

absolute india

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Covaxin single-dose to Covid infected equivalent to 2 doses for unaffected: ICMR

THE ACHIEVEMENT



A single-dose of Covaxin provides a similar immunity response in previously Covid-infected people as those without previous history of Covid infection with two doses of vaccine, says Indian Council of Medical Research's latest study.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The ICMR in its recent study has found that the people already infected with Covid-19 while taking a dose of Covaxin have the same or increased antibody response as unaffected people taking two doses of Covaxin. The results were determined via a calibration curve, which is an instrument specifically generated by two-point calibration and a master curve provided via the reagent QR code. Almost all participants with prior Covid-

19 infection except two had detectable antibodies at the time of vaccination. This study offers evidence in support of public health-oriented and immunologically sustained vaccine strategies. Lokesh Sharma, Scientist and Media Coordinator, ICMR, says, "This is a pilot study. If such findings are confirmed in large population studies, a single dose of BBV152 vaccine may be recommended to previously confirmed Covid patients so that the nA-ve individuals could attain the larger benefit of a limited vaccine supply."

THE RESEARCH

- ▶ The pilot study was undertaken to examine SARS-CoV-2 specific antibody responses after day 0 (baseline before vaccination), day 28A2 days post-first dose (month 1) and day 56A2 days post-first dose (month 2) of BBV152 in a group of healthcare professionals as well as frontline workers.
- ▶ The antibody responses of individuals with confirmed pre-vaccination SARS-CoV-2 infection were compared with those individuals without prior evidence of infection.
- ▶ The blood specimens were collected from healthcare professionals and

- frontline workers who received BBV152 vaccine at vaccination centres in Chennai, India, during February to May 2021.
- ▶ Blood samples were collected before receiving the first dose of BBV152. Prior infection with SARS-CoV-2 was determined by SARS-CoV-2 IgG positivity at baseline. The study was approved by the Ethics Committee of ICMR-NIRT.
- ▶ Antibody levels were measured at three time points: on the day of vaccination (baseline), at month one following the first dose and at month two following the first dose.

Covid containment measures till Sep 30

New Delhi: The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on Saturday extended the existing Covid-19 enforcement of containment measures till September 30 and asked the state governments and union territory administrations to strictly follow the earlier directions issued by the MHA and Union Health & Family welfare. In an order issued by the Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla Saturday, the Ministry said, that the overall pandemic situation at the national level now appears to be largely stable, except for the localised spread of virus in few states. The Union Home Secretary also said that the states and UTs need to take suitable measures to avoid large gatherings during the coming festive seasons and if required, impose local restrictions with a view to curb such large gatherings.

5L trees to be planted around new airport: Goa CM

Compensation

This upcoming airport, whose cost is estimated to be Rs. 2,615 crore, is a joint venture between GMR and the state government.

Team Absolute | Panaji

The Goa government has tied up with the central government's Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education to plant five lakh trees to compensate for the trees, which had to make way for the upcoming international airport project at Mopa plateau in North Goa, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant said on Wednesday. "The cabinet has cleared the proposal. Five lakh trees will be planted as compensation for the trees cut at the Mopa international airport site," Sawant said. "We have tied up with the Government of



India's Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education to plant the trees surrounding the airport site. As per the agreement, the trees will also be taken care of in the future," Sawant told the Goa legislative assembly earlier this year

that 54,176 trees had been cut at the Mopa plateau to make way for the aviation project. The first phase of Goa's upcoming Mopa international airport will be commissioned by August 2022 at the hands of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

2 Teachers from J&K claim discovering gigantic fossil site



Srinagar | Agencies

Two local teachers on Saturday claimed that they have discovered a gigantic fossil site in Jammu & Kashmir's Kulgam district. Manzoor Ahmad and Rouf Hamza are junior lecturers at a school in Kashmir. They told the media that while scouting for fossil samples near the Aharbal waterfall in Kulgam district, they came across a site which is rich in fossil diversity

dating back between 488 to 354 million years. "The site located just two kilometres from the Aharbal waterfall is studded with thousands of fossil remains which got exposed due to weathering, road construction and subsequent erosion", the duo claimed. The two teachers said fossils are visible superficially at the site without any excavation which indicates that a huge haul of fossils is hidden at the site. "Preliminary investigation has revealed that these fossil samples fall between Ordovician and Devonian period. Actual age can, however, be determined by subsequent research and carbon dating," said Rouf Hamza. The site is presumably the biggest paleontological finding in Jammu & Kashmir in terms of occurrence, area, diversity and age, he added.

ANDHRA POLICE HELP DESTITUTE ETHIOPIAN WOMAN RETURN HOME



Humanitarian Gesture

Kadapa | Agencies

The Andhra Pradesh Police stepped in to reunite an Ethiopian woman with her family, after her visa had expired, and she was fending for herself here. She has reached Addis Ababa, and was reunited with her family, the Andhra Pradesh Police said on Friday. With her visa expiring and having no money for survival, the woman was directed to the Foreign Registration Office in the Special Branch where Kadapa district superintendent of police stepped in to send her back to Ethiopia safely, officials said on Friday.

Apart from arranging an Emergency Travel Document for her, the police sent the woman to Mumbai by train with an escort, to ensure she safely boards a flight back to her home country.

According to the police officials, the Ethiopian woman had fallen in love with an Indian man, while in Kuwait. She came with him to Kadapa in 2015 and was living in a rented house organised by her partner who promised to marry her. However, due to financial problems, the man decided to go back to Kuwait to earn a living. He used to send her living expenses, but after the man died of a heart attack in Kuwait in March 2020, the Ethiopian woman was left destitute.

43-mn-yr-old whale named after Ancient Egyptian god



With a length of 3 metres and weight of 600 kg, the whale was able to walk on land and swim in water like crocodiles and small mammals.

The new whale was named *Phiomictetus Anubis* in honour of the name of the Fayoum oasis, the place from which its fossils were extracted, while the species "Anubis" was named after the god of death and mummification in the ancient Egyptian civilisation, to give the purely Egyptian character to the discovery.

Cairo | Agencies

A semi-aquatic whale that lived about 43 million years ago was named after Anubis, the Ancient Egyptian god of death, the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research in Cairo said in a statement. It is believed to be the first time in history that an Arab-Egyptian team has documented a new species of whales. Xinhua news agency quoted the statement as saying on Wednesday. "Paleontologists discovered the fossils in 2008 during an expedition in Egypt's Fayoum Depression that is famous for sea life fossils dating back to the Eocene Epoch about 56 to 33.9 million years ago," said Hisham Sallam, chairman of the Mansoura University Center for Vertebrate Fossils that supervises the research team. He added that the team worked for four years to document and record the study after comparing the fossils with samples of other whales in and outside Egypt. The study was published online in the journal Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences. The new species is considered to be the oldest whale discovered in Africa.

