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GOVERNMENT VS OPPOSITION ON SPEAKER, FIRST CONTEST IN DECADES

The election - scheduled for 11 am today will see the BJP's Om Birla, a three-time MP from Kota in Rajasthan, up against the Congress' Kodikunnil Suresh, an eight-term parliamentarian from Kerala's Mavelikara. Suresh is the longest-serving parliamentarian in the 18th Lok Sabha.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The BJP's ruling coalition and the Congress' INDIA opposition bloc will go head-to-head Wednesday in a battle for the Lok Sabha Speaker's post - arguably one of the most important in a parliamentary democracy and to be held for the first time in decades - after the two failed to agree a division of seats.

The Speaker and his/her deputy - the post fuelling disagreements between the two political giants - are usually elected by consensus, lack of which in this instance underlines the fractious BJP-Congress ties.

Birla is likely to win given the BJP-led alliance's majority; the Lok Sabha Speaker is elected by a simple majority of MPs voting and the ruling coalition can call on 293 votes to the INDIA bloc's 232.

After filing his papers Suresh told the press, "This is the party's decision... not mine. There is a convention... that Deputy Speaker will be from the opposition. But they (the BJP) are not ready to do this. We were waiting till 11.50 am... but there was no response. So we filed the nomination."

Union Minister Piyush Goyal, however, countered that claim, saying there is no precedent to suggest the Deputy Speaker's post must go to a member of an opposition party.



BJP TRIED FOR CONSENSUS

New Delhi: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju met INDIA bloc leaders, including the Congress' Mallikarjun Kharge, and were told consensus relied on the opposition getting the Deputy Speaker's post. The deputy's chair is traditionally reserved for an opposition MP to ensure a balanced House.

The post was not filled in the second Modi government (2019-2024), but in the first (2014-2019), it was awarded to an ally of the ruling BJP - the AIADMK's M Thambidurai held the position.

The meeting did not go as the BJP may have hoped. The opposition said it stood ready to support Birla's candidature but only providing it was given the deputy's post. As per sources the BJP was not forthcoming on this demand; the party reportedly wanted immediate consensus for Birla and said a decision on his deputy would be taken later. The opposition, however, refused to play ball.

TMC NOT HAPPY

New Delhi: Sources said the Trinamool - on paper a part of INDIA - was not consulted in the "unilateral" nomination of Suresh and that the party would decide how to react to this evening.

"We were not contacted about this... there was no discussion. Unfortunately, this is a unilateral decision," party MP Abhishek Banerjee said. Banerjee was later seen with Congress MP Rahul Gandhi inside Parliament; the two were engaged in a private discussion.

RAHUL GANDHI TO BE THE LEADER OF OPPOSITION IN LOK SABHA

New Delhi: The Congress on Tuesday evening announced that senior party leader Rahul Gandhi will be the Leader of the Opposition in the 18th Lok Sabha.

"Congress MP Rahul Gandhi has been appointed as the LoP in the Lok Sabha," said party General Secretary (Organisation), K.C. Venugopal.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the floor leaders of the INDIA bloc, sources said. In a post on X, Venugopal said, "CPP Chairperson Sonia Gandhi ji has written to the Pro-Tem Speaker informing him that Rahul Gandhi ji is appointed as the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha. We are confident that as LOP, Rahul ji will be a bold voice for the common people of India and ensure that the NDA government is held firmly accountable at all times."

On June 8, the Congress Working Committee (CWC) passed a unanimous resolution to appoint Rahul Gandhi as the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha. "The CWC has unanimously requested Rahul Gandhi to take the position of Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha. He is the best person to lead this campaign inside the Parliament," Venugopal had said after the meeting, adding that the former party chief would take a decision very soon.



INDIAN RAILWAYS TO DEPLOY KAVACH SYSTEM ON 44,000 KMS OF TRACKS IN NEXT 5 YEARS

New Delhi: Indian Railways aims to deploy the Kavach system on 44,000 kms of tracks to avoid train accidents in the future, according to a media report. Indian Railway plans to implement this advanced safety system structurally in the next five years, a latest communication by the Railway Ministry to the Cabinet Secretary said.

Kavach is an automatic security system that prevents train accidents.

The Indian Railways is currently working on installing the Kavach system on the Delhi-Mumbai and Delhi-Howrah routes.

The tender for an additional 6,000 km of tracks is expected to be issued by the end of this year. Kavach, is an Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system, has been designed by the Research Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO) in collaboration with three companies to enhance the safety of Indian Railways. It uses radio frequency identification tags placed on tracks and railway yards, to monitor track position and train direction. In an emergency, such as brake failure or the driver ignoring a signal, it gets activated automatically and helps avert an accident by stopping the locomotive.

'Trial court didn't apply its mind': Delhi HC stays CM Kejriwal's bail

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Delhi High Court on Tuesday, in its final verdict on the Enforcement Directorate's plea, stayed a trial court order granting bail to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal.

Justice Sudhir Jain said that the documents and arguments were not appreciated by the trial court.

On June 20, a Delhi court granted bail to the Chief Minister in connection with a money laundering case related to the now-scrapped excise policy.

Following this, the ED moved the high court which stayed the order till its pronouncement of the final order.

Now, Justice Jain in his final order said that the trial court vacation bench did not apply its mind to the material and it ought to give equal opportunity to the ED to argue bail application.

He said that other arguments will be considered by the roster bench.

The ED had sought a 48-hour deferral in signing the bail bond following the pronouncement of the order. However,



the trial court firmly denied the ED's plea for a stay.

ED's plea was urgently mentioned before a vacation bench comprising Justices Sudhir Kumar Jain and Ravinder Dudeja by Additional Solicitor General, SV. Raju, on behalf of the ED.

"I am moving for an urgent stay. The

order was pronounced yesterday at 8 p.m. The order is not uploaded. We were not given a clear opportunity to oppose bail," he had argued.

ASG Raju had further said that his prayer for a stay on the bail order wasn't even considered. "I am demanding that the order be stayed and the matter be heard as soon as possible. We were denied the full opportunity to argue the case. I am making allegations with full seriousness," he stated.

Senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, representing CM Kejriwal, had opposed the stay request, citing legal precedents. "There are 10 Supreme Court judgments that cancellation of bail is radically different from grant of bail," he had contended.

After hearing arguments from both sides, the high court directed that the bail order should not be enforced until the matter is heard in full. "The bail order will not be given effect. We have not passed the final order. You may argue as much as you can," the bench had stated, effectively halting CM Kejriwal's release.

WORLD'S OLDEST, 41,000 YEARS OLD OSTRICH NEST, FOUND IN ANDHRA PRADESH

New Delhi: Researchers have found the world's oldest Ostrich nest, dating back to 41,000 years, in Andhra Pradesh. The nest was discovered while archaeologists from a Vadodara University and experts from Germany, Australia and the US were investigating a fossil-rich site in Andhra Pradesh's Prakasam. The nest, a massive structure containing 911 ostrich eggs, offers unparalleled insights into the behavior and habitat of these ancient megafaunal birds, the researchers said.

Typically measuring between 9 to 10 feet in width, such nests were capable of holding anywhere from 30 to 40 eggs at a time. "This finding represents a crucial moment in comprehending the extinction of megafaunal species in India," said Devara Anil Kumar, Assistant Professor at MSU's Department of Archaeology and Ancient History in Vadodara.

Stairs of Mumbai's Banganga Tank linked to Lord Ram damaged during desilting works; probe ordered

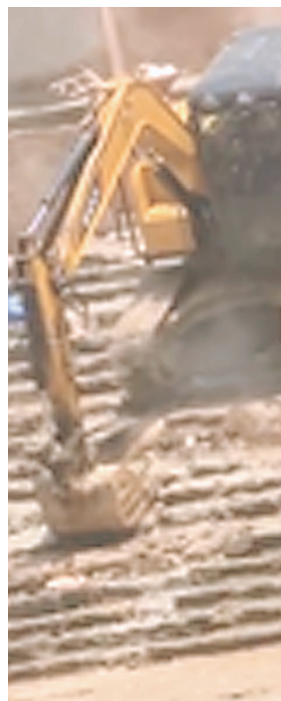
Team Absolute | Mumbai

Several stone steps around the historic Banganga Tank at Malabar Hill were damaged while undertaking desilting works for the monsoon season, sparking outrage, here on Tuesday.

The Banganga Tank, estimated to be over eight centuries old, finds mention in the ancient texts of Ramayana and Skanda Purana. It has rich religious and cultural significance associated with Lord Ram.

Following an uproar, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has initiated repairs to the old site.

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader and ex-minister Aditya Thackeray, meanwhile, slammed the BMC's contractor for the 'lapses', as he sought his immediate arrest. Ruling Shiv Sena MP



Milind M. Deora also

expressed his concerns and said that the civic body has been plundered like an ATM for almost three decades and the BMC's misgovernance will not be tolerated.

The civic body has also been asked to set up a committee, investigate the entire incident, and submit its report in five days, the minister said.

According to legend, during his 14-year exile, when Lord Rama was in the region to search for his kidnapped wife Sita, he asked his brother to fetch some water.

Lord Lakshman immediately shot an arrow into the ground, and a tributary of the holy River Ganga - over 1,600 km away from here - sprang out. Hence, the place derived its name from 'Baan' (arrow) and 'Ganga' (River) - as Banganga.

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ATISHI'S HEALTH DETERIORATES DURING HUNGER STRIKE, ADMITTED TO LNJP HOSPITAL

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Amid the ongoing water crisis in the national capital, Delhi Water Minister Atishi, who is on an indefinite hunger strike, was admitted to Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Hospital early this morning due to her health condition deteriorated.

According to the doctors, Atishi's blood sugar levels dropped dangerously low, reaching 43 at midnight and further plummeting to 36 by 3 a.m. Medical professionals immediately recommended hospitalisation. There was also a significant drop in her blood pressure and weight, marking her condition as increasingly perilous. Additionally, rising urine ketone levels indicated a severe threat to her health.

The Aam Aadmi Party leader is on an indefinite hunger strike demanding Haryana release Delhi's share of water. On the fourth day of her fast on Monday, doctors from LNJP checked her health. Observing her deteriorating condition, they recommended hospital admission.



Atishi decided not to break her fast. "Ensuring water for the people of Delhi is more important than my life. My fast will continue until the people of Delhi receive their rightful

share of water," she said.

The Aam Aadmi Party leader initiated her hunger strike to demand Haryana release Delhi's "rightful

share of water." Since June 21, the Delhi Water Minister has been fasting to ensure water from Haryana for 2.8 million Delhi residents.

Patna Civil Court asks NEET paper leak accused to seek bail from CBI Court

Patna | Agencies

Even as the CBI began its probe into the NEET question paper leak case on Monday, 13 arrested accused filed for bail and the main accused Sanjeev Mukhiya, who is absconding, filed for an anticipatory bail in Patna's civil court on Tuesday.

The court however told them to file their bail pleas in the Special CBI Court as the case is now with the central agency.

Uday Shankar Singh, the Public Prosecutor and lawyer of the main accused Sanjeev Mukhiya filed for anticipatory bail in the court of Additional District Judge (ADJ)-5 Rajendra Kumar Sinha.

"The hearing for the bail of 13 accused and the anticipatory bail plea of the main accused Sanjeev Mukhiya will be held in the Special CBI Court on July 15. We will submit the case transfer order letter in the CBI Court today," Singh said on Tuesday. The NEET exami-



nation was held on May 5 and Patna Police exposed this case on the same day.

It arrested 13 accused including six people linked to the education mafia, four candidates and three parents.

An FIR (Number 358/24) in this regard was also registered at the Shastri Nagar Police Station in Patna.

