

absolute india

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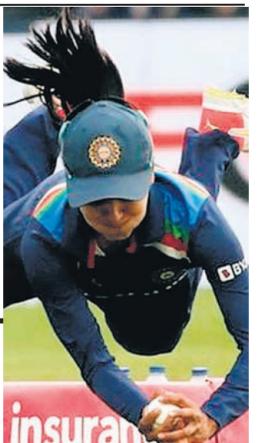
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Messi, England, Djokovic eye history on blockbuster Sunday

CLASH OF TITANS

Sunday, July 11, is a day of blockbusters as sports fans will find little time off their screens while witnessing what could turn out to be important events in sporting history.

EURO 2020 FINAL: ENGLAND VS ITALY

Team Absolute | New Delhi

While the Copa final will start the day, the Euro 2020 final between England and Italy will wind up the day as England will look for their first ever major international trophy in football since the 1966 World Cup. They face Italy at the iconic Wembley Stadium in London in front of their home crowd. In fact, this will be their first-ever final at a major football tournament since 1966. England's best at the Euros have been semi-final finishes in 1968 and 1996, when they hosted the event. English fans have been mentioning "It's coming home" on social media since the last three years. They were in the running to win the 2018 World Cup. But they lost the 2018 World Cup semi-final to Croatia. Their opponents Italy have won the Euro in 1968 and finished runner-up twice, in 2000 and 2012. They've also been world champions as recently as 2006.



COPA AMERICA FINAL: ARGENTINA VS BRAZIL

Argentina's Lionel Messi, who has earned honours at Barcelona to become one of the two best footballers of this era alongside Cristiano Ronaldo, is yet to win a major trophy in national colours. On Sunday morning, he will lead Albiceleste in the Copa America final against arch-rivals Brazil in Rio de Janeiro's iconic Maracana Stadium. Despite his legendary status, Messi has had near-misses with Argentina team and has often fallen at the last hurdle. He lost the Copa final in 2007, 2015, 2016 as well as the World Cup final in 2014. In fact, the 2016 Copa America final loss was too tough to bear for Messi, who announced his retirement after missing a penalty in the shoot-out in the final against Chile. But this is the chance to redeem himself. His closest rival at international stage, Ronaldo, has won European Championships with Portugal as well as club trophies to stay a step ahead of him.



Wimbledon final Novak Djokovic vs Matteo Berrettini

In between these two football continental finals, Novak Djokovic will be playing at the Wimbledon final against Matteo Berrettini, eyeing his 20th Grand Slam title to draw level with Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal as players to have won most Grand Slam men's singles titles. Djokovic, the world No 1, has won 19 so far and starts favourite against Berrettini, who is into his first Grand Slam final. The Wimbledon final will be played in the evening. Apart from football and tennis, there are cricket matches as well.



Schedule of events

- Copa America final**
Argentina vs Brazil (Maracana Stadium at Rio de Janeiro)
Time: 5.30 a.m. IST
- Wimbledon final**
Novak Djokovic vs Matteo Berrettini at Centre Court, Wimbledon, London.
Time: Undecided but in the evening.
- Euro 2020 final**
Italy vs England (Wembley Stadium in London)
Time: 12.30 a.m. (Monday) IST
- Cricket**
India Women vs England Women, 2nd T20I at Hove
Time: 7 p.m. IST
- Australia vs West Indies, 2nd T20I at St Lucia
Time: 5 a.m. IST
- South Africa vs Ireland, 1st ODI at Dublin
Time: 3.30 p.m. IST

After 28 years Raj farmers get back land stuck at Indo-Pak border

About 11,468 bighas of land was trapped between the Border fencing and the Zero Line. For 28 years, neither compensation was given against this land, nor were farmers able to cultivate it. Surprisingly, even in government records, this land is shown in the name of farmers. In such a situation, the farmers went to the High Court to get the rights on their lands. In 2013, the High Court, while deciding in favour of the farmers, had directed to give back land or compensate the farmers, but the farmers got nothing. In 1992, fencing was erected under the international agreement with Pakistan, at a stretch of 150 metres inside the international border, but farmers got just 4 metres of land that came outside the fencing. For the last two decades, the remaining land was in 'khatadari' of farmers but they could not use it for farming.

On the initiatives taken by the BSF, farmers in Rajasthan will be allowed to till their land which was stuck between international zero point and fencing at the India-Pakistan border around 28 years ago. This piece of land, stretched to thousands of bighas, was closed in 1992 after fencing was set up at the international border. However now, on the initiative of the BSF, farmers can go to their land and pursue farming. However, they shall be issued a pass to visit their land which will be checked during their entry and exist. The BSF has made a new gate for successful implementation of the process, which shall be opened and farmers will be allowed to visit their fields after showing these passes to officials deputed there. BSF DIG Vineet Kumar had a meeting with farmers a few days back after which he allowed them to till their lands. They were also allowed to irrigate their land. As per the decision, farmers will be given entry at 9 a.m. while they will have to make exit from fields at 5 p.m. Their passed will have photo IDs too which will be checked every time they exit and enter the fields.

Karnataka farmer files plaint Well, find the well



Belagaavi | Agencies

In a rarest of rare event, a farmer had to lodge a complaint to various authorities, including the police, to search out a sanctioned well in his agricultural land, which apparently "very much exists" on paper but is nowhere to be seen. Mallappa Ramappa Kalagude, a resident of Maavinahonda village in Rayabagh taluq of north Karnataka has alleged in his

complaint lodged on July 3, that officers have even sanctioned a bill amount of Rs 77,000 for the construction of the well under the NARE-GA scheme in his farmland. After collecting details and fake bills on the construction of the well, Mallappa has complained about it to Raibagh police, ZP CEO, Taluq Panchayath CEO and Ombudsmen officer. In his complaint, he has urged them to find out the well constructed by the govern-

ment. Mallappa explained that the bill was raised in his name to construct the well and the money was taken between April 0, 2020, and May 13, 2021. "There is only one well which exists for 40 years in my land. The officers have to find out the well which they constructed now," he adds. When contacted PDO Sadashiva said that he assumed charge only a week back and this incident was not in his knowledge.

SAAD THE NEW 'GHATAK' OF BENGALI CINEMA

Anwsha Bhaumik | Kolkata

Abdullah Mohammed Saad is billed as the new enfant terrible of Bengali cinema, whose films can leave viewers unsettled emotionally and madly appreciative in adulation. He resembles the great Ritwick Ghatak whose Partition themed films would make Bengalis across generations cry and weep, even react violently and leave all with deeply unsettling questions. Saad's "Rehana Maryam Noor", a 107-minutes exploration of moral dilemma and a woman's emotional turmoil received huge ovation at 74th Cannes Film Festival on July 7. Legendary French actress Catherine Deneuve described the film as "fantastic". A French lady on the streets recognised



lead actress Ajmeri Haque Badhon despite her Covid-19 face mask and asked her if she was 'Rehana'. Badhon, 34, said she wept at the recognition that the French only bestow on quality cinema. "Rehana Maryam Noor" is marked by Saad's directorial style that one commentator says, "grips like steel". Lead actress Azmeri Haque Badhon impresses but unsettles viewers as a lady whose pursuit of justice threatens to destroy her and those around her. Writer-director Saad, who achieved festival traction with his 2016 debut "Live From Dhaka", works out an unique visual narrative that pulls all into Rehana's world and leaves us ever curious to understand her psyche and the turn of events. Bangladesh has been rocked by recent cases of highly publicised sexual assaults by men in power on women who can barely resist.

2022 'mein Khela na hoi'

Varanasi | Agencies

The poster war over the now-famous West Bengal slogan "Khela hobe" is raising the heat in Uttar Pradesh where Assembly elections are a few months away. After the Samajwadi Party put up hoardings and posters with the tagline "2022 mein khela hoi" in Kanpur and Varanasi, the ruling BJP has reacted with posters that proclaim "2022 mein khela na hoi". The BJP posters have been put up by a local leader Bachchi Yadav and prominently carry the photograph of Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. The Samajwadi posters had been put up by a local party leader Abdul Samad. "Goonda, mafia, bhu-mafia, bhrastrachari are desh



drohi ka khela khatam hoi"-- the BJP poster further says. This is probably the first time that the SP and BJP are indulging in a direct poster war and that too, through its workers. Bachchi Yadav, the BJP leader, said, "There will be no game because we will not allow it. 'Games' are engineered by those who do not have a clean slate and want to grab power to shield their corruption. The BJP is banking on its work and development so there is no room for any game."

Surge in optimism as tourist arrivals rise in Kashmir

Srinagar | Agencies

For the first time since the beginning of the year, tourist footfalls have started going up in Kashmir, raising hopes all over again in the local hospitality industry. Tourists can be seen lining up at the ticketing counters of the historic gardens of Srinagar -- Mughal, Nishat, Shalimar and Chasme Shahi. Elsewhere, too, the hospitality industry had reasons to celebrate. "It now takes over an hour to cross the Wayil Bridge on the Srinagar-Leh highway in the evenings," said Jan Mohammad, who runs a restaurant near this famous bridge. "Vehicles returning with tourists from Sonamarg are lined up on the northern side of



this narrow bridge waiting for their turn to cross over," he said. Shikarawallahs, who earn their livelihood taking visitors across Dal Lake on joy rides, have started getting their first customers this year. "There has been a gradual increase in the number of tourists coming to visit Dal Lake," confirmed Abdul Salam, a shikarawallah in the Gagribal area of the Lake. Reports are equally encouraging from hoteliers and tour operators in Pahalgam and Gulmarg.

Khadi secures trademark registrations in Bhutan, UAE, Mexico

A Mile stone

- So far KVIC was having trademark registrations for the word mark "Khadi" in six countries -- Germany, UK, Australia, Russia, China and EU -- where trademark registrations were granted in certain classes.
- However, with recent trademark registrations in Bhutan, UAE and Mexico, the number of such countries has gone up to nine.

- In these countries, KVIC has got registrations in various classes that pertain to Khadi fabric, Khadi readymade garments and village industry products like Khadi soaps, Khadi cosmetics, Khadi incense sticks among others.
- It is for the first time in the history of KVIC that sustained efforts have been made in the last five years to protect the brand "Khadi" which was given to us by none other than Mahatma Gandhi.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has secured trademark registrations in Bhutan, UAE and Mexico -- a big stride towards protecting the identity of brand "Khadi" globally, the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises said on Saturday. Besides, the KVIC's trademark applications are pending in 40 countries across the world that include the US,



Qatar, Sri Lanka, Japan, Italy, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Brazil and others. While KVIC obtained the latest trademark registration in Bhutan on Friday, trademark registration was granted

in UAE on June 28. With this, KVIC has succeeded in securing trademark registration for the first time in a Gulf country. Earlier, KVIC got the trademark registration for "Khadi" in Mexico in

December 2020. The development assumes great significance as there have been instances of some private local entities in countries like Mexico and Germany seeking trademark registration for brand name "Khadi" in their respective countries. In Mexico, KVIC challenged the trademark application of "One Foundation Oaxaca Ac" which had applied for the "Khadi" logo. However, the firm did not challenge KVIC's objections and trademark registration for the word "Khadi" and

"Khadi" logo was granted in favour of KVIC. Similarly, in Germany, KVIC challenged a local company - Best Natural Products GmbH ("BNP"), which in 2011 already got prior rights in the mark "KHADI" and related marks in EU and other countries in different classes. After long legal battle and negotiations through the diplomatic channel with the help of the Ministry of External Affairs, BNP has expressed its willingness to settle the trademark disputes amicably with KVIC.



