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#### **HOLLYWOOD**

absoluteinc

Sarita Choudhury daunted by sex scenes in new...



#### **SPORTS**

**Pramod Bhagat wins silver, two** bronze medals in Canada...

#### **HISTORIC ACHIEVEMENT** WORLD BRACES FOR EXTREME WEATHER havani Devi wins India's first ever medal at **Asian Fencing Championships EVENTS AS EL NINO IS OFFICIALLY HERE**

Wuxi, (China) Agencies ndia's top fencer Bhavani Devi on Monday scripted history as she secured a bronze medal in the women's

sabre event at the Asian Fencing Championships. This remarkable achievement marked India's first medal at the

continental meet. Bhavani defeated the reigning world champion and world No.1 Misaki Emura of Japan 15-10 in the quarterfinals of the women's sabre event. It was also the Indian's first win over the Japanese in

four meetings. The 29-year-old settled for bronze after suffering a close 15-14 loss to Uzbekistan's world No.79 Zaynab Dayibekova in the semifinals.

Earlier, the Indian fencer received a firstround bye. She got the better of world No.95 Dospay Karina of Kazakhstan 15-13 in the next round and stunned world No.40 and third seed Seri Ozaki of Japan 15-11 in the pre-quarterfi-

The 29-year-old became the first Indian fencer to represent India at the Olympic Games when she competed at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.





delay, according to experts. Team Absolute New Delhi

s the world, including India, stares at extreme weather and climate events like agonizing heat waves, deadly cyclone and drought risks owing to monsoon deficit, the ocean-warming phenomenon El Nino is officially here and could last until 2024, scientists have warned.

cultural lands in Indonesia into

Oscillation (ENSO) led to a delay in

monsoon, while cyclone Biparjoy

also played a crucial role in the

drought and crop failures.

In India, El Nino Southern

According to the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), El Nino could lead to new records for temperatures, particularly in areas that already experience above-average temperatures during El Nino.

El Nino events usually occur every two to seven years and are characterized by warmerthan-average sea surface temperatures around the equator in the central and eastern Pacific Ocean, reports Space.com.

The last El Nino event occurred between February and August 2019 but its impacts were relatively weak.

"Depending on its strength, El Nino can cause a range of impacts, such as increasing the risk of heavy rainfall and droughts in certain locations around the world," Michelle L'Heureux, a physical scientist at NOAA's Climate Prediction Center, said in a statement recently."El Nino could lead to new records for temperatures, particularly in areas that already experience above-average temperatures during El Nino," he added.

Last month, Kelvin waves, a potential precursor of El Nino conditions in the ocean, rolled across the equatorial Pacific toward the coast of South America.

According to NASA, the data showed Kelvin waves -- which are roughly 2 to 4 inches (5 to 10 cm) high at the ocean surface and hundreds of miles wide -- moving from west to east along the equator toward the west coast of South America. The advent of El Nino this year could push global temperatures into uncharted territory and contribute to global warming crossing the 1.5 degree Celsius threshold within the next five years, which



would lead to catastrophic and irreversible climate breakdown, according to reports.

"In April 2023, an El Nino 'watch' was issued, signaling the beginning of the warm phase of the ENSO phenomenon. Since then, all the Nino indices have remained positiveneutral or above the designated threshold. The Nino indices in the western half of the equatorial Pacific Ocean are still on the borderline, while the eastern portion consistently displays sufficient warming," said a Skymet

39 PEOPLE TRAPPED IN RAJASTHAN FLOOD RESCUED

Jaipur: The SDRF team rescued 39 civilians stranded in flood-affected Od Basti of

Bhinmal town of Jalore district in the wake of cyclone Biparjoy, and took them to safe

places. Due to heavy rains from Saturday night till morning due to Biparjoy storm, the

water of Nimbali pond located near Jaswantpura railway crossing in Bhinmal town of

Jalore district entered Od township and the entire township got submerged. The pond

has overflowed bout 40 people were trapped in Od Basti, which included mostly chil-

dren and women. To reach the settlement, the team had to cross a pond 20 to 30 feet

#### **CONTINUE IN SEVEN** STATES FOR NEXT 2 DAYS

India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Monday said that heatwave conditions are very likely to continue in some pockets over East Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha Vidarbha (Maharashtra),

Chhattisgarh and Telangana for next two

The IMD also predicted that light to moderate rainfall at most places with isolated heavy to extremely heavy rainfall is very likely over East Rajasthan on Monday while isolated heavy to very heavy rainfall on June 20 and isolated heavy rainfall on June 21.

The IMD also said that light to moderate rainfall at most places is likely with isolated heavy rainfall over adjoining areas of Northeast Madhya Pradesh on June 20 while light to moderate rainfall at most places is likely with isolated heavy rainfall over Southwest Uttar Pradesh on June 20 and 21.

Meanwhile, the Southwest monsoon has further advanced into some more parts of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Westcentral, Northwest Bay of Bengal, some parts of Gangetic West Bengal, Jharkhand, some more parts of Bihar and remaining parts of Sub-Himalayan West Bengal and Sikkim on Monday.

#### Maha orders Mumbai Police SIT probe into BMC's Rs 12,000-cr 'scam'

aharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde announced ▲ a Mumbai Police's Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe into the irregularities worth a whopping Rs 12,024-crore of spending by the country's biggest and richest civic body, the Corporation (BMC) between

November 2019 and 2022, here on The Comptroller & Auditor

General (CAG), in a special probe last year had found out Rs 12,024crore alleged misappropriation in the civic body's expenses related to various projects during that period. "Based on the CAG Audit, the Maharashtra government has set up a SIT under the guidance of Mumbai Police Commissioner Vivek Phansalkar, Joint Commissioner of Police, the officers of the Economic Offences Wing and senior officers of the city police," said Shinde.

#### Ravi Sinha is new RAW chief

Team Absolute | New Delhi

he Centre on Monday appointed Ravi Sinha, a 1988 Indian Police Service (IPS) officer as the new Secretary of the Research & Analysis Wing (RAW)

The government in its order said, "The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Ravi Sinha, IPS (CG:88), PSO, Special Secretary, Cabinet



Secretariat (SR) as Secretary, Research & Analysis Wing vice Shri Samant Kumar Goel, IPS (PB:84) on completion of his tenure on 30.06.2023 for a tenure of 2 years from the date of assumption of the charge of the post, or until further orders,

whichever is earlier." Sinha, a 1988 batch officer, has been known for his operational and spy skills. He is currently serving as the PSO (Personal Security Officer) and Special Secretary in the Cabinet Secretariat (SR).Samant Kumar Goel, a 1984 batch IPS officer from the Punjab cadre, had held the position of agency's secretary since 2019. In June 2019, Goel succeeded Anil Dhasmana as the Chief of RAW.

## five houses burnt by militants

deep and 300 meters long.

Manipur Violence: Soldier shot,



Imphal Agencies

soldier was injured during an encounter with the militants, who also torched five houses in Imphal West district, officials said on Monday.

Defence sources said that armed miscreants resorted to unprovoked firing from Kanto Sabal towards the Chingmang village in Imphal West district during the intervening night of Sunday and Monday, injuring a soldier."Army Columns resorted to controlled retaliatory fire keeping in view the presence of villagers in the

area. "One Army soldier sustained a gunshot wound and he was immediately evacuated to the Military hospital at Leimakhong and is now stable."Additional columns of Army inducted in the area and joint operations are in progress," a defence

spokesman said. A police official said that before the gun battle with the Army, militants burnt down five houses at Leimakhong village.

Over 100 people have died and many have been living in relief

#### WHEN WILL SELF-STYLED 'VISHWAGURU' LISTEN TO 'MANIPUR KI BAAT': CONG

New Delhi: The Congress on Monday once silence on violence in Manipur, asking him when will the self-styled 'Vishwaguru' listen to 'Manipur

In a tweet, Congress General Secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal said, "Manipur is burning since 49 days. On Day 50, will PM Narendra Modi fly away to foreign lands, without uttering a single word on the ongoing crisis? Hundreds dead, thousands rendered homeless, countless churches and places of worship destroyed, and a state administration that is part of the problem, not the solution. To make matters even worse, the violence is now spreading to Mizoram as well."

He said, since the last many days, Manipuri leaders have been seeking time from the Prime Minister to ensure his intervention. "Every passing day of neglect confirms the belief that PM Modi and the BJP are interested in prolonging the conflict, not finding a solution. When will the selfstyled Vishwaguru listen to Manipur Ki Baat? When will he speak to the country, to make a simple call for peace? When will he demand accountability from the Union Home Minister (Amit Shah) and the Manipur CM (N Biren Singh) for their total failure in bringing peace?" Venugopal asked.

His remarks came a day after the RSS appealed for peace in violence-hit Manipur, which has been witnessing clashes since May 3.

#### **INDIA'S 'WANTED TERRORIST' NIJJAR SHOT DEAD BY TWO GUNMEN IN CANADA**

**Chandigarh:** Canada-based pro-Khalistan leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar, who was declared a 'wanted terrorist' by the India government. was shot dead by two unidentified gunmen at the parking lot



in the Punjabi-dominated Surrey city of British Columbia province.

He was the president of Guru Nanak Sikh Gurdwara.

Nijjar, a resident of a village in Jalandhar, was associated with the separatist organisation, Sikhs for Justice (SFJ), which is banned in India. He had played a key role in organising the Khalistan referendum in Brampton city.The National Investigation Agency (NIA) last year filed a charge sheet against four persons, including Nijjar, in connection with a conspiracy

Jalandhar on January 31, 2021. The three others charge-sheeted in the case are Kamaljeet Sharma and Ram Singh, who attacked the priest on the directions of Nijjar and his associate Arshdeep Singh alias Prabh.

to kill Hindu priest Kamaldeep Sharma in

#### Sarva Brahmin Mahasabha on 'Adipurush': 'Changing dialogues won't stop us'

Jaipur | Agencies

he national President of Sarva Brahmin Mahasabha, Suresh Mishra, has demanded a ban on the film 'Adipurush' starring Prabhas, Kriti Sanon and Saif Ali Khan with immediate effect.

Claiming that a conspiracy has been hatched to insult 'Hanuman ji' and other deities through 'Adipurush', Mishra slammed the poor usage of computer graphics for the main characters of the film. Mishra also said that all the dia-

logues in the film are baseless. On the recent statement of writer Manoj Muntashir about changing dialogues of the film, Mishra said, "Changing the dialogues will not

stop our protest. The film should be banned with immediate effect. Misrepresentation of Ramayana is



beyond tolerance."

The film is sending a very contradictory message to the society. Movies impact people's mind. That's why special care should be taken so that films don't tamper

with religion and culture. The looks of the mythological characters and their dialogues in the film are subpar. The film wrongly depicts the characters of Lord Rama. Hanuman, Sita and Ravan. The film is an insult to Ramayana. It is like playing with the faith of crores of Hindus," Mishra said.

"Gods and goddesses have been shown in a fictional manner in the film, which is absolutely wrong. We will not tolerate this. The Sarva Brahmin Mahasabha

had sent a notice to the film's director, Om Raut, through advocate Kamlesh Sharma a year ago. At that time, Raut had said that

nothing wrong will be shown in the film. But we now see that all the characters of Ramayana have been made fun of in the film," he added.

Mishra demanded Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot to ban the film with immediate effect, and appealed to the general public to boycott the film. An appeal to this effect has also been filed in the court, Mishra said.

#### Foodies have a chance to win money with 'Bahubali samosa'

**Meerut** Agencies

f you are a foodie, here is your chance to win some money too. A Meerutbased sweet shop is making 'Bahubali samosas' each weighing around 12 kg.

The eatery has also thrown a challenge, inviting customers to try and eat the entire samosa in 30 minutes, and take home a cash prize of Rs 71,000.

Ujjawal Kaushal, 30, the third-generation owner of Kaushal Sweets in Lalkurti, said: "As many as four cooks prepare one 12 kg samosa in six hours. The samosa is stuffed with 7 kg of traditional filling such as potatoes, peas, spices, paneer, and dry fruits and it takes around 90 minutes to get it fried."

