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### 15 KILLED IN AMARNATH CLOUDBURST TRAGEDY, SEVERAL DEVOTEES MISSING

# DISASTER AT DEVOTION

❑ **THE TOLL IN THE DEADLY CLOUD BURST AT THE LOWER AMARNATH HOLY CAVE ON FRIDAY HAS NOW RISEN TO 15 AND MANY YATRIS ARE STILL MISSING, TILL THE TIME GOING FOR PRINT.**

❑ **PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI ON FRIDAY TOOK TO TWITTER TO EXPRESS HIS ANGUISH AT THE CLOUD BURST NEAR THE AMARNATH CAVE AND EXTENDED HIS CONDOLENCES TO THE BEREAVED FAMILIES. HE ALSO SPOKE TO THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR, MANOJ SINHA, AND TOOK STOCK OF THE SITUATION AND OFFERED ALL THE HELP HE NEEDED.**

❑ **THE KASHMIR ZONE POLICE HAS TWEETED THAT THE INJURED HAVE BEEN AIRLIFTED FOR TREATMENT. THE NATIONAL DISASTER RESPONSE FORCE, STATE DISASTER RESPONSE FORCE, INDO-TIBETAN BORDER POLICE, INDIAN ARMY AND OTHER ASSOCIATED AGENCIES HAVE SWUNG INTO ACTION AND RESCUE OPERATIONS ARE ON.**



by the cloudburst. A source said that around three dozen people are missing in this tragedy and efforts are on to locate them. Rescue teams were immediately rushed to the spot, some using helicopter services. The rescue operation is still going on and the authorities are trying to ascertain the exact casualties or damage caused by the calamity. However, as darkness has engulfed the area, rescue operation are being impeded.

Inspector General of Police, Kashmir, Vijay Kumar had earlier told reporters that rescue operations by various agencies is underway, the situation is under control and the injured are being airlifted for treatment. Officials said that following the cloudburst, water surged above the sides of the cave after heavy rains at the upper reaches. Earlier on Friday, the strategic Jammu-Srinagar national highway was blocked by landslides and mud slush triggered by rain at many places, affecting passage of pilgrims to the two base camps in the Kashmir Valley. The yatra was flagged

## HEAVY RAINS CLAIM 12 LIVES IN K'TAKA

**Bengaluru:** Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Friday chaired a meeting to discuss the flood situation in various parts of the state and gave instructions for rescue and relief operations. He was apprised that 12 people have been killed so far and 13 districts, 17 taluks, and 37 villages have been affected by floods. As many as 495 persons are affected and authorities have rescued 90 persons and opened 4 care centres. Deaths of livestock are numbered at 65.

off on June 30 after remaining suspended for two years due to the Covid pandemic, and so far, over one lakh devotees have completed the pilgrimage. Meanwhile, the Indian Air Force assets including helicopters and personnel are on standby to

## HEAVY RAINFALL LASHES AHMEDABAD

**Ahmedabad:** Heavy rainfall lashed Ahmedabad on Friday with the city receiving four inches of rain in a span of three hours, the Met Office said. The Met Department has forecast heavy to very heavy rains in many places of the state for the next five days. According to the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation, from 6 a.m. till 4 p.m., some areas of the city such as Usmanpura, Vadaj, Ashram, and Naranpura received 9 inch rainfall, whereas in eastern Ahmedabad, Rakhial and Gomtipur received 6 inch rainfall while Odhav, Viratnagar and Ramol got five and a half inch rains.

launch rescue and relief operations at the Amarnath cave site. Earlier, due to bad weather along both Baltal and Pahalgam routes, movement of pilgrims were restricted. This comes only two days after a cloudburst in Kullu that claimed five lives.

# Ex-Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe assassinated

TOKYO | Agencies

Former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe passed away on Friday, hours after being shot while addressing an election rally in the city of Nara, according to state media.

A doctor attending on Abe in Nara Medical University Hospital said that the leader died at 08:03 GMT, BBC reported.

"During four and a half hour treatment, medics tried to stop the bleeding and carried out a blood transfusion, using more than 100 units of blood," the doctor said.

Abe sustained two wounds, believed to be bullet injuries, but medics could not find bullets during surgery, the doctor added.

Abe, 67, immediately collapsed after being shot and was seen bleeding before he was taken to hospital.

According to state broadcaster NHK, the attack took place at around 11.30 a.m. (local time) near the Yamatosaidaiji Station in Nara city while Abe was making a speech during a Liberal Democratic Party candidate's election campaign. The suspect, identified as 41-year-old Yamagami Tetsuya, a resident of Nara city, has been arrested.

According to the police, the accused told investigators that he was dissatisfied with the former Prime Minister and intended to kill



him. Investigative sources told NHK a gun seized at the scene appeared to be handmade. Japan is slated to hold parliamentary election this Sunday.

Abe's visit was only confirmed late last night, so how the suspect managed to find out about this and carry out the attack remains an open question, said the BBC.

Abe became Japan's longest-serving Prime Minister after serving from 2006 to 2007 and again from 2012 to 2020.

He stepped down in 2020 citing health reasons. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced a day-long national mourning for Shinzo Abe.

## Rishi Sunak bids to be UK's Prime Minister

LONDON | Agencies

Indian-origin former Chancellor of the Exchequer in the British government Rishi Sunak on Friday formally launched his bid to become leader of the Conservative Party. If he succeeds, he will automatically become Prime Minister of the United Kingdom.

He tweeted: "I'm standing to be the next leader of the Conservative Party and your prime minister." He added: "Let's restore trust, rebuild the economy and reunite the country." He also launched a website ready4rishi.com



Sunak shot from relative obscurity to fame when the just-oust Prime Minister Boris Johnson fast-tracked him to the powerful post of Chancellor in 2020. He had been a Member of

Parliament for less than five years. He became quite popular within months by providing financial support during the Covid pandemic, including furloughs to employees and soft loans to employers.

It will not be surprising if his opponents in the upcoming competition cite his wife's matter and the Green Card issue against him.

The son of a medical practitioner is, however, still one of the favourites in the contest, with probably Ben Wallace, the Defence Secretary, the current favourite.

# Assam bans illegal animal slaughtering on Eid

Guwahati | Agencies

The Assam Home Department on Friday in a notification has directed the authorities to take steps to prevent illegal killing of animals including cows on the occasion of Eid. Joint Secretary K.K. Sharma has written a letter to all Deputy Commissioners and Superintendents of Police of the state for taking measures to prevent the illegal killing of cows, calves, and other animals during the upcoming Eid. He has also recommended action against the offenders for violation of transport of animal rules on Eid. Sharma has cited a reference from the



letters of the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI), Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying of the Union government.

On June 7, communications to all states from AWBI mentioned that a large number of animals are likely to be slaughtered during the Eid.

## YOUTH WITH MONKEYPOX-LIKE SYMPTOMS ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL IN KOLKATA

**Kolkata:** A youth in Kolkata, who recently returned from Europe, has been admitted to the hospital with rashes and symptoms similar to the viral disease.

The state health department has not revealed the identity of the youth as the final test report from the National Institute of Virology in Pune is still awaited.

The Director of Health Services, Siddhathra Neogi, said that at this point of time, there is no reason to panic as whether the said youth has been infected by monkeypox can be confirmed only after receiving the report from the National Institute of Virology.

The state health department did not take any risk after the detection of rashes on the body of the said youth since he had recently returned from Europe, where he had gone for academic purposes.

He has been kept under isolation in a city-based hospital where the doctors are constantly monitoring his condition.

## HUAWEI TRANSFERRED RS 750 CR ABROAD, CLAIM I-T DEPTT SOURCES

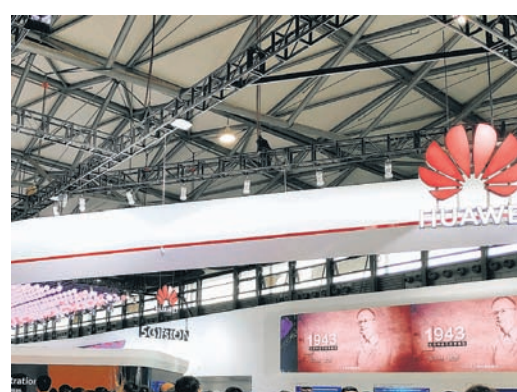
# China in Claws

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Chinese technology company Huawei has been accused by the Income Tax Department of transferring Rs 750 crore to its foreign-based parent firms sources in the department have said. The I-T had in February accused the firm of huge tax evasion and frozen its bank accounts.

The I-T department has reportedly found discrepancies in its income tax declaration.

"The I-T declaration of the last two years has discrepancies. The revenue of the company was decreasing, but we have found that even in this crisis they repatriated Rs 750 crore abroad," the I-T sources claimed. Huawei had said that they were following all the norms and



law of the land. The company had also said that due to the action of I-T department they suffered huge losses and it badly affected their business.

The I-T department has said that they have recovered incriminating evidence against the firm and on the basis of these documents they took the action.

## ED MAY QUIZ GOVT OFFICIALS IN CONNECTION WITH VIVO CASE

**New Delhi:** The Enforcement Directorate (ED) may question a bureaucrat and few government officials on whose address a Chinese national and an ex-director of Vivo, had incorporated a firm. The Chinese national had intentionally provided address of Solan, Himachal Pradesh and Gandhinagar, Jammu, and one of the addresses was found to be a government building and of a senior bureaucrat. Chinese smartphone company Vivo's top executives, directors Zhengshen Ou and Zhang Jie, had fled from India via Nepal. The ED has learnt that the firm was involved in huge Hawala transactions. The ED has said that out of the total sale proceeds of Rs 1,25,185 crores, Vivo India remitted Rs 62,476 crores. i.e. almost 50 per cent of the turnover out of India, mainly to China.