AMID INFIGHTING IN BENGAL BJP, NADDA CALLS DILIP GHOSH

Kolkata | Agencies

In the midst of inter-personal rivalry and differences within the BJP's West Bengal unit, the saffron party's national President J.P. Nadda has called state BJP chief Dilip Ghosh for a meeting in the national capital, which is likely to take place on Sunday morning. Though Ghosh was not ready to speak on the matter, a source in the state BJP said that he is likely to fly to Delhi on Saturday night. After the debacle in the Assembly polls earlier this year, voices of dissent have become louder within the saffron party in the state.

It is not only true in the case of Mukul Roy who left the party and returned to Trinamool Congress, but there have been several instances when many party leaders, mainly those who jumped ship to the BJP from the



Trinamool, have spoken openly against the party line.

Ghosh's visit to Delhi at this juncture is considered to be significant. Though Ghosh denied to

speak about the meeting, sources within the party indicated that the meeting is an indication that there might be several changes in the organisational set-up of the state BJP.

The BJP has information about the leaders who have spoken openly against the party line and it is expected that Nadda will be willing to hear it from the state president, a senior BJP leader said. Recently leaders like Soumitra Khan, Rajib Banerjee and even Babul Supriyo

have expressed dissatisfaction over the party's decisions, which has not gone down well with the party's central leadership.

Soumitra Khan recently resigned from his post of Yuva Morcha President and openly criticised Ghosh and Leader of the Opposition Suvendu Adhikari. Though he withdrew his resignation later, according to some leaders, it hurt the image of the party. "The way he criticised Adhikari and Ghosh was unprecedented. It never happens in BJP. It is understandable that the MP from Bishnupur was frustrated because he was not among the four who got a ministerial berth in the reshuffled Narendra Modi Cabinet. You might not be happy with the decisions of the central leadership but you cannot criticise them openly," a senior BJP leader said.

3 terrorists killed in Anantnag encounter

Srinagar | Agencies

Three terrorists were killed in a joint operation by the army, police and CRPF in south Kashmir's Anantnag district on Saturday, officials said. The army said that on receiving specific intelligence inputs about the presence of three terrorists in the built-up area of Kwarigam Ranipora in Anantnag district, Ladkhipura-based Rashtriya Rifles along with Jammu and Kashmir Police and CRPF launched a cordon and search operation at 1 pm on Saturday. "On seeing the movement of security forces, at around 3.50 pm the terrorists tried to escape through a nallah. The troops immediately repositioned and readjusted the cordon and asked the terrorists to surrender. However, the terrorists resorted to heavy firing on the secu-



rity forces which led to a fire fight," the army said. During the exchange of fire, three terrorists -- Arif Ahmad Hajjam of Lashkar-e-Taiba, Basit Gani of Hizbul Mujahideen and Sohail Ahmad Bhat -- were neutralised. Two of the slain terrorists belonged to Anantnag district while the third was from Pulwama. "One

AK 47 and two pistols with other war-like stores have been recovered from the encounter site," the army said. As per police sources, Arif Ahmad Hajjam was involved in the brutal killing of Havildar Manzoor Beigh of 162 Territorial Army Battalion on June 6, 2019 while he was on leave.

DJB warns of water crisis in Delhi; SC, govt offices may face supply woes

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Amid the scorching summer heat, the residents of Delhi may face water crisis, Delhi Jal Board (DJB) Vice Chairman Raghav Chadha warned on Saturday.

Chadha, the AAP MLA from Rajinder Nagar, accused the Haryana government of supplying 120 MGT less water to Delhi through Yamuna, which is resulting in a severe water crisis in the national capital. "The Haryana government is taking away the legal right of the people of Delhi as directed by the Supreme Court. The three major water treatment plants in Delhi are producing less water per day because they (Haryana government) have reduced water supply in Yamuna," Chadha claimed.

A DJB official said that the Chandrawal treatment plant's production capacity



has reduced to 55 MGD water from its earlier 90 MGD, whereas the Wazirabad treatment plant is producing 80 MGD compared to 135 MGD before. The Okhla water treatment plant is supplying 15 MGD water instead of its earlier quota of 20 MGD.

Chadha said the DJB has written a dozen letters to the

Haryana government, but there has been no response so far from that side.

The AAP leader warned that water supply in parts of Central, West and South Delhi will also be affected. Water scarcity may also occur at the Supreme Court, High Court, Secretariat, and several major ministries and residences of Central ministers, Chadha claimed. The DJB claimed that the highest water production capacity had increased by 945 MGD water per day, but now it is witnessing a decline of 100 MGD. The DJB needs around 1,100 MGD water per day to cater to the demand of Delhi during the peak of summer.

Bengaluru police swoop down on criminals, detain more than 400

Bengaluru | Agencies

The Bengaluru city police launched a crackdown on notorious rowdies across the city during the intervening night of Friday and Saturday. In a surprise raid and search operation, the police teams from all eight divisions headed by respective division heads conducted raids and search operations on the houses of rowdies across Bengaluru. These teams so far have raided as many as 800 houses and around 400 rowdies have been picked up for questioning. The raids and questioning will be continued till afternoon, the police said. During these raids, several lethal weapons - Daggers, knives, swords and machetes were seized besides recovering huge cache of documents pertaining to their illegal activities. "Rowdies are being questioned and they would be booked under the stringent Goonda Act or



Karnataka Control of Organised Crime Act (KCOCA) if required," a senior official who is part of the raid in central division, told reporter. "We are also verifying the seized documents, and cases pertaining to some of them will be referred to the Income Tax department or the Directorate of Enforcement," he added. The raid and search operations began at 11 p.m. on Friday and it is still continuing. As part of the opera-

tions, the rowdies were taken to respective police stations where senior officers gave them stern warning. "Most of the rowdies lend money to the public at exorbitant interest rates and get their property documents as security. All those documents are being verified and property owners will be summoned for enquiry if required," a senior police officer from another division told reporter.

FRESH TROUBLE ON ASSAM-MIZORAM BORDER AFTER CHIEF SECY TALKS

Aizawl/Silchar: Hours after a meeting of Chief Secretaries of Assam and Mizoram over the border trouble, a powerful grenade was triggered on Saturday when senior officials were visiting the border areas. According to the Assam Police, a powerful grenade was detonated on the Mizoram territory when senior Assam officials including Additional Director General of Police (Border) Harmeet Singh and Cachar district Deputy Commissioner Keerthi Jalli, were visiting the area. Cachar district superintendent of police Nimbalkar Vaibhav Chandrakant, who was also accompanying the official team, said that no report was received yet about any injury or damage to the properties due to the grenade blasts. "Some people belonging to Mizoram are always trying to encroach on Assam's territory, creating obstructions when Assam officials and workers are undertaking developmental works and indulging in objectionable activities. We have from time to time informed Mizoram but these illegal activities are still going on," Chandrakant told the media. People living along the Assam-Mizoram border areas alleged that they are residing for several decades but now the people of Assam accompanied by police are trying to evict them. Central paramilitary forces are maintaining security on both sides of the inter-state borders since the border troubles began in October last year.

Punjab Police unearth MP based illicit weapons supply network

Chandigarh | Agencies

In a major interstate operation, Punjab Police on Saturday busted another Madhya Pradesh-based illicit weapon supply network with the arrest of its main supplier, Baljit Singh, alias Sweetie Singh. Singh, a resident of Barwani of district in Madhya Pradesh, has been found indulging in manufacturing and supply of high-quality illicit weapons to Punjab and other states of northern India, said Director General of Police (DGP) Dinkar Gupta. Kapurthala Police have also recovered three .32 bore pistols, along with three magazines from his possession, he added. Notably, this is the third such MP-based illicit weapon manufacturing and supply module busted by Punjab Police in the past eight months.

Earlier, Amritsar Rural Police had unearthed two such modules, including one illicit small arms manufacturing unit in MP, with the arrest of weapon smugglers, who were supplying weapons to gangsters, criminals and radicals in Punjab. Sharing details, Gupta said the development came 10 days after Kapurthala Police in the follow-up operations led by SSP Harkamalpreet Singh Khakh had



arrested four robbers after recovering 10 pistols and one rifle, along with ammunition, from their possession. He said the arrested robbers revealed they were getting the supply of weapons from Sweetie Singh and were hatching a conspiracy to carry out robberies, snatch money from petrol pumps as well as farmers. The DGP said following these inputs, the police procured arrest

warrants of Sweetie Singh and a special police team from Kapurthala was despatched to Barwani district to arrest him after coordinating the operations with the local police. The DGP also thanked Madhya Pradesh Police for their enormous support to Punjab Police in unearthing these illicit weapon manufacturing and supply units and modules.

NOTICE TO UP GOVT OVER BRUTAL ASSAULT ON DALIT YOUTH

New Delhi: The National Commission for Scheduled Castes has sent a notice to the Uttar Pradesh government, taking into cognizance an incident in which a Dalit youth was brutally beaten up after being tied to a tree. The incident has been reported from Akbarpur area of Kanpur Dehat district. The youth, said to be in a relation with a girl, was beaten up by her relatives and other villagers when he had come to meet her. It's being said that he was also hit on his private parts with a stick. He was tied to a tree with a towel and then beaten up. The video of the incident went viral on the social media. The NCSC has issued notice to the Uttar Pradesh Chief Secretary, DGP, and DM and SSP of Kanpur Dehat.

TTD recites Sri Rama Mula Mantram 30 lakh times



Tirupati | Agencies

The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) on Saturday culminated the month-long Yuddakanda Parayanam, which also included reciting Sri Rama Mula Mantram 30 lakh times. "During these 30 days, the ritwiks recited Sri Sita Rama Lakshmana Anjaneya Swamy Mantram for three million times," said a temple official. As part of the concluding ceremony at Dharmagiri Veda Vignana Peetham, purnahuti was performed with religious fervor. "As part of this celestial fete, Vastu Homam, Chatusasti Yogini Mandapam, Kshetrapalaka Mandapam,

Navagraha Mandalam, Sri Rama Dasavanya Rana Puja, Sodasa Ramalingato Bhadra Mandala Puja, Rama Chaturayana Kalasa Puja, Mantra Pushpam and Darbar Seva were performed," said the TTD official. The ceremony began with Bhagavat Prarthana, Viswakshena Aradhana, Punyahavachanam, Agni Pranayanam, Mula Mantra Homam, Shloka Homam, Mandapa Devata Homam, Anga Homam and Poustika Homam. Shanti Homam, Jayati Homam, Kumbharadhana, Archana, Nivedana and Neeraganam were also performed, followed by Vishesha Abhishekam with 16 Kalasas to Anjaneya Swamy.

