

absolute india

VOL. 8, ISSUE 233, MUMBAI | TUESDAY, JULY 6, 2021 | ₹5 | PAGE 08

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Unruly behaviour of lawmakers inside house can't be condoned: SC

Team Absolute | New Delhi

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday held that the unruly behaviour of law makers inside the Parliament and Assemblies cannot be condoned and they should face trial for destroying public property inside the house.

Kumar argued the Kerala High Court had culled out and taken minority views in two cases. As the bench responded that the lawmakers obstructed the budget which was being laid down in the Assembly, Kumar said

A bench of Justices D.Y. Chandrachud and M.R. Shah told senior advocate Ranjit Kumar, appearing for Kerala government, that: "What we're trying to tell you is that we cannot condone the behaviour of this kind of MLA who throws mikes and destroys public property while a Bill is being laid. There has to be a modicum of decorum in legislative bodies. What behaviour are you presenting to the public? What is the larger public interest in shielding an MLA who created a ruckus while a financial bill was being laid?"



"Yes. But he was suspended too" and cited two judgments in defence.

The bench observed that the decision to withdraw the case is taken by the public prosecutor, and not by the state government. "State cannot decide if it is to be withdrawn or not. It's only the prerogative of the public prosecutor," it noted.

As Kumar requested another date in the matter, the bench said that it will keep the matter for next week, telling him: "Until then, if you want to file any additional documents, please do." After hearing arguments, the bench posted the matter for further hearing on July 15.

The Kerala government had moved the Supreme Court seeking its nod to withdraw cases against CPI-M leaders, including now Education Minister V. Sivankutty, for vandalism in the state Assembly in 2015, when the current ruling party was in the Opposition. The Kerala High Court, in an order passed on March 12, had refused to give its nod, saying that the elected representatives are expected to uphold prestige of the house or face the consequences.

Covid third wave likely to hit India in Aug, peak in Sep

GET VACCINATED

The report titled 'Covid-19: The race to finishing line', published by SBI Research, stated that vaccination is the only savior as global data shows that, on an average, the third wave peak cases are around 1.7 times the peak cases at the time of second wave. Current cases are now hovering around 45,000 since the past week, indicating that the devastating second wave is "not yet over in the country and is exhibiting a fat tail. In the first wave as well, the cases declined gradually, with cases around 45,000 for 21 days before any meaningful decline in daily cases.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The much-feared third wave of coronavirus is likely to hit India by mid-August, while cases may peak in September, a report said on Monday, even as the second wave is not yet over in the country.

51 cases of the Delta Plus variant have been detected, so far, from 12 states. New cases in the top 15 districts, which are mostly urban, increased again in June. But the good thing is that their fatality rate has been constant for three months.

On the other hand, the share of rural districts in new cases has refused to decline meaningfully since July 2020, when it breached 45 per cent and has fluctuated since then. India has started giving more than 40 lakh vaccination doses per day. While states like Rajasthan, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, and Uttarakhand have already given both vaccine doses to a larger percentage of the population above 60 years, the overall vaccination in rural areas remains low, the report said.

Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, and Jharkhand have inoculat-

Covid pulls India's June services sector output lower: PMI

New Delhi: The second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic heavily dented India's service sector output in June, which contracted at the fastest pace since July 2020. The survey data indicated that services firms endured further losses of new business as the emergence of the second wave and the reintroduction of containment measures restricted demand. Consequently, the seasonally adjusted India

less proportion of those above 45 years. These states need to pick up pace, the report said.

Services Business Activity Index contracted to 41.2 (index value) in June, down from 46.4 reported in May.

Vitamin D shows promising results in COVID-19 treatment

Chandigarh: Vitamin D, which is primarily related to bone and mineral metabolism, has shown promising results in COVID-19 treatment, said doctors of the PGI Hospital here on Monday. But they warned against the use of its high doses, especially injectable preparations, to prevent the virus. The study lends ample support to the fact that vitamin D can be used as an effective adjuvant treatment modality in patients hospitalised with COVID-19. The anti-viral and the immunomodulatory role of vitamin D are perhaps helpful in this regard. Nevertheless, the irrational and rampant use of vitamin D to prevent COVID-19 should not be a norm.



Delta variant shows 8-fold reduced sensitivity

New Delhi: The Delta variant of Covid-19 virus shows eight-fold approximately reduced sensitivity to vaccine elicited antibodies compared to the Wuhan strain, revealed a recent study on the B.1.617.2 Delta variant on over 100 healthcare workers (HCWs) across three centres in Delhi, including Sir Ganga Ram Hospital. As per the study, the variant is less sensitive to neutralising antibodies from recovered individuals, with higher replication efficiency as compared to the Alpha variant.

India has achieved its second wave peak on May 7 and going by the current data, the country can experience around 10,000 cases somewhere around the second week of July. However, based on historical trends, the cases can start rising by the second fortnight of Aug '21 with peak cases at least a month later."

Soumya Kant Ghosh, Chief Economic Adviser.

Only 4.6 per cent of the population in India is fully vaccinated, while 20.8 per cent have received one dose, much lower compared to other countries including the US (47.1 per cent), the UK (48.7 per cent), Israel (59.8 per cent), Spain (38.5 per cent), France (31.2), among others.

MONSOON EXPECTED TO REVIVE FROM JULY 8



New Delhi: After a break, the Southwest Monsoon is again set to enter an active phase, M Rajeevan, Secretary of Ministry of Earth Sciences said on Sunday, noting that forecast models show signs of increasing rain activity from July 8. He said that models indicate the formation of a weather system in the Bay of Bengal.

After a good spell of rains in the first two and half weeks of June, the Southwest Monsoon has not advanced further since June 19. Delhi, Haryana, parts of west Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, west Rajasthan are yet to see the arrival of the monsoon. In its forecast for the July, India Meteorological Department said the country as a whole will witness good rainfall this month.

Committed to sharing all expertise in fight against Covid: Modi

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said that there is no parallel to Covid-19 pandemic in a hundred years and right from the beginning of the pandemic India has been committed to sharing all our expertise with the global community in this battle. The Prime Minister made the remarks at the CoWIN Global Conclave. Speaking at the event, Modi offered his sincere condolences for all the

lives lost to the pandemic, in all the countries. The Prime Minister said that right from the beginning of the pandemic, India has been committed to sharing all our experiences, expertise and resources with the global community in this battle. "Despite all our constraints, we have tried to share as much as possible with the world," he said.



'Twitter losing immunity due to non-compliance of IT Rules'

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Centre has informed the Delhi High Court that Twitter has failed to comply with the IT Rules, 2021 as on July 1, on four counts: Chief compliance officer not being appointed; the position of the resident grievance officer is vacant; the position of the nodal contact person (even on an interim basis) is vacant; and the physical contact address, which was shown to be there on May 29, is not available on Twitter's website. In a short affidavit, the Ministry of



Electronics and Information Technology said: "IT Rules, 2021 are the law of the land and Respondent No. 2 (Twitter) is mandatorily required to comply with the same. Any non-compliance amounts to breach of the provisions of the IT Rules, thereby leading to Respondent No. 2 losing its immunity conferred under Section 79(1) of the IT Act, 2000." "As provided in Rule 7, failure to observe the IT Rules, 2021 results in provisions of Section 79(1) of the IT Act, 2000 not being applicable to such an intermediary," added the affidavit.

1 in 10 women in India 'ran out of food' during lockdown

The report, titled 'Impacts of Covid-19 on women in low-income households in India' conducted by social impact advisory group Dalberg, captures the experiences and perspectives of nearly 15,000 women and 2,300 men across the 10 states of Bihar, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal from March 24 to May 31, 2020, and the following months from June till October 2020.

- During April-May, the pandemic resulted in job and income losses for an estimated 4.3 crore women (57 per cent out of the 7.6 crore who were previously employed).
- One out of four women (6.4 crore women) were yet to meaningfully recover their paid work as of September-October 2020.
- An estimated 87 lakh women who were working before the pandemic remained out of work as of October 2020.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

More than one in 10, or nearly 3.2 crore women in India "limited their food intake or ran out of food" during the Covid-induced lockdown last year, finds a report. The pandemic exacerbated women's nutritional challenges, as an additional 3.2 crore reported being worried about food sufficiency in their households, the report showed. About 16 per cent of women, who used menstrual pads before the pandemic, had no or limited access to menstrual pads, primarily because they could no longer afford these items.

In addition, more than one in three married women were unable to access contraceptives or 15 per cent of married women could not access contraceptives, primarily due to concerns about accessing a healthcare facility during the pandemic. Meanwhile the report showed that government schemes such as MGNREGA (1.2 crore), Jan Dhan (10 crore), and PDS (18 crore) supported women during the crisis. About 70 per cent of women in the study depended on PDS for food and nutrition during the crisis than on any other channel. The lockdown also financially affected women in India, who already constitute a minority in the paid workforce.

CBSE Board Exam 2022 will be held in 2 parts, On reduced syllabus

- Regarding internal assessment, the board said, for Classes 9 and 10, throughout the year-irrespective of term 1 and 2, will include the three periodic tests, student enrichment, portfolio and practical work/ speaking listening activities/ project. While for Classes 11 and 12, internal assessment would include end of topic or unit tests/ exploratory activities/ practicals/ projects.
- While the Term 1 Examination in a flexible schedule will be conducted between November-December 2021 with a window period of 4-8 weeks for schools situated in different parts of country and abroad, Term 2 would be held around March-April 2022 at the examination centres fixed by the Board. The board, however, said, it will assess and conduct the examinations, Term 1 and Term 2, considering the situation prevailing at that time.
- Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank on Monday said that those students who were not happy with the new evaluation process and want to appear for CBSE class 12 boards will be free to write exams in August this year. Class 12 students will get their results according to their merit through the new evaluation process decided by the CBSE.