# 50K WILD SPECIES MEET NEEDS OF BILLIONS WORLDWIDE: REPORT

**A new report by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) on Friday offered insights, analysis and tools to establish more sustainable use of wild species of plants, animals, fungi and algae around the world. Sustainable use is when biodiversity and ecosystem functioning are maintained while contributing to human wellbeing.**

**“With about 50,000 wild species used through different practices, including more than 10,000 wild species harvested directly for human food, rural people in developing countries are most at risk from unsustainable use, with lack of complementary alternatives often forcing them to further exploit wild species already at risk.”**

**Jean-Marc Fromentin, (France), with Maria R. Emery (USA/Norway) and John Donaldson (South Africa).**

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Billions of people, in developed and developing nations, benefit daily from the use of wild species for food, energy, materials, medicine, recreation, inspiration and many other vital contributions to human well-being.

The accelerating global biodiversity crisis, with a million species of plants and animals facing extinction, threatens these contributions to people.

The IPBES Assessment Report on the Sustainable Use of Wild Species is the result of four years of work by 85 leading experts from the natural and social sciences, and holders of indigenous and local knowledge, as well as 200 contributing authors, drawing on more than 6,200 sources.

The summary of the report was approved this week by representatives of the 139 member states of IPBES in Bonn in Germany.



The use of wild species is an important source of income for millions of people worldwide. Wild tree species account for two thirds of global industrial roundwood; trade in wild plants, algae and fungi is a billion-dollar industry; and even non-extractive uses of wild species are big business.

Tourism, based on observing wild species, is one of the main reasons that, prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, protected areas globally received eight billion visitors and generated \$600 billion every year.

The report identifies five broad categories of 'practices' in the use of wild species: fishing; gathering; logging; terrestrial animal harvesting (including hunting); and non-extractive practices, such as observing.

For each practice, it then examines specific 'uses' such as for food and feed; materials; medicine; energy; recreation; ceremony; learning and decoration --providing a detailed analysis of the trends in each, over the past 20 years.

In most cases, use of wild species has increased, but sustainability of use has varied, such as in gathering for medicine and logging for materials and energy.

# SP LOSES LEADER OF OPPOSITION'S POST IN UP VIDHAN PARISHAD



Lucknow | Agencies

The Samajwadi Party has lost the leader of opposition's post in the Vidhan Parishad.

The UP Vidhan Parishad secretariat has derecognised Samajwadi Party's Lal Bihari Yadav as the leader of opposition in the council, as the party's strength in the council has now fallen short of ten --

the minimum for the largest opposition party to get the post. There will be no leader of opposition in the upper house. Ten members of the council retired on Thursday, bringing down the strength of SP. Principal secretary, UP legislative council, Rajesh Singh issued the notification about the derecognition of Lal Bihari Yadav as the leader of opposition in the council.



## I-T FINDS PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURERS INVOLVED IN HAWALA TRANSACTIONS

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Income Tax Department on Friday confirmed that it carried out search and seizure operations on June 29 on a group engaged in the business of manufacturing and distribution of pharmaceutical medicines and real estate development.

The raids were conducted at 25 premises in Delhi-NCR and Haryana.

The I-T officials said that a large number of incriminating documents in the form of loose sheets and digital data were seized which revealed that the group was involved in huge unaccounted sales of pharmaceutical medicines in cash.

Large amounts of purchases, payments of wages and other expenses made in cash were also found. "This modus-operandi of unaccounted cash sales of pharmaceutical medicines, including cash receipts through hawala for sale of medicines to Afghanistan, has been admitted by a key person involved in such transactions. The preliminary analysis of the seized data indicates that such hawala cash receipts amount to Rs 25 crore. In the case of one pharmaceutical concern dealing in Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (API), surplus stock valued at Rs 94 crore has been found," said the I-T official.

The official said that the cash generated through unaccounted cash sales was invest-



ed in the purchase of immovable properties, and in expansion of manufacturing facilities of pharmaceutical medicines. The real estate entities of the group were found to be engaged in out-of-books sale and purchase of properties in cash.

The group has also been booking bogus Long Term, Short Term Capital Losses in the securities market to offset the capital gains earned on such property transactions.

"The amount of such bogus losses is estimated to be around Rs 20 crore. The search action has revealed that the group has also floated benami entities to purchase immovable properties in the state of Himachal Pradesh," the official said.

So far, unaccounted cash of Rs 4.2 crore and jewellery, bullion worth Rs 4 crore have been seized. Further investigations in the matter is on.

## CBI recovers paintings, sculptures worth Rs 40 cr in DHFL bank fraud case

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Friday conducted searches in connection with the Rs 36,615 crore loan fraud case involving DHFL and its top officials, which led to the recovery of a large number of valuable paintings and sculptures estimated to be worth around Rs 40 crore.

"The premises of Rebecca Dewan and Ajay Ramesh Nawandar in Mumbai and Mahabaleshwar, respectively, were raided by our team," said a CBI official.

A CBI source said that a person named Vipin Kumar Shukla, DGM and head of Union Bank of India's Nariman Point branch, had lodged an FIR in this connection.

It was alleged that Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd (DHFL), its former CMD Kapil Wadhawan, ex-Director Dheeraj Wadhawan, and other accused persons entered into a criminal conspiracy to cheat a consortium of 17 banks led by the Union Bank of India.



"The Wadhawans and others induced the consortium banks to sanction huge loans aggregating to Rs 42,871.42 crore and siphoned off and misappropriated a significant portion of the said funds by falsifying

the books of the DHFL and dishonestly defaulted on repayment of the legitimate dues of the said consortium banks. They caused a wrongful loss of Rs 34,615.00 crore to the consortium lenders," said the CBI.

The FIR was lodged against DHFL, the Wadhwan brothers, present Director Sudhkar Shetty, Amariyis Realtors LLP (ARLLP), Gulmarg Realtors LLP (GRLLP), Skylark Buildcon Pvt Ltd, Darshan Developers Pvt Ltd, Sigtia Constructors Pvt Ltd, Creator Builders Pvt Ltd, Township Developers Pvt Ltd, Shishir Reality Pvt Ltd, Sunblink Real Estate and other unknown persons, including public servants.

The official said that it was found that the promoters had allegedly diverted the funds and made investments in various entities.

It was also alleged that the promoters had acquired expensive paintings and sculptures worth about Rs 55 crore using the diverted funds.

Earlier on June 22, searches were conducted at 12 locations in Mumbai at the premises of the accused persons which led to the recovery of incriminating documents.

## Mahua dares BJP to prove wine, meat are not offered to worship Maa Kali

Kolkata | Agencies

Reacting to the controversies triggered by her recent comments on worshipping Goddess Kali, Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra said on Friday that the BJP leaders filing FIRs against her for her comments should file affidavits and claim that alcohol and meat are not offered to Goddess Kali during her worship.

She also drew references to three popular temples in India - Maa Tara temple at Tarapith in West Bengal, Shaktipeeth Temple at Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh and Kamkhya Temple in Guwahati. According to Moitra, in BJP-ruled Madhya Pradesh and Assam, the Chief Ministers should inform through affidavits that 'karanbari' (alcohol) and meat are not offered there for worship.



Reacting to a section of the media, she also said that since she herself is a devotee of Goddess Kali, she is aware of the forms of worship and cannot even think of making any statement that will hurt the sentiments of the Kali worshippers. Stating that some of her well-wishers are also questioning as to why she drew this reference, Moitra said if the educated class avoids debates, the BJP

will force its own idea of Hinduism on people.

"These days people are scared to join debates on religion and the BJP is taking advantage of that. Hinduism is my religion as well, and I know what I have said is not incorrect and so I will not deviate from my stand," Moitra said. Commenting on her party Trinamool Congress not endorsing her views in this matter, she said that Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is her supreme leader and the matter will surely be discussed in the proper forum within the party. The state BJP leadership, however, has rubbished her comments and claimed that as an elected MP, Moitra is not supposed to give lectures on styles and rituals of worship. They also demanded an unconditional apology from her.

## TRANSFER AND POSTING OF 149 BIHAR OFFICERS CANCELLED

Patna: Bihar Governor Phagu Chauhan on Friday cancelled the transfer and posting of 149 officers of the Land Reforms and Revenue Departments, on the recommendation of the Chief Minister. Chief Minister Nitish Kumar found something fishy in the transfer and posting of 149 circle officers, settlement officers, and consolidation officers of these two departments, and recommended the cancellation.

The Land Reforms and Revenue Departments are under the charge of Ram Surat Rai, of the BJP, and he had issued four notifications for the transfer and postings of 149 officers on June 30. Following the Governor's direction, his Joint Secretary Kanchan Kapoor issued the fresh notification about the cancellation of the transfer and posting of 149 officers.

