

## 'Behaving foolishly': Rahul Gandhi slams Yogi Adityanath on journalist arrest



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Congress president Rahul Gandhi has criticised Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath over the arrest of journalists for sharing and broadcasting alleged derogatory comments against the CM.

"If every journalist who files a false report or peddles fake, vicious RSS/BJP sponsored

propaganda about me is put in jail, most newspapers/news channels would face a severe staff shortage. The UP CM is behaving foolishly & needs to release the arrested journalists." Rahul Gandhi tweeted.

Rahul's comments follow protests against arrest of 3 journalists including one Prashant Kanojia. Prashant Kanojia's wife's habeas corpus petition will be

heard by Supreme Court today. She has challenged her husband's arrest as "illegal" and "unconstitutional". Kanojia had shared a video on Twitter and Facebook where a woman is seen speaking to reporters of various media organisations outside the chief minister's office claiming that she had sent a marriage proposal to Yogi Adityanath. An FIR was registered against

Kanojia at the Hazratganj police station in Lucknow on Friday night. Senior superintendent of police (SSP) of Lucknow, Kalanidhi Naithani, had said there was evidence against Kanojia under Section 505 of IPC for making, publishing or circulating false statements, report or rumour and under Section 67 of the Information Technology Act for transmitting obscene material in electronic form.

The UP police had also cracked down on a private television news channel Nation Live in Noida for allegedly running without a license, a day after arresting its chief Ishika Singh and editor Anuj Shukla, also for broadcasting content allegedly defaming Yogi Adityanath.

The police action has sparked outrage in media circles. The Editors Guild of India has criticised the arrest as "authoritarian misuse of laws". A group of journalists also organized a protest against the arrest on Monday.

## Supreme Court orders immediate release of journalist arrested for post against Yogi Adityanath



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The Supreme Court on Tuesday ordered immediate release of journalist Prashant Kanojia who was arrested for sharing a post against UP chief minister Yogi Adityanath. Kanojia's wife moved the Supreme Court on Monday. He shared a video of a Kanpur-based woman making allegations against Adityanath. He was picked up from his Delhi

home on Saturday morning and sent to jail in the evening. The woman has also been arrested.

The Supreme Court said that a case for arrest of the journalist not made out. "The police can proceed against him, but arrest? No," a bench of the top court said.

The UP police defended Kanojia's arrest and said he had made inflammatory tweets in the past too. "He has been making inflammatory tweets in

the past not only with respect to caste matters but also gods and goddesses and that's why he was arrested," said additional solicitor general Vikramjeet Banerjee.

The court asked the counsel "where is the mischief made out".

The police action against Kanojia had sparked outrage in media circles. The Editors Guild of India had criticised the arrest as "authoritarian misuse of laws".

## PM Modi asks target oriented five-year plan document for each Ministry

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi has asked top bureaucrats to prepare a five-year plan document for each Ministry with well-defined targets and a significant impactful decision in each Ministry for which approvals will be taken within 100 days.

Interacting with all Secretaries to the Union Government at his residence in New Delhi yesterday Mr

Modi said all departments of the government must seek to leverage the upcoming milestone of 75 years of independence. He said it can inspire people to make a contribution to the betterment of the country. During the interaction, the Prime Minister said, the recent General Elections mandate reflects the will and aspirations of the people to change the status quo and seek a better life for themselves. He said, the huge expectations of the

people should not be viewed as a challenge, but an opportunity.

Mr Modi said, every Central department and each district have a role in making India a five trillion dollar economy. India's progress in ease of doing Business, should reflect in greater facilitation for small businesses and entrepreneurs. Prime Minister said that each Ministry of the government should focus on ease of living. He said, water,

fisheries, and animal husbandry are also the important areas for the Government.

Mr Modi also urged secretaries to use technology to improve outcomes and efficiency in each department. During the interaction, various Secretaries shared their vision and ideas on various subjects including administrative decision-making, agriculture, IT initiatives, education reform, healthcare and industrial policy.

## PM Modi accepts Macron's invite to attend outreach session of G7 Summit

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi has accepted an invitation from French President Emmanuel Macron to attend the outreach

session of the G7 Summit in Biarritz as a special invitee. The summit of the G7 group of countries will be held in August this year in France. External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Raveesh Kumar said the invitation is

a reflection of the personal chemistry between the two leaders, a demonstration of the two countries deepening strategic partnership and recognition of India as a major economic power.

