

absolute india

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OLYMPIC COUNTDOWN: THE RISE OF THE FIRST-TIMERS

Take the case of CA Bhavani Devi, who is the first fencer from India to qualify for the Olympics. Or, for that matter Fouaad Mirza, who will be the first Indian competing in equestrian since 2008, or Nethra Kumanan, the first Indian woman sailor to qualify for the Olympics. Or judoka Shushila Likmabam (women's 48 kg), the silver medallist at the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow. There will be others like sailors Vishnu Saravanan (radial class) and KC Ganapathy-Varun Thakkar (men's 49er) who will be participating in their first Olympics. Joining them are fellow first-timers, rowers Arjun Lal Jat and Arvind Singh (men's lightweight double sculls), and golfer Udayan Mane. Golfer Anirban Lahiri will be participating in his second Olympics.

► The 27-year-old daughter of a Chennai temple priest, Bhavani had nearly quit the sport in 2016 unable to bear the high cost of pursuing a sport that is not known much in India. A sponsorship by GoSports Foundation came as a godsend for her.

► Just like Bhavani, Mirza, the first Indian to qualify for the Olympics since 2008 Beijing, completed the requirement for qualification in May 2021 when he finished second in an event in Poland.

► The journey was arduous for radial laser class sailor Nethra too. The 23-year-old came through the Asian Qualifying Event in Oman and her family had to endure a lot to support her passion for sailing.

B Shrikant | Mumbai

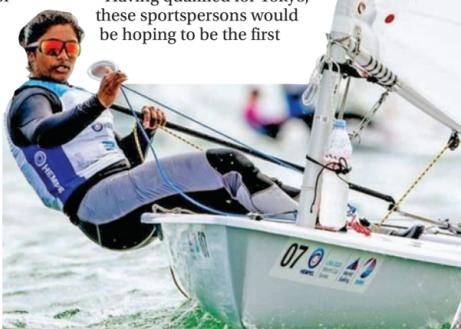
The underlining motto of the Olympic Games is participation, not winning. And that is the reason why many times those coming in last are cheered on by the crowds and become part of the Olympic folklore. Not all of the expected 11,000 participants that would assemble at the Olympics can win medals, but they will compete to the best of their ability -- exerting every sinew in their body to achieve personal goals like setting personal bests, eclipsing national records or winning a match. So, while the focus of the Indian fans will on the



big stars in shooting, boxing, badminton, weightlifting, wrestling, tennis, and athletics, there will be many who will be going about their job with zeal and enthusiasm trying their best, for they have already achieved their goal by making it to the Olympics. Swimmers Sajjan Prakash and Srihari Nataraj too have charted history as they became the first two to get a direct entry into the Olympics by achieving the 'A' qualification mark. Prakash did it first in 200m butterfly at the Sette Colli meet in Rome, Italy, last month and Nataraj made it on the final day of the qualification by achieving the 'A' mark in 100m backstroke. While all of them would be hoping to make the most of their chances, and at least get into medal contention, the focus will, however, be on the likes



of Bhavani Devi, Mirza, and Nethra Kumanan. The road to Tokyo was not easy for Mirza too -- he had endured a lockdown in Germany, where he is stationed, several cancelled events, and an injury to his main horse, Seigneur Medicott, who was laid low by an injury for nearly two years, to make the cut. Nethra, the first Indian woman sailor to win a medal in the World Cup event, Nethra has represented the country in two Asian Games and participated in the 2020 World Cup. Though nine sailors have represented India at the Olympics, she will be the first to earn a direct qualification to the mega event. Having qualified for Tokyo, these sportspersons would be hoping to be the first



Indians in their respective sports to win an Olympic medal. The task is tough but not unachievable.



Indians have confidence in judiciary: CJ

■ CJ said Mahabharata, is an example of an early attempt at mediation as a conflict resolution tool, where Lord Krishna attempted to mediate the dispute between the Pandavas and Kauravas. It may be worthwhile to recall that the failure of mediation in Mahabharata led to disastrous consequences, he cited.

■ The Chief Justice emphasized mediation, as a concept, is deeply embedded into the Indian ethos, long before the arrival of the British adversarial system in India. "The establishment of the British courts system, in 1775, marked the erosion of community-based indigenous dispute resolution mechanisms in India," said Chief Justice.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Chief Justice NV. Ramana on Saturday delivering his keynote address at the India-Singapore mediation summit "Making Mediation mainstream: Reflections from India and Singapore", the Chief Justice said India is home to many identities, religions and cultures which contribute to its unity through diversity, and this is where the rule of law, with assured sense of justice and fairness come into play. He added Constitution, together with the immense faith of the people in the judicial system, brought to life the Supreme Court's motto, "Yato Dharma Sthato Jaya, that is, where there is dharma, there is victory". Chief Justice Ramana said conflicts are unavoidable in any society for a variety of reasons -- political, economic, social, cultural and religious. He emphasized that with conflicts, there is also the need to develop mechanisms for conflict resolution. India, and numerous Asian countries, have a long and rich tradition of collabo-



“ People are confident that they will get relief and justice from the judiciary. It gives them the strength to pursue a dispute. They know that when things go wrong, the judiciary will stand by them. The Indian Supreme Court is the guardian of the largest democracy. ”

rative and amicable settlement of disputes, he cited. "Mediation...can be described as a tool of social justice in the Indian context. Such a party-friendly mechanism ultimately upholds the rule of law, by providing an incentive for parties to utilize their autonomy to the fullest to arrive at a just and equitable outcome," said the Chief Justice.

Finally married after 20 years

The marriage took place in Rasulpur Ruri village of Ganj Moradabad in Unnao district. All the expenses of the marriage were borne by the village head and the villagers. The village head and others arranged for a DJ, a wedding band and a feast for the guests. The 'baraatis', led by the couple's son reached the village, with the groom, to solemnize the marriage.

Unnao (Uttar Pradesh) | Agencies

A 60-year-old man and a 55-year-old woman, who have been in a live-in relationship for almost 20 years, got married earlier this week. The couple's teenage son felt lucky to witness his parents' wedding. According to the villagers, the elderly couple was regularly taunted for living together without marriage. They were also



convinced by the village head. Both of them agreed to get officially marry to avoid the taunts.

According to reports, Narain Raidas, 60, and Ramrati, 55, were living together since 2001. As there was no one else in their families, both of them earned their living through farming. Village head Ramesh Kumar, social worker Dharmendra Bajpai and Sunil Pal convinced Narain and Ramrati to get married and avoid taunts and humiliation for their 13-year-old son, Ajay's sake.

Langur 'participates' in man's final rites

Bellary, (Karnataka) | Agencies

Family members of a septuagenarian, who died due to age-related health problems in Karnataka's Bellary district last month, were taken aback when a langur joined them in "mourning" the deceased. As per a viral video, the langur arrived fearlessly at the spot where Vishwanath Raju's body

was kept, on June 30, and placed its head on the body after lifting the shroud. The animal then left after a few minutes, leaving everyone bewildered. On July 10, when the final rites of Raju were being conducted at Kampli on the banks of the Tungabhadra river, the langur came again and sat on the lap of the priest who was conducting rituals. It left after the rituals.



The Good Samaritan

In this fast paced world where humans are busy enough to ignore the pain of fellow humans, Mukesh Vishwakarma-- a journalist and writer by profession, seeks the betterment of more deprived creatures in nature.



Team Absolute | Bhopal

Mukesh is a belligerent animal lover and he is fond of street dogs. He looks after these diverse creatures and spends at least of 6000 rupees per month to feed and cure them. He also manages few groups that tend to look after stray animals like dogs, cows, squirrels and birds etc. He, along with his animal lover friends, took the initiative to sterilize female dogs so that the species population can be controlled.

Talking to Absolute India about the very first day when he discovered

his connection with animals, Mukesh said, "It was a regular day in Mumbai. I was on my way to office when I saw a deprived stray dog following me since I left home. His gestures made me believe that he is hungry. I gained sympathy towards him and bought a packet of biscuits. While I was feeding him, my eyes captured his gaze and that moment I felt a connection of love and affection. That gaze made me believe that apart from my hectic lifestyle, I am a part of nature." Mukesh thereafter never abandoned his responsibilities and started taking care stray animals. The affection that started with dogs expanded with the varieties of other deprived stray animals. He started feeding cows, squirrels, birds and other animals who can't express their needs like humans. Apart from feeding them, Mukesh also look after the medical needs of these animals. Talking about the hefty expenses in these medical treatments he cited a quote, "No matter how few possessions you own or how little money you have, loving wildlife and nature will make you rich beyond measure."

Will Bezos carry India-born Sanjal on shoulders after space flight?

FOLLOWING THE GRAND RICHARD BRANSON SHOW WHERE HE CARRIED ANDHRA PRADESH-BORN SIRISHA BANDLA AND FELLOW SPACE TRAVELLERS ON HIS SHOULDERS AFTER SUCCESSFULLY FLYING TO THE EDGE OF SPACE, IT IS TIME FOR AMAZON FOUNDER JEFF BEZOS TO APPLAUD SANJAL GAVANDE, ONE OF THE KEY ENGINEERS WHO DESIGNED THE NEW SHEPARD ROCKET SET TO TAKE BEZOS AND THE CREW TO SPACE ON JULY 20.

► Born in Kalyan, Maharashtra, Gavande is a systems engineer at Blue Origin who always dreamt of designing aerospace rockets.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

► After completing Bachelor's in mechanical engineering from the University of Mumbai, she flew to the US in 2011 to pursue Master's in mechanical engineering from the Michigan Technological University.

► She also applied for an engineering job at the US space agency NASA but finally landed her dream job at Blue Origin.

Billionaire Bezos is set to fly to the edge of space aboard what is touted as the world's first uncrewed suborbital flight. Bezos, his brother Mark, aviation pioneer Mary Wallace 'Wally' Funk and other passengers are set to liftoff from west Texas and travel just beyond the edge of space on July 20. Bezos chose July 20 as the launch date to honour the 52nd anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing. The launch site for Blue

Origin's first human flight will be in a remote location north of Van Horn, Texas, from where the firm had launched New Shepard for previous flights. On July 12, Bandla touched the edge of space with three others, including Virgin Galactic's billionaire CEO Richard Branson. Bandla vaulted into space onboard VSS Unity 22. After the successful spaceflight, Branson carried the Indian-American on his shoulders while celebrating their flight to space, at Spaceport America in New Mexico.





