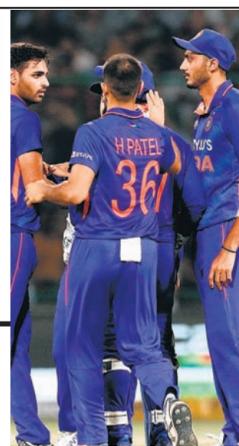


absolute india



VOL. 5, ISSUE 214, NEW DELHI | TUESDAY, JUNE 14, 2022 | ₹5 | PAGE 08

PUBLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM NEW DELHI, MUMBAI AND BHOPAL

NATION > 02

"How can anyone change History?" Nitish Kumar scoffs...



HOLLYWOOD > 06

Brie Larson exhibits her injuries from Fast & Furious 10 while flashing...



SPORTS > 07

Pressure on India to remain alive in series with a must-win...

COVID PEAKS TO BE NEW NORMAL; MASKS, BOOSTERS NECESSARY: EXPERTS

Suggested Warning

▶ **INDIA ON MONDAY RECORDED 8,084 FRESH COVID CASES, THE THIRD STRAIGHT DAY THAT THE TALLY HAS PASSED THE 8,000-MARK, WITH THE ACTIVE CASELOAD STANDING AT 47,995. THE COUNTRY ALSO RECORDED A TOTAL OF 10 DEATHS IN THE LAST 24 HOURS, TAKING THE OVERALL FATALITIES DUE TO 5,24,771, AS PER DATA FROM THE UNION HEALTH MINISTRY.**

▶ **ACCORDING TO THE HEALTH EXPERTS, THE LATEST SURGE IS DRIVEN BY SUB-STRAINS OF THE OMICRON VARIANT, NAMED BA.2, BA.4 AND BA.5.**

▶ **MAJORITY OF CASES ARE SEEN AS LESS SEVERE, REQUIRING LESS HOSPITALISATION, BUT WITH HIGH TRANSMISSION LEVELS.**



variants like BA.4, the opening up of the public places and indoor meetings, not mandating masks, reopening of the school and waning immunity," Dr Dipu TS, Associate Professor, Division of Infectious Diseases, Amrita Hospital, Kochi, told correspondent.

"The variant responsible is Omicron BA.1-BA.2 and in some cases it could be other sub lineages," added Dr Rahul Pandit, Director-Critical Care, Fortis Hospitals Mumbai, and also member of national and Maharashtra's Covid-19 Taskforce. The health experts emphasised the need for mandating masks in indoor meetings where social distancing cannot be practised; and discouraging symptomatic individuals from attending the school, colleges, workplace and also public places of worship and gatherings.

"Implementation of masking is a regulatory decision. For our own safety, masking should become a health habit. Masking is recommended in indoor spaces because ventilation in offices, halls, and auditoriums is low, therefore it will limit the transmission of infections," Pandit said.

While there is no reason to panic,

Dipu said: "The current Covid wave, though more transmissible, is milder in severity. But as the numbers rise it's difficult to ignore the fact that the immunity is waning as the majority got vaccinated a year ago."

The country has administered Covid vaccines to 195 crore people, which includes 91.69 crore total first doses and 83.37 crore second doses to those aged 18 years and above, as per the Health Ministry.

"Rising cases are probably due to a new subtype of Omicron variant. No need to get panicked about it as it's causing mostly upset respiratory tract infections with very rare severe disease. Such peaks will be expected in future as mutation in the virus is a continuous phenomenon."

Dr Harshal R. Salve, Associate Professor at Centre for Community Medicine, AIIMS

Rupee touches fresh record low against US dollar, closes at 78.04



New Delhi: The Indian currency rupee breached the Rs 78 mark against the dollar for the first time ever on Monday, hitting a new lifetime low against the US dollar.

The rupee closed Monday's trade at Rs 78.04 per US dollar, after depreciation as low as Rs 78.29 in intra-day deal.

The rupee might see more weakness ahead of the US monetary policy review meeting starting later this week, where the US Fed is expected to hike rates and showcase a more aggressive action, said Jigar Trivedi, Research Analyst, Commodities & Currencies Fundamental, Anand Rathi Shares & Stock Brokers.

However, runaway depreciation might not happen amid the central bank's intervention, Trivedi said.

Amid protests, Rahul Gandhi appears before ED in National Herald case

Rahul Gandhi was again summoned by the Enforcement Directorate on Tuesday to join the investigation in connection with the National Herald matter.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Amid protests, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday appeared before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) office in the national capital after he was summoned in connection with the National Herald case. Heavy security was deployed due to the Congress protests. A team of elite ED officials are questioning him in connection with the case in two sessions with a break of a couple of. During the lunch break, the Congress leader met his mother Sonia Gandhi, who is currently admitted at the Sir Ganga Ram Hospital. According to the sources, during the first round of questioning, Gandhi was asked about his assets and bank accounts in and outside the country.

The Congress leader was also accompanied by his sister Priyanka Gandhi Vadra. Rahul Gandhi was summoned to appear before the ED on June 2 but couldn't as he was abroad. The ED had then issued a second notice for June 13.

Meanwhile, Congress leaders and party workers protested outside the ED office as their leader appeared for questioning. But the Delhi Police used mild force and forcibly removed the protesters who were stopped at least 1 km before the ED office. The police



had placed several barricades to close Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Road. The Congress workers sat in front of the barricades and raised slogans in favour of their leader and against the present dispensation at the Centre. Several of them were detained as a precautionary measure.

"The whole nation is witnessing the ruling party's dictatorship. The police have been deployed all around in an attempt to crush the democracy. It is the democratic right of the opposition party to hold protests and the BJP is trying to suppress the opposition."

Bhupesh Baghel, CM, Chhattisgarh

"The protest Congress leaders and workers are doing today on the call of Rahul Gandhi, is not to protect democracy but to protect the attempt to save assets worth Rs 2,000 crore of Gandhi family."

Smriti Irani, Union Minister

Rachel V Thomas | New Delhi

The recent surge in Covid-19 cases in the country is part of the new normal as the virus continues to mutate, experts said on Monday and added that use of masks and booster doses are imperative to tackle the disease.

Currently, India has reported 50,000 cases in a week, the biggest since the January wave.

Maharashtra and Kerala reported the highest Covid cases, with 16,370 and 15,363 cases, respectively.

States that breached the 1,000-mark include Karnataka (3,651), Delhi (2,442), Haryana (1,617), Tamil Nadu (1,332), Uttar Pradesh (1,212) and Telangana (1,039).

Chennai and Mumbai have also recorded a sharp spike in the number of hospitalisations.

"The reasons for the current wave include, but are not limited to the newer

CONGRESS WANTS SHARAD PAWAR AS JOINT OPPN CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Congress is pushing for joint opposition candidate for the upcoming presidential elections. The party has conveyed its support to Sharad Pawar to its allies wherever the party is in the government.

Senior Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge met Sharad Pawar last Thursday, with a message from party chief Sonia Gandhi. The two leaders met in Mumbai.

The Congress is in full support if Sharad Pawar throws his hat in the ring while Mamata Banerjee has called a meeting of the opposition parties on June 15. On the same day Pawar will be meeting leaders of like minded parties. However Pawar has not responded to the suggestions till now.

Pawar, a stalwart in the opposition



rank, can upset the equation of the ruling party which is hoping to get support of other smaller parties.

Congress President Sonia Gandhi reached out to the NCP chief and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and other opposition leaders over the upcoming Presidential election.

She talked to various opposition leaders on Saturday.

No ads promoting online betting, I&B Ministry to media

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on Monday issued an advisory to print, electronic and digital media to refrain from advertising online betting platforms.

The advisory comes in light of instances of a number of advertisements of online betting websites and platforms appearing in print, electronic, social and online media.

"Betting and gambling, illegal in most parts of the country, pose significant financial and socio-economic risk for the consumers, especially youth and children," the advisory said.

The advisory noted that these advertisements on online betting have the effect of promoting this largely

prohibited activity.

"The advertisements of online betting are misleading, and do not appear to be in strict conformity with the Consumer Protection Act 2019, Advertising Code under the Cable Television Networks Regulation Act, 1995, and advertisement norms under the Norms of Journalistic Conduct laid down by the Press Council of India under the Press Council Act, 1978," it said.

The advisory has been issued in larger public interest, and it has advised the print and electronic media to refrain from publishing advertisements of online betting platforms. It has also advised the online and social media, including the online advertisement intermediaries and publishers, to not display such adver-



tisements in India or target such advertisements towards the Indian audience.

On December 4, 2020, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting had issued an advisory to private satellite TV channels to adhere to the Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI) guidelines on advertisements of online gaming which contained specific 'Do's and Don'ts' for print and audio-visual advertisements of online gaming.

NOTHING PHONE (1) TO BE MANUFACTURED IN INDIA, CONFIRMS COMPANY

New Delhi: London-based consumer electronics company Nothing on Monday announced that it will produce its first smartphone called phone (1) in India.

The company said the smartphone will be manufactured at a facility in Tamil Nadu.

"We are thrilled to announce that every phone (1) sold in India will be manufactured locally," said Manu Sharma, VP and GM of Nothing India.

"Nothing phone (1) is the real start of our journey and we cannot think of a better way to establish ourselves in India, which is a key market for us," he added.

Nothing phone (1) will be sold via Flipkart. The company is reportedly set to launch the device with a transparent design on July 21.

A recent tweet by Nothing CEO and Co-founder, Carl Pei, suggested that the device may arrive with support for wireless charging.

The upcoming smartphone will be powered by Qualcomm's Snapdragon mobile platform. It is said to be the company's first smartphone and a second device in the overall product ecosystem of the brand.

The device will come preinstalled with the Nothing OS. The device will be treated with three years of OS upgrades and four years of security updates.

For the upcoming Nothing phone (1), the company is expanding its customer support in the region, to 270 authorised service centres in more than 250 cities, as well as year-round support via the Nothing India channels.

192 metric tonnes of cow dung to be exported to Kuwait from Jaipur

The agricultural scientists of Kuwait, after extensive research, have found that the use of indigenous cow dung in the form of powder in the date crop has shown an increase in fruit size as well as an expected increase in production. This is why Kuwait based company Amor has placed an order for the import of 192 metric tonnes of indigenous cow dung from the Jaipur firm.

Team Absolute | Jaipur

For the first time in the history of India, cow dung from the country will be exported to Kuwait, that too a whopping 192 metric tonnes, said Atul Gupta, National President of the Organic Farmer Producer Association of India.

The untiring efforts made by our team for the protection of cows have paid off, he said adding "A Jaipur-based company Sunrise Agriland and Development Research Pvt Ltd has got this order."

Prashant Chaturvedi, the company's director, said that

this is probably the first time that the dung of indigenous cows from India is being imported by the Muslim-majority Kuwait. The work of packing cow dung in containers is going on under the supervision of the Customs Department at Sunrise Organic Park, located in Shripinrapol Gaushala, Tonk Road, Jaipur. As its first consignment, it will be dispatched from Kanakapura railway station on June 15, he informed.

Atul Gupta said that in 2020-21, the export of animal products from India was worth Rs 27,155.56 crore.



Apart from this, the demand for organic manure is increasing continuously. Many countries have found after research on indigenous cow dung that it can not only increase the production of crops, but the use of the

products produced from it can relieve humans from serious ailment. This is the reason that many countries have started importing indigenous cow dung along with organic manure from India.

SL official resigns after controversial statements on Indian PM, Adani



Colombo: A top Sri Lankan official, who claimed before a parliamentary panel that Prime Minister Narendra Modi allegedly influenced President Gotabaya Rajapaksa to award a wind power project to the Adani Group in this island nation, resigned on Monday, a day after retracting his earlier statement. The resignation of M M C Fernando, the chairman of state-owned power entity Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB), has been accepted, energy minister Kanchana Wijesekera said on Monday. Fernando, during a hearing of the Committee on Public Enterprises (COPE) on Friday, said that President Rajapaksa had summoned him after a meeting in November last year and told him that the wind power project be awarded to the Adani Group of India's billionaire Gautam Adani as Prime Minister Modi had urged him to do so. However, President Rajapaksa on Saturday categorically denied Fernando's statement before the parliamentary panel.

