

absolute india



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As Rahul taunts LS Speaker, BJP digs out 2012 episode to...



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stuck as her stage malfunctions during concert ...



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SEBEX 2: India's breakthrough in non-nuclear explosives technology

According to the sources, SEBEX 2 represents a major breakthrough in conventional explosives technology. Experts say that based on high-melting explosives (HMX), SEBEX 2 is touted as one of the world's most powerful non-nuclear explosives. It offers approximately 2.01 times the lethality of standard TNT, making it highly sought after for enhancing the firepower of bombs, artillery shells, and warheads without increasing their weight.

▶ SEBEX 2 HAS THE POTENTIAL TO REVOLUTIONISE MILITARY CAPABILITIES GLOBALLY, AS IT SURPASSES THE TYPICAL TNT EQUIVALENCE LEVELS FOUND IN CONVENTIONAL WARHEADS.

▶ THE CERTIFICATION OF SEBEX 2 MARKS A CRUCIAL MILESTONE IN ITS DEPLOYMENT FOR VARIOUS MILITARY APPLICATIONS, PROMISING TO SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVE THE LETHALITY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF MUNITIONS RELYING ON BLAST AND FRAGMENTATION EFFECTS, SOURCES SAID.

▶ THE EEL, A SUBSIDIARY OF SOLAR INDUSTRIES, IS ALSO ADVANCING IN OTHER EXPLOSIVE INNOVATIONS. THEY ARE NEARING COMPLETION OF AN EXPLOSIVE THAT IS EXPECTED TO BE 2.3 TIMES MORE POTENT THAN TNT WITHIN SIX MONTHS, SOURCES SAID.

▶ ADDITIONALLY, EEL'S SITBEX 1, A THERMOBARIC EXPLOSIVE, AND SIMEX 4, A SAFER STORAGE AND HANDLING EXPLOSIVE, HAVE BOTH RECEIVED CERTIFICATION FROM THE INDIAN NAVY.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

India has taken a significant stride towards achieving self-reliance in defence with the development of a new explosive more potent than Trinitrotoluene (TNT).

Known as SEBEX 2, this indigenously manufactured explosive has successfully passed certification tests conducted by the Indian Navy.

Developed by Economic Explosives Ltd (EEL) in Nagpur, a subsidiary of Solar Industries under the "Make In India" initiative, SEBEX 2 aims to boost the effectiveness and efficiency of weapons and ammunition.

The development of new explosives aims to significantly enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of weapons and ammunition, defence sources say.

These advancements underscore India's commitment to enhancing its defence capabilities through cutting-edge technologies in explosives and munitions development.



INDIA'S 3 NEW CRIMINAL LAWS

After Meta AI, Gemini AI Rolls Out In Google Messages

Team Absolute | New Delhi

India has completely overhauled its criminal justice system with three new criminal laws coming into effect today. The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) replaced the Indian Penal Code (IPC); Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) replaced the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA) replaced the Indian Evidence Act. The three laws were passed in parliament in December 2023.

The three new laws focus on justice rather than punishment and are aimed at providing speedy justice, all the way, strengthening the judicial and court management system emphasising "access to justice by all".

The criminal justice system in India after Independence has not delivered the results because of certain inherent shortcomings including substandard investigation and prosecution, large pendency of criminal cases, delayed court proceedings,



India's new three criminal laws to come into force from July 1

REDUCING OVERCROWDING IN PRISONS

The maximum period of detention for undertrials has been reduced for first-time offenders under certain circumstances, and the jail superintendent has been legally empowered to help the accused or undertrials in applying for bail. A first-time offender (never convicted of any offence in the past) will be released on bail if the person has undergone a third of the maximum sentence prescribed.

delay in disposal of cases, low conviction rate, and a large number of undertrial prisoners. All these factors end up with denial of justice to the common people.

Technology

The BNSS has introduced the use of technology at all stages, from crime scene visit to investigation to trial. It is a game-changer as it will ensure a faster trial and ensure transparency in investigation. The inclusion of technology and forensics in investigation is a significant move geared towards modernising the criminal justice system and harnessing the strength of modern scientific technologies. Considering the risk of manipulation of evidence, the mandatory inclusion of audio-video recording in search and seizure proceedings is an important inclusion in BNSS. The scope of audio-video recording during search and seizure includes the process of preparing a list of seized items and the signature of witnesses. Transparency in search and seizure proceedings is likely to deter against fabrication of evidence and ensure the presence of independent witnesses in these proceedings.

Washington | Agencies

Google has begun rolling out an exciting update to its Messages app, integrating Gemini AI to enhance functionality and user interaction directly within chats. This development follows Google's recent announcement and the initial introduction of Gemini AI on other platforms like Gmail, according to GSM Arena.

The Gemini AI integration aims to streamline user experience by providing quick access to artificial intelligence capabilities without leaving the Messages app. Users will notice a new floating action button positioned above the "Start chat" button in the lower-right corner of the interface, facilitating easy access to the AI service. Although the feature is currently not widely available, Google assures users that Gemini AI functions similarly to its stand-alone counterpart on Android devices, as per GSM Arena. This integration allows users to ask



questions, receive information, or issue commands seamlessly while continuing their conversations within Messages.

It's important to note that Gemini AI respects user privacy by not scanning private conversations. However, interactions with the AI chatbot are not end-to-end encrypted, prompting users to exercise caution when sharing sensitive information. Google also provides options for users to manage their chat history with Gemini, allowing storage customization from default settings of 18 months up to 36 months or as low as 3 months. Regarding privacy concerns, Gemini AI does not track user location beyond general details derived from IP addresses or home addresses to provide relevant information.

Man Swept By Strong Currents Of Pune Waterfall

Pune | Agencies

Day after five people of a family were swept away in a swollen waterfall in Maharashtra's Lonavala, a similar tragedy ensued in Pune. A man was washed away by the gushing water in Pune's Tamhini Ghat. His body has been recovered.

The man, who was reportedly a trek leader, was out on a trek with 20 people, including his friends and family at the popular picnic spot. There, he decided to dive into the waterfall, confident that he could swim back. However, he was swept away by the strong currents of the waterfall.

The man's 10-year-old daughter was recording her father's adventurous feat that turned tragic. In the video, the man can be



seen taking a dive into the waterfall swollen with gushing water. He then tries to swim back to the surface but struggles a bit, looking for something to hold on to. As he finally holds on to a rock at the edge of the waterfall, the rushing water sweeps him away downstream.

RAGA'S 'HINDU' REMARK TRIGGERS INTERVENTION FROM PM, HM

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Rahul Gandhi's maiden speech as the Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in Lok Sabha was marked by huge pandemonium and uproar in the Lower House on Monday.

Starting off his speech, the Congress MP waved a copy of the Constitution and also the photo of Lord Shiva while launching a broadside at the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and its ideologue Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS).

Rahul's reference to 'Hindus' drew strong protest from the BJP MPs and also a rare intervention from Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Home Minister Amit Shah demanded an apology from the Congress MP for 'linking' the BJP with violence. PM Modi stood up to interject the



Congress MP and said, "Calling the entire Hindu community violent is a very serious matter."

Home Minister Amit Shah also took strong exception to Rahul Gandhi's analogy of 'violent Hindus'

with the BJP and demanded that the Congress leader tender an apology.

"He doesn't know that crores of Indians in this country call themselves Hindu with pride. Does he want to say that each one of them talks violence? You cannot associate violence with any religion. I demand that he apologise," Amit Shah said.

The trigger for chaos and uproar in the house was Rahul's pointed attack on the ruling party, whom he accused of invoking violence and hatred for furthering its political interests. Addressing the House, Rahul Gandhi said: "All our great men have spoken about non-violence and finishing fear... But, those who call themselves Hindu only talk about violence, hatred, untruth... Aap Hindu ho hi nahi (You are not even Hindu)..."

INDIA LIKELY TO GET ABOVE-NORMAL RAINFALL IN JULY: IMD

Team Absolute | New Delhi

India is likely to get above-average rainfall in July as the monsoon has picked up momentum, the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Monday.

There is an 80 per cent probability of normal to above-normal rainfall in July across all regions of the country apart from the Northeast, according to the IMD forecast.

The favourable La Nina effect is expected to come into play during the second half of the monsoon season, resulting in more rain, said IMD Director General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra.

The monsoon arrived early over Kerala and the Northeast on May 30, but its progress slowed over



Maharashtra. This resulted in scorching heat waves in northwest India and prolonged dry conditions in West Bengal, Odisha, Jharkhand, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Madhya

Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh. According to the IMD data, the country received 147.2 mm rainfall against a normal of 165.3 mm during June, which is a deficit of 11 per

cent for the month.

India has emerged as a key exporter of foodgrains but had to resort to curbing overseas shipments of sugar, rice, wheat, and onions to increase domestic supplies and keep prices in check due to the erratic monsoon last year, which hit farm production.

A robust growth in the farm sector helps to keep inflation in check. Apart from supplying food, the farm sector also plays a key role in providing a demand for industrial goods such as two-wheelers, fridges, and fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG). An increase in agricultural production and incomes, therefore, apart from contributing directly to GDP growth, also leads to an increase in industrial growth.

K'taka HC grants bail to BJP leader in Prajwal Revanna case

Bengaluru | Agencies

In an important development, the Karnataka High Court on Monday granted bail to BJP leader G. Devaraje Gowda, a whistle-blower of the sex video scandal involving former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda's grandson, former JD (S) MP Prajwal Revanna.

Devaraje Gowda had alleged that he was being contacted and lured by Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar to make allegations against the Deve Gowda family, especially against the Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel H.D. Kumaraswamy. The bench headed by Justice M.G. Uma passed the order granting bail to Gowda. Senior counsel Arun Shyam had made a submission in favour of Devaraje Gowda who was arrested on charges of rape.

Counsel Arun Shyam stated that the complaint against Gowda was lodged on April 1,



2024, mentioning that the rape case took place on Dec 29, 2023. The husband of the victim had lodged a police complaint earlier in March in which no mention was made of the offence of rape committed by Gowda.

He further submitted that in this case, the police have submitted a closure report for want of evidence. The rape complaint is lodged after about 90 days after the incident.

Gowda was remanded to judicial custody and is presently kept at the Hassan District Prison.



AS RAHUL TAUNTS LS SPEAKER, BJP DIGS OUT 2012 EPISODE TO SHOW 'WHO BOWED BEFORE WHOM'

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, in his fiery speech on Monday, pulled all punches in attacking the government and even went a step ahead to train guns on Speaker Om Birla, eliciting condemnation and angry protests from the Treasury benches.

Speaker Om Birla also did not hold back, when the Congress MP taunted him over 'bowing down' before the Prime Minister. The verbal exchanges between the duo grabbed headlines.

The BJP was quick enough to call out Congress' 'adventurism' in the house and dug out an episode from the past to show how democracy and house proceedings were treated as 'secondary' to the then ruling party's high command.

BJP spokesperson Shehzad Poonawala posted a 2012 incident on his X account and claimed that the chair 'bowed' before the then dispensation. According to information shared by BJP spokesperson, Rajiv Shukla, the Parliamentary Affairs



minister in UPA II advised the newly elected Rajya Sabha deputy chairman and Congress MP P.J. Kurien to adjourn the proceedings of the Upper

House, because of repeated disruptions. The whispers into Kurien's ears got recorded in cameras and stirred a major controversy. In Lok Sabha on

Monday, Rahul Gandhi told Speaker Om Birla that he stood straight when shaking hands with him but bowed before Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on the day of his election to the post. "I noticed something when you (Speaker Om Birla) shook my hand. When you shook my hand, you were standing upright. But when you shook PM Modi's hand, you bowed down to him," Rahul Gandhi said.

Opposition MPs cheered on Rahul's statement but the Treasury benches protested.

Home Minister Amit Shah said the LoP was making baseless allegations against the chair.