The case was later transferred to the Economic Offences Unit (EOU) of Bihar on May 15 and the EOU had arrested six more accused from Deoghar in Jharkhand on Sunday. After the recommendation of the Union Education Minister, the case was transferred to the CBI on Sunday.

Passenger booked to travel on Air India's UK flight from Kochi taken into custody for bomb threat

Kochi | Agencies

In a bizarre incident, the Cochin International Airport police on Tuesday took into custody a man who was booked to travel on an Air India flight from Kochi to London, after he was identified as the sender of a bomb threat to the airline.

Now, the 29-year-old Malappuram resident Suhaib is in the custody of the police and is being interrogated.

Police became alert as Suhaib, due to catch the London flight on Tuesday, was behaving suspiciously at the airport.

The cops questioned him and later it was discovered that it was he who had sent a threatening mail to the airline on Monday night from his official email.

He arrived at the Cochin International Airport along with his family and the family members are also being questioned now.



According to airport officials, the threatening email was sent to the Air India call centre at Mumbai late on Monday night.

At the time of the receipt of the threat, the Air India flight had departed from Delhi for Cochin Airport.

When the flight landed at Kochi, it was quickly moved to the isolated parking area of

the airport and after a thorough check, it was found to be a hoax threat.

On questioning Suhaib it was revealed that he was nursing a grudge against the airline as his daughter fell sick after consuming food on an Air India flight a while ago. Later, the flight after all mandatory checks departed for London.

52 Drug Samples, Including That Of Paracetamol, Fail Quality Test

Team Absolute | New Delhi

India's apex drugs regulatory body has found the samples of around 50 drugs, including that of widely-used paracetamol, pantoprazole and some antibiotics for treating bacterial infections, as not of standard quality. Of these sub-standard drugs, 22 are manufactured in Himachal Pradesh, according to the alert issued by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) for the month of May. Besides Himachal Pradesh, the samples were collected from Jaipur, Hyderabad, Waghodia and Vadodara in Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Indore, among other places.

A total of 52 samples have failed the quality test conducted by the CDSCO, according to the drug alert issued on June 20. Sources said state drug regulators have reportedly sent notices to the pharmaceutical companies concerned and the failed



samples would be recalled from the market. The list of the sub-standard drugs contains Clonazepam tablets that are used to treat seizures and anxiety disorders, pain reliever

Diclofenac, anti-hypertension drug Telmisartan, Ambroxol, which is used in the treatment of respiratory diseases, Fluconazole, an antifungal, and some multivitamin and calcium

tablets. The samples of around 120 drugs manufactured in Himachal Pradesh had failed the test parameters last year.

Former football captain Bhaichung Bhutia quits electoral politics

Gangtok | Agencies

Sikkim Democratic Front (SDF) leader and former India football team captain Bhaichung Bhutia on Tuesday announced his decision to quit electoral politics.

Bhutia contested the recent Sikkim Assembly polls from Barfung on the SDF's ticket but lost to Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM) candidate Riksal D. Bhutia.

The SKM swept the polls, winning 31 out of 32 Assembly constituencies in the mountain state, to form the government for the second consecutive term.

"After the 2024 election results, I have had the realisation that electoral politics is simply not for me. I am



therefore quitting all forms of electoral politics with immediate effect. My only regret is that I felt I had great ideas with regard to the development of sports and tourism which given a chance, I would have loved to imple-

ment and thus contribute to the growth of the state in a very honest and sincere way" Bhutia said in a statement. "As Lord Buddha said, 'one's intentions must be good'. I can only say with utmost honesty and

humility that my intention in politics was to do good, for the people of both state and country," he added.

"I wish to thank everyone who supported me through thick and thin. I am also sincerely sorry if I hurt anyone unknowingly or knowingly. As we say in football, please take it in the spirit of the game."

The ex-star Indian footballer also congratulated Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang for his SKM's resounding victory in the elections and hoped that the ruling party would fulfil their promises and the government would work towards the betterment of the state. Bhutia moreover mentioned that he will now devote more time to introspect, work towards other goals, and discover a new purpose.

Udhayanidhi Stalin granted bail by Bengaluru court in Sanatana Dharma remark case

Bengaluru | Agencies

Tamil Nadu Minister for Youth Welfare and Sports Development, Udhayanidhi Stalin, was on Tuesday granted conditional bail with a surety of Rs 1 lakh by the Special Court of Magistrate for trial of cases against present and former MPs/MLAs.

The court had ordered Udhayanidhi Stalin to appear before it based on a complaint lodged by social activist V Paramesha in connection with derogatory remarks on Sanatana Dharma.

Udhayanidhi Stalin had appeared before the court on Tuesday morning.

The court also granted exemption to Udhayanidhi Stalin from appearance in further proceedings in the case.

As the case is also being looked into by the Supreme Court, the Special Court adjourned the matter to August 8.

The complainant claimed that the remarks made by Udhayanidhi Stalin defamed him, his religion and people belonging to Hindu faith.



The court had taken cognisance of offences under IPC Sections 153 (wantonly giving provocation, with intent to cause riot) 298 (uttering words etc with deliberate intent to wound religious feelings) and 500 (defamation). Speaking at a conference in September 2023, Udhayanidhi Stalin said that Sanatana Dharma was against social justice and equality and should be 'eradicated'. The statement stirred a controversy at the national level.

Bharat Jodo Chants, Constitution In Hand, Rahul Gandhi Takes Oath As MP

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Amid chants of Bharat Jodo and a copy of the Indian Constitution in his hand, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi took the oath as a member of the Lok Sabha this afternoon.

Mr Gandhi has been elected from two seats -- Wayanad and Raebareilly. He has vacated the Wayanad seat that will now be contested by his sister and Congress leader, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra.

"I, Rahul Gandhi, having been elected a member of the House of People, do solemnly affirm that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of India as by law established, that I will uphold the sovereignty and integrity of India, and that I will faithfully discharge the duty upon which I am about to enter. Jai Hind, Jai Samvidhan," Gandhi said, taking the oath.

The Constitution booklet has emerged as a familiar sight in this Parliament session after MPs of the INDIA Opposition



bloc held up the booklets in a demonstration yesterday.

Several MPs from the Opposition posted photos on social media where they can be seen holding the Constitution booklet. In an interaction with the media, Gandhi on Monday said that the Opposition will not allow the government to "attack the Constitution". To counter the Congress's Constitution narrative, the BJP launched an all-out attack on the main Opposition party. Led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, top ministers of the NDA government put out social media posts to mark the 50th anniversary of the Emergency imposed by the Indira Gandhi government.

Poornima Group's 13 day program is proving to be helpful in getting remarkable placements

Lalit Sharma | Jaipur

The 'Industry-Institute Interaction (I3) Day' program being run by Poornima Group of Colleges (PGC) is proving to be very beneficial for the placement of students. This is the reason why more than 85 percent of the students of batch 2023-24 of Poornima Group have been placed in many reputed companies and placements for the upcoming batch 2024-25 have also started.

This special program has been designed with the aim of making students industry ready. Under this, campus recruitment and technical trainings are providing to the students by industry experts from the first semester to the sixth semester. In this, students are not only updated with the latest trends of the industry, but are also prepared for GD, aptitude and logical test, resume making etc. Students of batch 2023-24 have been given jobs on a package of Rs 12 lakh by e-commerce company Synpress, while the world's reputed logistics company Maersk has offered jobs on an annual package of Rs 11 lakh. Talking about the core branch, students have been selected on a package of Rs 7 lakh by Kalpataru



Projects International Limited, while students of Poornima Group have been given jobs on a package of Rs 6 lakh by Hitachi Energy. With the preparation of the 13 day program, Infosys has placed many students on an annual package of Rs 9.5.

Dipti Lodha, Director (Placements & Training), Poornima Group said that "our Training & Placement cell has strong networking with industries, academic institutions and corporate and it acts as mentors for all its institutions. Placements so

far have been a testament of the ever-increasing faith that the industry has on Poornima Group and its students. The untiring effort of T & P Office has ensured a lengthy list of companies to recruit students. Packages offered to the students have been inspiring with the highest package offered of INR 33 lacs per annum is outstanding. The Hercules effort of Poornima's Academic & Placement team has proved that our education system converts a student to employable professional."

Ex-BJP leader Suryakanta Patil makes 'ghar-wapasi' to Sharad Pawar's NCP

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Former scribe-turned-politician Suryakanta Jaywantrao Patil on Tuesday returned to the NCP(SP), 11 years after she had quit the undivided NCP to join the BJP in 2014.

An ex-Union minister, Patil, 75, was welcomed to the party fold by NCP(SP) President Sharad Pawar, state Chief Jayant Patil and other senior leaders.

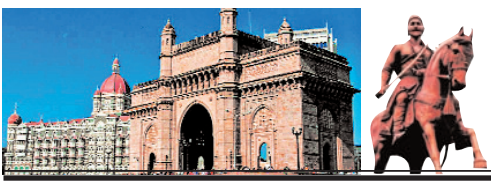
Pawar and Patil extolled her leadership qualities and said that her return would boost the party's prospects in Nanded, Hingoli, Parbhani, Beed and other districts.

On June 22, Patil abruptly quit the BJP ostensibly for being dropped as a Lok Sabha nominee following the party's lacklustre performance in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. Formerly with the Congress, and then the undivided NCP, Patil joined the BJP in 2014 and had sought a party ticket



from Hingoli in 2024 but was denied a nomination as the seat went to the ruling ally Shiv Sena's quota this time.

The Shiv Sena had fielded Baburao K Kohalikar, but he lost by over 1.08 lakh votes to the rival Shiv Sena (UBT) candidate, Nagesh B Patil-Ashtekar. Political sources are optimistic that Patil's entry to NCP(SP) could offset the departure of the former Congress strongman from Nanded, Ashok Chavan to the BJP, plus give an edge to the Maha Vikas Aghadi alliance ahead of the Maharashtra Assembly elections in October.



PUNE PORSCHE CASE

Bombay HC says JJB remand illegal, orders release of minor boy

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Terminating the remand orders passed by the Juvenile Justice Board Pune as 'illegal', the Bombay High Court on Tuesday ordered the release of a 17-year-old minor boy accused in the alleged drunken driving case of his Porsche car which killed two persons on May 19.

The boy has been lodged in a juvenile correctional home in Pune for over a month and soon afterwards, his 'buwa', Pooja Jain had filed the petition in Bombay High Court seeking his release.

Declaring the JJB's remand orders (of May 22, June 5 and June 12) as 'illegal and without jurisdiction', the high court, however, directed that the counselling sessions by a psychologist shall continue even after the boy is set free.



Official sources indicated to reporter that the minor boy is likely to be released 'either today or tomorrow', and depending on the government's stand, a decision would be taken on the high court order. During the hearings, the high court queried how and under what authority the JJB could remand the boy to a juvenile observation home after he had already been released on bail on May 19, (hours after the Porsche accident), and observed that the remand order

and its subsequent extensions had completely nullified the bail effects. Arguing for bail for the minor boy, Jain's lawyer, advocate Abad Ponda, said that once a juvenile has been granted bail he cannot be remanded to an observation home, and emphasised that the bail was operative till date, since the boy had not been re-arrested on any additional charges nor was the bail given to him cancelled by a higher court. Accordingly, the boy remained

under 'illegal detention', and Ponda pointed out that instead of challenging the bail order, the authorities had filed an application mentioning concerns like public outrage and the minor's alleged addiction.

Ponda further contended that the boy could not be sent to the correctional facility while on bail under the Juvenile Justice Act, Section 39(2) and the order of remand without cancelling bail is not allowed even under other stringent laws like TADA or MCOCA. Opposing the plea, Public Prosecutor Hiten Venegaonkar said that the boy was released in the custody of his grandfather and not on his own bail bond, but since the grandfather and even the parents were in custody, the minor had to be sent to the observation home under the supervision of a probation officer.

