

# absolute india

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## New all time high of Nifty registered at 19851 points



Indian indices continue winning run for fifth consecutive session  
At close, the Sensex was up 302.30 points, or 0.45 per cent, at 67,097.44, and the Nifty was up 83.90 points, or 0.42 per cent, at 19,833.20. The market opened on a positive note and tested fresh record highs but failed to hold on to the gains and witnessed profit booking. However, last hour buying helped it to close near the day's high level.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

After witnessing high volatility at the highs on Tuesday, Nifty witnessed choppy movement for mid part and sharp upsurge in the later part of Wednesday and closed the day higher by 83 points, says Nagaraj Shetti, Technical Research Analyst, HDFC Securities.

After opening with a positive note, the market moved up further soon after the opening. The new all time high was registered at 19851 and the market slipped into weakness from the new highs. A sharp upside recovery has emerged in

the mid to later part of the session and Nifty closed at the highs, Shetti said. This market action indicates stiff resistance zone for the Nifty at 19850 levels. Minor negative patterns are not getting confirmed at the highs/hurdles and there is an absence of any reasonable downward corrections from the resistances, he said.

The underlying uptrend of Nifty remains intact. Nifty is expected to move above the hurdle of 19800-19850 levels in the short term. The immediate upside target to be watched around historical 20K mark. Immediate support is placed at 19700 levels, he said.

### Third opposition meeting in Mumbai to decide 11-member committee, convener

# PUNCHLINE: JEETEGA BHARAT

When asked when the 11-member coordination committee will be announced, the source said that the new committee will be formed during the third meeting of the opposition parties in Mumbai.

The source also said that besides the 11 member committee, the discussion over selecting a convener will be taken up during the third meeting as someone has to call the meeting of the bloc in the coming days.

The two-day meeting of the 26 opposition parties, including Congress, Trinamool, AAP, DMK, Sharad Pawar's NCP, CPM etc., held in Bengaluru came up with a new name for the alliance, which effectively replaces 2004 UPA - United Progressive Alliance.



**"THEY CALLED PEOPLE JUST TO GET NUMBERS": NITISH KUMAR'S DIG AT NDA**

Patna: Rubbishing speculation that he did not attend the press conference after the two-day mega opposition meeting in Bengaluru because he was upset, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has said that the opposition is together and will work in the interest of the country.

He also took a dig at the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) for holding a meeting to coincide with the one held by the opposition parties and said some of the 38 parties that took part in it were unknown.

When he was told by reporters that leaders from the BJP were saying he was upset, Mr Kumar said, "That is rubbish. I wanted to come to Rajgir. Forget about the BJP. The meeting and the discussions were done and it was not necessary for me to be there to address the press. I had to leave early. The meeting was good and all the decisions were taken after a consensus. There were 16 parties in Patna and 26 in Bengaluru. We had a good and constructive discussion. We have to stay together and move forward," he added.

He further said that during the meeting on Tuesday, several names for the opposition bloc were discussed, however, the name suggested by former Congress president Rahul Gandhi was liked by all. He also said that there was almost an hour-long discussion over the new name and the opposition leader came to a consensus as some people suggested different names for the bloc but that did not materialise.

### In Manipur horror, 2 women paraded naked on camera, allegedly gang-raped

The government on Wednesday said that it was ready to discuss the situation prevailing in Manipur in the Parliament in the upcoming Monsoon session, thus accepting the Opposition's demand, Parliamentary Affairs minister Pralhad Joshi said. He, however, rejected opposition parties' demand that Prime Minister Narendra Modi should speak on Manipur violence in Parliament.

Imphal | Agencies

A horrific video of two women being paraded naked on a road by a group of men in Manipur has been shared widely on social media, drawing massive condemnation and calls for action. The two women were gang-raped in a nearby field, a tribal organisation has alleged.

The incident happened on May 4 in Kangpokpi district, some 35 km from state capital Imphal, according to a statement by the Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF).

A day before this on-camera horror, clashes broke out between the valley-majority Meitei and the hill-majority Kuki tribe over the Meiteis' demand for Scheduled Tribes (ST) status.

The ITLF, which represents the Kuki tribe, in the statement said the two women belong to the Kuki-Zo tribe.



"A video which went viral today shows a large Meitei mob parading two Kuki-Zo tribal women naked toward a paddy field to be gang-raped. The despicable scene, which happened on May 4 in Kangpokpi district, shows the men constantly molesting the helpless women, who cry and plead with their captors," the ITLF said in the statement.

"The horrifying ordeal suffered by these innocent women is amplified by the

perpetrators' decision to share the video, which shows the identity of the victims, on social media," the ITLF said, and appealed to the National Commission for Women and the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes to take action.

The Manipur Police have not given a statement on the matter yet, whether anyone has been arrested or a case has been filed.

### DEFYING CURFEW, WOMEN TAKE TO STREETS DEMANDING ACTION AGAINST KUKI MILITANTS

Imphal: Defying curfew, thousands of women held mass protests in five Manipur districts on Wednesday demanding action against Kuki militants and restoration of peace and normalcy in the state at the earliest.

The Manipur government on Wednesday did not offer daily curfew relaxation in the five valley districts and deployed huge contingent of security forces in view of the women's rally, organised by the Kwairamband Ima Keithel Joint Coordinating Committee for Peace (KIKJCCP).

The KIKJCCP appealed to all women to make the 'Mothers' Protest' rally a roaring success. Though no untoward incident was reported since the beginning of the protests on Wednesday morning in five districts -- Imphal East, Imphal West, Thoubal, Bishnupur and Kakching -- tension prevailed in these valley districts and adjoining areas.

Raising slogans, the mass protests by women continued till late on Wednesday evening.

### BJP leader backs wrestlers' claims in police charge sheet

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The charge sheet filed by Delhi Police against BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh discloses that the claims made by two out of the six grapplers against the former Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief have been backed by a Haryana BJP leader, who also happens to be a former international wrestler. The BJP leader and her sister are among the 15 witnesses mentioned in the charge sheet. The investigation involved the examination of a total of 108 witnesses, including WFI officials. Out of these, 15 have already provided partial or complete corroboration of the allegations levelled against Brij Bhushan by the 'victims'.

"During the course of investigation, notices under Section 91 of CrPC were served upon WFI, SAI, vic-



tims, nodal officers, telecom companies etc. The team members of the SIT visited different places, including Rohtak, Sonapat, Lucknow, Patiala, Kurukshetra, Hissar, Bhiwani, Chandigarh, Manimajra, and Bellari in Karnataka to examine the relevant persons," Delhi Police said in the charge sheet running 1599 pages.

It said that before the registration of the current FIR, several victims/complainants had already exercised their democratic right to protest on various issues, including the demand for a criminal investigation into the allegations.

### ALL SCHOOLS IN MUMBAI WILL BE CLOSED TODAY DUE TO HEAVY RAIN

Mumbai: All government and private schools in Mumbai will remain closed tomorrow due to heavy rain. According to the weather office, some areas of Mumbai are likely to witness heavy rain tomorrow. An orange alert has also been issued for parts of Mumbai for today. Earlier in the day, train services were affected in Mumbai due to heavy rain. Chief Minister Eknath Shinde ordered that government offices in Mumbai and the neighbouring region should be closed early so that people can reach home on time. Maharashtra Chief Minister announced that the schools in areas affected by heavy rainfall will remain shut. He also said that the final call on this will be taken by local administration according to the weather conditions of the respective area.

### 15 die as transformer bursts near Namami Gange project site in Chamoli

Chamoli | Agencies

At least 15 persons died after a transformer exploded at the project site of Namami Gange, built on the banks of the Alaknanda river in Uttarakhand's Chamoli.

The injured are being shifted to higher centre in Rishikesh. Chamoli Superintendent of Police, Pramendra Dobhal, said, "We got a call from the village that a security guard has died of electrocution. When policemen went with villagers for the spot inspection, 21 people were electrocuted and suffered severe injuries. 15 people died in a hospital and the rest are critical," he said.

Minister in charge of Chamoli district Dhan Singh Rawat said that 15 people have died. Helicopters have been sent for rescue.

ADG law and order V Murugesan said that 15 people including a police sub-inspector and three home guards have died due to electrocution. It is being said that a youth working



in the treatment plant died on Tuesday night. When the police reached in the morning, a crowd of other people including the relatives of the deceased gathered. Some work was being done on the power line around 11:30 a.m. on

Wednesday, when suddenly the current spread to the entire campus, because of which many people got electrocuted. The injured people have been admitted to the district hospital Gopeshwar.

### DO HUSBANDS HAVE IMMUNITY IN MARITAL RAPE CASES? SUPREME COURT TO DECIDE

New Delhi: Does a husband have immunity from prosecution for the offence of rape if he forces his wife, who is not a minor, to have sex? A three-judge bench of the Supreme Court will examine this after constitution benches concluded hearing some listed pleas, said Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud when senior lawyer Indira Jaising mentioned the matter for urgent listing. The constitutional validity of an exception clause of Section 375 (rape) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) is under challenge as it exempts a husband from being prosecuted for rape for having non-consensual sexual intercourse with the spouse if she happens to be an adult.



## 2 INFILTRATORS KILLED IN J&K MACCHAL SECTOR, ARMS AND AMMUNITION RECOVERED

Srinagar: Two terrorists were killed at the LoC's Macchal sector in Jammu and Kashmir's Kupwara district early on Wednesday as the Army, Jammu and Kashmir Police, and the BSF, in a joint operation, foiled an infiltration attempt.

The Border Security Force (BSF), in a statement, said on Wednesday that a successful joint counter infiltration operation, code named Op Khaki, was conducted by it, the army, and police in Macchal sector, based on specific and credible intelligence developed by its Intelligence Wing.

During the operation, multiple ambushes along the likely routes of infiltration were laid by the joint teams since July 17. "During the night of July 18/19, at about 2300 hrs (11 p.m.), a suspicious movement along the Line of Control was detected by alert troops, and the terrorists' movements were continuously tracked. Contact was established with the terrorists at around 0455 hrs (4.55 a.m.), leading to an intense exchange of fire. As a result, two foreign terrorists were neutralised by the joint teams," the statement said. It said that a significant quantity of



arms and ammunition were recovered from the slain terrorists, including four AK series rifles, nine AK magazines, 175 AK rounds, six hand grenades, one UBGL (Under Barrel Grenade Launcher), five UBGL grenades, and two tactical vests.

The identity of the terrorists is being ascertained. BSF's IG, Kashmir Frontier, Ashok Yadav stated that the operation was a result of exemplary synergy among different security forces engaged in countering infiltration bids by the terrorists.

### ARMY OFFICER KILLED, 6 SOLDIERS INJURED IN SIACHEN GLACIER TENT FIRE

Srinagar: An army officer was killed and six other soldiers injured in a tent fire incident in Siachen Glacier area of Ladakh on Wednesday, army sources said.

As per the sources, the fire broke out in a tent at 3.30 a.m. on Wednesday.

"Three critically injured jawans were shifted to Chandigarh. The fire was doused before it could get to the ammunition tent. A few tents were reportedly damaged in the blaze.

"Initial cause behind the fire was a short circuit. An investigation is underway to determine the circumstances that led to the fire," sources said.

## 'Perverse': SC sets aside Gujarat HC order, grants activist Teesta Setalvad regular bail

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Wednesday granted regular bail to activist

Teesta Setalvad in connection with a case relating to alleged fabrication of evidence in 2002 Gujarat riots.

A special bench of Justices B.R. Gavai, A.S. Bopanna, and Dipankar Datta set aside the Gujarat High Court's order denying her regular bail, deprecating its reasoning that a prima facie presumption of commission of an offence could be made against her if proceedings to quash criminal charges were not instituted by Setalvad.

