

absolute india



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SIGNIFICANT RISE IN CRIME AGAINST WOMEN, CHILDREN IN 2021, SAYS NCRB DATA

DEVELOPMENT DEMERITS!

Crime against women and children witnessed a significant rise in 2021 over the previous year. As per the latest data released by the National Crime Records Bureau, a total of 4,28,278 cases of crime against women were registered during 2021, showing an increase of 15.3 per cent over 2020 (3,71,503 cases).

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Majority of cases under crime against women under IPC were registered under 'Cruelty by Husband or His Relatives' (31.8 per cent) followed by 'Assault on Women with Intent to Outrage her Modesty' (20.8 per cent), 'Kidnapping & Abduction of Women' (17.6 per cent) and 'Rape' (7.4 per cent). The crime rate registered per lakh women population is 64.5 in 2021 in comparison with 56.5 in 2020.



rate registered per lakh population has declined from 487.8 in 2020 to 445.9 in 2021. During 2021, registration of cases under IPC has

Similarly, a total of 1,49,404 cases of crime against children were registered during 2021, showing an increase of 16.2 per cent over 2020 (1,28,531 cases). In percentage terms, major crime heads under 'Crime Against Children' during 2020 were kidnapping and abduction (45 per cent) and Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 (38.1 per cent) including child rape. The crime rate registered per lakh children population is 33.6 in 2021 in comparison with 28.9 in 2020.

The NCRB data said that overall, a total of 60,96,310 cognizable crimes comprising 36,63,360 Indian Penal Code (IPC) crimes and 24,32,950 Special & Local Laws (SLL) crimes were registered in 2021. It shows a decline of 5,04,975 (7.6 per cent) in registration of cases over 2020 (66,01,285 cases). Crime

declined by 13.9 per cent whereas SLL crimes have increased by 3.7 per cent over 2020. Percentage share of IPC was 60.1 per cent while percentage share of SLL cases was 39.9 per cent of total cognizable crimes during 2021.

CORRUPTION OFFENCES SURGE, MAHARASHTRA TOPS THE LIST

New Delhi: Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu topped the list of states where the maximum number of cases under Prevention of Corruption Act has been registered during the year 2021. A NCRB data said that a total of 3,745 cases have been registered in 2021 by state Anti-Corruption Bureaux (ACBs) as compared to 3,123 cases in 2020, showing an increase of 19.9 per cent.

Out of 3,745 cases, majority -- 67.6 per cent were 'Trap Cases' (2,532) followed by 13.6 per cent of Criminal Misconduct (511 cases).

State-wise data disclosed that Maharashtra topped the list of states with 773 corruption related cases under the Prevention of Corruption Act and related sections of IPC.

RAJASTHAN TOPS RAPE CASES

New Delhi: Most of the rape cases have been reported from Rajasthan during 2020 and 2021 from across the country, as per the data released by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).

It shows that Rajasthan reported the highest number of rape cases at 5,310 and 6,337 in 2020 and 2021, respectively. Madhya Pradesh came a distant second in terms of rape cases in 2020 and 2021 with nearly same numbers. In 2020 there were 2,339 cases while in 2021 it rose to 2,947 cases. Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Assam are the five states where most of the rape cases took place in 2020 and 2021, respectively. The data released by NCRB shows that in 2021, 6,337 rape cases were reported from Rajasthan which indicated that it became the worst state to live for women. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, NCRB didn't release its data for last two years. Now it has come out with a compiled data.

Reliance Jio to roll out 5G services by Deepawali: Mukesh Ambani

- At the 'Reliance AGM 2022', Mukesh Ambani said it will be 'world's largest', 'standalone' Jio 5G services.
- Jio 5G will be the world's largest and most advanced 5G network. Unlike other operators, Jio's 5G network will be stand alone with zero dependency on 4G network.
- With standalone 5G, Jio can deliver new and powerful services like low latency, massive machine-to-machine communication, 5G voice, Edge computing and network slicing, and metaverse.



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Mukesh Ambani, Chairman and Managing Director, Reliance Industries, on Monday announced that Reliance Jio will roll out standalone 5G services in select cities in the country by Diwali, which falls on October 24. To build pan-India true 5G network, Jio has committed a total investment of Rs 2 lakh crore.

To begin with, Jio announced the launch of 5G services in four metro cities -- Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai.

These will be expanded to other cities and towns in phases rapidly to cover the entire country by December 2023.

INVESTMENTS OF RS 3.5 LAKH CRORE AT RIL

New Delhi: Mukesh Ambani, Chairman and Managing Director of Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), on Monday announced investment plans to the tune of Rs 3.5 lakh crore at the 45th annual general meeting of the company. In his speech, Ambani said investment plans include Rs 2,00,000 crore on rapid rollout of 5G, Rs 75,000 crore in expanding O2C capacities across value chains and Rs 75,000 crore in new energy business, as announced last year, with potential to double the commitment based on scalability of evolving models. Ambani announced that RIL will invest Rs 75,000 Crore in the next five years to expand capacities in existing and new value chains with an aim to maximise oil to chemicals integration and convert advantageous feedstock streams to high-value chemicals and green materials.

Meta, Jio Platforms allow users to shop from JioMart via WhatsApp

New Delhi: Tech giants Meta and Jio Platforms on Monday launched an end-to-end shopping experience, where users can shop from e-commerce platform JioMart via using WhatsApp chat. The launch is part of a strategic partnership between Meta and Jio Platforms to accelerate India's digital transformation and provide people and businesses of all sizes opportunities to connect in new ways and fuel economic growth in the country. Users can start shopping on JioMart via WhatsApp by simply sending 'Hi' to the JioMart number on WhatsApp.

Committee on MSP holds first meeting



Team Absolute | New Delhi

A high-level panel, which was formed last month to look at the issue of minimum support price (MSP), in its first meeting held on August 22, has formed a sub-group which would outline measures to make the pricing more 'effective'. Sources aware of the development said that the sub-group would work on guidelines to make MSP effective and more

beneficial to farmers. Support price for farm produce is the main topic of the committee, which was formed after the Centre had repealed the three farm laws amid a year-long protests by farmers' associations.

Also the panel will invite suggestions on practicality of giving more autonomy to the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) and on measures to make it more scientific, sources added.

AAP accuses Delhi L-G of money laundering during demonetisation

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Amid the ongoing face-off between the Centre and the Arvind Kejriwal-led Delhi government, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Monday accused Delhi Lt. Governor V.K. Saxena of indulging in corrupt practices during demonetisation.

The party has demanded removal of the L-G for "indulging in money laundering during demonetisation besides gross misuse of power as the Chairman of the Khadi Gramodyog".

AAP senior leader and MLA Atishi alleged: "When the people of the entire country were standing in queues during demonetisation, Delhi L-G Saxena was busy converting his black money into white. Erstwhile Khadi Gramodyog Chairman Saxena presurised the cashiers of Khadi stores all over the country to get his old unaccounted currency exchanged for new ones."

"Two of the cashiers of KVIC Sanjeev Kumar and



Pradeep Yadav have given a statement to various inquiry committees. It is not possible for the cashiers to convert black money into white because they hold very small posts. It is also not easy for the cashiers to give statements. But they have given written statements that they were pressurised by then Chairman Vinai Kumar Saxena to exchange the old currency notes, which was basically black money, with new ones," Atishi told the media.

On Ganeshotsav-eve, buffalo milk price shoots up by Rs 5/litre in Mumbai

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In an ugly cut ahead of the festival season starting with Ganeshotsav from August 31, fresh buffalo milk prices have been hiked by Rs 5/litre -- from the existing Rs 73 to Rs 78 now, an official said here on Monday.

The Mumbai Milk Producers Association (MMPA) -- with around 1,700 members -- will implement the revised fresh buffalo milk prices from September 1 till February 28, 2023, after which it may be reviewed, it was decided at a meeting presided over by C.K. Singh, committee member, on Sunday. The MMPA Vice-President, Kasam Kashmiri, said that the



price hike was unavoidable in view of the massive increase of 15-25 per cent in the prices of milch animals, their daily food items like seeds, chuni, chana-chuni, grass, and doubling of prices of grass, pinda, etc. Mumbai is one of the biggest urban markets with an annual turnover of around Rs 2000-crore generated by buffalo fresh milk alone, and is monopolised by

people from eastern Uttar Pradesh. The city with a population of around 1.75 crore consumes an average of 45 lakh litres per day, with a fresh buffalo milk component of over 700,000 litres. The latest increase does not affect cow milk or the refrigerated milk and other products supplied by commercial dairies to the city from other parts of the state or rest of India.

BROAD DAYLIGHT ROBBERY IN UDAIPUR; 24 KG GOLD, RS 11L CASH LOOTED

Jaipur: Five armed miscreants on Monday barged into the Manappuram Gold Loan office in Rajasthan's Udaipur and took away 24 kg gold and Rs 11 lakh cash, the police said.

The incident took place in broad daylight in the Sundarwas area. The miscreants, wearing masks, entered the branch at 9.20 a.m. and left at 9.43 a.m.

The company had placed a GPS tracker in the box in which the gold ornaments were kept. Surprisingly, the robbers took out the tracker and threw it out there in the open so that they could not be traced.

It is being said that at least 1,100 people had deposited in this branch of the company. A police team immediately reached the spot and started the investigation. An intensive search has been launched to nab the accused.

SC issues notice to Centre, states on PIL seeking invocation of NSA for hoarding

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Monday sought the response of the Centre and states on a plea seeking the invocation of the National Security Act (NSA) against those involved in hoarding, profiteering, adulteration, and black marketing.

A bench of Justices Abdul Nazeer and V. Ramasubramanian issued notice on the Public Interest Litigation (PIL) moved by BJP leader and advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay.

In the plea, Upadhyay highlighted the facts during the second wave of Covid-19 in April last year, when he discovered in leading newspapers that numerous persons from Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) and Below Poverty Line (BPL) died outside hospitals despite beds being available.



"Thousands of EWS and BPL citizens died on streets, in vehicles, in hospitals compounds and their homes due to hoarding of hospital beds, adulterated Covid medicines, black marketing of medical equipment like oxygen cylinder and huge profiteering in the sale of life-saving injections like Remdesivir, Tocilizumab etc... In Delhi itself, Remdesivir injection was sold at the rate of Rs 70,000 though its price is Rs 899. Similarly, large number of oxygen concentrators and oxygen cylinders were recovered from different places," his plea read.

Pak could consider importing vegetables, edibles from India

Pakistan had formally downgraded its trade relations with India in August 2019 to the level of Israel with which Islamabad has no trade ties at all.

The decision had come as a reaction to India's decision to revoke Article 370 of its Constitution that granted special status to Jammu and Kashmir.

The response came from the Commerce Ministry over the widespread speculation on social media that the government led by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was considering a proposal to resume trade with India.

Islamabad | Agencies

Pakistan Finance Minister Miftah Ismail said on Monday that the government could "consider importing vegetables and other edible items from India" to facilitate people after floods destroyed crops across the country, media reports said. Ismail was addressing a press conference in Islamabad and made the comment in response to a question, Radio Pakistan reported. According to a source, former security advisor Moeed Yousuf was working on some proposals regarding trade with India. On record, former commerce advisor Razak Dawood also spoke on several occasions for resumption of trade with India, Dawn reported.



