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Amid rumours of rift, JJP to contest on all 10 Lok Sabha seats...



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Singer Lana Del Rey quits Instagram ..



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ATP Rankings: Djokovic returns to No.1 after 23rd Grand ...



## Cyclone Biparjoy to cross Saurashtra and Kutch coasts on June 15 noon

**“The intensity of rainfall would increase with heavy to very heavy rainfall at a few places and extremely heavy falls at isolated places very likely over Kutch, Devbhumi Dwarka and Jamnagar and heavy to very heavy rainfall at a few places over Porbandar, Rajkot, Morbi and Junagarh districts of Gujarat on Thursday,” said an IMD official.**

**Team Absolute | New Delhi**  
The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued an orange alert for Gujarat's Saurashtra and Kutch coasts as Cyclone Biparjoy has intensified into an extremely severe cyclonic storm and is expected to impact the state and Pakistan in the coming days. "The extremely severe

cyclonic storm 'Biparjoy' (pronounced as 'Biporjoy') over east central and adjoining northeast Arabian Sea moved north-north-westwards with a speed of 07 kmph. It is very likely to move nearly northwards till June 14 morning, then move north northeastwards and cross Saurashtra and Kutch and adjoining Pakistan coasts between Mandvi (Gujarat) and Karachi (Pakistan) near

Jakhau Port (Gujarat) by noon of June 15 as a very severe cyclonic storm with maximum sustained wind speed of 125-135 kmph gusting to 150 kmph," IMD said. The IMD further predicted that there will be light to moderate rainfall at most places with heavy to very heavy rainfall at isolated places very likely over Gujarat and adjoining north Rajasthan on Friday," it said.

Rajkot, Junagarh and Morbi districts of Saurashtra and Kutch on Wednesday. "Isolated heavy rainfall is very likely over remaining districts of Saurashtra and north Gujarat region on Thursday, while light to moderate rainfall at most places with heavy to very heavy rainfall at isolated places very likely over north Gujarat and adjoining south Rajasthan on Friday," it said.

**FARMERS IN HARYANA AGAIN BLOCK HIGHWAY OVER MSP ON SUNFLOWER CROP**

## THE LOGJAM RETURNS

- ▶ **KURUKSHETRA DISTRICT HAS THE HIGHEST PRODUCTION OF SUNFLOWER AND ITS MAIN PROCUREMENT CENTRE IS SHAHBAD. BESIDES, THE SUNFLOWER PURCHASE CENTRES HAVE BEEN SET UP AT PLACES OF AMBALA, YAMUNANAGAR, KARNAL, AND PANCHKULA DISTRICTS.**
- ▶ **HAFED HAS STARTED PROCUREMENT OF SUNFLOWER CROPS FOR THE FIRST TIME AND HAS ANNOUNCED TO REMAIN IN THE MARKET TILL THE PROCUREMENT PROCESS IS COMPLETED IN THE MANDIS.**
- ▶ **IT HAS BEEN PROCURING SUNFLOWERS AT THE RATE OF RS 4,850 PER QUINTAL IN SHAHBAD. WITH THE CHIEF MINISTER GIVING INTERIM RELIEF OF RS 1,000 PER QUINTAL UNDER THE BHAVANTAR BHARPAYEE YOJANA, NOW THE PURCHASE OF SUNFLOWER IN HARYANA HAS RAISED TO RS 5,800 PER QUINTAL.**
- ▶ **AT PRESENT, SUNFLOWERS ARE BEING PURCHASED IN PUNJAB BETWEEN RS 3,800 AND RS 4,200.**
- ▶ **TO PACIFY THE FARMERS, THE CHIEF MINISTER ON SUNDAY ANNOUNCED THE OPENING OF A SUNFLOWER OIL FACTORY IN KURUKSHETRA, WHICH WILL HAVE A CAPACITY OF 20,000 METRIC TONNES.**

**Chandigarh | Agencies**  
Farmers in Haryana on Monday once again blocked the National Highway-44 near Pipli in the state's Kurukshetra district, severely hampering the movement of traffic between Chandigarh and Delhi. The traffic was halted after the "mahapanchayat" called by the Bharatiya Kisan Union-Charuni failed to get any response from the government over procurement of sunflower seeds at the minimum support price (MSP) of Rs 6,400 per quintal. Also they were demanding the release of their leaders, especially Bharatiya Kisan Union-Charuni chief Gurnam Singh Charuni. Responding to issue of farmers, Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar told the media that the government has a round of talks on the sunflower issue. Nearly 50,000 farmers from Punjab, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh, besides Haryana and its neighbouring states, gathered in Pipli town and earlier gave an ultimatum to the government that "if it doesn't listen to their demands, a big call could be taken to block the national highway again or block the government Secretariat in Kurukshetra". The sunflower growers are not happy with the relief announced on June 10 by Chief Minister Khattar, saying it was an attempt to prevent the 'mahapanchayat' called by farmers' associations. The farmers have been demanding that the state government procure their sunflower crop at an MSP of Rs 6,400 per quintal, as announced for the crop by the Central government for 2022-23. Wrestler Bajrang Punia also



reached Pipli and extended his support. However, traffic on the Chandigarh-Delhi highway was diverted to avoid congestion after farmers gathered in Pipli over their demand. Days after protesting sunflower growers were baton-charged and forcibly evicted from blocking the National Highway-44 near Kurukshetra, crowds of farmers on Monday started gathering again in support of the demand. Tikait had already threatened a larger agitation than the year-long protest against the now repealed farm laws if the government did not announce a legal guarantee of the MSP for procurement of crops. As a preventive measure, the government has imposed Section 144 in Pipli, a ruling that prohibits public gatherings in a given jurisdiction. Farm leaders have also warned the authorities to release their nine leaders, including Charuni, who were sent to custody for 14 days for blocking the

national highway on June 7, otherwise a massive rally would be held on June 12. Besides charges pertaining to rioting, they are facing cases for unlawful assembly, use of criminal force to deter public servants from discharging duty and attempt to murder. Amidst the rift between the state government and farmers, Chief Minister Khattar has said the government was studying the market for adequately compensating sunflower growers. While digitally releasing Rs 29.13 crore as an interim 'bharpai' (compensation) to 8,528 sunflower farmers growing the crop on 36,414 acres of land on Saturday, he said that some people are trying to create confusion among the farmers claiming that his government does not care for the farmers. The government has included sunflower in the Bhavantar Bharpai Yojana under which farmers will be paid Rs 1,000 per quintal if produce is selling below the MSP.

## WRESTLING MESS: WFI ELECTIONS ON JULY 4, RETD JUSTICE (J&K HC) TO BE RETURNING OFFICER

The much-awaited elections to pick the Executive Committee of the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) will be held on July 4, informed the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) in a letter to Justice (Retd) Mahesh Mittal Kumar, former Chief Justice of Jammu and Kashmir High Court.

**Chetan Sharma | New Delhi**

In the letter, the IOA has asked Justice (Retd) Mahesh Mittal to "confirm" his appointment as the returning officer to conduct the elections. WFI President Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, who is facing charges of sexual harassment by India's top wrestlers, completed three tenures (12 years) in office in March this year. The IOA on Monday started the election process by appointing a returning officer. "I am writing in connection with conducting the election of the Executive Committee of the Wrestling Federation of India. Wrestling is an Olympic sport and WFI is the National Federation of India, which is an affiliated member of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA)." "Due to administrative issues in the WFI, IOA has, in its Emergency Executive Council Meeting held on 27.04.2023, resolved to constitute as AD-Hoc Committee to take charge of affairs of WFI," said IOA joint secretary and acting CEO Kalyan Chaubey in the letter to Justice (Retd) Kumar. "Now, the IOA has to take steps forward to conduct the elections of the WFI Executive Committee and are pleased to appoint you as



### Centre is talking to wrestlers: Haryana CM

**Chandigarh:** Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Monday said the Centre is talking to the wrestlers who called for a statewide strike on June 14 amid sexual allegations charges against former WFI chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh. "The bandh call has been given, but first, there should be talks," he told the media. Earlier, wrestler Bajrang Punia, who attended the 'mahapanchayat' of protesting farmers to support their demand of MSP of Rs 6,400 per quintal for sunflower seeds, said the wrestlers have postponed their agitation till June 15 and their next course of action would be announced if strong action is not taken against Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh by that time. Returning Officer to conduct the elections of the WFI. You may consider appointing one Assistant Returning Officer and other staff to assist in conducting the elections," added the IOA joint secretary and acting CEO Kalyan Chaubey. "Elections are required to be conducted in the Special General Meeting of the WFI called on 4th July 2023 and the Schedule of Election will be required to be drawn accordingly. We look forward to your confirmation of acceptance and also the smooth conduct of elections of WFI on 4 July 2023."

## Fire breaks out in govt office, health data destroyed

### IAF choppers sought to douse fire raging at Bhopal's Satpura Bhawan, Congress apprehends 'cover-up'

**Team Absolute | Bhopal**

The six-storey Satpura Bhawan, where at least half a dozen departments of the Madhya Pradesh government are located, was engulfed in a massive fire on Monday, resulting in damage to official records, computers, furniture and other property. The fire, which broke out on the third floor of the building, where the Tribal Welfare Department is located, gradually spread to cover the entire building and was still raging late in the night. However, no casualty was reported, according to an official statement released late night. The fire was so massive that efforts by the firefighters for several hours could not control it, and fire services of the Airport Authority of India were also summoned. Later, the state government sought the help of the IAF to douse the fire. State Home Minister Narottam



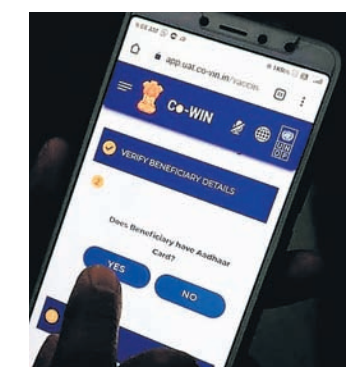
Mishra, who was present at the spot at 11.20 p.m., told media persons that Air Force helicopters will reach soon to help douse the blaze. The Satpura Bhawan is located in front of the Madhya Pradesh Secretariat Vallabh Bhawan. All official records, especially pertaining to the Tribal Welfare Department, were reportedly reduced into ashes in the fire. The exact reason of the fire was yet to be ascertained so far, however, preliminary information indicates that a blast in an air conditioner may have caused it. Additional Chief Secretary, Administration, Vinod Kumar said. Mishra also said that a high level committee has been formed

to investigate the fire incident in Satpura Bhawan. The five-member committee, chaired by Additional Chief Secretary, Home, Rajesh Rajora will conduct a detailed inquiry in the matter and submit the report to Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan. Meanwhile, the Congress has raised apprehension on fire incident, alleging that the incident could be a planned conspiracy to destroy files and other documents. State media in-charge K.K. Mishra said: "Today, (Congress General Secretary) Priyanka Gandhi started the election campaign in MP. A fire broke out at Satpura Bhawan. It is an attempt to destroy documents to hide the corruption of BJP government. During a press conference two weeks back, I had mentioned the BJP would try destroy files to hide its corruption and fire incidents would start in government offices, and now it happened."