Submitting that the JJB had just changed the person under whose care the minor was put, Venegaonkar said that the state does not want to cancel the boy's bail but sent him to the juvenile home for his own safety and wellbeing, given various other considerations.

DHFL-Yes Bank case: SC asks Bombay HC to dispose of Pune builder Bhosale's bail plea

Team Absolute | New Delhi/Mumbai

The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked the Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court to assign a bench for the disposal of a bail plea filed by Pune-based builder Avinash Bhosale in a money laundering case linked to the Yes Bank-DHFL fraud case.

A vacation bench, headed by Justice Manoj Misra, took note of the submission that the matter was repeatedly being adjourned before the high court due to paucity of time or non-availability of the counsel representing the other side despite being listed 5-6 times first on the board. "In these circumstances, we dispose of this petition (seeking release on bail on grounds of delay) by requesting the Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court to assign a bench for disposal of the bail application if a request is made by the petitioner through a proper application in that regard," ordered the Bench, also comprising Justice S.V.N. Bhatti. The apex court said



that it was not inclined to pass any direction for "expeditious" disposal of the bail plea and that the petitioner should approach the assigned bench of the Bombay High Court with such a request.

The Bombay High Court, in an order passed on May 17, directed Bhosale to be released on bail in the corruption case registered by the CBI. The Pune-based realtor was arrested by the CBI in May 2022 and subsequently by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with the Yes Bank-DHFL scam. Bhosale, the founder of

the ABIL Group, has been accused of allegedly routing ill-gotten money through his Maharashtra-based real estate companies. In 2018, Bhosale had received around Rs 68.82 crore from DHFL. It was said that it was consultancy charges received by him. The ED probe revealed that Bhosale didn't provide any consultancy service to DHFL and the money received by him was nothing but alleged proceeds of crime. The ED had attached the assets worth Rs 164 crore of Bhosale under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002.

Kangana Ranaut eyes CM's suite in Maharashtra Sadan in Delhi; sparks verbal duel

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood actress and BJP MP, Kangana Ranaut's demand, purportedly seeking the Chief Minister's suite in Maharashtra Sadan in New Delhi, sparked a war of words between the ruling Mahayuti and Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi, here on Tuesday.

Kangana Ranaut, 38, now a Lok Sabha MP elected from her home town Mandi in Himachal Pradesh, reportedly indicated her desire to stay in the CM's lavish suite in Maharashtra Sadan in the national Capital.

On the opening day of Parliament, Kangana Ranaut paid a visit to the Maharashtra Sadan on Monday, viewing almost all rooms, many of which she found too cramped for her comfort.

She apparently liked the CM's well-appointed, spacious suite there. Slamming her for seeking the CM's suite, Shiv Sena (UBT) MP and Chief Spokesperson, Sanjay Raut termed it as preposterous and wondered "why she



can't stay in the Rashtrapati Bhavan instead of eyeing Maharashtra Bhavan."

Seemingly a bit more charitable, the Congress' ex-minister Yashomati Thakur dismissively said that since actress Kangana Ranaut is a newly-elected MP, "she may be ignorant about the protocols in such matters" and hence she could have made the plea.

NCP(SP) National Spokesperson, Clyde Crasto said that barely three years ago when she had a bitter face-off with the then MVA's CM, Uddhav Thackeray, Kangana Ranaut had compared

Mumbai and Maharashtra with Pakistan.

"Now, suddenly she claims that Maharashtra is like her second home... Then why did she not contest LS polls from her 'karmabhoomi' instead of her 'janmabhoomi'?" demanded Crasto.

BJP MLA Nitesh N Rane hit back at the MVA leaders alleging that they should first answer for how many days did disgraced ex-cop Sachin Vaze reportedly stay at the residence of Uddhav Thackeray.

Rane also attacked the SS(UBT) leader for his comments, saying that Kangana Ranaut is an elected MP unlike Raut whom he accused of making "a backdoor entry to Parliament through Rajya Sabha."

In the meantime, officials caught in the middle of the row have pointed out that since Kangana Ranaut is an elected MP from Himachal Pradesh, she should have raised such issues with the Himachal Bhawan authorities instead of Maharashtra Sadan, even as they have diplomatically brushed off her plea.

Pune Police detains boy from Mumbai seen taking drugs in L3 bar's toilet

Team Absolute | Mumbai/Pune

In a major breakthrough, the Pune Police have tracked and picked up from Mumbai one of the two boys allegedly seen savouring drugs in the toilet of the Leisure Leisure Lounge (L3), officials said here on Tuesday.

The two boys, said to be minors, came under the police radar after a viral video showed them ostensibly taking drugs early on Sunday, sitting beside the toilet seat of a washroom in L3 bar, sparking a major political controversy and a public onslaught.

Though police are tightlipped, sources said that the boy will be questioned to ascertain the identity of his friend seen in the video, from where or whom they had



procured the purported narcotics, who had organised the rave party in the L3 premises, the other participants that morning, plus other details. The police are also scanning the L3 CCTV footage which has shown more than four dozen youngsters merrily partying away there after the official closing hours of the establishment in a posh vicinity, early on

Sunday morning, and one rich brat had reportedly blown up around Rs 85,000 on his food & beverages.

So far, the blood samples of at least three youths have been collected for analysis and the police plan to take action against all those present in L3 that morning.

Another eight persons have been arrested and shunted to police custody till

June 29, besides four police personnel have been suspended pending a probe in connection with the case.

Embarrassed by the developments, the ruling Mahayuti Chief Minister Eknath Shinde took serious cognizance and ordered stringent action against all bars-restaurants-pubs flouting the rules, and even to run bulldozers over any such illegal establishments that are detected in Pune.

The Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) leaders like Nana Patole, Ravindra Dhangekar, Jayant Patil, Sanjay Raut, Sushma Andhare besides others have sharply targeted the government for the collapse of law-and-order in the state and demanded the resignation of Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis.

Porsche hit-and-run: Maha CM gives cheques of Rs 10 lakh each to parents of victims

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Tuesday handed over cheques of Rs 10 lakh each as a special consideration to the parents of the two IT engineers who died in the infamous Pune Porsche hit-and-run case.

CM Shinde assured their parents that even if the court has granted bail to the minor accused in this case, action would be taken against the culprits.

Omprakash Koshta, father of Anish Koshta, who died in the accident and Suresh Koshta, father of the other victim Ashwini Koshta, had met CM Shinde at his Varsha residence on Monday.

CM Shinde said that the case would be tried in a fast-track court to give speedy justice to the two young people who lost their lives.

The bereaved parents thanked the Chief



Minister, Government of Maharashtra and state police for taking up the case afresh and taking

action against all the culprits to bring justice to their children.

Those who wanted to "weaken" party would not be taken back: Sharad Pawar

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) Chief Sharad Pawar on Tuesday clarified that those who wanted to "weaken" the party would not be taken back.

Sharad Pawar's clarification came in the wake of the speculations that some of the MLAs of the Ajit Pawar camp are willing to return to the NCP-led by Sharad Pawar.

However, the veteran NCP leader added that those MLAs who would not "hurt" the image of the party would be taken back, but after having a word with the party leaders and workers.

Addressing the media in Mumbai, Sharad Pawar said, "Those who wanted to weaken the party would not be taken in. But those leaders who would help strengthen the organisa-



tion and not hurt the image of the party would be taken in."

"However, that too will happen after having a word with the party (NCP-SP) leaders and workers", he added, as reported by the news agency.

Following the Ajit Pawar camp's poor showing in Maharashtra in the Lok Sabha polls, there is growing speculation that some of the MLAs of the camp are willing to return to the NCP led by Sharad Pawar ahead of the state assembly polls.

The NCP bagged only one of the four seats it contested, whereas the NCP led by Sharad Pawar won eight of the ten seats it contested.

The Mahayuti alliance -- Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Shiv Sena and the NCP -- collectively bagged 17 seats in Maharashtra with BJP securing nine seats and the Shiv Sena seven.

Meanwhile, the leaders of the NCP led by Ajit Pawar, were reportedly upset over being offered the post of Minister of State (MoS) in the Modi 3.0 cabinet.

NCP leader Praful Patel had been offered the post of MoS, however, he turned it down saying that accepting the position of Minister of State with independent charge in the Union Cabinet would be considered a demotion for him, as he was earlier a Cabinet Minister in the Union Government.

NCP (SP) urges EC to delist similar symbols for upcoming polls

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Ahead of the Maharashtra assembly elections, the Sharad Pawar-led Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) has requested the Election Commission of India to withdraw or exclude certain symbols which it claimed are "deceptively similar" to the "man playing turha" symbol officially allotted to it.

The NCP (Sharadchandra Pawar) argued that allocating phonetically similar symbols, such as "Trumpet/Tutari," to Independent candidates has put the party at a significant disadvantage and goes against the principle of creating a level playing field.

According to news agency, it refuted that allocating the "Trumpet" symbol to Independent candidates was appropriate and cited instances in the recently-held Lok Sabha elections 2024 wherein similar symbols confused voters, affecting the party's electoral performance in certain constituencies.

The Election Commission of India (ECI) had assigned the "man playing turha" symbol to the NCP (SP) ahead of the Lok Sabha elections 2024 following a split within the party.

In its plea, the Sharad Pawar-led NCP (SP) requested the Election Commission of India to immediately withdraw or exclude the "Turhi/Trumpet/Tutari" symbol from the list of free symbols for the upcoming Assembly elections in Maharashtra, due in October this year. The party stressed the importance of upholding the fairness and integrity of the electoral process to ensure free and fair elec-



tions. Citing data from nine Lok Sabha constituencies in Maharashtra, the Sharad Pawar-led NCP (SP) emphasised how "deceptive" symbols had led to relatively unknown candidates gaining a significant number of votes.

In the recent Parliamentary polls, the Sharad Pawar-led NCP bagged 8 of the ten seats it had contested as a Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) constituent in Maharashtra, which sends 48 members to Lok Sabha.

The Maha Vikas Aghadi comprises of the Sharad Pawar-led NCP, Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena and the Congress.

The party cited the example of Independent nominee Sanjay Gade who contested from the Satara seat on the Trumpet symbol and garnered 37,062 votes, which led to the defeat of NCP (SP) candidate Shashikant Shinde by a narrow margin of 32,771 votes.

Shinde bagged 5,38,363 votes against the winning candidate Udayanraje Bhosale of BJP who secured 5,71,134 votes.

52 persons booked for obscenity, rules violation after raid at Navi Mumbai bar

Team Absolute | Thane

An official said that police on Tuesday registered an FIR against 52 persons, including 21 women, for alleged violation of rules and obscenity at a Navi Mumbai bar, reported news agency.

The police's anti-human trafficking cell (AHTC) conducted a raid on the restaurant-cum-bar located at the Vashi APMC market on Monday night.

They found a number of persons there indulging in obscene acts and flouting various norms at the Navi Mumbai bar, the official from APMC police station said.

Disproportionate assets case against ex-corporator, 4 kin in Thane

Based on a complaint by the AHTC team member, the police registered an FIR against 52 persons, including 21 women, 11 waiters, the restaurant's manager and nine customers, under Indian Penal Code sections 294 (obscenity) and 34 (common intention) and the Maharashtra Police Act, the official said.



EDITOR'S SPECS

Speaker's election ends up showing 'schism' in INDIA bloc!