With all leaders jailed, Mumbai women kept alive flame of freedom struggle

▶ A Parsi woman, Bhikaji R. Cama had inspired the country to have its own flag and even hoisted the first flag of India, while grand-daughters of the legendary Dr Dadabhai Naoroji -- Perin D. Captain and her sisters -- went door-to-door selling Khadi products to weaken the British rule, she said.

▶ Even before the young Indira (Nehru) Gandhi's famed Vanar Sena (Monkey Army), Mumbai's Usha Mehta had launched her Manjar Sena (Cat Army) here which was entrusted with mocking and teasing the British Police and the armed forces, said Gavankar.

▶ Later, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru had greatly appreciated the role played by Mumbai's women in the freedom struggle during the 1930-1940 decade and called "their efforts an inspiration for the whole nation".

Quaid Najmi | Mumbai

When all the main leaders of the Indian Freedom Movement were shunted to jail in the last phases, it was the brave women and plucky young girls of Mumbai who kept the struggle for Independence alive and even suffered for it, said 92-year-old freedom fighter Rohini Gavankar, here on Friday. Sharing a treasury of memories Gavankar told an official webinar on the 75 years of Indian Independence how the movement had become practically rudderless with the arrest of all prominent leaders in its last phases. "It was left to the girl students and ordinary women to keep it alive. They took up a host of activities on their own, and many were even penalized for it," she recalled. On her own personal involvement, Gavankar said when she was around 14 years old, one of her brothers faced jail and a death sentence,



डॉ. रोहिणी गवाणकर, स्वातंत्र्य सेनानी

another took part in the 'Prati Sarkar' - a guerrilla-style movement launched around 1943 - against the British regime. "I used to mobilise children and sing patriotic songs loudly. I played the role of a messenger in the Prati Sarkar movement," Gavankar said. Later, Prati Sarkar threw up a host of top leaders, legislators, parliamentarians, chief ministers, union ministers and a deputy PM, besides heads of various political parties. The late Shiv Sena

founder Balasaheb Thackeray had demanded a memorial for the movement. Historian and writer Anuradha Ranade said over 300 rebellions occurred during the tyranny of the British East India Company during 1757-1857, and due to the divisive and unjust policies of the British, many organisations emerged across India. "One of them was Bombay Presidency Association, founded in 1885. The Indian National Congress was origi-

nally Indian National Union; however, in the Bombay Session of 1885, it was renamed as 'Indian National Congress', Ranade said. That historic session took place in Congress Bhavan near Elphinstone Road with 72 participants, of whom 18 were from Mumbai which was the epicentre of India's freedom struggle. South Mumbai was the prime location to hold demonstrations against British policies.

Lights, camera, little action: 'Bell Bottom', 'Chehre' yet to pull crowds



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Two back-to-back big releases -- Akshay Kumar's 'Bell Bottom' and the Amitabh Bachchan star vehicle, 'Chehre', both well-received by critics -- may have buoyed the spirits of film exhibitors, but their far from encouraging. 'Bell Bottom', which was released on August 19, according to trade analysts, has grossed Rs 18.55 crore till date. Compare this with the Rs 64.99 crore collected in its opening weekend by 'Good Newzz' (with Diljit Dosanjh), Akshay's last film before the first nationwide Covid-19 lockdown. And that was far less than the extended opening weekend earnings -- Rs 97.56 crore -- of the other big 2019 film, 'Mission Mangal'. A number of factors have contributed to this significant drop in earnings: cinema

theatres are still under lockdown in Mumbai and Pune, depriving Bollywood of 25 per cent of its revenues; the requirement in a number of malls for patrons to produce double vaccination certificates before being allowed in, which is affecting attendance in theatres located in malls; and, significantly, the closure of 1,500 single screens across India because of the pandemic-induced economic stress. On 'Chehre', which opened on Friday, the analysts were not very bullish about box-office figures. Karan Taurani of Elara Capital predicted that it would make a "lifetime collection" of Rs 5-6 crore because of its "niche" storyline that only a "discerning audience" would appreciate. Exhibitors, however, are cautiously optimistic about their business coming back to life, even if partially, because of 'Bell Bottom' and 'Chehre'.



RIGHT TO RESIDE, MOVE FREELY IN COUNTRY CAN'T BE DENIED ON FLIMSY GROUNDS: SC

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A person cannot be denied on flimsy grounds his fundamental right to reside or move freely anywhere in the country, the Supreme Court has said. The observation by a bench comprising justices Indira Banerjee and V Ramasubramanian came while setting aside an externment order against a journalist and social worker issued by the district authorities in Amravati city, Maharashtra. "A person cannot be denied his fundamental right to reside anywhere in the country or to move freely throughout the country, on flimsy grounds," the bench said. Externment orders prevent the movement of a person in certain areas. The top court said that the drastic action of externment should only be taken in exceptional cases to maintain law and order. The Deputy Commissioner of Police, Zone-1, Amravati City, had passed the externment order under Section 56(1)(a)(b) of the Maharashtra Police Act, 1951, directing journalist Rahmat Khan not to enter or return to Amravati City or Amravati Rural District for one year from the date on which he leaves or is taken out. Rahmat Khan had been filing applications under the Right to Information Act, seeking information from authorities on alleged illegalities in the disbursement of funds to various madrasas including Al Haram International English School



run by Joha Education and Charitable Welfare Trust, and Priyadarshini Urdu Primary and Pre-Secondary School run by Madrasa Baba Education Welfare Society. Rahmat Khan contended that cases were initiated against him as a counterblast to the steps taken by him to put an end to alleged misappropriation of public funds and to initiate action against those involved in illegal practices. On October 13, 2017, Rahmat Khan requested the Collector and the police to investigate the alleged misappropriation of government grants by madrasas in collusion with government officials. In retaliation, affected persons filed complaints against him, the appellant said.