The top court went on to say that such a finding by the High Court was "perverse".

While extending her regular bail, the apex court noted that the custodial interrogation of Setalvad is not required in the case as the charge sheet has already been filed before the trial court.

The Supreme Court also cautioned Setalvad to not make any attempt to influ-



ence witnesses related with the case. It clarified that the prosecution may directly approach the top court if she makes any such attempt or if there is any other change in circumstances.

Also, Setalvad's passport will continue to remain deposited with the trial court while she is out on bail.

The top court was hearing appeal of the activist Setalvad against Gujarat High Court's order denying her regular bail and requiring her to "surrender immediately" in connection with an FIR lodged by the state police alleging fabrication of documents by her to

implicate high government functionaries in 2002 Gujarat riots.

In a late evening special sitting convened on July 1, the apex court had granted her protection against arrest by staying the Gujarat High Court order of the same day.

Setalvad, who has been on interim bail since September last year, was asked by the Gujarat High Court to "surrender immediately" after rejecting her bail plea. She was arrested on June 25, 2022 by the Gujarat Police based on an FIR filed by the Ahmedabad Detection of Crime Branch (DCB).

## Oppn parties accused of improper use of 'India' in alliance formation, legal action sought

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A police complaint has been registered at Delhi's Barakhamba Police Station against 26 opposition parties, accusing them of improper use of the name of 'India' and employing it for undue influence and persuasion during elections.

The complaint, filed by Avinish Mishra, a resident of Delhi, calls for action to be taken against these political parties.

The 26-year-old Mishra has alleged that the 26 opposition parties including the Congress, TMC, DMK, NCP, PDP, RLD among others, have been exploiting the name of India for their political advantage, potentially misleading voters and engaging in activities that could compromise the integrity of the electoral process.

In his complaint, Mishra stated that the 26 political parties formed an alliance and decided to name it 'INDIA', claiming that the abbreviation stood for 'Indian National Development Inclusive Alliance.'

Mishra pointed out that the Emblems and Names (Prevention of improper use) Act,

1950, prohibits the use of certain names specified in its schedule. "Notably, Point 6 of the schedule lists the name of the Union of India, making the use of the name 'INDIA' prohibited," he stated in his complaint.

The complaint also highlights that Section 2(c) of the Emblems Act defines "name" to include any abbreviation of a name. Additionally, Section 5 of the Emblems Act provides for punishment, including a fine of up to five hundred rupees, for contravening the provisions of Section 3.

Mishra said that the opposition parties have contravened Section 3 of the Emblems Act by using the name 'INDIA' as the name of their political alliance and are therefore liable to be punished under Section 5.

He stated that by naming their alliance 'INDIA' for electoral purposes, specifically to contest the general elections in 2024, these parties have attempted to unduly influence the Indian electorate by personifying their alliance as the nation itself.

Mishra claimed that this act makes them liable for prosecution under Section 171F of the Indian Penal Code, 1860.

## BJP to reach out to Pasmanda Muslims on UCC

Team Absolute | Lucknow

The Nationalist Muslim Pasmanda Mahaj, led by BJP leader Atif Rasheed, is planning to provide information about the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) and dispel any rumours or misconceptions about the same.

Pasmanda Muslims, on the other hand, now plan to send their suggestions to the Law Commission.

The organisation will conduct a direct dialogue with Pasmanda Muslims from July 23 in Lucknow, thereafter visiting villages and cities across the country.

The BJP aims to address misconceptions and promote awareness about the UCC. The BJP has been making efforts to garner support from the Pasmanda Muslim community to strengthen its social base.

While the All India Muslim Personal Law Board and other Muslim organisations have voiced



their opposition to the Uniform Civil Code (UCC), the BJP is directly engaging with the Muslim community, particularly the Pasmanda

Muslims, regarding the UCC. They emphasised that since the code has not been released or read yet, opposing it without proper

understanding is unjust.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has expressed the party's intention to reach out to Pasmanda Muslims and ensure they benefit from government policies.

The BJP believes that Pasmanda Muslims can benefit significantly from various central government policies. By dispelling misconceptions and highlighting the advantages, the party aims to win the support of this community.

The BJP is aware of the potential for misinformation about the UCC, similar to what occurred with the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the National Register of Citizens (NRC). Hence, they are conducting a campaign to inform Pasmanda Muslims about the UCC and address any concerns or doubts.

Writer and social worker Ahmad Faizi said, "We will involve every section of society that believes in Indian culture."

## 5 killed in house collapse caused by incessant rain in J&K's Kathua

Jammu | Agencies

Five people were killed in house collapse caused by incessant rain in J-K's Kathua district on Wednesday.

Officials said that two residential houses collapsed in the Bani area of Kathua district due to heavy rain. Five people were killed in these two incidents.

Police said, "Two houses belonging to Mushtaq Ahmed and Abdul Qayum collapsed in Surjan Morha Arud Block in Bani due to heavy rainfall."

"Five persons, including children, got buried under the debris of these houses. A rescue operation is underway to retrieve the bodies."

Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM), Bani Satish Kumar said that there are reports of flash floods and landslides in other areas and rescue teams have been deputed.

He has announced a compensation of Rs 50,000 for the deceased and Rs 25,000 for the injured. Meanwhile, rain lashed various parts of Jammu



damaging roads with all major rivers including Tawi, Chenab, Basantar, Devak and Ujh flowing above the danger mark.

Authorities have ordered closure of all schools in Kathua, Doda, Rajouri and Kishtwar districts because of heavy rain causing swelling of water

bodies.

Vaishno Devi Yatra and passage of pilgrims on the Amarnath Yatra was also suspended.

Officials said that new track to Mata Vaishno Devi shrine has been closed due to inclement weather conditions while chopper service has also been suspended in Reasi district, while schools in Kishtwar, Doda, Rajouri and upper reaches of Kathua have also been closed in view of inclement weather.

They said that a fresh batch of 4,900 pilgrims, which left for Amarnath shrine in Kashmir has been halted at Yatri Niwas Chanderkote in Ramban due to shooting stones and landslides.

Meanwhile, Jammu-Pathankot road in Kathua was also closed in view of the flood-like situation in Tarnah Nullah and a bridge on the Tarnah Nullah has suffered damage due to heavy rain. The traffic was being diverted through the border road.

Minister of State (PMO), Dr. Jitendra Singh, who is also Member of Parliament from Udhampur-Kathua constituency, expressed concern over the damage caused due to rain.

## Suspected revenge killing led to Jodhpur mass murder

Team Absolute | Jaipur

Rajasthan Police on Wednesday arrested a man who killed his uncle and three others of a family, including a 6-month-old child, in Churai village in Jodhpur.

During interrogation, accused Pappuram accepted committing the crime, said police sources.

Two reasons have been revealed behind the execution of the mass murder.

"The suicide of Pappuram's brother, who was living in Surat, is also being linked to a property dispute. Accused's uncle Poonaram's son Revatram was a suspect in the suicide case.

Eventually, a conspiracy was hatched to avenge the death of his brother," said officials.



"Pappuram came to Poonaram's house with the aim of killing Revatram. But after not finding Revatram, he first attacked his wife Dhapu, then with a feeling of revenge, killed everyone -- one by one with an axe," police sources said.

The police are seriously investigating this matter on

every aspect on directions of IG Jainarayan Sher and SP, Dharmendra Singh.

Preliminary investigation revealed that the family members were murdered by slitting throats with a sharp-edged weapon after which everyone was dragged to the courtyard of the house and set on fire.

## RAKESH PAL APPOINTED AS DG INDIAN COAST GUARD

New Delhi:

Rakesh Pal has been appointed as the 25th Director General (DG) of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG). He is an alumnus of the Indian Naval Academy and joined Indian Coast Guard in January 1989.

According to the ministry of defence he has undergone professional specialisation in Gunnery and Weapons Systems at Indian Naval School Dronacharya, Kochi, and an Electro-Optics Fire Control Solution course from the United Kingdom.

The Officer holds the recognition of being the First Gunner of ICG. Pal was conferred with Tatrakshak Medal in 2013 and President Tatrakshak Medal in 2018 for his illustrious service.

The ministry of defence said that Rakesh Pal was elevated to the rank of Additional Director General in February 2022 and was posted at Coast Guard Headquarters, New Delhi.



## Punjab Police arrest Bishnoi gang member for making threat calls

Chandigarh | Agencies

A member of the Lawrence Bishnoi gang was arrested by Punjab Police's State Special Operation Cell on Wednesday for making threat calls and demanding extortion from affluent persons in Mohali, Chandigarh and adjoining areas, officials said.

The arrested accused was identified as Kashmir Singh, alias Bobby Shooter (24), a resident of Patiala, who was working as a taxi driver.

The police teams have also recovered a country-made pistol along with two cartridges with him. AIG Ashwani Kapur said following reports of extortion attempts and threatening phone calls made by an individual claiming affiliation with the Bishnoi gang, police teams launched an investigation.

With the assistance of advanced intelligence gathering,



the police were able to apprehend Bobby from Khanna district, he added. Divulging details

about the modus operandi, Kapur said Bobby used to make extortion and threat calls to per-

sons, including owners of night clubs and bars in Chandigarh, Mohali and adjoining areas.

## After long discussion and debate, finally real identity will be given to Chinder Pal Singh

Jaipur | Agencies

A petition has been filed at the Jaipur Bench of the Rajasthan High Court by Physical Training Instructor, Grade 3, Chinder Pal Kaur.

She filed her petition that she was born a woman but she was suffering from Gender Identity Disorder and at the age of 32 she underwent sex reassignment surgery accepting her inner self, after which she became male from both body and soul.

Consultant Urologist issued a certificate vide Annexure-5 in this regard on 09.08.2018. After getting male gender status, he got this name and gender changed on his Aadhaar card.

The petitioner submitted an application on 22.09.2018 to the office of the Principal of the school for change of her name and gender in her service records. Principal forwarded the matter to Joint

Director, Secondary Education for necessary action on 01.10.2018.

But even after lapse of more than three years, the name and gender of the petitioner has not been changed, then he filed a petition in the High Court, after which Hon'ble Justice Anoop Kumar Dhand gave the judgment that under Section 7 of the Act 2019, every citizen of India has the right to equality and a person's name and gender are his identity, therefore, under all the rules, the District Magistrate should verify all the documents of the petitioner and issue new documents where his name and gender are change.

This judgment is an inspiration and good news for all those people who want to live a respectable life with their real existence, this judgment has proved that in this country every human being should get equal rights and respect irrespective of their



## KEPT APPOINTMENT OF SELECTED PATWARIS ON HOLD, CM CHOUHAN SAYS GUILTY WILL BE PUNISHED

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Wednesday said his government will conduct an inquiry into the alleged "irregularities" in the appointment of Patwaris (revenue officer) and whoever is found involved will be punished.

His statement came a week after he announced the appointment of selected candidates in the Group 4 Patwari recruitment exams.

Chouhan said: "A little doubt arose in the Patwari recruitment exam, so I decided that there will be no appointment, investigation will be done."

He also assured that if any "irregularity" is found, he will take tough action against those found involved.

"If any fault is found, 'mama' (or maternal uncle as he is popularly known) will set the culprits right," Chouhan said.

While it has been over a week since the matter came to the fore as it was found that seven out of ten toppers were from one particular



exams centre - Gwalior-based NRI college owned by BJP MLA

SanjeevKushwaha, the MP government was yet make it clear that who

exactly investigating the matter?

Around 1.4 million students appeared for the examination conducted between March 15 to April 26 and the results were declared on June 30. Chief Minister Chouhan had announced the appointment of over 9,000 selected candidates following a massive protest by aspirants in Indore and Bhopal last week.

