

absolute india

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NIDM warns PMO about third wave of Covid-19

IT'S OCTOBER

Intro: The study titled "Third Wave Preparedness: Children Vulnerability and Recovery" has details about the possibility of Covid-affecting children and the required strategies to deal with the pandemic. The report has underlined that the "paediatric facilities like doctors, staff, equipment like ventilators, ambulances, etc are nowhere close to what may be required in case a large number of children become infected".

► The report has called for prioritising vaccination among children with comorbidities and a special focus on those with disabilities.

► Even with "strict interventions", the peak of the third wave is expected to arrive by late October, the experts have concurred with earlier assessments of different institutions. Several studies have spoken of the likelihood of a third wave but these are estimates.

► The report has categorically underlined two important points - kids as vulnerable because they haven't been vaccinated and are more prone to severe infections though it can pass the virus to others. However, the other estimates have said the third wave may prove to be less severe than the second.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A committee of experts constituted under the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) has warned of third Covid wave that could peak around late October. The committee was set up under the direction of the Home Ministry which had sought better preparedness for children who might be at high risk. The report has been submitted to the PMO.

The report said the third wave is already upon us if we look at the rising R value, the reproduction rate of Covid-19, that has increased from 0.9 to 1 over the last week of July. The committee has suggested "a holistic home care model, immediate increase in paediatric medical capacities and prioritising



mental health issues among children". It has mooted structuring of Covid wards in a way that allows children's attendants or parents to safely stay with them through their recovery.

The experts in the committee have expressed concern over about 82 per cent

Vax certificate to trial participants

"In a welcome initiative, digital #COVID19 vaccination certificates will now be issued to the clinical trial participants of COVISHIELD & COVAXIN through Co-WIN. The nation thanks them for their incredible commitment & contribution to COVID-19 vaccine research & treatment."



Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Health Minister

shortage of pediatricians in primary health centres and 63 per cent vacancies in community health centres. The report has called for "a scientific approach coupled with focused public spending" to deal with pandemic management.

US FDA grants full approval to Pfizer's Covid vax

Washington: The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on Monday gave full approval to the Pfizer-BioNTech Covid-19 vaccine. It is the first Covid-19 vaccine to receive full approval, and will now be marketed as Comirnaty, the regulator said in a statement. It will be used for the prevention of Covid-19 disease in individuals 16 years of age and older. At the same time, the two-shot mRNA-based vaccine will continue to be available under emergency use authorisation (EUA), including for individuals 12 through 15 years of age. It will also be used for the administration of a third dose in certain immunocompromised individuals, FDA said.

Under-utilised brownfield assets to be monetised under NMP: Sitharaman

As per an official communique, the top 5 sectors in terms of contribution to NMP are roads (27 per cent) followed by railways (25 per cent), power (15 per cent), oil and gas pipelines (8 per cent), and telecom (6 per cent).

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Only under-utilised brownfield assets will be monetised under the National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP) of the Centre worth Rs 6 lakh crore, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Monday. Besides, no land parcels will be taken up under the NMP, she said after unveiling the asset monetisation pipeline of Central ministries and public sector entities.



bring in private capital which will be used for infra creation, she said. The NMP estimates aggregate monetisation potential of Rs 6 lakh crore through core assets of the Central government, over a four-year period, from FY22 to FY25. "Asset monetisation, based on the philosophy of creation through monetisation, is aimed at tapping private sector investment for new infrastructure creation," Sitharaman said. "This is necessary for creating employment opportunities, thereby enabling high economic growth and seamlessly integrating the rural and semi-urban areas for overall public welfare."

SEPT 15 DEADLINE FOR INFOSYS TO RESOLVE IT PORTAL GLITCHES

FM during her meeting with Infosys MD and CEO Salil Parekh has asked the software major to resolve the issues faced by the taxpayers on the Income Tax e-filing portal by September 15. According to the statement, the minister sought an explanation from Infosys for the repeated issues faced by the taxpayers. The new income tax e-filing portal developed by Infosys was launched on June 7 in a bid to ease the tax filing process and expedite the refund issue. However, taxpayers have been facing several problems in using the portal since its inception.

Nitish Kumar leads all-party delegation to meet PM on caste census

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar along with a 10-member all-party delegation from the state on Monday met Prime Minister Narendra Modi to press the demand for a caste-based census.



Mahboob Alam (CPI-ML), Akhtarul Imam (AIMIM), and Ajay Kumar (CPI-M) were part of the delegation led by Nitish Kumar.

It is learnt that during the meeting both Kumar and Yadav strongly pressed for the caste-based census. After the meeting, Nitish Kumar said that the Prime Minister listened to the points of every leader. The issue of a caste-based census has been a longstanding demand of the political parties in Bihar. The Bihar legislature had twice unanimously passed resolutions for the caste-based census in 2019 and 2020. On both the occasions, all BJP MLAs had also voted in support of a caste based census. Caste-based Census other than for SCs and STs has not been undertaken in the country after 1931.

Maha ATS DIG's Facebook page hacked

Mumbai: The Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of the Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) in Maharashtra has lodged a complaint with Facebook over the hacking of his Facebook page.

Shivdeep Waman Lande, who is currently posted as the DIG of ATS in Mumbai, said in his complain, "I am running my official Facebook page which is also verified. The page has more than 750K followers. The page was managed by Manjit Vishal as the admin." He said that his Facebook page was hacked on August 19 and now Manjit Vishal has been removed as the admin. The 2006 batch IPS officer also said that he is taking the matter "legally" and a complaint will be registered soon.

'Find a solution' SC to Centre on roads blocked due to farmers'

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday asked the Centre to find a solution to the blockade of roads in Delhi-NCR, against the backdrop of the ongoing farmers' protest against the three agriculture laws.

Noida resident Monica Agarwal had moved the top court challenging the road blockade caused by farmers protesting at Delhi-Noida border. Saying that she is a single parent and also had some medical issues, the petitioner claimed that her travel to Delhi was taking two hours instead of normal 20 minutes.

A bench of Justices Sanjay Kishan



Kaul and Hrishikesh Roy noted protestors have a right to protest at a designated space but they cannot block the outflow and inflow of traffic. "Solution lies in the hands of Union of India and state govern-

ments," said the bench. It told Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, who representing the Centre that "You have to find a solution, they might have the right to a place to agitate, but the roads cannot be blocked like this."

The bench scheduled the matter for further hearing on September 20. "You now have enough time. Please work out something," the bench told Mehta. The farmers have been protesting at Delhi borders since last November. The three contentious farm laws have been stayed by the top court on January 12.

Row over BJP flag being placed over national flag

It is noteworthy that Section 2 of the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act says: "Whoever in any public place or in any other place within public view burns, mutilates, defaces, defiles, disfigures, destroys, tramples upon or otherwise shows disrespect to or brings into contempt (whether by words, either spoken or written, or by acts) the Indian National Flag or the Constitution of India or any part thereof, shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both."

LONDON | Agencies

A photograph of the BJP flag placed over the national flag on the mortal remains of late Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Kalyan Singh has kicked up a controversy on social media.

The photo, tweeted by the BJP, shows the body lying in state, draped by the Tricolour, but half of it was seen to be covered up by the party flag. The party flag was placed on Singh's body over the national flag by BJP President J.P. Nadda and state BJP President Swatantra Dev Singh in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Earlier this year, an instance of disrespect to the flag had taken place at the iconic Red Fort during



the farmers' rally. After the farmers entered the forecourt of the fort, climbed its ramparts, and hoisted a religious flag on a mast outside, the Centre said it would "not tolerate disrespect to the flag".

Indian Army promotes 5 women officers to Colonel rank

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Indian Army cleared the way for the promotion of five women officers to Colonel rank, post completion of 26 years of reckonable service.

This is the first time that women officers serving with the Corps of Signals, Corps of Electronic and Mechanical Engineers (EME) and the Corps of Engineers have been approved to the rank of Colonel.

Previously, promotion to the rank of Colonel was only applicable for women officers



in the Army Medical Corps (AMC), Judge Advocate General (JAG) and the Army Education Corps (AEC).

In a big development, the Supreme Court last week passed an interim order allowing women to take the admission exam to National Defence Academy (NDA) where earlier only men could join.

Taliban head towards defiant Panjshir Valley

KABUL | Agencies

The Taliban has said that their fighters are heading towards Panjshir province, the only anti-Taliban outpost which is yet to be surrendered or toppled.

They said on Sunday that the fighters have seen no resistance on the way to Panjshir province and are now getting closer to the spot, Afghan media reported. Panjshir province landed northwest of Kabul is a mountainous valley known as the land

of lions. The geography is now home to hundreds of Afghan National Defense and Security forces, Special Forces, and militia that are being led by Ahmad Masoud, son of the slain Ahmad Shah Masoud. Ahmad Masoud in a recent telephonic interview with a global wire service said that he is willing to negotiate with the Taliban and considers the negotiations to be the only way forward.

The Taliban's political office spokesperson, Naeem Wardak also said on Sunday that their policy is to negotiate and settle everything through negotiations. He hopefully said to get the people and tribal leaders of Panjshir province to join them and prevent violence.

Taliban evicted from 3 districts in Afghanistan's Baghlan

Kabul: Public uprising forces have evicted Taliban fighters from three districts in Afghanistan's northern Baghlan province, but the insurgents managed to recapture one of them, local media reported. The anti-Taliban fighters seized Pul-e-Hisar, Deh Salah and Banu districts on August 20, but the Taliban recaptured Banu on August 21, and fighting is underway to re-take two more districts, Xinhua news agency quoted TOLONews as saying on Sunday. This is the first uprising against the Taliban since Kabul was captured by the group.

Flying object repulsed by BSF at Indo-Pak border in Jammu

Srinagar: BSF troops fired and repulsed a flying object along the International Border in the Arnia sector of Jammu, officials said on Monday. "Today morning at about 0530 hrs, a blinking red and yellow light in the sky observed by our forward troops in Arnia sector. BSF said. Troops immediately fired the flying object due to which it went towards Pak side." Jammu is witnessing an increased drone activity. On July 2 a quadcopter was repulsed by the BSF in the Arnia sector. On June 29 drone activities were thwarted by the Army at the Ratnachuk-Kaluchak military area in Jammu.

Taliban warns against extending Aug 31 deadline

Kabul: The Taliban will not extend the August 31 deadline for the current evacuation mission, a spokesman has said. Taliban spokesman, Muhammad Suhail Shaheen told BBC amid reports that the UK will press for a deadline extension for international evacuations beyond August 31. "Foreign forces should withdraw on the deadline they have announced earlier. Otherwise, it is a clear violation," Shaheen said. The spokesman added the Taliban's reaction to such a move would be a decision for the group's leadership.



BENGAL BJP DIVIDED OVER DEMAND OF DIVISION OF STATE

KOLKATA | Agencies

Day after state BJP President Dilip Ghosh verbally supported Union Minister John Barla's demand of separate statehood for North Bengal, the state BJP leadership is divided over the issue with some of the frontline leaders openly criticising the demand.

Senior leaders like Locket Chatterjee and Rahul Sinha spoke strongly against the North-South divide of the state. Chatterjee, who is also an MP from Hooghly said, "We never want a bifurcation of the state. The culture of Bengal is different. We live in harmony and Bengal is very dear to each one of us. Bengal will remain Bengal from north to south and east to west."

Chatterjee, who took part in drawing portraits of Rabindranath Tagore and sang his songs on Sunday in a programme in Hooghly said, "Rabindranath celebrated 'Rakhi Bandhan'. Those who have Rabindranath in their hearts and minds and their hearts and minds can never divide Bengal".



