

# absolute india

VOL. 6, ISSUE 211, BHOPAL | SUNDAY, JUNE 20, 2021 | ₹5 | PAGE 08

PUBLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM BHOPAL, MUMBAI AND NEW DELHI



**NATION** >02  
Teen killed parents, kept bodies buried in...



**HOLLYWOOD** > 06  
Oprah Winfrey talks about dealing with trauma...



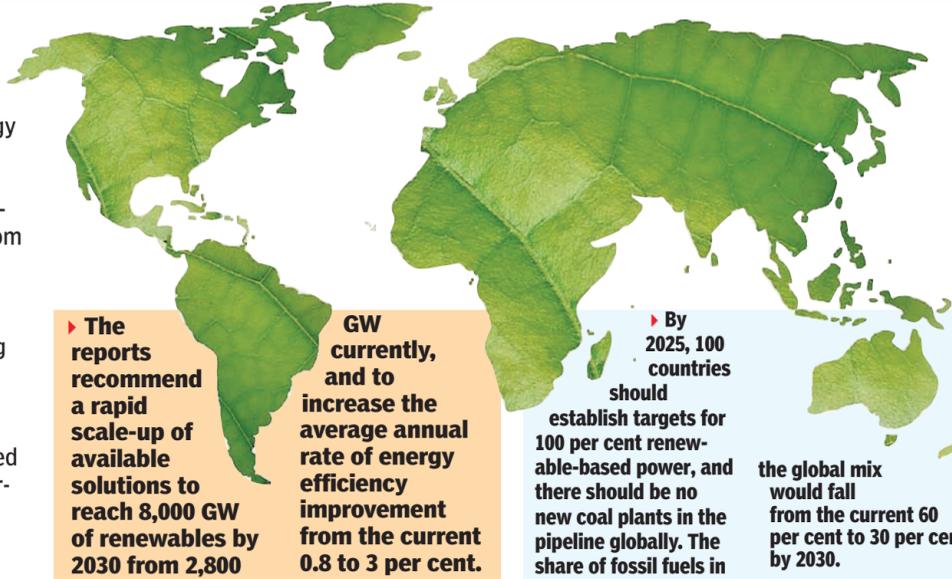
**SPORTS** > 07  
American Crouser breaks 31-year-old shot...

PROPOSED GLOBAL UN ROADMAP SHOWS UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO CLEAN ENERGY BY 2030

## THE AMBITIOUS ENERGY

THE FIVE FOCUS AREAS ARE: ENERGY ACCESS; ENERGY TRANSITION; ENABLING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS) THROUGH INCLUSIVE, JUST ENERGY TRANSITIONS; INNOVATION, TECHNOLOGY AND DATA; AND FINANCE AND INVESTMENT.

The proposed roadmap, which will inform the High-level Dialogue on Energy in September and be considered in the political statement resulting from the summit, is based on reports submitted by five Technical Working Groups that have brought together over 160 experts since March, co-led by 16 UN and international organizations, grouped by thematic focus.



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Everyone in the world could have access to clean, affordable energy within the next nine years if countries modestly increase investments, according to new UN reports released, in advance of a major ministerial meeting on June 21-25 where countries and businesses will begin to announce energy plans for the decade. Annual investments of around \$35 billion could bring electricity access for 759 million people who currently lack it, and \$25 billion a year can help 2.6 billion people gain access to clean cooking between now and 2030. The required investment

“This is only the beginning and we need much more commitment and concrete action at this year’s High-level Dialogue on Energy to get where we need to be by 2030.”  
Liu Zhenmin, UN Under-Secy-Gen for Economic and Social Affairs

represents only a small fraction of the multi-trillion-dollar global energy investment needed overall, but would bring huge benefits to one-third of the world’s population. The recommendations on energy access are part of a proposed global roadmap with concrete actions to achieve clean, affordable energy for all by 2030 and net zero emissions by 2050, launched by the United Nations on Friday, to set the groundwork for a large-scale mobilization of commitments this

year. National and city governments, foundations and businesses are expected to start announcing significant commitments in the form of “Energy Compacts” at Ministerial Forums to be held June 21-25, driving action towards a High-level Dialogue on Energy, a summit to be convened by the UN in September. Major energy compact commitments and partnerships for clean electricity access and cooking solutions are among those expected to be announced dur-

ing the June Forums, which are co-hosted by thirty Global Champion countries. In order to achieve the SDGs and Paris Agreement targets, energy transition must become a transformational effort, a system overhaul, the proposed roadmap suggests. The proposed roadmap also calls for countries to phase out coal by 2030 in wealthier countries that are members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and by 2040 in non-OECD countries, recognizing that many developing countries will need support for this process. By 2050, 92 per cent of power would come from renewable technologies.

## The Quick Accuracy

LATEST COVID TESTING KIT ‘SENSIT’ EXHIBITS 86-100% SPECIFICITY

▶ Through the kit, samples are collected using nasopharyngeal swabs from the suspected individual. This ICMR approved kit is a chromatographic immunoassay, which allows the healthcare personnel to visually read the test result.

▶ Such quick tests allow healthcare professionals to

detect infected individuals quickly, saving their time and allowing them to provide better advice and treatment to the infected individual.

▶ The quick testing procedure involves antigen testing which provides the result for hundreds of samples within a short span of time.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Centre on Saturday said that the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) approved DBT-BIRAC supported product ‘SENSIT Rapid Covid-19 Ag kit’ exhibits sensitivity and specificity of 86 per cent and 100 per cent, respectively and has a shelf life of 24 months.

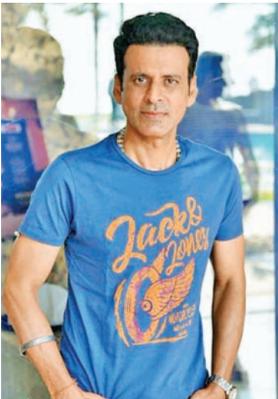
Sharing the inputs, Ministry of Science and Technology said the kit has been developed by Ubio Biotechnology Systems Pvt Ltd for qualitative detection of SARS CoV-2 Nucleocapsid Protein with an assay time of 15 minutes under the aegis of Covid-19 Research Consortium. “The test works on the principle of sandwich immunoassay and utilizes a pair of monoclonal antibodies which when bound to Covid-19 specific antigen, result in the appearance of a coloured line,” said the Ministry. “The kit exhibits sensitivity and specificity of 86 per cent and 100 per cent, respectively and has a shelf life of 24 months. SENSIT Rapid Covid-19 Ag Kit has been successfully commercialised. Several innovators



and entrepreneurs have been working tirelessly for developing accurate, affordable and accessible testing kits for not only providing

aid to the healthcare workers in such tough times for easy detection but also for boosting the biotechnology ecosystem in India.

### CREATIVE PEOPLE SHOULDN'T HAVE FAVOURITES: MANOJ BAJPAYEE



Yashika Mathur | Mumbai

Actor Manoj Bajpayee, who has worked in films as well as OTT, says he would never pick a favourite medium when it comes to showcasing his work. “Creative people should not have favourites because you are supposed to work on whatever medium that you are working for. You have to just look for good work that excites and challenges you,” the actor tells correspondent. He cites examples of recent projects he has worked in that dropped digitally. “So many films that have come on OTT have done well. ‘Bhonsle’ or ‘Silence’ were meant for theatre release. OTT came as a blessing and we can put these films on OTT for people to see. Theatres will open again. The more the avenues, better the chances for all of us. More talent will be consumed and benefit from it,” he added. The critically-acclaimed and much-feted actor says his criteria for picking scripts has always been the same. “A good script, good character and good director, an honest intent and a character I feel I can play differently, somewhere I can challenge it and do it differently. These are things I still look for after 26 years of my career,” he sums up.

### Allahabad HC refuses custody of minor husband to adult wife

Prayagraj | Agencies

The Allahabad High Court has refused to give the custody of the minor husband to his wife on the ground that the marriage was voidable and allowing so would amount to sanctioning the same between a major and a minor. As the husband, who is 16 years of age, was not willing to live with his mother, the court also did not give his custody to her either. The court directed the authorities concerned to arrange for the boy’s stay in a state facility like a shelter home till February 4, 2022, till he attains the age of majority. It clarified that after February 4, 2022, he can stay with whomsoever he likes, including his wife.

The petitioner mother pleaded that the minor boy did not have the legal competence to marry the girl and the marriage was void, as per law. The court went on to refuse the request of the minor boy to allow him to remain in the custody of his wife. The wife had also given birth to a child of the minor



boy. The court said, the POCSO Act makes cohabitation of a minor boy with a major girl an offence, which would certainly be committed, if the boy is in the custody of his wife. The custody or care of a minor, that inherently makes or has the potential of making the minor the victim of an offence and his adult guardian an offender under the Act of 2012 (POCSO Act), cannot be regarded as a custody or arrangement made to ensure the welfare of the minor, it added. The court gave the judgment on May 31, 2021, but it was uploaded on its website on Monday.

### New Island In Indian Vicinity?

Kochi | Agencies

Ever since a bean-shaped structure in the Arabian sea, about seven km west off the Kochi coast, was put out using the Google Maps satellite image showing the formation of an ‘island’ under the sea, talks have begun, that only a detailed study would reveal, what it is. Experts have expressed doubts that there is a chance it could be even a plankton assemblage as a mass. This was first noticed by the Chellanam Karshika Tourism Development Society when its president X.J.Kalipparambil shared the image which according to him was approximately around 22 sqkm (8 km in length and 3.5 km in breadth). Speaking to reporter, former director - research, at the Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies (KUFOS),



K.V.Jayachandran said that he too, read and heard about this phenomenon from the media. “What it is, can only be proved through proper studies and for those agencies like KUFOS and CUSAT (Cochin University of Science and Technology) can take the lead and am sure they will. “From what I have read about this, chances are there could be a plankton assemblage as a mass, as, such formations

can be captured by satellite imagery. Moreover, I did not find in any of the reports about the presence of soil deposits,” said Jayachandran and added that this phenomenon is seen commonly in temple pounds inland localities. Meanwhile, Vice Chancellor of KUFOS, K. Riji John also pointed out that only through a proper investigation can one find out what the the new structure was.

## Milkha Singh: The 'Flying Sikh' no one could catch

Kaiser Mohammad Ali | New Delhi

- ▶ Milkha was born in Layalpur, in the undivided India, and now in Pakistan. His love for athletics began after he enrolled himself with the Corps of Electronics and Mechanical Engineers (EME) of the Indian Army in Delhi.
- ▶ Milkha practiced on his own while with the Army and clinched gold medals in both 200m and 400m at the 1956 National Games in Patiala, and two years later at the Cuttack Nationals, setting national records in both races.
- ▶ His sporting achievements won him kudos from the Army, and the Indian government awarded him the Padma Shri in 1959. The same year, he was awarded the prestigious Helms Award.
- ▶ Milkha took premature retirement from the Army and took up the post of Deputy Director of Sports with the Punjab government.
- ▶ Decades later, a Bollywood film was made on Milkha Singh, starring Farhan Akhtar.