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The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has decided to rationalize the syllabus for the academic session 2021-22 for Classes 10 and 12. The board exams for the 2021 batch will be held in two terms with 50 per cent syllabus in each term. A systematic approach -- looking into the interconnectivity of concepts and topics by subject experts -- will be followed. The board will conduct the examinations at the end of each term on the basis of the bifurcated syllabus. CBSE, in the official state-



ment said, efforts will be made to make the internal assessment, practical and project work more credible and valid. Moderation Policy, the board said, will be announced to ensure fair distribution of marks. Schools will also create a student profile for all assessments undertaken over the academic year and retain the evidences in digital format, CBSE added.

Gomti riverfront case: CBI searches 42 locations in UP, Bengal, Raj



Team Absolute | New Delhi

In a massive action, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Monday carried out searches at over 42 locations in Uttar Pradesh in connection with a fresh case it registered in the alleged irregularities in the Gomti Riverfront project. The source said the searches were being carried out after the CBI registered a fresh case to probe alleged irregularities in the project against 189 Uttar Pradesh government officers, including the then engineers, and others named as accused in the FIR. The CBI teams, after

registering the case, swooped in to raid the accused at 42 locations in 13 districts. One of the accused named in the FIR is the French company Aquatique Show, the source said. In the latest case, according to the CBI FIR several former chief engineers, superintending engineers, other engineers and public servants of the state irrigation department, private contractors and businessmen have been named as accused. Out of 673 works, 12 worth Rs 1,031 crore were investigated by the probing agency in its first FIR. This FIR concerns 661 works worth Rs 407 crore.



SC refuses to entertain PIL against Congress 'Toolkit'

'DON'T QUARREL': SC TO RAMDEV, DOCTORS' COUNSEL

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday stepped-in as counsels for yoga guru Ramdev and doctors' body had heated argument, on former's plea seeking a stay on proceedings in connection with multiple FIRs lodged over his alleged remarks against the use of allopathic medicines during the COVID pandemic. The apex court was scheduled to examine on Monday, the original records of Ramdev's statement on the use of allopathic medicine following his plea to stay investigation and transfer the cases against him to Delhi. Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for Ramdev, requested the bench to hear the matter on Friday. Senior advocate Rajiv Dutta, appearing for Delhi Medical Association (DMA), which has filed an impleadment application in the matter submitted that his client has created a chart citing all statements made by Ramdev. DMA has called Ramdev a "businessman" clad as a "yoga guru" and claimed that he does not have any degree or license to practice Ayurveda and prescribe medicines.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Monday declined to entertain a plea seeking a NIA probe into the alleged Congress "Toolkit", and also suspension of registration of the Congress party if charges against the party of indulging in anti-national acts and playing with the lives of people were found true.

A bench comprising Justices D Y Chandrachud and M R Shah queried the petitioner, advocate Shashank Shekhar Jha, how could a petition under Article 32 be entertained by the court against political propaganda? Justice Chandrachud said: "If you don't like the toolkit, ignore it".

Jha submitted before the bench that there was a propaganda to use the term "Indian variant" for the coronavirus mutant and cited that Singapore had taken objection to use of terms like "Singapore variant". Singapore had banned everything, said Jha. The bench replied, "But, India is a democracy, you know", and queried Jha how could courts control the forms of political propaganda. Justice Shah said that



the court cannot issue directions under Article 32.

Justice Chandrachud said: "Mr Jha, please withdraw this. You may pursue your remedies under appropriate law". The bench noted that precious time of the Supreme Court was being taken up by 'frivolous petitions'. "All of these petitions take precious time of the Supreme Court", said the bench.

Justice Shah added that a criminal

investigation is already pending in the 'Toolkit' matter. The bench noted that directions could not be issued under Article 32 as a general, umbrella petition could not be maintained under the same. After a brief hearing in the matter, Jha agreed to withdraw the petition with liberty to pursue alternate remedies.

In May, this year, the BJP had alleged a 'Toolkit' had been prepared by the Congress party to tarnish the

SHOCKING, DISTRESSING: SC ON SECTION 66A STILL BEING USED

New Delhi: The Supreme Court was taken aback on Monday after learning that people are still being booked and tried under Section 66A of the Information Technology Act, even six years after the top court struck down the provision as "unconstitutional and a violation of free speech". A bench headed by Justice R.F. Nariman and comprising Justices K.M. Joseph and B.R. Gavai said: "It is still going on, amazing... What is going on is terrible, distressing." The bench noted that judgement in Shreya Singhal case was delivered on March 24, 2015. Section 66A of the IT Act, 2000 made posting "offensive" comments online a crime punishable by a jail term of three years. Justice Nariman noted, "Please read my dissent in the Sabarimala case for Article 144". The top court's observation came on a plea by NGO PUCL seeking a direction to the Centre to issue advisory to all police stations against registering of FIR under Section 66A of the Information Technology Act, which was declared unconstitutional by the top court on March 24, 2015.

image of Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the handling of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the Congress party had accused BJP leaders of releasing a forged and

fabricated letter and termed it as an attempt to divert the attention of the people and to hide the failure of the government in handling the health crisis.

TMC MPs meet President for removal of Solicitor General

Team Absolute | Kolkata

A two-member team of the All India Trinamool Congress including the party's Rajya Sabha MP Sukhendu Sekhar Roy and Lok Sabha MP Mohua Moitra met President Ram Nath Kovind on Monday and sought the removal of the Solicitor General of India Tushar Mehta. They alleged that the senior lawyer met Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) legislator Suwendu Adhikari in violation of established norms. "Various news reports, containing videos and photographs, have reported a private one-on-one meeting between Suwendu Adhikari, a politician of the Bharatiya Janata Party and an accused in serious criminal offences and Tushar Mehta, the Solicitor General of India. This meeting took place at Mehta's official residence. Such a meeting, between one of the highest serving law officers of India - the Solicitor General, who is also appointed as the Special Public Prosecutor for the Central Bureau of



Investigation (CBI) and an accused person being investigated by the same agency, raises extremely serious doubts of impropriety," Roy said at a press conference after their meeting with the President. "The Solicitor General of India, being the second highest law officer of the Republic of India after the Attorney General of India, advises the Government of India and its various organs in crucial legal matters. Thus, a meeting between an accused person in grave criminal offences and the Solicitor General of

India, who is advising the very investigating agencies who are investigating and prosecuting such an accused person, reeks of impropriety and is a blatant conflict of interest," Roy said. Roy was referring to the Narada case where Adhikari is accused in the 2016 Narada sting operation case, and Mehta is representing the CBI in the Supreme Court and the Calcutta High Court in the agency's probe against senior TMC leaders in the case. "This incident took place on 1 July 2021, when Mr Adhikari after meeting the Home Minister, Mr Amit Shah at his Krishna Menon Marg residence went immediately to the residence of the Solicitor General of India at No 10, Akbar Road. He left the Learned Solicitor General's official residence after around 30 minutes," the Trinamool Congress MP said. "We therefore have reasons to believe that such a meeting has been organised to influence the outcome of the criminal cases where Adhikari is an accused person, using the high offices of the Solicitor General," Roy said.

EARTHQUAKE TREMORS FELT IN DELHI, EPICENTRE JHAJJAR

New Delhi: Light tremors of an earthquake were felt in Delhi and parts of the National Capital Region (NCR) late on Monday evening. Tremors of the earthquake of 3.7 magnitude on the Richter scale were felt at 10.36 p.m. The National Centre for Seismology said in a tweet that an earthquake of magnitude 3.7 hit 10-km north of Jhajjar in Haryana at 10:36 pm. No report of any damage to life or property has been received so far.

CBI arrests ex-Railways official, recovers Rs 2.75 cr, 23 kg gold

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) said on Monday that it has arrested A.K. Kathpal, the former Principal Chief Mechanical Engineer of Indian Railways earlier posted at the Integral Coach Factory (ICF), in an alleged graft case and recovered Rs 2.75 crore in cash and 23 kg gold during searches at nine locations. A CBI spokesperson said that Kathpal, a 1984 batch IRSME officer who was earlier posted at the ICF Perambur in Chennai, has been arrested on charges of demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 50



lakh. The official said that CBI had registered a case against Kathpal, who retired in March this year, and others, including private persons, on the allegation that the accused while holding the post of Principal Chief

Mechanical Engineer, ICF, was indulging in collusion with the director of a Chennai-based private firm and unknown persons in the award or execution of tenders with respect to the mechanical division of ICF.

K'taka politics hits a low as ex CMs launch foul-mouthed rants



Bengaluru | Agencies

In an ugly episode of political rivalry, former Karnataka chief ministers H.D. Kumaraswamy and Siddaramaiah made derogatory remarks against their opponents on Monday. Kumaraswamy passed a distasteful remark while criticising independent MP Sumalatha Ambareesh, who had defeated his son in polls, for raising her concerns on safety of the

historical Krishna Raja Sagara (KRS) dam due to mining. "If she is so concerned let her reach the place and sleep at the entrance of KRS dam," he stated. "The state never saw an MP like her. It will not see one in future. Her statement on mining activity damaging the KRS dam is frivolous. She is spoiling the opportunity which has come in the backdrop of sympathy," he maintained.

Meanwhile, opposition leader and former chief minister Siddaramaiah called Chief Minister B.S. Yeddyurappa a "kutta" (dog) while criticising him for failing to bring funds from the central government.

"Yeddyurappa won't speak a word to the high command. He lacks guts. He fits the statement of 'Hamara kutta hamari gali mein sher' (A dog is king in his alley). He should have spoken to the Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to bring funds for the state as per recommendations of the 15th Finance Commission," he said.