In March 2021, the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) had announced it would allow the private sector to import 0.5 million tonnes of white sugar from India and cotton via the Wagah border. However, the decision was reversed within days following severe criticism from the main opposition parties-- PML-N and PPP -- which are now in a coalition government. With a change in the federal government this year, the Ministry of Commerce in May ruled out the possibility of a resumption of stalled bilateral trade, Dawn reported.

WILL TAKE ACTION AGAINST CBI, ED OFFICERS IN BENGAL IF MY OFFICERS HARASSED: MAMATA

Kolkata: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday threatened to take legal action against central agency officials posted in West Bengal if the Union government does not stop harassing the bureaucrats and police service officers from the state.

Recently, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has summoned and questioned a number of Indian Administrative Service (IAS) and Indian Police Service (IPS) officers of the state government in connection to the central agency's ongoing probe on coal smuggling scam. "I am aware of the functioning of the CBI and the ED. These agencies have a number of good people. They work honestly. But at the same time, we too have proof about the involvement of some of the central agency officials in corruption. If the officers from West Bengal are harassed in New Delhi, we will also take legal action against such errant central agency officials," Banerjee said at a rally.



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JHARKHAND HORROR: WOMAN TORTURED, THRASHED IN RANCHI

Ranchi | Agencies

A maid who was working at BJP leader Seema Patra's house, suffered dozens of injuries on her body after she was allegedly burnt with a hot pan by her owner.

The teeth of the victim identified as Sunita were also broken with an iron rod. Sunita was not able to stand on her own as she was locked in a room, and was not even provided food and water. The victim is currently undergoing treatment at RIMS, Ranchi.

On the information of an officer of the Personnel Department of Jharkhand Government, Ranchi Police freed her from the BJP leader's residence in Ashoknagar, Ranchi, on August 22. However, Seema Patra, who is also the wife of retired IAS officer from Jharkhand, Maheshwar Patra, is yet to be arrested.

Hailing from the tribal community, Sunita is a native of a village in Gumla. About 10 years ago, she was



brought to work as a maid in the house of retired IAS Maheshwar

Patra and BJP leader Seema Patra. Later she was sent to Delhi with her

daughter Vatsala Patra. After her transfer from Delhi, Sunita came back to Ranchi at Seema Patra's house. She was always harassed while working there and when she asked for permission to go home, she was beaten up and locked in the room.

Dozens of times, she was burnt with the hot pan. Due to continuous thrashing, she was so incapacitated that she was not able to walk. If Sunita's urine accidentally went out of the room, she had to clean it by licking it with her mouth.

When Vivek Baski, a personnel department officer, got information about the atrocities on Sunita, he complained to the Deputy Commissioner, Rahul Kumar Sinha, following which Sunita was freed. On the complaint of Vivek Baski, an FIR was registered at Argora police station in Ranchi. Argora police station in-charge said that if Sunita's condition improves, her statement will be recorded in the court under Section 164 of the IPC.

Post twin towers demolition, 45 lakh litres water used to remove dust

Noida | Agencies

After the demolition of the Twin Towers, now the cleaning work is in full swing.

Sweepers from Noida Authority have been continuously working since Sunday evening to remove the dust and soil in the buildings around the demolished Twin Towers. So far, 450 tankers of water have been used to make neighbouring Supertech Emerald and ATS societies dust-free. The water is also being sprayed using anti-smog guns.

According to the information received from the authority, the capacity of a tanker is about 10,000 litres. In such a situation, 45 lakh litres of water has been used so far. Work is still going on at many places. As thick layer of dust had accumulated all around, especially in the surrounding green belt, work for removing it from the trees and roads is in full swing. The authority wants to



complete this work as soon as possible. Because if the wind is strong, then even after repeated cleaning, the accumulated dust can cause problems for the people. Due to this dust, people may have

to face irritation in the eyes, respiratory problems and skin diseases. The gunpowder used in this blast and cement particles have scattered all around the towers.

FIR against BJP MLA in Bihar's West Champaran district

Patna | Agencies

An FIR was registered against BJP MLA Vinay Bahari under the Arms Act in Bihar's West Champaran and his weapon seized.

Superintendent of Police, West Champaran, Upendra Nath Verma said that the action was taken on the basis of a viral video where Vinay Bahari was seen riding on the elephant and firing in air using a licensed rifle.

A fair called Kans Vadh was held in a sports ground of Machargawa village on August 26 where the Lauria MLA was riding on the elephant and waving a rifle. He also fired several rounds in the air.

That incident was captured by a local person who uploaded it on social media



platforms. IANS is not confirming the truth of the video.

"We have investigated the viral video and found it to be true. The case was registered under the Arms Act and the weapon seized. The license of the weapon is owned by Vinay Bahari's wife," Verma said.

On his part, the MLA said:

"Kans Vadh fair is regularly held in that village where people worship arms and ammunition. Our family also participated regularly for many years and firing in the air is a ritual process to worship the arms and celebrate the fair. The video was put on social media in a wrong perspective."

Modi has 'failed' India's two top challenges of inflation, unemployment: Congress

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Congress on Monday said that the two biggest challenges confronting the country are inflation and unemployment and alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has failed on both counts.

Ahead of the Congress' protest in New Delhi on September 4, party spokesperson Pawan Khara said that the Modi government has completely lacked in providing any relief to the masses on these two fronts which has made life miserable for them.

"While the people suffer under inflation, the Modi regime is busy diverting public attention by resorting to religious and communal issues. Today, there is no other 'wave' in the country except inflation, worry and disappointment at the government," he said.

Flanked by state leaders like Atul Londe, Charanjit Singh Sapra, Raju Waghmare and others, he slammed the Centre for not even showing the courage to face its failures on these issues, and instead making "false claims" regarding inflation figures.

At a media interaction, citing data of the



Congress-led UPA Government headed by Manmohan Singh vis-a-vis the Modi regime, Khara said it clearly shows how inflation has shot up dramatically with a huge increase in the prices of all

essentials.

"During the UPA tenure, a LPG domestic gas cylinder cost Rs 410, today it is Rs 1,053, an increase of 156 percent. The UPA never allowed the prices of petrol to cross Rs 75 when the international crude oil price was \$107/barrel. Today, though crude oil prices have fallen to \$97/barrel, petrol and diesel in India are above Rs 100/litre," he said.

He said the situation is so bad that even those who got gas connections under the Ujjwala Scheme can't afford to buy a refill cylinder with the current high rates.

Countering the Bharatiya Janata Party's claims that inflation shot up after the Covid-19 pandemic as "blatantly false", Khara attributed it to various other policies of the Centre, and its "event management".

"The PM had boldly declared that his government will not impose Goods & Services Tax on milk, curds, flour, and other items of household consumption, etc, and has now slapped the GST on all these food-stuffs. The BJP itself doesn't know what was achieved by demonetisation if it could not control runaway prices even after so many years," he said.

Bihar govt likely to start process of withdrawing general consent to CBI

Patna | Agencies

The Bihar government has reportedly held a meeting to start the process of withdrawing the general consent to the Central Bureau of Investigation to probe matters in the state, sources said.

The meeting was reportedly attended by top Mahagathbandhan leaders including Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav and others after raids being conducted against RJD leaders. The CBI, escorted by central paramilitary forces, conducted raids on RJD MLC Sunil Singh, Rajya Sabha members Ashfaq Karim and Fayyaz Ahmed in Patna, Katihar



and Madhubani districts on August 24. RJD national General Secretary Shivanand Tiwari said: "The way BJP is misusing the central investigation agencies, I believe that Bihar government should withdraw the consent it has given to central agencies like the CBI to come to the state for the investigation. Under the Delhi Special Police

Establishment Act 1946, state governments of the country had given the consent to the CBI and allowed for the investigation of a case without any permission."

"After the formation of Narendra Modi government in 2014, Mizoram was the first state to withdraw the consent in 2015. Which means, if the CBI has to investigate any case, it should take permission from the state government before conducting raids in the respective states. After Mizoram, Meghalaya, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Punjab, and Rajasthan also withdrew consent. A total of 9 states have withdrawn the consent so far," he added.

CBI TO EXAMINE MANISH SISODIA'S BANK LOCKER ON AUG 30

New Delhi: In a latest development in connection with the excise policy row involving Delhi's Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is all set to examine his bank locker on Tuesday. Sisodia on Monday said that on Tuesday, the probe agency will visit the branch of his bank to examine his account details and locker. "Tomorrow, they are coming to examine locker. During the day-long raid too, they did not find anything. They would not find anything in lockers too. Ready for it and will give full support to the CBI," Sisodia tweeted.

EX-RS MEMBER, 2 OTHERS CONVICTED FOR FORGING REIMBURSEMENT OF AIR TRAVEL BILLS

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A Special CBI judge in Delhi on Monday convicted Anil Kumar Sahani, the then Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha); Arvind Tiwari alias Arvind Kumar, then Personal Assistant of Madhya Pradesh and N.S. Nair, Office Superintendent (Traffic), Air India, in connection with an alleged cheating case claiming undue reimbursement of Rs 9,49,270 incurred upon purported air travel along with other companions.

The CBI had registered an instant case on October 31, 2013, against Sahani and others.

It was alleged that during 2012, Sahani entered into a conspiracy with Air Cruise Travels Pvt. Ltd, New Delhi, and others with the aim to cheat the Government of India by claiming undue reimbursement of Rs 9,49,270 incurred upon purported air journey along with other companions.

During the investigation, it was found that Sahani conspired with other

accused and attempted fraudulent withdrawal of TA and DA by using forged tickets and boarding passes as genuine without performing actual journey.

After investigation, charge-sheet was filed on October 23, 2015, against Sahani and others under relevant sections of the IPC and Prevention of Corruption Act.

The court noted that the CBI proved it is a case beyond reasonable doubts. The matter is posted on August 31 for argument on quantum of sentence.

K'taka police set to arrest Lingayat seer facing sexual assault charges

Chitradurga | Agencies

The Karnataka police are preparing to arrest prominent Lingayat seer Dr Shivamurthy Murugha Sharanaru, who is facing charges of sexually exploiting minor girls, police sources stated on Monday.

Meanwhile, the accused seer, who spoke for the first time after the accusations surfaced on Monday, promised to abide by the law and extend all cooperation in the case. He is holding a meeting with other swamis and devotees of the mutt to discuss future course of action. Sources in the mutt explained that the accused seer is likely to surrender before the police.

"Devotees should understand the law of the land. I will abide by the law, respect law and extend all cooperation to the authorities. There is no question of escaping from the situation," the accused stated.

"There has been a conspiracy against the mutt for 15 years. Until now, it was being carried out discreetly but now it has come out in the open," he said.

The law is equal to all. "We should find a solution to this situation permanently with intelligence and patience. I have confidence that I will come out clean of all allegations," he stated.

Karnataka police have lodged a POCSO case against the accused Lingayat seer following a complaint by two minor girls. The victims of the case will be produced before the magistrate and are expected to record their statements under Section 164 of CrPC.



The victims have already recorded their statements before the police. The case has been transferred to Chitradurga from Mysuru where the complaint was lodged.

Azad says forced to leave Cong, praises Modi for showing humanity

Days after his resignation from the Congress, Ghulam Nabi Azad has alleged that he was 'forced' to leave the party, and praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for 'showing humanity'.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Speaking to the media here on Monday, he said that the Congress does not respect its leaders and "people don't know about our contribution to the party". While praising the Prime Minister, he said, "I had understood Modi was a crude man as he is not married, does not have children but he has shown his humane side when he spoke in Parliament about the incident that happened with the Gujarati tourists when I was the Chief Minister."

