

# absolute india

VOL. 7, ISSUE 208, NEW DELHI | THURSDAY, MAY 30, 2024 | ₹5 | PAGE 08

PUBLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM NEW DELHI, MUMBAI AND BHOPAL

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## Delhi sizzles at 52.3 degrees Celsius as city records season's highest-ever temperature

# DELHI ROASTED

The national capital on Wednesday recorded its highest-ever temperature of the season as the mercury soared to 52.3 degrees Celsius, the weather office said. The weather station recorded the temperature at Mungeshpur in north-west Delhi at 52.3 degrees Celsius. Besides Mungeshpur, other locations in Delhi which recorded the season's hottest day included Najafgarh (48.6 degrees Celsius), Narela (47.9 degrees Celsius), Pitampura (48.3 degrees Celsius).

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A severe heatwave has been prevailing in most parts of north India, including Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and many parts of Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh for quite some days. Rajasthan has also recorded extremely high temperatures over the past few days, with the mercury shooting beyond 50 degrees Celsius in regions like Phalodi. Sirsa in Haryana also sizzled at over 50 degrees. Delhi along with adjoining regions have been reeling under a severe heatwave for almost a week now.

### IMD TO CHECK

New Delhi: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) is checking the temperature sensor in Delhi's Mungeshpur automatic weather station to see if the sensor is working properly, according to IMD Director General M Mohapatra. This weather station reported 52.9 degree Celsius today, the highest ever in India. Dr Mohapatra said there are 20 monitoring stations in Delhi and of these, 14 have recorded a drop in temperature and the average seen across Delhi was in the range of 45-50 degree Celsius. "The maximum temperature over Delhi NCR varied from 45.2 to 49.1 degree Celsius in different parts of the city. Mungeshpur reported 52.9 degree Celsius as an outlier compared to other stations. It could be due to error in the sensor or the local factor. IMD is examining the data and sensors," the IMD said in a statement later this evening.



However, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted some respite from searing heat from tomorrow. "Prevailing heatwave conditions over Northwest and Central India are likely to reduce gradually from Thursday (May 30)," the IMD said in a statement. The IMD also said that the conditions continue to become favourable with the onset of monsoon during the next 24 hours

and the advance of monsoon over some parts of northeastern states during the same period. Two hours after Delhi recorded the country's highest-ever temperature at 52.3 degrees Celsius, the national capital received showers this afternoon, bringing some respite from the extreme heat. Delhi has been reeling under severe heatwave conditions over the past few days. While the maximum temperature has been

hovering around the 50 degrees Celsius mark, the minimum is inching closer to the 30 degrees. The weather office had earlier warned of extreme heat in most parts of the national capital. The India Meteorological Department forecast for Wednesday predicted a maximum temperature of 45.8 degrees. However, at 2.30 pm on Wednesday, the weather station in Delhi's Mungeshpur recorded a temperature of 52.3 degrees Celsius, the highest-ever in any part of India.

### WHAT DOCTOR SAID ON HEAT STROKE

- Heat island effect is the result of replacing natural land cover with heat-absorbing surfaces like buildings, pavement, and other infrastructure.
- Emitting air-conditioners add additional heat. 2 degree Celsius of additional heat is added by ACs, we should not forget this.
- As a result, it will start with simple signs like heat rash, going on to people developing heat cramps, body ache, getting tired by end of the day. It could worsen to what is called heat exhaustion where people could develop headache, nausea, dizziness, weakness, immense thirst, heavy sweating... if the heat is too much, people may black out and just collapse. Blood pressure can drop.
- The last stage is heat stroke, which can be fatal at times. When you have a heat stroke, that's the point the patient has high fever, profuse sweating, unresponsive, can be fatal.

### Just 3.8 degrees shy of World record set in 1913

New Delhi: If you are in Delhi-NCR and it felt like your skin was sizzling this afternoon or you thought it was the hottest it has ever been, you were not wrong. The national capital recorded its highest-ever temperature of 52.9 degrees Celsius, just 4.4 degrees shy of the highest temperature ever recorded on Earth: 56.7 degrees Celsius at the Greenland Ranch in California's Death Valley. The ranch is now aptly called the Furnace Creek Ranch. According to data from the India Meteorological Department, the Mungeshpur weather station in northwest Delhi recorded the temperature-bulb-shattering number at 2.30 pm.

## Heavy rains, landslide leave trail of destruction across northeast India, 36 dead in 4 states

Guwahati/Aizawl | Agencies

At least 36 people were killed in heavy rains and landslides in four northeastern states on Tuesday under the impact of Cyclone Remal while normal life came to a grinding halt in all the eight states of the region with road and rail links affected, officials said. While 27 people were killed in Mizoram, including 21 in a quarry collapse in Aizawl district, four deaths were reported in Nagaland, three in Assam, and two in Meghalaya.



The rains, accompanied by gusty winds, triggered landslides, uprooted trees and electric poles, and disrupted power and internet services. In view of waterlogging between the New Haflong-Jatinga Lampur section and Ditocherra yard under the Lumding division of Northeast Frontier Railway, many trains were either cancelled or partially cancelled and rescheduled.

under the Meluri subdivision of Phek district, while two other incidents of drowning were reported from Doyang Dam in the Wokha district, an official said. An elderly man was crushed to death after a wall collapsed in Phek.

In Assam, three persons were killed while 17 others were injured in Kamrup, Kamrup (Metro), and Morigaon districts. According to the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), a tree branch fell on a school bus in Dhekiajuli of Sonitpur district, injuring 12 students. Five others were injured in different incidents in Morigaon. In Meghalaya, two persons died and over 100 others were injured as heavy rain lashed the state, officials said on Tuesday. Officials said one death was reported from East Jaintia Hills and another in a car accident in East Khasi Hills district. The relentless downpour damaged a large number of houses in 17 villages. Landslides were reported on the Shillong-Mawlai Bypass and at Bivar Road in Oakland, while flash-floods took place in Langkyrding, Pynthorbah, Polo, Sawfurlong, and Demeisoining areas. In Tripura, heavy rain accompanied by gusty winds of 50 to 60 km per hour lashed most parts of the state during the past 24 hours, damaging 470 houses and forcing 750 people to take shelter in 15 relief camps in different districts.

## Cong distances itself from Aiyar's 'alleged attack' quip, affirms 1962 Chinese incursion was 'real'

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Congress has once again disassociated itself from the controversial statements made by veteran party leader Mani Shankar Aiyar, in which he said that the Chinese "allegedly invaded" India in 1962. However, following a backlash, Aiyar also apologised for his remarks. As the final phase of voting for the Lok Sabha elections approaches on June 1, Aiyar's statement has resurfaced, drawing renewed scrutiny. In the midst of this, Congress General Secretary Jairam Ramesh took to his X handle and stated that Aiyar has unconditionally apologised for his "alleged attack"



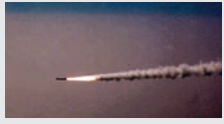
comment. He said that "allowances must be made for his age." Ramesh also clarified that the Congress has distanced itself from Aiyar's "original phraseology." Addressing the issue, Jairam Ramesh emphasised that the Chinese incursion into India on October 20, 1962, was "indeed real." Aiyar made the contentious remarks during the

launch of the book 'Nehru's First Recruits'. In a video from the launch event, he is heard saying that the Chinese "allegedly invaded" India in October 1962. Even though Aiyar has apologised for his controversial statement, it has landed the party and the Gandhi family in trouble as questions are being raised on the senior leader's comments.

## RUDRAM-II AIR-TO-SURFACE MISSILE SUCCESSFULLY FIRED FROM SU-30 MK-1

New Delhi:

The Rudram-II air-to-surface missile was successfully test-fired from a Su-30 MK-1 fighter jet of the Indian Air Force on Wednesday, the Defence Ministry said. The test, performed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) off the coast of Odisha at around 11.30 a.m., met all the trial objectives, validating the propulsion system, and the control and guidance algorithm, a Defence Ministry statement said. The performance of the missile has been validated from the flight data captured by range tracking instruments like electro-optical systems, radar and telemetry stations deployed by the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur at various locations, including on board a ship. An indigenously developed solid-propelled air-launched missile system, Rudram-II is one of the finest and meant to neutralise many types of enemy assets.



## Sex videos case Fugitive JD(S) MP Prajwal Revanna to be arrested on May 31st

Bengaluru | Agencies

The prime accused in the sex videos case, JD(S) MP Prajwal Revanna, moved an anticipatory bail petition in court on Wednesday. After hearing the plea, the court adjourned the matter to May 31. Prajwal Revanna's anticipatory bail petition was filed before the Special Court for People's Representatives. Counsel Arun, who appeared for Prajwal Revanna pleaded with the court to admit the petition and hear it on May 30 and submitted that the MP would land in India on May 31. The anticipatory bail petition



was submitted for crime numbers 20/2024, 02/2024 registered in the CID and 107/2024 registered in the Holenarasipur Police Station. SIT sources confirmed on Wednesday that Prajwal Revanna has booked a May 31 flight ticket for India with Lufthansa Airlines and was expected to reach Bengaluru at around 12.30 A.M. on Friday. The ticket has been booked from Munich, Germany. Asked if the Hassan MP would be allowed to meet his grandfather after returning to India, the Karnataka Home Minister said that he would be arrested immediately upon arrival at the airport.

## SENSEX FALLS 667 POINTS ON MIXED GLOBAL CUES, NIFTY DROPS TO 22,704

Mumbai: The equity benchmarks in India closed in deep red on Wednesday due to profit booking by investors and mixed global cues - marking a decline for three consecutive days so far this week. The Sensex was down 667 points or 0.89 per cent at 74,502, while the Nifty closed at 22,704, down 183 points or 0.80 per cent. Banking index Nifty Bank also declined by more than 1 per cent to close at 48,501, down 640 points or 1.30 per cent. The midcap and smallcap stocks performed better compared to the largecaps during the session on Wednesday. The Nifty Midcap 100 index closed at 52,125 points, down 169 points or 0.32 per cent. However, the Nifty Smallcap 100 index increased by 10 points or 0.06 per cent to close at 16,886 points. Sector-wise, pharma and metal stocks were the major gainers, while auto, IT, PSU bank, FMCG, and realty were the major losers. The India volatility index (India VIX) closed at 24.17 points on a day when 24 out of 30 Sensex stocks closed in the red.

## Tattoos pose inherent risks of hepatitis, HIV and cancers, warn doctors

Team Absolute | New Delhi

In a recent study of 11,905 individuals, by researchers at Lund University in Sweden, tattooed individuals were found to have a higher risk of lymphoma. The risk of lymphoma was highest in individuals with less than two years since their first tattoo. The risk associated with tattoo exposure seemed to be highest for large B-cell lymphoma and follicular lymphoma.

Love to get tattooed? Beware, the ink and needle used may raise your risk of getting diseases like Hepatitis B, C, HIV, and even cancers of the liver and blood, warned doctors on Wednesday. Tattoos have become very popular, especially among the youth, as a form of body art and a means of expressing their thoughts or passion. "The most obvious health concerns emanate from the use of possibly infected needles used to draw these tattoos in non-expert hands; the risk of contracting infections like Hepatitis B, C or even HIV," Suhail Qureshi, Additional Director & Unit Head - Medical Oncology, Fortis Hospital Shalimar Bagh, told reporter. "This is because the tattoo ink, which may contain polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon (PAH) -- a known carcinogen, is injected into the skin. The body treats it as



a foreign object that should not be there, and the immune system gets activated. A large part of the ink is transported away from the skin, to the lymph nodes where it is deposited," Tushar Tayal, Consultant, Internal Medicine, CK Birla Hospital, Gurugram, told reporter. Recently, Australia's Department of Health also surveyed the composition of tattoo inks and found a mismatch between the labelling and the contents. They found PAHs in 20 per cent of the samples tested and in 83 per cent of the

black inks. Other hazardous components found in the inks included heavy metals like mercury, barium, copper, amines, and various colourants. "These hazardous chemicals may cause simple ailments like skin problems to the more dangerous skin cancers," Suhail said. He explained that the "ink may get absorbed from the dermis (outer layer of the skin) into the lymphatic system of the body and may increase the risk of some other cancers like liver, urinary bladder as well as blood cancers like lymphoma and leukaemia". The hazardous chemicals in the tattoo ink are primarily responsible for these dangerous ailments and until the time health care authorities strictly regulate the contents of such inks, this risk will always remain. "While not all tattoo inks contain these cancer-causing chemicals, we need to exercise caution while getting a tattoo since in India, there are no regulatory frameworks that govern this," Suhail said.