A direct contest for the Speaker's post between the candidates of the ruling alliance and the Opposition bloc has not been witnessed in the last 75 years since the time of Independence because the Speaker's chair is a bi-partisan Constitutional post who not only has the responsibility to run the House as per the rules and established norms, but is also the protector of the rights and duties of all members of the House, irrespective of their political affiliations. There has so far been a general unanimity that the beginning of a new term of the Lok Sabha shouldn't be on a sour note, with an open proclamation of distrust against the person nominated by the ruling dispensation as the candidate for the Speaker's post. The Parliament this time may see far more disruptions and noisy scenes in both the Houses than in the past. The BJP, after rounds of consultations with its NDA allies, has decided to go for continuity by reposing faith in Om Birla whom it nominated for the Speaker's post for a second consecutive term. The Congress may have broken the convention by going for a contest, but it's not going to be easy. But the problem for the Congress becomes far bigger. While it was trying to portray a united Opposition or post-election INDI Alliance unity, it ended up exposing the schism in that grouping. Mamata Banerjee's Trinamool Congress raised a red flag over Congress' unilateral decision. The Congress argues that it was compelled to take this decision because the BJP was not giving any assurance to them that the Deputy Speaker's post would be given to the Opposition. Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goel countered this by saying that there was no such convention (of offering the Deputy Speaker's post to the Opposition).

RSS, Emergency, And The Importance Of Civil Society

Rajiv Tuli, Prashant Barthwal

In the annals of Indian democracy, few events cast as long a shadow as the 21 months of Emergency from 1975 to 1977. It was the darkest hour in the history of Indian politics, effected by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in response to political opposition and unrest. Fundamental rights were suspended, press freedom was curtailed, and thousands of dissidents were imprisoned without trial. Yet, one organisation stood out for its ability to resist the government's policies - the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). Despite being banned, it played an important role in opposing the Emergency.

First, a primer on the period. By 1975, Indira Gandhi's government was facing hurdles on multiple fronts. Staring at the prospect of being forced out of office, Gandhi on June 25 made the fateful decision to have President Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed declare a state of emergency under Article 352 of the Constitution. Civil liberties were suspended, press censorship was imposed, and opposition leaders were swiftly arrested in midnight raids. Many from the Sangh leadership, including sarsangchalak Balasahab Deoras, were arrested. This is what Deoras said before his arrest, "In this extraordinary situation, the volunteers are not obligated to lose their balance. Continue the Sangh work as per the orders of Sarkaryavah Madhavrao Mule and build the ability of the public to perform their national duty while doing public relations, public awareness, and public education as necessary".

Prisons were flooded with RSS cadres nationwide. P.G. Sahasrabudhe and Manik Chandra Vajpayee in The People Versus Emergency: A Saga of Struggle, claim that the number of RSS sevaks detained under the Maintenance of Internal Security Act (MISA) was 23,015, which included 77 female activists. "The number of Sangh activists arrested for offering satyagraha during the Emergency was 44,965, while only 9,655 people of other parties offered satyagraha," the authors state.

In a letter to Gandhi, Deoras said, "I listened attentively in jail to the radio broadcast of your address to the nation from the Red Fort on 15th August 1975. On 4th July 1975, the Central government issued a special ordinance to ban the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). From press reports about the



ban, it appears that it has been imposed on the ground that the activities of its swayamsevaks and senior workers are prejudicial to the country's security and public law and order". In the same letter, Deoras said about the RSS, "The ban order does not give a specific reason for the ban. The RSS has never done anything that would endanger the country's internal security and public law and order. The objective of the Sangh is to organise the whole Hindu Society and make it homogeneous and self-respecting. ...it is necessary to make it clear that the Sangh had never indulged in violence. Neither has it ever taught violence. The Sangh does not believe in such things".

A few jailed Sangh leaders such as Nanaji Deshmukh and K.S. Sudarshan also communicated with the outside world through letters. Deshmukh wrote to film artists, urging them to join the movement for restoring democracy. "You have a special position in society. You are a model for the youth...The question is, will you confine yourself to mere entertainment in these difficult times?...The call of the hour is that you replace the despair of today with hope born of thought. I request you to participate in people's struggle."

Given its long experience in operating as a decentralised network of local shakhas, the Sangh could quickly adapt to the Emergency days. Its organisational structure proved to be

remarkably resilient to top-down suppression. A key factor that bolstered the Sangh was its vast network of pracharaks (full-time workers) spread across the country. These individuals became the backbone of underground resistance efforts. On December 12, 1976, The Economist wrote, "The underground campaign against Mrs Gandhi claims to be the world's only non-left wing revolutionary force, disavowing both bloodshed and class struggle. Indeed, it might even be called right-wing since it is dominated by the Hindu communalist party, Jan Sangh, and its 'cultural' (some say paramilitary) affiliate, the RSS. But its current platform has only one non-ideological plank: to bring democracy back to India...the other underground parties, which started as partners in the underground, have effectively abandoned the field to Jan Sangh and RSS."

One of the Sangh's most significant contributions during this period was its efforts towards running the underground press. With mainstream media outlets heavily censored or co-opted by the government, clandestine newsletters and pamphlets became a crucial source of uncensored information. Sangh volunteers were vital in writing, printing, and distributing this material, often at significant personal risk. Various monthly or fortnightly magazines were published

nationwide to portray the plight of the people. Printed on cyclostyle machines and distributed hand-to-hand, they provided a steady stream of news and commentary critical of the Emergency. The RSS cadres naturally took elaborate precautions to avoid detection, frequently changing printing locations and using a network of trusted couriers for distribution.

The Sangh also supported other media. When veteran journalist Ramnath Goenka's Indian Express newspaper faced intense censorship, Sangh volunteers helped distribute unauthorised editions printed in secret. This collaboration between professional journalists and grassroots activists effectively circumvented government control.

But the organisation's resistance was not limited to narrative building. As the Emergency dragged on, the organisation shifted its focus to direct action to challenge government authority. It acted as a link between various opposition groups by facilitating communication between them. When Jayaprakash Narayan called for a 'Total Revolution' against the Emergency, Sangh volunteers proved instrumental in mobilising support for the movement. Using coded language and pre-arranged signals, the pracharaks maintained lines of communication and coordination. The Sangh also benefited from its deep roots in local communities across India. Many other citizens, even those not formally affiliated with the organisation, were willing to support it. All in all, the grassroots support network proved invaluable in evading surveillance.

Undoubtedly, the Sangh's resilience during the Emergency is a testament to the power of civil society organisations in the face of authoritarian regimes. As India grapples with the security-vs-liberty debate and questions about democratic governance, lessons from the Emergency stand relevant. Whether one agrees with the Sangh's ideology or not, its role during this period deserves recognition. The events of 1975-77 are a stark reminder of the fragility of democratic institutions and why civil society is crucial for defending them.

(Rajiv Tuli is an independent author and commentator, and Dr Barthwal is an Assistant Professor at Delhi University. The views expressed are Personal.)

international

Russia hopes South Korea 'calmly' accepts treaty with North Korea

Seoul | Agencies

Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister on Tuesday expressed hope that South Korea would "calmly" accept Moscow's new partnership treaty with North Korea, a news report said, amid condemnation over deepening military cooperation between the two countries.

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Andrey Rudenko said the treaty, signed by the North's leader Kim Jong-un and Russian President Vladimir Putin after their talks in Pyongyang last week, is not directed at either South Korea or third countries, reports Yonhap news agency.

The treaty calls for, among other things, the provision of military and other assistance from one side to the other "with all means" at its disposal and "without delay" if either of the two gets invaded or put in a state of war.

Last week, South Korea said it could consider a possible supply of lethal weapons



to Ukraine in response to Moscow's commitment to military cooperation with North Korea.

South Korea also joined the United States and Japan in issuing a joint statement condemning, "in the strongest possible terms," the expanding military cooperation between Russia and North Korea.

"We hope that Seoul will

accept the new agreement with an understanding, and a sound approach will prevail there, including in relations with Russia," Rudenko was quoted as saying by the Russian news agency Sputnik.

He stressed the deal is a "warning for those countries planning to solve regional problems using military means."

South Korea has maintained a policy of not providing lethal aid to Ukraine. In response to Seoul's possible policy shift, Putin earlier warned it would be a "very big mistake" if South Korea provided arms to Kyiv.

Touching on Kim's potential visit to Russia, Rudenko said the trip could take place when "all the necessary conditions are right."

During last week's summit, Putin expressed his hope of holding the next summit with Kim in Moscow.

"I think as soon as all the necessary conditions for such a visit are right, and a certain base for those documents that must be signed at this level will be developed, this visit will take place," Rudenko said.

Earlier in the day, North Korea's state media carried Putin's thank-you message to the North Korean leader, in which the Russian leader called Kim an "honoured guest" that Russia always waits for.

Netanyahu says Israel 'committed' to Gaza ceasefire proposal



Jerusalem | Agencies

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has announced that Israel is "committed" to the deal proposal outlined by US President Joe Biden for a ceasefire in Gaza in return for the release of hostages.

"We are committed to the Israeli proposal that President Biden endorsed," Netanyahu said on Monday during a special plenum session of the Knesset (parliament) summoned by the opposition, noting "Our position has not changed".

Biden first presented the deal proposal to end the ongoing conflict in late May. Netanyahu's remarks marked the first time the Israeli side has confirmed that Israel has approved and supports the proposal, Xinhua news agency reported.

Netanyahu told the Knesset that Israel will not end the conflict "until we bring back all the hostages, all 120 of them -- both the living and the fallen" and until Hamas is "eliminated" and the residents in southern and northern can safely return to their homes. Israel has been carrying out a massive offensive in the Gaza Strip in retaliation for a Hamas rampage on October 7, 2023, during which about 1,200 people were killed and about 250 were taken hostage.

Biden designates Kenya as a major non-NATO ally of US

Washington | Agencies

US President Joe Biden has designated Kenya as a major non-NATO ally (MNNA) of his country.

"By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including section 517 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended (22 U.S.C. 2321k)..., I hereby designate Kenya as a Major Non-NATO Ally of the United States for the purposes of the Act and the Arms Export Control Act..." stated a memorandum published by the White House on Monday.

The MNNA status is a designation under US law that provides foreign partners with certain benefits in the areas of defence trade and security cooperation.

According to the US Department of State, the MNNA designation is a "powerful symbol of the close relationship the United States shares with those countries and demonstrates our deep respect for the friendship for



the countries to which it is extended".

While the MNNA status provides military and economic privileges, it does not entail any security commitments to the designated country.

Biden had pledged to designate Kenya as a major non-NATO ally during Kenyan President William Ruto's three-day visit to the US last month.

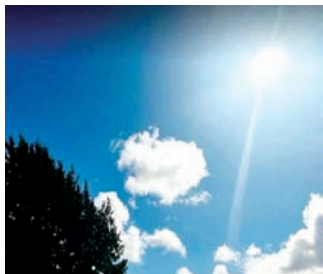
Record-breaking heat wave hits Russia's Siberia

Moscow | Agencies

Russia's western Siberia is experiencing an unprecedented heatwave, with temperatures in several regions shattering records over the past 50 years or so, local weather authorities said on Tuesday.

A number of regions, specifically the Novosibirsk and Kemerovo Oblasts, along with the Altai Territory and the Republic of Altai, have experienced temperatures that surpassed records set in the 1970s and 1980s, said Natalia Kichanova, head of the weather forecasting service of the West Siberian Department for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Monitoring.

Kichanova noted that the heatwave is expected to persist across western Siberia until the end of



June, after which temperatures are predicted to decrease to a range of 17-25 degrees Celsius, accompanied by rainfall, reports Xinhua news agency.

The abnormally high temperatures are attributed to warm air masses moving into the macro-region from Central Asia, while "heat ridges" in the mid-troposphere contributed to the additional warming, she said.

DEATH TOLL FROM SHOOTINGS IN RUSSIA'S DAGESTAN RISES TO 20

Moscow | Agencies

The death toll from Sunday's attacks in southern Russia's Republic of Dagestan has risen to 20, the region's Health Minister has said.

"As a result of the terrorist attack in the cities of Makhachkala and Derbent on June 23, 46 people were injured," Tatyana Belyaeva said on social media on Monday, adding that 20 people had been killed, including law enforcement officers and civilians.