BENGAL GOV GOES TO DELHI;

STATE MIGHT MOVE COURT AGAINST NHRC REPORT

Kolkata | Agencies

With the West Bengal government mulling over moving the court challenging the allegations levelled against several Trinamool Congress leaders in the report submitted to Calcutta High Court by the National Human Rights Commission on post-poll violence in the state, Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar left for Delhi on Saturday amid speculation that he might have a detailed discussion with Home Minister Amit Shah on the NHRC report.



The state machinery played an important role in the violence. "The situation in the state of West Bengal is a manifestation of 'law of ruler', instead of 'Rule of Law'," the report said.

The rights body also made it clear that the violent incidents in the state reflected the 'appalling apathy' of the state government towards the plight of the victims.

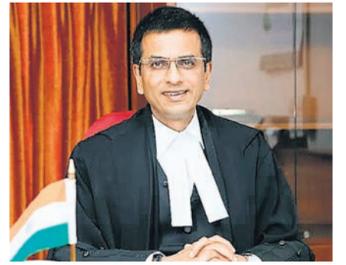
In the 50-page report, the NHRC said, "The spa-

tiotemporal expanse of violent incidents in the state of West Bengal reflects the appalling apathy of the state government towards the plight of the victims. This was retributive violence by supporters of the ruling party against supporters of the main opposition party. It resulted in disruption of life and livelihood of thousands of people and their economic strangulation. The local police have been grossly derelict, if not complicit, in this violence."

Meanwhile, the state is also mulling to move the court challenging the NHRC report where several Trinamool Congress leaders have been labelled as 'criminals/goons' for the post-poll violence in the state. In the annexure 'K' attached to the original report submitted before the HC, the NHRC has labelled 102 persons across 16 broad regions of Bengal, including state minister Jyotipriya Mullick, prominent leader and former MLA from Coochbehar Udayan Guha, Naihati MLA Partha Bhowmick, Canning East MLA Saikat Molla, Trinamool's South 24 Parganas youth leader Jahangir Khan, former councillor Jiban Saha and CM Mamata Banerjee's chief election agent in Nandigram Sheikh Sufiyan under the list of "notorious criminals/goons".

Nobody too young to effectuate big change, says Justice Chandrachud citing Greta Thunberg

Chandrachud said that Greta Thunberg, who is one of the strongest voices in the civil society against climate change, began her journey as a lone 15-year-old sitting outside the Swedish Parliament demanding government action against the imminent risks of global warming. Her example, in addition to that of many others, shows us how nobody is too young or insignificant to effectuate big change. My learning for life, at my age, is also that you are never too old to be the change.



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Supreme Court judge Justice D.Y. Chandrachud said on Saturday that the example of Greta Thunberg, one of the strongest voices against climate change, shows that "nobody is too young to effectuate big change".

Chandrachud was speaking virtually on the topic 'Students as the Constitution's Vanguard' at a programme organised by the Shikshan Prasarak Mandali (SPM) on the occasion of the 101st birth anniversary of his father late Justice Y.V. Chandrachud, who was the longest-serving Chief Justice of India.

"In viewing our Constitution, as a primary spirit to counter majoritarianism, we can equip ourselves with a unique lens to view the world and balance competing interests," Chandrachud said.

Speaking on climate change, Chandrachud emphasised that the world is in the midst of an accelerating climate change crisis and the Covid-19 pandemic has shown that ecological disruptions increase the existing inequalities. He added that to combat this crisis, a collective global action is required.

He insisted that majoritarian tendencies must be questioned against the background of "our constitutive promise".

Chandrachud also said that irrespective of the electoral legitimacy of the government, the Constitution is the North Star against which conformity of every state action or inaction would have to be judged.

Citing the 71st year of the Constitutional republic of the country, he said that many may, on occasion, feel that the country's democracy is no longer new and the need to study Constitutional history and engage with its framework isn't as worthwhile.

DUTCH NATIONAL HELD BY ED FROM IGI AIRPORT UNDER PMLA

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Saturday arrested a Dutch national from the Indira Gandhi International Airport here while he was trying to flee from the country by boarding a flight to Paris.

Shivlal Pabbi, originally from Phagwara in Punjab who had migrated to the Netherlands in 1981 and became a Dutch national in 1984, was held under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002.

The ED had initiated a money laundering probe against Pabbi and others on the request of the Netherlands government. The investigation by the ED revealed that Pabbi committed cheating and forgery in the Netherlands on the basis of fraudulent documents prepared in connivance with his Indian associates. He ran an underground banking network without permit besides running a hawala business in the Netherlands under the garb of trading in readymade garments. The proceeds of the crime generated by Pabbi were laundered through Pakistani individuals based in Dubai, who transferred the money to his and his brother's accounts in Phagwara, the ED said.

Assam govt burns seized drugs worth Rs 170 cr in public functions

Guwahati | Agencies

As part of Assam governments campaign against narcotics and to make the state drugs-free, seized drugs worth Rs 170 crore were burnt in public functions in four districts of the state on Saturday. Talking to the media, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said that the state government has taken a zero tolerance policy against the drug menace and illegal trades of narcotics.

He said that since the present government assumed office on May 10, as many as 874 cases of drug peddling have been registered, 1,493 drug dealers have been arrested and drugs worth Rs 170 crore have been seized from different parts of the state. Sarma, who also holds the home portfolio, said that in the last two months, Assam Police have seized 19 kg heroin, 14 kg opium, 1,920 kg mor-



phine, 33,014 poppy straw, 8,276 kg ganja, 67,650 bottles of cough syrup, 12,93,000 high stimulating tablets, Rs 1 crore in cash, foreign currencies equivalent to Rs 13,630, fake Indian currency

worth Rs 6.80 lakh and destroyed cannabis (ganja) plantation in 31 bighas of land. These seized drugs were burnt in public ceremonies in Karbi Anglong, Golaghat, Hojai and Nagaon districts.

BORDER DISPUTE WITH CHINA TO ROCK PARLIAMENT

New Delhi:

The border dispute with China will be discussed in both the Houses during the monsoon session of Parliament starting from July 19 as opposition parties are to demand the government's status report over the issue.



This was apparent after Defence Minister Rajnath Singh met two former defence ministers -- A.K. Antony and Sharad Pawar -- on Friday, just three days ahead of the session. Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat and Indian Army Chief General Manoj Mukund Naravane were also present during the meeting. Singh met them amid the ongoing de-escalation talks with China. Also Congress -- during the parliament strategy meeting headed by party chief Sonia Gandhi -- had decided to raise the border issue with China in the coming monsoon session of parliament. The session beginning on July 19 will end on August 13.

FOLLOW GOVT'S COVID NORMS, REFRAIN FROM SACRIFICING FORBIDDEN ANIMALS: MADANI

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Jamiat Ulema-i-Hind chief Maulana Arshad Madani has advised Muslims to perform Eid-ul-Adha prayers in mosques or at home while following the Covid-19 guidelines given by the Health Ministry.

Eid-ul-Adha will be celebrated on July 21 when as an annual ritual Muslims sacrifice animals.

"It is better to offer sacrifice after offering sermon and prayers in a short manner immediately after 20 minutes of sunrise, and the waste should be buried in such a way that it does not cause of odour," he said in a statement.

He has asked the community to refrain from sacrificing forbidden animals as it hurts sentiments of others.



Therefore, it is better to be content with it to avoid any trouble.

If there is no way to fulfil this religious obligation, then a sacrifice should be offered in a nearby place where there is no difficulty.

But where the sacrifice had been offered regularly, and

there is a problem right now, so at least a goat must be sacrificed there, and registration should be done in the office of administration.

In order to protect themselves from this disease, Muslims should pray to Allah as much as possible and also do repentance, he said.

CONG DEMANDS PROBE IN FINANCIAL IRREGULARITIES FLAGGED BY CAG IN MEITY

New Delhi:

The Congress on Saturday demanded an independent, high-level and time-bound enquiry into financial irregularities in the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) flagged by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) in its preliminary report. Addressing a press conference here, Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera claimed that financial irregularities in MeitY is the reason behind the dropping of Ravi Shankar Prasad from the Union Cabinet. "What is the action you will take to punish those guilty of alleged siphoning off of funds to the tune of thousands of crores," Khera asked the Prime Minister.

Khera further asked, "How much has the company or through any of its maze of companies which have been benefited by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology donated to the kitty of the BJP?"

"How many such companies exist using the Ashoka Emblem (State Emblem of India) and government premises feigning as government entities?" he said.

Khera demanded an independent, high-level, time-bound enquiry into the working of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.



Heat, humidity make Bihar's Muzaffarpur susceptible to AES outbreak

Muzaffarpur | Agencies

With no respite from the sweltering heat and humidity in Bihar, there has been a spurt in Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) cases in children in Muzaffarpur and surrounding areas.

As per the data released by Sri Krishna Medical College and Hospital (SKMCH), Muzaffarpur, 41 children with symptoms of AES were admitted from Muzaffarpur and the adjoining districts, of which 33 children were confirmed to be suffering from AES. Head of the Department of Paediatrics at SKMCH, GS Sahni, on Saturday said four children are undergoing treatment in the infant ward, in which AES has been confirmed in three children while one other patient is suspected to be suffering from this disease. Till Friday this year, 41



children have been admitted to SKMCH from Muzaffarpur and surrounding areas reported to be suffering from this disease. As many as nine children have died. The intensifying heat and humidity makes Muzaffarpur and the surrounding areas susceptible to AES outbreak in children. Every year a large number of children die of this disease. The worst AES outbreak has been reported in various villages of Minapur, Kanti, Musahari and Paroo blocks of

Muzaffarpur district. For the treatment of AES, a special hospital ward has been set up by the health department in Muzaffarpur.

From time to time, awareness campaigns have also been carried out in rural areas by the district administration and the health department but till date they have failed in eradicating this disease. However, a lesser number of patients suffering from this disease have been reported this year.

CULPRITS BEHIND TERROR, INTIMIDATION WEBSITE ARRESTED IN KASHMIR

Srinagar: In a major breakthrough, Jammu & Kashmir Police has discovered and arrested the culprits secretly working behind the blog site - kashmirfights.wordpress.com. Police said in a J&K-wide operation, houses and properties at multiple locations including Sanat Nagar and Raj Bagh in Srinagar, Batpura in Hazratbal, Poonch, Jammu and Hawal in Pulwama belonging to five persons were searched. "Armed with search warrants granted by competent court of law, police parties carried out searches of the suspects' premises and recovered a large number of cell phones, digital storage devices and computing platforms. In one house alone, 32 mobile phones, one tablet, two laptops, four hard disk devices, seven memory cards and one dongle were seized," police said. The five persons arrested have been identified as Nazish Yasrab Rehmani and Tabish Akbar Rehmani from Sanat Nagar, Sofi Md Akbar from Rajbagh, Peerzada Raqif Makhdoomi from Batpora Hazratbal and Javed Khalid from Poonch.



