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**Protest against new military recruitment scheme turns violent, Trains set afire, Highways jammed**

# 'AGNIVEERS ON AGNIPATH'

**OVER 34 (5 MAIL AND EXPRESS TRAINS AND 29 PASSENGER) TRAINS WERE CANCELLED AND EIGHT MORE PARTIALLY CANCELLED ON THURSDAY DUE TO PROTESTS AND DELAYS IN THE RAILWAY RECRUITMENT BOARD (RRB) EXAMS.**

**THE RAILWAYS SAID 72 TRAINS WERE ALSO RUNNING LATE DUE TO THE PROTESTS.**

**HUNDREDS OF ARMY ASPIRANTS ON THURSDAY BLOCKED THE DELHI-JAIPUR EXPRESSWAY IN GURUGRAM'S BILASPUR AREA IN PROTEST AGAINST AGNIPATH YOJNA, THE GOVERNMENT'S NEW SCHEME FOR SHORT-TERM RECRUITMENT INTO THE ARMED FORCES.**

**THE TRAFFIC CONGESTION ON THE EXPRESSWAY STRETCHED OVER SEVERAL KILOMETRES. THE PROTESTING DEFENCE ASPIRANTS RAISED SLOGANS AGAINST THE PM MODI-LED BJP GOVERNMENT AND DEMANDED ROLL BACK OF THE NEW SCHEME.**



**GOVT ISSUES 'MYTHS VS FACTS' AMID PROTESTS**

With the recently-announced Agnipath scheme drawing massive flak, particularly among the youth, throughout the country, the government on Thursday sought to address certain "myths" related to the scheme.

On the claims that the future of "Agniveers", as beneficiaries of the scheme have been dubbed, is insecure, a government statement

said that those wishing to be entrepreneurs, will get a financial package and bank loans.

To claims made that opportunities for youth will decrease as a result of Agnipath, the government maintained that the opportunities for youth to serve in armed forces will rather increase.

On whether the move will impact the effectiveness of the armed

forces, the government contended that such a short term enlistment system exists in most countries and hence is already tested out and considered best practice for a youthful and agile army.

To the claims that 21-year-olds are immature and unreliable for the army, the government said that most armies across the world depend upon their youth.

**BJP ALLIES IN BIHAR DEMAND WITHDRAWAL OF SCHEME**

**Patna:** After Bihar Minister Bijendra Prasad Yadav, another JD-U leader and the party's parliamentary board president Upendra Kushwaha on Thursday questioned the new recruitment policy of the Centre, 'Agnipath'. He said that the Centre should do a rethink over the scheme.

Earlier, Bijendra Prasad Yadav also said that the Centre should rethink on Agnipath and Agniveer schemes, saying "Central government should take suggestions from common people."

Jitan Ram Manjhi, the former chief minister of Bihar and a BJP ally said: "Agnipath scheme is extremely dangerous for the country. It should be withdrawn immediately. I appeal to PM Narendra Modi to withdraw the Agnipath scheme and announce the old process of recruitment."

The agitators pelted stones at the house of Gupta and damaged the property. Some youths also climbed to the first floor of the building holding the national flag in their hands. One of them climbed to the second floor and uprooted the BJP flag there.

**Team Absolute | Bhopal**

Madhya Pradesh's Gwalior city on Thursday witnessed a massive protest as over 1000 youth vandalised public and private properties, creating panic among the people at railway stations and on the roads. Violence that erupted around 12.30 p.m. from a place named 'Gole Ka Mandir' reached several parts of the city, including two railway stations creating mayhem for over two-and-a-half hours in the city. Mobs, in the name of

protest against the Centre's 'Agnipath' recruitment scheme, not only damaged vehicles on roads but barged into Gwalior railway station and damaged a parked train. The protesters blocked the movement of at least 6-7 trains by keeping wooden logs, tree branches and other railway properties on tracks. People on roads and at the railway stations had to find a shelter to escape violence.

Meanwhile, Police in Haryana's Palwal town fired shots into the air to disperse hundreds of violent protesters out on the streets on Thursday to demonstrate against

**SCHEME SHOULD BE KEPT IN ABEYANCE: CONGRESS**

**New Delhi:** After protest in various states over the new recruitment scheme of the government for defence forces 'Agnipath', the Congress on Thursday demanded that it should be kept in abeyance. The Congress said, "given the situation on our borders, it is imperative that we have soldiers in our defence forces who are young, well-trained, motivated, happy, satisfied and assured of their future. The Agnipath scheme does not advance any of these objectives."

the Agnipath scheme for recruitment to defence services. Five police vehicles were torched, several roadways buses damaged in stone-pelting and the National Highway 19

was blocked. After a narrow escape for BJP MLA Aruna Devi in Nawada, an angry mob attacked the house-cum-path lab of another BJP MLA C.N. Gupta in Chapra on Thursday.

## Cut-off mark for super-speciality seats' additional mop-up round lowered

**Team Absolute | New Delhi**

The Medical Counselling Committee on Thursday announced a 15 per cent reduction in the cut-off percentile for an additional mop-up round counselling to fill up vacant seats of super-speciality courses. The decision was taken during a meeting chaired by Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya and attended by the Chairman of the National Medical Commission, The MCC, in a letter to the National Board of Examinations, said that the decision to reduce the cut-off percentile by 15 per cent was taken at a meeting held in the Ministry, under the chairmanship of the Minister and attended by Additional Secretary, Medical Education, Additional Director General, Medical Education, NMC Chairman, and others.

The decision comes after the Union Health Ministry directed NMC on Tuesday to conduct a special mop-up round to fill up the remaining super-speciality seats and to lower the cut off percentile for additional round of mop-up counselling.

The MCC has also asked the NBE to provide the revised result after reduction of qualification percentile for admission in super-speciality courses in the academic year 2021.

## PROPHET ROW: NOW ISKP THREATEN ATTACKS IN INDIA

**Team Absolute | New Delhi**

The Islamic State Khorasan Province (ISKP), an affiliate of the terror outfit Islamic State, has released a video threatening attacks in India targeting Hindus in connection with now-expelled BJP spokespersons Nupur Sharma's remarks against Prophet Muhammad.

Earlier, Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) had threatened to carry out attacks in India in connection with Sharma's comments. The 10-minute video titled 'The polytheists are the brothers of the polytheists' shows Sharma as well as the demolition drive in Delhi's Jahangirpuri.

Independent news handle Khorasan Diary tweeted: "The video features @NupurSharmaBJP, the national spokesperson of the @BJP4India and houses of Muslims bulldozed. It then features previous statements of ISKP suicide bombers who were Indian. Threatening to conduct attacks against India wherever possible." The video also criticises the Taliban government in Afghanistan for speaking with Indian diplomats and giving interviews to one Indian channel.



## Getting education is a fundamental right: Allahabad High Court

**Team Absolute | Prayagraj**

The Allahabad High Court has observed that receiving proper education is a fundamental right enshrined under Article 21-A of the Constitution of India.

The bench comprising Justices Rajesh Singh Chauhan and Subhash Vidyarthi further observed that educational authorities must ensure that the grievance relating to the admission to an institution is redressed with promptness and does not remain unattended. The bench was dealing with the case of one Tanishk Srivastava, a Class 8 student.

He appeared in the entrance test held on March 20 for admission as a resident scholar in the La Martiniere College, Lucknow, in Class 8. On March 25, the results were declared and Tanishk was declared successful and eligible for admission in Class 8 as a resident scholar.

However, due to his mother's serious illness and his father being out of the state, he could not join school.

Therefore, his father moved an application on April 4, before the school management



and hoped that instead of treating his son as a resident scholar, he may be given admission as a day scholar as he is ready to complete all required formalities, including the fees. When the appellant/writ petitioner, the father of the candidate, was not informed about the fate of the admission of his son till April 18, he filed a writ petition before the court which was dismissed by a single judge.

Challenging the writ petition, the father of the candidate moved an instant appeal before the division bench.

## RAHUL SAYS NO KNOWLEDGE OF YI-AJL DEAL: ED SOURCES

**The Enforcement Directorate (ED) accepted Rahul Gandhi's request seeking more time from the ED in connection with his ongoing questioning in the National Herald case and asked him to appear before it again on Monday. Rahul sought more time as his mother Sonia Gandhi is hospitalised due to Covid related complications, he needs to look after her.**

**Team Absolute | New Delhi**

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has told the Enforcement Directorate (ED) that all the decisions and transactions related to Young India's (YI) acquisition of Associated Journal Ltd (AJL) were taken by late party leader Motilal Vora.

The Gandhi scion, who was grilled for three straight days in connection with the National Herald case, denied having knowledge of any sort of loan taken by YI, according to ED sources. In fact, he was not aware of the accommodation entry of YI,

Gandhi is said to have told ED. Gandhi said that the late Vora was engaged in all these sorts of affairs. Vora held 12 per cent stakes in YI, while Rahul and Sonia had 76 per cent stakes. "Gandhi said he had no knowledge of YI-AJL deal as Vora was looking after it," the sources claimed.

As per the sources, Gandhis are major beneficiaries in the whole deal. Earlier, Pawan Bansal and Mallikarjuna Kharge were questioned by the central agency. Since Vora has passed away, the needle of suspicion pointed towards the Gandhis.



**'UNLAWFULLY DETAINED': RENUKA CHOWDHURY**

**Hyderabad:** Facing flak for grabbing a police personnel by the collar, Congress leader and former Union Minister Renuka Chowdhury on Thursday accused the Hyderabad police of deliberately provoking the situation and harassing her. Earlier in the day, Chowdhury sought to justify her action of grabbing a police officer's collar by claiming she had done it to prevent her from losing her balance and falling down.

## INDIANS' FUNDS IN SWISS BANKS RISE TO 14-YEAR HIGH OF OVER RS 30,000 CRORE

**The total amount of CHF 3,831.91 million, described by the SNB as 'total liabilities' of Swiss banks or 'amounts due to' their Indian clients at the end of 2021, included CHF 602.03 million in customer deposits (up from CHF 504 million at 2020-end), CHF 1,225 million held via other banks (up from CHF 383 million), and CHF 3 million through fiduciaries or trusts (up from CHF 2 million).**

**The total amount stood at a record high of nearly 6.5 billion Swiss francs in 2006, after which it has been mostly on a downward path, except for a few years including in 2011, 2013, 2017, 2020 and now in 2021, as per the Swiss National Bank (SNB) data.**

**These are official figures reported by banks to the SNB and do not indicate the quantum of the much-debated alleged black money held by Indians in Switzerland. These figures also do not include the money that Indians, NRIs or others might have in Swiss banks in the names of third-country entities.**

**Team Absolute | New Delhi**

Funds parked by Indian individuals and firms in Swiss banks, including through India-based branches and other financial institutions, jumped to a 14-year-high of 3.83 billion Swiss francs (over Rs 30,500 crore) in 2021 on a sharp surge in holdings via securities and similar instruments while customer deposits rose as well, annual data from Switzerland's central bank showed on Thursday. The rise in aggregate funds of Indian clients with Swiss banks, from 2.55 billion Swiss francs (Rs 20,700 crore) at the end of 2020, marks the second consecutive year of increase.

Besides, the money held in Indian customers' savings or deposit accounts rose to a seven-year high of about Rs 4,800 crore, reversing a two-year declining trend.

According to the SNB, its data for 'total liabilities' of Swiss banks towards Indian clients takes into account all types of funds of Indian customers at Swiss banks, including deposits from individuals, banks and enterprises. This includes data for branches of Swiss banks in India, as also non-deposit liabilities.

This figure takes into account deposits as well as loans of Indian non-bank clients of Swiss-domiciled banks and had shown an

increase of 7 per cent in 2019, after declining by 11 per cent in 2018 and by 44 per cent in 2017. It peaked at over USD 2.3 billion (over Rs 9,000 crore) at the end of 2007.

Swiss authorities have always maintained that assets held by Indian residents in Switzerland cannot be considered as 'black money' and they actively support India in its fight against tax fraud and evasion.

After the annual data release last year, the Indian government had sought details from Swiss authorities on the relevant facts along with their view on possible reasons for changes in the funds parked by individuals and entities in 2020.

