VOL. 7, ISSUE 207, NEW DELHI | WEDNESDAY, MAY 29, 2024 | ₹5 | PAGE 08

PUBLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM NEW DELHI, MUMBAI AND BHOPAL

NATION

CM Kejriwal seeks urgent hearing in SC on application seeking...



HOLYWOOD

Kourtney Kardashian..



SPORTS

'Pakistan can beat any team', says Haris Rauf ...

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

he 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-

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 climaterelated death and the report further points to the role of global warming in increasing the frequency and intensity

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

They concluded that "humancaused climate change added -- on e, across all places in the work - 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.

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

t 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

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 emergency 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

Income Tax Dept issues alert on PAN-Aadhaar link deadline

Team Absolute New Delhi

he Income Tax Department on Tuesday urged taxpayers who have still not linked their PAN with Aadhaar to do so before the May 31 dead they will end up paying a higher tax.

"Please link your PAN with Aadhaar before May 31st, 2024, if you haven't already, in order to avoid tax deduction



at a higher rate," the Income Tax Department said in a post on X."Linking your PAN with your Aadhaar by May 31 ensures you don't face higher tax deduction/ tax collection

under Section 206AA and 206CC of the Income Tax Act, 1961, due to an inoperative PAN for the transactions entered into before March 31, 2024," it added. The TDS is deducted at a higher rate has been deducted) PAN has not been linked with Aadhaar. This is because of the extant rules any PAN that is not linked to Aadhaar becomes an inoperative PAN.

MP govt shuts down 66 'unsuitable' nursing colleges

Team Absolute Bhopal

he 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 affilia-

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'

PM Modi warns action to intensify after June 4

Team Absolute | New Delhi

rom 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 cor-

"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 Iharkhand 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.

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

'SHEHZADE WILL CHECKMAT

Akhilesh. Rahul attack PM at Varanasi

Varanasi | Agencies

ongress 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 MNREGA 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

ormer 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 Ata Bihari Vajpayee signed the Lahore Declaration on February 21, 1999.

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 witching meat with more vegetables and fruits may help reduce the greenhouse gas emissions from household groceries by more than a quarter (26 per cent), accord-

ing 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 epidemiolo-

gist 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 environmen-

tally 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.



DELHI L-G ORDERS ACB PROBE INTO REGISTRATION OF NURSING HOMES AFTER HOSPITAL FIRE TRAGEDY

Team Absolute New Delhi

elhi Lieutenant Governor V.K. Saxena on Tuesday ordered a comprehensive probe by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) into the registration of nursing homes in the national capital after seven newborns were killed in a massive fire at a children's hospital on Saturday night.

As per the police, the licence issued to the Baby Care New Born Child Hospital in Vivek Vihar by the Delhi Government Health Services (DGHS) expired on March 31. Also, the doctors at the hospital were not qualified/competent to treat the newborns in need of neonatal intensive care as they were just BAMS degree holders.

In his note to the Chief Secretary, L-G Saxena said, "I have taken a very stern view in the matter. Though this is a transferred subject, in a larger public interest, I am forced to step in on account of the lack of seriousness on the part of the authorities entrusted with these responsibilities.'

The ACB probe will assess how many nursing homes are functioning without valid registrations and whether those having valid registra-



tions are complying with the prescribed norms as provided under the Delhi Nursing Homes Registration Act, 1953, and the rules made thereunder. Pointing out that the incident put a serious question mark on ministerial responsibility in a matter

directly related to the health and lives of the residents of Delhi, the L-G said, "Even after a tragedy of this magnitude, which should have stirred the conscience of the political leadership, I am disappointed that the Chief Minister and Ministers have paid only lip service and given sound bites, finding alibis and shirking responsibility. Administration cannot be run on social media, nor by brushing such serious matters under the carpet." "I am given to understand that there are 1,190 nursing homes, of which more than a quarter are operating without valid registrations. Also, there are many nursing homes in the city which never applied for registration but are still operating. Even those nursing homes which have valid registrations may not be meeting the safety and regulatory standards as prescribed in the Delhi Nursing Homes Registration Act, 1953, and the rules made thereunder," the L-G said. As per the L-G, the ACB is directed to undertake a comprehensive inquiry into the registration of nursing homes in the city to assess how many of them are functioning without valid documents.

The L-G also directed the Chief Secretary to advise all the district magistrates to get a field verification done of their respective areas within two weeks to ascertain the actual number of functional nursing homes, which can then be compared to the list of the Health Department.

