

absolute india

VOL. 6, ISSUE 285, NEW DELHI | WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2023 | ₹5 | PAGE 08

PUBLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM NEW DELHI, MUMBAI AND BHOPAL

NATION > 02

Heavy rain likely over Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Northern...



HOLLYWOOD > 06

Sandra Bullock to scatter boyfriend's ashes at their wedding venue in...



SPORTS > 07

Make live coverage of selection meetings available for all...



How climate change is altering Indian monsoon into

SHOWER OF DISASTER

India has been witnessing normal to surplus monsoon rains for the last five years. This year too, the country is likely to record normal rains but with El Nino building in the Pacific Ocean chances of below normal monsoon cannot be ignored. However irrespective of monsoon performance, experts are expecting extreme weather events to increase in the coming years.

- ▶ The total population and urban area exposed to sequential extremes will increase rapidly if the global mean temperature rises above 1.5 degrees from the pre-industrial level.
- ▶ A considerable improvement in socioeconomic livelihood and infrastructure will be needed to reduce vulnerability and maintain the same level of risk at 1.5 degrees at higher global warming levels. The risks and drivers of the sequential extremes in India remain unrecognised.
- ▶ Scientists say climate change has made monsoons more erratic and volatile, leading to frequent landslides and flash floods in India's Himalayan north.



soon patterns along with weakening its circulations. As a result, the country has witnessed record-breaking extreme weather events in June and July. With monsoon recently concluded its halfway journey, the quantum of torrential rains multiplied across the country in July with 1,113 stations reporting very heavy rainfall events, while 205 stations witnessed extremely heavy rainfall. With this, July saw the highest heavy and extreme rain events in the last five years, says a data compiled by Climate Trends. In June, 377 stations reported very heavy rain events, the highest in the last five years. Sixty-two stations recorded extremely heavy rains, which was the second highest since 2019. However, the impact of climate change was more visible, higher than ever before, say climate experts. They say it would not be wrong

to say that extreme weather conditions have governed the southwest monsoon season so far. Record breaking extreme weather events ranged from humid heat waves to torrential rainy spells to cyclogenesis. At the end of July, the cumulative countrywide rainfall was surplus by five per cent, with 467 mm of rain against the normal of 445.8 mm between June 1 and July 31. Heatwaves during the monsoon season are quite rare in India. With delayed monsoon arrival in eastern parts of the country, an unusual spell of heatwave wreaked havoc across the region. According to Climate Central, an independent group of scientists, a three-day extreme heat event over Uttar Pradesh from June 14-16 was made at least two times more likely by human-caused climate change. In Ballia in Uttar

Pradesh temperatures reached 42.2 degrees Celsius on June 16 and at least 34 fatalities occurred over the three-day event. A similar situation was witnessed in the neighbouring state of Bihar, where school and colleges were closed to minimise the impact of the heatwave. Sounding the alarm that India is on track to breach a critical warming threshold, Indian Institute of Technology-Gandhinagar says climate change will increase the frequency of extreme weather events such as floods and heatwaves in the future.

"Characteristics of the monsoon have undergone some major changes, which have altered rainfall patterns, intensity, and frequency. These changes are constantly evolving with the increasing global temperatures. As a result, extreme weather events have also increased exponentially. What happened in Himachal Pradesh and other parts of north-west India is evidence of how climate change is impacting and altering the monsoon season in India. In fact, these impacts would continue to multiply if temperatures continue to rise."
Mahesh Palawat, VP, Meteorology and Climate Change, Skymet

Vishal Gulati | New Delhi

The southwest monsoon season in India so far has been marred by extreme weather events, from humid heat waves to cyclones to torrential rains. Scientists blame climate change. They say it has been altering the mon-

No Constitutional provision excludes its applicability in J&K: Supreme Court

▶ A 5-JUDGE CONSTITUTION BENCH HEADED BY CJI CHANDRACHUD IS HEARING A CLUTCH OF PETITIONS CHALLENGING THE 2019 PRESIDENTIAL ORDER TAKING AWAY THE SPECIAL STATUS ACCORDED TO THE ERSTWHILE STATE OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR AND ITS BIFURCATION INTO TWO UNION TERRITORIES.

▶ THE CONSTITUTION BENCH, ALSO COMPRISING OF JUSTICES SANJAY KISHAN KAUL, SANJIV KHANNA, B.R. GAVAI, AND SURYA KANT, IS HEARING THE MATTER CONSECUTIVELY FROM AUGUST 2, EXCEPT FOR MONDAYS AND FRIDAYS.

▶ IN AN AFFIDAVIT FILED BEFORE THE TOP COURT, THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT HAS DEFENDED THE REVOCATION OF THE SPECIAL STATUS OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR, SAYING THAT ITS DECISION TO DILUTE ARTICLE 370 HAS BROUGHT UNPRECEDENTED DEVELOPMENT, PROGRESS, SECURITY, AND STABILITY IN THE



Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court on Tuesday said that there are no provisions in the Indian Constitution which exclude its applicability to Jammu and Kashmir.

It observed that 'J&K is an integral part of India and surely the jurisdiction of every democratically elected institution in India is not excluded in its application and has to be dealt with a provision of the Constitution'.

Senior advocate Dinesh Dwivedi contended that "the basic theme of Kashmir is entirely different in terms of accession to the Dominion of India and it did not merge like other states".

During the hearing, it was argued that asymmetrical federalism provides for protection against majoritarianism, adding that the

Constitution itself is also anti-majoritarianism. Senior advocate CU Singh, questioned the J&K Reorganisation Act, which downgraded the state into two Union Territories (UTs), arguing that to convert a state into UT a Constitutional amendment is needed under Article 368 which needs special majority and ratification by two-thirds of states.

He said that if states are allowed to be converted into UTs, basic structure is also wiped out. When the Constitution Bench was about to rise for the day, it said that the petitioners must realise that the bench is reaching a level of "mental saturation", and it would like to hear Centre's response to their contentions.

CJI DY Chandrachud clarified that remaining advocates will get limited time, like 10 minutes, petitioners should close their arguments by tomorrow (Wednesday) afternoon.

Palghar Horror: Woman raped repeatedly, video circulated online

Team Absolute | Palghar

In a horrible incident in Maharashtra's Palghar district, a woman was allegedly raped by an individual. The accused has also recorded the heinous acts and circulated the video on social media platforms.

Palghar Police has registered a case against the accused under section 376(2)(n) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), which pertains to the repeated rape of the same woman, along with relevant provisions of the Information Technology (IT) Act.

Two more individuals have also been implicated for their involvement in the crime. The victim, a married



woman, was targeted by the accused who established a connection with her. Exploiting her trust, the accused subjected her to multiple instances of sexual assault and brazenly recorded these acts.

He then distributed the footage on social media plat-

forms, further exacerbating the victim's ordeal.

Upon discovering the explicit video, the victim filed a complaint against the accused.

Police has launched an investigation however no arrests have been made as of yet.

Doctors' body seeks withdrawal of mandatory prescription of Generic Medicines

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The IMA has written to Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya seeking withdrawal of National Medical Commission (NMC) regulations on mandatory prescription of generic drugs till there is quality assurance of all medicines.

The doctors' body also expressed concern over the regulations which bar doctors from attending conferences sponsored by pharma companies saying such a prohibition warrants reconsideration. It demanded associations and organisations should be exempted from the purview of NMC regulations.

Members of the Indian Medical Association and Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance on Monday had met Health Minister Mandaviya

- ▶ ACCORDING TO THE NMC REGULATIONS, "REGISTERED MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS AND THEIR FAMILIES MUST NOT RECEIVE ANY GIFTS, TRAVEL FACILITIES, HOSPITALITY, CASH OR MONETARY GRANTS... ACCESS TO ENTERTAINMENT OR RECREATION FROM PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES OR THEIR REPRESENTATIVES, COMMERCIAL HEALTHCARE ESTABLISHMENTS, MEDICAL DEVICE COMPANIES, OR CORPORATE HOSPITALS UNDER ANY PRETEXT."
- ▶ ALSO, REGISTERED MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS SHOULD NOT BE INVOLVED IN ANY THIRD-PARTY EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY LIKE SEMINAR, WORKSHOP, SYMPOSIA AND CONFERENCE, WHICH INVOLVES DIRECT OR INDIRECT SPONSORSHIPS FROM PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES OR THE ALLIED HEALTH SECTOR, THE REGULATIONS STATED.

and expressed their concerns over the NMC regulations.

The National Medical Commission (NMC) in its 'Regulations relating to Professional Conduct of Registered Medical Practitioners' stated that all doctors must prescribe generic

drugs, failing which they will be penalised and their licence to practice may also be suspended for a period.

It also asked doctors to avoid prescribing branded generic drugs. "It is a matter of great concern for IMA

since this directly impacts patient care and safety. It is believed that less than 1 percent of the generic drugs manufactured in India are tested for quality. Patient care and safety are nonnegotiable for both, the government and the medical profession," the IMA said in its letter.

The quality assurance mechanism in our country is very weak, the association pointed out.

India has more than 3 lakh batches of 70,000 drug formulations, the quality assurance mechanism in our country can ascertain the quality control of only 15753 drugs annually, it said. "In 2023, only around 12000 tests were conducted by CDSCO and State Drug Control Department together. If we consider one sample from each batch is tested, the minimum required number of tests was around 3,00,000," the IMA stated.

Surprise night inspection finds 89 girls missing at UP school hostel

Gonda | Agencies

A police case or FIR has been filed against four persons, including the warden of a state-government run residential school, after only 11 of the total 100 girl students registered there were found present on the premises during a surprise inspection at night, a senior official said today.

District Magistrate Neha Sharma said that the inspection at Kasturba Gandhi Residential Girls School, Paraspur, was conducted on Monday night.

"A total of 100 girl students are registered there, but only 11 girl students were found present in the school. Warden Sarita Singh could not give a satisfactory answer when asked about the absence of 89 girl students,"

the District Magistrate said. "This is serious negligence. Residential girls' schools cannot run in this manner," the District Magistrate said, adding she has ordered the registration of an FIR.

The district Basic Shiksha Adhikari (BSA), Prem Chand Yadav, said that on the instructions of the district magistrate, the FIR was lodged against the school warden, a full-time teacher, a watchman and a Prantiya Raksha Dal (PRD) jawan posted on gate duty at night under relevant sections.

Along with this, departmental action is also being taken against the employees while a separate letter has been written to the district youth welfare officer for departmental action against the guard on duty, the BSA added.

Chandrayaan-3: Countdown begins of '19 minutes of suspense and excitement

▶ If all goes well as planned on Wednesday, India will become the fourth nation in the world to soft land on the moon after Russia, USA and China.

▶ According to the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), the lander will begin its moon landing descent at 5.45 p.m. on Wednesday and the touch down to happen at about 6.05 p.m.

▶ The soft landing is a tricky issue as it involves a series of complex manoeuvres consisting of rough and fine braking. ▶ The rough braking will be for about 11 minutes and the remaining will be fine braking.

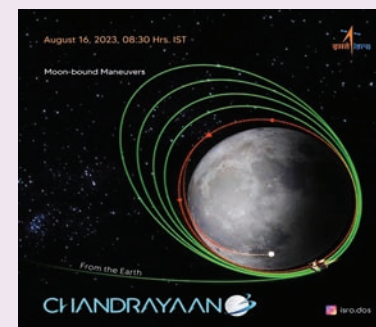
Chennai | Agencies

Suspense and excitement are building up across the nation as India will be attempting to soft land its lander on the moon on Wednesday evening.

The Rs 600 crore Chandrayaan-3 mission is all set to provide the 19 minutes of terror, suspense and excitement for the officials of Indian space agency and others as the lander that was carried by Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft will start its descent towards the lunar soil.

It may be recalled that the Vikram lander that was part of the Chandrayaan-2 mission a couple of years back crashed on the moon while it was on the last phase of the landing.

According to ISRO Chairman S. Somanath, the lander will be able to soft land even if all its sensors and two engines fail. Imaging of the landing site region prior to landing will be done for finding safe and hazard-free zones.



The Indian space agency said the powered descent of the lander will happen from an altitude of 25 km.