## BILAWAL BHUTTO MAKES PITCH FOR RE-ENGAGEMENT WITH INDIA

**Islamabad | Agencies**

Describing Pakistan as "internationally isolated and disengaged", the country's Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari on Thursday made a strong pitch for re-engagement with India, asking whether cutting off ties with India served the nation's interests, media reports said.

"Does it serve our interests, do we achieve our objectives whatever they may be, be it Kashmir, be it rising Islamophobia, the Hindutva supremacist nature of the new regimes and the governments in India? Does it serve our objective that we have practically cut off all engagements,"



asked Bilawal while speaking at the Institute of Strategic Studies in Islamabad, Express Tribune reported. "That I as foreign minister, as a representative of my country, not only speak to the Indian government but I don't speak to the Indian people and is this the best way to communicate or achieve Pakistan's objectives," he added.



# BJP EYEING NON-NDA PARTIES WHO SKIPPED MAMATA MEET FOR SUPPORT

Team Absolute | New Delhi

After opposition parties decided to field a joint candidate for Presidential election, the BJP is focusing on winning support of non-NDA parties who skipped the Wednesday's meeting called by West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

The Trinamool Congress (TMC) chief had sent invites for a meeting of opposition leaders to build consensus on a joint opposition candidate. Prominent names who skipped the opposition meet were Naveen Patnaik's Biju Janata Dal (BJD), Arvind Kejriwal's Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), K. Chandrasekhar Rao's Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS), Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) and Jagan Mohan Reddy's YSR Congress Party (YSRCP). In an electoral college of around 10.86 lakh votes for Presidential polls, the BJP and its alliance partners in the NDA are a little short of the halfway mark and all set to get its nominee elected as next President of India.

Now, the BJP is eyeing support of those political



parties who skipped the joint opposition meet called by the West Bengal Chief Minister. The BJP is already hoping to get Patnaik's BJD and Jagan Mohan Reddy's YSRCP support. Sources in the BJP said that first priority is to get the consensus over the next President and avoid election or get

the support of the maximum number of parties. "Our party president J.P. Nadda and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh have already started consultation with political parties which include opposition and our alliance partners. We are also asking for a possible name for the presidential candidate," sources said. The BJP is also prepared if consensus does not emerge among all the political parties. "Every party has its own compulsion and if consensus does not emerge, then we will decide our own candidate consulting our NDA partners," a party insider said. While trying to build a consensus for a Presidential candidate, the BJP has already started reaching out to all the political parties including Congress and the TMC. Nadda and Singh had called leaders of several opposition parties and NDA alliance partners. In coming days, both the leaders will also speak to heavyweights of other political parties.

A senior party leader said that our sole objective is to get the new President elected with the support of a maximum number of political parties.

## 'Demolitions have to be in accordance with law', SC on plea against 'bulldozer action' in UP

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Directing the Uttar Pradesh government to file a detailed affidavit within three days on the plea by Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind against the recent demolitions in the state, the Supreme Court on Thursday observed that demolitions have to be in accordance with the due process of law.

Issuing notice to the state, the apex court bench of

Justices A.S. Bopanna and Vikram Nath orally remarked that the demolitions can't be a retaliatory measure.

"Everything should look fair, we expect the authorities to act only in accordance with the law. Ensure safety so that nothing untoward happens," noted the top court. The matter will be further heard next week.

During the course of the hearing, Advocate Chander Uday Singh, who appeared

for the petitioner, strongly argued that one community was targeted and the process of demolition was 'appalling'. The country has never seen such situations even during the Emergency period, he remarked. He argued that notices were not issued prior to the demolition referring to UP Urban planning and development Act Section 27 and said notice was issued without the 15-day duration as per the law.

## HOUSE COLLAPSES IN DELHI'S PAHARGANJ, SEVERAL FEARED TRAPPED

New Delhi: Several people are feared trapped under the debris of a house which collapsed in the capital's Paharganj area on Thursday evening, a Fire Department official said. The official said that they received a call about the incident from Paharganj, near Khanna Market and Vivek Hotel, in central Delhi at 8.40 p.m. after which seven rescue units were immediately pressed into service. "So far a 3-year-old child, two girls, and their father has been rescued from the collapsed structure," Delhi Fire Service chief Atul Garg told reporter. More details are awaited.

## Jairam Ramesh appointed Congress' new communication chief

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Congress on Thursday appointed former Union Minister Jairam Ramesh as General Secretary in charge of communication, replacing incumbent Randeep Singh Surjewala.

The party, in a statement, said: "Honble Congress President has appointed Jairam Ramesh as AICC General Secretary in charge of communication, publicity, and media, including social media and digital wings."

It said Ramesh will replace Surjewala who will continue to be General Secretary, in charge of Karnataka.

The appointment comes against backdrop of Congress agitation over the ED summons and questioning party leader Rahul Gandhi as the party has taken a strong stand against



the government.

Congress has also taken the battle to Parliament and has met the presiding officers of both the Houses. Party leaders will also meet the President over the issue.

A delegation of Congress MPs met the Vice President to register their complaint.

## Reduce gap between second and Covid booster dose, recommends NTAGI

New Delhi: The National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation on Thursday (NTAGI) recommended reducing the gap between second Covid vaccine and the booster dose.

According to a source, the apex advisory group on immunisation recommended that the gap between two Covid-19 vaccine of booster doses for adults be reduced from nine months to six months, and will apprise the Health Ministry soon.

The panel also reviewed data on Covaxin and Corbevax vaccines for the 6-12 age group. Currently, all those above the age of 18 who have completed nine months after the administration of the second dose are eligible for the precaution dose. However, those traveling abroad are given an exemption depending on the requirement of the country they are visiting. The Union Health Ministry had announced on April 8 that all aged 18 years and above will be eligible to get Covid vaccine booster doses at private vaccination centres starting April 10.

## Damage to key National Highway disconnects parts of NE

GUWAHATI/SHILLONG | Agencies

As the single line railway route, which connects Tripura, Mizoram, Manipur and the southern part of Assam, has been cut off for around 35 days, massive landslides triggered by the incessant rains on Thursday caused enormous damage to the National Highway-6 which links to these states with the rest of the country.

Meghalaya's East Jaintia Hills District Deputy Commissioner and District Magistrate Abhilash Baranwal in a public notice said that due to continuous heavy rainfall over the last week, NH-6 has been damaged at multiple locations across the district especially from Nangsnong to Ratacherra stretch.

"A section of NH-6 near the Lumshong Toll Plaza has also been washed away. Members of the public are hereby advised to avoid unnecessary travel along that stretch," the DC said.

The damage in NH-6 caused huge inconvenience to Tripura, Mizoram, Manipur and the southern part of



Assam affecting ferrying of essentials, foodgrains, transport fuels besides passengers. Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma held a review meeting on Thursday with deputy commissioners of different districts and formed four regional committees, each headed by a minister.

The situation in the hill section of the

Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) in Dima Hasao district of Assam since May 14 remained critical as inclement weather continued to batter the area, affecting the Lumding-Bardarpur single line railway route that connects Tripura, Mizoram, Manipur and the southern part of Assam with the rest of the country.

## Woman teacher's killer among 2 Hizbul terrorists neutralised at Kulgam

Srinagar | Agencies

Two Hizbul Mujahideen terrorists, including the killer of woman teacher in May, were neutralised in a joint security force operation in Jammu and Kashmir's Kulgam district on Thursday, police said.

Police said on acting on specific information about presence of terrorists in village Mishipora of Kulgam, police, along with Army's 1st RR, launched a cordon and search operation in the area.

As the joint party proceeded towards the spot where the terrorists were hiding, the terrorists fired indiscriminately upon the search party which was retaliated.

"However, the hiding terrorists managed to shift their base consistently in the village after the initial exchange of fire and tried to breach the



cordon but the cordon remained firmly intact and search was going on from the past two days to nab them," police said.

"Today, the contact was re-established with the hiding

terrorists and the encounter resumed. In the ensuing encounter, two terrorists of HM outfit were killed so far," police said.

"One of the killed terrorist has been identified as Zubair

Sofi of Mohan Pora Kulgam who was involved in killing of woman teacher Rajni Bala on May 31. The identification of second killed terrorist is being ascertained. The operation is still in progress."

## 3 OF FAMILY AMONG 4 KILLED IN UP ACCIDENT

Basti | Agencies

Four persons, including three of a family, were killed after two vehicles collided on the national highway in Uttar Pradesh's Basti district early Thursday. Three others were critically injured in the incident. Police reached the spot and rushed the injured to the hospital, while the bodies have been sent for post-mortem. Inspector Satyendra Kumar, in-charge of Kaptanganj, said that the deceased have been identified as Ravi Srivastava (40), Vandana Srivastava (70) and Ratna Srivastava (50). The driver of the vehicle also died on the spot. Chief minister Yogi Adityanath has expressed grief over the incident and directed officials to ensure proper treatment of the injured.

## India's new Covid cases at 12,213; cross 10K-mark 1st time after Feb 26

Team Absolute | New Delhi

India on Thursday reported 12,213 fresh Covid cases in a single-day rise as against the previous day's count of 8,822 infections, the Union Health Ministry said. This is the first time since February 26 that the Covid infections have crossed the 10,000-mark in a day.

In the same period, the country has reported 11 more Covid deaths, taking the nationwide death toll to 5,24,803. Meanwhile, the active caseload of the country has risen to 58,215 cases, accounting for 0.13 per cent of the country's total positive cases. The recovery of 7,624 patients in the last 24 hours took the cumulative tally to 4,26,74,712. Consequently, India's recovery rate stands at 98.65 per cent.



Meanwhile, India's daily positivity rate has slightly jumped to 2.35 per cent, while the weekly positivity rate currently stands at 2.38 per cent.

Also in the same period, a total of 5,19,419 tests were conducted across the country, increasing the overall tally to over 85.63 crore.

As of Thursday morning, India's Covid-19 vaccination coverage exceeded 195.67 crore, achieved via 2,51,69,966 sessions.

Over 3.54 crore adolescents have been administered with a first dose of Covid-19 jab since the beginning of vaccination drive for this age bracket.

## 4 CHILDREN AMONG 5 KILLED IN LANDSLIDES IN MEGHALAYA

Shillong: Five persons, including four children, were killed in landslides in Meghalaya on Thursday after incessant rains for the past one week flooded many areas in the state, causing large-scale damages to properties, officials said.

Deputy Commissioner of East Khasi Hills district, Isawanda Laloo, said that three children were killed on the spot and as many were injured due to landslides at Laitlarem village. Another injured child succumbed to his injuries on the way to the hospital.

The deceased have been identified as Wallambiing Kharmyndai, 9, Banlumlang Kharmyndai, 6, Ribhalin Kharmyndai, 4, and Daphilari Kharmyndai, 8. Another child and a 36-year-old man are being treated at the hospital.

In another incident, a woman named Heal Sentimerry Myrthong from Jashiar village in South West Khasi Hills district died on the spot after a major landslide triggered by heavy rains washed her along with the kitchen of her hut down a gorge. However, the 24-year-old victim's two minor children escaped unhurt as they were in another room.

The woman was cooking meal for her two minor children who were playing in the nearby room at the time of the incident. Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma held a review meeting on Thursday with the deputy commissioners of different districts and formed four regional committees, each headed by a minister, to look after the relief and rescue operations.

## 40% newly-elected RS members have criminal cases against their names: Report

KOLKATA | Agencies

A survey of the newly-elected Rajya Sabha members conducted by the National Election Watch and Association for Democratic Rights (ADR) was released on Thursday, which stated that 40 per cent of the newly-elected members have declared criminal cases, while 12 per cent have serious criminal cases pending against them.

A joint statement issued by the National Election Watch and ADR clarified that the survey report has been prepared based on the affidavits filed by the different candidates who contested the recent Rajya Sabha polls to fill the vacant seats from different states in the Upper House. "Out of the 57 MPs analysed, 23 (40 per cent) have declared criminal cases against them, while 12 (21 per cent) have serious criminal cases, including cases related to murder, attempt to murder, theft etc., lodged against their names, the joint survey report said.



