For Generation Ace

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

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

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

absolute india

VOL. 7, ISSUE 229, BHOPAL | TUESDAY, JUNE 28, 2022 I ₹5 I PAGE 08

PUBLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM BHOPAL,MUMBAI AND NEW DELHI

NATION > 02

Presidential polls: JMM & AAP skip Yashwant Sinha's...

HOLLYWOOD > 06

Jodie Sweetin pushed by LAPD at pro-choice protest

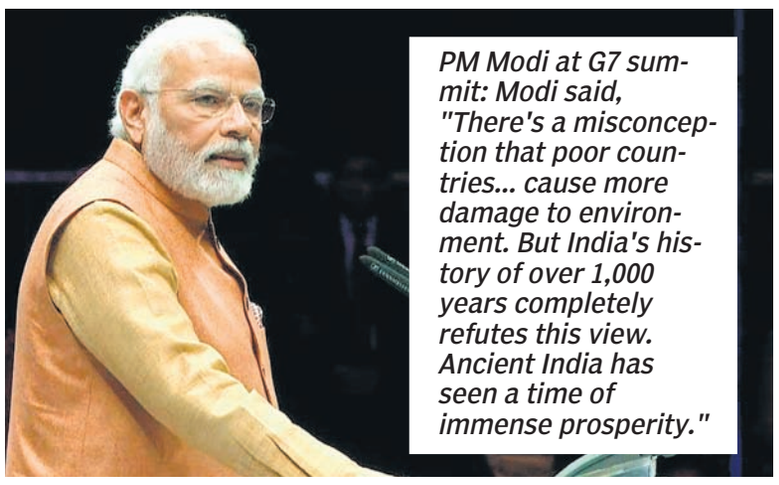
SPORTS > 07

India hockey team set to fine-tune skills for CWG at ...

AT G7 SESSION ON CLIMATE:

PM NARENDRA MODI CALLS ON RICH NATIONS TO BACK INDIA'S EFFORTS

Bavarian Alps (Germany) | Agencies



PM Modi at G7 summit: Modi said, "There's a misconception that poor countries... cause more damage to environment. But India's history of over 1,000 years completely refutes this view. Ancient India has seen a time of immense prosperity."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday called on rich nations comprising of the G7 grouping to support India's efforts towards meeting its climate commitments.

Addressing a G7 session on 'investing in a better future: climate, energy, health', Modi said, "India's dedication to climate commitments evident from its performance."

Modi, who is in Germany on a two-day visit from Sunday for the summit of the G7, said, "There's a misconception that poor countries... cause more damage to environment. But India's history of over 1,000 years completely refutes this view. Ancient India has seen a time of immense prosperity."

"We hope rich countries of G7 will support India's efforts. A huge market for clean energy technologies is emerging in India.""India has world's first fully solar power operated airport; India's huge railway system will become net zero in this decade.... We achieved target of 40 per cent energy capacity from non-fossil sources nine years before time," the PM said.Modi is attending the G7 summit held in the Alpine castle of Schloss Elmau in southern Germany following an invitation by German Chancellor Olaf Scholz.He said the G7 nations can help take the innovations worked on in India during the Covid-19 pandemic to use digital tech in health sector to developing nations.The Group of Seven (G7) is an inter-governmental political grouping consisting of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the UK and the US.

PM MODI, FRENCH PRESIDENT MACRON'S 'CHAI PE CHARCHA' AT G7 SIDELINES

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is in Germany for the G7 Summit, had 'chai par charcha' with French President Emmanuel Macron on Monday.

PM Modi shared pictures of him having tea with Macron as they discussed bilateral relations.

The Prime Minister earlier met German Chancellor Olaf Scholz.

"Excellent meeting with @Bundeskanzler Scholz. Thanked him for the warm hospitality during the @G7 Summit. We discussed cooperation in key sectors like commerce and energy. We also had deliberations on furthering environmentally friendly growth for our planet," he tweeted after meeting German Chancellor.

The PM also met South African President Cyril Ramaphosa.

SC RELIEF TO MAHA REBEL MLAS, EXTENDS RESPONSE DEADLINE TO JULY 12

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Monday queried whether the Maharashtra Assembly Speaker can become a judge in his own cause and decide whether the motion to remove him is invalid.

The top court also extended, till July 12, the time granted by Deputy Speaker to the 16 dissident MLAs to submit their written responses to the disqualification notice, and asked the Maharashtra government to ensure protection of all rebel Shiv Sena MLAs and their family members.

Senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, representing Shiv Sena's Ajay Choudhari and Sunil Prabhu, submitted before a vacation bench of Justices Surya Kant and JB Pardiwala that rebel leader Eknath Shinde's petition can be heard by the Bombay High Court, saying: "This isn't a case to allow leapfrogging."

The bench asked Singhvi a specific query - could the Speaker become a judge in his own cause and decide that the motion to remove him is invalid? "Is the Speaker entitled to decide disqualification petitions when his own removal motion is pending?" it asked.

Senior advocate Rajeev Dhavan, representing Deputy Speaker Narhari Zirwal, submitted that his client has questioned the authenticity of the motion seeking his removal, sent through an anonymous email.

The top court noted that in all fairness, it should have all the records from the office of the Deputy Speaker before it and asked Zirwal to file a detailed affidavit.

As the bench again asked Singhvi to explain whether could the Deputy Speaker, whose removal has been sought, himself decide on that notice, Singhvi replied: "Yes, he can."

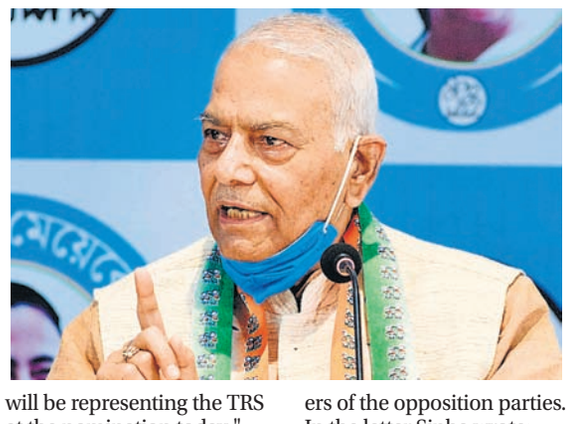
The top court also asked the Maharashtra government to provide protection to the rebel MLA and their families, after their counsel made submission stating they apprehend threat to their lives. It recorded the Maharashtra government's undertaking that no harm would be caused to life, liberty, and properties. The top court also extended, till July 12, the time granted by the Deputy Speaker to the 16 rebel MLAs to submit their response to the disqualification notices.

Senior advocate Neeraj Kishan Kaul, appearing for the petitioners, submitted before the bench that the Deputy Speaker cannot proceed with the disqualification proceedings when the motion seeking his removal is pending.

After detailed hearing in the matter, the top court issued notice on petitions by Shinde and the rebel MLAs of Shiv Sena challenging the disqualification notices issued by the Deputy Speaker to them and also the appointment of Choudhari as Shiv Sena Legislature Party leader.

Yashwant Sinha files nomination for Presidential election

Joint opposition candidate Yashwant Sinha on Monday filed nomination for next month's Presidential election.



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Joint opposition candidate Yashwant Sinha on Monday filed nomination for next month's Presidential election.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, NCP chief Sharad Pawar, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, National Conference chief Farooq Abdullah, CPI-M leader Sitaram Yechury and other opposition leaders were present at the filing of Sinha's nomination.

Sinha also paid tributes to Mahatma Gandhi and Dr B.R. Ambedkar before filing his nomination.

Meanwhile, the TRS announced its support to Sinha. "President of @trspartyonline Sri KCR Garu has decided to extend support to the candidature of Sri @YashwantSinha Ji in the election for President of India. Along with our Members of Parliament, I will be representing the TRS at the nomination today," working president of TRS and minister Telangana government K.T. Rama Rao tweeted announcing party's support to Sinha's candidature.

The support to Sinha as joint opposition candidate comes days after TRS opted out of the meeting called by West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee to discuss the strategy for Presidential polls.

Now Sinha will also begin his campaign to meet MPs and MLAs. On Friday, Sinha had telephoned Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's offices seeking their support for the poll. He also wrote a letter to all the leaders of the opposition parties. In the letter Sinha wrote: "India is going through extremely difficult times. I shall raise my voice for the common people."

Sinha had also said that the leaders of the other ideology are intent on throttling the Constitution and "making a mockery of the people's mandate in elections."

BJP-led NDA candidate Draupdai Murmu filed nomination last week in presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, party chief JP Nadda, union ministers Rajnath Singh, Amit Shah, Nitin Gadkari and leaders of alliance partners.

Chief Ministers of NDA-ruled states were present during Murmu's filing of nomination papers.

PAK INTRUDER KILLED BY BSF AT INTERNATIONAL BORDER IN JAMMU

2 TERRORISTS KILLED IN GUNFIGHT IN J&K'S KULGAM

Terrorist arrested from Doda in J&K

Two terrorists were killed in an ongoing gunfight with the security forces in the Nowpora-Kherpora area of South Kashmir's Kulgam district, while one Pakistani intruder was neutralised by the BSF at the International Border (IB) in Jammu and a terrorist has been arrested from Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir along with arms and ammunition, officials said on Monday.

Team Absolute | Srinagar

Two terrorists were killed in an ongoing gunfight with the security forces in the Nowpora-Kherpora area of South Kashmir's Kulgam district, officials said on Monday.

"One more terrorist killed (Total 02). Operation going on," police said in a tweet.

The gunfight started after a joint team of police and security forces got an input about the presence of terrorists in that area.

The security forces cordoned off the area. Terrorists hiding there started firing drawing retaliation by the security forces.There have been a series of encounters between the terrorists and security forces across Kashmir over the last few months.

Many terrorists and their commanders have been eliminated.

Most of the operations have been jointly conducted by the police and the army on the basis of specific intelligence inputs.Meanwhile, one Pakistani intruder was neutralised by the BSF at the International Border (IB) in Jammu, officials said on Monday.The Border Security Force (BSF) said alert BSF troops noticed suspicious movement across the fence in the general area of Border Outpost (BOP) Baquarpur.

"Our domination party at night noticed a person coming from the Pak side aggressively towards the fence with an intention to cross the fence. Our party challenged him to stop, but he paid no attention to it and continued his movement towards the fence," BSF said.

"Left with no option, our troops fired three rounds on the intruder due to which he fell down immediately ahead of the fencing."

The BSF said an early morning search party checked the area and found the dead body of a Pak intruder very close to the fence.

"Nothing recovered from him. Body being handed over to Police for further disposal," BSF said.

In the meanwhile a terrorist has been arrested from Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir along with arms and ammunition, officials said on Monday.Doda Police along with security forces have arrested one terrorist Fareed Ahmed, resident of Koti Doda, and recovered one Chinese pistol, two magazines, 14 live cartridges and one mobile phone from his possession, they added."As an increased security measure before the Amarnath yatra, a police party of Police Station Doda laid a naka on the outskirts of the town and intercepted a young man carrying arms and ammunition," police said.

"The accused was taken into custody, and a special team started investigation into the matter. It has come to fore that Fareed Ahmad received arms and ammunition from one suspect during month of March and he was tasked to attack police personnel in Doda."

Police said due to timely and swift action this nefarious plot was foiled.

A case has been registered by the local police and investigation has been taken up."Initial investigation revealed that subject is highly radicalised and used to receive calls from terror commanders based across the border, and was motivated to work for terror outfits in Kashmir valley and Doda region," police said.

ED MAY SUMMON MORE SHIV SENA LEADERS

A number of Shiv Sena and NCP leaders are currently on the radar of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and may receive summons from the financial probe agency in the coming days, escalating the ongoing political crisis in Maharashtra.

New Delhi: A number of Shiv Sena and NCP leaders are currently on the radar of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and may receive summons from the financial probe agency in the coming days, escalating the ongoing political crisis in Maharashtra. Shiv Sena chief spokesperson and MP Sanjay Raut has been issued a notice to join the investigation on Tuesday. Apart from him, there are other leaders who are on the radar of the ED like Eknath Khadse, Anil Parab, Bhavana Gawali, Nawab Malik and others. Maharashtra Transport Minister Anil Parab was recently grilled by ED officials for over six hours over three days in connection with a prevention of money laundering case. The ED filed the case over allegations that Parab constructed a resort at Dapoli in Ratnagiri district of Maharashtra in 2017 after flouting environment protection laws. Bhavana Gawali, a five-time Member of Parliament, was earlier summoned by the ED.NCP leader Eknath Khadse was recently asked to vacate a few properties which were attached by the ED. Nawab Malik, the NCP leader, is already behind the bars. Maharashtra's former home minister Anil Deshmukh was also arrested by the ED in connection with a Rs 100 crore extortion case involving former Mumbai police commissioner Parambir Singh.

Congress stages nationwide Satyagraha against Agnipath

Congress on Monday held nationwide Satyagraha in more than 3,500 Assembly headquarters across the country against the Agnipath scheme, the party said.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Congress on Monday held nationwide Satyagraha in more than 3,500 Assembly headquarters across the country against the Agnipath scheme, the party said.

Addressing a press conference, senior party leader Mohan Prakash said: "The Indian National Congress stands with the youth in their demand for an immediate rollback of the Agnipath scheme. The BJP government should not weaken national security by implementing it. The Government should provide security rather than insecurity to the lakhs of men and women who aspire to serve the nation by joining the Armed Forces. The government has itself admitted to a shocking 1,25,000 non-commissioned vacancies in armed forces."

The Monday Satyagraha against the scheme by the Indian National Congress follows a memorandum to the President requesting him to withdraw the controversial scheme.

"We urge the Prime Minister Narendra Modi to shun his arrogance and accede to the youth's demand," Prakash said.

