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NEET QUESTION PAPER LEAK

INVESTIGATION LEADS TO UNDERBELLY OF EXAM MAFIA

Amid the CBI probe into the NEET exam question paper leak case, the Economic Offences Unit (EOU) of the Bihar Police has stumbled across several shocking details leading to the underbelly of the exam mafia and its role in the recent spate of cancellation of exams, leaving aspirants across the country worried and puzzled. According to sources, the EOU during its investigation learned that the mastermind behind the NEET paper leak case in Bihar is Sanjeev Mukhiya, who is yet to be apprehended.

Patna | Agencies

The exam mafia's network is spread across the country and functions at different levels, the sources said, adding that among the 19 people arrested in the paper leak case, Amit Anand and Nitish Kumar are the 'Level 2' exam mafia who work for mastermind Sanjeev Mukhiya.

Earlier, Nitish and Amit started working under the aegis of Atul Vats and Anshul Singh of the Ravi Atri gang in Uttar Pradesh's Meerut.

Nitish and Amit, who worked for Sanjeev Mukhiya, used to first look for candidates who wanted to pass the exam by pouring in monetary favours. Once the candidates were found, they looked for 'solvers' -- individuals who could answer the question papers.

According to sources, these two accused have played a 'big role' in the NEET paper leak and have been involved in this illegal business for quite some time.

Ravi Atri is said to be a notorious name in medical examinations' question paper leaks while Sanjeev Mukhiya of Bihar has been previously involved in the paper leak of examinations conducted by the Bihar Public Service Commission (BPSC), Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), Jharkhand Public Service Commission (JPSC) and others, they said. During the investigation, it emerged that Nitish and Amit searched for candidates by striking deals ranging from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 40 lakh. The EOU is also looking for a person named Rakesh Ranjan a.k.a. Rocky. He had allegedly booked rooms for 30 to 35 candidates in Learn Play School Patna. Rocky is



said to be the nephew of mastermind Sanjeev Mukhiya.

Rocky received the question paper through Sanjeev Mukhiya and got it solved by medical students of Patna and Ranchi, the sources said, citing the EOU investigation.

The EOU had earlier arrested Chintu Kumar a.k.a. Baldev from Deoghar in Jharkhand. He is also a relative of Sanjeev Mukhiya. Chintu also stayed at Learn Play School in Patna and different question papers and answers to all subjects were made available on his mobile phone.

An EOU source said that two key figures in this case are Chintu, and one Pintu. They got

the question papers and answers printed and delivered them to the candidates.

After the candidates left for the examination centres, Chintu and Pintu burnt the printed question papers and destroyed the evidence, the source said.

Besides, Roshan Kumar and Ashutosh Kumar, who are among the 19 people arrested by the police, worked as 'helpers' for Nitish and Amit. Their job was to bring the candidates to the Learn Play School. It was also their responsibility to take all the candidates safely to the examination centres. They also used to search for candidates and send them to Nitish and Amit.

Another name that emerged in the case is Sikandar Yadavendu. Sikandar is also said to be close to Sanjeev Mukhiya.

Sanjeev Mukhiya and Sikandar Yadavendu have known each other for a long time. Sanjeev's son Shiv Kumar studied at Patna Medical College and Hospital (PMCH) and Sikandar's elder daughter also did MBBS from the same institution. Shiv is the main accused in the teacher recruitment exam paper leak case and is in jail. Awadhesh Kumar, who was arrested in this case, is said to be Sikandar's financier.

SC DECLINES URGENT HEARING OF CBI, ED PROBE

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday refused to direct an urgent listing of a plea seeking an investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) into the alleged NEET-UG paper leak.

A bench, headed by Justice Abhay S. Oka, refused to issue notice to the central investigative agencies saying that the batch of petitions, including seeking cancellation of the exam, is already coming up for hearing on July 8.

The application filed in a pending petition stated that the offence is not confined to the IPC alone and the accused must be brought under the stringent provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002.

Heavy rains in India's west coast during next 5 days: IMD



Team Absolute | New Delhi

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Monday forecast heavy to very heavy rainfall along the country's western coast during the next 5 days.

The IMD also said conditions are favourable for further advance of the south-west monsoon into some more parts of Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh; the remaining parts of Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Jharkhand and Bihar; and some parts of Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand during the next 3-4 days.

The weather office stated that a trough at mean sea level runs off the Maharashtra-Kerala coast and a cyclonic circulation lies over south Gujarat at lower & middle tropospheric levels.

These are very likely to result in -- heavy to very heavy rainfall over Konkan & Goa, Ghat areas of Maharashtra, Karnataka during next 5 days, Coastal Karnataka, South Interior Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu during June 24-

26; over Gujarat Region on 24 & 25 and isolated heavy rainfall over Saurashtra & Kutch on June 25 & 26; Gujarat Region during June 26-28; Kerala, coastal Karnataka, southern interior Karnataka on June 27 & 28; northern interior Karnataka during June 25-28, and coastal Andhra Pradesh during June 25-27.

Widespread light to moderate rainfall accompanied by thunderstorm, lightning and gusty winds (40-50 kmph) very likely over Konkan & Goa, Madhya Maharashtra, Marathwada, Karnataka, Kerala, Lakshadweep, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Vidarbha, Chhattisgarh; scattered to fairly widespread light to moderate rainfall over coastal Andhra Pradesh, Rayalaseema, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal during the next five days. Isolated heavy rainfall is very likely over West Madhya Pradesh, Vidarbha on June 24, 27 and 28; Madhya Pradesh on June 24-28 and Chhattisgarh on June 26-28.

Shinde directs strict action against illegal pubs, bulldozing all illegal structures in Pune

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Monday spoke to Pune Commissioner of Police Amitesh Kumar and directed him to initiate strict action against illegal pubs and bulldoze all structures which are against the building rules. He also directed the initiation of renewed action against drug peddlers to make Pune a drug-free city.

Shinde's directives came hours after a video surfaced purportedly showing young women using drugs in the washroom of a pub situated on a high-profile Fergusson College Road in Pune.

The opposition NCP-Sharad Pawar slammed the state government, terming Pune as the "home of drugs and pubs." Similarly, the BJP demanded that all pubs be



removed from the city. The Maharashtra Navnirman Sena staged a protest while Patit Pavan Sanghatana pelted stones at the pub. Amid uproar, the Pune police swung into action and sealed the pub. The Police Commissioner has ordered an inquiry. Police have also nabbed owner Santosh Kamthe, franchisee Ravi Maheshwari, manager

Manas Malik and staffers Utkarsh Deshmane and Yogendra Girafe.

A police inspector and an assistant police inspector have been suspended for dereliction of duty. Pune MP and Union Minister Muralidhar Mohol claimed that it was after his instructions that the city police had suspended two officials of Shivajinagar police stations.

SC DENIES INTERIM RELIEF TO CM KEJRIWAL, HEARING ON WEDNESDAY

New Delhi: In a big jolt to Delhi Chief Minister

Arvind Kejriwal, the Supreme Court on Monday denied passing any interim direction against the stay ordered by the Delhi High Court on his release on bail.

Without passing any interim relief in CM Kejriwal's favour, a vacation bench of Justices Manoj Misra and SVN Bhatti adjourned the proceedings saying that it will take up the matter for hearing on Wednesday as the Delhi High Court is likely to pronounce its decision on ED's plea for interim stay in a day or two. During the hearing, senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, representing CM Kejriwal, objected to the stay granted by the Delhi High Court in the first hearing itself. Opposing this, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta and Additional Solicitor General SV Raju, representing ED, said that the trial court did not go through the papers and the same is recorded in the impugned bail order.



Strong opposition will maintain its pressure: Rahul Gandhi

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Mounting an attack on the BJP-led NDA government during the new Lok Sabha's first session, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said "INDIA's strong opposition" will continue to maintain pressure and will not allow the Prime Minister "to escape without accountability".

The Congress MP listed 10 issues during the first 15 days of the NDA government that included the West Bengal train mishap, recent terror attacks in Kashmir, "plight of passengers" in trains, NEET scam, cancellation of NEET PG, UGC NET paper leak, escalation in prices of milk, pulses and gas, forest fires, water crisis and deaths "due to lack of arrangements" during the ongoing heat wave. "Psychologically on the backfoot, Narendra Modi is



busy saving his government. INDIA's strong opposition will continue its pressure, raise the voice of the people, and will not allow the Prime Minister to escape without accountability," stated Rahul Gandhi in a post on X.

The Opposition MPs carried a copy of the Constitution to the Parliament on Monday and even displayed it in their hands while PM Modi was taking oath as Member of Parliament for 18th

Lok Sabha. "The attack on the Constitution by Narendra Modi and his government is not acceptable to us - and we will not allow this to happen under any circumstances," said Rahul Gandhi. Several INDIA bloc MPs, including Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge and Sonia Gandhi, later gathered outside with copies of the Constitution in their hands. "We will protect the constitution! Long live democracy!" said Kharge.

T20 WC: India enters the semifinals

Gros Islet (St Lucia) | Agencies

Kuldeep Yadav and Arshdeep Singh starred in a terrific comeback with the ball as India cruised into the semifinals of the 2024 Men's T20 World Cup with a crucial 24-run win over Australia in their final Super Eight stage match at the Daren Sammy National Cricket Stadium on Monday.

After captain Rohit Sharma unleashed carnage on Australia's bowlers by smacking a stupendous 92 off 41 balls to help India post a mammoth 205/5, a win seemed distant for India with opener Travis Head clearing his front leg and smacking his shots all over the park in a 43-ball 76.



Australia now have their semifinal fate out of their own hands and if Afghanistan beat Bangladesh at St. Vincent, they will be knocked out of the competition.

View of 'Ram Setu' (Adam's Bridge) Look From Space

Paris | Agencies

The European Space Agency has shared an image of the Ram Setu taken by its Copernicus Sentinel-2 satellite. Also known as the Adam's Bridge, it is a chain of shoals linking India and Sri Lanka.

The Ram Setu stretches 48 km between Rameswaram Island, off the southeast coast of India, connecting the Mannar Island in Sri Lanka. It separates the Gulf of Mannar (south), an inlet of the Indian Ocean, from the Palk Strait (north), an inlet of the Bay of Bengal.

While there are numerous theories about how the bridge was formed, geologic evidence suggests that these limestone shoals are the remnants of land that once linked India with Sri Lanka.

As per reports, this "natural bridge was traversable until the 15th century, after which it was gradually eroded by storms over the years," the European Space Agency said.

It noted that some of the sandbanks are



dry, while the sea here is very shallow, only 1-10 m deep, as indicated by the light colour of the water.

Covering around 130 sq km, Mannar Island is connected to mainland Sri Lanka by a road bridge as well as a railway bridge. Both of them are visible at the southern end of the island.

On the Indian side, the Rameswaram Island -- also popular as Pamban Island -- can be accessed via the 2-km-long Pamban Bridge. Here, the two main towns are Pamban, on the western edge, and Rameswaram, which is around 10 km east of Pamban.

Both sections of the Ram Setu are part of protected national parks in their respective countries.

"The sand dunes serve as breeding grounds for birds such as the brown noddy, while numerous species of fish and sea grasses thrive in the shallow waters. Sea life around Adam's Bridge includes dolphins, dugongs and turtles," the European Space Agency added.



RIDGE TREE-FELLING: SC SAYS 'WON'T HESITATE' TO ADD DELHI LG AS PARTY TO CONTEMPT PROCEEDINGS

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Monday said that it "will not hesitate" to add Delhi Lt Governor V.K. Saxena as a party to the pending contempt proceedings initiated against Delhi Development Authority (DDA) officials for felling of trees in the national capital's Ridge area in violation of the apex court's order.

After perusal of records and several emails, a vacation bench headed by Justice Abhay S Oka categorically asked senior advocate Maninder Singh, representing the DDA, if the LG, who functions as DDA Chairman ex-officio, had visited the site and directed the felling of trees.

The Bench, also comprising Justice Ujjal Bhuyan, orally asked Singh to speak personally to LG Saxena and obtain instructions if he had visited the site in February this year and passed the orders for the felling of trees.

The apex court remarked that the LG, being the statutory head of the DDA, is amenable to judicial review and it is interested in finding the truth since the inquiry report was silent on



the LG's purported visit.

Further, the SC remarked that it was "shocking" on the part of the DDA to permit the contractor to cut down the trees without obtaining the apex court's permission.

Posting the matter for hearing on Wednesday for passing certain interim directions, the apex court remarked: "When it comes to cutting trees, it must be slow."