Replying to Rahul's charges, Om Birla said that the difference in his conduct with the LoP and PM Modi was because of his 'sanskar and sanskriti' and he will continue to uphold those values.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi is the leader of the House. My culture and upbringing tells me to bow down in front of the elders and treat those who are my age or junior to me as equals," replied the LS Speaker.

Shivakumar should become CM, says Cong MLA; CM Siddaramaiah points at high command

Ballary, (Karnataka) | Agencies

The tussle within the Karnataka Congress over the Chief Minister's post is escalating.

Congress MLA Shivaganga Basavaraj stated on Monday that Deputy CM and State Congress President, DK Shivakumar should become the Chief Minister.

Speaking to reporters in Kottur, Ballary District, MLA Basavaraj said, "Shivakumar built the party from scratch, and he should become the Chief Minister. He is the reason for the Congress party's victory and winning nine seats in the General Election from just one seat in 2019. It's certain that Shivakumar will be the CM. Once he becomes CM, a dozen Dy CMs can be appointed."

Basavaraj added that it's a Congress tradition for the President of the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) to become the CM, however, after the Assembly elections the high command made Siddaramaiah the CM for some reason.

He said that Shivakumar, as KPCC President, has strengthened the party from the ground level.

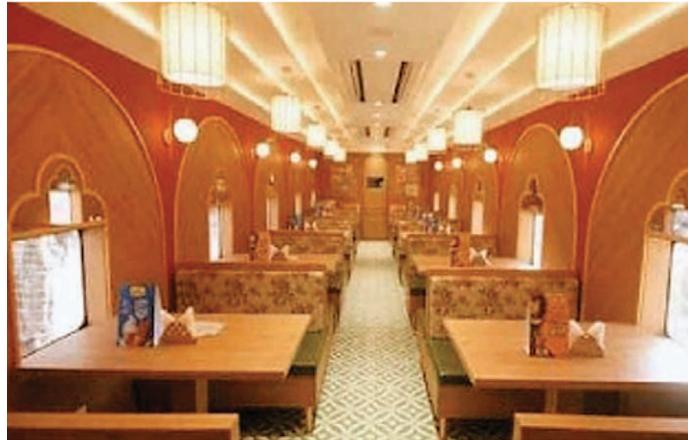
When asked about Minister KN Rajanna's demands for more Dy CM posts, Basavaraj said those interested should discuss it with the high command. "Senior leaders like



Rajanna should be role models for junior leaders like us. Despite Shivakumar's warning, he continues to make statements," he said. Regarding the Vokkaliga pontiff's appeal to CM Siddaramaiah to vacate the seat, Basavaraj said it reflects the people's and devotees' sentiments. "The BJP is carrying out a propaganda to come to power from the backdoor. The BJP should stop daydreaming about attaining power, the Congress is going to complete its five-year term," he stated.

Reacting to questions about the CM's post and additional Dy CM posts, CM Siddaramaiah stated in Bengaluru, "It's not a matter for public discussion. We will follow the high command's decision."

Palace on Wheels as wedding destination, bookings to start from September



Jaipur | Agencies

After the Palace on Wheels, which is regarded as one of the most beautiful and luxurious trains in the world, offered destination weddings, the booking for the same will start in September.

The officials said the train mostly hosts foreign travellers due to its high rates.

However, after deciding to offer it as a wedding venue, a new market segment will be opened. This will include the Bollywood community, the Indian business families and others who have been exploring new wedding destinations. This will also help in generating revenue for Rajasthan, the officials added. The wedding rates will be decided depending

on the distance between the venues.

"Bookings have to be made in advance for weddings," said Pradeep Bohra, director of Palace on Wheels. He said, "The costs will be decided depending on the distance. For example, if someone wants to travel from Delhi to Jaipur or Sawai Madhopur, charges will be fixed accordingly based on per person."

Defamation Suit: Delhi court hands Medha Patkar 5-month jail term, Rs 10 lakh fine

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Delhi court on Monday sentenced activist Medha Patkar, the leader of the Narmada Bachao Andolan (NBA), to five months of simple imprisonment in a criminal defamation case initiated against her by V.K. Saxena in 2001. Saxena currently serves as the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi.

Announcing the sentence, Metropolitan Magistrate Raghav Sharma of the Saket Court also ordered Patkar to pay Rs 10 lakh as compensation to Saxena for the harm caused to his reputation.

Advocates Gajinder Kumar, Kiran Jai, Chandra Shekhar, Drishti, and Somya Arya appeared for Saxena in the court.

Gajinder Kumar told IANS that a request was made to the court to allocate the compensation amount to the Delhi Legal Services Authority (DLSA).

Patkar was found guilty by the court on May 24 of criminal defamation under Section 500 of the Indian Penal Code.

Saxena had filed the case against Patkar in 2001 when he was the Chief of the National Council for Civil Liberties, an Ahmedabad-based NGO. During the last hearing, the parties concluded their arguments in the matter of sentencing. Saxena, the complainant, had submitted written arguments stressing the necessity of imposing the maximum sentence on Patkar. The submission cited several critical points to support his call for stringent punishment.



Firstly, the 'criminal history' and 'antecedents' of Patkar were brought to the court's attention, showcasing a persistent defiance of the law that is a "characteristic of the accused".

This defiance was further evidenced by the admonishment of the NBA by the Supreme Court for false pleadings. The seriousness of the offence of defamation was also stressed upon, equating it with 'moral turpitude'. Such a 'serious offence', argued the complainant, called for stringent punishment, especially as there is no evidence that Patkar respects the law.

Patkar was identified as a 'habitual offender' by the complainant, citing another defamation case from 2006 that is still pending adjudication before the court.

The complainant had also claimed that Patkar shows no concern for social control and defies ethical and moral justifications, aggravating circumstances that indicate her culpability based

on her past conduct and 'criminal history'.

The submission had concluded that a deterrent punishment was necessary, adding that the "maximum sentence should be imposed to deter Patkar and set an example in the society, discouraging others from engaging in similar acts that hinder the country's development".

The defamation case stems from a series of legal disputes that began in 2000. At that time, Patkar filed a suit against Saxena for publishing advertisements that she claimed were defamatory towards her and the NBA.

In response, Saxena filed two defamation cases against Patkar -- one for alleged derogatory remarks she made about him during a television appearance, while the second case involved a press statement issued by Patkar.

While convicting her, Magistrate Sharma noted that Patkar made and published imputation that the complainant had visited Malegaon, praised the NBA, had issued a cheque of Rs 40,000, which came from Lal Bhai Group, and that "he was a coward and not a patriot".

Magistrate Sharma had noted: "The accused by publishing the above imputation intended to harm or knew or had reason to believe that such imputation will harm the complainant's reputation."

Passing the order for her conviction, Magistrate Sharma said that reputation is one of the most valuable assets a person can possess, as it affects both personal and professional relationships, and can significantly impact an individual's standing in society.

Bengal assault case: Trinamool starts distancing itself from accused

Mumbai | Agencies

Trinamool Congress has started distancing itself from Tejemul a.k.a. JCB, the main accused of publicly beating up a woman at a Kangaroo Court in Chopra in West Bengal's North Dinajpur district after BJP launched a scathing attack against the ruling party.

On Monday, BJP's national president J.P. Nadda posted a strongly worded protest on his official X handle accusing the ruling party and their MLAs of justifying the event.

"A horrific video has come to light from West Bengal, reminding of the brutalities that exist only in theocracies. To make matters worse, the TMC cadre and MLAs are justifying the act. Be it Sandeshkhali, Uttar Dinajpur or many other places, Didi's West Bengal is



UNSAFE for women," Nadda's X message read. Soon after Nadda's post, Trinamool Congress legislator from Chopra Hamidul Rahman, who has been accused by the opposition of being the 'virtual guardian' of the

accused, jumped into damage control.

"I accept that what has happened was totally unfortunate. In certain areas, if a caste-related problem arises there are attempts to solve that through mediation meetings. But I personally as

well as my party do not support such moves. The opposition is wrongly trying to interpret that I have tried to justify the act. The opposition leaders are unnecessarily maligning me," Rahman said.

JCB, who was arrested on Sunday evening, will be presented at a district court on Monday afternoon.

Former Trinamool Congress Rajya Sabha member Dr Santanu Sen said the state government always follows the "zero tolerance" policy on such issues.

"The accused has been promptly arrested by police and proceedings against him have already started. Such things are quite common in BJP-ruled states. But the difference is that in West Bengal the state administration does not hesitate to take action against any offender even if he is an associate of the ruling party," Sen said.

HIV-positive man raped, robbed on outskirts of Bengaluru

Bengaluru | Agencies

A shocking incident was reported from the Madanayakanahalli police station limits on Monday, where a 56-year-old HIV-positive man was raped and robbed at his residence by a known person on the outskirts of Bengaluru. The incident occurred at a village near Nelamangala town in Bengaluru North Taluk.

According to the police, the victim, who worked at a NGO, had befriended the accused, Shyam Patil, a year ago. Patil had claimed to be suffering from tuberculosis and had gained the victim's trust. Recently, the victim's wife and children had gone to their native village, and Patil took advantage of the situation.

After learning that the victim was alone, Patil visited his house, laced his juice with sleeping pills, and gave it to him. As the victim became unconscious, Patil sprayed a substance on his face, rendering him completely helpless. The accused then raped him and



robbed the victim of 88 grams of gold, Rs 20,000 cash, and his mobile handset kept in a cupboard.

The victim discovered the sexual assault and robbery the next morning and filed a complaint with the Madanayakanahalli police station. The police have launched a search for the accused, Shyam Patil.

Robbers loot Rs 50 lakh from Axis Bank in Bihar's Sheikhpura



Patna | Agencies

A daring heist took place at an Axis Bank branch at Sri Krishna Chowk in Sheikhpura District of Bihar on Monday, where the robbers made off with Rs 50 lakh. According to police reports, around 12 criminals assembled outside the bank before it opened for the day.

As soon as the bank opened, the criminals entered the premises, held the bank employees at gunpoint, and proceeded to exe-

cute the robbery. They reportedly confined the employees to a single location within the bank during the robbery.

The criminals also snatched a bag belonging to a female customer before fleeing.

Police are scrutinising CCTV footage from the bank premises to gather evidence and identify the perpetrators.

Efforts are underway to nab the robbers and recover the looted funds from them.

India prepares checklist of entire 1,04,561 fauna species

Kolkata | Agencies

India has become the first country to prepare a checklist of its entire 104,561 fauna species, and become a global leader in biodiversity documentation, said Bhubender Yadav, Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).

Launching the Fauna of India Checklist Portal to mark the 109th Foundation Day of the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) in Kolkata on Sunday, the Minister said, "This is the first comprehensive document on the faunal species reported from India.

The portal will be an invaluable reference for taxonomists, researchers, academicians, conservation managers, and policymakers." "The portal com-



prises 121 checklists of all known taxa covering 36 phyla," he said, adding that the list includes "endemic, threatened, and scheduled species". The checklist showcased about 455 mammalian species in India. Meghalaya (163 species) reported the highest number of species while Kerala (134) reported the lowest. Among the Union Territories, Andaman & Nicobar Islands (68), Ladakh (59), and Delhi

(38) have the highest mammalian diversity.

About 52 mammal species were listed as endemic to India of which Tamil Nadu (23 species), Karnataka (19), and Kerala (19) have the highest presence.

The list also includes 1,358 bird species, of which 79 have been listed as endemic. Meanwhile, the Minister also inaugurated the three-day summit, Animal Taxonomy Summit-2024, organised by the Zoological Survey of India, besides releasing an iconic publication of ZSI, 'Animal Discoveries-2023'. The book reveals that India added 641 new animal species in 2023, including 442 entirely new species and 199 species which have been newly recorded in the country. It also added 339 new plant species.

NIA gives consent for Engineer Rashid's oath-taking as MP

New Delhi/Srinagar | Agencies

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Monday gave consent for incarcerated Engineer Rashid to take oath as a member of the 18th Lok Sabha on July 5.

