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Ex-Haryana Congress leader Kiran Choudhry,  
daughter join BJP

'Neighbourhood first' policy presents challenges

USAReady to make another upset...

PRICE - Rs 2 /-

Ranchi | Thursday | June 20, 2024 | Page 08 | Daily | Volume - 09, Issue - 129

RNI Regn No. JHAMUL/2016/75465

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# The Researchers'

## NEWS BOX

### US Secret Service agent robbed at gunpoint during Biden's Los Angeles trip

**World** . A Southwest Airlines flight came within 400 feet of crashing into the Pacific Ocean off the coast of Hawaii after pilots were forced to change course as they were unable to see the runway due to unfavourable weather conditions. Passengers travelling on the Boeing 737 Max 8 aircraft from Honolulu International Airport to Lihue Airport in Kauai had their hearts missing the beats when the plane dropped from an altitude of 16,000 feet to 409 feet. The incident occurred on April 11 when the pilots were forced to abort a landing attempt after bad weather blocked them from seeing the runway, according to a Southwest Airlines memo to pilots accessed by Bloomberg. The first officer, who is less experienced, "inadvertently" pushed forward on the control column, which controls the plane's pitch and roll, then reduced the speed, causing the flight to lose altitude and descend rapidly. According to the memo, the captain opted to put the first officer in command of the 100-mile flight despite the adverse weather. The captain ordered the first officer to increase thrust, which resulted in the plane "climbing aggressively" at 8,500 feet per minute. Amidst this, an alarm on the warning system was sounded to signify that the aircraft was coming very close to the terrain due to the pilot's aggressive movement. The flight, which was to be completed in around 22 minutes, left Honolulu at 6:45 pm (local time) and returned to Hawaii's capital again at 8:09 pm after the incident. Nobody suffered any injuries during the white-knuckling ride. A Southwest Airlines spokesperson told Fox News Digital in a statement that the issue "was being addressed appropriately." "Nothing is more important to Southwest than safety. Through our robust Safety Management System, the event was addressed appropriately as we always strive for continuous improvement," the spokesperson said. The Federal Aviation Administration, the US's civil aviation agency, told Fox News Digital that it was "investigating the incident". This came after a similar incident involving a United Airlines flight occurred off Maui on December 18, 2022. The plane, a Boeing 777-200, plummeted to 775 feet above sea level from 2,200 feet for almost 20 seconds after it took off from Maui.

### Vladimir Putin meets Kim Jong Un in first visit to North Korea in 24 years

**Seoul,UPDATED**. Russian President Vladimir Putin arrived in North Korea early on Wednesday, after saying the two countries want to cooperate closely to overcome U.S.-led sanctions in the face of intensifying confrontations with Washington. Putin was met at Pyongyang's airport by North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. They shook hands and embraced, and Kim later joined Putin in his car to personally guide him to Pyongyang's Kumsusan State Guest House, North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency said. The agency described their meeting as a historic event that demonstrates the "invincibility and durability" of the two nations' friendship and unity. Putin, making his first trip to North Korea in 24 years, said in comments that appeared in its state media hours before he landed that he appreciates the country's firm support of his military actions in Ukraine. The Kremlin launched a full-scale invasion of the neighboring country in 2022. He said the countries would continue to "resolutely oppose" what he described as Western ambitions "to hinder the establishment of a multipolar world order based on justice, mutual respect for sovereignty, considering each other's interests." Putin's visit comes amid growing concerns about an arms arrangement in which Pyongyang provides Moscow with badly needed munitions to fuel Russia's war in Ukraine in exchange for economic assistance and technology transfers that would enhance the threat posed by Kim's nuclear weapons and missile program. In the North Korean capital of Pyongyang, the streets were decorated with portraits of Putin and Russian flags. A banner on a building said: "We warmly welcome the President of the Russian Federation." Putin also said in his published remarks that Russia and North Korea will develop trade and payment systems "that are not controlled by the West" and jointly oppose sanctions against the countries, which he described as "illegal, unilateral restrictions." North Korea is under heavy U.N. Security Council economic sanctions over its nuclear weapons and missile programs, while Russia is also grappling with sanctions by the United States and its Western partners over its aggression in Ukraine.

### Justin Timberlake Was "Wasted" Before Drink Driving Arrest, Say Witnesses

**World** Pop star Justin Timberlake was arrested early Tuesday morning in the Hamptons on charges of driving while intoxicated or impaired (DWI). Despite Timberlake's claim that he only had "one martini" during his night out, sources suggest he was actually "wasted". Later, the star was produced before the court on one charge of DWI and released from police custody in New York, CNN reported. According to the arrest report, officers detected a "strong odour of an alcoholic beverage". The pop star-turned-actor also received citations for running a stop sign and failing to stay in his lane. Timberlake refused three attempts at a breathalyzer test during the incident, reported Page Six. He 43-year-old was dining and drinking at The American Hotel, according to NBC News. The hotel offers a wide range of beverages, including single malt Scotch whiskeys and Armagnacs, with some bottles priced up to \$5,100. At one point, just before closing, somebody got up to go to the bathroom and left his drink on the table. When the guy came back, Justin was drinking his drink," an insider told The NY Post. "The guy goes, 'Justin, that's my drink!'" It remains unclear what exactly the singer was drinking or what he accidentally sipped from the other person's drink. Timberlake was reportedly visiting the hotel "with a bunch of friends."

## 550 Haj pilgrims die amid scorching heat in Mecca, mercury rises to 51 degrees

**Riyadh**. Diplomats on Tuesday said at least 550 pilgrims died during the Haj, underscoring the grueling nature of the pilgrimage which again unfolded in scorching temperatures this year. At least 323 of those who died were Egyptians, most of them succumbing to heat-related illnesses, two Arab diplomats coordinating their countries' responses told AFP. "All of them (the Egyptians) died because of heat" except for one who sustained fatal injuries during a minor crowd crush, one of the diplomats said, adding the total figure came from the hospital morgue in the Al-Muaiseim neighbourhood of Mecca. At least 60 Jordanians also died, the diplomats said, up from an official tally of 41 given earlier on Tuesday by Amman. The new deaths bring the total reported so far by multiple countries to 577, according to an AFP tally. The diplomats said the total at the morgue in Al-Muaiseim, one of the biggest in Mecca, was 550. The Haj is one of the five pillars of Islam and all Muslims with the means must complete it at least once. The pilgrimage is increasingly affected by

climate change, according to a Saudi study published last month that said temperatures in the area where rituals are performed were rising 0.4 degrees Celsius (0.72 degrees Fahrenheit) each decade. Temperatures hit 51.8 degrees Celsius (125 Fahrenheit) at the Grand Mosque in Mecca on Monday, the Saudi national meteorology center said. **HEAT STRESS** Earlier on Tuesday, Egypt's foreign ministry said Cairo was collaborating with Saudi authorities on search operations for Egyptians who had gone missing during the Haj. While a ministry statement said "a certain number of deaths" had occurred, it did not specify whether Egyptians were among them. Saudi authorities have reported treating more than 2,000 pilgrims suffering from heat stress but have not updated that figure since Sunday and have not provided information on fatalities. At least 240 pilgrims were reported dead by various countries last year, most of them Indonesians. AFP journalists in Mina, outside Mecca, on Monday saw pilgrims pouring bottles of

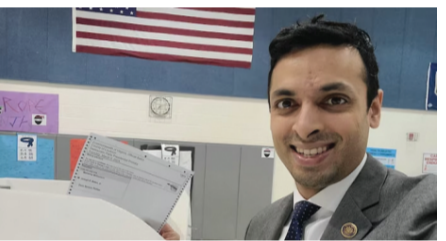


water over their heads as volunteers handed out cold drinks and fast-melting chocolate ice cream to help them keep cool. Saudi officials had advised pilgrims to use umbrellas, drink plenty of water and avoid exposure to the sun during the hottest hours of the day. But many of the Haj rituals, including the prayers on Mount Arafat which took place on Saturday, involve being outdoors for hours in the daytime. Some pilgrims described seeing motionless bodies on the roadside and ambulance services that appeared overwhelmed at times. Around 1.8 million pilgrims took part in the Haj this year, 1.6 million of them from abroad, according to Saudi authorities. **UNREGISTERED PILGRIMS**

