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Climate litigation more than doubles in five years: Report

According to the report, most ongoing climate litigation falls into one or more of six categories: First, cases relying on human rights enshrined in international law and national constitutions; Second, challenges to domestic non-enforcement of climate-related laws and policies; Third, litigants seeking to keep fossil fuels in the ground; Fourth, advocates for greater climate disclosures and an end to greenwashing; Fifth, claims addressing corporate liability and responsibility for climate harms; and Sixth, claims addressing failures to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

- The report demonstrates how courts are finding strong human rights linkages to climate change. This is leading to greater protections for the most vulnerable groups in society, as well as increased accountability, transparency and justice, compelling governments and corporations to pursue more ambitious climate change mitigation and adaptation goals.
- In the future, the report predicts a rise in the number of cases dealing with climate migration, cases brought by Indigenous peoples, local communities and other groups disproportionately affected by climate change, and cases addressing liability following extreme weather events.
- The report also anticipates challenges in applying the science of climate attribution as well as a rise in "backlash" cases against litigants which aim to dismantle regulations that promote climate action.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The total number of climate change court cases has more than doubled since 2017 and is growing worldwide, a new report has revealed.

The report, Global Climate Litigation Report: 2023 Status Review, published by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Sabin Center for Climate Change Law at Columbia University, show that climate litigation is becoming an integral part of securing climate action and justice.

It is based on a review of cases focused on climate change law, policy or science collected up to December 31, 2022 by the Sabin Center's US and Global Climate Change Litigation Databases.

It was published a day ahead of the first anniversary of the UN General Assembly's declaration of access to a clean and healthy environment as a universal human right. The report provides an overview of key climate litigation cases from the past two years, including historic breakthroughs. As climate litigation increases in frequency and volume, the body of legal precedent grows, forming an increasingly well-defined field of law.

The total number of climate change cases has more than doubled since a first report on the issue, from 884 in 2017 to 2,180 in 2022.

While most cases have been brought in the US, climate litigation is taking root all over the world, with about 17 per cent of cases now being reported in developing countries, including Small Island Developing States. These legal actions were brought in 65 bodies worldwide: in international, regional, and national courts, tribunals, quasi-judicial bodies, and other adjudicatory bodies, including special procedures of the UN



and arbitration tribunals. The report demonstrates how the voices of vulnerable groups are being heard globally: 34 cases have been brought by and on behalf of children and youth under 25 years old, including by girls as young as seven and nine years of age in Pakistan and India respectively, while in Switzerland, plaintiffs are making their case based on the disproportionate impact of climate change on senior women.

Notable cases have challenged government decisions based on a project's inconsistency with the goals of the Paris Agreement or a country's net-zero commitments. Growing awareness of climate change in recent years has also spurred action against corporations -- these include cases seeking to hold fossil fuel companies and other greenhouse gas emitters responsible for climate harm.

700 women leaders in Bihar share stories about solar adoption



Team Absolute | New Delhi

700 women leaders have come together in Bihar to share their stories about solar adoption and celebrate their contributions to the field.

These significant 'Solar Sabhas' took place in Nalanda and Gaya, with the participation of key government officials, policymakers, and organisations in the solar and renewable energy sector.

Organised by Bolega Bihar, a program working closely with women entrepreneurs in the state to promote clean energy solutions at India's grassroots, these Sabhas highlighted the importance of adopting solar energy at the local level.

The events featured panel discussions, and stalls showcasing solar products, and acknowledged the pivotal role of women in driving the transition to sustainable energy in Bihar. Both gatherings, in

Rajgir and Gaya, were uniquely women-centric in the context of renewable energy usage in the state.

Various women leaders shared their journey through the transformative solar energy campaign and those who successfully completed the program were felicitated at the event. The events proved to be an ideal platform for cross-engagement with women who took part in live discussions with civic administrators and decision-makers to share innovative ideas and discuss the use of renewable energy for household and entrepreneurial purposes.

"We are overwhelmed by the responses we received from both the Solar Sabhas. The sessions proved beneficial for women entrepreneurs as they gained insights into key leadership skills and various training modules to effectively utilise solar and DRE solutions at both household and business levels. The

event also facilitated their understanding of new solar products, with arranged demos," a statement quoting Deepthi Ojha, senior campaigner, Bolega Bihar, said.

The discussions also highlighted the remarkable potential of the solar and DRE (decentralized renewable energy) systems to uplift the lives of women and families and called for a program effort to ensure better services and new policies to bring positive change in the renewable energy sector.

The Bolega Bihar Solar Art Installation, which was also featured during Bihar Diwas 2023, was on display at the meet along with various stalls featuring an array of inventive products.

The outcome of both the Solar Sabhas has helped to craft a charter of recommendations that Bolega Bihar has submitted to the government stakeholders in the state of Bihar.

As Minnu Mani dons India colours, junction in Kerala hometown renamed after her

Thiruvananthapuram | Agencies

Minnu Mani, who became the first women cricketer from Kerala to don the national colours earlier this month, received a pleasant surprise on Monday when in her home town in Wayanad, a busy junction has been named after her.

What was hitherto the Mysore Junction at Manathavady on Monday was renamed as Minnu Mani Junction.

It was early this month, Minnu made her debut in the three T-20 internationals against Bangladesh and took crucial wickets to help India win.

Tribal girl Mani, who hails from Wayanad, was picked up for Rs 3 million by Delhi



Capitals for the first Women Premier League.

An all-rounder, Mani bowls right-handed and bats left-handed. Mani belongs to

the Kurichiya tribe in Choyimoola in Wayanad and her father is a casual labourer, while her mother is a home maker.

BHAYANDER WOMAN UNDERGOES SUCCESSFUL DOUBLE SURGERY FOR RARE 'DUAL CANCER'

A team of doctors at a hospital in Thane's Mira Road have successfully performed a double surgery on a 58-year-old woman who suffered from cancers of the breast and uterus, a hospital official said here on Wednesday.

Team Absolute | Thane

The woman, Pooja Desai (name changed on request) was under the care of a team of Wockhardt Hospitals doctors comprising Dr. Tirathram Kaushik, Dr. Rajashri Bhasale, Dr. Atul Narayanankar, Dr. Ravi Maneik and Dr. Pratik Tibdevval.

"Dual cancer is seen in barely one-two per cent of the people owing to a genetic mutation in the MMR gene. A multidisciplinary treatment comprising surgery and radiation therapy was used to treat this patient," said Dr Kaushik.

The woman, a resident of Bhayander, panicked when she suddenly experienced post-menopausal bleeding and came in an emergency to the Wockhardt Hospitals here for which she was given radiation therapy treatment.

Her ultrasonography revealed thickening of the endometrium and a biopsy confirmed the worst

fears and a subsequent whole-body PET-CT Scan and pelvic MRI revealed a 5-mm lesion in the left breast, said Dr. Bhasale. After the two cancers were confirmed, the patient was counselled and prepared for the double surgery. She underwent a laparoscopic surgery for uterine cancer and oncoplastic breast preserving operation and was discharged in three days, according to Dr. Kaushik.

A genetic test revealed that she was having a MMR Gene Mutation, or Lynch Syndrome, which is hereditary and the most common cause of colorectal cancer. "The patient faces a greater risk of colon cancer in the near future, but now two surgeries were performed and she is much better now. After the total three-month long treatment, we have discharged her with precautions like lifestyle modifications, proper diet and exercises," said Dr. Bhasale. The patient later recounted how she had experienced a rude shock when she was diagnosed with dual cancers simultaneously.



Indian national in Dubai to get over Rs 5.5 lakh per month for next 25 years

Dubai | Agencies

A 38-year-old Indian architect will get Rs 5.5 lakh per month for the next 25 years after he was named the first winner of the UAE's mega prize draw.

Mohammed Adil Khan from Azamgarh, Uttar Pradesh, who has been working at a real estate company in Dubai since five years, participated in the Emirates Draw's FAST5 game for the first time and became the lucky winner, The Khaleej Times reported.

Khan said he was shocked to get a congratulatory email informing him about his windfall.

The initial shock turned into excitement when I received the mail. When I received a call from the organisers, I was way too overwhelmed. I couldn't believe it and feel like I can retire and my future is secure. I feel I have retired early," Khan, who has a family of eight back home



dependent on him, told The Khaleej Times.

Emirates Draw launched its FAST5 game nearly 8 weeks ago which offers participants the fastest route to winning with a single Dh25 ticket.

In addition to competing for the Dh25,000 grand prize every month for the next 25 years, three participants can also win substantial amounts of Dh75,000, Dh50,000, and Dh25,000 each in the raffle draw.

Khan is the sole breadwinner of the family after his brother passed away due to Covid, and says that he wants to bring his whole family to the UAE and enrol his nephews in schools here.

A CLINIC FOR ISSUES RELATED TO INTERSEX PEOPLE

Lucknow | Agencies

First of its kind trans-health clinic in Lucknow is instilling confidence among intersex people to search for their own identity.

'Sabrang', the clinic, claims to be the only one of its kind in north India.

Ayush Kumar Agnihotri, the clinic manager, says, "Every month we get people confused about what they look like and what they feel from inside. Experts working with us find a solution."

Transgender is an umbrella term that encompasses people who have a gender identity or gender expression, which differs from their sex assigned at birth. Being independent of sexual orientation, they have often been classified as the "third sex."

Dr Heeralal, additional director, National Health Mission, said, "Based on



various socio-cultural traditions and beliefs, they are frequently discriminated against and stigmatised. This has led to their limited social inclusion and participation."

"The average footfall at the clinic is up to 30 every month. All of them go for counselling and other services," said Ayush. For transgender population, the current standard under the National AIDS Control Programme is to deliver

HIV services through targeted interventions (TI) which are implemented by NGO/CBOs for prevention services.

The current HIV prevalence among the transgender population in India is 3.14 per cent as per the 2017 data.

Given that the transgender population has broader health care needs beyond HIV, offering comprehensive services will most likely increase access to and adherence to STI/HIV

prevention and treatment and increase overall health and well-being.

In many health care settings, transgender and gender non-conforming individuals experience discrimination and mistreatment.

In all, 438 transgender persons were registered at the clinic and 32 district representatives are active in 17 districts. So far, 3 webinars have been organized under the chairmanship of Dr Heera Lal.

UP botanists discover new plant species from Sikkim

Prayagraj | Agencies

Botanists from the Botanical Survey of India (BSI) in Prayagraj have discovered a new hemiparasitic plant species, Pedicularis Revealiana, in the state of Sikkim.

Along with making its own food, it has the ability to gather nutrients from the roots of trees and plants located nearby.

The research was published in the July issue of International Nordic Journal of Botany.

"The new species Pedicularis revealiana, is described from Katao in Sikkim Himalaya and it possesses a combination of characters which makes it unique among all Pedicularis species. It is stout and has woody stems, bears minute flowers of pinkish-purple colour," says the scientist from BSI, Arti Garg who along with Achutanand Shukla had spotted this new species of Pedicularis group in September 2019 while on



way from Lachung to Katao of Sikkim Himalayan region.

After the discovery of this new species, scientists have now recommended finding out the medicinal properties of this plant.

Sikkim is known for its biodiversity as this state alone accounts for 45 per cent of the total plant diversity of the Indian Himalayan region, said Shukla, who now works with Ministry of Environment Forest and Climatic Changes, New Delhi. "We have named this in honour of the eminent botanist James Lauritz Reveal of the University of Maryland, who was globally renowned for his botanical contributions and work on supra-generic names," said Garg.



HEAVY RAINFALL TO CONTINUE OVER EAST, NORTHEAST, AND EAST CENTRAL INDIA: IMD

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Heavy to very heavy rainfall activity is likely to continue over east, northeast and east central India during the next 4-5 days, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Saturday.

In its bulletin, the weather agency predicted that in northwest India, there will be light to moderate fairly widespread rainfall with isolated heavy rainfall expected in Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, west Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, and east Rajasthan on Saturday and August 2. Additionally, west Uttar Pradesh will experience this rainfall on August 1 and 2, while Uttarakhand will have it till August 2. East Uttar Pradesh is likely to witness rainfall till August 1.

