For Generation Ace

Like our stories? Have something to share? Send in your bouquets and brickbats to absoluteindiadesk@gmail.com

facebook.com @absoluteindianews | twitter.com @absoluteindnews | instagram.com @absoluteindianews | Live TV Live Tv @absoluteindianews

absolute india

VOL. 6, ISSUE 306, BHOPAL | FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2021 I ₹5 I PAGE 08

PUBLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM BHOPAL,MUMBAI AND NEW DELHI

NATION > 02

Pegasus row: SC likely to set up panel to probe snooping...

HOLLYWOOD > 06

Sosie Bacon to star in 'Something's Wrong With Rose'...

SPORTS > 07

It's raining milestones for Indian cricketers at IPL...

COVID VIRUS TO GET WEAKER, BECOME A COLD, SAYS OXFORD-ASTRAZENECA VAX CREATOR

COVID -19: STILL A MYSTERY

> We already live with four different human coronaviruses that we don't really ever think about very much and eventually SARS-CoV-2 will become one of those. It's just a question of how long it's going to take to get there and what measures we're going to have to take to manage it in the meantime."
>
> *Professor Dame Sarah Gilbert, Scientist, Oxford University*

LONDON | Agencies

Covid is unlikely to mutate into a deadlier variant and will eventually end up as a common cold, said Professor Dame Sarah Gilbert, who created the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine.

Cutting down fears of a more deadly new variant, she said that viruses tend to "become less virulent as they circulate" through the population, Daily Mail reported.

The 59-year-old led the team at Oxford University's Jenner institute which created the lifesaving Oxford-AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccine, the most widely distributed jab in the world.SARS-CoV-2 will eventually become like the coronaviruses which circulate widely and cause the common cold, Gilbert said.

Gilbert, who specialises in the development of jabs against emerging viruses, also called for funding to help prevent future pandemics, the report said.Further, she also said the very rare blood clots linked to the AstraZeneca jab have not been seen at the same rates in other parts of the world.Gilbert also suggested that primary work on a tweaked vaccine to combat the Beta variant of the virus only gave a "slightly better" immune response than the original vaccine, when given as a third dose to people who had already had two jabs of the AstraZeneca vaccine, but data is still being collected, the report said.

COVID MIGHT BE OCCASIONAL TRIGGER FOR GUILLAIN-BARRE SYNDROME

***London:** A Covid-19 infection may prompt auto-immune disorder, the Guillain-Barre syndrome (GBS), finds a study.In the disorder, a person's immune system attacks the nerves, causing muscle weakness and occasionally, paralysis. The condition is triggered by an acute bacterial or viral infection and can last for weeks or several years.Since the beginning of the pandemic, doctors have reported over 90 GBS cases following a possible Covid-19 infection. However, whether Covid-19 is another potential infectious trigger or whether the reported cases are coincidental is unclear. "Our study shows that Covid-19 may precede Guillain-Barre syndrome in rare cases," said Bart C Jacobs, from Erasmus MC, University Medical Center Rotterdam, the Netherlands."But the existence of a true association or causal relation still needs to be established," he added. The findings are published in the journal Brain.*

1ST COVID OUTBREAK DELIBERATE, OCCURRED IN OCT 2019: CHINESE WHISTLEBLOWER

London: A Chinese whistleblower has claimed that the first Covid-19 outbreak was intentional and took place in October 2019 at a military tournament in Wuhan -- two months before China notified the world about the deadly virus, media reports said. Ex-Chinese Communist Party insider Wei Jingsheng said that the World Military Games in October 2019 may have acted as the virus' first superspreader event, where some international athletes reportedly became sick with a mystery illness, Daily Mail reported. While coronavirus cases surged in China, the country reported the outbreak to the World Health Organisation only on December 31. "I thought the Chinese government would take this opportunity to spread the virus during the Military Games, as many foreigners would show up there," Jingsheng was quoted as saying in Sky News documentary 'What Really Happened in Wuhan'. The whistleblower claimed he had heard of the Chinese government carrying out an "unusual exercise" during the games. He said he made the approach as whispers of a "new SARS virus" began circulating on WeChat and other Chinese social media platforms.

Centre agrees for ex-gratia to family of Covid patients who died by suicide

Team Absolute | New Delhi

After Supreme Court's push, the Centre has agreed to consider financial assistance for family members of people who died by suicide within 30 days from being diagnosed as Covid positive.

In an additional affidavit submitted in the top court, the Ministry of Home Affairs said: "It is respectfully submitted that suitable directions in this regard may be passed by this Hon'ble Court, whereby, the family members of people committing suicide within 30 days from being diagnosed as Covid-19 positive as per MoH&F/ICMR guidelines will also be entitled to avail financial help as granted under SDRF in accordance with the Guidelines dated 11.09.2021 issued by NDMA under Section 12 (iii) of DMA".On September 13, the top court had observed that there have been cases where people suffering from Covid-19 died by suicide and such people do not form part of the guidelines issued on September 3. It further added that such people should also be suitably considered for ex-gratia, and they should also be included within the ambit of financial help sought to be given by Union of India under the guidelines which would be framed under Section 12 (iii) of DMA.

The top court had expressed its satisfaction over guidelines framed by the Centre for issuing Covid death certificates and payment of compensation.

SC is happy with Rs 50K ex gratia to Covid victims' kin

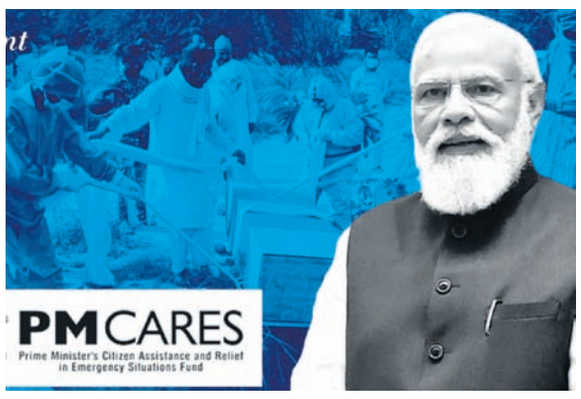
***New Delhi:** The Supreme Court on Thursday said it is "very happy" with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) guidelines for providing Rs 50,000 ex-gratia assistance to the kin of those who succumbed to Covid.*

A bench of Justices M.R. Shah and A.S. Bopanna orally said: "We are very happy. This will bring solace to a lot of people.... it will wipe the tears of many. We are happy that something is being done to wipe out tears of the person who suffered. We have to take judicial notice of the fact that what India has done, no other country could do." The top court noted that given the size of the population, vaccine expenses, economic situation, and the adverse circumstances, the government took exemplary steps.

According to NDMA guidelines, Rs 50,000 ex-gratia assistance will be paid to the families of those who died due to Covid-19 by the states from the SDRF.

PM CARES "Not A Government Fund", PMO to High Court

Team Absolute | New Delhi



The PM CARES Fund is not a Government of India fund and the amount collected by it does not go to the Consolidated Fund of India, the Delhi High Court has been informed. An affidavit filed by an Under Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) who is discharging his functions in the PM Cares Trust on honorary basis, has said the trust functions with transparency and its funds are audited by an auditor - a chartered accountant drawn from the panel prepared by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

The affidavit was filed in response to a petition seeking a direction to declare the PM CARES Fund a 'State' under the Constitution to ensure transparency in its functioning.

A bench of Chief Justice DN Patel and Justice Amit Bansal has fixed the matter for further hearing on September 27.

"To ensure transparency, the audited report is put on the official website of the trust along with the details of utilisation of funds received by the trust," says the affidavit filed by Pradeep Kumar Srivastava, Under Secretary at the PM's Office.

"I state that when the petitioner is claiming to be a public-spirited person and seeking to pray for various reliefs only for transparency, it does not matter whether PM Cares is a 'State' within the meaning of Article 12 of the Constitution of India," the officer said in the affidavit.Irrespective of whether the trust is a 'State' or other authority within the meaning of Article 12 of the Constitution or whether it is a 'public authority' within the meaning of provisions of the Right to Information Act (RTI), it is not permissible to disclose third party information, it added.

BJP MLA PRAISES THACKERAY, SAYS CM IS DOING GOOD WORK

The legislator from the opposition party in the state says whenever anyone, including from the opposition, approaches Thackeray for any work, he gives a patient hearing and useful advice

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra BJP MLA Manda Mhatre has praised Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, saying he is "doing good work" in the state.The legislator from the opposition party in the state also told reporters in Navi Mumbai on Wednesday that whenever anyone, including from the opposition, approaches Thackeray for any work, he gives a patient hearing and useful advice.

"The chief minister is doing good work," Mhatre said while mentioning that Thackeray had given approval for a super-specialty hospital in Navi Mumbai, which would be of great help to people."When the chief minister is supportive of our projects and gives it a push, why not say he is doing good work," said the MLA from Belapur in Navi Mumbai. When pointed out that the CM was facing criticism from her party, the MLA said, "A chief minister is for the entire state. As a leader of the state he has to take important decisions. If we say that he has been doing good work, what is wrong in it."Mhatre is among the 12 women BJP MLAs from Maharashtra who wrote to Thackeray on Wednesday, expressing concerns over rising crime against women in the state.

LET TERROR MODULE BUSTED IN KASHMIR

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Police has busted a recruitment module of proscribed terror outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba in Bandipora district, arresting four terrorist associates, besides detaining two youth who were about to join terrorist ranks, officials said on Thursday. Acting on a specific input, Bandipora police arrested a terrorist associate, identified as Asadullah Parray, resident of Hajin, heading the terrorist recruitment module. Police said in the current instance, Parray was actively abetted in running the module by his nephew Naseer Ahmed Parray, resident of Hajin, Haseena, resident of Sheeri, Khurshid Ahmad, resident of Naidkhai and others. A huge quantity of incendiary materials which were to be used for making petrol bombs was also recovered from them.

Provide Free Cancer Treatment To Bhopal Gas Tragedy Victims: MP High Court To State Govt.

The High Court has directed the Madhya Pradesh government to provide free cancer treatment to the victims of Bhopal Gas Tragedy at AIIMS Bhopal.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Madhya Pradesh High Court has directed the state government to provide free treatment to Bhopal gas tragedy victims suffering from cancer at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences in Bhopal.

A division bench issued the direction while hearing petitions by the Bhopal Gas Peedith Mahila Udyog Sangthan and the Nagrik Upbhokta Margdarshak Manch who sought medical facilities to victims of the tragedy which took place in 1984.

The highly toxic methyl isocyanides gas leaked from the then Union Carbide factory in Bhopal on the intervening night of December 2 and 3, 1984, killed more than 3,700 people and affected more than 5.58 lakh others, according to the MP government records.

A monitoring committee, formed by the Supreme Court, which was looking into the issues pertaining to gas tragedy victims, recently submitted its report to the high court.

Advocate Piyush Jain appeared for the monitoring committee and prayed for time to file a response to the action taken report filed by the state government and the one to be filed by the Union government.

"It is directed that free of cost treatment be provided to the victims of Bhopal Gas Tragedy, who are suffering from any of the cancers, in AIIMS, Bhopal, in the light of the recommendation made in the meeting convened by (MP) Additional Chief Secretary on June 17, 2021," the HC said in its order. The court posted the matter for next hearing on October 8.

3,000 KG HEROIN SEIZURE: DRI CARRIES OUT RAIDS IN EIGHT CITIES, ARRESTS EIGHT

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) carried out raids in eight cities, including New Delhi and Noida, in wake of the seizure of 2,988.22 kilogramme heroin from Gujarat's Mundra port, and arrested eight people, including four Afghanistan nationals and one Uzbek national, from across the country.

The agency stated that immediate follow-up operations were carried out in New Delhi, Noida, Chennai, Coimbatore, Ahmedabad, Mandvi, Gandhidham, and Vijayawada.

"This led to recovery of 16.1 kg of heroin from a godown in Delhi, 10.2 kgs powder suspected to be cocaine and 11 kgs of substance suspected to be heroin from a residential place in Noida," it said.

The three Indians arrested in the case so far include the holders of the Import Export Code (IEC), which was used to import the consignment. M. Sudhakar and his wife Durga Vaishali, who allegedly ran Vijayawada-registered Aashi Trading Company which had imported heroin declaring the consignment as 'talc stones', were arrested from Chennai.