The lander will be hurtling at a speed about 1.6 seconds per km towards the moon, in a horizontal position. The officials seated in the Mission Operations Complex at ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC), Bengaluru will remotely apply the lander brakes by reducing the speed in a process called rough and fine braking.

Man with male, female reproductive organs undergoes surgery in Hyderabad

Hyderabad | Agencies

In a rare case, a person has been found with both male reproductive organs and doctors at KIMS Hospitals Secunderabad here performed laparoscopic surgery on him.

A 40-year-old person from Mancheril was diagnosed with Persistent Mullerian Duct Syndrome, a rare condition, doctors said.

He was suffering from infertility and lower abdominal pain. Doctors said he had undescended testis. He appeared physically normal but harbored female internal reproductive organs like the uterus, fallopian tubes, and part of the vagina too.

According to Consultant Urologist, Andrologist, Renal transplant, and Robotic surgeon Dr. YM Prashanth both male and female different



reproductive organs will be present at the fetus stage and later with the effect of certain hormones, only one will be left. So, by birth itself it'll be decided whether it is a male or female baby. But, in very rare cases, due to the mutation of genes, hormones are not released sufficiently, the person will have both male and female reproductive organs. It is called Persistent Mullerian Duct Syndrome.

Only 300 such cases are reported worldwide so far. In India, there are only 20 cases till now. Such people look quite normal.



HEAVY RAIN LIKELY OVER UTTARAKHAND, HIMACHAL PRADESH, NORTHERN PARTS OF UP, BIHAR: IMD

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The India Meteorological Department on Tuesday said that heavy to very heavy rainfall spell is likely over Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Northern parts of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and over Sub-Himalayan West Bengal-Sikkim and Northeast India during next 3-4 days.

In the bulletin, the weather forecast agency said that in Northwest India, there is a prediction of light to moderate fairly widespread rainfall, along with thunderstorms and lightning. Himachal Pradesh could experience isolated heavy rainfall from Tuesday to Friday.

"Similar conditions are anticipated in Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh during the same period, as well as in northern Punjab, Haryana, and Chandigarh on Tuesday. There's also a possibility of isolated very heavy rainfall in north Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand between Tuesday and Thursday," said the IMD.

Furthermore, Uttarakhand might witness isolated extremely heavy rainfall on Wednesday and Thursday. Moving to Central India, the fore-



cast indicates light to moderate fairly widespread rainfall, with isolated occurrences of thunderstorms and lightning over the region in the next three days.

In East India, there is an expectation of light to moderate fairly widespread rainfall, accompanied by

thunderstorms and lightning.

"The Sub-Himalayan areas of West Bengal and Sikkim might see isolated heavy rainfall over the next five days. Gangetic West Bengal is likely to experience this activity from Wednesday and Friday, Odisha from Tuesday to Friday, Jharkhand on

Wednesday and Thursday, and Bihar from Tuesday to Saturday," said the IMD.

Additionally, isolated very heavy rainfall is expected in Sub-Himalayan West Bengal, Sikkim on Thursday and Friday, as well as in Bihar on Tuesday and Friday. Sub-Himalayan West Bengal, Sikkim could encounter isolated extremely heavy rainfall on Tuesday and Wednesday, while Bihar might experience it on Wednesday and Thursday.

For Northeast India, the forecast predicts light to moderate fairly widespread rainfall, accompanied by thunderstorms and lightning. There's a chance of isolated heavy rainfall over the region in the next five days. Specifically, Assam, Meghalaya, and Arunachal Pradesh might experience isolated very heavy rainfall from Tuesday to Sunday.

In South India, light to moderate scattered to fairly widespread rainfall, along with thunderstorms and lightning, is anticipated. There's a likelihood of isolated heavy rainfall over north Tamil Nadu on Tuesday.

The forecast indicates no significant weather events in the rest of the country over the next five days

'Govt proving the point on murder of democracy': Cong reacts to IB team's visit to Ashoka University

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Congress on Tuesday slammed the BJP-led Central government, accusing it of sending an Intelligence Bureau (IB) team to Haryana-based Ashoka University amid the controversy surrounding professor Sabayasachi Das' research paper. The party said "the government is only proving the point of murder of democracy".

In a tweet, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said: "By sending the Intelligence Bureau after an academic in a premier private university -- for analysing with evidence democratic backsliding in India -- the Narendra Modi-led Central government is only proving the point about the murder of democracy in India. Truly unprecedented."

He also attached a news report with his tweets. His remarks came after a team of Intelligence Bureau knocked on the doors of the Ashoka University, just two days ahead of the deadline by the faculty members to accept their demands to not interfere in their work and to address the issue concerning Professor Das by August 23.

Sources at the university campus told reporter that a team of IB sleuths had arrived at the varsity campus to look for Das. The source said that they wanted to meet Das, whose research paper suggesting voter manipulation in 2019 elections sparked a



controversy. However, the IB sleuths were informed by the varsity officials that Das is on leave.

Following the conversation, the IB officials wished to meet other faculty members at the Economics Department. Das had resigned from the university earlier this month, after which professor Pulapre Balakrishnan too resigned in protest over acceptance of his resignation. Several departments of the varsity including Economics, Sociology and Anthropology and Political Science have extended their solidarity to Das, demanding his reinstatement immediately.

As many as 320 economists from 91 universities across the country have extended their support to Das, urging the varsity to immediately reinstate him.

Woman stripped, son thrashed on suspicion of theft in Tripura

Agartala | Agencies

After a theft case, a group of people stripped a woman, thrashed her and her teenage son on the outskirts of Agartala, the police said on Tuesday.

The police are yet to make any arrest in this case, an officer said.

Quoting the local people, the police said that three teenagers allegedly stole money from a shop at Shanmura on the outskirts of Agartala on Sunday to purchase drugs.

Some youths had detained the trio and later released two of them, detaining one of the minors.

On Monday, the locals led by a gram panchayat member summoned the minor and his mother to a kangaroo court, where some youths reportedly stripped and severely beat up the woman



and her son. The police later rescued the woman and her son and admitted them to the Agartala Government Medical College and Hospital with multiple injuries.

The police also recorded the statement of the victims and launched a probe to nab the attackers involved in the crime, but none has been arrested so far.

"I agreed to return the stolen money, but the drunk

youths mercilessly thrashed me and my son and shaved his head. Later, they stripped me in public, beat me up, and tried to kill both of us. Finally, the police came to the spot and rescued us from the mob," the woman told the media.

Media reports said that Chief Minister Manik Saha has taken cognisance of the incident and directed the police to book everyone involved in the crime.

Rahul Gandhi to leave for Brussels on Sept 6, to attend several meetings in Paris, Oslo till Sept 10

▶ FORMER CONGRESS PRESIDENT RAHUL GANDHI WILL KICK STARTING HIS TRIP OF THREE EUROPEAN NATIONS ON SEPTEMBER 6 AND WILL PARTICIPATE IN SEVERAL PROGRAMMES INCLUDING HIS VISIT TO EUROPEAN UNION PARLIAMENT AND INTERACTION WITH THE INDIAN DIASPORA BESIDE MANY OTHERS.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Incidentally, the programme of Rahul Gandhi collides with the G20 meeting in India on September 8 and 9, when he will be holding discussions in France's Paris.

A Congress source told reporter, "Rahul Gandhi will arrive in Belgium's capital city of Brussels on



September 6 and on September 7 and 8, he will be participating in several programmes, which includes his visit

to European Parliament and his meeting with Indian diaspora." Rahul Gandhi will be visiting

France, Belgium's Brussels and Norway's Oslo.

On September 9, Rahul Gandhi will arrive in Paris at 3 p.m. and in evening at 5 p.m. he will participate in a University programme.

The Congress leader will then also attend a dinner programme on the same day.

The source said that Rahul Gandhi will be also attending a breakfast on September 9 which will be followed by meeting with the MPs, friends in France either inside or outside France's Parliament.

The source said that he will then also have lunch with the people from the Asian countries in the afternoon before proceeding for his meeting with the Labour Union of France.

Besides the hectic schedule in France, Rahul Gandhi will attend a meeting with the 300 to 400 Indian diaspora in Paris and then next day he will leave for Oslo on September 10.

The source said that the two-day programmes of Rahul Gandhi in Oslo is being prepared and it will be shared soon.

Anyone can become convener of Oppn bloc INDIA, says Lalu

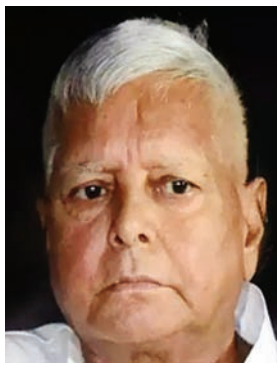
Patna | Agencies

RJD chief Lalu Prasad on Tuesday claimed that anyone can become the convener of opposition bloc Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA).

Claiming that there is no dispute on the issue of who will be the convener of INDIA, Lalu said, "We will finalise the convener in the meeting scheduled on August 31 and September 1 in Mumbai.

"There is a possibility to make a convener for three to four states or one convener for one state," Yadav said while interacting with media persons in Gopalganj.

"A convener will be appointed to coordinate between two or more parties. There is no dispute on this



issue. Everyone will sit together in Mumbai and unanimously appoint the convener or conveners of INDIA," he said.

During the first meeting in Patna, there was a buzz that JD(U) chairperson Nitish Kumar will be appointed the convener of INDIA as he brought many parties on one platform to take on the BJP.

Delhi minor's rape: Suspended official drugged victim before sexual assault, raped her multiple times

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The interrogation of the suspended Delhi officer Pramod Khakha (51), who had held the position of deputy director in the WCD department, has revealed that he drugged the minor victim before reportedly subjecting her to sexual assault, sources said on Tuesday.

The accused, Khakha, stands accused of repeatedly raping the girl between November 2020 and January 2021.

The victim, who was just 14 years old at the time, is said to have suffered the initial assault on October 31, 2020, after being drugged, as disclosed by sources familiar with the matter.

The victim, who is currently a student in Class 12,



recently shared her ordeal with a counselor at St. Stephen's Hospital where she had been admitted due to an anxiety attack.

Subsequent to her disclosure, law enforcement acted on her complaint and initiated legal proceedings under the relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the Protection of Children

from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act on August 13. After a nine-day investigation, the alleged government officer was apprehended.

The victim remains hospitalised and her condition is reported to be unstable due to the trauma she endured.

In a recent development, the suspended Delhi government official was remanded

to one-day judicial custody by a local court. Additionally, his wife, Seema Rani, who has also been implicated in the case, was placed in judicial custody for a day on the preceding Monday.

Sources said that there is evidence to suggest the victim may have been subjected to further assaults by the accused individual. "We are currently in possession of his custody, and through interrogation, we hope to unearth additional details," a source said.

The victim was an adopted child who grappled with depression following the passing of her father on October 1, 2020. In an attempt to provide her with a change of scenery, she spent several days at Premodya's residence, as per sources.

Manipur Gov summons assembly session on August 29

Imphal | Agencies

The Manipur Governor Anusuiya Uikey on the recommendations of the state cabinet summoned the monsoon session of the state assembly on August 29, officials said on Tuesday.

An official said that Manipur Assembly Secretary K. Meghaji Singh quoting the Governor's order in a notification said that the 4th session of the 12th Manipur Legislative Assembly would meet on August 29.

"The Business Advisory Committee of the assembly would now decide the schedule and duration of the session," the official told reporter.

Chief Minister's Office on Tuesday tweeted: "The State Cabinet chaired by Hon'ble CM N Biren Singh on

Monday, August 21, 2023, took a decision to convene the 4th Session of the 12th Manipur Legislative Assembly (Monsoon Session) on August 29, 2023."

The state cabinet earlier on August 4 had made a similar recommendation to the Governor to convene the session of the Manipur Legislative Assembly on August 21 but the Governor did not summon the session that time.

It is most likely that the ongoing ethnic violence and related issues would be discussed in the vital session.

Political controversy sparked off after the Governor did not formally summon the session despite cabinet recommendations earlier.

The previous assembly session was held in March.