Azad was responding to the allegation levelled against him by the Congress leaders, who had said that "Azad has been Modi-fied" and will join the BJP". He said, "The party is full of illiterates, special-ly those who are working on clerical posts. Those who know J&K, I can't increase one vote of BJP."

He also said that Rahul Gandhi was not interested in politics despite efforts from the party. "It was Rahul who hugged the Prime Minister in

Parliament not me," Azad said, and added that since the letter seeking reform in the Congress was written in 2020, the party has a problem as no one wants to be questioned.

In his resignation letter, Azad had said, "Unfortunately, the situation in the Congress party has reached such a point of no return that now 'proxies' are being propped up to take over the leadership of the party. This experiment is doomed to fail because the party has been so comprehensively destroyed that the situation has become irretrievable. Moreover, the 'chosen one' would be nothing more than a puppet on a string."

He said at the national level the Congress has conceded the political space available to the BJP and state level space to regional parties.

"This all happened because the leadership in the past eight years has tried to foist a non-serious individual at the helm of the party," he alleged without taking the name of Rahul Gandhi.





DOCTOR COUPLE'S ALLEGED SCAM UNDER AYUSHMAN BHARAT SCHEME

70 Ayushman Bharat health card holders found in Jabalpur hotel, though official records showed they had been admitted to the Central India Kidney Hospital

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A doctor couple in Madhya Pradesh has been charged with cheating and forgery over allegations that they were running a racket to claim huge sums under the Ayushman Bharat health insurance scheme.

Dr Ashwini Pathak and Dr Duhita Pathak own the Central India Kidney Hospital in Jabalpur. It is alleged that they lodged about 70 Ayushman Bharat health card holders to a hotel next to the hospital. There was no link between their symptoms and their diagnosis in the hospital's records, a preliminary probe has found.

The couple has been charged under sections relating to forgery and cheating, senior police officer Gopal Khandel has said. Dr Ashwini Pathak has been taken into custody.

Khandel said there are allegations that the couple would get Ayushman health card holders admitted, pay them a small sum and claim huge amounts from the government under the health insurance scheme.

Under the scheme, an annual health cover of Rs 5,00,000 is provided to each family for secondary and tertiary-care hospitalisation.

Jabalpur police chief Siddharth Bahuguna said they had received information that some Ayushman card holders had been admitted to Vega Hotel, although they were not seriously ill.

Police and health department officials then conducted a raid and found 70-odd people lodged at the hotel, which has been shut since the Covid pandemic struck. The hotel is run by the doctor couple's son.

Most of those lodged at the hotel were from neighbouring districts

such as Damoh and their medical records showed they were being treated at the hospital next door. On many beds, two patients had been accommodated.

The hotel has now been sealed on the orders of the district administration.

Denying the allegations, Dr Ashwini Pathak said: "It's not a hotel anymore, we are running a 100-bed medical facility there after taking permission from the district hospital. We are not charging a single rupee from the Ayushman Bharat card holders."

The doctor's claim was refuted by Additional District Magistrate Namah Shivay Arjaria. "Central India Kidney Hospital admitted fake patients in Vega Hotel. Though the hotel has been sealed, certain medical facilities being run at the hotel, such as the CT scan centre, have not

been shut for the benefit of the patients."

Dr Sanjay Mishra, the district's Chief Medical Officer, said: "Not only was the medical facility being run without permission from the Health Department, there was also an illegal CT scan centre in the hotel's basement."

According to a report submitted by Dheeraj Dabde, nodal officer for Ayushman Bharat in Jabalpur, ten 'patients' were found in the hotel rooms and were kept under observation at 5 pm last Friday. However, at 9.30pm, not a single patient was found on that floor and all rooms were locked.

According to an initial report filed by the Health Department, there was no link between the diagnosis mentioned in the hospital's records and the symptoms reported by the patients.

CM Chouhan reviews Shahdol district

Those who demand money from the poor do not have the right to remain in government service: CM

▶ MAKE SHAHDOL DISTRICT IDEAL UNDER AMRIT SAROVAR YOJANA

▶ EFFORTS OF SHAHDOL IN "ONE DISTRICT ONE PRODUCT" ARE COMMENDABLE

▶ TURMERIC IS BECOMING THE IDENTITY OF THE REGION



Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that those seeking money from the beneficiaries of government schemes should be removed from their jobs. Those who demand money from the poor do not have the right to be in government service. The development and public welfare works worth billions of rupees are being conducted by the state government. The public should get their benefit directly. MLAs, Panchayat representatives and officers-employees should tour the areas continuously. Keep in constant touch with the public and keep an eye on the status of implementation of plans, construction works and quality of materials used. Ministers, public representatives and officers should work for the development of their area and welfare of the people in the form of "Team Madhya Pradesh." Be in constant communication with the public and work pro-actively for quick resolution of problems.

Chouhan was virtually reviewing Shahdol district from the residence office at 7 am. Backward Classes and Minorities Welfare Minister Ramkhelawan Patel virtually joined the meeting. District Collector Vandana Vaidya, Superintendent of Police Prateek Srivastava and all the officers of the district also

attended the meeting virtually.

Chouhan reviewed the implementation of tap-water schemes, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, food grains distribution, power supply, CM Rise School, implementation of Chief Minister's Rural Street Vendor Scheme, organisation of employment fairs, maternal mortality and infant mortality rates, condition of roads and law and order etc in Shahdol. CM Chouhan said that maximum number of youths should be connected with Rozgar Diwas (employment day) every month. CM Shri Chouhan expressed displeasure over the condition of the main roads of Shahdol and not filling of the sewerage pits. CM instructed to speed up the works under PM Awas Yojana.

Chouhan appreciated the activities carried out in "One District One Product" in Shahdol. It was informed that cultivation of turmeric is being encouraged in the district under "One District One Product". Workshop on turmeric and natural farming was held by organising Haldi Mahotsav. The samples of turmeric produced in the district have also been approved by companies like Patanjali, Baidyanath. Efforts are on to increase the sales by better packing and branding of turmeric in the district so that the farmers and self-help groups get more profit from direct sales. Chouhan hailed

the organisation of Gaurav Diwas. He said that activities should be conducted to make the district ideal in the construction of Amrit Sarovars. CM also appreciated for providing dialysis facility to the patients in the district.

It was informed that 4 lakh 73 thousand Ayushman cards have been made in the district. Chouhan directed to achieve 100 percent target by 31 October by working on war footing. Chouhan said that the problem of replacement of faulty transformers for power supply and not getting the correct voltage should be resolved immediately. Along with this, awareness camps should be organised to make people aware of their responsibility for paying electricity bills. It was told that 294 majra-tolas (habitations) are left in the Saubhagya scheme. On an average, electricity is being supplied for 23 hours 51 minutes per day in urban areas and 22 hours 35 minutes in rural areas.

It was informed that in the last two months, 12 persons have been booked under NSA. After taking 70 actions against the land mafia, 118 acres of land worth 55 crores was freed. Action is being taken by making a list of 1300 goons and miscreants in the district. Chief Minister Shri Chouhan directed to build houses of the poor on the land freed from the mafia and take strict action against drug trade.

CM launches Hara-Bhara Madhya Pradesh campaign

■ 75 lakh saplings will be planted in the state
■ Chief Minister planted Peepal sapling in Smart City area

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted a Peepal sapling in the Smart City area under the campaign "Aao Ped Lagaye - Hara Bhara Madhya Pradesh Banaye" (Come Plant Trees - Build Green and Verdant Madhya Pradesh) of Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha. Along with this, saplings of Banyan, Peepal, Belpatra, Amla, Kadamba, Rudraksh and Mango were planted.

Chouhan said that plantation is a campaign to show gratitude towards the earth.



In order to save the next generation from the dangers of climate change and the effects of global warming, it is necessary that we make plantation a tradition for the present generation. CM inspired the members of the Morcha to plant saplings on their birthdays, wedding anniversaries, other auspicious occasions and in the memory of the family members. He said

that by planting saplings, we easily get involved in creative programmes. This is a task to beautify Bharat Mata. Chouhan said that 25 lakh saplings each will be planted in the campaign on September 17, the birth day of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on September 25, the birth anniversary of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay, and on October 2, the Jayanti of Mahatma Gandhi. In this way, 75 lakh saplings will be planted in the state from the capital to the gram panchayat level. Chief Minister Chouhan was accompanied by Urban Development and Housing Minister and Bhopal in-charge Bhupendra Singh, Khajuraho MP VD Sharma, Rajya Sabha MP Kavita Patidar, Organisation General Secretary Hitanand Sharma, Yuva Morcha State President Vaibhav Panwar and a large number of workers who were present planted saplings with chanting of mantras.

HEAVY RAIN ALERT IN MANY PARTS OF MP

Bhopal: In many parts of Madhya Pradesh, once again the possibility of heavy rains has started forming, which is why the concerned districts have been alerted. Monsoon remains active in the state, with intermittent heavy rains the past few days continued. According to the alert issued by the Meteorological Department, there is a possibility of heavy rain in the next 24 hours in Chhatarpur, Panna, Umaria, Anuppur and Damoh. Similarly, there is a possibility of rain with thunder and lightning in the divisions like Narmadapuram, Gwalior, Chambal, Rewa etc.

CM pays tribute to Major Dhyanchand on his anniversary



Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan paid homage to Major Dhyanchand on his anniversary by garlanding his portrait at the CM's residence auditorium. Urban Development and Housing Minister Bhupendra Singh was also present. The birth anniversary of Major Dhyanchand, the pride of

hockey, is celebrated as Sports Day. Major Dhyanchand is called the wizard of hockey. He was awarded the Padma Bhushan in the year 1956 in the field of sports. He was born on 29 August 1905 in Allahabad. He was a member of the Indian hockey team that won the Olympic gold medal three times. Major Dhyanchand scored more than 1000 goals in his sports career.

"Mera Bachha Abhiyan" in Datia district succeeds in eradication of malnutrition

Prime Minister Narendra Modi in "Mann Ki Baat" program have praised the success of "Mera Bachha Abhiyan" run in Datia district to eradicate malnutrition. He has said that can you imagine that songs, music and bhajans can also be used to eradicate malnutrition.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

It was successfully used in "Mera Bachha Abhiyan" in Datia district of Madhya Pradesh. Here, after this campaign, not only the attendance of children in Anganwadi centers has increased but malnutrition has also reduced. He said that under the campaign, bhajan-kirtan programs were organized in the district, in which teachers who were called nutrition gurus were also invited. There was also a matka program, in which women bring a handful of grains to the Anganwadi center and on Saturdays, baal bhoj is prepared from it.

In order to free children from malnutrition in Datia district "Mera Bachha Abhiyan" has been launched since September 2019. In the

campaign, efforts were made to nurture the identified malnourished children of the district. To overcome the problem, this campaign was carried out in the district for the purpose of nutrition. There were 994 highly malnourished and 11 thousand 604 malnourished children in Datia district in the year 2019. Presently there are 217 highly malnourished and 836 malnourished children in the district. These children are being adopted by officers, employees and public representatives. They are helping in improving the nutrition by reducing the knowledge and nutrition gap. Health check-up of children is conducted in suposhan melas every three months. In this, health, AYUSH department, and with public participation, medicines, hygiene and nutrition kits are being distributed. The person or officer who makes

a malnourished child healthy in three months is awarded by "Poshan Veer Samman".

