

absolute india

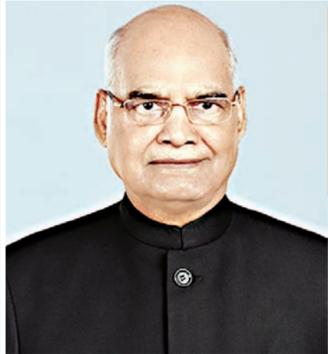
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PUBLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM MUMBAI, BHOPAL AND NEW DELHI



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Mamata announces 'Khela Hobe Diwas' in Bengal...		'Happier than ever'...		Pandya bowled in intra-squad game, final call yet to be made...	

PRESIDENT APPOINTS NEW GOVERNORS FOR 8 STATES



Team Absolute | New Delhi

In a major reshuffle, President Ram Nath Kovind on Tuesday appointed eight new governors giving them charge of administration of new states. While many were transferred, others were new appointments.

P.S. Sreedharan Pillai, Governor of Mizoram, was transferred and appointed as Governor of Goa; Satyadev Narayan Arya, Governor of Haryana is transferred and appointed as Governor of Tripura; Ramesh Bais, Governor of Tripura is transferred and appointed as Governor of Jharkhand; Bandaru Dattatraya, Governor of Himachal Pradesh is transferred and appointed as Governor of Haryana. Besides, Member of parliament to the 16th Lok Sabha from Visakhapatnam Hari Babu Kambhampati has been appointed as Governor of Mizoram. Gujarat Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel as Governor of Madhya Pradesh and former Speaker of Goa Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar as Governor of Himachal Pradesh.

Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel appointed as Governor of Madhya Pradesh. Thaawarchand Gehlot, who currently serves as Cabinet Minister, has been appointed as Governor of Karnataka. The appointments will take effect from the dates they assume charge of their respective offices, said the office of the President.

Union cabinet reshuffle on Wednesday evening

BJP MPs likely to be inducted into the cabinet have started arriving in the national capital. Scindia, Sonowal, Anupriya Patel, Paras and some others are likely to be included in the cabinet.

Sources said that the new cabinet will be young, and have proper representation of all the communities, while some non-performing ministers will be dropped as the Prime Minister has personally reviewed performance of the present ministers.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Putting end to a month long speculation, the reshuffle of the Narendra Modi cabinet is all set to take place on Wednesday evening.

A party functionary said that the new union cabinet will be one of the youngest in terms of average age and tone has been set by appointing Union Minister Thawarchand Gehlot the Governor of Karnataka. Another party insider said that everyone will get proper representation in

the cabinet to send a message that the Modi government is the government of all and especially for the poor and deprived section of society. Sources said that about two dozen ministers will be inducted taking care of poll-bound states and social equations. It is learnt that young and new faces will also get majority of ministerial berths in the cabinet reshuffle.

Alliance partners will also be given ministerial berths in reshuffle, especially the Janta Dal-United (JD-U) and Apna Dal, who currently have no representation. On Tuesday evening, ahead of reshuffle, BJP chief J.P. Nadda and General Secretary, Organisation, B.L. Santhosh discussed the cabinet expansion. Sources said that Jyotiraditya Scindia, who is likely to be inducted in Modi cabinet, has cut short his visit to Indore in Madhya Pradesh and is reaching the national capital in evening.

Amid the buzz, a video of former union minister late Ram Vilas Paswan's brother Pashupati Paras went viral in which he is seen buying clothes for his new 'kurta' he is likely to wear in swearing in ceremony.

Another BJP functionary said that alliance partner Janta Dal United (JD-U) leaders -- R.C.P. Singh and Rajeev Ranjan 'Lallan' are also reaching the national capital. Apna Dal chief Anupriya Patel is also likely to be made minister. She was part of the Modi government in the first term.

GOVERNMENT CREATES NEW MINISTRY OF CO-OPERATION
New Delhi: The Modi government on Tuesday created a new 'Ministry of Co-operation', a day before the impending Cabinet reshuffle. This ministry will provide a separate administrative, legal and policy framework for strengthening the cooperative movement in the country. In a statement, the Cabinet Secretariat said, "In a historic move, a separate 'Ministry of Co-operation' has been created by the Modi government for realising the vision of 'Sahkar se Samridhi'." It will help deepen co-operatives as a true people-based movement reaching up to

MVA govt tables three farm law amendment bills in Assembly



- The rejection of the three agriculture laws brought out by the Centre is one of the three resolutions approved by the state cabinet.
- The government has set a deadline of 2 months for suggestions
- The MVA government had on Saturday reiterated its stand against the central farm laws, stating that it will oppose them by passing a resolution in the Legislative Assembly

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Maha Vikas Aghadi government on Tuesday tabled three farm law amendment bills in the Maharashtra Assembly, and sought suggestions from the public regarding amendments if needed in the proposed bills. The government has set a deadline of 2 months for suggestions.

The rejection of the three agriculture laws brought out by the Centre is one of the three resolutions approved by the state cabinet and moved during the Monsoon Session of the state legislature that began on Monday.

The MVA government had on Saturday reiterated its stand against the central farm laws, stating that it will

oppose them by passing a resolution in the Legislative Assembly.

The All India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination Committee (AIKSCC) had last week appealed to the state government to ensure that the laws are fully repealed and not accepted with any amendments.

"In the interest of Maharashtra farmers, we demand that the state government take an unequivocal stand on the issue by passing a resolution in the Legislature asking the Centre to revoke the three disputed farm laws, and enact a central law that gives a fair guarantee to agriculture produce," AIKSCC president Ashok Dhawale and other leaders said in a joint statement.

Will roll back easing of Covid restrictions, warns Health Ministry

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Union Health Ministry on Tuesday warned that gross violations of Covid-19 appropriate behaviour after lifting lockdown restrictions in different parts of the country can lead to the easing being nullified.

During a briefing on the situation of the second wave of Covid-19 pandemic, which is on a downward trajectory at the moment in the country, the ministry highlighted pictures from different places showing gross violation of Covid protection rules.

Referring to the massive footfall of people in hill stations like Manli, Shimla, and Mussoorie, Joint Secretary, Health, Lav Agarwal on Tuesday stated that people travelling to hill stations are not following Covid appropriate behaviour.

He also cited recent incidents of overcrowding at markets in Delhi and Mumbai.



"We can nullify the ease in restrictions again if protocols are not complied with," he said. After the lockdown restrictions were lifted, people think that the Covid pandemic has gone, but they must understand the fact that second wave is still existent in a limited way in some areas, Agarwal added.

GOLD FUTURES NEAR RS 48K/10 GM, SILVER ABOVE RS 70K/KG

Mumbai: Gold futures remained firm on Tuesday with the August contract of the yellow metal on the Multi-Commodity Exchange (MCX) nearing the Rs 48,000 per 10 gram level. Currently, the August contract of gold on MCX is at Rs 47,882 per 10 gram, higher by Rs 583 or 1.23 per cent from its previous close.

Tapan Patel, Senior Analyst (Commodities), HDFC Securities, said that international gold prices rallied, giving breakout of short term resistance above \$1,800 per ounce. The weaker dollar and economic growth concerns over higher oil prices boosted buying in gold for the day, he said. The silver contract on the MCX was trading at Rs 70,637 per kg, higher by Rs 598 or 0.85 per cent from its previous close.

Punjab Police bust espionage network, two Army personnel held

- The two arrested soldiers include Sepoy Harpreet Singh (23), was posted in J&K's Anantnag. He joined the Army in 2017 and belongs to 19 Rashtriya Rifles.
- The other, Sepoy Gurbhuj Singh (23), belongs to 18 Sikh Light Infantry and was working as a clerk in an army establishment in Kargil. He had joined the Army in 2015.

Team Absolute | Chandigarh

Punjab Police on Tuesday said it had busted a major cross-border espionage network with the



arrest of two Indian Army personnel on charges of spying and providing classified documents to Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI).

Sharing details, Director General of Police Dinkar Gupta said Jalandhar Rural police, led by SSP Naveen Singla, while investigating a drug case, got tip-offs relating to the functioning and deployment of the Indian Army from cross-border drug smuggler Ranvir Singh, who was arrested with 70 grams heroin on May 24. He said

that, during interrogation, Ranvir Singh disclosed that he got these documents from Harpreet Singh, who was his friend, as they both belong to the same village.

He said both the accused had already shared photos of over 900 classified documents, pertaining to defence of the country and national security to Ranvir Singh between February and May, who had further passed them on to the Pakistani intelligence.

Minor's rape case: 30 chargesheets against 42 persons

CHIKKAMAGALURU | Agencies

The number of chargesheets submitted to the local court till date number 30 with 42 persons accused, in the sensational rape case of a 15-year old school girl, reported in the Sringeri police station limits. The incident was reported to police in January 2020.

Police sources explained that they had to submit more number of chargesheets as the time, date, place, date of offence and even accused are different. The first charge sheet was submitted within 60 days of the reporting of the incident in January 2020. Subsequently, additional chargesheets were filed.

The school-going minor girl was staying with her aunt near a stone quarry. One miscreant violated her after making her nude video and blackmailing the victim. Later, the victim's aunt turned villain,



and allowed her exploitation for four months from September to January 2020. The accused persons charged with sexually exploiting her, shot videos and blackmailed her for sexual favours. Though aware of all these facts, the aunt is said to have turned a blind eye to the plight of the girl.

The incident took a new turn when local District Committee President Subramanya lodged a complaint after getting a tip-off from villagers about the incident in January 2020. After the complaint the victim was rescued and details of the accused obtained. The accused belonged to various political parties who wielded influence on the police.

Centre asks SC to transfer pleas against new IT rules to itself

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Centre on Tuesday moved the Supreme Court, seeking it transfer to itself, all petitions pending in various high courts across the country challenging the validity of new IT Rules. The Centre has emphasised the petitions challenging the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, should be transferred to the apex court for an authoritative pronouncement on the issue, said a source.

The petitions have challenged the new IT Rules intended to regulate social media firms like Facebook, Twitter as well as OTT players.

The Centre moved the transfer plea against the backdrop of several high courts including Delhi, Bombay, Madras and Kerala High Courts being seized of petitions challenging the new IT Rules.



well as OTT players. The Centre moved the transfer plea against the backdrop of several high courts including Delhi, Bombay, Madras and Kerala High Courts being seized of petitions challenging the new IT Rules.

TWITTER WILL BE IN TROUBLE IF IT FAILS TO COMPLY WITH INDIA RULES: HC

New Delhi: In a major setback for Twitter in India, the Delhi High Court on Tuesday pulled up the micro-blogging site for failing to appoint resident grievance officer (RGO), saying, "How long will your process take place? This cannot be allowed", even as the court free pass to the central government to act against the social media firm. A bench of Justice Rekha Palli told Twitter's counsel, "Come up with a clear response, otherwise you will be in trouble". The high court told central government counsel: "We are not stopping you from taking action, court has not granted any protection to Twitter. If they are in violation, you know what to do."

GOVT REBUTS UN, SAYS STAN SWAMY'S DETENTION WAS LAWFUL

New Delhi: The government on Tuesday strongly rebutted the allegation leveled by international human rights groups that Father Stan Swamy, who passed away on Monday, was detained illegally.

The United Nations Human Rights on Tuesday issued a statement on his death and detention, criticising India. The international body tweeted, "We are saddened and disturbed by the death of 84-year-old human rights defender Father Stan Swamy, after prolonged pre-trial detention. With Covid-19, it is even more urgent that states release every person detained without sufficient legal basis." In a statement issued by the government, Arindam Bagchi, the spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs, said that Stan Swamy was arrested and detained by the National Investigation Agency following the due process under law. Because of the specific nature of the charges against him, his bail applications were rejected by the courts.

"Authorities in India act against violations of law and not against legitimate exercise of rights. All such actions are strictly in accordance with the law," the statement said.