International Art Camp 'Sarjana 2023' started at Poornima University

PARTICIPANTS FROM 15 UNIVERSITIES ARE MAKING ARTWORKS WITH 22 RENOWNED ARTISTS FROM ACROSS THE GLOBE

Lalit Sharma | Jaipur

Six-day International Art Camp 'Sarjana 2023' started on Monday at Poornima University (PU), Jaipur. This camp is being organized jointly by the Faculty of Design and Arts of the Poornima University under the aegis of Jaipur Art Summit. In this, along with 22 renowned artists from India and abroad, students of 15 universities of the country are also preparing paintings, sculptures and other artifacts under their guidance.

Laxman Vyas, Chairman, Rajasthan Lalit Kala Academy, was the chief guest at the inaugural ceremony, while VK. Sharma, Director, MSME and Shalendra Bhatt, Director, Jaipur Art Summit were the guest of honors. Laxman Vyas



described such events as a good sign for the art world. VK Sharma described its commercialization as an important aspect for art. In this International Art Camp, Jong Il Ma of USA, Qing Sonnenberg of Deutsch, S.C. Suman of Nepal, Zidrija Janusate of Lithuania, Sahar Saroushnia of Iran and Juanhewage Thilini & Manushika

Buddhini, both from Sri Lanka as well as India's KK Gandhi, Mahesh Anjarlekar, Dimple Shah, Narottam Das, Amit Kalla, Amita Khare and other eminent artists have participated. All these artists are not only preparing their artworks, but participants from 15 universities are also making their creations under the

guidance of these artists. The participants include students from JJ School of Art, Mumbai; College of Art, Delhi; Jamia Millia Islamia University, Delhi and Government College of Art and Craft, Kolkata and other prestigious universities. The artworks made by all the artists and participants will be displayed at Jawahar Kala Kendra (JKK) on 26 and 27 August. Earlier on August 25, an art workshop would be organized by Padma Shri Shyam Sunder Sharma. Rahul Singhi, Co-Founder, Poornima University; Dr. Suresh Chandra Padhy, President; Dr. Manoj Gupta, Pro-President; Dr. Chandni Kriplani, Registrar; Dr. Jitendra Sharma, Dean, Faculty of Design and Arts, PU and Parmendra Kumar, Curator of this Art Camp were also present in the inaugural ceremony.

'Don't play with future of younger generation', Pradhan slams Shivakumar over NEP

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Tuesday lashed out at the Karnataka government and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar for announcing the scrapping of the National Education Policy (NEP) in the state from the next academic year, underlining that the government should not play with future of the younger generation.

Speaking to reporters here, Pradhan said, "What kind of politics do you (Congress government in Karnataka) want to play? I would like to appeal to him (Shivakumar) to let politics take its own course, but one should not play with the future of the younger generation. Now India is in a position for bigger scientific achievements like the Chandrayaan mis-



educationists of this country. "It is not a political document. It is a philosophical document for 21st century. What kind of message do you want to give to the youngsters of the country, especially in your own state Karnataka," Pradhan questioned.

He added: "What kind of politics are they doing? Do they not want early childhood education and care system to be implemented in Karnataka from the age of three? Do they not they want localised play-based learning for our children?" "Do they not want our children to achieve foundational literacy and numeracy by the time they complete grade three? Do they oppose education in Kannada language? My dear friend Shivakumar is opposing Kannada language, which is accommodated in NEP," Pradhan said.

Deputy CM D.K. Shivakumar made an announcement to scrap the National Education Policy. I want to tell my friend Shivakumar ji that the facts are wrong, and your statement is mischievous, regressive. The National Education Policy was not implemented from 2021, it was implemented from 2020," he said.

He also termed the NEP as a visionary philosophical document prepared by the



Kharge questions PM Modi's 'clean image, clean politics' remarks

EXISTING MADHYA PRADESH BJP GOVERNMENT IS 'ILLEGAL'

'LPG AT RS 500, OPS, 100 UNITS OF FREE ELECTRICITY': CONGRESS

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge on Tuesday attacked the BJP for stealing the popular mandates by bribing and intimidating MLAs after losing the elections.

Addressing a mammoth public rally in Sagar district of Bundelkhand region of poll-bound Madhya Pradesh, Kharge questioned the claims of "clean image and clean politics" made by the BJP leaders while referring to Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh where the party (BJP) stole the popular mandate by either bribing or intimidating the MLAs to switch sides.

He accused the BJP of using Central agencies to harass and intimidate its opponents. "So many Congress leaders are being harassed and jailed. After November these people (while referring to BJP leaders), will run away to Mumbai and Delhi for cover as they will be held accountable for their misdeeds," he said.

Kharge said the Congress does not believe in vindictiveness, vendetta or intimidation. "We neither intimidate people, nor get intimidated," he said.

Referring to the corruption charges, he said, in Karnataka it was 40 percent corruption and asked the gathering how much it is in Madhya Pradesh. To this there was a unanimous shout from the crowd, "50 per cent".



He told the gathering that the time has come to remove the "50 per cent corrupt" government in MP.

He also reiterated party's five commitments including the waiving off of the farmers' debt, 100 units of free power, Rs 1,500 monthly stipend for women, gas cylinder for Rs 500 and old pension scheme for the government employees.

PM MODI REMEMBERS SANT RAVIDAS FOR VOTE BANK, SAYS KHARGE

Bhopal: Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge hit out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi saying at one side his government promised to build a temple of Sant Ravidas, on the other side his government demolished a temple of 14th century social reformer in New Delhi. He claimed that Sant Ravidas's temple was demolished in Delhi in 2019.

Kharge made these remarks while referring to PM Modi's visit to Sagar district of poll-bound Madhya Pradesh where he laid the foundation stone of Sant Ravidas on August 12. The Congress leader said Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has been ruling the state for the last 18 years, but he never even thought of building Sant Ravidas's temple. Kharge announced that once the Congress government back into power in Madhya Pradesh, a university in the name of Sant Ravidas would be built in Sagar. "I am making this announcement that a university would be established in the name of Sant Ravidas. Providing school and university is our prime goal, which is why the Congress has made several colleges and universities across the country," he said.

He also said that if Congress forms the government in MP, it will hold the caste based census which will help in better planning of resource allocation for backward classes and downtrodden people.

He underlined that the Congress had given representation to six backward class people in its recently announced apex decision making body, the Congress Working Committee.

Kharge also referred to the unfortunate incident where a BJP leader had urinated on the face of an Adivasi. "This is how they treat the tribal people," he said. While questioning the Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan's act of washing the victim's feet, Kharge asked will the Chief Minister be able to wash urine from the victim's mouth and humiliation from his life.

He also warned the BJP against toying with the idea of changing the Constitution. He said: "There are some people who have started talking about changing the constitution that was given by Baba Saheb Ambedkar, but 140 crore people who are standing guard against it will not let them do that."

KHARGE BATS FOR CASTE BASED CENSUS IN MADHYA PRADESH

Bhopal: "Once the Congress forms the government in Madhya Pradesh, caste census will be conducted. I am making this announcement with responsibility. It will help to identify the people of particular caste and community remained below poverty line," Kharge said.

"At one side they (BJP) say that they believe in Constitution and public mandate and on the other side, they conspire to topple non-BJP government. Like in MP, BJP had done same in Karnataka also. But the people of Karnataka have given a befitting reply to them, and now it's time for people of Madhya Pradesh to remove the BJP," the Congress President said.

He said that Congress has always worked to empower the people of the country and their growth. "Be it first Prime Minister Jawahar Lal Nehru, Indira Gandhi or Rajiv Gandhi, they all have worked for growth of the country and the BJP keeps asking what has Congress done in last 70 years," Kharge added.

Mission is to transform lives of poor: CM Chouhan

DISTRIBUTES CHARANPADUKAS, WATER BOTTLES, SARIS TO TENDUPATTA COLLECTORS



Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan reiterated his commitment to ensuring socio-economic advancement of the weaker sections. No poor will remain landless. The Mukhyamantri Bhu-Adhikar Yojana is under implementation in the interest of the poor. Land titles were given to 27 thousand people in Shivpuri. Residential plots will be made available to anyone. Soon a college will be established at Bairad in Pohri. He was addressing tendupatta collectors in Pohri district Shivpuri today.

Charan Paduka and water bottles to tendupatta collectors

CM Chouhan said that the tribal people are being empowered by improving access to water, forests and land. The tendu patta collectors are being given shoes, slippers, sarees, water bottles, umbrellas and other essential items under CM Charanpaduka Yojana.

CM Chouhan welcomed the beneficiaries by showering flowers.

The Chief Minister dedicated and performed bhoomi-pujan for various development works worth Rs 77 crore. The Chief Minister offered charanpadukas to Kanti Bai and Mamta and handed over sarees and water bottles to them.

Mission for transformation of lives of poor

The Chief Minister Chouhan said that it is our resolve to transform the lives

of poor families. Arrangements for education, treatment, assistance in marriage have been made. Under Mukhyamantri Seekho-Kamao Yojana the youth can enhance their skills while getting a stipend of Rs 8,000 per month. Students should study well, cycles and scooters are provided to the students to encourage and support them. In order to empower women, Rs. one thousand per month is being given to the Ladli Bahna Yojana, which will be gradually hiked to Rs three thousand. Under the Teerth Darshan Yojana, arrangements have been made to take elderly persons of the family on pilgrimage by air.

The previous government had stopped the public welfare schemes.

Bhoomi Poojan and Inauguration

Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia performed bhoomi-pujan of 6 projects costing Rs 59 crore 47 lakh. In these projects, under Water Resources Department, at a cost of Rs 3 crore 38 lakh, Katengara stop cum causeway, Rs 2 crore 43 lakh Phulipura stop dam, Rs 3 crore 94 lakh Berja stop cum dam causeway and Rs 4 crore 71 lakh Bilwara. Stop dam cum causeway, upgradation work of 2.70 kilometer road from Devpura road to Shankarpur road at a cost of Rs. 2 crore 53 lakh under Public Works Department and Rs. 50 tap-water schemes are included.

MODI AND SHIVRAJ ARE PM AND CM BECAUSE OF CONGRESS: KHARGE

Bhopal: Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Tuesday castigated Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan saying they could reach this height only because of the Congress.

It was Congress that fought for the country's independence and protected the Constitution of India, he added. Addressing a poll rally in Madhya Pradesh's Sagar, the veteran Congress leader said the BJP often asks what has the Congress done in the past 70 years. "Today, I will tell you what the Congress has done in 70 years. Narendra Modi and Shivraj Singh Chouhan, today if you are Prime Minister and Chief Minister, it is because of the Congress. The Congress made the constitution considering people of every section," Kharge said. He was reacting to Union Home Minister Amit Shah's statement that the Congress should respond to what they have done in Madhya Pradesh for the last 53 years. Notably, Shah has asked the Congress to present its report of 53 years of rule in Madhya Pradesh (from 1956 to 2003).



8 lakh 50 thousand youths got registered under Mukhyamantri Seekho Kamao Yojana: CM Chouhan

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The meeting of the Council of Ministers, chaired by Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, began with the recitation of Vande-Mataram at Samatva Bhavan. In his address prior the meeting, CM Chouhan said that the Mukhyamantri Seekho Kamao Yojana is being launched this evening. It is a matter of pleasure that 8 lakh 50 thousand youths have got registered in the scheme. Today about 14,000 youths will be given acceptance letters, in which it will be mentioned which institutions the youths have to go to learn skills. This scheme will gain momentum from today itself. This is an amazing



scheme in itself, which motivates the youths to learn, which will pave the way of their permanent job, as well as maintain their livelihood dur-

ing the process of learning, its arrangement is also made in the scheme. A new initiative is taking place today for the youths in the state.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Minister of State for AYUSH (Independent Charge) Shri Ramkishore 'Nano' Kawre has said that Ayurveda is the best means to maintain good health in today's modern lifestyle. Ayurveda system of medicine has a 5 thousand years old history in the country. The most complex diseases can be totally cured without any side effects with the herbs found in the forests. Minister of State Kawre was addressing the conference of Ayurveda physicians "Ayurveda Amrit Manthan" in the auditorium of Pt. Khushilal Sharma Ayurveda College, Bhopal. Ayurveda experts from all over the country participated in the conference.