## Claims of data breach mischievous, CoWIN portal completely safe: Health Ministry

**Team Absolute | New Delhi**

The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) on Monday dubbed the alleged data breach of Covid-19 vaccine beneficiaries as "mischievous in nature", saying that the CoWIN portal is completely safe with adequate safeguards for data privacy. The Health Ministry also said that it has requested the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) to look into this issue and submit a report, besides initiating an internal exercise to review the existing security measures of CoWIN. The Health Ministry's remarks came after some media reports and social media posts claimed breach of data of vaccine beneficiaries. These reports also alleged breach of data from the CoWIN portal of the Health Ministry, which is the repository of all the data of beneficiaries who have been vaccinated against Covid-19. The Health Ministry said in a statement, "Certain posts on the social media platform Twitter have claimed using a 'Telegram (online messenger application) BOT', the



personal data of individuals who have been vaccinated is being accessed. It also said that security measures are in place on the CoWIN portal, with Web Application Firewall, Anti-DDoS, SSL/TLS, regular vulnerability assessment, Identity and Access Management etc. It also said that CoWIN was developed and owned and managed by the MoHFW. The Health Ministry said that it has requested CERT-In to look into this issue and submit a report and also initiated an internal exercise to review the existing security measures of CoWIN.





# CONG SLAMS RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR FOR 'DATA BREACH' OF 1.4BN PEOPLE

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Congress on Monday criticised the government over the alleged data breach of the Covid vaccine beneficiaries, dubbing it as a very grave matter with serious implications for privacy, making everyone vulnerable to financial fraud.

The Congress also slammed Union Minister of State for Electronics and IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar, saying instead of issuing casual "WhatsApp forward-style tweets, he should clarify at the very least."

In a tweet, Congress General Secretary Jairam Ramesh said: "The personal data breach is a very grave matter with serious implications for privacy, security and makes us all vulnerable to financial frauds. The tech-savvy Minister instead of issuing casual WhatsApp forward-style tweets should hold a Press Conference at the earliest and clarify at the very least."

Firing questions at the government, the Rajya Sabha MP said: "What does he mean by 'previously stolen data stolen in the past' - stolen from which database, when, and what action was taken? If the CoWIN database hasn't been 'directly breached', is the Minister then accepting that it is an indirect breach? What other databases are linked to the CoWIN database that has led to this vulnerability?"



Ramesh also asked what immediate steps the Narendra Modi government is taking to secure the personal data of crores of Indians who trusted the government to keep their details safe.

Even earlier, Congress general secretary (organisation) KC Venugopal on Monday hit back at Chandrasekhar after Trinamool Congress spokesperson Saket Gokhale alleged that the data of several citizens, including politicians and journalists, who took Covid vaccine, has been leaked and asked why the Centre was not aware of the incident.

In a response to Chandrasekhar's

tweet, Venugopal, who is a Rajya Sabha MP said, "I am appalled at your casual response to the breach of privacy of 1.4 billion Indians. If a Telegram bot can throw up CoWIN details simply by inputting mobile numbers, it will not take too long for an automated software to harvest all CoWIN data within a matter of hours."

The Congress leader said that this breach clearly shows that CoWIN data was not encrypted.

"If it were, only those with the necessary authorisation will be able to access such data, and random Telegram bots will not be able to decrypt such personal data," he said, adding that "since you mention 'previously breached/stolen data', you're clearly admitting that CoWIN data has already been breached. It is then

baseless for you to say that it 'does not appear' that the CoWIN app has been breached."

"Until June 2021, nearly 6 months after the vaccination process began, the CoWIN app had no privacy policy and the government even refused to put one in place," he said.

He said that in 2017, the Supreme Court declared the Right to Privacy as a fundamental right.

"The government also gave an assurance that a data protection law was in the making. From the time of the constitution of the Srikrishna Committee on Data Protection in 2017 until today, we have seen multiple versions of the Data Protection Bill, countless rounds of consultation, and a Joint Parliamentary Committee. Except, in its last move, the government decided to completely start afresh, instead of rectifying the lacunae in the draft legislation," he said.

Meanwhile, the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) on Monday dubbed the alleged data breach of Covid-19 vaccine beneficiaries as "mischievous in nature", saying that the CoWIN portal is completely safe with adequate safeguards for data privacy.

The Health Ministry said that it has requested the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) to look into this issue and submit a report, besides initiating an internal exercise to review the existing security measures of CoWIN.

## AMID RUMOURS OF RIFT, JJP TO CONTEST ON ALL 10 LOK SABHA SEATS IN HARYANA

Chandigarh | Agencies

As the rift in Haryana's ruling alliance of the BJP and the JJP seemed to be widening, the latter on Monday asserted that it would contest all 10 parliamentary constituencies in the state on its own.

However, the JJP remained silent that whether it would continue with the alliance in the remaining term of one and a half years of the state government or not.

At the crucial party's meeting here, Jannayak Janta Party (JJP) chief Ajay Singh Chautala and Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala told its legislatures and senior leaders to start preparing for next year's Lok Sabha and Assembly polls.

An official statement quoting Ajay Chautala said the JJP has started working on its "Mission 2024" and as part of it senior leaders are attending programmes across the state.

The JJP is part of the BJP-led ruling coalition in Haryana.

In the coming days, party veteran leaders, ministers and legislators will speed up public meetings up to grassroots to strengthen the party, said the statement.

After discussing in detail with all MLAs, Ajay Chautala has outlined the programs of the party under which it was decided to intensify public relations campaign in the next three months.

Later, Development and Panchayat Minister Devender Singh Bhabli told the media here that the JJP has done more than 50 successful public outreach programs in the past two months. During this period, the programmes have been done in about 20 cities and equal number of rural circles.

Notably, both the JJP and the BJP have been non-committal on whether they would contest the 2024 Lok Sabha and Assembly polls together.

Amid talks of a possible rift, Chief Minister



Manohar Lal Khattar asserted on June 19 said the alliance was reached for public welfare, and it will continue in the future as well.

"No change has been made," he categorically told the media here, setting aside rumours of fissures between his party and alliance partner JJP.

"We are having cordial relations. We are meeting, both officially and personally. We (BJP) didn't get the adequate numbers to form the government (in 2019). Keeping in mind the aspirations of the people, we entered into an alliance with the JJP to form a stable government in Haryana," Khattar has said.

Without mincing words, he added, "The alliance is very much intact and will continue too."

Amid preparations by the BJP and the JJP to woo the electorate ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls separately, five Independent legislators last week met BJP in-charge for the state, Biplab Kumar Deb, in the national capital.

Presently, in the assembly of 90 seats, the BJP has 41 seats, the Congress 30, and the JJP 10.

While six out of seven Independents support the BJP, one member of the Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) and Haryana Lokhit Party (HLP) each are also supporting the Khattar-led government.

## Nitin Agarwal named new BSF chief

Team Absolute | New Delhi

IPS officer Nitin Agarwal has been appointed as the Director General of the Border Security Force (BSF).

A 1989 batch Kerala cadre officer, Agarwal has previously served as the Additional Director General, Operations, of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).

The BSF has been without a full-time chief since the retirement of Pankaj Singh on December 31, 2022. CRPF Director General Dr. Sujoy Lal Thaoson is holding additional charge as its chief.

According to the information available, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet appointed Agarwal as the BSF chief on Sunday night.

Agarwal will hold the post until he retires from service on July 31, 2026 or further orders.



His appointment comes during the ongoing biannual meeting with the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB).

Thaoson is currently leading the Indian delegation in the four-day meeting being held in Delhi, while Major General A.K.M. Nazmul Hasan is leading the BGB delegation. Since this meeting will conclude on June 14, Agarwal will assume the responsibilities of the BSF chief thereafter.

## Odisha train tragedy: CBI interrogates two Bahanaga railway station officials

Team Absolute | Bhubaneswar

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Monday questioned two officials of Bahanaga railway station in Odisha's Balasore district in connection to the triple-train tragedy, which left 288 persons dead and over 1,000 injured.

According to reports, the CBI officials have picked up Bahanaga Bazar Station Master and signalling officer and interrogated them in an undisclosed location in Balasore. The central agency officials are trying to find out the persons responsible for the massive tragedy. They may get some information from the two officials of the station, sources said.

A CBI team has been investigating the case since last Tuesday. The CBI officials



have examined the accident site, tracks, the signalling room, control room, etc.

It has also sealed the equipment and records of Bahanaga Bazar railway station

for investigation. So, no train stops at the station now. On the other hand, the Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS) visited the accident site on Monday where he went to the control room, signal room and signal point at Bahanaga Bazar railway station. Meanwhile, AIIMS Bhubaneswar officials have decided to preserve the unidentified 81 dead bodies till the identification process is not completed.

At least 207 of the 288 bodies have been identified and returned to their families, but remaining 81 unclaimed and unidentified bodies have been kept in containers adopting scientific procedure.

The claimants are waiting for DNA test reports. After DNA matching, the bodies will be handed over to the genuine family members, officials said.

## Tourist killed, 4 staffers injured in Pahalgam hotel fire

Srinagar: A tourist was killed and four staffers injured in a hotel fire in J&K's Pahalgam hill station on Monday, officials said.

Officials said that the tourist was identified as Bhopinder Gill, 75, from Dehra Dun.

"Three injured staffers have been discharged from the hospital while the 4th one is undergoing treatment. All the injured staffers are locals. The cause of fire is being ascertained," an official said.

"Inquest proceedings have been started in the death of tourist," the official said.

## Kejriwal accuses BJP, Congress of neglecting education for 37 years

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday accused the BJP and the Congress party of neglecting education for 37 years while inaugurating the new building of a Girls' Senior Secondary School in Uttam Nagar.

He said that this school was opened in 1985 but was operating in temporary tin sheds.

Kejriwal said that despite the BJP and Congress governments being in power for 37 years, no one took steps to improve the school.

He emphasized that his government had rebuilt the school, which was previously functioning in sub-standard conditions. The infrastructure of the new school is now better



than that of any private school.

As per Kejriwal, when his government approved the construction of a new building in January 2021, the school was operating in 48 tin sheds.

However, within a record time of 28 months, the new building was completed which consists of 41 classrooms, where 1,600 girls study.

Additionally, the school has 12 labs, 2 libraries, offices and staff rooms, activity rooms, including those for children with special needs. Each floor also has a toilet block, and a lift is installed in the main school building.

Moreover, the school boasts a multi-purpose auditorium with a seating capacity of 250 people.

## Wife ties husband to tree for taking selfie, sets him afire in Bihar village

Team Absolute | Patna

A woman in Bihar's Muzaffarpur district tied her husband to a tree, poured kerosene oil and set him on fire, an official said on Monday.

The incident happened in a village under the Sahibganj police station in the early hours of Sunday. Sources said that the accused coaxed her husband to get tied to a tree as she wanted to click a selfie. Once tied him firmly, she poured kerosene oil and set him on fire.

The villagers spotted the high flames coming from the tree and rushed to find a man shouting for help. The villagers managed to douse the flame and save his life. The villagers also nabbed the



woman and informed local police about the incident.

"We have taken the statement of the victim. He claimed that his wife tied him up on the pretext of taking a selfie and set him on fire after pouring kerosene oil. His life was saved by the villagers who spotted the fire. We have

also arrested the accused," said Rajesh Kumar, the SHO of Sahibganj police station.

The victim was initially taken to Sahebganj primary health centre and later referred to the Sri Krishna Medical College and Hospital (SKMCH) for better treatment.

## RETAIL INFLATION FALLS TO 25-MONTH LOW IN MAY AS FOOD PRICES SLIDE

Team Absolute | New Delhi

India's retail inflation, which is measured by consumer price index (CPI), fell to a 25-month-low in May, to 4.25 per cent, as food prices came down. In April, it was 4.70 per cent. Food inflation too slid to 2.91 per cent in May from 3.84 per cent in April.

