

absolute india

VOL. 6, ISSUE 222, NEW DELHI | SUNDAY, JULY 02, 2023 | ₹5 | PAGE 08

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Neeraj Chopra clinches second Diamond League 2023 title

Olympic champion javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra clinched his second straight podium finish of the season at the Lausanne leg of the Diamond League in a star-studded field on Saturday, media reported.

Lausanne (Switzerland) | Agencies

His fifth attempt of 87.66m extended his lead over others, with Julian Weber of Germany managing only 87.03m in the last attempt, Mid-Day reported.

With not an ideal beginning to his campaign in Lausanne, Chopra began his first attempt with a foul throw. He registered his first legal throw in the second attempt with a throw of 83.52m, but he was placed

third behind Julian Weber (86.20m) and Jakub Vadlejch (84.71m).

The 25-year-old Indian superstar had made a perfect start to the Diamond League season with a top podium finish in Doha on May 5 with a fourth career-best throw of 88.67m but suffered a muscle strain while training later that month.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Sports minister Anurag Thakur and Olympic gold medalist shooter Abhinav Bindra on Saturday congratulated star Indian

javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra for his second straight win of the season in the Lausanne leg of the Diamond League.

Neeraj had earlier skipped three top events due to a muscle strain he sustained while training last month. But he came back with a bang and won the Diamond League title here with his fifth-round throw of 87.66m.

Earlier, Neeraj had won the season-opening Diamond League meeting in Doha on May 5 with a throw of 88.67m.



Immigration patterns: Where in the world are Indians headed?

THE LURE OF FOREIGN SHORES

When it comes to moving and settling abroad, Indians lead the pack with a 32 million-strong diaspora out of which 18.68 million are of Indian-origin and 13.45 million are non-resident Indians. Now, with top economies seeking semi-skilled and skilled professionals to plug labour shortages, offering them extensive benefits and upgrading their standard of living, people's desire to migrate has reached an all-time high.

Meenakshi Iyer | New Delhi

Going by the numbers, Indians continue to chase the American dream with 7,88,284 of them relinquishing their citizenship in 2021, according to a Ministry of External Affairs data.

Australia took the second spot after the US with 23,533 individuals giving up their Indian citizenship, followed by Canada (21,597), and the UK (14,637).

A significant number of Indians chose to be citizens of Italy (5,986), New Zealand (2,643), Singapore (2,516), Germany (2,381), the Netherlands (2,187), Sweden (1,841) and



Spain (1,595). Of the top 20 destinations of international

migrants in 2020, all but three were high-income or upper-middle-income countries, according to a UN report.

With a population of over four million, the largest cohort of Indians live in the US, followed by gulf countries like the UAE (3.5 million) and Saudi Arabia (2.5 million).

HIGHLY-SKILLED/SKILLED PROFESSIONALS

As per the immigration trends, the highly-skilled/skilled Indian professionals choose developed countries like the US, Canada, the UK as they ensure quality of life, stable economy, clean environment, coupled with well-developed healthcare and education system.

A robust and diverse immigration pathway along with faster processing of visas provided by these countries is also among the reasons. However, post-covid, Indians are also targeting countries like Australia, New Zealand, Germany, Japan, Italy, and other EU nations due to low population and shortage of skilled workers in the countries, according to immigration experts.

What is making Australia special is its points-based immigration system favouring wealthy and high-earning professionals like doctors, lawyers, engineers, and accountants, the report said.

UNSKILLED/SEMI SKILLED

While a lot of semi-skilled Indians are also found in the above countries, most of them migrate to GCC countries, west Asian, Asian nations like Singapore and Malaysia.

Roughly, 70 per cent of the Indian population in the Gulf consists of semi-skilled and unskilled workers, and 20-30 per cent make up for professionals and white-collar workers. A small fraction comprises domestic help. According to media reports, Saudi Arabia, which has the second-highest number of Indians after the UAE, witnessed 178,630 Indians moving to the Kingdom for employment in 2022, which was a mere 32,845 in 2021. Kuwait came a close second with 71,432, followed by the UAE with 33,233 Indians.

HIGH-NET-WORTH INDIVIDUALS

Some 6,500 high-net-worth individuals (HNWI) -- possessing investable wealth amounting to \$1 million or more -- are set to leave India in 2023, according to a 2023 Henley Private Wealth Migration Report.

According to web portal Immigration Experts, wealthy investors get alternate residency or citizenship in return for a significant contribution to the host country through investment migration.

According to the Henley Private Wealth Migration, HNWIs are likely to choose Australia, UAE, Singapore, the US and Switzerland as their preferred destinations in 2023.

Dubai, via its golden visa scheme, as well as Singapore with favorable tax environment, robust business ecosystem, and safe environment, emerged as two top destinations for wealthy Indians to migrate.

STUDENTS

Indians studying in economically developed countries are the most likely among all foreign students to stay back in their host country and join the local workforce, according to a report on international migration patterns by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

While Canada, Australia, the UK, and the US remain the top choices, sizable numbers are also travelling to Uzbekistan, Philippines, Russia, Ireland, Kyrgyzstan, and Kazakhstan.

In 2022, there were over 2,26,450 Indian students who went to study in Canada, making them the biggest cohort of international students, according to official data from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. The US Immigration and Customs Enforcement in its annual report mentioned that India sent 64,300 students to the country in 2022. One out of every five US student visas was for India in 2022, according to Ambassador Eric Garcetti. According to 2022 estimates, there are more than 1,20,000 students in the UK, and 96,000 Indians in Australia.

Quadcopters, night vision devices, disaster response teams to secure Amarnath Yatra: Army



Mountain and avalanche rescue teams have been deployed to meet any eventuality. This year, quick and effective response teams will ensure fast evacuation in case of any natural calamity, he added.

Army along with National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), NDRF and SRDRF conducted joint drills to ensure timely response in case of any natural calamity.

Sheikh Qayoom | Srinagar

Quadcopters, night vision devices and other additional facilities to deal with natural calamity have been put in place by the Army to secure this year's Amarnath Yatra.

Talking to the media at south Kashmir Pahalgam base camp on Saturday, Brigadier Amandeep Malti, sector commander of 1 Rashtriya Rifles, said that additional facilities have been ensured this year for the smooth and peaceful Amarnath pilgrimage.

"We have used quadcopters and night vision devices for round the clock surveillance along the cave shrine route. Apart from the Army, Central forces and police have been deployed on higher reaches. Every soldier has been briefed to ensure least inconvenience to locals during the Yatra period," he said.

In another media briefing at the north Kashmir

Baltal base camp, Brigadier, Atul Rajput, sector commander of 3 Rashtriya Rifles said that surveillance devices, night vision devices, anti-drone teams and bomb squads have been deployed along the route leading to the cave shrine for round the clock surveillance.

Proper tenting facility and emergency helipads are ready to evacuate the pilgrims in case of any emergency. Civil agencies, J&K police, CRPF, ITBP and other security agencies have already participated in the mock drills that includes mountain and avalanche rescue.

"Keeping in view the last year's natural calamity, earth moving equipment has already been placed at the forward areas. We are in constant contact with the locals as they are the main stakeholders and their suggestions are valuable. This Yatra is another best time to showcase Kashmiriyat. The Army will ensure the safe return of

In Bihar, now inform local police about marriages!

Patna | Agencies

In a bid to stop celebratory firing in the state, usually at weddings, the Bihar Police have come up with the plan seeking all people inform their local police stations about any marriage taking place in the family.

"It has been observed that there have been a number of deaths and injuries due to celebratory firing in the state. Hence, we have asked the people of the state, marriage lawns, banquet halls, dharmshalas owners to inform local police about every marriage," ADGP Law and Order, Sanjay Singh said.

Under the new guidelines, marriage lawns, banquet halls, and dharmshalas owners have to maintain security protocols including CCTV cameras in all corners.



People organising marriages at their home also have to inform the police, providing the list of license weapons they have and also provide the list of guests to the local police station as well, Singh said.

It has been observed that people in enthusiasm used to fire in the air during marriage functions, birthday parties, marriage anniversary parties etc. "Unnecessarily firing is a criminal offence and the offenders are liable to face action and jail terms," the ADGP said.

King Charles, Camilla award 'Elephant Whisperers' director, Indian wildlife conservationists

London | Agencies

Kings Charles III and Queen Camilla presented the prestigious Mark Shand Award and the Tara Award to Oscar-winning filmmaker Kartiki Gonsalves and a wildlife conservation group from India, at the 2023 Animal Ball in London.

Kartiki, the director of 'The Elephant Whisperers' and the Tamil Nadu-based The Real Elephant Collective (TREC) were honoured by the Royals on June 28 for making significant contributions to human-wildlife coexistence.

"The Tara Award, inspired by the sacred bond between elephants and humans, recognises extraordinary achievements in storytelling and advocacy for coexistence. We were delighted to present this award to Kartiki Gonsalves," the



award citation read.

"The Elephant Whisperers' explores the profound connection between humans and elephants through the heart-warming story of Raghu, an orphaned elephant and an indigenous couple in the forests of Tamil Nadu. Honouring the filmmaker as

a true champion for wildlife and nature, the citation further said that the "globally acclaimed documentary stands as a testament to the beauty of India's wilderness, the wisdom of tribal communities, and the empathy that exists between people and animals who share the same

space".