The Congress said it stands with the lakhs of Ex-Servicemen who are concerned about the scheme's impact on the ethos, unit cohesion and combat effectiveness of the Armed Forces. Introducing differential training standards and discriminatory pay and allowances among our soldiers threatens to disturb long-established standards with no clear benefit.

"We are concerned that such gimmicks are being experimented with at a time of deteriorating global security and rising threats to our borders. Just today there are reports of a continuing buildup of Chinese troops and infrastructure across the LAC, including upgraded armour, artillery, rocket systems, air defence systems and airfields. New divisions are being brought into the western sector and accommodation built for Chinese 1,20,000 troops," he added.

INDIA REGISTERS OVER 45% RISE IN NEW COVID CASES

Team Absolute | New Delhi

India has reported over 45 per cent single-day rise in new Covid cases after 17,073 infections were reported in a span of 24 hours, the Union Ministry of Health and Family Affairs said on Monday.On Sunday, a total of 11,739 Covid cases were reported.The country has also reported 21 new Covid deaths, taking the nationwide toll to 5,25,020.With increasing cases, the active caseload has surged to 94,420 cases, accounting for 0.22 per cent of the country's total positive cases.The recovery of 15,208 patients in the last 24 hours took the cumulative tally to 4,27,87,606. Consequently, India's recovery rate stands at 98.57 per cent.

India's daily positivity rate has jumped to 5.62 per cent, while the weekly positivity Rate in the country currently stands at 3.39 per cent.

Also in the same period, a total of 3,03,604 tests were conducted across the country, increasing the overall tally to over 86.10 crore.As of Monday morning, India's Covid-19 vaccination coverage exceeded 197.11 crore, achieved via 2,56,08,118 sessions.Over 3.63 crore adolescents have been administered with a first dose of Covid-19 jab since the beginning of vaccination drive for this age bracket.

PREZ POLL: COMMITTEE FORMED TO CAMPAIGN FOR YASHWANT SINHA

Hours after nomination was filed by Yashwant Sinha on Monday as the joint Opposition candidate for the Presidential election, a committee was formed for nationwide campaigning in his favour.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Hours after nomination was filed by Yashwant Sinha on Monday as the joint Opposition candidate for the Presidential election, a committee was formed for nationwide campaigning in his favour.

The committee has total of 11 members across the opposition political parties.

The members include Jairam Ramesh from Congress, Tiruchi Siva from DMK, Sukhendu Sekhar Roy from Trinamool Congress, Sitaram Yechury from CPI-M, Ram Gopal Yadav from Samajwadi Party, Praful Patel from NCP, Ranjit Reddy from TRS, Manoj Jha from RJD, D Raja from CPI, one Shiv Sena nominee and Civil Society Member Sudheendra Kulkarni.

Sinha, a former Union minister, filed his nomination as the common opposition candidate against NDA nominee Draupadi Murmu for the Presidential election to be held on July 18.

"I am thankful to all the opposition parties who came together and chose me as their candidate. It's being said I am the 4th choice but I want to say that even if I were at the 10th, I would've accepted because it's a big battle," said Yashwant Sinha after filing his nomination.

Sinha further said the President has certain responsibilities in the Constitution and it is his responsibility to be a part of the checks and balances.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, NCP chief Sharad Pawar, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, National Conference chief Farooq Abdullah, CPI-M Sitaram Yechury and other opposition leaders were present during the filing of Sinha's nomination.

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi, speaking after the nomination, said: "This is fight of the ideology and the opposition is united on the candidature of Yashwant Sinha."

Presidential polls: JMM & AAP skip Yashwant Sinha's nomination

THE JHARKHAND MUKTI MORCHA (JMM) AND THE AAM AADMI PARTY (AAP) WERE NOT PRESENT DURING THE FILING OF THE NOMINATION BY YASHWANT SINHA, THE OPPOSITION'S JOINT CANDIDATE FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL POLL.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) were not present during the filing of the nomination by Yashwant Sinha, the Opposition's joint candidate for the Presidential poll.

Senior leaders of 16 Opposition parties, including NCP Supremo Sharad Pawar, former Congress President Rahul Gandhi, CPI-M General Secretary Sitaram Yechruy and Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav accompanied Sinha, when he filed his nomination on Monday.

However, the JMM and AAP did not attend the event and indicated chinks within the opposition ranks.

The JMM has been having second thoughts to the candidature of Sinha after Draupadi Murmu was named by the NDA as their candidate.

Murmu, a fellow Santhali from Odisha, is hard to be ignored for the JMM due to domestic politics, which has a large base in the tribal areas of the state, said sources, adding that if it supports Sinha, who has been an MP from Jharkhand, then it may hamper its prospectus. Though JMM is in alliance with the Congress in the state, it chose to stay away from the nomination filing of Sinha.

Rahul Gandhi while speaking after the nomination said, "This is a fight of the ideology and the opposition is united on the candidature of Yashwant Sinhaji."

Other leaders who were present included National Conference chief Farooq Abdullah, D. Raja of CPI; Saugata Roy from Trinamool Congress; A. Raja and T. Siva from the DMK among other Opposition leaders. Sinha also paid tributes to Mahatma Gandhi and Dr BR Ambedkar before filing his nomination.

The TRS has also announced its support to Sinha. "President of @trspartyonline Sri KCR Garu has decided to extend support to the candidature of Sri @YashwantSinha Ji in the election for President of India. Along with our Members of Parliament, I will be representing the TRS at the nomination today," working president of TRS and minister Telangana government K.T. Rama Rao tweeted eary in the day.

The support to Sinha as joint opposition candidate comes days after the TRS opted out of the meeting called by West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to discuss the strategy for the Presidential polls.

Now Sinha will also begin his campaign to meet MPs and MLAs. On Friday, Sinha had telephoned Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's offices seeking their support for the poll. He also wrote a letter to all the leaders of the opposition parties. In the letter Sinha wrote: "India is going through extremely difficult times. I shall raise my voice for the common people."

Sinha had also said that the leaders of the other ideology are intent on throttling the Constitution and "making a mockery of the people's mandate in elections."

BJP-led NDA candidate Draupdai Murmu filed her nomination last week in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, party chief JP Nadda, Union Ministers Rajnath Singh, Amit Shah, Nitin Gadkari and leaders of alliance partners.

The Chief Ministers of NDA-ruled states were also present during Murmu's filing of nomination papers.

SATYENDAR JAIN'S JUDICIAL CUSTODY EXTENDED BY TWO WEEKS

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A special CBI court on Monday extended the judicial custody of Delhi Minister Satyendar Jain arrested in connection with an alleged money laundering case, by 14 days,

Earlier on Monday, the court had refused the extension of Jain's judicial custody as neither the minister nor his lawyers were present in the court.

Jain, who is under the custody of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) since May 31, was admitted to the Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Hospital after he complained of reduced oxygen levels last week.

As the probe agency apprised the circumstances at the CBI court at Rouse Avenue and argued for the extension of Jain's custody citing the probe is ongoing, the court directed the ED to present him before the court through video conferencing.

After the submissions, the vacation judge Neelofar Abida Parveen extended the custody of the accused by two weeks and directed the probe agency to present him before the court on July 11. Prior to his hospitalisation, the court had on June 18 rejected Jain's bail application. On June 9, he was also rushed to a hospital after he complained of uneasiness while leaving the Rouse Avenue Court, just after the court

hearing. On June 18, while dismissing the bail plea of Jain, a special court observed that no medical documents have been produced to show his medical history and only on the ground that the accused suffers from sleep apnea, he cannot be enlarged on bail.

His lawyer submitted that he was suffering from sleep apnea, a medical condition that was quite grave and could even cause the sudden death of a patient if the continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) machine was cut off in the absence of an attendant. In case, the patient removed the machine or there was a power failure and it needed power back-up which was not there in the jail, he argued saying Jain had suffered severe pneumonia during Covid and had just managed to survive.

Even at the time of remand, on request made in that regard, directions were given to make arrangements for the said condition of the accused to provide a CPAP machine, the counsel pointed out.

The CBI has accused Jain, his wife and others of commission of offences under the Prevention of Corruption Act. On March 31, the ED provisionally attached immovable properties worth Rs 4.81 crore belonging to companies beneficially owned and controlled by the minister.

The ED had on June 6 conducted raids at multiple locations belonging to Jain, his wife and his accomplices, who had either directly or indirectly assisted him or participated in the processes of money laundering. The recovery of cash worth Rs 2.85 crore and 133 gold coins weighing 1.80 kg was made during the raid.

Alt News co-founder Mohammed Zubair arrested by Delhi Police

ALT NEWS CO-FOUNDER MOHAMMED ZUBAIR ON MONDAY WAS ARRESTED BY THE SPECIAL CELL OF DELHI POLICE IN CONNECTION WITH A MISLEADING TWEET WHICH HURT RELIGIOUS SENTIMENTS TOO.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Alt News co-founder Mohammed Zubair on Monday was arrested by the Special Cell of Delhi Police in connection with a misleading tweet which hurt religious sentiments too.

A senior police official said that it was a separate case lodged against Zubair under sections 153-A and 295 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) in which he has been arrested.

He will be produced before the Patiala House court.

"Our team of The Intelligence Fusion & Strategic Operations (IFSO) unit of the Delhi Police's special cell has arrested him," said the official.

The Special Cell will also write to Twitter to preserve his tweets of six months to one year. More details are awaited.

J&K LG reviews arrangements for Amarnath Yatra pilgrims

Jammu and Kashmir Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha, who is also the chairman of the Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board (SASB), visited Yatri Niwas at Bhagwati Nagar in Jammu on Monday and reviewed arrangements for the Amarnath Yatra pilgrims.

JAMMU | Agencies

Jammu and Kashmir Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha, who is also the chairman of the Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board (SASB), visited Yatri Niwas at Bhagwati Nagar in Jammu on Monday and reviewed arrangements for the Amarnath Yatra pilgrims.

The Lt. Governor directed the concerned officials to ensure health facilities, adequate number of doctors, nursing staff, sanitation staff, duty officers on the Yatra routes.

Earlier, the Lt. Governor was briefed by the officers regarding the facilities along the Yatra route, besides the arrangements in regard to water, power supply, sewage disposal, food and RFID counters at the Yatri Niwas.

The Lt. Governor called for collective efforts of all stakeholders and inter-departmental synergy to ensure best in class arrangements and smooth conduct of Yatra.

Speaking to the mediapersons on the sidelines of the visit, the Lt Governor said, lakhs of families had to face financial hardship since Amarnath Yatra could not be held for the last two years due to Covid pandemic.

"There is a lot of enthusiasm in the people of Jammu region and in Kashmir too this year and I see the local people are also ready to welcome the visiting pilgrims.

"The security forces are alert and have made adequate arrangements for the smooth conduct of Yatra, besides it has been our endeavour to make the best arrangements this year, the Lt. Governor added.

The yatra will commence on the Baltal and Chandanwari routes simultaneously from June 30.

SANJAY RAUT DENIES BROTHER JOINING REBELS

Mumbai: Amid a buzz that Shiv Sena MLA from Vikhroli Sunil Raut may switch sides, his brother -- party MP and Chief Spokesperson -- Sanjay Raut denied all such rumours, here on Monday. There has been speculation since Sunday evening that Sunil Raut was planning to jump the ship and throw his lot with the rebel camp currently camping in Guwahati. "All this is not true... He is very much with me," asserted Sanjay Raut on Monday, and Sunil Raut confirmed that he was present in Mumbai and not gone to Assam. The rebels group has now claimed the support of around 39 Sena MLAs and another dozen independents/smaller parties' legislators with a legal battle now started in the Supreme Court.

SC agrees to examine plea against attacks on Christian institutions, priests

THE SUPREME COURT ON A MONDAY AGREED TO EXAMINE A PLEA ALLEGING INCREASE IN ATTACKS ON CHRISTIAN INSTITUTIONS AND PRIESTS ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on a Monday agreed to examine a plea alleging increase in attacks on Christian institutions and priests across the country.

The petitioners are the Archbishop of the Bangalore Diocese, along with the National Solidarity Forum, and the Evangelical Fellowship of India.

Senior advocate Colin Gonsalves mentioned the matter before a vacation bench of Justices Surya Kant and J.B. Pardiwala and sought urgent listing of the matter.

He submitted that on an average, between 40 to 50 violent attacks occurred against Christian institutions and priests every month across the country, as he pressed on implementation of guidelines which were issued by the top court in a 2018 judgment to curb hate crimes.

Gonsalves emphasised that in month of May, more than 50 cases of violent attacks took place as he sought the implementation of the guidelines issued in the Tehseen Poonawala judgment (2018).

He cited that in the judgment, direction was passed for the appointment of nodal officers to take note of hate crimes and register FIRs across the nation. In the 2018 judgment, the top court had said hate crimes, cow vigilantism and lynching incidents should be nipped in the bud.

The top court told Gonsalves that if it is happening, then it is very unfortunate. As he pressed for urgent listing of the matter, the bench replied: "What we can ensure is that your matter is listed on the re-opening day itself." After a brief hearing in the matter, the bench directed the registry to list the matter on the reopening of the court after summer vacation. The matter is likely to come up for hearing on July 11.

The top court, in 2018, passed a slew of guidelines for the Central government and state governments, which included disciplinary action against lax law enforcing officials, fast tracking of trials etc,

It had said state governments should designate a senior police officer not below the rank of Superintendent of Police as nodal officer in each district, and one DSP rank officer will assist these officers to form a task force to develop methods to prevent mob violence and lynching.