Meanwhile, there are protests from youth enrolled with different coaching centres, especially from Indore and the youth wing of the opposition Congress, while those not get selected in any of these exams are raising their apprehensions and alleging that the Madhya Pradesh Employee Selection Board (MP-ESB) was indulging in gross irregularities.

The SEB is an autonomous body under the Madhya Pradesh government that is tasked to conduct exams for the various departments of the state government. It is the same body that at the heart of the Vyapam scam that broke out back in 2013.

## High Court of MP launches online RTI portal for public access

Team Absolute | Bhopal

In a move towards transparency and efficiency, the High Court of Madhya Pradesh took a significant step by launching its first integrated cloud-based online RTI portal.

Madhya Pradesh chief justice Ravi Malimath inaugurated the portal on Tuesday, in a virtual ceremony attended by companion Judges of the High Court and Principal District & Sessions Judges from all District Courts of the State.

The newly launched online RTI (Right to Information) portal is a testament to the court's commitment to embracing digital technologies and making access to information easier for the public. Unlike traditional methods, the portal operates on an end-to-end paperless mode.

Through this user-friendly online platform, citizens can file RTI applications and receive desired information within the prescribed time frame, as mandated by the rules. This development is expected to significantly enhance the overall transparency and responsiveness of the judicial system in Madhya Pradesh.

Additionally, the portal is interlinked with the cyber treasury, facilitating various types of online transactions and payments associated with the RTI process.

One of the key benefits of this new software



is its potential to promote accountability among staff members responsible for preparing the requested information. The software empowers the State Public Information Officer and other relevant personnel to closely monitor every stage of the application process, right from filing to disposal. This feature aims to streamline operations and minimize delays in providing information to the applicants.

To access the RTI portal, individuals can simply click on the dedicated e-RTI tab available on the official website of the High Court of Madhya Pradesh (www.mphc.gov.in). This user-friendly interface makes it convenient for citizens to navigate and submit their applications from the comfort of their homes or workplaces.

## 3-YEAR-OLD GIRL RAPED BY TEENAGE BOY

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A teenage boy has allegedly raped a three-year-old girl in Madhya Pradesh's Sidhi district.

The accused was a neighbour of the victim and known to the family.

The incident was reported at a village in Majhauri area, around 60 km from district headquarters Sidhi on Tuesday.

Police said that the victim has sustained injuries on her private part and has been admitted at a government hospital in Sidhi. "The victim has undergone a minor surgery. She is admitted at a hospital where her condition is said to be stable. Doctors said that the victim will remain under observation for the next few days. The minor accused has been detained,"



Police said. As the accused boy was known to the family, he used to visit the family frequently. Police said that the accused took the toddler out from her home on pretext of chocolates and allegedly raped her at an isolated

place. Police said that the boy's alleged crime was witnessed by some local people, who informed the victim's family. The victim was taken to a local police station and an FIR was lodged against him.

## MP govt demolish house of accused involved in alleged 'spitting' on devotees

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Madhya Pradesh administration on Wednesday bulldozed the house of a person who has been allegedly accused of spitting on the devotees who were participating in a religious procession in Ujjain city of Madhya Pradesh.

A video had surfaced on social media, few days back, showing three youth allegedly 'spitting' on devotees of a religious procession in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh.

Ujjain Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) AkashBhuriya said that during a recent religious procession some individuals attempted to disturb the religious harmony.

"The police registered an FIR against the accused under various sections, leading to their subsequent



arrest. We then informed the Municipal Corporation and the Revenue Department about the accused," the police officer said.

He said that the illegal encroachment by the accused has been effectively removed in the presence of the Municipal Corporation and the

Revenue Department and the police.

The bulldozer operation was carried out by Ujjain Municipal Corporation while beating drum.

When asked about beating drums, the ASP said that drums are traditionally used to publicly announce actions such as the removal of encroach-

ments. That is why we used drums today as well," the police officer said.

Police said that incident was reported during the process called - 'Mahakal Ki Sawari' on July 17.

On the basis of social media video and a complaint lodged by a person participating in the procession, Ujjain police carried a search operation.

The complainant had told the police that the procession was crossing TankiChowk when he saw three unknown boys 'spitting' on the devotees. The three persons belong to the minority community. They were arrested on July 18.

Police said that the accused have been booked under various sections, including 295A (deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage religious feelings) and 153A (offence committed in a place of worship).

## CROWD GATHERS IN THE ROAD SHOW OF CM CHOUHAN

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan today conducted a road-show in Seoni during VikasParv. A huge crowd turned up for the roadshow. A large number of people gave him grand welcome and showered flowers. Chief Minister Chouhan greeted everyone with warmth.

During the jan-darshan, Chief Minister Chouhantraveled from ChhindwaraChowk of the district headquarters, Math School, Nehru Road, NagarpalikaChauraha, bus stand to DalsagarTalab amid drizzling rain. During the visit, Chief Minister Chouhan welcomed the beneficiary women of MukhyamantriLadlibahnaYojana in Math Talab area and thanked them for depositing an amount of one thousand rupees in their accounts. In front of Math Kanya School, school girls and fishermen beneficiaries welcomed Chouhan by showering flowers at DhimriMohallaChowk.

Beneficiaries of JalJeevan Mission in front of Aanchal Sari Center while going from Math School to Nehru Road, UdyamKrantiYojana at SabziMandiChowk in front of Hanuman Mandir, Pesa Act in front of VishnuPrasadAgarwal's house,



women of UjjwalaYojana near Shiv Kirana Stores MarutiMandir Beneficiaries of PM KisanSammanNidhi, CM Welfare

Fund and Residential Land Rights Scheme in front of PM SwanidhiYojana and Vijay Katpis on MaaDurga General Stores Nehru

Road greeted Chief Minister Chouhan with garlands.

The Chief Minister was welcomed by showering flowers from Nehru Road to NagarpalikaChauraha near KesariyaJewellers by players and women beneficiaries of MukhyamantriLadlibahnaYojana and beneficiaries of AyushmanYojana and at NagarpalikaChowk. Beneficiaries and farmers of Chief Minister's interest waiver scheme, Prime Minister's crop insurance, natural farming etc. schemes in front of NetajiSubhash Chandra School during public visit from NagarpalikaChowk to DalsagarTalab, Chief Minister Kalyani, Social Security and M.P. Women beneficiaries of self-help groups of Day Rural Livelihood Mission, PM AwasYojana (Urban) near Petrol Pump, K.K. In front of Lodge M.P. Women of self-help groups of Day Rural Livelihood Mission, beneficiaries of schemes of Tribal Affairs Department near Company Garden, meritorious students at LadliLaxmiVatika/KachhariChowk, beneficiary girl students of laptop and scooty scheme and polytechnic, higher education at Jai StambhChowk And the students of ITI welcomed Chief Minister Chouhan with shower of flowers and garlands.

## Change is the law of nature we should respect it : Governor Patel

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Governor Mangubhai Patel distributed the prizes of Champions of Change Madhya Pradesh edition. He honoured 16 outstanding talents in the fields of spirituality, social welfare, arts, health, education and sports. The felicitation ceremony took place in the auditorium of Kushabhau Thackeray International Convention Center.

Governor Mangubhai Patel said that change is the law of nature. Respect for the motivators of change increases positivity in the society. Inspires and encourages the future generation to participate in social concerns. Promotes human values, sensitive, co-operative service spirit. Mobilizes innovation efforts to address new challenges of development in society. He said that under the leadership of Prime Minister NarendraModi, India assumed the chairmanship of G-20 and is playing a



crucial role in solving global challenges. Under his leadership, in the last 9 years, the country is progressing with the vision of women-led development. He said that Prime Minister ShriModi has asked to protect the environment and promote sustainability through Mission Life for conscious use rather than destructive use to address the challenges of climate change. He told the need to convert environment-friendly lifestyle into a mass movement.

The Governor said that Madhya Pradesh has a great heritage of freedom fighters and revolutionary leaders, who played an important role in the development of the nation. Remembering the women freedom fighter Rani Lakshmi Bai, the Governor expected that the people of the state would inspire others to work for the society, the state and the nation while continuing the work of taking forward this great legacy. Former Chief Justice of

## PM Modi to chair high-level meeting to review 'Project Cheetah' status

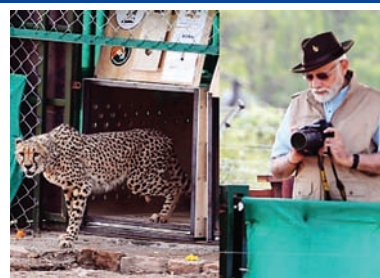
Team Absolute | Bhopal

Prime Minister NarendraModi is scheduled to chair a high-level meeting on Wednesday morning to review the status of "Project Cheetah" in wake of the deaths of several of the translocated big cats.

The meeting comes following the recent death of two male cheetahs - Tejas and Suraj - and the apprehensions were raised on the matter.

Apart from Madhya Pradesh's Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Wildlife, AseemShrivastava, members of the National Tiger Conservation Authority of India (NTCA), and members of the Cheetah Screening Committee, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan is also likely to attend the virtual meeting, sources said.

"Project Cheetah" is an ambitious



project of the Centre and the Prime Minister had released eight cheetahs translocated from Namibia in its first phase on his birthday on September 17 last year. In the second phase, 12 more cheetahs were brought from South Africa on February 18 this year.

However, since then a total eight cheetahs, including three out of four cubs borne to Namibian female cheetah Siyaya, have died at Kuno. The

death of two adult African cheetahs - Tejas and Suraj - have raised questions on execution of protocols on ground.

Wildlife experts have been alleging lack in monitoring and prompt response on ground. The death of Tejas and Suraj were reportedly suffered maggot-infection due to radio collar (GPS fitted belt on neck). Since then, it was suspected that radio collar (GPS system fitted on cheetahs' neck) caused injuries.

Experts, including senior forest officials, have also claimed that the problem of radio collar has become a challenge but is not a new problem as similar problems had occurred with tigers in the past. However, the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change maintained that five adult cheetahs at Kuno National Park (KNP) died of natural causes.

### CHEETAH CASUALTIES NATURAL: UNION MINISTRY

WILDLIFE EXPERTS OPINE RADIO COLLAR PROBLEMS NOT NEW

**Bhopal:** The Union Environment, Forest and Climate Change Ministry maintains that five adult cheetahs at Madhya Pradesh's Kuno National Park (KNP) died of natural causes though wildlife experts in the state suspect that the two most recently-deceased male cheetahs - Tejas and Suraj - suffered maggot infections due to their radio collars (fitted with GPS).

It has also claimed that at least three more cheetahs at Kuno are suspected to have suffered due to their radio collars, and the problem has brought the Forest officials associated 'Project Cheetah' on their toes.

Both Tejas and Suraj, which died last week, had similar organ damage. As per experts, while the radio collar may not be the fatal issue, it can be a contributing factor and it must be addressed. Madhya Pradesh's former Chief Principal Conservator of Forest, Wildlife, Alok Kumar, says the radio collar-caused injuries came as a challenge for the Wildlife

and Forest Department, but it's not the first time.

The radio collars can cause injuries to the animals during jumping and running or fighting, and the cheetahs have softer body in comparison to the tigers, he said.

"I have come across at least two such cases during my service period when radio collars caused injuries to the tigers. Especially, during the rainy season, there are more possibilities of injuries due to radio collars. Animals generally clean normal injuries on their body parts by licking, but when the injury is on their neck, they cannot do it. And, if it is not treated immediately, that particular part of the animal starts rotting and some times it caused death also," Kumar, earlier who was also a member of the Cheetah Task Force Committee, said. Sources said that the authorities have decided to remove radio collars from 11 free ranging zone cheetahs at KNP. A team of African wildlife experts has also reached Kuno on Tuesday to examine the situation.



