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NATION

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HOLLYWOOD

Tori Kelly hospitalised after fainting at dinner, medics discover...



SPORTS

Philippines shock New Zealand, Colombia down South Korea ...



Modi attacks Opposition, says terror outfits also have their front's name

PM SLAMS I.N.D.I.A

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday launched a scathing attack on the opposition's Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance. Calling it "directionless", he said that terror outfits also have INDIA in their names.

Team Absolute New Delhi

he Prime Minister said this at the BJP's parliamentary party meeting, chaired by him here on Tuesday. Talking to reporters after the meeting, senior BJP leader Ravi Shankar Prasad said, "Prime Minister Narendra Modi while addressing the MPs in the parliamentary party meeting said that the name 'INDIA' also has a strange coincidence. He said that the East India Company and Indian National Congress were formed by the Britishers.'

"The Prime Minister said the Indian Mujahideen was founded by the terrorists and organisations like the Popular Front of India also have INDIA," Prasad said.



The Prime Minister in the meeting said that he has not seen such "directionless" Opposition till date, the senior BJP leader quoted Modi as saying, in an apparent reference to

Congress term NDA as National Defamation Alliance

On July 18, a total of 26 political

Opposition Congress announced the

parties, including the main

name of 'INDIA' in Karnataka's

Bengaluru to fight against the ruling

BJP in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

New Delhi: Senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Tuesday took a swipe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi saying that he is rattled by Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance or INDIA and has given a new meaning to NDA as National Defamation Alliance.

In a tweet, Ramesh, who is party's communication incharge said, "It's clear that the Prime Minister is very rattled by the 26-party INDIA. Not only is he trying to give new life to the almost-dead NDA but has also given it a new meaning through his vile abuses this morning-the National Defamation Alliance."He added that, "When he is cornered, this is what Mr. Modi does all the time-deny, divert, distort, deflect and defame."

Manipur is burning and PM is talking about East India Company: Kharge

New Delhi: Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge on Tuesday said that when the Opposition parties were talking about Manipur the Prime Minister was talking about the East India Company

While speaking in the Rajya Sabha, Kharge said, "Several MPs have given notice under section 267 for discussion for the last four days on Manipur. It is not the first time, earlier also notices were given. Today Manipur is burning and rapes are happening. And we are talking about Manipur and the Prime Minister is talking about the East India Company."He took a dig at Prime Minister Narendra Modi for referring the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) with East India Company. On the other hand, Union Minister Piyush Goyal said that the government is also ready to discuss the atrocities against women and children in Rajasthan and

INDIA to bring no-confidence motion against govt in LS today

Team Absolute New Delhi

he Congress-led opposition coalition INDIA will bring a no-confidence motion against the government in Lok Sabha today.

Sources aware of the development said that after a day-long discussion among the opposition parties, it was decided that motion will be brought in today in the Lower House. The Congress has also issued a whip to all its MPs in Lok Sabha to be present in the House tomorrow from the commencement till its adjournment as "very important issues will be taken up for discussion in Lok Sabha tomorrow, i.e. July 26."It was issued by the party's chief whip in Lok

Sabha, Kodikunnil Suresh. The decision to bring a no confidence motion was taken by the opposition amid continuing logjam in Parliament over the Manipur issue.

Sources informed that the decision was apparently taken during the meeting of the coalition leaders held in the chamber of Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge in Parliament, in the morning. Kharge is the leader of the opposition in Rajya Sabha.

During the discussion, it was felt that as the government is unlikely to heed to opposition's demand of seeking Prime Minister Narendra

Modi's response on the Manipur issue in Lok Sabha and may now push for passage of bills amid protests in the lower house, this step was needed to put pressure on the government.

Ever since the monsoon session of Parliament began on July 20, there has been a continuous logjam in both Houses of Parliament as the opposition has been seeking a response from the prime minister inside Parliament on the situation prevailing in

IMF raises India's GDP growth projection to 6.1% in 2023-24

Washington Agencies

he International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Tuesday slightly raised India's GDP projection for the current fiscal to 6.1 per cent from 5.9 per cent.

However this projection by IMF is still lesser than the 6.5 per cent growth projected by

The IMF has also cautioned that persistent challenges could impact the medium term outlook. "Growth in India is projected at 6.1

per cent in 2023, a 0.2 percentage point upward revision compared with the April projection, reflecting momentum from strongerthan-expected growth in the fourth quarter of 2022 (financial year 2022-23) as a result of stronger domestic investment," the IMF said in an update to its World Economic Outlook (WEO) report.

The revision is mainly driven by fourth quarter growth of 2022-23, which was led by higher domestic investments.

Company and the Indian National Congress were created by the British. Moon-bound Chandrayaan-3 gets

New Delhi: Former Congress Chief Rahul Gandhi on

Tuesday took a swipe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi for

dubbing INDIA as the East India Company and said they

In a tweet, Rahul Gandhi said, "Call us whatever you

want, Mr Modi. We are INDIA. We will help heal Manipur

and wipe the tears of every woman and child. We will

will heal Manipur and rebuild the idea of India.

We are INDIA, will heal Manipur: Rahul Gandhi

bring back love and peace for all her people. We will rebuild the idea of India

in Manipur." His remarks came after the Prime Minister during the BJP Parliamentary Party meeting earlier in the day said that the East India

Chennai | Agencies ndia's moon-bound 3, travelled further towards its destination with the Indian space agency on Tuesday raising its orbit further for the fifth time.

On August 1, the Chandrayaan-3 will take the 'moon spaceway' when the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will guide it to the TransLunar Injection (TLI).

On Tuesday, the ISRO said: 'The orbit-raising maneuver (Earth-bound perigee firing) is performed successfully from ISTRAC/ISRO, Bengaluru. The spacecraft is expected to attain an orbit of 127609 km x 236 km. The achieved orbit will be con-



firmed after the observations." "The next firing, the TransLunar Injection (TLI), is planned for August 1, 2023, between 12 midnight and 1 am IST," the ISRO said.

The Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft was put into orbit on July 15, in a copybook style by India's heavy lift rocket LVM3. On the same day, the first orbit raising was done and the second orbit raising was carried out on July 17.



housands of persons on Tuesday took part in the 'Solidarity March', Coordination Committee in the Mizoram capital on Tuesday to express solidarity with the violence hit Kuki-Zo tribals in Manipur, and demanded the Central and Manipur government restore peace and normalcy at the earliest.

Mizoram Chief Minister Zoramthanga, his deputy Tawnluia, several ministers, and many MLAs of the state cutting across party lines took part in the massive march.

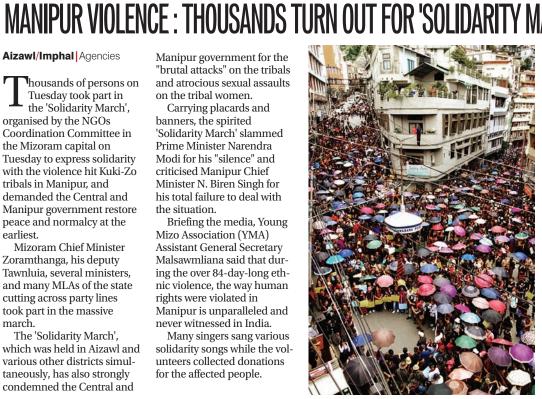
The 'Solidarity March', which was held in Aizawl and various other districts simultaneously, has also strongly condemned the Central and

Manipur government for the "brutal attacks" on the tribals and atrocious sexual assaults on the tribal women.

Carrying placards and he snirited 'Solidarity March' slammed Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his "silence" and criticised Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh for his total failure to deal with the situation.

Briefing the media, Young Mizo Association (YMA) Assistant General Secretary Malsawmliana said that during the over 84-day-long ethnic violence, the way human rights were violated in Manipur is unparalleled and never witnessed in India.

Many singers sang various solidarity songs while the volunteers collected donations for the affected people.



INTERNET PARTIALLY RESTORED IN MANIPUR, **BROADBAND ALLOWED BUT NO MOBILE INTERNET**

demands from all sections of people, the Manipur government, after 84 days, partially lifted the ban on internet in the ethnic violence-hit state.

Manipur Home Commissioner T. Ranjit Singh, in an order, said that the state government has made considered decision to lift suspension in case of broadband service (Internet Lease Line and Fibre to the Home) conditionally in a liberalised manner subject to fulfilment of 10 conditions, including that connection has to be only through static IP.

Mobile internet is still banned.

18 ARRESTED OVER ATTACK ON MEGHALAYA CM'S OFFICE

Shillong: At least 18 people, including BJP's Mahila Morcha members and Trinamool Congress workers have nection with the attack on Chief Minister Conrad Sangma's office in

Two of the arrested individuals --Dilche Ch. Marak and Belinda M. Marak, are BIP Mahila Morcha members, the police said in a notification. The BJP leaders in Meghalaya are yet to react to this development. Some of the arrested persons include Trinamool Congress workers, a police source said. On late Monday night, when CM Sangma was holding a meeting with the leaders of the organisations to discuss the issues on winter capital demand and the proper implementation of a 51-year-old job reservation roster system with retrospective effect, a mob besieged the CM's secretariat and threw stones at it.

Ticketing services restored on IRCTC site, app after technical glitch

New Delhi: The Indian Railway Catering and **Tourism Corporation** (IRCTC) on Tuesday said ticketing services which were not available on its website and mobile application earlier in the day due to technical reasons, have been restored.

"Booking issue has been resolved now. (Website) irctc.co.in/nget/train-sea and Rail connect app is working now.

Inconvenience caused is deeply regretted," the IRCTC said in a tweet. On Monday morning, the public sector undertaking under the Railways Ministry, in a tweet, said: "Due to technical reasons, the ticketing service is not available on IRCTC site and App". "Our technical team is resolving the issue. We will notify as soon as the technical issue is fixed. Alternatively tickets can be booked through other B2C players like Amazon, Makemytrip etc," it

'One last opportunity' for implementation of 33% woman reservation: SC

Team Absolute New Delhi

he Supreme Court on Tuesday granted "one last opportunity to the Central and Nagaland governments for implementation of 33 per cent reservation for women in the state urban local bodies.

A bench of Justices S.K. Kaul and Sudhansu Dhulia was hearing a plea filed by Peoples Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL) against the Nagaland government and the Nagaland State Election Commission for non-implementation of 1/3rd reservation in municipalities and town councils.

The Supreme Court, on March 14, had directed the state government to conduct the urban local body (ULB) elections, and the State Election Commissioner notified the holding of the elections on May 16.

In the meantime, local body polls were cancelled till further orders by the State Election Commission soon after the Assembly passed the Nagaland Municipal Act (Repeal Act) 2023, repealing the Nagaland Municipal Act 2001 in toto following the strong protest against the women



reservations in ULBs by the various Naga tribal hohos and civil society.

However, the Supreme Court, while hearing a petition on April 5, stayed the March 30 Nagaland poll panel notification cancelling the ULBs elections in Nagaland. It had also asked Additional Solicitor General KM Natraj to place the stand of the Union government in the mat-

In the hill state, the Naga organisations claimed reservations for women in ULBs would go against their community's customary laws. The cultural, societal, traditional and religious practices, land and resources in Nagaland are protected

under Article 371A, which also exempted from the 73rd Amendment to the Constitution for the setting up of municipalities. But the 74th Amendment did not give that exemption on the grounds that the state's urban administrations were not part of the customary prac-

'Only 1 rice bag per family': Write US stores after India bans export

Team Absolute | New Delhi

fter the Indian government prohibited the export of non-basmati rice, many departmental stores in the US are limiting the number of rice bags customers can purchase.

