

absolute india

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PAPER CUPS AS TOXIC AS PLASTIC ONES WHEN THEY END UP IN NATURE: STUDY

Paper cups are no alternatives to plastic cups to avoid toxic chemicals, as the latte coffee you take with you in a paper cup (along with paper lid) can also harm living organisms if it ends up in nature.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Reports of plastics pollution contaminating all parts of the Earth and in all living things has accelerated a shift to alternative materials. However, paper cups are just as toxic as plastic cups.

Researchers at the University of Gothenburg in Sweden show this in a study testing the effect of disposable cups made of different materials on the larvae of the butterfly mosquito.

"We left paper cups and plastic cups in wet sediment and water for a few weeks and followed how the leached chemicals affected the larvae. All of the mugs negatively affected the growth of mosquito larvae," said Bethanie Carney Almroth, professor of environmental science at the University of Gothenburg.

Paper that is used in food packaging material needs to be treated with a surface coating. This plastic protects the paper from the coffee in your



hand. Nowadays, the plastic film is often made of polylactide, PLA, a type of bioplastic.

Bioplastics are produced from renewable resources (PLA is commonly produced from corn, cassava

or sugarcane) rather than fossil-fuels as is the case for 99 per cent of plastics on the market.

PLA is often regarded as biodegradable, meaning that it can break down faster than oil-based plastics under the right conditions, but it can still be toxic, according to the study published in the journal Environmental Pollution. Bioplastics do not break down effectively when they end up in the environment, in water.

"There may be a risk that the plastic remains in nature and resulting microplastics can be ingested by animals and humans, just as other plastics do. Bioplastics contain at least as many chemicals as conventional plastic," said Almroth.

"Some chemicals in plastics are known to be toxic, others we lack knowledge about. Paper packaging also presents a potential health hazard compared to other materials," the authors wrote.

Love to drink fruit smoothies? Avoid banana for more health benefit

New York | Agencies

In a study, published in the journal Food and Function, scientists used smoothies to test how polyphenol oxidase -- an enzyme found in many fruits and vegetables that is responsible for the browning when these are cut or bruised -- affects the absorption of flavanols by the human body.

This enzyme is found in particularly high levels in bananas.

The team led by University of California, Davis, in collaboration with the University of Reading, found that adding banana to a berry smoothie reduces the flavanols taken in by the consumer by 84 per cent, compared to the control group, who took a flavanol capsule. Flavanols are bioactive compounds that have been proven to support good heart and cognitive health. We should all be consuming 400-600 milligrams of flavanols, daily, according to a dietary recommendation from the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics in the US. "If you don't consume enough flavanols, it can negatively affect cardiovascular health. In older adults, a deficiency of flavanols is also linked to cognitive



decline," said Gunter Kuhnle, Professor of Nutrition and Food Science at the University of Reading.

"If you want to boost your flavanol intake with a smoothie, you should combine flavanol-rich fruits like berries with foods that have a low polyphenol oxidase activity like pineapple, oranges, mango or yoghurt," Kuhnle said. While bananas in the smoothie can cut down flavanol intake, Kuhnle said, "on their own, they are still great fruits and can play an important role in many healthy diets." The team explained that bananas contain polyphenol oxidase, or PPO, which makes it turn brown when left in the open without the peel. The browning occurs when the food containing that enzyme is exposed to air. "We were really surprised to see how quickly

adding a single banana decreased the level of flavanols in the smoothie and the levels of flavanol absorbed in the body," said lead author Javier Ottaviani, adjunct researcher with the UC Davis Department of Nutrition. "This highlights how food preparation and combinations can affect the absorption of dietary compounds in foods." The findings of this study could spur future research into how other foods are prepared and the effects on flavanols, for example, Ottaviani said tea is a major dietary source of flavanols and depending on how it is prepared, a different amount of flavanols would be available for absorption. "This is certainly an area that deserves more attention in the field of polyphenols and bioactive compounds in general," said Ottaviani.

Paid users can now post up to 2 hr of 1080p, 3 hr of 720p videos on X

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Elon Musk-owned X (formerly Twitter) has announced various video and media enhancements to the microblogging platform.

X said on Friday that premium subscribers can now post longer videos on the platform, i.e. up to two hours of 1080p quality or three hours of 720p quality content.

The media studio, accessible at studio.x.com, is now open to all X Premium subscribers.

Moreover, paid users now have the ability to download videos from their timeline to their camera roll and can now enable/disable the download option for videos they post.

In other enhancements, premium X users will get AirPlay support to stream videos to their TV, auto-captioning of popular videos, picture-in-picture playback to allow them to watch videos while scrolling their timeline or other apps, video controls such as playback speed, double tap to fast forward/jump back, improved live broadcasting quality from mobile, immersive video player in Android and iOS, and others.



Meanwhile, Musk has said that news organisations can also get a share of X's advertising revenue.

In his latest bid to woo journalists after paying creators via his X advertising revenue programme, the X owner has now proposed a new way for media houses to make money.

"Our advertising revenue share programme also applies to organisations (news or otherwise) who wish to participate," he posted. On Tuesday, the billionaire invited journalists to publish directly on X and earn a higher income, as he started stripping headlines and text from news articles shared on the platform.

100 artists to be part of 'Art for Climate Action, India Art Facts' summit

Team Absolute | New Delhi

About 100 young artists from different genres and across the nation will be part of a five-day 'Art for Climate Action; India Art Facts' summit to be held in the national capital Delhi from September 1-5.

The five-day 'Art for Climate Action; India Art Facts' summit is being organised by the 'Organization for Development and Integration of Art and Artists' (ODIAA), an apex body of artists with active support from the Union Ministry of Textiles and in collaboration with The National Craft Museum & Hastakala Academy, Pragati Maidan New Delhi.

"During the event, 'Art for Climate Action to be held at National Crafts Museum & Hastakala Academy in Pragati Maidan major artists from various states and union territories will be showcasing and exhibiting



through the power of their imagination and tools the undeniable reality of environmental damage while emphasizing the need for a sustainable lifestyle," said Kshitish Chandra Das, secretary, organisation for Development and Integration of Art and Artist (ODIAA).

"Through their boundless creativity and eco-conscious artistry, these 100 young and renowned artists will con-

vey the undeniable reality of environmental damage while underlining the urgency of adopting a sustainable lifestyle.

"Some artists have already begun reevaluating their choice of artistic mediums, gravitating toward sustainable options such as ephemeral art, land art, and upcycled art. The solution offered here is to engage in practical, minor changes that promote

environmental sustainability through art. Artists embracing experimentation can venture into upcycling, utilizing common household items like discarded woodblocks, paper, cardboard, metals, waste materials, and any resource readily available to create masterpieces," added Das.

The summit, to be visited by Ambassadors of G20 countries, MPs and ministers will also include various panel discussions on this theme as well as screen movies and documentaries made by internationally acclaimed film producers.

Some major participating artists include Santosh Kumar (photographer), Priyanshu Chaurasia (printmaker), Jitendra Prajapati (sculptor), Chinmayee Behere (painter), Gagan Mandal (painter), Vandana Kumari (painter), Neetu (ceramist), Sukanya (sculpture), Jagriti Katuria (painting), Pranati Das (painting).

KEVADIA TO UNVEIL NEW JUNGLE SAFARI: LIONS AND TIGERS TO ROAM FREELY IN HABITAT

Kevadia | Agencies

Kevadia, known for housing the Statue of Unity, is all set to welcome a thrilling addition to its attractions -- a new jungle safari that promises an intimate encounter with the wild.

This upcoming safari, sprawled across the lush valleys of the Satpura and Vindhya hills, will offer visitors a firsthand view of two majestic carnivores, the Asiatic lions and tigers.

Stretching over an expansive area of 375 acres, this wildlife haven is poised to double the size of the existing safari near the renowned Statue of Unity.

Adding to the allure, the safari will also feature a geodesic dome aviary, making it an immersive experience for wildlife enthusiasts and tourists alike. It is situated near Nagatpuri Kothi village, 10 km away from Kevadia. The project is being crafted



under the watchful gaze of the forest department, which has enlisted the expertise of the Greens Zoological Rescue And Rehabilitation Kingdom.

Drawing inspiration from the successful Devaliya open zoo model in Gir, the upcoming safari aims to create an environment where both lions and tigers can roam freely in their natural habitats.

Visitors will have the opportunity to choose between a bus ride or an open jeep excursion,

allowing them to observe these magnificent creatures up close while respecting their habitats.

The wildlife exchange program is a notable feature of this venture, enhancing the diversity of the safari. As part of this program, two pairs of tigers will be brought to the new safari from other zoos, in exchange for lions.

The blueprint for the lions includes the relocation of two pairs, accompanied by four cubs, from Sakkarbaug Zoo. Behind the scenes, meticulous planning is taking place.

Upon securing the required land, the forest department will draft a comprehensive proposal to be submitted to the Central Zoo Authority of India. Approximately 700 acres of land are earmarked for the safari's development, with officials from the Statue of Unity Area Development and Tourism Governance Authority (SoUADTGA) confirming the ongoing efforts in land acquisition.

Kolkata becomes 3rd Indian city to get air quality early warning system

Kolkata | Agencies

After Delhi and Pune, Kolkata is all set to become the third Indian city to get air quality early warning system (AQEWS) to compute and relay real-time and accurate data on pollution levels in the city, courtesy an initiative by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM). Through a dedicated website developed for that purpose, it will be possible to deliver detailed information about the contribution of PM2.5 and PM10 emissions.

According to IITM scientist Sachin Ghude, capturing PM2.5 levels of such unprecedented magnitude is a global rarity. "We faced considerable challenges in collecting such



exceptional data from the city. Our AQEWS relies on pinpoint accuracy, starting with precise weather forecasts as a foundation," he said. He also said that IITM has integrated satellite data on Aerosol Optical Depth (AOD) from an extensive network of 420 air quality monitoring stations across India. Low-cost sensors (LCS) have been installed for this purpose.

Salman Khan's journey in Hindi cinema completes 35 years

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Superstar Salman Khan has completed 35 years in Hindi cinema and his Salman Khan Films commemorated his long journey in Bollywood by sharing a post on social media.

Taking to Instagram, the production house shared a short clip with the caption: "35 years of Salman Khan's romance with cinema, a journey filled with action and a legacy that will go on. #35YearsOfSalmanKhanReign."

To celebrate his 35 years in the industry, Salman Khan Films, posted a video montage detailing his entire journey from past to present.

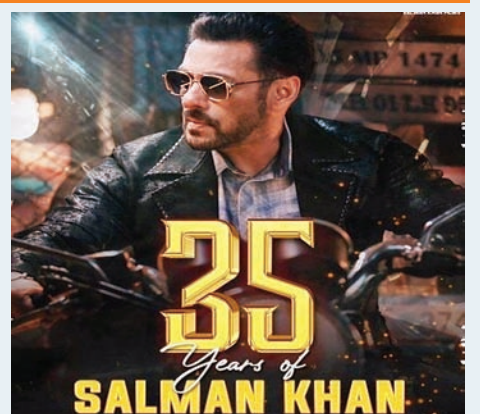
This included clips from some of his most iconic films such as 'Pyaar Kiya To Dama Kya',

'Wanted', 'Dabangg', 'Sultan', 'Bodyguard' and 'Tiger' featuring some of his best known dialogues and clips of the most iconic tracks.