He added that he is now



getting orders from several people who prefer to cut a 12 kg samosa on their birthdays, instead of a cake.

Kaushal, whose family has been in the sweets business for over 60 years, came up with the idea to make a giant samosa that weighs 4 kg in July last year.

"Seeing the response we

got, we started making samosas in 8 kg and 12 kg as well. One 12 kg samosa costs Rs 1,500 and we take orders in advance only," he said.

ordering the Bahubali Samosa for special occasions and some even use the leftover filling to make parathas the following day.

Families, he claims, are

#### **KEJRIWAL DIRECTS DJB TO RESOLVE** WATER CONTAMINATION ISSUES

Team Absolute New Delhi

elhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday directed the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) to develop a comprehensive plan to eradicate water contamination issues across the city.

Kejriwal chaired a high-level review meeting with DJB officials to assess the progress made and discuss future strategies for the timely implementation of a permanent solution.

Water Minister Saurabh Bhardwaj, Delhi Jal Board Vice Chairman Somnath Bharti, and senior DJB officials were present at the review meet-

During the meeting, Kejriwal emphasized the need to identify the root causes of water contamination and develop an effective strategy to address the issue. Kejriwal instructed the immediate installation of Reverse Osmosis (RO) plants in 20 identified JJ colonies. These plants will provide clean water to the residents while raising awareness about the importance of utilizing this resource for their daily needs. Furthermore, he stressed the significance of ensuring water quality before initiating any tubewell project. Thorough examination of water quali-



ty should be conducted before obtaining the necessary No Objection Certificates (NOCs) for tubewell

installation, Kejriwal emphasized. "If there is a problem of contaminated water anywhere, it should be

completely eliminated. The identification of areas receiving contaminated water must be ensured, followed by the preparation of a detailed plan for a permanent solution and immediate implementation," said Kejriwal.

He gave strict instructions to DJB officials to promptly replace any pipes causing contaminated water issues, ensuring that no contaminated water is supplied anywhere.

Kejriwal also stated that clean water obtained from all sewage treatment plants should be made usable. 'This water should be used to fill artificial lakes, and picnic spots should be developed around these lakes to provide people with a pleasant experience. Later, when the groundwater level around these lakes rises, the water can be extracted using tubewells," Kejriwal said.

He has also given instructions to fix all non-functioning flow meters and make them operational again.

In the meeting, the DJB presented a report on the identified land for tubewell installation. According to the report, DJB has identified 1,075 locations where approximately 1,428 tubewells will be installed. Currently, there are already 4,200 tubewells in

## Congress fields ex CM Jagadish Shettar, N.S. Boseraju, T. Kamaknoor for MLC polls in K'taka

Team Absolute | New Delhi

he Congress on Monday fielded former Karnataka Chief Minister Jagadish Shettar, party national secretary NS Boseraju, and Tippannappa Kamaknoor for the June 30 MLC elections in Karnataka.

The Election Commission of India has announced MLC bypolls on June 30 after resignations from the former BJP leaders. The Congress has got the upper hand in the bypolls.

The bypolls for the three Karnataka Legislative Council seats are scheduled on June 30 and the last date to file nominations is June 20 So far, neither the Congress nor the BJP leaders have filed nomination papers.

The Congress, which won 135 seats in the recently concluded assembly elections, has got the upper hand in the

The bypolls were necessitated after the then three BJP leaders -- Laxman Savadi, Baburao Chianchansur and R Shankar -- resigned from



Shettar, who switched to the Congress head of the high octane assembly polls had contested from the Hubballi-Dharwad (Central) constituency seat and lost to BJP candidate Mahesh Tenginkai.

Boseraju, who was a ticket

persuaded by the Congress leadership to give up the seat for Mohammed Shalam, who lost to BJP candidate Dr Shivaraj Patil. Boseraju needs to be in either of the houses within six months of being

#### India gifts indigenously-built missile corvette 'INS Kirpan' to Vietnam

Team Absolute New Delhi

efence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday said that India will gift the indigenously-built in-service missile 'Corvette INS Kirpan' to Vietnam and both the countries will also collaborate in defence industry cooperation, maritime security and multinational cooperation.

Rajnath Singh  $\bar{\text{held}}$  bilateral talks with Vietnamese Defence Minister General Phan Van Gang in New Delhi.

Ministry of Defence said that progress on various bilateral defence cooperation initiatives was reviewed during the meeting, with both sides expressing satisfaction at the ongoing engagements.

Both ministers identified means to enhance existing areas of collaboration, especially in the field of defence industry cooperation, maritime security and multinational cooperation. The Defence Minister also announced the gifting of indigenously-built in-service Missile Corvette INS Kirpan which will be a milestone in enhancing the capabilities of Vietnam People's Navy.'

As part of his engagements, the Vietnamese Defence Minister also visited DRDO headquarters and discussed ways to enhance



defence industrial capabilities by cooperation in defence research and joint production.

Ministry of Defence said that India and Vietnam share a Comprehensive Strategic

#### All set for smooth conduct of annual Rath Yatra

he Odisha government has made elaborate arrangements for smooth and timely conduct of the annual Rath Yatra of Lord Jagannath and his siblings on

All roads lead to the pilgrim town. Thousands of devotees have started thronging pilgrim town Puri to witness the nine-day long Rath Yatra beginning on Tuesday.

Lord Jagannath and his two siblings - elder brother Balabhadra and younger sister Subhadra - are ready to give darshan to the public in Raths and visit Gundicha Temple.

The three majestic chariots are almost ready and will be brought to the Singha Dwar and parked facing East towards Gundicha temple. The chariots will be pulled by lakhs of devotees on Tuesday.

A large number of devotees visited the temple on Monday on the occasion of Nabajouban darshan after the deities recovered from 14-day long illness.

The Parimanika darshan of the



Lords was started early at 7:20 a.m. due to early completion of rituals and this was followed by the Sahana Mela darshan from 8:05 a.m. in which the devotees witnessed the Nabajoubana Besha (attire) of the Lords from the Bhitara Katha inside the Jagmohan, said Odisha Chief Secretary P.K. Jena, who was in Puri on Monday.

Praying for a chill weather tomorrow, Jena said all arrangements have

been made keeping heatwave condition in view. Sufficient drinking water facilities including distribution of water bottles have been made for the devotees, he said.

Water sprinkling will be done by the fire service personnel and ORS will also be given to the devotees, Jena stated."Till now, all the rituals are being conducted smoothly and little ahead. We will have another round of discussion with the senior

completion of the rituals during Ghosa Yatra," he added.

Tight security arrangements have been made in and around Puri town for the festival. The pilgrim town has been divided into 14 zones and 29 sectors. About 170 platoons of police personnel will be deployed for the conduct of the yatra. For Monday, Nabajouban darshan, 70 platoons of police deployed in the town.

For the first time, a Coast Guard helicopter will patrol the beach and fast patrol vehicles deployed close by. Interceptor boats will be stationed at Paradip, ready for any contingency, till July 2, said additional DGP, Law and Order, Sanjay Kumar.

The Railways will install face recognising cameras on the railway platforms to screen the crowd of suspicious people. A total of 125 special trains will ply to Puri during the festival, he said.

A large number of CCTV cameras assisted by drones' cameras connected to a number of control stations will function during the Rath

#### Eat Litti-Chokha and go back, BJP's Samrat Chaudhary tells opposition leaders

Patna | Agencies

ihar BJP state president Samrat Chaudhary on Monday took a dig at the opposition leaders and asked them to taste Bihar's famous snack Litti-Chokha and go back to their states. This statement was in regard to the opposition parties' meet in Patna on June 23 to discuss an alliance for next year's general election.

"They should come to Bihar, eat Litti-Chokha and return to their states. If necessary, the BJP will provide them the delicious snack,' Samrat said.

"After 2024, the so-called 'Thagbandhan' led by Nitish Kumar would be destroyed in Bihar. People of Bihar want a 'Nitish Mukt' government. He has become a puppet in the Mahagathbandhan. He is just following the instructions of the RJD



trol over governance in Bihar. He is the chief minister and the Congress state president is giving a statement about cabinet expansion in Bihar," Chaudhary said.

"These leaders (Nitish Kumar and Lalu Prasad) are known as socialist revolution leaders in the country and now they are sitting in the lap of the Congress party. Nitish Kumar has lost the right to even dream. He has forgotten the name of his party's national presi dent. The Tamil Nadu CM is not ready to come to the opposition parties' meetings. Nitish Kumar is going there to personally invite him for the event," Chaudhary said.He said that Nitish Kumar can do anything but his party will not open its account in the 2024 Lok Sabha election.

The opposition parties' meeting was scheduled for June 12 which will now take place on June 23 in

#### PETA urges people to adopt a 'Yoga buddy' from animal shelter

**Lucknow** Agencies

n view of International Yoga Day on June 21, the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India is placing advertisements in Lucknow. Hyderabad, Jaipur, Kolkata, and Chennai, encouraging people to adopt a yoga buddy - that is, a playful dog or cat -

from a local animal shelter. The billboard in Lucknow is located at Rajajipuram.

"Anyone who has gone into downward dog only to see their pup run onto the mat under them, knows that animals brighten our lives with their antics and personalities," said PETA India Campaigns Coordinator Atharva Deshmukh.

"Why not give an animal in need a home while ensuring that the 'namaste' with which you start your yoga session will always be followed by a



woof or a purr?" she stated. PETA India notes that every time someone buys a 'pure bred' dog from a breeder, from a pet store, or online, a dog in need roaming the streets or waiting in an animal shelter loses a chance at finding a home. Stray animals often starve or are injured, abused, or hit by vehicles.

Countless other animals are left to languish in animal shelters because there are not enough good homes for them. PETA India advocates for adoption and urges guardians to have their animal companions sterilised so that those who have already been born have the best chance at a good home and a good life.

#### Gadkari to open 11 flyovers from Delhi to Panipat

Chandigarh | Agencies

nion Road, Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari will inaugurate 11 flyovers on the eight-lane national highway from Delhi to Panipat on Tuesday, Haryana Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala said on Tuesday.

Also he would announce major road development projects of Rs 3,700 crore on the occasion.

The 11 flyovers are part of a 24-km long project constructed with an outlay Rs 900 crore

Gadkari will also lay the foundation stone for the con-



struction work of Karnal Green Field Six-Lane Ring Road project at Kutail village in Karnal district.

The total length of this project is 35 km and it will cost about Rs 1,700 crore. Similarly, the Union Minister will lav the foundation stone for the construction work of Ambala Green Field Six Lane

Ring Road project at Jandli village in Ambala district. The total length of this project is 23 km and it will

cost a total of Rs 1,100 crore.

The Deputy Chief Minister said the government is strengthening the road network. He said these three major road projects will change the picture of infrastructure in the state and will also give a new direction to the development of indus-

Chautala said along with Haryana, the commuters of Punjab, Himachal, Jammu and Kashmir passing through the Delhi-Panipat corridor will be benefitted.

#### SENIOR CONGRESS LEADER GOVABHAI RABARI TO JOIN RULING BJP IN GUJARAT Gandhinagar | Agencies

enior Congress leader and former legislator Govabhai Rabari from Deesa in North Gujarat's Banaskantha district is set to join the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) following his resignation from the Congress.

Sources indicate that the deteriorating state of Congress in Gujarat, characterised by a lack of leadership and internal conflicts among party members, is a major catalyst for this political shift.

The Congress's weakening hold in Gujarat is evident, as it no longer holds the status of the opposition in the State Vidhan Sabha. To address the situation, Congress leader Shaktisinh Gohil has been appointed as the Gujarat Congress unit chief, but only time will tell how effective his leadership will be in revitalising the party's prospects.

Due to this situation, two influential BJP leaders, Tharad MLA and president Shankar Chaudhary, and Siddhpur MLA Balvantsinh Rajput, played instrumental roles in facilitating Govabhai Rabari's transition, successfully bringing both the father and



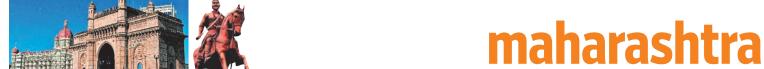
son into the BIP fold.