According to the report, one newly-elected Rajya Sabha mem-

ber has declared case of murder against his name, while one has

declared case of attempt to murder against his name. One newly-

elected MP has a declared a case of crime against women against his name.

The joint survey report has also given party-wise and state-wise break-up of the newly-elected Rajya Sabha members with criminal cases.

According to it, nine out of 22 MPs from BJP, four out of nine MPs from Congress, two MPs each from TRS and RJD and 1 MP each from YSRCP, DMK, AIADMK, Samajwadi Party, SHS along with an Independent member have declared criminal cases against their names. In the state-wise category, six out of 11 MPs from Uttar Pradesh, four out of six from Maharashtra, three out of six from Tamil Nadu, four out of five from Bihar, both the MPs from Telangana, one out of four from Andhra Pradesh, one out of two from Chhattisgarh, one out of four from Rajasthan and one out of two from Haryana have declared criminal cases against them.

The average assets value of the newly-elected is Rs 154.27 crore.



# DECLINE IN MORAL VALUES CAUSING CONCERN : GOVERNOR

Parents and teachers should provide safety shield of values and moral principles to children  
Governor takes part in the foundation day programme of IES public school



development of all classes and communities is necessary for a healthy society. It is necessary that the able and capable sections of the society take the responsibility of development of the underprivileged and cooperate with them.  
Patel, was addressing the 5th Foundation Day programme of IES Public School Sehore in the school auditorium. He said that children are soft like flowers and their hearts are soft like clay. The values instilled by parents and teachers have the greatest effect on a child's heart and mind. How the child will grow up determines the family and school environment. He said he expected parents to use polite language and good behaviour in front of children. They must not argue or fight in front of children even if there is a difference of opinion or estrangement between husband and wife. By sending children to school, it is not proper to assume that the responsibility of the development of the children lies with the teachers only. Parents should also cooperate with the children in studies and examination management. Do not put pressure on your kids for exams. Regular studies are necessary for success in the examination. For this, after coming from school, motivate them to study while making arrangements for play and food, as well as repeating what was taught in school and studying the subjects to be taught the next day.  
Patel gave prizes to the meritorious students, winners of various competitions, university students and teachers. He distributed fruits to the children of Anganwadi, reading material to the students of primary school. Governor Patel was welcomed by young children. The Governor was honoured and presented with a memento, shawl, Shrifal and a bunch of flowers on behalf of the school.  
Vice Chancellor of Makhanlal Chaturvedi National University of Journalism and Communication KG Suresh said that the National Education Policy is a golden opportunity to establish India as Vishwa Guru. For the success of this initiative, it is necessary that everyone makes their best contribution and at all levels. Appreciating the rapid progress of the school, he lauded the social service work being done by the school. He said that this initiative of the school is a meaningful effort to build a sensitive future generation.  
Chancellor of IES University, Engineer BS Yadav gave information about the establishment and progress of IES Public School, Sehore. He announced the adoption of an Anganwadi by the school. Vice Chancellor of IES University, Sunita Singh told about the work done by the University in the academic field and the group's commitment towards environment, community development and social service work. Chief Executive Officer of the University, Devansh Singh proposed the vote of thanks.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Governor Mangubhai Patel has expressed concern over the decline in moral values in the society. In the context of the incident in which a teenager killed his mother, he said that every new technology and research has positive and negative effects. It is the responsibility of the family and the school to guide the children towards positivity in life. We must provide protective shield of Indian culture and moral values to children against negativity. He said that for a healthy body, it is necessary for all the organs to be healthy. Similarly,

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Chancellor of IES University, Engineer BS Yadav gave information about the establishment and progress of IES Public School, Sehore. He announced the adoption of an Anganwadi by the school. Vice Chancellor of IES University, Sunita Singh told about the work done by the University in the academic field and the group's commitment towards environment, community development and social service work. Chief Executive Officer of the University, Devansh Singh proposed the vote of thanks.

# Met declares onset of southwest monsoon in MP



Meteorological department, Bhopal circle senior scientist Hari Shankar Pandey said, "The conditions are favorable for further advancement of monsoon in the state. It may take two days to reach Bhopal."

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The onset of southwest monsoon was declared over on Thursday. The monsoon clouds entered the state from Khandwa and Betul districts. Monsoon hit the state late this year as compared to the past two years. In 2021, onset was on June 11 while in 2020 onset of monsoon was on June 14. Meteorological department, Bhopal circle senior scientist Hari Shankar Pandey said, "The conditions are favorable for further advancement of monsoon in the state. It may take two days to reach Bhopal." According to officials, the monsoon in state would be normal this year. On an average 990 mm rainfall is considered normal for the state and 1,090 mm rain is considered as normal rainfall for Bhopal. Monsoon arrived in Kerala on May 29, three days ahead of its scheduled onset date June 1, but took more than two weeks to reach Bhopal due to weak monsoon current.

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# Environmental surveillance centre is controlling pollution

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Continuous monitoring of industries is being done by Madhya Pradesh Pollution Control Board through its Environment surveillance Centre. This helps in controlling the pollution situation even before it is created and in getting the industries to follow the prescribed norms of pollution control. Monitoring is also done on systematic operation of pollution control system established in industries and institutions etc. and upgrading works as per requirement. As per the direction of the Central Pollution Control Board 17 types of ultra-polluting industries are also being identified and monitored continuously in the state. From the point of view of pollution, industries with higher than expected pollution load identified in red and orange category are under continuous surveillance. Systems such as Continuous Emission Monitoring System (CEMS), Continuous Effluent Quality

Monitoring System (CEQMS), Continuous Ambient Air Quality Measurement Equipment (CAAQMS) and IPPTZ cameras are installed by the industries. The Environment surveillance Centre gets information about the status of pollution continuously through these. Apart from industries, the monitoring of pollution from facilities for treatment of common biomedical waste, urban waste, industrial hazardous waste, industrial effluent etc. is also done from this centre. At present, out of 101 highly polluting industries in the state, continuous monitoring equipment has been installed by most of the industries. Besides, continuous monitoring equipments have also been installed by 102 other major polluting industries. A total of 354 source monitoring equipments, 142 continuous ambient air quality monitoring equipment, 65 continuous effluent measuring instruments, 199 IP cameras have been installed by the industries.

# SEVEN KILLED AS SUV FALLS INTO WELL

Seven persons, including a child, were reported dead after their SUV fell into a dry well in Madhya Pradesh's Chhindwara district, police said. CM announces ex-gratia of Rs four lakh to the next of kin of those who died in the accident



pit. According to the police, all the persons in the vehicle were reportedly residents of Lendagondi village and were returning from a wedding ceremony late Wednesday evening. The accident took place after the driver lost control while trying to save a person riding a bike and fell into a dry well located along the road. The deceased have been identified as Dipendra Ivnati (3), Ajay (32),

Team Absolute | Bhopal

CM EXPRESSES GRIEF OVER THE ROAD ACCIDENT  
Expressing grief over the road accident in Chhindwara district, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has paid tributes to the deceased citizens. Chouhan said that Madhya Pradesh government stands with the affected families in this hour of grief. Chief Minister has given instructions to the Chhindwara district administration to provide Rs. 4 lakh each to the next of kin of those who died in the accident and Rs. 50 thousand each to the injured.

the help of the farmers in the area. After hours of effort, seven bodies were recovered from the well, the police added. "Eyewitnesses informed that the SUV hit a bike first due to which the driver lost control and the SUV fell into the well. The injured persons have been rushed to a hospital where their condition is said to be stable," said Chhindwara Superintendent of Police, Vivek Agrawal.

# Three drown in river

Three people drowned in a river in New Bhedaghat in Jabalpur district, police said on Thursday.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Three people drowned in a river in New Bhedaghat in Jabalpur district, police said on Thursday. A girl student fell into the river while taking a selfie, while two others (a student and teacher) jumped into river to rescue her but all the three got washed away on Wednesday afternoon. The body of the girl was fished out on Wednesday evening, while the bodies of

the other two were recovered on Thursday. The deceased have been identified as Khushboo Singh, Rakesh Arya and Ram Sahu. Later, one of the students, identified as Abhishek Choudhary, told police that they had come to Jabalpur with their teacher Rakesh Arya (one of the deceased) for getting admission in a paramedical course. After reaching Jabalpur, the group decided to visit Bhedaghat, at the bank of river Narmada, which is also a popular picnic spot. "Rakesh Arya and Rakesh Sahu jumped into the river after Khushboo fell into the water body while taking a selfie," Abhishek said, adding that her body was fished out with help of local fishermen.

# BETTER PREPARATIONS SHOULD BE MADE TO CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL YOGA DAY: CM

CM Chouhan will attend programme at Lal Parade Ground  
Preparations for International Yoga Day reviewed

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that, better preparations should be made to celebrate International Yoga Day on June 21 as per the step-by step programme schedule of the Government of India. Chouhan was reviewing the preparations for International Yoga Day at his residence office. Chief Minister said that programmes will be held at 75 historical places and all district headquarters in the state to celebrate International Day of Yoga. He said that he would himself participate in the programme at Lal Parade Ground in Bhopal. At four places in the state Union ministers will attend the programme. Chouhan said that events should be organized on the banks of Amrit Sarovars under construction in villages. All the ministers of the state should participate in the programmes. Youth and various social organiza-



tions should also participate in maximum numbers for yoga. Chouhan sought information about preparations from the collectors of Gwalior, Raipur, Chhatarpur and Anuppur districts who took part virtually in the meeting. He also directed for wide publicity of the programme. It was informed that arrangements would be made to broadcast the message of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan at all the venues of the state. As per the step-by step programme issued by the Government of India, all the participants will be present from 6 am and Union Ministers and guests will address the programme. The message of Chief Minister Chouhan will be broadcast at 6:30 am and after that the message of Prime Minister Modi will be broadcast. Yoga practice will begin from 7 am.

# Win cash prize

Bhopal: A public awareness campaign will be conducted by the National Health Mission to provide pregnancy, antenatal and postnatal care and quality health services to all women. 'MP MyGov' calls upon all citizens to give their contribution by suggesting a meaningful and purposeful name for this campaign. To take part in the contest, the participants can login to mp.mygov.in and submit their entry. Its link is - https://mp.mygov.in/task/suggest-name-campaign-ensure-safe-motherhood-and-proper-baby-care/. The last date to participate in the competition is July 30, 2022. In this, the first prize is 11 thousand, the second prize is 5 thousand and the third prize amount is 3 thousand rupees.

# CM PLANTED BANYAN, NEEM AND KARANJ SAPLINGS



Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Thursday planted saplings in Smart Garden at Shyamla Hills. Along with CM Chouhan, members of Ekta Kalyan Sanstha Abhijit Deshmukh, Ankit Jain, Vibhor Taran and Priyesh Gangele planted saplings of Banyan, Neem and Karanj. CM Chouhan appreciated the efforts of the organisation towards environmental protection. Banyan has religious significance. Besides, according to Ayurveda, the treatment of many diseases is possible with the banyan tree. Neem, abounding in antibiotic elements, is known as the supreme medicine. Karanj plant is considered important in Ayurvedic medicine. Karanj plant is also used in religious works.