The agency said the heroin was concealed in jumbo bags said to contain unprocessed talc powder. The narcotic was placed in the lower layers of the bags, which had talc stones on the top to avoid detection. Resultantly, the heroin had to be painstakingly separated from the talc stones. Two days ago, the Enforcement Directorate has registered a money laundering case in a drug trafficking case.

About the operation, a senior DRI officer stated that specific intelligence was developed by them that a consignment, imported by Aashi Trading Company, Vijaywada and declared as semi-processed talc stones, originating from Afghanistan and shipped from Iran's Bandar Abbas Port, to Mundra is suspected to contain narcotics.

These drugs originated from Afghanistan. Accordingly, officers of DRI detained the consignment -- two containers, 40 tonnes -- for examination under the provisions of Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic substance Act.

The examination was conducted in presence of experts from Forensics Science Lab, Gandhinagar. During examination, suspected narcotics drugs were recovered from both the containers. FSL conducted tests and confirmed the presence of heroin.

"Accordingly, 1,999.579 kg recovered from the first container and 988.64 kg recovered from the second container, totalling 2,988.219 kg, were seized under the provisions of NDPS Act, 1985," the DRI had stated.

Kerala's ruling LDF calls for 'hartal' on Monday for Bharat Bandh

Thiruvananthapuram | Agencies

Kerala's ruling Left Democratic Front (LDF), led by the CPI-M, on Thursday announced that the state will observe a shutdown on Monday as part of the Bharat Bandh being observed across the country called by the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM).

The shutdown will be from dawn to dusk and all shops, establishments and markets will be closed across the state.

"We have decided to take part in it as we are fighting the wrong policies of the Centre. Just look into the farmers protest... now it has been more than a year since the protest began and we here in Kerala will fully join the nationwide protest. Around 5 lakh people will take part in the state which will be split into groups of five each in one place to observe Covid protocols," said LDF convenor A. Vijayaraghavan.

He also said that all public examinations scheduled for that day will be changed.

Eight idols stolen from Ayodhya temple

AYODHYA | Agencies

Eight ancient idols were stolen from a century-old temple in Ayodhya.

The statues were found missing on Wednesday after which a case was lodged at the Haidergarh police circle.

Ayodhya's Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Sailesh Kumar Pandey said, "The idols were stolen from a temple . Initially, it was said that nine idols were missing but one of the idols was later recovered from the temple premises. We have lodged a case of theft and initiated investigation."

According to police sources, the temple is built on the private property of one Anand Kumar Singh, who is a descendent of a royal family. The temple is managed by a private trust named Ram Janki Trust. It was built by Singh's ancestors over a century ago. The temple has several idols in it.

The priest of the temple, on Wednesday, found the lock on the inner gate of the temple broken and idols missing. Satyendra Bhushan Tiwari, Circle Officer, said, "The missing idols were made of metal and were three to nine inches tall and were over a century old. We have formed two teams to track the thieves. We are taking help from the dog squad, forensic unit and local intelligence.""The temple has no CCTV camera or security guard. A priest takes care of the temple and locks it in the night," he added.

TWO KILLED IN BENGALURU BLAST AT CRACKERS WAREHOUSE

Bengaluru: Two people were killed in the explosion in a Bengaluru warehouse, due to the firecrackers stocked there, on Thursday, Karnataka Home Minister Araga Jnanendra said.

"This is a huge tragedy. The police, fire force, emergency services personnel have rushed to the spot. They are investigating how the incident has taken place. The police are taking all precautions but these incidents are happening," he said. "I think it is the result of crackers. Since, Deepavali festival is around the corner and crackers are being stocked," he added.

Earlier the police, after preliminary investigations, had said that three persons had been killed but was it was difficult to ascertain as body parts were strewn around.

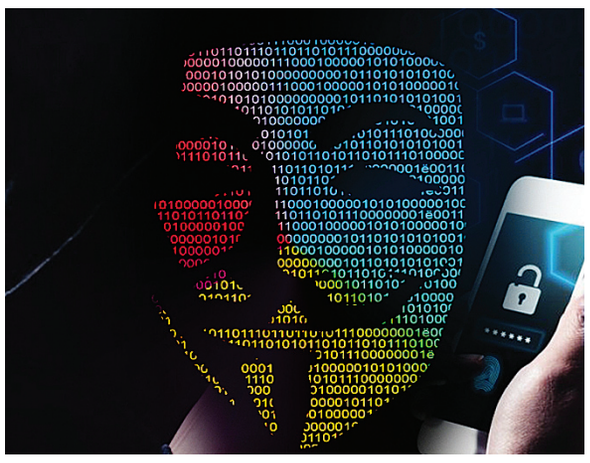
Pegasus row: SC likely to set up panel to probe snooping allegations

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Thursday indicated that it may set up a technical committee to probe the allegations of snooping by using the Pegasus spyware on journalists, activists etc.

A bench headed by chief justice N.V. Ramana orally told senior advocate C.U. Singh, who is appearing for one of the petitioners in Pegasus matter, that some experts have expressed their inability to join the probe due to personal reasons and an order on the committee is expected next week.

Justice Ramana said that court wanted to pass orders this week, however, the orders were deferred as some members, who the court had wanted to be part of the technical committee, had expressed personal difficulties to be on the committee. "That is why it is taking time to constitute the technical expert committee," he said, and further added that the court will finalize the members of the technical committee soon.



The Centre had already proposed to constitute an expert panel, comprising of independent members, to examine the snooping allegations. Centre said this committee can submit its report to the top court.

On September 13, the Centre had told the Supreme Court it does not wish to file a detailed affidavit now clarifying whether Pegasus spyware was used or not, in its response to a batch of petitions seeking independent probe into the alleged snooping.

Skeletons of 3 missing girls found in UP forest

MIRZAPUR | Agencies

The skeletons of three minor girls, who had been reported missing since the past one month, have been found in a forest in the Harra area here.

The girls had left their home with their mother in Belahi village of the Halia area in Mirzapur district a month ago and were missing since then.

The mother is now absconding after the recovery of skeletons that have been sent for autopsy and forensic examination.

Station Officer (SO), Halia Rajkumar Singh said that some local shepherds spotted skeletons in the jungles of Harra on Wednesday afternoon and alerted the husband and brother of the girls.

They reached the spot and ascertained their identity with the help of clothes lying there.

The police were informed and the skeletons were seized. The SO said that efforts were being made to trace the absconding mother.

Initial investigation revealed that one Devidas Kole of Belahi village had three sons and a daughter from his first wife Falguni, who died a few years ago.

He had then married Sima, who had two daughters from her first husband.

After marriage, Sima's daughters also started living with Kole's family.

On August 16, Sima left home with the three daughters -- Golu, 12, Munni, 10, and Mamta, 8, without informing her husband. Kole contacted his in-laws to get their whereabouts but failed.

On August 21, Sima contacted her brother Ramakant over phone and said that she was in Indore with her daughters. On the occasion of Raksha Bandhan, she reached Ramakant's place alone and on being asked about her daughters, she said that she had left them at Indore railway station.

Later, Kole and Ramakant reached Indore and also visited Ujjain to search for the three girls but could not find them. Sima left her home when she learnt that skeletons of the girls had been found.

GOVT SCHOOL TURNED INTO MAULANA'S DWELLING PLACE, VILLAGERS SEEK ACTION

Bengaluru: The villagers of Santhebachahalli in Mandya district of Karnataka have demanded action against a maulana who has turned a government Urdu school into his dwelling place.

The Urdu government school was constructed 45 years ago. It was closed for want of students. As the school is located close to the mosque, the religious leaders have painted its walls with green colour. They have also converted it into a prayer hall, the villagers have complained. The village panchayat joined hands with the religious leaders and with maulana, the villagers alleged.

The village panchayat has given consent for the conversion of Urdu school into a religious centre. The dwelling place of Maulana has been mentioned as 'temple of Babiah' in records, the villagers said.

India's highest EV charging station set up in Himachal

Shimla | Agencies

Against the picturesque backdrop of the Himalayas in Himachal Pradesh's Spiti Valley, India's highest electric vehicle (EV) charging station was set up by a company on Thursday.

The Pune-based company, goEgoNetwork, has set up two EV chargers for two and four-wheelers in Kaza, some 350 km from here.

Subdivisional Magistrate Mahender Partap Singh told reporter over phone that tourists often complain of lack of EV charging stations in the Spiti Valley."This is the first station in the valley. If the station gets good response, more such stations would be set up. It will also help check vehicular pollution," he said.

Two electric scooters have been provided by the company to the local administration to promote e-vehicles in the valley. Singh also said that two riders rode on e-scooters from Manali to Kaza.

Indian Army to procure 118 Arjun Mk-1A Main Battle Tanks for Rs 7,523 cr

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Defence Ministry placed an order to procure 118 Main Battle Tanks (MBTs) Arjun Mk-1A with the Heavy Vehicles Factory (HVF) in Chennai for the Indian Army on Thursday.

The order, worth Rs 7,523 crore, will provide further boost to the 'Make in India' initiative in the defence sector and is a big step towards achieving the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' (self-reliant India) goal, the ministry said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had handed over an MBT Arjun Mk-1A to Army Chief General M.M. Naravane in Chennai on February 14, 2021.

The state-of-the-art MBT Mk-1A is a new variant of Arjun tank designed to enhance fire power, mobility and survivability. Infused with 72 new features and more indigenous content from the Mk-1 variant, the tank would ensure effortless mobility in all terrains, besides precise target engagement during day and night.

It has been designed and developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) by incorporating numerous upgrades on Arjun MBT, the in-service main battle tank with the Indian Army. The MK-1A is equipped with accurate and superior firepower, all-terrain mobility and an invincible multi-layered protection provided by an array of advanced technology systems. It can take on the enemy in both day and night conditions as well as in static and dynamic modes.

By virtue of these capabilities, this indigenous MBT proves to be at par with any contemporary in its class across the globe.

This tank is particularly configured and designed for Indian conditions and hence it is suitable for deployment to protect the frontiers in an effective manner.

This production order to HVF opens up a large avenue in defence manufacturing for over 200 Indian vendors, including MSMEs, with employment opportunities for around 8,000 people.

This will be a flagship project showcasing the indigenous capability in cutting edge defence technologies. The MBT Arjun Mk-1A has been designed and developed by the Combat Vehicles Research and Development Establishment (CVRDE), along with other laboratories of DRDO within two years (2010-12).

The development activities commenced from June 2010 and the tank was fielded for user trial in June 2012.

Extensive trial evaluation was conducted in various phases covering 7000+ km -- both in DRDO and user trials -- of automotive and substantial firing of various ammunition during 2012-2015.

Thermal plants to buy 20 MT 'parali' to help keep air pollution in check

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Among steps initiated by the government for an air pollution-free season for Delhi NCR, thermal plants would be buying 20 million tonnes of 'parali' (agrowaste).

"Thermal plants are to use at least 10 per cent biomass. Of that, 50 per cent would be parali," Environment, Forests and Climate Change Secretary R.P. Gupta told media persons.

A meeting was held for review of the situation with major stakeholders for ex-situ utilisation of crop residue and promoting utilisation of paddy straw for pellets/briquettes for co-firing in thermal power plants.

The government said directions for this have been issued to all 11 thermal power plants within 300 kms radius of Delhi. "NTPC has issued a tender for the same," Gupta said. Stating that he has received a positive response from all states concerned, Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav said that the Pusa Bio-decomposer has been deployed in large scale. "Agrowaste as fodder is also being sent all the way to Gujarat and Rajasthan," he said.The Pusa Bio-decomposer technology would be deployed free of cost for farmers in Haryana for management of 1 lakh acres, for more than 4,000 acres of area under paddy out of the total 14,600 acres in Delhi, in Uttar Pradesh, 10 lakh capsules have been distributed targeting 6.1 lakh acres, while Punjab has targeted approx 7,413 acres.