AMARINDER CHALLENGES KEJRIWAL ON FREE POWER TO FARMERS

Chandigarh: Taking his Delhi counterpart head-on for failing to provide free power to farmers in the national capital, Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Monday slammed Arvind Kejriwal for making false promises on free power in Punjab with an eye on the 2022 Assembly polls.

The Kejriwal government has completely failed the people of Delhi on all counts, with no free power to the farmers and excessively high tariffs for the industry, Singh said, adding that the people of Punjab have already rejected the "pathetic Delhi model of governance". The Punjab Chief Minister said the Delhi power tariff structure was a case of "organised loot" by the Kejriwal-led Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government, which was openly allowing private power distribution companies in Delhi to "fill their pockets by collecting excessively high tariffs at the cost of the common man". Delhi is charging Rs 9.80 per unit for industrial power, even as the Congress government in Punjab is levying a subsidised rate of Rs 5 per unit to attract industry to Punjab. As a result, the state has seen more than Rs 85,000 crore worth of investment on the ground in the past four years.



CONGRESS TOP BRASS SUMMONS ALL 19 BIHAR MLAS TO DELHI

Patna | Agencies

The Congress' top leadership has called all its 19 MLAs in Bihar to Delhi for a high-level meeting with former party president Rahul Gandhi. Sources have said that Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and his aides are in contact with some of the Congress MLAs and Congress' top leaders learnt about the development.

However, the party's top leadership has denied any such developments. Madan Mohan Jha, Bihar Congress chief told IANS: "Our MLAs and MPs are with us and they have faith in the Congress party and leadership of Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi. There is no truth in it." "Our MLAs, MLCs, MPs, present and ex-CLP leaders and other top state leaders have expressed a desire to meet with Rahul Gandhi and he has given time on July 7," Jha said. Murari



Gautam, Congress MLA from Chenari in Rohtas told IANS: "We have an executive committee meeting scheduled on July 7 where we will discuss the present political circumstances of Bihar and future policies with our leader Rahul Gandhi."

After Bihar Social Welfare Minister Madan Sahani turned rebellious and challenged the present NDA government in Bihar, sources have said that the ruling JDU is eyeing MLAs of Congress.



PRANAB MUKHERJEE'S SON ABHIJIT MUKHERJEE JOINS TRINAMOOL

Team Absolute | Kolkata

In a major blow to the Congress party, former President of India Pranab Mukherjee's son Abhijit Mukherjee joined the Trinamool Congress on Monday afternoon. A two-time MP from Jangipur in Murshidabad and one-time MLA from Nanhati in Birbhum, Mukherjee said he would work as the party wants.

Taking the party flag from two Trinamool veterans Partha Chatterjee and Sudip Bandopadhyay, Mukherjee said. "It was in

2011 when I left a government job and joined politics because I wanted to work for the people. Though I contested on Congress ticket but it was because of Mamata Banerjee's fight against the Left Front, I could easily win".

"Now when BJP aggression is felt all over the country, it was only Mamata Banerjee who could fight against them and single-handedly defeat them. I believe that she is the only leader in the country who can answer all the aggression of BJP. I feel proud that she has allowed me to join the party," Mukherjee said.

(Anchor)

New Delhi: Former defence minister A.K. Antony on Monday said the government has no option but to order Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) probe into Rafale deal after French Public Prosecution Services appointed a judge to investigate the corruption, influence padding and brazen favouritism in the Rafale deal.

Antony in a statement said, "The prima facie corruption in the Rafale deal is now apparent. The intriguing silence of Modi Government points towards mal-intent to hush up the corruption. The refusal of the BJP Government to probe and punish the guilty is even more astonishing, pointing towards a concerted effort to bury the scam."

"The only way forward is to accept accountability and order a free and fair JPC probe into the entire set of facts, evidence and allegations of corruption in Rafale deal," he added.



He further said, "This international tender for 126 aircrafts also envisaged the all important 'Transfer of Technology' to India. Till today, neither the Prime Minister nor the BJP Government have explained the reason for reducing the number of aircrafts from 126 to 36 or the reason for sacrificing Transfer of Technology to India. The BJP Government has also not explained the basis or the reason for enhancing the price of the 36 aircrafts or for denying the offset contract to the Government's PSU, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited."

"The BJP Government has also not stated the reason for the fact that when clearance from 'Defence Acquisition Council' had been given and there was an ongoing tender for which negotiations were being finalized, how could the Prime Minister and the Government unilaterally enter into another agreement?"





After ruckus in Assembly, 12 BJP MLAs suspended

"This is a murder of democracy. This is 'Mughlai Sarkar'," thundered Fadnavis while Shelar labelled the ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi as a "Talibani government", and the opposition BJP threatened to boycott the legislature proceedings.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

After a huge ruckus in the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, 12 opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) legislators were suspended for allegedly using 'abusive language' and 'misbehaving' with the Presiding Officer Bhaskar Jadhav, here on Monday.

Among the legislators suspended for one year include at least three former ministers, and after the suspension, Leader of Opposition Devendra Fadnavis led a noisy walkout.

The motion to suspend them was moved by Parliamentary Affairs Minister Anil Parab and passed by a voice vote even as the house witnessed turbulence on the first day of the two-day Monsoon Session which opened here.

The uproarious scenes started as Food & Civil Supplies Minister Chhagan Bhuwal sought to bring in a resolution seeking empirical data on the OBCs from the Centre.

However, Fadnavis raised objections saying the government did not follow the Supreme Court directions for 15 months which led to the scrapping of the political reservations for the OBCs.

After his reasonings and Fadnavis' statement, Presiding Officer Jadhav asked Bhuwal to table the resolution when BJP MLAs rushed to the podium and tried to snatch his mike, demanding more time for Fadnavis to speak.



The resolution was passed by a voice vote even as the House saw four adjournments following a huge ruckus.

Outside the House, there were heated exchanges between BJP and Shiv Sena members at the chamber of Deputy

The suspended MLAs are - Girish Mahajan, Jaykumar Rawal, Ashish Shelar, Atul Bhatkalkar, Yogesh Sagar, Parag Alvani, Ram Satpute, Sanjay Kute, Abhimanyu Pawar, Narayan Kuche, Shirish Pimple and Kirtikumar Bagadia.

Speaker Narhari Zirwal, while CM Uddhav Thackeray spoke with Jadhav to get details of the sequence of events.

Later Fadnavis contended that the statements of misbehaviour were partial and while he may be aggressive, he never compromised on Parliamentary ethics, and expressed his readiness to face any punishment if the allegations of Sena members that he made uncharitable remarks were proven true.

Fadnavis accused the government of targeting the opposition as it is raising issues of public importance and highlighting its failures.

EX-MINISTER ANIL DESHMUKH DUCKS ED DATE THRICE

Team Absolute | Mumbai

While moving the Supreme Court for protection against coercive action by the Enforcement Directorate (ED), the embattled ex-Home Minister of Maharashtra Anil Deshmukh skipped an ED summons for the third time in a week, this time, accusing the central agency that its probe against him was 'not transparent', here on Monday.

In a letter to ED Mumbai Assistant Director Tassine Sultan, Deshmukh said that he had devoted his entire life to public service and would not hesitate to render any assistance that may be required in the conduct of the ongoing investigations.

"However, a series of events have given rise to a bonafide apprehension in my mind that neither the procedure of law is being followed nor any objective, impartial or transparent investigations are being carried out," the 72-year-old senior Nationalist



Congress Party leader said in his 8-pager missive. Deshmukh said that he has moved a petition in the Supreme Court which would be listed in a few days and the ED to wait until its outcome in the apex court.

"I am sanguine that your good self will in fact dispel the impression of any bias or prejudice that has accumulated in my mind by carrying out investigations in a more transparent and objective manner. I am only taking recourse to my legal remedies in view of the peculiarities of the circumstances," he said.

CBI SHOULD INVESTIGATE EVERYONE INVOLVED, NOT JUST DESHMUKH: HC

A division bench of Justices S S Shinde and N J Jamadar asked the CBI how far its investigation into an FIR registered against Deshmukh in April has progressed. "What is the progress of the investigation? We would like to see a progress report in a sealed envelope. We will read and give it back," the court said.

The bench was hearing a petition filed by the NCP leader challenging the FIR registered by the CBI on April 24 on charges of corruption and misuse of official position.

On Monday, when senior counsel Amit Desai, appearing for Deshmukh, was arguing, the bench questioned whether at this stage, when the probe was still on, the court should hear a plea for quashing the case. "Pursuant to HC directives, a preliminary enquiry was initiated and then FIR was lodged. It would be the duty of the CBI to investigate everyone who was involved in this. Not just the petitioner (Deshmukh). This may also include those who were in the committee that reinstated (ex-Mumbai cop) Sachin Waze," the court said.

This is the third time in barely a week that Deshmukh -- who was raided by the ED on June 25, and at

least 2 of his close aides were arrested -- has spurned the ED summons to join the probe.

Expecting bail, Koregaon-Bhima accused Fr Stan Swamy dies in custody

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Expecting release on medical bail, ailing octogenarian Jesuit priest and tribal rights activist Father Stan Lourduwamy - an arrested accused in the Koregaon-Bhima case - passed away at a private hospital here on Monday afternoon.

Senior advocate Mihir Desai, who was representing him, brought the development to the notice of the Bombay High Court bench of Justices S.S. Shinde and N.J. Jamdar when the bail plea came up for hearing this afternoon. "It is with a very heavy heart I have to inform you that Fr Stan Swamy has passed away," said Dr Ian D'Souza, the doctor treating him at the Holy Family Hospital, informed the court.

