

# absolute india



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## Doctors witness surge in 'lupus' cases in north India due to heat waves

# TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF

- As per the doctor, several environmental factors can be possible triggers of an underlying genetic background.
- The triggers may include sun exposure, smoking, oral contraceptive use, postmenopausal hormones, viral infections, etc.
- The most obvious recognisable lesions are red patches that are highly photosensitive over the cheeks and the nose resembling the marks of wolf bites from where it takes its name -- lupus.
- Ulcers in the mouth, nose, and genital area can also be features of lupus.



hydroxychloroquine with or without low-dose steroids. Aggressive immunosuppression would be required for more severe disease, including organ involvement, such as kid-

neys, lungs, brain, etc. With good control of the disease, the patients can lead a normal healthy life, but they have to be under the close supervision of experts, Duggal noted.

"Unlike many other rheumatologic disorders, this disease can affect any system of the body, including the skin, joints, lungs, kidneys, gut, liver, heart, and brain. The patient may present just with an unrelenting fever. Therefore, a high index of suspicion and awareness of the complications should direct the physician to diagnose this problem early and initiate treatment."

**Dr Lalit Duggal, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, Delhi**

Team Absolute | New Delhi

As heat waves continue in north India, doctors are witnessing a surge in cases of 'lupus', an autoimmune disease in which the body's own system is targeted, leading to multiple organ affection and damage, a doctor said on Wednesday.

Heat waves are causing an increase in the prevalence of lupus that affects the skin, joints, and kidneys among other organs. People who have lupus frequently experience flare-ups and increased symptoms as the temperature rises.

Dr Lalit Duggal, Senior Consultant, Rheumatology & Clinical Immunology, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, Delhi, said on Wednesday that 6 to 10 cases of lupus have been reported due to the heat waves.

This disease primarily affects women, and that too in their childbearing age between 15 to 45 years.

"More sinister affection of this disease may include kidney disease with loss of proteins in the urine and irreversible damage if not treated," he cautioned.

According to him, treatment depends on the severity of the disease and the type of organ affected. For example, skin involvement can be treated with local application of sunscreen with an SPF of at least 50 per cent, and

## BATS DROP DEAD AS HEATWAVE INTENSIFIES IN UP'S KANPUR

**Kanpur:** In a worrying factor, several bats were found dead in the Nana Rao Park in Kanpur due to the intense heatwave that has gripped the region.



The carcasses were found in the park, where hundreds of bats live. Locals said they encountered bats falling from the trees, writhing in pain on the ground before succumbing to the heat.

With temperatures breaching the 45 degrees Celsius mark, locals added that bats were dying in large numbers in the park and the accumulation of carcasses resulted in a foul smell throughout the park.

## BELOW NORMAL RAINS IN JUNE: IMD

**New Delhi:** The average rainfall for the country as a whole is most likely to be below normal in June as the progress of the monsoon has slowed, according to an India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecast on Wednesday.

While normal to above normal rainfall is expected in the southern states and northeast states, below normal rainfall is likely in the northern and central states in June which have been reeling under a heat wave. Rainfall over the country as a whole for the month of June 2024 (till June 18) was 64.5 mm which was 20 per cent less than its Long Period Average (LPA) of 80.6 mm, IMD said.

The onset of the monsoon over Kerala this year was two days ahead of the usual date and over northeast India, 6 days in advance.

## KEEP YOURSELF SAFE FROM HEATSTROKE

- Avoid going out in the sun, especially between noon and 3:00 pm
- Drink sufficient water as often as possible, even if you are not thirsty
- Wear lightweight, light-coloured, loose, and porous cotton clothes.
- Use protective goggles, an umbrella/hat, shoes or chappals while going out in the sun.
- Avoid strenuous activities when the outside temperature is high.
- Avoid alcohol, tea, coffee and carbonated soft drinks, which dehydrate the body.
- Avoid high-protein food and do not eat stale food.
- If you work outside, use a hat or an umbrella and also use a damp cloth on your head, neck, face and limbs
- Do not leave children or pets in parked vehicles
- If you feel faint or ill, see a doctor immediately.
- Use ORS, homemade drinks like lassi, Torani (rice water), lemon water, buttermilk, etc. which helps to rehydrate the body.
- Keep animals in the shade and give them plenty of water to drink.

## PM Modi inaugurates new campus of Nalanda University, terms it 'symbol of India's academic heritage'



Patna | Agencies

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the new campus of Nalanda University in Bihar's Rajgir district on Wednesday and described it as 'symbol of India's vibrant cultural exchange and academic heritage'.

The event saw the presence of many eminent personalities and ambassadors from more than a dozen nations, besides External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.

The new campus of one of the world's oldest universities has been constructed near the ruins of Nalanda University, as it existed in ancient times.

After inaugurating the campus, PM Modi said that the university is not just a name but an identity for the country. "Nalanda is an identity, an honour, a value, a mantra, a pride, and a saga. It is the proclamation of truth that books may be burned in the flames, but it can't erase

knowledge," PM Modi said. Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar said: "Today, I am very happy to see that Nalanda University has become fully functional. Currently, 400 students from 17 countries are studying here."

The foreign diplomats, many of them from countries with which India shares millennia-old cultural and civilizational linkages, were left awestruck as the university - conceived as a collaboration between India and East Asia Summit (EAS) nations - seeks to revive the glory of Nalanda as a hub of knowledge, learning and excellence.

The visiting diplomats posted their photographs from the inauguration ceremony, their interaction with External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar, the new campus, and also the ruins of the ancient university.

Nick McCaffrey, Australia's Deputy High Commissioner to India, was also delighted to attend the landmark event.

## Rahul Gandhi's "UP Ke Do Ladke" Reply To Akhilesh Yadav's Birthday Wish

Team Absolute | New Delhi

UP's two sons would make India's politics all about love, Congress MP Rahul Gandhi said today to signal his camaraderie with Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav and in a jibe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Gandhi's witty take, a reference to the "mohabbat ki dukaan" tagline from his pan-India Yatra and the Lok Sabha election campaign, came in response to Yadav's greeting on his 54th birthday.

Rahul Gandhi said, "UP ke do ladke Hindustan ki rajneeti ko mohabbat ki dukaan banayenge - khata-



khat, khata-khat (loosely translating to two boys of UP will make India's politics all about love)."

"UP ke do ladke" was a tagline used to underline the coming together of Akhilesh Yadav and Rahul Gandhi in the 2017 Uttar Pradesh

assembly polls when the two parties had joined hands. However, in those elections, the alliance failed miserably and the BJP came to power in the state. PM Modi had also taken a dig at Gandhi and Yadav during the Lok Sabha election campaign.

## TWO TERRORISTS KILLED IN ENCOUNTER IN J&K'S BARAMULLA

Team Absolute | New Delhi | Chennai

**Srinagar:** Two terrorists were killed on Wednesday in an encounter with the security forces in J&K's Baramulla district. The identity of the slain terrorists is still to be ascertained.



Officials said that the terrorists were hiding in the Hadipora village of the Rafiabad area in the district. After getting the intelligence input, the security forces launched the search operation.

As the security forces closed on the hiding terrorists, they fired at the security forces triggering the encounter.

"All exit routes for the holed-up terrorists have been sealed," officials said earlier. In the encounter, two terrorists have been killed so far. "The operation is still going on," officials said.

## On Streets, In Parliament: Opposition Plans Twin Attack On Centre Over NEET

Team Absolute | New Delhi | Chennai

As the controversy over the alleged irregularities in the NEET medical exam continues to snowball, the opposition has chalked out a two-pronged strategy to corner the government over the issue. It has decided to hit the streets to demand justice for the students as well as action against those responsible, and will also apply pressure on the government in Parliament.

The protests come against the backdrop of the opposition gaining strength because of its much-improved show in the just concluded Lok Sabha elections, in which the BJP could not reach the majority mark and the INDIA bloc clinched 232 seats.

The Congress, which emerged



victorious in 99 constituencies, making it the biggest constituent of the INDIA bloc, has decided to hold nationwide protests on Friday and will also march to Parliament on Monday, which will be the first day of the first session of the 18th Lok Sabha. It is also expected to push for the resignation of Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.

Monday will also see a protest by the student wing of the DMK - a party that has been against the national medical entrance exam

even before this year's irregularities, contending that poor students and those in rural areas are at a disadvantage as they cannot afford expensive coaching centres. The protest will reiterate the party's demand of leaving medical admissions in Tamil Nadu out of the ambit of the National Eligibility-Cum-Entrance Test (NEET). The BJP's former ally, AIADMK, also opposes the national exam.

Friday's protest will be held at all state headquarters of the Congress. In a letter to all state unit chiefs, state in-charges, Congress legislature party leaders, general secretaries and others on Wednesday, Congress General Secretary (Organisation), KC Venugopal, said there is an urgent need to address the surfeit of complaints and concerns surrounding NEET-UG 2024.

## No AC amid heatwave, SpiceJet passengers wait inside flight for an hour

Team Absolute | New Delhi

In the punishing heatwave, passengers on a SpiceJet flight from Delhi to Bihar's Darbhanga were forced to sit inside the aircraft without air-conditioning for over an hour. Passengers could be seen fanning themselves frantically in the packed flight, in videos that are viral.

In one video, passengers are seen using brochures, magazines, handkerchiefs and whatever they can get their hands on to fan themselves briskly. Many wipe sweat off their faces. Several passengers reportedly felt unwell sitting in the heat for so long.

SpiceJet said flight SG 476 left at 11 am from Delhi airport "without any delays" and the air-conditioning was normal during the flight as well as its return to Delhi. But the airline admitted there were AC problems "due to extreme weather conditions" during boarding.

"During boarding in Delhi, the air conditioning initially experienced slight inefficiency due to extreme weather conditions and both doors of the aircraft being open, as boarding was not via the aerobridge. The doors were promptly closed after boarding completion, and the cooling functioned normally thereafter," an airline spokesperson said.

## 9 Indian ports make it to World Bank's Global Top 100 list

Team Absolute | New Delhi

In a major achievement, as many as 9 Indian ports have made it to the Global Top 100 in the latest edition of the Container Port Performance Index (CPPI), 2023, prepared by the World Bank and S&P Global Marketing Intelligence.

Visakhapatnam Port has showcased strong performance with 27.5 moves per crane hour, a turnaround time (TRT) of 21.4 hours, and minimal berth idle time. These metrics highlight the port's efficiency in handling container ships and significantly influence customer preference. Seven other Indian ports,



which secured ranks in the top 100, are Pipavav (41), Kamarajar (47), Cochin (63), Hazira (68), Krishnapatnam (71), Chennai (80) and Jawaharlal Nehru (96). Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways Sarbananda

Sonowal credited the achievement to the ambitious Sagarmala programme, envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, which has led to the modernisation of the country's ports and improving their efficiency. "This is a tremendous

achievement for Indian ports and is a testament to the efforts taken by the PM Narendra Modi-led government to modernise and mechanise the ports to improve their performance in the handling of ships and cargo. "Path-breaking initiatives like Sagarmala have helped incorporate new technology, and green infrastructure to ensure stability and sustainability of India's maritime industry. With sustained effort in this regard, we are confident that the Indian maritime sector will further improve the resilience and efficiency of maritime gateways and boost port-led economic development," Sarbananda Sonowal said.

## Dozens die in extreme Haj heat, toll feared to be in hundreds

Beirut | Agencies

Dozens of Muslims have died during the annual Haj pilgrimage in Mecca, Saudi Arabia this year due to heat-related medical issues amid scorching temperatures, according to figures released by several countries.

Tunisia's state news agency TAP reported on Wednesday that at least 35 Tunisian pilgrims had died, while Iran's semi-official Tasnim agency said 11 Iranian citizens were also among the dead. Senegal confirmed three of its citizens had died. Jordan's Foreign Ministry

said on Tuesday that 41 Jordanian pilgrims had lost their lives, meaning the total death toll stands at least at 90.