Poshan Matka program was also conducted to increase public participation in this campaign. In this, the women of the ward, the village bring a handful of grain from their home, which is collected in a pot of nutrition. The grain is used for the Baal Bhoj on Saturdays. To bring public awareness about nutrition, nutrition songs, bhajans and nutrition gurus were engaged. In all Anganwadi centers, women were mobilized through hymns and through songs, the understanding of nutrition was conveyed to every household. Even in schools, after the morning prayer and the national anthem, nutrition gurus discuss nutrition. The Nutrition Gurus also gave detailed information about

the nutrition to the woman and children in anganwadi centers. The presence of women and children in the Anganwadi center has increased through songs and bhajans. Along with this, malnutrition rate has also in decreased Datia district. At present, special attention on institutional birth, only breastfeeding to the infant for 6 months, to take care of the pregnant mother before the birth of the child etc. is being given under the campaign. Datia district received the Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration on 21 April 2022.

In this campaign, groups of about 526 officials and public representatives were formed in the district, who take the responsibility of nurturing the malnourished children of the village and solve the problems related to the children.

GOVERNOR REACHED RAJ BHAVAN AFTER TREATMENT

Bhopal: Governor Mangubhai Patel reached Raj Bhavan on Monday after recovering at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences. Patel remained under treatment at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences from the night of August 20 to the morning of August 29. Before his arrival at Raj Bhavan, Patel planted a Peepal Sapling in the institute premises.

BJYM WILL PLANT 25 LAKH SAPPLINGS IN MP ON PM MODI'S BIRTHDAY

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Madhya Pradesh unit of Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha has started 'Green-Bhara Madhya Pradesh' campaign, a total of 75 lakh saplings have been planted in this campaign, out of which 25 lakh saplings will be planted on the birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Morcha's Green Madhya Pradesh campaign started on Monday in the capital's Smart Park. On this occasion, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, BJP State President Vishnu Dutt Sharma said, BJP is not only in politics for power, but its workers also understand their responsibility towards society and country and world. BJP Yuva Morcha's Green Madhya Pradesh is one such campaign, during which front workers will plant 75 lakh saplings to face the crisis like environmental protection and global warming.

Chief Minister Chouhan said that BJP is not only committed to running the power, but to take the country forward. Today the whole world is facing the problem of global warming. Therefore, to save nature, we have to make a green nation by planting trees. Trees are our life giver.



BJP State President Sharma said that BJP workers are discharging their role in the organization as well as in various social areas. Today, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has emerged as a forerunner of the world in the direction of environmental protection, while Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan is making people aware of the environment by planting saplings every day.

State President of BJYM, Vaibhav Pawar said that a state-level steering committee has been constituted for this grand campaign, which will coordinate with the ward, divisional, assembly and district in-charges. Under this campaign 75 lakh saplings will be planted in three phases.

The first phase will start from September 11 and will continue till September 17, the birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The second phase will start from September 18 and will continue till September 25, the birth anniversary of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay. The third phase will start from September 26 and will continue till October 2, the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. Similarly, on 17th September, 25th September and 2nd October, massive tree plantation campaigns will be conducted.



EDITOR'S SPECS

CHALLENGES AFTER SUPERTECH DEMOLITION

Following the demolition of the Supertech twin towers in Noida, steps should be taken for regular air monitoring, and waste segregation to minimise environmental impacts, say environmentalists. The demolition of these towers has generated significant quantities of rubble, which resulted in production of gigantic amounts of dust, as a result of which PM10 in the areas within its close vicinity is likely to be recorded much higher. The PM2.5 levels would also see a spike but not as much as PM10 (being larger particles than the former). The UPPCB needs to monitor the air quality levels of the site and whole area, post demolition, till at least for a month and a half (because NCR starts witnessing spurt in the air pollution levels late October onwards), so as to ensure that pollution from demolition does not coincide with the annual pollution factor. The Noida Authority needs to ensure that there is proper segregation of the waste, into concrete, steel, soil, wood, glass, plastics, bricks and mortar etc, as provided under the Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules, 2016, under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. After segregation, they must be carefully transported under covered sheets, to the C&D waste processing site, where another round of segregation must take place. Water sprinklers, spray guns must remain installed in adequate numbers in and around the site and used regularly till the disposal of the entire demolition waste. The areas in the vicinity of the towers must be greened/landscaped, to contain the dust. The entire demolition exercise must be viewed by the Noida Authority, UPPCB, CPCB and the demolition engineering company, Edifice Engineering) as an opportunity. The engineering companies may also get to explore the best demolition technologies available in the world and adopt them in India.

THE GOOD, BAD AND UGLY OF THE RUPEE HITTING AN ALL TIME LOW AGAINST THE DOLLAR

Taponeel Mukherjee & Poornima

Indian National Rupee (INR) has not been in news for the right reasons so far this year. It has been dragged down by the perfect storm of international pressures and geopolitical headwinds. However, the current situation is a necessary wake-up call to regulators and policymakers to strengthen the currency by making Rupee assets more valuable to foreign investors via effective tax policies, the exporting of higher-value services, and growth-focused economic strategies.

While rising inflation, tightening monetary policy, and climbing crude oil prices have made the current fiscal a difficult one for the INR, the Russia-Ukraine war sparked a near-freefall, with the Rupee having lost nearly 7 per cent in value since Russia's invasion on February 24. Meanwhile, the US Federal Reserve's rate hikes (+150 bps so far in 2022) have also sparked record capital outflows of over \$35.6bn from the equity and debt markets between October 2021 and June 2022 (\$29.7bn in H12022 alone), making it the longest selling streak in Indian equity markets since liberalisation. All these factors led to the rupee hitting the 80-mark twice in July, with monetary and fiscal attempts to reverse the slide having yielded mixed results so far.

So why did we see the Rupee slide?

First, the Rupee's current crisis was not unexpected. Given rising inflation and the Relative Purchasing Power Parity Rule, post-pandemic tightening of monetary policy was always anticipated; the pace of the same has only accelerated due to inflationary pressures. This, in turn, has predictably sparked a flight of capital from emerging economies to safe Dollar-denominated assets leading to the depreciation of the Rupee.

Second, while swift currency depreciation is a cause for concern, some sectors will see strong gains. Export-oriented sectors, such as IT, textiles, and pharmaceuticals, stand to gain from a falling Rupee. However, there are caveats, given that India is a net importing nation with a widening trade deficit that surged to more than \$31bn in July (over 3x higher YoY). Therefore, non-export-oriented sectors, such as telecommunications, renewables, FMCG, and automotive, which heavily depend on imported raw materials, largely stand to lose. Add to this the rising global commodity prices and worsening domestic inflation, and one may conclude that the costs of INR depreciation far outweigh the benefits.

At the same time, it may also be interesting to note that while the Rupee is performing poorly vis-a-vis the U.S. Dollar, it has fared relatively well vis-a-vis other currencies YTD, including the Japanese Yen (+9.80 per cent) and Turkish Lira (+26.25 per cent).

Meanwhile, remittances, which were valued at \$89.4bn in 2021 and expected to chart an upward trajectory in the near term, stand to be more beneficial for recipients now with a weaker Rupee, especially given that the US is the largest source of these funds.

Three, the Rupee's depreciation presents an opportunity to reform the currency and enhance its global standing.



Dipping into forex reserves may slow the slide, but the current situation warrants long-term solutions that can transform the Rupee into a coveted asset class rather than just another currency. RBI seems to be headed in the right direction. Its announcement last month to allow the Rupee to be used to settle international transactions opens the door for a possible internationalisation of the INR. This may have been evoked mainly to enable India to import cheap Russian oil, but it is the right move.

However, Rupee internationalisation, increasing foreign capital inflows, and making the currency more stable is just a way to make INR assets more attractive, which, given the crossroads, the RBI and Government find themselves at, should be a top priority.

How can we make INR assets more attractive?

First, tax benefits for foreign investors. This could be via proposed capital gains tax waivers for overseas debt investors, which would also help get Indian bonds listed on global bond indices. It could also be via new-age asset classes, such as real estate investment trusts (REITs) and infrastructure investment trusts (InvITs), or via Government-led economic planning, such as the development of GIFT City and the International Financial Service Centre (IFSC) in Gujarat.

Second, exporting higher-value services. Even as manufacturing PMI growth has lost steam, the services sector has become a reliable engine of growth. And within services, sub-sectors from real estate and health to education and hospitality can learn a lot from IT when it comes to exporting higher value services that are both knowledge- and technology-inten-

sive. In this light, developments and policies such as Skill India, Digital India, Startup India, and endeavours to ease the compliance burden in the education sector and boost MSME productivity are welcome steps.

Third, supporting growth-focused and consumer-oriented economics. The full potential of India's demographic dividend and the vast domestic market is yet to be tapped, and doing so is crucial for both fiscal and monetary prudence. After all, the INR crisis will abate eventually. It is already showing signs of easing: FPIs recently turned buyers for the first time in nine months amid a softening Dollar and the Rupee is below 80 again. But whether this momentum will be sustainable depends largely on how quickly and effectively the potential of the domestic consumption market and demographic dividend is tapped. All in all, given the Fed's consecutive rate hikes and the inflationary environment, a weakened Rupee was a fait accompli. India is making all the right moves by internationalising the Rupee and making INR assets attractive on a global level. Given all the tailwinds the country has working in its favour - economic growth, a vast domestic market, and a young population - regulators and policymakers must ensure that Indian assets remain an attractive destination for global capital on a relative yield basis.

(The authors head AIG, a firm that Offers Proprietary Research.)

international

OVER 50,000 RUSSIAN SOLDIERS TO TAKE PART IN MILITARY DRILL

Moscow | Agencies

More than 50,000 soldiers will take part in a large-scale Russian military manoeuvre this week, the Defence Ministry said in Moscow on Monday.

The exercise, dubbed "Vostok 2022", will include the deployment of 5,000 weapons and pieces of military equipment, as well as 140 aircraft and 60 warships and other vessels, news agency quoted the Ministry as saying. The manoeuvre, which will begin on Thursday and end on September 7, is to take place on military training grounds in eastern Siberia and the Russian Far East, as well as in the Sea of Japan. Soldiers deployed abroad have



reportedly already arrived at a training area, including from Belarus, China and India. The exercise, which takes place some six months into Russia's war in Ukraine, is about ensuring the military security of Moscow and its allies, the Ministry said.

RUSSIAN DEFENCE MINISTER BEING 'SIDELINED', RIDICULED FOR 'INEFFECTUAL' LEADERSHIP

Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu is being "sidelined" due to problems in the war against Ukraine and is likely being ridiculed by soldiers for his "ineffectual" leadership, according to the British intelligence. The latest update from the Ministry of Defence (MoD) said that the recent independent Russian media reports have claimed that due to the problems Russia is facing in its war against Ukraine, Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu is now being sidelined within the Russian leadership, with operational commanders briefing President Vladimir Putin directly on the course of the war. The reported Russian officers and soldiers with first-hand experience of the war probably routinely ridicule Shoigu for his ineffectual and out-of-touch leadership as Russian progress has stalled.