He added that the 84-year-old activist - hailing from Tamil Nadu's Trichy - was suffering from hearing loss, lumbar spondylosis, compli-



cations arising out of Covid-19, lung problems and Parkinson's. Early on Saturday, Swamy had suffered cardiac arrest and was shifted to the ICU but could not be revived and breathed his last around 1.30 p.m. on Monday. The court expressed its "shock" over the news while it was preparing to hear his bail plea and directed that the authorities place his autopsy and medical papers on record since he died in custody. "With all humility at our command, we are sorry to learn that he has passed away. We are shocked," said the bench. There was a massive outpour of grief and sympathy on social media for

Father Swamy and condemnation of the government by various groups and Left leaders, as the news broke out.

Father Swamy, the founder of NGO Bagicha working for tribal empowerment but which the National Investigation Agency alleged had links with several extremist Maoist groups and banned organisations, was arrested on October 8, 2020 by the agency in connection with his alleged role in the January 1, 2018 Koregaon-Bhima caste violence in Pune, and related issues which rocked the state and national politics. One of the oldest to be slapped with the stringent UAPA, he was under custody since his arrest and kept at the Talaja Central Jail in Raigad.

Two months ago, as his health deteriorated, he moved the Bombay High Court seeking bail on medical grounds after which the court ordered the state government to shift him from the

Residential sales surge by 83% YoY in Q2 2021: JLL

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Residential sales in Q2 (April-June) 2021 increased by 83 per cent as compared to Q2 2020, across the top seven cities.

According to JLL's Residential Market Update - Q2 2021, released on Tuesday, sales were driven by the low base effect, less stringent lockdowns, and accelerating vaccination drives during Q2 2021, demonstrating improved resilience in the market.

By comparison, in Q1 2021, sales of residential units continued an upward trajectory, increasing by 17 per cent on a sequential basis. During the first wave of Covid-19, residential sales



dropped by a record 61 per cent quarter-on-quarter to 10,753 units in Q2 2020. However, the impact of the second wave has been limited with sales in Q2 2021 dipping by 23 per cent to 19,635 units. Sales of more than 45,000 residential units were recorded in H1 2021 as against 38,204 units in H1 2020, an increase of 18 per

cent YoY. The sustained levels of residential sales present clear signs of demand and buyer confidence coming back to the market.

The need for secured tangible assets and aspirations to own larger homes as remote working becomes the new norm is driving sales of residential properties across the country.

Draft rules may hit e-commerce sector ops, growth: IACC

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Raising concerns over the draft e-commerce rules circulated by the government, the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce (IACC) has said that the norms may impact the business operations of e-commerce companies and the growth of the sector.

The chamber, in a letter to the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, said the proposed amendments to the Consumer Protection (E-Commerce) Rules, 2020, may compound the burden of multiple regulations on the e-commerce sector by increasing compliance liabilities, which may lead to impairing of the growth of the sector.

It was of the view that such a measure will affect investor sentiment globally, especially with respect to "ease of doing business" in the country. "There are multiple provisions within the pro-



posed amendments, and there is a concern that they may impinge on the business operations of e-commerce companies," IACC said in its letter.

"Some provisions may also be read as pertaining to trade activities rather than overall consumer interest, which are covered as stated in other regulatory

formats." It noted that having a principle-based light-touch regulatory framework, in place of a stringent definition as the amendments have pro-

After mega Covid hospitals, Mumbai slum gets a jumbo toilet block

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Reeling under the Covid-19 pandemic, the country's financial capital got its biggest ever swank, 88-seater Jumbo public toilet at Juhu Gully in Andheri west.

The two-storied public toilet has 60 seats on the ground floor and 28 on the first floor, making it the largest built by the BrihanMumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), said Ward No. 66 Congress Municipal Corpororator Meher M. Haider. Mumbai Congress President Bhai Jagtap cut the ribbon for the facility -- catering to around 60,000 slum dwellers in the vicinity, and each family has to pay only Rs 60 per month for unlimited use. Thematically designed with cartoon characters like Tom and Jerry welcoming the users, beautifully painted images of different types of fish, cleanliness themed murals and others, the aesthetic toilet has other amenities too, all conceptualized by Haider and designed by Riddhi



Associates. Spread across 4,000 sq. feet of civic land, there is a small waiting area with newspapers, a free Wi-Fi, a TV set in the midst of a tiny botanical garden to keep the surroundings fresh. "It is not only the biggest public toilet block in the city, but has an efficient round-the-clock cleaning system. While the upper floor is for men, the ground floor is for women and four blocks exclusively for the physically handicapped," Haider said. Earlier, Haider's husband, who was a Municipal Corporator for around two decades, had arranged to lay sewer lines in the region

adjoining the heritage Gilbert Hill slum pockets to push the toilet-at-home policy.

Three years ago, the then biggest -- 55-seat public toilet came up near Gilbert Hill, followed by a 32-seater, the latest 88-seater and 10 big and small blocks with another 324 seats coming up by December -- well in time for the BMC elections in early-2022.

"Wherever possible, the aim is to provide toilets inside slum homes especially for the convenience and safety of women using the funds for the purpose given by the Centre and the BMC. Around 2,500 families here have taken advantage of the scheme and more will follow suit," said Mohsin Haider. Incidentally, Mumbai has around a dozen toilet blocks, mostly run by private parties, which are air-conditioned and chargeable, and in late 2019, the BMC planned to set up 80 multi-utility air-conditioned mobile toilet vans at major traffic signals, but the plan has yet to take off owing to the Covid-19 pandemic lockdown.

India's first hospital with 4 robotic surgical systems opened in Pune

Team Absolute | Pune

Nationalist Congress Party President Sharad Pawar inaugurated the country's first super specialty hospital of the Lokmanya Group having four robotic surgical systems and other state-of-the-art advanced forms of treatment, an official said here on Saturday. Speaking on the occasion, Pawar said that Pune, which is already famous for its IT sector and education, now also has a reputation for highly advanced healthcare and medical services.

"During the Covid-19 pandemic, the Pune medical fraternity contributed a lot to control it. We need many more such hospitals to help patients lead a healthy life, reduce mortality and morbidity rates. We appreciate Narendra Vaidya and his entire team for this well-equipped hospital with all essential facilities and cutting-edge technology for various ailments," said Pawar. The Lokmanya Hospital for Special Surgery (LHSS) is also the Lokmanya Group's 5th super specialty

hospital in the city and has 4 robotic-assisted joint replacement systems renowned internationally -- Rosa, Navio, Cori and Brainlab, said Group Managing Director Narendra Vaidya, a noted robotic joint replacement surgeon. Lokmanya Group Director, Meetal Vaidya, said the hospital will conduct health awareness camps for early detection of various diseases among local communities and societies. Spread across over 47,000 sq ft area, the 104-bed hospital has 20 ICU beds, 9 modular operation theaters, and 4 robotic-assisted technology for joint replacement, minimally invasive surgery, sports medicine department, comprehensive spine treatment, foot and ankle, cosmetic and reconstruction, oncology, general and laparoscopic surgeries, dental and ophthalmology, among other departments.



WE ARE NOT INDIA - PAKISTAN: SANJAY RAUT ON SENA-BJP

Mumbai: Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut on Monday evoked the post-divorce relationship between actor Aamir Khan and Kiran Rao to stress that the political paths of his party and BJP are separate but friendship remains between the former alliance partners. "Look at Aamir Khan and Kiran Rao. (Their) paths have separated but (they) are friends. Same here. (Our) paths are separate but friendship remains. There will be friendship in politics. But this doesn't mean that we are going to form government (in Maharashtra)," Raut said. "There are differences, but as I have been saying for a long time, we (Sena and BJP) are not India-Pakistan.



PARTS OF COURSES DEPICTS WOMEN INFERIOR SHOULD BE REMOVED: CM

Use the designation with equality for women officers – employees, Meeting of the Group of Ministers on Women Empowerment and Child Welfare concluded, Chief Minister Chouhan presided over

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that the parts which depict women as inferior in educational courses should be removed immediately. The work of auditing the courses and making them gender neutral should be completed on priority. Along with this, a sense of equality is also necessary in the terminology used for the designation of women officers-employees. In place of female teacher, female principal, similar terminology for men and women like teacher, principal etc. should be used. Chouhan was addressing the meeting of the Inter-departmental Group formed on Women Empowerment and Child Welfare under Atma-Nirbhar Madhya Pradesh.

In the meeting recommendations were present-



ed regarding promotion of girl child, health and nutritional security, promotion of education level, creation of environment for respect of women, gender budgeting, promotion of property rights, economic empowerment, child exploitation, child labour, missing children, drug abuse among children, orphans and the status of children in need of child care and protection. Chief Minister said

that Shaurya parties and self-help groups should be activated jointly at the village level to keep an eye on malnutrition, violence against women and dowry system.

In government and non-government schools and Anganwadi centers, it is necessary to check the nutritional level and blood in every three months. Coarse cereals should be included in Anganwadis

and mid-day meals. The role of AYUSH in malnutrition should also be considered. Chief Minister said that there is a need to link girl child education with skill enhancement. This will increase employment opportunities for the girl child and help in women empowerment. Under the Ladli Laxmi Yojana, the benefited girls should also be linked to the courses with vocational skills.

CREATING AN ENVIRONMENT FOR WOMEN'S RESPECT

Training of health workers should be organized for screening of women affected by violence at health centers and one stop centers. Safe city programme should be expanded in all the districts of the state. It is necessary to control the materials of the mobiles causing deviation. Necessary measures should be taken in this direction.

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

To provide facilities to the working women, working women shelter homes should be established in all the districts. At the village level, women of self-help groups should be entrusted with the right to run fair price shops and cooperative societies. Women should be given training in the field of travel guide, driver, tour operator and hospitality.