Good prospects of Ayurveda Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Park AYUSH Minister Kawre said that during the Corona period, the general public understood the importance of Ayurveda in boosting the immunity of

the body. Madhya Pradesh has forest area rich in rare herbs. Medicines can be prepared from the herbs found in the forests. There is a strong potential of manufacturing AYUSH medicines in the state. Ayush Pharmaceutical

Manufacturing Park can be established in the state. For the development of Ayurveda, we need to plan with the vision for the year 2047.

Commissioner AYUSH Sonali Ponskhe Vayangankar said that farmers are being encouraged to cultivate medicinal plants in the state through Devaranya Yojana. For this, arrangements have been made to give special training to the farmers. MoUs are being signed with Ayurveda companies for processing, storage and marketing of medicinal plants. Dr. Dilip Kumar, CEO of Laghu Vanopaj Sangh, said that many important medicines are being manufactured by the Sangh in the state under the Vindhya herbal brand. Across the country, this brand has created a unique identity with its credibility.

Bhopal Science Centre Readies for Chandrayaan-3 Soft Landing

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A model of Chandrayaan-3 has been prepared and a screen has been installed at the Bhopal Science Centre to give complete information about the mission.

"ISRO scientists have worked hard for this, and it will definitely be successful. The south pole of the moon is very important because there is a possibility of water. A model of Chandrayaan has also been prepared here as well as a screen has been installed which gives complete information about Chandrayaan-3 Mission," said Saket Singh Kaurav, Project Coordinator, Bhopal Science Centre.

After Russia's Luna-25 mission failed, all eyes will be on India as its Chandrayaan-3 is set to land on the moon on August 23, 2023 (Wednesday), around 1804 IST.

In its latest update on Chandrayaan-3 soft landing, ISRO meanwhile said the mission is on schedule and systems are undergoing regular checks.

The live telecast of the landing operations will begin at 5:20 PM IST on Wednesday. Live actions of



landing will be available on the ISRO website, its YouTube channel, Facebook, and public broadcaster DD National TV from 5:27 PM IST on Aug 23, 2023. ISRO released images of the moon captured by LPDC

Along with the mission's update, ISRO also released images of the moon captured by the Lander Position Detection Camera (LPDC) from an altitude of about 70 km. These images assist the lander module in determining its position (latitude and longitude) by matching them against an

onboard moon reference map.

Notably, the 'Vikram' lander module of the spacecraft successfully separated from the propulsion module on Thursday, and subsequently underwent crucial deboosting manoeuvres and descended to a slightly lower orbit. The Chandrayaan-3 mission's lander is named after Vikram Sarabhai (1919 - 1971), who is widely regarded as the father of the Indian space programme. A GSLV Mark 3 (LVM 3) heavy-lift launch vehicle was used for the launch of the spacecraft that was placed in the lunar orbit on August 5 and since then it has been through a series of orbital manoeuvres been lowered closer to the moon's surface. It has been a month and eight days since the Indian Space Research Organisation launched the Chandrayaan-3 mission on July 14. The spacecraft was launched from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Andhra Pradesh's Sriharikota.

The stated objectives of Chandrayaan-3, India's third lunar mission, are safe and soft landing on the lunar surface, rover moving on the moon's surface, and in-situ scientific experiments.

Ayurveda lifestyle good for better health: AYUSH Minister Kawre

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Minister of State for AYUSH (Independent Charge) Shri Ramkishore 'Nano' Kawre has said that Ayurveda is the best means to maintain good health in today's modern lifestyle. Ayurveda system of medicine has a 5 thousand years old history in the country. The most complex diseases can be totally cured without any side effects with the herbs found in the forests. Minister of State Kawre was addressing the conference of Ayurveda physicians "Ayurveda Amrit Manthan" in the auditorium of Pt. Khushilal Sharma Ayurveda College, Bhopal. Ayurveda experts from all over the country participated in the conference.



Good prospects of Ayurveda Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Park AYUSH Minister Kawre said that during the Corona period, the general public understood the importance of Ayurveda in boosting the immunity of

the body. Madhya Pradesh has forest area rich in rare herbs. Medicines can be prepared from the herbs found in the forests. There is a strong potential of manufacturing AYUSH medicines in the state. Ayush Pharmaceutical

Manufacturing Park can be established in the state. For the development of Ayurveda, we need to plan with the vision for the year 2047.

Commissioner AYUSH Sonali Ponskhe Vayangankar said that farmers are being encouraged to cultivate medicinal plants in the state through Devaranya Yojana. For this, arrangements have been made to give special training to the farmers. MoUs are being signed with Ayurveda companies for processing, storage and marketing of medicinal plants. Dr. Dilip Kumar, CEO of Laghu Vanopaj Sangh, said that many important medicines are being manufactured by the Sangh in the state under the Vindhya herbal brand. Across the country, this brand has created a unique identity with its credibility.

Will Bulldozers Keep Running In Madhya Pradesh? What Chief Minister Said

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, known to have an amiable persona since he headed the state in 2005, has acquired a new image ahead of elections in the state. The 64-year-old, seen as a "Mama (maternal uncle)" has acquired the moniker "Bulldozer Mama" after bulldozer action against a handful of people in the state.

"I became a Chief Minister at the end of 2005. That time, there were three problems in Madhya Pradesh. The first was the terror of dacoits in Chambal. I had said that either Shivraj will stay on the soil of Madhya Pradesh or the dacoits. The two cannot coex-

ist. I ended all dacoity within a year," Chouhan said.

"I ended the Maoist activities... I'm as soft as flowers for the people. But if I am soft towards everybody, who will control dacoits and Maoists, mafia, or criminals who assault women? So the bulldozers will keep running. Why is it an issue? They are criminals," he added.

Madhya Pradesh has seen frequent bulldozer action over the last months, following the trend in BJP-ruled Uttar Pradesh and Haryana.

In July, the house of Pravesh Shukla, accused of urinating on a Dalit man, was razed on the orders of the state government. The accused was arrested after the video, where he was seen urinating on a man, was widely

circulated. Later that month, the houses of two men accused of raping and brutalising a 12-year-old girl in the temple town of Maihar in Satna district were razed.

In June, the razing of 10 houses belonging to people from the Scheduled Castes in Rajpura village of Sagar district sparked a huge row. Six of the houses were built under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. The Forest Department said only those who were illegally occupying the government forest land were evicted.

After huge criticism from the Congress and Arvind Kejriwal's Aam Aadmi Party, the government suspended the ranger who ordered the demolition and said the houses will be reconstructed.



EDITOR'S SPECS

India remains most stable market in Asia on fundamentals, flows

India's outperformance in 2Q and 3Q so far is underpinned by strong economic and corporate top-line growth, a policy-driven recovery in investments, expectations of a manufacturing surge driven by global supply chain de-risking and the stability provided by robust domestic flows to stock market liquidity, says Manishi Raychaudhuri, Head of Equity Research, Asia Pacific, BNP Paribas. Valuations remain expensive but the relative lack of risks should sustain them for now, the report said. A 55bps spike in the US 10-year bond yield, triggered by a combination of FOMC's hawkish commentary and BOJ's relaxation of the YCC, boosted the USD and put paid to the nascent recovery in Asian equities. The gap between Asian earnings yield and the US bond yield is near its lowest - implying a likely period of lacklustre drift in the former, the report said. A sharp slowdown in Chinese economic momentum, continuing trouble for the leveraged frontline property developers and underwhelming policy stimuli are not helping either. The only silver linings are the recent EPS-estimate recoveries in Korea, India and pockets of ASEAN, it added. "We raise exposure to India through ITC, a relatively cheaper but high-quality consumer staples play likely to benefit from its recent business restructuring," BNP Paribas said. "Our overweights on HK/China and India continue, though slightly more so on the latter. Despite recession concerns in the US, we think Korean tech should be supported by a likely trough in the memory cycle."

ASSEMBLY POLLS IN HINDI HEARTLAND: A DIFFERENT BATTLEGROUND

Vinod Kumar Shukla

Apparently devising a new strategy from its earlier one of releasing names of election candidates at the last moment, the BJP has announced some names of its candidates in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh leaving opponents awestruck as Assembly polls are yet to be announced. The Congress is trying to ridicule the BJP by saying that it is fearful of the growing popularity of Rahul Gandhi and I.N.D.I.A. initiative forcing the saffron outfit to run helter-skelter and come up with such plans. But for the BJP, this could be an attempt to take lead against the Congress as both the parties had followed the more or less similar strategy of announcing names of their candidates at the brink. There is no denying the fact that the BJP is under pressure the way the Opposition has joined hands against the ruling dispensation in Delhi. However, political analysts also feel that the new strategy of the BJP could be an attempt to cause panic in the Opposition camp by putting pressure on them and they may commit some mistake in haste. All this is a mind game, the BJP is very good at. Bharat Rashtira Samiti (BRS) of Telangana announced names of its candidate except four while nomination of seven candidates changed including five sitting MLAs. There was speculation about denying tickets to about thirty candidates citing their performance but surprising everyone, KCR took a bold step and declared names of the candidates en-bloc at least three months before the election schedule. But the real battle is in the Hindi heartland. The three important states of the Hindi heartland - Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan - too will face elections before 2024 Lok Sabha elections and talks have started doing rounds which way the mood of voters may swing in these



Assembly elections. Just over six months are yet to go before elections are announced but the way Congress is conducting itself, the message can be heard on the streets. But the one state where nothing much is being discussed is Chhattisgarh. Why so? Because, the state appears to be the done case for the Congress while things are not good for the Congress in other states. Let's try to understand all this.

Chhattisgarh: A done game for the Congress and BJP?

Ever since T S Singh Dev was appointed as Deputy Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh by the Congress leadership, who was demanding from the Central leadership to honour their commitment made to him that he would share power with the incumbent Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel as the CM for the half term. Now, a compromise has been reached in the Congress and Singh Dev was appointed as Dy CM of the state and he accepted the offer with-

out any fuss and is serving the office. This has clinched the deal for the Congress as talks about any electoral challenge being posed to the Congress in Chhattisgarh is not at all being discussed. But they should not underestimate the BJP which had won three consecutive elections in the past. Apparently, the BJP in the state is completely discounted as Bhupesh Baghel had brought senior tribal BJP leader Nand Kumar Sai to the Congress fold as his plan B if Singh Dev doesn't remain reticent. Baghel appears to be fully in the saddle in the tribal state and is confident of winning the second tenure. The BJP appears to be divided between Raman Singh and Saroj Pandey while Central leadership is not in favour of both.

MP: Asset for the BJP and RSS

Madhya Pradesh, which is considered to be the biggest asset of the BJP and RSS, appears to be facing stiff challenge from former Chief Minister Kamal Nath who is leading the strategy and crisis management

for the Congress. Another former Chief Minister Digvijaya Singh by his ground work is adding value to the Congress' strategy and long anti-incumbency is doing the rest for the grand old party. Singh is doing all this to have some bargaining power for some good assignment to his son in case Congress comes to power. With Scindia scion and now Union minister Jyotiraditya Scindia out of the Congress, factionalism is over in the Congress and if at all any, it is minimal. Moreover, it was a victory for the Congress in the last elections too but the Congress failed to keep its flock together and lost power after mass resignation happened leading the Congress to become a minority government. Kamal Nath did not have any other option but to resign. So, the anti-incumbency still persists in the state which the BJP cannot withstand this time round if it goes to polls under the same leadership i.e. Shiv Raj Singh Chauhan. Recently when Amit Shah was asked a question on Chauhan being made the CM again but Shah simply evaded the

question. The chances of the BJP are improving in Madhya Pradesh but even if the BJP wins the Madhya Pradesh Assembly election, Chauhan may not be the choice for the post of CM. But announcing that he won't be the CM again would be akin to conceding defeat and saying that he would be the CM may cost the polls. There is a double whammy that the party is grappling with.