In Central India, light to moderate fairly widespread rainfall with isolated heavy rainfall is very likely in east Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh till July 31, west Madhya Pradesh on August 1 and 2, and Vidarbha on August 2.



"Chhattisgarh will also experience isolated very heavy rainfall on Saturday, August 1 and 2, while east Madhya Pradesh will have it on August 1 and 2, and Vidarbha on August 1," said the IMD.

The IMD predicted that in west India, there will be light to moderate fairly widespread rainfall with isolated heavy rainfall continuing in Konkan, Goa and central Maharashtra on Saturday and

August 1, and over Gujarat on Saturday. "Isolated very heavy rainfall is expected in Konkan, Goa and Madhya Maharashtra on August 2," said the IMD.

In south India, light to moderate fairly widespread rainfall with isolated heavy rainfall is very likely over coastal Karnataka during Saturday to August 2, Telangana on August 1 and 2, and south interior Karnataka on August 2.

"East India is expected to have light to moderate fairly widespread rainfall with isolated heavy rainfall in West Bengal and Sikkim on Saturday and Sunday, Jharkhand till August 1, and Bihar during July 31 to August 2," said the IMD.

Finally, in Northeast India, there will be light to moderate fairly widespread rainfall with isolated heavy rainfall across the region for the next five days. "Additionally, isolated very heavy rainfall is likely in Arunachal Pradesh on Saturday, and in Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, and Tripura on August 1 and 2," it added.

Robust civil society important for functioning of democracy: Rajnath Singh

Jaipur | Agencies

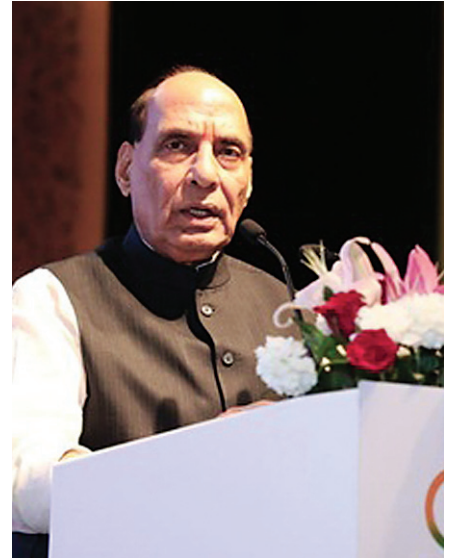
Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday said that a robust and enlightened civil society is essential for functioning of democracy.

He said that various sectors including education, health sector, gender equality, and environment have attained significant quantifiable progress where both governments and the civil society institutions have worked hand-in-hand.

"Many of the government's landmark initiatives including Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Abhiyan, etc., have brought significant transformational and attitudinal changes in the society, were complemented by civil society organizations," he said while addressing C20 India Summit in Jaipur.

He said that the civil society organisations can act as force-multipliers for the governments.

He said that the Civil 20 Engagement Group, or the C20, launched as an official G20 Engagement Group in 2013, plays an important role under the rubric of G20.



The event was attended by spiritual guru Mata Amritanandamayi, the Chancellor of Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham and many delegates from India and abroad.

Over 400 Chinese manjha rolls seized in Delhi; 1 held

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Delhi Police have arrested a 42-year-old man and seized over 400 rolls of banned and deadly Chinese manjha (kite strings), an official said on Saturday.

The arrested individual has been identified as Nizam, a resident of Janta Colony in the Welcome area.

According to the police, to curb the unfortunate incidents in which some residents of Delhi lost their lives due to Chinese manjha, a police team was tasked to trace active dealers of 'Chinese manjha' in the area of northeast district.

"In pursuance, on Friday, one Imran a.k.a. Harun was arrested and 33 rolls of Chinese manjha were recovered from his possession," Deputy Commissioner of Police, Joy Tirkey said.



On questioning, he revealed the name of Nizam, who was his source of supply. "On Imran's instance,

Nizam was arrested and 422 rolls of deadly Chinese manjha were recovered from his possession. Nizam's further source of supply of Chinese manjha is being ascertained," said the official.

Raje, Raman Singh, ex-Aligarh Univ VC Tariq Mansoor appointed BJP's national V-P

Team Absolute | New Delhi

BJP President Jagat Prakash Nadda on Saturday announced the names of party's national office-bearers with two former chief ministers -- Raman Singh and Vasundhara Raje -- from the poll-bound states of Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan being appointed as national vice-presidents.

There are 13 vice-presidents, nine general secretaries, including B L Santhosh as the in-charge of the organisation, and 13 secretaries in the list.

The BJP also appointed party MLC and former Aligarh Muslim University vice-chancellor Tariq Mansoor, a Pasmanda Muslim as BJP vice-president, while Anil Antony, son of veteran Congress leader AK Antony, who switched to the BJP, has been appointed as national secretary of the party. The fresh appointments in the



BJP comes ahead of the crucial assembly elections in states of Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh scheduled later this year, and the 2024 Lok Sabha elections scheduled next year.

According to an official communique issued by the BJP, besides Raje and Singh, former Jharkhand chief minister Raghuraj Das, senior party leader Baijayant Panda and Rekha Verma have also been named as vice-presidents of the party.

In view of the assembly polls, party leaders from Chhattisgarh

Saroj Pandey and Lata Usendi, Telangana party leader DK Aruna, Madhya Pradesh leader Soudan Singh have also been included in the national vice-president list.

Meanwhile, senior party leaders Arun Singh, Kailash Vijayvargiya, Dushyanth Kumar Gautam and Tarun Chugh are among the names of national general secretaries appointed. The party has also included former Telangana state unit chief Sanjay Bandi in the national general secretaries list of the party.

As per the release, other office-bearers appointed by Nadda include the party's national secretary.

Besides Anil Antony, Pankaja Munde and Rituraj Sinha are among the national secretaries announced by the BJP.

However, several people like Dilip Ghosh, CT Ravi, Dilip Saikia, Harish Dwivedi, Sunil Deodhar and Vinod Sonkar have been removed as national office bearers of the BJP. Former Union minister Radha Mohan Singh, a Lok Sabha MP from Bihar, has also been dropped as a party vice-president.

Earlier this week, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had assured that India will be among the top three economies of the world in his third term, in an apparent reference that his government will return to power again in 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

The BJP has exuded confidence that it will return to power again in 2024 general elections.

Fake currency printing machine seized in Assam, one arrested

Guwahati | Agencies

Assam Police on Saturday said that it busted a racket involving Fake Indian Currency Notes (FICN) in Nagaon district.

A senior police officer told reporter that a fake currency printing machine was also seized during the operation.

"Based on earlier information, we conducted an operation in the Uzanmari area of Nagaon and arrested a person identified as Sahidul



Islam. A fake currency printing machine was recovered from his house," the officer added.

According to police, fake Indian currency

notes of total Rs 1.62 lakhs were found in Islam's house.

Police have seized the notes. Further investigation in

the matter is underway.

Earlier, Guwahati police confiscated about Rs 2 lakh in fake Indian currency notes on Thursday, and one individual was taken into custody.

The seizure, according to police, was made in the Garchuk area of the city during an operation based on specific input from informants.

The police claimed to have earlier information about Babul Hussain, who was supposedly in possession of the fake Indian currencies.

MINOR GIRL GANG-RAPED IN BIHAR; 2 ARRESTED

Patna: A 17 year-old minor girl has been gang-raped by two people in Bihar's Araria district.

The victim and her mother had gone for a Tazia event organised during Muharram when the girl suddenly disappeared.

After people searched for the victim, she was found naked in a jute agricultural field. The people got hold of the two accused near the agriculture field who have been identified as Mohammad Asfaq and Mohammad Mumtaz.

The accused are residents of Moti Tappu ward number 14 of Pathraha Panchayat under Narpatganj police station. The accused had gone to victim's village, which falls under Forbesganj in Araria, and gang-raped the victim.

"We have arrested the accused under the POCSO Act following the complaint filed by the victim's mother.

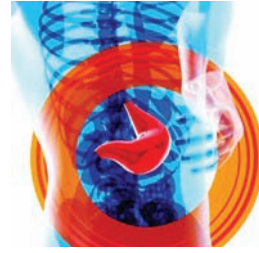
Rare liver transplant saves lives of two Uzbek nationals

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A team of doctors at a hospital here has successfully performed a rare two-way liver transplant, granting a new life to two foreign nationals hailing from Uzbekistan.

Overcoming the challenges of ABO incompatibility, the medical team, devised an innovative solution where willing donors exchanged organs to match the blood groups of the recipients.

The medical team conducted four simultaneous surgeries on June 9, saving the lives of both 41-year-old Gulyam and 51-year-old Matlubakhon. The



intricacy of the situation stemmed from the challenging ABO incompatibility between the patients and their designated donors. While Gulyam's blood group was B, his son, who volunteered to donate, had blood group A. Similarly, Matlubakhon, who also

required an urgent transplant, had blood group A, while her sister's blood group was B. ABO-incompatible transplants, where the blood type of the donor and recipient are not compatible have a high rate of rejection by the recipient's body, and this apparent mismatch of blood groups poses a significant obstacle to the success of liver transplants.

The immune system recognises the transplanted organ as foreign and launches an immune response which leads to a potential rejection of the liver and endangers the life of the recipient.

'EX-BENGAL CM BUDDHADEB RESPONDING TO TREATMENT'

Kolkata: Former West Bengal chief minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee has been kept on continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) support at the ICU unit of a private hospital in Kolkata after he was admitted on Saturday after his oxygen saturation level started dropping.

A medical board, which includes the personal physician of the former West Bengal chief minister, has been formed for his treatment.

"He has started responding to the treatment as informed by the doctors treating him, with the oxygen saturation level going up," said CPI(M) central committee member Robin Deb.

Governor C.V. Ananda Bose also rushed to the private hospital in South Kolkata after getting news of hospitalisation of the former chief minister.

"He is under medication under a team of able doctors. I wish him speedy recovery," the Governor told media persons at the hospital premises on Saturday.

Punjab Police arrest 5 operatives of foreign-based Khalistan Liberation Force

Chandigarh | Agencies

In a major breakthrough, Punjab Police have arrested five operatives of foreign-based Khalistan Liberation Force (KLF) and foiled a conspiracy of Pakistan's ISI to disrupt the peace and harmony of the border state ahead of the Independence Day, Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav said on Saturday.

Following inputs that some terrorist elements based in abroad have organised a terror module by recruiting foot soldiers through criminals lodged in jails and have been hatching a conspiracy to target minority leaders, police officials, and other prominent persons to disturb the peace and harmony, the State Special Operating Cell (SSOC) of Mohali had registered a case and started a special operation.

"Around two-week long operation, which involved meticulous intelligence gathering, technical analysis, and swift action led to the apprehension of five operatives of this terrorist module involved in the nefarious plot," said DGP Yadav. He said investigations have revealed that the links of this new



module have been established with the same foreign-based handler that had targeted Rajeev Mahajan in Batala on June 24 and they were controlling this separate module through these operatives to carry out different target killings in the state.

He said that the investigations have also revealed that operatives

of the KLF by using the name of Ranjodh Singh, which is a fake name, have been doing talent spotting in India and recruiting foot soldiers through people based in jail.

He said that then using fake narratives over social media to influence impressionable youth and transfer money into their bank

accounts to motivate them to carry out target killings in Punjab.

The DGP reiterated that Punjab Police under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann is fully committed to maintaining peace and communal harmony in the state and the nefarious designs of anti-national elements will not be allowed to succeed.

Find a match for Rahul: Sonia to women farmers from Haryana

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Congress leader Sonia Gandhi on Saturday shared a lighter moment with two women farmers from Haryana who enquired about the marriage plans of her son Rahul Gandhi, by asking them to find a suitable match for him.

The women farmers also discussed subjects like inflation and the Agniveer scheme over lunch with the Gandhi family here.

In a tweet, Rahul Gandhi said, "A day to remember for Maa, Priyanka and me with some very special guests! Delhi darshan of Sonepat's farmer sisters, dinner with them at home, and lots of fun things to do. Got priceless gifts together - desi ghee, sweet lassi, homemade pickles and lots of love."