CM Kejriwal seeks urgent hearing in SC on application seeking 7-day extension of interim bail

Team Absolute New Delhi

elhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday sought an urgent hearing on his application filed before the Supreme Court seeking a seven-day extension of interim bail to undergo medical examinations, including a PET-CT scan.

Appearing for CM Kejriwal, senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi requested a Vacation Bench of Justices JK Maheshwari and KV Viswanathan to direct urgent listing of the application."There is urgency because the 20day interim bail window is expiring and I need to go for medical tests. It is not an abuse because I am asking for seven days only," submitted Singhvi. At this, Justice Maheshwari said that another

Bench headed by Justice Sanjiv Khanna on May 17 had reserved its verdict in the matter and considering the propriety, it would be appropriate to refer the application to Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud who is the master of the roster. "We will refer your mentioning to the Hon'ble Chief Justice. The Chief Justice should take a decision," said the Justice Maheshwari-led Bench, ordering the application to be placed before CJI Chandrachud for "appropriate orders".

The top court had ordered the release of CM



Kejriwal on interim bail in the money launde ing case linked to the alleged excise policy scam case till June 1 and directed him to surrender on June 2.

As per the AAP, CM Kejriwal's health has deteriorated since he was arrested in the alleged Delhi excise scam. The party has said that he has lost seven kg in weight after his arrest and his Ketone levels are also very high indicating a serious medical disorder.

The party has further said that the CM was required to get medical tests and seven days were needed for this. The Supreme Court on May 17 had reserved its verdict on CM Kejriwal's petition challenging his arrest and subsequent remand by the federal anti-money laundering agency in the excise policy case.

NCP takes swipe at Sharad Pawar

Team Absolute Mumbai

he Ajit Pawar-led Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) on Tuesday launched a scathing attack at the Sharad Pawar-led NCP (SP), saying that a "political party is not a private property but a system in a democracy duly registered with the Election Commission".

"If the political party was a private property, it would have been registered with the subregistrar. Therefore, there is no system of transfer of political parties through inheritance, just as private property is transferred through inheritance. In the democratic process, the party's control goes to whoever has the majority, so the majority is with Ajit Pawar. Therefore, we will celebrate the party's anniversary on June 10 at the country and state level," said the NCP Spokesman Umesh

Patil said that the party will celebrate its 25th anniversary on June 10 since the EC has given the name NCP and clock symbol to Ajit Pawar, who is the party's National President.

"Even though the court battle is going on regarding the party symbol, Sharad Pawar does not have a party called NCP, but he has been given a separate name, NCP (Sharadchandra Pawar) and a symbol of a person with a trumpet by the EC. They (NCP SP) have the right to celebrate the first



anniversary next year on the day on which they receive the name and symbol," the NCP Spokesman added.

Patil said that NCP developed strong under the leadership of Sharad Pawar, Tariq Anwar, P.A. Sangma, Praful Patel at the national level and at the state level under the leadership of Madhukar Pichad, Chhagan Bhujbal, Vijaysinh Mohite Patil, Padmasinh Patil, Ajit Pawar, Sunil Tatkare, R.R. Patil, Ramraje Naik Nimbalkar and Hasan Mushrif.

He added that 90 per cent of those who contributed for the party's growth were now with Ajit Pawar. Without naming Sharad Pawar's daughter Supriya Sule, Patil said that the NCP (SP) Working President was not even the founder at the time of the NCP's forma-

'Political party is not a private property', Industry Minister rebuts opposition's charge on Maha losing GAIL India project to MP

ndustry Minister Uday Samant on Tuesday rebutted the Opposition's charge that Maharashtra has lost a Rs 50,000 crore petrochemical project by the state-run GAIL India to Madhya Pradesh.

"Opposition should not blame the state government for GAIL India's decision. The company had not submitted a complete proposal to the Maharashtra government. It had requested land in Ratnagiri district but the necessary land was not available at that time with the Maharashtra **Industrial Development** Corporation (MIDC). When the land became available, the company officials referred to the protests that took place in the case of the mega refinery project (Nanar Refinery project in Ratnagiri district). Thereafter, the company did not make any proposal with the state government," the Industry Minister said.

His response came days after the Leader of the Opposition



Ambadas Danve targeted the MahaYuti government over GAIL India's decision to set up the

petrochemical project in Madhya

"The GAIL India was to come

or in Dabhol with an investment of Rs 50,000 crore. Now the project will be set up in Sehore, Madhya Pradesh. How did the company choose Madhya Pradesh when it had earlier thought of setting up the project in Maharashtra? How did Maharashtra's share of employment go out easily?" Danve asked.