JEE Mains exam from 20th July to 2nd August



Team Absolute | New Delhi

The third phase JEE Main examinations will be conducted from July 20 to July 25. Similarly, the fourth phase JEE Main examinations will be held from July 27 to August 2. Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank shared this information on Tuesday. The third phase JEE Main examinations were to be conducted in April and the fourth phase JEE Main examinations in May, but in view of the corona infection then these examinations were postponed. You can apply for the third session of JEE from 6th July

to 8th July till 11.50 pm. Applications can be made for the fourth stage examination from July 9 to 12. Students who have already applied for these exams need not apply again. The Union Education Minister said that if a student wants to change the examination center according to his convenience, then option will have to be given. Nishank said that JEE examinations will be conducted in regional languages as well. Any aspirant in the country can do engineering by taking an exam in his mother tongue. This time JEE exams will be conducted in 13 different languages.



MAMATA ANNOUNCES 'KHELA HOBE DIWAS' IN BENGAL

Mumbai | Agencies

To commemorate the 'Khela Hobe' (Game is On) slogan that modulated the election campaign sloganeering during the recently-concluded Assembly polls in West Bengal, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday announced on the floor of the Assembly that a 'Khela Hobe Diwas' (Day) will be observed in Bengal.

Though she didn't mention any particular date to celebrate the Khela Hobe Diwas, the Chief Minister promised to distribute 50,000 footballs on that day.

"People have appreciated 'Khela Hobe', so we will have 'Khela Hobe Diwas'," Banerjee said during the ongoing Budget Session of the West Bengal Assembly.

During her poll campaign, Banerjee had promised to distribute footballs among the clubs and school students and was often seen throwing



footballs towards the crowd as part of popularising the 'Khela Hobe' campaign.

The slogan Khela Hobe was made popular by Banerjee during her election campaign for the recently con-

cluded Assembly elections in which the Trinamool Congress cruised to a landslide victory by bagging 213 seats.

The popular slogan that caught the fancy of the voters in Bengal has been swiftly adopted by the workers of the Samajwadi Party in Uttar Pradesh, who have painted its Bhojपुरi version -- 'Khela Hoi' -- on the walls of several cities across the state.

Though Trinamool youth leader Debangshu Bhattacharya wrote the lyrics for the Khela Hobe campaign, the slogan was coined by Bangladesh's Awami League MP Shamim Osman a few years ago.

In West Bengal, it was popularised by Trinamool's Birbhum district president Anubrata Mondal, who at a local event had said, 'Khela hobe. Bhoynkor khela hobe. Ei maati tei khela hobe' (The game will happen. It will be a dangerous game. The game will be played in this battleground).

Amarinder meets Sonia, says will accept any decision

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Tuesday met interim Congress President Sonia Gandhi in New Delhi amid escalated tension in the state unit.

After the meeting which lasted an hour, Amarinder Singh said: "Whatever we discuss in such meeting with the Congress President is confidential. We can't say it in public and it is not for public consumption."

"But we have discussed about the developmental issues of the state, including politics... I will accept whatever decisions will be taken by the party high command." He, however, declined to comment on disgruntled Congress leader Navjot Singh Sidhu. Ahead of the Sonia Gandhi-Amarinder Singh meet, Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi had met Sonia Gandhi.



The Congress has constituted a committee under Mallikarjun Kharge to resolve the issue pertaining to the state and it had submitted its report.

Kharge was also present at the meeting, which comes

against the backdrop of the suggestions made by the Congress high command to the Punjab government and changes in the state unit of the party, days after Sidhu met Priyanka Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi.

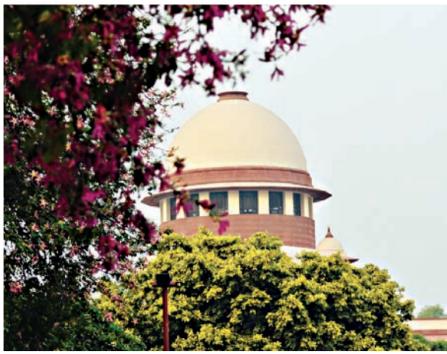
Recovery of weapon used in offence is not 'must' for conviction: SC

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Upholding the conviction of a murder accused, the Supreme Court on Tuesday observed that recovery of the weapon used in commission of offence is not an essential condition for convicting an accused.

The counsel for accused had argued that as per the ballistic reports, the bullet found does not match with the firearm/gun recovered and therefore, the use of gun as alleged is doubtful and therefore, benefit of doubt must be given to the accused.

A bench comprising Justices D.Y. Chandrachud and M.R. Shah observed at the most, it can be said that the gun recovered by the



police from the accused may not have been used for killing and therefore, the recovery of the actual weapon used for killing can be ignored and it is to be treated as if there is

no recovery at all. "For convicting an accused recovery of the weapon used in commission of offence is not a sine qua non," said the bench.

ED ATTACHES ASSETS WORTH RS 1.39 CR OF INDORE MUNICIPAL STAFFER

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has attached properties worth Rs 1.39 crore of Indore Municipal Corporation official Mohammad Aslam Khan and his wife in connection with its money laundering probe. The ED said that attached properties include gold, cash, vehicle, house, shop, agricultural land and plots worth Rs 1.39 crore in the money laundering case against Khan and others.

The ED initiated money laundering investigation on the basis of various FIRs registered by the Special Police Establishment, Lokayukta, Indore against Khan for amassing disproportionate assets.

"During investigation, it was revealed that Khan earned proceeds of crime in the form of tainted money by corruption, while working in Indore Municipal Corporation," the ED said.

It said that Khan parked ill-gotten money either by directly utilising it or by routing cash into their controlled bank accounts through interconnected transactions finally culminating into acquisition of movable and immovable properties purchased in his name and in the name of his wife. It further said that the ill-gotten money was systematically invested in gold, vehicle, agricultural land, plots and commercial shops located in Indore and adjoining districts of Madhya Pradesh.

Paras forgot family for the post of minister, says Chirag Paswan

PATNA | Agencies

Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) national president Chirag Paswan slammed his uncle Pashupati Kumar Paras for backstabbing him for the post of minister in the central government.

"My uncle has forgotten the family only to become minister in the Narendra Modi government. He is sitting in the lap of Nitish Kumar who was involved in humiliating my father and LJP founder Ram Vilas Paswan during his entire life," Chirag Paswan said.

"The post of minister cannot be so big that a person leaves the family. I cannot accept the post of minister on such terms and conditions. My uncle has trampled on the ideology of Ram Vilas Paswan with his feet and formed a separate group. We have expelled him and four other MPs from the party," he said. "I am rowing the boat against the waves of the river. My father taught me how to win over a crisis situation," he said. "The alliance partners of



NDA are lying in the media that they offered adequate seats to LJP during the 2020 assembly election. They had given 15 seats where our candidates did not wish to contest. They had not given seats to the sons of Mahboob Ali Kaiser and Veena Devi who are prominent leaders of LJP. Chandan Singh was wanting 4 to 5 seats for his supporters to contest in Nawada district, the elder brother of Prince Raj was not given Rosera seat. No one was wanting to contest in those 15 seats given by the NDA," Chirag Paswan said.

Youth thrashed, forced to drink urine in Odisha

Bhubaneswar | Agencies

In an act of extreme brutality, a man in Odisha's Balangir district was brutally assaulted and forced to drink urine and eat human feces by a group of villagers over suspicion of sorcery.

The youth was identified as Haribandhu Bagarty, a native of Paruabhadi village under Sindhekela police limits.

The incident occurred on July 3, but it came to light after a video footage of the brutality went viral on social media, the police said on Tuesday.

According to reports, residents of Paruabhadi used to fall ill over unknown reasons, following which the villagers suspected Haribandhu of practicing sorcery on the locals.

The villagers then decided to hold an unofficial court and punish him.

Accordingly, on July 3, some villagers went to the house of Haribandhu, dragged him out and thrashed him badly. A group of young men held



Haribandhu, while another forced him to drink urine. They also shaved his head, said Bhubana Bagarti, who was present at the spot during the incident.

"Though we tried to stop the villagers while dragging Haribandhu, they did not stop and threatened to kill us. Later, they took Haribandhu outside his home

in our slum and thrashed him," Bhubana said. After being informed, police reached the spot and rushed the victim to the hospital.

A case has been registered and three persons have been arrested in connection with the unofficial court which humiliated him.

2 UP MEN SWIM LONG DISTANCE WITH HANDS, FEET TIED

Kanpur: Two young swimmers from Kanpur have created a record of sorts by swimming for about seven kilometres in the Ganga River with their hands and feet tied.

Pankaj Jain and Rohit Nishad, on Monday, displayed their adventure swimming skills when they tied their hands and feet and swam in the Ganga.

They said their effort was to encourage players and swimmers.

According to Prakash Awasthi, vice-president of UP Swimming Association, Pankaj and Rohit started swimming from Atal Ghat to Sarsaiyya Ghat.

Though their hands and feet were tied with a rope, they successfully covered the distance of seven kilometres.

A team of swimmers on a boat escorted them as a precautionary measure.

Awasthi said the District Swimming Association will organize an adventure swimming memory of late Padam Kumar Jain from Atal Ghat to Siddhanath Ghat in which some long-distance expert swimmers will take part.



Leadership will decide on Chhattisgarh CM issue: T.S. Singh Deo

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The issue of Chhattisgarh Chief Ministership is to be decided by the Congress leadership and party President Sonia Gandhi as it is their prerogative, senior state leader T.S. Singh Deo said. Talking to IANS, Singh Deo, who is in Delhi for family functions and routine checkups, said: "I have not raised any issue regarding the Chief Ministership as it is the Congress leadership that will decide on the issue."

He said there is no need to take up the matter with the party as they are well aware of everything, but rubbished claims that he is in Delhi to meet Sonia Gandhi, saying that he was in Medanta for routine checkups on Tuesday and has personal engagements on Wednesday.

After the Congress formed the government in



Chhattisgarh in 2018, it was assured that Bhupesh Baghel will hold the Chief Minister's post for half the term and Singh Deo will be the Chief Minister for the remaining time.

The deadline has expired but there is no decision from the Congress high command, and the supporters of Singh Deo, who is the Health Minister of the state, are pressing their demands through different channels and social media.

KTR for action against protestors who threw bike, cylinder in lake

Hyderabad | Agencies

Telangana's Industry and Information Technology Minister K. T. Rama Rao on Tuesday condemned the action of protestors who threw a motorbike and a gas cylinder into Hussain Sagar lake here during the protest over hike in petrol and LPG prices.

"Protest is an important part of democracy to attract the attention of governments and people but irresponsible behaviour such as these, throwing bikes and cylinders into lakes is reprehensible," tweeted Rama Rao, who is also the working president of Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS). He requested Home Minister Mahmood Ali and Director General of Police M. Mahender Reddy to issue instructions for stern action. Rama Rao posted two photographs of the protests organised by the

opposition parties in Hyderabad recently.

CHANGE OF NAME

My old name was Asha Khilrani D/o Ishwar Lal Khilrani. I have Changed my name my new name is manya Bhamhani W/o Amit kumar Bhamhani. I will be known by my new name manya Bhamhani Address: 174, 9-b Saket nagar Bhopal (M.P.)

CHANGE OF NAME

My old name was Balachandran Nair Puthanpurayil Raghavan Nair. I have Changed my name my new name is Balachandran Nair S/o Challi kuttan Nair Raghavan Nair. I will be known by my new name Balachandran Nair Address: H.No. 368 F-1 b-sector indravihar colony airport road Bhopal (M.P.)

Green India Challenge to plant 3 cr saplings in an hour on July 24

Hyderabad | Agencies

After creating a record by planting one million saplings in an hour two days ago, the Green India Challenge on Tuesday announced that it will launch another mega plantation programme by planting 3 crore saplings in an hour on July 24.

Green India Challenge (GIC) founder and Rajya Sabha member Joginipally Santosh Kumar released a brochure on 'Mukkoti Vriksharchana' which will be taken up across the state on the birthday of state minister and Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) Working President K. T. Rama Rao.