The 'Dabangg' star marked his journey into the world of the Indian Entertainment industry with the film 'Bivi Ho To Aisi' in 1988 in a supporting role. However, the actor landed first leading role in the film 'Maine Pyaar Kiya', which became a sensational all-time blockbuster upon its release and pushed Salman into the league of the biggest players of the industry. The actor then proceeded to make great strides in the industry with several other iconic films such as 'Karan Arjun', 'Hum Apke Hain Kaun', 'Hum Saath-Saath Hain', 'Bivi No.1' and 'Hum Dil De Chuke Sanam'. He continued to make greater strides

with 'Bodyguard', 'Dabangg', 'Tiger', 'Wanted' and 'Kick' among many more. Since then, the actor has become a force to be reckoned with, turning into an icon of charm, swag, attitude, dialogue delivery and of course physique, which made him a pioneering force in Bollywood. But movies were not the only place where the superstar found success, as his 'jalwa' was also witnessed on TV, and to date he remains an iconic force in the world of television with his dynamic presence in shows like 'Dus Ka Dum' and 'Bigg Boss'. Over the years, ever since he established himself as one of the darlings of Indian Cinema, the superstar has also become a successful producer and started 'Salman Khan Films' in the year 2011, making films such as

'Chillar Party' followed by his mega-blockbuster 'Bajrangi Bhaijaan', which not only won the box office game but has garnered him numerous awards and accolades. Salman's hardcore fanbase went berserk on social media, and celebrate his reign with #35YearsOfSalmanKhanReign which reigned all night long. Salman has garnered a devoted fanbase for himself. Following the domination on big screens and television screens, the superstar even took the OTT platform by storm with his debut on "Bigg Boss OTT 2". Last seen on the big screen with the film 'Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan', the Salman is all set to light cinemas on fire with his upcoming action-spy-thriller film 'Tiger 3', which is scheduled to release on Diwali this year.





CHANDRAYAAN-3

Shah congratulates ISRO scientists, says they have imprinted an indelible mark on sands of time

Imphal | Agencies

(Lead) New Delhi, Aug 26 (IANS) Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday, while congratulating the scientists of the Indian Space and Research Organisation (ISRO) on the success of the Chandrayaan-3 mission, said that they have imprinted an indelible mark on the sands of time.

In a tweet, Shah said "With the historic success of India's lunar mission, our scientists have imprinted an indelible mark on the sands of time. To commemorate this achievement, PM @narendramodi ji named the landing spot of Chandrayaan-3 'Shivshakti,' and the location where Chandrayaan-2 fell 'Tiranga', to remind us that 'No failure is permanent'."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, while describing the efforts that were channelled towards the success of the Chandrayaan-3 Mission, on Saturday



stated that the scientists at the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) had built an artificial Moon at the worksite for experimentation.

Addressing a gathering of scientists at a programme organised to complement them for the successful soft landing of Chandrayaan-3 on the South Pole of the Moon, the Prime Minister stated that he wanted people to know the efforts the scientists have put in to achieve success. "People should know it. The scientists have created an artificial Moon and Vikram the lander was tested," he stated.

The achievement has given spirit to the whole generation. The launch of satellites has paved the way for innovations. Space science has contributed to ease of life, governance and transparency. It is helpful in ensuring distant health services. Without space technology, we can't imagine telemedicine and tele-education, PM Modi said.

PM Modi to address B20 summit on Sunday



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the B20 Summit India 2023 in New Delhi on August 27.

The address is scheduled at 12 noon. B20 Summit India brings policymakers, business leaders and experts from across the world to deliberate and discuss the B20 India

Communique.

The B20 India Communique includes 54 recommendations and 172 policy actions for submission to G20. It is the official G20 dialogue forum with the global business community.

Established in 2010, B20 is among the most prominent Engagement Groups in G20, with companies and business organisations as participants.

The B20 works to deliver concrete actionable policy recommendations to spur economic growth and development.

The three day summit had begun on August 25 with the theme R.A.I.S.E -- Responsible, Accelerated, Innovative, Sustainable and Equitable Businesses.

It is being attended by over 1,500 delegates from about

My father playing badminton doesn't mean he's healthy: Tejawhi

Patna | Agencies

Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tejawhi Yadav on Saturday said that his father, Lalu Prasad Yadav, playing few shots of badminton does not mean that 'he is healthy'.

He said that his father was playing badminton on the advice of the doctors.

"BJP leaders are alleging that my father is healthy and is playing badminton while out on bail. He was playing badminton on the suggestion of the doctors. If anyone is playing badminton, he is doing exercise and it does not mean he is healthy, put him in jail and make him ill. BJP leaders have the intention that no one should meet or talk to anyone. Whatever, my father is doing, he is doing it on advice of doctors," the Deputy Chief



Minister said.

The Deputy Chief Minister inspected the land allotted by Bihar Vidhan Sabha for the extension of RJD office located on Veerchand Patel Path.

He was accompanied by RJD State President Jagadanand Singh, Spokesperson Shakti Singh, Mritunjay Tiwari, MLC Sunil Singh and others.

He also said that Bihar is the first state which brought 1.70 lakh government jobs through teacher recruitment scheme. "We have promised 10 lakh jobs and we are heading towards achieving this figure. BJP promised 2 crore jobs every year, what happened to that promise? How many jobs have they given?" he asked.

Over 40 passengers trapped on Pavagadh ropeway for 30 minutes

Pavagadh (Gujarat) | Agencies

A cable dislodged from the aerial ropeway connecting the revered Kalika Mata temple in Gujarat's Pavagadh, leaving more than 40 passengers suspended in 10 cabins at an altitude of 763 meters, triggering a dramatic rescue operation that lasted over 30 minutes.

A cable dislodged from the aerial ropeway connecting the revered Kalika Mata temple in Gujarat's Pavagadh, leaving more than 40 passengers suspended in 10 cabins at an altitude of 763 meters, triggering a dramatic rescue operation that lasted over 30 minutes.

The incident took place on Friday evening and the investigations began after that.

No injuries were reported, but the incident has once again ignited concerns about the safety of ropeway systems in Pavagadh.

The mishap struck shortly before the



scheduled closing time of 8 p.m.

The track rope of the aerial ropeway, managed by the Usha Breco company under the name 'Udan Khatola,' unexpectedly detached from the conveyor.

This abrupt occurrence left passengers, with around six individuals in each cabin, stranded mid-air as their cabins dangled perilously. The immediate concern was to secure their safety and orchestrate a successful rescue mission.

The company swiftly initiated repair

and restoration efforts to address the situation.

Local authorities, including the police and fire brigade, sprung into action, utilizing ropes and ladders to rescue the stranded passengers.

The evacuation operation took over 30 minutes, ultimately bringing all individuals to safety.

While the immediate priority was to rescue the passengers, attention has now shifted to determining the cause of the accident.

Two school boys stabbed in Delhi, accused thrashed by public



New Delhi: A 23-year-old man, suspected to be mentally challenged, allegedly stabbed two school boys in Delhi, a police official said on Saturday.

The injured students identified as Chaman received injuries on the left shoulder and back while Rajesh received multiple injuries on his head, face and hand.

According to police, a police control room call was received regarding the stabbing of two boys at Ramdev Chowk following which a police team rushed to the spot.

Upon reaching the spot, it was found that the injured had been removed to SRCH hospital.

"Medico-legal reports (MLCs) of both injured have been prepared. Chaman and Rajesh are students of SKV School in the area," said a senior police official, adding that they are still undergoing treatment at the hospital.

"The accused identified as Vinay has been beaten by the public. So far, as per initial investigation, there is no specific reason for the quarrel. Legal action is being taken as per MLC and statements," the official added.

Delhi L-G approves 17 welfare schemes for construction workers

New Delhi | Agencies

Delhi Lieutenant Governor (L-G) V.K Saxena on Saturday approved 17 welfare schemes of the Delhi Building & Other Construction Workers' Welfare Board (DBOCWWB), with specific directions for constant supervision and monitoring of the disbursement process under these schemes.

The schemes approved under Section 7 of the Aadhar Act, 2016, would ensure that all financial benefits like grant of disability pension, ex-gratia payment, medical assistance, maternity benefit, death benefit etc. to the genuine beneficiaries are given only through DBT after their Aadhar-based authentication.

"The objective is to minimise leakages and promote targeted delivery of benefits while simultaneously improving the working conditions,



quality of life and ensuring welfare of the construction workers," the L-G office said. L-G has directed strict supervision and monitoring of the disbursement process in the aforesaid schemes. The L-G has underlined the need for making the "registration of construction workers fully transparent, fool-proof, tamper-free and genuine." L-G said that this will ensure that only genuine construction workers are registered and consequently benefited from the funds of DBOCWWB. "For this purpose, the

Deputy Labour Commissioners of the concerned Districts may be made responsible for a transparent and efficient implementation of the benefit transfer to the entitled and genuine beneficiaries only and a stringent exercise for establishing the veracity of the registration process and the registered beneficiaries be undertaken concurrently," the L-G said. The development comes in wake of the instances of financial irregularities in the functioning of the DBOCWWB and leakages in the distribution of benefits under its various schemes by way of providing benefits to "ghost construction workers" (who are not construction workers).

Investigation into the alleged unauthorised and illegal registration of fake construction workers and financial irregularities therein is already being conducted by the anti-corruption branch.

DCW issues notice to Delhi Police over two incidents of sexual assault with minors

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Delhi Commission for Women Chairperson Swati Maliwal has issued notice to police over two separate incidents of sexual assault with minor girls in the same hotel in the national capital.

According to DCW officials, they had recently received cases of sexual assault with two minor girls in a hotel in Delhi and it was revealed that two men in two separate incidents sexually assaulted two 15-year-old girls multiple times in Hotel Garden Inn, Chandar Nagar, Delhi.

In both the cases FIRs have been registered at Jagatpuri police station.

The DCW official claimed that in the past as well, several cases have been reported wherein many minor girls were allegedly sexually assaulted by accused in hotels.

"We have issued notice to Delhi Police seeking an action taken report in the matter. The Commission has sought the details

of action taken against the hotel. The Commission has also asked whether the manager/owner of the hotel has been arrested or not. The Commission has also sought the details of association of any aggregator with the hotel," said the official.

"We have also sought details of FIRs wherein women and minor girls have been sexually assaulted in hotels and present status of the cases. We have also asked for the action taken by Delhi Police against hotels, where cases of sexual assault with minors have been reported," said the official.

Maliwal said that the DCW has received two separate cases of sexual assault with minors in a hotel. "It cannot be a coincidence. Action should be taken against the owner/manager of the hotel. In the past as well, cases of sexual assault with minors have occurred in Delhi. We are investigating as to what guidelines have been issued by the Delhi Police regarding booking/stay by minors in hotels and for ensuring their safety," she said.

UP slapping video: FIR registered, teacher blames politician for flare up

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Superintendent of Police Satyanarayan Prajapati in Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh on Saturday said that a First Information Report (FIR) had been filed against a teacher who appeared in a viral video instructing students to slap a student from a minority community. According to police, an FIR was filed based on Sections 323 and 504 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) at Mansurpur police station.

The SP said that they have seen the video in which the teacher instructed her students to physically harm a classmate as a consequence of not memorising multiplication tables.

"The video also contained inappropriate remarks. Pertinent authorities have been notified about the incident, and appropriate administrative measures will be initiated against the teacher," said the SP.

However, in defense of her actions, the accused teacher, Tripta Tyagi, downplayed the incident, labelling it a "minor issue," despite the registration of a case against her.

She justified her behaviour by asserting that she had instructed some students to slap the boy due to his failure to complete homework.

She claimed that pressure from the child's parents motivated her to take strict measures, saying that she is handicapped and cannot employ this approach.

Tyagi denied any communal motives in the matter and contended that the video had been manipulated to give it a communal context.

She said that the video was recorded by the child's cousin, who was present in the class and alleged that offensive language she used against a specific community was selectively included.

once the video clip became widely shared. While acknowledging her error, she argued that the incident had been unnecessarily blown out of proportion.

She directed her remarks at politicians, emphasising that the incident was relatively inconsequential and criticising leaders like Rahul Gandhi for publicising it.

Tyagi questioned the impact of such incidents going viral on teachers' ability to effectively educate, suggesting that everyday occurrences were being needlessly sensationalised.

The video of the incident which took place in Khabbarpur village has gone viral on social media.

In the purported video, the female school teacher could be heard saying in Hindi, "I have declared that all Muslim children should go...," as she asked rest of the class to remain silent and hit the student who belonged to the minority community.

'Selected' Governor has no moral right to threaten elected govt: Punjab CM

Team Absolute | Chandigarh

Saying that a 'selected' Governor does not have any moral right to threaten elected representatives, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann said on Saturday that Governor Banwarilal Purohit's 'threat' to recommend the imposition of President's Rule is an insult to 3.5 crore Punjabis, who made unprecedented sacrifices for preserving the unity and integrity of the country, besides making the nation surplus in food grain production.