Each year, tens of thousands of pilgrims attempt to perform the Haj through irregular channels as they cannot afford the often costly procedures for official hajj visas. This places these off-the-books pilgrims at risk as they cannot access air-conditioned facilities provided by Saudi authorities along the Haj route. One of the diplomats who spoke to AFP on Tuesday said that the Egyptian death toll was "absolutely" boosted by a large number of unregistered Egyptian pilgrims. "Irregular pilgrims caused great chaos in the Egyptian pilgrims' camps, causing the collapse of services," said an Egyptian official supervising the country's hajj mission. "The pilgrims went without food, water, or air conditioning for a long time." They died "from the heat because most people had no place" to take shelter. Earlier this month, Saudi officials said they had cleared hundreds of thousands of unregistered pilgrims from Mecca ahead of the Haj. Other countries to report deaths during the Haj this year include Indonesia.

## Indian-American Suhas Subramanyam wins a

**Indian-American Suhas Subramanyam emerged victorious in the Democratic primary for a Congressional seat in Virginia. The 37-year-old was born in Houston to Indian-American parents who migrated to the US from Bengaluru.**



**Washington**. Indian-American Suhas Subramanyam has won the Democratic primary for a Congressional seat in Virginia, defeating 11 other candidates, including fellow Indian-American Krystle Kaul. The first Indian-American, South Asian and Hindu to be elected to the Virginia General Assembly in 2019 and to the Virginia State Senate in 2023, Subramanyam was running for the US House of Representatives from the 10th Congressional District of Virginia, which has a sizable Indian-American population. Its current occupant, Democrat Congresswoman Jennifer Wexton, announced last year that she would not be running for the

seat. Subramanyam, 37, was born in Houston to Indian-American parents who migrated to the US from Bengaluru. In 2015, he was appointed by then-President Barack Obama to serve as a White House technology policy advisor. Wexton had endorsed Subramanyam, who now faces Mike Clancy from the Republican Party. In an interview with news agency PTI early this year, Suhas said he was running for Congress to ensure a better future for the US. "The Congress is here to solve problems and to be proactive about the future. We should not be legislating not just for the next two years, but for the next 20 or 30 years. I want my children -- I've got two girls who are two and three -- I want them to

live in a better country and in a better world than what we found," he said.

Suhas said he wanted everyone to have a chance at the American dream. "My parents are from Bengaluru and Chennai and spent some time in Secunderabad as well. They came here because they wanted to start a new life here. They wanted to be physicians and you can make a great life in America as a physician," he said. He added that his parents didn't have much when they came here but they became successful through education and hard work. "I want to make sure that everyone has a chance at that American dream. Everyone has a chance of creating a great business if that's what they want to do or being a part of a great business and that they can empower themselves economically," he said. "But it really started with the fact that our community education is the great equaliser, and you can lift yourself up from any situation if you do well and study hard and work hard. I want to make sure that stays the same way," he further said.

## Indian-origin man jailed for 5 weeks for punching Singapore cop while drunk

**Singapore** A court in Singapore has sentenced an Indian-origin man to five weeks in jail for punching a Singapore police officer in an inebriated state while arguing in a rowdy crowd of over 10 men.

The single punch was so powerful that it knocked the officer unconscious "for at least a minute" and caused him to suffer temporary memory loss, according to a report by TODAY newspaper. On Tuesday, Devesh Raj Rajasegaran, 24, was sentenced to five weeks in prison. He had pleaded guilty in March this year to one count of voluntarily causing hurt. Devesh will appeal against the sentence, according to the report. The court heard that the victim was one of four police officers dispatched to an area in Circular Road in the central business district on June 25, 2022, after a member of the public informed them around 3 am of "more than 10 people having an argument". Prior to this, Devesh and his friend Eeshwar Ravi were drinking alcohol nearby. When the police arrived, they spotted a group of individuals, including Devesh and Eeshwar, involved in a "commotion" in Circular Road. The officers, who were wearing civilian clothes at the time, approached the group, identifying themselves as police officers. Three of them were volunteer police officers. While the victim and another officer were interviewing a member of the group, Devesh approached them to confront

## Kuwait to give \$15,000 to families of victims who died in building fire: Report

**World** The Kuwaiti government will give USD 15,000 (approx Rs 12.50 lakh) as compensation to the families of the victims of the devastating fire at a building housing migrant workers, which killed 50 people, including 46 Indians, according to a media report.

ensure that the compensation is distributed to the families of the victims and ensure that the aid reaches them promptly. The compensation will be given to support bereaved families during their

native places. Most of the victims (23) belonged to Kerala, followed by seven from Tamil Nadu, three each from Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, two from Odisha, and one each from Maharashtra, Karnataka, Bihar, West Bengal, Punjab, Haryana and Jharkhand.



On June 12, a massive fire broke out at the seven-storey building in Mangaf in southern Kuwait due to a short circuit in the guard's room on the ground floor, Kuwaiti authorities said. The building housed 196 migrant workers, mostly Indians. According to an Arab Times report, the victims' families will receive compensation on the orders of the Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. The compensation payments will be processed and delivered to the respective embassies, including India's, the newspaper said, citing Kuwaiti government sources. The newspaper said the concerned embassies would

difficult times. On June 13, a special Indian Air Force flight went to Kuwait to bring back home the remains of 45 Indians. The plane arrived in Kerala's Kochi the next day and the bodies were transported to the victims' respective

According to reports, one more Indian who was undergoing treatment in Kuwait succumbed to his injuries, pushing the overall toll to 50. Efforts were on to establish his identity. Meanwhile, Kuwait's public prosecutor initiated an investigation into the fire tragedy and the probe aims to uncover the circumstances behind the incident. A Kuwaiti citizen and several foreigners were arrested so far on charges of manslaughter and causing injuries due to negligence in security and safety measures following the incident.



the individual who was being interviewed. Soon after, Devesh threw a punch, hitting the police officer on the left side of his head. Deputy Public Prosecutor Brian Tan said in court documents, "The accused was intoxicated when he punched the victim. As a result of the accused's punch, the victim lost consciousness for at least a minute." The officer was later taken to the Singapore General Hospital by ambulance. Between the time he was punched and when he reached the hospital, he drifted in and out of consciousness several times. The victim was given seven days' hospitalisation leave and reported suffering temporary loss of memory and bad headaches for at least three days after the incident.

## Netanyahu slams Biden for withholding weapons, slowing Israel's Rafah offensive

**President Joe Biden has delayed delivering certain heavy bombs since May over concerns about Israel's killing of civilians in Gaza.**

spoke directly to the camera in English as he lobbed sharp criticisms at Biden over "bottlenecks" in arms transfers. "It's inconceivable that in the past few months, the administration has been withholding weapons and ammunition to Israel," Netanyahu said, adding, "Give us the tools and we'll finish the job a lot faster." Netanyahu also claimed U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, in a recent visit to Israel, said he was working around the clock to end the delays.