The Adani Group reportedly won contracts worth \$ 500 million to develop two wind power projects, in Mannar and in Pooneryn, in December. The government has not responded to the allegations or the letter.



"HOW CAN ANYONE CHANGE HISTORY?" NITISH KUMAR SCOFFS AT AMIT SHAH REMARK

PATNA | Agencies

In yet another snub to ally BJP, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar today said he doesn't understand how anyone can change history. "History is what it is, how can anyone change it?" he said when asked to comment on Home Minister Amit Shah's remark that it's time to revisit history books as historians have focussed only on Mughals so far, ignoring other glorious empires.

"Will you change history then? I don't understand how one can change it. History is history," he said, amused, when a reporter asked what he thought of Mr Shah's suggestion.

Language is a different issue but you can't change the fundamental history, he said when prodded on the Home Minister's insistence that Mughals have been given disproportionately more importance in history books. Shah had recently appealed to historians in the country to resuscitate the glory of the past for the present, saying that it will help in building a bright future.

The Home Minister said that history does not depend on government and that "truth comes into existence if historians start writing correct facts



about those who could not get proper space in history".

Most of the historians in India have given prominence to recording the history of Mughals only, ignoring the glorious rules of many empires like Pandyas, Cholas, Mauryas, Guptas and Ahoms, Mr Shah had said at a recent book launch.

"I want to tell something to the historians. We have many empires but historians have concentrated only on the Mughals and wrote mostly about them. The Pandya empire ruled for 800 years. The Ahom empire ruled

Assam for 650 years. They (Ahoms) had even defeated Bakhtiyar Khalji, and Aurangzeb and kept Assam sovereign. The Pallava empire ruled for 600 years. The Cholas ruled for 600 years. "The Mauryas ruled the whole country -- from Afghanistan to Lanka for 550 years. The Satvahanas ruled for 500 years. The Guptas ruled for 400 years and (Gupta emperor) Samudragupta had for the first time envisioned a united India and established an empire with the whole country. But there is no reference book on them," he had said.

In what was seen as another strong message to ally BJP, Nitish Kumar had recently asserted that there was "no need" for an anti-conversion law in the state where the government was "alert" and members of different religious communities lived in peace.

Top BJP leaders like Union minister Giriraj Singh have been pushing for an anti-conversion law. Kumar's strained relationship with the BJP, which he has many ideological differences with, has become increasingly public as he fights to hold his ground against the aggressive ally. Kumar has not been on the same page with the BJP on issues such as the Ram temple in Ayodhya, abrogation of Article 370, Uniform Civil Code, triple talaq, NRC and legislative measures for population control. Even on the issue of caste census, even though the BJP has come on board now Kumar faced great resistance initially.

BJP leaders, including some ministers in the cabinet, have been alleging that many "Rohingyas" and "Bangladeshis" have sneaked into Bihar and care must be taken not to legitimise their stay by including them in the state-level headcount of castes.

May retail inflation moderates but still above RBI's tolerance band for fifth month

▶ INDIA'S RETAIL INFLATION FOR MAY MODERATED FROM THE PREVIOUS MONTH AND CAME IN AT 7.04 PER CENT. HOWEVER, IT REMAINED ABOVE RBI'S 6 PER CENT UPPER TOLERANCE BAND FOR A FIFTH MONTH IN A ROW. DATA RELEASED ON MONDAY SHOWED.



In April, the retail inflation was at 7.79 per cent. Retail inflation tracked by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) measures the changes in prices from a retail market perspective. RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, at the recent monetary policy committee review deliberations, had categorically said that India's retail inflation is likely to stay above the tolerance level till the third quarter of FY23 before moderating below 6 per cent.

Das had also said that 75 per cent of the increase in inflation projections can be attributed to the food group. For FY23, RBI sees overall inflation at 6.7 per cent, with 7.5 per cent in Q1, 7.4 per cent in Q2, 6.2 per cent in Q3, and 5.8 per cent in Q4, taking into consideration the normal monsoon and average crude oil basket price of \$105 per barrel. Notably, wholesale inflation in the country has been in double digits for over a year now.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The retail inflation stayed well above the RBI's tolerance limit due to high fuel and food prices amidst the war in Ukraine.

Prophet row: Fresh tension in Bengal's Nadia district

KOLKATA | Agencies

After Sunday, fresh tension broke out again in West Bengal's Nadia district on Monday evening over the controversial comments made by the BJP's Nupur Sharma and Naveen Kumar Jindal on the Prophet.

The tension ensued after a group of people agitating over the controversial comments assembled and tried to block the roads adjacent to the Bethuadahari railway station as well the nearby National Highway.

However, the police this time acted tough. As initial attempts to pursue the agitators to refrain from the agitation failed, the police carried out a baton charge and fired tear gas shells to disperse the mob. A number of the agitators were arrested. A police team led by senior district police officials started a route march in the entire Bethuadahari area, cautioning people of stern action in case further attempts to disrupt normalcy are made. Meanwhile, Additional Director General, Law and Order, Javed Shamim said



that over 200 persons have been arrested during the last three days from different parts of the state for trying to disrupt normal life and cause violence. "A total of 42 FIRs have been filed, out of which 26 are from Howrah district alone," said Shamim. He also said that route marches, area domination and constant patrolling are going on in the tension-prone areas of Howrah, Murshidabad and Nadia districts. "However, the situation is more or less under control now. Fortunately, there had not been a single incidence of death," he said.

Over 150 cellphones inside Ranchi jail, reveals technical enquiry report

RANCHI | Agencies

Gangsters lodged in Jharkhand's Ranchi, Dhanbad, and Hazaribagh jails are still operating with impunity through cell-phones, as per a shocking revelation made in a technical enquiry report submitted to the government.

The Technical Cell of the Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) has found that more than 150 mobile SIMs are active inside Birsa Munda Central Jail in Hotwar, Ranchi. The police has submitted a detailed report to the state government along with the SIM card numbers, WhatsApp numbers, IEMEI numbers and virtual numbers of the connections which are active inside the jail.

Just a month ago, a technical probe had confirmed the constant threat calls being made to doctors



and businessmen by notorious gangsters from Mandal Kara jail in Dhanbad. Jailor Amar Tiwari was suspended, while departmental inquiry was initiated against Jail Superintendent Ajay Kumar. Similarly, during an investigation

in a criminal case, Delhi Police found that at least six gangsters lodged in JP Central Jail in Hazaribagh were using mobile phones to give instructions to gang members in Delhi. Delhi Police recently wrote to Jharkhand Police asking them to take action. Then, JG,

Jails, Manoj Kumar recommended that the state government take action against the Superintendent of JP Central Jail, Hazaribagh, Kumar Chandrashekar.

Out of these three jails, the most shocking case is of Birsa Munda Central Jail. Based on strong evidence about the use of about 200 mobiles inside the jail, Ranchi's Khelgaon police station in-charge, Manoj Kumar Mahato lodged an FIR on March 1, 2022.

The FIR said that the history-sheeters -- Aman Sahu, Aman Singh, Sujit Sinha, Sheetal Mahto, Harikishore Prasad alias Kishore, Suraj Kumar Singh, Raju Singh, Hari Tiwari -- who are inside the prison, used mobile phones to demand extortion and send messages to their gang members.

FIVE KILLED AS BUS OVERTURNS IN ANDHRA

▶ FIVE PEOPLE WERE KILLED AND SEVEN OTHERS INJURED IN A ROAD ACCIDENT IN ANDHRA PRADESH'S ALLURI SITARAMA RAJU DISTRICT EARLY MONDAY, POLICE SAID.

VISAKHAPATNAM | Agencies

Five people were killed and seven others injured in a road accident in Andhra Pradesh's Alluri Sitarama Raju district early Monday, police said.

A private bus overturned near Edugurallapalli in Chinturu mandal of the district.

The bus of Sangita Travels with 60 passengers was on its way to Vijayawada from Chinnappally in neighbouring Odisha. The accident occurred when the driver apparently lost control over the vehicle while



negotiating a turn. Alerted by the passersby, police rushed to the scene and launched a rescue and relief operation.

While three persons died on the spot, two others succumbed at government hospital at Bhadrachalam in neighbouring Telangana.

Three of the deceased were identified as Dhaneswar Dalapati (24), Jeetu Harijan (5) and Nunena

Harijan (2). The victims are all from Odisha and were coming to Vijayawada to work as labourers.

The survivors alleged that the bus driver was under the influence of alcohol and was driving the vehicle in a rash manner.

Police said they have registered a case and took up further investigation.

PARTY TURNS VIOLENT NEAR PATNA, MINOR STABS FRIEND TO DEATH

Patna: A party in Kanhauli village on the outskirts of Patna took a violent turn on Monday after a minor stabbed his friend to death.

The accused minor has been identified as Manish Kumar (16), who along with his friend Manoj Kumar (17) invited their friend Vikas Kumar (18) for a chicken party at his house. Ranjeet Kumar, SHO at Bihta police station, said: "Three of them were preparing to cook chicken. Vikas had asked his two friends to slice onions. While they were slicing onions, they got involved in a verbal duel over a trivial issue. In a fit of rage, Manish stabbed Vikas repeatedly with a knife." Those staying nearby assembled at the crime scene and handed over the accused to the police.

"We are interrogating the accused. The incident happened in a fit of rage. The parents of the deceased have submitted a complaint against Manish Kumar," the SHO said.

'I am fine': Chidambaram after hairline fracture

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Congress leader and former Union Minister P. Chidambaram suffered a fracture in his left rib after he was allegedly pushed by police during the party's protest outside the Enforcement Directorate's Delhi office on Monday.

However, he tweeted that he was lucky to get away with only a suspected hairline crack. He was among hundred others who protested on Monday as party leader Rahul Gandhi was summoned for questioning by the probe agency.

"When three big, burly policemen crash into you, you are lucky to get away with a suspected hairline crack! Doctors have said that if there is a hairline crack, it will heal by itself in about 10



days", Chidambaram said in the tweet. He also added in the same tweet that he is fine and "will go about work tomorrow". Congress spokesperson Randeep Singh Surjewala also tweeted a video message and said that Chidambaram was hit by

police. He also added that another Congress leader Pramod Tiwari was thrown on to the road and suffered a head injury.

"Modi government has crossed every limit of barbarism. Former Home Minister P Chidambaram was hit by police, his glasses were thrown on the ground, he has a hairline fracture in his left rib. MP Pramod Tiwari was thrown on the road. He has head injury and rib fracture. Is this a democracy?" he said in a video statement that he tweeted.

Abducted Uttar Pradesh girl rescued from Madhya Pradesh

KANPU | Agencies

Four months after she went missing, a 20-year-old girl from Uttar Pradesh's Kanpur has been found by police from Morena district in Madhya Pradesh.

The girl told the police that she had been abducted by two persons, Jitendra Gupta and Pawan, in February. The two raped her and then pushed her into prostitution.

The accused duo sold the girl to another person Manoj Sharma of Morena district for Rs 50,000.

The police have arrested Jitendra and Pawan, as well as a woman Neeta, who had assisted the former.

Investigating Officer Brij Kishore Singh said that the accused used to thrash the victim mercilessly if she resisted. Later, Jitendra called Neeta and sent the girl with



her to Jaipur. Thereafter, they sold the girl to Manoj Sharma of Morena district for Rs 50,000, who sexually exploited her. On June 9, the girl somehow managed to contact her elder sister and shared her location and suffering.

The girl's elder sister informed the police and the Investigating Officer went to Madhya Pradesh with police personnel and found the girl but Manoj managed to flee. The police have launched a search for Manoj, who is absconding.

Noida couple held for giving shelter to illegally residing Chinese nationals

NOIDA | Agencies

Two people, including one Chinese national, were arrested for providing shelter to illegally residing Chinese nationals in India, an official said on Monday.

The accused couple were identified as Xue Fei alias Kyle (Chinese national) and his girlfriend named Petekh who was a resident of Kohima, Nagaland.

The police official told IANS that two Chinese nationals on Sunday were arrested by the Sashtra Seema Bal (SSB) while they were illegally crossing the India-Nepal border.

"Both were originally residents of Wuhan, China," the official said.

He said that the duo was illegally residing in India and were on Sunday returning back. "They had no doc-



uments or passport or a valid reason to stay in India. The security forces had also recovered a number of sim cards from their possession," the official said.