Later, a Show Cause Notice dated April 3, 2018 was issued to Rahmat Khan from the office of the Assistant Police Commissioner, Gadge Nagar Division, Amravati informing him of the initiation of Externment proceeding against him under Section 56(1)(a) (b) of the Maharashtra Police Act, 1951. The court said that sections 56 to 59 of the Maharashtra Police Act are intended to prevent lawlessness and deal with a class of lawless elements in society who cannot be brought to book by established methods of penal action, upon judicial trial. "An externment order may sometimes be necessary for the maintenance of law and order. However the drastic action of externment should only be taken in exceptional

cases, to maintain law and order in a locality and/or prevent a breach of public tranquility and peace," the bench said. The top court said it is patently clear that the impugned externment order was an outcome of the complaints lodged by the appellant against government officials, some madrasas and persons connected with them who later lodged FIRs against the appellant. The FIRs are clearly vindictive, retaliatory and aimed to teach a lesson to the Appellant and stifle his voice, the bench said. The top court said the deplorable allegation of demand for ransom by threat, prima facie, appears to have been concocted to give the complaint a colour of intense gravity. The bench said that even assuming that there was substance in the allegation, which appears to be doubtful, an order of externment was unwarranted. If those complainants had not indulged in unlawful acts, they had nothing to fear, it said. "Even otherwise, a threat to lodge complaint cannot possibly be a ground for passing an order of externment under Section 56 of the Maharashtra Police Act, 1951, more so, when the responses of government authorities to queries raised by the appellant under the Right to Information Act clearly indicate that the complaints are not frivolous ones or without substance," the court said.

Bengal post-poll violence: CBI files 10 more cases, tally reaches 21

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A day after the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) registered 11 separate cases in connection with the post-poll violence in West Bengal, the probe agency filed another 10 cases on Saturday, taking the tally of total cases to 21. The agency has also detained two accused in connection with one of the cases filed on Friday, sources said. To probe the cases, the Centre has provided CRPF security cover to the CBI teams amid apprehension of locals and the state adminis-



tration disrupting the investigation. The agency said that so far it has registered eleven separate cases after being handed over the probe by the Calcutta High Court. The Calcutta High Court had recently handed over the investigation of serious crimes such as rape and murder during the post-poll violence in West Bengal to the CBI. Similarly, the division bench of the high court also formed a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to investigate the lesser crimes that occurred after the declaration of Assembly election results in Bengal on May 2.

Inter-caste married couple boycotted in K'taka's Tumkur

Tumakuru | Agencies

An incident of inter-caste married couple being boycotted by the upper caste community has been reported from Tumkur district of Karnataka from Koragere village, Chikkanayakanahalli taluk. The couple had been married for 14 years. A complaint has been submitted to Superintendent of Police of Tumkur district, Rahul Kumar Shahapurwad, on Saturday in this regard by the harassed couple -- Nagaraju and Shashikala. "He has assured us that he would visit the village and address the problem in two days," Shashikala said. Koragere village residents Nagaraju and Shashikala, the perse-

cuted couple, got married in 2007 after falling in love, against the wishes of their families. Nagaraju belonged to a lower caste. After marriage, the couple lived in the same village. Both husband and wife worked as labourers and grew crops in their small patch of agricultural land. After years of toil, they built a home and managed to develop their agricultural land. Few people from the upper caste community who could not bear to see that the woman belonging to their community is living with a backward caste husband, started troubling them. The group picked up a fight with Nagaraju and assaulted him for no reason. The villagers have also boycotted the couple for a week.

Doctors, academicians write letter to reopen primary schools



Team Absolute | New Delhi

More than 55 people, including doctors, academicians and other professionals have written an open letter to all state Chief Ministers, Union Education Minister, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, and the National Disaster Management Authority demanding reopening of schools as soon as possible across the country. They also appealed that opening of primary schools must be given higher priority. The letter has been marked to the Prime Minister's Office as well. The letter says, "There is global evidence to support reopening of schools and the governments should urgently consider opening schools and resuming physical class-

es." The letter said the aim of vaccination is to prevent severe illness and death, however, children are relatively at a low risk of severe or fatal Covid-19 infection. Data from the US indicates that those under 25 years are at one-tenth the mortality risk from Covid-19 as compared to traffic accidents. Children are more likely to develop severe diseases from infections such as dengue. However, schools are not closed due to the risk from traffic accidents or dengue. Further, 60-80 per cent of Indian children have had natural infections as per serosurveys. Vaccination of children is not a prerequisite to open schools. Nowhere in the world are children younger than 12 years being vaccinated but the schools remain open.

Naga Mothers' Association questions women tying 'rakhis' on force personnel

Kohima | Agencies

The influential Naga Mothers' Association (NMA) on Saturday condemned the move of some women tying 'rakhis' on Indian armed forces personnel and demanded immediate withdrawal of the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) from Nagaland. The NMA said in a statement that the organisation is shocked and strongly condemns the "questionable act of few Naga women tying rakhis on Indian armed forces personnel in Dimapur and Tamenglong during the recent Raksha Bandhan celebrations. "For us Naga women, traumatised by a genocidal history of rapes,



molestation, killings, and inhumane atrocities at the hands of Indian armed forces under the impunity of the AFSPA, it is a shame and a black day to witness these areas and without justice for the past history of human rights violations.

our women tying rakhis and felicitating these very armed forces, when we are yet to see justice for war crimes and human rights violations committed against our own women, children and men," the NMA said. It said that whether it be an activity initiated by the BJP in Dimapur or student bosies' obligations to the Assam Rifles in Tamenglong, the act of tying rakhis is unacceptable and questionable, as long as Nagas are forced to live under AFSPA in

INDIA REPORTS 46,759 NEW COVID CASES, HIGHEST IN NEARLY 2 MONTHS



New Delhi: India on Saturday reported 46,759 fresh Covid cases in the last 24 hours, the highest in nearly two months, said the Union Health Ministry. A total of 509 deaths were also reported in the last 24 hours pushing the death toll to 4,37,370. Of the 46,759, Kerala alone has reported 32,801 cases in the last 24 hours. The total active cases in the state now stand at 1,95,254, the highest in India. Substantial growth of 14,876 cases have been recorded in the active caseload in the past 24 hours. The active cases account for 1.10 per cent of the total Covid cases while the national recovery rate was recorded at 97.56 per cent, the ministry said. India has a total 3,59,775 active caseloads currently.

