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Heat crisis worsened in big Indian cities

THE CAUSE

- The CSE analysis shows that heat stress results from a deadly combination of air temperature, land surface temperature and relative humidity, which leads to acute thermal discomfort and heat stress in cities.
- The analysis points to a worrying trend in cities - The increasing concretisation and decreases in green cover and water reservoirs. All cities have registered a significant increase in their built-up areas and concretisation, this contributes to the urban heat island effect.
- Concrete absorbs heat during the day but cannot emit infrared heat, causing the heat to be trapped. In rural areas, where relatively more green cover is present, the process of transpiration - Absorption of water by plants and evaporation through leaves and stems, allows water to be released into the atmosphere.



Team Absolute | New Delhi

The temperature in 17 locations across the northwest breached the 48 degrees Celsius mark amid a severe heatwave which is testing human endurance. Delhi's Mungeshpur reported 48.8 degrees on Monday. Meanwhile,

Haryana's Sirsa recorded 48.4 degrees. Meanwhile, the number of heatstroke patients in Rajasthan increased from 2809 to 3622 on Monday. The Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) tracked heat waves in six major cities in India and the dangerous trends contributing to high tem-

peratures. The think tank assessed data from Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Chennai, and Kolkata. Severe heat waves in India have worsened the Urban Heat Island Effect, i.e. when the temperature in urban areas is higher than in rural areas, resulting in a difference. Sharanjeet Kaur, a program officer at the Centre for Science and Environment, told a news channel that high temperature and humidity are crucial to understanding cities' heat stress. "Usually, heatwaves occur between March and July, but nowadays, we are witnessing more humidity than heat, resulting in heat stress. The temperature is relatively high at night. Pavements and concrete structures absorb the heat during the day, which gets trapped, resulting in warmer nights," she said.

TEMPERATURES BREACH 52 DEGREE MARK IN PAK

Sindh, Pakistan: Temperatures rose above 52 degrees Celsius (125.6 degrees Fahrenheit) in Pakistan's southern province of Sindh, the highest reading of the summer and close to the country's record high amid an ongoing heatwave, the met office said on Monday. Extreme temperatures throughout Asia over the past month were made worse most likely as a result of human-driven climate change, a team of international scientists have said. In Mohenjo Daro, a town in Sindh known for archaeological sites that date back to the Indus Valley Civilization built in 2500 BC, temperatures rose as high as 52.2 C (126 F) over the last 24 hours, a senior official of the Pakistan Meteorological Department, Shahid Abbas told Reuters. The reading is the highest of the summer so far, and approached the town's and country's record highs of 53.5 C (128.3 F) and 54 C (129.2 F) respectively.

21 dead, several missing in stone quarry tragedy in Mizoram; heavy rain adds to woes

Aizawl | Agencies

At least 21 people, including two minors, were killed and seven others were missing as a stone quarry collapsed in Mizoram's Aizawl district on Tuesday following incessant rain triggered by Cyclone Remal, officials said.

Meanwhile, in different incidents across the state, at least two people were killed and a few went missing in landslides, which also affected transport and even left Aizawl cut off from the rest of the country.

Disaster management and police officials said that 21 bodies had been recovered so far from the quarry site between Melthum and Hlimen in the Aizawl district while several others are still trapped under the debris following the collapse in the morning.

Disaster management personnel, police and local people continued hectic efforts to rescue the trapped people or recover the bodies. Heavy rain and intense winds were affecting the rescue operations, a disaster management official said, adding that seven of the victims are locals, while the remaining are from outside the state.

A minor boy and a minor girl were among the victims of the stone quarry collapse, while two persons were rescued alive.

Rain-triggered landslides were reported in several other districts, leaving two dead and a few others missing in different places and disrupting the movement of vehicles between the districts.

Aizawl has been cut off from the rest of the country due to multiple landslides on National Highway 6, the lifeline of the mountainous state. Several buildings, houses, roads, and bridges were either damaged or swept away due to landslides and the heavy rain.

Chief Minister Lalduhoma held an emer-



gency meeting with Home Minister K. Sapdanga, Chief Secretary Renu Sharma and other senior officials to review the situation. The government has also ordered all schools to be closed and government employees, except those involved in providing emergency and essential services, to work from home.

The Chief Minister and the Home Minister, accompanied by senior officials, also visited the stone quarry site. Lalduhoma announced a fund of Rs 15 crore to provide relief to the affected people and an ex gratia of Rs 4 lakh each to be given to the kin of those who died in the landslides.

CLIMATE CHANGE CAUSED 26 EXTRA DAYS OF EXTREME HEAT IN 2023: REPORT

Paris, France: The world experienced an average of 26 more days of extreme heat over the last 12 months that would probably not have occurred without climate change, a report said on Tuesday.

Heat is the leading cause of climate-related death and the report further points to the role of global warming in increasing the frequency and intensity of extreme weather around the world.

For this study, scientists used the years 1991 to 2020 to determine what temperatures counted as within the top 10 percent for each country over that period. Next, they looked at the 12

months to May 15, 2024, to establish how many days over that period experienced temperatures within -- or beyond -- the previous range. Then, using peer-reviewed methods, they examined the influence of climate change on each of these excessively hot days.

They concluded that "human-caused climate change added -- on average, across all places in the world -- 26 more days of extreme heat than there would have been without it".

2023 was the hottest year on record, according to the European Union's climate monitor, Copernicus.

MP govt shuts down 66 'unsuitable' nursing colleges

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Madhya Pradesh government has ordered the closure of 66 nursing colleges across the state, three months after the Madhya Pradesh High Court's order over 'irregularities' in affiliation.

The state's medical education department has issued a circular to district administration asking them to comply with the order. The action follows the directives of Chief Minister Mohan Yadav, to take strict action. The state government said that the Madhya Pradesh High Court has declared these colleges



'unsuitable', and subsequently, action for shutting them has been taken. The government, however, has also made it clear that students enrolled with these 66 colleges would not be affected. "Students of these colleges would not be affected. Their exams would be conducted," a statement from the medical education department, read. The development came even as the nursing col-

lege scam case is being heard in the high court. The case is about large-scale irregularities and corruption in nursing colleges. The CBI has been carrying out the investigation. The CBI had submitted its reports (charge sheet) on 308 nursing colleges, while the probe in another 300 nursing colleges was underway. Meanwhile, two officials of Madhya Pradesh Police -- inspectors Sushil Kumar Majoka and Rishikant Asathe, who were earlier attached to the CBI -- were arrested two weeks ago. Their arrest on an alleged bribery charge has raised multiple questions about the authenticity of the probe.

'NA KHAUNGA, NA KHAANE DUNGA' 'SHEHZADE WILL CHECKMATE BJP'

PM Modi warns action to intensify after June 4

Team Absolute | New Delhi

From Barasat in West Bengal to Dumka in Jharkhand, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday vowed to launch a thorough investigation against corrupt leaders once the results of the ongoing Lok Sabha elections are out on June 4. This, he promised, was a "Modi ki guarantee" and an "X-ray so powerful" that it will deter future generations from indulging in corruption.

"Ten years ago, I pledged to eradicate corruption, and I've upheld that promise. Now, I assure the nation that 'na khaunga, na khaane dunga'! The mountains of notes that have been recovered from TMC leaders will be accounted for, every single penny of it. Legal measures are



being implemented to ensure justice," said Prime Minister Modi during the election rally in Barasat.

In Dumka, as he slammed Jharkhand Mukti Morcha and Congress of "looting Jharkhand from all sides", the Prime Minister said that the resource-rich state is now infamous for its mountains of currency notes. "After June 4, action against corrupt leaders will accelerate, and this is the Modi ki guarantee," he said while reiterating his commitment to combating corruption in the country.

Akhilesh, Rahul attack PM at Varanasi rally

Varanasi | Agencies

Congress MP Rahul Gandhi and Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav addressed a joint rally here on Tuesday, saying the BJP

launched a negative campaign but the INDIA bloc would bring 'happy days for the people' once voted to power.

Stating that the Prime Minister is repeatedly addressing him and Rahul Gandhi as 'Shehzade', Akhilesh Yadav said, "This time, the Shehzade will checkmate the BJP".

Addressing the gathering, Rahul Gandhi said that MNRGA wages would be increased to Rs 400 per day while the remuneration for Asha and Anganwadi workers would be doubled if the INDIA bloc is voted to power.