The Chief Minister categorically said that he is not going to bow down to such threats and will not compromise with the interests of the state and its people.

Speaking to the media here, the Chief Minister said the Governor knows under whose pressure he wrote this letter, which has humiliated Punjabis who had elected their own government more than a year ago with a thumping mandate.

He said the 'selected' Governor does not have any moral right to



threaten elected representatives of the people or make malicious attempts to topple a democratically-elected government.

Mann also said the Governor has demeaned the Constitution and insulted its chief architect B.R. Ambedkar with such tantrums.

According to the Constitution, the Chief Minister said, people have full right to elect a government of their choice, but the Governors are acting as the puppets of the Union government to create unwanted hindrances in the functioning of non-BJP governments in states like Delhi, West

Bengal, Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

Mann said he wants to make it clear to the Governor that the latter has threatened to impose President's Rule in Punjab under Article 356, but "we are not afraid of it".

He also said that Punjab has suffered the most due to the misuse of Article 356 in the country.

The Chief Minister expressed disapproval that Punjab has endured the heavy toll of arbitrary actions and mistreatment by previous Union governments, and once again, the current government at the Centre is attempting to undermine the state's democratic values through the Governor.

He said, in fact, the Governor is conspiring to seize power and that is why he is issuing threats to oust an elected government.

Mann also dared the Governor to try his luck in the upcoming Assembly elections in Rajasthan, rather than trying to capture power through the back door.

The Chief Minister said he has been consistently responding to the

Governor's correspondence, having already replied to nine out of 16 letters.

Questioning the Governor's silence on the unresolved issues, the Chief Minister pointed out that the Union government has withheld crores of rupees of Rural Development Fund (RDF) and Goods and Services Tax (GST) allocations, yet the Governor has remained silent on these important matters.

He claimed that the Union government has not paid any attention to the concerns of Punjab's farmers and it is further alarming that the Governor has not written a single letter to the Centre highlighting the real issues of Punjab.

Regarding a meeting concerning Panjab University, the Chief Minister said the Governor consistently favoured Haryana, indicating a lack of loyalty to Punjab. But, regrettably, the Union government has not yet responded positively, he said, adding that the Governor should also talk with the Centre on this pressing matter.



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9 DEAD, 20 INJURED IN MADURAI TRAIN COACH FIRE

Chennai | Agencies

At least nine people were killed and 20 others injured on Saturday after a fire erupted inside the coach of a passenger train at the Madurai railway station in Tamil Nadu.

Railways sources told IANS that the incident occurred on the Lucknow-Rameswaram Express in the early hours of Saturday morning.

The six victims from Uttar Pradesh were on a pilgrimage tour to Rameswaram, the sources added.

There were a total of 55 passengers in the affected coach, which was attached at Nagercoil on Friday.

The blast of a gas cylinder, which was illegally smuggled inside the coach for cooking purposes, caused the fire, the sources told IANS.

Meanwhile, of the 20 injured persons, four are said to be in serious condition.

The mishap occurred when the train was stationed at a yard,



1 km out of the Madurai railway station and passengers were about to leave for the Meenakshi temple for darshan.

Fire and Rescue services department reached the spot and doused the fire.

Many people had already alighted when the train had

reached the Madurai railway station. adurai District Collector Sangeetha told media persons that the injured have been shifted to the hospitals and treatment is underway.

She also said that the cause of the fire will be further probed.

MADURAI TRAIN FIRE: STALIN ANNOUNCES RS 3 L SOLATIUM TO BEREAVED FAMILIES

Chennai: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Saturday announced an ex-gratia of Rs 3 lakh each to the families of nine passengers who died in the train fire mishap in Madurai.

In a statement, Chief Minister Stalin said that he has ensured best treatment for the injured undergoing treatment at the Government Rajaji government hospital, Madurai. Stalin also deputed Tamil Nadu Commercial Taxes, Registration minister, P. Moorthy to reach Madurai and to attend to the necessities of the families of the deceased and the injured.

The Indian Railways have also announced a compensation of Rs 10 lakh to the families of those deceased.

A private party coach attached to a passenger train carrying pilgrims from Uttar Pradesh caught fire early this morning in which nine people lost their lives.

Twenty people are admitted to Government Rajaji memorial hospital of which the condition of four is stated to be serious.

As lawyers we must stand up against injustice: CJ Chandrachud

Team Absolute | Bengaluru

"As lawyers we must ensure to stand up against discrimination and injustice," stated Chief Justice Dr D.Y.

Chandrachud on Saturday.

Addressing the 31st annual convocation of the prestigious National Law School of India (NSLIU) University in Bengaluru, the CJ explained that he was told that a young law student who went to intern at a law office was asked what his caste was and when he told, he was asked not to come back.

"This filled me with despair. As lawyers, we must ensure to stand up against discrimination and injustice. We have to ensure constitutional values are adhered to and this shows that some lawyers are violating the law let alone upholding the constitutional values," he underlined.

"The Supreme Court at present is engaged in seminal constitutional issues. We have released a handbook on gender stereotypes. On why we should not call a woman a housewife, or call a woman who is raped or 'ravished' we have said

how these words cannot be used in Modern India. The graduating class are the ones who will drive the change and technology in your hands is what fish is to water. For us it is a learning process," CJ Chandrachud stated.

India's first female advocate Cornelia Sorabjee was not allowed to make submissions in court unless accompanied by a male



lawyer. These stories are not the ones we can leave behind in our history books. Much needs to be done, he pointed out.

CJ Chandrachud explained that, "Last year out of five, 4 law clerks were women. It is common for them to call me up and say that, sir, I have menstrual cramps. I tell them please work from home and take care of your health. We also informed you of sanitary napkin dispensers in the female washrooms in the Supreme Court."

"If being a good person and good lawyer comes at a juncture I urge you to be a good person," he underlined. The profession of advocacy is slowly becoming an opening point for the entry of more and more women lawyers," he

Section 144 imposed, internet services suspended in Haryana's Nuh ahead of 'shobha yatra'

Gurugram | Agencies

The district administration in Haryana's Nuh on Saturday imposed Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code, prohibiting the assembly of four or more people in an area, as Hindu organisations were adamant to take out a Shobha Yatra (religious procession) on August 28 despite the administration denying permission for it.

Internet services have also been suspended from August 26 to 29 August in the district.

"We have denied the permission for any yatra but the organisations said they will conduct the yatra. So sensing the law and order situation, we have imposed Section 144 in the district. Anyone who disobeys the order will be dealt with strictness," Nuh Deputy Commissioner Dharendra Khadgata said.

Meanwhile, members of Sarv Hindu Samaj and Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) said that August 28 is the last Monday of the Holy Shrawan month so holy water would be offered to Shivlings at Shiv temples in Nuh. "...Hindus in Nuh will perform prayers and



holy water will be offered to Shivlings at Shiv temples in all blocks of the Nuh on August 28," VHP joint general-secretary Surender Jain said, adding that, for such events permission is not required but it is the responsibility of the administration to help in conducting prayers at temples while maintaining the law and order.

"The yatra would be carried out by the Sarv Hindu Samaj and Vishva Hindu Parishad as per the schedule. All the necessary preparations have been made so far," Kulbhushan Bhardwaj, member of Pondri Village Panchayat said.

UP SLAPGATE VIDEO: 'BJP SET EVERY CORNER OF COUNTRY ON FIRE', SAYS RAHUL

Team Absolute | New Delhi

In a tweet, Rahul Gandhi said, "Sowing the poison of discrimination in the minds of innocent children, turning a holy place like school into a market place of hatred - nothing worse a teacher can do for the country."

Targeting the BJP, Rahul Gandhi said, "This is the same kerosene spread by the BJP which has set every corner of India on fire." "Children are the future of India - do not hate them, we all have to teach love together," he added. His remarks came after a school teacher in Uttar Pradesh's Muzaffarnagar made students slap a Muslim kid inside the classroom.

Even Congress leader Shashi Tharoor also condemned the incident and said, "This is unbelievable. I cannot believe this is happening in our country and the people concerned are not in jail."

"All Indians must hang our heads in shame that this is what all our constitutional rights and freedoms can be reduced to," Tharoor added. The video of the incident which took place in Khabbarpur village has gone viral on social media.

In the purported video, the female school teacher could be heard saying in Hindi, "I have declared that



all Muslim children should go...", as she asked rest of the class to remain silent and hit the student who belonged to the minority community.

The police have launched an investigation into the matter after taking suo moto cognisance of the video.

However, the father of the victim later told media-persons that they have reached a compromise in the matter and they don't want to pursue any case.

"We have decided not to pursue the case. The school authorities have returned our fees. We have decided that our child will not go the same school any more," the father of the victim told the media.

▶ HOURS AFTER AN UNDATED VIDEO OF A TEACHER ALLEGEDLY ENCOURAGING HINDU STUDENTS TO SLAP A MUSLIM STUDENT WENT VIRAL WITH UP'S MUZAFFARNAGAR POLICE, CONGRESS LEADER RAHUL GANDHI SAID THAT THIS IS THE SAME "KEROSENE SPREAD BY THE BJP WHICH HAS SET EVERY CORNER OF INDIA ON FIRE".

By hoisting tricolour on moon, world is now aware of India's capabilities, says PM Modi

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said that by hoisting the tricolour on the moon, we have made the world aware of India's capabilities.

"Congratulatory messages are pouring in from across the world. The social media is full of congratulatory messages. When the achievement is this big, its celebration also continues. Your faces say that wherever you might be in the world, India beats in your heart...I congratulate you once again on the grand success of Chandrayaan-3," he said while interacting with the Indian community in Athens.

Modi also took the opportunity to express his sympathies to the people of Greece.

"When the forest fires started here, it became a major crisis. Several people in Greece died. In that hour of crisis, India stood with the people of



Greece," he said.

"Going by the slogan of 'Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan, Jai

Vigyan, Jai Anusudhan', India is now strengthening all of its sectors," the Prime Minister said amid applause from the audience

"Today, India is working on a scale which seemed unimaginable 10 years back. The world's highest-altitude rail bridge and motorable road, the biggest cricket stadium and the tallest statue, all are in India." He said that India is celebrating its heritage and also linking it with development.

He said that the global bodies like World Bank and IMF are praising the Indian economy, while big companies are competing with each other to invest in India. "India is making rapid strides with the power of science, technology and innovation," the Prime Minister said.

He said that in five years, 13.5 crore Indians have risen above the poverty line. "With the increase in size of Indian economy, there has been an increase in earnings of every family too. Indians are earning more and investing more," Modi said.

Govt mulling to relax retirement age of LIC chairman, PSB chiefs

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The government is considering relaxing the retirement age of heads of all public sector banks (PSBs) and Life Insurance Corporation (LIC).

According to reports, State Bank of India (SBI) Chairman Dinesh Khara may get an extension. He had taken charge as SBI chief in October 2020 for three years. As per norms, the SBI Chairman can hold the post until the age of 63. Khara will turn 63 in August next year.

The current retirement age of chiefs of PSBs is 60 years, which is likely to be hiked to 62 years, as per reports, quoting sources.



Similarly, there is a proposal to raise the retirement age of LIC Chairman to 65 years from the current 62 years.

HERITAGE A VITAL ASSET FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH: PM MODI

New Delhi: Heritage is a vital asset for economic growth and diversification, and it is echoed in India's mantra of 'Vikas Bhi Virasat Bhi', Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Saturday in his virtual address to the G20 culture ministers' meeting in Varanasi.

Kashi, he said, is known to be a treasure chest of knowledge, duty and truth and it is indeed the cultural and spiritual capital of India. "We in India are very proud of our eternal and diverse culture. We also attach great value to our intangible cultural heritage," he said. While highlighting the "inherent potential of culture to unite and enable us to understand diverse backgrounds and perspectives", the Prime Minister said that the work of the G20 Culture Ministers' group holds immense significance for entire humanity. He mentioned mapping the country's cultural assets and artists at the national level as well as village level. Modi further said that building several centres to celebrate India's culture and gave the example of the tribal museums located in different parts of the country which showcase the vibrant culture of India's tribal communities. Referring to the Prime Ministers' Museum in New Delhi, Modi said that it is a one-of-a-kind effort to showcase India's democratic heritage. He also mentioned developing the 'Yuge Yugeen Bharat' National Museum, which upon completion will stand as the world's largest museum showcasing India's history and culture spanning over 5,000 years.