Rajasthan: A new beginning by breaking the norm

The Congress is looking to break the norm of alternate governments in the state. Former Deputy chief minister Sachin Pilot has been on streets to expose corruption during the past BJP governments. The Ashok Gehlot government failed to do anything about the corruption of the BJP regime. So ultimately whose agenda Pilot was serving, certainly of the Congress. Still nothing was done on his protest but he was included in the Congress Working Committee to cajole him. Now, both the leaders - Sachin Pilot and Ashok Gehlot - have been made part of the campaign panel for the Rajasthan elections. The way things are changing in Rajasthan, what if he joins hands with Gehlot, in such a scenario the going will certainly be tough for the BJP. The BJP is trying to corner the Congress on the law and order issue which is certainly an issue for which the Congress doesn't have the answer. Vasundhara Raje is still not very forthcoming for the Assembly elections. Moreover, the BJP has not made her part of any election management team so far. The elections in Rajasthan will be equally interesting.

international

TRUMP PLANS TO LEVERAGE ON HIS SURRENDER TO GARNER PUBLIC SYMPATHY

T.N. Ashok | Washington

Donald Trump has to surrender by Friday next (August 25) before Fulton County Judge Robert C.I. McBurney to answer DA Willis' 41-count charges of criminal conspiracy to overturn the 2020 presidential election verdict and poll interference in Georgia under the omnibus RICO Act, and the former US President is leveraging the event of fingerprinting and mug shot to advance his fortunes in the 2024 race by projecting himself as a martyr. One of the main reasons for Trump skipping the Milwaukee Republican sponsored debate on Wednesday is to avoid taking any risks where he would have to defend himself against eight contestants led by his arch enemy former VP Mike Pence and Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, and instead give his side of the story face-to-face with Tucker Carlson on Fox TV. That works better for him, media reports said. Even as the IOWA caucus was a huge success for Trump as majority of his supporters in the state rejected the charges levelled against him and don't strongly believe that



the 4th indictment at Georgia and the ones before it could have their larger than life fig-

ure doing anything wrong. Yet, Trump has the ignominy of being the first US President in American history to be tried for criminal conspiracy, tax evasion, tax fraud, and paying hush money to an adult porn star, being involved in a Ponzi scheme and being labelled as a misogynist by a woman who has sued him for \$10 million for defamation. Even as Trump's popularity grows among his 'blind' supporters rejecting the indictments, there is as yet no proof or evidence that he would get the RNC or GOP's nominee status as senior party leaders would weigh in the advantages and disadvantages of fielding a candidate with legal woes rather than a Trumpian mould DeSantis who could be a sure shot. Even as Trump thinks he is growing stronger by the day, inching closer toward a GOP nomination, his legal woes spill over to as long as May 2024. Here is the calendar of trials he faces: Four criminal trials and two civil trials. While some trials have been scheduled already, some others only have proposed trial dates. Trump is the only President to be charged on 100 counts of felony by various courts.

Japan to start releasing Fukushima nuclear wastewater on Thursday

Tokyo | Agencies

The Japanese government on Tuesday announced its decision to begin releasing nuclear-contaminated wastewater from the crippled Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant into the ocean on Thursday, weather conditions permitting. Despite raging opposition both at home and abroad, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida announced the controversial decision following a ministerial meeting held on Tuesday morning, reports Xinhua news agency. Last month, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) also gave its final approval to the discharge, saying Japan's release plan met international standards. Representatives of the country's fishing industry on Monday reiterated their firm opposition to the ocean discharge plan during Kishida's meeting with the head of Japan's national fisheries federation in hopes of gaining understanding.



Hit by a magnitude-9.0 earthquake and an ensuing tsunami on March 11, 2011, the plant suffered core meltdowns that released radiation, resulting in a level-7 nuclear accident, the highest on the International Nuclear and Radiological Event Scale. The plant has been generating a massive amount of water tainted with radioactive substances from cooling down the nuclear fuel in the reactor buildings, which are now being stored in about 1,000 storage tanks. In 2015, the Japanese government and the Tokyo Electric Power

Company, the operator of the plant, made an agreement with fisheries cooperative associations of both Fukushima prefecture and the nation that they will not proceed with any wastewater disposal "without the understanding of relevant parties". A total of 88.1 per cent surveyed expressed concerns over the government's plan to discharge treated radioactive wastewater into the ocean, as the disapproval rate of the Kishida-led cabinet rose to an eight-month high, according to the latest opinion poll conducted by the national news agency Kyodo.

US Coast Guard rescues man stuck on uninhabited Bahamas island

Washington | Agencies

The US Coast Guard said that it rescued a man who was stranded for three days on an uninhabited island in the Bahamas after his sailboat broke down. In a statement, the Coast Guard said the man was rescued on August 18 and "transferred to the Royal Bahamas Defence Force in good health". "Coast Guard Sector Key West watchstanders received notification from a Coast Guard Air Station Miami Auxiliary aircrew of a disabled sailboat firing flares near Cay Sal," it said. A Coast Guard Air Station Miami HC-144 Ocean Sentry aircrew located a man stranded on the island and dropped supplies including food, water and a radio to establish communication.



The man notified the crew that he had been stranded for three days after his vessel became disabled during his voyage. "We're proud to have saved this man's life. This case serves as a perfect example of why you must have the prop-

er safety equipment on your vessel," Petty Officer 3rd Class Dev Craig, a Coast Guard Sector Key West watchstander, was quoted as saying in the statement. "Without seeing the flare, the case may not have had a successful outcome."

UKRAINE CONFIRMS DRONE ATTACK ON RUSSIAN AIR BASE NEAR MOSCOW

Kiev | Agencies

Ukrainian authorities have confirmed of carrying out a drone attack on a Russian military air base located near Moscow, media reports said. The drone attack on Shaykovka air base in Russia's Kaluga region left "at least one aircraft damaged", CNN quoted Andriy Yusov, a spokesperson for Ukraine's Defense Intelligence, as saying to local media on Monday. "At least one plane is damaged. As in most cases, the Russian regime is trying to hide the true extent of losses and damage," Yusov said. The Shaykovka military air base operates Tupolev Tu-22M3 supersonic long-range bombers that have been used by Russia to strike targets in Ukraine since the start of the invasion in February 2022. The Ukrainian air force



reported on August 15 that aircraft operating from the Shaykovka air base had launched four Kh-22 air cruise missiles toward Ukraine. According to Yusov, Monday's attack was carried out "in clear coordination

with the Main Directorate of Intelligence of the Ukraine's Defense Ministry". "There are people who, in coordination with the Main Directorate of Intelligence, completed the assigned tasks," Yusov said, adding that this specific task was car-

ried out from within the Russian territory. "In many other cases" Ukraine's Intelligence performs various tasks from within the Russian territory, he said. Russian social media blog Baza, which has close con-

tacts with the Russian security services, said a Ukrainian drone had crashed on the territory of the Shaykovka air base on Monday, reports CNN. Baza reported that "an unused aircraft at the airfield was damaged". "However, this information has not been officially confirmed," it added. Another Russian Telegram channel, Mash, said: "the Ukrainian armed forces attempted to attack the Shaykovka military airfield in the Kaluga region." Later in the day, Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyanin said that Russian air defence downed two attack drones over the capital region, the BBC reported. Flights were suspended at Moscow's three biggest airports, according to state media, but the two main international airports at Sheremetyevo and Domodedovo later reopened.



MAHA CM SHINDE MAKES SURPRISE VISIT TO KEM HOSPITAL, ASSESSES FACILITIES

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde has made a surprise visit to the civic-run KEM hospital in Mumbai to assess the availability of facilities and the overall operational status.

Shinde's surprise visit took place as he was in central Mumbai to participate in a public function.

During his visit to the hospital on late Monday evening in Parel, the Chief Minister also interacted with the hospital staff and sought information regarding the existing facilities and machinery within the ICU ward.

An official who accompanied the Chief Minister during his visit to the hospital, said: "Shinde inquired about the facilities and machinery available at KEM hospital's ICU ward. He also interacted with doctors and other hospital staff."

The visit comes as a response to the recent unfortunate incidents, with 18 individuals losing their lives within a 24-hour period at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Hospital at Kalwa in Thane district.



After his visit, CM Shinde instructed officials from the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation to initiate necessary repairs to six previously closed wards of the KEM Hospital.

The Chief Minister highlighted that these refurbished wards could poten-

tially accommodate around 400 to 450 patients.

Addressing concerns about access to treatment, Shinde reassured both patients and their families, stating: "I spoke to patients and their kin and assured them no one would miss out

on treatment due to lack of money."

Expressing his observations, Shinde noted: "I found some facilities and services in the hospital in good condition. Work on the shut wards will begin in two days. I have asked the authorities to conceal open wires, etc." His proactive approach towards assessing and addressing the situation showcases the government's commitment to ensuring the well-being of the citizens.

As part of his unexpected hospital visit, Chief Minister Shinde actively engaged with hospital staff, patients, and the overall infrastructure.

This move aims to not only gather firsthand information but also to signal the government's responsiveness in the face of challenges.

The Chief Minister's visit comes ahead of the anticipated report by a panel established to investigate the recent spate of deaths at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Hospital.

The panel's report is likely to be presented by August 26, contributing to the broader effort to enhance healthcare services and facilities within the state.

Centre starts onion procurement at Rs 2,410 per quintal to protect farmers' interests: Piyush Goyal

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Union Minister Piyush Goyal on Tuesday said the Central government has started onion procurement at Rs 2,410 per quintal in Maharashtra to protect farmers amid export curbs.

"NCCF and NAFED had started the sale of onions at subsidised rate of Rs 25 per kg to consumers across the country on Monday. Today, a further boost will be given. Both consumers and farmers are precious for us. I urge the farmers to not worry, and sell their produce at good price," Goyal said in a press conference.

"Farmers have nothing to worry about and should not indulge in panic selling. I am in continuous dialogue with both Eknath Shinde (Maharashtra Chief Minister) and Devendra Fadnis (Deputy Chief Minister). Ajit Pawar and I have spoken several times. I am also in touch with the Maharashtra Agriculture Minister and several other state ministers," the Union Commerce Minister added.

He said that the Centre will make onions available at Rs 25 per kg to consumers to keep prices stable. "We will reach areas which see prices of onion rise and make the commodity available at subsidised prices," Goyal said. Onion prices have been on a rise with prices rising from Rs 30 a kg to Rs 40 a kg now. "On August 17, two important decisions



were taken, on the export 40 per cent tax has been imposed. But along with this, NCCF and NAFED will buy 5 lakh tons of onions instead of 3 lakh, so that our farmers don't have any problems. Two lakh tonnes will be bought at Rs 2,410 per quintal, while both NCCF and NAFED will sell onions at a subsidised rate of Rs 25 kg for consumers in different regions. This subsidy will be provided by the government," the Minister said.

Anticipating a huge spike in prices, the Centre on August 19 had imposed a 40 per cent duty on onion exports till December 31 with immediate effect to improve domestic availability of the vegetable.

However, on Monday, the Agriculture Produce Market Committee (APMC) of Lasalgaon in Nashik, Asia's largest onion market, stopped onion trading indefinitely to protest the Centre's decision to impose export duty, which has forced it to procure onions from the state.

Stuck in HP landslide, Rakesh Bedi breaks finger while moving boulder

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor Rakesh Bedi was stuck in a major landslide while coming back from Solan in Himachal Pradesh. He even revealed that a huge boulder dropped in front of his car and is thankful to god that it did not hit him.

Rakesh took to Instagram, where he detailed the horrific incident. In the clip, he said: "You must have heard how Shimla, Himachal Pradesh are all badly affected by landslides. Such huge mountains are coming down heavily... I went to Solan two weeks ago for a lecture on acting that I had to deliver. While I was returning, we were told that the main highway is stuck due to a landslide and we may take a shortcut."

He added that he took a shortcut and "a huge boulder



der fell right in front of us. Thank God it did not fall on our car, otherwise I'd have been."

He shared: "So when I tried to become a He-Man, and remove the boulder from the road, it moved ahead but rolled back on my finger. My finger was badly hurt and

half of the finger dangled, it was so badly hurt. It has healed to a major extent now."

He revealed that if the injury would have been deeper, the finger would have been off his hands.

"The road was later cleared with the help of a JCB machine," Rakesh concluded, while showing a glimpse of the finger.

Rakesh captioned the clip: "When I was stuck in a landslide in Himachal".

Rakesh is best known for his role in television shows like 'Yeh Jo Hai Zindagi', 'Shrimaan Shrimati', and 'Yes Boss'. He is known for his comic roles in movies like 'Mera Damaad' and 'Chashme Buddoor'.