In the previous hearing, the top court had asked the DDA Vice Chairperson why he should not be prosecuted for criminal contempt of court for wilful breach of its orders prohibiting the felling of trees.

"We are not prepared to believe that the contractor entrusted with the work of widening the road has indulged in cutting trees of his own volition. Obviously, it has to be on the

basis of the instructions from the officers of the DDA," it had said.

Further, the Supreme Court had said that the DDA Vice Chairperson misled the LG by forwarding a proposal to set up a committee of experts to minimise the trees felled.

"We hope and trust that the Hon'ble Lt Governor will take this issue very seriously, not only in his capacity as the Lt Governor of Delhi but also in his capacity as the Chairman of the DDA," it had added.

The apex court was of the view that apart from the statutory requirement of compulsory afforestation, 100 new trees per every tree felled must be planted by the DDA.

It was dealing with contempt pleas alleging that a large number of trees in the ridge had been felled there by the DDA to construct an approach road between the Chhattarpur Road and the SAARC University near Maidan Garhi.

In an earlier order, the SC had said that other areas having morphological ridges were required to be protected and no permission for construction should be given there.

K'taka imposes Rs 10L penalty on use of artificial colour in certain food items



Bengaluru | Agencies

The Karnataka government has passed an order imposing a fine of up to Rs 10 lakh and punishment from seven years up to life imprisonment for using artificial colours in chicken kebabs, fish, and vegetable dishes across the state.

The order was passed by the Food Safety and Standards Department after

complaints were received that eateries across the state were using artificial colours in these dishes, causing health hazards for the people. The department collected 39 samples of kebabs and examined them in the state laboratories. Among these, eight samples were found to be using sunset yellow and carnosine artificial colours, which are classified as unsafe under Rule 3(1)(zz)(viii) of

the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

As per Rule 16.0 of the Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011, the use of artificial colours is banned as they cause severe health hazards. In March, the state government banned the use of artificial colours in edible items such as gobi manchurian and cotton candy.

Don't take decisions on water treaties with B'desh without consulting Bengal govt: Mamata to PM

Kolkata | Agencies

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday, requesting the latter not to take important bilateral decisions with neighbouring Bangladesh, especially on the Teesta River water sharing and India-Bangladesh Farakka treaties, without involving the state government in the discussions.

In the letter, a copy of which is available with reporter, the Chief Minister referred to the recent State visit of Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her meeting with PM Modi. "It seems that water-sharing issues relating to Ganges and Teesta Rivers were discussed during the meeting. Such unilateral deliberations and discussions without consultations or opinions of the state government are neither acceptable nor desirable," the letter read.

Claiming that the Indian government is in the process of renewing the Indo-Bangladesh Farakka Treaty (1996) which is set to expire in 2026, the Chief Minister claimed that the issue



involves the interests of the people of West Bengal.

"It is a treaty which delineates the principles of sharing water between Bangladesh and India and as you are aware, it has huge implications for the people of West Bengal for maintaining their livelihood as the water which is diverted at the Farakka Barrage helps maintain the navigability of the Kolkata Port," the Chief Minister said in the letter.

On the issue of the proposed Teesta water sharing accord, the Chief Minister claimed that any bilateral cooperation between India and Bangladesh for the restoration of Teesta in Bangladesh would largely impact the livelihoods of the people in North Bengal, considering that the health of Teesta River has already suffered from the construction

of hydroelectric projects in Sikkim.

"I am surprised that no concrete steps have been taken by the Ministry of Jal Shakti to restore the river in its original form on the Indian side. In addition, Teesta water is also needed to meet the drinking water requirements of the residents of North Bengal. It is therefore not feasible to share Teesta water with Bangladesh," the letter read.

"Finally, it is to convey my strong reservations that no discussion on sharing Teesta water and the Farakka treaty should be taken up with Bangladesh without the involvement of the state government. The interest of the people of West Bengal is paramount, which should not be compromised at any cost," the letter concluded.

First in Maha: BMC to accord 'eco-friendly' send-off to the departed in 10 crematoria

Quaid Najmi | Mumbai

In a unique initiative, the BrihanMumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) will soon give an 'environment-friendly' funeral to the departed at 10 Hindu Shamshabhoomi (crematoria) dotting Mumbai, officials said here on Monday.

After testing a pilot project for almost five years at the Sion Hindu Crematorium, the BMC will now implement it at 9 more locations (total 10), of the 52 other Shamshabhoomi in the country's congested commercial capital.

Guided by the BMC Commissioner Bhushan Gagrani and Additional Municipal Commissioner Ashwini Joshi, a team of the Mechanical & Engineering Department comprising Chief Engineer Krishna Perekar, Executive Engineer Amal Mohite, Deputy CE Anil Damborekar and Assistant CE Suresh Patil, is now executing the project which will be completed in the next 6-8 months.

Explaining the highlights, Perekar said that the new eco-friendly pyre system technology will ensure huge savings in the wood used for the cremation of bodies, plus reduce smoke and particles emanating from it, while completing all the accompanying religious rituals as desired by the



relatives/mourners.

"We shall provide a trolley in which the body will be placed and covered with wood, all the rites shall be performed as per the wishes of the family/relatives. Then, the body shall be wheeled into the furnace where it will be consigned to ashes," Perekar told correspondent.

This will eliminate the need for cremating the mortal remains of the deceased on an open funeral pyre - as is being done presently - and prevent the thick smoke from spreading directly into the open air, disturbing the people living in the vicinity.

Patil said that after the pilot project was launched in Sion (2020), it elicited good public response and now the same system will be implemented in 9 more Shamshabhoomi dotting the 24 BMC wards in the current phase.

Compared with the requirement of around 350-400 kg of firewood per corpse, the new system will do the same job in barely 100-125 kg of wood - entailing huge savings for the civic body, and in turn for the taxpayers, added Perekar.

Besides Sion, the eco-friendly funeral system is coming up at the

crematoriums like: Bhoiwada, Gowari in Wadala, Vaikunthdham in Reay Road, Tagore Nagar in Vikhroli, Deonar Colony in Govandi, Amardham Postal Colony in Chembur, Oshiwara in Jogeshwari, Shivdham in Goregaon and Babhai in Borivali west.

Each Smashan-bhoomi in Mumbai has multiple funeral pyres where, on an average, around 10-12 funerals take place daily, plus at the 10 electric crematoriums and 18 gas crematoria in the city.

The officials said that the amount of wood that can be saved daily and annually would be stupendous besides controlling the air pollution as the smoke from the furnace shall be spewed out of 30-metre tall chimneys. The officials pointed out that the combustion system is designed to provide maximum energy and minimise the release of the smoke and fumes into the atmosphere through the tall chimneys, as most Shamshabhoomi are in close proximity or within thickly populated residential areas. This particular arrangement also produces the least amount of smoke, plus water scrubbers and a separator system removes particulates and toxic gases from it, in the first of its kind initiative in Maharashtra, with potential to be implemented in other big cities.

18TH LOK SABHA IS A PATH TO 'AMRIT KAAL': PM MODI

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The first session of the 18th Lok Sabha commenced on Monday with all the newly-elected members of the Parliament, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, taking oaths. This historic session marks the first time a swearing-in ceremony is being held in the new Parliament building since Independence. Prime Minister Modi addressed the media persons, emphasising the significance of this session.

He said, "Today is a day of pride for our democracy. This election is particularly notable as, for the second time since Independence, a government has been given the mandate to serve for a third consecutive term."

Underlining the importance and the scale of the general elections,



Modi said, "The world's largest election was conducted in a great and

magnificent manner. This third term reflects the people's recognition and

acknowledgement of our party's intentions, policies, and contributions towards the public. I express my heartfelt gratitude to the nation for this opportunity." The Prime Minister also praised the increased representation of youth in the 18th Lok Sabha, calling it a "matter of happiness." PM Modi also called for a responsible opposition, urging them to meet the expectations of the common citizens by upholding the dignity of democracy. Urging the opposition to meet the expectations of the citizens of the country and upholding the dignity of democracy, he said, "The people of the country expect constructive opposition. They do not want drama or disturbance or slogans but substance." "I have complete faith that the parliamentarians will aspire to fulfil these expectations," he added.

Suraj Revanna in CID custody; judicial remand for brother Prajwal

Bengaluru | Agencies

JD(S) MLC, Suraj Revanna was handed over to the Criminal Investigation Department's (CID) custody on Monday in connection with a case of sexual assault on a male party worker.

On the other hand, his brother, former JD(S) MP and prime accused in the sex videos case Prajwal Revanna was remanded to judicial custody.

He was earlier in CID custody. Prajwal and Suraj are grandsons of former Prime Minister, HD Deve Gowda.

Their parents, JD(S) MLA, HD Revanna and mother Bhavani Revanna, are out on bail. MLA HD Revanna was jailed in a kidnapping case connected to the sex videos case. The 42nd Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (ACMM) court passed the orders in both the cases. Suraj Revanna who was accused of forceful unnatural sex with a male JD(S) party worker was handed over to the



CID's custody for eight days till July 1.

The government had handed over his case, registered at the Holenarasipura Rural Police Station, to the CID on Sunday.

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) under the CID probing Prajwal Revanna's case had produced him before the court as his custody ended on Monday. The court has handed him over to judicial custody till July 8.

Meanwhile, the court while taking up the bail petition of Prajwal Revanna has reserved its order on the matter. The court is likely to pass the order on July 26.

UP: TWO BOYS DROWN WHILE CLICKING SELFIES ON BOAT

Raebareli: Two teenagers died after they drowned in the Ganga river while clicking selfies on a boat in Raebareli district.

Three friends - Tauheed (17), Fahad (19), and Shaan (18) - went to the Payagpur Ganga Ghat and got into a boat to click selfies.

"While clicking selfies they moved towards the edge of the boat lost balance and fell into the strong current of the river. Tauheed and Shaan were swept away while Fahad managed to swim ashore," said circle officer Arun Kumar. Divers were deployed to trace the missing boys and their bodies were recovered several hours later on Sunday. The bodies of Tauheed and Shaan have been sent for post-mortem.

Kerala Assembly passes unanimous resolution to change state's name to 'Keralam'

Thiruvananthapuram | Agencies

In a rare instance of unanimity on the floor of the Kerala Assembly, the treasury and opposition benches unanimously passed a resolution moved by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Monday seeking to change the name from Kerala to 'Keralam'.

The resolution will be sent to the Centre for approval now.

Incidentally, in August last year, a similar resolution was passed unanimously and sent to the Centre seeking "immediate steps" to amend the state's name under Article 3 of the Constitution that pertains to the formation of states, any alterations to its areas, boundaries, or names of existing states. But the resolution failed to materialise due to a technical objection and taking that into account, the



Assembly on Monday decided to

pass a fresh resolution.

OFFICE OF THE NAGAR PARISHAD, LATERI, DIST- VIDISHA

NIT No. 1033/2024

Date: 21-06-2024

Notice Inviting e-Tenders 5th Call (Rewise Tender)

Online Lumpsum bids for the following works under "AMRUT - 2.0" (Estimated on UADD ISSR (w.e.f-02.08.2021) are invited from registered contractors and firms of reputed fulfilling eligibility criteria.

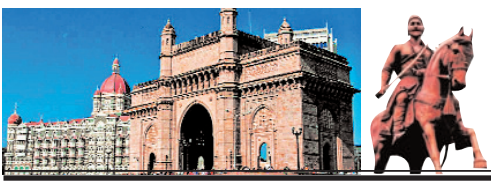
Tender No.	Scope of the work (I)	Probable amount of Contract (Rs. in Lacs)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (In Rs.)	Cost of Bid Documents (In Rs.)	Time of Completion
2024_UAD_352128_1	Work of Augmentation of Water Supply System of Lateri Town under AMRUT 2.0	Rs. 746.77	Rs. 373385.00	Rs. 20000.00	12 Months Including rainy Season

- Interested Bidder can view the NIT on website www.mptenders.gov.in and www.mpurban.gov.in
- The Bid Document can be purchased only Online from 10:30 Hrs of 24.06.2024 to 17:30 Hrs of 12.07.2024
- Amendment to NIT, if any, would be published on website only, and not in Newspaper.
- GST shall be paid separately as per norms.

(Ranveer Singh Rajpoot)
Chief Municipal Officer
City Council Lateri

(Mithlesh Kumar Dixit)
Sub-Engineer
City Council Lateri

(Shailesh Sanjay Bhandari)
President
City Council Lateri



Mumbai Struggles To Sleep Amid Heat

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Mumbai is living up to its tagline 'the city never sleeps' with temperatures soaring to record highs and affecting the sleep patterns of residents, say experts. Global warming has ushered in unprecedented warmth during the night, disrupting the sleep patterns of its residents and impacting their health adversely, according to a recent study by Climate Central and Climate Trends.