SC issues notice on plea against TN notification asking police to show restraint in making arrest in mutual romantic cases between adolescents

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court has sought response from the Tamil Nadu government on a plea filed by a children's rights organisation challenging the notification issued by the Director General of Police directing the investigating officers of POC SO cases to not show haste in effecting arrest of the accused in mutual romantic cases between adolescents.

A bench comprising CJ J.D.Y. Chandrachud and Justices J.B. Pardiwala and Manoj Misra issued notices to the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development, National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) and the state of Tamil Nadu on the public interest litigation filed by the NGO Bachpan Bachao Andolan (BBA). The petition said that



issuance of such notifications or circulars creates ambiguities and superficial impunity while dealing with such cases of sexual

abuse of victims aged between 16 and 18 years. The plea claimed that various NGOs,

governments and law enforcement authorities have relied on flawed methodologies that 60-70 per cent of cases registered under POCSO (Protection Of Children from Sexual Offences Act) pertains to consenting minors and fall under the category of "Consensual Romantic Relationship" between teenagers.

On the contrary, the petitioner alleged that this figure of 60-70 per cent is incorrect since the total number of cases between 16 and 18 years are approximately 30 per cent of the total POCSO cases in the country.

Child rights activist and former national secretary of BBA, Bhuwan Ribhu, said that it is expected that the top court will lay the guidelines for dealing with cases where a child victim of sexual abuse turns hostile due to coercion, pressure and is incorrectly deemed to be a case of consent.



PREVIOUS MVA GOVT HAD PLANNED TO LEVEL FALSE CHARGES ON FADNAVIS AND JAIL HIM: CM SHINDE

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Saturday claimed the previous MVA government had planned a "calculated move" to level false charges on BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis and jail him among others.

Shinde was replying to a query of reporters here on a Mumbai court accepting the CBI's closure report in a case of alleged phone tapping that took place during the term of the then Maha Vikas Aghadi government.

The case stems from a press conference addressed by present Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis in March 2021, when he was the Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly.

"The then MVA government had misused power and wanted to jail leaders of the BJP by levelling different charges on them. A calculative move was on by the then government to level charges against (Independent MP) Navneet Rana, (BJP MP) Narayan Rane etc. and jail



them. The same was planned by them (MVA) for Fadnavis also," Shinde claimed.

Now things have become clear and people of Maharashtra know who is right and who is wrong, he said.

Shinde also claimed that NCP chief Sharad Pawar will soon agree on whatever Ajit Pawar, who is part of the incumbent BJP-Shiv Sena government, agrees to.

The chief minister's reply came on a query on Sharad Pawar's statement a day before wherein he said there was no split in the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and Maharashtra Deputy CM Ajit Pawar is its leader. Pawar later denied making such a statement.

"Sharad Pawar is an old leader. Ajit Pawar agreed with the work of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. As he wanted to be a part of this work, he joined hands with the state government (of BJP-Shiv Sena). Whatever Ajit Pawar agrees to, Sharad Pawar will also agree soon," Shinde said.

He said the historic landing of Chandrayaan 3 on the lunar surface is one of the examples of the progress made by the country under the leadership of PM Modi.

Shinde also made light of the upcoming meeting of the INDIA bloc in Mumbai saying that the coming together of opposition parties indicates that PM Modi will be successful again (in elections).

"Opposition leaders came together in 2014 and 2019 also but that strategy did not work. On the other hand, the strength of the BJP increased. The situation won't be different in 2024 also," he added.

The tripartite MVA government of Shiv Sena (Undivided), NCP, and Congress was in power from November 2019 to June 30, 2022. It collapsed after Shinde, then a minister, rebelled along with a bulk of MLAs of Shiv Sena against the leadership of then CM Uddhav

Kolhapur | Agencies

A day after the political row over his statements, Nationalist Congress Party President Sharad Pawar said on Saturday that he remains NCP's national President while Jayant Patil is the state President, reiterating that the party "has not split".

He reiterated that though some MLAs have quit the party, they don't constitute a political unit and the party has not split -- referring to the breakaway faction led by his nephew Ajit Pawar.

"Why give them importance by taking their names? People are upset with those who have gone with the BJP. I can see a change coming in Maharashtra and the people will show the BJP its real place," declared Pawar.

Touching on the upcoming third meeting of the grand opposition alliance I.N.D.I.A., Pawar said that it would review the preparations for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections and chart out programmes for joint electioneering in different parts of the country.

Launching a strong attack on the BJP, he said they have unleashed central probe agencies against the Opposition parties and their leaders. "I shall continue to fight against such fascist forces... There has been misuse of cen-



tral investigating agencies (CBI, ED and I-T). Those who couldn't face them have gone with them," he said. Pawar also revealed how NCP leaders like Nawab Malik and Anil Deshmukh, and Shiv Sena (UBT)'s MP Sanjay Raut were threatened with the ED-CBI and asked to join the BJP.

"They displayed courage and opposed them... So they ended up in jail. They (Malik, Deshmukh, Raut) deserve to be saluted," said Pawar. Without taking names, he rued how several of his former associates - who had no guts to face the probe agencies - jumped ship to the ruling side and freed themselves from all the problems.

Two held with MD drug worth over Rs 46 lakh in Andheri

Andheri | Agencies

On Saturday, the Anti-Narcotics Cell (ANC) of Mumbai Police arrested two men from Andheri with MD drugs worth more than Rs 46 lakh.

According to the police, they recovered 230 gm MD drug from the possession of the duo who were nabbed on specific information by the ANC unit of Bandra in Andheri's Marol area. "Both the arrested accused have a criminal background and were earlier arrested on the charges of rape and the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act," the police said. As per the Police, they sus-



pect the seized drug was prima facie meant to be distributed to various peddlers in Mumbai. "A day before, police had nabbed a man from Sham Nagar in suburban Jogeshwari and seized 60 gram of MD

worth Rs 6 lakh. On Friday, five persons, including a woman, were arrested by police in Andheri and recovered more than 20 kg ganja worth over Rs 5 lakh from them," the police added.

AHEAD OF FESTIVE SEASON, WHOLESALE BUFFALO MILK PRICE HIKED BY RS 2/L IN MUMBAI

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Ahead of the festival season starting next month, the Mumbai Milk Producers Association (MMPA) has announced a wholesale price hike of Rs 2 per litre for buffalo milk in the city from September 1, an official said here on Saturday.

The decision was unanimously taken at a meeting of the MMPA presided over by its vice-chairman Ramesh Dube, and the move is likely to trigger a price rise in all milk-related foodstuffs during the festivals of Ganeshotsav, Navratri, Diwali etc. over the next few months.

MMPA committee member C.K. Singh said the price of buffalo milk - which is sold by over 3,000 retailers in the country's commercial capital - will be increased from Rs 85 per litre to Rs 87 per litre, and will remain in force for six months, after which it will be reviewed.



"With the price hike by Rs 2/litre - or from Rs 85/litre to Rs 87/litre - from September 1, the retail rates are expected to shoot up to Rs 90/litre or even up to Rs 95/litre depending on the localities and local demand," Singh said.

This will be the second hike coming after March 1 when wholesale

buffalo milk price was hiked from Rs 80/litre to Rs 85/litre, hitting the domestic budgets of the poor and middle-class families hard.

The latest price hike will also adversely hit the demand for milk which increase by 20-25 per cent during the festival season when large quantities of sweetmeats are pre-

pared. All the MMPA members felt that since the price of milch animals as well their food items like dana, tuvar, chuni, chana-chuni etc. have gone up by an average 20-25 per cent, besides steep hike in the rates of grass, hay, pinda etc., the rate of milk should also be increased.

Mumbai consumes over 50 lakh litres of buffalo milk daily, of which more than 700,000 litres are supplied by the MMPA through its chain of dairies and neighbourhood retailers, and farms spread in and around the country's commercial capital.

Incidentally, in February this year, all the major cow milk producers' associations in Maharashtra, along with other major branded producers, had hiked the price of cow milk by at least Rs 2 per litre.

They are expected to follow suit with the MMPA's latest price hike putting further pressure on domestic finances from next month.

Maharashtra Congress to hold 'Jan Samvad Yatra' after I-N-D-I-A meet in city

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Congress to hold 'Jan Samvad Yatra' to highlight 'failures' of BJP-led Centre after I-N-D-I-A meet in Mumbai.

On Saturday, the Maharashtra Congress announced its plans to organise a 'Jan Samvad Yatra' from September 3 to September 12, to highlight the "failures" of the BJP government at the Centre.

Congress will start the yatra after the meeting of the I-N-D-I-A bloc.

Former chief ministers Prithviraj Chavan and Ashok Chavan will lead the 'Yatra' in Western Maharashtra and Marathwada respectively.

Congress leader Balasaheb Thorat will take the lead in North Maharashtra. Vijay Wadetiwar, leader of the opposition in the state assembly will lead the West Vidarbha area. and Nana Patole will lead the Jan Samvad Yatra in East Vidarbha.

All state Congress leaders will tour the coastal Konkan region for two days. Patole accused the Centre



under Prime Minister Narendra Modi of making efforts to undermine the Constitution. "Democracy is under attack in the country. The politics of power is for selfish interests, there is

the misuse of central probe agencies to instil fear (among rivals). We will expose the government on these issues," he said. Ex-CM Ashok Chavan alleged that

the state government is deliberately delaying local body elections to ensure that they don't impact the ruling alliance's prospects in next year's Lok Sabha and assembly polls. "Even in the last one and a half years, the state government took no steps to restore the Maratha quota. Unless the Centre brings a Constitutional amendment to waive the 50 per cent limit on reservations, Maratha quota cannot be restored," Chavan said.

According to Ashok Chavan, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and senior leader Rahul Gandhi will attend (the I-N-D-I-A meet), while Sonia Gandhi is likely to participate. The former CM said that the agenda of the I-N-D-I-A meet will be finalised at the national level.

"There will be an informal meeting on August 31 followed by the formal meeting of the I-N-D-I-A bloc on September 1. The alliance's logo will be unveiled on August 31," he said.

The MVA has formed several committees to plan various aspects of the I-N-D-I-A meet in Mumbai.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra reported 23 new Covid-19 cases on Saturday, as per the state health bulletin. According to the state govt data, 18 patients discharged on August 26 taking the overall recovered patients tally to 80,21,875 until today.

"No Covid-19 death reported in the state today. Case fatality rate in the state is 1.81 per cent," informs the state official.

"Out of 8,74,75,557 laboratory samples 81,70,601 have been tested positive (9.34 per cent) for Covid-19 until today," added the release.

As per the data, 1,992 test were conducted on August 26, out of which 1,543 done in government laboratories, 447 were done in private laboratories and two by self-test.

At present dominant variant of Covid is Omicron XBB.1.16. Total 1733 cases were found to be infected with this variant. There were 19 deaths reported among the cases of this variant. Since January 1, 2023, 127 Covid-19 deaths have been recorded. 72.44 per cent of these deaths have occurred in individuals above 60 years of age, 84 per cent of the deceased had comorbidities, 16 per cent did not have any comorbidity. Maharashtra



presently has 164 active cases.

Meanwhile, India saw a single day rise of 60 new coronavirus infections while the active cases stood at 1,503, according to Union health ministry data updated on Saturday.

The death toll was recorded at 5,31,928, the data updated at 8 am stated. India's Covid case tally is 4.49 crore.

The number of people who have recuperated from the infection has increased to 4.45 crore, and the national recovery rate stands at 98.81 per cent, according to the health ministry's website. The case fatality rate of the country stands at 1.18 per cent.

The ministry website data stated that 220.67 crore doses of Covid vaccine have been administered in the country so far.

