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18 COPS BOOKED FOR FAKE ENCOUNTER IN UP

A case has been registered against 18 police personnel, including an SP, in Uttar Pradesh's Shahjahanpur for an alleged fake encounter.

Shahjahanpur | Agencies A case has been registered against 18 police personnel, including an SP, in Uttar Pradesh's Shahjahanpur for an alleged fake encounter. In October 2004, Dhnapal and Prahlad, both residents of Chachuapur village under Jalalabad police station, were shot dead by police on allegations of being members of the gangster Saragana Naresha Dhima's gang. Following the fake encounter, Prahlad's brother Ramkirti had submitted an application in 2012 in the Chief Judicial Magistrate

(CJM) Court Shahjahanpur, alleging a fake encounter. Ramkirti's plea was not heard and he went to court. "Chief Judicial Magistrate of Shahjahanpur Abhupal considering the victim family's plea, registered a case against the then Superintendent of Police Shahjahanpur Sushil Kumar Singh, Additional Superintendent of Police Mata Prasad along with three COs, SOG and 11 SHOs," said Ejaz Hasan Khan, lawyer of the victim. "Ramkirti, in his application given in the court, alleged that the deceased Dhnapal and Prahlad were

working in the field when the police shot them dead. After that, the police hung a gun on their shoulders and tied a box of cartridges around his waist", said the lawyer. RK Singh, Sushil Kumar Singh was among the police officials named in the case. The police have been accused of conducting a fake encounter. Based on the complaint of the victim's family, the court ordered registering a case against 18 police personnel, including the then SP, Additional SP, CO and several SHOs at Jalalabad police station.

Working with full force to make Arunachal a major gateway to East Asia: Prime Minister

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said that his government is working with full force to make Arunachal a major gateway to East Asia.



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said that his government is working with full force to make Arunachal a major gateway to East Asia. Speaking on the occasion of golden jubilee and 36th statehood day celebrations of the state, Prime Minister Modi congratulated people of the state and lauded them for strengthening their identity as the land of the rising sun over the last 50 years. He praised Arunachal Pradesh for promoting the feeling of patriotism, social harmony and also for preserving the cultural legacy of the country. Paying tributes to the martyrs from Arunachal Pradesh who laid down their lives for the country, Modi said:

"Be it the Anglo-Abor war or the security of the border after independence, the tales of valour of the people of Arunachal are a priceless heritage for every Indian." The Prime Minister mentioned his many visits to the state and expressed satisfaction with the pace of development under the double-engine gov-

ernment under him and Chief Minister Pema Khandu. "The path of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas and Sabka Prayas' will ensure a better future for Arunachal Pradesh," Modi said. The Prime Minister reiterated his belief that Eastern India, specially Northeastern India will be the engine

of India's development in the 21st century. He also listed steps undertaken during the last seven years. "We are working with full force to make Arunachal a major gateway to East Asia. In view of the strategic role of Arunachal, modern infrastructure is being built in the state," the Prime Minister said. He noted that Arunachal is progressing in harmony with nature and culture. "Due to your efforts, Arunachal is one of the most important areas of biodiversity," he said. The Prime Minister also expressed happiness on the Chief Minister's efforts for development in the fields of health, education, skill development, women empowerment and self-help groups. He praised the Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju for continuously working for the development of the state. The Prime Minister also reiterated his commitment for realising Arunachal's tourism potential at the global level.

WINDS OF CHANGE BLOWING, TIME FOR 'PARIVARTAN': MAHA, T'GANA CMS

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Amid a bonhomie of hugs and handshakes, Chief Ministers of Maharashtra and Telangana - Uddhav Thackeray and Chandrashekar Rao, respectively - said, "winds of change are blowing in the country" and now it's "time for a change" (Parivartan), here on Sunday. The Thackeray-Rao duo also declared that the foundations of a united third front of Opposition parties in the country to challenge the Bharatiya Janata Party, would be laid from Maharashtra. They expressed serious concerns over the future of the country and what direction it is going, given the "politics of vendetta" pursued by the BJP. Rao also met the ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) ally Nationalist Congress Party President Sharad Pawar and "discussed politics and the state of the nation", while



Congress President Nana Patole expressed full support to the visiting CM's endeavours to forge Opposition unity. "We have discussed several issues in detail. We feel there is a need for structural and policy changes in the country. We condemn the manner in which central probe agencies are being misused. The Centre must change its policies or it

will face the consequences," Rao said. The two leaders said this "is just the beginning and now talks will be held with other national-regional parties" with a strong developmental agenda to strengthen the country. Expressing concerns over the political environment in the country, Thackeray said that "politics of vengeance of the lowest levels has

been let loose." "Our discussions were based on principles and the problems confronting the country. It's our responsibility to show the way to the countrymen, solve the problems of farmers and commoners," said Pawar. "Pawar Saheb is our senior leader. He supported our agitation (for Telangana state) right from 1969 till its birth (2014). We feel the country is not being run properly, development is stalled and the expected progress has not taken place," the Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS) President said. They exhorted that now is the time to take all parties together and forge ahead unitedly with a new agenda to fulfil the hopes and aspirations of the people of the country. Both Thackeray and Rao said that a good start has been made today with the objective of 'parivartan' (change) to protect India's democracy, and said "you will see very good results of these meetings soon".

Allahabad HC dismisses plea on use of loudspeakers in temples, mosques

The Allahabad High Court dismissed a contempt petition regarding the usage of loudspeakers in temples as well as in mosques, observing that the time of filing of the petition indicates that it was a sponsored litigation so as to affect the communal harmony of Uttar Pradesh during the state elections.

Team Absolute | Prayagraj

The Allahabad High Court dismissed a contempt petition regard-

ing the usage of loudspeakers in temples as well as in mosques, observing that the time of filing of the petition indicates that it was a sponsored litigation so as to affect the communal harmony of Uttar Pradesh during the state elections. In the contempt petition, the petitioner Islamuddin of Rampur district had requested the court to punish Rabintra Kumar Mander, the district magistrate of Rampur as well as superintendent of police (SP), Rampur for wilfully disobeying the earlier order passed by this court in a public interest litigation (PIL) on April 15, 2015. In the order, the court had directed the district administration of

Rampur and the regional pollution control board (RPCB) to ensure that there is no noise pollution by use of loudspeaker or any other device causing noise pollution beyond the prescribed standard in the noise pollution (regulation and control) rules, 2000. According to the petitioner, it was in 2021 that certain people started using loudspeakers in the temple as well as mosque which led to noise pollution. Hence, he filed the present contempt petition before the high court on February 3, 2022 for ensuring the compliance of the earlier court's order dated April 15, 2015 and to also to punish the authorities concerned who allegedly disobeyed the court's order.

Four of a family commit suicide in Kerala

Four members of a family, including father, mother, and two children were found dead in a house at Kodungallur in Kerala's Thrissur district on Sunday.

Thiruvananthapuram:

Four members of a family, including father, mother, and two children were found dead in a house at Kodungallur in Kerala's Thrissur district on Sunday. The deceased were identified as Kadampambath Ashraf (41), his wife Abeer (35) and their two children, Fathima (14) and Anoina (7). The incident came to light after the family did not open the door even after forenoon and it was found that

the house was locked from inside and the windowpanes were pasted with tape. Police were informed and on breaking open the house, all four were found dead. Sources in Kodungallur police said that the room where the four were found dead had a smell of carbon monoxide. The Kodungallur police have registered a case of unnatural death. According to neighbours, the family was going through a heavy financial crisis and owed money to several people. M Manikantan, a social worker from Kodungallur, told IANS: "This was unfortunate. He did not tell anyone about the crisis. People are getting isolated from society and are taking such extreme steps without solving them."

SRI LANKAN NAVY ARRESTS 6 INDIAN FISHERMEN ON POACHING CHARGES

Chennai: The Sri Lankan Navy has arrested six Indian fishermen and seized their boat allegedly for poaching in country's territorial waters. The arrest was made on Saturday night near the Kovilan lighthouse, Jaffna. According to information from the Sri Lankan Army website, the fishermen and the boat were captured for crossing the IMBL. The fishermen were the residents of Nambuthalai in Ramanathapuram district and the boat was owned by a person from Nagapattinam. The fishermen leaders said that they have set sail from Nambuthalai on February 18. With this incident, 29 fishermen and six fishing boats are under the custody of the Sri Lankan authorities in the month of February alone. PMK leader Anbumani Ramadoss called upon the Indian government to hold talks with the Sri Lankan government and to work for the release of fishermen and the boats under the custody of the Sri Lankan authorities.

EC restores max number of star campaigners as Covid cases drop

The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Sunday restored the maximum number of star campaigners for ongoing and future elections as the number of Covid-19 cases dropped substantially.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Sunday restored the maximum number of Star Campaigners for ongoing and future elections as the number of Covid-19 cases dropped substantially. Now, the recognised national and state parties can field a maximum of 40-star campaigners. Other parties which are registered but not recognised can

now have 20-star campaigners during the electioneering. "In a notification issued to all party presidents or general secretaries, the EC said that after due deliberation it has decided to restore the maximum limit on number of Star Campaigners as specified under section 77 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 and the time period for submission of the list of Star Campaigners for all ongoing and future elections, with immediate effect, as under the maximum limit on the number of Star Campaigners for recognised National/State political parties shall be 40 and for other than recognised political party it shall be 20," the ECI said. The Commission also said that the list of Star Campaigners shall be communi-

cated within a period of seven days from the date of the notification while for the ongoing General Election to the Legislative Assembly of Manipur (both phases) and Uttar Pradesh (for phase V, VI and VII) and by election to 99-Majuli (ST) Assembly Constituency of Assam, the list of additional Star Campaigners, if any, can be submitted to the Commission or the concerned Chief Electoral Officer latest by February 23, 2022 till five p.m. The poll panel also said that the decision came after the numbers of both active and new COVID-19 cases have been receding and the restrictions put in place both by the Central Government and State Governments to check the spread of pandemic are being lifted or relaxed gradually.

Kerala: CPM, Congress unite for pension to personal staff; reject Gov suggestion

The ruling CPM-led LDF and the Congress-led Opposition UDF are in unison over the pension for the personal staff members of the ministers.

Thiruvananthapuram | Agencies

The ruling CPM-led LDF and the Congress-led Opposition UDF are in unison over the pension for the personal staff members of the ministers. Currently in Kerala, if a personal staff member completes two years in service, he is entitled to draw a pension for life, and after his passing away his family is also eligible for the same. The Kerala assembly had passed a bill on this subject in 1994 and ever since the state coffers have been paying pensions to the former staff members of the ministers.

However, Governor Arif Mohammed Khan, who is in an open fight with the state government and opposition, is adamant that the government give a report to him regarding pension to the staff members. He had communicated the same to the Chief Minister when the latter visited him in the Raj Bhavan recently. The CPM, which is leading the state government, is not amused by the Governor's 'dictum'. Kodiyeri Balakrishnan, CPM state secretary, while speaking to media persons at Thiruvananthapuram, said, "There is no question of reversal on the pension given to staff members of ministers and a very few are political postings among the staff members."



In Kerala, a minister is entitled to appoint 30 staff members but the state restricted it to 27 members. Interestingly the minimum pension for a personal staff member is Rs 3,550 after the eleventh pay commission in the state. The personal staff members after working for two years are entitled for pension and if a person joins the service at the age of 18 and he leaves the service at the age of 20, he is eligible for pension. While a government servant retires at the age of 56 in Kerala, the personal staff member does not have an upper age limit. The personal staff of ministers, speaker, deputy speaker, and opposition leader are entitled for a pension. Arif Mohammed Khan has categorically stated that a staff member is posted for

2 years and after that period he resigns and another person is posted who can serve for the rest of the term of the minister, which leads to pension for both of them. Congress leader K Muraleedharan, who is a Member of Parliament from Vatakara Lok Sabha constituency, while speaking to media persons said, "The Governor cannot do anything. The practice of continuing the pension for personal staff members will continue as it is based on a bill passed by the Kerala Assembly." With the ruling LDF and the opposition UDF in unison against the Governor's move to put a brake on the pension for staff members of ministers, the state will probably witness a major confrontation between the Governor on the one side and the ruling and opposition parties on the other side.

Army pays tribute to 2 soldiers killed in Kashmir gunfight

The Army on Sunday paid tribute to Sepoys Chavan Romit Tanaji and Santosh Yadav, who were killed during a gunfight with terrorists at Chreymarg in South Kashmir's Shopian District.



Srinagar | Agencies

The Army on Sunday paid tribute to Sepoys Chavan Romit Tanaji and Santosh Yadav, who were killed during a gunfight with terrorists at Chreymarg in South Kashmir's Shopian District. A hardcore terrorist

was neutralised in the gunfight, which happened in the early hours of Saturday in the Tsermarg Village of Shopian District, where a joint operation had been launched by the security forces. During the encounter, the two bravehearts ensured zero collateral damage to the civilian lives and property. The 14-hour long operation was pursued on specific human intelligence about the presence of terrorists in the general area of Awaneera and Tsermarg. As the Security Forces closed

in towards the suspected house, heavy automatic fire was drawn from the house endangering the civilians present around the house. Taking swift evasive action, the forces evacuated the civilians, including women and children to a safe location and eliminated the hiding terrorist. In a solemn ceremony at BB Cantt, Lt Gen D.P. Pandey, Chinara Corps Commander and all ranks paid homage to the gallant soldiers. "Two gallant soldiers, Sep Santosh Yadav and Sep Romit Chavan hailing from Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra respectively, in an act of exemplary bravery, sustained injuries in the initial gunfight and later succumbed to their injuries.