## WOMAN IN BIHAR'S BHAGALPUR CHARGED WITH RAPE, POCSO ACT

Patna: Police in Bihar's Bhagalpur have charged a woman under the POCSO Act, as well for rape, kidnapping, and criminal conspiracy in a October 2021 case. The incident came to light when the charge sheet came before special POCSO (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences) court judge Lavkush Kumar, and he directed the investigating officer to appear before the court and clarify the matter. The incident is related to kidnapping and rape of a 17-year-old girl by Chotu Tanti on October 10, 2021 in Kahgaon village of the district. Following the police investigation, an FIR was registered against main accused Tanti, as well as his sister and sister-in-law. In the charge sheet, district police accused Tanti's sister of rape, kidnapping, criminal conspiracy under the Indian Penal Code as well as sections of the POCSO Act while Tanti was accused of criminal conspiracy and kidnapping under the IPC.

The special court judge has asked the investigating officer and SHO Niti Kumari of the women police station to appear before the court and explain.

## Fake call centre racket targeting US citizens busted

Bengaluru | Agencies

The Karnataka Police have busted a call centre racket operating out of Bengaluru that used to target US citizens. The fraud call centre's activities involved cheating gullible people in the US by obtaining their bank details and siphoning off the money.

At least 72 employees of the call centre racket, including the kingpin were taken into custody in the operations conducted by teams from the Whitefield and Mahadevapura police stations.

A joint team of Whitefield

and Mahadevapura police stations conducted simultaneous search operations on late Thursday evening at two locations after receiving information on a fake call cyber being operated from there.

A total of 138 computers and other equipment were seized during the operation. According to police officers, the entire racket was being run by two individuals belonging to Ahmedabad.

Employing young graduates, mainly from Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Haryana and Delhi, the racket mainly targeted people from the US.

The modus operandi involved sending text messages to potential targets through text messages, voice mail etc that a fraudulent/suspect transaction is noticed in one of their accounts such as bank account or Amazon account and they are calling on behalf of Amazon or their bank, to resolve the fraudulent transaction.

They would finally zero in on the gullible persons who would trust the callers.

The accused were also seen using vans disguised as school vans to transport the employees, police said.

## 80-yr-old Delhi woman found murdered at home

New Delhi: An 80-year-old woman was found with her throat slit at her residence in the national capital on Friday, police said.

According to police, a PCR call was received at Shalimar Bagh police station around 11 a.m. regarding murder of an old woman in her house in BS block. A police team reached at the spot and found the woman lying dead on bed with her throat partially slit.

"No other injuries were apparently visible. Her ornaments were intact. Other household articles were also found intact," Deputy Commissioner of Police, Northwest, Usha Rangnani said, adding prima facie, it seemed that the murderer was someone known to the victim as there were no signs of forced entry. Police registered a case under Section



302 (murder) of the Indian Penal Code and launched investigations.

Rangnani said that CCTV footage is being analysed and four teams have been constituted to solve this case.

"Police have rounded up a few suspects and the accused will be arrested soon," she added.

## Delhi: Four, including three minors, drown in Yamuna river



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Four people, including three minors, drowned to death while taking bath in the Yamuna river in the national capital, an official said on Friday.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (north), Sagar Singh Kalsi, said they received a call at 1.20 a.m. stating that four persons have gone missing.

They were identified as Wasim (15), Kamal (17), Ilyas (20) and Sameer (17), all residents of Loni, Ghaziabad. One motorcycle was found on the Yamuna bank along with some clothes.

"During inquiry, it was found that around noon on Thursday, these four persons had come from Loni to take a bath in Yamuna at Thokar No. 7, Sonia Pushta, Burari, and accidentally drowned in the river," Kalsi said.

Subsequently, around dawn on Friday, a search and rescue operation was started.

"The divers have so far recovered three bodies," the officer said, adding that the search operation is still underway to find the fourth person.

Kalsi said the statements of the family members and other witnesses have been recorded and no foul play is suspected in their deaths.

## ED summons Satyendar Jain's wife for questioning on July 14

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday sent a summons to Poonam Jain, the wife of Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain, to join the investigation in PMLA case on July 14.

Satyendar Jain is currently lodged in Tihar Jail in connection with a money laundering case after his bail application was rejected by the court.

On July 1, the ED arrested Vaibhav Jain and Ankush Jain, the two associates of the Health Minister.

The ED had initiated the money laundering probe on the basis of an FIR registered by the CBI in 2017 under Section 13(2) read with 13(1)(e) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, against Jain, his wife Poonam Jain, Ajit Prasad Jain, Sunil Kumar Jain, Vaibhav Jain and Ankush Jain.

A charge-sheet was filed by the CBI on December 3, 2018 against Jain, Poonam



Jain and other accused persons. It was alleged that Jain, while holding office as a minister in the Delhi government between February 14, 2015 and May 31, 2017, had acquired assets which were disproportionate to his

known sources of income.

The CBI had accused Jain, his wife and other accused persons of offences under the Prevention of Corruption Act. On March 31 this year, the ED had provisionally attached immovable proper-

ties worth Rs 4.81 crore belonging to companies beneficially owned or controlled by Jain.

Jain was placed under arrest on May 30 by the ED under Section 19 of the PMLA.





## PANCHAYAT POLLS : 3RD PHASE

# FLAG MARCH OF BULLDOZERS AHEAD OF POLLS IN MORENA

► IN A BIZARRE INCIDENT, THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION CARRIED OUT A FLAG MARCH WITH BULLDOZERS AHEAD OF THE THIRD AND THE FINAL PHASE OF PANCHAYAT POLLS IN MADHYA PRADESH'S MORENA DISTRICT ON FRIDAY.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

In a bizarre incident, the district administration carried out a flag march with bulldozers ahead of the third and the final phase of panchayat polls in Madhya Pradesh's Morena district on Friday. This was to warn the people to hold the elections peacefully, failing which their houses would be demolished, sources privy of the development told IANS. As part of the measures taken to ensure free and fair polls, the administration not only carried a flag march of bulldozers but bulldozers were parked at several police stations, especially those considered highly sensitive areas in the district. During the flag march, the administration also gave clear instruction

that anyone found creating disturbance in election will be punished and bulldozer will be run over on houses.

"After violence at several polling centres during the first phase of election, people are worried. Flag march of bulldozers was carried out to send a message to miscreants that they will bear harsh punishment if they try to create violence this time. This step will encourage people to step out to vote for their favorable candidates," an official said on condition of anonymity. Notably, during the first phase of panchayat elections on June 25, violence had occurred in several polling centres in Morena district. For instance, a group of armed miscreants had attacked poll duty officers at a polling booth in Madanvar village and snatched away two

ballot boxes and burnt ballot papers in the forest area.

Following which, Bada Malhara police had registered a case against all the persons involved in the crime and arrested eight accused. While the vote counting was underway at the polling station, miscreants carrying sticks forcefully entered the polling booth and beat up the polling party with sticks.

They took away two ballot boxes while ballot papers were set on fire in the forest. As soon as the information was received, SDM Vikas Kumar Anand, Returning Officer and Tehsildar Kamlesh Kumar Kushwaha, SDOP RR Sahu, station incharge reached with heavy police force and made a Panchnama of the burnt ballot papers.

## Divyang children became guests of Governor on completion of his one year tenure

Team Absolute | Bhopal

On the completion of one year of the tenure of Governor Mangubhai Patel, Divyang children became the guests of the Governor. The children took lunch at the Raj Bhavan hosted by the Governor. About 60 Divyang children also visited the Raj Bhavan.

Divyang children were overwhelmed by the soulful dialogue and affectionate behaviour of Governor Patel. He lovingly offered them meal. With the blessings of his sweet words, affectionate behaviour and best wishes, the Governor drenched the hearts and minds of the Divyang children in the colour of joy.

Patel asked the Divyang children to share their experiences of visiting Raj Bhavan with their friends and family. Giving information about the



hearing impairment of his grandson, he said that if there is any deficiency in the body, then nature also provides some other divine power. The need is to recognise this power within you. He inspired the children by mentioning the divine power of hearing and singing in the sight-impaired girl child. Appreciating the service spirit of the teachers and coaches, he said that they should

help the children to recognise their divine powers and also provide them an opportunity to exhibit.

About 15 orthopedically challenged, 15 hearing impaired, 19 mentally retarded and 8 visually impaired Divyang children of Umang Gauravdeep Welfare Society, Shaskiya Drishti evam Shravan Vidyalaya, Shalom School and government mental schools participated.



## CM planted Neem, Banyan and Gular saplings

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted Neem, Banyan and Gular saplings in Smart Garden today. Chouhan's son Kartikeya Singh also planted sapling. Sikandar Ahmed, Sunil Soni, Nishant Sharma, Mahin Sikandar, Leelendra Maran and Chetan Rawat of Yoga Anusandhan Parishad (Yoga Research Council) took part in the plantation.

Along with Chief Minister Chouhan, Doordarshan

Kendra Bhopal news director Satendra Sharan and his wife Sunita Sharan planted saplings on their marriage anniversary. Sunita Sharan is the announcer and stage artist of All India Radio Bhopal. Sharan's daughter Kumari Satyanshi Sharan and son Anurag Sharan were also present.

Yoga Anusandhan Parishad is active in Bhopal district for the last 30 years in the field of promotion and growth of yoga and treatment with naturopathy and acupressure. The organisation

plants more than 50 saplings every year on its foundation day, 30 April. The organisation also conducts activities in the field of environment protection and cleanliness.

Banyan has religious significance. According to Ayurveda, the treatment of many diseases is possible by the banyan tree. Similarly Neem, rich in antibiotic elements, is well-known as a medicine. According to Ayurveda, Gular is helpful in the diagnosis of many diseases. Gular is also considered a revered tree.