A glimpse into the stupendous athletics career of legendary Milkha Singh, who passed away on Friday aged 91, can be had from this mind boggling fact: his 400 metres Indian national record stood for 38 years and the 400m Asian record for 26 years. In 1960 in Rome, he came closest to winning an individual Olympic Games medal as an Indian, in 400m, eventually finishing fourth in a photo finish. Milkha was one of the favourites to win the 400m gold in Rome. It was probably natural, too, as going into the Olympics, he is said to have won 77 out of 80 races, including the 1958 Commonwealth Games gold in 440 yards. But one shortcoming probably cost Milkha an Olympic medal. He had a habit of looking at his opponents over his shoulder while running races, and when he did the same in Rome it was decisive, though he had led the race until 200m. Later he admitted that he had paid a heavy price for his habit. Interestingly, Milkha broke the existing world record of 45.9 sec in Rome, and so the three who finished ahead of him. He finished fourth with a time of 45.6 seconds, as per a hand-held device, while an unofficial electronic timer at the games clocked him at 45.73 sec. This has been a point of contention, though. Whatever the reality, Milkha emerged from Rome as the ‘Flying Sikh’. A legend was born.





# TEEN KILLED PARENTS, KEPT BODIES BURIED IN GODOWN

Kolkata | Agencies

A shocking incident has come to light at Kaliachak in West Bengal's Malda district, where a 19-year-old youth allegedly killed his parents, sister and grandmother and kept the bodies buried in the godown of the house for the last four months. The police recovered the bodies on Saturday and are questioning the accused teen, who has been identified as Asif Mohammed, and his elder brother Arif to seek details about the motive behind the murder. The incident came to light after Arif, who stayed away from his



home, lodged a complaint with the Kaliachak police station on Saturday morning, alleging that his brother had killed four

members of his family and buried the bodies under the floor of the godown located adjacent to the house. The police immediately rushed to the spot and arrested Asif. Later, in the presence of a magistrate, the floor of the godown was dug and the four bodies were recovered from there. The bodies have been sent to the Malda Medical College for post-mortem. "The accused has admitted that he had killed all the four persons in February end. He confessed that he had mixed drugs in their drinks and made them unconscious. After that, he pushed them into a well to confirm their death. The bod-

ies were then pulled out of the well, taken to the godown where they were buried one after another. The police are also interrogating Arif because we don't want to leave anything to chance," said Alok Rajoria, Superintendent of Malda Police. The police have also recovered Rs one lakh in cash from the house. Sources in the police said the gate of the godown was close to the entrance and there was no gate that could open inside and so he had dug a tunnel to bring the bodies inside the godown. "The tunnel was made so that the local people didn't get to know anything," a senior police officer said.



## Major narco-terror module busted by J&K Police, 10 arrested

Srinagar | Agencies

The Jammu and Kashmir Police have arrested 10 persons after busting a major narco-terror module, seizing arms and ammunition, heroin, cash and several vehicles from the arrested persons, officials said here on Saturday. The Baramulla police along with the Army and the CRPF busted the narco-terror module by arresting 10 persons and recovering arms and ammunition, 9 kg heroin and cash from their possession, the police said. "On receiving specific information, the Baramulla police along with the Army and the CRPF signalled a Maruti Swift vehicle to stop at a checkpoint in Bandi Uri in Baramulla district. However the person driving the said vehicle tried to flee from the spot. But the alert joint party stopped the vehicle in which three persons were travelling," the police said. The trio has been identified as Sajid Ahmad Shah, a resident of Lalpora Lolab, Kupwara; Sharafat Khan from Keran Kupwara; and Shahid Hussain, a resident of Khaipora Tangmarg.

"During checking, the joint party recovered some quantity of contraband substance (heroin), arms and ammunition along with cash from the said vehicle. All the three persons were arrested," the police said. The police added that upon questioning, the officers learnt that the said arms and ammunition and contraband substance were received from across the LoC to provide aid to the terrorist outfits. The accused persons also disclosed that some deliveries had been taken by some other parties. As per their disclosure, special checkpoints were immediately established. The following persons were arrested after the series of actions that followed -- Reyaz Ahmad Hajam, a resident of Yarikah Chadoora, Budgam; Adil Bashir from Nemthall Chadoora, Budgam; and Angraz Singh, a resident of Chadharpur Tehsil in Antrisar, Punjab. One Hyundai Verna, one Scooty, cash and some contraband substance besides arms and ammunition were seized from their possession. Meanwhile, a police party from Baramulla assisted by the Jammu police arrested four more accused persons from Jammu. They have been identified as Raman, Rohit and Krishan, all residents of Ferozpur in Punjab; and Payaz Ahmad Khan from Keran Kupwara. According to the police, Rs 16 lakh and one Eicher Canter truck were recovered from their possession.

## Bengal Govt meets Amit Shah for second time in two days

Kolkata | Agencies

On a day when the Calcutta High Court snubbed the West Bengal government for its 'inaction' over the post-poll violence in the state, Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar met Union Home Minister Amit Shah in the national capital on Saturday for the second time in 48 hours. Dhankhar, who has been critical of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and West Bengal government over its 'failure' to contain post-poll violence in the state, said, "In Delhi I spoke to some people. We cannot compromise on democracy; we cannot compromise on rule of law and we cannot compromise with the Constitution. I am hopeful that everyone will listen to my sane voice. I want everyone to rise to the occasion and try to wipe the tears of those families and people who have to leave their houses, whose near and dear ones have been killed, injured, whose houses have been subjected to arson and loot. We cannot survive in a democracy if people have



to pay extortion fees to run their small business," Dhankhar said after his second meeting with Shah at the latter's residence on Saturday. His meeting with Shah came at a time when Banerjee and Dhankhar have been at the loggerheads over a range of issues. Over the past few weeks, Dhankhar has raised concerns over the alleged incidents of political violence in West Bengal.

## Kumbh mela was biggest super spreader event: AICC official

Panaji | Agencies

All India Congress Committee general secretary Dinesh Gundu Rao, on Saturday, said that the Kumbh mela organised in Uttarakhand amid the second Covid wave, was the "biggest super spreader event in the world", even as he blamed Prime Minister Narendra Modi for not doing enough to rein in the rapid spread of infections earlier this year. Addressing a press conference in Panaji, Rao also said that despite being the largest manufacturer of vaccines in the world, India was worse off than its South Asian neighbours. "The biggest super spreader event in the world was the Kumbha mela," Rao told reporters at the state Congress headquarters in Panaji. "People throughout the country lost their lives and livelihood, they are suffering. Why?



Because the central government did not bother to address the situation. It did not bother to purchase the vaccines. It did not bother to warn the people that the second wave of Covid has already started, let us be careful," Rao said. "Instead of that, he was doing election rallies, even though he knew that the second

wave had come. Never in the history of Indian politics, has a PM behaved so irresponsibly... And he does not care. He does not bother," Rao also said. "The PM was busy congratulating himself. Why is the situation not the same in Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, our own neighbours," the AICC official asked.

## SANTHOSH TO VISIT UP AGAIN, FUELS FRESH SPECULATIONS

Lucknow | Agencies

BJP National General Secretary, Organisation, B.L. Santhosh, who had visited Lucknow 15 days ago, is again coming to UP on June 21. Speculations are rife about his second visit in less than a month. State in-charge Radha Mohan Singh may also visit the state along with Santhosh. During their visit, they are likely to meet party office-bearers and min-



isters to discuss the groundwork preparations for the elections in Uttar Pradesh to be held early next year. Santhosh and Singh may also discuss a possible cabinet expansion and candidates for four vacant seats in the Legislative Council. The brainstorming sessions that started in the month of May are still continuing. Consequently, the visit of Santhosh to Lucknow is being considered very important in many ways.

## Security challenges led to monumental changes in force: IAF chief

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Indian Air Force has gone through monumental transformation with unprecedented and rapidly evolving security scenario in the neighbourhood, said Air Chief Marshal R.K.S. Bhadauria, on Saturday, pointing out that this has led to intense combat power in operations. Speaking at the combined graduation parade at the Air Force Academy in Dandigal, Hyderabad, Air Chief Marshal Bhadauria said: "Rapid infusion of niche technology and combat power in every facet of our



operations has never been as intense as it is now. He added that it is primarily because of the unprecedented and rap-

idly evolving security challenges that "we face, coupled with arising geo-political uncertainty in our neighbourhood and beyond".

Indian military has for long flagged the threat of two front war. With the disputed border with China and Pakistan active at the same point of time, the armed forces are stretched to the maximum. He said the last few decades have clearly established the critical role of Air Power in achieving victory in any conflict. "It is in this backdrop that IAF's ongoing capability enhancement assumes tremendous significance.

# Delhi govt to give Rs 1 cr ex-gratia to kin of 6 personnel killed on duty

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)-led Delhi government on Saturday announced a compensation of Rs one crore each to the families of six persons, who were residents of Delhi, and were killed while performing their duty. Of the six people who lost their lives, three belonged to the Indian Air Force (IAF), two were Delhi Police personnel and one was part of Civil Defence. Announcing the ex-gratia amount, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said, "To honour our personnel who risked their lives to protect and serve the nation, Delhi Government has announced disbursement of ex-gratia amount of Rs 1 crore to



families of 6 personnel who passed away while performing their duties. The decision to support the families was taken at today's (Saturday) meeting." Martyrs whose families will be given ex-gratia of Rs 1 crore are: Sanket Kaushik - (ACP) Delhi Police who lost his life while performing duty at Rajokri Flyover in Delhi. A truck hit him while he was checking vehicles around the area and he died on the spot. Rajesh Kumar, a resident of Safdarjung lost his life while performing his duty in the Air Force. He was on an aircraft which took off from Jorhat in Assam and its wreckage was found in Arunachal Pradesh. His

body was found subsequently. He had only been married for three months. Flt. Lt. Sunil Mohanty, a resident of Dwarka was in the same flight with Rajesh Kumar and he also died in the crash. Meet Kumar, a Squadron Leader in the Indian Air Force (IAF) died when his aircraft MIG-21 crashed during an operational sortie in the Kangra hills in Himachal Pradesh. Vikas Kumar, who was a Delhi Police Constable, was performing picket duty when the driver of a Swift car deliberately increased the speed when asked to stop and the car hit and injured Kumar. He was shifted to AIIMS where he was pronounced dead. Praveesh Kumar, a Civil Defence Personnel was performing his duty at Mangolpuri flyover when a truck hit and crushed him.



## Heavy rains in Gujarat, Anand gets 173 mm in 4 hours

Gandhinagar | Agencies

Heavy showers lashed almost all parts of Gujarat inundating many areas in Anand and Surat districts, which affected the normal lives of the people. Just within a couple of days, the state has received about 6 per cent of the average rainfall. Rains have continued on Saturday too as heavy downpour has been predicted in many regions. Anand district received nearly 173 mm of rainfall between 6 a.m. and 12 noon on Friday, according to the State Emergency Operation Centre

(SEOC). The heavy torrential downpour created a flood like situation in almost entire district with water-logging disrupting the traffic and normal life. The rains have still continued with 20 mm falling in the last two hours from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. in morning on Saturday in Anand, which has received a total of 203 mm of rainfall in the past 30 hours.

District of Surat too received heavy rainfall with Choryasi Tehsil getting 124 mm rains followed by Surat city with 96 mm and Olpad at 95 mm during the past 24 hours till midnight.

## KTDC ROLLS OUT 'IN-CAR DINING' TO SERVE FOOD IN PARKED VEHICLES

Thiruvananthapuram: Kerala Tourism Development Corporation (KTDC) is rolling out a novel facility 'in-car dining' that serves diners in their parked vehicles. State Tourism Minister P.A. Mohamed Riyas said that the in-car dining will serve customers in their parked vehicles from

KTDC's Aahaar restaurants. "Breakfast, lunch and dinner besides snacks, will be served under 'in-car dining', adhering to Covid-19 protocols. To begin with, select KTDC restaurants will implement the scheme," said Riyas, who is the son-in-law of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.