'SERVING NEEDY TOP PRIORITY IN OUR CULTURE': PRESIDENT KOVIND

Team Absolute | New Delhi

President Ram Nath Kovind on Sunday said that various religious traditions and practices are prevalent across the country but there is only one belief and that is to work for the welfare of all considering the entire humanity as one family.

President Kovind was speaking on the occasion of inauguration of the three-year long celebrations of the 150th birth anniversary of Srimad Bhakti Siddhanta Saraswati Goswami Prabhupad, the founder of Gaudiya Math and Mission in Puri, Odisha.

"God is worshipped in all its forms. But the tradition of worshipping God with Bhakti-Bhav (devotion) has been significant in India. Here many great saints have practiced selfless worship. Even among such great saints, Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu has a special place. Inspired by his extraordinary devotion, a large number of people chose the path of Bhakti," he said. The President said that Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu used to say that people



should remember God with a humble attitude considering themselves to be smaller than grass. One must be more tolerant than a tree, devoid of any sense of ego and must give respect to others. One should always be remem-

bering God. The President mentioned that the Bhakti-Marg's speciality of complete devotion to God is witnessed not only in the spiritual side of life but also in the day-to-day life of every individual.

"Serving the needy has been given a top priority in our culture. Our doctors, nurses and health workers displayed this spirit of service during the Covid pandemic. They were also infected with the coronavirus, but even in such extreme circumstances, they did not lose courage and were engaged in the treatment of people," the President said.

He further mentioned that many of the corona warriors sacrificed their lives but the dedication of their co-workers remained unwavering. "The whole country would always be indebted to such warriors," President Kovind added. The President expressed confidence that the Gaudiya Mission would be successful in its resolve of spreading the message of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu to the world, keeping its objective of human welfare as paramount.

Assam, Arunachal to resolve border disputes this year

Itanagar | Agencies

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and his Arunachal Pradesh counterpart Pema Khandu on Sunday said that they would start the process from April to resolve the long pending disputes along the 804 km inter-state border of the two states. Sarma and Khandu on Sunday attended the 50 years celebration programme of Arunachal Pradesh and 36th statehood day at Naharlagun. Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually addressed the event from Delhi and said that his government is working with full force to make Arunachal a major gateway to East Asia.

Sarma, while addressing the function, informed that Assam and Arunachal Pradesh governments would sit together from April to resolve border disputes. He hoped that the majority of border problems would be solved this year. "Border issues can only be

solved amicably and through dialogue between all stakeholders," he asserted. The Assam Chief Minister requested Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju, who is a Lok Sabha Member from Arunachal, to work as a leader of team northeast so that the entire region can play a vital role in development of the country.

Saying that legendary musician of Assam, Dr Bhupen Hazarika's songs have reflected the beauty of Arunachal and eulogised the bonhomie among the people of both states, Sarma recalled how Assamese stalwarts like Indra Miri, Annanda Prasad Borthakur made immense contributions for the social and educational development of Arunachal Pradesh.

The Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister echoed his Assam counterpart and thanked Sarma for initiating the process to resolve the inter-state border disputes.

Till 1972, Arunachal Pradesh was known as the

North-East Frontier Agency (NEFA) and it was administered by the External Affairs Ministry with the Assam Governor acting as agent to the President of India.

On January 20, 1972, the state gained Union Territory status and was renamed as Arunachal Pradesh and it became a full-fledged state on February 20, 1987. Meanwhile, the Assam Chief Minister and his Meghalaya counterpart Conrad K. Sangma recently met Union Home minister Amit Shah in Delhi and apprised him about the efforts being made to resolve six of the 12 inter-state border disputes between the two north-eastern states. Assam's border dispute cases with Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh are before the Supreme Court but there are no cases on the inter-state disputes with Meghalaya and Mizoram. Recently, Assam and Nagaland had signed an agreement to remove state forces from the disputed locations.

Preachers of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' dividing society, says Baghel

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Sunday attacked his Uttar Pradesh counterpart Yogi Adityanath, saying that the latter "preaches about promoting harmony, but spreads hatred instead".

Amethi | Agencies

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Sunday attacked his Uttar Pradesh counterpart Yogi Adityanath, saying that the latter "preaches about promoting harmony, but spreads hatred instead." "In the Katha-Bhagwat (religious discourses), he (Yogi) says 'Dharma ki jai ho, adhama ka naash ho' (Long live the religion and evil should get destroyed). But instead of promoting harmony, he is spreading hatred," Baghel alleged while campaigning in support of Congress candidates in Sultanpur, Amethi and Rae Bareilly. "The UP CM preaches 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam', which means the whole world is one family. But through their act they are dividing the people," the Chhattisgarh Chief Minister said while addressing a pub-



lic meeting in the Salon Assembly constituency. He added that it is evident after the third phase of elections that the saffron party will be wiped out.

Questioning the BJP, Baghel said that the saffron party had promised in 2017 to double the income of farmers, give employment to 2 crore youth, transfer Rs 15 lakh in everyone's account, but he fulfilled none of them.

"How many farmers' income got doubled, how many unemployed got jobs and how many got Rs 15 lakh in their accounts," he asked.

The Congress leader said that the BJP does not raise questions on its governance, instead questions former Congress leaders who had sacrificed their lives for the unity and integrity of the country. The BJP does not have any answer to questions on demonetisation, GST, farmers' movement, he added. Baghel further said that in a democracy, no one is more powerful than the people.

"If you want to get rid of inflation and unemployment, then you have to defeat the BJP," he said.

Protesting BJP workers shut own office in Kerala's Kasargod district

In a case of open rebellion, a group of BJP workers closed the Kasargod district committee office of the party following a dispute with the leadership over an alliance of convenience with the CPI-M in 'Kumbala' panchayat.

Thiruvananthapuram | Agencies

In a case of open rebellion, a group of BJP workers closed the Kasargod district committee office of the party following a dispute with the leadership over an alliance of convenience with the CPI-M in 'Kumbala' panchayat.

The party cadres and workers came in a procession towards the office and closed it with chains and lock.

Party's local leaders and cadres demanded that the state president of the party, K Surendran, reach the venue and settle the issue. It may be noted that the saffron party is very strong in Kasargod and in Manjeswara and Kasargod Assembly segments, the BJP candidates always reached the second spot in poll results.

K Surendran has been contesting from the Manjeswar seat, and in the



2016 Assembly elections, he lost by 89 votes to P.B. Abdul Razak of the Indian Union Muslim League.

However, he could not repeat that feat in the 2021 Assembly elections where he lost to AKM Ashraf of the

Muslim League by 745 votes.

The controversy that has erupted in Kasargod has jolted the state BJP leadership as this has taken place in the party's stronghold of Kasargod where the party has always been a force to reckon with.

BJP local leader M. Praveen while speaking to IANS said, "We are fighting a war with the CPI-M in Kerala and the alliance with that party in Kumbala was totally uncalled for. We will not budge till the state president intervenes and settles the matter."

However, BJP state president K. Surendran returned from Kannur and has not reached Kasargod as was expected.

BJP state president K. Surendran while speaking to IANS said, "I have to study the issue and have to speak to the local leadership on the matter. I cannot comment unless I get proper information on the same."

BJP MLA IN HYDERABAD BOOKED FOR THREATENING UP VOTERS

Hyderabad | Agencies

The Hyderabad Police on Sunday registered a case against BJP MLA T. Raja Singh for threatening Uttar Pradesh voters of dire consequences if they don't vote for the saffron party.

An FIR against the MLA was registered at Goshamahal Police Station under Sections 171 C and 171 F of the Indian Penal Code, and Section 123 of the Representation of the People Act.

The Election Commission had on Saturday ordered the Chief Electoral Officer of Telangana to register FIR against the MLA.

With no response received from Raja Singh within the stipulated time to the show cause notice issued by it, the poll panel asked Telangana CEO to register FIR against relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Representation of the People's Act.

The Commission also prohibited the MLA from holding any public meetings, proces-



sions, rallies, road shows and interviews, public utterances in media in connection

with the ongoing elections for 72 hours from 6 p.m. on February 19.

Stating that the MLA violated Sections 171 C and 171 F of the Indian Penal Code, section 123 of the Representation of the People Act and Model Code of Conduct, the poll panel deplored the statements made by Raja Singh and censured him for the violation.

The poll body had on Wednesday asked Singh to respond within 24 hours as to why appropriate penal action under criminal law should not be initiated against him.

The MLA through his advocate sought time till February 21 to furnish the reply but the Commission gave him time till 1 p.m. on February 19. The poll panel, however, received no response from him within the stipulated time. The controversial MLA, in the video released after the second phase of polling for Assembly election in Uttar Pradesh on Monday, threatened voters that if they don't cast their votes for the BJP, their houses will be demolished and they will be driven out of the state.

Amid stray violence, third phase rural poll in Odisha sees 71% voting

Amid some stray incidents of violence, the third phase Panchayat polls in Odisha passed off peacefully on Sunday with 71 per cent voting.

Bhubaneswar | Agencies

Amid some stray incidents of violence, the third phase Panchayat polls in Odisha passed off peacefully on Sunday with 71 per cent voting.

The election was held for 171 Zilla Parishad members at 18,495 booths in 1,382 Panchayats of 63 Blocks in 29

districts across the state. As per preliminary reports, 71 per cent out of 56.53 lakh voters turned up at the booths in this phase, State Election Commissioner Aditya Prasad Padhi said here. The polling began at 7 a.m. and continued till 1 p.m. However, in places where voters were seen standing in queue, they were allowed to cast their votes. The Commission has strongly condemned the attack on journalists in Binjharpur area of Jajpur district. The DGP and Jajpur district administration have been directed to arrest the culprits and take strong action against them, Padhi said. As per sources, the three journalists had gone to cover the alleged loot of ballot boxes

from two booths at Bachala Panchayat under Binjharpur block when they were brutally assaulted by unidentified miscreants. The vehicle of the journalists was also allegedly ransacked by the mob. Similarly, the election was also disrupted in some places due to law and order issues, he said, adding, "After getting detailed reports from the concerned district collectors, the State Election Commission will examine it and take further course of action."

However, the election was also passed peacefully in the Maoist affected areas including Mathili & Podia blocks of Malkangiri district and Phiringia block of Kandhamal district, Padhi said.

TN records 61% voting in urban local body polls

Tamil Nadu recorded 61 per cent voting in the urban local body polls to elect more than 12,500 members to the 640 urban local bodies.

CHENNAI | Agencies

Tamil Nadu recorded 61 per cent voting in the urban local body polls to elect more than 12,500 members to the 640 urban local bodies.

Chennai district however, recorded the least percentage with only 43.9 per cent.

While polling on Saturday was brisk in town panchayats and municipalities, in corporation it was sluggish. Madurai recorded 52.73 per

cent turnout while Tiruppur district registered overall polling of 60.66 per cent and the Coimbatore corporation recorded 55.81 per cent polling. Tamil Nadu Director General of Police, C. Sylendra Babu while speaking to IANS said: "Polling was by and large peaceful barring a few minor incidents. Patrolling and police pickets helped in maintaining law and order in the state during the elections. The elections this time were much more peaceful compared to the last Urban polls. Cameras were installed not only at booths but in surrounding areas as well."

He said that in the previous Urban polls, six murders had taken place in the state and this election was com-

paratively very peaceful. Counting of votes will take place on February 22 at 268 centres across the state.

The two Dravidian majors, the ruling DMK and the opposition AIADMK raised allegations and counter-allegations stating that money and gifts were distributed to voters to ensure ballots. The AIADMK has raised a complaint with the Tamil Nadu State Election Commission alleging booth capture by the DMK and demanded re-polling at 26 booths in the corporation. In Cuddalore town, there was a minor issue when a group of people demanded voting rights after the scheduled 5 p.m. and police used mild force to disperse the crowd.

How Assembly polls will impact Presidential and Rajya Sabha elections

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The outcome of the five state elections will have an impact on the Presidential poll and will also bring some change in the Upper House of Parliament as except for Punjab the other four states were ruled by the BJP with brute majorities in UP and Uttarakhand. The Bharatiya Janata Party may not be that comfortably placed in the Presidential election which is likely to be conducted in June-July 2022, as the President is indirectly elected by an electoral college consisting of the elected members of both the Houses of Parliament and the Assemblies.

The electoral colleges comprises 776 MPs of both the Houses and 4,120 MLAs of all the states and Union Territories. The electoral college has 1,098,903 votes, and a majority is 549,452 votes. As far as the value

of votes is concerned, Uttar Pradesh has the highest number of votes, approximately 83,824 followed by Maharashtra and West Bengal. The BJP has a brute majority in the assemblies of UP and Uttarakhand and any reduction of seats will put the game in the opposition camp as the Chief Ministers of different regional parties are trying to join hands. If they join hands and put up a joint candidate, the BJP will find it difficult to get its nominee elected. The only way would be a division in the opposition camp which may be a difficult task. After West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee who is trying to expand her party, Trinamool Congress' footprints at the national level, Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhara Rao (KCR) had a meeting with Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray.