He was last seen in 'Zara Hatke Zara Bachke' as Harcharan Chawla, and also 'Gadar 2'.

MP NAVEET RANA RECEIVES DEATH THREAT ON PHONE: MAHARASHTRA POLICE

Amravati, Maharashtra: Lok Sabha MP Naveet Rana allegedly received death threat on phone, said police. Maharashtra police have registered a case against the accused.

The accused has been identified as Vitthal Ra.

Police said that a case has been registered under multiple sections of IPC.

"A case has been registered under sections 504, 506 (b) of the IPC for threatening to kill Amravati MP Naveet Rana. The accused used the mobile phone to threaten the MP," police said. Vinod Guhe who is the Private secretary of Lok Sabha MP Naveet Rana, lodged a police complaint in this regard.

Further investigation is underway.

Amid protests over export duty on onions, Maha Minister's shocker

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Amid protests by farmers and traders against the Centre's decision to impose 40 per cent export duty on onions, Maharashtra minister Dada Bhuse has claimed it would make no difference if people did not consume the key kitchen staple for two to four months.

The state PWD minister, however, also said on Monday that the decision to impose export duty should have been taken with proper coordination.

The government has imposed 40 per cent duty on the export of onions to check price rise and improve supplies in the domestic market.

The Finance Ministry through a notification imposed the 40 per cent



duty on onions till December 31, 2023.

"When you use a vehicle worth Rs 10 lakh, you can buy produce at a higher rate by Rs 10 or Rs 20 than the retail rate. Those who cannot

afford to buy onion, it would make no difference if they do not eat it for two-four months," Bhuse said.

He also said the decision to impose export duty should have been taken with proper

coordination. "Sometimes onion fetches rates of Rs 200 per quintal while some times it attracts Rs 2,000 per quintal. A discussion can be held and an amicable solution can be found," Bhuse said.

Earlier on Monday, traders decided to close onion auctions indefinitely in all the Agriculture Produce Market Committees (APMCs) in Nashik, including at Lasalgaon, which is the largest wholesale onion market in India. The Nashik District Onion Traders Association had given the call to not take part in onion auctions indefinitely till the Centre rolls back its decision, sources said.

Several farmers and traders held protests across the district seeking a rollback of the export duty.

Sunny Deol was asked about row over his Juhu Bungalow, He says, 'No comments'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood actor Sunny Deol on Tuesday refused to comment on Bank of Baroda's property auction notice and said that I do not want to comment as these are personal matters.

Bank of Baroda the state-owned bank was set to put on auction the property owned by actor and BJP Member of Parliament Sunny Deol to recover Rs 56 crore.

"I do not want to comment. These are personal matters. Main kuch bhi bolunga, log galat matlab nikalenge," Sunny Deol said.

Meanwhile, Bank of Baroda has cited two major "technical" reasons as to why it withdrew the auction notice of actor-cum-parliamentarian Sunny Deol's property in Mumbai.

Earlier it withdrew the sale notice published citing "technical reasons".

"First, the total dues did not specify the exact quantum of dues to be recovered. Secondly, the



sale notice was based on a symbolic possession of the property as per Rule 8(6) of The Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. An application has been made for physical possession by the Bank with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate on 01st August 2023, which is pending for permission," a Bank of Baroda spokesperson said in a statement.

"Since the unit is running as conveyed to us by the borrower, sale action will be initiated as per the provisions of the SARFAESI Act, once the physical possession is taken," the spokesperson said.

In the meantime, the bank said the borrower has approached the lender for settling the dues as per the sale notice published on Sunday, "where the borrower/guarantors were notified that they are entitled to redeem the securities by paying the outstanding dues/costs/charges and expenses at any time before the sale is conducted." Citing these as reasons, the sale notice is withdrawn as per the normal industry practice followed in other cases as well, the spokesperson added.

Team Absolute | Palghar

A 27-year-old woman riding pillion on a motorbike died after her 'dupatta' (stole) got entangled in a wheel of the two-wheeler in Maharashtra's Palghar district, police said on Tuesday.

The incident took place on Sunday morning when Pratima Yadav, from Kandivali in neighbouring Mumbai, was returning with her husband after visiting a temple in Vasai area here, an official from Naigaon police station said.

Her stole got entangled in the motorbike wheel near Bapane village on a highway.



She got strangled and fell down from the two-wheeler, the official said.

The woman received severe injuries and was rushed to a local hospital

where doctors declared her brought dead, the police said. The body was sent to a government hospital for postmortem, they added.

Boy kills mother with axe for texting

Team Absolute | Palghar

A 17-year-old boy allegedly axed his mother to death in Palghar district of Maharashtra after seeing her messaging someone from her mobile phone, police said today.

The incident took place late on Sunday night in Parole area of Vasai township, they said.

The boy doubted the character of his mother, Sonali Gogra (35), and the two had frequent quarrels over it, inspector Ashok Kamble from Mandvi police station said. While the boy was having dinner on Sunday night, he noticed his mother messaging someone on the mobile phone and got annoyed. He then pulled out an axe and allegedly hit her with it, the official said.



The other family members were not present in the house at the time of the incident, he said. The severely injured woman was rushed to the Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital in Bhiwandi where doctors declared her brought

dead, he said, adding the body was sent for post-mortem.

A case was registered under Indian Penal Code Section 302 (murder) against the accused, who is yet to be caught, the police said.

Ruckus on Thane street after police take action against traffic violators

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The police in Thane registered a case after a group of people held up a towing van on traffic police duty in Thane city of Maharashtra after it took action against vehicles parked haphazardly near the Upvan lake, an official release said.

The incident occurred on August 19 when action was being taken against vehicles parked at the famous spot frequented by people on weekends.

A group of people prevented the towing van from moving and heated arguments ensued with the staff, a Traffic Police release said.

"Even when the towing van staff showed the required permit and license, the people didn't allow the van to proceed and threatened to attack them," it said.

They shot videos of the incident and circulated them on social media to malign the image of traffic police, the release said.



A traffic police official supervising the towing operation lodged a complaint, following which offences were registered under sections 341 (wrongful restraint) 186 (voluntarily obstructing any public servant in the discharge of his public duty) and 506

(criminal intimidation) of the Indian Penal Code.

Nobody is arrested so far, the police said. Meanwhile, in another incident, the Thane police have registered a case against an unidentified person for allegedly creating a fake

website and e-mail ID in the name of a private company making medicines and seeking money from people, an official said on Tuesday.

The fraudster sent messages to people offering franchise for a certain fees by making use of the company's name, its videos, and photos of its CEO and founder, the official from Naupada police station said quoting the firm's complaint.

The company management came to know about the fraud through one of its representatives, who also got a call from an unidentified number referring to the fake website and a subsequent e-mail received giving details of the firm and availability of the franchise, the police said.

The police on Sunday registered a case against the unidentified culprit under Section 420 (cheating) of the Indian Penal Code and provisions of the Information Technology Act, the official said. No arrest has been made so far in this connection so far, the police said, adding a probe is on into the case.



RIHANNA REPORTEDLY WELCOMES SECOND BABY WITH A\$AP ROCKY

Los Angeles | Agencies

Singer Rihanna and rapper A\$AP Rocky have welcomed their second baby, according to sources. Rihanna, who also shares 15-month-old son RZA with Rocky, recently gave birth to the couple's second child, according to multiple outlets, reports etonline.com.

The 'Umbrella' singer first announced that she was pregnant again while headlining the 2023 Super Bowl halftime show. For the occasion, Rihanna donned a fully red ensemble that showcased her baby bump, confirming the pregnancy rumours that had been circling the artist. And despite the fact she had given birth to RZA only months before, the 35-year-old readily agreed to take the stage for an iconic performance when Apple Music, who



presented the show, came calling. In fact, her answer was in part inspired by her newborn. "It feels like it could have only been now," she said in a February 9 interview. "When you become a mom, there's just something that just happens where you feel like you can take on the world, you can do anything and the Super Bowl is one of the biggest stages in the world."

And much like her first pregnancy, Rihanna never shied away from baring her bump these last nine months. Whether it was relaxing on vacation in Barbados or channeling her inner-Barbie in an all-pink ensemble, Rihanna always made pregnancy look chic as can be.

Her history with Rocky traces back to the 2012 MTV Video Music Awards, where they performed 'Cockiness' together, before heading on tour the next year. However, it was years later, in 2020, when they confirmed their relationship and eventually stepped out at the biggest red carpet: the 2021 Met Gala. The pair debuted their first pregnancy with a photo shoot in January 2022, later welcoming RZA in May.



Lady Gaga

Reflects on her struggle as 'incredibly insecure' teen

Los Angeles | Agencies

Singer-actress Lady Gaga has become known for having sported a series of extravagant looks over the course of her career but she said that she was not always as confident as a teenager and explained how exploring with beauty has become a "healing practice" for her.

"It has been a healing practice for me since I was really young. I was incredibly insecure when I was a teenager, and when I graduated high school and went off on my own, I discovered that makeup had the power to transform who I was," she told E! News, reports acehowbiz.com.

"I realised that I had more of an ability to speak up for myself. And it had more to do with how I felt and not how I looked. I always say that because I think everybody's makeup style is unique to them. With Haus Labs, I want people to know this is not about trying to look like me. This is about looking like you." The 'Telephone' hitmaker also explained that as soon as others start worrying about what others want to see them look like is when a "complicated relationship" with beauty can begin as he urged them to "trust their instincts" and be themselves. "Trust yourself! Whatever inspiration is coming your way, whatever feeling you're having, just trust your instincts. Because when you stop trusting your

Sandra Bullock to scatter boyfriend's ashes at their wedding venue in Bahamas

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Sandra Bullock reportedly wants to scatter her late partner Bryan Randall's ashes at a luxury sea resort where they secretly exchanged "vows".

The actress was heartbroken at the start of August when her long-term photographer boyfriend Bryan Randall died aged 57 after a three-year battle with fatal motor neuron disease ALS.

She is considering saying her final goodbye to him at the Three Bees in the Bahamas, where she apparently wants to scatter his ashes in the sea. Sources have now told DailyMail.com. The outlet said the pair had an unofficial wedding ceremony at the resort in 2017, three years before his devastating diagnosis with ALS - though they never formally married.

An insider said, "The place was just so special to them both."

"They would take over the entire island so they could just be themselves. It was a place where they shared some of their happiest times together and with the kids and friends. They would go there for weeks at a time. It holds a lot of meaning and it just makes sense for that to be where she says goodbye to him."

Bryan's daughter Skylar Staten Randall, 29, took receipt of her father's ashes last week after a representative from the Hollywood Forever Cemetery made the delivery to her Los Angeles apartment three days after he passed away.

DailyMail.com reports Sandra and Bryan exchanged vows on the beach in the Bahamas in an intimate ceremony witnessed by friends and family on December 31, 2017.

DailyMail.com has obtained photos of the pair kissing on the beach at the resort. Video also obtained by the outlet shows the couple dancing after the ceremony.

Sandra first met Bryan after hiring him to take photographs at a birthday party for her son Louis, now 13, in 2015. They went public as a couple in October of that year, at the premiere of her movie 'Our Brand Is Crisis'.



CHRIS HEMSWORTH H'S WIFE ELSA PATAKY SEEN WITH BRUISED EYE

Sydney | Agencies

Hollywood star Chris Hemsworth's wife Elsa Pataky was photographed nursing her injured eye after the couple attended the FIFA Women's World Cup final at Stadium Australia in Sydney.

In a picture going viral online, she could be seen nursing her face with an ice pack at an airport on their way home to the Byron Bay area. The pair previously took their children to watch the match between Elsa's native Spain against England, which was won by Spain, reports acehowbiz.com.

The image saw Elsa putting the ice pack on the area underneath her left eye, which was visibly injured.

She wore a plaid shirt over a black top that she paired with jeans and some trainers. She also had a gray hoodie with her, though she opted not to wear it.

Hemsworth was walking behind her while carrying some of their bags.

For the family affair, the 'Thor: Love and Thunder' star simply dressed in a white T-shirt and denim pants as well as white sneakers. He also accessorised himself with some sunglasses and a baseball cap.