EDITOR'S SPECS

DOCTORS ADVISE PEOPLE USING ASPARTAME NOT TO PANIC

Amid the conundrum on aspartame by the World Health Organisation (WHO), doctors on Friday advised people using the popular artificial sweetener to not panic as the evidence of it being a possible cancer causing agent is very low. Aspartame is an artificial (chemical) sweetener widely used in various food and beverage products since the 1980s, including diet drinks, chewing gum, gelatin, ice cream, dairy products such as yoghurt, breakfast cereal, toothpaste and medications such as cough drops and chewable vitamins. While evidence on the chemical being a potential for cancer has been low, the WHO's International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) on Friday said aspartame should be added to the list of potentially cancer-causing substances. However, soon after, the global health body's Joint Food and Agriculture Organisation/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA), said there was no reason to change guidance. The JECFA also recommended that a person can safely consume up to 14 cans of diet drink a day. "There is no need to panic and just abandon aspartame completely. There is no real proof cited in this study and the WHO is also very circumspect in its actual recommendation and side by side, there's another WHO recommendation that's come that sets the bar of consumption at very high levels," Dr. Ambrish Mithal, Chairman, Endocrinology and Diabetes, Max HealthCare, said. The IARC classified aspartame as possibly carcinogenic to humans on the basis of limited evidence for cancer in humans (specifically, for hepatocellular carcinoma, which is a type of liver cancer). There was also limited evidence for cancer in experimental animals and limited evidence related to the possible mechanisms for causing cancer, the WHO said in a statement. The committee, as well as the doctors reaffirmed that it is safe for a person to consume within this limit per day.

MNF STEPS UP CAMPAIGN FOR UNIFICATION OF KUKI, ZO-ZOMI TRIBALS IN NE STATES

Sujit Chakraborty

Amid the demand for a separate state for the Kuki-Zomi tribals in ethnic violence-hit Manipur, the ruling Mizo National Front (MNF) in Mizoram continues their campaign to establish a homeland for all the Zohnahthlak (Zo ethnic tribes) across the northeastern region.

Tribals belonging to the Kuki-Zo-Zomi community started trickling into Mizoram soon after the ethnic violence broke out in Manipur on May 3.

Mizoram currently houses over 12,000 displaced tribals, mostly Kuki-Zo-Zomi community people from Manipur.

The Chin-Kuki-Zo tribals and the Mizos in Mizoram belong to the Zo community and share the same culture and ancestry, besides, they are all Christians.

The Kuki-Chin community in Myanmar and Bangladesh also belongs to the Mizo community, which consists of different tribes, sometimes known as Zofate or descendants of Zo.

After Mizoram Chief Minister and MNF supremo Zoramthanga said that the question of unification of Mizo-Zo inhabited areas of Mizoram's neighbouring states to form one administrative set-up under the concept of "Greater Mizoram" is one of the demands of the MNF, other party leaders also launched a hectic campaign on the same line.

Mizoram Deputy Chief Minister Tawnluia has said that the formation of the MNF mainly aimed to establish a homeland for all the Zohnahthlak (Zo ethnic tribes) across the region.

"The MNF was established with the core values of keeping Mizo nationalism, preserving the rich culture, traditions and beliefs of the Mizos and advocating for an integrated and single administrative unit for the dispersed Zo ethnic tribes residing in the north-eastern states of India, Myanmar and Bangladesh," said Tawnluia, who is also MNF's senior vice-president.

While addressing the party workers at the MNF's headquarters in Aizawl, the Mizo leader pointed out that the MNF is a party rooted in the principles of Mizo nationalism. No other political parties have Mizo nationalism enshrined in their constitutions.

Tawnluia, who had served as the Army chief of the erstwhile banned militant outfit



MNF, asserted that the MNF would strive to protect and promote Mizo cultures and religious beliefs, as enshrined in Article 371G of the Indian Constitution.

Article 371G of the Constitution deals with the special provisions for the state of Mizoram. This article was added by the 53rd Constitutional Amendment Act of 1986.

"If necessary, the MNF will fight relentlessly to keep the provisions of Article 371G in the Constitution," he vowed.

Tawnluia highlighted that the 1986 peace accord between the MNF and the Indian government ensured the continuance of the Inner Line Permit (ILP) system, which is currently enforced in Mizoram to protect the demographic position of the indigenous people of the state.

"We should always bear in mind that the Peace Accord provides us with essential protections."

About the Uniform Civil Code (UCC), the MNF leader said that India is a secular nation, but the UCC has caused great concern among religious minorities.

In Mizoram, extensive consultations were held with the churches and civil society organisations, leading to the conclusion that the UCC, in its original form, cannot be

accepted, he said.

After coming overground in 1986, the erstwhile militant outfit MNF was converted into a political party and was recognised as a state party by the Election Commission.

After the signing of the Peace Accord in 1986, ending two decades of strife and insurgency spearheaded by the MNF, Mizoram became the 23rd state of India on February 20, 1987.

Zoramthanga had earlier said that the concept of 'Greater Mizoram' was one of the demands of the MNF, and the issue was raised during the peace parleys with the Indian government before signing of the agreement 37 years ago.

"The unification of all ethnic Zo or Mizo tribes in India and bringing them under one administrative unit was one of the main aims of the founders of MNF, including Laldenga, who was the Chief Minister of Mizoram from August 1986 to October 1988," he had said.

The Mizoram Chief Minister, however, said that the state cannot directly interfere in the internal affairs of Manipur on the issue of 'Greater Mizoram' or unification of Zo or Mizo tribal inhabited areas in Manipur with the state.

"The unification initiatives

should come from 'our kindred brothers' in Manipur as the issue of unification of Chin-Kuki-Mizo-Hmar-Zomi tribes should not be imposed," he had observed.

MNF leaders' campaign for unification of Chin-Kuki-Mizo-Zomi came close on the heels of the separate administration demand, raised by 10 Kuki MLAs of Manipur (seven of them belong to the ruling BJP), the Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF) and the Kuki Inpi Manipur (KIM).

Home Minister Amit Shah and Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh have on a number of occasions rejected the separate administration demand and categorically said that the territorial integrity of Manipur will be protected and under no circumstances it will be compromised. Over 150 people have been killed and more than 600 have been left injured since ethnic violence between the Meitei and Kuki communities broke out in Manipur on May 3, when a 'Tribal Solidarity March' was organised in the hill districts to protest against the Meitei community's demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status.

international

WHO CALLS FOR URGENT ACTION AS DEATHS FROM EXTREME HEAT SURGE IN EUROPE

Beijing | Agencies

With 60,000 deaths in Europe last year due to extreme heat, a top World Health Organization (WHO) official has stressed the "desperate and urgent need" to tackle the climate crisis.

The number of deaths from extreme heat "is set to rise year-on-year", the WHO's Regional Director for Europe Hans Kluge said on Tuesday.

Current "danger zones" include southern and eastern Europe, Kluge said, urging the public to "regularly check weather reports, follow local guidance, and inform yourself about weather-related health risks from reputable sources", reports Xinhua news agency.

"Beyond adapting to our new reality this summer, we must look to the years and decades ahead," he said.

"There is a desperate and urgent need for regional and global action to effectively tackle



the climate crisis, which poses an existential threat to the human race."

In the long run, Kluge believes that the adoption of the Budapest Declaration, which prioritises urgent, wide-ranging action on health challenges related to climate change, environmental pollution, etc., in the WHO European Region earlier this month, will go a long way toward addressing "the worst impacts of climate change on our health and health

systems."

In particular, Kluge believes the declaration will mobilise young people to get involved, "because they are truly engaged on the climate issues they are inheriting and often bursting with ideas and solutions".

"Action on climate change cannot be predicated on a particular government or political party; it truly needs to be a non-partisan issue championed by all sides of the political spectrum," Kluge

said.

The WHO official's remarks come as large swathes of southern Europe continue to swelter in record heat.

As temperatures hit a high of 46.3 degrees Celsius in Sicily, fire crews battled blazes in Greece and the Swiss Alps.

Elsewhere in Europe, crews in Switzerland are battling a wildfire close to the village of Bitsch in canton Valais which authorities said started on Monday afternoon and spread "explosively" overnight.

Another wildfire on the Spanish island of La Palma, which started on July 15, has destroyed 20 homes.

Red alerts, warning people of a very high health risk due to the intense heat, remain in place for most of Italy, Spain, Greece and parts of the Balkans.

The highest temperature ever recorded in Europe was set in August 2021 when the mercury hit 48.8 degrees in the Palermo region of Sicily.

NEARLY 8,000 STILL DISPLACED IN S.KOREA AFTER DEADLY TORRENTIAL DOWNPOURS

Seoul | Agencies

Nearly 8,000 people in South Korea are yet to return home after torrential rains pounded the country last week, despite the monsoon rain coming to a lull on Wednesday, officials said.

Across the country, a cumulative 16,514 people had temporarily evacuated their homes, and of them, 7,843 were still staying at relatives' houses or shelters set up at senior centres, village halls or schools, according to the Central Disaster and Safety Countermeasure Headquarters.

The torrential rain that swept the country last week left 44 people dead and six others missing nationwide, reports Yonhap News Agency.

In particular, the flooding of the Osong underground roadway in the central city of Cheongju on July 15 led to 14 deaths, when a nearby river overflowed after an embankment was brought down by rising water levels due to



heavy rain. Downpours have also damaged 1,043 public facilities and 948 other private properties, with the damage centered around South Chungcheong province. Houses were also destroyed, with 332 reported to have been inundated and 90 others damaged, according to officials. Farmland over half the size of Seoul, amounting to 32,894.5 hectares, was flooded, and 797,000 livestock died from the downpour.

Meanwhile, President Yoon Suk Yeol on Wednesday designated 13 areas hard-hit from the downpours as special disaster zones, paving the way for them to be eligible for financial support in recovery work, relief funds for victims and other benefits.

Temperatures in Iraq likely to surpass 50 degrees

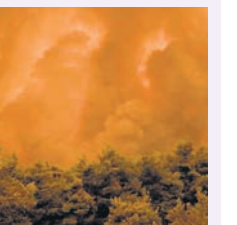
Baghdad | Agencies

A blistering heat wave is expected to hit Iraq in the coming weeks, with temperatures likely to surpass 50 degrees Celsius, a weather observatory said in its forecast.

"Temperatures will peak at 52 degrees Celsius in the last week of July and the first week of August," the Green Iraq observatory said in its forecast.

According to the observatory, the hottest temperature ever recorded in Iraq was 53.6 degrees Celsius in the southern province of Basra in July 2016, reports Xinhua news agency.

As stated by Iraqi law, when temperatures reach 50 degrees, the government grants holidays to its institutions, excluding the security forces and medical services.



Trump says expects arrest by federal inquiry into Capitol riot

Washington | Agencies

Former US President Donald Trump said that he expects to be arrested by a federal inquiry into the January 2021 Capitol riot and efforts to challenge the 2020 election results.

He made the remarks on Tuesday in a post on his Truth Social app, claiming that he had been sent a letter "stating that I am a TARGET of the January 6th Grand Jury investigation, and giving me a very short 4 days to report to the Grand Jury, which almost always means an Arrest and Indictment", reports the BBC.

The former President added that he had been informed of the development by special counsel Jack Smith on Sunday night.

Smith's team has investigated Trump's handling of classified documents after leaving the White House



and with managing a sprawling federal investigation into the riot and attempts by the former President and his advisers to "interfere with the lawful transfer

of power following the 2020 presidential election".

Such an indictment would be Trump's third for alleged criminal offences, including 37 counts brought by Smith's team in June accusing the former leader of mishandling classified documents.

Trump has also been charged in New York City with falsifying business records in 2016 hush money payments to adult film star Stormy Daniels.