CMFRI scientist wins ICAR award for research on seaweed

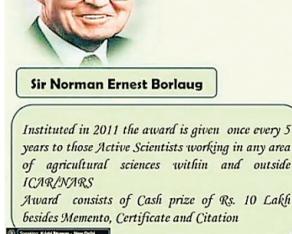
Kochi | Agencies

Kajal Chakraborty, principal scientist at the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), has won national recognition for his research efforts to develop a series of nutraceutical products from seaweeds to treat various lifestyle diseases, including diabetes.

Chakraborty bagged the prestigious Norman Borlaug National Award for Excellence in Agricultural Research instituted by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) functioning under the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare. Three other CMFRI scientists also won awards for their works. All the awards were presented virtually by Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar.

While addressing the gathering after presenting the awards, Tomar said that strengthening agriculture

ICAR NORMAN BORLAUG AWARD 2020



Sir Norman Ernest Borlaug

Instituted in 2011 the award is given once every 5 years to those Active Scientists working in any area of agricultural sciences within and outside ICAR/ARS. Award consists of Cash prize of Rs. 10 Lakh besides Memento, Certificate and Citation



Dr. Kajal Chakraborty Principal Scientist Marine Biotechnology Division ICAR-CMFRI, Kochi

and its strong foundation through relevant research programmes could help achieve the targets of rural development of the country.

The 'Kisan Sarathi', an ITC-based interface solution for supporting agriculture at the local niche with national perspective, was also released on the occasion.

The award, which is announced

once in every five years, carries a cash prize of Rs 10 lakh. Besides this, the scientist will be given a research grant of Rs 1.5 crore for carrying out a challenging research project for five years.

Chakraborty's research achievements involve developing and commercialising nutraceutical products from selected seaweeds to combat rheumatic arthritic pain, type-2 dia-

betes, dyslipidemia, hypertension and hypothyroidism.

The latest efforts in this line of research include antiosteoporotic and immune-boost nutraceuticals, and the latter received wider attention in the wake of the Covid -19 pandemic. The award was announced and presented marking the 93rd foundation day of ICAR.

The other winners from CMFRI include Fasina Makkara, a PhD scholar who received the Jawaharlal Nehru Award for her doctoral thesis research in agricultural and allied Sciences. The other awards for CMFRI include Rajarshi Tandon Rajbhasha Award for excellent implementation of Official Language Policy among the ICAR institutes situated in the 'C' region.

The CMFRI also received ICAR Best Hindi Magazine Award -- Ganesh Shankar Vidyarthi Puraskar -- for its in-house Hindi magazine 'Matsyagandha'.

CHANGE OF NAME

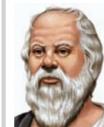
I, Army No. 14831603P, Rank Nk/MT Name Renjith L resident at : Village-Enathu, Post-Enathu, Distt. - Pathanamthitta State : Kerala PIN- 691526. I have changed my daughter name Rudhra Renjith to Rudra Renjith vide affidavit no. AZ044695 dated 17.07.2021 before Bhopal Court Madhya Pradesh.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Asha Renjith is wife of Army No. 14831603P, Rank Nk/MT Name Renjith L resident at : Village-Enathu, Post-Enathu, Distt. -Pathanamthitta State : Kerala PIN- 691526. I have changed my name Asha T to Asha Renjith vide affidavit no. AZ044697 dated 17.07.2021 before Bhopal Court Madhya Pradesh.

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“The greatest way to live with honor in this world is to be what we pretend to be.”



Socrates

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Covid patients may get infected by tuberculosis, Health Ministry warns

PANDEMIC WORSENS?

In a statement, the Health Ministry said there have been some news reports alleging that a sudden rise in TB cases have been noticed among patients infected with COVID-19 recently, leaving doctors, who have been receiving around a dozen similar cases every day, worried.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Union Health Ministry on Saturday said COVID-19 infection can make people more susceptible to developing active tuberculosis after reports of rising cases of Tuberculosis among patients who were infected with COVID-19. The ministry said notification of tuberculosis cases had decreased by about 25 per cent in 2020 due to Covid-related restrictions and special efforts are being made to mitigate this impact through intensified case findings. There is not enough evidence currently to suggest that there has been an increase in TB cases due to COVID-19 or due to increased case finding efforts, it said, adding states and Union Territories have been asked for convergence in efforts for better surveillance and finding of TB and COVID-19 cases as early as August 2020.

It is clarified that tuberculosis screening for all COVID-19 patients and COVID-19 screening for all diagnosed TB patients has been recommended by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare," it said.

The ministry said SARS-CoV-2 infection can make an individual more susceptible to developing active TB disease, as it is an "opportunistic infection like black fungus".



UK HEALTH MINISTER TESTS COVID+, HAD TAKEN BOTH DOSES OF VACCINE

London: British Health Secretary Sajid Javid said on Saturday he had tested positive for Covid-19 and was self-isolating -- just as his government prepared to jettison most pandemic restrictions in England. "This morning I tested positive for Covid. I'm waiting for my PCR result, but thankfully I have had my jabs and symptoms are mild," he tweeted. Britain has recorded more than 50,000 new daily coronavirus cases, the highest number since mid-January, according to official data released on Friday. The country reported another 51,870 coronavirus cases in the latest 24-hour period, bringing the total number of coronavirus cases in the country to 5,332,371, official figures showed, Xinhua reported.



Yediyurappa to resign after govt's 2nd anniversary, say sources

Bengaluru | Agencies

Karnataka chief minister B.S. Yediyurappa has been asked to step down after July 26, the day, the ruling BJP government will complete its second year in office in the state, sources said here on Saturday. Yediyurappa's demand for two months time to contemplate stepping down, has been categorically rejected by the BJP high command, they added. While the Party has offered the post of deputy chief minister to his son B.Y. Vijayendra, Yediyurappa has apparently been insisting on the post of the state party president for him. The calculation is to go to the assembly elections under his son's leadership, thus making Vijayendra the natural choice for the CM post.



THESE ARE ALL RUMOURS: BS Y

"These are all rumours. Yesterday I met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and discussed about development of the state. I am coming back to Delhi in the first week of the next month. There is no value for such news."

LINGAYAT MLAS READY TO JOIN CONGRESS

Kalaburgi: Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee President D.K. Shivakumar claimed that several legislators belonging to the Lingayat community are ready to join the Congress party. Talking to reporters, Shivakumar explained that the talks are being held with them by senior Congress leaders of the region Eshwar Khandre and M.B. Patil, he stated. Most Lingayat leaders from the region belong to the BJP and he indirectly hinted that MLAs from BJP are ready to join his party.



AFGHAN ENVOY'S DAUGHTER TORTURED IN ISLAMABAD



Team Absolute | New Delhi

The daughter of Najibullah Alikhil, the Afghan envoy to Pakistan, was abducted and tortured on her way home in Islamabad, Afghanists Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement on Saturday. "The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan states with deep regret that on July 16, 2021, the daughter of the Afghan ambassador to Islamabad, Ms. Silila

Alikhil, was abducted for several hours and severely tortured by unknown individuals on her way home," the statement said. After being released from the kidnappers' captivity, Alikhil is under medical care at a hospital. The statement said that the MoFA strongly condemns the heinous act and expresses its deep concern over the safety and security of diplomats, their families, and staff members of the Afghan political and consular missions in Pakistan.

US COVID CASES RISING IN ALL 50 STATES

New York: The White House Covid Response team is warning Americans that the US outbreak is becoming "a pandemic of the unvaccinated" and nearly all hospital admissions and deaths are now among those who have not got their shots. More than 160 million Americans are already vaccinated but Covid-19 is now surging in all 50 states, riding on the delta variant and slowing vaccination rates. Virus maps and models are awash in red. Emergency room physicians are wringing their hands over the mixed signals on masks earlier in the season. The seven-day average of new cases is up nearly 70 percent over the last week, hospital admissions have climbed about 36 percent and deaths by 26 percent, according to data from the Centers For Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

INDIA REPORTS 38,079 NEW COVID CASES, 560 DEATHS IN 24 HRS

New Delhi: India reported 38,079 new coronavirus cases, lower than Friday and 560 deaths in the last 24 hours. According to the data shared by the Union Health Ministry on Saturday, the active cases in the country now stand at 4,24,025. The recovery rate has climbed to 97.31 per cent. The total number of samples tested up to July 16 is 44,20,21,954 including 19,98,715 samples tested on Friday. The Union Health Ministry on Friday said that the next 100-125 days will be critical in the fight against Covid-19.

'Reconciliation' among warring factions in Punjab Cong begins

Conveying the party's decision, Rawat informed the Chief Minister that there would be three to four working presidents of his choice along with Sidhu. He would also be free to revamp his Cabinet, Rawat reportedly told the Punjab Chief Minister. An announcement in this regard could be made anytime, he said.

Chandigarh | Agencies

Within hours of the meeting between Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh and AICC Secretary General and state in-charge Harish Rawat amid the 'tussle' over talks of appointing Navjot Singh Sidhu as the new state Congress chief, a reconciliation between the warring leaders was held here on Saturday to project a united face ahead of the Assembly polls scheduled early next year. During the meeting between Amarinder Singh and Rawat earlier in the day, the former categorically told Rawat that he won't meet Sidhu until he apologises for his 'derogatory' tweets. Reiterating that he would accept any decision taken by interim Congress President Sonia Gandhi, Amarinder Singh termed the meeting with Rawat as fruitful, adding



that the latter would take up the issues raised by him with Sonia Gandhi. The meeting between the two senior Congress leaders lasted for over an hour. AICC General Secretary Rawat reached Chandigarh on Saturday morning to meet Amarinder Singh. He returned to Delhi later in the day. "I have just returned to Delhi after meeting Amarinder Singh Ji. I am glad that a lot of the things that are being discussed have been proven pointless and Captain Sahib has reiterated

his important statement that any decision taken by the Congress president will be acceptable to all," Rawat said in a tweet. Interestingly, amid the hectic political developments in Chandigarh, Sidhu, a former Cabinet minister in Punjab, called on state unit chief Sunil Jakhar at his residence in Panchkula, near here. The duo held a meeting which is seen by the political circles as Sidhu's effort to take everybody along in the party after he is eventually appointed as the state unit chief.