## Two kids killed, one hurt as car in convoy of Brij Bhushan Singh's son runs them over in UP

Gonda (UP):

Two children died and one was injured after a car in the convoy of BJP candidate from Kaiserganj, Karan Bhushan Singh, ran them over near Baikunth Degree College on Colonelganj-Hujoorpur Road in Gonda on Wednesday. Karan Bhushan Singh is the son of BJP leader Brij Bhushan Singh who is involved in a protracted legal battle with women wrestlers. Police have seized the car and taken the bodies of the children into custody, while the injured child has been admitted to hospital. According to a police spokesman, the accident involved a car in Karan Bhushan Singh's convoy. It is not known yet if Karan Bhushan Singh was present in the convoy at the time of the accident as his name is not mentioned in the initial report. Further details are awaited.





# JUNE 4 WILL BE 'BIG TURNING POINT' IN BUILDING 'SWARNIM BHARAT': PM MODI

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said that the next five years will play a decisive role in building a "swarnim Bharat" with the "big turning point" taking place on June 4 - the day results of the Lok Sabha elections are announced.

"Countries that gained independence along with us - many of them smaller in size and ordinary - have reached great heights. We had so much talent, skill and potential, a growing young population, but we kept falling behind," said PM Modi while addressing an election rally in Mathurapur, his last in West Bengal during the ongoing 2024 elections.

Citing the transformation that has taken place over the last 10 years, he stated that the same India is now moving ahead with great speed and is being watched closely and praised by the entire world.



"For 60 years, the country was struggling in every sector... And, for the past 10 years, people have witnessed the progress that India is

capable of making," said PM Modi. The Prime Minister told the massive gathering that everyone in the world - be it the US, Australia, Japan

or Europe - looks at India with respect now.

"You have made this happen, your one vote has given me the strength to hoist the Indian flag in the world," he said.

As he addressed more public meetings in Odisha's Mayurbhanj and Balasore later in the day, PM Modi continued to spotlight the progressive approach of his government, specifically listing improved sanitation facilities in villages and providing LPG connections, clean water, free food grains and medical treatment to people all over the country.

"India will become the third largest economic power in the world. In the next five years, we will witness an 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' in many sectors. We will see a complete transformation of highways, expressways, and railways. This will directly benefit our eastern regions, including Odisha," assured PM Modi.

## BJP tried to topple 'honest government' in Himachal, says Priyanka Gandhi

Kullu/Mandi | Agencies

Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi on Tuesday said the BJP has tried to topple the "honest government in Himachal Pradesh elected by honest people by buying MLAs as part of a conspiracy, but in democracy the people are supreme".

Priyanka held public meetings in Kullu and Mandi in favour of party candidate Vikramaditya Singh.

She said in 10 years the BJP became the richest party in the world because donations were collected through raids. "The BJP took a donation of Rs 52 crore from the same company whose vaccine is causing deaths. In Gujarat, the BJP took donations from the company whose bridge collapsed."

Priyanka said the Congress candidate from Mandi Lok Sabha constituency Vikramaditya Singh never turned his back to serve the party, unlike what the BJP candidate "is saying about her own party workers".

She appealed to everyone to make Vikramaditya Singh victorious with a huge margin and said by becoming an MP, he will fulfill his responsibility with full devotion.

She said the Congress governments promoted tourism in the state, due to which small businesses flourished. "But the policies



of the Modi government are to crush small and medium industries."

Priyanka said after the formation of the Congress government at the Centre, women will be given Rs 8,500 per month and Rs 1 lakh in a year. A total of 30 lakh vacant posts in the government sector will be filled and 50 percent reservation will be given to women.

In Mandi, Congress legislator Vikramaditya Singh, the scion of the erstwhile royal family, challenges Bollywood's queen Kangana Ranaut of the BJP.

Polling for the four Lok Sabha seats in Himachal Pradesh -- Shimla (reserved), Kangra, Mandi and Hamirpur -- is scheduled for June 1.

## Police rescue 57 minors from Ghaziabad slaughterhouse after complaint by NCPDR

Ghaziabad | Agencies

A total of 57 minors, including 31 girls and 26 boys, were rescued from a slaughterhouse in UP's Ghaziabad following a joint operation by the police and the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPDR), an official said on Wednesday.

"Today, in a joint raid conducted with @NCPDR\_ on the instructions of @Uppolice at the International Agro Food slaughterhouse of Yasin Qureshi in the Mussoorie area of Ghaziabad district in Uttar Pradesh, 57 minors (31 girls and 26 boys, including handicapped people) have been rescued; operation is still on. All of them were being made to slaughter animals there," NCPDR chief Priyank Kanoongo said in a post on X.

"The number may change



once other processes, including age verification of the children, are completed. Action has been taken on the complaint of Mission Mukti," he added.

A senior police officer said that due to the poor economic condition of their families, these children were brought from their respective states to Ghaziabad on the pretext of providing jobs.

"They (the minors) were then put to work at International Agro Foods without their prior knowledge of the nature of the work. The police are searching for the persons who brought these children from

their states to initiate action against them," the officer said. According to the police, the NCPDR had received a complaint that approximately 40 children from Bihar and West Bengal were being forced to work in inhumane conditions at a slaughterhouse in Ghaziabad.

This complaint was lodged with the Ghaziabad Police Commissionerate.

"Based on the information provided by the officials of the NCPDR, the police assembled a team. On Wednesday, a joint operation was conducted at International Agro Foods in Dasna. During the operation, 57 minors were safely rescued from the slaughterhouse," the officer said.

International Agro Foods is involved in meat processing, freezing, and exports. The company supplies a significant amount of its products overseas.

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Ghaziabad | Agencies

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## Experience the Joy of Natural Childbirth

COCOON HOSPITAL, JAIPUR HOSTS TRANSFORMATIVE MASTERCLASS FOR EXPECTING COUPLES

Lalit Sharma | Jaipur

In a dedicated effort to support and educate expecting couples, Cocoon Hospital in Jaipur proudly hosted a comprehensive masterclass focused on natural birthing and preparation for motherhood. The event, curated to provide essential insights into pregnancy, childbirth, and early parenting, featured distinguished guest speaker and author, Dr. Mahima Bakshi, a renowned expert in maternal and child health.

With the participation of over 30 eager couples, the session proved to be an exceptional success, fostering an environment of learning, camaraderie, and empowerment. Dr. Bakshi's masterclass delved into various critical topics, ranging from effective breathing techniques for labor to nurturing early bonds with the newborn. The workshop also included



warm-up exercises, couple sessions, and natural techniques for labor, emphasizing the importance of mother and child bonding.

The event also featured an insightful panel discussion and Q&A session

with esteemed experts, including Dr. Himani Sharma (OBS & Gynae), Dr. Manish Mittal (NeoNatalogist), and Dr. Kaetinki (Anesthetist) who addressed pressing concerns and queries related to childbirth and new-

born care.

Reflecting on the event's impact, Dr. Shankar Narang, CEO of Cocoon Hospital, remarked, "Our commitment to nurturing informed, confident parents drives events like these. Witnessing the positive impact on families as they embark on this beautiful journey is heartening. Preparing mothers for natural childbirth and ensuring they have the knowledge and confidence needed for this experience is at the heart of our mission."

The masterclass equipped expecting couples with essential knowledge and skills and provided a platform for community-building and mutual support. Through collaborative efforts and expert guidance, Cocoon Hospital continues to empower individuals and families, ensuring a smooth and fulfilling transition into parenthood.

## Tearing Dr Ambedkar's poster: BJP functionary files police complaint against Awhad

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A BJP functionary has filed a complaint with the Raigad Superintendent of Police against NCP(SP) legislator Jitendra Awhad for allegedly tearing a poster of Dr BR Ambedkar.

BJP functionary Advocate Vivekanand Gupta in his complaint, has demanded Awhad's immediate arrest, saying that it was an offence under Section 3 (t) (v) of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

"Awhad committed the atrocious and appalling act of tearing the poster of Dr Ambedkar who is a revered figure in the country. The said act was live on some electronic channels and this has hurt the feelings of a large number of people and particularly the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes.

"Nobody can ignore Dr Ambedkar for his vast contribution to Indian society. Dr Ambedkar's photo being torn and thrown has hurt the people deeply both mentally and



emotionally," said Gupta in his complaint.

He has demanded that an FIR be registered against Awhad and action be taken in accordance with procedure duly established by law.

## Amid heatwave, 50 students faint in schools in Bihar

Patna | Agencies

At least 50 school students fainted in various schools in three districts of Bihar -- Sheikhpura, Begusarai and Motihari (East Champaran) on Wednesday -- due to heatwave.

In Sheikhpura, 24 students fainted on the premises of a government school in Mankol village. The teaching and non-teaching staff rushed them to the Sadar Hospital. Enraged over it, villagers blocked the main road.

Savita Devi, parent of a student and a native of Mankol village, said, "The teachers informed that students have fainted in school. When we reached the school, we saw many children in an unconscious state. A few children were crying loudly. We arranged vehicles and rushed the students to the Sadar hospital."

In Begusarai, 20 students fainted and were admitted to



Sadar Hospital. Similarly in a school in Motihari, many students fainted.

The angry parents protested against the Education Department, saying despite the searing heat, summer vacations are not being announced.

Rajnikant and Satyendra Kumar, who provided treatment to the students at the hospital, said the children were dehydrated.

"The classroom neither had proper seating arrangement, nor fresh air. Due to dehydration, the children started fainting one after the other. Everyone has been given ORS and necessary medicines.

## D2C shipments market in India set to reach \$2.7 bn by 2028: Report

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The D2C (direct-to-consumer) market in India is set to hit \$2.2 to 2.7 billion by 2028, growing at 35-40 per cent (year-on-year) from 2023 to 2028, a new report said on Wednesday.

According to strategy consulting firm Redseer Strategy Consultants, the annual D2C shipments have skyrocketed from 0.1 billion in 2019 to 0.6 billion in 2023.

A significant portion of these shipments is attributed to the services of the 3PL (third-party logistics) providers, who play a major role in delivering superior customer service. 3PL providers offer tailored and comprehensive end-to-end logistics services, including warehousing, inventory management, shipment intelligence, and transportation.

"3PL providers are integral to the value-chain of the new age D2C brands. They are continuously innovating to address the unique needs of these brands, fostering partnerships



from the early stages of the brand journey," said Kanishka Mohan, Partner, Redseer Strategy Consultants.

The report highlighted how 3PL logistics players are innovating to meet the growing demands of new-age D2C brands. As per the report, 3PL providers are investing heavily in technology and infrastructure, offering accelerated delivery times, real-time tracking, non-delivery reports, and predictive analytics for returns.

They provide seamless cash-on-delivery (COD) solutions with swift remittance, typically within 48 hours, which is vital for the working capital of smaller brands. They help new-age firms expand into offline markets by providing integrated logistics and supply chain solutions such as warehousing, express part-truckload and full-truckload freight and streamlined distribution to brick-and-mortar stores, the report said.

## Army denies scuffle with cops in J&K's Kupwara



Srinagar | Agencies

The Army on Wednesday rebutted allegations that its soldiers had beaten up some policemen in Jammu & Kashmir's Kupwara district.