Santosh Kumar expressed happiness that Green India Challenge is being organized across Telangana and in other parts of the country without any disruptions. He said that K.T. Rama Rao is committed to the growth of Telangana and is following the path laid by Chief Minister K. Chandrababhan Rao. He recalled that one crore saplings were



planted across the state on February 17 on the occasion of the Chief Minister's birth day. "This is another attempt to present gift to KTR by planting 3 crore saplings on his birthday. I appeal everybody to take part in

this very inspiring task and do their bit for the environment," he said.

Green India Challenge on July 4 planted one million saplings in one hour on the occasion of MLA Jogu Ramanna's 58th birthday in Adilabad district. It has claimed entry into the Guinness World Records by breaking the existing record of planting 3 lakh, 3 thousand saplings in Turkey in 2019. It also received appreciation certificate from the representatives of Wonder Book of Records for successfully executing the task in Durga Nagar region.

Ministers Mahmood Ali, Jagadish Reddy, Talasani Srinivasa Yadav, Srinivas Goud, MP Keshava Rao, and other leaders took part in the launch of brochure and lauded the efforts of Santosh Kumar for taking Green India Challenge forward with utmost commitment and dedication.

Keshava Rao congratulated Santosh Kumar for coming up with innovative programmes and popularising the Green India Challenge.



BJP BOYCOTTS MAHA HOUSE, CONDUCTS 'PARALLEL' SESSION

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The opposition Bharatiya Janata Party boycotted the proceedings of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly and conducted a 'parallel session' outside Vidhan Bhavan here on Tuesday to protest against the suspension of 12 of its MLAs by the Speaker.

Claiming that the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government was attempting to 'silence' the opposition and the media, Leader of Opposition Devendra Fadnis launched a scathing attack on it, accusing it of corruption, utter mismanagement, absence of confidence, and blaming the Centre for all its inefficiencies.

Inside the House, several ruling alliance members said the 'parallel session' held by the BJP was 'illegal and an insult to the House' and demanded that it should be stopped at once. Minority Development Minister Nawab Malik of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and



Presiding Officer Bhaskar Jadhav (Shiv Sena), who had suspended the MLAs on Monday, sought to know whether the BJP legislators had been given permission to use microphones for their 'parallel session'. Deputy Speaker Narhari Zirwal said that the legislature

secretariat had not given any such permission, following which Jadhav directed that the mikes be disconnected. Jadhav and several other MVA members demanded action against those who had organised the 'parallel session' and also those who allowed

the BJP to conduct it.

Malik pointed out that Jadhav, who was manhandled and allegedly abused by the BJP legislators, had been getting threats and should be given security. The demand was supported by the Sena's Sunil Prabhhu.

Outside, at the 'parallel session' in the Vidhan Bhavan precincts, the BJP legislators 'elected' their senior colleague Kalidas Kolamkar to chair the proceedings and raised slogans condemning the MVA government.

Addressing the gathering, Fadnis claimed that the 'parallel session' was convened to enable the opposition MLAs to voice their views, which the government was trying to suppress in an undemocratic manner, and vowed that their agitation would continue.

The ongoing two-day Monsoon Session of the Maharashtra Assembly has been rocked by pandemonium, with a belligerent opposition taking on the MVA allies Shiv Sena-NCP-Congress both inside the House and outside.

Governor Discontinues Monsoon Session Of Maharashtra Assembly

Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari today discontinued the monsoon session of the state Legislature. During the two-day session, the state Legislature passed two crucial resolutions, seeking removal of the Supreme Court-set 50 per cent cap on caste-based reservations in jobs and education, and asking the Centre to provide the 2011 Census data to the state.



used the monsoon session of the state Legislature on Tuesday. State Legislative Assembly's Deputy Speaker Narhari Zirwal read out the order of prorogation of the session, which began on Monday.

The winter session of the Legislature will begin from December 7 in Nagpur, Zirwal said. During the two-day session, the state Legislature passed two crucial resolutions, seeking removal of the Supreme Court-set 50 per cent cap on caste-based reservations in jobs and education, and asking

the Centre to provide the 2011 Census data to the state.

On Monday, the opening day of the two-day monsoon session witnessed high drama as 12 BJP MLAs were suspended from the Assembly for one year after the state government accused them of "misbehaving" with presiding officer Bhaskar Jadhav in the Speaker's chamber.

Leader of Opposition Devendra Fadnis had termed the allegation as false and said that Jadhav's account of the incident was "one-sided".

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari discontin-

Maharashtra Government Plans To Appoint "Marathi Language Officers" To Increase Use Of State Language

Desai told the Legislative Council that the Maharashtra Official Languages Act was passed in 1964 but there was no required clarity in that legislation.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In a bid to address the complaints that the Marathi language is not being used in administrative works fully, the Maharashtra government is planning to appoint "Marathi language officers" at the district level, minister Subhash Desai told the Legislative Council on Monday.

Mr Desai told the Legislative Council that the Maharashtra Official Languages Act was passed in 1964 but there was no required clarity in that legislation. "To bring about the

clarity, to increase the scope of the act, and to ensure that there should not be a disregard for the Marathi language in the state, the need for amendment was felt," he said.

Desai on Monday tabled the Maharashtra Official Languages (Amendment) Bill, 2021 of the Maharashtra Official Language Act. The bill was passed in the Assembly and the Council.

Desai further said several complaints were received and it was realised that Marathi was not used fully under various authorities, corporations in the state.

"So the use of the Marathi language must be increased in all these bodies. There are several websites of these authorities and corporations but all these websites are in English and not in Marathi," the Shiv Sena leader said.

It has been seen that while using the social media platforms, English is being used but Marathi's use should be increased. He said that on monorails in Mumbai, the

boards indicating the names of the stations are mispronounced.

He said that instead of "Vandre", the name on the board is "Bandra", a suburb in Mumbai. "There are several such complaints we received. We scrutinised them and made a big list," he said.

Mr Desai narrated an incident of a flag-hoisting ceremony held in the Mira-Bhayandar Municipal Corporation.

"One fan of Marathi language sent me an audio clip of the event. To my surprise, the entire program was held in Hindi," he said.

Desai also said it was shocking to know that the website of the Maharashtra fire service department is in English. "The office of the Nagpur police often issues instructions in Hindi to their police personnel. In Vidarbha, Hindi is used more frequently. So we need to see how we can increase the use of Marathi language there," said Desai.

5 districts of concern with weekly Covid positivity rate much higher than States' average

Maharashtra's positivity rate is 4.50 per cent whereas that of Kolhapur and Pune are 10.24 per cent and 7.68 per cent respectively.

Team Absolute | Pune

Kolhapur, Satara, Sangli, Raigad and Pune are the five districts of concern in Maharashtra whose weekly Covid-19 positivity rate is much higher than the state average. A state analysis of the Covid-19 situation in the week of June 27 to July 3 has shown that the positivity rate across the state is 4.5 per cent. But in Kolhapur, the weekly Covid positivity rate for the same week has increased to 10.24 per cent, from the positivity rate of 7.37 per cent in the earlier week of June 20 to 26.

Other districts of concern include Satara, where the weekly Covid positivity rate was 9.14 per cent, higher than the 7.75 per cent in the previous week. Pune district has registered a weekly Covid positivity rate of 7.68 per cent in the week of June 27 to July 3, a slight increase over the 7.2 per cent rate of the week before. Sangli and Raigad saw weekly Covid positivity rates of 8.81 per cent and 7.88 per cent, respectively. Pune district has



17.4 per cent of the total Covid-19 cases in Maharashtra and cumulative positive case count of 10,60,541. A total of 8,610 new Covid-19 cases were reported in the week as compared to 7,711 cases in the previous week. Pune has 88 per cent asymptomatic, 8.2 per cent mild symptoms and 3.8 per cent critical patients as on July 3. Other districts which have a weekly Covid positivity rate higher

than the state average include Ratnagiri (7.29 per cent), Sindhudurg (6.55 per cent) and Palghar (5.26 per cent). However, some districts which earlier had a high weekly Covid positivity rate have been able to bring it down to less than 3 per cent, such as Nashik (2.34 per cent) and Solapur (2.96 per cent).

Till date, the state has registered more than 60 lakh cases of Covid-19

and 1.23 lakh deaths. While the case fatality rate in the state is 2.01 per cent, according to the state analysis, there are a total of 1.16 lakh active cases presently. Nearly 40,000 are admitted to various hospitals and 15,019 are in critical condition. Of these, 5,215 are admitted to intensive care units across hospitals in the state. Dr Subhash Salunkhe, technical advisor on Covid-19 to the Maharashtra government, said that after assessing the situation, at least 70 per cent of the adult population of the state will have to be vaccinated by August end, in addition to public health measures that are being taken.

He said he has suggested certain measures to the state government. "To achieve this, we need to make it obligatory for every shop owner, all industrial establishments and every small or big trader to carry on with their business only when they and their employees produce vaccination certificates. This strategy will also address vaccine hesitancy."

Maharashtra to probe Congress leader Nana Patole's phone-tapping allegation

"This is a serious issue (phone tapping of Patole). I announce that a high-level inquiry will be conducted into it and action will be taken against those responsible," said Dilip Walse Patil, Maharashtra home minister.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Maharashtra government Tuesday ordered a high-level inquiry into allegations of Congress state president Nana Patole that

his phone was tapped during the previous BJP-led government.

"This is a serious issue (phone tapping of Patole). I announce that a high-level inquiry will be conducted into it and action will be taken against those responsible," said Dilip Walse Patil, state home minister, adding that the report will be tabled in the House in the next Assembly session.

Explaining the procedure of phone tapping, the minister said that the state intelligence commissioner needs to provide the name, number and reasons for the surveillance while seeking permission from the additional chief secretary of the Home department. The home min-

ister's announcement came in response to the issue raised by Patole. "My phone was tapped during 2016-17 under the name of Amjad Khan claiming that he was involved in narcotics smuggling. Why my name was not used and a Muslim name was given for the phone tapping? Did they want to play politics in the name of religion by creating controversy between Hindu and Muslim?" asked Patole.

The Congress MLA further claimed that other elected representatives' phones were also tapped. "This is an attempt to destroy their political career. I was a Member of Parliament then and there was no reason to tap my phone," he added.

Maharashtra board HSC results:

MSBSHSE releases timetable for finalising Class 12 results

According to the schedule released by MSBSHSE, on July 7 between 11 am to 1 pm, a training programme would be conducted through YouTube for all teachers and principals on the marking system.

Team Absolute | Pune

The Maharashtra State Board of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education has declared the timetable for the tabulation of marks for class 12 board exams 2020-21 based on internal assessments by the school. A deadline of July 21 has been set for headmasters to fill students' marks into the online system of the state board. It is expected that the state board results will be declared by July 31.

"I'm requesting all junior colleges, teachers to adhere to the schedule for timely declaration of results. For a fair and objective assessment, all stakeholders must read the procedures laid

down carefully and ensure that their roles and responsibilities are clearly understood. I'm confident that our colleges, teachers will undertake the process with the highest degree of professionalism, consistency and care," said state school education minister, Varsha Gaikwad.

According to the schedule released by MSBSHSE, on July 7 between 11 am to 1 pm, a training programme would be conducted through YouTube for all teachers and principals on the marking system. Between July 7 to 14, assessments are to be carried out of those students who have not had any kind of internal assessment - unit tests, term exams, home assignments, projects - due to the Covid-19 situa-

tion. Class teachers then have to send each student's final marks to the results committee set up at the high school/junior college level. Between July 8th to July 17, the results committee has to scrutinise the final marks sent by the class teacher. From July 14th to July 21, headmasters/principals have to fill the final marks of the student into the online system of the state board. From July 23, MSBSHSE divisional and state boards will do the necessary work for the declaration of results. A seven-member results committee headed by the school principal has to be formed immediately which will take a meeting of all subject teachers and ensure they understand the methodology to calculate marks, tabu-

late results within deadline and also scrutinise the results before they are sent to the state. The results are to be tabulated for nearly 14 lakh Class 12, higher secondary certificate students.

