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Manipur, Meghalaya, Assam, and Tripura.

When IANS contacted Singh for his comments, his secretary said that Singh will get back after concluding the work he is involved in.

However, Ghosh said that he is yet to personally receive the letter, adding that whenever he receives the same, he will surely reply to it.

Ghosh was removed as West Bengal BJP president soon after the 2021 Assembly polls, and was replaced by party MP Sukanta Majumdar.

Soon after that, Ghosh had claimed that his successor is "less experienced".

Hindu teacher shot dead by terrorists in Kashmir



SRINAGAR | Agencies

Terrorists fired upon and shot dead a Hindu school teacher at Gopalpora in South Kashmir's Kulgam district, police said on Tuesday. The teacher was identified as Rajni, wife of Raj Kumar of Samba

district in Jammu. According to the details, the terrorists fired at the school teacher, injuring her critically. She was moved to the hospital where she succumbed to her injuries. The J&K Police tweeted: "Injured lady teacher, a Hindu and resident of Samba

(Jammu division) succumbed to her injuries." Terrorists involved in this gruesome terror crime will be soon identified and neutralised. The area has been cordoned off. Additional forces have reached the spot and an operation has been started to nab the attackers.

OPIUM FARMING IN 620 ACRES OF LAND IN BIHAR DESTROYED

Patna: Security forces have destroyed opium crops in 620 acres of land in three districts of Bihar in the past one year, an official of state police said on Tuesday.

Farming of opium in Naxal-affected districts of Jamui, Aurangabad and Gaya is turning out to be a major source of revenue generation for the Naxal groups, the official said.

"Due to continuous efforts, we have managed to control opium farming in these three districts. We have destroyed the crops spread in 620 acres in the financial year of 2021-22. In 2020-21, we had destroyed crops in 584 acres of land and 470 acres land in 2019-20," the official said. The preparation of opium farming starts after the monsoon session, while the ideal farming time is between January and March.

The people involved in illegal farming of opium generally live in the deep forest areas of Jamui, Aurangabad and Gaya Ji. The deep forest of Sikandra in Jamui district and Dhanganji and Barachatti in Gaya districts are infamous for opium cultivation in the region.

Naqvi, Javadekar missing from BJP's list for RS polls

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Prominent names, including Union Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi are missing from the BJP's list of candidates for the Rajya Sabha polls to be held next month.

The BJP has so far released the names of 22 candidates in three lists for the June 10 election.

The list misses the names of Union Minority Affairs Minister Naqvi, former Union Minister Prakash Javadekar, party national general secretary Dushyant Gautam, former national vice president Dr Vinay Sahastrabudhe, former Union Minister Shiv Pratap Shukla and national spokesperson Syed Zafar Islam.

Sahastrabudhe is serving as president of Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR).



Sources said that Naqvi may be fielded from the Rampur Lok Sabha seat in Uttar Pradesh for which bypolls are scheduled for June 23. Naqvi is elected to the Upper House from Jharkhand and the BJP has nominated Aditya Sahu from the state this time. Late Monday evening, the BJP announced the names of four more candidates for the

upcoming biennial election for the Rajya Sabha from Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh.

On Sunday, the BJP announced the names of 18 candidates for the Rajya Sabha biennial elections in two lists.

In a list of candidates released on Sunday, the BJP has fielded Union Ministers Nirmala Sitharaman from Karnataka and Piyush Goyal from Maharashtra.

CHANGE OF NAME
I HAV (GD) Neeraj Kumar Verma resident of Madhoganj Haat (M P) My wife's name sangeeta has been mistakenly entered in my service document which is wrong correct name is my wife's is Sangeeta Verma which I want to change the same & entered in my service document.

NO SOLUTION TO NAGA ISSUE WITHOUT SEPARATE FLAG, CONSTITUTION: NSCN-IM CHAIRMAN

KOHIMA | Agencies

NSCN-IM Chairman Eno Q. Tuccu on Tuesday questioned as to how can Naga political issues be resolved without a separate flag and Constitution. Addressing the 'Emergency National Assembly' of the National Socialist Council of Nagalim (Isak-Muivah), the dominant Naga group, he said: "How can we forfeit the Naga national flag and Naga Constitution in the name of Naga political solution? What belongs to us... that defines our political identity can never be compromised for the sweet morsel in the name of Naga political settlement. We cannot be made a laughing stock before the world by tamely succumbing to pressure or temptation."

Centre's then interlocutor and then Nagaland Governor, R.N. Ravi had, on a number of occasions, rejected these demands. Noting that on August 3, 2015, the historic 'Framework Agreement' was signed with deep political insight taking into consideration the Naga people's sovereign rights and dignity, Tuccu said: "Unfortunately, there are forces at work who are trying to undermine the political significance of Framework Agreement by giving wrongful interpretations with bewildering comments to suit their selfish agenda in collusion with the Government of India... mali-



ciously propagated by few political leaders that the Naga flag and constitution, including integration (of the Naga-dominated areas) are not mentioned in Framework Agreement. "The bitter irony is that every attempt is being made to confuse the Naga people on the political significance of the Framework Agreement where the future of Naga political journey is laid out." "We have come across the stand of the Government of India on the core issues of Naga national flag, Constitution and integration and echoed by some Naga leaders," he said in his strongly-worded speech.

He said that hundreds of thousands have given their lives for the Nagas' freedom and the responsibility is heaped upon the shoulder of the NSCN to fulfill their prayers and dreams for the honourable Naga political settlement with the Naga flag flying high. "We have to prove ourselves before God and before the Naga people and the whole world that we, the NSCN members, the frontline torch bearers of the Naga political movement, shall stand the ground till the last man standing in defence of our God's given rights," he stated.

The NSCN-IM, in a separate statement, said on Tuesday said that the Emergency National Assembly was held amidst tense moments and spontaneous upsurge of emotion as the issue of the Naga people's political struggle of seven decades is yet to be decided with the ongoing political dialogue in deadlock on the core issue of flag and constitution. After signing a formal ceasefire agreement with NSCN-IM in 1997, the Central government has held more than 85 rounds of negotiations with the NSCN-IM and other Naga groups. However, the NSCN-IM's repeated insistence on a separate Naga flag and Constitution have become a big hurdle in the way of resolving the Naga issue. In the editorial of its latest news bulletin 'Nagalim Voice', the outfit said it is unthinkable for NSCN-IM to accept the Naga national flag as a cultural symbol as hinted by the Centre.

CHANGE OF NAME
I MAMTA BALUNI is legally wedded spouse of No. JC571691K SUB PRAKASH CHANDRA BALUNI presently residing at vill Meera Nagar Rishikesh Uttarakhand Pin: 249202 have changed my name from MAMTA to MAMTA BALUNI vide affidavit No. BC 529697.

CHANGE OF NAME
I No. JC571691K SUB PRAKASH CHANDRA BALUNI s/o SHAMBHU PRASAD BALUNI presently residing at vill Meera Nagar Rishikesh Uttarakhand Pin : 249202 have changed my daughter's name from SHRISTI to SHRISTI BALUNI vide affidavit No. BC 529695.

CHANGE OF NAME
I No. JC571691K SUB PRAKASH CHANDRA BALUNI s/o SHAMBHU PRASAD BALUNI presently residing at vill Meera Nagar Rishikesh Uttarakhand Pin : 249202 have changed my son's name from ANSH and SAMAR to ANSH BALUNI and SAMAR BALUNI vide affidavit No. BC 529696.

CHANGE OF NAME
I No. 4569904M HAV RAM RATAN SINGH s/o PATIRAM SINGH presently residing at H.no 34/35 F, Nagla Latoori Singh Agra Pin : 282001 have changed my daughter's name from KUMARI SHRISHTI to SHRISHTI KUMARI vide affidavit No. BC 401472.



GOVERNMENT IS HERE TO SERVE PEOPLE, WE WORK TO MAKE YOUR LIFE EASY: PM MODI

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that the schemes made for the welfare of the poor have worked to change the lives. The government is working in the service of the people. Schemes are being implemented to make life easier for all. India has also emerged as a friend and ally for other nations. During the Corona period, we worked to deliver medicines to many countries. Efforts are also being made to make Indian products reach the world market. Modi said that it has been decided to give relief amount every month to the children whose parents succumbed to death during the Corona period. All necessary efforts will be made continuously to fulfil the aspirations of the people. The identity of India is not scarcity but modernity and the operation of more and more public welfare works.

Modi was having a virtual dialogue with the beneficiaries of various selected schemes from Shimla (Himachal Pradesh) in the Amrit Mahotsav of Azadi today. All the selected beneficiaries of state, district and Krishi Vigyan Kendra level virtually connected to this national programme. Taking part virtually in the programme, Modi transferred the amount of more than 21 thousand crores of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi to the accounts of over 10 crore farmers by pressing the button. This was the 11th instalment given to the beneficiaries under the scheme. Modi's address was listened to by people at the state



level Garib Kalyan Sammelan at Kushabhau Thakre Auditorium in Bhopal.