**Jerusalem** Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Tuesday claimed the United States is withholding weapons and implied this was slowing Israel's offensive in the southern Gaza city of Rafah, where fighting has exacerbated the already dire humanitarian situation for Palestinians. President Joe Biden has delayed delivering certain heavy bombs since May over concerns about Israel's killing of civilians in Gaza. Yet the administration has gone to lengths to avoid any suggestion that Israeli forces have crossed a red line in the deepening Rafah invasion, which would trigger a more sweeping ban on arms transfers. Netanyahu, in a short video,

However, Blinken said Tuesday the only pause was related to those heavy bombs from May. "We, as you know, are continuing to review one shipment that President Biden has talked about with regard to 2,000-pound bombs because of our concerns about their use in a densely populated area like Rafah," Blinken said during a State Department news conference. "That remains under review. But everything else is moving as it normally would." Netanyahu didn't

elaborate on what weapons were being held back, and the Israeli military declined to respond to a request for comment. Ophir Falk, a foreign policy adviser to Netanyahu, deferred questions on details to the U.S. government. Responding to Netanyahu's claim Tuesday, White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said, "We generally do not know what he's talking about. We just don't." She added that the U.S. is having "constructive discussions" with Israel about the paused shipment of heavy bombs and that it's the only transfer being delayed. Two top Democrats in Congress cleared the way this week for a \$15 billion U.S. sale of F-

15s to Israel to move forward, after a delay while one lawmaker sought answers from the Biden administration on Israel's current use of U.S. weapons in the war in Gaza. With Israel's war against Hamas now in its ninth month, international criticism is growing over U.S. military and diplomatic support for the Israel's campaign of systematic destruction in Gaza, at a huge cost in civilian lives. The top United Nations court has concluded there is a "plausible risk of genocide" in Gaza — a charge Israel strongly denies. Israel blames civilian deaths on Hamas, saying militants operate among the population. Both Netanyahu and Biden are balancing their own domestic political problems against the explosive Mideast situation, and the embattled Israeli leader has grown increasingly resistant to Biden's public charm offensives and private pleading. Experts say Netanyahu's message — delivered only in English — is likely meant to shore up U.S. arms support and doesn't appear to indicate on-the-ground shortages.



# 'PM Modi's Decision Acceptable to All': Allies Assure Full Support to BJP For Lok Sabha Speaker Election

**The BJP top brass has also conveyed to the alliance partners that they will be keen on giving the Deputy Speaker post to one of the alliance partners.**

**New Delhi:** In the run-up to the Lok Sabha Speaker election, leaders from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which is the single largest party in the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) have reached out to the alliance partners for the post. Senior leaders from the BJP have dialled various allies to discuss the Speaker post with them. This also includes discussion with smaller allies in the BJP-led NDA. Sources have told CNN-News18 that the NDA alliance partners have assured complete support to the candidate that the BJP decides to nominate for this post. "Allies have been called to seek their suggestions for the candidate for the Speaker post. However, most of the allies have not given any preference or choice of a particular person," a source told CNN-News18. It has been conveyed to the BJP top brass that the NDA will continue to be a cohesive unit under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and that it is his decision to decide on this post that will be binding and acceptable to all the alliance

partners. The BJP top brass has also conveyed to the alliance partners that they will be keen on giving the Deputy Speaker post to one of the alliance partners. However, the opposition is also likely to stake their claim for this post as the numbers are also with them to ask for this. Some of the allies, which also include senior Parliamentarians have also requested the BJP to come up with a candidate for the Speaker post in which consensus can be obtained. "2014 and 2019 were different when BJP had absolute majority in Lok Sabha. But this time there will be a more buoyant and aggressive opposition supported by good numbers. Therefore, the Speaker post becomes even more important," a few alliance partners have conveyed to the government. The special session of Parliament will get underway on June 24. Even though this session is primarily for the affirmation of oath for all the elected members of Parliament in the Lok Sabha. The third day, June 26 will see

the election take place for the Speaker. At present, Om Birla has been in the office of the Lok Sabha Speaker since the past five years.

But before the election of the Lok Sabha Speaker takes place, there is going to be the post of a Protem Speaker who will preside over the House for the first three days till the Speaker is elected. The general practice for giving this post has been to make the senior most member as the Protem Speaker. Government sources have also told News18 that leaders will reach out to all political parties, including the opposition to elect the Speaker by consensus. The numbers are comfortable as far as the NDA candidate is concerned. Union Defence Minister and Deputy Leader of the Lok Sabha, Rajnath Singh, will reach out to all political parties to seek consensus. Very recently, the newly appointed Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijju met with the Leader Of opposition in Rajya Sabha and Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge.



On June 26, the process to elect the Lok Sabha Speaker will see Prime Minister Narendra Modi propose the name of the NDA candidate. This motion is expected to be seconded by senior minister Rajnath Singh. Similarly, the INDI alliance candidate for the Lok Sabha Speaker post will also be proposed. "All our alliance partners will be proposers for the post of the Lok Sabha

Speaker," a top source told News18. If the Opposition proposes another candidate for the Lok Sabha Speaker post, voting is expected to take place for the post. In case there is no Opposition candidate, then by the account of hands, the Lok Sabha Speaker will be elected.

After the election of the Lok Sabha Speaker on June 26, PM Narendra Modi is expected to introduce his Council of Ministers in the Lok Sabha. The following day, which is June 27, Rajya Sabha will also resume. President Droupadi Murmu will deliver the joint address to both houses of Parliament on June 27. After this, the discussion on the Motion of Thanks will begin in both Houses of Parliament. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to reply to this Motion of Thanks in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha on Tuesday (July 2) and Wednesday (July 3) respectively. July 3 is the last day for the special session of Parliament before Parliament reconvenes on July 22 again after a break.

## Rahul Gandhi turns 54, INDIA bloc leaders lead chorus of birthday wishes

**New Delhi:** Birthday wishes poured in for Rahul Gandhi as he turned 54 on Wednesday with Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge saying that his qualities of unwavering commitment to the values espoused in the Constitution and his emphatic compassion for the millions of unheard voices set him apart. Gandhi, a former Congress president and MP from Raebareli, has instructed all Congress workers to avoid any grand celebrations, and instead celebrate this occasion by engaging in humanitarian efforts and charity. "Your unwavering commitment to the values espoused in the Constitution of India and your emphatic compassion for the millions of unheard voices, are the qualities which sets you apart,"



Kharge said of Gandhi.

"Congress party's ethos of unity in diversity, harmony and compassion, is visible in all your actions, as you continue in your mission to wipe off the tear from the last person standing, by showing the mirror of truth to power," he said. Kharge wished Gandhi a long, healthy and happy life ahead. Tamil Nadu Chief

Minister and DMK chief MK Stalin also hailed Gandhi on his birthday.

Happy Birthday, dear brother Rahul Gandhi! Your dedication to the people of our country will take you to great heights. Wishing you a year of continued progress and success," Stalin said on X. Former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister and Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav wished Gandhi on his birthday. Congress general secretary, in-charge, organisation, KC Venugopal said, "I join crores of Indians in wishing our beloved leader Sh. Rahul Gandhi ji a very happy birthday!" "Rahul ji is the undisputed leader of India's poor, marginalised and backward citizens. The voice of the voiceless,

the pillar of strength for the weak, the guardian of our Constitution, the quintessential Nyay Yoddha, and India's brightest hope for a glorious future!" Venugopal said on X.

His selfless, dedicated and passionate commitment to serving the people is an inspiration for us all and his moral compass guides us every step of the way," he said. "He (Gandhi) has seen the toughest of times, faced the worst abuses, withstood attacks from all corners, but he has stood tall and never wavered from his principles no matter the ridicule or insult he faces," Venugopal said.

In him today, our country has a conscience keeper and a leader who has a lifelong mission of making our country into an inclusive, progressive and prosperous nation of all our dreams, Venugopal said.

## Pinarayi Vijayan writes to PM on Kuwait visit denial: 'Should not convey bias'

**New Delhi:** Expressing displeasure at the Centre not giving clearance to Kerala Health Minister Veena George to travel to Kuwait following the recent fire incident, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, in a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, said political or other considerations should not come in the way on such issues. Vijayan, in his June 15 letter, also said the decision taken should not appear to convey a bias. A massive fire at Al-Mangaf 'labour camp' building in Kuwait City killed 46 Indians, including 23 from Kerala. The deceased were working for



a private company.