Marks will be calculated on the basis of a three-year assessment formula, similar to the one adopted by the CBSE. The scores of HSC students will be calculated on a 30:30:40 formula, which is the 'best of three' subject marks of Class 10, final exam marks of Class 11 and remaining based on college-level assessment in Class 12, which can be either unit tests, first-semester exams, or practice exams. For the practical component, marks will be awarded based on the state board's existing policy.

Governor or courts cannot interfere in Maharashtra BJP MLAs' suspension: Constitutional experts

Even if the MLAs approach the court, the court will not be able to do much in this regard as the Constitution restricts high court or the Supreme Court from interfering with internal proceedings of the House, experts said. Anil Deshmukh.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Even as the 12 suspended BJP MLAs have approached Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari and plan on moving the Bombay High Court over their suspension from Maharashtra Assembly for a year, Constitutional experts said neither the Governor nor the courts can interfere with the legislature proceedings as the Constitution bars them from doing so.

On Monday, the 12 BJP MLAs were suspended for one year from the state assembly for creating ruckus over OBC quota and misbehaving Shiv Sena legislator Bhaskar Jadhav, who was the speaker in the chair. Denying the charges levelled against them, all the BJP MLAs staged a walk out from the House.



Later, the 12 BJP MLAs met the Governor and urged him to stay the suspension order. The Governor promised to look into the issue. The BJP is also likely to approach the high court to get the stay suspended, party sources said.

However, Constitution experts told The Indian Express that neither the Governor nor the courts have a right to interfere with House proceedings. "Though the BJP MLAs approached the Governor and urged him to stay

the suspensions, the Governor can do little on this count. The Constitution does not allow him the right to interfere with the proceedings of the state legislature. Similarly, even if the MLAs approach the court, the court will not be able to do much in this regard as the Constitution restricts high court or the Supreme Court from interfering with internal proceedings of the house," said Constitution expert Ulhas Bapat. Bapat said this was not the first time MLAs

have been suspended for a year and neither was the punishment harsh. "In fact, it was an appropriate punishment. How dare they rush into the well of the House, snatch the mike and mace and disrupt the proceedings? They are MLAs who are supposed to raise public issues in the House. They are not goondas to behave in an unruly manner. This kind of behaviour is not expected from people's representatives," he said.

Bapat said the state BJP is in the habit of rushing to the Governor for every issue. "But this time, it will not work. Governor has no right whatsoever to interfere with the proceedings of the legislature." Jadhav had told the Assembly that the BJP MLAs not only rushed to the well, tried to snatch the mike and mace kept on the Speaker's table, but also used abusive language against him. BJP MLA Ashish Shelar, however, denied that the MLAs were abusive. He said it was a one-sided action and the ruling party members who also indulged in verbal duels were spared. Anant Kalse, former Principal Secretary, Maharashtra Legislature Secretariat, said, "Under Article 226 of the Constitution, the MLAs can approach the high court. However, Article 212 prevents the courts from interfering with the internal matter of the House or what goes inside the House. Only the speaker has the

right to decide or take call on the internal proceedings of the House. Article 212 of the Constitution, says...

"Courts not to inquire into proceedings of the Legislature. The Constitution has clearly laid down that the validity of any proceedings in the state legislature shall not be called in question on the ground of any alleged irregularity of procedure." Bapat said the only option before the MLAs is to apologise to the Speaker. "After which the speaker can take the decision either to lessen the punishment or waive it," he said.

Kalse said the Speaker, Opposition leader and ruling party leaders can sit together and resolve the issue. "There is no need to go to the courts or the Governor. All the three can sit together and can resolve the issue. The BJP MLAs can tender an apology either orally or in writing. That is the best solution. In the past too such things have happened several times. Suspensions were withdrawn the same day after the unruly MLAs had said sorry," he said.

The suspended legislators include Sanjay Kute, Ashish Shelar, Abhimanyu Pawar, Girish Majahan, Atul Bhatkalkar, Parag Alavani, Harish Pimple, Ram Satpute, Jayakumar Rawal, Yogesh Sagar, Narayan Kuche and Kirtikumhar Bhangdiya.



Cabinet meeting presided by Chief Minister Shiv Raj Singh Chouhan held

APPROVAL TO CONDUCT PILOT SCHEME FOR DISTRIBUTION OF FORTIFIED RICE

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A meeting of the Council of Ministers presided by Chief Minister Shiv Raj Singh Chouhan was held in Mantralaya on Tuesday. The cabinet decided to conduct a pilot scheme for distribution of fortified rice under the Targeted Public Distribution System of the Government of India in Singrauli district to combat anaemia and micronutrient deficiency. Under this, efforts will be made to cure serious health problems like anaemia and malnutrition by fortifying rice with iron, folic acid and vitamin B-12. This scheme will be operational till 2022-23. The rice given to the beneficiaries under the scheme will be distributed by mixing with fortified kernels. Rice will be supplied to the beneficiaries at the rate of Rs 1 per kg.

Land Purchase With Mutual Consent Policy, 2014

The Council of Ministers decided to implement the Land Purchase With Mutual Consent Policy, 2014 in the State Government Departments and Undertakings as well as Central Government Departments and Undertakings. With this, the speedy implementation of the projects of National Highway Development Authority/Railway will give impetus to the development of the state.

The above policy is, at present, not applicable in the case of Central Government Departments/Undertakings. There is a demand by many departments/undertakings of the Central Government to include them in this policy, in which the National



Highway Authority and Railways are the main ones.

Rs 127 crore approved for new jail complex in Chhindwara

The cabinet has reduced the cost of construction of new jail complex in Chhindwara, in the first phase, 815 prison capacity district jail, 20 prison capacity open jail, 49 different categories of houses, including electricity, drinking water facilities, gave approval for revised cost of Rs. 127 crore 8 lakh.

Revised administrative approval for Van Bhavan

The cabinet gave revised administrative approval of Rs 158 crore 70 lakh for the construction of Van Bhavan.

Amendment in sand rule

The cabinet approved amendment in Rule

21 of Madhya Pradesh Sand (Mining, Transport, Storage and Trade) Rules, 2019.

Now under the Madhya Pradesh Sand Rule 2018, the amount deposited in the Gram Panchayat / Urban Body / District Mineral Establishment will be deposited in the Consolidated Fund of the state. The deposited amount can be used for development works under the provisions mentioned in Rule 13 of Madhya Pradesh District Mineral Establishment Rules 2016. Similarly, after the justification of Madhya Pradesh Sand Rule 2018 ended, it was also decided to repeal it.

Four percent additional interest subsidy to farmers

The cabinet has given approval to the action for the extension of due date in coordination with the Chief Minister Chouhan's

order in relation to the extension of the due date of short-term crop loans disbursed in Kharif and Rabi seasons and the department action to extend the due date to June 30, 2021.

The additional interest burden for the period of due date extension will be borne by the state government.

Madhya Pradesh Consumer Protection Act

The Consumer Protection Act, 2019 has been implemented by the Government of India in place of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986. According to the provisions of the Act, the State Government will issue 'Madhya Pradesh Consumer Protection (Salary, Allowances and Conditions of Service of Chairman and Members of State Commission and District Commission) Rules 2021'. Under this, honorarium to the members of State Commission and District Commission was paid in the past, in its place provision has been made to pay salaries to the members of District Consumer Commission and State Consumer Commission.

Madhya Pradesh Municipal Law (Amendment) Ordinance

The draft of the Madhya Pradesh Municipal Law (Amendment) Bill, 2021 was presented before the Cabinet. Amendments have been proposed in the Bill to streamline and simplify the process of registration of colonizers, permitting colony development, so as to encourage the development of authorized colonies.

CM congratulates newly appointed Governor

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan congratulates Gehlot and other Governors

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has congratulated the newly appointed Governor of Madhya Pradesh, Mangubhai Patel. Chouhan said that Patel, who was elected from Navsari assembly constituency of Gujarat, discharged many responsibilities and he was also a Union Minister. He worked for many years for the upliftment of the tribal society. Chief Minister expressed confidence that the benefits of Shri Patel's long experience in public life will be available in the continued progress of Madhya Pradesh. On behalf of the people of the state, I welcome and congratulate Shri Patel. Chouhan has also con-

gratulated the newly appointed Governor of Karnataka Thawarchand Gehlot for his new responsibility. He said that after being elected as a Member of Parliament from Madhya Pradesh, Gehlot has left a distinct mark with his style of work while rendering remarkable services as a Union Minister.

Chouhan has also congratulated the Governors posted in other states for the new responsibility. These include Bandaru Dattatreya posted in Haryana, Ramesh Bais posted in Jharkhand, Satyadev Narayan Arya posted in Tripura, PS Sreedharan Pillai posted in Goa, Haribabu Kambhampati posted in Mizoram and Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar posted in Himachal Pradesh.

THIEF LEAVES APOLOGY LETTER BEHIND AFTER BREAKING INTO COP'S HOME

Bhind: While stealing valuables from the home of a policeman in Bhind city, a thief left behind an apology letter stating that he was committing the act to save a friend's life and will return the stolen money, the police said on Tuesday. The theft occurred at the home of a policeman, who works in Chhattisgarh, while his family lives in Bhind city, assistant sub-inspector (ASI) Kamlesh Katare of Kotwali police station said. According to the police, the thief left behind a letter stating, "Sorry friend, it was a compulsion. If I had not done this, then my friend would have lost his life. Don't worry, as soon as I get the money, I will return it." The policeman's wife and children had left for a relative's place on June 30, and after returning home on Monday night, they found that the locks of the rooms had been broken and things were lying scattered, the official said. The thief stole some silver and gold ornaments, he said, adding that it is suspected some acquaintance of the family was involved in the act.

Chouhan plants Neem and Mango saplings

CM pays tribute to Syama Prasad Mukherjee on his birth anniversary

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan paid homage to Syama Prasad Mukherjee on his birth anniversary by garlanding his portrait. Mukherjee was an educationist, thinker and founder of Bharatiya Jana Sangh. Mukherjee was born on July 6, 1901 in Kolkata. Mukherjee was a worshipper of humanity and idealist in the true sense. Mukherjee was a strong proponent of the notion that we are all one culturally. Therefore, he was a staunch opponent of partition on the basis of religion. He always openly opposed the policy of appeasement.

He did not accept two flags and two marks in the same country. Therefore, Mukherjee started efforts for the merger of Kashmir with India. For this, he started a movement in association with the Praja Parishad Party of Jammu. He travelled to Jammu on 8 May 1953 with Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Vaidya Guru Dutt, Dr. Burman and Shri Tekchand etc. After entering the border, he was arrested by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

Mukherjee was imprisoned for 40 days and on 23 June 1953 he was martyred in jail.

CM plants Neem and Mango saplings in Smart City Garden Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Tuesday planted a Neem sapling in the Smart City Garden.

Chouhan said that the plantation on July 6 has been done in the memory of Syama Prasad Mukherjee on his birth anniversary. Chouhan also planted a mango sapling today on the birth anniversary of former Union Minister Late Anil Madhav Dave.



Cement concrete road will be constructed from Nasrullaganj to Sehore

CM Chouhan dedicates bridge built over Seep river

BETUL-INDORE AND JAIPUR-JABALPUR NATIONAL HIGHWAYS WILL BE CONNECTED

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that development activities and implementation of welfare schemes will continue despite the economic crisis created due to Corona in the state. Chouhan was addressing the virtual dedication ceremony of the submersible bridge over the Seep river on Highway 22 at Budhni Nasrullaganj Khategaon Marg in Sehore district. This bridge has been constructed at a cost of Rs 3 crore 74 lakh. Public Works Minister Shri Gopal Bhargava, Principal Secretary Public Works Neeraj Mandloi were present in the programme organized in Mantralaya. It may be noted that a few days ago an attempt was made to start vehicular traffic on this bridge, ignoring the technical procedures.