There are fears the number is far higher. Unconfirmed reports circulating on Wednesday said that hundreds of Egyptians had died. But neither Egyptian officials nor Egypt's state media have commented.

Saudi Arabia has also not given any figures. The temperature in Mecca and other holy sites in the surrounding area hovered around 50 degrees Celsius through Tuesday's final pilgrimage day.





# WILL SIT ON INDEFINITE FAST IF WATER ISSUE NOT RESOLVED BY JUNE 21: ATISHI WRITES TO PM

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Delhi Water Minister, Atishi Marlena, on Wednesday wrote a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the water crisis in the national Capital and threatened to sit on an indefinite fast if Delhi doesn't start getting "its share of water" by June 21.

Atishi claimed that the national Capital has been grappling with a water shortage and Haryana remains one of the major "culprits" in aggravating this crisis.

In the letter, she said that Delhi was being denied its share of water despite clear directions from the court.

Atishi said that she was unable to bear the pain and sufferings of Delhiites and would be forced to launch a 'satyagraha' and sit on an indefinite fast if no solution emerges in the next two days.

She also sought intervention by PM Modi to defuse the situation.



"I request you with folded hands to intervene in the matter and ensure that Haryana administration releases Delhi's share of water," she wrote.

Holding the Haryana government responsible for leaving 28 lakh Delhiites without water, she said that never before had the city seen such a deep water deficit.

"On June 18, Haryana released 513 MGD water to Delhi as against the standard supply of 613 MGD. Decrease in water supply by about 100 MGD has impacted lives of at least 28 lakh city residents," she wrote in the letter. She also said that AAP legislators went to meet the ministers concerned at the Centre and also approached top officials of the Haryana government for the release of the remaining 100 MGD of water to Delhi but nothing happened.

In the letter to PM Modi, she also urged the Haryana government to release 100 MGD water on humanitarian grounds.

# Bengal rail accident: GRP forms 6-member SIT to conduct parallel probe based on passenger's complaint

Kolkata | Agencies

The Government Railways Police (GRP) on Wednesday announced the formation of a six-member special investigation team for an independent probe in the Kanchanjunga Express-goods train collision in West Bengal's Darjeeling district on Monday, based on a complaint filed by a passenger of the train.

Superintendent, GRP, Siliguri, S. Selvamurugan, said that the special investigation team will be headed by an officer of the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police, who will be assisted by an Inspector, two Sub-Inspectors and two Assistant Sub-Inspectors.

The parallel investigation by the GRP is running side-by-side with the investigation by the office of the Commission of Railway Safety to find out the reasons behind the collision which is being carried out under the



direct supervision of the Chief Commissioner of Railway Safety (CCRS) of the Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR), Janak Kumar Garg.

On Wednesday, the members of the special investigation team went to the hospital to take a statement from the assistant loco-pilot of the goods train, who had been admitted there after the accident. However, the investigating officials did not make any comment to the media based

on their preliminary findings.

Meanwhile, sources in the know-how of things said that the assistant loco-pilot of the goods train Manu Kumar is out of danger now, though he is so shattered from the psychological impact of the accident that he is not in a mental state to face full-fledged questioning in the matter.

Sources said that in that case, he might be questioned again later once he is out of his trauma fully.

# Delhi court to likely pronounce order on CM Kejriwal's bail plea on Thursday

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Delhi court on Wednesday extended Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's judicial custody in the excise policy case, while also hearing arguments at length on his regular bail plea.

Vacation Judge Niyay Bindu said that she would not reserve her order.

"I will not reserve order. Everyone knows it is a high-profile matter. I will pass the order after hearing it," she said as she posted the continuation of the hearing on Thursday.

The court heard arguments from Kejriwal's counsel, while the Enforcement Directorate (ED) presented its case but could not complete it.



The judge deferred the hearing to Thursday, stating: "I have to pass some orders (in other cases) and give 'dasti' (service of notice in person) copies."

The judge also heard CM Kejriwal's application to allow his wife Sunita

Kejriwal to be present during his medical examination, with the court awaiting a report from Tihar Jail on the matter. The judge clarified that the central agency had no role in Kejriwal's request for treatment inside jail.

# NO PATCH-UP WITH BJP, NDA GOVT WILL FALL, INDIA BLOC WILL BAG POWER, SAYS THACKERAY

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Shiv Sena-UBT President and former Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Wednesday said that the new NDA 3.0 will not last long and it will collapse soon owing to its own contradictions, while ruling out any possibility of a patch-up with the Bharatiya Janata Party.

"The NDA government will fall... We want it to fall, and mid-term Lok Sabha elections must be conducted. The INDIA bloc will win and come to power," roared Thackeray at the party's 58th Foundation Day.

Targeting the BJP, he said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is propped up by Nitish Kumar, of the Janata Dal-United, and Chandrababu Naidu, of the Telugu Desam Party, and all the three had indulged in calling each other names in the past.

"They (Nitish Kumar and Naidu) have made big promises to the Muslims and other sections in their respective states of Bihar and Andhra Pradesh. Is it all acceptable to the BJP



and Modi... will they make their stand clear on it?" he demanded.

Countering the BJP's charge that his SS-UBT had abandoned Hindutva and was getting only Muslim votes, Thackeray shot back, saying that "all patriotic people in the country had voted decisively for the INDIA-Maha Vikas Aghadi and SS-UBT, including Hindus, Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Dalits, Buddhists, and other communities who love the country and to save democracy and constitution".

"You question our Hindutva just because we allied with the Congress... But first look at yourself, how many of your allies speak of Hindutva? Are Nitish Kumar and Naidu Hindutvavadi by any yardstick?" he questioned.

"After the elections, you spread rumours that I am going to return to the NDA. I ask you all: Do you want to go back to those traitors who broke our party, took away the name and the symbol?" Thackeray asked, eliciting a thunderous no from

the gathering.

Without taking names, he took a potshot at his estranged cousin and Maharashtra Navnirman Sena President Raj Thackeray for offering "unconditional" support to the NDA, "just because they didn't want Uddhav Thackeray".

Attacking Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, he dared him to fight the Assembly elections without using the late Balasaheb Thackeray's name and photos, the Shiv Sena name and symbol, and contest on a different symbol, use his father's pictures, and "then tell us your strike rate".

Hitting back at Shinde for labelling the Opposition as "urban Naxals", Thackeray said that those who break parties, misuse central investigating agencies, and scare the Opposition are the "urban Naxals".

"The battle has begun, there's no stopping till the final victory is achieved. We are waiting for the Supreme Court verdict on the disqualification issue... So far, it's just 'tarikh pe tarikh' (date upon date) of hearings.

# Birthday greetings pour in for Rahul; Cong leaders including Priyanka, Kharge extend wishes

Team Absolute | New Delhi/Hyderabad

Senior leader Rahul Gandhi shared a lighter moment at the Congress headquarters on Wednesday as he cut his birthday cake, in presence of party President Mallikarjun Kharge, Priyanka Gandhi and other senior leaders.

Rahul Gandhi, who turned 54 on Wednesday, was greeted by numerous Congress leaders from across the country, with many hailing him as the leader who "chose love and stood against hatred."

The 54th birthday marks a special moment for the former Congress President, as this comes on the back of the party doubling its tally in the recently-concluded Lok Sabha elections.

Rahul Gandhi, the newly-elected MP from Raebareilly has instructed the party workers to refrain from grand celebrations and rather celebrate the occasion by engaging in humanitarian works.

Birthday wishes started pouring in for the Congress leader since morning.

His sister Priyanka wrote a heartfelt post for brother Rahul on her X handle. "Happy birthday to my sweet brother, whose unique perspective on life, the universe and everything lights up the path. Always my friend, my traveller, argu-



mentative guide, philosopher and leader. Keep shining, love you the most," Priyanka posted. He Congress party hailed him as the leader who led from the front to reclaim democracy.

In a post on X, the Congress said, "Happy birthday to a leader who taught us to 'Choose Love'. Choose love when hate is hurled at you. Choose love when kindness appears impossible. Choose love when the going gets tough. Choose love when compassion depletes.

"One leader who stood against anger, hatred and tears. One leader who led from the front to reclaim our democracy. One leader who ushered in light and rekindled hope. Thank you for being you Rahul Gandhi ji."

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge extended birthday greetings to Rahul Gandhi and wished him health and a happy life ahead.

In a post on X, Kharge wrote, "Your unwavering commitment to values espoused in the Constitution of India and your empathic compassion for the millions of unheard voices, are the qualities which set you apart."

"The Congress party's ethos of unity in diversity, harmony and compassion, is visible in all your actions, as you continue in your mission to wipe tears of the last person standing, by showing the mirror of truth to power," he said.

"Rahul ji is the undisputed leader of India's poor, marginalised and backward citizens. The voice of the voiceless, the pillar of strength for the weak, the guardian of our Constitution, the quintessential Nyay Yoddha, and India's brightest hope for a glorious future", wrote Congress General Secretary Venugopal.

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka also sent their greetings to the Congress leader on his birthday.

Jammu | Agencies

J&K Police on Wednesday said "a major breakthrough" has been made in the June 9 Reasi terror attack, in which 9 pilgrims were killed and 44 others injured, with the arrest of a terror associate.

"A major breakthrough has been achieved in the case pertaining to the terrorist attack on the pilgrim bus which was coming from Shiv Khori on June 9. In this connection, one terror associate, namely Hakam, 45, has been arrested at Reasi. This person was involved in harbouring the terrorists multiple times," SSP Reasi, Mohita Sharma said. "Along with providing food and shelter, the said person also acted as a guide and helped them reach the spot of the incident. The arrested person is a prime militant



associate who helped the terrorists in the execution of the

attack. Further interrogation and investigation of the case

# CLERIC, WIFE ARRESTED FOR RAPING 10-YR-OLD GIRL IN UP

Meerut (UP): A local cleric and his pregnant wife have been arrested for allegedly repeatedly raping a 10-year-old girl inside a mosque compound in Uttar Pradesh's Meerut on the pretext of teaching her Urdu. The accused Mohd Rizwan, 45, is a resident of Muzaffarnagar.

He stayed at the compound and taught Urdu to local children. The accused also made an obscene video and started blackmailing the girl, police said. Sanjay Pandey, SHO of Lohia Nagar, said, "The man was staying inside the mosque compound with his wife who supported him in the crime." "The woman is six months pregnant. A case has been registered under IPC section 376 (rape) and the POCSO Act," said Pandey.

# ALERT BANK OFFICIALS IN UP PREVENT RS 120 CR FRAUD, 7 ARRESTED

Lucknow | Agencies

A joint team of the Cyber Cell and Uttar Pradesh Police have arrested seven members of a gang that had siphoned Rs 120 crore off the bank account of the APJ Abdul Kalam Technical University (AKTU), the police said.

According to police, while posing as AKTU officials, the fraudsters first opened an account in the university's name at a branch of a nationalised bank where the varsity already had an account.

Thereafter, they tricked the bank officials into transferring Rs 120 crore in five instalments to the new account and from there the money was transferred to an account of a Gujarat-based charitable trust in another nationalised bank.

This transaction raised doubts in the minds of bank officials who got an audit done and discovered the fraud.

The officials then informed police which arrested seven men on Tuesday, alleged to be involved in the crime.

Police say that the gang had procured a letter required for the transfer of funds from the public sector bank's branch manager, Anuj Kumar Saxena, and impersonated AKTU's authorised signatory to open the second bank account.



They then procured cheque books and transferred the money to the Gujarat-based company's bank account.