Hailing from Kuchadva village in Deesa, Govabhai Rabari has been actively involved in politics for the past 35 years. It is reported that he met with state BJP chief CR Paatil on Tuesday, further indicating his intent to switch party affiliations. Rabari previously served as the Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) for Dhanera for one

Over the course of seven elections, he contested on the Congress ticket from Deesa, Diyodar, and Dhanera. In the 2022 elections, his son Sanjay Rabari also contested from the Deesa assembly seat as a Congress candidate.

Aside from his political endeavors, Govabhai Rabari has played an active role in the cooperative sector and held various positions, ranging from Sarpanch to district panchayat president. He served as the chairman of the Deesa marketing yard for fifteen years and recently won the post again after a ten-year gap.

During a recent visit to his office in Deesa, Rabari expressed his intention to don the saffron scarf in a gathering, emphasising that the decision to switch parties was not solely his own but had the support of his community and followers. This shift in allegiance by Govabhai Rabari holds significant implications for the political landscape in Gujarat, as the BJP further strengthens its position while the Congress grapples with internal challenges and dwindling support..





## MVA TRASHES BJP'S CLAIM THAT 'PAWAR WANTED SUPRIYA SULE-ADITYA THACKERAY TEAM IN 2024'

Team Absolute Mumbai

The Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) rubbished the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party's claim that NCP supremo Sharad Pawar wanted a new team of Supriya Sule and Aditya Thackeray as the Chief Minister and Deputy CM after the 2024 Assembly elections, here on Monday.

State BJP President
Chandrashekhar Bawankule revealed that Pawar and the former CM and (then) Shiv Sena President Uddhav Thackeray had arrived at a private understanding sometime ago on the formula - attracting rejection from the Shiv Sena (UBT), Nationalist Congress Party and Congress.

"It was decided that Uddhav Thackeray would continue as the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) CM and Ajit Pawar as Dy CM for their full terms. In 2024, the plan was that Supriya Sule would become the CM and Aditya the Deputy CM. To achieve this, the Shiv Sena would deliberately contest less seats to enable the NCP to win 100 seats," claimed Bawankule.



When the Shiv Sena MLAs got wind of this alleged plan, Bawankule said that they apprehended not getting tickets for the next (2024) elections and hence revolted against Thackeray last year (June 2022).

NCP's Leader of Opposition Ajit Pawar, declining any comments, merely said that Bawankule is the head of the state BJP and he has a right to say anything he wants. and he should first worry about his own ticket than speak about the Opposition parties.

"It's the biggest stupidity to sugge

"It's the biggest stupidity to suggest that any party would 'lessen' its own strength for some so-called masterplan like this... Bawankule has no understanding of state politics and must safeguard his own ticket first," declared Londhe.

NCP National General Secretary Jitendra Awhad laughed off the BJP leader's comments, saying "he did even have any idea that a rebellion was building up (in the Shiv Sena) at that time.""What goes on in Sharad Pawar Saheb's mind, nobody is aware, not even his own family... Then what is Bawankule talking about?..." demanded Awhad.

On the reasons for the MVA government collapse, Raut pointed out how Bawankule talks one thing, Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis speaks another while Union Home Minister Amit Shah says something else, "so whom do you believe".

He suggested that they (BJP) should first sit together and decide what exactly to speak on these issues and avoid confusion.

## Shiv Sena (UBT) wants UN to declare June 20 as 'World Traitors Day'

Team Absolute Mumbai

The Shiv Sena (UBT)
will petition the global
body United Nations
Organisation to declare June
20 as the 'World Traitors
Day' to commemorate the
treachery on the original
Shiv Sena by Eknath Shinde
(now, Chief Minister) and 40

MLA perpetrated last year.
Sena (UBT) MP and Chief
Spokesperson Sanjay Raut
said that the party will collect signatures of lakhs of
people from Maharashtra
and send them to the UN
with a demand to make the
declaration for June 20 as
'World Traitors Day' soon.

He said that there are many instances of treason in the world and the people of Maharashtra have also witnessed one in June 2022 which led to the collapse of the Sena(UT)- Nationalist Congress Party-Congress Maha Vikas Aghadi government headed by former Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray.

The Sena (UBT) MP con-



tended that this will focus attention on the traitors worldwide, with the beginning made in Maharashtra -- in a potentially controversial statement.

"When our party comes to power we shall make a beginning - June 19 shall be celebrated as 'World Loyalists Day' and June 20 as the 'traitors' day... We shall make a bonfire of all these 'gaddars' (traitors) as it is done for the demon King Ravana," Raut declared.

Speaking to media persons, Raut also referred to the latest 'leak' -- his party MLC Dr. Manisha Kayande hopping over to Shinde' Shiv Sena on Sunday evening -- on the eve of Shiv Sena (UBT)'s 57th anniversary celebrations here this day (June 19).

"I don't know where she has come from or where she has gone... But the 'garbage' is going out of the party... When the wind blows, all the 'kachra' (rubbish) gets carried out," said an unfazed Raut.

He also accused the rival Shiv Sena of claiming to be the original party founded by the late Balasaheb Thackeray when "they don't even remember the date and year of founding of the party".

## Court acquits man accused of rape, murder of minor girl

Team Absolute Thane

Court in Maharashtra's
Thane district has
acquitted a 26-year-old
man accused of raping and
murdering a 14-year-old girl in
2018, giving him the benefit of
doubt.

Special court judge VV Virkar, hearing cases under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, in the order passed on June 6 said the prosecution has failed to prove the charges against the accused.

A copy of the order was made available on Monday.
The prosecutor told the

court that the girl and the accused resided in Mankoli area of Bhiwandi town. On September 23, 2018, the

On September 23, 2018, the accused forcibly entered the girl's house when no one else was around. He allegedly raped the girl and then immersed her head in a bucket



full of water and killed her, the prosecution told the court. The defence counsel said the accused was falsely implicated and he had no role in the crime.

The judge in her order said from the police testimony, it is very much clear that the accused was caught and arrested for the crime merely on the basis of suspicion.

In such circumstances, there appears some substance in the submission on behalf of the accused that though the incident of rape and murder of the girl took place, the real culprit

could not be revealed and, therefore, the accused was caught on suspicion and prose cuted, the judge said.

"In view of all the above discussion, it has to be concluded that the evidence brought on record by the prosecution is not sufficient to establish any of the circumstances against the accused," the court said.

The failure to establish the defence by the accused cannot exonerate the prosecution from its responsibility to establish the guilt of the accused and as discussed above, in the present case, the prosecution has not discharged its burden, it said.

"In view of my findings, since the prosecution failed to establish any of the allegations against the accused, none of the offences charged against the accused can be held to have been proved and the accused is entitled to be acquitted," the judge said.

#### Shiv Sena slams Sanjay Raut for seeking June 20 as 'World Traitors Day'

Team Absolute Mumbai

Shiv Sena (UBT) MP and Chief

Spokesperson Sanjay Raut slammed

Bawankule saying "he has no knowl-

edge of what is happening around

him...and should not be taken seri-

exile). He doesn't know Maharashtra

or state politics and says anything...'

Spokesperson Atul Londhe asserted

that Bawankule was talking nonsense

ously." "He is in a 'vanvas' (forest

said Raut.Congress state Chief

The ruling ally Shiv Sena hit back at the rival Shiv Sena (UBT) for seeking to declare June 20 -- when the two factions came into being in 2022 -- as 'World Traitors Day', here on Monday.

Stung by the idea, irate Shiv Sena leaders like Uday Samant, Sanjay Shirsat and Ramdas Kadam pounced on Raut and Sena (UBT), calling them as the real 'gaddars' or traitors to the cause of Hindutva and the ideals of the late Balasaheb Thackeray."

On Sunday Sena (UBT) President and former Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, his son Aditya Thackeray had mentioned this in their speeches, and elaborated by party MP and Chief Spokesperson Sanjay Raut today.

Dismissing the proposal, Shirsat said that his party would celebrate June 20 as a 'day of Pride and Selfrespect' and flayed Raut for labelling the breakaway faction led by Chief



Minister Eknath Shinde as 'gaddars'.
Samant said that the party would soon expose "who is the real 'gaddar' in the state" and who had dumped all ideals in their sheer hunger for power, and how the people of the

state were stabbed in the back. Kadam said Thackeray had broken off from the BJP solely to become the

CM and he had committed 'gaddari'

(treason) with the masses, and had

betrayed the Hindutva plus the

teachings propounded by the late Balasaheb Thackeray.

Even CM Shinde took a cocky potshot saying, "I heard they (Thackerays) are going to make a demand for some such day..." as his supporters guffawed.

The trio also proposed their own versions of June 20 - like 'pride day', 'self-respect day', etc., - to counter the Sena (UBT)'s plans to petition the United Nations (UN) for declaring the day (June 20) as 'World Traitors Day'. It maybe recalled that after a group of 40 Sena MLAs in June 2022 walked out, the three-party Maha Vikas Aghadi government headed by former CM Uddhav Thackeray was toppled and Eknath Shinde supported by the Bharativa Ianata Party became the new CM on June 30 last year. Since that political earthquake, the Shinde-led Shiv Sena has been publicly hounded, haunted and humiliated by the Opposition's screams of 'gaddars', '50 Khokhas' (slang for Rs 50 crore) and other such political slogans.

## Teen fakes kidnapping, runs away with boyfriend to Kolkata

Team Absolute Palghar

A 17-year-old girl from Maharashtra's Palghar district allegedly ran away with her boyfriend to Kolkata after faking her own kidnapping story, police said on Monday.

The girl, a resident of Virar area in Palghar and working in the housekeeping section of a company, went for work on Friday, but did not return home, Virar police station's senior inspector Kalyan Karpe said.

Her family members then launched a search for her. In

the meanwhile, the girl in a WhatsApp voice message to her brother claimed she was "kidnapped", the official said.

After receiving a complaint from her family, the police registered a case under Indian Penal Code Section 363 (kidnapping), he said.

A police probe team worked on several leads and came to know the girl had taken a flight to Kolkata in West Bengal with her boyfriend, the official said.

A police team has gone to Kolkata to trace the duo, the official said.

## Decomposed body of woman found at base of Fort in Pune

added.

Pune Agencies

The decomposed body of a 26-year-old woman was found at the base of the Rajgad Fort in the Pune district of Maharashtra on Sunday, police said.

The woman, identified as Darshana Pawar, a resident of Kopargaon in Ahmednagar, had recently secured a good rank in the Maharashtra State Forest Service Exam, held by the Maharashtra Public Service Commission (MPSC), they

said.

On June 15, her father had registered a missing person's complaint with the Sinhgad Road police station in Pune city after her disappearance, the police said.

"She had come to Pune to attend a felicitation programme on June 9. Two days later, she came to her female friend in the Nerhe area and left her house the next day saying that she was going to the Sinhagad fort," a police official said. Her father got worried after her phone was

not reachable. After searching for a couple of days, her father approached the police, the officer from Sinhgad Road police station

Meanwhile, it was found that a youth who is related to the family of the victim, had also gone missing from the Warje area in the city and it was informed that both of them were together, he said.

"Today, her body was found in a decomposed state at the foothills of Rajgad Fort," he said. According to him, the man who was said to be accompanying her is yet to be

"As per the technical inputs, his last location was Chandigarh where? 1,000 were withdrawn from his ATM card," he said.

traced.

He was also pursuing MPSC.A police officer from Velhe police station, under whose jurisdiction the body was found, said that they have recovered the decomposed body and relatives identified her.

#### Teen arrested for raping 18-year-old woman in Latur

Team Absolute Latur

An 18-year-old woman was allegedly repeatedly raped by a man in Latur city of Maharashtra, police said on Sunday. Based on the woman's complaint, the police have arrested the accused, a 19-year-old man, they said.

The accused committed the crime between April and June this year, the police said citing the complaint

the complaint.