The development came to the surface during the court proceedings when the Patiala House Court in Delhi was hearing the incarcerated Engineer Rashid's application for a grant of interim bail or custody parole so that he could be sworn in as a member of the Lok Sabha.

The NIA counsel told the court that the agency has no objection if the court allows Engineer Rashid to be sworn in as the Lok Sabha member. The counsel, however, pleaded that certain restric-



tions like no media interaction be imposed on Engineer Rashid if he is allowed to be sworn in by the court.

The court is likely to announce its verdict on Tuesday. Engineer Rashid defeated the former J&K Chief Minister and vice president of National Conference (NC), Omar Abdullah in north Kashmir's Baramulla Lok Sabha constituency by a huge margin of over two lakh votes.



ASSEMBLY'S MONSOON SESSION BEGINS ON STORMY NOTE WITH OPPN PROTEST

Team Absolute | Bhopal

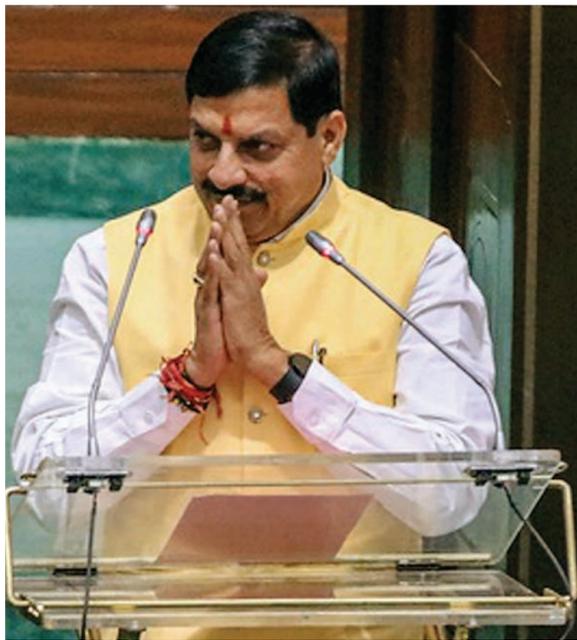
The Monsoon Session of the Madhya Pradesh Assembly began on Monday on a stormy note with the Opposition staging a protest and demanding a discussion in the House on the alleged nursing colleges scam.

Former Chief Minister Kamal Nath, who is a Congress MLA from Chhindwara, told the Press, "One after another, exams are being cancelled in Madhya Pradesh. This is a serious issue, which needs to be debated in the House."

Led by Leader of Opposition (LoP), Umang Singhar, the Congress is attempting to corner the BJP government and plans to push its demand for examining the role of BJP minister Vishwas Sarang in the case.

Sarang, who is an MLA from Narela Assembly seat from Bhopal District, was the Medical Education Minister in former CM Shivraj Singh's Cabinet between March 2020 and December 2023.

BJP minister Govind Singh Rajput accused the Congress of creating unnecessary hurdles in the House



proceedings.

"The BJP government is serious on every single issue. But, the co-operation of the Opposition is equally important in the House," Rajput said.

Rajput stressed that the matter was being heard by the Madhya Pradesh High Court and an investigation was underway.

"The Congress should understand that when the matter is before the court, they should not create unnecessary hurdles," he added.

The Monsoon Session, which is scheduled to be held from July 1 till July 19, will have a total of 14 sittings and the CM Mohan Yadav-led BJP government is supposed to place over a dozen Bills in the Assembly.

There would be no hindrance in clearing the proposed Bills as the BJP has absolute majority in the Assembly. CM Mohan Yadav will also present the annual budget for the financial year 2024-25.

Around 4,500 questions have been put up by MLAs to the government regarding the progress of development projects, law and order, employment etc.

First FIR under BNS in Madhya Pradesh lodged in Bhopal

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The first FIR in Madhya Pradesh under the new criminal law was registered in Bhopal on Monday.

Bhopal's Hanumanganj police station registered the first FIR under the Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita (BNS) at 12.16 a.m. (intervening night of Sunday-Monday), a senior police official said.

Around 10 FIRs were registered in the very first hour after the new criminal laws were introduced. Overall more than 60 FIRs were registered across Madhya Pradesh till 3 p.m. on Monday.

Additional Director General (ADG-Law and Order) of Police Jaydeep Prashad told IANS that the first two FIRs were registered in Bhopal's two police stations. "The new criminal laws were implemented at midnight on Sunday and the first FIR was lodged 16 minutes later at Hanumanganj police station in Bhopal. We are yet to collect the entire data from across Madhya Pradesh, but overall 60 FIRs were registered (till 3p.m.)," Prashad



said. When asked that Union Home Minister Minister Amit Shah has said that the first FIR under the new criminal law was registered in Gwalior, Jaydeep Prashad said, "I can't comment on the Home Minister's statement, as I am not aware of it, but, MP police's data suggests that the first FIR was registered in Bhopal."

He said that the Madhya Pradesh police has prepared for the new criminal laws.

"MP police will try its best to give better results to provide justice to the victims under the new criminal laws," Prashad added.

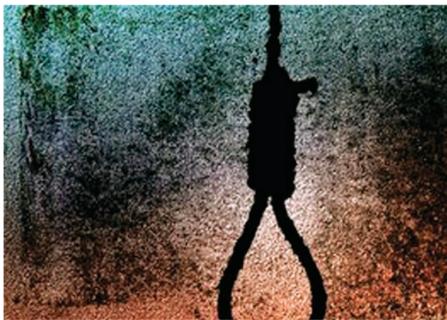
The new criminal laws, Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyaya (BSA), replaced the Indian Penal Code (IPC), Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), and the Indian Evidence Act, respectively, with effect from July 1.

Bodies of husband, wife and three children found hanging in Alirajpur

Team Absolute | Alirajpur

On Monday, bodies of five members of a family, husband, wife and three children, were found hanging in Alirajpur district of Madhya Pradesh. All five bodies have been sent for post-mortem. Till now there is doubt over the death of the family.

According to information received from the police, bodies of Rakesh Singh, his wife Lalita and two sons and a daughter were found hanging in Rowdi village of Guneri Panchayat. Whether it is suicide or murder is not clear yet. The police has started the investigation. All the officers including Superintendent of Police Rajesh Vyas have reached the spot. It is told that when a



family member of Rakesh reached home on Monday morning, he saw the bodies of all the family members hanging from the noose. He informed the people nearby about this. Later police came to the spot. The bodies of Rakesh and his family members have been sent for post-

mortem. Rakesh's neighbors say that he never mentioned any problem nor did he appear troubled. None of his family members told their problems to anyone. Therefore, apprehensions are being expressed in many ways.

July 1st is historic and important for the country-Chief Minister Dr. Yadav

CHIEF MINISTER THANKS PRIME MINISTER MODI FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW JUSTICE SYSTEM. CABINET MEETING BEGINS WITH A RENDITION OF VANDE MATARAM UNDER CM'S CHAIRMANSHIP

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav has said that today, July 1st, has historical significance. The implementation of the new judicial system is starting under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi with the changing of the three



laws prevalent since the British era. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav, on behalf of the Council of Ministers, thanked Prime Minister Modi for the new system. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that from today, important changes

have also been made in the field of transportation in the state. A new system related to checkpoints on the Gujarat pattern is being implemented in the checkpoints of the state. Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav said this in

his address before the Cabinet meeting held in the committee room of the Assembly. The meeting started with the rendition of Vande Mataram.

Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that Prime Minister Modi deserves congratulations for establishing the new justice system in the country based on the Indian judicial system and concept and the tradition of Panch Parmeshwar. Union Home Minister Amit Shah has finalized the drafts of new laws after approximately four hundred hours of hard work, various meetings, and extensive discussions. Now the Indian Penal Code will be called the Code of Justice, connecting it with our judicial tradition. The British had the right to punish, but now our system will establish the tradition of justice. In this, justice will not be meted out blindfolded but with eyes open.

CONGRESS WORRIED ABOUT WEAKENING REGIONAL LEADERSHIP IN MADHYA PRADESH

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The biggest strength of Congress in Madhya Pradesh has been its regional leadership. However, disturbed regional balance and leadership over the years has continuously weakened the party. Now there is a discussion within the party about strengthening the regional leadership once again.

If we look at the politics of the state, regional satraps have dominated the Congress. Regional leaders were engaged in the campaign to strengthen their supporters with the party in their respective areas. Gradually this regional leadership became increasingly weak and many leaders turned towards national politics. The effect of this was that the influence of these leaders in their respective areas was not the same as before.

There was a period in Congress when there was influence of Scindia family in Gwalior-Chambal area,



Digvijay Singh family in the same area, Arun Yadav family in Malwa Nimar, Kamal Nath in Mahakaushal, Ajay Singh family in Vindhya and Chaturvedi family in Bundelkhand. When Jyotiraditya Scindia, an influential leader of Gwalior-Chambal, left Congress and joined BJP, the influence of Congress there reduced con-

siderably. Digvijay Singh's interference in national politics increased. The influence of former Chief Minister Kamal Nath has also reduced in Mahakaushal. Satyavrat Chaturvedi, who belongs to Bundelkhand, has retired from politics. Ajay Singh is active in Vindhya while Arun Yadav is active in Malwa

Nimar. The party is not handing over responsibilities to these two leaders as per their status.

In the last two days, there was a gathering of senior party leaders in the capital Bhopal. The Fact Finding Committee of the party high command communicated with the leaders. During this time, one thing came out clearly that the regional leadership in the party is continuously becoming weak and due to this the support base is slipping.

At present the state president is Jitu Patwari and the leader of opposition is Umang Singhar. Both the leaders come from Malwa Nimar. Former Youth Congress President Vikrant Bhuria was also from this area. Recently, Mitendra Singh Yadav of Gwalior-Chambal has been made the President of Youth Congress. No leader of Vindhya, Bundelkhand and Mahakaushal has any big responsibility. The party is now going to work on the strategy of strengthening the regional leadership once again.

Congress MLAs protest wearing aprons

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Congress is aggressive on the nursing scam in Madhya Pradesh. Before the start of the monsoon session of the Assembly, all the Congress MLAs reached the Assembly premises wearing aprons.

The demand of Congress MLAs is to discuss the adjournment. Nursing scam is in the news these days in the state. While Congress is continuously cornering the government ministers and officials, BJP is accusing Congress of hatching a conspiracy.

The monsoon session of the Assembly started on Monday. Congress MLAs demonstrated near the Gandhi statue in the assembly complex against the nursing scam and made serious allegations against the then medical education minister of the



state government, Vishwas Sarang.

On this occasion, Leader of Opposition Umang Singhar, Hemant Katara, Sachin Yadav and other MLAs were present. Sachin Yadav, while talking to the media, said that the government should discuss the adjournment motion. Madhya Pradesh government has ruined the future of the

youth, first the Vyapam mega scam happened, which brought bad name to the state in the whole world and now the nursing scam has happened. Actually Nursing Scam is Vyapam Scam Part 2.

Congress MLAs demand that the government should suspend the then minister, ACS, PS, Commissioner and other culprits.

Chhatrapur: Ranger facing serious allegations of scam and encroachment

Team Absolute | Chhatrapur

Ranger Rajat Tomar, posted in Forest Division Chhatrapur, has been accused of a scam worth lakhs of rupees at the departmental level. Ranger Tomar, who is currently posted in the forest range Bajna, has encroached thousands of acres of forest land near Chandi Mata temple in Junwani and Ramgarh beat of Bajna forest range in collaboration with the forest mafia of Kishangarh area. According to local people, Ranger Tomar has taken lakhs of rupees in return for this encroachment.

According to depart-

mental sources, Chhatrapur DFO has open protection over Ranger Tomar. Part of the illegal earnings is delivered to DFO. While living in Bajna, the Ranger has also been given additional charge of Chhatrapur range. A monthly fee is charged in the name of inspection from the saw machines operating in Chhatrapur and Naugaon. According to the furniture operators, Ranger has to pay Rs. every month.