Not only is the Mumbai meeting important but KCR is also meeting Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin and Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan. Even Mamata Banerjee is likely to travel to Hyderabad to meet KCR. He has the support of former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda who could be another possible candidate for President. However the Chief Ministers trying to unite en bloc is not a good sign for the Congress which may get isolated in the opposition while the BJP has to search for a consensus candidate for the Presidential poll. KCR's new initiative is to save his home turf as the BJP is expanding its base in Telangana. He is being forced to take on the BJP due to domestic political compulsions, otherwise the party had been bailing out the BJP on key legislation in the Upper House since 2014. The southern states and Maharashtra account

for more than 200 Lok Sabha seats and almost half of the electoral college which could be crucial in the next Presidential poll. If the regional parties team up, it will be unlikely that the BJP will have its way in the choice of President. Thus the electoral outcome in the five states which include UP will impact the presidential election. If the opposition puts up a candidate like NCP supremo Sharad Pawar who is capable of mustering support from others like the Trinamool Congress, the BJP, the TRS, the YSRCP, the CPI-M, the CPI and the other parties, then the BJP will have a tough task ahead of it. The earlier NDA government led by Atal Bihari Vajpayee had to field APJ Abdul Kalam to get support from non-NDA parties, while UPA candidates Pratibha Patil and Pranab Mukherjee had attracted support from many political parties.



KCR, THACKERAY AGREE TO WORK TOGETHER FOR ANTI-BJP FRONT

Our Hindutva isn't about revenge, says Thackeray after meeting KCR

Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray and his Telangana counterpart K Chandrasekhar Rao on Sunday met here and decided to work together for an anti-BJP front.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray and his Telangana counterpart K. Chandrasekhar Rao on Sunday met here and decided to work together for an anti-BJP front. Thackeray assured support to Rao for his efforts to form a national alternative. After the meeting at Thackeray's residence, both the leaders told reporters that they would hold talks with the leaders of other regional and national parties to strengthen the country. The Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) chief said there is a need for a big change in the country. "A beginning has been made with our meeting. I believe a good message has gone out from here," said



KCR, as he hoped that the meeting would yield desired results. Stating that the campaigns launched from Maharashtra had succeeded in the past, KCR said that Maratha warriors like Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and Balasaheb Thackeray inspired the country.

He said they want to move ahead with the same spirit and fight injustice and save democracy. Alleging that the country's federalism is being damaged, Thackeray said, "The atmosphere that should be there between states and the Centre is not seen today. This politics will not work. So, we have made a fresh start." "The situation prevailing in the country and the way low-grade politics is happening is not Hindutva," said Thackeray, whose party Shiv Sena severed ties with the BJP in 2019 to form the government in Maharashtra in alliance with the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and the Congress. "Hindutva is not about violence or revenge. If things continue like this, what is the future of the country," asked Thackeray. He also voiced his unhappiness over the way the Central government 'spread rumours' about some states and some leaders. KCR also invited Thackeray to Hyderabad for further talks. "We are brothers because our states share a 1,000 km long border. We built the Kaleshwaram project with the cooperation of the Maharashtra government. We want to continue working together," said the TRS leader. KCR later left for a meeting with NCP chief Sharad Pawar.

Telangana CM K Chandrasekhar Rao and Maharashtra CM Uddhav Thackeray held a joint press conference at the latter's official residence in Mumbai on Sunday.

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Maharashtra CM Uddhav Thackeray hosted Telangana CM K Chandrasekhar Rao at Varsha, his official residence in Mumbai on Sunday. The two also held a joint press conference before KCR's meeting with NCP chief Sharad Pawar. Telangana CM KCR was accompanied on his visit to Mumbai by Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) leaders, including his daughter and MLC Kavitha Kalvakuntla. Also present during the meeting between the two chief ministers were Shiv Sena leaders Sanjay Raut and Arvind Sawat, as well as actor Prakash Raj. A range of issues, including irrigation projects like Babhli Dam, Tummidi Hatti, Medigadda barrage and



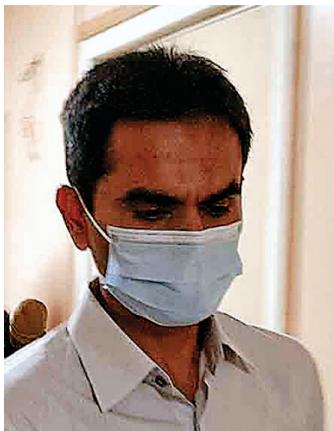
Chanaka-Korata barrage, were discussed during the meeting between CM Uddhav Thackeray and CM KCR. "Various schemes and projects in the field of industry and infrastructure in both the states were also discussed. Inter-state cooperation in irrigation projects and its various provisions were also discussed in detail," said a statement issued by the Maharashtra Chief Minister's Office (CMO). Telangana CM KCR, a vocal critic of the BJP who has been calling for an anti-BJP front, asserted that his meeting with Maharashtra CM Uddhav Thackeray was fruitful and that both leaders had reached a consensus on a number of issues of national importance. Maharashtra CM Uddhav Thackeray, addressing a joint press conference with KCR, said, "An initiative had to be taken which is why this meeting took place, to chalk out future strategies. This effort will take time and a lot of hard work. More effort will be needed.

FIR filed against Sameer Wankhede by Maha Police

The Maharashtra Police have filed an FIR against Sameer Wankhede, the controversial former NCB Zonal Director (Mumbai) at the Kopri police station of Thane district for getting a liquor license for his bar by allegedly furni

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Shing false information. he FIR against Sameer Wankhede was lodged around 8 pm on Saturday. "Wankhede is the owner of Sadguru Family Restaurant and Bar, which is situated in Vasi. On October 29, 1997 the liquor license to serve liquor at a bar was obtained. Mr Wankhede allegedly furnished fake information regarding his date of birth. At the time when the liquor licence was obtained, Wankhede was 17 years and eleven months old whereas to get the liquor license one should be a major," said a source. In November, Nawab Malik, the NCP leader and Maharashtra government minister, had levelled allegations against Sameer Wankhede. He had said that Sameer ran a restaurant and a bar in the Vasi area of Navi Mumbai, but he got the license to serve liquor by furnishing false information. Earlier, in this row the national commission for Scheduled Caste had said that an FIR should be lodged against Nawab Malik. The Commission had said that it was Wankhede



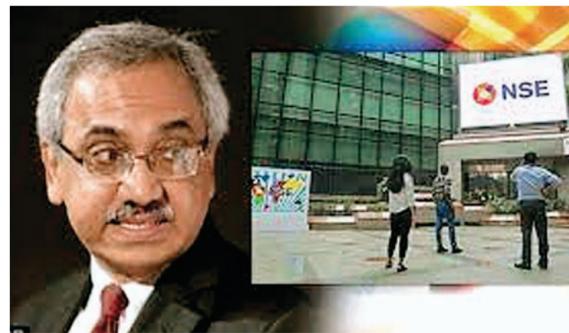
who was being harassed. ow, the row has escalated as Wankhede has been booked by the Thane Police. nkhede is currently posted with DRI.

NSE fraud: CBI grills Ravi Narain, the CEO before Chitra

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Saturday grilled former NSE director Ravi Narain who served as the CEO of NSE before Chitra Ramakrishna in connection with the probe into certain irregularities at the NSE.

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The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Saturday grilled former NSE director Ravi Narain who served as the CEO of NSE before Chitra Ramakrishna in connection with the probe into certain irregularities at the NSE. Earlier, it was speculated that he had fled to London but the CBI source confirmed that Ravi Narain is very much in Mumbai and his statement was recorded. "Ravi was asked to join the investigation. He responded to our summons. He was called at a Mumbai office where he was grilled. He is also a suspect in the case," said the CBI source. Ravi was too evasive and tried to evade a lot of questions. He also requested that his LoC should be closed. Now CBI will record the statement of Anand Subramanian



who was hired in NSE by flouting all rules by Chitra Ramakrishna as a Chief Strategic Advisor. Chitra Ramakrishna, the ex MD and CEO of National Stock Exchange (NSE) was recently grilled by the CBI in Mumbai. On February 18 she got her statement recorded with the federal probe agency. The CBI had asked her around 50 questions. She had tried to play victim card by claiming she didn't know a lot of things. She also had claimed that she was innocent and somebody was trying to frame her. CBI had asked her, for how long she had been sending mails to Yogi Baba, was she given any cut for sharing classified information, if yes,

where did she invest the money. The CBI had already issued Look Out Circular (LoC) against Chitra, Anand Subramanian, the former Group Operating official and Ravi Narain, the ex-NSE CEO (before Chitra). Sources told IANS that Chitra and two others involved in the case were flight risk and hence the LOCs were issued. Arrests in the case is now more likely. The CBI has lodged an FIR against Chitra on the basis of the 192 page report of the SEBI in which she has been accused of leaking classified information to a Yogi Baba who lived in the Himalayas. "There was a flight risk, there were possibilities that they may flee

abroad and taking preventive steps we issued the LOC," sources had told IANS. On February 17, the Income Tax Department had conducted raids at the house of Chitra in Mumbai and Chennai during which incriminating documents were recovered. The I-T department scanned various transactions and digital records. They also recorded the statements of a few of her employees. Recently, SEBI had imposed a fine of Rs 3 crore on her. SEBI had uploaded a 192-page order on its official website narrating how Chitra was allegedly involved in suspicious activities by leaking information. Chitra had said that a sage, who lives in the Himalayas, was giving her directions. She also sent him emails regarding the NSE. She quit SEBI in December 2016. It has been learnt that she allegedly shared vital inputs with the Yogi. "Information regarding organisational structure, dividend scenario, financial results, human resource policies and related issues, response to regulator, etc, were shared by her with the Yogi," said the source. Between 2014 and 2016 she sent emails at igyajursama@outlook.com. Subramanian was made the Chief Strategic Advisor of NSE. He served at this post between 2013 and 2015.

ASI probes 'risks' to UNESCO World Heritage Khajuraho temples

Taking cognizance of a complaint by a Maharashtra heritage expert, the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is probing allegations of certain activities reported from the vicinity (buffer zone) of the ancient Khajuraho Temples - a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Mumbai | Khajuraho

Taking cognizance of a complaint by a Maharashtra heritage expert, the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is probing allegations of certain activities reported from the vicinity (buffer zone) of the ancient Khajuraho Temples - a UNESCO World Heritage site. The quiet development follows objections by the Jalgaon-based Heritage Foundation Director Bhujang Bobade to the ASI Director-General, Madhya Pradesh ASI officials, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and others. Bobade said in his complaint that a group of Jain Temples in the close proximity of the Khajuraho Temples have recently carried out certain

minor renovations and used chemical/synthetic paints. "This poses a severe threat to the safety of the 11-12 centuries old Khajuraho Group of Monuments, comprising two dozen temples. They were declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1986 and accorded global protection. Surprisingly, not a single concerned authority has bothered to acknowledge my email complaints so far," a miffed Bobade told IANS. It was in December 2021-January 2022 that locals were taken back to witness painting and minor repairs being undertaken on the equally ancient cluster of Jain Temples outside the Khajuraho Group of Monuments, but falling within the buffer zone' of the UNESCO World Heritage site. "As per UNESCO rules, there is a minimum 300-metre buffer zone' around all such World Heritage Sites, where no such activities that can potentially harm the designated protected monuments are permitted. The Jain Temples here have apparently flouted the rules," claimed Bobade. Social media was agog with viral photos and videos of the facelift work that has now given the old Jain Temples a sparkling white faizade -- barring two, the Parshvanath and Adinath Temples -- a sharp contrast to the dark-greyish brown demeanour of the world heritage complex beside, and later con-

firmed in a site visit by IANS. When contacted, the ASI Jabalpur Circle Head Dr Shivkant Bajpeyi said that the Jain Temples do not come under their jurisdiction and hence they don't interfere in their activities. "However, after the concerns raised in certain quarters, we have sought a Status Report", which has been received. After studying it we shall examine further measures," Bajpeyi told IANS. The temple trustees vehemently denied having effected any repairs-renovation but admitted that the Jain Temples around the Khajuraho complex were given a makeover with a coat of fresh paint. "This is a part of the regular maintenance that is carried out periodically, as required; This is not the first time and we have painted these temples in the past," asserted the Jain Temple Prabandhan Committee (JTPC) Member Ramesh Jain to IANS. When asked why the Parshvanath and Adinath Temples were spared the brush and paint, Jain said those two temples are managed by the ASI. A cross-check by IANS with the local ASI office verified the claim. ASI officials in Delhi said that the JTPC has been demanding that the ASI hand over the remaining two (Parshvanath and Adinath) temples for proper upkeep, but that would not be possible on several grounds. Now, with the ostensible blessings

of a prominent Digambar Jain guru, Acharya Shri Vidyasagarji Maharaj, a new Jain temple is also being constructed, some 300-350 metres from the boundaries of the existing Jain temples, near the Khajuraho Group of Monuments, sparking concerns afresh in officialdom. The Acharya is revered by top politicians including the Prime Minister, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia and other big-wigs across the political spectrum. The Jain Temples are described as 'live monuments' with top religious leaders and commentators congregating or praying and celebrating festivals there. Bobade cautioned that if the UNESCO rules are flouted, it could lead to forfeiture of the 'World Heritage Site' tag, resulting in a huge embarrassment for India, and urged that prompt remedial steps be taken to protect the Khajuraho Temples, its identified 'buffer zone' plus the coveted title. Built during the reign of the Chandela Dynasty, the Khajuraho complex is the largest concentration of medieval Hindu and Jain temples, coming up over 11 centuries ago. Originally, the site comprised 85 Khajuraho Temples sprawled across 20 sq kms, but now barely two dozen temples survive in a 6 sq km area.