Monsoon misses date with Delhi, IMD to declare date on Tuesday

WITH THE SOUTHWEST MONSOON PROCEEDING SLOWER THAN NORMAL, IT HAS MISSED ITS DATE WITH THE NATIONAL CAPITAL ON MONDAY EVEN AS THE INDIA METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT (IMD) SAID IT WILL DECLARE THE MONSOON ARRIVAL OVER DELHI ON TUESDAY.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

With the Southwest Monsoon proceeding slower than normal, it has missed its date with the national capital on Monday even as the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said it will declare the monsoon arrival over Delhi on Tuesday.

The normal date of arrival of monsoon over Delhi is June 27, shifted from June 29 two years ago based on correction provided by long term data.As on Monday, the

IMD said the northern limit of monsoon passes through Deesa, Ratlam, Shivpuri, Rewa, and Churk, pushing only a little ahead after a hiatus of four days.

"Northwest India gets monsoon rains due to strong easterlies and this time, we had weak easterlies. These easterlies become stronger only when the Bay of Bengal branch of monsoon is active," said senior scientist K.S. Hosalikar at IMD's Climate Research & Services (CR&S), Pune.This is not the first time that the monsoon has missed its date with Delhi. Last year, the monsoon reached Delhi on July 10, making it the most delayed in 19 years. In 2020, it was two days before time, on June 25. The saving grace for IMD has been that it has made no predictions for the monsoon arrival over Delhi.

"There is no consensus in the multiple models that we use for forecasting. Therefore, we had not announced any date as there was uncertainty. We have decided to wait for one more day and will declare the date only tomorrow (Tuesday)," said R.K. Jenamani, a senior scientist with the IMD, Delhi.

For the last four days, the monsoon system had not moved as expected. However, the IMD bulletin on Monday said: "Conditions are favourable for further advance of monsoon into remaining parts of Arabian Sea and Gujarat, some parts of Rajasthan, remaining parts of Madhya Pradesh and Bihar, some parts of Uttar Pradesh and some parts of Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir during next 3-4 days."

The most delayed monsoon arrival over Delhi - that crossed over to July - include July 19 in 2002 and July 9 in 2006 but it was in 1987 that Delhi had witnessed the most late monsoon arrival on July 26.

K'taka textbook row: BJP bows down to criticism, orders rectification

The BJP government in Karnataka has bowed down to criticism from various quarters regarding the revision of textbooks by the committee headed by the Kananda Development Authority President, Rohit Chakratirtha.

BENGALURU | Agencies

The BJP government in Karnataka has bowed down to criticism from various quarters regarding the revision of textbooks by the committee headed by the Kananda Development Authority President, Rohit Chakratirtha.

The education department has ordered the rectification of textbooks as per the demands of progressive thinkers and opposition parties.

Former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda had written to Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai to drop the revised syllabus.

The religious seers of three prominent castes of the state -- Lingayat, Vokkaliga and Kuruba -- have objected to the revised education syllabus highlighting the ill-treatment meted out to social reformers Basavanna and Kanakadasa.

Vokkaliga seers have objected to belittling of Rashtrakavi (National poet) Kuvempu, who is hailed with pride by the community, and the architect of Bengaluru, Nadaprabhu Kempegowda.

Progressive thinkers and litterateurs have raised objections to the dropping of lessons on social reformer Narayan Guru and freedom fighter Bhagat Singh. The authors have written to the state government withdrawing their permission to publish their work.

The ruling BJP, fearing a backlash as nearly all the communities have turned hostile, finally ordered the rectifications in the school textbooks.

The Karnataka government has directed to add the deleted line in the lesson on "Namma Samvidhana" (Our Constitution) that considers the contributions concerning drafting of the Indian constitution. B.R. Ambedkar is called an "architect of the constitution".

The state government has also noted that the lessons on social reformers Kanakadasa and Purandaradasa, have been trimmed in the seventh standard social science textbooks and it has directed the publication of full chapters on them.

The state government has also ordered rectification of the content on Basavanna and publication of photographs of Rashtrakavi Kuvempu.

It has directed to drop the line in the lesson on Kuvempu that he became a great writer with the help of many people, which was strongly objected to.

NO PROVISION OF STAR CAMPAIGNER IN URBAN BODY ELECTIONS

- Secretary SEC Rakesh Singh has informed that at present no provision has been made by the State Election Commission regarding star campaigner in urban body elections. The expenditure incurred in the constituency of the contesting candidate will be included in the election expenditure.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Secretary State Election Commission Rakesh Singh has informed that at present no provision has been made by the State Election Commission regarding star campaigner in urban body elections. The expenditure incurred in the constituency of the contesting candidate will be included in the election expenditure. Singh has told that in the case of the candidate of mayor, the limits of the entire urban body area and in the case of the candidate of the corporator, the limits of his/her ward are marked as the constituency. In case of meeting of more than one candidate from the same platform, the expenditure will be divided in proportion to the maximum limit of expenditure in the case of mayor and corporator. In case of meeting of more than one corporator, the expenditure will be divided equally among the corporators. Travel expenses on persons coming from outside for election campaign will not be included in the expenditure.

CM ADDRESSES REPRESENTATIVES OF SAMRAS PANCHAYATS

RS 2 LAKH AWARD WILL BE GIVEN TO DRUG-FREE VILLAGE : CM CHOUHAN

OUR PANCHAYATS SHOULD BE BETI FRIENDLY

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that drug de-addiction campaign should be launched in Samras Panchayats. A special reward of Rs 2 lakh will be given to a drug-free village. To make the village drug-free, an environment should be created through mutual dialogue and various inspirational activities. We must ensure that our Panchayats are 'Beti Friendly.' In all Panchayats including Samaras Panchayats, more respect, honour and dignity of daughters must be ensured. Sons and daughters must be treated equally. Anyone who casts an evil eye on a mother, sister or daughter will not be spared. Samras Panchayats have to set an example in the whole country by their work. Public service, development of the village, systematic and result-oriented operation of anganwadi, school, panchayat, community building should be our priority. Let us ensure that no child remains malnourished in our Panchayat.

Chouhan was addressing the felicitation ceremony of the representatives who formed Samras Panchayats through unopposed election in the Chief Minister's residence premises. Chouhan thanked the villagers for electing the Panchayat representatives unopposed.

Chief Minister inaugurated the programme by lighting the lamp and performing Kanya Pujan with a song dedicated to women empowerment. Chouhan welcomed the Panchayat representatives who came to his residence with flower shower. Chouhan said that 630 Sarpanch, 157 Janpad Panchayat members and one District Panchayat member have been elected unopposed in the state. An incentive of Rs.5 lakh will be given if a Sarpanch is elected unopposed in any Panchayat, Rs.7 lakh for the post of Sarpanch if the current and previous election is unopposed, and Rs.7 lakh will be provided if all the Panches and Sarpanchs are elected unopposed. Similarly, an incentive of Rs 12 lakh will be given to the Panchayat if women are elected to all the posts of Sarpanch unopposed and R 15 lakh will be given to the Panchayat if women are elected to all the posts of Panch and Sarpanch in the Panchayat.

Chouhan said that for the first time in the country, 50 percent reservation was made for women in the Panchayats in Madhya Pradesh itself. There is no dearth of hard work or leadership quality in women. Indore has set a record in the country in the field of cleanliness under the leadership of a woman mayor. The elected women panchayat representatives in the village panchayats will set new records in the service of the public and development of the village.

Chouhan said that Samras Panchayats will have to work by setting their own priorities. Let us vow that there will be no fights or dispute in the village. If there is any dispute, it will be resolved through dialogue, so that we will not allow our time and money to be wasted in court. At the same time, it should also be our priority to ensure that the benefits of all the schemes of the center and the state will be made available to every eligible person of the panchayat. People should sit together in the gram panchayat and decide the action plan of development for the next five years and ensure its implementation. Sanitation, tree plantation, freeing children from malnutrition, surveying the handicapped and providing them the benefits of related schemes, providing land for housing to every eligible person in the Chief Minister's land rights scheme, making the village drug-free, not allowing anti-social elements and illegal activities in the village should be made priorities.

1153 unlicensed arms seized so far

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Continuous action is being taken by the police in view of the law and order situation in the state under Panchayat and Urban Bodies General Election-2022. So far, 1153 unlicensed arms have been seized in the state. 2 lakh 57 thousand 813 licensed weapons have been deposited in the state. Action has been taken against one lakh 47 thousand 748 persons under the Preventive Section of CrPC. So far, 17 thousand 382 non-bailable warrants have also been executed.

Secretary State Election Commission Rakesh Singh has informed that 41 thousand 799 bulk litres of liquor has been confiscated in the state from June 1 to June 25, 2022. The estimated value of the confiscated liquor is Rs 4 crore 66 lakh 19 thousand 787. Maximum 12 thousand 570 bulk 4 liters of liquor has been seized in Dhar.

Three-tier panchayat (gram, Janpad and Zila) polls are underway in Madhya Pradesh. The first phase of voting was held on June 25 and the counting of votes took place at each polling centre. However, the results would be announced on July 14 and 15 after last phase of voting is completed.

21-year-old Girl Wins Panchayat Poll, Becomes Youngest Sarpanch

- In a moment of pride, Lakshika Dagar, a 21-year-old girl from Ujjain became the youngest Sarpanch (head of a village).

Team Absolute | Ujjain

In a moment of pride, Lakshika Dagar, a 21-year-old girl from Ujjain, became the youngest Sarpanch (head of a village) in Madhya Pradesh following her victory in the three-tier panchayat elections. In an added joy, Lakshika has won the title of being the youngest female sarpanch of Madhya Pradesh, a day prior to her birthday.

An atmosphere of celebration was created in the village with the announcement of the election results. Voters gave a beaucoup of blessings on the manifesto of Lakshika

Eight women candidates from the village had entered the fray for the post of Sarpanch in Chintaman Jawasia gram panchayat. Lakshika was the youngest candidate among the candidates who defeated the others by winning by 487 votes.

Lakshika Dagar holds a Post Graduate Diploma in Mass Communication and is associated with Radio Jockey and Journalism in Ujjain

Speaking to media regarding her poll victory, the newly-elected chief of the Chintaman Jawasia village said, "After filing the nomination papers, my aim was to work for the development of the village. It has been promised in the manifesto that the problem of drinking water, drain, and street light has to be solved in the village. Along with this, the promise of getting the benefit of a housing scheme for the homeless families of the village will be fulfilled."

CM PAYS TRIBUTE TO BANKIM CHANDRA CHATTOPADHYAY

Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan paid homage to Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay, the writer of the national anthem Vande Mataram on his birth anniversary, Chouhan offered floral tribute by garlanding his picture at the auditorium in Chief Minister's residence office. MLA Sitaram Adivasi also extented his tribute. Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay was responsible for awakening of national consciousness among the Indians. The national song Vande Mataram became a source of inspiration for the revolutionaries in the Indian freedom struggle. His most famous novel is 'Anandmath.' Chattopadhyay was born on 27 June 1838 in North 24 Parganas.

Panchayat poll candidate booked for using dog for campaigning

- A candidate contesting the panchayat election in Madhya Pradesh for the sarpanch's post was booked under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act for using a dog during campaigning to defame the rival candidate, police said on Monday.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A candidate contesting the panchayat election in Madhya Pradesh for the sarpanch's post was booked under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act for using a dog during campaigning to defame the rival candidate, police said on Monday.

The candidate Mukesh Darbar, who is contesting the panchayat election at a village in Khandwa district, put up a banner with a photo of his opponent Divyaditya Shah on his pet dog and took the animal out on the streets in Khandwa district. A video surfaced on the social media showing the poster put on the dog walking on the streets.

The police took action after the candidate whose photo was put on the animal lodged a complaint alleging that the act was to defame him, a police official said.

It came four days before voting in the second phase of the three-tier panchayat election is scheduled to be held on July 1. Voting in the third and final phase of the election would be held on July 8.

"Sarpanch candidate Mukesh Darbar was charged under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act as per the complaint of election agent Santosh Soni on behalf of rival candidate Divyaditya Shah," Sub-Divisional Officer Ravindra Vaskale said.

Shah's father is a Cabinet Minister in the Madhya Pradesh government while his mother was a former Mayor of Khandwa. Shah in his complaint said that Darbar's move was aimed at shaming him and his family members. He said that Darbar also violated the model code of conduct.

The police said that a complaint has also been sent to the Animal Welfare Board and the Madhya Pradesh State Election Commission to take action against Darbar.

Three-tier panchayat (gram, Janpad and Zila) polls are underway in Madhya Pradesh. The first phase of voting was held on June 25 and the counting of votes took place at each polling centre. However, the results would be announced on July 14 and 15 after last phase of voting is completed.

CM PLANTED SAPLINGS OF PEEPAL, NEEM AND KADAMBA

Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted saplings of Peepal, Neem and Kadamba in the Smart City Park on Monday. Along with CM Chouhan, Animal with Humanity organisation's Ishika Kakade, Ayan Ali, Geetika Kakade, Akshat Mehta, Pranav Kukatkar, Sarthak Mahajan, Maitri Baghel and Devina Mishra planted neem sapling. Chouhan along with senior journalists Anurag Upadhyay, Shefali Gupta, Khyati Gupta and Fauzia planted Peepal and Kadamba saplings. Working in the field of animal welfare, the organisation conducts many activities to provide treatment to needy animals, makes arrangements for their care, vaccination, food and water. Along with this, work is also being done in the direction of creating awareness among the general public to take care of the voiceless animals. Peepal is considered a tree that purifies the environment. It is also known as a shady tree. It also has religious and Ayurvedic significance. Neem, which is abundant in antibiotic elements, is known as a medicine. Kadamba tree is found everywhere in India. It is rich in medicinal properties.

Couple found dead, excessive drinking, say cops; check liquor quality, demands kin

- The police should probe if the liquor they consumed was spurious, Ramesh Vaskale, a relative of the couple, said.