The Mark Shand Award, named in honour of the Queen's brother and founder of Elephant Family that works to protect Asia's wildlife, went to The Real Elephant Collective (TREC) -- a community of 70 Adivasi artists and wildlife conservationists.

FPIS HAVE INVESTED MORE THAN RS 47000 CR IN JUNE

New Delhi: FPIs have invested Rs 47,148 crore in June on top of the Rs 43,838 crores in May.

V.K. Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services, said valuations in India are rich, from a short-term perspective. Therefore, even while continuing to invest in India, FPIs are likely to turn a bit cautious, going forward.

Sustained FPI flows triggered by India's steadily improving macros have taken markets to record highs. The major reason for the sustained FPI flows into India is the reversal in FPI strategy, he said.

Japan is attracting the largest FPI flows this year in response to reforms and improving economic prospects after many years.

FPI money is chasing performance and prospects. FPIs continued to invest in financials, automobiles, capital goods and construction related stocks.

January and February 2023 saw massive flows to China triggered by China's opening up after Covid and expectations of revival in growth and earnings.

The FPI strategy was 'Sell India, Buy China'. FPI investment in India in January and February combined was negative Rs 34,146 crore.





RAJASTHAN SHOCKER: WIDOW STRIPPED, PARADED IN VILLAGE; RELATIVES HELD

▶ **TAKING COGNISANCE OF A VIDEO THAT WENT VIRAL ON SOCIAL MEDIA IN WHICH SOME PEOPLE COULD BE SEEN STRIPPING, ASSAULTING AND PARADING A WIDOW AT A VILLAGE IN UDAIPUR DISTRICT, THE POLICE ON SATURDAY ARRESTED THE MAIN ACCUSED IN THE CASE, HER TWO BROTHERS AND SISTER-IN-LAW.**



Jaipur | Agencies

The incident took place under the Bakaria police station limits. The police had received the information that on Thursday, a

woman was stripped naked and brutally assaulted by other women in Devla town, the video of which had gone viral on social media. Sources

said the widow allegedly had an affair with a married man in her village. In the video, her wailing five-year-old son could be clinging on to his moth-

er while others assaulted her. No one had filed a complaint in the matter. Taking suo moto cognisance of the incident, SP Bhuvan Bhushan directed SHO Mukesh Kumar to take action in the matter.

After obtaining information about the victim, a police team reached her home following which a probe was launched after registering a case under the relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code and the IT Act.

The team led by SHO Mukesh Kumar then launched a search to nab the accused, all residents of Pali district. The main accused, the victim's sister-in-law and two brothers, who were hiding in the forest in the Thana Nana area of Pali district, were detained with the help of local police. Bhushan said that considering the seriousness of the incident, he himself went to the victim's house along with the District Collector and provided her medical aid. The victim has been brought to Udaipur for further assistance.

Delhi: Drowned auto driver's family seeks justice, police file death by negligence case

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The family members of Ajit Sharma, a 51-year-old auto-rickshaw driver who lost his life after his vehicle plunged into a rainwater-filled ditch near an under-construction flyover in east Delhi, have urged the authorities to take necessary measures to ensure public safety, while demanding justice and punishment for the people responsible for negligence.

The family members also urged that the ditch be covered or, at the very least, warning signs be installed to prevent further mishaps.

According to the police, a case has been filed under Section 304A (causing death by negligence) of the IPC following the unfortunate incident. The investigation will focus on determining if any negligence occurred on the part of all parties



involved, including the Public Works Department (PWD).

The PWD had excavated the ditch for the purpose of constructing a pillar as part of an ongoing flyover project.

"My brother had just dropped off a passenger in Bhajanpura and was on his way back home in Nand Nagri when the tragic incident took place.

We are seeking justice for him and his family. The people responsible for this negligence must be held

accountable. The government should have taken measures to cover the ditch or install barriers to ensure public safety," said Kuldeep Sharma, Ajit's brother.

According to the police, at around 3.30 p.m. on Friday, a PCR call was received informing that a person had drowned in a ditch filled with rain water in the Harsh Vihar area.

"The ditch was dug up near the under-construction flyover and had filled up with rain water," said a senior police officer.

Bengal Guv working beyond his constitutional limits: Assembly Speaker

Kolkata | Agencies

With West Bengal Governor C.V. Ananda Bose continuing with his district tours, interacting with the people affected by the ongoing clashes over the forthcoming panchayat polls, Assembly Speaker Biman Bandopadhyay on Saturday launched a scathing attack against the Governor in this matter.

"The state has seen many Governors before. Many of them have worked together with the government for the development of the state. But I have never seen a Governor acting in such a manner. He is over active on certain issues. He is forgetting that ensuring law and order is the prime duty of the state government.

"It is not an area where the Governor should step in. In many cases he is working beyond his constitutional limits. He has opened the



complaint book on his own. Such things happen in no other state," Bandopadhyay said.

Even as the Speaker made the remarks, the Governor is on a tour to the troubled pockets of Dinhatia in Cooch Behar district, which had been in the national headlines since the nomination phase for the rural civic body polls because of continuing clashes between Trinamool Congress and BJP supporters.

The Governor too launched a scathing attack against the state government for the continuing incidents of violence and clashes over

the panchayat polls. "So many reports of violence have come from Cooch Behar district. I wish to meet the victims and their family members personally. If people want, they can stop my convoy and talk to me. Such incidents of violence in Bengal will no longer be tolerated. Strong action will be taken against the hooligans who are responsible for this containing violence," the Governor said.

Incidentally, this is not the first time that Bandopadhyay has criticised the role of the Governor.

Bose's predecessor and the current Vice-President of India, Jagdeep Dhankar, also faced the Speaker's wrath on various occasions during his tenure.

The Speaker had especially objected to Dhankar holding press conferences within the Assembly premises and firing salvos against the state government and the ruling party from there.

ROBOT PRICES HIKE: PRICES INCREASED UP TO 7 CRORES IN 2 DAYS

Tender of 3 robots for 48.5 crores on June 19 for robotic surgery increased to 2 robots for 48.5 crores in next two days

Lalit Sharma | Jaipur

Dr SN Medical College got into controversies in buying robots for robotic surgery. The company participating in the tender says that a commission scam is taking place and rules are being violated.

This time, during budget announcement, the state government had announced robotic surgery in the medical colleges, for which an amount of 48.5 crore was approved.

The Medical College made a tender this month, in which 3 departments demanded 3 robots for urology, gynaec and cardiac surgery, the total rate of which is 48.5 crores.

However, two days before the pre-bid meeting to be held on June 23, there was an amendment and the price of the robot got increased, now only 2 robots for 48.5 crores. Protesting Doctors got fired from the committee. Two doctors were



removed from the committee for protesting against the increase in the price of robots. Additional Principal Dr. Arun Vaish and HOD of CTVS Dr. Subhash Balara talked about not violating the Pre-procurement Act and make tender according to everyone's specifications, were thrown out of the team. Dr. Rizwana Shaheen was included in his place from Gynaec department, while senior professor Dr. BA Jodha was already included in the committee.

Srinivasa Reddy, Vice President of Make in India SS Innovation, who came to participate in the tender, accused the medical college of commission scam, college violated all the procurement act of the state government.

Reddy told that the government ordered all the medical college principals to give priority to the Make in India company in the tender, yet the college implemented the tender in favor of only one company bypassing Make in India.

Guj HC to hear Kejriwal's review petition on PM Modi's degree on July 7

Ahmedabad | Agencies

The Gujarat High Court will on July 7 hear Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's review petition regarding Prime Minister Narendra Modi's educational degree.

This comes after the court on March 31 had set aside an order from the Central Information Commission (CIC) that directed the Gujarat University to search for information regarding Modi's degree.

The court had also that the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) was not obligated to provide the degree and post-graduate degree certificates of the Prime Minister.

It further imposed a fine of Rs 25,000 on Kejriwal. Justice Biren Vaishnav, after admitting the review petition, issued notices to the Gujarat University, the Centre, the Chief Information Commissioner, and former CIC M. Sridhar Acharyulu, who had passed the order.



In his review petition, Kejriwal highlighted that Modi's post-graduate degree was not available on the university's website or in the public domain, contradicting the claims made by the institute and Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, who represented the university.

The review petition pointed out that although the court had recorded that the degree was available on the varsity's website based on Mehta's submissions, a scan of the site revealed that the degree was not accessible, but instead, a document referred to as OR (Office Register) was displayed.

Kejriwal argued that Mehta had orally submitted for the first time on the day of the hearing that the degree was available on the website, leaving no opportunity for verification, and the OR document cannot be considered a degree as claimed by the university.

The AAP convenor clarified that he had not filed any application for information and had only written a letter in response to a letter from the CIC in April 2016. He stated that he never requested the CIC to treat him as an applicant for the information and that the CIC had taken up the proceedings suo motu. The review petition sought a review of the judgment and a stay on the implementation of the verdict until final disposal.

Now Preamble, Fundamental Duties of Constitution to be recited at every Raj school

Jaipur | Agencies

The Preamble and Fundamental Duties of the Constitution will now be recited at every school in Rajasthan.

This move is aimed at further strengthening the faith and pride of the young generation of the state in the country's great constitution, democracy and nationalism.

This will be done every Saturday (no bag day) in the schools.

The Preamble and fundamental duties of the Constitution will also be published in the newly published text books.