During their interrogation, the duo disclosed to the security forces that they illegally came to India for a

leisure trip and were returning the same way they entered the country.

On further interrogation, they revealed that during their stay in India, they were residing at their friend's house in Greater Noida for the past 15 days. As soon as the information was shared

with the Noida police it swung into action and conducted a raid at JP Greens in Greater Noida.

From the said spot, two people (a couple) of which one was Chinese national and another a resident of Nagaland were arrested. Further investigation is

CHANGE OF NAME
I BARIYA NAYANABEN GHANSHYAMBHAI is legally wedded spouse of No. 4576709X HAV BARIYA GHANSHYAMBHAI presently residing at 2-112, Tekra Faliyu Khunvad, Khunvad Vadodara Gujarat pin : 391130 have changed my name from NAYNA BEN to BARIYA NAYANABEN GHANSHYAMBHAI Vide affidavit No. 75AA 761582.

CHANGE OF NAME
I BABITA SUNILKUMAR KALE is legally wedded spouse of No. 4581100K Nk KALE SUNIL KUMAR presently residing at Warapgaon Lokhandi Sawargaon Beed Maharashtra pin : 431517 have changed my name from BABITA KALE to BABITA SUNILKUMAR KALE vide affidavit No. 75AA 761580.

CHANGE OF NAME
I No. 4577839M L/HAV DILIP KUMAR SAHOO s/o DIBAKAR SAHOO presently residing at Vill Godijharja, PO Bhiruda PS Tigirja, Dist : Cuttack pin - 754030 have changed my son's name from SASWAT SUBHADARSHAN SAHOO to SASWAT SHUBHADARSHAN SAHOO vide affidavit No. 51AA 761267.



CM GREET'S PANKAJ FOR BAGGING THREE GOLD MEDALS

MP conquers the overall champion trophy in Khelo India Youth Games

Team Absolute | Bhopal

In the Khelo India Youth Games played in Panchkula, Haryana, State's players bagged the overall trophy with their stunning performance. Pioneering, Malkhambh has also been subsumed along with indigenous sports in Khelo India Games this year.

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has greeted and extended best wishes to State's lad Pankaj Gargama for bagging three gold medals at Malkhambh in "Khelo India Youth Games 2022". Madhya Pradesh team has become the overall champion by winning 12 medals including 5 gold, 5 silver and 2 bronze medals.

The girls and boys team won gold and silver medal respectively. Pankaj Gargama of Madhya Pradesh secured maximum 3 gold medals. He won one gold each in Hanging, Rope Malakhamb and one gold medal in overall. Apart from this, Siddhi Gupta has won gold medal in Pole Malakhambh, Pranav Kori has won silver medal in Pole Malakhambh and Indrajit Nagar has won one silver each in Rope and Hanging Malakhambh and bronze medal in all-round. Harshita Kanadkar of Madhya Pradesh team has won gold medal in Pole Malakhambh and bronze medal in Rope Malakhambh.

Sports and Youth Welfare Minister Yashodhara Raju Scindia has felicitated all the players for becoming the overall champion. She said that in Khelo India Youth Games, our players have made the state proud by winning 12 medals in indigenous sports. She has expressed her gratitude to the Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan for declaring the traditional game Malkhambh as the state game in the year 2005. Scindia said that at present 11



feder centers are being run in the state, in Khelo India our players triumphed over the Maharashtra team, well known for Malakhambh.

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has greeted and extended best wishes to State's lad Pankaj Gargama for bagging three gold medals at Malkhambh in "Khelo India Youth Games 2022".

Chouhan has said that "no great achievement is made without sacrifice and hard work. Fit and flexible body paves the way to success for a sports person. This talented player, a member of the farming family of Ujjain district, strictly adhered to attend gymnasium regularly from a young age.

Pankaj quit consuming salt for three years prior to the competition. Pankaj won 3 out of 5 gold medals in Khelo India, he is an inspiration to the

players of Malkhambh. Approximately 10 years ago an initiative was taken to declare Malkhambh as a state sport. Chouhan and Sports Minister Yashodhara Raju Scindia undertook the work of setting up feeder centre of Malkhambh in Ujjain. This provided encouragement to the players. This is how Madhya Pradesh has bagged the Overall Trophy in the Khelo India Youth Games in Panchkula, Haryana.

Madhya Pradesh got a total of 12 medals, which include 5 gold, 5 silver and 2 bronze medals. Along with Pankaj, state players Siddhi Gupta, Pranav Kori, Indrajit Nagar, Harshita Kanadkar also performed brilliantly. Madhya Pradesh is ahead in promoting Indian sports. For the first time in youth games, Malkhambh has been included.

Politics heats up in MP as Rahul Gandhi appears before ED



Congress workers in Madhya Pradesh staged a protest on Monday as party leader Rahul Gandhi appeared before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in Delhi in connection with the National Herald case.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Congress workers in Madhya Pradesh staged a protest on Monday as party leader Rahul Gandhi appeared before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in Delhi in connection with the National Herald case.

To show solidarity with their leader, several Congress workers protested outside the ED office in Indore. Some protesting Congress workers were seen holding parrots in cages, mocking the central agency for its action against the Gandhi family.

Meanwhile, politics heated up in Madhya Pradesh as leaders from both the ruling BJP and the opposite Congress got involved in a war of words. While the

Congress accused the Narendra Modi-led government of falsely implicating the Gandhi family, the BJP maintained that "why the Gandhi family is worried of questioning if it has not done anything wrong".

State Congress President Kamal Nath, who is considered close to the Gandhi family, expressed his anger by accusing PM Modi of making a political attack.

Kamal Nath said the Congress always respected the opposition during its decades of rule in the country. He also mentioned how former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi had once helped then leader of opposition Atal Bihari Bajpayee.

"When Atal Bihari Bajpai was unwell, Rajiv Gandhi used to arrange for his treat-

ment abroad," Kamal Nath said, referring to the health issues of Sonia Gandhi, who will also have to appear before the ED in the National Herald case on June 23.

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, who is in New Delhi to meet Home Minister Amit Shah and some other cabinet ministers, said that the Congress is building pressure on the ED through its protests in several parts of the country.

He said the Congress first messes up things and then puts pressure on the investigating agencies.

"Why should Rahul Gandhi worry if he has done nothing wrong? He should tell the truth to ED," Chouhan said.



CM PLANTS PEEPAL, SAPTAPARNI AND NEEM SAPLINGS

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted Peepal, Saptaparni and Neem saplings in Smart Garden Shyamala Hills on Monday along with Rashmi Agarwal, member of Sanskar Sudha Foundation Bhopal, Yashasvi and child painting artist Riya Jain. Chouhan also performed Shramdaan. Chouhan received information about the activities of the Foundation, Bhopal.

Child painting artist Riya Jain told Chouhan that she has also presented photographs to Prime Minister Modi. Her paintings have been exhibited in other

countries. Many organisations have honoured her. On the request of Jain to come to the Chief Minister's residence and present her paintings, she was invited to the CM residence. Some special artistic paintings will be presented by her to Chouhan soon.

Among the saplings planted today, Saptaparni plant is an evergreen medicinal tree, which has great importance in Ayurveda. This plant is used in the manufacture of various medicines. Similarly, Neem rich in antibiotic elements is known as the supreme medicine. Peepal is a shady tree. It purifies the environment. It has religious and Ayurvedic significance.

3 Minor Boys Drown In Well : Police

Raisen: Three boys drowned while taking bath in a 35-foot-deep well in Madhya Pradesh's Raisen district, police said on Monday. The incident took place on Sunday afternoon in Gorkha village, located about 100 km from the district headquarters in Sultanganj police station limits, they said. The three boys, aged between 12 and 16 years, stepped down into the well for a bath.

When they did not reach their homes by evening, their family members started a search and found their shoes and clothes near the well, Sultanganj police station in-charge Vimlesh Rai said. The family members and other villagers then informed the police, he said, adding that the bodies were later fished out from the well. The police are conducting a probe into the incident, he said.

CM calls on Union Education Minister

Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan met Union Education



Minister Dharmendra Pradhan in Delhi on Monday and apprised him of the skill development works in the state and invited him to inaugurate CM Rise Schools. Chouhan apprised the Union Minister Pradhan about the efforts of the State Government related to skill development. He informed that 10 Model ITIs and Global Skill Parks are being set up in the state. CM Chouhan also invited the Union Minister to visit them. The Chief Minister said that CM Rise Schools would be inaugurated as soon as the model code of conduct in effect due to elections of local bodies is over. Chief Minister Chouhan also requested Pradhan to inaugurate these schools.

MP shocker: Parents kill son, hang themselves; probe underway

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The police on Sunday, referring to a shocking incident in which three members of a family were found dead at their home in Madhya Pradesh's Bhind district, claimed it was a murder and suicide case.

Dharmendra Gurjar and his wife killed their 12-year-old son and also tried to kill their 10-year-old daughter. Later, they hanged themselves. They were found dead on Saturday.

Police made the claims on Sunday on the basis of the statement of the couple's daughter who fortunately survived and is being treated at a hospital in Gwalior district.

During questioning, the girl told the police that her parents first strangled her brother to death and then tried to kill her as well.

This shocking incident was reported early on Saturday after Dharmendra's brother and some neighbours broke the door of the house and found three members of the family dead and another (girl) unconscious.

"On Saturday morning, neighbours knocked on the door but they (couple) didn't respond. After getting no response, Dharmendra's brother broke the door and found them dead. Their daughter was immediately rushed to a nearby hospital," said a police officer. Police said since the girl was under

medical treatment, they have not asked much questions.

Meanwhile, Dharmendra's brother told the police that his brother did not had any financial problem but was distressed due to an old case of abetment of suicide against him, and that could be the reason behind the extreme step.

However, the police are yet to ascertain the exact reason behind the incident. "Family persons are sharing some old case of abetment of suicide against him, but we are still investigating to find out the exact reason that led to the family at this position. The case is still under investigation," said Shailendra Chouhan, Superintendent of Police, Bhind.

Missing girl's body found in well, cousin ends life by jumping into her funeral pyre

Jyoti alias Preeti Dangi went missing on Thursday evening. Her body was found in the well on Friday morning. Her last rites were performed on Saturday.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A 21-year-old man allegedly ended his life by jumping onto the funeral pyre of his cousin, who went missing, and later her body was found in the well at Majhgawan village under Sagar district on Saturday.

The incident has left the police puzzled. Police have started an investigation to find out the reasons behind the girl's death and subsequent suicide by her cousin. A case has also been registered in connection with the incident. Police said the girl, Jyoti alias Preeti Dangi went missing on Thursday evening. Her body was found in the well on Friday

morning. Her last rites were performed on Saturday. In the meantime, Jyoti's uncle's son Karan Dangi reached Majhgawan on his bike from the Dhar district, covering almost 450 kilometres, reported TOI.

Police further said, as per eyewitnesses, he parked his bike on the road and went to the cremation ground. He subsequently, bowed down to the blazing pyre of his sister and laid down on it.

The villagers present at the spot saw it, and they immediately rescue him. However, he died while being taken to the hospital, added police. On Sunday afternoon, Karan's last rites were performed near Jyoti's pyre.

Former sarpanch of Majhgawa village, Bharat Singh said that the youth suffered severe burn injuries after falling on his sister's pyre. He breathed his last on the way to the hospital. Baheriya police station in-charge Divya Prakash Tripathi said, "Police have registered a case in regard and the reason behind the fatal step of the youth and the reason behind the death of the girl will be known after a detailed investigation."

RESEARCHERS DISCOVER "ABNORMAL" DINOSAUR EGG

Researchers found 52 nests of titanosaurs near the national park in which one of the nests contained 10 eggs. One of these eggs was "abnormal."

Team Absolute | Indore

A unique fossilised dinosaur egg discovered in Madhya Pradesh has been making news. The set of eggs was discovered by a team of researchers from Delhi University, with one nesting within another.

The discovery was made in Dinosaur Fossil National Park in Madhya Pradesh's Dhar district and the eggs belong to titanosaurs, a diverse group of sauropod dinosaurs.

The discovery has been published in Scientific Reports, a Nature Group journal, under the title "First ovum-in-ovo pathological titanosaurid egg throws light on the reproductive biology of sauropod dinosaurs."