The shootings occurred on Sunday at two orthodox churches, a synagogue and a traffic police post in the coastal



city of Derbent and Dagestan's capital city of Makhachkala, with previous reports indicating that 15 people had been killed and dozens injured, Xinhua news agency reported.

Monday to Wednesday were declared as days of mourning for the victims of the attacks.

Wikileaks founder freed from UK prison after deal with US authorities

London | Agencies

Wikileaks founder Julian Assange has left the UK reportedly after reaching a deal with US authorities that will see him plead guilty to criminal charges.

Assange, who was charged with conspiracy to obtain and disclose national defence information, would spend no time in US custody as per the conditions finalised in a tentative deal with the US Justice Department. "Julian Assange is free. He left Belmarsh maximum security prison (London) on the morning of 24 June, after having spent 1901 days there. He was granted bail by the High



Court in London and was released at Stansted airport during the afternoon, where he boarded a plane and

departed the UK," Wikileaks said in a post on social media platform X. "After more than five years in a 2x3 metre cell,

isolated 23 hours a day, he will soon reunite with his wife Stella Assange, and their children, who have only known their father from behind bars," the post added. "As he returns to Australia, we thank all who stood by us, fought for us, and remained utterly committed in the fight for his freedom," it added.

Reacting to the development, his wife Stella Assange said, "Throughout the years of Julian's imprisonment and persecution, an incredible movement has been formed. People from all walks of life from around the world who support not just Julian... but what Julian stands for: truth and justice."



Sonia Gandhi was present in PM House when decision to impose Emergency was taken: BJP

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Former Madhya Pradesh Home Minister Narottam Mishra on Tuesday slammed the Congress and INDIA bloc for holding copies of the Constitution inside the Parliament premises, saying that Sonia Gandhi was present in PM House when the decision to impose the Emergency was taken by the Late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in 1975.

"The day Indira Gandhi took the decision to impose the Emergency, Sonia Gandhi was present in the PM House. Today, she along with his son (Rahul Gandhi) is holding the



Constitution copy. This is the real face of the Congress," Narottam said while addressing a programme organised

by MP BJP to honour people who were imprisoned under Maintenance of Internal Security Act (MISA) during

the Emergency. He said that the Constitution was amended over 100 times during the

Congress government in the past 70 years and now they are misleading people with fake claims.

"The INDIA bloc leaders claim to protect the Constitution but the truth is that they are protecting the political future of their children," he said.

He said that the BJP has decided to organise programmes to tell the truth of Emergency to those who haven't seen that Black Day.

On Monday, in a show of strength, the opposition INDIA bloc members waved copies of the Constitution in Parliament as Prime Minister Narendra took oath as a member of the 18th Lok Sabha.

Ministers in MP will bear own Income Tax expenses now: CM Mohan Yadav

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Madhya Pradesh Cabinet led by Chief Minister Mohan Yadav on Tuesday decided that all ministers would bear their own Income Tax expenses.

Notably, the rule established in 1972 had the state government paying the Income Tax of Cabinet ministers till now.

CM Yadav put this proposal before the Cabinet, which was unanimously supported by all the ministers during the meeting on Tuesday.

"All the ministers would bear their income Tax expenses. The state government will not bear this expense anymore," CM



Mohan Yadav said after chairing the Cabinet meeting.

As per information, in the last finance year, the MP government paid more than Rs 3 crore as Income Tax

expenses on behalf of the Cabinet ministers.

This process has already been stopped in several states including Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Rajasthan etc.

Dr. Ketan of AIIMS Bhopal winner at UroOncocon 2024 in Budapest

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Under the guidance of Prof. Dr. Ajai Singh, Executive Director, AIIMS Bhopal, Dr. Ketan Mehra, eminent urologist of the institute participated in the STEPS (Sessions to Evaluate Progress in the management of urological cancers) event organized by the European Association of Urology (EAU) during the annual UroOncocon 2024 held in Budapest, Hungary.

The EAU selected 24 urologists from across the world for this prestigious event. These urologists were divided into four teams, each consisting of six participants, and were assigned different parts to discuss in a round table format with two evaluators. Institute's representative Dr Ketan was part of a team of urologists from Ireland, France, Poland,



Netherlands and India. The team focused on penile and testicular cancer. The discussion was evaluated by two renowned experts in the field of penile and testicular cancer:

1. Dr. Ernie Parnham from Manchester, UK
2. Dr. Christian Fankhauser Lucerne, Switzerland

Both evaluators are esteemed members of the European Association of Urologists Guideline Panel. After two hours of intense discussion, a winner was selected. AIIMS Bhopal is proud to announce that Dr

Ketan was selected as the winner of this session. As a result of this recognition, he has been invited to participate as a faculty member and evaluator at UroOncocon 2025 at STEPS event.

This opportunity and achievement is a testimony to the exceptional guidance and support provided by Professor Dr. Ajai Singh, Executive Director, AIIMS Bhopal. The institute looks forward to contributing more to the field of urological oncology and sharing its experience and insights in future conferences.

Approval to make buildings and equipment of new soil testing laboratories available to young entrepreneurs

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav chaired the meeting of the Council of Ministers held in Mantralaya today. To provide soil testing facilities to the farmers at the development block level, the Council of Ministers has approved making buildings of new soil testing laboratories and available laboratory equipment available to young entrepreneurs/institutions by the Department of Farmer Welfare and Agriculture Development. Through this, soil health cards will be made available to farmers by testing their soil samples through young entrepreneurs/institutions.

Amendment in Madhya Pradesh Local Authorities (Election Offences) Act 1964 (Updated 2014)

The Council of Ministers has decided to amend the Madhya Pradesh Local Authorities (Election Offences) Act 1964



(updated 2014). Due to the non-inclusion of 'print media' in clause (b) of Section 126 of the Representation of the People Act 1951 of the Election Commission of India, Madhya Pradesh has decided to make the Representation of the People Act 1951 as per the recommendation of the State Election Commission by amending clause (b) of Section 3(1) of the Madhya Pradesh Local Authorities (Election Offences) Act 1964, by approving the deletion of the word 'print media' from the existing provision.

The Council of Ministers decided to amend the policy of

tree plantation using the CSR/CIR funds through Joint/Community Forest Management Committees published in the Gazette dated 10 December 2021.

The Council of Ministers has decided to give scholarships to the bona fide students of Madhya Pradesh studying in Sainik Schools of other states. It may be noted that Sainik School is a specialized education-oriented establishment. The provision of scholarships for the bona fide students of the state will increase the enthusiasm among the youth of the state for admission to Sainik Schools being run in other states.

The Council of Ministers decided to amend the Madhya Pradesh Work (Allocation) Rules to hand over the work related to railway projects from the 'Transport Department' to 'Public Works Department'. The work of coordination with the Railway Department for the proposal of new railway lines and their construction and construction works will now be done by the Public Works Department.

Madhya Pradesh Municipality (Amendment) Bill 2024

As per the proposal of the Madhya Pradesh State Election Commission, the Council of Ministers approved the Madhya Pradesh Municipality (Amendment) Bill 2024 concerning amendments in sections 20 and 45 of the Madhya Pradesh Municipality Act, 1961 in consultation with the Law and Legislative Affairs Department. The Council of Ministers has decided to introduce and pass the Madhya

Pradesh Correctional Services and Prison Bill, 2024 in the Assembly. Also, the jail department has been authorized to take all the action.

Decision to allot land in village Gaura to Sports Authority of India

The Cabinet decided to allot about one acre of land (in addition to the already allotted land) in village Gaura Tehsil Huzur, Bhopal to Sports Authority of India, Bhopal for conducting sports activities.

Other decisions

The General Administration Department has been authorized by the Council of Ministers to take action to repeal Section 9-A of the Madhya Pradesh Ministers (Salary and Allowances) Act 1972. Out of the financial assistance given to the families of brave martyrs, the Council of Ministers has now decided that 50 percent amount be given to the martyr's wife and 50 percent amount to the martyr's parents.

Ratlam's CM Rise Vinoba Higher Secondary School selected among the best ten schools of the world

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Minister Shri Chetanya Kumar Kashyap congratulated School Education and Transport Minister Uday Pratap Singh at Mantralaya Vallabh Bhawan on Tuesday on Ratlam's CM Rise Vinoba Higher Secondary School being selected among the best ten schools of the world and presented a bouquet welcomed with a gift. Giving information about this great achievement, Kashyap told the School Education Minister that Vinoba Higher Secondary School has been selected for this world's prestigious award



in the innovation category. Before the selection, international educationists also took an online interview of Vice Principal Gajendra Singh Rathore on the work being done in the school in the field of innovation.

Minister Kashyap said that many types of innovations are taking place in this school for

the last two years for the all-round development of the students. Under Teachers Professional Development, teachers were brought as agents of change through the Cycle of Growth. Students and parents were connected through joyful learning under the guidance of school leaders. The result was that 545

out of 577 students of the school remain involved in various activities in some form or the other throughout the year. Many initiatives like Teaching-Learning Material, Print Rich, Student Diary, Teacher's Diary, Hook Bank, Morning Meeting, Circle Time, Academic Samvad and Behavior Management are carried out in the school.

It is noteworthy that recently, USA's prestigious organization T for Education has selected ten schools out of ten thousand schools from hundred countries for "The World's Best School Prize", among which CM Rise Vinoba Higher Secondary School of Ratlam has been ranked fourth.

SUB INSPECTOR JITENDRA SINGH GAVE UP FOOD AND WATER, EXAMPLE OF HONESTY

Bhopal: Sub Inspector Jitendra Singh has decided to give up food and water, giving a strong message against corruption. Singh shared his pain on social media and said that he cannot see the pain of any victim and cannot indulge in bribery, hence he has taken this drastic step. Singh has taken this decision after being troubled by the daily expenses at the police station. He has written in his post that his salary is not enough to meet the expenses of his children's education and food as well as the expenses of the police station. He told that he gets petrol allowance of only Rs 1600, whereas in reality much more is spent on petrol. Two days ago, Sub Inspector Singh was transferred from Police Lines to Avadhupuri police station. This step of Sub Inspector Jitendra Singh is being seen as an example of honesty in the police department and society. This step shows his determination against corruption.

VICIOUS VEHICLE THIEF ARRESTED, TWO MINOR ASSOCIATES ALSO DETAINED

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Kolar Road Police of Bhopal has achieved great success in the cases of vehicle theft. Vicious vehicle thief Tarun Parche (25), who used to steal two-wheelers from minor boys, has been arrested. The police have also detained two unlawful children (14 and 16 years).

On 25/06/2024, information was received from a reliable informer about a metallic black colored Bullet motorcycle stolen from JK Town of Kolar Road police station area. The police team reached the spot and saw that two boys were pushing the Bullet motorcycle. Upon interrogation it was found that they were minors aged 14 and 16 years. When they were asked

for the documents of the vehicle, they could not give the correct answer. Investigation confirmed that this Bullet motorcycle was stolen under crime number 534/24 of Kolar Road police station. Tarun Parche was also arrested at the behest of the minors. He admitted during interrogation that he had stolen the Bullet motorcycle from the minors and was planning to sell it. Tarun also confessed that he had stolen a Honda Dio scooter from Nehru Nagar 10 days ago. Police have also confiscated the scooter. Tarun Parche has a long criminal record. Several cases are registered against him under various sections, including cases from Kolar Road, Habibganj, TT Nagar, and Misrod police stations.