NASA SCRUBS ARTEMIS I MOON ROCKET LAUNCH MONDAY MORNING

Houston: US space agency NASA on Monday scrubbed Monday its historic Artemis I mission to the Moon due to fuel leaks. It was scheduled to launch Monday in a time frame of 8.33 a.m. to 10.33 a.m. (local time) to take an Orion capsule with three test dummies to the moon and back from Florida's Kennedy Space Center. This was NASA's first unmanned space mission to the Moon in the last 50 years since 1972.

NASA has reportedly rescheduled the next flight window for Friday depending on the rocket's readiness. The weather was said to be generally cloudy with a little storm here and there but good enough to launch the rocket, but fuel leaks led to the cancellation of the launch for which countdown started on Sunday.

China slams passage of US Navy warships through Taiwan Strait

Beijing | Agencies

The Chinese Foreign Ministry on Monday denounced the passage of two US Navy warships through the Taiwan Strait, calling it a "provocation" aimed at "sabotaging regional peace and stability". Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said Washington must observe the "One China" policy, which is the position that there is only one Chinese government, reports news agency.

Taiwan has had an independent government since 1949, but China considers the democratic island part of its territory and opposes any form of official contacts between Taiwan and others. On Sunday, the guided-missile cruisers USS Antietam and USS Chancellorsville made a "routine" mission through international waters,



the US Navy's 7th Fleet said. "The ship's transit through the Taiwan Strait demonstrates the US' commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific. The United States military flies, sails, and operates anywhere international law allows," the statement said. It was the first time the US military sent warships through the strate-

gic waterway since US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi visited Taiwan on August. The brief visit, during which Pelosi pledged Washington's solidarity, drew the ire of the leadership in Beijing. In response, the Chinese military held large-scale manoeuvres around the island.

24 FOREIGN FIRMS INTERESTED IN ENTERING PETROLEUM BIZ IN SL

Colombo: Twenty-four companies from India, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Saudi Arabia, the US, China, Russia, the UK, Malaysia, Norway, and the Philippines are interested in the petroleum business in Sri Lanka, a Minister said.

Minister of Power and Energy Kanachana Wijesekera said on Sunday night that his ministry has appointed a committee to evaluate the expressions of interest (EOIs) submitted by the foreign firms, which will finalise the process within six weeks, reports news agency. Wijesekera said companies in petroleum-producing countries were invited to import, distribute and sell petroleum products in Sri Lanka. The Minister added 700 petrol pumps under the state-owned Ceylon Petroleum Corporation (CPC) can be given to selected companies for operations, and the selected companies can also use other CPC facilities on a commercial basis, he said. Currently, the CPC and the Lanka Indian Oil Corporation are permitted to distribute fuel to retail customers. Wijesekera said that the CPC, which holds 80 per cent of the retail petroleum market, is unable to keep on supplying fuel because of dollar shortages.



Russian Defence Minister being 'sidelined', ridiculed for 'ineffectual' leadership

Moscow | Agencies

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Russian officers and sol-



diers with first-hand experience of the war probably routinely ridicule Shoigu for his ineffectual and out-of-touch leadership as Russian

progress has stalled. The update added that Shoigu has probably "struggled" to overcome his reputation as not having much mili-

tary experience, The Guardian reported.

Russia is increasing mobilisation reserves and plans to mobilise about 90,000 military personnel, according to Ukrainian intelligence.

The representative of the main directorate of intelligence of the Ministry of Defence of Ukraine, Vadym Skibitsky, said: "At the same time, different approaches are used: so-called volunteer battalions, and reserve battalions, battalions of the so-called combat army reserve of the country (BARS), which they are now recruiting in each military district in order to replenish losses, increase their efforts, and to increase the number of the very group that can be used against our state." According to Skibitsky, Russia is having significant problems in equipping its armed forces.

Australian PM promises cultural change for female workers

Canberra | Agencies

In his address marking 100 days since taking office, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese on Monday promised a "cultural change" to improve conditions for women in the workplace. Albanese flagged a shift to a "reform and renewal" agenda, reports news agency. "Government has a responsibility to plan for the future, to build for the long-term, to implement the reforms that arm people with every chance to fulfil their potential," he told the National Press Club. Albanese declared he has not wasted a day in office since leading the Labor Party to election victo-



ry, having taken action to raise Australia's emissions reduction target and increase wages for low-paid workers.

He identified Labor's list of election promises including reviving the local manufacturing industry, cleaner and cheaper energy, cheaper childcare and better

skills and training as next priorities. Ahead of the government's two-day jobs summit, which starts on Thursday, Albanese said "after 30 years in which the gender gap has hardly budged", he was hoping for serious improvement in economic equality for women.



J&K MARATHIS IRKED BY PUNE GROUPS' PLAN TO INTRUDE ON GANESHOTSAV FEST IN KASHMIR

Quaid Najmi & Sheikh Qayoom | Pune/ Srinagar

A move by seven leading Ganesh Mandals from Pune to organise Ganeshotsav 2023 in the Kashmir valley has piqued the local Marathi community of around 150 families living there since over four decades.

The organisations -- barring the Dagdusheth Halwai Ganapati Mandal -- on Saturday announced a joint Ganeshotsav celebration in J&K capital Srinagar and other towns from next year.

However, the Maharashtrian community of J&K, living, studying and working in the erstwhile border state now a Union Territory has balked at the very idea of 'some outsiders' seeking to enter their domain with potential bleak ramifications.

Justifying the move, a trustee of Shrimant Bhausaheb Rangari Ganesh Mandal Punit Balan said that if there can be Vaishnodevi Yatra and Amamath Yatra or Har Ghar Tiranga from Kashmir to Kanyakumari, they why can't there be Ganeshotsav celebrations in the UT of J&K.

Nevertheless, he later assured that they would take the local Kashmiri Marathis into confidence before embarking on their venture. None too pleased, the J&K Shree Ganesh Seva Mandal trustee Dattatray Suryawanshi wondered what was the need for 'anybody from Pune or elsewhere to go all the way for some tokenism' which could be detrimental for the locals.



siastically," Suryawanshi told correspondent. Concurring, NGO 'Sarhad' founder Sanjay Nahar said that public Ganeshotsav was born in Pune (1892) 130-years ago as a political fest by Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak to unite people against the British Raj.

It is the Marathi community in J&K which celebrates it in a truly religious style and are also uniting all the locals annually worshipping the Lord Ganesh, the elephant-headed son of Lord Shiva and his wife Parvati with



their abode in the snowy Himalayas," Nahar said. Moreover, he pointed out that Ganeshotsav is very much celebrated in J&K and even the Tricolour is displayed by people there, "but certain politicians attempt to paint a contrary picture" and foment misunderstandings and divisions among the countrymen.

(immersion) and also gives 'prasad' meal to nearly 5,000 people.

"We just collect a small amount of Rs 2,100 per family, there are voluntary donors among us or the local Muslim jewellers. We do not take a single rupee from any private or government sponsors. In the past 23 years, not a single Kashmiri has objected to our annual event and all join us to make it a success," Suryawanshi declared.

The J&K Marathi community comprises more than 125 gold refiners and artisans from Sangli, Solapur and Satara districts of Maharashtra, their children study in local J&K English schools, learn Marathi at home and some even go out to other states to pursue higher education.

The Pune groups plan to instal Ganesh idols for 36 hours (one-half-day) celebrations in Srinagar, Pulwama, Shopian, Anantnag, Baramulla, Kupwara and Khurhan, and in subsequent years hope to make it a full-fledged Ganeshotsav (10-day fest).

On August 31, the Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir Pandurang K. Pole -- incidentally, a Marathi -- will inaugurate the SGSM fest with the 4-feet tall idol of Lord Ganesh brought from Maharashtra this year, and the immersions shall be carried out near the Hanuman Temple on the banks of River Jhelum on September 9.

Besides Suryawanshi and Nahar, other business persons from various communities have frowned at the Pune groups' proposal saying the one-and-half day event can hardly be called Ganeshotsav by any stretch and are optimistic that "better wisdom will prevail", as would be expected by the Lord Ganesh himself -- also revered as the God of Intellect.

Fresh political buzz as Raj Thackeray goes to meet Fadnavis



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Fresh political speculation was ignited after an hour-long meeting between Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, of the BJP, and Maharashtra Navrinnman Sena President Raj Thackeray here on Monday.

The meeting took place at the Deputy Chief Minister's residence, nearly six weeks after Fadnavis went to Raj Thackeray's home Shivirth in Dadar on July 15, in what was described as a courtesy call. Monday's tete-a-tete came a week after the MNS chief bounced back into action after convalescing nearly three months following a hip surgery.

He addressed a meeting of party workers on August 23, and then went to Pune to launch the party's membership campaign and other programmes. The latest meet on Monday is considered crucial in view of the upcoming civic elections in the state and BrihanMumbai Municipal Corporation

(BMC), controlled by the opposition Shiv Sena for nearly three decades. Though Raj Thackeray and Fadnavis have stopped short of announcing a formal alliance, a possible tie-up or seat sharing is not ruled out, even as top central BJP leaders like national President J.P. Nadda and Union Home Minister Amit Shah are likely to visit Mumbai during the upcoming Ganeshotsav festival starting from August 31.

The Shiv Sena led by ex-CM Uddhav Thackeray is also planning to make a strong bid to retain its hold over the country's biggest and richest civic body, despite Maha Vikas Aghadi, comprising Nationalist Congress Party and Congress, losing power at the state-level on June 29.

The Sena has just cobbled up an alliance with the Maratha group, Sambhaji Brigade, and on Monday, prominent Vishwa Hindu Parishad leader Uddhav Kadam joined the party in the presence of Uddhav Thackeray.

SC judge recuses himself from hearing plea by Gautam Navlakha

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Supreme Court judge, Justice S. Ravindra Bhat on Monday recused from hearing a plea filed by Gautam Navlakha, accused in Bhima Koregaon case, seeking to be placed under house arrest instead of being in the jail.

As the matter came up for hearing before a bench headed by Chief Justice U.U. Lalit and Justice Bhat, the Chief Justice informed the

counsel in the matter that Justice Bhat cannot hear the case.

Chief Justice Lalit said: "Justice Bhat cannot hear. Not to list this case before a bench with Justice Bhat. List before me on the administrative side." The bench indicated that the matter may be listed before a bench headed by Justice K.M. Joseph.

Navlakha moved the apex court challenging Bombay High Court judgment, passed in April, dismissing

his plea to be transferred from Talaja Prison and placed under house arrest instead. In August 2018, he was arrested and initially placed under house arrest. In April 2020, after an apex court order, he was moved to Talaja Central Prison in Maharashtra.

In the high court, Navlakha had contended that he was being denied basic medical aid and other necessities in Talaja and also cited his advanced age.

NUDITY CASE: MUMBAI POLICE GRILL RANVEER SINGH FOR TWO HOURS

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Mumbai Police recorded the statement of Bollywood actor Ranveer Singh Bhavnani in the July 2022 nudity and obscenity case lodged against him, here on Monday.

The police had summoned the actor Singh for his version in the case after an NGO and a woman activist Vedika Chaube lodged a complaint of obscenity after the nude photos were published in a foreign magazine.

As there was a huge uproar after Singh shared the photos on social media, the NGO and Chaube lodged the complaint with the Chembur Police which filed the FIR last month.

Singh's nude photos were carried by the 'Paper' magazine and later shared by him on social media - sparking a national controversy.



He was grilled by a team of Mumbai Police for over two hours this morning and allowed to leave.