WORK IN PROGRESS ON FIVE POINTS TO DOUBLE FARMERS' INCOME: CM

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that the state government is working on five points to fulfil Prime Minister Narendra Modi's resolve to double the income of agriculture. Intensive efforts are on to increase the production of agriculture, reduce the cost of production, provide farmers with the right price for the produce, compensate the losses and motivate the farmers for diversification of agriculture. Irrigation is the basic basis for increasing production. It is our endeavour that the entire cultivable land of the state should be irrigated. As a result of these efforts, the irrigation potential of the state has increased to 42 lakh hectares. Farmers should get fertilizers and seeds on time, if needed; interest should be available at zero percent. The state government is very sensitive and active towards all such works. Chief Minister Shri Chouhan said that the dream of a strong and prosperous farmer is being fulfilled under the guidance of PM Modi. Farmers are becoming financially empowered with decisions like PM Samman Nidhi, PM Kisan Maandhan, PM Crop Insurance and increase in support price.

On the completion of 20 years of Jan-Kalyan and Suraj, Chouhan launched 50 seed villages in the program of Farmers-Welfare and

Agriculture Development Department. Union Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister Narendra Singh Tomar, State Farmers' Welfare and Agriculture Development Minister Kamal Patel were also present in the program organized at Minto Hall. Chief Minister Chouhan distributed free seed mini-kits to the beneficiaries. Formation of Farmer Producer Organizations and distribution of benefits to the beneficiaries under the Agricultural Infrastructure Fund. The program started with Kanya-Poojan and Madhya Pradesh Anthem.

Chouhan along with Tomar and Patel also visited the exhibitions focused on advanced agricultural implements, organic products and one district one product in Minto Hall premises. District, Block, Gram Panchayat, Agricultural Extension and Training Center, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Krishi Upaj Mandis, APO Headquarters and all agricultural universities of the state were connected through video conferencing in the state level program.

Chouhan said that PM Modi did not allow the price of DAP to increase in the country despite the increase in the price in the international market only to control the cost of production of the farmer. Fulfilling the resolve to bring Narmada water to Kshipra river in the state shows our commitment towards development and public sentiments. The state government is determined to protect the interest of the farmers. As a result of this, even during the difficult times of Corona, we have left Punjab behind by procuring 01 crore 29 lakh metric tonnes of wheat. While worrying about the farmers, our government has cleared the arrears of 2200 crores of the old years. Insurance premium amount paid. As a result, farmers got Rs 3200 crore. The payment of claim amount of Rs.

Chouhan said that the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojna has been implemented by the PM Modi while worrying about the farmers who have less cultivable land. Similarly, Mukhyamantri Kisan-Kalyan Yojana is being run. Farmers are getting 10 thousand rupees per year from these schemes. This cooperation is being done for the empowerment of farmers.

Chouhan said that diversification of agriculture is necessary to improve the health of the land. Taking one crop continuously reduces the productivity of the land. Productivity can be increased by adopting systematic crop rotation by changing the crops. After controlling the corona by the state government, the Krishi Mahotsav will be organized. In the festival, scientists will go from village to village and guide the farmers about the diversification of agriculture and crop rotation according to their area and conditions.

Chouhan while distributing Nano Urea prepared by IFFCO to the farmers said that this liquid urea is 10 percent cheaper and due to sprayability, it covers more crop area. It is less costly as well as more profitable. Using this type of material also reduces the cost of agricultural production.

Tribal University meeting concludes at Raj Bhavan

Conduct research on the issues of tribal development works and challenges: Governor

The university representatives should go among the community and hold discussion on subjects like education, health etc. Encourage them to take advantage of welfare schemes.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Governor Mangubhai Patel has said that universities should conduct research work on the issues of tribal development works and challenges. Public awareness works about tribal development programmes and schemes should be done. The university representatives should go among the community and hold discussion on subjects like education, health etc. Encourage them to take advantage of welfare schemes.

Governor Patel was addressing the meeting of Indira Gandhi National Tribal University, Amarkantak held at Raj Bhavan on Thursday.

Patel said that the universities should cooperate in the efforts to eradicate sickle cell disease in the tribal society. Information of specialist doctors should be collected and efforts should be made for their availability. Work should be done to disseminate information about disease prevention and treatment measures in the community. Arrangements should be made by the university to provide information to the villagers about their development and rights by visiting the villages. The students of the schools should be motivated for the expansion of higher education in the tribal community. He said that along with the students studying in the university, the professors should also participate in the land rights certificate distribution programmes. Take the initiative to get the works being done under the University Act studies. He said that the improvement of systems according to the times is a sign of progress. Continuous efforts should be made in this direction using modern technology.The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary to Governor DP Ahuja, Vice Chancellor, Indira Gandhi National Tribal University, Amarkantak Prof. Prakashmani Tripathi and other officials were present.

MP Board Revises Class 10, 12 Marking Scheme For Theory, Practical Papers

- The Madhya Pradesh Board of School Education (MPBSE) has revised the marking scheme for the Class 10 and Class 12 theory and practical exams.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Madhya Pradesh Board of School Education (MPBSE) has revised the marking scheme for the Class 10 and Class 12 theory and practical exams. According to the revised marking scheme, for high school and higher secondary exams, 80 marks will be allotted for theory subjects and the remaining 20 marks for practical and project works.

For subjects with practical components, the theory component of the MP Board Class 12 will be held for 70 marks, and 30 marks will be allotted for practicals.

0 per cent questions in both Classes 10 and 12 theory exams will be objective in nature. While the rest 40 per cent will be subjective and 20 per cent of questions will be analytical in nature, an MPBSE statement said.

However, no changes have been made to the old Business, NSQF, and D.El.Ed subjects of MP Board.

The MP Board has released the detailed Class 10, 12 marking scheme on the official website of the board. The detailed marking scheme includes the number of questions to be asked from a particular chapter and the distribution of marks.

The board has recently announced the reduction of Class 9 to 12 syllabusfor the academic session 2021-22. Considering the hardships, the students were facing with the disruption in educational activities due to the ongoing Covid pandemic, MPBSE has reduced the syllabi of Class 9 to Class 12 subjects including English, Hindi, Sanskrit, Urdu, Mathematics, Science and Social Science, as well as for the Humanities, Commerce, and Science stream students.

A MP Twist To Record Vaccination Numbers On PM Modi Birthday

- Preparations are now on for another mega push on September 27 -- the goal is to ensure the entire state's population is covered with the first dose.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

India's record of over 2.5 crore Covid vaccinations on September 17, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthday, may have had a little twist in Madhya Pradesh. The state's contribution a milestone in itself at over 27 lakh doses included several errors, including some bizarre ones.

A number of people who had not received their Covid shots somehow seem to have been issued vaccination certificates.

"Dear Vidya Sharma, you have successfully been vaccinated with your second dose with Covishield on 17th September, when India set a world record in vaccinations," reads one text message. Ashutosh Sharma, a resident of Aagar-Malwa district, 200 kilometres northwest of capital Bhopal, had received it at exactly 8.02 pm on September 17. It was about his mother. There was a problem, though. Sharma had died of Covid four months ago. Her shocked son then downloaded and saved the certificate."I have her death certificate in one hand and her vaccination certificate in another...I think a lot of pressure is being put on the officials, to increase the numbers," Sharma said.

A similar message was delivered on that day on the phone of one Pinky Verma, another Aagar resident. Her second dose had been administered, it said.

Unlike Sharma, the 26-year-old was alive. But the message said she had got vaccinated at a centre in Jhalawar, Rajasthan.

"I got the first dose on June 8. The second was due on September 7, but I was unwell so missed it. I think they are intentionally doing this to increase the figures," Verma said.

Bhopal's Leela Sutar's was another such case. The 54-year-old got her first dose of vaccine on March 25, then got infected and ended up missing her second.

"If I go out somewhere, I will have to face trouble. What should I do?" she now asks.

The government's response, when asked about these cases, was familiar.

"There may be one or two cases, it will be investigated if there is any clerical error," said Vishwas Sarang, the Madhya Pradesh Medical Education Minister.

In June, the case of a 13-year-old receiving certificate even though only those aged 18 and above are administered Covid vaccines in India was reported. Back then, too, the government's response had been the same: 'Can be a clerical error and will get this investigated.'

Preparations are now on for another mega push on September 27 -- the goal is to ensure the entire population of the state is covered with the first dose.

Parol is Online Exhibition at IGRMS

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Under the sixty seven series of its online exhibition by Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya, on Thursday presented the Parol: Traditional Entrance Gate from Himachal Pradesh situated in the open air exhibition of IGRMS has been presented online with its basic information and photographs and videos.

About this exhibition, Praveen Kumar Mishra, Director, IGRMS said that - Himachal Pradesh is a state situated in northern India, It lies in the central part of the Greater Himalayan mountain range. Its extension ranges from 1148 feet to 22966 feet above sea level. According to Hindu tradition, Himachal Pradesh is considered an abode of Hindu gods and goddesses, perhaps that is why it is also known as Dev Bhoomi. Himachal Pradesh has its own traditional architecture which can be seen in its temples, palaces and houses. To show this rich and vivid architecture in the

museum, the staff of the museum, visited Chamba, Kinnaur, Lahul-Spiti, Una and Shimla districts of Himachal Pradesh in the year 2001-02. And, then it was decided to show case the traditional architecture by constructing a gate. In 2001-02, construction material like deodar wood, stone for walls, slates for roof and other materials were collected from Shimla and Dharamshala and brought to the museum. In the year 2002, artists from Kangra were invited to the museum to construct the gate under the leadership of Prem Dhiman.

About the Parol Rakesh Mohan Nayal, Assistant Curator told that - According to the traditional construction style, wood and stones were joined at an equal distance. Stones were laid on top of wooden sleepers, and again wooden sleepers were kept. The slates were fixed on the roof with the help of nails in such a way that even the strong wind or heavy rain cannot move them. In front of the gate, people mainly draw the figures of Baba Balaknath, Hanuman, and other deities, so that they can be saluted whenever they enter from this gate. A huge variety is found in the Himalayan temples so for as making of their crown portion is concern. A mixture of pagoda, Sutlej and Shivalaya style has been used by the artists to make this gate, which combines the architecture of the temples, palaces and traditional houses of Himachal Pradesh. Such gates are mostly known as Parol in Himachal Pradesh. In the Museum, it has been built in the year 2002 at main entrance no. 1. Those interested can see this exhibition from home through the Official site (https://igrms.com/wordpress/?page_id=5438) and Facebook site (https://www.facebook.com/NationalMuseumMankind) of the IGRMS in addition to You tube link (https://youtu.be/pIq-vCoXlaA).

Tiger reserves to reopen from October 1

"Online bookings for entry into these reserves has started from September 21. The core areas of the parks will be opened after being closed for three months," principal chief conservator of forests (wildlife) Alok Kumar said.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The core areas of six tiger reserves in Madhya Pradesh, which is home to the highest number of big cats, will be reopened from October 1 after remaining shut for the last three months, an official said.

The six reserves are Kanha, Bandhavgarh, Satpura, Pench, Panna and Sanjay-Dubri tiger reserve.

"Online bookings for entry into these reserves has started from September 21. The core areas of the parks will be opened after being closed for three months," principal chief conservator of forests (wildlife) Alok Kumar said.

These reserves were shut on July 1 due to the monsoon season.Till Tuesday evening, over 3,200 people have made bookings in order to visit these national parks. These include 1,239 bookings for Kanha National Park, 1,115 for Bandhavgarh, 737 for Pench, 93 for Satpura, 46 for Panna and five for Sanjay tiger reserve.The tiger reserves are closed during monsoon, as it is the breeding season for the big cats. Moreover, pathways in the reserves become unmotorable because of the rains, and infrastructure in these parks, including grasslands, are developed for animals during this period. As per the last census, MP had the highest number of 526 tigers in the country. The All-India Tiger Estimation Report 2018 had found the presence of 2,967 tigers in the entire country.

MPSIC Issues Arrest Warrant Against Non-Compliant Public Information Officer

Team Absolute | Bhopal

In a first, the Madhya Pradesh State Information Commissioner (MPSIC) Rahul Singh has issued an arrest warrant against a Public Information Officer (PIO) for non-compliance with orders passed over a period of two years. The arrest warrant has been issued against Dr. Vikram Singh Verma, the CMHO Of District Bhuranpur [who is also the public information officer (PIO)]

SIC Singh has also slapped a show-cause notice for disciplinary action on Akash Tripathi, the Commissioner, Directorate of Health Services of MP and has summoned him for a personal appearance on account of his 'blatant disregard' to the orders of State Information Commission (SIC).