GOVERNMENT SENSITIVE TOWARDS THE FUTURE OF NURSING STUDENTS: DY CM SHUKLA

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Deputy Chief Minister Rajendra Shukla conducted a comprehensive review of the calendar of examinations for the students of Nursing course from the year 2019-20 to the year 2022-23 at Mantralaya Vallabh Bhawan. Deputy Chief Minister Shukla said that the government is sensitive towards the future of the students. He directed that keeping in mind the interest of the students, the examinations should be conducted soon and the results should be released. Approximately 20 thousand students of B.Sc Nursing, M.Sc., PBBS of year 2019-20, 30 thousand students of year 2020-21, 10 thousand students of year 2021-22 and 10 thousand students of year 2022-23 will be



benefited by the conduct of examinations. Also, the main examinations of more than 25 thousand students of GNM, ANM courses for the year 2020-21 and 2021-22 will be completed by the month of October, the conduct of supplementary examinations will be completed by the end of the month of July. It is noteworthy that after

getting exemption from the stay order of the High Court, as per the instructions of Deputy Chief Minister Shukla, a calendar has been prepared for conducting the examinations of students of various nursing courses. According to the calendar, the conduct of all examinations will be completed by the end of August.

Youth Congress's demonstration against the education policy of BJP government and education mafia

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Youth Congress of Madhya Pradesh has announced to siege the Parliament House on 27th June in protest against the education policy of the BJP government and the education mafia. State Congress spokesperson Vivek Tripathi said that there is a competition among the BJP ministers to get the Krishi Karman Award, but the BJP cannot escape the responsibility of the scams taking place in the education sector.

Vivek Tripathi said that during the BJP government at the Center and Madhya Pradesh, many mega scams like NEET, Nursing, Vyapam, Patwari, Demat have come to light, due to which the future of the students has become bleak. He alleged that the education policy of the government has become a puppet of the education mafia. In protest against this, the youth of Madhya Pradesh have decided to honor BJP with 'Ghotala



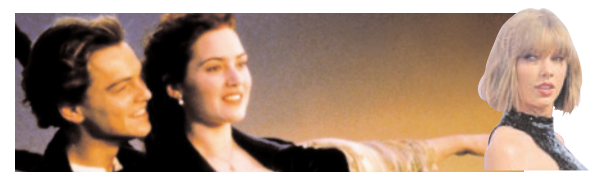
Karman Award'. On June 27, 2024, under the leadership of Madhya Pradesh Youth Congress, thousands of youth from across the state will reach Delhi and protest against the education policies of the Central Government and education mafias and will siege the

Parliament House. During this, he will hand over the 'Ghotala Karman Award' to the BJP headquarters. Tripathi said that the BJP government is trying to suppress the nursing scam in Madhya Pradesh. The Congress Legislature Party has made full preparations to corner the gov-

ernment on this matter in the upcoming assembly session. The BJP government is trying to protect the then guilty ministers and officials, due to which the ministry was set on fire and efforts were made to destroy the evidence.

Yesterday, after the dismissal of former Nursing Council Registrar Chandrakala Divgaiah, she said that she was prevented by higher officials from investigating the fake nursing college. Tripathi alleged that these senior officers are still holding the same posts and the government is not interrogating them. He also said that the education mafia in Madhya Pradesh is so strong that it is even affecting the investigation conducted by the court through CBI.

Thus, Madhya Pradesh Youth Congress has opened a front against the education policy of the BJP government and the education mafia and preparations are being made for a big demonstration on 27th June.



Travis admitted that he "started to really fall for" Taylor

Los Angeles | Agencies

Travis Kelce revealed the romantic moment that he really started to fall in love with Taylor Swift during a new interview on the Bussin' With the Boys podcast on Monday, June 24. The Super Bowl winner, 34, recounted the first NFL game that his popstar girlfriend, 34, attended when the Kansas City Chiefs faced off against the Chicago Bears at Arrowhead Stadium in September 2023. Travis admitted that he "started to really fall for" Taylor after seeing "how genuine she is around friends [and] family." As the podcast hosts opened up about Taylor's early attendance at his games, Travis opened up about how he'd tried to prep the "All Too Well" singer beforehand, but she was a natural. "The first game she came to against the Bears. I was like, 'Okay, I could probably set you up with everything.' And she just walked right through the front door," he said. "She was just like, 'I just want to be around the family and friends and experience this



with everybody.' She got beaucoup points for that. I was like, 'Damn, she's in the madness.



She wants to support me and do things like that.' She really won me over with that one.'



Will never 'have my heart broken by romance again': Sean Penn

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Sean Penn has spoken about how his perspective on romance changed and said that he doesn't sense he will have his heart broken by love again. "I'm just free. If I'm going to be in a relationship, I'm still going to be free, or I'm not going to be in it, and I'm not going to be hurting," the 63-year-old star said in an interview with The New York Times, reports People.com.

"I don't sense I'll have my heart broken by romance again," added Penn, who was previously married to Madonna from 1985 to 1989.

In 1996, the actor married Robin Wright, with whom he shares a daughter, Dylan Frances Penn, and a son, Hopper Jack Penn. The couple opted for separation and got divorced in 2010. Penn then tied the knot with Australian actress Leila George in 2020, but a year later, their divorce process was finalised in April 2022.

The two-time Oscar-winning actor has reportedly been linked to Hollywood stars such as Charlize Theron, Scarlett Johansson, and actress Olga Korotayeva.

While reflecting on his love life, he jogged his memory and recalled instances where "the first thing I see in the morning are eyes wondering what I'm going to do to make them happy that day. Rarely reciprocated." "On one of my marriages, the background noise of life was a (Real) Housewives of Beverly Hills or another thing called Love Island. Not even being in the room -- I'm not saying this to be cute -- I was dying. I felt my heart, my brain shrinking," he said, adding "It was an assault."

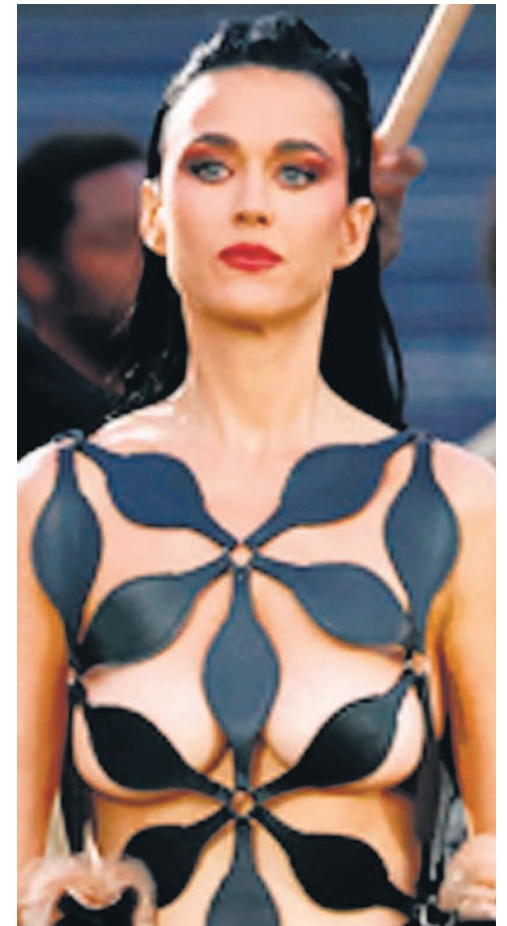
Penn has said that the "friends in the female department," who are "beautiful, wonderful people, wonderful with their partners or wonderful on their own," have shown him that "relationships don't have to be dramatic or draining."

Katy Perry Stuns in Black Dress With Revealing Cutouts at Vogue World

Los Angeles | Agencies

Katy Perry rocked a barely there dress as she took part in the Vogue World: Paris show in France on Sunday, June 23. The "Teenage Dream" popstar, 39, walked in the show in a Noir Kei Ninomiya dress, which had super revealing cutouts. Katy had an extravagant debut on the runway, as a marching band followed her down the catwalk, with two percussionists with large drums following behind her. The dress was black and appeared to be leather. The cutouts formed an almost leaf-like shape throughout her dress, and her body was visible beneath it. The design did perfectly cover up any private areas of her body. Besides the cutouts, the dress also had a few pink flowers, creating something of a skirt as it went down. She also completed the look with a set of black high-heeled boots.

Katy's outfit was styled by Tatiana Waterford. Her hair, which was almost a slicked back look, was done by Dimitris Giannetos, and her make up was done by Michael Anthony.



Campbell 'Pookie' Puckett Pregnant

Los Angeles | Agencies

Campbell "Pookie" Puckett and her husband Jett revealed they are expecting their first baby in an Instagram video posted on Sunday, June 23. "Our greatest blessing... Baby Puckett coming soon @jettwpuckett," the 32-year-old captioned.

Overflowed with congratulations in the comments for the couple who are expecting a baby in November 2024, the TikTok star went on to share her minimalistic-vibe maternity snaps. "Can't wait to be mom & dad," she captioned.

"Pookie" told People on June 23, "We've always dreamed of becoming parents. Jett and I have been together for nine years, married for six, and I'm most excited to see him become a dad -- I've thought about that since I met him."

She went on to add, "Our life has been building up to this moment, and we could not be more excited and blessed to bring another life into the world... We're ready for this next phase in our life and this new purpose as parents."

The lovebirds married back in 2018 and Campbell recalled the special day with a warm video shared back in February on Instagram captioned, "our wedding...best day of my life."

JEREMY RENNER SAYS THE INCIDENT HAS CHANGED THE FACE OF HIS CAREER

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Jeremy Renner, who was seriously injured in an accident in January 2023, says the incident has changed the face of his career.

Renner, who is best known for playing Hawkeye in the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU), shared on the 'Smartless' podcast: "I just don't have the energy for it. I don't have the fuel."

"I have so much fuel to put into this reality, this body, all this stuff. I can't just go play make-believe right now. Because it takes a lot of time to get right here every day just so I can have a positive thought, so I can progress, so I can always keep growing."

After the incident, Renner took



some time off before returning to work. He resumed acting to shoot the third season of 'Mayor of Kingstown', the crime thriller TV series.

He said it was the ideal way to make his return to work, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

Renner said: "I still struggle with it sometimes too, like, I don't take it super seriously. I'm in a character that I can do very well, and I know the show very well, so it was easy for me to kind of slide back into it."

"But if it was a very challenging role, I couldn't have taken it. Not challenging in the sense that - because the show's challenging, but it's if I had to go play Dahmer or something, something so far from me," he said.

The actor had previously stated that the public now sees him in a different light following his accident.

"This is everyone's story as much as it is mine, and so I found I feel more connected to people. I feel that they see me as the man that I am and not the famous guy, what I'm famous for," he had told 'Extra'.