Modi launched Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (rural and urban), Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi, Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, Poshan Abhiyan, Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana, Swachh Bharat Mission (rural and urban), Jal Jeevan Mission and Amrut Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Swa-Nidhi Yojana, One Nation-One Ration Card,

Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana, Ayushman Bharat, Health and Wellness Centre, Pradhan Mantri Jan-Arogya Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana of various states and interacted with the beneficiaries of the schemes. Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said that Modi has launched a campaign for the welfare of every section of the society. He has amazing leadership abilities. He works continuously without taking any

break. Prime Minister is hardworking and capable. He is nothing less than a boon for India. Referring to the successful eight year tenure of Modi, Chouhan said that Modi ji is the "Man of Dynamic Ideas." Chief Minister said that Modi is engaged in Garib Kalyan Yagya. Whether it is to benefit the farmers with the Samman Nidhi or to provide housing to the poor free food grains to the public, he is engaged day and night in public welfare. India has made many achievements during the eight year tenure of Modi. India's respect abroad has increased. Chouhan said that Madhya Pradesh has made the achievement of being the first in the country in many schemes with full focus on the implementation of public welfare schemes. Ration is being distributed to the poor since the Corona period. Chouhan said that Prime Minister Modi, who made cleanliness a movement, has a place in the hearts of citizens. Work is being done to make the cities of Madhya Pradesh clean and beautiful. Indore has become the cleanest city of the country many times. Chief Minister said that under the able leadership of Modi, work has been done to bring back the students of India at the time of Ukraine war, improve India's business relations with other countries at international level and increase the dignity of India. Along with efforts to bring good results in the field of natural farming and health, Prime Minister has an important contribution in strengthening the sense of patriotism among the citizens.

LEADER OF OPNN BLAMES DGP FOR DETERIORATING LAW & ORDER SITUATION

LEADER OF OPPOSITION IN THE MADHYA PRADESH ASSEMBLY, GOVIND SINGH, BLAMED DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE (DGP) SUDHIR SAXENA FOR THE DETERIORATING LAW AND ORDER SITUATION IN THE STATE.



Team Absolute | Bhopal

Leader of Opposition in the Madhya Pradesh Assembly, Govind Singh, blamed Director General of Police (DGP) Sudhir Saxena for the deteriorating law and order situation in the state.

Talking to the press on Monday, Singh said that ever since he (Sudhir Saxena) took charge as DGP, the law and order situation in Madhya Pradesh is deteriorating day-by-day.

"Crime in Madhya Pradesh has increased manifold ever since he (Sudhir Saxena) became DGP of the state. The law and order situation which should have improved, is deteriorating day-by-day," Singh said citing several incidents that occurred in the recent past, including a Sadhu's jata (hair) being chopped off last week.

Singh, who became Leader of Opposition (LoP) last month, alleged that crimes against Schedule Tribes/Schedule Castes (ST/SC) have increased in the state. He claimed that several attacks on the tribal people have exposed the deteriorating law and order situation in Madhya Pradesh in the past few months. "Bajrang Dal and

other right-wing groups seem to have been given a free hand by the government and the police to create violence, social disturbances, crime against women and against deprived communities in the state," Singh added. Top Congress leaders in the state had in the past attacked the Shivraj Singh Chouhan-led state government and the state home minister Narottam Mishra over the poor law and order situation, but it's the first time that the opposition took the DGP's name directly.

Former Chief Minister and state Congress president Kamal Nath and Rajya Sabha MP (Congress) Digvijaya Singh have been taking on the state government over the law and order issue time and again but they refrained from blaming the DGP directly.

Sudhir Saxena, a 1992-batch IPS officer, assumed charge as DGP on March 4. He took over from 1984-batch IPS officer Vivek Johri, who was appointed DGP by the then Kamal Nath led Congress government in March 2020 and retired from the post on March 4, 2022. Before taking charge as MP's DGP, Saxena was serving as security (secretary), cabinet secretary in Delhi. He was relieved from his New Delhi post just a day before taking charge as MP's DGP.

Instructions for Conducting Videography of Urban Body and Panchayat Elections

Team Absolute | Bhopal

State Election Commissioner Basant Pratap Singh has directed the Collectors and District Election Officers for compulsorily videography to monitor the observance of the provisions related to the code of conduct and to prevent any untoward incident related to other law and order issues during the campaign before the polling day and on the polling day and counting day.

Videography should be done during filing of nomination papers, especially on the last day of submission of nomination papers, scrutiny of nomination papers, during withdrawal of nominations and symbol allotment, publicity by candidates such as during the meetings of ministers, senior politicians of national and state level recognised parties, on the last day of campaigning, dur-

ing rallies, processions etc., during investigations of complaints about violation of model code of conduct, incidents causing disruption in political meetings, complaints regarding threatening and intimidation of voters, complaints regarding luring voters e.g. distribution of money, sarees, dhotis, blankets etc., during EVM preparation and randomisation, to monitor the expenses on publicity and other heads made by contestants such as candidates for mayor/president and corporators, distribution and receipt of materials and machines at the most sensitive polling stations on polling day, at the time of, during the counting of votes, declaration of results and sealing of DMMS, opening and closure of strong rooms and videography should mandatorily be done during other occasions and events, as deemed necessary.

Make Efforts Fearlessly To Achieve Success: Governor

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Governor Mangubhai Patel has said that fear-free efforts are necessary for success. He said that regular and continuous efforts are essential to achieve the goal. The path of progress is not blocked by the failure in any one exam. He called upon the parents and teachers to cooperate in the examination management of the children. Inculcate the habit of regular study through motivation and encouragement without creating pressure.

Patel was addressing the state level sensitization-cum-orientation programme of National Commission for Protection of Child Rights at RCVP Noronha Academy of Administration and Management. Governor Patel distributed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's book Exam Warrior in the programme. He went close to the Divyang children and presented them



the books. He honoured the programme's resource person Moolchand Medicity physician Dr. Jitendra Nagpal and Indian Institute of Medical Sciences Associate Professor Dr. Sujata Satpathy. Patel said that the role of parents is very important in managing the stress of examination. It is not fair to scare children about exam results. Doing so creates psychological pressure on the children. It is also unfair to put the entire burden of education and studies on the teachers. He said that any kind of

weakness can be overcome with self-confidence. Describing the Pariksha Pe Charcha initiative of Prime Minister Modi as an unprecedented effort, he inspired the children to study Exam Warrior and make continuous efforts till the goal is achieved according to the teaching of Swami Vivekananda. He appreciated the work of the Commission for creating a conducive environment for the management of anxiety and stress related to examinations and results of the children.

Remembered Goddess Ahilyabai Holkar on her birth anniversary. Asked the children to take inspiration from her commitment towards education.

Medical Education Minister Vishwas Sarang said that to eliminate the stress and fear of examination, it is necessary that importance should be given to proficiency in the subject rather than marks in the examination. Exam phobia is a big problem. The main reason for this is the education system of Lord Macaulay, which focuses on results not on knowledge. He appreciated PM Modi's resolve to end Macaulay's education system through the National Education Policy. An unparalleled example of working as the head of every household in the country has been presented. He has made efforts to increase the honour of the country, which will inspire the successive generations.

Chief Minister Pays Tributes



Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan paid homage to Mata Ahilya Devi Holkar by garlanding her picture on her anniversary at the auditorium in CM residence today. Chouhan

also remembered the social works done by Mata Ahilya Devi Holkar across the country. Chouhan also paid homage to former Chief Minister Late Virendra Kumar Sakhelecha by garlanding his picture on his death anniversary.

RIGHT-WING OUTFIT SEEKS SURVEY OF BHOPAL'S JAMA MASJID

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Right-wing outfit Sanskriti Bachao Manch (SBM) has sent a memorandum to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah demanding an archaeological survey of the Jama Masjid in Bhopal, claiming that the mosque was built on the premises of a Lord Shiva temple.

Talking to mediapersons on Monday, SBM chief Chandrashekhar Tiwari said: "We have high hopes that the Prime Minister and the Home Minister will take cognisance of our request." Nearly two weeks ago, Tiwari, along with some other SBM members,

had met Madhya Pradesh Home Minister Narottam Mishra. During the meeting, the group had handed over a memorandum demanding a survey of Jama Masjid. The right-wing outfit raised the demand for a survey on the basis of facts collected from a book -- 'Hayate-I-Quds' (written by Bhopal's first woman ruler Nawab Qudisa Begam) -- which mentions (as the group claims), "Work on building Bhopal's Jama Masjid began in 1832 and was completed in 1857." It also mentioned that the mosque was built on the same land where a Hindu temple known as 'Sabha Mandap' already existed, SBM claimed

CHIEF MINISTER PLANTED PEEPAL AND NEEM SAPLINGS



Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted Neem and Peepal saplings along with the members of Shubhshree Seva Samiti in Smart Garden on Tuesday. Committee members Rashmi, Abhishek Mishra and Alpna Sharma told Chief Minister Chouhan that Shubhshree Seva Samiti works for the welfare of differently-abled, destitute, widows, helpless, rural children and women. The Peepal sapling planted today in the Smart Garden is considered an environment-purifying plant. It is also known as a shady tree. It also has religious and Ayurvedic significance. Similarly, neem abundant in antibiotic elements is known as a medicine.

BJP GEARS UP TO WELCOME NADDA

MADHYA PRADESH UNIT OF BJP IS GEARING UP TO WELCOME PARTY PRESIDENT JP NADDA, WHO IS SLATED TO ARRIVE AT THE STATE CAPITAL ON JUNE 1.



Team Absolute | Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh unit of BJP is gearing up to welcome party president JP Nadda, who is slated to arrive at the state capital on June 1.

During his three-day visit, the BJP president is expected to participate in several programmes besides holding meetings with state core committee.

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, along with state party president Vishnu Dutt Sharma, on Monday visited and inspected the preparations in Motilal Nehru stadium, where a special convention of the party leaders would be addressed by Nadda on June 1.

During the inspection, Chouhan and other senior BJP leaders held a discussion on the programme ahead of the leader's visit. Earlier, Vishnu Dutt Sharma had announced that the party would be according a historic welcome to party's national head in Bhopal.

More than 5,000 BJP workers and leaders are expected to assemble at Motilal Nehru stadium to welcome the BJP president. Party sources told IANS that the programme will be attended by everyone -- from block level

head to district heads of the party from across the state.