Industry Minister Uday Samant has announced to constitute a high-level committee comprising of principal secretaries of the Industry and Environment Departments to probe the Dombivli chemical company blast in which at least 10 persons died and 60 others were injured.

"The committee will submit its report in three weeks. They will also review the industries of A, B, and C categories. The companies who have violated the rules or have done unauthorised constructions will also be reviewed. The committee will follow the instructions given by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde," the min-

4 KILLED AS RAINS LASH KERALA, CAUSE HAVOC IN STATE

Thiruvananthapuram | Agencies

eavy rains across Kerala, including a suspected cloud burst at Kochi, on Tuesday left four people dead and caused large destruction across the state.

Kottayam and Ernakulam districts have been the worst-hit and the IMD has announced a Red alert in these two districts. Likewise, an Orange alert has been announced for Pathanamthitta, Alappuzha, and

According to S. Abhilash, Associate Professor at the Cochin University of Science and Technology, a record 98.4 mm of rainfall was recorded in a matter of 90 minutes at the rain gauge on their campus.

The Infopark IT park at Kakkanadu in Kochi was another place badly hit by the heavy rains.

Several areas in Kochi, the commercial capital of the state, were left



waterlogged and water entered numerous houses in some low-lying areas. A Class 10 student, who had

ventured out for a swim at Vengoor near Kochi, was drowned, while Aravind, who was standing outside his house in Alappuzha, died when a coconut tree got uprooted and fell on

Fisherman Abraham, out on his fishing boat off the capital city's Muthalapozhi suburbs, lost his life after it overturned in the rough seas while a death was reported in north Kerala.Water entered the ground floor of the home of 97-year-old awardwinning writer and literary critic M. Leelavathy at Kochi and destroyed her awards and her collection of books. Authorities have closed down Ponmudi, a popular hill station in Thiruvananthapuram district besides destinations in high-altitude areas in the Kottayam district, where landslides and landslips have also been

Relief camps have started functioning at a few places in central Kerala where the rain waters played havoc.

Meanwhile, with the southwest monsoon expected later this week, more rains are predicted by the IMD.

Narendra Modi can't see Bengal's development out of jealousy: Mamata Banerjee

Kolkata Agencies

Test Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee claimed on Tuesday that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is unable to see the massive development in Bengal because of jealousy.

"So much development has taken place in West Bengal in the last 10 years. But the Prime Minister is unable to see that... Jealous people are unable to see that," the Chief Minister said while addressing an election meeting at Behala under the Kolkata Dakshin Lok Sabha constituency in support of party candidate Mala Roy.

She also reiterated her prediction that the BJP-led NDA will not remain in power at the Centre after the Lok Sabha elections. "The current Prime Minister will be in that chair for just a few more days. After that, he will become a former Prime Minister," the Chief

Claiming that Narendra Modi never cared



for the other parts of the country when he was the Chief Minister of Gujarat, CM Banerjee said: "Before becoming the Chief Minister of West Bengal, I handled important ministries at the Centre such as Railways, Coal, and Sports. I did a lot of work then.'

Centre did not give single rupee for disaster-hit Himachal: Priyanka Vadra

Una (Himachal Pradesh) | Agencies

ongress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi said on Tuesday that the Himachal Pradesh government rehabilitated 22,000 affected families from its own funds while the Central government did not allocate any amount for the disaster relief in the hill state last year.

"Despite the economic crisis, the state government has given OPS (Old Pension Scheme) to 1.36 lakh employees, and daughters and women aged above 18 years are being given a monthly pension of Rs 1,500," she said at a public meeting here to seek votes in favour of former Legislator Satpal Raizada, who is in fray from the Hamirpur Parliamentary seat.

"Himachal is the first state to give MSP (minimum support price) on milk," she

Taking a jibe at the Hamirpur Parliamentary constituency MP and BJP leader Anurag Thakur, Priyanaka said: "He's

not visible to the public". "Former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi used to go from door-to-door to understand



problems of the people, people used to scold her also, but she never felt bad. Today the government is spending Rs 100 crore in buying Congress MLAs. There is no trace of democracy in the country," she added.

"The Congress will win all four Lok Sabha seats and bypoll in six Assembly seats and this would send a message across the country that the people of Devbhoomi do not tolerate money power politics," Priyanka said.

Child selling racket busted in Hyderabad,11 babies rescued

Hyderabad Agencies

Olice in Greater Hyderabad have busted an inter-state child-selling racket and rescued 11

Medipally Police under Rachakonda Police Commissionerate arrested 11 persons including eight women who had bought the children from three accused from Delhi and Pune.