Tight security arrangement in place for Rath Yatra in Puri



Bhubaneswar | Agencies

To ensure smooth conduct of the annual Rath Yatra in Puri scheduled for July 12, the Odisha government has deployed 65 platoons of force along with senior officers to look after the security arrangements for the festival, the police said on Saturday. "All preparations for the festival have been made. Arrangement from police administration has also been done. A detailed plan to ensure foolproof security has been chalked out," Additional Director General (law and order), R.K. Sharma, said on Saturday. The entire city has been divided into 12 zones. Along with the 65 platoons, 10 senior officers of additional SP rank have been

deployed for the festival, Sharma said after reviewing the security arrangements in Puri.

The police force will not only provide security, but also ensure proper enforcement of Covid-19 guidelines like social distancing and wearing masks, sources said. A source said that all entry points (8 check points) of the district will be sealed to restrict the movement of people from other parts of the state and elsewhere to Puri during the Rath Yatra festival.

Like last year, the revered festival of Lord Jagannath in the pilgrim town of Puri will be held without the participation of devotees in view of the Covid-19 situation. RT-PCR tests of the servitors are being

carried out. The sevayats (servitors) testing negative for Covid-19 and who have been fully vaccinated would be allowed to participate in the pulling of the chariots.

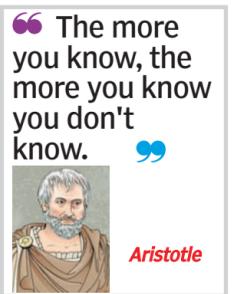
Meanwhile, all hotels, dharmshalas and guest houses on the Grand Road have been asked not to allow any tourist or devotee. They have been directed to vacate all boarders and guests by Saturday evening.

The district administration has also relaxed the shutdown on Saturday. However, Section 144 of CrPC will be clamped from 8 pm on Sunday and no shop or essential activity will be allowed on Grand Road. Only those with duty passes for Rath Yatra will be allowed, officials said.

CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME I, SUREKHA SURESH MORE is mother of Army No 14833745L Rank Sep/MT Name MORE KIRAN SURESH Unit 5221 ASC BN c/o 56 APO Residing At Vill Shivkrupa Sadan no 4 Lokmanya Nagar Pada No 3 Teh. Thane Dist Thane Post Office J K Gram. State Maharashtra PIN NO 400606. I have changed my name SUREKHA MORE to SUREKHA SURESH MORE vide affidavit no. AY751873 dated 08.07.2021 before Bhopal Court Madhya Pradesh.

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Treatment for non-Covid patients hit amidst focus on Covid

● The findings, published in the Indian Journal of Medical Sciences, showed that attendance of both new and follow-up cases dropped by 57.65 per cent. The outpatient cases attendance saw a significant reduction of 89.2 per cent, followed by a reduction of 80.75 per cent in surgical work. The doctors urged that those who were neglected must be given medical attention at the earliest.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Covid-19 pandemic had a significant effect on most spheres of clinical practice, including the outpatient attendance and elective surgeries, revealed a study by a team at Indraprastha Apollo Hospital here on Friday. The team conducted an observational study on 6,77,237 cases (599,281 outpatient and 77,956 hospital admissions) and the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on various medical and surgical specialties for the entire duration, since the onset of the pandemic, and compared it with the preceding pre-pandemic peri-



od (June 1, 2019-March 31, 2020).

Further, Covid-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on both the hospital's major

medical and surgical specialties. Bariatric surgery (87.5 per cent) and ophthalmology (65.45 per cent) were affected the

most and general surgery (32.28 per cent), and neurosurgery the least. "The only medical specialty that saw more patients has respiratory medicine with a significant increase of 314.04 per cent, in admissions because of Covid-19," Apollo Hospitals Group Medical Director, and Senior Consultant, Paediatric Gastroenterology Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals, Anupam Sibal, said. "Healthcare providers must factor in the impact of fear which results in patients ignoring their healthcare needs which can be detrimental," Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals, New Delhi, Managing Director M.P. Shivakumar said.

MAJORITY FEEL INDIA IS OPENING UP TOO FAST, TOO SOON, SAYS A SURVEY

NEGLIGENT INDIA

It was observed that the decline of the second wave is at variable stages in the different states or Union Territories (UTs) in the country, and that while the overall case positivity rate may be declining, the case positivity rate in certain districts of Rajasthan, Kerala, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh is over 10 per cent, which is a cause for concern.

States were also asked to follow the five-fold strategy of Test-Track-Treat-Vaccinate and Covid appropriate behaviour, as has been laid out in Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) order dated June 29 this year, said the Home Ministry.



Team Absolute | New Delhi

India is opening up too fast and too soon is the majority view as the government expresses concern over crowds at hill stations, as per the IANS CVoter Live Tracker. The tacker had a sample size of

1,314. 53.31 per cent of the respondents of the IANS CVoter Live Tracker said 'yes', while 34.34 per cent said that India is not opening up too fast but people are becoming careless. Compared to other states, the Covid-19 cases in Kerala are not decreasing rapidly. To a question if

Kerala could become the epicentre of the third Covid wave in India, 45.97 per cent said 'yes' and 35.91 per cent said 'no'. The CVoter NewsTracker Surveys in India are based on a national representative random probability sample as used in the globally standardized RDD CATI methodology, covering all geographic and demographic segments across all states. This daily live tracker survey is based on interviews of adult (18+) respondents across all socio-economic segments. The data is weighted to the known Census profile. The standard margin of error is +/- 3 per cent at national trends and +/- 5 per cent at regional/zonal trends with 95 per cent confidence level. An overwhelming majority is still wearing masks as 75.06 per cent said they wear masks when they go out while 18.31 per cent said they don't wear a mask.

Major Maoist attack foiled in Jharkhand, 40 kg IED detected



Ranchi | Agencies

Security forces have foiled a major Maoist attack by recovering a 40-kg Improvised Explosive Device (IED) in Jharkhand's Giridih district. The IED was recovered and later defused by a joint team of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and Jharkhand Police on Friday afternoon following a tip-off. On getting information that Maoists have planted an IED in the forest area of village Tengrakurud

under Nimiyaghat police station to target the security forces, an operation was immediately launched by the troops of Quick Action Team (QAT) 154 CRPF and state police to detect and defuse the IED and avert any losses, said the CRPF. "The troops carefully searched the area looking for probable clues of the IED. The troops recovered an IED weighing about 40 kg in a steel container with a command mechanism to trigger the explosion," said the CRPF.

NOW, MOTHER DAIRY HIKES MILK PRICES BY RS 2/LITRE

ONE HAS TO PAY RS 57 FOR ONE LITRE OF MOTHER DAIRY MILK FROM SUNDAY, INSTEAD OF RS 55 ON SATURDAY.

Prices have been increased for all brands of its milk by Rs 2 per litre, which includes -- bulk vended milk - Rs 44, Full cream - Rs 57 per litre, Toned Milk - Rs 47 per litre, double toned milk -- Rs 41 per litre, Cow Milk - Rs 49 per litre, Super T-milk - Rs 26 per litre, Standardized milk - Rs 51 per litre.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Days after prices of Amul milk (packed) increased by Rs 2 per litre, Delhi's leading milk supplier Mother Dairy too has announced an increase of Rs 2 per litre on Saturday. Consumers have to pay an increased price for Mother Dairy's milk from sun-

day, while Amul Milk has already implemented its revised prices from July 1. Last time the Mother Dairy increased the prices of its products (milk) in December 2019.

GOVERNMENT CAUTIONS EIGHT STATES



Sounding a note of caution, Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla on Saturday asked eight states having tourist destinations and hill stations to follow strict Covid appropriate behaviour to avoid spread of the virus. During the meeting, the overall management of Covid-19 situation and the vaccination status in respect of the states of Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand, and West Bengal was discussed. The Home Secretary sounded a note of caution in view of

media reports showing blatant disregard of Covid appropriate behaviour in hill stations and other tourist locations. Adequate health infrastructure preparedness (especially in rural, peri-urban and tribal areas) was also advised, with a view to tackle any potential future surge in cases.

SEC 144 IN NOIDA TILL AUG 30 AHEAD OF SHIVRATRI, BAKRI-EID

Noida: To further curb the spread of Covid-19 ahead of the upcoming festivals, the Uttar Pradesh government has decided to implement tough measures such as imposing Section 144 in Gautam Budh Nagar district from July 10 till August 30. Fearing the possibility of a threat to peace and law and order by anti-social elements during the upcoming festivals such as Shivratri, Raksha Bandhan, Bakri-Eid, Janmashtami, Muharram, the state government has imposed Section 144 in the district. More than 50 people will not be allowed entry into any religious place at the same time. Activities concerned with social, political, sports, entertainment, academic and cultural festivals and other gatherings won't be allowed without prior permission from the district administration. All other activities will remain banned except medical and essential services in every containment zone in the district.

INDIA ADDS 42,766 NEW COVID CASES, 1,206 DEATHS IN 24 HRS

India recorded 42,766 new Covid-19 cases in the past 24 hours and 1,206 deaths, said the Union Health and Family Welfare Ministry on Saturday. This is the 32nd consecutive day when India reported less than one lakh new coronavirus cases. The active cases have now come down below 5 lakh. The country has 4,55,033 active cases presently and has witnessed a total of 4,07,145 deaths so far.



Punjab BJP ex-minister expelled for supporting farmers' cause

Chandigarh | Agencies

The Punjab BJP unit on Saturday expelled its former minister Anil Joshi for anti-party assertions. For quite some time, he had been questioning the central government on its policies, particularly on three farm laws that farmers have been protesting and demanding to revoke them. The action against him came two days after he gave his reply to a show-cause notice.

According to the notice, Joshi had been making statements against the BJP-led Central government and its leadership and policies. Joshi was expelled on the order of state unit President Ashwani Sharma. The former Amritsar (North) legislator, in a reply, said: "I neither spoke against the Centre's farm laws nor against central leadership." He, in fact, asked state party chief Sharma whether it was an indiscipline to talk about the farmers.



Lakhimpur Kheri case: 2 held, 6 cops suspended



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Two men have been held and 6 cops have been suspended after the National Commission for Women (NCW), taking suo motu cognisance of an incident wherein a woman was allegedly attacked and misbehaved when her sari was pulled in full public view in Lakhimpur Kheri district of Uttar Pradesh, wrote to state's Director General of Police to take strict action against the culprits. NCW Chairperson Rekha Sharma wrote the letter to the DG to immediately intervene

in the matter and take strict action against the accused involved in the act, following which two men were arrested and six policemen were suspended. Those arrested by the Uttar Pradesh Police have been charged with assaulting and misbehaving with a woman candidate of the Samajwadi Party for the block pramukh election. A supporter of the candidate was also allegedly manhandled and had her sari pulled by two men who were preventing her from participating in the nomination process on Thursday. In a video of the incident two men could be briefly seen pulling the sari of the woman in full view outside the Pasgawan block compound in Lakhimpur Kheri district. Kheri police said an FIR was lodged for misbehaviour with a woman under Sections 147, 171 (F), 354, 392 and 427 of the Indian Penal Code. The charges include robbery, and assault intended to outrage the modesty of a woman.

FUEL PRICE RISE CONTINUES

New Delhi: The retail prices of petrol and diesel rose by a sharp 35 paise and 26 paise per litre on Saturday to touch new high of Rs 100.91 and Rs 89.88 per litre respectively in Delhi. In the city of Mumbai, where petrol prices crossed Rs 100 mark for the first time ever on May 29, the fuel price reached new high of Rs 106.93 per litre on Saturday. Diesel prices also increased in the city to reach Rs 97.44 a litre, the highest among metros.