After addressing the party's convention, Nadda will be meeting the state core committee and the election committee members, which has been re-formed a couple of days back. The party has inducted members in both the committees considering the regional and caste factors. For instance, former cabinet minister and MLA from Rewa - Rajendra Shukla has been included in both the committees. Similarly, the party has also included Kavita Patidar, an OBC woman face from Indore division, who is now BJP's candidate for Rajya Sabha polls from Madhya Pradesh. After chairing meetings with state working committee members in Bhopal, Nadda is scheduled to visit Jabalpur where he will held meeting with booth, mandal and district level workers of the party.

Financial statement for WE WIN LIMITED. Includes sections for WE WIN LIMITED, Registered Office, and EXTRACT OF STANDALONE / CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE HALF YEAR AND YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 2022. The table contains columns for Particulars, STANDALONE (For the half year ended on, For the year ended), and CONSOLIDATED (For the half year ended on, For the year ended) with sub-columns for Audited and Unaudited figures for 31.03.2022 and 31.03.2021.



EDITOR'S SPECS

Double Trouble from BJP to Congress

The Bharatiya Janata Party has run a double political stroke regarding the Rajya Sabha candidature in Madhya Pradesh. While the party has given a chance to women candidates, it has also given a message of being friendly to the backward classes and the downtrodden. This is probably the first time in the politics of Madhya Pradesh that a political party has given a chance to women candidates for two Rajya Sabha seats simultaneously. Currently, backward classes remain the pivot of politics in the state and it is a challenge for both the parties to win the hearts of this class. The backward classes constitute more than 50 per cent of the population and are also capable of deciding the electoral direction. On the other hand, the population of Scheduled Castes is more than 15 per cent. The BJP has made a big bet through the Rajya Sabha candidature to cater to half the population with caste maths. Apart from Kavita Patidar, the General Secretary of the State Organization, who belongs to the OBC category, Sumitra Valmiki of the Depressed Classes has been nominated to the Rajya Sabha. Both these names have been surprising even for those watching the political corridor. According to political analysts, BJP is not only recognized for its decisions but also does the work of shocking the people. Many big-wigs were queuing for the Rajya Sabha candidature, but the organization thought it better to bet on people who do not belong to any faction. At the same time, a message has been sent that even a common worker can get a higher post. BJP will not miss even taking advantage of Rajya Sabha candidature in panchayat and urban elections. The Congress is also surprised at the selection of BJP's Rajya Sabha candidates.

QUAD MAY BE INCOMPARABLE TO NATO, BUT IT CAN BRING TOGETHER STATES TO SECURE MUTUAL INTERESTS

Kavya Dubey

The Quadrilateral Security Alliance may have gone through phases of void and little activity since its inception in 2007, but it has come to acquire greater significance in recent times.

In the light of the latest developments on this front, the recently concluded Quad Summit reinforced the need for an alliance to secure maritime territories, particularly taking note of China's growing dominance on the global stage.

China's penchant for turning islands and atolls into military bases and declaring territorial ownership is the very reason Quad needs to be a revitalised entity.

As Quad offers "tangible benefits" to contain China, the US, Japan, India, and Australia come together with an Indo-Pacific maritime surveillance plan, with 50 billion USD of investment in infrastructure over the next five years. Despite the discussion not having explicitly mentioned China, the leaders strongly opposed "any coercive, provocative or unilateral actions that seek to change the status quo" in the Indo-Pacific region. This intent points out to acts of "militarisation of disputed features, the dangerous use of coast guard vessels and maritime militia, and efforts to disrupt other countries' offshore resource exploitation activities", all of which China is infamous for accomplishing.

Under the new maritime surveillance initiative, namely, Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA), Quad will work with regional partners in response to humanitarian and natural disasters, and against illegal fishing.

IPMDA will be working "in consultation with Indo-Pacific nations and regional information fusion centres in the Indian Ocean, Southeast Asia, and the Pacific Islands by providing technology and training to support enhanced, shared maritime domain awareness to promote stability and prosperity" in seas and oceans. This is a significant upgrade from the previous level of engagement with joint military drills across maritime stretches in the region.

For an association rooted in international law and undeterred by coercive tactics, and as a step towards deepening cooperation on infrastructure, Quad's resolve to extend additional help to island nations in the Pacific is a timely development, given that China has been increasingly marking its territory.

Certainly, to the Asian giant's displeasure, China has previously called Quad an "Asian NATO". All the member countries of Quad



have had a face-off with China in recent times.

India's friction with China has a long-standing history with military encroachment in Ladakh's Galwan valley in 2020 being the most recent concern of a very direct nature. Further, the compounded crisis in Sri Lanka is an invitation for China to mark its presence more prominently in the Indian Ocean Region.

The uninhabited Senkaku Islands in the East China Sea, located northeast of Taiwan, is administered by Japan. China calls this archipelago Diaoyu and claims it as its own. China imposed trade sanctions on Australia after it went expressive on probing the Wuhan lab leak theory as a possible origin of the coronavirus pandemic. The announcement of this outcome of the Quad Summit has indeed sent China into a state of alarm, sensing that this is America's plan to corner China with military and strategic allies. The Chinese Foreign Minister, Wang Yi has dubbed this association as "Indo-Pacific NATO", and alleged it for "trumpeting the Cold War mentality" and "stoking geopolitical rivalry". Expectedly, China sees Quad as an instrument for "disrupting regional peace and stability". Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Le Yucheng had earlier said that "closed and exclusive small circles or groups is as dangerous as the NATO strategy of eastward expansion in Europe. If allowed to

go on unchecked, it would bring unimaginable consequences, and ultimately push the Asia-Pacific over the edge of an abyss".

NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization), also called North Atlantic Alliance, is a military alliance of 30 member states that came into existence in the aftermath of the second World War as a counter to the Soviet Union.

NATO continues to exist as a system of collective security whereby its member states (28 of which are European) agree to defend each other against attacks by third parties. Even after the disintegration of the Soviet Union, NATO remained in operation in the Balkan states, the Middle East, South Asia, and Africa.

While the purpose of this trans-Atlantic agency stands justified to the extent that a member state will not be left in the lurch in the event of external aggression, the possibility of an entity of such nature, bound together and driven by mutual interest, is a necessary deterrent at a time like now when China's predatory ways are making their mark along strategic territories.

It is pertinent to be mindful of the fact that the member countries of Quad are representatives of diverse cultures and interests and forging a common interest as solid, lasting ground is the prerequisite for elevating Quad to the status of NATO.

However, experts are of the

view that Quad is no Asian NATO nor does it aspire to be one, as retaining its flexibility as an informal forum will augment its partnerships and expand its scope of cooperation, such as the launching of new Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) by Biden in Tokyo.

IPEF has 13 founding members, including Australia, Brunei, India, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. Its purpose is to "advance resilience, sustainability, inclusiveness, economic growth, fairness, and competitiveness for our economies. Through this initiative, we aim to contribute to cooperation, stability, prosperity, development, and peace within the region", as said in a joint statement by the participating countries.

Whatever be the evolving features of this alliance, it is necessary for Quad to be founded on certain positive and constructive non-negotiable terms in order to sustain itself. Rising together as a force to counter China cannot be a very sustainable effort in the long run given diplomatic obligations and economic requirements of "enlightened self-interest".

international

EGYPT UNVEILS DISCOVERY OF 250 COFFINS, 150 STATUES IN SAQQARA

Cairo | Agencies

Egyptian authorities unveiled on a major new archaeological find of 250 sealed coffins containing mummies, 150 bronze statues of ancient gods and goddesses, and other antiquities at the Saqqara necropolis, south of the capital Cairo.

An archaeological mission working in Bubastian Cemetery area discovered a bronze statues cachette in the site that dates back to the Late Period of ancient Egypt, Xinhua news agency quoted Mostafa Waziri, Secretary-General of the Supreme Council of Antiquities, as saying to reporters on Monday.

"The cache included 150 different-size bronze statues of gods and goddesses like Anubis, Amunmeen, Osiris, Isis, Nefertum, Bastet, Hathor, and several bronze pots," Waziri said.

The mission has also discovered 250 intact coloured wooden coffins that date back to 500 B.C. inside several burial wells comprising well-preserved mummies as well as a group of golden-face wooden statues, painted wooden boxes, and



amulets, he added. During the excavation work inside one of the wells, the mission found a papyrus that writes verses from the Book of the Dead, said Waziri.

The Book of the Dead is an ancient Egyptian funerary text generally written on papyrus and used from the beginning of the New Kingdom (around 1550 B.C.) to around 50 B.C.

It consists of a number of magic spells intended to assist a dead person's journey through the Duat, or underworld, and into the afterlife and written by many priests over a period of about 1,000 years. A collection of vanity products was also found, including combs, eyeliners, containers, bracelets, earrings, and seed necklaces.

The discovery was made during the fourth excavation of the site that started in April 2018.

The Egyptian mission will start the fifth excavation works in September, Waziri added. Saqqara, located some 31 km from Cairo, contains ancient burial grounds of Egyptian royalty, serving as the necropolis for the ancient capital of Memphis.

It is famous for the the Pyramid of Djoser, the oldest complete stone building complex known in history built during the Third Dynasty (2686 B.C.).

US not providing Ukraine with long-range rocket systems: Biden

Washington | Agencies

The US will not provide Ukraine with long-range rocket systems capable of hitting targets inside Russia, President Joe Biden said, despite pleas from the war-torn nation for the supply of advanced weaponry.

"We are not going to send to Ukraine rocket systems that can strike into Russia," Biden said in response to a question from the media as he arrived at the White House from Delaware.

Reports emerged last week that the US was preparing to send Ukraine advanced long-range rocket systems as Russia focused its invasion in the eastern part of Ukraine, reports Xinhua news agency. But the Defense depart-



ment refused to confirm such a plan. "We are still working through what the next package is going to look like," Pentagon spokesperson John Kirby told reporters in May 27. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and other top officials in the government have been requesting the US to provide Multiple Launch Rocket Systems as well as High Mobility Artillery Rocket

Systems to their country to help it fight Russia.