An Army statement said, "An altercation between police and Army personnel and beating up therein of police personnel are misfounded and incorrect. Minor differences between the police personnel and a territorial army unit on an operational matter have been amicably resolved."

Officials earlier in the day said that a team of soldiers accompanied by an officer

had barged into the Kupwara police station and beat up four policemen, including two SPOs and two constables.

The officials also said that the four injured policemen were later admitted to Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) Soura in Srinagar city for specialised treatment.

Officials had alleged that the raid of a police team at the house of a Territorial Army soldier had angered the Army after which they barged into the police station.

Doctors at SKIMS hospital have said the injured policemen are stable, officials added.



# MAN KILLS 8 FAMILY MEMBERS WITH AXE, INCLUDING MOTHER, WIFE, TEEN SISTER

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A man hacked to death eight members of his family with an axe in Madhya Pradesh's Chhindwara district and later died by suicide, police said on Wednesday.

The murders took place late Tuesday night in the tribal village of Bodal Kachhar, over 145 km away from Chhindwara district headquarters. Police said the man was suffering from mental illnesses.

At 2.30 am, when the family was sleeping, Dinesh Gond alias Bhura went on a rampage.

He attacked his mother Siyabai, 55, wife Varsha, 23, brother Shrawan Kumar, 35, and Shrawan's wife Baratobai, 30. He then struck his 16-year-old sister Parvati, five-year-old nephew Krishna and nieces Sewnti (4) and Deepa (1) with the axe.

All eight of them died on the spot. He also attacked a 10-year-old neighbour who was rescued by his grandmother.

Hearing the victims' screams, neighbours entered the house. Seeing them, Dinesh fled the scene.

Later, his body was found hanging from a tree, nearly 100 metres away from the house.

The reason behind the attack is not



known. Police have reached the spot and begun an investigation.

According to the locals, Dinesh's condition had worsened after his marriage.

"The accused was mentally ill and was undergoing treatment. He killed his wife, brother, sister-in-law and other members of his family (a total of eight persons) and then died by suicide. He was suffering from Schizophrenia, after consultation

with doctors we came to know that a person suffering from the disease may attack people, later he realised that he committed a mistake and died by suicide. So prima facie it seems that this may have happened in this case as well, he must have realized his mistake and committed suicide. We are investigating the case," said Anil Singh Kushwaha, Inspector General of Police (IG) Jabalpur Zone.

## THE MATTER WILL BE INVESTIGATED: MOHAN YADAV

Bhopal: The government will investigate the case of murder and then suicide of eight people of the same family in Chhindwara district of Madhya Pradesh. This announcement was made by Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav on Wednesday.

Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav has described the incident of murder of eight members of his own family and then suicide by a mentally ill youth named Dinesh in Mahulji police station area of Chhindwara district as tragic.

He also said that what happened that after 7 days of marriage a person killed eight family members and also took his own life. The state government will investigate this incident.

Meanwhile, CM Yadav has sent senior government minister Sampatia Uike to Chhindwara to gather more information in this matter. State government minister Uike will talk to the affected family members.

# Mohan Yadav met the victim's family in Sagar, announced financial help and opening of police post



Team Absolute | Sagar

After the Dalit massacre in Barodia Nonagir village of Sagar district of Madhya Pradesh, Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav reached among the victim's family. He consoled the victim's family, also assured to open a police post in the village and announced financial assistance. Chief Minister Dr. Mohan

Yadav reached Barodia Nonagir village on Wednesday and met the family members of Rajendra Ahirwar. He consoled the family and expressed sympathy. Emphasis was also laid on mutual coordination and harmony in the village.

He has talked about arranging a police post in the village and making strong security arrangements. It is necessary to

make efforts to create mutual harmony in the society and ensure that such incidents do not happen again.

It may be noted that two members of the same family have been murdered in Barodia Nonagir village within a period of about a year. A girl died under suspicious circumstances after falling from an ambulance. This matter started political stir.

# Study Visit of Waste Paper Recycling Unit and Film Show

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Regional Museum of Natural History, Bhopal (A Regional Centre of National Museum of Natural History, New Delhi) is organizing various activities under Summer Nature Study Programme- Green Teen for the students of class 8th to 10th. In continuation of the environmental educational programmes; Films like Kanha, Effects of Climate Change were screened during the Film Show on 29th May, 2024. A study visit of Waste Paper Recycling Unit at Environmental Planning & Coordination Organization (EPCO), Bhopal was arranged for the participants to provide the knowledge about Waste Paper Recycling.

Rajesh Mishra and their team demonstrated the process of waste paper recycling in to useful paper and



told that the collected waste paper are being turned into small pieces with the help of Rag Cutter and those small pieces are poured with water in to Hydra Pulper to get Paper Pulp. 25% of Hosiery Cloth and Deodor gum are being mixed in to paper pulp to get stronger paper and this mixture is being transferred in to Beater for better mixing and finally that pulp can be

spread on the mesh of Auto Vat to get Wet Paper. Wet Paper is being pressed under Screw Press Machine to extract 60% of water and remain 40% water evaporates during Sun Dry. Final product of paper is processed after pressing and cutting in desired sizes. Participants of the programme prepared paper under practical session of the programme.

# Jitu Patwari wrote a letter to Mohan Yadav, said that there is jungle raj in the state

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Congress has launched a major attack on the state government in the case of murder of two members of a Dalit family in Sagar district of Madhya Pradesh and the subsequent suspicious death of a girl. By writing a letter to Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav, Congress State President Jitu Patwari has alleged that there is jungle raj in the state.

State Congress President Jitu Patwari wrote a letter to Chief Minister Yadav on Wednesday, in which it has been said that the jungle raj of tales and stories has become a reality in Madhya Pradesh. The incident that happened with the Ahirwar family in Barodia Nonagir village of Sagar district has tarnished Madhya Pradesh. A Dalit family was destroyed as part of a well-planned conspiracy. Many murders have taken place, but no trial is taking place.

Jitu Patwari further wrote in his letter that Rajendra Ahirwar was pressurized to resign and he was attacked by five people. He was seriously injured and died in Bhopal. Meanwhile, while bringing the



dead body from Bhopal to Sagar, Anjana Ahirwar falls from the dead body and dies. Earlier in August 2023, Anjana's brother Nitin was murdered.

Congress state president Jitu Patwari has alleged that the law and order situation in the state has broken down and has crossed all levels of anarchy. Now being a Dalit has become a crime in the state. The state which tops in tribal atrocities, does it want to become an example in Dalit oppression also? However, this crisis is not only in Sagar district, the situation is the same in every district of the state. Law and order has become a joke and the morale of criminals is high, while the government remains silent.

The responsibility of Home Minister in the state rests with Chief Minister Mohan Yadav. Regarding this, Congress State President Patwari has said that Yadav has the most disgraceful tenure as Home Minister.

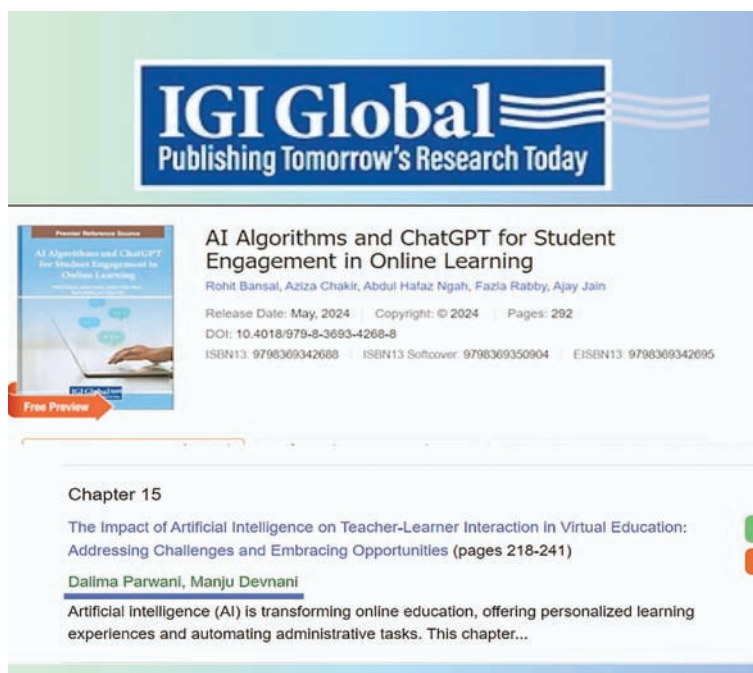
Patwari has demanded financial assistance of Rs 50 lakh each to the deceased family and has demanded a CBI investigation into all the murder cases under the supervision of the High Court.

# Faculty and Principal of Sant Hirdaram Girls College Publishes a Chapter on AI in Virtual Education

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Sant Hirdaram Girls College is proud to announce the publication of a significant academic contribution by Principal Dr. Dalima Parwani and Prof. Manju Devnani from the Department of Computer Science. Their chapter, "The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Teacher-Learner Interaction in Virtual Education: Addressing Challenges and Embracing Opportunities," has been featured in the newly released book by IGI Global, titled "AI Algorithms and Chat GPT for Student Engagement in Online Learning." IGI Global is a leading international academic publisher known for disseminating high-quality research across various fields, including technology, education, and social sciences.

The scholarly work probes into the transformative role of artificial



intelligence in enhancing interactions between teachers and learners in virtual environments. Their research reflects the institution's unwavering commitment to advancing Research and Development.

Principal Dr. Dalima Parwani stated that they were thrilled to contribute to the evolving discourse on AI in education. The chapter provides valuable insights into harnessing AI to create more interactive and effective virtual learning experiences.

The institution is dedicated to fostering a research-oriented environment that encourages faculty and students alike to engage in cutting-edge studies. The Management expressed their pride in the authors' achievement, highlighting that such contributions not only elevate the college's academic standing but also enrich the global academic community.

# First Emergency OPD Service in AIIMS Network Inaugurated at Bhopal

Team Absolute | Bhopal

AIIMS Bhopal has become a pioneering institution by launching the first Emergency Outpatient Department (OPD) service within the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) network. This significant milestone was marked by an inauguration ceremony led by Professor (Dr.) Ajai Singh, Executive Director of AIIMS Bhopal today on 29th May 2024. Professor Singh highlighted the importance of timely and accurate medical interventions in saving lives. He stated, "Through this emergency OPD, patients will receive quick and efficient medical services, ensuring better treatment at a lower cost. By effectively managing our resources, we aim to enhance the overall healthcare experience and satisfaction for our patients."

In connection with "Emergency Medicine Day" the emergency OPD was inaugurated today in the Department of Trauma and Emergency Medicine at AIIMS Bhopal. The event featured key discussions by Dr. Yunus head of Trauma & Emergency Medicine department and Dr. Bhupeshwari on the impact of climate change on emergency medicine, particularly focusing on summer-related



illnesses. They provided crucial insights into the symptoms and prevention of heat stroke, underscored by an educational play presented by the Department of Trauma and Emergency Medicine. Dr. Rashmi Verma, in-charge of the Emergency OPD, said that the facility will be operational round-the-clock, offering services 24 hours a day, seven days a week. "Our goal is to be available for the community at all times, ensuring immediate medical attention is accessible whenever needed," she said.

The event also featured a creative segment where Shivansh Gaur, a sixth-grade student, shared valuable tips on heat protection through a comic, which was subsequently distributed among the patients and their families, emphasizing community awareness and education.