# THREE-TIER PANCHAYAT AND URBAN BODIES GENERAL ELECTION-2022

## State Election Commission releases list

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The State Election Commission has issued a list of documents to establish the identity of voters for the three-tier panchayat elections. Secretary State Election Commission Rakesh Singh has informed that the list includes Voter Slip, Voter ID card given by Election Commission of India, Aadhar card, Land Rights and loan book, Ration card (all white, blue, yellow and pink), Bank / Farmer / Post Office Passbook, Arms License, Property Documents like Patta, Registered Deed etc., Disability Certificate, Destitute Certificate, Tendu patta Plucker's identity Card, Share Certificate of Co-operative

## DOCUMENTS PRESCRIBED TO ESTABLISH IDENTITY OF VOTERS FOR PANCHAYAT ELECTIONS

Society, Kisan Credit Card, Passport, Driving Licence, Income Tax Identity Card (PNN Card), Service Identity Card issued by State/Central Government, Public Sector Undertaking, Local Body or other private industrial houses to their employees, Student ID card, SC/ST/OBC/Domicile certificate issued by the competent authorities, Pension documents such as Ex-Servicemen Pension Book/Pension Payment Order/Ex-Servicemen, Widow/Dependent Certificate, Railway Identity Card, Freedom Fighter Identity Card and photo job card issued under Employment Guarantee Scheme. In addition to the records shown in this list, the Presiding Officer may also accept any other record that may satisfy him regarding

the identity of the voter. It has been made clear that any document mentioned above, which is available only with the head of the family, will provide for the identification of other members of the family. Similarly, a document in the name of another member of the family can also be used to identify other members, provided other members can be identified on the basis of such document. If a voter fails to produce any document, then the presiding officer, after establishing his identity from the local Kotwari, Patwari, teacher, village Patel, Anganwadi worker, Anganwadi helper etc. or any reputed local resident, will be able to give him the facility of voting.

## MAYOR AND CORPORATOR CANDIDATES WILL HAVE TO MAINTAIN ACCOUNTS

Bhopal: Secretary State Election Commission Rakesh Singh has informed that the expenditure account of each candidate contesting for the post of mayor and corporator has to be maintained from the date of nomination up to the counting day. There is a clear provision in this regard in the Madhya Pradesh Municipal Corporation Act. For the maintenance of election expenditure accounts, there are directions to make specified election expenditure registers available to the candidates along with the nomination papers. If the election expenditure account register is not available in any district, then it can be obtained from the commission by sending a demand letter. A separate bank account should be maintained for election expenditure account. If there is any difficulty in this process, then the District Election Officer should send a clear proposal to the commission. Guidance will be given by the commission after examining the proposal received from the district. Along with the maintenance of election expenditure account, Shadow Observation Register is also to be maintained.

## HOLIDAY DECLARED FOR THE CONCERNED AREAS ON DAY OF POLLING

Bhopal: In the general election of three-tier panchayats-2022, a general holiday has been declared by the state government in the concerned areas of the districts on the polling days. Voting for the three-tier panchayat elections will be held on June 25, July 1 and July 8.



EDITOR'S SPECS

**Bulldozer should be stopped**

Some time ago, an opinion poll amongst all Indians across age, education, income and ethnic distinctions, more than three out of every four Indians supported the actions of the Yogi Adityanath government in bulldozing the houses of those allegedly involved in either planning or indulging in riots. But the public mood on the issue seems to be shifting as a majority now seems to support the contention that the bulldozer action should be stopped. Over time, the Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has acquired a reputation as the "bulldozer baba", a moniker that was also used during the 2022 Assembly elections. However, widespread condemnation from some retired judges of the Supreme Court and some high courts along with some senior retired police and armed forces personnel seem to have tempered the enthusiasm of the ordinary Indian over the issue. A majority now want a halt to the bulldozer actions. Respondents were asked if the bulldozer action to demolish houses and properties of those accused of rioting and other offences should be stopped. About 56 per cent of the respondents overall supported the contention while about 44 per cent of the respondents wanted the bulldozer action to continue. Not surprisingly, more than 62 per cent of opposition supporters wanted a halt on the action while about 48% of the NDA supporters shared the same sentiment. Most of the criticism of the based on allegations that the Uttar Pradesh government is not following due process of law and taking approval of relevant courts before bulldozing properties. The government insists that it is following due process and had served notices to people much before the riots of June 3 and June 10 happened in the state. A surprisingly large 65 per cent of those in the 18 to 24 age group supported the "stop demolition" demand.

**RANGES OF STORKS RISING IN INDIA, BUT DECLINING IN AFRICA: ORNITHOLOGISTS**

Vishal Gulati

Ranges of six endemic African stork species that are widespread from East to Southern Africa, but have highly fragmented ranges in West Africa, may have declined by over 25 per cent in three decades, says a latest study. But, separate studies in India indicate a steady increase in the woolly-necked stork, which prefers irrigation canals over wetlands. In Haryana, ornithologists found a rather large breeding population of storks even in those densely populated villages and towns that have witnessed agriculture for over a century. In Africa, the studied stork species that have seen a decline are the African openbill, the Abdim's stork, the African woolly-necked stork, the saddle-billed stork, the marabou stork and the yellow-billed stork. The marabou stork can reach five feet tall with a wingspan of up to 10 feet. The researchers evaluate species status based on new collated information on distribution and recommend uplisting the global status of the saddle-billed stork to near threatened and West African populations of the saddle-billed stork, the marabou stork and the yellow-billed stork to threatened status. The assessments of range wide distribution of the six African stork species and their relationships with protected areas has been published in Ostrich, the Journal of African Ornithology, and is the result of Jonah Gula's master's research at Texas State University. The international team of authors included people from the US, India, and South Africa, led by Gula, now a PhD student at the University of KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa. "Data is largely lacking on the status and distributions of the African storks. We collated records of these species from secondary sources spanning over 150 years to develop

the first distribution maps based on known occurrence of each species," co-author K.S. Gopi Sundar, a Scientist at the Nature Conservation Foundation, told correspondent. "We used these data to estimate range loss since 1990. We then investigated the relationship between occurrence and the amount of protected area where storks were recorded," he said. "We found all six stork species were widespread from East to southern Africa, but most had fragmented ranges in West Africa caused by extirpations in a number of countries, such as Mali and Nigeria," Gula said. According to the assessment, the range of the African openbill has potentially declined by 21 per cent. It is most abundant in East and southern Africa in major wetland systems, and in West Africa it occurs in smaller numbers in primarily coastal areas. An isolated population of openbill remains in Sierra Leone and is threatened by the harvesting of chicks from nests. The range of the Abdim's stork has potentially declined by 27 per cent. As an equatorial migrant, it occurs in huge migratory flocks numbering in the thousands. While it still remains widespread in West Africa, where it breeds during the rainy season, there is evidence of decline on the periphery of its range in the region. It has increased in number on the southern Arabian Peninsula, specifically Oman, where groups numbering in the hundreds are now regularly found in winter. While the range of the saddle-billed stork has declined by 28 per cent, it was 26 per cent in both the Marabou stork and African woolly-necked stork and 27 per cent in the yellow-billed stork. Sundar said this study importantly contributes a coarse understanding of distribution and population status of African storks and has helped identify geographic priority areas for future field efforts.



It also highlights the utility of using secondary sources to enhance the knowledge of understudied, large birds such as storks. "Finally, our work highlights how presumptions about status of species with large geographic ranges can lead to regional declines going overlooked," said Gula. According to Sundar, the African study has many similarities with the situation in India. Storks in India have been classified with respect to status without too many detailed studies. The woolly-necked stork for example was assumed to be negatively impacted by agriculture and was raised to vulnerable status. After evidence emerged that the species is doing very well in Indian agricultural areas, IUCN had to reassign the status to near-threatened to reflect actual data. "It is possible that storks in Africa are doing better than what we are finding but the absence of work outside protected areas, like for most species in India, is a major gap that needs filling," he said. Currently, all bird species have been assigned an IUCN status even though a large number of them do

not have the necessary information to do so. "The race to place all bird species into IUCN Red List status is illogical, reduces the scientific reputation of the Red List, and is not a good way to understand how birds are doing. Bird species without information on their habits and distribution, or with very outdated information, need to be identified so scientists can work on them and assess actual status. Our paper on African storks shows the importance of doing careful assessments," explained Sundar. "Our work on nesting woolly-necked storks published in a paper was conducted between 2016 and 2020 where we located 298 nests of this species, the largest data set in the world for this species," said Sundar, also Co-chair of the IUCN Stork, Ibis and Spoonbill Specialist Group. "We analysed this information assuming the storks in Haryana would conform to patterns of nest location that have been observed in storks globally, including the single nesting stork species in Europe and

China." Storks are large birds that have attracted enormous mythological and scientific attention over centuries and are closely associated with endangered habitats such as wetlands. Talking about the assessment of the African storks, Gula told correspondent these storks are very charismatic, and an attraction to them can be seen as far back as ancient Egypt, where the saddle-billed stork was depicted in hieroglyphs as representing divinity. African openbills, Abdim's storks and yellow-billed storks were also deified, as evidenced by their mummified remains in Egyptian animal galleries. "I find it surprising that researchers and conservationists have overlooked these species for so long," Gula adds. The storks nesting on chimneys in Europe are considered an omen of good luck. The migration of some stork species is celebrated each year as some of the most fantastic animal movements across the globe.

international

**US FED MAKES BIGGEST RATE HIKE SINCE 1994**

Washington | Agencies

The US Federal Reserve raised the interest rate by 0.75 percentage points, the highest on-shot increase since 1994, to tackle inflation that is at its highest in 40 years.

The rate hike was announced at the end of the two-day policy meeting of the fed. It ran contrary to smaller rate hikes of 0.50 percentage points that had been indicated by several members of the fed's top decision making committee, the Federal Open Market Committee.

"We thought that strong action was warranted at this meeting and we delivered on that," Federal Reserve Chair Jerome H. Powell said in a news conference announcing the decision. "It is essential that we bring inflation down if we are to have a sustained period of strong labor market conditions that benefit all...The current picture is plain to see: The labor market is extremely tight and inflation is much too high."

He added: "Clearly today's 75 basis point increase is an unusually large one and I do not expect moves of this size to be common." But he went on to indicate that the next hike, due in July, could be



between 50 or 75 basis points in July. "We will however make our decisions meeting by meeting."

Powell indicated the path to a soft-landing when the Fed is able to slow down the economy without drastic cuts is becoming increasingly improbable. The Fed said in a release that it is strongly committed to 2 per cent inflation, which is currently at 8.6 per cent, a massive 40 year record.

The steep hike will make mortgages, auto loans and credit cards more expensive. These hikes are aimed at cooling a heated economy by reducing demand. But some people worry that the aggressive hikes could cool the

economy too much and bring in recession and trigger waves of layoffs. Countries around the world are also deploying interest rate hikes as a weapon against inflation. The Reserve Bank of India raised its key interest rate (known as repo rate) by 0.5 per cent to 4.9 per cent last week citing "upside risk to inflation."

This came on the heels of a 0.4 per cent increase to 4.4 per cent last month.

The European Central Bank announced last week that it would also raise its key interest rate for the first time in more than a decade next month and follow it with another in September.

**WEST YET TO FACE THE WORST IN CONFRONTING RUSSIA: KREMLIN**

Moscow | Agencies

The US is taking hostile actions against Russia that are worse than what it did during the Cold War, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Thursday.

However, it (the US) is hurting itself in the process and will ultimately have to acknowledge Moscow's legitimate interests, he said during an interview with Russian media, RT reported.

"We are not even close to the culmination of the crisis," Peskov told RIA Novosti news agency, explaining the economic damage stemming from the West-Russia confrontation.



"Or rather they have not. We are in a more stable state thanks to macroeconomic measures taken by the government," he added. Peskov assessed that the current amount of pressure

against Russia is unprecedented. Nothing of the kind was done "even during the Cold War" or to any other nation on Earth, he said.

The US and its allies seek to "strangle" Russia with their sanctions, he added.

The anti-Russian sanctions are "obviously creating problems for us, but in the long run they will cause problems just as serious for the nations who adopt those sanctions", the official predicted.

Europeans have felt it more than the Americans did so far, but the economic burden of antagonising Russia will increase for all of them, Peskov said. He stressed that the problems

were only partially explained by the Ukraine crisis and that Western leaders contributed to them by making a series of mistakes over the past several years, RT reported.

The current state of affairs has made it impossible for Russia and the West to return to business as usual, the official said, adding that from now on Moscow will use a more robust approach towards the US.

Russia has all the reasons it could need to completely break diplomatic ties with the US after all Washington had done, but will not do so: "The US is not going anywhere, and we'll have to live with that," he said.