A user on Twitter (now X) has shared a picture in which a notice put up by a store in the US, says, "Only one rice bag per family". "At the Indian store today for spices, I checked to see if rice prices went up due to the export ban. I was shocked to see this. Limits on quantities. Stock up on your staples NOW. Other countries are looking at the ban on rice and are stock pil-

ing," it tweeted. Several NRIs (non-resident Indians) also shared images of empty store shelves, possibly as a result of panic buying fuelled by fears and misinformation about India's complete ban on rice exports.

"Impact of rice exports ban by India government in USA. No rice bag left .. pretty much same situation in all stores



ban #rice #Jansuraaj," a user tweeted with attached images of empty shelves. "Don't know if these empty shelves at Walmart today where Basmati rice is usually stocked, is related to the news of India's ban on rice exports but it wouldn't surprise me either," another user said. There are also concerns about hoarding rice and selling it for a much higher price on online forums.

"So all the desi stores are out of Indian rice. Every NRI family has bought 10-15 bags of rice because India has blocked the export of "nonbasmati" rice. Therefore high IQ NRIs have hoarded 100-200 kg of basmati rice per family. And few are now selling it on Facebook marketplace," a user commented.



INDIA SHOULD FOCUS ON ENGAGING WITH SMALLER NEIGHBOURS KEEPING CHINA IN MIND, SAYS PARLIAMENTARY PANEL

Team Absolute New Delhi

high-level Parliamentary panel has said that it is in India's strategic interests and foreign policy requirements to focus on wider engagements and deepening of ties with smaller neighbours, especially keeping in mind China's Belt and Road vision and America's Indo-Pacific vision

The Standing Committee on External Affairs, in its report presented in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday on the subject of India's "Neighbourhood First" policy, said that it is a dynamic policy that "adjusts to our renewed interests in the region while evolving according to regional circumstances"

"Being aware of China's Belt and Road vision and America's Indo-Pacific vision, the committee have been of the considered view that it is in India's strategic interests and foreign policy requirements to focus on wider engagements and deepening of ties with smaller neighbours," it said in the report.

It further added that the opportunities presented by an open and competitive South Asian market may also be grasped and consolidated from both security and economic perspectives. The committee noted that India's Neighbourhood First Policy as



a concept came about in 2008 but after 2014, it got more focus and salience. It also suggested having a roadmap to promote trade connectivity and contact among people of neighbouring

The panel, headed by BJP's P.P. Chaudhary, urged the government to maintain synergy between Neighbourhood First Policy and Act East Policy. "While considering the principles and objectives of 'Neighbourhood First Policy' and 'Act East Policy', the Committee have noted that the Neighbourhood First

Policy exclusively focuses on India's immediate neighbourhood while the Act East Policy focuses on the extended neighbourhood in the Asia-Pacific region," the committee said.

The committee have also been seized of the fact that India is facing continuing threats from cross-border terrorism, illegal migration, smuggling of fake currency and contrabands, trafficking in drugs and weapons, etc. and have found it imperative to enhance security infrastructure at the borders, it noted. It also noted that India has been pursuing the humanitarian issue

of release of prisoners and fishermen in Pakistan's custody. Since 2014, India has been successful in securing the release and repatriation of more than 2,700 Indian prisoners including 40 Indian fishermen and five Indian civilian prisoners. "The committee are aware that many more Indian nationals including fishermen have been languishing in Pakistani prisons for a long time and have desired that the ministry should step up its diplomatic efforts to secure their early release and repatriation to India," the report said.

Lok Sabha passes Multi-State Cooperative Societies (Amendment) Bill amid oppn's protests

Team Absolute New Delhi

mid noisy protests by Congress-led opposition, seeking Prime Minister Narendra Modi's presence and response in Lok Sabha on the Manipur issue, the government on Tuesday passed the Multi-State Cooperative Societies (Amendment) Bill, which seeks to strengthen cooperatives by making them transparent and introducing a system of regular elections.

Speaker Om Birla adjourned the House for the day soon after the bill was passed.

Piloting the bill, Cooperation Minister Amit Shah said that the provisions in the bill will initiate a new era for the sector, which had been ignored by the previous governments.

The bill was passed after a short discussion with only three members participating in it, amid vociferous protests by opposition members, who stood in the well of the House, shouting slogans and displaying placards, seeking Modi's reply on

Manipur violence in Lok Sabha.Meanwhile, in his response to the discussion on the bill, Shah said that there has been no policy on the cooperative sector since

"Before Diwali (November 10), we will come out with a National Cooperative Policy. It will lay the roadmap for the cooperative sector for the next 25 years," he said. He also informed the ernment will start a universithat a Cooperative University

Lower House that the govty to train people in the cooperative sector, adding Bill would be brought and a national-level university will be set up for providing training in the cooperative sector.

Mother-son dies after part of building collapse in Delhi

Team Absolute New Delhi 30-year-old woman and her three-year-old Child died after a concrete shed in the corridor of the building collapsed in west Delhi on Tuesday, police said.

The deceased were identified as Mamta and her son, residents of Arihant Nagar in Punjabi Bagh area.

The police revealed that the building had been vacant and abandoned, but Mamta and her family had been living there for the past few years, serving as caretakers of the property. According to the police, they received a distress call on Tuesday at the Punjabi Bagh police station, informing them about the building collapse in Arihant Nagar.In response, a police



team immediately rushed to the location. Upon arrival, they found Mamta and a male child trapped under the debris of the collapsed concrete shed in the building's corridor, both of them

"The police promptly evacuated them to Sanjay Gandhi Hospital for medical treatment. Tragically, the medical staff at the hospital declared both of them brought dead," said the official.

A senior police official said that an ongoing investigation is underway to ascertain the circumstances that led to this unfortunate incident.

Raj Bhavan and Government Battle for Control in Vice-Chancellor Appointment

here is an ongoing conflict between the Raj Bhavan (Governor's residence) and the state government in Rajasthan regarding the appointment of Vice-Chancellors for four universities in the state. The matter has become a subject of contention as the names suggested by the representatives of the state government and those agreed upon by the Chancellor have not been in sync

The process of appointing Vice-Chancellors began with the search committee sending panels of four professors each for the universities in question. However, the conflict arose when the Raj Bhavan did not approve of the names suggested by the state government representatives, citing their lack of full eligibility for the posi-



The leaked panels have caused an uproar within the academic commuacross the state. In the past, a similar incident had occurred with the Vice-Chancellor appointment process at

Mohanlal Sukhadia University in Udaipur, resulting in the cancellation of the previously formed panel and re-initiation of the selection process.

The leaking of the panel not only raises questions about the confidentiality of the selection process but also casts doubts on the impartiality and fairness of the appointments

However, the Raj Bhavan rejected the proposed names, claiming that they lacked the necessary eligibility for the Vice-Chancellor positions. As a result, a new Vice Chancellors Committee was formed after the disagreement.

The conflict has further complicated the situation, as the post of Vice Chancellor for Maharaja Ganga Singh University remains vacant, and meetings have been held to resolve the issue. Despite these meetings, no consensus has been reached.

SPICEJET AIRCRAFT CATCHES FIRE AT DELHI AIRPORT DURING **MAINTENANCE**

New Delhi: A SpiceJet aircraft caught fire at the Indira Gandhi International Airport in No injuries were reported

Q400 aircraft was under maintenance, and while carrying out engine ground run at idle power at bay, the AME observed fire warning on one of the engines. "Aircraft fire extinguisher bottle was discharged. As a precaution, fire brigade was called. Aircraft and maintenance personnel safe," the official added. However, when the

Delhi on Tuesday, officials said. from the incident, a senior SpiceJet official told reporter. As per the official, a SpiceJet

Fire Department was contacted, they denied receiving any such regarding the incident. "We have so far received so far no such call," a Fire Department official told reporter over phone.

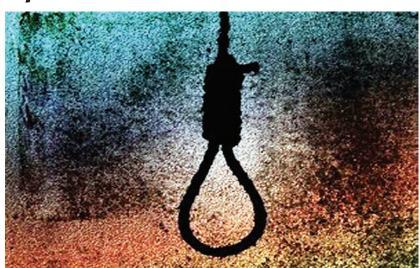
Unable to bear harassment by loan sharks, Indore spice trader commits suicide

Team Absolute Bhopal

spice trader in Madhya Pradesh's business capital Indore allegedly committed suicide after revealing his harassment by loan sharks, police said. The deceased has been identified as Virendra Sen, 35.

As per the police, before hanging self to death inside his house in Musakhedi locality, the spice trader wrote a five-page suicide note and also filmed a video detailing his grievances to the Indore Police Commissioner.

In the video that went viral on social media, the spice trader is seen breaking into tears, while narrating his prolonged ordeal due to the three loan sharks from whom he had borrowed Rs one lakh in 2016. He is heard saying that he has the principal amount and also 10 per cent interest, but the lenders were still harassing him to pay them Rs four-five lakh more.



"I sold my shop to repay their loan, but still they are pressuring many more. I lost

everything and even I have failed to pay the school fees of my two kids since last year."

He also said that the three persons -Shankar Sharma, Sunil Raikwar, and Raju

Pal - have lodged two cases against him. "I don't even have money to pay an advocate's fees. I have no option but to end my life and urge you (the Police Commissioner) not to trouble my family after my end," Sen was seen in the heartrending video.

The spice trader is survived by elderly parents, wife and two kids aged 15 and 12

Indore police has registered an abetment of suicide case under Section 306 IPC against Pal, Raikwar, and Sharma on Tuesday evening and took the trio in cus-

This shocking incident came around two weeks after a couple had allegedly died by suicide after poisoning their two sons (aged 8 and 3 years) due to prolonged harassment by online loan app scamsters in Bhopal on July 13.

DEVE GOWDA SAYS NO TIE UP WITH BJP IN 2024 LS POLLS

Bengaluru/Hubballi: Former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda reiterated on Tuesday that his party JD(S) will not tie up with the BJP in the upcoming Lok Sabha elec-

The statement comes right after his son, former CM H.D. Kumaraswamy's statement that JD(S) and BJP will fight unitedly against the ruling

Congress party. Deve Gowda said the JD(S) would face parliamentary elections independently thus contradicting his son

Kumaraswamy's statement. "There is still sufficient time for the Lok Sabha polls and an appropriate decision would be taken later," Kumaraswamy had stated earlier.

AMIT SHAH SEEKS KHARGE, CHOWDHURY'S COOPERATION FOR DISCUSSION ON MANIPUR IN **PARLIAMENT**

New Delhi: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday appealed to Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge and Congress Leader in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury for their cooperation in the discussion on the

"Today, I wrote to the Opposition leaders of both houses, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury Ji of Lok Sabha, and Mallikarjun Kharge Ji of Rajya Sabha, appealing to them for their invaluable cooperation in the discussion of the Manipur issue," Shah wrote in a tweet, along with the copies of letter addressed to Kharge and Chowdhury

He also sought cooperation from other

Manipur issue in both Houses of Parliament.

Opposition parties on this matter. "The government is ready to discuss the issue of Manipur and seeks cooperation from all the parties, rising above party lines. I hope that all the parties will cooperate in resolving this important issue," he said. The Opposition which is being spearheaded by the Congress has been demanding that Prime Minister Narendra Modi come to the House and give a statement on the Manipur issue. Ethnic clashes erupted in Manipur on May 3 and since then hundreds of people have lost their lives whereas thousands have been forced to take refuge in the relief camps.

Heavy rainfall alert for multiple regions across India till July 29: IMD

Team Absolute New Delhi

solated very heavy to extremely heavy rainfall activity is likely to continue over West coast till July 26 and over Telangana and Andhra Pradesh during July 25-27, the India Meteorological

Department (IMD) said on Tuesday. The IMD further predicted fresh spell of Isolated heavy to very heavy rainfall over east central India during July 26-27 while the same is expected over Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, north Haryana and West Uttar Pradesh during July 25-27 and over East India between July 28 and 30.