A few days ago, Ranger Tomar had inspected the saw machines of Naugaon. In this action, illegal wood was found, but the ranger did not take any action in the field. It is also being alleged that the amount

taken in the name of inspection was not utilized properly.

The possibility of a high-level investigation into the alleged unethical activities and scams of Ranger Rajat Tomar is being expressed. This investigation will prove that on what scale scams and unethical practices have been carried out in the construction work.

In view of these serious allegations against Ranger Rajat Tomar, it is necessary that a fair investigation be conducted and the culprits be punished. Ending the nexus of forest mafia and corrupt officials is extremely important for forest conservation and environmental protection.

Government's focus on MSME for overall development: Deputy Chief Minister Shri Shukla

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Deputy Chief Minister Rajendra Shukla has said that strong infrastructure is required for the development of any state. Earlier, the condition of roads and other infrastructural services in the state was in very weak condition. Which was a factor in the low pace of development in the state. Today we are providing electricity 24 hours a day, there is a power surplus state. Today 4-lane, 6-lane world class roads have been built. There has been development in airport and railway infrastructure. There has been unprecedented development in the field of irrigation. There has been development in airport and railway infrastructure. There has been unprecedented development in the field of irrigation. The purchasing power of citizens has increased. Economic activities have increased due to agricultural development. Shukla said that today Madhya Pradesh is among the fastest growing states from BIMARU state. Deputy Chief Minister Shukla participated in the MSME Summit program organized by NDTV.

The Deputy Chief Minister said that if overall development is to be ensured in any area and the problem of unemployment is to be addressed, then Green Revolution, Industrial Revolution and Tourism Revolution are necessary. Unprecedented



work has been done in these three areas in Madhya Pradesh. Industrial revolution is not possible only through large industrial units, focus on MSMEs is important to create employment for overall development. This is the need of the hour.

Continuous efforts are being made by Madhya Pradesh and Central Government to promote industrial development and ensure participation of youth. The processes have been simplified with financial assistance to encourage micro, medium and small units. Efforts have been made to promote local products and establish their identity.

Deputy Chief Minister said that infrastructure has been provided in Madhya Pradesh on plug and play basis so that MSME sector industries can be started easily. Work has been done on all these subjects in Madhya Pradesh. Dry ports have been developed to promote exports.

The Deputy Chief Minister said that continuous efforts are being made to attract investors in Madhya Pradesh. There is no shortage of electricity and water in Madhya Pradesh and law and order is also excellent. Madhya Pradesh has today emerged as a preferred destination for investors. Deputy Chief Minister Shukla resolved the curiosities of the young entrepreneurs present in the program. The Deputy Chief Minister appreciated the efforts being made by NDTV to promote the MSME sector.



EDITOR'S SPECS

UP: BJP appoints ministers for constituencies facing by-polls

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), in Uttar Pradesh, has started gearing up for assembly by-elections on 10 seats. The BJP has appointed senior ministers to oversee the by-elections in eight of the 10 assembly segments where polls are due. It is noteworthy that of the 10 Assembly seats bound for the upcoming by-polls, five were won by the SP in the 2022 elections, three by the BJP and one each by its NDA allies NISHAD party and RLD (an SP partner in 2022). According to the BJP spokesman, the party has appointed two ministers Watantra Dev Singh and Ashish Patel (Apna Dal-S) for the Katehri assembly by-elections. The Katehri assembly seat in Amedkar Nagar district was declared vacant after its sitting SP MLA Lalji Verma got elected to the Lok Sabha from Amedkar Nagar. This seat has been either with the BSP or the SP since the nineties. While the BSP has a strong presence in this area, its candidate was pushed to third place in the Lok Sabha elections. This has given an edge to the SP in the by-election now. The SP is again hoping to attract the votes of a significant section of the Scheduled Castes with support from the Congress, which was seen in the Lok Sabha polls too. The BJP has already started working on its plan to wrest the seat in a bid to re-establish its dominance in the crucial belt. UP minister Anil Rajbhar has been given charge of the Manjhwa seat in Mirzapur district. The Manjhwa seat in Mirzapur district has been vacated as its sitting MLA from the Nishad party, Vinod Kumar Bind, has now won from the Bhadohi Lok Sabha constituency on the BJP ticket. The BJP is determined to win this seat.

Use of AI for self-prescription poses risk to human life, warn doctors

Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for self-diagnosis and prescription poses significant risk to human life, warn healthcare professionals. On Doctors' Day, they voiced concern over the growing trend of patients depending on Internet search results even for serious ailments.

They believe that while there are many advantages of using the Internet, there are no less problems impacting everyday lives because of it. Ease in life and potential risks, both multiplied over the last couple of years, if not more, with the entry of AI and Machine Learning (ML), which are fast overtaking our lives, say doctors.

According to them, the Internet has emerged as a primary source of health information, fuelling a rise in unsupervised self-medication practices. AI has introduced a new facet to this trend, which poses significant risks to human life.

Engaging in such unchecked behaviour presents grave threats and may result in fatal consequences if incorrect medications are consumed due to misjudgement.

Potential dangers of self-medication include inaccurate self-diagnosis and the misuse of medications, leading to potentially hazardous drug interactions or incorrect dosages, they said. AI works based on data input, and in healthcare data has to be accurate to the last decimal to ensure perfect diagnosis of the ailment to provide best medication or treatment.

Hundred per cent accuracy is certainly not possible when it comes to providing data by non-healthcare practitioners.

"The Internet, especially AI, is developed and dominated by the western world, especially the US. Basic information avail-



able on AI platforms could be those associated with the geography and demography of the West.

"Such information may or may not be suitable to people in India, because the information available will only be to the closest and not the most accurate," Dr. Gayatri Kamini, COO, Kamini Hospitals told correspondent.

"Dosages matter to ensure best treatment for any ailment, and if that input is wrongly provided, the result could be disastrous, even leading to fatalities in certain cases.

"The Internet in general and AI in particular must be seen as a support function and not as a judgment to trust blindly," she said.

Dr B Kishore Reddy, Chief Ortho Oncologist and Managing Director, Amor Hospital believes that when someone takes medication without consulting a doctor or medical profession-

al, he might be choosing the wrong drug.

"Additionally, self-medication increases your risk of taking an incorrect dose or using drugs for longer than necessary. And if you take a substance for a prolonged period, your body may become dependent and need this substance to continue functioning correctly. "Sometimes patients may feel some short-term relief and may think taking medication to alleviate symptoms is beneficial. But there is a likely possibility that such medication could mask symptoms of an underlying medical condition, and if proper medical guidance is not sought, that underlying condition could worsen and become dangerous over time.

"Misusing or overusing medication can also increase the risk of severe medical complications, causing harmful symptoms, including nausea, convulsions and even death."

"Internet, especially Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning have eased the lives of healthcare practitioners. We have access to the most advanced treatment protocols, and due to the ease in communication, the risk of making mistakes has reduced a great deal in a hospital setting. "However, this advancement is controlled and monitored by experts who have decades of experience in providing best care. It is the combination of experience, expertise, and Internet, which delivers the best outcome for patients.

"Depending on the Internet alone, without the experience and the expertise is not advisable at all," observed Dr. C. Mallikarjuna, Chief Urologist and Managing Director, Asian Institute of Nephrology & Urology (AINU).

India's retail market attracts investors, funding for startups rose by 32 pc

India's consumption story has been attracting investors. In the first half of 2024, retail startups in the country raised 32 per cent more funds as compared to the same period last year. Data intelligence firm Tracxn report said that funding for the retail sector has increased by 32 per cent to \$1.63 billion in the first half of 2024, which was \$1.23 billion in the first half of 2023. The report further states that right of the total funding rounds in the first half of 2024 have raised more than \$100 million. Flipkart has raised \$350 million, Apollo 24/7 has raised \$297 million and Meeso has raised \$275 million, which shows investors are very optimistic about the retail sector growth. India is the fastest-growing major economy in the world. In FY 2023-24 GDP growth rate was 8.2 per cent which is estimated to be 7.2 per cent in the current



financial year. Due to the economic growth, consumption in India is also increasing rapidly. According to a UBS report, consumption in India has almost doubled in the last decade. Last year it was at \$2.1 trillion.

India plans to become the world's third-largest economy by 2026. Last year, consumption in India grew faster than other major economies of the world such as China, US, and Germany. According to the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey, since 2011-12, spending in rural areas has increased by 164 per cent and in urban areas by 146 per cent.

The survey said that in monthly per capita consumption expenditure (MPCE) 2022-23, compared to 2011-12, the expenditure in rural areas has increased by 164 per cent to Rs 3,773 and the expenditure in urban areas has increased by 146 per cent to Rs 6,459.

international

French parliamentary polls close with high turnout, exit poll indicates far-right tops vote share

Paris | Agencies
Snap polls to the 577-member French National Assembly on Sunday witnessed a heavy turnout in the first round, surpassing the voting percentage of previous elections over the past four decades, while exit polls indicated the far-right, fresh from its European Parliament election triumph, is forecast to gain the most votes overall and President Emmanuel Macron's party comes third.

While final figures were awaited, at 5 p.m. local time (3 p.m. GMT) - three hours before the official close of polls in the cities (polling in rural areas ended at 6 p.m.), nearly 60 per cent (59.39 per



cent) of the electorate had exercised their franchise, as per figures from the Ministry of the Interior. In 2022, the turnout at the same time was just 39.4 per cent, the BBC reported. As per exit poll projections for the key poll,

whose results will not only impact the political fate of President Macron, but also the course of the country and the European Union, the far-right National Rally (RN) of Marine Le Pen, with the 28-year-old Jordan Bardella its

PM face, has secured 34 per cent of the votes.

As per the exit poll, conducted by Ipsos-Talan for France Televisions and Radio France, the New Popular Front alliance of various Left parties was second with 28.1 per cent, while Macron's own centrist Ensemble Alliance trailed in the third place with just over a fifth of the vote, at 20.3 per cent.

However, the story is not yet over, despite Le Pen, in her address after the polling ended and exit poll predictions were released, exulting in the "wipe-out" of the Macron camp.

The run-off will be taking place in a week's time - on next Sunday (July 7).

North Korea fires 2 ballistic missiles; 1 launch possibly fails

Seoul | Agencies
North Korea fired two ballistic missiles in a northeastern direction on Monday, South Korea's military said, with one of the launches possibly failing and the missile falling inland within the country. The Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) said one short-range ballistic missile was launched from the Jangyong area in South Hwanghae Province around 5:05 a.m. and flew about 600 kilometers, landing in waters off the North's northeastern city of Chongjin, reported Yonhap news agency.

Another ballistic missile was launched from the same area at around 5:15 a.m. and flew only about 120 kilometers before its trail disappeared from radar. News agency Col. Lee Sung-jun, spokesperson of the JCS, told a briefing the second missile may have flown abnormally during the early stage of its flight and that if it exploded in midair, its debris could have fallen inland.

"We are conducting a comprehensive analysis on various possibilities," Lee said when asked if the missile had exploded or fallen inland. He declined to comment on where it may have come down.

The launch came a day after the North's foreign ministry denounced a



joint exercise between South Korea, the United States, and Japan, saying the country would take "offensive and overwhelming" countermeasures against what it called an attempt to strengthen a military bloc.

The three-day multidomain Freedom Shield exercise, which ended Saturday, involved fighter jets and warships, including a U.S. aircraft carrier, in international waters south of South Korea's southern resort island of Jeju.

The latest launch also took place five days after the North fired a ballistic missile toward the East Sea on Wednesday.

The North claimed the next day to have successfully conducted a multiple warhead missile test, but the South has dismissed the claim as "deception," saying the launch failed as the missile

exploded in midair.

