

## **MANIPUR: 12 MILITANTS RELEASED AFTER MOB STOPS SECURITY FORCES**

#### Imphal Agencies

C ecurity forces in Manipur's Imphal East district apprehended a dozen of militants of the Kanglei Yawol Kanna Lup (KYKL) outfit on Saturday, but had to hand over all of them to local leaders after a mob, led by women, surrounded the forces and prevented them from going ahead, an official said.

According to a defence spokesman, after Saturday midnight the Army and the Assam Rifles, acting on specific intelligence inputs, launched an operation at Itham village in Imphal East district and the area was cordoned off before the actual search commenced to avoid inconvenience to the locals. "The operation resulted in the apprehension of 12 KYKL cadres along with arms, ammunition and war-like stores. Self-styled Lt Col Moirangthem Tamba alias Uttam was also among the 12 militants. He was the mastermind of an ambush on the



6th battalion of the DOGRA in 2015," the spokesman said.

A mob of around 1500 people, led by women and local leaders, immediately surrounded the area and prevented the security forces from continuing the operation espite repeated appeals. The spokesman said that keeping in view the sensitivity of use

New Delhi/ Imphal: Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh on Sunday said that Union Home Minister Amit Shah

After meeting Shah in New Delhi, he said that the Home Minister has advised him to strengthen the work towards

"Under Amit Shah Ji's close supervision, the State and Central Govt have been able to control the violence to a great

achieving everlasting peace and also sought the cooperation of every stakeholder in Manipur to ensure that peace

prevails in the state. After the meeting, the Chief Minister, in a series of tweets, said: "Called on Hon'ble Union Home

extent in the past week. It may be noted that there has been no report of casualties due to the violence since the 13th

of June. "Hon'ble Union HM has assured that the central government will take all possible steps to bring normalcy in

Manipur. The Manipur Chief Minister went to Delhi a day after the all party meeting was held by the Union Home

Minister, Shri Amit Shah Ji in New Delhi today and briefed about the evolving situation on the ground in Manipur.

**CENTRE ASSURED ALL POSSIBLE HELP : MANIPUR CM** 

has assured that the Central government would take all possible steps to bring back normalcy in Manipur.

of kinetic force against large irate mob and envisaged casualties due to such action, the officer on ground made a considerate decision to hand over all 12 KYKL militants to local leaders. The Army and the Assam Rifles troops lifted the cordon and left the area with the recovered weapons and ammunition

## **CONGRESS DEMANDS REMOVAL OF MANIPUR CM, DISARMING OF ARMED GROUPS**

New Delhi: The Congress on Sunday again reiterated the demand of removal of Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh for failing to control violence in the state and also sought that all armed groups must be disarmed immediately.

The Congress also again targeted Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his continuing silence on violence.

In a series of tweets, Congress General Secretary Jairam Ramesh said: "While Manipur is burning, the Prime Minister is silent, the Home Minister is ineffective, and the Chief Minister is non-functional. To move ahead, the Chief Minister should be replaced immediately and two fundamental steps need to be taken, first disarm all armed groups ruthlessly without any discrimination and second begin the process of creating an atmosphere of trust, harmony and reconciliation. "We live in hope that Manipur which was an example of Unity through Diversity in India is brought back to the path of normalcy at the earliest".

His remarks came a day after Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday held an all-party meeting to discuss the Manipur situation.

## Wagner boss will leave Russia, charges will be dropped: Kremlin

Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko announced on Saturday that he had arranged a deal whereby Wagner Group leader Yevgeny Prigozhin will abandon his mutiny in exchange for "security guarantees" for his fighters.

According to the statement, Lukashenko and Prigozhin held talks for the "whole day", and "came to an agreement on the inadmissibility of unleashing a bloodbath on the territory of Russia".

Lukashenko's office said that the talks were held in coordination with Russian President Vladimir Putin, adding that Prigozhin was offered "an advantageous and acceptable option of resolving the situation, with security guarantees for the Wagner PMC fighters", RT reported.

#### Moscow Agencies

he criminal case, launched this weekend, against Wagner Private Military Company (PMC) founder Evgeniy Prigozhin will be dropped and he will leave Russia, the Kremlin has announced, a media report said.

Spokesman Dmitry Peskov revealed that Prigozhin, a Saint Petersburg tycoon who made his initial fortune in catering, "will go to Belarus". He added that Wagner's fighters will not be persecuted, taking into account their efforts on the frontlines of the Ukraine conflict. Peskov explained that President Vladimir Putin's team "have always respected their exploits".

Those PMC contractors, who refused to take part in the mutiny - and whole units did



not - will be allowed to sign contracts with the Russian Defence Ministry, Peskov stated, RT reported.

The PMC group launched a major mutiny overnight, seizing control of the headquarters of Russia's Southern Military District in the city of Rostov-on-Don, as well as advancing towards Moscow. The insurrection was stopped late on Saturday, following talks between Prigozhin and Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko, with the PMC leader agreeing to return his units to their "field camps". The Wagner Group private military company is returning back to its "field camps", the PMC leader Yevgeny Prigozhin announced earlier.

His units staged a mutiny overnight, seizing control of multiple military and administrative installations in the southern city of Rostov-on-Don, as well as launching an advance towards Moscow, the Russian media outlet reported.

The insurrection reached the brink of major bloodshed, Prigozhin said, explaining that Wagner's advancing columns will return to their camps "according to plan".

"They wanted to disband PMC Wagner. On June 23, we went on a March of Justice in a day. We advanced on Moscow just 200km short, and during this time we did not shed a single drop of the blood of our fighters," he was quoted as saying by the media outlet.

## Acquisition of MQ-9B drones: Speculative reports uncalled for: Defence Ministry

Team Absolute New Delhi

Minister in Delhi

ndia is yet to finalise the price and other terms and conditions for the purchase of 31 MQ-9B long durance drones from the US



MP Shocker: 3 of family including minor boy found hanging in Jabalpur

Team Absolute Bhopal hree persons of a family, including a 10-yeardead at their residence in Madhya Pradesh's Jabalpur district on Sunday. According to the police, the bodies were found hanging inside the house. The shocking incident was reported from the Rampur Chhapar area under Gorakhpur police station in Jabalpur.



defence ministry said on Sunday, trashing speculative reports in social media on the cost and the acquisition process.

The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) said that it has accorded the Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for the acquisition of 31 MQ-9B (16 Skv Guardian and 15 Sea Guardian) High Altitude Long Endurance (HALE) Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS).

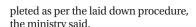
The Aircraft Systems is for the Tri-Services from the US through Foreign Military Sale (FMS) route. The AoN included the number of UAVs to be procured along with associated equipment, the Ministry of Defence said this on Sunday.

Meanwhile, some speculative reports emerged in sections of social media referring to the price and other terms of purchase. The MoD said that these are 'uncalled for, have ulterior motives and are aimed at derailing the due acquisition process"."Price and other terms and conditions of the purchase are yet to be finalised and subject to negotia-

tions. In this regard, all are requested not to spread fake news or misinformation which can have serious impact on the morale of the Armed Forces and adversely impact the acquisition process," the Defence Ministry added.

According to the Ministry of Defence, the AoN noted the estimated cost of 3,072 million US dollars provided by the US government. However, price will be negotiated once policy approval of the US government is received.

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) will compare the acquisition cost with the best price offered by General Atomics (GA) to other countries. The procurement is in progress and would be com-



The MoD said that under the FMS route, a Letter of Request (LOR) would be sent to the US government where Tri-services requirements, details of equipment and terms of the procurement would be included. Based on LOR, the US government and MoD will finalise the Letter of Offer and Acceptance (LOA) where details of equipment and terms of the procurement would be negotiated and finalised in accordance with the FMS programme and the price and terms offered by the US government and GA to other countries, they added.

The deceased have been identified as Ravi Shankar Burman (40), his wife Poonam Burman (35), and their child Aryan Burman (10).The heart-wrenching incident has sent shock waves in the locality. The police said that while preliminary inquiry suggests

that it is a case of mass sui-

## "Bombed 6 Muslim Countries": Nirmala Sitharaman takes on Barack Obama

Team Absolute New Delhi

nion Finance Minister Nirmala Prime Minister Narendra Modi from questions surrounding the treatment of Muslims in India and his answer on the subject during a press conference in the US.

Accusing the Congress and other opposition parties of raising "nonissues, without data" in the face of electoral defeats, she also lashed out at former US President Barack Obama, questioning his comments on Indian Muslims because the US under his rule had "bombed six Muslim-majority nations"

"The Honourable Prime Minister himself, in the press conference in the US, has said how his government works on the 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas' principle and doesn't discriminate against any community. But the fact remains that when people join in this debate and highlight issues which are nonissues in a way," Sitharaman said at a news conference. "Out of the 13 awards that he has been given as Prime Minister of the country, six have been given by countries where Muslims are

cide case, other possibilities Rathore told mediapersons that when the police team can't be ruled out. The bodies have been sent reached the spot on receiving for post-mortem to ascertain

the information, all three the exact cause of death. bodies were found hanging. Chief Superintendent of The neighbours told the Police (CSP) Pratishtha police they last saw the fami-

ly on Friday.

Rathore said, "Preliminary investigation suggests that the couple first killed their son after which they hanged themselves. It appears to be a case of mass suicide."

## WRESTLING FEDERATION OF INDIA **ELECTIONS STAYED BY** GAUHATI HIGH COURT

Guwahati: The Gauhati High Court on Sunday postponed the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) elections, set for July 11, on a petition by the Assam Wrestling Association.

The court ordered the respondents, the WFI's ad hoc body and the Sports Ministry, to postpone the election until the next date for hearing, set on July 17.

In its petition, the Assam Wrestling Association claimed that despite recommendations made by the then WFI Executive Committee at the association's General Council meeting in UP's Gonda on November 15, 2014, it had been denied membership despite being entitled to it.

As the ad hoc commission had set June 25 as the deadline for submitting names for the electoral college, and July 11 would be the date of the elections to choose the new governing body, the state association argued that the election process ought to be put on hold until it was made part of WFI and had the ability to choose its representative in the electoral college.

## **BRS** rebels likely to meet Rahul on Monday before joining Cong

#### Hyderabad Agencies

RS rebels Jupally Krishana Rao and former MP Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy are likely to meet Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in New Delhi on Monday before announcing their decision to join the party.

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president A. Revanth Reddy and some other top leaders will take the two BRS rebels to Rahul Gandhi for the meeting.

Krishna Rao and Srinivasa Reddy and their supporters are also likely to attend the meeting. After the meeting, the two leaders are likely to hold a press conference to announce their joining the Congress party.

A key meeting of Telangana Congress leaders with the party's central leaders is also scheduled in New Delhi on Monday to discuss the proposed joining of the BRS rebels. The central leadership has



also summoned the key leaders from undivided Khammam and Mahabubnagar districts. The BRS rebels are likely to formally join the Congress party at a public meeting at Khammam on July 2 which will be addressed by Rahul Gandhi.

Both the leaders were suspended from Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) in April for anti-party activities.

## **TWO GOODS TRAINS COLLIDE IN BENGAL'S BANKURA** , NO CASUALTY

Kolkata: Two goods trains collided with each other near Onda station in West Bengal's Bankura district on Sunday, resulting in the derailment of 13 wagons.

The divisional railway manager of Adra division of South Eastern Railway, Manish Kumar informed the media persons that there was no casualty in the mishap.

"The driver of one of the two trains sustained minor injuries and is currently under treatment at a local hospital," Manish informed.