ED summons Abhishek Banerjee, wife in coal smuggling case



Kolkata | Agencies

In a major development, the Enforcement Directorate has summoned Abhishek Banerjee, the nephew of West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and the national General Secretary of Trinamool Congress, and his wife Rujira Banerjee in connection with an alleged money laundering case involving coal smuggling. Banerjee, an MP from Diamond Harbour, has been asked to appear before the financial probe agency in New Delhi on

September 6, while his wife has been summoned on September 1. Sanjay Basu, the lawyer for the Banerjees, has been told to appear before the agency on September 3. Two senior IPS officers of West Bengal Police -- Shyam Singh and Gyanwant Singh -- have also been summoned by the ED in the same case on September 8 and 9, respectively. The CBI had questioned Rujira Banerjee in connection with the case on February 23, days ahead of the Assembly elections in Bengal. Her sister and fami-

ly members have also been questioned in the case. The case was filed under the relevant sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) by the ED after studying a November 2020 FIR lodged by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) that alleged a multi-crore coal pilferage scam related to the Eastern Coalfields Ltd mines in the state's Kunustoria and Kajora areas in and around Asansol. Local state operative Anup Majhi alias Lata is alleged to be the prime suspect in the case.

Govt introduces new registration mark under BH-series for new vehicles

Team Absolute | New Delhi

With an aim for a seamless transfer of registration of passenger vehicle from one state to another, the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has introduced a new registration mark under the Bharat series (BH series). A vehicle bearing this registration mark shall not require assignment of a new registration mark when the owner of the vehicle shifts from one state to another. Under the new scheme, the vehicle registration facility will be available on a voluntary basis to the Defence personnel, employees of the Central government, State government, Central/ State Public Sector Undertakings and private sector companies or organisations, which have their offices in four or more states or union territories. The motor vehicle tax will be levied for two years or in multiple of two. This scheme will facilitate free movement of personal vehicles across States/UTs of India upon relocation to a new State/UT. After completion of the 14th year, the motor vehicle tax shall be levied annually which shall be half of the amount which was charged earlier for that vehicle.



Till now, under section 47 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, a person was allowed to keep the vehicle for not more than 12 months in any state other than the state where the vehicle was registered, but a new registration with the new state-registering authority has to be

made within the stipulated time of 12 months. For re-registration of the vehicle from one state to another, the owner has to take 'No Objection Certificate' from the parent state for assignment of a new registration mark in another state and

after the new registration the road tax on pro rata basis is paid in the new state. Application for refund of the road tax in the parent state on a pro rata basis is a very cumbersome process and varies from one state to another.

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"The fool doth think he is wise, but the wise man knows himself to be a fool."  William Shakespeare

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Justice Chandrachud: People need true media, can't rely on state to determine truth

WE NEED FREE PRESS

Justice Chandrachud was delivering a talk on the topic "Speaking Truth to Power: Citizens and the Law" as part of the 6th MC Chagla Memorial Online Lecture. He said to counter the spread of fake news, we need to strengthen our public institutions. He said we live in a post-truth world and elaborated on its definition, which has two meanings.

"As citizens, we must strive to ensure we have a press free from influence of any kind, political and economic. We need a press that will provide us information in an unbiased manner. First, it has become exceedingly difficult for citizens to find the truth in this time and age. Second, having found the truth they do not care about the truth. There is a contest between 'our truth' vs 'your truth', and there is also a tendency to ignore a 'truth', which is not aligned with one's perception or political inclination. We incline towards echo chambers and don't like opposing beliefs... we live in a world that is increasingly divided along social, economic and religious lines."

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Supreme Court judge Justice D Y Chandrachud on Saturday said as citizens we must strive to ensure a press free from any influence and which also provides information in an unbiased manner. He said social media platforms like Twitter and Facebook should be held responsible for false content, but people should be more vigilant and learn to accept different opinions. Justice Chandrachud added that it is undeniable that the phenomenon of fake news is on the rise and a pertinent example of this is that the World Health Organization (WHO) recently termed the current COVID-19 pandemic as "infodemic" and highlighted the overabundance of misinformation online. He quoted philosopher Hanna Arendt, saying that totalitarian governments are associated with a "constant reliance on falsehoods in order to establish dominance". He said truth is considered important in democracies, which have been described as spaces of reason. "Truth is also important to instil a public sense in a democracy that the officials in-charge are committed to finding the truth and acting in accordance with it," he said, citing truth also plays an important role in creating shared public memory, on which the foundations of a nation can be built in future. Speaking on the role of the state in deter-



mining the truth, he said it can't be said that the state will not indulge in falsehood for political reasons even in democracies. "The role of the US in the Vietnam war did not see daylight until the Pentagon Papers were published. In the context of COVID, we see that there is an increasing trend of countries across the world trying to manipulate data. Hence, one cannot only rely on the state to determine the truth", said Justice Chandrachud. He called for a positive atmosphere in schools and colleges, which allows students to learn to differentiate truth from falsehood and question those in power. Justice Chandrachud urged people to be kinder and more sensitive to those around them.

MP: Man tied to Truck and dragged, dies after mob attack

Brutality at its best

Eight people have been identified in the case while five among them have been arrested, said the police.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A 45-year-old man, with a rope tied around his feet, died after he was dragged by a pick-up truck in Neemuch. A group of men, suspecting him to be a thief, had beaten him up badly. The men had dialled the police helpline number claiming they have got a thief with them. The police, upon reaching the spot, took the severely injured man to a nearby community health centre. He was referred to Neemuch district hospital where he was declared brought dead on arrival. A video of the tragedy, which took place on Thursday at Jetiya village, has been widely circulated on social media. The clip shows a sandal-clad man thwacking the adivasi right on the face - with the choicest expletives thrown around like confetti even as the man pleads to let him go. The man identified as Kanha, alias Kanhiya Bheel, was a resident of Banada village. "Eight people have been identified in the case. Five among them have been arrested, the rest will be arrested soon. The viral video helped identify the culprits," said Sooraj Verma,



Superintendent of Police, Neemuch. The accused have been charged for murder, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, and other sections of the Indian Penal Code, said the officer. The attackers themselves shot the video of the barbaric incident and informed the police of catching hold of the "thief". The man who was driving the pick-up vehicle which dragged the victim was also arrested. The incident is in addition to a slew of bizarre cases of

violence being reported from Madhya Pradesh. Former chief minister and state Congress chief Kamal Nath condemned the incident on Twitter. "What is this happening in Madhya Pradesh? Now a very inhuman incident of vandalism has come to light with a tribal person named Kanhaiyalal Bhil in Singoli of Neemuch district? After thrashing the deceased badly on suspicion of theft, he was tied to a vehicle and dragged mercilessly, leading to his death?" Nath said in a tweet sharing the video.

US says drone strike kills IS-K planner

Mastermind Eliminated!