The latest launch also took place amid growing concerns over deepening military cooperation between Pyongyang and Moscow after North Korean leader Kim Jong-un and Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a "comprehensive strategic partnership" treaty during a summit last month in Pyongyang.

The pact includes a pledge for the two countries to come to each other's aid if attacked.

The launch raised speculation it could be a test for missiles intended to be sent to Russia, considering the KN-23 is suspected to have been used by Moscow. Lee declined to comment when asked about the possibility.

Seoul and Washington have accused Pyongyang of delivering arms to Moscow to fuel its war against Ukraine. Defense Minister Shin Won-sik has said the arms trade between North Korea and Russia is expected to expand after their leaders sign the treaty.

North Korea has ratcheted up cross-border tensions in recent weeks, launching trash-carrying balloons to South Korea in a tit-for-tat move against anti-Pyongyang leaflets sent by North Korean defectors and activists in the South.

Turkey: 5 killed, 60 injured in natural gas explosion



Istanbul | Agencies
A natural gas explosion in Turkey's western province of Izmir killed five people and injured at least 60 others. According to state-run TRT broadcaster, the explosion occurred at 2:43 p.m. local time (11:43 GMT) on Sunday at a business on the ground floor of a building in Torbali district.

At least 10 of the injured are in critical condition, reports Xinhua news agency.

Izmir Governor Suleyman Elban told TRT that the explosion damaged 11 buildings in the vicinity. "As a precautionary measure, the gas supply has been cut off, and the area is being evacuated. Our security forces have taken necessary actions," Elban said. Justice Minister Yilmaz Tunc said on X that an investigation has been launched into the explosion, with the coordination of two public prosecutors.

Nearly 2,000 households evacuated amid potential floods in Myanmar

Yangon | Agencies
Nearly 2,000 households in northern Myanmar's Kachin State have been evacuated as the Ayeyarwady River overflowed above the danger mark due to heavy rains, according to the Kachin state government on Monday.

There have been no reported fatalities and ongoing rescue operations, a member from the Kachin state government, reported Xinhua news agency.

The affected residents have been moved to temporary shelters in 30 schools, churches, and monasteries across the region, he said.

According to local media reports, more than 1,000 people are trapped in Myitkyina and Waingmaw townships due to heavy rains.



According to the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology on Monday, the Ayeyarwady River overflowed about five feet above the danger mark in Myitkyina Township.

The river is expected to rise by another two feet in the next two days and remains above the Myitkyina Township's danger mark.

Palestinian presidency rejects handover of Gaza to foreign forces

Ramallah | Agencies
The Palestinian presidency has rejected any foreign presence on Palestinian lands, in response to Israeli statements calling for the handover of the Gaza Strip to international forces. In a declaration carried by the official news agency Wafa, Nabil Abu Rudeineh, spokesperson for the presidency, said on Sunday that "there is no legitimacy for any foreign presence on Palestinian lands, and only the Palestinian people can decide who governs and manages their affairs".

He stressed that the Israeli government "is delusional if it thinks it can decide the fate of the Palestinian people and cement the occupation by bringing in foreign forces" as reported by Xinhua news agency.

The Spokesperson called the Palestine Liberation Organisation the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, which "has legal authority over all of Palestine's territory, including Gaza, the West Bank, and Jerusalem".

He emphasised that "the Palestine issue is about land and statehood, not just humanitarian aid; it is a sacred issue and the central cause for Arabs".



On Friday, Israeli public radio Kan reported that Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant discussed the transitional phase plan for Gaza during his visit to the US days ago.

The plan would be overseen by a steering committee led by the US and involving moderate Arab countries, according to the radio.

The international forces, possibly including soldiers from Egypt, Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, and Morocco, would oversee security in Gaza while the American side would handle leadership and logistics from outside the strip, likely in Egypt, it reported.

The plan will be implemented in stages from north to south Gaza and aims for the gradual transfer of local security responsibilities to Palestinian forces, the report said.

It noted that the plan assumes that Hamas's military capabilities have been sufficiently reduced, rendering the

group unable to conduct large-scale attacks. Israel's National Security Adviser Tzachi Hanegbi said last Tuesday during a conference at the Reichman University in Herzliya that "the post-war plan for Hamas and Gaza has been prepared in recent weeks, and we will soon see practical steps towards this".

He added, "We do not have to wait for Hamas to disappear, as it is a long process," explaining, "We cannot eliminate Hamas as an idea; we need an alternative idea."

Hanegbi believes that establishing an alternative to replace Hamas is essential for achieving long-term victory, saying that the alternative should be a government supported by local residents who wish to live alongside Israel, with backing from moderate Arab countries.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had faced widespread criticism from within and outside Israel for not presenting a clear post-war plan for Gaza. Israel has been conducting a large-scale offensive against Hamas in Gaza to retaliate against a Hamas rampage through the southern Israeli border on October 7, 2023, during which about 1,200 people were killed and more than 200 were taken hostage.



Maha Dy CM stays Deekshabhoomi renovation project after protests

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Monday announced a stay on the Rs 200 crore Deekshabhoomi renovation project in Nagpur in the wake of ongoing agitation there.

Fadnavis said in the state Assembly that the makeover project was undertaken after due consultation with the Deekshabhoomi Committee. However, he added that a fresh discussion will be held involving the committee, the representatives of various organisations who staged agitation and the concerned contractors. He assured that the work would commence only after taking into account changes, if any, by those who were involved in the agitation.

The stay came after several opposition and ruling members raised the issue following the agitation launched at Deekshabhoomi against the work of an underground park there. They claimed that the work may endanger the original foundation of Deekshabhoomi as well as the Stupa.



Congress legislator Nitin Raut took strong objection against the ongoing work at the site and claimed that it posed a threat to the original structure and thus should be stopped immediately.

BJP legislator Narayan Kuche also sought the government's intervention in seeking to stay the work.

Leader of Opposition Vijay Wadetiwar through his post on X claimed that due to the work at the Deekshabhoomi, the peoples' senti-

ments have been hurt. "Therefore, it is our view that this work should be stopped immediately by respecting the sentiments of the people. This has created a law and order problem and the government should immediately intervene and discuss with the protesters," he said.

Devendra Fadnavis announced that the state has set a record with the recruitment of 77,305 in various departments during its two-year rule and that the entire process took place

without irregularities.

"The government had announced the recruitment of 75,000 on various posts. But the government has already given recruitment letters to 57,552 and similar recruitment letters are being given to 19,583. The recruitment process has taken place without irregularities. The government is currently in the midst of recruiting another 31,000 job aspirants. These exams are conducted through TCS and IBPS. The government has decided to appoint an officer of the rank of deputy collector as an observer at every exam centre to avoid malpractices," said Fadnavis in his reply to a question by Congress legislator Balasaheb Thorat, BJP legislator Ashish Shelar, NCP(SP) Rajesh Tope and others in the state Assembly.

Fadnavis said that the government has cancelled the exams for the recruitment in the water conservation department and 15 people have been arrested from Amravati. He told the Assembly that no irregularities or malpractices were reported in the recruitment process of the water conservation department.

Thane police issues notification for bars, says 'follow time limit, liquor serving rules strictly'

Team Absolute | Thane

Maharashtra's Thane Police Commissioner Ashutosh Dhumbre has issued prohibitory orders with regard to 21 items for restaurants, bars and permits rooms till August 27, an official said on Monday.

According to a news agency, the notification under section 144 of CrPC was issued on June 29 because serving notices individually was not possible, he added.

"It has come to our notice that certain incidents affecting public peace and order are frequently occurring in and around bars, permit rooms, restaurants. It has also been pointed out that some owners of such establishments are either not taking proper precautions to prevent these incidents or are deliberately engaging in actions that lead to such incidents," the notification said.

"Some owners are blatantly violating mandatory rules and regulations, creating a fertile ground for offensive incidents. Additionally, some guests/customers visiting these establishments behave improperly, causing a sense of insecurity among other customers, including women. To prevent such incidents and ensure peace in these establishments and surrounding areas, a notification is being issued under Article 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC)," it



added.

The notification issued by the police further said that all such establishments must shut at 1:30 am, while liquor should not be served to anyone below the age of 18.

Details of the foreign artists who will perform in such establishments should be provided to the police 15 days in advance, it said.

CCTVs must cover all areas of these establishments and recording of the footage must be available for 30 days, the notification added.

Liquor should not be served on roof tops and open spaces if valid permit for the same is not obtained. If the roof top has permit then it should be ensured that noise level norms are adhered to strictly. There should be boards that prominently display rules banning all kinds of drugs," the notification said, the news agency reported on Monday.

Will decide within 3 months on Old Pension Scheme for teachers: Ajit Pawar

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Ajit Pawar on Monday announced that the state government will take a decision within three months regarding the implementation of the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) for teachers.

During the Question Hour, Ajit Pawar said the teaching and non-teaching staff working in semi-government and aided institutions of Maharashtra who joined service after the notification was issued would be provided relief.

Pawar responded to questions raised by BJP members Sanjay Kelkar, Ashish Shelar, and Congress member Balasaheb Thorat.

As per the government's decision, those opting for OPS will have to contribute 10 per cent while 14 per cent will be added by the state.

Pawar said that the government recently decided to give an option of the OPS to government employees whose posts were advertised before November



1, 2005 but who joined service after that.

In this decision, the option has been given to apply for the provisions of the Maharashtra Civil Services Retirement Rules 1982, Maharashtra Civil Services Retirement Pension Scheme 1984, and General Provident Fund Rules for managing retirement funds, exclusively to government officials and employees under the jurisdiction of the Central government.

He told the House that the decision was not implemented in respect of teachers and non-teaching staff working in semi-government and aided institutions as the case was sub judice.

Ajit Pawar said that considering the economic situation of the country and states, the Central government decided to discontinue the OPS and start a new one. Subsequently, various state government officials and employees demanded the implementation of the OPS, to which the Central government has responded positively.

State governments have also sought information from the Central government regarding this matter.

Ajit Pawar also said the state government had formed a committee of retired officials to understand their demands.

"Discussions have been held with the associations of government officials and employees in this regard. A request was made in the Nagpur winter session regarding the state government's stance on implementing the old pension.

"Some states have also sought information regarding decisions taken in this regard. The current government is pro-employee, so they will not be left in the lurch. Proper justice will be given in this matter," Pawar assured.

Maharashtra: Oppn stages walkout over resolution congratulating Shelar for India's T20 WC win

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The opposition in the Maharashtra Legislative Council staged a walkout on Monday over the treasury members' attempt to move a resolution congratulating BJP MLA and BCCI Treasurer Ashish Shelar, and not the Indian cricket team, for winning the T20 World Cup in the West Indies on Saturday. The Leader of Opposition, Ambadas Danve, claimed that the treasury members should have moved the resolution to congratulate the men in Blue, and not Shelar.

Danve, who was joined by other opposition members, took strong objection to Deputy Chairperson Neelam Gorhe for not allowing them to speak on the issue, but allowing the treasury members to express their views. After staging a walkout, Danve told mediapersons that the Deputy Chairperson did not allow the opposition to congratulate the Indian cricket team.

Instead, the presiding officer was allowing the treasury members to speak,



which was not acceptable. "The Indian team should have been congratulated as they really worked hard for the victory. But the BJP members were congratulating Shelar, which is an insult to the

Indian players and the country," he said. Danve also alleged that BJP leaders had nothing to do with the country, as they were keen to promote their own leaders, party, and themselves.