RTI Appellant Sadashiv Sonwane filed an RTI Application with the CMHO Burhanpur Dr. Vikram Singh Verma in the year 2017 seeking information related to posting and appointment of drivers with the health department in Burhanpur district. However, Dr. Verma didn't respond to the RTI Application within the stipulated 30 days, therefore, the Applicant filed a first appeal where the First Appellate Authority FAO issued an order to Dr. Verma asking him to disclose the information to Sonwane. However, despite FAO's order Dr. Verma refused to give the required information to Sonwane, and hence, aggrieved with non-compliance of FAO's order Sonwane filed a second appeal with the SIC in March 2018. The SIC issued numerous summons to Dr. Verma, but he failed to attend any proceedings or produce any document in compliance with the summons without providing any justifiable reasons or lawful excuse.

The SIC then directed the Commissioner of health to ensure the appearance of the PIO, but the Commissioner of health didn't ensure compliance violating rule 8 (4) of MP RTI Appeal and Fees Rule 2005 which says that the Commission's order is final and binding. Finally, the SIC imposed a penalty of Rs 25K against Dr Verma in December 2020 and asked Commissioner Health to recover the penalty amount from Dr Verma, in case if he fails to deposit the amount with the SIC within a month's time. Despite all these orders and directions over two years, there was a failure to ensure the appearance of the PIO and recover the penalty amount.

Information Commissioner Rahul Singh in his order said "conduct and demeanor of the PIO and the Commissioner clearly reflects apathetic disregard of the law passed by the Parliament for creating transparent and accountable governance."

Singh added, "it is disheartening and disappointing to see Officers, who are responsible and obligated to citizens under the RTI Act, are actively neglecting, violating, and obstructing the operation of the RTI Act, which is part of the Fundamental Right to Freedom of Speech & Expression under Article 19(1) of the Constitution of India."

SIC invokes powers of Civil Court In the instant RTI Appeal case, first, the CMHO, who is the Public Information Officer, showed continued flagrant indifference and non-compliance of SIC's successive orders, following which, the SIC imposed a penalty of Rs 25000 against the CMHO.

However, the non-compliance attitude continued and the Controlling officer of the PIO, the Commissioner Health Department also turned a blind eye to several orders issued by the SIC, first to secure CMHO appearance before the SIC, and later for recovery of the penalty amount. Therefore, the SIC, in its order noted that he has been compelled to exercise powers as are vested in a civil court while trying a suit under Code of Civil Procedure 1908 by virtue of Section 18 (3) (f) of RTI Act read with Rule 8 (6) (ii) of MP RTI (Fees & Appeal) Rules 2005.

Calling for strict action in this appeal Singh said that "the SIC, as a statutory body established to promote and uphold the letter & spirit of the RTI Act, can't remain a mute spectator to such blatant repeated violations of the RTI Act. If such violations are not addressed properly, it will create a mockery of the law and institutions established to uphold the law."

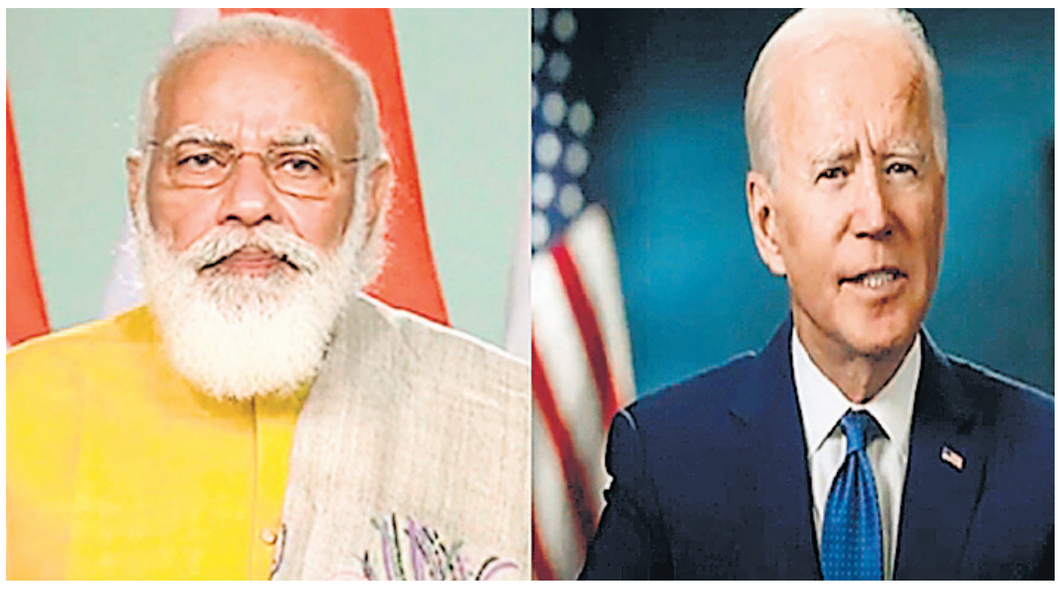
EDITOR'S SPECS

Congress to revive itself

After the Shimla confabulations of the Gandhis where Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra are on vacation, it is expected that the Congress will push for an AICC reshuffle and put its house in order in the states. This follows the Punjab operation in which Rahul Gandhi pushed for change and Charantjit Singh Channi was appointed as Chief Minister after the exit of Amarinder Singh. This has raised hopes in Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan where two chief minister aspirants -- TS Singh Deo and Sachin Pilot -- are waiting for their turn. Ahead of the Shimla vacation, Rahul Gandhi had met Sachin Pilot in Delhi for a long discussion. Although no details have come out about the meeting, alarm bells have start ringing in Rajasthan with Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot likely to travel to Delhi to meet the central leadership. There is a strong sense in the Congress that Pilot will return as the Pradesh Congress Committee chief and move forward with the new assignment ahead of state elections. Similarly in Chhattisgarh there has been no final decision on the demand for a rotational chief ministership. Rahul Gandhi was supposed to go there on the chief minister's invitation but that he chose otherwise shows that all is not well. In the election going states of UP, Uttarakhand, Goa, Manipur and Punjab, the Congress sees a chance of returning to power in four states except UP where it is not the main challenger. The Congress is likely to see a reshuffle in the AICC. However there is strong resentment against Rahul Gandhi's close aides in the party and there is consultation to appoint a senior leader to quell the resentment. Kanhaiya Kumar and Jignesh Mewani are set to join the party. By the way, after the recent suggestions of Prashant Kishore to Congress, will he be designated as party chief? If yes, Congress will be rejuvenated.

What Biden needs, wants, and will ask from India

Robinder Sachdev



When US President Joe Biden and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi sit down for their first-ever personal meeting, and bilateral, at the White House on Friday, the meeting will be historic in true meaning of the word "historic". This is Year Zero of the Post-Covid Era, and a new world order is in throes of taking birth.

It is but obvious that aides of both leaders would have drawn up a very tight-knit agenda for the discussion, and the topics to be covered in the 50 or so minutes at their disposal. These topics of discussion can be organized in a 5-cornered pentagon, as below:

(1) What each wants to extract from the other, and persuades the other as a mutual win-win.

(2) What compromise each wants from the other, in recognition of the special needs it has.

(3) Some exchange of favours on some issues - with rain-check to be cashed in future.

(4) To resolve, papering over of irritants, contentious issues in bilateral US-India relations.

(5) To identify areas of cooperation for regional and global affairs, for mutual win-win.

Having organised the above pentagon framework of the Biden-Modi meeting, we can now proceed to drill down and analyse the specifics of each of the five corners.

In this column, your author focuses only half of the equation - i.e. only on what the United States, as represented by President Biden, may want or desire from India. The second half of the equation, i.e. what India wants from the US, will be subject of a subsequent column.

Thus, below listed, are some of the key asks that President Biden will ask of PM Modi.

1. More defence purchases by India: The bottom-line that helps the US economy and jobs in America is the export of defence goods. Any leader wants exports, job-creation.

2. What is the muscle that India will contribute to the QUAD? Biden needs to calculate his strengths, and of allies, before a Biden-Xi summit, due soon. So that when he walks into the meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping, he knows what assets and force-vectors he can marshal. What and how can India add to the heft for the US, Biden, when he negotiates with Xi?

3. Resilient supply-chains, and Standards: How will India improve its attractiveness for US, Japanese, and other companies that could re-locate from China? Specifically, with focus on manufacturing of semi-conductor chips, pharmaceuticals, and automobiles.

4. Covid Cooperation: How will India help the US in its global mission re Covid-19? What will India contribute to help the global aims and commitments re Covid-19?

5. Climate change and Green Energy: How will India contribute to US and global targets for climate change, and clean energy? Green energy? Progress to Hydrogen energy?

6. Cyber-space and Cyber-security: How will India assist in US and global efforts to counter the challenges in Cyber-Space that threaten US sovereignty, and global peace. Biden will present an ask, and want a buy-in, contribution from India on this strategy.

7. Hi-tech collaboration in Space: America needs to most urgently deny China a dominance in space. China is proceeding fast to be the Middle Kingdom that will position itself between the Heavens and planet Earth - and will completely dominate planet Earth. How and where can the US and India cooperate to deny China this Middle Kingdom dream?

8. Trade concerns of US companies: Where is India on trade liberalization? How is India responding to complaints of US companies regarding the non-tariff, and tariff, barriers that they are facing?

9. United Nations: The American side will assume that the India side has done a very careful analyses of the speech delivered by President Biden at the UN, two days ago. Where and what can India contribute to the aims that were outlined in that speech?

10. Afghanistan: The ask of India on Afghanistan will depend on what the US is planning as overall strategy re Afghanistan. However, yes, US would like to know what India can propose for the stabilization of Afghanistan?

11. Terrorism and Radicalization: The US may lead a global convention on terrorism. Enhanced intelligence sharing, strengthening of the FATF, how to eliminate or quarantine terror sources, and how to enforce civic behaviour by state actors - would be touched upon, and India's cooperation invited all across.

Please note, the above 11 is a list of what only the US side wants - the India side, too has its own list of what it wants from the US, and Modi may have his own grand bargain that he may spring at Biden. As earlier mentioned, the India side list will be subject of a subsequent column.

Once the two leaders, Biden-Modi, have ticked the above topics, over a glass of refreshing lemonade*, who knows what other big idea, grand bargain, private secret deal, may be proposed by Biden - or, by Modi. Maybe the US invites India to join the Five-Eyes (FVEY) Network?

*Dear reader, please pardon me for this liberty of suggesting lemonade! There is a reason - in another avatar, I am founder of the Lemonade Party, which is a global motivational movement that promotes a lifestyle of peace, happiness, and problem-solving with a can-do attitude in personal, and social living, accompanied with a philosophy of "Live and Let Live" as a life mantra.

The motto of the Lemonade Party is the proverbial phrase, "When life hands you a lemon, make lemonade". As many would relate, this phrase is an exhortation, encouragement to try to do your best, and to find a new way ahead, whenever life hands you obstacles and difficult times.

Biden has been handed several lemons, Modi has his own lemons, and the world has its own lemons. It is time for Biden and Modi to make lemonade, and open a lemonade stand outside the UN HQ building in New York. And invite the world to come by.

(Robinder Sachdev is president of The Imagindia Institute. Views expressed are personal.)

international

TOP US MILITARY OFFICIAL MEETS RUSSIAN COUNTERPART IN FINLAND

Helsinki | Agencies

Gen. Mark Milley, Chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, met his Russian counterpart Valery Gerasimov in Finland amid heightened tensions between Washington and Moscow, according to authorities.

While the agenda of Wednesday's meeting was not made public, Milley's spokesperson told the media that the two officials discussed efforts to improve communications between the US and Russia as well as how to reduce potential risk factors, reports Xinhua news agency.Although the meeting was held at the Finnish government premises at Konigstedt Manor in Vantaa, near Helsinki, Finland was not represented in the meeting. media representative for Milley was quoted by Finnish national radio as saying that in the meeting the talks continued aiming at "increasing communication and reducing risks". Russian news agency TASS quoted the country's Defence Ministry as saying that during the meeting the two sides addressed "issues of mutual interest, including reducing the risk of incidents during military activities".