“ An egotist can never be humble that is why he is seldom blessed even by god.”



Rig Veda

# absolute india

VOL. 6, ISSUE 211, BHOPAL | SUNDAY, JUNE 20, 2021 | ₹5 | PAGE 08

PUBLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM BHOPAL, MUMBAI AND NEW DELHI

**NEW INDIAN IT RULES DO NOT CONFORM WITH INTERNATIONAL NORMS: UN SPECIAL RAPPORTEURS**

## AGAINST GLOBAL PARAMETERS

**The report said as a global leader in technology innovation, India has the potential to develop a legislation that can place it at the forefront of efforts to protect digital rights. However, the substantially broadened scope of the Rules is likely to do just the opposite.**

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Experts at United Nations Office of the Human Rights Commissioner have said in a report that it is concerned that India's Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, in their current form, do not conform with international human rights norms. The observations were made in Mandates of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression; the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association and the Special Rapporteur on the right to privacy. The report is authored by Irene Khan, Special Rapporteur



on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, Clement Nyaletsoosi Voule, Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association and Joseph

Cannataci, Special Rapporteur on the right to privacy. "We would therefore encourage the Government to take all necessary steps to carry out a detailed review of the Rules and to consult with all relevant stake-

holders, including civil society dealing with human rights, freedom of expression, privacy rights and digital rights", the report said. "We understand the new Rules were issued under the Information Technology Act of 2000 and therefore, were not subject to parliamentary review or opened for consultation with stakeholders. We believe such consultations with relevant stakeholders are essential in order to ensure the final text is compatible with India's international legal obligations, in particular with Articles 17 and 19 of the ICCPR," it added. This observation along with India's comment will also subsequently be made available in the usual report to be presented to the Human Rights Council, it added.

“ As noted in previous communications sent to your Excellency's Government, we are concerned that these new rules come at a time of a global pandemic and of large-scale farmer protests in the country, where the enjoyment of the freedom of opinion and expression, including the right to receive information, and the right to privacy, is particularly important for the realisation of several other civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights. We would like to recall that restrictions to freedom of expression must never be invoked as a justification for the muffling of any advocacy of multiparty democracy, democratic tenets and human rights.”

## Cong attacks govt over increase in Swiss bank deposits by Indians

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Congress attacked the government over reports of an increase in Swiss bank deposits by Indians by 286 percent in 2020 -- the highest in the last 13 years -- and asked the government how much black money has been brought back and from which country in the last 7 years? The Congress demanded that the Modi government should share the names of individuals who have moved the money to Swiss banks in the last one year? Certain reports suggested that funds of Indians in Swiss Banks have risen to over Rs 20,700 crore (CHF 2.55 billion) at the end of 2020 from Rs 6,625 crore (CHF 899 million) at the end of 2019, reversing a 2 year declining trend. It has also been stated that this is also the highest figure of deposits in the last 13 years. AICC Spokesperson in a press conference on Friday said,



"The data for funds parked by Indian individuals and firms in Swiss banks for 2020 was released by the Swiss National Bank (SNB). Our assertion is that the divide

between the rich and the poor has been widening under the Modi government. As per CMIE, close to 97% of Indians became poorer during the last year." The BJP, before assuming power in 2014, had claimed that Indians were hiding \$ 250 billion (Rs 17.5 lakh crore) in Swiss banks alone. The BJP had also promised that it would bring back the black money stashed in foreign banks.

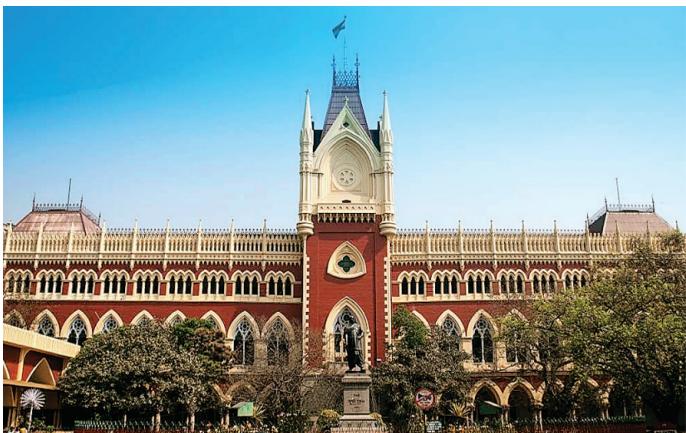
### FINANCE MINISTRY REFUTES REPORTS

The Union Finance Ministry on Saturday said that increase in deposits of Indians in Swiss Banks could be on account of increase in business of Swiss bank branches located in India and raised inter-bank transactions, rather than due to an increase in alleged black money held by Indians in Switzerland. "Reports allude to the fact that the figures reported are official figures reported by banks to Swiss National Bank (SNB) and do not indicate the quantum of much debated alleged black money held by Indians in Switzerland. The biggest increase is in 'Other amounts due from customers'. These are in form of bonds, securities and various other financial instruments, the finance min statement said.

### STUDENTS SEEK CANCELLATION OF PVT, COMPARTMENT EXAMS

New Delhi: Hundreds of students have moved the Supreme Court seeking a direction to the CBSE to cancel Class XII private/compartments examinations in physical mode and urged for adoption of a performance evaluation formula similar to the CBSE assessment formula for the regular students. The results should be released in a time bound manner, said the plea by the 1152 students. The petitioner contended that the decision to conduct private/compartments/repeaters examination of Class XII CBSE Board candidates would endanger the life of lakhs of students. The plea argued that if candidates were forced to appear in a physical mode board examination, it would violate their 'right to life and health' as guaranteed by Article 21 of the Constitution.

## Calcutta HC snubs Mamata govt on post-poll violence



Kolkata | Agencies

Four days after West Bengal governor Jagdeep Dhankhar wrote to chief minister Mamata Banerjee alleging that the state government has been inactive and indifferent about the sufferings of the people due to post-poll violence, the Calcutta High Court on Saturday criticised

the Mamata Banerjee government and observed that the state has not taken any concrete steps to address the complaints pertaining to post-poll violence. "In a case where the allegation is that life and property of the residents of the State are in danger on account of alleged post poll violence, the State cannot be allowed to proceed in the manner it likes. The

complaints required immediate action... It is the duty of the State to maintain law and order and inspire confidence in the residents of the State," the High Court observed. The five-member bench also observed, "Though action should have been taken by the State but despite matter being pending in Court apparently no concrete steps have been taken".

## MILKHA SINGH LAID TO REST WITH FULL STATE HONOURS

Chandigarh: Chandigarh on Saturday bid a tearful farewell to 'Flying Sikh' Milkha Singh (91), who passed away at the PGI Hospital here after a prolonged battle with Covid-19 late on Friday night. Milkha Singh was cremated with



full state honours at the Sector 25 cremation ground here with a police contingent according gun salute by reversing arms and sounding the last post to the legendary athlete, who held the 400m national record for 38 years, while his Asian record in the same event remained unmatched for 26 years. Milkha Singh breathed his last late on Friday night after a long battle with Covid-related complications, just five days after his Nirmal Kaur lost her battle against the dreaded virus.



## Relaxing Covid curbs should be carefully calibrated: MHA

Team Absolute | New Delhi

As many states and Union Territories (UTs) have started relaxing restrictions with decline in number of active Covid-19 cases, Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), on Saturday, advised them to ensure the opening process in "carefully calibrated" manner. The Ministry suggested them to follow the fivefold strategy of Covid appropriate behaviour, test-track-treat and vaccination, while opening up. Among the directions, issued by Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla in a written letter to the states and the UTs, they have been also



asked to regularly monitor Covid appropriate behaviour to "prevent relapse". The Home Ministry reiterated Covid appropriate behaviour that includes

mandatory use of masks, hand hygiene, social distancing and also proper ventilation of closed spaces. The direction comes in the backdrop of information regarding

crowding in markets without adherence of norms of Covid appropriate behaviour in many states soon after the relaxation in restrictions.

### MUMBAI AGAIN TAKES LEAD IN ACTIVE COVID CASELOAD

Mumbai: With the Covid-19 situation improving in Pune, Mumbai has again taken the lead in terms of active Covid cases in the state, accounting for 18,764 of the state's 134,747 ill patients, health officials said here on Saturday. Pune comes next with 17,888 active cases, followed by Thane (13,970), Kolhapur (11,453) and Sangli (10,545) in the list with 10,000-plus active

patients. In the 5,000-plus range, Ratnagiri and Satara figure below the top five with 7,766 and 7,149 cases, respectively, followed by Sindhudurg with 5,372 active cases. The state's current Covid-19 toll is 116,674 with the overall Covid tally stands at 59,54,508. With a recovery rate of 95.73 per cent, 56,99,983 patients have been fully cured and discharged till date.

### AGRA HOSPITAL DEATH ROW

## UP govt did mock drill of inquiry: Priyanka

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Saturday slammed the Uttar Pradesh government for giving a clean chit to an Agra hospital where 22 patients died after oxygen supply was allegedly cut during a drill. She said that the government has closed all the doors of justice. Priyanka, who is also the in-charge of UP Congress, tweeted: "What an irony. According to reports a hospital in Agra conducted mock drill



by allegedly cutting the oxygen supply and the BJP government gave clean chit to the hospital doing mock drill of the inquiry. The paths of government and the hospital have been cleared. By not listening to the complaints of the patients families, the government has shut all hope of justice." She also attached a news

report claiming that a clean chit was given to the Paras Hospital, which was caught in a controversy after a video surfaced online. In the video, a man was heard saying to conduct a mock drill on oxygen supply.

## Kashmiri migrants seek release of Mirwaiz Umer Farooq from detention

New Delhi: Demands are being made to release Hurriyat Conference chairman Mirwaiz Umer Farooq from house detention. He has been in detention since last 23 months. Satish Mahaldar, Chairman, Reconciliation Return & Rehabilitation of Migrants said as the Mirwaiz of Kashmir and chairman of the Hurriyat Conference, Umer Farooq has an important religious as well as political role in the Kashmir Valley. He is the spiritual leader of Kashmir's Muslims. Mirwaiz Umer Farooq is also the victim of militancy.

## Spl cancellation stamp to mark Yoga Day 2021

THIS YEAR CONSIDERING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC LED SITUATION, MOST OF THE EVENTS WILL TAKE PLACE VIRTUALLY, PROMOTING THE MAIN THEME OF THIS YEAR "BE WITH YOGA, BE AT HOME."

▶ A cancellation is defined as a postal marking used to deface a stamp to prevent its reuse. Such cancellations are valued collectibles and often subjects of philatelic studies.

▶ Over the years, the passion for stamp collection has seen a decline, and to revive this hobby or art, India Post runs a scheme for philatelists. They avail stamps for collectors at Philatelic Bureau and counters in designated post offices.

▶ One can easily open a philatelic deposit account in any head post office of the country by depositing Rs 200 and get items like stamps and special covers. Additionally, Commemorative stamps are only available at Philatelic Bureau and counters or under the Philatelic Deposit Account Scheme. They are printed in limited quantities.



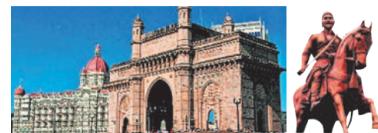
Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Department of Posts or India Post is coming out with a special cancellation stamp to capture the essence of International Day of Yoga (IDY) on June 21 -- one among the largest such simultaneous philatelic commemorations ever. The special pictorial cancellation stamp will be an inked marking or impression with a graphical design with International Day of Yoga 2021 written in Both Hindi and English languages. This unique initiative will

mark the commemoration of the 7th IDY. Indian Post will issue this special cancellation stamp with a pictorial design through its 810 Head Post offices across India. All delivery and non-delivery Head Post Offices will put this special cancellation stamp on all mail booked in the office on June 21. Yoga and IDY have been popular subjects for philatelic commemorations over the years. In 2015, the Department of Posts brought out a set of two stamps and a miniature sheet on the International Day of Yoga.