Across the country as well petrol and diesel prices increased on Saturday but its retail prices varied depending on the level of local taxes in different states.

11 J&K GOVT EMPLOYEES SACKED FOR 'ANTI-NATIONAL' ACTIVITIES

Srinagar | Agencies

Eleven employees of Jammu and Kashmir government were sacked on Saturday for alleged militant links, including two teachers from Anantnag district who were found to be involved in "anti-national activities", and two police constables who allegedly provided inside information to the militants. Of the 11 government employees sacked

on Saturday, four are from Anantnag district, three from Budgam, and one each from Baramulla, Srinagar, Pulwama and Kupwara districts.

Of these, four are working in the education department, two in J&K Police and one each in agriculture, skill development, power, Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) and health departments. J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha had last

year amended the J&K Service Regulation rules and assumed power to sack any government servant without prior notice if there is evidence of such an employee having indulged in anti-national or pro-militant activities.

Furthermore, CID verification of the antecedents of any person employed with the government has been made a compulsory pre-condition before such an employee can join government service.

165 TALIBAN MILITANTS KILLED IN AFGHANISTAN

Kabul: At least 109 Taliban militants were killed and 25 others injured during fierce battles and clashes in two southern Afghan provinces, as fighting raged in the war-torn country, the military confirmed on Saturday. Meanwhile, 56 Taliban militants were killed, 10 others wounded and 23 captured in Afghanistan's northern region, as security forces continued fighting to prevent the the group from advancing, the military said on Saturday. Forty-five militants were killed and 10 others wounded in attacks by security forces supported by Afghan Air Force targeting militants' positions in the outskirts of Shibberghan city, capital of Jawzjan province, the Army's 209th Shaheen Corps said in a statement.

Indian Muslim women 'up for sale' on app: Report

► The app pretended to offer users the chance to buy a "Sulli" - a derogatory slang term used by right-wing Hindu trolls for Muslim women. There was no real auction of any kind - the purpose of the app was just to degrade and humiliate.

► This is not the first time, Amin said, that Muslim women have been targeted in this manner.

► The people who made the app used fake identities, but Hasiba Amin, a social media coordinator for the opposition Congress party, blamed several accounts which regularly attack Muslims, especially Muslim women, and claim to support right-wing politics.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Dozens of Muslim women in India found they had been put up for sale online, BBC reported. Hana Khan, a commercial pilot whose name was on the list, told the BBC last Sunday, she was alerted to it when a friend sent her a tweet. The tweet took her to "Sulli Deals", an app and website that had taken publicly available pictures of women and created profiles, describing the women as "deals of

the day". BBC said the app's landing page had a photo of an unknown woman. On the next two pages Khan saw photos of her friends. On the page after that she saw herself. Khan said she had been targeted because of her religion. BBC said GitHub - the web platform that hosted the open source app - shut it down quickly following complaints. "We suspended user accounts following the investigation of reports of such activity, all of which violate our policies," the company said.

But the experience has left women scarred. Those who featured on the app were all vocal Muslims, including journalists, activists, artists or researchers. A few have since deleted their social media accounts and many others said they were afraid of further harassment. The report said prominent citizens, activists and leaders have also spoken out against the harassment. The police said they had opened an investigation but refused to say who could be behind the app.

I counted 83 names. There could be more. They'd taken my photo from Twitter and it had my user name. This app was running for 20 days and we didn't even know about it. It sent chills down my spine. I'm a Muslim woman who's seen and heard and they want to silence us. People were bidding five rupees (67 cents; 48 pence) and 10 rupees, they were rating women based on their body parts and describing sexual acts and threatening rape."

-Hana Khan, a commercial pilot said as per BBC



PETROL INCHES TO RS 110 IN BHOPAL AND INDORE, DIESEL CLOSER TO RS 99

The prices of these oil products in Madhya Pradesh are higher than the neighbouring states.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Petrol prices in Bhopal and Indore neared Rs 110 a litre while diesel reached almost Rs 99 after fuel prices were raised yet again.

Overall, petrol prices crossed Rs 110 a litre and diesel at Rs 100 in several districts of the State. Petrol price was hiked by 35 paise per litre and diesel by 26 paise, according to a price notification of state-owned fuel retailers.

Petrol prices on Saturday in Bhopal stand at Rs 109.30 a litre and diesel at Rs 98.73 a litre. In some parts of the state, the prices are around Rs 111 per litre and diesel crossed Rs 100 for a litre, Ajay Singh, President, Petrol Pump Dealers Association said on Saturday.

On the other hand, the prices of petrol and diesel in Indore, the biggest city of the state, reached 109.32 and Rs 96.76 per litre respectively.

Singh said that the prices of these oil products in the State are higher than the neighbouring states. Petrol pump owners in the border districts are suffering the most due to higher prices in Madhya Pradesh.

"I know that several of these petrol pump owners near Uttar Pradesh borders themselves get the petrol and diesel from the neighbouring state for their own vehicles," he said.

Singh said that petrol is cheaper by Rs 12



and diesel by Rs 9 a litre in Uttar Pradesh. He demanded that these products should be brought under the purview of the Goods and Service Tax (GST) for the uniformity of the prices across the country.

The oil companies issue a tender to purchase crude from the international market once every three months. This means the rate is fixed once for a period of three months. In such cases, the daily dynamic pricing for the people is not understandable, Singh said. The people are also facing problems with higher prices of the petroleum products. "Petrol is becoming expensive day by day, ruining my budget. The government should give relief to the common man from inflation by reducing the tax on this fuel," said one Irfan Ali Bahadur,

who was refilling petrol for his bike at a pump in Indore.

Federation of Madhya Pradesh Motors and Goods Transport Association President Parvinder Singh Bhatia said that the transport business was already sluggish due to COVID-19 outbreak.

Now, this business is being affected by 40 percent due to the impact of expensive diesel. He said that there is a decrease in the bookings of goods of general need especially those sent from central India to South India due to rising freight rates.

Earlier on Friday, State's Home Minister Narottam Mishra had blamed the previous Congress government in the state for the inflation of petrol and diesel.

"Our government has not increased any

tax on petrol and diesel since the past 15 months while this was done by the previous Kamal Nath led Congress government," he said and added that the opposition party had promised to give relief on fuel prices in their manifesto.

On the other hand, Congress MLA from Bhopal Madhya Pradesh constituency Arif Masood asked what has been stopping the ruling regime from giving relief by reducing the prices of diesel and petrol.

"This government is still so scared of then chief minister Kamal Nath that it remembers him in every statement," he said.

Masood also hold a massive demonstration against the price hike and growing inflation in the state capital last days.

Govt's Apathy:

Shivraj's Minister rubs salt over dearness wounds

Madhya Pradesh Minister Om Prakash Sakhlecha said on Saturday that without problems, happiness in life cannot be savored. When asked if price rise was a failure of the Narendra Modi government at the Centre, Sakhlecha said, "This could be the thinking of people like you who are spreading rumors."

"In life, problems give us the idea of happiness. If there is no problem, there is no sense of happiness," said Sakhlecha, the minister for MSME, Science and Technology. He was replying to a question by reporters about people facing the pain of rising prices of fuel and other essential commodities after going through the second wave of the coronavirus pandemic. When asked if price rise was a failure of the Narendra Modi government at the Centre, Sakhlecha said, "This could be the thinking of people like you who are spreading rumors."

Team Absolute | Chhatrapur

Putting a philosophical spin on inflation, Madhya Pradesh minister Om Prakash Sakhlecha said here on Saturday that without problems, happiness in life can not be savored.

The Congress took 40 years to administer polio vaccine but Modi had COVID-19 vaccine manufactured and administered across the country within a year, he said. Sakhlecha, who is minister in-charge of Chhatrapur district, was here to participate in a few programs.

MP tops in the country in PM Matru Vandana Yojana

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan congratulates the team concerned as Madhya Pradesh first in the country in the scheme that stood first for the third time in a row

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Department for this achievement. Himachal Pradesh that got second place recorded 139 percent achievement. Andhra Pradesh at third place, 11 lakh 69 thousand 730 women were first in the country under Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana. He said that the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana is being operated to provide financial assistance during pregnancy to the women engaged in labour works and to provide cash amount to the pregnant women to compensate for the loss of wages. Madhya Pradesh has come first in the country for the third consecutive time in the successful implementation of the scheme. 5 thousand rupees are given on the birth of the first child. Under the scheme, Rs 991 crore 89 lakh was paid to 23 lakh 7 thousand 880 pregnant women in the state till June 21, 2021. Against the target set for the state, 148 percent achievement has been recorded in the scheme. Chief Minister Shri Chouhan has congratulated the Women and Child Development

State Extends Document Verification Deadline For Admissions

The School Education Department of Madhya Pradesh has extended the last date for verification of documents for free admission to Class 1 in private schools under the Right to Education (RTE) act. Parents can now complete the

ments for free admission to Class 1 in private schools under the Right to Education (RTE) act. Parents can now complete the process by July 12. The last date to submit application forms was July 9.

"The last date for application verification for free admission in private schools has been extended till July 12, 2021. Therefore, parents who have applied online but have not got the verification done yet, can get the verification done till July 12," the department said on social media.

Documents required for free admission to schools under the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act include caste certificate, birth certificate of the child, proof of residence, and Aadhar card. Parents can visit their

nearest Jan Shiksha Kendras, which is generally a Government school, to verify the documents. If the verification process is not completed, the application for admission will be rejected, an official statement said.

The objective of RTE is to provide free and compulsory education for children between the six and 14 years age group.

Recently, Madhya Pradesh School Education Minister Inder Singh Parmar said that private unaided schools in the state can charge only the tuition fee until further orders. During the 2021-22 academic year, parents do not need to pay any fee, except for the tuition fee, and schools cannot increase their fees until further orders, an official statement said.

MP state service exam 2021 details in September

The Madhya Pradesh state service exam 2021 details will be released in September and the preliminary exam will be held in November, the state public service commission, MPPSC, has notified.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Madhya Pradesh state service exam 2021 details will be released in September and the preliminary exam will be held in November, the state public service commission, MPPSC, has notified. The detailed exam notification

will be released by the Commission on its website, mppsc.nic.in.

The Commission, on July 8, has released the annual exam calendar. The state forest service preliminary exam will also be held in November. The Commission has notified that the final result of the state service

exam 2020, the prelims of which is scheduled on July 25 after being postponed due to COVID-19 situation, will be released in April 2022. The Commission has scheduled the main exam from November 23 to 28. The prelims result is expected in August, as per the Commission's date sheet.

GOVERNOR PERFORMS WORSHIP OF LORD MAHAKALESHWAR

Bhopal: Governor Mangubhai Patel reached Mahakaleshwar temple at 11 am on Saturday and offered prayers to Lord Mahakal. The 'poojan' was performed by Pandit Ghanashyam Sharma. The Governor offered worship of Ganapati Mandap from the first row of barricade. Higher Education Minister Mohan Yadav and public representatives were present on this occasion. After the worship, the administrator and ADM of Mahakaleshwar temple, Narendra Suryavanshi welcomed the Governor by presenting him a shawl, prasad and a picture of Lord Mahakaleshwar.