"BJP leaders have attacked the Constitution, saying that they will



change it if they get 400 seats. This is their biggest mistake. This election is between the super-rich and the poor and we are with the poor," the Congress leader said. Akhilesh Yadav, meanwhile, said that the much-awaited defence corridor in Uttar Pradesh has not even produced a 'sutli bomb' till now. "There has been no investment at the ground level. Even the milk plant in Varanasi was sanctioned during my regime," he said, as the two leaders appealed to the people to vote for Ajay Rai, the INDIA bloc nominee in Varanasi from where Prime Minister Narendra Modi is seeking re-election.

Pak "Violated" Lahore agreement signed with India in 1999: Nawaz Sharif

Lahore | Agencies

Former Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on Tuesday admitted that Islamabad had "violated" an agreement with India signed by him and ex-prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee in 1999, in an apparent reference to the Kargil misadventure by Gen Pervez Musharraf.

"On May 28, 1998, Pakistan carried out five nuclear tests. After that Vajpayee Saheb came here and made an agreement with us. But we violated that agreement...it was our fault,"



Sharif told a meeting of the PML-N general council that elected him president of the ruling party six years after he was disqualified by the Supreme Court.

After a historic summit here, Nawaz Sharif and Atal Bihari Vajpayee signed the Lahore Declaration on February 21, 1999.

SWAPPING MEAT WITH VEGGIES, FRUITS CAN LOWER CARBON EMISSIONS BY A QUARTER

For the study, published in the journal Nature Food, the team calculated the projected emissions of annual grocery purchases from 7,000 Australian households using information on ingredients, weights, and production life cycles. The results showed that making switches within the same sub-categories of foods could lead to emission reductions of 26 per cent in Australia, equivalent to taking over 1.9 million cars off the road.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Switching meat with more vegetables and fruits may help reduce the greenhouse gas emissions from household groceries by more than a quarter (26 per cent), according to a new study on Tuesday.

In the study, researchers from the George Institute for Global Health and Imperial College London showed that swapping a frozen meat lasagne for a vegetarian option could push the reduction to as much as 71 per cent. "Dietary habits need to change significantly if we are to meet global emissions targets, particularly in high-income countries like Australia, the UK, and the US," lead author and epidemiologist Dr Allison Gaines said.

However, she lamented that even though many people



"are willing to make more sustainable food choices", they "lack reliable information to identify the more environmentally friendly options".

Dr Gaines stressed the "need to put emissions information onto product labels". Importantly, she said that the swapping may also prove to be healthy and nutritious.

In the study, the team found that meat products led to almost half (49 per cent) of all greenhouse gas emissions, but only 11 per cent of total purchases. Conversely, fruit, vegetables, nuts, and legumes represented one quarter (25 per cent) of all purchases, but were responsible for just 5 per cent of emissions. "We found swapping would lead to a slight reduction in the proportion of ultra-processed foods purchased, which is a positive outcome because they're generally less healthy," Dr Gaines said.



DALIT WOMAN'S HARASSMENT CASE COST 3 LIVES IN A YEAR - INCLUDING HER OWN

Team Absolute | Bhopal

In a stark reminder that tall claims and taller promises during election season fly in the face of ground realities, a Dalit family's fight for justice in a harassment case in Madhya Pradesh's Sagar has claimed three lives in less than a year -- the latest of the complainant.

The woman, now 20, filed a police case in 2019 against four men, alleging that they had harassed, threatened and assaulted her. According to the FIR, the complainant, then 15, was out for ablutions when Azad Thakur, Vishal Thakur, Pushpendra Thakur and Chotu Raikwar verbally abused her. Vishal Thakur, the woman alleged, also slapped her and threatened her against going to the cops. IPC sections relating to criminal intimidation and voluntarily causing hurt were invoked, along with provisions of the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. Coming months before the 2020 Assembly polls in Madhya Pradesh, the case became a subject of heated political exchanges between the ruling BJP and the Opposition Congress.

Then the elections were over, and the accused's families started pressuring the woman to withdraw her complaint. The family refused. In August last year, a mob of hundreds beat the woman's 18-year-old brother to death. The complainant was also assaulted and her mother stripped when she tried to protect her son during the attack. Amid an outrage over the incident, nine people were charged with murder and sections of the stringent SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act were also invoked.



Two people were arrested and another long legal fight began. According to the FIR, the accused included Vikram Thakur, Vijay Thakur, Azad Thakur, Komal Thakur, Lalu Khan, Islam Khan, Golu Soni, Nafis Khan and Waheed Khan.

This Saturday, the woman's uncle, also a witness in the mob murder of her brother, received a call from one Pappu Rajak. Pappu told the woman's uncle that the accused wanted to "settle" the matter. The woman's uncle was asked to retract his testimony. When he refused, both he and Pappu were attacked. The woman's uncle died during treatment, and Pappu's condition is critical.

Following a police complaint by the family, police have registered a murder case against five accused -- Aashiq Qureshi, Bablu Bena, Israel Bena, Faheem Khan and Tantu

Qureshi. One of them have been arrested.

For the family, more was to come. On Sunday evening, the woman who filed the sexual harassment case back in 2019 fell to death from the hearse van carrying her uncle's body. She was bringing the body home, but opened the van's door when they were still 20 km away and jumped, according to some reports.

Lokesh Sinha, Additional Superintendent Of Police, said the woman's uncle had died of injuries he suffered in a clash between two groups. "We have registered a case and the matter is under investigation. Now a woman who was in the hearse van fell and die. All facts would come out during the investigation," he said.

The woman's death has sparked a scathing attack by the Congress on the Mohan Yadav-led BJP govern-

ment over the state's law and order situation. While top Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra targeted the Narendra Modi government over crimes against women, state party leader Digvijaya Singh police didn't act even after the woman alerted them about pressure on the family. State Congress chief Jitu Patwari has demanded a CBI probe. Amid growing outrage, the Chief Minister is set to visit the victim's family.

IS IT A CRIME TO BE A DALIT IN MADHYA PRADESH: CONGRESS

Bhopal: Congress has cornered the Mohan government of the state in the case of murder of a Dalit in Sagar district of Madhya Pradesh and subsequent death of a girl after falling from an ambulance. Congress alleges that being a Dalit has become a crime in Madhya Pradesh. Senior Congress leader and former Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Kamal Nath wrote on X, "Upset with the complaint of molestation by Dalit girl Anjana Ahirwar in village Barodia Nonagir of Sagar district of Madhya Pradesh, goons attacked the girl's brother Nitin Ahirwar in the month of August last year had murdered. The involvement of BJP leaders in the murder came to light. After the murder, constant pressure was being put on the victim's family for a compromise. When the victim's family was not ready to compromise, the victim's uncle Rajendra Ahirwar was also murdered two days ago."

Scorching heat in Madhya Pradesh

The temperature in the state is continuously increasing and has now crossed 47 degrees Celsius. Datia was the hottest in the last 24 hours, where the temperature was recorded at 47.4 degrees Celsius, while the temperature in Guna was 47.02 degrees Celsius.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The effect of heat is continuously increasing in Madhya Pradesh and the temperature has crossed 47 degrees Celsius. Due to increasing heat and heat wave, people's life is being adversely affected.

The heat has shown its strength in the state in the last one week. The heat starts troubling you right from the morning and as the day progresses, the intensity of the sun becomes a problem. Not only this, the heat waves scorch us.

The weather department has predicted that there will be no respite from the heat in the coming days. If the strong sun scorches you, the effect of heat wave will remain. Due to increasing heat, normal life is badly affected. There is silence on the streets in the afternoon and the effect of hot winds continues till night. While the fan's air is dirty, the coolers have also become ineffective. State Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav has appealed to take



precautions to protect the common people from the ongoing heat wave and heat

wave in the state. He has said that at present there is a severe heat wave going on in the state and heat wave is prevalent. Leave the house only when absolutely necessary, provide water from your water sources to the needy people, help those who are in difficulty. Provide water support to plants, animals and birds etc. during this difficult period. This is our sensitive and simple way of staying connected to nature.