"Despite the ongoing and occasionally contentious disagreements between the US and Russia on Ukraine, cyberattacks, and the Arctic, the purpose of the meeting was to improve dialogue and deconfliction between the two militaries," a CNN report said.

Bipartisan negotiations over police reform in US collapse

Washington | Agencies

Bipartisan negotiations over police reform in the US in the wake of successive killings of African-Americans by law enforcement have collapsed without a deal, a Senator spearheading the talks announced.

"After months of exhausting every possible pathway to a bipartisan deal, it remains out of reach right now, even after working collaboratively with and securing the support of policing groups," Senator Cory Booker, a New Jersey Democrat, said in a statement on Wednesday.

"Unfortunately, even with this law enforcement support and further compromises we offered, there was still too wide a gulf with our negotiating partners and we faced significant obstacles to securing a bipartisan deal," he said.

Booker, along with Democratic Congresswoman Karen Bass of California, had been negotiating for months with Republican Senator Tim Scott of South Carolina on police reform measures, moving past self-imposed deadlines several times but ultimately unable to forge a deal, reports Xinhua news agency.

The breakdown of the talks dealt another blow to the Joe Biden administration's domestic agenda, in which police reform is one of the many legislative priorities.

Karen Bass, the lead House Democratic negotiator, also confirmed the "talks are over", saying that it was time for Democrats and the administration to seek potential steps they could take to improve police accountability without congressional action. "With our counterparts unwilling to come to a compromise, we have no other option than to explore further avenues to stop police brutality in this country," she said.

"I now call on President Biden and the White House to use the full extent of their constitutionally-mandated power to bring about meaningful police reform.

"Whether that's an executive order, whether that's issuing instructions, whatever they can do, we need the administration to act now, because we don't have any particular faith or hope that we will be able to get reforms passed," the Congresswoman said.

Earlier this year, the House passed a sweeping police reform bill named after George Floyd, an African-American brutally killed in May 2020 by white former police officer Derek Chauvin in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The bill bans chokeholds and no-knock warrants at the federal level, overhauls qualified immunity and creates a national record-keeping system for police misconducts.

That bill ended up nowhere in the Senate, where it didn't have the 10 Republican votes needed to overcome the filibuster.

UNGA PREZ TO HOLD HIGH-LEVEL EVENT ON UNIVERSAL VACCINATION IN 2022

United Nations: Abdulla Shahid, President of the 76th session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA), announced that he would convene a high-level event on universal vaccination next year. As president of the UN General Assembly, I will host a high-level event Towards Universal Vaccination: From Hope to Action," Shahid told the Global Covid-19 Summit hosted by U.S. President Joe Biden.

While Shahid did not reveal when the event will take place in his short remarks at the summit, his spokesperson Monica Grayley said that it is slated for 2022.

"We will work to shore up political support for COVAX and the multilateral mechanisms for vaccine supply and distribution," the UNGA President said.

"We will identify collective actions to quickly close the gap and ensure universal access to vaccines."

Noting that the event will address the challenges in supply and distribution, Shahid said: "I trust and hope that we can work together to make this a reality in leaving no one behind. "I firmly believe that collectively we can work together towards universal vaccination and reach global vaccination goals."These vaccines promise our single greatest defence against Covid-19, our greatest opportunity to reopen the world, and our greatest asset in the race against variants."

16 mn Yemenis on verge of starvation: UN

United Nations | Agencies

Over half of Yemen's population or 16 million people, are "marching towards starvation", and unless the international community steps up support, food assistance could soon run out, the UN has warned.

Speaking at a virtual gathering of aid and development ministers, David Beasley, Executive Director of the World Food Programme, described a worsening humanitarian crisis in Yemen, where a Houthi rebel offensive is making gains in the strategic region of Marib, reports Xinhua news agency.

"We're literally looking at 16 million people marching towards starvation," Beasley said."We need this war to end, number one. If donors are getting fatigued, well, end the war. World leaders need to put pressure on all parties involved in this conflict because the people in Yemen have suffered enough."

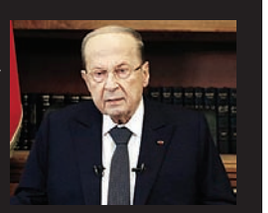
Yemen has been mired in a civil war since late 2014, when the Houthi militia seized control of several northern provinces and forced the government of President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi out of Sanaa.

The protracted conflict in Yemen has claimed the lives of more than 230,000 people, displaced an estimated 4 million, and left 80 per cent of the country's 29 million citizens in need of aid.

The UN has called this situation "the world's worst humanitarian crisis", as heavy artillery and air strikes have hurt access to medical care and put pressure on those few remaining facilities.

Beasley warned that unless donors step in, the food rations of more than 3 million people could be slashed by October and 5 million by December.

LEBANON KEEN TO RESUME INDIRECT BORDER DEMARCATION TALKS WITH ISRAEL



Beirut: Lebanese President Michel Aoun said that his country is keen to resume indirect negotiations with Israel for the demarcation of maritime borders, an official statement said here. On Wednesday, Aoun renewed Lebanon's commitment to implementing UN Resolution 1701 in all aspects and upholding its rights to its waters and natural resources, reports Xinhua news agency."This is why we expressed our objection to the Security Council and the UN over Israel's recent signing of contracts to start oil and gas exploration with an American company, as this step contradicts the path of indirect negotiations which requires freezing all exploration-related work in disputed areas, awaiting a resolution between the two countries," the statement quoted Aoun as saying.The President's remarks came during his meeting with UN Special Coordinator for Lebanon Joanna Wronecka to discuss the new cabinet's priorities in the near future.Wronecka told Aoun that the UN Security Council will convene on November 9 which will give Lebanon a chance to raise its concerns. Lebanon and Israel have border disputes both on sea and land. The neighbouring countries, mediated by the US, conducted a round of talks to demarcate the maritime borders in October 2020.

LIBYA, UNHCR DISCUSS ILLEGAL MIGRATION, BORDER CONTROL

Tripoli: Musa al-Koni, Vice President of the Presidency Council of Libya, met Jean-Paul Cavalieri, chief of mission in the country of the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), here to discuss illegal migration, border control, among others.

"The Vice President of the Presidency Council confirmed that illegal migration is mainly a humanitarian issue. He stressed the importance of uniting international efforts to come up with successful solutions to it," said a statement issued by the Presidency Council. Al-Koni also stressed the importance of addressing illegal migration in libya's southern border rather than at sea where illegal migrants cross towards Europe, according to the statement. Cavalieri said that there are problems facing the evacuation of migrants from Libya to other countries, including failures to organise flights. He also stressed the need to cooperate with the Presidency Council to address illegal migration.Libya has been suffering insecurity and chaos since the fall of Muammar Gaddafi in 2011, making the North African country a preferred point for illegal migrants to cross the Mediterranean Sea to European shores.So far, 24,420 illegal migrants have been rescued, while hundreds others died and went missing off the Libyan coast on the Central Mediterranean route, according to the International Organization for Migration.

Woman alleges molestation in Mumbai BJP leader's office on I-Day last year

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Mumbai Police have registered an FIR against two persons for allegedly molesting a woman BJP worker inside a Municipal Corporator's office when the nation was celebrating Independence Day last year, at the height of the pandemic lockdown.

The incident sparked off a bitter political row between Maharashtra's ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi and the opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), with the latter questioning why the issue was being raked up after one year by the victim.

According to the victim's complaint, the incident took place on August 15, 2020 when one of the accused had called her to the Vazira Naka office of BJP Municipal Corporator Anjali Khedekar.

The accused, said to a local BJP Ward leader, promised to help her join the party, called her to Khedekar's office and then allegedly molested her inside the premises late that evening.

The victim said that after she went to the office, the accused downed the shutters, switched off the lights, molested her and said she would have to compromise if she wanted to work in the party. She said that she got up and walked out of the office and five days later complained verbally to local BJP MLA Sunil Rane.

When there was no response, she later gave a written complaint to the Mumbai North BJP MP Gopal Shetty, but it remained ignored.

Finally, she approached the Borivali Police Station on Wednesday to register her complaint which was lodged invoking Indian Penal Code Section 354 (molestation) but no arrests have been made, said Senior Police Inspector Sudhir Kalekar told media persons.

Teen Gang-Raped Multiple Times, 24 Arrested, 2 Boys Detained

Dombivli Gang Rape: The tragic story began in January when the girl's friend allegedly raped her and filmed the crime. He used the video to blackmail her and rape her again.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Over 30 people have been accused of gang-raping a 15-year-old girl multiple times over a period of nine months near Mumbai, in a case that has left Maharashtra shaken to the core. The girl has named 33 attackers, of which 24 have been arrested. Two minors have also been detained.

The tragic story began in January when the girl's friend allegedly raped her and filmed the crime. He used the video to blackmail her and rape her again.

He allegedly shared the video with many others - friends and acquaintances - and they all used it to blackmail the teen.

The girl was gang-raped by the group multiple times and at several spots near Mumbai, according to the police.

"It all started when the lover of the girl raped her in January and made a video of the incident. He started blackmailing her on the basis of that video. Later on, his friends and acquaintances gang-raped her at least on four to five occasions at different places, including Dombivili, Badlapur, Murbad and Rabale in the district," Additional Commissioner of Police (East region), Dattatray Karale said.

The girl approached the police last night and is being treated in hospital. Her wrenching account led to the arrest of 24 men. She knew almost all the attackers, the police said

Some of the accused are believed to be associated with a political party.

The police have listed charges under the stringent Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

The case has caused public outrage and has also seized the attention of political parties who have demanded the toughest punishment for those who assaulted the teen.

Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari wrote to Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray asking for a special session and was in turn accused of politics by Maharashtra's ruling Shiv Sena. The Sena once again accused the Governor of being a proxy for the BJP at the Centre.

Mumbai coastal road project to be ready by end-2023

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The first phase of the upcoming Mumbai coastal road - a showpiece project of the BrihanMumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) - is 40 per cent complete and is expected to be operational by November 2023, a top official said here on Thursday.

BMC Commissioner IS Chahal said that more than one-third of the physical work on the 8-lane coastal road hugging the Arabian Sea from Marine Drive to Worli, around 10 km, which includes the 1 km long tunnel.

"The Rs 12,700 crore project, being executed by the BMC from its own funds, comprises the 27 km total length including 16 km of interchanges, and the 40-feet diameter tunnel running under the Malabar Hill," said Chahal.

Now, the work of remaining 900 metres of the tunnel - the first of its kind undersea tunnel of 40 feet diameter being executed in the country - remains to be completed, he added.

The coastal road would also include a 125-acre garden on reclaimed land abutting the freeway besides arrangements for underground parking for 1,852 cars.

The two-phased work, which was launched in around the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic lockdown in early 2020, is proceeding round-the-clock in three shifts to catch the November 2023 deadline.

The project execution was scheduled to start in October 2018 with a completion date of end-2022, but got bogged down in litigations, a stop work by the court in July 2019 as the CRZ clearances were quashed.

The work resumed only after the Supreme Court stayed the Bombay High Court orders in December 2020 and is now proceeding at a quick pace in the first phase.

Running from Marine Drive in south Mumbai to Kandivali suburb in north-west along the Arabian Sea shores, the coastal road would be used by an estimated 125,000 vehicles daily cutting the travel time from the present 125 minutes to barely 40 minutes. It will provide convenient interchanges at major locations including the airport, the sealinks, major railway stations, Haji Ali, Breach Candy, Worli, Bandra, etc, and will reduce the traffic burden on the two highways and the arterial roads criss-crossing the city.

Congress demands women security personnel in Maha housing complexes

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In wake of the brutal rape-cum-murder of a woman in Mumbai's Sakinaka, the Congress' Maharashtra unit on Wednesday demanded that women security guards should be appointed in all housing societies to ensure women's safety.

In a letter to Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, state Congress President Nana Patole said incidents of growing violence against women is a matter of serious concern and needs more attention in the wake of the Sakinaka episode.

"Women security personnel, along with males, should be mandatorily appointed in all housing societies or complexes in the state as a deterrent, and a right step in the matter of women's safety," he said.

The Congress chief pointed out that Maharashtra has a reputation of being a trendsetter and such a move could spur other states to follow suit as an important step to safeguard women.Official sources said that both private and police women security personnel are the norm at various locations like the airport, government offices, institutions, luxury hotels, and some corporates too, mainly to frisk or screen women visitors.