ELECTION COMMISSION BLOWS BUGLE FOR BENGAL BYPOLLS



Kolkata: The Election Commission has finally given an initial nod to Trinamool Congress demand for conducting bypolls in several Assembly constituencies which have been lying vacant either due to resignation or death of the existing MLAs. In a letter written to the district election officers (DEOs) of five districts, the chief electoral officer (CEO) of the state has asked them to arrange for first-hand testing for EVMs and VVPATs. In the letter written to the DEOs of five districts, including Kolkata, North and South 24 Parganas, Nadia and Cooch Behar dated July 16, CEO Ariz Aftab instructed them to conduct the first level checking (FLC) of all the EVMs and VVPATs following the standard protocols laid down by the Election Commission. Aftab maintained that during the FLC, all the standard protocols like 'sanitisation, social distancing and face covering' should be followed. According to the schedule announced by the poll panel, the FLC will start on August 3 and will have to be completed by August 6. As per the EC schedule, there are 3,414 EVMs and equal number of VVPATs in total and altogether 62 engineers will have to be deployed for the checking.

Panchayat polls where violence took place should be held again: Priyanka

Lakhimpur Kheri | Agencies

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, who is on a visit to Lakhimpur Kheri, on Saturday met the woman candidate of the Samajwadi Party who was allegedly molested during the block pramukh elections held recently in Uttar Pradesh. Priyanka Gandhi demanded that the panchayat polls where violence took place should be held again. She said she will write to the state election commission in this regard. Priyanka Gandhi said women will become the head, block chief, MLA, MP, chief minister, even the prime minister by their sheer hard work and BJP 'goons' cannot stop them. Priyanka visited Semra village in Pathgava block of Lakhimpur Kheri district and met the victim and assured her of justice and said that she would write a letter to the Election Commission and demand can-



cellation of the block chief elections where violence took place. In a meeting of about 20 minutes, she also hugged the victim woman, who was allegedly attacked and misbehaved with when her sari was pulled in full public view in Lakhimpur Kheri during the local polls.

New academic session for 1st yr varsity students from Oct 1: UGC

According to the guidelines by UGC Secretary Rajnish Jain, universities and colleges will start the admission process only after the class 12 board results are declared.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The new academic session for first year students to be admitted in various universities across the country will commence from October 1 this year, according to the University Grants Commission (UGC) guidelines. The CBSE has announced that it will declare the class 12 board results by July 31. The Class 12 results will also

be declared by various state boards tentatively around the same time. The admission process for the current academic session must be completed by September 30. The UGC has made it clear that the college seats left vacant during the admission process must be filled by October 31. However, the universities will accept the documents related to the admission process till December 31 this year.



Uttar Pradesh assembly secretariat bans jeans, T-shirt for staff

Lucknow: Staff working in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly Secretariat have been banned from wearing jeans and T-shirts during office hours. This order was issued by Narendra Kumar Mishra, Joint Secretary in the Vidhan Sabha Secretariat. The order says that now all the employees of the secretariat will wear clothes according to the dignity of the secretariat. This instruction has been issued to all the officers and employees of the secretariat. Now no one is allowed to enter the Secretariat wearing jeans and T-shirt or other casual wear. The order has asked all the officers and employees to wear only formal dress during office hours, as per the dignity of the secretariat.

Covid resurgence, OPEC supplies hike could come to India's aid

The benchmark Brent crude declined by 3 per cent to settle at around \$73 a barrel, while US crude has fallen by about 4 per cent to settle at about \$71 a barrel.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Fuel consumers may get some respite from rising prices of petrol and diesel as global oil scenario is expected to soften down in the coming days with oil cartel OPEC reaching an agreement to raise production to meet the growing demand. The increase in Covid cases globally have made the oil market uncertain as it has the potential to erode demand quickly.

Sources said after differences between Saudi Arabia and the UAE put off a deal at OPEC on produc-

tion cuts earlier, it is becoming increasingly clear that OPEC+ is nearing a deal that would give it better terms and allow the cartel to boost output in the coming months.

Already OPEC output in June increased by 590,000 bpd to 26.03 million bpd. In July, the output has increased further and may increase again next month.

If this happens and cases of Delta variant of Covid continues to rise globally, there could be added pressure on oil that can see a fall from current levels in coming months.

The fall this month has come after crude fell in the previous eight months as the global economy recovered from the pandemic.

With the evolving situation, analysts expect oil prices to fall below \$70 barrel soon. At inter-continental exchange benchmark Brent crude is currently hovering at \$73.59 a barrel.



The situation in global oil markets looks favourable for a oil price fall in coming days. This would be positive for India that can not only reduce its rising import bill but also keep increasing fuel prices under check."

An oil sector expert on anonymity



MAHA CONGRESS QUESTIONS ED'S 'ONE-SIDED' PROBE AGAINST ANIL DESHMUKH

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A day after the ED attached properties worth Rs 4.21 crore belonging to ex-Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh's family, the state Congress on Saturday slammed the move, terming it as a 'one-sided probe' and part of vendetta unleashed by the BJP at the Centre to target the Maha Vikas Aghadi and other opposition governments. Questioning the ED's motives, state Congress spokesperson Sachin Sawant asked why the agency has not yet arrested the bar owners who allegedly paid the bribe to Deshmukh, as claimed in a letter penned by former Mumbai Police chief Param Bir Singh.

On the ED's contention that it is investigating a land worth Rs 300 crore in Raigad belonging to Anil Deshmukh's company, Sawant said it was purchased in 2005 when the plot value was Rs 2.67 crore so why the ED didn't act then.

Referring to the price of a flat in Worli confiscated by the ED in 2004, he said when the payment for it was already made in 2004, why it is being linked to the alleged corruption cases now.

"How can the ED act on these old deals now and try to portray as if it is from the proceeds of the alleged corruption money? The ED's probe is totally one-sided. We seek answer from them,"



Sawant said.

Accusing the ED of leaking out information selectively to certain media outlets without confirming or denying them, the Congress leader demanded to know that if Singh was aware that his junior officer Sachin Vaze was told to collect Rs 100 crore, why didn't he speak or act at that time, and why the ED has still not acted against him.

"This is the same strategy that the Narendra Modi-led government has deployed since the past seven years -- misusing the official probe

agencies against opposition-ruled states, discrediting and destabilising them," Sawant said.

In the current matter, the ED is using the same modus operandi as in the case of actor Sushant Singh Rajput -- spreading falsehoods or rumours through certain media outlets and then never confirming or denying them, he said.

Sawant's statement came after the ED provisionally attached assets worth Rs 4.21 crore reportedly owned by Deshmukh's wife, Aarti Deshmukh, and a company, Premier Port Links Pvt. Ltd.

Sharad Pawar meets PM Modi ahead of monsoon session



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Two days ahead of monsoon session, the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday and talked for about 50 minutes, the Prime Minister's Office said. "Rajya Sabha MP Shri Sharad Pawar met PM Narendra Modi," the Prime Minister's Office tweeted. The monsoon session of Parliament is beginning on July 19.

The meeting took place amid reports over fissures in the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) coalition government in Maharashtra. On July 13, chief minister Uddhav

Thackeray had said that he has always been against the Congress and the NCP politically.

The Congress party and Sharad Pawar's NCP are part of the MVA and allies of Thackeray's Shiv Sena. "Politically, I have been against Congress and the NCP, but this does not mean that I will call their good work in the government wrong. Neither I nor Balasaheb Thackeray thought this," Uddhav Thackeray said. Further, it has been observed that Sena has been seen warming up to the BJP - its former alliance partner. Former Maharashtra chief minister Devendra Fadnis had said that the BJP and Sena are "not enemies," the two parties only have a difference of opinions.

Mumbai Police Files FIR against Pujari and Female Model

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The media was buzzing yesterday with allegations filed by a female model against film producer and T-Series Chairman Bhushan Kumar. T-Series had immediately issued a statement that these allegations and the FIR in DN Nagar police station is a conspiracy and is a result of failed attempt to extort money. It further said that the allegations are unsubstantiated with malicious intent to malign the reputation and image of T-Series and its Chairman.

It has now come to light that Mallikarjun Pujari a local political leader of Thane district teamed up with a female model (who also did a cameo in a film) to extort money from film producer and T-Series Chairman Bhushan Kumar. Pujari had approached Kumar in June 2021 and demanded extortion money and threatened that if the money is not paid to him then one girl will file false complaint against him for sexual harassment. Thereafter T-Series approached the Mumbai police and filed a written complaint against Pujari in Amboli police station on 1st July 2021.

Around same time Krishan Kumar of T-Series then spoke to Pujari who asked him to meet him in hotel "The Regenza by Tunga" at 1:00 PM on 5th July 2021. Kumar met him in the same hotel on 5th July 2021 wherein Pujari threatened him that one girl will file police case against Bhushan Kumar and

showed some whatsapp messages which were neither from the number of Bhushan Kumar nor from any other member of T-Series team and demanded huge sum of monies. Krishan Kumar did not agree to this extortion and told Pujari in no uncertain terms that T-Series and Bhushan Kumar will never bow down to such fraudulent extortion demands and came back but could manage to record the conversation with Mallikarjun Pujari wherein he can be heard trying to extort monies by giving the same reasoning.

Pujari kept calling Krishan Kumar but Krishan Kumar didn't give in to his demands for extortion. After realizing that his nefarious designs are not yielding any results Pujari then conspired with this girl and filed a complaint of rape charges against Bhushan Kumar in DN Nagar police station of Andheri (W) on 15th July 2021.

Our sources at Mumbai Police informed us that immediately upon hearing this news in media Krishan Kumar approached Amboli police station in Andheri (West) with audio recording of Mallikarjun Pujari in which he was clearly heard demanding extortion monies. Based on this substantive evidence, Amboli police immediately acted and registered a FIR no.574 dtd 16th July 2021 against both Mallikarjun and the girl under section 386, 500, 506 and 506(2) who has conspired to file false rape charges against Bhushan Kumar and tried to extort monies.

NCP says Maha Vikas Aghadi allies kept in loop about Pawar-Modi meeting in Delhi

The NCP shares power with the Shiv Sena and the Congress in Maharashtra as part of the MVA government that was formed after the 2019 Assembly elections.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The NCP on Saturday said that party chief Sharad Pawar's meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi earlier in the day was a scheduled one to discuss amendments to the Banking Regulation Act, among other things, and the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) allies were aware of it. Addressing a press conference, NCP spokesperson and minister Nawab Malik said that AICC general secretary HK Patil was told about this scheduled meeting when he and other Congress leaders met Pawar in Mumbai recently.