He also said that in probability the driver of the goods train which had hit the other from behind had dozed off and that is why he missed the signal. "A total of 13 wagons of the two trains derailed because of the collision," he said.

He confirmed that the signal was "red" when the accident took place. It is learnt that the overhead wire also got damaged because of the mishap.

# Sitharaman on Sunday defended



in the majority," she said.

Lashing out at Obama for his interview with CNN, in which he had said he would look to raise the subject of Indian Muslims with PM Modi, Sitharaman said, "I was shocked. When PM Modi was campaigning in the US and by campaigning I mean speaking about India - a former President of the US is speaking about Indian Muslims.'

"And I am saying this with restraint because it involves another country. We want friendship with the US but there too we get remarks about religious freedom in India. A former President under whose rule six Muslim-majority countries were bombed with more than 26,000 bombs - how will people trust his allegations?" she said.



## nation



New Delhi, Monday, June 26, 2023

## **MUMBAI WATERLOGGED AFTER HEAVY DG CRPF reviews operational** readiness for Amarnath Yatra **RAIN, TRAFFIC HIT ON SOME ROADS**

#### Team Absolute Mumbai

s Mumbai received its first heavy rainfall with the onset of monsoon, it led to waterlogging at various places, even as Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Sunday said the new system developed to prevent flooding in the city was functioning well.

The opposition parties, however, slammed the Chief Minister saying his claim of monsoon preparedness fell flat in the first rains and that all his "false promises, photo ops in Mumbai hold zero value." In a startling revelation, the

Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) said it recovered a 165-litre fridge, a cupboard and other waste from a nullah near the Andheri subway that had to be shut for traffic on Saturday following the downpour and the rain water had to be pumped out.

Mumbai and its suburbs received heavy rains in the last 24 hours, resulting in waterlogging at various places and affecting vehicular movement on some roads, officials said on Sunday

In a rare event, the monsoon on

Sunday covered both Delhi and Mumbai together.

The Colaba observatory in Mumbai, representative of the island city, recorded 86 mm rainfall in the 24-hour period ending at 8.30 am on Sunday while the Santacruz weather station, representative of suburbs, registered 176.1 mm rainfall in the same period, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said.Heavy rains affected vehicular

movement on some roads in the city.



ther.Mumbai is expected to receive more showers during the day, an IMD official said.Mr Shinde on Sunday reviewed the functioning of an underground water tank installed at the Milan subway here to prevent

cle. Several individuals

emerged from the two cars,

brandishing weapons and

thieves seized a bag contain-

gold jewellery, Rs 2.81 lakh in

After the daylight robbery,

the police sprang into action

and managed to apprehend

hours. and recovered stolen

valuables worth Rs 1.17 crore,

bringing relief to the affected

parties. The accused, identi-

fied as Devkumar alias Dev

and Manoj alias Mannu, are

currently in custody. During

questioning, Dev disclosed

alias Raju Shah for the past

that he had known Nirav

two robbers within three

cash, two mobile phones, a

bill book, and the car key.

forcing Soni to stop. The

ing Rs 1.18 crore worth of

flooding and said the system was working.Milan subway, Hindmata and a couple of other locations in Mumbai are prone to water-logging during rains every year.

The BMC has constructed underground water tanks in these areas to

prevent flooding Speaking to reporters, Shinde said, "I personally came to review the situation at the Milan subway and the new system has proved that it works. More than 70 mm rainfall was reported in one hour, and still the system that we have developed has worked."

"Despite such excessive rain, the Milan subway remained open for vehicular movement. Similar systems are functional in other areas of Mumbai also," he said.

The Chief Minister also ordered the BMC officials to undertake measures to avoid water-logging resulting in disruption of vehicular movement during rains. The civic body said it recovered a 165-litre fridge, a cupboard, rubber pipes and other waste from the Mogra nullah flowing near the Andheri subway. Due to this waste, the rainwater pumping machinery was blocked following

heavy rains on Saturday, it said. The Andheri subway had to be closed for traffic on Saturday during the rains and the civic machinery pumped out the rain water in an hour's time, it added.

#### Srinagar Agencies

RPF chief Dr. S. L. Thaosen on Sunday visited multiple camp locations at Baltal, Domail, Sarbal, and Neelgrath to review the operational and administrative preparedness of paramilitary force personnel deployed for Amarnath Yatra, a statement said.

The visit to camps was aimed at assessing the arrangements and prepared ness for ensuring an atmosphere of security and confidence for pilgrims undertak ing the pilgrimage, the CRPF statement said.

"With the Yatra to commence in a few days, DG, CRPF reviewed the preparedness of the force himself to leave no stone unturned to ensure its successful conduct

This zealous endeavor stands as the CRPF's resolute commitment in reinforcing the notion that the safety, security and welfare of the pilgrims remains paramount



for the force.

nised to mitigate any poten-

tial risks and ensure a seam-

less, secure and pleasant

The DG laid special

Bike-borne goons rob

"They hired an Ola cab

from Lal Qila. When the cab

entered a tunnel on the Ring

Road, four persons on two

motorcycles intercepted the

car and robbed the bag con-

taining Rs 2 lakh at gun-

delivery boy of Rs 2

emphasis on disaster man-

experience for the pilgrims.

any natural calamity that "In addition to assessing operational readiness, DG may arise. also reviewed the contin-"CRPF's comprehensive gency drills of various evendisaster management prototualities for CRPF's timely cols were reviewed for its response in face of any swift and timely response to unforeseen circumstances.' mitigate the impact of any Emphasising on a zeroadverse event like that of last error policy, every aspect of year's cloud burst. security planning was scruti-

This proactive approach would ensure that the SANJY-2023 remains resilient in the face of challenges prioritising safety and wellbeing of devotees," the statement added.

agement preparedness for

## Bharuch Heist: Thieves loot gold jewellery worth 1.18 cr, cash; nabbed

Bharuch (Gujarat) Agencies

daring theft occurred within the Nabipur police station limits, leaving the local community stunned. The armed thieves targeted a Sony dealer, resulting in the looting of an estimated Rs 1.18 crore worth of gold jewellery, cash, and other valuables

However, the swift response of law enforcement led to the apprehension of the perpetrator and the recovery of stolen goods worth approximately Rs 1.17 crore. The incident took place on June 23.

Mukeshbhai Trilokchand Soni, a resident of Ahmedabad, and his associate Ranchodbhai had

embarked on a business trip in Soni's Hyundai Aura car. Carrying gold ornaments weighing over 2 kg, they left Ahmedabad in the morning, tions in Jambusar and other had something else in store for them. At approximately Nabipur bridge towards Zanor village, a Venue car abruptly blocked his path. Simultaneously, a Nexon car



intending to conduct transaclocations. Unfortunately, fate 3:00 p.m., as Soni drove from appeared behind Soni's vehi-

## BY ENDING BOYCOTT OF MEETINGS, BRS HINTS AT CLOSENESS WITH BJP Hyderabad Agencies

he Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) has ended its boycott of meetings called by the Centre, in yet another indication of its closeness with

the BJP ahead of Telangana Assembly elections. After a gap of over two-and-a-half-years, BRS sent its representatives to a meeting convened by the Centre. Its former MP and vice-chairman of the Telangana State Planning Board, B. Vinod Kumar on Saturday attended an all-party meeting on the Manipur situation.

The BRS has been boycotting the meetings convened by the Centre since November 2020. Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao had also skipped the meetings chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The Telangana Chief Minister skipped the NITI Aayog meeting chaired by the Prime Minister last month. He had also boycotted the NITI Aayog meeting in August last year as a mark of protest against the Central government's "discriminatory" attitude towards the states.

In a letter to the Prime Minister, KCR wrote that the Centre is not treating states as equal partners in collective effort to make India a strong and



#### developed country.

KCR had also stopped receiving the Prime Minister on his visits to Hyderabad. He did not receive Modi when the latter visited Hyderabad in April this year to launch a few projects. This was the fifth time in the last 14 months that the Chief Minister did not receive him on his visit to the state.In this context, a BRS representative attend ing the all party meeting on Saturday raised eyebrows in political circles. This came amid indications of a change in BRS stand towards BJP and Prime Minister Modi.

The first indication came on June 15 when BRS president and Telangana Chief Minister K.

Chandrasekhar Rao called Prime Minister Modi a good friend'. Addressing a press conference in Nagpur, KCR

had said that he had nothing personal against Modi. Calling him a good friend, the BRS chief said they often exchange ideas on best practices.

KCR, who has been slamming the Prime Minister and the BJP for several months, has stopped attacking them in recent days. At the public meetings, he addressed at three places in Telangana, he avoided criticizing either BJP or Modi and instead targeted the Congress party.

BRS also stayed away from Patna meeting of opposition parties including Congress held on June 23 to discuss a strategy to take on BJP in 2024 polls.

Hinting at the closeness with the BJP, KCR's son and state minister K. T. Rama Rao (KTR) was in Delhi to meet central ministers. He met union ministers Rajnath Singh, Hardeep Singh Puri and Piyush Goel during a two-day visit to discuss statespecific issues.

KTR also explained why BRS stayed away from the Patna meeting. He clarified that the BRS doesn't subscribe to the view that the BJP or Congress should be the nucleus of any front or coalition.

## Passengers served non-veg food on Gatimaan Express, IRCTC suspends employee

six months

Team Absolute New Delhi he Indian Railway



The incident occurred on Saturday aboard the

WOMAN ELECTROCUTED **AT NEW DELHI** RAILWAY **STATION** 



Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) announced on Sunday that it has suspended one of its employees following an incident where passengers who had ordered vegetarian meals were served non-vegetarian food.

The IRCTC stated that it has taken the matter seriously and imposed a heavy fine on the contractor responsible for the food delivery service. Additionally, the employee from the contracted agency has been terminated.

"We have also suspended one IRCTC employee. We are taking measures to ensure incidents like this do not recur. Our focus is on the source kitchen," tweeted the

12049) travelling from Veerangana Lakshmibai Railway Station (Jhansi) to Hazrat Nizamuddin.

Passengers Rajesh Kumar Tiwari and his wife, Preeti Tiwari, had ordered vegetarian meals. Tiwari and his wife were in coach C7. After the train departed from Jhansi, the catering staff offered them light snacks. Tiwari requested 'chole' (chickpeas) for himself and a light option for his wife. The staff served them the requested food, but Tiwari noticed pieces of meat in the 'chole'. Tiwari recounted that they informed the staff's supervisor about the meat in their food.

ncident, a woman electrocuted after she came in contact with a live wire at New Delhi Railway Station amid waterlogging due to incessant rain in the national capital. The police have confirmed the incident.The deceased was identified as Saakshi Ahuja. On Saturday night, she

came to the railway station with her husband to catch a train to go somewhere. "She died due to electric current running through waterlogged tracks at the

New Delhi railway station, caused by heavy rainfall. The power lines were submerged in water, and there was an electric current run-

## lakh in Delhi

Team Absolute New Delhi

delivery agent was allegedly robbed of Rs 2 lakh at gunpoint by bike-borne miscreants in the New Delhi area.

A senior police officer said that Patel Sajan Kumar, working as a delivery agent at Omiya Enterprises, Chandni Chowk, came to

the Tilak Marg police station and submitted a written complaint in this matter.

Kumar told the police that he along with his friend Jigar Patel was going to Gurugram to deliver a bag of

The officer said that based on the complaint, the police have lodged an FIR under Sections 397 and 34 of the IPC.

A team has been formed to apprehend the criminals.