The Kerala Chief Minister said the denial by the Centre "goes against the principles of cooperative federalism." Vijayan said there was no response from Foreign Minister S Jaishankar to the Kerala government's request, calling it "extremely unfortunate". In his letter, the Chief Minister requested PM Modi to advise the External Affairs Ministry to be "more responsive" in future to such requests. "Her (Veena George) presence in Kuwait would have helped substantially in liaisoning with the Union Minister of State for External Affairs, the team of officials and the Embassy. This could have provided mental relief and confidence to the families of those who were affected by the unforeseen tragedy," Vijayan said in the letter. Asserting that his intention was not to rake up a controversy in the hour of distress, Vijayan said, "The collective decision of the State Cabinet has been disregarded." "The present request amply falls within the purview of compelling circumstances and non-consideration of the same clearly goes against the principles of cooperative federalism in which the Union and the States are equal partners in the pursuit of development as well as in mitigation efforts, when our people face disasters and calamities," Vijayan further said in the letter.

## Delhi Court Extends Arvind Kejriwal's Jail Stay Till July 3, ED Says Case Boiled Down To His Role

**New Delhi:** A Delhi court on Wednesday heard the bail plea of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in a money laundering case related to the alleged now-scrapped excise scam and extended his jail stay till July 3. Probe agency Enforcement Directorate (ED) the Delhi court that everything in the matter had boiled down to his role. Additional Solicitor General SV Raju said, "The matter boils down to his role." He clarified that allegations of Kejriwal demanding Rs 100 crore bribe were brought by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and not the ED. During the hearing, Kejriwal's lawyer said, "Various chargesheets have been filed and in none of them, he was made and accused. Despite several people having been arrested in the earlier stages, nothing was about him." Earlier, Additional Sessions Judge Mukesh Kumar had adjourned the matter after the probe agency Enforcement



Directorate (ED) sought time to file a reply in the matter. The judge, meanwhile, fixed for Saturday, an application filed by Kejriwal seeking

directions to allow his wife to join through video conference the proceedings of the medical board constituted to determine Kejriwal's health condition and treatment. The judge directed the jail authorities concerned to file a reply in matter. During the proceedings, the ED requested the court to adjourn the matter till June 25. The judge, however, said he would consider the accused's convenience for the next date of hearing, not the probe agency's.

The accused is in judicial custody (JC), and not in your (ED's) custody. If he wants some convenience, you do not have any role in that. You have no role to play. He is in JC. I will consider his convenience, not yours," the judge said. A Delhi court had on June 5 dismissed Kejriwal's application seeking interim bail on medical grounds in the case. The judge, however, had directed the Bihar jail authorities to take care of Kejriwal's medical needs in judicial custody.

## Ex-Haryana Congress leader Kiran Choudhry and daughter join BJP

**Kiran Choudhry and Shruti Choudhry joined the party at an event held in the BJP office in the presence of Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, former Chief Minister and Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar and other party leaders.**

**New Delhi:** Former Haryana Congress Kiran Choudhry and her daughter Shruti Choudhry joined the BJP on Wednesday, ahead of the assembly polls in Haryana slated to be held later this year. Kiran Choudhry, 69, and Shruti Choudhry joined the party at an event held in the BJP office in the presence of Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, former Chief Minister and Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh and other party leaders.

Kiran Choudhry is the daughter-in-law of late former Haryana Chief Minister and Congress stalwart Bansi Lal. She and her daughter Shruti resigned from the primary membership of Congress on Tuesday after she took a dig at former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda, alleging that the party's state unit was being run as a "personal fiefdom". On her decision to join the BJP, Kiran Choudhry said she was inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision to

develop India by 2047. "Today, I took this decision because of the Prime Minister, who has pledged to have a developed India by 2047. I have full faith that India will shine in the world. The public welfare work done by the Prime Minister has led to the formation of a BJP government in Delhi for the third time," she said. "I have worked a lot with Khattar ji. There used to be a lot of bitterness between us. But the way he worked has been my source of inspiration," she added. She alleged that the Haryana Congress became an "individual-centric party" and said she took the call to quit the party so that her worker got their rights equally. "I was a very dedicated worker of the Congress. I dedicated my life to Congress with hard work. But for a few years, I watched the Haryana Congress become an



individual-centric party. They didn't want Congress to go ahead and follow such policies," she told news agency ANI.

"So, you can understand that Congress would never have progressed in Haryana. Big leaders quit the party due to them. I took this step to ensure that my workers get their due

rights and equal rights," she said. Following her induction into the party, Khattar recalled Kiran Choudhry's association with him. "Today is a very historic day. Today, two prominent personalities are in the party who have worked in the Congress for many years. I have known Kiran ji since the time we worked with Bansi Lal ji. Kiran ji and I used to sit face to face in the assembly, but, after some time, we used to know what we wanted to say," he said.

On the other hand, Saini said the BJP will work to strengthen the party in Haryana ahead of the assembly polls in the state. Shruti Choudhry was also the working president of the Haryana unit of the Congress. She is a sitting MLA from Tosham in Haryana's Bhiwani district and considered a bete noire of Bhupinder Singh Hooda.

# Chance for Pakistan to raise its UN profile

PAKISTAN'S recent election as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) with the overwhelming support of the community of nations would have bewildered Indians had it been widely reported in this country.

With the election of Pakistan and Somalia, which will join the UNSC on January 1, 2025, for a two-year term, the UN's highest decision-making body will have five members of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

None of the above means that India faces any imminent diplomatic threat merely because the UNSC doors are now open to Islamabad. Threat, no. Challenge, yes. Therefore, India cannot be complacent.

Next year, the counter-terrorism document will be back at the UN for its biennial review, the text of which will be of critical importance to India as a victim of cross-border terrorism.

Another risk which India will have to guard against is the possibility — indeed, likelihood — that the five Security Council members belonging to the OIC will together work to list an Indian as a UN-designated terrorist.

# Go ahead with J&K Assembly polls despite terror attacks

The absence of violence is not peace. But it would be unfair to bill Baramulla's electoral verdict as one driven by separatist sentiments.

The results of the Lok Sabha polls in Jammu and Kashmir have been interesting. One of the things everyone is looking for is a signal for the conduct of the Assembly polls, based upon a Supreme Court direction to the Election Commission of India (ECI) to hold the polls before September 30.

The poll results, however, have been followed by a series of terror attacks. The June 9 Reasi attack on a bus carrying pilgrims was meant to send out a message that the Assembly polls would be targeted.



and Mehdi to Budgam. So, both are not hardcore Srinagar representatives. The NC's organising capability and 'cadres in depth', however, do usually spell advantage for its candidates.

north Kashmir, where the separatist sentiment was high at one time. The decline in violence does not necessarily alter the sentiment. I have often reminded observers that 'absence of violence is not peace' and it's not a change of heart either.

# NEET 2024: A Scam in Brewing



Petitions over irregularities in NEET 2024 mount-up. The Pandora's Box opens wider. The NTA and the Ministry of Education (ME) like Dhritrashtra seem blind to the misdeeds of the Duryodhans involved in the irregularities in NEET 2024.

role of five parties in different ways: the candidates, the NTA and the government (ME), the SC, the 'Civil Society', and the culprits. The candidates are victims and also the object of the cause of irregularities.

dict was not for NEET type of examinations. The issue of opening windows second time is questioned. For this the involvement of the NTA and the Ministry in corruption alleged. Even, the name of Education Minister is dragged to irregularities.

above 600 involved in malpractices? Except a few places and centres there are not such allegations from elsewhere. Besides, all the scorers above 600 are from different centres and states of the country.

tices, the second one is those who scored less than 600, and the third type is those who secured desirable scores by dint of honest labour. It is to be mentioned that the NTA has analysed the students of the centres under scanner and found that 98% of the candidates have secured less than 500 marks, not good for admission in government colleges.

ments against the NTA to save their face? All the allegations of irregularities are linked to the students of few centres of examinations. The claim of second type is ridiculous and has no logic when they demand retest.

to be taken seriously while claiming justice for 24 lakh candidates and the SC is clear about it. There is a point to ponder over in the contestation about the rising cut-off marks.

government. To err is human. To rectify errors is commitment to the cause of fairness and transparency. Otherwise, the allegations will keep on escalating, new evidences and questions will keep on multiplying thereby pushing the NTA and the government into the dock.