Since Russia launched its war against Ukraine on February 24, the US has delivered heavy artillery weapons, dozens of Howitzers, tactical drones, anti-armour and anti-(air) missiles, helicopters, grenade launchers, machine guns, rifles, radar systems, 50 million rounds of ammunition, among others, to Kiev.

Too soon to tell whether monkeypox could become next pandemic: WHO

Geneva | Agencies

It may be too early to say whether the recent monkeypox outbreak, which has spread to 24 nations with over 435 confirmed cases, could lead to a global pandemic, the World Health Organization (WHO) has said.

The global health body, however, noted that there is a "window" of opportunity to curb rising cases, CNBC reported.

According to the WHO, there are "still many unknowns" related to the spike in cases in non-endemic countries outside of Africa.

It said the virus should not be mistaken for Covid-19 and that the risks to the general public remain low, the report said. "We don't want people to panic or be afraid and think that it's like Covid or maybe worse," Sylvie Briand, the WHO's director of epidemic and pandemic preparedness and preven-

tion, said during a briefing on the outbreak.

"This monkeypox disease is not Covid-19, it is a different virus," she added.

While health experts are not clear about the genetic makeup of the virus, current data suggests that it doesn't transmit or mutate as easily as other viruses like Covid-19, an RNA virus. "At the moment, we are not concerned about a global pandemic," WHO's technical lead for monkeypox, Rosamund Lewis, was quoted as saying. However, she noted that rising individual cases were a cause for concern as it could allow the virus to "exploit a niche" and transmit more easily between people.

The virus has for the first time manifested in gay and bisexual men.

Though the virus is not defined as a sexually transmitted disease, Lewis urged men who have sex with other men to be aware.

Covid hospitalisations hit new record high in Aus capital

Canberra | Agencies

The number of people hospitalised for Covid-19 in Australia's capital Canberra has hit a new record high, authorities said on Tuesday.

According to the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) Health Department, there were 93 hospitalised people in the capital city, including four in intensive care, reports Xinhua news agency.

It was the highest figure since the start of the pandemic two years ago, surpassing the previous record set on May 22, said the Canberra Times.

It comes ahead of an expected spike in cases and deaths across the country through winter, which starts on Wednesday.

There were more than 30,000 new infections reported across Australia on Tuesday and more than 50 deaths - 20 in Victoria, 19 in New South Wales, 11 in Queensland, four in Western Australia and one each in the ACT and Tasmania.

Data published by the federal Health Department revealed there had been 8,469 total Covid-19 deaths in Australia in the last 24 hours, an increase of 359 from 8,110 a week earlier.



It takes the death toll this year to 6,230, almost three times higher than the 2,239 Covid-19 deaths in 2020 and 2021 combined.

US Covid-19 cases six times more than 2021 as summer begins

Los Angeles: As the US marks Memorial Day weekend and the unofficial start of summer, the seven-day average for Covid-19 cases in the country are more than six times what they were a year ago, according to a report of The Hill.

The Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center reported a seven-day average of 119,725 Covid-19 cases as of Saturday. That figure held at 17,887 cases on May 28, 2021, according to the report. Experts believe the real count of cases is much higher as many were underreported due to at-home Covid-19 tests, Xinhua news agency reported. Health officials said the US amid another Covid-19 wave have warned Americans to exercise caution ahead of a possible surge.

US national average fuel price hits new record high

Washington | Agencies

The US national average price for a gallon of regular fuel hit a fresh record high of \$4.619, according to the American Automobile Association (AAA).

The national average gas price has increased 2.3 cents, or up 0.5 per cent from the past week, and 44.1 cents, or up 10.6 per cent from a month ago, Xinhua news agency reported citing the latest AAA data published on Monday. The current price, which doesn't account for inflation, is way above the previous record of \$4.114 a gallon set in July 2008. As of Monday, all 50 states and the District of Columbia have average gas prices over \$4 a gallon.

California has the highest prices in the country, averaging \$6.153 a gallon.

The AAA said earlier that gas demand may spike during the Memorial Day long



weekend, as American drivers take to the roads for the holiday. "If demand slows again following the holiday weekend, pump price increases could be limited as crude prices remain volatile."

The West Texas Intermediate (WTI) for July oil delivery settled at \$117.17 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange on Monday. The US crude benchmark has climbed roughly \$41.48 per barrel, or 54.8 per cent, since the start of the year, partly driven by the Russia-Ukraine war.

The benchmark Brent-crude prices on the Intercontinental Exchange Europe have also risen over 50 per cent since the start of the year.



UPSET WITH RAJYA SABHA CHOICE, MAHARASHTRA CONGRESS LEADER QUILTS POST

Alleging "imposition" of an outsider in the state, Maharashtra Congress leader Ashish Deshmukh on Tuesday wrote to Congress president Sonia Gandhi announcing his resignation from the post of General Secretary of the Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Calling it an injustice on Congress workers, Deshmukh objected to Uttar Pradesh leader Imran Pratapgarhi being named the party's pick from Maharashtra. Another senior Congress leader from the state, Nagma, had yesterday expressed disappointment on Pratapgarhi being chosen for the upper house.

"Imposing an outside candidate will not benefit the party in terms of growth. This is injustice towards general Congress workers in Maharashtra," he said, adding that he will continue to work with the Congress party "as a loyal Congress worker" and fulfill his commitments.

The Congress list of Rajya Sabha candidates that was released yesterday, causing massive resentment in

the ranks, named 34-year-old Imran Pratapgarhi, the Congress minority department chairperson and a poet, a candidate from Maharashtra.

In 2019, Pratapgarhi had contested the Lok Sabha election from Moradabad on a Congress ticket but lost his to the BJP candidate.

Deshmukh has argued that fielding a local leader would have strengthened the party but the leadership has chosen to bring in a political lightweight from another state instead.

Pawan Kheda, who is from Rajasthan and was widely seen as a shoo-in from the Congress, was not on the Rajya Sabha list. "Maybe there is something missing in my penance," he tweeted yesterday morning.

Responding to his tweet, Congress leader Nagma expressed her disappointment at Pratapgarhi being considered over her. She wrote, "Our 18

years of penance also fell short in front of Imran Bhai." She also posted: "Sonia Ji, our Congress president, had personally committed to accommodating me in Rajya Sabha in 2003/04. When I joined the Congress party on her behest we weren't in power then. Since then, it's been 18 years, they didn't find an opportunity. Mr Imran is accommodated in RS from Maha. I ask, am I less deserving?"

Sources close to the G-23 or Group of 23 "dissenters" in the Congress have also raised many questions about the choice of candidates for the upper house of parliament. The party has chosen "outsiders" in Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh as well, the two states where it is in power.

The party yesterday announced 10 candidates for the Rajya Sabha elections, skipping many prominent leaders.

SIDHU MOOSEWALA'S PARENTS HUG SON'S COFFIN IN TEARFUL GOODBYE

Mumbai: Popular Punjabi singer-rapper Sidhu Moosewala's parents hugged their son's coffin as they bid a tearful goodbye to the slain singer on Tuesday.



Pictures and videos on social media showed Moosewala's mother hugging the glass casket in which his mortal remains were kept. The mother could not stop looking at her son's lifeless body. His father broke down and then she turned to wipe his tears. A sea of fans and mourners gathered at the singer's village Moosa for the cremation, which took place on Tuesday afternoon. Moosewala was brutally murdered on Sunday. He was in his car when the attackers blocked him and fired more than 30 shots at him. The Delhi High Court will on Wednesday hear the plea filed by jailed gangster Lawrence Bishnoi, named as a suspect in the sensational murder of Sidhu Moosewala, alleging apprehension of a fake encounter by the Punjab Police for 'political mileage.'

Amit Antil wants more security for artistes after murder of Sidhu Moosewala

Team Absolute | Mumbai

India's Got Talent' fame Amit Antil feels Sidhu Moosewala's demise is an eye-opener for people who blame celebrities for having guards and security.

He says: "As all of us know that talent is always compared to treasure that can't be stolen. But the fact is it can be killed henceforth its our responsibility to keep them protected and safeguard. The way a young singer was shot in broad daylight raises questions on how secure we Indian artistes are. Punjab has been a place of love, peace and brotherhood, violence was really unexpected."

Amit, who is known for featuring in shows like 'Savdhaan India: India Fights Back', 'Kalash... Ek Vishwaas' among others, reveals about working with the same costume department team of Sidhu Moosewala.

He continues: "I also work with



the same team the late singer used to work with. I have known him for quite a long time now. But he will go soon, who knows! At such a young age he started his career in showbiz and claimed global recognition without having any godfather in the industry. His success was the result of his hard-work and dedication. He will be an inspiration. It's a great loss for our country. I hope his family and fans get the strength to overcome the loss."

Cruise ship raids case: Sameer Wankhede transferred to Chennai

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In a latest development in connection with the cruise ship raids case in which Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan Khan was placed under arrest, few NCB officials including Sameer Wankhede involved in the alleged shoddy probe have been transferred to Chennai.

Wankhede, the former head of the Mumbai zone of the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), has been transferred from Directorate of Revenue Intelligence to DG TS, Chennai. Other NCB officials who have been transferred are P. Ram Mohan and T. Rajashree. The SIT formed in the case might be filing a report with the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to fix responsibility for conducting shoddy probe in the matter,



sources in the NCB said. The report will fix the responsibility of the officials who were involved in the investigation due to which Aryan Khan and others were given clean chit. The MHA is keeping an eye on the matter.

Earlier, NCB official Ashish Ranjan Prasad was placed under suspension. However,

his suspension was later revoked, and he was transferred to CISE.