- There is intense heat in Madhya Pradesh on Tuesday, the fourth day of Nautapa. The sun had started piercing since morning. By 12 noon the temperature in some districts crossed 41 degrees. The temperature reached 47 degrees in Chhatarpur and Khajuraho in the afternoon. The temperature in Sehore was recorded at 46.8.
- The Meteorological Department has issued a red alert of extreme heat in 12 districts of Gwalior, Chambal, Malwa-Nimar. At the same time, there is orange alert in 19 and yellow alert in 11 districts. In this way, a total of 42 districts will be affected by intense heat. The mercury is expected to cross 48 degrees in Bhind and Datia.
- On Tuesday, the fourth day of Nautapa, the maximum temperature of 47.2 was recorded in Tikamgarh. The heat record of the last 10 years has been broken here. Earlier in 2014, the mercury here had crossed 47 degrees. The temperature in Rewa was recorded at 46

Man kidnapped after dispute, forced to drink urine

Team Absolute | Guna

A group of persons allegedly kidnapped a relative from Madhya Pradesh's Guna district following a dispute and took him to Rajasthan where they forced him to drink urine and paraded him in a woman's clothes, police said on Tuesday.

The accused also allegedly tonsured the man's head and made him wear a garland of shoes, they said.

The incident took place in neighbouring Rajasthan on May 22, but as the man was kidnapped from Guna, an FIR was registered at the Fatehgarh police station here against seven persons late Monday night, Superintendent of Police (SP) Sanjeev Sinha said.

The accused persons had also shot a video of the torture, shared it on social media and demanded Rs 25 lakh from the man, as per a complaint lodged by him.

Fatehgarh police station in-charge Kripal Singh said 10-12 persons allegedly kidnapped the man and took him in a jeep to Jhalawar and Patan in Rajasthan where they beat him up, made him wear a garland of shoes and woman's clothes and forced him to drink urine.

They also shot videos of the inhuman treatment and demanded Rs 25 lakh from him. When police came to know about it, the accused set the man free on the condition that he would pay them Rs 20 lakh within three days, he said. SP Sinha said, "We have

taken cognisance of the incident. The complainant came to me following which I sent him to Fatehgarh police station. He was beaten up in Rajasthan but as the crime of kidnapping him took place here, a case was registered in Guna district in the matter." The FIR was registered against seven persons under various Indian Penal Code sections, including 506 (criminal intimidation), 365 (kidnapping) and 34 (acts done by several persons in furtherance of a common intention), Singh said.

Reacting to the incident, the opposition Congress in a post on X claimed Chief Minister Mohan Yadav was unable to handle the state and his (home) department and demanded his resignation.

CM Mohan Yadav will be NAYAK, flying chopper will land anywhere

Team Absolute | Bhopal

You must remember Anil Kapoor starrer film Nayak. In this, Anil Kapoor i.e. Shivaji Rao becomes the Chief Minister and inspects it with all his might. Action takes place. Corrupt officials-employees are removed from their jobs. Efforts are made to fulfill the demands of the public on the spot itself.

Now it seems as if Madhya Pradesh Chief Dr. Mohan Yadav is also going to become Nayak. After the end of the code of conduct for Lok Sabha elections, the people of the state will get to see the new look of Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav. CM Secretariat is preparing for this on a large scale. CM Dr. Mohan Yadav will suddenly reach anywhere in the state to inspect, wherever negligence is found, strict action will be taken against the concerned officers and employees. Now you must be thinking that how will a CM reach any district at once? Yes, for this helipads are being constructed in all 52 districts of the state.

At present there are helipads at all the district headquarters of the state. Now, in view of the sur-



prise inspection of the CM, a helipad will be built in every three blocks of the state. CM Secretariat has asked the Public Works Department to mark the place. There are plans to build two types of heli-

pads. Therefore, two types of proposals have been invited from PWD. CM Secretariat has asked PWD to prepare proposals for one temporary and the other permanent helipad.

Action taken on illegal sale of meat and fish for the third day

A fine of Rs 41 thousand 350 was collected on Tuesday.



Team Absolute | Bhopal

All the urban bodies of the state are taking daily on-the-spot action against meat and fish vendors who sell meat and fish in the open and violate hygiene rules. On the third day on Tuesday, action was taken against a total of 111 sales centers in all 413 urban bodies including 16 municipal corporations, 99 municipalities and 298 municipal councils of the state. The urban bodies took action against the concerned and also collected a fine of Rs 41 thousand 350.

The maximum fine of Rs 23 thousand

500 was collected by the urban bodies of Bhopal division. Municipal Corporation Bhopal is taking intensive action against the shops selling meat and fish which are being operated against the rules within the limits of the Municipal Corporation. On Tuesday, fine was imposed on 63 shops in different areas of Bhopal city. Similarly, the monitoring team of Municipal Corporation, Indore is also carrying out intensive inspection of various areas of the city on regular basis and the rule that meat and fish should not be sold in the open is being strictly followed.

On Tuesday, 7 kg meat was seized in

Khandwa and 20 kg meat in Sagar from shops operating against rules. Apart from this, legal action was taken against illegal sale of meat and fish on a large scale in all other divisions also.

It is noteworthy that on the instructions of Principal Secretary, Urban Development and Housing Department, Neeraj Mandloi and Departmental Commissioner Bharat Yadav, all the urban bodies are providing daily progress information on Google Sheet by taking action against the illegal sale of meat and fish and those violating the rules. is being updated.

People will join Kshipra Parikrama, Ganga Dashami on 15th and 16th June in Ujjain

Chunari will be offered to the holy Kshipra river

Team

Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav has said that Kshipra Parikrama programs will be held in Ujjain on 15th and 16th June on Navami and Dashami. The yatra will start from Ramghat and will pass through holy places like Dutt Akhara, Triveni, Garh Kalika and Gomti Kund. Chunari will be offered to the holy Kshipra river by the common people. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that a large number of common people would participate in the program, hence it should be ensured that the program is completed with traditional gaiety. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav received information about Kshipra Parikrama and Ganga Dashami program in the meeting held in the Ministry.

Chief Minister Dr. Yadav received information about the nature of the cultural event to be held in Ramghat, Dutt Akhara area on the evening of 16th June. This program will be organized by Maharaja Vikramaditya Research Institute. On this occasion, a special booklet giving information about

the importance of Shipra River and its cultural splendor will also be launched. An audio-video CD focusing on Sadanira will also be launched.

Along with the dignified organization of Shipra Parikrama, Ganga Dashami program, Dr. Yadav also gave instructions to conduct cultural programs, exhibitions and water sports activities on the banks of other major rivers of the state like Narmada, Chambal, Tapti, Son, Sindh and Benganga etc. Given. Along with this, work of cleaning the god places situated on the banks of rivers and sanitizing the temple premises should be done. Dr. Yadav said that for the last twenty years, Kshipra Parikrama and Ganga Dashami are being organized in which the intelligentsia, common citizens and scholars of historical and archeology also participate. It is also a festival symbolizing social harmony. Presentation of bhajans and other cultural programs is its specialty.

By expanding this rich tradition in the entire state, the idea of organizing events on the ghats of other rivers also should be realized with the participation of citizens.

Indore BJYM President and Vice President accused of fraud of Rs 2 crore

Team Absolute | Indore

A businessman from Indore has made serious allegations against Indore BJP Yuva Morcha President Saugata Mishra and Vice President Kapil Goyal and has made a written complaint to the PMO, Chief Minister and Police Commissioner. The businessman has accused the Chairman and Vice Chairman of fraud of Rs 2 crore.

In the complaint, a businessman named Jaysh has written that Rs 2 crore was taken from the property by Yuva Morcha President Saugata Mishra and Vice President Kapil Goyal when

it was required. The accused committed forgery by falsifying the loan sanction letter of another person of PNB Finance Limited. The accused kept threatening the businessman by saying that the government, police administration was in his pocket and the government was his own.

The businessman has accused the businessman of misusing the position of president and vice-president and threatening him. The victim has demanded action against the accused. At present, Indore Police Commissioner is talking about investigation regarding the complaint.



EDITOR'S SPECS

Mamata Banerjee not to attend INDIA bloc's June 1 meeting

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday announced that she will not be able to attend the crucial meeting of the opposition INDIA bloc, convened by Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, in New Delhi on June 1. Banerjee, who is also the Trinamool Congress chief, cited two reasons behind her inability to attend the meeting. "First of all, on June 1, there will be the final and seventh phase of Lok Sabha polls for nine constituencies in West Bengal. Secondly, because of Cyclone Remal, many people have been displaced and are currently residing in temporary shelters. I will have to supervise that as well. These two factors are important for me and hence I will be staying back on June 1," she said while addressing an election meeting in Kolkata Uttar Lok Sabha constituency for party candidate and sitting MP Sudip Bandopadhyay. However, Banerjee did not make it clear whether she would send a representative for the meeting. In her speech at the election meeting, she again launched a scathing attack against both the Congress and the CPI-M. "These two parties have the only aim in West Bengal. That is to benefit the BJP by dividing the opposition votes," she claimed.