Union Minister and MP from Alipurduar John Barla has been demanding for a separate state for quite a long time but the issue took a controversial turn when state BJP President Dilip Ghosh, a couple of days before, said, "The entire responsibility of this lies with Mamata Banerjee. 75 years after Independence why do the people of

North Bengal have to go other states for jobs, education and healthcare facilities? In Jangalmahal the situation is the same. Why the women in Jangalmahal will have to depend on sal and tendu leaves for livelihood. Why do they have to go to Odisha, Ranchi and Gujarat for jobs? "If they (the BJP MPs) have raised

such demands (Bifurcation of the state), then it is not unjustified," he added. The remarks of Ghosh triggered debate across the state including the state BJP itself.

National secretary of BJP Rahul Sinha without naming anyone said, "Those who want to change the name of the state and divide the state geographically are insulting Rabindranath Tagore. There is still a section of people in the state who want to divide Bengal," he said. Sinha narrated how Rabindranath started Rakhi Bandhan in October 1905 to protest against the bifurcation of Bengal. "This is the time we should remind ourselves of the thoughts of Rabindranath. We should take the message at the state and national level and make people aware of the significance of Rakhi," he added.

Trinamooli Rajya Sabha chief whip Sukhendu Sekhar Ray said, "BJP has encouraged fissiparous elements to divide Bengal after suffering a humiliating defeat in the recent elections."

Mumbai has 128 Delta Plus patients now

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In an alarming development, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) on Monday revealed that Mumbai has a staggering 128 patients of the Delta Plus variant of Covid-19 besides of Alpha, Kappa and other strains.

The figures emerged from the tests conducted on the first batch of 188 samples at the BMC's Kasturba Hospital.

While 128 patients are found infected with the Delta Plus, two were Alpha types, 24 were Kappa types, and the rest showing common Covid-19 virus infections.

The tests were conducted at the state-of-the-art Next Generation Genome Sequencing Lab at the Kasturba Hospital, inaugurated by Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray earlier this month. As on August 16, the state had reported a total of 76 Delta Plus cases plus 5 deaths, including 2 from



Ratnagiri, and one each from Mumbai, Raigad and Beed, all senior citizens.

Exercising extreme precautions, the state Health Department has launched a search for the close contacts of all infectees on a war footing, besides ascertaining their travel history, vaccination status, recent medical

status and other relevant details to prevent more infections, said the officials.

In view of the latest results, the BMC has made a fresh appeal to the people to strictly adhere to all Covid-19 protocols like wearing face-masks, maintain physical distancing, use sanitisers, hygiene, etc.

Pilot's show of strength in CM Gehlot's constituency

JAIPUR | Agencies

Former Deputy Chief Minister of Rajasthan, Sachin Pilot, was on Monday accorded a warm welcome in Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot's constituency in Jodhpur by his followers, though senior local leaders of the Congress were absent from the spot.

Long queues of vehicles were seen in front of the Jodhpur airport. Pilot's staunch supporters, Parbatsar MLA Ram Niwas Gavadia and Mukesh Bhakar, the MLA from Ladnu, were present on the occasion.

Pilot's followers also raised slogans supporting their leader in Gehlot's hometown.



Soon after landing at the airport, Pilot left for Balotara by road where he mourned the demise of the brother of Hemaram Choudhary, the Congress MLA from Gudamalani.

He went to Chaudhary's

ancestral village -- Mool ki Dhani -- in Balotara and offered floral tributes to the departed soul. He also visited a temple in Barmer where he prayed for the prosperity of the people of the nation.

RAILWAYS CANCELS 68 TRAINS IN VIEW OF FARMERS AGITATION IN PUNJAB

New Delhi: The Railways on Monday said that it has cancelled 68 trains amid the farmers agitation in several parts of Punjab.

A Northern Railway spokesperson said that due to farmers agitation in Ferozpur division of Punjab, it has cancelled 68 train including two Vande Bharat and Rajdhani each, four Shatabdi Express, one Duranto, and two Janshatabdi Express trains.

The official said that it has diverted 10 trains and short originated 12 trains in the wake of farmers' protest. The Railways also short terminated seven trains. Agitating sugarcane farmers in Punjab have blocked highway, and railway tracks in Jalandhar, demanding clearance of their dues since August 19.



Top LeT commander among 2 terrorists killed in Srinagar encounter

Srinagar | Agencies

Two terrorists including a top commander of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and his accomplice were killed in an encounter in Srinagar, officials said on Monday.

"Top commander of proscribed terror outfit LeT/TRF Abbas Sheikh and his 2IC Saqib Manzoor killed. A big success," a tweet by J&K police quoting IG Kashmir Vijay Kumar said. The firefight between terrorists and security forces took place after the area was cordoned off and a search



operation was launched on the basis of specific information about presence of terrorists. As the security forces

zeroed in on the spot where terrorists were hiding they came under a heavy volume of fire that triggered the encounter.

Punjab CM to meet farmers on deadlock on sugarcane price

Team Absolute | Chandigarh

The talks between the government and protesting farmers in Punjab remained inconclusive on the second day on Monday as the latter demanded that the state bring the state assured price (SAP) of sugarcane on a par with neighbouring Haryana at Rs 358 per quintal, the highest in the country.

In the meeting, the government claimed that the production cost should be Rs 350 per quintal, while the farmers pegged it at Rs 392. The farmers have been on agitation since August 20 by blocking the Delhi-Amritsar national highway near Jalandhar, along with the rail tracks, over their demand for raising the SAP of sugarcane. They have



already rejected the hike of Rs 15 per quintal announced by the government last week.

The farmers threatened to block all highways, if their demands were not accepted. Officials told reporter that a meeting of farm leaders with an expert committee was held and couldn't arrive at any conclusion.

Now a meeting with Chief Minister Amarinder Singh will be held on Tuesday.

Woman alleges gang-rape in Gurugram, 2 arrested

Bengaluru | Agencies

A woman was gang-raped by an auto driver and his accomplices when she was on her way home in a sharing auto, the police said.

Based on the complaint, the Palam Vihar police station has registered a case. The police said that two accused involved in the crime have been arrested and hunts are on to nab the third criminal.

The victim, originally from Shahjahanpur, Uttar Pradesh, told the police that she lives in the Palam Vihar area in Gurugram.

On Sunday, she had gone to Jharsa village to meet her friend and from there she



reached the city bus stand late in the evening and got into the sharing auto to return home. It is alleged that three peo-

ple including the driver were sitting in the auto. A man got down on the way and when she reached near the village Dundahera, an accused

called his friend. After this, the trio held her hostage and took her to a secluded place where they raped her in turn and threatened her with dire consequences if she disclosed the matter to anyone.

The woman informed the police about the incident and also provided the number of the vehicle to the police.

Based on information, the police arrested two culprits identified as Vikram alias Mahendra Pratap, the auto driver and Manoj while the third accused Arif is still absconding," the police said.

A case of gang-rape under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code was registered at Palam Vihar police station.

Bhojpuri actress Priyanka Pandit's nude video goes viral

PATNA | Agencies

Days after Bhojpuri actress

Trisha Kar Madhu's leaked MMS making the rounds on the internet, a nude video of another Bhojpuri actress, Priyanka Pandit, has gone viral on social media.

Millions of viewers have searched the video on Google, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube and other social media platforms, with many sharing the sexual content and also making memes of it. The actress has also been trolled on social media. After the video went viral, Pandit came before the media and alleged that someone conspired against her in a bid to take



personal revenge. "The viral video is not mine. The girl showing the sexual content only looks like me. The video is also old," Pandit told reporters.

Sources said that Pandit has also submitted a written complaint with the police in connection with the matter.

Mortal remains of Kalyan Singh consigned to flames



Bulandshahr | Agencies

The mortal remains of former Chief Minister late Kalyan Singh, were consigned to flames at Narora Ghat on the banks of the Ganga River on Monday afternoon, with full state honours.

Union Ministers Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh and Smriti Irani, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister

Shivraj Chauhan, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, Uttar Pradesh BJP president Swatantra Dev Singh and former Union Minister Uma Bharti were among those who paid tributes to the departed leader on his last journey.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had remained with the mortal

remains of the leader since it was brought from Lucknow on Sunday. Several UP ministers were also present on the occasion, apart from thousands of supporters and followers. The final rites were done by the departed leader's son and MP Rajvir Singh, who was accompanied by his son Sandeep Singh, a minister in the state government.

Army to newly-recruited militants: Return to mainstream, welcome awaits you

Srinagar | Agencies

Lt. General, Y.K. Joshi, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief (GOC-in-C) of the Army's northern command on Monday said the newly-recruited militants should accept their mistakes and return to the mainstream.

Addressing a function at the Manasbal Lake Park in north Kashmir Ganderbal district, Lt. General Joshi said, "We are ready to facilitate surrenders even in the midst of intense anti-militancy operations.

"Army is for saving lives, not to take lives". Reaching out to newly-recruited militants, he said that the young militants who are ready to accept mistakes and join mainstream will be welcomed with open arms.

He said the Army is observing the 23rd anniversary of the homecoming of 23 boys who were forced to pick up arms, but were rescued by the Army



in the Gurez sector and handed over to their families later.

"Today, I am glad that these 23 men are living a happy life back home with their families", the top Army officer said. The Army commander said that over the last few months, they are seeing families of young and newly-recruited militants making fervent appeals to their loved ones pleading them to leave the gun

culture and the cycle of violence. "This is really heartbreaking. We make all efforts to ensure and seek surrenders. We want youth to live a peaceful life by returning to the mainstream" he said.

The GOC-in-C said the Army gives a lot of importance to protect human rights while conducting anti-militancy operations and ensuring minimum collateral damage.

DELHI RECORDS 21% SURPLUS RAINFALL THIS MONSOON: IMD

New Delhi: With the return of monsoon, the national capital has been witnessing a continuous downpour with brief intervals over the last week. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), Delhi has received a surplus of 21 per cent rainfall so far. On Monday, Delhi recorded a minimum temperature at 26 degree Celsius and as per the IMD the maximum temperature is likely to be 35 degree Celsius. The IMD has predicted cloudy sky and light rainfall with thunderstorms on Monday, while from August 24 to 25, Delhi may witness strong surface winds with around 30 kmph speed of wind during the day. Till Saturday, Delhi had recorded 138.8 mm rainfall, the highest single day downpour for August in 14 years and the ninth highest since 1961, according to IMD. The current rainfall activity over plains of northwest and central India is set to continue till Monday and reduce thereafter.



Vaccination mega-campaign-2

FIRST DOSE OF VACCINE IS PARTIAL PROTECTION, SECOND DOSE MEANS COMPLETE PROTECTION

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Vaccination is proving to be very effective to develop complete immunity against the corona epidemic. Scientific facts also say that by taking both doses of the vaccine on time, the chances of a person getting corona infected decreases by 93 percent. In addition, the chances of death of hospitalized patients are also negligible. In order to protect the people of the state from corona infection, the sensitive state government is committed to provide the vaccine protection cover to the target group. In order to achieve 100 percent target of vaccination, a two-day vaccination campaign will be launched on August 25 and 26 on the initiative of Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

The first and second wave of corona infection had engulfed most

of the countries of the world. Many also lost their lives during the Corona period. In the fight with Corona, India presented a unique example to the whole world by preparing indigenous vaccine in a short time. The faster the vaccine was manufactured, the faster the vaccine was delivered to the states. After this, the Government of India under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi ensured access to the vaccine by giving the mantra "Vaccine free for all". Madhya Pradesh has been a leader in the entire nation in its use with the availability of vaccine. It is very important to have both doses of



Covid-19 to develop immunity as a defense against the corona epidemic. The first dose of the Covid-19 vaccine provides partial protection in the body, even after ingestion, there is a risk of infection. By applying the second dose of the vaccine within the time period, the efficacy of the vaccine remains the highest. At present, two types of vaccines are being implemented in the state, Covishield and Covaccine. On medical and scientific grounds, it is necessary to take the second dose 84 days after taking the first dose of Covishield vaccine and 28 days after taking the first dose of Covaccine. The body's immunity against corona disease develops

completely only after 2 to 3 weeks after the second dose of the vaccine. Also, the body produces more than one type of antibody which is helpful in defending against corona and its other variants. Vaccination to prevent corona is not only the responsibility of the government but also the responsibility of the society. Every citizen will have to come forward with self-motivation and adopt the protective shield of the vaccine given by the government. It will not be an exaggeration that the success achieved at the national level in the first vaccination campaign for vaccination in Madhya Pradesh, the importance of public participation cannot be denied. The second phase of the vaccination campaign in the state is going to be held on August 25 and 26. Like the first campaign, along with the efforts of the state government, the participa-

Cops cane-charge protesters seeking permission for religious procession

Team Absolute | Agar Malwa

Police on Monday cane-charged activists of some organisations who blocked a section of the Ujjain-Kota Highway near Madhya Pradesh's Agar Malwa city and hurled stones demanding permission to organise an annual procession hailing Lord Shiva, officials said.