The decision was taken during a state cabinet meet-



ing chaired by Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot at his residence on Friday. At the meeting, several other decisions were also taken, including the formation of new districts, first increment in the interest of the employees in 6 months, giving more opportunities to

the youth of the state in government service and so on. Other important decisions included computer education in Sanskrit schools and renaming of the Rajasthan ILD Skills University as 'The Vishwakarma Skills University'.

Gujarat grapples with heavy rainfall, waterlogging: 9 lives lost in past two days

Ahmedabad | Agencies

Nine lives were lost over the last two days in Gujarat as heavy and incessant rain battered the state with certain regions witnessing over 200 mm of precipitation in the past 30 hours.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast heavy showers in isolated parts of different districts on Saturday, followed by light to moderate rain the next couple of days.

The continuous downpour disrupted normal life in various districts, including Junagadh, Jamnagar, Morbi, Kutch, Surat, and Tapi. Heavy waterlogging was observed in several towns and cities, while roads were closed in rural areas.

Data shared by the State Emergency Operations Centre (SEOC) reveals that 37 talukas (administrative subdivisions) in the state received more than 100 mm



of rainfall in the 30-hour period ending at 12 p.m. on Friday.

The highest rainfall was recorded in Vyara taluka of Tapi district, with a staggering 299 mm within the same time frame. Other areas severely affected by the heavy downpour include Junagadh city (298 mm), Valod taluka of Tapi (288 mm), Mahuva in Surat (256 mm), Jamnagar city (236 mm), Bardoli of Surat (223 mm), Mendarda in Junagadh (207 mm), and Dolvan in Tapi district (206 mm). Additionally, Jamnagar

taluka of Jamnagar district received 177 mm of rainfall between 6 am and 12 p.m. on Friday, leading to heavy waterlogging in Jamnagar city.

The IMD's forecast for the upcoming days indicates heavy rains at isolated places in districts such as Gandhinagar, Kheda, Ahmedabad, Anand, Vadodara, Bharuch, Surat, Navsari, and Valsad on Saturday, followed by light to moderate rain in different parts of the state on Sunday and Monday.

Cong dubs UCC as govt's move to divert people's attention from key issues

Anand Singh | New Delhi

Days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi pitched for the uniform civil code (UCC) in Madhya Pradesh's Bhopal, the Congress has hit back at the government dubbing it as a "tool" to divert attention from real issues and it represents the Modi government's desperation for a legitimate justification of its continuing agenda of polarisation.

The debate over the UCC was initiated after the Law Commission had on June 14 initiated a fresh consultation process over the issue by seeking views from stakeholders, including public and recognised religious organisations, on the politically sensitive issue.

Even Prime Minister Modi on June 25 during his visit to Madhya Pradesh Bhopal while addressing BJP booth workers said that Muslims were being misled in the name of UCC. "These days, people are being provoked by the UCC. You tell me, if there is one law for one person in a home, and another law for another person, can that house function?" Modi asked.

Senior Congress leaders like P Chidambaram,



Manish Tewari, Jairam Ramesh and many others have echoed their opinion on the issue targeting the BJP-led central government over the UCC.

With the Parliament's Monsoon Session all set to commence on July 20 and the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice all set to hold a meeting on the UCC to hear the views of stakeholders on July 3, the Congress is holding deliberations on the issue.

On Saturday evening, the Congress Parliamentary Strategy Group is also all set to meet at former party chief Sonia Gandhi's 10

Janpath residence to decide the party's stand on the UCC ahead of the Parliamentary Standing Committee meeting on July 3.

A day after the June 14 statement by the Law Commission, Congress General Secretary and communications in-charge Jairam Ramesh issued a statement saying this latest attempt represents the Modi government's desperation for a legitimate justification of its continuing agenda of polarisation and diversion from its glaring failures.

Ramesh in a statement on June 15 said that the 22nd Law Commission of India notified its intention to examine the UCC. He said that this was being done, the Press note clarified, on a reference sent by the Ministry of Law & Justice.

"It is strange that the Law Commission is seeking a fresh reference when in its Press release it acknowledges that its predecessor, the 21st Law Commission had published a consultation paper on the subject in August 2018," Ramesh said. He also said that no reasons are given for why the subject is being revisited except for vague references to "the relevance and the importance of the subject and also the various court orders".



TYRE BURST SUSPECTED TO HAVE CAUSED MAHA BUS TRAGEDY

Team Absolute | Buldhana

A suspected tyre burst might have caused the horrific accident on the Nagpur-Mumbai Expressway on Saturday that claimed the lives of 25 people, including three children, officials said.

According to preliminary enquiries, investigators said that the bus driver might have lost control after the tyre burst, the vehicle hit an electric pole and veered onto the road-divider, overturned and skid for some distance before the diesel tank burst into flames.

The accident area has been lashed by heavy rain in the past few days and the bus was speeding from Nagpur to Pune at that hour, said officials.

One of the two bus drivers, who survived the tragedy, has been detained by the police for questioning and more precise details on the possible causes of the accident are expected to emerge later.

Virendra Darne, proprietor of the Vidarbha Travels company which owned the ill-fated bus, said he bought the vehicle in January 2020, but was grounded for a year due to lockdown and added the driver Danish was experienced.

However, possibly due to the presence of flammable items in the bus, it caught fire, claimed Darne, and the



bus had 27 passengers as per the manifest with the company.

Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, IGP Jayant Naiknavare, Buldhana SP Sunil Kadasne and other senior officials rushed to the spot early this morning and reviewed the relief operations.

At least 33 people were on board the bus, including two drivers and a cleaner.

Eight injured people have been admitted to the Buldhana civil hospital for treatment.

President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, have condeoled the deaths in the accident.

Opposition Congress leaders Rahul

Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi, state President Nana Patole, Nationalist Congress Party President Sharad Pawar, Leader of Opposition Ajit Pawar, National Working President Supriya Sule, General Secretary Dr. Jitendra Awhad, Shiv Sena (UBT)'s Sanjay Raut, Kishore Tiwari and several other state leaders expressed grief over the tragedy.

Modi declared an ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh from the PMNRF plus Rs 50,000 for the injured, while Shinde announced a compensation of Rs 5 lakh for the kin of each deceased, and free treatment for the injured.

Fadnavis said that the police are probing the cause of the accident whether it was due to human error or other causes, while ruling out any

technical or construction glitches as the possible trigger for the tragedy.

PAWAR SEEKS EXPERT SURVEY OF MUMBAI-NAGPUR EXPRESSWAY

Mumbai: Nationalist Congress Party supremo Pawar said that only last week he had raised concerns on the spate of accidents on the 701-kms expressway - two phases of which are now operational from Nagpur to Nashik (600 kms), and the Nashik-Mumbai 101-kms long third phase under construction.

Pawar mentioned how the entire expressway is long, monotonous with absolutely nothing on both sides including any public amenities, making it a tiresome drive.

"The government must appoint an expert committee to examine the causes of so many crashes on this expressway, and whether the long monotony is also one of the reasons. Based on its report, the concerned departments must implement remedial measures," demanded Pawar.

Heavy rains in coastal Maharashtra for next five days, predicts IMD

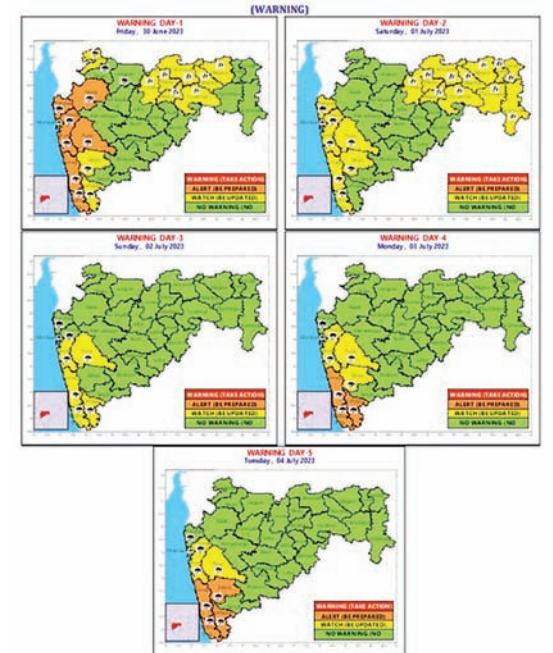
Team Absolute | Mumbai

The IMD on Friday forecast the probability of heavy rains in Maharashtra, especially the coastal Konkan region over the next five days, with a new spell of down-pour likely to lash the state from Sunday.

IMD Pune Head K. S. Hoslikar said that while heavy to very rains are likely in the state for the next five days, a new spell of heavy rains could start from Sunday, affecting parts of south India and adjoining areas. This will have an impact in the state for the next 4-5 days, but barring the Konkan, the other parts of the state may experience moderate rains.

With the heavy rains experienced in the past five days in Mumbai, over 95 per cent of the June rainfall deficit has been wiped off, said the IMD.

After the orange alert for Friday, Mumbai, Palghar,



Thane, Raigad, Ratnagiri, and Sindhudurg have been issued a yellow alert for Saturday. Till 7 p.m. on Friday, Mumbai recorded rainfall of 32.63 mm in city, 61.91 mm in eastern suburbs, and 69.16 mm in western suburbs. Barring water logging in low-lying areas and tree fall incidents, there was no significant disruption in road or rail traffic.

'Mughal-E-Azam: The Musical' lands in Canada with a dance performance at Niagara Falls

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Kathak dancers from 'Mughal-E-Azam: The Musical' performed to music composer Naushad's 'Pyaar kiya toh dama kiya' at the Niagara Falls.