According to data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation,

retail inflation was at a high of 7.04 per cent in May 2022, while food inflation was 7.97 per cent during the period.

This is the third consecutive month when CPI-based inflation has remained below the Reserve Bank of India's tolerance level, which is between 2 per cent to 6 per cent.

Prices of cereals, oil and fats, fruits, beverages as well as clothings and footwear came down in May compared to April.



## NIA RELEASES CCTV FOOTAGE OF ATTACK ON INDIAN HIGH COMMISSION IN LONDON, SEEKS PUBLIC HELP TO IDENTIFY CULPRITS

Team Absolute | New Delhi

In the latest update on the attack on the High Commission of India in London by alleged Khalistani supporters, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) released five CCTV footages of the attack on Monday and sought help from the public to identify the culprits.

The attack on the Indian Embassy took place on March 19.

"The NIA requests all members of the public to provide any information regarding the individuals seen in the footage in the interest of public safety. Information can be provided



on WhatsApp at +91 7290009373. The identity of the informant will be kept confidential," tweeted the NIA.

The Special Cell of the

Delhi Police registered an FIR in connection with the protest staged by pro-Khalistani activists at the Indian High Commission in London on March 19, during

which the Tricolour was pulled down from the premises. The NIA took over the case after the Union Ministry of Home Affairs instructed the Delhi Police to take legal

action. The FIR was registered under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code, the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, and the Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act, and an investigation has been initiated.

The British Deputy High Commissioner was also summoned by the Indian government, demanding an explanation for the complete absence of security during the protest.

The British High Commissioner, Alex Ellis, described the incident as "disgraceful" and "totally unacceptable."





# PRIYANKA GANDHI SOUNDS POLL BUGLE IN MP WITH FIVE 'TESTED' PROMISES

// Like in 2018, the then Congress President Rahul Gandhi had promised to waive off farmers loans, and the party under the leadership of Kamal Nath had managed to return to power after 15 years gap, Priyanka sounded the poll bugles with offering financial scheme of Rs 1500 per month, LPG cylinder at subsidised rate of Rs 500 along with cheaper electricity.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi on Monday kick-started party's poll campaign for Madhya Pradesh Assembly polls with five promises on the line of Himachal Pradesh and Karnataka, where it won recently.



Priyanka's rally in Jabalpur also indicated that the Congress will corner the ruling BJP highlighting scams, especially alleged corruption in Mahakal Lok corridor project.

Worth mentioning that the Congress promised to provide Rs 1500 to women (with certain conditions) under its proposed scheme 'Nari Samman Yojana' to counter the BJP's 'Ladli Bahna Yojana' launched by Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan recently. Similarly, sub-

sidised cooking gas will counter Prime Minister Narendra Modi's flagship 'Ujjwala Yojana' launched in May 2016.

Besides these, the Congress also made another major announcement for implementing the old pension

scheme (OPS) to gain support of state government employees and their families in the coming elections. The cheaper electricity is akin to the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) announced in its debut election in 2013 and since then it maintained the same in states it contested the elections.

"The Congress government in Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh and Chhattisgarh has restored the OPS. Our government in Karnataka has cleared the five guarantees (the poll promises made by the party there)," Priyanka said while addressing a mammoth poll gathering in Jabalpur on Monday.

Notably, the Congress made the similar five-point promises in

Himachal Pradesh and Karnataka and managed to uproot the BJP from both states and formed the government with absolute majority.

In her speech, Priyanka hit out at Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan-led BJP government highlighting issues like atrocities against women and tribals, unemployment, scams broke out in the past 18 years in Madhya Pradesh. Referring to collapse of Saptarishi idols in Ujjain's Mahakal Lok corridor, Priyanka said, "Shivraj government did not spare even the God."

Meanwhile, mocking the BJP's 'double-engine government' poll talk, the General Secretary said, "We have seen a lot of double and triple-engine governments, but people of Himachal and Karnataka have given a befitting reply in the polls."

# CM Chouhan meets Ladli Bahnas soon after landing on Banjari helipad in Katni district



Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, met his Ladli Bahnas who were waiting for their dear brother as soon as he landed at the helipad in Banjari of Katni district. He placed his hands on the heads of the Ladli Bahnas and blessed them to be happy and enquired about their well-being. The women welcomed Chief Minister Chouhan and showered flowers on him.

The Chief Minister was accorded a warm welcome at the helipad. The sisters were standing here with placards on which was written 'Bhaiyyaji ko dhanyavad'..... to express

their gratitude to him for the Ladli Bahna Yojana. Chief Minister Chouhan also did not disappoint his sisters and asked whether the amount of the scheme had come in everyone's account. He talked to Bahna Mamta of Rakhi Puraini village, Anita of village Kharkhari and Meerabai of Devrakala and inquired about the receipt of Rs.1000 in the bank account. The sisters told the Chief Minister that the money sent by you has come into my account. The Chief Minister placed his hand on the head of Anju Burman, a resident of Pathak Ward of Katni Nagar and said - khush raho Bahna, sab theek hai. On this, Anju said that everything is fine with a brother like you.

# Indore Civic Body workers beat 3 for littering on road, Police case filed

Team Absolute | Indore

Three men were severely beaten up allegedly by some municipal workers in Indore, the cleanest city in the country, over a dispute after they were told to pay a fine of Rs 10,000 for throwing garbage on the road, police said on Monday.

The video of the incident, which occurred late Sunday night in the central Kotwali area, has gone viral.

"Three people injured in the incident alleged that the municipal staff demanded Rs 10,000 in fine from them claiming they littered the road and brutally assaulted

them when they protested," Assistant Commissioner of Police V P Sharma told media on Monday.

A case has been registered against four municipal workers and their associates under sections 323 (Punishment for voluntarily causing hurt.), 341 (Punishment for wrongful restraint), 294 (obscene act) and 506 (criminal intimidation) of the Indian Penal Code and medical examination of the injured men was conducted, Sharma said.

Based on a cross-complaint lodged by municipal staff, a case has also been registered against the injured

trio for assault and other charges, the ACP said, adding the investigation is underway.

Nikhil Verma, vice president of the Indore unit of Youth Congress, claimed the video clip shows that municipal workers assaulted the three men with sticks and kicked and punched them though they fell unconscious.

"Still, the police have booked the corporation employees on the mild charge of assault," he alleged and threatened to stage a protest if section 307 (attempt to murder) of IPC is not added to the FIR against the concerned civic employees.

# SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME OF 40 THOUSAND DOLLARS PER YEAR FOR HIGHER EDUCATION ABROAD

Bhopal : Applications are being invited from the talented students of general/unreserved category in the state for the scholarship scheme 2023-24 for the post graduate and PhD degree abroad. The last date for submission of applications has been fixed as 26 June 2023.

In the scholarship scheme, a provision has been made by the government to send talented students of general and unreserved category abroad for higher education. In this, the state government will bear the fees of the students selected for higher education abroad on the basis of merit whose family's income is not income tax payable.

# Family members planted saplings with CM Chouhan on birthday of daughters

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted saplings of Peepal, Badam (Almond) and Guava in the garden at Shyamla Hills. Along with Chief Minister Chouhan, family members planted saplings on the birthday of daughter Aarna Kulshrestha and daughter Saumya Yadav. CM Chouhan showed affection on the daughters by taking them in his lap and wished them a happy, healthy and successful life. Gajraj Kushwaha also planted saplings on his birthday. with CM Chouhan.

Other persons who planted saplings with Chief Minister Chouhan included Pulkit Kulshrestha, Purujit Kulshrestha,



Gyanendra, Shiva, Pankaj Kulshrestha, Apoorva Kulshrestha, Neeta Kulshrestha, Seema also participated in plantation. Aryan

Kushwaha, Babulal, Aditya Kumar Barange, Kiran Bala Barange and Aishwarya Yadav also planted saplings.

# Monsoon's movement slow, will enter MP within 15 days

Bhopal: The movement of monsoon has slowed down after its entry in Kerala. For this reason, its entry in Madhya Pradesh can be done only after 10 to 12 days. Before this, there will be intense heat in the state. Meteorologists have said that the next 2 to 3 days will be hot. Some relief is expected after June 15. However, light rain is also expected in some cities on Monday.



Senior meteorologist HS Pandey told that cyclone 'Biparjoy' and trough line are also passing over South East UP. Due to this, light rain may occur in Satna, Sidhi, Rewa, Singrauli, Betul, Khargone, Barwani, Alirajpur, Jhabua, Burhanpur, Dhar, Dewas and Chhindwara in the next 24 hours. However, the rain activity is not much. The effect of strong heat will continue for the next two to three days. After this the temperature will drop.

Meteorologist Pandey told that right now the monsoon is moving north. Due to slow movement, the wait for monsoon in the state may increase by 10 to 12 days. Accordingly, monsoon will enter MP only after June 20.

# MP hijab row: 3 including principal of Ganga Jamna school arrested

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Three persons including the principal of Damoh-based Ganga Jamna Higher Secondary School, where a controversy erupted over Hindu girl students allegedly being forced to wear hijab-like headscarves, have been arrested, the police said on Monday.

The arrested individuals have been identified as Afsa Sheikh (school principal), Anas Atahar (mathematics teacher) and Rustam Ali (security guard).

They were arrested after a raid was conducted, the police said. He further stated the three were arrested on the basis of statements of 6-7 witnesses, mainly of the school students and their family members.

The arrested individuals were later presented at a court which sent them to judicial custody.

Meanwhile, Madhya Pradesh Home Minister Narottam Mishra has claimed that the accused involved in the alleged 'religious



conversion' issue in a Damoh-based school are being detained by the police. He also indicated that the state administration is likely to carry out a 'bulldozer operation' against the Damoh-based Ganga Jamna school where the controversy broke out with a poster of girl student toppers in hijab, which has now turned out to be an alleged 'religious conversion'. A FIR against the school management was lodged a few days back.

# Can't compete with Shivraj's 'drama': Kamal Nath

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh Congress chief Kamal Nath said he can't compete with Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan's skills of dancing, acting and making fake promises but he can compete when it comes to speaking truth.

The former Chief Minister made this remark while addressing a poll rally in Jabalpur on Monday.

AICC general secretary Priyanka Gandhi, Rajya Sabha MP Digvijaya Singh and Madhya Pradesh in-charge J.P. Agrawal were also present.

Kamal Nath said that the BJP government has destroyed the future of youths due to a number of scams.

"In 2018, when I became Chief Minister, I found that the BJP has emptied the entire public money. There were so many challenges



before me, but I had started tackling them one after another, but they (BJP) hatched a conspiracy and toppled our government. I too could have bargained to save my government, but didn't do so because I do not do such politics. They (BJP) have created bad image of Madhya Pradesh because of corruptions, bargains, unemployment, etc," Kamal Nath said.

He further asserted that religion is the subject of thought and not of the advertisement what the BJP is doing. Meanwhile, Kamal Nath reiterated his old statement - 'Mai Hindu hun, lekin Murkh Nahi Hun' (I am a Hindu but not a fool). Kamal Nath appealed to people of Madhya Pradesh to understand the hidden agenda of the BJP not to fall under its trap.

# Parents perform last rites of daughter after interfaith marriage in Jabalpur

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Upset over their daughter marrying a man from different religion, her parents in Madhya Pradesh's Jabalpur performed last rites and disowned her.