"Even Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray was apprised of this meeting," he added.

The NCP shares power with the Shiv Sena and the Congress in Maharashtra as part of the MVA government that was formed after the 2019 Assembly elections. Earlier in the day, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) tweeted a picture of the meeting between Pawar and Modi that lasted nearly an hour, during which they held talks on a number of issues. Malik said, "Amendments to Banking Regulation Act would hurt the co-operative sector banks since more powers were given to the RBI and



while cooperative banks faced restrictions in power. Cooperation is a state subject... Pawar has been discussing the issue with all the stakeholders."

"He (Pawar) had spoken to the PM over phone and it was decided to meet whenever he is in Delhi," he said. The NCP leader said that Pawar also raised the issue of handling and the process of vaccination during the meeting.

"Yesterday, CM Uddhav Thackeray had told the PM that a national policy to stop crowding at public places should be framed," he said.

Malik, however, rejected reports that Pawar had met BJP leader Devendra Fadnis in Delhi. Meanwhile, Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut, who is in Delhi, told reporters that he wasn't aware of any

meeting between Pawar and Fadnis.

"There is no politics in Pawar-Modi meeting. There can be discussions on various issues other than politics," Raut said. Meanwhile, the NCP also released a letter written by Pawar to Modi, in which he has said that although the objectives behind the amendments to the Banking Regulation Act are laudable, they do little to promote the well-being and growth of the cooperative sector. Pawar submitted the letter to Modi during their meeting on Saturday. "You recently advised the rural youth to engage in micro, small and medium size businesses along with their farming activities so as to make them 'atmanirbhar' under the adverse climatic conditions. The cooperative banks can contribute to this cause since they have expertise of lending to these first time borrowers and contribute more than 23 percent of their advances of rs 3.04 lakh crore to small and micro industries," he said.

The growth of this sector is crucial to the holistic development of the country and all efforts should be made to encourage this sector," the former Union minister added.

"The aims and objectives of the amended Act are wellintentioned and many provisions are necessary. The erring board and management must definitely be acted upon strictly and depositors' interest should be protected, but at the same time it should be ensured that while doing so, the cooperative principles laid down in the Constitution are not sacrificed at the altar of over-zealous regulation," Pawar said in the letter.

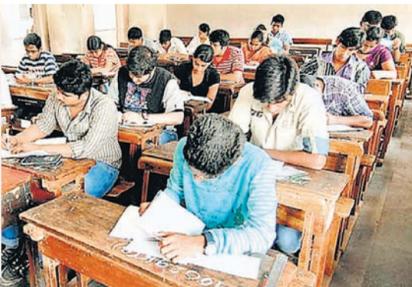
Why have 0.05% students failed the Maharashtra Class X boards?

Team Absolute | Pune

When the Maharashtra State Board of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education (MSBSHSE) announced the results of Class X, Secondary School Certificate (SSC), on Friday, it created a history of sorts as the pass percentage of 99.95 was the highest recorded in the state so far. However, the final results falling short of 100 percent has come as a surprise to many given that assessments have taken place at the school level on the basis of school exams or homework and assignments. Moreover, it was unexpected that any school will not promote its students to the next level, Class XI, as it affects the overall ranking of the school.

As of now, the final results have 758 students being declared as unsuccessful and, more importantly, nine schools in the state including two in the Pune division have posted zero percent results, which means not a single student has passed in these schools.

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single student has passed in these schools.

Students have been assessed out of maximum 100 marks for each subject. According to the evaluation pattern, the final results are based on subject-wise marks scored by a candidate in internal written evaluation conducted during the year (30 marks), homework/oral exam/practical/internal assignments as per board's policy (20 marks) and final results of Std IXth (50 marks).

While earlier it was expected that no registered student would fail since schools are tabulating results at their

level, of the 15,75,806 fresh candidates who had registered for exams, schools sent assessment reports for only 15,75,752. Of these, 15,74,994 students passed.

President, Pune district Headmasters Association, Harishchandra Gaikwad, explained the numbers thus: "In many cases, schools have not been able to contact the students for the entire year. Students may have migrated to other places with parents in search of employment. Forget about taking school exams, many schools do not have a single home assignment paper

to show. So how can they give any marks for school assessment and which is why those students may have failed. However, since yesterday, I have received a couple of calls from principals, saying they had entered student passing data but the final result shows that one or two odd students have failed in their school. There could also be mistakes in data entry since schools were doing it for the first time and some may have forgotten to click on the Confirm button to finalise data," he said.

Surprisingly, nine schools in the state had zero percent results, of which two were from Pune Division while four were from Nagpur, two from Mumbai and one from Nashik Division.

Both board officials and teachers put it down to technical or data entry errors, as it was unlikely that not a single student in the school gave any exam or assignment.

Chairman, MSBSHSE, Dinkar Patil said: "Sometimes there are errors in entering or capturing data, the school code may not have matched or must have been unavailable. We are in the process of analysing why their results are nil," he said.

More than 3 crore in Maharashtra get first dose of Covid vaccine

In the 18-44 age group, over 93 lakh beneficiaries have got the first vaccine dose while 3.9 lakh have got both jabs.

Team Absolute | Pune

Six months since the vaccination drive was launched across the country, more than 3 crore people in Maharashtra have received at least one dose of the Covid-19 vaccine. Dr Pradeep Vyas, additional chief secretary (health), Maharashtra, told The Indian Express that of these, more than 88 lakh have received the second dose also. "We lead in the number of persons fully vaccinated," said Dr Vyas. In Maharashtra, the first vaccine dose has been given to 3,00,33,080 persons while the second dose has been given to 88,29,386 persons. Across the state, as many as 3.88 crore vaccine doses have been administered. Mumbai leads in the state with more than 65 lakh total vaccine doses administered, followed by over 55 lakh doses in Pune district. Thane has administered over 30 lakh vaccine doses. Nagpur has administered over 20 lakh vaccine doses. In the 18-44 age group, over 93 lakh beneficiaries have got the first



vaccine dose while 3.9 lakh have got both jabs. Nearly 1.73 crore beneficiaries above 45 have been inoculated with the first dose, of which more than 65 lakh have got both vaccine shots. Pregnant women are being counselled by gynaecologists to go ahead with the vaccination. Gynaecologists are offering help both through tele-consultation and in-person consultation. Dr Roshan Palresha from the Emergency Medicine department of Columbia Asia Hospital, Pune, said, "Our gynaecologists, both through tele-consultation and in-person consultation, are advising pregnant women on Covid vaccination and the dos and don'ts around it. We are getting about 10 calls daily enquiring about the availability of vaccination slots, whether they should take it, how it will affect their baby and whether it might affect their fertility," said Dr Palresha.

REGISTRATION FOR MAHARASHTRA FYJC CET TO OPEN ON MONDAY, TEST TO BE HELD BY AUG 21

Team Absolute | Pune

The Maharashtra state education board will release forms for the Common Entrance Test (CET) for Class 11, or first year junior college (FYJC), on July 19 for those students who wish to take part in the entrance exam.

Dinkar Patil, chairman of the Maharashtra State Board of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education (MSBSHSE) confirmed that the CET will take place by August 21. While the CET itself is not mandatory for any student and all students who have passed Class 10 have been assured of a FYJC

seat by the Maharashtra education board, first priority in admissions would be given to candidates who have appeared for the CET.

"On Monday, we will open up registrations for the CET. Students can log in to the board website where a link will be made available. Once students enter their roll numbers, they will get an option to indicate Yes or No, asking them if they want to take the CET or not. There would be separate instructions for students of other academic boards like CBSE or ICSE. Once students have indicated their preference, they will get an option to go to the payment gateway and pay the entrance

exam fees. It is free for state board students while non-state board students will have to pay the entrance fees as decided by government," said Patil.

The syllabus for the CET will be based on the SSC syllabus. "By next week, we will release the subject and chapter-wise details based on which the tests will be conducted," said Patil.

Students of non-SSC board students will have to pay around Rs 170 to register for the CET.

The syllabus for the CET will be based on the SSC syllabus. "By next week, we will release the subject and chapter-wise details, based on which the tests will be conducted," said Patil.

Since board exams for Class X have been cancelled across boards and final results have been calculated through internal assessments done by schools, the Maharashtra school education department has announced a CET for admissions to Class 11, to ensure uniformity and to give equal opportunity to all students.

Until last year, admissions to FYJC used to take place at the college level, based on Class 10 marks except in six areas - Mumbai Metropolitan Region, Pune and Pimpri-Chinchwad municipal corporations, and municipal corporation areas of Nagpur, Nashik, Aurangabad and Amravati - where a

centralised online admission process was conducted based on Class 10 merit and the student's college preference.

Students who have taken the CET will be given priority in all junior colleges, based on merit in the CET. The FYJC admissions will take place in phases and in the first phase, students who have appeared for the CET, irrespective of board, will get admission as per merit. After their admission, students who had not opted for CET will be given admissions based on Class 10 merit.

The CET will be held offline and students will have to go to designated

exam centres to appear for the test. It will be a 100-mark multiple-choice question format exam, based on the Class X, SSC syllabus. The duration would be two hours.

The Optical Mark Recognition (OMR) based question paper will have questions from four subjects, i.e. English, Mathematics, Science and Social Sciences subjects, with each subject carrying 25 per cent weightage of marks.

A six-member committee has been formed under the chairmanship of Maharashtra Education Commissioner Vishal Solanki to finalise the dates and further details of the entrance exam.



STATE GOVERNMENT WILL FULFIL EX-MP LATE CHOUHAN'S DREAMS: CM CHOUHAN

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that the state government will leave no stone unturned to realize the unfulfilled dreams of former MP Late Nandu Kumar Singh Chouhan.

Chouhan performed bhoomi-pujan and dedicated development works worth about Rs 175 crores. These include dedication of development works worth Rs 106 crore and bhoomi-pujan of development works costing Rs 67 crore.

The programme began with the garlanding of the portrait of the Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi and former Prime Minister Late Atal Bihari Vajpayee and lighting a lamp.

Chouhan said that, adequate water must be provided to the citizens through pipelines and taps under the Jal Jeevan Mission. He directed the officers of Public Health Engineering Department to ensure that pure water is supplied through taps to every household in Burhanpur by September 25.