The group of three waterfalls spanning the border between Ontario (Canada) and New York (US) became the backdrop against which team 'Mughal-E-Azam: The Musical' announced the beginning of their Canada tour. The stage musical will put up performances in Toronto and Vancouver.

Earlier, the dancers performed the same song in New York's Times Square on May 24.

Director Feroz Abbas Khan said in a statement: "It is thrilling that even more than 60 years after its release, the music from K. Asif's 'Mughal-E-Azam' continues to move and stir even those who don't understand Hindi or Urdu."

Deepesh Salgia, who helms the Creative & Strategic Vision for the musical, added: "I will never be able to forget the expressions of awe



and wonder on the faces of the onlookers at Niagara Falls. It just vindicated my belief that art that comes from the heart never grows dated."

'Mughal-E-Azam: The Musical', is a Broadway-style musical adapted from K. Asif's Hindi cinema epic and produced by Shapoorji Pallonji Group. The musical is currently on a 13-city tour in New York, Chicago and Toronto.

MVA PARTNERS TREAD WITH CAUTION ON UCC, URGE CENTRE TO DO SO AS WELL

Quaid Najmi | Mumbai

Barely six months before the bugle for the 2024 general elections is sounded, the national political spectrum is abuzz with a new challenge posed by the ruling BJP -- the Uniform Civil Code (UCC).

After Prime Minister Narendra Modi's impassioned plea on the issue this week, all political parties across India were rattled -- even the Maharashtra parties went into a red alert mode, scurrying around to gauge the implications of the looming UCC.

The Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) allies Congress-Nationalist Congress Party-Shiv Sena (UBT)'s initial reactions to the PM's proposal have been dismissive as 'a political ploy' at the fag-end of its government's term 'to divert attention from bigger or burning issues'. State Congress president Nana Patole reacted first and immediately set up a 9-member experts panel to study and analyse the UCC. It comprises ex-University of Mumbai Vice-Chancellor Dr. Bhalchandra Mungekar, Kumar Ketkar, Hussain Dalwai, Anees Ahmed, Vasant Purke, Kishore Gajbhaye, Amarjeet Singh Manhas, Janet D'Souza and Ravi Jadhav. Though NCP presi-



dent Sharad Pawar has issued a gag order to his party leaders from speaking on the developing issue, top functionaries have largely adopted a neutral stance on the UCC. Shiv Sena (UBT) president Uddhav Thackeray made it clear that while his party supports the UCC, they wanted clarifications from the Centre on its impact on various communities and he would speak on it at the appropriate time. His party MP Sanjay Raut indicated that they may back the BJP on the issue after studying the draft bill. The leaders of the three parties are unanimous that the NDA is going ahead with steps to bring in the UCC without extensive consultations on all

aspects with all Opposition parties or considering the existing laws for various communities. Patole pointed out that there are already independent Personal Laws for the Muslim, Christian and Parsi communities, while the Hindus, Sikhs, Jains and Buddhists come under the Hindu Civil Code, and if the UCC is implemented then it would be applicable to all. Urging that the UCC should not be rushed through, NCP working president Praful Patel said that they have neither supported nor opposed the proposed law, and feels that it's a political gimmick before the upcoming general elections.

In a strong editorial statement through the 'Saamana Group' recently, the Sena (UBT) said that "merely opposing the Muslim Personal Law cannot be the basis for the UCC", and maintaining equality in law and justice for all is also a form of UCC.

Taking a jibe at the Centre, it added that while there should be a uniform law on all fronts - religious, social, economic and political - having a common code and 'double standards in its implementation' would amount to deception.

Patole referred to the differing traditions in the North-East, tribal regions, South India and minority communities who now apprehend that the UCC could interfere in their religious matters.

Video Shows Cop Pouring Water On People Sleeping On Railway Platform, Official Responds

Team Absolute | Pune

A video showing a policeman pouring water from a bottle on people sleeping on a platform at Pune Railway Station is going viral on social media. The short clip was shared on Twitter on Friday by user Rupen Chowdhury.

The video shows a Government Railway Police (GRP) personnel spraying water on people sleeping on the platform of the railway station. "RIP Humanity. Pune Railway Station," the user wrote while sharing the clip.

Since being shared, the video has caught the attention of several social media users. It even grabbed the attention of Pune's Divisional Railway Manager (DRM), Indu Dubey, who called the incident deeply regrettable.

"Sleeping on the Platform causes inconvenience to others however the way it was handled is not a suitable way of counseling passengers," Dubey said. However, she added that "con-



cerned staff has been suitably advised to deal with passengers with dignity, politeness & decency. This incident is deeply regretted".

Meanwhile, the video has accumulated more than 2 million views and over 11,000 likes. In the comment section, while some users called the incident "shameful", others tagged the concerned authorities and called for better waiting rooms.

"Government should create more waiting areas so they don't have to sleep on the platforms and yes the trains need to be on time," wrote one user. "Shame on this Police man!" said another. Some users even commented in favour of the police. "Seems a very mild way to enforce the rule or law not to sleep on the platform to me. It's more like a reminder," wrote one. "Salute to this policeman for exercising his duty so creatively. If people start sleeping on platforms, staircase etc, imagine how passengers who are in hurry will pass through," said another.

Benin national held at Mumbai airport with heroin worth Rs 5 cr

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) on Saturday said that they have arrested a Benin national at Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport for smuggling 43 capsules containing heroin worth Rs 5 crore.

"The medical examination of the accused passenger revealed that he had swallowed 43 capsules containing a narcotic substance. White-colored powder/granules were recovered from inside his body," said the official.

The official said that the recovered heroin was valued at approximately Rs 5 crore.

"The accused violated the provisions of Section 8 of the NDPS Act and committed offenses punishable under Sections 21, 23, and 29 of the NDPS Act. Consequently, he was placed under arrest under Section 43(b) of the NDPS Act," said the official.

The suspected heroin capsules were seized



under Section 43(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act. The accused was produced before a Mumbai Court which later remanded him to 14 days judicial custody.

MAHARASHTRA CABINET EXPANSION THIS MONTH: DY CM DEVENDRA FADNAVIS

Mumbai: Deputy chief minister Devendra Fadnavis has said the state Cabinet would be expanded in July. The statement came after CM Eknath Shinde's Delhi visit where a clearance is said to be given by the BJP high command on Thursday.

When asked about Shinde's visit, Fadnavis said that the CM needed to attend several meetings related to the state in the capital. "And now about your favourite subject of cabinet expansion. We have to do it, and the CM will take a final call on the expansion. I think it will happen in July," he said. Asked on which date it was expected to happen, the DyCM reiterated July, insisting that nobody spoke so specifically about this subject.

Shiv Sena spokesperson Sanjay Shirsat and his party's whip Bharat Gogawale also gave enough suggestions that the new faces from their group would be part of the restructured team. Capped at 20, the Shinde cabinet has 10 each legislators, including the CM and DyCM, from the two partners. The total strength of the council of ministers can be increased to 43.

MAHA GROUPS DEMAND DISMISSAL OF MANIPUR CM, PRESIDENT'S RULE

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Various social groups in the state called on Maharashtra Governor Ramesh Bais as well as demanded the dismissal of Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh and imposition of President's Rule in the strife-torn northeastern state here on Friday.

A delegation led by Maharashtra Congress Working President, M. Arif Naseem Khan, along with representatives of minorities, Christians and tribals called on the Governor and submitted a memorandum to be forwarded to the President.

"It's indeed alarming that the violence in Manipur rages for nearly two months and Prime Minister Narendra Modi remains silent on this serious issue. Even Union Home Minister Amit Shah's visit to the violence-hit state did not result in peace or social harmony there," said Khan.

The delegation comprising prominent persons like Janet D'Souza, Simon Lopez, Rev. Jacob Thomas, Abraham Roy Mani and others urged that the



Manipur government be dismissed immediately and President's Rule should be declared there to stop the hatred and the ongoing violence.

"We have witnessed a major human tragedy unfolding in Manipur... Unprecedented violence between ethnic groups has destroyed the livelihood of Manipuris and uprooted them from their homes. People fear for their lives, internet services have been completely shut down... It's very painful to see our own people turning against each other," they appealed in the memorandum.

Khan pointed out how people of all religions and castes have lived harmoniously for decades but now more than 200 places of worship have been destroyed in the past nearly two months of violence.

"Over 12,000 people have been displaced, despite many requests, the Centre has not provided any help, so it is necessary to bring President's Rule in Manipur. We humbly request you to convey our feelings to the President," the delegation urged the Governor.



PM NARENDRAMODI LAUNCHES SICKLE CELL ANAEMIA ERADICATION MISSION

Team Absolute | Shahdol

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday launched National Sickle Cell Anemia Eradication Mission 2047 by unveiling a portal and also released a guideline for the management of the disease and different modules for its monitoring.



'Family-centric parties including Congress are hobnobbing together'. He announced that Rani Durgavati's 500th birth anniversary will be celebrated across India and stamps will be released.

few beneficiaries. He also handed over Ayushman cards and PVC Ayushman Bharat cards physically to some beneficiaries. The National Sickle Cell Anemia Eradication Mission (NSCAEM), which aims to address the pressing health challenges posed by sickle cell disease, particularly among the tribal population, was announced in the Union Budget 2023.