The study highlights a significant increase in warm nights across Mumbai, with temperatures soaring above 25 degrees Celsius, with an additional 65 unusually hot nights this year alone. This trend isn't restricted to Mumbai, other Maharashtra cities like Thane, Bhiwandi, and Ulhasnagar have also reported a surge in warm nights. Thane and Bhiwandi recorded 70



additional hot nights this summer, but Kalyan-Ulhasnagar topped the list with 72. Climate Trends' Kartiki Negi

underscores the severity of the situation, noting that several cities have shattered records spanning five decades due to climate impacts. This

alarming rise in nighttime temperatures isn't just a matter of discomfort; it's a health hazard affecting millions.

"If we don't act now, nights will continue to be hot, long, and sleepless, especially for vulnerable populations," cautioned Kartiki Negi.

Echoing the sentiment, Pranav Garimella of the World Resources Institute says, "Studies have repeatedly shown that prolonged exposure to high night-time temperatures can lead to sleep deprivation, exacerbating existing health issues and impacting productivity." He pointed out that industries like agriculture and construction are particularly vulnerable, facing potential productivity losses and health risks for their workers.

With rising daytime temperatures and increasingly warm nights, preparations at both individual and institutional levels would be needed to mitigate the dual impact on health and infrastructure, experts say.

NEET paper leak tentacles reach Maha: Four booked in Latur

Team Absolute | Latur (Maharashtra)

The recent NEET-UG paper leak scam tentacles have reached Maharashtra, with the arrest of two coaching institute teachers and an ITI instructor from Latur after the state Anti Terrorism Squad (ATS) and Latur Police investigations in the past two days, officials said here on Monday. Another person wanted in the case is absconding.

The two teachers, identified as Sanjay T Jadhav and Jalil U Pathan, were initially detained on Saturday, released after questioning but were subsequently arrested late on Sunday as more evidence surfaced against them.

An ITI instructor, Iranna M Kongalwar has also been nabbed even as Latur Police set up a Special Investigation Team to probe the sensational case.

One more accused, identified as Gangadhar from Delhi is reported to be absconding and the police are trying to track him, though officials remained tight-lipped about the details.

The SIT has formed multiple teams to unravel various aspects of the case that has created a nationwide political furore and led to protests by students in the last few days.

The Shivajinagar Police Station filed an FIR in the case on Sunday, invoking Public



Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act and other laws, while Latur Superintendent of Police, Somay Munde is personally overseeing the probe.

Till now, the police have detected WhatsApp messages exchanged among the accused, and Jadhav, who was reportedly maintaining contacts with Gangadhar through Kongalwar.

The sleuths are now trying to find other associates within and outside the state and the suspected money angle in the scam.

The Centre handed over the case to the CBI after the multi-state links of the scam came to light.

"Streets, Footpath Cleared For VVIPs, Why Not For Everyone?" High Court

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Bombay High Court on Monday said when streets and footpaths are cleared for the prime minister and other VVIPs for one day, why can't it be done on a daily basis for everyone else too. Having a clear footpath and a safe place to walk was every person's fundamental right and the state authorities were obligated to provide the same, a division bench of Justices M S Sonak and Kamal Khata. The state cannot perpetually just wonder what can be done to work out the problem of unauthorised hawkers encroaching upon footpaths in the city and has to now do something drastically, the bench said. The high court last year took suo motu (on its own) cognizance of the issue of illegal and unauthorised hawkers and vendors in the city. On Monday, the bench said while it knows the problem is large, the state and other authorities, including the civic body, cannot just leave it at that and called for some drastic action. "When the prime minister or



some VVIPs come, the streets and footpaths are immediately cleared...and it stays so till they are here. How is it done then? Why can't it be done for everyone else? Citizens are ratepayers...they need to have a clear footpath and safe place to walk," the court said. "Footpath and a safe place to walk is a fundamental right. We tell our children to walk on footpaths but if there is no footpath left to walk on, what do we tell our children?" the court asked. For years together, the authorities have been saying they are working on the issue, it said.

"The state has to do something drastically. It cannot be that the authorities are perpetually just wondering what to

do and working on it. There seems to be a lack of will, because where there is a will there is always a way," the high court said.

Senior counsel SU Kamdar, appearing for the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), said periodic action is taken against such vendors and hawkers but they keep coming back. The court then remarked in jest that the corporation was literally trying to bury the problem underground. The bench noted the fine imposed by civic bodies on these vendors/hawkers was irrelevant as they have higher sales per day.

"Your fine is pittance to me. They will pay and leave," the high court said.

The court suggested the BMC develop a database identifying all such hawkers so that they do not breach orders and come back with their stalls. "Let there be a combing operation. Start with one street...the biggest trouble is identification. They keep coming back because they are not identifiable," it said. The court posted the matter for further hearing on July 22.

Two Pune cops face heat; L3 bar sealed for 'serving' drugs to minor

Team Absolute | Pune

In an all-night operation, the Pune Police raided and sealed a posh bar in the city for allegedly 'serving' drugs to minors and also turned the heat on two police officials for purported dereliction of duty, officials said here on Monday.

The Pune Police teams swooped on the Liquid Leisure Lounge (L3) in the posh Fergusson College Road vicinity after a social media video surfaced showing a couple of minor boys consuming drugs in the restaurant wash-room with a rocking party in the background, early on Sunday.

Following an uproar, Commissioner of Police Amitesh Kumar ordered a probe and a police team swooped on L3 last night and conducted a thorough search operation after which they sealed the premises.

A police official told mediapersons that as per available information, the establishment would shut down the



front entrance at 1.30, but permitted sneak entry from the backdoor and the partying continued practically till dawn, videos of which leaked out.

The police have also nabbed the L3 owner Santosh Kamthe, franchisee Ravi Maheshwari, manager Manas Malik and a couple of staffers Utkarsh Deshmane and Yogendra Girafe, who will be produced before a Pune Magistrate court later today, said an official.

Simultaneously, the Pune police have cracked down on two of its cops, including one police inspector and an assistant police inspector, for alleged dereliction of duty as the establishment falling in their jurisdiction blatantly flouted rules

and the cops turned a blind eye to the goings-on right under their noses.

Chief Minister Eknath Shinde said the matter was serious and promised stringent efforts to make Pune drug-free as also the rest of Maharashtra.

Newly-elected Pune MP and Union Minister of State for Civil Aviation Murlidhar K. Mohol said that such incidents were giving a bad image to Pune and assured strong action.

NCP(SP) state President Jayanti Patil, along with the other two Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) demanded the resignation of Deputy CM Devendra Fadnis for what they claimed was the total collapse of the law and order situation in the state.

Congress MLA Ravindra Dhanekar and Shiv Sena (UBT)'s Deputy Leader Sushma Andhare slammed the regime for the series of crimes that have rocked Pune in the past few months with the state government unable to control the downside despite huge anger among the people.

Man cheats Thane woman of Rs 59 lakh after promising marriage



Team Absolute | Thane

The police on Monday said that a man allegedly cheated a 29-year-old Thane woman from Maharashtra's Thane district of Rs 59.56 lakh after promising to marry her, reported news agency. According to the report, the Thane woman, a resident of Khadakpada in the Kalyan area, in her police complaint said she came to know the accused through a matrimonial site in July last year.

After promising to marry her, the man took the money from her on multiple occasions

under some pretext, an official from Khadakpada police station said. To fulfil his demands, the Thane woman also took money from her family members and friends. The man also forced her to take a loan on a credit card and failed to repay it, the official said. When the woman asked for the money, he tried to avoid her. Based on her complaint, the police on Saturday registered an FIR against the man under Indian Penal Code sections 420 (cheating) and 406 (criminal breach of trust), the official said, adding a probe was on into the case.

Akshay Kumar joins Mumbai's tree plantation drive to honour his parents

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor Akshay Kumar paid tribute to his late parents, Hari Om Bhatia and Aruna Bhatia, by participating in a tree plantation drive in Mumbai.

Akshay said in a statement: "Planting trees is a way to give back to our planet, and doing it in honour of my parents makes it even more special."

The actor emphasised that this act serves as a tribute to their love and care.

"It's a tribute to their love and care and a promise to nurture and protect the environment for future generations," he said.

Akshay led the tree plantation drive along the Western Expressway in Kherwadi, Bandra, on Monday morning.



ing. The actor planted 200 Bahawa trees alongside

Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC)

Commissioner and Administrator Bhushan Gagrani. According to a statement, the initiative, undertaken in collaboration with the BMC, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Tree Authority, and the Make Earth Green Again (MEGA) Foundation, marked a pivotal step in restoring Mumbai's precious green cover, significantly impacted by Cyclone Taukte.

The 'Accept the Pit of Trees and Become Parents of Nature' campaign has garnered support from prominent icons such as Anil Kapoor, Shatrughan Sinha, Abhishek Bachchan, Anupam Kher, Bappi Lahiri, Ajay Devgan, Sonu Nigam, Sangram Singh, Ranvir Shorey, Rohit Shetty, Hema Malini, Sonakshi Sinha, and Ayesha Jhulka.

Congress leaders demand removal of city unit chief Varsha Gaikwad

Team Absolute | Mumbai

As many as 16 senior leaders of the Mumbai Congress have reportedly demanded to replace its city unit chief, Varsha Gaikwad, to strengthen the organisation ahead of the Maharashtra assembly polls. The polls are due in October this year.

According to sources, the Congress leaders feel that Gaikwad, who recently won the Mumbai North Central Lok Sabha seat, will not have time to work at the organisational level. They have objected to her style of functioning.

These leaders, in a letter dated June 16, have sought time from the Congress leadership to discuss the rejuvenation of the party in Mumbai ahead of the assembly

elections and the Mumbai civic polls, which are overdue.

Signatories to the letter include Rajya Sabha MP and Congress Working Committee member Chandrakant Handore, former city party chiefs Janardhan Chandurkar and Bhai Jagtap, senior leaders Naseem Khan, Suresh Shetty, Madhu Chavan, Charansingh Sapra, Zakir Ahmed, and Maharashtra Congress treasurer Amarjit Manhas.

As per the sources, most of these leaders reached Delhi to meet Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and senior leaders KC Venugopal and Rahul Gandhi to discuss how to strengthen the party in the city.

A meeting related to Maharashtra is reportedly scheduled for today.

Junk food driving piles, fistula and fissures cases in young Indian adults: Doctors

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Regular junk food consumption and inactive lifestyles are fuelling cases of painful piles, fistula and fissures in young adults aged between 18 and 25 years, said doctors on Monday. People with piles and fissures - common disorders concerning the anal region - suffer from symptoms like passing bloody stools or having trouble passing stools, itchy and irritable anal cavity, inflammation, rectal bleeding, and discomfort when sitting for a long time, among others.

A fistula is an unusual opening near the anus that connects to the inside of the anal canal in the colon. It typically arises due to factors like injury, surgery, infection, or inflammation of anal glands. Pain, swelling in the anal area, boils, skin irritation around the anus, bleeding, and discomfort during bowel movements are the major symptoms.

"Haemorrhoids or piles happen when veins inside and outside the anus become swollen and enlarged. This condition is now seen in adults between 25-55 due to obesity, pregnancy, a diet low in fibre, constipation, diarrhoea, lifting heavy objects, and straining during bowel movements," Lakin Vira, General



Surgeon, Apollo Spectra Mumbai, told correspondent.

"An anal fissure is a result of a tear in the lining of the anus or anal canal. This problem occurs because of constipation, straining during bowel movements, and ulcerative colitis," he added.

Lakin said that in the past 2-3 months, approximately 50 patients have visited with complaints of piles and fistula, and for fissures, the number is higher than 80. About 60 per cent of males while 40 per cent of females suffer from fistula and piles. Whereas, 70 per cent of females and 30 per cent of males tend

to have fissures.

"There is overall over 10 per cent in these conditions when compared to previous years. The incidence of these conditions is recently seen in age groups of 18-25 due to junk food consumption," the doctor noted.

Hemant Patel, Laparoscopic and General Surgeon, Zynova Shalby Hospital told IANS that "cases of piles, fistula and fissures are increasing in younger age groups mostly in males. There has been a significant rise in these patients in the past few years".

He noted seeing 5-6 patients with such conditions daily. According to health experts, eating a balanced diet, exercising daily, preventing constipation by incorporating fibre-rich foods into meals, maintaining proper hydration by drinking sufficient water, quitting smoking and alcohol consumption, and avoiding straining during bowel movements can help ease the condition.