This is the first time that scientists have come across the rare phenomenon of eggs-within-eggs within dinosaurs. It is known to occur only in birds but never in reptiles.

"The discovery of ovum-in-ovo egg from a titanosaurid dinosaur nest suggests that their oviduct morphology was similar to that of birds opening up the possibility for sequential

laying of eggs in this group of sauropod dinosaurs. This new find underscores that the ovum-in-ovo pathology is not unique to birds and sauropods share a reproductive behavior very similar to that of other archosaurs," said the research published in the journal.

The Upper Cretaceous Lameta Formation of Central India is long known for its dinosaur fossils. The team of the scientists found 52 nests of titanosaurs sauropod near the national park in which one of the nests contained 10 eggs. The "abnormal or pathological" egg was found among them. "The abnormalities reflected in the eggshells include multiple eggshell units occurring in close contact with each other and one above the other (multi-shelled), abnormally thick or thin eggshells, abnormally shaped shell units, extra shell units blocking pore canals, and surface defects," said the research. The discovery offers further insights into the connection between the dinosaurs and reptiles, the diversity within the dinosaurs, their nesting behaviour and dinosaur reproduction.

Sensitivity and restlessness are necessary for doing big works and making achievements: CM

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that if there is yearning, longing and sensitivity to do any big work for public welfare, then the work becomes easy. The youths should have the eagerness to do something great. An experiment has been conducted for the betterment of good governance through the Chief Minister's Young Professionals for Development Programme. The public will benefit from this. If there is monitoring of plans at any level, then the work starts showing better results. The district wise review meetings being held since 6.30 am are also showing positive results. When the officers realise that the Chief Minister's eyes are on the works, then a lot starts to get better. The process of discussion with the districts will continue.

Chouhan was addressing the Research Associates of Chief Minister's Young Professionals for Development Programme (CMYPDP) at Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Good Governance and Policy Analysis (AGPA) today. Chouhan said that the tests, studies and surveys of the implementation of schemes done by the CM Fellows in the districts would be used for good governance and development.

Chouhan said that efforts are made for good governance by changing the nature of schemes, improving their process and studying the working style of the persons implementing the schemes. These measures of good governance directly benefit



the people. With the Chief Minister's Young Professionals for Development Programme, work is being done to make good governance effective in the state. In the first phase, the Chief Minister Rural Street Vendors Scheme, nutrition campaign and works of public service centres have been studied by the youths. On April 4 and 5, a workshop for the training of CM Fellows was organised by NITI Aayog in New Delhi. After this, on 28-29 April, Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Good Governance and Policy Analysis gave CM Fellows an opportunity to present their work in the PhD seminar at the Administration Academy, Bhopal. Today the experiences of the youths have come to the fore in this dialogue programme. These experiences are also being prepared in the form of a report. These reports will become an important basis for dis-

tribut level review meetings and review of welfare programmes. In the seminar, eligible young professionals selected for the Chief Minister's Young Professionals for Development Programme narrated their experiences of development processes through district, block and village level partnerships. The youths received information about the impact assessment of various schemes on priority basis from the continuous consultation and feedback from the concerned government departments. In the first phase, experiences related to Public Service Centres, nutrition campaign and Chief Minister Street Vendors Scheme were presented. The youths surveyed 430 public service centres.

Chouhan believes that youths are the foundation of every society. They build today and tomorrow. Today many schemes are going on in the state for good governance, progress and public service delivery. CM YPPDP has been launched to empower the schemes with the participation of youths keeping in mind the citizen centric administration. This programme aims to strengthen the public service delivery system by collecting, analyzing, evaluating the data of the identified schemes. Besides it aims to present important suggestions by identifying local challenges with the innovations made in the state and by interacting with the beneficiaries. Apart from this, the work of publishing important topics of development in the state is also being done. In this sequence, the monthly magazine Connect has also been published by the institute.



EDITOR'S SPECS

Why Bihar political parties want Nitish to be next Prez?

After the announcement of the presidential poll schedule, the name of Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar is once again being floated for Rashtrapati Bhavan. Interestingly, while the prominent leaders of his own party JD-U are projecting him as the ideal candidate for the post of president of India, the BJP and the RJD are supporting him. Sharawan Kumar, rural development minister in the Nitish Kumar government, projected him first on June 9 followed by Ashok Chaudhary, minister for the construction ministry. For the BJP, vice president M Venkaiah Naidu is said to be an obvious choice for president. If PM Narendra Modi and the BJP top leadership would project Nitish Kumar, it would be a political decision for them to achieve power in Bihar. In Bihar, there is a political compulsion of every party in projecting Nitish Kumar as president. The BJP desperately wants to gain poll benefits in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. Bihar is holding the key in the numbers game in terms of reaching the magical figure of 272 seats in the Lok Sabha. Since the 2020 assembly election, the leaders of both the parties were not so friendly until the last one week. It could be a gamble for Nitish Kumar to leave the CM's post and contest the presidential election. There is another theory that if Nitish Kumar gives up the control of the party, it may split and the RJD is so close to the magical figure of 122 in the Bihar assembly that it can grab some of the leaders for the formation of the government in Bihar. The RJD think tanks also believe that Kumar has no political successor to run the JD-U smoothly. In that case, the RJD will only have the BJP to challenge in the future elections.

It's important to set a precedent in acting against religious offenders

Kavya Dubey

As Nupur Sharma and Naveen Jindal were made to relinquish their BJP posts due to their comments that amount to offending socio-religious sentiments, and the salvo of diplomatic reprimands that followed, we have before us very clearly indicated twin aspects of statehood and nationhood - of state and society; and of one country in a world of many. The comments directed at the Prophet took off into a turbulence and crash-landed very badly on India's image, necessitating understanding the domestic and international impact of such a stunt.

We may call this a 'stunt' not to glorify a daring act of courage and bravery, but to acknowledge the foolhardiness of engaging in a dangerous pursuit - even if one gets away with it every time, the one time the stunt or stunt-like conduct fails, it's a major failure. And this is what the world's largest democracy has presented before us - all of us, irrespective of the frontiers and oceans and even faiths that mark us apart.

Ethos of a secular India may seem to have taken a back seat on the stage that represents this country and its people. One may argue that India is more than its political representation and that secular values are still very much alive - only not as loud and aggressive - but to the world, the voice of India as a state is that of its political representatives. And it is for this reason, half the world has lost its calm.

A tip of the iceberg of an impact was the embarrassment when the Indian Vice President was visiting Qatar, and the Indian Ambassador was summoned and a public apology from India was expected.

It is very relevant what Qatar said: "Allowing such Islamophobic remarks to continue without pun-



ishment, constitutes a grave danger to the protection of human rights and may lead to further prejudice and marginalisation, which will create a cycle of violence and hate."

In the larger spectrum of interest, it needs to be remembered that India is a part of the world and cannot exist in isolation. It is thus important to maintain cordial relations with countries of partnership, especially given that Islamic countries are a major source of fundamental drivers of the economy-fuel being the primary one.

The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) includes Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman and the UAE, and India's trade with this stood at \$ 87.36 billion in 2020-21. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been steadily developing a deeper rapport with these countries since he took over.

Reaching out to Islamic nations is in fact an extension of Gandhian values of fraternity and humanity given his role in the Khilafat Movement for the cause of the Ottomans.

From the strategic perspective, the mutual desire for political stability, peace, and security in the region binds India and GCC together, creating opportunities for greater cooperation. This pursuit

on the whole widens the scope of commerce and investments and will facilitate development of human resources. Millions of Indians reside and work in the Middle East and send in sizable remittances.

The perils of unbridled cultural intolerance

A free trade agreement with the UAE is a step in this direction. The ties between the two nations deepened to a cultural level when Modi attended the ceremony of the first Hindu temple in Abu Dhabi in 2018. Yet, in the turn of events, the UAE standing in opposition to India, along with other Gulf countries, due to the controversial statement of the top leader is a firmly conveyed message. This can also lead to undoing some recent diplomatic successes with UAE and the GCC nations.

Former diplomat Anil Trigunayat, who has served in the Arab region, is right in indicating that India has put itself in a difficult situation and "only sincere efforts at the leadership level could prevent negative fallout". The diplomatic cost of the fallout is bound to

hurt India's interest in the region.

Also, in the wake of public outrage to boycott India, which is happening in greater intensity in GCC regions, commercial withdrawal, to some extent, will hurt both economies as India's exports to GCC stood at \$28.06 billion in 2020-21. The bilateral trade at this time worth \$87.36 billion was a 27 per cent decline from the previous year. Commercial relations are thus important on both sides.

However, a case in point is a country like China, which in 2020, replaced the European Union as the GCC's largest trading partner with bilateral trade worth \$161.4 billion. The GCC block also happens to be a central pillar of China's Belt and Road Initiative as the UAE and Saudi Arabia are the second and third prime donors for Chinese projects.

Yet, when China is accused of committing crimes against humanity and possibly genocide in its north-western Xinjiang region - which has the Uyghurs and other Muslim ethnic groups - the mighty world does not see it as a problem worth vocalising. Arguably because China is economically in a place to have its own way with the world; also because the nation's domestic affairs are carried out in a strictly domestic manner and without proactively bringing it on the global stage.

This is probably where Nupur Sharma missed the point. While religious bigotry is not exclusive to any one side, the stage at which offensive thoughts are vocalised matters a great deal and goes beyond the purview of right and wrong. However, it is difficult to overlook that Nupur Sharma (and not the BJP government) is at the receiving end of all the flack as she is a woman, hence a soft target.

When local-level groups turn verbally violent against a

community, irrespective of religion, as it often happens with mobilised unemployed and indoctrinated youth for propaganda, nations of the world are unaffected. But when an office bearer of a government that has with it a massive mandate of the electorate falls for such misconduct, it goes out as the voice of India and not that of just a person.

One may be free to say things in restricted spaces, irrespective of religious affinity, but a public forum, especially one with international reach, calls for more mindful conduct. Since offensive comments along lines of religion are not uncommon, it is important to set a precedent in taking to task the offenders at the prominent levels so that taking action against offenders at local levels is less difficult.

India is watched for increased religious polarisation since the BJP rose to power under Narendra Modi. The past few weeks have been particularly spotlighted for creating occasions for religious disharmony by way of threatening vandalism to mosques for the sake of temples that were previously vandalised and demolished in their locations.

Relegating the national spokesperson of the ruling party to a "fringe element" is no escape from the quagmire the Indian government has driven itself into. As a secular state, religion must be kept at a distance so as to not overshadow the functioning of the state. Besides, the government ought to give its people greater choice of pursuits than merely religion and cultural jingoism.

If only this occasion is taken as lesson to mend the ways of "toxic politics", as dubbed by experts, can we look forward to some "achche din!"

international

India, Pakistan seem to be increasing size of nuclear weapon inventories, says arms watchdog

Stockholm | Agencies

India and Pakistan also seem to be increasing the size of their nuclear weapon inventories, a leading arms watchdog has said.

At the start of 2022, nine states -- the US, Russia, the UK, France, China, India, Pakistan, Israel and North Korea -- possessed approximately 12,705 nuclear weapons, of which 9,440 were estimated to be in military stockpiles for potential use.

About 3,732 of these warheads were estimated to be deployed with operational forces, and around 2,000 of these were kept in a state of high operational alert.

In its annual report published on Monday, the Stockholm International Peace Research (SIPRI) said that all nine nuclear-armed countries are increasing or upgrading their arsenals, Al Jazeera reported.

Overall, the number of nuclear warheads in the world continues to



decline, but this is primarily due to Russia and the USA dismantling retired warheads. Global reductions of operational warheads appear to have stalled, and their numbers may be rising again. At the same time,

both Russia and the USA have extensive and expensive programmes underway to replace and modernize their nuclear warheads, missile, and aircraft delivery systems, and nuclear weapon production facilities, SIPRI

said. The nuclear arsenals of the other nuclear-armed states are considerably smaller, but all are either developing or deploying new weapon systems or have announced their intention to do so. China is in the middle of a significant modernization and expansion of its nuclear arsenal, which appears to include the construction of over 300 new missile silos. India and Pakistan also seem to be increasing the size of their nuclear weapon inventories, while in 2021 the UK announced its intention to increase its nuclear stockpile, SIPRI said in a report.