### PRE RELEASED COMMEMORATIVE POSTAGE STAMPS

In 2016, Prime Minister Narendra Modi released commemorative postage stamps on Surya Namaskara to mark the commemoration of the 2nd International Day of Yoga. In 2017, the UN Postal Administration (UNPA) issued a set of stamps showing 10 yoga asanas to commemorate the International Day of Yoga in New York. The IDY has been celebrated all over the world in various (often creative) ways in the last six years. In India, many beautiful pictures from the past have depicted the unique celebrations of Yoga Day. It includes Indian Army personnel practicing Yoga in the icy ranges of the Himalayas, Naval officers and cadets performing Yoga on the decommissioned INS Viraat, creation of Sand Sculptures with IDY messaging, Indian Navy officials performing Yoga on the Indian Navy's submarine INS 'Sindhuratna' etc.



# TAKE WARNING OF COVID-19 THIRD WAVE SERIOUSLY : PAWAR

He said that during the meeting, police officials and public representatives expressed concern over people heading to Mahabaleshwar, Lonavala and other tourist places in large numbers over the weekends.

Team Absolute | Pune

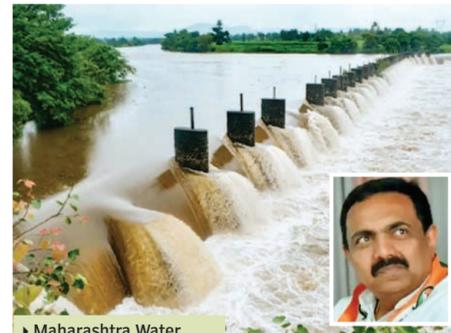


Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar on Saturday asked people not to lower their guard against Covid-19 in view of the possible third wave of the pandemic, and warned them against visiting tourist attractions in the present scenario just because restrictions have been eased. He said people need to take the warning about the third wave seriously. Pawar was talking to reporters here after holding a meeting with officials to review the coronavirus situation in Pune district. He also said that if people continue to go out of the district for tourism purposes, the administration will have no other option but to impose a 15-day quarantine regime on such people after their return home. Pune city is under level-II of the state government's unlock plan. The coronavirus numbers are

coming down, but as a preemptive measure, it has been decided that all the shops under the non-essential category, malls, hotels, and restaurants will remain closed on weekends, Pawar said. "This system will continue for the next Saturday and Sunday. After that, if the situation improves further, a decision regarding (lifting) the weekend restrictions will be taken after a review," he said. The deputy CM said that during the meeting, police officials and public representatives expressed concern over people heading to Mahabaleshwar, Lonavala and other tourist places in large numbers over the weekends. "I don't understand why people are doing this. There is a need to take Covid-19 infection seriously. A lot of people have started going to tourist places out of the state; some go for trekking. If this continues, there will be no option but to quarantine people going out of the district for 15 days. We may have to issue such orders," he warned. On the possible third wave of the pandemic, Pawar said that it is around the corner in America, England and Africa. Despite a large-scale vaccination in America and England, the danger of the third wave still looms large there, he added. Therefore, we need to take the (warning of) third wave very seriously as

people's health is of paramount importance," he added. Pawar also said that students who want to fly abroad, should get both the doses made by a single vaccine maker. "Many countries are preferring vaccines approved by the World Health Organisation (WHO). While Covishield has been approved by the WHO, Covaxin is yet to get its nod. Many students, who have already got a Covaxin dose, are inquiring where they should get the second dose of a different vaccine - Covishield, as it is approved by WHO and because many countries prefer that. Our answer is no, as it is not been advised by the experts," he said. Pawar claimed that Bahirwadi in Purandar tehsil of Pune district has become the first village in the country to complete 100 per cent vaccination. He also talked about a survey conducted by the Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation (PCMC) on the COVID-19 deaths that occurred during the second wave. "As per the report, out of total deaths in the second wave that took place in four major hospitals of Pimpri Chinchwad, 53 per cent deceased were below age 60, while 20 per cent were in the age group of 21 to 45, he said. He advised the Pune Municipal Corporation to conduct a similar survey in the city.

## Karnataka To Get Real-Time Water Data System At Dams: Patil



Maharashtra Water Resources Minister Jayant Patil said this after holding a high-level meeting with Karnataka Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa and its Home Minister Basavaraj Bommai at Bengaluru to resolve water-related issues between the two neighbouring states.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra state Water Resources Minister Jayant Patil on Saturday said the Karnataka government has decided to set up real-time data acquisition system (RTDAS) at its Almati and Narayanpur dams to monitor the water level, which will help prevent recurrence of the flood situation that Kolhapur and Sangli districts of Maharashtra faced in 2019.

Patil, said this after holding a high-level meeting with Karnataka Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa and its Home Minister Basavaraj Bommai at Bengaluru to resolve the water-related issues between the two neighbouring states. Unprecedented rainfall had wreaked havoc during the 2019 monsoon season in western Maharashtra, especially in Kolhapur and Sangli districts, claiming over 60 lives. After the floods, it was alleged that the Karnataka government was responsible for it as it did not release water from the Almati dam on the Krishna river and its backwater led to flooding in the Maharashtra districts. Talking to reporters after the meeting, Patil said, "Maharashtra already has a real-time data acquisition system in Krishna river basin, which helps the officials gauge the pace of water level rise due to rains. It helps them take decisions, like the release of water from dams, to avoid flooding." "Now, it has been decided to set up similar systems at Almati dam and Narayanpur dam (Basava Sagar) for better coordination between officials in both the states," he

said. The RTDAS was installed in Maharashtra with the World Bank funding. The system started functioning around six-seven years back, wherein automated rain gauge provides precipitation data in real-time to the water resources department along with the rising water levels and in-flow into a dam.

"We need to dynamically manage Almati dam water level and rise in the river water level. If it is dynamically monitored and managed, we will be able to overcome the flood situation," Patil said. This system, once set up in Karnataka's Almati and Narayanpur dams, will help the officials of both the states overcome the possibility of floods. In case Maharashtra has to release water from its dams as a precautionary measure, it will inform the Karnataka officials who would accordingly lower their water level in Almati and Narayanpur dams.

This alleged lack of communication in 2019 had resulted into Maharashtra releasing lakhs of cusecs water into river beds that flooded the villages on the banks. Later, Karnataka also had to discharge similar amount of water these dams, which had caused havoc there as well. Krishna river originates in Satara district and flows through Sangli and Kolhapur before entering Karnataka. The Almati dam in Karnataka has been a bone of contention as late discharge of water from the dam is said to be behind the flooding in Kolhapur and Sangli districts in 2019 as well as in 2005, which not only claimed several human and animal lives, but also caused large-scale loss to the agriculture sector.

Patil's meeting with the Karnataka CM and ministers was aimed at improving coordination between the two states over flood management. Last year, a delegation from Karnataka had visited Maharashtra as part of it.

## #VToo: Now, Mumbai college complains of Vaccine scam

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Mumbai College on Saturday claimed it may have been cheated in a vaccination drive on its campus, conducted by an event management company earlier this month. According to the Aditya College, Borivali west, one Rajesh Pandey, who reportedly posed as an event company head and chief manager of sales for the reputed Kokilabhai Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital, had conducted the vaccination camp in the college on June 3. However, the KDAH has already denied its involvement in such camps while the BrihanMumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has issued warnings to all people to beware of scammers taking advantage of the situation. In a statement, the Aditya College authorities said that Pandey allegedly even agreed to procure all necessary permissions and complete all legal formalities, while the college would only make the payments. Accordingly, the inoc-



ulation drive was held for the students, staffers and their families as the trustees of the college, considering the difficulties in getting vaccination slots for people in the 18-44 age group. Following the fracas involving the Hiranandani Heritage Society in Kandivali west last week, and delays in receiving the Covid Vaccination Certificates (CVC) by the beneficiaries in the college inoculation camp, the college authorities lodged a formal complaint with the police. On Friday, Tips Industries Ltd Chairman Ramesh Taurani also revealed that 365 of his employees were inoculated on June 3 but have yet to receive their CVCs. Police

sources say that there may be at least 9 other similar camps conducted in the city by one or more groups which are now being probed in detail.

In the cases that have come out so far, there are many common points - the CVCs not issued promptly, in many cases, the data not uploaded on the CoWin portal, people not experiencing any possible side-effects post-dose, CVCs that eventually came were from different hospitals with errors, high charges for the dose which the Centre now plans to give free to all from June 21, etc. Notching a big breakthrough, Additional Commissioner of Police (Mumbai North Region) Dilip Sawant on Friday said that five persons have been arrested in connection with the vaccine scam in the Kandivali society. As the scams are coming out, many people are worried whether they were administered the genuine vaccines or something else since in some cases the vials were not sealed, or they were stamped 'Not For Sale'.

## Centrum, BharatPe set to take over PMC Bank

Team Absolute | Mumbai

With the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) giving an "in-principle" approval to Centrum Financial Services for setting up a small finance bank (SFB), both Centrum and BharatPe are ready to take over the crisis-ridden Punjab & Maharashtra Co-Operative (PMC) Bank as equal partners. The RBI on Friday gave an in-principle approval to Centrum Financial Services Ltd (Centrum), the established NBFC arm of the Centrum Group, to establish a SFB. Resilient Innovations Private Ltd (BharatPe), a fintech major, will be an equal partner, said a joint statement by both the companies. It said that the SFB will be guided by the directions and timelines of the RBI on the amalgamation of Punjab & Maharashtra Co-Operative Bank Ltd.

Centrum Group Executive Chairman Jaspal Bindra said: "We are delighted that a new banking license will be issued to a NBFC after a gap of nearly six years and would like to thank the RBI for the opportunity and confidence shown in us. We are excited to partner with BharatPe to create this new age bank, with a strong team." BharatPe CEO and Co-Founder, Ashneer Grover, said: "We are delighted at the opportunity to build a high performing technology-led small finance bank serving

the payment, investment and credit needs of the under-served. With Centrum as our partner, we are confident that we can create a world-class institution that provides a differentiated and superlative experience to retail customers as well as small businesses." The RBI, in a statement on Friday, also said that it will consider granting a licence for commencement of banking business under Section 22 (1) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, on being satisfied that the applicant has complied with the requisite conditions laid down by it as part of "in principle" approval.

In March, the RBI had further extended the restrictions on the PMC Bank till June 30. The central bank had then said that the process of reconstruction will be commenced as soon as the aforesaid objectives are achieved to the best possible extent.

The PMC Bank had received binding offers from certain investors for its reconstruction, in response to the EOI dated November 3, 2020 floated by the bank.

The RBI and the PMC Bank are presently engaging with prospective investors in order to secure best possible terms for the depositors and other stakeholders while ensuring long term viability of the reconstructed entity, the RBI had said in March, adding that given the financial condition of the PMC Bank, the process is complex and is likely to take some more time.