He is due to stand trial in that case in March 2024, while a date for the classified documents case is still being contested by the president's lawyers.

In a December 2020 phone call with Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger, Trump had asked that Georgia officials "find 11,780 votes" that would flip the state to him.

A decision by Georgia prosecutors on whether to indict Trump is expected next month.

Thai PM candidate suspended from Parliament in disqualification case

Bangkok | Agencies

Thailand's Constitutional Court on Wednesday suspended Prime Ministerial candidate and leader of the Move Forward Party, Pita Limjaroenrat as an MP pending a ruling on his disqualification case submitted by the Election Commission.

The court's decision came after it received a complaint filed by the Commission that the 42-year-old Harvard graduate and former tech executive owned shares in a media company at the time of registering his election candidacy for the May 14 election, which violates electoral rules, reports Xinhua news agency.

In a written statement, the court confirmed that it had accepted the case and directed Pita to cease his parliamentary duties from Wednesday until a final ruling is reached.

Pita was required to provide an



explanation of the allegation to the Constitutional Court within 15 days, according to the statement.

Under the country's Constitutional Law, the Prime Minister does not necessarily have to be an MP.

In a joint session of the bicameral parliament on Wednesday, lawmakers are scheduled to make a second bid to elect a Prime minister, following last week's unsuccessful initial attempt.

In a shock election result, Pita's newcomer party won the most seats and largest share of the popular vote as citizens rejected the conservative military rule that had been in place since the 2014 coup.

The court had also filed a second complaint against him that involved Move Forward's proposal to amend the draconian royal defamation law, which has jailed hundreds of critics of the monarchy.



# TORRENTIAL DOWNPOUR LASHES MUMBAI, SURROUNDINGS; ORANGE ALERT FOR KONKAN

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Mumbai and surroundings continued to be lashed by heavy rains for the past three days, resulting in water-logging, inundation of low-lying areas and many families displaced, even as the IMD sounded an Orange alert for the coastal Konkan for the next four days, here on Wednesday.

The IMD has forecast - "Konkan, Goa and central Maharashtra likely to get heavy to very heavy rainfall (115.6mm-204.4 mm) during 20th-22nd July."

The Mumbai Metropolitan Region, comprising the neighbouring districts of Thane, Raigad and Palghar were lashed by heavy overnight rains, and IMD Pune has predicted similar heavy rains in the coastal Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg north Vidarbha, parts of Marathwada and other areas for today, as per IMD-Pune head K. S. Hosalkar.

Low-lying areas in parts of Mumbai witnessed one-two feet of



waterlogging leading to massive traffic snarls and people wading in over knee-deep waters to their destinations.

Navi Mumbai also witnessed heavy rainfall that hit traffic and submerged different localities posing hardships to the local population. In Thane's Badlapur and Ambernath towns, around 200 fami-

lies from Sonivali and Hendrepada were shifted to safer locations in boats as water seeped into their homes.

The suburban train services on the Badlapur-Ambernath section were suspended due to waterlogging on the tracks this afternoon.

The NDRF has deployed one team each in Palghar and Raigad districts

where several local rivers overflowed above the danger marks and water gushed into towns and villages around them.

The Palghar district has issued a warning to picnickers not to visit the rivers and waterfalls in the hills which have claimed around 8-9 lives so far in different incidents in the past one week. Virar, Vasai and NalaSopara towns in the district recorded heavy rainfall with people wading in waist-deep waters.

Several big and small rivers in Ratnagiri, including the Vashisht and Jagbudi, were in full spate and threats of floods hovered over several towns like Mahad, Khed, Dapoli, Chiplun and hundreds of villages in their routes. The concerned district authorities and all agencies are on high alert as incessant rains continued this afternoon.

Torrential rainfall reports have also been received from Pune, Nashik, Dhule, Nandurbar, Akola, Amravati, Kolhapur, Sangli, Satara, Solapur and other parts in the state.

# 39 parties present in meet, NDA will win with record margin in 2024: Shinde



Team Absolute | New Delhi | Mumbai

There were 39 parties at the NDA meeting here on Tuesday and all their leaders expressed trust in the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde said. Shinde, who heads the Shiv Sena, said all those present at the meeting expressed their wonder at the

development work done by the Modi government in the last nine years. He said that leaders of the 39 parties had assured the Prime Minister that he would return to power after the 2024 polls. He said that the alliance can now win the 330 seats it has at present and in the coming days, this number will only increase and the BJP-led alliance will notch a record-breaking victory in 2024.

# Four-time 'Mr. India' Ashish Sakharkar passes away aft 43

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Ashish Sakharkar, a prominent body-builder, four-time winner of the coveted 'Mr. India' title, and 'Mr. Universe' Silver and Bronze medal winner, passed away after a prolonged illness late last night, officials said here on Wednesday.

Confirming the development Indian Body Builders Federation General Secretary (Miss) Hiral Sheth told IANS said that Sakharkar, 43, a resident of Parel, was suffering from certain health issues and had been admitted to a hospital in south Mumbai a week ago. A body-builder in the 80-Kg Category, Sakharkar had bagged many



national and international awards and was conferred the Maharashtra govern-

ment's Shiv Chhatrapati Award, she added.

Survived by his wife and a son, Sakharkar's last rites shall be performed this evening, details of which are not immediately available.

Chief Minister Eknath Shinde mourned the loss of Sakharkar who brought fame to the country and his passing has caused an irreparable loss to the body-building fraternity. Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Aditya Thackeray grieved over the demise of Sakharkar and offered condolences to his family. There was an outpouring of grief on social media with his legion of fans mourning the death of Sakharkar, some calling it the end of an era for the state body-building sport.

# BJP LEADER'S 'SCUM VIDEO-GATE': MUMBAI POLICE LAUNCH PROBE

Team Absolute | Mumbai

As outrage continued over scum videos purportedly featuring a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) ex-MP Kirit Somaiya, the Mumbai Police on Wednesday launched its probe into the antecedents of the clips.

Official sources said that the Crime Branch Unit X is leading the probe with the help of the technical experts and cyber specialists, and Somaiya is likely to be called to join the investigations later.

The teams are expected to scour the sleaze video footage, reportedly running into around 8 hours, some of which was aired by a private TV channel and leading to a massive uproar in political circles and the public in the past two days.

Taking serious cognizance, Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde assured a probe while the Deputy CM and Home Minister Devendra Fadnavis directed the Mumbai Police to conduct a high-level investigation to verify the authenticity of the videos.

Simultaneously, the Maharashtra State Commission for Women on Wednesday wrote



to the Commissioner of Police Vivek Phansalkar, seeking a detailed probe into the incident and its report on priority.

After the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) raised the issue in the legislature, Leader of Opposition in the Maharashtra Legislative Council Ambadas Danve submitted a pen-drive of the 8-hour video to the Deputy Chairperson, Neelam Gorhe.

Responding, Gorhe has urged the women victims to "have faith in the legislature" and come forward with their complaints for the probe to be meaningful.

Earlier on Tuesday, Somaiya claimed he had not exploited any woman as alleged, and wrote letters to Fadnavis and Phansalkar demanding a thorough probe to verify the authenticity of the alleged videos in which he reportedly is seen in compromising positions.

When asked about the video-gate, Shiv Sena (UBT) President and former chief minister Uddhav Thackeray flatly said that he would not watch such sleazy, but "the women of the state have given their appropriate response" to the scam that has blown up on the BJP.

# Navi Mumbai boy Anshuman becomes youngest person in World to cross North Channel



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Anshuman Jhingran, an open sea swimmer, became the youngest person in the world to cross the North Channel.

With this achievement, 18-year-old Anshuman has become qualified for a place in the Guinness World Records. He is only the 114th person to cross the channel since 1947.

The North Channel, located between Scotland and Northern Ireland, is considered the toughest of the Ocean Seven Swims because of its chilling temperature, the presence of numerous extremely dangerous lions' main jellyfish and competing tides and currents all the way across right up

until the final few metres.

Anshuman's successful completion of this daunting endeavour at such a young age is a testament to his remarkable abilities and unyielding spirit. Son of Sandeep and Kiran Jhingran, Anshuman, from Navi Mumbai, is a Class 12 Commerce Stream student at the Karamveer Bhaurao Patil College, Vashi. He has been trained at the Fr Agnel Sport Centre, under the Chhatrapati award coach Gokul Kamath. Speaking about his achievement, Anshuman expressed his gratitude towards his coach Kamath, his support team, and his family, for being able to achieve this rare feat.

"Yes, in the beginning, it looked very difficult. But thanks to the severe train-

ing I had gone through under my Guru, my coach Shri Gokul Kamath & Sal Minty-Gravett (SMG-MBE), I was able to overcome all the challenges. I also want to thank my parents for their unwavering faith in me. And of course, you can't ever take on such challenges without a dedicated support team, so I am immensely grateful to them," he said. Young Anshuman also said that over the next year, he aims to complete the remainder of the Ocean Seven Swims. Anshuman's feat has garnered global attention and admiration within the swimming community. His accomplishment serves as a shining example of what can be achieved through perseverance, discipline, and unwavering determination.

# Uddhav Thackeray-Ajit Pawar in face-to-face meeting, first after NCP split

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Shiv Sena (UBT) President and former Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray today paid a 'courtesy' call on Deputy CM Ajit Pawar - their first meeting after the latter split the Nationalist Congress Party, here on Wednesday afternoon.

A relaxed Thackeray walked to the chamber of Ajit Pawar, along with Aditya Thackeray and several MLAs of the Shiv Sena (UBT). They exchanged warm pleasantries and the former Boss (Thackeray)

and his second-in-command (Ajit Pawar) had a brief discussion.

Thackeray 'advised' the mercurial Ajit Pawar to dedicate himself to the welfare of the masses, and despite the political one-upmanship going on, he must not ignore the problems of the farmers and the ordinary citizens of the state.

Later, Thackeray told mediapersons that he was confident about Ajit Pawar and he would do justice to the people of the state in his new role in the government of Shiv Sena CM Eknath Shinde and Bharatiya Janata

Party Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis.

"I have worked with him for two-and-half years and I know his nature very well... Whatever may be the political games going on, he will extend the desired help to the people... After all, the state treasury's keys are once again in his hand," said Thackeray.

This was the first meeting after Ajit Pawar broke away from the NCP on July 1, and joined the Shiv Sena-BJP regime as the second Deputy CM on July 2, along with 9 ministers, and MLAs.

# Vidyut Jammwal takes Mumbai metro to get home after work

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood action star Vidyut Jammwal ditched the comfort of his luxury Aston Martin and took the Mumbai metro to reach home just like any other after a long day of shoot.

A video of the actor sitting in the metro has been obtained. Vidyut is seen undistinguished as he covered half his face, sporting a navy blue baseball cap. He is seen sitting in the general compartment dressed in gray shorts, paired with gray sweatshirt and blue sneakers.

Vidyut, a people's person, managed to perfectly go undercover as the person next to him doesn't seem to recognise the actor, who has worked in films such as 'Commando', 'Khuda Haafiz', 'Sanak' and 'Jungle'.

The actor was travelling from his shoot in Borivali. The 'IB71' star is currently busy shooting for his upcoming film 'Crakk-Jeetega toh Jiyega', an adrenaline-rushing extreme sports film.

The upcoming film, directed by Aditya Dutt, is based on two brothers who are set to perform daring stunts mixed with extreme sports to win. It is written by Sarim Momin and Rehan Khan.

His latest release was 'IB 71', which marked his first as a producer. The film, which is based on true events of the Ganga Hijack infamously called 'The hijack that never happened', uncovers India's top secret mission conducted by the Intelligence Bureau that made India win the 1971 war.

The film, which has received well upon its digital release, also stars Anupam Kher and Vishal Jethwa in pivotal roles.