## Fulfilment of duty with the spirit of service is service to humanity: Governor

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Governor Mangubhai Patel has said that discharging duty with the spirit of service is the service to humanity. Nature has given humans special powers of speech and intellect, so that they can help others. He said that whatever works we are doing, it is our duty. If we do this work with the spirit of service, then we will receive the blessings of God. On completion of one year of his tenure, he expressed his gratitude for the cooperation received from the state government for his efforts.

Gratitude was also expressed to the people of the state for the cooperation and display of goodwill towards his sentiments, feelings and works. He thanked all the employees and officers of Raj Bhavan for working with alertness and proactiveness according to his sensitive work style.

Patel was addressing the National Health Mission's Sickle Cell Anaemia Management and Prevention Orientation Workshop at Sandipani Auditorium of Raj Bhavan. Managers, professors of the universities and health department officials of the state were present in the workshop. International skating player girls Asha Gond and Durga Gond of the tribal village Janwaar of Panna district were honoured by the Governor by presenting a citation. Patel was presented with the first copy of the book "Maun ka Udghosh." About four minutes' documentary "Sankalpaseddha-Karmasiddha Governor: Mangubhai



Patel" was screened based on the one year tenure of the Governor. Health Commissioner Sudam Khade presented a letter regarding the adoption of sickle cell portal developed by the state government in other states of the country.

Patel expressed happiness over the presence of more people than expected in the workshop. He hailed them for participation in the resolve of serving humanity. He said that as the first citizen of the state, he is working with full capacity and sensitivity to fulfil the expectations of the common man and his official duties. We are working with the spirit and feeling of contributing our best in the efforts for the welfare of the underprivileged and inaccessible areas and sections. He said that in view of the Covid dis-

aster and elections, despite not getting an opportunity to visit for two and a half months, he has visited most of the districts of the state.

Patel called upon the universities to actively participate in the efforts to prevent sickle cell anaemia. He said that teachers and students can contribute significantly in public awareness efforts regarding the disease. He asked the Vice Chancellors of the University to lead the public awareness efforts, adopt five villages each, visit the villages and inspire other colleges to cooperate in the public awareness works. He said that there is a need to spread awareness among the tribal community regarding widespread screening, testing and effective treatment, health, marriage and rehabilitation services for the preven-

tion of sickle cell. He highlighted the need for screening, pregnancy check-up, counselling in Anganwadi centres, primary, secondary, higher secondary schools. Giving information about the control of physical deformities after the newborn is examined within 72 hours after delivery, he stressed on the efforts of educated students to make the tribal society aware of the disease. He said that the universities should also involve tribal students in village tours by making them aware of the efforts related to disease treatment and control. Inspire and train them to communicate with the tribal community in easy and simple language. He stressed on helping the economically weaker sections in the resolution to end tuberculosis by the year 2024 and giving more impetus to the efforts of former Governor Smt. Anandiben Patel in this direction.

Congratulating Governor Patel on completion of one year's term, Health and Family Welfare Minister Prabhuram Choudhary said that Patel effectively led the society and government in the development efforts for the tribal community and management of sickle cell anaemia disease in the state. After visiting the entire state, he has communicated with the last link of the society. He contributed in the efforts for their development. He informed that the work of treatment of sickle cell anaemia is being done in mission mode by the state government in all 89 tribal-dominated blocks of the state.

## MP Police issue lookout circular against Leena Manimekalai

■ The Madhya Pradesh Police on Thursday issued a lookout circular against filmmaker Leena Manimekalai following outrage over the poster of film 'Kaali' showing the Hindu goddess smoking and holding LGBT flag.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Madhya Pradesh Police on Thursday issued a lookout circular against filmmaker Leena Manimekalai following outrage over the poster of film 'Kaali' showing the Hindu goddess smoking and holding LGBT flag.

The development came hours after Madhya Pradesh home minister Narottam Mishra said he would urge the Centre to issue a lookout circular



against Canada-based film director Manimekalai for hurting religious sentiments of Hindus.

Earlier on Thursday, Mishra said that Manimekalai's 'Kaali' poster is a deliberate attempt to tarnish image of goddess Kali.

Mishra, who is also the spokesperson of the government, said that he was writing to Twitter to

check alleged derogatory remarks made by some people, which have hurt the religious sentiments of Hindus.

"I am going to write a letter to Twitter on the issue. Twitter should check tweets posted by people having perverted mentality, like the Kaali film director Leena Manimekalai, who posts a photo of goddess Kaali smoking... these people use Twitter as tool to hurt sentiments of Hindus," Mishra said.

He further said the Madhya Pradesh government will also write to the Centre to issue a lookout circular against Canada-based film maker and the director of 'Kaali'. The controversy escalated further after Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra said she has every right as an individual to imagine Goddess Kaali as a meat-eating and alcohol-accepting deity, as each person has his or her unique way of offering prayers. An FIR was already registered against Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra at a police station in Bhopal on Wednesday.

## NO ONE CAN REPLACE LOSS OF MOTHER : CM

**Bhopal:** Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan attended the condolence meeting and Uthavana ritual of Late Chetan Devi Sakhlecha, wife of former Chief Minister Virendra Kumar Sakhlecha and mother of Minister Omprakash Sakhlecha and paid floral tributes.

Paying homage at the condolence meeting held at Manas Bhawan, CM Chouhan said that revered Mata. Chetan Devi Sakhlecha lived a very successful life. Former Chief Minister Late i Virendra Kumar Sakhlecha served the people of the state better by staying at the high-



est post of the state, in which the revered mother made a significant contribution. She has left behind a successful and hardworking family. Chief Minister Shri Chouhan said that no one can fill the vacuum and replace the loss of mother. By following the

ideals set by Pujya Mata ji, we can lead ourselves towards better works in our life. CM Chouhan, on behalf of himself and the people of the state, prayed to God to grant peace to the departed soul and strength to the family members to bear this loss.

## CM EXPRESSES GRIEF OVER THE DEATH OF SENIOR JOURNALIST

**Bhopal:** Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has expressed grief over the demise of senior journalist in Bhopal Ramesh Tiwari who passed away this evening. He had been unwell for some time. Chouhan said that Ramesh Tiwari has served Dainik Bhaskar, Dainik Phir Nai Raah and various newspapers and magazines for a long time. He also did analytical writing focusing on characters of Ramayana and Mahabharata. His five such works have been published. He has made significant contribution to Hindi journalism. Chouhan prayed to God to grant peace to Tiwari's soul and strength to the bereaved family and friends to bear this loss.

## CM EXPRESSES GRIEF OVER THE UNTIMELY DEATH OF THREE KIDS

**Bhopal:** Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has expressed grief over the untimely demise of three children in Beraasia area of Bhopal. Chouhan said that this news is heart breaking. He has prayed to God to grant peace to the departed souls and strength to their families to bear this immense loss. Chouhan has directed the Bhopal district administration to provide financial assistance to the families of the deceased children.

## 'Mission Sehat' will transform the face of health institutions

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A special campaign 'Mission Sehat' will be conducted for better care and maintenance of buildings of all health institutions from Primary Health Center to Civil and District Hospital. In this, the heads of the institution will have to get the general and special repair works done by the end of September. While entrusting the heads of the institutions to get the work done the allocation of amount for expenditure on repairs is being ensured as well. Commissioner-cum-Secretary Health Sudam Khade has issued guidelines regarding the work to be done in the mission.

The Health Commissioner said that while making additional provisions in the present arrangement for maintenance of government buildings of the Health Department, funds are being provided to all health institutions for repairs from their Rogi Kalyan Samitis. Under this, the work of both general and special repair of the buildings of health institutions is to be undertaken. General repairs include painting, repairing of doors and windows, replacement of broken glass, patch work of plaster, repair of water supply system, electrical repair, building floor repair and installation of signage at key locations of the hospital. The in-charge of the concerned health institution has been author-

ized to carry out general repair works. In-charge/Medical Officer of Primary Health Centres, Block Medical Officer in Community Health Centres, Hospital Superintendent in Civil Hospitals and Civil Surgeon-cum-Chief Hospital Superintendent in District Hospitals shall be the building in-charge for the repair work of each building under their administrative control. The head of the institution can constitute a supervisory committee at the office or hospital building level as per the guidelines issued at state level for the maintenance and repair work of the buildings operated under him. District wise budget is being allocated on the basis of the amount of repair works from the state level and the bank account information of the Rogi Kalyan Samiti of the respective hospitals. For the execution of general repair works, the authorized officer of administrative and financial sanction will be the head of the institution. On the recommendation of the constituted committee, the building in-charge will get the works up to Rs. 5 lakh done by the agency giving the lowest rate after receiving the tender as per rules. After the work is done, the photographs of the repairs will also be collected. The building in-charge of all the institutions will ensure that all repair works are done compulsorily by 30 September 2022. Special repair works include roof water proofing and repair

work, floor refurbishment of building, sanitary fittings, construction/repair of drainage system and major repairs other than simple repairs. According to the proposal received from the districts for special repairs, administrative approval will be issued for all the works from the competent level of the department following technical approval after obtaining detailed estimates from the departmental/divisional executive engineers. For special repair works, the prevailing rate schedule of PIU of Public Works Department will be applicable. For special repair works costing less than Rs 5 lakh, committee will be constituted by the in-charge of the building. On the recommendation of the constituted committee, the agency which will submit the lowest rate after receiving the tender as per rules, will be selected and will get the work done. For special repair works costing more than Rs 5 lakh, the technical staff of the Health Department will prepare an estimate of the work and a proposal for technical approval etc. After the issuance of administrative approval, the departmental/divisional executive engineer will issue a tender for all the special repairs of the concerned department for works costing more than Rs.5 lakh and the eligible tenderer who submits a minimum rate for each division will be selected. One tenderer will not be selected for 2 divisions. Special

repair works will also have to be completed by November 30. General and special repair works will be included through Google Sheet/Link prepared by the department with the repair photographs showing the pre-work condition and post-completion status. Along with this, the responsibility of entry of other necessary documents will also be with the building in-charge / head of office / head of the institution. General and special repair works will also be constantly supervised. Departmental officers will be responsible for reviewing the construction works to be done in the districts. Block Medical Officer and Assistant Engineer will supervise the repair works conducted in their block. The Chief Medical and Health Officer and the Divisional Executive Engineer will supervise the construction works of civil hospitals and community health centers in their district. All Regional Directors and Divisional Executive Engineers will supervise the repair works of district hospitals operating under their jurisdiction. Updated information will be obtained from all the departmental officers by the state level from time to time after reviewing the repair works. The concerned institution in-charge will be responsible for upgrading the buildings of all government health centers as best institutions within the prescribed time limit of September 30.