"There are clear indications that the reductions that have characterised global nuclear arsenals since the end of the Cold War have ended," said Hans Kristensen, associate senior fellow with SIPRI's Weapons of Mass Destruction Programme and director of the Nuclear Information Project at the Federation of American Scientists (FAS), Al Jazeera reported.

US Senators reach narrow deal on gun safety

Washington | Agencies

A group of bipartisan US Senators announced a narrow gun safety deal amid public disappointment about political inaction against the rising gun violence. The plan, endorsed by 10 Democrats and 10 Republicans, includes measures to crack down on criminals who illegally straw purchase and traffic guns, strengthen criminal background check requirements for gun buyers younger than 21, and fund mental health services, reports Xinhua news agency.

Both sides touted it as a victory but the deal fell short of the White House's proposals to ban assault weapons and raise the minimum age of purchasing certain firearms from 18 to 21, among other things.

The Senators' announcement came a day after Americans gathered across the US to decry rising gun violence and urge politicians to take action in the wake of several mass shootings over the past few weeks.

At least 17 people were killed and 62 others injured in 11 mass shootings across the US earlier this month.

Last week, three people died and 14 others were injured following a shooting out-



side a nightclub in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Ten people were killed at a Buffalo, New York, grocery store on May 14, while 19 children and two teachers were shot dead at an elementary school in Uvalde, Texas, on May 24. On June 1, four people were shot and killed at a Tulsa, Oklahoma, medical building, and the next day, three people died in a shooting outside a church in Ames, Iowa.

According to the latest data from Gun Violence Archive, the US has suffered 265 mass shootings over the past five months, with more than 19,500 lives lost to gun violence.

MONGOLIA TO BUILD 'GREEN WALL' TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION

Ulan Bator | Agencies

Mongolia will build a "green wall" along its borders by planting at least 16 million trees by 2030 to combat desertification, the presidential office said in a statement on Monday.

To achieve the goal, professional agronomists have been appointed to all units of the General Authority for Border Protection, and trainings on planting and caring for trees have been provided to contract or conscript servicemen, Xinhua news agency quoted the statement as saying.

The effort is part of Mongolia's national tree-planting campaign initiated by President Ukhnaa



Khurelsukh, it said. The campaign was officially launched last October with an aim to plant at least 1 billion trees by 2030 to combat climate change and desertification.

Almost 77 per cent of Mongolian territory is affected by desertification and land degradation, according to the Ministry of Environment and Tourism.

SAUDI ARABIA LAUNCHES \$80MN PROGRAMME TO SUPPORT TOURISM

Riyadh: Saudi Arabia has launched an \$80 million programme to provide funding for small and micro enterprises in the tourism industry.

Under the Tourism Finance Program, the Tourism Development Fund (TDF) and the Arab National Bank will provide each enterprise with an maximum of 3 million riyals to support their development and boost the tourism sector, reports Xinhua news agency.

The TDF was established by Royal Decree in 2020 with a capital of 15 billion riyals to "empower one of the kingdom's most rapidly growing industries".

Tourism is one of many sectors that Saudi Arabia has been developing to diversify its economy and become less dependent on oil revenues.

RUSSIA ACCUSED OF WAR CRIMES IN KHARKIV

Kiev | Agencies

Amnesty International has accused Russia of war crimes in Ukraine, saying attacks in the second largest city of Kharkiv, many using banned cluster bombs, have killed hundreds of civilians.

The rights group made the remark in a report titled, 'Anyone Can Die At Any Time', published on Monday, the Guardian reported.

"The repeated bombardments of residential neighbourhoods in Kharkiv are indiscriminate attacks which killed and injured hundreds of civilians, and as such constitute war crimes," the report said.

"This is true both for the strikes carried out using cluster (munitions) as well as those conducted using other types of unguided rockets and unguided artillery shells.

"The continued use of such inaccurate explosive weapons



in populated civilian areas, in the knowledge that they are repeatedly causing large numbers of civilian casualties, may even amount to directing attacks against the civilian population," it added.

The Amnesty said it had uncovered proof in Kharkiv of the repeated use by Russian forces of 9N210 and 9N235 cluster bombs and scatterable land mines, all of which are banned under international

conventions, the Guardian reported. Cluster bombs release dozens of bomblets or grenades in mid-air, scattering them indiscriminately over hundreds of square metres.

Scatterable land mines combine "the worst possible attributes of cluster munitions and antipersonnel land mines", the Amnesty report said, adding that unguided artillery shells have a margin of error of over 100m. The report details how

Russian forces began targeting civilian areas of Kharkiv on the first day of the invasion on February 24. The "relentless" shelling continued for two months, wrecking "wholesale destruction" on the city of 1.5 million. People have been killed in their homes and in the streets, in playgrounds and in cemeteries, while queuing for humanitarian aid, or shopping for food and medicine," said Donatella Rovera, Amnesty International's Senior Crisis Response Adviser.

"The repeated use of widely banned cluster munitions is shocking, and a further indication of utter disregard for civilian lives. The Russian forces responsible for these horrific attacks must be held accountable." Kharkiv's Military Administration told Amnesty that 606 civilians had been killed and 1,248 wounded in the region since the war began, the Guardian reported.



A RS-STYLE 'POLITICAL THRILLER' BREWING FOR MLC POLLS IN MAHARASHTRA

Maha Congress protests outside ED offices in Mumbai, Nagpur

With 11 candidates vying for 10 seats, the upcoming June 20 biennial polls to the Maharashtra Legislative Council promise to be another 'thriller' on the lines of the just-concluded Rajya Sabha polls.

while the Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party has named five nominees. They are: Sachin Ahir, Amasha Padvi (Shiv Sena), Ramraje Naik-Nimbalkar, Eknath Khadse (NCP), Bhai Jagtap, Chandrakant Handore (Congress), and BJP's Pravin Darekar, Prof Ram Shinde, Shrikant Bhartiya, Uma Khapre and Prasad Lad. The NCP on Monday withdrew its additional candidate Shivajirao Garje, while the BJP-back independent candidate and Rayat Krantikari Sanghatana leader Sadabhau Khot also opted out of the race, leaving 11 contestants in the fray.

the MVA as the Sena's second candidate was trounced by 2 votes. In the past couple of days, the MVA has held several autopsy meetings to ascertain its actual support among the independents and smaller parties and also to work out an effective strategy to avoid a similar discomfiture in the MLC polls that will be a secret ballot. Certain independents and smaller parties, suspected to be culprits who allegedly reneged on their commitment to the MVA and favouring the BJP, are being wooed afresh by leaders of Sena-NCP-Congress to ensure their support for the 6 MLC seats the alliance is contesting. The BJP leaders continued lampooning the MVA for its RS loss and reiterated that its (BJP's) victory run has begun and it would throw out the MVA government headed by Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray in the 2024 assembly elections.

Hundreds of Maharashtra Congress leaders and activists staged noisy demonstrations outside the Enforcement Directorate (ED) offices in Mumbai and Nagpur to protest against the central agency's attempts to implicate Congress President Sonia Gandhi and MP Rahul Gandhi in alleged false cases, here on Monday.



action is being taken against them. "The Congress has been consistently raising its voice against these oppressive, tyrannical and arbitrary tactics of BJP. Last year, we took to the streets to oppose the three black agriculture laws, inflation, unemployment and other burning issues," Patole said. Besides Patole, the protesters included Congress Legislative Party Leader and Minister Balasaheb Thorat, other ministers Ashok Chavan, Amit Deshmukh, K.C. Padvi, Nitin Raut, Vijay Wadetiwar, Yashomati Thakur, Sunil Kedar, Aslam Shaikh, Satej Patil, Vishwajeet Kadam. Also joining the protests were Mumbai Congress President Bhai Jagtap, State Working Presidents Naseem Khan, Basavaraj Patil, Shivajirao Moghe, Chandrakant Handore, MLAs Praniti Shinde, Suresh Dhanorkar, Kunal Patil, MPs Rajnitai Patil and Kumar Ketkar, Atul Londhe, and leaders of various wings and of the party. Later, Mumbai Police rounded up several leaders including Patole and Jagtap, which the Congress termed as "pressures on the police" to scuttle the anti-Centre agitation.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

With 11 candidates vying for 10 seats, the upcoming June 20 biennial polls to the Maharashtra Legislative Council promise to be another 'thriller' on the lines of the just-concluded Rajya Sabha polls. The ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) allies Shiv Sena, Nationalist Congress Party and Congress have fielded two candidates each,

Leader of the Opposition Devendra Fadnis exuded confidence that akin to last week's Rajya Sabha elections, the BJP would secure victory for all its five MLC candidates. In the RS polls, the BJP managed to grab 3 seats despite having insufficient numbers, dealing a shock political blow

of the monsoon in the Arabian sea, south Gujarat, some parts of the south Madhya Maharashtra, Marathwada and some parts of south Madhya Pradesh. The Met department has predicted scattered to fairly widespread rainfall over Konkan and Goa, Madhya Maharashtra, and Marathwada, during the next five days, while isolated heavy rainfall is expected over Konkan and Goa on June 13. In Mumbai, the sky is likely to remain cloudy with 'light to moderate rainfall. The monsoon arrived in Mumbai on June 11, delayed by two days. "Generally cloudy sky with light to moderate rain or thundershowers in the city and suburbs. Possibility of occasional intense spells," the IMD's Mumbai forecast stated. In 24 hours till Monday morning, the Mumbai island city received 2.43 mm of rainfall, followed by 0.53 mm in the western suburbs, and 0.15mm in the eastern suburbs.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Hundreds of Maharashtra Congress leaders and activists staged noisy demonstrations outside the Enforcement Directorate (ED) offices in Mumbai and Nagpur to protest against the central agency's attempts to implicate Congress President Sonia Gandhi and MP Rahul Gandhi in alleged false cases,

here on Monday. The leaders and activists gathered near the ED offices in the state capital and the second capital (Nagpur), shouted slogans against the BJP, ED, and flayed attempts to muzzle the Opposition parties. Leading the agitation, state party President Nana Patole slammed the BJP government at the Centre for pursuing 'political vendetta' against Congress President Sonia Gandhi and MP Rahul Gandhi as part of its conspiracy to 'silence the Opposition parties' by misusing central probe agencies. "In tune with this ploy, the ED has served notices to Sonijai and Rahulji to trap them in a fake case. The BJP is working in violation of the democratic principles and the Constitution. The Centre has turned agencies like ED, CBI, IT, NCB into its puppets and are deploying them to crush the Opposition parties' voice," said Patole. The Congress chief said as part of BJP's designs, opposition parties or their senior leaders across the country in non-BJP ruled states are being systematically targeted, raided and

Southwest monsoon advances further to parts of Maharashtra; light to moderate rain likely in Mumbai: IMD

Team 'Major' meets Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray

▶ THE MET DEPARTMENT HAS PREDICTED SCATTERED TO FAIRLY WIDESPREAD RAINFALL OVER KONKAN AND GOA, MADHYA MAHARASHTRA, AND MARATHWADA, DURING THE NEXT FIVE DAYS, WHILE ISOLATED HEAVY RAINFALL IS EXPECTED OVER KONKAN AND GOA ON JUNE 13.



of the monsoon in the Arabian sea, south Gujarat, some parts of the south Madhya Maharashtra, Marathwada and some parts of south Madhya Pradesh. The Met department has predicted scattered to fairly widespread rainfall over Konkan and Goa, Madhya Maharashtra, and Marathwada, during the next five days, while isolated heavy rainfall is expected over Konkan and Goa on June 13. In Mumbai, the sky is likely to remain cloudy with 'light to moderate rainfall. The monsoon arrived in Mumbai on June 11, delayed by two days. "Generally cloudy sky with light to moderate rain or thundershowers in the city and suburbs. Possibility of occasional intense spells," the IMD's Mumbai forecast stated. In 24 hours till Monday morning, the Mumbai island city received 2.43 mm of rainfall, followed by 0.53 mm in the western suburbs, and 0.15mm in the eastern suburbs.

Adivi Sesh, who played Major Sandeep Unnikrishnan in the blockbuster film 'Major', along with director Sashi Kiran Tikka and lead actress Saiee Manjrekar met Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, who complimented the cast and crew on the film's success.