WHY SCARLETT JOHANSSON WANTED TO JOIN 'JURASSIC WORLD' FRANCHISE FOR 10 YEARS

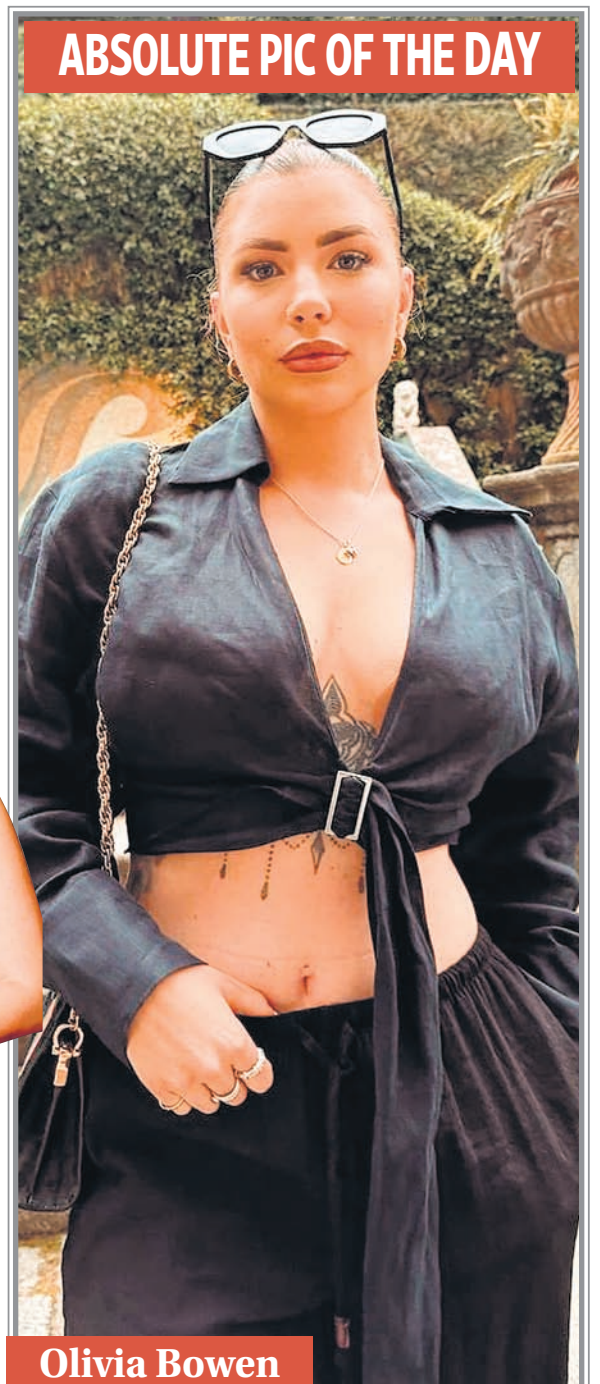
Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Scarlett Johansson has confirmed that she will be starring in the next 'Jurassic World' movie, directed by filmmaker Gareth Edwards, who has previously helmed films such as 'Rogue One' and 'Godzilla'.

An 'enormous' 'Jurassic Park' fan, Johansson shared that she has always wanted to be part of the franchise, even if it meant "dying in five minutes."

Speaking to ComicBook.com, Johansson said: "I've been trying to get into this franchise in any possible way for over 10 years. I'm like, 'I'll die in the first five minutes!' " "I am an enormous 'Jurassic Park' fan," Johansson said, reports Variety.

"It is one of the first movies I remember seeing in theaters. I remember it so vividly. It was life-changing and mind-blowing. I cannot express how excited I am." The script for the upcoming film is by David Koepp. The screenwriter is returning to the franchise after writing for Steven Spielberg's 'Jurassic Park' in 1993 and 'The Lost World: Jurassic Park' in 1997. Johansson said that "the script is so incredible" for the fourth 'Jurassic World' movie, which will be an entirely new story that's separate from the first 'Jurassic World' trilogy, which features Chris Pratt. "David Koepp wrote it and returned after 30 years to write it, and he's so passionate about it," Johansson said. "I've been trying to get into this franchise in any possible way for over 10 years. I'm like, 'I'll die in the first five minutes! I can get eaten by whatever! I'll do the craft service! I'll do anything for it. The fact that it's happened in this way at this time is just actually unbelievable."



Olivia Bowen



T20 WORLD CUP: AFGHANISTAN TO TAKE ON SOUTH AFRICA, INDIA LOCK HORNS WITH ENGLAND IN SFS

Team Absolute | New Delhi

After Afghanistan's thrilling win against Bangladesh in the final Super Eight clash of the T20 World Cup on Tuesday, the four teams have been finalised for the semifinals - England, South Africa, India and Afghanistan.

India and South Africa are unbeaten in the tournament so far and topped their respective groups in the Super Eight stage.

Rohit Sharma-led side defeated Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Australia to seal the semifinal berth while Proteas outclassed the USA, England and the West Indies to continue their winning streak in the tournament.

On the other hand, England started their Super Eight campaign with a resounding eight-wicket win over West Indies before losing to South Africa by seven runs. However, they crushed the USA by 10 wickets to seal their semifinal spot.

Afghanistan had a most interesting tournament filled with meteoric rise and falls. Afghanistan started on a high with a clinical 84-run win over New Zealand in their second match before outperforming Australia in the Super Eight encounter after their loss to India. In the final Super Eight clash, Afghanistan created history with a win over Bangladesh.



In the first semifinal of the T20 World Cup 2024, South Africa will take on Afghanistan at Brian Lara Stadium, Tarouba at 6 am (IST) on Thursday while in the second semifinal, India will lock horns with

defending champions England at Providence Stadium, Guyana on the same day at 8 pm.

T20 World Cup 2024 Semifinal schedule: First semifinal: June 27 (6 AM IST) - South Africa v Afghanistan

at Brian Lara Cricket Academy in Tarouba, Trinidad and Tobago
Second semi-final: June 27 (8 PM IST) India v England, at Guyana National Stadium in Guyana

T20 World Cup: 'Unbelievable career across all three formats for Australia', says Ponting on Warner

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Former Australia captain Ricky Ponting took a moment to offer David Warner some heartfelt advice after Australia's journey in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup ended in disappointment with a loss to India and Afghanistan's win against Bangladesh, marking the conclusion of the south-paw's illustrious career in national colours.

Speaking on ICC's Digital Daily show, Ponting said he congratulated Warner on his glorious career for Australia after his final match against India.

"I put my arm around him," Ponting told ICC. "I said, 'just take a moment tonight to sit back by yourself and reflect on what's been an unbelievable career across all three formats for Australia.'" He emphasised Warner's immense impact, saying, "You'll struggle to find a guy that's had as big an impact on all three forms in Australian cricket than David Warner has."

Warner in his last ICC tournament scored 178 runs including two-half centuries. Warner scored 56 against Oman and 53 not out against Bangladesh in the T20 World Cup 2024. However, despite his efforts, Australia fell short of reaching the semi-



finals after back-to-back losses to Afghanistan and India. As the team prepares for a future without Warner, Australia acknowledged the void his absence will create. Josh Hazlewood, reflecting on Warner's departure, noted, "We'll definitely miss him around the group, out in the field and off field. (An) amazing all-format career. It's sort of been a slow burn with Test cricket and ODI cricket and now T20. So, life without him, we've sort of gotten used to it a little bit ... it's always different when you lose a player that's been there for so long."

Australia's cricket team will reconvene in a few months for a limited-overs series against England in the UK, scheduled for mid-September. These T20Is and ODIs will be the first tests for a top order sans Warner's imposing presence.

Later in the year, the Border-Gavaskar Trophy will be up for grabs in a five-Test series against India on home soil. This high-profile series will offer Australia a taste of life without Warner in their Test setup, a transition they began earlier this year during their tour of New Zealand.

T20 World Cup: Watching Rohit bat against Australia 'felt like a dream', says Suryakumar

Gros Islet (St Lucia) | Agencies

Suryakumar Yadav was in awe with the batting brilliance of Indian skipper Rohit Sharma in the Super Eight face-off in Men's T20 World Cup against Australia, delivering a masterclass innings, scoring 92 off just 41 balls.

Rohit's performance was more than just a show of skill. From the very first over, he capitalised on the strong breeze blowing across the venue. His innings set a dominant tone for India, propelling them to a commanding position by the end of the overplay.

"It felt like a dream, he batted beautifully. Before coming here we sat together, we talked about it, how we want to approach and what brand of cricket we want to play, and he showed us the way," said Suryakumar Yadav during the innings break.

The Indian captain's comments after the match revealed the meticulous planning behind his effortless brilliance. "I thought right from over number one that there was a strong breeze blowing across. They changed their plan, bowling against the breeze, so I realized I had to open up the off-side as well," said Rohit.

Meanwhile, Arshdeep Singh, who played a crucial role with the ball by taking 3/37, was not surprised by Rohit's resurgence. "As a team, we always talk in the dressing room that personal scores don't matter much as long as the team is doing nice. We knew he is a legend and the big knock was around the corner all the time. So, we were not surprised by the way he played today and it came off really well. We just hope he does the same for us in the coming games," Arshdeep said during the post-game press conference.

India's victory over Australia, bolstered by Rohit's spectacular innings and Arshdeep's pivotal wickets, have set the stage for their semi-final clash against defending champions England in



Guyana on June 27.

The winner of this match will progress to the final in Barbados two days later.

Real Madrid announce captain Nacho Fernandez's departure amidst Saudi Pro League links

Madrid | Agencies

Real Madrid has announced the departure of club captain Nacho, who has made the decision to leave the side where he has spent 23 years.

In 2001, Nacho joined Real Madrid at the age of just 10, and has played throughout the youth academy until he made his first team debut in 2012. He has since defended the jersey for 12 seasons during one of the most successful periods in the history of Real Madrid.

In that time, he has played 364 games and won 26 trophies: 6 European Cups, 5 Club World Cups, 4 European Super Cups, 4 Spanish Leagues, 2 Copa del Rey and 5 Spanish Super Cups.

"Real Madrid would like to thank and express our appreciation to Nacho, one of the club's biggest legends. Real Madrid would like to wish him and his family the best of luck in this new chapter of his life," read the statement posted by the club on the website.

He also won the Under-21s European Championship and the



Nations League with the Spanish national team, and is currently playing in the 2024 UEFA European Championship in Germany.

Nacho brings to an end his career at Real Madrid having been the captain, who lifted La Decimoquinta at Wembley, and as one of only five players to have won 6 European Cups in the history of football and with the most trophies in the history of our club.

"Since he arrived at our youth academy as a child, Nacho has been an example to everyone and has earned the affection, recognition and admiration of everyone at Real Madrid. Real Madrid is and always will be his home," said club president Florentino Perez.

According to reports, Nacho is set to sign for Al Qadsiah in the Saudi Pro League.

T20 World Cup: '8th wonder of world', Ian Smith's cheeky dig at Gulbadin's cramp

Kingstown (St Vincent) | Agencies

After Afghanistan's thrilling win over Bangladesh in the last Super Eight encounter, which led them to their first ICC T20 World Cup semifinal, former New Zealand cricketer Ian Smith sarcastically called Gulbadin Naib the "8th wonder of the world" for his cramp.

Following the victory, questions are being raised about Gulbadin's cramp which occurred in the 12th over. The Bangladeshi side had just fallen two runs behind the DLS and rain had started to slowly fall down onto the field. Afghanistan's head coach Jonathan Trott was seen signalling the players to slow down the game.

Almost instantly Naib grabbed his hamstring and fell to the ground in pain in the 12th over. The delay was caused in the match as Naib limped off the field and the game ultimately had to be stopped due to rain.

However, the incident did not have much impact as only one over has been reduced from the game with a revised target of 114. Naib then came back onto the field in the very next over after the resumption of the match and took the wicket of Tanzim Hasan.

"I've a dodgy knee for the last 6 months, I am gonna see Gulbadin Naib's doctor straight after the game. He's the 8th wonder of the world right now," said Smith during the commentary. Former English cricketer Michael Vaughan saw the funny side to the inci-



dent and pointed out the obviousness of the incident. "Spirit of cricket is alive & kicking ... Great to see Gulbadin become the first cricketer in the history of the game to get a wicket 25 mins after being shot," he wrote on X.

Reactions flooded social media on the incident. Australia's star spinner Adam Zampa put a story on Instagram and wrote "the old rainstrung", implying it was the rain which caused the hamstring issue.

These antics might be a one-off event in cricket but football fans have grown

accustomed to players faking injuries in order to waste time.

Ravichandran Ashwin noticed the similarity between the two sports and wrote on X, "Red card for Gulbadin Naib". To which Naib cheekily responded, "Kabi khushi kabi gham main huta hai Hamstrung".

Afghanistan will take on South Africa in the first semi-final while India will face England in the second semi-final of the T20 World Cup. Both games will be played on Thursday, June 27 (IST).