Team Absolute | Khargone

A couple was found dead in a village Khargone on Monday after consuming liquor, with kin expressing suspicion on its quality, an official said.

The incident occurred at Madni Khurd village under Bhagwanpura police station limits and initial probe has found the deaths of Remsingh (40) and his wife Mamta Bai (35) might have been caused by "excessive drinking," said

Superintendent of Police Dharmveer Singh.

"Some six to eight liquor bottles were found in the couple's room. As per initial information, the liquor bottles were bought from a government shop, though source of purchase is being probed. Both were habitual drinkers," he said, adding that the post mortem report will give exact cause of death.

According to villagers, the couple, both labourers, had returned recently from Gujarat to vote in local panchayat polls.

The police should probe if the liquor they consumed was spurious, Ramesh Vaskale, a relative of the couple, said.

Wangamba Pendong is Exhibit of the Week at IGRMS

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Under the Latest and popular online series of Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya (IGRMS) entitled 'Exhibit of the Week' the "Wangamba Pendong" (A traditional rectangular wooden bag) collected from 2006 is at display. The Community of Konyak Naga, Longwa Village, Mon District, Nagaland. It's Measurement 41cms Length, 12 cms. width and 29 cms. height with top, displayed in the audience as the fourth Exhibit of the month of June, 2022 through official website, Facebook, Instagram and twitter page of the IGRMS.

In this regard Praveen Kumar Mishra, Director, IGRMS said that "Wangamba Pendong", a traditional rectangular wooden bag that belongs to the Konyak Naga tribe of Nagaland. It is made from a single piece of wood covered by a detachable wooden knobbed lid. The front part is decorated with three equal sizes of skull motifs and on the upper part of the skulls, two concave motifs are also shown in high relief form. Oblique lines are engraved all around the front rectangular border. The upper part of the lid is decorated with geometrical designs. There are three loops, two are on both sides and one is below the middle skull motifs. A cane-weaved strap is stringed within three loops for carrying and supporting purposes. The cane strap is woven in double style, half of the strap part stringed within the loops is in twined pattern and the hanging part is in a criss-cross pattern. Though the technology is simple, it is excellently done by the Konyaks who expert artisans and skilled craftsmen are. The carved figures generally have their symbolic meaning. The tools used during the carving are made locally such as chisel, axe, adze, dao etc. The object is used for keeping domestic items and carrying important materials at the time of shopping. Visitors can see this object from home through the Official site (https://igrms.com/wordpress/?page_id=8734) and Facebook site (https://www.facebook.com/NationalMuseumMankind), Instagram and twitter page of the IGRMS.

LAST DATE FOR BACKWARD CLASSES FOREIGN STUDY SCHOLARSHIP

Bhopal: Applications have been invited for scholarship for the year 2022-23 under the Madhya Pradesh Backward Classes Foreign Study Scholarship Scheme. The last date to apply online in the scheme has been fixed as June 30. Earlier the last date of application was June 20. It is noteworthy that the Backward Classes Foreign Study Scholarships are given for studies after getting research degree, for research degree and post-graduate degree. The candidates already registered on MP Scholarship Portal can fill the online application using the ID provided earlier. The necessary documents for new registration can be self-attested and submitted along with the copy of the application to the Commissioner, Backward Classes and Minorities Welfare, Madhya Pradesh, Satpura Bhawan, 2nd Floor 'D' Wing, Bhopal. The format of the application form can be obtained from the website of the department www.bcwelfare.mp.nic.in. Online application can also be made at www.scholarshipportal.mp.nic.in.

CM Chouhan, Minister Sakhlecha extends best wishes on International MSME Day

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Omprakash Sakhlecha greeted the youth of state and the country on International MSME Day. CM Chouhan tweeted 'Not only are the youth becoming self-reliant and entrepreneurs through micro, small and medium enterprises, but they are also contributing in the building of a new India.'

Chouhan said that MSMEs are giving new impetus in achieving Prime Minister Narendra Modi's goal of Make in India. Chief Minister has called upon youth of the state to become entrepreneurs and to generate jobs rather than seeking them. I stand with you and extend my best wishes.

Chouhan said that the state government is making continuous efforts to remove every hurdle th way of the youth to accomplish their dreams. MSME Development Policy 2021 is being effectively implemented in Madhya Pradesh. We are determined to provide fast investment and new employment opportunities through employment fair programmes, startup policy and cluster yojana in the state. Micro, Small and Medium sized Enterprise units play a vital role in inclusive and continuous development both locally and globally. MSME Minister Sakhlecha said this in his felicitation message on the occasion of World MSME Day. He has also greeted the entrepreneurs who are making Madhya Pradesh to become self-reliant along with the country through

startups and MSMEs. June 27 across the globe is marked as world Micro and Medium Enterprises Day. The purpose of celebrating this is to make people aware about MSME and its importance. The idea behind the celebration is to appreciate the part MSME plays for boosting the economy and growth rate of the country.

Sakhlecha said that under the leadership of PM Modi and Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, we are set on the path of self-reliance through continuous strengthening of startups and MSME ecosystem of the state and the country. Sakhlecha expressed gratitude to Modi and Chouhan for all the innovations and activities conducted by the MSME Department towards making Madhya Pradesh self-reliant.

EDITOR'S SPECS

End of the Vajpayee-Advani era

The BJP of today is not the BJP of yesterday. The party is now ideologically sharper, more focussed and more aggressive. The BJP nurtured by the trio of former Prime Minister late Atal Bihari Vajpayee, L.K. Advani and Murli Manohar Joshi was soft, approachable, amiable and also accepting and forgiving. Even its hardest critics agree that the 'old' BJP was people-friendly and sensitive. The neo-Hindutva being practiced by the new BJP, particularly in Uttar Pradesh which has been its nursery, is not even a shadow of the Hindutva of Vajpayee era that was mild and malleable. The harsh neo-Hindutva that is now being pursued by the BJP has made its cadres, particularly the youth, unruly, aggressive and even violent at times. Whether it is the Ikhlaq incident where the man was killed because 'fringe elements' suspected he had stored beef in his house, or the Bulandshahr incident where a police officer was killed while trying to control a mob that went berserk on rumours of beef being transported -- it was the saffron cadres who happily indulged in violence. Young leaders in the BJP now use a language that was unheard of two decades ago. "Hum lad ke lenge, chheen ke lenge" is now the most commonly used phrase when it comes to disputes like the Gyanvapi mosque or the Shahi Idgah row. The bulldozer scare is now so magnified that no political leader -- whether from the BJP or the opposition -- is ready to rub the leadership the wrong way. Even BJP leaders are wary of giving interviews. The new generation leaders, however, justify the aggressive BJP of the present. The new BJP has also ensured that Christians remain as alienated as Muslims in its new scheme of things.

EKNATH SHINDE'S REBELLION A WAKE-UP CALL TO ALL DYNASTS

Deepika Bhan

The happenings in Maharashtra have thrown up several questions. Is it really a rebellion against a dynasty or a political tussle to get power?

Eknath Shinde has made it a fight for "setting the party on the right path", which clearly means a return to its late supremo Bal Thackeray's core Hindutva ideology, giving up on the Maha Vikas Agadhi (MVA) alliance and going back to the "old friend", the BJP. Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray's dwindling camp and his MVA partners have accused the BJP of engineering the plot.As the political tussle rages, the country is watching the unravelling saga, which may have a bearing upon the system of dynasts in vogue in a number of political parties. Whatever the result, it may set a new course in the political setup of the country.

But the big question is: Can India shake off dynasty politics?

Some of India's most powerful political families include the Gandhis, Tamil Nadu's Karunanidhi family, Uttar Pradesh's Yadav family, Bihar's Lalu Prasad dynasty, Kashmir's Muftis and Abdullahs, Punjab's Badals, Haryana's Chautalas, Hoodas, Jindals and Bishnois, Jharkhand's Sorens and Jogis, Scindias in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, the Thackerays and Pawars in Maharashtra, Sangmas in Meghalaya, Karnataka's Deve Gowda and Yediyurappa families, the NTR and YSR families of Andhra ... The list is very long.

Can these political parties exist without the families that have been controlling them? Can we imagine the Congress without the Gandhis, National Conference without the Abdullahs, RJD minus Lalu or the Samajwadi Party without Mulayam-Akhilesh, TRS without the Raos, etc, etc? In fact, It may be a difficult proposition, perhaps in most of these parties the family without the party seems to be an unacceptable concept. The party without the family nameplate, or the owner family sans the party, both seem like impossible ideas.

Except for the Congress, which briefly had two non-Gandhis at the helm, the rest have not deviated from the family ownership pattern. These parties have seen family feuds, some breaking away and joining rivals or forming new parties, but the family's hold has not been diluted. Non-family leaders keep trudging along, bowing to the dynasty and fading away in the course of time.

Challenge to the dynasty

The sudden implosion in Maharashtra's Shiv Sena has stunned political observers. Can an entrenched dynasty be challenged this way? Perhaps Eknath Shinde has shown the way. A 'courageous' move that has all the BJP's backing. Uddhav Thackeray's Man Friday is now the rebel.

Fifty-six years after the party was formed, the Thackerays are on the brink of losing their Sena.

It was on June 19, 1966, when Bal Thackeray formed the party that later made Hindutva its core ideology. Ironically, it is in its founding month that the party is wracked by a coup that is based on the allegations that Bal Thackrey's son Uddhav and grandson Aaditya deviated from the core ideology and went with those whom the founding father had all along opposed.

With support for him growing from within the party, Shinde wants to name his faction as Shiv Sena Bal Thackeray.The tussle within the party is heading towards a legal finish, the result may be whatever, but Shinde has shown that dynasties can be challenged.

Wake-up call for all dynasts

Maharashtra is a wake-up call for all those who believe that political inheritance and dynastic rule can fetch dividends for all time to come. Rebellions can happen and Shinde has shown the way.

The Congress has seen the G-23 rise, even though it has failed to produce results. On the other hand, the dissenting leaders are slowly ebbing away. Kapil Sibal quit the Congress after he was denied a Rajya Sabha ticket, veterans Ghulam Nabi Azad, Anand Sharma, etc. find no major role in the party now.

The Congress continues to depend on Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Vadra Gandhi, even as questions are being repeatedly raised on their ability to lead the party to election victories. Those who felt 'suffocated' left the party and some of them are doing very well in their new political addresses, notably Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and the Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia. But they chose to move out rather than rebel within the party.Dynastic politics is not the hallmark of just the Gandhi family; it is now an integral part of politics in the country. Almost all the states have their own share of parties led by dynasties.

In most of the regional dynasty-led parties, voices are raised from time to time, but the rebels just move away to join other parties. The iron grip of the regional satraps on their parties does not allow anyone outside the family to rise.

The BJP has been raking up the 'vices' of dynasty politics and Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been consistently attacking the Gandhis and the regional dynasties. "Democracy in the country will be strengthened only when all political parties shun dynasty politics and allow the youth of the country to reach the top," Modi said, terming dynastic politics as a challenge to democracy.

Watershed moment

Will the Shinde rebellion help rewrite Shiv Sena history? The party saw its first rebellion when Chhagan Bhujbal left the Shiv Sena in 1991, upset that the leadership did not appreciate his work for the party. Bal Thackeray was leading the Sena when Bhujbal broke away with 18 MLAs to support the Congress, which was then in power in Maharashtra. But 12 of the 18 rebels returned to Thackeray's fold on the same day.

Then in 2005, Narayan Rane left the party; in 2006, Uddhav Thackeray's cousin Raj also left and formed his own political outfit, namely, the Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS).

Shinde's rebellion, however, is totally different from the earlier ones. After securing the support of a majority of the MLAs, his sole demand is a "return to Hindutva" and the dissolution of the MVA combine as it is "annihilating" the party.

Will Shinde be able to lead his rebellion to its logical end? That's the million-dollar question today, but his action is a warning to all other dynasts.

international

SIX MEXICAN POLICE OFFICERS KILLED IN SHOOTOUT

At least six police officers were killed during a shootout with armed individuals travelling in a convoy of about 10 armoured trucks in Nuevo Leon state, authorities said.

Mexico City | Agencies

At least six police officers were killed during a shootout with armed individuals travelling in a convoy of about 10 armoured trucks in Nuevo Leon state, authorities said.

"Four more policemen were injured and are already receiving medical attention," Xinhua news agency quoted the state's security department as saying.

The attack occurred between the towns of Lampazos and Colombia in the north of the state, where police were outnumbered by the attackers, who carried large-caliber weapons, according to the authorities.

President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador has said that violence is one of the main challenges of his administration, which began in December 2018.

BRICS MEMBER BLOCKED INVITE TO DEVELOPMENT DIALOGUE IN CHINA: PAK

Islamabad: Without naming the country, Pakistan on Monday claimed that its invitation to a development dialogue held in China on June 24 was blocked by a BRICS member.

In response to media queries about the "High-level Dialogue on Global Development", held virtually on the sidelines of the BRICS meetings, a Foreign Office spokesperson said that Pakistan is fully committed to taking bilateral and multilateral cooperation to new heights, Geo News reported.

According to the spokesperson, a number of developing and emerging economies were invited to the high-level dialogue on global development.

As the host country, China was engaged with Pakistan prior to the BRICS meetings, where decisions are made after consultations with all the members, including invitations to non-members.

"Regrettably, one member blocked Pakistan from participating," Geo News quoted the spokesperson as saying.

According to sources, India blocked Pakistan from participating at the BRICS summit.

"We hope that the organisation's future engagement will be based on principles of inclusivity, with the overall interests of the developing world in mind, and free of narrow geopolitical considerations," the spokesperson said.

He said Pakistan values China's role in advancing the interests of developing countries, adding that Islamabad, along with Beijing, has been a strong advocate for global peace, shared prosperity, and inclusive development.