BJP adopts 'tough stand' against growing farmers' clamour in Punjab

Vishal Gulati

With clamour growing in Punjab against the BJP nominees in all the 13 Lok Sabha seats in the state over a legal guarantee for minimum support price (MSP), the party seems to have adopted a 'tough stand' on the issue. Besides a BJP delegation led by its state unit chief Sunil Jakhar approaching the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of Punjab to express concerns over the safety of the party candidates during campaigning, BJP nominees like Taranjit Singh Sandhu, the former Indian Ambassador to the US who's making his electoral debut from Amritsar, seem to have adopted a tough posture. "Disheartening to see farmers' groups silent on drug abuse by Punjab's youth, especially in the rural belt, worsening law and order, and Amritsar's sewerage issues while raising slogans against the BJP leaders," Sandhu said on Monday. The former diplomat faced the farmers' ire when he visited the houses of two scheduled caste families to express sympathy and hear their concerns. The farmers assembled there raised slogans against Sandhu, who in turn questioned the protesters if they had ever visited the families that have been impacted by the scourge of drugs. "It is a shameful act on the part of the farmers," added Sandhu, whose vision includes alternatives for agricultural development and sustainability. Punjab has been the epicentre of protests since the beginning of the farmers' agitation in November 2020. The BJP's campaign in Punjab revolves around the overall development of the border state, jobs for the youth, ending the drug menace, a robust law and order system, and the betterment of farmers.



The Sikhs constitute 58 per cent of the total population in Punjab, out of which Jat Sikhs are 20-25 per cent, the largest landowners. Addressing a public gathering in Patiala, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said recently, "Punjab is blessed with five rivers. The farmers here have been turning soil into gold. But these INDI Alliance people lie even to the farmers. They haven't fulfilled a single promise made to the farmers. It is the BJP that prioritises the welfare of farmers. In the past 10 years, there has been record procurement of wheat and rice from Punjab. We have increased the MSP by two-and-a-half times in these 10 years." Meanwhile, the ruling AAP and the Congress, despite being INDIA bloc partners, are fighting against each other in Punjab.

The Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) and the BJP, one of the oldest constituents of the NDA which parted ways over the 2020-21 farm law protests, are contesting the elections solo on all seats. The Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) and the Shiromani Akali Dal (Amritsar), a Sikh hardliner outfit led by Simranjit Mann, have also fielded candidates on their own. Responding to the ongoing farmers' protests, a senior BJP leader told correspondent that the agricultural states, especially Punjab, need more market-driven options that require investments in infrastructure so that the farmers can expand their options to sell and operate in a level-playing field. "The MSP system will remain an integral part of the agricultural economy that includes subsidised

inputs meant to incentivise farmers to adopt new technologies and enhance farm productivity," he said. "Daily protests by the farmers have become a pain in the neck for the common man. We are fed up, it's impacting our business," Balraj Thukral, a trader in Barnala, told correspondent. This month, Barnala witnessed a clash between traders and farmers as the business community observed a day-long shutdown to protest against the frequent 'dik-tats' of farmer unions over 'petty issues'. Besides Sandhu, other BJP candidates, including sitting MP Preneet Kaur from Patiala, former IAS

officer Parampal Kaur from Bathinda, sitting MP Ravneet Singh Bittu from Ludhiana, Hans Raj Hans from Faridkot, and Manjeet Singh Manna from Khadoor Sahib are being facing protests, mainly in the rural areas. Hans Raj Hans was encircled by the farmers when he was enroute Prime Minister Modi's rally in Patiala on May 23. Hans later claimed the farmers told him to speak against PM Modi. "I said I could die for him, but won't speak against the Prime Minister. Even if you take my life, I will not speak ill of my friend," he said. Stating that the BJP is not anti-farmer, state BJP chief Jakhar told IANS that under the Centre's Kisan Credit Card scheme, nearly 22.5 lakh farmers in Punjab received a whopping Rs 56,754 crore in the past 10 years. And under the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme, Rs 4,758 crore was provided and 24.50 soil health cards were made in Punjab, he said. Hitting out at the Bhagwant Mann-led AAP government, he said Punjab is reeling under a collapse in leadership that is responsible for the state's ignominy with kangaroo courts taking roots here. To recall, in the 2019 general elections, the BJP's vote share in Punjab was just 9.63 per cent. Riding on the Ram Temple wave, the BJP this time aims to notably add to its vote share by banking largely on the urban Hindu vote bank, which constitutes 38.49 per cent of the state's population with a sizeable influence in 34 Assembly segments. The 13 Lok Sabha seats in the state will go to the polls in the seventh and final phase on June 1. The results will be out on June 4.

international

NIKKI HALEY BLAMES IRAN, CHINA & RUSSIA FOR OCT 7 HAMAS ATTACK IN ISRAEL

Tel Aviv | Agencies

Republican party leader and former US envoy to the United Nations, Nikki Haley has blamed Iran, China and Russia for the October 7 attack in southern Israel in which 1,200 people were brutally killed and 250 taken as hostages by the Hamas terror organisation. The top US leader, who is on a tour of Israel, in a statement on Monday said that Iran orchestrated the attack with the support of Russian intelligence and China funded the entire operation. Haley said that Russians provided the intelligence on the locations and China has been funding Iran. Nikki Haley in the statement said, "They are all murderers and accomplices. If we really mean it is not going to happen again, we have to be honest and truthful to ourselves about who did this." She also said, "if America became complacent and arrogant the same thing would happen in the US also". Nikki Haley, however, did not present any proof of the involvement of the



superpowers China and Russia. However, it may be recalled that the Russian president, Vladimir Putin had hosted Hamas leaders in Moscow after the October 7 massacre. Hamas leaders Moosa Abu Marzouk, head of Hamas' International Relations Office, and Basem Naim, former health minister of Hamas. The Russian deputy foreign minister, Mikhail Bogdanov had met the visiting Hamas leaders along with Iran deputy foreign minister, Ali Bagheri Kani. The Republican leader, who is likely to become the running mate to the party's Presidential candidate, Donald Trump, visited the southern Israel region. She also visited the Sderot police station that was destroyed in the October 7 massacre of Hamas.

RUSSIA SAYS NATO CONDUCTING NUCLEAR STRIKE DRILLS NEAR ITS BORDER

Moscow: NATO is practicing nuclear strikes against Russia, Army General Vladimir Kulishov, first deputy director of Russia's Federal Security Service and head of the Border Service, said on Tuesday. "Near the Russian border, NATO reconnaissance activity is increasing, and the intensity of operational combat training of the alliance's troops is increasing, during which scenarios for conducting combat operations against the Russian Federation are being practiced, including launching nuclear strikes on our territory," he said in an interview with Russia's RIA Novosti. "All this requires us to take adequate measures to protect and secure our borders," Kulishov said as quoted by Xinhua news agency report. The Russian military earlier launched military drills involving tactical nuclear weapons as a "response to provocative statements and threats of individual Western officials against the Russian Federation," according to the Defence Ministry.

N. KOREA SAYS MILITARY RECONNAISSANCE SATELLITE LAUNCH ENDS IN FAILURE

Seoul | Agencies

North Korea said on Tuesday that its latest attempt to launch a new rocket carrying a military reconnaissance satellite ended in failure due to the midair explosion of the rocket during the first-stage flight this week. Vice General Director of North Korea's National Aerospace Technology Administration (NATA) said that the rocket carrying the satellite, the Malligyong-1-1, exploded after it lifted off from the Sohae Satellite Launching Ground on the country's northwest coast on Monday, Yonhap news agency reported, citing the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA). The launch came just hours after South



Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and Chinese Premier Li Qiang held a trilateral summit in Seoul and reaffirmed their commitment to promote peace on the Korean Peninsula. "The launch failed due to the air blast of the new-type satellite carrier rocket during the first-stage flight," the KCNA reported, citing the NATA official. A preliminary examination by experts from the North's launch preparatory committee concluded that the "accident" was attributable to the operational reliability of a new "liquid oxygen plus petroleum" engine, the official said. The other causes of the failure will also be examined, according to the KCNA.

Netanyahu calls civilian deaths in Rafah a 'tragic mishap'

Tel Aviv | Amid growing international condemnation, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said that the strike which killed scores of displaced Palestinians in Rafah on Sunday was a "tragic mishap".