He also shared the video of conversation of him, his mother Sonia Gandhi, and his sister Priyanka Gandhi Vadra with the farmers of Haryana's Sonepat, whom he had invited for lunch at his residence here.

Earlier this month, Rahul Gandhi had visited the farmers in Sonepat where the women told him that they are

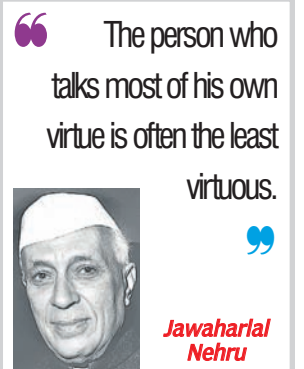


yet to see Delhi and his house. Rahul Gandhi had called up his sister and invited the women farmers over lunch in Delhi.

The video shows a light-hearted chat between the women and Sonia Gandhi on the marriage of Rahul Gandhi.

One of the women farmers can be heard telling Sonia Gandhi, "Get Rahul ji married", to which the Congress Parliamentary Party (CPP) chairperson replied, "You find a girl!"

The women farmers also asked Priyanka Gandhi about the dishes their mother cooked for them in their childhood, to which she replied that since Kashmiri Pandits don't eat onion and garlic, she used to make Kasun, where curd is heated with mustard oil and when it turns red and brown then spices are added in.



Massive rally in Manipur against militants, division of state

FOR PEACE

❑ The rally, largest after the 2001 rally against the division of Manipur territory, started from Thangmeiband and culminated at Hapta Kangleibung after covering around eight km.

❑ The participants of the rally, comprising men, women and elderly persons, gave slogans like "Long Live Manipur", "Stop Illegal Infiltration", "Implement National Population Register (NPR)", "No Division of Manipur", "Protect indigenous people", "Protect forest and Environment" and "Stop crime against women".

❑ People belonging to the Naga tribes, Muslims, besides the Meitei communities, took part in the rally in unprecedented numbers. The participants later resolved to end the ethnic conflict and uproot the Chin-Kuki narco-terrorists who have come from Myanmar and creating troubles in Manipur.



INDIA bloc MPs reach Manipur to assess ground situation

Imphal: A delegation of 21 MPs from 16 parties of the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) arrived in Imphal on Saturday on a two-day visit to assess the ground situation in the violence-hit Manipur. The ethnic violence in Manipur which broke out on May 3 has so far killed over 160 people and injured more than 600 others.

The delegation will visit the valley and hill districts and talk to the affected people.

Trinamool Congress Rajya Sabha member Sushmita Dev said that they will also likely meet Governor Anusuiya Uikey.

The Congress and other opposition parties are demanding the imposition of the President's rule in Manipur and discussions in the Parliament.

CBI files FIR in Manipur viral video case

New Delhi: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) announced on Saturday that they have filed an FIR in connection to the viral video of two young tribal women being paraded naked by a mob in Manipur.

A senior CBI official told reporter that the case was registered late Friday night.

The Manipur government and the Union Ministry of Home Affairs had transferred the case to the CBI for further investigation.

In connection to the incident, the Manipur Police have arrested seven suspects.

Although the incident took place on May 4, a day after the widespread ethnic violence broke out in Manipur, the video went viral this month.

Foreign agencies involvement cannot be ruled out: General Narvane (retired)

New Delhi: Former Army Chief Manoj Mukund Narvane asserted that the involvement of foreign agencies in the Manipur violence 'cannot be ruled out'.

He said that if there is instability, not only in our neighbouring country, but in our border state then that instability is bad for our overall national security.

General (retired) Narvane while responding to a question about Manipur violence said: "Coming on to Manipur, I had said right in the beginning that internal security is very important. If there is instability not only in our neighbouring country but in our border state, then that instability is bad for our overall national security."

"I am sure that those who are in the chair and responsible for taking actions due to be taken are doing their best. We should avoid second guess. The person on the ground knows best what is to be done," the former Army Chief said.



Andhra's tomato farmer earns Rs 4 cr in 45 days



Chittoor | Agencies

A tomato farmer in Andhra Pradesh's Chittoor district has literally hit the jackpot by earning a whopping Rs 4 crore in 45 days. With the prices of tomatoes skyrocketing, Murali's fortunes took a dramatic turn.

The 48-year-old sold his produce not only in the tomato market in Madanapalle but also transported to neighbouring Karnataka as it fetched a higher price there.

Murali and his wife cultivated tomatoes on 22-acre land in Karakamandla village in April. During last 45 days, they sold 40,000 boxes of tomatoes.

The farmer said the huge earning helped them clear debts of Rs 1.5 crore, which they had incurred while cultivating the same vegetable in the past.

According to Murali, this time the yield was good due to improvement in power supply. However, the steep hike in prices of tomatoes came as the biggest turnaround.

"I had never imagined that tomatoes will yield such a huge income," said a beaming Murali.

He plans to invest a part of the profit to expand horticulture activities.

Murali is the second farmer to reap such a huge income.

A farmer in Telangana's Medak district had whopping Rs 2 crore by selling tomatoes during the last one month while another crop worth Rs 1 crore is ready for harvest.

Bansuvada Mahipal Reddy of Mohammed Nagar in Kaudipalli mandal of Medak district became a millionaire overnight due to the skyrocketing price of tomatoes.

With the price of tomatoes soaring to Rs 150 per kg in the market and lack of adequate supply from Andhra Pradesh and other places, Mahipal Reddy catered to the demand in Hyderabad market.

He sold the produce for Rs 100 per kg in the wholesale market. During the last one month, he sold about 8,000 boxes of tomatoes, each over 25 kg. The 40-year-old farmer, a school dropout, has emerged as a role model for all.

Imphal | Agencies

A massive peace rally was organised here on Saturday by various organisations, including the Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity (COCOMI), the main civil society organisation of the Meitei community, demanding action against the Kuki-Chin terrorists, whom they blamed, for the ongoing violence in Manipur.

The organisers of the rally led by COCOMI decided to submit a memorandum to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to restore peace and normalcy at the earliest. The participants of the rally claimed

that the current crisis in Manipur was started by the illegal immigrants. COCOMI Convenor Jitendra Ningomba said Union Home Minister Amit Shah had visited Manipur and promised to come

'CMO INVOLVED IN POWER BROKING', CLAIMS KERALA IG

Thiruvananthapuram | Agencies

Kerala Police Inspector General G. Lakshman has claimed that a 'power centre' of the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) was involved in 'power broking' and interfering in many deals of the state, including financial transactions.

Lakshman, who is an accused in a case related to cheating along with tainted businessman Monson Mavunkal, has been asked to appear before the Vigilance wing of the Kerala Police on July 31.

On Saturday, he moved the Kerala High Court against this, and submitted that "there was a powerful person in the Kerala Chief Minister's Office who was interfering in all financial deals and was instrumental in framing him in the case related to Monson Mavunkal".



The IPS officer said that "this invincible and powerful person was mediating in many financial deals".

He also told the court "this person was involved in framing him in the case related to the financial fraud of Monson Mavunkal".

IG Lakshman was suspended from service for 15 months in the case involving Monson Mavunkal. He has been reinstated recently.

Meanwhile, a source said that such a "direct charge" by a top police officer against the CMO left baffled the Left Front government baffled.

I-T Dept conducts raids on 3 premises of Chinese-firm Haier

Chennai | Agencies

New Delhi: The Income Tax Department has conducted raids at various locations in three states on the premises belonging to Chinese home appliance firm Haier in connection with a tax evasion case, a source said on Saturday.

As of now, the Income Tax Department has not issued any official statement on the matter.

According to the source, the search operations were carried out in Mumbai, Pune, and Noida.

The searches, which began early in Friday morning, went on till late in the night.

The firm allegedly hid its income, and there were some discrepancies in royalty payments. The I-T teams reportedly checked the accounts and invoices of the last three years.

The company has also not made any statement on the matter as of now.

9 killed in TN firecracker unit explosion

Chennai | Agencies

Nine people have been killed while eleven others sustained injuries following an explosion at a firecracker godown in Krishnagiri district of Tamil Nadu on Saturday.

The owner of the godown along with his wife and two children have also died in the explosion. They have been identified as Ravi (42), the owner of the godown, his wife Jayasree (40), daughter Rithika (19), son Rutheesh (21).

The other deceased have been identified as Rajeswari (45) -- owner of a eatery, two others -- Ibrahim (21) and Imran (8). Two more bodies are yet to be identified.

Police said that the blast occurred due to the explosion of a gas cylinder at an eatery adjacent to the godown. The explosion resulted in a massive fire which engulfed the godown, house, welding unit,



and a restaurant.

Police said that few bodies are still trapped under the cement rubble. They said that the fire and rescue services along with the police are trying their best to remove the rubble to reach to the bodies.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has paid condolences and announced a compensation of Rs 3 lakhs for the deceased families.

The government also announced compensation of Rs 1 lakh to those who have sustained serious injuries and are undergoing treatment. An amount of Rs 50,000 has also been announced for those who have suffered minor injuries.

The Chief Minister Stalin has instructed Civil Supplies Minister R. Sakkarpani to oversee the rescue operations.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah has also expressed condolences over the tragedy and said that he was deeply saddened to know about the tragic fire accident in a crackers factory in Krishnagiri (Tamil Nadu).

Clash erupts between police and mob over Muharram procession route in Delhi

New Delhi: Clashes erupted between the police and mob during a Tazia procession on Saturday evening near the Surajmal Stadium in Delhi's Nangloi area, a Delhi Police official said.

The Deputy Commissioner of Police (Outer) Harendra Singh said that around 8,000 to 10,000 people were carrying out the procession peacefully, however, the organisers of Tazia procession wanted to deviate from the designated route.

This led to a heated argument, escalating into a dispute.

"The situation further worsened when the mob engaged in a scuffle with the police officers started pelting stones towards police. In response, the police resorted to baton charges to disperse the unruly mob," said the DCP.

Around 8 to 10 police officials sustained minor injuries, and police vehicles were also damaged. Mob also pelted stones on private vehicles and public buses.

"We have not arrested anyone yet but legal action will be initiated," said the official.

However, to restore law and order situation in the area, police have temporarily closed all the markets, and additional police personnel have been deployed.

"The situation is being closely monitored to prevent any further escalation of tension," said another police official. More details are awaited.

Global Tiger Day

India's 'Project Tiger' marks 50 years of conservation efforts

India's Project Tiger has made progress in tiger conservation over the past five decades, but challenges like poaching still threaten tiger populations. Continued efforts to protect tiger habitats and corridors are crucial for securing the future of India's tigers and their ecosystems for generations to come.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

India on Global Tiger Day, celebrated at the Corbett Tiger Reserve on Saturday, commemorated 50 years of the Project Tiger, a conservation initiative launched by the government in 1973.

The project's primary goal was to safeguard the nation's tiger population and preserve biodiversity.

Over the past half-century, Project Tiger has achieved success, with significant strides made in tiger conservation.

Initially covering nine tiger reserves across 18,278 square km,



the project now encompasses 53 reserves spread over 75,796 square km, effectively covering 2.3 per cent of India's total land area.

India currently boasts almost 75 per cent of the world's wild tiger population, reflecting the project's significant impact on tiger preservation.

In response, the government initiated the second phase in 2005, adopting a landscape-level approach, involving local communities, implementing strict law enforcement, and utilising modern technology for scientific monitoring.

Pakistan-bound teenager caught at Jaipur airport without legal documents

Jaipur | Agencies

In yet another incident of cross-border love in Rajasthan, a 17-year-old teenager heading to Pakistan to meet her lover was caught at the Jaipur airport without any legal documents to travel to the neighbouring country.

On Friday, the girl from Shrimadhapur in Sikar was taken into custody by CISF personnel and handed her to the airport police.

During interrogation, it was revealed that the girl was going to meet her lover in Lahore.

DCP East Gyanchand Yadav said that at 2 p.m. on Friday afternoon, the girl reached the airport with two boys.