# READY TO FIGHT ELECTIONS, SAYS UDDHAV THACKERAY

Challenging the new Maharashtra government headed by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, Shiv Sena President Uddhav Thackeray on Friday said his party was ready to go to the peoples' court and "face elections".

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Challenging the new Maharashtra government headed by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, Shiv Sena President Uddhav Thackeray on Friday said his party was ready to go to the peoples' court and "face elections". Referring to the recent catastrophe that has left the Shiv Sena emasculated after an internal revolt, Thackeray, who quit last month as CM, said the common masses "don't like these (political) games". "The people are asking the same questions - why they (the rebels) behave like this even when the party gave them so many posts... did so

much for them. So many women activists had tears in their eyes yesterday. I thank the masses from the bottom of my heart," said the Sena chief. "Let there be elections. If we have committed a mistake, the masses will not vote for us, we will accept their mandate and we shall sit back," he added, throwing the gauntlet at the new Shinde-Devendra Fadnavis government. Referring to the June 20 rebellion which saw the collapse of the 31-month-old Maha Vikas Aghadi government he headed, Thackeray said that whatever has taken place now could have happened even two-and-half-years ago, "with dignity and without spending thousands of crores of rupees".

Thackeray admitted that even he had felt "bad" after the rebellion of 40 Shiv Sena MLAs that led to the Bharatiya Janata Party-supported government of Shinde-Fadnavis taking office on June 30. "They (rebels) kept quiet against those who targeted the Thackerays, used perverse language against my family and myself. But now, they have gone and sat in those very peoples' lap," reiterated Thackeray at a media conference in his home 'Matoshri'. Dwelling upon the ongoing "leaks" plaguing the party, he said the 56-year-old Shiv Sena is still strong and recalled the days when it started with a single legislator, then slowly grew to form gov-



ernments in the state, giving opportunity to ordinary workers, and rewarding them with high posts. Thackeray expressed gratitude to the people and also the 16 MLAs still supporting him as the party waits for the Supreme Court verdict on July 11.

## Quash Governor's decision to invite Shinde to be Maha CM: Shiv Sena plea in SC

The Supreme Court on Friday agreed to hear on July 11 a fresh plea by General Secretary of Shiv Sena's Uddhav Thackeray faction, challenging the governor's action of inviting Eknath Shinde to be the Chief Minister of Maharashtra.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Friday agreed to hear on July 11 a fresh plea by General Secretary of Shiv Sena's Uddhav Thackeray faction, challenging the governor's action of inviting Eknath Shinde to be the Chief Minister of Maharashtra. Senior advocate Devadatt Kamat, representing Shiv Sena leader Subhash Desai, mentioned the matter before a bench of Justices Indira Banerjee and JK Maheshwari and said that they seek listing of the fresh plea along with other pending petitions which are scheduled for hearing on July 11. "We are challenging

the appointment of Eknath Shinde as chief minister," Kamat said. The top court said it will be listed before an appropriate bench on July 11. The plea said: "It is submitted that the action of the Governor dated June 30, 2022 in calling Respondent No. 4 to be the Chief Minister is completely arbitrary and unconstitutional. The president of Shiv Sena is Uddhav Thackeray. The last organisational elections were held in 2018 and the same was intimated to the Election Commission of India. There is no change to the organisational structure of the Shiv Sena and the leadership of Uddhav Thackeray is undisputed and unchallenged." A rebellion by Shinde-led Shiv Sena MLAs resulted in the collapse of the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government. The plea submitted that the Governor cannot recognise rebel MLAs as a political party as that would ring a death knell on the working of a multi-party democracy. The plea said there is no merger as envisaged under para 4 of the Tenth Schedule and the President of the Shiv Sena (Uddhav Thackeray) had publicly and admittedly not

aligned/supported the BJP. "These rebel MLAs have not merged in any other political party or formed a new political party, therefore even if it is assumed they formed 2/3rd strength of the Legislature party, para 4 of the Tenth Schedule is not at all attracted," it added. The plea contended in these circumstances, the satisfaction of the Governor for the purpose of calling upon Shinde to be the Chief Minister as the head of 39 rebel MLAs of Shiv Sena (which is not endorsed by the Shiv Sena) is by itself ex facie unconstitutional. "The Constitution prohibits recognition of rebel MLAs of a political party under Tenth Schedule, and the action of the Governor legitimises what is expressly prohibited by the Constitution. The Governor has sought to recognise what the Constitution prohibits," said the plea. In these circumstances, the Governor in his ipsi dixit guided by his political masters acted mala fide and in the teeth of the provisions of the Constitution granted de-facto recognition to the 39 rebel MLAs by inviting Respondent No. 4 to be the Chief Minister."

### WOMAN HELD FOR FAKE MARRIAGE IN JALNA; EIGHT BOOKED

**Jalna:** A woman has been arrested and an offence has been registered against eight others for allegedly cheating a man by conducting a fake marriage in Jalna district, police said on Friday. According to the police, the complainant Raosaheb Bhausaheb Sahane (25) was looking for a bride and he came in contact with one Ramesh Shelke, who introduced him to the accused woman Soni Wankhede. The accused demanded Rs 2 lakh from the complainant for the alliance, which he gave. Sahane got married to the woman at a temple in Soyagaon village on June 24, an official said. A few days later, the accused woman told the victim she wished to go to her parents' house and insisted on going alone. Sahane noticed a man waiting for the accused when he accompanied her to the bus stand and found that he had been cheated, he said. The police were alerted and the accused woman was nabbed, the official said, adding that a probe revealed that the woman was married with two children, and the man who was waiting for her at the bus stand was her husband.

## Shinde, Devendra Fadnavis to meet BJP leadership to finalise state cabinet

▶ **MAHARASHTRA CHIEF MINISTER EKNATH SHINDE AND DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER DEVENDRA FADNAVIS WILL BE IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL ON FRIDAY TO MEET THE BJP CENTRAL LEADERSHIP AND FINALISE THE ALLOCATION OF PORTFOLIOS IN THE NEW STATE CABINET.**



Prime Minister Narendra Modi, BJP chief J.P. Nadda, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Home Minister Amit Shah. Sources said that Shinde and Fadnavis will meet the top BJP leadership and discuss the new cabinet of Maharashtra government. "Key agenda to the meeting of Shinde and Fadnavis with the BJP central leadership is to finalise the allocation of portfolios and ministerial quota of both the parties," sources said. Party insiders claimed that Shinde and Fadnavis have already held an initial discussion about the possible shape of the new cabinet of Maharashtra and it will be presented before the BJP central leadership for final

approval. According to party sources, 14 ministers will be from the Shiv Sena camp headed by Shinde and the rest 28 from BJP. On June 30, a day after Uddhav Thackeray's resignation, Shinde was sworn in as the chief minister of Maharashtra. On Thursday, Shinde assumed charge as the Chief Minister, almost a week after he was administered the oath of office along with Fadnavis. On June 20 after the Legislative Council polls, Shinde revolted against Shiv Sena supremo and then-Chief Minister Thackeray. The political crisis ended with the resignation of Thackeray from the post of chief minister on June 29.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis will be in the national capital on Friday to meet the BJP central leadership and finalise the allocation of portfolios in the new state cabinet. It is learnt that Shinde and Fadnavis are likely to meet

### NO BANDOBAST NEEDED FOR CONVOY: SHINDE

**Mumbai:** Stating that this is a government of the common man, Maharashtra chief minister Eknath Shinde on Friday directed officials that there was no need to provide special protocol for his convoy. The chief minister held discussions with state director general of police Rajnish Seth and Mumbai police commissioner Vivek Phansalkar. Shinde has directed that there should be no police bandobast for his convoy, as it causes hardships and delays for the common man, said a statement from the chief minister's office (CMO). "This is a government of the common man so he should get priority over VIPs," Shinde said. The CM added that the special protocol causes traffic snarls, disrupts daily routine of citizens and burdens the police force.