Other ways to manage the condition include "medications, creams, and a sitz bath. If the conditions get severe then one will have to undergo a minimally invasive laparoscopic surgery," Lakin said.



EDITOR'S SPECS

Understanding the role of Speaker in the Lok Sabha

With the 18th Lok Sabha holding its inaugural session from June 24 to July 3, the House is likely to elect its new Speaker on June 26. Meanwhile, Bharatiya Janata Party MP Bhartruhari Mahtab has been appointed the 'pro-tem Speaker' of the Lok Sabha. President Droupadi Murmu administered the oath of office to him in the presence of all the newly-elected members of the Lower House. Mahtab will serve as the 'pro-tem Speaker' till June 26, when the new Speaker will be elected. The rules for electing the Speaker are laid down in Article 93 of the Constitution. All the members of the Lok Sabha will choose the Speaker by casting their votes in a secret ballot. The Speaker is elected by a majority, which means more than half of the members present in the House have to vote for a candidate to become the Speaker. Since Independence, all the Lok Sabha Speakers have been elected unopposed. The election of the Deputy Speaker also follows the same rules, except the date is fixed by the newly-elected Speaker. The Deputy Speaker's post has been retained by the Opposition since 1991. However, this time, it might go to one of the BJP-led NDA allies, the TDP or the JD(U). Speaker Represents the authority of the entire Lok Sabha while ensuring that it operates as per the rules of the Parliament and democracy. Presides over the sessions, maintaining discipline and decorum, deciding who speaks, and the order of proceedings. Maintains orderly conduct and discipline by applying the rules of the procedure of the Lok Sabha. Verifies important bills and handles joint meetings between the upper and the lower houses of the Parliament. Licenses Money Bills and can make decisions on other finance-related bills.

Israel-Hamas conflict has enlarged the threat from radical forces

DC Pathak

The terrorist attack of Hamas on Israel on October 7, 2023, and the unending retaliatory military action of Israel in Gaza where nearly 33,000 Palestinians, including a vast number of civilians, have been killed has expectantly seen Islamic radical forces rallying behind Hamas and stepping up their offensive against the US and other close allies of Israel. Significantly, the Ayatollah regime in Iran -- because of its political and ideological opposition to the US -- is firmly backing Hamas notwithstanding the fundamental Shia-Sunni contradiction and even joining up with the China-Russia axis to add a new factor in the Cold War that was developing between the US on one hand and the said axis on the other. Iran's enmity towards the US has become far deeper ever since Major General Qasem Soleimani heading the Quds Force of Iran was assassinated in a US operation in January 2020. In April 2022, an Iranian government official in Tehran was charged by the US with the attempt to hire a hitman to assassinate US National Security Advisor John Bolton. Broadly speaking the current profile of Islamic radical outfits indicates that while Al Qaeda is operating from its strong base in Afghanistan and Yemen, the competitive force of ISIS is strong on its turf in Iraq and Syria -- an offshoot of ISIS called Islamic State - Khorasan Province (ISIS-K) is active in Afghanistan and Pakistan too. Al Qaeda in the Arab Peninsula (AQAP) was the first to call for retaliatory violence in support of Hamas. There is already a war-like situation in many regions of the Muslim world between the US and Islamic radicals, and the Intelligence agencies of the US have warned the country of plans of radical forces to stage a spectacular attack of the kind the US had encountered on 9/11. In the meanwhile, hundreds of ground operations and air strikes on ISIS targets have been carried out by US Central Command (CENTCOM) in Iraq and Syria in recent months. Federal Bureau of Investigation Director Christopher Wray reported to the Senate Intelligence Committee in December 2023 that in the wake of the October 7 attack of Hamas on Israel, a threat to the US from foreign terrorists had risen to a new level. He feared that infiltrators through the country's southern border could plan a 9/11 type of coordinated attack. General Michael Erik Kurilla, Chief of CENTCOM, earlier warned that the Middle East and South Asia were throwing up Islamic radical forces -- Al Qaeda, ISIS and ISIS-K that had the capability of attacking the US. In April this year, President Biden ordered that under the Foreigners Intelligence Surveillance Act, the administration could compel US Telecommunications and Internet providers to turn over communications of foreigners outside of the country which passed through the US. Developments in the Middle East where Israel, Saudi Arabia and Iran are the key players establish the trends of a steady spread of radicalisation in the Muslim world, rise of terrorism propelled by faith and an increase in the incidence of suicide bombing. Faith-based terror has acquired a global dimension for, besides the Middle East, West Africa and the Afghanistan-Pakistan belt of South Asia have emerged as the breeding grounds for terror outfits. The phenomenon of 'lone wolves' and determined small cells out to get to the US, is also coming



into full play. Islamic radical forces consider the US as their prime enemy -- they carry the historical memory of the 19th century Jihad of Wahhabis against the British -- and they are inclined to target close friends of the US and Israel too. Iran, a fundamentalist Shia state, is hostile to US and Israel and is against Saudi Arabia as well. While India has handled the Middle East countries well, it has to be especially careful against the machinations of Pakistan in the Taliban-ruled Afghanistan and the former's known potential for setting the radical outfits upon India. The US is vulnerable to the manoeuvres of Pakistan which pretended to act as the bridge between the US and Taliban but India should be able to educate US policymakers on the danger that the two democracies faced from radicalised forces in the Muslim world. The two recent incidents of ISIS-sponsored terror attacks -- one in Iran and the other in Moscow have to be correctly viewed so that there was no misreading about the choice of targets made by radical Islamic forces. Two suicide bombers of ISIS-K attacked the huge crowd assembled at the death anniversary of Major General Soleimani at Kerman in Iran in January 2024 killing 103 persons. ISIS-K struck again in March 2024 at a concert on the outskirts of Moscow causing the death of 145 persons and injuries to 550 others. The attack in Iran was reportedly in retaliation against the large-scale killing of ISIS militants in Syria and Iraq by Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and was driven also by the deep-seated antipathy of Sunni extremists towards Shias. In Syria, Iran supports President Bashar Al Assad, who is an Alawite, while ISIS is opposed to him. As regards the ISIS attack in Moscow, it is a fact that Russia was on the side of the Syrian Revolution against the Islamic State but more than that the provocation for ISIS came from the Russian repression of the Islamic population -- with Russia maintaining a strong security presence on the southern periphery -- and President Putin's aversion to any advance of radicalisation in Central Asian regions. For ISIS, Russia was no different from the US-led West. The ISIS offensives in Iran and Russia mark the global rise of radical Islamic forces and their impact on the geopolitics of our times. Unless countered by well-thought-out measures, faith-based terrorism rooted in the call of Jihad -- that had a natural appeal in the Muslim world -- would grow, particularly because in fundamentalist Islam there was no distinction between religion and politics. This primarily posed a threat to the democratic world at large. India and the US representing the two largest

democracies of the world fully share the concern arising from the spread of radicalisation in the Islamic world and the consequent threat of terrorist violence posed by it. There are widespread protests in the US and elsewhere against the loss of civilian life in Gaza and these can have the effect of fuelling the expansion of Islamic radical forces. The world community must intervene to contain the damage caused by the Israel-Hamas confrontation and work to pause the Israeli operations in Gaza, securing the release of all hostages and advancing the long-term solution based on the 'two states' formula in Palestine. The gains of the US initiative about the Abraham Accord between Israel and the UAE-Saudi Arabia combine have been overrun by the developments that followed the October 7 Hamas attack on Israel. US interest in the Middle East fostered through Saudi Arabia is matched by the Russia-Iran collaboration that has been elevated to a strategic level as is evident from the supply of Iranian drones to Russia for use in the Russia-Ukraine military conflict. The superpower rivalry in the Middle East is in a way being used by the Islamic extremists and radical forces to further their objectives. Comprehensive measures are needed to counter radicalisation to preserve universal peace against the rise of faith-based violence. Terrorism is resort to covert violence for a perceived 'political cause' and 'cause' requires commitment dictated by 'motivation'. In Islam 'faith' can be the source of a very strong motivation that does not look back. Conflicts in the name of religion therefore have to be avoided at all costs in the interest of global peace. The key to this is working for the advancement of democracy everywhere. India has a special responsibility in the matter considering its rise in recent years as a world power whose voice of reason and sanity commanded attention. This country has proven beyond doubt that electoral democracy built on 'One man One vote' is the most sustainable form of government. It has countered the narratives of 'majoritarianism' and 'diminished secularism' by establishing that so long as the state followed the policy of development of all without community discrimination and did not carry a denominational stamp on governance -- like what was done in our neighbourhood -- secularism is built into the foundations of the state. A diverse nation like India has to be governed with strong hands which is not to be confused with 'authoritarianism'. Also, valid initiatives to remove regional disparities and promote nationalism are a part of democratic governance. A healthy democracy combines growth with special attention to the poor of all communities and knows how to reconcile a free market economy with the features of a welfare state. India has been setting an example of practising the call of 'vocal for local', providing a favourable investment climate and encouraging global competitiveness. The demand on the handling of international relations in the face of an ever-changing geopolitics has been met successfully by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government which opted for bilateral and multilateral relationships based on mutual interests in security and economy and a declared commitment to global peace and human welfare.

international

Terror attack on places of worship in Russia's Dagestan; priest, security personnel killed

Moscow | Agencies

Two Orthodox churches, a synagogue, and a traffic police station in Russia's Dagestan region were attacked on Sunday, leaving a priest and around 10 security personnel, including local policemen, dead, and over two dozen injured, reports said. The attacks took place in Makhachkala, the regional capital, as well as the city of Derbent, RT reported. Russian authorities have termed the attackers members of an "international terrorist organisation", but did not provide any further details.

A counter-terrorism operation was launched in Dagestan in response to the attacks as firing was reported at some of the sites, some of which were in flames too.

A total of four militants have been "eliminated" by the security forces in Makhachkala, the regional Interior Ministry said. Three of them were identified as the kin of a local municipal official, Russian media said citing police sources. Two assailants were reportedly killed in Derbent.

While intense fighting was earlier reported in and around the Orthodox church in Makachkala, and local media claimed some 40 people were being held hostage inside, authorities said that the operation near the church has been completed and the people hiding inside



have been taken to safety. There were no hostages, the authorities clarified.

A traffic police station in the centre of Makhachkala was also attacked, causing several casualties among police officials.

The police fatalities were reported from both Makhachkala and Derbent.

An Orthodox priest was brutally killed in the attack on the church in Derbent. The assailants reportedly broke into the church on Pentecost Sunday, immediately after the evening service and shortly before the church was closed, killing archpriest, Father Nikolay Kotelnikov, 66, by slitting his throat.

A security guard, named Mikhail, at the church, was shot by the assailants and died.

The synagogue in Derbent was also set ablaze and firefighters were called away since it was feared that attackers could still be inside as gunfire could still be heard near it then.

The attack on the police officers in Derbent was caught on video and shared on social media. Loud gunfire could be heard in the clip, with several police cars seen parked down the street, as law enforcement officers retaliated against the assailants.

However, the National Antiterrorism Committee has reported that the "active phase" of the operation in Derbent has now finished and reported two of the assailants had been killed.

Among the dead in Derbent was the police chief of the nearby town of Dagestanskiye Ogni, who was severely wounded after he and his deputies arrived there to back up the local police, as per the regional Interior Ministry.

In a related incident, a police car was fired upon in the Sergokala village, leaving an official injured, the Interior Ministry has said.

Local Muslim leaders have condemned the attacks. North Caucasus Muslim Coordination Council chief termed the assailants "brutal and hateful beasts", while Chechen Republic chief Ramzan Kadyrov termed the attacks a "villainous provocation" aimed at sowing discord between religions.

Netanyahu says intense fighting in Gaza to end 'very soon'



Jerusalem | Agencies

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said that intense fighting against Hamas is "very close" to an end.

In an interview with Israeli Channel 14 TV news, Netanyahu on Sunday said that "the intensive phase of the war in Rafah is about to end", and the Israeli forces were "very close" to concluding the "intensive phase" in the entire Gaza Strip.

However, he said, this does not mean an end to the ongoing conflict in the Gaza Strip, and operations will persist with the fighting against Hamas targets, Xinhua news agency reported, citing the Israeli news

broadcaster.

After the conclusion of the "intensive phase" in Gaza, "we will continue northward," Netanyahu said, referring to Israel's warnings of launching a full-fledged war against the Lebanese armed group Hezbollah.

He said that any agreement to secure a ceasefire along the Israel-Lebanon border, where Israeli and Hezbollah forces have traded fire since October 7, 2023, "will have to meet our terms."