"When she asked for a ticket to Pakistan, the airport staff first thought it was a joke, but then the girl told them that she was

Pakistani and had come to India three years back with her aunt. She was living in Srimadhapur of Sikar."

The girl also said that a few days ago, she had a fight with her aunt following which she took a bus and reached Jaipur on Friday morning.

"The two boys met the girl in the bus and came to drop her at the airport. During interrogation, the boys revealed that they spoke to her and came to drop her at the airport," the DCP added.

During interrogation, it was also revealed about a year ago, the girl had befriended Aslam Lahori, a man from Lahore, on Instagram.

The girl also revealed Aslam was friends with other female students of her school as well.

Her mobile has been seized by authorities and the police have informed her family, who were unaware of her actions.



AFTER 'TERROR RECCE', SECURITY TIGHTENED AT MUMBAI'S CHABAD HOUSE

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In the wake of a 'terror recce' of the Chabad House in Colaba, the Mumbai Police have beefed up security at this Jewish community centre which was targeted during the 26/11, 2008 terror strikes.

The action follows the Pune Police nabbing two terror suspects of Rajasthan from Pune when they were caught stealing motorcycles 10 days ago.

They were identified as Mohammed Yunus Khan, 23 and Yunus Yakub Saki, 24, both hailing from Ratlam in Madhya Pradesh, and carrying a reward of Rs 500,000 on their heads.

After an initial case was lodged against them in Chittorgarh, Rajasthan, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) entered the probe and filed its chargesheet against them in MP in April 2022, naming Khan-Sakhi and 10 others as accused in the matter.



The Pune Police subsequently handed them over to the NIA which revealed that they were the wanted absconders with suspected

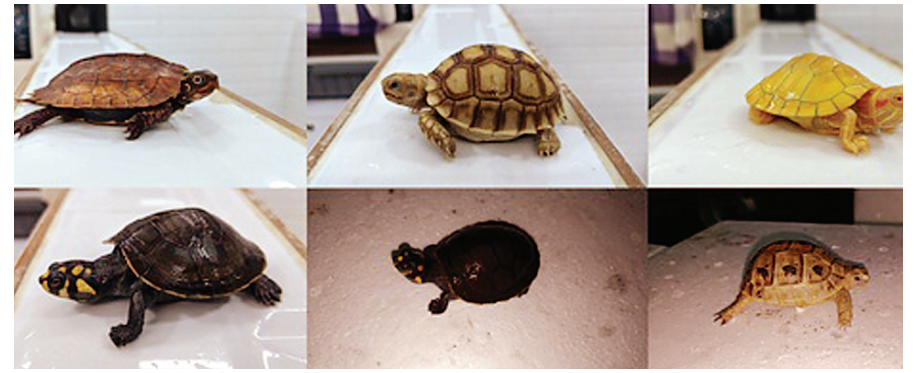
links to an extremist group Al-Sufa and had been holed up in Pune for over a year in a rented location.

Later, the Pune Anti Terrorism Squad nabbed two more suspects including Abdul Qadir and one more associate apprehended from Ratnagiri on Saturday, both said to be linked with the Khan-Saki duo arrested earlier.

Further interrogation and investigations have revealed a map and images of Chabad House and other locations of Mumbai where they reportedly carried out 'surveillance', besides seizing laptops, computers, pen-drives, hard disks and mobiles from them.

They were produced before a Special Court and are currently in police custody till August 5, while further probe is going on into their local Pune contacts or associates, the sources of their findings, the motives for their stay here, the modules of the Al-Sufa network that may be active in different parts of the state, and related angles.

Mumbai DRI seizes 306 exotic live animals smuggled from Thailand



Team Absolute | Mumbai

In a major catch, the DRI Mumbai Zonal Unit has seized 306 live exotic animals that were smuggled here from Thailand via the Air Cargo Complex, Sahar, an official said on Saturday.

The consignment, originally declared as 'live ornamental fishes' was intercepted by the DRI sleuths early on Friday and examined.

It revealed a total of 100 turtles, 62 tortoises, 110

snails, 30 juvenile crabs and 4 sting rays that were hidden in the consignment disguised as live ornamental fishes.

The seizure includes several rare or endangered species like Greek Tortoise, Red-Footed Tortoise, Asian Spurred Tortoise, Yellow Spotted Albino Red Ear Slider Turtle, Asian/Chinese Leaf Turtle, Red Bellied Short Head Turtle. The consignment seized has violated the Convention of International

Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), said the DRI.

Now, further under the wildlife laws for the rehabilitation of the exotic animals will be initiated in consultation with the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau and the Chief Wildlife Warden of Maharashtra.

The grey market value of the seized live animals, the consignor or consignee details, etc are not yet revealed.

6 Amarnath returnees killed as buses collide on Buldhana highway

Team Absolute | Buldhana

At least six pilgrims returning from the Amarnath Yatra were killed and another 21 injured when two private luxury buses collided near Malkapur in Maharashtra's Buldhana on Saturday, officials said.

The accident occurred when the pilgrims were returning home to Hingoli and other places when their buses rammmed into an Akola-bound bus.

The six victims died on the spot and of the 21 injured, two were said to be in serious condition. The other 32 passengers have been shifted to a gurdwara in Malkapur for temporary lodging and boarding till arrangements are made to enable them go home. Chief Minister Eknath Shinde expressed grief over the tragedy and announced a



compensation of Rs 5 lakhs to the kin of each deceased persons and treatment at government expenses to all the injured victims at the Buldhana Civil Hospital.

A police official said that the two buses collided at around 2.30 a.m. on the NH 6 on a railway over-bridge near Malkapur, which is on the Akola-Jalgaon highway.

One of the buses had

around 50 pilgrims returning to Hingoli after an 18-day pilgrimage to Amarnath, and the other bus of Royal Travels bound from Nagpur to Nashik with inter-district passengers. As per initial investigations, the Nashik-bound bus attempted to overtake a truck ahead when the Hingoli-bound bus came in front and led to the accident.

MUSICIANS DEMAND AN APOLOGY FOR MISINFORMATION ON KAPIL SHARMA SHOW

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Kunaal Vermaa, who recently grabbed headlines with his strong stand against the injustice taken place on national television, has a number of celebrities backing the star up with their support.

In a recent episode of The Kapil Sharma Show, Kapil introduced musician AM Turaz as the man behind the song Tum Hi Aana. Outraged by this misinformation Kunaal took to his social media posting a video which stated about not being acknowledged or even rectified inspite of contacting Kapil Sharma shows team. He also went public expressing his disappointment to which Kunaal was backed by a number of fraternity friends like Amaal Malik who reposted Kunaal's video stating, "Let there be no doubt this man is one of the most honest people out there and he is the man who has penned #TumHiAana in all its entirety. @kunaalvermaa my bro everyone knows you have penned this beautiful



song" Armaan Malik commented, "So sad to hear about this Kunaal bhai. This is just messed up. You are one of the most talented writers of our time and a true artist and I hope the concerned people atleast acknowledge that they made a grave mistake and rectify this episodes commentary. And rahi baat people knowing who wrote Tum Hi Aana , koi shak bhi nahi hai that it's you and only you."

Tanishk Bagchi said, "This is really so unfair. The team should have researched about this before.

They should apologise to @kunaalvermaa"

Payal Dev stated, "no one can take credit of Tum hi aana from you bhai. You know what situation we faced during the making of the song. Every one knows it is written but you only. This is our song. Thank you for making it more soulful with you lyrics. We

love you and support you always." Aditya Dev went on stating, "Har achha artist bohoh hi Dil lagakar apne gaane ko banana hai, aur uska credit agar use Na Diya jaaye toh bohoh bura lagta hai. I stand with you bhai Kunaal Vermaa." A number of other musicians were seen taking a stand for Tum Hi Aana lyricist Kunaal Vermaa. Their team is trying to reach out to Kapil Sharma's team but haven't got any revert till now.

Another family member of KCR in active politics, appointed BRS Maharashtra in-charge

Hyderabad | Agencies

Another family member of Telangana Chief Minister and Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) K. Chandrasekhar Rao has entered active politics.

KCR has appointed his nephew Kalvakuntla Vamshidhar Rao as the in-charge of BRS Maharashtra state unit. Vamshidhar Rao is son of KCR's elder brother Kalvakuntla Ranga Rao. A fan of megastar Chiranjeevi, Vamshidhar Rao had joined Praja Rajyam Party (PRP) when it was floated by the actor in 2008. After the party's disastrous poll performance, he became inactive in politics. Vamshidhar Rao had recently undertaken social activities in Siddipet in the name of Ranga Rao Foundation. There was a buzz in political circles that he is aspiring for the BRS ticket from Siddipet, which is currently represented by



KCR's another nephew T. Harish Rao. However, in a surprising move KCR appointed him incharge for Maharashtra unit of BRS.

Vamshidhar Rao called on KCR and thanked him for being appointed as Maharashtra in-charge.

Vamshidhar Rao has a brother and a sister. His younger brother K. Tejeshwar Rao is not active in politics while sister K. Ramya Rao is associated with the Congress party.

Several family members of KCR are already active in politics. His

son K. T. Rama Rao is a minister in his cabinet and BRS working president while daughter K. Kavitha is a member of Telangana Legislative Council. T. Harish Rao, son of KCR's sister, is also a minister and holds the key portfolios of finance and health. Joginapally Santosh Kumar, son of KCR's wife Shobha's sister, is a member of Rajya Sabha.

KCR, on Friday, appointed a temporary steering committee of BRS for Maharashtra. The BRS chief himself will lead the steering committee. The members of the committee are former MLAs Bhanudas Murkute, Shankar Anna Dhondge, Anna Saheb Mane, Deepak Aatram, former MP Haribhau Rathore, Ghanshyam Shelar, Kisan Cell president Manik Kadam, Kalvakuntla Vamshidhar Rao, Dnyanesh Wakudkar, Sachin Sathre, Shushi Surekha Puneekar, Kadir Maulana, Yashpal Bhinge and Firoz Patel.

JUSTICE DEVENDRA UPADHYAY TAKES OATH AS CHIEF JUSTICE OF BOMBAY HIGH COURT

Mumbai: Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyay was on Saturday sworn in as Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court here.

Maharashtra Governor Ramesh Bais administered the oath of office to Justice Upadhyay at a function held at Raj Bhavan in the afternoon.

Devendra Kumar Upadhyay was the sitting judge of the Allahabad High Court before his elevation as chief justice (CJ) of the Bombay High Court.

The position of Bombay HC chief justice fell vacant after CJ RD Dhanuka retired on May 30. Subsequently, Justice Nitin Jamdar was appointed as the acting Chief Justice.

Born on June 16 1965, Devendra Kumar Upadhyay graduated in law from Lucknow University in 1991.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis attended the swearing-in ceremony.

Nitish is PM Modi's friend, should return to NDA: Ramdas Athawle

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, Ramdas Athawle, on Saturday said that Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar is Prime Minister Narendra Modi's friend and he should return to the NDA's fold.

Athawle said: "The absence of Nitish Kumar is felt in NDA. He is my friend and he is also a friend of PM Narendra Modi. He should come to NDA again."

"In the last assembly elections of Bihar, JD(U) the party of Nitish Kumar had only 43 MLAs, still, PM Modi made him chief minister," Athawle said.

When asked about opposition unity, Athawle said: "Opposition unity and INDIA has no relevance. Nitish Kumar is not pleased with the name INDIA. He had left the Bangalore meeting. I personally believe that he should not go to the next meeting of INDIA in Mumbai. The leaders of opposition parties are not listening to Nitish Kumar." "There is



no strength in opposition unity. Every one is a Prime Minister's candidate. In the next election, NDA will win 350 seats in the country and form the government again," he said.

He also added that the Narendra Modi government wants discussion in Parliament on Manipur violence but opposition parties are not allowing it.

Sussanne says 'well said' after Narayan Murthy criticises Kareena's behaviour towards fans



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Sussanne Khan, Bollywood star Hrithik Roshan's ex-wife, has lauded Infosys founder Narayan Murthy for talking about actor Kareena Kapoor Khan.