Those arrested were identified as Devendra Prasad Prabha Shankar Joshi and Uday Patel from Gujarat, Rajesh Babu of Unnao, Girish Chandra and Shailesh Kumar Raghuvanshi of Lucknow, Dastgeer

Alam of Amethi and Krishna Kant of Basti district. The police also succeeded in recovering Rs 119 crore from the accused by getting the payment stopped.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (East), Prabal Pratap Singh, said the miscreants procured the email ID of the bank by contacting the bank's branch manager who

was on vacation.

The miscreants sent a fake letter to the Jankipuram branch in which AKTU has a bank account, asking them to transfer the money in AKTU's FD account at the Vidhan Sabha Marg branch.

"The miscreants had opened a fake FD account in the name of AKTU. They then transferred the money in a company's account and withdrew around Rs 1 crore," the DCP added.

In his complaint on June 12, bank manager Anuj Kumar Saxena had said that during his outing in Manali on June 3, he got a call from a man who introduced himself as Shailesh Kumar Raghuvanshi, who asked him to share his visiting card as he needed to make a fixed deposit.

Saxena added that he sent Raghuvanshi to the bank and asked a bank official to take up his case. "On the next day, I got a call from one Jai Singh who introduced himself as the finance officer of AKTU, asking for the FD rate at the bank. The next day they got Rs 49 crore, Rs 49 crore and Rs 22 crore transferred to the Vidhan Sabha Marg branch from the Jankipuram branch," he said. He also added that the bank sensed the foul play and requested the Gujarat bank in which the trust has a bank account to stop the payment.

# J&K POLICE ARREST MAN WHO HAD FLED WITH SPO'S WEAPON

Jammu: Police in J&K's Doda district have said that it has arrested the man who fled with an SPO's rifle.

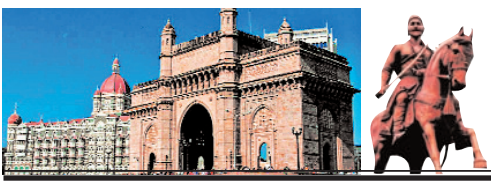
The man, identified as Mohammad Rafi, had fled with the AK-47 rifle of SPO, Sardar Hussain, from the Pul Doda area on Tuesday.

Police said Mohammad Rafi was arrested on Wednesday. The SPO was travelling with Mohammed Rafi in his vehicle when he got down from the vehicle near Pul Doda in the Doda district for some personal reasons. Sardar Hussain had left the rifle in the vehicle.

Mohammad Rafi, however, fled with the SPO's service rifle from the spot in the vehicle, said police officials.

The vehicle was later recovered by police, but there was no sign of either Mohammad Rafi or the SPO's weapon.





# Gory crimes of passion, each getting worse, benumb Palghar residents

Team Absolute | Palghar (Maharashtra)

The tribal district of Palghar, bordering Gujarat, has again shot into national headlines for a wrong reason, a gory crime of passion, that has left the locals stunned beyond words.

On Tuesday (June 18), the country was shocked to see video clips of an angry young man Rohit Yadav (29) clobbering his ex-girlfriend Aarti Yadav (22) to death by delivering more than a dozen powerful blows with a heavy iron wrench in the middle of a busy road.

Shockingly, though hundreds of people were around, except for one man, nobody dared to try and stop his savagery or help the bleeding woman, who succumbed to her horrific injuries on the spot.

Instead, passers-by and drivers even halted briefly to click videos and pictures of the horror that unfolded there.

Barely three weeks ago, in late May, Vasai town witnessed another brutal crime when one Najibuddin Sami, 21, allegedly killed a married woman Saira M. Shah, 34, with whom he had an illicit affair.

Sami, nabbed later from New Delhi where he fled after the murder of the woman who happened to be his aunt, told the Palghar Police that Saira was allegedly pressuring him to marry her after divorcing his wife, but he refused to oblige.

In a hot rage over her demands, the accused confessed to stabbing her multiple times with a



knife, then taking her body and throwing it off a cliff, near the Mumbai-Ahmedabad National Highway.

The police recovered the body which they could not identify, but a voter inkmark on her finger and a lubricant spray helped the investigators crack the mystery within two days.

After identifying her from the voters' list, the sleuths managed to reach her husband and they tracked the killer by scanning CCTVs in several pharmacies till they hit upon one from where Sami had purchased the spray.

When they confronted Saira's husband with the CCTV clip, he identified the person as his nephew. The man had fled to Delhi, from where a team of Vasai Police nabbed him.

These incidents came even as the people have barely erased the memories of the macabre murder of a local girl, Shraddha Walkar, by her boyfriend Aftab A. Poonawala on May 18, 2022 in New Delhi.

The case would have gone unnoticed but for a

complaint lodged by her father that the family and her friends were not able to contact her for nearly three months, after which the police swung into action.

Initially, Poonawala pretended to be as concerned as her family and even tried to help the police investigations, but later he was nailed by the Delhi Police which had found the girl's body parts and zeroed in on him.

The live-in couple had frequent quarrels over various issues including money and marriage, and on the fateful night of May 18, he strangled Shraddha, then cut her body into 35 small pieces and stored them in a huge deep-freezer.

Later for the next nearly three weeks, at the ungodly hour of 2 A.M., he would carry the body parts in small bags and throw them into the Chhattarpur forests.

Police while scanning CCTV footage of the area subsequently, found him lurking around in the region all over the night.

The cops recovered around 13 pieces and DNA tests confirmed that they belonged to Shraddha. Poonawala was arrested on November 12, 2022, and is currently lodged as an undertrial in Tihar Central Jail, New Delhi.

Besides these three soul-shakers, Palghar and adjoining Thane district, have been rocked by other crimes of passion at intervals that remain in public domain for days before another one hogs the headlines.

# BMC headquarters, several hospitals, college in Mumbai receive bomb threat emails

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Various institutions across Mumbai, including the headquarters of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), prominent hospitals and a college, have received bomb threat emails, following which searches were carried out although nothing suspicious was found in them.

A police official told news agency that the bomb threat emails were received on Monday and Tuesday from a single mail ID.

"The emails received on Tuesday were similar to those received on Monday, which said that there was a bomb threat to prominent private, state and civic-run hospitals and colleges across the city," he told media.

According to Mumbai police, the sender claimed that bombs were planted under beds and in the bathrooms of the hospitals.

The hospitals that received the threat mail include Jaslok Hospital, Raheja Hospital, Seven Hill Hospital, Kohinoor Hospital, KEM Hospital, JJ Hospital, and St George Hospital, among others in Mumbai.

The police official said that as an investigation was underway, similar bomb threat emails were received by the BMC and other establishments.

According to the police, the unknown person "threatened to blow up" the BMC headquarters.

Following the threat email, the police searched the BMC headquarters and said



that they did not find "anything suspicious." The officials said that security has been heightened following the threat.

Further investigation is underway, they added.

During the probe, the Mumbai police conducted security checks of those establishments and later it came to light that somebody played a mischief as nothing suspicious was found at all these places, the police official said.

He further said that the process to register a case against unidentified persons is underway at the Azad Maidan police station. Hinduja College of Commerce in Mumbai also received a bomb threat email earlier in the day, according to the police.

A team of police and a bomb squad searched the premises following the threat mail but nothing suspicious. Mumbai's VP Road Police Station was looking into the matter.

# Bombay HC allows 'Hamare Baarah' release on June 21 with modifications

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Bombay High Court on Wednesday allowed the release of the controversial film 'Hamare Baarah' on June 21 after making certain modifications to content that was found objectionable.

The order by a division bench comprising Justice B.P. Colabawalla and Justice Firdosh Pooniwalla came in a writ plea seeking a ban on the film for its derogatory content towards Islam and Muslims.

The court directed that following its suggestions that were acceptable to all the concerned parties, the modifications would be made in the film and implemented before its release.

The filmmakers have agreed to slash a dialogue



and a Quranic verse, add two disclaimers of 12 seconds each in the film, and donate Rs 5 lakh to a charity chosen by the petitioner as the costs of the petition, who in turn consented not to object to the film release thereafter.

The Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) has also agreed to re-certify the film based on the changes agreed before the court on Thursday, to enable the release on Friday (June 21).

The court disposed of the

writ petition filed by a social worker Azhar B. Tamboli who contended that the film -- earlier slated for release on June 7, then June 14 -- distorted the Quran, negatively portrayed the Muslim community, and claimed that the CBFC had flouted the Cinematograph Act, 1952, by incorrectly certifying it for release violating the Constitution Article 19(2) and 25.

The Bombay High Court had delayed the film release

even as the filmmakers moved the Supreme Court which stayed the release till the high court delivered its verdict.

'Hamare Baarah' is produced by Radhika G. Film & Newtech Media Entertainment along with Ravi S. Gupta, Birender Bhagat, Sanjay Nagpal and S.B. Singh, and directed by Kamal Chandra.

The star cast comprises Ashwini Kalsekar, Rahul Bagga, Annu Kapoor, Manoj Joshi, Aditi Bhatpatri, Paritosh Tiwari, Parth Samthaan, Shaan Saxena and others.

However, after watching its trailer, Muslim intellectuals raised objections saying it had grossly misinterpreted Islam and was intended to malign the religion and the Muslim community.

# Wadettiwar writes to PM, CM to resolve caste-based politics in Maharashtra

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Leader of Opposition in Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, Vijay Wadettiwar, wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde urging to resolve the caste-based politics in Maharashtra.

"Maharashtra has history, we demand caste-based census in the state for OBC and other castes. I always support Manoj Jarane Patil (Maratha reservation activist) but on the other side, OBCs are also on strike. I request the central government to look into this matter and resolve caste-based politics in Maharashtra," Vijay Wadettiwar told news agency.

"State government is trying to divide people based on caste. Our Rahul Gandhi also demanded on several



occasions to conduct caste-based census in states," the Congress leader said.

Vijay Wadettiwar called Ujjwal Nikam's reappointment "politics" after he was

again appointed as Special Public Prosecutor of Maharashtra's Mahayuti government following his defeat in the Lok Sabha elections. BJP had fielded Nikam

from Mumbai North Central seat against Congress' Varsha Gaikwad. Nikam lost to Varsha by more than 16,000 votes.

"People know about the role of government. This government have no sympathy for people they only want to do politics," Vijay Wadettiwar said.

Last week, Vijay Wadettiwar took a jibe at the BJP and said that wherever Lord Ram had laid his foot, the BJP lost from that place in the Lok Sabha polls.

He was reacting to the controversy over Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) leader Indresh Kumar's remark calling BJP arrogant, which restricted it to 240 and later retracting from his statement and saying that he used the term for Congress MP Rahul Gandhi and Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal.

# Thane Man Loses Rs 94 Lakh In Share Trading Scam

Team Absolute | Thane

A 48-year-old man from Maharashtra's Thane district lost nearly Rs 94 lakh after falling prey to a share trading scam, an official said on Wednesday.

The man from the Kalyan area was cheated between April 9 and May 21.

In his complaint, the man said he came across a WhatsApp group named 'The Value Team A 13' where many members posed as "experts and dished out tips" on making money through

the share market. Police said the "experts" induced the complaint to invest using links and applications provided by them.

The man invested Rs 93.6 lakh in all but did not get any money in return.

Realising he had been tricked, the man filed a police complaint. "We have started an investigation into the matter," said the station house officer at Khadakpada police station. "Our teams are working to gather evidence and track down the accused," he added.

# Mumbai college tells Bombay HC: Hijab ban part of dress code, not against Muslims

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A Mumbai college told the Bombay High Court on Wednesday that the prohibition on hijab, niqab, and burka on its campus was intended to establish a uniform dress code and not to target the Muslim community. According to a report, nine female students from Chembur Trombay Education Society's NG Acharya and DK Maratha College filed a complaint with the High Court last week over a clothing rule that prohibited hijab, niqab, burka, stokes, hats, and any type of emblem.