TIT-FOR-TAT? SS TO MEET MAHAM FOR REOPENING OF 'MURDER CASES' AGAINST RANE

The Shiv Sena on Saturday said the party leaders will meet Maharashtra Home Minister Dilip Walse Patil to demand reopening of murder cases in Sindhudurg district, the home district of Union minister and BJP leader Narayan Rane.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In a veiled reference to Rane, Shiv Sena MP from the Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg constituency and party spokesperson Vinayak Raut said that entire Maharashtra knows who was involved in murders and extortion. "Levelling allegations of corruption and murders against Shiv Sena is a mockery (of the post held by Rane). Has he forgotten his past?" Raut questioned. He alleged that "seven political murders" had taken place in the Sindhudurg district in the last nine years. "We will ask the state home minister to reopen these cases," Raut said. The Shiv Sena heads the Maha Vikas

Aghadi government in Maharashtra. Walse Patil belongs to the Nationalist Congress Party. Addressing a press conference here, Raut played videos of former Maharashtra chief minister Devendra Fadnavis and BJP leader Kirit Somaiya speaking against Narayan Rane, who was earlier associated with Congress. The exchange of words between Shiv Sena and Rane, a former Shiv Sainik, became sharper after Rane on Friday said that he had "learned" that an ED notice is ready for "four persons" in 'Matoshree', the private residence of Uddhav Thackeray in suburban Bandra in Mumbai. Earlier, the Shiv Sena-headed Mumbai civic body had

served a notice on a bungalow owned by Narayan Rane for conducting inspection and taking measurements of the premises located in the upscale Juhu area. Referring to Rane's tweet on the ED notice, Raut said Rane was misusing his position as a Union minister to threaten action by the anti-money laundering agency against "Matoshree". He said the Shiv Sena will raise this issue during the next session of Parliament. "Has he (Rane) stolen papers from the ED office or is anyone from ED working for him", he asked. Speaking at the same presser, Shiv Sena chief spokesman Sanjay Raut said that the party will expose a "big ED scam" next week.



EDITOR'S SPECS

Delhi protests too much against criticism from abroad

India has protested against Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsein Loong's remarks in the city state's assembly that "Nehru's India has become one where... almost half the MPs in the Lok Sabha have criminal charges pending against them, including charges of rape and murder", saying they were "uncalled for." It is not quite clear what this protest was meant to achieve. As a matter of fact, many of the winners of the 2019 Lok Sabha elections have criminal charges against them. According to the Association of Democratic Reforms, which analyses affidavits of candidates every election, 233 winners in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, or 43 per cent, self declared criminal charges against themselves, and of these, 159 had self declared serious criminal cases. The criticism from an unexpected quarter Singapore and India are strategic partners, and are linked by trade and cultural ties may have rattled the government.

Lee made the remark in the context of declining parliamentary standards during a debate sparked by accusations of lying against a member of the opposition in Singapore. But if the purpose of Delhi's protest was to convey that India will not take lying down insults to its democratically elected Parliament from the leader of a country that is hardly democratic, even if that country is a friend, it could have been better served by pointing out that the requirement of self-declaration of criminal charges in the election affidavits is a progressive step that empowers the voters to make better choices. As it is, though, Delhi's response has led to speculation that the objection was perhaps more to the laudatory reference to "Nehru's India" from which the Modi government has been trying to distance itself actively. The bigger question is: Can a country that aspires to be treated as a global power afford to be so prickly and thin-skinned? India has "summoned" far too many ambassadors in recent times to hector them on so-called "anti-India" statements made in their countries not just by political leaders but even by private entities or individuals.

HIJAB IS NOT ABOUT THE FREEDOM OF CHOICE

The row over hijab has been raging for over a month now. The fact that young women are protesting to assert their right to wear the hijab is interesting.

This is the 21st century and India's 75th year of Independence, so if young women who have grown up in a society that allows free flow of information and an active social media are seeking to go back in time, it is something that should disturb all.

The controversy flared up when six students of a state government-run pre-university college in Udipi, who were wearing the hijab, were asked to leave the campus on January 1. The students addressed a press conference and the matter snowballed into a major issue.

More Muslim students joined the protest, and to counter this, Hindu students started donning saffron scarves. Muslim students petitioned the Karnataka High Court on January 31, seeking the right to the wear hijab in classrooms under Articles 14, 19 and 25 of the Constitution.

The court heard the case for the first time on February 8 and in its interim order restrained all students from wearing the hijab, saffron shawls, scarves and religious flags inside the classrooms.

It is pertinent to mention here that the principal of the Udipi college, Rudre Gowda has said: "The institution did not have any rule on wearing the hijab because no one wore it to the classroom in the last 35 years. The students who came with the demand had



the backing of some outsiders."

The hijab row may have political and religious connections. It may be a part of a strategy for those trying to create a wedge in the society or a sinister activity to corner the country on the international stage as was evident after Pakistan and the Organisation of Islamic Countries latched on to it.

The timing of the controversy is also being questioned as Assembly elections in five states are on, with the Uttar Pradesh polls being regarded as the most critical of the five.

The timeline of the controversy does point to some planned activity behind the scenes. And the fallout is that the controversy is gradually becoming a 'my religion-your religion' issue. The bracketing of the issue as being sought by the protesting Muslim students can be detrimental to the cause of women and

their security. It is this that the courts, the government and the civil society need to understand. Making girls wear the hijab and burqa in schools and colleges is an attempt to further deepen the narrative that 'women / girls have to be wrapped up' and that 'covering' them up is for their own 'safety'. Does wrapping up prevent crimes against women? They don't. Crime statistics have repeatedly proven this. What is needed is the sensitisation of society so that the right and respectful treatment of women is ingrained in every young man. And to achieve this end, schools and colleges are the best places to make a start.

The uniform is a concept that brings a sense of equality, surpassing class, religious and social divisions. Any deviation in this is bound to create a sense of division in budding minds. Isn't it important to teach young peo-

ple to respect the other gender? Now, if girls are wrapped up in the hijab, burqa or purdah, gender inequalities will only get deeper and reinforce the age-old belief that women are meek and need to be protected. For many, the hijab or burqa are symbols of patriarchy.

The fears are far too deeply embedded and the hijab controversy has in some way touched the raw nerve of women.

For millions of women across the country, the 'right to hijab' row is not about religious beliefs but is reflective of a deeper tussle within. It is about a conflict over whether to integrate or to stand out, whether to cover up or be attired as one wishes to be, and whether to wrap up every inch of the skin or just be decently dressed.

The conflict is between the freedom to express and the overwhelming sense of fear of being objectified by the other gender. It is about a tussle which has its roots in the thought that a woman's physiology is not about expressing it freely, but about 'sharam' (shame) and 'lehaaz' (manners). Most women do not want to wear either the hijab or the burqa, but it is family or community pressure that prevails upon them.

The protests by young women for the right to wear the hijab have made everyone sit up and take notice. Is it really their choice, or have they succumbed to community pressure and political games? The answers can be conflicting, but the only truth is that the hijab or burqa or purdah can never be the right choice.

Muslim youths on the way of innovation

In the last few years, the trend of Muslim youth has increased not only in education but also towards innovation. With limited resources, Muslim youth are now bringing a new wind of change. One of those youngsters is Wasim Akram. Wasim Akram, a resident of Hajo in Assam's Kamrup district, did not receive any formal education. Rather, like ordinary Muslim youth, he also adopted the profession of a mechanic. His journey which started with a workshop in Guwahati is now moving towards innovation. Where he is creating the items of daily necessities with his innovations.

He has his workshop in the small town of Pakarkuna in Hajo. Where he repairs vehicles with his colleagues and works on his inventions and innovations in his spare time. He also has a YouTube channel in the name of Technical Assam. On which he gives information about his innovation. Recently he has made a wooden electric bike named Chukudu. Which is becoming very popular in rural areas. The cost of this bike made of wood is very less. The bike can be used not only for commuting but also for carrying goods. Wasim tells that this is an African bike and it is completely electric. Being electric, the cost of running the bike is also less and it does not cause any



pollution. It costs two to three thousand to make this bike. That is, an electric bike can be made sitting at home for less than a cycle. He says that if this bike is manufactured on a large scale, then the cost of it can be very less. The bike can be used by school-college students, office workers, women, etc. Especially in rural areas where there is no transport facility. This bike is very nice. Earlier, Wasim also made a great hand-made machine for the plowing of paddy. He made this "jugaad" by putting tractor wheels in the bike. He told that due to less paddy crop, no machine was coming to his place to

extract paddy. He says that often small farmers in rural areas have to face this kind of problem. He has named his jugaad as Modi bike after Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Apart from this, he also made water save solutions for saving water in homes. This solution, made at Rs 100 to 150, automatically fills the water tank placed on the roof when it is empty and automatically closes it when it is full. Due to this there is no loss of water. Also, time is saved as well. Apart from this, he has also made emergency puncture insect and electric powered grass cutting machine for four-wheeler vehicles. All these innovations made by him are very simple and cheap. Regarding his innovation, Wasim says that he keeps trying to solve the problems faced by people in common life. Due to this they always get inspired to try something new. He asks the youth to think in the direction of innovation rather than jobs. He says that Muslim youth should give growth to their career through innovation instead of looking for jobs after getting an education.

international

Putin could annex former Soviet states after Ukraine

UK Foreign Secretary Liz Truss has warned that Russian President Vladimir Putin will keep waging war on neighbouring countries if he is allowed to invade Ukraine, the Daily Mail reported.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

UK Foreign Secretary Liz Truss has warned that Russian President Vladimir Putin will keep waging war on neighbouring countries if he is allowed to invade Ukraine, the Daily Mail reported.

As the Russian President put on a huge show of military strength with nuclear drills involving ballistic missiles, submarines and tank convoys on Saturday, Truss issued a last-ditch plea for the international community to unite to face down Moscow's aggression.

Truss used an exclusive interview with The Mail on Sunday to argue that if



Putin attacked Ukraine it would be a precursor to Russia using force to annex more former Soviet states.

"We need to stop Putin because he will not stop at Ukraine. He's been very clear - his ambition doesn't just lead to him taking control of Ukraine, he wants

to turn the clock back to the mid 1990s or even before then," she said.

"The Baltic States are at risk... the Western Balkans as well.

"Putin has said all this publicly, that he wants to create the Greater Russia, that he wants to go back to the situation as it was before where Russia had control over huge swathes of Eastern Europe. "So it's so important that we and our allies stand up to Putin. It could be Ukraine next week but then which country will it be next?" she added.

The Foreign Secretary's comments came as UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson warned that a Russian invasion of Ukraine could cause "the destruction of a democratic state" and "the shock will echo around the world", the Daily Mail reported.

Speaking at the Munich Security Conference, the Prime Minister said the "omens are grim" from Russia on the possibility of an invasion in the coming days, and that the world could not "underestimate the gravity of this moment."

S KOREAN PRESIDENT'S APPROVAL RATING FALLS TO 42.4%

Seoul: South Korean President Moon Jae-in's approval rating fell 0.8 percentage points to 42.4 per cent last week, a new poll revealed on Sunday.

The negative assessment on Moon's conduct of state affairs gained 1.2 percentage points to 54.1 per cent, according to the Realmeter survey.

Support for Moon's ruling Democratic Party declined 1.1 percentage points to 37.1 per cent last week, reports Xinhua news agency. The main conservative opposition People Power Party secured 38.8 per cent of support last week, up 2.0 percentage points from the previous week. The minor centrist People's Party won 7.5 per cent of approval score, followed by the minor progressive Justice Party with 3.6 per cent of support.

Death toll from floods, landslides climbs to 146 in Brazil

The death toll from landslides and floods that occurred last week in the city of Petropolis in Brazil's Rio de Janeiro state has increased to 146, the Civil Defense has said.

Brasilia | Agencies

The death toll from landslides and floods that occurred last week in the city of Petropolis in Brazil's Rio de Janeiro state has increased to 146, the Civil Defense has said.

The number of missing stands at 191, with 24 people rescued since February 15, Xinhua news agency quoted the Civil Defense as saying.

Attempts to find survivors under the mountains of mud that swept through neighbourhoods were temporarily suspended on Saturday due



to more rain and the risk of further landslides. Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro flew over the region on Friday and described what he saw as a "war scene". Several hills col-

lapsed during the heavy rains, carrying away homes and vehicles, as residents continue to dig through the mud to search for their missing loved ones.