Another NCB official who faced the music was Intelligence Official V.V. Singh who filled the arrest memo of Aryan Khan. Singh was placed under suspension which has not been revoked till now.

'He is very sick', Anil Deshmukh's lawyer in SC seeking early hearing on his bail plea

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked the Bombay High Court to expeditiously hear a plea for bail by jailed NCP leader and former Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh in a money laundering case, under investigation by the Enforcement Directorate (ED).

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, representing Deshmukh, submitted before a bench comprising Justices Ajay Rastogi and B.V. Nagarathna, "he is a very sick man and 73 years old..."

Sibal pointed out that the bail plea has not been taken up for hearing after it was filed on March 25. "I only want my application to be heard...let it be heard on reopening," said Sibal.

The bench, in its order, noted that the bail plea was filed on March 25 and it was listed on three occasions, and 'it appears due to paucity of



time it could not be heard'. The bench allowed Deshmukh to file an application before the high court for early listing of his bail plea.

Disposing of the matter, the bench said, "We hope and trust that the matter will be expeditiously heard and that the application is taken on board and be heard expeditiously..." Deshmukh moved the apex court assailing the high court orders of adjourning his bail plea.

Former Mumbai Police commissioner Param Bir Singh, had claimed that it was Deshmukh who forced him to collect Rs 100 crore every month from bars and restaurants in Mumbai. Singh accused Deshmukh of misusing his post.

In November last year, Deshmukh was placed under arrest by the ED in connection with a Rs 100 crore money laundering case pertaining to the alleged posting and transfer of the officials.

Big update on change in university exams' pattern in Maharashtra, here's what we know so far

According to the court's verdict, petitioners have to file a representation with the government, and the government to convene a meeting with the petitioners and universities to resolve the issues, with the Universities to follow the same exam pattern across the state.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A PIL was filed for uniformity in the exam pattern and timely declaration of results after there was no consistency in the exam pattern throughout Maharashtra's universities. The Bombay HC, on Monday, May 30, has made the decision in favour of students and has directed the government and Universities to decide on the uniform exam pattern across the state. The

plea was heard by a bench of Justices Milind Jadhav and Abhay Ahuja.

Students from Maharashtra's colleges and universities had petitioned the Bombay High Court for uniformity in exam mode, as well as an announcement of results on time. The petition was filed by law student Balusha Bhasal and Kalpesh Yadav. According to the court's verdict, petitioners have to file a representation with the government, and the government to convene a meeting with the petitioners and universities to resolve the issues, with the Universities to follow the same exam pattern across the state. Students of all Universities of Maharashtra demanded for online examination, but as industries & placements were not in favour they agreed to conduct offline mode.

Different universities have adopted a different pattern of examination as per their convenience, and Universities like Mumbai have already conducted the examination for many courses. Students from Mumbai University still feel they have faced injustice already.

"MU students have already appeared for exams in descriptive mode and have faced injustice as other universities have given students an edge by offering MCQ pattern, says Faisal Shaikh, President of the National Students Union of India, Mumbai.

"It was the duty of Universities to ensure uniformity in the examination pattern, as during the online examination row, they repeatedly quoted about corporate's demand now with such variations. Students appearing in the MCQ pattern will have advantages over the ones appearing in the descriptive pattern. Would that be a fair competition in the corporate world?" He added.

Despite the fact that the state Higher Education Minister, Uday Samant, and vice chancellors of all Maharashtra universities agreed on April 25 to conduct exams in a uniform manner, few universities continued to conduct them in different ways, such as offline or online, descriptive or MCQs. Kalpesh Yadav, the Petitioner, said, "Universities were

conducting the examination as per their need. This was a complete injustice for students across the universities in Maharashtra. We welcome the decision by the Bombay HC and it is a great victory for the students of universities in Maharashtra we will file the representation tomorrow, and the decision for the uniformity in the examination will be made on June 1."

Following the success of students, student unions that had objected to the previous decision of universities, are now relieved by the decision of the Bombay High Court. Maharashtra Students Welfare Association President Vaibhav Edke said, "It is a victory of democracy. For many days students were protesting their issues, but no authorities took cognizance of that. But today, after the verdict to take a uniform decision regarding the summer semester exams. It will help the students to secure their rank and compete with the other university students. Now the state government should take a decision considering the student's benefit.

Woman who threw her six minor kids into well arrested, booked for murder

The accused, Runa Chikhuri Sahani, threw her children, including five girls, into a well in Kharavali village in Mahad taluka and later attempted suicide but was saved by local residents

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Police on Tuesday registered a case of murder against a 30-year-old woman who allegedly killed her six children, aged between 18 months and 10 years, by throwing them into a well at a village in Maharashtra's Raigad district following domestic discord, an official said.

The accused, Runa Chikhuri Sahani, threw her children, including five girls, into a well in Kharavali village in Mahad taluka, around 100km from Mumbai, on Monday afternoon, and later attempted suicide but was saved by local residents, he said.

The shocking incident took place at Kharavali village in Mahad taluka, around

100km from Mumbai, in the afternoon, an official said. The 30-year-old woman took the step after she was allegedly beaten up by the members of her husband's family, he said.

The woman was arrested and booked for murder, the official said and claimed she had confessed to the crime.

The children, aged between 18 months and 10 years, drowned before villagers could pull them out, the official said.

Investigations have revealed the accused committed the crime in a fit of rage following an argument with her husband. The couple often fought over the husband's alcohol addiction. After throwing her children into the well, the accused allegedly tried to jump into the water body, but was saved by villagers.

The woman was brought to the police station by locals, the official said. Sahani's family originally hails from Uttar Pradesh and had come to Maharashtra in search of work, he said. The bodies of the children were fished out from the well and their final rites were performed on Tuesday, the official said.

Pune's nostalgia-inspired culinary destination

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Ex-software engineer Poornima Somayaji, founded a Pune-based food studio, Aragma Food Studio, that offers cooking classes, workshops, weekend pop-ups, and special events. Their philosophy is to create elevated nostalgia-inspired food experiences with maximum flavour, local ingredients, and intriguing stories.

Aragma is a Greek word that means "enjoying the small pleasures of life". Poornima turned to food for comfort after suffering a personal loss. She wanted to share her newly discovered love of food with others so she created the studio, as a place to slow down, sit back, and savour each bite and every moment with loved ones or new friends.

The studio is a charming space that can accommodate up to 14 people and is designed to make you feel at home. Dining at the studio will transport you to your living room with a group of friends. The services at the Studio can be broadly divided into: Poornima organises sit-down, multi-course dinners, which are by default private dinners unless announced as ticketed. The

menu features modern cuisine prepared with fresh, local ingredients sourced from food forests in and around Pune. The dinners are prepared by young, in-house expert chefs with Michelin-starred experience. Poornima hopes to offer regional Indian cuisine as part of its sit-down dinners in the future. Sign up for hands-on recreational culinary classes here. At the studio you'll find flavour and fun in everything from the perfect Thai curry and regional Indian delicacies to farmer's market favourites and comfort food classics. Cook with the freshest ingredients in cutting-edge kitchens instructed by experts and regional food home chefs! Every Friday evening, Aragma offers one-person meal boxes that can be reserved in advance. The menu typically includes comfort food from various cuisines from India and around the world, ranging from



gua baos and ramen bowls to an Udipi oota meal. Two things that stand out, the first is their list of ingredients, every ingredient used in their cooking has a unique story and is sometimes given to them by customers or obtained through foraging. For example, the pepper is freshly harvested from the farm of a long-term client. The team then spices their butter with fresh green pepper, dries some of the seeds to make ground

obtaining ingredients from all over the country. The chefs serve a snack made with chakli flour, accompanied by green pea and coriander puree, fresh butter, and grated smoked Bandel cheese, an indigenous unripe, salted soft variety of cheese brought to India by the Portuguese and now only available in towns near Kolkata, on one of their sit-down dinner menus. Poornima believes in conscious collaboration. They get

their produce from non-profit organisations such as 14 Trees Foundations, which has been restoring native green cover on ecologically degraded patches of barren hills near Pune. Poornima is also creating a community of mindful eaters. It has been able to source produce directly from small farms and tribal villages throughout Maharashtra with the assistance of family and friends. Their wild honey, for example, comes from a tribal village near the Bhimashankar sanctuary. The backstories delivered with each dish are another aspect that distinguishes the dining experience at Aragma. Without a doubt, flavour is inextricably linked with memory and emotion. Poornima engages guests with anecdotes about the ingredients and the land that produced them, as well as the fantastical recipes they inspire. When she tells the story of her boozy pudding, for example, one can vividly imagine walking through a tribal forest picking Mahua flowers. Her stories evoke memories, which enhances the dining experience even more. Schedule a sit-down dinner, a home-delivered meal, or a cooking class. Aragma Food Studio's sit-down dinners start at INR 2800+ tax. Private diners can have their meals customised.



AMBER HEARD WARNED ABOUT JAIL POSSIBILITY

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Amber Heard could face jail over claims she edited injury photographs in her court feud against Johnny Depp. Defamation lawyer Aaron Minc warned that "more and more objective evidence that she is lying about things under oath" could lead to a sentence for the 'Aquaman' actress, reports aceshowbiz.com.