However, the police are tight-lipped on the details of the statement recording session and whether he was quizzed alone or in the presence of his aides or lawyers. An official merely said that the first statement has been recorded and the actor may be summoned again if required. The Mumbai-born Singh, 37, has been booked under Indian Penal Code Section 292, 293, 509 and the IT Act, pertaining to the sale of obscene books, objects to young people, word, gesture or acts intended to insult modesty of a woman, and other related charges based on the NGO and Chaube's plea.

A multiple-award winning actor, Singh entered Bollywood in 2010 with 'Band, Baaja, Baraat' and later catapulted to fame with films like 'Bajirao Mastani', 'Padmavat', 'Simmba', 'Goliyon Ki Raas Leela-Ram-Leela', 'Gunday', 'Gully Boy' and others.

Shiv Sena's Dussehra rally will be at Mumbai's Shivaji Park: Uddhav Thackeray

► SHIV SENA PRESIDENT UDDHAV THACKERAY ON MONDAY ASSERTED THAT THE PARTY'S ANNUAL DUSSEHRA RALLY WILL BE HELD AT THE SHIVAJI PARK IN MUMBAI.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Thackeray's remarks came against the backdrop of his faction not yet getting a nod from the Mumbai civic body for the rally, a decades old political event held by the Sena in the sprawling Shivaji Park and synonymous with the fiery speeches of party founder late Bal Thackeray.

This will be the first Dussehra rally of the Shiv Sena after the split in the party in June this year. The revolt by a group of Sena legislators had led to the collapse of the



Thackeray-led government. On Saturday, Uddhav Thackeray's son and former state minister Aadiya Thackeray said authorities

were not accepting an application from the Shiv Sena to hold its annual Dussehra rally. Dussehra will be celebrated on

October 5 this year. Talking to reporters on Monday, Uddhav Thackeray said Shiv Sainiks have begun preparation to come to the Shivaji Park from different parts of the state. "The Shiv Sena's annual congregation will take place at Shivirth (the term Sena uses for Shivaji Park)," the former Maharashtra chief minister said. The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) was controlled by the Shiv Sena from 1997 till March this year when the tenure of corporators ended and polls could not take place. The civic body is currently governed by an administrator.

After the collapse of the Uddhav Thackeray-led government in June, rebel Sena leader Eknath Shinde was sworn in as the chief minister and BJP's Devendra Fadnavis as deputy CM. On Saturday, Aadiya Thackeray said, "The Shiv Sena is seeking permission for holding its annual Dussehra rally in Mumbai but authorities are not accepting our application. This (Eknath Shinde dispensation) is a repressive government."

170-km Pune Ring Road project set to begin after monsoon

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Construction of the much-awaited 170 km-long Pune Ring Road project is set to begin after the current monsoon season.

By separating the inner-city traffic from highway traffic, the Ring Road will significantly enhance transit and bring down pollution caused by traffic jams.

Tenders for the inaugural 32-km stretch, which goes from the industrial hub Chakan to Ahmednagar Road, and Nagar Road to Solapur, has been released. The project is being undertaken via Public Private Partnership (PPP) and Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority (PMRDA). The PMRDA is now drafting the DPR for the inner part of the Ring Road.

The Ring Road is a massive undertaking that will bring together six national highways which traverse the Pune Metropolitan Area (PMR) -- NH-40 (Mumbai-Pune), NH-60 (Pune-Nashik), NH-753F (Pune-Ahmednagar), NH-65 (Pune-Solapur), NH-965 (Pune-Saswad-Palkhi Marg) and NH-48 (Pune-Bengaluru). The PMRDA will also look at creating new residential and commercial nodes that dovetail with the Ring Road. Anil Pharande, President, CREDAI (Pune Metro), said that it is by far the most progressive step that is being taken to improve the quality of life and overall efficiency in Pune. "Across India, our cities have been growing with



almost complete disregard to what the population at large actually requires. We have seen that important facets of the urban experience -- support infrastructure, breathable air, management of waste management and dependable water -- have received only token nods so far. The main development impetus has not been on critical infrastructure but on creating more and more cash-cow real estate projects wherever possible," he said. Citizens will benefit from this development model primarily because they can reach their places of work with a minimum commute and get back home easily.

"Increased family time, less inhalation of pollutants on jammed roads, lower fuel consumption, lower cost of public transport, improved public health readings and a highly upgraded quality of life. In the most successful instances of transit-oriented development globally, citizens have stopped using personal vehicles altogether. The annual household savings in terms of utilities and healthcare costs can be very significant," said Pharande.

Truck rams bike as rider loses balance to ditch Pothole

A 22-year-old man was run over by a truck after his motorcycle lost balance due to potholes in Maharashtra's Thane district on Sunday.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The incident, which occurred on Diva-Agasan road, was captured on security camera.

The victim was identified as Ganesh Fale, according to an official release issued by Thane Municipal

Corporation regional disaster management cell chief Avinash Sawant. Footage showed the man on his motorcycle crossing the tanker truck from the opposite direction when he lost balance and came under the rear wheels of the vehicle. Seeing this, a panic-stricken

man raised his hand to make the truck stop after which several passersby gathered at the site. The victim was taken to Kalwa civic hospital where he was declared brought dead. His body has been sent for post-mortem. A case has been registered and further investigation is on.

Modi Government didn't fulfilled any promise: Sharad Pawar

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) president Sharad Pawar on Monday criticised the Narendra Modi-led central government and claimed it did not fulfil any of the promises made by it.

The BJP's agenda is to keep smaller parties away from power, Pawar further claimed while talking to reporters in neighbouring Thane, the home turf of Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde.

"The Union government made several promises since the 2014 general elections, but it never fulfilled a single promise. The prime minister had promise house to every person in the



country, but the government failed to fulfil it," Pawar said.

The NCP chief further criticised the BJP, claiming it uses probe agencies to come to power in states.

In June this year, Shinde and 39 other Shiv Sena legislators rebelled against the party leadership, leading to the collapse of the Uddhav Thackeray-led government, which comprised the Sena, NCP and Congress.

Shinde became the CM on June 30 with the BJP's support.

Two senior NCP leaders - Anil Deshmukh and Nawab Malik - are currently in jail after being arrested by the Enforcement Directorate in different money laundering cases.



TAYLOR SWIFT ANNOUNCES NEW ALBUM 'MIDNIGHTS'

Los Angeles | Agencies

In quite a dramatic move, Taylor Swift announced an all-new album, 'Midnights', during her climactic speech at the MTV Video Music Awards, reports a website. The new album is set to come out on October 21. The reveal of the album came, as she accepted an award for video of the year for her 'All Too Well (10-Minute Version)', although she waited until midnight ET to reveal the name of the forthcoming record on her social media, along with not-quite-complete album art.

"We lie awake in love and in fear, in turmoil and in tears," she wrote in a lengthy note. "We stare at walls and drink until they speak back. We twist in our self-made cages and pray that we aren't -- right this minute -- about to make some fateful life-altering mistake. This is a collection of music written in the middle of the night, a journey through terrors and sweet dreams."

The note added: "The floors we pace and the demons we face. For all of us who have tossed and turned and decided to keep the lanterns lit and go searching - hoping that just maybe, when the clock strikes twelve ... we'll meet ourselves. 'Midnights', the stories of 13 sleepless nights scattered throughout my life, will be out October 21. Meet me at midnight."

According to a website, earlier, at the close of the awards show, Swift said: "You guys, I'm just so proud of what we made, and I know that every second of this moment that we wouldn't have been able to make this short film if it weren't for you, the fans," she said, accepting for 'All Too Well (10-Minute Version)'.

"Because I wouldn't be able to re-record my album (Taylor's Version) of All Too Well, if it weren't for you. You emboldened me to do that. And I had sort of made up my mind that if you were going to be this generous and give us this, I thought it might be a fun moment to tell you that my brand-new album comes out October 21. And I will tell you more at midnight," she added.

Unlike her other recent releases, where the vinyl came out months after the digital versions because of the sneak attacks and pressing-plant backups, the product page for 'Midnights' indicates that the LP version - pressed in a moonstone blue marbled edition - will ship on the October 21 date that every other edition comes out.



Depp springs a surprise with 'Moon Person'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Johnny Depp, who has had quite an eventful year with his legal battle against ex-wife Amber Heard, made an appearance at this year's MTV VMAs as the Moon Person, popping in for a few one-liners as the awards show returned from commercial breaks. Though Depp was not at the VMAs in his physical form, his face appeared digitally in the helmet of a Moon Person floating above the stage.

"And you know what? I needed the work," Depp said, quoted by a website, at the beginning of the show. "Hey VMAs, let's get back to the f***** music, shall we?" he said in another appearance after a commercial break, though his f-bomb was bleeped out for the broadcast. And in a pre-taped clip posted to his Instagram, Depp said: "I just want you guys to know that I'm



available for birthdays, bar mitzvahs, bat mitzvahs, weddings, wakes, any old thing you need." According to a website, although Depp wasn't nominated for any awards this year, he has taken home five Moon People in the past -- including awards for best male performance, best villain, global superstar and the generation award. Depp's appearance comes just a few months after his controversial and highly publicised defamation trial against ex-wife Amber Heard.

The jury found that Heard had defamed Depp in her 2018 'Washington Post' opinion piece, which alluded to being a victim of domestic violence. However, the jury also found that Depp defamed Heard, through his attorney, while fighting back against her charges. Since the June verdict, Depp has been attempting to restart his career in both film and music. In July, after joining Jeff Beck for multiple live performances, Depp and Beck released their joint 13-track album entitled '18'.

'I LOVE EVERY CURVE': PIERCE BROSNAN

REPLIES TO TROLLS FOR
BODY SHAMING WIFE

London | Agencies

James Bond star Pierce Brosnan has proved once again that he's the perfect husband to his beloved wife, Keely. The actor, who has been married to Keely Shaye Smith for almost 22 years, gushed over her figure after a close friend of theirs reportedly offered to help Keely out with weight loss surgery, reports website. The Irish actor, 69, hit back at cruel trolls who made nasty comments on his wife's figure, after a Facebook post about the married couple went viral earlier this year. According to local paper, in the post, a Facebook user made hurtful comments about how different Keely looks now compared to when she first married the veteran actor back in 2001.

One image saw the couple pose on the beach when they were much younger, thirty years ago -- in the



nineties -- while the other image was snapped more recently, with the pair naturally looking different. They further states that after the post went viral, with endless fat-shaming comments, Pierce allegedly hit back at the cruel trolls while slamming a pal's surgery offer. The devoted husband reportedly insisted that he "loves every curve" of his wife's body in a sweet message for his wife after the images went viral. The much-loved Irish actor reportedly hit back, saying: "Friends offered her surgery to reduce her weight. But I strongly love every curve of her body. She is the most beautiful woman in my eyes and also because she had our five children."

Leo DiCaprio stuns fans with weight loss

Los Angeles | Agencies

The Wolf of Wall Street' star Leonardo DiCaprio is howling in pride as he showcased his incredible weight loss while out and about in Malibu.

The actor, sported a dressed-down look as he strolled the sunny streets while rocking a plain black t-shirt, some beige cargo shorts, and a pair of white trainers.

The veteran actor topped off the chic yet casual look with a beige baseball cap and some oversized sunglasses. He looked almost unrecognisable as he showcased his impressive weight loss while on the solo outing in Malibu.