At least 45 people were killed and hundreds of others injured in the Israeli strike, according to the Hamas-run health ministry. Speaking in the Israeli parliament on Monday, Netanyahu said it was vital that Israel took "every precaution possible" to protect civilians caught up in the fighting in Gaza, the BBC reported. But he insisted the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) used their "best efforts not to harm those uninvolved" in the conflict and vowed to keep fighting against Hamas. "I don't intend to end the war before every goal has been achieved," Netanyahu said during his address. "In Rafah, we already evacuated about one million non-combatant residents and despite our utmost effort not to harm non-combatants, something unfortunately went tragically wrong," he said, adding "We are investigating the incident".

SPAIN OFFICIALLY RECOGNISES PALESTINIAN STATEHOOD TO 'ADVANCE PEACE'

Madrid | Agencies

Spain's left-wing government formally announced the recognition of a Palestinian state on Tuesday, after the decision was made, along with Norway and Ireland last week. "This is a historic decision that has a single goal -- to help the Israelis and the Palestinians achieve peace," Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez said in a statement outside his official residence, Moncloa Palace, in Madrid. Sanchez spoke before the government's Council of Ministers gave its official approval. In view of the debate on the question of the borders of the state of Palestine, the Prime Minister said that it was not for Spain to "define the borders of



other countries". The Socialist leader said the state of Palestine "must first and foremost be viable". He also said, "The West Bank and the Gaza Strip must be connected by a corridor, with East Jerusalem as its capital and united under the legitimate government of the Palestinian Authority." Sanchez added that his government's decision was not directed against Israel, which he called "a friendly nation that we respect, that we value and with which we want to have the best possible relations". He said his government is opposed to the Palestinian Islamist group Hamas and strongly condemns the attacks the militants launched on Israel on October 7. However, recognition is "the only way to a two-state solution".

Thousands evacuated from still-active landslide in Papua New Guinea

Sydney | Agencies

Thousands of residents are being evacuated from the still-active massive landslide in Papua New Guinea's remote Enga province on Tuesday after parts of a mountain collapsed, burying over 2,000 people. Nearly 8,000 people have been told to be on standby for evacuation from the landslide-prone area, Radio New Zealand Pacific reported on Tuesday. Enga provincial disaster committee chairperson and provincial administrator Sandis Tsaka said some were already being evacuated, but the number was unclear. The Papua New Guinea National Disaster Center has confirmed that more than 2,000 people were buried alive after the massive landslide occurred early Friday in Enga province, Xinhua news agency reported. Serhan Aktoprak, chief of mission for the International Organization for



Migration in the Pacific island country, told Xinhua that the UN migration agency received the statement on Monday. According to the statement issued by the centre's acting director, Luseto Laso Mana, the disaster also caused major destruction to buildings and food gardens and led to a major impact on the economic lifeline of the country.



IIT BOMBAY, TCS TO DEVELOP INDIA'S 1ST QUANTUM DIAMOND MICROCHIP IMAGER

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay on Tuesday announced a strategic partnership with IT services major Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) to develop India's first Quantum Diamond microchip imager -- an advanced sensing tool to test the quality of semiconductor chips.

The new sensing tool, to be built at IIT Bombay PQuest Lab by experts from TCS in the next two years, will help reduce chances of chip failures and improve efficiency of electronic devices.

It will enable better quality control of semiconductor chips, thereby improving product reliability, safety, and energy efficiency of electrical devices.

SBICAP Ventures invests in climate-tech firm Solinas to boost sanitation efforts

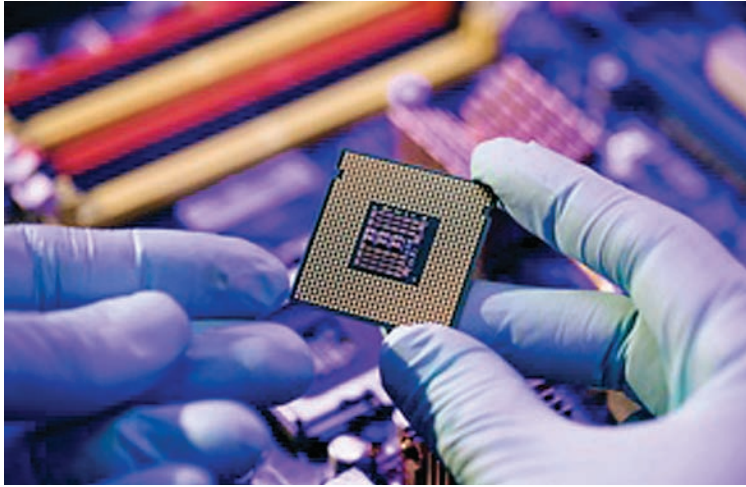
Team Absolute | Mumbai

Asset manager SBICAP Ventures Ltd on Tuesday announced investment in climate-tech company Solinas, which provides robotic and AI solutions for the water and sanitation industry, but did not disclose the sum.

The investment was made via the Neev II Fund, managed by SBICAP Ventures which is a State Bank of India (SBI) group company.

Established in 2018, Solinas provides solutions with a focus on detecting defects and leakages in water and sewer pipelines, assessing their condition, and eliminating manual scavenging through mechanised cleaning of manholes and septic tanks. "This aligns with the country's vision of providing clean water and sanitation to every household. Our support for this transformative initiative, through Neev II Fund, also aims to empower the sanitation workers in India," said Suresh Kozhikote, MD and CEO, SBICAP Ventures.

Solinas has three major products under its portfolio with multiple patents -



innovation. By working together, we aim to transform various sectors, including electronics and healthcare, and propel India forward through groundbreaking technologies and products," said Dr. Kasturi Saha, Associate Professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering,

IIT Bombay. The collaboration between TCS and IIT Bombay is aligned with the National Quantum Mission -- an initiative by the government to position the nation as a global quantum technology leader. An indigenous Quantum Diamond

microchip imager that integrates quantum diamond microscopy with AI/ML-powered software imaging will help India leap ahead in the quantum revolution.

"The Second Quantum revolution is progressing at an unprecedented speed, making it imperative to pool our resources and expertise to build cutting-edge capabilities in sensing, computing, and communication technologies," said Harrick Vin, Chief Technology Officer, TCS.

As semiconductors continue to shrink in size, traditional sensing methods lack the precision and capabilities to detect anomalies in the chips. The Quantum Diamond microchip imager uses the defects in a diamond's structure, known as Nitrogen-Vacancy (NV) centres, together with the other hardware and software for detecting and characterising anomalies in semiconductor chips. It will have wide applications in microelectronics, biological, and geological imaging, and fine-scale imaging of magnetic fields, among others.

Six youths hurt in Mumbai's Dharavi slum fire

Team Absolute | Mumbai

At least six persons were hurt in a major fire that broke out in a slum tenement in Mumbai's Dharavi on Tuesday, Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) Disaster Control officials said.

The fire was noticed around 3.50 a.m. when the occupants of the structure in Ashok Mills Compound were fast asleep. The fire was confined to the electrical wiring and fittings, garment stocks, some machinery and office records in the ground-plus-3 and ground-plus-4 storied commercial structures.

A Mumbai Fire Brigade team rushed to the spot in minutes and after a four-hour-long battle, managed to douse the flames. The injured victims were



rushed to the BMC's Sion Hospital nearby.

They are Salman Khan, 26, Manoj, 25 - both with 8-10 percent burns, Amjad, 22 and Sallauddin, 28, and Saidul Rehman, 26, all with

35-50 percent burns. One victim Rafiq Ahmed, 26, who suffered some hand injuries, was treated and discharged, and the cause of the conflagration is being probed.

Pune Porsche crash: Special probe panel reaches Sassoon Hospital

Team Absolute | Pune

Taking a grim view of the blood sample change of the prime accused in the Porsche crash in a government hospital, the state administration has appointed a 3-member special panel to probe the matter and submit its report, officials said here on Tuesday.

The probe panel is headed by Dr Pallavi Saple, Head of Sir J. J. Hospital in Mumbai; Dr Gajanan Chauhan of Grant Medical College in Mumbai; and Dr Sudhir Choudhary of Government Medical College & Hospital in Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar.

The special panel members have reached the Sassoon Hospital here to quiz the Dean and other officials in the wake of the shocking revelations that some medicos and staffers had tampered with the blood samples of the minor accused in the Porsche crash that killed two techies.