He stated he would only agree to a deal that would see Hamas removed from power in the Gaza Strip and the release of about 100 hostages who are still held in the Palestinian enclave.

48 killed in road accidents across Afghanistan during Eid holidays



Kabul | Agencies

At least 48 people were killed and more than 160 others were injured in road accidents across Afghanistan during the five-day Eid al-Adha holidays, head of the General Directorate of Traffic Police Hasibullah Mokhtar confirmed in talks with local media.

"We had 97 road incidents resulting in approximately 161 injuries and 48 fatalities," Tolonews quoted Mokhtar on Sunday as saying.

Poor conditions on the roads, reckless driving, and lack of security measures during travel are among the causes of deadly road accidents in the war-ravaged country, Xinhua news agency reported.

This year's Eid al-Adha holiday, which ended on Friday, in Afghanistan had been initially announced to last three days but later prolonged to five days.

During the four-day Eid al-Fitr holiday in April, 50 were killed and 185 others injured in road accidents across Afghanistan.

South Korean President Yoon visits site of battery plant fire that killed 22

Seoul | Agencies

South Korea President Yoon Suk Yeol visited the site of a battery plant fire that killed at least 22 people on Monday and ordered government officials to draw up measures to prevent similar accidents from occurring, his office said.

Yoon decided to visit the plant run by lithium battery maker Aricell in Hwaseong, 45 kilometers south of Seoul, to carry out an emergency inspection after being briefed on the fire by Interior Minister Lee Sang-min, according to his office.

Yoon earlier instructed the minister and firefighting



authorities to mobilize all available personnel and equipment to search for and rescue survivors, reports Yonhap news agency.

Firefighters have put the death toll at 22, with eight others injured, though the numbers could rise further.

extinguisher or hydrant," Yoon said, raising the need to study comprehensive measures with experts on how to extinguish such a fire at an early stage.

He also instructed Minister Lee to implement safety checks on chemical plants and map out measures to prevent similar accidents from taking place, according to the presidential office.

At the site of the fire, Yoon met with firefighters, stressing the importance of their safety while on duty.

"I express my condolences to the people who lost their lives due to the fire and their bereaved families," he added.

North Korea supports Russia's war with Ukraine as 'legitimate act of self-defence'

Seoul | Agencies

North Korea on Monday criticised the US for its military support of Ukraine and supported Russia's actions as a "legitimate act of self-defence," underscoring the growing military ties between Moscow and Pyongyang.

"If the rulers of the US persist in recklessly pushing their war machine into Ukraine for a proxy war against Russia, it will inevitably provoke a stronger response from Russia," Pak Jong Chon, vice chairman of the Central Military Commission of the Workers' Party of Korea, said in a statement carried by the Korean



Central News Agency.

Pak further said, "It is Russia's right to self-defence to make a strategic counter-attack to defend its security from the ever-aggravating threat posed by hostile forces. Any responsive action taken by Russia will be a legitimate act of self-defence."

"We will always stand together with the Russian army and people in a just struggle to defend sovereign rights, strategic stability, and the territorial integrity of their country," Pak said.

In particular, Pak criticised the US for recently expanding its agreement with Ukraine to strike over the border inside Russian territory wherever Russian forces are engaging in cross-border attacks into Ukraine, not just in the Kharkiv region as was previously signed.

"This time, the US has gone so far as to allow the Ukrainian neo-Nazis to strike any part of Russian territory at their will," Pak said.



BJP STARTS CAMPAIGNING FOR JULY 10 AMARWARA BYPOLL

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Madhya Pradesh on Sunday began its campaign for the upcoming bypoll to the Amarwara Assembly constituency in the state's Chhindwara district.

The Amarwara seat is set to witness a contest between BJP's Kamlesh Shah and Congress' Dheeransha Inwati.

Kamlesh Shah -- a three-time MLA -- switched to the BJP from the Congress ahead of the Lok Sabha polls and also quit as a Congress legislator, necessitating the by-election in the Amarwara constituency.

On Sunday, Madhya Pradesh unit BJP chief V.D. Sharma addressed the party



workers in Chhindwara and asked them to get ready for the Amarwara bypoll.

Notably, Amarwara is one of the seven assembly segments in Chhindwara district, and the Congress had won all of them in 2023.

Addressing the party workers in Amarwara on Sunday, Sharma said: "People of Chhindwara have created history in the Lok Sabha, and now it's time to win the Amarwara assembly seat. It has already been proved that Chhindwara is not the bastion of any individual politician."

For the Amarwara bypoll, the BJP has nominated 35 star campaigners, including all five Union Ministers from the state; the Congress has nominated 40, which includes two former CMs, Kamal Nath and Digvijaya Singh.

MP, Chhatisgarh govts can organise some programmes together: CM Mohan Yadav

Team Absolute | Bhopal/Raipur

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav on Monday welcomed Chhattisgarh Deputy CM Arun Sao at his official residence in Bhopal and held a courtesy meeting.

Sao was also accompanied by 70 Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarti Parishad (ABVP) members from Chhattisgarh.

"MP and Chhattisgarh share the same social and cultural heritage and history as well. The governments of both states can organise several programmes together, and we held a discussion on it," CM Yadav said.

Sao and ABVP members of Chhattisgarh were in Bhopal to attend the memorial ceremony of ABVP's founder Shaligram Tomar. The memorial ceremony



was organised at Manas Bahwan on Sunday.

Both CM Yadav and Deputy CM Sao have been associated with the ABVP for a long time, and during the meeting, they recalled their memories also.

The Assembly elections in MP and Chhattisgarh were

held together in November 2023, and the BJP formed the government in both states. In the Lok Sabha elections, BJP won all 29 seats in MP, while it won 10 out of 11 in Chhattisgarh.

Chhattisgarh was carved out of Madhya Pradesh on November 1, 2001.

MP'S BUDGET WILL BE COMPREHENSIVE & PUBLIC CENTRIC: JAGDISH DEVDA

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh Finance Minister Jagdish Devda on Monday said the upcoming annual budget of the state government would be comprehensive and beneficial for all sections of the people.

Devda said the preparations for the annual budget for the financial year 2024-2025 are underway. Several meetings with different sections, especially, business class and economic experts, were organised and suggestions were received. "Our preparations for the annual budget are underway. We will try our best to present a public-centric budget. We have no shortage of budget for any scheme introduced by the previous BJP government," the MP Finance Minister said after a budget review meeting on Monday.

He said that all beneficiary schemes, including the cash incentive - 'Ladli Behna Yojana'



introduced by the previous BJP government would continue.

The budget session for the financial year 2024-2025 of the Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly will start on July 1.

This will be the first annual budget of Chief Minister Mohan Yadav-led BJP government in Madhya Pradesh.

Meanwhile, the Opposition Congress is also preparing to corner the state government on various issues, especially the law and order situation of the state and the exam paper leak row.

JABALPUR AIRPORT AND MADAN MAHAL FLYOVER WILL BE KNOWN AFTER VEERANGANA RANI DURGAVATI - CHIEF MINISTER

Various aspects of Rani Durgavati will be included in school curriculum. Chief Minister addresses on Veerangana Rani Durgavati's Balidan Divas

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav has said that the brave Rani Durgavati not only defeated Akbar's army thrice but also made many innovations in the field of good governance and water management. She provided a people-oriented governance system to the region. The flyover passing through Jabalpur Airport and Madan Mahal will be known after Rani Durgavati. The state government will also try to get permission from the Government of India for a stadium in the name of Rani Durgavati in the Garh. Ponds and water structures in the area will also be renovated on priority basis as a tribute to her bravery and valour. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that Akbar's era was a difficult one, on one hand Maharana Pratap was fighting with him and on the other hand, the brave Rani Durgavati fought against Akbar's army in Vananchal. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav addressed the program organized in Jabalpur on the Balidan Divas of Rani Durgavati.



Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that to familiarize the country and the world with the bravery and the innovations she made for good governance, her life will be added to the school curriculum and seminars will also be organized on these subjects. A reward of Rs 5 lakh has also been announced for bringing out the various aspects of the heroic queen.

Cultural and intellectual events will also be organized every month in the state including Jabalpur. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that the first cabinet was organized in Jabalpur to show respect and gratitude to Rani Durgavati in her 500th birth centenary year. Continuous work is going on under the leadership and guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to acquaint the general public with the untouched aspects of the life struggle of personalities like the brave queen Rani Durgavati, who sacrificed her life for the respect and protection of Indian culture, civilization, and traditions.

Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that Veerangana Rani Durgavati and Rani Avantibai Lodhi have been expressions of women power. They have proved that whether it is war or governance, women did not lag. President Draupadi Murmu, from a tribal background, has made not only the country but the world aware of the potential of Indian women. The state government is dedicated to the welfare of the weaker sections.

MP GOVT INTENSIFIES ACTION AGAINST COW SMUGGLING, SLAUGHTERING

Bhopal:

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav-led Madhya Pradesh government has intensified action against cow smuggling and slaughtering in the state. According to officials, in the last one month, nearly 600 cases related to cattle smuggling have been registered in the state, in which more than 1,100 people have been arrested. At least four persons -- two each in Morena and Seoni -- allegedly involved in cow smuggling and slaughtering were booked under the stringent National Security Act (NSA) during the past one week.

Besides this, the government is also taking action against officials who fail to execute the government's direction on preventing cow slaughtering. Swift removal of Seoni's SP Rakesh Kumar and Collector Kshitij Singhal following the recovery of more than 60 cow carcasses in the district in the past few days is being seen as the government's signal to officials that it will not tolerate any lapses in execution of the Anti-Cow Slaughtering Act.

Sanskriti Jain has been appointed as the new Collector of Seoni while Sunil Kumar would be the new SP. The state government has also sent a committee under the supervision of an Additional Director General (ADG) of Police to examine the matter. "The Anti-Cow Slaughtering Act is already in place in Madhya Pradesh and we have given clear direction to all district administrations to ensure action against those not complying with the law. An ADG-level committee has been sent to examine the matter and further action will be taken as per the committee's report," CM Yadav said on Sunday. He also said that the SP and Collector of Seoni have been replaced because some lapses were found in the execution of the law. "Whoever will be found guilty will be punished. A special operation for the execution of the Anti-Cow Slaughtering Act has been underway across the state for the past one month," the Chief Minister said. In the last one month, more than 7,000 cows were rescued from illegal possession during the same period. Police said that most cases of cattle smuggling were reported in Balaghat, Seoni, Chhindwara, Barwani, Kargone, Burhanpur, Ujjain, Ratlam and Neemuch districts.



Congress attacks women on beating in Dhar and Alirajpur

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Congress has launched a major attack on the government over the issue of women being beaten publicly in Dhar and Alirajpur districts of Madhya Pradesh. Congress has raised questions on the law and order situation of the state.

Recently, cases of women being beaten publicly have come to light in Dhar and Alirajpur districts.

Regarding these incidents, President of Madhya Pradesh unit of Congress, Jitu Patwari has said, Madhya Pradesh is called the heart of the country and the heartbeat of the country has increased due to Taliban activities. The videos of Dhar-Alirajpur are proof that the atmosphere of arbitrariness has ruined law and order. The helpless and talkative Home Minister has no control, that is why in this jungle raj, people are making their own laws and running



them with complete arrogance. Let it be known that in Dhar district, a woman was publicly beaten with sticks by some people. The video of this incident went viral on social media on Friday. In this video, two people are holding the woman's hands and she is being attacked with sticks. This barbaric action against the woman was done on the basis of character doubt. The police took this matter seriously and took strict action against the accused.

Dhar Superintendent of Police Manoj Singh has said that the sarpanch involved in this incident along with the woman's brother-in-law and brother-in-law were arrested. A total of seven accused have been taken into custody in this case.

Similarly, in Alirajpur district also, a woman was beaten by three family members, action was taken against all of them. All three were arrested.

THREE KILLED INCLUDING HOME GUARD JAWAN IN LAND DISPUTE IN DAMOH

Team Absolute | Damoh

Three people, including a home guard jawan, were killed on Monday due to a land dispute in Madhya Pradesh's Damoh district. Police is busy searching for the accused and raids are also being conducted for this.

According to the police, this case pertains to Bansa Tarkheda village police station in Damoh district. Here, Home Guard jawan Ramesh Vishwakarma was having a dispute with his own family members regarding land. Due to this dispute, the distance between the two increased and later efforts for compromise were also made.