CONGRESS LAUNCHES NEW POSTER FOR POLL CAMPAIGN

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh Congress on Saturday launched a new poster for the election campaign with a slogan - 'Khushali Lane Wali- Congress HaiAaneWali'.

The poster carrying five-guarantees (poll promises) of the party was launched in the presence of party's state unit head Kamal Nath. After it was launched, the party workers swung into action and put up the posters across Madhya Pradesh, including the state capital Bhopal.



Nath and Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan had been making headlines for the last two weeks. Poster war between Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and former Chief Minister and Madhya Pradesh Congress President Kamal Nath has escalated political controversy ahead of the assembly polls.

week, that have reached across the state. The controversy has prompted digital payment company PhonePe to object the use of its official logo for political campaign.

King of lies CM Chouhan prompting BJP to lie in MP, says Kamal Nath

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh Congress president Kamal Nath on Saturday accused Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan of 'spreading lies' by presenting fake data before the BJP central leadership visiting the state for poll campaigning.



He said in more than 40 years of his political career, no one could raise a finger at him but Shivraj Singh Chouhan has started an attempt to mislead the people. The people have lost faith in BJP and the chief minister has no work to show in his 18-year tenure.

against tribal people? 'PM Modi should also ask him (Shivraj) who has made Madhya Pradesh a corrupt state? He (Shivraj) is master of speaking lies, and is making BJP's central leadership lie too. If there was corruption, why didn't the Shivraj government lodge a case against me?'

MP BJP set for campaign to contain UCC impact on 10 SC/ST LS seats

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has strongly pitched for the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in his very first public meeting in poll-bound Madhya Pradesh on June 27 after returning from his visit to the US and Egypt.



Since then, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Home Minister Narottam Mishra and MP unit BJP president V. D. Sharma are leading the UCC campaign in the state while echoing the line of PM Modi that, 'In a home, can there be one law for one member and another law for another member?'

elections. 'The UCC issue may have a little impact in the Lok Sabha elections as the people would see it in terms of national interest as the BJP is setting a narrative, but it will not have any impact in the assembly elections as the people will vote for their personal interest,' said N. K. Singh, a Madhya Pradesh-based political analyst.

Pandit Pradeep Mishra Extends Support To Modi's Call For Uniform Civil Code



Shore: Pandit Pradeep Mishra has extended his support to the Uniform Civil Code on Saturday, saying law must be one and same for all.

JABALPUR MEDICAL OFFICIAL VIOLATES MARRIAGE RULES



Table with 7 columns: अनु. क्र., परिवार के सदस्यों का नाम, जन्म तिथि, शारीरिक संबंध, विवाहित/अविवाहित, यदि विकलंग हो तो विकलंगता का दिनांक, टिप्पणी. It lists family members of a doctor.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

As per the sources and the evidence with AI this has been found that Dr. Sanjay Mishra, Joint director health services - Jabalpur Government of Madhya Pradesh is having two wives at a same time.

and Mr. Devendra Kumar Mishra (Father). Documents with AI clearly say that Dr. Sanjay Mishra is having another wife Ms. Eshita Singh Mishra (DOB - 19/05/1986) with Adhar No. 893530045775 which clearly states the husband's name as Dr. Sanjay Mishra, resident of Flat No. 1201 Block C Ojas Imperia Rampur Chowk Jabalpur.

if the first wife is alive. Although, it is not clear that whether Dr. Mishra has changed his wife's name and didn't informed the office about it or married with other woman illegally.

ALONG WITH CM CHOUHAN MEDAL WINNERS OF SPECIAL OLYMPICS PLANT SAPPLINGS



Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted saplings of Mango, Khirmi and Neem in the garden located at Shyamla Hills. Along with CM Chouhan, a team of Divyang players, who participated in the Special Olympics in Germany, planted saplings.

'Injustice is going on with adolescent boys'

Madhya Pradesh High Court asks Centre to consider reducing age of consent to 16

Team Absolute | Jabalpur

The Madhya Pradesh High Court recently urged the central government to reduce the age of sexual consent from the current 18 years to 16 years, saying that the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act which raised the age has 'disturbed the fabric of society', resulting in 'injustice...with adolescent boys'.

request Government of India to think over the matter for reducing the age of prosecutrix from 18 to 16 years as earlier before amendments so that injustice should be redressed,' Justice Agarwal said.

24 INJURED AFTER BUS TRAVELLING FROM DINDORI TO SHAHDOL OVERTURNED

Anuppur: A bus carrying about 30 passengers to PM Modi's event in Shahdol, overturned at Amdari Ghat in the Anuppur District on Saturday morning. As many as 12 people were injured in the accident.

Masai and Sage University: A practical approach to preparing students for industry

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Every year, about 15 lakh engineering graduates pass out from colleges across the country. However, studies show that only a fraction (about 3 percent) of these graduates secure good jobs.

enables engineering students to develop their skills and enhance their employability. Masai School is dedicated to providing a comprehensive education that goes beyond theoretical knowledge and provides practical training tailored to the needs of the industry.

ADITYA BIRLA HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED advertisement including demand notice and mortgage details for various properties.



Hailey Bieber slams 'made-up' feud with Selena Gomez

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hailey Bieber has had enough of the "made-up" feud with Selena Gomez. Hailey, the wife of Justin Bieber, recently appeared on Bloomberg's 'The Circuit' and addressed what's been going on with Selena, after being asked by host Emily Chang. Though Chang didn't use Selena's name directly, clips of news stories mentioning the two women appeared on screen, reports People magazine. "I don't think that this is about me, and Selena Gomez," Hailey, 26, said. "This is not about this pitting between two women - it's about the vile, disgusting hatred that can come from completely made-up and twisted, and perpetuated narratives that can be really dangerous." "And I think that it's an opportunity to really stand for bringing people together and not being okay with the kind of division that it caused, because I'm not okay with (it). I don't like this whole idea of team this person and team this person. I want to be able to bring people together and I think that it was a really important moment for people to see that you can do that and it doesn't have to be about this whole divisive nature," she added.

As per People, Chang added that the story is a "frustrating old narrative" of two women pitted against each other "because of a man."

"I hate it," Hailey agreed, adding: "I've hated it since the beginning and it goes back to being misunderstood. Time and time again I say there is no issue and it's so disappointing that people still behave this way over a man."



Amber Heard praises 'unforgettable weekend' in first social post since Johnny Depp case

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood actress Amber Heard has in delight reflected on her "unforgettable weekend" after returning to the spotlight at the Taormina film festival in Sicily to promote her new film. It had been a trying time for the 'Aquaman' star after she was sued last year by her ex Johnny Depp for defamation following a 2018 article for the Washington Post in which the 'Pirates of the Caribbean' star's lawyers said she accused him of being an abuser despite no names being mentioned in the piece, reports Mirror.co.uk.

Following an intense six-week trial in Fairfax County, Virginia, jurors returned a verdict in the actor's favour. In December, Amber made the "very difficult decision" to reach a settlement in the case.

As per Mirror.co.uk, Amber certainly looked like she had put the past behind her as she attended the premiere of her first film since the highly publicised trial.

Taking place at the Taormina Film Festival in Italy, the 37-year-old actress looked thrilled to promote her new movie 'In the Fire'. Set in 1899, the movie follows a 38-year-old American psychiatrist who is called to solve the case of a disturbed child in Columbia after severe accusations that the child is in fact the Devil.

Amber was sure to reflect on her experience at the festival, sharing a smiling Instagram snap of herself with a microphone in hand.

"Thank you for such an incredibly warm reception at the Taormina Film festival for my latest movie In the Fire. It was an unforgettable weekend. #InTheFire," she wrote in the caption.

The Instagram post comes after she admitted that she has had to learn over time that she was not always "in control of stories other people create" around her, but vowed it would not stop her.

Jennifer Lawrence says it was both 'terrifying and exciting' when Maroney proposed to her

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Jennifer Lawrence said that when Cooke Maroney proposed to her, it was both a "terrifying" and "exciting" moment for her. Recalling her reaction to Maroney's proposal, the 'X-Men', 'The Hunger Games' and 'No Hard Feelings' actress said: "Terrifying, but very, very exciting. I didn't say what I wanted to. I imagined it a million times, and then I ended up just going, 'What? What? What?' And then going, 'Thank you, thank you, thank you!'"

As per People magazine, Lawrence, 32, was speaking on the latest episode of YouTube series 'Chicken Shop Date'. Lawrence and Maroney, an art-gallery director in New York City, have been romantically involved since June 2018. They got engaged in February 2019, tying the knot in October that year. They held a small wedding reception for 150 guests which included Adele, Amy Schumer, Kris Jenner, Emma Stone and Ashley Olsen at the luxurious Belcourt of Newport, a mansion in Newport, Rhode Island.

"He's just the best person I've ever met in my whole life," Lawrence told Entertainment Tonight in June 2019. "It was a very, very easy decision." Lawrence and Maroney welcomed their first child together, a son named Cy, in February 2022.



Jaden Smith reveals mum Jada Pinkett Smith introduced him to psychedelics

Los Angeles | Agencies

Jaden Smith, the son of actors Jada Pinkett Smith and Will Smith, has revealed the extent of his bond with his mother. He admitted that she introduced him to psychedelics.

The 24-year-old explained that his mother also paved the way for psychedelic drug usage in his family, including his father, Will Smith and sister Willow Smith, reports Mirror.co.uk.

"I think it was my mom, actually, that was really the first one to make that step for the family," he said at the Psychedelic Science Conference in Denver.