**GERMANY'S HEALTH MINISTER WARNS OF COVID SUMMER WAVE**

Berlin | Agencies

Germany's Minister of Health Karl Lauterbach expressed concern about the current increase in Covid-19 infections, warning that a summer wave has started. "The announced summer wave has unfortunately become a reality. This also means little relief for the next few weeks," Lauterbach told local media. The nationwide seven-day incidence rate per 100,000 inhabitants rose to 472.4 on Wednesday, almost twice as high as a week ago, according to the Robert Koch Institute (RKI) for infectious diseases. For the first time since April, daily

Covid-19 infections in Germany exceeded 100,000 on Tuesday, according to the RKI.

The new surge is largely attributed to the two more contagious Omicron sub-variants, BA.5 and BA.4.

Within a week, the share of BA.5 in Germany doubled to 10 per cent, according to the RKI's latest weekly report. Lauterbach encouraged the elderly and vulnerable people to take booster vaccinations, which can prevent severe symptoms even if they do not necessarily prevent infections.

Of the 69.4 million adults in Germany aged 18 and above, around 85 per cent are vaccinated against Covid-19.

**UN human rights chief couldn't speak to detained Uyghurs**

Geneva | Agencies

Michelle Bachelet, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, said she was unable to speak to any detained Uyghurs or their families during her controversial visit to Xinjiang, and was accompanied by Chinese government officials while in the region.



The UN human rights chief, who this week announced she would not be seeking another term, told a session of the 50th Human Rights Council in Geneva that there were limitations on her visit to the region in China, where authorities have been accused of committing crimes against humanity and genocide against the Uyghurs and other Muslim minorities, the Guardian reported.

Bachelet and a team from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) spent six days in Guangdong and Xinjiang for a visit that activists and some western governments described as a propaganda coup for the Chinese government.

In a statement on Wednesday, Bachelet said she was able to meet members of civil society organisations without government supervision, but in Xinjiang was "accompanied by government officials throughout the visit".

At a press conference in Guangdong held on the final day of her tour, Bachelet was asked directly by the Guardian about her ability to speak to Uyghur civilians and other people "without supervision" and to have free and open discussions about their experiences.

**US TO PROVIDE \$1BN ADDITIONAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE TO UKRAINE**

Washington | Agencies

US President Joe Biden said his administration is providing Ukraine with additional security assistance worth \$1 billion, as well as \$225 million worth of humanitarian assistance.

In a statement, the White House said that Biden made the commitment during a phone call with his Ukrainian counterpart

Volodymyr Zelensky on Wednesday. Biden said that the new security assistance for Ukraine also includes additional artillery and coastal defence weapons, as well as ammunition for the artillery and advanced rocket systems that the Ukrainians need to support their defensive operations in the eastern Donbas region, where fierce battles are currently raging. According to the US President,

the additional humanitarian assistance to help people inside Ukraine, the include supply of safe drinking water, critical medical supplies and health care, food, shelter, and cash for families to purchase essential items.

Also on Wednesday, US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin convened a meeting of more than 45 nations in Brussels on Wednesday to discuss support for Ukraine.





PRESIDENTIAL POLL: AFTER PAWAR'S FIRM 'NO', NCP THANKS ALL OPPN PARTIES

After a firm 'no' by Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) President Sharad Pawar, the NCP on Wednesday officially expressed its gratitude to all the 17 major Opposition parties for unanimously recommending his name as the candidate for the upcoming Presidential election.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

After a firm 'no' by Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) President Sharad Pawar, the NCP on Wednesday officially expressed its gratitude to all the 17 major Opposition parties for unanimously recommending his name as the

candidate for the upcoming Presidential election. "I sincerely appreciate the leaders of Opposition parties for suggesting my name as a candidate for the election of the President of India at the meeting held in Delhi. However, I would like to state that I have humbly declined the proposal of my candidature," Pawar tweeted on Wednesday evening.

He has also requested all the Opposition leaders to consider more names as potential candidates for the country's top post when they converge again in Delhi on June 21. "A joint meeting of the united Opposition was called by West Bengal Chief Minister Mamta Banerjee to discuss and unilaterally recommend one name as the Opposition's candidate for the post of the President of India. NCP thanks all the 17 political parties who unanimously recommended the name of NCP supremo

Sharad Pawar as the Opposition's candidate," NCP's chief spokesperson Mahesh Tapase said in Mumbai. He said it was gratifying that all the Opposition parties felt that Pawar's candidature was the "most suited for the President's post owing to his long political experience and unshakable faith in the Indian Constitution".

The leaders were also optimistic that Pawar's name would find favour with many other political parties who are currently with the BJP, said Tapase, reiterating the NCP's known official stance on the issue since the past few months. Nevertheless, Maha Vikas Aghadi ally Shiv Sena remains a strong proponent for the NCP supremo as a united Opposition nominee for the top Constitutional office with Sena MP Sanjay Raut even saying "Pawar will not be a rubber-stamp President."

Maharashtra SSC Result 2022: SSC Result releasing on Friday

MAHARASHTRA SSC RESULT 2022 DATE IS HERE! STATE EDUCATION MINISTER VARSHA GAIKWAD HAS ANNOUNCED THE SSC RESULT 2022 DATE. MAHARASHTRA SSC RESULT 2022 WILL BE RELEASING TOMORROW, JUNE 17, 2022. READ BELOW FOR THE OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT AND NOTICE. THE SSC RESULT 2022 WOULD BE RELEASED TOMORROW ONLINE ON MAHRESULT.NIC.IN AND SSCRESULT.MCKL.ORG.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra SSC Result 2022 date has been announced! The SSC Result 2022 will be released tomorrow, June 17, 2022 for students of the Maharashtra Board. The state education minister Varsha Gaikwad has announced the SSC Result 2022 date. As per this announcement, MSBSHSE will be releasing the Maharashtra SSC Result 2022 tomorrow.

Maharashtra SSC Result 2022 would be released online on mahresult.nic.in tomorrow for nearly 15 lakh students. The SSC Result time has also been announced. MSBSHSE will announce the results during a press conference event at 1 PM.

The state education minister, Varsha Gaikwad took to Twitter today, June 16, 2022 to announce the Maharashtra SSC Result 2022 date and time. The results would be released online for students to check at 1 PM. An official press conference is also expected to take place tomorrow



sometime in the morning where the SSC Result 2022 would be announced along with the pass percentage and other statistics for the Maharashtra SSC Result 2022. Maharashtra Board has already announced the HSC Result on June 8, 2022. The SSC Result declared announcement is also expected to follow a similar pattern. Once released, the SSC Result would be made available on the official websites such as mahresult.nic.in

as well as sslresult.mckl.org. Students would be able to check their results by using their exam roll number and other credentials mentioned in their admit cards. Over 16 lakh students have reportedly registered for the Maharashtra SSC Examinations this year. In 2020, about 15,84,264 had registered and 15,75,103 had appeared and in 2021, the exams had been cancelled due to COVID - 19.

MVA irked as Centre 'blocks' BDD Sewri Chawls revamp

SETTING THE STAGE FOR ANOTHER CONFRONTATION, THE CENTRE HAS SHOT DOWN THE MAHA VIKAS AGHADI (MVA) GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSAL FOR THE REVAMP OF THE CENTURY-OLD EYESORES, BRITISH DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT (BDD) CHAWLS IN SEWRI WHICH ARE SITUATED ON MUMBAI PORT TRUST (MBPT) LAND, OFFICIALS SAID ON THURSDAY.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Setting the stage for another confrontation, the Centre has shot down the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government's proposal for the revamp of the century-old eyesores, British Development Department (BDD) Chawls in Sewri which are situated on Mumbai Port Trust (MbPT) land, officials said on Thursday. The move comes as a bolt for the MVA allies Shiv Sena-Nationalist Congress Party-Congress and the 960 families residing in 12 buildings of BDD Sewri chawls, spread over 5.65 acres of prime realty in south Mumbai.

Last April, Sena MP from Mumbai South Arvind Sawant had raised the matter with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, which was sent to the concerned ministry and the MbPT.

In a terse reply to Sawant on June 3, Union Minister for Shipping & Ports Sarbananda Sonowal said: "I

would like to inform you that a proposal on redevelopment of BDD Chawls at Sewri from Mumbai Port Authority has been examined in the Ministry. At present there are no enabling provisions under any existing policy of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways to enact this proposal in its present form."

The communication has shocked the Akhil Sewri BDD Chawls Redevelopment Committee who now face an uncertain future even as the work on redeveloping the other BDD Chawls' complexes in Worli, Naigaum and Lower Parel, got underway from August 2021.

"We are stunned by the Centre's stand on this critical issue. We have been struggling for a remake of all BDD Chawls for over three decades and now the central government has declined permission for Sewri BDD Chawls revamp," said the Committee spokesperson Mansingh Rane.

The tenants, along with the Committee, political leaders and government officials plan to hold discussions on the latest Central missive and how to go ahead in the matter. Rane said the tenants are very upset and will launch agitations to get their "rightful justice" from the Centre to enable them emerge from the miserable existence they are forced to eke out for the past 100 years. Sena's former face Kishore Tiwari, accorded a MoS rank, said that this is part of the Centre's attempt to scuttle every public oriented development projects initiated by the MVA government since the past two-and-half years. "Earlier, the Centre had put roadblocks in the Mumbai Metro car-shed proposal in Kanjurmarg, the redevelopment of Dharavi and now the BDD Sewri Chawls. This is highly condemnable and the people of Mumbai will not forget this," said a grim Tiwari. The MVA launched the BDD

Chawls redevelopment over 92.86 acres in Worli, Naigaum and Lower Parel, besides Sewri, housing a total of more than 17,000 families in matchbox-type cramped tenements of 160-sq feet each with a common passage, bathing, toilets and washing areas. Despite attempts by IANS, Housing Minister Dr Jitendra Awhad was not available for his reactions or the MVA's future strategy with the unexpected roadblock in the BDD Chawls makeover plans. The BDD Chawls at Worli, Naigaum and Lower Parel are being built by the Tatas, L&T and Shapoorji Pallonji at the different locations that comprise some of the most valuable chunks of real estate in the country. The project envisages well-planned swanky new 40-storied and 22-floor tall towers with adequate parking, wide roads, at least 4 schools, welfare centres, mini-hospitals, gardens, playgrounds and shopping plazas.

People rush to ATM in Maharashtra dispensing 5 times extra cash

The news of ATM dispensing five times extra cash spread like wildfire and soon a huge crowd gathered around it to try their luck.

Team Absolute | Nagpur

An ATM in Maharashtra's Nagpur district was dispensing five times extra cash to customers due to a manual error during refill. A man reportedly tried to withdraw 500 from the ATM but, to his surprise, the machine dispensed five currency notes of Rs 500 denomination. He repeated the process and got Rs 2,500 while trying to withdraw Rs500. The incident was reported on Wednesday at an Automated Teller Machine of a private bank in Khapherkheda town, located around 30 km from Nagpur city. The news of ATM dis-

persing five times extra cash spread like wildfire and soon a huge crowd gathered around it to try their luck. A bank customer later alerted the police who rushed to the spot and shut the ATM vestibule, said an official. The police informed the bank about the "glitch" and subsequent rush at the ATM. It was found that the glitch was nothing but a human error during the refill. The currency notes of Rs 500 denomination were erroneously kept in the ATM tray meant to dispense notes of Rs 100 denomination, the official from Khapherkheda police station said.

Mumbai Police bust racket of fake top branded foreign watches

The Mumbai Police has busted a major racket of some shops allegedly indulging in sale of fake watches of top international brands and seized such timepieces valued at Rs 1.06 crore, officials said here on Thursday.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Mumbai Police has busted a major racket of some shops allegedly indulging in sale of fake watches of top international brands and seized such timepieces valued at Rs 1.06 crore, officials said here on Thursday.

Five persons have been arrested in connection with the mega-scam which is being probed further.

Following a tip-off received by the police, the Economic Offences Wing and the MRA Marg Police started their discreet investigations at the famed



Manish Market and Al Saba Market in south Mumbai which are reputed for the sale of premium imported goods.

The sleuths found that many of the shopkeepers in the two prime markets were allegedly passing off counterfeit watches of various premium brands to gullible customers at exorbitant rates.

Accordingly, raids were carried out by the police teams on Wednesday at Manish Market shops No. 1, 8 and 40A, and Al Saba Market shops No. 127, 133 and 134 from where the shopkeepers

were caught red-handed with the fake watches in their possession.