Team Absolute | New Delhi / Washington

The US military said it believes it has killed a planner for the Afghan branch of the Islamic State (IS) terror group in a drone strike in the east of the country, the media reported. "The US military forces conducted an over-the-horizon counterterrorism operation today against an IS-K planner," US Central Command spokesman Bill Urban said in a statement on Friday night. "The unmanned airstrike occurred in the Nangahar Province of Afghanistan. Initial indications are that we killed the target. We know of no civilian casualties," the statement added. Urban described the drone attack as an "over-the-horizon counterterrorism operation," the BBC reported. Most of IS-K's several thousand extremists are believed to be in hiding in Nangahar province. The IS-K claimed



responsibility for the deadly attack outside Kabul airport on Thursday that may have killed as many as 170 people, including 13 US service members. Officials in Washington have warned of heightened terror threats to American troops in the aftermath of what was one of the deadliest attacks in the 20-year US-led invasion in Afghanistan, Xinhua news agency reported. Pentagon Press Secretary John Kirby told a news con-

ference Friday that "specific credible threats" are believed to exist, "and we want to make sure we're prepared for those" threats. White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki echoed the concern over those security threats, saying in a press briefing that American officials believe "another terror attack in Kabul is likely". The US reprisal came after President Joe Biden promised to strike those responsible for the suicide bombing.

Haryana farmers block highways to protest police action

CHANDIGARH | Agencies

Violence between police and protesting farmers in Haryana broke out on Saturday with the former trying to reach Karnal city to protest against a state-level BJP meeting chaired by Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on holding local bodies elections. At least 10 protesters were injured when they were cane charged by the police to stop and disperse as they were forcing their way towards Karnal. BJP state president O.P. Dhankhar was also present at the meeting in Khattar's hometown. Reacting to the situation, Bharatiya Kisan Union's (Haryana unit) chief Gurnam Singh Charuni called for blocking all highways in the state to protest the use of force against the farmers. "We slammed the state BJP government for using police force on farmers. I request all farmers to come out and block all highways in the state," Charuni said. Reports of traffic disruption were received from Hisar, Jind, Bhiwani, Rohtak, Dadri, Fatehabad and Ambala. The traffic bound for New Delhi from Amritsar was disrupted on the Shambhu border in Punjab. Also the traffic bound for Uttar Pradesh via Ambala and Yamunanagar towns was impacted. Samyukt Kisan Morcha, an umbrella body under which farmer groups have been staging protests against the farm laws, leader Darshan Pal urged farmers to carry out a road blockade at 5 p.m. and called for the release of those who were arrested during the clash. Congress leader and two-time Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda condemned the lath-



charge. The BJP government and its leaders, mainly in Punjab and Haryana, have been facing farmers' ire against the three contentious agriculture laws that have triggered widespread protests, particularly on the borders of the national capital, where farmers have been protesting since November-end.

"CRACK THEIR HEADS": HARYANA OFFICIAL CAUGHT COACHING COPS

Chandigarh: A video showing a top district official in Haryana asking policemen to ensure farmers who are protesting against BJP leaders get "head injuries" has surfaced on social media, drawing criticism from a wide section of people including BJP MP Varun Gandhi. In the video, Karnal's Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Ayush Sinha is seen standing in front of a group of policemen and instructing them that no protesting farmer should go beyond a certain barricade in the area. "It is very simple and clear, whoever he is, wherever he is from, no one should be allowed to reach there. We will not let this line be breached at any cost. Just pick up your lathi and hit them hard... It's very clear, there is no need for any instruction, just thrash them hard. If I see a single protester here, I want to see his head smashed, crack their heads," Sinha is heard saying in the video. "Any doubt?" the SDM added in the end. "No sir," the group of policemen shouted.

Launch operational security measures: Punjab DGP



Chandigarh: The Director General of Police (DGP) in Punjab, Dinkar Gupta, on Saturday directed all the commissioners of police to launch preventive, precautionary and operational security measures to ensure peace and communal harmony in the state. "Although a lot of good work is being done by most of the police chiefs at their respective districts," Gupta said while addressing a state-level crime review meeting on the Punjab Armed Police (PAP) campus in Jalandhar. The meeting took place at a time when the state has been witnessing huge influx of grenades and RDX-laden tiffin boxes, besides the recovery of other arms and ammunition, signalling major attempts being made by anti-national elements to disturb peace and communal harmony in the border state.

No system outage in linking Aadhaar with PAN, PF: Biometrics Authority



Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) on Saturday said all its services are stable and functioning fine and there have been no outages in its Aadhaar, PAN and Employee Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) linking facility, which is authentication based. "The PAN/EPFO is an authentication-based facility," the

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology added. The UIDAI said media reports about system outages in linking Aadhaar with PAN and EPFO are not accurate. According to the statement by UIDAI, it was going through an essential security upgrade in its systems in a phased manner over the last week, and some intermittent service interruptions were reported only in the

CONG G-23 LEADER MANISH TEWARI UPSET OVER PARTY'S SILENCE ON SIDHU

New Delhi: Prominent leader of the G-23 group in the Congress, Manish Tewari is upset over the party's silence on Punjab Congress President Navjot Singh Sidhu, who has used threatening language against the party. Sources close to Tewari said that last year in August when the group of leaders wrote a letter for the betterment of the party, they were called traitors, but now no action was being taken against Sidhu. Tewari tweeted the video of Sidhu on Saturday, who is saying that if not allowed he will destroy it "ent se eent baja denge". Tewari, a former Union minister, says that if they utter a word they are being named. He used a Urdu couplet to describe the situation, "hum aah bhi bharte hai tau, ho jaate ha badnaam, wo qatal bhi karte hain tau charcha nahi hote." Last year on August 23, leaders including Tewari wrote a letter to Sonia Gandhi for a "visible and effective leadership and elections for th block to CWC level which were still pending. Sidhu speaking at a party function in Amritsar city on Friday, said, "If he is allowed to work according to his own policy of hope and faith, he will ensure the Congress rule in the state for 20 years". "But if you don't allow me to make decisions, then I can't help anything," Sidhu said without mincing words.