"The woman, who came to
Latur for education, stayed at a
hostel. The accused, who hails
from Solapur, befriended the
victim and lured her into keeping a relationship with him. He

took her to a lodge and clicked

her objectionable photos there. He then started blackmailing her by threatening to post the pictures on social media," an official of Shivaji Nagar police station said. The man then sexually assaulted her several times. Fed up with his constant torture, the victim finally mustered courage and approached the police, he said. She lodged a complaint, based on which the police registered a first information report (FIR) under Indian Penal Code (IPC) sections 376 (rape), 354 (assault or use of criminal force to any woman, intending to outrage her modesty), and the Information Technology Act.

#### DID CENTRE IGNORE ITS OWN RED FLAGS ON COVID VACCINE SIDE-EFFECTS?



With the global panic over the Covid-19 pandemic finally waning, the focus is again on preventive and curative measures, mainly the 'life-saver vaccines'.

Quaid Najmi | Mumbai

They provided a cover against the invisible coronavirus and its variants which have already snuffed out nearly 69 lakhs (6.9 million) lives worldwide, including some 5.32 lakhs in India till date, and counting...

In mid-January 2021, a saviour called the Covid-19 vaccine was finally developed in India by two companies -- the government-owned Bharat Biotech Ltd (BBL)'s "Covaxin" and the private Serum Institute of India (SII)'s

"Covishield" -- and approved for "restricted emergency use" to arrest the killer-run of the coron-

Barely four months later in mid-May 2021 the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare raised red-flags on both Covaxin and Covishield that were being jabbed into the unsuspecting millions of countrymen, initially free of cost.

In a communication to all states, the MoHFW had spoken about the Adverse Events Following Immunisation (AEFI) and an analysis of the AEFI cases by the National AEFI Committee for TTS (Thrombosis with

Thrombocytopenia Syndrome --which implies blood clots in veins). The MoHFW categorically stated that "there is a very miniscule but definitive risk" of Thromboembolic events following Covishield (SII) jabs, but Covaxin (BBL) posed no such potential rick"

In a relief of sorts, the MoHFW added that the 'risk' was just "0.61/million doses" compared

with 4/million in the UK or 10/million in Germany.

The Centre also prepared two separate advisories -- one detailing diagnosis and treatment of TTS post-vaccine doses for health-care institutions and workers, and another for beneficiaries to encourage them to report any such

Activists like Pune businessman Prafful Sarda said that when all this was known, "why did the government make the entire country a guinea pig to boost the profits of the vaccine-manufacturers".

side-effects and seek treatment.

He said that hundreds of cases are being filed in different countries as more and more serious adverse effects of the vaccines are coming to the fore and many deaths of perfectly healthy people are now being attributed to the immunisatio

Nagpur-based Council for Protection of Rights (CPR) chairman, barrister Vinod Tiwari said though the vaccines were permitted for 'emergency use' only, a mass-immunisation program was taken up as people panicked.

Incidentally, in March 2023, the ICMR launched a study into the alarming 'sudden heart attacks deaths' of many including youngsters and its possible link with vaccines. Its report is expected shortly. The side-effects of COVAX as listed by the BBL: Injection site pain/swelling/redness/itching, stiffness in the upper arm, weakness in the injection arm, headaches, body-aches, fever, malaise, weakness, rashes, nausea/vomiting, or severe allergic reactions with symptoms like diffi-

culty in breathing, swelling on the face and throat, a fast heart rate, rashes all over the body, dizziness and weakness.

The side-effects of COVISHIELD as listed by the SII: Very Common ones like tenderness, pain, warmth, redness, itching, swelling or bruising where the injection is given, generally feeling unwell, fatigue, chills or feeling feverish, headache, feeling sick (nausea), joint pain or muscle ache; Common ones like a lump at the injection site, fever, vomiting, flulike symptoms such as high temperature, sore throat, runny nose, cough and chills; and uncommon side-effects of feeling dizzy, decreased appetite, abdominal pain, enlarged lymph nodes, excessive sweating, itchy skin or

**EDITOR'S SPECS** 

#### Fate of Siddaramaiah!

**n**e debate on whether Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will remain at the post for a full term has started again in Karnataka. Bharatiya Janata Party MP from Mysuru Pratap Simha on Monday challenged the Congress leaders to ask Siddaramaiah to proclaim that he will be the CM for five years. Speaking to reporters, Pratap Simha claimed that Siddaramaiah is making his stooges give statements that he will be a full term CM. "Siddaramaiah lacks courage to say this by himself," he taunted. Siddaramaiah is getting Minister for Social Welfare H.C. Mahadevappa and Minister for Large and Medium Industries M.B. Patil to speak on his behalf. D. K. Suresh, Congress MP and brother

of Dy CM D.K. Shivakumar, has already made his displeasure clear. Siddaramaiah lacks the courage to say that he is a full term CM. Shivakumar's role is very big in winning the elections, Pratap Simha maintained. Mahadevappa had stated in Mysuru on Sunday that Siddaramaiah will be a full term CM. Minister for PWD Satish Jarkiholi also said there is no sharing of power in the state and Siddaramaiah would be the CM for the full term. Former Minister R. Ashoka had stated that Shivakumar's dream to become CM will remain just a dream. Siddaramaiah has successfully challenged former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda and Shivakumar won't get any chance. Reacting to the debate on his term as CM, Siddaramaiah on Monday asked the media what have they got to do with it. When asked about Mahadevappa's statement, he said that a clarification should be taken from him. "Why are you asking that question? You have created it," he slammed a reporter. Shivakumar's camp maintains that there is a power sharing formula between the leaders

and both will have a 2.5-year term as CM.

## BIPARJOY: PM MODI EMERGES AS THE HERO DHIRODATTA

#### **Shivraj Singh Chouhan**

yclonic storms keep hitting India almost every year be it in the Arabian Sea or in the Bay of Bengal. Generally, cyclones are generated by atmospheric disturbances around a low pressure area. Cyclones are usually followed by severe storms and bad weather. If we look at the events of the last 2 to 3 decade, the dangerous storms that India had to face, a large number of people had to suffer in addition to the loss of life and property. On the contrary, the precautionary preparations made by the Central and State Government after receiving information about Cyclone Biparjoy, which hit Gujarat recently, at least saved lives.

The alertness, patience, prudence and seriousness with which the head of the house succeeds in reducing the magnitude of the crisis to zero during calamities, such characters are the ones who are established in history as Dhirodatta heroes. In the last nine years of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's tenure, it has been proved time and again that he does not lose patience in any disaster when it comes to saving the lives of the countrymen and confronts them with wellthought-out strategies; be it cyclones, other natural calamities or heavy rains and floods, any threat to the security and integrity of the country or a global pandemic like Covid-19. With his action plans, he has been able to manage the prevention of loss of life and other damages effectively.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's guidance and strategies proved effective in dealing with the recent cyclone Biparjoy. He alerted the governing and administrative machinery ahead of time to deal with the crisis of Biparjoy. He himself taking high level meeting with the agencies, Center and Gujarat to ensure that the residents of the affected area of the cyclone were transported to safer places and maintenance of essential arrange ments like electricity, water, health and telecommunication was ensured. The Prime Minister also ensured the safety of the animals, which is a testimony to his sensitivity. As a result of the instructions of the Prime Minister, that the control rooms, that are an integral part of the preparedness to deal with the cyclone, worked day and night and con-



tinue to do so.

In the last about one decade, a lot of efforts have been made to prevent loss of life due to cyclones in different regions of India. Some dangerous cyclones also resulted in loss of life. But in the advance arrangements made to deal with Biparjoy cyclone, public safety was kept on priority. The Meteorological Department had forecast that there could be rain with strong winds in many states of India. In view of these circumstances, concrete security arrangements were made in the respective states by chalking out an effective action plan. I believe that due to all these arrangements, loss of lives due to the effect of Biparjoy could be prevented.

#### How could all this have been possible?

As we know that about 58 percent of the land area in India is prone to earthquakes of moderate to very high intensity and more than 40 million hectares of area i.e. 12 percent of the country's land area remains prone

to floods. We have about 5700 km of coastal area up to 7516 km of cyclone and Tsunami prone area. Keeping all these things in mind, the Prime Minister has paid a lot of attention to the strategies of disaster management so that the poor people affected by the disaster do not suffer loss of life and property.

The first and most important point in the disaster management strategy adopted by the Prime Minister is pre-disaster management and preparation. Despite this, if a disaster occurs and the preparations prove to be inadequate and if the disaster causes damage, then complete preparations for rehabilitation should be made besides reconstruction and restoration of normalcy after rehabilitation. The Prime Minister has put together all these points in his management strategy. Due to his efforts, today disaster management is essentially included in the process of development in our country.

Apart from this, the Prime Minister has further strengthened the role of all the ministries related to disaster management. He has

linked ministries like Atomic

Energy, Civil Aviation, Earth Sciences, Environment and Forests, Home, Health, Railways, Space and Water Resources to preparedness for the management of disasters.

The Prime Minister has also emphasized on modernizing the systems for forecasting and warning of disasters and using the latest systems, so that all the concerned agencies are aware of the forecasting of disasters by playing their active role. PM Modi is also in constant contact with the World Meteorological Organisation, the Pacific Tsunami Warning System and other regional and global organizations.

I, on behalf of the citizens of Madhya Pradesh, heartily congratulate Prime Minister Modi, whose farsightedness and effective strategy has given the countrymen a protective cover along with happiness and prosperity.

(Blogger is Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Chief Minister of Madhaya Pradesh)

#### international

### **BLINKEN MEETS XI IN BEIJING**

Beijing Agencies

A fter much speculation, visiting US Secretary of State Antony Blinken met Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing on Monday -- becoming the highest-ranking American official to meet the Chinese leader since 2018.

According to Xinhua news agency, the meeting took place in the afternoon at the Great Hall of the People.

More details are awaited.
Blinken is also the first Secretary of
State to travel to China in five years,
as well as the most senior official
making the visit since President Joe
Biden took office in early 2021.

Ahead of Xi's meeting with Blinken, Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning confirmed the talks and said the government would "release news in due course".

Earlier on Monday, the Secretary of State met top Chinese diplomat Wang Yi at the capital city's Diaoyutai State Guesthouse -- a lavish estate typically used to host visiting dignitaries, reports the BBC.



The meeting is part of efforts to improve the strained relations between the two largest economies.

According to a State Department official, Blinken's primary goal in China is to re-establish channels of communication, especially direct military-to-military communication between Washington and Beijing, reports CNN.

Upon his arrival in Beijing on

the invitation was accepted, State
Department spokesperson Matt
Miller said in a readout of the meeting.
The Biden administration's relationship with Beijing is one of its

tionship with Beijing is one of its most complicated and consequential, and one that has seen months of strain, including two military-related incidents in recent weeks.

During the meeting, which lasted for more than five hours, Blinken

invited Qin to visit Washington and

Biden and Xi met in person for the first time as presidents on the sidelines of the Group of Seven summit in Indonesia last November.

Blinken's trip, which had been announced by Biden and Xi after their meeting, was originally scheduled to happen in February and had been seen as a key follow-on engagement.

However, it was postponed after the discovery of a suspected Chinese spy balloon transiting the US, which Blinken said at the time "created the conditions that undermine the purpose of the trip".

## Film distributors stop screening 'Adipurush' across Nepal

Kathmandu Agencies

The sole distributors of 'Adipurush' in Nepal on Monday decided to stop screening of the controversial Indian film based on the Hindu epic Ramayana, across the Himalayan nation after it courted controversy over the birthplace of Sita.

Manoj Rathi, the sole distributor of the movie in Nepal, said the screening has been stalled across the country. The latest development comes after Kathmandu Mayor Balen Shah on June 15 instructed cinema halls in the Nepal capital not to screeb the film until the makers correct the mistake of Sita's birthplace.

Citing Articles 5 and 56 (6) of the Constitution of Nepal, Shah said that the federal, provincial and local governments have the responsibility to protect the national inter-



est and that allowing the screening of the film without any changes could do irreparable damage to Nepal's nationality, cultural unity and national identity.

A day after the Mayor's

unity and national identity.
A day after the Mayor's
warning, cinema halls across
Kathmandu stopped showcasing 'Adipurush' due to
security reasons.