CANADA SENDS 2 SHIPS TO ENHANCE NATO READINESS IN BALTIC REGION

Ottawa | Agencies

Two Canadian ships departed for a four-month deployment in the Baltic Sea and North Atlantic region on Operation Reassurance to enhance NATO readiness, the Defence Ministry said.

In a statement, the Ministry said HMCS Kingston and Summerside are deployed to contribute to NATO assurance and deterrence measures in Central and Eastern Europe, adding that the Canadian Armed Forces is maintaining a presence in European waters on a persistent rotational basis since 2014, reports Xinhua news agency.

According to the statement, between July and October 2022, HMCS Kingston and Summerside will join Standing NATO Mine Countermeasures Group One.During Operation Reassurance, the ships will participate in NATO's high readiness on sea, which can quickly and effectively respond in support of any military alliance's operations.HMCS Halifax and Montreal, currently on station as part of Operation Reassurance, will return to Canada in July.

This will be the first deployment on Operation Reassurance for both ships.

HMCS Summerside will deploy with an embarked Royal Canadian Navy clearance diving team, supported by mine countermeasure search capabilities using autonomous underwater vehicles aboard HMCS Kingston, the statement added.

UN summit opens with call to tackle ocean emergency

Lisbon (Portugal) | Agencies

With climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution exacting a devastating toll on the world's ocean -- critical to food security, economic growth and the environment -- the 2022 UN Ocean Conference opened in Lisbon on Monday with a call for a new chapter of ocean action driven by science, technology and innovation."Sadly, we have taken the ocean for granted, and today we face what I would call an 'Ocean Emergency'," United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told delegates at the opening of the conference. "We must turn the tide. A healthy and productive ocean is vital to our shared future." The theme of the conference, "Scaling up ocean action based on science and innovation for the implementation of Goal 14: Stocktaking, partnerships and solutions", in line with the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, stresses the critical need for scientific knowledge and marine technology to build ocean resilience. Human activities are placing the health of the ocean in peril.According to the World Meteorological Organization's State of the Global Climate in 2021 report, sea level rise, ocean heat, ocean acidification and greenhouse gas concentrations set new records in 2021.Additionally, marine pollution is increasing at an alarming rate, and if current trends continue, more than half of the world's marine species may be all but extinct by 2100.

The Secretary-General also stated there is good news with a legally binding instrument on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction; a new treaty that is being negotiated to address the global plastics crisis that is choking our oceans; and a week ago multilateral action on display with a World Trade Organization agreement on ending harmful fishery subsidies. But he also noted much more needs to be done."Oceans are central in geopolitical balance of power," said President of Portugal, Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, in opening remarks. "Healthcare, economic resources, energy, mobility, migrations, scientific and technological development, climate change, all of this is present either in the context or in the outcome of a pandemic, of war and of crisis."

"We must recover too much time (that) we have lost and give hope a chance, once again, before it is too late."

In line with Sustainable Development Goal 14, human health, strong economic growth and a stable climate depend on a healthy ocean. The ocean is a vital buffer against climate change, absorbing about 25 per cent of all carbon dioxide emissions. More than 3.5 billion people depend on the ocean for their food security, while approximately 120 million people work directly in fisheries and aquaculture-related activities.

The majority of these workers live in developing countries, specifically Small-Island Developing States and Least Developed Countries. More than 20 heads of state and government together with thousands of young people, business leaders, scientists and civil society representatives, will present fresh, bold and innovative solutions to ignite transformational change to effectively address the challenges the ocean is facing.

WAR SHOULD END BEFORE WINTER SETS IN: ZELENSKY TELLS G7

Kiev | Agencies

In a virtual address to the G7 Summit, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said on Monday that he wanted the ongoing war waged by Russia against his country to end before winter.

The BBC reported that the Ukrainian President asked the G7 leaders reconstruction aid, anti-aircraft defence systems, help on grain exports and security guarantees.He also asked to "intensify sanctions" on Russia.A day before his address, Zelenksy said in his address to the nation that delaying arms deliveries to Ukraine was "an invitation to Russia to strike again and again", reports the BBC."Partners need to move faster if they are really partners, not observers," he said and called for air defence systems.Over the weekend, Russia fired a barrage of missile strikes on Kiev, the central city of Cherkasy where one person died, and the Kharkiv region, along with Chernihiv in the north and Zhytomyr and Lviv west of the capital.The strike on Starychi district in Lviv was just 30 km from the border with Poland, reports the BBC.

On Saturday, the key eastern city of Severodonetsk also fell to Russia, which gave Moscow the control of nearly all of Luhansk region and much of neighbouring Donetsk, the two Russian-backed separatists regions that form the industrial Donbas.The war in Ukraine is top of the G7 agenda.

While German Chancellor Olaf Scholz has said that Russian missile strikes showed it was "right to stand together and support Ukrainians", US President Joe Biden claimed that his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin was counting on NATO and the G7 to "splinter... but we haven't and we're not going to".

Later this week, Zelensky is also expected to address the NATO Summit in Madrid.

SANJAY RAUT SUMMONED IN RS 1,034 CR PATRA CHAWL LAND SCAM

SHIV SENA LEADER SANJAY RAUT WAS ON MONDAY SUMMONED BY THE ENFORCEMENT DIRECTORATE (ED) IN CONNECTION WITH A PREVENTION OF MONEY LAUNDERING CASE PERTAINING TO THE RS 1,034 CRORE PATRA CHAWL LAND SCAM AMID THE POLITICAL CRISIS IN MAHARASHTRA.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut was on Monday summoned by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with a prevention of money laundering case pertaining to the Rs 1,034 crore Patra chawl land scam amid the political crisis in Maharashtra.

The ED has asked Raut to appear in its Mumbai office on Tuesday to get his statement recorded.

Soon after receiving the summon, the Shiv Sena leader took to Twitter to allege that he was being victimised on the instructions of the Centre.

"I just came to know that the ED has summoned me. Good! There are big political developments in Maharashtra. We, Balasaheb's Shiv Sainiks are fighting a big battle. This is a conspiracy to stop me. Even if you behead me, I won't take the Guwahati route. Arrest me," Raut tweeted.

In April, the ED had attached Raut's property in connection with the land scam.

A property worth Rs 9 crore of Raut's associate Pravin Raut and assets worth Rs 2 crore belonging to Varsha Raut, the wife of Sanjay Raut, were attached by the ED.

Pravin had eight parcels of land in Alibaug and a flat registered in the name of Varsha Raut which were attached. The ED had arrested Pravin in connection with the matter.

"We had filed a chargesheet in the matter against Pravin, Sarang Wadhawan and Rakesh Wadhawan of HDIL and Guru Ashish Construction and others were named as an accused in the chargesheet," said an ED official.The ED came to know during the probe that Pravin allegedly paid Rs 55 lakh to Varsha. This was paid from the bank account of Pravin's wife.

The money was termed as proceeds of crime by the ED.

It was also alleged that the travel expenses of Sanjay Raut were borne by Pravin which included his hotel stay and air tickets.

Chief Minister Thackeray yanks off portfolios of rebel ministers

A week into the unprecedented political crisis that threatens the survival of Maha Vikas Aghadi government, Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Monday stripped all the nine rebel ministers of their portfolios and allocated them to other existing ministers.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A week into the unprecedented political crisis that threatens the survival of Maha Vikas Aghadi government, Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Monday stripped all the nine rebel ministers of their portfolios and allocated them to other existing ministers. The decision was taken in public interest to ensure a smooth functioning of all departments and not hinder the decision-making process in view of the absence of the five cabinet ministers and four ministers of state, according to Thackeray. The work of the departments belonging to the concerned rebel Ministers and Ministers of State has been handed over to the existing Ministers and Ministers of State, till further orders, said the CMO.

The rebel group's leader and Minister Eknath Shinde's Urban Development, Public Works (Public Enterprises) have been allocated to Minister Subhash Desai, Minister Gulabrao Raghunath Patil's Water Supply and Sanitation Department goes to Anil Dattatraya Parab, Minister Dadaji Dagdu Bhuse's Agriculture and Ex-Servicemen Welfare Department and Minister Sandipan Asaram Bhumare's Employment Guarantee Scheme & Horticulture have been given to Minister Shankar Yashwantrao Gadakh, Minister Uday Samant's Higher & Technical Education Department goes to Minister Aditya Thackeray.

Similar changes have been affected for the Ministers of State -- who are currently not attending to duties since a week -- and their departments have been passed onto existing MoSs till further orders. An official said that the Chief Minister may direct any other Minister to carry out all or any of the duties in the absence of any minister when it is not possible to carry out his duties due to illness or any other reason as per the Government of Maharashtra rules.

Maha crisis: Rebels rejoice, hectic politicking in BJP

Team Absolute | Mumbai

There was jubilation in the rebel Shiv Sena legislators' camp after the Supreme Court proceedings on Monday while hectic politicking started in the Bharatiya Janata Party and the mood turned sombre in the ruling Maha Vikas Aghadig.

Rebel leader Minister Eknath Shinde tweeted: "This is the victory of Hindu HridaySamrat Balasaheb Thackeray's Hindutva and the ideology of Dharmveer Anand Dighe."

The faction - currently in a Guwahati hotel - erupted into joy and celebrations after the apex court ruling and also expressed gratitude to the Centre for providing security to the rebel MLAs and their families. Shinde is reported to have initiated the process to finalise and send a letter to the Maharashtra Governor that they have withdrawn support to the MVA government of Shiv Sena-Nationalist Congress Party-Congress. On the Opposition side, the BJP's core committee meeting got underway with top leaders present to finalise their strategy to form the next government in the state, possibly with the help of the rebel group.Shinde has claimed the support of 39 Sena MLAs, and 11 independents or other parties, totalling to 48, and the group is likely to extend its sojourn in Assam by a few more days.

Several leaders joining the meeting were seen beaming in anticipation and some flashed the 'V' sign, indicating an upbeat mood.

Hitting out again, MVA Minister Aditya Thackeray alleged that many of the MLAs were misled or abducted to join the rebel group and the party is ready to take them back. "If the rebels had courage, they would have first resigned and faced the electorate instead of all this," said Thackeray Jr.

MAMATA SLAMS CENTRE OVER ED NOTICE TO SANJAY RAUT

WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER MAMATA BANERJEE ON MONDAY HIT OUT AT THE CENTRE OVER THE ENFORCEMENT DIRECTORATE (ED)'S SUMMONS TO SHIV SENA LEADER, SANJAY RAUT OVER QUESTIONING ON AN ALLEGED MONEY LAUNDERING CASE.

Kolkata | Agencies

West Bengal Chief minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday hit out at the Centre over the Enforcement Directorate (ED)'s summons to Shiv Sena leader, Sanjay Raut over questioning on an alleged money laundering case.

"I heard that a Shiv Sena leader in Maharashtra has received summons from ED today. I heard that there is an attempt to attach his property as well. This is the BJP's tactics. Whenever they want to harass any opposition leader or topple a state government, they just let loose the central agencies.

"It is being done everywhere. The CBI and the ED will haunt you if you speak the truth. The country or life cannot move on like this. Why all are threatened like this?" she said, in her address at a government function at Burdwan.

On the other hand, Leader of Opposition in the Assembly, Suvendu Adhikari, at a rally in Cooch Behar district drew the reference of Maharashtra, in threatening to topple the West Bengal government by 2024.

"It has started with Maharashtra. Now after travelling through Rajasthan and Jharkhand, we will reach West Bengal and bring an end to the state government here by 2024," he said. All four states are currently ruled by opposition parties.

Meanwhile, the Chief Minister also lambasted the Union government on the Agnipath scheme of defence recruitment.

"After going through a training period for six months, one will be appointed for only four years. What will these youths do after that? How can one maintain the expenses for his own life from the earnings of just four years? This is nothing but another eyewash before the Lok Sabha elections. I demand the service period should be at least till 60 years and if possible, 65 years," the Chief Minister said.

She also said that she might go to New Delhi soon to settle the issue of non- payment of central dues on account of different schemes like Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) and Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), among others. She also demanded that the state governments should be allowed to operate schemes like PMGSY, which is a housing scheme, in their own names.

Banerjee also slammed the local administration over complaints from a section of farmers that they are facing difficulties while selling their products at the local Kisan Mandis.

"I will not tolerate this. If anyone faces this problem, just go to the BDO office and file your complaints. The BDO should file an FIR and I am instructing the police to take action and even arrest those who are harassing the farmers," she said.

'MLAs lives under threat, can't pursue cases in Mumbai', Shiv Sena rebels to SC

THE SUPREME COURT ON MONDAY ASKED THE EKNATH SHINDE'S FACTION, 'WHY THEY DID NOT MOVE THE BOMBAY HIGH COURT' TO WHICH THEY RESPONDED THAT 'THEIR LIVES WERE UNDER THREAT AND ATMOSPHERE WAS NOT CONDUCIVE TO PURSUE LEGAL REMEDIES IN MUMBAI.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Monday asked the Eknath Shinde's faction, 'why they did not move the Bombay High Court' to which they responded that 'their lives were under threat and atmosphere was not conducive to pursue legal remedies in Mumbai.

A vacation comprising Justices Surya Kant and JB Pardiwala asked senior advocate Neeraj Kishan Kaul, representing the rebel MLAs, why they did not move the Bombay High Court.

Kaul cited threats to the lives of the rebel Shiv Sena MLAs and their families, which made the atmosphere non-conducive to pursue cases in Mumbai.

Kaul said the petitioners said that the Deputy Speaker cannot proceed with the disqualification proceedings against them, when a resolution seeking his removal was pending. He cited the decision of the apex court in the "Nabam Rebia" case (2016).

Kaul added that a minority of the legislative party was subverting the state machinery, and their houses were being attacked. Kaul said they said, "bodies will arrive and we will be slaughtered like bulls..."