TWO INJURED AS SCAFFOLDING COLLAPSES IN KHAR



Khar: A part of the scaffolding of an under-construction building collapsed in Khar West on Saturday afternoon. According to the civic body, Two labourers were injured of which one was rushed to a nearby hospital for treatment. The incident occurred near N.M. Medical Center, 14th Road, in Khar (W), and was reported by a citizen. "One of the injured - Sonu Thakur (25) is in critical condition and has been shifted to KEM Hospital for further treatment, said a BMC official.

"Another 35-year-old labourer Mahammad Javed Khan, who sustained minor injuries, refused for hospitalisation," added the BMC official.

Anand Dighe Death Anniversary

CM Eknath Shinde commemorates Shiv Sena leader with ambulance donations; Shiv Sena (UBT) holds health camps

Team Absolute | Mumbai

On the occasion of the death anniversary of Anand Dighe, a senior Shiv Sena leader from Thane, Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde distributed 25 ambulances to different districts across the state. Anand Dighe, known for his influential presence, played a pivotal role in bolstering the Shiv Sena's dominance in the region. The Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena (UBT) marked the day with health camps held at its shakhas (field offices).

To commemorate Anand Dighe's legacy, Chief Minister Eknath Shinde handed over keys to 25 ambulances to MLAs and shakha pramukhs representing beneficiary districts. These ambulances, were distributed as per the vision of late Bal Thackeray, founder of Shiv Sena. CM Shinde revealed that more ambulances would be allocated based on regional demand.

He further highlighted the increased allocation from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund in the last year. A notable sum of Rs 100 crore was disbursed for various purposes, a significant rise compared to the Rs 2.5 crore during the previous Maha Vikas Aghadi



government's tenure. Two significant projects bear Anand Dighe's

name: a Rs 400 crore water supply scheme for 78 villages in Manmad and a forthcoming cancer hospital

in Thane city. Both initiatives stand as a testament to his contributions and lasting impact on the region. Members from both factions of the Shiv Sena paid tribute to Anand Dighe at the 'Shakti Sthal,' his memorial. His enduring legacy continues to unify the party, which attributes much of its growth and influence to his charismatic leadership.

Who is Anand Dighe? Anand Dighe was a prominent Indian politician and a key figure in the Shiv Sena, a regional political party in the state of Maharashtra, India. He played a significant role in strengthening the Shiv Sena's influence in the Thane region, which is a part of Maharashtra. Anand Dighe's charismatic leadership and political acumen contributed to the party's growth and popularity in that area.

He is remembered for his contributions to public welfare and his efforts to improve the lives of people in the Thane region. Anand Dighe passed away on August 26, 2001, leaving behind a legacy that continues to influence the political landscape in Maharashtra. His name is associated with various initiatives and projects aimed at benefiting the public, and he is still commemorated by the Shiv Sena and the people of the region.



PM MODI IS A MAN WITH A VISION AND A MAN ON A MISSION- CM CHOUHAN

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that the whole world unanimously believes that 'this is an era for India. The entire world looks upto India for solution to any problem. This has been possible under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. In last 9 years, the entire world's perception has changed towards India positively. India is fortunate to have attained the leadership and guidance of Prime Minister Modi. He is a man with a vision and a man on a mission. Rather than appealing a particular class, he aimed 100 per cent saturation for the implementation of the policy of to satisfy every beneficiary. The spirit of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas and Sabka Vishwas, Zero Tolerance for Corruption and Focus on Direct Communication are the traits of Prime Minister Shri Modi's leadership.

Chief Minister Chouhan was addressing a programme organised on the occasion of releasing Part 2 and Part 3 of the book Sabka Saath-Sabka Vikas-Sabka Vishwas based on Mann Ki Baat of Prime Minister Modi. Union Information-Broadcasting, Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Anurag Thakur was also present in the programme. Chief Minister Chouhan also inaugurated a multimedia photo exhibition focused on the theme of 9 years of service, good governance and poor welfare.

PM Modi connects directly with the concerns and aspirations of the people through Mann Ki Baat

Chief Minister Chouhan said that Mann Ki Baat, a revolutionary innovation to establish direct dialogue with 125 crore Indians, has become prominent among the people of the country today. Prime Minister Modi effortlessly



explains his thinking, thoughts and vision. Be it farmer, engineer, scientist, writer, student, teacher, common man or politician, any group of listeners connects with him as if he is one of them. Prime Minister Modi connects directly with the concerns and aspirations of the people through Mann Ki Baat.

It is our fortune that PM's books were released in Bhopal - CM Chouhan

Chief Minister Chouhan said that direct dialogue, inclusiveness and participation, unity and national identity, inspiration and encouragement, awareness about government policies and schemes, transparency and accountability, expansion of digital reach are the main dimensions of Mann Ki Baat. Through this, many social issues including health, education, environment protection have been discussed with the people of the country.

Mann Ki Baat also showcases the rich heritage of India by highlighting the traditions, festivals and customs of different regions of the country. Chief Minister Shri Chouhan inspired the people of the state to read the book and expressed gratitude to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India for choosing Madhya Pradesh to release the books.

Madhya Pradesh flourished rapidly under the leadership of Chief Minister Shri Chouhan - Union Minister Thakur

Union Minister Shri Anurag Thakur said that Madhya Pradesh has become one of the fastest growing states under the leadership of Chief Minister Chouhan. Both the volumes of the collection of Prime Minister Modi's speeches are very useful for researchers and students, everyone will get to learn something from

them. Prime Minister Shri Modi has turned the country's flow towards development. The creation of an egalitarian society, emphasis on the mother tongue in the National Education Policy, the success of Chandrayaan, 18 crore 50 lakh people coming out of the poverty line are all the result of Prime Minister Shri Modi's policies.

Volume 2 has 86 speeches of PM Modi and Volume 3 has 80 speeches

Chief Minister Chouhan released Volume 2 and Volume 3 of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas focused on the speeches of Prime Minister Modi. Volume 2 is a collection of 86 speeches from the second year of Prime Minister Modi's second term i.e. from June 2020 to May 2021. This collection is Atma-nirbhar Bharat, Citizen-First Governance, Covid-19 and the changing world, Emerging India, Jai Jawan-Jai Kisan-Jai Vigyan, Tech India-New India, Green India- Vibrant-Clean India, Swasth Bharat-Swasth Bharat, Eternal India-modern India and Mann Ki Baat is divided into ten sections.

Volume 3

Volume 3 is a collection of 80 speeches from the third year of Prime Minister Modi's second term i.e. from June 2021 to May 2022. The book has 9 volumes namely Start-up India, Sushasan Sabka Prayas, Changing World on Health, Emerging India, Chhota Kisan Bane Desh Ki Shaan, Nari Shakti-Rashtra Shakti, Khelo India-Fit India, Eternal India and Mann Ki Baat. These books inculcate the spirit of Nation First as topmost priority in every Indian's mind. Khajuraho MP V.D. Sharma, Medical Education Minister Vishwas Sarang and officials, public representatives and students were present.

'If not for BJP, do not vote': Minority Commission seeks MP gov's response on ex-Bhopal Mayor's controversial remark

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The National Minority Commission has issued a notice to Madhya Pradesh government over former Bhopal Mayor and state BJP Vice President Alok Sharma's controversial remark on Muslim voters.



media cell had raised objection to Sharma's remark terming it as an attempt to "threaten" the people of minority community.

The commission has recommended the state government to conduct an inquiry into alleged controversial remarks and has sought a detailed reply within the next three weeks.

Last week, Sharma while addressing a gathering of BJP workers in Jaora Assembly constituency was heard telling the people of the minority community that "if you are not voting for BJP, do not vote at all".

A purported video of Sharma's speech also surfaced on social media, which triggered a political controversy in the poll-bound state.

"I want to appeal to our Muslim brothers of Jaora that if you don't want to vote for the BJP, then don't. But, I request you not to go for voting at all in that case. You must know and whole-heartedly accept the fact that the house you are living in has been granted to you under the Prime Minister's housing scheme. (Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister) Shivraj Singh Chouhan even built a Haj House in MP," Sharma could be heard saying in the video.

Abbas Hafeez, a spokesperson and Vice President of Madhya Pradesh Congress

Subsequently, Hafeez had written to the commission claiming that Sharma's remark clearly indicates that the BJP is "attempting to create fear among the people from the minority community. Therefore, the Minority Commission should initiate action against him". Taking cognisance of the matter, the commission has issued a notice to the Madhya Pradesh government on this matter.

"The National Minority Commission has received a complaint from Abbas Hafeez. It is requested to conduct an inquiry into the matter and submit the report in the next 21 days," reads the notice. The BJP has declared Alok Sharma a candidate from Bhopal North assembly seat, where 55 per cent population is from the minority community and the Congress' Arif Aqeel had won the election in 2018. Sharma, who is considered close to Chief Minister Chouhan, had contested the election from the same seat in 2008, however, he had lost against Aqeel with a huge margin of votes.

Three new Ministers inducted into MP cabinet



Team Absolute | Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh Governor Mangubhai Patel on Saturday administered the oath of office to three new ministers inducted into Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan's cabinet.

Rewa MLA from Rewa Rajendra Shukla, Balaghat MLA Gaurishankar Bisen and Khargapur MLA Rahul Lodhi were inducted as

Ministers. The oath-taking ceremony was conducted at the Raj Bhavanhere in the presence of the Chief Minister and other senior BJP leaders. With the induction of the new Ministers, the total strength of Chouhan's cabinet has now reached 33. The Ministers will have a brief window of around a month and a half to work before the announcement of election dates which will trig-

ger the implementation of the model code of conduct. Shukla, a four-time MLA from Rewa, represents the Vindhya region, which the BJP dominated in 2018 with a win of 24 out of 30 seats. Lodhi is the nephew of former Chief Minister Uma Bharti. Meanwhile, Bisen, veteran BJP leader and a seven-time MLA from Balaghat, has been vocal about his aspiration for a cabinet position.

Engineers and scientists are must for the country's progress- CM Chouhan

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that both engineers and scientists are necessary for the progress of the country. Orders were given to shut down the engineering college established approximately eight years ago under Rajiv Gandhi Pradyogiki Vishwavidyalaya in the tribal-dominated area Jhabua, in the year 2019. After becoming the Chief Minister again in the year 2020, this matter was brought to my notice and I instructed to restart the college. Today, more than 500 students will get the benefit of the newly constructed college building in an area of about 36 acres. Chief Minister Chouhan was addressing the dedication programme of the newly constructed UIT Engineering College building worth Rs 34 crore 65 lakh in Jhabua today. Member of Parliament and State BJP President V.D. Sharma, Member of Parliament Shri G.S. Damar, besides MLA Nirmala Bhuria and other public representatives were present.

Chandrayaan is singing the glory of India Chief Minister Chouhan said that this college building of Jhabua is named after former President and great scientist Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam. He had an important contribution in the field of space science. India has recently landed Chandrayaan on the surface of the Moon. Every Indian is proud of this achievement. Prime Minister Modi has realized the dream of Dr. Kalam. The Chief Minister congratulated the nation and the Prime Minister for this special achievement. Happiness and life values will be taught with engineering. Chief Minister Chouhan said that along with the study of various branches of engineering, the subjects of community engagement,



happiness and life values will also be taught to the students in the Engineering College of Jhabua. Students from rural areas also have capabilities, they should get every opportunity to study. Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam University Institute of Technology Dr. A.P.J., Abdul Kalam University Institute of Technology Jhabua, established in the year 2015 by the state government in Jhabua, is a constituent institution of Rajiv Gandhi Pradyogiki Vishwavidyalaya, Bhopal. The insti-

tute will have four engineering branches, out of which currently two branches Mechanical Engineering and Computer Science and Engineering are operating with 60 seats each. The newly constructed huge campus of the college has been built on 14.44 hectares of land (about 36 acres) in Gadwada village of Jhabua district at a cost of about Rs 34 crore 65 lakhs. Administrative/academic building and two hostels of 108 seats each for boys/girls separately have been built in the college campus. The campus also has an Auditorium, Workshop, Girls Common Room, Computer Room, Library, Faculty Room, HOD Room, Lab, Dining Hall, Kitchen, TV. room, Carrom room etc. In addition to the two currently operational branches, Civil Engineering and Electrical / Electronic Engineering branches will also start from the coming session. About 1000 students of the district and surrounding areas will be benefited from this engineering college every year. There are total 168 hostels in the district housing 12 thousand 665 boys/girls. Pass outs of the college in five batches benefited are looking forward to getting employment, pursuing higher studies and startups. Presently around 500 students are getting benefitted.