Prior to this, Elsa took to her Instagram accounts to share some pictures and a video of her and her family watching Spain's victorious game against England.

In one of her posts, the actress, who was born in Madrid, could be seen posing from their seats with Chris having one of their kids on his lap.

She made it obvious that she was there to support Spain as she wore a red Spain jersey.

The 'Interceptor' actress also painted Spain's little flags on her cheeks. At the time, the beauty didn't seem to have any injury on her left eye. "World Champions!!!!!! Viva Espana!!!!!" Elsa captioned one post. She also documented her screaming in excitement after the team scored one goal.

Idina Menzel almost gave up singing due to bullying as a child

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Idina Menzel was unsure if she wanted to pursue a singing career after being bullied as a child.

Menzel is famous for having originated the role of Elphaba in the smash-hit Broadway musical 'Wicked' and for providing the voice of Elsa in Disney's 'Frozen' franchise but shared that she was "always torn" over her love for singing and the bullying she endured when she got on stage, reports acehowbiz.com.

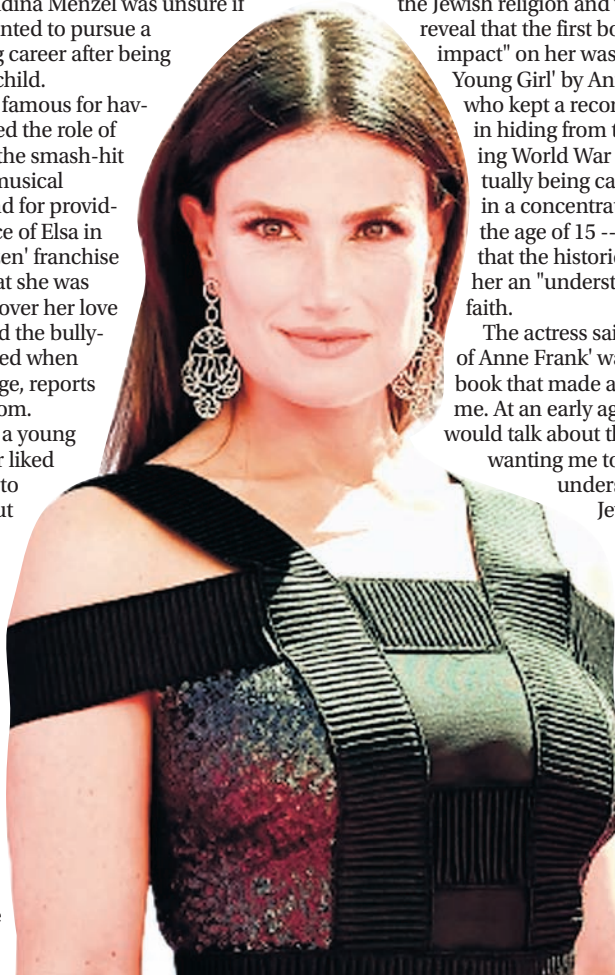
"There was a young girl who never liked me. She liked to sing as well but wasn't getting the same attention as me. The more compliments I received the more she hated me. I was always torn between my love for singing and the bullying I would endure when I chose to be seen,"

she told The Times.

Meanwhile, the 'Move' songstress follows the Jewish religion and went on to reveal that the first book to "have an impact" on her was 'The Diary of a Young Girl' by Anne Frank -- who kept a record of her time in hiding from the Nazis during World War II before eventually being caught and dying in a concentration camp at the age of 15 -- as she noted that the historical classic gave her an "understanding" of her faith.

The actress said, "The Diary of Anne Frank" was the first book that made an impact on me. At an early age my parents would talk about the Holocaust, wanting me to have an understanding of the Jewish experience."

"As a parent, I often wrestle with what age is appropriate for children to be exposed to the hatred in the world. When do I protect my son's innocence? When do I have the real conversations?"



ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Jenna Dewan



132nd Durand Cup

AAREN D SILVA'S HAT-TRICK HELPS HYDERABAD FC SIGN OFF WITH FACILE WIN

Guwahati | Agencies

Hyderabad FC (HFC) defeated Nepal's Tribhuvan Army FC (T AFC) 3-0, courtesy of an Aaren D Silva hat-trick, in the final Group E game at Guwahati's Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium, to end their campaign in the 132nd Durand Cup with a win.

It is the fifth hat trick of the tournament and the fourth by an Indian.

The Nizams will finish second in the group behind Chennaiyin FC, who topped with a 100% record and nine points. T AFC finished fourth behind third-placed Delhi FC, with one point from the draw against Delhi.

Hyderabad FC manager Thangboi Singto made four changes to his 11 that started the last Chennaiyin game including bringing in Gurmeet under the bar in place of Anuj Kumar. T AFC coach Megh Raj made two in contrast.

The first goal for the Nizams came in the 16th minute. The cross came in from Ramhlunchhunga from the left flank. Aaren had to get ahead of the marker and directed his header away from keeper Bikes Kuthu.

The second goal came eight minutes later when Md. Yasir found Aaren inside the box with a delectable ball that sliced through the



T AFC defense and the latter returned the compliment with a chip over the keeper.

Sensing trouble, Megh Raj made a double change at the 30-minute mark, bringing in Santosh and Ashish in place of Sehsheng and Tanka Bahadur. That did off an enterprising

shot by Phatteman Ghale, but his left-footed volley just eluded the reach of Gurmeet and missed the target as well.

That was perhaps T AFC's best attempt of the game as Aaren duly completed his hat trick in the second half.

He could have done it a minute earlier than he finally did, missing a free header. However, in the 69th minute, Yasir put Aaren on inside the box again and the tall and sturdy forward turned his marker on the inside and placed it calmly with his left for a well-deserved hat-trick.

IBSA World Games

India men's blind cricket team beat Australia, women's team thrash England by 185 runs

Birmingham | Agencies

Indian men's blind cricket team registered their first win of the International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA) World Games 2023 after defeating Australia by 8 wickets in Birmingham.

India had to face a defeat at the hands of Pakistan on Sunday but the Men in Blue came back hard at Australia to win the match on Monday.

In the women's game, India thrashed England by 185 runs to win their second game of the showpiece event.

In the men's game, opting to bat first, Australia had the worst possible start as the team from down under lost the first wicket in the first over. M Zannis and S Nero then steadied the ship as the duo batted carefully in the powerplay.

S Nero scored 51 runs in 43 balls and M Cameron chipped in with 39-ball 38 as Australia scored 139/4 in the allotted 20 overs.

Riding on the brilliant half-century of Nareshbhai Balubhai Tumda (62 not out in 33 balls), India chased down the target of 140 in just 13 overs. Sunil Ramesh and Nakula Badanayak scored 47 and 25 runs respectively as India registered a comfort-



able win over Australia.

Earlier in the day, the women's team thrashed England by 185 runs to win their second match of the IBSA World Games 2023.

The women in Blue won the toss and opted to bat first. India lost a wicket in the second over of the game, however, Gangava Neelappa Harijan provided the side a ferocious start as the side scored 97 runs in the powerplay. Neelappa continued her stellar and smashed a brilliant century (117 in 60 balls) as India went past the 200-run mark in the 14th over.

Vice-captain Phula Saren and Valasanaini Ravanni chipped in with 49 and 54 runs respectively as India scored 268/2 in the allotted 20 overs.

Chasing a mammoth total of 269 runs, England got off to a bad start as the side

scored 22 runs in the first 4 overs with a loss of one wicket. The bad form continued as England kept losing wickets in the chase. England batters struggled to get their feet in and never really looked good in the chase before scoring a paltry 83/8 in the 20 overs.

The Indian men's blind cricket team will now play against England on Tuesday while the women's team will meet Australia on Wednesday in the IBSA World Games 2023 in Birmingham.

Brief scores

India women 268/2 (Gangava Neelappa Harijan 117) beat England women 83/8 (K Jelfs-White 32)

4 Nations Tournament

Indian junior men's hockey team finishes second after losing to Germany

Düsseldorf | Agencies

The Indian junior men's hockey team on Tuesday lost 1-6 to the hosts Germany in the Final of the 4 Nations Tournament-Düsseldorf 2023 to finish the tournament as runners-up.

Sudeep Chirmako (22) scored the lone goal for India while Germany's goals came from Florian Sperling (15), Ben Hasbach (20), Hugo von Montgelas (23), Fabio Seitz (38), Nikas Berendts (41), and Paul Glander (43).

India started confidently after a 4-0 victory over England in their previous game. However, Germany, which had won all of their previous games in the tournament, soon began to pose threats to India's defensive forces. Just before the end of the first quarter, Florian Sperling (15) put Germany ahead and helped Germany take the lead.

The second quarter started with Germany continuing their dominance. Ben Hasbach (20) scored the second goal of the match, extending his side's lead. But two minutes later Sudeep Chirmako (22) pulled a goal back for India. Germany's Hugo von Montgelas (23) scored straightaway to again help Germany regain their two-goal lead. Germany defended



well to enter halftime with a 3-1 lead.

Trailing by two goals, India showcased attacking intent at the start of the third quarter and started looking for quick goals to cover the deficit. But Fabio Seitz (38) managed to find the back of the net in the 38th minute and extended Germany's lead to 4-1.

Nikas Berendts (41) made the most of a late penalty corner while Paul Glander (43) added another field goal to help Germany take a dominant 6-1 lead by the end of the third quarter. With 15 minutes left on the clock, Germany, already having a solid lead, started maintaining possession of the ball to try and prevent India from stitching any attacking moves. Germany defended well in their own half and managed to hold on to their lead to win the match 6-1.

Make live coverage of selection meetings available for all, Bengal cricketer Manoj Tiwary tells BCCI

To bring in more transparency in the selection of the national team, former India cricketer and Bengal's current sports minister, Manoj Tiwary has suggested that BCCI should make a live broadcast of these important meetings rather than keeping them closed-door affairs.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Bengal Ranji Trophy team captain also made it clear that he would take the path of such 'live coverage' if he ever gets to head the local cricket body -- the Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB).

"For fans and every stakeholder, I would like to see a live broadcast of the selection meeting so that there is more transparency in the process. Everyone will know on what basis a player is picked on the team or dropped from the team. Otherwise, questions would be raised over and over again," Tiwary told the YouTube channel 'Cricket Basu' while reacting to India's team



selection for the Asia Cup on Monday.

"I am happy that the captain Rohit Sharma and chairman of the selection committee (Ajit Agarkar) have at least addressed the press. Otherwise, that was also going out of circulation," he said.

With BCCI not having a proper communication system between the selectors and players, Tiwary suggested that live broadcast is certainly a quick-fix solution at a time when BCCI is doing away with zonal selection and has two selectors out of five from Mumbai.

"I am not the only person who fell prey to lack of communication from the selectors, BCCI. There were others like Murali Vijay and Karun Nair who spoke their minds like me after getting dropped with absolutely no communication coming from the management. One stop solution is to make the selection meeting live," Tiwary said. He also promised that the day he gets the reins of Bengal cricket, he will make the meeting of the selection committee to pick the state team a 'live' event. "If at all I come to Bengal, I will make it like what Bengal thinks today, India thinks tomorrow," Tiwary said.

Manoj Tiwary also described his playing days' stories about the lack of communication between the selectors and players.

'Never dreamed of debuting directly...', says Tilak Varma after Asia Cup selection



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Young Indian batter Tilak Varma has said he wanted to play ODI cricket but never dreamed that his debut would be in the Asia Cup after being picked in the squad for the continental showpiece event.

Tilak showed his immense promise when amassing 343 runs for the Mumbai Indians at the IPL earlier this year and further built on those efforts by making an outstanding start to his international career during India's recent white-ball series against the West Indies.

The 20-year-old appeared in all five T20I matches India contested, scoring 173 runs in his first international series. His form against the West Indies was rewarded with the youngster earning a place in India's squad for the upcoming Asia Cup.

He has never played ODI cricket but could make his debut in the format at the 2023 Asia Cup, starting from August 30.

In a video shared by the BCCI, Tilak spoke about his Asia Cup selection and also conveyed his heartfelt appreciation to captain Rohit Sharma for his unwavering assistance and mentorship.