Vidyut made his debut in 2011 with



'Force'. He also practices Kalaripayattu. He ranked in The Times of India's listing of India's Top 10 Most Desirable Men in 2012 and 2013. In 2012, People Magazine India listed him as one of The Sexiest Men Alive.

In 2018, he was tagged as Top 6 Martial Artists Around The World. In 2020, he was named in The World List Of 10 People You Don't Have To Mess With' alongside Vladimir Putin and Bear Grylls.

# Pune bike thieves turn out to be 'wanted terror-linked' persons, nabbed

Team Absolute | Pune

In a major catch, the Pune Police have nabbed two persons allegedly linked with a terror group and wanted by the National Investigation Agency (NIA), an official said here on Wednesday.

The accused duo -- with a reward for their capture -- were found trying to steal a motorcycle by a night patrol team of constables Amol Nazan and Pradeep Chavan of the Kothrud Police Station, around 3 a.m.

Seeing them, the police patrol accosted the duo -- identified as Yunus Saki and Imran Khan, both from Ratlam city in Madhya Pradesh -- when they were trying to flee with a motorcycle, said Pune Police Commissioner Retesh Kumaar.

A third person, who was present with them, managed to escape from the spot in the dark, but when the police patrol



took them to their residence for a search, even Saki and Khan attempted to flee from there, but were apprehended by Nazan and Chavan.

The police searched their home and seized a laptop, four mobiles and a live fire-round, and the probe also revealed that they carried a booty of Rs 5 lakhs on their heads, said Kumaar.

Holed up in Pune for nearly one-and-half years, Saki and Khan are believed to be members of an extremist group 'SUEFA', inspired by the IS and were wanted by the NIA for a terror strike conspiracy hatched in Rajasthan last year.

Earlier this week, the NIA had attached a property owned by Khan in Ratlam which was purportedly used for recruiting new cadres and coaching them on how to make bombs and IEDs.

After the initial case was lodged in Chittorgarh, Rajasthan, the NIA stepped into the probe and filed its own charge sheet in Madhya Pradesh in April 2022, naming the absconders Khan-Saki, along with 10 other accused in the same case.

The arrested duo shall be handed over to the NIA after completing the due process for further investigations, said officials.

# ROW IN MAHARASHTRA ASSEMBLY OVER SAMAJWADI MLA'S REFUSAL TO VANDE MATARAM

Mumbai: The Maharashtra legislative assembly on Wednesday was adjourned following a noisy protest by BJP MLAs over a remark about 'Vande Mataram' by Samajwadi Party legislator Abu Azmi.

While raising the issue of a riot in the Sambhajnagar district, Azmi said chanting the slogan 'Vande Mataram' was unacceptable to him.

"Some people say that if one has to live in India, 'Vande Mataram' must be chanted. We can not do it. We believe only in one god," he said.

A ruckus followed as BJP MLAs took a strong exception to the statement.

Speaker Rahul Narvekar appealed the legislators to calm down. "Azmi's comments are irrelevant to the topic. He should focus on the issue listed for the discussion," Narvekar said. But the protest continued and the Speaker adjourned the house for ten minutes.

# AJIT PAWAR, PRAFUL PATEL MEET PM MODI



New Delhi: NCP leaders Ajit Pawar and Praful Patel, who recently joined the Eknath Shinde government in Maharashtra, met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday and discussed the political situation in Maharashtra.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP National President J.P. Nadda were also present during the meeting.

According to sources, Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Pawar and Patel met Prime Minister Modi in the presence of Shah and Nadda separately after the NDA meeting at 'The Ashok Hotel' in Delhi on Tuesday.

Sources said that after the conclusion of the NDA meeting, the Prime Minister had a one-to-one meeting with the leaders of several other allies.



## 'BARBIE' MAY BE UNSUITABLE FOR KIDS DUE TO SUGGESTIVE REFERENCES, MATURE TONE

Los Angeles | Agencies

Director Greta Gerwig's upcoming comedy-fantasy film 'Barbie' has been the talk of Hollywood along with Christopher Nolan's 'Oppenheimer', with the two being touted as the biggest releases of July. While boasting a PG-13 rating making it a film friendly for kids and families alike, doubts have been raised whether the movie is appropriate for kids, as previews have shown "suggestive references and brief language". Furthermore, due to its more mature and deep themes, the movie won't fully appeal to kids.

Due to this, the film may not be suitable for children under the age of 13, with the film's PG-13 rating strongly cautioning parents that "some material may be inappropriate."

The Margot Robbie and Ryan Gosling-starrer is a very different take on 'Barbie' as it isn't just aimed at children, but also adults who grew up playing with the Barbie toys. As such, the movie has been made with both children and adults in mind.

As the initial visuals of the film's colorful costumes, bright colours and set designs appeared, the creators of this pink fantasy toy-world dreamland began dropping hints about the story.

Plus due to the film's deeper themes, it is not at all something that is childish in any way.

In a recent conversation with 'People' magazine, Greta Gerwig, talking about the film, said "We invent things like dolls to explain to ourselves what it means to be human. Part of me wondered if there was a way that we could allow the doll to also have that humanity. Wouldn't it be wonderful if the Queen of Plastic was given something real?"



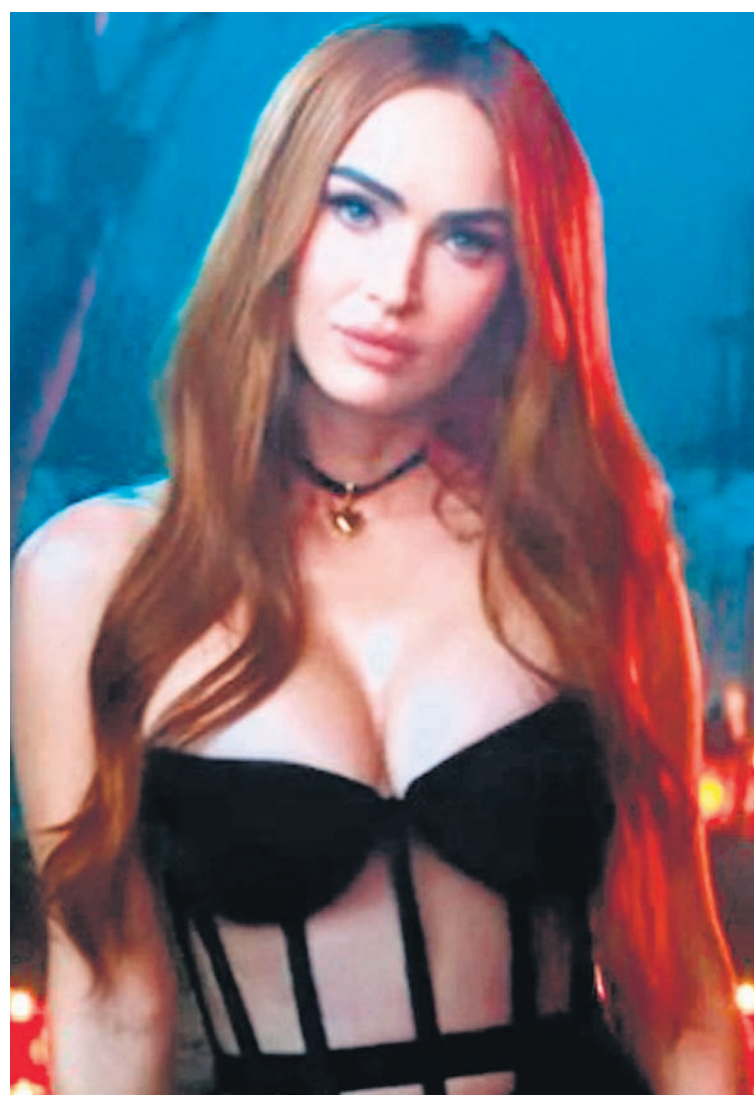
## Megan Fox rocks new outfit as she gets spotted with Machine Gun Kelly

Los Angeles | Agencies

Turning up the heat, 'Transformers' actress Megan Fox is sizzling audiences with her new look as she was spotted with her long-time boyfriend and now fiancé Machine Gun Kelly.

Megan and Machine Gun Kelly, whose real name is Colson Baker, met back in 2020 when they both worked on the film 'Midnight in the Switchgrass'. Following a whirlwind romance the couple got engaged in 2022.

Following months of speculations, based on the reports that the celebrity couple are about to separate due to the difficulties they were facing in their relationship, the couple have put on a united front as they are out and about walking in the sun. To amp things up, Megan's new look leaves little to the imagination. As reported by the Mirror, Megan was seen donning a sheer black lace tank top with spaghetti straps, paired with a minuscule black miniskirt, some stripper-style heels, and a black handbag. The flame-haired beauty wore her orange locks down and billowed in the wind as she strutted her stuff beside her husband-to-be. Meanwhile, MGK donned a simple look in comparison which consisted of a white long-sleeved t-shirt, some baggy blue jeans, white trainers and blue baseball cap.



## IRON MAIDEN SETS EUROPE ABLAZE WITH LATEST BARCELONA CONCERT



London | Agencies

Iron Maiden has been rocking it out hard ever since their 'The Future Past Tour 2023' took off to a strong start. But as the tour goes on, the band has set Europe ablaze with power packed performances taking place all the way from Czech Republic to Italy.

Just last week the band concluded their Venice concert, and are now in Spain as they finished their concert in Barcelona, leaving their fans awe struck with metal spirit.

Taking to Instagram, the band

thanked their fans at Barcelona and captioned: "Thank you, Barcelona!"

The concert ended on the night of July 18 (local time) complete with much theatricality, and filling out the stadiums the moment they announced their concert, the tickets began selling out faster than hot cakes.

The legendary heavy metal band however are also big football fans, and some time prior to the concert they met up with the Football Club of Barcelona (FCB) which hosted a training complex for them.

Thanking the FCB for its hospitality, the band posted a picture of themselves alongside players of the FCB as they wrote in the caption: "A huge thank you

to @fcbBarcelona for hosting Maiden FC at their magnificent training complex yesterday. A thrilling encounter finished 8-3 in favour of Maiden. A big shout out to @madnesslive for playing and arranging the fixture."

Much like their shows in Prague and Venice prior, the band lit up the stage performing their many classics ranging from 'Wasted Years' to 'The Trooper' while also dishing out some of their lesser known tracks such as 'The Prisoner' and 'Alexander The Great'.

The setlist for the show also included many tracks from their latest album 'Senjutsu' such as 'Hell on Earth', 'Writing on the Wall', 'Death of the Celts' and 'The Time Machine'.

Gigi Hadid says 'all's well that ends well' in bikini post after arrest news

Los Angeles | Agencies

Supermodel Gigi Hadid's latest post says "all's well that ends well" as she posed in a bikini after the news of her getting arrested went viral.

On July 18, news of Gigi being released after been arrested for possessing marijuana in Cayman Islands while on a trip with her friends took over the Internet. The supermodel was embarking on an all-girls' trip to the Cayman Islands on July 10 when she was arrested from the Owen Roberts International Airport, reports eonline.com.

Gigi's latest Instagram post, also posted on Tuesday, features a string of images from her getaway. The first post features a video of the model with her friend chilling by the sea. The second show, Gigi flaunting her perfect body in a bright yellow bikini.

The other images show glimpses of food, tan lines, jewelry and friends.

She captioned the post: "All's well that ends well." The post has over 25,98,000 likes. It includes a like from Bollywood actress Ananya Panday.

According to local outlet Cayman Marl Road, shortly after Hadid and her friend arrived on a private plane, Customs officials allegedly found "marijuana and equipment used for its consumption" in their luggage.

Hadid and her friend were subsequently arrested, the outlet reports, adding that they were taken to the Prisoner Detention Centre, from where they were released on bail.