The Mayor renewed his opposition against the film on Sunday and urged cinema halls not to screen the movie

until the filmmakers did not correct the alleged mistake. Nepal's Censor Board has also decided to hold back permission to film.

"We have decided to stop screening of the movie due to security reasons," Bhaskar Dhungana, Vice Chairman of the Nepal Film Union, said. As per the Ramayana, Sita

was born in Janakpur, which falls in Nepalese territory, and Lord Ram came and married her.

#### 628 evacuees fall ill due to volcanic eruption in Philippines

Manila Agencies

A t least 628 people have fallen ill after being displaced due to the eruption of Mayon Volcano, the most active volcano in the Philippines, a government agency reported on Monday.

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council recorded at least 10 kinds of sickness affecting the evacuees aged between 2 to 64, including coughs, colds, fever, gastroenteritis, acute respiratory infection, and skin disease, reports Xinhua news agency.

The disaster management agency said nearly 39,000 people have been affected by Mayon's eruption, which started on June 8.

Local authorities have evacuated over 20,000 villagers living in the danger zone around the picturesque, cone-shaped Mayon Volcano in Albay province, approximately 500 km southeast of the Philippine capital

The province, under a state of calamity, has set up 28 evacuation



centres for displaced people, usually in school classrooms.

In school classrooms.

The Philippine Institute of
Volcanology and Seismology on
Monday recorded pyroclastic flows
from the volcano's collapsed lava
domes that lasted three minutes.

Steam-laden plumes rose to 600 meters, and the institute maintained the volcano's alert level at 3 on a scale of 5.

Mayon Volcano last erupted in 2018, resulting in the evacuation of more than 23,000 people from nine cities and municipalities.

#### North Korea cites failed satellite launch as 'most serious' failure

Seoul Agencies

orth Korea called its failed attempt to launch a purported military reconnaissance satellite the "most serious" shortcoming in the first half of this year and reaffirmed its pledge to put it into orbit soon, Pyongyang's state media said on Monday.

Sunday, the Secretary of State met

after ending a stint as Beijing's

Ambassador to Washington.

Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang,

who took up the post six months ago

Blinken and Qin shook hands in

noon, their first in-person meeting in

their current positions, CNN report-

front of reporters at the Diaoyutai

State Guesthouse on Sunday after-

North Korea made the assessment following a plenary meeting of the 8th Central Committee of the ruling Workers' Party of Korea, attended by leader Kim Jong-un, that wrapped up the previous day, referring to its botched attempt to launch a rocket carrying a military spy satellite on May 31, Yonhap news agency reported.

The "Chollima-1" rocket carrying a military reconnaissance satellite, "Malligyong-1", took off from a new launch pad at the Sohae Satellite Launching Ground but crashed into the

Yellow Sea following what Pyongyang claimed was the "abnormal starting" of the second stage engine of its space rocket.

"The most serious one was the failure of the military reconnaissance satellite launch, the important strategic work in the field of space development, on May 31," the North's Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said in an English-language dispatch, citing the failure as among the "shortcomings that cannot be overlooked".

The KCNA said that officials who were responsible for the launch were "bitterly" criticised and that an order was made to thoroughly analyse the cause of the failure to "successfully launch the military reconnaissance satellite in a short span of time and thus make a shortcut

to improving the capabilities of

the Korean People's Army's

reconnaissance intelligence".

Pyongyang has vowed to "correctly" put the satellite into orbit soon despite global condemnation that the move "breaches multiple UN Security Council resolutions banning any launch using ballistic missile technology".

During the three-day meeting that discussed the regime's defence and diplomatic strategies, the North made clear its push to increase the "production of powerful nuclear weapons" to counter the "changed security situation"

"changed security situation".

"The complicated and serious situation on the Korean peninsula which is getting out of control requires the DPRK to ceaselessly renew its military potentials and make a faster advance toward the bolstering up of its capabilities for self-defence," it said, using the acronym of its official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

#### LEFT TO DIE BY GREEK COASTGUARDS, PAK SURVIVORS SAY BOAT WAS DELIBERATELY SUNK

Islamabad | Agencies

Pakistani survivors on the illfated boat that capsised off the Greece coast have blamed Greek coastguards for the incident, saying the ship - carrying hundreds of people - was deliberately sunk and no rescue was provided, media reports said.

was provided, media reports said. The video account of the victims exposed the inhuman attitude of Greece authorities in the last hours leading to the tragedy, Geo News reported. Authorities in Europe still have no clear idea as to how many people were aboard the boat when it sank estimates range from 400 to over 700 - but likely hundreds came from Pakistan. The accounts of two Pakistani survivors emerged

days after the tragic incident.

"They have done this [on purpose]. They have sunk it themselves," one of the survivors said, while the other added that they had been still for five days and six nights before the ship sunk "in a minute". "We did not sink for five

days, so why would we sink now?"
They recounted that the ship's engine had broken down, leaving them still for almost a week, Geo News reported.

"We did not drown even though our engine had [completely] shut down. On the sixth night, around 2:30 a.m., I checked the time; it was 2:15 a.m. Around 10 minutes later, this incident occurred," one of them said, adding, "It [the boat] sunk because of the one-maund-rope they threw into the boat."

They further alleged that the coastguards did not help despite the presence of two-speed boats, one cargo boat and one receiving ship at the location, Geo News reported. This statement endorsed an independent investigation reported by the BBC that poked holes in the Greece authorities' account of the incident. An analysis of the movement of other ships in the area suggests that the boat remained stationary for at least seven hours before drowning.

#### MSMES ARE POWERFUL MEANS OF INVESTMENT 'Honour Killing' AND EMPLOYMENT: CHIEF MINISTER CHOUHAN

**▶ CHIEF MINISTER FELICI-TATES SUCCESSFUL ENTREPRENEURS WITH MSME AWARDS. MOU SIGNED BETWEEN STATE GOVERNMENT AND REPUTED COMPANIES AND** INSTITUTIONS. **ENTREPRENEURS, INDUS-**TRIALISTS, STARTUPS, **TECHNICAL EXPERTS, FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS TOOK PART IN THE SUM-MIT. CHIEF MINISTER INAUGURATES STATE-LEVEL MSME SUMMIT** 

Team Absolute Bhopal

hief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that the spirit of creating a strong industrial landscape and employment generation is embedded in every pore of the roadmap which we have prepared for building an Atmanirbhar Madhya Pradesh for a Atmanirbhar Bharat. The role of big industries is as important as the role of micro, small and medium entrepreneurs in the yagya that is going on to make a 21st centu-



ry Atmanirbhar Bharat under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The role of these entrepreneurs is very important in providing employment to the youth, they are a powerful means of creating investment and employment opportunities at the local level. The state government is committed to provide all possible cooperation to help and develop these units working locally on local resources. For this purpose the theme of the summit being held today has been kept as 'Positive coincidence of economic development -Micro, Small and Medium Industries of Madhya Pradesh'. Chief Minister

present as a special guest. The office bearers of several industry associations, big industrial houses, new entrepreneurs, senior officers of the central and state governments participated in the summit. Chief Minister Chouhan inaugurated the summit by lighting the lamp. A short film on the role of

MSMEs in Madhya Pradesh was

screened. Chief Minister Chouhan

ful entrepreneurs and MoUs were

also exchanged between the state

presented MSME awards to success-

Chouhan inaugurated the State Level

MSME Summit at Hotel Amer Green

Bhopal. Bhopal Mayor Malti Rai was

government and reputed companies and institutions of the country. All the districts of the state got connected virtually with the programme.

Chief Minister Chouhan said that micro, small and medium enterprises are partners in the prosperity and development of Madhya Pradesh. This summit has been organized to discuss how we can move forward together. Enthusiasm is most important for success. You move forward by taking advantage of Ease of Doing Business with positive thinking. Share the points where there is a need for improvement in government policies with the government. Whatever is best will be implemented. We will work together and take Madhya Pradesh forward. We are all determined to make India a leader in the world under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi.

12 schemes are being implemented in the state to promote self-employment and small industries. Mukhyamantri Seekho Kamao Yojana is also being implemented, in which 700 works have been identified. Entrepreneurs should join this scheme, connect youth, make them skilled and take advantage of the scheme. This scheme is useful for entrepreneurs and youth desirous of employment and is effective for making Madhya Pradesh capable and

Chief Minister Chouhan said that

Couple slain, bodies thrown into crocodile-infested Chambal rive

Team Absolute Bhopal

n what could be a case of "honour killing", a girl and her boyfriend were allegedly killed by her family and the bodies of the couple thrown into the Chambal river in Morena district of Madhya Pradesh, police

The victims were allegedly killed by the girl's family around a fortnight ago. Her family members, along with other relatives, allegedly kidnapped the couple, shot them dead, and threw their bodies into the crocodileinfested waters of the river.

The matter came to light after the girl's father Rajpal Singh Tomar, during an interrogation, confessed the crime. As per the police, Tomar claimed he, along with other family members, killed his daughter Shivani Tomar and her boyfriend Radheshyaam Tomar on 3, and then disposed of their bodies into the river.

As per reports, Shivani Tomar, 18, was in a relationship with Radheshyam Tomar, 21. However, this was objected to by the girl's family as both were sharing

the same surname. Despite strong disapproval of their relationship, the young couple continued to meet each other, which made the family furious.

As per the police, on June 3, Shivani's family, along with some relatives, allegedly shot dead the young couple. Following the confession of the crime by Shivani's father, the local police swung into action to

Morena SP Shailendra Singh Chouhan said on Sunday that a team of State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and divers were carrying out search for the bodies in the river, however, it was unsuccessful so far.

"We have not found anything yet. Searches are on, Chouhan said.

"Nothing can be said unless bodies are found. Our investigations are still underway," he added.

## BJP witnesses another jolt in poll-bound MP as veteran leader quits, may join Congress



Team Absolute Bhopal

adhya Pradesh's ruling BJP on Sunday uffered another jolt in the poll-bound state as senior politician Dhruv Pratap Singh, who has been associated with the party since its inception, quit, accusing BJP state leadership of sidelining

Singh, who was with the BJP since 1980, in a video party has derailed from its real

Since last couple of months, he has been been vocal against Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, state unit President V. D. Sharma and other state leaders. He had contested his first

election from Katni Murwara seat, however, he was defeated by the Congress. In 2003, the BJP had fielded him from Vijayraghogarh (Katni district) and he won against Congress candidate Satvendra Pathak Ir Pathak's son Sanjay Pathak, who was also a MLA from

Vijayraghogarh, joined the BJP and since then, Singh has been sidelined.On the other hand, Pathak, who was also a minister in CM Chouhan's previous cabinet, has strengthened his position not only in Katni district but among the top leaders of the BJP as well. Pathak is considered close to the State Home Minister Narottam Mishra and the duo had played a key role against the Kamal Nathled Congress government, which was toppled due to

March 2020. Sources told reporter that Singh has been touch with senior state Congress leaders and most likely to join the party in the next couple of

defection of 22 Jyotiraditya

Scindia loyalist MLAs in

days during a visit to Bhopal. However, state BJP leaders were still trying to convince him to rema his shifting into the Congress will impact the party largely.

#### **BIRTHDAY CELEBRATE BY PLANTING SAPLINGS WITH CM CHOUHAN**



Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted saplings of Banyan, Moulshree and Guava in the garden located at Shyamla Hills. Member of Parliament KP Yadav along with his family participated in the plantation. Along with Chief Minister Chouhan, Khushi Patel and 5-year-old Keshvi Jain also celebrated their birthday by planting saplings. Their family members Deepak Patel, Varsha Dhakad, Diya Patel, Rajesh Badnalli, Chaitany Pushpendra Jain and Jaini Jain participated in the

#### Youth chained, forced to act like dog in Bhopal; 3 held

search the bodies.

Team Absolute Bhopal

he stringent National Security Act (NSA) has been invoked against three Muslim men who allegedly held a man on a leash and were heard on video ordering him to "bark like a dog". The victim, identified as Vijay Ramchandani, has alleged in his police complaint that he was being forced to convert into

Three men -- Sameer, Sajid, and Faizan Lal - have been arrested based on the complaint.Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, calling for exemplary action against the three, has directed that their homes be razed. They can also be held for up to 12 months, and even longer if fresh evidence is provided, under the NSA.