According to reports, the petitioners, who are second and third-year degree students, said in their

plea that the rule violated their fundamental right to practise religion, privacy, and freedom of

choice. The petitioners stated that the college's action was "arbitrary, unreasonable, bad in law, and perverse". According to the report, a division bench of Justices AS Chandurkar and Rajesh Patil questioned the petitioners' lawyers on Wednesday about whose religious authority states wearing a hijab is a fundamental element of Islam, as well as whether the Mumbai college management could impose such a prohibition.

The Bombay HC, after hearing arguments from both sides said it would pass an order on June 26.

# Jewellery shop staffer flees with ornaments worth Rs 5 lakh

Team Absolute | Thane

The Thane police have registered a case against an employee of a Thane jewellery shop for allegedly running away with ornaments worth about Rs 5 lakh, an official said on Wednesday, reported news agency.

According to the station house officer of Kapurbawdi police station, the Thane jewellery shop owner on Tuesday gave the jewellery to his staffer Kuldipsingh Rawat (41) to get it hallmarkd.

However, Rawat soon became unreachable on the phone. He neither went to the hallmarking unit nor returned to the shop, the owner told the police.

A case has been registered against Rawat under IPC section 408 for criminal breach of trust, the official said.

# NEET exam row: AAP protests in Mumbai, calls it 'national disgrace'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Mumbai unit of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Wednesday staged a protest in connection with the NEET exam row, calling it a 'national disgrace' and demanded a fresh examination, reported a news agency.

The protest held at Dadar area in Mumbai was part of the party's nationwide agitation against the alleged irregularities in the NEET examination, it said.

According to the agency, Ruben Mascarenhas, AAP's Mumbai working president, alleged that the NEET 'scam' is playing with the future of not just 24 lakh medico aspirants, but all of young India.

"We demand that the NEET exam be scrapped and a fresh exam be held. There must be a court-monitored independent investigation and exemplary action must be taken against those involved, especially those who are from the BJP," said Paul Raphael, AAP Mumbai executive member.

"The NEET scam is a national disgrace. Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan must immediately resign," Sandeep Katke, vice-president of AAP's



Mumbai unit, the news agency reported on Wednesday. The NEET examination was held on May 5 across 4,750 centres and around 24 lakh candidates took it. The results were expected to be declared on June 14 but were announced on June 4, apparently because the evaluation of the answer sheets got completed earlier. There have been allegations of ques-

tion paper leaks in states like Bihar and other irregularities in the prestigious exam.

The allegations have led to protests in several cities and filing of petitions in high courts and the Supreme Court. Scores of students protested in Delhi on June 10 seeking a probe into the alleged irregularities.

# Monsoon gaining strength, to intensify in Maharashtra by June 21-22: IMD

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The southwest monsoon, which had slowed after reaching Mumbai, is picking up pace and is expected to strengthen by June 21-11, said the India Meteorological Department. The IMD, per the PTI report, said that the progress is expected to bring relief to north India which is currently experiencing a severe heatwave. "Monsoon activity was weak after it hit Mumbai, but it is slowly turning moderate. It will strengthen by June 21-22 and coastal Maharashtra is likely to receive good rainfall. Central Maharashtra, including Marathwada, will receive light to moderate rainfall during this time," Sunil Kamble, Head of the Regional Meteorological Department (IMD) in Mumbai said.

According to the report, several parts of Mumbai on Wednesday morning received showers but it was not enough to alleviate the oppressive heat.

The monsoon arrived in Mumbai on June 9, two days ahead of the forecasted date. Since then, it has made minimal progress, having yet to reach regions of northern Maharashtra and Vidarbha, stated the report. Per the PTI report,



India has received 20 less rainfall since the beginning of the monsoon season on June 1, with no notable development in the rain-bearing system between June 12 and June 18. On Tuesday, the IMD

predicted that June would have below-average rainfall. June and July are critical monsoon months for agriculture, as most Kharif crop sowing takes place during this period.





## EDITOR'S SPECS

## Congress to get boost in UP

The decision of Congress MP Rahul Gandhi to retain his Raebareli seat has given new hope to Congress workers in Uttar Pradesh. What has further added to their joy is the fact that Priyanka Gandhi Vadra will now be contesting the Wayanad seat. The leader, who did not wish to be named, said that maximum damage to the Congress in Uttar Pradesh was caused by Priyanka's team. He further said that those, who did not move to greener pastures, receded into their shells and stopped even coming to the UPCC office. A senior leader said to be close to Rahul Gandhi said that the latter was keen to bring back party veterans into the political mainstream on one hand, and on the other, he wanted to include young blood in the Congress. Party strategists also feel that Rahul's presence in UP will further strengthen the alliance with Samajwadi Party. Senior party leaders have called this the right move and say this was an indication towards the party's continuing increased focus on Uttar Pradesh. The party has already given indications that its alliance with the SP will continue. The Congress, which contested 17 of the 80 Lok Sabha seats in Uttar Pradesh in alliance with the Samajwadi Party and won six seats, has been looking for a push for a turnaround and the 2024 poll results appear to have provided the desired opportunity. The Samajwadi Party won 37 seats, compared to the five seats it had won in 2019. Rahul Gandhi and Akhilesh focussed on issues like the caste census, the move to change the Constitution, rising unemployment and scrapping of the Agnivir scheme etc. This worked effectively in the state. Rahul Gandhi has given indications that he will continue to focus on such issues.

# "SHE'LL SHINE": WILL INDIRA GANDHI'S WORDS ABOUT PRIYANKA HOLD TRUE?

Shubhabrata Bhattacharya

Priyanka Gandhi Vadra has finally relented. She has been named as the Congress candidate for the by-poll in Kerala's Wayanad. Ever since Rahul Gandhi entered politics in 2004, there has been internal clamour within the Congress for her induction as well.

The late Jagdish Piyush, a longstanding Congress worker from Amethi since Sanjay Gandhi's days in 1977, coined a slogan in 1999: Amethi ki danka, bitiya Priyanka (Amethi's clarion, daughter Priyanka). That was when Priyanka first campaigned for Sonia Gandhi in neighbouring Raebareli. The slogan adorned the walls of the region, earning Piyush the moniker of the 'Bard of Amethi'.

As recently as late April this year, Priyanka's husband, Robert Vadra, publicly supported her candidacy when decisions on Congress candidates for Amethi and Raebareli were pending. He even offered himself as a candidate if she hesitated to step forward.

When Rahul Gandhi entered politics two decades ago, Priyanka had stated that her priority was raising her children, who were then very young. Her son, Rehan, is now 23, and her daughter, Miraya, is a year younger. Priyanka has been actively involved in campaigning for her mother and brother in the past elections, making frequent trips to oversee work in Sonia Gandhi's constituency.

Since formally joining politics in January 2019 as general secretary of the Congress, Priyanka initially served as the campaign head for the party in Uttar Pradesh, though without significant success. Her notable two-day Ganga yatra from Prayagraj to Varanasi in March 2019, on a boat, garnered attention but not votes. Her role as Uttar Pradesh in-charge, however, facilitated strong relationships with local politicians. Unlike Rahul, who thinks in English and translates while speaking in Hindi, Priyanka, who spent many hours in childhood at the home of acclaimed Hindi scholar Harivansh Rai Bachchan, is fluent in colloquial Hindi. This ability proved vital in forming the Congress-Samajwadi Party (SP) alliance in Uttar Pradesh in 2024, which posed a formidable challenge to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). During state elections in Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh, and Andhra Pradesh, Priyanka emerged as a key campaigner for her party. Her influence was par-



ticularly noted in the success of the Himachal Pradesh campaign, attributed in part to her efforts alongside trusted aide Rajiv Shukla, a Congress secretary and cricket administrator.

In the 2024 Lok Sabha campaign, Priyanka came across as someone who would come up with swift and sharp rebuttals against the BJP's allegations, often invoking the sacrifices of her grandmother and father.

Makhan Lal Fotedar, a trusted aide of Indira Gandhi who oversaw elections in Raebareli from 1977 and served as her political secretary from 1980 to 1984, recounted a conversation he had with her in Srinagar on September 28, 1984, just days before her tragic assassination on October 31, 1984. Fotedar chronicled this conversation in his memoir, The Chinar Leaves, published in 2015. Indira Gandhi had visited Kashmir with her grandchildren on September 27, returning to Delhi two days later before embarking on her final campaign tour to Orissa (now Odisha). Her scheduled interview with British actor Peter Ustinov for a TV channel on the morning of October 31 was tragically cut short due to her

assassination.

Recalling the events of September 28, 1984, Fotedar writes that Indira Gandhi visited the shrine of the Kuldevi of the Nehru clan, Sharika Bhagwan Ashtadash (goddess with 18 hands) at Hariparvat, as well as the dargah of Sufi saint Makhdoom Sahib. "Returning to her guest house, she said something remarkable about herself and her granddaughter," Fotedar writes. "Fotedarji, I may not live long. But you must watch over Priyanka as she grows." Fotedar asked, "Do you think I will live that long?" To this, Indira Gandhi replied affirmatively, "You will live to see her grow and shine on the national horizon. People will see me in her and remember me when they see her. She will shine and the next century will be hers. Then people will forget me."

Fotedar passed away in September 2017. It is uncertain whether the majority of Indians today, born after her assassination 40 years ago, remember Indira Gandhi apart from the enduring legacy of the liberation of Bangladesh in December 1971 and the

unforgettable memory of the Emergency imposed 49 years ago in June. However, as Priyanka makes her electoral debut, this conversation recorded by Fotedar is worth recalling.

In 1990, I asked Fotedar whether he had shared his recollections with Rajiv Gandhi. He confirmed that he had and that Rajiv Gandhi had inquired, "Did Mummy really say so?" Later, after Sonia Gandhi's entry into politics and the popularisation of Jagdish Piyush's slogan, Amethi Ka Danka, bitiya Priyanka, Fotedar formally wrote to her, citing the conversation. It did not receive a reply.

If Priyanka wins in Wayanad, she will become the sole woman MP from Kerala, a state that has a rich legacy of women's role in society. Announcing her candidature, Mallikarjun Kharge reiterated her 2022 statement, "Ladki hoon, Lad sakti hoon" (I am a woman, I can fight). If elected, Priyanka will hopefully reintroduce spirited debates in the Lok Sabha. While occasionally echoing Rahul's discordant rhetoric, her discourse has largely been in line with what Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) sarsangchalak Mohan Bhagwat recently described as the "Paksh-Pratipaksh" spirit of debate-meaning, opposition not just for the sake of opposition.

The Congress team of 99 MPs includes promising figures who comfortably won in closely contested polls: Deepender Hooda (Rohtak, Haryana), Gaurav Gogoi (Jorhat, Assam), Rakibul Hussain (Nagaon, Assam), Manish Tiwari (Chandigarh), Geniben Thakor (Sabarkantha, Gujarat), Varsha Gaikwad (Mumbai North Central, Maharashtra), Vishal Patil (Sangli, Maharashtra), Praniti Shinde (Solapur, Maharashtra), Rajesh Rathore (Sitapur, UP), and Thiruvananthapuram's four-term MP, Shashi Tharoor.

Rahul Gandhi's decision on whether to accept the position of the leader of the opposition is awaited.

If Priyanka wins in Wayanad, one of the prominent Lok Sabha faces from the opposition may once again be a woman, reminiscent of the days of Sushma Swaraj, who had led the BJP's spirited opposition during the Manmohan Singh era.

(The views expressed are personal)

## international

## Kim vows 'full support' for Russia's war in Ukraine, strengthening strategic ties

Seoul | Agencies

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un on Wednesday expressed "full support" for Russia's war in Ukraine and pledged to strengthen strategic cooperation with Moscow as he held summit talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Pyongyang amid deepening concerns about their military cooperation.

Kim said relations between the two countries are "entering a new period of prosperity", as he praised Russia's role in the global strategic balance and vowed to "strengthen strategic cooperation" with Moscow, according to the Russian news agency TASS.