Windscreens of some police vehicles were damaged in stone pelting, an official said.

The protesters were demanding that they be allowed to take out traditional "Bajinath Shahi Sawari" in the Agar-Malwa city.

The local administration had organised this procession by following all COVID-

19 protocols on August 16, but some Hindu organisations and the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) were not happy with it and had demanded permission to organise the "Sawari" procession on August 23.

"Some organisations staged a road blockade demanding permission for "Baba Bajinath Shahi Sawari." We tried to talk to them but the crowd pelted stones at police personnel and broke windscreens of police vehicles. In a bid to disperse the crowd, we used mild force," Sub-Divisional Officer of Police (SDOP) Jyoti Umth told reporters.

When asked if police personnel were injured in the incident, she said the information was being gathered.

Umth said the police will identify the stone-pelters through video footage and take legal action.

Meanwhile, some people led by Congress MLA Vipin Bankhede courted arrest after holding a protest in the premises of Lord Bajinath temple near Agar Malwa demanding that the religious procession be allowed, police said.

A case has been registered in connection with stone-pelting against BJYM's Agar Malwa district president Mayank Rajput and others at the city Kotwali police station.

Agar Malwa district BJP chief Govind Barkhedi said he was not aware of the incident.

NBA urges government to oppose Gujarat's move to draw water from Sardar Sarovar Project

Gujarat government has submitted an application to Narmada Control Authority (NCA) to get the permission as a special case.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Narmada Bachao Andolan (NBA) activist Medha Patkar wants state government to oppose Gujarat government's move to get permission from Narmada Control Authority to lower the water level in Sardar Sarovar Project (SSP) below minimum draw down level (MDDL) and thus draw water through irrigation bypass tunnel.

Gujarat government has submitted an application to Narmada Control Authority (NCA) to get the permission as a special case. If the permission is granted, this will be disastrous for Madhya Pradesh and also pose a threat to existence of Narmada river.

Talking to newspersons here on Monday, Patkar said, "Gujarat government has

requested NCA for both the issue. The NCA has convened a meeting on Tuesday. If Madhya Pradesh government remains mute spectator, river water level will go down further.

"Narmada is already dying in the state due to illegal mining and low rainfall. Many cities like Bhopal and Indore are not getting adequate water from Narmada river and after it, situation will be worse. MP Government is expected to oppose it," she added.

She further said that NCA admitted that 2700-hectare forest destroyed in MP and 6488 hectare forest destroyed in Maharashtra for which Gujarat government was to give compensation but it was not done. Similarly, MP has to recover Rs 7,000 crore for rehabilitation and Rs 1100 crore for construction of 100

bridges and roads.

Review Committee for Narmada Control Authority (RCNCA), in its meeting on August 18, 2001, decided that Gujarat government should pay compensation. Secondly, reservoirs water level should not deplete below MDDL of EL 110.64 metre. NCA should evolve a mechanism to control and ensure that reservoir water is not drawn through the IBPT below MDDL.

The NCA in its 90th meeting on February 9, 2018, requested Gujarat government to counter drought like situation by utilising water through IBPT by drawing water below MDDL (110.64m). Government of MP and Government of Maharashtra expressed no objection on utilisation of their unutilised share available at SSP by GoG.

Muslim Bangles Seller Thrashed, Congress Targets Shivraj Govt

Authorities registered a case after hundreds of people from the minority community surrounded the police station to demand action against the accused.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A 25-year-old man who was selling bangles was thrashed by a group of men in Indore after he allegedly revealed his Muslim identity. The incident was captured on camera and has been doing the rounds on social media. Authorities registered a case after hundreds of people from the minority community surrounded the police station to demand action against the accused.

Home Minister Narottam Mishra said a police investigation revealed that the man, Tasleem, was using a fake identity for his profession, adding that strict action will be taken against both the sides.

Congress and other political parties have criticised the Shivraj Singh Chouhan government over the incident. Imran Pratapgarhi, who is the national chairman of Congress' minority department, tweeted a video of the incident, and said the clip is not of Afghanistan, but from Indore where, he said, the bangles seller was looted and thrashed in full public view. The video shows a group of men taking the trader's wares out of his bag and hurling abuses at



him. They then began beating up the helpless man. Pratapgarhi asked when the government take action against such "terrorists"?

Former Aam Aadmi Party leader, Kumar Vishwas, retweeted Pratapgarhi's video, and urged Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan to take action against such anarchy. Vishwas added that

anyone who violates the Constitution, irrespective of their religion, is a traitor and should be treated like one.

The state home minister, on the other hand, has highlighted a police report which said that Tasleem had two Aadhaar cards and was using a Hindu name to sell bangles to women during Sawan after which the incident took place. Indore Superintendent of Police (East), Ashutosh Bagari, said they are investigating the incident and assured that they will soon nab the culprits. He also urged the common public to not view the case communally, adding that some people are trying to disrupt the communal harmony in Indore for the past few days.

Indore's District Collector, meanwhile, said that some banned organisations have been found to be disturbing the communal harmony in Indore after the incident.

"We are keeping a close watch on them. They are under surveillance. It has also been found that activists of Popular Front of India (PFI) and Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI) had come to Indore and instigated the youths for such incidents, a case had been registered against the people who led the protest outside the Central Kotwali police station. Police have been investigating the matter. Some names of PFI and SDPI workers have come fore, a case will be registered against them, too," he said.

CM PLANTED ASHOKA SAPLING



Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted an Ashoka sapling at Madhyanchal Bhavan, New Delhi on Monday afternoon. Chief Minister Chouhan planted sapling during his stay in Delhi, in line with his resolve to plant one sapling every day. Additional Chief Secretary, Farmers' Welfare and Agriculture Development and Cooperatives Ajit Kesari, Residential Commissioner Pankaj Rag and other officers were present on this occasion.

CM pays tribute to Late Kalyan Singh



Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan paid homage by laying wreath on the mortal remains of former Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Late Kalyan Singh at village Narora near village Atrauli in Uttar Pradesh on Monday. Chief Minister was accompanied by Union Minister of State for Jal Shakti and Food Processing Industries Prahlad Singh Patel. He also paid tribute to Late Kalyan Singh. Chouhan said that Late Kalyan Singh was not only an individual but also an institution. He was always active for the upliftment of the poor class. He also did the important work of making farmers' charters. Late Singh worked lifelong in the interest of backward classes and farmers.

Vocational education should be result oriented Inculcate the spirit of entrepreneurship in students: Governor

GOVERNOR REVIEWS TECHNICAL, AGRICULTURAL AND VETERINARY SCIENCE UNIVERSITIES

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Governor Mangubhai Patel has said that the spirit of entrepreneurship should be strengthened among the students. The values of self-reliance should be developed in them. Vocational education should be result oriented. The work of solving the needs and problems of agriculture, animal husbandry and industries should be done by the universities. He has said that for meaningful education, it is necessary to keep pace with the present needs as well as the needs of the future. The works should be reviewed on the basis of what is the contribution of the educational institution in the development of the area. He called for restructuring the course module for multi-exit and multi-entry arrangements.

Patel was reviewing Rajiv Gandhi University of Technology, Bhopal, Nanaji Deshmukh University of Veterinary Sciences, Jabalpur, Rajmata Vijayaraje Scindia Agriculture University Gwalior and Jawaharlal Nehru Agricultural University, Jabalpur in separate sessions at Raj Bhavan on Monday.

Patel has said that the employment status of technical education students should be reviewed. How many students set up their own enterprise. Education institution give details of how many set up enterprises or joined services should be maintained. He has said that it is necessary that there should be a lively contact between the students and the industry. The



management of industries should be invited from time to time in the campus by the institutes of technical education. They should be familiarized with the teaching, skill up-gradation and technical competencies of the students. This will motivate the industries to select the students according to their needs. He also told the need to compile the experiences of the students regarding service works in the villages. He said that according to different social concerns, students should be sent to rural areas. Students should share their experiences with each other on a mutual basis. This will lead to effective implementation of public awareness and social service works

according to the village environment.

Patel said that our country is agriculture-oriented. The quality of agriculture is essential for the development of the country. The experts, students of the Agricultural University will have to reach among the farmers. He said that there is a difference between practical and theoretical knowledge. Along with sharing the experiences of the progressive farmers with the students, the students, experts should go to the villages and guide and motivate them to make better use of the resources available with the farmers. Among them, the use of new information should be encouraged by stating its usefulness and economic benefits. Patel said that in order to make animal husbandry economically profitable, it is necessary to review the productivity of animals and do breed improvement works. Information should be disseminated on a wide level regarding animal husbandry methods, diseases and treatment of animals. He said that by establishing contact and coordination with the animal owners, they should be informed about increasing the income through animal husbandry. He said that the students should be motivated for self-employment efforts in animal husbandry. The universities should organise cattle fairs etc. in rural areas to awaken the livestock owners for new and profitable animal husbandry.

National Education Policy: Madhya Pradesh to form State-level panel for implementation of NEP 2020

National Education Policy is being implemented in various ways. As per recent reports, Madhya Pradesh will now form a State-level panel for the implementation of NEP 2020.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

National Education Policy completed its one year of implementation in July 2021. As the policy is being implemented in phases, Madhya Pradesh has announced its role in the same. Department of Higher Education of Madhya Pradesh will be forming a State-level panel for the implementation of NEP 2020. After a meeting in the Mantralaya, Higher Education Minister of the state, Mohan Yadav told reporters that over 3,000 new courses will be introduced in the new academic year under NEP 2020.

National Education Policy provisions will be explained in detail to all stakeholders, especially to the first-year undergraduate students. For these provisions, Frequently Asked

Questions, FAQs would also be prepared in order to provide clarity to everyone. This committee/panel will ensure that NEP 2020 is implemented properly in the state and the benefit is reaped by everyone.

Yadav also told reporters that online and offline workshops would be organised for teachers in order to familiarise them with NEP 2020 and its provisions. As the next step in the implementation of National Education Policy, teachers will hold counselling sessions for students to inform them about the provisions of NEP 2020. MP to form State-level panel for implementation of NEP 2020MP to form State-level panel for implementation of NEP 2020 | Photo Credit: iStock Images/KEY HIGHLIGHTS/National Education Policy will be implemented in Madhya Pradesh soon with the help

of a State-level panel. After the implementation of NEP 2020 in Madhya Pradesh, more than 3,000 new courses would be introduced for the benefit of students. Higher Education Minister Mohan Yadav told reporters that various provisions would be announced for teachers and students to make sure that NEP 2020 is implemented effectively.