According to the IMD, the weather forecast for different regions in India from July 25 to 29 indicates a mix of light to moderate fairly widespread to widespread rainfall with chances of isolated heavy and very heavy rainfall. In Northwest India, states like Uttarakhand, Punjab, Haryana, and West Uttar Pradesh are expected to experience widespread rainfall during the mentioned period. "Himachal Pradesh



will also receive rainfall from Tuesday to Friday, with isolated very heavy rainfall on July 26 and 27. East Rajasthan will see rainfall from 25th to 27th, and West Rajasthan on 25th and 26th. Jammu and Kashmir will experience rainfall on July 26 and 27, with isolated heavy rainfall," the

weather department said in its bulletin released on Tuesday. Central India will also witness fairly widespread to widespread rainfall. Vidarbha and Chhattisgarh will experience rainfall from Tuesday to Friday, with isolated very heavy rainfall on July 26 and 27.East Madhya Pradesh will have rainfall from July 26 to 28, with isolated very heavy rainfall on July 27. The IMD further predicted that West India, regions like Konkan, Goa and ghat areas of Madhya Maharashtra will experience widespread rainfall from Tuesday to Saturday, with isolated extremely heavy rainfall on July 25 and 26. South India will also experience widespread rainfall during the period. "Coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam, Rayalaseema, South Interior Karnataka, and Kerala and Mahe will see rainfall till July 27, while Telangana will experience it from Tuesday to Friday. Coastal and North Interior Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, Puducherry & Karaikal will receive rainfall

on July 25 and 26.

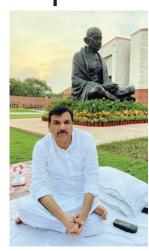
AAP's Sanjay Singh continues sit-in protest in Parliament premises

Team Absolute New Delhi

AP's Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh, who was suspended for the remaining Parliament's Monsoon Session for unruly behaviour on the Manipur violence issue, continued his sit-in protest on Tuesday

After being suspended by Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar on Monday, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MP sat on a sitin protest near Mahatma Gandhi Statue in the Parliament premises.

He was joined by several other opposition MPs on Monday afternoon and Monday night, including Congress MPs Syed Naseer Hussain, Imran Pratapgarhi, Shiv Sena (UBT) RS MP Priyanka Chaturvedi. Trinamool Congress MP Sushmita Deb and others.



On Tuesday morning too, Singh continued with his sitin protest over his suspension. The Opposition MPs have been demanding a detailed statement of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Parliament and a detailed discussion over the Manipur





NOW, AJIT PAWAR FROWNS AT PARTY MEN'S CHORUS OVER CM POST

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar has chided the leaders of the breakaway Nationalist Congress Party for their persistent clamour that he should become the Chief Minister, sources said here on Tuesday.



Team Absolute Mumbai

or the past three weeks, some sections of the NCP (AP),

have been predicting that he would or should become the next CM soon, unnerving Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's Shiv Sena.

Ajit Pawar is understood to have conveyed to his party leaders to refrain from repeatedly raising the issue of his becoming the CM" as it was resulting in strains among the 3party ruling alliance, said a party

Even the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) allies Congress-NCP (SP)-Shiv Sena (UBT) frequently needled the Shinde camp with sombre predictions over the CM's fate.

On Tuesday, Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut again reiterated that after the Speaker's verdict on the fate of disqualification of the 16 MLAs, including the CM, "Shinde will have no options but to quit".

Congress's ex-CM Prithviraj Chavan on Monday authoritatively said that a change in CM was inevitable after the Speaker's verdict around August 10, while Amol

Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi last weekend. Amidst the smoke and confusion, the Bharatiya Janata Party's Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis on Monday chose to speak out and categorically

Mitkari posted leading tweets when

Shinde and his family called on

declared that "Shinde will remain the CM" and there was full understanding among the three ruling allies on the issue. "As the leader of the largest single party in the government, I am offi-

cially informing that Shinde will con-

tinue as the CM and Ajit Pawar will

not become the CM of Maharashtra,'

Fadnavis asserted, burying all political speculation on this count.

He revealed that this has been absolutely clear to Ajit Pawar who has agreed, and had even mentioned the same in his speech.

Fadnavis even took a swipe at the Opposition leaders for peddling rumours and urged them not to confuse the people on this matter.

To a query, he added that if at all anything is going to happen around August 10, it would be the proposed cabinet expansion on which the CM will take the final call.

In the past few days, several ruling Shiv Sena leaders and ministers have spiritedly defended Shinde from the onslaught over a possible change of guard, declaring he will continue as CM till October 2024.

'Missing' fraud couple: Maha CM directs Mumbai Police to issue Lookout Circular

Team Absolute | Mumbai/Bhopal

n a significant move, Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde has directed the Mumbai Police to issue a Lookout Circular (LOC) against a missing Mumbai couple, the alleged masterminds of a mega-fraud case running into several hundreds of crores of rupees, here on Tuesday.

The development came soon after the Mumbai Police lodged a FIR against the trickster couple - Asheshkumar S. Mehta and his wife Shivangi Lad-Mehta - based on a complaint by Shiv Sena Deputy Leader Krishna Hegde, an ex-MLA. "This morning, I called on the CM and apprised him of the entire issue, how the Mumbai Police have taken steps to free a total of Rs 165-crore of the accused in their bank account and a trading platform," Hegde said.

Taking serious note of the issue, Shinde called up the Special Commissioner of Police Deven Bharti and instructed him to initiate the necessary steps for a LOC against the absconder Mehta couple, Hegde told reporter.

Simultaneously, in Madhya Pradesh, the Shivpuri Police Station IO Dhanendra Singh Bhadoria said on Tuesday that "their probe against the Mehtas has not thrown up any prima facie evidence to substantiate allegations of their involvement in a drugs case".

"However, the Shivpuri Police investigations



are still underway and search operations are being carried out. The LOC issued against the suspects (Mehta couple) is still maintainable and we are vigilant," Bhadoria added.

Hegde said that the duo ran a stock brokerage, Bliss Consultants, from Goregaon, and the pan-India fraud came to light when the Shivpuri Police in MP nabbed a drug courier of Thane. After their bail was rejected by a MP court, the Mumbai Police approached Kotak Mahindra Bank and Zerodha, a Bengaluru-based trading platform through which the Mehtas operated. So far, with the efforts of SCoP Bharti, Additional CoP Paramjit Dahiya and DCP Krishnakant Upadhyay, the Mehtas' accounts with Rs 160 crore was frozen and also another Rs 4.50 crore

Top BJP leaders attend RSS leader Madandas Devi's funeral

Team Absolute MPune

op leaders of Bharatiya Janata Party have reached here this afternoon to attend the funeral of senior Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh ideologue Madandas Devi who passed away in Bengaluru on Monday.

Among them are Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, Deputy CMs Devendra Fadnavis and Ajit Pawar, leaders of other BJPruled states and RSS Sarsanghchalak Mohan

Devi, 81, a C.A. and a lawyer who had served as the RSS Joint Secretary, breathed



his last in a private hospital Bengaluru at 5 a.m. on July

Starting with the RSS from his school days, he had a sixdecade long career in the RSS or its affiliated organisations,

and was the All India Organisation Minister of ABVP and a RSS Sarkaryavah.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, top BJP and RSS leaders have mourned the demise of Devi.

Adding contractual cops to Mumbai police force could lead to "Wagner group" like situation: Ambadas Danve

Team Absolute | Mumbai

he opposition in Maharashtra Tuesday raised concerns over the plan to rope in "contractual personnel" by the Mumbai police and said the "risky" move will be detrimental to the force as well as to the

Adding contractual cops to Mumbai police force could lead to 'Wagner group" like situation: Ambadas Danve

The opposition in Maharashtra Tuesday raised concerns over the plan to rope in "contractual personnel" by the Mumbai police and said the "risky" move will be detrimental to the force as well as to the public. Raising the issue in the legislative

council, Leader of Opposition Ambadas Danve said the control of police should be under the state gov-



cops to the Mumbai police force could lead to a "Wagner group" like situation, referring to the Russian private military force's "rebellion against President Vladimir Putin" last month.

In a dramatic development last month, Russia's mercenary group chief Yevgeny Prigozhin called for an armed rebellion and claimed that his forces had military facilities in the southern city of Rostov-on-Don under their control. While he ordered his troops to head for Moscow, Prigozhin abruptly halted their march

In a bid to overcome a shortage of constables in the Mumbai police, the state government has given the nod to outsource 3,000 personnel from the Maharashtra State Security Corporation (MSSC), a public sector undertaking of the state police.

The state home department issued an order to this effect on Monday,

BJP-MNS SPAR OVER ATTACK ON MUMBAI-NAGPUR EXPRESSWAY



Team Absolute | Mumbai

aharashtra's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party and Maharashtra Navnirman Sena on Tuesday engaged in a noattack on a toll-post along the Mumbai-Nagpur Expressway (Samruddhi Mahamarg), allegedly by MNS men.

The trigger for the verbal and social media war was the vandalism of a toll-booth on the Shirdi-Nashik sector of the expressway late on Saturday night.

Earlier on July 22 evening, MNS leader Amit Thackeray - son of party President Raj Thackeray was ostensibly delayed and harassed at the toll-booth before he was allowed to pass.

A few hours later, a group of alleged MNS activists stormed the toll-post, chased the staffers and

vandalised it, with videos of the incident going viral. At least 7 have been arrested so far by the

Taking strong note of the incident, the BJP posted a video and Thackeray, breaking toll-booths is not politics. Occasionally, learn and teach to be constructive".

Stung by this, the MNS hit back at the BJP with strong barbs, with the party spokesperson Sandeep Deshpande saying: "Those who break other peoples' parties all their lives, what can they teach us about constructing? They should build their own party before destroying others' parties".

Amit Thackeray too jumped in the fray and said: "If the ruling party was not so busy in breaking up other parties, then the Irshalwadi (Raigad hillslide) tragedy could have been avoided

and the lives of those innocent people would have been saved".

The MNS tweeted that this statement of Amit Thackeray has turned out to be "so shocking that the biggest party on earth is trying In a no-holds barred attack, the

MNS gunned for BJP: "If there is so much concern about the law and order, why is the rate of disappearance of girls in Maharashtra increasing? Why women are being attacked in broad daylight? When our people are killed in bus accidents and their funerals are going on, how come ministers are being sworn-in by splitting parties."

The latest slugfest indicates that the relations between the BJP-MNS have again nosedived, ostensibly over the latter's reluctance to forge an alliance with the ruling

Man befriends woman PUBG player, rapes her on pretext of marriage; held

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Danve claimed adding contractual

35-year-old man has been arrested for A allegedly raping a 33-year-old woman on the pretext of marriage after they e friends while playing the PUBG ga and later started working together at an event management company in Mumbai, police

The accused and the woman met online at the end of 2020 and later she joined the event management firm.

"The accused established physical relations with the woman after promising marriage. As per the complainant, the man raped her multiple times at various hotels till January 2023 and also shot videos of the act," the official

He threatened the woman that he would release the video clips on social media if she refused to maintain physical relations.

"As he refused to marry her, the woman approached the police following which an FIR



was registered under sections 376 (Punishment for rape), 376 (n) (2) (physical relations on promise to marry), and 420 (cheating) of the Indian Penal code," the official added.

Further investigation is underway.

10 persons injured as bus **overturns** Buldhana

Buldhana: At least 10 passengers were injured when a state transport bus overturned in a ghat section in Maharashtra's Buldhana district on Tuesday, an official said.