Kiran Tikka and lead actress Saiee Manjrekar met Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, who complimented the cast and crew on the film's success. "Major" isn't just a movie; it's a cultural phenomenon. Major Sandeep Unnikrishnan laid down his life fighting for the country in the 26/11 Mumbai attacks, and the team should be appreciated

for how they depicted his life and valour," the Chief Minister remarked. Along with box office success, 'Major' has received positive feedback from people from all walks of life. The film premiered on June 3 and has been receiving critical acclaim ever since. Prakash Raj, Revathi, Shobhita, and others have important roles in the movie.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The southwest monsoon has further advanced into the Konkan region, most parts of the

Madhya Maharashtra, and many areas in Marathwada, an IMD official said here on Monday. According to the India Meteorological Department, Mumbai and its suburbs are likely to receive light to moderate rain or thundershowers.

Currently, the northern limit or the "advancement line of monsoon" is at Nandurbar, Jalgaon, and Parbhani and it will further advance due to favourable weather conditions, he said. He said the next 48 hours are favourable for further advancement

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Adivi Sesh, who played Major Sandeep Unnikrishnan in the blockbuster film 'Major', along with director Sashi

TIGER KILLS MAN AS MOTHER, WIFE SCREAMED IN HORROR

A local leader said that the growing incidents of man-wild animal conflict need to be curbed or else villagers would launch an agitation.

Chandrapuri | Agencies

A 50-year-old man was mauled to death by a tiger in Brahmapuri tehsil of Maharashtra's Chandrapur district on Sunday afternoon, when he had gone to a forest area along with his mother and wife to collect some wood, an official said. The victim, a labourer, was identified as Rajendra Arjun Kamdi, the resident of Halda village in Brahmapuri, he said. A senior forest department official from Brahmapuri forest range said, "The man had gone to a nearby forest to collect

wood to build fence around his residence along with mother and wife. The tiger lurking in the bushes attacked him, in which he died on the spot. After his mother and wife raised an alarm, the feline disappeared from the spot." After being informed, local villagers and the forest personnel reached spot. The incident created panic among the residents of nearby villages. A local leader said that the growing incidents of man-wild animal conflict need to be curbed or else villagers would launch an agitation.

PM TO UNVEIL INDIA'S 1ST UNDERGROUND MUSEUM OF REVOLUTIONARIES AT MAHA RAJ BHAVAN

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the country's first-ever underground 'Gallery of Revolutionaries', a museum dedicated to the luminaries of the Indian Independence Movement, created at the Maharashtra Raj Bhavan, on June 14. The PM will throw open the gallery themed as 'Revolution Saga' that has come up in the subterranean network of 13 pre-World War-I (First WW) British era bunkers, discovered in the sprawling Raj Bhavan campus in August 2016 during the tenure of the then Governor C. Vidyasagar Rao. Later, current Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari oversaw the setting up of the Gallery of Revolutionaries under guidance of Dr. Vikram Sampat (historian) and help from South Central Cultural Centre, Nagpur. In the first phase, the museum features rebels like Vasudev Balwant Phadke, Damodar Hari Chapekar and Vishnu Hari Chapekar (Chapekar Brothers), Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak, the Savarkar Brothers - Vinayak Damodar Savarkar (Veer Savarkar) and Ganesh Damodar Savarkar (Babarao Savarkar), Anant Laxman Kanhere, Vishnu Ganesh Pingale, Vasudev Balwant Gogate, Krantiguru Lahujji Raghooji Salve, Bhikaji Rustom Cama (Madam Cama), Shivran H. Rajguru, the country's first armed fighter organisation 'Abhinav Bharat', 'Patri Sarkar', etc. There will be hundreds of others, known and unknown, who will figure in the museum in its later phases, depicting the entire 'Revolution Saga' of 90 years, from the First War of Independence in 1857 to India's Freedom in 1947, said Raj Bhavan officials. Besides the Governor, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar, Chief Justice of Bombay



High Court Dipankar Datta, other ministers and top officials shall be present for the ceremony, part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations. The gallery includes information on the freedom heroes, their role in the Independence movement, sculptures, rare photographs, murals and even details on tribal revolutionaries drawn by school-kids. The stuff on display has been sourced from the State Archives Department, Asiatic Society, Kesari Archives, Savarkar Museum, etc, and also includes a scene from the historic Coronation of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in the hall of the underground hall of the bunkers. The PM will also inaugurate the newly constructed 'Jalbhushan', which houses the

Governor's office and residence, and pray at the historic Shrigundi Temple at Raj Bhavan. Soon after the bunker's discovery, the government ordered the conservation of the underground structure which was neglected for over a century with the constant water leakages rendering the 'Jalbhushan' building standing above it architecturally unsafe. "The bunker has been conserved without compromising the security of the historic building which is the heritage of Raj Bhavan and the Governor's residence and office, 'Jalbhushan' stands on the upper side of it," said an official. A structural audit of the underground bunker - comprising 13 rooms of various sizes plus a grand 20-foot-tall entrance, a fort-like structure with a long ramp to take guns inside - was carried out and then it was strengthened by expert teams. The cells in the bunker were known as 'Shell Store', 'Gun Shell', 'Cartridge Store', 'Shell Lift', 'Central Artillery Room', 'Workshop', etc, it had a proper drainage system, clean air and natural light plus lamp recesses kept in different places to illuminate it at night. The conservationists took full care to preserve all the original features while restoring the bunker as well as now hosting the gallery of revolutionaries in that place. Incidentally, on August 18, 2019, President Ram Nath Kovind had inaugurated a virtual reality museum in the bunker, but many other rooms were empty and now have been utilised for the Revolution Saga gallery. The new 'Jalbhushan' has a history over two centuries, tracing to the days when the then Governor of Mumbai, Mountstuart Elphinstone (tenure Nov, 1819-Nov 1827) constructed a small bungalow called 'Pretty Cottage' at Malabar Hill between 1820-1825, where the present-day imposing 'Jalbhushan' now stands.

Mumbai Muslim leaders, intellectuals slam 'hate speech, death threats'

Over a hundred Muslim leaders and other intellectuals, under the banner of 'Indian Muslims for Secular Democracy' (IMSD), on Monday deplored the "divisive and hate-driven politics" of persons like suspended Bharatiya Janata Party spokesperson Nupur Sharma and also flayed death threats to her life.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Over a hundred Muslim leaders and other intellectuals, under the banner of 'Indian Muslims for Secular Democracy' (IMSD), on Monday deplored the "divisive and hate-driven politics" of persons like suspended Bharatiya Janata Party spokesperson Nupur Sharma and also flayed death threats to her life. The IMSD has also strongly condemned the terror outfit Al Qaeda for threatening retaliatory extremist acts as the fallout of Sharma's statements. The 112 signatories said that democracy is inconceivable without the freedom of free speech that is enshrined in the Indian Constitution, and all healthy democracies make a clear and principled distinction between the right to free speech and a bar on hate speech that impinges on the right to life and dignity of the marginalised. "The right to free speech includes the right to critical, rational enquiry and healthy criticism of all forms of religious beliefs and prac-

tices. In a democratic state, there should be no place for any law on blasphemy as it has a chilling effect on free speech. We therefore categorically oppose the demand by certain Muslim/Islamist/Hindu/Hindutva organisations for a blasphemy law in India," said the IMSD. While the right to criticism includes the right to offend, as also the right of those offended to protest in peaceful and lawful ways, the offended have no right to silence the offender and "no god, goddesses, prophets or saints may be invoked to justify the killing of fellow humans". The IMSD also castigated the "bulldozer raj" in BJP-ruled states, especially Uttar Pradesh where the administration and police are delivering "instant justice" through an all-in-one role of judge, jury and executioner, and said it is high time the judiciary acted suo moto to call a halt to such mockery of the law by the custodians of the law. Referring to the Dharam Sansad last December when Hindu religious leaders openly called for genocide of Indian Muslims, the IMSD said

international organisations including Genocide Watch have warned that India is on the brink of a genocidal bloodbath, but, Prime Minister Narendra Modi continues to remain silent on this. Similarly, the United States Commission for International Religious Freedom in its 2022 annual report says that "religious freedom conditions in India are taking a drastic turn downward, with national and various state governments tolerating widespread harassment and violence against religious minorities". Though persecution of Muslims has a long history here, the past 8 years have been relentless with daily threats, targeted violence, fear and intimidation, community members lynched in public, and the killings celebrated - all under the watch of the RSS-blessed, BJP-led governments at the Centre in several states, said the IMSD. "Hindutva's Hate Factory is working 24/7 to demonise Indian Muslims, vilify them and a complicit electronic media offers a ready platform for daily mud-slinging, verbal warfare under the pretence of debate. The

IMSD would also like to call out the so-called Islamic scholars who are bringing disrepute and playing with the safety and security of Muslims by participating in such prefixed TV debates," it added. Many Muslim countries recently expressed outrage over the insult to the Prophet Mohammed though they kept silent in the past 8 years, despite repeated attacks on Indian Muslims and the recent call for genocide. "IMSD is not the least surprised because these very governments have no respect for human rights and freedom of expression. We demand that these governments mend their ways, promote fundamental rights and freedoms of all citizens, in their own countries and across the globe. It is rather rich for these despotic regimes to teach us lessons in secularism and pluralism. But what can one say when our own government has created this unfortunate situation? Clearly the Modi government's headline Hindutva brand of politics has undermined India's international standing and respect among the comity of nations," said the IMSD.

Wife kills husband to claim life insurance, held

▶ A MAN WAS KILLED BY HIS WIFE AND TWO ACCOMPLICES OVER A LIFE INSURANCE OF RS 1 CRORE IN THE BEED DISTRICT OF MAHARASHTRA. ALL THE ACCUSED WERE ARRESTED.

Beed | Agencies

A 45-year-old man was killed by his wife and two accomplices over life insurance of Rs 1 crore in the Beed district of Maharashtra. The deceased was identi-

fied as Manchak Govind Pawar, a resident of Renapur in Latur. On June 11, Pawar's body was found on Beed Pimpregawan Road on the Ahmednagar Highway. The police initiated an investigation into the matter. The accused wife, Gangabai (37), attempted to pass off the murder as an accident. However, during an inquiry, the police found the wife's statement suspicious. They took her into custody where she confessed to committing the crime, along with two others, to claim his insurance money. During the investigation, it was found that the victim was brutally hit on the head because of which he died. The wife hired the killers and paid them Rs 2 lakh each to carry out the crime. A case has been registered under the relevant sections of the IPC and all the accused have been arrested.



'Squid Game' to return with second season, streamer drops intriguing teaser

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The hugely popular South Korean drama series 'Squid Game' is returning with its second season. Streaming platform Netflix has dropped a brief teaser for the show on its Twitter.

Sharing the teaser, the OTT giant wrote in the tweet, "Red light GREEN-LIGHT! Squid Game is officially coming back for Season 2."

Dong-Hyuk wrote, "A Whole New

Round is Coming. It took 12 years to bring the first season of 'Squid Game' to life last year. But it took 12 days for 'Squid Game' to become the most popular Netflix series ever. As the writer, director, and producer of 'Squid Game,' a huge shout out to fans

around the world. Thank you for watching and loving our show."

Dong-Hyuk further mentioned in his letter, "And now, Gi-hun returns. The Front Man returns. Season 2 is coming. The man in the suit with ddakji might be back. You'll also be introduced to Young-hee's boyfriend, Cheol-su. Join us once more for a whole new round."

Season 1 of the show marked Netflix's biggest TV show ever, logging 1.65 billion hours of viewing in the first four weeks of its release last fall. The second season is said to premiere in late 2023 or early 2024.



Elsa Pataky asks hubby Chris Hemsworth for help to get in shape

Los Angeles | Agencies

The 45-year-old actress has upped her workouts in recent months after pushing herself hard to be in peak physical condition for her role as soldier JJ Collins in the new action film, reports aceshowbiz.com. "I've been always been really into fitness. I like doing gym or yoga, either the gym or just at home, whatever I have," Pataky, who has always been "really into fitness," said. "I've been doing more lately, because I worked really hard for the movie to just get really strong. I really felt all the changes in my body. The weights really tone your muscles and your body to keep everything strong." She admitted getting older has taken a toll on her body. She added: "I love the endorphins. Even when I'm in a low energy, working out gives me that power to just go through the day. It makes me feel really good. It makes me happy. I do that at least three times a week if I can. It's just finding the moments, even though sometimes we get busy, it's just like, 'Okay, just half an hour.'"