Rachakonda Police Commissioner Tarun Joshi told media persons on Tuesday that the accused were selling the children to issueless couples. The rescued children are aged between one

month to two-and-a-half months. Nine of them are baby girls while the remaining two are baby boys. Police said the accused used to get babies from Kiran and Preethi of Delhi and Kannaiah of Pune. The trio supplied nearly 50 babies to those arrested. The agents of the accused were selling them to the persons who are in need of babies in Andhra



Pradesh and Telangana for a price ranging from Rs 1.80 lakh to Rs 5.50 lakh per baby with the help of mediators. The racket came to light after police launched an investigation following the arrest of Shobha Rani, a Registered Medical Practitioner (RMP) on May 22 for selling a child for Rs 4.50 lakh.

The Police Commissioner said Swapna and Shaik Saleem who were helping Shobha Rani were also arrested and two babies were rescued from them. The accused were booked under sections 370, 372,373 r/w 34 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and sections 81,87 and 88 Juvenile Justice Act 2015. On interrogation, Shobarani revealed that she was working in coordination with Hari Hara Chetan, who was selling the babies.

Based on the confessions of the accused, police arrested Bandari Hari Hara Chethan, Bandari Padma, Balgam Saroja, Mudavath Sharadha, Mudavath Raju, Pathan Mumtaz alias Haseena, Jaganadam Anuradha and Yata Mamatha.

All the arrested are residents of Telangana and neighbouring Andhra Pradesh. Their interrogation revealed that the babies were being supplied to them by three persons from Delhi and Pune for Rs

50,000 each. Kiran, Preethi, Kannaiah and other accused are absconding. The Commissioner said further investigations were on into the case.



Madhya Pradesh

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

Team Absolute Bhopa

n 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.



taken cognisance of the inci-

dent. The complainant came

to me following which I sent

him to Fatehgarh police sta-

tion. He was beaten up in Rajasthan but as the crime of

kidnapping him took place

Guna district in the matter."

against seven persons under

sections, including 506 (crim-

inal intimidation), 365 (kid-

napping) and 34 (acts done

ance of a common inten-

post on X claimed Chief

tion), Singh said.

by several persons in further-

the opposition Congress in a

Minister Mohan Yadav was

unable to handle the state

and demanded his

and his (home) department

various Indian Penal Code

The FIR was registered

here, a case was registered in

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

he 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 hadly 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 Khaiuraho 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

group of persons Aallegedly 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 fay 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 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

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

Team Absolute Bhopal

Tou 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 ne 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 helipads. 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.



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

Team Absolute Indore

businessman from Indore has made seri-**1**ous allegations against Indore BJP Yuva Morcha President Saugata Mishra and Vice President Kapil Goval 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

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

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.

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

ll 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 updat-

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

Chunari will be offered to the holy Kshipra river

Absolute Bhopal

hief 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 special-

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.

EDITOR'S SPECS

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

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

ith 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 outcomes 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 'diktats' of farmer unions over 'petty issues'.

Besides Sandhu, other BJP candidates, including sitting MP Preneet

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 been 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

Stating that the BJP is not antifarmer, 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.

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

She also said, "if America became complacent and arrogant the same thing would happen in the US also".

would happen in the US also".

Nikki Haley, however, did not present any proof of the involvement of the



However, it may be recalled that the Russian president, Vladamir 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

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.

visiting Hamas leaders along with Iran deputy foreign minister, Ali Bagheri Kani.

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

orth 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



international

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

pain'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.

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



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

housands 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, Lusete 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.

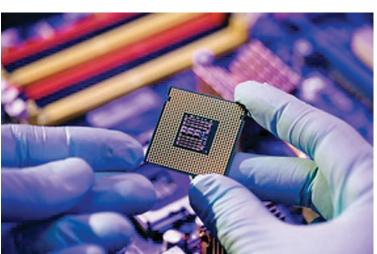
IIT BOMBAY, TCS TO DEVELOP INDIA'S 1ST **QUANTUM DIAMOND MICROCHIP IMAGER**

he 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

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

"PQuest group at IIT Bombay is excited to collaborate with TCS on developing a quantum imaging platform for the nondestructive examination of chips, leveraging our extensive expertise in quantum sensing to drive



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

t 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 writing and fittings, garment stocks, some machinery and office records in the groundplus-3 and ground-plus-4 $\,$ storied commercial struc-

A Mumbai Fire Brigade team rushed to the spot in minutes and after a fourhour-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

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

Team Absolute Mumbai

A sset 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





Endobot, Swasth AI, and HomoSEP.