## Nashik district falls under level-2 of unlocking

However, the administration has decided to continue with the level-3 restrictions considering the previous experience of crowding and various other factors

Team Absolute | Nashik

The Nashik district will relax Covid lockdown restriction from 21st June. The district has fallen under the level-2 category of the five-level 'unlock' plan. With this, the local administration has decided to allow the reopening of malls with a 50 per cent capacity on weekdays from June 21. However, the district administration has decided to continue with the level-3 restrictions considering the previous experience of crowding during relaxations. The malls will be allowed to operate from 7 am to 4 pm on Monday to Friday. In an order, district collector Suraj Mandhare said that the RT-PCR test and Covid vaccination is made mandatory for all the employees of the malls as soon as possible.

"Use of a face mask, sanitiser, maintaining a social distance and thermal scanning is also a must for employees and customers," the order said. The order said that the infection positivity rate in the Nashik Municipal Corporation (NMC) areas and the rest of the district stood at 4.39 per cent. Also, 9.03 per cent of the total oxygen beds remained occupied during the June 11 to 17 week. As a result, it



said, Nashik district is eligible for level-2 of the five-level unlock plan of the state government. "However, considering the experience in the coronavirus wave, the number of citizens coming to municipal areas from rural parts of the district, the positivity rate which is on the edge, and the changing availability of oxygen beds, it has been decided to continue the level-3 restrictions in the district till further orders," the order said. The 'weekend lockdown' will continue under which all shops and business establishments in the Nashik district will continue to

remain shut on Saturdays and Sundays. "Only medical services, medical shops, milk/newspaper sales, vegetable and fruit shops will remain open. Only home delivery of food items will be allowed in hotels, restaurants and food stalls," it said. Owners of establishments will be fined ₹5,000 for violation of COVID-19 guidelines while customers/other persons will be charged ₹1,000 fine. "If these rules are violated for the second time, these establishments will be sealed till the cancellation of the COVID-19 notification," the order stated.

## Shiv Sena, BJP MP Narayan Rane supporters clash

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Supporters of the Shiv Sena and BJP MP Narayan Rane clashed at Kudal in Maharashtra's Sindhudurg district on Saturday during an event organized by the Sena on its foundation day which highlighted rising petrol prices, police said. The incident came two days after Shiv Sena and BJP workers came to blows outside the Sena headquarters in Mumbai.

Local Sena MLA Vaibhav Naik and his supporters had organized an event on the party's foundation day where they were distributing money to vehicle owners who came to buy fuel at a petrol pump at Kudal on Saturday morning, a police official said. The pump is run by a person close to BJP Rajya Sabha member and former Shiv Sena leader Narayan Rane, he said. Soon BJP supporters gathered there and started raising slo-

gans against Naik which led to heated arguments and a clash.

Police soon arrived on the spot and dispersed the workers of both the parties, the official said. Naik and his supporters then organized the same program at another petrol pump nearby, he added. An FIR was registered against the Sena MLA and 12 of his supporters and the BJP's Anand Shirvaikar and 20 others at Kudal Police Station under IPC sections

related to unlawful assembly as well as disobedience of public servant's order, and also for the violation of COVID -19 related norms. No arrest has been made yet, the official said. On June 17, fights broke out between the supporters of the former allies when the youth wing of the BJP took out a protest march here against the Shiv Sena mouthpiece Saamana's critical comments about the Ayodhya land purchase deal controversy.

## PUNE IMPOSES WEEKEND RESTRICTIONS AGAIN

Issuing an order, the PMC said in Pune, the shopping malls, saloon, beauty parlours, spa, wellness centers, bars and food courts will remain shut on weekends.

Team Absolute | Pune

Looking at the increasing number of COVID cases again, the Pune Municipal Corporation on Friday imposed weekend lockdown in the municipality again. Issuing an order, the PMC stated that barring shops selling essential items, all other establishments, including eateries, malls and salons, would remain closed on weekends. Hence, now the shopping malls, saloon, beauty parlours, spa, wellness centers, bars and food courts will remain shut on weekends. Giving further lockdown guidelines, PMC commissioner Vikram Kumar said that shops selling essential items would remain open till 7 PM on weekends, while there will be no dine-in facility in hotels, restaurants and bars. As per an order issued on June 11, eateries were allowed to operate with 50 per cent capacity on weekdays. The PMC also issued prohibitory



orders restricting the gathering of five or more people and free movement of public without valid reason after 10 PM. However, the construction activities and e-commerce services will continue in a regular manner in Pune, the PMC said in the order. The PMC also in the order stated that the export-oriented industrial units and essential goods units would operate with 50 per cent staff. Moreover, the public places including gardens and open grounds will remain open from 5

AM to 9 AM and 4 PM to 7 PM daily, the PMC said. However, other outdoor sports will be allowed throughout the day and the indoor games are open from 5 AM to 9 AM and 5 PM to 7 PM. The development comes as Pune city on Friday recorded 280 COVID-19 cases and seven deaths, while the district saw 1,442 cases and 23 deaths, taking the latter's tally to 10,37,777 and toll to 17,542. Pune city's positivity rate stands at 4.70 per cent.





# PREPARATIONS UNDERWAY TO FACE THIRD WAVE OF CORONA: CM

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that maximum population of the state will be provided with the cycle of protection of vaccination at the earliest to prevent the third wave of Corona infection. Hospital resources are constantly being enhanced to cope with the third wave. Chouhan was virtually addressing the dignitaries of the districts including religious leaders from his residence in connection with Covid-19 Vaccination Maha Abhiyan. It was informed in the virtual meeting that 7,000 vaccination centers would be set up in the state for the vaccination campaign on June 21. Wide publicity of these centers will be ensured so that people can easily reach these centers for vaccination on June 21. The process of delivering the vaccine to the remote areas of the state has started. Timely availability of vaccine will be ensured in remote districts like Sidhi, Singrauli. The target is that on June 21, 14 lakh vaccines will be available in the state. A target of 10 lakh vaccinations has been set in the Vaccine Maha Abhiyan. The environment for the great campaign should be created in such a way that the number of vaccinations is more



than ten lakhs.

Additional Chief Secretary Health informed that as a result of Chouhan's appeal to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the supply of vaccine has increased in the state. For the next 10 days, the state will be getting 50 lakh vaccines. This is a big opportunity for the state. We have to ensure that the vaccine being received in such large number is used in time. It is necessary to ensure that there is no wastage of vaccine. There are 11 doses in one vial, a vial provides for vaccination of 10 persons. We should endeavour to ensure that 11 people

are vaccinated with one vial.

It was informed in the presentation that the vaccination campaign would continue after June 21. Vaccination centers will be relocated from the villages and wards where the vaccination will be completed. It is necessary to note that the vaccination center being set up next should be widely publicized in the area. This will make it easier for the general public to reach the vaccination center and no vaccination doses will go waste. The prescribed protocol of vaccination must be taken care of. It is necessary to rest for half an hour after

vaccination and this system should be followed. General fever or other symptoms should also be monitored and necessary advice should be given. This will prevent unnecessary confusion. If necessary, the help of referral health institutions should be taken.

In the presentation regarding the possibilities of the third wave of Corona infection, it was told that we may have to face the third wave probably in upcoming months weeks. If Covid appropriate behaviour is not maintained then it is certain that there will be a hike in Corona cases. The Corona virus is not gone yet. Talking about the Delta Plus variant, new variants of the virus are emerging every day. The state government is constantly monitoring the new variations of the virus.

Continuous preparations are being made by the state government for the upcoming circumstances. Approvals worth about Rs 61 crores have been issued for increasing ICU and HDU beds, Paediatric ICU and OT beds at the district level. Orders have also been placed for supply of equipment etc. Effort is being made to ensure that necessary infrastructure should be established in the state by the end of July.

# MP GOVT TO SET UP COVID-19 PANDEMIC RESEARCH INSTITUTE

State medical education minister Vishvas Sarang said here on Saturday that the the Madhya Pradesh government has decided to set up a state-level research institute for the COVID-19 pandemic and other diseases



He said the proposal was approved by Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Friday.

A state-level public health institute will come up in Bhopal for the research of the COVID-19 pandemic and other diseases including contagious diseases, Sarang told reporters.

He said various degree and diploma courses will also be run by this institute and experts of various fields will be posted there.

The minister said the state government has also decided to run a 'pink' campaign in Madhya Pradesh to detect cancer among women.

It was seen that women don't open up on diseases like cancer due to family and social reasons. We have decided to run a pink campaign in urban areas, small towns and panchayat level for the examination of women's health, Sarang said, adding health check-up camps will soon be organized under this initiative.

Responding to a query, Sarang said the state government was trying to check the 'black fungus' or mucormycosis infection at an early stage.

The state government has ensured adequate availability of Amphotericin-B injection in the treatment of mucormycosis," he added.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Madhya Pradesh government has decided to set up a state-level research institute for the COVID-19 pandemic and other diseases here, state medical education minister Vishvas Sarang said on Saturday.

# Covid-19 vaccination Maha Abhiyan to start on June 21

- Target to vaccinate more than 10 lakh people in a day
- Hashtag for social media will be "MP Vaccination Maha Abhiyan"
- Chief Minister appeals to all the dignitaries including religious leaders for cooperation

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that Covid-19 Vaccination Maha Abhiyan is being organised in the state on June 21. Under the campaign, arrangements for vaccination will be made at 7 thousand vaccination centres in the state. It is our endeavour to get more than 10 lakh people vaccinated in a day in the Vaccination Maha Abhiyan. This campaign will be possible only with the cooperation of religious leaders, voluntary organisations, social workers, political parties, MPs, ministers, MLAs, public representatives. Chouhan appealed to everyone to cooperate in creating an environment for the vaccination campaign. Chouhan virtually addressed the dignitaries of all the districts of the state from his residence.

Chouhan said that the virus is not gone yet. After a 90-day lockdown in England, the number of corona infected people started increasing again. As a result they are not fully opening the lockdown i.e. the virus is still present. I want to bring this fact to your information, as soon as it is unlocked, the interaction starts, the virus starts spreading again. Chouhan said that vaccination is the only one



which will save us even in the event of infection. The work of vaccination is very important. All the scientists and experts say that the vaccine provides a protection cycle. If we take both the doses, then even if the corona infection spreads, either there will be no corona and if it happens then it will not be fatal. It may not be possible that one may not even need to go to hospital. The body's immunity increases so much that it can fight the virus. Not only in India, scientists from all over the world are also saying this. Countries around the world are offering a safety cycle of vaccinations to protect their citizens. Thanks to the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi that he has decided that the Government of India will provide the vaccine free of cost for all. People aill start getting vaccine from June 21. Therefore, it has been decided that a Maha Abhiyan of vaccination will be started from June 21.

Chouhan said that this Maha Abhiyan will not be ordinary. This is a campaign to save lives. This is a campaign to protect people from Corona. As the Chief Minister, I feel that at this time nothing can be more sacred than this. It is the

voice of my conscience that we should devote ourselves wholeheartedly in the campaign so that by September-October when the third wave arrives, we have already vaccinated most of the people of the state. Chouhan said that I will not participate alone in this campaign. The whole government will assemble, I have talked to all the ministers, MLAs and MPs, they will all be involved in the campaign as well as the society will have to mobilized.

Chouhan said that many misconceptions are being spread regarding vaccination; these misconceptions have to be cleared. For this we have to come forward. The religious leaders have to tell their followers that the vaccine will save our lives and provide protection. Religious leaders, social workers, heads of voluntary organizations, heads of societies, thinkers, writers, journalists, litterateurs, artists, who are well-known, should tell the society with full force that get the vaccine. We have got the vaccine, you should also get it, and there is protection in the vaccine itself. This will create a feeling in the minds of people that everyone is asking for the vaccine; this will increase people's faith in the vaccine.