"However, since the security of housing societies is normally handled by private security agencies, they arrange to deploy women security personnel depending on specific requests made by some residential complexes, as they need to make special arrangements for them," said the official requesting anonymity.

There are an estimated 90,000-plus registered housing societies in the state, of which the highest, around 60,000 are in Mumbai and surroundings, while the rest are spread across other cities like Pune, Nagpur, Aurangabad, Nashik, etc.

Drugs worth Rs 150 crore seized over last one year in Maharashtra: NCB

Around 114 cases were registered under Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985 in the last one year.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Mumbai Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) on Thursday said that the team has seized drugs worth Rs 150 crores and arrested more than 300 peddlers over the last one year.

Sameer Wankhede, Mumbai NCB zonal director while talking to media persons here on Thursday said, "In the last one year, we have seized drugs worth Rs 150 crores and arrested more than 300 peddlers including 34 Nigerian nationals. The team has taken strict action against all the drug peddlers.""Many types of drugs including 30 kg of charas, 12 kg of heroin, 2 kg of cocaine, 350 kg of ganja, 25 kg of mephedrone were confiscated in Mumbai, Thane, Palghar and other areas of Maharashtra," he added.

Further, he informed that around 114 cases were registered under Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985 in the last one year.

Pending e-challans: Maharashtra traffic police issue ultimatum to over 10 lakh vehicle owners

According to BK Upadhyay, ADG (traffic), since September 12, the Maharashtra traffic police had begun sending pre-litigation notices to owners of vehicles who owe them more than Rs 417.41 crore in fines for traffic violations across the state

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Losing patience over pending e-challans the additional director general (ADG) of Maharashtra (traffic) has given an ultimatum to over 10 lakh vehicle owners to pay their traffic challan dues by Friday or present themselves before the Lok Adalat on Saturday.

According to BK Upadhyay, ADG (traffic), since September 12, the Maharashtra traffic police had begun sending pre-litigation notices to owners of vehicles who owe them more than Rs 417.41 crore in fines for traffic violations across the state.

Upadhyay said that the pre-litigation notices were sent across the state and a recovery drive had started since September 13, and so far, Maharashtra traffic police have recovered a fine of Rs 5.52 crore levied through 120,024 e-challans.

"We sent notices to over 10 lakh vehicle owners, calling upon them to pay their pending e-challans or be present in front of the Lok Adalat. Around 20% violators have paid the fine in the past one week and we expect another 25-30% violators to pay the fine before the due date," said ADG Upadhyay.

The notices were sent to violators via SMS on their registered mobile numbers.Out of over 10 lakh pending e-challans, the traffic police have sent maximum notices to violators in Mumbai city, of which 82,409 challans were paid amounting to Rs 3.16 crore since September 13.

Navi Mumbai was in second place, where 6,726 violators paid the e-challan dues worth Rs 54,23 lakh.

"Violators were taking the e-challan system lightly. We resorted to approach the court and collect the pending amount," said Upadhyay. If the violators do not pay the fines, the Maharashtra Police would file a case against them in regular courts, he added.

Officials said the vehicle owners who have not received the notice should also check the status of their e-challans on the traffic police website.

Since June 14 this year, the traffic police had decided to send their personnel to the doorstep of violators for the recovery of pending e-challans which has resulted in the recovery of Rs 1 crore in their kitty. Special teams of constables were asked to visit the addresses of violators who have not paid e-challans of more than Rs 5,000.

Shiv Sena likens governors in non-BJP states to 'rogue elephants', says they are trampling democracy

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Shiv Sena on Thursday accused the governors in non-BJP-ruled states, including Maharashtra, of acting like rogue elephants and trampling under their feet democratic constitution, laws and political culture.

Without taking the name of Maharashtra governor Bhagat Singh Koshirai, the party, in an editorial in its mouthpiece 'Samna' also alleged that the Centre was using governors to destabilise those states that are being ruled by non-BJP parties. The Shiv Sena-led Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government shares an uneasy relationship with governor Koshyari. Among other issues, Koshyari has been under fire from the state government over the delay in approving the appointment of 12 MLCs from his quota.

"The governors in non-BJP-ruled states are like rogue elephants and their mahouts (handlers) are sitting in New Delhi. Such elephants trample democratic processes, laws, political culture under their feet and set new precedence," the Sena said.

How appropriate is it that the governors are using all their power to destabilise the state government because it is formed by non-BJP parties, the party asked.

Such efforts are affecting the unity of the country. It is like playing with fire. But one should remember that in doing so, one's own hands may get burnt. The use of governor's post for such work is demolishing the constitutional structure, it added.

"If some people think that Indian democracy will sustain and flourish by constructing a new parliament complex in the national capital, then they should also pay attention to the screams of the federal governments that have been trampled. The states are not allowed to function properly and the agents of the party in power are given free hand to create chaos in the states," the Sena alleged.

"Maharashtra governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari has expressed his concerns over the safety of women and the law and order situation in the state. But why such concern is not expressed by the governors of Uttar Pradesh or Madhya Pradesh. The BJP women MLAs in Maharashtra have raised the same issue. But how come the BJP women legislators from other states are not expressing similar concerns for MP and UP?" it asked.

Why they are creating so much noise over the issue in Maharashtra? Because the BJP is not in power here, while it rules those in two other states. The suspicious death of a seer or attacks on women in UP and MP seems to be purposefully ignored, the Sena said.

The Uddhav Thackeray-led party also targeted the Union government over providing police protection to those BJP leaders who indulge in "mud-slinging" against the non-BJPruled states. It was apparently referring to former MP from Mumbai Kirit Somaiya, who was recently given Z category security.

"Union Home Minister Amit Shah has called for a meeting of chief ministers in various states to discuss ways to tackle growing Naxal activities. However, hundreds of CRPF jawans are deployed in protecting some people who indulge in mud-slinging against some state governments. It is necessary to use such forces (CRPF) against Naxals rather than wasting them on protecting some persons," the Sena said.

Road contractors to face action for deaths due to potholes

Roads in Kasheli, Anjurphata, Bhiwandi, Mankoli and other areas in Thane district were riddled with potholes, causing accidents and also leading to death of people at times

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Action will be taken against road contractors for the death of people due to potholes here in Maharashtra, a senior police official has said.

Roads in Kasheli, Anjurphata, Bhiwandi, Mankoli and other areas in Thane district were riddled with potholes, causing accidents and also leading to death of people at times, Narpoli police station's senior inspector Maloji Shinde said in a release on Thursday.

To discuss the issue, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Zone-II), Bhiwandi, Yogesh Chavan held a meeting with government officials and political leaders concerned on Wednesday.

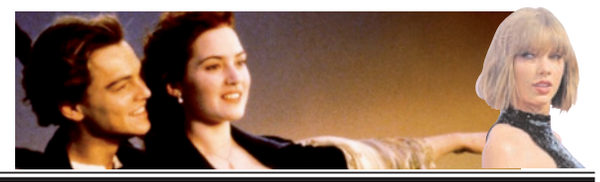
In the meeting, Chavan said in case of death of people due to potholes, offences will be registered against the road contractors concerned, as per the release.

The senior police official also said he would soon meet the ministers and officials concerned to find out a solution to the problem of potholes and to ensure proper repair of bad roads.

During the meeting, an executive engineer of the Public Works Department said potholes were being filled on a daily basis, and a proposal was sent to the government for seeking its approval for the work of cementing such roads and to suspend toll collection on these roads.

Notably, a 23-year-old man was killed after his motorcycle hit a pothole near Gaimukh toll booth on Ghodbunder Road in Thane city on Tuesday, police earlier said.

On September 16, a woman and her son died on the spot after their motorcycle hit a pothole at Mankoli Naka on Mumbai-Nashik highway while they were returning home after offering prayers at the residence a relative during the Ganpati festival, they said.



Johnny Depp addresses 'cancel culture'

Depp was seen addressing these issues during a press conference at the San Sebastian Film Festival.

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actor Johnny Depp talked about "cancel culture" and how social media can affect public figures. Depp said it was a "complex situation" because it "can be seen as an event in history that lasted for however long it lasted, this cancel culture or this instant rush to judgement based on essentially what amounts to polluted air that is", he let out a gust of breath, "exhaled", reports variety.com.

On whether or not he feels safe in such an interconnected world, Depp replied, "yeah, I do", followed by several false starts before contradicting himself."The various movements that came out with, I'm sure the best of intentions."

Trailing off again while, presumably, looking for the right words, he shifted a bit, expressing that in his opinion: "It's so far out of hand now that I can promise you that no one is safe. Not one of you. Not one of you as long as someone is willing to say one sentence. It takes just one sentence and there is no more ground. The carpet has been pulled."

Depp and his former wife and actress Amber Heard, are embroiled in the fallout of a very public split. Depp is currently suing Heard after she wrote a 2018 op-ed in about being a survivor of domestic abuse. She didn't name Depp but she accused him of domestic violence after their 2016 divorce.

Earlier in November 2020, Depp lost a UK libel case against the publisher of the British tabloid, The Sun, that alleged he was a "wife beater" in a 2018 article. The judge ruled that the words were "substantially true".

Gillian Anderson bans her kids from 'Sex Education'

London| Agencies

Actress Gillian Anderson, who stars as Dr Jean Milburn in the Netflix series 'Sex Education', has banned her children from watching the show.

Anderson, who has Piper, 26, with Clyde Klotz, as well as Felix, 12, and Oscar, 14, with Mark Griffiths, said: "I am living happily in the denial that my children do not watch the show -- I hope they haven't. When it first came out, I told them they weren't allowed to.

"But I have no control over what they do at their friends' houses. I have no control over what their friends show them."The new series of 'Sex Education' features 20 intimate scenes in the first two minutes, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

Anderson said that she's already had some candid conversations with her children about the issues explored on the show.

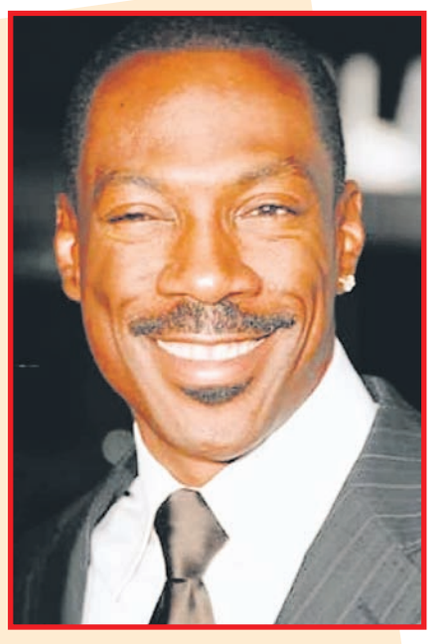
She told 'The Radio Times Podcast': "I have had the conversations with them about certain aspects of the show, and also the importance of certain aspects of the show."They're conversations that aren't usually had on television that are very important, if not vital, for young people to hear." Last year, Gillian expressed fears that she'll one day regret working so hard. She talked about having mixed feelings about her busy schedule and how it influences her family life.

Judi Dench, partner decide against getting married

London | Agencies

Iconic English star Judi Dench and her partner David Mills considered marriage amid the Covid-19 lockdown after 11 years together but they have decided against it and are happy to continue to live in separate homes.Mill, 77, who started dating the 86-year-old actress in 2010, shared with Daily Mirror newspaper: "We talked about that but I think we are far better off as we are as we have got two separate houses. And we are either in one or the other and we are four miles apart."Dench and Mills started dating nine years after the death of her husband of 30 years, Michael Williams, reports femalefirst.co.uk. The 86-year-old actress earlier dismissed the possibility of tying the knot during an interview in 2020.

Eddie Murphy signs three-picture



Los Angeles | Agencies

Actor Eddie Murphy has closed a three-picture and first-look film deal with Amazon Studios. The deal calls for the comedian to star in three films for Amazon Studios and develop original film projects for Prime Video and the studio, with the potential to star in them, reports variety.com. It also comes as Murphy has been more active on the film front after undergoing something of a hiatus.

The actor earned rave reviews for Netflix's 'Dolemite Is My Name' and is making a fourth 'Beverly Hills Cop' film for the streamer. "Eddie is a legend both in front of and behind the camera," said Jennifer Salke, head of Amazon Studios.