The accident took place at around 9.45 am when the bus carrying 56 passengers was going towards Buldhana from Malkapur, he said.

When the bus was going up in the hilly Rajur Ghat section, its brakes failed and the vehicle overturned, the official said. At least 10 passengers received injuries in the incident, he

After being alerted, police rushed to the spot and all the injured persons were taken to a hospital for treatment, he added. The bus belonged to the Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation

Mumbai-Thane 'missing link'

L&T TO BUILD DAHISAR-BHAYANDER ROAD PROJECT FOR RS 1,981 CRORE

Team Absolute | Mumbai

n a major development for Mumbai, the BrihanMumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has awarded the tender for constructing the Dahisar-Bhayander Elevated Link Road project to the lowest bidder, Larsen & Toubro, an official said here on Tuesday.

The L&T will build the DBLR at a cost of Rs 1,981 crore within 42 months and it will be the final link of the upcoming Mumbai Coastal Road Project which will be implemented in four years.

Announcing the project details, BMC Commissioner I.S. Chahal and Additional Municipal Commissioner P. Velarasu said it will provide a better and faster alternative to cover the distance in just 10 minutes without hassles on a signal-free road along a bridge and two inter-changes.

The BMC heads added that after completing the BMC's project, the L&T will also be responsible for its maintenance for three years. The project includes a 5-km-long, 8lane, 45 metre wide bridge, linking Dahisar (Mumbai) with Bhayander (Thane), with 1.5 km falling under



the BMC and 3.5 km under the Mira-Bhayander Municipal

Corporation (MBMC). Though the BMC will implement

this important infrastructure proj-

ect, it will reimburse the MBMC expenses on it through the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development

Presently, only rail connectivity is available from the western suburbs between Dahisar suburb and Bhayander town. Now, a steel bridge will come up in the Dahisar Bay area, and another 350 pillars will support the 5 km of elevated cement-concrete road, with two interchanges at both ends.

It is estimated that around 75,000 vehicles will use the DBLR, with immense savings in fuel and time currently it takes around 90-120 minutes to cover the distance via Western Express Highway, said an

official. The official added that this project would help ease the congestion on the highway and the suburban trains between Borivali-Bhayander as commuters can use the DBLR, and gain quicker access to other

towns in Thane and Palghar. In addition to this 'missing link', there will be the options of the Mumbai Coastal Road, the proposed extension of the Sea Link upto Virar, and the network of Metro Rails being extended from Mumbai to Mira Road-Bhayander towns, for the commuters.

Anganwadi, primary school to be started for 22 orphans in Raigad



Team Absolute | Mumbai

n 'anganwadi' and a primary school will be soon started for the 22 orphans who lost their parents in the Raigad landslide incident at Irshalwadi village

The Raigad district administration along with the state Women and Child Welfare department is taking steps for the rehabilitation of these children, the official informed.

Lok Sabha MP Shrikant Shinde's social organisation has taken responsibility of their education. Two officials of the Women and Child Welfare department on Tuesday met the survivors who are staying in temporary houses made from containers. "An Anganwadi would be started for the children in the 3 to 6 years age group," the

official said.

"Many of the children were studying at 'ashram' schools (government-run or government-funded residential schools for tribal children) and hence away from home when the tragedy struck on July 19," said the official.

"Considering the trauma they have suffered, they would also need counselling and the government will provide counsellors who are aware of the culture of the tribal Thakar community to which these children belong,' the official said.

At least 17 of 48 houses in Irshalwadi, a village located on a hill slope. On Sunday, the National Disaster Response Force called off the search and rescue operation after recovering 27 bodies from the rubble.

EDITOR'S SPECS

SP eyes on MP polls

P president Akhilesh Yadav has said his party will contest the Assembly polls in Madhya Pradesh with full strength and preparedness. Madhya Pradesh, which has 230 Assembly seats, has been SP's second best-performing state. It is bracing for the elections scheduled towards the end of this year. "In 2003, we won seven seats in the Madhya Pradesh Assembly polls, and this time we will surpass that result. If we contest the elections with unity and coordination, we will have desired results in the polls," Akhilesh said. The SP had won four Assembly seats in Madhya Pradesh in 1998, seven in 2003, one each in 2008 and 2018. "We have also discussed probable candidates for the MP polls," said Rajendra Chaudhary, the SP's national secretary and spokesperson. Akhilesh went on to say that "now, SP will be unstoppable for it struggles for the poor, backward people and they all are the party's strength". "Madhya Pradesh also has a large population of tribals. The party should increase its influence among the tribal population as it is committed to social justice and respect to poor, backward and the oppressed." He said the saffron party's governments in Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh were neck deep in corruption and scams, and just like the latter, the people of the former also want to get rid of the BJP government. The SP's Madhya Pradesh state president Ramayan Singh Patel, former state president Gauri Yadav were in Lucknow on Monday to meet Akhilesh.

NE STATE PARTIES KEY FOR NATIONAL PLAYERS TO GOVERN A COMPLEX REGION

Sujit Chakraborty

nce a stronghold of the Congress, the eight northeastern states are now dominated by the BJP and the state parties, which are indispensable for the national parties to govern the region.Meghalaya's National People's Party (NPP), Nagaland's Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP), Mizoram's

Mizo National Front (MNF) and Sikkim's Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM) with a solid political base are governing their respective states and are allies of the BJP led National Democratic Alliance (NDA).

The NPP, headed by Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma, however, has a substantial base in Manipur, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh and a reasonable number of MLAs in these three northeastern states besides Meghalaya, where the party is dominating the Meghalaya Democratic Alliance (MDA) government.

In the NDA meeting, held on July 18 in New Delhi, as many as eleven parties from the eight northeastern states took part. The parties include, NPP, NDPP, MNF, SKM, Indigenous People's Front of Tripura, Naga People's Front, Asom Gana Parishad, United People's Party Liberal, Kuki People's Alliance, United Democratic Party, Hill State People's Democratic Party.On the other hand, no parties based in the northeastern states took part in the two-day meeting of the opposition alliance -- Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) - in Bengaluru.

The parties, which have a substantial base in the northeastern states and are not part of either grouping, NDA and INDIA, are Assam's All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF), Tripura's Tipra Motha Party (TMP), Mizoram's Zoram People's Movement (ZPM) and Manipur People's Party (MPP). The Muslim based party AIUDF, headed by Lok Sabha MP Badruddin Ajmal and former royal scion Pradyot Bikram Manikya Deb Barman led TMP have a strong base in their respective areas and might pose a challenge to both the BJP and the Congress in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

The AIUDF has 15 members in the 126-member Assam

The ZPM with six MLAs in the 40-member Mizoram assembly is the main opposition party in that state.

Founded in 1968, the MPP, which is considered one of the oldest regional parties in India, is currently weakened due to many reasons including factional feud. It has formed governments in Manipur in three different regimes 1972-73, 1974

Of the 25 Lok Sabha seats in the eight northeastern states, 14 are currently with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) while the Congress has four and seven Lok Sabha seats are held by state parties and Independents.

The AIUDF in Assam, NDPP in Nagaland, MNF in Mizoram, NPP in Meghalaya, NPF in Manipur, SKM in Sikkim and an Independent (Naba Kumar Sarania) in Assam have one seat each. Of the 25 Lok Sabha seats, Assam has 14 constituencies, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Tripura have two seats each, Mizoram, Nagaland and Sikkim have



one seat each. The BJP is now heading governments in four northeastern states - Assam, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur - with the support of the local parties.

The TMP, after capturing the politically important Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADC) in April 2021, has been demanding elevation of the areas of the autonomous body by granting a 'Greater Tipraland State' or a separate state status under Articles 2 and 3 of the

Highlighting the 'Greater Tipraland State' demand and throwing a challenge to all the national parties -- BJP, CPI (M), Congress and Trinamool Congress -- the TMP, the first tribal-based party in Tripura since 1952, emerged as the principal opposition in the state in the February assembly polls and is now the main stakeholder of the vote share of tribals, who always played a vital role in the electoral politics of Tripura. Before next year's parliamentary poll, eying 14 Lok Sabha seats in Assam, the Congress like its previous efforts, has initiated moves to form a 'Mahagathbandhan' (grand alliance) with the like-minded smaller and state parties.

The Congress held a meeting of 11 opposition parties excluding the AIUDF, Aam Aadmi Party and Trinamool Congress in Guwahati recently.

Assam Congress president Bhupen Bora, who called the meeting, had said that they would check the division of votes in next year's Lok Sabha polls in Assam as the BJP always gets electoral mileage due to the division of votes among the non-BJP parties.

After attending the NDA meeting in New Delhi on July 18, top leaders of the parties from the northeastern region expressed the confidence that the BJP-led NDA would do well in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls in the northeast.

Meghalaya Chief Minister and NPP supremo Conrad K

Sangma tweeted: "Attended the meeting of the National Democratic Alliance partners chaired by Hon'ble PM, Sh. Narendra Modi ji at New Delhi. The meeting sets an optimistic tone for a continued shared commitment for our country's future."

Senior leader of NDPP and Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio in a tweet said; "Happy to join NDA leaders in commemorating 25 yrs of NDA, representing NDPP along with Shri Abu Metha, Secretary General of NDPP. No alliance has been intact for this long. It reflects the able leadership of Shri Narendra Modi ji. Thankful for his focus & support to the NE region.""Glad to attend a meeting of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) constituents, representing the Asom Gana Parishad (AGP), along with Hon'ble AGP Working President Shri Keshab Mahanta in New Delhi," tweeted Assam Minister and Asom Gana Parishad president

Founding leader of the Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM) and Sikkim Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang in a tweet said : "Attended the meeting of the NDA chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji at New Delhi. Under the able leadership and guidance of the Hon'ble PM, we reaffirm our collective commitment to serve the people, provide good governance and focus on overall development for a better future."Even as the BJP remains in an advantageous position by virtue of running the government in four out of the eight states in the northeastern region, the regional parties are expected to play a significant role in next year's Lok Sabha

international

UK OPENS SECOND BALLOT FOR YOUNG PROFESSIONAL VISA SCHEME FOR INDIANS

announced the opening of the second ballot of the Young Professional Scheme for Indian citizens between 18 to 30 years of age.

The ballot, which opened on Monday, will close at 1.30 p.m. on Thursday, the British High Commission announced in a

The scheme, formally launched this year, allows Indian citizens with a graduate or postgraduate qualification to live and work in the UK for up to two years.

It allows the candidate to enter the UK at any time while their visa is valid, and leave and come back at any time during



There are 3,000 places available for the India Young Professionals Scheme visa in

While most places were

opened in February, the remaining places will be given in the July ballot.

Successful candidates in the ballot need to apply for their visa by the deadline given in a

which is usually within a

Also, they must travel to the UK within six months of applying for their visa.

The application fee charges have been set at 259 pounds and additional costs involved is a 940-pound healthcare surcharge and proof that the applicant has 2,530 pounds in personal savings.

To be eligible for the Young Professionals Scheme visa one must be an Indian national or citizen between 18 and 30 years old and have 2,530 pounds in savings to support themselves in the UK.

Also applicants should not have children under the age of 18 living with them or who they are financially responsible for.

N.Korea fires two ballistic missiles

Seoul: North Korea fired two ballistic missiles into the East Sea, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) said on Tuesday."Our military detected two ballistic missiles North Korea fired from areas near Pyongyang into and at midnight of Tuesday," it said. Both missiles flew about 400 km

before falling into the sea, Yonhap News Agency quoted the JCS as saying. The military is still analysing the North's latest missile launch to determine the exact type of the missiles fired, according to the JCS. The North's latest missile launch

comes as a nuclear-powered American submarine, USS Annapolis, arrived at a naval base in South Korea's southern island of Jeju as part of efforts to bolster joint deterrence against North Korea's evolving

North Korea fired two ballistic missiles into the East Sea on July 1, followed by multiple cruise missile launches on July 22.