When questioned, Dr Saple told media persons that the panel would inquire into all aspects and submit its report to the government, though she did not indicate a time frame.

After the sensational revelations, Commissioner of Police Amitesh Kumar had told media persons that



the 17-year-old boy's blood sample was thrown in the dustbin, and replaced with the blood sample of another person in a bid to save the minor accused.

The two Sassoon Hospital medicos -- Head of Forensics Dr Ajay Taware and Blood Bank's Dr Shrihari Halnor,

besides a peon Atul Ghatkamble -- have been arrested and remanded to police custody till May 30.

Shiv Sena (UBT) Deputy Leader Sushma Andhare has slammed the state government's probe panel saying that the chairperson Dr Pallavi Saple is herself "buried in a cloud of

corruption", and she must be removed.

"She is facing many corruption charges... The allegations were levelled by MahaYuti's Shiv Sena MLA Yamini Jadhav (of Chief Minister Eknath Shinde). The government must answer what action has been taken against her," demanded Andhare. Shiv Sena-UBT's Leader of Opposition (Council) Ambadas Danve said that the probe panel is not acceptable and reiterated the demand for a judicial probe into the Porsche crash, the subsequent investigations and the hospital irregularities that have emerged.

Asked about the charges against her, Dr Saple declined comments saying that she has been appointed by the government. After the stunning revelations, the state-appointed probe panel to investigate the set of circumstances leading to the tampering with the samples and blood test reports. Kumar said that Dr Taware was in contact with the arrested builder Vishal S. Agarwal (father of the minor accused) on WhatsApp.

The ongoing Crime Branch probe has thrown up a money trail involving at least two of the accused, and the name of another hospital staffer has also cropped up.

MLA's Son Involved In Pune Porsche Crash, Legislator Spoke To Cops: Congress

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Turning up the political heat over the Pune accident, in which a 17-year-old rammed his Porsche into a bike, killing two techies in their 20s, the Congress has alleged that the son of an MLA was also involved in the accident and the legislator took part in the cover-up.

The allegations by Maharashtra Congress chief Nana Patole came in the wake of claims that doctors at the Sassoon Hospital were paid Rs 3 lakh to replace the teenager's blood samples so that they would not show traces of alcohol.

Addressing a press conference on Tuesday, Mr Patole hit out at the ruling BJP-Shiv Sena (Eknath Shinde faction)-NCP (Ajit Pawar faction) government in the state and said there is a nexus between the police, politicians and the rich and influential people in the state. The teenager who was driving the Rs 2.5-crore Porsche is the son of a prominent Pune realtor. Demanding the resignation of Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy Chief Ministers Devendra Fadnavis and Ajit Pawar, the state Congress chief said an MLA's son was involved in



the accident and the legislator was in touch with the police after the crash and also spoke to the doctors and asked them to change the blood sample. The teenager had been out drinking with his friends in two pubs in Pune and two minors were with him when the crash occurred. Mr Patole has demanded that some details about them be revealed, even if their names cannot, so that people can know if they had any connections to politicians or other influential people. While the Congress leader did not name the legislator, there have been reports of Sunil Tingre - the NCP (Ajit Pawar faction) MLA from

Vadgaonsheri - having visited the Yerwada police station, where the teenager was taken after the accident, in the early hours of May 19.

The police have admitted to delays in taking the teenager's blood samples and two officers of the Yerwada police station were also suspended for "not following protocol". The case has been transferred to the Pune Police Crime Branch, but Patole has demanded a CBI probe into the incident. Fadnavis has said there will be a crackdown on drink driving across Maharashtra and state BJP Spokesperson Asif Bhamla asserted on Tuesday that the opposition is attacking the government only because it needs an issue to talk about.

"If the doctors have done some sort of manipulation or there has been any wrongdoing, none of them will be spared. Their licences will also be cancelled. But you can't blame the government for their wrongdoing. The government is doing its job," he said. "If an MLA visited the police station, how do you know there was a mala fide intention? If an MLA knows someone personally, he can go and visit them, but that does not mean he is putting pressure on the police and doctors," Bhamla added.

Truck runs over 2 engineering students in Pune, driver tries to run, caught

Team Absolute | Pune

Two engineering students riding a motorbike were killed after a truck ran them over in Maharashtra's Pune city, police said.

The driver of the truck, after hitting the motorbike on Monday night, did not stop and tried to run away but was caught some distance away and arrested, they said.

The incident took place at around 10:30 pm on Monday in Chandan Nagar area on Pune-Ahmednagar road when three students, in their early 20s and studying at an engineering college, were on way to the Pune railway station, the police said.

Two of them were to go to their hometown Latur in Maharashtra.



"While they were on their way, the truck hit their motorbike from the back. A youth died on the spot, while another succumbed to injuries in a hospital," Vimaltal police station's inspector Anand Khobre said. "After the accident, the truck driver did not stop and tried to escape, but was stopped by police and locals about 300 metres away," the official said.

The truck driver was arrested and charged under Indian Penal Code section 304 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder) and other relevant sections, the police said, adding that an investigation was on into the case. On May 19, a Porsche car driven by a 17-year-old boy knocked down a motorbike in Kalyani Nagar area in Pune, killing two IT professionals.

LAWYER, SON KILL RETIRED AIR FORCE PERSONNEL IN NAGPUR, ARRESTED: COPS

Nagpur: The police in Nagpur have arrested a lawyer and his son for allegedly killing a former Indian Air Force serviceman during an argument, an official said on Monday.

Victim Harish Diwakar Karade (60) frequently interacted with accused lawyer Ashwin Madhukar Wasnik (56) and his son Avishkar Ashwin Wasnik (23). On Sunday night, Harish visited the lawyer's home in the city's HUDCO Colony. During the visit, Harish got into an argument with the lawyer and son, the official said.

Ashwin and Avishkar then attacked Harish with an axe, pipe and knife, killing him, the official said.

The police arrested the father-son duo on a complaint by Harish's wife. A court on Monday remanded the two in police custody till May 29.

WHAT COPS SAID ON VD SAVARKAR DEFAMATION CASE AGAINST RAHUL GANDHI?

Team Absolute | Pune

The Pune Police on Monday submitted its enquiry report in a court stating there is prima facie truth in the complaint filed against Rahul Gandhi by VD Savarkar's grand nephew who had accused the Congress leader of defaming the Hindutva ideology in a speech made in London in 2023.

The report was submitted in the court of judicial magistrate (first class) Akshi Jain, said advocate Sangram Kolhatkar, who represents Satyaki Ashok Savarkar, the complainant.

Sangram Kolhatkar said the court may issue a notice to Rahul Gandhi seeking his appearance.

Satyaki Savarkar had said his lawyers moved the city court with a complaint under sections 499 and 500 of the Indian Penal Code last April. The court had asked the Vishrambaug police to verify the proof submitted by Satyaki and submit a report by May 27.

"Vishrambaug police stated that Satyaki Savarkar had filed a complaint in the court last April accusing Congress leader Rahul Gandhi of making false claims about the late revolutionary (VD Savarkar) in a speech made in London in March 2023," said Kolhatkar.

As per the complaint, Rahul Gandhi claimed in his speech that



VD Savarkar had written in a book that he and five to six of his friends once beat up a Muslim man and he (Savarkar) felt happy. Satyaki Savarkar had said that no such incident had ever taken place, and VD Savarkar never wrote any such thing anywhere, the complaint stated, terming Rahul Gandhi's allegation as fictitious, false and malicious.

"The Vishrambaug police submitted a report today before the court and told the court that in their probe, it has been revealed that V D Savarkar had not written about such incident in any of his books but despite that Gandhi made that kind of remarks during his speech in London in March 2023 and defamed Savarkar," said Kolhatkar.

Police stated that prima facie there is a truth in the complaint filed by Satyaki Savarkar that Rahul Gandhi had defamed VD Savarkar in his speech.

When contacted Tukaram Nimbalkar, assistant police inspector, confirmed that the report had been submitted in the court.

Notably, a metropolitan court in Surat last March convicted Rahul Gandhi of criminal defamation for his 2019 remark, "How come all thieves have Modi as the common surname?", and sentenced him to two years in jail. Subsequently, the sessions court granted him bail on April 3. The Supreme Court in August stayed his conviction in the defamation case.