*Kejriwal seeking Congress' help over* ordinance to evade arrest: Ajay Maken

Team Absolute New Delhi

ongress leader Ajay Maken on Sunday slammed Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal for seeking party's help regarding ordinance saying it is a desperate attempt to evade imprisonment on corruption charges.

He said that his proclamation of opposition unity is not for cohesion but a calculated move to sabotage it and curry favour with the BJP. In a tweet, the former Union minister Maken said, "Arvind Kejriwal seeks Congress's help for the ordinance, yet unabashedly ridicules our esteemed leaders, including Ashok Gehlot and Sachin Pilot in Rajasthan."He said that his ministers place prerequisites on our alliance, while their chief spokesperson publicly disparages our party and leaders on the day of all opposition party meeting.

"To brazenly criticize and then demand support, is this how alliances are sought, Kejriwal? Arvind Kejriwal's political manoeuvres in recent weeks have left many baffled. However, let me elucidate the truth. His desperate attempts to evade imprisonment on corruption charges, wherein two of his colleagues are already jailed, are reasons



for these actions. His proclamations of opposition unity are not for cohesion but a calculated move to sabotage it and curry favour with the BJP," the Congress leader said.He said that the past actions of the AAP in Parliament, the Delhi Legislative Assembly, or elsewhere only reinforce their surreptitious alliance with the BIP.

The Congress leader also highlighted

how AAP contested elections in Punjab, Gujarat, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Assam and said: "However, be assured Arvind Kejriwal, your deeds have not gone unnoticed. Your massive corruption and utilization of these ill-gotten funds to sabotage Congress in Goa, Gujarat, Punjab, Himachal, Uttarakhand, and Assam, just to help the BJP, won't be forgotten.

n	ing through them.	cash.	point," the police said.			
PROT	ADITYA BIRLA CAPITAL		BIRLA HOUSING FINA Registered Office- Indian Rayon Compound, Veraval, Gujar re- G Corporation Tech Park, Kasarvadavali, Ghodbunder Ro	at - 362266		
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# Madhya Pradesh

## **OPPN COMING TOGETHER TO SAVE THEMSELVES** FROM MODI WAVE: SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN

Team Absolute Bhopal

adhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Saturday said that the Opposition parties are getting united as they can not compete against Prime Minister Narendra Modi individually.

Calling Prime Minister Modi 'superhuman', Chouhan said that the Opposition was unable to match with his public-oriented schemes in the last nine year, which is why they are making an attempt to fight against Modi's 'charisma' in 2024.

Briefing the press in Gwalior, accompanied by the Union Ministers Jyotiraditya Scindia and Narendra Singh Tomar, Chouhan said: "PM Modi is one of the most popular leaders in the world. Wherever he goes, people greet him with love and pride." The Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister was referring Prime Minister Modi's recent



visit to the US. Meanwhile, taking a jibe at Opposition, Chouhan said, "During

flood, monkeys, snakes, frogs and others climb on a same tree to save themselves. They are saving them-

selves from the flood of Modi wave. People wonder how can one person be so perfect and hence I am saying Modiji is a superhuman.'

Chouhan further said that he could not understand the outcome of the Opposition meet. "The only thing, I could understand that Lalu Yadav advised Rahul Gandhi to get married. Now, Rahul Gandhi will become bridegroom ..., " he sarcastically said.

Responding to Chouhan's comments on Opposition meet in Bihar, veteran Congress leader and Madhya Pradesh Congress president Kamal Nath accused him of

making "low-level" remarks. "You called the Opposition snake, frog and monkey. For the last several days, you have been using profanity and low-level language on a regular basis. Your same language and this feeling is creating hatred towards you in the public." the Congress leader said.

# **BJP diverting attention from Shivraj: Kamal Nath**

Team Absolute Bhopal

adhya Pradesh Congress President Kamal Nath on Sunday hit out at the ruling BJP saying the saffron side is smartly attempting to divert attention from Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan for the upcoming assembly elections slated for later this year.

The Congress leader claimed the BJP leader ship was aware that Shivraj's government was indulged in huge corruption and people of Madhya Pradesh have fed up with latter's fake promises and they do not take him seriously now. Former chief minister said "corruptions are coming to the fore on daily basis and the BJP has made corrupt Madhya Pradesh."

Briefing the Press at party's headquarters in Bhopal, Kamal Nath said, "Ye chunao to Shivraj Singh ka hai, lekin BJP unhe divert krna chah rahi hai (This election is of Shivraj Singh, but the BJP diverting him)." He made this remarks in reference to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's upcoming visit in Madhya Pradesh on June 27. Commenting more about PM Modi's visit and extensive tour of Central BJP leaders

**BJP MAY FACE MORE SETBACKS IN GWALIOR-CHAMBAL REGION** 



in poll-bound Madhya Pradesh, Kamal Nath, who is leading the Congress' campaign, said, "He (Modi) will come to campaign for BJP, we are also on ground. They are trying to divert the election from Shivraj, but this election is between people of Madhya Pradesh and BJP. It is up to the people who will decide their next government." Notably, the Congress has been targeting CM Chouhan-led BJP government over corruption issues and has planned to take issues, especially alleged corruption in Mahakal Lok corridor, to the people during the door-to-door election campaign once the poll schedule is announced by the Election Commission of India (ECI).

## CM Chouhan plants saplings on eighth anniversary of Smart City Mission

Team Absolute Bhopal

hief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan today planted saplings of Peepal, Mango and Jamun in the garden located at Shyamla Hills. Officers of Bhopal Smart City Development Corporation also participated in plantation on the eighth anniversary of Smart City Mission. Atal Path, Smart Road, Smart Park, Multilevel Parking, Cycle Track have been developed in Bhopal by the Smart City Project started with the mission "Transform Nation," public bike sharing is also operated in the city.

Along with Chief Minister Chouhan, Anurag Dwari of NDTV also planted saplings. Also Gaurav Jain and Ritika Jain of Muskan Welfare Society planted saplings on their marriage anniversary and Srinivas Choubey and Richa Choubey



on the birthday of their two year old son Dhruv Choubey. Vedant Jain, Lucky Negi,

#### Team Absolute Bhopal

n Madhya Pradesh, the game of party change is going on before the elections and many leaders are trying to change the party in search of their future. The maximum attention of the Congress is on those who left the BJP in the Gwalior-Chambal region. This is the reason that the party is not only keeping an eye on the disgruntled BJP workers there, but is trying to get them to join it. In the coming days, there are apprehensions of many more setbacks for the BJP in this area.

Defection is common in politics, but when elections are held, this process gains momentum. Something similar is happening in Madhya Pradesh as well. Elections are to be held this year itself and politicians are worried about their future. The result of this is that in the last one month there has been defection in both BJP and Congress, but more defectors are from BJP who have joined Congress. Apart from Yadvendra Singh Yadav,

Baijnath Singh Yadav, who belong to Gwalior Chambal region, many leaders have joined the Congress and it is being said that many more people can join the Congress of this area. The reason for this is also because Rakesh Gupta, close to Scindia and vice-president of the BJP unit of Shivpuri, has resigned from the party

on Saturday.

Congress leaders are continuously saying that many BJP leaders are in touch with them and want to join Congress. State President of Congress and former Chief Minister Kamal Nath has also said this, along with he has added that I have told those coming from BIP to discuss with local

Congress, there will be no helicopter landing in Congress.

Noteworthy, the Gwalior-Chambal area is the sphere of influence of Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia. Scindia left the Congress and played an important role in forming the BJP government, so the Congre

## Monsoon entered in MP, Rain lashes Bhopal

Aniket Kirar, Naveen Jain, Asha

Jain also participated in plan-

tation.

Team Absolute Bhopal

onsoon has covered the entire Madhya Pradesh within 24 hours of its entry on It started raining heavily in



emphasises organisational strength Team Absolute Bhopal

aced with high antiincumbency after nearly two decades of its rule dhya Pradesh along



MP BJP chief dismisses talk about dissent,

booth-level workers were enrolled during three rounds of booth vistarak campaign across 230 assembly seats. Sharma said he has adoptd the Guiarat model of

Bhopal after Sunday afternoon. Due to which the roads were flooded in many areas. It has rained in many districts including Jabalpur, Gwalior, Bhind, Guna, Khajuraho, Raisen, Shivpuri, Mandla and Sagar.

Monsoon entered the state from Mandla district on Saturday. In the first four to five days, it was expected to spread across the state. The Meteorological Department says that the monsoon has knocked in the entire Madhya Pradesh. Heavy rain has been warned in Rewa, Shahdol and Narmadapuram. Senior meteorologist HS Pandey told that the monsoon had arrived on Saturday. Its speed was very fast. Due to this, it has spread across the state on Sunday. There is a possibility of heavy rains for the next 2 days.

The first monsoon rain has exposed the arrangements in the cap-

## **CM CHOUHAN DEVOTEDLY REMEMBERS THE FIGHTERS OF EMERGENCY**

Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan today, devotedly remembered the fighters who fought against the Emergency. Chief Minister Chouhan said that on this day in the year 1975, Emergency was imposed by strangling Indian Constitution and democracy. The right of expression from the common citizen to the press was crushed, locks were put on every vocal voice. Cruelest attempt was made to silence those who stood firm against this injustice by burying them in the darkness of the dungeon. Chief Minister Chouhan said in his tweet that "I bow down infront of the great souls who sacrificed their lives while facing the cruel tortures of the Emergency and the democracy fighters who fought against the killers of democracy! He Maa Bharati (O Mother India), today we take another pledge that we will continue to strive to build the India dreamt by the great souls who dedicated everything for the protection of democracy.

ital Bhopal. Due to the rain on Sunday evening, the low-lying areas were filled with water. Roads were seen submerged. Due to which people had to face a lot of trouble.

The canal of the irrigation department overflowed in zone number 13 of ward number 55 of the city. Due to which the slum around the cremation ground was filled with water. Apart

from this, due to rain in Bairagarh also, a situation of water-logging has been created in the lower settlements. Water was flooded in MANIT, Patrakar Colony and Jumerti Market.

with "friction" within, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has sounded the poll bugle for another battle against its main political rival, the Congress.

The BJP, which is a cadrebased party, backed by rightwing organisations from the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) to the Bajrang Dal, is working hard to retain power. The state leadership has devised a multi-pronged action plan to connect with the voters for the assembly elections scheduled just five months away.

Khajuraho MP and Madhya Pradesh BJP president V.D. Sharma in an exclusive discussion with IANS claimed that under the lead-

ership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the confidence of the BJP's cadre is very high and they are determined to win the assembly elections.

Sharma said he has made drastic changes in the party structure in the last couple of years, and the younger generation was given a push to shoulder responsibilities especially at the 'booth' and 'mandalam' level.

"Our new generation is a skilful and task-fulfilling cadre. More than 64,000

'Panna Pramukhs', and has gone further to expand this model with 'Ardh Pramukhs'. He added, "Originally, the concept of Panna Pramukh was first experimented with in Madhya Pradesh in 2013 and the results were very positive. A similar concept

with some modifications was executed during the last assembly polls in Gujarat also. We are still working on it and as of now, 90 per cent constituencies are covered."

Sharma, who took over as MP BJP president after the party lost the assembly elections in 2018, does not hesitate to claim that around 50 per cent digital workers were enrolled from Madhya Pradesh alone.

# PM MODI TO VISIT BHOPAL ON JUNE 27, SOUND BJP'S MP POLL BUGLE

### Praveen Dwivedi Bhopal

he Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), kicked-off its campaign for the Assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh on June 22. However, the poll bugle in the real sense will sound with the arrival of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on June 27.