Chouhan said that after the completion of the work, necessary tests were conducted and on the basis of the reports received, traffic is now being started on the bridge. With the construction of this bridge, the traffic will become smooth for commuters traveling from Nasrullaganj to Harda and

Indore. A distance of about 20 kms will be reduced. The already constructed bridge over the Seep river in Nasrullaganj to Khategaon highway 22 was damaged in the year 2020. Approval was given by the state government for the construction of this submersible bridge in an alternate

route. Chief Minister said that a decision has also been taken to build a big bridge over the Seep river. It will be completed in about one and a half years. Chouhan said that PWD has approved a cement-concrete road from Nasrullaganj to Sehore road which was damaged. This road will be built between Sehore-Kosmi at a cost of Rs 117 crore and Kosmi-Nasrullaganj at a cost of Rs 33 crore. With this, direct cement-concrete road will be available from Nasrullaganj to Sehore. Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said that apart from these roads, a proposal has been sent to the central government to connect Indore-Betul National Highway and Jabalpur-Jaipur National Highway. With the joining of both the routes, the distance between Indore-Jabalpur will be reduced and business will also be encouraged.

Madhya Pradesh has big hopes from Modi cabinet expansion

Sandeep Puranic | Bhopal

The Union Cabinet is going to be expanded soon, due to which the hopes of many leaders of Madhya Pradesh have started to shake as the discussions are intensifying to give place to many new faces.

The Modi government currently has four ministers from the state, out of which Thawarchand Gehlot has been made the governor of Karnataka. Now only three ministers from the state Faggan Singh Kulaste, Narendra Singh Tomar and Prahlad Patel will remain part of the Modi team. Rajya Sabha member Jyotiraditya Scindia is set to become a minister in the cabinet expansion. At the same time, the possibility of a new face being included has gained momentum when Thawarchand Gehlot is out of the cabinet.

In the political corridors, there is talk of giving place to Satna MP Ganesh Singh, Jabalpur MP Rakesh Singh and party's national general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya in the cabinet. Vijayvargiya's chances of joining the cabinet have increased after Gehlot was made the governor. Along with this, there is also a discussion that he can also be contested from Khandwa for the Lok Sabha by-election. The reason behind this is that both Gehlot and Vijayvargiya come from the



Malwa Nimar region.

If BJP sources are to be believed, Vindhya region and Nimar Malwa are such that from where there is no minister in the central government. Therefore, representatives of both these places can get a place in the cabinet expansion. If this happens, then the claim of being made minister of Satna MP Ganesh Singh from Vindhya will be strong, Ganesh Singh also comes from backward class.

Political analysts believe that Madhya Pradesh is sure to get importance in the cabinet expansion because Jyotiraditya Scindia had a big hand in the return of BJP to power in the state, so he will be made a minister. If Gehlot has been made the governor, then in his place a leader from Malwa can also get a place in the cabinet. Overall, this expansion is a big hope for the state which can be fulfilled.

FIR against journalists in Khargone heated up

Team Absolute | Bhopal

In Khargone district, the matter of filing a report by the mineral officer against six journalists has heated up in the controversy over taking the reaction of the officer. While the Congress is calling it the attack on the fourth pillar, on the other hand, the government has promised a fair investigation in this matter. Recently, some journalists had reached to take the reaction of the mining officer regarding illegal sand mining. The journalists allege that the mineral officer did indecency with them, so they complained to the District Magistrate. After this,



Mineral Officer Sawan Chauhan filed a case against the journalists for obstructing government work and

under Atrocity Act. Regarding this matter, former Union Minister Arun Yadav said, "Government-

administration in MP is working together to suppress the voice of the people. In Khargone, an FIR has been registered under the Atrocity Act for taking feedback from the mineral officer in the case of illegal mining on six journalist colleagues. The BJP is trying to crush the fourth pillar of democracy."

Promising a fair investigation, state agriculture minister Kamal Patel said, "In Khargone, information was received about wrongful registration of FIRs against journalists. I have directed the Superintendent of Police (SP) Khargone over phone to investigate the matter impartially."

'Missing' man on police record turns out criminal, commits multiple robberies

The suspect Rahul Batham was exposed when a police officer who arrested him in 2017 recognised him. Batham was later traced and arrested.

Team Absolute | Gwalior

On the run for four years, a Gwalior man, who went 'missing' four years ago, has turned out to be an alleged criminal. The suspect has been identified as Rahul Batham, who went missing at the age of 18.

While police were trying to trace him in Gwalior after his family lodged a missing person complaint, the suspect was allegedly busy committing theft and looting people in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. Batham was once sent to jail in an alleged loot case but his true identity was not known to police then. However, following his arrest in another

crime on Sunday, the police were finally able to trace him and close the four-year-old missing person's complaint.

Batham was arrested and sent to jail for the first time in 2017, after allegedly snatching a mobile phone in Kotwali police station area. However, Kotwali police officers were unaware of the fact that he was listed as a missing person at Hazira police station in the same city.

Following his bail in the mobile snatching case, Batham went on the run and resorted to more criminal activities in Bhopal and Jaipur, according to police. Interestingly, his luck ran out when an assistant sub-inspector (ASI) of Kotwali police station - who had arrested

him in 2017 - was transferred to Hazira police station. While going through unsolved cases at the Hazira police station, the ASI came across Batham's missing person's report and identified him as an alleged criminal. Subsequently, the police officer informed his seniors and Batham was traced and arrested. During the investigation, it was learned that the suspect fell into wrong hands following his escape from home. Soon after, he began taking drugs. During interrogation, Batham told police that many a times, he laughed at the cops when they failed to identify him despite coming across his picture on posters of missing persons.

Three kids die of cold and dehydration, 25 ill in Panna

Chief medical and health officer, Panna, said three kids aged between two and three fell ill a few days ago. They had a cold and diarrhoea. They were being treated at home

who are showing similar symptoms, tested negative for Covid after rapid antigen testing. "We have also sent their swab samples for RT-PCR testing."

A team of doctors has started their treatment. "Surprisingly, only kids are ill. The symptoms of the disease are similar to Covid 19, but we cannot confirm that without a test report," Pandey said. The team of doctors was rushed to the village along with officials from women and child development and panchayat and rural development departments on

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Three children have died after showing symptoms such as cold and dehydration while another 25 were being treated for similar issues in a village in Panna district, said a health official on Tuesday.

"In Pushottampur village of the district, three kids aged between two and three fell ill a few days ago. They had a cold and diarrhoea. They were being treated at home. Two kids...died on June 27... while... (the third) died on July 2," said RS Pandey, chief medical and health officer, Panna. "Their families performed their last rites without informing the authorities. So, we did not get a chance to take samples of these kids for Covid 19 testing. We came to know about it Monday after a few villagers informed us about it," said Pandey. He said the other kids, aged between one to eight

The kid's father, Babul Adiwasi, said he works as a labourer. "Due to (the Covid-19) lockdown, I returned to the village in April. I am facing the worst financial crisis. My son Sanjay and niece Rashmi fell ill. We did not have money to take them to the city for treatment. But all of a sudden, their condition deteriorated, and they died within a week." Manoj Kushwaha, a village resident, said the deaths caused panic in the village. "Many families have locked themselves and their children in their houses since the deaths happened last week



EDITOR'S SPECS

Fuel to hit new high

There may be no respite for fuel consumers in the country facing high prices of petrol and diesel for the past couple of months as global oil scenario is expected to remain firm with oil cartel OPEC failing to reach an agreement on gradual raising of oil production to meet the growing demand. At a meeting of OPEC plus (including Russia) differences surfaced between world's largest oil producer Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates (UAE) over raising oil production marginally in August while maintaining production level at the same till 2022. This prevented a deal that would have helped to soften crude prices a bit next month on the back of increased oil production of 2 million barrels a day.

With no deal among prime oil producers, analysts expect oil prices to remain firm and may hit even \$80 a barrel over the next few days. At intercontinental exchange benchmark, Brent crude is currently hovering at \$77.5 a barrel, up over 1 per cent from the previous day. This is the highest crude level since 2018. In fact, in the month of July itself crude prices have risen by over \$7 a barrel. Petrol and diesel prices have been raised on 35 days since May 1. This has increased retail petrol prices by Rs 9.46 a litre in the last two months while diesel has also increased by Rs 8.63 per litre during the same time span. Also, the Centre had raised excise duty between March and May last year. The two hikes raised excise duty by 65 per cent on petrol from Rs 19.98 to Rs 32.98 a litre and 79 per cent on diesel from Rs 15.83 to Rs 28.35 a litre. With expectation that global oil may rise further in coming days, consumers would have to brace for buying fuel at new record prices

BHAGWAT'S SPEECH EMPHASIZING NATIONAL INTEGRITY

Lalit Garg

The rising of national unity brought into light the neo-liberalism of Rashtriya Swayam Sevak Sangh and Sangh chief Mohan Bhagwat. Releasing Dr. Khwaja Iftikhar Ahmed's book "Vaicharik Samanvay - Ek Pahal", Bhagwat removed the prejudices associated with the Sangh and said that the Sangh may be an organization of Hindus, but it does not hate the people of other religions. The objection and disagreement with various political parties regarding the statement that all Indians have one DNA is a major obstacle to national unity. There is diversity and unity and this is the ideal of Indian heritage and culture.

There are many religions, castes, tribes, provinces, political parties in our country and national unity cannot be disintegrated in the name sake of diversity. The speech of Mohan Bhagwat given in Mewar University will become a medium to emphasize the unity of the country; will give a new turn to the cultural and national environment of the country. This has been made like a compass which is always providing the right way in the right direction.

The people of different caste, religion, language and class are living together and this is the beauty of Indian democracy; damaging this beauty due to political selfishness ruins national unity. It is impossible to omit the differences and unite them all. In such unity the doors of development are also blocked. But diversity is also precious, which does not pose any kind of threat to our fundamental and national unity. Like many branches of a tree, a nation may have many provinces, people of many castes and religions can live in it, but their development lies in staying connected with the root of nationality. When we will give a practical approach to differentiation; on that day there will be a right culmination of national unity and on the same day India will become united.

Mohan Bhagwat said that if a Hindu says that no Muslim should live here, then that person is not a Hindu. Cow is a sacred animal but those who are killing others are going against Hinduism. The law should act against them without any bias. The word Hindu-Muslim unity itself is misleading. Hindu-Muslim are not only separate, they are always one. When people consider the two to be different, only then the crisis arises. Our faith is the same both in shape and formless. We love the motherland because it has nurtured every single person who lives here. There is a danger in the future in terms of population; it will have to be corrected.

If India has to be made a 'Vishwaguru', then it will not have to involve itself into the battle of words of minority-majority. It has been inculcated in the minds of minorities that Hindus will vanish them. Now the time has come for the Muslim society to remove the blindfold and embrace everyone. The Muslim society has to be leaving bigotry and adopt the path of mutual brotherhood. This is the establishment of an ideal situation and the Sangh is working towards this.

Sangh works only for nationalism. Politics is not the work of



volunteers. Sangh works to unite, while politics becomes a weapon to break. Hindu-Muslim could not be united only because of politics.

It is very sad that when Mohan Bhagwat, the head of the world's largest non-political organization, is emphasizing on Hindu-Muslim unity, then some leaders are making extra efforts to ensure that our society does not pay attention to such things of solidarity-goodwill. From this effort it was revealed that some people are interested in the distance between Hindu-Muslim should not end. In this context, the Sangh chief rightly said that the talk of Hindu-Muslim unity is misleading in the sense that they are already united and it is not correct to see them as separate.