On Monday, Ramesh Vishwakarma was called for compromise. According to the police, when Ramesh Vishwakarma went to

his own family members to settle the land dispute, he was attacked with a sharp weapon. On the other hand, Umesh and Vicky, who were coming on a motorcycle, were stopped by the accused on the way and opened fire on them. Both Umesh and Vicky died after being hit by bullets. Superintendent of Police Shrut Kirri Somvanshi told reporters that three people were killed due to a land dispute. On Monday, a family member was called to the house for a settlement and during this time this incident was carried out.

Police is active to search for the accused. The victim's family has told the names of the accused to the police. Police is engaged in further action. A police team has been formed to search for the accused and they have started searching for the accused.

KKR MURTI: RETIRED FROM A LEGACY OF DEDICATION IN RAILWAYS.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Working in the railways is relatively easy in Bhopal, but for employees, addressing grievances with officials can be a daunting task. However, KKR Murti has demonstrated that it is possible to address such issues effectively within the Bhopal Rail Division. Murti, who began his career in the railways on November 2, 1985, is set to retire as a Senior Technician on June 30, 2024. Throughout his tenure, he has resolved numerous disputes with rail officials, setting an example of good relations and mutual respect between employees and officials.

Despite numerous challenges, Murti has managed to mediate between employees and officials effectively, often addressing disputes through



dialogue and negotiation. His work has been recognized, and he has held the position of Division Secretary for years, even as other officials have chosen to retire. The All India SC ST Railway Employees Organisation has extended Murti's term until 2027, ensuring his continued service and leadership in the organization. Murti remains an exemplary figure, demonstrating that with dedication and proper communication, employees can successfully navigate the challenges of working in the railways.

INDORE: FEMALE EMPLOYEE OF AN IT COMPANY COMMITTED SUICIDE BY JUMPING FROM THE EIGHTH FLOOR.

Indore:

In Madhya Pradesh's commercial city Indore, a female employee of an IT company committed suicide by jumping from the eighth floor of the building. The reason for the incident has not been revealed. The matter is of Vijayanagar police station area. On Monday afternoon, a woman named Surabhi committed suicide by jumping from the eighth floor of the BCM Heights building here. The girl was working as a project manager in an IT company. According to Vijayanagar police station, a mobile phone was found on the roof of the building. The girl has definitely sent a message to her father on his mobile. Why the woman committed suicide has not been revealed. The police is investigating the matter. According to family members, she had left the house on Monday saying she was going to office. She reached a building named BCM Heights in her car and after taking the lift to the roof, jumped down. It is coming to light that the woman is in depression and is undergoing mental treatment. A few days ago also in Indore, a student studying in class VII had committed suicide by jumping from the 14th floor. The student had left home to go to school. He went to another building and committed suicide by jumping from the 14th floor.



HMIS will be helpful in preventing leakage and strengthening monitoring : Deputy Chief Minister Shukla

The delivery system of medical services will be digitized. Deputy Chief Minister reviewed the concept note

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Deputy Chief Minister Rajendra Shukla has said that HMIS portal will prove to be effective in the delivery of medical services, convenience of patients, tracking of health profile and treatment of patients, preventing leakage of resources and strong monitoring. Deputy Chief Minister Shukla reviewed the concept note of HMIS portal for digitalization of medical services delivery system at Mantralaya Vallabh Bhawan. The Deputy Chief Minister gave instructions to study the successful models of the country and other states and make necessary provisions for the creation of HMIS portal.



Additional Chief Secretary Health and Medical Education Mohd. Suleman, Principal Secretary Vivek Kumar Porwal provided detailed information about the provisions of HMIS. Patient flow and services in hospitals will be improved by a completely digitized system in the HMIS portal. Patients will be able to register from home

through HMIS portal. Crowd-free paper production can also be done in the hospital. By using Abha ID, patients' time can be saved. The doctor will be shown directly through a completely digital system supported by queue management and token display system. Also, by doing all the data entry and update at the source, valuable

time of the patients will be saved. The entire system will be wireless and secure. There will be complete integration of medicine and diagnostic systems which will reduce duplication of work. Citizens will be able to view their health records and reports online, giving them access to their data anywhere and anytime. Patients will be able to show their records in any hospital in India which will provide the benefits of portability through electronic health records. A completely paperless system will strengthen the referral system, resulting in better and faster healthcare services. Provisions to enable citizens to easily avail remote consultation through telemedicine are included in the concept note.



Travis Kelce Joins Taylor Swift On Stage

Los Angeles | Agencies

The Kansas City Chiefs tight end made a surprise appearance for his girlfriend's final Wembley Stadium concert during her London run on 'The Eras Tour.' Travis Kelce is "so productive." The Super Bowl winner, 34, had the Swifties going crazy when he made a surprise appearance during Taylor Swift's concert at Wembley Stadium in London on Sunday, June 23. Before Taylor, 34, sang "I Can Do It With a Broken Heart," the Kansas City Chiefs player appeared during the song's introduction, and plenty of fans shared the clip on social media.

Before Taylor launched into the final song from The Tortured Poets Department portion of her set, she took part in the usual pre-show skit. In it, Taylor begins falling back onto a heart-shaped bed on the stage, as three men in tuxedos get her prepped for the final number. While she looks disapproving before the song, she eventually perks up and begins the song. While it's usually three of her male dancers, this time one of the men on stage was none other than Travis.

The tight end walked on stage in his own tuxedo and top hat, and he begins fanning Taylor before she falls back on the bed. He also puts some makeup on her as the other men help her with her outfit change. Travis also brushed the makeup on his own face, and he proceeded to do some of his own dance moves to direct Taylor. It was a very cute and funny moment, and naturally, so many people in the crowd cheered as they realized that it was Trav.

Sabrina Carpenter Walks the Vogue World

Los Angeles | Agencies

Sabrina Carpenter looked fabulous as she walked the runway at Vogue World: Paris at the Place Vendôme on Sunday, June 23. The rising popstar, 25, stunning a red-and-white striped outfit to make her runway debut at the fashion event. Her look was designed by French fashion designer Simon Porte Jacquemus, and it was certainly a beachy look, almost giving a bit of a nod to her "Espresso" music video.

The outfit was covered in red and white stripes. It had a bodice piece that had a darker shade of red and white vertical stripes, with some white straps. She also had a flowing skirt and matching headscarf, with a peppermint-striped look. Some of her signature blonde bangs could be seen peeking out of the top. She completed the look with a set of red heels, and she had a deep red lip on to match her outfit.

Jacquemus provided some more insight into the look with a post on his company's Instagram. "Vogue asked me to reinterpret my show «LES PARASOLS DE MARSEILLE» and custom pieces for the VOGUE WORLD SHOW! This part was dedicated to the 40's [sic] and swimwear," he wrote in the caption.

CHARLI XCX TELLS FANS TO STOP AFTER THEY CHANT 'TAYLOR SWIFT IS DEAD' AT HER SHOWS

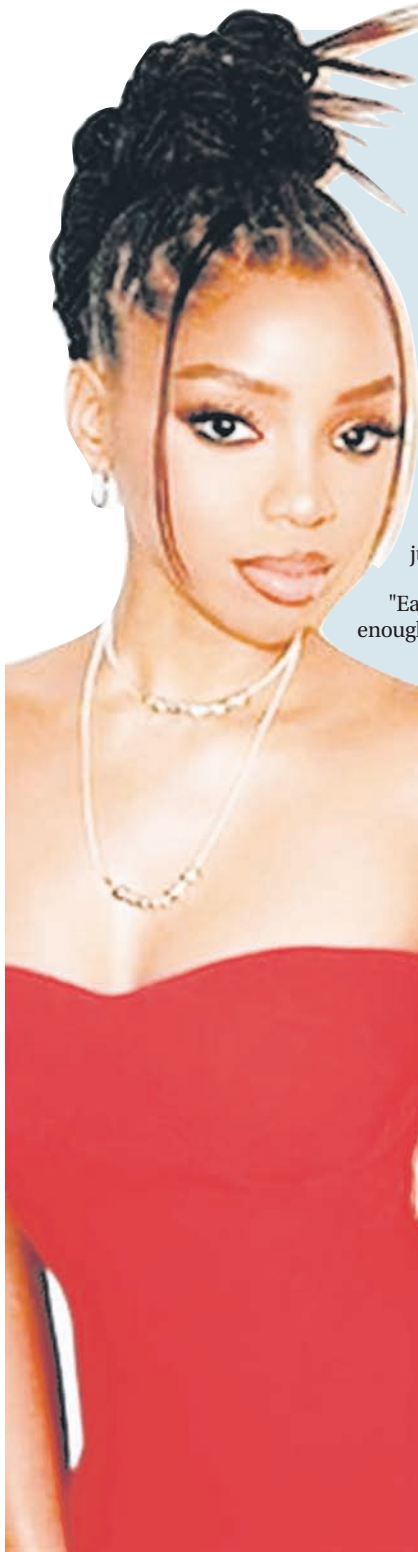


Los Angeles | Agencies

Popstar Charli XCX asked her fans to "please stop" after they yelled "Taylor (Swift) is dead!" in Portuguese during her 'Partygirl' DJ set at a Sao Paulo nightclub. "Can the people who do this please stop. Online or at my shows. It is the opposite of what I want, and it disturbs me that anyone would think there is room for this in this community. I will not tolerate it," Charli wrote on her Instagram story. Earlier this month, Charli XCX's fans also attacked Swift when she released a UK-exclusive digital version of her album 'The Tortured Poets Department' because it coincided with the release of Charli XCX's latest album, 'Brat'.

Fans speculate that it blocked the 'Break the Rules' hitmaker's chance at reaching the top spot on the UK's Official Charts.

Rumours also started swirling that the song 'Sympathy is a Knife' on 'Brat' was written about Swift. Charli XCX has hinted before that the song was inspired by an unnamed girl who "taps my insecurities." The reasoning behind this speculation is that Charli is engaged to The 1975's drummer, George Daniel, and Swift used to date their lead singer, Matty Healy.



Chloe Bailey shares reason why she is categorised as an R&B artiste

Los Angeles | Agencies

American singer-songwriter Chloe Bailey has talked about her music and why her songs are still categorised as R&B despite her ventures into different genres. In a new interview, Bailey shared that no matter what type of music she makes, her songs will always be classified as R&B and not pop, reports deadline.com.

"Any music I do will easily and quickly be categorised as R&B because I'm a Black woman," Bailey said in an interview with Nylon. "If someone who didn't have my skin tone made the same music, it would be in the pop categories. That's just the way it's always been in life."

Bailey said that singer-actress Whitney Houston is one of her idols.

"Early on in her career, when she was doing the big pop records, she got a lot of flak for that: being told she wasn't Black enough and wasn't catering to the base that made her," Bailey said.

"To see how she persevered and has become one of the most iconic, legendary artists that we've ever seen shows that music has no race, it has no genre, it has none of that. It's just a feeling and it's a vibration."

Bailey also revealed that she is "really proud" of Beyoncé for her country album, 'Cowboy Carter'.

The singer said her upcoming second solo album, 'Trouble in Paradise', is "a coming-of-age celebration of being a woman and having fun, not taking life too seriously."

Margot Robbie's husband says he spends '24 hours a day' with the 'Barbie' star

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress-producer Margot Robbie's husband, Tom Ackerley, praised his wife and said that the pair spends "24 hours a day" together.

"It's seamless," Ackerley told the outlet when asked how they separate business and pleasure, reports People.com. "We don't have a toggle on, toggle off. It's all become one thing."

Adding that he "feels like an honorary Aussie" and that "Margot feels like an honorary Brit," Ackerley said the duo only argues over "whether Tim Tams or Penguins are better," referring to snacks from their respective home countries. He also joked in the interview that he wished "there was more of a sporting rivalry" between Australia and England. Robbie recently launched a new brand with her husband and three other friends.

As she told The Times, the movie business is about selling "an idea," while she's in the "straightforward" world of promoting her new brand.

"You have no idea how much it's going to make, who's



going to see it, if they'll see it, or how it will be received," she said of movies. "This feels a lot more straightforward; it's easier to predict things. You can lay this out on a spreadsheet in a way that you can't lay out a movie idea."

Robbie and her husband tied the knot in a private ceremony on Australia's Gold Coast in December 2016.

GRACIE ABRAMS SHARES HILARIOUS VIDEO OF TAYLOR SWIFT

Los Angeles | Agencies

Taylor Swift and Gracie Abrams had an interesting time co-writing their latest song, "Us," and it showed in a new video shared by Gracie, 24, to Instagram. In one of two clips, both artists were working on the lyrics and music to their new song, while another video revealed a hilarious moment with Taylor, 34, struggling to use a fire extinguisher.