# Lawyer, jailed for sending 'indecent' birthday message to judge, gets bail

The lawyer Vijay Singh Yadav allegedly downloaded a photo of the judge from her Facebook account and used it to make a greeting card which he then sent to her on her official email address on January 29. He was arrested on February 9.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Lawyer, who was in jail for the last four months for sending an "indecent" birthday message to a woman judge, has been granted bail by the Madhya Pradesh High Court. If

he is found to approach the judge directly or indirectly or tries to stalk her, the bail order shall stand cancelled, the Indore bench of the court said.

Justice Subodh Abhyankar passed the order during a virtual hearing of Yadav's second bail application. On April 27, the high court dismissed his first bail application.

The lawyer - Vijay Singh Yadav - allegedly downloaded a photo of the judge from her Facebook account and used it to make a greeting card which he then sent to her on her official email address on January 29. He was arrested on February 9.

Ratlam Police booked the lawyer under sections 420 (cheating), 467 (forging documents) and others of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) besides relevant sections of the IT act on a

complaint lodged by a district court official.

"The application filed by the applicant (lawyer) is allowed, subject to the condition that if it is found that the applicant in any manner directly or indirectly tried to approach the concerned judge (the victim) and tries to stalk her in any manner, this order shall stand cancelled without further reference to the court and the police shall be entitled to arrest the applicant in the present case," the high court said.

Meanwhile, Yadav's counsel KK Gupta said that since his client does not have a criminal background, is a lawyer, has undertaken that he would never try to approach the concerned judge and would not practice in her court in the future and has tendered an unconditional apology, his bail

application should not be rejected.

State's counsel Kushagra Jain opposed Yadav's bail plea in view of his "conduct". However, after hearing the applicant and the respondent, the court allowed Yadav's bail application on a personal bond of ₹50,000.

"Having considered the rival submissions, on perusal of the case diary including the message sent by the applicant, this court is of the considered opinion that since the charge sheet has already been filed and the applicant in jail since February 9, 2021, he has also tendered unconditional apology and the final conclusion of the trial is likely to take sufficient long time due to fresh spread of Covid-19, in the considered opinion of this court, the applicant's application deserves to be allowed," the court said.

# Important role of Corona Volunteers in vaccine Maha Abhiyan: CM

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that Corona Volunteers have an important role to play in motivating people for Covid-19 vaccination. Corona Volunteers should make intensive efforts at the village and ward level to ensure maximum participation of the general public in the vaccination campaign to be held on June 21. It is necessary to clear the existing misconceptions about vaccination. It is necessary to make people logically agree and aware about vaccination. The contribution of Corona Volunteers in bringing the general public to the vaccination centres will be important in preventing infection and saving lives. Chief Minister Shri Chouhan was addressing a meeting on the role of Jan Abhiyan Parishad in Covid-19 Vaccination Maha Abhiyan virtually from his residence. Vice President of the Parishad, Vibhash Upadhyay also addressed the meeting virtually.

Chouhan said that 7 thousand centres are being set up for vaccination in the state. At each centre, two volunteers should be available for service and support. Volunteers should help the elderly for this vaccination. Also, to motivate the general public for vaccination, activities like contact at village and ward level, environment creation on social media are necessary.

Chouhan said that public should also be motivated at the vaccination centres to follow covid appropriate behaviour to avoid the third wave. It was informed that various responsibilities have been assigned to one lakh Corona Volunteers for the Vaccination Maha Abhiyan.

# MPBSE to Finalize Class 10, 12 Result Formula in Coming Week

Parmar said that the Madhya Pradesh government is discussing the CBSE's formula with officials and experts.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh School Education Minister Inder Singh Parmar has said that the Madhya Pradesh Board of Secondary Education (MPBSE) will finalise a formula for calculating the marks of Class 12 students in the next two to three days. He said that every option will be considered while devising the formula "for a better future of the students". A special formula is being designed as an alternative mode of assessment because the board exams were canceled due to COVID-19.

The decision came a day after the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) announced the formula to tabulate Class 12 results this year. CBSE has adopted the '30:30:40 formula' - 30 percent from Class 10 board, 30 percent from Class 11 exam, and 40 percent from Class 12 assessment. Parmar said that the Madhya Pradesh gov-

ernment is discussing the CBSE's formula



with officials and experts. Meanwhile, the committee formed to come up with a formula for tabulating Class 12 MP Board results has submitted its report to the Group of Ministers (GoM) after brainstorming on several options. The final formula for the calculation of marks is expected to be announced soon.

The Class 12 results of MP board students were supposed to be prepared on the basis of marks obtained in Class 10, Class 11 and marks of Class 12 half-yearly examination.

# Messages in rhyme on vaccination 'drives'

Team Absolute | Bhopal

They tickle your funny bone but they also send a message. Reading 'shero-shayari' (couplets) written on passing trucks is a staple Indian highway experience. Besides sharing the humour and pain about life on the road, they often highlight matters of social relevance like family planning and liquor prohibition.

To tap into this trucker tradition and channel it towards creating awareness about Covid-19 and vaccination drives, an initiative was launched by the Bhopal-based NGO, Search and Research Development Society, in association with the National Council for Science and Technology which is a government body under the Department of Science and Technology.

"Reading witty and humorous slogans on trucks and buses is a favourite time pass for many people. Moreover, messages on trucks travel around the state and others replicate it too," said Monika Jain, Chairperson of the society.

This NGO conducted a two-day campaign in which slogans about vaccination drives were painted on or tied to about 200 trucks, carrier autos, milk supply vans and other loading vehicles. The teams camped out at toll plazas, enticing drivers to lend valuable mobile advertising space for these public health messages. Drivers were asked to select their favourite message from a chart having over two dozen choices.

Many popular sayings were taken and given a Covid twist.

"Teeka lagwaoge to baar baar milenge. Laparwahi karoge to Haridwar me milenge" (If you get vaccinated, we will meet often; If you disregard it, we will meet



in Haridwar) goes a catchy message.

Mukul, a team member who was painting these slogans onto vehicles, replaced

Haridwar with Narmada Ghat. "In Madhya Pradesh, people prefer to perform the last rites at the holy Narmada river than going to Haridwar," he said, with a twinkle. "Normally, shero-shayaris are merely for entertainment. But I am writing these to save the country, to save people from the pandemic," he said, adding: "People will read it and the wise follow it too."

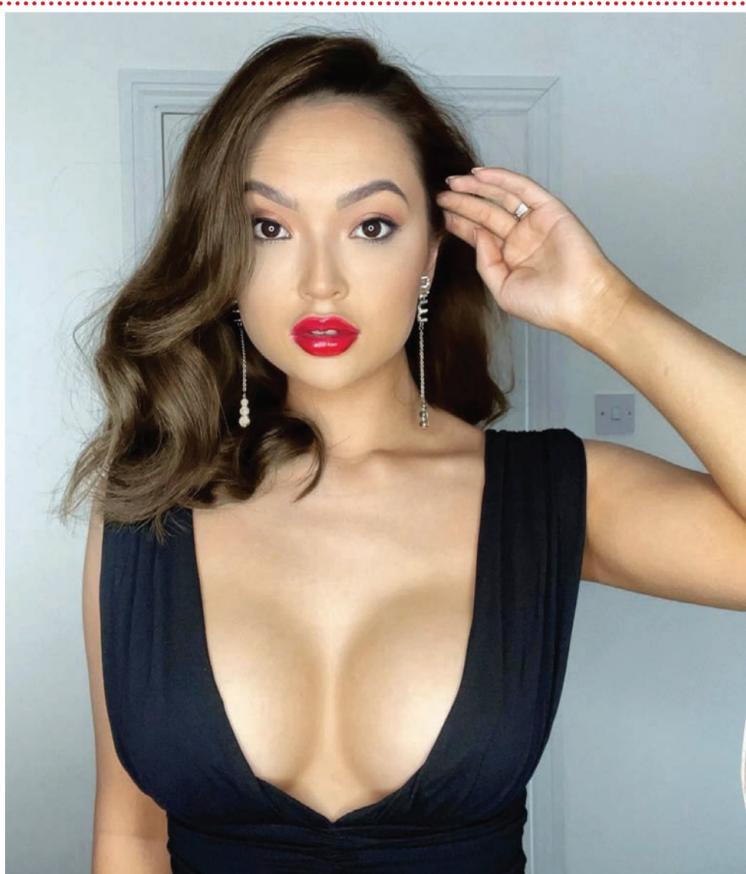
Another improvisation was done on the popular and rousing rhyme, "Chalti hai gaadi udti hai dhool. Jalte hai dushman khilte hai phool" (The vehicle moves, raising dust. Competitors are envious but flowers bloom). The new second line now reminds people that not getting vaccinated is a big mistake (eVaccine lagwa lo warna hogi badi bhool").

Bhopal district's Assistant Nodal Officer for awareness against Covid-19, Akhilesh Chaturvedi, said: "We chose a toll plaza for this purpose and approached passing truck drivers. We were surprised to see that most of the drivers agreed gladly."

Another cheeky line goes, "Hans mat pagli, pyar ho jayega, teeka lagwa le, corona haar jayega" (Don't laugh, you crazy girl. I might fall in love. Get the vaccine and defeat the coronavirus).

Sunil Patidar, a driver, said that this would be his contribution to the nation - encouraging people to participate in the vaccination drive. "As these vehicles keep moving in urban and rural areas, people can easily get to see these messages written on them," he said.

A top favourite among the drivers was the saying "Buri nazar wale tera mooh kala" which is now appended with "Achha hota hai vaccine lagwane wala" (The message curses those with an evil eye and praises those who get vaccinated).



## Harry Styles reveals his tattooed chest at an Italian beach

Los Angeles | Agencies

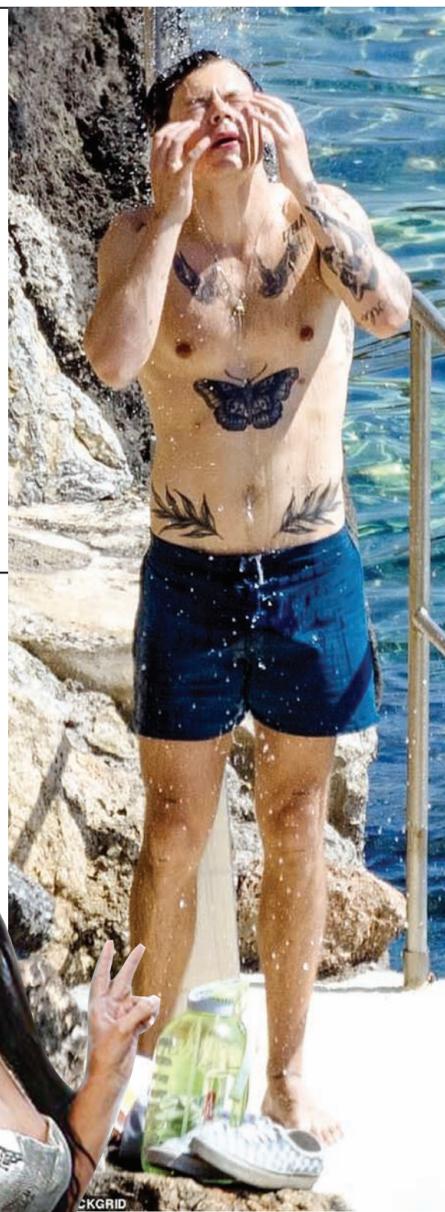
Harry Styles reveals his heavily tattooed physique as he showers at an Italian beach after wrapping on his LGBTQ drama *My Policeman*. He wrapped up filming on his upcoming romantic drama *My Policeman* on Wednesday.