## Man Feared Drowned In River At Bhiwandi

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A 19-year-old man is feared drowned in a river in Bhiwandi town of Maharashtra's Thane district on Friday, an official from the fire brigade said. The incident took place at Kamwari river in the town around 1 pm, when the victim, Mohammad Asif, a resident of Auchit Pada,

had ventured into the water for a swim along with four others, he said. Even as Asif jumped into the river, he was swept away by strong currents. His friends raised an alarm, but he could not be caught, the official from the BNMC said. Local firemen and police rushed to the scene and a search operation was underway, he added.

## Amravati killing was carried out to terrorise people: NIA

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Friday claimed that pharmacist Umesh Kolhe's killing in Amravati was carried out with an intention of instilling fear among a section of people supporting former BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma over her controversial remark about Prophet Muhammad.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Friday claimed that pharmacist Umesh Kolhe's killing in Amravati was carried out with an intention of instilling fear among a section of people supporting former BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma over her controversial remark about Prophet Muhammad. In its FIR lodged in connection with Kolhe's killing, the investigating body termed the crime an "act of larger conspiracy" to frighten people who are supporting the suspended BJP leader. A group of people hatched a conspiracy to send out a message to a group of people

supporting Sharma and another expelled BJP leader Naveen Kumar Jindal who tweeted in her support. "They conspired to strike terror amongst a section of people of India and with their assertions attempted to promote enmity on grounds of religion. Kolhe's murder was carried out as part of the conspiracy to "terrorise a section of the people of India," the NIA has claimed in the FIR. It did not rule out the possibility of the accused having international links. On Wednesday, the central agency conducted searches at 13 locations in Maharashtra which led them to the recovery of incriminating documents.

## 'Delhi-Mumbai E'way 70% ready, bullet train work to be fast-tracked'

The Mumbai-Delhi Expressway project is 70 per cent complete while the languishing Mumbai-Ahmedabad Bullet Train project will be expedited and along with the Nagpur-Mumbai SuperExpressway and other major projects, Maharashtra's economic growth will get a boost, top leaders said here on Friday.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Mumbai-Delhi Expressway project is 70 per cent complete while the languishing Mumbai-Ahmedabad Bullet Train project

will be expedited and along with the Nagpur-Mumbai SuperExpressway and other major projects, Maharashtra's economic growth will get a boost, top leaders said here on Friday. Union Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari said that with more than two-thirds work done on the Rs 100,000 crore Mumbai-Delhi Expressway, the travel time between the country's capital and commercial capital will be slashed to just 12 hours. "It's my dream to establish seamless connectivity from Nariman Point in Mumbai to Delhi through a network of coastal road and sea-link till Virar and beyond with a project outlay of Rs 50,000 crore," said Gadkari, addressing a conclave organised by the CII here.

Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said that the Bullet Train project has been given a push after the new government headed by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde took over in Maharashtra. "Owing to certain reasons, Maharashtra languished while Gujarat worked swiftly on the Bullet Train. But we shall cope up, not just as a Bullet Train, but also as a beginning of a new era in transportation," he said. Shinde said the state government is focussing to create 15 industrial corridors in the state and promised to work with the Centre to create "a pro-industry eco-system". Gadkari unraveled plans for direct road connections from Mumbai to Bengaluru through the Westerly Bypass on Mumbai-Pune Expressway and the Pune Ring Road, besides a

new Pune-Aurangabad road alignment to cut the travel time to just 2 hours, plus a connect between Surat-Nashik-Ahmednagar-Solapur which would divert 50 percent of south-bound road traffic from north India and reduce air pollution in Thane, Mumbai, and Pune. He urged Shinde and Fadnavis to take up the land acquisition work and also waive off GST on various raw materials needed for these projects. Describing Maharashtra as the "growth engine" of Indian economy, he said the state would have to contribute majorly in all fields like agriculture, industry and services to help India realise the dream of becoming a \$5 Trillion economy.

## 30 SHIV SENA EX-CORPORATORS JOIN SHINDE GROUP

▶ **THE SHIV SENA SUFFERED ANOTHER SETBACK AS AT LEAST 30 EX-MUNICIPAL CORPORATORS JOINED CHIEF MINISTER EKNATH SHINDE'S GROUP, HERE ON FRIDAY.**

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Shiv Sena suffered another setback as at least 30 ex-municipal corporators joined Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's group, here on Friday. The move has come as a jolt to the former CM Uddhav Thackeray, ahead of the upcoming civic elections in Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation and other major cities in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region and the state. The development came a day after 67 ex-corporators of Thane Municipal Corporation met Shinde - who was also the



Guardian Minister of Thane in the erstwhile MVA regime - and pledged to work together under his leadership for the progress of the city adjoining Mumbai. After this, many Shiv Sena leaders, corporators, Shakra Pramukhs and other level of activists are contemplating similar action which could pose

severe hurdles for the party in the civic elections in Kalyan-Dombivli, Ulhasnagar, Mira-Bhayander, Vasai-Virar and other townships on the fringes of Mumbai. The latest development came a week after Shinde was sworn in as CM and Bharatiya Janata Party's Devendra Fadnavis took oath as Deputy CM after the MVA government collapsed on June 29. There are ominous signs that many other Sena elected law-makers, party leaders and office-bearers at various levels may shift allegiance to the Shinde group in the coming weeks. The Shinde camp claims that several Sena MPs are in touch and could join them soon even as the Shiv Sena Chief Whip in Lok Sabha Bhavana Gawali - MP from Yavatmal-Washim constituency, was removed on Wednesday and replaced by Thane MP Rajan Vichare. The Sena is pinning hopes on the Supreme Court verdict of July 11, after which the party would chart its future course of action even as Thackeray has launched a massive interaction and communication with the grassroots workers.

▶ **On the directions of Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered a new case against former National Stock Exchange (NSE) chief Chitra Ramkrishna and ex-Mumbai police commissioner Sanjay Pandey for allegedly tapping phones of NSE employees between 2009 and 2017.**

Team Absolute | New Delhi

On the directions of Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered a new case against for-

mer National Stock Exchange (NSE) chief Chitra Ramkrishna and ex-Mumbai police commissioner Sanjay Pandey for allegedly tapping phones of NSE employees between 2009 and 2017. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is conducting raids in Mumbai, Pune and in several other parts of the country in this connection. A CBI source said that an FIR has been lodged at the instruction of the Home Ministry under the Illegal Phone Tapping Act. The source said that during 2009 and 2017 the phones of employees of NSE were illegally tapped by Ramkrishna and Pandey.

"Pandey ran iSec Securities Pvt. Ltd. It has been alleged that Ramkrishna used this firm to tap the phone of NSE's employees. The phone calls made by NSE employees between 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. were tapped and recorded by iSec Securities Pvt. Ltd. It has been alleged that Pandey helped in tapping the phone calls illegally," said the source. The source also said that they would record the statements of the persons involved in the case. The source said that this fresh case was recently lodged by them. Further investigation in the matter is on.







## T20 World Cup

# ICC begins 100-day countdown with trophy tour across four continents

“Celebrating the start of the ICC Men’s T20 World Cup Trophy Tour, driven by Nissan, is another important milestone in taking the trophy to 10 countries for the first time ever, once again showing our commitment to using the T20 format as vehicle to grow the game and to engage new fans across the world.

Geoff Allardice, Chief Executive, ICC

Geoff Allardice, Chief Executive, ICC

Melbourne: The 100-day countdown to the ICC T20 World Cup started on Friday with the hallowed turf of the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) being dropped into the city centre amid a bevy of cricket stars, including the likes of Aaron Finch, Shane Watson, Waqar Younis and Morne Morkel launching the ‘World Cup Trophy

Tour’.

The tournament will feature the world’s best men’s cricketers from 16 countries, with an Australian side, captained by Finch, determined to defend the title they won in the UAE last year. It is the first time the men’s tournament is being hosted Down Under, with the women’s equivalent taking place 2020.

Finch said the period between now and the start of the mega-event will be crucial to his side’s chances

of retaining the crown.

The ICC Men’s T20 World Cup Tour will see the trophy travel across four continents before returning to Geelong on October 16, when the tournament gets underway.

The tour will see the trophy visit 35 locations in 13 countries across four continents. The T20 World Cup trophy will make stops in Fiji, Finland, Germany, Ghana, Indonesia, Japan, Namibia, Nepal, Singapore and Vanuatu for the first



## Malaysia Masters

# PRANNOY STORMS INTO SEMIS, SINDHU LOSES IN QUARTERS

Kuala Lumpur | Agencies

Continuing his brilliant form, H.S Prannoy beat Kanta Tsuneyama of Japan to storm into the semifinals but former world champion PV. Sindhu was knocked out after losing to Tai Tzu Ying in the women’s singles quarterfinals at the Malaysia Masters 2022, here on Friday.

Prannoy, searching for his first BWF title in five years, beat Tsuneyama 25-23, 22-20 in the 60-minute men’s singles quarterfinal clash to reach the last-four stage.

The Indian shuttler, ranked 19th, saved a game point in the opener and two game points after the change of ends against the world No 14 Japanese to script an impressive comeback.

The 29-year-old Prannoy, India’s only remaining challenge at the meet, will now take on world No. 13 Angus Ng Ka Long of Hong Kong for a place in Sunday’s final.

Earlier, Sindhu, seventh in the badminton world rankings, lost to world No. 2 Tai Tzu of Chinese



Taipei 13-21, 21-12, 12-21 in 55 minutes. This was Sindhu’s seventh straight loss to Tai Tzu and 17th

defeat in 22 matches.