A video is doing rounds on social media, where Murthy shared how Kareena ignored her fans on a flight, which he was on as well.

He talked about the incident and shared that he was surprised seeing the actress not responding to her fans.

Murthy said: "The other day I was coming from London, and next to me was Kareena Kapoor, sitting in her seat. So many people

came to her and they said hello. She didn't even bother to react. I was a little bit surprised. Whoever came to me, I stood up, and we discussed for a minute or half a minute—that's all they were expecting."

Coming in support of Kareena, Murthy's wife Sudha said that she has a million admirers. She must have been tired.

However, Murthy said that this was not the issue.

"The issue is that when somebody shows affection, you can also show it back, however cryptic manner you can. I think that is very important. These are all ways to reduce your ego, that's all."

INDIA leaders angry as Sharad Pawar set to share stage with PM Modi in Pune

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Even as the third meeting of the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) is all set to take place in Mumbai on August 25 and 26, some of the leaders of the bloc on Friday raised concern over Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) Supremo Sharad Pawar sharing stage with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Maharashtra's Pune on August 1.

A party source said that during the meeting of floor leaders of the INDIA bloc on Friday, some of the members raised concerns about Pawar being the chief guest of the function in which Modi is honoured with the Lokmanya Tilak Award.

The source added that there were suggestions that Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge could speak to the NCP leader to urge and request him not to attend the function.

The source said that few of INDIA bloc leaders felt that Pawar sharing stage with the Prime Minister would create a bad impression, when the like-minded opposition parties are coming together to take on the BJP in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

The source also added that by sharing



stage with Modi, Pawar will dent the image of the INDIA bloc, which has taken a lot of effort to build and it will also lead to send a wrong message among people as Prime Minister Modi has attacked INDIA with its comparison to the East India Company and terror organisation Indian Mujahideen. The NCP patriarch has been invited

as the chief guest of the function which is organised by Tilak Smarak Mandir Trust.

During the programme, Pawar will be handing over the award to Modi. Meanwhile, the third meeting of INDIA will take place in Mumbai on August 25 and 26 and Shiv Sena (UBT) and Pawar-led NCP will be the host.

Gangster Chhota Shakeel's shooter arrested after 25 Years: Mumbai Police

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A shooter of fugitive gangster Chhota Shakeel has been arrested after 25 years in connection with a murder case, a Mumbai Police official said.

The arrested accused has been identified as 50-year-old Laik Ahmed Fida Hussain Sheikh.

"Laik Ahmed Fida Hussain Sheikh (50), shooter of the Chhota Shakeel gang arrested by Pydhonie Police from near Thane railway station on July 28. Sheikh is accused in the murder of a member of the arrested underworld don Chhota Rajan gang," the official said on Friday.

The accused, along with his accomplices, had shot dead Munna Dhari, a member of the arrested underworld don Chhota Rajan gang, on the evening of April 2, 1997. At that time, the police arrested Sheikh by registering a case against the accused under Section 302, 34 of the IPC and Section 3, 25 of the Arms Act, the offi-



cial said. "After this, the accused was released on bail by a court in the year 1998," the police official added.

The official said that since 1998, the accused Sheikh went underground and did not appear in any court hearing, after which he was declared an absconder.

Police received information from secret sources that the accused Sheikh lived in Mumbai. After which they reached the address but he was not found, nor did anyone recognize him. Police also received information that the accused worked as a taxi driver at the Thane campus. The police traced the location of Sheikh and arrested him on Friday by setting a trap near Thane railway station, the official added.



MADHYA PRADESH RETAINS TOP POSITION IN TIGER COUNT

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The number of tigers in Madhya Pradesh rose to 785 in 2022 from 526 in 2018, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said on July 29 as he greeted the State's people on International Tiger Day. Union Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change Bhupender Yadav also congratulated Madhya Pradesh for retaining its status as the "Leading Tiger State of India."



As per the report 'Status of Tigers: Co-predators & Prey in India-2022', released by the National Tiger Conservation Authority and Wildlife Institute of India, Madhya Pradesh has the highest number of tigers in the country, followed by Karnataka (563) and Uttarakhand (560). Madhya Pradesh forests added 259 tigers in a span of four years, as per the survey.

"It is a matter of great pleasure that as a result of cooperation of the people of our State and untiring efforts of the Forest Department, the number of tigers in our State has increased to 785 from 526

in four years," Chouhan said in a tweet.

Congratulating the people of the State for this success, he further said, "Let us all together take a pledge to conserve nature for future generations on the occasion of International Tiger Day."

The tiger count in the State was 300 in 2006, but in 2010 the State slipped from its number one position as the tiger population declined to 257 against 300 in Karnataka. In 2014, Karnataka recorded 406 tigers while M.P. recorded 300 big cats.

But the tiger population in Madhya Pradesh rose there-

after as it reclaimed the top position in 2018 with 526 big cats recorded against 524 in Karnataka. Madhya Pradesh has six tiger reserves: Kanha, Bandhavgarh, Panna, Pench, Satpura and Sanjay-Dubri Tiger Reserve.

Union Minister Yadav also took to Twitter to congratulate Madhya Pradesh for the achievement.

"With 785 tigers as per the latest tiger estimation exercise, M.P. is the Leading Tiger State of India! This reflects MP's commitment to conserving tigers through intensive protection and monitoring by involving local communities," he said.

Madhya Pradesh is fast changing: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said that the entire Madhya Pradesh is fast changing today. Rapid development and public welfare works are being undertaken in the state. The per capita income of the state, which was earlier Rs 11 thousand, has now increased to Rs one lakh 40 thousand. A network of roads has been laid across the state. The work of providing irrigation water to every farm and tap water to every house is in progress. Power supply is regular. Madhya Pradesh is ahead in all parameters of development. Chief Minister Chouhan was addressing a huge gathering in Bayan village of Sehore district today during VikasParv. The Chief Minister performed bhoomi-pujan/dedicated development works worth Rs 25 crore 98 lakh including bhoomi-pujan worth Rs 25 crore 32 lakh 84 thousand and dedication of Rs 65 lakh 64 thousand. He also distributed benefits to the beneficiaries of various schemes. Earlier kanyapujan was performed.



Chief Minister Chouhan said that LaddiBahna is the most important scheme of my life. I saw discrimina-

tion against daughters since childhood and resolved that I will eradicate it. Continuous work is being done to honour and empower women in the state. After schemes like Ladli Lakshmi, MukhyamantriKanyaVivah/Nikah, 50 percent reservation in Panchayats, Sambal, LadliBahnaYojana has been formulated. This scheme will bring honour to the women in the society and will boost their self-confidence. About Rs 15 thousand crore will be spent on this scheme in a year. In the

coming time, its amount will be increased to Rs.3000. To empower women, they are being associated with self-help groups and efforts are being made to hike their income at least Rs. 10,000 per month.

Chief Minister Chouhan said that since childhood I used to visit Bayan. I have visited almost all the houses in the village. I still miss Bayan ki dal and Gud Patti. Today I will go after eating the dal here. He also made several announcements for the renovation of Bayan government school

and development of the area. Chief Minister Chouhan said that a grand Devi temple is being built in Salkanpur, where people from all over the world will come to visit. A medical college is being built in Budhni at a cost of Rs 750 crores. Four-lane work is also being done in Bayan, which has been declared a national highway.

Chief Minister Chouhan said that children should study a lot and move forward. I will let nothing hinder their education. For this every bit of assistance is being provided to the students. A laptop is being given for securing 75 percent marks in class XII, a cycle is given for students from 5 to 6 and 8 to 9 to go to other villages and now one boy and one girl topper in class XII will be given a scooter.

The government is also getting the fees for higher education covered under the MedhaviVidyaYojana. Chief Minister ShriChouhan said that the old government had stopped many public welfare schemes.

Schemes like MukhyamantriKanyaVivah, MukhyamantriTeerthDarshan, Sambal were discontinued. Our government has restarted them. Now elders are being taken on pilgrimage by flight.

Class 12 student stabbed to death by his junior in Indore

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A Class 12 student of a government-run school was allegedly stabbed to death by one of his juniors - a minor in Madhya Pradesh's Indore.

The victim, who was admitted to a hospital with multiple stab injuries inflicted with knife on Friday, succumbed to his injuries during treatment at night, police said.

The incident occurred at Tukoganj area and both students were known to each other as they were students of Swami Vivekanandhschool. The deceased has been identified as Samarth Kushwaha, while the accused is a minor, enrolled in Class 11.

As per the police, Samarth has seen his junior (accused) smoking cigarette and made his video. Samarth shown that video to a school teacher. Since then, the accused boy along with his some other friends were planning to take revenge from Samarth.

The incident was spotted by a cop passing through that area, and chased the accused. A video surfaced on social media, in which a cop was seen chasing a boy shouting 'pak-



doiskopakdo, chaku mar kebghagrahahai.' After chasing for few meters, the cop managed to overpower the minor boy, who was still holding a knife in his hand.

"The accused is minor. He has been detained. Victim's family has lodged an FIR and we are investigation the matter. The FIR says that victim had made a video of the accused and had shown to a school teacher. We will visit the school for inquiry," the police said.

Satna Minor Gangrape

Chief Minister Chouhan assures best medical treatment to critical 12-year-old victim

Team Absolute | Bhopal

After a 12-year-old girl was brutally raped in Maihar of Satna district, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has assured strict action against the two accused and best of medical treatment. The rape victim has sustained critical injuries as the miscreants had inserted a wooden log inside her private parts. She is currently undergoing treatment at Rewa Medical College. Taking to Twitter, Chouhan condemned the incident and wrote, "I have received information about the rape of a 12-year-old girl in Maihar, my heart is full of pain, I am distressed. I have instructed the police that no criminal should escape the

police have arrested the criminals. Instructions have been given to the administration to make arrangements for proper treatment of the daughter. No criminal will be spared, strictest action will be taken."

Notably, a 12-year-old girl was allegedly raped by two workers of temple committee in Maihar on Thursday evening. The next day, on Friday, police recovered her bleeding body from the hills, with a wooden log inserted in her private parts.

The accused have been identified as Ravindra Kumar Ravi and AtulBhadolia. Both of them have been arrested and their houses were demolished on the instructions of the state government.

HOUSES OF ACCUSED RAZED

Bhopal: A day after an 11-year-old girl was brutally gang-raped in Madhya Pradesh's Satna, the district administration bulldozed the houses of the two accused on Saturday morning. While the accused identified as AtulBarolia and Ravindra Kumar have been sent to police custody, the victim is recuperating at Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Hospital, Rewa.



"A joint team of administration and the police demolished the illegal construction of both the accused," Satna district collector tweeted on his official twitter handle.

Both the accused were employees of 'MaaSharda Devi mandir Management Committee' and following the arrest, the committee sacked both of them immediately.

The accused have been booked under IPC sections 376 (punishment for rape), 376DB (punishment for gang rape on woman under 12 years of age), 366A (procurement of minor girl), 323 (voluntarily causing hurt), 324 (voluntarily causing hurt by dangerous weapons or means), 34 (common intention) and relevant provisions of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, the police said.

Principal removed for stopping prayer at assembly in government school

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The principal of a government school in Madhya Pradesh's Rajgarh district has been suspended and transferred, and is facing a probe after a video emerged of him stopping students from reciting the Gayatri mantra, officials said.

The incident took place at the school situated in Biaora town of the district. It came to light after a teacher recorded the principal, Dushyant Singh Rana scolding the students asking them who asked them to recite the prayer. Taking cognizance of the matter, Minister of State for School Education (independent charge) Inder Singh Parmar on Thursday ordered an inquiry into the same. "Whoever has tried to stop this has tried to stop Indian traditions. Education



will be imparted in all the schools according to Indian culture and tradition, it has been said in the new education policy.

SaraswatiVandana is mandatory in all the schools and is being followed," Parmar said. Rana told local reporters on Wednesday: "Since it is a government school, any kind of religious activity is banned here... we had a meeting on Tuesday in which it was decided that only the national anthem, national song and an inspirational song would be sung during the morning school assembly. But the children were instigated by our three teachers and students were purposefully made to chant prayers that we had decided to stop earlier."