In the 48 second vid man held on a leash sits on his haunches, hands folded, as

someone orders him to "become a dog" and apologise.

"While beating me up, they asked me to become a Muslim and start eating beef. They said I was a coward and they could have killed me that day," said the FIR or First Information Report filed by Vijay Ramchandani. He said he knew Faizan, Sahil and Samir, who allegedly blocked his way, slapped him and searched his pockets. "Sameer was standing at a distance and was saying kill him, search the pockets thoroughly, you will find someplaint. At the same time, three more men -- Bilal, Mufid and

Sahil Baccha -- arrived in a car and they, too, allegedly started beating him up. They threatened him with a knife, and took him to another place on a motorcycle, snatched the keys of his scooter, and also his two phones, the FIR said.

Two of the attackers allegedly tied a belt around his neck, started kicking him, and abusing his mother and sister.

They demanded money at knifepoint, and the victim handed over ? 700-800 and two phones out of fear, the FIR said. Vijay alleged that the accused

also called his brother and mother, and threatened them. He claimed the accused continued to harass him and demand money. "I kept quiet due to fear but am fed up of their harassment," he said, demanding strict punishment. As the video went viral, State Home Minister Narottam Mishra ordered the Police Commissioner to investi-

#### Man crushes father's head with stone for refusing to give Rs 2,000

Team Absolute Indore

25-year-old man allegedly bludgeoned his father to death after the latter refused to give him? 2,000 as pocket money in Madhya Pradesh's Indore district, police said on Monday.

Babu Choudhary (50), a farmer, was found dead on a field in Depalpur area on the night of June 15, Superintendent of Police (SP) Hitika Vasal said.

Based on a probe and evidence collected from the scene of crime.

the police have arrested the victim's son Sohan, she said.

The accused is addicted to drugs and used to help his father in their farm, the official said.

'Sohan had asked his father for ? 2.000 as pocket money on the night of June 15, but the latter categorically refused. Angered by this, Sohan picked up a stone from the field and attacked the victim, crushing his head," Vasal

A detailed investigation is being conducted in the case, she

#### PM Modi to visit Madhya Pradesh on June 27, launch 2 Vande Bharat

Team Absolute Bhopa

Prime Minister Narendra Mod Narendra Modi, on his visit to Madhya Pradesh on June 27, will launch two Vande Bharat trains -- Bhopal to Indore and Bhopal to Jabalpur -in the state capital. He will also participate in the BJP's program, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan informed. Prime Minister Modi will also participate in the Veerangana Rani Durgavati Sacrifice Day program and the concluding event of Veerangana Rani Durgavati Gaurav Yatra in Shahdol citv.

Home Minister Amit Shah will inaugurate the Veerangana Rani Durgavati Gaurav Yatra on June 22 from Balaghat district.The 'Gaurav Yatra' will start from five zones of the state on June 22, Balaghat to Shahdol, Chhindwara to Shahdol, Singrampur to Shahdol, Kalinjar Fort (UP) to Shahdol, and Dhauni (direct to Shahdol). While Home Minister Amit Shah will inaugurate it in Balaghat, MP Durga Das

Uikey will do it in Chhindwara, Vijay Shah in Singrampur, Sampatiya Uikey in Kalinjar, the birthplace of Rani Durgawati, and Himadri Singh in Dhauhani Sidhi.

The yatra will go from village to village, and conclude on June 27 in Shahdol in the presence of Prime Minister Modi.

A program to get rid of sickle cell anemia disease will also be launched.

The PM will symbolically distribute one crore Ayushman cards in Madhya Pradesh.

#### 2 Killed, 10 injured after speeding bus overturns in Morena

Team Absolute Morena

he accident took place at around 9 pm on Sunday near Sikroda bridge between Joura and Kailaras towns when the bus was going to Sabalgarh from Morena, according to an official.

The bus driver lost control over the wheels at a road turn following which the vehicle overturned in a pit, Joura police station in-charge OP Rawat said. Two passengers died on the spot, he

said. More than 10 others were injured and undergoing treatment at a hospital in Kailaras, he said.

Two of the seriously injured passen-



gers were shifted to Morena for further

#### The country knows the Congress which does politics of appeasement: Narottam Mishra

► AFTER THE **ANNOUNCEMENT OF GANDHI PEACE PRIZE BEING GIVEN TO GITA PRESS, A ROUND OF POLITI-CAL BACKLASH HAS** BEGUN.

Team Absolute Bhopal

esponding to the questions raised by the Congress, Madhya Pradesh Home Minister Narottam Mishra has said that the country has come to know about the appeasement politics of the Congress. The Central Government has decided to award the Gandhi Peace Prize for the year 2021



to Gorakhpur-based Geeta Press. On this, senior Congress leader in charge of media and general secretary Jairam Ramesh not only raised the question but even said that it is like awarding Savarkar and Godse.

Responding to Jairam Ramesh's statement, Madhya Pradesh Home Minister

Mishra said, "Gita Press is the biggest center for publishing our Sanatan literature, Congress may have objection because it publishes only Gita and Ramayana. This is their There can be pain. This is their appeasement. They have not taken any respect in hundred years. Even after this they have objections.

# **BEFORE THE ASSEMBLY**

Team Absolute Bhopal

f we consider the number of employees and pensioners in the state, then this number is around 14 lakhs. Of these, 7.5 lakh are regu-



SHIVRAJ GOVERNMENT IS NOW PREPARING TO PLEASE THE EMPLOYEES

lar employees, 4.5 lakh are pensioners, and 2.25 lakh are contractual employees. The government is work-

ing on a strategy to appease these employees and pensioners. Where there is a preparation to increase the

dearness allowance of regular employees, then the problem of pensioners also has to be resolved. Apart from this, a big gift can also be given to the contractual employees from the government. Discussion on this is going on through the Staff Welfare Committee.

If experts are to be believed, the number of families belonging to 14 lakh employees, pensioners and contract employees and the number of voters associated with them reaches around 60 lakhs. Therefore, the government wants to play a big political game by making the employees happy. The Shivraj Singh Chouhan government of the state has earlier succeeded in pleasing a large section of women through Ladli Bahna and also attracted farmers by increasing the Samman Nidhi. Now, in this sequence, if any decision is taken for dearness allowance to employees, other problems of pensioners and contract employees, then it can prove to be an election



GAL GADOT

is passionate about is 'an incredible thing'

Los Angeles | Agencies

ollywood star Gal Gadot is ready to focus on her future after 'Wonder Woman 3' was canceled. The star of 'Heart of Stone' is opening up about what her next projects will look like as she continues to make strides in the industry, reports 'Deadline'. "To me, starting and developing stories that I'm passionate

about is an incredible thing," Gadot told Total Film. "The fact that I don't have to sit still at home and just wait for

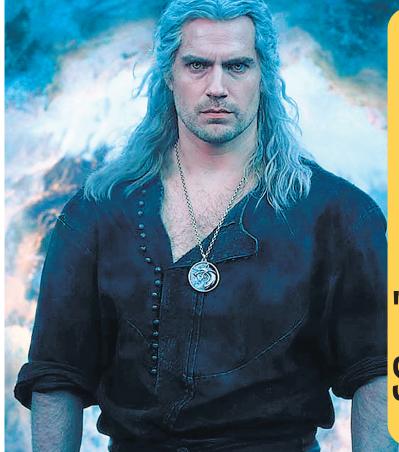
the next offer is something that makes me feel empowered. I enjoy doing it, it keeps me alive.

'I'm not only going to do my own projects, I'm going to work as an actress-for-hire still. But the fact that I can go ahead and tell the stories that I'm passionate about -- from ideas that I conceived, or from ideas that I find fascinating from people that

want to partner with us -- it's an incredible thing," she added. As Peter Safran and James Gunn take hold of the DC Universe, they opted to not move forward with a third installment of 'Wonder Woman' under Patty Jenkins' direction.

The future of Gadot's 'Wonder Woman' is not clear yet, but ahead of the news that the film was getting scrapped, Gadot shared a heartfelt message.

"A few years ago it was announced that I was going to play Wonder Woman. I've been so grateful for the opportunity to play such an incredible, iconic character and more than anything I'm grateful for YOU. The fans. Can't wait to share her next chapter with you," the actress posted on Twitter.



**CAVILL IS AT** HIS FIERCEST **BEST IN NEW THE WITCHER SEASON 3 CLIP** 

**HENRY** 

Los Angeles | Agencies

ollywood star Henry Cavill goes all out as the monster slayer Geralt of Rivia, in his final outing as the character from the popular fantasy web series, 'The Witcher'. A new short clip of the soonto-release season 3 of 'The Witcher' was recently dropped on YouTube.

The clip shows a tightly produced, gory fight scene, which starts off with Geralt's ward Cirilla being attacked by

a bunch of bounty hunters which includes the evil mage Rience from the books.

being attacked Ciri manages to fight off and kill some of the bandits in hand to hand combat, but as the odds start to go against her she is saved by the witch Yennefer of Vengerberg who is both Geralt's lover and eventually Ciri's mother figure in the books. Soon, Geralt also joins the fight and kills several, with his friend Dandelion and his Dwarvish friends coming to his help.Later, the clip shows Geralt brutally slaughtering the rest of Rience's men in an extremely well-choreographed sword fight which is all done in one shot.

Based on Polish author Andrejz Sapkowski's dark fantasy book series of the same name, 'The Witcher' season 3 will follow the second novel in the series 'Time of Contempt'.

The official plot synopsis for season

3 reads: "As monarchs, mages and beasts of the Continent compete to capture her. Geralt takes Ciri of Cintra into hiding, determined to protect his newly-reunited family against those who threaten to destroy it."

It further mentions: "Entrusted with Ciri's magical training, Yennefer leads them to the protected fortress of Aretuza, where she hopes to discover more about the girl's untapped powers; instead, they discover they've landed in a battlefield of political corruption, dark magic, and treachery. They must fight back, put everything on the line - or risk losing each other forever."Season 3 of 'The Witcher' is set to premiere on Netflix in two volumes, with Volume 1 coming out on June 29, 2023 and Volume 2 on July

Schwarzenegger hits gym 320 days a year

Los Angeles | Agencies

Arnold Schwarzenegger a "survival" mechanism. The 75-year-old actor became an award-winning bodybuilder in the years before he became a Hollywood star and explains that he still tries to work out "almost every day" because he wants to keep his physique for as long as

possible, reports aceshowbiz.com.

"I bicycle down, it gives me a nice warm up, it's like a half an hour ride and then I work out for another half an hour or 45 minutes. I try to come (to the gym) every day, but by trying every day I end up doing maybe 320 days a year," he told CNN.

"It never stops. I do a combination, some days I go from one machine to the other but some days it's leg day, then it's the back, then it's shoulders then it's arms and it and it's calves. Just like the old days but with less weight, it's the same kind of draining."

"It doesn't feel the same as it did in the olden days, I have to say because now it's about survival. It's about keeping as long as I can to keep what I have."

The 'Terminator' star, who was born in Austria but moved to the US in 1968, was speaking from Gold's Gym in Venice Beach where he used to train during his heyday and explained that the establishment gave him the chance to train with the best equipment and people which led him to become an "unbeatable" heavy



The 56-year-old actress - who plays real estate agent Seema Patel in the 'Sex and the City' spin-off - teased that "a lot is happening" in the upcoming episodes and she had a lot of fun because her character is single, reports

aceshowbiz.com. "Let's just say the intimacy coordinator was there every day. (There's so much sex) I'm almost scared. When we were shooting it, I was like, 'Oh my God, it's going to be so much fun.' Literally, everyone's up to something. (With Seema being single) a lot can be thrown at me. And

Carrie. This year A lot is happening,"

she told Britain's Grazia magazine. Joining an established cast, Sarita said she felt a lot of pressure not to "f\*\*\* up" the show.