Some of the highly-ranked brands figuring on the fake watches include Armani, Diesel, Fossil, G-Shock and Michael Kors among others, said the officials.

Based on a complaint lodged by Anup Kolap, representing a company specialising in IP rights, the EOW has registered cases against the arrested shopkeepers under the Copyright & Trademark Act, 1957, and further probe is on. The entire operation was carried out under guidance by Police Commissioner Sanjay Pandey, and other top officers including Pravin Padwal, Mahendra Pandit and others from various departments of Mumbai Police and the MRA Marg Police Station.

Officials said that they will enquire if the tentacles of the scam are spread to other places in Mumbai and premium outlets in malls or shopping plazas retailing imported personal timepieces of leading international brands.

Mumbai square named after music legend Hemant Kumar on his 102nd birth anniversary

Team Absolute | Mumbai

On the occasion of the 102nd birth anniversary of the National Award winning singer-music director Hemanta Mukherjee alias Hemant Kumar, a square in Khar dedicated to him was inaugurated, here on Thursday.

The square is near a street where the music legend's family resides, with a large number of his clan and several dignitaries present on the occasion, said Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MLA Ashish Shelar.

"Hemant Kumar lived in Khar for many years. The square on Dhurandhar Marg and Ahimsa Marg has henceforth been renamed as 'Hemant Kumar Chowk' in memory of the great music legend," said Shelar.

Some of the personalities present were the son and



grand-daughter of Hemant Kumar, Jayant Mukherjee and Megha Mukherjee respectively, actor Deb Mukherjee, actress Moushumi Chatterjee, singer Nitin Mukesh, director Madhur Bhandarkar, et al. Born on this day (June 16) in 1920 in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, Hemant Kumar was a versatile and multi-lingual

besides one controversial English film, Siddhartha (1972, starring Simi Garewal and Shashi Kapoor).

Some of his memorable compositions in Bollywood include the ever-haunting and crawly tunes in "Bees Saal Baad" (1962) and "Kohraa" (1964) and for both films he composed the music and also sang some of the evergreen songs. There were other gems like: "Nagin" (1954), "Miss Mary" (1957), "Do Mastane" (1958), "Sahib, Bibi Aur Ghulam" (1962), "Do Dil" (1965), "Anupama" (1966), "Majhli Didi" (1967), "Khamoshi" (1969), "Do Ladke Dono Kadke" (1977), "Love In Canada" (1979), among many more.

The Sangeet Natak Akademi laureate died in Mumbai following a massive cardiac arrest on September 26, 1989, aged 69.

Indian private equity investments reach \$70 bn in 2k deals in 2021

INDIAN PRIVATE EQUITY (PE) INVESTMENTS REACHED \$70 BILLION IN 2021 IN MORE THAN 2,000 DEALS -- AN 87 PER CENT INCREASE OVER THE VOLUMES IN 2020, A NEW REPORT SHOWED ON THURSDAY.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Indian private equity (PE) investments reached \$70 billion in 2021 in more than 2,000 deals -- an 87 per cent increase over the volumes in 2020, a new report showed on Thursday.

Indian investments grew by 96 per cent over 2020 (excluding the mega deals of Jio Platforms and Reliance Retail).

Much of the deal activity was in consumer tech and IT/ITES sectors. The two sectors combined repre-



sented more than 60 per cent of the year's deal value, at nearly \$44 billion, according to the annual Indian Private Equity Report 2022 by Bain & Company.

The number of large cheque size investments also witnessed a significant increase and the year saw 11 investments worth greater than \$1 billion with Flipkart, Hexaware and Mphasis being among the largest deals, compared to six in 2020.

However, after an exuberant year for both deal activity and exits, 2022 is expected to witness a tapering in the pace of activity as the gains of 2020 are consolidated, according to the

report, prepared in collaboration with Indian Venture and Alternate Capital Association.

"In 2021, the Indian private equity ecosystem bounced back from 2020's Covid-driven restraints, growing faster than most major economies, including China, with 96 per cent growth over 2020," said Arpan Sheth, Partner, Bain & Company and co-author of the report.

"This year, we anticipate a significant tempering of pace in investment activity as macro and micro trends converge, but see this as an opportunity for the consolidation of last year's gains, which should make India wit-

ness annual PE-VC deal values of around \$50 billion more frequently," Sheth added. IT/ITES saw investments of \$14.2 billion in 2021, growing by \$10.3 billion or 255 per cent as compared to 2020. "Indian IT is increasingly courting billion-dollar-plus deals, and the deal size and count is expanding with significant deals taking place in the sector in the last few years," said Sriwatsan Krishnan, Partner, Bain & Company and co-author of the report. "While the valuations are tempering, deals in 2022 indicate that the sector will continue to get PE attention as Indian IT firms continue to demonstrate excellence," Krishnan added.

IT has accounted for nearly 40 per cent of buyout deal value, and nearly 20 per cent of buyout deal volumes over the last three years.

In the most celebrated milestone for the year, exits worth more than \$36 billion were unlocked in 2021, quadrupling fund exits over 2020's \$9 billion.

Strategic sale continued to be the most dominant route of exit, with nearly 50 per cent of all exits over the last few years, the report said.

Contactless payments saw 6 times growth in last 3 years in India

Contactless payments witnessed a 6 times growth in India in the last three years and the highest adoption was observed in sectors like quick service restaurants, pharmacies, food, grocery, a new report showed on Thursday.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Contactless payments witnessed a 6 times growth in India in the last three years and the highest adoption was observed in sectors like quick service restaurants, pharmacies, food, grocery, a new report showed on Thursday.

Contactless payments saw a tremendous surge in recent years, especially during the pandemic, and their contribution to total face-to-face (F2F) transactions grew by more than 2.5 per cent in December 2018 to 16 per cent in December 2021, according to a whitepaper by Visa and Worldline India.

Additionally, the adoption of EMV chip cards has been

pivotal for the growth of contactless payments, aided by supportive regulations that increased the contactless limit in India to Rs 5,000 in 2021. "We have observed that the key drivers of contactless growth -- availability, convenience, utility, and security -- will continue to aid adoption at scale as contactless cards become ubiquitous," said Ramakrishnan Gopalan, VP, Head of Products and Solutions, for India/South Asia, Visa.

According to Worldline India, while 25 per cent of all transactions at supermarkets were contactless in January 2020, these transactions rose to 31 per cent by January this year. In 2020 and 2021, Delhi-NCR, Karnataka, Gujarat, and Telangana had the highest proportion of contactless transactions and penetration, across both debit and credit cards. "Coupled with the increasing merchant acceptance of contactless cards we are seeing not only in metro cities but in non-metro cities as well, we anticipate contactless payments to be a key driver of digital payments in the future," said Sunil Rongala, Senior Vice President, Strategy, Innovation and Analytics, Worldline India.

Through the pandemic, contactless payments recovered faster than other forms of face-to-face payment due to greater consumer ease and safety, the report noted.



## Selena Gomez 'felt like a joke' during transition from Disney child star

Los Angeles | Agencies

Singer-actress Selena Gomez has said she 'felt like a joke' as she attempted the 'frustrating' transition from Disney child star to grown-up acting roles. The 29-year-old singer-actress started her career on kids TV series 'Barney and Friends' before starring in Disney's 'Wizards of Waverly Place', reports femalefirst.co.uk.

She told The Hollywood Reporter's 'Awards Chatter' podcast: "I felt like it was very difficult for people to take me seriously. I have slowly pushed through that, and I'm

really glad, but it was very frustrating. I felt like a joke, you know?"

Gomez made the move from child star after 'Wizards of Waverly Place' ended in 2012 and one of her first breakout roles was in crime drama 'Spring Breakers' opposite another former Disney star Vanessa Hudgens.

She has since been able to carve out a career for herself post-Disney and her most recent project is Hulu TV series 'Only Murders In The Building'.

Elsewhere in the interview, Selena touched on another milestone in her life - her break-up with ex-boyfriend

Justin Bieber and admitted the split helped shape her as a person.

She explained: "It allowed me to develop a character where I don't tolerate any sort of nonsense or disrespect ... I was, you know, obviously going through a really tough break-up, and then I was left with the question of my career and where am I gonna go and what's gonna happen." The pair parted ways in 2018 and just months later, he went on to marry model Hailey Bieber.

She also went through a terrifying health scare when she was diagnosed with lupus and needed a kidney transplant.

Straight actors couldn't play gay 'Philadelphia' role today: Tom Hanks

Los Angeles | Agencies

Veteran Hollywood star Tom Hanks bagged his first Oscar for best actor thanks to Jonathan Demme's 1993 legal drama 'Philadelphia', in which he plays a gay man with HIV who is discriminated against at work. Almost three decades later, Hanks says he or any fellow straight actor would no longer be able to play the openly gay character at the heart of 'Philadelphia'. Not that Hanks sees a problem with that change in mentality in Hollywood, reports 'Variety'.

"Let's address 'could a straight man do what I did in 'Philadelphia' now?' No, and rightly so," Hanks recently told The New York Times Magazine.

He added: "The whole point of 'Philadelphia' was don't be afraid. One of the reasons people weren't afraid of that movie is that I was playing a gay man. We're beyond that now, and I don't think people would accept the inauthenticity of a straight guy playing a gay guy."

"It's not a crime, it's not boohoo, that someone would say we are going to demand more of a movie in the modern realm of authenticity," Hanks added.

"Do I sound like I'm preaching? I don't mean to."

Hanks won the Oscar and a Golden Globe for his performance in 'Philadelphia'.

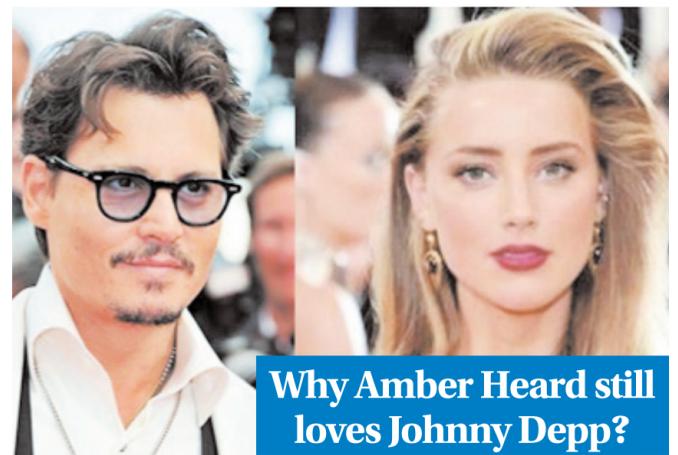


## Blonde for 'Barbie'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Ryan Gosling makes for the perfect Ken doll in Warner Bros' latest look at Greta Gerwig's 'Barbie', which stars Margot Robbie in the title role. According to 'Variety', the studio has debuted a striking photo of Gosling's Ken sporting six-pack abs, bleach blonde hair and a spray tan. The image is the second official still from 'Barbie' to be released following a photo showing Robbie in Barbie's pink convertible.

Gerwig co-wrote the 'Barbie' script with her partner, Frances Ha' and 'Mistress America' collaborator Noah Baumbach. Production on the film is currently underway. The supporting cast includes the likes of America Ferrera, Simu Liu, Kate McKinnon, Alexandra Shipp, Emma Mackey, Kingsley Ben-Adir, Issa Rae, Michael Cera and more. While no plot details from 'Barbie' have been confirmed, it's rumored that several Barbie and Ken characters factor into the plot, reports 'Variety'.



## Why Amber Heard still loves Johnny Depp?

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Amber Heard opened up to NBC News on 'Today' about her life after the defamation trial with ex-husband Johnny Depp that captivated the nation. When asked if she's worried about being sued again by him for defamation, Heard said, "I'm scared that no matter what I do, no matter what I say or how I say it, every step that I take will present another opportunity for this sort of silencing," she said, reports 'Variety'.

The host Savannah Guthrie brought up Depp's text message to Heard that she would suffer "total global humiliation," and asked Heard if she thought that came true. "I know he promised it," she said.