# G7 summit

Commitment on corridor big takeaway for India



The G7 summit in Italy has demonstrated that India continues to be a key player in this elite group's scheme of things. The summit witnessed the participation of the seven member countries — the US, UK, Canada, Germany, Italy, Japan and France — as well as the European Union, while India was present as an 'outreach country'.

approach on China. The summit statement said the G7 was not trying to harm China or thwart its economic

development; instead, it sought 'constructive and stable' relations with China and recognised the 'importance of direct and candid engagement to express concerns and manage differences'.

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हम आपके लिए कुछ फन एक्टिविटीज लेकर आए हैं जो आपको बीकएंड में अपने बच्चों के साथ करने में बेहद मजा आएगा और साथ ही आप अपने बच्चों के साथ ज्यादा समय भी व्यतीत कर पाएंगे। बीकएंड पर बच्चों को संभालना बेहद मुश्किल हो जाता है। ऐसे में वे बोर होने लगते हैं और घर में हड़दंग मचाना शुरू कर देते हैं। ...तो क्यों न बीकएंड के लिए आप पहले से ही कुछ फन एक्टिविटीज प्लान करके रखें जिसे करने में आपको भी मजा आए और आपके बच्चों को भी।

## बच्चों के साथ बिताएं अपना

# बीकएंड

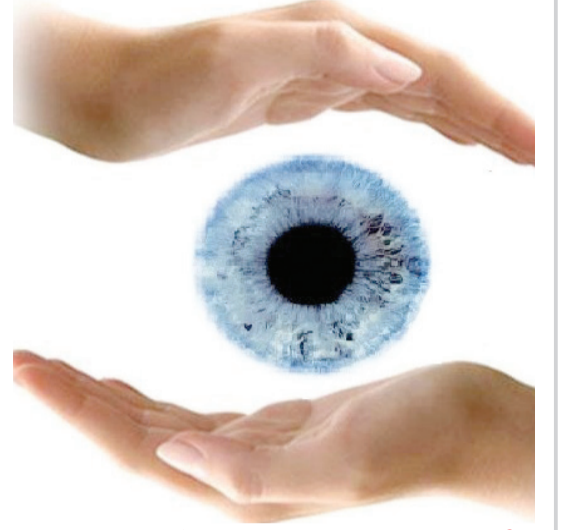


पेपर प्लेट मास्क- घर पर रखे पेपर प्लेट्स निकालें और साथ ही बच्चों की कैंची भी। बच्चों को उनके पेंट और ब्रश के साथ बिटाएं और देखें की वे अपनी इमेजिनेशन से क्या पेंट करते हैं इन पेपर प्लेट्स पर। पेपर प्लेट्स से फेस मास्क बनाना मजेदार होता है। आप खाली जूस के बॉटल्स और अन्य बॉक्सिज भी कई चीजें बना सकते हैं।  
गार्डनिंग- इससे आपके बच्चों में प्रकृति के प्रति लगाव

बढ़ेगा। अपने बच्चों को पेड़ लगाना, बीज बोना सिखाएं। यह न केवल उनके लिए एक लर्निंग एक्सपीरियंस होगा बल्कि वे नेचर के प्रति जिम्मेदार भी बनेंगे।  
पिगी बैंक बनाएं- उसे सेविंग करना सिखाएं। घर पर पड़े बड़े बॉक्सिज और जार लेकर आएँ और उन्हें इसे अपने मनपसंद तरीके से सजाते को कहें फिर ईनाम के रूप में इन बॉक्स या जार में कुछ सिक्के डाल दें।  
स्टिक पपेट- आइसक्रीम

स्टिक्स पर बच्चों को बर्ड्स या एनिमल ड्रॉ करने को कहें और फिर इनका इस्तेमाल बुकमार्क के रूप में भी कर सकते हैं।  
वेजिटेबल ड्रॉइंग- भिंडी, प्याज और अन्य सब्जियों के छोटे टुकड़े काटें। इन टुकड़ों को आप अपने बच्चों को पकड़ा दें और फिर उन्हें पेंट कलर्स में डिप करके ड्रॉइंग बनाने को कहें। इससे उन्हें ड्रॉइंग के नए तरीके सीखने को मिलेगा और समय का सही उपयोग भी होगा।

## मानसून में ऐसे करें आई केयर



बारिश में आंखों का ख्याल रखना बेहद जरूरी होता है। कई बार बारिश के मौसम में आंखों में सूजन, जलन, लाली आदि की समस्या पैदा हो जाती है। इन समस्याओं से बचने के लिए इन बातों का खासतौर पर ध्यान रखें।

### गंदे हाथ

गंदे हाथों से आंखों को न छुएं।

### ठंडे पानी का इस्तेमाल

आंखों को ठंडे पानी से धोएं।

### साबुन से हाथ धोएं

घर में अगर कोई कन्जक्टवाइटिस से पीड़ित है तो उसकी आंखों में दवा डालने के बाद साबुन से हाथ जरूर धोएं।

### ज्यादा परेशानी होने पर विशेषज्ञ से मिलें

आंखों में लाली, खुजली व जलन मानसून से जुड़ी परेशानी है जो ज्यादा कितनाब पढ़ने, कम्प्यूटर पर घंटों काम करने व ज्यादा टेलीविजन देखने से होती है। यदि ऐसी परेशानी हो तो विशेषज्ञ से मिलें।

### आंखों को पोंछने वाले कपड़े को शेयर न करें

अपना तौलिया, रुमाल आदि दूसरों के साथ शेयर न करें।

### कॉन्टैक्ट लेंस का प्रयोग नहीं

किसी भी संक्रमण के दौरान कॉन्टैक्ट लेंस का प्रयोग न करें।

### मेकअप से दूर रहें

बाहर जाते वक चरमा लगाएं। दिक्कत होने पर आंखों को रगड़ें नहीं। किसी भी प्रकार का संक्रमण होने पर आंखों का मेकअप न करें।

### बिलनी

आंखों का बैक्टीरियल संक्रमण है जो ज्यादातर बारिश के मौसम में होता है। इसमें आंखों की पुतली में पीड़ादायक गठन हो जाती है जो कुछ समय बाद दवा से ठीक हो जाती है।



## घरेलू उपायों से निखारें अपनी रंगत



दमकता गोरान पाने के लिए महिलाएं बहुत से उपाय करती हैं। बाजार में भी गौरा बनाने के लिए टेरों प्रोडक्ट उपलब्ध हैं। जिन्हें खरीदने के लिए महिलाएं पानी की तरह पैसा बहाती हैं, लेकिन क्या आप जानती हैं कि कुछ घरेलू तरीके अपनाकर भी आप पा सकती हैं निखरी त्वचा-

**नींबू**  
नींबू के रस को गुलाब जल के साथ मिलाकर चेहरे पर लगाएं। इससे चेहरे में निखार आएगा। अगर आपके हाथ काले हैं तो सोते वक हाथों पर नींबू रगड़ें। एक हफ्ते में ही आपको फर्क महसूस होने लगेगा।

**शहद**  
शहद में कच्चा दूध मिलाकर लगाने से चेहरा खुबसूरत और कोमल हो जाता है। इससे फटी हुई त्वचा भी सही हो जाती है।

**संतरा**  
संतरे के छिलकों को सुखा लें। फिर उन्हें मिक्सी में पीसकर पाउडर बना लें। इस पाउडर में गुलाब जल, कच्चा दूध और नींबू का रस मिलाकर इसे चेहरे और गर्दन पर लगाएं। इससे आपकी त्वचा गोरी होने लगेगी।