Be vigilant and cautious against Zika virus: CM



media representatives at Smart Udyan. It may be noted that Zika virus is transmitted by mosquitoes. This can be especially dangerous for pregnant women. Patients of Zika virus have been found in Kerala. Chouhan

said that Delta Plus variant of Corona is dangerous. Once it starts spreading, difficult situations will be created. All possible efforts are being made by the state government to control Corona infection. At present the number of positive cases is less. The status of Corona infection is being reviewed

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that there is a need to be alert and cautious from Zika virus. Instructions have been issued by the state government to all the districts to be vigilant. Chief Minister was holding a discussion with

daily. Massive testing is going on in the entire state. Chouhan said that Corona virus changes its form. Hence, extra caution is required. Continuous appeals are being made to wear masks mandatorily, follow distancing of two yards and adopt Corona appropriate behaviour. Crisis Management Committees are also active in the state and are in constant dialogue with the public.

Leopard spotted resting on road, traffic halted for half an hour



As the NH-44 passes through the Pech Tiger Reserve, concerns have been raised over the safety of the wildlife on the highway.

Team Absolute | Seoni

It was a treat for the eyes of commuters on National Highway-44 when they spotted a leopard calmly resting on the highway near the Pech Tiger Reserve. The incident was reported from Seoni district, on Friday.

The leopard was captured on mobile by the commuters. As the leopard saw the gathering on highway stopping to record it on their phones, the big cat leaped and ran to the other side of the road.

There has been frequent spotting of the leopards and tigers on this stretch. Reports suggest that the traffic on the stretch was stopped for half an hour.

The video of the incident has gone viral on social media. In the video, the leopard could be seen growling at the commuters.

By the time forest department officials were informed, the leopard fled to the jungle.

The NH-44 is passing through the Pech Tiger Reserve. Concerns have been raised over the safety of the wildlife on the highway.

CM takes important steps to simplify government processes

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said that best practices have been adopted to make investment and industry accessible and smooth in the state. Along with this, the rules of land use have also been changed. Making this process easy for the common man, it has also been ensured that they do not have to take the trouble of frequently visiting offices. Online land allotment system has also been simplified for the convenience of investors. Apart from this, the process of registration of contractors for works and services has also been simplified.

Earlier people had to face many problems to change the land use and it also took a long time. The earlier process involved government formalities like frequent visits to various departments and physical submission of large number of documents, payment and physical receipt of hard copy of permission. Keeping these in mind, the state government has taken important decisions now to simplify the process of converting agriculture into non-agricultural land. The Land Revenue Code 1959 was amended in 2018 in this connection. Now the land shown in the master plan can be changed by applying online.

This process has now been made online and simplified by the government. The process of change in land use can be performed easily with online information and payment of necessary fees. After this amendment, no approval will be required from the authorities anymore. After completion of the diversion process, now the records, map and khasra will be updated online accordingly. So far 65 thousand 373 applications have been received in the state through this simple



online system till October 23, 2020. To simplify this process for contractors for works and services, the government has included this process under Public Service Guarantee Act to simplify the process of registration of contractors for works and services in Madhya Pradesh. Also, the time limit for providing registration certificate has also been increased to 15 days. This will enable the contractors to manually apply for registration and help them get rid of frequent visits to the office to track the status of the application, deposit the FDR as security, visit the office or bank to pay the fees and then collect the final registration certificate. In the new e-registration, the contractors already registered in categories A, B and C will be registered by default in the centralized single registration system under the Centralized Single Registration System for contractors by the Public Works Department. Also, it will be mandatory for all the registered contractors to renew their registration after completing the

tenure of 5 years. The registered contractors will have to pay Rs. 25000 as registration fee for the renewal process, which will be valid for next 10 years. The contractors who are going to register themselves in 'Mukhyamantri Yuva Thekedar Yojana', can apply online by depositing Rs 2000.

With the implementation of this system, the contractors are getting direct benefits. Like the complete process of application can be seen on the online portal now and fee payment can also be made online. Also, contractors can submit their documents online and then track their status. Even the applicant contractors can easily download the final certificate from the online portal. The online land allotment system has been implemented to bring transparency in the land allotment procedures for industries. To further facilitate the investors, Madhya Pradesh has also made amendments in the system to simplify its land allotment process. Madhya Pradesh Industrial Development Corporation (MPIDC) has developed and implemented Single Window Portal. The portal provides 43 services which are integrated with the respective departments in a consolidated manner.

If any investment exceeds Rs.10 crore, now a letter of intent (LOI) will be issued to the investor immediately upon confirmation of payment. In case of investment less than Rs.10 crore, LOI will be issued within 7 days. If LOI is not provided within 7 days, it will be taken as accepted.

With the introduction of online land allotment system in Madhya Pradesh, now investors can easily track the availability of industrial land and track the application file for the same. Also necessary approvals can also be obtained online. Apart from this, the applicant can also pay the fee online.

Tree plantation activities increasing in the state: CM

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted a sapling in Smart Park. MLA Kurwai Hari Singh Sapre was also present on the occasion. Chouhan plants a sapling every day in fulfillment of his resolve. Saptaparni, an ever-green medicinal tree, has great importance in Ayurveda. In his message to the media at Smart Park, Chief Minister Chouhan said that awareness is increasing rapidly in the state to save trees. Tree plantation activities have increased.



awareness in the society to face the challenge of climate change.

Tree plantation is also being done at personal level with voluntary organizations and social organizations. This will help in environmental protection and create



MAHARASHTRA TO REOPEN SCHOOLS FOR CLASSES 8 TO 12 FROM JULY 15

As Maharashtra plans to reopen physical classes, schools are instructed to strictly abide by the CoVid-19 safety guidelines and protocols laid down by the state government before re-opening the schools.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Maharashtra government has announced to reopen the schools in areas where no COVID-19 cases have been reported over the last month. Minister of School Education Department Varsha Gaikwad has announced that the schools in those areas have been allowed to resume offline classes for students of Class 8 to 12 from July 15 onwards. Sharing a video message on her official video handle, she wrote that while the state government continues to promote remote learning and online education, they have also been working towards a safe resumption of schools in corona-free villages. She added that it has become a need of the hour to have a blended approach to education to reach out to the maximum number of students across the state. She also asserted that all teachers and school staff must be vaccinated on priority before the resumption of offline classes. She wrote, "The government is sensitive to the possibility of a



third wave. Hence, no laxity will be permitted". The schools are instructed to strictly abide by the CoVid-19 safety guidelines and protocols laid down by the state government before re-opening the schools. Gaikwad also gave an update on the measures and steps taken for COVID-19 prevention at the village level. As per the statement, an eight-member committee headed by the village Sarpanch will be formed to monitor the implementation of Covid-19 safety guidelines. While the Chief Executive Officer of the local Zilla Parishad will supervise the operations and will review the situation regularly. The committee will also comprise collectors, school principals, and health officials. The schools will also have to follow all COVID standard operating procedures (SOP) and conduct timely temperature checks of students inside the campus. Schools are also instructed to monitor the proper implementation of special distancing norms inside the campus. A maximum of fifteen to twenty students is allowed to sit in a classroom at once.

"Show Big Heart," Slash Taxes On Fuel: Pawar To Centre

Terming BJP leader Devendra Fadnis's claim about the state government levying "tax on tax, a complete lie, Ajit Pawar who also holds the finance portfolio, said the Maha Vikas Aghadi government has not increased state taxes on petrol and diesel after coming to power in November 2019.



Team Absolute | Pune

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar on Friday said the Centre should show a "big heart" and reduce taxes on fuel to provide relief to common citizens who are reeling under high prices of petrol and diesel. Pawar, who also holds the finance portfolio, said the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government has not increased state taxes on petrol and diesel after coming to power in November 2019. He was talking to reporters after a review meeting. Speaking about BJP leader Devendra Fadnis's claim about the state government levying "tax on tax," which has led to petrol retailing at around Rs 105 per litre in Maharashtra, Pawar said it was a complete lie.

"We did not increase any taxes in consecutive budgets. Whatever taxes are there, they are from their (BJP's) tenure. The Centre takes a big share (of revenue) in the form of taxes, so the Centre should show a big heart and reduce the taxes...it (reducing levies) is not in our hands," he said. Asked why the MVA government is not reducing state-level taxes on fuel, he said in the current situation, when Maharashtra is fighting the COVID-19 pandemic, it has incurred income loss of Rs 1.25 lakh crore. "The income of the state in the form of tax has been reduced by Rs 1.25 lakh crore. On the other hand, we have to fund health, food and other sectors in the current times and if we reduce taxes (on fuel), it will impact all these departments," Pawar said.

Bullock Cart Carrying Protesting Congress Workers Collapses

The cart tumbled while almost a dozen Congress workers were raising slogans of, "How our leader should be? They should be like Rahul Gandhi," standing on the cart.



Team Absolute | Mumbai

In an awkward moment for the workers of Maharashtra Congress that was caught on camera, a bullock cart, which carried several Congress workers and leaders, collapsed on Saturday, while they were protesting against the rising fuel prices in the state. The cart tumbled while almost a dozen workers were raising slogans of, "How our leader should be? They should be like Rahul Gandhi," standing on the cart. In the video, workers can be later seen helping those

who fell to the ground. Opposition parties, including Congress, have been targeting the central government over the rising fuel prices that are burning a hole in the pockets of the common man. There have been unique protests against the Narendra Modi-led government over the skyrocketing fuel prices. On Wednesday, West Bengal Labour Minister Becharam Manna rode a cycle for 38 km - from his home in Hooghly's Singur to

reach the state assembly in Kolkata - to protest against the rising fuel prices in the country. After a price hike again on Saturday across the country, petrol in Mumbai is costing people ₹ 106.93 per litre while diesel price stands at ₹ 97.46 for the same quantity. Petrol price was hiked by 35 paise per litre and diesel by 26 paise on Saturday, according to a price notification of state-owned fuel retailers. This took fuel prices across the country to a fresh high.

Maha may get more relaxations on covid-related curbs

Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray is expected to review the Covid-19 situation in the next few days. The state has been put under a lot of curbs to stop the new cases of Covid-19 from going out of control.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra which is the worst affected Indian state from Covid-19 may finally relax some restrictions from 15 July. With the number of new cases stabilising in the state, there have been demands from the various sections of the society to ease the covid-19 related restrictions. The state has been put under a lot of curbs to stop the new cases of Covid-19 from going out of control. According to media reports, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray is expected to review the Covid-19 situation in the next few days. In the initial phase of relaxations, districts with low test positivity rate (TPR) and high vaccination cover are expected to get the relaxations. The media reports quoted Dr Shashank Joshi, who is the member of the task force, said the state government could think of the relaxations in a graded manner from 15 July. The relaxations could be on a case-by-case basis and in phases. The districts with TPR below 5% for consecutive two weeks, vaccine cover of more than 70% may get



relaxations. We have a long way to achieve 70% vaccination, the mandatory public health yardstick. People who will visit Maharashtra and have got vaccinated with both the doses of covid-19 vaccines may be allowed to enter the state and no requirement for mandatory covid-19 tests. People may have to wait for few more weeks for the opening up of local train services for the general public. The opening up of trains led to initiation of the second wave which hit Mumbai in the second week of March, six weeks after the decision of allowing general people from the first week of February. It was the time gap required for the spread of the virus. The opening up of trains has direct correlation with the wave and thus we have

to be very careful while allowing activities," said Dr Joshi. Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg, Sangli, Satara, Raigad, Palghar, Kolhapur, Rural Pune - have been reporting high TPR of more than 5% which is cause of worry for the state administration. Meanwhile, Maharashtra reported 8,992 new coronavirus cases and 200 fatalities on Friday while 10,458 patients recovered from the infection, a state health department official said. The official said with this, the tally of COVID-19 cases in the state surged to 61,40,968, while the total fatalities rose to 1,25,034. The state reported a decrease in the daily COVID-19 cases, but the fatalities rose as compared to Thursday, when it had reported 9,114 new infections and 121 deaths.