"With undeniable comedic and dramatic genius, he consistently delivers entertaining, original stories and characters to audiences around the world. We could not be more excited to help carry on the tradition and to officially welcome Eddie into the Amazon family." Amazon has moved aggressively to sign pacts with top talent, signing deals with the likes of Michael B. Jordan and Nicole Kidman as streaming services try to lock up major stars and creators.

'PALM SPRINGS': MADE TO APPEAL TO THOSE WHO LOVE TIME LOOP-GENRE FILMS

FILM REVIEW

TROY RIBEIRO

(Releasing in theatres)

Direction: Max Barbakow

Cast: Andy Samberg, Cristin Milioti, J. K. Simmons, Peter Gallagher, Meredith Hagner, Camila Mendes, Tyler Hoechilin, Chris Pang, Jacqueline Obradors, June Squibb, Tongayi Chirisa and Dale Dickey.

Duration: 90 minutes

Ratings: * * * (three stars)

For the uninitiated, this film may initially appear as a stoner comedy, but a deeper look will make you realise that it is a sci-fiction romantic comedy where the protagonists are stuck in a time loop.

Most audiences who have seen films like 'Groundhog Day', 'Naked', 'Deja vu', 'Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children', or the Netflix series 'Russian Doll', will be familiar with the time loop concept. Director Max Barbakow's 'Palm Springs' deserves to be added to this list of hallowed time loop films.

While the narrative with its delicate tone and swift pacing delights in orchestrating a series of absurd situations, such as picking fights, crashing into vehicles, and doing drugs. Such nihilism is more than just a comedic opportunity; it is a dramatic one as well.

On the performance front, everyone seems to be having a great time delivering their parts with unabashed ease.

While the film is visually bright and colourful, it is the aspect of the cave that is fuzzy. Also, the computer-generated images in the film are of mediocre quality that does not seamlessly merge with the live-action scenes.

The repetition of the scenes is a creative concept of the time-loop genre and it is also the most frustrating aspect of this genre. The plot dwells on building patterns and subverting expectations, allowing the creator an unparalleled opportunity to retell a story, pulling at the edges and getting to answer an assembly of "what if" situations. In this film, the repetitive scenes are also used as a metaphor for the drudgery of real life.

Overall, Palm Springs is a light romantic comedy that will appeal only to those who like time-loop genre films.

Sosie Bacon to star in 'Something's Wrong With Rose'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Sosie Bacon, who shared screen space with Hollywood star Kate Winslet in the Emmy-winning series 'Mare of Easttown', will be seen as a lead in the upcoming film 'Something's Wrong With Rose'.

The logline reads: "After a bizarre, traumatic event involving a patient, a psychiatrist begins to experience terrifying occurrences that only she can see, and grows increasingly convinced that she's being pursued by a malevolent supernatural force." Parker Finn will write and direct 'Something's Wrong With Rose', which is slated to start production in New Jersey this October.Bacon, whose parents are actors Kyra Sedgwick and Kevin Bacon, began her career in Hollywood at the age of 11 when she was cast in the 2005 film 'Loverboy', which was directed by her father and starred her mother.

She later appeared in the series 'The Closer' before taking time off to study at Brown University.

Bacon returned to the small screen in Netflix's hit teen series '13 Reasons Why', in which she portrayed the character of Skye Miller, and she more recently joined the cast of 'Narcos: Mexico' in its second season.

Following her role as Carrie Layden in 'Mare of Easttown', Bacon will star in Jason Katim's upcoming Amazon series 'Forget Normal'.

The 29-year-old actor has been roped in to star as Rose in the Paramount Players film, reports variety.com. Based on the short 'Laura Hasn't Slept', the movie centres on a doctor whose mind begins to turn on her after she witnesses a horrifying occurrence.

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY

Amelia Hamlin

ICC launches T20 World Cup anthem; campaign film has 'avatars' of Kohli, Pollard

Dubai: The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Thursday launched the official anthem of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021 along with an official campaign film featuring 'avatars' of Virat Kohli and West Indies skipper Kieron Pollard. The ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021 will begin on October 17 in Oman and UAE, with the final to be played in Dubai on November 14. The anthem, Live the Game, is composed by renowned Indian music director Amit Trivedi.

Besides 'avatars' of Kohli and Pollard, the campaign film also features Afghani'tan's ace spinner Rashid Khan and Australian all-rounder Glenn Maxwell.The film showcased young fans transported to the exciting world of T20I cricket, playing with their favourite players, all to a peppy soundtrack that had the players grooving through the week.The avatar animation featured a brand-new broadcast technology that blends both 3D and 2D effects - it involved a production team of over 40 people, including designers, modellers, matte painters, animators, lighters, and compositors, the ICC said in a report on its official we"site.

WE ARE BACKING MANDHANA'S ABILITY TO GET RUNS FOR US: SS DAS

Mackay: India womens batting coach Shiv Sunder Das has backed opener Smriti Mandhana to get big runs ahead of the second ODI against Australia on Friday. Smriti was dismissed for 10 in the tour match and made just 16 in Indias nine-wicket loss to Australia on Tuesday. Her role at the top of the order becomes more important after Das confirmed that Harmanpreet Kaur wont be available for the second ODI due to thumb injury.

Das mentioned that the Indian team has been working on some areas such as running between the wickets in the middle overs to scoring more in the first ten overs of the innings. "The first ten overs we have addressed the issue. In the middle overs, the running between the wickets is an area we are still working on. It is a work in progress." Das was confident of Smriti and Shafali Verma giving India a good start with the bat in the second ODI.

IPL 2021

Iyer, Tripathi guide KKR to a comprehensive win over MI

Abu Dhabi | Agencies

Venkatesh Iyer (53) impressed yet again while Rahul Tripathi made an unbeaten 74 to lead Kolkata Knight Riders to a comprehensive seven-wicket win over Mumbai Indians here on Thursday. With this win, Kolkata are now fourth in the points table, leapfrogging Mumbai.

Kolkata were off to a flier with Venkatesh Iyer smacking Trent Boult for a six over deep square leg. He then smacked Adam Milne for a six followed by two fours in the second over. With seven boundaries hit in less than three overs, Kolkata were on a rampage. It needed an off-cutter from Jasprit Bumrah which got Gill (13) to chop onto his stumps, ending the opening partnership at 40. Gill's dismissal caused Iyer and Rahul Tripathi to tread cautiously.But after the completion of powerplay at 63/1, Iyer danced down the pitch to hit Krunal Pandya for a clean six over deep mid-wicket. Rahul Chahar was taken for eleven in his opening over as Iyer and Tripathi took a boundary each off him.Tripathi smacked a six over long-on before sweeping between long-on and deep mid-wicket for a boundary off Krunal. Tripathi, put down on 43 by Chahar, reached his half-century with a leading edge on scoop going over third man for six. He followed it up with a boundary slogged through mid-wicket off Bumrah.Iyer, after reaching his fifty in 25 balls, saw his blitzkrieg end at 55 with his stumps disturbed by a slower delivery from Bumrah. Tripathi was undeterred by Iyer's dismissal and continued to whack Chahar, slog-sweeping over deep mid-wicket followed by an edge which Kishan tried to stop but touched the rope with his leg.Though Eoin Morgan (7) fell cheaply to become Bumrah's third scalp of the match, Tripathi and Nitish Rana knocked off the remaining runs, with the latter reverse scoring the winning boundary by sweeping Chahar to seal a famous win for Kolkata.

Brief scores

Mumbai Indians 155/6 in 20 overs (Quinton de Kock 55, Rohit Sharma 33, Lockie Ferguson 2/27, Prasidh Krishna 2/43) lost to Kolkata Knight Riders 159/3 in 15.1 overs (Rahul Tripathi, Venkatesh Iyer 55, Jasprit Bumrah 3/43) by seven wickets.

Rohit: First player to score 1000 runs against single oppn

New Delhi: Mumbai Indians' captain Rohit Sharma scripted a new Indian Premier League (IPL) record on Thursday as he became the first batter in the history of the lucrative league to score more than 1000 runs against a particular opposition. The Mumbai captain achieved the feat during the match Kolkata Knight Riders in Abu Dhabi on Thursday. He now tops the list with over 1000 runs, with David Warner being the only player close to him. The Australian southpaw has 943 runs against Punjab Kings and 915 versus the Kolkata outfit.

Covid continues to breach IPL's bio-bubble

New Delhi: The Covid-19 infection, which halted Indian Premier League (IPL) in May this year, seems to yet again breach the bio-bubble, with Sunrisers Hyderabad's Thangarasu Natarajan recently testing positive. Natarajan tested positive just ahead of the team's match against Delhi Capitals in UAE. While the 30-year-old pacer along with six close contacts, including all-rounder Vijay Shankar, were isolated, the match was held as other players tested negative.

La Liga: Asensio, Benzema star as Real beat Mallorca 6-1

Madrid | Agencies

Marco Asensio scored a hat-trick and Karim Benzema struck a brace of goals as Real Madrid soared on their goal-scoring prowess to thrash Mallorca 6-1 and rose to the top of the table in the Spanish La Liga.

Asensio scored in the 24th, 29th, and 55th minute while Benzema struck in the third and 78th minute as Real Madrid produced another goal-fest for the Santiago Bernabeu faithful. Isco scored the sixth goal in the 82nd minute while Lee Kang-In got the lone goal for Mallorca in the 25th minute.

The game was a lively affair and was played at a high intensity throughout. The Real got off to an electrifying start when Benzema latched onto a missed controlled ball by Gaya and fired it past goalkeeper Manolo Reina to net his seventh goal of the league campaign after with just three minutes on the clock. In the 7th minute, the hosts almost doubled their lead when Marco Asensio's in-swinging corner kick was cleared off the line by the defence. The multiple-time former champions got their fifth goal in the 78th minute as Benzema brought down a long ball from David Alaba with his back and finished with a shot across the face of the goal. It was the eighth goal in the competition for the Frenchman, putting him ahead of the rest as the top scorer.But Real Madrid were not done yet as in the 84th minute, Isco added the finishing touches after a pass from Vinicius Jr to make it 6-1 for the Los Blancos.It was Real Madrid's fifth win in six matches played so far. They are unbeaten so far with five wins and one draw and have 16 points from six matches, two ahead of cross-town rivals Atletico Madrid.

It's raining milestones for Indian cricketers at IPL

Dubai | Agencies

It's raining milestones in the Indian Premier League (IPL) with Shreyas Iyer, KL Rahul, and Wriddhiman Saha crossing batting marks in the league and the T20 format.

Delhi Capitals batsman Shreyas Iyer, now has 4,022 runs in T20 cricket in 147 innings of 150 matches at an average of 32.43. The 26-year-old from Mumbai has struck two centuries and 24 half-centuries in the shortest version of the game. In IPL, Iyer has scored 2,247 runs in 80 matches.

Saha completed 2,000 runs in IPL during his knock of 18 as SRH managed a below-par 134/9 on batting first. He has 2005 runs in IPL off 107 innings off 127 matches. Overall in T20 cricket, Saha has scored 3,472 runs in 198 matches. On Tuesday, Punjab Kings captain KL Rahul crossed the 3,000-run milestone in IPL. He reached 3,027 runs in 80 IPL innings, which makes him the second-fastest to have achieved such a feat after teammate Chris Gayle, who did that in 72 innings. Virat Kohli has scored the most runs in T20 cricket. He has 9,934 runs in 297 innings of 312 matches. Rohit Sharma is second among Indians with 9,315 runs off 337 innings.

JUVENTUS SNATCH FIRST WIN IN SERIE A

Rome: The 36 times champions Juventus finally claimed their first victory in the new Serie A season, after a 3-2 win over Spezia in a thriller.

The Old Lady had a poor start to the season, just collecting two points in the opening four rounds after losing two matches.Elsewhere, Theo Hernandez scored one and set up another, helping AC Milan extend their unbeaten run as they conquered Venezia 2-0. The Rossoneri now levels with Inter Milan on 13 points but rank second on inferior goal difference. Empoli beat Cagliari 2-0 away, and Salernitana drew with Hellas Verona 2-2.