The Jabalpur family performed 'pind-dan' and 'mrityu bhoj' in the name of their alive daughter.

The family also distributed condolence cards to inform relatives and the members of the society about the 'death' of their daughter on April 2'.

Jabalpur-based Brahmin family on Sunday reached Gwarighat of holy river Narmada where they performed the last rites and other post-death rituals.

The family did this soon after a marriage reception party was organised by the woman's in-laws. Already upset with interfaith marriage, the family felt humiliated after seeing the invitation card of the post-marriage reception party,



which mentioned that "Hindu girl became Muslim." Upset with the developments,

the woman's family staged a protest at Jabalpur district SP office, which was supported by right wing Dharma Sabha. The family alleged that the marriage was conducted under the conspiracy of 'love jihad'.

However, according to the district administration, the couple got married on January 4. Administration also claimed that both families were informed about the marriage before its registration. However, the woman's mother told the press that her daughter had 'deceived' the family by getting married without their knowledge. Local police also released a statement confirming that the "marriage had occurred with the consent of both families. It also stated that the woman's family had even provided various gifts for the wedding."

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**DEMAND NOTICE**  
 (under Rule 3 (1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002)  
 SUBSTITUTED SERVICE OF NOTICE U/s 13 (2) OF SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the borrowers as mentioned below that since they have defaulted in repayment of the Credit facility availed by them from Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited (ABHFL), their loan accounts have been classified as Non-Performing Assets in the books of the Company as per RBI guidelines thereto. Thereafter, ABHFL has issued demand notices under section 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (SARFAESI Act) on the last known addresses of the said borrowers thereby calling upon and demanding from them to repay the entire outstanding amount together with further interest at the contractual rate on the aforesaid amount and incidental expenses, cost, charges etc. as stated in the said demand notices. However, the demand notice is also being served by way of publication, as per Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (SARFAESI Rules):

Sl. No.	Name and Address Borrower/ Co-Borrower and Guarantor / Co-Guarantor & Loan A/C No.	NPA Date	Date of Demand Notice	Amount due as per Demand Notice / as on Date
1	1. POOJA MAKWANA, (In The Capacity Of Available Legal Heir Of Late Monti Makwana) Plot No. 114, Village Gadrakhedi Tehsil, Shahid Hemu Colony, Near Kamla Nehru Colony, Indore, Madhya Pradesh 452015. 2. POOJA MAKWANA Plot No. 114, Village Gadrakhedi Tehsil, Shahid Hemu Colony, Near Kamla Nehru Colony, Indore, Madhya Pradesh 452015. 3. GAURA COLLECTION Plot No. 114, Village Gadrakhedi Tehsil, Shahid Hemu Colony, Near Kamla Nehru Colony, Indore, Madhya Pradesh 452015. 4. POOJA MAKWANA (In The Capacity Of Available Legal Heir Of Late Monti Makwana) Plot No. 38, Shahid Hemu Colony, Indore, Madhya Pradesh 452006. 5. POOJA MAKWANA Ward No. 14, Khategaon, Dewas, Madhya Pradesh 455336. 6. GAURA COLLECTION Shop No. 10, Pahadia Complex, 227 Tlak Path, Indore, Madhya Pradesh 452001. 7. POOJA MAKWANA Plot No. 38, Shahid Hemu Colony, Indore, Madhya Pradesh 452006. 8. GAURA COLLECTION Plot No. 38, Shahid Hemu Colony, Indore, Madhya Pradesh 452006. Loan Account No. LNINDPHL-02200065342 & LNINDPHL-02200065341	10.03.2023	09.06.2023 Old notice dated 20.08.2021 & 16.03.2023 withdrawn. This publication to be treated as effective notice.	Rs. 30,96,278.82/- (Rupees Thirty Lakh Ninety Six Thousand Two Hundred Seventy Eight and Eighty Two Paise Only) by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 05.06.2023.

**DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY/PROPERTIES MORTGAGED:** All That Piece And Parcel Of Plot No. 114, Admeasuring 600 Sq. Ft., I.E. 55.76 Sq. Mtr., Situated In Village Gadrakhedi, Shahid Hemu Colony Nagar, Tehsil & Dist Indore, Madhya Pradesh-452015, And Bounded: North: Road South: Plot No. 107 East: Plot No. 115 West: Plot No. 113.

We hereby call upon the borrower stated herein to pay us within 60 days from the date of this notice, the outstanding amount (s) together with further interest thereon plus cost, charges, expenses, etc. thereto failing which we shall be at liberty to enforce the security interest including but not limited to taking possession of and selling the secured asset entirely at your risk as to the cost and consequences.

Please note that as per section 13(13) of the SARFAESI Act, all of you are prohibited from transferring by way of sale, lease or otherwise, the aforesaid secured assets without prior written consent of the Company. Any contravention of the said section by you shall invoke the penal provisions as laid down under section 29 of the SARFAESI Act and / or any other legal provision in this regard.

Please note that as per sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, if the dues of ABHFL together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred by ABHFL are tendered to ABHFL at any time before the date fixed for sale or transfer, the secured asset shall not be sold or transferred by ABHFL, and no further step shall be taken by ABHFL or transfer or sale of that secured asset.

Date: 13.06.2023  
 Place: INDORE  
 Sd/- Authorised Officer  
 (Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited)





EDITOR'S SPECS

### Cong takes indirect jibe at PM over BJP leaders praising Godse

The Congress on Saturday slammed BJP leaders for praising Mahatma Gandhi's assassin Nathuram Godse and indirectly referred to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, saying "he turned Bapu's spectacles into a logo for Swachh Bharat, but takes no action to pull up his colleagues". Congress General Secretary Jairam Ramesh tweeted, "First it is a former CM of Uttarakhand, Trivendra Singh Rawat, who calls Nathuram Godse a patriot. Now Union Minister Giriraj Singh praises him. But the man who turned the Mahatma's spectacles into a logo for Swachh Bharat -- a rebrand of the earlier Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan -- says nothing and takes no action to pull up his colleagues." His remarks came after Giriraj Singh said on Friday, "If Godse is Gandhi's killer, he is also the nation's son. He was born in India, and he was not an invader like Aurangzeb or Babar. Whosoever feels happy to be called the son of Babar, that person can't be the son of Bharat Mata." Singh made the remarks while talking to reporters at Dantewada in Chhattisgarh. Earlier, former Uttarakhand Chief Minister and BJP leader Trivendra Singh Rawat had triggered a controversy after he dubbed Godse as a patriot during his visit to Ballia in Uttar Pradesh. Speaking to reporters on Wednesday, Rawat had said, "Gandhi ji was killed. That is a different issue. But as far as I have understood and read Godse, he too was a patriot. We do not agree with the killing of Gandhi ji." Rawat had also termed Godse a patriot while mocking Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for "merely" sharing the surname with the father of the nation.

# NEW HIGHS WAIT SEEMS GETTING LONGER

Arun Kejriwal

Markets in the week gone by made a valiant attempt to make new lifetime highs but failed. The top five-six heavyweight stocks in the benchmark indices need to fire on all cylinders at the same time for something like that to happen. That is the missing piece. However, the midcap and Smallcap indices are firing away and continue to make new highs.

Markets saw the benchmark indices rise on two of the five trading sessions. They lost on two, and the fifth was a flatfish day. At the end of it, BSESENSEX inched up 78.52 points or 0.13 per cent to close at 62,625.63 points while NIFTY gained 29.30 points or 0.16 per cent to close at 18,563.40 points. The broader markets saw BSE100, BSE200 and BSE500 gain 0.17 per cent, 0.29 per cent and 0.40 per cent respectively. BSEMIDCAP gained 0.82 per cent while BSESMALLCAP was up 1.64 per cent.

The Indian Rupee lost 16 paise or 0.19 per cent to close at Rs 82.46 to the US Dollar. The US FED meets between June 13 and 14 for its policy review meeting where there could be a small interest rate hike before a pause begins. This would be because the last job data showed that unemployment rose in the country. How the Dow reacts to the FED statement would influence world markets. Dow Jones gained on the last four sessions continuously and lost on one session. Dow Jones gained 114.02 points or 0.34 per cent to close at 33,876.78 points.

RBI in its bimonthly policy meet kept interest rates unchanged. Repo rate remains at 6.5 per cent. RBI has conveyed its intention to tackle inflation and make best efforts to bring the same down. The differential between the Repo rate in India and the US Fed rate would probably be the lowest ever in over 25-35 years that I have understood such interest rates and what they mean. The rupee needs to show strength and start appreciating slowly so that the forward cover comes down as we go forward. This would be a big help.

The IPO from Iktio Lighting which was open between Tuesday (June 6) and Thursday (June 8) fared very well and beat all expectations. The issue which comprised a fresh issue of Rs 350 crore and an offer for sale of 90 lakh shares was over-subscribed 67.75 times overall. The QIB portion was subscribed 163.06 times, HNI portion was subscribed 65.38 times and Retail portion was subscribed 14.30 times. There were 16.33 lakh applications received. The price band was Rs 270-285.

The benchmark indices had made their lifetime highs on December 1, 2022 and we are trying to make new highs once again but failed to do so. At the same time action which is concentrated in the midcap and Smallcap space has moved these indices to new levels altogether. BSEMIDCAP on December 1 made a high of 26,146 points and then saw a high of 26,440 points on December 15. It hit a low of 23,356 points on March 28 and since then has been moving in an uptrend virtually non-stop. The high made last week was 27,847 points. The difference between December 1, 2022 and today is 1,700 points or 6.5 per cent.

BSESMALLCAP has had a similar movement as well with the December 1 level being 29,816 points, and then saw a high



of 30,092 points on December 15. The 28th March low was 26,120 and the high during the week was 31,391 points. The difference being 1,576 points or 5.28 per cent. This is a segment where FPIs are active in a handful of stocks only and even domestic mutual funds are selective. Public participation is large and markets are doing well.

Coming to the markets in the week ahead, the outcome of the FED meeting would play an important role. There is expectation of a rate hike this time around. Markets would continue to strive to make new highs and as mentioned earlier the attempt can only be successful if the heavyweights fire. Two of them are getting ready. The first being Reliance with the impending corporate announcement of the demerger of the financial services record date. The second would be the

timeline of the HDFC Twins merger record date. Both these companies have the potential to provide the boost that the markets are looking for.

The strategy for the week would be to look for action in the midcap and Smallcap space. Sharp movement looks unlikely and besides the FED meeting, corporate announcement as mentioned above, the only trigger could be the break of moonsoon in large parts of the country. Trade cautiously.

(Arun Kejriwal is the founder of Kejriwal Research and Investment Services. The views expressed are personal)

## international

# WE NEED GLOBAL COOPERATION ON AI, GLOBAL AI SAFETY SUMMIT SOON: RISHI SUNAK

London | Agencies

Artificial intelligence (AI) doesn't respect traditional national borders so we urgently need global cooperation between nations and labs, UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said on Monday.

Addressing the 'London Tech Week 2023' here, he said that he wants to make the UK not just the intellectual home but the geographical home of global AI safety regulation.

"Just as we unite through the Conference of the Parties (COP) to tackle climate change, the UK will host the first ever Summit on global AI Safety later this year," the Prime Minister announced.

"It's great to be back at London Tech Week at what I think is a moment of huge opportunity."

According to him, when the tectonic plates of technology are shifting -- not just in AI, but in quantum, synthetic biology, semiconductors, and much more -- "we cannot rest, satisfied with where we stand".