"The government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea expresses its full support and solidarity with the Russian government, Army and people in conducting the special military operation in Ukraine to protect sovereignty, security interests, and territorial integrity," Kim was quoted as saying.

Putin expressed gratitude to Kim for Pyongyang's support for Moscow's policy on Ukraine and also voiced hope to hold the next summit with Kim in Moscow, TASS reported.

After the summit, Putin and Kim signed a "comprehensive strategic partnership treaty" to bolster bilateral ties, Russian news reports said, without disclosing details.

The Russian leader earlier said a new "fundamental document" has been prepared to serve as a basis for relations between the two countries, Yonhap news agency reported.

The two leaders met again nine months after they held a summit in Russia's Far East last September, as Russia, under international sanctions



over its war with Ukraine, has been bolstering military and other cooperation with North Korea.

Putin arrived in North Korea early Wednesday on his first trip to the reclusive country in 24 years. Ahead of the summit, an official welcoming ceremony was held at Kim Il Sung Square in central Pyongyang.

Since the Kim-Putin summit last year, the two nations have been bolstering military ties, with the North being accused of supplying Russia with ammunition for use in Moscow's war in Ukraine in exchange for aid and suspected technological assistance for its space program.

Experts said Putin's trip will likely pave the way for the two countries to deepen military cooperation beyond arms transactions while cementing their solidarity against the United States.

Analysts said Kim and Putin are expected to adopt a joint declaration that calls for both sides to elevate the level of military, security and economic cooperation but saw a low possibility of them clinching a treaty akin to a military alliance.

North Korea and the former Soviet Union signed a treaty of friendship and mutual assistance in 1961. The treaty included a provision for so-called automatic military intervention, under which if one side is under an armed attack, the other provides military troops

and other aid without hesitation.

North Korea and Russia signed a new treaty of bilateral ties in 2000, but it did not contain such a provision as it centred on cooperation in the economy, science and culture.

Experts said North Korea and Russia are expected to highlight cooperation in the economic sector as any arms deals and military cooperation violate United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions banning Pyongyang's nuclear and missile programs.

In an article published on Tuesday by the Rodong Simnun, the North's main newspaper, Putin vowed to build alternative systems for trade and settlements with North Korea that will not be controlled by the West and jointly resist "illegal and unilateral restrictions" in an apparent reference to international sanctions.

Experts said Russia is expected to assist North Korea's space development program in exchange for Pyongyang's arms supplies, but it is not likely to transfer sensitive weapons technology to Pyongyang.

In late May, North Korea's attempt to launch a military spy satellite ended in failure as a satellite-carrying rocket exploded right after liftoff. In November last year, North Korea successfully placed a spy satellite into orbit, and it has a plan to launch three more such satellites in 2024.

The two leaders could discuss the issue of North Korea's dispatch of its workers at the summit, experts said. The North has a desperate need to earn foreign currency due to international sanctions, while Russia has been facing a labour shortage amid its war with Ukraine.

ment on Tuesday.

Earlier, the organisation warned on its official Facebook page against direct exposure to the sun and recommended that people stay home during peak heat times, Xinhua news agency reported. Iraq regularly witnesses a scorching summer with temperatures exceeding 50 degrees Celsius, prompting the government to sometimes grant holidays to its institutions.



## Extreme heat hits Iraq as temperature exceeds 50 degrees Celsius

Baghdad | Agencies

A heatwave is hitting Iraq as several provinces witnessed a temperature of 50 degrees Celsius, the Iraqi Meteorological Organisation and Seismology said in a statement.

The hottest temperature, 51 degrees Celsius, was recorded in Dhi Qar province, while the provinces of Maysan, Basra, and Muthanna recorded 50 degrees Celsius, according to the state-

## India reminds world of Kanishka bombing as Canada 'honours' terrorist

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Even as the Canadian Parliament 'honoured' a Khalistani terrorist, the Indian Consulate in Vancouver reminded the world of the bombing of Air India flight 182 (Kanishka) in which 329 people, including 86 children, were killed. The 'India in Vancouver', the official Twitter account of the Consulate General of India in Vancouver in a post on Wednesday said, "India stands at the forefront of countering the menace of terrorism and works closely with all nations to tackle this global threat."

"23 June 2024 marks the 39th Anniversary of the cowardly terrorist bombing of Air India flight 182 (Kanishka), in which 329 innocent victims, including 86 children, lost their lives in one of the most heinous terror-related air disasters in the history of civil aviation," mentioned the post. The consulate will also hold a Memorial Service at 1830 hrs on June 23 at the Air India Memorial at Stanley Park's Ceperley Playground area.

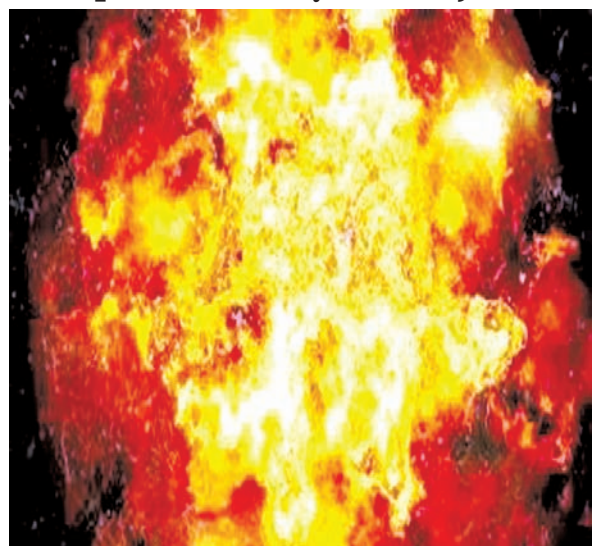
@cgivancouver encour-



ages members of the Indian Diaspora to join the event in a show of solidarity against terrorism," said the consulate in the post. As India reminds the world of the horrors of terrorism, the Canadian Parliament marked the first anniversary of the death of Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar by holding a moment of silence in the House of Commons on Tuesday. This comes days after Canadian PM Justin Trudeau said that there is an "alignment on several big issues" with India and he sees an "opportunity" to engage with the new Indian government...". Trudeau had said this after meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Italy during the G7 summit.

Nijjar was gunned down in Canada's Surrey, outside a parking lot on June 18 last year.

## Fire, explosion at Chad ammunition depot leave many dead, injured



N'Djamena (Chad) | Agencies

Fire and explosion at a weapons and ammunition depot in the Chadian capital, N'Djamena, left many people dead and injured, government sources said on Wednesday.

In an initial report on the incident, Prime Minister Allamaye Halina did not give any specific casualty figures, while President Mahamat Idriss Deby Ito announced an investigation to determine the cause of the explosion and find out who might be responsible for the incident.

The fire broke out late on Tuesday evening in an ammunition depot in the army reserve camp in the north of the capital city. Amateur videos published on social showed large fireballs in the sky. The powerful explosion was reportedly felt throughout the city.

## Merchant vessel sinks in Red Sea after attack by Yemen's Houthi rebels

Aden | Agencies

A merchant vessel struck by the Yemeni Houthi group days ago has sunk in the Red Sea, the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO), a facility of the British Navy for handling international shipping emergencies, reported.

The Greek-owned bulk carrier 'Tutor' was hit twice on June 12, approximately 66 nautical miles southwest of the Yemeni port city of Hodeidah, the Yemeni government Coast Guard officials told Xinhua news agency shortly after the strikes. Houthi military spokesman Yahya Sarea claimed that the group targeted the ship with "an unmanned boat, several drones, and ballistic missiles," causing severe damage and putting the vessel "at risk of sinking." Sarea justified the attack by accusing the cargo ship's owner of violating a Houthi ban on entering Israeli ports.



The Coast Guard officials said an unmanned boat detonated at the stern, causing a big leak in the vessel's hull. An official added that the vessel made a distress call shortly after the first attack.

Despite search efforts, a missing crew member has not been located, officials said.

Following the incident, the UKMTO said in an update on June 15 that the crew of the vessel had been evacuated by military authorities, and the vessel had been abandoned, adrift on the water. Since last November, the Houthis have been conducting military opera-

tions in the Red Sea and the Bab al-Mandab Strait, targeting ships they claim are Israel-linked or bound for Israel. The group, which controls much of northern Yemen and the crucial Hodeidah Port, has launched attacks against commercial shipping using numerous booty-trapped boats, missiles, and drones.

The Houthi attacks took place against the backdrop of the ongoing conflict between the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) and the Israeli army in the Gaza Strip, which has been raging for more than eight months.

In response to the Houthi strikes, the US and the UK initiated a military operation in January, conducting air and missile strikes against Houthi targets within Yemen to deter the group.

However, the Houthis, in retaliation, subsequently expanded the scope of their targeting to include US and British commercial and military vessels.





## V-P DHANKHAR PRAISES MODI GOVT FOR MISSION TO ERADICATE SICKLE CELL DISEASE

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Wednesday appreciated the Narendra Modi-led government for its aggressive approach to eradicate 'Sickle Cell' disease from the country. Sickle cell disease is an inherited blood disorder marked by defective hemoglobin. It inhibits the ability of hemoglobin in red blood cells to carry oxygen. Infections, pain, and fatigue are symptoms of Sickle Cell disease.

Attending a programme to observe World Sickle Cell Day in Madhya Pradesh's Dindori district on Wednesday, Dhankhar said when the people of India will celebrate the 100th anniversary of Independence in 2048, the country will be free of Sickle Cell disease, adding that PM Modi is determined to eliminate the ailment.

"PM Modi has set 2048 as the deadline to eliminate Sickle Cell disease from the country. It means when we celebrate the 100th anniversary of Independence, the country will be free from the disease," the Vice President said.

Dhankhar also praised the Madhya Pradesh government's efforts and mission to eradicate Sickle Cell disease from the state.



"I have no doubt that India will be free from Sickle Cell disease by 2048. You need to keep working in this direction," he said.

The Vice President also appealed to all sections of people to come forward and support the government's mission. "It is a situation where we

should be handholding those suffering from the disease," Dhankhar said.

Madhya Pradesh has the highest load in the country with an estimated number of 9,61,492 sickle heterozygotes and 67,861 sickle homozygotes. Also, 27 of the 45 districts in the state fall in the Sickle Cell belt, and the prevalence of HbS varies from 10 to 33 per cent. State-wide, 75 per cent of Sickle Cell patients come from the tribal districts of Alirajpur, Anuppur, Chhindwara, Jabua, and Dindori.

The disease has a 10 per cent prevalence rate for symptoms in the tribal population, and 1 per cent prevalence rate for the disease itself.

Rising cases of Sickle Cell are a concern for the government as over 6,736 new cases were identified during 2023-24. On this occasion, Deputy Chief Minister and Health Minister Rajendra Shukla has announced that 1 crore 10

## There will be a door-to-door survey for the prevention of sickle cell in Madhya Pradesh: Mohan Yadav

Team Absolute | Bhopal

On World Sickle Cell Day, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav has said that a door-to-door survey will be conducted for the detection and diagnosis of sickle cell patients.

In the state level program at Government Chandra Vijay Mahavidyalaya, Dindori, in the presence of Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar and Governor Mangu Bhai Patel, Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav said that the government will make every possible effort to stop this disease with full force and will go door to door. Survey will be done. Whatever patients are found suffering from this disease, they will be given better treatment. The Health Department is taking big initiatives in this direction.

On this occasion, Deputy Chief Minister and Health Minister Rajendra Shukla has announced that 1 crore 10



lakh people of tribal category will be screened in the state.

Deputy Chief Minister Shukla said that the State Hemoglobin Pathy Mission was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the prevention and treatment of sickle cell anemia. In the mission, a total of 9 lakh 17 thousand population was screened under the pilot project in Alirajpur and Jabua districts of the state. In the second phase of

'Sickle Cell Eradication Mission' - Sickle cell screening of about 1 crore 11 lakh citizens is to be done in 89 development blocks of tribal dominated districts of Madhya Pradesh in 2047.