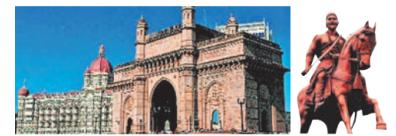
K'taka police crack Mysuru gang rape case, 5 arrested

MYSURU | Agencies

Police in Karnataka have cracked the Mysuru gang rape case and arrested five accused persons on Saturday. Home Minister Araga Jnanendra, who has arrived to brief Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on the development, stated that the operation to nab the perpetrators was successful and he would reveal the details by noon. According to police sources, while four of the accused were arrested in Sathyamangala, Tamil Nadu, the fifth was nabbed in Chamarajanagar, Karnataka. Among the four accused from Tamil Nadu, three had criminal backgrounds. Earlier it was suspected that all the accused were engineering students from Kerala and Tamil Nadu. It was found however, that they were not involved in the crime. Another special team working on the 'bus ticket' clue managed to nab the five culprits. As many as five spe-



cial teams investigated the case from different angles. According to the police, all the arrested accused persons turned out to be coolies. They often came to the Mysuru vegetable market to sell bananas. After selling bananas, the accused used to consume alcohol in an isolated area of Lalithadripura, where the incident took place on Tuesday. They noticed the victim frequenting the area regularly with her male friend. They followed the couple for three days and on fourth day they attacked them. The accused initially wanted to rob the couple, but later gang raped the victim.



IN 30 YEARS, 80% OF SOUTH MUMBAI MAY SINK: CHAHAL

Making a macabre prediction, the BMC chief IS Chahal has warned that by 2050, nearly 80 per cent of south Mumbai's A, B, C and D Wards will sink under the Arabian Sea owing to the rising ocean levels triggered by global warming.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The areas Chahal referred to comprise the cream of residential and commercial districts of south Mumbai like Cuffe Parade, Nariman Point, Fort and Colaba in the country's financial capital.

Besides, 70 per cent of the neighbourhood like Umarkhadi, Mohammed Ali Road, Marine Drive, Girgaum, Breach Candy and surroundings could also be swallowed underwater owing to the climatic change fury.

Some of the areas that fall in these Wards and are likely to be affected include the state government headquarters of Mantralaya, the country's top central business district of Nariman Point, several leading five-star hotels, major heritage structures, important residences or commercial buildings like the BSE, University of Mumbai, Bombay High Court and other courts, civil and defence related institutions, religious places, etc.

Chahal's grim forecast came at the launch of Mumbai Climate Action Plan website on Friday



in the presence of Environment & Tourism Minister Aditya Thackeray and other dignitaries.

Citing recent developments, Chahal said we are getting weather warnings like extreme conditions or very heavy rains, and if we do not heed them now, it could be a dangerous scenario over the next 25 years.

"Earlier, climate change events we heard were about melting glaciers which did not directly affect us, but now, climate change is at our doorstep the current and next generations will

suffer," Chahal said.

In February, the McKinsey India had said in a report that by 2050, Mumbai will witness a 25 per cent increase in the intensity of flash floods accompanied by a half-metre rise in the sea-level, which could hit around two-three million people living within a one-km radius of the city coastline.

Chahal pointed out that in the past 15 months or so, Mumbai and surroundings were lashed by three cyclones, leading to waterlogging in many areas like Marine Drive, Girgaum, etc.

On August 5, 2020, many areas in south Mumbai were submerged in around 5 feet of waters due to the torrential downpour, and though there was no cyclone warning, the situation was similar to a cyclone, said the BMC chief.

Citing another concern, Chahal said that Mumbai has been witnessing extreme weather conditions like heavy rains falling in a very less period of time.

For instance, this year 70 per cent of the July average rain fell in just four days from July 17-20, while in May when the average rainfall is nil, 200 mm was recorded due to the Cyclone Tauktae, he explained.

In fact, the city has been notching at least two-three days of extreme rains during monsoons each year, like on July 16 and 18 this year, Mumbai recorded over 235 and 253 mm rainfall, respectively, within a very short span of just a few hours, leading to massive flooding in different areas.

Curb 'crowded fests' to avoid Covid spike: Centre tells Maha

The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) has urged the Maharashtra government to impose and enforce 'restrictions' to prevent the spread of Covid-19, officials said here on Saturday.



Team Absolute | Mumbai

The directive from the Centre came late on Friday through Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan -- barely five days after the Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray announced a near-total ban on the upcoming 'Dahi-Handi' celebrations starting Sunday.

Referring to the Centre's earlier guidelines on 'focused containment measures', Bhushan advised the state government to consider imposing and enforcing local restrictions for the people.

Citing the concerns of the Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR) and National Centre for Disease

Control (NCDC) of such mass-gathering fests turning into 'super-spreader events', thereby resulting in a spike in Covid cases, Bhushan said the same was communicated to the states on July 20.

"This is particularly important in view of circulation of more transmissible variants of concern being reported by various states, including Maharashtra," said Bhushan, hinting at the recent increase in Delta Plus cases which have already claimed 5 lives in the state.

However, the state Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party spokesperson Ram Kadam has slammed the state government's move to impose "a blanket ban" on celebrated 'Dahi-Handi' and demanded that festivities at

local levels should be permitted with full Covid restrictions.

The state Health Minister Rajesh Tope has warned that the possible 'third wave' could be a "Tsunami" of over 6-million cases in the state, which could be triple of the 2-million recorded in the 'first-wave' in 2020 and much higher than the 4-million notched in the 'second-wave' this year.

The MoHFW has cautioned that "any laxity" in ensuring strict adherence to the five-fold strategy of 'Test-Track-Treat-Vaccinate-Ensuring Covid Appropriate Behaviour' may result in losing the impetus that Maharashtra and the country has gained so far in managing the pandemic.

IT raids Maha steel producer, detects Rs 175 cr black income

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In a major operation, the Income Tax Department has raided a prominent steel manufacturer and detected unaccounted income of around Rs 175 crore from 44 targeted premises in Maharashtra and Goa, officials said here on Saturday.

The series of simultaneous raids started on Wednesday in Ahmednagar, Nashik, Pune and Goa and investigations are still on with the recovery of incriminating documents and digital evidences.

The seizures effected so far include unaccounted investments in property, cash of Rs 3 crore, jewellery worth Rs

5.20 crore, silver articles of 194 kgs worth around Rs 1.34 crore, said the ITD.

As per the investigators, it has emerged that the group was engaged in fraudulent practice of booking bogus purchases of scrap and sponge iron from certain 'fake invoice issuers', and many such bogus documents were found in the raids.

According to the ITD, such fake invoice issuers have revealed that they supplied only bills but no materials and also generated fake e-way bills to prove it as genuine purchases to enable the claim of GST Input Credits.

With the help of Pune GST authorities, the ITD deployed a 'vehicle movement tracking app' to identify the fake e-

way bills.