Kourtney Kardashian

OPENS UP ON HER ATTEMPTS TO HAVE A BABY



Los Angeles | Agencies

Kourtney Kardashian has opened up about her struggles with IVE, revealing that she endured five "failed IVE cycles" before giving birth to her baby boy.

During a recent Q&A session with her fans on Instagram, Kourtney spoke about her challenges on the social media platform, reports 'Female First UK'.

Kourtney, who has a six-month-old son, Rocky, with her husband Travis Barker, shared on Instagram, "I stopped after a year of trying (5 failed IVE cycles, 3 retrievals). My body relaxed, and I believed in God's plan for my life. Lots of prayers for whatever was meant to be for us. Also, lots of optimising my health. (Prayer and heart emoji) I know how hard it is to feel like you're not trying, but believing in God's plan and saying your prayers is so powerful."

As per 'Female First UK', Kourtney

had to undergo emergency foetal surgery before giving birth to her youngest son in 2023.

The brunette beauty, who also has Mason, 14, Penelope, 11, and Reign, 9, with Scott Disick, wrote on Instagram at the time, "I will be forever grateful to my incredible doctors for saving our baby's life. I am eternally grateful to my husband, who rushed to my side from the tour to be with me in the hospital and take care of me afterward, my rock. And to my mom, thank you for holding my hand through

this." "As someone who has had three really easy pregnancies in the past, I wasn't prepared for the fear of rushing into urgent foetal surgery. I don't think anyone who hasn't been through a similar situation can begin to understand that feeling of fear. I have a whole new understanding and respect for the mamas who have had to fight for their babies while pregnant. Praise be to God. Walking out of the hospital with my baby boy in my tummy and safe was the truest blessing," she added.



MY JEWELRY WAS STOLEN...IT'S HARD TO BUY NEW : BRITNEY SPEARS

Los Angeles | Agencies

Britney Spears revealed on social media that all her jewelry was stolen from her home on Sunday, May 26. "So you can see for real all my jewelry was stolen...it's hard to buy new because I'm scared it will go missing. So I buy it cheap and fake, but it's hard because some of my pieces were originally made for me... and my baby cross that I wore since I was 4 is gone... it's so thin," the 42-year-old singer said in an Instagram video.

The "Toxic" singer documented her evidence, opening all the drawers showcasing a jewelry box with very few accessories inside. "I'll show you guys, for real, all my jewelry was stolen," she said. "It's all gone...All my jewelry is gone."

The pop star also went on to disclose via a separate Instagram Post that she was recuperating from a two-month-old cold. "I've been sick for two months with a stupid cold...I had it before Mexico and I'm very nasally and congested in my nose, it sucks. It went away when I first got back home, but came back yesterday...I got a Z-pak and I'm hoping it goes away. I constantly feel a little tired like I want to go to sleep, and things are fuzzy," expressed the American singer.



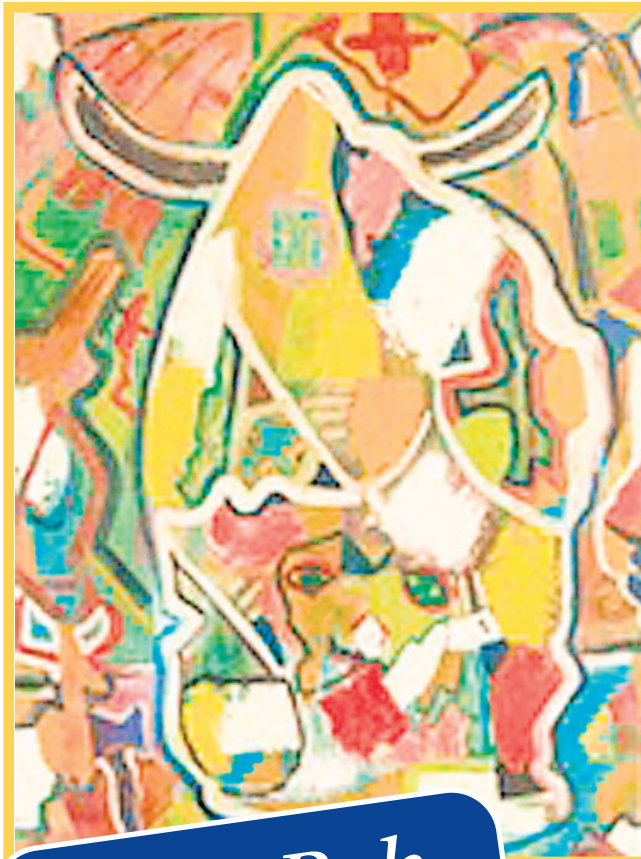
JEREMY RENNER RECOLLECTS BEING TOLD HE WOULD NEVER BE ABLE TO RUN AGAIN

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Jeremy Renner has faced significant challenges following his snow-plough accident. After the near-fatal incident, medical professionals told the actor that he wouldn't be able to run again. The actor was seriously injured in the accident in January 2023, but Jeremy has managed to defy expectations by learning to walk and run again, reports 'Female First UK'. Jeremy told 'People' magazine: "For me, it meant so much because to go from a wheelchair and limping around with the cane and (being) told you're never going to walk right again and you're never going to run again, it was pretty hopeful for me. It gave me an ally." The actor recalled feeling hugely encouraged by his early progress. Jeremy said, quoted by 'Female First UK', "You got something on your side. When you get hope, hope is a powerful ally. A lot of things help us build hope, and progress helps us build hope. That's the easy one."

"Failures don't feel like they do, but they also really fuel hope because you could get progress out of failures. You can't really keep progressing without failing. You got to have both. You have to fail to succeed," he added.

Jeremy was injured when he tried to remove a stranded family member's car from the snow near his home.



Rare Bob Dylan painting fetches nearly \$200K at art auction

Los Angeles | Agencies

Arare abstract painting created by legendary singer Bob Dylan over 50 years ago recently sold for a huge sum.

The artwork from circa 1968 by the rock icon sold for \$196,156 at auction, reports 'People' magazine.

The painting was created during the musician's time in Woodstock, New York, a period that saw him collaborate with The Band.

As per 'People', these recordings were later released on 'The Basement Tapes' in 1975 and 'The Bootleg Series Vol. 11: The Basement Tapes Complete' in 2014.

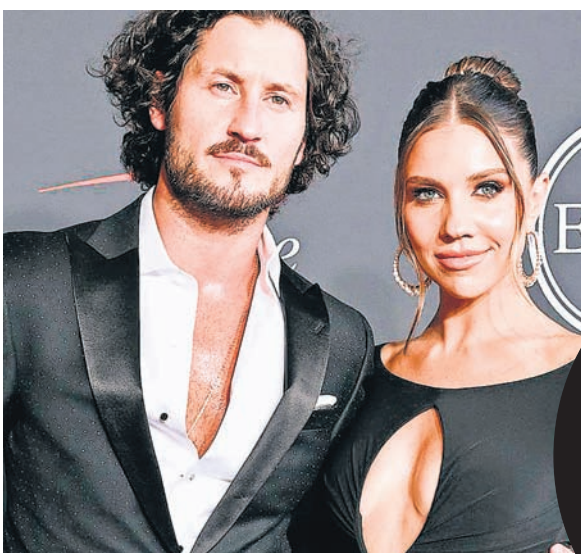
RR Auction described the painting on its website as a "colourful and energetic abstract composition featuring the large central outline of a bull. The canvas is filled in with captivating abstract shapes and patterns

combined with recognisable imagery, including music notes, bow ties, animals, and segmented features. At the top is the red outline of a man in a brimmed hat mirroring his own style during his Woodstock days."

As per the auction house, Dylan offered the painting to Woodstock-area resident Sandy LePanto in exchange for an astrology chart, noting that the painting had been in her family until it was recently rediscovered in her former husband, Anthony Lepanto's estate.

"Sandy was not only one of the most beautiful women in Woodstock at a time when there were many; she was a mystic, a channeler, a reader of stars, and a maker of astrology charts for her friends," wrote Anne Margaret Daniel, as per the auction's description. "Mythologies fascinated her, and she read broadly and deeply in the legends of many cultures...Dylan gave Sandy a painting in exchange for the charts and readings she'd done for him."

Beyond his legendary music, Dylan is also known for his artwork, which has been exhibited. One of his paintings graced the cover of The Band's 1968 debut album, 'Music from Big Pink.' His artwork was also used for his 1970 double album 'Self-Portrait'.