According to a website, in recent months, the movie star has been pictured living it up on vacation in various tropical locations - and it seems as though Leo has dropped a substantial amount of weight since returning from his most recent getaway.

On his most recent outing, Leo was spotted without his girlfriend, Camila Morrone. The 'Shutter Island' actor started dating the Argentine-American model in 2017 -- when she was 20.



Ozzy Osbourne paranoid about staying in US, set on going back to UK

Los Angeles | Agencies

It seems like the rock legend Ozzy Osbourne isn't too pleased with staying in the US as the Black Sabbath front man is set to permanently return to the UK with wife Sharon after several years living in Los Angeles.

The Black Sabbath rocker, 73, is set to up sticks and return to his homeland after spending the best of the last two decades in California with his three children; Aimee, Kelly, and Jack.

According to a website, Ozzy and Sharon, who recently celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary last month, own a huge Grade II listed mansion in Buckinghamshire where they previously divided their time alongside their Californian home.

However, the families have been concerned by the increasing number of mass shootings in the country and have opted to return home.

Speaking to The Metro, Ozzy said: "Everything's f***** ridiculous there. I'm fed up with people getting killed every day. God knows how many people have been shot in school shootings. And there was that mass shooting in Vegas at that concert...It's f***** crazy."

Ozzy surprised everyone, even his Black Sabbath band-mates, when he defied the odds to perform at the closing ceremony of the Commonwealth Games in his hometown of Birmingham earlier this month.

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Camila Morrone



Durand Cup:

MUMBAI CITY FC REGISTER A 5-1 WIN AGAINST RAJASTHAN UNITED

Kolkata | Agencies

Mumbai City FC (MCFC) registered a 5-1 win over Rajasthan United FC (RUF), in a Group B game at the Kishore Bharati Krirangan (KBK), here on Monday.

Greg Stewart opened the scoring for the Islanders in the 10th minute, with Lallianzuala Chhangte doubling the advantage in the 18th and Mehtab Singh adding a third in the 35th, to put the issue beyond RUF in the first half itself. In the second half, Ahmed Jahouh converted a penalty won by substitute Vikram Pratap Singh, before Gyanmar Nikum got one back for RUF with his second of the tournament. Vikram Pratap then nailed one in himself in the second minute of stoppage time to make it a five-star performance from the Islanders.

RUF looked a far cry from



the spirited side of their first two games with MCFC snuffing out whatever challenge they would have provided in the first half itself, with some eye-catching football. The first MCFC goal gave an indication of things to come when Argentine Pereyra Diaz, with a lovely body turn in mid-field, found Scotsman Greg

Stewart's run in between two defenders, who made no mistake with a clinical finish. This was after RUF had got the game's first corner for themselves in the very first minute itself. MCFC continued to attack and Lallianzuala Chhangte, who had a few runs before that, received the ball on the

right flank and cut inside, to let go a left-footer which took an unfortunate deflection from RUF defender Aidar Mambetaliev's head to wrong foot keeper Niraj Kumar and go in.

In the 35th minute, Greg Stewart took a free-kick from the right, floating the ball across goal. Mehtab Singh, who had come in from his position in deep defence, met it on the half-volley and found the back of the net. The game was well beyond RUF now and with the kind of form MCFC were in. To their credit however, they came out with positive intent in the second-half and did create more chances to score than they did in the first.

MCFC were also not letting up and after Vikram Pratap was deemed to have been brought down in the box, Jahouh converted from the spot calmly to make it 4-0 for the Islanders in the 63rd minute.

Benzema late show for Real keeps champions perfect with 3-1 win over Espanyol

Madrid | Agencies

Captain Karim Benzema scored twice in a wild finish as Real Madrid won 3-1 at Espanyol to preserve their 100 per cent record after three games of the La Liga season.

Vinicius Junior's tidy finish was cancelled out by a goal from Joselu, who has made a habit of scoring against Madrid since spending three years early in his career with the capital club's 'Castilla' B team, reports. Benzema had a goal ruled out after the break, while Joselu almost pinched another, before Benzema turned in a cross from Rodrygo to snatch the points. Espanyol goalkeeper Benjamin Lecomte was sent off in stoppage time and Benzema added his second from the subsequent free-kick as the game ended chaotically. The result means Madrid move level on nine points with Real Betis, the next opponents for Carlo Ancelotti's team and the only other side with a perfect record.

Vinicius fired Madrid into a 12th-minute lead, meeting a smart pass from Aurelien Tchouameni close to the penalty spot and tucking a first-time shot past Lecomte and into the bottom-left corner. However, it was Espanyol who struck next, equalising in the 43rd minute. Joselu took Oscar Gil's through-ball on board and scored at the second attempt after Courtois made an initial



save, with the ball rebounding kindly off Eder Militao for the home striker. Joselu was in the thick of the penalty-area drama again just before the hour mark when Courtois had to desperately push away his left-footed strike amid a scramble. Lecomte repelled a 20-yard curling strike from Benzema at the other end,

before Madrid's talisman and captain had a goal disallowed for offside after he prodded in a low ball from Toni Kroos. As the game entered its closing stages, Benzema met Rodrygo's expertly crafted cross from the left, tucking in a close-range volley at the far post to thoroughly deflate the hosts.

Rudranksh Patil wins Men's Air Rifle T6 National Trials

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Team absolute : Maharashtra's Rudranksh Balasaheb Patil, won the Men's 10m Air Rifle T6 National Shooting Selection Trials at the MP State Shooting Academy Range, registering a 16-6 victory over Olympian Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar.

Rudranksh and Aishwary finished first and second in the eight-man semi-final stage, with scores of 261.9 and 261.3 respectively, to set themselves up for the gold medal decider. Earlier, in the 392-strong qualifying field, Rudranksh shot 630.2 to finish second behind the Air Force's Ravi Kumar, who shot a round of 630.7.

Aishwary shot 629.4 to finish fourth. Rajasthan's Yash



Vardhan was the other star of the day, registering the double with wins in both the Junior Men's and Youth Men's 10m Air Rifle T6 trials. In the Juniors he beat Rudranksh 17-7 in the final while in the Youth section he overcame

Andhra's Maddineni Umamahesh with a tighter 17-15 scoreline. In Delhi at the Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range, Kashish Mehra of Haryana won the 25m Centre Fire Pistol T5 trials for Men with an aggregate score of 587.

ASIAN GAMES

Indian athletes bat for Esports recognition as a sport ahead of next year's

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Team Absolute : Esports has exploded in popularity over the last few years in India. Esports (Electronic sports) is a competitive sport where esports athletes use their physical and mental abilities to compete in certain genres of video games in a virtual, electronic environment. Recently, the Indian DOTA 2 team produced a power-packed performance to clinch the bronze medal at the first-ever Commonwealth Esports Championship. The Indian Dota 2 team, comprising Moin Ejaz (captain), Ketan Goyal, Abhishek Yadav, Shubham Goli, and Vishal Vernekar, defeated New Zealand by 2-0 in a best-of-three format in Birmingham.

As esports is going to make its debut at the Asian Games 2022, earlier in 2018 it was there as a demonstration title when our esports athlete



Tirth Mehta won a bronze medal (Hearthstone). The Asian Games 2022, originally scheduled for September this year, will now be held from September 23 to October 8, 2023. With the conclusion of the

ESFI's National Esports Championships in April 2022, India's 18-member esports contingent for the Asian Games 2022 was finalised. Before this big tournament, for India to become an Esports nation,

the game needs to be recognised as a Sport and build a solid grassroots structure in the country which can result in bringing more laurels to the country in competitive gaming. The same is advocated by esports athletes and industry players.

"After winning the medal at the Commonwealth Esports championship in Birmingham, it's high time that esports should be recognised as a sport. Esports athletes need their due recognition and support from our government and help us in providing better facilities, coaches, health physios and all other things which other sports athletes get as getting a medal for the country need proper support," said Indian DOTA 2 team captain Moin Ejaz. "With the medal wins at Asian Games 2018 & now at Commonwealth Esports Championship, the time has come to recognize esports as a sport.

Matthews on Dottin's retirement

Dubai | Agencies

West Indies skipper Hayley Matthews feels that the shock international retirement of big-hitting all-rounder Deandra Dottin during the Birmingham Commonwealth Games has created an opportunity for a younger player to stand up and get a spot in the side. Deandra announced her retirement from international cricket for West Indies while on national duty with Barbados during the women's T20 event at the Commonwealth Games 2022, where her side failed to enter medal matches.

"It's quite difficult to start off as a captain and missing out on one of your best play-



ers. But at the same time, it'd give an opportunity to one of the other girls coming through the system, now being able to get a spot in the team," said Hayley in a new episode of ICC's 100% Cricket podcast. Hayley revealed that despite having conversations with Deandra on retirement, the timing of the announcement still surprised her.

"Deandra and I had some conversations prior where she may have mentioned it. Maybe the timing of that exactly was a bit of a shock. But at the same time, I feel it was something that Deandra was ready for. I support her one hundred percent." Hayley went on to hail "game-changer" Deandra for her contribution to West Indies cricket. "I

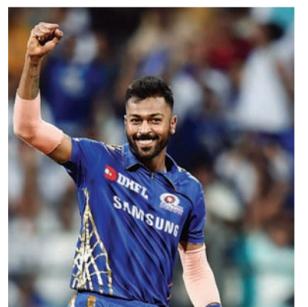
am so thankful to Deandra for everything she has done for West Indies cricket. A game-changer, not only for the West Indies but in the world for how she played and how she carried herself out on the field. The entire cricketing world is grateful to Deandra for what she has done." Asked about her leadership style and experience of captaining Barbados in the Commonwealth Games 2022, Hayley explained, "It was a really good experience. Firstly, the support I got from the team was amazing, which is a great thing especially early on in your captaincy days. I have definitely learned a lot during the Commonwealth Games." "I always encourage having as much fun.

Our process is aimed at fine-tuning for the T20 World Cup: Hardik Pandya

Dubai | Agencies

India all-rounder Hardik Pandya has said the thrilling five-wicket victory against Pakistan on Sunday night at the Dubai International Stadium had provided enough learnings to the side for close encounters in future, adding that the aim was to fine-tune for the T20 World Cup and the challenges that will come with it. India defeated arch-rivals Pakistan by five wickets with just two balls to spare, with Pandya's all-round show and Ravindra Jadeja's knock of 35 playing key roles in the win.

Pandya registered figures of 3/25 and made 33 not out off 17 balls. He stitched a 52-run partnership for the fifth wicket with Jadeja (35 off 29) to take India over the line with two balls remaining. Eventually, Pandya finished off things in style by clobbering Mohammad Nawaz



for a six over long-on. "Our process is aimed at fine-tuning for the T20 World Cup (in Australia later this year) and the more opportunities we get, the better. If we get a similar situation again, so defi-

nately we will fall back upon the learnings from this match (against Pakistan)," said Pandya in a video interaction with Jadeja posted by BCCI on its website on Monday.

Pandya conceded the target of chasing 147 on a tricky wicket wasn't easy and that the side was "challenged". "Happy to get this win because it was very important for us... our nerves were checked. As a team, we were kind of challenged as well. But, love the way Ravindra Jadeja came out and played. For him the batting order was a bit different, the situation was different and the way he took his chances against the left-arm spinner (Mohammad Nawaz) that was very important," said Pandya. Jadeja also said it was important for him to perform in that situation, given that he had been promoted in the batting order.