"Writing this entire song from 2am to 6am was some of the most fun I've ever had in my life," Gracie captioned her carousel post on Friday, June 21. "@taylor-swift now we know how to use a fire extinguisher. I love you."

In the hilarious video, Taylor was seen in



a kitchen trying to figure out how to properly extinguish a small fire, which was visible on the table in the center of the room.

"Wait, what do I do about this?" the "Karma" singer asked in the clip. "So, I cut this with a knife? I think we're gonna die."

While struggling to press down on the handle, a frustrated Taylor could be heard muttering the word, "Bitch," until she managed to finally put out the fire, which apparently ruined their purses that were on the table. However, Taylor and Gracie seemed to get a good laugh out of the moment.

"Our purses are ruined. And my shoes. And the whole room, I think," Taylor said at the end of the video while managing to smile.



Kim Kardashian



T20 WORLD CUP: ARSHDEEP, KULDEEP STAR AS INDIA STORM INTO SEMIS WITH 24-RUN WIN OVER AUSTRALIA

Gros Islet (St Lucia) | Agencies

Kuldeep Yadav and Arshdeep Singh starred in a terrific comeback with the ball as India cruised into the semifinals of the 2024 Men's T20 World Cup with a crucial 24-run win over Australia in their final Super Eight stage match at the Daren Sammy National Cricket Stadium on Monday.

After captain Rohit Sharma unleashed carnage on Australia's bowlers by smacking a stupendous 92 off 41 balls to help India post a mammoth 205/5, a win seemed distant for India with opener Travis Head clearing his front leg and smacking his shots all over the park in a 43-ball 76.

But Kuldeep taking 2-24, including dismissing Glenn Maxwell, followed by Arshdeep picking 3-37 meant Australia were restricted to 181/7 in 20 overs. The result means India sign off from the Super Eight stage by maintaining their unbeaten record and will face defending champions England in their semifinal clash in Guyana on Thursday.

Australia now have their semifinal fate out of their own hands and if Afghanistan beat Bangladesh at St. Vincent, they will be knocked out of the competition. Chasing 205, David Warner fell for six after nicking to diving first slip off Arshdeep.

Mitchell Marsh survived on zero when Rishabh Pant tripped over while chasing a catch off the pull and was later dropped on five when



Arshdeep couldn't take a catch on his follow-through. From there, Marsh pulled six. But, Kuldeep broke the 81-run partnership for the second wicket when Marsh got down to sweep, but Axar caught an astonishing catch.

Maxwell mess by the googly. In the next over, Marcus Stoinis went for a reverse sweep off Axar but was caught by backward point on the rebound. Bumrah returned to deceive Travis Head with a slower ball and heaved to cover, falling for 76. Arshdeep came back to have Matthew Wade and Tim David caught by short third man in quick succession to effectively seal the game in India's favour.

Brief scores

India 205/5 in 20 overs (Rohit Sharma 92, Suryakumar Yadav 31; Mitchell Starc 2-45, Marcus Stoinis 2-56) beat Australia 181/7 in 20 overs (Travis Head 76, Mitchell Marsh 37; Arshdeep Singh 3-37, Kuldeep Yadav 2-24) by 24 runs

Paris Olympics: India earn men's, women's team quotas in Archery

Team Absolute | New Delhi

India men's and women's teams have secured Paris Olympics quotas in archery based on the updated world rankings on Monday. India finished on top in both men's and women's rankings among non-qualified countries to earn the respective berth for next month's quadrennial showpiece.

With the latest team quotas, India will compete in all five medal categories in archery - men's and women's team events, individual and mixed categories. In the men's category, India and China secured quotas while in the women's category, Indonesia joined India as the second country to secure team quotas.

The team events will consist of 12 sides in each section, while five teams will participate in the mixed competitions. For the first time, team quotas are being allocated to the top two nations following the three-leg Olympic qualifiers. The first Olympic Qualifier took place at the World Archery Championships in Berlin last



year. South Korea, Turkey, and Japan qualified in the men's category, while Germany and Mexico secured their spots in the women's division. The second leg was a continental qualifier. In the Asian leg, South Korea and Kazakhstan earned the men's and women's team quotas respectively, while Colombia and the United States qualified from Pan-America. Italy (men) and the Netherlands (women) secured quotas from the European leg.

The final Olympic Qualifier was recently held in Antalya, Mexico, Chinese Taipei, and Great Britain secured quotas in

the men's section, and China, Malaysia, Great Britain, and Chinese Taipei made the cut in the women's section. Tarundeep Rai, a 40-year-old Army veteran, who debuted at Athens 2004, will be making his fourth appearance at the Games. Also, former world no. 1 Deepika Kumari will compete in her fourth consecutive Olympics, having first participated in London 2012.

Dhiraj Bommadevara, Ankita Bhakat, and Bhajan Kaur will make their Olympic debuts, while Pravin Jadhav will participate in his second successive Games after Tokyo.

T20 World Cup: 'Kohli cops a lot of criticism, which is not right', feels Warner

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Ahead of the all-important Super Eight match against India in the T20 World Cup, Australia opener David Warner came in support of Virat Kohli and said the batter faces a lot of unnecessary criticism for his strike rate.

Kohli played knocks of 24 and 37 runs against Afghanistan and Bangladesh in Super Eight matches after the flop show in group stage matches in New York.

Warner added that Kohli's enthusiasm on the field adds the fuel to the contest against India.

"It's just his passion for the game, like, he's got a knack for indetermination just for scoring runs and hunger to score runs. You know, he cops a lot of criticism, which is not right. I don't know why he cops it, but there are a lot of people out there who are big Virat supporters, like all of us," Warner said on Star Sports.

"Now, we're in awe of the great players that have played this game, and we're fortunate to take the field with. So, you know, for him, he consistently goes about his business how he does. You know, he scores a lot of runs. He's a good team man and he competes hard. And that's what we like about coming up against the Indian cricket team."

India have won both their Super Eight matches while Australia faced a defeat against Afghanistan in their last encounter. If India win the encounter, they will automatically qualify for the semis and join England and South Africa. Australia spinner Adam Zampa said playing against India will be a huge challenge with Rohit Sharma and Kohli leading the



batting line-up.

"I mean, looking forward, hopefully, to the Super 8s in the finals, there's going to be huge challenges. You look down the India's line up, Virat, Rohit. All those guys were obvious names who've been around for a long time," Zampa said. Meanwhile, Tim David mentioned Rohit's batting is a wonderful sight and the captain is hungry for the world title. "Something about Rohit is that naturally, he's so good to watch how he plays. He's effortless the way he bats. You'd always sit down and watch him bat and it's such a joy. But I think he's got to care about his teammates, which obviously he's in that role as India's captain. And I know that he's pretty hungry for a world title as well," he said.

AIFF reveals Igor Stimac's contract was finalised

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The All-India Football Federation (AIFF) has released a statement responding to the accusations made by Igor Stimac during his final address to Indian media. A lot of talk was around his contract and the absence of the termination clause which caused an uproar in the fan base.

The AIFF have now stated that the final amount in Stimac's contract was done without the approval of the core committee.

"The current leadership of the AIFF took office in September 2022, at which time Stimac had already been in the position for over three years. When his contract came up for renewal in October 2023, the Core Committee of the AIFF under the chairmanship of Vice-President N.A. Harris met in advance and proposed to the AIFF that Stimac could be offered a two-year contract with a monthly salary of US\$ 30,000 from January 2024 and to instruct the legal team to finalise the contract 'with a termination clause favourable to AIFF,'" read the statement made by the AIFF.

According to the statement, Stimac's new contract's details were finalised and amended without the core committee's approval. The new contract stipulated that Stimac's contract was for 30,000 USD per month till February 2025 and raised to 40,000 USD from February 2024-January 2026 'without Core Committee approval for the said



amount'

"The then Secretary-General and AIFF legal consultant negotiated and finalised and the then Secretary-General signed the contract with Stimac. The executed contract provides for a salary raise to US\$ 30,000 per month from February 2024 to January 2025 (as approved by the Core Committee) and US\$40,000 per month from February 2024 to January 2026 (without Core Committee approval for the said amount). The specific instructions regarding inserting termination clauses favourable to AIFF were also not followed before executing the contract. However,

certain clauses for termination for cause were retained in the contract," added the statement.

The AIFF stated that Stimac was trying to get out of his coaching stint and was not entirely focused on the important FIFA WC Qualifier against Kuwait that took place on June 6 which was also Sunil Chhetri's final game with the squad. "It appears that Stimac was more concerned about finding specious reasons to end his coaching stint in a manner favourable to himself rather than focusing on the team's preparations for perhaps the most important match in the Indian national team's recent history," further added the statement. Another point of speculation was Stimac's announcement in which he talked about how a meeting with the AIFF ultimately led to him having to have heart surgery in December 2023, a fact that the AIFF has now announced that they did not know about which they believe was an attempt to 'deflect the serious matter of Stimac not having been medically fit to render coaching services.' The AIFF is also shocked to note from Stimac's public statements that he underwent heart surgery during his engagement with the AIFF. He has irresponsibly blamed the AIFF for causing his heart ailment, attempting to deflect the serious matter of his not having been medically fit to render coaching services and his failure to formally disclose the same to the AIFF," concluded the statement.

WASIM AKRAM 'HOPES' INDIAN TEAM WILL TRAVEL TO PAKISTAN FOR 2025 CHAMPIONS TROPHY

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The 2025 Champions Trophy is set to be held in Pakistan from February 19 to March 9 and seven countries will be participating in it. The seven countries include India, Australia, England, South Africa, Bangladesh, New Zealand and Afghanistan.

Amidst controversy regarding India's participation in the tournament, former Pakistan fast bowler Wasim Akram spoke to IANS about the importance of hosting a tournament of this magnitude for the 'betterment of cricket' in the country.

"I hope that India comes to Pakistan for the Champions Trophy. The whole country is looking forward to receiving all the teams. The cricket will be great and we will welcome them in splendid fashion. We have great facilities and are working on new stadiums. The chairman has started work on the new stadiums in Lahore, Karachi, and Islamabad so I believe it will be a great tournament and Pakistan needs that tournament for the betterment of cricket and I hope all countries do come because cricket and politics should always be separate," Akram told IANS.

India has not travelled to Pakistan for a bilateral series since 2006. The two sporting rivals have only squared against each other in ICC tournaments since 2013 due to tense relationships between the two countries. As per reports, team India is still reluctant to travel to their neighbouring country which could see the tournament being



Cricket in 2028 Olympics will be a unique experience for players: Pietersen

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Former England skipper Kevin Pietersen believes that playing in the Olympic Games would be the "most unbelievable experience" for a cricketer. Reflecting on his own illustrious career, which includes winning a T20 World Cup and memorable victories against cricketing giants like India and Australia, the 43-year-old emphasised the unique prestige and excitement for the quadrennial extravaganza.

Cricket has been added to the Olympics for the 2028 Games. As per ICC, the Games is estimated to have an audience of more than 3 billion viewers across TV and digital platforms. The global sport will be part of the Olympic Games programme for the first time since 1900.

"I never played an Olympic game. I was lucky enough to win a T20 World Cup, and playing in the World Cups, and beat India here, and beat Australia in Australia. But when you look at the opportunity for these guys to play in the Olympic games, that's pretty cool. Golf came in Olympics a couple of games ago, Justin Rose won the first one, he's a buddy of mine. He said it's the most unbelievable experience to play in the Olympic games," Pietersen said in Podcast series '180 Not Out'.

"It's something that you don't do! For cricket, it is winding back the clock and going into the Olympic games. That's quite something. Just a unique experience! I think it's more of an experience because it comes around every four years. It's not like an IPL which comes around every April-May. It's not like a SA'20, The Hundred, or one of these competitions. It's something that happens every four years. You go for the gold, but you take an experience," he added.

Former South Africa opener Hashim Amla, who also appeared on the podcast, noted the tough decision players face between franchise leagues and international cricket amid the sport's rising popularity.

"It's really tugging at (players)... national team seems to be tugging the shirt at one side and franchise cricket at the other end. It's put players in a type of dilemma of which way to go and how do they want their career to be. It's a very tough deci-

sion to make. I think, you'll have to make sure that the Olympic sports is in a gap so it doesn't clash with any other league if you were to have a pure Olympic. How they do it I don't know, but I hope they do," said Amla.

Former Indian pacer S Sreesanth, who was in the 2011 World Cup winning team, said if India wins a gold medal in Los Angeles Olympics, that would be "icing on the cake".