Welcoming this lawfully, such an effort should be made at our level that the Indian society is united and whatever animosity, whatever distances there are between them, it should end. Undoubtedly some people do not want this to happen and that is why some have mentioned the difference in the words and deeds of the Sangh and some have mentioned the violence of the mob. It is ironic that cheap politics is being done in our country even on such simple and ideal discussion; an example of this is the objection and dissenting reaction to this inspiring and revolutionary speech of Bhagwat. From Mayawati and Asaduddin Owaisi to Digvijay Singh, the way they reacted showed the mentality of opposition to protest. None of them tried to understand that Mohan Bhagwat was trying to inculcate the feeling of unity, communal harmony and brotherhood among all the countrymen through this statement and underline that the people of India had caste, religion, No matter how different the rituals are, they should remember that they are all children of this country and the ancestors of all are one. There is nothing objectionable in the statement of Bhagwat. Despite this, objections were raised on one pretext or the other and an attempt was made to divert the discussion in a particular direction. Its purpose seems to be nothing more than to mislead people and to try to garner their vote bank. It seems that the politics and

thinking of certain political parties are distorted, their behavior is false, they have put more masks on their faces, and they have dashed all the ideals and values. Millions of people of the country are worried about the future of the country. The time has come that in order to preserve the country's common culture, glorious heritage and the top leaders like Bhagwat will have to make efforts, a new standard will have to be set in front of directionless leadership.

Today there is no one who can show the greatness of religion. No one can live and tell a religion without sectarianism, no one can give solutions to the problem, no one can give alternatives. Who can become Kabir, Rahim, Tulsi, Meera, Raidas. This is the big question.

An auspicious beginning is also going to happen with this vision when under the leadership of Dr. Indresh Kumar, the top person of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh and the guide of Muslim National Forum, from 15 August 2021 to 15 August 2022, to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the country's independence and during this time; there are plans to organize 500 events in association with organizations. Through this, efforts will be made to fulfill the goal of "Akhand Bharat". It will be explained to the people of Muslim society that our worship method may be different, but we are all one. This is the vision of a united India. In the frenzy of communal and political selfishness, the mania loses the sense of action and non-action. Bhagwat has a relative contemplation in this context. Individuals believe in the worship of their respective religions, there is no harm in it, but where people of one sect spread hatred against another sect, the soil of the country is tarnished, the nation is powerless and the mind of the individual becomes impure. The biggest threat to national unity is from those selfish nation leaders who think only of their own interests. They fill their homes in the name of service to the country, and try to divide the people in the name of religion, sect, class etc. India, which teaches "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" to the whole world, is today becoming humiliated by being cut off from its loved ones because of these petty politicians. The demon of political selfishness is shaking the whole country. Can't the Muslim people of this country stand and think on the role of harmony and brotherhood? Political parties, which play an active role in instigating party politics and communal problems, sometimes do things which are not in the interest of the nation to establish the power of their respective parties. Competition to grab power is not uncommon, but in an environment of competition, how can it be justified to ignore national unity in the race for majority and power?

(The author is Writer, Journalist, Columnist based at Delhi. The views expressed are personal.)

international

brief

1 DEAD, 30 INJURED IN THAI CHEMICAL FACTORY BLAST

Bangkok: At least one person was killed and 30 others were injured during an explosion and subsequent fire at a chemical factory close to Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi Airport, according to authorities. The explosion on Monday rocked the plastic foam-producing factory in Bang Phli district of Samut Prakan province and caused a massive fire, Xinhua news agency reported. The fire has not been put out so far, and the cause of the explosion remains unknown. The blast reportedly happened in the factory of Ming Dih Chemical, a company established in Thailand by business people from China's Taiwan in 1989, and caused damages to 10 factories and the residential area nearby. A 19-year-old firefighter was killed at the scene and three others were seriously injured, the local police said.

2 PEOPLE DEAD, 3 INJURED IN US CITY SHOOTING

Washington: Two people were killed and three others injured in a shooting at a park in the US city of Cincinnati, police said. Cincinnati police on Monday identified the two victims as a 16-year-old and 19-year-old, reports Xinhua news agency. The three injured were taken to hospital. Police have not released any information about a suspect. According to the police, the shooting took place at around 11 p.m. on Sunday during an "Independence Day" celebration when about 400 teenagers gathered in the park. It was unknown whether the shooting was random or targeted, the police said.

YEMEN FORCES CAPTURE KEY AREAS FROM HOUTHIS

Sanaa: Forces loyal to Yemen's government captured key areas from the Houthi militia in the country's central province of al-Bayda, a military official said. "The government forces continued their field military progress during ongoing battles for the fourth consecutive day against the Houthi militia in al-Bayda province," the official told Xinhua news agency on Monday. He said that the government forces backed by dozens of tribesmen managed to capture Al-Zahir district, west of al-Bayda, following days of fierce gun battles with the Houthi rebels.

FLOODS HIT 40 VILLAGES IN INDONESIA

Jakarta: At least 40 villages in Indonesia's Aceh Jaya district have been struck by floods triggered by incessant rains, the local disaster mitigation agency said on Tuesday. "We have received a report on the flooded 40 villages. Now we are collecting data as the number could increase," an agency official said. He said the agency has sent a team to help mitigate floods in the affected villages including those in Krueang Sabe and Setia Bakti sub-districts, reports Xinhua news agency. "We hope that the sub-districts, especially the sub-district heads, will continue to monitor developments in the fields and report to us the inundated villages," he said. The official said the agency was yet to receive reports on casualties or damages due to the flooding. The National Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysics Agency has warned of possible natural disasters including floods that could occur within days in a number of areas of Indonesia.

Over 1,000 Afghan soldiers flee to Tajikistan

Team Absolute | New Delhi

More than 1,000 Afghan soldiers have fled to the neighbouring Tajikistan after clashing with Taliban militants, officials have said.

The BBC reported the troops retreated over the border to "save their own lives", according to a statement by Tajikistan's border guard.

Violence has risen in Afghanistan and the Taliban have been making significant gains, particularly in the north of the country, in recent weeks.

The surge comes as the US, UK and their allies have started withdrawing their troops after 20 years. The vast majority of remaining foreign forces in Afghanistan have left ahead of a September deadline. There are concerns that the Afghan military, who were supposed to take over security in the country, will collapse. Under a deal with the Taliban, the US and its NATO allies agreed to withdraw all troops in return for a commitment by the militants not to allow any extremist group to operate in the areas they control. But the Taliban did not agree to stop fighting Afghan forces, and now reportedly control about a third of the country, the report said. The retreat is the third time Afghan soldiers have fled to Tajikistan over the past three days and the fifth case over the past fortnight. In total, nearly 1,600



soldiers have crossed the border. The latest group of Afghan troops sought refuge early on Monday morning after fighting with militants during the night, Tajikistan's National Security Committee said.

77 TALIBAN MILITANTS KILLED IN AFGHAN AIRSTRIKES

Kabul: At least 77 Taliban militants were killed as the Afghan Air Force has intensified airstrikes across the war-torn country, conducting multiple raids on insurgent positions, the Ministry of Defence confirmed on Tuesday. Earlier in the day, 35 militants were killed following a pre-dawn airstrike in surrounding areas of Alishing district of Laghman province, the Ministry said in a statement. A footage released by the Ministry showed heavily armed militants gathering in a muddy house before launching attacks on security checkpoints in the area, reports Xinhua news agency. In Logar province, 26 militants were killed in two separate raids on the outskirts of provincial capital Pul-e-Alam and Khoshi district on Monday night, the statement said.

Urgent vaccine supplies sought for B'desh



Dhaka | Agencies Urgent actions were required to increase Covid-19 vaccine supplies for Bangladesh as hospitals have reached their capacity and oxygen supplies were running short due to an ongoing rapid Covid-19 resurgence, a global humanitarian organisation said on Tuesday. According to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the deadly

Delta variant was spreading fast in urban and rural areas across Bangladesh, exhausting the entire health sector beyond its limits, reports Xinhua news agency.

It said hospitals in areas of Bangladesh bordering India were experiencing a sharp rise in infections and deaths. In the capital Dhaka, around 78 per cent of infections had been identified as caused by the Delta strain, the government said.

Online shopping in S.Korea hits record high



Seoul | Agencies

South Korea's online shopping rate hit a new record high in May as people still refrained from stepping out amid the continued Covid-19 pandemic, official figures revealed on Tuesday. Online shopping amounted to 16.06 trillion won (\$14.2 billion) in May, up 26 per cent from a year earlier, according to Statistics Korea. It surpassed 16 trillion won for the first time amid the ongoing pandemic, reports Xinhua news agency.

Online food delivery services surged 62.2 per cent over the year to 2.1 trillion won in May, and the online purchase of food and beverage jumped 38.1 percent to 2 trillion won. The online purchase of electronic and communication devices advanced 19.7 per cent in the cited month, and those for clothing and daily necessities gained 2.4 per cent and 13.3 per cent, respectively. Shopping for farm goods, culture and leisure services, and travel and transport services also increased in double digits, and online shopping for auto accessories almost tripled in the month. Mobile shopping through smartphones came in at 11.4 trillion won in May, up 31.6 per cent from the same month of last year. It accounted for 71.2 per cent of the total online shopping.

Tropical storm Elsa makes landfall in Cuba

Havana | Agencies

Tropical storm Elsa made landfall in Cuba with sustained winds of 95 km per hour, according to the latest report from the country's Institute of Meteorology (Insmet). "Meteorological radar confirmed that at 1.40 p.m. on Monday, Elsa made landfall at the Cienaga de Zapata (Zapata Swamp), on the southern coast of the western province of Matanzas," Xinhua news agency quoted Insmet as saying. Insmet experts hope the storm will weaken as it moves inland on its way out to sea again at an unspecified point between Matanzas and the western province of Artemisa.

Rain will continue to affect the central region of the country, with heavy rainfall in some locations, mainly in mountainous areas. Due to the storm's current trajectory, Civil Defense lifted storm warnings for the eastern provinces of Guantanamo, Santiago de Cuba, Granma, Holguin and Las Tunas, as well as central Camaguey and Ciego de Avila provinces. Warnings are still in effect for Sancti Spiritus, Villa Clara, Cienfuegos, Matanzas, Mayabeque and Havana. The storm, which reached



sustained winds of 120 kilometers per hour to classify as a Category 1 hurricane on the 1-to-5 Saffir-Simpson scale of intensity, weakened slightly on July 3 into a tropical storm. Elsa is the first hurricane of the hurricane season in the Caribbean, which runs from June 1 to November 30, preceded by tropical storms Ana, Bill, Claudette and Danny.



'Happier than ever'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Jennifer Lopez is turning 52-years-old on July 24, but she still looks like she is in her thirties. And this weekend the Bronx native flaunted her youthful looks yet again as she shared a teaser for the music video for her single Cambia El Paso. The 51-year-old star highlighted her gorgeous figure as she wore a crystal-studded bikini top with short blue denim Daisy Duke style Levi's shorts while on the beach in Florida, reports dailymail.co.uk.

Also on Monday the siren said in a radio interview that the song is about change and moving on from something that doesn't work anymore, hinting that the tune was inspired by her April split from Alex Rodriguez. She also said she is now 'happier than ever' amid her rekindled romance with Ben Affleck. Her single with Puerto Rican rapper Rauw Alejandro was released on Monday. In the video - which was filmed in early June in Miami - she looked sizzling hot in a little glittery triangle top that highlighted her great figure from daily gym visits. The blue denim shorts made the most of her toned legs as her Dolce & Gabbana undies popped out. Jennifer's gold cross earrings were framed by her voluminous caramel-colored locks, and her face was elegantly made up with neutral tones. The Maid In Manhattan star was seen laying in the sand and sitting up for dance moves.



'I GET TO BE NAKED, DRUNK AND STONED AT WORK'

Lottie Moss details why she loves earning her money via OnlyFans as she shares sexy shots from sizzling shoot with Megan Barton Hanson

Los Angeles | Agencies

Lottie Moss was teasing potential subscribers with her content on Monday as she set pulses racing while wearing lacy underwear on Instagram for a shoot where she was working with Megan Barton Hanson. The model was sending temperatures soaring in a behind-the-scenes shoot, while she wrote a caption reading: 'When people ask me why I do Only Fans I simply tell them - because I get to be naked, drunk and stoned at work.' Lottie took to social media to share the behind-the-scenes pictures from her latest Only Fans photoshoot, where she was showing off her incredible curves in a series of clips as she posed in various skimpy outfits, reports dailymail.co.uk. She wore a blush pink bralette which flashed her cleavage and left little to the imagination while singing to a tiny chihuahua puppy. In another Stories update she appeared to have had an outfit change, this time wearing a lace bustier and bottoms which were covered in silver jewels. The beauty also wore a pair of lacy fingerless gloves to complete the sexy look. She moved around on the bed wearing the racy outfit trying to find her best angle and giving her followers a taste of her latest content.