Durand Cup

Mohammedan Sporting knock out defending champions Gokulam Kerala

Kolkata | Agencies

Local favourites Mohammedan Sporting Club have reached the 130th Durand Cup semi-finals, knocking out defending champions Gokulam Kerala with a 1-0 victory in front of a limited capacity home crowd at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan (VYBK).

Marcus Joseph, who once represented the club for Malabar, broke Gokulam hearts by scoring the match-winner for Mohammedan in the 44th minute. okulam did very little to alter the outcome in the second half but with the margin just being one goal, the final few minutes were intense. Mohammedan did enough though, to hold on and reach the semi-finals.

They will now face FC Bengaluru United in their semi-final tie on September 27 at the VYBK. The I-League 2nd division side has received a bye to the last-four stage after their quarter-final opponents Army Red Football Team pulled out of the tournament owing to Covid cases.

Army Red v Bengaluru United QF called off

Kolkata: The Durand Cup quarter-final match between Army Red and FC Bengaluru United (FCBU), scheduled for Friday at the Kalyani stadium, has been called off after a Army Red player tested positive for Covid-19 virus on Thursday. As the player had come into contact with other teammates during Thursday's training session, the Army Red squad decided to withdraw from the tournament as a result and FCBU received a bye into the semi-finals. It is learned that one player of Army Red tested positive in the mandatory Rapid Antigen Test conducted in the morning. He was asymptomatic while the other players have tested negative.

ODISHA TO HOST MEN'S JUNIOR HOCKEY WC FROM NOV 24 TO DEC 5

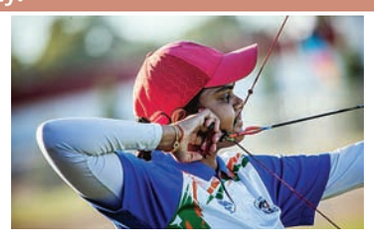
Bhubaneswar: Odisha will host the International Hockey Federation's (FIH) Men's Junior Hockey World Cup from November 24 to December 5 at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik announced on Thursday. Addressing a special event organised here for this purpose, Patnaik said that recently the Hockey India had approached the state government to support it for the Men's Junior Hockey World Cup, which is to be held in two months' time. He said that the hockey World Cup to be held in January 2023 will be a landmark event and provide further momentum to the development of hockey in the country. The Chief Minister also unveiled the logo and trophy for the Junior World Cup.

World Archery Championships

India gunning for two gold medals

India have reached the medal rounds eight times, including six finals, but had to settle for a silver medal every time. India have figured in most podiums (eight) of any country to have never collected a gold medal at the World Championships. Now they have at least two shots to break the deadlock on Friday.

Yankton (USA) | Agencies



Despite figuring in six finals, India have never won a gold medal in the World Archery Championships. On Friday, India's compound women and the Mixed team will be attempting to win the country's first gold medal in the 2021 World Archery Championships at Yankton, South Dakota, USA. India will meet Colombo in the final in both the sections.

The Indian Women's Compound Team defeated hosts United States in the semi-final on Wednesday 226-225. The Indian women's team comprising Jyothi Vennam, Muskan Kirar, and Priya Gurjar came back strongly after losing the first set (end) of six arrows, 56-57 to the USA. The Indians shot four 9s and two 10s against four Xs, a 9 and 8 by the American team comprising Paige Pearce, Linda Ochoa-Anderson, and Makenna Proctor.

India won the second set 58-57 with scores of 9,9,10,10,X,X as compared to X,X,10,9,9,9 shot by the American and both teams were tied 114-114. The Indians lost the third set 56-54 and thus trailed 168-170 going into the final six arrows.India won the final set (End) 58-55 to clinch the semi-final 226-225 to complete a great comeback. India scored 9,9,10,10,X,X in the last six arrows while the USA managed 10,10,9,9,9,8 -- the last arrow virtually sealing their fate.

In the Compound Mixed Team competition, the Indian team comprising Jyothi Vennam and Abhishek Verma defeated South Korea 159-156 in the semi-final to set up a summit clash with Colombia, who defeated Denmark 157-155. India faced setbacks in Compound Men's team competition as the team of Abhishek Verma, Sangampreet Singh Bisla and Rishabh Yadav won their second-round match against Italy 236-230 but went down 235-238 to Austria in the quarter-finals.

The Recurve Men's Team of Sushant Salunkhe, Aditya Choudhary, and Atul Verma won the first round clash with Canada 5-4 but went down to Chinese Taipei 3-5 in the next round.

Nortje and Rabada know how to bowl to David Warner: Pietersen

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Former England captain Kevin Pietersen made a tall claim after Sunrisers Hyderabad lost to Delhi Capitals by eight wickets in their IPL game in Dubai. Following David Warner's dismissal for a duck on Wednesday, Pietersen said that he knew that the SRH opener would truggle against the pace duo of Anrich Nortje and Kagiso Rabada.

"Nortje and Rabada know how to bowl to David Warner. I think Rabada has knocked him over 4-5 times already. So they know and understand how to bowl to Warner. I am not surprised actually. I think this was a real tough game for Warner," Pietersen said on Star Sports.

Pietersen added that Delhi Capitals would be the one side the Australian wished he wouldn't have to face on his return match.

'Neha Kakkar learnt 'Kanta Laga' moves in one day'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Atul Jindal, who has choreographed singers Yo Yo Honey Singh, Tony Kakkar and Neha Kakkar for their latest party number 'Kanta Laga', calls it an amazing experience. He also shared how Neha learnt her moves in just one day!

Talking about working with Neha Kakkar, Atul said: "It was my first time working with Neha and Tony (Kakkar). We actually only met Neha on the set, so I was a bit nervous about teaching her the whole choreography minutes before the take. But she is such a powerful performer, she took it to the next level. I bet after looking at the video, you can't say that she learnt the moves that same day!"

The choreographer also opened up on his long association with rapper Yo Yo Honey Singh.Atul said: "It was amazing! It's always so much fun working with Honey bhai, he is such an incredible artiste and always gives me complete creative freedom."

"After working with him for so many years now, we have a great comfort level, I know what choreography will suit him. His energy and performance makes my choreography look 10X," he added.

Atul also shared why the experience of choreographing for 'Kanta Laga' was "challenging" for him.

Ranveer appeals for sensitivity

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SIGN LANGUAGES

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood's livewire star Ranveer Singh, who has been constantly working towards raising the issues faced by the deaf community, has appealed to the youth to create an inclusive space for the deaf community on on International Day of Sign Languages 2021.

"If there is anything we all have come to value and embrace in the last year and a half is the power of community and being there for each other. My message to the youth today would be to keep doing the work you are... and if in any way you can create or propagate an inclusive space by working with the Deaf community, please do," Ranveer said.

"From hospitality to education to creative arts. We can only make this change together and my trust and support lie with the youth of our country."

Ranveer has been doing his bit to help the community. He has also been urging authorities to consider and declare Indian Sign Language (ISL) as the 23rd official language of India and also signed a petition aimed at furthering awareness to this cause.

The 'Gully Boy' star and his artist collective, IncInk, have been the flag bearers of this cause with consistent and robust plans to action change. The versatile actor shares his future plans to keep raising awareness for this cause.

Is Arjun Bijlani the winner of 'KKK 11'?

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The action-based reality show 'Khatron Ke Khiladi 11' hosted by stunt master Rohit Shetty has been filled with anxiety-inducing stunts. Now as the show is coming to a finale, there is a rise in audiences' enthusiasm to know the winner. In fact, his wife Neha Swami Bijlani has posted a picture of her with Arjun and wrote: "I'm soooooo proud of you my jaan... I know what you have done really.. you deserve all the happiness in the world.. @arjunbijlani." Arjun's fans have flooded the post with congratulatory messages.The finale episodes will be aired on September 25 and September 26 on COLORS.

If the stories going around on social media are to be believed, television actor Arjun Bijlani has won the reality show. Though the channel has not made any official announcement and it will be made only at the weekend yet the pictures floating on Instagram are telling a different story.

Pratik Gandhi's 'Bhavai' has a 'Scam 1992' connect

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Actor Pratik Gandhi, who became an overnight sensation with his portrayal of Harshad Mehta in the series 'Scam 1992', has revealed that while shooting for his upcoming film 'Bhavai', he got two calls that changed his life forever. "This film is very special to me because this film happened before 'Scam 1992' and while shooting for this film I got a call from Hansal Mehta saying 'whenever you are back in Bombay, let's meet up' and that is how 'Scam' happened," Pratik said during a chat with reporter. He said while shooting for this film he got two calls that turned his life completely. Pratik added: "I precisely remember that two calls came during the shoot of this film that changed my life forever. One was Hansal Mehta's call while we were shooting in Bhuj and another call that came from my home about my dad's ill health and eventually in six months I lost him. "The two calls are connected to this film and I will remember this in my lifetime." 'Bhavai' also stars Aindrita Ray, Rajendra Gupta, Rajesh Sharma, and Abhimanyu Singh in pivotal roles, the musical drama is all set to release on October 1.Presented by Jayantilal Gada (Pen Studios), produced by Dhaval Jayantilal Gada, Aksshay Jayantilal Gada, Parth Gajjar, and Hardik Gajjar films in association with Backbencher Pictures.

SHALINI PANDEY: CRAZY ABOUT 'JAYESHBHAI JORDAAR' RELEASE

Team Absolute | Mumbai

'Arjun Reddy' actress Shalini Pandey, who is all set to make her Bollywood debut in the Ranveer Singh starrer 'Jayeshbhai Jordaar', says she has been crazily looking forward for the film's release for more than a year now.Shalini, who turns a year older on Thursday, said: "I've been crazily looking forward to the release for more than a year now and I can't wait for audiences to see the film. "I know it's a good film and I also know it's a very special film which we have made with so much love and dedication." For Shalini, the experience of working in this film has been emotional as it is her first Hindi film debut. She said: "I can't wait for the film to release because I know people are going to love the film and the characters."Also, I can't wait for theatres to open, because I want people to go to theatres, even I want to go back to theatres and watch the film there on the big screen as this film has its own journey, and I want people to experience it as soon as possible. I literally can't wait, it's so special and I get excited every time when I think about the film releasing." Shalini has landed a three-film contract from Aditya Chopra, who is mentoring her to be an actress.She said: "Working with YRF with a three-film contract is a big deal, it's a big launchpad for sure. It is a dream come true, I've grown up watching Yash Raj Films, and I always wanted to be a YRF heroine."The actress says her parents are happy because they have been watching a lot of movies."I couldn't have imagined it, to be very honest, it happened all of a sudden, with 'Jayeshbhai', and it has started with a very special film," she said.

HEMA'S RETRO PERFORMANCE LEAVES 'SUPER DANCER 4' JUDGES AWESTRUCK

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood diva Hema Malini will be the special guest on 'Super Dancer - Chapter 4'. Poonam Dhillon and Padmini Kolhapure are also among the celebrity guests this weekend. The interesting highlight of the show would turn out to be Hema Malini's performance on the song 'Tune O Rangeele Kaisa Jaadu Kiya' from the movie 'Kudrat' which starred Rajesh Khanna opposite her.

This act will leave the judges Shilpa Shetty, Geeta Kapur and Anurag Basu stunned. Emulating judge Geeta Kapur's feelings, host Rithvik Dhanjani asks her to share her feeling watching Hema Malini's dance.

To this, Geeta Kapur replied: "These are the stars that we see in the sky. This is like...I can't believe I saw her dancing live right now! Ma'am thank you so much."

Furthermore, the grand finale of Super Dancer Chapter 4 'Nachpan Ka Mahotsav' will be on October 9. 'Super Dancer - Chapter 4' airs on Saturday and Sunday on Sony Entertainment Television.

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY

Musskan Sethi

Owned, Published and Printed by Yogendra Chaturvedi at P.G. Infrastructure and service Pvt.Ltd, Karond Bhanpur Bypass Road, Bhopal-462037 (MP) and published from 8/1, Malviya Nagar, Bhopal- 462011 ■ **Editor -** Yogendra Chaturvedi, **Advisory Editor-** Sarika Chaturvedi, **Resident Editor-** Nagendra Sharma| (*responsible for selection of news under PRB act). RNI. No. MPENG/2015/69891 Phone No. 0755-4078105, www.absoluteindianews.com, E-mail- absoluteindiadesk@gmail.com,(Bhopal will be the jurisdiction of any dispute.)