**टमाटर**  
टमाटर के रस में गुलाब जल और कच्चा दूध मिलाकर लगाएं। इससे कील, मुंहासों से राहत मिलेगी।

**खीरा**  
खीरे के रस को चेहरे पर लगाएं। इससे आपके चेहरे की रंगत निखरने लगेगी। इसके अलावा खीरे को आंखों पर लगाने से डार्क सर्कल भी दूर होते हैं और आंखों को आराम मिलता है।

**हल्दी**  
हल्दी में ताजी मलाई, आटा और कच्चा दूध मिलाकर चेहरे पर लगाएं। फिर 10 मिनट बाद चेहरा धो लें। इससे चेहरे पर निखार आ जाता है।



**बालों के लिए**  
रुखे बालों के लिए चार चम्मच मुल्लानी मिट्टी के साथ 1/4 कप दही, दो चम्मच नींबू रस और दो चम्मच शहद मिलाकर बालों पर लगाएं। बाल मुलायम होंगे। मुल्लानी मिट्टी को चार घंटे तक भिगोकर उसमें रोटा पाउडर मिलाएं। इस पेस्ट को बालों में लगाने से तैलीय बालों की समस्या दूर होती है। नेचुरल कॉन्डिशनिंग के लिए मुल्लानी में छछ मिलाकर लगाएं। मुल्लानी मिट्टी को बालों में 10 मिनट से ज्यादा ना लगाएं।

**गर्मियों में फायदेमंद**  
सनबर्न होने पर मुल्लानी मिट्टी को गुलाब जल या टमाटर के रस में मिलाकर लगाएं। मुल्लानी मिट्टी का लेप पैरों के तलवों में लगाने से ठंडक मिलती है। इसे नीम की पत्तियों वाले पानी में भिगोकर लेप करने से घमीरियां दूर होती हैं। फोड़े-फुंसियां होने पर इस मिट्टी में कपूर मिलाकर लगाएं। गर्मी में नकसीर की समस्या होने पर एक चौथाई गिलास पानी में रात को 5 चम्मच मुल्लानी मिट्टी भिगो दें। सुबह इसे छानकर नाक पर लेप करने से खून आना बंद हो जाएगा। झाई और सेंसिटिव त्वचा वालों को मुल्लानी मिट्टी का प्रयोग सप्ताह में एक बार ही करना चाहिए।

## ब्यूटी और हैल्थ दोनों के लिए प्रभावी मुल्लानी मिट्टी

ब्यूटी और हैल्थ दोनों के लिए मुल्लानी मिट्टी प्रभावी होती है। इसे चेहरे पर लगाने से रंगत निखरती है और बालों में प्रयोग करने से वे घने व मुलायम होते हैं। यह त्वचा संबंधी रोगों को दूर कर ब्लड सर्कुलेशन ठीक करती है।

### तैलीय त्वचा के लिए

ऑयली त्वचा वालों के लिए यह फायदेमंद होती है, क्योंकि यह चेहरे का तेल सोखकर मुंहासे दूर करती है। ऑयली त्वचा वाले लोगों को इस मिट्टी में दही व पुदीने की पत्तियों का पाउडर मिलाकर लगाना चाहिए। गुलाब जल व मुल्लानी मिट्टी मिलाकर भी चेहरे पर लगाई जा सकती है। मुंहासे होने पर मिट्टी में सूखी नीम की पत्तियां मिलाकर लगाएं। रुखी त्वचा होने पर इसमें चंदन पाउडर मिलाकर लगाएं। आंखों के नीचे काले घेरे कम करने के लिए खीरे का रस व उबला आलू मुल्लानी मिट्टी में मिलाकर आंखों के नीचे 10-15 मिनट तक लगाएं।



NEWS BOX

**Cristiano Ronaldo mocks Czech Republic goalie after Portugal winner**

New Delhi. A video of Cristiano Ronaldo mocking the Czech Republic goalkeeper after Portugal's win during the Euro 2024 clash has now gone viral. The 2016 Euro winners secured a comeback win against Czech Republic on June 18, Tuesday, after going behind in the 62nd minute to a goal from Lukas Provod. However, Portugal equalised in the 69th minute through a Robin Hranac own goal. As the match edged into stoppage time, Francisco Conceicao became the hero for the former champions as he scored in the 92nd minute to seal all 3 points for his side. As Conceicao wheeled off celebrating his goal, cameras caught Ronaldo mocking the Czech goalkeeper Jindrich Stanek, who was left in anger after seeing his side concede the late winner. Ronaldo had a chance in the first half, that was blocked by Stanek as it prevented Portugal from taking the lead. While the Portuguese superstar didn't find himself on the scoresheet, he was a constant threat inside the box and led the line well. Ronaldo had 100 percent pass accuracy on the day. The Al-Nassr star had thought he had helped his side score yet



again when his header was deflected on to the path of Diogo Jota. However, Ronaldo was a fraction off-side for it.

**Ronaldo sets new Euro record**

The match against the Czech Republic also unlocked a new milestone for Ronaldo. The Portuguese superstar became the first player in the history of football to take part in 6 different editions of the Euros. Ronaldo announced himself at the Euros in 2004, where Portugal reached the final to end up as runners-up. Ronaldo has since gone on to be Portugal's main man in the competition and holds the record for most appearances and most goals in the tournament's history. Portugal will next be in action against Turkey on 22nd June, who also started with a 2-1 win against Georgia.

**Virat Kohli meets West Indies legend Sir Wesley Hall, receives signed book in Barbados**

New Delhi. Star India cricketer Virat Kohli met West Indies legend Sir Wesley Hall at the Kensington Oval in Barbados. Kohli shared a heart-warming interaction with the 86-year-old West Indies legend after the team's practice session in Barbados. Kohli also received a signed book from Hall as they were clicked by the media at the stadium. Hall gifted the 35-year-old his autobiography book named "Answering the Call - The extraordinary Life of Sir Wesley Hall". Kohli is currently with the Indian team at the Caribbean island for the T20 World Cup 2024. Kohli has not been in the best of form in the T20 World Cup 2024 so far. The batter, who was asked to open alongside Rohit Sharma, has managed to score only 5 runs in 3 matches. Kohli has been India's top-run scorer in T20 World Cups since 2014. However, he has been dismissed at the scores of 1, 4 and 0 against Ireland, Pakistan and the USA. However, certain experts have showcased their trust in Kohli and have backed him to do well in the West Indies leg.

**Kohli's form in T20 World Cup 2024**



Yeah, I think he's just in America. I think he's relying on the other players to get him through there. But I think he's really got to step up over in the Caribbean. And I think the likes of Mitchell Starc and other left-arm bowlers bowling to Virat Kohli, he'll be looking for that ball to come in. The one, the straight one is the one, it worries me because he's been playing away from his body a little bit of late," Brad Hogg told Star Sports.

Hall played 48 Test matches and claimed 192 wickets. He also took 170 wickets in his first-class career. The 6 ft 2 inch tall cricketer terrified batters all over the world. It was a fearsome sight with Hall running in to bowl with the red cherry in his hand.