HOUSHIS FIRE EXPLOSIVE-LADEN DRONE AT SCHOOL IN YEMEN'S MARIB

Sanaa: Yemen's Houthi group launched an explosive-laden drone strike against a school in the country's northern oil-rich province of Marib, a government official said.

Yemen's Houthi group launched an explosive-laden drone strike against a school in the country's northern oil-rich province of Marib, a government official said. "Several students were critically injured when a Houthi explosive-laden drone struck their school in the government-controlled province of Marib," the official told Xinhua news agency on Saturday. He clarified that the Houthi drone attack hit the primary school of Harib district while the students were leaving their classes. Meanwhile, Yemeni state-run Saba news agency reported that at least three students were injured as a result of the Houthi drone attack.

In January, the pro-government Giants Brigades troops launched a large-scale military operation and expelled the Houthi militia out from the district of Harib following fierce battles. The Houthis are still launching sporadic military operations against Marib, in an attempt to control the whole strategic province that includes the country's largest oil and gas fields. Yemen has been mired in a civil war since the Houthi militia overran much of the country militarily and seized all northern provinces, including the capital Sanaa, in 2014. Saudi Arabia has been leading a military coalition that intervened in Yemen in 2015 to support the government of President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi after the Houthis forced him into exile.



Cyprus announces policy shift towards Turkey

Cyprus' Foreign Minister Ioannis Kasoulides said that his country's policies towards Turkey have shifted in recent weeks away from confrontation to confidence-building measures.

Nicosia | Agencies

Cyprus' Foreign Minister Ioannis Kasoulides said that his country's policies towards Turkey have shifted in recent weeks away from confrontation to confidence-building measures.

Kasoulides said the Cypriot government has moved away from pushing for European Union (EU) sanctions on Turkey for actions violating the sovereign rights of Cyprus on land and in the eastern Mediterranean, reports Xinhua news agency.

Cyprus was divided in 1974



after a Turkish military operation in reaction to a coup by Greek army officers serving in the country.

Its northern part is controlled by Turkish troops and run by a so-called Turkish Cypriot administration, which was condemned by the UN as illegal and is only recognized by

Cypriot city of Famagusta which has been fenced off since 1974.

The Cypriot government has been proposing that customs at the port of Famagusta should be operated by the EU, so as to facilitate trade with the outside world. It is also proposing a UN-operated airport in the Turkish-controlled part of Cyprus, for direct flights to other countries.

It says this will satisfy Turkish Cypriots' desire to end their isolation from the EU and the rest of the world.

Kasoulides said that the measures being proposed could become reality provided that Turkey hands Varosha to the UN, as provided by UN Security Council resolutions.

The proposal was dismissed by the right-wing nationalist leadership of the Turkish Cypriot community, but supported by left-wing Turkish Cypriot parties, which said that it would put an end to the isolation of their community.

ACT OF INTIMIDATION: AUSTRALIAN PM CONDEMNS CHINESE NAVY

New Delhi: Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison has declared a laser incident involving a Royal Australian Air Force aircraft last week is an "act of intimidation" by China, the Guardian reported.

Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison has declared a laser incident involving a Royal Australian Air Force aircraft last week is an "act of intimidation" by China, the Guardian reported.

Australia's defence department reported a laser emanating from a People's Liberation Army Navy vessel illuminated a P-8 Poseidon surveillance aircraft last Thursday when the Chinese ship was sailing east through the Arafura sea, the report said. On Sunday, Morrison characterised the episode as "a reckless and irresponsible act that should not have occurred". The February 17 incident in waters to the north of Australia followed days of domestic political contention about national security. Morrison said Australia would be "making our views very clear" to the Chinese government through defence and diplomatic channels. Morrison said China needed to provide an explanation "as to why a military vessel in Australia's exclusive economic zone would undertake such an act - such a dangerous act", the report added.





9 INCLUDING BRIDEGROOM KILLED AS CAR FALLS INTO RIVER

The incident took place in the Nayapura police station area early in the morning when the driver lost the control over the car and it fell into the river from a bridge, police said.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Nine people were killed when a car carrying a marriage party fell into the Chambal River here on Sunday, police said. The deceased included the groom who, along with other per-

sons, was travelling in a Maruti Ertiga car to Madhya Pradesh for his marriage, they said. The incident took place in the Nayapura police station area early in the morning when the driver lost the control over the car and it fell into the river from a bridge, Superintendent of Police (city) Kesar Singh Shekhawat said. He said police received information about the incident around 7.50 am, following which a rescue operation was launched. Initially, seven bodies were pulled out from the car that had plunged seven-eight foot deep into the water. Two more bodies were recovered later, Shekhawat said. The marriage party was travelling from Chauth Ka Barwada village in Rajasthan's Sawai

Madhopur district to Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh, the SP said.

The diver most likely lost control over the car due to drowsiness, he said. The rescue operation is underway, the police officer said.

The bodies have been kept in a mortuary for post-mortem, he said. Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot expressed grief over the incident. "The death of nine baratis, including the groom, after the car carrying them fell into Chambal River is very sad and unfortunate. Have spoken to the collector and assessed the situation. My deep condolences are with the aggrieved families. May God give them strength to bear the loss, and I pray for peace to the departed souls, he tweeted.

BURGLARS MAKE AWAY WITH OVER RS 45 LAKH CASH FROM THREE ATMS

Gwalior: Of these, two ATMs are of SBI located in Seva Nagar and Prem Nagar under Padav Police Station while one is of Central Bank of India located at Shatabdipuram under the Maharajpur police station area.

Defying the security system of the city, once again unidentified miscreants cut three ATMs with a gas cutter and make away with lakhs of cash. Over 45 lakh has been looted in this burglary as each ATM had approximately 15 lakhs each in them, said the police.

Of these, two ATMs are of SBI located in Seva Nagar and Prem Nagar under the Padav police station area while one ATM is of Central Bank of India located at Shatabdipuram under the Maharajpur police station area.

We have found CCTV footage of some suspects who are said to be in the car. Vigilance has been increased across the city and we are strictly investigating suspicious people on every entry and exit, said Rajesh Dandotia, Additional SP Gwalior. The police suspect that the same inter-state gang carried out the incident. The pattern of breaking all the three ATMs has also been the same, added he.

Apart from Padav and Maharajpur police, more than half a dozen teams of Crime Branch are investigating the miscreants. The police are hopeful that the matter will be resolved soon. But the manner in which the ATM machines have been broken is again raising question marks on the security system of the police.

After Diggy video on unity surfaces on social media, BJP says Kamal Nath is target

The video, which has been purportedly shot in Ratlam, has Digvijaya Singh telling party workers about the urgent need for unity.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A video showing Congress Rajya Sabha MP Digvijaya Singh exhorting party leaders to stand united failing which it would be tough to find workers post the 2023 Assembly polls in Madhya Pradesh surfaced on social media on Sunday, leading to the ruling BJP saying it was yet another example of "groupism" gripping the grand old party. The video,

which has been purportedly shot in Ratlam, has Singh telling party workers about the urgent need for unity. "You are not ready to sit together. I am here but you are standing separately... This will not do. I am telling you the election of 2023 (Assembly elections of Madhya Pradesh) will be the last one. If you will not contest elections honestly then be ready to sit at home. The Congress will not make a comeback and even finding workers (for the party) will be hard," he says in the video. Ratlam District Congress (City) president Mahendra Kataria told PTI Singh was speaking to party workers outside the local circuit house on Saturday. "On Saturday morning, Singh told party workers who had come to meet him to gather

at the lawn. He expressed displeasure after seeing the workers who came from Jaora (a town in Ratlam district) standing in groups separately. So, he told them to be united," Kataria said.

Mocking the Congress over the video, state BJP secretary Rajneesh Agrawal said Singh was highlighting groupism in the party and that the video was aimed at unseating Kamal Nath as the state unit president. "Singh already knows the truth that it is a distant dream for Congress to regain power in MP in 2023. He knows his party will become non-existent after that. However, Singh purposefully mentioned groupism in the party in the video to highlight that all this was happening under the leadership of Kamal Nath," Agrawal claimed.

IAS officer's book highlights Covid's grim yet uplifting reality

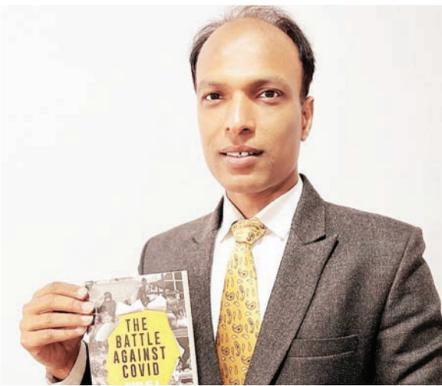
THE 'BATTLE AGAINST COVID - DIARY OF A BUREAUCRAT', A BOOK WRITTEN BY AN IAS OFFICER, RECOUNTS THE HORROR OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC WHICH HAS SHAKEN THE COUNTRY, AND AT THE SAME TIME HIGHLIGHTS THE UPLIFTING REALITY WHICH SAW PEOPLE GOING OUT OF THEIR WAY TO HELP THOSE IN DISTRESS.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The 'Battle Against Covid - Diary of a Bureaucrat', a book written by an IAS officer, recounts the horror of the Covid-19 pandemic which has shaken the country, and at the same time highlights the uplifting reality which saw people going out of their way to help those in distress.

Penned by Tarun Pithode and published by Bloomsbury Publishing, the book also gives an insight into his experiences of containing the pandemic as Collector of Bhopal.

As the pandemic scarred the country, the plight of migrant labourers carrying loads on their heads and walking towards their native places with huge blisters on their feet was heart-wrenching.



The period also saw family members hesitating to perform the last rites of their loved ones fearing that they will contract the infection.

During the first wave of Covid-19, Pithode was Collector of Bhopal. At that time the Madhya Pradesh capital had emerged as a Covid hotspot in the state and Pithode had worked day

and night to contain the virus.

To highlight the bureaucrats' role and management of the pandemic, Pithode has incorporated the experiences of bureaucrats in MP, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Assam, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.

Talking about the reason for penning the book, Pithode said besides making people aware of the steps the administration took during the pandemic, it also aims to highlight the problems faced by the common man.

Actually, the book is all about how the administration and the common people battled Covid-19.

This 224-page book will serve as a reference for the new administrative officers on how to face and contain a pandemic, he said.

During the first and the second wave of the contagion, there were many instances when people had no idea what to do and administrative officers came to their rescue.

There was an instance when a man was not ready to cremate his mother, then I decided to perform the final rites of the woman. However, a thesildar stopped me and performed the cremation. Other rituals were also performed by the thesildar. There are several instances when relatives were hesitant to carry out the last rites of their family members and the administration helped them, Pithode said. The book also encapsulates tales about the difficulties faced by migrant labourers, doctors, police officers and the public who risked their life and fought the virus.

REWA MP BOILS OVER 'THOSE WHO OBSTRUCT CLEANLINESS,' EXCLAIMS 'SHOULD BE HANGED'

Team Absolute | Rewa

Those obstructing the work being done under the cleanliness drive conducted by the government do not have the right to live," MP Janardan Mishra said.

While emphasising the importance of cleanliness, BJP MP from Madhya Pradesh's Rewa gave a bizarre statement about maintaining cleanliness on Saturday, February 19. Lok Sabha MP Janardan Mishra opined that those who "obstruct cleanliness drive in the nation should be hanged." After Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address in Indore on Saturday, Mishra took hold of the event and gave a speech keeping his focus on sanitation in his constituency. The Rewa MP



went on to say that those who hinder in keeping the area clean, should not have the right to live. Those who set dustbins on fire should be hanged. Those obstructing the work being done under the cleanliness drive conducted by the government do not have the right to live and should be hanged," Mishra said. The Rewa MP further urged people to actively volunteer in the state's cleanliness initiative, stating that the district's success is attributed only to the efforts of the Municipal Corporation and the BJP government in the state.

CM GREETES ON WORLD SOCIAL JUSTICE DAY

Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has greeted the people of the state on World Social Justice Day. Chouhan has tweeted - "Our aim is to protect human values and eradicate the curse of inequality. Come, let us all take a pledge that we will not allow injustice to happen to the brothers and sisters of weaker sections. We shall all unite and contribute to the making of a better society and the world."

CM PAYS HOMAGE TO PANDIT UDDHAV DAS MEHTA



Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan paid homage to the freedom fighter and famous social worker Late Pandit Uddhav Das Mehta on his death anniversary. Chouhan paid floral tributes at the statue of Pandit Mehta at Kamala Park at Upper Lake. Citizens including former MLA Ramesh Sharma "Guttu Bhaiya," Gopal Das Mehta, Saurabh Mehta, Mukesh Goyal, Kailash Mishra, Mahesh Saini were present. Chouhan said that Late Pandit Mehta devoted his entire life to Indian culture, Indian traditions and rites. He was completely devoted to social service, merger movement and freedom struggle. Pandit Mehta was also a famous and competent Vaidya. He served all sections of the society with equality. He was born on 9 August 1911 and passed away on 20 February 1986.