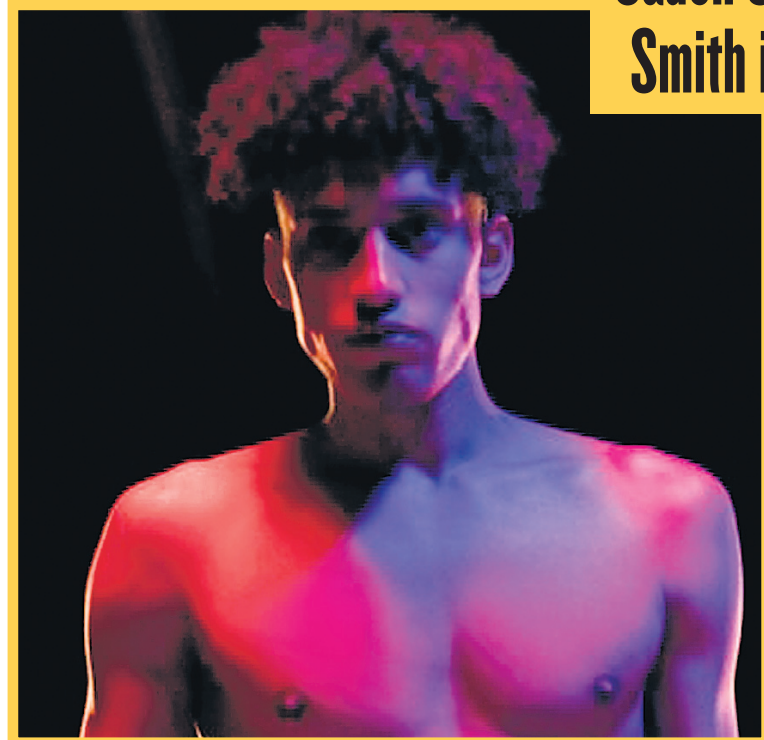
"It was just her for a really, really long time, and then eventually it just trickled and evolved, and everybody found it in their own ways."

Jaden also noted that his use of psychedelics helped him build a stronger bond with his 22-year-old sister and half-brother Trey Smith, 30, who is Will's son from his past marriage to Sheree Zampino. As per USA Today, he continued: "Siblings can argue so much and fight so much, and lord knows me and my siblings have done so much of that in the past." But the level of love and empathy that I can feel for them inside of the [psychedelic] experiences and outside of the experiences has been something that's profound and beautiful". As per Mirror.co.uk, Jada has undoubtedly been a long

advocate of using psychedelics and has spoken candidly about how it helped her through "crippling depression".

Speaking on Red Table Talk in 2021, she said: "I struggled with depression for so long, I mean crippling depression. And the thing about plant medicine is that it helps you feel better but also solves the problems of how you got there in the first place."

Meanwhile, Jada may have to discuss her personal woes elsewhere as it was recently revealed that her Facebook series 'Red Table Talk' was cancelled. Breaking her silence shortly after the news was made public, Jada admitted she was "sorry" to see those who worked on the show "disband".



Russell Crowe enthralled crowd at Karlovy Vary with music, story of tarantula bite

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actor Russell Crowe rocked the audience at the 57th Karlovy Vary International Film Festival (KVIFF) by playing a 90-minute set with his band Indoor Garden Party.

The actor also recalled how he had been injected with venom by a large tarantula during the shooting of a film in 1994. The 'Gladiator' actor was felicitated with the Crystal Globe for outstanding

contribution to world cinema at the Czech film festival. When Crowe took the stage, he shared stories about his songwriting process, and filming a scene with a tarantula. Crowe took the stage just before 11 p.m., with a drink in his hand, to loud cheers and applause, as per The Hollywood Reporter.

After playing several songs, he welcomed the people of Karlovy Vary who responded with much noise, saying: "You look fantastic, you look

amazing." The actor recalled filming the movie 'Rough Magic' (1995) with Bridget Fonda in 1994 and having to shoot a scene where a tarantula, bigger than his hand, crawled up his naked body and into his mouth, before being snatched away by a spider handler.

In one case, the spider stopped at his neck and spread its legs out. Crowe said the next day he woke up with a rash on his chest and elsewhere and saw a doctor.

"When a tarantula becomes aroused, it ejects these very fine hairs," meaning his body was "full of tarantula venom", the doctor explained, Crowe recalled.

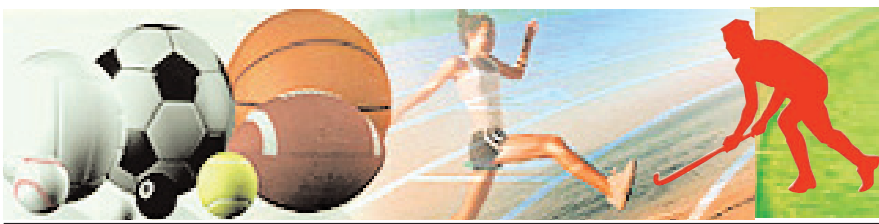
The doctor gave him stuff to put on and take, with the promise he would be fine within a week. Crowe added the punline: "I'm pretty sure that in the history of cinema, I am the only Academy Award winner who has been f**** in the neck by a tarantula."



ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Kim Kardashian



SAFF Championship 2023

INDIA REACH SEMI-FINAL WITH 2-0 WIN OVER NEPAL

Bengaluru | Agencies
The Indian senior men's team booked their spot in the semi-finals of the SAFF Championship 2023 with a 2-0 win over Nepal in Group A A match at the Sree Kanteerava, here on Saturday.
With this victory, India extended their unbeaten run on home turf to 12 matches. Ever since September 5, 2019, when India lost to Oman, no other international team could leave the pitch in India by tasting victory against the hosts.
After a first half where the Blue Tigers were left frustrated by the stubborn Nepal defence, goals from captain Sunil Chhetri and Naorem Mahesh Singh after the break bagged the three points for the hosts, who had assistant coach Mahesh Gawli on the touchline in place of the suspended Igor Stimac.
Kuwait beat Pakistan 4-0 earlier in the day and will join India in the semi-final from Group A. Nepal, finalists of the previous edition, are eliminated.
There were as many as eight changes to the India side that cruised past Pakistan 4-0 in the opener. Only hat-trick hero Sunil Chhetri, Anirudh Thapa and Sahal



Abdul Samad were retained in the eleven. In the entirely new backline, Rahul Bheke was handed his first start of the month.
The game started at a lighter pace than the one three days earlier. India, expectedly, did see plenty of possession in the starting stages and most of their attacks came from the left wing, with Akash Mishra, Naorem Mahesh Singh and Sahal, who occasionally drifted wide.
The latter spurned the first big chance of the game in the 16th minute when Akash cut the ball back from the by-line but he could only side-foot it wide.
In the very next minute, Nepal

lodged their first shot on target as Mehtab Singh's clearance fell for Arik Bista, whose first-time volley was well-saved by Gurpreet Singh Sandhu.
Nepal had Manish Dangi causing India trouble from the right flank. On one such occasion, his low cross was met with a vital interception by Rohit Kumar, allowing the hosts to move forward on the counter-attack. In a three-on-three situation, Sahal took a bit too much time to pick out a pass and was dispossessed by the visitors.
India came out a much more rejuvenated side after the break, and after Mahesh's snapshot from dis-

tance flashed just wide, the deadlock was broken in classic fashion in the 61st minute.
Sahal and Mahesh combined well before the latter sent an inch-perfect low cross into the middle for Sunil Chhetri to tap in his 91st international goal with the simplest of touches.
India were finally getting in the groove and less than 10 minutes later, the lead was doubled after a rather bizarre first India goal for Mahesh. As Sahal sent Chhetri clean through, the skipper took his time before releasing his left-footed shot. The effort was deflected, by goalkeeper Kiran Kumar Limbu, bounced twice on the crossbar before Mahesh bundled it in from point-blank range.
Limbu was called into action soon again and prevented the fiery Indian offence from registering more goals. He made two strong saves in quick succession to first keep out substitute Lallianzuala Chhangte's shot from a narrow-angle before holding firm to Bheke's header from the resulting corner.
India will take on Kuwait in their last Group A match on Tuesday, June 27, at 7:30 pm IST to determine who top the group.

FIH Hockey Men's Jr World Cup

Match schedule revealed, India, Korea, Canada in Group C



Kuala Lumpur | Agencies
The FIH Hockey Men's Junior World Cup Malaysia 2023 was officially launched on Saturday at a ceremony which took place at the Mercure Living Hotel, Putrajaya, Malaysia.
On this occasion, the pools and match schedule of the tournament were revealed. Malaysia is in Group A with Argentina, Australia, and Chile, while Germany, France, South Africa, and Egypt are in Group B, India, Spain, Korea, and Canada are in Group C, and the Netherlands, Belgium, Pakistan, and New Zealand are in Group D.
The pools were established

on the basis of the very first FIH Junior World Rankings. The 16 teams from around the world will all be vying for the coveted championship title from December 5-16, 2023 at the National Hockey Stadium Bukit Jalil, which will be the competition venue for this championship. Through a video recording, FIH President Tayyab Ikram delivered a message and congratulated the 16 teams who qualified to play in the 13th edition of the FIH Hockey Men's Junior World Cup: "Through its 'athletes first' approach, mentioned in the new Empowerment and Engagement strategy that was recently launched, FIH has made youth a strong

focus going forward. The FIH Junior World Cups play a crucial role in this regard."
"Furthermore, as one of my priorities as FIH President is to highlight the powerful contributions hockey can make outside of the sport itself for individuals, community and society - with the important topic of sustainability being an integral part of this ambition - I look forward to seeing the ways this will be realized in this event."
"Special thanks to the Malaysian Hockey Confederation as they will, as we know it, put together a fantastic show for this 13th edition of the FIH Hockey Men's Junior World Cup!"