DEO Karan Singh Milala said Dushyant Singh Rana was removed... and transferred to the Block Education Officer's office."

Congress Ko Khujli Kyu Ho Rahi?

Scindia Replies To Kamal Nath's Statement Over Attending Events Of Different Communities In Gwalior

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Congress KoKhujliKyuHoRahi? Scindia Replies To Kamal Nath's Statement Over Attending Events Of Different Communities In Gwalior According to information, Scindia is on a 2-day tour to Gwalior. He has been attending events of various communities.



On occasion of Muhrram on Friday, he visited Imambara in MaharajBada of Gwalior and said that he was there to continue the "tradition of Gorkhi." Similarly, he attended an event of the Sindhi community, following which Nath

commented, "BJP has deceived the Sindhi community as the party did not hesitate in sidelining its senior most leader Lal Krishna Advani." When mediapersons

sought Scindia's answer on this, he smiled and said, "Is it not a good thing that I am trying to make bonhomie in the society. Why is it troubling Congress? (Congress kokuhujlikyuhorahi)."

3 MINORS RAPE 15-YEAR-OLD GIRL IN UJJAIN, CIRCULATE VIDEO

Ujjain: Three minors allegedly raped a 15-year-old girl in Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh and circulated a video of the act, leading to the detention of two of the accused and a search for the third, a police official said on Saturday.

The incident occurred in LasudiyaJaisingh village under Birla Gram police station limits and a probe began after the video went viral on social media on Friday, he said. "Three minors raped a 15-year-old girl and circulated a video of it. Two of the three accused have been detained and a search for the third is underway," Birla Gram police station in charge Karan Singh said.

He said a case under Indian Penal Code and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act has been registered and probe to get all details of the incident was underway.

Police personnel bound by decorum do not even submit demand letter, facilities increased after seeing their hardship: CM Chouhan



Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that due to being within the ambit of discipline and being bound by decorum, the policemen do not apprise about their problems, nor do they give any demand letter etc. Recently, during the Prime Minister's visit to Shahdol, when he asked the members of the field police force about their problems during interaction, they remained silent, but the problems of the

police personnel are seen in the field. In such a situation, it has been decided to increase the facilities of the police personnel.

Chief Minister Chouhan was addressing the field staff of the police force including police officers and employees who came to meet him at SamatvaBhavan CM's residence today. The police force reached the CM's residence today and

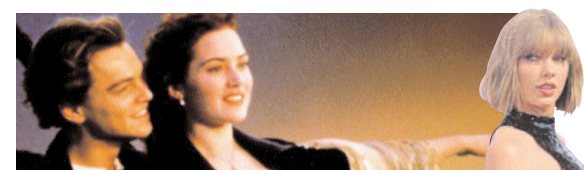
expressed gratitude to Chief Minister Chouhan for the important announcements made in the interest of the police officers/employees of the state. On Friday, CM Chouhan made important announcements for the welfare of the police force. Deputy Superintendents of police, inspectors of police, company commanders, sub inspectors and constables expressed their gratitude to

CM Chouhan by presenting bouquets. Police Commissioner HariNarayanchari Mishra and other senior officers were present along with inspectors, sub-inspectors, and constables. Children made guest

Chief Minister Chouhan also made two children of policemen sit on the dais and pampered them. CM Chouhan made two children of police personnel studying in Class V, AvyanShukla and Yuvan Thakur, sit on the dais as guests. Both the children kept talking to CM Chouhan for a long time. Running the government with the spirit of family Chief Minister Chouhan said that "I am also happy to see your happiness. I believe in running the government with a family spirit." CM Chouhan said that the police family is a part of the family of Madhya Pradesh. I try to understand the problems of the field. These decisions are not only in the interest of the police personnel but also in the interest of the state.

Major announcements of Chief Minister Chouhan

- Officers-employees from constable to sub-inspector level posted in all police stations, who do not have government vehicles, will be given 15 litres of petrol allowance per month.
- Nutritious diet allowance of police personnel will be made one thousand rupees per month.
- Uniform allowance of constable and head constable will be Rs. 5000 per year.
- State Police Service officers will be given fifth pay scale.
- The rate of free food allowance will be Rs. 100 per day.
- Free medical checkup will be done for all police personnel above 45 years of age.
- Weekly holiday by rotation will be ensured for all police personnel.
- 25 thousand new houses will be built for police personnel.



Neelam Gill says she isn't Leonardo DiCaprio 'new flame' amid dating rumours

Los Angeles | Agencies

Indian British fashion model Neelam Gill has set the record straight on dating rumours between her and Hollywood star Leonardo DiCaprio.

Taking to Instagram Story, the model insisted that she's not the 'Titanic' actor's 'new flame' despite having been spotted on several occasions, reports aceshowbiz.com.

"Just to clear up any rumors...I am not Leonardo DiCaprio's 'new flame'," the 28-year-old wrote.

"In fact, I am in a committed relationship with his good friend, and have been for many months now."

Neelam and Leo were first linked romantically after they were leaving Hotel Martinez in Cannes, France with several other beauties in May. Fueling the dating speculation, the two stepped out for dinner in London, where they were joined by his mother IrmelinIndenbirken.

On May 30, the British model and the Oscar winner enjoyed a night out along with his mom and friends at the Chiltern Firehouse.

The 48-year-old Hollywood star was caught on camera exiting the venue while sporting his usual look. He wore a black bomber jacket, jeans, sneakers and his signature baseball cap. He also concealed his face with a black mask that covered everything but his eyes in one of the paparazzi snaps.

Neelam, on the other hand, was pictured walking close behind Leo's mom, who came with her boyfriend. However, Page Six already reported that Leo and Neelam were not an item and she's dating one of Leo's friends who also attended the dinner instead. A source additionally has told Daily Mail that Leo is now "looking for something more mature in the relationship department."

Emily Blunt struggles to grapple with prospects of motherhood

London | Agencies

British actress Emily Blunt who has made a big name for herself in Hollywood with films such as 'A Quiet Place', 'A Quiet Place 2', 'Edge of Tomorrow' and most recently 'Oppenheimer' is now grappling with the prospect of motherhood, saying that she had no idea just how much her world would change once she had children. According to FemaleFirst, while speaking to OK Magazine, 'The Devil Wears Prada' actress said: "I was colossally unprepared for how life-changing it (having children) is. Like all mothers, I think: 'What was I doing with my day before I had children?' It's so full-on and they need you so much. I do find myself in a perpetual state of distraction."

She went on to add that she really hopes that her children can remain "oblivious" of her celebrity status because she doesn't want them to feel different from their peers or get in over their heads.

Elaborating on this, the actress said:

"I don't want my kids to feel more important or more special or that there's a glare on them any more than other kids. If they can remain oblivious for the longest time, I'd be thrilled."

Emily has been married to John since 2010. The actress said that she is able to live very happily with him because he is a good listener.

She said: "If I'm worried about something, he will listen and just have the answer. I adore that about him. He's the ultimate pragmatist in my life."

While she is not quitting Hollywood at all, she is planning a long break.

Giving details, she said: "This year, I'm not working. I worked quite a bit last year, and my oldest baby is nine, so we're in the last year of single digits. I just feel there are cornerstones to their day that are so important when they're little."



Brad Pitt 'shuts down filming' of F1 drama produced by Lewis Hamilton

Los Angeles | Agencies

Filming of an upcoming blockbuster set in the world of Formula One and produced by British racing driver Lewis Hamilton has been thrown into chaos by Hollywood star actor Brad Pitt.

The 59-year-old American star is due to play a character named Sonny Hayes in the upcoming film Apex which co-stars Javier Bardem and Damson Idris, reports mirror.co.uk.

But filming has ground to a halt as Brad is showing solidarity with the Screen Actor's Guild who voted earlier this month to go on strike alongside the Writer's Guild of America - with the industrial action causing productions to close down on both sides of the Atlantic. It is said the A List star's decision to go on strike has been supported by the rest of the film crew - who will also be forced to down tools until the strike action is over.

A source told The Sun: "Brad agreed that they would finish the shoots booked in immediately but has postponed planned production over the next two months."

"The cast and crew of Apex have been filming in Budapest but Brad has called for the future dates to be put back, in solidarity with everyone striking."

"Everyone has been informed that there will be a two-month hiatus now. Conversations about when to start up again are ongoing but it's likely it will be in November when they will be going to Las Vegas to shoot some scenes. It all depends on the strike however."

It is also reported that the strike decision will likely have a significant financial impact on the production of the film.

Meanwhile, filming on the movie has already taken part in the UK - with cameras arriving at Silverstone during the British Grand Prix earlier this month to film scenes in a real live F1 environment.



'Iron Man 3' mask, Harry Potter wands, Captain America shield to be auctioned



Los Angeles | Agencies

The helmet worn by Robert Downey Jr in 'Iron Man 3', wands used in the Harry Potter film series, the mask worn by Ryan Reynolds in 'Deadpool' and a Captain America shield used by Chris Evans, are among a host of film paraphernalia set to go on sale.

The helmet, made of fibreglass material and with eyes that shine a blue-white colour, is being sold at an event from Julien's Auctions and Turner Classic Movies (TCM) for US Dollars 50,000 to 70,000.

The Legends: Hollywood And Royalty auction, featuring more than 1,400 items, in Beverly Hills, California, in September will celebrate 100 years of Warner Bros, as per Evening Standard.

Previously announced items include three designer dresses worn by Diana, Princess of Wales which have not been seen in public for more than 30 years.

The auction will also see Star Wars, Stark Trek, Game Of Thrones and James Bond props and costumes made famous by Audrey Hepburn, Elizabeth Taylor, and Vivien Leigh being put on sale. The Iron Man helmet is seen in the third instalment when the Mandarin (Ben Kingsley) attacks Tony Stark (Downey Jr) at his home in Malibu,

California.

Other Marvel Cinematic Universe props such as the mask worn by Ryan Reynolds in Deadpool and a Captain America shield used by Chris Evans in 'Captain America - The First Avenger' also feature.

Wands in the films 'Harry Potter And The Half-Blood Prince', 'Harry Potter And The Deathly Hallows' and 'Harry Potter And The Goblet Of Fire' are also going on sale.

Michael Gambon, Ralph Fiennes, Daniel Radcliffe, Rupert Grint and Emma Watson handled the props in the Harry Potter films. The items could be sold from between US Dollars 5,000 to 60,000.

Science-fiction film highlights include Princess Leia's (Carrie Fisher) production-made slave costume from 'Star Wars - Return Of The Jedi', estimated at US Dollars 20,000 to 30,000.

Other items include blasters used by Han Solo (Harrison Ford) and Din Djarin (Pedro Pascal) in Star Wars universe films and series such as 'Star Wars - The Force Awakens' and 'The Mandalorian'.

Stand-outs from the Star Trek items include a maroon Starfleet officer's jacket worn by William Shatner as James T. Kirk in 'Star Trek II: The Wrath Of Khan', which could go for USD 100,000 to 200,000.

Jeff Nichols' star-studded 'The Bikeriders' to release Dec 1

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood director Jeff Nichols' latest star-studded film 'The Bikeriders' will debut in theatres on December 1.

The film boasts stars including Tom Hardy, Austin Butler, Jodie Comer, Boyd Holbrook, Norman Reedus, and Michael Shannon.

As per the Collider, the film will follow the history of a fictional mid-century Midwestern biker club, detailing its initial beginnings as a refuge for misfits and outsiders, and charting its gradual descent into a violent criminal organization, leading to conflict with the club's original members.

This mirrors the path that many motorcycle clubs took in those years; initially founded by veterans dissatisfied by society, many motorcycle clubs became brutal criminal gangs, dealing in drugs, prostitution, and violence.



It will be Nichols' first film since 2016, when he released the sci-fi suspense film 'Midnight Special', and 'Loving', a historical drama detailing the path to the legalization of interracial marriage.

The upcoming drama movie is written and directed by Jeff Nichols.