**Ready to make another upset: USA train hard ahead of Super 8 clash vs South Africa**

← **France captain Kylian Mbappe broke his nose in the team's first match at Euro 2024 against Austria. Mbappe had to be subbed off after he was left bleeding due to an aerial clash late in the match.**

New Delhi. The USA team has been running hard yards in the nets ahead of their Super 8 clash against South Africa at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium, Antigua on June 19, Wednesday. It must be a pinch-me moment for the Americans who reached this far in the T20 World Cup 2024 and that too in their very first appearance at the big stage. The USA team is ensuring that they break a sweat and leave no stone unturned in the Super 8s as well. USA cricket posted a special video on their Instagram, giving a sneak-peek into the team's practice session. The players were doing their respective training drills as they covered the bowling, batting and fielding



departments on a sunny day in the Caribbean. The USA were sensational in the group stage as they registered 2 wins and made it to the Super 8s alongside India. The American team managed to edge past Pakistan as they knocked them out of the race to the Super 8 stage. USA's journey to Super 8s USA hammered

Canada in the tournament opener and went onto pull off a massive upset over Pakistan in their next match. They held their nerves till the end to register a Super Over win against Pakistan. They had a close contest against India in the Group A match as well, which they eventually lost. The washout game against Ireland in Florida resulted in the Monank Patel-led side qualifying for the Super 8s. In the Super 8s, the USA are placed in the Group 2 alongside heavy-weights like England, West Indies and South Africa. After showcasing their prowess in the group stage, the USA will be eager to pull off an upset or two in the Super 8s as well.

The USA opener Aaron Jones showed his confidence in the team getting the better of South Africa.

"I mean I don't want to get into too deep about the whole meetings and stuff we have but I'll say we have some guys that played against South Africa and played with South African guys in the past and we have some South African guys on our team as well. So, we have a bit of insight on the team and yeah, hopefully everything goes well," Jones told the media in the pre-match press-conference.

**Belief of beating any team: Aaron Jones reveals USA's Super 8 mantra before SA match**

New Delhi. USA opener Aaron Jones reveals the team's mantra for the Super 8s before the match against South Africa at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium, Antigua on June 19, Wednesday. Jones said that their side has carried a belief of beating any team in this world before coming into the T20 World Cup 2024. As a host-nation, the USA created a lot of buzz in a country which was not so familiar with cricket. The Monank Patel-led side managed to enter the Super 8 stage of the tournament by putting up stellar performances in the group stage. The USA have had a dream run in the T20 World Cup 2024 so far in their home leg. Before coming into the tournament, marking their first-ever appearance, they beat Bangladesh 2-1 in a T20I series. The USA hammered Canada before pulling off a massive upset over Pakistan by beating them in the Super Over. The side also challenged India in the Group A match before losing the contest. Their



washout game against Ireland meant that they advanced into the Super 8s. The USA managed to edge past Pakistan to make it to the next stage of the tournament.

**The USA team's strong belief**

Jones affirmed that the USA will take on the big teams like South Africa, West Indies and England with a similar mindset. Well, to be honest to you, I think it starts with the belief

that we could beat anybody. Even before the World Cup. We've had a few series and obviously everybody knows we came out on top against Bangladesh, which is a really good team to be honest. So, we always believed before the World Cup that we could beat bigger teams or better teams, and obviously we showed it against Pakistan," Jones told the media in the pre-match press-conference.

**Can USA pose a threat to South Africa**

"And it's going to be the same mindset going into the Super 8 now starting tomorrow we play against South Africa we want to play hard cricket and if you come out on top it's good if you don't come out on top then we learn." The USA have been placed in the Group 2 of the Super 8s alongside some big teams in the world cricket.

**Not a small team anymore: Markram says SA will need to be at their best to beat USA**

New Delhi. South Africa skipper Aiden Markram has claimed that his side would need to be at their best if they have to beat surprise package USA, who feels aren't a small team anymore. The USA side shocked everyone when they came out of Group A, which included both India and Pakistan. USA defeated Canada in their first game with a fantastic chase before pulling off a big upset over Pakistan via a Super Over. They then went on to give India a good test and finished behind Rohit Sharma and his men to finish second and reach the Super 8s. Ahead of the Super 8 opener in Antigua, Markram said at the press conference that South Africa will need to be at 100 percent to beat the USA side. Markram said he is excited by the challenge of facing Monank Patel and his men. "Yeah, they've been really good I think not just them but a lot of the people will sort of say smaller nations, but they're not and they've proved that they're not anymore. So,



we're going to 100% have to be on our best game tomorrow to, hopefully for things to go well, but I'm excited for that challenge. A team that we haven't played much cricket against so looking forward to that and different conditions here in Antigua as well so all those things sort of together, we probably have to assess pretty quickly and develop plans out there on the field that can hopefully do the job for us," said Markram. The USA can make life very difficult for you

Markram was asked if he had followed the USA a lot in the campaign and he said he did catch a few highlights of their game. The Proteas skipper said that the USA team does have an explosive batting lineup, a good seam and spin attack. Markram said the USA can make things difficult for anyone on their day and they will need to get their plans spot on. "You haven't watched much cricket to be very honest with you it's been it's been pretty busy, but you catch a few highlights here, and then it looks pretty explosive - so a good seam attack, good couple of spinners and then an explosive batting order that any one of those guys on their day can make life really difficult for you.

**Explained: How Kane Williamson will continue to play for NZ after central contract snub**

New Delhi. On June 19, Wednesday, big news came out from New Zealand that Kane Williamson would be stepping down as the skipper of the nation's white-ball teams. Apart from this, Williamson also decided to snub the central contract offered to him by New Zealand cricket for the 2024/25 season. The star batter said he made the decision to prolong his international career. Williamson took the decision to snub the contract offer as New Zealand wouldn't be playing a lot of international cricket at home during the January 2025 window. The star batter also said that it doesn't mean he will be taking a hiatus from international cricket and will be available for selection in all formats of the game. The New Zealand Cricket CEO Scott Weenink welcomed the move by Williamson and said they are ready to make an exception to have Williamson as a part of the team despite the contract snub. "This is a good way to help keep Kane in the international game so that he continues to play a major role for the BLACKCAPS - both now and in the years to come," said Mr Weenink. "We have very little international cricket in New Zealand through January and outside that period he's still available for the BLACKCAPS." NZC has a strong preference to select centrally contracted



players for the BLACKCAPS, however we're happy to make an exception for our greatest ever batter - especially as he remains so committed to the team."

"I know it sounds a bit counterintuitive, but I'm very encouraged by this development."

Williamson takes the Trent Boult route While Williamson may have rejected the central contract from New Zealand cricket, it doesn't mean that his international career is over. A similar move was done by Trent Boult in 2022 when the pacer decided to snub the deal from the Blackcaps and focus more of his time on family and playing in

← **Kane Williamson may have announced that he has decided to snub a central contract from New Zealand cricket, but expect the star batter to remain one of the main players for the nation in probably all formats of the game. Here's how Williamson can continue to play for New Zealand despite the contract snub.**

franchise leagues. However, the pacer has since played the T20 World Cups in 2022 and 2024 and also spearheaded the attack in India during the ODI World Cup 2023 as New Zealand went all the way to the semi-finals, where they were defeated by the hosts. Apart from the Test cricket format, Boult has been ever-present in the New Zealand side in major tournaments and has always made himself available for selection. The pacer could be winding up his international career after saying the T20 World Cup 2024 would be his last major tournament in the shortest format of the game.

**Not a small team anymore: Markram says SA will need to be at their best to beat USA**

← **South Africa skipper Aiden Markram is wary of the threat posed by the USA side and claimed they weren't 'a small team anymore.' USA shocked the world when they defeated Pakistan in the group stages of the T20 World Cup 2024.**

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**USA vs SA: Weather report**

"Yeah, they've been really good I think not just them but a lot of the people will sort of say smaller nations, but they're not and they've proved that they're not anymore. So, we're going to 100% have to be on our best game tomorrow to, hopefully for things to go well, but I'm excited for that challenge. A team that we haven't played much cricket against so looking forward to

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The USA can make life very difficult for you Markram was asked if he had followed the

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"You haven't watched much cricket to be very honest with you it's been it's been pretty busy, but you catch a few highlights here, and then it looks pretty explosive - so a good seam attack, good couple of spinners and then an explosive batting order that any one of those guys on their day can make life really difficult for you. So, trying to have plans in place to combat that, to keep them quiet ultimately to get them out as well. But again, a fantastic opportunity and exciting challenge for us tomorrow," said Markram.