Los Angeles | Agencies

Jenna Johnson and Val Chmerkovskiy are married colleagues, but their job pits them against each other every season. As fellow Dancing With the Stars pros, the

Jenna Johnson Explains How She 'Uses' Husband Val to Her 'Advantage'

spouses compete on the show. However, Jenna, 30, sees the competition as a way to "use" Val, 38, to her "advantage" because they support one another, she told during an interview while promoting her partnership with Exuviance.

When it comes to vying for the Mirrorball Trophy against her husband, Jenna explained that she and Val don't see each other as an opponent.

"And it's actually quite the opposite; I use him to my advantage. I mean, we're a team," Jenna said, before elaborating. "If it's his win, it's my win, essentially. You know, the trophy's coming home to our home. But no, I love being able to have this partner in crime on the show. He's my biggest cheerleader. I feel like I'm his biggest cheerleader."

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Alesha Dixon



Rohit Shetty cheers for 'new Kashmir' after abrogation of Article 370

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Director Rohit Shetty shared a video on Tuesday showcasing his experience of shooting in Kashmir and highlighting the transformation the region has undergone since the abrogation of Article 370.

The director, who wrapped up the Kashmir schedule of his upcoming film 'Singham Again', shared the video showing how Kashmir has experienced a huge shift towards peace following the abrogation of Article 370.

In the caption, Rohit wrote: "@narendramodi @hmoindia Had the most amazing and emotional schedule. Thank you for the tremendous love, Kashmir."

The video narrates the story of Kashmir's transformation, as the text in the video reads, "We always had a paradise in our motherland called Kashmir. But once there was terrorism, unrest, curfews, and no



social life, and then Article 370 was abolished. Five years later, we landed up filming 'Singham Again', and now the New Kashmir. Happiness, young energy, tourism, peace, love, naye bharat ka naya kashmir."

Article 370 of the Indian Constitution, which granted special status to Jammu and Kashmir, was abrogated on August 5, 2019.

After its abrogation, the Parliament of India passed the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, resulting in the reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir into two union territories - Jammu and Kashmir in the west and Ladakh in the east.

The video showcases several iconic spots in Kashmir, including the Dal Lake.

It shows how Kashmir, the "paradise", once witnessed terrorism, unrest, and curfews, but now peace and happiness prevail in the Valley with a boost in tourism.

The video also features Bollywood superstar Ajay Devgn, who portrays the titular role of Singham in the film, along with Jackie Shroff.



I love watching Cricket with my friends and family
: Kartik Aaryan

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood star Kartik Aaryan, who is awaiting the release of his upcoming sports drama film, is also keeping track of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024.

The actor is an avid cricket enthusiast, and like most Indians, Kartik too falls back on a bit of superstition.

The actor said that during the critical moments in a thrilling contest, he sticks to just one place and doesn't move around.

Speaking on his love for cricket and the superstitions that come with it, Kartik said: "Cricket toh sabhi ka favourite hai. (Cricket is everyone's favourite). I love watching it with my friends and family. Mein ek jagah bas baith ke match dekhta hoon (I sit at one place), and I don't like moving."

He further mentioned that now, he has even made his pet dog Katori to follow this superstition.

"I don't even let my Katori move and trust me, that is a task. Cricket is a religion and feeling alag hi aati hai jab sab saath baith ke dekh rahe ho (It's a different feeling altogether to watch the match with everyone). If I am busy then of course I watch it on the go," he added.

The ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 is set to start from June 2. The championship will be co-hosted by the West Indies and the USA. Team India's hopes are high from the tournament after losing the ODI World Cup 2023 to Australia in the finals after a dream run of unbeaten streak.

Iulia Vantur to perform alongside American hitmaker Jason Derulo

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress-singer Iulia Vantur is set to perform alongside international stars Jason Derulo and Shae Gill in Dubai next month.

The actress said that she had always dreamed of performing at the Coca-Cola Arena.

Iulia will be performing at the Earth Soul Festival at the Coca-Cola Arena on June 15 in Dubai.

The actress said: "I remember I went for AP Dhillon's rehearsals at the Coca-Cola Arena in Dubai, and when I left from there, I wrote in the air, on the arena, 'One day I will perform here, signed Iulia Vantur'. My good friends witnessed this, and sooner than expected, I received a call saying, 'See, it's happening'. The power of intention, when you love what you do and believe in yourself."

Iulia shared that the show will be special because it is the first eco-conscious festival in Dubai.

"It has a strong purpose, and the 'Jalebi Baby' hitmaker Jason Derulo, an extraordinary international artist, will also perform there. I'm really excited about this, it will be a fun night with a purpose," she added.



JANHVI KAPOOR TALKS ABOUT HER VIRAL DANCE WITH RIHANNA

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood's Gen-Z diva Janhvi Kapoor shared details about her viral video dancing to the track 'Zingaat' alongside global pop star Rihanna.

Janhvi appeared on the new episode of 'The Great Indian Kapil Show', along with her 'Mr. and Mrs. Mahi' co-star Rajkumar Rao.

The show is hosted by comedian Kapil Sharma.

During the conversation, Janhvi opened up about her dance video with Rihanna when the two attended an event in March in Mumbai.

Janhvi shared: "I had an amazing interaction with Rihanna. After her performance, she came down to meet and mingle with all of us. We all excitedly shouted when she came down, 'Rihanna! Rihanna!' and then she pointed at me and started walking towards me. I was scared that I might have done

something wrong, but she completely surprised me."

"Rihanna said to me,

'I see your Instagram all the time'. And I was so surprised, I went, 'Me??' She then told me that she thought I was so hot and that she loved the way I did my wave, literally imitating my wave to me... I was like, 'What is happening here??' After that, I was ready to go home, because how could anything else that could happen after, possibly top this moment in my life," shared Janhvi, who was last seen in the movie 'Bawaal'.

The actress further shared how the viral video of them dancing to 'Zingaat' came to be.

"My friends insisted that I should at least get a picture, and just as I was asking for a selfie, 'Zingaat' started playing, and I told her, 'This is my song!' She then said, 'Then Dance!' and that's how we danced together and the video was created," concluded Janhvi.

SHRADDHA KAPOOR SHARES VIDEO OF DRIVING LAMBORGHINI ON MUMBAI'S COASTAL ROAD

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Shraddha Kapoor, who will be next seen in the upcoming movie 'zipped' through the roads of Mumbai in her swanky Lamborghini. On Tuesday, the actress took to the Stories section of her Instagram and shared a video of herself driving her Lamborghini Huracan Tecnica through the new coastal road in Mumbai.

The video showed her enjoying the drive with a friend and also featured the polished interiors of her sports car as she stepped on the pedal. Last year, the actress bought the Lamborghini Huracan Tecnica on the occasion of Dussehra. The car, which costs Rs 4.04 crore, boasts a 5.2-litre V10 naturally aspirated engine and is a rear-wheel drive. The newly-opened Phase 1 of the coastal road in Mumbai connects Marine Lines in south Mumbai to Worli. It also features India's first underground sea tunnel. The total length of the coastal road is 29.2 km, with the second phase set to connect Worli to Kandivali in north Mumbai. Recently, Mumbai has seen rapid infrastructure development, including the Trans-Harbour link road, which connects Sewri in Mumbai to Chirle in Navi Mumbai.



Anees Bazmee says 'short-tempered' Nana Patekar is very honest

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Director Anees Bazmee, who is busy with the shoot of his upcoming film, has shared his experience of working with veteran actor Nana Patekar.

The two worked together in the blockbuster film 'Welcome' in which Nana Patekar played the role of gangster Uday Shetty.

Anees told Lehren YouTube channel that the senior is "a darling" and such an "easy person to work with."

He shared: "Bahut imandaar aadmi hain (He is very honest). Maybe, like me or other people, he may not suppress his emotions and say on his face what he doesn't like. He will openly say, 'You're doing it wrong'. In my opinion, he knows



what to say and where but his way of saying it may not sit well with some people. People may get hurt because of his honesty as well. But, with time, he has changed a lot. But, he was short-tempered, I myself heard a lot of stories about him."

The director also recollected when Nana Patekar asked him the reason behind casting him in 'Welcome'. Bazmee told the actor that he knew the grammar of the film is on point and it would turn out to be a blockbuster.

Bazmee also said that he told Nana Patekar that the audience would love his part in the film. 17 years down the line, Bazmee's words have come true as Uday Shetty has become an iconic character in Hindi cinema with countless memes inspired by the character.

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Sharvari