Pataky was able to turn to her husband and actor Chris Hemsworth for tips and advice on building muscle for the role. She previously said, "He gives good tips, especially about nutrition. He was shooting the latest 'Thor' movie while I was doing 'Interceptor', so we took turns training and looking after the kids."



BRIE LARSON EXHIBITS HER INJURIES FROM FAST & FURIOUS 10 WHILE FLASHING HER ABS

Los Angeles | Agencies

Brie Larson exhibited her bruises from Fast X training in a snap posted to Instagram on Sunday. The actress who will be making her franchise debut in the movie, flashed her washboard abs as she stripped down to an orange floral bikini while sprawling out on her carpet. In her caption, she joked, 'Summer is here but bruises from training are in every season,' along with a laughing emoji.

Brie will be making her franchise debut in the movie in which production began in late April, however her character's name is currently unknown, reports, dailymail.u



k.com.

Vin Diesel recently revealed Rita Moreno will play his character's grandmother.

On Tuesday, actor shared a video to his Instagram page in which he was seen with the 90-year-old Hollywood

legend and his longtime Fast & Furious franchise co-star Michelle Rodriguez. 'It's been my dream forever to work with Rita Moreno and the fact that she's here, playing my grandmother, makes my soul smile. I'm so blessed,' Diesel said in the video.

REBEL WILSON BREAKS HER SILENCE AFTER ALLEGATIONS SHE WAS SET TO BE 'OUTED'

Los Angeles | Agencies

The Hollywood actress came out on Friday with a gushing Instagram post announcing her new love of six months. 'I thought I was searching for a Disney Prince... but maybe what I really needed all this time was a Disney Princess,' she captioned the post.

But hours later Sydney Morning Herald gossip columnist Andrew Hornery hit out at Wilson's decision to 'gazump' his scoop, arguing he found out about the relationship and was going to publish a story about it.

A wave of backlash followed in response to Hornery planning to 'out' Wilson and then complaining about her taking control of the announcement.

"Thanks for your comments, it was a very hard situation but trying to handle it with grace," Wilson wrote in reply to a Twitter post by Channel 10's Kate Doak.

Doak wrote: 'So apparently it wasn't Rebel Wilson's choice to come out. The SMH/The Age have admitted to giving her a heads up two days in

advance that they

were going to 'out' her. What's worse, openly gay men at the Sydney Morning Herald were involved in this.'

Hornery wrote he gave Wilson two days to respond to questioning, effectively forcing the actress' hand, yet became angry when the star chose to take control of the narrative herself, reports, dailymail.uk.com.

'It was with an abundance of caution and respect that this media outlet emailed Rebel Wilson's representatives on Thursday morning, giving her two days to comment on her new relationship with LA leisure wear designer Ramona Agruma, before publishing a single word,' he wrote.

'Big mistake. Wilson opted to gazump the story, posting about her new 'Disney Princess' on Instagram early Friday morning, the same platform she had previously used to brag about her handsome ex-boyfriend, wealthy American beer baron Jacob Busch.

'Considering how bitterly Wilson had complained about poor journalism standards... her choice ignore our discreet genuine and honest queries was underwhelming.'

'Wilson made the decision to publicly disclose her new partner - who had been a feature of her social media accounts for months.'



Black Panther Wakanda Forever: Okoye and Shuri's first looks surface online

Los Angeles | Agencies

Marvel's Black Panther: Wakanda Forever has been in the production phase for the past few years now. After the untimely demise of Chadwick Boseman, the franchise suffered a lot with a big challenge to tell the story without the Black Panther. It looks like the makers of the superhero film are all set to treat the audience soon as the first looks of Okoye and Shuri have surfaced online, leaving the fans yearning for more, reports, bollywood.life.com. The two key characters, Okoye - the loyal guard played by Danai Gurira and Shuri - Black Panther's sister played by Letitia Wright, from Black Panther: Wakanda Forever were seen on a packaging for a soft drink brand. While Shuri was seen in a purple suit sporting a new haircut, Okoye was seen maintaining her look from the previous Marvel films. While fans missed Chadwick Boseman, they couldn't keep clam for the film's trailer to arrive.

Tom Cruise breaks up with his MI 7 co-star Hayley Atwell

Los Angeles | Agencies

Tom Cruise and his Mission Impossible 7 co-star Hayley Atwell's breakup is in the news once again. Reportedly, the couple, who started dating in 2020, had parted ways in September 2021, but later they got back together. But, now according to reports, the actors have once again parted ways. The report has come as a shock for their fans as a few weeks ago, Hayley attended the premiere of Tom's film Top Gun: Maverick, and extended her support to her boyfriend.

A source told The Sun, "Tom and Hayley's relationship was genuine. In spite of some rumours to the contrary, it was never just for the cameras. Unfortunately, it hasn't worked out for them."

"They get on really well and have fantastic chemistry, which is why they decided to quietly give the relationship another try earlier this year. But what was working behind closed doors didn't work out so well when it was made public, and the fanfare around them as a couple exploded again. They have now decided they are better as friends," added the source, reports, bollywood.life.com.



Ariana DeBose



IPL MEDIA RIGHTS

Two different broadcasters for Indian subcontinent Total value per match at RS 107.5 crore

Mumbai | Agencies

Two different broadcasters won the TV (package A) and digital rights (package B) for the Indian subcontinent in the e-auction of the media rights for the Indian Premier League (IPL) cycle 2023 to 2027. With 410 matches to be broadcasted in the five-year cycle, the total value per match for every IPL game is at RS 107.5 crore.

According to a report by Cricbuzz, the yet-to-be identified company which has bagged TV rights for RS 57.5 crore per game had challenged the company bidding RS 48 crore per game for digital rights.

"But looks like the bids for digital have ended at RS 50 Crore per game and it is understood to have been bagged by Jio (Viacom18)," said the report. The report further said that while Jio (Viacom 18) or HotStar (Disney-Star) could have picked the



Indian subcontinent digital rights, it has been indicated that Sony have bagged the Indian subcontinent TV rights. The combined value for Package A (TV Rights) and Package B (Digital) is RS 44,075 crore.

"The final count for TV is Rs 23,575 crore while the digital has ended at Rs 20,500 crore. The digital rights, which closed at Rs 48 crore per game in the first round, ended at the half century mark with the rights

seemingly going to the original winner of the digital rights. The challenger, it seems, backed out after a couple bids of Rs 50 lakh each," added the report.

The auction will now move towards the bidding of Package C, which is an 18-game non-exclusive India digital rights with a base price of RS 16 crore. The auction will end with Package D bigging rights, which is the rest of the world consisting of five territories with base price for each game and each territory is RS 3 crore, with no composite bid for the Rest of the World package.

Star India-Disney were the current holders of the IPL rights for 2017-22 cycle, with a winning bid of RS 16,347.50 crore for both TV and digital in September 2017.

Previously, Sony Pictures Network won the IPL TV media rights for a period of 10 years during the inception of the tournament with a bid of RS 8200 crore.

CANADA PARA BADMINTON

JOSHI, RAMADASS BAG GOLD; PRAMOD BHAGAT WINS SILVER AS INDIA SIGN OFF WITH 9 MEDALS

Ottawa (Canada) | Agencies

Indian para shuttlers continued their great run of form as they clinched nine medals including two gold by Manasi Joshi and Manisha Ramadass at the Canada International Para Badminton in Ottawa.

However, Paralympic gold medalist Pramod Bhagat had to settle for the silver going down fighting against his arch rival Daniel Bethell 14-21, 21-9, 15-21. This was Bhagat's second defeat to England's Paralympic silver medalist since the Tokyo 2020 Games.

Joshi, the reigning world champion in women's SL3, displayed an impeccable performance winning all her round robin matches over fellow Indian Parul Parmar, France's Coraline Bergeron, Noriko Ito of Japan and Ukrainian Oksana Kozyna.

While Joshi was hardly troubled by her first three opponents, she faced a strong challenge from Oksana. The Ukrainian rallied from a game down to take the second game and fought it out till the end before Joshi nailed it with a 21-18, 15-21, 22-20 win. This was



Joshi's fourth title win in the women's singles event this season.

Like Joshi, Ramadass too followed her Fazza Dubai 2022 International title triumph winning the women's singles SU5 gold medal. The 17-year-old from Chennai kept her composure and fought it out to pull off a thrilling 27-25, 21-9 win over Japan's Akiko Sugino in the final. Among other medallists are: Nitesh Kumar (Men's Singles SL3), Parul Parmar (Women's Singles SL3), Tarun Dhillon (Men's Singles SL4), Ruthick Raghupathi (Men's Singles SU5) and Tarun Dhillon (Men's Doubles SL3-SL4) who claimed the bronze medal in their respective categories.

Haryana boxers help state capture Khelo India Youth Games crown



Panchkula | Agencies

Haryana boxers delivered the golden punch on the final day to capture the Khelo India Youth Games crown in dramatic fashion here on Monday.

Tied on 41 gold with Maharashtra, the hosts swooped on as many as 10 out of the 20-boxing gold on offer to surge past the defending champions.

Haryana ended their campaign with a grand tally of 52 gold, 39 silver and 46

bronze to reinforce their status as the country's premier sporting state.

Maharashtra, who fought tooth and nail from Day 1, abdicated their throne, after managing 45 gold, 40 silver and 40 bronze. Karnataka finished third with 22 gold, including a 19 from the swimming pool. Manipur were fourth with 19 gold and Kerala fifth with 18.

On the last day of competition, Mizoram clinched two gold medals with their boys football team humbling Kerala 5-1 in the final and Jeho Puingheta bagging the boys table tennis singles crown, beating West Bengal's Ankur Bhattacharjee 4-2.

Punjab girls defeated Tamil Nadu 68-57 and Karnataka boys got the better of Rajasthan 67-62 to share the two gold medals in basketball while Delhi's boys beat Haryana 38-31 to win the handball gold.

DANIIL MEDVEDEV SHOCKED BY DUTCH WILDCARD IN LIBEMA OPEN FINAL



's-Hertogenbosch (The Netherlands): It was a bitter-sweet day for Russian tennis ace Daniil Medvedev as the 26-year-old lost the Libema Open -- an ATP 250 tournament -- final here to Dutch wildcard Tim Van Rijthoven, but reclaimed the No. 1 spot in the ATP Rankings.

Van Rijthoven, who at No. 205 is the lowest-ranked tour-level titlist of the season, completed a dream week in 's-Hertogenbosch on Sunday, racing to a 6-4, 6-1 win over Medvedev to clinch a maiden ATP Tour title.

The 25-year-old Dutch was playing in a maiden title match on just his second appearance in a tour-level main draw. However, he showed no sign of nerves in front of a home crowd on his way to a 65-minute win over Medvedev.

Pak leg-spinner Tuba Hassan crowned ICC Women's Player of the Month for May

Dubai | Agencies

Pakistan's young leg-spinner Tuba Hassan on Monday was named the ICC Women's Player of the Month after enjoying significant success with the ball during her debut T20 series against Sri Lanka in Karachi. The 21-year-old was instrumental in restricting scores set by opponents Sri Lanka and was eventually adjudged as the Player of the Series, taking five wickets at an average of 8.8 and an economy rate of 3.66. The highlight of the month for Tuba was during her first international match, in which she grabbed 3/8 to limit Sri Lanka to 106, setting the platform for a six-



wicket win and was awarded 'Player of the Match'. She struck with just her second ball in international cricket to

dismiss Anushka Sanjeevani and subsequently took out Harshitha Madavi and Kavisha Dilhari.

ANGELO MATHEWS IS ICC MEN'S PLAYER OF THE MONTH

Dubai: Veteran Sri Lanka cricketer Angelo Mathews has been voted ICC Men's Player of the Month for May 2022. The 35-year-old beat off competition from fellow countryman Asitha Fernando and Bangladesh star Mushfiqur Rahim to win the award.

Mathews was impressive in the two-match series against Bangladesh away from home, where he finished as the highest run-getter with 344 runs, which included two centuries. In the first Test in Chattogram, he narrowly missed out on a double ton at 199.