## Govt orders compulsory retirement of 12 senior IT officers for corruption, misconduct

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Twelve senior officers of Income Tax Department including one of the ranks of the joint commissioner were compulsorily retired by the government on charges of corruption and professional

misconduct. Sources said the list is topped by a Joint Commissioner rank officer against whom there are serious complaints of corruption and extortion. It also includes an IRS officer in the post of Commissioner (Appeal) in Noida, who was

accused of sexual harassment to two women IRS officers of Commissioner rank. Another IRS officer, who was compulsorily retired, had acquired movable and immovable assets worth over three crore rupees in the name of self and his family members.

## Cyclone Vayu to turn into severe storm today, may bring heavy rain to southern coast

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A deep depression formed over the Arabian Sea, around 760 km south-southwest of Mumbai, on Monday afternoon, which is likely to bring heavy to very heavy rain in parts of Kerala, coastal and south interior Karnataka, Konkan region, Goa and the Lakshadweep islands, a bulletin of the India Meteorological Department stated Monday. The system will intensify into a cyclonic storm by Tuesday afternoon and a severe cyclonic storm with wind speed of up to 115 kmph in the next 24 hours, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) warned. "The deep depression is currently away from the coast and travelling north-northwestwards. It is being closely monitored by IMD and might make landfall in Gujarat, but even if it does not, it is close enough to the landmass that the impact of cyclone will be felt along the Western coast," said Dr K Sathi Devi, a scientist at the IMD.

Under the influence of the low-pressure system, monsoon advancement will be delayed once it intensifies into a cyclonic



storm, she said. Monsoon hit Kerala on Saturday after a week-long delay. "When such an intense low-pressure system forms, it pulls in all the moisture-bearing winds towards it, changing the course of the monsoons. Because of the changes in the wind directions, most of the rain from the southwest monsoon will be over the oceans and some areas in the western coast," Devi said.

The cyclone is likely to be named on Tuesday as it develops into a storm. Monsoon activity in the southern peninsula will pick up once the low-pressure

system moves towards the Gujarat coast. "The cyclonic storm forming over the Arabian Sea will bring heavy rainfall to the Western coastal areas. But, it has affected the progress of monsoon, which was delayed anyway this year. By now, it should have reached Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. The monsoon rains in the interior of the peninsula should pick up after about 48 hours when the cyclonic storm moves towards Gujarat," said Mahesh Palawat, vice-president, meteorology and climate change at Skymet. Skymet has reiterated that farmers in southern

peninsula and central India should delay sowing for Kharif crops.

The wind speeds will also increase over the next three days. This will result in rough seas along and off the coast of Kerala, Karnataka, south Maharashtra, and south Gujarat.

The IMD has advised fishermen to not venture into Arabian Sea and asked those in deep-sea areas to return to the coast. The rain brought on by the low-pressure system is unlikely to offer any respite from the heatwave to severe heatwave conditions over Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Vidarbha, southern parts of Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh.

## Severe heatwave grips North and Central regions of the country

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The severe heatwave continued to grip the north and central regions of the country with mercury breaching maximum temperature records in many cities. In Uttar Pradesh, Banda was hottest with 49.2 degree Celsius yesterday, which was 7 notches above the normal.

Allahabad sizzled at 48.9 degrees, 9 degrees above the normal and Jhansi heated at 48.1 degrees. In other parts of the state to mercury hovered around 45 degree Celsius. District administrations have issued advisories on how to cope up with the heat.

The Meteorological Department has said thunderstorm with gusty

wind and rain is likely at isolated places during the next two days in the state.

In Rajasthan, most places witnessed around 45 degree Celsius. At Churu, the temperature was recorded 50.3 degrees Celsius yesterday. Our correspondent reports that the Medical Department has issued advisory for not going outside except in emergency situations.

## Nearly 100 killed in central Mali village massacre

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In Mali, at least 100 people were killed by gunmen in an overnight attack in Sobane-Kou village in Koundou district. The village is inhabited by the Dogon ethnic group. Officials said, 95 people, have been found dead with many of the bodies burned adding that the

search for more bodies is underway. The government said suspected terrorists attacked the village at around 03 a.m local time. It said that at least 19 people were still missing. A survivor said about 50 heavily armed men arrived on motorbikes and pickups. He said, they first surrounded the village and then attacked and

anyone who tried to escape was killed. Clashes between Dogon hunters and semi-nomadic Fulani herders are frequent since a militant Islamist uprising in northern Mali in 2012. In the same region in March, more than 130 Fulani villagers were killed by armed men wearing traditional Dogon hunters' clothing.