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ADVICE NOT TO GO FOR PICNIC ON WATER BODIES IN BHOPAL

Bhopal: Due to rains in many parts of state, the water level of water bodies has increased and there is a possibility of accidents. This is the reason why the administration has advised the general public not to go for picnics on the water sources around the capital. Bhopal District Magistrate Avinash Lavania has directed all SDMs, Tehsildars and other revenue officers to keep a constant watch on all the ponds, dams, rivers, drains and waterlogged areas of the district and keep in touch with the local people.



SET ASIDE FESTIVALS FOR WHILE, FOCUS ON HEALTH: CM TO DAHI HANDI ORGANISERS

Dahi Handi festival, which is celebrated to mark the birth of Lord Krishna, involves communities hanging an earthen pot filled with dahi (yogurt) or other milk-based delicacies, at a convenient or difficult to reach height. Young men, boys and girls form teams, make a human pyramid and attempt to reach or break the pot.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Monday told organisers of the upcoming Dahi Handi festival that the state should set an example by setting aside celebration of festivals for some time to banish the coronavirus completely.

Speaking at a virtual meeting of the organisers, the CM said the health of citizens should be given priority during a pandemic.

Dahi Handi festival, which is celebrated to mark the birth of Lord Krishna, involves communities hanging an earthen pot filled with dahi (yogurt) or other milk-based delicacies, at a convenient or difficult to reach height. Young men, boys and girls form teams, make a human pyramid and attempt to reach or break the pot.

The festival enjoys a political patronisation in Maharashtra with various parties organising Dahi Handis and announcing a reward for Govindas, who break the pots.

A statement from the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said Dahi Handi organisers responded positively to Thackeray's appeal and spoke about holding social and health-related activities to mark the birth of Lord Krishna.

The BJP, however, demanded Dahi Handi festival be allowed to be organised under certain conditions traditionally.

"Those who have taken both doses of COVID-19 vaccines must be allowed to organise the traditional Dahi Handi at



low heights without crowding. The festival should not be banned," BJP MLA Ashish Shelar said.

Speaking at the meeting, Thackeray said the COVID-19 pandemic has forced various restrictions on the daily life of people. "These restrictions are for the welfare of people. Only a few people speak of protesting against these curbs.

They should rather protest against coronavirus and not against the government," he said.

The chief minister said the entire world is reeling under the pandemic which has destroyed many families and orphaned children.

"Countries which have vaccinated most of their citizens are feeling the heat of a third wave of the pandemic and are locked down again," he said.

Thackeray said the second wave of the pandemic is receding in some districts in Maharashtra but it is peaking in some other places. "This is a window period which we have to utilize to ensure that the livelihood of people is not impacted and the economic cycle continued," he said.

Thackeray reiterated that a lockdown will have to be imposed again if the daily demand for medical oxygen crosses 750 metric tonnes in Maharashtra.

During the meeting, state COVID-19 task force chief Dr Sanjay Oak said physical distancing cannot be maintained during Dahi Handi celebrations as people come in close contact with each other while forming human pyramids.

"Face masks are of no use if they get wet in water. The Delta plus variant is spreading fast. Even if one person is infected, the entire group runs the risk of catching the COVID-19 infection," he said.

He asked organisers to keep the festive spirit up by organising camps to donate blood and COVID-19 treatment equipment.

Bombay High Court warns Maharashtra of stern action if any more child deaths due to malnutrition

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Bombay High Court on Monday warned the Maharashtra government of stern action if there are any more deaths of children due to malnutrition in the State's tribal belt.

A division Bench of Chief Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice G. S. Kulkarni was hearing a public interest litigation filed in 2007, highlighting the high number of deaths of children, pregnant women and lactating mothers in the State's Melghat region because of malnutrition.

The plea also raised concerns over the lack of gynaecologists, paediatricians and radiologists in the public health centres of the region.

The petitioner informed the HC Bench on Monday that in the last one year, 73 children died in the region due to malnutrition.

Advocate Neha Bhide, appearing for the Maharashtra government, told the court that all steps were being taken to address the issue.

To this, the court said, "If your (government) machinery is so well equipped, then why have there been 73 incidents of children deaths due

to malnutrition." Noting that this was a serious matter, the Bench directed the State government to submit details of how many children have died due to malnutrition in the tribal belt of the State from April 2020 to July 2021, and details about doctors sent to the public health centres in those areas.

"If on the next date of hearing we are informed that there have been more deaths of children due to malnutrition, then we will hold the Principal Secretary of the State Public Health Department responsible. The Public Health Department Secretary has to rise to the occasion," the court said.

"We are putting the Public Health Department principal secretary on guard. If by September 6 (next date of hearing), we hear that there have been any more deaths then we will take a very stern view and action," the court added.

The court also directed the Union government to file an affidavit, stating how much funds have been sanctioned to the State government to address the issue of malnutrition and how the Centre was monitoring the situation. The court will hear the matter further on September 6.

Praful Patel appears in ED office in Iqbal Mirchi case

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Senior Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader and former Union Civil Aviation Minister Praful Patel on Monday arrived at the Enforcement Directorate (ED) office here in connection with the Iqbal Mirchi money laundering case.

According to ED officials, the NCP leader came at the agency's office here in the afternoon and left after some time. Speaking to media, Patel said, "I had come to sign some papers at ED office with respect to Iqbal Mirchi case." Praful had earlier been questioned on several occasions by the ED in connection with the money laundering probe



involving Mirchi, a close aide of Underworld don Dawood Ibrahim. The ED registered money laundering case against Mirchi's wife and others in September 2019. A criminal case was filed against Mirchi, his family members and others for alleged illegal dealings in the purchase and sale of Ceejay House, Sahil Bungalow, Rabia Mansion, Marium Lodge, and Sea View properties in prime locations in Mumbai. Ceejay House is

located at Worli and Arun Chambers in Tardeo area of Mumbai, worth Rs 76 crore. Other properties are worth Rs 500 crore, including Sahil Bungalow, Rabia Mansion, Marium Lodge, and Sea View in Worli, three commercial shops in Crawford Market, and five acres of land in Lonawala. The ED has so far arrested several accused, including Kapil Wadhawan, Dheeraj Wadhawan and Humayun Merchant. The agency filed a charge sheet in December 2019 in a Special PMLA court. The ED till date has attached properties to the tune of Rs 798 crore in India and abroad under the PMLA provisions of Mirchi and his family members.

WOMAN'S BODY RECOVERED FROM DRAIN IN MUMBAI'S MANKHURD

Mumbai: The body of a woman with her neck and legs tied with a dupatta was found in a plastic bag inside a drain at Mankhurd late Saturday night.

The police have so far not been able to identify the woman. An officer said that the woman appears to be between 25-30 years old. The Mankhurd police have registered a case of murder and destruction of evidence against unidentified persons. An officer said that based on the post mortem report a murder case has been registered.

"We are scanning CCTV footage in the area and also talking to locals to find out if they know her. Investigations are on in the matter," the officer added.

ED files first charge sheet in Anil Deshmukh case

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has filed first charge sheet in connection with the former Maharashtra Home Minister and senior Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Anil Deshmukh bribery case.

An ED official related to probe told IANS, "A charge sheet has been filed in the case and Deshmukh's personal secretary Sanjeev Palande and personal assistant Kundan Shinde have been named in it." According to ED officials, the 4,500 page charge sheet was filed before a Special PMLA court here.

The ED had arrested Palande and Shinde after carrying out searches against them and the NCP leader in Mumbai and Nagpur. Deshmukh and his son Hrishikesh Deshmukh had skipped



the ED's summons on several occasions. The ED registered a case of money laundering on the basis of the FIR registered by the CBI. Deshmukh has been accused of extortion from a bunch of Mumbai orchestra bars and of money laundering. It has been alleged that Rs 4.7 crore was collected as "extortion" from the orchestra bars by the now-dismissed Mumbai police officer Sachin Waze allegedly on Deshmukh's instructions. Later, this amount was transferred to Deshmukh's Nagpur-based educational

trust by his son, Hrishikesh. According to the allegation, the transaction was routed via two hawala operators and was shown as a "donation". The 71-year-old NCP leader is the president of the trust and his two sons, Salil and Hrishikesh, are trustees. On May 11, a case was registered against the former minister and on June 25, the ED raided Deshmukh's residences in Nagpur, Mumbai and three other places. In April, the CBI had conducted raids at four premises of Deshmukh after registering an FIR against him in connection with the case. Param Bir Singh, former Commissioner of Mumbai Police, in his letter to Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, had alleged that Deshmukh had indulged in "malpractices" and asked Waze to collect Rs 100 crore every month.

Maharashtra cumulative vaccination tally crosses 5.31 crore

In the ongoing vaccination drive, Maharashtra on August 22 has vaccinated 86,648 people through 695 sessions.

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According to data released by the government, Maharashtra, as of 7 am on August 23, inoculated 5,31,09,579 people.

As per the state government data, 1,61,38,266 individuals aged between 18 and 44 years received their first vaccine dose and 14,47,782 received their second dose since the inoculation drive for this age group began on May 1.

So far, 12,92,062 health care workers have been administered the first dose of the vaccine, while 9,68,680 of them have got their second dose.

Similarly, 21,36,430 frontline workers in the state have till now received their first vaccine dose and of them, 13,61,868 got their second dose.



Meanwhile, Maharashtra reported 4,141 new coronavirus positive cases on Sunday, which took its infection count to 64,24,651, while 145 deaths pushed the toll to 1,35,962, the health department said.

A total of 4,780 patients were discharged from hospitals during the day. With this, the overall recovery count of the state grew to 62,31,999, it

said in a statement.

Maharashtra's recovery rate is 97 per cent, while the fatality rate is 2.11 per cent.

With 1,67,881 tests conducted on Sunday, the state's overall test count climbed to 5,22,92,131, it said.

At present, there are 53,182 active COVID-19 cases in the state.

Mumbai reported 294 cases and

one death on Sunday that took its total case count to 7,41,164 and fatality figure to 15,947.

Mumbai division, which comprises the metropolis and its surrounding areas, saw 683 cases and six deaths. It pushed the number of cases in the region to 16,57,144 and death toll to 34,845.

Nashik division reported 586 cases during the day, including 518 in Ahmednagar district, while Pune division logged 1,886 fresh cases, including 643 in Satara district. Kolhapur division recorded 765 cases, including 400 in Sangli district, the department said.

Aurangabad division reported 34 cases, Latur division 156 cases, Akola division 20 and Nagpur division 11.

Gondia, Bhandara, Nagpur, Yavatmal districts and Akola, Amravati and Chandrapur cities in Vidarbha region did not report even a single fresh infection case.

Maharashtra's coronavirus figures: Positive cases 64,24,651, death toll 1,35,962, active cases 53,182, tests conducted so far 5,22,92,131.

Fadnavis slams Uddhav Thackeray govt for neglecting farmers issues

Team Absolute | Mumbai

After a farmer died by suicide outside Mantralaya, former Maharashtra chief minister Devenra Fadnavis slammed the Uddhav Thackeray-led state government for neglecting the issues of the poor.

"This is a very unfortunate incident. There is no system left in Maharashtra to hear out farmers. The way the posting of officers is happening in the state is questionable. Later, these officers do not even care about issues of farmers and poor that come in front of them and they do not have any time for them," Fadnavis said.

He accused the government of ignoring the farmers of the state and not taking any decisions for them.

Adding that the farmers' suicides were increasing in the state, Fadnavis demanded that government should probe the case of farmers' suicide outside the government office and provide compensation to his family. A 48-year-old farmer, who was admitted to GT Hospital here after he allegedly consumed a poisonous substance outside Mantralaya, died on Sunday during treatment, said sources.

Subhash Jadhav (48), a farmer from Pune had allegedly attempted suicide by con-



suming a poisonous substance outside the gate of Mantralaya on Friday.