CAMPUS BIRD COUNT PROGRAMME-2022



Bhopal: Regional Museum of Natural History, Bhopal (A Regional Centre of National Museum of Natural History, New Delhi) and Bhopal Birds NGO jointly organized 'Campus Bird Count Programme' on 20th February, 2022. Approx 34 species of birds were spotted during this bird count. Grey Hornbill, Rose Ringed Parakeet, Oriental white eye, Purple sun bird, booted warbler, jungle babbler, Red Vented Bulbul, Laughing Dove, Small Minivet, Common Iora, Greater Coucal, Shikra, Common Kite, River tern, Indian Robin, Pied Mynah, House crow, Large billed crow, Copper smith barbet, Black drongo, Ashy prinia, Tailor bird, Dusty craig martin, Grey headed canary flycatcher, Red wattled lapwing etc. were the prominent among these birds.

Maximum number of Indian Rock pigeon, Purple sunbird, Green Bee eater, Jungle Babbler and Large Cormorant were counted during this Campus Bird Count.

TEMPERATURES TO SOAR AGAIN AS FRESH WESTERN DISTURBANCE APPROACHES

In last 24 hours, scattered rain with one or two moderate spells occurred in east Madhya Pradesh. Morena, Betul and Godhadongri recorded rainfall of 1 cm in last 24 hours.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A drop in day and night temperature was recorded in different parts in Madhya Pradesh on Sunday. However, temperature is likely to soar in Madhya Pradesh in next couple of days, according to meteorological department. A fresh western disturbance, which is likely to approach western Himalayas by February 22 will lead to rise in mercury level.

Meteorological department officer PK Saha said temperature fluctuation is due to western disturbance approaching back-to-back. The condition is likely to prevail for the time being.

In last 24 hours, scattered rain with one or two moderate spells occurred in east Madhya Pradesh. Morena,

Betul and Godhadongri recorded rainfall of 1 cm in last 24 hours. Minimum temperatures dropped by 2 to 4 degrees over Rajasthan, parts of Gujarat and west Madhya Pradesh. On Sunday, Bhopal recorded drop of 2.4 degrees in maximum temperature that settled at 28 degrees Celsius while it recorded a drop of 3.8 degrees in night temperature that settled at 12.2 degrees Celsius.

Indore recorded drop of 3 degrees in day temperature that settled at 28 degrees Celsius while it recorded a drop of 2.8 degrees in night temperature that settled at 14.6 degrees Celsius. Sagar recorded drop of 3.4 degrees in night temperature. Rajgarh recorded drop of 2.1 degrees in day as well as night temperature. Ujjain recorded drop of 1.5 degrees in day as well as night temperature. Nowgong and Khajuraho recorded minimum temperature of 10.2 degrees Celsius each. According to meteorological department, a cyclonic circulation is over southern Bay of Bengal and adjoining Andaman sea. A fresh western disturbance is expected to approach western Himalayas by February 22 and an induced cyclonic circulation i

CM PLANTED PEEPAL AND CASSIA SAPPLINGS



Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted Peepal and Cassia saplings in Smart Garden. Vijay Kumar Shrivani, Chandramohan Shrivani and Upendra Jha of Late RCS Memorial Health Education and Social Welfare Society were also present on this occasion.

The society is active in the fields of environment, plantation, cleanliness campaign and health awareness. Along with this, under the Eye Disease Camp, Blood Donation Camp and Malnutrition and Hunger Programme, the people of poor settlements are being provided information about prevention of diseases like cancer and malnutrition along with distribution of nutritious diet, food. The society is also supporting many other activities like helping the needy people, programmes like pulse polio campaign and vaccination. Peepal is a shady tree. It purifies the environment. It has religious and Ayurvedic significance. According to natural science, Peepal tree releases oxygen day and night, which is important for our environment. Peepal tree is also called Akshay tree. This tree is never devoid of leaves. Cassia is also called wild cinnamon in India. The bark and leaves of Cassia Javanica are used in the preparation of Ayurvedic medicines.

IGRMS organising classes for Homemakers

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya (IGRMS), Bhopal is organising classes for HOMEMAKER's in learning Portrait sketching and Portrait /Mural Clay Modelling and casting. Today Director of the museum, Praveen Kumar Mishra, inaugurated this programme. At the beginning of the program, all the participants introduced themselves, on this occasion. Mishra said that after a very long gap, fortunately this program has started today. The purpose of this program is to bring out the hidden creativity in the housewives. Due to family responsibility, they are unable to showcase them. This is a knowledge sharing system. This

program will serve the purpose and would benefit you as well as the institution.

About the programme K Seshadri, Modeller - programme coordinator said, that Due to current pandemic situation, number of participants will be limited to 06 persons per group (3 groups maximum). Art/Raw materials shall be provided on payment basis. The classes will be of 3 hours duration on Saturday and Sunday from 20th February 2022 to 19th March, 2022.

Till date 18 participants have registered in the program. The program is scheduled from 20 February 2022 to 19 March 2022, every Saturday and Sunday for three hours (maximum 8 sessions)



7-year-old girl rape: SC stays operation of death sentence awarded to convict

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court has stayed the operation of death sentence awarded to a man in a case of gang-rape of a seven-year-old girl in Madhya Pradesh in 2018.

While hearing an appeal filed by the convict against the Madhya Pradesh High Court verdict of September last year affirming the capital punishment, a bench headed by Justice UU Lalit said that pending further consideration, the operation of death sentence awarded to him shall remain stayed.

The apex court, which said that psychological evaluation report of the convict be placed before it, directed that report of the jail administration concerned about the nature of work done by the appellant while

in jail be also placed. "Pending further consideration, the effect and operation of death sentence awarded to the appellant shall remain stayed. Let an intimation in this regard be sent to the prison concerned immediately," the bench, also comprising Justices SR Bhat and PS Narasimha, said in its February 14 order. The top court was hearing an appeal filed by the appellant challenging the high court judgement which had affirmed the death sentence awarded to him and one other convict in the case by the trial court.

The bench said the state shall place before it the reports of all probation officers relating to the appellant before the next date of hearing. "We also feel that the interest of justice dictates that we obtain a psychological evaluation of the appellant. We direct the Director, Mental Care Hospital,

District Indore, Madhya Pradesh to constitute a suitable team for psychological evaluation of the accused/appellant in this case and send a report before the next date of hearing," it said.

The bench directed that authorities of jail, where the appellant is presently lodged, shall render complete co-operation in facilitating access to and due evaluation of the convict in all respects. The apex court has posted the matter for further hearing on March 22.

In its verdict, the high court had confirmed the death sentence awarded by a trial court in August 2018 to the two convicts in the case. In June 2018, the grandmother of the girl had lodged a report at a police station in Mandsaur that the child was missing from her school premises after the classes were over for the day. The police

registered the case and on the next date, the girl was found in an injured condition and was taken to a hospital. The girl was provided treatment and she narrated the incident to the police about how she was taken to a secluded spot and was sexually assaulted. After considering the evidence, the trial court had awarded death penalty to the two convicts. "The facts of the present case reveal an ominous plot hatched by the appellants seeking to satiate their lust by breaching the confidence of the minor prosecutrix girl and then heaping miseries upon her by committing such forceful aggravated penetrative sexual assault which is most ruthless in nature," the high court had said in its judgement. The high court had also observed that rights of the victim cannot take a back seat while considering the rights of the accused persons.



CHRISSE TEIGEN RESUMES IVF AFTER MISCARRIAGE

Model Chrissy Teigen hints that she and her musician husband John Legend are trying for another baby after she suffered a miscarriage in 2020.

Los Angeles | Agencies

Model Chrissy Teigen hints that she and her musician husband John Legend are trying for another baby after she suffered a miscarriage in 2020.

She captioned the post: "here we go again!" Teigen also included a GIF of a dancing uterus onto the image, drawing an arrow towards it and writing "lol", reports femalefirst.co.uk.

Back in October 2020, the couple had been expecting their third child when Chrissy was rushed to hospital after suffering excessive bleeding and eventually lost the baby. While her first two children were conceived via IVF, the third - who

was to be called Jack - was conceived naturally. Alongside a black-and-white image of herself in hospital, she wrote: "We are shocked and in the kind of deep pain you only hear about, the kind of pain we've never felt before. We were never able to stop the bleeding and give our baby the fluids he needed, despite bags and bags of blood transfusions. It just wasn't enough. We never decide on our babies' names until the last possible moment after they're born, just before we leave the hospital. But we, for some reason, had started to call this little guy in my belly Jack. To our Jack - I'm so sorry that the first few moments of your life were met with so many complications, that we couldn't give you the home you needed to survive. We will always love you."



Helen Mirren was 'utterly useless' when she began her career

Veteran Hollywood star Helen Mirren felt like a "deer in the headlights" in her early career because she had "no idea" how to behave in front of the camera and hadn't grasped the "fundamentals" of filmmaking.

Los Angeles | Agencies

Veteran Hollywood star Helen Mirren felt like a "deer in the headlights" in her early career because she had "no idea" how to behave in front of the camera and hadn't grasped the "fundamentals" of filmmaking.

She admitted to Britain's OK! magazine: "I was utterly useless at the beginning as I had no idea about getting in the shot or the frame of the camera or what to do when you are in the frame. I felt when I started out in film it was like deer in the headlights acting. It was like, 'Action!' then, 'Freeze!'. I did not know what to do. It took me a long time. I did a film called 'Excalibur' once and none of us had an idea of what we were doing. We didn't realise we couldn't change the shot and we had to do what we rehearsed. Even those fundamentals I did not understand." The 76-year-old actress is keen to go back to work in the theatre because she loves the "challenge" but said



getting back on stage is getting more "difficult" as she's getting older, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

She said: "I try to go back to the stage every few years but it gets difficult as you get older."

"It's only two or three hours a night but you work from the minute you wake up in the morning, as everything is geared towards that moment."

"It's like, 'When do I eat and when I do rest?' It's a challenge, like, 'Can I do it still? Am I capable?'"

"There's a sense of challenge and a sense of duty as there's a slight leftover of, 'Well that is real acting' and film is something else."

"That's not true but it's a very different kind of energy and commitment. So it's a combination of these things." Mirren knows if she gets a stage offer, she will find it hard to turn down. She added: "I'm lucky I've got to a point where if I'm asked to play a role on stage it's a great role. I find it hard to say no to great roles."

UMA THURMAN 'DOESN'T SEE' 'KILL BILL 3' HAPPENING SOON



Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Uma Thurman is known for her starring role as Beatrix "The Bride" Kiddo in the first two instalments of the Quentin Tarantino-directed 'Kill Bill' franchise.

She said that there have been "discussions" regarding a third movie, but not for a while.

She said: "I can't really tell you anything about it. I mean it has been dis-

cussed over the years. There was real thought about it happening, but very long ago." The Academy Award-winning actress said that while she "hates to disappoint" fans, she doesn't see it as being "on the horizon", reports femalefirst.co.uk. Speaking to Collider, she added: "I don't see it as immediately on the horizon. I hate to disappoint people. Everybody wishes it would be the case, but I think it's not immediately on the horizon." Acclaimed director Tarantino has claimed that his upcoming tenth film would be his last, but Uma - who is now starring in thriller series 'Suspicion' - recently spoke of how she has no idea of what it could be. She said: "I don't know even what his 10th film is going to be. All I know is he's always said he's only going to make 10. But then when I have heard from him, it doesn't include if he does television. I think he has a lot of room to move. I think sequels don't

count in his 10-film number. So if there ever

Actress Uma Thurman is known for her starring role as Beatrix "The Bride" Kiddo in the first two instalments of the Quentin Tarantino-directed 'Kill Bill' franchise.

even were another 'Kill Bill' instalment, I don't think it would even necessarily count as the 10th film."

Beyonce, Zendaya in talks for 'Imitation of Life' remake

Singers Beyonce and Zendaya are said to be in talks to star in a remake of the movie 'Imitation of Life'.

Los Angeles | Agencies

Singers Beyonce and Zendaya are said to be in talks to star in a remake of the movie 'Imitation of Life'. The drama film was first released in 1934, based on Fannie Hurst's 1933 novel of the same name, and then remade in 1959, starring Lana Turner, Juanita Moore, John Gavin and Sandra Dee, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

It is thought if Zendaya does sign up for the remake of the classic film, which dealt with issues of race, class and gender, it could take her movie stock "to the next level".

An insider said: "'Imitation of Life' is renowned in the film world because of the issues it tackled and they seem more relevant than ever right now."

"Everyone wants Zendaya in their films at the moment, but it feels like this could be the movie to take her to the next level and really get some awards buzz."