# Bajrang Dal member turns out to be the mastermind of theft in temple

Team Absolute | Guna

Hanuman Tekri Temple of Guna district of Madhya Pradesh is not only Guna but also a big center of faith of Hindus of Madhya Pradesh. A major theft took place in Hanuman Tekri temple four years ago, which has now been revealed by the police and 4 accused have been arrested who had committed the theft in the Lord's house. The surprising thing is that the mastermind of the theft himself is a devotee of Hanuman ji and used to go to Hanuman Tekri temple daily to have darshan of the Lord. He is also a member of Bajrang Dal. While disclosing



the theft that took place in Hanuman Tekri temple, Guna police said that the mastermind of the incident is a young man named Ganesh Ram Jaiswal, who is also a member of Bajrang Dal. Ganesh had lost the house's money in gambling. This money was for his wife's treatment. To recover the money, he planned a theft in Hanuman Tekri temple along with his friend Annu alias Anil Mor. Ganesh is a devotee of Hanuman ji and used to go to Tekri daily for

darshan, hence he had complete knowledge about the temple and the donation box.

To compensate for the household money, he had decided to commit theft in the Ganesh temple. He, along with his friend Anil, raided the temple for 10-15 days and made a plan for theft. Then two associates named Manoj Jogi and Manoj Chaurasia were also involved in the theft. After the theft, the Tekri management had said that there were about Rs 50 thousand in the donation box, but during interrogation, the accused confessed to stealing more than Rs 3.10 thousand in cash and Rs 1.13 lakh were also recovered from them.

# CBI WILL INVESTIGATE 470 NURSING COLLEGES OF THE STATE

## 9 sent to jail in bribery case, 4 including Inspector Rahul Raj are still on remand

Team Absolute | Bhopal

After the scam came to light in the investigation, CBI will now investigate 470 nursing colleges running nursing diploma courses in the entire state including Bhopal. For this, Madhya Pradesh Nurses Registration Council has informed CBI, on the other hand, in the Nursing College bribery case, CBI has presented the accused in the court late on Tuesday night. After this, accused CBI Inspector Sushil Kumar Majoka, Anil Bhaskaran, Tanveer Khan, Radharaman Sharma, Sachin Jain, Ved Prakash Sharma, Preeti Tilakwar, Suma Anil Bhaskaran, Jalpana Adhikari were sent to jail. At the same time, 4 accused Om Goswami, Ravi Bhadauria and Jugal



Kishore Sharma are still on remand. Let us tell you, CBI had dismissed Inspector Sushil Majoka on Tuesday itself. Show-cause notices have been issued to 111 officers who inspected 66 nursing colleges which were

declared unsuitable in the CBI investigation report. All the officers have been asked the reason for giving the standard level reports of nursing colleges which do not meet the standards of Indian Nursing Council and Madhya Pradesh Nursing Council. This has been confirmed by senior officers of the Directorate of Medical Education. The list of 470 colleges offering diploma courses has been handed over to the CBI. But till now neither the CM has given any statement regarding the role of the departmental minister in the entire matter nor has any notice been issued by the CBI. Officials of the Directorate of Medical Education said that the nursing colleges were inspected for recognition by assistant professors of government medical colleges and teach-

ing faculty of government nursing colleges. For this, the Director Nursing and Paramedical Services had sent 111 officers to inspect different nursing colleges. On the basis of the inspection report of the officers, recognition was given to those 66 nursing colleges which were found unsuitable in the CBI investigation. Later, on the instructions of Madhya Pradesh High Court, the state government has given instructions to the district collectors to take action to close these institutions. Officials of the Directorate of Medical Education said that the officers who inspected unsuitable nursing colleges had submitted wrong (false) inspection reports of the concerned institutions to the Nurses Registration Council.



EDITOR'S SPECS

## Senior SP leader inches closer to BJP

Just days before the final phase of polling, senior Samajwadi Party leader Narad Rai is all set to join the BJP. The SP leader, on Monday night, took to 'X' to praise Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, making his intentions clear. Rai, who was considered close to late SP patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav, also posted a photograph of his meeting with Amit Shah on X. Rai described Prime Minister Modi as one who has brought accolades for the country at the global front and used the phrase "Chanakya of Politics" for Amit Shah. "Will strengthen their resolve to strengthen the last man in the queue and their commitment towards nationalism," his post read. Narad Rai belongs to the Bhumihar community which has a significant presence in the Purvanchal region. According to sources, Narad Rai was feeling sidelined in the party, especially after SP's focus shifted to PDA -- Pichda (Backwards) Dalit and Alpasankhyak (Minorities). Rai was also apparently upset over his name not being mentioned by SP national president Akhilesh Yadav during his address at an election rally in Ballia recently. Expressing his displeasure over the management of the event, he pointed fingers at 'new' SP leaders around the SP chief who "can't even win a booth by themselves". In his message, he recalled the contribution of Mulayam Singh Yadav, senior leader Janeshwar Mishra and socialist ideologue Ram Manohar Lohia. In one of the messages, he said Mulayam Singh Yadav had once said that one should not hesitate to revolt if he or his people are disrespected. Narad reportedly held a series of meetings with his supporters who turned up in large numbers during the last couple of days to gauge their mood.

# BHARAT'S SECURITY PROWESS UNSETTLES WEST-CENTRIC GLOBAL SECURITY DYNAMICS

Rahul Pawa

Over the past year, India has found itself at the epicentre of Western allegations, coupled with old friend camaraderie with Pakistani generals accusing Indian officials of undermining the sovereignties of nations by purportedly engaging in the termination of terrorists in Canada, the US, and Pakistan.

This intimidating interest in alleged Indian clandestine security operations, raises pivotal questions about the underlying motives and the broader global dynamics at play. Concurrently, it signals India's ascendance in the realm of global security as a revitalised and influential force, unsettling the traditional West-centric world order.

In an era where the global threat landscape is increasingly complex, global and interconnected, India's extraordinary criminal justice measures to neutralise terrorists over the past decade - such as the September 29, 2016 surgical strike on terror launchpads across the Line of Control in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, and the 2019 airstrike on the Jaish-e-Mohammed training camp in Balakot, Pakistan - are particularly significant.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, these operations had shed the "outdated and reluctant" image of Indian security agencies of the past, showcasing new India's capability and resolve. The operations were conducted with a notable degree of professionalism, responsibility and transparency, as the Indian PM informed his Pakistani counterpart before disclosing them to the world. These actions not only announced Bharat's arrival as a formidable security force, but also challenged the traditional West-centric world order.

Recent Western allegations, devoid of substantive evidence as seen in opinion-heavy reporting of 'The Guardian' claiming India's role



in tens of terrorist terminations in Pakistan, a covert unseen Five Eyes network intelligence report regarding the killing of Canadian terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar and subsequent local vote-bank influence as evidenced in Canada, along with the case involving the alleged attempted assassination of Gurbatwint Singh Pannun, the US-based face of the proscribed terrorist entity Sikhs For Justice (SFJ), appear to be part of a broader strategy aimed at exerting collective pressure and undermining India's assertive stance against terrorism.

India which has long been a victim of cross-border terrorism orchestrated by Pakistan and its extensive global terror network, which includes Canadian and

American terrorists. Canadian terrorists like Talwinder Singh Parmar of Babbar Khalsa masterminded the 1985 bombing of Air India Flight 182, claiming 329 innocent lives. Similarly, American terrorists like David Coleman Headley and his Canadian accomplice Tahawwur Rana played pivotal roles in the distasteful 2008 Mumbai attacks by Lashkar-e-Taiba, resulting in 175 deaths and over 300 injuries.

More recent attacks, such as the 2016 Uri assault by Pakistan-backed Jaish-e-Mohammed, which killed 19 Indian soldiers and injured 30, and the 2019 Pulwama suicide bombing by Jaish-e-Mohammed and Lashkar-e-Taiba, which took the lives of over 40 Indian police

personnel, underscore the persistent threat India faces.

In this context, India's measures acknowledged criminal justice measures like those listed above to protect itself are not only moral and lawful but also a national security imperative. However, the coordinated Western and Pakistani allegations involving unravelings like Nijjar's assassination in Canada, an attempted assassination of Pannun, and tens of terrorist killings in Pakistan appear more fixed on challenging the newfound capabilities of India's security apparatus under Prime Minister Modi. This stance appears discordant with traditional secu-

riety superpowers that often perceive national security as their exclusive domain.

Most importantly, India's strategic partnerships with various nations, including those in the West, are built on mutual respect and shared interests. These alliances are grounded in a mutual commitment to promoting global stability, economic development, and security. However, for these relationships to thrive and be truly effective, they must be free from unwarranted accusations and intimidation that can undermine trust and cooperation.

Unsubstantiated allegations and politicised narratives not only strain diplomatic ties but also detract from the collaborative efforts needed to combat terrorism effectively.

By fostering an environment of mutual trust and respect, Western nations and India can work together to dismantle terrorist networks, prevent radicalisation and enhance global security.

In conclusion, it is imperative that Western nations avoid actions that could be perceived as coercive or dismissive of India's security concerns. Instead, they should prioritize engagement that is based on equality, respect, and a shared commitment to eradicating terrorism. By doing so, they not only reinforce their alliances with India but also bolster the collective ability to address and overcome the multifaceted challenges posed by terrorism in the 21st century. It is time for the international community to support India's efforts to create a secure and stable world, acknowledging that a strong and secure Bharat is beneficial for global peace and prosperity.

**(The author is the research director of Delhi based think-tank, Centre for Integrated and Holistic Studies)**

## international

## UK's first black female MP 'banned' from standing as Labour candidate

London | Agencies

UK's first-ever black female member of parliament (MP), Diane Abbott, has said she is "banned" from standing as a Labour candidate in the general election.

The long-standing MP for the London constituency of Hackney North and Stoke Newington had the Labour whip restored on Tuesday, months after an investigation into her comments on racism had concluded.

On Wednesday, she told the BBC, "Although the whip has been restored, I am banned from standing as a Labour candidate."

Labour withdrew the whip from Abbott in April 2023 after she suggested Jewish, Irish and Traveller people experienced prejudice, and not racism. BBC Newsnight reported that Labour's National Executive Committee (NEC) had written to Abbott in December 2023 to say it had concluded an inquiry into her comments.

Asked about the investigation finishing in December, Labour leader Keir Starmer told broadcasters on Tuesday, "The process overall is obviously a little longer than the fact-finding exercise."

"But in the end, this is a matter that will have to be resolved by the National Executive Committee, and they'll do that in due course."

Starmer has previously said he could not get involved in the case.

The Times previously reported that Abbott, who made history when she was first elected in 1987, will be banned from standing as a Labour candidate, with suggestions that lifting her suspension would allow her to leave politics "with dignity."

Campaign group Momentum previously said restoring the whip to Abbott only to block her would be "outrageous."

It said, "Following a farcical, factional process, she has had the whip restored. Her local party reselected her unanimously. That should be the



end of the matter."

"Anything less is a slap in the face to Diane, her constituents and the millions inspired by her example as Britain's first black woman MP."

Abbott was reported to have been issued with a "formal warning" by the NEC for "engaging in conduct that was, in the opinion of the NEC, prejudicial and grossly detrimental to the

Labour Party."

She was told to take part in an online e-learning module, which she completed in February, something that Labour's chief whip allegedly acknowledged by email.

Abbott was an independent MP when Parliament was prorogued on Friday, May 24, ahead of the July 4 election. The veteran MP was suspended after she responded to an Observer article headlined, "Racism in Britain is not a black and white issue. It's far more complicated."

She wrote in a letter to the title, "It is true that many types of white people with points of difference, such as redheads, can experience this prejudice. But they are not all their lives subject to racism. In pre-civil rights America, Irish people, Jewish people and travellers were not required to sit at the back of the bus."

Abbott later said she wished to "wholly and unreservedly withdraw" her remarks and disassociate herself from them.

## Indian woman Army major to receive UN award for gender advocacy

United Nations | Agencies

Indian Army Major Radhika Sen has been selected to receive a UN award recognising her advocacy for women and girls while serving as a peacekeeper, Stephane Dujarric, the Spokesperson for UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, announced here.

Dujarric said that Guterres will present Sen with the 2023 Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award on Thursday, which is observed as the International Day of UN Peacekeepers.