'Hello Government?'

Ed Sheeran's podcast appearance is interrupted by Home Office as he takes a call ensuring he is quarantining after jetting from US to the UK

Los Angeles | Agencies

Ed Sheeran was interrupted during an interview when he received a call from the UK Home Office to ensure he was quarantining. The star recently flew back to London from the US and he shared an insight into the strict government restrictions as he took the call mid-chat. People can enter the UK from America but they have to quarantine for 10 days on arrival and take multiple negative COVID tests before they can leave quarantine. The clip showed Ed, 30, chatting to Harry Potter actors Oliver and James Phelps for their podcast Normal not Normal when he took the urgent call.

The government Covid officials spoke to the singer for a few minutes to confirm he was complying with the quarantine rules. On the podcast, Ed took the call and apologised for having to pause the interview, reports dailymail.co.uk.

The singer said: 'Wait, wait, government, hello?' His manager Stuart Camp joked: 'It's like being called by your teacher.' James also made light of the interruption and said: 'I just had visions of when you're hiding at your mate's house and your mum calls to ask if you're on your own.' The US remains on the government's Amber List meaning that before travellers leave, they must take a COVID-19 test and book and pay for day 2 and day 8 COVID-19 travel tests - to be taken after arrival in England.



Harrison Ford injured while filming 'Indiana Jones V'

London | Agencies

Hollywood star Harrison Ford was seen wearing an arm sling after suffering an accident on the sets of 'Indiana Jones V'. The 78-year-old husband of Calista Flockhart was photographed taking a walk with his right arm on a khaki sling. A photograph surfacing online saw the actor in a navy sweater, gray pants, brown shoes and a black face mask, reports aceshowbiz.com. The picture came nearly a week after Disney announced the incident involving Harrison.

Read a statement in June: 'In the course of rehearsing for a fight scene, Harrison Ford sustained an injury involving his shoulder. Production will continue while the appropriate course of treatment is evaluated, and the filming schedule will be reconfigured as needed in the coming weeks.'

Meanwhile, a source told The Sun newspaper's Bizarre column: 'It is Harrison's last outing as Indiana and everyone thought it would be plain sailing.' The source added, 'After the initial delays everyone was raring to go. But now Harrison is injured and it is worse than first thought.'

'The film's bosses have come together to work out the scheduling and it's chaos. The earliest they think they can restart the production is September,' the insider further spilled. 'It was not what anyone was expecting so to have to change everything is a huge blow. Everyone was concerned for Harrison and they are glad he is on the mend.'

The film is now helmed by "Logan" and "Ford v Ferrari" director James Mangold and is currently slated for release on July 29, 2022.



RYAN REYNOLDS IS THE BEST ACTOR; THINKS DWAYNE JOHNSON

Los Angeles | Agencies

It's been 20 years since Dwayne Johnson first made his transition to acting after his WWE stardom, with the actor apparently revealing who is the best actor he worked with.

Johnson, stars alongside Ryan Reynolds and Gal Gadot in the upcoming Netflix action-comedy Red Notice, with We Got This Covered reporting Johnson is a 'huge fan' of Reynolds and he thinks Reynolds is the best actor he's worked with. Neither Johnson nor Reynolds have publicly spoken about this report, which stemmed from an insider named Daniel Richtman. Reynolds also had a memorable cameo in Johnson's 2019 Fast & Furious spin-off Hobbs & Shaw, which was directed by Reynolds' Deadpool 2 director David Leitch, reports dailymail.co.uk.

Reynolds played Locke, a CIA agent sent to recruit Johnson's character Luke Hobbs on this world-saving mission. Filming resumed in September, with production wrapping in November on the movie, which is said to be Netflix's most expensive film ever. The budget is reportedly upwards of \$200 million, with Johnson, Reynolds and Gadot all reportedly receiving \$20 million each to star.



'I'd rather starve than eat McDonalds!'

Shirley Ballas reveals she's NEVER eaten a takeaway as she admits she has a 'difficult' relationship with food

Los Angeles | Agencies

Shirley Ballas has revealed that she's never ordered a takeaway, while she'd rather 'starve' than tuck into a McDonalds meal.

The Strictly Come Dancing head judge, discussed her culinary habits ahead of her appearance on cooking show Cooking With The Stars, where she told how her taste in food is 'simple'.

Shirley also admitted that she had a 'difficult' relationship with food due to her ex-husband Corky Ballas having 'a thing about weight' and would make her feel uneasy if she'd had a big portion.

In an interview with the Radio Times, the ballroom dancer explained her eating preferences and told how she'd rather a home-cooked meal rather than a takeaway, reports dailymail.co.uk.

She said: 'I've never ordered in - I have never done that Deliveroo thing, ever - and I don't eat fast food. I'd rather starve than eat a McDonalds.'



ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY

Pixie Lott





MITHALI'S 3 SUCCESSIVE 50s TAKES HER TO NO.1 SPOT IN ICC RANKINGS

Dubai | Agencies

Mithali Raj's three successive half-centuries in the three-match ODI series against

England helped her grab the No.1 position in ICC Women's ODI Player Rankings for the eighth time in her 22-year-old international career. The 38-year-old, who made 72 in the first ODI, struck 59 in the second match and then guided India to a four-wicket victory in the final match of the series with an unbeaten 75, gaining four spots to sit atop the latest weekly rankings.

Mithali had started the tour in eighth position but her series aggregate of 206 runs - the best by a batter on either side -- has helped her reclaim the top position, which she last occupied in February 2018.

"The first time she reached No. 1 position was in April 2005 after scoring an unbeaten 91 against New Zealand in ICC Women's Cricket World Cup in Potchefstroom and



the difference of more than 16 years at No.1 is the largest for any woman batter," said the International Cricket Council (ICC) in its statement. In other gains for Indian women players, opener Shafali Verma's scores of 44 and 19 in the last two ODIs of the series saw her gain 49 places to reach 71st position while Jhulan Goswami is up four places to 53rd. In the bowlers' list, all-rounder Deepti Sharma is up one place to 12th after finishing with figures of three for 47 in the final match. For England, opener Lauren Winfield-Hill has advanced 14 places to 41st position with scores of 42 and 36 while Sophia Dunkley has soared 80 places to 76th after scoring 73 not out and 28. Left-arm spinner Sophie Ecclestone continues her ascent, gaining four places to reach a career-best sixth position among bowlers after returns of three for 33 and two for 36. Kate Cross's haul of five for 34 in the second match of the series was instrumental in seeing her advance from 25th to 18th position. Natalie Sciver and Sarah Glenn have both moved up one place to reach 22nd and 43rd positions, respectively.

WIMBLEDON CHAMPIONSHIPS

Barty, Aryna & Karolina enter semis as Ons's run ends

FEDERER, ALIASSIME SECURE QUARTERFINAL BERTHS

Swiss ace Roger Federer extended his dominance at Wimbledon, recording a 7-5, 6-4, 6-2 victory over Italy's Lorenzo Sonego to reach his 18th quarterfinal at the All England Club. The sixth seed, winner of eight Wimbledon titles, saved two of the three break points he faced in the match to book a place in his all-time record-extending 58th Grand Slam quarterfinal. Federer will take on the winner of the match between second seed Daniil Medvedev of Russia and Poland's world No. 14 Hubert Hurkacz whose match on Monday evening was postponed due to rain. World No. 19 Felix Auger-Aliassime of Canada came back from 2-4 down in the first and second sets, withstood an Alexander Zverev resurgence in the third and fourth set before defeating the fourth seed from Germany 6-4, 7-6(6), 3-6, 3-6, 6-4 and securing a quarterfinal berth. The 20-year-old will face seventh seed Matteo Berrettini of Italy in the last-eight.

London | Agencies

World No 1 Ashleigh Barty made short work of Ajla Tomljanovic in a clash of



two Australian players to enter her maiden semi-final at the Wimbledon Championships on Tuesday.

Ashleigh, the 25-year-old from Ipswich who won the French Open in 2019, outplayed her compatriot 6-1, 6-3 in just over an hour at the All-England Club Centre Court.

In the semi-finals, she will take on 2018 winner Angelique Kerber of Germany, who defeated 19th seed Karolina Muchova of Czech Republic 6-2, 6-3.

Earlier, second seed Aryna Sabalenka ended the fairytale run of upcoming Tunisian star Ons Jabeur, winning 6-4, 6-3 in their quarter-final. She will now meet eighth seed Karolina Pliskova, who outplayed Viktorija Golubic of Switzerland 6-2, 6-2 to make the last-four stage.

Although Aryna hit less aces (three against four) and committed more double faults (five against two), she converted three of the 10 break-points and won 83 per cent of first-service points

against Ons. Czech Republic star Karolina's game was more power-packed than her opponent's as she fired eight aces against none by Viktorija.

Karolina, who won 83 per cent points on first service and converted four of the 10 break-points, has now reached semi-finals in all four Grand Slam events. She had entered the last four stage at the 2016 US Open, the 2017 French Open and the 2019 Australian Open.

Stokes captain of new England team after Covid affects 7 of squad

London | Agencies

All-rounder Ben Stokes was on Tuesday appointed skipper of an England side that has nine uncapped players for the ODI series against Pakistan after the entire original squad and management staff went into isolation due to seven Covid-19 cases in the camp.

The ODI series against Pakistan commences on July 8.

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) said in a statement on Tuesday that it was naming an "18-strong group for the series against Pakistan".

"Ben Stokes will return to the squad to captain the side and Chris Silverwood, who had been due to take

some time away during the white ball series, is back as head coach. In total, there are nine uncapped players in the squad," the ECB said.

The announcement comes after three members of the initial playing group and four members of the management staff had tested positive for Covid-19, and consequently the entire squad initially selected went into isolation.

The ECB said that incoming players and support team members would follow PCR tests and bridging protocols to ensure safe entry to camp.

"Following PCR tests administered yesterday [Monday] in Bristol, the ECB can confirm that seven members -- three players and four management team members -- of the England Men's

ODI party have tested positive for Covid-19. The remaining members of the party have been deemed close contacts and will also isolate," the ECB said.

"In collaboration with Public Health England, Public Health Wales, and Bristol Local Health Authority, those impacted will now observe a period of self-isolation from July 4 following the UK Government's protocol on quarantine."

ODI squad: Ben Stokes (captain), Jake Ball, Danny Briggs, Brydon Carse, Zak Crawley, Ben Duckett, Lewis Gregory, Tom Helm, Will Jacks, Dan Lawrence, Saqib Mahmood, Dawid Malan, Craig Overton, Matt Parkinson, David Payne, Phil Salt, John Simpson and James Vince

PANDYA BOWLED IN INTRA-SQUAD GAME, FINAL CALL YET TO BE MADE

Colombo: All-rounder Hardik Pandya is bowling in the nets in Sri Lanka although the decision to make him bowl in the upcoming limited-overs series will be taken by him and the Indian team management, ahead of the first ODI on July 13, said batsman Suryakumar Yadav on Tuesday. Even though Pandya didn't bowl for Mumbai Indians during IPL, he rolled his arm over in the limited-overs games for India against England in March this year. He bowled 17 overs in the five T20 Internationals, picking three wickets and conceding runs at 6.94 an over which was the second best on either side after Bhuvneshwar Kumar. Pandya also bowled in the third and final ODI against England and was quite economical, conceding runs at 5.33 in nine overs. The 27-year-old, who has played 60 ODIs and 48 T20 Internationals, had also said the tour of Sri Lanka has come as a surprise.