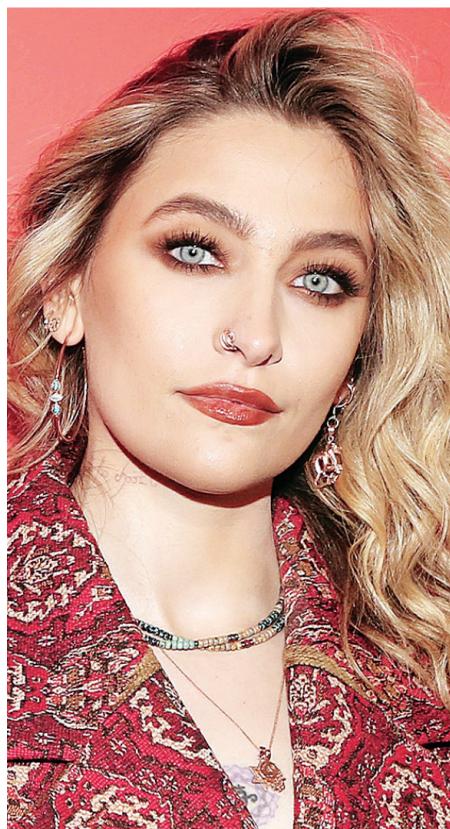
Beyonce is said to be keen to "really sink her teeth into" a juicy role. The insider added to The Sun newspaper's bizarre



column: "Beyonce has dipped her toe in a few projects like Disney's 'Lion King', voicing the part of lioness Nala.

"But now she wants a project she can really sink her teeth into, so she is very interested." Should Beyonce and Zendaya team up for the film, it wouldn't be the first time they have joined forces. 'Spider-Man: No Way Home' star Zendaya starred in Beyonce's 'All Night' music video in 2016, and she previously admitted to being a huge fan of the 'Single Ladies' hitmaker.

During a 2017 discussion about the stars who inspire her, Zendaya said: "Beyonce. She took it to the next level with



'Lemonade'. She's got twins, and she's banging. She's killing it."

In 2016, Zendaya said: "I'm just obsessed with Beyonce and have been since my birth. Just to be there and really learn from her and see how amazing she is, how detail-oriented, it was cool to just sit back and watch."

PARIS JACKSON DOESN'T WRITE 'HAPPY' SONGS

Los Angeles | Agencies

Singer Paris Jackson, who is the only daughter of late superstar Michael Jackson and Debbie Rowe, and sister to Prince, 25 and Bigi, 19, said that she stays away from writing "happy" songs and most songs end up being about her death.

She said: "I don't write happy songs. When I do try to write a song, it usually ends up being a song about me dying." Speaking to the crowd at the St. Regis Resort in Aspen while promoting her new EP 'The Lost', Paris went on to tell the audience how her song 'Yellowbird' was inspired by a break up, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

According to TMZ, she said: "We broke up two years ago on Valentine's Day, and then I wrote this song, so I hope you like it. I know he won't!"

It comes soon after the 'let down' hitmaker - whose father Michael suffered a fatal cardiac arrest brought on by a drugs overdose aged 50 back in 2009 - admitted that she would "not be opposed" to the idea of collaborating with her superstar aunt Janet Jackson, who is known for hits such as 'That's the Way Love Goes' and 'Love Will Never Do Without You.'

Back in January 2022, she said: "We haven't talked about it, but I'm not opposed to it! I love collaborating with all kinds of artists. The genre doesn't really turn me off, doesn't matter what genre it is."

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Elsa Hosk

Judi Dench always fears she won't get hired again



Veteran actress Judi Dench gets "frightened" when she finishes an acting job because she worries no one else will want to hire her.

London | Agencies

Veteran actress Judi Dench gets "frightened" when she finishes an acting job because she worries no one else will want to hire her.

She told Reader's Digest magazine: "I've always thought, one is very lucky to be employed."

"I always get frightened at the end of the job because I think I'm not going to be employed again and then feel very relieved at the beginning of the next one."

Despite her decades of success, Dench said she still feels nervous when she lands a new job, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

She said: "I'll say! I get more anxious now. Oh yes, much more anxious. There's more things to consider and

more things to find out and more things to learn about. And you think, 'Oh God, have I got the energy to do this?'"

When it comes to looking for new roles, the 'Belfast' star is always on the hunt for something different to anything she's done before. She said: "I just, really, always hope that I will be asked to do something different."

"And perhaps not expected. Or something that has no reference to anything I've done before."

In 'Belfast', Judi has worked with director Sir Kenneth Branagh for the 12th time and she always loves their collaborations.

She said: "I just love working with him. I just love it. It's very varied, all the things I've done with Ken. And I've directed him and been directed by him and been in things with him. It's always different."



3RD T20I: INDIA BEAT WEST INDIES BY 17 RUNS, COMPLETE 3-0 WHITEWASH

India produced a clinical all-round performance to beat West Indies by 17 runs in the third and final T20I, to complete a 3-0 clean sweep at the Eden Gardens, here on Sunday.

Kolkata | Agencies

India produced a clinical all-round performance to beat West Indies by 17 runs in the third and final T20I, to complete a 3-0 clean sweep at the Eden Gardens, here on Sunday.

Put into bat, India lost wickets at regular wickets and were in trouble at 93-4 but a classy fifty from Suryakumar Yadav (65 off 31) and an aggressive knock by Venkatesh Iyer (35 off 19) came to the rescue.

The pair stitched a big partnership of 91 runs for the fifth wicket and propelled India to 184-5 in 20 overs. Apart from Suryakumar and Venkatesh, Ishan Kishan also played a vital knock of 34 off 31 balls but once again he was not at his fluent best. In reply, Nicholas Pooran (61 off 47) smashed a fine fifty and Rovman Powell (25 off 14) and Romario Shepherd (29 off 21) also tried hard but the efforts were not enough as West Indies were restricted to 167-9 in 20 overs, losing the match by 17 runs. Harshal Patel (3/22), Deepak Chahar (2/15), Venkatesh Iyer (2/23), Shardul Thakur (2/33) were the wicket-takers for India.



India 184-5 in 20 overs (Suryakumar Yadav 65, Venkatesh Iyer 35; Roston Chase 1/23) beat West Indies 167-9 in 20 Overs (Nicholas Pooran 61; Harshal Patel 3/22, Deepak Chahar 2/15) by 17 runs

Brief scores:

Mendis 69 helps Sri Lanka win by five wickets; avoid series sweep against Australia

A superb 69 from Kusal Mendis helped Sri Lanka secure a five-wicket victory over Australia in the fifth and final T20I at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) on Sunday.

Melbourne | Agencies

A superb 69 from Kusal Mendis helped Sri Lanka secure a five-wicket victory over Australia in the fifth and final T20I at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) on Sunday.

The win also meant that Sri Lanka signed off from the tour on a high by avoiding a clean sweep. They will now fly to India to participate in a three-match T20I series starting from February 24 in Lucknow. Chasing 155, Sri Lanka lost two wickets in the powerplay but managed to get 54 runs off the first six overs. Mendis played a lot of shots in the start of the chase but dropped anchor after power-play ended. Charith Asalanka played some aggressive shots in a quickfire 9-ball 20. Mendis was involved in run-outs of debutants Kamil Mishara and Janith Liyanage. At 71/4 in nine overs, Sri Lanka were under a bit of pressure despite being ahead of the asking rate. Mendis then joined hands with skipper Dasun Shanaka (35) to resurrect the chase. The duo mixed caution with aggression nicely for an 83-run partnership. Shanaka pulled a monstrous six off Kane



Richardson in the final over but was bowled the very next ball. There was no scope for a late twist in the match as Chamika Karunaratne hit the winning runs to vacant square leg to seal the match in Sri Lanka's favour with a ball to spare. Mendis remained unbeaten till the end and was adjudged 'Player of the Match'.

Earlier, Matthew Wade's unbeaten effort of 43 off just 27 balls, combining big-hitting with some innovative strokes, meant Australia were able to go above 150 in their 20 overs. Pushed into bowling first, Sri Lanka kept a tight leash on Australia, resulting in openers Aaron Finch and Ben McDermott eventually getting frustrated and being dismissed within the first six overs. Josh Inglis, Glenn Maxwell and Marcus Stoinis got good starts but got out without making a big knock.

While Dushmantha Chameera took out Inglis, Lahiru Kumara dismissed Stoinis and Maxwell in one over. Wade and Daniel Sams (18) put on a 64-run stand in quick time to infuse some momentum into the slog overs of Australia's innings. But with vociferous crowd support along with good showings with bat and ball meant Sri Lanka saw off the prospect of a clean sweep with a consolation win.

Brief scores:

Sri Lanka 155/5 in 19.5 overs (Kusal Mendis 69 not out, Dasun Shanaka 35; Kane Richardson 2/28; Ashton Agar 1/19) beat Australia 154/6 in 20 overs (Matthew Wade 43 not out, Glenn Maxwell 29; Dushmantha Chameera 2/30, Lahiru Kumara 2/34) by five wickets.

Strandja Memorial: Boxer Nikhat Zareen gets first-round bye, to play in quarters

Indian woman boxer Nikhat Zareen will begin her campaign in the 73rd Strandja Memorial Tournament here with a quarterfinal match, while Sumit and Anjali Tushir are set to face tough opponents in their respective opening-round bouts.

Sofia (Bulgaria) | Agencies

Indian woman boxer Nikhat Zareen will begin her campaign in the 73rd Strandja Memorial Tournament here with a quarterfinal match, while Sumit and Anjali Tushir are set to face tough opponents in their respective opening-round bouts. The Strandja Memorial Tournament, which is Europe's oldest international boxing event, is being held from February 20 to 27. The 25-year-old pugilist from Telangana, Zareen, who clinched the gold medal in the 2019 edition, has received a bye in the 52kg opening round. Apart from Zareen, Nandini (+81kg) is another Indian boxer to feature directly in the last-eight stage. However, in the 66kg category, Tushir will face a stiff challenge from the two-time World Championships medallist Russia's Saadat Dalgatova in the opening round. Among men, Akash Sangwan has



been given a bye in the 67kg opening round while Sumit (75kg) is drawn to kickstart his campaign against the World Championships silver medallist Russia's Dzhambulat Bizhamov. A 17-member Indian contingent, including seven men and 10 women are participating at the ongoing 73rd edition of the tournament which is also the first from the Golden Belt Series and also a testing event for International Boxing Association's World Boxing Tour format.

Varinder Singh (60kg) will kick-off India's challenge on opening day at the prestigious boxing event as he will face Russian Artur Subkhankulov in the men's 60kg category. Sumit, Lakshya Chahar (86kg) and Narender Berwal (+92kg) are the other Indians to be seen in action on Day 1.

With over 450 boxers participating from 36 countries around the world, including strong boxing nations such as Kazakhstan, Italy, Russia and France, the highly competitive tournament will be the first exposure trip for Indian boxers in 2022.

India won two medals in the last edition of the tournament with Deepak Kumar and Naveen Boora securing silver and bronze respectively.

Dhull enters Ranji record books with tons in both innings on debut

Delhi batter and India's 2022 U-19 World Cup-winning captain Yash Dhull on Sunday slammed another century in his first-class debut during the 2021/22 Ranji Trophy.

Guwahati | Agencies

Delhi batter and India's 2022 U-19 World Cup-winning captain Yash Dhull on Sunday slammed another century in his first-class debut during the 2021/22 Ranji Trophy. In Delhi's Elite Group H contest against Tamil Nadu at the Barsapara Cricket Stadium, Dhull scored 113 off 202 balls, including 14 fours and a six, to continue his crick-eting fairy tale.

On the back of Dhull's unbeaten hundred and his partner Dhruv Shorey unconquered on 107, Delhi were 228/0 in 65 overs before the match was drawn, giving Tamil Nadu three points due to first innings lead. Just the way he impressed everyone with his assured stroke play, Dhull continued in the same vein in the second innings.

He then reached his century in 200 balls with a four through cover



off Shahrulkh Khan's part-time off-spin. After reaching the milestone, Dhull cracked another four down the ground and a six over long-on before the match was drawn. In his knock, Dhull made 59 runs through the off-side while amassing 54 runs through the on-side while playing out 144 dot balls. Dhull has now become just the third batter to make a century in both innings of Ranji Trophy debut after Nari Contractor (152 and 102 not out) for Gujarat in 1952/53 and Virag Awate (126 and 112) did so for Maharashtra in 2012/13.

Dhull has also become the sixth batter from Delhi to get centuries in both innings of the Ranji Trophy, joining a club featuring Mansoor Ali

Khan Pataudi, Surinder Khanna, Madan Lal, Ajay Sharma, Raman Lamba and Rishabh Pant.

Earlier, on Thursday, on day one of the 2021/22 Ranji Trophy, Dhull had made 113 off 150 balls, including 18 boundaries, in Delhi's first innings score of 452 in 141.2 overs. Dhull opened the batting for Delhi after Tamil Nadu skipper Vijay Shankar elected to bowl first. Dhull watched his opening partner Dhruv Shorey get out for one followed by one-drop Himmat Singh dismissed for a duck as pacer Sandeep Warrier bagged both wickets. Dhull was firm in his first innings at the senior level, leading Delhi's recovery from 7/2 with a 60-run partnership with

Nitish Rana (25) for the third wicket followed by a 119-run association with Jonty Sidhu for the fourth wicket. When Dhull was on 97, he was dismissed by pacer M Mohammed but the ball turned out to be a no-ball, giving the youngster a reprieve.