Chouhan released the work-plan booklet prepared by the district administration regarding the preparations for the possible third wave of Covid-19 and a booklet related to Atmanirbhar roadmap-2023 of Burhanpur district.

administration for prevention of Covid-19. He said that despite being located on the Maharashtra border, Corona has been effectively controlled in this district.

country with regard to prevention of Covid infection. Chouhan said that Burhanpur is known for the sweetest bananas in the country and abroad.

Minister in-charge Prem Singh Patel said that Burhanpur district is progressing rapidly under the leadership of Chief Minister Chouhan. He said that the development of Burhanpur will be further accelerated.

Chief Minister Chouhan dedicated 'Atal Smriti Smarak' in memory of former Prime Minister Late Atal Bihari Vajpayee in Burhanpur. He also offered floral.

Roadmap for industrial development of Burhanpur district will be prepared: CM



Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan addressed industrialists at the Investor Summit in Burhanpur on Saturday. In this summit organized at Parmanandji Govindjiwala Auditorium under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Chouhan, industrialists gave their suggestions regarding self-reliant Burhanpur.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that the roadmap for development of industries and Atma-nirbhar Burhanpur in Burhanpur district will be prepared and finalized.

Chief Minister Chouhan also invited industrialists of the district to visit Bhopal in this regard. Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan was addressing the Investor Summit on Saturday during his stay in Burhanpur under the Atma-

nirbhar Burhanpur campaign.

In this summit organized at Parmanandji Govindjiwala Auditorium under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Chouhan, industrialists gave their suggestions regarding self-reliant Burhanpur.

Divisional Commissioner Pawan Kumar Sharma, Collector Shri Praveen Singh, Superintendent of Police Rahul Kumar Lodha and other officers and industrialists were present in the summit.

Kamal Nath asks Congressmen to submit report on well collapse, party leaders meet bereaved families

The Congress leaders including former minister Jitu Patwari, MLA Kunal Choudhary, ex-MLA Nishank Jain and others reached the village.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Congress party leaders visited Ganj Basoda on Saturday to console family members of people who died after a well collapsed in Vidisha district.

The Congress leaders including former minister Jitu Patwari, MLA Kunal Choudhary, ex-MLA Nishank Jain and others reached the village and met affected families.



will raise the issue in the assembly session and take to streets.

Former chief minister Kamal Nath formed the team of four Congressmen including DCC president of Vidisha Kamal Silakari, MLA Shashank Bhargava, ex-MLA Shailendra Patel and ex-MLA Nishank Jain.

Nath has demanded ex-gratia payment of Rs 15 lakh for victims' families and also government job to the next kin of deceased.

TRAINER AIRCRAFT CRASHES IN SAGAR, NO CASUALTY



Bhopal: The crash happened on Saturday afternoon at Chimes Aviation Academy in the Dhana area of Sagar.

A trainer aircraft crashed after straying off the runway in Madhya Pradesh's Sagar on Saturday. The only occupant of the aircraft - a trainee pilot - is safe, officials said.

Age restriction ends for admission in colleges, higher education department issued guidelines

MP Government has recently decided to end age restrictions for admission in colleges and higher education departments as per guidelines issued.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh Government has recently decided to end age restrictions for admission in colleges and higher education departments as per guidelines issued.

Previously, the age for admission in UG courses was 21 while that in PG courses was 28.

With the new announcement, now any person can take admission in the courses. The session for this academic year will start in September.

the liberty to apply for a maximum of seven colleges. Similarly, as for Post Graduate Courses, there will be no age limit restriction.

HC denies bail to accused black marketing Remedisvir

The Court dismissed the bail plea, reasoning that the alleged offences are "not only serious in nature but also heinous."

Team Absolute | Indore

The Indore Bench of the Madhya Pradesh High Court on Wednesday declined to grant bail to a nursing student (applicant) alleged to have been involved in the black marketing of Remedisvir injections.

Justice Anil Verma noted that it was prima facie established that the applicant was party to the black marketing in connivance with the co-accused.

The Court further term's the applicant's alleged conduct as highly deplorable given that many persons on the death bed had been in want of Remedisvir amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

when the society at large come together to tide over their difficulties and turbulent time, whereas arising of time of COVID-19 pandemic, it is shocking to see that some persons had indulged themselves in black marketing of such drugs.

The applicant, a first year nursing student, argued that he was falsely implicated, pointing out that he was not caught red handed and that he was neither a beneficiary nor seller of the injection.

On the other hand, the State argued that it was prima facie evident that the applicant and his co-accused indulged in the black marketing of Remedisvir injections, depriving needy patients of the same.

The Court observed that during the pandemic, Remedisvir injections were in high demand. Therefore, the offences alleged to have been committed by the applicant are not only serious in nature, but also heinous, Justice Verma said.

Therefore, the Court dismissed the bail plea. "Taking into consideration all the facts and circumstances of the case as also looking to the gravity of the alleged offences, the present applicant do not deserve for the benefit of bail", the Court said.

CM PLANTS KARANJ SAPLING IN SMART GARDEN



Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan today planted sapling in Smart Garden. Chouhan on Saturday planted a sapling of Karanj, which is considered important in Ayurvedic medicine.

Mentally-Challenged Man Thrashed In Shocking Video, Cops Promise Action

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A disturbing video from Madhya Pradesh - that shows a mentally-challenged man being brutally thrashed - has caught the attention of officials who've promised tough action against the accused.

The men drag him across the road while one of them continues to hit him. The video was shot apparently during evening hours and the marketplace was quite crowded.

Some people stop their vehicles to see what's happening yet no one comes forward to intervene.



Some people stop their vehicles to see what's happening yet no one comes forward to intervene. "His hand is broken it seems," says an onlooker.

a mentally unstable man. We've taken suo moto cognizance of video and are working to track the culprits. Stern action will be taken.

18-year-old lodges rape complaint against husband

Team Absolute | Bhopal

An 18-year-old girl has lodged a complaint of rape against her husband. The incident occurred in Kamla Nagar area of Piplani when she had stayed with her husband in April and May this year.

The complainant is a native of Betul district. After her marriage, the couple lived in Piplani between April and first week of May. Later, her husband got a job in a private firm in Indore

and they moved from Bhopal to Indore in May second week.

However, she left her husband and returned to her family in Betul district where she lodged a rape complaint against her husband few days back. The diary was transferred to Piplani police in Bhopal on Friday where a case was registered against her husband.

GOVERNOR MAKES COURTESY CALL ON VP



Bhopal: Governor Mangubhai Patel made a courtesy call on Vice President Venkaiah Naidu. Patel reached the Vice President's residence this morning.

Former minister's supporters allegedly remove plaque from Katju Hospital in a fight for 'credit'

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The ongoing tussle between the ruling party BJP and the opposition Congress over the credit for renovation of Dr Kailash Nath Katju Hospital in the state capital took an interesting turn on Saturday when a group of persons, who were said to be supporters of former minister Umashankar Gupta, removed the plaque from the hospital and replaced it with a new one with name of Gupta inscribed on it.



have raised serious objections against the alleged act of Gupta and his followers.

As per Congress leaders, Gupta and his followers' act was pre-planned as they reached the hospital in the name of observation of the facilities at the hospital and removed the plaque.

parliament from Bhopal Praga Thakur, Congress MLA PC Sharma dedicated the hospital to the public on July 2 and their names were inscribed over the plaque.

While talking to media PC Sharma alleged that the work of Gupta and his followers was unconstitutional and that Congress would oppose the same.

One killed, 20 injured as bus overturns in Anuppur

According to passengers, the driver was driving rashly and speeding, causing the bus to overturn at Baihar Ghat.

Team Absolute | Anuppur

One person was killed and 20 others injured when a private bus overturned in Madhya Pradesh's Anuppur district on Saturday, police said.

The accident occurred around 9 am when the bus, with 25 people on board, was heading to Shahdol from Amarkantak, Jaithari police station in-charge KK Tripathi said.

According to passengers, the driver was driving rashly and speeding, causing the bus to overturn at Baihar Ghat. A 27-year-old man died on the spot, while 20 other passengers sustained injuries and were rushed to the district hospital in Anuppur, he said.



SIZZELING DIVAS AT amfAR GALA, CANNES FILM FESTIVAL

WHAT MADE SOPHIA TO BE SYLVIE IN 'LOKI'?

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Sophia Di Martino says she had a great time working on her character Sylvie in the web series *Loki*. She says the most interesting thing for her was how broken her character was, adding that she finds it interesting to play characters that are damaged. The actress said that her approach to getting into the character was to do her own research.

"So, I watched all of the Tom (Hiddleston) stuff and I watched the films and then I sort of tried to forget about it because I really didn't want to just do an impression of Tom's *Loki*. That would have been really bad because I am terrible at impressions, so I just wanted to make it my own and a lot of it started with fighting style and one of the first things we did in prep was to start working with stunt team and work on the fight scenes, so there was a lot to learn," she said.

Di Martino says that her character is not trained in martial arts and that is why the makers were keen on making the role being rough. "We were very keen on

Sylvie being rough with her fighting style because she's a street fighter, she's a brawler; she's not trained in martial arts or anything like that. She just uses her strength and her bravery to get through each fight," she said.

The actress added: "She enjoys fighting, she enjoys the adrenaline of it, the rush of it and she gets a kick out of the fight and that told me a lot

about her character. She's this sort of feral cat almost, she knows she'll win and if not win then she'll survive." *"Loki"* airs on Disney+ Hotstar VIP and Disney+ Hotstar Premium.



“ The most interesting thing for me is how broken she is and I find it interesting to do characters who are damaged and who sort of wear a lot of armour but they also get a chance to share their vulnerability, and within that I find that there's fun stuff to play. She's also really funny and she gets all the funny lines, which is always fun.

I hate responsibility: Hugh Grant

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actor Hugh Grant has revealed that he detests responsibilities. The subject came up on "The Drew Barrymore Show", when Grant spoke of raising five children. "I hate responsibility. I don't want this. I am looking after five children and an elderly father and I don't like it. I keep looking around for someone more grown up to come and do it for me," Grant said.

Barrymore pointed out: "And yet, the last time we talked the way that you talk about the way you look at life now having five children's eyes to look through, look after and look into."

To this, Grant replied saying agrees this is the happiest he has been. "I'm simultaneously utterly exhausted and miserable and clearly the happiest I have ever been. I see that now. It is so nice -- all those clichés are true and all that love is just so nice." "Not just the children but the wife as well. I have a top wife, you must meet her. She is terrifying, much more manly than me but really cool, and I am happy," he said on the show, which airs on Zee Cafe in India.