The two-time Olympic medalist had lost to Tai Tzu in the Tokyo 2020 semifinals and also at the Malaysia Open quarterfinals last week.

Despite engaging in long rallies, Sindhu found it difficult to break Tai Tzu’s defence and trailed 11-9 at the first interval. The Indian badminton ace found herself at the receiving end for the rest of the game as the Chinese Taipei shuttler, with a good mix of backhand shots and smashes, took the 1-0 lead in the match.

Tokyo 2020 silver medalist Sindhu was quicker on her feet in the second game and raced to an 11-4 lead. Tai Tzu did make a mid-game comeback but an early cushion helped the Indian take the match into the third game. Both shuttlers brought their A-game into the decider. However, after losing two challenges, Sindhu, leading for the most part before the break, lost her rhythm and conceded points in quick succession. Tai Tzu then capitalised on the opening and sailed into the semifinals of the BWF Super 500 badminton tournament.

# Pandya inspires India to 50-run win over England in opening T20I

Southampton | Agencies

Smashing half-century from all-rounder Hardik Pandya (51 off 33 balls) backed up by his superb bowling efforts (4/33 in 4 overs) gave India a huge 50-run win against the Jos Buttler-led England in the opening T20 International -- a day-night game -- at The Rose Bowl here late on Thursday.

Pandya carried his sublime form from the Indian Premier League (IPL) and the recently-concluded series against Ireland into the game against England, guiding the visitors to a massive 198/8 in 20 overs, before returning to bowl a fiery spell that saw the



### Brief scores :

India 198/8 in 20 overs (Deepak Hooda 33, Suryakumar Yadav 39, Hardik Pandya 51) beat England 148 in 19.3 overs (Moeen Ali 36; Hardik Pandya 4/33, Yuzvendra Chahal 2/32, Arshdeep Singh 2/18) by 50 runs.

hosts bundled out for 148 in 19.3 overs. Pandya picked up where the top order left off, joining Suryakumar Yadav (39 off 19) in the blitz, keeping the run rate above 10-an-over in the crucial middle phase. The side have now won 14 of the last 17 T20Is since the tournament, with a no result against South Africa in

Bengaluru meaning the side has lost just twice in the same stretch. Pandya then returned with the ball to account for the dangerous opener Jason Roy (4), David Malan (21), (Liam Livingstone 0) and Sam Curran (4) as England under new captain Buttler found the going tough from the start of their innings.

# More girls from national team can play abroad: Manisha Kalyan

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Indian women’s football team midfielder Manisha Kalyan, who signed a two-year contract with Cyprus’s champion club Apollon Ladies FC, has said that there are more girls from the national team can make such moves in the future.

Manisha’s senior teammate, striker Dangmei Grace has also secured a move abroad, joining Uzbekistan’s FC Nasaf Qarshi on a six-month deal.

With the move, Manisha is set to become the first Indian player to play in the UEFA Women’s Champions League. The Cypriot club will participate in the Round 1 qualifying playoff for the UEFA Women’s Champions League and are set to take on Latvia’s Riga FC on August 18.

"I think there are more girls in the National Team who can make such moves in the future. The kind of matches we have been playing against quality teams, they really help you get an idea of how to tweak your game in



what kind of situations," said Manisha.

The 20-year-old shot to fame last year when she scored a famous goal against giants Brazil in their own den.

Manisha has already had three training sessions with her new club in the second largest city of Cyprus, and though the attacker feels it is first and foremost, a time to adapt, she did enjoy the intensity of the training sessions.

## GUJARAT TO HOST 36TH NATIONAL GAMES IN SEPTEMBER

**Gandhinagar:** Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel has announced that the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has agreed to host the 36th National Games in the state. This will be the first time the state will host the prestigious games, scheduled to take place between September 27 and October 10, 2022. Minister of State for Sports, Harsh Sanghvi welcomed the decision and said, "Gujarat is known for setting records and benchmarks. With the 36th National Games, Gujarat will set yet another record to host the event within the limited time of three months, with more than 34 sports disciplines in six cities across the state."

The 36th National Games were to be organised in Goa in May 2020, But they were postponed indefinitely due to the spread of Covid-19.



## Women's World Cup

# India lose to New Zealand; keep quarterfinal hopes alive

Amstelveen (Netherlands) | Agencies

The Indian women’s hockey team put up a gritty performance against New Zealand in their Pool B match, but went down fighting 3-4 at the FIH Hockey World Cup 2022 in a late Thursday night game.

However, the Savita-led India team is still in contention for a spot in the quarterfinal as they finished third in their pool. India will face the side which finishes second in Pool C in the crossover match on July 10 for a place in the last-eight. Vandana Kataria (4th minute), Lalremisiami (44th) and Gurjit Kaur (59th) were the scorers for India.

The Indian team started the game aggressively and put pressure on their opponents in the opening minutes of the match. In the fourth minute,



Lalremisiami produced a fantastic ball from the edge of the circle and Vandana Kataria got into a great position to tap the ball into the goal to help India take a 1-0 lead. The Indians earned the moment in the opening minutes of the second quarter and obtained a penalty corner in the 18th minute. However, Deep Grace Ekka couldn’t find a way to

break the 1-1 deadlock. New Zealand rode on the momentum and earned back-to-back penalty corners in the opening minutes of the third quarter. Frances Davies converted the second PC in the 32nd minute to help the Kiwis extend their lead further to 3-1.

Sushila effected a brilliant cross from the right flank, but Monika couldn’t direct the ball into the goal. However, Olivia Merry converted a PC in the 54th minute to help New Zealand extend their lead at 4-2. But the Indians continued to put up a strong fight and Gurjit Kaur converted a PC in the 59th minute. India won multiple PCs in the final minute of the match, but the Kiwis ensured they walked off the field as winners. India will take on Spain or Korea (whoever finishes second in Pool C) on July 10.

## SA OPENER LIZELLE LEE RETIRES FROM INTERNATIONAL CRICKET



**Johannesburg:** South Africa opener Lizelle Lee on Friday announced her retirement from all forms of international cricket with immediate effect. Lee, 30, who made her international debut in 2013 against Bangladesh, further said that she will continue to play domestic T20 cricket around the world.

The news comes as a huge blow for South Africa ahead of their women’s ODI series against England, starting from July 11 in Northampton and most importantly, with the Commonwealth Games having the women’s T20 event in Birmingham from July 29 to August 7.

Lizelle leaves the international cricket stage at pole place in the runs-scorer’s list in women’s T20I cricket for South Africa, while coming second to Mignon du Preez in women’s ODIs. She was also the recipient of the ICC Women’s ODI Cricketer of the Year 2021.

In women’s ODIs, Lizelle amassed 3,315 runs in 100 matches, including 23 half-centuries and three centuries at an average of 36.42, with a career-best score of 132 not out against India in Lucknow in March 2021. In two Tests, last of which came against England in Taunton from June 27-30, she made 42 runs.

In women’s T20Is, she played 82 games for the Proteas, scoring 1,896 runs, averaging 25.62, while notching up 13 fifties and one hundred against Thailand during Women’s T20 World Cup in 2020, making her only the second South African woman to reach triple figures in T20Is.

## 2nd Test, Day 1

# Smith, Labuschagne tons put Australia in a strong position against Sri Lanka

Galle | Agencies

Centuries from Marnus Labuschagne (104) and Steve Smith (109 not out) put Australia in a strong position on the opening day of the second Test against Sri Lanka, here on Friday.

Australia were 298 for 5 at stumps on Day 1 with Smith and Alex Carey (16) unbeaten at the crease.

Earlier, Australia won the toss, opted to bat first and fielded the same side as the first Test but Sri Lanka were forced to make four changes after a Covid outbreak in their camp. All-rounder Kamindu Mendis and spin duo Prabath Jayasuriya and Maheesh Theekshana made their Test debuts for the hosts.

The hosts got off to a good start with Kasun Rajitha providing them with an early breakthrough when he knocked off David Warner’s off stump in the fifth over of the day.

Pairing with Ramesh Mendis and debutant Prabath Jayasuriya, Rajitha kept the Australians in check with his probing line and length. Mendis dismissed Usman Khawaja in the 22nd over just when the second-wicket partnership had started to grow. At 70/2, the match seemed evenly balanced.

However, with no demons in the pitch, it was only a matter of time before the Australia batters took back control of the game. Leading the way was Marnus Labuschagne, who did not take long after the lunch break to bring up a wonderful fifty. He accelerated upon reaching the milestone, racing towards triple figures.

The second session was completely dominated by the visitors and Steve Smith proved to be the perfect partner for Labuschagne’s antics. The latter



brought up his fourth Test century, his first outside of Australia with a gentle single to mid-wicket.

Niroshan Dickwella, who had missed a stumping chance to dismiss Labuschagne for 28 earlier in the day, made amends when he whipped off the bails of the advancing batter to give Prabath Jayasuriya his maiden Test wicket. Labuschagne departed for 104 (156) with Australia going to tea at 204/3. However, the wicket did little to dampen Steve Smith’s spirits as the veteran batter dropped in anchor. The experienced batter kept Australia in control. Two brief partnerships with Travis Head and Cameron Green followed but with Smith in the picture, Sri Lanka could not wrest back control of

the game. Smith’s patience was rewarded when he brought up his 28th Test hundred with a crunching cover drive in the final hour of the day. It was a long wait for the talented player, who last reached triple figures in January 2021. Despite wickets falling at the other end, Smith and Alex Carey batted with great patience to ensure more wickets don’t fall and took Australia to stumps at 298/5. The visitors will be looking at the 400-run mark in the first innings, a total that would take some effort to take down by Sri Lanka.