"We must act - and act quickly - if we want not only to retain our position as one of the world's tech capitals but to go even further and make this the best country in the world to start, grow, and invest in tech businesses," he emphasised. AI has helped the paralysed to walk and discover superbug-killing antibiotics. "Combined with the computational power of quantum we could be on

the precipice of discovering cures for diseases like cancer and dementia or ways to grow crops that could feed the entire world," said Sunak.

However, people are concerned about the safety of AI.

"The very pioneers of AI are warning us about the ways these technologies could undermine our values and freedoms through to the most extreme risks of all. And that's why leading on AI also means leading on AI safety," Sunak noted.

"So, we're building a new partnership between our vibrant academia, brilliant AI companies, and a government that gets it," he added.

With 100 million pounds for its expert taskforce, the UK is dedicating more funding to AI safety than any other government.

The UK has already invested record sums including 900 million pounds in compute technology and 2.5 billion pounds in quantum technology.

"AI can help us achieve the holy grail of public service reform: better, more efficient services," he added.

# Kim Jong-un vows stronger strategic ties with Russia

seoul | Agencies

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has voiced his willingness to build closer strategic ties with Russia in his congratulatory message to Russian President Vladimir Putin on Moscow's key national holiday, Pyongyang's state media said on Monday.

In the message sent on the occasion of Russia Day, Kim said friendly relations between the North and Russia are a "precious strategic asset" and his country will make efforts to ceaselessly develop such cooperative ties, according to the North's official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA).

Russia Day is celebrated on June 12 to mark the adoption of the Declaration of State Sovereignty of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic in 1990, reports Yonhap News Agency.

The North's leader affirmed "his willingness to strive for closer strategic cooperation between the DPRK and Russia", the KCNA said in an English-language dispatch, using the acronym of the North's full name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Kim said the Russian people's struggle to counter hostile forces' move to deprive Moscow of its sovereignty and security has entered a "new decisive phase" and his



people are extending "full support and solidarity" for Russia, the KCNA added. Kim's message appears to reaffirm the North's support of Russia in Moscow's war with Ukraine. The North has been strengthening its close ties with Russia despite international condemnation over the war, amid allegations that Pyongyang has provided arms to Moscow for use in the war.

### THOUSANDS OF DEAD FISH WASH ASHORE IN TEXAS

Houston: Thousands of dead fish have washed ashore on a beach along the Gulf Coast of the US state of Texas, local media reported.

The dead fish were found at the far end of Bryan Beach, near the mouth of the Brazos River, some 9.7 km down the coast from Quintana Beach County Park, said officials of the beachfront park located on the upper Gulf Coast.

The park officials, who published photos showing scores of dead fish floating in the coastal waters starting on Friday, said the combination of shallow waters and lack of sunlight created the "perfect storm" to deplete oxygen levels inshore, reports Xinhua news agency.

Despite ongoing cleanup efforts, thousands more fish are expected to wash ashore, local media reported.

# 19 al-Shabab militants killed in Somalia

Mogadishu | Agencies

The Somali National Army have killed 19 al-Shabab militants during an operation in the lower Shabelle region of southern Somalia, officials said.

Somali National News Agency quoting army officials on Sunday said the operation was jointly conducted by Somali troops and their international partners, culminating in the destruction of vehicles and weapons belonging to al-Shabab fighters, Xinhua news agency reported.

The agency added



that the operation is still going on but the al-Shabab militants are yet to comment on the latest military operation in southern Somalia.

# HINDU MINOR IN PAKISTAN FORCIBLY CONVERTED

New Delhi | Agencies

The heart-wrenching tale of 14-year-old Sohana Sharma Kumari, a Hindu minor girl who was converted to Islam in Pakistan's Sindh province, has come to light.

Sukhi Chahal, Founder and CEO of The Khalsa Today said, in a tweet that Sohana was abducted at gunpoint in Benazirabad district after which she was subjected "to the unthinkable -- forced conversion to Islam and marriage".

"The pain her father, Dilip Kumar, must endure is unimaginable. Helpless, he watches as his daughter is condemned to a life of suffering," Chahal tweeted. "The court's refusal to reunite Sohana with her anguished family deepens the wounds of injustice. This heinous act symbolizes the darkest depths of a society that has lost its moral compass. How can we bear witness to such atrocities and stay silent? Where are the voices of the so-called human rights activists, who claim to



champion justice? Does humanity still exist, or have we lost sight of

compassion and empathy?" Chahal added.



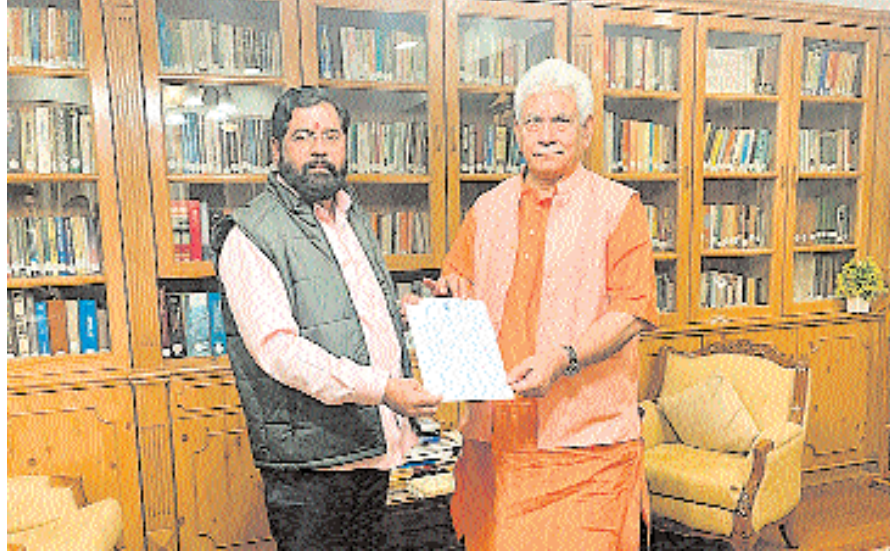


# CM dreams of Maharashtra Bhavan in Kashmir, Pune NGO 'Sarhad' ready to help

Team Absolute | Srinagar/Mumbai

Chief Minister Eknath Shinde has urged the administration of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir to provide a plot of land to construct a 'Maharashtra Bhavan' to boost ties between the people, an official said here. Shinde, on a tour of Kashmir last weekend, called on the Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha to convey his request via a letter on Sunday. A prominent NGO, Sarhad, Founder Sanjay Nahar said that his organisation had made a similar proposal at least 10 years ago, but it was kept in cold storage as it could kick up similar demands from other states in the country. "We are ready for the project even today... Our only condition is that the Maharashtra Bhavan in Srinagar shall be run and managed by Kashmiri Muslim youth... They want to repay a debt to this state which has always hosted them and helped them in dire times," Nahar told reporter. In his letter, the visiting CM told the Lt. Governor that in view of the growing tourism and cultural

exchanges, plus enhancing economic and social ties, such an institution will be beneficial to people on both sides. He said the Maharashtra Bhavan in Srinagar will not only provide accommodation facilities to tourists from this state, but provide a glimpse of the state, its rich arts, culture and cuisine for the people of Jammu & Kashmir. The institution could also be used as a major hub for students, entrepreneurs, senior officials to strengthen ties between the state and the UT. Shinde assured that if a suitable piece of land is provided, the state government will construct a Maharashtra Bhavan keeping in mind the culture and environment of J&K. The ruling ally Bharatiya Janata Party leaders have welcomed the CM's proposal for setting up a Maharashtra Bhavan in J&K and said it would further cement ties with the UT.



## NAVI MUMBAI MAN ARRESTED FOR USING AURANGZEB'S PICTURE ON SOCIAL MEDIA PROFILE

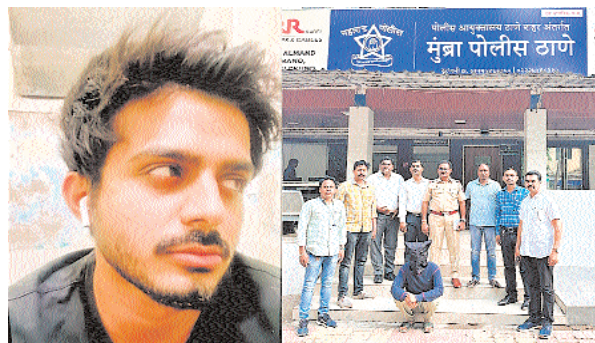
Team Absolute | Mumbai

An FIR was registered by Navi Mumbai police against a man for allegedly using Mughal emperor Aurangzeb's image as his Whatsapp profile picture after the issue was raised by a Hindu organisation, an official said on Sunday. Police arrested the man in Vashi, who works in an outlet of a mobile service provider. He was allowed to go and a notice was issued to him. The screenshot of Aurangzeb's profile picture was submitted to the police by a Hindu organisation, leading to registration of the case under sections 298 (Uttering words, etc, with deliberate intent to wound religious feelings) and 153-A (Promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence) of the Indian Penal Code, the official said. Further investigation is underway, he added.

# Thane court grants transit remand to Ghaziabad 'conversion' accused

Team Absolute | Thane

After his arrest, Shah Nawaz Khan, alias Baddo -- prime accused in the alleged 'conversion case through gaming app' -- was granted a transit remand and ordered to be produced before the Ghaziabad court in Uttar Pradesh within three days, officials said here on Monday. Shortly after the court orders, the Mumbai Police (Thane), which had tracked and nabbed Khan, 23, from a resort in Alibaug (Raigad), handed him over to the Ghaziabad Police four-man team camping here for the past six days. Absconding since several days after the alleged conversion racket erupted, Khan was reportedly in touch with some children who were targeted through a gaming App, 'Fortnite'. Following complaints of this and other alleged 'conversions through App scam', the Kavinagar Police Station of Ghaziabad lodged an FIR on



May 30 against Khan, a youth said to be a resident of Devripada in Thane and engaged in a cosmetics business. The complaint contended that Khan had sold computer gadgets to a minor Jain boy in Ghaziabad, then befriended him through regular chats, later made the juvenile

recite Quranic verses and allegedly brainwashed him with videos of the fugitive evangelist, Zakir Naik of Mumbai. The minor boy soon started visiting a local mosque in Ghaziabad to offer 'namaz' five times daily, shocking his family members and others, sparking a huge furore. Following the complaint, the Ghaziabad Police swung into action, nabbed Abdul Rehman, a cleric linked to the alleged 'conversion' racket and were on the lookout for Khan who was said to be hiding in Mumbai and then moved to Raigad. A techie studying in a junior college, Khan evaded the police teams but using tech-intel, the investigators finally zeroed in on him to a resort in Alibaug where he was holed up with his brother and arrested him on Sunday (June 11).

# Mumbai Airport's 2nd runway gets a new 'carpet' for safety, efficiency

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport here has completed the six-month long 're-carpeting' project of its secondary runway 14/32, enhancing the operational efficiency and maintaining higher safety standards for air travel, an official said here on Monday. The CSMA operates one of the busiest single-crossover runways in the world -- secondary runway 14/32 and the main runway 09/27 -- handling an average of 950 flights daily and it is imperative for the runways to be kept in optimal conditions for continuous and safe landing/take-off of aircraft.