After wrapping up his four-day state visit to the US, Prime Minister Modi will be addressing his first rally in poll-bound Madhya Pradesh. The state leadership has prepared a grand welcome for Modi with a mammoth roadshow on his arrival in Bhopal on June 27.

In a day long visit to the state, Modi is scheduled to participate in various programmes from launching a mission to combat 'Sickle Cell Anaemia' to distribution of 'Ayushman Bharat' cards in Shahdol district.

"The Sickle Cell Anaemia Mission will be a new campaign for screening of the people who are suffering from this disease and for arrangement of their treatment," Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said adding that over one crore Ayushman Bharat cards are ready in Madhya Pradesh. The distribution of these cards will also be done symbolically during Modi's programme in Shahdol.

Modi will also attend the concluding part of the Veerangana Rani Durgavati Gaurav Yatra launched



on June 22 from Balaghat. Union Home Minister Amit Shah was scheduled to flag off this yatra to kick-off the party's poll campaign in Madhya Pradesh. However, he could not attend the inaugural session due to bad weather and Chouhan had to launch the campaign.

These five yatras are from Balaghat to Shahdol, Chhindwara to Shahdol, Singrampur to Shahdol, Kalinjar Fort (UP) to Shahdol and Dhauni (Sidhi to Shahdol). They will assemble in Shahdol and the concluding session will be addressed by Modi.

From Shahdol Modi will arrive in Bhopal, where he will flag off two more Vande Bharat Express trains (Bhopal-Indore and Bhopal- Jabalpur). This means that poll-bound Madhya Pradesh will get three Vande Bharat Express trains in a span of two months. The first one was flagged off by Modi during his last visit to Bhopal on April 1.

We are preparing for a mega roadshow to welcome PM Mdi in Bhopal on June 27. We are all proud to have such a strong leader, who has been accepted as a global leader. As PM Modi is visiting Madhya Pradesh after returning from America, the MP BJP workers will organise a mega roadshow to welcome him," state BJP president V. D. Sharma said on Saturday.

The BJP's national president J. P. Nadda will arrive in Bhopal on June 26, and he will hold a meeting with the state unit leaders. He will also address a gathering of the BJP booth workers.



## absolute edit



## EDITOR'S SPECS

## Savarkar controversy begins to heat up in UP

reinclusion of a chapter on freedom fighter Vinayak Damodar Savarkar in the list of "great personalities" for UP Board students, has reignited an old controversy. While the Samajwadi Party has demanded that lessons on socialist thinker Dr Ram Manohar Lohia and SP patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav should also be made a part of the state board curriculum, Congress stated that the move will have a negative impact on the students. BJP defended the decision. Deputy chief minister Brajesh Pathak said: "Savarkar made important contribution to the country's history but his contributions were deleted by previous governments." Samajwadi Party's national secretary Rajendra Chaudhary said: "We do not consider this stance and behaviour of the UP government proper." Former Congress MLC Deepak Singh said that he would write to Governor Anandiben Patel about BJP's attempts to tinker with history. "While the country's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, who is widely hailed as the architect of modern India, is missing from the list, Savarkar is there. Though it is the government's prerogative to include whosoever they want to in the course curriculum, we will certainly draw the Governor's attention towards such brazen attempts to tinker with country's history," he said. Earlier, in January 2021, Deepak Singh had also opposed another decision by the UP government to include Savarkar's portrait in the picture gallery at the state's Legislative Council. Congress MLA Aradhana Misra 'Mona' reacted sharply to the remarks of the state's secondary education minister Gulab Devi who had said that Nehru was not included in the list of great personalities as he had not made "any sacrifice." Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati, however, has not commented on the Savarkar issue but has hit out at the Telangana government for "tampering with the Preamble".

# **CONG FOCUSES ON KEEPING ITS FLOCK TOGETHER, GOING WITH ALL GUNS BLAZING**

## Yajurvindra Singh/Anand Singh

s the Congress is preparing to make a comeback in the Madhya Pradesh ssembly elections scheduled later this year, the grand old party is going all out to keep its flock together ahead of the mega battle.

The party is also focusing on the guarantees, that proved a boon for it in the states of Himachal Pradesh and Karnataka, to connect with the people in Madhya Pradesh.

The Congress kicked off its poll campaign in the state on June 12, when party general secretary Privanka Gandhi Vadra addressed a public meeting in Jabalpur.

While addressing the people of the state, Priyanka Gandhi announced five promises on the lines of Himachal Pradesh and Karnataka, where Congress won in the assembly elections.

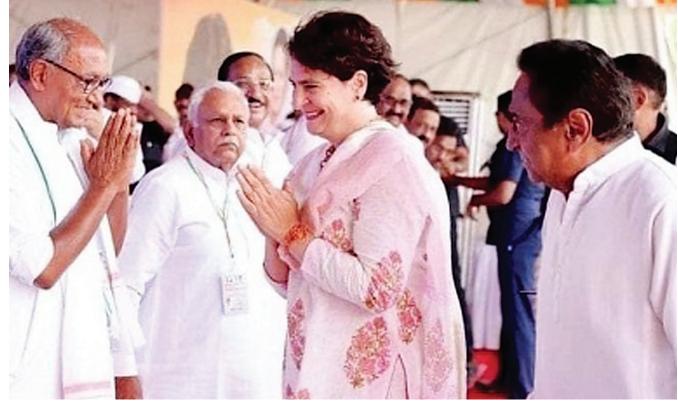
A Congress leader, wishing not to be named, said that the guarantees of the party had worked in the states of Himachal Pradesh and Karnataka, where it won recent ly and the party also ensured to fulfil the promises soon after coming to power, thus it is giving a clear message to the voters that these are not mere promises but they are also being delivered on the ground.

The party leader also cited the example of Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, where it also fulfilled the promises it made to the people in run-up to the election.

"Thus the promises of fulfiling the guarantees is working for the party and we are hopeful that it will once again work in Madhya Pradesh," he said.

When asked if former Chief Minister Kamal Nath, veteran party leader Digvijay Singh gelling well in the state, the party leader said, "Both the leaders have decided to keep their personal ambitions at bay to ensure that the party comes to power this vear.'

He said that while Kamal Nath, who is also the state unit chief of the party, is focusing on districts, Digivijay Singh is focusing on assembly levels and is mobilising the cadres there. The party leader also said that the understanding between the two leaders is helping the Congress to gain ground in the rural areas, including the stronghold areas of



### the BJP.

The party leader also said that the divided houses of the BJP and many factions emerging there, are also helping the grand old party in the state to gain grounds ahead of the assembly polls.

He said that it is factionalism in the BJP, which is leading to exodus of several leaders from the ruling party in the state including Baijnath Yadav, who had left the Congress in March 2020 along with Jyotiraditya Scindia, but made a comeback in the grand old party earlier this week.

Scindia had led a revolt in the Congress as he along with 22 of his loyal MLAs deserted the party and joined the BJP, thus bringing down the 15-month old Kamal Nath-led Congress government in the state.

The party leader said, "The Congress has learnt from its past mistakes. And thus this time, the party leadership is ensuring that there are no desertions ahead of the mega battle later this year."

Another party leader, meanwhile, said that the Congress has also started working on the candidate selection from now and is screening the performance of the sitting MLAs as well as shortlisting candidates for the elections.

"The screening process of the party will help it to ensure that the candidates are selected on the basis of winnability in their respective assembly constituencies," he said.

The party leader also said that the involvement of Congress strategist Sunil Kanugolu, who played a crucial role in designing the campaign in the state of Karnataka, will also help the party in Madhya Pradesh to design its campaign as well as coin the slogan to target the ruling BJP in the state.

It is worth mentioning that Kanugolu had managed the Congress campaign in Karnataka and the party's guarantees and the campaigns to target the BJP connected with the people there.

"We are hoping that Kanugolu once again weaves his magic in the party's campaigning this time in Madhya Pradesh," he said.

He further said that the team of Kanugolu has started working in the state and soon they will come up with the campaigns to target the alleged corruption in the Shivraj Singh Chouhan-led government in the state and also prepare the campaign on the failures of the state government under the BJP.

The party leader said that the Congress campaign will also focus on farmers, where it will highlight the misdeeds of the BJP government and how it failed to fulfil the promises and how their condition remained unchanged under its government.

The polling for the 230-member-Madhya Pradesh assembly will be held in November or December this year, where the Congress is looking to make a comeback.

## international

## Man convicted of killing British Sikh taxi driver after dispute over fare

London Agencies

#### When he was arrested, he made a comment, tellin

*10 KILLED, OVER 40 INJURED IN COLLISION BETWEEN 2 BUSES IN PAKISTAN* 

ACCIDENT ARAMAN

US: Freight train plunges into river after Montana bridge collapse



36-year-old man has been found guilty of A manslaughter after he assaulted and killed a Sikh taxi driver following an argument over ride fare last year in central England.

Tomasz Margol subjected 59-year-old Anakh Singh to a "sickening assault", including headbutting, punching and kicking, leading to his death on the spot on October 30, 2022 at Nine Elms Lane, Wolverhampton Police said.

Medics who had rushed to the accident site said 'nothing could be done' to save him.Margol of Bamford Road was convicted at Wolverhampton Crown Court on June 21 and will be sentenced on July 11.

Singh had picked up Margol in his taxi before the



two got into an argument over the method of payment for the journey. This escalated to Margol subjecting Singh to a sickening assault including headbutting, punching and kicking him while he was on the floor,

an address a few miles away later that day, and charged

according to the Wolverhampton Police. Having carried out CCTV inquiries, officers identified Margol and arrested him at officers: "Its about what happened today ... about the beating."

'This was a senseless and tragic act of violence. Singh was a law-abiding man of good character who was simply trying to do his job. Our thoughts remain with Singh's family at this difficult time," Detective Inspector Michelle Thurgood said.

Singh was a private hire driver working for ABC Cars and was a sole bread earner in the family.

"Anakh Singh was a loving husband, father and a wellrespected member of the community. This loss has left us heartbroken and has forever changed our lives. We miss him dearly," Singh's family said.

Islamabad: At least 10 people were killed and over 40 others injured on Sunday when two passenger buses collided in the Nawab Shah district of Pakistan's Sindh province, media reports said The accident occurred in the district's Daur area when the two buses traveling in opposite directions on a singlelane road overtook two different vehicles at the same time resulting into the crash, Xinhua news agency reported. Passengers trapped in the bus were pulled out and the injured were rushed to the local hospitals. One of the buses was reportedly going from Peshawar to Karachi while the other one was heading towards Punjab province from Karachi.

**Columbus** Agencies

t least seven freight train cars tumbled into the Yellowstone river in US Montana reportedly after a bridge collapse, causing asphalt and molten sulfur cargo to spill into the water. The train cars, operated by

Montana Rail Link, derailed around 6:45 a.m. local time on

Saturday as they headed west in Stillwater County, the county's Disaster and **Emergency Services** Department said on Facebook. Andy Garland, a Montana Rail Link spokesman, said no one was injured. Garland said that two cars were carrying sodium hydro sulfate, but neither had

entered the water or been breached, the New York Times reported. Three cars of hot asphalt and four cars of molten sulfur were in the river. officials said. Both substances were described as "slow moving", the report said. Officials said there was no expected hazardous materials impact to the towns in the county.

## 2 Palestinians killed in Israeli gunfire in West Bank: Sources

## Ramallah Agencies

wo Palestinians have died of Israeli gunfire in the West Bank, including one who was shot for attacking an Israeli checkpoint, Palestinian sources said.