FIFA appoints US to host 2025 Club World Cup

Zurich | Agencies
World football governing body FIFA announced that its Council has appointed the United States to host the first edition of 32-team Club World Cup in 2025.
"[This is] because it would allow FIFA to maximise synergies with the delivery of the FIFA World Cup 2026, to the benefit of both tournaments and the development of football in the North American region," read a FIFA statement.
In December 2022, FIFA confirmed that the Club World Cup, a current yearly tournament with seven participants, would be expanded to 32 team in 2025 and take place every four years.



"The FIFA Club World Cup 2025 will be the pinnacle of elite professional men's club football," said FIFA President Gianni Infantino. "With some of the world's top clubs already qualified, fans from every continent will be bringing their passion and energy to the United States in two years' time for this significant milestone in our mission to make football truly global."
In addition, FIFA Council also discussed the FIFA World Cup 2030 bidding process on Friday and the appointment of the host(s) will be announced in the fourth quarter next year.

Special Olympics World Summer Games MEDALS CONTINUE TO POUR FOR INDIAN CONTINGENT

Berlin | Agencies
On a day when the weather played spoilsport, an unabated downpour leading to cancellations and postponements of almost all outdoor events at the Special Olympics World Games 2023, India's rollerskaters ran amok among the medals to keep the count rolling.
In the roller-skating arena, the Indian contingent added nine medals to the tally (3 gold, 5 silver, 1 bronze). Among the gold medallists were Md Nissar (30m slalom) and Aryan and Abhijit, the duo part of the 2 x 100 relay. Roller skating has proven to be among the most fruitful of arenas for the Indian contingent and despite the downpour outdoors, they did not disappoint.
Judo proved to be another happy hunting ground for India on Friday. A day prior, Suhaila Parveen's silver had helped India open its medal account in the sport. She was joined by two more medallists on the mat, 24 hours later. In the male Level 2 category, Prince Solanki won bronze, while Muskan won gold in the female Level 3 category. The latter won both her bouts comprehensively to bring home the country's first gold in Judo at the World Games 2023.
The table tennis arena proved another fruitful



ground for the Indian contingent, with three medals confirmed from the sport on the day. In an all Indian final, in the U21-D3, Vighnesh Lokeshwar Naik beat Gunoccean Singh Bedi 3-1 to take home the gold. In the Women's singles 30-D3 Alivelamma Gujjala ran through the field unbeaten to take home the gold. Over the course of four matches, Alivelamma dropped just one game, to dominate her way to the gold medal.
India's brilliance in powerlifting extended to

another day, with four further medals added to the tally. In the 93kg category, Anurag Prasad won three golds (squat, deadlift, combined) and one silver in the bench press. By the end of action on Friday in Berlin, India took their medal tally to 96 (Gold: 33; Silver: 37; Bronze: 25).
India's Women's Unified volleyball team progressed through to the final of the FA competition, beating SO Kenya 25-12, 25-16 to set up a title clash with the United Arab Emirates. Throughout the match India asserted their dominance, only wobbling a little with the finish line in sight. Once the victory was sealed, the relief exploded in the form of huddles, high fives and loud cheers from across the arena.
What goes up, comes down and unfortunately on the volleyball court, so it proved. The Men's/Mixed unified team went down to Serbia in their semifinal, losing a close match 12-25, 25-20, 10-15. They will play the Republic of Korea in the bronze medal playoff.
With action in athletics, cycling, tennis and basketball cancelled and rescheduled for the next day, a huge number of Indian athletes will be vying for a medal in their events. In cycling and tennis, in particular, Indians will be in the fray for not just medals but the gold in different categories.

Sr Women's National Football C'ship

Haryana draw with Bengal, set up semis clash with Odisha

Amritsar | Agencies
Haryana played out a 2-2 draw against Bengal to set up a semi-final clash with Odisha in the Senior National Women's Football Championship 2023 at the GNDU main ground, here on Saturday.
A 2-2 draw against Bengal was enough to take Haryana to 13 points, a point ahead of the Railways.
In the penultimate rounds to be played on Monday, mighty Tamil Nadu, who swept Group A with five wins from five outings, will cross swords with Indian Railways in the day's first match. Later in the day, Group B winners Haryana will take on Odisha.



For Bengal, it was an inconsequential match on Saturday as they were already out of the tournament. Yet they played their hearts out against Haryana and shot into the lead in the 23rd minute through Dular Marandi. Haryana, however, cancelled the lead a minute before half time when redoubtable Rinu Rani found the equaliser.

In the second half, Bengal took the lead again, this time Player of the Match Mousumi Murmu put her team ahead in the 58th minute. But then, Haryana's Tannu scored in the 80th minute to take the one crucial point for her side.
Manipur in big win
The other Group B match was of no consequence as both Manipur and Himachal Pradesh were already out of the tournament. Nevertheless, Manipur reduced the tie to a completely one-sided affair, winning the match 5-0. Yumlembam Pakdi Devi, Irom Prameshwori Devi and Maibam Nandeshwori Devi scored a goal each, while Oinam Babita Devi struck twice and was later adjudged the Player of the Match.

Women's Ashes

Annabel Sutherland announces herself with record-breaking ton

Nottingham | Agencies
Australia women's cricket team has a new star on their hands in Annabel Sutherland, who smashed a record-breaking ton on Day 2 of their one-off Ashes Test against England Women, here on Friday.
The talented 21-year-old resumed play at Trent Bridge on 39 not out having come in down at number eight in a lengthy Australian batting line-up. And she was still out in the middle midway through the afternoon session as Australia's innings



finally came to an end, with the all-rounder unbeaten on 137 not out.
She followed it up by removing England opener Emma Lamb with an excellent delivery that just left the right-hander and tempted an

edge through to second slip. And speaking after her superb century, Sutherland said it was terrific to get the opportunity to show what she can do.
"It was pretty good fun out there. I absolutely love my batting so it was just really cool to spend some time out there," she told host broadcaster Sky Sports.
"Get through last night, put on a good partnership with Ash. It was disappointing to see her get out, but it was nice to get a nice start this morning and get through to lunch," she added.

Golf: Diksha takes five shot lead at Czech Ladies Open

Beroun | Agencies
Diksha Dagar shot a bogey free 7-under 65 to take a five-shot lead after two rounds in the Czech Ladies Open, here.
Diksha moved to 10-under 134 with rounds of 69 and 65 as was five clear of Spain's Ana Pelaez Trivino (70) and English players Cara Gainer (68) and Gabriela Cowley (67), with one more round to go in the event. Pelaez, Gainer and Cowley are 5-under 139.
Diksha is seeking her second title on the Ladies European Tour after the first

one in 2019, when she won the Women's South African Open. Earlier this year, Aditi Ashok won her fourth LET title when she captured the Kenya Ladies Open.
Pranavi Urs, the winner of the Hero Order of Merit in India in 2022, had two eagles on the front nine in the second round as she was Tied-15th with nine more holes to go. Among other Indians, Ridhima Dilawari, who after a first round 74 was even through 15 holes in the second to 2-over for the tournament with three holes left and was Tied-53rd.

Amandeep Drall (74-76) and Vani Kapoor (76 and 20-over through 10 in the second) are likely to miss the cut.
Diksha, who started the day in tied second, started on the tenth and birdied the 12th, 15th and 18th to turn in three-under 33. She added two more birdies and an eagle on her second nine. In two rounds Diksha has just dropped one shot.
Last week, Diksha was tied-third at German Masters and earlier she was tied-eighth at Helsingborg Open and tied-sixth at Belgian Ladies Open.
Birmingham (UK) | Agencies
No.2 seed Jelena Ostapenko on Saturday overcame Anastasia Potapova 5-7, 6-2, 6-4 to set up a final clash with top seed Barbora Krejckikova in the Birmingham Classic tennis tournament, here.
Latvia's Ostapenko leads the head-to-head with Krejckikova 4-2. Ostapenko won their most recent meeting in straight sets on the clay of Rome earlier this year.
The 2017 Roland Garros champion Ostapenko needed 2 hours and 7 minutes to come back from a set down against Potapova in their first meeting, and reach her first Hologic WTA Tour final of the season.
World No.17 Ostapenko and No.21

Birmingham Classic

Ostapenko sets up final with Krejckikova

Potapova had won all of their preceding matches this week in three sets, and Saturday's semifinal continued that pattern. Ultimately, it was Ostapenko who prevailed with five breaks of serve to Potapova's three.
Ostapenko saved three set points at 5-4 in the first set, but Potapova took the opener two games later by converting her sixth set point with a forehand winner.
However, Ostapenko used her own fierce forehands to build a 4-0 lead in the second set, eventually leveling the match at one set apiece.
Ostapenko earned the critical break at 3-3 in the third set, where she hit four exceptional return winners to break serve. At 5-4, a netted return by Potapova on Ostapenko's first match point sealed victory for the No.2 seed.