"I testified to this. I'm not a good victim, I get it, I'm not a likable victim, I'm not a perfect victim. But when I testified I asked the jury to just see me as human and hear his own words, which is a promise to do this. It

feels as though he has."

Asked if she was hoping to "cancel" Depp with the op-ed, Heard said, "Of course not. It wasn't about him." When asked about her upcoming plans, Heard said, "I get to be a mom full-time, where I'm not juggling calls with lawyers," she said.

Asked about Depp today, Heard said, "I love him. I loved him with all my heart. And I tried the best I could to make a deeply broken relationship work. I couldn't. No bad feelings or ill will towards him at all. I know that might be hard to understand or it might be really easy to understand, if you've ever loved anyone it should be easy."

Heard spoke to the host on NBC's 'Today' show for the first interview following the conclusion of the highly publicised trial between her and Depp. During the interview, the two discussed the verdict of the case, which ended with both Heard and Depp receiving compensatory damages, albeit Depp received significantly more.

## Hailey shares health update on Bieber

Los Angeles | Agencies

Model Hailey Baldwin and pop singer Justin Bieber have been brought closer together by their health scares. Still recovering from the effects of a mini-stroke in March, Baldwin made the claim days after her 28-year-old husband shared that he is suffering facial paralysis from Ramsay Hunt Syndrome, reports aceshowbiz.com.

Baldwin told 'Good Morning America' when asked about how they have handled their health frights: "I think going through it very publicly, in front of a lot of people, it kind of forces you in a way to just be upfront about what is going on, so that people understand what you're going through. And I think it opened up a lot of really amazing and important conversations.

"And I think that the silver lining of it honestly is that it brings us a lot closer, because you're going through it together, you're there for each other, you're supporting each other, and there's just something that really bonds you through, through these times." "That is, I think the silver lining of these crazy times," she said. Baldwin added about her 'Yummy' singer husband's progress: "He's doing really well, he's getting better every single day. He's feeling a lot better. And obviously it was just a very scary and random situation to happen, but he's going to be totally okay. And I'm just grateful that he's fine."

just sort of my most vulnerable, darkest ... I always wanted to share that stuff, because it also helps alleviate my pain about it and it's sort of therapeutic."

However, Schumer is always careful not to share stories about other people without getting their approval first.

The 'Life & Beth' star, whose latest comedy series for Disney+ is semi-autobiographic, added, "I'm careful about what I share about other people and always make sure that they greenlight it, whatever I'm writing, whatever I'm sharing, I make sure that it's OK with them."

"But in terms of me sharing stuff about myself, yeah, I'm sure I've shared more than some people would have cared me to, but I think it's helpful. I do," Schumer further said. "And it feels really great and powerful to feel like you might be making somebody laugh and feel better about themselves."



## Amy Schumer finds sharing 'vulnerable, darkest' moments of her life 'therapeutic'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Amy Schumer has opened up about how she copes with painful moments. The comedienne says sharing the most vulnerable and "darkest" moments of her life with the world is like therapy, reports aceshowbiz.com. The 'I Feel Pretty' star is an open book when it comes to sharing the ups and downs of her life, including health battles and pregnancy, and admits she can overshare at times, but it helps her to "alleviate" her "pain."

She told Heat magazine: "I think I really wanted to share



## ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Christine Quinn



## NEERAJ CHOPRA HEADLINES 37-MEMBER INDIAN TEAM SELECTED FOR COMMONWEALTH GAMES 2022

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Tokyo Olympics gold medalist Neeraj Chopra headlined the 37-member squad named by the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) on Thursday to compete in the Commonwealth Games 2022 in Birmingham from July 28 to August 8 this year.

AFI president Adille Sumariwalla expressed confidence that the squad would deliver quality performances.

The squad includes three men Javelin Throwers in Neeraj Chopra, DP Manu and Rohit Yadav and three Triple Jumpers in Abdulla Aboobacker, Praveen Chithravel and Eldhose Paul.

"We are requesting the Indian Olympic Association to increase our quota by one and to assist in securing accreditation for a couple of athletes. We have also selected a few subject to their proving their fitness and form before the Games," Sumariwalla said.

"Shot Putter Tajinderpal Singh Toor will have to perform well in



Kazakhstan while Amoj Jacob has been selected subject to his recovery and fitness level," the AFI President said.

"Similarly, Discus Throwers Navjeet Kaur Dhillon and Seema Antil Punia as well as Hammer Thrower Sarita Singh will have to perform in Kazakhstan or California.

Race walker Bhawna Jat will have to

prove her fitness."

Sumariwalla also said Avinash Sable, Neeraj Chopra and Seema Antil Punia, who are training overseas, sought and were granted exemption from appearing in the National Inter-State Athletics Championships in Chennai.

The team: Men: Avinash Sable (3000m

Steeplechase); Nitender Rawat (Marathon); M Sreesankar and Muhammed Anees Yahiya (Long Jump); Abdulla Aboobacker, Praveen Chithravel and Eldhose Paul (Triple Jump); Tajinderpal Singh Toor (Shot Put); Neeraj Chopra, DP Manu and Rohit Yadav (Javelin Throw); Sandeep Kumar and Amit Khatri (Race Walking); Amoj Jacob, Noah Nirmal Tom, Arokiya Rajiv, Muhammed Ajmal, Naganathan Pandi and Rajesh Ramesh (4x400m Relay).

Women: S Dhanalakshmi (100m and 4x100m relay); Jyothi Yarraji (100m Hurdles); Aishwarya B (Long Jump and Triple Jump) and Ancy Sojan (Long Jump); Manpreet Kaur (Shot Put); Navjeet Kaur Dhillon and Seema Antil Punia (Discus Throw); Annu Rani and Shilpa Rani (Javelin Throw); Manju Bala Singh and Sarita Romit Singh (Hammer Throw); Bhawna Jat and Priyanka Goswami (Race Walking); Hima Das, Dutee Chand, Srabani Nanda, MV Jilna and NS Simi (4x100m relay).

## Indonesia Open: HS Prannoy advances to quarterfinals after beating NG Ka Long

Jakarta, (Indonesia) | Agencies

Continuing his good form, ace Indian shuttler HS Prannoy moved into the quarterfinals of the Indonesia Open 2022 after beating Angus NG Ka Long of Hong Kong, here on Thursday.

India's only remaining challenge at the BWF Super 1000 event, Prannoy, ranked 23rd in the badminton rankings, defeated world No 12 Angus 21-11, 21-18 in the men's singles Round of 16 match at the Istoria Stadium.

The 29-year old Prannoy settled early and kept his higher-ranked opponent on toes from the start, countering Long's speed efficiently with precise returns.

The shuttler from Hong Kong began the second game with much more intent and used the space well before Prannoy took back the momentum after being tied



at 7-7. The Indian then sealed the second game and match in 41 minutes.

Prannoy, who was instrumental in India's first-ever Thomas Cup win last month, will face the winner of the

match between world No 41 Brice Leverdez of France and Denmark's world No 13 Rasmus Gemke in the quarterfinals of the BWF Super 1000 badminton tournament on Friday.

## German Open: Ons Jabeur, Belinda Bencic reach quarterfinals

Berlin | Agencies

Tunisia's Ons Jabeur and Switzerland's Belinda Bencic reached the quarterfinals of the German Open after winning their respective matches, here on Thursday.

No 1 seed Jabeur beat qualifier Alycia Parks 6-2, 7-6 (8), which put her into her eighth quarterfinal of 2022, all at WTA 500 level or above. She will next face Aliaksandra Sasnovich as she bids to reach a fourth semifinal of the season.

The 21-year-old Parks acquitted herself well in her first career meeting with a player ranked inside the Top 20. She departed Berlin having scored her first WTA 500 main draw victory, and first Top 50 win, over Zheng Qinwen in the first round.

It was the World No 169 Parks who set much of the match's tempo. She struck more winners than Jabeur, 18



to 13, but significantly more unforced errors as well, 31 to 17. Many of the latter came during the first set-and-a-half. Jabeur gained a 6-2, 3-1

lead courtesy solid serving and a strategy of getting Parks on the run, invariably drawing mistakes from the lower-ranked player.

## Ranji Trophy Semifinals

## Mumbai continue to dominate UP, MP in strong position against Bengal

Mumbai | Agencies

Mumbai continued their domination over Uttar Pradesh while Madhya Pradesh were also in a strong position against Bengal on the third day of their respective Ranji Trophy semifinal matches, here on Thursday.

Mumbai were 133/1 in their second innings at stumps on Day, leading UP by 346 runs. Skipper Prithvi Shaw led from the front and scored 64 in 71 balls. He scored 64 off the 66 runs in the opening stand with his partner Yashasvi Jaiswal staying put on 0 right through.

Jaiswal, the first innings centurion, dug in even as Shaw stroked twelve boundaries in quick time after being dropped early. Yashasvi Jaiswal (35 not out), Armaan Jaffer (32 not out) were unbeaten at crease for Mumbai at the end of third day's play. Earlier in the day, UP collapsed in reply to Mumbai's first innings total of 393.



Tushar Deshpande, Mohit Avasthi and Tanush Kotian picked three wickets apiece to restrict UP to just 180. The two overnight batters, Madhav Kaushik and Karan Sharma had put on a 60-run stand but the innings fell apart after the duo were dismissed, as UP lost seven wickets for 84 runs. Shivam Mavi's 48, including two sixes, lent the total some respectability but could not stop Mumbai's domination. In another semifinal, Bengal could not bag the first innings lead as they suffered another collapse despite

centuries from their overnight batters - Manoj Tiwary and Shahbaz Ahmed. The duo had helped the innings recover through a 183-run stand but the tide turned once again after Tiwary was dismissed for 102.

Bengal, who had lost their first five for just 54, lost their last five wickets for the addition of a mere 36 runs as Madhya Pradesh gained a crucial 68-run first innings lead. Saransh Jain, who triggered the collapse with two wickets in an over ended up with a three-wicket haul just like Kumar

Kartikeya and Puneet Datey.

In reply, Madhya Pradesh put in a strong, resolute performance with Rajat Patidar unbeaten on 63 and going through wicketless in the final session. He put on 73 with Aditya Shrivastava after Shubham Sharma was forced to retire hurt after being hit by a bouncer at the stroke of Tea, a Cricbuzz report said.

Madhya Pradesh ended the day in the driver's seat with a lead of 231.

**Brief Scores:** Mumbai 393 (Hardik Tamore 115 not out, Yashasvi Jaiswal 100; Karan Sharma 4-46) & 133/1 (Prithvi Shaw 64, Yashasvi Jaiswal 35 not out) lead Uttar Pradesh 180 all out (Shivam Mavi 48; Tushar Deshpande 3-34) by 346 runs Madhya Pradesh 341 (Himanshu Mantri 165, Akshat Raghuvanshi 63; Mukesh Kumar 4-66) & 163/2 (Rajat Patidar 63 not out) lead Bengal 273 all out (Shahbaz Ahmed 116, Manoj Tiwary 102; Puneet Datey 3-48) by 231 runs

## Learned from our mistakes, ready for Argentina: women's hockey skipper Savita

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Indian women's hockey team's captain Savita Punia and vice-captain Deep Grace Ekka are confident of the girls learning from the twin defeats to Belgium and making a strong comeback in the remaining four-match before the upcoming World Cup.

The next challenge for the team will be the double-header against Argentina at Rotterdam, Netherlands followed by two matches against the United States at the same venue. The Indian women's hockey team had left the country a few days back for FIH Pro League



matches and the subsequent Women's World Cup on a confident note. But the 1-2 and 0-5 defeats to Belgium in successive Pro League

matches have proved a dampener for the players and fans. However, skipper Savita was confident that the girls will learn from their

mistakes and will show a strong improvement in the upcoming matches. Besides the Pro League, the Indian women's team's major engagements this season include the FIH Women's World Cup in Spain and Netherlands next month and the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, starting on July 28. Argentina have already won the FIH Pro League title with 38 points and the results of the two matches against India will have no bearing on the title. The Netherlands, the World and Olympic champions, are second with 32 points while India are third with 22 points.