NEW VENUES FOR 2022 AFC WOMEN'S ASIAN CUP IN INDIA NAMED

New Delhi: The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) and the AFC Women's Asian Cup India 2022 Local Organising Committee (LOC) on Tuesday confirmed two new venues and host cities for the premier continental competition. The new venues are the Mumbai Football Arena, Andheri Sports Complex in Mumbai and the Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex in Balewadi, Pune. The DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai will remain as the third venue for the tournament, scheduled to take place from January 20 to February 6. The tournament had earlier been awarded to Ahmedabad, Bhubaneswar, and Navi Mumbai. But due to the travel involved and with the Covid-19 pandemic still raging, the venues have been changed and the matches will now be played at venues in close proximity.



PAQUETA STRIKE SENDS BRAZIL INTO COPA AMERICA FINAL

Rio de Janeiro | Agencies

A first-half strike from Lyon midfielder Lucas Paqueta fired Brazil to a 1-0 win over Peru as the Copa America hosts booked a place in the final at the Maracana Stadium.

Just as he did in Brazil's 1-0 defeat of Chile in the quarterfinal, Paqueta showed predatory instincts by combining with Neymar to deadly effect on Monday. The latter skipped around two defenders before squaring the ball for the former Flamengo playmaker, who coolly sent a first-time shot past Peru goalkeeper Pedro Gallese, reports Xinhua.

"Paqueta is a great player and improving with every game for the national team," Neymar said after the match. "He had a great season for his club and now he's showing



that he can be important for Brazil too."

Peru enjoyed brief periods of dominance in the second half but were unable to break down a Brazil backline that has conceded just twice in six games this tournament.

The result at Rio's Olympic stadium means Brazil will meet either Argentina or Colombia -- who will clash in the other semifinal -- in the decider at Brazilian football's spiritual home on July 10.

Brazil are now unbeaten in their past 13 outings and will be favourites to lift their second Copa America trophy on home soil in three years.

Neymar made no attempt to hide a desire to face Argentina in the final, citing friendships with several Albiceleste players, including Lionel Messi and Angel Di Maria.

2021 Australian Grand Prix and Moto GP cancelled

Sydney | Agencies

Australia's state of Victoria on Tuesday announced the cancellation of the 2021 Formula 1 Australian Grand Prix and Australian MotoGP citing low rates of vaccination that has made it impossible to stage the events. The F1 Grand Prix, normally held in March in Melbourne's Albert Park, was initially postponed to November in the hope that the state would be ready for an international event by then, reports Xinhua.

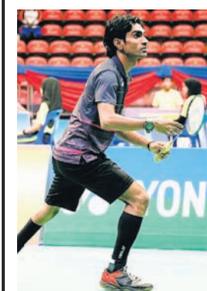
Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews said that it would be hard for Melbourne to host the event given that vac-



ination rates are not at the "critical mass" needed. "Running big international events is very challenging, but until that point [of vaccinations] we have to do everything we can to safeguard not bringing the virus in," said Andrews.

The cancellation was confirmed by the Australian Grand Prix Corporation (AGPC) on Tuesday afternoon. AGPC chairman Paul Little shared his disappointment that the events will be cancelled for the second year in a row.

ODISHA RECOMMENDS PRAMOD BHAGAT FOR RAJIV GANDHI KHEL RATNA



Bhubaneswar: The Odisha government has recommended the name of para-badminton player Pramod Bhagat for the country's highest sporting honour, "Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award", for the year 2021.

The state also recommended the name of vice-captain of Indian women's hockey team, Deep Grace Ekka for Arjuna Award for the year 2021. The department of sports and youth services (DSYS) has recommended the names to the sports ministry. "DSYS has recommended the names of #Odia para shuttler @PramodBhagat83 and current @TheHockeyIndia's vice-captain Deep Grace Ekka for the prestigious Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award and Arjuna Award respectively, for the year 2021," the department said in a tweet. A week ago, the state government had nominated ace sprinter Dutee Chand for the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award. It also nominated Olympic-bound Indian hockey vice-captain Birendra Lakra for Arjuna Award, hockey coach Kalucharan Choudhury for Dronacharya Award and former sprinter & Olympian Anuradha Biswal for Dhyana Chand Award.

WILL GO WITH SMITH'S DECISION IF HE WANTS TO SKIP T20 WORLD CUP: PAINE

Sydney | Agencies

Australian Test skipper Tim Paine has said he will go with Steve Smith's decision if he desires to skip the ICC T20 World Cup in order to be fit for the gruelling Ashes series beginning in December.

Australia's top batsman, Smith had to withdraw from the current white-ball series in the West Indies and Bangladesh due to a left elbow injury, but is hopeful of recovering in time for the T20 World Cup, scheduled to run from October 17 to November 14. However, the former Australian captain has said that he is willing to sacrifice his participation in the T20 World Cup in the UAE if it can help him remain fit for the Ashes beginning December 8.



"What's important to me is that he is fit to go whether that is the T20 World Cup or the Ashes. Obviously, from a selfish point of view, I would like love him to be 100 per cent fit (for the Ashes) if that means he misses that tournament (T20 World Cup)," Paine said during a virtual press conference on Monday. "He's a professional and knows his body; if he doesn't feel like, he is right then. Clearly he is the best player in the world...he's been dealing with it (elbow injury) for a while now. When one gets old it becomes harder to keep pushing through. Now, he's got the time, he (can) take that time to get 100 per cent right, and then not just the Ashes but to try and prolong his career for another four, five or six years," said Paine.

Rashid becomes Afghanistan T20 captain

Kabul: All-rounder Rashid Khan has been appointed captain of the Afghanistan team for the T20 World Cup, which will take place in the United Arab Emirates in October-November.

Khan, who had only last month said that he wasn't interested in captaining the national team, accepted the leadership offer this time, saying that it is his duty to serve the team. The team is currently gearing up for the T20 World Cup. "I'm a great believer that a captain is as good as his team. It is Afghanistan that gave me the name RASHID KHAN & it is my duty now to serve my country & my team. Thank you @ACBofficials for the trust & believing in me. It is a dream journey & my fans' support will be the key," added the 22-year-old Khan, who has played five Test matches, 74 ODIs, and 51 T20 Internationals.





ALIA, RANVEER, DHARMENDRA, JAYA BACHCHAN, SHABANA AZMI IN KJO'S NEW FILM



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Filmmaker Karan Joha on Tuesday announced his new directorial, "Rocky Aur Rani Ki Prem Kahani". The film has a star-studded cast comprising Ranveer Singh and Alia Bhatt, along with veterans Dharmendra, Jaya Bachchan and Shabana Azmi. Incidentally July 6, the day of announcement, is also Ranveer Singh's birthday.

"A special announcement on my special day! Presenting -- Rocky Aur Rani Ki Prem Kahani along with my dazzling supernova Alia Bhatt, directed by the genre himself, kaleidoscopic visionary Karan Joha, & written by Ishita Moitra, Shashank Khaitan and Sumit Roy," Ranveer wrote. Taking to Twitter, Joha said he would be directing his 'favourite people' Alia and Ranveer in an upcoming film titled "Rocky Aur Rani Ki Prem Kahani". "Thrilled to get behind the lens with my favourite people in front of it! Presenting Rocky Aur Rani Ki Prem

Kahani, headlined by none other than Ranveer Singh and Alia Bhatt and written by Ishita Moitra, Shashank Khaitan & Sumit Roy," Karan Joha tweeted. Alia wrote in an Instagram post: "Legendary, evergreen and inspirational! Meet the rest of the pillars of this kahaani - Dharmendra, Jaya Bachchan & Shabana Azmi! #RockyAurRaniKiPremKahani #RRKPK."

Later in the day, veteran actor Dharmendra posted on social media to state that his fans would return to a romantic role again in this film.

SYLVESTER STALLONE PRAISED NADIADWALA

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Sajid Nadiadwala worked with the Hollywood legend, Sylvester Stallone in the 2009 film Kambakht Ishq. On his birthday on Tuesday, Stallone has said all the good things for his only Indian producer, Sajid Nadiadwala. The video put out on Sajid Nadiadwala's Nadiadwala Grandson Entertainment social media page shared, "It's a dream come true working with you sly! Thanks for the kind words and a Very Happy Birthday! Always your Die hard fan and producer. The video gives us a glimpse into many BTS moments shared by Sajid and Sylvester during the shoot days in 2009. Sylvester also left no chance unattended to praise the producer, speaking so highly of our very own Sajid Nadiadwala, fondly known as 'sly', Sylvester Stallone is an established veteran actor. Having only good things to say about him, there's one thing we all have to agree on - the duo even today share a very good rapport and are more like brothers!



'Hindustani way' to cheer Indian Olympic squad



Composer AR Rahman and singer Ananya Birla have collaborated on a new single titled "Hindustani way" to cheer the Indian Olympic contingent at Tokyo this year.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The predominantly Hindi track mixes English vocals and sends out a message of unity and optimism. The patriotic song composed by Rahman has been penned by Ananya along with Nirmika Singh and Shishir Samant.

"All of us are really excited to have made this special song and hope our athletes can feel the entire nation rooting for them, the Hindustani way, when they hear it. It was a pleasure working with Ananya on this project and we hope to convey all our support and best wishes to Team India through it! Jai Hind," Rahman said. Ananya added: "It is a true honour to write and sing a song to cheer our Indian Olympic contingent at Tokyo 2020. The grit and fortitude of the Indian Olympic team in the face of such a challenging year is inspiring. It was surreal to have had the opportunity to collaborate with my role model, AR sir on such a prestigious project, from whom I have learnt so much. We are here cheering, the Hindustani way!"

Nia Sharma: Hair flip is a different high

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Nia Sharma has shared a stunning picture on social media flaunting her long curls while doing a hairflip. Nia posted a set of pictures on Instagram. In the images, she is seen sporting a stunning white ensemble. She completed her look with bright make-up and beach curls.

"Hair Flip is a different high," she wrote as the caption.

Nia was recently seen in the song "Tum bewafa ho" alongside Arjun Bijlani and Soumya Joshi.

She was recently seen in season two of the web series "Jamai 2.0", along with Ravi Dubey and Achint Kaur. The actress rose to fame with shows such as "Kaali: Ek Agnipariksha", "Ek Hazaron Mein Meri Behna Hai" and "Jamai Raja".

KIRTI KULHARI: OTT A SAFER OPTION NOW

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Kirti Kulhari has wowed the audience with her work on the digital platform including "Criminal Justice: Behind Closed Doors", "Bard Of Blood" and "Four More Shots Please!". She was recently seen in the digitally-released film "Shaadisthan". She says the OTT space has emerged a safer option for everyone. "Theatres are very less of an option right now. People are not considering (visiting theatres). Producers and distributors themselves are not considering doing theatre (release) because there is so much at risk. The world is in such a transit right now that it can really be a huge loss if the theatre thing does not work," Kirti told reporter.

"OTT has become a safer option now and a great option because you get to do what you love doing, which is acting, and people get to see you, and you get to do something substantial without the burden of whether a film would run at the box-office or not," she added. Kirti is now gearing up for the medical thriller web series "Human".



BHUI: THE PRIDE OF INDIA' TO RELEASE DIGITALLY ON AUGUST 13

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Ajay Devgn-starrer war action film "Bhuj: The Pride Of India" will release digitally on August 13, ahead of Independence Day. A motion poster of the film was released on Tuesday while the trailer will be launched on July 12. "1971. THE GREATEST BATTLE EVER FOUGHT. #BhujThePrideOfIndia releasing on 13th August only on @DisneyplusHSVIP. #DisneyPlusHotstarMultiplex," tweeted Devgn, announcing the news. The film, directed by Abhishek Dudhaiya, and has an ensemble cast comprising Sanjay Dutt, Sonakshi Sinha, Ammy Virk, Nora Fatehi and Sharad Kelkar in pivotal roles. "Bhuj: The Pride Of India" has been written by Abhishek Dudhaiya, Raman Kumar, Ritesh Shah, and Pooja Bhavoria and is all set to release on August 13 on Disney+ Hotstar.



INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Amyra Dastur