Endobot is a crawler robot designed for internal condition assessment and defect detection in water, sewer and drainage lines. It is enhanced by Swasth AI, an AI-based digitisation platform storing and analysing all the data collected by Endobot.

HomoSEP is a robot designed to completely clean manholes and septic tanks, said the company."We are committed to innovate within the water and sanitation issues across all industries, said Divanshu Kumar and Moinak Baneriee, Founder

Solinas. Nicola Beer, Vice-President of the European Investment Bank (EIB), said they welcome the NEEV II fund's investment in Solinas.

"The funding of Solinas is aligned with the European Union's Global Gateway initiative, supporting sound projects that improve global and regional connectivity in the digital, climate, transport, health, energy and education sectors," said Beer.

The Neev I Fund and Neev II Fund are supported by global and domestic investors such as the EIB, the UK government, SIDBI, JICA,

Pune Porsche crash: Special probe panel reaches Sassoon Hospital

Team Absolute Pune

aking 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 3member special panel to probe the matter and submit its report, officials said here on Tuesday.

The probe panel is headed by $\mathop{\rm Dr}\nolimits$ 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 & Dilege & D Hospital in Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar.

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 tha



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

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 Sable is herself "buried in a cloud of

"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 the probe panel to investigate the set of circumstances leading to the tamper ing 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

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

Team Absolute | Mumba

urning 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



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 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 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

wo 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



"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 profes-

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.



that some details about them be revealed, even if - the NCP (Ajit Pawar faction) MLA from

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

Team Absolute | Pune

he 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 ideologue 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 rep-

resents 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

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

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

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.

hollywood



Kourtney Kardashian

OPENS UP ON HER ATTEMPTS TO HAVE A BABY

Los Angeles | Agencies

ourtney Kardashian has opened up about her struggles with IVF, revealing that she endured five "failed IVF cycles" before giving birth to her

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 IVF 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



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

Los Angeles | Agencies

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

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 hatmirroring 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'.



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

Los Angeles | Agencies

ollywood 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.

Los Angeles | Agencies

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

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."





MY JEWELRY WAS

STOLEN...IT'S

HARD TO BUY



New Delhi | Agencies

ishant Dev out-punched and outclassed his Mongolian opponent in just over two minutes in the 71kg second-round bout to reach the pre-quarterfinal stage while Sachin Siwach also advanced to the Round of 16 with a convincing win in the 57kg weight category at the 2nd Boxing World qualifiers for Paris Olympics in Bangkok, Thailand, on Tuesday.

Nishant Dev began with a flurry of punches against Mongolia's Otgonbaatar Byamba-Erdeneto and forced a standing count in the very first minute. A combination of a jab and cross-hook led to another standing count and the Referee Stopped the Contest (RSC) with 58 seconds still left to play in Round 1.

The 23-year-old will now take on Thailand's Peerapat Yeasungnoen for a place in the quarterfinals on Wednesday.Later in the day, Siwach



began similarly, looking to land as many punches as possible on Frederik Jensen of Denmark, and grabbed the advantage in Round 1. His confidence only grew as the match progressed as he earned a unanimous verdict from all five

grab the win with a 5-0 verdict. Earlier, Abhinash Jamwal was unlucky to be knocked out in the 63.5kg category.The 21-year-old fought back with gumption after losing a close first round against Colombia's Jose Manuel Viafara Fory and clearly dominated the third and final round forcing a tie on points from all five judges.

Sports

As per the rules, the judges were then asked to again weigh the performance and decide the winner; all of them then finally voted in Fory's favour after a long deliberation to seal the final score 5:0 in favour of the Colombian.

On Wednesday, national champion Arundhati Choudhary (66kg) and 2022 Asian Games bronze medallist Narender Berwal (+92 kg) will kick off their campaigns in Round of 32 while Ankushita Boro, who convincingly won her Round of 32 bout in 60kg weight category will be in action against Rimma Volossenko of

'To leave after first round was not an ideal return',: Nadal

t was an emotional evening at Court Philippe-Chatrier as the 'King of Clay' Rafael Nadal made a shocking first round exit from Roland Garros after losing to Alexander Zverev.

Nadal's legacy of record 14 Roland Garros titles is a testament to his sheer quality and industry on clay. At 37, the Spaniard has an illustrious career in tennis to look back at, as he moves closer to retirement which seems imminent, considering his injuries. Even as Alexander Zverev claimed a straight sets victory over the Spaniard, hearts went out to Nadal who, might as well, played his last match of the Grand Slam ever.