## ACC WOMEN'S T20 CHAMPIONSHIP RETURNS AFTER NINE YEARS

Kuala Lumpur: Asian Cricket Council president Jay Shah expressed his elation over the return of the ACC Women's T20 Championship. 2022 will see the return of the Championship after a hiatus of over nine years. The tournament will be hosted by Malaysian Cricket Association starting from June 17 and ending on June 25.

"The last time the ACC Women's T20 Championship was in 2013. The revival is long overdue, and this, I believe, will set the tone for us to move faster towards the development of women's pathway programmes in Asia. The development of women's cricket programmes is an integral component that must be pushed forward," said Shah in a statement.

Ten nations will be vying to win the qualifying round of this tournament that will take them to the main event, the ACC Women's T20 Asia Cup. The matches will be played at Kinrara Oval and YSD UKM Oval. The participating countries are UAE, Malaysia, Oman, Qatar, Nepal, Hong Kong, Kuwait, Bahrain, Singapore and Bhutan.

## 2022 Abu Dhabi T10 to be played from Nov 23 to Dec 4

Abu Dhabi | Agencies

The sixth edition of the Abu Dhabi T10 league will take place at the Zayed Cricket Stadium here from November 23 to December 4, the organisers announced here on Thursday.

The 2022 edition of cricket's fastest format will be the fourth since it moved to Abu Dhabi as per a five-year deal.

The league's total economic impact value in 2021 soared to \$621.2 million, while last season's competition reached 342 million television and over-the-top (OTT), digital viewers, the organisers claimed in a release on Thursday.

Season 6 of the competition will see reigning champions Deccan Gladiators defend their trophy against star-studded sides Delhi



Bulls, Chennai Braves, Bangla Tigers, Northern Warriors, and Team Abu Dhabi.

The tournament's format will remain the same, with each team playing 10 league fixtures before the top four sides advance to the playoffs and final.

## IND v SA: With a win in the kitty, India seek to equalize series in Rajkot

Rajkot | Agencies

After a win by 48 runs in Visakhapatnam saved them from conceding the series early, India will be seeking to equalize the series score against South Africa in the five-match affair when both teams take the field at Saurashtra Cricket Association Stadium here on Friday.

While hoping to win the match, India would want for captain Rishabh Pant and top-order batter Shreyas Iyer to get some big runs. Pant provided for some thrilling shots in Delhi but a pattern has emerged from his dismissals. With the Proteas bowlers bowling away from his favoured hitting arc, Pant has to find solutions and get back to his best.

Iyer has been tested with short-pitched deliveries in all matches and endured a slowdown against facing fast bowlers. But he has been fantas-



tic in dancing down the pitch and smacking Tabraiz Shamsi for sixes.

With the ball, Chahal and Harshal rose to the occasion while

Bhuvneshwar Kumar continued his tidy show and Axar Patel supported well. They would like for pacer Avesh Khan to get some wickets under his belt with the right-arm pacer yet to pick a scalp in the series.

On the other side, South Africa will be eager to brush off the Visakhapatnam loss and a rare off day with the bat quickly. The Temba Bavuma-led side found runs from David Miller, Rassie van der Dussen and Heinrich Klaasen in the first two matches before their first loss to India in 2022 hit them.

With Quinton de Kock still recuperating from a wrist injury, South Africa may be continuing with Bavuma and his replacement Reeza Hendricks at the top. Overall, it is another must-win situation for India to square the series with South Africa and take the series to a decider in Bengaluru on Sunday.

## K.L Rahul to fly to Germany for groin treatment; to miss England tour: Report

Team Absolute | Mumbai

India opening batter K.L. Rahul is all set to miss the entire tour of England as he will be flying to Germany for the treatment of his groin injury. Earlier, the right groin injury had resulted in Rahul being ruled out of India's ongoing T20I series against South Africa on the eve of the opening match in New Delhi. "That is correct, the board is working on his fitness and he will be going to Germany soon," BCCI secretary Jay Shah was quoted as saying in a report by Cricbuzz on Thursday. The report added that Rahul may leave for Germany by the end of this month or in early July.

It means that Rahul will miss the England tour entirely, where India are to play the Edgbaston Test from July 1 to 5 and three T20Is, followed by as many ODIs. He was named vice-captain under Rohit Sharma for the Edgbaston Test but now, the



Indian selection committee will have to name another deputy in place of Rahul. Previously, on Thursday morning, some key players of the Test squad like batters Virat Kohli, Cheteshwar

Pujara, opener Shubman Gill, all-rounders Shardul Thakur and Ravindra Jadeja, pacers Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj left for England after assembling in Mumbai.



## Akshay Kumar starrer to lock horns with Aamir Khan's film at the box office

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The makers of Akshay Kumar and Bhumi Pednekar starrer Raksha Bandhan announced its release date a while ago. Helmed by Aanand L Rai, the flick is slated to release in theatres on 11 August 2022. Sharing the same, Akshay Kumar took to his social media handle and shared a video. He wrote, "Bringing you all a story of the purest form of bond that will remind you of yours!"

#RakshaBandhan releasing in cinemas on 11th August, 2022.

#ReturnToFeelings

#RakshaBandhan11August"

Interestingly, on the same day, Aamir Khan starrer much-awaited film Laal



Singh Chaddha will also release. Looking at

these major films lock-

ing horns at the box office, it will be interesting to see which movie will rake in good business.

Talking about Raksha Bandhan, it revolves around the love, bonding and attachment between a brother and his sisters. Raksha Bandhan is Rai's second collaboration with Akshay Kumar after his musical romantic drama Atrangi Re which also stars Dhanush and Sara Ali Khan. While Laal Singh Chaddha is the remake of Hollywood film Forest Grump. For the unversed, this will be the second time when Aamir's upcoming film is witnessing a clash. Earlier, it was supposed to lock horns with Yash starrer KGF: Chapter 2 before getting postponed. On the work front, Akshay Kumar is touted to be one of the bankable stars right now with interesting line-ups. The actor will be seen in Selloe, Oh My God! 2, Ram Setu, Mission Cindrella and Soorari Potru's Hindi remake.



## POOJA HEGDE begins shooting for the second schedule of Salman Khan's Starrer

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Ever since the announcement of Salman Khan and Pooja Hegde starrer 'Bhaijaan' has been made, the audience is excited to witness it. From change in the cast to change in the title of the film, it has been in the limelight for all the right reasons.

The film went on floors during the Mid May. The shoot for the first schedule is completed and the second schedule has commenced.

Actress Pooja Hegde has kick-started shooting for the second schedule of the film in Hyderabad. The actress will be stationed there till the schedule wraps up on June 21.

The shoot will further take place out of India, and destinations for the same will be finalised soon. She has also started prepping for filmmaker Puri Jagannadha's 'Jana Gana Mana'. She will simultaneously shoot for Bhaijaan as well.

Helmed by Farhad Samji, Bhaijaan also reportedly stars Shehnaaz Gill, Palak Tiwari, dancer-host-actor Raghav Juyal and Sidharth Nigam as well in pivotal roles.

On the work front, Pooja Hedge has several thrilling projects in the works. The actress will also be seen in 'Cirkus' opposite Ranveer Singh, 'SSMB28' opposite Mahesh Babu and Puri Jagannadha's 'Jana Gana Mana'. While for Salman Khan, the superstar has Bajrangi Bhaijaan 2 and Tiger 3 in his pipeline.



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Popular TV actress Chhavi Mittal has been quite active on social media about her fight with cancer. Now she took to her Instagram handle to share that she is finally done with all her radiation therapy sessions and will be fully cured after almost 30 days. She posted a few pictures and wrote a long message to share about her happiness of getting rid of all the restrictions and attending the last radiation therapy session recently. Chhavi wrote: "I can't keep calm coz my radiation is FINALLY OVER!! I only recover from this point onwards. I have to follow all restrictions for 30 more days and then I'll be a free bird! Image 1 shows my marking-free stomach! Image 2 shows the markings I carried for a month while the radiation took place. And image 3 has a story!"

"I had to hold my breath while the radiation was being given & when I would get breathless and breathe, the machine would stop. So just to make the whole process fun & build on my breath-holding time, I would always count on my mind Mississippi 1, Mississippi 2," she added.

**Chhavi Mittal says she will be a 'free bird' in about a month**

## Shooting in two languages 'exciting but monitors apprehension': Big B

Team Absolute | Hyderabad

Megastar Amitabh Bachchan, who is currently in Hyderabad shooting for the upcoming Prabhas-starrer 'Project K', has talked about shooting in two languages. He says it's exciting but monitors apprehension. The cine-icon took to his blog, where he also talked about getting not much sleep due to "load of work".

He wrote: ace.. 9 hrs .. up

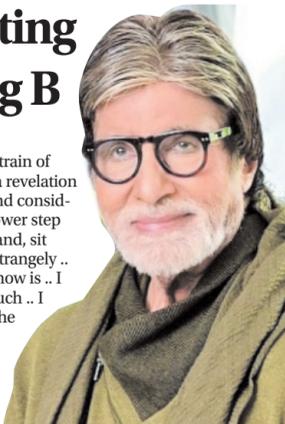
and down a few winks .. work in consolation .. the dual language excites but monitors apprehension and the load of work that contends and runs away."

"The face the design the trials of its occurrence .. every time a determined decision, 'never again' and there we are .. at it and in huge expansion could show but against rules contractually .. give recognition .. law is huge and great .. respect and find due cause ..

final authority ..

He added: "The strain of work, at each step a revelation .. needs attention and considered concern .. a slower step an easier climb .. stand, sit about, a consider, strangely .. was never before .. now is .. I complain far too much .. I need to be brief in the brief."

'Project K' is directed by Nag Ashwin. It also stars Deepika Padukone.



## Ayan Mukerji was annoyed with Ranbir Kapoor

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Ever since the trailer of Brahmastra has released, fans have been going gaga over it. Be it Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt's crackling chemistry or the incredible VFX, everything has won the hearts of the audience. Recently, during the trailer launch of the larger-than-life flick, director Ayan Mukerji opened up about being angry at Ranbir Kapoor. He said, "When I started the prep for Brahmastra, Ranbir was offered Sanju. He was supposed to start prep with me, but he chose to start Sanju first. I was so angry. I was happy that he was working with Raju Hirani but what about my project? But in hindsight, I'm glad Ranbir Kapoor chose to work on Sanju because, a few years later, Sanju was shot, edited and ready for release and my pre-production hadn't even been completed. Had Ranbir waited for me, it would've been too long a wait".

For the unversed, this flick marks the third collaboration of Ayan and Ranbir after Wake Up Sid and Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani. Apart from Ranbir, the movie also stars, Amitabh Bachchan, Alia Bhatt, Mouni Roy, and Nagarjuna Akkineni. It is also being said that Shah Rukh Khan and Deepika Padukone will have an important cameo in the film. The flick is scheduled to release on September 9 2022, in five languages.



## INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Urveshi Rautela



## Sudha Chandran turns anchor for the show

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor and dancer Sudha Chandran is seen in an all-new avatar. She is the anchor of 'Crime Alert'. This is the first time she is hosting a show. "Initially, when I took it on, I was a little apprehensive because this is one genre that I have not touched at all. I have tried out acting but anchoring I always thought was very different and would also be difficult because your command of the Hindi language has to be very strong."

"Relatively I do speak Hindi quite well but nevertheless, there are certain words which have to be said with precision. So I was a little doubtful." "Also when you're the anchor of a crime show, you become a social messenger, you are conveying what is just and right to the audience. So that conviction is very important. A lot of questions were going on in my mind but nevertheless, I have always accepted challenges. I said to myself 'Sudha don't give it up. You have to give it a try', so here I am," she adds.

Talking about the uniqueness of the show, Sudha says: "The stories we will be showing are not just stories, but drive home a message, helps one learn and concludes with a moral. The message at the end of each episode will help many."

"It's not the laws that we are talking about, but what we can do as human beings to help in keeping each other safe and create a better society. The show makes us understand our responsibilities towards society," she adds. Sudha enjoyed collaborating with Himanshu Pathak and Payal Saxena, and their Elixir production. She feels they know their job like no other.