Till now, the sleuths have identified bogus purchases from various parties to the tune of around Rs 160-crore and further verification process is still on.

The ITD also found a shortage of goods to the tune of Rs 3.50 crore and excess stocks of Rs 4 crore from the raided premises which has been admitted by the assessee (the steel company). "So far a total of Rs 175.5 crore of unaccounted income has been unearthed including cash and jewellery, short and excess stocks and bogus purchases which have been admitted by assessee. Further searches and investigations are in progress," said the ITD.

I doubt if there is any government in Maharashtra: Narayan Rane

On the second day after resuming the Janashrwad Yatra, Union minister Narayan Rane continued to slam Shiv Sena and the state government

Team Absolute | Mumbai

On the second day after resuming the Janashrwad Yatra, Union minister Narayan Rane continued to slam Shiv Sena and the state government and said he doubts if Maharashtra at all has a government in place.

Speaking at Nandgaon in Kankavali, Rane said, "I doubt if there is any state government in Maharashtra. There are so many issues in the state but nothing is being done to resolve them. The Maharashtra State Transport Corporation is running at a huge loss and the employees are not getting salaries for months and as a result, they are dying by suicide. Instead of coming after me, the state government should address the plight of ST employees."

The minister, who was arrested by Maharashtra



Police Tuesday midway through his Janashirwad Yatra for threatening to "slap" Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, resumed his yatra from

Ratnagiri Friday. He reached Ratnagiri in the morning and garlanded the statue of Chatrapati Shivaji at Maruti Mandir Chowk. He then continued to Sindhudurg district where he has a strong hold.

Rane reached Kankavali in Sidhurdurg where his son is an MLA and was welcomed by thousands of people around 11pm with a local dance and band.

He also took a jibe at Shivsainiks saying, "I was welcomed in the Sidhurdurg district by seven-eight thousand people but when I saw Shiv Sena shakha, there were only 53 people. This is their party base in Konkan." He added, there shouldn't be even one elected representative of Shiv Sena in the Konkan region.

After spending nine hours in custody, Rane was released on bail Tuesday by a court. He had taken a break from the yatra and returned to Mumbai Wednesday.

Three held for gang-rape of orphan girl

Police have registered an offence against the trio under IPC sections 363 (kidnapping), 376 (rape), 376 (D) (gang-rape) of the IPC and also section 6 of the POCSO Act

Team Absolute | Palghar

Police have arrested three men for allegedly gang-raping a 17-year-old orphan girl at Vasai in Maharashtra's Palghar district, an official said on Saturday.

Besides gang-rape, the accused had sexually assaulted her separately on multiple occasions between November 2020 and August this year, he said.

The girl's mother had desert-

ed the family, following which the minor started living with her father in a rented house. However, after his death in November last year, the landlord asked the girl to leave the place, due to which she started living on a footpath in Vasai, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Railways) Pradeep Jadhav said.

"On August 3, a police team found the girl loitering around the Vasai railway station area. When they asked about where she was from, she could not share any information as she appeared to be under some kind of trauma. The police then took help of the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) and some NGOs to talk to the girl," he said.

The teen was also sent for a medical examination, which revealed that she had been sex-

ually assaulted, the DCP said. However, she only took name of one Ajay, based on which the police started the probe, Jadhav said.

The girl later opened up and started sharing information. She said that she resided in Vasai with her father after her mother left them. In November 2020, her father died and the house owner evicted her. After that the girl started roaming on the streets and resided on footpaths, where she was sexually assaulted several times, he said. "Based on this information, the police formed teams to probe the case and checked the CCTV footage. Finally, on August 10, the prime accused in the case Ajay Kumar Vinod Jaiswal (34), was nabbed, who confessed to the crime and also revealed the names of his associates," Jadhav said.

THIRD WAVE OF CORONA: BMC ISSUES FRESH GUIDELINES FOR MUMBAIKARS

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Amid the threat of a possible third wave of corona, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has urged Mumbaikars to undergo a COVID-19 test if they have any symptoms of the deadly virus or they come in contact with an infected person. "Citizens are requested to get tested at earliest if they come in contact with any Covid-19 positive patient or if any symptoms are found", the BMC said in a statement. Issuing a notification, the civic body asserted that it has set up more than 250 testing centres, including municipal dispensaries, maternity homes, and ward offices where free RT-PCR and Antigen tests are available. Residents can access the list of free testing centres from the website of BMC. "The delta variant of Coronavirus has already spread to 11 countries so far, including India, raising fears that it could drive the next wave of infections across the world. The progression of illness seems to be prevented by vaccination. Early diagnosis is the key to prevent the spread of the disease as well as the recovery of the patients and to reduce the hospital stay. Hence, BMC has established over 250 testing centres, which include municipal dispensaries, maternity homes, and ward offices where free RT-PCR and Antigen testing is available to citizens," the notification read.

Maha govt makes negative RT-PCR report mandatory for international passengers

The Uddhav Thackeray-led Maharashtra government has tightened the rules for international passengers flying into Mumbai and other airports of the state.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

As per the latest order issued by chief secretary Sitarum Kunte all international flyers, even those who have taken both the doses of vaccine required to hold an RT-PCR negative test not older than 72 hours. Till now, they

(international flyers) had to follow two sets of entry guidelines issued by the Centre as well as the state. All international passengers arriving in Maharashtra will have to carry a negative RT-PCR report even though they are fully vaccinated, the state government has said.

"All international passengers arriving in Maharashtra, including those from the European countries, Middle Eastern countries and South Africa, will be in line with the above-mentioned guidelines issued by the Union ministry of health and family welfare," said the order issued by Maharashtra Chief Secretary Sitarum Kunte on Friday night. The

Maharashtra government later issued a statement mentioning that fresh rules of the Central government mandate a negative RT-PCR test report before arriving in India.

"Same rule is applicable for international passengers arriving in Maharashtra. Although the passenger has taken two doses of vaccine against COVID-19, the negative report of RT-PCR is mandatory," the statement said.

Maharashtra on Friday reported 4,654 new coronavirus cases and 170 fresh deaths, taking the infection tally to 64,47,442 and the toll to 1,36,900, a state health official had said.

Mumbai launches Climate Action Plan, aims better future planning

Aimed at better future planning and growth, keeping in tune with climate adaptation, mitigation and resilience, the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM) is developing the Climate Action Plan to be completed after public consultation in two months' time.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Mumbai, the financial capital of the country - a high-risk city facing the recurring onslaught of extreme weather events, including cyclone - has become the first big city in India and South Asia to launch its Climate Action Plan.