"It's going to be the last time I'm here in front of all of you. I'm not 100% sure, but if it was the last time, then I must say I enjoyed it. The feelings that I have today are difficult to describe in words. For me, it was special to feel the love of the people in the place that I love the most," said Nadal while addressing the spectators in the stadium.

"I have gone through very tough two years in terms of injuries. I went through that recovery process only to be back at Roland Garros. To leave after the first round was not an ideal return. But I have to accept it. I was competi-



tive and I had my chances. But it was not enough against a great player like Sasha (Alexander Zverev)," he averred.

He did give the spectators something to cheer for while mentioning a possible return to Court Philippe-Chatrier for the upcoming Paris 2024 Olympics."What you all have made me feel here, it's unforgettable. I hope to see you again. Merci Beaucoup!" he conlcuded.

BCCI's Appointment of Gautam Gambhir as Next Head Coach of India a 'Done Deal': Report

New Delhi | Agencies

n vet another twist of the tale, latest reports state that Gautam Gambhir, who has been touted as the prime frontrunner for the head coach role of the Indian Cricket Team, will undoubtedly be appointed for the same by the BCCI very soon.

According to reports from Cricbuzz, high-profile personalities, with connections to the BCCI, have stated that Gambhir's appointment to the top post is almost inevitable with the BCCI pitching themselves hard to the former Indian batter and WC-winner Gambhir.

It was also noted that a

high-profile owner of an IPL franchise, close to the BCCI top brass, told the website that Gambhir's appointment as the head coach is a 'done deal' and it will be announced after the IPL final.However, Gambhir apparently has remained silent on the matter, even

amongst the ranks of his KKR teammates and members, who were reportedly answered to with a shrug of

the shoulders and a smile.

Much speculation has been rife since Jay Shah's announcement of the BCCI inviting fresh applications for the post of head coach as Rahul Dravid's extended tenure approaches completion.Primarily, it was learned that Rahul Dravid, whose extended tenure ends after the T20 World Cup, doesn't want to reapply for the post. Several reports talked

about names including the likes of Stephen Fleming as being considered for the

> and WC-winner Gautam Gambhir. With multiple reports stating the BCCI's interest in acquiring the services of Gambhir, it has also believed that a factor that has brought together both entities has been the idea of 'desh ke live karna hai', the need to take up the challenge for the

position. But one that caught

the eyes of all was none other

than the former Indian batter

'Pakistan can beat any team', says Haris Rauf

head of the third T20I against England, Pakistan pacer Haris Rauf is confident of his team's ability to bounce back in the series and said they can beat any opponent on any given day. The first T20I between England and Pakistan was washed out due to rain and in the second game, the hosts defeated the touring side by 23 runs to take a 1-0 lead in the four-

The 30-year-old said the team is "confident" to beat any opposition and to play better cricket in the remaining two matches of the series. "When you lose a game it hurts, but as a team, we are confident. We feel we can beat any opposition on any day. We've done it in the past, too. When you make mistakes you learn and try not to repeat those mistakes. We're looking to play better in the next few games and make a comeback," ICC quoted Rauf as saying in the press conference before the match.

'The camp is relaxed. We're enjoying ourselves. We're trying to follow our game plans and execute them well. The results haven't often been in our favour recently but if you stick to your plans they can sometimes follow." he added

Rauf made his comeback in the last match after spending three months on the sidelines. He returned with the figures of 2-34 in his four overs after leaking 17 runs in his first over. The rightarm pacer dislocated his shoulder during the Pakistan Super League (PSL) in February which



made him miss the home series against New Zealand and Ireland tour earlier this month.

Reflecting upon his injury layoff time, Rauf said it was a "blessing in disguise" and it allowed him to reassess his game plan. "I was injured the last few months but if you believe in yourself, then the layoff can be a blessing in disguise. Because you have time to recover and reassess your game plans. I felt good coming back to cricket. When you play for your country, it makes you very proud," he said.

He added that the rehabilitation process was a struggle and attaining the pace and accuracy is difficult after returning from an injury. "It's hard. It's a struggle during your rehab, and it's difficult when you come back to maintain that pace and accuracy. But if you believe in yourself, it makes things easier. When I wasn't on the team and rehabbing, I had a lot of time to think about my game and work on myself. Thankfully I'm back now, and the [T20] World Cup is coming up," the pacer added.

Rauf said the ongoing series against England is difficult but whatever the outcome will be, it will give them a learning before heading to the T20 World Cup. "Before the [T20] World Cup, if you win a series, it gives you confidence, but even if you lose, you understand where you made mistakes and you learn from them," he said. "This series is difficult, but we'll try to win it. The focus is of course on the World Cup, which we aim to win to make our country proud," Raud added. The third T20I will be played in Cardiff on Tuesday.