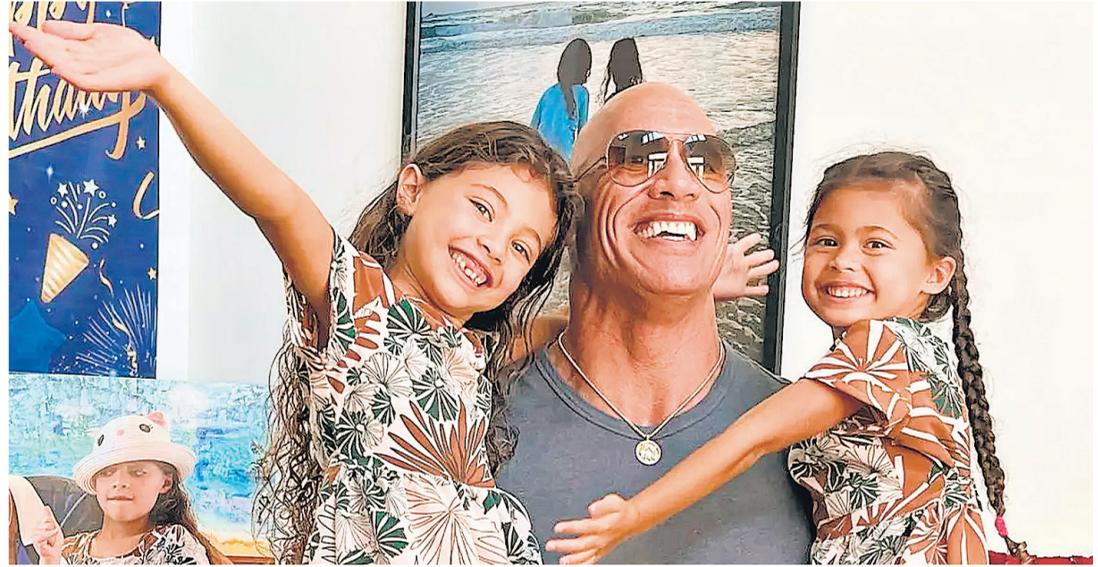
Minc spoke out as the jury in the feuding couple's case is set to resume deliberations on Tuesday after their legal teams finished offering furious closing arguments.

Despite telling website JOE "a few days ago" he didn't think there was any chance Heard could face prosecution for anything she had said on the stand during her ex-husband Depp's defamation trial, Minc admitted to have a change of heart as the case hurtled towards its conclusion.

"I think that, as this case goes on, and we start seeing more and more objective evidence that she is lying about things under oath," he said, "that's when it starts crossing the line into the possibility that she is fabricating evidence, fabricating photos, fabricating bruises, altering evidence and then submitting it."

Minc warned fabricating evidence is not only "really serious" but also "really offensive" to the justice system. He said, "I would hope that prosecutors would take a close look at it because if there is very clear evidence that she did that, that should certainly be considered."

"If it was proven that that was the case," he added, "and there's certainly some questions being raised in the trial currently, that could potentially lead to a criminal prosecution and jail time."



Dwayne Johnson's daughter refuses to believe he's Maui from 'Moana'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Dwayne Johnson shared that his youngest daughter Tiana refuses to believe that he voiced the character Maui from the animated film 'Moana'.

Actor shared an adorable clip of himself enjoying a tea party with his four-year-old daughter Tiana, reports people.com.

"Man these daddy/daughter/bunny tea parties have a special way of kinda putting life into real perspective," Johnson, 50, wrote in the Instagram caption.

"My 'why' becomes even more clear," he added.

"She just turned 4 and probably won't remember this, but I sure will."

The 'Jungle Cruise' actor also revealed that his

youngest daughter "refuses to believe that her daddy is actually MAUI from one of her favorite @disneymovies, MOANA!"

"She always says, 'Daddy, you're not Maui, you're The Rock,'" he explained.

In addition to Tiana, Johnson is also dad to daughter Jasmine, 6, with wife Lauren Hashian, as well as daughter Simone, 20, whom he shares with his ex-wife Dany Garcia.



'THE OFFICE' TO GET ARABIC REMAKE, CAMERAS WILL ROLL IN JUNE

Los Angeles | Agencies

Mockumentary sitcom 'The Office' is set to get an Arabic language remake. Titled 'Al Maktab', the Arabic redo of the groundbreaking BAFTA and Golden Globe award-winning comedy series will be set in Saudi Arabia, reports 'Variety'.

As per 'Variety', Egypt's Hisham Fathi ("Ending So Gently") will direct with Italy's Alessandro Martella serving as director of photography and Riyadh-based AFLAM Productions' Shadi Mcdad handling line producer duties. The series adaptation will go on floors in June on this MBC Studios original on which the BBC Studios international production team, who have licensed the format, will also have input.

The plan is for the twenty-episode show to air on MBC's linear TV channels, and stream on its Shahid VIP streaming platform later this year. The Saudi adaptation is set in a courier services company, with the main character played by Saleh Abuamr, who plays Malik Al-Tuwaifi, the company's self-absorbed yet lovable boss.

Also joining the cast are Fahad Albutairi; Nawaf Alshobaili; Saad Aziz; Adhwa Fahad, Razan Mansour; Reem Busati; and Hisham Hawsawi, among other local talents.

The original version of 'The Office' was written and directed by Ricky Gervais and Stephen Merchant, and first aired in the UK over 20 years ago.

Bo Burnham releases deleted scenes from 'Bo Burnham: Inside'

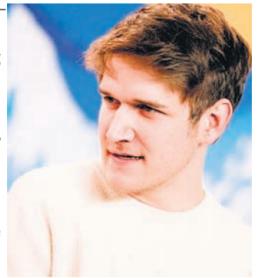
Los Angeles | Agencies

Comic artiste Bo Burnham recently released an extended video featuring deleted material from his 2021 streaming comedy special 'Bo Burnham: Inside'. The video, titled 'THE INSIDE OUT-TAKES' comes in at nearly 63 minutes long, just 24 minutes shy of the 83-minute runtime of the original 'Inside', reports 'Variety'.

Burnham revisited the footage in April, beginning to edit together the extra footage into a cohesive video. As per 'Variety', the comedian and singer-songwriter announced the debut as a surprise through Twitter, first teasing with a simple tweet that read "stand by" before firing off a follow-up a few minutes later.

He wrote on his Twitter handle, "a year ago today, I released a special called inside. I've spent the last two months editing together material that I shot for the special but didn't end up using. it will be on my youtube channel in one hour. I hope you enjoy it."

Burnham wrote, directed, shot, sound edited and cut together 'Inside' by himself over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic inside his own residence. It was released on Netflix in May 2021 and enjoyed a one-weekend theatrical run. Burnham also released the music from the special in an album titled 'Inside (The Songs)' which hit No. 1 on Billboard's comedy albums chart and eventually climbed to No. 7 on the Top 200.



THE KARDASHIAN STYLE

Los Angeles | Agencies

Kim Kardashian put her iconic curves on display in a set of new Instagram photos on Monday.

The 41-year-old megastar treated her followers to images of her in a sheer black bodysuit as she posed on a yacht.

The mom-of-four topped the revealing one-piece with a crystal-covered bra and mini skirt.

It comes after she arrived in London with beau Pete Davidson over the holiday weekend. She finished out the eye-popping look with a pair of pointy-toe black booties with a stiletto heel. For some snapshots Kim upped the glamour with a pair of rectangular-shaped black sunglasses, despite the cloudy day. Kardashian got creative with her poses and angles, opting to shoot some pictures standing and kneeling on the side deck.

Kim, who regularly documents her early morning workouts on social media, showed off the results of her time in the gym. The full, turtleneck bodysuit exposed her flat stomach and tiny waist.

Her cleavage was also on display in the low-cut sweetheart neckline of the crop top.

The abbreviated skirt hugged her hips and bared her toned legs as she put on her best model face. The SKIMS founder pulled her platinum blonde tresses back, leaving long face-framing pieces loose in the front.



Los Angeles | Agencies

As the third season of the superhero series 'The Boys' nears its release, Jack Quaid and Karl Urban from the show recollected an incident from a chase sequence of the second season when the motorboat carrying Quaid and Urban actually crashed headfirst into a massive whale.

And a petrified Quaid had one of the most unusual safe words ever 'Karl'.

That's because Quaid rode a motorboat for the first time and the crew had Urban to help Quaid get over his fright by calling Karl thrice. However, the loud helicopter following the boat to shoot the entire scene was to blame, as Urban couldn't hear Quaid shouting his name. And the plan failed.

Talking about the incident, Quaid said, "The fact that we got to go through the whale at all is insane. I've never seen it before, I don't think I'll ever see it again. The fact that I got to be literally and figuratively in the belly of the whale as an actor is crazy. I loved every second of it, there was a definite top moment for me." Confirming the same, Jack said, "But I would say that when we were shooting that,

'Karl' was Jack Quaid's safe word on sets of 'The Boys'

we had Jack Quaid at the front of the speedboat. And the kid's never done the speedboat before, and he's like 'listen', and we were shooting it on a lake and there are waves and I'm gunning it and we're going along we're getting wet. Jack Quaid is pale, and he has a safe word and it's 'Karl', right! Karl, Karl, Karl. Yep, Karl. Three times!"

"He's in front of the speedboat and we're gunning it and we're getting airs, bang bang bang. And he's screaming at the top of his lungs, KARL! KARL! KARL! and I can't hear him because we have a helicopter on top", Karl continued.

"He couldn't hear a thing," Jack added. "I swear, I couldn't hear a thing. There was a helicopter above us shooting this whole thing. So, our plan failed. At the end of the run, Quaido was white as a sheet. I've got a photo of it", Karl finished.

Season 3 will see new supervillains, unexpected heroes, and new add-ons in the cast. The show will have an episodic release from June 3 exclusively on Prime Video.

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Christina Milian



QUALIFICATION FOR ICC MEN'S T20 WORLD CUP 2024 TO BEGIN WITH EVENTS IN EUROPE

Dubai | Agencies

The road to the ICC Men's T20 World Cup in 2024, scheduled to be held in the US and the West Indies, will kick off in June with the first set of qualifying events emanating from Europe.