Isaq Ajlouni, 18, was killed by Israeli soldiers at an Israeli army checkpoint between the West Bank city of Ramallah and Jerusalem on Saturday, Xinhua news agency reported, citing Israeli and Palestinian sources. Palestinian witnesses said he was killed by Israeli soldiers at the Qalandia checkpoint north of Jerusalem after he opened fire and lightly wounded an Israeli security guard. An Israeli police spokesman confirmed that a Palestinian armed with an M16 automatic machine-gun reached the checkpoint and opened fire at the Israeli soldiers and security forces. Al-Aqsa

Martyrs Brigades, the armed wing of the Fatah movement, claimed responsibility for the attack on the Israeli checkpoint.

Also on Saturday, Tariq Idrees, 39, succumbed to wounds he sustained from Israeli soldiers' gunfire during an Israeli army raid in the northern West Bank city of Nablus on Friday to arrest wanted Palestinians, the Palestinian Health Ministry said in a short briefing.

According to eyewitnesses Idrees was critically wounded by Israeli soldiers during clashes between the soldiers and dozens of Palestinians in a refugee camp. The tension between Israelis and the Palestinians in the West Bank and East Jerusalem has been flaring since early January after the Israeli army intensified its daily raids on Palestinian towns and cities to arrest Palestinians wanted by Israel

**IRAQI MILITARY BOMBS IS HIDEOUT** 



#### Baghdad Agencies

raqi military has said that an airstrike has killed all the militants in a hideout of the Islamic State (IS) militants in the northern

Based on intelligence reports, Iraqi warplanes carried out an airstrike on the hideout in a village near the town of al-Rashad, which is about 60 km south of the namesake provincial capital Kirkuk, Xinhua news agency reported, citing a statement issued on Saturday by the Security Media Cell, a media outlet affiliated with the Iraqi Joint Operations

Command.

After the airstrike, an Iraqi army force found bodies of province of Kirkuk.

IS militants in the hideout. including one wearing an

explosive belt, along with weapons and other equipment, the statement said, without mentioning the number of the killed mili-

tants The security situation in Iraq has improved since the defeat of the IS in 2017. However, IS remnants have since melted into urban centers, deserts, and rugged areas, carrying out frequent guerilla attacks against security forces and civilians.

## Two Indian-Americans win Democratic primaries in Virginia

#### New York Agencies

him with murder.

ndian-American candidates Suhas Subramanyam and Kannan Srinivasan have won the Democratic primaries for house of delegates in Virginia.

Subramanyam, who had announced his bid for Virginia's newly-drawn 32nd Senate District in March, defeated former state delegate and dentist Ibraheem Samirah by a narrow margin.

According to preliminary results from the Virginia Department of Elections, Subramanyam had 73.6 per cent of the vote in the primaries held on June 20.

"Thank you to every single volunteer, team member, and voter for yesterday's victory. We truly could not have done this work, or delivered this win, without each and every one of you," Subramanyam said in a statement shared on Twitter. He will succeed Senator John Bell, who announced he will not be in the race for Senate again.

A resident of Loudoun County, Subramanyam became the first Indian-American and South Asian to ever be

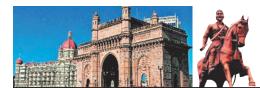


elected to the Virginia General Assembly in 2019.

A technology and regulatory attorney, Subramanyam served as a White House advisor to former President Barack Obama in 2015, where he led a task force on technology policy that addressed job creation, IT modernisation, and regulating emerging technology. Srinivasan defeated fellow Indian-American Sirisha Kompalli to grab the 26th District of the

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Virginia House of Delegates, which includes several Loudoun communities, including Brambleton, Stone Ridge and South Riding. "Thank you to our amazing team and volunteers and everyone who gave your time and talents. Your work made this possible. And thank you to the voters of District 26 for putting your faith in me. It's an honor to be your Democratic nominee," Srinivasan tweeted after his victory.



## maharashtra



# MONSOON HITS DELHI AND MUMBAI ON SAME DAY AFTER OVER SIX DECADES

Team Absolute Delhi/Mumbai

eavy rain lashed Delhi and Mumbai overnight as the monsoon reached both cities together in a rare event.

While it hit the national capital two days earlier than schedule, its entry into Mumbai is two weeks late, said the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

Last time when Monsoon covered both Mumbai and Delhi around the same time was on June 21, 1961.

Southwest monsoon is active now. It has covered the whole of Maharashtra including Mumbai. Monsoon has also arrived in Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi and parts of Haryana, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Punjab and Jammu. It will move forward in the next 2 days and will cover other parts also," said Dr Mrityunjay Mohapatra, Director General, IMD.

Even as rain brought respite from scorching heat in Delhi and adjoining areas, waterlogging was reported in various areas of Gurugram.

Mumbai and its suburbs received heavy rain in the last 24 hours, resulting in waterlogging and traffic snarls



at various places. The city is expected to receive more showers during the day, the IMD said.

Among the areas worst affected due to the rain last evening are Andheri, Malad and Dahisar. Visuals shared on social media showed people pushing cars through the flooded streets.The weather office has issued an Orange alert for Raigad and Ratnagiri as heavy rainfall lashed

parts of Maharashtra. It has issued a

vellow alert' for Palghar, Mumbai, Thane, and Sindhudurg. Mumbai braces for more rain after a downpour last evening led to waterlogging in several areas and caused massive traffic jams.

The weather office had issued an orange alert for rain in the city. Now, a yellow alert is in the place. The Met department, however, has said that

monsoon has not arrived in the Maximum City yet and is expected to take another 48 hours.

According to the weather office, the city has received 104 mm of rain in the past 24 hours.

Among the areas worst affected due to the rain last evening are Andheri, Malad and Dahisar. Visuals shared on social media showed people pushing cars through the flooded streets.

In a tragic incident, two sanitation workers unclogging drains in suburban Govandi died after falling into a manhole. Soon after the incident, firefighters brought them out and rushed them to a hospital, but they could not be saved.

Another tragedy was averted when a security personnel's swift response saved two children from drowning in the sea at Juhu. Mumbai's civic body Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation said in a statement last evening that 11 trees were uprooted and seven incidents of short circuit reported.Traffic police had a busy day

at work as flooded streets and subways led to massive jams and vehicles were diverted to alternate routes.

Bharativa Janata Party

(BJP) for sitting next to People's Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti at the Opposition meeting in Patna, Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray said he did so on

Team Absolute Mumbai

nder attack from the

purpose. Speaking before a gathering of party workers, Thackeray also claimed that Mufti told him that her party's alliance with the BJP was based on the condition that Article 370 of the Constitution will not be abolished.

BJP leader and Maharashtra deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis had said on Friday that the the opposition parties were coming together only to save their dynasties. Thackeray used to criticize the BJP for forming an alliance with Mufti's party in Jammu and Kashmir, but now he was sitting next to her and talking about forming an alliance, Fadnavis had added.

"I sat next to her purposely," Thackeray told Sena

KCR TO EMBARK ON ANOTHER VISIT TO MAHARASHTRA TO EXPAND BRS

(UBT) workers here. 'Those who align with you (BJP) are clean. You left Hindutva when you went with Mehbooba? We tear up the burqa of your fake Hindutva," he said.

Sat next to Mehbooba Mufti on purpose:

**Uddhav Thackeray hits back** 

Thackeray also showed the gathering photographs where Mufti is seen with top BJP leaders including Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah.His party had not abandoned Hindutva, he said.

"I am very sensitive about my family. Do not stoop to such a low level. You (Fadnavis) also have a family, and WhatsApp chats about your family are out in the open," Thackeray said. He was apparently refer-

ring to phone chats between Fadnavis's wife Amruta Fadnavis and alleged cricket bookie Anil Jaisinghani and his daughter Aniksha. The chats are part of a chargesheet filed against Jaisinghani, Aniksha and his cousin Nirmal in a case related to alleged demand of bribes and extortion money from Amruta Fadnavis. Hitting back, Fadnavis, who is also the state home

minister, said he, his family and the BJP were like an open book. The WhatsApp chats were included in the chargesheet with a purpose, he added.

Elsewhere, batting for Fadnavis, Chief Minister Eknath Shinde said it was unfortunate that family members were being dragged into politics.

Dubbing Thackeray as "ungrateful", Shinde said both Fadnavis and Prime Minister Narendra Modi had helped him in the past.

In a tweet, Shinde said his and 39 other Sena MLAs' rebellion against Thackeray last year stood vindicated after the opposition meeting in Patna.

Accusing Thackeray of abandoning Hindutva, Shinde said he joined the league of the Congress, Rashtriya Janata Dal, PDP and Janata Dal United, which were the parties bitterly criticised by Shiv Sena founder late Bal Thackeray.

The same people had also opposed the construction of the Ram temple, abolition of Article 370 and Hindutva, he added.

## Portion of building collapses in Ghatkopar, 2 persons rescued

Team Absolute Mumbai

portion of a groundplus-three floor residential building collapsed in Ghatkopar area of Mumbai on Sunday morning. According to

Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), some residents were stranded in the building and the rescue operation was underway.

A portion of the building located in Chittaranjan Nagar of Rajawadi Colony in suburban Ghatkopar collapsed at 9.33 am, said the civic body. BMC's Mumbai Fire Brigade declared the accident Level-I.

According to BMC, two persons were rescued from the third floor, while two persons were still trapped on the



building's first floor and efforts were on to bring them out.Meanwhile, no injuries have been reported so far. "Some portion of ground

Saturday to the death of two plus upper three floored persons who were washed building collapsed. Some resaway in a drain. The heavy showers had also caused trafidents were stranded in the building. Rescue Operation is fic snarls, tree fall incidents and short circuits, as per offiin progress," the BMC said in a statement.After the inciTeam Absolute Hyderabad

ontinuing his focus on Maharashtra to expand the activities of Bharat Rashtra

Samithi (BRS), party president and Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao will undertake another visit to the neighbouring state from Monday.

During the two-day visit, KCR will attend the party programmes in Sholapur and hold talks with leaders of various parties keen to join the BRS.

BRS sources said KCR will perform special puja in Pandharpur and Tuljapur temples besides participating in the party programmes.

The BRS chief will be accompanied by several state ministers, MLAs, MLCs and other public representatives.

KCR will leave for Maharashtra by road at 10 a.m. on Monday. After reaching Sholapur in the evening, he will have a night halt there. The next day he will attend the BRS programme in Sholapur. Well-known NCP leader Bhagirath Bhalke will formally join the BRS in the presence of KCR.

The BRS president will also interact with local leaders and also those who are keen to join the party. He will also meet workers from Telangana



#### who migrated to Sholapur.

On Tuesday, KCR will visit Pandharpur and pray in Vithoba Rukmini Temple. He will subsequently visit Dharashiv district and offer prayers at Tulja

Bhavani temple. After the prayers, he will return to Hyderabad. This will be KCR's fifth visit to Maharashtra after he changed the name of Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) to BRS a few months ago to expand the activities of the party across the country.

KCR chose Maharashtra as the first state to expand BRS. On June 15, he inaugurated the BRS office in Nagpur. He had earlier visited Nanded, Aurangabad and other places to address public meetings.

On several occasions, KCR claimed that BRS is receiving tremendous response in Maharashtra. Scores of leaders and workers from various parties have joined BRS during the last few weeks.

KCR is focusing on agriculture issues and the problems faced by farmers. He has been urging people to vote for 'kisan sarkar' in Maharashtra and at the centre.