Tourists throng Lonavla, should Maharashtra be worried?

Police personnel have been deployed at picnic spots to control the tourists and make sure that the COVID-19 guidelines are followed. Similar scenes have been witnessed in other tourists at Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh raising concerns amid warning of a third COVID-19 wave.



Team Absolute | Mumbai

After Maharashtra relaxed several curbs and restrictions, tourists were seen flocking Maharashtra's Lonavla of Pune district. Police personnel have been deployed at picnic spots to control the tourists and make sure that the COVID-19 guidelines are followed. A video shared by news agency ANI, shows tourists thronging a picnic spot with several citizens not following the COVID-19 protocols. Similar scenes have been witnessed in other tourists places

across the country as many states move towards unlocking. Recently, the Himachal Pradesh government decided to step in after taking note of a viral image of tourists thronging Manali. The Jai Ram Thakur-led government in the state instructed local authorities to ensure COVID-appropriate behaviour to stem the transmission of the virus, IANS had reported. While the situation in Uttarakhand is equally bad where a large number of tourists were clicked taking a splash at Mussoorie's Kempty falls, without masks or maintaining social distancing norms. Forced to act, the government has now limited the number of tourists

at the spot. "Now only 50 tourists are allowed at Kempty Falls (waterfall) in Mussoorie; can't stay at the spot beyond half an hour. A check-post to be set up to monitor the tourists," Iva Ashish Srivastava, Tehri Garhwal District Magistrate, told media persons. With a third wave of COVID looming large, such overcrowding and callous behaviour have made experts and state administration worried. Meanwhile, nearly 57 per cent people told IANS C Voter Tracker that if a third COVID-19 wave strikes India, the major reason will be the violation of the Coronavirus rules by the general public.

Gokul hikes procurement price of milk to help dairy farmers

Team Absolute | Kolhapur

The Board of Kolhapur District Co-Operative Milk Producers Union, which owns the largest selling milk brand Gokul, on Saturday announced a hike in the procurement price for buffalo milk by Rs 2 per litre and cow milk by Re 1 per litre from July 11. The decision was taken by the Maharashtra Minister of State for Home, Kolhapur's guardian minister and leader of Gokul, Satej Patil, Rural Development Minister Hasan Mushrif and other leaders from Gokul. As assured during the election to the Kolhapur District Co-Operative Milk Producers Union, we have decided to increase the procurement price for buffalo milk by Rs 2 per litre and cow milk by Re 1 per litre. We collect 12 lakh litres of milk every day from across the state and thus the decision will be of benefit to the farmers. Except for Kolhapur, Sangli and Konkan division, there will be rise in the selling price of the milk as well," said Satej



Patil. Gokul has set the target of increasing the daily collection of the milk to 20 lakh litres in next few years from the current collection of 8 lakh. It will be done in phases by increasing the collection by 2 lakh every year. The hike in procurement price was necessitated following a drop in milk rates during the pandemic, resulting in lower income of dairy farmers. Across the state, the average procurement price of milk came down from Rs 25 to 30 per litre earlier to Rs 15 to Rs 17 per litre during the lockdown. After the new board came to the power, Gokul signed a memorandum of understanding with Mahanand for selling in Mumbai, leading to the drop in packing expenditure by 12 paise per litre. This would save Rs 18.80 lakh per year.

GOVT SANCTIONS FUNDS TO TACKLE NATURAL CALAMITIES

Mumbai: The Maharashtra government Friday sanctioned a Rs 3,635-crore fund to tackle natural calamities in the coastal Konkan region in Maharashtra. The amount will be spent on multi-disaster management projects in the region, officials said. At a meeting of Maharashtra State Disaster Management Authority, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray said, "In the wake of changing climatic conditions, leading to natural disasters the authority should decide their priorities in taking up projects. The focus should be to minimise the loss of human lives... All infrastructure to override the impact of natural calamities, which is a recurring phenomenon in the coastal belt of Konkan, should be dealt with to bring relief to residents." Thackeray also urged the authorities to install projects to avoid power disruptions and smaller watershed projects in the region. Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation Vijay Wadettiwar, state secretary Sitaram Kunte and other senior officials were also present at the meeting, held through video conference. While reflecting on the Covid-19 pandemic, the chief minister said there is already a provision of Rs 1,700 crore contingency funds to tackle the Covid-19 pandemic. "Now, they are talking of a third wave and new variants. We have to be prepared to take new challenges thrown by the Covid-19 pandemic," he said. There are several districts that are still reeling under the pandemic which is a "cause of concern. At the same time, there is demand from some quarters to relax the Covid guidelines. The state government is holding discussions with industries and other sectors. After carefully assessing the situation, we will make a decision," the CM said.

Full Shutdown Imposed in 22 Villages of Ahmednagar District For 8 Days

AHMEDNAGAR | Agencies

Looking at the high prevalence of coronavirus cases, the district administration on Saturday imposed a complete shutdown in 22 villages of Ahmednagar districts to bring the virus under control. According to a report by Maharashtra Times, the district administration said the state government has taken notice of the corona cases in Ahmednagar. The district administration also informed that 100 per

cent of tests will be done and people will be quarantined in village schools. As per the latest updates, the coronavirus cases started increasing in Ahmednagar since last week of June, but the number of cases in Parner Taluka remained relatively high. It could be because of people coming from Mumbai, locals said. District Collector Rajendra Bhosale visited Parner Taluka and the lockdown measures were announced after his visit to the village.

NCB files chargesheet against Malik's son-in-law in drug case

The Narcotics Control Bureau has filed a 1,000-page chargesheet in court against Maharashtra minister Nawab Malik's son-in-law Sameer Khan. He was arrested for possession of drugs earlier this year.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), which had earlier this year arrested Maharashtra minister Nawab Malik's son-in-law Sameer Khan

for possession of drugs, has filed a 1,000-page chargesheet in court. The chargesheet has been filed against Sameer Khan, Karan Sejvani, Rahila and Shaista Furniturewala, one of the Muchhad Paanwala owners Ramkumar Tiwari and alleged drug peddler Anuj Keshwani. According to the chargesheet, Khan and the other accused have been charged for procuring, purchasing, transporting and selling about 200 kilograms of ganja and six cannabidiol (CBD) sprays. However, the chemical analysis (CA) report from the Gujarat Forensic Science Laboratory states that not all of what was

seized is ganja. The report states, "On the basis of physical examination, chemical and instrumental analysis, and botanical examination report, presence of cannabidiol (CBD) was detected in substances in about 83 kg of material." For the other 114 kg, the report states that the "presence of any narcotic drug and psychotropic substance could not be detected in the vegetative substances." Advocate Taraq Sayyed, who is representing Khan and Rahila, said after going through the chargesheet, "There is nothing in the chargesheet. The CA report says that there is only ganja and CBD, which do not fall under the

definition of cannabis as per the NDPS. Nevertheless, as per procedure, a special sessions court under the NDPS Act will take cognisance of the chargesheet. Sayyed and other lawyers associated with the case said they will be arguing against the cognisance being taken by the court. In the meantime, the accused who are on bail will have to present themselves before the court during the procedure. Nawab Malik is the minority development minister in the Maha Vikas Aghadi government in Maharashtra. Earlier, he had called the case filed by the NCB against his son-in-law 'politically motivated.'



Brangelina in tussle again!

ANGELINA ACCUSES BRAD OF STOPPING THE SALE OF THEIR WEDDING WINERY

Los Angeles | Agencies

Angelina Jolie is hoping to unload the property where they got married, but Brad Pitt won't let her in their ongoing legal battle. The Hollywood star, 46, filed papers in court on July 6 which would lift the automatic temporary restraining order (ATRO) she has against Brad. An ATRO is a court ruling that stops either spouse from selling, transferring or borrowing

against property. Angelina wants the ATRO lifted because she's hoping to sell Château Miraval, the French property which she co-owns with Brad and features both a castle and winery. According to documents filed by Angelina's legal team, the actress has found a buyer for the vast property, but Brad has not approved lifting the ATRO which would allow her to sell it. "After all these years of trying to extricate herself from being business partners with her ex-husband on

acceptable financial terms, Ms. Jolie is extremely desirous of closing the pending agreement for the sale of Nouvel, LLC, and requests that the Court issue an order lifting the ATROs and specifying that they shall not apply to Ms. Jolie's sale of Nouvel, LLC," the court documents read, according to US. Late last month, Angelina's lawyers filed an emergency application to lift the ATRO in fear the buyer would lose interest and move on.

SAM ASGHARI IS 'NOT A GOLD DIGGER': MODEL'S COACH

Los Angeles | Agencies

Sam Asghari's high school football coach has leapt to his defense after he was branded a "gold digger" by Britney Spears' team. Members of the pop princess's entourage reportedly believe boy toy Sam, 27, is manipulating Britney, 39, and trying to "commandeer her fortune." It has been suggested Sam is faking the relationship and even that he is paid to "babysit" Britney, who has been under an increasingly controversial mental health conservatorship since 2008. Some of the Toxic singer's fans also described Sam as a "gold digger" after he said earlier this year that he wanted to become a young father with Britney. However his coach Jim Benkert, who trained the Iranian-born fitness model while he played defensive lineman for Westlake High School between 2010 and 2012, isn't all about that claim. Coach Benkert said, "That's not Sam. Sam is all the things that are positive in this society. He's a great kid and he'll be doing things the right way. I have every bit of confidence that he is madly in love and madly happy."



Kaley Cuoco has stuffed replica of her late dog

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Kaley Cuoco, popularly as Penny in the sitcom "The Big Bang Theory", was gifted a stuffed replica of her late dog by her husband Karl Cook. Cuoco's dog Norman passed away aged 14 in January. After celebrating her third wedding anniversary with Cook, the actress shared that he got her a stuffed replica of the dog, which made her "so happy", reports femalefirst.co.uk.

"It was just so sweet and so thoughtful. When I saw it, I was so happy. It brought me so much joy and so many quick memories of my dog. You know, my dog changed my life. People might think it's creepy, but I love it. It sits on the couch and it literally feels real to me. I will cherish it forever," Cuoco told People magazine.

The 35-year-old actress announced the loss of Norman in January, sharing a set of black-and-white photos of her late pet and describing the pain she experienced.