Accordingly, the re-carpeting project was taken up on December 9, 2022, and completed as per scheduled on June 10, just as the monsoon sets in, giving a meticulously structured approach to ensure smooth and efficient operations for the secondary runway. Around 200 personnel comprising engineers and workers toiled daily for the

project and the runway was closed for up to 12 hours daily, following a comprehensive schedule to complete the re-carpeting within the deadline, said the official. The work involved a runway length of 2,210 metres excluding the intersection portion, and a breadth of 75 metres, and the upgradation of all the stressed portions by laying some 72,500 tonnes of asphalt. The Adani Group-owned CSMA adopted the widely-acclaimed 'Mill & Fill' technique for Runway 14/32 comprising carefully orchestrated steps that include precise removal of existing Airfield Ground Lighting fittings by core cutting, core filling with quick-set concrete, etc.

# Shiv Sena (UBT) to Maha CM, DyCM: Apologise for 'caning' Varkaris

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Shiv Sena (UBT) on Monday demanded that Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy CM Devendra Fadnis tender an apology to the people of Maharashtra for the unprovoked police caning on the pilgrims taking part in the annual pilgrimage of Saint Dnyanesh Maharaj from Alandi to Pandharpur. Sena (UBT) MP and Chief Spokesperson Sanjay Raut said that both Shinde-Fadnis must apologise to the people and the Varkaris (as the pilgrims are known) for the caning incident at Alandi. "The CM performs the annual pooja at the Pandharpur Temple... This kind of treatment is an insult to the people and the Varkaris who were going on their annual pilgrimage from Alandia Unless the CM apologises, he has no right to perform the special pooja," said Raut sternly. However, Fadnis and the police have flatly denied that there was any 'lathi-charge' and claimed it was a



minor scuffle with some Varkaris who were allegedly attempting to barge inside the temple on Sunday afternoon, sparking a huge political row. Congress state President Nana Patole, Chief Spokesperson Atul Londhe, NCP Working President Supriya Sule, state NCP President Jayant Patil, Leader of Opposition Ajit Pawar, Chief Spokesperson Mahesh Tapase, Sena (UBT)'s Raut, Sushma Andhare and other leaders have slammed the state government for the caning of the Varkaris. Social media posts and TV clips show police personnel and some Varkaris in a tussle, with the cops resorting to a mild caning to deter the restless crowd, as over 8,00,000 devotees had gathered there for the annual

event. Some eyewitness reports said around 300-plus members of the Warkari Prashikshan Sanstha attempted to enter the sanctum sanctorum of the temple but were prevented by the police, leading to heated exchanges. The pilgrimage involves a palanquin of Sant Dnyaneshwar Maharaj being taken in a long religious procession from Alandi (Pune) to Pandharpur (Solapur). Pimpri-Chinchwad Police Commissioner Vinay Choubey and DCP Vivek Patil and other government officials contended that there was "no caning" of any devotees and the police had merely requested the Varkaris to avoid entering the temple without permission as the space in the sanctum sanctorum is very small. As a precaution to avoid a near-stampede situation experienced last year, this year the authorities have restricted up to 75 member-devotees only per 'dindi' (palanquin procession), and passes have also been issued accordingly by the organisers.

# Two 167-year-old British-era cannons, that once protected Mumbai, 'deployed' again (Anchor)

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Two mid 19th-century British East India Company-era cannons, installed to protect Mumbai, have now been refurbished and now adorn two parks, officials said on Monday. The sturdy steel cannons, both over 3 metres long with the inscription 1856, denoting the year they were cast, were part of many installed by the British rulers to protect the then Bombay, from any sea-ward aggression via the Arabian Sea. These two were unearthed in the Lions Children's Park at Ghatkopar, an eastern suburb a few years ago, among others that had been found in different parts of the country's commercial capital. Following instructions of BMC Commissioner I.S. Chahal and Additional Municipal Commissioner Ashwini Bhide, the two guns were given a meticulous make-over by the BMC's Heritage Conservation Cell. The fully restored magnificent cannons have been installed on befitting pedestals at the Dr K.B. Hedgewar Garden in



Ghatkopar west and the Lions Children's Park in Ghatkopar east, said Parks Superintendent Jitendra Pardeshi. Chief Engineer Vijay Nighot said that after the guns were found several years ago, a special proposal was sent to Heritage Conservation Cell to afford the cannons a makeover for the modern generation. Both cannons are of the British times, with each being 3.10 metres long, and having a 0.64 metre diameter while circumference of their wheels is 1.17 metres. They bear the

words 'NCPC' engraved on them with the year of manufacture, said Nighot. After conducting proper research into their antecedents, the majestic guns were given a facelift and mounted on platforms resembling bastions of forts, to give the people a glimpse of their glorious history. Now, the two historical artefacts have proved to be extremely popular among young and old alike visiting the two parks daily with many posing for selfies or clicking pictures and videos, said Pardeshi.

# Mumbai murder victim's sister breaks down on seeing pics of her long hair

Team Absolute | Mumbai

One of the sisters of 32-year-old Saraswati Vaidya, who was allegedly killed and chopped into pieces by her 56-year-old live-in partner Manoj Sane, got emotional after seeing a photograph of Vaidya's long hair that the accused had cut and kept on the kitchen platform in their flat. According to Mira-Bhayandar, Vasai-Virar Police, she broke down while recording her statement. During their investigation into Ms Vaidya's death, police found out that she has four sisters and three of them recorded their statements. Vaidya's sisters confronted accused Manoj Sane for the first time after the murder and police said they were all furious and urged the police to make such a strong case that he gets the strictest punishment. One of the sisters, after seeing a photograph of Vaidya's long hair, broke down and recalled she used to love her long hair, police said. During the course of the investigation as police scanned Sane's mobile, they found that the accused used to watch porn on a regular basis and had jotted down some porn sites names on a paper which was also recovered by the



police. Police said that they will soon interrogate Manoj Sane by him making him sit in front of Vaidya's sisters and a cross-examination of his answers will be done. Police officials said that the accused was being questioned for several hours daily, but he kept changing his statements. Police said that after allegedly murdering Vaidya, he had taken pictures of the body and also did many Google searches to find out how to dispose of the body. The accused has made Google searches to gather information about what should be done to avoid the foul smell coming from a dead body and bought five bottles of Nilgiri oil from a shop in his area. On June

4, after the murder, the accused had bought an electric wood cutter (tree cutter) from a local hardware shop, which he used to chop down the body parts. The chain of this saw had come off during use, and after that, he took it to for repair to the same shop from where he had bought it. As Sane had cleaned the cutter completely, no one got any clue of what work he was using the machine. Police said it will send the DNA samples of Vaidya and her close relatives to the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) today. As the accused has accepted that he married Ms Vaidya in a temple in Borivali, police are trying to verify the location of the temple and the priest who got them married. Along with this, the police will be looking for any other witnesses of their marriage. It has come to light that the couple had hidden their marriage from their acquaintances due to their age difference. Manoj Sane had been staying with Vaidya in the rental flat in the Akashganga building in Mira Road area over the past three years.

# 'DEFAMATORY' REMARKS FOR PM: MUMBAI COURT EXTENDS INTERIM RELIEF FOR RAHUL GANDHI

Team Absolute | Mumbai

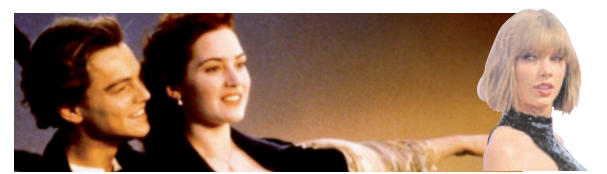
The Bombay High Court on Monday extended till August 2 the interim relief granted to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi from appearance before a court here in a defamation complaint on his alleged remarks against Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2018. The complainant, who claims to be a BJP worker, had alleged that Gandhi's "commander-in-thief" remark in the context of the Rafale fighter jet deal amounted to defamation. A single bench of Justice SV Kotwal adjourned the hearing on the plea filed by Rahul Gandhi challenging the summons issued to him by the local court in 2021 after the complainant's lawyer sought time. "The interim relief granted earlier to continue till August 2," Justice Kotwal said. Earlier, Rahul Gandhi was directed by the local court to appear before it in November 2021 in a defamation complaint filed by Mahesh Shrishrimal. Gandhi then approached the High Court, challenging the summons issued to him. The high court in November 2021 directed the magistrate to



defer hearing on the defamation complaint, which meant the Congress leader would not be required to appear before the magistrate. Since then, hearing on Gandhi's plea has been adjourned from time to time and the interim relief granted to him was also extended. The magistrate initiated criminal proceedings against Gandhi in August 2019. However, the Congress leader in his petition before the high court claimed that he learned about the same only in July 2021. The complainant alleged that Gandhi made defamatory

statements against PM Modi at a rally held in Rajasthan in September 2018. As per the complaint, four days later (after the rally), Rahul Gandhi purportedly commented on a video and posted on his personal Twitter account: "The sad truth about India's commander in thief." The complainant alleged that Gandhi was making "defamatory statements against Modi and by calling him 'Commander in Thief' made a direct allegation of theft against all members of BJP and Indian citizens connected to PM Modi".





## Singer Lana Del Rey quits Instagram

Los Angeles | Agencies

The 'Summertime Sadness' hitmaker Lana Del Rey has said that she no longer requires to use the social media platform Instagram as her tour dates have been published and her dad Rob Grant's record 'Lost at Sea' - on which she features on two songs, 'Hollywood Bowl' and the title track - has been released.

The singer-songwriter announced on her Instagram Story: "Thank you so much for everything. Now that Robas record is out and now you know where I am touring this account is closing. Good luck and love u", reported Female First UK.

Lana previously quit the platform back in 2021 in order to focus on "other jobs" that required "privacy and transparency".

As per Female First UK, she explained in a video post at the time: "Hi guys, I just wanted to let you know that tomorrow we are going to be deactivating our social media accounts, my social media accounts. That is simply because I have so many interests, and other jobs I'm doing that require privacy and transparency."

The 'Blue Jeans' singer assured fans she will continue to work on her music, poetry and spoken word albums, but is also "going on some different endeavours. I'm still very present and love what I do. I am absolutely here for the music".



## BRITNEY IS HEARTBROKEN OVER REPORT CLAIMING FAMILY, EX FEAR SHE'S TAKING METH

Los Angeles | Agencies

Britney Spears' rambling outbursts on social media have caused concerns amongst her fans, and Kevin Federline, the father of her two sons, admitted that he lives in fear of getting a phone call giving him "devastating news."

But, the singer has said that she is heartbroken over a report her family and ex-husband fear she is taking crystal meth, reports Female First UK. Hours after the story broke, Britney said in a long Instagram post: "The fact that people are claiming things that are not true is so sad ... This may not even be them saying such things because it doesn't make any sense to me for them to be saying that. With Preston saying 'she needs to listen to us before it's too late.' Do you remember every visit you came to my home, you went into your room and locked the door ??? She further mentioned: "I never saw you guys. Jayden played the piano and we made music together. But the day I told him I wanted to see you guys more, I never saw you again. It makes me sad because I tried so hard to make things nice for you and it was never good enough. So you guys go behind my back and talk about me a it breaks my heart and the news is so low. I've always felt like the news bullies me. It's sad because everyone sits back as if that's ok to make up lies to that extent ... Why am I told I have to sit back and rise above ??? When they all go so low ??? Hopefully it is just the news being hateful and Kevin nor Preston said any of those things either way I will be fine working out to Throb !!!"