The 27-year-old pop superstar-turned-actor was seen on Friday as he enjoyed some time in the crisp blue waters of Porto Ercole before relaxing in the sand. Harry started his day off with a brisk dip into the crystal-clear waters.

After he had his fill, he climbed up to a picturesque shower on the side of a cliff overlooking the beach and sea.

He wore a pair of short dark blue swim trunks that highlighted his fit physique. The former One Direction member put his abundant chest and arm tattoos on display as he washed off the sea salt under the shower.

Most prominent among them was a large butterfly or moth in the center of his chest, along with two mirror-image swallows facing each other.



Paris Hilton, Kim Kardashian flaunt 'boss babe' vibes

## LOVE ISLAND 2021: FIRST OFFICIAL CONTESTANT REVEALED AS UK'S MISS INTERNATIONAL BEAUTY QUEEN

Los Angeles | Agencies

Love Island bosses are repeating history by hiring another world-beating beauty pageant queen - five years after Zara Holland lost her Miss GB title for having sex on the show.

Producers have signed up multi-lingual lawyer Sharon Gaffka, 25, who won Miss

International UK in 2018, and represented Britain in a world-wide tournament.

Since her beauty queen days, she has worked in the Civil Service, most recently for the Department for Transport and worked on the launch of the doomed Test and Trace system.

She also has a law degree from the University of London and speaks Indonesian and

French. She is also an ambassador for The Young Women's Trust - a feminist organisation working to achieve economic justice for young women.

The model is also an advocate for equal rights for women's menstrual hygiene, working as an influencer for a tampon brand that endeavours to fight "period poverty".



Los Angeles | Agencies

Socialite Paris Hilton and reality TV star Kim Kardashian shimmered in silver, flaunting "boss babe" vibes in a throwback picture.

Paris shared the photograph late on Thursday night according to India time. In the picture, the two celebrities look stunning in glittery short dresses.

Kim chose to keep her hair pulled back into a ponytail while Paris went for her signature look of keeping her blonde hair open.

"#BossBabes #TBT @KimKardashian," Paris captioned the image.

Kim, who was once a stylist of Paris, is going through a divorce procedure with rapper Kanye West. She filed for divorce on

February 19 after seven years of marriage. They have four children - North, 7, Saint, 5, Chicago, 3, and Psalm, 23 months.

Paris, had recently shared a loved-up post on her 18-month anniversary with beau Carter Reum. Paris and Carter got engaged on February 13.

## Oprah Winfrey talks about dealing with trauma as a child

Los Angeles | Agencies

Celebrated talk show host-philanthropist Oprah Winfrey found herself on the other side of the mic for a change when she appeared as a guest on Hollywood star Drew Barrymore's chat show recently.

On the "The Drew Barrymore Show", Winfrey opened up on dealing with trauma. "I know this for sure that whatever has happened to you can also be for you. I endured suffering to survive as a child and turning that inside out," she said.

Winfrey said she created a school looking for girls who are like her.

"So that is why I created my school specifically looking for girls who are just like me. Girls who came from poor backgrounds, who came from dysfunctional backgrounds and many times felt unwanted. I thought, how do I create an environment for them, how do I give back. This is how you save yourself!" she said on the show, which airs on Zee Cafe in India.



## Miley Cyrus announces first-ever fragrance campaign with Gucci Beauty

Los Angeles | Agencies

Miley Cyrus announced her first-ever fragrance campaign with Gucci Beauty on Friday as she posted some ethereal images shot by photographer Petra Collins. Celebrating her new career milestone as the face of Gucci Flora Gorgeous Gardenia Eau de Parfum, the 28-year-old singer penned a message about having 'different notes' to her, and preached about being 'unapologetic.'

The accompanying images conveyed a 'Flora Fantasy' and showed Miley cradling a rose and petting a small white bunny as she spoke about the collaboration with 'happiness and honor.' The Plastic Hearts crooner has always been one to march to the beat of her own drum and celebrated working with her Gucci 'family' as they mirrored her level of 'self-expression.' It's with happiness and honor I announce I am the face of Gucci Flora Gorgeous Gardenia Eau de Parfum. @Gucci and I have felt like family for a long time in our collaborations which have always revolved around vibrant color, self-expression & unapologetic contradiction.



London | Agencies

Jessie J got emotional as she told her fans about struggling with Ménière's disease. The British singer, 33, broke down in tears as she revealed she lived in "pain everyday" as she battled the disorder.

Ménière's disease is a disorder of the inner ear that causes severe dizziness vertigo, ringing in the ears, hearing loss, and a feeling of fullness or congestion in the ear, according to the NHS. It usually affects only one ear

## Jessie J breaks down in tears as she updates fans on career-threatening disease

and about 45,500 people are diagnosed with it every year in the US.

Taking to Instagram, Jessie filmed herself singing her new single *I Want Love* very quietly. She teared up as she promised fans to be 'honest' and explained her speech therapist requested the video to monitor the singer's progress in her treatment.



## ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Jordana Brewster



## WTC FINAL: INDIA 146/3 AS BAD LIGHT FORCES EARLY STUMPS ON DAY 2

**Southampton** | Agencies

Virat Kohli led India's resolute batting effort against a high quality New Zealand attack in testing conditions before bad light brought an anti-climatic end to day two of the World Test Championship final here on Saturday. Rohit Sharma (34 off 68) and Shubman Gill (28 off 64), opening for the first time in England, showed remarkable application against the moving ball to share a 62-run stand

before Kohli (44 not out off 124) came into his own with a steely knock to take India to 146 for three at stumps on a start-stop second day. The skipper got good support from Ajinkya Rahane (29 not out off 79) in the final session where bad light stopped play twice before umpires called it a day. A total of 64.4 overs could be bowled on Saturday including only 9.1 in the final session. The opening day was washed out. As expected, Kohli was ready for the challenge posed by

an all seam attack on an overcast day. He played late and close to his body, was happy to leave balls outside the off stump and cashed in on the slightest of scoring opportunities. Kohli's deputy Rahane did not start convincingly but his feet movement and shot selection got better as his innings progressed. Three of his four boundaries came post tea. India, who had reached 69 for two at lunch, was only able to add 51 runs in the afternoon with the loss of Cheteshwar Pujara (8 off 54).

### India looking at a score of 250: Rathour

India are hoping to get to 250 runs in their first innings of the World Test Championship final against New Zealand here at the Hampshire Bowl, said batting coach Vikram Rathour on Saturday. India finished the second day at 146/3 after the last session was affected by bad light on multiple occasions. "We are looking to play sessions well and if we keep doing that then anything more than 250-plus would be a reasonable score in these conditions," Rathour told the media after the day's play that saw only 64.4 overs being bowled.

### Umpire helps NZ save a review

Umpire Richard Illingworth's confusion, which led him to refer an appeal against Indian skipper Virat Kohli to the TV umpire, helped New Zealand save a review on the second day of the World Test Championship (WTC) final here at the Hampshire Bowl. Left-arm pace bowler Trent Boult bowled one down the leg side on the last ball of his seventh over -- the innings' 41st -- and appealed for caught behind as Kohli looked to glance it. Umpire Illingworth looked unsure over something even as Boult was convinced and seemed to be telling New Zealand captain Kane Williamson to go for the review.

### One-off women's Test

## Sneh, Taniya take India to fighting draw

**Bristol** | Agencies

Powered by a gritty unbeaten 80 (154 balls) by debutant Sneh Rana and her unfinished 104-run partnership for the ninth wicket with Taniya Bhatia (44 not out, 88 balls), India stole a draw in the one-off women's Test against England here on Saturday. Sneh became the first Indian woman cricketer to take four wickets and score a half-century in Test cricket.

India, who had looked down and out at one point in time when they were at 199 for seven wickets while following on before tea, saw gritty batting from the lower order against an England bowling attack that seemed to be tiring. After Deepthi Sharma (54 off 168), opener Shafali Verma (63 off 83), and Punam Raut (39 off 104) had provided a

strong platform for India, the middle-order crumbled. India lost four wickets for 24 runs to be reduced to 199/7 from 171/3 and were in danger of losing the match before the tea break. However, a 41-run partnership in just under 17 overs between Sneh and Shikha Pandey (18 off 50 balls) helped India stretch England and give some hope.

After Shikha was dismissed, Sneh and Taniya buckled down and batted for 30.4 overs to save the Test for India. For England, left-arm spinner Sophie Ecclestone was the most successful bowler with 4/118 in 38 overs. She had picked four for 88 off 26 overs in the first innings. Shafali was declared the Player of the Match for her 96 and 63 in the Test. Shafali and Sneh were among five debutants that India fielded in this Test match.

## ISL side Hyderabad FC sign young striker Aaren D'Silva

**Team Absolute** | Hyderabad

Indian Super League (ISL) side Hyderabad FC have signed 23-year-old striker Aaren D'Silva on a three-year contract till the end of the 2023-24 season, the club announced on Saturday.

Hailing from a sporting family, the Goa-born D'Silva spent four years at the SESA Football Academy and featured for Dempo SC in the U-19 I-League.

D'Silva joined FC Goa in 2017 and spent three seasons with the developmental team before being promoted to the



first team for the 2020-21 ISL season. During his time with FC Goa, he featured in the Goa Pro League as well as the

2nd Division League. He was one of the top scorers for his side in the 2nd Division, netting 10 goals in

19 appearances across three seasons, while also finding the back of the net 25 times in the Goa Pro League over four seasons.

"I am really excited to be a part of Hyderabad FC. I have already spoken to the coaches and that makes me even more excited. I want to be a part of the squad, and work hard to make a name for myself at HFC," said D'Silva.

"I hope to give my best for the club and make the fans proud," he added. D'Silva has also represented Goa in the Santosh Trophy.

## Euro Cup: Germany beat Portugal 4-2 in six goal thriller; Hungary draws 1-1 with France

**Munich** | Agencies

Joachim Low's Germany registered their first win of the tournament as they beat holders Portugal 4-2 at the Allianz Arena in Munich in a Group F contest on Saturday. The holders had a testing opener against Hungary before eventually emerging 3-0 winners, while Germany were beaten 1-0 by FIFA 2018 World Cup winners France, courtesy of a Mats Hummels own goal.

The Cristiano Ronaldo-led side will head into the clash knowing that a win would book their berth in the knockout stage. On the



other hand, Germany will be desperate to bounce back as they bid to qualify for the

knockout round of the European Championship for the fourth time in succes-

France in the 65th minute in an entertaining match, reports Xinhua.

## NEED MORE TEST EXPOSURE TO AVOID COLLAPSES: SMRITIMANDHANA

**Bristol** | Agencies

India batter Smriti Mandhana, who had slammed a patient 78 in the first innings against the England women's team in the one-off Test here, said her players need more Test exposure to forge a better understanding among themselves in the closing stages of every session.

India, which had got off to a strong start with a 167-run stand between Shafali Verma (96) and Smriti Mandhana (78), lost track late on the second day on Thursday as they lost five wickets for 16 runs to finish the day at 187 for five. The team finally folded up for 231 in the first innings and England enforced the follow-on.

"We can consider for sure that we aren't



used to batting beyond 50 overs that much. But I wouldn't say I got out because of lack of experience in Test matches because I threw my wicket away in the last session of yesterday (Thursday)," Smriti told ESPNcricinfo at the end of the third day's play on Friday, when India were 83/1 in the second innings with Shafali Verma batting on 55.