MAYA JAMA CONFIRMS ROMANCE WITH BEN SIMMONS

Los Angeles | Agencies

Jama looked sensational in a leather bodysuit after confirming her new romance with Ben Simmons.

The TV presenter, 26, showed off her toned physique in the figure-hugging ensemble.

Maya, who fronts Crouchy's Year-Late Euros alongside Peter Crouch, stunned fans in the skintight number on Wednesday night.

The former Radio 1 star posed up a storm in a series of snaps shared to Instagram.

Maya, a huge hit with fans on the very similar Save Our Summer last year, was bombarded with compliments about her outfit.

The TV presenter and basketball star went public with their long-romoured relationship earlier this week at Wimbledon.

The pair were at Centre Court to see Novak Djokovic take on Cristian Garin - but they seemed much more interested in each other.

Los Angeles | Agencies

Drake pulled out all the stops to rent out the entire Dodger Stadium for a super private dinner date with model Johanna Leia. An eyewitness to the rendezvous said that Drake and Johanna were enjoying dinner at an elaborately set table on the third base line. The source added: "The pair were spotted just after 11pm Thursday night dining. They were completely alone on the ball field with the exception of a well-appointed butler." Drake appeared certainly worked his magic to impress stunning model, who was even sporting a custom Dodger's jersey with her name on it. The insider added the pair had "two waiting black SUVs parked right outside the stadium" for what would be a swift and private departure. The hitmaker reportedly sat between Johanna and Michael B. Jordan at a recent Sierra Canyon H.S. game where the model's son, Amari Bailey, plays basketball.

Drake rents out entire 'Dodger Stadium' for date with model Johanna Leia



Los Angeles | Agencies

Love Island's Maura Higgins and Strictly's Giovanni Pernice have finally confirmed they're a couple as she posts loved up snaps and tells him "I'm yours".

After weeks of staying silent about their blossoming romance, the pair came clean to fans about their relationship - and it's serious.

Just two months after Maura split from ex Christopher Taylor, new boyfriend Giovanni wrote on Instagram: "You're mine" as he shared a picture of nose to nose in a sweet embrace.

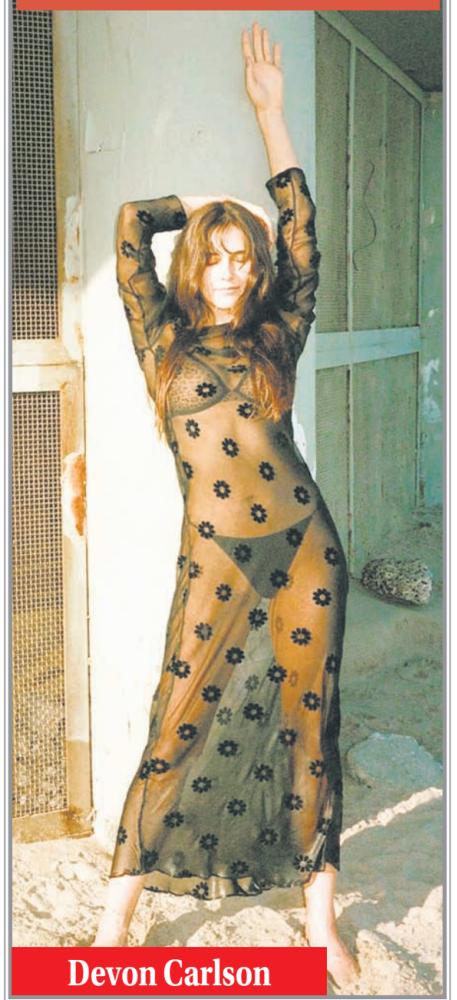
It comes after Love Island star Maura kept fans guessing when she posted a snap of the couple holding hands while enjoying a swanky dinner with her new beau. But Maura, 30, who was spotted in Blackpool last week alongside Giovanni, 30, didn't share a picture of themselves together. The reality star has now gone Instagram official with the dancer as their romance goes from strength to strength.

Maura Higgins posts first couple snap with boyfriend Giovanni Pernice

The reality star has now gone Instagram official with the dancer as their romance goes from strength to strength.



ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Devon Carlson



LOST THE MATCH

WHAT A CATCH!

Northampton | Agencies

Harleen Deol's stunning catch at the boundary that provided a rare moment of joy for the Indian women's team in the first T20I against England, which it lost by 18 runs under DLS method, has earned accolades from a cross section of the society including ex-cricketers Sachin Tendulkar and VVS Laxman, corporate honcho Anand Mahindra and politicians Smriti Irani and Jyotiraditya Scindia.

The catch, which saw Harleen cupping it, throwing it in the air after losing balance and going out of the boundary and then diving inside the field to take it, was good enough to become a rage on social media.

"That was a brilliant catch @imharleenDeol. Definitely the catch of the year for me!" tweeted former India batsman and captain Tendulkar, who holds the record for most runs and centuries in Tests and ODIs. Tendulkar's long-time India teammate VVS Laxman also tweeted his admiration.

"As good a catch one will ever see on a cricket field, from Harleen Deol. Absolutely top class," said former India batsman VVS Laxman.



England wicketkeeper Amy Jones was looking ominous, batting on 43 off 26 deliveries. On the fifth ball of the 19th over, she went for a heave off pacer Shikha Pandey. It seemed that the ball would go for a six. But Harleen summoned all her athletic ability to pouch it. The 23-year-old, positioned at long-off, timed her jump well and took a reverse-cupped catch above her head. As

she was losing balance, she threw the ball up in the air before crossing the boundary. She then regained balance and jumped back into the ground time to make a full-stretch dive to complete the catch inside the boundary.

Mahindra Group chairman Anand Mahindra placed the effort at an even higher level, saying Harleen has upstaged actress Gal Gadot,

who played Wonder Woman in the superhero film Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice.

Mahindra tweeted, "Nope. Not possible. Couldn't have happened. Must be some special effects trick. What? It was real? Ok, move over Gal Gadot; the real Wonder Woman is here..." Three balls before

Harleen's jaw-dropping effort, skipper Harmanpreet Kaur came in from long-on and dived forward to complete a low catch to send back Natalie Sciver (55 off 27 balls) to pavilion. In the third and final ODI at Worcester last Saturday, Smriti Mandhana had pulled off an extraordinary catch to dismiss Natalie in the 38th over. Smriti ran towards her left and dived full length at the cow corner to complete the catch. Harleen and Harmanpreet's efforts were the few bright spots for India in the rain-hit match. England lead the multi-format series 8-4 on points with the second T20I scheduled to be played at Hove on Sunday.

Wimbledon: Ashleigh wins final in three sets to clinch title

London | Agencies

World No. 1 Ashleigh Barty of Australia won the women's singles title at the Wimbledon Championships here on Saturday, beating eighth seed Karolina Pliskova of the Czech Republic in three sets 6-3, 6-7(4), 6-3 in one hour and 55 minutes.

Ashleigh, who had become the first world No. 1 in five years to reach the final at SW19, is the first Australian woman player in 41 years after vonne Goolagong Cawley (1980) to lift the Venus Rosewater Dish.

This is her second Grand Slam title after the 2019 French Open.

In what was the first Wimbledon women's final since 2012 to stretch to three sets, Ashleigh got off to a flying start, winning the first 14 points and four games in a row before clinching the first set 6-3. She also led 3-1 in the second set but Karolina fought back to take the set to tie-breaker and win it. Ashleigh, at one point in time, was even serving for the second set. Karolina committed errors in the final set as Ashleigh won it with ease.

For Karolina, this is the second loss at a Grand Slam final. Her previous loss came



during the 2016 US Open final when she went down to

Angelique Kerber of Germany, also in three sets.

DJOKOVIC EYES 20TH GRAND SLAM TITLE TO EQUAL NADAL, FEDERER



London: Serbia's world No. 1 tennis player Novak Djokovic will bid for his 20th Grand Slam title in the Wimbledon Championships final against Matteo Berrettini on Sunday, which will bring him level with Roger Federer and Rafael as players with most singles titles in Grand Slam tournaments.

"It would mean everything," Djokovic had said of another Wimbledon title on Friday night.

"That is why I am here. That is why I am playing. I imagined myself being in a position to fight for another Grand Slam trophy prior to coming to London. I put myself in a very good position," he added.

Djokovic, who is into his seventh final at the All England club, is only the second male player after Roger Federer to reach 30 Grand Slam finals. Federer has reached Grand Slam finals on 31 occasions.

It looks likely that the 34-year-old will upstage both Federer and Nadal going forward as he looks fit enough to play on all kinds of surfaces. Interestingly, the Serbian has reached the final after losing only one set in the tournament. That loss came in the very first set of the tournament.

Prior to this, he has lost two sets en route to the Wimbledon final on three occasions - in 2013, 2015 and 2019. The veteran player, however, was cautious in his approach. "Anything is possible in the final. Obviously, experience is on my side. But Berrettini has been winning a lot of matches on grass courts this year, winning Queen's. He's in a great form. He's serving big, playing big. So it's going to be a very tough match I think for both of us. But I'm looking forward to a great battle," added Djokovic.

INDIA'S TOUR OF SL DEFERRED BY 5 DAYS, TO START ON JULY 18

London: India's tour of Sri Lanka has escaped cancellation for the moment and its start has instead been delayed by five days after two COVID-19 positive cases emerged in the Sri Lanka team camp over the last two days. The first ODI will now be played on July 18 instead of July 13 and the final match of the series, the third T20I will be played on July 29, two days after the original schedule.

"The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) on Saturday announced the revised itinerary of India's upcoming tour of Sri Lanka, 2021," said a statement from the BCCI.

"The decision to revise the itinerary was taken on the basis of health advisory after the Sri Lankan contingent detected two COVID positive cases," it added.

"The tour comprising 3 ODIs and as many T20Is will now start from July 18th, 2021," the statement said further.



Copa America: Diaz helps Colombia clinch third place

Brasilia | Agencies

Luis Diaz scored a superb second-half brace as Colombia came from behind to secure a last-gasp 3-2 win over Peru in their Copa America third-place playoff here.

The Porto winger struck in the 66th and 94th minutes to take his personal tally for the tournament to four goals, leaving him as the joint top scorer alongside Lionel Messi on Friday, reports Xinhua. "We've been able to come together as a team and show great unity all throughout the tournament," Diaz said after the match. "It makes me very proud to be a part of this team and achieve what we have." Yoshimar Yotun opened the scoring for Peru just before halftime when he received Christian Cueva's slide-rule pass and slotted a low shot past goalkeeper Camilo Vargas. Juan Cuadrado equalised just after the restart, bending a low free-kick from the edge of the box around the wall and inside the near post.



Diaz continued his impressive run of form by latching onto Vargas's 60-yard goal-kick before a surging run and low drive into the bottom right corner from just inside the 18-yard box.

Peru did not relent and they were back on level terms when Gianluca Lapadula headed home from a Raziel Garcia corner, eight minutes from time. But Colombia were jolted

into action again as Peru were pushed deep into their own half in the final minutes.

Diaz prompted wild celebrations in the fourth minute of stoppage time with his second bid for goal of the tournament in as many games, lashing a wicked long-range effort into the top right corner after Luis Muriel released him with a backheel.