'The Bikeriders' will share a release date with the Thomasin McKenzie/Anne Hathaway period psychological thriller 'Eileen'; Saltburn, Emerald Fennell's Barry Keoghan/Jacob Elordi

black comedy, will debut the week before, on November 24, and Yorgos Lanthimos' 'Poor Things' (which was pushed back from its initial September release date) and the Jonathan Majors bodybuilding drama 'Magazine Dreams' will bow the week after, on December 8.

'The Bikeriders' debuts a week after Disney's major animated feature, 'Wish', and a week before the weirdly dual releases of the Emma Stone-starring 'Poor Things' and the Jonathan Majors drama 'Magazine Dreams'.

'The Bikeriders' will be produced by Sarah Green and Brian Kavanaugh-Jones through Nichols' production company Tri-State; it will also be produced by New Regency Pictures. Fred Berger will executive produce. Filming wrapped on the project last December, and it is now in post-production.

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Miley Cyrus



Men's T20 World Cup 2024 to be played from June 4 to 30: Report

- As far as the format for the 2024 World Cup, it will be different to the last two editions (2020-21 in the UAE and 2022 in Australia), where the first round was followed by Super 12s.
- Next year, the 20 teams will be divided into four groups of five each for the first round, with the top two teams from each group qualifying for the Super 8s. The Super 8 teams will be split into two groups of four each, with the top two in each group reaching the semi-finals.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The 2024 Men's T20 World Cup is set to be played from June 4 to 30 next year in the Caribbean and the USA, across 10 venues.

According to an ESPNcricinfo report, an ICC team this week inspected some shortlisted venues in the USA, which will be hosting an international global cricket event for the first time.

The venues include Lauderhill in Florida, which has hosted international matches already (and is set to host West Indies vs India in the coming fortnight), Morrisville, Dallas and New York, for tournament matches and warm-ups.

Morrisville and Dallas are currently hosting the inaugural edition of Major League Cricket in the USA. On the other hand, the grounds in Dallas (Grand Prairie Stadium), Morrisville (Church Street Park) and New York (Van Cortlandt Park in the Bronx) are yet to get international venue status, which is mandatory as per ICC rules.

The report added that the final decision on the venues will be taken by the ICC together with Cricket West Indies (CWI) and USA Cricket (USAC) in the next few months.

Twelve teams had already qualified for the tournament before the regional qualifiers, including hosts West Indies and USA, and the top eight teams at the 2022 T20 World Cup -- Australia, England, India, Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, South Africa and Sri Lanka. Afghanistan and Bangladesh qualified by virtue of their spots in the T20I rankings, completing the 20-team roster.



2ND ODI: INDIA BOWLED OUT; WEST INDIES TO CHASE 181 RUNS

Bridgetown (Barbados) | Agencies

Ishan Kishan (55) struck his second successive half-century but India failed to capitalise on a good start on a difficult pitch that offered variable bounce to be all out for 181 in 40.5 overs in the second ODI against West Indies here on Saturday.

In a match that was twice interrupted by rain but did not lose any overs, India made a hash of things after the visitors were off to a good start thanks to opener Ishan Kishan, who struck a run-a-ball 55, his second after the 52 in the first match that India won.

Kishan and Shubman Gill raised 90 runs for the opening wicket but the West Indies capitalised on the juice offered by the wicket that was slow but offered bounce too. Romario Shepherd (3-37) and Gudakesh Motie (3-36) were the best West Indies bowlers while Alzerri Joseph claimed 2-35 in seven overs. The West Indies also fielded well, as they picked up some superb catches and did not allow the Indians many opportunities to make a comeback in the match.



Brief scores

India 181 all out in 40.5 overs (Ishan Kishan 55, Shubman Gill 34, Suryakumar Yadav 24; Romario Shepherd 3-37, Gudakesh Motie 3-36) against West Indies.

But disaster struck India just before the first rain interruption midway through their innings when the visitors lost two wickets off successive deliveries, slumping to 113/5 in the 25th over from 95/2 in the 18th over. The experiments India tried in this match did not work out and they fell short by at least 40 runs on a difficult wicket.

India had made a good start after West Indies skipper Shai Hope elected to bowl first, as the two openers Ishan Kishan and Shubman Gill (34) raised 90

runs for the first wicket. Ishan struck a run-a-ball 55, hitting six boundaries and one six. This is his second successive half-century after the 52 in the opening match of the series.

India lost two quick wickets again after a 30-minute rain interruption as Ravindra Jadeja (10) and Suryakumar Yadav (24) got out, after repairing the innings a bit by adding 33 runs for the sixth wicket. Jadeja was caught by Yannic Cariah off Romario Shepherd.

Sweden secure last-16 berth after crushing Italy

FIFA Women's World Cup

Wellington | Agencies

Sweden showed their commanding ability in aerial duels as they scored thrice through corners to beat Italy 5-0 in the FIFA Women's World Cup here on Saturday, sealing a last-16 place with one round to spare.

Sweden carved out a hard-fought win in the opening match as they turned around South Africa 2-1, while Italy beat Argentina 1-0 thanks to Cristiana Girelli's late winner. Italy were aggressive from the beginning as Sofia Cantore tested Zecira Musovic just under one minute into the game, before Lucia Di Guglielmo hit the side net, but Sweden managed to weather that early siege and built up their advantage soon, a Xinhua report said. The No. 3 in FIFA's ranking broke the deadlock in the 39th minute when Amanda Ilested headed a Jonna Andersson's corner into the net.

Sweden quickly rode the momentum as they added another five minutes later when another Andersson's corner fell for Fridolina Rolfö to find the net.



With the win, Sweden have already secured the berth for next stage, while Italy, South Africa and Argentina all kept their last-16 spot hopes alive.

Sweden will meet Argentina in the third round on next Wednesday, Italy take on South Africa.

RENARD'S LATE WINNER LIFTS FRANCE PAST BRAZIL

Brisbane (Australia):

Captain Wendie Renard scored an 83rd-minute winner to gift France a crucial 2-1 win over Brazil at the FIFA Women's World Cup here on Saturday.

With the win, France temporarily topped Group F with four points, ahead of the later game between Jamaica and Panama in Perth.

In front of a raucous 49,378 crowd at Brisbane Stadium, France entered under pressure after being held to a goalless draw by Jamaica in their opener, while Brazil made an early statement in a 4-0 thrashing of Panama, reports Xinhua. But France boasted six wins from their last seven matches against Brazil.



Manu, Elavenil star as shooters bag three gold medals

World University Games

Chengdu (China): | Agencies

Indian shooters started on a dominant note in the 36th FISU World University Games on Saturday, winning three of the four gold medals on offer thus far on the second day of competitions.

India bagged gold medals in the Women's 10m Air Pistol Team event, Women's 10m Air Pistol (individual) and the women's 10m air rifle events while South Korea claimed the gold medal in the Women's 10m Air Rifle Team event in the event that was declared open on Friday.

On Saturday, judoka Yamini Mourya won a bronze medal in women's 57 kg. Yamini along with Fawaz Najia Roxanne finished behind Mimi Huh of South Korea and Akari



Omori of Japan.

TOPS shooter Manu Bhaker claimed two golds when she led the Women's 10m Air Pistol Team to gold and then claimed gold in the Women's 10m Air Pistol (individual) event. Fellow TOPS shooter Elavenil Valarivan claimed the gold medal in

the Women's 10m Air Rifle event with Mary Tucker of the USA winning silver and Hang Xing of China taking bronze. The Indian team of Abhidnya Patel, Yashaswini Deswal and Manu Bhaker shot an aggregate score of 1714 with 51 inner 10 scores to win the gold in the 10m Air Pistol Team competition.

Abhidnya had a series of 96,96, 95, 91, 94, and 95 while Yashaswini started with a 93 and then shot 97, 97, 98, 97 and 95 in the finals series. Manu too started with 93 and then came up with 97, 97, 94, 94 and 95 as the Indians dominated the proceedings.

China took the silver medal with a score of 1711 (42x) while Iran claimed the bronze medal with a score of 1707 (49x). Yashaswini Deswal and Manu Bhaker made it to the final in the Women's 10m Air Pistol, Yashaswini finished second with a score of 577 with 17 inner 10s out of a possible 600 while Manu was placed seventh in the Qualifying with a score of 570 as Hungary's Sara Fabian topped the stage with 579. Abhidnya, the third Indian in the fray, ended 13th in the qualifying stage with a score of 557.

Afghanistan batter Sediqullah Atal smashes seven sixes in a 48-run over

Kabul Premier League

Kabul | Agencies

The Kabul Premier League witnessed a jaw-dropping feat on Saturday when Afghanistan batter Sediqullah Atal smashed seven sixes in an over (with a no-ball). Atal smashed left-arm spinner Amir Zazai for a whopping 48 runs in the 19th over of his team Shaheen Hunters' innings.

Hunters were on 158 for six when they were to go to the 19th over, with Atal, captaining the side, on 71 off 43 balls. Zazai was coming back to bowl his final over of the



innings after conceding 31 runs and taking a wicket in his three overs. Atal smashed the first ball of the over for a six, which was called a no-ball. Zazai then conceded five wides before Atal smashed another six off a free hit yet

again. He then sent the next five balls for as many maximums to power his team past 200 and also reached his century off just 48 balls in the process. Zazai's figures read as one for 79 in four overs, thanks to him being hit for 48 runs by Atal. Hunters eventually made a massive 213 for six with Atal unbeaten on a 56-ball 118, laced with seven fours and ten sixes. Atal, the left-handed batter has one T20I appearance for Afghanistan, coming against Pakistan in March this year. In reply, Defenders were skittled for 121 in 18.3 overs as Hunters registered a thumping 92-run victory.

River Plate beat Racing 2-1 in season finale



Buenos Aires | Agencies

Lucas Beltran and Paulo Diaz scored either side of halftime as already crowned champions River Plate secured a 2-1 home win over 10-man Racing Club in their final game of the first stage of Argentina's Primera Division.

Beltran gave River the lead in the 23rd minute at the Monumental stadium with a close-range finish after Pablo Solari's cross.

The visitors were reduced to 10 men just before half-time when Gonzalo Piovoli was shown a straight red card for a rash tackle on Beltran. The hosts went further ahead in the 71st minute through Diaz, who headed in after a Nacho Fernandez corner. Jonatan Gomez gave his

side a consolation goal through a stoppage-time free-kick that curled into the top left corner on Friday, Xinhua reported.

The result means that River, who secured the title earlier this month, finished the campaign with 61 points from 27 games, 11 points ahead of second-placed Talleres Cordoba.

Racing are 11th but could drop further down the 28-team standings after the weekend's other fixtures.

Elsewhere on Friday, Estudiantes won 3-2 at Argentinos Juniors, Union Santa Fe eased to a 2-0 home win over Defensa y Justicia, Newell's Old Boys were held to a 1-1 home draw by Talleres Cordoba, and Rosario Central drew 0-0 at Belgrano.

WAWRINKA REACHES SEMIS WITH WIN OVER CARBALLES BAENA

Croatia Open

Umag (Croatia) | Agencies

Stan Wawrinka held his nerve to break his 2023 semi-final duck at the Croatia Open, where the former World No. 3 reached the last four by downing Roberto Carballes Baena 6-4, 7-5, here.

In the pair's second ATP Head to Head clash in the space of 11 days, Wawrinka improved to 2-0 against Carballes Baena by prevailing in a tense quarter-final clash of narrow margins on Friday.

A late break of serve in each set ultimately proved decisive for the sixth-seeded Swiss, who wrapped a one-hour, 44-minute win to reach his first four-level semi-final since Metz in September



2022.

Wawrinka has impressed so far this week on his first appearance in Umag since 2007. He has now won all six sets he has played at the clay-court ATP 250

as he looks to clinch his first four-level title since Geneva in 2017.

His next opponent in Croatia will be Lorenzo Sonego, who defeated Jaume Munar 3-6, 6-1, 6-2.

STEVE SMITH HELPS AUSTRALIA TAKE FIRST-INNINGS LEAD OF 12 RUNS OVER ENGLAND

Ashes 2023, 5th Test

London | Agencies

Gritty half-century from premier batter Steve Smith, along with vital contributions from captain Pat Cummins and off-spinner Todd Murphy helped Australia take a lead of 12 runs against England after being bowled for 295 on day two of fifth Ashes Test at The Oval, here on Friday.