The award recognises the efforts of a military peacekeeper in promoting the principles of the 2000 Security Council resolution that calls for protecting women and girls from conflict-related sexual violence and sets gender-related responsibilities for the UN.

Congratulating her, Guterres called her "a true leader and role model. Her service was a true credit to the United Nations as a whole". Sen served with the Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) where she helped create the Community Alert Networks in North Kivu as a platform that brought in community leaders, young people, and women "to voice their security and humanitarian concerns", according to the UN.

With her MONUSCO colleagues, she

worked to address those concerns.

Guterres said that "with humility, compassion and dedication", she earned the trust of "conflict-affected communities, including women and girls" as her troops engaged with them "in an escalating conflict environment in North Kivu".

Sen said, "Gender-sensitive peacekeeping is everybody's business - not just us, women. Peace begins with all of us in our beautiful diversity."

"This award is special to me as it gives a recognition to the hard work put in by all the peacekeepers working in the challenging environment of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and giving their best to bring a positive change in the society," she added.

Hailing from Himachal Pradesh, Sen is a biotech engineer who was studying for a master's degree at the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay when she decided to join the Army.

She was assigned to MONUSCO in 2023 as the Engagement Platoon Commander with the Indian Rapid Deployment Battalion, and completed her tenure in April 2024.

Sen is the second Indian peacekeeper to receive the honour after Major Suman Gawani, who served with the UN Mission in South Sudan and received the award in 2019.

## 28 KILLED AS BUS FALLS INTO RAVINE IN PAKISTAN

Islamabad: At least 28 people were killed and 20 others injured on Wednesday when a bus they were travelling in plunged into a ravine in Washuk district of Pakistan's Balochistan province.

The incident occurred as one of the tyres of the bus en route to Quetta from Gwadar, burst after which it fell into the ravine, Dawn reported. The injured were rushed to Basima Civil Hospital.

The death toll is expected to rise as some of the injured are critical, sources said.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti expressed deep grief and sorrow over the tragic incident. PM Sharif said, "We stand with the bereaved families in this difficult time." The prime minister and Bugti also directed authorities to provide all possible medical aid to the injured. Bugti prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured.

## North Korea sends over 150 balloons carrying trash into South: Seoul military

Seoul | Agencies

North Korea has sent more than 150 balloons carrying trash across the inter-Korean border, Seoul's military said on Wednesday, after the North warned of "tit-for-tat action" against anti-Pyongyang leaflets flown by the South's activists.

Since Tuesday night, the balloons have crossed the border to fall in various locations across the country, reaching as far as the southeastern province of South Gyeongsang and scattering waste as they fell to the ground, according to the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS).

The fallen balloons appeared to have carried various pieces of trash, such as plastic bottles, batteries, shoe parts and even manure, a JCS official said, with military officials collecting the objects for a detailed analysis, Yonhap news agency reported.

"These acts by North Korea clearly violate international law and seriously threaten our people's safety," the JCS



said. "(We) sternly warn North Korea to immediately stop its inhumane and vulgar act." On Sunday, North Korea said it would scatter "mounts of wastepaper and filth" over the border areas in a "tit-for-tat action" against the distribution of anti-Pyongyang leaflets.

The JCS advised residents in the areas not to touch the objects and to report to nearby military or police authorities if they discover them while warning the balloons could cause damage as they fall, noting damage to a vehicle and the roof of a house in 2016

due to such balloons sent by the North.

It said that it would come up with safety measures by working with the police and the government, noting that it is closely cooperating with the US-led UN Command in charge of overseeing activities in the Demilitarised Zone separating the two Koreas.

For years, North Korean defectors in South Korea and conservative activists have flown leaflets to the North via balloons to help encourage North Koreans to eventually rise up against the Pyongyang regime.

North Korea has bristled at the propaganda campaign amid concern that an influx of outside information could pose a threat to its leader, Kim Jong-un.

North Korea has repeatedly called for an end to the leaflet campaign. The issue has long been a source of tension between the two Koreas, which are still technically at war because the 1950-53 Korean War ended in a truce, not a peace treaty.

## US: F-35 crashes in New Mexico, pilot seriously injured

San Francisco: A new F-35 aircraft crashed near the airfield at the Albuquerque International Sunport in the US state of New Mexico, according to reports.

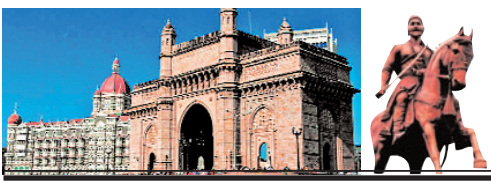
According to the airport officials and Albuquerque Fire Rescue, the crash occurred on Tuesday. The pilot was taken to University of New Mexico Hospital with serious injuries, reports Xinhua news agency.

As of Tuesday evening, the pilot was in stable condition, said a press release from Kirtland Air Force Base.

The aircraft was a new F-35, which was being transferred from a Lockheed Martin factory to be handed over to the service at the time of the crash, officials said.

Lockheed Martin said the F-35B was en route from Fort Worth, Texas, to Edwards Air Force Base in California when it crashed after refuelling at Kirtland Air Force Base in New Mexico.





Porsche crash case

# SHIV SENA (UBT) RAISES FEARS OVER ACCUSED DOCTORS' SAFETY

Team Absolute | Pune

Shiv Sena (UBT) Deputy Leader Sushma Andhare on Wednesday expressed 'concerns' over the safety of one of the two doctors of the Sassoon General Hospital who were nabbed along with a peon for changing the blood sample of the minor accused in the May 19 Porsche crash.

Andhare said that certain developments are likely to emerge in the coming days in the case which raises questions on the safety of the accused Dr Ajay Taware -- who was nabbed along with Dr Shrihari Halnor.

"Dr Taware is a crucial witness in the Porsche crash case, he knows many things and his safety is important. I shall be making some revelations after the Lok Sabha results as I do not want to overburden the police with many other things," said the SS-UBT leader.

Rubbishing Andhare's contentions, ruling MahaYuti ally Shiv Sena spokesperson Sanjay Shirsat said, "It's not so easy to finish off anybody" and



patted the police "who are doing their job efficiently". "If they are so concerned, they should approach the Police Commissioner instead of making such baseless claims," said Shirsat

dismissively. Dr Taware and Dr Halnor, besides a peon, Atul Ghatkamble were arrested earlier this week and are in police custody till May 30, for allegations of tampering

with the blood report and changing the minor accused's blood sample with that of some other person.

During his interrogation, Dr Taware has reportedly warned that he would not sit quiet and expose all others involved in the sensational case, while police have recovered a bribe amount of Rs 3,00,000 from the two other accused, allegedly paid for services rendered.

Andhare's statement came a day after Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) ally Congress state President Nana Patole demanded the case be handed over to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

On Wednesday, Nationalist Congress Party (SP) National General Secretary Dr Jitendra Awhad also questioned the identity and political links of another boy sitting in the Porsche car with the minor accused at the time of the crash around 2.30 a.m. on May 19 that killed IT engineers Ashwini Koshthe and Aneesh Awadhya, both from Madhya Pradesh.

# Six of family killed as car plunges into canal in Sangli

Team Absolute | Sangli (Maharashtra)

Six members of a family were killed and a woman was seriously injured when the car in which they were travelling plunged into a dry canal near Tasgaon on Wednesday, a police official said.

According to Shivaji Mandale, the on-duty officer of Tasgaon Police Station, the crash took place on Tasgaon-Manerajuri Road around 1.30 a.m. when the speeding Alto car plunged into the Tasari Canal in the darkness.

As the canal was dry owing to the end of the summer season, the car crashed with full force on the canal bed around 10 metres below and its front portion was badly crushed.

The occupant family was returning to Tasgaon from Kavathe-Mahankal where they had gone to celebrate the birthday of one of the daughters -- among the



deceased.

Though the exact cause of the accident was being investigated, a preliminary probe indicated that the vehicle driver from among the family members, may have dozed off at the wheel at that hour.

The injured victims lay in the inky darkness of the canal, much below the road level, for several hours, screaming for help but there was nobody to hear them or render assistance. It was only around dawn that a local villager spotted the tragedy and sounded an alert, informed the police and organized rescue work by 6.30 a.m., said Mandale.

The rescuers rushed the sole survivor Swapnali V. Bhonsle, 30, to the LifeCare Hospital in Tasgaon with severe injuries, Mandale added, and the legal formalities are being carried out.

The other victims who perished in the accident are identified as Rajendra J. Patil 60, his wife Sujata R. Patil, 55, their daughter Priyanka A. Kharade, 30, grandchildren Dhruva, 3, Rajvi, 2 and 1-year-old Kartiki.

A crane has been requisitioned to remove the car from the canal bed, the bodies have been sent for autopsy and further probe is underway, said Mandale.

# Man dupes 2 persons of Rs 80 lakh by posing as CBI officer; arrested

Team Absolute | Thane

Police has arrested a man from Maharashtra's Navi Mumbai township after he allegedly posed as a CBI officer and duped two persons of Rs 80 lakh under the pretext of helping them obtain land in Kolhapur.

As per the report, the accused who is from Koparkhairne in Navi Mumbai, had worked as a driver with the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on a contractual basis.

After his contract ended, he posed as an officer of the agency and cheated the two persons, CBD police station's senior inspector Giridhar Gore said. The accused met the victims, hailing from Kolhapur, at a government office in Navi Mumbai in April 2022 and claimed he could help them get 500 acres of forest land at Hazra in the district, he said.

To gain their confidence, he showed them a no objection certificate (NOC) of the forest department, said the PTI report. Additionally, he fabricated an order of a



court in connection with the land, the official said. The accused took around Rs 80 lakh from the two victims. He neither got them the land as promised nor refunded their money despite repeated reminders, he said. The victims subsequently approached the police and filed a complaint. The accused was arrested on Monday and booked under relevant provisions, the police added.

# In scalding heat, passengers at Nagpur station get a 'cool, misty' welcome

Team Absolute | Nagpur

As temperatures soar to 45 degrees Celsius in the Orange City, passengers and tourists at Central Railway's Nagpur station are experiencing some degrees of cool comfort, thanks to a sophisticated mist cooling system, officials said here.

When hundreds of passengers alight at the Nagpur station's three main platforms, they are greeted with a misty spray, making it a "cool welcome" in the blistering summer heat all over, and it is the only station in the country to have this facility. Encouraged by the public response, the Central Railway (CR) is now planning to install similar cool mist systems at Wardha, Sevagram, Chandrapur, Ballarsha railwa stations by next summer (2025), said Senior Divisional Railway Manager at Nagpur, Aman Mittal.

The mist cooling system reduces the ambient temperatures on the platform by 6-8 degrees Celsius, thanks to evaporating water dispersed through nozzles placed at vantage points on the platforms. The water is sprayed through a high-pressure pump,



micro-filters, and a control system, with a network of pipes and fittings and specialised nozzles that direct the mist jets at the passengers, bringing a smile to their faces. "The mist system is a practical and eco-friendly cooling solution for the long and wide open-air platforms where installing air-conditioners is not feasible for various reasons," Mittal told reporter. The micro-filtration is the key to the cooling system's efficiency, preventing nozzle blockages and reducing maintenance needs, while ensuring that it remains

effective and reliable throughout the summer months, said the official. "It is activated only during the summer months, when the trains arrive and there is a crowd of passengers. Nagpur has around 15-16 trains long-distance originating-terminating, plus another 40 through trains, with thousands of people on the platforms," said the official.

The entire system is developed in-house by the CR and costs around Rs 14 lakhs per platform, proving a boon to the travelers sweating it out in roasting heat. Besides, the misty cooling is designed for easy and affordable upkeep, long-term operations without a major cost burden on the CR as it consumes minimum energy.