SCHOOLS WILL NOT CHARGE OTHER THAN TUITION FEES

Chief Minister said that private educational institutions will not be able to charge any fee other than tuition fee. Tuition fee will also be same as last year, it will not be increased. Chief Minister directed that collectors should ensure this in their districts.

START EMPLOYMENT ORIENTED WORK FAST

Chief Minister Chouhan said that along with preparations to stop the third wave in the state, employment-oriented works should be started expeditiously. Along with the third wave arrangements, the Crisis Management Group should actively work with the administration in improving the economy and making the public aware of Corona. Chouhan said that we have to understand very well that walking without a mask means inviting the third wave. Corona friendly behavior and adherence to corona protocol should be ensured in every district. Corona is under control in Madhya Pradesh.

Nemavar murder case should be probed by CBI: Kamal Nath

Team Absolute | Dewas

Former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath has demanded a CBI probe into the murder of five members of the same family at Nemavar in Dewas district. Former Chief Minister Kamal Nath reached Nemavar from Bhopal along with former state president Arun Yadav, MP Nakul Nath on Monday and expressed his condolences by meeting the tribal family victims of the brutal and heinous massacre that took place here. The former chief minister quoted the victim's family as saying, "The police was negligent in this murder case and the accused roamed freely, they were not even caught. The accused were not interrogated and there was a reluctance to write the report. The accused has been getting political patronage."

Kamal Nath assured the victim's family not to worry, I and the entire Congress stand with them in this hour of grief. All possible help will be given to get justice. We will not rest until the victim's family gets justice. It is to be known that due to a love affair, five people of a tribal family were brutally murdered and all the dead bodies were buried by digging a pit. Nearly two months later, the mystery behind the murder of five members of the



There should be a CBI inquiry into this whole matter so that the political patronage given to the accused can be exposed. Also, what kind of negligence was taken by the police in this heinous murder, the truth also came to the fore. May come and bring justice to the victim's family.

missing family was uncovered. All the accused in this case have been arrested. Along with this, the property of the accused has also been frozen. Congress leader and former minister Sajjan Singh Verma claimed those arrested were close to the BJP, adding that the incident took place near Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan's constituency, which just showed the poor state of law and order in MP.

Accused are Congressmen: BJP

State BJP spokesperson Rajneesh Agrawal said the main accused as well as co-accused were associated with the Congress, adding that the opposition party's plan to make it a "tribal versus upper caste" issue would not materialise as two of those arrested were tribals.

Nath is doing separatist politics, spreading fear: Mishra

State Home Minister Dr. Narottam Mishra says that Congress chief and former Chief Minister Kamal Nath is trying to spread fear in the society by doing separatist politics. Nemavar murder case has been disclosed by the police only. All the accused have been arrested. Dr. Mishra further said that the accused will be brought to the gallows through the fast track court. Showing full sensitivity in this matter, the government has also given immediate compensation to the victim's family.

83 year old woman dies after taking jab

Guna : An 83-year-old woman died while going home after getting the second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine in Guna district on Monday, officials said. Shanti Bai was brought to the vaccination center by an anganwadi worker and a nurse administered the second dose of the vaccine at 11:56am, after which she rested at the centre for some time, and then left for home on her own, they said. Her son



Ghanshyam found her motionless by the road and rushed her first to the vaccination centre and from there to the district hospital where doctors declared her dead on arrival, the officials said.

The son blamed the anganwadi worker for leaving her mother midway, while the latter claimed the woman left the centre on her own to go home after getting her second dose. Meanwhile, Chief Medical and Health Officer Dr P Bunker said, "The exact cause of the death will be known after receiving the viscera report from the Forensic Science Laboratory in Sagar. The post mortem was conducted by a panel of three doctors and their initial report has not pointed to anything which suggests the woman died because of the vaccine."

Digvijay Singh took a jibe at Bhagwat's statement, 'then I will become a fan'



Team Absolute | Bhopal

Former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister and Rajya Sabha member Digvijay Singh has taken a jibe at RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat's statement that "the DNA of all Indians is one". If you force me, I will become his admirer." With Sangh chief Bhagwat's statement that "Hindu and Muslim are not different, all Indians have one DNA", Digvijay Singh tweeted, "Mohan Bhagwat ji this idea Will you also give to your disciples, preachers, Vishwa Hindu Parishad and Bajrang Dal workers? Will you give this education to Modi, Shah ji and BJP Chief Minister also? If you force your disciples to follow this thought, Mohan Bhagwat, I will become your admirer."

Referring to the increased distance between Hindu-Muslim and blaming it on the Sangh, Singh wrote, "You people have instilled so much hatred between Hindu-Muslim, it is not easy to remove it. It

is not easy to remove the seeds of hatred against Muslims that have been sown from Saraswati Shishu Mandir to intellectual training by the Sangh. If you are honest with the views expressed by you, then direct all those leaders in BJP who have tortured innocent Muslims, to remove them from their posts immediately. Let's start with Narendra Modi and Yogi Adityanath. Accusing Bhagwat of separation of words and deeds, the former Chief Minister further wrote, "I know you will not because there is a difference between your words and deeds. You are right we are Indians first. But please explain it to your disciples first. He has advised me to go to Pakistan many times! Let's see."

Countering Singh's comment, State Medical Education Minister Vishwas Sarang said that "Digvijay Singh can't match the level of Bhagwat. Whatever Bhagwat ji stated is an effort to increase social harmony."

Father raped minor daughter; Arrested

Khandwa: A father has been arrested on Monday for allegedly raping his minor daughter under the influence of alcohol in the Khandwa district. The incident occurred in Jawar village under the Javra police station of the district. The 11-year-old victim in her complaint said that her father had raped her two days ago and assaulted her several times in the past. The girl reached the police station with her uncle to lodge the complaint.

According to the police, the father used to work on construction sites in Khandwa city. She said that her father was an alcoholic. The victim further said that under the influence of alcohol, he used to beat her and later raped her. After facing brutalities at the hand of his father, she came to the police station to lodge an FIR with her uncle, police said. The police have registered a case against the accused under several sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. The accused has been arrested and sent to jail. The police officials are making arrangements for the medical examination of the girl. The police officials said that they will talk to the victim's neighbours in order to get more information about the father. The police will also talk to the family members of the girl. The rape accused is expected to be produced in a local court.

Physical test of jail guard recruitment from July 12 in Bhopal



Team Absolute | Bhopal

The physical test of successful contestants of Jail Prahari (Guard) Recruitment Exam in

Madhya Pradesh is starting from 12th July. This physical test will be held at Motilal Nehru Stadium, Bhopal. It has been told in the officially given information that the second phase of Jail Prahari Recruitment Exam 2020 has started. In this, the physical test will be held from July 12 to July 16 for the physical measurement of the candidates found qualified. This test is being conducted at Motilal Nehru Stadium, Bhopal.

Jail Superintendent Ravi Shankar Singh said, "The online examination of Jail Prahari was conducted by Madhya Pradesh Professional Examination Board from December 11 to December 24, 2020. Its result was declared on April 10. Physical test of successful candidates will be taken in Bhopal. The schedule and format of the physical test is available on the Board's website www.peb.mp.gov.in. Successful candidates should appear for the physical test on the scheduled date."

Action against film "Satyanarayan Ki Katha": Home Minister



Team Absolute | Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh Home Minister Narottam Mishra on Monday said he had

directed the state police to examine and take necessary action against the makers of the film "Satyanarayan Ki Katha" for allegedly insulting Hindu deities.

He was responding to queries from the media on some outfits demanding action against the move for its title as well as an apology from those making it.

"I will ask the state DGP to examine the issue and see what action can be taken. Bollywood filmmakers tend

to target Hindu deities in movies. These filmmakers never make such movies about other religions. Have you ever heard that they have written and made such a movie on minorities? Our deities are soft targets," Mishra alleged.

Earlier, on Sunday, an outfit called Sanskriti Bachao Manch staged a protest against the film, with its functionalary Chandrashekar Tiwari claiming he had submitted a memorandum on the issue to Bhopal Lok Sabha MP Pragya Singh Thakur.

Big relief to domestic electricity consumers of Malwa-Nimar

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Electricity Department has given big relief to the consumers of Malwa and Nimar region under the schemes of the government. Electricity is being provided to the domestic consumers here at the rate of Re 1 per unit for the first hundred units. According to the information made available officially, according to the order of the state government, electricity is being provided to eligible domestic consumers at the rate of Re 1 per unit for the first 100 units after the consumption of 150 units of electricity. Last month, 30 lakh 65 thousand consumers of Malwa-Nimar have taken advantage of this. Amit Tomar, managing director of MPRPAKSHEV, said that last month, more than three lakh consumers of Indore district, two and a half lakh consumers of other big

districts like Ujjain, Dhar, Kargone, Dewas and one to two lakh consumers of other districts got one rupee unit of cheap electricity. benefit has been given. Under this scheme, consumers consuming up to 150 units in 30 days are eligible. Electricity is given to them at the rate of Re 1 per unit for the first 100 units. Billing is done by providing the remaining 50 units of electricity at the prevailing rate.

Amit Tomar said that under this scheme, every month a concession of about Rs 100 crore is being given to the eligible consumers in the company area. Consumers consuming more than 150 units in 30 days are not eligible for this scheme. 90 percent consumers of rural areas and 50 to 60 percent consumers of urban areas are taking benefit of this scheme according to their eligibility.



Three-year-old girl raped; Accused arrested

Guna: A three-year-old girl was allegedly raped by a 20-year-old man in a village in Madhya Pradesh's Guna district, a police official said on Monday. The accused was arrested by the police a few hours after the crime, they said.