"But, definitely, I think a slight pressure of ending the day being not out, that might play a bit of a part (in the loss of wickets in a heap) and that will come with experience. The more we play Test matches, the more we'll get used to the conditions -- one over before lunch or one over before the day's end and all those sessions, so we can be more mature about (approaching them) and not take pressure," said Smriti.

## American Crouser breaks 31-year-old shot put world record

**Eugene** | Agencies

Olympic champion Ryan Crouser broke the 31-year-old world record of Randy Barnes in men's shot put at the US Olympic Trials, recording a throw of 23.37 metres here.

"It is a really special moment for me on my first time at the new Hayward Field. I've wanted that world record for so long, it feels like a weight has been lifted. I knew the strength and the power was there, I just had to get it into the ball. I've been thinking about this moment since I started throwing. To finally do it is pretty special," the 28-year-old told World Athletics late on



Friday. Crouser began his final round with an opening throw of 22.61m. He heaved the iron ball to a distance of 22.55m and 22.73m to take early lead.

Two-time world champion Joe Kovacs was the other thrower who crossed the 22m mark half way through the competition. Crouser's fourth attempt landed at 23.37m, which was 25 centimetres better than the previous world record set by Barnes in 1990.

The American's fifth attempt was a foul. He ended his series with 22.62m. Kovacs improved to 22.34m in the final round to take second place, more than a metre behind Crouser.

## India wear black armbands to honour Milkha Singh

**Southampton** | Agencies

The Indian cricket team that took the field for the World Test Championship final against New Zealand is wearing black armbands in memory of sprint king Milkha Singh, who passed away on Friday.

"The Indian Cricket Team is wearing black armbands in remembrance of Milkha Singhji, who passed away due to COVID-19," said a statement from the Board of Control for Cricket in India. Milkha, who passed away at the age of 91 in Chandigarh on Friday night, is considered to be the doyen of Indian athletics. He had missed a medal at the 1960 Rome Olympics in 400 metres by a whisker. Earlier, New Zealand had won the toss and elected to bowl at the Hampshire Bowl. The Indians have gone ahead with the playing eleven they had announced on Thursday. The toss took place on the second day after the first day's play was washed out due to rain. The sixth day (June 23), kept in reserve, will also be used.



## Olympic qualification: Indian women archers aim for bullseye

**Paris** | Agencies

All eyes are on the Indian women recurve team as it lines up on Sunday with the goal of earning an Olympic team quota place at an Olympic qualification tournament.

"There are three Tokyo Olympic Games quota places available in Paris. The competition is tough, but we are confident of a good performance," team coach Purnima Mahato told reporter. Indian team consists of Deepika Kumari, Komalika Bari, and Ankita Bhakat. Madhu Vedwan is the reserve archer.

"There are 30 teams in fray for three quota places. The competition will start with the qualification round. In the final round there will be four top teams and

only three will get the tickets for Tokyo," said Purnima. Deepika has qualified for the Tokyo Olympic Games in an individual event in November 2019, but the Indian team was off the target. In Paris, the top three teams will be allotted quota places for the Olympics. The 2020 season was disrupted by the Covid pandemic. The Indian men's recurve team of Atanu Das, Tarundeep Rai and Pravin Jadhav had won team quota place in the men's category during the 2019 World Championships in the Netherlands. The Olympic qualification tournament will be followed by the World Cup Stage 3 from June 21.



## Aussie players will find it hard to justify going back to IPL: Finch

**Sydney** | Agencies

Australia's white-ball skipper Aaron Finch has expressed his "surprise" at so many players pulling out of the tours of the West Indies and Bangladesh and said that "they would find it hard to justify going back and playing the second half of the Indian Premier League (IPL)". Seven Australian cricket stars, including Pat Cummins, Steve Smith and David Warner, pulled out of their national team's upcoming limited-overs tours of the two countries as Cricket Australia (CA) recently announced an 18-member squad. Cummins, Glenn Maxwell, Warner, Smith, Marcus Stoinis, Jhye Richardson and Kane Richardson have confirmed their withdrawal from the upcoming tours following which CA head selector Trevor Hohns said that he was "naturally disappointed not to have all players available for the Australian team". While resting Warner and Cummins was part of CA's strategy and Smith is nursing an elbow injury, the withdrawal of others has not gone down well with Finch. "This is only my personal opinion, I think they would find it hard to justify going back and playing that second half of the IPL purely based on the workload coming up with a T20 World Cup then a huge home summer," Finch told former wicketkeeper-batsman Adam Gilchrist on SEN WA. The suspended IPL will likely be completed between September 18 and October 10 in Abu Dhabi, while the T20 World Cup is scheduled between October 18 and November 15.



## Olympics organisers may further reduce overseas delegates by 25,000

Tokyo: The Tokyo 2020 organisers could further reduce the number of foreign delegates attending the Olympic and Paralympic Games by as much as 25,000 to reduce the risk of spreading Covid-19 during the showpiece event next month. Should the organisers take the decision, the number will come down to 53,000. Last month, the organisers had brought down the numbers from an estimated 180,000 to 78,000, a reduction of more than 60 per cent. Sports website insidethegames.biz, quoting Kyodo News, said that the Tokyo 2020 Games delivery officer Hidemasa Nakamura had confirmed the "organising committee's intention to further reduce the number of people attending from overseas". The organisers recently released the third and final version of the Games playbook, which has stringent coronavirus countermeasures, including throwing out the athletes and officials who violate Covid norms.

## RASHMIKA MANDANNA ON 'DEAR COMRADE' HINDI DUB CROSSING 250MN VIEWS

Team Absolute | Hyderabad

The Hindi dubbed version of the Vijay Deverakonda-starrer Telugu blockbuster "Dear Comrade" has crossed 250 million views on YouTube, and the film's lead actress Rashmi Mandanna is naturally elated.

"The fact that the Hindi dubbed version of the film has crossed 250 million views on YouTube is no surprise because I think it deserves it. It's a story of the people and it's genuine and our audience can see it. It is extremely heart-warming to see audiences all over the country shower their love on the film. 'Dear Comrade' has given me so much as an actor and as a person," gushed Rashmi.

She claims the Bharath Kamma directorial will always be close to her heart. "I could never really say this anywhere but 'Dear Comrade' till date has very special place in my heart. The preparation, the people, the shooting process, the experiences and the people mean so much to me. I don't think I can put it in words."

She adds, "Every time I watch a song or something from that film it makes me tear up and I mean this in the most positive way possible." Rashmi will soon make her Bollywood debut in "Mission Majnu". The actress will also be seen in the Amitabh Bachchan-starrer "Goodbye".



## SUNNY LEONE HAS 'NO TIME TO BE BLUE'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood actress Sunny Leone looks pretty in blue in a series of new pictures she posted on Saturday.

In the images uploaded on Instagram, Sunny wears high-waisted sky blue pants paired with a matching crop top. She completes the look with blue danglers, white stilettos and subtle make-up.

"No time to be blue!!!" she wrote as the caption, referring to the fact that although her attire is blue, her mood is far from sullen.

The actress currently co-hosts the youth-based reality show "Splitsvilla" with Rannvijay Singha on television. Her upcoming roster includes the psychological thriller "Shero" and the thriller series "Anamika". Sunny also has a role in the period drama film "The Battle Of Bheema Koregaon".



## ALANKRITA SAHAI CAST AS LEAD IN PUNJABI FILM 'FUDDAD JI'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Alankrita Sahai has been roped in to play the leading lady in the Punjabi film "Fuddad Ji". The Pankaj Batra directorial also stars Binu Dhillon and Gurnam Bhullar.

The actress, who has been part of films such as "Love Per Square Foot" and "Namaste England", says she had a great time reading the script.

"I was given a narration of the script and I literally rolled on the floors laughing. It's one of the films which has to be watched with the family for a great time together," said Alankrita.

On the unlock situation, the actress feels while things are getting normal, it is important to not let one's guard down.

"The pandemic is not over yet. We are moving towards normalcy and it's important for us to get vaccinated whenever the opportunity arises. Let's stay safe and I pray for everyone's safety and happiness," she says.



## Avika Gor on appearing in Telugu game show 'Sixth Sense 4'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Avika Gor appeared on the Telugu game show "Sixth Sense" season 4 and raised Rs 1 lakh for an NGO. "It's my second time on the show.

This was as good and better. We had some amazing moments with the emotion ranging from action, intense to very emotional," Avika said.

"All the money we raised goes to Camp Diaries, which is an NGO. Let's stay strong and within protocols. The pandemic is far from over. Let's focus on getting vaccinated and developing immunity," she said.

The "Balika Vadhu" fame actress was recently seen in the music video "Dilko mere", which dropped on May 17.



father taught me to value myself." On the work front, Urvashi Rautela will be making her Tamil debut with a sci-fi film that casts her as a microbiologist and an ITian. She is also going to appear in a bilingual thriller "Black

**Urvashi Rautela: When I am at my best, I am my father's daughter**

Rose" along with the Hindi remake of "Thiruthu Payale 2". She will also be seen in the Randeep Hooda-starrer web series "Inspector Avinash", based on the true story of super cop Avinash Mishra. Urvashi plays Avinash's wife Poonam Mishra.

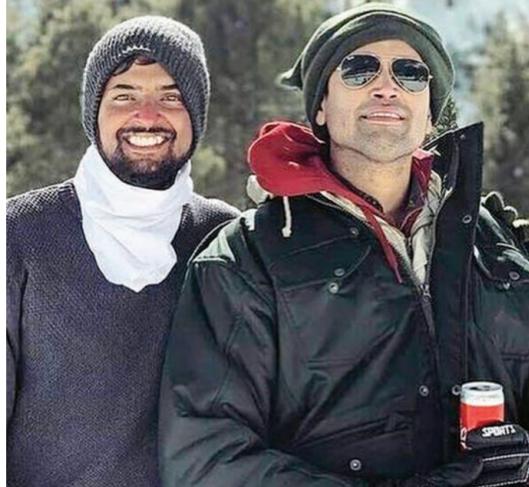
Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Urvashi Rautela says her father Manvar Singh taught her the importance of valuing oneself. Ahead of Father's Day on June 20, Urvashi also shares the kind of bond she shares with her dad.

"When I'm at my best, I am my father's daughter. It was my father who taught me to value myself. He told me that I was uncommonly beautiful and that I was the most precious thing in his life," said Urvashi.

On celebrating Father's Day, she says: "I will be celebrating Father's Day with close ones only. It will be a memorable day for him. I am a daughter of a proud father, my

## Adivi Sesh-starrer 'Major' to resume shooting in July



Team Absolute | Hyderabad

Telugu actor Adivi Sesh took to social media on Saturday to inform fans that the shoot of his upcoming bilingual film "Major" will resume in July. The film will release in Hindi and Telugu and be dubbed in Malayalam. It is a biographical drama starring Sesh as 26/11 martyr Sandeep Unnikrishnan. The film marks Telugu superstar Mahesh Babu's debut as a producer.

Putting up a picture on Instagram with one of the producer of the film, Sharath Chandra, Sesh

recalled shooting in Chitkul, Himachal Pradesh, along with the shoot update he shared.

"When we began #MajorTheFilm last year #Chitkul was never colder. But brilliant visuals and amazing people led to great memories. Can't wait to start filming in July. An Epic Story inspired by the life of #MajorSandeepUnnikrishnan," he wrote.

"Major" was postponed due to lockdown, with portions of shooting still to be done. Earlier slated to release on July 2, a new date for the Shashi Kiran Tikka directorial is yet to be announced.

## INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Kriti Sanon