TOP-NOTCH HEALTH FACILITIES FOR PATIENTS IN GMC: MINISTER SARANG



Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan will gift construction works worth Rs 727 crore at Gandhi Medical College on Monday, August 28. Preparations for this have been completed. Medical Education Minister Vishwas Kailash Sarang reached the college on Saturday and took stock of the arrangements for the dedication and bhoomi-pujan ceremony.

Minister Sarang said that health and medical facilities are being continuously expanded by the central government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi

and the state government under the leadership of Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan. On August 28, Chief Minister Chouhan will dedicate the 2000 bedded hospital and emergency medicine department built at a cost of Rs 482 crore 5 lakh in the college and will lay the foundation of the new OPD building costing Rs 17 crore 52 lakh, construction work of Nursing College and Hostel along with OPD Registration Counter costing Rs 27 crore 4 lakh.

World-class facilities will be available in the Department of Emergency Medicine

Chief Minister Chouhan will also inaugurate the Emergency Medicine Department of Hamidia Hospital. apprising about the facilities available in the department, Minister Shri Sarang said that the treatment of the patients coming to Hamidia Hospital with any emergency will be prioritized, whereas tests and other formalities will be done later. This will ensure immediate treatment of injured or sick patients. Along with this, the availability of doctors of all disciplines in the department will prove helpful in proper treatment of the patient. With the starting of the Emergency Medicine Department, it will also be analysed that in what time medical facilities, facilities for examination or operation are being provided to the patient and what efforts are must to reduce the time being taken. Other Features of the Emergency Department

Proper arrangement for the family members to sit and information about the condition of the patient and where he is being treated will be displayed on the display in the waiting area.

All the staff of the department will have color coded dresses.

There will be a radiology department near the department, in which all the facilities of X-ray, sonography, CT scan and MRI will be available to the patient without delay.

Three well-equipped operation theaters will be operated in the Emergency Medicine Department for the purpose of providing immediate operation facility to the injured patients.

State-of-the-art facilities will be available in the new building

Minister Sarang said that the radiology department will be functioning on the ground floor of Block-1 of Hamidia Hospital. With this, patients will not need to go anywhere else for examination. State-of-the-art radiology facilities will also be started. A Central Clinical Lab equipped with state-of-the-art machines will also start in the new building. Through a single window in the lab, samples for testing of patients can be taken and reports will be made available to them from there. Along with this, a soft copy of the patient's report will be sent to his registered mobile number and also to the concerned medical team, which will speed-up the treatment of the patient. Doctors of all disciplines will be available under one roof in the new OPD block

Minister Sarang said that doctors of all disciplines will be available under one roof in the new OPD block. Testing sample collection and medicine distribution facility will also be available in the same building. A critical care block funded by the central government will also be set-up in the OPD building,

which will be available for treatment of infectious diseases.

Increase in seats will end shortage of doctors Minister Sarang informed that the graduate seats in Gandhi Medical College have increased from 150 to 250 every year. PG seats have increased from 112 to 245 per year. This will eliminate of the problem of shortage of doctors in the state in the coming times. Nursing college will be established in the college, in which graduate and post graduate courses will be conducted. With this, excellent nursing services will be available to the people of the state in future.

FACILITIES WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE NEW BLOCK

- Blood Bank facility
240 ICU beds in 2000 beds SNCU arrangement for new born baby
19 operation theaters with state-of-the-art equipment
350 seating capacity state-of-the-art auditorium for teaching
World-class CSSD facility to help prevent medical infections
State of the Art Medical Record Room, Mechanized Laundry

Governor Patel administers oath to the newly appointed ministers



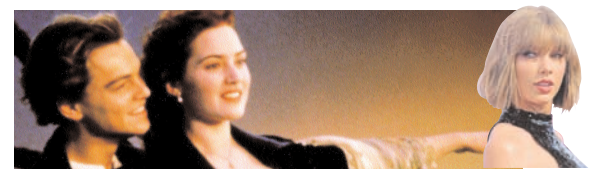
Team Absolute | Bhopal

Governor Mangubhai Patel administered the oath to the newly appointed ministers of the state cabinet at Raj Bhavan today. Governor Shri Patel administered the oath of office and secrecy to Gaurishankar Bisen and Rajendra Shukla as Ministers and Rahul Singh Lodhi as Minister of State.

On this occasion, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Narendra Singh

Tomar, Finance and Commercial Taxes Minister Jagdish Deora, Medical Education Minister Vishwas Sarang, Minister of State for Water Resources AYUSH (Independent Charge) Ramkishore Kawre, Member of Parliament BJP State President Shri VD Sharma, MLAs and other public representatives were present.

The swearing-in ceremony was solemnised at Sandipani Auditorium of Raj Bhavan. Chief Secretary Iqbal Singh Bains conducted the proceedings of the swearing-in ceremony.



SHAGGY CALLS RUMOURS OF MIXING MARIJUANA IN HIS TEA UTTERLY 'BOGUS'



Los Angeles | Agencies

Rap legend Shaggy has hit out at the bizarre rumours that he mixes marijuana in his tea, and chain smokes weed, calling it fabricated nonsense. The 54-year-old rapper says he rarely ever touches the drug and insists that the suggestion he drinks it in his tea is utterly "bogus", reports mirror.co.uk.

Shaggy, whose hits include the smash singles, 'Angel', 'It Wasn't Me' and 'Boombastic', has said that while he does go out for 'the occasional puff' with friends, he largely stays clear of the substance, so chain smoking weed is out of the question.

Talking about his interest in marijuana, he said: "I never said I put it in my tea. I don't drink weed in my tea. I don't even smoke it." "I might have an occasional puff here and there in a social environment with my friends but nothing of that nature. I'm not an avid weed smoker. I don't have anything against anyone that smokes weed."

"I'm from Rastafarian family and my uncles are all Rastafarians and I've been raised around it all my life."

Shaggy is set to perform at the Notting Hill Carnival in London as part of the traditional end of summer Bank Holiday event. In promotion of his new event, the rapper has been going through a spree of interviews, talking about both the performance as well as personal questions. The performer had teased his performance during an interview with ITV earlier this week, revealing he will be playing a brand new song.

He said: "We've been blessed with a catalogue of great music and we bring it to the people. It's the soundtrack for a lot of people's lives. And with this particular track, it's such a feel-good track."

Further talking about his new song, he added: "It's a track that, what I try to accomplish with this song, 'Mood', is bring not just Carnival, but bring a song that will work outside of Carnival."

"When you're in that mood, you're not just in a good mood during Carnival, you could be in a good mood on Christmas."

"You want that to really transcend through different times. I think people are just going to come out and have a good time. I say to everybody, wear comfortable shoes because you'll be dating all day."

And explaining exactly where fans can catch him in action, he said: "This year we're going to be at the Rampage Stage and also on Saxon and having a good time."



Los Angeles | Agencies

Diplo, whose mother passed away, revealed that he cried in an airport bathroom after learning about her death.

He has posted on social media to announce the passing of his mom, Barbara, reports aceshowbiz.com.

"My momma just passed away. I would trade a kidney to take away the cosmic gut punch I feel right now. I cried in the airport bathroom. I made a small puddle and

then almost slipped," the Grammy-winning star wrote in a post on X - which was formerly known as Twitter.

"Now I'm gonna walk into the ocean and look for a shark to fight, that might be the only cure for grief. She was my first and purest love. I hope someone will make me feel safe like you always did."

Diplo's post also featured a throwback photo from his childhood. In a follow-up message, Diplo described his mom as a "devout supporter" of his music.

The DJ, whose real name is Thomas Pentz, wrote on the micro-blogging

Diplo cried in the airport bathroom after learning about his mother's death

platform, "my mom was a devout supporter of my music." "She was always on myspace as djmom and a lot of my friends had her in their top 16 cause she always posted positive messages and loved that I was happy making music.. she followed me and every project and I always made her a double xxl shirt of my new album."

"She was restricted to a chair and oxygen tank the past ten years but I lit up her life everytime I would come home.. even two days ago she posted hearts on my page. i'm glad she got to see me create and grow and be just a little bit successful. she gave me so much confidence even when I was broke and feeling lost."

Miley Cyrus reveals her tears in 'Used To Be Young' are real

Los Angeles | Agencies

Miley Cyrus released her new single 'Used To Be Young' on August 25. The track is noted for its melancholic nature and Miley Cyrus could be seen gradually tearing up. The tears were not a scripted part of the video, but were real as Miley Cyrus said that she got too emotional singing. According to Entertainment Online/Eonline, the 30-year-old had gone on to explain in an ABC special that aired shortly before her song's big debut that she got "super emotional" and actually cried on set.

"I'm kind of a mini-me of my mom," she explained, recalling how she had a livestream set up with Tish Cyrus on set so they could see each other during the shoot. "I could see her inside the camera...and, as she was dancing, it just made me cry."

Remembering how Tish also "made me laugh," Miley said the entire experience "brought up so many real emotions."

The singer added of the final product of the music video, "It's really letting people into true emotions, which I don't feel like you get to see very much of these days."

But that was not the end of the tears, because proceeding later in the special, Miley got teary-eyed while speaking about her dad Billy Ray Cyrus, who Tish divorced in 2022 after nearly 30 years of marriage, which was something that also a big part of her life.

'Used To Be Young' was called by Miley Cyrus as a song that is about the state of being, honouring who we were, are and will be as time passes on. This could be seen, when the singer could be seen belting out the lyrics: "I know I used to be crazy / I know I used to be fun / You say I used to be wild / I say I used to be young."



Whitesnake guitarist and rock legend Bernie Marsden dies at 72

Los Angeles | Agencies

Rock legend, guitarist Bernie Marsden who was known as the lead of the hard rock band Whitesnake has passed away at the age of 72 due to health issues.

The news of the musician's passing was announced by band leader and lead singer David Coverdale, who confirmed that his bandmate and dear friend Bernie died on August 24, with his family members by his side.

Talking to social media, on August 25 night, the singer wrote: "I've just woken up to the awful news that my old friend and former Snake Bernie Marsden has passed. My sincere thoughts and prayers to his beloved family, friends and fans. A genuinely funny, gifted man, whom I was honored to know and share a stage with." Before joining Whitesnake, Marsden played in several bands such as UFO, Cozy Powell's Hammer, Babe Ruth and a few others before joining Deep Purple members Jon Lord and Ian Paice's new band with singer Tony Ashton called Paice Ashton Lord.

But the gig he perhaps became best known for came in 1978, when he formed a new band with David Coverdale and guitarist Mick Moody, originally named David Coverdale's Whitesnake. The band later changed their name to simply Whitesnake.

Marsden was a member of Whitesnake between 1978 and 1982, during which time he appeared on the band's first EP and their first five albums as well as a live album: 'Snakebite' (1978), 'Trouble' (1978), 'Lovehunter' (1979), 'Ready & Willing' (1980), 'Live In The Heart Of The City' (1980), 'Come An' Get It' (1981) and 'Saints & Sinners' (1982).

As such, Marsden was part of the band's classic lineup and performed some of their most well known classics such as 'Here I Go Again' and 'Crying in the Rain' and 'Fool For Your Loving'.

Marsden, though he was only part of the group for a short time, proved one of its most influential members, and his style would go on to define much of what Whitesnake would do in later years.

Whitesnake is one of the most influential hard rock bands of all time, known for combining hard edged hard rock riffs with blues melodies in a style similar to AC/DC, though had more in common with Led Zeppelin. Their music also helped inspire bands such as Motley Crue, Bon Jovi and Guns N' Roses. To date the band has sold 100 million records worldwide, making them one of the best selling bands of all time.



Los Angeles | Agencies

Singer Liam Payne, who found fame as part of One Direction, has been forced to cancel a series of gigs in South America after spending some time in hospital due to a serious kidney infection.