Anush Agarwalla to represent India in dressage event at Paris Olympics

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Equestrian Federation of India (EFI) has picked Anush Agarwalla to represent the country at the upcoming Paris Games in Dressage event after he pipped close contender Shruti Vora on better average after a careful evaluation of the recent performances of the contenders.

It will be India's first ever entry at the Dressage event at the Olympics as largely riders in past editions competed in Eventing categories only.

Agarwalla has been consistent since the qualification period began last year and achieved Minimum Eligibility Requirement four times while veteran Shruti Vora earned the required two MERs this month.

When an average was taken out of the contenders in the assessment, Anush emerged winner. He had an average score of 67.695% which was better than Shruti's 67.163%.

As per the criteria set by the Federation, a rider-horse combination is required to achieve a minimum of 67% twice between January 1, 2023 and June 24, 2024 to be eligi-



ble for the Paris Games qualification. According to EFI selection criteria, if more than one athlete is eligible then the athlete with the highest average in Grand Prix out of the best four events in the past one year shall be chosen to participate. Scores at only FEI level competitions 3 and above are counted. These scores have to be achieved at shows from 2023 to 2024 list of MER events.

Shruti (with horse Magnanimous) had earned her second MER of the year

with her second-place finish at the Brno Grand Prix in Czech Republic, where she scored 68.174 in the Dressage event, thereby becoming eligible for Olympic qualification. Shruti had earned her first MER early this month when she became the first Indian rider to win a three-star Grand Prix event Dressage World Cup, held in Lipica, Slovenia with 67.761. Her other two GP performances had scores of 66.543% and 66.174% which were below MER level.

Euro 2024: Modric calls football 'merciless and cruel' after late heartbreak vs Italy

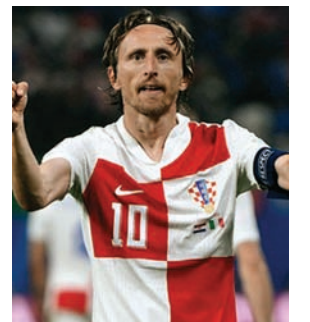
Leipzig (Germany) | Agencies

On the night when Luka Modric made history by becoming the oldest player to score in the European Championship, Italy scored a 90+7 minute equaliser to put Croatia's campaign on the brink of elimination in heartbreaking fashion.

Following the game Luka, one of the greatest midfielders of this generation described his emotions and feelings about the exit and labeled the beautiful game as 'merciless and cruel'.

"We kept battling right until the end but unfortunately football was merciless with us tonight, it was cruel. Above all today but also in our other most recent match when we conceded two late goals. But that's part and parcel of football. Often it gives you plenty of smiles but on other occasions it makes you very sad as it did today," said a heartbroken Modric to reporters in the post game press conference.

The 38-year old has been Croatia's leader for the past decade which has seen the team reach the finals of the FIFA World Cup. Unfortunately for the side, they will not be progressing to the Round of 16 having not



won a single game in the Group Stage. This was also potentially the last time we see the 2018 Ballon d'Or winner represent his country at a major tournament with the World Cup nearly two years away. "It's hard to describe the words for how you feel in terms of how I feel, my teammates feel and what the fans are going through. Football isn't always kind and the football gods don't always necessarily smile on us but we should be proud of the way that we represented our country," added the Real Madrid star.

Although Croatia have not been officially eliminated, their qualification scenario is highly unlikely. Four of the best third placed teams qualify for the Round of 16 but Croatia's two point tally makes the scenario extremely difficult.



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Sonakshi Sinha, who recently tied the knot with Zaheer Iqbal, on Tuesday shared some snaps from their wedding reception, expressing gratitude for the love, laughter, and support from their close ones, calling it a divine intervention.

The couple tied the knot on June 23 in a civil ceremony at the bride's new apartment, 81 Aureate, which is located near the Rang Sharda Auditorium in Bandra West, Mumbai.

According to media reports, the 'Heeramandi' actress purchased the lavish apartment in September last year. Situated on the 26th floor, the sea-facing apartment spans 4,210.87 square feet and is reportedly priced at Rs 11 crore. The reception was held the same day at Bastian, a restaurant on Linking Road, Mumbai, known for its Asian-inspired modernist cuisine.

Taking to Instagram, Sonakshi shared love-filled pictures with Zaheer from their reception night.

It 'divine intervention' Sonakshi oozes love in pictures with Zaheer

In the snaps, the 'Lootera' actress is seen wearing a custom red 'chand boota' brocade Raw Mango sari.

For makeup, she opted for nude pink lips, winged eyeliner, a contoured face, and a red bindi. Her hair was tied in a neat bun adorned with a 'gajra'.

The actress accessorised the outfit with a green choker necklace, matching 'chandbaalis', and bangles, along with minimal red mehndi on her hands. The groom, Zaheer, looked happy in an all-white sherwani.

The snaps show the couple giving each other forehead kisses.

Sonakshi captioned the post: "Whattttt a day!!!! The love, the laughter, the togetherness, the excitement, the warmth, the support from every one of our friends, families and teams... it was like the uni-

verse came together for two people in love to give them exactly what they've always hoped, wished and prayed for. If this is not divine intervention... we don't know what is. We are both truly blessed to have each other and so much love protecting us."

The post received likes from celebrities such as Alia Bhatt, Varun Dhawan, Sidharth Malhotra, Ayushmann Khurrana, Jacqueline Fernandez, and Ananya Panday, among many others. Sonakshi and Zaheer have been dating for the past seven years.



"Meditative zen-like vibration in the room": Janhvi Kapoor

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Janhvi Kapoor became the muse for ace couturier Rahul Mishra in Paris for Haute Couture Week and said that there was a "meditative zen-like vibration in the room".

Making her international runway debut in a scintillating mermaid-style garment from Mishra's Couture Fall 2024 collection named Aura, Janhvi shared a motley of pictures from her walk on Instagram.

Captioning the images, Janhvi wrote: "A first thank you @rahulmishra_7 for having me as a part of your spectacular show that encapsulated energies and auras so beautifully."

"There was a meditative zen-like vibration in the room that felt like such a change of pace compared to the exciting but hectic madness at Paris Couture Week that was contagious right till the door of our show."

The silhouette featured a mermaid-style holographic skirt with a glittery embroidered skirt paired with a dramatic train and a heavily embellished black bustier. She completed her look with soft, cascading waves and dewy make-up.

The actress added: "The slow soulful music, the patiently gliding models in your intricate garments, and most importantly, you and your family and team's sincerity, simplicity, unadulterated creativity, and passion made this a perfect first."

In 2020, Mishra became the first Indian designer to showcase at the Haute Couture Week in Paris. In 2014, he was honoured with the prestigious International Woolmark Prize at Milan Fashion Week, becoming the first Indian designer to win the award.

The award-winning couturier's label design philosophy is based on the three E's: Environment, Employment, and Empowerment.



Zaheer Iqbal 'gifts' swanky BMW i7 to wife Sonakshi

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor Zaheer Iqbal, who recently tied the knot with his long-time girlfriend and Bollywood star Sonakshi Sinha, has reportedly gifted her a BMW i7 electric sedan worth over Rs 2 crore.

A viral video shows the newly-wed couple arriving in a lavish BMW for their reception night at Bastian, a restaurant on Linking Road, Mumbai, famous for its Asian-inspired modernist cuisine. The clip shows Sonakshi and Zaheer holding hands while sitting on the backseat of the car. According to the media reports, Zaheer gifted his wife the BMW i7 electric sedan worth over Rs 2 crore.

The duo tied the knot on June 23 in a civil marriage at Sonakshi's new apartment in Bandra West, Mumbai. Reportedly, the 'Heeramandi' actress purchased the lavish apartment on the 36th floor in September last year. The sea-facing apartment is spread across 4,210.87 sq ft and reportedly cost Rs 11 crore.

'MOST SENSATIONAL CHAPTER OF INDIAN DEMOCRACY', KANGANA'S 'EMERGENCY' SET TO RELEASE IN SEPTEMBER



Team Absolute | Mumbai

After multiple delays, actress-turned-politician Kangana Ranaut's upcoming film 'Emergency' is finally set to release on September 6. The actress, who had previously announced the postponement of her movie due to her Lok Sabha 2024 election campaign, took to Instagram on Tuesday and shared that the film is all set to hit the big screen.

Kangana also shared a new poster along with the announcement. Talking about the same, Kangana said: "I am deeply inspired by William Shakespeare's Macbeth, the essence of 'Emergency' is the destruction wrought when ambition goes unchecked by moral constraints. It is undoubtedly the most sensational chapter of Indian democracy, and I am eagerly awaiting its worldwide release on September 6, 2024."

Upon sharing the poster, Kangana captioned it: "The Beginning of the 50th Year of Independent India's Darkest Chapter. Announcing #KanganaRanaut's #Emergency In Cinemas on September 6, 2024. The Explosive Saga of the Most Controversial Episode of the History of Indian Democracy, #EmergencyOn6Sept in cinemas worldwide."

The film tells the story of former Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, portrayed by Kangana. The Emergency was declared in 1975 and lasted for 21 months, due to perceived internal and external threats to the country.

Apart from Kangana, the film also stars Anupam Kher, Milind Soman, Shreyas Talpade, Mahima Chaudhry, and the late Satish Kaushik, among others.

Kareena's wish for sis Karisma on her 50th b'day

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Kareena Kapoor Khan showered love on her elder sister and "ultimate hero," Karisma Kapoor, on her 50th birthday, wishing her lots of laughter, dancing, and Chinese food. Taking to Instagram, Kareena shared a montage reel video featuring unseen pictures of the birthday girl. The reel includes candid snaps of the sisters twinning, enjoying food, vacation photos, their kids, and some childhood photographs of Karisma.

The post is captioned: "Happy birthday to my ultimate HERO. 50 is the new 30 gurllll. Big breakfasts, lots of coffee and aperols, chic bags, long conversations with me, laughter and dancing, chinese food, and all the time with your two babies forever... That's what I wish for you... #LoloKaBirthday." Karisma's best friend Amrita Arora also took to Instagram and shared a series of unseen pictures with the 'Raja Hindustani' actress. The photos feature Amrita's sister, model Malaika Arora, and Kareena as well.

Along with the photos, she penned a sweet birthday note for Karisma. The post read: "To our absolutely lovely Lolo. You make 50 look delishhhhh, Gurl!! To more louldddd nights of fun, laughter, imitations, in-



bed conversations, on-the-phone banter, and picking up ur phone more often. Happy birthday, my calm voice of reason, we love you so much @therealkarismakapoor CHALTE YAAR."

Karisma and Kareena are the daughters of actors Randhir Kapoor and Babita.

The 'Zubeidaa' actress was married to industrialist Sunjay Kapur, but the couple separated in 2016. She has two children, a daughter named Samaira and a son named Kiaan.



Varun Dhawan treats stiff shoulders, chest muscles with yoga

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood star Varun Dhawan has vouched for yoga to beat stiff shoulders and chest muscles, saying that it has been the most "beneficial healing element in my life".

Varun took to Instagram on Tuesday where he shared a reel showing him stretching for stiff muscles. In the video, the actor can be seen doing several asanas

but under the guidance of his instructor.

"The best stretch... Helps to open up the shoulders and chest. End with apnasana (knees to chest)," he wrote in the clip.

For caption, Varun called yoga "the most beneficial healing element" in his life.

"Yoga - stretch to be the best. Yes, that's been the most beneficial healing element in my life. I had very stiff shoulders and chest mus-

cles for a long time (sic)," he wrote.

The 37-year-old actor, who was last seen in the 2023 film 'Bawaal', shared that the asanas that he performed in the video also helped in his digestion and sleep.

"These asanas have really helped open me up and helped my digestion and sleep. It's taken me a long time to reach here under the supervision of my teacher (sic)," Varun wrote.

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Aamna Sharif