Fake DLs: SIT formed to probe mega scam in Mumbai RTO



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Two days after the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) raised the stunning issue of fake driving licences (DLs) in the Maharashtra Legislature, the Regional Transport Office (RTO) has set up a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the mega-scam, official sources said here on Monday. The five-member SIT - headed by Andheri Regional Transport Officer Anil Patil, a Deputy RTO, and three senior RTO inspectors - will submit its report after scrutinising all the dubious DLs issued last year (2023-2024) by the Andheri RTO (MH-02), within one week, sources said. The development came three days after a hurried internal probe was initiated following the revelation of an audit report submitted by the Maharashtra Accountant General (Audit II) which carried out a random check of 1.04 lakh DLs, and detected that at least 76,354 dubious DLs were issued by the Andheri RTO (IANS report June 28). Following a tip-off by a local social worker Binu Varghese, the rattled RTO

officialdom got cracking on the issue of potential 'killers' speeding on Mumbai's roads with DLs that were issued without even conducting a basic test of their driving skills. After Congress Leader of Opposition, Vijay Wadetiwar, and state party President, Nana F Patole alleged massive corruption in the department headed by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, Speaker Rahul Narwekar ordered the government to take serious note of the issue and initiate appropriate measures.

Besides the internal probe which continued over the weekend, throwing up a few more shockers, now the SIT will delve deeper into the matter - in which many heads are expected to roll. During the internal probe, it was learnt that one particular RTO Inspector had allegedly issued around 400 DLs per day - against the regular quota of just 70 per RTO Inspector - which has raised suspicions of severe multiple irregularities. Sources explained that for the average 5 hour driving test period, that particular officer apparently worked at lightning

speed, conducting a full-fledged driving test for different types of big and small vehicles along with all the accompanying formalities, to clear one candidate every minute...! The registration of one of the cars deployed for the official driving tests has expired, yet it was being used for driving tests, though it was not an authorised vehicle for the intended purpose, as per the rules. It has further emerged that of the DLs scrutinised so far, around 50 per cent may have been doled out without the candidates ever undergoing a properly supervised driving test, and the rest have shown other glaring shortcomings. Meanwhile, the revelations by reporter have reverberated across the other 53 RTOs in Maharashtra and many have quietly initiated corrective measures suo motu at their end. This includes documentation, following laid down procedures and conducting proper driving tests before the successful candidates are cleared and are found eligible to get a valid DL, entitling them to drive different types of big and small vehicles, said sources.

BJP nominates Pankaja Munde, 4 others for state council polls to woo back OBCs, Dalits, Marathas

Team Absolute | Mumbai

BJP for the biennial election to the Maharashtra Legislative Council slated for July 12 has nominated former minister Pankaja Munde, who lost the Lok Sabha elections from Beed, former minister of state Parihar Fuke, former minister of state Sadabhau Khot, former legislator Yogesh Tilekar and party functionary Amit Gorkhe.

The BJP, in the wake of its dismal performance in the General Elections, has made a serious attempt to strike a balance by giving representation to Marathas, OBCs and the Dalit community ahead of the forthcoming Assembly elections likely in September-October.

The biennial election is slated for July 12 for 11 seats. These five leaders will file their nominations on July 2 which is the last date for it.

The BJP's decision to rehabilitate Munde, who hails from the Vanjari community, is to lure back the OBC community, especially in the wake of ongoing protests over Maratha and OBC reservations.

Munde, who was the Cabinet minister for women and child welfare in the Devendra



Fadnavis-led government in 2014 and 2019, is likely to be inducted into the state Cabinet in the run-up to the Assembly poll.

Munde lost to NCP(SP) nominee Bajrang Sonawane from Beed constituency amid a widening rift between the Maratha and OBC communities and increasing caste divide which played a crucial role in the just-concluded General Elections.

Munde's rehabilitation has also sent a signal to the BJP's ally, the Ajit Pawar-led NCP that it would not interfere in the Parli constituency which is represented by the party's Dhananjay Munde in the state Assembly.

Residents of Maha's Chiplun town shudder as crocodile traipses down road

Team Absolute | Ratnagiri

Locals of Chiplun town were shocked and horrified to see a large crocodile traipsing down a rain-soaked road in Chinchnaka area late on Sunday night.

A video of the scaly reptile, at least eight-feet long, with its jaws menacingly open and tail ready to hit, went viral on social media, confounding the people and officialdom alike.

Though no official comments are available, the reptile is suspected to have ventured into the town from the crocodile-infested Shiv River close by. A local expert, Sandesh Sansare, who runs the Kokan Crocodile Safari in the River Vashishti around 20 kms away, said that Chinchnaka is very close to the Shiv River bend and owing to the downpour witnessed in the last few days there, the crocodile may have ambled on to the roads to reach a dry area.

"There was a similar incident here owing to some work near the river



shores a couple of years ago that had left people scared. Though the presence of the big lizard caused panic, but the crocodile had gone away without causing any harm," Sansare told reporter.

In Sunday's incident, there were no pedestrians but many people driving by were seen stopping to click photos or videos and sharing them on social media.

Later the scary visitor seemed to have vanished from the scene.

5 picknickers drown in Pune waterfall; 3 bodies recovered from nearby dam

Team Absolute | Pune

Five persons including a woman and four minor kids, were washed away in a waterfall and drowned downstream in a reservoir, at the famed hill station of Lonavala in Maharashtra on Sunday, a police officer said.

Lonavala Police Station incharge Mayur Agnave said that the tragedy occurred around 2 p.m. when the victims, all from Pune, and some others had gone to enjoy the waterfall, gushing in the hilly forests near the Bhusli Dam.

The deceased have been identified as Shaista L. Ansari (36), Amaima A. Ansari, (13), Umaish A. Ansari, 8, whose bodies were recovered late Sunday evening from the dam.

Two other victims are Adnan S. Ansari (9) and Maria A. Syed (9) whose bodies have not been found and the search shall be resumed on Monday morning, the police officer said.

Local residents suspect that they



may have slipped on the mossy stones at the base of the falls, got carried away in the force of the water and met a watery end in the Bhusli Dam waters which were lashed by heavy rainfall in the past few days.

Taking serious cognizance of the tragedy, the Lonavala Police have issued an appeal asking people to exercise extreme caution while visiting some of the popular monsoon picnic spots in and around the hill station.

They have also urged the people to refrain from straying into unknown or isolated areas which may prove dangerous.



Taylor Swift gets stuck as her stage malfunctions during concert

Los Angeles | Agencies

Popstar Taylor Swift during her tour in Dublin had a small problem as she got stuck on a "raised platform." Swift got help from one of her background dancers from the Eras Tour, where she was performing 'The Smallest Man Who Ever Lived', a staple of the Tortured Poets Department portion of the tour setlist. She was stranded midair on a platform after it did not retract according to plan, reports people.com.

A backup dancer stayed firm while the singer was standing on the structure, a fan-captured footage shows. Swift and the dancer did not miss a beat before smoothly handling the technical mishap.

The video shows the dancer walking over to Swift's platform immediately after he reached the floor, and helped her down effortlessly as she smiled down at him, another clip of the performance shows.

After coming on the ground, the two went back to perform and straight made the formation before 'The Smallest Man Who Ever Lived' bridge, during which a group of dancers emerged for some marching band-inspired choreography.

During the same Eras Tour show, Swift opened up about the album 'Folklore' and shared that Ireland played a large part in the development of the story of the fantasy-inspired pandemic-era album.



Idris Elba has an 'instantly recognisable' fragrance, reveals wife Sabrina

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Idris Elba's wife Sabrina Elba has revealed what her award-winning husband smells like. "Idris has a musk that he uses as a body oil, and anyone that knows him knows that's his smell," she said of Elba, who is the former PEOPLE's Sexiest Man Alive. "I love it. It embodies him to me."

The couple first met at a party in Vancouver while the actor was filming for the 2017 movie 'The Mountain Between Us' directed by Hany Abu-Assad. They got married during a three-day wedding in April 2019, reports people.com.

According to Sabrina, Idris also has a unique sense of style.

"Idris for sure is effortless, timeless and sexy to me. He doesn't even have to lift a finger," she said.

"He just walks out the door, this confident sexy guy. He can be in a pair of flip-flops and sweats and I'm just like, 'Wow, you're going to make best-dressed lists.' And he always does. He's effortless."

Idris, for his part, said of his wife: "I think Sabrina is fresh because she loves the newest and coolest. And she's elegant no matter what she puts on, whether it's sweatpants or a ball gown, she looks elegant." When it comes to the couple's red carpet fashion, Sabrina said: "If we could match and wear matching colours, I'd actually love it." "Idris not so much. I love the idea of couple dressing and when couples do it, I just think it's the cutest thing ever. Idris doesn't love it." Defending himself, Idris said: "When it's all matching, matching and you look like twins, I'm like, 'Oh man.'"



Katherine Schwarzenegger Pregnant

Los Angeles | Agencies

Katherine Schwarzenegger and Chris Pratt are going to be parents for the third time, according to a new report by People, published on Friday, June 28. A source close to the pair revealed to the outlet that they're expecting baby number three. The pair haven't publicly announced that they have another child on the way.

Katherine, 34, has recently shared two posts with cute family photos of the pair's daughters Eloise Christina, 2, and Lyla Maria, 3. The Good Night Sister author's first photo set were taken during a family day at the Santa Barbara Zoo. She shared a few photos of the girls with Chris, 45, at the zoo, plus one group shot, with all four of them with their backs to the camera. The second set were mostly focusing on the girls during a day on the farm. There were shots of the Parks and Recreation alum carrying each girl on his shoulders, and they were also a shot of herself helping the girls with horseback riding. Her back was again facing the camera. "Things that make me happy: A gloomy morning followed by a barn visit," she wrote in the caption.



SZA's Glastonbury gig gets 15 minutes late, draws small crowd

Los Angeles | Agencies

The fans of American singer-songwriter SZA, who headlined Glastonbury festival, were in for a not-so-pleasant surprise as her headliner act drew a small crowd.

Her appearance also faced some sound issues as she began her headline set on the Pyramid stage at Glastonbury 15 minutes late, reports Mirror.co.uk. The star treated fans at Worthy Farm to hits including Love Galore, the day after her headline show at British Summer Time in London's Hyde Park. As per Mirror.co.uk, SZA followed performances from Dua Lipa and Coldplay. However, just before taking to the stage, many fans noticed SZA drew in a much smaller crowd than the previous nights. Viewers watching from home also noticed the vast space between fans as they gathered at the Pyramid Stage. Fans shared their heartbreak for SZA online as one said: "The Pyramid Stage looks empty :(thought was a strange one having SZA on the Sunday especially, hope she puts on the performance of the festival! #Glastonbury." Another added: "oh dear... not a very big showing for Sza. #Glastonbury". Someone else commented: "Is it the @bbcglasto camera angles I'm seeing or is the #PyramidStage pretty quiet @glastonbury." The singer, whose real name is Solana Rowe, appeared on stage on an elevated podium to perform the intro to her hit 'PSA'. She was then lowered down to the stage which was adorned with elaborate pillars and a large insect, which she sat on for one number. She asked her assembled fans: "Do I have any day ones in the crowd?" SZA also performed hits including 'F2F', 'I Hate U' and 'Kiss Me More', her collaboration with Doja Cat. She appeared in a patterned body suit and flat boots with neon laces that ran up to her thighs. SZA brandished two swords during her rendition of her track 'Kill Bill' on the Pyramid Stage at Glastonbury. The musician showed off her samurai skills for the track, which takes its name from the Quentin Tarantino film starring Uma Thurman.