# Kriti Sanon

**Wants To 'Play Complex Characters':  
'Don't Want Resemblance Between  
Myself And The Character'**

**K**riti Sanon has come a long way in showbiz with rich content driven and commercial films. The actress is currently basking in the success of her recently released film Crew. Surely, the National Award-winning actress has cemented her status as one of the hottest and most bankable stars in Bollywood. As she continues to scale new heights, Kriti's aspirations and choices reflect her approach to her craft. In a recent interview with Femina, Kriti shared her thoughts on portraying distinct characters, expressing a desire to explore more complex roles. "I'd love to play a complex, grey character – a departure from my own goody-two-shoes persona. So that, in the future, when asked if there's a resemblance between myself and the character I've portrayed, I can confidently say, 'I don't think there is any' – that's something I'm eager to embrace," she revealed. Kriti's passion for the creative process extends beyond acting. Discussing her experience of turning producer with 'Do Patti', which also features the veteran actress Kajol, Kriti explained, "I wanted to be a producer because I love the creative process of filmmaking. In a few of my films as an actor – ones that I felt very passionate about – I realised I wanted to be involved in every aspect. It propelled me into production."

Her journey into production signifies a new chapter in her career, one where she can shape stories. "Being a producer allows me to have a say in the narrative, to influence the storytelling process, and to bring my vision to life," she added. With her eyes set on portraying multifaceted roles and her hands in the creative processes of filmmaking, Kriti is undoubtedly set for even greater success in the future. Coming to Do Patti with Kajol, the teaser opens with an aerial view of Manali and Kajol is seen as a cop riding a bike. Her voice can be heard in the background throughout the video. She is talking about wrong and right situations in life. Kriti Sanon's character is also shown as a glamorous one. She is seen in a grey shade. Looks like it is a murder mystery but still nothing is clear. The film will surely keep you on the edge of your seat.



**Vijay Sethupathi Expresses  
Admiration For Jr NTR, Says  
'He Is My Favourite Actor'**



**I**n a recent fan interaction, celebrated actor Vijay Sethupathi, who is currently basking in the success of his latest film 'Maharaja', openly expressed his admiration for 'RRR' star Jr NTR. Sethupathi, in a heartfelt moment, revealed that the 'Devara' actor holds a special place in his heart and is undoubtedly his favourite. When asked about his favourite actor, Vijay Sethupathi didn't hesitate for a moment before replying, "NTR Garu is my favourite." This heartfelt admiration comes at a time when Sethupathi's milestone 50th film, 'Maharaja', is captivating audiences in theatres. Released on May 30, 'Maharaja' marks a significant achievement in his illustrious career. Meanwhile, during one of his recent interviews, that is doing the rounds on Reddit, Vijay Sethupathi turned emotional, recalling tough phase of his life. When asked whom he misses the most, Vijay named himself. He said, "I miss myself. There was a guy who was very innocent, didn't have any dreams, he didn't even know what he's going to do in his life. When he was studying in first year of college, he didn't know the second years syllabus also. My friends were like 'this is second years syllabus' – I didn't even know." He continued, "I was not good in sports studies or anything. I don't talk to any girls also when I was in college, I don't talk to any. I was very shy. But still, this guy wanted to be big in something in life, but he didn't know how to become big. He didn't have big dreams also. He just wanted to come out of this poverty. That's all. He was very cute. I miss myself." Recently, during the press meet of Maharaja, he revealed that he got an accountant job before he entered the light-camera-action world. Vijay initially thought his life would be transformed after getting a job in Dubai, but it didn't go as expected. The actor struggled hard to fulfil the basic needs of his family. Helmed by Nithilan Saminathan, Vijay Sethupathi starrer Maharaja is one of the much-anticipated action dramas boasting an ensemble cast including Vijay Sethupathi, Natty, Anurag Kashyap, Bharathiraja, Abhirami, Singampuli, Mamta Mohandas, Aruldoss, Munishkanth.

**Rajinikanth, Jackie Shroff  
Attend Aishwarya Arjun-  
Umapathy Ramaiah's  
Wedding Reception**



**M**any celebrities, including Rajinikanth, his daughter Aishwarya, Jackie Shroff, and Prabhu Deva, attended the wedding reception of Aishwarya Arjun and Umapathy Ramaiah. Aishwarya is the daughter of Arjun Sarja, and Umapathy is the son of actor-director Thambi Ramaiah. According to Pinkvilla, Lokesh Kanagaraj, Vijay Sethupathi, Dhruva Sarja and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin with his wife Durga Stalin, were also present, according to HT. The reception took place at the Hotel Leela Palace in Chennai on June 14.

For the event, Rajinikanth wore a white kurta and veshti. Aishwarya Arjun wore a white and golden saree. Jackie Shroff chose a white kurta and pyjama with a black coat. Prabhu Deva wore a printed shirt and black pants. The bride, Aishwarya, wore a pink saree, while Umapathy Ramaiah wore a white shirt, black jacket, and matching pants. Aishwarya and Umapathy got married on June 10 in a private ceremony at the Hanuman Temple in Gerugambakkam, Chennai, with family and friends. They later shared photos from the wedding on Instagram. Arjun Sarja posted a video on Instagram. He wrote, "Words cannot express the joy and happiness we feel as we witnessed our beloved daughter AISHWARYA marry the love of her life, our dearest UMAPATHY. It was a day filled with love, laughter, and unforgettable memories. Watching you step into this new chapter has filled our hearts with pride and overwhelming emotion. Here's to a lifetime of love, joy, and countless blessings. May your journey together be as beautiful as the love you share. We love you both dearly! Appa Amma Anju Junee and truffyy @aishwaryaarjun @umapathyramaiah @neetharjun14"

# Sonali Bendre

**Reveals How The First Paycheck Pushed Her  
Into Showbiz: 'I Was Like This World Exists?'**

**S**onali Bendre did not harbor dreams of becoming an actor like many starry-eyed individuals. It was pure fate that led her to the city and set her on the path of acting. Coming from a background where her father, an 'honest' central government employee, faced constant transfers, Sonali witnessed her parents' financial struggles firsthand. It was during her teenage years when her father was transferred to Mumbai that her story took a new turn. Sonali Bendre recently shared in an interview how receiving her first paycheck and realizing the potential earnings significantly shaped her decision-making process at that time. Upon receiving her first paycheck in the early 90s, Sonali was astonished to find out that the contract amounted to Rs 25000, a considerably large sum at that time. This revelation sparked her realization of the promising financial prospects that a career in the show business held for her. She told Mid-Day, "Thing that changed for me was when I saw the contract. Whatever you give and what they said they will give was also like 'what! I can make this and that got me thinking. So, I said, this world exists? And that's when I told my father, look at my age. I have the time. I have it on my side. I promise you, give me three years. If this doesn't work out, I will do what you're saying, but look at the amount of money. If it works out, I can use that for life." Describing the financial challenges her family faced at the time, Sonali viewed her entry into the entertainment industry as a means to uplift her family from those circumstances. Reflecting on her motivation, Sonali added, "If my father was not going through that kind of a struggle, and if I was not seeing how my



parents were struggling and what they were feeling, I would have probably not stood up and said, 'I'm doing it.' Having begun her career as a model in her teenage years, Sonali transitioned into Bollywood after working on numerous advertisements. She gained recognition for her roles in films like Diljale (1996), Duplicate (1997), Major Saab (1998) and Dhai Akshar Prem Ke (2000). Recently, milestones were reached as her movies Sarfarosh and Hum Saath Saath Hain celebrated their 25th anniversaries earlier this year. Following a break due to her battle with cancer, Sonali marked her return to acting with the web series The Broken News (2022). Her most recent appearance was in the second season of the mentioned web show, signifying her ongoing dedication to her craft and commitment to her fans.