'Guardians Of The Galaxy Vol.3' surpasses \$800 million at global box office

Los Angeles | Agencies

'Guardians Of The Galaxy Vol.3' continues its winning streak at the box office. In just a month, the movie has surpassed the total gross of the first movie, earning \$805 million and is likely to surpass the second one, making it one of the highest grossing films of Marvel Cinematic Universe.

MCU's 'Guardians Of The Galaxy' franchise has been loved by fans and critics alike. The movies are full of comedy, great visuals, action, and emotional moments that fans immediately connect to. Director James Gunn's last offering to the MCU 'Guardians Of The Galaxy Vol. 3' has proven to be his swansong, as he is not going to direct anymore Guardians movies.

According to Collider, the film has crossed a major milestone globally, punching through the \$800 million barrier worldwide. Right now, Guardians of the Galaxy: Vol. 3 has grossed \$805.9 million worldwide. 2014's 'Guardians Of The Galaxy' achieved a gross of approximately \$770 million worldwide when it introduced Marvel Cinematic Universe fans to the

likes of Starlord and Rocket Raccoon. The franchise sequel, 2017's 'Guardians of the Galaxy: Vol. 2' is still out in front, having grossed \$869 million worldwide.

'Guardians of the Galaxy: Vol. 3' made a great start to its box office journey, by exceeding global expectations on its opening weekend, with an actual gross of \$282 million, compared to the predicted value of \$264 million.

In just its second week of release, the third 'Guardians' film outgrossed 'Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania' globally. Domestically, the film ranks in the top five of second weekend holds for MCU releases. 'Guardians of the Galaxy: Vol. 3' was also able to deliver a record-breaking opening weekend at the IMAX Global box office with \$25 million.

Noted for its darker and more emotional tone, 'Guardians Of The Galaxy Vol.3' has been very well received, particularly due to its focus on the character of Rocket Raccoon and his backstory, as well as other aspects.

## Taylor Swift 'wipes tears from her eyes' after performing emotional song

Los Angeles: Singer-songwriter Taylor Swift was seen wiping tears from her eyes after performing an emotional song about losing someone.

For night two of her 'The Eras Tour' in Detroit, Taylor, 33, left the fans in awe as she performed two surprise songs for the huge crowd, reports 'Mirror.co.uk'.

Each night on her sold-out American leg of her hotly-anticipated tour, Taylor has been singing her best-loved hits, with two surprise songs crooned every night she performs.

As per 'Mirror.co.uk', for night two in Detroit, Michigan, Taylor performed 'All You Had To Do Was Stay' from 1989 on the guitar and 'Breathe From Fearless' on the piano.

Performing the hit song, which she originally sung alongside Colbie Caillat, solo on piano, fans watching through social media live streams were quick to pick up on how emotional Taylor appeared as she seemingly wiped her face with her hand.

Fans were quick to take to Twitter to note how it looked as though Taylor "wiped a tear" after singing the melancholy hit. "TAYLOR WIPED A TEAR AFTER BREATHE???? BYE IM UPSET (sic)," penned one fan who shared a video of the moment.

"She made it fall on the side of her face hidden onscreen godddd she's too talented," penned a second.

But someone else wasn't convinced and added: "Is she really wiping her tears or any hair strands sticking on her face?" The song 'Breathe' is rather emotional though, and could have potentially brought up some feelings from a past relationship because of the lyrics.

## Elliot Page says his autobiography has improved relationship with his mom

Los Angeles | Agencies

The 'Inception' actor Elliot Page, 36, was brought up as a girl by her teacher mother Martha Philpotts and his graphic designer dad Dennis Page before he came out as gay in 2014 followed by gender transition in December 2020.

The actor has now said that his memoir 'Pageboy' has helped clear the air with his family for the "first time" about his journey, reports Female First UK.

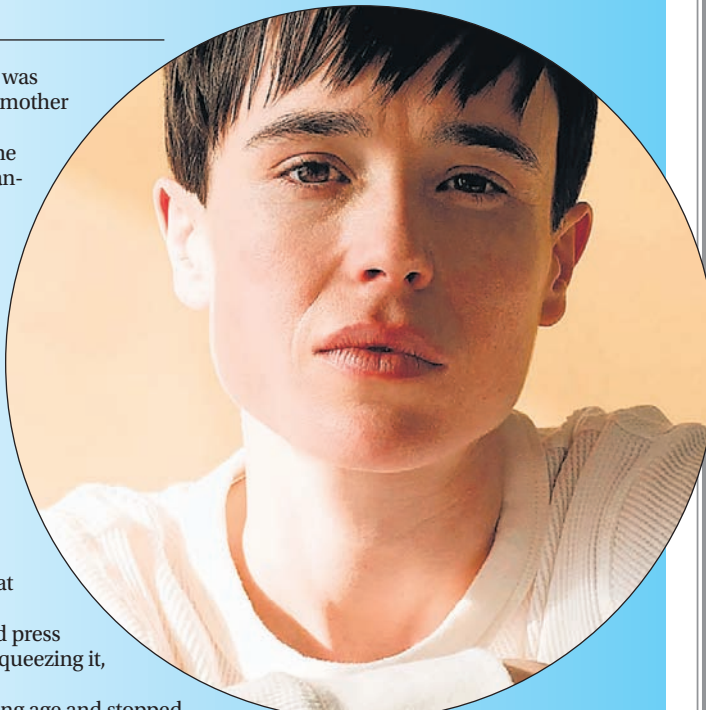
He told The Guardian: "I'm nervous, but grateful for the opportunity to have written it. "It was really healing getting a lot of stuff out. It's been very beneficial for my relationship with my mom. It has allowed us to talk about things for the first time in a meaningful, sincere way."

As per Female First UK, the book tells how Elliot would try to pee standing up at the age of four.

He said in the autobiography: "I would press on my vagina, holding it, pinching and squeezing it, hoping I could aim."

Elliot went on to self-harm from a young age and stopped eating as he battled with his image. As a youngster he wanted to look like Elliot, the young hero of Steven Spielberg's film 'E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial' and has a tattoo on his biceps that says 'EP phone home'.

His book tells how he was abused by men and a woman as a teen and how he had relationships with famous actresses and one "closeted" star he refers to in the book only as 'Ryan'.

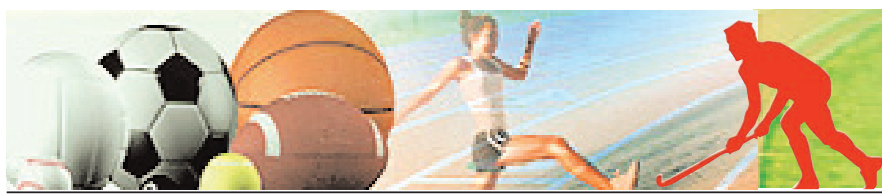


## ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



JLo





## INDIA VS PAKISTAN ON OCT 15 IN DRAFT SCHEDULE OF ODI WORLD CUP



Team Absolute | New Delhi

The highly anticipated match between India and Pakistan during the upcoming ODI World Cup is set to take place on October 15 in Ahmedabad, as per the draft schedule of the marquee event. According to an ESPNcricinfo report, the BCCI shared the draft schedule with the ICC, which then sent it to

the participating countries for feedback before a final schedule is put out early next week. As per the initial draft schedule of the 2023 ODI World Cup, prepared by the BCCI, England and New Zealand are set to meet in the tournament-opener on October 5 while India are set to open their campaign against Australia on October 8 in Chennai. The report further said

India are scheduled to play their league matches across nine venues while Pakistan are slated to play across five venues during the league phase. While the draft schedule does not provide specific details about the semifinal venues, it is expected that they will be held on November 15 and 16. The final match of the tournament is set to take place on November 19 in Ahmedabad.

### INDIA'S ITINERARY IN DRAFT SCHEDULE

India vs Australia, Oct 8 in Chennai  
India vs Afghanistan, Oct 11 in Delhi  
India vs Pakistan, Oct 15 in Ahmedabad  
India vs Bangladesh, Oct 19, in Pune  
India vs New Zealand, Oct 22, in Dharamsala  
India vs England, Oct 29, in Lucknow  
India vs qualifier, Nov 2, Mumbai  
India vs SA, Nov 5, Kolkata  
India vs qualifier, Nov 11, Bengaluru

## India, Australia fined for slow over-rates in WTC Final; Gill sanctioned for criticising umpires' decision

Team Absolute | New Delhi

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## Flamengo beat Gremio to rise to third in Brazil's top flight



Team Absolute | Rio De Janeiro

Flamengo extended their unbeaten run to 10 games with a 3-0 home win over Gremio in Brazil's Serie A championship. Everton Soares opened the scoring in the 24th minute at the Maracana stadium when he received Wesley Lima's pass and fired a low shot past goalkeeper Gabriel Grando, reports Xinhua. Pedro doubled the lead just after the hour by capitalizing on chaotic Gremio defending before raffing home from the edge of the 18-yard box.

The hosts put the result beyond doubt in the sixth minute of stoppage time through Bruno Henrique, who headed in at the far post after Gerson's cross from the left wing. Flamengo are now third in the 20-team standings with six wins from 10 games, five points behind leaders Botafogo. Gremio are sixth, two points further back. In other Brazilian Serie A fixtures on Sunday, Fluminense drew 2-2 at Goias, Internacional won 2-1 at home to Vasco da Gama, Palmeiras prevailed 2-0 at Sao Paulo and Athletico Paranaense drew 2-2 at America Mineiro.

## Djokovic returns to No.1 after 23rd Grand Slam title

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Novak Djokovic has returned to No.1 position in the ATP Rankings after triumphing at Roland Garros and has begun a record-extending 388th week at the ranking summit after he clinched a record 23rd major. Djokovic reclaimed the No. 1 spot by defeating Carlos Alcaraz in the Roland Garros semifinals, taking the 420-point lead over the 20-year-old Spaniard, who is placed second with 7,175 points. If Alcaraz had managed to defeat Djokovic and reach his second major final, he would have been able to retain the No.1 ATP Ranking following the tournament. It will be Djokovic's third stint as World No. 1 this year and the second time in 2023 he has climbed to No. 1 by winning a major. He has won both the Australian Open and Roland Garros and returned to the top of the men's tennis mountain each time. In February, Djokovic broke Stefanie Graf's record for most weeks at World No.1 by a men's or women's tennis player (then 377 weeks). Only one other man, Roger Federer (310 weeks), has spent more than 300 weeks as World



No.1. The Serbian is the first man to win all four major events at least three times. He is also the oldest Roland Garros champion at the age of 36 years and 20 days. Several other ATP Tour stars have also climbed following the second major of the season.

## Uruguay beat Italy to lift U-20 World Cup trophy

Team Absolute | La Plata/Argentina

Forward Luciano Rodriguez scored late as Uruguay secured their first Under-20 World Cup title with a 1-0 victory over Italy here. Rodriguez struck with an 86th-minute header as the Celeste ended a run of four consecutive triumphs for European teams in the tournament, reports Xinhua. "This is a crazy feeling. We are champions of the world. What can I say?" said 19-year-old Rodriguez, who plays his club football for Uruguay's Liverpool Montevideo. "It's a feeling of ecstasy. We were the better team and deserved to win. This is such a close group. Every player gave their all in each training



session and each match, and that was a telling factor in the end." More than 40,000 spectators watched the final at the Diego Maradona stadium in La Plata, around 50km southeast of Argentine capital Buenos Aires. Among those present were FIFA President Gianni Infantino and South American Football Confederation (CONMEBOL) chief Alejandro Dominguez.