"Gigi was travelling with marijuana that she purchased legally from NYC with a medical licence," her representative said.

"It (marijuana) is also legal for medical use in Grand Cayman since 2017. Her record remains clear and she enjoyed the rest of her time on the island."



## 'THE MARVELS' RELEASE NEW PICTURES OF ITS 3 PROTAGONISTS, NICK FURY

Los Angeles | Agencies

Getting ready to light up the upcoming Diwali, Marvel Cinematic Universe is gearing up to release its latest feature, 'The Marvels'. It will focus on three protagonists who have the power of Captain Marvel. The new photos that have come out offer an all new look into MCU's new exciting and fiery adventure.

Fresh new stills of Captain Marvel/Carol Danvers (Brie Larson), Ms. Marvel/Kamala Khan (ImanVellani) and Monica Rambeau/Photon (Teyonah Parris). Alongside that it also features Nick Fury (Samuel L. Jackson) have made their way to social media.

The pictures were released by Entertainment Weekly on social media. The pictures also tease the mysterious return of both the Kree and Skrulls. 'The Marvels' will act as a sequel to 2019's 'Captain Marvel'.

The trailer showed that due to an accident, the three heroes who are able to use the ability of energy absorption and conversion change places with one another every time they use their powers. This leads to a lot of difficulty in their work, and to fix this problem, these three separate female heroes must work together while fighting a new emerging threat. Along the way, the three who are all completely different from one another and in fact incompatible with each other's fighting styles despite possessing the same powers must learn to coordinate with each other as they exchange places constantly, leading to hilarious fun packed moments.

MCU is known for its action, and 'The Marvels' which will be a part of the Phase 5 of MCU will feature plenty of exciting action, complete with laser blast, space flights and unimaginable feats of strength as all three discover a new side of themselves, while at the same time getting to know one another.



## ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Julia Fox



### Asia Cup 2023

# INDIA TO OPEN CAMPAIGN AGAINST PAKISTAN ON SEP 2

Team Absolute | New Delhi

India will face arch-rivals Pakistan in their first match of Asia Cup 2023 on September 2 in Kandy, Sri Lanka, the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) president & BCCI secretary Jay Shah confirmed on Wednesday while announcing the schedule for the premier Asian tournament.

The six-nation tournament will be played in Pakistan and Sri Lanka under a hybrid model of hosting games. The tournament will start on August 30, when Pakistan take on Nepal in Multan. The final will be held on September 17 in Colombo.

The Asia Cup 2023 will be played in 50-over format ahead of the Men's ODI World Cup, to be held in India from October 5 to November 19. India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, and Nepal, the winners of ACC Men's Premier Cup, will compete in a total of 13 ODI matches in the tournament.

India and Pakistan have been grouped together alongside Nepal in Group A while Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Afghanistan are the sides featuring in Group B.

India won the tournament the last time it was held in 50-over format in the UAE in 2018. On the other hand, Sri Lanka are the defending champions of Asia Cup held in 20-over format last year in the UAE.

Barring Nepal, the Asia Cup serves as vital preparation for the rest of five teams for the ODI World Cup.

The 2023 edition of Asia Cup, which is also the 16th edition of the tournament, will feature two groups, with two teams from each group qualifying for the Super Four stage. The top two teams from the Super

Four stage will then face off in the final.

After Multan hosts the tournament opener, Lahore will host two group stage games -- Bangladesh vs Afghanistan and Sri Lanka vs Afghanistan -- on September 3 and 5 respectively, as well as one Super fours match between A1 and B2 sides on September 6.

In Sri Lanka, Kandy will host group matches, ending with India vs Nepal on September 4. Capital city Colombo will then take over to host five Super fours games and the final.

The schedule also said that irrespective of where teams finish in the first round, Pakistan will remain A1 and India will be A2, while Sri Lanka will be B1 and Bangladesh B2. In case Nepal and Afghanistan qualify for the Super fours stage of the competition, they will take the slot of the team knocked out from their respective groups.

### GROUP STAGE

August 30: Pakistan v Nepal - Multan

August 31: Bangladesh v Sri Lanka - Kandy

September 2: Pakistan v India - Kandy

September 3: Bangladesh v Afghanistan - Lahore

September 4: India v Nepal - Kandy

September 5: Afghanistan v Sri Lanka - Lahore

### SUPER FOURS

September 6: A1 v B2 - Lahore

September 9: B1 v B2 - Colombo

September 10: A1 v A2 - Colombo

September 12: A2 v B1 - Colombo

September 14: A1 v B1 - Colombo

September 15: A2 v B2 - Colombo

Final - September 17 - Colombo

### Emerging Men's Asia Cup

## Sai Sudharsan, Hangargekar star in India A's eight-wicket win over Pakistan A

Colombo | Agencies

Left-handed opener B Sai Sudharsan slammed a superb unbeaten century while fast-bowling all-rounder Rajvardhan Hangargekar took a brilliant five-wicket haul to lead India A to a convincing eight-wicket win over Pakistan A in their final group stage match of 2023 Emerging Men's Asia Cup at the R Premadasa Stadium, here on Wednesday.

Pushed into bowling first, Hangargekar picked 5-42 while left-arm spinner Manav Suthar took 3-36 as India A bowled out Pakistan A for 205 in 48 overs.

In reply, Sudharsan, who scored a fifty in the last game, hit a composed 104 not out off 110 balls, laced with a six and 10 fours. He finished off the match with back-to-back sixes to reach his century and win the match for India A with eight wickets in hand and 80 balls to spare.

The left-hander was ably supported in a largely



wicket. After Mubasir was trapped lbw by Nishant Sindhu, Mehran Mumtaz joined Qasim to add 43 runs for the eighth wicket before the latter was dismissed by Hangargekar. The all-rounder would wipe off the tail to end up with a five-fer.

untroubled run-chase by top-order batter Nikin Jose, who hit seven fours in making 53 runs off 64 deliveries.

The win over Pakistan also marks a third victory on the trot for the Yash Dhull-captained India A side in Group B, who remain the only team in the tournament to remain unbeaten. They will face Bangladesh A in the second semifinal while Pakistan A will take on Sri Lanka A in the first semi-final on July 21.

Thanks to Hangargekar and Suthar making strikes, Pakistan A lost wickets at regular intervals and were reeling at 95 for six before Qasim Akram (48) and Mubasir Khan (28) got together to stitch a 53-run partnership for the seventh

### Brief scores

Pakistan A 205 all out in 48 overs (Qasim Akram 48, Sahibzada Farhan 35; Rajvardhan Hangargekar 5-42, Manav Suthar 3-36) lost to India A 210-2 in 36.4 overs (B Sai Sudharsan 104 not out, Nikin Jose 53; Mubasir Khan 1-45, Mehran Mumtaz 1-58) by eight wickets

### Korea Open

## Sindhu, Srikanth crash out in opener; Prannoy advances to second round

Yeosu (S Korea) | Agencies

Ac Indian shuttlers PV Sindhu and Kidambi Srikanth made an early exit from Korea Open, a Super 500 badminton tournament, after suffering losses in their respective opening-round matches, here on Wednesday.

Two-time Olympic medalist PV Sindhu lost 18-21, 21-10, 13-21 to Pai Yu Po of Chinese in the women's singles in her first official match under new coach Muhammad Hafiz Hashim. The Malaysian coach's appointment was formally announced on Tuesday.

This was Sindhu's sixth opening-round outer in 12 BWF World Tour tournament appearances this season.

In other women's singles matches, Malvika Bansod lost 17-21, 7-21 to world no 4 Tai Tzu Ying of Chinese Taipei. Ashmita Chalhaha, meanwhile, succumbed 13-21, 12-21 to the reigning Olympic champion Chen Yu Fei of China.

Aakarshi Kashyap suffered a 12-21, 17-21 loss at the hands of Chinese shuttler Zhang Yi Man while Tasnim Mir fell 11-21, 18-21 to local player Kim Ga Yun. Tanya Hemnath lost 11-21, 17-21 to Japan's Saena Kawakami.

In the men's singles, former world no 1 Srikanth went down 21-12, 22-24, 17-21 to Japan's Kento Momota in a grueling three-setter. His compatriot HS Prannoy got the better of Belgian Julien Carraggi 21-13, 21-17 to sail



into the second round, where he will be up against Lee Cheuk Yiu of Hong Kong.

On the other hand, Kiran George lost 17-21, 9-21 to Chinese Taipei shuttler Wang Tzu Wei. Mithun Manjunath also suffered an 11-21, 4-21 loss to Malaysian Ng Tze Yong.

In the mixed doubles, Rohan Kapoor and N Sikki Reddy made the second after defeating the Philippines' Alvin Morada and Alyssa Ysabel Leonardo 21-17, 21-17. Rohan and Sikki will next play the fourth seed Chinese pair of Feng Yan Zhe and Huang Dong Ping.

Another mixed pair, B Sumeeth Reddy and Ashwini Ponnappa bowed out after a 21-23, 21-13, 12-21 loss to the Korean pair of Song Hyun Cho and Lee Jung Hyun.

### 2nd ODI

## INDIA LEVEL SERIES WITH 108-RUN WIN OVER BANGLADESH

Dhaka | Agencies

Jemimah Rodrigues dished out a memorable all-round performance -- a quick 86 with the bat and four wickets (4/3) with the ball -- to help India level three-game ODI series 1-1 with a 108-run win against Bangladesh in the second match at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium, here on Wednesday.

Jemimah's superb efforts meant that the third ODI set to be played on Saturday will now be the series decider.

Put into bat first, Jemimah made a career-best 86 off 78 balls while sharing a crucial 73-run stand with captain Harmanpreet Kaur (52) to take India to 228 for eight.

In reply, she took four wickets with her part-time off-spin, giving away only three runs, to play a major role in bowling out Bangladesh for 120 in 35.1 overs. She was also supported by leg-spin all-rounder Devika Vaidya taking three for 30 as Bangladesh lost their last seven wickets for 14 runs within 38 balls.

In defence of 228, Meghna Singh and Deepti Sharma took out Murshida Khatun and



Sharmin Akter in the first five overs. Sneha joined the wicket-taker's column in the 14th over as Lata Mondal chopped on to her stumps. Fargana Hoque (47) and Ritu Moni (27) shared a 68-run stand for the fourth wicket to keep Bangladesh in the hunt for the chase.

Jemimah was handed the ball, who had taken just one wicket in the format previously.

The change worked as Jemimah had Ritu stumped from behind, followed by Devika returning to have Rabeya out in the same fashion. Two overs later, Jemimah trapped Nigar Sultana lbw and castled Nahida Akter as Bangladesh's chase went up in smoke. Devika had Sultana caught at cover while Jemimah finished off the game as Marufa gave a catch to cover, as India completed a series-levelling win.

Brief Scores: India 228-8 in 50 overs (Jemimah Rodrigues 86, Harmanpreet Kaur 52; Nahida Akter 2-37, Sultana Khatun 2-41) beat Bangladesh 120 in 35.1 overs (Fargana Hoque 47, Ritu Moni 27; Jemimah Rodrigues 4-3, Devika Vaidya 3-30) by 108 runs.

### ICC Test Rankings

## Rohit Sharma back in top 10, Yashasvi Jaiswal makes maiden appearance

Los Angeles | Agencies

On the other hand, Jaiswal entered the batting rankings in 73rd place following his



ubai: India captain Rohit Sharma returned to the top 10 in the latest ICC Men's Test batting rankings, released on Wednesday, while young opener Yashasvi Jaiswal made his maiden appearance after a stunning century on debut.

Rohit and Jaiswal played pivotal roles in India's comprehensive victory over the West Indies with superb centuries in the opening Test of the two-match ICC World Test Championship series in Dominica.