So far, 49 lakh 17 thousand population has been screened in the second phase. Out of which 1 lakh 20 thousand 493 sickle carriers and 18 thousand 182 sickle patients have been identified.

## Congress made Dheeran Shah Inwati its candidate in Amarwada by-election, nomination today

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Congress has made Dheeran Shah Inwati its candidate in the by-election on Amarwada assembly seat of Chhindwara district. Dheeran Shah is the son of Sukhram Dada, a servant of Anchalikund court.

Congress candidate Dheeran Shah will file nomination on Thursday, June 20 at 12 noon. State Congress President Jitu Patwari and Leader of Opposition Umang Singhwar will be present during this period. Both the leaders will attend the nomination rally of the Congress candidate.

Jitu Patwari said- My younger brother Dheeran Shah will give new impetus to the ideology of Congress as Congress candidate in Amarwada Assembly by-election. I have full confidence that he will definitely get the blessings of the public as he has organizational skills and is a popular face of the area. We all will fight this battle of truth and justice together and will definitely win.

The family of Sevadar Sukhram Dada of Anchalikund has a good influence among the tribal families. Be it Indian or tribal, everyone goes to Dada Darbar and marks their presence. In such a situation, everyone knows his family. Congress is now preparing to capital-



ize on this relationship.

Kamal Nath had contested the Lok Sabha elections in 1980. Before starting his political journey, he had reached Anchalikund Dham. At that time Ratan Das used to be a servant of Ji Dham. After Ratan Das ji, his sons are the servants of this Dham.

Anchalikund Dham was established by Baba Kungal Das. This place is the center of faith of the tribals. Baba's third generation servant Sukhram Das Ji Maharaj told that about 100 years ago, on the insistence of Kungal Das Baba, Dada ji, the Dhuni seller of Khandwa, had lit Dhuni in this Anchalikund. Kungal Das Baba was his father's great grandfather. He was born in the family of Singrami Inavati, a tribal family.

## 'Public interest is our priority'

### DEPUTY CM JAGDISH DEORA BEFORE THE MADHYA PRADESH BUDGET

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh government will present its full budget in the monsoon session. It has been said in the budget to give special attention to the interests of the public. Regarding the budget, Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Jagdish Deora spoke in detail to the media on Wednesday.

Jagdish Deora said, "The first budget of Mohan Yadav government will be universal. It will give priority to the common people as well as special interests. Apart from this, the Finance Minister also presented his views in detail regarding the interests of traders, investors, common customers and others.

Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Jagdish Deora said in the press conference, "It is our endeavor to give special attention to the interests of the public in the budget. There should not be any kind of discrimination. Additionally, we have decided to increase capital expenditure in the Budget. We will not make any compromise with capital expenditure. Not only this, all the suggestions that we had taken from



people before making the budget in the past, will be included in the budget.

He said, "When Kamal Nath took charge of the state, he had stopped all the schemes started by the previous governments, but we will not do so. We will not stop any previous scheme, but will evaluate how much benefit it is currently providing to the public. After this we will discuss on continuing it. If any deficiency is found in any scheme, it will be rectified. After this, efforts will be made to ensure that the public continues to benefit from this. We believe that no matter what kind of government it is, schemes are always made in the interest of the public, but now we will try to see if there is any flaw in any of them. If so, it will be rectified. Apart from this, discussions will be held to restart the schemes which have been closed."

On taking loan, Jagdish Deora said, "All governments take loan and repay it on time. Congress should not face any problem due to this. Congress is getting nervous. I think instead of scaring the Congress, it should give good suggestions."

## PENSION SCHEME HAS NOT BEEN CLOSED: NARAYAN SINGH KUSHWAHA

Team Absolute | Bhopal

After some ineligible people in Madhya Pradesh were denied the facility of getting pension, the discussion intensified that the state government is now going to close the pension scheme. Many people got confused after such baseless discussion came to light. Many became apprehensive that they would stop receiving financial assistance through the pension scheme. After this, Social Justice and Disabled Welfare Minister of Madhya Pradesh Government, Narayan Singh Kushwaha himself came forward and gave a statement.

Narayan Singh Kushwaha said, "I want to make it clear that no pension scheme of any kind has been stopped by the Madhya Pradesh government nor will it be stopped in future. We have only deprived ineligible people of this facility, because we want that only those who meet the standards set by the government should get the facility of pension scheme. "It is our endeavor that no ineligible person should get the benefit of the public welfare scheme launched by the government."



He said, "At present the process of getting KYC done through Aadhar card is going on, which has been completed till 85 per cent. This is a kind of routine process. During this period, due to some errors, many people have been declared ineligible. "The names of all the beneficiaries below 50 years of age have been removed from the Kalyani Pension Scheme, but I want to make one thing clear that no one's pension scheme has been stopped." He said, "The process of linking the circulars of all beneficiaries with Aadhar cards is underway. Many types of discrepancies are being reflected in this, in view of which the names of many people have been removed from the list of beneficiaries, because they were not eligible to receive benefits. At the same time, I would like to say one thing that if for some reason the name of any eligible person has been removed from the list of beneficiaries, then he can go to the concerned department and lodge a complaint in this regard. I assure that they will be added to the list of beneficiaries again. It is possible that due to some paperwork flaw, names of many eligible people may have been declared ineligible.

## Two green corridors created to transport human organs in Bhopal

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The city traffic police created two important green corridors from Siddhant Hospital for the purpose of organ donation.

The first green corridor was built from Siddhant Hospital to Bansal Hospital, in which the ambulance covered the distance of 5 kilometers in just 4 minutes. The second corridor was built from Siddhant Hospital to Viva Hospital, in which the ambulance covered the distance of 14.5 kilometers in just 12 minutes. 97 traffic police personnel were deployed in this operation, which included an Assistant Commissioner of Police, 3 Inspectors, 4 sub-



dars, 6 Sub Inspectors, 13 Assistant Sub Inspectors, 30 Head Constables and 40 Constables. This successful

event on the streets of Bhopal has proved to be an important step towards saving human lives.

## Government suspended license of Som Distilleries

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh government has taken major action against Som Distillery and suspended its license. This step has been taken with the aim of ensuring law and order and compliance with industrial rules in the state.

According to the statement issued by the government, there are serious allegations of violation of terms and conditions against Som Distillery. After investigating these allegations, the Mohan government decided to suspend the license of the distillery.

Following this action, the state government made it clear that violation of rules by any industry will not be tolerated. The government is committed to ensure strict



compliance of rules by all industries and will take strict action if any irregularities are found. Further investigation will continue in the case of Som Distillery. During the suspension, the distillery will

have to completely shut down its operations and comply with all conditions. If the investigation finds more serious irregularities, the government may take more strict action against the distillery.

## Successful Management of complicated oesophageal cancer patient at AIIMS Bhopal

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Executive Director of AIIMS Bhopal, Prof. (Dr.) Ajai Singh always inspires the doctors here to accept new challenges. In a recent case, a young age female patient of 40 years has been suffering from upper abdomen discomfort and heartburn for more than three months. She visited AIIMS Bhopal a year back in oncology OPD. After a thorough investigation she was found to have cancer of the oesophagus. She underwent phases of treatment with chemotherapy and radiation first, followed by planning for surgery. But, due to some personal factors, she didn't undergo surgery and kept on maintenance chemotherapy. Again, she visited a surgical oncology OPD in April 2024 and, after understanding the nature of the disease, was willing to have surgery.

Dr Neelesh shrivastava, Assistant Professor in the Department of surgical oncology, decided to proceed with total esophagectomy. The patient's



surgery was challenging given the difficult airway. Her operation was even cancelled one time due to the same. Dr. Pooja Singh, Associate Professor from anaesthesia, had taken the lead and intubated the patient with bronchial blocker and surgery was carried out by surgical oncology team headed by Dr Neelesh Shrivastava. The patient was doing well post-surgery and planned for discharge on day 13. On the same day, she developed breathing difficulty. Based on priority, the patient was investigated in emergency and found to leak from the neck's joining site of the stomach and oesophagus. She was again taken in an emergency, and her upper oesophageal end was taken out from the outside for the neck; at the same

time, she was on inotropes support, and her condition was critical. An expert team of the anaesthesia department headed by dr Zainab Ahmad managed the case well and kept the patient in ICU for five days. The will power of patient was respectful because even after two surgeries she was fighting from the complication. The miracle turned out when she recovered from the complication and shifted to the ward after seven days. The patient is now stable and discharged in stable condition.

The Department of Surgical Oncology is doing such complicated cases on a routine basis. The team of consultants encourage each other and help to manage such difficult cases, and the complications of such surgery are also well managed by the team of AIIMS Bhopal. This is an example of complicated care provided by teamwork for challenging cases in AIIMS Bhopal. Executive Director of AIIMS Bhopal Prof. (Dr) Ajai Singh has congratulated the team for this achievement.





# Justin Timberlake arrested for driving while intoxicated

New York | Agencies

Actor-singer Justin Timberlake was arrested on one count of driving while intoxicated and released from police custody in New York, according to his attorney.

According to police, the singer was observed late on Tuesday "operating his vehicle in an intoxicated condition" in New York.

Timberlake was driving a 2025 BMW when he reportedly failed to stop at a stop sign and failed to maintain his lane, according to a police statement reported cnn.com.

An officer initiated a traffic stop, and Timberlake told police he "had one martini and followed my friends home," according to court records.

Court records indicated that Timberlake's eyes were "bloodshot and glassy," and there was a "strong odour of an alcoholic beverage" on his breath.

An officer described Timberlake as "unable to divide attention," adding that "he had slowed speech, was unsteady on his feet, and performed poorly on all standardized field sobriety tests."

Timberlake refused a chemical test three times, initially



saying, "No, I'm not doing a chemical test."

The report contains details of his field sobriety tests. He was placed under arrest and held overnight for arraignment, according to police.

He was also cited for running the stop sign and failing to stay in his lane, his attorney, Ed Burke, told CNN.

Timberlake was released without bail and has a court date scheduled for July 26.

Sag Harbor is a village located in the Hamptons on eastern Long Island. Timberlake left the American Hotel in the area shortly before his arrest, according to a source with knowledge of the matter.

Timberlake is currently on tour with his most recent album, 'Everything I Thought It Was'. He is next scheduled to perform in Chicago on Friday.

The 43-year-old singer is married to producer and actor Jessica Biel. The two got married in 2012 and are parents to Silas, 9, and Phineas, 3.



# Anne Hathaway

## SHARES DIY BEAUTY HACK FOR PLUMPER LIPS

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Anne Hathaway has shared a quick and simple DIY (do-it-yourself) trick to achieve plumper lips.

In a video posted on TikTok, Hathaway is seen getting her hair done by her long-time friend and celebrity stylist Adir Abergel during a campaign

shoot. Noticing that her upper lip looked a bit wilted on the monitor, Hathaway asked her stylist for a hairpin and used it to gently tap her lip, stimulating blood flow and giving her lips a fuller appearance.

"I went in and I sort of stimulated my lip to try and get some blood flow back in there, to try to get some circulation, and everyone looked at me like I had

three heads," Hathaway shared, reports aceshowbiz.com.

The actress stressed the importance of being gentle when using this technique.

"You can overdo this, you can push too hard. It's meant to be a gentle, gentle thing," she cautioned.

"If you've drawn blood, you've gone too far. It's not a vampire LipTok."

## GISELE BUNDCHEN SUBTLY SHUTS DOWN JOAQUIM VALENTE SPLIT RUMORS



Los Angeles | Agencies

Gisele Bündchen and Joaquim Valente just subtly shut down the breakup rumors that have been circulating. Over Father's Day weekend, the couple were spotted paddle boarding in Miami with Gisele's children, Benjamin and Vivian, whom she shares with ex-husband Tom Brady.