The incident occurred on the intervening night of Sunday and Monday, said Guna Superintendent of Police (SP) Rajiv Kumar Mishra. He said the three-year-old victim was sleeping with her grandparents in the verandah of her house. Her grandmother woke up at around 12.30 am on Monday and found the girl missing and raised an alarm, the SP said. Mishra said the victim's family members launched a frantic search for the child and after sometime they found her crying near a crematorium on outskirts of the village. The family informed the police at about 2.30 am and they immediately swung into action and formed three teams to nab the accused, he said. The police rounded up 3 to 4 suspects and interrogated them, Mishra said. A 20-year-old man residing in the same village admitted to the crime during the interrogation and was arrested, he said. He was booked under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and further investigation was underway, Mishra said.



EDITOR'S SPECS

Difference in Covid patients

Many people experienced serious Covid-19 infection leading to hospitalisation and even death, while some people escaped with milder symptoms. The reason: They had prior run-ins with other coronaviruses...

Theatre Commands: Is India on right path, at right time?

Major General S.B. Asthana

In a major restructuring like reorganising the Indian Military into Theatre Commands, there will be variation of views between stakeholders and many rounds of discussions on merits and demerits of the existing Force Structure...

cern, too serious to be overlooked. The Maritime Command accruing advantage of unity of command, will have to be weighed against manageability of increased span of control...

between operational commands of air assets. Both these countries have done so after reaching self-reliance in defence production. In case of India, expeditionary role doesn't hold good for considerable period...

which justifies separate allocation of air assets. Both these countries have done so after reaching self-reliance in defence production. In case of India, expeditionary role doesn't hold good for considerable period...



Vishal Gulati

Tough times do not last, happiness does -- at least this is what Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama appears to be telling the world. Many Tibetans see him as a living God and he is idolised here and in the West...

TOUGH TIMES DO NOT LAST BUT HAPPINESS DOES, BELIEVES DALAI LAMA

Desmond Tutu came together once again to share with the world their joyful insights on overcoming adversities and social injustices. This time they were reunited virtually from their respective places on June 24 on the occasion of the release of their new film 'Mission: Joy -- Finding Happiness in Troubled Times'...

see him looking so well, Archbishop Tutu says, "He looks like he is on top of the world." Archbishop Tutu came to Dharamsala for a week to meet the fellow Nobel laureate in April 2015. That was the Archbishop's second visit here after 2012.

hygiene is essential for a healthy body, a sense of moral hygiene based on warm-heartedness and compassion is equally important. He believes education should instil in children both cognitive and emotional intelligence in order to create synergy and balance between a healthy body and healthy mind...

optimistic that he will be able to return to his homeland Tibet, is viewed by the Chinese as a 'traitor' who is bent on splitting Tibet from China. In 1959, the occupying Chinese troops suppressed the Tibetan national uprising in Lhasa and forced the Dalai Lama and over 80,000 Tibetans into exile in India and neighbouring countries...

international

DEATH TOLL FROM PHILIPPINES MILITARY PLANE CRASH REACHES 50

Manila | Agencies

The death toll from the military plane crash in southern Philippines has increased to 50, the Department of National Defense said on Monday. All 96 passengers and crew in the C-130H aircraft that crashed upon landing on Sunday on Jolo island in Sulu province have been accounted for...



crash, troops and civilian volunteers rushed to the site for search and rescue. "As per witnesses, a number of soldiers were seen jumping out of the aircraft before it hit the ground, sparing them from the explosion caused by the crash," the military said...

25 KILLED IN FRESH MYANMAR CLASHES

Kolkata: Fresh clashes erupted over the weekend in a Myanmar town located at a border region with India...



On July 2, Myanmar troops encircled the Satpyarkyin village, west of the Tabayin township in Sagaing province. Civilian resistance fighters of the People's Defense Force (PDF) defended the village against nearly 200 troops supported by artillery...

Explosion targets pro-govt base in Yemen, 5 killed

Sanaa | Agencies

Five members of Yemen's pro-government forces were killed when an explosion targeted their military base in the country's southern province of Abyan, an official said. The official told Xinhua news agency that an explosion struck the headquarters of the 5th Infantry Army Brigade...



Since the war intensified in 2015, the country has become the largest humanitarian crisis in the world, with 24.1 million people, or 80 per cent of the population, in need of humanitarian assistance, including more than 11 million children...

China launches new meteorological satellite

FY-3E, which will be the world's first meteorological satellite in early morning orbit for civil service, is designed with a lifespan of eight years and will mainly obtain the atmospheric temperature, humidity, and other meteorological parameters for numerical prediction applications...

The satellite, Fengyun-3E (FY-3E), was launched by a Long March-4C rocket at 7.28 a.m. (Beijing Time) from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center, Xinhua news agency reported. This is the 377th flight mission of the Long March rocket series...

Philippines' Taal volcano could erupt 'anytime soon'

Manila | Agencies

Authorities in the Philippines have warned that the Taal volcano, south of Manila, could erupt "anytime soon" after recording the highest levels of sulfur dioxide gas emission. "The highest levels of volcanic sulfur dioxide gas emission were recorded today at an average of 22,628 tonnes a day..."



associated with magma degassing beneath the eastern sector of Volcano Island. The institute added that some of the earthquakes were accompanied by rumbling and weakly felt by fish cage caretakers off the north-eastern shorelines of the volcano island.

Global Covid-19 caseload tops 183.7mn



The overall global Covid-19 caseload has topped 183.7 million, while the deaths have surged to more than 3.97 million and vaccinations soared to over 3.1 billion, according to the Johns Hopkins University. In its latest update on Monday morning, the University's Center for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE) revealed that the current global caseload, death toll and the total number of vaccine doses administered stood at 183,729,671, 3,975,948 and 3,190,517,708, respectively.

China on Monday launched a new meteorological satellite equipped with 11 remote sensing payloads into

DAVID BECKHAM CELEBRATES 22 YEARS OF MARRIAGE BY 'MATCHING OUTFITS' WITH WIFE VICTORIA

London | Agencies

Acce footballer David Beckham took to social media to wish wife Victoria on their marriage anniversary on Sunday. Uploading pictures of himself with Victoria and their four children, wearing colour coordinated outfits, he captioned the image: "22 years later, still matching outfits Happy anniversary love u so much and thank you for giving me our amazing kids so we can all wear the same."

Victoria met David when she was part of the popular girl band Spice Girls, before she decided to take up fashion designing as a career choice.

Victoria and Beckham together have four children - sons Brooklyn, Romeo, and Cruz and daughter Harper.



Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Florence Pugh has credited the fight sequence in "Black Widow" with helping her to know Hollywood star Scarlett Johansson. Pugh portrays Yelena Belova in "Black Widow", and she said that the upcoming movie is so action-packed, it didn't take long before the two were forced to start getting physical with one another, reports aceshowbiz.com.

She said: "Within two days of knowing Scarlett, I was ramming her into a door frame or kitchen counter. It was the best way to get to know someone pretty quick -- just fight them for a week."

The actress told TV and Satellite Week magazine: "I'm probably biased but I think there are some of the best fights we've had in the MCU. I've had all this time to build this physical vocabulary, and I'm finally able to use it all in this film. It was striking how many stuntwomen we had on set."

She added: "The power of all these women in one



Florence Pugh credits fight scenes for getting to know Scarlett Johansson

room together was something I'd never experienced before." Pugh said that it was an amazing feeling to be surrounded by "all these bada** women and get down and dirty with them."

Nicole Scherzinger on a romantic holiday with Thom Evans in Mykonos

Los Angeles | Agencies

Nicole Scherzinger looked sensational in a string bikini on a romantic holiday with boyfriend Thom Evans in Mykonos. The Pussycat Dolly star and her rugby player beau, 36, are currently enjoying an enviable break to various European destinations to celebrate Nicole's 43rd birthday.

The pair were spotted soaking up the sunshine in Greece, with Nicole showing off her incredible figure in a halterneck bikini and sarong.

Nicole flashed her toned abs and tanned legs in the pics, posing in front of the jaw-dropping beach backdrop. She left her tresses loose and later fashioned a white sun hat which completed her stylish beach ensemble.

The pair looked happier than ever as they relaxed with some friends on Saturday afternoon. The loved-up couple have been sharing a plethora of pics and videos on Instagram.



Jamie Dornan had 'no game' with women

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actor Jamie Dornan reveals he was never confident around women. The actor, Warner, said: "I wish I was pursued by a woman like that when I was younger! That would have been a perfect scenario for me when I was growing up because I'm not a confident person when it comes to talking to women. I never had it in me. I never chatted." Dornan said that he was always amazed watching his friends talking to the opposite

sex, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

He said: "I was always amazed watching mates of mine go up to girls in bars and just talking to them. I'd see the girls laughing and I was always like, 'What are you saying to those women?' I definitely didn't have any game at all."

The actor added: "When I met my wife, it all happened in a serendipitous way. Luckily, I didn't have to be aggressively pursuing and I wasn't aggressively pursued."

Dornan, who plays Anthony in "Wild Mountain Thyme", says he felt closer to the character.

SIMON THOMAS MARRIES DERRINA JEBB THREE YEARS AFTER LOSING WIFE TO LEUKAEMIA



Los Angeles | Agencies

Simon Thomas has found happiness again after revealing he is married to partner Derrina Jebb. Smiling from ear to ear alongside his beautiful bride, the former Blue Peter presenter was captured holding hands with Derrina in Norwich Cathedral.

Simon, 48, told his following that "love wins" as he shared the unexpected wedding day snap, with fans flocking to share their best wishes.

The TV host moved out of the house he shared with late wife Gemma, who died of leukaemia in 2017, earlier this year and into a home with Derrina.