### Brief scores :

Australia 298/5 (Steve Smith 109 not out, Marnus Labuschagne 104; Prabath Jayasuriya 3-90) vs Sri Lanka

## Pooran, Mayers smash half-centuries as West Indies clinch T20I series



**Guyana:** West Indies skipper Nicholas Pooran smashed an unbeaten 74 off just 39 balls, embellished with five maximums, as the hosts romped to an easy five-wicket victory over Bangladesh with 10 balls to spare to complete a 2-0 T20 International series win at the Providence Stadium on Friday (IST).

The 26-year-old left-hander played an array of superb strokes on both sides of the wicket as he made his fourth T20I half-century in his last five innings. Set a challenging target of 164 in the final contest, Pooran ended the match in grand style with a magnificent straight six and held the pose for emphasis. He was named the ‘Player of the Match’ and ‘Man of the Series’.

Pooran smashed five fours and five sixes, racing to his ninth T20I half-century in the 15th over with a six over long on. Mayers, who has two fours and five sixes of his own, had earlier reached his maiden T20I half century off 33 balls at the start of the 14th over with a straight six off off-spinner Mosadek Hossain.

The win came on the heels of a 35-run victory for the West Indies at Windsor Park in Dominica, after the opening game at the same venue was rained off as a no-result. The two teams will now play a three-match ODI series beginning at the Guyana National Stadium on July 10.

Brief scores: Bangladesh 163/5 in 20 overs (Litton Das 49, Afif Hossain 50; Hayden Walsh 2/25) lost to West Indies 169/5 in 18.2 overs (Kyle Mayers 55, Nicholas Pooran 74 not out) by five wicket.



# ALIA BHATT PRAISES KRITI SANON

Team Absolute | Mumbai

There is no denying the fact that Kriti Sanon delivered the best performance of her career in Mimi. The actress was unanimously praised for her role.

The film streamed in 2021 and Kriti is still remembered for her role. Recently, actress Alia Bhatt heaped praise on Kriti Sanon when she appeared on Koffee with Karan.

During the chat show, KJo asked Alia about the last film or performance that bowled her over? Without giving it a second thought, Alia said, "Kriti Sanon in Mimi", to which Karan also agreed.

For the unversed, Kriti played the character of Mimi Rathore, a young woman who opts to be a surrogate mother for a foreign couple in MiMi which was immensely loved by the masses while the actress also won the award for Best Actress at IIFA for her role.

While on the film front, the leading actress is super busy with massive films like Adipurush, Shehzada, Bhediya and Ganapath.



## Payal-Sangram's pre-wedding festivities kickstart

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Sangram Singh and Payal Rohatgi are among the most popular couples in the telly industry.

After dating for 12 years, the couple is all set to tie the knot on the 9th of July.

The pre-wedding festivities have already kick-started and

a glimpse of the Mehendi ceremony is doing rounds on the internet.

Ahead of the ceremonies, the couple visited the Prachin Rajeshwar Mahadev Mandir to seek blessings and shared beautiful photos on social media. They captioned the post, "Beginning of this beautiful journey of our life!!

Need all your blessings & wishes." In the photos, Payal is wearing a heavy-embroidered maroon lehenga while Sangram is wearing an embellished cream kurta.

For the big day, the couple will be taking wedding vows at Agra. On the work front, Payal was recently seen in the reality show Lock Upp.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood actress Sara Ali Khan has shared pictures of her bonding with brother Ibrahim Ali Khan, actor-father Saif Ali Khan and the youngest member of the Pataudi clan, Jeh.

Sara is currently in London holidaying with her family. She took to

Instagram where

Sara shares her 'keeping up with the Pataudis' moment

she shared a gamut of pictures featuring Ibrahim, Saif and Jeh. Actress Kareena Kapoor Khan and Taimur Ali Khan are absent in the pictures.

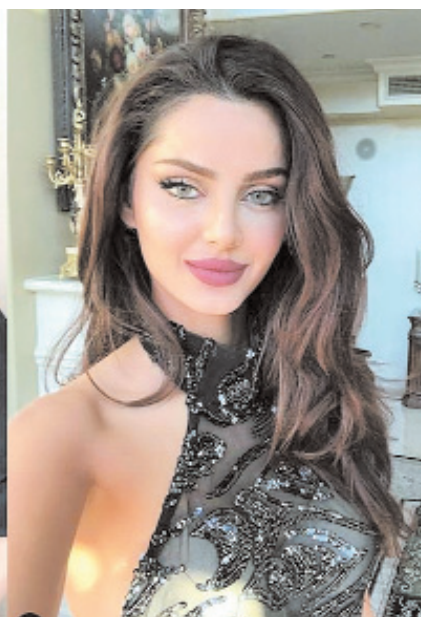
Sara captioned the image: "Keeping up with the Pataudi's." On the work front, Sara was last seen on screen in Aanand L. Rai's 'Atrangi Re'. She will next be seen in 'Gaslight', which also stars Vikrant Massey. She also has filmmaker Laxman Utekar's untitled project with Vicky Kaushal.



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood star Aishwarya Rai Bachchan has a doppelganger in Mahlagha Jaber and fans on social media can't stop talking about the uncanny resemblance between the two.

Aishwarya's lookalike is identified as the 33-years-old Iranian-American fash-



Aishwarya's lookalike in Iranian model Mahlagha Jaber

ion model who is based out of California. She is also a sensation on Instagram where she has a following of 4.1 million.

Jaber has walked the red carpet at Cannes film festival in 2021 and 2022 and has also been a part of several fashion celebrations.

Aishwarya is the winner of Miss World

1994 pageant. She is known for her work in Hindi and Tamil films. In her two-decade-long journey in acting business, Aishwarya has received numerous accolades, including the Padma Shri in 2009 and the Ordre des Arts et des Lettres by the Government of France in 2012. On the work front, Aishwarya will be seen in Mani Ratnam's 'Ponniyin Selvan'.

## KHUDA HAAFIZ: CHAPTER II - AGNI PARIKSHA



FILM REVIEW

SHACHI CHATURVEDI

**Directed by :** Faruk Kabir

**Written by :** Faruk Kabir

**Runtime :** 2 hours 24 minutes.

**Cast:** Vidyut Jammwal, Shivaaleeka Oberoi, Dibyendu Bhattacharya, Sheeba Chaddha, Rajesh Tailang and Riddhi Sharma

**Rating:** 2/5

**Synopsis:** After busting the Noman flesh traffickers and rescuing his wife Nargis, Sameer lives a quiet life with Nargis and their daughter Nandini. Their joy, however, is short-lived as Nandini is abducted by a landlady's thugs on her way home from school. Sameer sets out to save Nandini while simultaneously seeking vengeance on the landlady.

**Review:** Khuda Haafiz chapter 2 is a sequel to 2020 Khuda Haafiz. The film begins with a dream sequence in which the filmmaker attempts to demonstrate Nargis' fight with depression due to her past traumas.

The Film is very neatly divided into two parts where the first part sets the mood and the base, the second part is mostly based on Sameer's revenge.

Unlike the previous instalment, this film is not based on a factual occurrence, but rather on a fictitious depiction of how certain events may influence our lives. Although the screenplay was powerful enough to give you chills, the film lacked acting and adequate portrayal.

Concerning the acting and the specific performance, Vidyut, being an action hero, did well in the action sequences but appeared to have a long

way to go when it came to expressing himself. His acting lacked the emotional connection that was crucial to the plot of the film. While Shivalika did a good job portraying a traumatised silent girl who can fight with anything when it comes to her family. To note, Vidyut did an excellent job of unlearning his martial arts abilities to impersonate an ordinary man.

The supporting performers carried the film on their shoulders in certain ways. This film has a really wonderful song album that will make you tender in the heart.

Aside from that, when it comes to cinematography and camera handling. It was clear that the portion makers shot in India were dodgy, and the quality suddenly improved in the sequences taken in Egypt. Some scenes were excessively gloomy and appeared undesirable.

The film has incredibly implausible sequences, such as convicts ruthlessly killing each other in jail, which were difficult to accept and appeared comical at times.

In conclusion, the film had a terrific script but fails terribly to portray it.

If you are a Vidyut Jammwal fan, you could enjoy the film, but if you avoid it,

you will not be missing out on anything remarkable.



## Taapsee recalls how Rishi Kapoor called her a 'veteran actor'



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Taapsee Pannu remembers late actor Rishi Kapoor on the sets of 'Dance Deewane Juniors'. She appeared on the show to promote her film 'Shabaash Mithu'.

Helmed by Srijit Mukherji, this movie is a biopic on former Indian cricketer Mithali Raj where Taapsee will be seen essaying the role of the cricketer.

Taapsee shares her experience of working with the late actor: "Rishi Kapoor ji was fun to be around during work. Initially when I met him the first thing he said

was, 'what kind of name is this, Taapsee?' in jest".

She continues: "Rishi ji used to call me a veteran actor after knowing that I have done 10 South Indian films. During the 'Mulk' shoot, we shared a great bond and had a good time working together. I used to call him a bully bag."

"I used to feel proud listening to the compliments from him. Working with him and getting compliments will always be one of my greatest achievements. I will always flaunt the compliments that I got from Rishi Ji and will remember them," Taapsee concludes.

## INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Lopamudra Raut