The model, 43, and the jiu-jitsu trainer were photographed together on June 16, wearing summer gear while leading the way on paddle boards with her children, according to photos published by TMZ on Monday, June 17.

As for Tom, 46, the former NFL star didn't accompany the group on their outing. However, on Father's Day, Tom shared a photo of himself with his kids. In addition to Benjamin, 14, and Vivian, 11, the athlete shares son Jack with his ex Bridget Moynahan.

"And THANK YOU, to these kids for giving me the gift of being a father, a joy that I could have never imagined until you came into my life," Tom captioned an Instagram post that day. "I hope that I can give you all that my dad gave me... unconditional love and support."

# Billy Ray Cyrus Accuses Firerose of Blocking

Los Angeles | Agencies

Billy Ray Cyrus and Firerose (real name: Johanna Rosie Hodges) have been left with achy breaky hearts amid their divorce. Less than a month after they split, the country music singer, 62, filed new court documents on Monday, June 17, in which he accused his estranged wife, 36, of blocking one of his daughters on his phone. Billy Ray shares children Miley, Noah, Brandi, Trace and Braison Cyrus with his ex-wife, Tish Cyrus.

Per court documents obtained by E! News, Billy Ray "discovered that [Firerose] had been conducting a campaign to isolate the Plaintiff from his family. He has discovered that the



defendant, unknowingly to Plaintiff, blocked at least one (1) of his daughters from being able to contact him on his phone(s) or electronic devices."

It's unclear which one of Billy Ray's daughters Firerose allegedly blocked on his phone.

Furthermore, in his complaint, the "She's Not Cryin' Anymore" singer alleged that Firerose claimed her maiden name was Hodges, but it was actually her ex-husband's last name. In May, Firerose's doctor was allegedly "having a hard time understanding" what her legal last name was, and she was allegedly overheard on the phone with the IRS identifying herself "with a last name that he did not know."

# Gypsy Rose Blanchard Claims She's Received 'Death Threats'

London | Agencies

Gypsy Rose Blanchard is addressing the hateful social media comments she's received after being released from prison last year. During the latest episode of Gypsy Rose: Life After Lockup, which aired on Monday, June 17, the 32-year-old read an online message that she came across to viewers. The commenter allegedly called her a "poor excuse for a human being."

"You stupid waste of space, you are going to wish you are back behind by real people. That'll ruin your life. You are going to wish you are canceled bars. I can't wait to be a part of tearing you down bit by bit. You deserve nothing but to be six feet under or locked away forever." The harsh comment continued, according to Gypsy, "There are real kids with cancer and real-life problems. Unlike you, that just went along with it because mommy told you to."

While speaking to the cameras, Gypsy pointed out that she understands "that a lot of people are upset right now because" she was "jolted into" fame immediately after she got out of prison. She also expressed her concerns about how her critics would react to seeing her in public. "What happens if I get a hater that is a little too comfortable with how they feel and they come up to me and punch me or get physical with me?" Gypsy asked. "You know, that is a dangerous situation. When the backlash comes, am I at risk for dangerous people?"



Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Austin Butler opened up about the "insane" house party thrown by singer Paul McCartney, where pop star Taylor Swift "was DJing at one point."

"Last time I saw you was at maybe the craziest party I've ever been to in my whole life," Jimmy Kimmel told the 'Elvis' star.

"That was insane," said Butler about the party held at McCartney's home.

## AUSTIN BUTLER TALKS ABOUT TAYLOR SWIFT DJING AT PAUL MCCARTNEY'S 'INSANE' HOUSE PARTY

He added, "Do you want to list some of (the guests)?" "It was a party where, like, Tom Hanks is going. 'Oh, my God, can you believe who's here?' Right?" responded Kimmel.

"The living Beatles, the living (Rolling) Stones, Mick Jagger, Bruce Springsteen."

"To see Paul and Ringo (Starr) in the same room was kind of amazing," Butler said. He also recalled how Springsteen told him a story about writing a song for Elvis Presley and sneaking onto the King's property to convince him to record it, reports peo-



ple.com. Swift "was DJing at one point," Butler revealed, without specifying what tunes she was spinning. He added, "She has to DJ at parties now."

Asked who he was most starstruck by, he quipped, "Besides you?" Butler picked Meryl Streep.

"She's just the greatest. You know in high school when you have a crush on somebody and they're across the room and you don't know how to say hello to them? That's how it was."

## ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Jennifer Lopez





## Marcus Stoinis takes the crown in latest T20I all-rounder rankings

Dubai | Agencies

Australia all-rounder Marcus Stoinis has clinched the coveted top spot on the ICC Men's T20I all-rounder ranking after exceptional form in the ongoing T20 World Cup earning him a career-defining rating of 231.

The Australian all-rounder showcased his formidable prowess with both bat and ball, helping his team cruise into the Super Eight stage with an unblemished record. His contributions were pivotal, taking six crucial wickets and making three significant batting performances.

One of Stoinis's standout moments was his economical spell against Namibia, where he secured figures of 2/9, dismantling their batting lineup and setting the stage for a dominant Australian victory.

However, it was in the final group stage match against Scotland that Stoinis truly shone. Coming to the crease with Australia precariously placed at 60/3 in the ninth over, he



played a match-winning innings of 59 from just 29 balls, steering his team to a victory that had seemed distant when he arrived.

With this series of performances, Stoinis leapfrogged to the top of the all-rounder rankings, displacing

Mohammad Nabi, who slipped to fourth. Sri Lanka's Wanindu Hasaranga and Bangladesh's Shakib Al Hasan now occupy the second and third spots respectively, making up a competitive top three. Meanwhile, the West Indies, co-

hosts of the World Cup, have made headlines with their explosive batting. However, it is their bowlers who have been the unsung heroes of their campaign, as reflected in the latest ICC T20I Bowling Rankings.

Akeal Hosein has made a significant leap, moving up six places to claim the second spot, just behind England's Adil Rashid who remains number one. Alzarri Joseph also climbed six places, now just outside the top ten, while Gudakesh Motie surged 16 spots to reach 13th.

In the batting rankings, the top four — Suryakumar Yadav, Phil Salt, Babar Azam, and Mohammad Rizwan — remain unchanged. Yet, there are notable movements just below them. Australian opener Travis Head's consistent form has propelled him up five places to fifth. The West Indies' Nicholas Pooran made an even more dramatic climb, moving up eight spots to 11th, while Sherfane Rutherford's unbeaten 68 against New Zealand saw him soar 43 places to 42nd.

## Neeraj Chopra wins gold medal at the Paavo Nurmi Games 2024

Turku (Finland) | Agencies

Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra marked his return to the circuit with a gold medal in the men's javelin throw at the Paavo Nurmi Games 2024 on Tuesday. His winning throw of 85.97m saw him top a strong field of eight competitors. Anderson Peters, Max Dehnung, Keshom Walcott, Neeraj Chopra, Oliver Helander, Andrian Mardare, Lassi Etalatalo & Toni Keranen were the eight contestants in the competition.

Chopra began steadily with a throw of 83.62m. Local favourite Oliver Helander pushed him for the lead, taking the top spot with an 83.96m throw in the second round.

However, Chopra responded with his best throw of the day, a soaring 85.97m effort in his third attempt. His trademark roar returned as Chopra celebrated his throw in a typical manner.



Chopra's consistency continued with an 82.21m throw in the fourth round.

He then strategically fouled his fifth attempt after a throw that fell short of 80m.

Despite securing gold, the champion wasn't done yet. Encouraging the crowd to louder cheers, Chopra delivered a solid final attempt of 82.87.

## T20 WORLD CUP: BANGLADESH'S TANZIM HASAN SAKIB FINED FOR CODE OF CONDUCT VIOLATION

New Delhi | Agencies

Bangladesh seamer Tanzim Hasan Sakib has been fined 15 percent of his match fee for his code of conduct violation during Bangladesh's ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 Group D match against Nepal.

In addition to the fine, one demerit point has been added to Tanzim's disciplinary record, for whom it was the first offence in a 24-month period.

Tanzim was found to have breached Article 2.12 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which relates to "inappropriate physical contact with a Player, Player Support Personnel, Umpire, Match Referee or any other person (including a spectator during an International Match)", ICC said in a statement.

The incident occurred at



the end of the third over of Nepal's innings, when Tanzim, after bowling a delivery, walked towards Nepal skipper Rohit Paudel in an aggressive manner and made inappropriate physical contact.

The charges were levelled by on-field umpires Ahsan Raza and Sam Nogajski,

along with third umpire Jayaraman Madanagopal and fourth umpire Kumar Dharmasena.

Tanzim, however, admitted to the offence and accepted the sanction proposed by Richie Richardson of the ICC Elite Panel of Match Referees, and there was no need for a formal hearing, it added.

## Mandhana equals Mithali Raj's record with back-to-back centuries against South Africa

Bengaluru | Agencies

India opener Smriti Mandhana etched her name in the annals of women's cricket history by equalling former captain Mithali Raj's all-time Indian record for the most centuries in women's ODIs. Mandhana's brilliant knock of 136 runs at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium against South Africa Women in the second ODI is her seventh ODI century, bringing her level with the legendary Raj.

Following her century in the series opener, when she scored 117 runs, the flamboyant left-hander continued her superb form. Her back-to-back centuries made her the first Indian woman to achieve this feat in ODI cricket.

The match began with a cautious start for Mandhana, who was kept quiet by the South African bowlers during the first powerplay. India lost opener Shafali Verma early, leaving Mandhana to anchor the innings. She meticulously built her innings, reaching 19 off 40 balls before shifting gears to dominate



the bowlers. Her composed approach paid off as she reached her century in just 103 balls, eventually scoring 136 off 120 balls.

Mandhana's knock was adorned with 18 boundaries and two sixes, showcasing her ability to both accumulate and accelerate runs. Her efforts propelled India past the 200-run mark inside the 40th over, setting a strong foundation for a formidable total.

Supporting Mandhana at the other end was captain Harmanpreet Kaur, who also slammed an 87-ball century. The duo's partnership was crucial in maintaining the momentum and putting pressure on the South African bowlers.

However, Mandhana was dismissed in the 46th over scoring 136 of 129 deliveries, attempting to hit Nonkululeko Mlaba over the cover region.

India posted a mammoth total of 325 for three in 50 overs with the help of centuries by Mandhana and skipper Kaur.

## Euro 2024: Arda Guler shines bright in Turkey's 3-1 win over Georgia

Dortmund | Agencies

A fiery Turkey side took the first step towards a solid Euro 2024 campaign as they beat Georgia 3-1 in what was one of the best matches in the tournament so far. The side started on the front foot and a strike from outside the box by Ayhan struck the post in the 11th minute of the game. It was an end-to-end game which saw both sides produce a flurry of attacks. Mert Muldur scored a thunderous volley from outside the box to give the Turkish lead in the 25th minute. The side also doubled their advantage minutes later but was ruled offside. Georgia scored their first-ever goal at a major tournament and the stadium went wild in the 32nd minute as Georges Mikautadze scored a historic goal for the country which prompted the game to get levelled before the half-time whistle. A lot of talk surrounded the Real Madrid prodigy and the 19-



year-old did not let his hype go in vain as he became the youngest-ever goal scorer on his debut in the history of the UEFA European competition.

His brilliant strike came in the 65th minute of the game when he hit a powerful shot that curled into the top left corner of the goal giving the keeper no chance of saving it.

Despite the 2-1 lead, Turkey were never comfortable in the game as Georgia really put a foot on the pedal in the final few minutes of the game. Chaos ensued as two close chances saw Turkey clear the ball off the line on Davitashvili's attempt was cleared off the line. The corner that followed saw Georgia's goalkeeper come up in an attempt to equalize but a counterattack saw Akturkoglu run the length of the pitch and take the score to 3-1. Turkey will face Portugal in their next encounter whereas Georgia will take on the Czech Republic.