"I never dreamed that I would be debuting directly in the Asia Cup, and that too in the one-day side. I was always dreaming that I would be debuting for India in ODIs. But it is a big thing for me. And I always dreamed of this, like debuting for India in ODIs, that too, in like, a single year, I got my T20I debut and suddenly, in the next month, I'm just getting a call for the Asia Cup. So yeah, it is one of my dreams and I'm just preparing for it," said Tilak. He further conveyed his heartfelt appreciation to captain Rohit Sharma for his unwavering assistance and mentorship during the IPL.

Shooting World Championship

Adarsh misses quota for Paris by the narrowest of margins

Team Absolute | New Delhi

India's Adarsh Singh finished ninth in the Men's 25m Rapid Fire Pistol at the ongoing International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Championship (All Events) in Baku, Azerbaijan, missing a Paris Olympics quota by the narrowest of margins.

Adarsh shot 583 in the qualification stage, the same as Denys Kushnirov of Ukraine who bagged the sixth and last spot in the final, the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) informed in a



release here on Tuesday.

However, as things stood the fourth and final Paris quota available in the event went to Estonia's Peeter

Olesk, who also shot a 583, but finished one spot ahead of Adarsh on countback. The other quotas in the event went to China, Japan and Ukraine respectively.

Among the other Indians in the fray in the event, Vijayveer Sidhu shot 577 to finish in the 25th spot in the 76-strong field while Anish shot 575 to finish in 32nd position. India is still third on the medal tally with four gold and three bronze medals behind powerhouse China and the USA. A total of 26 of the 101 participating nations have won medals so far in this event.

World Athletics Championships

Debutant Sha'Carri Richardson crowned as 100m world champion

Budapest | Agencies

Debutant Sha'Carri Richardson outshone several renowned sprinters to clinch the top spot in the women's 100m race at the World Championships on Monday. The 23-year-old American, beginning inconspicuously from the ninth lane, surged impressively, clocking a new tournament record of 10.65 seconds, Xinhua reports.

In a riveting face-off at center stage, Jamaican veterans Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce and Shericka Jackson vied for dominance. Fraser-Pryce's season-



best of 10.77 seconds fell short against Jackson's 10.72 seconds. The pair could only observe as an elated Richardson jubilantly celebrated on the track. Holding five world champi-

on titles in the event, Fraser-Pryce divulged her intent to forgo the 200m race.

"I am happy to do so because I will be able to rest a bit before the relay. I will probably come to the stands to watch and enjoy the competition and then run fast with my relay team," she remarked. In the men's triple jump, Hugues Fabrice Zango secured Burkina Faso's inaugural World Championships gold with a leap of 17.64m. Following him were Cuban pair Lazaro Martinez and Cristian Napoles with jumps of 17.41m and 17.40m, respectively.

Coimbatore Open golf

Thangaraja shares lead with rookies Saptak Talwar, Aryan Roopa Anand on day one

Coimbatore | Agencies

The seasoned N. Thangaraja of Sri Lanka shared the lead with Indian rookies Saptak Talwar and Aryan Roopa Anand after the first round as the trio posted scores of six-under 66 in the Rs. 1 crore Coimbatore Open 2023, here on Tuesday.

TATA Steel PGTI Rankings leader Om Prakash Chouhan (67) of Mhow was one shot behind the leaders in fourth place at the Coimbatore Golf Club.

Thangaraja hit his irons and chips with pin-point precision on Tuesday which helped him collect seven birdies

in exchange for a lone bogey. Thanga, as he is popularly known, landed it extremely close to the pins leaving himself birdie putts within three feet on six occasions.

The other highlight of his round was the drive on the par-4 15th which found the green and led to a two-putt for birdie. The 42-year-old Colombo-based player's only setback was a bogey on the 17th. Thangaraja, a three-time winner on the PGTI, said, "I created a lot of scoring chances for myself today with my irons and wedges in particular. I hardly left myself any long putts. I worked on my chipping during the off-season and all that hard work is

paying off now."

Delhi-based Saptak Talwar drove it well on the front nine setting up a birdie on the fifth and an eagle on the ninth, also sinking a 15-footer on the latter. The 24-year-old Saptak, who plays at the Jaypee Greens Golf Resort in Greater Noida, then dropped a shot on the 10th before regaining control with four more birdies thereafter as he found the fringe of the green with his tee shot on the par-4 15th and landed his tee shot within a foot of the hole on the par-3 16th.

Bengaluru's Aryan Roopa Anand, who too was playing at Coimbatore after several years, made two birdies

and a bogey on the first eight holes before his round took off with a chip-in for eagle on the ninth.

The 21-year-old, currently placed 14th in the PGTI Order of Merit with two top-10s in the season so far, then added three more birdies on the back-nine which included a massive 60-foot conversion from off the green on the 17th. Sandeep Singh of Sri Ganganagar made a hole-in-one on the fourth hole during his round of 71 that placed him tied for 25th.

Amateur golfer J. Vignesh shot a 74 to be the highest-placed among the Coimbatore-based players in tied 64th position.



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Punjabi music star A. P. Dhillon, who recently released his documentary series 'AP Dhillon: First of a Kind', has said that he initially didn't like his chartbuster track 'Excuses'. He also shared that at times he is

AP DHILLON REVEALS HE DIDN'T LIKE TRACK 'EXCUSES'

overly-critical about himself and his work and it does cloud his judgement and objectivity because he sets the standards so high.

Talking to IANS, Dhillon shared that for him life is a canvas and the inspiration for him and his team - Gurinder Gill, Shinda Kahlon and Gminxr comes from what all is going around them or what they're going through.

Dhillon said, "The inspiration comes from life, what all is going around us, from us dealing with something or if there's something that affects us emotionally and mentally, we put all of that into army music."

The 'Brown Munde' hitmaker shared the music making process saying it mostly starts with Shinda bouncing off a lyrical draft to the team.

AP said: "It generally starts off with Shinda writing the lyrics and then we kind of get hold of the idea and toy around with it. Sometimes I also write but I feel I am at times I'm too critical with regards to what I write, the beats that I produce or the melody."

"For instance, with 'Excuses' as I wrote the lyrics to it, I felt something isn't right in the lyrical structure or it's not working out but these guys, they loved it. I didn't like what I wrote on that song but, these guys gauged it correctly and looking back at it today, that track has created history."



Karisma Kapoor, Ananya Panday set gram on fire in bikini photos from Ibiza vacation

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Actress Karisma Kapoor on Tuesday shared a sneak peek of her recent Ibiza vacation, giving us a glimpse of Gen-Z diva Ananya Panday, setting the internet on fire.

In July, Ananya had shared some glimpses of her picturesque holiday in Europe.

The actress was on vacation with her rumoured boyfriend and actor Aditya Roy Kapur. She had shared photos from Ibiza, and Lisbon.

Ananya was accompanied by her father and actor Chunky Panday, mother Bhavana, and sister Rysa. Taking to Instagram, Karisma shared a string of photos, in which Ananya and Lolo (as Karisma is fondly called) are posing for a selfie.

Ananya is seen wearing an emerald green coloured bikini, paired it with black sunglasses, and completed the look with a thin gold neck chain. While Karisma is donning a black thigh high slit dress, hair tied in a bun and black shades.

Two candid photos show Karisma posing with Bhavana on a beachside, laughing their heart out, and giving us friendship goals.

The 'Raja Babu' fame actress also shared a glimpse of her snacks and drinks. Karisma captioned the post as: "Ibiza - Sneak Peek #familyandfriends #takemeback #tuesdaythoughts". Ananya wrote in the comment section: "Lolooooo fave", to which Karisma replied 'Cutie'. Bhavana said: "Lolo !!! Our chats by the pool", and Karisma replied to her saying, 'just the best'.

YAMI GAUTAM GAVE HER CUES DURING COURT SEQUENCE IN 'OMG 2': ANVESHA VIJ

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The young actress Anvesha Vij, who was recently seen in the drama 'OMG 2' has opened up about the invaluable support she received from Yami Gautam during a pivotal court sequence.

Anvesha played the role of Pankaj Tripathi's onscreen daughter 'Damyanti' in the movie. The flick is a spiritual sequel to 'OMG - Oh My God!', which was released in 2012. Directed by Amit Rai, the movie talks about sex education in Indian schools.

It stars Akshay Kumar in the lead, while Yami Gautam, Pavan Malhotra and Arun Govil are seen in pivotal roles.

With a sense of gratitude, Anvesha shared, "Working with Yami mam was definitely one of the best experiences I've had. She's an amazing actor and she's incredibly calm, composed, and sincere. We used to take our time practicing lines together. We practiced them repeatedly and even went through the scene quite a few times."

"What I remember is that every time we did it, there was always something new to discover in the scene. We were completely immersed in it. I really liked how she would stand there. Even when the camera was on me, she would stay in place and provide me with cues. This was really amazing because it genuinely improved my performance in the scene," she added. The young actress' admiration for Yami extended beyond her acting prowess. "I have a lot of respect for her because of that, and I feel she's one of the best people I've had the opportunity to work with."

Hailing from Delhi, Anvesha gained recognition as Nikki Kapoor in Prime Video's 'Crash Course'.

'OMG 2' follows the story of Kanti Sharan Mudgal (Pankaj), a devout follower of Lord Shiva, who confronts hardship when his son is falsely accused and expelled from school.

Unveiling a web of deceit, Kanti sets out on a truth-seeking journey guided by divine intervention. Empowered by his revelation, he pursues justice, determined to confront the responsible parties in a dramatic courtroom face-off.



Strength does not take away femininity, says Tamannaah Bhatia

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Tamannaah Bhatia's character 'Anyia' in investigative thriller 'Aakhri Sach' is a perfect balance of physical, mental, and emotionally strong qualities, while still embracing and expressing femininity. As a cop, she displays strength and competence in her profession, yet she also embraces her emotions and vulnerability.

Talking about the same, Tamannaah said: "A woman being strong doesn't make her androgynous. Strength does not take away femininity, it is another asset of femininity. Women have always been very instinctive, that's an innate nature of women, we always have an intuition for everything."

"When we can marry our skills with our intuition, there's nothing more powerful than that and that is what 'Anyia' essentially embodies," she added.

One night, one family, multiple deaths, an investigating officer and various theories, 'Aakhri Sach' is inspired by true events. Set against the backdrop of simmering tension, the series will delve into the lives of each character as Tamannaah, playing the role of Anyia, the lead investigative officer embarking on a mission to unravel the mystery of the deaths. 'Aakhri Sach' takes you on an emotional journey with a talented ensemble of Tamannaah, Abhishek Banerjee, Shivin Narang, Danish Iqbal, Nishu Dikshit, Kriti Vij and Sanjeev Chopra. Pratik Sehajpal, will be seen in a cameo role.

Didn't know I could do so much acting: Nushratt Bharuccha

Team Absolute | Mumbai

She has given several memorable characters such as Neha and Cheeku from the 'Pyaar Ka Punchnama' franchise, Sweetie from 'Sonu Ke Titu Ki Sweetie', Mahi from 'Dream Girl' and Sakshi from 'Chhorii'. Actress Nushratt Bharuccha, who is now gearing up to essay the role of Jyoti in 'Akelli', says she never knew she could do so much acting or different roles.

In a conversation with IANS, Nushratt spoke about playing such roles and making a mark with them. But when she started off, she did not know she could do so much.

The actress said: "When I started I did not know I could do so much acting. I never knew I could do different roles. I started with what was given to me, I read it and tried to have fun with it and do it in a different way."

"Then I got another script. I tried the same thing and I achieved something. When I can't achieve it, I rely a lot on my director and I take advice from them."

Nushratt said that in order to make her characters stand out she tries different things only if required.

"Awaz change karun, chaal badlun, look change karun to add that little bit of nuance to the quirk if it is needed. If it's not needed I am happy to play a normal girl."

"But karte karte and enjoy karte I have just explored a wider world of films and characters which I had not thought of. It has been my discovery that it just happened," she shared.

In 'Akelli', Nushratt plays an "ordinary Indian girl" trapped in a combat zone. The thriller drama film is directed by Pranay Meshram. The film is set to release on August 25.



Chahat Khanna