Russian drones destroy grain warehouses at Ukraine ports: Reports

Kiev Agencies

ussian drones reportedly have attacked Ukraine's Danube ports of Reni and Izmail, destroying grain warehouses and

The attacks, using Iranian-supplied drones, follow Russia's withdrawal this month from the Black Sea deal that allowed Ukraine to export its grain and threats by both Moscow and Kiev to target civilian carriers visiting ports, The Guardian reported.

"Russia hit another Ukrainian grain storage overnight. It tries to extract concessions by holding 400 million people hostage. I urge all nations, particularly those in Africa and Asia who are most affected by rising food prices, to mount a united global response to food terrorism," Ukraine's Foreign Minister, Dmytro Kuleba, wrote on Twitter on Monday, without identifying the

location of the target. Warehouses where grain crops

were stored were destroyed, tanks for storing other types of cargo were damaged. There was a fire in one of the production premises, which was promptly extinguished," local police were quoted as saying by the news

The facilities are just across the river from Nato-member Romania.

Officials say more than 60,000 tonnes of grain have been destroyed in the past week, the BBC reported.

Odesa head Oleh Kiper, whose region also covers the Danube ports of Reni and Izmail, said in his Telegram channel that Russia had attacked the infrastructure there for four hours with Iranian-made

He said a grain hangar and tanks for storage were destroyed. Other local officials say three warehouses were bombed.

Three drones out of about 15 involved in the attack were destroyed by air defences, Kiper added.At least four people were injured in the attack.

NORWAY TO SHUT DOWN SL MISSION, SHIFT OPERATIONS TO NEW DELHI

Susitha Fernando | Colombo

orwegian government has announced that it will shut down its embassy in Sri Lanka on July 31, and from August 1, its New Delhi-based diplomatic mission would be responsible for the country's bilateral relationship with Sri Lanka and the Maldives.

"This Facebook page will be closed. We invite you to follow the page of the Norwegian Embassy in New Delhi for more updates on our ongoing cooperation with India, Sri Lanka and the Maldives!," the Norwegian Embassy in Colombo said in a Facebook post.

"Norwegian Embassy in New Delhi will now be the mission responsible for Norway in India, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and the Maldives headed by the Norwegian Ambassador to India," it added.The decision came



that five of its overseas missions would be closed down, including the Embassy of Norway in Colombo.

Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs Anniken Huitfeldt, in September 2022, announced that the country would make several changes to its missions abroad. Accordingly,

Embassies in Bratislava (Slovakia), Colombo (Sri Lanka) and Pristina (Kosovo), the embassy office in Antananarivo (Madagascar) and the Consulate General in Houston (USA) would be

closed down. Norway and Sri Lanka established diplomatic relations in 1952 and the embassy in Colombo was opened in 1996.

spike in severely burned patients

Washington Agencies

he prolonged heat wave in the US has led to an increase in severely burned patients who were injured after touching hot surfaces or objects.

According to medics in Arizona, some patients were injured after falling onto asphalt which had been heated by the scorching sun, the BBC reported on Tuesday.

The inside of a car or the dark asphalt surface of a road can be far hotter than the air temperature, research has shown.

Touching metal or asphalt for only a few seconds can be enough to cause severe burns

Arizona's capital city of Phoenix has now witnessed a record-breaking 24 consecutive days of temperatures above 43 degrees Celsius, well past the previous record of 18 days set in

Kevin Foster of the Arizona Burn Centre told the BBC that all of the facility's 45 hospital beds are current-



Prolonged heat wave in US leads to

ly occupied, and around one-third of those patients have suffered severe contact burns from scorching concrete and asphalt surfaces.

"Summertime is the busy time, so that's not surprising, but the numbers are a little bit higher than anticipated," he says, adding that the rate of new patients has outpaced 2022 so far this summer.

Many of the patients are elderly

people, who may have fallen after becoming unsteady in the heat, or children who do not get off the

ground quickly after falling.

However, he says the "biggest problem" is drug users who are often dehydrated and can faint on sidewalks."When people go down to a hot surface and stay there, it only takes 10 to 15 minutes to suffer heat exhaustion, burns and other problems,

Foster told the BBC, adding that some of the burns are deep, third-degree injuries that will require skin grafts. The centre is also treating over 150

patients who have not been admitted to hospital, but need to be treated for burns sustained touching hot surfaces, such as metal car seat belts. At least 18 heat-related deaths have

occurred in Arizona's Maricopa County since April, with 69 more fatalities under investigation.

Meanwhile, the ongoing heatwave, caused by a "heat dome" or a large area of high pressure, baking the US Southwest for weeks is set to expand into central and eastern regions, reports the BBC.

According to meteorologists, beginning in the Midwest, the hot weather will extend east as far as the southern tip of Florida by Wednesday

Temperature records were surpassed in several major cities over the weekend, and some 59 million Americans began on Monday under extreme heat advisories.

EYEING MADHYA PRADESH'S 16% DALIT VOTE, **BJP FLAG OFF YATRA FOR RAVIDAS TEMPLE**

n an attempt to consolidate the 16% Dalit votes in Madhya Pradesh less than four months before the state goes to polls, the BJP flaged off the Sant Ravidas Samarasta Yatra for the construction of a temple in honour of the 14thcentury poet-saint.

The yatra will be taken out from five districts - Singrauli, Dhar, Sheopur, Balaghat and Neemuch and will travel through 46 of the state's 52 districts. It will culminate in Sagar district's Badtuma on August 12, where Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lay the groundwork for the Rs 100-crore Sant Ravidas Temple.

Dalits make up 16% of the population in Madhya Pradesh and, of the state's 230 seats, 35 are reserved for Scheduled Castes (SCs). Most of these constituencies are in the Bundelkhand, Gwalior-Chambal and Vindhya regions.

In the 2013 elections - when the BJP won a total 165 seats - it swept



28, or 80%, of the 35 SC seats. The Congress managed to win only four, followed by the Bahujan Samaj Party, which won three. In 2018 however, the BJP won only 18 of the

35 reserved seats, while the Congress' share more than quadrupled to 17. When PM Modi travels to Madhya Pradesh for the foundationlaying ceremony, it will be his fifth

visit to the poll-bound state in as many months.

The Sagar district in Bundelkhand, where the foundation ceremony of the temple will be held, has a Dalit population of 20-25%. Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge is also expected to address a mega rally in the district a day after the foundation stone is laid.

Organised by Madhya Pradesh government's Jan Abhiyan Parishad, the yatra will collect soil from 55,000 villages of the state, which will be used in the foundation and construction of the grand temple.

The yatra had been announced by Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan in February and chariots used for it will have the saint's photo, paduka (footwear) and kalash (pitcher). Slogans of social harmony will also be painted on the chariots'

The Rs 100-crore Sant Ravidas Temple and Art Museum in Badtuma will have plaques with the saint's teachings and messages. The complex will also house a library.

PM Modi will perform Bhoomi Pujan of Saint Ravidas Temple in Sagar on August 12: Chief Minister Chouhan

Team Absolute Bhopal

hief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that it is a matter of happiness and joy that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will perform bhoomi-pujan for the construction of Sant Shiromani Ravidas Maharaj's temple at Sagar on August 12. CM Chouhan gave this information in a discussion with media representatives after planting saplings in the garden located at Shyamla Hills. CM Chouhan said that Sant Shiromani Ravidas Ji was a wonderful saint. Saint Ravidas created a new history not only of devotion but also of service by adopting Indian culture and values of life and especially the feeling of "Siyaram Main Sab Jag Jaani". Saint Ravidas ji, with wonderful messages of harmony and his feeling of service, such as "Aisa Chahun Raj Me Jahan Milai Saban Ko Anna-Chhot Bado Sab Sam Basai, Raidas Rahi Prasanna" and "Man Changa To Kathoti Mein Ganga", "Prabhuji Tum Chandan Hum Pani-Jaki Ang-Ang Bas Samani"- Prabhu ji Tum Ghan Ban Hum Mora, Jaise Chitwan Chand Chakora- Prabhu Ji Tum Deepak Hum Baati-Jaki Joti Barai Din Rati", he created a spirit through which many kings and queens became his disciples.

The Chief Minister said that Saint Ravidas was the forerunner of social harmony. The state government is going to build a grand memorial for him at Sagar. I had announced



this intention on Saint Ravidas Jayanti, this announcement is now being realised. Five yatras are starting today from five different places of the state. Collecting village soil and river water and giving the message of social harmony, these yatras will reach Sagar. CM Chouhan said that he will flag off the yatra from Singrauli. Along with Singrauli, these yatras are also starting from Dhar, Sheopur,

MP HM Narottam Mishra calls Amit Shah 'iron-man of modern India'

Team Absolute Bhopal

t the time when Opposition alliance INDIA (Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance) has launched a scathing attack on Union Home Minister Amit Shah over Manipur situation, Madhya Pradesh Home Minister Narottam Mishra on Tuesday lauded him as 'lauh pursh' (iron man) of modern India.

He was addressing a press conference at his official residence on the Home Minister's visit to the poll-bound state.

The minister informed that Shah would arrive in the land of Raja Bhoj (Bhopal) on Wednesday to a warm welcome by the party leaders. The Home Minister, he said, hasbeen taking forward the concept of 'rastravad' (nationalism) making BJP the biggest political party in the world.

As per the information, Shah would arrive at the state BJP headquarters on Wednesday evening and hold a core committee meeting. Union ministers Bhupendra Yadav and Ashwini Vaishnav will be accompanying the home minister.

After a night halt on July 26, Shah will interact with Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan the next morning. The BJP's central leadership has recently appointed three Union Ministers - Bhupendra Yadav and



Ashwini Vaishnaw as in-charge and co-incharge for the election for the state.

While the state-based senior party leader and the Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar has been appointed as the convener of the state elections. The trio have held a series of meetings to review the poll preparations of different sections of the party's state

Notably, the word 'lauh purush' or "iron man" is used for the first Union Home Minister Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, who played a key role in making India united with the merger of the states after Independence.

Huge crowd gathers during Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhans Jan Darshan in Bankhedi

Team Absolute Bhopal

uring the Vikas Parv, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan held Jan Darshan at village Bankhedi in Narmadapuram today. During this, the citizens warmly welcomed and honoured him. Somewhere from the roofs of the houses, from the porches, somewhere flowers were showered from the stage and somewhere with a shawl and shrifal, Chief Minister Chouhan was accorded warm welcome. The Ladli Bahnas welcomed Chief Minister Chouhan by performing aarti and presented Rakhi to their brother and garlanded him with flowers. Chief Minister Chouhan reached the venue of the programme while holding Jan Darshan from Bankhedi Tiraha to Masjid Chauraha Marg. The whole city was decorated with welcome gates and colorful balloons on the

Platforms were built at many places on the route. Where the Chief Minister was felicitated with enthusi-



asm by the representatives of Gram Panchayats, Janpad Panchayats and

District Panchayats. During this,

from rural areas, farmers and youths also participated. Workers of various organisations participated in the Jan Darshan. Beneficiaries expressed their gratitude to the Chief Minister by writing on placards the names of various welfare schemes being run in

Atmosphere of enthusiasm at every

On the arrival of Chief Minister Chouhan at Bankhedi, there was an atmosphere of enthusiasm at every step in the city. Children, youth, women as well as elders were not left behind. Welcome gates were erected at many places. Vikas Parv was celebrated by blowing rose petals and gulal. Chief Minister Chouhan was velcomed by Panchayat representatives, members of farmers organizations, Agricultural Credit Co-operative Societies, Health Department, Jan Abhiyan Parishad, Municipality Employees Association, business class, various societies, social organisations, women organisations, including Ladli Bahna Sena.