She said, "I always thought, I cannot believe I'm in such an iconic show. Like, I can't f\*\*\* this up. It really gets to you. "While she found Sarah Jessica Parker, Kristin Davis, and Cynthia Nixon to be "like sisters," they were very welcoming to Sarita and a conversation with the Carrie Bradshaw actress helped reassure her nerves.

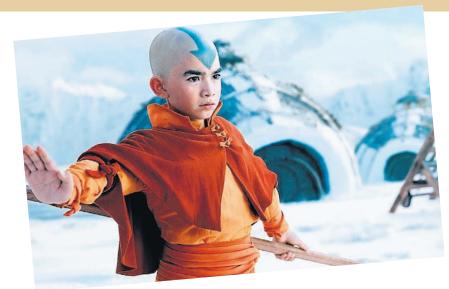
Sarita said of her friendship with Sarah Jessica, "(We catch up mostly) after work. Like, on a bench outside the studio when it's dusk and no one's really around. One day she said the nicest thing. Something like, 'We love you for your instinct. That's all you need. Just come play.' And it was weird, it kind of released something.

Fans are convinced John Corbett is making a return as Aidan after he was pictured on set but Sarita teased viewers will be in for a surprise.

She said: "The fans won't be able to guess where it's going. But they're gonna love it. On some level. Yeah. On some level.

Sarita
Choudhury
daunted by sex
scenes in new season

## 'AVATAR: THE LAST AIRBENDER' FIRST LOOK BRINGS TOGETHER WATER, FIRE, EARTH, AIR



Los Angeles | Agencies

ans just got their first look of the upcoming live action adaptation of 'Avatar: The Last Airbender' which shows the four elements of water, fire, earth and air coming together.

The vague 54-second teaser showcases the symbols of the Water Tribe, Earth Kingdom, Fire Nation and Air Nomads, accompanied by music reminiscent of the original series which fans would identify with.

Each of the nations has people referred to as

Benders, these people can telekinetically manipulate and control the respective elements of their nation.

The 'Avatar', however, is the only individual with the ability to bend all four elements.

The series will see Gordon Cormier starring as Aang, Kiawentiio as Katara, Ian Ousley as Sokka and Dallas Liu as Zuko with Daniel Dae Kim joining the cast as Fire Lord Ozai and Paul Sun-Hyung Lee starring as General Iroh.

As per Deadline: Albert Kim ('Sleepy Hollow', 'Nikita') will serve as

showrunner, executive producer, and writer; while Kim, Rideback's Dan Lin ('The Lego Movie', 'Aladdin') with Lindsey Liberatore serving as executive producers, and Michael Goi acting as coexecutive producer, while Jabbar Raisani and Jet Wilkinson direct.

The teaser debuted at the Netflix Tudum in Sao Paulo, Brazil. The series is an adaptation of Nickelodeon's much-loved award-winning animated series of the same name. The show will debut in





#### **PANKAJ ADVANI LEADS TEAM INDIA-1 TO VICTORIES**

Team Absolute Mumbai

eam India-1 led by ace cueist Pankaj Advani registered two superb wins in the group stage matches of the Asian Team Snooker Championship 2023 at Tehran, Iran.

They beat Afghanistan and Malaysia each by an identical 3-0 margin in their respective matches, according to information reaching here on Monday.

Pankaj Advani played both matches in a team of

In the first match against Afghanistan, the pair of Pankaj Advani/Laxman Rawat won with a scoreline of 3-0. Pankaj Advani defeated Mohd. Noor Zai 54-07 while Laxman Rawat got the better of Saleh Mohammed 75-17. In the Doubles Frame, the Indians won 68(54)-41. In the second match,



Pankaj Advani paired with Aditya Mehta and they both defeated Malaysia by a 3-0 scoreline. Aditya Mehta defeated Thor Chuan Leong 60-47 and Pankaj Advani romped to a 109(75)-13 victory over Moh Keen Hoo. They won the Doubles Frame 57-46. In this match,

Advani compiled a break of 75 in the second frame

against Moh Keen Hoo. Although Team India-1 have already qualified for the knockout stage, India will be hoping to make it to the knockout rounds on a high with a win against United Arab Emirates (UAE) **Ashes 2023** 

#### With Australia restricted to 386, England lose two wickets on rain-hit third day

**Birmingham** | Agencies

ngland gained a minuscule advantage in the opening Ashes Test against Australia by gaining a seven-run first-innings lead but the visitors edged ahead by grabbing two early wickets on a rain-truncated Sunday at Edgbaston.

Sports

Seven wickets fell before rain curtailed day three on Sunday with England 28/2 and leading by 35 runs with two days of the first Ashes Test

A mini-spell between rain delays saw Australia send back both the England openers to set the game up perfectly heading into Monday's day four, with Joe Root and Ollie Pope set to resume with both yet to score.

Resuming at 311/5 on Sunday morning, Australia had hopes of building a first-innings lead, but James Anderson struck with the first blow of the morning, cleaning up Alex Carey for 66 as he claimed his first wicket of the match.

Australia skipper Pat Cummins and centurion Usman Khawaja bedded in



as England opted for some unusual bowling tactics to slow the scoring.

And a particularly odd field helped unsettle Usman Khawaja when he was vorked by Ollie Robinson to depart for 141.

England wrapped up Australia's tail quickly, with Robinson removing both Nathan Lyon (1) and Cummins (38), with Stuart Broad taking the

other wicket to fall -- Scott Boland for

The five wickets fell for just 75 runs, with Robinson ending up with the pick of the figures for England with 3-55, and Broad finishing with 3-68.

Hoping to build on the advantage, England steadily began their second innings, with Zak Crawley and Ben Duckett still there when the first

shower of rain came.

But a dry period allowed a sharp 3.4 over session before the rain set in again, and Australia sent back both openers with the ball moving around, Cameron Green brilliantly catching Ben Duckett in the gully off Pat Cummins for 19, and Scott

Boland dismissing Zak Crawley for 7. Only 32.4 overs were possible on Sunday, thus depriving the fans of an engrossing day of cricket. umpires inspected the ground on a couple of occasions as the rain subsided, but could not find enough reasons to summon the players into the ground.

#### **Brief scores**

England 393/8 decl & 28/3 in 10.3 overs (Ben Duckett 19; Pat Cummins 1-9, Scott Boland 1-1) lead Australia 386 all out in 116.1 overs (Usman Khawaja 141, Travis Head 50, Alex Carey 66; Stuart Broad 3-68, Ollie Robinson 3-55, Moeen Ali 2-147) by

#### **Youth Men's National Boxing**

#### Services crowned champions with 9 gold medals, Haryana finish second

Team Absolute New Delhi

efending Champions Services Sports Control Board once again stamped their authority by clinching the team championship title at the 6th Youth Men's National Boxing Championships in Gangtok,

SSCB boxers pulled off a stunning show on the last day of the competition as nine of their 11 finalists emerged victorious and took home the gold medal as well as the team championship trophy with 85 points, finishing at the top of the table with 13 medals, including two silver and

bronze medals each.

Rishi (48kg) and Aryan (51kg) started the day's proceedings for Services with identical 5-0 wins over Bihar's Rahul and Manipur's Thokchom Singh respectively to bag the gold medal.The 54kg bantamweight final saw an intensely fought bout between Ashish of SSCB and Sikkim's Jayant Dagar. Both the pugilists traded heavy blows on each other in a close encounter that saw the momentum shift every minute. Eventually, Ashish outdid his opponent and secured the favour of the judges to win the bout 4-3. The other six gold medal winners for Services were Nikhil (57kg), M.

Hanthoi (60kg), Ankush (67kg), Preet Malik (71kg), Yogesh (75kg) and Ayran (86kg).

Arman (80kg) and Harsh (92kg) were the two silver medallists for SSCB while Krish Kamboj (63.5kg) and Rythm (92+ kg) claimed the bronze medals for Services.

Haryana and Chandigarh claimed the second and third positions respectively with 54 and 20 points. While Haryana won four gold, two silver and three bronze medals. Chandigarh concluded their campaign with two silver and one bronze. Asian Junior Champion Bharat Joon (92kg), who was representing Haryana, continued his magnificent form and won the final against Harsh of SSCB by the referee stopping the contest (RSC) in the first round. Bharat had also won all his previous bouts by RSC.

The other three gold medallists from Haryana were -- Yashwardhan Singh (63.5kg), Ishan Kataria (80kg) and Lakshay Rathi (92+ kg).

SSCB's Ashish (54kg) was adjudged the best boxer while Sikkim's Jayant Dagar (54kg) received the most promising boxer award for his brilliant display throughout the tourna-

#### Pramod Bhagat wins silver, two bronze medals in Canada Para-Badminton International

Team Absolute New Delhi

ndia's ace shuttler Pramod Bhagat won a silver medal in Men's Singles, a bronze medal in Mixed Doubles and a bronze medal in Men's Doubles with Sukant Kadam at the recently-concluded Canada Para-Badminton International 2023.

The Padma Shri Awardee went down fighting to England's Daniel Bethell in the finals to secure a silver medal. It was a tight match with long rallies. Pramod gave it his all but unfortunately didn't have answers to Bethell's excellent gameplay. The match lasted for 58 min-



12-21 and 13-21 against Bhagat.

Bhagat and Kadam, who struck gold in the past few events, couldn't recreate their magic and secured a bronze medal.

In the mixed doubles, Pramod Bhagat and Manisha Ramadass secured a bronze medal. The duo went down fighting to the Indonesian pair of Fredy Setiawan and Khalimatus Sadiyah.

Talking about the same Pramod Bhagat said, "I am not very happy with my performance in this tournament, Bethell played a really good game. It is time to go back to the drawing board and look at the mistakes that I have done and start working on the same.

#### Nick Kyrgios withdraws from Halle Open due to injury

Team Absolute | New Delhi

ustralian tennis player Nick Kyrgios has withdrawn from the Terra Wortmann Open, also known ongoing issue with his left knee, the tournament organisers said on Monday.

He was scheduled to face Lorenzo Sonego in the Halle first round on Tuesday to make his second consecutive appearance at the German grass tournament.

Kyrgios has been replaced by the lucky loser Aslan Karatsev, who reached his maiden ATP Masters 1000 semifinal as a qualifier in May in Madrid.

The 28-year-old Australian made his comeback to the ATP Tour in Stuttgart last week after he had surgery to repair a small tear in his left lateral meniscus in January.



He complained of inhibited movement caused by his knee during his first-round defeat to Wu Yibing, however, and the problem has now forced Kyrgios' withdrawal from the ATP 500 in Halle.

Kyrgios enjoyed the best season of his career in 2022, when he racked up a 37-10 record, including a Tourleading 12 wins on grass. That tally included his run to a maiden major final at

#### MAX VERSTAPPEN EASES TO F1 CANADIAN GP WII Montreal | Agencies

ax Verstappen 'Ayrton Senna's tally of 41 Grand Prix wins after Canadian Grand Prix, here. Starting from pole position

after a brilliant performance in Saturday's wet qualifying session, Verstappen held off the threat of Fernando Alonso at the start, and never looked threatened as he managed the gap to those behind him throughout the race to take Red Bull's 100th Grand Prix win.

"Very happy right now. It was not a very straightforward race, as the tyres were not getting into their window. It was very cold compared to Friday, but we made it work and to win the 100th GP for the team is pretty incredible," said Verstappen afterwards.



Behind Verstappen, Alonso finished second for Aston Martin after a good overtaking move on Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton, who took third.

The Ferraris of Charles Leclerc and Carlos Sainz recovered from a poor qualifying session to finish fourth and fifth, ahead of the second Red Bull of Sergio Perez, who also notched the bonus point for fastest lap, though the Mexican may be concerned at yet another weekend where he was off the pace of

his illustrious teammate,

Xinhua reported. Alex Albon continued his good form from Saturday's qualifying to finish in an excellent seventh place, scoring Williams' best result in almost two years after withstanding heavy pressure from the cars behind him.