England look to end 55 year wait in Euro final

London | Agencies

Facing Italy on Sunday evening in the Euro 2020 final, England looks to end Italy's 33-game unbeaten run and its 55-year wait for a major international football title.

Wembley was the venue when England won the 1966 World Cup, beating Germany 4-2. England's 2-1 win over Denmark on July 7 ended a run of semifinal defeats in the World Cup in 1990 and 2018 and in the 1996 European Championships, reports Xinhua. England coach Gareth Southgate has developed a young side since 2018, working on showing his players to develop and grow into a major tournament and England have done just that.

They began their campaign with solid, if unspectacular performances in the group stage, built on being tough to score against, but with players such as Raheem Sterling and Mason Mount and Harry Kane able to produce a moment of magic in attack. Southgate was pragmatic as they beat Germany 2-0 in the last 16 showing he can adapt his system from a three-man defence to one with three central defenders and two wing-backs. England showed they can attack with a 4-0 quarter-final thrashing of Ukraine.

Denmark were tough rivals in the semifinals and there is still controversy over the penalty that allowed Kane to

score the winning goal, but there is also no doubt that after a difficult first 45 minutes, England were the better side, with Denmark keeper, Kasper Schmeichel, keeping his side in the game.

Now comes the chance to make history



again and Southgate is unlikely to make too many changes to his starting 11. There is a chance he could return to three at the back to frustrate an impressive Italian attack of Lorenzo Insigne, Ciro Immobile and Federico Chiesa, who scored their goal against Spain in the last-4. Italy have looked good throughout the competition, with coach Roberto Mancini swapping their defensive game for a more expansive style of football, but they found it hard to deal with Spain's high pressing game.

Southgate's decision will be whether to try and repeat the Spanish tactic or to rely on pace on the break, with Kane, who has improved as the competition has progressed, dropping deep to try and open space for the runs of Mason Mount, Sterling and Bukayo Sako or perhaps Phil Foden or Jadon Sancho, whose pace could be a factor if he starts.

Brazil Vs Argentina: A new chapter in an old rivalry

Rio de Janeiro: As much as both managers tried not to discuss it, the recent tournament history of Copa America finalists Brazil and Argentina is a study in contrast.

Argentina will be aiming to win their first major title since the 1993 Copa America when they battle for glory at Rio de Janeiro's Maracana stadium on Sunday morning (IST). Since that time, Brazil have stood on the Copa America champions' podium five times and won the World Cup twice, reports Xinhua. "That is history. Looking at the past is not a reference," Brazil head coach Tite told a virtual news conference on Friday. "We are undefeated in the last two Copa Americas and we have better numbers but I don't see that having much importance."

Likewise, Argentina boss Lionel Scaloni preferred to avoid answering questions about Argentina's trophy drought and denied that his players were under pressure to end it. "We have to take it easy and with caution," Scaloni said. "We have to do everything possible to win, without any anxiety. This pandemic has shown that football is important but not that important." The duel will not only pit what are clearly South America's two best teams against each other, but also the two best players. Brazil idol Neymar has lived up to expectations by scoring twice and providing three assists in a free-roaming attacking midfield role. Lionel Messi has been even more devastating for Argentina, leading the competition for both goals (four) and assists (five).

The six-time Ballon d'Or winner has made no secret of his desire to end Argentina's major tournament heartache and he has looked a man on a mission here.



Gros Islet (St Lucia) | Agencies

West Indies registered an 18-run win in the opening match of the five-match T20I series against Australia at the Darren Sammy National Cricket Stadium here.

The hosts took advantage of a sensational batting collapse by Australia, who lost their last six wickets for just 19 runs on Friday.

After being sent in to bat, West Indies scored 145/6 in their 20 overs. Andre Russell's first fifty in T20Is led West Indies to the below-par total. Russell's knock of 51 off 28 balls, with five fours and three towering sixes, lifted West Indies out of trouble after they had been reduced to 66/4 in 12 overs. Apart from Russell, Lendl Simmons (27) and Shimron Hetmyer (20) were notable contributors in a bat-

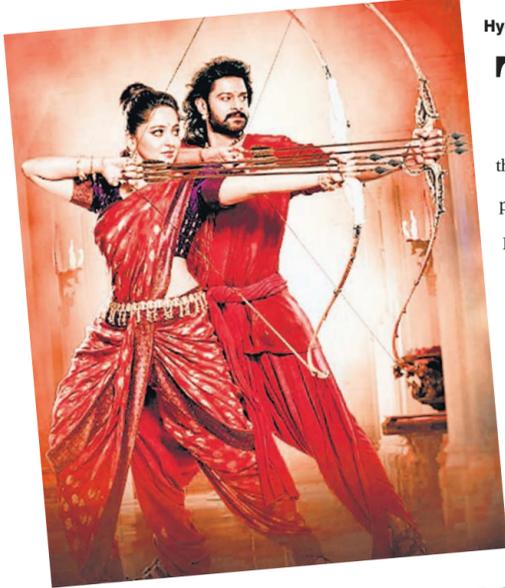


ting order which missed regular captain Kieron Pollard due to a hamstring injury.

For Australia, Josh Hazlewood took three wickets for just 12 runs while Mitch Marsh took two wickets for 26 runs. Chasing a modest target of 145, the visitors posted 70 in the power-play for the loss of skipper Aaron Finch. By the 11th over, Australia were 108 for four with Marsh and Ben McDermott at the crease. Leg-spinner Hayden Walsh Jr, brought back for the over, took McDermott down with a goo-

gly and then took a return catch when Marsh drove straight to him in the next over. With 29 runs away from the target, Australia's free-fall continued. Walsh Jr took another wicket while left-arm pacer Obed McCoy clinched the last three wickets to put an end to Australia's misery at 127 with four overs remaining. The second T20I between the two teams will be played on Sunday.

'BAAHUBALI: THE BEGINNING' TURNS 6, CAST CELEBRATES MILESTONE HIT



Hyderabad | Agencies

The team of "Baahubali" took to social media on Saturday to celebrate the blockbuster franchise, as the first film of the series, "Baahubali: The Beginning", completed six years of release. Lead actors Prabhas, Rana Daggubati, Anushka Shetty and Tamannaah Bhatia posted on Instagram to mark the occasion.

Prabhas, who played dual roles as the protagonists in the two parts, posted a still of the multi lingual film that broke several records.

Along with the image on Instagram Stories, he wrote: "6 years of Baahubali".

Rana Daggubati, who played the antagonist Bhallaldeva, also posted an image of his character on Instagram Stories and wrote the same caption.

Anushka Shetty and Tamannaah Bhatia reposted Prabhas's post. "Baahubali" released in two parts. The first, "Baahubali: The Beginning" released in 2015 on July 10 and its sequel "Baahubali 2: The Conclusion" released on April 28, 2017.

'Vikram' first-look poster features Kamal Haasan with Fahadh Faasil, Vijay Sethupati

Shamita Shetty shares a dash of weekend glamour

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Shamita Shetty shared some weekend glamour on Instagram, posting a throwback picture from a dance show. In the picture uploaded on Saturday, Shamita poses in a green Morocco dress and coordinating custom jewellery. The actress wrote about her memories from the show: "Throwback #throwback #shows #dancing #moroccon #dancedance."

Shamita appeared as a contestant on "Jhalak Dikhhla Jaa" in 2015. The actress made her entry in the world of web series with "Yo Ke Hua Bro" and "Black Widows". She will soon be seen in director Sushrut Jain's upcoming film "The Tenant".



Aastha Gill: No one's dependent on film songs anymore

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Aastha, who started out with Bollywood hits in films as "Fugly" (singing "Dhup chik") and "Khoobsurat" ("Abhi toh party"), would attribute her rise to the advent of non-film indie music because, as she points out, no one in the music industry depends on a playback career anymore.

"Earlier, things were different. We could not be choosy about stuff. Right now, things are changing. I think the independent scene has grown so much so fast in India that people are self-sufficient now. We are doing our own bit of work. So, no one's dependent on film songs anymore," said the singer.

Aastha belongs to a new generation of singers who have learned to craft a career and make money without banking on Bollywood. But now that new-age voices like her don't depend on film soundtracks for an income or career, will the film industry learn to pay singers their dues in order to avail their services?

"Everyone who is working is paid for their art and talent. So, obviously, singers giving their voices to songs must be paid, too. I don't know if it will bring a change in the industry but definitely we singers need to put our foot down," she replies.

Referring to the booming non-film music scene, she adds: "I hope because of this change, things get better in the industry and people start paying singers for what they do."

Right now, she is excited about two things in life. "Paani paani", her new song with Badshah has garnered 24,26,35,946 views on YouTube, maintaining the duo's record run of hits.



CHIRANJEEVI AND RAM CHARAN RESUME SHOOTING OF 'ACHARYA'

Team Absolute | Hyderabad

Chiranjeevi and Ram Charan are to complete the shoot of their upcoming 'Acharya' after pausing for a few months due to Covid-19 second wave. Ram Charan's role is called Siddha and he said to play a pivotal role in the film. The production house released a poster where Ram Charan can be seen sharp in a seenna colour shirt, brown trousers, traditional pale orange scarf and sporting a classic handle bar moustache.

Almost 90 per cent of the shoot was completed before the Lockdown 2.0. The team will complete the remaining 10 percent in the coming days.

Acharya is touted to be an action-drama film, which has already created a sensation with his teaser.

Chiranjeevi and Ram Charan star will be seen together in full-fledged roles for the first time. The movie also stars Kajal Agarwal, Pooja Hegde and Sonu Sood. The film is bankrolled by Matinee Entertainment and Konidela Production Company. Mani Sharma is composing music for the film.

Acharya was supposed to release in May 2021 but with soaring Covid-19 cases during the second wave, the movie's release date got pushed indefinitely to a further date.



Shweta Tiwari feel sad she couldn't help her daughter

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Shweta Tiwari is a proud mother as daughter Palak Tiwari gets ready for her debut in Bollywood with the horror film, "Rosie: The Saffron Chapter". However, the television star regrets the fact that she could not provide Palak with much beyond her

support because she primarily belongs to a different industry.

"I feel very proud because everything that she got, she did it with her hard work and her auditions. I was just there to support her. I could not provide her anything else being in a different industry," Shweta told reporter. Shweta, 40, has been a part of the television industry for over two decades now.



TAHIR RAJ BHASIN: HUGE HONOUR TO PLAY LEGEND GAVASKAR IN '83'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

On the 72nd birthday of Sunil Gavaskar, actor Tahir Raj Bhasin said it was a "huge honour" to play the legendary former cricketer in the upcoming cricket drama "83".

"I can't wait for Sunil Gavaskar to see 83 and watch my performance in the film. It's a huge honour to play a legend like him on screen and I hope I have done enough. I'm excited as well as nervous because I want to see his reaction while being next to him," said Tahir.

He added: "Sunil Gavaskar is not just an icon, he is an institution and my on-screen act is a huge salute to everything that he has done for our country and Indian cricket."

"83" tells the story of India's first cricket World Cup win in 1983. The film is directed by Kabir Khan and stars Ranveer Singh as Kapil Dev, who led a then underdog Indian team to World Cup glory against all odds.

Tahir's upcoming films are "Loop Lapeta" and "Bulbul Tarang".

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Priyanka Chopra