At his public meetings in Maharashtra, the BRS chief is highlighting the schemes being implemented by his government in Telangana and its achievements in agriculture and other sectors. He is projecting Telangana model of development and calling for replicating it in Maharashtra and other

Two dead, one injured after truck crushes pick-up in Khandala MMR growing, govt taking all efforts to provide amenities: Chief Minister Shinde

dent, fire brigade, police and

civic personnel rushed to the

spot.Earlier, heavy rains in

several parts of Mumbai on

## Team Absolute Mumbai

aharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Sunday said that the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) was growing and the Maharashtra government was making all efforts to provide amenities and augment infrastructure.

He was speaking at an event in Thane district of Maharashtra where he inaugurated some civic projects and laid the foundation stones of upcoming ones.

CM Shinde said that he visited Milan Subway in Vile Parle area of Mumbai and the under-construction Coastal Road along with Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) officials led by additional commissioner P Velrasu.

"We have done a lot of pre-monsoon works. I inspected some areas in the morning and am happy to note



there were no issues of waterlogging," CM Shinde said.

The CM reiterated his warning that officials will face action if pre-monsoon works are found to be not up to the mark and citizens face rain-related problems.

There will be no compromise on quality and quantity since all these works involve public money," he said. CM Shinde further said he hoped



He asked local officials to speed up work on cluster development as well metro works in Thane so that people get to use the service soon.

Thane had received Rs 323 crore as part of the Amrut Yojana and it was a good example of the state benefitting when there is a friendly dispensation

at the Centre, CM Shinde said.

"MMR is growing and the state government is making all efforts to provide amenities to people and augment infrastructure," CM Shinde said.

He said his government had insured 15 lakh Warkaris, who will converge at Pandharpur on Ashadhi Ekadashi on June 29 rpt 29, for Rs 1 lakh each and had also ensured common citizens can pray at the renowned temple even as officials prayers offered by the CM are underway that day.

He lashed out at the Shiv Sena (UBT) for holding a protest on July 1 rpt 1 against alleged corruption in the BMC.

"They must remember they were in power for 2.5 years and amid the

pandemic. There are allegations that body bags for Covid victims costing Rs 600 was purchased at Rs 6.000. An inquiry will bring out the truth," CM Shinde said.

n a tragic incident, a pickup van was crushed under a truck at Khandala's Anda Point on Saturday morning. The incident resulted in the death of two persons, while one person was injured.

According to Highway Police, the incident occurred at around 7.30 am, when a truck travelling from Pune towards Mumbai via the old Pune-Mumbai highway lost control on a sharp turn and crashed into the pick-up van, which then flipped over. Meanwhile, the truck skidded on mud and fell down on another pick-up van passing beside it.

"The pick-up van was brand new and didn't have a registration number. The driver of the van died on the spot. Two others were

injuried and taken to a hospital in Khopoli, where the second victim succumbed to his injuries," said a Highway Police official. The vehicles were removed

from the spot and traffic

resumed around 8.50 am.

The deceased have been

identified as Gurudeep Singh

54. Sofian Sheikh Hussain Mulla, 19, a resident of Khalapur, has sustained minor injuries. At the Sulabha School for Special Education and Research, students are taught through interactive learning, games and visual stimuli

Sarova, 47, and Satish Pawar,

## THREE INJURED AS **RESTAURANT ROOF COLLAPSES AFTER HEAVY RAINS**

Thane: Three persons were injured when the roof of a restaurant collapsed in Maharashtra's Thane city following heavy rains, civic officials told news agency on Sunday.

The incident took place late Saturday night at the restaurant located on Ghodbunder Road, Thane Municipal Corporation's Disaster Control Cell chief Yasin Tadvi told media.

Two women and a man suffered injuries and were rushed to a nearby private hospital, he said.

The city received 58.90 mm of rainfall in the 12-hour period ending at 8.30 am on Sunday.

The total rainfall this year in the city has so far been recorded at 139.76 mm, compared to 172.71 mm for the same period last year, he said.

Many localities in Ulhasnagar township were also affected due to the heavy downpour on Saturday, as per Thane district authorities.

# *Fire destroys four godowns storing TVs, refrigerators, ACs in Bhiwandi; no one hurt*

#### Team Absolute Thane

major fire in multiple godowns in Bhiwandi area of Maharashtra's Thane district destroyed as many as four units storing electrical and electronic items though there was no report of injuries to anyone, a civic official said on Sunday

The blaze started at 9:40 pm on Saturday and was doused in the afternoon during the day almost 15 hours later, the Bhiwandi Naizampura Municipal Corporation fire brigade official said on Sunday

"Five fire engines from Thane, Bhiwandi and Kalyan were deployed. The blaze saw periodic explosions due to the presence of compressors in the godowns. No one was hurt. A probe is underway to find out the case," he said.

He said that the televisions, refrigerators, LEDs, washing machines, air conditioners stored in the godowns in Valpada perished.

Meanwhile, in an another incident in Mumbai, two people died and two others were left injured after parts of a ground-plus-two structure in Vile



Parle area of Mumbai collapsed on Sunday afternoon, officials said.

In an official statement, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) said that information was received on Sunday that the ground and first floor collapsed of a ground-plus-two floored building at St. Braz Road near Nanavati Hospital in Vile Parle Gaothan area of Mumbai.

According to the civic body, as per the information received from Cooper Hospital, two people

have died in the incident, and they were identified as Prishila Misauita, 65, and Robi Misauita, 70. Both were declared brought dead by the doctors at the hospital. Two others have been injured in the incident, the statement further said.

Meanwhile, in another incident on Sunday, a portion of a ground-plus-three floor residential building collapsed in Ghatkopar area, a fire brigade official said. Two persons were rescued from the third floor of the building, the official said.

He said that two persons were still trapped on the building's first floor and efforts were on to bring them out. There was so far no report of any casualty, the official said.

"Two fire engines, one response vehicle, 108 ambulances, the police, and ward staff rushed to the spot following the incident," an official statement said. A portion of the building located in Chittaranjan Nagar of Rajawadi Colony in suburban Ghatkopar collapsed at 9.33 am, the official said. It is a "level-one" incident, he said.

Fire brigade, police, civic personnel and a team of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) rushed to the spot after being alerted.



hollywood



# KourtneyKardashian and Travis Barker reveal they are expecting a boy

#### Los Angeles | Agencies

eality TV star KourtneyKardashian has revealed that she and husband Travis Barker's first child will be a boy. In an Instagram video posted on Saturday, Kourtney is seen sitting on the Blink-182 drummer's lap in her backyard as blue confetti and streamers burst out of a cannon.

Kourtney captioned the post with a blue and pink heart as a tease to the reveal.

Kourtney and Travis, 47, announced that they are expecting their first baby together at his concert in Los Angeles on June 16.

In the video posted on Instagram, Kourtney, who showed off her growing baby bump in a bikini a day earlier, is seen taking a seat on Travis' lap on a platform where his drum set had been assembled while a crowd surrounded it.

The drummer showcased his showmanship by doing a drum roll on his snare drum.

As soon as he did a final crash on his cymbals, a burst of baby blue confetti and streamers shot up into the sky, revealing that the couple would be welcoming a boy.

As per eonline.com, Kourtney and Travis, who got married in May 2022, have been vocal about their desire to add to their already-large family. Their journey to her pregnancy was documented on 'The Kardashians', with the Poosh founder giving a candid look into the in vitro fertilisation (IVF) process.

Kourtney is already mom to Mason Disick, 13, Penelope Disick, 10, and Reign Disick, 8, with expartner Scott Disick. While Travis co-parents Landon Barker, 19, and Alabama Barker, 17, with exwife Shanna Moakler and is also stepdad to Atiana De La Hoya, 24.

*Tina Turner to be honoured at July 4 Fireworks Spectacular in NYC* 

The late legendary singer Tina Turner, who is also called 'Queen of Rock'n Roll', will be honoured at this year's iconic Macy's 4th

As per The Hollywood Reporter, during the 'Golden Mile' display, As per the nonywood reporter, during the Content time disp thousands of golden-hued shells will create a dramatic cascade effect stretching across the East River to honour the 'What's Love Got To Do With It' singer, who died in May aged 83. Singers Ashanti, BebeRexha, Ja Rule, Jelly Roll, Lainey Wilson, LL

Cool J featuring DJ Z-Trip and The Roots, and more will perform at the 47th annual event. In a separate event, Tina is also being honoured by singer-actress Patti LaBelle during the BET Awards on Sunday in Los Angeles,

Patti LaBelle will take the stage to honour Turner, showcasing her

incredible talent and capturing the essence of her legacy in a performance.

# Taylor Swift asks fans to be 'kind and that you can

should feel the need to defend me on the internet against someone you think I might have written a song about 14 million years ago.' " As per USA Today, Swift is going to take her Eras Tour worldwide from August 24, starting from Mexico City. Next year, the tour will continue in countries such as Japan, amongst others, somewhere between February and August 2024.

out

so

go and

Taylor Swift has been popping out a bunch of bonus tracks on the setlist such as 'Tim McGraw' to 'Paper Rings' and 'Snow on According to The Hollywood Reporter, "The Grammy-winning singer noted that she gets to 'stand on this stage every single night of this tour and watch some of the most beautiful things happen,' including fans interacting with kindness in the crowd, and she urges her fans to continue that same positivity According to THR, "Although she didn't name anyone Australia, Singapore and Europe

specifically during the onstage speech at U.S. Bank Stadium in Minneapolis, MN, Swift added: 'I'm 33 years old. I don't care about anything that happened to me when I was 19, except the songs I wrote ... ' "She continued: 'I'm not putting this album

op-singer Taylor Swift gave a speech during her tour,

of her "Speak Now (Taylor's version)" album (not to be con-

fused with her third album "Speak Now" from 2010).

online when the album is released July 7.'

Los Angeles | Agencies

the Beach'

## **Dancing to 'Scream'**

Michael Jackson in a recent video

op star Britney Spears shared a video of herself grooving to the iconic pop song 'Scream' sung by Michael Jackson and Janet Jackson on Instagram, in a tribute to the late 'King of Pop'. "Today dancing to Scream!!!" Spears, 41, captioned the post.

The 'Toxic' singer, who regularly shares clips of her impromptu dance sessions in her home, danced to the 1995 hit in a black crop top, a bright green thong and black leather knee-high boots, as per People. The Grammy winner later posted sideby-side photos of her rehearsal and onstage ks for her 2001 performance with Jackson, who died on June 25, 2009 at the age of 50. Britney had joined Michael on stage at Madison Square Garden for the 2001 concert to perform his 1987 classic hit The Way You Make Me Feel'. "Rehearsals with Micheal versus performance," she wrote alongside the split image. In the picture on the left, a muchyounger Spears is seen in a white longsleeved crop top and low-rise jeans with a tan hat and round glasses for the rehearsal. In the right-hand photo, she's dressed in her concert attire, comprising a glittery green dress with black straps and detailing around her bust and waist. Britney's post came a day ahead of the 14th anniversary of Michael Jackson's death. Shortly after posting her 'Scream' dance, Britney also paid tribute to Michael's 57-year-old sister Janet by dancing to her 1993 single 'Throb'.