This will be the start of the pathway towards the biggest Men's T20 World Cup, which is set to feature a record 20 teams.

The eight top-performing teams at the Men's T20 World Cup 2022 in Australia alongside hosts USA and West Indies will automatically qualify for the 2024 edition of the marquee tournament. The next highest-ranked teams in the ICC Men's T20 Team Rankings as of November 14, 2022 will make up the 12 automatic qualifying spots.

The remaining eight spots will be decided by the regional qualifier events - two teams from each of Africa, Asia and Europe will qualify for the event, while the Americas and EAP regions will each have one team progress to the World Cup.

A total of 66 nations from across the globe - 14 teams from Africa (across two events), eight teams from the Americas (across two events), nine teams from Asia (across two events), seven teams from EAP (across two events) and 28 teams from Europe (across three events) - will fight it out over the next two years in the hopes of qualifying for the marquee event in 2024. Amongst the 66 teams are Hungary, Romania and Serbia, who are all set to make their debut during the pathway events. "We are delighted to see a record number of teams competing for places at ICC events as the Men's T20 World Cup pathway begins in Europe. The T20 format continues to drive the growth of the game and over the next two years we will see new teams competing in ICC events for the very first time," said Chris Tetley, ICC Head of Events. "A very warm welcome to Hungary, Romania and Serbia who are making their debut and thanks to Cricket Belgium and Cricket Finland for playing host to a record number of teams at this stage in qualification. I would like to wish all the competing teams every success as they begin their journey towards the USA and West Indies in 2024," he added.



CHAMPIONS

Qualifier Event Schedule:

Event - ICC Men's T20 World Cup Sub Regional Europe C Qualifier	Host - Vanuatu
Dates - June 28 - July 4	Dates - September 9 - 15
Participating Teams - (8 teams) Belgium, Denmark, Gibraltar, Hungary, Israel, Malta, Portugal, Spain	Participating Teams - (4) Cook Islands, Fiji, Samoa, Vanuatu
Event - ICC Men's T20 World Cup Sub Regional Europe A Qualifier	Host - Japan
Dates - July 12 - 19	Dates - October 15 - 18
Participating Teams - (10) Croatia, Cyprus, Finland, Greece, Isle of Man, Italy, Romania, Serbia, Sweden, Turkey	Participating Teams - (3) Indonesia, Japan, South Korea
Event - ICC Men's T20 World Cup Sub Regional Europe B Qualifier	Host - TBC
Dates - July 24 - 31	Dates - November 15 - 24
Participating Teams - (10) Austria, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Guernsey, Luxembourg, Norway, Slovenia, Switzerland	Participating Teams - (8) Botswana, Cameroon, Eswatini, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi
Event - ICC Men's T20 World Cup Sub Regional EAP A Qualifier	Host - TBC
	Dates - November 30 - December 6
	Participating Teams - (8) Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda St. Helena, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Tanzania

Saina, Sindhu start against Danish opponents in Indonesia Masters

Team Absolute | Mumbai

India's former world No. 1 Saina Nehwal, who missed the action in the Uber Cup and crashed out early from the Thailand Open, will return to the circuit with the Indonesia Masters, a Super 500 event on the BWF World Tour, to be held from June 7-12 at Jakarta.

Saina, who was not included in the Uber Cup squad as she did not participate in the trials conducted by the Badminton Association of India (BAI) in April, will open her Indonesia Masters campaign against Denmark's Line Højmark Kjærskeld in the first round. Saina is ranked 23rd in the world while her Danish opponent is 33rd. If she manages to beat Kjærskeld, Saina will run into old rival and nemesis Carolina Marin of Spain, the 2016 Olympic gold medalist. Marin, who is seeded third, starts her campaign in Indonesia Masters against a qualifier.

PV Sindhu, the other



Indian to make the main draw of this USD 360,000 prize money event, will also start her campaign against a Danish player -- Line Christophersen. Seeded fourth, Sindhu had reached the semifinals at the Thailand Open, her previous outing in the circuit, before losing to Yu Fei Chen of China. In the men's singles, four

Indians -- Lakshya Sen, HS Prannoy, Sameer Verma and Parupalli Kashyap -- have made it to the main draw. Lakshya, the World Championship bronze medalist who helped India win a historic title in Thomas Cup, will open his campaign against Hans-Kristian Solberg Vittinghus of Denmark.

TENDULKAR'S BEST PLAYING XI HAS PANDYA AS SKIPPER; NO ROOM FOR KOHLI, SHARMA

Mumbai: India's batting legend Sachin Tendulkar has omitted the likes of Royal Challengers Bangalore cricketer Virat Kohli and Mumbai Indians skipper Rohit Sharma from his list of the "Best Playing XI" from the just-concluded IPL 2022 season. While Gujarat Titans, led by all-rounder Hardik Pandya, went on to lift the trophy at the Narendra Modi Stadium on Sunday night defeating Rajasthan Royals by seven wickets, the Rohit Sharma-led MI had the worst season this year, finishing 10th and last.

Tendulkar said his list was based purely on the performance of this IPL season and had nothing to do with previous editions. And, in this edition of the IPL, both Sharma and Kohli performed miserably, even though the latter's side made it to the playoffs stage.

French Open

Trevisan surges past Fernandez for first major semifinal

Paris | Agencies

Martina Trevisan reached her first Grand Slam semifinal at Roland Garros with a three-set win over Leylah Fernandez here on Tuesday. The 28-year-old Trevisan defeated No. 17 seed Canadian Fernandez of 6-2, 6-7(3), 6-3 in 2 hours and 21 minutes and extended her winning streak to 10 matches, booking her place in the last four of a major for the first time. The Italian bounced back after failing to convert a match point serving at 5-4 in the second set to seal her third career

Top 20 victory and extend her winning streak to 10 matches. Just over a week ago, 28-year-old Trevisan captured her first Hologic WTA Tour title in Rabat, upsetting Garbine Muguruza en route. Having spent four years sidelined from the sport as she battled anorexia in her early career, Trevisan's resurgence over the past two-and-a-half weeks has seen her best form to date. She becomes the third Italian woman to reach the Roland Garros semifinals in the Open Era, following 2010 champion Francesca



Schiavone and 2012 finalist Sara Errani. In the first Grand Slam quarterfinal between left-handers since Lucie Safarova beat Ekaterina Makarova at Wimbledon 2014, it was Trevisan's weaponry that proved most effective and most reliable.

Coco Gauff beats Sloane Stephens

Paris: Coco Gauff prevailed in an all-American showdown on Tuesday at Roland Garros, defeating 2018 French Open finalist Sloane Stephens 7-5, 6-2 to reach the first Grand Slam semifinal of her career. The 18-year-old Gauff needed 90 minutes to oust 2017 US Open champion Stephens. Gauff's victory avenged her straight-sets loss to Stephens in their only previous meeting, at last year's US Open. Gauff has yet to drop a set in the tournament, and indeed has not been pushed beyond an hour and a half in each of her five wins this fortnight. Gauff will face another first-time major semifinalist on Thursday when she takes on unseeded Italian Martina Trevisan for a spot in the Roland Garros final. Trevisan ousted Leylah Fernandez earlier on Tuesday, winning her 10th straight match in the process. Stephens came into Roland Garros 0-4 on clay this season, but as she has done throughout her career, she leveled up her game at a major, especially in Paris.

INDIA OPEN ACCOUNT AT SHOOTING WORLD CUP IN BAKU WITH TEAM GOLD IN WOMEN'S 10M AIR RIFLE

New Delhi: The

12-member Indian rifle squad opened their account at the ISSF World Cup Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun in Baku, Azerbaijan, with gold in the 10m air rifle women's team competition on Tuesday. The trio of Elavenil Valarivan, Ramita and Shreya Agrawal outplayed Denmark 17-5 in the gold-medal match.

They had reached the gold-medal round after two rounds of qualification on Monday. Denmark, represented by Anna Nielsen, Emma Koch and Rikke Maeng Ibsen, had beaten the Indian team in the last-eight stage but the Indians stepped up when it mattered most. Poland won bronze in the event. The Indian men's air rifle team fell short in their bronze-medal match against Croatia, going down 10-16. Here too, the tables were turned as Rudranksh Patil, Paarth Makhija and Dhanush Srikanth had beaten the Croats in the last-eight stage. India are fifth on the medals table, with Serbia leading the tally with two gold and a total of four medals.



Hockey Rankings: India women achieve best-ever sixth place; men slip one spot to fourth

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Indian women's hockey team has moved up one place in the FIH Rankings to sixth -- the best-ever placing the team has achieved in the history of the rankings.

The team, which had jumped two places at the start of May following its superb performance against the top-ranked Netherlands at the Kalinga Stadium, climbed to sixth as Spain dropped one place after losing both their FIH Hockey Pro League 2021/22 matches to Argentina. They have also lost one match each to Belgium and England this month.

With 2029.396 points, the Indian women's hockey team is now placed sixth behind the Netherlands (3049.495), Argentina (2674.837), Australia (2440.750), England (2204.590), and Germany (2201.085). Spain are seventh with a rating of 2016.149. The Indian women's hockey



team currently sits at the third position in the FIH Hockey Pro League 2021/22 table with 22 points from 8 games. India will be facing Belgium in a double-header in away games on June 11 and 12. Speaking on the achievement, the Indian women's hockey team chief coach Janneke Schopman said, "As a team, we aim to improve and grow and become a consistent contender in Women's Hockey. The rise in the FIH

World Rankings is a nice indicator that we are on the right path." However, there was some setback for Indian hockey as the men's team slipped one place to fourth after the Netherlands overtook them thanks to some good performance this month. Netherlands (2465.707) regained the third spot, as they swap places with India (2366.990). Germany

(2308.156) continue to hold the fifth place but England (2171.354) moved to sixth ahead of Argentina (2147.179) thanks to their recent wins against France and South Africa in the Pro League. Australia retained the top spot in men's rankings with 2842.258 points with World and Olympic champions Belgium snapping at their heels with 2764.735 points.