According to sources, Jadhav had come to meet Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray and Home Minister Dilip Walse Patil in Mantralaya. But, he was not allowed to enter the Mantralaya. Sources further said, "Some people had captured Jadhav's land in Pune. He had complained about the matter at the nearest police station. But the police station there did not take any action. Jadhav then reached Mantralaya so that his matter would be heard." On the statement of Jadhav's son Ganesh, the Marine Drive police station registered a case against eight people under sections 306 and 34 of IPC and transferred it to Manchar Police Station in Pune.

Bhima-Koregaon case: JNU, TISS students were drafted for terror, says NIA

In stunning revelations, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) has said that the 22 main accused in the Bhima-Koregaon and Elgar Parishad cases had allegedly recruited students of at least two top Indian universities for terror activities in the country, including Maharashtra.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The NIA statement comes in the draft charges filed in the twin cases against 16 arrested accused and six other absconders in the sensational cases that have rocked the Indian polity for the past four years.

As per the NIA, the accused had "recruited students from various universities, including the reputed Jawaharlal Nehru University (New Delhi) and Tata Institute of Social

Sciences (Mumbai), for the commission of terrorist activities".

The draft charges were filed before the NIA special court last week after its main and supplementary chargesheets were filed earlier, after long investigations into the two cases.

When contacted, NIA sources declined to comment, saying the agency has already filed its chargesheet in the case and the draft charges are court documents.

Among other things, the accused are charged with promoting the activities and ideologies of banned outfits, and mobilising and training people and students in handling sophisticated arms and explosives.

Reacting to the developments, Pune-based social activist Prafull Sardar wondered if the NIA's contentions are true, why the current BJP government at the Centre gave maximum aid of Rs 1,515 crore to JNU, as per the figures provided under RTI. "Does it mean that the Centre is funding and giving subsidies to such terror institutions? A reminder, even Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharamanji is a JNU alumnus," said Sardar.

The NIA's draft charges say the larger objective was to

conspire against and destabilise the governments of India and Maharashtra and threaten their sovereignty with large-scale violence.

To achieve these objectives, the accused -- through a banned Leftist organisation and its frontal outfits -- had arranged to raise Rs 8 crore for annual supplies of sophisticated weapons, the NIA said.

These include: Chinese QLZ87 Automatic Grenade Launcher, Russian GM-94 Grenade Launcher, M-4 carbines with 4,00,000 rounds, nitrate powder, wires, nails, logistics, and procuring arms from suppliers in Manipur and neighbouring Nepal to undermine the Centre and the Maharashtra government.

The arrested accused in the cases are: Sudhir P Dhawale, Vernon S Gonsalves (both from Mumbai), Arun T Ferreira from Thane, Sagar Gorkhe from Ahmednagar, Ramesh Gaichor from Pune, Surendra P Gadling, Shoma K Sen, Mahesh S Raut (all from Nagpur), and Anand B Teltumbde from Yavatmal, all in Maharashtra.

The arrested accused also include Rona J Wilson and Gautam Navlakha from Delhi, P Varavara Rao from Hyderabad, Sudha Bharadwaj from Faridabad, Hany Babu

M Tharayil from Trichur, and the late Stan Swamy from Tamil Nadu, who died in Mumbai on July 5 while in custody.

The absconder-accused are: Milind Teltumbde aliases Dipak and Sahyadri from Yavatmal, Prakash Goswami and Ritupan Goswami from Assam, Kishan Bose from Kolkata, Mupalla Laxman Rao, Chandrashekhar, Manglu and Deepu.

The NIA said that all the accused are 'active members' of the banned terrorist organisation CPI (Maoist), which was declared unlawful by the Union Home Ministry in 2009, and another 10 frontal units, including the Kabir Kala Manch, which had organised the Elgar Parishad in Pune on December 31, 2017, the alleged fallout of which were the caste riots in Bhima-Koregaon on January 1, 2018.

The other frontal wings are: Anuradha Ghandy Memorial Committee, Persecuted Prisoners Solidarity Committee, Committee for Protection of Democratic Rights, Peoples Union for Democratic Rights, Coordination of Democratic Rights Organisation, Democratic Students Union, Visthapan Virodhi Jan Vikas Andolan, and Revolutionary Writers Association.



EDITOR'S SPECS

Stop Covid spread at home

Widespread use of better face masks and good ventilation can help mitigate the spread of Covid-19 indoors, a study has shown. Engineering researchers at the University of Waterloo performed experiments using a mannequin to simulate a seated person breathing in a large room. The findings, published in the journal Physics of Fluids, showed a significant buildup over time of aerosol droplets -- exhaled droplets so tiny they remain suspended and travel through the air -- despite the use of common cloth and blue surgical masks. Previous research has found that aerosols dispersed by infected people are a source of transmission of the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes Covid-19, even outside the two-metre social distancing zone widely recommended by public health officials. The study showed that most common masks, primarily due to problems with fit, filter about 10 per cent of exhaled aerosol droplets. The remaining aerosols are redirected, mostly out the top of the mask where it fits over the nose, and escape into the ambient air unfiltered. By contrast, higher-quality, more expensive N95 and KN95 masks filtered more than 50 per cent of the exhaled aerosols that can accumulate indoors and spread the Covid-19 virus when inhaled by other people. Researchers noted that the much greater effectiveness of N95 and KN95 masks versus cloth and surgical masks makes a compelling case that they should be worn in indoor settings, such as schools and workplaces, as much as possible. Experiments also quantified the impact of ventilation systems, which circulate and replace air in rooms, on the accumulation of aerosols. Even modest ventilation rates were found to be as effective as the best masks in reducing the risk of transmission. Ideally, the evidence shows that high-quality masks and proper ventilation should be used in combination to mitigate the threat posed by indoor aerosol accumulation as much as possible.

TO SERVE OR TO BE SERVED

POLICE BRUTALITY IN INDIA

Aleena Zahid

India is emerging as a World leader not only as an economic powerhouse but also developing cultural prominence. India is the second most populated country, with ever-changing laws and orders. Although our law enforcement is stricter with its laws regarding any sort of brutality against the citizens of the country. Police brutality is a problem that is not being highlighted enough by the mainstream media. It is no secret that police brutality and torture is becoming a frequent problem in the country.

According to a survey by Al Jazeera in other countries for every 300 citizens, there is 1 policeman; but in India for every 1000 citizens, 1 policeman is being appointed. With the enormous burden of work, shortage of staff, and being unequipped for situations like organised attacks also known as terrorist attacks, which is one of the major issues that the Police force in the country faces. With that the lack of cooperation from the citizens of the country. It is considered that it becomes grueling for the police force to maintain the law and order of the country without resorting to violence. But, using violence as a shortcut to achieving justice is what has become a matter of grave concern. Police Brutality has been prevailing not just in India but around the Globe for the longest time. A common man has been a victim of abuse of power by the police force since the pre-independence era with law enforcement rarely facing any consequences for such actions. This is a clear and consistent violation of Human Rights. In very rare cases when police are held accountable for their actions by the judiciary, the practical effect is next to nothing.

According to the Commonwealth HR initiative, the governments of all 29 states and UTs 'blatantly rejected' or 'ignored' the 2006 historic judgement by the Supreme Court, which ordered the directives to investigate the major police reforms. The recent case of Jeyaraj and Bennicks in Tamil Nadu that sparked a nationwide outcry recently is one example of this. Where the law enforcement abused its powers in the shadow of the vagueness of the few words which in Section 49 of the Indian Criminal Procedural Code, states that "only necessary" restraint to escape can be used. The vagueness of the word "necessary" cost two men their lives.

Such brutality and reforms are institutional in India, and in this scenario unfortunately Jayeraj and Benneck are one of the cases of police brutality. Police Officers in India rarely face convictions for deaths in custody.

Article 21 of the Indian Constitution states that "No person shall be deprived of his life and liberty except according to the procedure established by law." The enforcement of law and order does not mean resorting to violence in order to do so. Another case that enraged the World was the murder of George Floyd a 46-year-old black man in Minneapolis Minnesota, United States while being arrested on the suspicion of using a counterfeit \$20 bill. The District Court of Minnesota carried out the verdict on the death of George Floyd where officer Derek Chauvin was tried and convicted of the murder of George Floyd during an arrest. As we start counting and addressing deaths due to abuse of power, it comes as a shock how extensive the list is. What makes us question the system is the fact that hundreds of people die and are falsely accused and made scapegoats in the name of



achieving justice. Many parties of the Government, harass, wrongly prosecute, and arrest innocent people to make the World a witness of their play of power.

According to World Report 2021, The Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act continued to provide effective immunity from prosecution to security forces, even for serious human rights abuses. The "shortcut" to providing justice cost many innocent people their lives every year in India and worldwide. Wrongful Prosecution and Custodial Deaths are increasing by the year and are a matter of grave concern. Furthermore, no robust actions are taken against the "protectors of the law" as we call them. This has given them a sense of freedom to abuse their power and twist the law in their favour.

When the citizens of a country start fearing their system and the protectors of the law and justice of the country, that is when we realise the system has failed its citizens. Police Brutality has been existing in India since before Independence. However, due to the limited reach of the media, it never came off as a topic of concern. After media booming and increased awareness in the people, more matters related to custodial deaths started coming to light. This caused a debate and left people concerned all over the world as to where we are going with our system.

Pop culture's portrayal of the police has led to the increase of many more such cases. Pop Culture's depiction of the police where they beat the bad guys to death, and their personalities being very angry and upright has created a wrong image and unattainable expectations. This wrongful depiction and people cheering such behaviour has devoured the justice system.

In order to stop the abuse of power and the brutality against the citizens of the nation, special laws should be introduced. Existing criminal laws which prosecute such behaviour should be amended and enforced to stop the people in power from harming innocent people. Compensation and reliefs should be increased and be presented by the High Court and the Supreme Court. Furthermore, independent investigations should be conducted against the officers that violate the law and should be held accountable under the Indian Penal Code, 1860. A police officer should protect the law and the justice system and its citizens, not abuse their power and brutally beat them.

What makes Tik Tok tick?

In June 2020, the Indian government decided to ban Tik Tok along with dozens of other Chinese apps. At the time Tik Tok had over 200 million users in India -- some of them had found fame on the app and were left dismayed by the news. While Tik Tok had to give up its largest overseas market, it continues to be one of the fastest growing tech companies in the world.

So, what is it that sets Tik Tok apart? Who are the people behind this seemingly simple app that has taken over the world? How does the legendary Tik Tok algorithm work? How much of the Chinese technology space does its developer ByteDance control?

In "Attention Factory" (Westland Business), Matthew Brennan attempts to answer these questions and more. Drawing upon interviews with current and former employees and competitors, together with extensive research, captivating anecdotes and telling infographics, Brennan has forged a narrative that is packed with original insights and analysis.

Discover how recommendation engines, content operations and good old China-style growth hacking hold the key to this company's success. An essential read that will change not only the way we think about Chinese apps and technology but also about the Internet as a whole.

Matthew Brennan is an author and internationally recognised speaker who specialises in Chinese mobile Internet technology and innovation. His opinions have featured across global media, including Bloomberg, The Wall Street Journal, The Economist, BBC, The Financial Times and Forbes. For several years, his company China Channel has organised the largest annual WeChat digital marketing conference in China for international brands.

Brennan has delivered dozens of presentations for many prestigious companies, including Google, Tencent, Walmart, Visa, LinkedIn, Boston Consulting Group and more. Originally from London, he speaks fluent Mandarin Chinese having been based in mainland China for sixteen years.



international

NEW GOVT TO BE ANNOUNCED SOON, SAYS TALIBAN

Kabul | Agencies

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid announced that talks on the formation of a new government with Afghan political leaders were underway and that a new government will be announced soon.