Root becomes first player to score 3,000 runs in World Test Championship history

Nottingham | Agencies

Joe Root, the batter, has added another cap to his illustrious cricketing career, with the 31-year-old former England captain becoming the first player to score more than 3,000 runs in World Test Championship history.

Thanks to Root's unbeaten 163, embellished with 25 boundaries, and Ollie Pope's 145, England gave a befitting reply to New Zealand's first-



unbeaten knock. The 31-year-old has 10 World Test Championship tons to his name and nearly 1,000 more WTC runs than his closest challenger in Australia's Marnus Labuschagne -- 2,180 runs --, according to ICC.

Root's most recent knock saw him draw level on the same number of centuries as Australia great Steve Smith and India stalwart Virat Kohli, while the right-hander is one of only two England players to have scored more than 10,000 Test runs in total. The reigning ICC Test Player of the Year has also jumped into second place on the Test batter rankings, with Labuschagne the only player ranked in front of him.

BCCI announces increase in monthly pensions of former cricketers, umpires

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Board for Control of Cricket in India (BCCI) on Monday announced a hike in monthly pensions of former cricketers (both men and women) and former umpires.

Ex-India captain and BCCI president Sourav Ganguly said that it is extremely important for the cricket board to take care of the financial well-being of our former cricketers and umpires.

"It is extremely important that the financial well-being of our former cricketers is taken care of. The players remain the lifeline and as a Board, it is our duty to be by their side once their playing days are over. The umpires have been unsung heroes



and the BCCI truly values their contribution," he said.

"The welfare of our cricketers be it former or present is a top priority, and increasing pension amounts is a step in that direction. The BCCI values the contribution the umpires have made over the years and this is one way to express our gratitude for their diligent services to Indian Cricket. A total of around 900 personnel will get the benefit of the scheme with more than 75 per cent of the beneficiaries getting a 100 per cent raise," BCCI secretary Jay Shah said.

"Whatever the BCCI is today, it is because of the contribution of its former cricketers and umpires. We are pleased to announce the increase in the monthly pensions which will be a gesture for the well-being of our former cricketers," BCCI treasurer Arun Singh Dhimal said.

Pressure on India to remain alive in series with a must-win match against South Africa

Visakhapatnam | Agencies

The run-up to India's five-match T20I series had TV advertisements highlighting the hosts being on the threshold of achieving a record 13-match winning streak, the most by a team in men's T20I cricket.

But as things stand now, after losing consecutive matches in New Delhi and Cuttack, India are in danger and under pressure of keeping themselves alive in the series when they face South Africa at the Dr. YS Rajasekhara Reddy ACA-VDCA Cricket Stadium here on Tuesday.

Rishabh Pant & Co, in the absence of many regular players, have struggled to get the wins on their side despite some positives. With just a day's gap between Cuttack and Visakhapatnam T20Is, India don't have much time to regroup and aim for a comeback in the series.

In New Delhi, the bowlers were unable to defend 212 while in Cuttack, an unimpressive batting



show on a difficult pitch coupled with bowlers barring Bhuvneshwar Kumar lacking the cutting edge, resulted in them los-

ing the match by four wickets on Sunday.

In both matches, Ishan Kishan has boosted his credentials to be a

permanent opening option while Ruturaj Gaikwad and Shreyas Iyer have inspired little confidence in their play against fast bowlers.

Hardik Pandya produced some stunning power-hitting shots in Delhi but was bamboozled by the movement from left-arm pacer Wayne Parnell in Cuttack, apart from going wicketless in both matches.

Captain Rishabh Pant fell twice while slashing outside the off-stump balls to fielders in the deep on the off-side and hasn't been able to impress netizens with his captaincy calls. Still in his early days of learning the ropes of captaincy, Pant would be itching to make improvements and showcase them in Visakhapatnam.

In bowling, India have a lot of problems. Barring Bhuvneshwar Kumar's 4/13, including three wickets in the first six overs at Cuttack, other pacers like Avesh Khan and Harshal Patel haven't given him the required backing.

Spinners Yuzvendra Chahal and Axar Patel have been hugely disap-

pointing as the duo conceded 75 and 59 runs collectively in both matches. Chahal and Patel have been unable to keep the likes of David Miller, Rassie van der Dussen and Heinrich Klassen under check, giving the South Africa trio easy chances to hit elegant boundaries.

South Africa, on the other hand, looked settled in all departments of the game and are yet to lose a game to India this year across all formats, especially in white-ball cricket. They have unearthed new match winners in both matches -- an in-form Miller and van der Dussen in New Delhi while Klassen yet again proved to be India's nemesis at Cuttack.

Captain Temba Bavuma looks solid at the top-order and has handled his bowling resources like pacers Parnell, Kagiso Rabada, Anrich Nortje, Keshav Maharaj and Tabraiz Shamsi very well. South Africa go into Visakhapatnam high on confidence while India enter a do-or-die phase in the series.

LONG DISTANCE RUNNING LEGEND HARI CHAND PASSES AWAY



Chandigarh | Agencies

Two-time Olympian and double Asian Games gold medalist, Hari Chand passed away on Monday at the age of 69. One of India's greatest long-distance runners, he belonged to Ghorewah village in Punjab's Hoshiarpur district. In the 1976 Summer Olympics in Montreal, Hari Chand stood eighth in the 10,000 m with a time of 28:48.72, a national record that stood for 32 years, until Surendra Singh broke it.

He then took part in the 1980 Olympic Men's Marathon where he completed the race with a timing of 2:22:08 at Lenin Stadium in Moscow. Hari Chand won two gold medals at the 1978 Bangkok Asian Games. He was at the top step of the podium in both 5,000 m and 10,000 m events.

For his contribution to sports, Hari Chand was also conferred with Arjuna Award.



Richa Chadha

launches special programme for women gaffers



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Richa Chadha along with producer-director Shuchi Talati has set-up an incubation programme for women who hope to work as gaffers in the film industry through a programme called 'Undercurrent Lab'. The special programme was launched on Monday with the objective of introducing more female gaffers in Hindi films. In its first year, the 'Undercurrent Lab' will focus on training 10 women (selected through an interview process) in lighting for cinema. It will start with a first-of-its-kind, hands-on workshop, where the trainees will learn the art from gaffers and cinematographers from the industry.

After the week-long crash course, the girls will be sent out on the field, to work on film sets as trainees. Two of the 10 girls will be placed on the nearly all-women crew on Richa and Ali Fazal's maiden production 'Girls will be girls' which starts shooting from October.

Commenting on the occasion, Richa said in a statement, "When we set out to have an all-women team, we found that there's virtually no women who work in the lighting departments in Hindi films. So our associate, Tanya Negi came up with the idea for this workshop.

"We are starting this training programme for women which aims to increase the participation of women behind the camera. I hope that the initiative seeds in a much larger change in the way things work in this industry."

The 'Undercurrent Lab' will roll from June 13 to June 18.

Mahesh Babu's selfie on Europe road trip goes viral

Team Absolute | Hyderabad

Telugu superstar Mahesh Babu is currently enjoying the success of his film 'Sarkaru Vaari Paata', which was directed by Parasuram. He and his family are having a great time on vacation in Europe. The actor shared a photo of himself with Namrata Shirodkar, Gautham, and Sitara on his Instagram account. Mahesh appears to be really enjoying his road trip in Europe, as he hints at their next destination.

"Road trip it is!!" he wrote. Italy is up next!! Lunch with the crazies!!", Mahesh captioned. The photo has gone viral on social media.

Mahesh Babu's next film will be an action-comedy directed by acclaimed filmmaker Trivikram. Soon, he'll reportedly join the set of 'SSMB28' (working title), in which Pooja Hegde will star as the lead heroine. Mahesh also has a film with SS Rajamouli in the works, which will begin shooting later this year.



CHIRANJEEVI becomes the voice of Telugu Version of Ayan Mukerji's upcoming

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The trailer of Ayan Mukerji's directorial, Brahm?stra Part One: Shiva is all set to be out on 15th June in all 5 languages. The film boasts of an ensemble cast that includes Ranbir Kapoor, Alia Bhatt, Amitabh Bachchan, Nagarjun and Mouni Roy. The film is presented by S. S. Rajamouli in all 4 South languages - Tamil, Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam. As per the latest update, now Megastar CHIRANJEEVI has come on board to give his legendary voice to the Telugu version of Ayan Mukerji's magnum opus Brahm?stra Part One: Shiva Trailer! A teaser of the film was dropped by the makers a few days back. Motion posters of Megastar Amitabh Bachchan and Nagarjun Akkineni have also been unveiled by the makers. For the unversed, touted to be the most expensive film ever made in Bollywood. The makers of Brahmastra have a lengthy marketing campaign in action in which the filmmakers will continue to unravel various aspects of the film to maintain the film's intrigue factor.



DIRECTOR VENU UDUGULA LAUDS RANA FOR PROMOTING HEROINE-CENTERED FILM

Team Absolute | Hyderabad

Venu Udugula, the director of 'Virata Parvam', said at one of the film's promotional events that Rana Daggubati deserves praise for his work. Despite the fact that the heroine is the focus of the plot, Rana consented to appear in film, which the director claims make him humble. Rana and Sai Pallavi-starrer 'Virata Parvam' has a decent buzz ahead of its premiere. film's producers had organised a event earlier on Sunday. Venu began his remarks by thanking all of the distinguished visitors and members of the film crew, saying: "Warangal is the site where even failures are reincarnated as revolutions." And it is in such a setting that I am struck by one of the fatalities that occurred in 1992.

"I was taken aback when I learned that, the particular death was linked to a

number of political issues. So I decided to write a tale about it, and I brought that story to you, mixed with a great love story. "When I started composing the narrative, I started dreaming about this particular role, Vennela. This isn't a typical girl's love. It's like Siddheshwari's love for Lord Shiva, so pure and sacred. I'm overjoyed that Sai Pallavi accepted to play this role," he continued. Venu said: "Even if Rana tackles modest activities like presenting a short film or distributing a small film, he elevates whatever he does into an art piece. For this film, he did the same. I'd want to express my gratitude to him for agreeing to perform in a film with a significant role for Vennela (heroine).

"Heroes of his stature might think twice to act in a role with lesser importance for a hero. But, he is so humble. Mainly ladies should watch this film."

Upasana Singh on working with Boman Irani

Team Absolute | Mumbai

TV star Upasana Singh, who will be seen in the upcoming psychological thriller webseries 'Masoom', spoke of her experience of sharing the screen with Boman Irani. For her, working with Boman has been very comforting as he brought in a friendly atmosphere on the sets for the actors involved in the project. Expressing her thoughts, the actress said in a statement, "What shall I tell you about Boman ji. He's such a beautiful, good natured and down-to-earth human being. He is a very brilliant actor to work with, very comfortable. I don't think I would have been this comfortable to work with someone else, he made it so easy and friendly that I was able to do all my scenes."

"Whenever you watch the show you will see that chemistry, you cannot say that we're not husband and wife. But I really enjoyed working with him. There are probably very few actors with whom I have felt so comfortable", she added.

The show is an Indian rendition of Irish series 'Blood', and it explores family ties and deception after losing a loved one. Set in Falauli, Punjab, the series will unfold the unspoken truths that cloud the lives of the Kapoor family, where complex relationship dynamics change with time and ambition.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Shilpa Shetty Kundra is all excited for her comeback on the big screen with 'Nikamma'. While talking about the film, the seasoned actress spoke about balancing her work, life and motherhood. "Yeah totally (mother's are superheroes)," Shilpa said. She added: "Every woman out there is whether they are housewives, or balancing their profession with their homes, single mums.. There are so many superheroes out there - They don't even wear a cape. I just think that there is a hero in each one of us, even the 'Nikamma' who is the protagonist of the movie. I think the film talks about the fact that you are useless or even think you are useless there is a hero within you." The actress shared: "And it is only that moment which makes you realise that there is a thin line in being nikamma and coming to the rescue and becoming a hero. So what is that moment in your life. Based on the Telugu film 'Middle Class Abbayi', the film is directed by Sabbir Khan, and also stars Shilpa Shetty, Abhimanyu Dassani, Samir Soni, Shirley Setia and Abhimanyu Singh among others. Shilpa starrer film releases in theatres on June 17.



Shilpa Shetty calls every woman a superhero without a cape



Disha Patani