"It's with a heavy heart I have to tell you that we have no other choice but to postpone my upcoming tour of South America. Over the past week I've been in hospital with a serious kidney infection, it's something I wouldn't wish on anyone, and doctors orders are that I now need to rest and recover," Liam wrote on Instagram, reports aceshowbiz.com.

The chart-topping star is now trying to reschedule his tour dates, and he's also offered an apology to his fans. His post continued, "I was beyond excited to come play for you guys. To all of you who have bought tickets, I'm so sorry."

LIAM PAYNE LOOKS TIRED FOLLOWING HOSPITALISATION WITH SERIOUS KIDNEY INFECTION

"We're working to re-schedule the tour as soon as we possibly can, but for now we will be refunding the tickets - so please look out for updates from your point of purchase. Thanks as always for the love and support, and look forward to seeing you soon."

Liam also addressed the issue in an accompanying video, revealing that he has "the best people around (him)" as he continues his recovery.

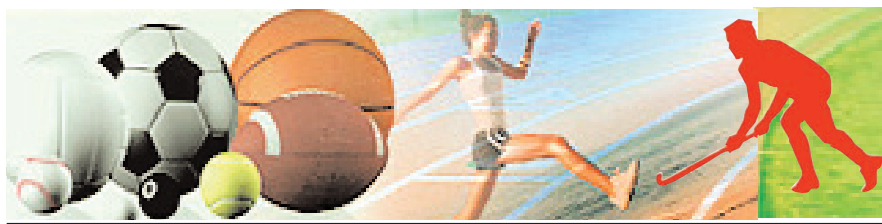
The 'Strip That Down' hitmaker said, "This really is the last news I want to be telling you but basically I've been a little bit unwell recently."

"I ended up in hospital with a bad kidney infection. We started rehearsals and I've been advised that now is really not the right time to be travelling on the road while I recover from this. I've got the best people around me at home trying to help me recover as we speak, but yeah we're gonna have to reschedule the tour."

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Gemma Owen



132nd Durand Cup: Mumbai City set to face Mohun Bagan's might in fourth quarterfinal

Kolkata | Agencies

Winners of the Indian Super League (ISL) League Winners Shield in the 2022-23 season, Mumbai City FC will take on the might of the Mohun Bagan Super Giant and the support of their football-crazy fans in a blockbuster clash in the fourth and final quarter-final of the 132nd Durand Cup.

The needle clash at the football-crazy city's hallowed Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan (VYBK), will be eagerly watched as it pits two top teams.

The Juan Ferrando-coached Mohun Bagan Super Giant (MBSG) had to undergo some anxious moments before confirming their place in the last eight. Still, fans are justified in believing that the club had done enough in the tournament to deserve their place in the knockouts.

Ferrando, with two AFC Cup games on his mind, appeared outwitted by East Bengal's Carles Cuadrat in the Kolkata Derby. However, their performances against the Bangladesh Army and Punjab FC, their other two opponents left no doubt about the quality and depth they possessed as a side.

They followed up the Derby blip with two thoroughly professional wins in their AFC Cup games. The latest attacking signing Jason Cummings seems to have settled down now.

Juan Ferrando said the clash with difficult as Mumbai City FC got 10 days of break while they had only three days.

"Mumbai City FC are preparing for the AFC Champions League and we are preparing for the AFC Cup. So for both of the teams, this match is going to be a good practice match. Mumbai is a difficult opponent. They have some good wingers along with



Chhangte, Bipin, Mehtab and Akash," he summed up the situation.

"They also have good foreigners like Greg Stuart. But even our team has also played two consecutive matches and is ready and tomorrow it's going to be a good game. We will try our best to win. But before playing I would like to mention that Mumbai has got a break of ten days and we have got only three days before this match," he said.

MBSG captain Subhashish Bose also acknowledged the strength of his opponents as well as some of his own team's weaknesses when he said, "This time as a captain I want the match to go in our favour. In the last two matches, we have scored six goals that too even two foreign clubs. But yes, we conceded. Our midfield has to be compact tomorrow if we don't

want to concede goals tomorrow so that it reduces the pressure on the defence line."

Further analysing the game he said, "The biggest thing is that Cummings and Sadiku have scored goals. Mumbai has good wingers even though we too have good wingers who have played brilliantly against Dhaka Abahani. The Mumbai team is good in set pieces.

"But they definitely have some loopholes which our coaches and video analysts have pointed out. We will play tomorrow according to our coaches' planning. But definitely, we want to give our 100 per cent tomorrow and win the game."

The Islanders of course are also the most drilled and settled unit in the country with Des Buckingham now firmly in charge and the nucleus of

the team now playing with a lot of cohesion and understanding. Not to mention the quality of the side which is packed with the best of Indian footballers and strong foreign signings as mentioned by the MSSG coach and captain as well.

Des Buckingham was his usual calm confident self on the eve of the match saying among other things, "For us, it wasn't about starting anew this year. It was about recognizing a lot of the good work that certainly has been built and was on show last season and taking a large part of that with us to this year.

"Now it's about the continuation of that which will allow us to evolve and get better. In the three games we've had in the Durand Cup, we've tried quite a few different things. We had a chance to look at different players and different ways of doing certain things. It's been a good start, but that's all it's been. So I'm very happy with where we are at the moment and I'm very much looking forward to what's to come."

Also weighing in was their newest heavyweight Indian signing Akash Mishra who said, "I think it will be nice to play against Mohun Bagan, but as the coach said, the most important thing is we have to focus on ourselves and how we want to play.

"And I think that is the most important thing. So we are trying to put more focus on ourselves, not on the opposition, so we'll try to play our style of football and we'll try to do the things that Coach wants on the ground and try to be positive," he said. They will certainly need every bit of positivity with the prospect of a hugely one-sided and boisterous home crowd expected to egg their team on every minute. All roads in Kolkata will indeed lead to the VYBK come Sunday evening, with a cracker of a contest expected.

Asian Games: AICF organizes coaching camp to support Indian chess Grandmasters



New Delhi | Agencies

The All India Chess Federation (AICF) has organised a coaching camp at ITC Sonar in Kolkata to help the Indian team prepare for the upcoming Asian Games at Hangzhou in China.

This initiative comes on the heels of the remarkable success achieved by Indian grandmasters at the recently concluded FIDE World Cup in Baku, Azerbaijan where four of the eight quarterfinals were Indians.

"Committed to providing unwavering support and top-notch facilities, the AICF coaching camp aims to enhance the players' skills and strategies ahead of the anticipated Asian Games, set to take place in Hangzhou from September 23 to October 8, 2023, the AICF informed in a release on

Saturday.

The women's coaching camp, currently underway from August 25 to 29, includes participants Savitha Shri B and Vankita Agarwal.

The men's coaching camp is scheduled to run from August 30 to September 3, boasting a lineup of esteemed players such as Vidit Gujrathi, Arjun Erigaisi, Pentala Harikrishna, D Gukesh, and Rameshbabu Pragganandhaa.

Assisting these talents is a distinguished coaching team led by head coach Boris Gelfand, alongside coach Srinath Narayanan and assistant coaches Vaibhav Suri and Arjun Kalyan.

"AICF's commitment is etched in unwavering support and cutting-edge facilities for our players. This coaching camp stands as a testament to that commitment, providing an immer-

sive experience that delves deep into strategy and finesse, enriching players' abilities in anticipation of the Asian Games scheduled in Hangzhou," said AICF President Sanjay Kapoor. President Kapoor's sentiments resonate with the nation's pride and admiration for the remarkable accomplishments of Indian players at the recent World Cup.

Remaining an unwavering pillar of support, the AICF is resolute in nurturing India's chess prodigies, nurturing their aspirations and ambitions. With every initiative, it cements India's reputation as an undeniable force in the global chess arena, eagerly anticipating a triumphant performance as players step onto the grand stage of the Asian Games, the chess body said in a release on Saturday.

WORLD CUP: INDIA HAS GOT GOOD WICKETS, SO I THINK OPENERS WILL GET GOOD OPPORTUNITIES, SAYS SEHWAG

New Delhi | Agencies

Former Indian opener Virender Sehwag picks captain Rohit Sharma as the leading run-getter in the World Cup 2023. He also said that Indian pitches provide a very good surface to the opener and he has terrific records as an opener.

In a video posted by ICC's Instagram handle, Sehwag was asked to predict the leading run-getter in World Cup 2023, and he chose India's Rohit Sharma.

"India has got good wickets, so I think openers will get good opportunities. If I want to pick one, I think Rohit Sharma. There are a couple of names, but I am Indian and I should pick an Indian, so Rohit Sharma," said Virender Sehwag.

Further, he also said that big tournaments improve his energy level and bring out the best of him. So I surely



think he will perform well in the tournament.

Rohit Sharma in the last edition of World Cup 2019 held in England scored a heap of runs with as many as five Hundreds under his belt. He was the leading run-getter with 648 runs at an average of 81 in five matches.

Former South African all-rounder Jacques Kallis also

predicted his leading run-getter and he picked English team white-ball captain, Joss Buttler. In the video, he said:

"I think Jos Buttler will be the leading run-scorer. Outside call, but I fancy him in those conditions along with England having a good World Cup. I think he's going to be the one guy that stands out."

43-member strong Indian contingent departs for World Armwrestling

New Delhi | Agencies

The 43-member Indian contingent will be competing under the banner of People's Armwrestling Federation of India led by President Preeti Jhangiani at the World Championships in Almaty, Kazakhstan started on August 24.

The Indian contingent are on their way to Kazakhstan with the men's team comprising of 16 athletes led by Banbatjuban Khongwir and Vice-Captain Fahad Samah, and the Women's team comprising of 15 athletes led by Captain Komalben Mayank Patel and Vice-Captain Anna Theresa. Meanwhile, the 8-member strong specially-abled contingent from India will also be competing at the World Para Armwrestling Championships in Kazakhstan.

Armwrestling has become a phenomenon in India ever since the recent success of the inaugural season of professional armwrestling competition, the Pro Panja League, and all the eyes of the nation are on the Indian contingent travelling for the World Armwrestling Championships, in hopes of grabbing medals at the prestigious event.

Speaking on the upcoming competition, Preeti Jhangiani said, "It is a great honour for me as the President of The People's Armwrestling Federation India (PAFI) to be taking team india for the World Armwrestling championships and World Para



Armwrestling championships to be held at Almaty Kazakhstan. With great pride I can say that we have some of the best athletes in the world and we are taking a very strong team. We hope to bring back many medals for our country."

Laxman Singh Bhandari, General Secretary and the Head Coach of the Indian contingent said, "The team is very balanced and players are practicing very hard to give their best performance and excit-

ed to win the medals in the World Championships in maximum categories. I am very happy to see that our women and PARA participation is increasing also in arm wrestling and it shows the popularity and acceptance of Armwrestling sport in India."

People's Armwrestling Federation India (PAFI) is the sole Indian organisation with affiliation to the Asian Armwrestling Federation (AAF) and World Armwrestling Federation (WAF).

Men's and women's blind teams make India proud at World Games

Birmingham | Agencies

In a momentous display of strength, perseverance, and sheer skill, the Indian blind cricket teams (both men's and women's) have made the nation proud by qualifying for the finals of the International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA) World Games 2023 on the back of their scintillating show in Birmingham.

Being the only country to have both its men's and women's cricket teams in the final of the IBSA World Games, India has put blind cricket on the world map, setting an example of what grit and determination can do.

The challenges conquered by the blind cricket teams go beyond the boundaries of the cricket pitch. Each run scored and each wicket taken have been a result of relentless practice, hours of honing their senses, and sheer commitment to making the nation proud.

While the journey for the women's team to the final was a cakewalk in the IBSA World Games 2023, the Indian men's team had to fight hard at times to reach the finals.

India had lost the first match against Pakistan by 18 runs last week when the



campaign began for the two teams in the ongoing tournament. However, the Men In Blue didn't lose hope as they came back hard at Australia to win the next match.

India defeated the hosts England by 7 wickets to win their second match of the tournament as the players displayed an all-round performance.

India's next match was with Bangladesh and the Men In Blue found themselves in a tricky position chasing

148 as the side lost half their side inside 6 overs for just 26 runs.