I GLOBAL SUPERSTAR IN WORLD OF SPORTS, SAYS ROSS TAYLOR

ormer New Zealand batter Ross Taylor has heaped praises on former India captain Virat Kohli, labelling him as the "global superstar in the world of sports" and not just cricket. The former India captain enjoys a huge fan following on social media. Taylor while speaking about the impact of social media on a cricketer's life said that players are now more accessible and it is not a bad thing in the modern-day era.

Taylor, who has played 112 Tests, and 236 ODIs for New Zealand, shared his insights in Episode six of the podcast series "180 Not Out.

"Players are putting outposts endorsing products and things like that. Who would have thought of that in 2008? Someone like Kohli, who is a superstar in the world of cricket, but is also a global superstar in the world of sports. In terms of Instagram and social media, he's up there with Ronaldo and Messi!

'Yeah, I think you are more accessible, I don't think sportsmen are just as critiqued. I think movie stars,

under the microscope now because of social media but I don't think that is a bad thing," Taylor told Raman Raheja, a sports fan, sportspreneur, media professional, and creator who put together this Podcast "180 Not Out".

Former Australian pacer Brett Lee said the mobile camera was both the best thing and the worst thing to get invented in the advent of social media. Lee traced the early era of social media and how it changed in the last few years.

"In the early 2000s, when the phones came in, people would take a photo with you. There was an autograph and a photo. In mid-2015 and 2020, what happens now is that the players are always on show now. Anyone that is playing in the Indian Premier League, they are always on show, they go out for dinner, and someone comes with a phone camera," said Lee.

The phone camera was the best thing and the worst thing ever invented. The best thing is to capture beautiful memories with your family and friends, and as a spectator and lover of



the sport, you also capture those moments. But also, the privacy now, for players, has been cut in half

because you are on show everywhere. "If you are having a dinner with your family, your loved ones, friends...someone takes a snap and it goes instantly all over the world. Now, you also have to be able to deal with that and accept that," he added.

Former Australian cricketer Michael Bevan also graced the podcast series. The star batter emphasised that social media might impact the performance of young players.

"The younger generation uses

social media that would impact their situation and circumstance and career. They would have to make a decision on whether they want to read the comments, or how much they want to post," said Bevan

"I could imagine it would be extra difficult for some of the modern-day players, with T20 cricket, with social media...but as a player, you've always got to make the decision on how you handle. Do you want to read things or do you not want to read things? That's the most important thing... to understand yourself, and to understand your game," he added.

RONALDO BREAKS SAUDI PRO LEAGUE ALL-TIME SCORING RECORD

Riyadh | Agencies

ristiano Ronaldo is one of the most prolific scorers the game has ever seen. The 39-year-old reached new heights after breaking the Saudi Pro League all-time scoring record. With a Brace in his last game of the season, Cristiano's goal tally for the season reached 35 breaking Abderrazak Hamdallah's tally of 34 in 2019. Following the record-breaking night, he took to social media to express his feelings in a statement posted on 'X'. "I don't follow the records, the records follow me," read the post by the five-time Ballon d'Or winner.

Al-Nassr finished the season in second place behind rivals Al-Hilal who had an exemplary season not having lost a single game through the 34-game season. Ronaldo's goal scoring abilities are second to none but the Portuguese forward also relied on his playmaking abilities in the season and finished third in the league for most assists with

The five-time Champions League winner joined Al-Nassr in 2023 after the fallout with Manchester United and went on to complete-



ly revolutionise the league. His arrival acted as a stamp of approval for many big names in Europe which saw players in the likes of Karim Benzema, Neymar Jr & Dr; Riyad Mahrez make the switch to the Gulf region.

Portugal's all-time top scorer will now be turning his attention to the upcoming European Championship as it could be his last chance to win another international trophy with his country.

Singapore Open: Satwik-Chirag, Aakarshi suffer opening round exit

Singapore | Agencies

7orld no. 1 Indian duo of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty suffered an opening round exit of the Singapore Open BWF Super 750 after losing 20-22, 18-21 to World ranked 34 Swiss duo of Daniel Lundgaard and Mads Vestergaard. Earlier in the women's singles, Aakarshi Kashyap lost 19-21, 20-22 to Pornpicha Choeikeewong of Thailand in the Round