'I WAS ALWAYS THE UGLY ONE'

London | Agencies

Former S Club 7 singer Jo O'Meara has admitted she empathises with Little Mix's Jesy Nelson as she also felt like the 'ugly one' in her pop group.

The 42-year-old singer revealed on Friday that she felt insecure as part of the hit nineties band due to comments about her weight.

Jo told The Sun: "When I look back, I wasn't that big really. But because I was standing next to three absolutely stunning girls, I was always the ugly one that sang the songs."

The singer shot to fame with hits such as *Reach Up For The Stars* alongside Rachel Stevens, Hannah Spearritt, Tina Barrett, Bradley McIntosh, Jon Lee and Paul Cattermole, reports *dailymail.co.uk*.

Jo told the paper she could relate to Jesy, who received a barrage of body shaming messages and comparisons to her bandmates Leigh-Anne Pinnock, Perrie Edwards and Jade Thirlwall before quitting Little Mix in December. Jesy wrote in her leaving statement at the time: "The truth is recently being in the band has really taken a toll on my mental health."

"I find the constant pressure of being in a girl group and living up to expectations very hard," she added.



S Club 7's Jo O'Meara admits she empathises with Little Mix's Jesy Nelson after struggling with body-shaming and insecurities

Kanye West and Irina Shayk still dating

Los Angeles | Agencies

Kanye West and Irina Shayk 'are still very much dating' despite reports of a split as sources claimed the supermodel is very upset over the 'lies' their relationship ended. "They are very much still dating, they were just together for the 4th of July weekend in San Francisco where he's working right now," an insider revealed to PEOPLE.

The couple has been linked together for

months and were first spotted on a romantic date in Provence in June, but most recently brought their love to the West Coast. Sources reported earlier this week that Irina just wanted to remain friends after not receiving an invitation to Paris with Kanye as he traveled to France for work, reports *dailymail.co.uk*.

'Irina is so upset at the lies about her and Kanye,' the source noted before adding that the model 'was moved to take legal action to set the record straight.'



ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Christina Carmela



DRAVID'S TEST AS INDIAN SENIOR TEAM COACH BEGINS

The former India batsman is the director of the National Cricket Academy and has been tasked with the grooming of youngsters. He has travelled with many of the players in Sri Lanka as part of the A team on overseas tours.

For India, the focus will be on how Hardik Pandya fares as a bowler as he recovers from a back injury. He will be needed as an all-rounder during the T20 World Cup. The focus will also be on six debutants - Devdutt Padikkal, Nitish Rana, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Chetan Sakariya, Varun Chakravathy, and Krishnappa Gowtham.



are yet to play. As many as six Indian players are uncapped although they have the high-profile Indian Premier League (IPL) experience under their belt. While these are the last set of limited-overs

internationals that India play ahead of the T20 World Cup in October-November, and they may not pick many new faces for the World Cup squad -- which is by now more or less settled -- the point of interest will be Dravid's handling of the team.

Dravid's big challenge will be his communication with the Indian team management in England for the Test series. Skipper Virat Kohli and head coach Ravi Shastri, who will comprise the team management in the T20 World Cup, will have to be kept informed about the development of the current side and their requirements will have to be taken into account.

The Indians will start favourites against a Sri Lanka side that is missing some of its top players. Three of their key players -- wicketkeeper Niroshan Dickwella, batsmen Kusal Mendis and Danushka Gunathilaka - have been suspended on disciplinary grounds for breaching the bio-secure environment during the tour of England.

Batsman Kusal Perera, who won't play the ODI and T20I series, and pacer Binura Fernando, who will miss the ODIs but play T20Is, are also missing from the squad.

Colombo | Agencies

After over two-and-a-half weeks of stay here without any competitive cricket, the Indian limited-overs team will finally get down to business in the first ODI on Sunday at the R Premadasa Stadium against Sri Lanka in what will be the first test for Rahul Dravid as coach of a senior national team.

The Indian team, led by Shikhar Dhawan, includes a few youngsters, some of who have played a few matches for India while some others

First COVID-19 case emerges in Olympic Games Village

Tokyo | Agencies

Six days before the opening ceremony of the Tokyo Olympics, a "non-athlete person" tested positive for COVID-19 in the Games Village. The organising committee confirmed on Saturday that a case had been detected in the Village.

"There was one person in the Village. That was the very first case in the Village that was reported during the screening test," said Masa Takaya, spokesperson for the Tokyo organising committee, in a press conference.

The person, whose identity organisers have refused to reveal, has been removed from the Village and transferred to a medical facility. Since the Village was opened on Tuesday, many athletes



and officials are starting to check in ahead of the start of the Olympics.

"We are doing everything to prevent any COVID-19 outbreaks. We are sparing no efforts. We are doing everything we can to prevent any outbreaks. If we end up with an outbreak, we will make sure we have a plan in place to respond," said Seiko

Hashimoto, the chief of the Olympic Games in Tokyo.

The Tokyo Olympics had already been delayed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Olympics are slated to start on July 23 and run until August 8. Spectators are not allowed to attend events due to the spread of the virus in Tokyo, placed under fourth state of emergency.

AIFF ANNOUNCES COVID-19 RELIEF GRANT FOR REFEREES

New Delhi: The All India Football Federation (AIFF) on Saturday announced a COVID-19 relief grant to support the Category 1 and 2 active referees, and assistant referees who have been adversely affected financially by the COVID-19 pandemic. The grant is a one-time financial assistance for match officials who are managed by the AIFF through their participation as officials in AIFF competitions. The match officials eligible for the COVID-19 relief grant are those who do not have a permanent job or income aside from the match fee and allowances earned through officiating in football competitions as on June 2021.

Shakib takes five, Das slams century as B'desh crush Zimbabwe

Harare | Agencies

All-rounder Shakib Al Hasan took five wickets to become Bangladesh's top wicket-taker in ODI history as they defeated Zimbabwe by 155 runs in the opening tie of the three-match series at the Harare Sports Club here.

The all-rounder now has 274 wickets at 29.44, five more than second-placed Mashrafe Mortaza (269 at 32.65).

Liton Das set up the win for Bangladesh on Friday night through a 114-ball 102 before Shakib sealed it with a five-wicket haul.

Thanks to Das's workmanlike century, built with the help of eight boundaries and no sixes, Bangladesh scored 276/9 in 50 overs and then dismissed the hosts for 121 in 28.5 overs.

With this win, Bangladesh consolidated their second spot on the ICC World Cup Super League standings and now are on 60 points. Zimbabwe faltered early in



Brief scores

Bangladesh 276/9 in 50 overs (L Das 102, Mahmudullah 33, A Hossain 45, M Miraz 26) beat Zimbabwe 121 in 28.5 overs (R Chahabva 54; S Al Hasan 5/30) by 155 runs.

their chase as they lost both their openers within the first five overs with Taskin Ahmed (1/22) and Mohammad Saifuddin (1/23) picking up a wicket each. Brendan Taylor and Regis Chakabva tried to

provide some solidity to the innings but once the skipper was dismissed by Shakib (5/30) for 24, the rest of the lineup folded quickly.

The two sides will face off in the second ODI on July 18.

Evin Lewis smashes 34-ball 79 as West Indies tame Australia

Gros Islet (St Lucia) | Agencies

West Indies scored a thrilling 16-run victory over Australia in the fifth and final T20I with Evin Lewis smashing a 34-ball 79 and Fabian Allen taking a breath-taking catch as the hosts wrapped up the series 4-1 at the Daren Sammy Cricket Ground here.

West Indies set an imposing 199/8 in their 20 overs before they restricted the visitors to 183/9 on Saturday (IST). Left-hander Lewis smashed nine sixes -- including the 100th of his career -- as West Indies made 81 runs in the power play, which set the stage for their match-winning target.

The innings was built on four 40-plus partnerships for each of first four wickets -- 40 (27 balls) by Lewis and Andre Fletcher; 43 (14 balls) by Lewis and Chris Gayle; 41 (27 balls) by Lewis and Lendl Simmons; and 44 (23 balls) by Simmons and skipper Nicholas Pooran. Then, Sheldon Cottrell 3/28 and Andre Russell, who returned a career-best 3/43, ensured victory for the hosts.

Fabian Allen's catch was the one of the highlights of the match as, field-



Brief scores

West Indies 199/8 in 20 overs (E Lewis 79, N Pooran 31; A Tye 3/37, M Marsh 2/12, A Zampa 2/30) beat Australia 183/9 in 20 overs (A Finch 34, M Marsh 30; A Russell 3/43, S Cottrell 3/28) by 16 runs.

ing at long-on, he sprinted around the boundary, then dived full stretch to record a superb one-handed catch to dismiss Australia captain Aaron Finch off leg-spinner Hayden Walsh Jr. It was the game-changing moment

as Australia lost their third wicket in the 10th over with the score on 95. It was one of two catches that Allen took on Saturday as he ended the series with seven -- the most by any player in a bilateral T20I series.

UEFA announces Champions League final venues till 2025

Nyon (Switzerland): Europe's football governing body UEFA has confirmed the list of host cities for the Champions League finals for the next four seasons till 2025.

Due to the shake-up in final venues caused by the pandemic, a new schedule was announced by the UEFA on its Twitter handle. Krestovsky Stadium in St Petersburg, Russia will host the final in 2022. The Ataturk Olympic Stadium in Istanbul, which lost the 2021 final hosting to Porto will now be the hosts for the final in 2023. The 2021 final, played between Chelsea and Manchester City, was eventually moved to Porto because of the UK government's travel restrictions to Turkey. The 2020 final too was moved from Istanbul to Lisbon, Portugal's capital, due to the pandemic. The Allianz Arena in Munich, Germany, originally scheduled to be the venue for the 2023 final, will now host the 2025 final. London's Wembley Stadium retains the hosting rights for the 2024 final.



Livingstone's century in vain as Pakistan win opening T20I

Nottingham | Agencies

Liam Livingstone slammed the fastest T20I ton by an England player but couldn't take his side to victory as Pakistan notched a 31-run win in the opening tie of the three-match series at Trent Bridge.

Livingstone smashed nine sixes and six fours in a 43-ball 103 but Pakistan bowlers held their nerve to eke out a hard-fought victory on Friday night. Shadab Khan turned the tables in Pakistan's favour, dismissing Lewis Gregory (10) and Livingstone in the 17th over to leave the



hosts struggling on 183/7, 50 runs behind their 233-run target. England's chase lost

steam after Livingstone's dismissal as they were bowled out for 201 with four balls

spare. Opener Jason Roy (32 off 13 balls, three sixes, two fours) was the only other batsman besides Livingstone to trouble Pakistan bowlers.