Anand beats Carlsen, finishes fourth in blitz event

Oslo (Norway) | Agencies

Indian chess players continued to get the better of world champion Magnus Carlsen as after R Praggnanandhaa, Viswanathan Anand defeated the world No. 1 in a one-day blitz tournament ahead of the 10th edition of the Norway Chess championship. Anand and Carlsen met in the seventh round of the blitz tournament -- one of the shortest formats of the game played at the international level -- and the Indian emerged winner.

Anand was playing with white pieces and the game was looking headed toward a draw but Carlsen tried to force something and landed in trouble and had to resign on the 43rd move. Overall in nine games, Anand won three, drew four games, and lost two.

With a total score of five points from nine games to finish fourth behind Wesley So of the United States,



Carlsen of Norway and Anish Giri of the Netherlands, Giri, Anand and Shakhriyar Mamedyarov of Azerbaijan finished with five points each but Giri finished third while Anand and Mamedyarov were placed fourth and fifth respectively. The single-round blitz tournament was organised to decide the pairings for the main event of the Norway Chess festival -- the super-strong classical chess tournament involving 10 players.



A YUSHMANN ON HIS WIFE TAHIRA'S BOOK ON THEIR SEX LIFE!

Team Absolute | Mumbai

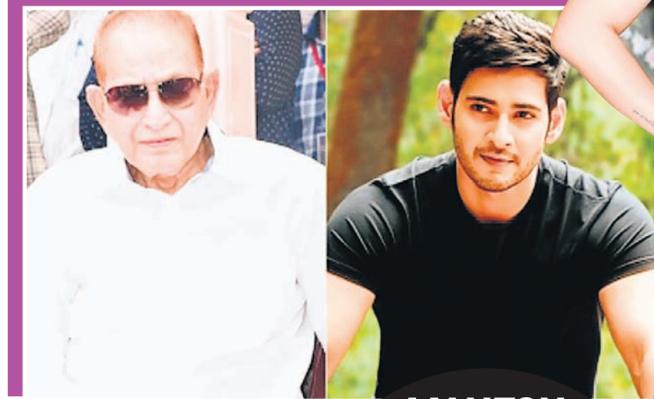
Bollywood star Ayushmann Khurrana recently opened up about his wife Tahira Kashyap's book 'The 7 Sins of Being a Mother' where she has written about her and Ayushmann's sex life. As per a media report, the actor revealed that he hasn't read the book and is unaware of certain details as he is a very private person and likes to keep such things to himself.

The actor told the media that to a reader, the book might come across as entertaining, but on a personal level, he is quite shy of talking about it or skimming through its pages as he is a very private person.

He revealed that Tahira is very different from him as he doesn't like talking about his private life, but that's how the two are different from each other. "It could be entertaining for some people, but I don't read it", he said.

When Ayushmann was asked if he felt cringed about the public disclosure his wife had made in the book, the actor stated that he doesn't know. He further added that Tahira will do whatever she wants, however, he is not that person.

Ayushmann and Tahira tied the knot in 2008 and have two kids together - 10-year-old son Virajveer and 8-year-old daughter Varushka.



Hyderabad | Agencies

Tollywood star Mahesh Babu penned a heartfelt note to his father and superstar Krishna on the occasion of the veteran actor's 79th birthday on Tuesday.

Mahesh Babu, who shared a picture of his father, wrote a note wishing him good health.

"Happy birthday Nanna! There is truly no one like you. Wishing for your happiness and good health for many more years to come. Stay blessed always. Love you," Mahesh Babu's note reads.

On the veteran actor's birthday, the film industry and his fans are showering him with greetings.

**MAHESH
BABU PENS
TOUCHING NOTE ON
FATHER'S
BDAY**



TEJASWI PRAKASH ROPED IN FOR DREAMGIRL 2?

Tinsel town diva, who won our hearts with her stint on the reality show Bigg Boss, is now, soon going to make her Bollywood debut.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Yes, you read it right. As per reports, the actress has auditioned for dreamgirl 2. If things work out, she will be seen romancing Ayushmann Khurrana. As per reports, a source revealed that,

"Tejasswi was offered the next instalment of Ekta Kapoor's #RaginiMMS, however, she wasn't keen on doing that, given it's contentious genre. She is currently in talks for #DreamGirl 2. She has auditioned for it, and the makers are yet to put a pin to it. However, she is most likely to bag the project".

The film is expected to go on floors by August. On the work front, the actress is currently seen in popular TV show Naagin 6. Directed by Raaj Shaandilyaa, the 2019 film starred Nushratt Bharuccha and Ayushmann Khurrana in pivotal roles.

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SHIAMAK DAVAR: CHOREOGRAPHING RANVEER ISN'T EASY

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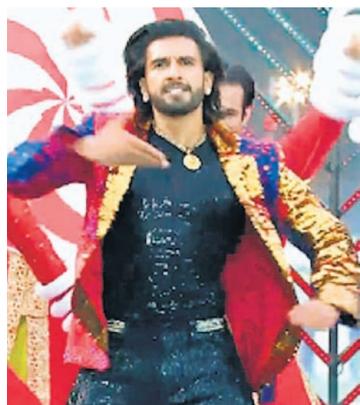
Celebrated choreographer Shiamak Davar, who was behind the dance performance of the Bollywood star Ranveer Singh at the IPL 2022 grand finale in Ahmedabad on Sunday, says matching up to the energy of the actor wasn't easy.

"Dance and cricket are two things our country loves and lives by, so I had to make sure this performance had to be special," Davar said. "We had designed this performance keeping two things in mind, one the spirit of the game, and the other, Ranveer Singh, the performer."

Singh, the performer."

Speaking about the actor, he said: "Ranveer travels around with energy levels that are very difficult to match, but we made sure we incorporated the right songs to make the final a night to remember for both the audience at the stadium and IPL lovers across the country."

The performance was a compilation of superhit tracks from films Ranveer has appeared in, such as 'Khalibali' from 'Padmaavat', 'Jeetega Jeetega' from '83', 'Ainvi' from 'Band Baja Baraat' and 'Tattat Tattat' from 'Ram Leela'. He also performed on 'Naatu Naatu' from 'RRR', which brought the full house down.



Singer Abrarul Haq gets credit for his song in Karan Johar's upcoming film

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Karan Johar's production venture's upcoming film Jugjugg Jeeyo is all set to release on 24 June 2022. Ahead of its release, the film fell prey to controversy when Pakistani Singer Abrarul Haq claimed that a song of his is used in the film, without seeking copyrights.

But now finally, the Pakistani singer has been given credits for his iconic song Nach Punjaban used in Karan Johar's latest project Jugjugg Jeeyo.

Taking to Instagram Story, the makers of the film had shared the poster of the track The Punjaabban Song which featured Haq's name alongside Tanishk Bagchi.

For the unversed, this happened after the movie trailer with the background score was out and singer alleged the makers for using his music without permission. Here is what the singer tweeted on May 22, "I have not sold my song 'Nach Punjaban' to any Indian movie and reserve the rights to go to court to claim damages. Producers like Karan Johar should not use copy songs." However, the makers later released a statement to refute the singer's claims.

"We have legally acquired the rights to adapt the song Nach Punjaban from the album Nach Punjaban released on iTunes on 1st January 2002 and is also available on Lollywood Classics' YouTube channel, owned and operated by Moviebox Records Label, for the film Jugjugg Jeeyo produced by Dharma Productions."



Playback singer KK passes away

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Popular playback singer, Krishnakumar Kunnath, also known as KK, took his last breath in Kolkata at the age of 53. The singer was in Kolkata for a concert, where he collapsed and was declared dead when he was rushed to the hospital. As soon as the news of popular singer passing away came out, celebrities like Rahul Vaidya and Harshdeep Kaur expressed shock and grief. Harshdeep Kaur shared a picture of KK and tweeted, "Just can't believe that our beloved #KK is no more. This really can't be true. The voice of love has gone. This is heart-breaking." While Rahul Vaidya tweeted, "I hear singer KK just passed away. GOD what is really happening!?! I mean WHAT IS HAPPENING. One of the nicest humans KK sir was. Gone too soon at 53. Beyond shocked. RIP sir." For the unversed, KK has recorded songs in several languages, including Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, and Bengali, among others. He is survived by his wife and children.



A.P. DHILLON HIGHLIGHTS DARK SIDE OF PUNJABI RAPPER'S LIFE

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The murder of Punjabi rapper Sidhu Moosewala has sent shock waves across the world. People from the entertainment industry are reacting in disbelief to the death of the 28-year-old in a shooting incident.

The latest to join the long list of celebrities reacting to the killing is the 'Brown Munde' hitmaker A.P. Dhillon.

The Punjabi Canadian singer took to his Instagram and shared that although Moosewala is not more with us, his legacy stays alive. Dhillon also highlighted how difficult it was to be a "Punjabi artiste behind the scenes on a daily basis", in the face of "constant judgment, hate-filled comments, threats and negative energy."

The singer, whose 'Brown Munde' music video featured the departed Sidhu, wrote in the story section of his Instagram: "Most people will never know the extent of what you have to deal with as a Punjabi artiste behind the scenes on a daily basis. With constant judgement, hate-filled comments, threats and negative energy directed towards people like us, who are just doing what we love."

In his tribute to Moosewala, A.P. Dhillon also said: "I always admired how Sidhu was able to rise above it all. He made it look easy and stayed true to himself. Today, I am praying for his family and our community. We need to do better."



INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Mouni Roy