A cut through point off off-spinner Baba Aparajith took him to his maiden century in first-class cricket with his Delhi team-mates and support staff giving a huge round of applause. Dhull continued to fetch runs till he was trapped lbw by Mohammed for 113. In his knock, Dhull amassed 48 runs from off-side while scoring 65 runs through the on-side. The month of February has been a fantastic one for Dhull, who captained India to winning the U-19 World Cup final against England at Antigua.

In the tournament, he made 229 runs in four innings at an average of 76.33. It includes 82 against South Africa in the tournament opener and 110 against Australia in the semi-final.

In between, he missed matches against Ireland and Uganda due to Covid-19 infection. After the World Cup triumph, Dhull was included in Delhi's squad for Ranji Trophy and also bagged an IPL contract with Delhi Capitals worth INR 50 lakh.

New Zealand eye top position in WTC rankings with SA clean sweep

New Zealand would be looking at a 2-0 scoreline in the two-match Test series against South Africa as a second win at the Hagley Oval will vault the World Test champions back into the top spot in the International Cricket Council's Test world rankings.

Christchurch | Agencies

New Zealand would be looking at a 2-0 scoreline in the two-match Test series against South Africa as a second win at the Hagley Oval will vault the World Test champions back into the top spot in the International Cricket Council's Test world rankings. The hosts thrashed the Dean Elgar-led Proteas by an innings and 276 runs in Christchurch with the tourists capitulating for 95 and 111 runs, respectively in the two innings.

Even if the Blackcaps draw the second Test, which will be played at the same venue but on a different wicket from February 25 onwards, they would snap a long Test drought against South Africa. The Blackcaps had last defeated South Africa in a Test in 2004. The



Proteas have dominated the Blackcaps since they played their maiden Test in 1932, winning 13 of the 16 series so far and drawing three. If the hosts win the series 2-0, they will move to a rating of 120, "leapfrogging Australia on 119, with India third on 116", according to a report in stuff.co.nz on Sunday.

"The Black Caps occupied the top spot for the first time in January 2021 after a home series victory over Pakistan," the report said. The side lost its grip on the top spot in December last year after losing the away series to India 1-0 immediately after the ICC T20 World Cup in the UAE. Australia

then took the top spot after thrashing the Joe Root-led England 4-0 in the Ashes in January.

A clean sweep of the two-Test series against the Proteas will earn the Black Caps 24 points and keep their hopes alive in the World Test Championship. New Zealand skipper Tom Latham is well aware of the significance of the clean sweep against the Proteas, and they would be looking for a comprehensive display come February 25. "There's the historic nature of this series, but for us it's about trying to put out performances together and those outcomes are by-products of the processes that we go through," Latham was quoted as saying by the website. "That's something we talked about over this (first) Test match was being able to win those little moments and focus on the process and we managed to get the outcome in this Test," he added. Latham however cautioned that the South Africans will come hard at them in the second Test. "We certainly expect them (SA) to be at their best. Obviously things didn't quite go right for them in this game, but we certainly know they are a quality side and we've seen that over recent months in the series against India, where they won 2-1. We certainly expect them to come back firing and we know how proud South Africa are as a nation," added Latham.

MEN'S T20 WC QUALIFIER A: UAE BEAT GERMANY TO MOVE CLOSER TO SEMIS, IRELAND DEFEAT BAHRAIN IN GROUP B

The UAE moved closer to a berth in the semi-finals with a 24-run win over Germany while Ireland beat Bahrain by 21 runs in the Group B games of Day 2 of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup Qualifier A at At Oman Academy 1 ground, here on Saturday.

Oman | Agencies

The UAE moved closer to a berth in the semi-finals with a 24-run win over Germany while Ireland beat Bahrain by 21 runs in the Group B games of Day 2 of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup Qualifier A at At Oman Academy 1 ground, here on Saturday. UAE's second win on the trot gave them four points. They now play against Bahrain in their concluding game on Monday.

Germany exhibited their fighting spirit in good measure against the UAE. Chasing 192 to win, Germany finished at 167-9. Opener Justin Broad led the chase with a 62 off 42. There were significant contributions coming from the other players like Vijay Shankar (17) and Dylan Bignaut (13) keeping them in the hunt. Faisal Mubashir's 12-ball blitz of 23 did raise the team's hopes but the UAE bowlers came back to pick wickets at regular intervals to restrict them. Kashif Daud was the most successful bowler with four for 32 while Rohan Mustafa and Junaid Siddiqui took two wickets apiece. Earlier, Chirag Suri's 81 and Muhammad Waseem's 50 laid the foundation for UAE. Opting to bat first, openers - Suri and Waseem -- milked runs at ease. Waseem was

severe on any loose deliveries and struck a 30-ball 50 that included four boundaries and an equal number of sixes. Suri was not far behind showcasing his repertoire of strokes. A 20-run over off Germany's Dieter Klien set the tone in the Power play as UAE reached 57 without loss. Muslim Yar got the much-needed breakthrough in the ninth over when he claimed Waseem's wicket after his previous deliveries were hammered for a four and a six. Germany reaped the fruit of their excellent fielding as Basil Hameed was run out and UAE were 85/2. Vriitya Aravind, UAE's batting hero in their win over Ireland, joined Suri as the youngster's good form continued. The partnership blossomed as they put on 95 before the stand was broken in the last over as Aravind was run out. His 29-ball 40 was another key knock for UAE, who had reached 191 for five. Germany's Fayaz Khan claimed two wickets in the final over as Suri departed for a 54-ball 81 that was studded with nine boundaries and two hits over the ropes.

Meanwhile, Ireland, who had stumbled against the UAE on Friday, picked up an important victory to stay on course for a place in the semi-final. They take on Germany in their concluding Group B game, also on Monday. Gareth Delany's unbeaten half-century (51) guided Ireland, who chose to bat first, to a competitive total of 158/5 against debutants Bahrain. Openers Paul Stirling and Andy Balbirnie put together a solid 62-run opening partnership to place Ireland in early command. But Junaid Aziz followed up his five-wicket haul from the previous game by dismissing both in quick succession. Harry Tector and Lorcan Tucker departed soon to leave Ireland at 100/4 after 15 overs.



MASSIVE SET ERECTED FOR SAMANTHA'S 'YASHODA'

A massive Rs 3 crore set has been erected for Samantha's much-hyped upcoming movie titled 'Yashoda'.

Hyderabad | Agencies

A massive Rs 3 crore set has been erected for Samantha's much-hyped upcoming movie titled 'Yashoda'.

It is reported that the makers of Samantha's upcoming movie 'Yashoda' are busy erecting the huge set for the upcoming schedule. A lavish set

reprising a seven-star hotel was erected, which is one of the most important sets for the movie. Art Director Ashok is supervising the set, as several labourers are working on the beautiful set currently. Samantha Ruth Prabhu, who will play the leading lady in this movie, is currently on a short vacation in Kerala, and will soon join the sets to wrap up the upcoming important sequences for

'Yashoda'. Being helmed by the director duo Hari-Harish, 'Yashoda' is billed to be a new-age multilingual thriller that is bankrolled by senior producer Sivalenka Krishna Prasad on a grand scale.

The film features noted actors Varalaxmi Sarathkumar, Unni Mukundan, Rao Ramesh, and Murali Sharma in important roles.



Disha Patani wraps up shoot for 'Ek Villain Returns'

Actress Disha Patani has wrapped up shooting for her upcoming film 'Ek Villain Returns'.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Disha Patani has wrapped up shooting for her upcoming film 'Ek Villain Returns'. She took to her Instagram story, to announce the same. She shared a picture of herself with her team.

Along with it, she wrote: "It's a wrap #ekvillainreturns" Starring a powerful ensemble cast including John Abraham, Arjun Kapoor and Tara Sutaria, 'Ek Villain Returns' is jointly produced by T-Series and Balaji Telefilms.

The film is a sequel to the 2014 blockbuster 'Ek Villain', which featured Sidharth



Malhotra, Riteish Deshmukh and Shradha Kapoor. Directed by Mohit Suri, the

film's cast includes Disha Patani, Tara Sutaria, Arjun Kapoor and John Abraham.

Disha also has Sidharth Malhotra-starrer 'Yoddha' in the pipeline.

Keerthy Suresh's poster for her music video 'Gandhari' out now

Actress Keerthy Suresh has geared up to treat her fans and followers with her upcoming music video titled 'Gandhari'. A poster was released on Sunday to announce the release of the music video.

Hyderabad | Agencies

Actress Keerthy Suresh has geared up to treat her fans and followers with her upcoming music video titled 'Gandhari'. A poster was released on Sunday to announce the release of the music video.

The poster of the song shows Keerthy in a floral print traditional lehenga, as she is seen dancing. The music for the upcoming music video is composed by Pawan CH of 'Love Story' fame. The song will be out on Monday.

The 'Mahanati' actress, who took to her social media handle to thank Sony Music South and production house, The Route wrote, "One project that is very close to my heart! Presenting to you, #Gandhari! So happy to be associated with @TheRoute and @SonyMusicSouth Releasing tomorrow!"

On the other hand, Keerthy Suresh's first-time collaboration with Telugu superstar Mahesh Babu - 'Sarkaru Vaari Paata' will hit the screens soon. Keerthy will then share the screen opposite Telugu megastar Chiranjeevi in their upcoming movie 'Bhola Shankar'.



Rajkummar's short and sweet birthday greeting for

Bollywood actor Rajkummar Rao has the sweetest birthday wish for his wife and actress Patralekhaa.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood actor Rajkummar Rao has the sweetest birthday wish for his wife and actress Patralekhaa.

Rajkummar shared a loved-up picture on Instagram on Sunday. In the image, Rajkummar and Patralekhaa are seen looking at each other lovingly.

"Happy birthday @patralekhaa. I LOVE YOU," Rajkummar wrote alongside the image.

Patralekhaa shared a romantic reply to Rajkummar's wish. She said: "I love you baby."

A string of Bollywood personalities too wished Patralekhaa on the post. Filmmaker Farah Khan said "Me too".

Actress Bhumi Pednekar called Patralekhaa a pretty girl. She wrote: "Happy birthday you pretty pretty girl @patralekhaa."

Actress Dia Mirza simply wished: "Happy birthday Patra." Rajkummar married his long time girlfriend Patralekhaa on November 15, 2021. The two have together worked in films such as 'Citylights'.

CHAHATT KHANNA, SINGER KEVY SAGE'S NEW SONG 'SAAH' RELEASED

Actress Chahatt Khanna has featured in a peppy romantic Punjabi song 'Saah'. She says the number is beautiful and she herself cannot stop listening to it.



song. Prashant Chauhan has produced the song under the Mixsingh music label. Chahatt said, "Isn't the song beautiful? I mean, I can't stop listening to it. The feedback so far has been very encouraging and heart-

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Chahatt Khanna has featured in a peppy romantic Punjabi song 'Saah'. She says the number is beautiful and she herself cannot stop listening to it.

The song is titled 'Saah' and has the singer Kevvy Sage serenading the beautiful Chahatt in the video. Kevvy is also the lyrics writer and composer for the

warming, to say the least. Shooting the video was so much fun, and besides being an amazing singer, Kevvy is very good on camera." The actress, who is popularly known for her role in the show 'Bade Acche Lagte Hai', added: "It was a great effort from the team and experience that we hope the audience can enjoy together. So for anyone who hasn't checked it out yet. Looking forward."

Samyukta Hornad pays glorious tribute to late grandma, says 'I want to make her proud'

Actress Samyukta Hornad on Sunday paid a glorious tribute to her late grandmother, veteran actress Bhargavi Narayan, whose decision to pledge her body to science after her death came in for much praise recently.

Chennai | Agencies

Actress Samyukta Hornad on Sunday paid a glorious tribute to her late grandmother, veteran actress Bhargavi Narayan, whose decision to pledge her body to science after her death came in for much praise recently.

Taking to Instagram, actress Samyukta, who has made a name for herself in the Kannada and Tamil film industries, said, "My greatest relation-



ship has been my journey with my 'ajji'."

"From stitching her own blouses, to drawing that perfectly round bindi, my ajji Bhajji paved her own path and was brave enough to walk it. She owned everything she did. She lit up an entire venue with her fire; she was power personified. And she knew it, everyone else around her knew it, but the reason she won hearts is because of her grace. She brought grace into everything she did, she was the greatest feminine force, a sight to behold.

"My ajji was my first director, I was

six when she directed my first play, 'Undadi Gunda', she was the boss, the captain... everyone would follow her, voluntarily. I used to follow her everywhere, I wanted to do everything she did, just like everyone else.

"My ajji Bhajji called me one morning and said, 'Samyukta, I need you to drive me to the post office'. I asked her why and she said she had to submit her registration form for body donation to St Johns. I said I'll do it online and she doesn't have to stress, as she was already very weak. She said if I don't take her, she will walk up to the post office, she was scary like that. The next day when I reached she was already waiting at the gate. "I can still clearly picture her. She was dressed in silk, with her perfectly round bindi, kajal and even her favourite necklace, ready for anything. She looked like the ocean, beautiful, strong, ready and calm. I didn't know if she knew that this was going to be her last trip with me. It was like she was celebrating life, herself and this mission, I'm glad I had the privilege to do this last trip with her."

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Anushka Sen