## EURO 2024: PLAYERS LIKE CRISTIANO RONALDO WANT TO PERFORM AT HIGHER STANDARDS THAN THE REST, SAYS PATRICE EVRA

New Delhi | Agencies

Portugal initiated their campaign in Euro 2024 with a thrilling 2-1 victory over Czechia, courtesy of Francisco Conceicao capitalising on a defensive error to score the winner in the 92nd minute. Veteran Pepe created history, becoming the oldest player ever to feature in a tournament, aged 41 years and 113 days.

Amidst an all-rounded performance from the Portuguese side, France Legend Patrice Evra commented on Portuguese talisman Cristiano Ronaldo's performance.

"Cristiano Ronaldo had a good game and was seen everywhere in the attack. He was helping his team-mates with some passing and made



great movements in the box to create an opening for his side. This is the kind of impact he brings to the Portuguese side.

Many debates about his position in the starting eleven, benching him risks losing a proven goal-scoring presence

on the field," said Evra on Sony Sports Network.

"Players like Ronaldo always demand more from themselves. They want to improve match after match and perform at the highest level possible. For them, a bad game is considered their worst, and even an outstanding performance is viewed merely as 'good. Ronaldo thrives on pushing boundaries in every single game, that's his mindset," Evra further explained.

Matchday Two begins on Wednesday as Luka Modric leads Croatia against Albania at 6.30 pm. Later, hosts Germany face Hungary at 9.30 pm and Scotland go toe-to-toe against Switzerland at 12.30 am (all times in IST). Catch all the live action on Sony Sports Network.

### T20 WORLD CUP

## IT WILL BE A GOOD BATTLE BETWEEN FAROOQI AND INDIAN TOP-ORDER, SAYS IAN BISHOP

Bridgetown | Agencies

Former West Indies cricketer Ian Bishop believes the match-up between Afghanistan's left-arm pacer Fazalhaq Farooqi and the Indian top-order will be a good battle during the Super Eight clash of 2024 men's T20 World Cup at the Kensington Oval on Thursday.

With his skills to move the ball both ways, Farooqi is the leading wicket-taker of the tournament with 12 scalps, seven of which have come in the power-play. His battle against India's top-order of Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma and Rishabh Pant under sunny Barbados skies could prove to be one of the decisive subplots in deciding the India-Afghanistan game.

"If the ball swings, Fazalhaq

Farooqi will obviously be a handful when he comes up against any opposition. If it doesn't swing, he's not become impotent, but he loses a little bit of that bite. But I think they'll be able to handle that well."

"They've seen swing before, whether it's left-arm or right-arm. So, I think it will be a good battle, but I think the class of India in particular is something that looks a lot more true," said Bishop while replying to an IANS query on the Star Sports Press Room show.

Entering into the Super Eights of a T20 World Cup for the first time is a continuation of Afghanistan's remarkable story in international cricket, whose first appearance in the tournament's history came all the way back in 2010 in the Caribbean. Apart from Farooqi, opener-



keeper Rahmanullah Gurbaz is the leading run-getter, while he and Ibrahim Zadran have teamed up to smash two century-plus opening stands for Afghanistan in the competition. Bishop appreciat-

ed Afghanistan for continuing to be a force to reckon with in international cricket, but feels that bulk of scoring being done by Gurbaz and Zadran so far is a pocket of weakness for them

ahead of the clash against India.

"I think Afghanistan are a very good team. They are a continuously growing force in the world game, and particularly when they get conditions that are suitable to them. They've got a good, world-class spin bowling unit, and then they've got some good seam bowlers, particularly when they all have a lot of slower balls."

"And you slowly can swing it when there is atmospheric conditions that align viscerally, and of course, Fazalhaq Farooqi and (Azmatullah) Omarzai. So, my one question with Afghanistan is that the opening batters seem to have to carry a lot of workload for them, whereas when you've got other teams, some of the better full-member nations have batters from top to all the way down to nine or ten."

From an Indian perspective, spearhead pacer Jasprit Bumrah has been at his searing best in the tournament, seen from him picking back-to-back Player-of-the-Match awards against Ireland (2/6) and Pakistan (3/14), where his dismissal of Mohammad Rizwan laid the base for the Rohit Sharma-led side to claw back into the match and win by six runs.

Bishop believes batters are apprehensive of taking the attack to Bumrah due to a combination of what he can do and the reputation he's carved since his international debut in 2016.

"Jasprit is smart, a good communicator who thinks about the game. It starts from the foundation, but he has also developed variations and knows better than most bowlers when to use his variations. You hear him say, it's

not every day I go hunting for wickets."

"There are days I bowl my yorker at the stumps, days I bowl a wide yorker; there are days when I assess conditions and bowl my slower ball into the pitch or use my bouncer. In addition to that, he has other ingredients.

"He has a unique action where the ball gets on to you a lot quicker than batters anticipate, the full toss (that got Ifikhar Ahmed out) is because of that. Sometimes they don't get smashed because they get on to you."

"Of course, when you develop that reputation, like when I bowled with Curtly Ambrose, Matthew (Hayden) never put a foot wrong against Curtly because of his reputation, but he'd look to smash me. This guy is a generational bowler," he concluded.





# Shraddha Kapoor has confirmed her relationship with writer Rahul

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Shraddha Kapoor has confirmed her relationship with writer Rahul Mody and made it Instagram official with a picture. The actress shared a picture on her Instagram stories, where the two are seen posing for a selfie. Both Shraddha and Rahul are dressed in white, and the actress is holding Rahul's arm in the image.

For the caption, Shraddha wrote: "Dil rakh le, Neend toh vaapis de de yaar" (Take away my heart, but at least return my sleep).

Shraddha and Rahul have been seen attending events together several times. Recently, Shraddha created a buzz on social media by wearing an "R" pendant in a picture she shared on Instagram.

It is reported that the couple met on the set of 'Tu Jhoothi Main Makkaar', starring Ranbir Kapoor, where Rahul served as the writer of the film.



## PLAYING AN AFGHANI CHARACTER REQUIRED HER TO STEP OUT OF COMFORT ZONE : MALLIKA SHERAWAT

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Mallika Sherawat recalled playing an Afghani character on the 2010 American series 'Hawaii Five-0' and said that the role required her to step out of her comfort zone and wipe away the make-up. The actress took to Instagram and shared a series of pictures from the sets of 'Hawaii Five-0', an action police procedural series revolving around a special police major crimes task force in Hawaii, operating under the governor's command. In the post, Mallika, who essayed the character of Farah Khan in the show, wrote: "As an actress, playing an Afghani character on the American series Hawaii Five O was a refreshing and profoundly rewarding departure from the usual glamorous roles typically offered."

She continued, "This role required me to step out of my comfort zone, wipe away all the make up and embrace a character whose life experiences and struggles are vastly different from the typical portrayals of luxury and ease."



## Kamya Panjabi sheds light on tradition of 'Pakadwa Vivah'

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Actress Kamya Panjabi, who plays Mohini in 'Ishq Jabariya', has opened up about the show's unique concept, which addresses the social issue of 'Pakadwa Vivah' and shared insights about her character.

Talking about the show's concept, Kamya, known for her work in 'Amber Dhara' and 'Doli Armaano Ki', shared: "I am thrilled to be working on a new show that touches on a social issue that still exists in our country. With 'Ishq Jabariya', we are not trying to make a change, but we hope to highlight this problem in an entertaining way."

Kamya described her character, Mohini, as vibrant and charming.

Sharing insights about the character, she added: "Since it's me, there will be many twists and turns, and my character has a lot of layers. I am working hard to make this role different from my previous ones and bring something fresh to the screen to surprise the audience."

'Ishq Jabariya' is a heartfelt tale of love, resilience, and the pursuit of freedom against societal odds. Set in the rustic lanes of Begusarai, Bihar, this romantic drama follows Gulki (Siddhi Sharma), a spirited young woman with dreams of becoming an air hostess.

Despite her cruel step-mother's oppression, Gulki keeps her hopes alive. Her journey unfolds with unexpected twists, potentially leading her to find love in unexpected places.



Swara hopes Sonakshi-Zaheer don't face the kind of trolling



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Actress Swara Bhasker, who recently criticised a food blogger for a social media post expressing pride in being vegetarian, has now spoken up about the soon-to-be-wed couple Sonakshi Sinha and Zaheer Iqbal.

The actress expressed her frustration with societal interference in personal matters and defended Sonakshi and Zaheer's right to privacy.

Sonakshi is currently subjected to a lot of trolling on the Internet due to her interfaith relationship with Zaheer.

Talking about the same, Swara, who herself had an interfaith union with politician and activist Fahad Ahmad, told Connect Cine: "What they (Sonakshi and Zaheer) do in their private lives, whether they get married or not, is up to them. It's nobody's business if they're living together, getting married in a court, having a 'nikaah', or an Arya Samaj wedding."

The actress anticipated further controversies and spoke about the public scrutiny that the couple's future children might be subjected to. The same happened with Bollywood star Kareena Kapoor Khan and Saif Ali Khan's children, Taimur and Jeh.

Swara said: "Wait and watch, when they have a child, there will be a separate debate around the child's name. We've seen it happen with Kareena and Saif's kids, and with my kid. It's completely idiotic, but this isn't going to end anytime soon."



MOHANLAL ELECTED UNOPPOSED AS PRESIDENT OF ACTORS' BODY AMMA

Kochi | Agencies

Superstar Mohanlal has been elected unopposed as the President of the Association of Malayalam Movie Artists (AMMA) for a second term of three years.

His election came after the last date of withdrawal of nominations ended Tuesday.

Upcoming star Unni Mukundan was also elected unopposed as the Treasurer of the AMMA.

However, elections will be held for the posts of the General Secretary, two Vice Presidents, and the Joint Secretary.

Edavela Babu, who has been the General Secretary of the AMMA for a while, opted out this time, and popular character actor Siddique sought to succeed him. But Kuku Paramasheheran and Unni Shivapal also

entered the fray. For the two Vice President's posts, there are three candidates - veteran actor Jagdish, Manju Pillai, and Jayan Cherthala.

Likewise, Baburaj and Anoop Chandran are in the race for the Joint Secretary's post.

The elections will be held alongside the Annual General Body Meeting to be held here on June 30.

Meanwhile, according to sources, a nomination for the post of President was filed by a panel led by Paramasheheran, but this was withdrawn at the last moment, enabling Mohanlal to get elected unopposed.

The AMMA has 506 members, of which around 120 get a monthly dole of Rs 5,000 each. Anyone not drawing the monthly pension is eligible to contest for the various posts starting from the President to that of a member of its Committee.

## KARTIK'S MOTHER WISHES FOR A DOCTOR DAUGHTER-IN-LAW

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The new episode of 'The Great Indian Kapil Show' (TGKS) is all set to welcome Bollywood heartthrob Kartik Aaryan and his mother, Mala Tiwari. On Wednesday, the makers shared the promo for the upcoming episode, promising a blast of comedy and entertainment. In the clip, Kartik says, "I have never been as nervous as I



am today." The host, Kapil Sharma, responds, "That's because your mom might say something." Kartik's mother then says, "I will speak the truth and nothing but the truth." Kapil adds, turning towards the audience where Kartik's father and sister are sitting, "Hearing this line, Kartik's father's lips dried up, hoping she doesn't say anything about him." Kapil then asks Mala Tiwari, "Is Kartik stubborn?" She

replies, "Very stubborn."

Kapil further inquires, "Does he spend more or less?" to which the mother of the 'Pyaar Ka PUNCHAMA' actor said: "Spends more." The video continues with Kapil commenting, "But he is an engineer." Mala replies, "We had to push him to be an engineer." Kartik interjects, "Say something positive." Kartik's mother then expresses her wish for a doctor as her daughter-in-law.

## INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Mouni Roy