The couple, who started dating each other in 2018 and fell quickly in love, did not announce an engagement before posting the new wedding snap.

Taking his following by surprise, the star, who is dad to Ethan, 10, from his previous marriage, confirmed that he and Derrina are newlyweds.



Chrissy Teigen jets off to Italy on relaxing getaway with husband John

London | Agencies

Chrissy Teigen jetted off to Italy on a relaxing getaway with her husband John Legend, and her kids after the bullying scandal. Chrissy, 35, and John, 42, shared snapshots from their trip to Italy over on Instagram. The two brought their children - Luna Simone, five, and Miles Theodore, three - along for the trip as well.

From her Instagram, Chrissy posed in front of the Leaning Tower of Pisa in one photo. The Sports Illustrated Swimsuit wrote in the caption: "I feel like it's getting straighter."

In another snapshot, the Chrissy's Court host stood next to the La La Land actor in a garden. She wrote: "John plus high waisted pants plus me in flats makes him extremely pleased with himself"

From his own Instagram, John wore a white shirt with sunflowers on it. The music star captioned the photo: "Found a table setting to match my shirt."

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Hailee Steinfeld



MARY KOM, MANPREET PICKED FLAG BEARERS FOR TOKYO OLYMPICS

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Multiple-times world champion boxer and London Olympics bronze medallist MC Mary Kom and men's hockey team captain Manpreet Singh were on Monday named flag bearers of the 200-strong Indian contingent in the opening ceremony of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games on July 23.

At Tokyo, Mary Kom, 38, will be participating in her second Olympics -- women's boxing was introduced at the London Olympics in 2012 -- after failing to qualify for the Rio Games in 2016. She is the most accomplished Indian sportsperson, having bagged the World Championship a record six times and has won a gold (2014) and silver (2020) medal at the Asian Games.

Manpreet, 28, will be participating in his third Olympics. He has been captain of the Indian men's team from 2016 onwards and has been part of the team that won gold at the 2014 Incheon Asian Games and two silver medals in the Champions Trophy.



The Indian Olympic Association also confirmed that champion wrestler Bajrang Punia will be the flag bearer of the Indian contingent at



the closing ceremony on August 8. In its statement on Monday, the IOA also gave details of the Indian contingent, which will comprise 126

athletes and 75 officials. "The contingent has bagged 78 quota places and will be competing for 85 medals," the statement said.

Football Delhi to launch '37 Plus League' on August 3

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Football Delhi will launch the '37 Plus League', involving retired players, from August 3 this year to mark the 37th birthday of Indian team striker Sunil Chhetri.

Football Delhi has been celebrating Chhetri's birthday as 'Delhi Football Day' since 2018. Football Delhi, following its executive committee meeting on July 4, issued a statement, saying, "As Indian national team captain, Sunil Chhetri, is turning 37 on 3rd August 2021, we named the league '37 Plus League' in his honour. This league will be played on Saturdays and Sundays, lasting 8-10 weeks with 8-10 teams." "37 Plus League is yet another initiative of Football Delhi to actively promote football in Delhi and, with the start of this league, retired players in Delhi will have a platform to come together and express their love, pas-



sion, experience, and continue to be active with the game," said Football Delhi president Shaji Prabhakaran. "It is our honour and privilege to celebrate the Football Delhi Day on 3rd August, the birthday of Sunil Chhetri. This initiative will greatly motivate 37-plus age group to remain physically active through football as

Sunil is an inspiring leader, still performing like a 25-year-old for the Indian team and BFC (Bengaluru FC). "The executive committee also decided to start the qualifying competition for Senior Division League clubs from July 20 to nominate two teams from Delhi in the 2nd Division I-League competition to be held in Bengaluru.

WIMBLEDON: DJOKOVIC, BERRETTINI, KHACHANOV & SHAPOVALOV ENTER QUARTERS

London | Agencies

Top seed Novak Djokovic defeated Chile's Cristian Garin 6-2, 6-4, 6-2 here on Monday to enter quarter-finals of the Wimbledon Championships for the 12th time, the third most after Roger Federer (17 times) and former American tennis star Jimmy Connors (14). He is level with Britains Arthur Gore who also had entered the quarters at SW19 on 12 occasions.



Ivashka of Belarus 6-4, 6-3, 6-1 in one hour and 47 minutes to enter quarter-finals while 25th seed Karen Khachanov reached his first Wimbledon last-eight stage after beating Sebastian Korda 3-6, 6-4, 6-3, 5-7, 10-8 in a tough five-setter. Canadian 10th seed Denis Shapovalov defeated eighth-seed Roberto Bautista Agut 6-1, 6-3, 7-5 to also make it to the

quarters. "I feel like I am not using a lot of energy, because I won most of my matches in three sets," said Berrettini after the win over Ivashka. "It is really good for me if I look at the long run. I feel [that] I am playing the best tennis of my career. [Two years ago] I was playing [well], but everything was kind of new. I had to adjust a little bit," he added. "Now I have more confidence for sure, more experience as well. I know I can achieve my best results like [I reached the] quarters in Paris [at Roland Garros and] quarters here. Obviously, the tournament is not done yet. I am really looking forward to achieving even more," he said further.

Rahul Dravid's coaching experience just amazing: Shaw

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Indian cricketer Prithvi Shaw has said that Rahul Dravid's coaching experience is "just amazing" and that his knowledge of the playing conditions is "out of this world".



Dravid is the head coach of the Indian team that is currently touring Sri Lanka for a six-match white-ball series beginning with an ODI at the R. Premadasa Stadium in Colombo on July 13. After the three-match ODI series, the Shikhar Dhawan-led side will play a T20I series, beginning July 21. "There is a different kind of mazaa (enjoyment) playing under Rahul sir. He was our India under-19 coach. The way he speaks, the way he shares his coaching experience, is just amazing. Whenever he talks about the game, it shows how much experience he brings to

the table. He knows everything about cricket. The way he speaks on conditions and how to use them, is just out of this world," Shaw told Indian Express on Monday.

"As Rahul sir is there, one will expect discipline in the dressing room. I'm looking ahead to the practice sessions with Rahul sir because I love to speak to him for hours. This (Sri Lanka) tour, I just have to grab the opportunity. I was desperate to get back in the Indian team. I have always kept the team above me. Be it India, Ranji Trophy team, club or my school team. I want to give my best," said the 21-year-old Shaw.

There is speculation that Shaw could be sent to England for the five-Test series against the hosts in August-September as Shubman Gill is reportedly nursing a leg injury.

ENGLAND CAREFUL OVER STOKES AND BUTTLER'S RETURN



Bristol: England are in no hurry to get Ben Stokes and Jos Buttler back into the team's scheme of things, captain Eoin Morgan has said. Stokes fractured his left index finger while fielding for Rajasthan Royals in the IPL in April and spent many weeks recovering post-surgery before making his comeback for Durham in the T20 Blast last month. Currently, he is playing for Durham in the County Championship. Buttler started off with an unbeaten 68 in England's first T20I win against Sri Lanka. But missed the next two games with a calf tear and is also unavailable for the forthcoming ODIs against Pakistan.

It is understandable why England aren't in a rush over the duo's comeback. After the white-ball matches against Pakistan, England have five Tests against India in August followed by the T20 World Cup and a trip to Australia for the Ashes. "There's always a fine balance between looking at the here-and-now and planning towards the T20 World Cup. Also bearing in mind that those two guys are all-format players so they will probably go Down Under and play in the Ashes as well," Morgan said in the post-match press conference after the third ODI against Sri Lanka was abandoned due to rain. "The last thing we want to do is rush somebody back and jump with the level of intensity from county cricket to international when there isn't necessarily a need. We are happy for Ben to progress as he sees fit, and obviously have one eye on the Test series as well," he said.

Morgan added, "From what I'm hearing, calves can be quite temperamental -- it just depends on how he [Buttler] feels. In a similar instance to Ben, the priority wouldn't be to get him back as soon as possible if there's a 50-50 chance. I know he progressed his running a couple of days ago and does feel good, but things can change."

England commence their series against Pakistan with the first ODI on July 8 at Cardiff.

I WILL BE THERE WHEN THE IPL RESUMES: SHREYAS IYER



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Indian batsman Shreyas Iyer gave updates on his recovery from a shoulder injury and his availability in the Indian Premier League (IPL). Iyer had injured his shoulder in March while fielding in India's first ODI against England in Pune and went under the knife in April. "My shoulder... yes, I think the healing process is done. Now it's the last stage of achieving strength and range. So that's going to take about a month and the training is obviously going on. Other than that, I feel, I will be there in the IPL," Iyer said to the YouTube channel 'The Grade Cricketer'. Asked about the return to captaincy for Delhi Capitals, Iyer remained non-committal. "I don't know about the captaincy, it's in the hands of the owners. But the team has already been doing well and we are on top and that's what really matters to me. My main aim and goal is to lift the trophy which Delhi has never done before," said Iyer.

In his absence, Rishabh Pant was named skipper of the IPL 2020 runners-up. Before the second wave of Covid-19 halted the IPL, Delhi Capitals sat on top of the points table with 12 points.

Joining Mohun Bagan has given my career huge boost: Manvir

Team Absolute | Kolkata

Indian Super League (ISL) side ATK Mohun Bagan striker Manvir Singh said on Monday that joining the Kolkata club from FC Goa ahead of the 2020/21 season had given his career a boost as he was always craving for more game time.

Manvir scored six goals and assisted in three as he helped ATK Mohun Bagan (ATKMB) reach the final in what was their debut season in the ISL.

Donning India colours, he then scored against Oman to help the Igor Stimac-coached side earn a 1-1 draw in an international



friendly at Dubai in March this year.