The bench said there were two things -- first the alleged threats to the lives of the MLAs, which the court has no means to verify, and the second issue the lack of time given to the MLAs to respond to the disqualification notice.

The bench noted that the important overarching issue was that the Speaker or Deputy Speaker could not continue till his continuance was under doubt.

Kaul reiterated how a Deputy Speaker could proceed with the issue when his removal was in question.

The bench queried: Is the Deputy Speaker not competent to proceed when the MLAs moved for his removal, and asked Kaul, "Why can't you raise this question before the Deputy Speaker?" Kaul replied that the Deputy Speaker cannot entertain disqualification petitions at all.

The hearing was in progress in the matter.

The top court was hearing petitions by Eknath Shinde and the rebel MLAs of Shiv Sena challenging the disqualification notices issued by the Maharashtra Deputy Speaker to them and also the appointment of Ajay Choudhari as the Shiv Sena Legislature Party leader.

The plea said the petitioner was aggrieved by the notice/summon dated June 25, which was grossly illegal, unconstitutional and in utter disregard of the judgment of this court in the matter of Nabam Rebia & Bamang Felix Vs Deputy Speaker, Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly in (2016). "That the seat of Speaker is vacant since Nana Patole resigned from office in February 2021. Thus, there is no authority who can adjudicate upon the disqualification petition under which the impugned notice has been issued to the petitioner," it added.

The rebel leaders urged the apex court to prohibit Deputy Speaker from taking any action under the Anti-Defection Law (10th Schedule of the Constitution) and issue direction against taking any action until the resolution for the removal of Deputy Speaker is decided.

Maharashtra Deputy CM Ajit Pawar tests Covid-19 positive

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar on Monday announced that he has tested Covid-19 positive.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar on Monday announced that he has tested Covid-19 positive.

He said on social media that his Covid-19 test done on Sunday has come out positive but his condition is fine.

"I am following medical advice, and shall recover from Corona soon. All those who have come in contact with me or develop symptoms should get themselves tested," Pawar urged.

With this, three top functionaries in the state -- Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray and now Deputy CM Ajit Pawar -- have been infected by Covid-19 in the past one week.

PIL in Bombay HC seeks 'return to work' by rebel Ministers, MLAs

A GROUP OF ACTIVISTS AND CIVIL SOCIETY MEMBERS HAVE MOVED THE BOMBAY HIGH COURT SEEKING DIRECTIONS TO THE SHIV SENA REBEL GROUP OF MINISTERS AND MLAS TO "RETURN TO THE STATE (MAHARASHTRA) AND ASSUME THEIR DUTIES", HERE ON MONDAY.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A group of activists and civil society members have moved the Bombay High Court seeking directions to the Shiv Sena rebel group of Ministers and MLAs to "return to the state (Maharashtra) and assume their duties", here on Monday.

The petition has been filed by crusader-lawyer Asim Sarode on behalf of the activists group, comprising prominent personalities from different fields.

Among other things, he has urged the court to direct the rebel group leader Eknath Shinde "who is on unofficial leave" along with other ministers to return to the state and take charge of their duties

The PIL also has demanded "appropriate action" against Shinde, the other Ministers "for omission of duties and moral wrongs committed" leading to disrespect towards public rights and good governance.

The PIL was mentioned before a bench headed by Chief Justice Dipankar Datta and is likely to come up for hearing soon, Sarode told IANS.

The petitioners have also asked for directions to the Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray and other officials to "submit a detailed plan of assurance" mentioning the process of governance in the absence of so many Ministers.

The group of petitioners are: Utpal B Chandawar, Abhijit V Ghule-Patil, Neelima Medha K Kulkarni, S Vartak, Hemant M Karnik, Manali M Gupte and Madhavi Kulkarni.

The respondents are: Shinde, the group of rebels comprising Ministers and MLAs, the State of Maharashtra, and the state Presidents of Shiv Sena-Nationalist Congress Party-Congress of the ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) alliance.

The petition points out how the people in the state are feeling neglected and voiceless, who at many times meek viewers of the (ongoing) political drama, because "they cannot do anything to change the situation of what happens between two elections."

It highlighted the duty of all elected/appointed representatives to the legislative Assembly or Parliament not to disturb or create nuisance in 'Constitutional Governance' for their personal gain or ego' and not upset the basic expectations related to governance due to 'power politics.'

The 'power struggle' in the state has reached its heights, events are unfolding fast and it's difficult to predict how it will end.

"Forming the government is one positive action while creating situations to topple the government by hook or by crook is a definite public nuisance issue for the common citizens. Why should the citizens be compelled to tolerate the nonsense under the name of politics," the petition said.

It also questioned the manner in which the rebel group travelled from Mumbai to Surat (Gujarat) and then to Guwahati (Assam), travelling by chartered flights, living in lavish five-star hotels and asked how the elected representatives are spending such huge amounts and whether they are using 'public funds.'

Amid all this, the PIL says how the acts of these Ministers is affecting their duties and responsibilities towards the people like roads, education, health, infrastructure, etc., and "such conduct interferes with the rights of the public and affects an entire community."

"I'm In Opposition For 2-3 Days:" Union Minister's Remark In Maharashtra

BJP leader Raosaheb Danve represents Maharashtra's Jalna constituency in Lok Sabha

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Amid the tussle between the Shiv Sena leadership and a rebel faction of MLAs that threatens to topple Maharashtra's Uddhav Thackeray government, a Union Minister's remark has become the talking point.

BJP leader Raosaheb Danve, who represents Maharashtra's Jalna constituency in Lok Sabha, has made a remark at an event in his constituency that has sparked a buzz regarding the BJP's plans in the state.

"I am a minister at the centre and Bhaiyya Saheb [a reference to Maharashtra cabinet minister Rajesh Tope] is a minister in the state. I have been a Union minister for two-and-a-half years. But you (Tope) have been a minister for 14 years, so wrap up your work, time is running out," Danve said.

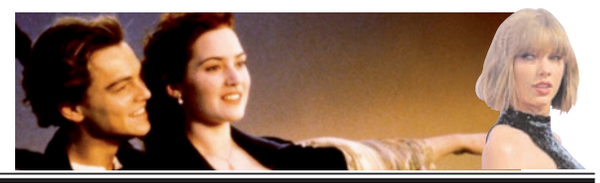
He then added, "If you want an opportunity in the future, you may think about this. Tope, I am in the Opposition for two-three more days."

Tope is from Sharad Pawar's Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and holds the portfolios of Public Health and Family Welfare, and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship in the Maha Vikas Aghadi government of Sena, NCP and the Congress. The "two-three more days" remark by Danve, Minister of State for Railways and a former state BJP chief, has triggered speculation on the BJP's next move in the state.

The Opposition party has so far maintained that the developments in the state are an internal tussle of the Sena, and they have no role in it. However, the rebels' meetings with BJP leaders at the Guwahati hotel where they are stationed clearly suggest that the Eknath Shinde-led faction has the support of the party.

The Sena's tussle has reached the Supreme Court now, with the rebel MLAs filing two petitions -- one opposing the Sena's move to disqualify 16 rebel legislators and another challenging the rejection of the no trust motion against Deputy Speaker Narahari Zirwal.

The Sena leadership has accused the BJP of engineering the mutiny in its ranks, alleging that each legislator was paid nearly Rs 40 crore to move to the rebel side and daring them to return to Maharashtra.



Jack Harlow
WEARS LIL NAS X T-SHIRT TO BET AWARDS TO PROTEST SNUB

Los Angeles | Agencies

According to 'Variety', at the time of this article's publication, it was not clear whether or not Harlow had commented on the carpet, but he has already been on the receiving end of substantial criticism for being a white rapper nominated for BET awards, so silent protest may have been the safest path. Over the past few weeks, Nas has publicly denounced the BET Awards for their failure to nominate him at this year's awards and moreover, for "the bigger problem of homophobia in the Black community," as he wrote in a tweet earlier this month.

However, the network has repeatedly stressed that the awards are voted on by fans and the network plays no role. On June 24, Nas released his latest single 'Late to Da Party', which includes a 'F**k BET' chorus line.

Nas and members of his team told Rolling Stone that before the singer's BET performance last year - in which Nas made headlines kissing one of his male backup dancers - the network "was hesitant when booking Nas, asking for his team's confirmation that he wasn't a a satanist or devil worshiper", the rapper claims.

They also reported that the performance, and the kiss specifically, left certain network producers upset.

"My relationship with BET has been painful and strained for quite some time. It didn't start with this year's nominations like most people might think," Nas told Rolling Stone in a statement.

"They did let me perform on their show last year, but only after (I gave) assurances that I was not a satanist or devil worshiper, and that my performance would be appropriate for their audience."

In response, a BET spokesperson said that the "summation of events around Lil Nas X's 2021 BET Awards performance is simply untrue."

"Since last year's performance, we have been in touch to work on other projects," the representative added. "We are still excited about his previous performances and continue to wish him well. But today, we are focused on culture's biggest night and delivering history-making moments for fans worldwide."

CHRIS EVANS UPGRADES HIS IPHONE ,SAYS HE WILL MISS THE 'HOME BUTTON'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Chris Evans has finally upgraded his old iPhone and shared a hilarious post saying that he will miss the "home button".

Evans took to Instagram to share a post about his phone upgrade. He posted a picture of his new phone alongside the old one.

He wrote: "RIP iPhone 6s. We had a good run. I'll miss your home button."

"I won't miss the nightly battle of trying to get you to charge. Or your grainy pictures. Or your sudden drops from 100% battery, to 15%, to completely dead all within minutes."

Actress Octavia Spencer commented: "OMG! I just gave up my home button last week. Transitioning to the 13 has been easier than I thought. So... #IFeelYouBuddy."

On the work front, Evans' recent release is Pixar's aLightyear'.

KENDRICK LAMAR CLOSES GLASTONBURY PERFORMANCE WITH 'GODSPEED FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS' CHANT

Los Angeles | Agencies

Kendrick Lamar has made a powerful statement about women's rights during his Glastonbury performance. The rapper closed his gig with a plea for women's rights.

The 35-year-old rapper ended his set on the Pyramid Stage with a performance of 'Savior' and before he left the stage, he addressed the Supreme Court's recent overturning of landmark ruling Roe v. Wade, which is expected to see at least 20 states restrict or make abortion illegal. Wearing a crown of thorns, he repeatedly chanted, "They judge you, they judged Christ. Godspeed for women's rights," reports aceshowbiz.com.

Earlier in his set, which opened with an instrumental interlude from 'Savior' before he launched into "United in Grief", Kendrick said it "meant a lot" to him to perform at the world-famous festival. After performing 'Love', he said: "On behalf of me and my team, I want to thank every individual out here tonight. I consider y'all family, this sh*t is special, it means a lot to me. I look out into the crowd and I see different creeds, different colours."

Hayden Christensen shares his 'crazy' life after 'Star Wars' casting

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actor Hayden Christensen says his life got "crazy" from the minute he was confirmed for 'Star Wars'. Speaking on 'The Jess Cagle Podcast', Hayden said: "It was a crazy time, everything started to change just off of the announcement that I was going to be playing this role."

"There was sort of all of this attention and I hadn't even done the film yet, the film hadn't even come out so that sort of allowed me to have some perspective on it and just realise that I was a part of this thing that sort of garnered all this attention," he added.

Despite the newfound fame, the 'American Heist' star said it was "a thrilling ride" and he has "nothing but fond memories" from his time working on the blockbusters.'

After the third film 'Return of the Sith' was released in 2005, Hayden decided to take a step back from acting and moved to the countryside. He continued, "My sister had actually moved out to the country before I did and I was just enjoying spending my time out with her and I have always had a certain affection for that environment which was just a matter of time."

'GUNS HAVE MORE RIGHTS THAN WOMEN', SAYS ACTRESS TARAJI P. HENSON

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Taraji P. Henson at the BET Awards delivered the first of three consecutive slams at the Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe v. Wade last week.

She began light, joking to the crowd: "You look successful... expensive... you look like you can afford these gas prices," she laughed, after coming onstage to Ikino's song, "The Kong's Affirmation."

"It's about that time we step into our power... It's about that time we talk about the fact that guns have more rights than a woman. It's a sad day in America. A weapon that can take lives has more power than a woman who can gave life - IF she chooses to."

The theme continued with the next presenter, as Janelle Monae wished the audience Happy Pride Day and shouted out the LGBTQ representation, reports 'Variety'. "I'd like to give a special, special shoutout to Black women, to Black queer artists, to Black nonbinary artists," she said. "These artists making art on our own terms, owning our truths and expressing ourselves freely and unapologetically in a world that tries to control and police our bodies, my body, and our decisions, my decision." She then exclaimed, "F**k you, Supreme Court," holding up a prominent m****e f****r; the expletive was bleeped but her hand gesture was not blurred. "I know we are celebrating us right now, as we should - we absolutely deserve to celebrate especially now. We must celebrate our art by protecting our right and our truths." "As always, I do this for the women - for my sisters especially,"she said. "It's a hard time right now for us, and I want to speak directly to the men: We need y'all. We need y'all to stand up. Stand up for us, stand up with us."

Jodie Sweetin pushed by LAPD at pro-choice protest

Los Angeles | Agencies

'Full House' star Jodie Sweetin was shoved by a Los Angeles Police Department officer while attending a rally protesting the Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe v. Wade, which has effectively ended federal protections of abortion rights.

According to 'Variety', a video of the Saturday's incident began to make the rounds online after it occurred.

The footage depicts an LAPD officer grabbing and pushing Sweetin before the actress falls forward to the ground. A group of fellow protestors quickly rushes to help Sweetin up, while other admonish the line of police officers. The incident appears to occur along a freeway exit that the protesters had blocked.