Britney Spears pays tribute to

Los Angeles | Agencies

where she asked her fans to act with "kindness and gentleness" on social media. This comes ahead of the release gentle' Ever since the launch of her 'Eras Tour' in March, pop singer

## 'I don't do well when I don't work'

#### Harrison Ford on retiring from acting

#### Los Angeles | Agencies

ndiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny' star Harrison Ford opened up about his future and said that retiring is not a possibility. While being interviewed by Chris Wallace, the CNN host asked Ford if he was retiring as the actor turns 81. "I don't do well when I don't have work," Ford said, reported 'Deadline'. "I love to work ... I love to feel useful. It's my Jones, I want to be helpful. Wallace followed up and asked him what he liked about acting so much to which the star said, "It is the people

that you get to work with. The intensity and the intimacy of collaboration ... it's the combined ambition, somehow forged from words on a page. "I want to do in a scene and I don't feel obliged to do anything but I am naturally affected by the things that I work

his final time playing the archeologist will be in the upcoming Dial of Destiny.

"This is the final film in the series, and this is the last time I'll play the character," Ford told Total Film magazine."I anticipate that it will be the last time that he appears in a film.'

don't plan what I The actor has said



Tina won eight Grammy Awards and was inducted into the Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame in 2021 as a solo artiste, having first been inducted ind alongside ex-husband Ike Turner in 1991. Upon her solo induction, the Hall of Fame noted how she had "expanded the once-limited idea of how a black woman could conquer a stage and be both a powerhouse and a multidimensional being". Some of the most famous stars who have been influenced by her include Beyonce, Janet Jackson, Janelle

## Nicola Coughlan was nervous filming racy scenes in 'Bridgerton' Season 3

#### Los Angeles | Agencies

ctress Nicola Coughlan, who plays Penelope Featherington in 'Bridgerton' eason 3, felt afraid to film her kissing scenes in the upcoming season of the hit Netflix show. The show is based on the book series by Julia Quinn.

Nicola has revealed that she struggled to lock lips with co-star Luke Newton because they're such good friends in real life, reports aceshowbiz.com.

"Terrifying! Luke and I read the books at the beginning of season one, and it was funny to us. We were like, 'Imagine if we have to kiss and do this.' And then season one come on and we were like, 'Oh god,' and then it's like, it's my friend. I have to kiss my friend," the actress told ET Canada when asked what it was like to shoot the steamy scenes.

"And you can't pretend to kiss someone, you have to really kiss them. It's a spicy one. It's a lot of the stuff from the books that the fans expect has made it into the show! Oh my God, there was one day where we had to sort of do like a very romantic, beautifully written romantic scene. And we were just like peeing ourselves with laughter, 'cause you just have to, like, look into each other's eyes and we were like, 'Oh God!' "

She was also asked to describe the new season of the hit show and explained that it will be different to its predecessors in that it's "so romantic." Comparing the different seasons of the show, Nicola shared: "I keep saying - season one was about passion. Season two was about longing. Season three is romance. It's so romantic.



## **ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY**





## **TRIBUTES POUR IN FOR INDIA'S 1983 WC WINNING TEAM ON 40TH ANNIVERSARY**

Team Absolute New Delhi

n this Day in 1983, exactly 40 years ago, Kapil Dev led Indian scripted history by lifting the 1983 World Cup trophy after beating star-studded West Indies side in the final, leaving an ever-lasting impact on the game in the country.

The 1983 World Cup victory propelled Indian cricket to the forefront and gave significant recognition on the global stage.

On the historic day of the final, India was put into bat and were restricted to 183 in 54.4 overs. Opener Kris Srikkanth top scored with 38, while Mohinder Amarnath scored 26. Andy Roberts was the pick of the bowlers for West Indies, registering figures of 3 for 32.

In reply, the West Indies kept losing wickets at regular intervals and they were bowled out for 140 in 52 overs, as India sealed a historic triumph and lifted the World Cup Trophy at the iconic Lord's Cricket Ground.

On the momentous occasion of the 40th anniversary of the historic triumph, the Indian cricket fraternity is celebrating the day. "OnThisDay in 1983 A historic day & a landmark



moment for Indian cricket #TeamIndia, led by @therealkapildev, clinched the World Cup title," the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) said in a tweet. Legendary batter Sachin Temdulalkar feels that 1983 victory was one of the defining moments that changed Indian cricket. "40 years to India winning the

World Cup for the first time! 25th June, 1983 was one of the defining moments that changed Indian cricket as well as my life forever. Paying tribute to all the members of that champion team," tweeted Temdulalkar. Meanwhile, BCCI secretary Jay

Shah called the 1983 victory a cricket-

ing revolution in India.

"OnThisDay in 1983, India lifted the Cricket World Cup for the first time, etching the name in golden letters! A monumental triumph that ignited a cricketing revolution and forever changed the course of Indian cricket. #1983WorldCup"," said Shah in a tweet.

"25th June, 1983 - 40 years since that landmark day when Kapil Paaji and his boys won India the World Cup and it inspired an entire generation of youth to take up Cricket and was an instrumental moment in making Cricket what it is in India. #WorldCup," former India batter VVS Laxman tweeted. Former India star

all-rounder and 2011 world cup winner Yuvraj Singh also took to social media to celebrate 1983 triumph. "They did it first! A team of legends

who defied expectations with their courage and conviction.

Congratulations on #40Years to that great day and thank you for an unforgettable journey that paved the way for countless dreams," Yuvraj said in his tweet. "40 years today!!

Remembering the heroes and their team effort that led India to lift the World Cup in 1983," former India pacer Zaheer Khan said.

## **On penultimate day in Berlin, Indian** contingent cross 150-medal mark

#### Berlin Agencies

fter a brief interlude, the sun rose and shone hard on Berlin on Sunday, the penultimate day of the Special Olympics World Games 2023. Special Olympics Bharat kept their medal march in step, and by the end of the day's events on Saturday, Indian contingent had a whopping 157 medals -- 66 -Gold, 50 -Silver and 41- Bronze.

In what has become a regular theme, roller skating led the way for the contingent, bringing five medals home (2 gold, 3 silver). Among the gold medallists were Arayan (300m) and Deepen (1000m), who joined their peers at the top of the podium from the roller-skating

arena. While individual medals are always treasured and valued, winning medals at team sport, especially at the world games, carries with it a unique pride, one that cannot just be shared across but also provides energy to an entire contingent. As it was



then, the day proved incredibly fruitful for many of India's team event athletes, with Indian teams winning gold in basketball and volleyball.Basketball in particular was almost an all-Indian ruled event. In the Men's/Mixed 5x5 basketball India beat Portugal 6-3 to claim gold. The women's 5x5 team themselves were in the final, but were beaten by Sweden to finish with a silver.On the volleyball courts, India beat the Republic of Korea in the Men's/Mixed volleyball 2-0 (25-19, 25-16) to take home the bronze medal, and end their campaign on a high. In the women's unified team event,

the team won gold, beating UAE in a brilliantly topsyturvy encounter. It was always going to be a close encounter, and as a spectacle it did not disappoint. India edged the first game 25-22 before UAE rallied to eke out the second 25-19. From there it became a matter of who blinked first, with the teams trading point for point in the final set. India edged it 15-12 to take home the honours. After the postponement of

the tennis finals, Saturday became the day when they were to be restaged. In the men's singles Level 5, Swaraai Singh lost to Tamas Torok to win silver in the event.

## Serie A: Ten-man Fluminense World no. 1 battle with Djokovic is extra motivation for me: Carlos Alcaraz FC beat Bahia, rise to third

#### Rio de Janeiro | Agencies

ele and Gabriel Pirani struck second-half goals as Fluminense FC came from behind to secure a 2-1 home victory over Bahia in Brazil's Serie A championship on Sunday.

Vinicius Mingotti gave the visitors the lead just before the half hour as he combined with Kayky Chagas before slotting a shot past goalkeeper Danilo Fernandes on the counterattack.Fluminense's fortunes went from bad to worse when center-back Marcilio Mota was shown a straight red card for bringing down Mingotti in the 34th minute, a Xinhua report said.

But the hosts emerged from the halftime interval with renewed verve and Lele equalized by sending a looping header into an unguard-



ed net after some chaotic Bahia defending.

Pirani completed the turnback. In other Brazilian Serie around shortly after with a low finish past goalkeeper Fabio Maciel following Keno's pass. The result at the Maracana stadium leaves Fluminense with 21 points from 12 games, six points behind leaders Botafogo.



arlos Alcaraz has expressed that the world no. 1 battle with Serbian great Novak Djokovic serves as an "extra motivation" for him in the Queen's Club Championships final.

Alcaraz, who was dethroned from the top spot in the ATP rankings by Djokovic earlier this month after the Serbian won the French Open, will return to the summit if he triumphs at Queen's Club on Sunday.

The No. 1 ranking would also make him the top seed at Wimbledon, which starts on July 3, where Alcaraz will be looking for his second major title, and first on grass.

"It (the No. 1 battle) is helping me a lot. It is an extra motivation for me. During the match I am not thinking about that, but it is an extra motivation for me to go into the final with extra energy, and I am going for it. To be top seed at Wimbledon and No. 1 for me, it is still a dream. It is some-

thing that I worked on, to recover the No. 1," the Spaniard was quoted as saying by Eurosport.

He further described his battle for world no. 1 with Djokovic as "a beautiful fight."

"I think Novak and I, we are having a beautiful fight for the No. 1 spot. I am going to go for it and it is crazy for me to be top seed at Wimbledon,' said Alcaraz. Alcaraz is making his first-ever appearance at Queen's this year, marking his third time participating in a grass-court tournament. His previous experiences on grass include reaching the last 16 and the second round at Wimbledon in the past two years.

The 20-year-old surged past Sebastian Korda in Saturday's semifinal with a straight-sets win. Despite being relatively unfamiliar with the grass surface, Alcaraz has been great ly encouraged by his progress in the tournament."The thing that I learned the most this week is about how to move. I am moving well on grass right now.

I started the week with doubts about movement and about hitting the ball, but right now, as I said, I feel like I have been playing on grass for many years," he said.

Anish, Sri Karthik, Nishchal among first winners Rajasthan Rebels crowned Taekwondo

## at Rifle-Pistol national selection trials

Bahia are 14th in the 20-team

standings, nine points further

Athletico Paranaense won 1-

0 at home to Corinthians,

secured a 1-0 home victory

Fortaleza edged to a 2-1

home win over Atletico

Mineiro and Cruzeiro

over Sao Paulo.

A fixtures on Sunday,

#### Team Absolute New Delhi

nish Bhanwala, Sri Karhtik Sabari Raj and Nishchal were among the first winners at the National Selection Trials 5 & 6 for Group A Rifle and Pistol shooters, currently underway at the Dr Karni Singh Shooting range, here.

Anish continued to impress as the India number one in the Men's 25m Rapid Fire Pistol (RFP), while Sri Karthik Sabari Raj of Tamil Nadu won the Men's 10m Air Rifle T5 competition on Sunday, day two of the trials.

Nishchal triumphed in the Women's 50m Rifle 3 Positions (3P) T5, ensuring Haryana had two of the three wins in the day's senior competitions, given Anish's win in the Men's RFP.

Anish topped the qualifications of the men's RFP which began on Saturday and ended on Sunday with an above average effort of 584 out of a possible 600. In the final though, he was in his elements, shooting a stunning 35 out of 40, with four perfect scores of five among the eight series of five



rapid-fire shots each. Bhavesh Shekhawat of Rajasthan was a distant second with 29 while Punjab's Anhad Jawanda was third with 22-hits to his name. In the Women's 3P, the qualifying scores were high with Bhopal World Cup bronze medallist Sift Kaur Samra of Punjab, topping with 592. Haryana's Nishchal in-fact took the eighth and final qualifying spot with a score of 585, but was the most consistent in the final, staying among the top two and mostly in the lead throughout.