"It was a really good (ISL) season for us and for me, I was really hungry for more game time and when the ATKMB management came to me with the offer, they had a plan for me. They told me how the coach was considering me in his scheme of things and it was not a very difficult decision to make," said the 25-year-old who is preparing for the AFC Cup challenge in Group D (South Zone).

Manvir said he was not expecting to make such an impact for ATKMB and that he was only aiming to give his 100 per cent during the season.

NO REASON TO REMOVE SHASTRI AS HEAD COACH: KAPIL DEV

New Delhi: Former Indian captain Kapil Dev thinks that there is no need to remove India's head coach Ravi Shastri if he is doing the job well. Shastri is with the Test team for the five Tests against England, while Rahul Dravid is at the helm in the white-ball tour to Sri Lanka. Shastri's contract ends after the T20 World Cup in October-November.

"I don't think there is any need to speak about it. Let this Sri Lanka series get over. We'll get to know the kind of performance our team has dished out. If you're trying to shape a new coach, there's nothing wrong with it.

"Then again, if Ravi Shastri continues to do a good job, there's no reason to remove him either. Only time will tell. Before that, I think it will put unnecessary pressure on our coaches and players," Kapil told ABP News.

On India fielding two different teams in different formats, the 1983 World Cup-winning captain said that a lot of youngsters stand to benefit from such an arrangement.

"India have a big bench strength. If players get the opportunity and India can assemble two teams that can claim to win in both England and Sri Lanka, there is nothing better. If the youngsters get the opportunity, there's nothing wrong with it. But it is up to the team management to decide whether they should apply such pressure on two teams simultaneously," said Kapil.

Stafanie hattrick in big West Indies win over Pakistan

North Sound (Antigua) | Agencies

West Indies women's team skipper Stafanie Taylor gave a commanding performance as she led her team to a six-wicket win over Pakistan women in the third T20 International to make a clean sweep of the series at the Sir Vivian Richards Cricket Ground here. Stafanie took a hattrick in the final over to end with 4/17 as Pakistan was bundled out for 102 in 19.4 overs. She then top-scored 43 not out on Sunday as the home team strolled to 106/4 off 19.1 overs to make it three wins in a row.

Stafanie became the second West Indies woman to take a hattrick at the international level when she removed tailenders Fatima



Sana (1), Diana Baig (5) and Anam Amin (0).

The previous hattrick for West Indies was by Anisa Mohammed against South Africa in 2018. Anisa also bowled well to end with figures of 3/24 off her four

overs. When the West Indies batted, Stafanie added 41 for the fourth wicket with Chadean Nabron (20) and then had an unbroken fifth-wicket stand of 48 with left-hander Kycia Knight, who ended on 24 not out.

Brief scores: Pakistan 102 in 19.4 overs (Aliya Riaz 29; S Taylor 4/17, A Mohammed 3/24) lost to West Indies 106/4 in 19.1 overs (S Taylor 43 not out, K Knight 24 not out) by six wickets.

VERSTAPPEN IN DOMINANT F1 AUSTRIAN GP WIN

Spielberg (Austria): Red Bull's Max Verstappen took a firm grip on the 2021 Formula One world championship with a dominant win in the Austrian Grand Prix, as title rival Lewis Hamilton could only finish fourth after struggling with a damaged car.

In F1's second successive Grand Prix at the Red Bull Ring, Verstappen lived up to his pre-race billing as the hot favorite, leading all the way from pole position and collecting the fastest lap on way to his third victory in succession on Sunday, reports Xinhua.

"Incredible, to be honest. The car was on rails," said Verstappen, who now has a championship lead of 32 points over Hamilton. "Every tyre set we put on it was really enjoyable to drive. I'm a bit amazed how today went; I didn't expect it to be like this."

Verstappen's main title rival Hamilton had been running second but dropped to fourth by the end after complaining of damage to his Mercedes, likely caused by riding his car up onto the Red Bull Ring's sausage kerbs.

Hamilton's teammate Valtteri Bottas took second place ahead of the McLaren of Lando Norris, who had an excellent weekend and might have finished second had he not been harshly given a five-second penalty for forcing Verstappen's teammate Sergio Perez off track early in the race.





IMTIAZ ALI BEGINS FILMING CRIME DRAMA 'SHE' SEASON 2

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The shooting for the second season of the crime thriller drama series "She" has started. The web series casts Aaditi Pohankar in the central role and also features Vishwas Kini, Kishore

Kumar G., Shivani Rangole and Suhita Tatte. "She" season two is set to take the story of Bhumika Pardesi, played Aaditi, forward. After swearing her allegiance to drug-lord Nayak, essayed by Kishore Kumar G., she must walk the dangerous line between siding with the police or

with crime, while simultaneously exploring her newfound sexual liberation, as Nayak's larger plan unfolds. Written by Imtiaz Ali and directed by Arif Ali, filming has begun for season two.

Saif Ali Khan's look from 'Bhoot Police' revealed



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor Saif Ali Khan's look in the upcoming film "Bhoot Police" was revealed on Monday. Saif plays a character called Vibhooti in the horror comedy. In the photograph, Saif Ali Khan looks like an exorcist carrying a trident with four prongs in his right hand. He is wearing a black shirt, black leather jacket and a pendant. The actor flaunts beard, moustache, backbrushed hair and kohl in his eyes and wears a "don't mess with me" expression on his face.

Sharing the photo on Instagram, Saif's wife and actress Kareena Kapoor Khan wrote: "Don't fear the paranormal and feel 'Saif' with VIB-

HOOTI. #BhootPolice Coming soon on @disneyplusstarvip."

The Pavan Kirpalani directorial also features actors Yami Gautam, Jacqueline Fernandez and Arjun Kapoor in the lead.

Produced by Ramesh Taurani, Akshai Puri and co-produced by Jaya Taurani, "Bhoot Police" is slated to release on Disney+ Hotstar.



JONITA GANDHI'S PUNJABI SINGLE 'MERA JEE KARDA' OUT

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Singer Jonita Gandhi has come up with her latest Punjab single "Mera jee karda". "I really enjoy singing in Punjabi, so I had fun singing Mera jee karda. It's one of my first independent releases in Punjabi and I hope people react well to my voice in this song," Jonita said. For the independent single, Jonita has collaborated with singer Deep Jandu. The lyrics have been penned by Akal Inder, while J. Statik has composed the music.

Opening up on her collaboration with Deep Jandu, the singer said: "When Deep reached out to collaborate, he was in Canada and I was in India at the time, so the creative process, recording and mix happened remotely. Thankfully by the time we shot for the video, I was home in Toronto. It was a lot of fun to work with Deep and his entire team."

The video directed by Diljot Garcha features Jonita and Deep.

"This was the first full fledged music video I've shot in Canada and it was a different experience than what I'm used to in India. I had such a great time and met some really amazing people in the process. Shoutout to the whole crew!" Jonita further expressed. "Mera jee karda" released on YouTube on July 5.

JANHVI KAPOOR GOES BOLD IN WHITE

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Janhvi Kapoor flaunted her bold and beautiful side in a latest photo-op she shared on social media on Monday. Janhvi posted two pictures on Instagram. In the image, she is seen wearing a white, deep-necked crop top, paired with shorts and a jacket. She looks every inch gorgeous as she poses for the camera. For the caption, she chose to put a white heart emoji. Meanwhile, Janhvi is gearing up for the release of her film "Dostana 2". "Dostana 2" recently made headlines as the production banner Dharma Productions announced actor Kartik Aaryan's exit from the film. The actress finished the shoot for her film "Good Luck Jerry" earlier this year. She had taken to Instagram to share this news with her fans.



ARJUN KAPOOR: I DON'T HAVE A DREAM ROLE

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor Arjun Kapoor doesn't have a dream role because he feels the perception towards roles evolves with time and age. "I don't really have a dream role as such because it evolves with age, with time it keeps changing, the way you look at things, the way you look at roles, the way you look at life, everything evolves. It is unfair to say one dream role but definitely there are thoughts in my mind about certain genres and certain spaces that excite me, but not any particular role," Arjun told our correspondent. With the nation under the grip of a second wave of Covid-19 and lockdown almost everywhere, what has been keeping the actor busy at home? "The lockdown has happened for a second time. I was in the middle of a shoot in April-end when we returned from Goa. It's been almost two months. It's never easy to be at home suddenly but I try to use my time by sleeping, working out, catching up on movies and shows, whatever you can manage to do at home. Taking it easy for a few days," he replied.

On the work front, Arjun features on the cooking show "Star Vs Food". However, the actor, who loves to eat, doesn't seem too fond of cooking! "Star Vs Food" airs on Discovery+ channel.



LARA DUTTA IS BACK ON SET WITH A BROKEN TOE

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Lara Dutta Bhupathi took to social media on Monday to share the news that she has resumed shooting. Lara, however, also shared a piece of bad news saying she has fractured a toe.

"Mandawa in Mumbai!! Back on set with a broken toe, but obviously sooo thrilled to be doing what I love best!! #shootlife #actor #setlife #backtoshoot," Lara wrote in an Instagram post.

Lara also shared photographs seated in a chair wearing a blue churidar kameez. Her fractured right toe can be seen covered with a bandage. Even though Lara announced that she has resumed shooting, the actress did not mention which project she is shooting for. On the work front, Lara will share the screen with superstar Akshay Kumar in the period drama spy thriller "Bell Bottom". The Ranjit M. Tewari directorial film is slated for a theatrical release on July 27. "Bell Bottom" also features Vaani Kapoor and Huma Qureshi. The film was earlier scheduled for an April 2021 release but was pushed due to the second wave of Covid-19 in the country.



Nora Fatehi