Dhyanchand's hockey stick to be given to his son

Meerut | Agencies

Hockey wizard Major Dhyan Chand's hockey stick that had been preserved in Meerut for decades, has been taken to Jhansi, led by a team of sports persons, including coach Satish Sharma, and sports officials.

The wooden stick will be handed over to the hockey wizard's son, Ashok Dhyanchand, in Jhansi to mark the 117th birth anniversary celebrations of the legend.

Coach Satish Sharma said: "This hockey stick is over 66 years old. 'Dadda', as the hockey legend was known, used to practice with this hockey stick in 1956. It was in the possession of Arun Sharma, the grandson of renowned hockey-maker late Sohan Lal Sharma with whom Major Dhyanchand used to spend a lot of time. Arun kept it safely with him to keep the memory of the legend alive."

He further said: "Recently, Ashok Dhyanchand requested for the hockey stick. When Arun came to know



about it, he happily agreed to hand it over. This stick will now be kept in a sports museum, currently under-construction, in Jhansi." However, the final decision will be taken by Ashok Dhyanchand.

Bhupesh Kumar, hockey coach at a sports stadium in Meerut, said Major Dhyanchand's wooden hockey stick at the museum will inspire a lot of youngsters to take up the sport. A sports tournament is also scheduled to be held in Jhansi to commemorate the occasion. A film titled 'Dadda', is being made on the hockey legend.

When both India and Pakistan were forced to keep an extra fielder inside the 30-yard circle

Dubai | Agencies

A unique situation had arisen in the blockbuster clash between India and Pakistan in the Asia Cup here on Sunday whereby both teams were forced to depute an extra fielder inside the 30-yard circle in the final stages of their bowling innings.

While India won the highly entertaining Group A clash by five wickets, with Hardik Pandya's all-round skills being the driving force behind the victory, the spectators probably missed that in both the innings the teams had to position an extra fielder inside the 30-yard circle in the final stages of their bowling innings.

On Monday, the International Cricket Council (ICC) gave an explainer on why the opposing teams were forced to position an extra fielder inside the 30-yard circle. "As per a new clause in T20I playing conditions, both India and Pakistan were forced to position an extra fielder inside the 30-yard circle in the final stages of their bowling innings in their Asia Cup meeting



on Sunday. Both sides failed to be in a position to bowl the first ball of their final over by the scheduled end of innings time, and were penalised by the added restriction for slow over-rate, introduced in January this year," said ICC on Monday.

Bowling first, India had bowled fewer than 18 overs in the allotted time, meaning Rohit Sharma was forced to field with five fielders inside the circle for the final two overs. The side gave away 23 runs across the eleven balls, bowling Pakistan out for

147 with one ball left in the innings. In India's chase, Pakistan found themselves in a similar situation, running out of time and needing to bowl the final three overs under the same restriction. Ravindra Jadeja and Hardik Pandya capitalised on the extra fielder in, scoring the 32 runs required for victory, and completing the chase with two balls to spare. "The change was recommended by the ICC Cricket Committee last year, an organisation that sits in part to improve the pace of play in all formats. The first match played under the revised playing conditions was a one-off T20I match between the West Indies and Ireland at Sabina Park in mid-January," said ICC.

It said the in-match penalties "are in addition to the sanctions for slow over rate outlined in Article 2.22 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, and the same restriction will be in place at the ICC Men's T20 World Cup in Australia in October and November this year."



I am very excited to start my OTT inning: Sargun Mehta

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Sargun Mehta, who has already established herself in the Punjabi film industry, will be seen in 'Cutputli' along with Akshay Kumar, Rakul Preet Singh, Chandrachur Singh.

Directed by Ranjit Tiwari, this will be Sargun's OTT debut. She opens about this and doing a Hindi project after a gap of seven years.

Sargun says: "I am very excited to start my OTT innings and doing

something in Hindi after a long hiatus of seven years. There's a huge audience for thrillers which is why I wanted to do a different and strong character. I am hopeful about the final outcome and now waiting for the audience's reaction." Throwing more light on the role she adds: "It is a very powerful role; I was really tense because I had to do scenes with Akshay. He already has a strong presence in my mind as I have been watching him for so long.

"There are times in the films that I have to overpower him in terms of telling him what to do and what not to do. I'd mentally prepared myself to forget it's him and do my shot accordingly. I am playing a cop for the first

time." People usually rehearse their roles or watch other's performances if the same role has been done earlier, but I didn't do that because I wanted to do it the Sargun way."

What makes 'Cutputli' stand out as a murder mystery?

Sargun explains: "When I heard the script I myself couldn't guess who the killer is and I feel this is how a good mystery works. You keep guessing and thinking about where this film is going to take you and later it took me to a completely new direction which I feel was quite impressive."

On what she learnt while working with Akshay, she said: "It was super amazing to

meet him in person. The first day I met him I was too quiet so he used to tell me 'tu bolti nahi hai kya?' (Don't you speak?) And I was thinking, how I am supposed to tell him that I am so scared. I must say he makes his co-actors feel so comfortable and it's very easy to work with him." "Even on the sets while shooting he will make everything comfortable for you. He is very appreciative, always gives a free hand at improving." "Also, one amazing thing about shooting with him is it's his habit that the whole team has to have dinner together so that the bond within the team is strong."

After 'Cutputli', her Punjabi film 'Moh' is releasing on September 16.

Diljit's new movie is about a story of a friendship that survives anti-Sikh riots

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Diljit Dosanjh is set to turn the leaf to a dark chapter in independent India's dark history the riots of 1984 which followed after the assassination of the former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

The first trailer of his streaming movie 'Jogi' was released at Films Day in Mumbai. The film has been directed by Ali Abbas Zafar, who has earlier directed the Salman Khan-starrer blockbuster 'Sultan'.

The 1984 anti-Sikh riots happened after Gandhi was gunned down by her own bodyguards Satwant Singh and Beant Singh in the aftermath of Operation Blue Star, an Indian military action carried out between June 1 and 8, 1984, to remove separatist leader Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale and his followers from the Golden Temple in Amritsar. Joining the event virtually, Dosanjh said, "As an actor you want to grow with the character you play. Each role I play helps me grow from within."

"Mera agar dil nahi maanta toh wo kirdaar main nibha nahi sakta (If it doesn't appeal to me, I can't portray that character with honesty). I have to be honestly connected to the character."

He added: "Jogi holds a special place in my heart and I say it with pride that this has been told on a global platform like Netflix which has huge reach and impact. I am forever thankful and grateful for all my fans who make me who I am and I wish they like me in and as Jogi."

'Jogi' unravels the story of a resilient friendship and courage in the times of adversity, set in Delhi in 1984. The film is a thrilling, emotional journey of the fighting spirit of three unified friends.

The film also stars Mohd. Zeeshan Ayyub in his third OTT project after he stirred a controversy with his Shiva look in the Prime Video show 'Tandav' and 'Bloody Brothers'.

In addition, the film will star Kumud Mishra, Hiten Tejwani and Amyra Dastur, and has been produced by Himanshu Kishan Mehra and Ali Abbas Zafar.



Sunny Kaushal, Yami to be seen in heist-gone-wrong movie

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood actor Sunny Kaushal is set out for a run, catch him if you can! The actor will be seen opposite Yami Gautam in the upcoming suspense thriller 'Chor Nikal Ke Bhaga', which is rolled out by Netflix. The makers of the streaming movie recently shared a behind-the-scenes (BTS) video giving a glimpse of what went

behind the making of the film. The cast and creators of the film came together to celebrate the magic of films at Netflix's Films Day as they announced the premiere of their film and spoke about how the film came about. Producer Dinesh Vijan said:

"Yami and Sunny both have been exceptional in their last respective releases. To cast them together and bring this film to life has been an absolute delight."

"Maddock's past association with Netflix for 'Mimi' and 'Dasvi' has been very successful and now we're looking forward to releasing 'Chor Nikal Ke Bhaga' on their platform and having a global audience for the film leveraging their reach."

The film has the elements of heist and hijack and tells a riveting story from the cabin of the airplane. Talking about the film, director Ajay Singh said: "Chor Nikal Ke Bhaga traces the story of a heist that goes wrong when a plane gets hijacked, and the series of events that follows. I am excited to collaborate with Netflix and present the film to an audience across the globe."



Shehnaaz Gill's new film is full of comedy with action

Team Absolute | Mumbai

After winning our hearts, with her wit and cuteness in Bigg Boss 13, Shehnaaz Gill is soon going to mark her

Bollywood debut with Salman Khan-starrer. And recently she took to her social media and announced her second film. Titled as 100 Percent, Shehnaaz Gill will be seen alongside John Abraham, Riteish Deshmukh and Nora Fatehi. Called a comedy by the team of 100%, the film is helmed by Sajid Khan and will release during Diwali in 2023. This will mark his return to film-making after the MeToo accusations of 2018.

The words in the teaser shared by team read, "20%

comedy, 20% romance, 20% music, 20% confusion, 20% action, together we're 100%." It also read, "A film about love, a film about marriage, a film about family, and spies."

Sharing the clip, Shehnaaz captioned the post, "A roller coaster comedy packed with action, music and spies! We guarantee you a 100Percent entertainer!! Diwali 2023 just got bigger!! Are you ready??" She also tagged John, Riteish and Nora and added several hashtags—Sajid Khan, Bhushan Kumar, and Krishan Kumar among others.

Reacting to the post, fans congratulated Shehnaaz and also wished her luck.

Shehnaaz last appeared alongside Diljit Dosanjh in the Punjabi movie Honsla Rakkh. She is prepared to make her Bollywood debut in Kisika Bhai Kisika Jaan, which also stars Venkatesh Daggubati, Pooja Hegde, Jagapathi Babu, Jassie Gill, Raghav Juyal, and Siddharth Nigam in pivotal roles.



INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Shivaleeka Oberoi

Huma Qureshi's sizzling transformation

FROM 'MAHARANI' TO 'MONICA'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A new set of stills released on Monday from the Rajkumar Rao and Huma Qureshi-starrer 'Monica, O My Darling', set to be streamed on Netflix, shows the 'Maharani' star looking strikingly different from her Rabri Devi-inspired homemaker-turned-Chief Minister character in the SonyLIV series. Sharing the picture on Instagram, Huma wrote in the caption: "Reason to watch. Iska story achha hai." "The film is a neo-noir crime-drama thriller directed by Vasan Bala, who has earlier made films like 'Peddlers' and 'Mard Ko Dard Nahi Hota', and has served as Anurag Kashyap's associate on his films in the past.

The team of 'Monica, O My Darling' joined Films Day and spoke to the audience about working together, the unique genre and what went behind the making of the film.

Commenting on the occasion, Vasan Bala said: "Monica, O My Darling' has been a dream project for me and we cannot wait to entertain everyone with this twisted crime comedy brimming with mystery and drama. Joining forces with Matchbox Shots and Netflix along with our brilliant ensemble cast to bring to life this unique story has been an absolute pleasure." "Monica, O My Darling' is a neo-noir that is an ode to movies about the perfect plan that led to mayhem in the lives of the people involved. The film was announced last year in July. Directed by Vasan Bala, 'Monica, O My Darling' also stars Radhika Apte, Sikandar Kher, Bagavathi Perumal, Akansha Ranjan Kapoor, Sukant Goel and Zayn Marie Khan.