Billy Ray Cyrus is leaning on the wisdom of his daughter

Los Angeles | Agencies

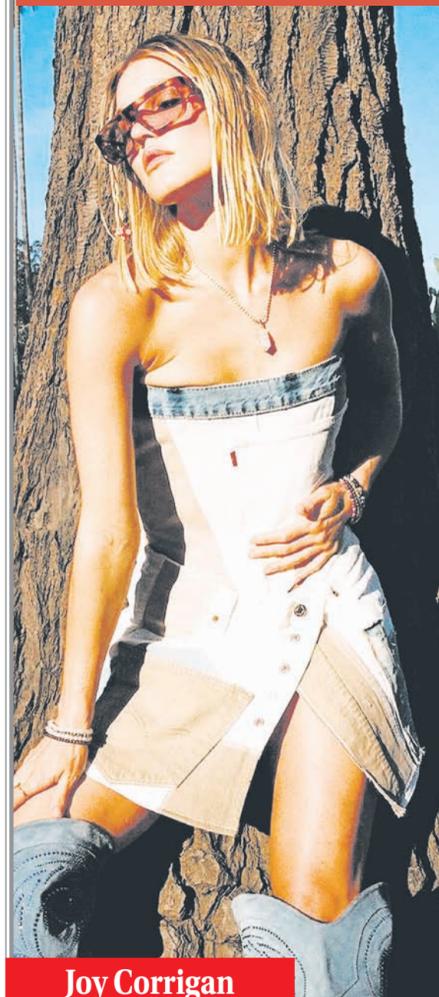
The American country singer, songwriter, and actor shared song lyrics and a sweet image of the dad-daughter duo together.

"I'm so proud of this little girl," Billy Ray Cyrus captioned the throwback photo of him and a young Noah Cyrus, 24, shared via Instagram on Wednesday, June 26. "Noah has grown into an incredible young lady."

"Sometimes you gotta take your daughter's advice and just 'Stand Still,'" Cyrus, 62, continued, referring to his 2022 duet with his daughter, "Noah (Stand Still)." The song featured on Noah's album, 'The Hardest Part'.

On the second slide, a screenshot of the song's lyrics read, "As you get older, it gets harder to change / You might find yourself alone / with just your shame / But it's not over / It's all gonna be ok / And wh?n times are tough remember what I say." "love my daddy so much," Noah commented under her dad's post.

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Joy Corrigan



TEAM INDIA STILL STUCK IN BARBADOS AS HURRICANE BERYL INTENSIFIES TO CATEGORY 4 STORM



Bridgetown (Barbados) | Agencies

The Indian team is still stranded in the island nation of Barbados after their T20 World Cup 2024 triumph due to Hurricane Beryl, which is expected to make landfall by Monday morning (as per local time). The team's planned itinerary included a flight to New York, followed by a connecting flight to Dubai, and finally a return to India. The World Cup winning

team, originally scheduled to depart from Barbados on Monday at 11 AM local time (8:30 PM IST), had to delay their departure due to the impending Beryl, a Category 3 hurricane which has now intensified into an extremely dangerous Category 4. However, it is currently uncertain whether they will be able to board that flight, as the hurricane has prompted the Bridgetown airport to prepare for a shutdown. Hurricane warnings are in effect for Barbados, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadine Islands, Grenada

and Tobago. Beryl is expected to remain an extremely dangerous major hurricane when it reaches the Windward Islands on Monday morning (local time), according to National Hurricane Center. It is expected to produce 3 to 6 inches of rain across Barbados and the Windward Islands through Monday. Beryl is expected to remain an extremely dangerous major hurricane as its core moves through the Windward Islands into the eastern Caribbean, the weather center said.

Dinesh Karthik named RCB's batting coach and mentor

Bengaluru | Agencies

Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) on Monday announced that former India wicket-keeper Dinesh Karthik has joined the franchise as their new batting coach and mentor.

Karthik had played for RCB for the first time in 2015 and 2016. He had two different stints with the Bengaluru-based franchise, with the most recent one from 2022-2024. He scored a total of 326 runs in the 15 matches in the 2024 season at a strike rate of 187.36. "Coaching at a professional level is incredibly exciting for me and is something I'm truly passionate about as a new chapter in my life. Hopefully, the breadth of my experiences as a player can contribute to the development of the group and bring added value," Karthik said on his appointment as RCB's batting coach and mentor. "I believe that cricket success hinges not only on technical proficiency but also on

match intelligence and composure. I am eager to coach and mentor our batting group, helping them to not only refine their method but also to develop the keen match awareness needed to excel under pressure. It's also great that I can continue my association with RCB as the franchise continues to move from strength to strength," he added.

The wicketkeeper-batter, who had recently retired from all forms of the game after the conclusion of IPL 2024, featured in 257 IPL games, scoring an aggregate of 4842 runs, including 22 fifties. The 39-year-old, who made his ODI debut for India as a 19-year-old back in 2004, has vast batting experience of over two decades during which he played 26 Tests, 94 One-Day Internationals and 60 T20 Internationals for India. Karthik was a member of the Indian squad that won the inaugural T20 World Cup in 2007 and participated in every edition of the IPL until



his retirement. Speaking about Karthik's appointment, Mo Bobat, Director of Cricket, RCB said, "DK is an excellent addition to our coaching group. He was thrilling to watch on the field, and I'm sure he will be just as impactful as a coach. His longevity and track

record as a player speaks volumes about his skill and dedication. I know he will bring that same quality and commitment to this new professional chapter. "DK's experiences across both international cricket and the IPL, make him a huge asset to RCB. I have no doubt that our players will benefit hugely from his expert support. As a player, DK demonstrated an elite mindset under pressure and a real drive to keep evolving his game. I'm looking forward to him instilling those same qualities and values into our players, and in particular, our batters. "We have exciting times ahead and it's great for us that we can retain DK's involvement, as someone who knows what it takes to play for RCB and our special fans," Bobat added. Besides RCB, Karthik played for Kolkata Knight Riders, Mumbai Indians, Delhi Daredevils, and Punjab Kings (then Kings XI Punjab apart).

Rohit and Virat retiring simultaneously from T20Is came as a shock: Shami

New Delhi | Agencies

After Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli announced their retirement from the T20Is, fast bowler Mohammed Shami expressed his shock, saying filling their places in the team is going to be tough task. Shortly after India won its second T20 World Cup with a seven-run win over South Africa at the Kensington Oval in Bridgetown, Kohli was adjudged the Player-of-the-Match award for his 59-ball 76 and said this was the last T20 of his international career. The right-hander ended his T20I career as India's second-highest run-scorer in the format, through 4188 runs in 125 games at an average of 48.69 and strike rate of 137.04. Later on, Rohit in the post-match press conference announced that he's joining Virat in ending his T20I career, finishing his T20I career as the highest scorer with 4231 runs in 159 matches - and also holding the record for the most centuries in men's T20Is via fine tons. "The retirement of Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli from T20Is was a shock. They have been stalwarts for India, delivering outstanding performances for the country for 15-16 years and earning their titles as kings of white-ball cricket. Both retiring simultaneously is shocking, but it's part of the natural cycle—when one player



leaves, another steps in. However, replacing such stars in the team will be a significant challenge," said Shami. "Bidding goodbye to a journey after achieving your goal is a truly emotional moment. I would like to thank both Rohit and Virat for winning matches for the team, playing amazing innings for India, and breaking records along the way," he added. Reflecting on India's title win, Shami congratulated Team India and support staff for the victory and thanked fans for boosting teams moral

throughout the campaign. "It's a huge achievement. Credit goes to the entire Indian team, the support staff, and the fans who boost our confidence. I would like to congratulate all the players who worked hard to remain unbeaten in the tournament. I would also like to acknowledge and congratulate those players who have contributed to the team's success in any capacity, as every little step and every prayer counts," said the 33-year-old pacer. "Players who become a part of the

World Cup are fortunate to have that opportunity, as only around 10 percent of players get a chance in their lifetime to be part of a World Cup-winning team," he concluded. Speaking on Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulating Men in Blue over phone call right after India's triumph, Shami said "I truly appreciate that our Prime Minister has a passion for the sport and personally congratulates our champions after their victories. It really boosts the team's confidence."

SANDEEP SINGH: INDIAN SHOOTER FORGED IN SIACHEN AIMS GOLD AT 2024 OLYMPICS

New Delhi | Agencies

Enduring temperatures as low as -40 degrees Celsius, India's top 10m rifle shooter Sandeep Singh found his resolve in the icy desolation of Siachen, the world's highest battlefield, and spent months living in a tent, cooking his own meals, and contemplating his future. At 28, Sandeep has already faced and conquered immense challenges. Earlier this year, he secured a berth for the Paris Olympics in the 10m air rifle event by triumphing in the fiercely competitive Olympic Selection Trials at New Delhi, Bhopal topping ahead of former world champion Rudranksh Patil, Tokyo Olympian Divyansh Singh Panwar and Olympic quota winner Arjun Babuta. "The trials were very good from my point of view and finishing on top was a relief to my journey but I believe my best is yet to come. To claim the quota for the Paris Olympics was my only aim and now since I will be representing India, I will try my best to secure a gold medal for the country," said Sandeep Singh on the back-off Paris Olympic kit launch and send-off ceremony held by IOA. The struggle began in his early years in Faridkot district, where Sandeep grew up in a lower-middle-class family. His father worked as a daily wager, and his two brothers are bike mechanics. With no background in sports, Sandeep's path to becoming an elite shooter was unconventional. He used to run cross-country twice a day, covering 7-8 kilometers, to prepare for an Army entrance exam. This rigorous routine eventually paid off, earning him a position as a Sepoy in the Indian Army. It was during his training in the Army that Sandeep first encountered shooting. Handling an INSAS rifle, an assault rifle that doubles as a light machine gun, he demonstrated

remarkable aptitude. His superiors noticed his talent and encouraged him to pursue competitive shooting. This led to his participation in competitions at the Army Marksmanship Unit in Mhow, where he won several medals. His success at Mhow paved the way for national recognition. In 2018, Sandeep won a silver medal at the National Championships, a victory that secured his promotion to Havaldar and a place in the national shooting squad. Despite being a reserve shooter for the Tokyo Olympics in 2021, a subsequent dip in form saw him return to his unit, eventually leading to his posting in Siachen for six months between 2021 and 2022. "I was really disappointed with my performance after not making the cut for the Tokyo Olympics and for that mental preparation, I went to serve in the Army. The greatest honour for me is to represent my country at the highest level and serving in the Indian Army has taught me the importance of it," he recalls. In April-May of 2024, Sandeep faced the ultimate test at the Olympic Selection Trials. Competing against world champion shooter Rudranksh Patil, Sandeep relied on his rigorous training and unyielding focus. He topped the trials with stunning scores in qualification -- 634.4, 632.6, 631.6 and 628.3 (out of a possible 654), the latter the lowest after having all but qualified on his first three scores - which gave him an edge even without the bonus points. However, Sandeep remains determined to perform better in Paris and believes that his best is yet to come. "I have been training hard and I have shot more than the points which I scored in the trials. I am training on my concentration and focus and will try to implement it in the Olympics.

SUCCESSOR OF DRAVID TO BE ANNOUNCED SOON, VVS TO COACH ON ZIMBABWE TOUR: BCCI

Bridgetown | Agencies

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) secretary, Jay Shah announced on Monday that the Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) has shortlisted two names for the men's team head coach role. The final decision is expected to be made soon, marking the end of Rahul Dravid's tenure as head coach. The Indian cricket team is set to welcome a new head coach for the upcoming limited-overs series in Sri Lanka, commencing later this month as former opener Gautam Gambhir and former India women's coach W.V. Raman are in contention for the prestigious role. Shah, currently in the Caribbean celebrating India's recent T20 World Cup victory, confirmed that the new coach would take charge from the Sri Lanka series beginning on July 27. "Both the coach and selector appointments will be made shortly. The CAC has conducted interviews and shortlisted two names. We will finalize the decision once we return to Mumbai," Shah said in the press conference. He also mentioned that VVS Laxman would be coaching the team for the Zimbabwe tour starting July 6, but the new head coach would join from the Sri Lanka series. "VVS Laxman is going to Zimbabwe but new coach will join from Sri Lanka series." India's recent triumph in the T20 World Cup, where they clinched the title by defeating South Africa by seven runs in a nail-biting final, was a momentous occasion. The victory ended an 11-year drought of ICC titles for India, a feat that Shah attributed to the experi-

ence and dedication of senior players like Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli. Both stalwarts, along with all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja, announced their retirement from T20 Internationals after the World Cup win. Reflecting on the win, Shah said, "We had the same captain last year and here in Barbados. We worked harder and played better to win the title this time. Experience makes a significant difference in World Cups, and our seniors excelled when it mattered the most." With the retirement of Rohit, Kohli, and Jadeja, India is on the brink of a new era. Shah is confident about the transition, emphasizing the strength and depth of India's bench. "Transition has already happened with three greats retiring," he said. "We have the biggest bench strength. Only three players from this team are going to Zimbabwe. We can field three teams if the need arises." Shah also expressed optimism about India's future prospects, highlighting the goal of winning the World Test Championship final and the Champions Trophy. "I want India to win all titles. The way this team is progressing, we aim to win the World Test Championship final and Champions Trophy. The seniors will be there to guide the team." Addressing questions about Hardik Pandya's future as a potential captain, Shah noted Pandya's impressive all-round performance in the World Cup. "Captaincy will be decided by the selectors. Hardik has proven himself, and we have faith in his abilities." The BCCI is planning a felicitation for the victorious squad once they return to India.