"Our political officials met with leaders here in Kabul, their views are important, discussions are moving, there is hope for an announcement on the government soon," TOLO News quoted Mujahid as saying on Sunday. Meanwhile, members of the Taliban's political office on Saturday met in Kabul with a number of politicians including former President Hamid Karzai and Abdullah Abdullah, the head of High Council for National Reconciliation (HCNR), and discussions focused on the overall political situation including the formation of an inclusive government. The members of the Taliban's political office who arrived in Kabul on Saturday include Shahabuddin Delawar, Abdul Salam Hanafi, Mullah Khairullah Khairkhaw and Abdul Rahmand Fida. Abdullah in a Facebook post confirmed the meeting with the Taliban leaders, saying that discussions were focused on the political process and the formation of an inclusive government.

Some Afghan political leaders, however,



criticised the way the talks are taking place, saying that the political process should be inclusive. "I don't see this game as a good one because it looks like a game of individuals, everyone tries to promote himself and does not show respect for the Afghans," said Sayed Eshaq Gailani, the head of the Nahzat-e-Hambastagi Afghanistan party.

In the meantime, Atta Mohammad Noor, the former governor of Balkh, said that the next government will not be acceptable if it is not inclusive.

"The war has not ended, we have a long way to go, we will test them (the Taliban), we will emerge again either to resolve it through an inclusive government or war."

ISRAEL TO RETALIATE ANY ATTACKS FROM GAZA: PM

Tel Aviv | Agencies

Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett warned that his country will retaliate against attacks from the Gaza Strip. His remarks on Sunday came a day after an Israeli soldier was injured during clashes with Palestinians near the Gaza border, reports Xinhua news agency. Addressing his weekly cabinet meeting, Bennett said that Israel "will settle the score with those who harm our soldiers and civilians". Referring to a possible escalation with Gaza's Hamas rulers, Bennett said the military is "ready for any scenario". Overnight, the Israeli air force carried out airstrikes in the Gaza Strip.

An Israeli military spokesperson said in a statement that war jets struck four weapons manufacturing and storage sites belonging to the Hamas.

Hundreds of Palestinians participated in the demonstration on August 21, which was organised by the Hamas in order to protest the Israeli blockade on Gaza. Some of the demonstrators approached the fence, torched tires and hurled stones and explosives toward the Israeli soldiers.

According to the Health Ministry in Gaza, at least 24 Palestinians were injured by Israeli gunfire.

According to the Israeli military, a Border Police officer was shot and critically wounded.

The violence came amid Egyptian-brokered efforts to achieve a long-term ceasefire deal between Israel and Hamas. A fragile ceasefire in May halted the most recent war between Israel and Hamas after the 11-day fighting that claimed the lives of 260 Palestinians and 13 Israelis.

S Korea, US nuke envoys discuss humanitarian aid to Pyongyang

Seoul | Agencies

Nuclear envoys of South Korea and the US met here on Monday to discuss humanitarian aid to the North Korea, urging Pyongyang to return to the dialogue table.

Sung Kim, the US special representative for North Korea who arrived in Seoul on August 21 for a four-day trip, held a meeting with Noh Kyu-duk, South Korea's special representative for Korean Peninsula peace and security affairs, reports Xinhua news agency.

"We discussed possible humanitarian assistance to the North Korea," Kim was quoted by Yonhap news agency as saying in a press conference after the meeting.

Kim reaffirmed US support for inter-Korean dialogue and engagement, saying that Washington will continue to lend support to inter-Korean humanitarian cooperation projects.

Noh told reporters that the two sides discussed ways to cooperate with North Korea in humani-



tarian areas, including health-care, quarantine against infectious diseases, drinking water and hygiene, as well as the humanitarian support for Pyongyang through international organisations and non-governmental bodies.

The US envoy renewed his call for the resumption of dialogue with North Korea, saying he continued to stand ready to meet with his Pyongyang counterparts "anywhere, at any time".

During his visit to Seoul in June, Kim said the US can meet with North Korea "anywhere,

anytime without preconditions".

After the meeting with Noh, Kim reportedly met in Seoul with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Morgulov who arrived here also on August 21 for a six-day trip.

Morgulov will hold a meeting with his South Korean counterpart on Tuesday to discuss bilateral cooperative ways for substantive progress in the complete denuclearisation of and the permanent peace settlement on the Korean Peninsula, according to the South Korean Foreign Ministry.

Protests will continue on Gaza-Israel borders: Palestinian factions

Gaza | Agencies

Leaders of Palestinian factions, including the Islamic Hamas Movement, have announced that the popular protests on the borders between the Gaza Strip and Israel will continue.

The factions' leaders, who gathered near the border-line area, said in a joint statement on Sunday that "the popular protests against Israel near the borders will continue until Israel stops its aggression against the Palestinians and end its siege imposed on Gaza", reports Xinhua news agency.

"The protests will continue upon a joint vision and

plan," the statement said.

"Israel is legally and morally responsible for blocking the process of reconstruction and depriving Gaza populations of living in dignity."

As hundreds approached the fence wall between Gaza and Israel on August 21, major clashes broke out throughout the day. Witnesses said a Palestinian gunman shot and critically wounded an Israeli sniper who opened fire at dozens of protesters. At least 41 Palestinians were injured by Israeli troops during the hostilities, said the Hamas-run Gaza Health Ministry. In response to the clashes, Israeli fighter jets attacked



several posts and facilities that belong to al-Qassam Brigades, the armed wing of Hamas in the Gaza Strip. No injuries were reported.

In the West Bank, the Palestinian ministry of foreign affairs said in a statement that it condemned the Israeli repression of the popular protests in eastern Gaza

Strip and wounding 41 Palestinians, including 22 children. "Israel always confronts the peaceful popular protests by live ammunition, by rubber-coated metal bullets and by teargas," the statement said, adding that "this policy aims at preventing the Palestinians from protesting against the occu-

pation and settlers". Earlier on Sunday, Palestinian medical sources said that Israeli soldiers shot and wounded a 25-year-old disabled Palestinian at an army roadblock near the West Bank city of Bethlehem. In a press statement, an Israeli border police spokesman said that Israeli soldiers opened fire at a Palestinian man from the southern West Bank city of Hebron after he refused to follow the soldiers' instructions to stop at an Israeli army roadblock. The tension between the two sides has been high since the last round of fighting, which lasted for 11 days and ended on May 21. It left more than 250 Palestinians and 13 Israelis dead.

Australians warned of Covid disaster payment scams

Canberra | Agencies

The Australian government on Monday warned of scams targeting people relying on Covid-19 disaster payments.

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) recently revealed that along with major banks, it has identified a slew of scams related to coronavirus support payments, reports Xinhua news agency.

According to the ACCC, 69 scams have been reported and in four cases more than A\$37,000 (\$26,401) were stolen. Linda Reynolds, the Minister for Government Services, described scammers targeting vulnerable Australians amid widespread outbreaks of Covid-19 as a "low act". "The agency is acutely aware of the unfortunate risk of scams and provides secure ways of claiming online," she was quoted as saying by The Canberra Times on Monday. "Services Australia will never contact customers about a new claim for payment if they have not applied first online, over the phone or in a service centre." The federal Covid-19 disaster payment is worth about A\$750 per week for full-time employees who are unable to work due to lockdowns. Some of the reported scams



involved criminals purporting to be from the government and asking for a victim's financial details. Recently, about half the Australian population in New South Wales (NSW), Victoria, and the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) are in lockdown as the country continues to battle the third wave of Covid-19 infections. Ben Young, head of fraud at Westpac bank, said isolation made people more prone to scams. "Being separated from others while in lockdown, experiencing changes to your employment and spending more time transacting online can make us more vulnerable to scammers," he said. "Our research shows that in the last year, self-employed Australians and those who were looking for work were twice as likely to have been scammed."



Foo Fighters to return to MTV Awards after 15 years



Washington | Agencies

The Foo Fighters are slated to return to the MTV Video Music Awards stage for the first time in 15 years. The American rock band will receive the 'Global Icon Awards' at MTV Video Music Awards (VMA) 2021, which will be aired live on September 12. The Foo Fighters debuted on the VMA stage in 1997 for a pre-show performance of 'Monkey Wrench' and 'Everlong', a pair of songs from their sophomore album, 'The Colour and the Shape'. The band's twisty, black-and-white 'Shame Shame' video is up for three Moonperson awards: Best Rock, Best Cinematography and Best Choreography. The Foo Fighters got their first VMA nominations all the way back in 1996 and the last time the group took home a trophy was in 2011. The Foo Fighters were founded by former Nirvana drummer Dave Grohl as a one-man project, following the dissolution of the American rock band after the suicide of its frontman Kurt Cobain. The group took its name from the nickname coined by Allied World War II aircraft pilots for UFOs and other aerial phenomena.

South Korea | Agencies

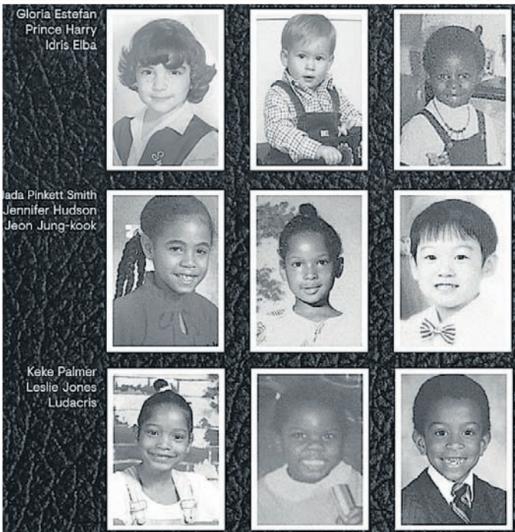
South Korean girl band Blackpink's Lisa has announced her debut solo 'Soon' with a visual teaser. Lisa took to Blackpink's official Instagram page and posted the first teaser poster of her album on Sunday midnight. In the first teaser glimpse, Lisa's face is blurry. She is seen in a red top and denim shorts paired with embellished red boots with her hands clasped together. The tagline read, 'Coming soon Lisa'. 'Blackpink' is a South Korean girl group formed by YG Entertainment, consisting of members Jisoo, Jennie, Rose, and Lisa. The group debuted in August 2016 with their single album 'Square One', which featured 'Whistle' and 'Boombayah'. Lisa's upcoming

Blackpink's Lisa posts visual teaser of debut solo album

solo was first confirmed to release in July.



Jungkook features in Beyonce's 'Virgo Season Yearbook'



Los Angeles | Agencies

Popstar Beyonce released the 'Virgo Season Yearbook' on her website recently. Beyonce featured childhood photos of several celebrities including Jungkook, Nick Jonas, Prince Harry, Ava DuVernay, Blake Lively, Billy Porter, Idris Elba, Jada Pinkett Smith, Jennifer Hudson, and Blake Lively among other stars who are

September-born in the 'Virgo Season Yearbook'. A grid of black and white pictures of celebrities were posted on Beyonce's website. Beyonce is a Virgo herself, and celebrates her birthday on September 4. The international popstar will be turning 38 this year. The 'Virgo Season Yearbook' celebrates the birthdays of famous celebrities, activists, athletes and more who were born between August 23 and September 22.



Daniel Craig feels too old to keep playing James Bond

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Daniel Craig says he has grown too old to play super spy James Bond as he is required to perform demanding stunts in the Bond movies. The actor makes his fifth and final appearance as 007 in 'No Time to Die', the release of which was postponed several times during the Covid pandemic, and he has now overtaken the late Sir Roger Moore's record as the longest-serving Bond, reports aceshowbiz.com.