"What the f**k is wrong with you guys?" yells one protester before a chant of "No justice, no peace" breaks out.

A representative for Sweetin confirmed that the actress and activist was the person featured in the footage. "I'm extremely proud of the hundreds of people who showed up yesterday to exercise their First Amendment rights and take immediate action to peacefully protest the giant injustices that have been delivered from our Supreme Court," Sweetin said in a statement following the incident. "Our activism will continue until our voices are heard and action is taken. This will not deter us, we will continue fighting for our rights. We are not free until ALL of us are free." On Sunday afternoon, Sweetin also posted a response to the video, which features the caption: "The LAPD just manhandled actress/activist Jodie Sweetin at a pro-choice protest." "Thank you for posting. Love everyone out there in the streets fighting for what's right... #WeKeepUsSafe," she wrote on Instagram.

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY

Megan Fox

BCCI CONFIRMS MAYANK AGARWAL ADDED TO INDIA'S TEST SQUAD AS COVER FOR ROHIT SHARMA

THE BOARD OF CONTROL FOR CRICKET IN INDIA (BCCI) ON MONDAY CONFIRMED THAT OPENER MAYANK AGARWAL HAS BEEN ADDED TO THE TEST SQUAD AHEAD OF THE RESCHEDULED EDGBASTON TEST AGAINST ENGLAND AS A COVER FOR CAPTAIN ROHIT SHARMA, WHO TESTED POSITIVE FOR COVID-19.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on Monday confirmed that opener Mayank Agarwal has been added to the Test squad ahead of the rescheduled Edgbaston Test against England as a cover for captain Rohit Sharma, who tested positive for Covid-19.

"The All-India Senior Selection Committee has added Mayank Agarwal to India's Test squad for the rescheduled fifth Test as cover for captain Rohit Sharma, who tested positive for Covid-19. Mayank has left for the UK and will link up with the squad in Birmingham," said the BCCI in an official statement.

Earlier, on his Instagram story, Agarwal was seen in the flight with "Birmingham" typed above where he was seated, signalling that he had been called up to the Indian Test squad. According to the latest government rules on travel to the United Kingdom, Agarwal won't be subjected to any quarantine period and may be available to play immediately if needed.Agarwal, 31, had initially been left out of India's squad for the Edgbaston Test named in May this year. But a right groin injury to K.L Rahul, which ruled him out of the home T20I series against South Africa in June and Sharma's availability in doubt due to testing positive for Covid-19 means that Agarwal is now on his way to Birmingham to join the Test squad.

Agarwal, who made his Test debut against Australia on Boxing Day in 2018, has scored 1,488 runs at an average of 41.33 in 21 matches, including four centuries and six half-centuries. He was in the squad for the five-match Test series against England last year but was ruled out of the first Test at Trent Bridge due to a concussion. But with Rahul rediscovering his touch as a Test opener, Agarwal did not feature in the playing eleven for the whole tour.

Agarwal last played a Test match for India in March, during the two-match home series against Sri Lanka in Mohali and Bengaluru. He could manage to score just 59 runs at an average of 19.66. He then turned out for Punjab Kings in IPL 2022, where he was their captain.

But Agarwal had a season to forget with the bat, scoring just 196 runs in 12 innings at an average of 16.33 and a strike rate of 122.5 as Punjab finished sixth on the points table. He then appeared for Karnataka in the Ranji Trophy quarterfinal against Uttar Pradesh, making 10 and 22 in a five-wicket defeat at Alur.

India are leading the Test series 2-1 against England, before a Covid-19 outbreak in the visitors' camp saw the fifth and final Test in Manchester rescheduled to Edgbaston this year. After this, India will play three ODIs and as many T20Is, scheduled to happen from July 7 to 17.

India's Test squad: Rohit Sharma (captain), Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, Hanuma Vihari, Cheteshwar Pujara, Rishabh Pant (wicketkeeper), KS Bharat (wicketkeeper), Ravindra Jadeja, Ravichandran Ashwin, Shardul Thakur, Mohammed Shami, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj, Umesh Yadav, Prasidh Krishna and Mayank Agarwal

All-India snooker: Rayaan Razmi, Sourav Kothari make winning starts

DOUBLE JUNIOR NATIONAL CHAMPION RAYAAN RAZMI OF MAHARASHTRA AND WEST BENGAL'S SOURAV KOTHARI MADE STRONG STATEMENTS BY QUICKLY WINNING THEIR RESPECTIVE GROUP MATCHES BY IDENTICAL 4-0 MARGINS ON THE OPENING DAY OF THE NATIONAL SPORTS CLUB OF INDIA (NSCI) ALL INDIA SNOOKER OPEN 'BAULKLINE' 2022.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Double Junior National champion Rayaan Razmi of Maharashtra and West Bengal's Sourav Kothari made strong statements by quickly winning their respective group matches by identical 4-0 margins on the opening day of the National Sports Club of India (NSCI) All India Snooker Open 'Baulkline' 2022.

The 20-year-old Mumbai-based Razmi, who had won both the billiards and snooker crowns in Bhopal last December, quickly got into a rhythm and struck the ball well, while compatriot Vishal Gehani was unable to settle down and caved in without a fight in their Group-D match played at the NSCI billiards hall on Monday.

Razmi immediately got down to business and after taking the first frame, hit breaks of 33, 45 and 37 in the next three frames to complete a 4-0 (70-30, 85-12, 79-41, and 81-8) victory.

Meanwhile, in a Group-E match, the 37-year-old experienced Kothari gave a superb demonstration of excellent shot selection, accurate potting, and shrewd tactical play against 19-year-old Digvijay Kadian of Haryana, who was unable to match his senior opponent.

Kothari, who recently won both the snooker and billiards titles in the Pacific International Championship in Melbourne, started by winning a tight first frame and then comfortably pocketed the second to take a 2-0 lead.

In the third, Kadian potted much better and with only two colours remaining gained a 58-42 lead. But, he missed a difficult pink and the crafty Kothari cleverly snookered Kadian and the youngster fouled giving away six points, which narrowed the lead.

Thereafter, both attempted a safety approach before Kadian sold the pink in the centre and KOthari grabbed the chance, sinking the last two balls to clinch the frame. In the fourth Kadian hardly got a look in as Kothari fired in a break of 58 and a couple of visits later rolled in a clearance of 67 to seal a 4-0 (65-58, 75-31, 61-58, and 125-0) win.

In a Group-G all-Railway contest, India No. 6 Pushpender Singh staged a great recovery to put it across Nitesh Madan winning seven well-contested frames at 4-3 (59-71, 41-77, 91-13, 80-39, 58-65, 50-28, and 59-10).

Later, Uttar Pradesh's Vishwajeet Mohan got the better of Maharashtra's Abhishek Bajaj by a 4-2 (63-21, 57-43, 63(32)-54, 81-45, 29-70, 80-39) win.

F1 continues to push 'net-zero carbon' by 2030

Formula 1 has announced an ambitious plan to have a 'net-zero carbon' footprint by 2030.

London | Agencies

Formula 1 has announced an ambitious plan to have a 'net-zero carbon' footprint by 2030.

Following the successful introduction with new fuel (E10) comprising 10 per cent ethanol, which will reduce carbon emissions overall, F1 is working with all the major fuel manufacturers to develop a 100 per cent sustainable fuel to be introduced with a new engine formula in 2026.

"With development of a 100 per cent sustainable fuel, slashing the use of single-use plastics and reviewing travel and freight logistics - these are just some of the things Formula 1 as a sport is working on as part of its commitment to be 'net-zero carbon' by 2030," Formula One said in a release.

This initiative will cover the Formula 1 cars and on-track activity and the rest of the operations during the race. The plan comes after an intense work with the FIA, sustainability experts, Formula 1 teams, promoters, and partners, resulting in an ambitious, yet achievable delivery plan. Three years ago, as part of a wider sustainability strategy, F1 set ambitious targets and have since been working with the 10 teams, race promoters, partners, suppliers, broadcasters and the FIA to reduce the sport's carbon footprint.

With eight years to go until 2030, F1 is racing towards its target.

India v Ireland: Hardik Pandya-led visitors eye series win over spirited hosts

- After the truncated first T20I on Sunday, in which India emerged victorious by seven wickets, the Hardik Pandya-led side will be eyeing the series win over a spirited Ireland on Tuesday at Malahide.

Dublin | Agencies

After the truncated first T20I on Sunday, in which India emerged victorious by seven wickets, the Hardik Pandya-led side will be eyeing the series win over a spirited Ireland on Tuesday at Malahide.

With Pandya stressing after the first match that India are firmly focusing on the road to Men's T20 World Cup, to be hosted by Australia in October-November, they will be keen to test more players in the second T20I. With Umran Malik being handed a debut, he could be expected to continue in the eleven despite leaking 14 runs in the lone over he bowled.

India may also have to make a forced change if Ruturaj Gaikwad, who did not open the batting on Sunday due to a calf niggle, doesn't recover in time with just a day's gap between the two T20Is. The visitors will be pleased by the economical spells bowled by Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Yuzvendra Chahal in restricting Ireland to 108/4 apart from Deepak Hooda shining as a makeshift opener and Pandya providing fireworks with the bat.

On the other hand, Ireland gave a good account of themselves against a strong opposition like India, especially with young Harry Tector enthralling the capacity crowd with an unbeaten 33-ball 64, striking six fours and three sixes at a high strike rate of 193.94 and taking the hosts from 22/3 inside four overs to 108/4 in a 12-overs-per-side match. With the ball, pacer Craig Young did well with 2/18 in two overs.

They would want for experienced batters like Paul Stirling and captain Andrew Balbirnie to step up. Ireland will also need for pacer Joshua Little and off-spinner Andy McBrine to improve their performance after being taken for runs by the Indian batters. With showers expected to impact the match yet again as per the weather forecast, expect a truncated affair between India and Ireland in front of a full house, again.

The squads:

Ireland: Andrew Balbirnie (captain), Mark Adair, Curtis Campher, Gareth Delany, George Dockrell, Stephen Doheny, Josh Little, Andrew McBrine, Barry McCarthy, Conor Olphert, Paul Stirling, Harry Tector, Lorcan Tucker and Craig Young.

India: Hardik Pandya (captain), Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Ishan Kishan, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Sanju Samson, Suryakumar Yadav, Venkatesh Iyer, Deepak Hooda, Rahul Tripathi, Dinesh Karthik (wicketkeeper), Yuzvendra Chahal, Axar Patel, Ravi Bishnoi, Harshal Patel, Avesh Khan, Arshdeep Singh and Umran Malik.

India hockey team set to fine-tune skills for CWG at month-long camp in Bengaluru

- India hockey stalwarts such as goalkeeper PR Sreejesh, Krishan Pathak, Surender Kumar, Harmanpreet Singh, Varun Kumar and Amit Rohidas are among 31 players included in the Commonwealth Games camp, which began on Monday and will conclude on July 23 when the team leaves for Birmingham for the quadrennial showpiece.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

India hockey stalwarts such as goalkeeper PR Sreejesh, Krishan Pathak, Surender Kumar, Harmanpreet Singh, Varun Kumar and Amit Rohidas are among 31 players included in the Commonwealth Games camp, which began on Monday and will conclude on July 23 when the team leaves for Birmingham for the quadrennial showpiece.

After their impressive outing in Europe where the men's team lived up to the billing against Belgium and the Netherlands in thrilling FIH Pro League double-headers, the team will have a nearly four-week long national camp at the Sports Authority of India centre in Bengaluru, where they will do the final fine-tuning for the mega event. India, which is being led by Manpreet Singh, is scheduled to begin their campaign on July 31 against Ghana. Grouped in Pool B, India will also take on hosts England, Canada and Wales in the round-robin league matches. Talking about the camp, chief coach Graham Reid said, "The players got a brief six-day break to go spend time with their families after the FIH Pro League matches in Europe. I believe this break has helped players return feeling fresh both mentally and physically.

"The next three weeks, we are going to focus on improving our performance in FIH Pro League where we had the opportunity to play against the best teams in the world. I have recognised a few areas that we can do better and be consistent at. This is something we will work on in the upcoming weeks here in Bengaluru. Commonwealth Games is a mega event with world ranking points at stake so definitely we will be vying for a good show in Birmingham," added Reid.

Campers' list: PR Sreejesh, Pawan, Surender Kumar, Harmanpreet Singh, Varun Kumar, Amit Rohidas, Jugraj Singh, Jarmanpreet Singh, Manpreet Singh, Hardik Singh, Shamsher Singh, Vivek Sagar Prasad, Akashdeep Singh, Nilakanta Sharma, Gurjant Singh, Mandeep Singh, Dilpreet Singh, Sukhjeet Singh, Lalit Kumar Upadhyay, Abhishek, Gursahibjit Singh, Mandeep Mor, Sanjay, Mohd Raheel Mouseen, Sumit, Moirangthem Rabichandra Singh, Gurinder Singh, Jaskaran Singh, Ashis Kumar Topno, Krishan B Pathak, Shilanand Lakra.

3rd Test: Pope, Root put England on route to a clean sweep after Leach's five wickets

Brief scores :

New Zealand 329 and 326 all out in 105 overs (Daryl Mitchell 56, Tom Blundell 88 not out, Tom Latham 76; Jack Leach 5-66, Matthew Potts 3-66) v England 360 and 183/2 in 39 overs (Ollie Pope 81 not out, Joe Root 55 not out; Michael Bracewell 1-70). England need 113 to win.

A century partnership between Daryl Mitchell (56) and Tom Blundell (88 not out) rescued New Zealand but England were cruising towards a clean sweep in the three-match series, needing 113 runs to win the third Test with eight wickets in hand.