The 36-year old Rohit played a 103 run-knock which helped India captain rise three places and re-enter the top 10 once again, to be rated slightly ahead of compatriot Rishabh Pant (11th) and former skipper Virat Kohli (14th) as the highest-ranked Indian batter.

magnificent innings of 171 from 387 deliveries against the West Indies in what was his first Test for his country.

The 21-year-old registered the third-highest score as an India opener on debut and the highest away from home to be adjudged the Player of the Match in his maiden Test appearance.

In the bowling chart, veteran spinner Ravichandran Ashwin extended his lead at the top following his 12-wicket haul in the first Test against West Indies. The impressive bowling performance saw Ashwin improve a total of 24 rating points, taking a 56-point lead over Australia captain Pat Cummins in second place.

Fellow India spinner Ravindra Jadeja, who claimed five wickets rose three places to seventh overall on the bowler rankings.

### Women's Ashes

## Winning two trophies against Australia is really special: Heather Knight

Taunton | Agencies

Despite Australia retaining the Women's Ashes, England captain Heather Knight hailed her side's T20 and ODI series victories as "really special".

A thrilling women's Ashes series came to a close at Taunton with England defeating Australia by 69 runs via DLS method in the third ODI on Tuesday night.

The victory allowed England to clinch the ODI series 2-1, but Australia still retained the Women's Ashes as the multi-



format series ended tied at 8-8 following the seven matches, due to the Alyssa Healy-led side being previous holders of the trophy. But more importantly, England handed Australia their first ODI series defeat in a decade.

"I'm hugely pleased, it's a draw isn't it. And we've got two trophies against the world champions, which is really special. I think the fact that we'd gone so close and gone toe-to-toe with Australia, in the Test and that first T20, I think it

actually built more belief - even though we didn't get the results," said Heather after the match.

England had come close to taking the Women's Ashes, but a three-run loss in the second ODI at Southampton had dashed those hopes.

England looked to be heading towards losing Women's Ashes early after being 6-0 behind due to losing the one-off Test and first T20 match. But the hosts' staged a remarkable fightback to win four of the remaining five matches.

## 'WHAT ABOUT US, SHOULD WE QUIT WRESTLING'

### ANTIM RAISES QUESTION ON VINESH'S EXEMPTION FROM ASIAN GAMES TRIALS

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Reigning U20 World Champion wrestler Antim Panghal on Wednesday raised questions on the exemption given to Vinesh Phogat from the Asian Games selection trial and sought to understand the reason behind this decision.

In a surprising move on Tuesday, the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) ad-hoc committee appointed by the Indian Olympic Association (IOA), has granted Tokyo Olympics bronze medalist Bajrang Punia (65kg) and two-time world championships medalist Vinesh (53kg) exemption from appearing in the selection trials for the upcoming Asian Games 2023.

19-year-old Antim, who competes in the



53kg weight category, lashed out on a shocking decision and asked about the criteria for trials exemption.

"Vinesh Phogat has received a direct entry for the Asian Games when she had not done any practice in the last one year. She doesn't have any achievement in the last one year.

In the 2022 Junior World Championships, I had won a gold medal and became the first woman wrestler from India to achieve this feat. In the 2023 Asian Championships I won a silver medal, but Vinesh has no achievement to show in the last one year. She was also injured," Antim said in a video posted by Olympic medalist wrestler Yogeshwar Dutt on Twitter.

Antim also recalled a similar incident from the Commonwealth Games trials last year and stated that she experienced unfair treatment during the trials for Birmingham as well.

## VIRAT KOHLI'S LIFE IS LIKE A MONK: AAKASH CHOPRA



New Delhi: Virat Kohli will play his 500th international match during the second Test match against the West Indies on Thursday.

Sixth in the list of most runs scored and behind only Sachin Tendulkar in international centuries, Kohli will be the fourth Indian to achieve the milestone of 500 matches.

JioCinema expert Aakash Chopra lauded Kohli's remarkable milestone and termed him the brand ambassador of the game.

"Virat Kohli's dedication for the game is very evident and in fact defines him. The way he has lived his life like a monk where it has only been about cricket. That is the reason he has reached where he is today and is a brand ambassador of the beautiful game. We are all thankful for what he has done for Indian cricket and for cricket in general."

Pragyan Ojha, too, praised him and termed it as 'one more feather in the cap' moment, "This is a very special achievement. Very few get to achieve this feat. I hope this acts as a motivation for him and he keeps playing good knocks for the country and continues with his good form."



# SHRUTI, IN INSTA POEM, SAYS SHE HAS TROUBLE FITTING IN, BUT IS STILL A PROUD 'WEIRDO'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

**S**hruti Hassan, sporting a rebellious attitude, has said that she has trouble fitting into society with all its rules and norms, with her many challenges making it difficult for her to adjust.

But taking pride in her unique self, which many term as 'weird', she shared a rhyme where she said that now she knows what to really care about, and even though she has been misunderstood, the difference in herself brings her much joy. Sharing a poetic rhyme in the Stories section of her Instagram, she wrote, "Insomnia thoughts

"Somewhere in between, I don't fit in?"

Shruti is also known for her singing talents as she is also a member of an alternative rock band The Extramentals. She regularly posts clips showcasing her daily life, new attire, music and fashion sense that has gained her a massive amount of followers.

Shruti made her Bollywood debut in 2009 with the film 'Luck'. She was later seen in Hindi films like 'DilTohBacchaHaiji', 'RamayyaVasthavayya' and 'Gabbar is Back'.

In South Indian cinema, she has worked in various hits such as 'Gabbar Singh', 'Yevadu', 'Krack', and most recently in

'WaltairVeerayya'. She will also be seen in the Prabhas starrer 'Salaar Pt.1'

For her singing she has received much praise, garnering various awards and nominations. She has also sung songs in Hindi films such as 'Aazma' for 'Luck' and 'Alvida' for 'D-Day'.

*'It is not just about 'luck, it's about hard working to':* **Daisy Shah**

Team Absolute | New Delhi

**T**he show 'KhatronKeKhiladi 13' will be introducing a 'red fanda week', in the upcoming episode, where the host RohitShetty will instruct the contestants to cite the one daredevil, who has made it through the last two episodes on the strength of luck.

The 'red fanda', which stands for the threat of elimination, will go to Daisy Shah after contestants unanimously agree that she lucked out in the previous stunts.

According to the rules of the red fanda, to defend her position on the show, Daisy must compete with two contestants, who she should outperform to get rid of the elimination threat.

Daisy and her competitors Aishwarya Sharma and ArjitTaneja must perform a daring stunt that will have them brave acrophobia and aquaphobia.

The contestants will be tasked with mounting up a tilted crane and collecting flags nestled in places that challenge their balance and induce vertigo.

Daisy will have to make sure that she's not the worst performer among the three. The stakes are that the fanda shall pass on to the worst performer of this stunt. Will Daisy be able to prove her mettle as a daredevil??

Commenting on the challenge, Daisy said: "It was exciting to perform a stunt where both the elements of water and height were involved. I had to defend my position and make a statement that I am not only lucky, I'm hard working too. I hope the audience will embrace me as I get into my khiladi element. Aishwarya and Arjit were great competitors. I can't wait for everyone to watch how the red fanda week panned out for us."

## SRK TURNS CHOREOGRAPHER FOR TRACK IN UPCOMING

Team Absolute | New Delhi

**S**uperstar Shah Rukh Khan has once again surprised his fans by not only showcasing his acting prowess, but also displaying his dance skills by choreographing his own steps in a captivating sequence of action entertainer 'Jawan'. SRK surprised his fans by grooving on the popular retro song 'BeqarKarke' in the movie. The steps capture the menacing energy of his character in the most brilliant way, adding an intriguing layer to the scene.

According to a source, it was SRK himself who conceived the idea of introducing dance steps in this particular sequence with "BeqarKarke" playing in the background.

"He took it upon himself to choreograph the steps, which completely transformed the scene and made it much more captivating," the source revealed.

The improvised dance moves devised by Bollywood's 'Badshah' have become a favourite among audiences, with the steps going viral on social media and have generated memes across the internet. The action-packed 'prevue' of the movie has pushed the anticipation for the film to the next level, captivating audiences with its grand scale and promising an extraordinary cinematic experience. Bringing together a perfect blend of action and emotion, it showcases stunning visuals and an unparalleled scale bound to leave viewers wanting more.

The movie stars Nayanthara, Vijay Sethupathi in pivotal roles, while DeepikaPadukone and SanyaMalhotra in cameo roles. The flick is a Red Chillies Entertainment presentation, directed by Atlee, Produced by Gauri Khan and Co-produced by GauravVerma.



## 'Acting wasn't the career I chose, it chose me and I fell in love with it,' says Genelia

Team Absolute | New Delhi

**O**ne of Bollywood's most loved actresses GeneliaDeshmukh or 'Meow', as many fondly call her courtesy her iconic character in from the 2008 movie 'JaaneTu...YaJaane Na', has had a two-decade-long journey in the world of acting which she says she did not choose - it chose her.

Over her two decade long career, Genelia has not only worked in Bollywood but many other language films including Marathi, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam and Kannada.

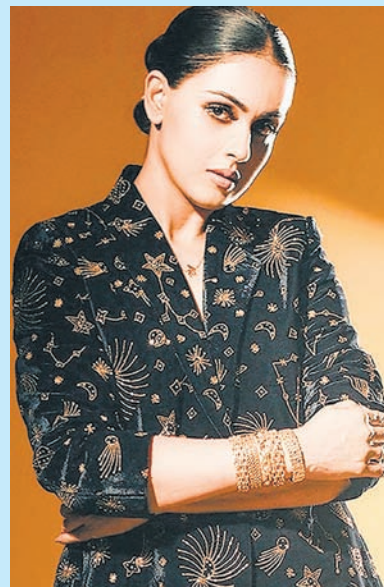
Looking back at her journey in the world of cinema, the 35-year-old actress said that she fell in love with acting along the way.

"I think my journey has been amazing. It has been a journey of appreciation because it wasn't the career that I chose, it chose me. I fell in love on the way," Geneliasaid. She added: "I've had the opportunity to work with a lot of people, regions and hence I feel your craft has developed so much more because a girl in the north will be different from the girl in south, and having the opportunity to play so much just makes it a wholesome career." Genelia, who is gearing up for the release of her upcoming film 'Trial Period', was last seen on screen in the Hindi films 'Mister Mummy' and 'Ved' which released in 2022. Before that, she was in the 2016 film 'Force 2'. Would we now get to see her more often on screen?" "Initially, when I did films, I liked to plan the entire year. But now, I feel when I do a film, it means taking out that much time from kids, means giving just a lot more than just doing a number of films. So, I just want to own a choice that I make. I'd like to do a lot more work but I am happy to wait it out if it takes that kind of time to wait out too," said that actress, who is married to actor RiteshDeshmukh. Genelia and Ritesh got married in February 2012. The two welcomed their first son, Riaan, in 2014. Their second son, Rahyl, was born June 2016.

The 'TujheMeriKasam' actress wanted to focus on family life as her children were younger. "I took a break initially because my kids were younger and I felt that I needed that time. I feel that I am ready now and I feel I am ready to accept a lot more work. I feel there is a lot more work that comes according to what I want also."

She believes she would do a lot more work now. "So, I do believe I'll be doing a lot more work now versus how I was in the last 10 years." Her upcoming film 'Trial Period' is a family drama that follows the journey of a single mother Ana, played by Genelia, whose world turns upside down when her inquisitive son demands a father on a trial period of 30 days.

"Yeah 'Trial Period' is a film of humour and innocence but what caught my interest was the fact that it was about a mum and the various things that are associated with it. It's a lovely family entertainer."



## INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Alia Bhatt