However, some brilliant batting performances from Nareshbhai Balubhai Tumda (28), Sunil Ramesh (20), and vice-captain Venkateswara Rao Dunna (30) helped India get close to the target.

In the end, Bangladesh were fined 26 penalty runs which eventually took India's score to 165/7 in 17 overs, helping the Men In Blue register a thrilling win. India again met Bangladesh in the

semis on Friday and this time the Men In Blue didn't waste a minute in dominating the Tigers before reaching the finals.

On the other hand in women's cricket, India won the game by 8 wickets against Australia to kick off their campaign in style. In the second match against England, India went all guns blazing and scored 268/2 in the allotted 20 overs with Gangavva H smashing 117 in 60 balls. England lost the match by 185 runs.

In the third match on Wednesday, India thrashed Australia by 163 runs to continue their dominant display of cricket. As these two teams gear up for the finals, the nation awaits dual glory on Saturday. It's just not a final but a finale that is manifested after a lot of hard work.

Through their journey, the teams have shown that impossible is nothing and that sheer willpower and prowess can overcome any hurdle that comes across the journey of an athlete.

India's men's team will meet Pakistan on Saturday in the finals as the IBSA World Games get ready to witness its maiden summit clash in cricket while the women's team will face Australia. Both matches will be played on Saturday at Edgbaston Cricket Stadium.

'Virat Kohli is perfect for No. 4', says AB de Villiers

Dubai | Agencies

Former South Africa cricketer AB de Villiers has suggested Virat Kohli could be the answer to India's No.4 conundrum at the World Cup.

Speaking on his Youtube channel 'AB de Villiers 360', Kohli's former IPL teammate said, "We're still talking about who will be the No. 4 batter for India. I've heard some rumours about Virat (Kohli) possibly taking up that position. I would be a big supporter of that."

"I think Virat is perfect for No. 4. He can put the innings together, play any kind of role in that middle order. I don't know if he would like to do that. We know he loves his No. 3 position; he's scored all his runs there, but at the end of the day, if the team needs you to do something, play a certain role, you have got to put your hand up and go for it." With Shreyas Iyer and KL Rahul only recently returning to the squad after their long-term injuries, India's middle order has

been a topic of discussion ahead of the Asia Cup and the World Cup.

Captain Rohit Sharma stressed on the importance of flexibility in the batting order when India announced their Asia Cup squad and conveyed that players should be ready to bat at any position.

Iyer, who returns from his back surgery, is currently the most likely to fill that No.4 position but Kohli has previously found great success in that role.

Batting at No.4, Kohli has managed to score seven centuries and has an impressive average of 55.21 alongside an equally impressive strike rate of 90.66. On the flip side though, he has not batted in that position since January 2020 when he played against Australia in Mumbai.

Although the middle order could retain stability with Iyer looking good in India's Asia Cup training camp in Alur, KL Rahul's fitness is still a worry and he could miss at least two games in the Asia Cup which starts August 30.



AMITABH BACHCHAN, SRK TO COME TOGETHER ON SCREEN AFTER 17 YEARS

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Megastar Amitabh Bachchan and superstar Shah Rukh Khan, who were last seen together sharing screen space in 'Kabhi Alvida Naa Kehna', are all set to mark their return together on the screen after 17 years for a new project.

Big B and SRK were last seen in 2006 romantic film 'Kabhi Alvida Naa Kehna', written and directed by Karan Johar. The film also stars Abhishek Bachchan, Rani Mukerji, Preity Zinta, and Kirron Kher. It explored the themes of marital infidelity and dysfunctional relationships.

According to a source: "There is an

interesting project in the works where Amitabh Bachchan and Shahrukh Khan will once again be sharing the screen together.

Not a lot of news surrounding this project is out yet, but there will soon be more updates and news coming out."

The duo had previously shared the screen in iconic movies like 'Mohabbatein', 'Kabhi Khushi Kabhi Gham', and 'Veer Zaara'.

SRK was seen in a cameo role as 'Mohan Bhargava', a former NASA scientist, in the fantasy action adventure film 'Brahmastra: Part One Shiva'. The movie stars Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt in the lead, while Amitabh was

seen in a pivotal role of Raghu, the guru of Brahmansh.

On the work front, Amitabh is currently hosting the 15th season of quiz-based reality show 'Kaun Banega Crorepati'. He next has 'Ganapathi', 'The Umesh Chronicles', 'Kalki 2898 AD', and 'Butterfly' in the pipeline.

SRK is gearing up for the release of his action thriller 'Jawan'. The film also stars Nayanthara, Vijay Sethupathi, while Deepika Padukone and Sanya Malhotra will be seen in a special appearance.

He will also be seen in a cameo appearance in Salman Khan-starrer 'Tiger 3'. SRK also has 'Dunki' in his kitty.

Malaika unfollows Arjun's sisters and father on social media

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Amid their break up rumours, Malaika Arora has unfollowed actor Arjun Kapoor's family members including father Boney Kapoor, sisters Anshula, Janhvi and Khushi Kapoor.

A Reddit user has claimed that Malaika Arora has unfollowed Arjun's family. However, she is still following the actor, Sonam Kapoor and Rhea Kapoor.

She even shared a cryptic Instagram story, which read: "Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future."

Malaika then shared another post featuring two sunglasses kept on a dining table and wrote: "Sunny days r here again..."

Arjun took to Instagram, where he shared a cryptic post, which read: "Garbage, the one thing we can always count on in this world."

Actress Janhvi posted a poster of the 1974 film 'A Woman Under The Influence' written and directed by John Cassavetes. The film revolves around a woman whose unusual behavior leads to conflict with her husband and family. It received two Academy Award nominations, for Best Actress and Best Director.

Neither Arjun nor Malaika have addressed the breakup rumour yet. Before dating Arjun, Malaika was married to actor-filmmaker and Salman Khan's brother Arbaaz Khan. After getting married in 1998, they announced their separation in March 2016 and got officially divorced in May 2017.



SONU SOOD HELPS MAN ACHIEVE HIS DREAM OF BECOMING PILOT

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor Sonu Sood had helped a man named Vamshi financially for his career and the latter has now become a pilot.

Vamshi now has a dream to fly the actor and is eagerly waiting for the moment.

Sonu transformed Vamshi's life, making his dream of becoming a pilot come true. Vamshi is working as a ground instructor at an aviation academy as a pilot, a testament to Sonu's impactful kindness.

Born into poverty, this individual faced numerous adversities and emerged from a background where the notion of becoming a pilot seemed unlikely. He shared, "I faced a lot of struggles, like not having enough financial support."

Having started his journey as a helper and cleaner at the airline, but found an ally in Sonu.

"Sonu Sood helped me, and I received financial aid immediately after requesting it from a foundation inspired by Sonu Sood", he recounts. It was a turning point that rekindled his ambitions and provided wings to his aspirations. The impact went beyond personal achievement, echoing in the collective dreams he ignited. "My dream is to fly Sonu Sood, and I eagerly await that moment."

Now, I'm getting interviewed by YouTube channels, and Sonu Sood himself told me he's proud of me. That one sentence is a lifetime achievement for me. "His encouragement has transformed not only my life but also the lives of many. After watching my YouTube video, people have reached out to me, saying they want to become pilots like me too. This belief, that even the less privileged can become pilots, has been instilled in the minds of countless people, all thanks to Sonu Sood."

Talking about the person he helped in achieving his dream, Sonu told IANS: Sometimes, we are just God's guided force, connecting one end to another to make things work.

"He said he started his journey of helping others in Covid and will continue to do so till his last breath."

Sonu added: "The journey of helping people that started from Covid will continue until my last breath, and it gives me immense joy to see this soul grow. I hope it only gets better and better for him."



Shefali Shah on 'Delhi Crime': It's one of those projects that happen once in a while

Team Absolute | Mumbai

As 'Delhi Crime 2' clocks a year since its release, acclaimed actress Shefali Shah, who played the character of DCP Vartika Chaturvedi series, says the show is one of those projects that happen once in a while.

'Delhi Crime 2' revolves around a violent quadruple murder, which stokes public fear and escalates New Delhi's class divide, DCP Vartika and her team race to find the killers before they attack the city's vulnerable senior citizens again.

On the first anniversary of Delhi Crime 2, Shefali gave a perfect recall to her character and said: "DC is very very dear and special

to me and will always be. It's one of those projects that happens once in a while, where the show and the character affected and left a lasting impact on the audience as much as it did for us."

She added: "The USP being the show, the characters, the treatment is so real. There's no paraphernalia of what cops are normally depicted as in films. DC is as real as it gets. When I did DC 1, I had no idea where the show or the character Vartika would go." "All I knew was this one was special and I loved creating it. But after it was released not only was the show loved but Vartika became unprecedented. And I'm lucky and humbled with the love and respect that Vartika and I have Received."



BADSHAH: I'M INTO MUSIC BECAUSE OF GURDAS MAAN SAHAB

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Rapper and singer Badshah has revealed about his fanboy moment for the legendary Gurdas Maan, and shared that he is the reason why he got into music.

In the upcoming episode of 'India's Got Talent', Gurdas Maan, affectionately known as 'Maan Sahab', will grace the stage of the reality show.

The maestro whose resounding voice has graced the music industry with numerous chart-toppers, is all set to witness the prowess of the 'Top 14' contestants.

Amid all the performances and candid conversations, Badshah will have a fanboy moment while talking to the living legend, Gurdas Maan, the rapper shared: "At my place, Maan Sahab's songs used to keep playing. And, one of the biggest reason I'm into music is because of Maan Sahab. My parents were not inclined towards music, but Maan Sahab had a huge influence on the music that was played at my house. It's said that a child's character begins to develop between the age of 5-6 years." "We started listening to Maan Sahab's songs at that age, so maybe that's why these good learnings came into our lives. His songs are such that you learn something from them. People who follow me on social media know that we have big photos of Maan Sahab in our house. Also, the children don't call him by his name, they address him as 'Babaji', he shared. Furthermore, Badshah said that how not only his but his daughter's first ever live concert was that of Maan Sahab. "My life's first concert was at Chandigarh University, and it was Maan Sahab's concert. And, my daughter's first concert was also Maan Sahab's. Not only this but the first gift my daughter received was also from Maan Sahab. There are artists who try to fill up the arenas but artists like Maan Sahab have already done this 15-20 years ago," he said.



Aditi Budhathoki

Amitabh Bachchan: 'Superstitions' misguides people, must not be encouraged

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Megastar Amitabh Bachchan has talked about the concept of 'superstitions', saying people should not believe in superstitions because it misguides them, and it must not be encouraged too.

Big B has been involved in many social causes like he was the UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador for the Polio eradication campaign in India in 2002. He was also the face of the 'Save Our Tigers' campaign.

Amitabh has been a vocal 'brand ambassador' of the Swachh Bharat Mission. In 2020, he was helping the government to promote its public health message concerning Covid-19.

The host of 'Kaun Banega Crorepati' season 15, Big B welcomed Finance Executive Saurabh Sengupta from Durg, Chhattisgarh, to the hot seat of



the quiz reality show in the 'KBC Play Along' special episode. While talking about 'Super Sandoos' question to Saurabh, Amitabh asked the contestant that 'whether he believes in superstitions?' The contestant nodded and said: "Yes sir I believe in superstitions."

He then narrated anecdote saying "sometimes when you are going out for some important work and you see face of a particular person, and if the

day goes bad, then I try to not see that person the next day."

He then laughed and said, "I can't name that person". The 'Deewaar' fame actor said: "There are different kinds of superstitions. If a black cat crosses your way, this is believed by many." Saurabh said: "Do you also believe in this (black cat superstition) sir?", to which the 80-year-old actor said: "I don't believe in this, but my driver believes in it. My driver takes a U-turn. I ask him 'what are you doing?' He says 'sir billi kaat gayi raasta'."

Amitabh further said: "I have been told if a snake crosses your path, then it means something." "But we should not believe in superstitions. Ye gumraah kar deta hai logo ko (it misguides people). Usko badhawa nahi dena chahiye (it should not be encouraged)," added Big B. 'Kaun Banega Crorepati 15' airs on Sony.