In addition to cooling, there are other benefits like improving the air quality on the platforms, reducing dust, smoke and other respirable particles and leading to a healthy environment for the passengers, Mittal added. It has been installed without using additional space, seamlessly integrated into the existing platform infrastructure and has got good passenger reactions.

# MAN KILLS WOMAN, WRAPS BODY IN PLASTIC BAG AND FLEES

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In a shocking incident in Goregaon, a man allegedly killed a woman, wrapped her body in a plastic bag, turned on the fan and cooler and then escaped. The odour of the decomposing body brought the murder to light. When the neighbours broke the lock of the house and entered, they discovered the body wrapped in a plastic bag.

According to police sources, the deceased woman has been identified as Dibya Toppo, 29, while the absconding accused has been identified as Jairam Lakada, 39. The duo resided in a rented house located in Ashok Nagar, Kama Estate, Hub Mall, Western Express Highway, Goregaon East.

"It has not yet been revealed whether the two were husband and wife or live-in partners, but when they took the house on rent, they presented themselves as husband and wife to the landlord. They had been living in the rented house for the past 15 months after paying Rs 20,000 as deposit and a monthly rent of Rs 5,000. Both worked as labourers at the Nesco Centre.

After checking the Aadhaar card found in the rent agreement, it was discovered that the couple was from Odisha. The deceased woman, Dibya Toppo, was the daughter of John Toppo, a resident



of village Surulata Sunjore, district Sundargarh, Odisha. The suspect jairam was also from the same district. A rubber molding factory operates on the ground floor of the house where the couple was residing. Owner of the factory and the tenement Sameer Bataviya told mid-day, "Jairam paid the rent on

May 22, and after that, we did not see him. Our factory operates from morning until 9 pm, after which we close it and go home. Both Jairam and his wife worked at Nesco, and they used to come home only after we left." Bataviya said that there was a foul smell coming from the house for some days and initially, they suspected a dead rat, but the odour intensified. "When the stink became unbearable and the house remained locked, we became suspicious. We broke the lock while recording a video in the presence of neighbors and immediately informed the police after discovering the decomposed body of the woman inside, wrapped in the plastic bag," he said.

Upon receiving the information, under the guidance of DCP Smita Patil of Zone 12 and senior police inspector Rajbhar, police inspector Sachin Pardeshi and police sub-inspector Indrajeet Bhise from the detection team rushed to the spot.

During the investigation, it was revealed that Dibya had been strangled with a nylon rope that was found around her neck. The fan, cooler, and light were on. Attempts to contact Jairam on his mobile phone were unsuccessful, as his phone was switched off. The police conducted a Panchanama, sent the body for autopsy, registered a murder case, and began the investigation, the officer added.

# Law does not help those who sleep, says Bombay HC while refusing to condone delay

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Law helps those who are "vigilant" and not the ones who are sleepy, the Bombay High Court has observed while dismissing an application for the condonation of delay of 5,193 days in filing a review petition against a 2001 order. The court also imposed a cost of Rs 50,000 on the applicant, Maniben Chandrakant Dalal, reported news agency.

Justice Abhay Ahuja, in an order passed earlier this month, said the delay was "colossal to be meted out with a liberal approach". The applicant had sought condonation of delay in filing the review petition against an October 3, 2001 order passed by another court.

The court had, in 2001, passed an order in terms of the consent terms filed between the two parties recording that eviction suits in respect of a plot in Dadar, filed by the applicant before the small causes court, will be transferred to the Bombay High Court.

It was only in 2018 that Dalal, after consultation with her new lawyer, realized that she should challenge the order. Advocates Mohan



Tekavde and Swati Tekavde, appearing for respondents, opposed the plea, stating that the explanation for the delay was not satisfactory. The high court upheld the argument.

"As can be seen, admittedly, there has been a delay of 5,193 days in filing the Review Petition against an order that was passed... Laws come to the assistance of the vigilant and not to that of the sleepy," the HC noted. The balance of convenience was against the applicant and in favour of the respondents, the bench noted.

# MAN SEEKS SEXUAL FAVOURS FROM PALGHAR WOMAN, KILLED BY HER MALE FRIEND

Mumbai: A 48-year-old man was allegedly killed for making advances on the girlfriend of another man in Palghar district of Maharashtra, police said on Tuesday.

The body of Ramesh Balan Nayar was found on a hillock, reported news agency.

Acting on a tip-off, police traced one Govind Khaniya alias Bhurya, who told police that Nayar used to tease his girlfriend and also made advances towards the Palghar woman

"Bhurya called Nayar to a hillock where he punched him and later squeezed his penis," an official said. Police had found the unidentified body on April 14 and registered a case of accidental death. Police have now added a murder charge to the FIR.

# ONE MORE PERSON ARRESTED IN DOMBIVLI CHEMICAL FACTORY BLAST CASE

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Police have arrested another director of a chemical company in connection with a reactor blast at its unit in Dombivli in Maharashtra last week which claimed 10 lives and left more than 60 injured, an official said on Wednesday, reported news agency.

With this two directors of the company have so far been arrested in connection with the Dombivli chemical factory blast case.

The impact of the blast on May 23 at Amudan Chemicals unit, located in Dombivli area of Thane district, was so severe that it shattered window panes of houses and damaged cars, roads and electric poles in the vicinity.

After the incident, the police had arrested Amudan Chemicals director Malay Mehta (38).

On Tuesday, the police summoned the company's another director, Sneha Mehta (35), the wife of Malay Mehta, and placed her under arrest after detailed questioning as prima facie her involvement was established in the Dombivli chemical factory blast case, the crime branch official said.

She will be produced in a court on Wednesday for remand, he said.

She was not named in the FIR registered by the police last week in connection with the incident.

A probe team also visited the residence of Mehtas in neighbouring Mumbai and collected some documents which are vital to the ongoing probe, the official said.





*Khloe  
Kardashian  
looks like a  
blonde  
bombshell*

Los Angeles | Agencies

**K**hloe Kardashian has collaborated for a lash line. On Tuesday it was announced that the star and lash brand Tatti Lashes have launched their new lash collection. 'I have loved partnering with Tatti Lashes - I wanted to create a lash collection that embodies my style and empowers people to express themselves with confidence,' Khloe exclusively told DailyMail.com.

'We've created three super versatile lash styles that will take you from day to night.'

A press release added: 'Working alongside brand founders, Charlotte Tiplady & Elliot Barton, Khloe has curated a lash collection that reflects her versatile style, allowing customers to effortlessly recreate her signature lash looks.'

Khloe's collection features three reusable lashes 'crafted with light-weight, synthetic fibres, meticulously set on an invisible band designed to blend seamlessly with the natural lash line for an undetectable, flawless finish.'

Khloe wrote on Instagram on Tuesday: 'My collection with @tatti\_lashes is now live.'

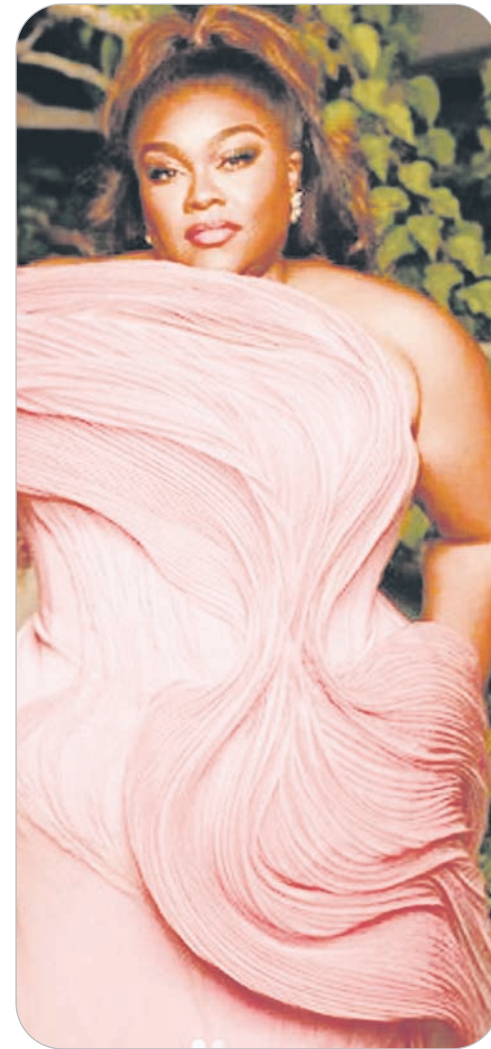
'I have loved partnering with Tatti Lashes and you know I love to mix up my glam.'

'I wanted to include both strip and individual lashes that represent my style and empower people to express themselves with confidence. I can't wait to see all of your looks.'

As part of the Khloe Kardashian x Tatti Lashes iconic lash collection, the lash brand will be launching a long-lasting, easy to use lash adhesive formula which locks lashes in place for up to 7 days, alongside a curved lash applicator ensuring easy application.

## Da'Vine Joy Randolph joins Miles Teller, Elizabeth Olsen in rom-com 'Eternity'

Los Angeles | Agencies



**O**scar-winning actress Da'Vine Joy Randolph has been roped in to star in the upcoming romantic comedy 'Eternity'. Directed by David Freyne, the film also stars Miles Teller, Elizabeth Olsen and Callum Turner, reports Variety.

This project marks Randolph's first feature film with A24 Production. The plot of 'Eternity' remains under wraps, but it is described as a romantic comedy in which characters must decide who they want to spend eternity with.

As per Variety, A24 is financing the film and partnering with Oscar-nominated producers Trevor White and Tim White under their production company Star Thrower Entertainment.

Olsen and Teller will also serve as executive producers. 'Eternity' is set to begin production this summer.

Randolph gained widespread attention with her breakout role on Broadway as psychic Oda Mae Brown in 2012's 'Ghost: The Musical', earning a Tony Award nomination. The role led to memorable film performances, including 'Dolemite Is My Name' with Eddie Murphy and 'The Lost City' alongside Sandra Bullock.

The Philadelphia-born actress captured hearts and critical acclaim with her role as a grieving cafeteria manager in Alexander Payne's 'The Holdovers', earning over 70 critics' prizes and winning the Best Supporting Actress Oscar.

She will also be in the running for her first Emmy nod in the guest comedy actress category for her role as Detective Donna Williams on the third season of Hulu's mystery comedy 'Only Murders in the Building'.

## Andrew Scott joins third Knives Out film - Wake Up Dead Man

Los Angeles | Agencies

**A**ndrew Scott was announced to be joining Josh O'Connor and Daniel Craig in the third Knives Out film - Wake Up Dead Man, reports dailymail.co.uk.

On Tuesday, Variety revealed that the Irish star, 47, known for his roles as The Hot Priest in Phoebe Waller-Bridge's Fleabag and James Moriarty in BBC's Sherlock, will join the Rian Johnson's hit film series.

The announcement comes after the co-lead of critically acclaimed tennis film Challengers, Josh, 34, was also revealed to be joining the franchise.

He joined Cailie Spaeny, known for portraying Elvis Presley's ex-wife Priscilla in the 2023 biopic of the same name.

Returning is fan favourite Daniel, 56, who has appeared in all Knives Out films as Detective Benoit Blanc.

Wake Up Dead Man precedes 2019's Knives Out and 2022's Glass Onion: A Knives Out Mystery.

Writer-director Rian Johnson revealed the title in an X post on Friday, while adding in subsequent tweets that, 'We're about to go into production on the 3rd one, and I'm very, very excited to share the title, which gives a little hint of where it's going.'

'I love everything about whodunnits, but one of the things I love most is how malleable the genre is. There's a whole tonal spectrum from Carr to Christie, and getting to explore that range is one of the most exciting things about making Benoit Blanc movies,' he added in another tweet.

Johnson has written and directed the first two movies in the franchise, starting with Knives Out, which was released theatrically through Lionsgate.