After being 185-7 at one stage, Australia were eventually bowled out for 295 in 103.1 overs on the last ball of a riveting day two' play and managed to take a lead. Smith top-scored with 71 off 123 balls, and was supported by Usman Khawaja (47), Cummins (36) and Murphy (34).

Zak Crawley and Ben Duckett will walk out for the start of

Brief scores

England 283 trail Australia 295 in 103.1 overs (Steve Smith 71, Usman Khawaja 47; Chris Woakes 3-61, Joe Root 2-20) by 12 runs.



England's second innings on day three's play, with the real intrigue over who bats at number three following Moeen

Ali's groin injury which prevented him from bowling on day two.

Resuming day two from 62-1, Khawaja and Marnus Labuschagne resumed proceedings with caution, and were content in playing defensive shots or leaving deliveries. England's pacers, though, made life extremely difficult for Khawaja and especially Labuschagne, with runs hard to come by. The hard work finally paid off, as England finally had a breakthrough in the first session, courtesy of some brilliance from Joe Root in the slips. Labuschagne's knock of nine off 82 deliveries came to an end against the bowling of Mark Wood, with Smith and Khawaja safely negotiating the remainder of a low-scoring session. Post lunch, England began to find wickets in heap as Broad trapped Khawaja lbw on 47, with the opener also burning a review.



Japan fans hail Yash starrer 'KGF'; screams 'Salaam Rocky Bhai'

Team Absolute | New Delhi

With the release of KGF 1 and 2, actor Yash not only ensured a significant place for Kannada films nationwide, but also became one of the most loved superstars with fans in every part of the country.

The 'KGF' movies have turned Yash into the global face of the Kannada movie industry, which was known for occasional hits or arthouse films. His Rocky Bhai beard and patterned suits became the rage after the stupendous success of 'KGF 2'.

The impact for the character was clear from how people across the country were seen recreating Yash's look, style and dialogues.

After a dream run in India, and in many other countries, KGF 1 and 2 were released in Japan on July 14. The film was Yash's first major theatrical release in Japan, and the audience showered their love on Rocky Bhai.

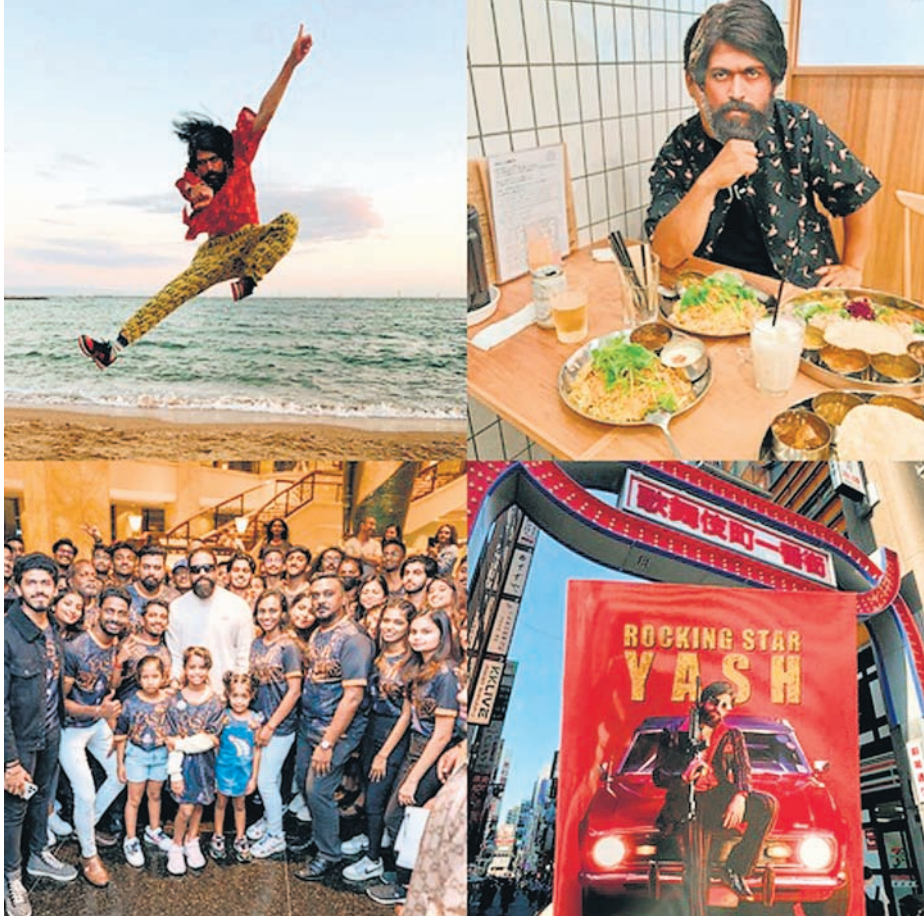
In a video that went viral from one of the houseful shows, the audience in Japan can be seen wearing 'Rocky Bhai' masks, outfits and saying "Salaam Rocky Bhai".

The fans were also spotted across various locations like restaurants, malls and even beaches sporting Rocky Bhai masks.

After witnessing his impressive performance, a large section of the audience in Japan have done a deep dive into Yash's filmography, and have taken to social media raving about his exceptional journey from working backstage in theatre to becoming a global star.

Fans wrote on the social media, "Now Salaam Rocky Bhai in Japan too all because of our Yash boss".

Few days ago, Yash had also visited Malaysia, where he received an unprecedented welcome. Right from the airport, 'Rocking Star' was greeted



with massive hoardings, people wearing outfits with Rocking Star's name and pictures, fan made sketches, paintings and figurines of their beloved Rocky Bhai.

'KGF' is a period action film series set mostly in the Kolar Gold Fields, which gives the series its name, created by Prashanth Neel and produced by Hombale Films.

Song explores complexities of relationships, infidelity, says Sandeepa Dhar

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Known for her roles in movies like 'Kaagaz', 'Heropanti', and a cameo in 'Dabangg 2', actress Sandeepa Dhar, who has now teamed up with Abhishek Bajaj for the track 'Barbaad', said the song explores the transformative power of finding true love in unexpected places.

The track narrates a bittersweet story of two individuals entangled in a web of infidelity and finding true love. As the evocative melodies unfold, the song delves into the raw emotions of betrayal and heartache, which gradually ends with the two

finding love. Accompanied by evocative lyrics and mesmerising melodies, 'Barbaad' promises to transport listeners into a world of pure emotions.

Talking about the song, Sandeepa said: "Barbaad" is a beautiful and evocative song that has made a place in my heart. It explores the complexities of relationships, infidelity, and the transformative power of finding true love in unexpected places."

She further said the song will bring you happiness and sadness all in a span of a few seconds, and will take you on a journey of emotions.

The track is accompanied by a visually striking music video that magnifies the song's emotional impact. The video showcases the intricacies of love, heartbreak, and redemption, underscoring the profound message of the song. Sung by Sakshi Holkar, the lyrics are penned by Kanha Kamboj, and the music is composed by Mandeep Panghal.

Abhishek shared: "The best part of this music video is the story. It gives a beautiful message that if you are with the wrong person you should move on and be

with the one who loves you and be you are. The definition of true love lost in this world,

'Barbaad', is our honest attempt to re-ignite love."

"Barbaad" is a song of betrayal and heartbreak. Betrayal is a cautionary tale that reminds us to be selective about who we trust, how soon we trust, and how much we reveal. It's not wise to go around trusting just anyone," said Sakshi.

KANGANA, HRITHIK TURN BARBIE & KEN IN INDIAN 'BARBIE' TRAILER



Team Absolute | Mumbai

A YouTube channel named The Indian Deepfacer has posted a video of 'Barbie' trailer featuring Kangana Ranaut and Hrithik Roshan as Barbie and Ken.

The video has Kangana and Hrithik's faces over Margot Robbie and Ryan Gosling's Barbie and Ken from the trailer. In the deepfake clip, Kangana fits perfectly as Margot herself, perhaps because they have similar facial structures. She is seen sporting blond hair and pink outfits. Hrithik too is seen sporting blonde hair just like Gosling in the movie.

The caption on YouTube read: "In this thrilling deepfake version of the Barbie trailer, we've seamlessly swapped Bollywood's power duo, Kangana Ranaut and Hrithik Roshan, into the roles of the iconic characters, previously portrayed by Ryan Gosling and Margot Robbie."

"With all permissions and due diligence in place, we've brought together the best of both worlds to create an extraordinary fusion of talent and creativity. Witness the enchanting chemistry of Kangana and Hrithik as they embark on an epic adventure in the Barbie universe."

'Barbie' is a fantasy comedy film directed by Greta Gerwig. Based on the Barbie fashion dolls by Mattel, it is the first live-action Barbie film after numerous computer-animated direct-to-video and streaming television films. The film follows Barbie and Ken on a journey of self-discovery following an existential crisis. It features an ensemble cast that also includes America Ferrera, Kate McKinnon, Issa Rae, Rhea Perlman, and Will Ferrell.

Talking about Kangana and Hrithik, the two have been in a legal battle over defamation. It all started when Kangana called Hrithik a 'silly ex'.

Shilpa Shetty was afraid to shoot the climax of 'Sahasra Veerudu Sagara Kanya'

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Actress Shilpa Shetty recollected the memories of the shoot for her Telugu film 'Sahasra Veerudu Sagara Kanya', where she played the role of a mermaid, and said as she is hydrophobic, she was afraid to shoot the climax. Showcasing a level of determination that belies their age, the 'Surya Archery Academy' takes the art of archery to an all-new level in 'India's Got Talent' season 10, hitting the bull's-eye with astounding accuracy.

Impressed with the young talent, Judge Shilpa Shetty said: "What a unique talent at this age. You are our future Olympians."

Making it a memorable moment for Shilpa, the 'Surya Archery Academy' duo will mention how Shilpa a.k.a. 'Sagar Kanya' is their favourite judge.

Overwhelmed on hearing this, Shilpa said: "It's been around 20-25 years since we shot this film, and the most amazing thing was when the iconic director K Raghavendra Rao offered me the role of a mermaid." "I told him that I don't know how to swim. We filmed the entire movie in Vizag, and I was supposed to shoot the climax in water, which made me afraid since I'm hydrophobic. I don't know how we managed to shoot that, I'm not entirely sure (laughs)," she added.

Judge Badshah also praised the little girls, saying the way the girls have dressed and represented their culture, it's so beautiful.



Sana Makbul says 'I'm an autoimmune hepatitis patient', lost work & gained weight

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Television actress Sana Maqbul has opened up about her battle with hepatitis during the early stages of her career. Sana took to Instagram, where she posted a reel talking about that she was an F3-F4 patient but now she reversed it to F1-F2.

She talked about how her journey till date has been draining emotionally, physically and mentally. "Hi guys! Well, it's July 28, it's World Hepatitis Day and on this day I want to share something which is very personal. Yes, I'm an autoimmune hepatitis patient. I discovered this in 2020," she said.

The actress added: "Till date, the journey has been tough mentally, emotionally, physically. The best part is in 2021 when I went for Khatron Ke Khiladi. I was on medication and I battled it well, even the show, even my health. When I came back from there I was stronger, I felt I could do this and I got this."

She revealed that for the last one year she has been focussing on herself.

Sana said: "It's said that when everything is going well then something happens. I think with me also that happened when my career was taking off and I had to take a pause. I was working non stop but I had to take a seat back and focus on my health. I was deteriorating not physically but internally I was. And I think for the last one and a half years I have been doing that. I have been just focusing on me, myself and my health mentally, emotionally, physically drained."

Sana revealed she lost work, woke up with "puffy face, swollen feet, swollen hands, you have water retention on your body, you gain weight."

"Don't lose hope, keep faith, there's always light at the end of the tunnel. Earlier I used to think, 'Why God, why me?' But as it is said, God always gives his hardest battle to his strongest soldier. So you are strong, stay healthy stay fit and Happy World Hepatitis Day."



INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Soniya