She eventually won with a finals score of 457.7, just 0.4 ahead of the seasoned Lajja Gauswami of Gujarat, now in her 16th year of competing at the highest level.

Odisha's Shriyanka Sadangi was third with 446.7.

In the Men's 10m Air Rifle, Tamil Nadu shooter Sri Karthik Sabari Raj, pipped Assam's Hriday Hazarika, who had mounted a brilliant late charge, by 0.2 points in the final. Sri Karthik finished with 253.2. Punjab's Arjun Babuta was third with 231.5. Sri Karthik had also topped the qualification round with 633.5 as all eight qualifiers shot above the 630-mark. Hriday was fifth in qualification.

Shotgun Team for Baku World Championships and Hangzhou Asian Games selected.

## Premier League champions

#### Team Absolute New Delhi

ajasthan Rebels created history by becoming the first champions of the Taekwondo Premier League here on Sunday.

The Rebels, mentored by Abrar Khan, Black Belt First Dan, and led by their star player Sourav from Haryana, fought their way past two more fancied teams to take home the impressive title.

Rajasthan overcame a valiant Delhi Warriors in a high-intensity and fast-paced final to win the crown 2-1. They lost the opening round 3-9 but hit back to win the next two 9-4, 5-4.

Delhi's owner Shyam Patel goaded his team from the Blue Corner but Ajay,



Deepanshu and Nishant just couldn't throw the one crucial kick in the third and final round to live up to expecta-

tions. A packed audience cheered on the finalists as they matched each other blow by blow.

#### **Ashes 2023**

## Labuschagne sends injury scare in Australian camp ahead of second Test

London | Agencies

arnus Labuschagne caused concern within the Australian camp ahead of the second Ashes 2023 Test when he suffered a painful blow to his hand during a net session at Lord's, leaving him in considerable discomfort.

Labuschagne copped a blow to his finger when both he and Steve Smith took part in a net session on Saturday. In addition to Labuschagne and Smith, reserve players of the squad were present and received throwdowns from the coaching staff. One of those throwdowns left Labuschagne in serious pain and kneeling on the ground before receiving treatment from the team doctor, according to Fox Cricket.However, the 29-year-old was able to resume batting in the nets and completed the session with Australian assistant coach Michael Di Venuto not overly concerned in the aftermath."He kept on batting so he must've been OK. Otherwise, he would have walked out. He's got a finger that has copped a couple of knocks. I think he just got another



one. He said it felt better because the blood started to flow through or something. So it makes sense. So, that's what you want," Di Venuto said."They (Labuschagne and Smith) got wind of a net session that we had organised for the guys that hadn't been playing. They have had a few days off shadow-batting in their rooms.

## **ODI WC Qualifier** Hasaranga's third consecutive five-for, Karunaratne's hundred puts Sri Lanka in Super Six stage

#### Bulawayo | Agencies

eg-spinner Wanindu Hasaranga picked his third consecutive five-for while opener Dimuth Karunaratne scored a fantastic hundred to put Sri Lanka in the Super Six Stage of Men's ODI World Cup Qualifiers with a thumping 133-run win over Ireland in their Group B match at Queens Sports Club on Sunday.

Sri Lanka's win also takes Scotland and Oman through to the Super Six stage while Ireland join UAE in being knocked out of contention. Karunaratne's 103, his maiden ODI hundred, and 82 from Sadeera Samawickrama, as well as 42 not out from Dhananjaya de Silva took Sri Lanka to 325 in 49.5 overs, their second 300+ total of the tournament.

Hasaranga took over by spinning a web around Ireland's batters to pick 5/79. He was supported by other



#### Brief scores

Sri Lanka 325 all out in 49.5 overs (Dimuth Karunaratne 103, Sadeera Samarawickrama 82; Mark Adair 4/46, Barry McCarthy 3/56) beat Ireland 192 all out in 31 overs (Curtis Campher 39, Harry Tector 33; Wanindu Hasaranga 5/79, Maheesh Theekshana 2/29) by 133 runs

bowlers chipping in to bowl out Ireland for 192 in 31 overs.

Hasaranga has now become the second player after Pakistan fast bowling great Wagar Younis to take three consecutive five-wicket hauls in history of ODIs, as Sri Lanka outshined Ireland in all aspects of the game.

Pushed into batting first, Karunaratne and Pathum Nissanka put up a 48-run opening stand before the latter fell to a mistimed pull against Barry McCarthy. The very next ball, McCarthy got one to angle in and trapped Kusal Mendis lbw for a golden duck, as Sri Lanka were 58/2 at the end of ten overs.

In the chase, Ireland lost openers Paul Stirling (6) and Andy McBrine (17) in the first ten overs. Post that, Hasaranga struck in his very first over to remove Ireland skipper Andrew Balbirnie.

But their dismissals, followed by the tailenders falling quickly meant Hasaranga and Sri Lanka proved yet again why they are a team to beat in the competition with another comprehensive win.





# AKANGSHA RAWAT CALLS PLAYING DITI A CHALLENGING EXPERIENCE

#### Team Absolute Mumbai

08

ctress Akangsha Rawat best known for her roles in TV serials such as "Solhah Singaarr" and "RadhaKrishn" is playing a negative role of Diti, the mother of Asuras, in the new drama series "Shiv Shakti".

Speaking on her role, the actress said it was a challenging experience.

"I wanted to challenge myself this time. I took a huge risk and I knew if I fail I will be written off! I was already struggling with self-doubt and confidence in my personal life owing to many challenges, because this was the first time I would play a villain and so far everyone has loved my portrayal of Diti, so I guess it was worth it!"

Elaborating more about the character, Akangsha said, "I play the negative lead Diti, Asur Mata, from whom the lineage of Asuras starts on Earth, she is the daughter of the first king of Earth, wife of Sage Kashyap. She feels injustice was done towards her since childhood and now is done with her children too and so she keeps fighting with Devtas for her

rights, the respect and acceptance she never got. It is so far

**PARINEETI CHOPRA RESPONDS** TO A FAN ASKING 'HOW'S **MARRIED LIFE?** 

the most difficult character I have ever played.""Not just because she is a negative character but because she has multiple shades, you will hate Diti but you will still love her! Her pain is real but her way and actions to get justice is wrong.

entertainment

**Second Front Page** 

Based on the "Shiva Purana", "Shiv Shakti" is a mythological love story, which follows king of the Earth Daksh, and his daughters, Aditi, who is the mother of Devtas

and Diti, who is the mother of Asuras. The show premiered on

JioCinemas on June 19 and is produced by Swastik Productions.



#### Team Absolute Mumbai

**Nawazuddin to share screen** 

space with Shehnaaz

he poster of actors Nawazuddin Siddiqui and Shehnaaz Gill's upcoming track 'Yaar Ka Sataya Hua Hai' was unveiled on Sunday. Going by the caption he has written, the song seems to be about love and betraval.

As the poster released, Nawazuddin can be seen in a new look. This would be the first time the two will be seen sharing screen space.

Taking to his social media, Nawazuddin shared the poster and captioned it: "Main paagal hun, aur bahut paagal, par yeh bhi baat hai ke dil sachcha hai, cheen toh leta tujhko saare aam main, par masla yeh hai ke shohar tera aadmi acha hai."

Nawazuddin's 'Yaar Ka Sataya Hua Hai' is a song from the album Zohrajabeen and is sung by BPraak. The song will be released on July 3.

Previously, Nawazuddin's first musical album 'Baarish Ki Jaaye' song was also a sensation and garnered immense love from the audience. Apart from this, Nawazuddin has an interesting lineup of films, which includes Noorani Chehra, Haddi, and Adbhut.



## **'I EXIST BECAUSE OF YOU': AJAY REMEMBERS LATE FATHER VEERU** DEVGAN

Team Absolute Mumbai

ilmmaker-actor Ajay Devgn on Sunday shared an emotional video montage remembering his father and late

action director Veeru Devgan on his 89th birth anniversary. Ajay took to Instagram, where he shared the video of himself from a snow-clad mountain. It also featured old clips from the sets of "Phool Aur Kante", where Veeru was directing Ajay through an action sequence in the actor's debut film.In the background of the video, Veeru is telling about he always believed that his son would grow up to be an actor -- whether he would be successful that will be up to the audience. Ajay said, "He's always been my inspiration. And today, I exist because he does."The video also had photos of father and son arm-inarm. It also featured a moment from the Zee Cine Awards 2016 in which Veeru Devgan was awarded for 'Outstanding Contribution to Indian Cinema'. Ajay captioned the clip: "Today I exist because of you. Happy birthday Papa.' Veeru passed away in May 2019 in Mumbai, aged 84. He had not been well for a while and old age and poor health made his health condition worse. He was suffering from breathing problems after which he was immediately admitted to the Surya Jospital Santa Cruz However, his condition became critical and resulted in cardiac arrest



Team Absolute Mumbai

ctress Parineeti Chopra, who got Chengaged to AAP leader Raghav Chadha in May, reacted to a question by a fan asking her about her "married life." Parineeti was attending an event here, where she was also seen interacting with paparazzi. She was asked by paparazzi to invite them to her wed ding. A brief clip shared by Bollywood photographer Varindra Chawla on Instagram shows Parineeti dressed in all black, standing in an elevator.A paparazzo said: "Shaadi mein bulana. She smiled and nodded her head. Then a fan asked, "How's married life?" To which, she replied with a

smile: "I'm not married Parineeti got engaged to the AAP leader on May

On the acting front, she will next be seen in 'Chamkila' with Diljit Dosanjh

yet."

13 in New Delhi.

# Tesher reveals why his new song 'Jacquemus' is named after women's handbag

#### Team Absolute New Delhi

ocial media went into a tizzy after The second secon known for his chartbuster hit track 'Jalebi Baby', dropped his new song titled 'Jacquemus'. For the unversed, 'Jacquemus' is actually a luxury label known for their unique styled handbags. Funnily, it caught the eye of Tesher

during a store visit in London. Talking to IANS about the title of the track, which he found difficult to pronounce, Tesher said: "The story goes: I was in London last year and was in a store ... They have a little small section of brands. There is a Louis Vuitton section and then a Prada section. So, there was a section and it said Jacquemus. I am looking at this word and I am like 'how do you pronounce this'.'

"I couldn't understand how people could say that word," he said with a laugh. "Then I walked into the section with a friend and they had these bags, not just any bags, strangely shaped and interesting bags and I was just so enthralled by it. The name was really different and the bags were really cool."

Coming back to Toronto, Tesher was working on his new track, which is out now and he found the word interesting.

He said: "Fast forward one month I am back in Toronto and just working on music and I make the beat for the song that is now Jaquemus. I was freestyling



lyrics and it came to my head 'Jaquemus bag she kept on a tag...' because I just wanted to paint an image of what would make a girl the most it girl in the club and I purposely miss pronounced the name just because it sounded better.'

"That is actually the real story on why I have a song named after a woman's handbag.





Owned, Published and Printed by Yogenra Chaturvedi at Indian Express, A-8, Sector-7, Noida (UP) and Published from 23, Hanuman Road, Cannaught Place, New Delhi-110001 Editor- Yogendra Chaturvedi, (responsible for selection of news under PRB ACT). PRB ACT). RNI Code DELENG/2017/19576, Phone No. 011-23346744, www.absoluteindianews.com,E-mail: absoluteindiadesk@gmail.com (Bhopal will be the jurisdiction of any dispute.)