## Eminem's first single 'Houdini' from 'The Death of Slim Shady' will go on air this Friday

Los Angeles | Agencies

**R**ap legend Eminem has revealed that the first single 'Houdini' from his next album 'The Death of Slim Shady (Coup De Grace)', will hit the airwaves this Friday.

In a post on Instagram, the rapper FaceTimes with magician David Blaine and asks him for "help with something," reports Variety.

'I was wondering, how far can we go with this magic? Like, can we do like a stunt or something?' (sic) Eminem asks Blaine, who drinks a glass of wine and then proceeds to bite off the rim of glass.

'Well for my last trick, I'm going to make my career disappear,' said Eminem, clicking off of the convo.

As per Variety, little is known about Eminem's 12th studio album, which he previously said would be released this summer. 'Houdini' would be the first offering, and a short clip of the instrumental seemingly plays at the end of the Instagram clip.

While the rapper has kept details under wraps for 'The Death of Slim Shady', his longtime collaborator and mentor Dr Dre let a few details slip earlier this year. In March, Dre went on 'Jimmy Kimmel Live!' where he revealed that Eminem was working on a new album.

He also shared that he contributed to several songs on the project, and was planning to hear the album for the first time the day after his TV appearance.



**KATIE PRICE  
LEAVES  
PODCAST  
SHOW AFTER  
ACID ATTACK  
ON HER PINK  
RANGE ROVER**



Los Angeles | Agencies

**K**atie Price was pictured with her new security team leaving her latest Live Podcast show in Bristol on Tuesday evening. It comes after the former glamour model, 46, revealed vandals 'threw acid on her Pink Range Rover' on Saturday night, leaving her no choice but to leave her Mucky Mansion, reports dailymail.co.uk.

Katie explained on Instagram: 'Due to acid attack on my car at my house I've now been advised by authorities not to stay at Mucky Mansion anymore.'

The TV personality appeared more relaxed as she left the venue after upping her security to keep herself and her family safe.

The new security team checked the car park of the venue and closed the gates before escorting Katie and her entourage to her bright pink

car. Katie flashed her toned figure in a white crop top and low-rise joggers, teamed with quirky moon boots. It comes after fans at her London podcast show were outraged as she turned up to the show an hour late.

To see one of Katie's live podcast shows, fans had to fork out £29 per ticket. Although the entry fee was relatively cheap compared to her competitors, she could not fill the venue, which could seat up to 700 people. Fan pictures showed that the venue still had a lot of empty seats by the time the show started.

In a desperate bid to put bottoms on seats, the mother-of-five offered her dedicated fans a discount and started to flog her tickets online for £10.

But while it also appears that she will not fill her next 400-capacity venue in Birmingham, there is still hope for her in Bristol, Glasgow and Newcastle.

**ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY**



**Tulisa Contostavlos**



SINGAPORE OPEN

Sen, Srikanth bow out; Sindhu advances to second round



Singapore | Agencies

Ace Indian shuttler PV Sindhu advanced to the second round of the women's singles section of the Singapore Open BWF Super 750 badminton tournament, beating World No. 21 Line Kjaersfeldt 21-12, 22-20. However, in men's singles, Lakshya Sen and Kidambi Srikanth retired out in the opening round.

a late comeback by Line forced Sindhu to make some cross-court errors as the Danish player took the lead at 16-19. The 28-year-old two-time Olympic medalist then saved four game points and took the momentum in her favour to end the match 22-20.

Lakshya Sen went down to World ranked 1 and reigning Olympic Champion Viktor Axelsen 13-21, 21-16, 13-21 after making a second-game comeback. It was the seventh defeat in the last eight matches for Lakshya against Axelsen.

Earlier, former World No.1 Srikanth retired from his opening round match after losing the first game 14-21 against Kodai Naraoka of Japan. Trailing 3-11 in the second game Srikanth had to bow out due to an injury, which is unknown for now.

PARIS OLYMPICS WILL BE PLAYED ON THE WORLD'S FIRST CARBON-ZERO HOCKEY TURF

Lausanne (Switzerland) | Agencies

The hockey competition at the upcoming Paris Olympic Games will have something unique about it -- the matches will be played on the world's first carbon-zero hockey turf which is setting new standards for sustainability in sports surfaces.

The carbon-zero turf being used in Paris is made from 80% sugarcane and manufactured using green electricity, thus having a lesser impact on the environment. It also requires less water to irrigate it before every match.

Besides being a thrilling showcase of skill, strategy, and athleticism, with the best teams from around the globe competing at the highest level, the hockey competition at the XXXIII Olympiad aims to leave a lasting legacy not just in sporting achievements but also in advancing environmental consciousness within the realm of global sporting events.

The International Hockey Federation (FIH) has made a strict commitment to make hockey a globally sustainable sport and Paris 2024 will represent another step taken towards achieving that goal. The initial steps were taken with a steady reduction in water usage, showcased by the turf used at the Olympic



Games in Tokyo requiring 39% less water for optimal performance than the turf used in Rio only four years earlier.

At the Olympic Games Paris 2024, the boundaries will be pushed further, as hockey will be played on the innovative 'Poligras Paris GT zero' hockey turf, which is setting new standards for sustainability in sports surfaces.

Developed by Sport Group and

installed in Paris by Polytan, this advanced turf is the world's first carbon-zero hockey turf, aligning with the Paris 2024 Games' commitment to sustainability and environmental responsibility, the FIH informed in a release on Wednesday.

Carbon-zero Poligras Paris GT zero is made from 80% sugarcane and manufactured using green electricity. The production process emphasizes low emissions and ener-

gy efficiency, ensuring that the turf's lifecycle-from creation to disposal-adheres to the highest environmental standards, the FIH release said.

This eco-friendly turf doesn't compromise on performance. Athletes can expect the same high-quality playability, ball speed, and consistency that Poligras surfaces are known for, which have been trusted at 8 Olympic Games and many World Cups. The Paris 2024 Olympics Hockey will aim to showcase that sustainability and top-tier athletic performance can go hand-in-hand.

Moreover, 'Poligras Paris GT zero' is designed to conserve water. It requires significantly less irrigation than traditional synthetic turfs, aligning with global efforts to preserve water resources, particularly relevant as the world grapples with water scarcity issues.

The introduction of Polytan's 'Poligras Paris GT zero' at the Olympic Games Paris 2024 marks a significant advancement in sustainable hockey technology. By utilising renewable resources and focusing on environmental impact, this new turf not only supports elite athletic performance but also sets a precedent for future hockey events to prioritise sustainability, which has long been an aim for the FIH.

FRENCH OPEN

Tsitsipas quells Altmaier fightback to reach third round

Paris | Agencies

The 2021 Roland Garros finalist Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece encountered some anxious moments but found a way to reach the third round in Paris for the sixth time, beating a resilient Daniel Altmaier under the roof on Court Suzanne Lenglen in the French Open here on Wednesday. In a hard-fought second-round men's singles match, Tsitsipas overcame his 25-year-old German opponent 6-3, 6-2, 6-7(2), 6-4 in two hours and 45 minutes.

Just as he did in his opening-round match, a 7-6(7), 6-4, 6-1 victory over talented Hungarian Marton Fucsovics, Tsitsipas was out of the gates fast against Altmaier, taking charge of the run of play from the first ball.

Tsitsipas broke in the fourth game of set one and dropped just six points on serve in the opening set. The Greek then pegged the accelerator, reeling off five games from 5-2 in the opener to lead 6-3, 4-0. He jumped to a two-sets-to-love lead in just about an hour. But just when it looked like he would romp to a straight-sets win, the German mounted a comeback, posing significant challenges for Tsitsipas.

Just three days after defeating Laslo Djere in the longest match of the first round (5:04), Altmaier surged to life in the third set, summoning his very best to throw Tsitsipas off the victory trail. The



83rd-ranked Altmaier, who took out then-world No.8 Matteo Berrettini to reach the round of 16 in the 2020 French Open, struck gold in the third-set tiebreak, playing a series of breathtaking points to claim the stanza.

In the fourth set, the struggle continued, a trade of breaks leaving the antagonists on serve at 4-4, before Tsitsipas kicked into overdrive and powered through the finish line, finally dashing Altmaier's hopes in two hours and 43

minutes. With a 15-3 record on his favourite surface in 2024 (49-12 since the start of 2022), 2024 Monte-Carlo champion Tsitsipas has once again emerged as a threat to make a deep run in Paris. Add in the fact that he's a former finalist who has made the second week in each of his last five appearances on the Parisian clay and you'd be remiss not to consider the Greek as a candidate to lift the Coupe des Mousquetaires next Sunday.



AIFF FUTSAL CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP TO START ON JUNE 22

New Delhi: The AIFF Futsal Club Championship 2023-24 comprising of 18 teams will be held at Swarnim Gujarat Sports University from June 22-July 5 in Gujarat. Fourteen teams have been nominated by their respective state associations, while four semi-finalist teams (Delhi Football Club, Mohammedan Sporting Club, Minerva Academy FC, Electric Veng Futsal Club), of last season's Futsal Club Championship have been given direct entry. The tournament will be played on a league cum knock-out round format where the group winner of all four groups will make the semi-finals.

- The Groups are as follows: Group A: Millat FC, Sports Odisha, Classic Football Academy, Corbett FC, Mohammedan SC. Group B: Electric Veng Futsal Club, Bangalore Arrows FC, Satvir Football Club, Goal Hunterz FC, Minerva Academy FC. Group C: Baroda Football Academy, FC Thrystior, Speed Force FC, Guwahati City FC, Ambelim Sports Club. Group D: JCT Football Academy, Golazo Football Club, Casa Berwani Soccer, Delhi FC.

West Indies storm to fourth spot in rankings ahead of Men's T20 World Cup



Dubai | Agencies

While India maintained their position atop the rankings, two-time World Champions West Indies moved up to fourth position in the ICC Men's T20I Team Rankings, their players showing some great form ahead of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024, which they co-host from June 1-29.

West Indies, the winner of the 2012 and 2016 editions of the tournament, are ahead of New Zealand and South Africa after their 3-0 win over South Africa, who were pushed down to seventh position in the list led by India.

India, winners of the inaugural edition in 2007, are on 264 rating points, 2021 champions Australia are second with 257 points, defending champions England third with 254 points and the West Indies two points behind them on 252. New Zealand are on 250 while

Pakistan and South Africa are both on 244 points with Pakistan slightly ahead on decimal points, the ICC informed in a release on Wednesday.

The West Indies players have reaped the benefits of their superb performances in the home series not long before their tournament opener against Papua New Guinea in Guyana on 2 June.

Opening batter Brandon King is up five places to eighth position after topping the series aggregate with 159 runs and Johnson Charles, who hammered 69 off 26 balls to be named Player of the Match in the third T20I, is up 17 places to 20th.

Kyle Mayers is another batter to move up, gaining 12 places to reach 31st position with an aggregate of 102 runs while left-arm spinner Gudakesh Motie has advanced a whopping 84 places to 27th after finishing with eight wickets in the series.

England, Pakistan players gain big; Suryakumar remains top ICC batter in latest T20I rankings

Dubai | Agencies

As the cricketing world eagerly anticipates the ICC Men's T20 World Cup set to kick off in the West Indies and USA, the latest update to the ICC Men's T20I Player Rankings has seen significant movement among international stars from Pakistan, West Indies, and England.



England's Jos Buttler has ascended to seventh place on the T20I batters list, after brilliant 84-run innings in Birmingham. His teammate, Jonny Bairstow, also made strides, climbing eight places to 36th after a solid performance in the same match. For Pakistan, Fakhar Zaman's rapid 45 from 21 deliveries against England has earned him a jump of six places to 51st in the batting rankings.

The West Indies have seen a trio of their players make notable gains following their series sweep over South Africa. Brandon King has moved up five spots to eighth, Johnson Charles has soared 17 places to 20th, and Kyle Mayers has risen 12 rungs to 31st. Additionally, Gudakesh Motie, named Player of the Series for his eight-wicket haul, has rocketed from outside the top 100 to 27th in the T20I bowlers rankings.