SOLUTIONS ARE NECESSARY WITH CHALLENGES: PATEL

overnor Mangubhai Patel has Tsaid that it is necessary to solve the challenges of tribal health with promptness. There is a need for more concrete works of outreach, counselling, public cooperation, public awareness in the field of tribal health. He described the discovery of the curative heritage of traditional tribal medicines and ideological discussion among the stakeholders as a meaningful initiative towards the solution of tribal health. Governor Patel said that the deliberations held here will be successful in making a road map for work in the field of tribal health.

Governor Patel was addressing the conference organized at Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel Bhawan of All India Institute of Medical Sciences. The theme of the conference was "Tribal Health in India: Current Scenario, Unmet Needs and

Unveiling the Future Direction". Governor Patel said that efforts should be made with equal speed and force to increase the access of health services to the tribal community and



for public awareness. Work should be done by understanding the traditional, cultural lifestyle of the tribal community. The need of the hour is to bring together all the stakeholders in the field of medical, tribal welfare and make a concerted effort. He said that in the last two years, he has visited all the districts as the Governor of Madhya Pradesh. During the tour, contacts and dialogues have been established with the deprived communities of remote areas. The tribal community in the state has

lassemia, leprosy, leptospirosis and night blindness with prominence of sickle cell and tuberculosis. Integrated approach should be considered for its solution.

Referring to the scheme Doodh Sanjeevani made during the Chief Ministership of Gujarat by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Governor Patel said that efforts to eradicate night blindness and malnutrition in children through distribution of milk in schools also yielded positive results. Therefore, in the efforts to solve health challenges, along with medical efforts, counseling and economic cooperation efforts should also be considered in relation to

food, diet, etc. He laid special emphasis on making Gram Sabha a platform for direct contact and dialogue with the tribal community. He said that it would be more effective to work according to the needs of the tribal community through Gram Sabha and Panchayats.

He emphasized on communicating skillfully with the tribal community as a family member.

182 prisoners serving life imprisonment to be released from jails: MP Minister

Team Absolute Bhopal

s many as 182 prisoners serving their life imprisonment in different jails in Madhya Pradesh would be freed on the occasion of Independence Day (August 15), state home minister Narottam Mishra has said.

Briefing the press on Tuesday, Mishra said that earlier prisoners serving life imprisonment were released twice a year -- on the occasion of Independence Day and the Republic Day, but now this exercise takes place four times in one year.

The minister also made it clear that those serving life imprisonment on rape charges would not be given any leniency. While those who have been punished with fines, they will be



released only after paying the

"If someone is punished in any other case, then he\she will be released after completing the sentence in that

Those who did not get bail in their second cases will be detained as undertrials and not as convicts. If convicted in a case of another state, they shall be transferred to

that state," the minister added. Meanwhile, he also informed that the state government has decided to increase 'Samman Nidhi' of the ex-servicemen of the Second World War from Rs 8,000 per month to Rs 15,000. "At present, there are at least 112 ex-servicemen from Madhya Pradesh who had participated in World War II i," Mishra added.

REGISTRATION **OF LADLI** BAHNA YOJANA **IS STARTING** FROM TODAY: CM CHOUHAN

Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that with the changes made in the Ladli Bahna Yojana, re-registration is started from yesterday. Now married daughters of 21 to 23 years will also be able to join the scheme. Also, according to the provision of non-eligibility for having a four wheeler, the sisters who were left out due to having a tractor in the family will also be included in the scheme. Chief Minister Chouhan said this in a conversation with media representatives at the park located in Shyamla Hills.

Ayush Aapke Dwar Yojana from August 1 in the state

Team Absolute Bhopal

yush Aapke Dwar Yojana is being launched in the state from August 1 to ensure access of AYUSH to the inaccessible areas during the rainy season. The objective of the scheme is to ensure access to Ayush medicine through this scheme as Ayush Melas could not be organised in rural areas during the rainy season. Directorate of AYUSH has issued guidelines to Principal AYUSH College, Divisional AYUSH Officer and District AYUSH Officer in relation to AYUSH Aapke Dwar Yojana.

Treatment facility for diseases caused during rains It has been said in the

instructions that due to rain, health services are affected in rural areas. In view of this situation, Ayush medicines should be distributed free of cost in haat-bazars to the general public for the treatment of diseases caused during rains. Along with this, the general public should be informed about the prevention of diseases occurring in this season and should be made aware of cleanliness. Such public awareness programmes can be organised in panchayat, local school and college premises apart from haat-bazaar. For this work, the help of the staff posted in all the institutions of AYUSH department, AYUSH colleges, affiliated hospitals, AYUSH wing, AYUSH dispensaries, AYUSH village and AYUSH health and wellness centres should be taken. The health report of the person should be registered in the health survey form in the Ayush village.

MP OFFICIAL SWALLOWS **RS 5,000 HE TOOK AS BRIBE ON SPOTTING COPS**

Jabalpur: An official of the revenue department in Madhya Pradesh's Katni swallowed money he had taken as a bribe after spotting a team of the Lokayukta's Special Police Establishment (SPE), an official said.

The incident took place on Monday when patwari Gajendra Singh received Rs 5,000 as a bribe in his private office as part of a trap laid by authorities, SPE Superintendent of Police Sanjay Sahu said. "A man from the Barkheda village had complained to us, accusing Gajendra Singh of seeking a bribe. After taking the money, Mr Singh spotted the SPE team and swallowed it. He was rushed to a hospital where doctors said he is fine," the official said. A case has been registered and further probe is underway, the police said.

2 Villages In Damoh District Evacuated After Pond Leakage



Team Absolute Bhopal

esidents of two villages located near a pond in Madhya Pradesh's Damoh district have been shifted to safer places after leakage in the water body, officials said on Tuesday.

The action was taken fol-

lowing the information of leakage in the Poudi pond on Monday, tehsildar Monika Baghmare said.

Locals claimed the leakage further increased on Tuesday morning, resulting in water-logging in both Poudi and Jetgarh villages. The tehsildar said she visited the spot along with the

Water Resource Department officials after getting the information on Monday and found water flow from the leakage in the pond was increasing. Following the instructions from district collector Mayank Agrawal, the residents of villages Poudi and Jetgarh were evacuated, she said.

Whereas the undersigned being the authorized officer of Aditya Birla Housing Finan Limited under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets an Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers con ferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement Rules, 2002 issued a Demand notice Dated 31-01-2022 calling upon the borrower Roshani Alwa (Legal Heir of Avinash Alwa)and Shri Vaishno Tradersto repay the mount mentioned in the notice being INR 13,04,576.55/- (Rupees Thirteen Lac Four Thousand Five Hundred Seventy Six And Fifty Five Paisa Only) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice

The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the corrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of the powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said act read with rul8 the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule

2002 on this 25th Day of July of the year 2023. The borrowers in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited for an amount of INR 13,04,576.55/- (Rupee Thirteen Lac Four Thousand Five Hundred Seventy Six And Fifty Five Paisa Only and interest thereon. Borrowers attention is invited to the provisions of sub-section 8 of

Section 13 of the act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. **Description of the Immovable Property** All That Piece And Parcel Of Shops No. 09 & 10, Ground Floor, Total Area Of Both Shops Is 290 Sq. Ft., (Total Area Of Each Shops Is 145 Sq. Ft.), Situated At Royal Apartmen Plot No. 15, Ghoda Nikas Gali No. 01, Ward No. 19, Tehsil Huzur, Distt. Bhopal (M.P)

And The Said Properties Is Bounded By As: East: Other's Land, West: Commo Passage, North: Shop No. 11, 12, South: Open To Sky Date: 25/07/2023 **Authorised Office**

Place: PLACE: BHOPAL Aditva Birla Housing Finance Limite

hollywood





Los Angeles | Agencies

rammy winning singer Tori Kelly, who is known for 'Foreword', 'Unbreakable Smile', 'Hiding Place' and others, has been hospitalised and is being treated for blood clots around her vital

organs. Her situation seems to be "really serious".

Sources close to the Grammy-winning singer told TMZ that she was at dinner in downtown Los Angeles, with friends recently when her heart started beating really fast. The source said that Tori passed out, and was "out for a while".

Tori's friends wanted to make sure she wasn't taken to a hospital downtown, and instead taken to Cedars-Sinai -- one of the

country's top hospitals, so they carried her outside, loaded her in a vehicle and sped to the hospital instead of calling an ambulance

Tori is getting care in the ICU, doctors have discovered clots in Tori's legs and her lungs, and are working to determine if any clots are around her heart.

During her treatment, the singer has been in and out of consciousness.

The singer-songwriter unveiled her first

video in March, this year. The song, which samples Craig David's 2000 single 'Fill Me In', marked her first new music since 2019's 'Inspired by True Events' and 'A Tori Kelly Christmas' which was released in 2020.

single 'Missin U' and its Y2K-inspired music

In 2019, she won best gospel album at the Grammys for her sophomore album 'Hiding Place' and best gospel performance/song for 'Never Alone'.

Zoe Saldana hopes her 'Special Ops: Lioness' is a spiritual successor to 'Sicario'

Los Angeles | Agencies

ollywood actress Zoe Saldana, who plays Joe, the leader of a female-focused covert CIA organisation in spy thriller series 'Special Ops: Lioness', hopes it is a spiritual successor to the hit 2015 spy thriller film 'Sicario' written by Taylor Sheridan. Sheridan is the creator of 'Special Ops: Lioness' television series, which premiered on Sunday. In an interview with 'The Hollywood Reporter', Saldana was asked if she felt the spy thriller series is a spiritual successor to 'Sicario', which starred Emily Blunt, Benicio del Toro, and Josh Brolin.

She said, "I hope so. I love 'Sicario'. I thought 'Sicario' was a very interesting movie where normal people are trying to do the right thing in very bad ways, and so in a way, that felt very similar. My belief, based on the little that I know from Taylor, is that he does know, and he surrounds himself with people who have either served in militaries or been a part of programs such as the Lioness program, as well as retired Navy SEALS and CIA people."

"And I do know that he has a great deal of admiration for the real work that gets done when we're all sleeping, so he takes it upon himself to highlight this world," she added. Asked about her character Joe, who is a CIA Special Activities operative who runs the Lioness program on the ground and handles female operatives who go undercover to get close to the wives, girlfriends and daughters of terrorists, Saldana says: "I think I needed to have her intentions very

clear in my mind. For me, she's a straight shooter. She's clean. There's nothing dirty about what Joe does. If Joe goes off the grid, it's because she's going to do the right thing and save people. She's incredibly responsible. So that needed to be very clear because you can play

poker face for the sake of just looking mysterious and unreadable, or you can know why

and unreadable, or you can know why you're being reserved."

Billie Eilish mourns death of childhood 'lifelong best friend' pet dog Pepper



Los Angeles | Agencies

pop star and rapper Billie Eilish is now feeling devastated as she mourns the loss of her childhood dog, a Pitbull called 'Pepper' who passed away after 15 years. Talking to social media, the 21-year old 'Bad Guy' singer expressed her anguish over the loss of her "lifelong best friend".

Sharing snapshots of her dog all the way from her child-hood to one where the entire family posed together, she wrote on Instagram: "Pepper. mylife long best friend. I will see you again someday sweet girl. You made it 15 years you f***** beast."