"I will pick Olympics because whenever we won the world cup... and I'm from Kerala, a land of Olympians... whenever in track and field, they go, 'Olympians' is written in front of their house. For me it's like an Oscar, but Oscars happen every year and Olympics happen once in four years, just like the World Cup. It will be the epitome if India wins the Olympic gold medal. That would be icing on the cake," said Sreesanth.



Khelo India women's kho-kho season set to start on June 25



Team Absolute | New Delhi

The 2024-25 Khelo India women's kho-kho season starts with the zonals in northern India. Punjab will host the age-group events and those will be followed by the senior national phase 1 league in Uttar Pradesh. The North Zonal championship, in Amritsar from June 25 to 27 at the Sri Guru Harkrishan Senior Secondary Public School in Sur Singh, will see teams from eight states and UTs compete in the sub-junior and junior categories.

The top four age-group teams in each age group of the North Zone event will vie for a share of the Rs 2.40 lakh prize money pool. Punjab girls are the defending champions in both the junior and sub-junior categories.

The senior national phase 1

championship, which will have a prize pool of Rs 6 lakh, will be held at the Meerut Institute of Technology from June 28 to 30. Fifteen players each from 12 State and Union Territories will compete. Delhi are the defending champions.

The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports is supporting the Kho-Kho Federation of India to run the competition across the country. The total prize money for the entire season is Rs 42 lakh.

The success of the Khelo India Women's Kho-Kho League over the past three seasons can be gauged from the fact that India were the emphatic winner of the 2023 Asian Kho-Kho Championships in Assam. Indian women defeated Nepal by a staggering 33 points and an entire innings.



KHUSHI KAPOOR DOESN'T REGARD HERSELF TO BE THE 'RAGE'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

It was just last year, in 2023 when Khushi Kapoor stepped into the world of Hindi cinema and instantly became a sensation on social media. However, the actress doesn't see herself as a "rage" and is thankful for the "criticism" coming her way.

Asked how it feels to become a rage with just one project, Khushi told: "I wouldn't call myself a rage, but I'm really blessed and grateful for the love I'm getting."

Khushi played Betty Cooper in 'The Archies' directed by Zoya Akhtar. It also stars Agastya Nanda, Suhana Khan, and Vedang Raina, among others.

The actress, who is the daughter of the late veteran star Sridevi and producer Boney Kapoor, also expressed gratitude for the criticism as well.

"And I'm thankful for the criticism too. I'm really just taking the time to learn, grow, and focus on myself and my work."

The younger sister of actress Janhvi Kapoor is more than happy to be in the Hindi film industry.

"It's nice to finally be out there in the industry, and I'm happy to be starting to find my way," she said.



SONAKSHI-ZAHEER

Delighted guests with their dance performances

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Newlyweds Sonakshi Sinha and Zaheer Iqbal, who tied the knot on Sunday night in an intimate ceremony, delighted guests with their dance performances at their star-studded reception. The couple danced to popular songs such as 'Tere Mast Mast Do Nain', 'Chikni Kamar', 'Chaiyya Chaiyya', and 'Afreen'. The reception was held at Bastian, a restaurant on Linking Road, Mumbai, known for its Asian-inspired modernist cuisine.

Sonakshi looked stunning in a custom red 'chand boota' brocade sari by Raw Mango, while Zaheer, dressed in all white, radiated happiness. A video from the event shows the couple dancing enthusiastically to 'Afreen', 'Chaiyya Chaiyya', and

'Chikni Kamar'. During the cake-cutting ceremony, Sonakshi wore a bright red Anarkali kurta, complete with sindoor and bangles. They also grooved to Sonakshi's debut film song, 'Tere Mast Mast Do Nain' from the film 'Dabangg', which starred Salman Khan alongside her. Singer and rapper Yo Yo Honey Singh, sporting an electric-blue jacket, received joyful exclamations and requests for a performance. He delighted the crowd by performing his track 'Angrezi Beat'.

The reception was attended by numerous celebrities, including Saira Banu, Rekha, Salman Khan, Aditi Rao Hydari, Sonakshi's 'Heeramandi' co-star and fiancé, and South Indian star Siddharth.

Other 'Heeramandi' actresses at the event included Richa Chadha (with Ali Fazal) and Sanjeeda

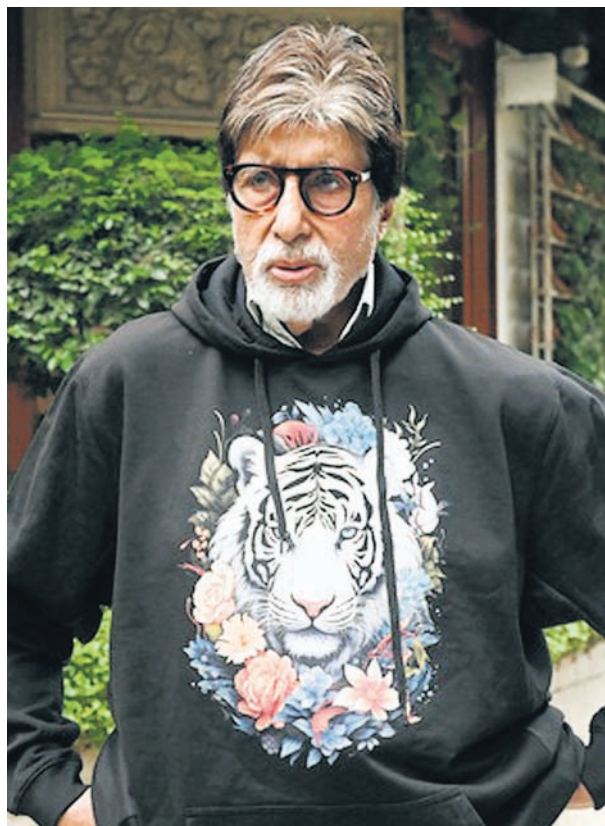
Shaikh. Early arrivals included Salman's brother-in-law, Aayush Sharma, who played Cupid for the newlyweds.

Additional guests included Vidya Balan and her husband Siddharth Roy Kapur, Huma Qureshi and her brother Saqib Saleem, Tabu, Anil Kapoor, Chunky Panday, Raveena Tandon, and Kajol.

Sonakshi and Zaheer, the man she lovingly describes as her 'personal psycho', had been dating for the past seven years.

Zaheer made his debut in a Salman Khan-produced film, 'Notebook', where he was cast opposite another newbie, Pranav Bahl, daughter of actor Mohnish Bahl and granddaughter of Nutan.

It is said that Salman introduced Sonakshi to Zaheer on the sets of 'Notebook' in 2017.



Big B is working on mobile platform to connect with fans

Mumbai: Megastar Amitabh Bachchan said that he is constructing a mobile platform to allow fans and well-wishers from various locations to connect with him.

The cine icon took to his daily blog and shared the details. "Sunday specials were on and consumed with glee... and effort to be able to construct a platform, a mobile platform, so that the fans and well-wishers from across the location get an opportunity to see... to put wheels on it to move closer and roundabout to the well-wishers."

The thespian, who meets his fans outside the gates of his Mumbai home every Sunday, shared that his initial attempt didn't work.

"Tried, but it did not work... more effort to be put in, by the manufacturing department...!"

Big B, an avid user of social media, regularly shares updates about his work and personal life with his fans.

The actor earlier shared on his blog that he shies away from promotional work. "My presence for promotional work is one that I shy away from... but for the sake of the most humble Production team... and more particularly, a team that is run by daughters of the Head... it is a justification beyond personal choices... And..."

AKSHAY KUMAR JOINS MUMBAI'S TREE PLANTATION DRIVE

Mumbai: Actor Akshay Kumar paid tribute to his late parents, Hari Om Bhatia and Aruna Bhatia, by participating in a tree plantation drive in Mumbai. Akshay said in a statement: "Planting trees is a way to give back to our planet, and doing it in honour of my parents makes it even more special." The actor emphasised that this act serves as a tribute to their love and care.

"It's a tribute to their love and care and a promise to nurture and protect the environment for future generations," he said.

Akshay led the tree plantation drive along the Western Expressway in Kherwadi, Bandra, on Monday morning.

The actor planted 200 Bahawa trees alongside Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) Commissioner and Administrator Bhushan Gagrani. According to a statement, the initiative, undertaken in collaboration with the BMC, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Tree Authority, and the Make Earth Green Again (MEGA) Foundation, marked a pivotal step in restoring Mumbai's precious green cover, significantly impacted by Cyclone Taukte.

The 'Accept the Pit of Trees and Become Parents of Nature' campaign has garnered support from prominent icons such as Anil Kapoor, Shatrughan Sinha, Abhishek Bachchan, Anupam Kher, Bappi Lahiri, Ajay Devgan, Sonu Nigam, Sangram Singh, Ranvir Shorey, Rohit Shetty, Hema Malini, Sonakshi Sinha, and Ayesha Jhulka.



Surreal to be back to the city that housed 96 kgs of me : Sara

Mumbai: Actress Sara Ali Khan finds it surreal to be back in the Big Apple, the city she refers to as the place that housed "96 kilos" of her.

Sara took to her Instagram stories and shared some pictures from New York. Flaunting her svelte figure in athleisure, the actress can be seen sipping coffee in a white crop top paired with fiery red shorts and sneakers. "Surreal to be back to the city that housed 96 kgs of me," Sara wrote as the caption.

The actress was reminiscing about her student days at New York's Columbia University, where she ended up gaining a lot of weight.

The actress, the daughter of Bollywood stars Saif Ali Khan and Amrita Singh, has never shied away from talking about her struggles with Polycystic Ovarian Disease (PCOD) and obesity.

Sara openly talked about it on the sixth season of 'Koffee With Karan'. However, before entering the industry with the 2018 film 'Kedarnath' starring the late actor Sushant Singh Rajput, Sara got into regular workouts such as cardio, pilates, and yoga followed by a simple diet to shed the extra weight.

The 28-year-old granddaughter of the late legendary cricketer Mansoor Ali Khan Pataudi and actress Sharmila Tagore then starred in 'Simmba' alongside Ranveer Singh. Sara, who was named in Forbes India's Celebrity 100 list of 2019, was subsequently seen in films such as 'Love Aaj Kal', 'Coolie No. 1', 'Atrangi Re', 'Gaslight', 'Zara Hatke Zara Bachke', 'Murder Mubarak', and 'Ae Watan Mere Watan'.



Three superstar Divas of yore relive their part in Kashmir

Srinagar | Agencies

Three Bollywood legendary Divas of yore, Asha Parekh, Waheeda Rehman and Helen are presently holidaying in Kashmir to relive their glorious past.

Every wave of the famous Dal Lake on which the three took a 'Shikara' ride together in a single boat on Sunday, reminded them of the glorious past and the mesmerising, never-ending attachment they have with Kashmir.

For Asha Parekh, this Lake in addition to the hill stations of Gulmarg, Pahalgam and Sonamarg come with a resounding reminder of 'Light, Camera and action'.

Her most superhit movies including the first in the long list of her great successes 'Dil Deke Dekho' was shot in Kashmir in 1959.

In fact her widely believed romantic relationship with the director of 'Dil Deke Dekho', Nasir Hussain owed itself to their long association with Kashmir.

This movie was followed by her second superior movie, 'Phir Wohi Dil Laya Hoon' again shot in Kashmir in 1963 and directed by Nasir Hussain.

This was followed by another Asha Parekh superhit movie shot in Kashmir in 1965, 'Mere Sanam' and 'Caravan' in 1971. 'Caravan'



was again directed by Nasir Hussain.

The slender long poplar trees lining the two sides of the road where the famous song of 'Mere Sanam' movie 'Pukarta Chala Hoon Main', was filmed, today form the 'green tunnel' arching the road patch on the two sides as these poplar trees have grown tall and mighty over the years.

Thus, for Asha Parakh this visit has been 'a pilgrimage into her past' as she told people she met at 'The Lalit Grand Palace' where the trio is staying in Srinagar city.

Yash Chopra's 'Kabhi Kabhi' shot in the Valley in 1976 became a landmark love story and Waheeda Rehman stayed in the

same 5-star hotel in 1976 where she is staying these days in Srinagar.

For Helen, who featured as a supporting actress in more than 1000 movies, 'Jungle' 1961, 'Dus Lakh' 1966, 'Caravan' 1971 and another dozen such movies featuring Helen were shot in the picturesque locales of the Valley.

By having breakfast on the sprawling lawns of 'The Lalita Grand Palace' hotel that overlooks the Dal Lake in Srinagar, the three great artists of Indian cinema are reliving their past.

The days that went by took away the years of glory and fame like the wind sweeping the sands of a desert.

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Kriti Kharbanda