For Pakistan, Shaheen Afridi and Shadab Khan took three wickets each.

Earlier a record-setting batting performance by Pakistan saw them post 232/6 in their allotted 20 overs.

Brief scores: Pakistan 232/6 in 20 overs (B Azam 85, M Rizwan 63, F Zaman 26; T Curran 2/47) beat England 201 in 19.2 overs (L Livingstone 103, J Roy 32; S Afridi 3/30, S Khan 3/52) by 31 runs.

Tsitispas stunned in Hamburg Open

Hamburg: Serbian Filip Krajinovic, ranked 44th in the world, shocked top seed Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece 3-6, 6-1, 6-3 at the Hamburg European Open to reach the semifinals and claim a third top-10 win of his career. The sixth seed fought back after losing the first five games on Friday evening, claiming nine of the next 11 to advance in two hours and one minute. He won 76 per cent of his first-service points against the world No. 4 Tsitispas, using the drop shot to great effect to reach his first last-4 of the season. Krajinovic will next face countryman Laslo Djere after the Serbian eased past third-seeded Georgian Nikoloz Basilashvili 6-2, 6-2. Second seed Pablo Carreno Busta of Spain also marched into the last-4 as he defeated Dusan Lajovic of Serbia 7-6(4), 6-3 in one hour and 38 minutes. He will next play Federico Delbonis of Argentina after the world No. 48 defeated eighth seed Benoit Paire of France 4-6, 7-6(9), 6-4.



Aditi Ashok on the cusp of historic win in LPGA Tour

Michigan: Aditi Ashok has the chance of creating history for Indian golf as she moved to within 18 holes of becoming the first-ever winner on the LPGA Tour. At the \$2.3 million Dow Great Lakes Bay Invitational, being played at the Midland Country Club, in Midland, Michigan, the 23-year-old from Bengaluru and her 22-year-old partner from Thailand, Pajaree Anannurukarn, were joint leaders at 15-under par following a three-under par third-round on Friday.



Quite incredibly, the Indo-Thai pair is bogey-free for the tournament in the three rounds. Given that two of these three rounds were played in alternate shots format, which is considered one of the toughest scoring formats in the sport, that achievement becomes even more significant.

OLYMPICS: WEIGHTLIFTER MIRABAI STARTS PRACTICE, SHOOTERS, ROWERS LAND IN TOKYO

In a short video provided by the Sports Authority of India, her coach Sharma is praising and encouraging her to do the lifts well. The 26-year-old is seen as a big medal contender in the women's 49 kg category. Athletes of different disciplines have already arrived and started to practice. The rowing team of Arjun Lal Jat and Arvind Singh also reached Tokyo on Friday and are practising for their event, men's lightweight double sculls.



Tokyo | Agencies

Indian weightlifter Saikhom Mirabai Chanu had her first practice session in Tokyo on Saturday. Mirabai, along with her coach Vijay Sharma, assistant coach Sandeep Kumar and other members of the staff had landed in Tokyo from the training base in St Louis, USA on Friday. On Saturday, Mirabai was seen in a

high intensity training session, lifting weights with a mask on her face and trying to work on her snatch lift.

Mirabai will be trying to make amends for a disappointing show at the Rio Olympics in 2016. Mirabai's event will take place on July 24, a day after the opening ceremony.

Meanwhile, the Indian shooting team landed in Tokyo on Saturday. The 15-member

squad, along with coaches and support staff, touched down in Tokyo after leaving their training base of Zagreb in Croatia via Amsterdam.

The National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) posted a tweet of the shooting team's arrival in Tokyo for the Olympics. The squad comprises of Aishwary Prapat Singh Tomar, Abhishek Verma, Angad Vir Singh Bajwa, Anjum Moudgil, Apurv Chandela, Deepak Kumar, Divyansh Singh Panwar, Elavenil Valarivan, Mairaj Ahmad Khan, Manu Bhaker, Rahi Sarobhat, Sanjeev Rajput, Saurabh Chaudhary, Tejaswini Sawant and Yashaswini Singh Deswal.

The shooting events begin on July 24 with 10m air rifle for women and 10m air pistol for men. Before them, the sailing team of Varun Thakkar, Ganapathy Chengappa, Vishnu Saravanan and Nethra Kumanan had arrived and began its practice sessions. The sailing competition begins on July 25.

Super Fit Mugdha Godse

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Mugdha Godse looks absolutely smashing in these new stills from her latest shoot. The camera loves her and each frame is a work of art with Mugdha in it. She was a supermodel before becoming an actress. So a great body language is natural to her and she knows her angled well. Mugdha can carry off a one-piece or a bikini with the same elan as a saree. She is keeping super fit even during the lockdown and that is evident in the latest pictures.

In a quick chat Mugdha says, "The lockdown initially was a difficult time. Then I channelized it to do things I have always wanted. I focused on training and working out at home, using the body to its full potential. I started cooking, learned a few skills online, and just had great conversations using technology with people I have always wanted to. The mind is in the right place and that is an important aspect when it comes to performing in front of the camera. The camera catches everything and one can't hack it. Hope we are all taking our precautions and let's get vaccinated whenever we get a chance. Prayers and love for all." Mugdha Godse has been super fit and is looking gorgeous on these pictures from her latest photoshoot.

Mugdha Godse looks absolutely smashing in these new stills from her latest shoot. The camera loves her and each frame is a work of art with Mugdha in it. She was a supermodel before becoming an actress. So a great body language is natural to her

and she knows her angled well. Mugdha can carry off a one-piece or a bikini with the same elan as a saree. She is keeping super fit even during the lockdown and that is evident in the latest pictures.



NAYANTHARA TO BE PART OF 'BAHUBALI: BEFORE THE BEGINNING'?

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The much talked-about digital series "Bahubali: Before The Beginning" has reportedly roped in South star Nayanthara for a pivotal role. The series is a prequel to SS Rajmouli's "Baahubali" franchise. Punjabi actress Wamiqa Gabbi has stepped into the shoes of Sivagami in the story that charts her journey to becoming the queen of Mahismati. However, details of Nayanthara's role are kept under wraps, according to peeping-moon.com. The production house is waiting for the monsoons to get over, so that they can build the lavish set of Mahismati, the site added. The series is expected to go on floors by September. Reports suggest that the series was earlier shot and wrapped in 2018 but the final product was not satisfactory. Hence, the series will be shot again with a fresh cast.



MIMOH CHAKRABORTY SPENDS TIME E-LEARNING

Team Absolute | Mumbai



Actor Mimoh Chakraborty, son of veteran star Mithun Chakraborty, has been spending time e-learning various languages. "Learning is a great process and keeps us in the present. It's a great time to invest in learning something new and really taking time for ourselves. We are mostly in our homes and the web is our great friend now. Let's take out time to figure out where we wish to go and keep adding to our armory all the necessary tools to get us there," Mimoh said. He added: "It can be software, data analysis, painting, communication, and just about anything and we would have a good time as well as we would be passionate about learning what we wish to." Mimoh had earlier shared he has taken up mixed martial arts and crossfit to stay in shape.



ALIA FLAUNTS SVELTE FIGURE AS SHE TAKES PART IN FITNESS CHALLENGE

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood actress Alia Bhatt on Saturday shared a picture on flaunting perfect figure, saying she is halfway through with a 40-day fitness challenge she has taken up. In the Instagram picture, Alia is seen taking a mirror selfie dressed in a teal sports bra and lycra pants. "20 done 20 to go #sohfit40daychallenge," she wrote as caption.

Alia's mother Soni Razdan commented on the picture: "Wow." Actress Katrina Kaif wrote with a fire emoji: "Uh-huh." Alia replied: "@Katrinakaif omg I got the 'Katy approval!'"

Fashion designer Manish Malhotra gushed: "Uff Uff Uff. Wah Wah Wah." Alia currently awaits the release of Sanjay Leela Bhansali's film "Gangubai Kathiawadi". The film is inspired by a true story and is based on a chapter of Hussain Zaidi's book "Mafia Queens Of Mumbai".

Kailash Kher: People are fond of albums more than before

Ila Sankrityayan | Mumbai

Kailash Kher became a national sensation singing "Allah ke bande" 18 years ago, in the 2003 Bollywood film "Waisa Bhi Hota Hai Part II". Even today when the song plays you wish to hear it once more. Kher, whose distinct vocal quality has helped him carve a niche over the years, has been lately seen on the music reality show "Indian Pro Music League". "I started my musical journey long back but I still feel like a lot has been missed and I need to explore more. I am blessed that both my Bollywood and non-Bollywood songs have been appreciated," he says.

The music industry has been severely affected during the pandemic as not much is happening these days and the Sufi singer feels smaller musicians have faced a lot during this period.

"We need a crowd to showcase our talent and while well-known musicians can survive as they have that strength and popularity, the smaller musicians who work on a daily basis have faced a lot of issues. Their families have suffered to a great extent," he feels.

Kher says in such a competitive scenario where there is a challenge at every step, it is not easy for newcomers to survive. It is not a cakewalk. Opening up on availability of opportunities for emerging artists, he says: "It's not possible to see miracles happening overnight, and success is definitely not about just one day. It takes years. There are several stairs, and one needs to climb those to reach the top. But I think if established names hold hands or support young artists, then the struggle is a bit easier." These days, he is focussed on the Kailash Kher Academy for learning arts, apart from his new album, "Kailasa".



Miracles happen when you dare to dream big: Elli AvrRam

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Elli AvrRam says working with Amitabh Bachchan in the upcoming film "Goodbye" is a miracle. She shared her sentiments with a

picture she posted on Saturday, posing alongside Bachchan.

"Dear fan-fam, here's what's next! Remember the script I was holding, but not sharing? Well it was 'Goodbye' with one and only @amitabhbachchan sir. I still remember how I used to dance on Shava Shava, back home in Sweden with my girlfriends, and today, I'm getting to act with sir!!!! O m g. All I can

say is Miracles do happen, when you dare to Dream Big. Cant wait for next schedule to start soon!!! #goodbye," the actress wrote.

Vikas Bahl's directorial "Goodbye" also features Neena Gupta, Telugu actress Rashmika Mandanna and Pavaal Gulati.

Elli was last seen featured alongside Aamir Khan in the song "Har funn maula" in the film "Koi Jaane Na".



Sonal Chauhan