England's Reece Topley has inched up one spot to ninth among bowlers, while Pakistan's bowling attack has seen Shaheen Afridi rise to equal 11th, Haris Rauf to 25th, and Imdad Wasim to 38th.

India's Suryakumar Yadav remains the No.1 ranked T20I batter, poised to make a significant impact. England's Adil Rashid continues to hold the top spot among T20I bowlers.

'I will not lie...' Ultimate Table Tennis 2024 set to begin on August 22 in Chennai

KOHLI RECALLS FEELINGS BEFORE WORLD CUP DEBUT MATCH IN 2011

New Delhi | Agencies

Virat Kohli is the global face of Indian cricket and will be ready to take on the new challenge that the 2024 T20 World Cup will bring with it. As part of the build up to the upcoming competition, Kohli talked about how he felt before making his World Cup debut against Bangladesh in the 2011 World Cup.

The star Indian batter certainly made his debut in style as he stitched on a 203-run partnership with Virender Sehwag on his way to becoming the first and only Indian to score a century on his World Cup debut. He scored 100\* runs in 83 deliveries and took Team India's score to 370 which ultimately led to a 87 run victory.

"It was against Bangladesh in Dhaka, my first game and I was nervous. Yes, I will not lie. There is a different sense of excitement in the air when you come for a World Cup and I could obviously sense that. I was the youngest member of that team and I was getting to play with all these greats of Indian cricket in a World Cup game."

"For me it was definitely a moment where I was a bit nervous heading into the game and definitely the night before I was quite



nervous but that is a good sign as well because your body is preparing you to enter a situation where you're alert, you're not taking things for granted. I think that nervousness helped me to be aware, be alert and be absolutely precise in the execution of my plans," said Kohli on Star Sports. The former Indian skipper has been one of the best batsmen in all formats but his T20 World Cup exploits are second to none. He is the leading run scorer in the history of the tournament having scored 1141 runs in 25 innings taking his average to be an unbelievable 81.50.

India will face Bangladesh in a warm-up game on June 1 as part of their preparation in the T20 World Cup set to be held in the USA and West Indies.

Chennai | Agencies

The fifth season of Ultimate Table Tennis (UTT) will be played from August 22 to September 7 at the Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium.

It will be an eight-team league for the first time providing a platform for young Indian paddlers to exhibit their talent alongside the world's elite players. The escalating popularity of table tennis, bolstered by notable Indian achievements, has catalysed the league's expansion into new territories. Embracing this momentum, the league proudly announced the inclusion of two esteemed franchises: the Ahmedabad SG Pipers and the Jaipur Patriots.

"The introduction of additional teams will infuse a heightened level of competition, strategically coinciding with the post-Paris Games period to capitalize on the prevailing Olympic fervour nationwide. Moreover, the decision to host the league in Chennai pays tribute to the city's esteemed sporting heritage, which has produced numerous legendary paddlers, but also reinforces our commitment to honouring its illustrious legacy," expressed Niraj Bajaj, co-promoter of UTT. Goa Challengers secured victo-



ry over former champions, Chennai Lions, in the preceding year, thus entering the league as defending champions for UTT 2024. Joining them are Dabang Delhi TTC, U Mumba TT, Puneri Paltan, Bengaluru Smashers and the two new franchisees. Each team will maintain a roster of six players, including two foreign players, as they all contend for the coveted title this season.

"The core mission behind UTT's inception was to enhance the stature of table tennis in India, providing our players with a platform to compete against the world's best and propel Indian table tennis to unprecedented heights. Recent historic victories

by our Indian players against Chinese opponents and the National men's and women's teams qualifying for the Olympics through the world team rankings underscore this mission," emphasized Vita Dani, chairperson of UTT.

The format has undergone a slight alteration with the inclusion of eight teams, that will now be divided into two groups of four teams each. Each franchisee will continue to compete in five ties during the league stage, facing all other teams within their respective group once, alongside two randomly selected teams from the opposing group, determined through a draw.



## Deepika tops IMDb's 100 Most Viewed Indian Stars, SRK in second place

Team Absolute | Mumbai

**B**ollywood actress Deepika Padukone, who will be soon seen in 'Singham Again' and 'Kalki 2898 AD' has topped the IMDb list of Top 100 Most Viewed Indian Stars of the Last Decade.

Following her is the actor opposite whom she made her debut with 'Om Shanti Om', Bollywood megastar Shah Rukh Khan. This list of all top Indian stars is determined by the actual page views of the more than 250 million monthly visitors to IMDb worldwide. Reacting to the news, Deepika said: "I'm deeply grateful to be included in a list that captures the sentiment of a global audience. IMDb stands as a beacon of credibility, reflecting the true pulse of people's passion, interests and preferences."

She further mentioned: "This recognition is truly humbling and inspires me to continue connecting with and reciprocating the love I receive from audiences, both on and off the screen with authenticity and purpose."

Third spot on the list is occupied by actress Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, who recently walked the red carpet at the 77th edition of the Cannes Film Festival. Alia Bhatt is on the fourth spot followed by the late actor Irrfan Khan. Aamir Khan and Salman Khan, too find a place in the top 10. While Aamir is at number six, Salman holds the eighth spot, separated by the late actor Sushant Singh Rajput at number seven. The list also includes Hrithik Roshan, Akshay Kumar, Katrina Kaif, Amitabh Bachchan, Samantha Ruth Prabhu, Kareena Kapoor, Nayanthara, Ajay Devgn, Triptii Dimri and others. The list has actors from the Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, and Kannada film industries. Kamal Haasan, at Number 54, has the longest film career in the list with his debut as a child actor in 1960. The Top 100 Most Viewed Indian Stars of the Last Decade on IMDb list is based on the IMDb weekly rankings from January 2014 through April 2024.



## RAASHII KHANNA BATS FOR CLOSING THE GENDER PAY GAP AMONG FILM STARS

Team Absolute | Mumbai

**A**ctress Raashii Khanna, who recently featured in the Tamil comedy horror film 'Aranmanai 4', feels it is high time art is judged by the way it is made, and not by who all is in it.

Raashii and her co-star Tamannaah Bhatia attended a special press meet on Wednesday in Mumbai ahead of the release of 'Aranmanai 4' in Hindi.

The female-led film has already collected Rs 100 crore down South, demonstrating the growing acceptance and appreciation for women-centric narratives.

The 'Madras Cafe' fame actress said: "It is a validation for all of us as female actors that we can hold a film on our shoulders and deliver. For that, we need filmmakers like Sundar C Sir who believe in us. Also, I believe art and

cinema should not be bound by gender."

"It is high time we treat it like that. Films like 'Article 370', 'Crew' and now our film have proven that women are far ahead just like men. Art should be judged by the way it is made and not by who is in it. Also, we should get better pay cheques because there is a huge gap. I hope that happens in time," she added.

Directed by Sundar C, 'Aranmanai 4' also stars Sundar himself, alongside Santhosh Prathap, Ramachandra Raju, Kovai Sarala, and Delhi Ganesh, among others. It is produced by Khushbu Sundar under the banner of Avni Cinemax.

The Hindi version is scheduled to release in the theatres on May 31.

On the work front, Raashii also has 'The Sabarnati Report', 'Telusu Kada', and 'Methavi' in the pipeline.



## Canadian DJ deadmau5 to perform after 10 years in Mumbai in July

Team Absolute | Mumbai

**C**anadian music producer and DJ Joel Thomas Zimmerman,

known by his stage name

deadmau5, is set to return to India after a decade with a show at the NESCO Centre in Mumbai for Sunburn Arena on July 12.

In a career spanning over two decades, deadmau5 has earned six Grammy nominations besides having a massive impact on the EDM culture. He has also collaborated with Indian Bhangra legend Daler Mehndi.

Commenting on returning to India, deadmau5 said, "I am thrilled to be back in India after a decade and perform for my Indian fans after such a long time. The energy and love of the Indian crowd are truly unmatched and I cannot wait to share this special moment with all of you."

Globally, deadmau5 is known for his work in progressive house and electro-house, as well as other electronic music genres like techno, among others. His repertoire includes tracks like 'Glowing Nights', 'Echoes of Euphoria', and 'Rhythm Revolution'.

## 'No maternal instincts'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

**T**amannaah Bhatia opened up on her role in the Tamil comedy horror film 'Aranmanai 4', sharing that she felt that she couldn't play Selvi, as she thought there were no maternal instincts in her.

Tamannaah was present in Mumbai along with her co-star Raashii Khanna, director Sundar C, and producer Khushbu Sundar ahead of the movie's release in Hindi.

Talking to the mediapersons, Tamannaah said: "The character he has given me, I honestly felt that I could not play it. 'Mai apne ghar me abhi bhi bachi hu'. I think no maternal instincts have kicked in me, so I am treated like a baby in the house."

"When the director narrated the story and told me that you are playing a mother who is a protector... he gave me the opportunity to portray every facet of a woman. So, it was quite emotional for me. For me it's very emotional and pure," said Tamannaah.

She further shared that for the role of Selvi, she took inspiration from her own mother.

"I took inspiration from my own mother. I am too pampered at home. So I took all those feelings to portray my character Selvi," added Tamannaah, who starred in movies like 'Bhola Shankar', 'Bandra', and 'Jailer'.

Directed by Sundar C., 'Aranmanai 4' stars Sundar himself, alongside Santhosh Prathap, Ramachandra Raju, Kovai Sarala, and Delhi Ganesh among others. It is produced by Khushbu Sundar under the banner of Avni Cinemax.

The Hindi version is scheduled to release in the theatres on May 31.

Meanwhile, Tamannaah also has 'Vedaa', 'Stree 2', and 'Odela 2' in the pipeline.



## RAJVEER SINGH DECODES ENTERTAINMENT QUOTIENT OF HORROR SHOWS

Team Absolute | Mumbai

**T**he lead actor of the upcoming thriller '10:29 Ki Aakhri Dastak', Rajveer Singh, feels that supernatural shows have become a key form of entertainment now.

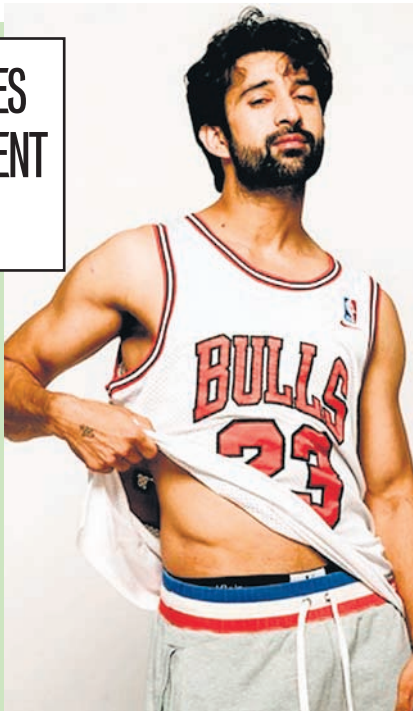
"I believe that the supernatural elements we see in movies and TV shows are purely for entertainment. Acting, for me, is an art, and my job is to bring the storyline to life," Rajveer said.

"These supernatural themes can often have a heavy influence on people and lead to uncertain misconceptions, but our intention is to provide thrilling and enjoyable content to the audience, and not promote any false beliefs," he added.

He actor also said that the show '10:29 Ki Aakhri Dastak' has a unique storyline designed to captivate the viewers with each episode while also offering some valuable lessons.

"We've paid attention to every detail -- from the sets to the performances. I'm incredibly excited to embark on this journey and share it with the audience. I believe the viewers will find it thoroughly entertaining and won't be disappointed," he said.

The show, which also stars Shambhavi Singh, Aayushi Bhawe, and Krip Suri, will air on Star Bharat in June.



## INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Manushi Chhillar