Craig realised he was aging for the part after struggling with injuries while playing the very athletic spy. He lost two teeth on his first outing as Bond, in 2006's 'Casino Royale', sliced off a fingertip filming 2008's 'Quantum of Solace', and fractured his ankle on 'No Time to Die'. "I still do as many stunts as I can because I enjoy the physicality of it - I always have, even before Bond. But I have grown older and don't bounce back as well as I did. I've hurt myself on every single Bond movie since I started, it's just par for the course," Craig told British magazine Candis. The actor confirmed, again, that 'No Time to Die' will be his last 007 film.



Billy Porter to direct queer teen comedy 'To Be Real'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actor-singer Billy Porter, who won the 2013 Tony Award for Best Actor in a Musical for his role as Lola in "Kinky Boots", has signed the dotted lines to direct "To Be Real", a new project. The film, which has been sold to Amazon Studios, has been compared to a LGBTQ "Superbad" crossed with "Booksmart", reports femalefirst.co.uk. "To Be Real" follows three queer friends who escape their hometown for Pride Weekend in New York City where they discover that life over the rainbow is an insane, raunchy, often divisive, but ultimately fierce non-stop party. Meanwhile, Billy began production on "What If?" last month, which follows a transgender high school student navigating an unexpected relationship.

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Tiffany Haddish

Jonas brothers kickstart 'Remember This' tour

Washington D.C | Agencies

American pop rock band Jonas Brothers is back on the road with its 'Remember This' tour which kickstarted this week. The Jonas Brothers' eleventh headlining tour is expected to run through October 27 with a closing show at the Hollywood Bowl. The brothers' have been updating their fans with pictures from the tour on

their Instagram page. Formed in 2005, the three-brother band comprising Nick, Kevin and Joe gained popularity from their appearances on the Disney. The band has albums like 'It's About Time', 'Jonas Brothers', 'A Little Bit Longer', 'Lines, Vines and Trying Times' and 'Happiness Begins' to its credit. Golden Globe nominee Nick Jonas got married to mega star Priyanka Chopra on December 1, 2018.





3RD TEST:

PACER MAHMOOD SET TO REPLACE WOOD, MALAN ALSO LIKELY IN XI

Leeds | Agencies

Pace bowler Saqib Mahmood is set to get his maiden Test cap after fellow pacer Mark Wood was ruled out of the third Test against India to be played here at Headingley from Wednesday, England captain Joe Root has hinted. Batsman Dawid Malan is also set to feature in the playing XI. The right-arm pace bowler from Birmingham has played seven ODIs and nine T20 Internationals for England and had burst into limelight with a four-wicket haul in an ODI against Pakistan in July.

"I feel like Saqib couldn't be in a better place to play Test cricket. We look at how he has progressed over the last couple of years across all the formats. The opportunities that he has taken which he has been given is exceptional," said England skipper Joe Root to media during a virtual interaction. Mahmood, who is strongly-built and bowls at an impressive pace, picked nine wickets during the three-match ODI series that England won. Root also said that Dawid Malan, who was called in to bolster a struggling England batting line-up, will bat in the top order. Malan could play at No. 3 with Haseeb Hameed and Rory Burns set to open the batting. Malan had hit a century and three half-centuries during that Ashes tour.

"We know that he is capable of big things in Test match cricket and he is coming on the back of one



County Championship score, but it is a big one (199 for Yorkshire vs Sussex in first week of June). He scores in pressure situations in shorter format," said the 30-year-old England captain who became the second highest run-getter for England in Test cricket during the ongoing series. The England

THAKUR FIT TO PLAY AT HEADINGLEY

India pace bowler Shardul Thakur is fit to be considered for the third Test that commences here at Headingley from Wednesday although he is not yet guaranteed a place in the playing XI. "Shardul is fit and fine. He is ready for selection. We just have to see what combination we are going with," said India vice-captain Ajinkya Rahane to media in a virtual interaction.

The India middle-order batsman ruled out rotation policy saying all the bowlers have got a good break after the second Test which ended on August 16. "About rotation policy, we got very good break after the last Test match. So all the fast bowlers, they are ready to play. They want to play, which is a very good sign," added Rahane. Thakur, who played the first Test at Trent Bridge at the start of the month, suffered a hamstring injury and had to be ruled out.

skipper also hinted that Hameed and Burns could pair up as openers.



Gurjit, Harmanpreet shortlisted for Hockey player of the year awards

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The brilliant campaigns of the Indian men and women's teams at Tokyo Olympics -- where the men's team bagged a historical bronze medal after a gap of four decades and the women's team reached the semi-finals for the first time, has helped players and coaches get shortlisted in most of the categories of FIH Star Awards.

Drag flickers Gurjit Kaur and Harmanpreet Singh have been nominated in the women and men's category of the FIH Player of the Year Award while goalkeepers Savita and P.R. Sreejesh have been named for the respective FIH Goalkeeper of the Year Awards. Gurjit will be contending against Eva de Goede (the Netherlands), Augustina Gorzelany (Argentina), and Frederique Matla and Maria Verschoor (the Netherlands).

India's Sharmila Devi has been shortlisted for the FIH Rising Star of the Year Award (women) while midfielder Vivek Sagar Prasad is one of the contenders for the men's FIH Rising Player of the Year Award.

Indian women's team coach Sjoerd Marijne has been shortlisted along with Australian Alyson Annan, coach of Olympic and World Champion Dutch women's team, and Mark Hager (Australia) coach of Great Britain for the FIH Coach of the Year Award (women).

In the men's category, India team chief coach Graham Reid has made it to the list along with Colin Bach (Australia), coach of the Australian men's team, and Shane McLeod (New Zealand), coach of the Belgium team that added the Olympic title to its World



title at Tokyo. The nominee shortlist was agreed by an expert committee comprising FIH Athletics Committee Chair Rogier Hofman, media coordinator and journalist Sarah Juggins, Belgium Hockey High-Performance Director Adam Commens (chosen for the role by his peers to represent high performance and coaching staff), as well as FIH Executive Board Member Maureen Craig-Rousseau, a member of the Jury of Appeal at the Olympic Games, Tokyo 2020. The final award winner will be chosen on the basis of votes cast by national associations, captains and coaches, journalists and fans, and players.

Alam surpasses Pujara record, ASBC Asian Youth & Junior Boxing: Gaurav Saini enters final

Kingston | Agencies

Former West Indies cricketer Ian Bishop has lavished praise on Fawad Alam after the end of Day 3 of the second Test against the West Indies at Sabina Park here. Alam struck his fourth Test century since his comeback in international cricket after a decade to lead a fightback against West Indies in Sabina Park on Sunday. He is also the eighth leading run-scorer in Test cricket this year with 513 runs in 11 innings at an average of 57. "I am taking substance over style; Production over aesthetics any-day. Fawad Alam deserves every run and more that the cricketers gods deem necessary for him. 4 centuries in the last 12 months since he returned (two clapping hands emojis)," tweeted Bishop on Monday. Alam, resuming from 76 after retiring hurt due to cramps on the first



day, made an unbeaten 124 runs off 213 deliveries with 17 fours to guide his side to 302/9 before skipper Babar Azam declared the innings. Through the course of his knock, he also became the fastest Test batsman from Asia to score five Test centuries. The 35-year-old scored five hundreds in only 22 innings, surpassing the record held by Cheteshwar Pujara who achieved the feat in 24 innings.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

India's Gaurav Saini made his way into the 70kg junior boys final at the ASBC Asian Youth & Junior Boxing Championships after defeating Kyrgyzstan's Zakirov Mukhama adazzin in Dubai on Monday.

Three other Indians, Ashish (54kg), Anshul (57kg) and Bharat Joon (+81kg), too, put up impressive performances to progress into the last-4 stage on the third day of the prestigious continental event. Earlier Rohit Chamoli (48kg) and Ankush (66kg) had secured their places in the semifinals in the junior boys' event.

Gaurav, who hails from Haryana, looked in good touch and, despite some resistance from his Kyrgyz opponent, he did not lose control before securing a 4-1 win in the light middleweight category.



Ashish and Anshul too were dominant against their respective opponents, Rahimov/Jafar from Tajikistan and local favourite Mansoor Khaled respectively. While Ashish notched up a comfortable 5-0 win, Anshul's strong blows and continuous attack forced referees to stop the contest in the first round of the match itself and give the result in the Indian's favour.

Bharat had to work hard during his narrow 3-2 win in the quarterfinal against another Uzbek pugilist Kenesbaev Aynazar Tolybaev. Meanwhile, Krrish Pal (46kg) and Preet Malik (63kg) suffered defeats in their respective last-eight bouts.

Seven youth men boxers, Vishvanath Suresh (48kg), Victor Shaikhom Singh (54kg), Vijay Singh (57kg), Rabichandra Singh (60kg), Vanshaj (64kg), Daksh Singh (67kg) and Jaydeep Rawat (71kg), will fight in the quarterfinals on the fourth day, looking to confirm medals for the country.

It is the first time that both the age groups-junior and youth-are being played together in the Asian Championships.

India boxers have already assured the country more than 25 medals in the event.

Cincinnati Open: Barty clinches title, Zverev takes easy win over Rublev

Cincinnati | Agencies

World no.1 Ashleigh Barty of Australia ended the giant-killing run of world No.76 Jil Teichmann of Switzerland, 6-3, 6-1 to notch her fifth WTA singles title of the year by claiming the Western & Southern Open trophy here for the first time.

Barty, who collected her 13th career WTA singles title, became the first player to hit 40 match-wins this season as she conquered Teichmann in an hour and 13 minutes.

Despite the loss, Teichmann had had an outstanding run through the event, knocking out top-5 players Naomi Osaka and Karolina Pliskova and Olympic champion Belinda Bencic en route to the final.

For the majority of the clash, Barty



was impenetrable on serve. The top seed slammed eight aces and won 85 per cent of points behind her first service. Barty broke serve five times and was only broken once, at the very end of the encounter.

Alexander Zverev completed his dominant week at the Western & Southern Open by cruising past Russia's Andrey Rublev 6-2, 6-3 to lift his fifth ATP

Masters 1000 title and become the first German champion in Cincinnati since Boris Becker in 1985.

The world No. 5 had never won a match in six previous appearances at the tournament, but produced high-quality tennis all week to back up his Olympic singles gold medal in Tokyo and capture his fourth tour-level trophy of the season.

Zverev, who had on Saturday (August 21) rallied from a double break down in the third set against Greece's Stefanos Tsitsipas in the semifinals, extended his winning streak to 11 matches. He also stretched his ATP head-to-head against Rublev to 5-0. The third seed was aggressive throughout against Rublev, firing six aces and winning 93 per cent (26/28) of points behind his first delivery to record victory in 59 minutes.

JOSHUA KIMMICH EXTENDS CONTRACT WITH BAYERN MUNICH TILL 2025

Munich: FC Bayern Munich, the defending champions of 2020/21 Bundesliga, announced on Monday that Joshua Kimmich has extended his contract with the club till 2025.

The 26-year-old mid-fielder had joined Bayern Munich from VfB Stuttgart in the summer of 2015, following a successful loan spell at RB Leipzig. Since then, he has established himself as one of the club's most important players, amassing 264 appearances with 73 assists and scoring 30 goals. In this period, Bayern have won six Bundesliga titles, three DFB Cups, the Champions League, five DFL Supercups, the FIFA Club World Cup and the UEFA Super Cup. In that period, Kimmich has won 59 senior international caps for Germany, scoring three goals. His recent international appearance was as a member of Germany's squad reaching the pre-quarterfinals in Euro 2020. The 2021/22 season will be Kimmich's seventh outing with FC Bayern Munich. In the club's latest outing at the Allianz Arena, he featured in a 3-2 win over Koln on Sunday.



Ramiz Raja likely to be new PCB chief

Islamabad: Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan on Monday hinted at appointing former Pakistan captain Ramiz Raja as the new chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), Geo News reported.