She added: "I love you. rest easy mama, I'll miss you forever. This is a really hard day."

ever. This is a really hard day."

Billie's brother Finneas O'Connell also paid tribute, with him writing in a post on his account: "Sweet Pepper our dog has, at the ripe old age of 15, transcended her mortal

The record producer, Finneas further added in his post following the family's loss yesterday: "A good, good dog who gave our family so much love and was loved by us all in equal measure"

Fans and celebrities went on to pay their condolences to the 'No Time To Die' artiste, with Demi Lovato writing "I'm so sorry." "Sending you lots of love," wrote former Fifth Harmony member Lauren Jauregui.Netizens from across the globe paid condolences to the star's great loss including activists and even record producers.



'Gen V' will see superheroes being befuddled about boundaries of right and wrong

Los Angeles | Agencie

en V', the spin-off of the hit streaming series 'The Boys', recently released its teaser trailer and by the looks of it, the series looks you're being to repeat the magic of its predecessor which enjoys a strong following. The teaser trailer, which is over 2 minutes in length, begins with the display of insurmountable strength of the superheroes as they're told that being a hero is not about glory but, it's all about sacrifice. The fan-favourite Homelander also makes an appearance during the initial part of the video asset which soon talks about the origins of the superheroes and the Godolkin University. Godolkin University is America's only college for young-adult superheroes (run by Vought International). 'Gen V' explores the training of the first generation of superheroes to know about Compound V, and that their powers were injected into them, rather than God-given. The young, competitive heroes put their physical and moral boundaries to the test, as they fight it out to clinch the institute's top ranking. The series cast includes Jaz Sinclair, Chance Perdomo, Lizze Broadway, Shelley Conn, Maddie Phillips, London Thor, Derek Luh, AsaGermann, Patrick Schwarzenegger, Sean Patrick Thomas, and Marco Pigossi. It also features guest stars Clancy Brown and Jason Ritter, as well as appearances from Jessie T. Usher, Claudia Doumit, Colby Minifie, and P.J. Byrne, reprising their roles from 'The Boys'. They soon learn that ambition comes with sacrifice, and the difference between right and wrong is not as clear as they once believed.



About Tiffany's move, Snoop said: "I watched her hustle, strug-

Elsewhere in the interview, Tiffany unveiled that she is opening

While discussing her Disney film 'Haunted Mansion', she said: "I've always dreamed of being in a Disney movie, and this is the

a healthful food market around the Crenshaw neighborhood in

biggest movie I've ever been in. But it's not as important as the grocery store. I don't know if movies change people's lives."

gle to get to the top of the mountain. I watched her take a couple of hits and then find herself climbing back. Now music is another

mountaintop she wants to try to climb."



Women's Football World Cup

PHILIPPINES SHOCK NEW ZEALAND, **COLOMBIA DOWN SOUTH KOREA**

Sydney | Agencies

ebutants the Philippines stunned co-hosts New Zealand 1-0 to secure their first FIFA Women's World Cup victory, while Colombia defeated South Korea 2-0 on Tuesday.

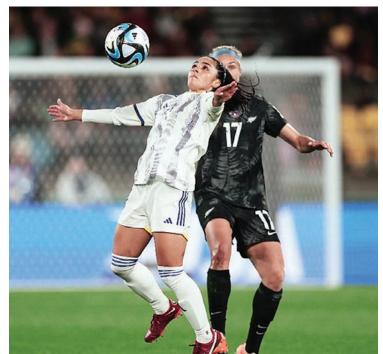
In the late fixture, Norway and Switzerland played out a goalless draw in Hamilton in Group A, reports

After losing star forward Ada Hegerberg to injury before kickoff, Norway struggled to penetrate and face a fight to reach the round of 16. With just one point from two games, Norway must win their final group game against an increasingly confident Philippines, who shook up Group A with their momentous victory over New Zealand.

Sarina Bolden scored the Philippines' historic match-winner in the 24th minute to silence the 33,000 fans in Wellington.

New Zealand entered as favourites after a historic victory over Norway in their opener but were left stunned.

Ranked 20 places higher than their opponents, New Zealand had waves of attack in the second half and a goal



disallowed, but were unable to find an equalizer. Earlier, teenager Linda Caicedo

scored on her World Cup debut as Colombia earned a pivotal win over South Korea in Sydney.

In sunny conditions, the 18-yearold phenom Caicedo lived up to the hype when she bagged Colombia's

Sports

second goal late in the first half. After breaking down the left, Caicedo cut back inside and fired outside the box, as goalkeeper Yoon Young-geul botched a save above her head and the ball fell over the line.

It was an especially heartwarming moment for Caicedo, who had survived ovarian cancer at the age of 15.

Becoming the first teenager to score at this year's tournament. Caicedo doubled Colombia's lead after Catalina Usme had converted a penalty in the 30th minute.

South Korea were outplayed for most of the match, unable to penetrate a dogged Colombia defense.

Struggling to muster goal-scoring opportunities, South Korea coach Colin Bell inserted 16-year-old attacker Casev Phair in the 78th minute, making her the youngest player at a men's or women's World Cup.

Colombia joined world No.2 Germany with three points in Group H.Title contenders Spain will be looking to continue their perfect start against Zambia in a slate of three matches on Wednesday.

Harmanpreet Kaur suspended for breach of ICC Code of Conduct

riticised for her recent outbursts inside and outside the field, India captain Harmanpreet Kaur has been suspended for her next two international matches following two separate breaches of the ICC Code of Conduct during the third match of their ICC Women's Championship series against Bangladesh in Dhaka on Saturday.

Harmanpreet will miss India's next two matches in the Asian Games as per this pun-

Harmanpreet was fined 50 per cent of her match fee and three demerit points were added to her disciplinary record for a Level 2 offence after she was found guilty of breaching article 2.8 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which relates to "showing dissent at an umpire's decision". Harmanpreet was also fined 25 per cent of her match fee for a Level 1 offence after she was found guilty of breaching article 2.7, which relates to "public criticism about an incident occurring in an international match.'

The first incident occurred in the 34th over of India's innings when Kaur hit the wickets with her bat in a show of dissent after she was adjudged caught at slip off spinner Nahida Akter. She was clearly unhappy with the decision as she felt the ball had come off her pad and expressed her frustration by smashing the stumps with her bat. The other incident was during the presentation ceremony when Kaur criticized the umpiring in the match. Harmanpreet heavily criticised the umpires and termed their decision disappointing. Harmanpreet admitted the offences and accepted the sanctions proposed by Akhtar



Ahmed of the ICC International Panel of Match Referees and, as such, there was no need for a formal hearing. On-field umpires Tanvir Ahmed and Muhammad Kamruzzaman, third umpire Moniruzzamman and fourth umpire Ali Arman levelled the charges.

Level 2 breaches carry a penalty of between 50 and 100 per cent of a player's match fee and three or four demerit points while Level 1 breaches carry a minimum penalty of an official reprimand, a maximum penalty of 50 per cent of a player's match fee, and one or two demerit points. Harmanpreet's four demerit points convert to two suspension points. As two suspension points equate to a ban from one Test or two ODIs or two T20Is, whatever comes first for the player or player support personnel, she stands suspended from India's

Japan Open 2023

Prannoy to face Kidamb Srikanth in pre-quarters, Aakarshi bows out

Tokyo | Agencies

ndian shuttlers Kidambi Srikanth and HS Prannoy will face each other at the pre-quarterfinals of the men's singles event at the Japan Open 2023 badminton tournament after winning their respective Round of 32 matches, here on Tuesday.

Former world No. 1 Srikanth, currently ranked 20th, defeated world No. 8 Chinese Taipei's Chou Tien Chen 21-13, 21-13 in a round of 32 encounter, which lasted for 43 minutes. It was his second win over the Chinese Taipei shuttler in eight meetings.Later, eighth seed HS Prannoy, 10th in the badminton rankings, defeated world No. 7 and reigning All



England champion Li Shi Feng of China 21-17, 21-13 in 49 minutes. It was the Indian's third straight win over the Chinese shuttler. Now, Srikanth and Prannoy will face each other in the pre-quarterfinals of the BWF Super 750 tournament on Thursday. In the women's singles opening round, Aakarshi Kashyap, world No. 42, went down 17-21, 17-21 to top-ranked

Japanese shuttler Akane Yamaguchi in 34 minutes. In the women's doubles, Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand staged a comeback to beat Japanese duo Sayaka Hobara and Yui Suizu Japan 11-21, 21-15, 21-14 in a little over an hour to advance to the prequarterfinals.Meanwhile, Rohan Kapoor and N Sikki Reddy were ousted from the mixed doubles after the Indian pair were defeated 21-18, 9-21, 18-21 by Chinese Taipei's Hong Wei and Lee Chia Hsin in 53 minutes. Twotime Olympic medallist PV Sindhu, currently ranked 17, will take the court on Wednesday. She will be up against world No. 18 Zhang Yiman of China in her opening match.

Thomas for ODI series against India

St. Johns (Antigua) | Agencies

Test Indies have recalled star batter Shimron Hetmyer and fast bowler Oshane Thomas for their upcoming three match ODI series against India, which starts on July 27 at Kensington Oval.

Hetmyer hasn't featured for the Caribbean side in almost a year, but earns a recall on the back of a solid season in the Indian Premier League with the Rajasthan Royals that netted a total of 299 runs from 13 innings.

If Hetmyer plays, it will be his first match in West Indies colours since he featured in a T20I against New Zealand in August last year and shortly before the talented 26year-old was left out of his side's ICC Men's T20 World Cup cam-



West Indies recall Shimron Hetmyer, Oshane

paign in Australia after he missed a departing flight out of the Caribbean.

The left-hander hasn't played an ODI for the West Indies in two years, with Hetmyer's last appearance in a 50-over contest coming against Australia in July 2021.

Meanwhile, pacer Thomas, who last played for West Indies in December 2021 and has been out of contention in recent times with fitness issues, has also been named in the 15-player squad, which was announced by Cricket West Indies (CWI) on Monday night.

On the other hand, Fast bowler Jayden Seales and leg-spinner Yannic Cariah have been included following their rehabilitation from surgery while left-arm spinner Gudakesh Motie is also included, having recovered from injury.

Playing in West Indies has its own challenge: Rohit

Port of Spain | Agencies

fter winning the twomatch series 1-0, India skipper Rohit Sharma said that playing in the West Indies has its own challenge and he is happy with the way things went for his side.

The fifth day of the second Test on Monday got washed out which meant that the match was drawn, handing the visitors a 1-0 series victory against West Indies.

"Every win is different. Playing in WI has its own challenge. Happy with the way things went. We gave it a good shot, unfortunately we couldn't get any play today. We actually went out with a positive intent yesterday. Rain had its final say. We were quite confident. You know how difficult it is bat-

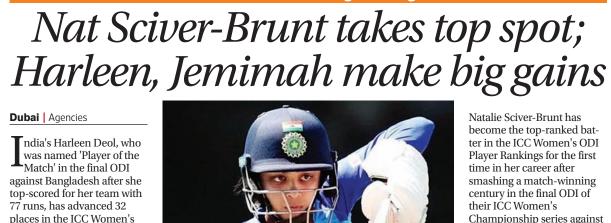


ting last. We always wanted that kind of score where we wanted the opposition to go

There wasn't much on the surface. No play today, unfortunate for us," said Rohit at the post-match presentation.