## No other top-class Indian cricketer has been treated as bafflingly as Ashwin: Gavaskar

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Legendary batter Sunil Gavaskar believes no other top cricketer in India has been subjected to the baffling treatment which has been meted out to ace off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin, who was excluded from India's playing eleven in their 209-run defeat to Australia in the World Test Championship (WTC) Final at The Oval. The dilemma of Ashwin being in the playing eleven or not had been a huge topic of discussion in the run-up to the WTC final, leading to contrasting opinions. His exclusion from the playing eleven, as India lacked control of the ball, invited severe criticism from former cricketers of both nations. "No other top-class Indian cricketer in the modern era has been treated as bafflingly as Ashwin has been. Tell me if there was a No. 1 ICC-ranked batter in the team, would he have been left out of the playing XI just because in earlier times he had not got runs on a grassy pitch or if he had not scored runs on a dry spin-friendly pitch? Definitely not." "This is not being wise after the event, but a pattern that has been seen over the years. But for this 'hard to understand thinking' he would have already played more than 100 Test matches." "Even if India were to win, it should not blind us to the treatment given to Ashwin and whatever the explanation that is given, the bowling results in the match where India have been asked to chase 444 tells us that dropping him was not the right call to make," wrote Gavaskar in his column for Mid-Day on Monday. With 474 wickets in 92 matches at a strike-rate of 51.8, including 32 five-wicket per innings hauls, Ashwin, the top-ranked Test bowler, was left out of the marquee clash as India preferred four fast-bowlers, despite the presence of five left-handed batters in Australia's batting order. Ashwin had also been left out of India's matches in England in 2021 and 2022, with conditions being cited as the reason. "India dropped Ravichandran Ashwin, the



No.1 ranked bowler in the game, according to the ICC rankings. The Australians had five left-handers in the team and while one leftie - Travis Head - scored a quickfire century in the first innings, another southpaw Alex Carey got a 48 in the first innings and an unbeaten 66 in the second. "During that second innings effort, he also put on 93 runs with another left-hander Mitchell Starc at a time when India were looking to dismiss Australia cheaply in the second innings. If Ashwin had been in the team, who knows what could have happened? With the bat too, he could have contributed," added Gavaskar. He also went on to express his disappointment over India's shot selection in the match, especially in the second innings. "For me, though the shot selection of the skipper Rohit Sharma and Cheteshwar Pujara was the disappointing aspect of the Indian innings. Why Pujara attempted a ramp shot is hard to understand for that is not a shot he employs regularly." "To even try it two deliveries after Rohit was out was also questioning the thinking at the time. Pujara is known for his patience and willingness to take blows, but keep occupying the crease so why on earth did he look to play that shot when runs were not the need but preserving wickets was essential." "Pressure can get a player to do strange things and that's why Test cricket is the highest form of the game and the World Test Championship final, the ultimate Test match," he concluded.

## SPECIAL OLYMPICS WORLD GAMES 2023

## Delhi HC allows Centre to allocate funds to Indian team

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Delhi High Court has granted permission to the Centre to allocate funds for travel expenses, accommodation, and other expenditures for the Indian team's participation in the Special Olympics World Games 2023. A bench comprising Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma and Justice Subramonium Prasad was dealing with an application filed by the Centre seeking permission to implement the recommendations of the court committee in order to



support the development of sports. The bench stated that the court is inclined to allow the Centre to release funds for travel expenses and accommodation for the team. The court, however,

emphasised that the committee appointed by it should ensure that the funds are used solely for the sports-persons' expenses and training. The bench clarified that the government funds should only be utilised for the training and travel of the athletes, arranging coaches, and providing necessary equipment and services such as physiotherapists and trainers for their participation in the Games. The court acknowledged that the athletes involved have intellectual challenges and that a large contingent of athletes will be participat-

ing and also be requiring assistance. Therefore, the court permitted support staff to accompany the team. Representing the Centre, senior advocate R. Balasubramanian said that due to various court orders restricting the release of funds to sports federations, the government was facing difficulties in allocating funds for the athletes' participation in the Games. The Special Olympics World Games 2023 is scheduled to take place from June 17 to June 25 in Berlin, Germany.





## Ridhi Dogra: 'I crush on all my directors, follow them like sheep'

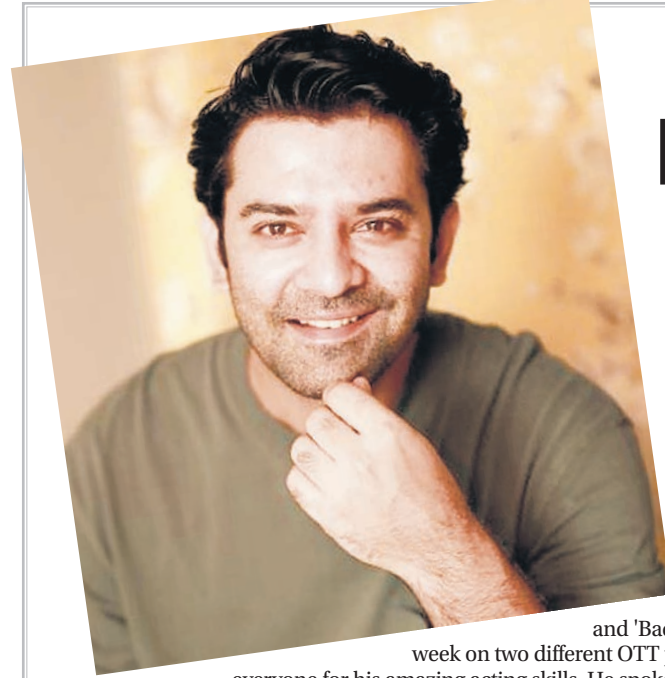
Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Ridhi Dogra, who is receiving a lot of positive response for her recent shows 'Asur 2' and 'Badtameez Dil', has shared that she crushes on all her directors. The actress who has had two releases within a week is garnering praises for both the shows: 'Asur 2' and 'Badtameez Dil' have her portraying two completely different characters.

She said: "I crush on all my directors. I follow them like sheep. Oni was remarkable to work with for both the seasons of 'Asur 2'. I was in love with his mind. The whole show was a beautiful teamwork. Even Gaurav Shukla, our writer, I call him our Desi Tarantino (sic)."

Talking about the journey of 'Asur', she said: "When I was approached for the first season, it was like a show had come my way and I had to decide if I had to do or not. Then I came to know Barun was a part of it, so I asked him. He told me to do it and so it was with his conviction I said Yes. For the second season, I knew I couldn't wait to come back for it."

'Asur 2' is an 8-episode series, currently streaming on Jio Cinema. 'Asur 2' progresses from where season 1 ended.



## BARUN SOBTI EXPLAINS HOW THE 'OTT REVOLUTION IS FOR GOOD'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor Barun Sobti, who is gearing up for his OTT release 'Badtameez Dil', feels all the good work these days is getting released only on OTT.

The actor whose shows: 'Asur 2' and 'Badtameez Dil' released in a span of one week on two different OTT platforms is garnering accolades from everyone for his amazing acting skills. He spoke about the OTT revolution that is helping actors get good work. He said: "I have limited myself to very less work. I like to do less stuff and whatever I like to do is coming on OTT. Actually all the good work is now coming only on OTT. So yes, the OTT revolution is for good." The actor plays the lead role in both the seasons of Asur. Regarding what got him interested in the project, he said: "When season 1 came my way, I went through the script and I had not expected that level of amazing writing which made me immediately say Yes."

He further added: "You know the second seasons of the show are mostly cursed that they don't do as great as the first one. When we were discussing the second season, we were only talking about how to make it a notch higher than the first one. Well, when I read the script of season 2, I was surprised because the writers outdid themselves. So I knew I had to be a part of it." Meanwhile, on the work front, Barun also has two more projects lined up to be released on Netflix this year. He will be seen in the series 'Kohrra' which is an investigative drama surrounding a murdered NRI. He will also be seen in 'Dunali' which will revolve around the concept of treasure hunt.



## Anupriya credits 'meticulous director' Oni Sen for success of 'Asur 2'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Anupriya Goenka, who plays Naina Nair in crime thriller series 'Asur' and 'Asur 2', is chuffed with the response to the season 2. The actress credits the director of the show, Oni Sen, for the stellar response that it is garnering.

The actress shared that she was impressed by the director's personality. She said: "For season 1 of the show I went with the gut feeling of believing in the people involved and the overall storyline rather than my particular character. I was enamoured by Oni's personality. He was very interesting." Sharing what made her say yes to the second season, she said: "For the second season, Gaurav Shukla has really outdone himself. He has created so many layers, so much is happening in the show. It is very intense and logical. Above all Oni is a very meticulous director. I can say on behalf of all the actors in the show that we had complete faith in him. We knew that he would give the audience some great work."

'Asur 2', which also stars Arshad Warsi, Barun Sobti, Riddhi Dogra, Amey Wagh, Vishesh Bansal is available to stream on Jio Cinema.

## Anurag Basu's sets have 'great food', says Fatima Sana Shaikh

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Fatima Sana Shaikh has said that she loves working with Director Anurag Basu, and that his sets have great food. The actress will be seen next in 'Metro in Dino' which is directed by Anurag Basu. The last time the actress collaborated with Basu was for the crime-comedy film 'Ludo'. The actress recently shared a picture of herself with Anurag Basu on her Instagram account and captioned "Hey you! Can't wait to go back on your set."

"I am really excited to go on to the sets of 'Metro' this month. I love Dada (Anurag Basu). He is a genius. He has a way of creating magic on screen and I am so lucky that I am again getting to work with him and be a part of his magical world," the actress said. "He brings the best out of his actors and what's even better is that there is always great food on his sets," she added. The actress as a child artist has worked in movies like 'Chachi 420' and 'Bade Dilwala'. She last acted in the film 'Dangal' alongside with Sanya Malhotra and Aamir Khan. Apart from Fatima, the movie will star Aditya Roy Kapoor, Sara Ali Khan, Pankaj Tripathi, Konkana Sen Sharma, Anupam Kher and Neena Gupta. The movie is scheduled to be released on December 8, 2023.



## INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Aamna Sharif



## Nawazuddin's upcoming to have direct-to-OTT release on June 23

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The upcoming film 'Tiku Weds Sheru', which stars Nawazuddin Siddiqui and Avneet Kaur in lead roles, is taking the direct-to-digital route as it will drop on OTT on June 23.

The film tells the quirky story of love and passion fuelled by the eccentricity of Tiku and Sheru, a couple with contrasting personalities, who stand the test of time in pursuit of their dreams.

The film has been directed by Sai Kabir Srivastva, and follows two eccentric characters who want to make it big in Bollywood. The film presents their journey through worldly chaos and challenges.

Kangana Ranaut, who serves as the creative producer on the film, said in a statement: "Tiku Weds Sheru" is a very special film for me, as it's the first title under Manikarnika Films. This is the first time I took charge as a producer and I absolutely enjoyed the process. It was a challenging-yet-enriching experience for me."

"The film is directed by Sai Kabir Srivastva, and it features the very talented actor Nawazuddin Siddiqui and Avneet Kaur, who is all set to make her debut in films, as a lead actor. I hope the audience will shower love on the film," she added.

Produced by Manikarnika Films, the film is set to drop on Prime Video on June 23.