The development followed a meeting between Prime Minister Imran Khan, PCB sitting Chairman Ehsan Mani and Ramiz Raja at the PM's office on Monday. The PCB Chairman has been informed that he would not be given another term in the office, well-informed sources said, adding that Imran Khan will recommend Ramiz Raja's name to the PCB's governing board for the coveted post. After meeting the Prime Minister, Ehsan Mani left without speaking to the media, sources said.

Mani's term as PCB chief ends on August 25. The sources said that Prime Minister Khan, himself a former captain of the national cricket team, has decided to appoint Raja, who is likely to be given the task to implement Khan's vision.

The News reported that Raja's name was floated by former cricketer Majid Khan. Incidentally, Majid Khan was the favourite to take over as the PCB Chairman three years back. At that time, Majid Khan had backed Mani for the job.



2021 Durand Cup to have five ISL and three I-league teams

Team Absolute | Kolkata

Five Indian Super League (ISL) franchises and three I-League teams will be among 16 teams vying for the iconic Durand Cup football tournament, to be played in and around Kolkata between September 5 and October 3 this year.

The tournament, now in its 130th edition, was first held in the Kolkata in 2019, after moving from its long-time venue Delhi.

Traditionally organised by the Indian Army on behalf of the Armed Forces, the world's third oldest and Asia's oldest football tournament will this year also see the government of West Bengal as joint hosts, who have been providing support in all aspects of the organisation.

Besides top ISL franchises FC Goa and Bengaluru FC, the other clubs from India's top division would be Kerala Blasters, Jamshedpur FC, and Hyderabad FC.

Challenging them would be the century-old Mohammedan Sporting of Kolkata, who were the first Indian winners of the Cup in 1940 and who would



be leading a troika of I-League challengers including defending champions Gokulam Kerala and Sudeva FC of Delhi.

FC Bengaluru United and Delhi FC will represent the second division of the Indian football whereas two Indian Army teams (Red and Green), a team from Indian Air Force and Indian Navy, CRPF, and the Assam Rifles round off the 16.

The inaugural edition of the Durand Cup was held in Shimla in 1888, when it started off as an Army Cup, open only to the British Indian Army troops in India but soon opened up to civilian teams. Mohun Bagan and East Bengal have been the most successful teams, winning the tournament 16 times each.

World U20 C'ships: Jamaica, SA set world records on way to relay golds

Nairobi | Agencies

Jamaica and South Africa set world U20 records in the women's and men's 4x100m, while Botswana and Nigeria ran world leads to win 4x400m gold as five days of action at the World U20 Championships ended on a high. The Jamaica quartet of Serena Cole, Tina Clayton, Kerrica Hill and Tia Clayton ran an inspired race to smash the previous world U20 record of 43.27 set by Germany four years ago to take their 12th women's 4x100m medal in World U20 Championships history and fifth 4x100m gold with a world record of 42.94. Winner of the women's 200m title, Christine Mboma, anchored the Namibian team to their first ever podium finish in the relays at the championships, a silver medal won with a time of 43.76, while Nigeria settled for bronze with a season's best of 43.90. The South African squad comprising Mhlahi Xhoboteni,



200m men's bronze medallist Sinesiph Dambile, Lethogonolo Molelane and 100m silver medallist Benjamin Richardson stormed to gold in the 4x100m with a world U20 record of 38.51, finishing ahead of Jamaica who clocked 38.61, while Poland won bronze with a timing of 38.90. Having already won two gold medals in the women's 400m and mixed 4x400m respectively, Nigeria's emerging star in the uartermilemaabong NseUko inspired her 4x400m teammates to a world U20 lead of 3:31.46 after putting the squad in pole position for gold, building on the good start from Opeyemi Oke and overtaking Jamaica's Aallyyah Francis to hand the baton to Ella Onojuwewwo in first position.

T20 World Cup: Dinesh Karthik names Hardik Pandya as a main player



Dubai: Indian wicketkeeper-batsman Dinesh Karthik has named all-rounder Hardik Pandya as a main player for India in the upcoming men's T20 World Cup in UAE and Oman in October and November.

"For India, when you want to win big tournaments you need characters, people who are up for a fight. For me that is Hardik Pandya. He is there with the ball, he is there with the bat and he plays a critical role with the bat because every time India has floundered a little bit or wants to up their run-rate he is the guy. He can hit most bowlers to most parts of the ground. T20 batting is a lot about bat speed and he has a plenty of that. Even his bowling is very clever. He's gone on to become a leader of the pack, you can see him talking a lot on the ground, helping out other bowlers. For me he is going to be very critical," said Karthik in an ICC Digital Show. The 36-year-old Karthik, who was a member of the Indian team that won the inaugural T20 World Cup in 2007, pointed out Nicholas Pooran to be a very important player for reigning champions West Indies in the tournament. Karthik felt that if Australia have to get their hands on the silverware, they will need the pace and variations of their spearhead Mitchell Starc to deliver in decisive moments. Australia is yet to win a men's T20 World Cup.

The men's T20 World Cup starts from October 17 and ends on November 14 in Oman and UAE. The Super 12 stage commences from October 23.



Kangana Ranaut's 'Thalaivii' set to see theatrical release

Team Absolute | Mumbai
Kangana Ranaut-starrer 'Thalaivii', based on the life of late Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and former actress J. Jayalalithaa, is set to

release in cinemas on September 10. 'Thalaivii' will be released in Hindi, Tamil and Telugu.

Kangana on Monday shared the announcement on Instagram. The actress also shared a poster of the movie alongside the news.

"The story of this iconic personality deserves to be witnessed only on the big screen! Pave way, for #Thalaivii as she is all set to make a superstar entry into the world of cinema, yet again, a place where she has always belonged! Thalaivii

IN CINEMAS near you on 10th September! #ThalaiviiOnTheBigScreen #ThalaiviiTheatres," she wrote.

Based on the life of late Jayalalithaa, 'Thalaivii' showcases the varied aspects of her life, tracing her journey as an actress at a young age to becoming the face of Tamil cinema as well as the rise of the revolutionary leader that changed the course of Tamil Nadu politics.



Kartik, Tabu resume 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2' shooting

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actors Kartik Aaryan and Tabu have resumed shooting for their upcoming film "Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2", which was halted due to the second wave of Covid-19.

The shoot is taking place in Mumbai.

Kartik treated his fans with a picture on Instagram. The photograph features him posing alongside Tabu.

"Begin Again #BhoolBhulaiyaa2," he wrote as the caption, which currently has 725K likes on the photo-sharing website.

The film also stars Kiara Advani. It is a follow-up to the 2007 Akshay Kumar-Vidya Balan hit film "Bhool Bhulaiyaa".

The 30-year-old actor also has the film "Dhamaka" lined up, which is slated to release on an OTT platform.

Kartik was in the news for his controversial exit from the Karan Johar-produced "Dostana 2".



**VAANI:
UPCOMING
FILMS WILL
SOLIDIFY
MY
POSITION**

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Vaani Kapoor has two films lined up for release - 'Shamsher' and 'Chandigarh Kare Aashiqui'. The actress hopes these movies position her correctly as a performer.

In 'Shamsher', Vaani, who turned 33 on Monday, has been paired opposite Ranbir Kapoor and in 'Chandigarh Kare Aashiqui', she will be seen with actor Ayushmann Khurrana.

"I have an exciting year to look forward to actually! I have two big films 'Shamsher' and 'Chandigarh Kare Aashiqui' that

are ready to be released in theatres and I'm hoping they will entertain audiences thoroughly," Vaani said.

The actress says she has put in her everything for 'Shamsher' and 'Chandigarh Kare Aashiqui' and hopes these two big films will showcase her as a performer who is willing to take risks to deliver powerful performances.

"I have worked tremendously hard in both these projects and I'm delighted about how they have shaped up. I have been choosy about the films that I select because I want to pick quality content over quantity and I'm proud of both 'Shamsher' and 'Chandigarh Kare Aashiqui'," Vaani said.

Rakhi Sawant describes best 'jodis' on 'Bigg Boss OTT'

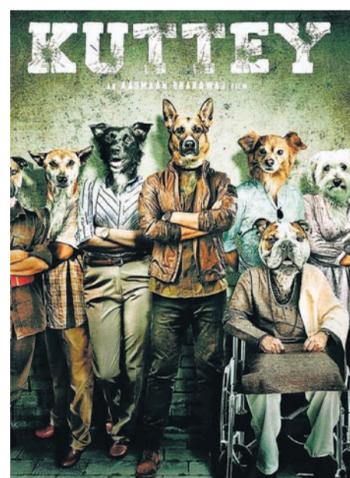
Team Absolute | Mumbai

Rakhi Sawant was always keen to enter the 'Bigg Boss OTT' house and for that she even dressed up as Spiderwoman. Rakhi has now shared her opinion on the 'Bigg Boss OTT' contestants.

When asked about who she thinks is the strongest and the weakest connections in the house, Rakhi affirmatively responds, "According to me, in the house, Nishant Bhat-Moose and Pratik Sahepal-Akshara Singh are strongest connections. They are always supportive of each other and stand up for their partner wherever required. It's good to see them on screen. However, Shamita Shetty-Raqesh Bapat are the weakest connection in the house, but they can be strong if they bring out their love angle as their chemistry is very good."

Moving on, Rakhi expressed her views on singer Milind Gaba's game, saying: "Milind Gaba is like Rahul Roy from the first season, 'sumdimachup chap rehkar, game khellega. But 'Bigg Boss' kiteesriaankh jo haina, sab dekhlaitai!" (He is playing the game by sitting at the back but the third eye of Bigg Boss can see everything).

She concluded by saying "Jo entertainer hogagharmai wo hi aagejaega" (the one who is an entertainer in the house will go ahead in the game).



ARJUN KAPOOR SHARES AASMAAN BHARDWAJ'S 'KUTTEY' MOTION POSTER

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor Arjun Kapoor shared director Aasmaan Bhardwaj's 'Kuttey' motion poster on Monday.

The actor took to Instagram and shared the poster of Aasmaan Bhardwaj's directorial debut 'Kuttey'. Son of ace filmmaker Vishal Bhardwaj, Aasmaan will be directing the thriller 'Kuttey' with an interesting ensemble cast. The film stars Arjun Kapoor, Tabu, Naseeruddin Shah, Konkona Sen Sharma, Kumud Mishra, Radhika Madan and Shardul Bhardwaj.

'Kuttey' is produced by Vishal Bhardwaj, Luv Ranjan, Ankur Garg and Rekha Bhardwaj.

Aasmaan has studied filmmaking at the School Of Visual Arts, New York. He has assisted his father on films like 'Kaminey', '7 KhoonMaaf' and 'Matruki Bijlee ka Mandola'.

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Karishma Kotak

Vijay Sethupati launches music video of 'Kaami Kaami'

Team Absolute | Chennai

Actor Vijay Sethupati launched the music video of the track 'KaamiKaami' from his upcoming Tamil film 'Tughlaq Durbar'.

While the audio of the movie was released a few days back, the video has been released now.

The film starring Raashii Khanna, will have Vijay as the male lead role.

'KaamiKaami' is a romantic track, composed by Govind Vasantha.

Vijay uploaded the link of the track and captioned it as: "#KaamiKaami video song

from #TughlaqDurbar #GovindVasantha musical."

The music album of 'Tughlaq Durbar' has two tracks in total. Besides 'KaamiKaami', the album also has 'AnnatheSethi'.

'Tughlaq Durbar' is a political thriller, directed by Delhi Prasad Deenanayalan. The filmmaker had earlier roped in actress Aditi Rao Hydari for the leading lady.

However, Raashii came on board after Aditi quit the project.

'Tughlaq Durbar' is a Lalit Kumar production, which will reportedly have a direct release on television, followed by an OTT release.