Konkona Sen Sharma recounts struggling in the early phase of her career to 'fit in'



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress-director Konkona Sen Sharma, who has been receiving a lot of positive response to her short film in the streaming anthology 'Lust Stories 2', shared that she struggled in the early part of her acting career to look a certain way and "to fit in."

Konkona's short film, which stars Tillotama Shome and Amruta

Subhash as the lead characters, explores female gaze and voyeurism.

Sharing her thoughts on the existing stereotypes around women and their need for sexual and romantic pleasure, Konkona Sen Sharma said: "Very often, the bodies that are allowed to feel the sexual/romantic pleasure are very limited because usually they have to be thin, fair, rich and young - that was the fourth factor. So usually only those kinds of bodies are allowed to desire and also there

have been certain limitations in terms of how people from different economic backgrounds are portrayed."

She told Film Companion: "I've been acting for twenty years and I've struggled in the early part of my career to look a certain way or to fit in. It's great in a way because it has helped me not seek external validation. I feel we have a very narrow focus on what's desirable and it's nice to be able to talk about this."

SHERLYN CHOPRA

blends seduction and strength in her new look

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Joining the cast of the historical fiction drama 'Paurashpur' for Season 2, actress Sherlyn Chopra will play the enchanting character of Maharani Snehlata. In her new look, the actress dons an aesthetic that mixes seduction, allure, strength and regality all in one.

In her first look of 'Paurashpur 2', Sherlyn Chopra's transformation into Maharani Snehlata speaks of boldness and elegance as she dresses up in grand opulence in royal attire, exuding grandeur and embodying the very essence of royalty.

Expressing her excitement about taking on the challenging role, Sherlyn said: "Playing Maharani Snehlata has been a transformative experience for me. The character's depth and complexity pushed me to explore new facets of my acting abilities. It is an honour to be part of a series that celebrates strong and empowered women, and I am eagerly looking forward to the audience's reaction."

Maharani Snehlata is touted as a woman of immense strength and intelligence, she defies the conventional norms of her time, challenging the norms of the patriarchal society she inhabits.

Navigating the intricate web of power dynamics the character is also said to grapple with her own desires and vulnerabilities, making her one of the most interesting characters of the show.



Mom-to-be Disha Parmar is happy to be working

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Disha Parmar and Singer Rahul Vaidya announced their pregnancy last month. This news was a big surprise for their fans who are very excited to welcome their baby. The actress attended the launch of the Menstrual Health and Hygiene Management organised by UNESCO and Whisper on Friday in the city where she spoke about working during her pregnancy.

Sharing her experience of working during her pregnancy, she said: "It is a beautiful phase of my life. I go to work every day, finish it and am back home. My production house, my team, and producer Ektaa Kapoor are taking good care of me. They make sure that I work for less hours. I am enjoying every bit of it and am very happy to be working during pregnancy."

Pregnancy photoshoots are in trend these days. When asked what special will she plan for her photoshoot, she said: "I am not going for a special photoshoot. I click random photos and whichever I like; I post them on my social media. I love those photos and my fans are also loving them."

Sharing Rahul's reaction on knowing about her pregnancy, she said, "His reaction was amazing. He was not in town and I gave him the news over a video call. The smile on his face and the brightness of his eyes were priceless."

Disha is currently seen in the third instalment of the show 'Bade Achhe Lagte Hain' series produced by Ektaa Kapoor under Balaji Telefilms.



HARSH VASHISHTHA EXPLAINS HOW HIS CHARACTER BRIDGES THE CENTURIES THAT DIVIDE DHRUV, TARA

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The epic romance drama 'Dhruv Tara - Samay Sadi Se Pare' recently welcomed actor Harsh Vashishta to the show as he joined in as a new addition. Harsh said that his character Ravi Saxena will allow the two protagonists Dhruv and Tara to bridge the gap between them and allow their love to grow.

Explaining Ravi's role in building the romance between Dhruv and Tara, Harsh said: "Ravi's character is going to help bridge the gap between Dhruv and Tara, ultimately drawing them closer to each other. It is through Tara's realisation of the emotional turmoil endured by Dhruv and his father that an understanding will take place."

He continued: "Their shared journey of separation and suffering will become a ground for their blossoming love and affection. This will allow Dhruv and Tara to create a relationship built on the foundation of trust and solidarity."

Based on the concept that love transcends time itself, the show focuses on Dhruv (Ishaan Dhawan), a neurosurgeon from the 21st century, and Tara (Riya Sharma), a courageous princess from the 17th century.

Playing Dhruv's father in the show, Harsh also described the father-son dynamic of the two characters.

He said: "When Dhruv meets his father, Ravi for the first time, it is truly surreal. Even with no words spoken, there is an evident connection between father and son and it is beautifully conveyed on screen with Dhruv shedding a tear on his father's foot."

This bond between Ravi and Dhruv will continue to grow and evolve as the story progresses.

"For Ravi, coming out of his trauma and being able to be with his family, especially his son Dhruv, feels like a miracle. He will cherish every moment he has with his son and appreciate their relationship," the actor added.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

'MTV Roadies - Karm ya Kaand' has been auditioning contestants from across the country, leading to a diversity in the auditions. Among the contestants who will take the spotlight on the upcoming episode will be Himanshu whose rude behaviour got the blood of the gang leaders boiling.

This behaviour is characterised by rude gestures, abusive language, and disrespect towards the crew, gang leaders, and society at large.

While filling the form, when asked if he had hit a girl, guy, animal, senior citizen or child as an adult, he answered: "Janwaro ko chodh ke sabko pela hai (I have hit everyone except an animal)." This got all the Gang leaders fuming with rage with Prince Narula, Rhea Chakraborty, and Gautam Gulati making it clear that such behaviour has no place in 'MTV Roadies'.

Furious with Himanshu, Prince will be seen telling everyone how he disrespected the crew and showed

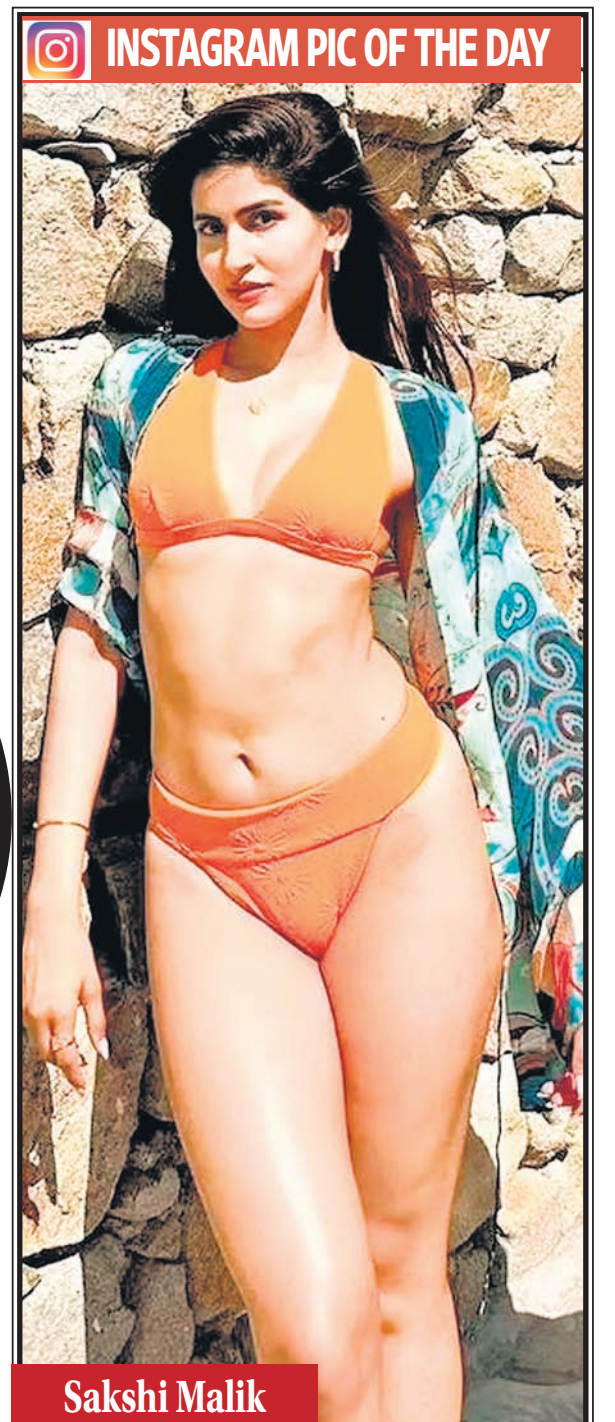
anger: "Tu na Fattu aadmi hai, nihayti fattu... What do you think, we don't know how to make a show? Tu batayega hume show kaise banta hai? (Now you would tell us how to make a show?)... Tu kuch bhi likh, I don't give a damn if you can't respect our crew."

Expressing her rage, Rhea Chakraborty will say: "He (Himanshu) doesn't respect anyone. He hits everyone, he thinks it's funny. Tujhe kya lagta hai tu gangster hai? 3 baar jail gaya hai. You think you are very cool? Why have you abused everywhere on the form? Didn't you know we were going to read it?"

With the escalating tension, viewers will be left wondering whether Himanshu will face the consequences of his behaviour or with luck, possible intervention by Sonu Sood might just give him a second chance.

'MTV Roadies - Karm ya Kaand' airs on MTV and Jio Cinema.

GANG LEADERS LEFT SEETHING WITH RAGE ON DUE TO 'RUDE' CONTESTANT



Sakshi Malik