Leeds | Agencies

A century partnership between Daryl Mitchell (56) and Tom Blundell (88 not out) rescued New Zealand but England were cruising towards a clean sweep in the three-match series, needing 113 runs to win the third Test with eight wickets in hand.

With England needing 296 runs to win the Test, the hosts rode an unfinished partnership of 132-run between Ollie Pope (81 not out) and former skipper Joe Root (55 not out) to reach 183/2 in 39 overs at stumps on the fourth day of the match.

Pope and Root built on Jack Leach's five-wicket haul earlier in the day, to leave England well-placed to record a 3-0 series win over New Zealand.

Mitchell and Blundell have been the two best batters on tour for New Zealand. They have often come together and bailed their side out of trouble. The second innings in Headingley was no different. After England's late strikes late on day three, the pressure was on the pair to produce the goods for the Kiwis once again. They did exactly that.

Resuming on 168/5, the pair batter patiently for the first hour, before becoming a bit more adventurous with the bat. Once again frustrating the England bowlers, the two slowly but surely started to build on New Zealand's lead, nearing their half-centuries in the meanwhile.

Their partnership would reach the 93-run mark at the end of the session, as New Zealand's lead grew to 223.The hosts needed to hit back in the afternoon session to regain control of the contest and an inspired performance by Matthew Potts and Jack Leach allowed them to do just that.

Potts would get the ball rolling, trapping Mitchell after he reached his half-century. Leach would then replicate his performance from the first innings, blowing away the New Zealand tail. The wickets of Michael Bracewell, Tim Southee and Neil Wagner all came in relatively quick succession.

Boult would be the final man to depart, with Leach getting a ten-wicket haul for the match. Blundell's brilliant tour with the bat ended with him remaining unbeaten on 88. The target was set for the hosts -- 296 runs for a 3-0 series clean sweep, according to a report in the ICC website.

QOSANOV MEMORIAL ATHLETICS: DHANALAKSHMI CLOCKS PERSONAL BEST TO WIN 200M RACE; DUTEE

Almaty (Kazakhstan): Tokyo Olympian Dhanalakshmi Sekar clocked her personal best time of 22.89s to win the 200m sprint at the Qosanov Memorial 2022 athletics meet, here on Sunday.

Dhanalakshmi, who has been in good form this season, narrowly missed out on breaking a 20-year-old national record of 22.82s set by Saraswati Saha in 2002. Asian Games gold medallist Olga Safronova of Kazakhstan came second in 23.21s while Dutee Chand clocked 23.60s to finish third.

However, Dhanalakshmi will be competing only in the 100m at the Commonwealth Games 2022, which will be held in Birmingham, from July 28 to August 8.

Tokyo Olympian Tajinderpal Singh Toor, who was asked by the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) to prove his fitness and produce good results in competitions before the Commonwealth Games to seal his place in the team, did not start the event. In Tajinderpal's absence, India's Karanveer Singh (19.47m) claimed the top podium in the shot put event. Apart from Tajinderpal Singh, hammer thrower Sarita Singh has also been named provisionally in India's Commonwealth Games squad. She won the gold medal with a throw of 62.48m. Zarina Nosirjonova (57.68m) of Uzbekistan came second while her compatriot Elina Silyamieva (55.39m) came third.

Among Indian athletes who have already booked their berth for Birmingham 2022, women's javelin thrower Annu Rani and women's long jumper Ancy Sojan fine-tuned their preparations for the Commonwealth Games by winning gold medals in their respective events.

Annu Rani (62.29m) led India's clean sweep in the women's javelin throw with Shilpa Rani (56.16m) and Sanjana Choudhary (55.12m) following her on the podium.

Ancy Sojan won the long jump gold with a 6.44m leap. However, Eldhose Paul (16.55m) and Karthik Unnikrishnan (16.15m) were beaten by Azerbaijan's Nazim Babayev (16.93m) for the top spot in the men's triple jump, an olympics.com report said.

India concluded the Qosanov Memorial 2022 athletics meet, which is a World Athletics bronze-level event, with 28 medals, including 15 gold medals.

ALIA AND RANBIR ARE ALL SET TO WELCOME THEIR FIRST CHILD SOON

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Alia Bhatt rightly warded off our Monday blues by sharing a picture announcing the arrival of her baby. The actress took to her social media and wrote, "Our baby ... coming soon(sic)". The actress shared two pictures related to the same. In the first picture, she can be seen beaming with joy while having a look at the monitor. The second picture was of a happy Tiger Family.

For the unversed, a few days back, Ranbir Kapoor was seen reacting toward family planning at the Shamshera trailer launch.

When a journalist quizzed the actor about how much more work he will do post-marriage, he said that he has to make a family and do lots of work.

"Abhi Mujhe bahot kaam karna hai, family banani hai, unke liye kaam karna hai. Pehle mai khudke liye kaam kar raha tha," he said.

On the work front, Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt will soon be seen in Ayan Mukerji's directorial Brahmastra.

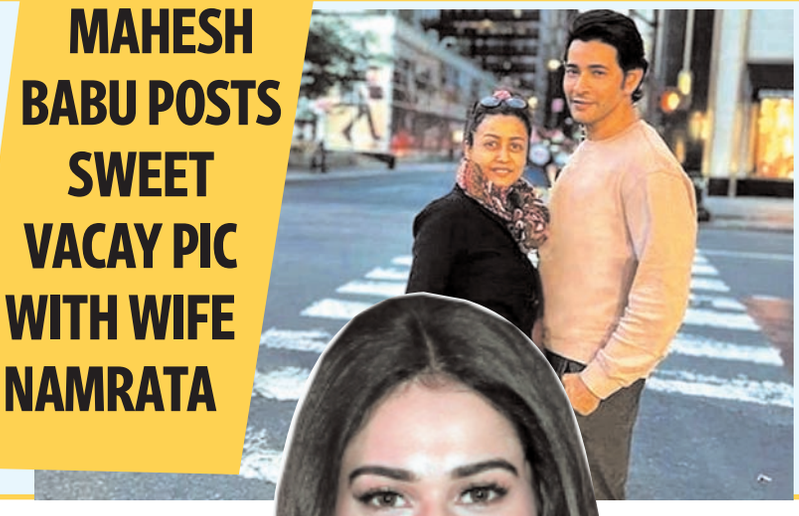
The two tied the knot this year on 14 April at RK house in Bandra in presence of their close friends and family members.

MAHESH BABU POSTS SWEET VACAY PIC WITH WIFE NAMRATA

Team Absolute | Hyderabad

Mahesh Babu is currently on holiday, having fun in New York with his wife and kids. The latest photo shared by Mahesh and his wife Namrata Shirodkar on their socials has attracted everyone's attention. Mahesh Babu, who shared this picture, captioned it, "Summer nights... city lights! Life in NYC." Post his blockbuster hit 'Sarkaru Vaari Paata', Mahesh has dedicated all of his dates to his family vacation.

Soon after arriving in Hyderabad, the actor would start working on Trivikram's upcoming film. Actress Pooja Hegde will be seen in the female lead role opposite Mahesh Babu. Mahesh will also act under 'Baahubali' director S.S. Rajamouli in the near future.



Aneri Vajani on travelling to Cape Town with Gujarati treats

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The 12th season of "Khatron Ke Khiladi" has begun in the exciting South African city of Cape Town, where the participants are now finally facing the difficulties that lie ahead of them. But for many, living far from home is one of the hardest obstacles. Aneri Vajani, a contender, has discovered a means to maintain a connection to her culture by bringing food from Gujarat to Cape Town.

The self-described "ultimate foodie," Aneri Vajani, made sure she could enjoy ghar ka khana even though she was on the other side of the globe.

Aneri while talking of the same thing, said, "While I'm eager to experience new things in Cape Town, I don't want to miss out on anything that is related to food. I am a foodie and I absolutely love Gujarati food and I can't do without it. There is plenty of theplas, fafda, farsan in my bag for all of us to share and enjoy!"

Sana Khan feels lucky to be cast opposite Sharad Malhotra

Team Absolute | Mumbai

As social media influencer and digital creator Sana Khan is gearing up for the new music video 'Dil Nisar Hua' that also features TV actor Sharad Malhotra, the actress feels extremely lucky to share screen space with Sharad.

Song is sung by the 'Srivalli' fame Javed Ali. The music video is directed by Faisal Miya and shot in beautiful Turkey.

Sana was last seen in 'Kuch Baatein' opposite Gurmeet Chaudhary for T-Series.

Expressing her excitement, Sana said, "I consider myself lucky for having one of the most respected names of the television industry as my co-stars in all my music videos. I have worked with Gurmeet in the earlier song and now in my latest video 'Dil Nisar Hua' I have got the opportunity to work with Sharad Malhotra; both have been my favourite and I always thought of working with them. As life had it for me so easy, I am hoping the audience would shower same love on me too for my work."

Apart for the new video, Sana just finished shooting another music video with director Nitin FCP opposite Zain Imam in Varanasi. The song is titled 'Muskura Lena', sung by the popular Bollywood playback singer Palak Mucchal.

'Dil Nisar Hua' will be releasing soon.

RAVEENA TANDON TO HELP MIKA FIND HIS SPECIAL ONE

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood actress Raveena Tandon will be appearing as a celebrity guest on the show 'Swayamvar - Mika Di Vohti'. Mika had expressed to the production, before the start of the show, that he wants a girl like Raveena Tandon as his life partner or 'vohti'.

Raveena says: "I am very excited to see Mika and I am going to be helping Mika with choosing that one person who will be spending her life with him. The tables have turned on the show 'Swayamvar - Mika Di Vohti' and I am very happy to be a part of this show."

"I hope Mika and his 'Vohti' will try to understand each other with time and treat each other with love and respect. I wish them all the best," she concludes.

'Swayamvar - Mika Di Vohti' airs on Star Bharat.

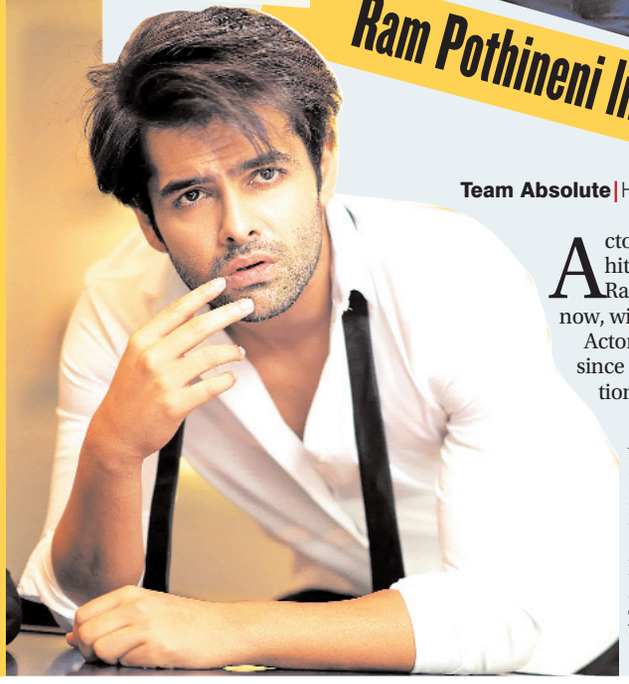
Nobojit Narzary declared winner of a dance reality show

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Nine-year-old Nobojit Narzary, who hails from Assam, has been announced as the winner of 'DID L'il Masters 5'. He is known for freestyle, hip hop and contemporary dance styles. Among the five contestants - Sagar, Nobojit, Appun, Adhyashree, and Rishita - Nobojit took the trophy and impressed the judges Remo D'Souza, Sonali Bendre, and Mouni Roy. Appun and Adhyashree were announced as the first and second runner-up, respectively.

Nobojit expressed his excitement: "It is a great feeling to have won the title and it is almost like a dream come true moment for me. My skipper, Vaibhav Sir and dance teacher, Deepika maam supported me to reach here, and I am really grateful to them." "I have had various special moments during my journey in the show, but when Remo sir kissed my feet after one of my performances, I felt on top of the world." "It was the best moment of my entire season. All the three judges - Remo Sir, Mouni ma'am and Sonali ma'am have helped boost my confidence and motivate me to do better after every performance. I truly feel lucky to win one of India's most popular dance reality shows," he added.

Ram Pothineni likely to get married later this year



Team Absolute | Hyderabad

Actor Ram Pothineni is likely to get hitched very soon. According to online sources, Ram Pothineni, who has been in a relationship for a while now, will make an announcement regarding his marriage soon.

Actor, is in love with his school classmate for years now, and it has since been reported that both families have approved of their relationship. They're going to get married soon.

Ram Pothineni's wedding is expected to take place in either August or September. The marriage's other details are being kept secret for the time being. Ram Pothineni's next acting project is the action drama 'The Warrior', set for release in July, in which he will play the major character. With the 2006 film 'Devadasu', Ram Pothineni made his acting debut, earning the Filmfare Award for Best Male Debut - South. Since then, he has appeared in superhit movies like 'Ready', 'Vunnadhi Okate Zindagi', 'Kandireega', 'Pandaga Chesko', 'Nenu Sailaja', and 'iSmart Shankar'.

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY

Aaditi Pohankar

Owned, Published and Printed by Yogendra Chaturvedi at P.G. Infrastructure and service Pvt.Ltd, Karond Bhanpur Bypass Road, Bhopal-462037 (MP) and published from 8/1, Malviya Nagar, Bhopal- 462011 ■ **Editor -** Yogendra Chaturvedi, **Advisory Editor-** Sarika Chaturvedi, **Resident Editor-** Nagendra Sharma| (*responsible for selection of news under PRB act). RNI. No. MPENG/2015/69891 Phone No. 0755-3577179, www.absoluteindianews.com, E-mail- absoluteindiadesk@gmail.com,(Bhopal will be the jurisdiction of any dispute.)