Satwik-Chirag went down fighting in a closed encounter that lasted for 47 minutes. Satwiksairai Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, who ascended to the top of the Badminton World Federation (BWF) men's doubles rankings last week after a remarkable victory at the Thailand Open Super 500 in Bangkok, had a game point in the first game but could not convert and went on to lose



the match. Satwik and Chirag conceded the lead in the first game itself as they went behind 0-2 and then 2-5 before their opponents surged to a 4-9 lead and extended it to 6-12, winning four points in a row. The Indian duo fought back superbly and cut down the gap to 10-12. Scores went

neck and neck before Satwik and Chirag tied the scores at 17-17. They had a game point at 20-18 before the Swiss duo came back strongly to win the next four points and win the game 22-20. Satwik and Chirag took an early lead before Daniel Lundgaard and Mads Vestergaard caught up with them. Scores went neck-and-neck after that with the Indians having a slight edge at 12-10 and 15-13. But the Swiss stars fought back from 16-17 and went on to win the game at 21-18 to wrap up the match.

Pant will have 'huge impact' on T20 World Cup, says Ponting

ishabh Pant's recent success in Indian Premier League 2024 has made former Australia skipper and Delhi Capitals head coach $\bar{\mathrm{Ricky}}$ Ponting hope that the wicketkeeper-batter will make a "huge impact" in next month's T20 World Cup. Pant made his comeback to competitive cricket after a gap of 15 months in the recently concluded IPL. Despite doubts over his fitness after recovering from multiple injuries sustained in a horrific car crash, Pant not only captained Delhi Capitals in the season but also donned the wicketkeeping gloves successfully.

With Pant being named in India's squad for the T20 World Cup to be held in the USA and West Indies, Ponting said his inclusion was evident following his "remarkable comeback". The veteran feels Pant will make a significant impact in the T20 showpiece.

what I thought about him. He'd been picked in the Indian squad, and I basically said 'he'd be one of the first players picked', and sure enough he was. So, great to see him back out there playing again. I've enjoyed every moment of working with him. Obviously, he's been the captain of the Delhi Capitals, and I've been the coach there," Ponting told The ICC Review.

'But it's been a remarkable comeback, and hopefully he has a huge impact on this World Cup," he added.

Pant, who missed the last edition of the tournament due to injuries, scored 446 runs -- the highest for the franchise in the edition. He also scored three halfcenturies and played with an impressive strike rate of 155.40.

Talking about Pant's comeback, Ponting said it was a 'spectacular' show from the 26-year-old and credited the franchise for doing a great job.



"It's been nothing short of spectacular, to be honest. I spent a few months with him in the middle of the IPL last year, which was only sort of three or four months after his accident. And I had grave fears then that he would never play the game again. What he'd been through psychologically, but what he'd been through physically. At that stage, he still couldn't walk," he said.

"He was on crutches. And I remember saying to him, 'What do you think about next season'? He just looked at me and said, 'Don't worry, I'll be right'. And he's

looked after himself incredibly well. The Delhi Capitals franchise has done a great job looking after him. Patrick Farhart has been his physio. He's done a great job with him as well," the threetime ODI World Cup winner added. Apart from batting, Pant was phe-

nomenal with his glove work behind the stumps, shutting the doubts over his agility following a long injury layoff. Ponting said everyone was skeptical

about his keeping in the tournament for 14 matches in a row but Pant proved



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

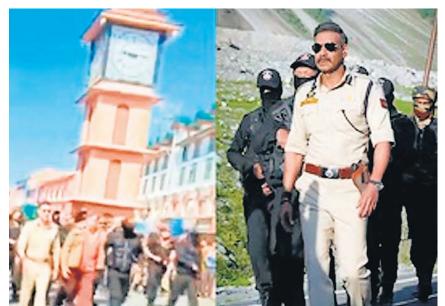
Team Absolute Mumbai

irector 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

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

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



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

Team Absolute Mumbai

ollywood 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

Speaking on his love for cricket and the superstitions that come with it, Kartik said: "Cricket toh sabhi ka favourite hain. (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 unheaten



Iulia Vantur to perform alongside **American hitmaker Jason Derulo**

Team Absolute Mumbai

ctress-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

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."

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

"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.



RIHANNA

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 Rajkummar 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 amazin 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



but she completely surprised me.'

'I see your Instagram all

the time'. And I was so sur-

prised, 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

could anything else that could hap-

pen after, possibly top this moment

in my life," shared Janhvi, who was

The actress further shared how

the viral video of them dancing to

at least get a picture, and just as I

was asking for a selfie, 'Zingaat'

last seen in the movie 'Bawaal'.

'Zingaat' came to be.

ready to go home, because how

"Rihanna said to me,

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

Team Absolute Mumbai

ctress 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 rearwheel 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

rector 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 imaandaar 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.



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