Rohit also lauded Mohammed Siraj, who was named man of the match, for his brilliant 5/60, saying that the pacer has taken such a





ODI Player Rankings. Harleen has reached 51st position in the latest ICC Rankings while Jemimah Rodrigues, who scored a match-winning 86 in the second ODI, is up 41 places to

In the batting rankings, India's Smriti Mandhana moved up a spot to 6th, but captain Harmanpreet Kaur



slipped two places to eighth. Deepti Sharma (9) and Rajeshwari Gayakwad (10) maintained their positions in the top 10 for bowlers while

Sneh Rana is up three places to 38th. Deepti (7) also maintained her position in the rankings for all-rounders. England all-rounder

MANIKA CONTINUES TO SPARKLE FOR **BENGALURU** SMASHERS V GOA **CHALLENGERS**

Pune: Bengaluru Smashers star paddler Manika Batra continued her scintillating form as she defeated T. Reeth Rishya of Goa Challengers in Ultimate Table Tennis (UTT) Season 4 at the Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex here on Tuesday

Manika thumped compatriot Reeth, who recently stunned World No. 28 Lily Zhang, 3-0 to register her fourth women's singles victory in Season 4 for Bengaluru Smashers.

Manika, who is India's highest-ranked paddler, went into attacking mode from the first serve and quickly took a big lead.

become the top-ranked batter in the ICC Women's ODI Player Rankings for the first time in her career after smashing a match-winning century in the final ODI of their ICC Women's Championship series against Australia in Taunton last

Sciver-Brunt's score of 129 followed an unbeaten 111 in the previous match, taking her ahead of Australia's Beth Mooney. She has also extended her lead at the top of the all-rounders' rankings to 39 rating points over West Indies captain Hayley Matthews.

Tuesday



PSG accept world-record 259m pounds bid

for Mbappe from Saudi club Al-Hilal: Report

The current world transfer record is the 200m pounds (222m euros) PSG paid to sign Brazilian star Neymar from Barcelona in August 2017.

Team Absolute New Delhi

The 24-year-old French captain, who still has one year remaining on his contract, is unwilling to renew his contract with the PSG and is believed to prefer a move to Real Madrid. The French star was also left out of the PSG squad for the pre-season tour of Japan and South Korea. Notably, Mbappe has long been linked with Real Madrid and his desire to join the Spanish giants has

caused a rift with his current employers. Satwiksairaj Rankireddy-Chirag Shetty

Pakistan sit alone at the top of WTC standings after second IND vs WI Test ends in a draw

Dubai | Agencies

akistan sit alone at the top of the ICC World Test Championship standings after fellow pacesetter India were held to a draw in the second Test against the West Indies in Trinidad.

The entire final day on Monday was washed out in the Caribbean, meaning India had to settle for a share of the spoils in the final Test of their series against the West Indies that saw them relinquish their 100 percent win-loss record in the new World Test Championship campaign.

Now, Pakistan are the only team with an unblemished record during the new cycle



following their four-wicket victory over Sri Lanka in

The Babar Azam's side are

on their way to maintaining that perfect start to their campaign after they dismissed their Asian rivals for

just 166 on the opening day of the second Test in Colombo. Pakistan then raced to 145/2 from just 28.3 overs at the close of play and will be keen to build a big lead over Sri Lanka and maintain their unbeaten status this campaign.

While India are yet to register a defeat in the new cycle, their draw with the West Indies saw them drop to second place on the updated standings and their win-loss percentage drop from 100 percent to 66.67.

They do hold on to second place on the standings, with Australia (third), England (fourth) and the West Indies (fifth) the other teams to have already featured in the new 2023-25 World Test

rise to career-best world No. 2 ranking Team Absolute New Delhi

ndia's top men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty on Tuesday achieved their all-time career-best second spot in the latest BWF Rankings after their title triumph at Korea Open, BWF Super 500 event, last week.

The Indian duo registered a come-from-behind win over world no. 1 Indonesian duo Fajar Alfian and Muhammad Rian Ardianto to clinch the Korea Open 2023 men's doubles title that saw them achieve a careerbest ranking with a total of

87,211 points. The reigning Asian champions started the season as world no. 5. The wins at Swiss Open 2023 (Super 300) and Indonesia Open 2023



(Super 1000) and Korea Open saw them jump above the Chinese pair of Liang Wei Keng and Wang Chang, who dropped a place to be at No 3.

Satwik and Chirag have been in terrific form lately as they have remained unbeaten in all the seven finals they have played since 2022 (including the Commonwealth Games final). Moreover, they currently boast an incredible 10-match unbeaten streak on the BWF World Tour this season, making them a dominant force in the men's doubles circuit. In the women's singles,

two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu managed to maintain her position on 17th spot despite her early departure from the Korea Open. Meanwhile, HS Prannoy retained his position as India's top-ranked shuttler, currently standing at the 10th spot in the men's singles chart while Lakshya Sen's has dropped one spot to be placed at world number 13. On the other hand, Kidambi Srikanth, who has been facing challenges with his form, continues to be ranked at the 20th position.



'Validation of effort to create impactful cinema,':Anshum an Jha

'Lakadbaggha' wins in Stuttgart

he vigilante action thriller 'Lakadbaggha' starring AnshumanJha and RidhiDogra, has achieved international acclaim by winning the German star of India 'Director's Vision' award at the 20th Indian Film Festival Stuttgart 2023. The categories in the 'German Star of India' Award 2023 are: Best Feature Film bagged by 'MAX, MIN & MEOWZAKI' by PadmakumarNarasimhamurthy; Best Documentary bagged by 'To Kill A Tiger' by NishaPahuja; Best Short Film went to 'Nocturnal Burger' by Reema Maya; Best TVC bagged by 'Mental Health' by BauddhayanMukherji; and the Audience Award bagged by 'The Storyteller' by Ananth Narayan Mahadevan.

Directed by Victor Mukherjee, 'Lakadbaggha' is a love letter to dogs and is the story of an animal lover vigilante against an animal abuser kingpin. The film deals with the underbelly of illegal animal trade and the inhuman treatment of the voiceless creatures. Expressing his excitement, actor and producer, Anshuman said:

"Portraying the character of Arjun in 'Lakadbaggha' has been an immensely gratifying journey for me as an actor and producer. This film holds a special place in my heart as it not only entertains but also leaves a lasting impact on the audience, championing the cause of animal welfare.

'I FEEL THE MOM GUILT

WHEN ON SHOOT, 'ANITA

ctress Anita Hassanandani, who made

'IdharUdhar', said being the mother is

her debut on television in 1998 with

the most challenging role to play, and she

feels the mom guilt when on the shoot. Anita and her husband Rohit welcomed

February, last year. With the shoot of the

shows, managing mommy duties, etc, Anita

said it does become challenging to play every

"But being a mother is the most challeng-

ing, I would say. I love being Aaravv's mom, and when I go to the shoot, I do feel the

mom's guilt to be honest, but a mother can

The 'Krishna Cottage' fame actress said it's

always going to be difficult, but she took that call, as she had the family support. "My

mother-in-law comes over and takes care of

Aaravv. So it kind of falls into place, with the

kind of family support I have. And when I go

wife, and entrepreneur, i

"You have to be happy with the decision you made, and once you are happy, every-

The 42-year-old actress called her journey

"But sometimes, I do feel that after being a mom, I mean people say that nothing changes, it's still easy to get back and all, but

after being a mom, people look at you slightly differently, and things 100 percent do change. So yeah that's how I feel," said Anita.

wonderful, amazing, and welcoming, adding

out for work, 100 percentI miss Aaravv like

crazy." Anita said the only 'mantra' she fol-

lows while performing all the roles of an

all decisions that make you happy.

thing falls into place," she said.

that she has no regrets.

their first child, a baby boy Aaravv in

role, when you are an actor.

never leave a child," Anita said.

Winning the prestigious German Star Of India 'Vision' Award is a true honour and a validation of our team's collective effort to create impactful cinema. 'Lakadbaggha' aims to stir emotions, spark conversations, and inspire positive change, and I couldn't be prouder of the resounding recognition it has garnered on the global stage," he

HASSANANDANI

Team Absolute Mumbai

TREVOR NOAH SET FOR **INDIA DEBUT TOUR**

India is one of the most exciting countries in the world



Team Absolute | Mumbai

omic artiste Trevor Noah is all set to come to India with his 'Off The Record Tour' kicking off his Asia

Commenting on his India Tour, Noah said: "After a lifetime of loving India's culture, I'm so excited to finally have the privilege of bringing my current stand-up comedy tour to one of the most exciting countries in the world!"

With sold out-shows through US and Europe between 2022 and 2023, Trevor's 'Off The Record' Tour will travel to Asia, with its first pit stop in India, followed by Dubai.

Noah was the host of The Daily Show. He has won various awards, including a Primetime Emmy Award from 11 nominations. He was named one of "The 35 Most Powerful People in New York Media" by The Hollywood Reporter in

In 2018, Time magazine named him one of the hundred most influential people in the world In 2023, he won the Erasmus Prize.

Born in Johannesburg, Noah began his career in South Africa in 2002. He was the runner-up in the fourth season of South Africa's iteration of Strictly Come Dancing in 2008. From 2010 to 2011, he hosted the late-night talk show Tonight with Trevor Noah. He hosted the 63rd, the 64th and the 65th Annual Grammy Awards as well White House Correspondents Dinner.

Abish Mathew tells Taapsee, 'Both eyes shut is best way to watch anything you do on screen'



Absolute | Mumbai

tand-up comedian nd chat show host Abish Mathew recently roasted actress TaapseePannu on his Instagram Story.

Taapsee is inviting people in her social circle for a roast session ahead of her birthday on August 1.

The actress recently took to the Instagram Stories and invited her close friends to roast her on her online platform.

Calling Abish, the 'roast king', Taapsee, who has been on the comic's chat show 'Son of Abish' shares a good camaraderie with Abish and said that he already knows a lot about her which sets a good premise for a roast session.

Responding to the same, Abish took to the Stories section of his Instagram and shared a video of himself thanking Taapsee.

"Thank you so much, Taapsee. Thank you for inviting me, and of course we know so much about you. For instance, I know that you can't wink. Everytime you try, both eyes shut and both eyes shut is the best way to watch anything you do on screen," he said.

Taapsee shared this primer of a roast on her Instagram Story appreciating The actress appeared on the chat show along with another comic artiste

Zakir Khan. The second time she appeared on the show along with choreographer

Shakti Mohan, back in 2019. She recently appeared on the show for the third time with 'Mirzapur'

actress ShriyaPilgaonkar and stand-up artiste SapanVerma.



'Heeriye' tells dreamy love story of HeerRanjha

with modern twist



Team Absolute | Mumbai

usic composer and singer Jasleen Royal has released her new song 'Heeriye', and it's a song which will have a calming effect on the audience especially in times when the world is overwhelmed by forces of nature and chaos all around.

The song has been crooned by India's superstar singer Arijit Singh, and the music video of the song features Malayalam star DulquerSalmaan and Jasleen. The music video begins with Jasleen picking the classic tale of HeerRanjha from a shelf with the character of Ranjha.

As she gets engaged while reading the book, Dulquer's character of the Ranjha from the book transcends the boundaries of reality and illusion and makes a stunning entry riding a horse into the life of Jasleen's character in the video.

The two then go about spending some quality time as their dreamy love story soon fills the screen with warmth and a fuzzy feeling. Jasleen has not only composed and sung the

track but also produced the music video. 'Heeriye' marks Dulquer's first ever non-film project. Sonically, the track makes the use of both live instruments and minimal use of VSTs.

Jasleen and Arijit perform the duet as the song progresses forward. Visually, the song features several beautiful locations, particularly the beach. As Dulquer's character sets the race against the time to go back into his native world, Jasleen burns the page of the classic love story of HeerRanjha leading to Ranjha forever staying in Jasleen's world. The narrative loop closes as Jasleen rides the horse to the beach to get back her Ranjha.



Ridhi Dogra

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