One-off Test: Shafali, Smriti and Sneha propel India to 10-wicket victory against South Africa

Chennai | Agencies

India women's team defeated South Africa by 10 wickets in the one-off Test at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium on Monday. Chasing the target of 37 runs, Indian openers Shafali Verma (24 not out) and Shubha Sathesh (13 not out) took the hosts to a comfortable victory to continue their domination in the multi-format bilateral series. South African batters demonstrated exceptional mental resilience, fighting back against a formidable Indian bowling attack to stay in the game as they finished the third day of a one-off women's Test against India at 232 for 2 but only to get bowled out early in the fourth and final day on 373. Chasing the target of 37 runs, India closed the game in half an hour as Shafali Verma (24) and Shubha Sathesh (17) took the hosts to a 10-wicket victory. For her 229 runs in the match--a maiden double century in the first inning helped Shafali to secure the 'Player of the Match' award. Sneha Rana, who claimed eight wickets in the first inning went on to take two more to become only the second Indian bowler after Jhulan Goswami to finish with 10 wickets in a women's Test. Deepthi Sharma and



Rajeshwari Gayakwad picked up two wickets apiece. Earlier, India declared their first inning at a mammoth 603/6, placing immense pressure on South Africa. After being put on the back foot, South Africa showcased their tenacity, thanks to Sune Luus and Marizanne Kapp who helped Africa cut down the deficit and set up an intriguing final day. On the second day, their partnership held firm, helping South Africa reach 236/4 at stumps. Yet, on Sunday morning, Sneha Rana's sensational spin bowling turned the game on its head. Rana, exploiting the turn and bounce from the pitch, decimated the South African lineup, adding five more wickets to her tally from the previous day. She finished with figures of 8-85, orchestrating a collapse that saw South Africa lose six wickets for just 30 runs to bowled out for 266. India enforced the follow-on with a significant lead of 337 runs, putting South Africa under immense pressure. They faced an early setback when Deepthi Sharma trapped Anneke Bosch lbw in the first over. However, South Africa's fighting spirit shone through as Laura Wolvaardt and Sune

Luus stitched together a monumental partnership. The duo batted through 66 overs across the second and third sessions, building a 190-run stand--the highest partnership for any wicket in South Africa women's Test history. Wolvaardt scored 122 runs off 314 balls with 16 fours before Rajeshwari Gayakwad accounted for her wicket. Harmanpreet Kaur got the crucial wicket of Luus, who chipped in with a handy 109-run knock. The pitch slowed down as the day wore on, and the South African pair grew more accustomed to the low bounce. Luus, after 234 minutes on the field, reached her maiden Test hundred, becoming only the second South African woman to score a century in India. The struggle for South Africa also continued on the fourth day as they lost wickets early in the day. Nandine De Klerk's late resilience of 61 helped the Proteas set India a target of 37 runs. **Brief scores:** India 603/6 decl in 115.1 overs & 37/0 in 9.2 overs (Shafali Verma 24 not, Shubha Sathesh 13 not out) beat South Africa 266 & 232/2 in 88 overs (Sune Luus 109 not out, Laura Wolvaardt 93; Harmanpreet Kaur 1-24, Deepthi Sharma 1-56) by 10 wickets.



A filmmaker can show whatever he or she wants in their film : Anurag Kashyap



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Filmmaker-actor Anurag Kashyap, who has been receiving a lot of positive response to his performance in the streaming show 'Bad Cop', has shared his opinion on the idea of morality in artwork.

The director questioned why it's only considered the responsibility of members of the film fraternity to bring about a positive change in society -- why are they bashed if they show something negative? The auteur spoke shared that a filmmaker can show whatever they like in their films as after all, it's a fictional world. He told : "Morality insaan ki apni hoti

hai, a filmmaker can show whatever he or she wants in their film (Barring a few exceptions, morality is very subjective and is very personal). People think that it's the members of the film fraternity who introduce bad things in society or uplift the society."

He continued: "Why is it considered the sole responsibility of filmmakers? Jisko jo

banana hai wo banaaye, jisko jo dikhana hai wo dikhaaye (A filmmaker can make or show whatever they like as it is their film). You can't impose your morality or worldview on others. If a person becomes so powerful that he or she can impose their morality on others then they become a dictator"

A.R. RAHMAN'S DOCUMENTARY TO HAVE ITS WORLD PREMIERE AT IFFM 2024



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Oscar and Grammy award-winning composer A. R. Rahman's documentary 'Headhunting to Beatboxing', which is directed by Rohit Gupta, is set to have its world premiere at the Indian Film festival of Melbourne (IFFM) 2024 in Australia. Speaking about the film's premiere at the festival, Rahman said: "The film is very special to us, as it throws light on the beautiful state of Nagaland and highlights the rich cultural and musical history it contains. Rohit and I are looking forward to the premiere and showcasing it to the audiences in Melbourne." 'Headhunting to Beatboxing' traces the journey in Nagaland, of rhythm and sound, tracing the evolution of music across cultures, tribes and generations.

'Headhunting to Beatboxing' will premiere at the festival, where it is also competing for the Best Documentary Film. "I feel the narrative holds global relevance, along with the incredible healing power of music. The film has been painstakingly made in over five years and I am excited to see the audience's reactions to it and for them to explore the rich cultural and musical tapestry of Nagaland. Especially to hear a completely new sound coming from India," said Gupta.

The film marks Rahman's second major foray into the realm of filmmaking as a producer, with his earlier production '99 Songs', which premiered at the Busan International Film Festival. "When we saw the documentary, we knew there was something special to it. We are delighted to have the world premiere of the film at IFFM and have Dr Rahman and filmmaker Rohit Gupta present it to our audiences," shared Mitu Bhowmick Lange, IFFM Festival director.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor-singer Ammy Virk has credited Diljit Dosanjh, who is considered to be a sensation in the field of music and showbiz, for breaking the stereotype of Punjabi actors in Bollywood. Ammy, said: "It is a dream to work with Dharma

"And having been in the industry and worked with incredible actors like Ranveer Singh, Ajay Devgn, Akshay Kumar, and Vicky Paaji—all Punjabis—it was great fun to work with them." He also jokingly drew a parallel between the Punjabi and



Hindi film industry.

"It was a great experience working with the team and on the set it was an extremely fun atmosphere. In the Punjab film industry, we start shooting whenever we are up; there is no alarm or schedule," Ammy said.

They added: "Over here, they are extremely professional and start work so early and finish on time contrary to what we thought, seeing the budgets of films over here."

Productions, Karan Johar, Anand Tiwari, Vicky Kaushal, and Triptii Dimri. I hope to be part of many more entertaining films in the future." The actor-singer calls it a big deal to come from Punjab and "work on these big entertainers." "Earlier, Diljit (Dosanjh) paaji came and broke the stereotype of Punjabi actors, which allowed us to get good work here. I hope to make Punjab and all of you proud with my work." Ammy added that "Bad Newz" is his first commercial entertainer in Bollywood.

From bodycon dress to shimmery pink gown, Disha Patani fashion quotient



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Disha Patani, who is currently making waves with her performance as Roxie in the movie 'Kalki 2898 AD', surely knows how to turn heads with her style, as she inspires fans with her fashion trends.

Here are the top five looks of the 'M.S. Dhoni: The Untold Story' fame actress that you would want to add straight into your lookbooks.

Raising oomph in black
Disha ate and left no crumbs by donning a thigh-high-slit bodycon dress. The sleeveless outfit has a plunging neckline. She went all glam with the makeup -- glossy red lips, and highlight-

ed face. The look is rounded off by strappy heels.

In blush pink shimmer
Disha looks sweet as ever in a shimmering blush pink off-shoulder gown. While she radiates sheer elegance in the dress, the pattern and the body-fit look of the gown accentuate her curves. She has opted for a natural makeup look, with her long tresses left open, and styled in soft waves.

Dishing boss lady vibes
Disha personifies boss lady vibes in a white co-ord set. The outfit is a pair of an ivory white skirt topped with a matching bralette and a coat.

Staying classy in whites
The 'Malang' actress knows how to

raise the temperature, and she has done just that as she has wrapped herself in a satin white body-hugging gown, which perfectly highlights Disha's toned figure. The backless gown flaunts Disha's curves, setting the internet on fire. The look is accessorised with a beautiful necklace.

Wine red is the new black
Disha looks all things chic and stylish in this red wine-coloured satin outfit. The whole dramatic backless look and the plunging neckline makes it the best pick, especially for date nights. She opted for a neutral makeup look and tied her hair in a dramatic bun.

Chunky Panday has reminisced about his struggling days in Bollywood

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor Chunky Panday has reminisced about his struggling days in Bollywood, recalling how he had to wait in long queues in front of producers' offices. He also revealed that he was a part-time car dealer at that time. Chunky, who plays the role of Rakesh Raman in the recently released slice-of-life drama series 'Industry', shared: "My struggling days were very different, there were no casting directors or digital media, so we had to wait in long queues in front of producers' offices. Getting to meet them and show them albums with photographs, we also had to dance in front of them and enact scenes from popular films."

"It was not easy, but it was fun. Well, those were my struggling days. I was a part-time hustler and part-time car dealer, so I used to get the chance to drive those cars around. Every day, I was in a different car, visiting producers' offices," said Chunky, who started his acting career with the 1987 multi-starrer film 'Aag Hi Aag'.

Chunky further shared his experience working with his co-actors in 'Industry': "It was a pleasure working with this new generation of actors. I now understand that less is more-- their performances are so nuanced and organic. I believe that working with them motivated me to evolve. I gained a great deal of knowledge from this experience. I look forward to many, many seasons of Industry."



Junaid on dinner table with dad Aamir: 'We don't have deep talks about films'

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Actor Junaid Khan, who made his acting debut with "Maharaj", shared that his father Aamir Khan and he "don't have deep talks about films" and that when the superstar watches a movie as a viewer just to enjoy.

Talking about what dinner table conversations are like considering he has a superstar at home, Junaid told : "It is not so much about films though. We don't really talk about films at the dinner table... We don't have deep talks about films."

Junaid said that his father liked "Maharaj", "Dad had liked the film when he saw it a few months ago. He liked it but beyond that, there has not been that much of a conversation," said the new actor.

Junaid shared that it's his mother Reena Dutt, who is a tough nut to crack, according to the actor.

"My mum really liked the film, which was a higher bar to clear than my father liking a film," he said. Junaid added: "But yeah, dad liked the film but he had not much to do with it. Like watching it once and then giving his feedback to Siddharth sir, Aditya Chopra sir and me at that point. He is someone he always is, when he watches something he really wants to enjoy he tends to enjoy it. He watches films as a viewer who wants to enjoy."

The actor chose the digital world to step into the world of acting instead of taking the traditional route of making his debut on the big screen.

"I don't know if there is a different way. Yash Raj is a very big producer. I liked the story and Sid sir wanted me in the film most importantly. So, yeah I didn't see anything odd about it," he told .

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Pooja Hegde