Esteban Ocon took eighth for Alpine, with Aston Martin's Lance Stroll taking ninth place on the line from Valtteri Bottas, who rounded out the points for Alfa Romeo.The two retirees were

Logan Sargeant, who pulled off on Lap 6 with an engine issue, and George Russell, who retired with brake issues after having clouted the wall earlier in the race.

on 195 points and gives him a 69-point advantage over second-placed Perez, with no driver in F1 history ever having overhauled such a lead. Alonso stays third with 117

points. In the Constructors' Championship, Red Bull's lead now stands at 321 points, with the drinksbacked outfit having won all eight races so far this season. Mercedes are second on 167 points, with Aston Martin

third on 154. The ninth round of the 2023 F1 World Championship is the Austrian Grand Prix at the Red Bull Ring on July 2.



#### Accra

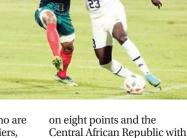
the next African Cup of Nations (AFCON) after a 0-0 draw against Group E opponents

Madagascar.

The four-time African champions, who are unbeaten in the qualifiers, would have secured their place at the next AFCON tournament with a win, but can still qualify if they can at least draw their upcoming final qualifier at home to the Central African Republic.

After their draw with Madagascar on Sunday, Ghana lead Group E with nine points, ahead of Angola

UTT: Chennai Lions to take on Puneri



seven, while Madagascar are already eliminated with only two points, Xinhua reported. Ghana, Angola, and the Central African Republic all

remain in contention for the two qualification spots. The 2023 AFCON, hosted by Cote d'Ivoire, is scheduled

#### to run between January 13 and February 11 next year.

#### **UP TO HOST MOTOGP RACING EVENT IN**



Lucknow: Uttar Pradesh is set to host the country's first MotoGP racing event at the Buddha international circuit in Greater Noida on September 22 and 23,

the state government spokesman said. Additional chief secretary (sports), Navneet Sehgal said that the people across the world would be able to watch the bike racing event through various media platforms.

He said that the adventurous championship comprising the high-end racing machines would further bolster the image of 'Brand UP'. The development marks the return of a big-ticket motorsport event in the country after Formula 1's departure in 2013. A state government spokesperson said that a few months ago, Chief Executive Office of Drona Sports Carmelo Ezpeleta, who holds the commercial rights of MotoGP, had met Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur to discuss the possibility of a bike racing

#### Jr men's hockey national MADHYA PRADESH, CHANDIGARH STORM INTO SEMIFINALS

Rourkela | Agencies

ockey Madhya Pradesh and Chandigarh advanced to the semifinals of the 13th Hockey India Iunior Men's National Championship 2023 on Monday after winning their respective quarterfinal matches at the Birsa Munda Hockey Stadium

Hockey Madhya Pradesh defeated Hockey Maharashtra 9-2 in the first quarterfinal match. Ali Ahmad (5', 44') and Zameer Mohammad (16', 42') got Hockey Madhya Pradesh off to a good start, each scoring a brace. Mohammad Zaid Khan (15'), Mohit Karma (23'), Mohd Konain Dad (34'), Rahul Pal (47') and Arman Khan (51') also scored one goal each to secure a much-needed victory over Hockey Maharashtra. In response,



Hockey Maharashtra's Jay Kale (49') and Ajay Naidu (58') scored one goal

Hockey Chandigarh defeated Hockey Punjab 1-1 (3-2 SO) in the second Quarter-Final match.

Paramvir Singh (14') scored one goal, while Hockey Punjab's Sukhwinder Singh (30') equalised as the match was tied at 1-1 at the end of regulation time. During

the shoot-out, Raman. Harpanthpreet Singh, and Ajaypal Singh scored for Hockey Chandigarh, while Bikramjit Singh stood tall to lead his team to a hard-fought victory.

#### Paltan in season 4 opener on July 13

Team Absolute Mumbai

efending champions Chennai Lions will take on Puneri Paltan Table Tennis in the opening match of the Ultimate Table Tennis (UTT) Season 4 at the Balewadi Sports Complex in Pune on July 13, the organisers confirmed while announcing the schedule on Monday.

A total of 18 exciting ties including the semi-finals and final, will be played among the six franchisees. The semi-finals are scheduled on July 28 and 29 while the grand finale will be held on July 30.

Bengaluru Smashers, Dabang Delhi TTC, Goa Challengers and U Mumba TT are the other four franchises to fight for the coveted

Bengaluru Smashers and U Mumba TT will begin their campaign in the second tie of the season on July 14 whereas Dabang Delhi TTC and Goa Challengers will play their opener on July 15.



UTT Season 4 will witness the presence of top global stars including ace African paddler Quadri Aruna (WR16) and USA's Lily Zhang (WR24) alongside Indian stars Achanta Sharath Kamal, Manika Batra and

Sathiyan Gnanasekaran. Keeping up with the UTT's tradition of unfolding excit-

ing young Indian talents, Season 4 will also see some of the brightest Indian prospects in Payas Jain, SFR Snehit and Diva Chitale among many others.

The franchise-based league is promoted by Niraj Bajaj and Vita Dani under the auspices of the Table Tennis Federation of India

#### entertainment

**Second Front Page** 





## Dipika Chikhlia decks up as Maa Sita on 'public demand', netizens call it better than 'Adipurush'

Dipika Chikhlia, recreating

her famous look as Maa

Sita from Ramanand

Sagar's. Sharing the

video she captioned,

This post is on pub-

lic demand ... I am

grateful for the love

Team Absolute Mumbai

Raut's film fea-

he mythological drama, Adipurush directed by famous filmmaker, Om Raut is currently receiving a lot of backlash from the audiences. Despite reworking on the film's VFX, Om

Prabhas as Lord Ram and Kriti Sanon as have always received for the role I played Mata Sita has failed to impress viewers. ... Me ... as sitaji ...could not have asked Amidst all the criticism that for more.' Adipursh is receiving, a video was The video went viral in no time. Fans shared by veteran actress

flocked to the comments section and showered immense love on her. Helmed by Om Raut, Adipurush is a

modern-day adaptation of Valmiki's Ramayan. The film stars Prabhas, Kriti Sanon and Saif Ali Khan in the main roles. Along with them, the film also features Vatsal Seth, Devdutta Nage and Sunny Singh in pivotal roles.

Sony MAX announces the World Television Premiere of the blockbuster rom-com Tu Jhoothi Main Makkaar

Team Absolute | Mumbai

**T**ith an astounding run at the domestic and international box offices, Luv Ranjan directorial Tu Jhoothi Main Makkaar is set to premier on television, releasing on India's leading Hindi movie channel, Sony MAX on 25th June at 8 PM. The lead pair of Ranbir Kapoor and Shraddha Kapoor is also joined by Bollywood stalwarts Dimple Kapadia and Boney Kapoor in key roles while Bollywood heart-throbs Kartik Aaryan and Nushrratt Bharuccha add a surprise element with an entertaining appearance in the movie.

Tu Jhoothi Main Makkaarhighlights the relationship between Rohan aka Mickey(played by Ranbir) and Tinny (played by Shraddha). Mickey belongs to a wealthy Delhi family and ingeniously works as a break-up consultant, joined by his friend and business partner Manu (played by Anubhav Singh Bassi). Mickey and Tinny meet each other and fall in love during Manu's Bachelor trip in Spain, but love in modern times is not easy. The movie takes viewers on a journey which is full of fun and entertainment till Rohan's break up service backfires on himself. The story that follows is about how the couple deals with their relationship.

"Tu Ihoothi Main Makk com that underlines the anxieties and diverse expectations of a modern couple, while at the same time it caters to family audience too. The movie gives a warm and happy feeling, making audiences laugh along, enjoy the romance,

get emotional and maybe even take away some learnings at the end of it. We are glad the movie is set to reach people y part of the country thro television release on Sony MAX and a large audience will be able to watch the

movie and enjoy it with their families." The chartbuster heartbreak song 'O Bedardeya' along with other songs from the movie evoke various emotions in the

audience. Music Director Pritam, Lyricist Amitabh Bhattacharya and singer Arijit Singh have spread their Packed with a range of emotions, the melody of the movie has something to offer to each situation in a person's life. The songs have the most relatable and unforgettable lyrics for all generations!

Manager Reportedly Cheats Her Of Rs 80 Lakh

Rashmika

Mandanna's

Team Absolute | Mumbai

fter winning hearts and having a high fan base in South Cinema, Rashmika Mandanna managed to captivate audiences in Hindi cinema as well. After her stint in Goodbye and Mission Majnu, citizens are excited about her upcoming projects.

However, a disheartening news pertaining to the actress has come forward. The actress has been reportedly cheated of Rs 80 lakh by none other than her long-time manager, who has since been fired.

As per a recent report, upon learning about the incident, Rashmika Mandanna immediately fired her manager, who had been with her from the very beginning of her career.

As for Rashmika's upcoming projects, they include 'Animal', which is directed by Sandeep Reddy Vanga and also stars Ranbir Kapoor, Anil Kapoor and Bobby Deol. The film will hit the theatres on August 11. She also has 'Pushpa: The Rule', the second part in the franchise, in the pipeline. It is directed by Sukumar and features Allu

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY

#### 'NAATU NAATU' SINGER KAALA BHAIRAVA GIFTS A SPECIAL TUNE TO RAM CHARAN, UPASANA



lelugu star Ram Charan and his wife Upasana Kamineni, who are all set to welcome their child, received a special gift - a special tune by the Oscar Winning singer Kaala Bhairava, who sang 'Naatu Naatu'. The singer is very close to Ram and Upasana.

Talking about the gift, Upasana said: "It is very heartwarming to see the love our baby is receiving. We are overjoyed at these gestures from all those who love us. Kala Bhairava is a dear friend and it is sweet of him to prepare a special tune that soothes our baby when he comes into this world."

She further mentioned: "Giving our child the comfort it needs through music is a really special thought. I thank him for spreading happiness in the lives of not just ours but so many other children who will get happy listening to this tune."Earlier, the couple received a hand-crafted wooden cradle by women survivors of sex trafficking, the glimpse of which was also shared by Upasana.

#### Hrithik uploads shirtless pic, Saba Azad reacts with fire and heart emojis Team Absolute | Mumbai

ollywood star Hrithik Roshan treated his fans to a Shirtless picture, where he was seen flaunting his

muscular back.

In the image, his back is towards the camera, and is wearing black pants and a cap. For the caption, he wrote: "Back day.'

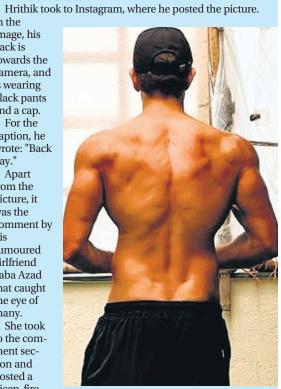
Apart from the picture, it was the comment by

rumoured girlfriend Saba Azad that caught the eye of many.

She took to the comment section and posted a bicep, fire and heart emojis

On the work front, Hrithik will be next seen in 'Fighter' with Deepika Padukone and Anil Kapoor. The film is directed by Siddharth Anand. It is all set to hit the theatres on January 25, 2024

The actor will also be reprising his role in 'War 2', where he will reportedly be pitted against NTR Jr. The film, directed by Ayan Mukerji, is said to also star Kiara Advani.



#### POOJA BHATT SAYS SHE WAS TAGGED 'ALCOHOLIC'

Team Absolute Mumbai

t's been just a few days since the controversial reality show Bigg Boss OTT 2' commenced and the contestants seem to be warming up to each other and sharing details about their life. Filmmaker-actress Pooja

Bhatt, who is seen as a contestant in the show, spoke about her battle with alcoholism at the age of 44 and then her journey to

Pooja was seen talking to co-contestant Cyrus Broacha and said: "I had a drinking problem, and that's why I



acknowledged my addiction and made the decision to quit.' She then spoke about how she was

> and how she tackled that. Pooja was heard saying that men get the license by the society and hence, freely talk about being "addicted and recovering from

labelled as an "alcoholic" by people

Women don't openly drink and so they don't openly recover. I used to drink openly so when I thought of recovering from alcoholism I realised that why should I recover in the closet? People used to call me an alcoholic but then I said I'm a recovering alcoholic," she

alcoholism.

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