Aimed at better future planning and growth, keeping in tune with climate adaptation, mitigation and resilience, the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM) is developing the Climate Action Plan to be completed after public consultation in two months' time. Maharashtra Minister of Environment, Tourism and Protocol, Aditya Thackeray, on Friday launched the Climate Action Plan and also the Mumbai Climate Action Plan (MCAP) website to seek sugges-



tions and inputs from experts and citizens from the megacity. The event took place in Mumbai and several people from across the state and outside attended it virtually. The MCAP will focus on six action tracks to introduce sector-specific strategies for mitigation and adaptation that can lead to implementable climate projects that contribute to the city's resilience. The six thematic action areas are sustainable waste management, urban greening and biodiversity, urban flooding and water resource management, building energy efficiency, air quality, and sustainable mobility. For Mumbai to adapt to changing climatic scenarios, a vulnerability assessment using satellite imagery has been completed to identify the critical risk factors. There is a national level Climate Action Plan, and there are respective states' cli-

mate action plans, but Mumbai is the first big city to plan for mitigative and adaptive measures in view of the climatic changes happening rapidly. A recent report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has predicted sea-level rise threat for coastal areas and increased, erratic precipitation for areas such as Mumbai, leaving the Maharashtra capital vulnerable. Mumbai took the lead to draft its Climate Action Plan by the end of 2021 in compliance with the guidelines and ambitious standards of 'C40' that it joined in December 2020. MCGM is receiving technical support from the World Resources Institute India (WRI), engaged as a knowledge partner.

Citizens will be able to submit their recommendations until September 20, and the process of finalising the action tracks under MCAP is expected to be ready by November, closer to the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26). The actionable tracks would set goals for 2030, 2040 and 2050.

"We are talking of 2030 and 2050, but given the increase in frequency and intensity of extreme climate events that Mumbai has witnessed, especially during the last 4-5 years, do we really have that much time? The time for action is now as any further delay would make Mumbai unsuitable to live in over the next decade," Thackeray said at the launch event in Mumbai.

14 kids test positive for Covid-19 at children's home in Ulhasnagar

Fourteen kids have tested positive for Covid-19 at a government children's home in Maharashtra's Ulhasnagar.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Fourteen kids have tested positive for Covid-19 at a government children's home and hostel in Maharashtra's Ulhasnagar district. Of these, four are specially-abled children. All are aged between 12 to 18 years old and have been admitted to a Covid care centre. According to Ulhasnagar Municipal Corporation (UMC) officials, all 14 children had no symptoms and their condition was stable. However, some children had earlier complained of fever and coughing.



A medical camp was organised by the UMC's health department on Thursday after the staff approached them. Out of 75 children, the department conducted tests on 25 of them. "We conducted antigen tests on 25 suspected cases, out of which 14

tested positive," a health department official said. Meanwhile, a spokesperson for the Ulhasnagar civic body, Yuvraj Bhadane, said that after 14 children tested positive, they conducted RT-PCR tests on 10 employees through contact tracing whose results are expected on Saturday. "The health department has also sanitised the children's home and all are being treated with mild fever and cough," Bhadane said.



Education is the ladder of progress: Governor Mangubhai Patel

Bhopal: Governor Mangubhai Patel has said that education is the stepping stone to progress. Therefore, everyone should take a pledge that no child in the village will remain without education. He laid special emphasis on paying attention to the education of daughters. Governor Patel had come to meet the families of scheduled tribes in Saharia tribal dominated village Amargarh of Gwalior district settled in hilly and forested areas. Reaching this village of Ghatigaon Janpad Panchayat of the district on Saturday, Governor Patel also distributed assistance to the beneficiaries of tribal families under various welfare schemes of the government. Along with this, after reaching the house of a tribal family of the village, he also had a meal. To give the message of environmental protection, he planted saplings along with other guests.

GOVERNOR REACHED TRIBAL-DOMINATED VILLAGE AMARGARH SETTLED IN HILLY AND FORESTED AREA DISTRIBUTED ASSISTANCE PLANTED SAPLINGS AND TOOK MEAL AT THE HOME OF TRIBAL FAMILY

CONGRESS LODGES MASSIVE PROTEST AGAINST MOB LYNCHING'S IN STATE

Masood leads protest; sieges Raj Bhawan, demands CBI Probe



In protest against the increasing incidents of mob lynching in the state, Congress MLA Arif Masood laid siege to the Raj Bhawan and submitted a memorandum to Governor demanding CBI probe by imposing NSA on the criminals involved in mob lynchings.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

In Neemuch, a tribal youth was dragged by a truck and the later lynched to death by mob, similar incidents have happened in Indore and Dewas also. In protest against the deteriorating law and order situation under the Shivraj Singh Chouhan led BJP government of Madhya Pradesh, Congress workers led by Bhopal Madhya MLA Arif Masood, surrounded the Raj Bhawan in front of Lily Talkies and submitted a memorandum to the Governor. A large number of Congress workers participated in the demonstration on this occasion. Addressing the gathering on the occasion Masood said that Madhya Pradesh is an island of peace, while the incidents of mob lynching are increasing due to the dete-

riorating law and order situation in the Shivraj government. Incidents of mob lynching are on the rise in the state, as there have been incidents of mob lynching with a bangle seller in Indore and a Toss, Jeera seller in Dewas' Hatpipalya. Masood further said that today, i.e. on Saturday August 28, 2021, a tribal youth Kanhaiya Bhil was brutally murdered after being tied to a vehicle in Singoli police station area of Neemuch. On Thursday, August 26, 2021, in Hatpipalya of Dewas district, a hawk who does the work of selling cumin seeds was asked for his Aadhar card, for not showing the Aadhar card, he was beaten up and beaten up by some people. Will now traders and hawkers in Madhya Pradesh have to do business only by showing their Aadhar card? Certainly there has never been such a tradition in the state of Madhya Pradesh, he added. The young Congress MLA said that more recently, if the government had taken strict action against those who carried out the incident of similar assault with a young man selling a bangle in

Indore in time and the ministers of the government did not encourage those who beat up through social media, then Perhaps incidents like murder of Dalit family in Hatpipalya, Nemavar (Dewas), and mob lynching in Neemuch could not have happened today. He further said that the ministers and spokespersons of the government had to go ahead and assure the people of the state that strict action would be taken against those who spread communal frenzy in Madhya Pradesh and not the accused involved in the incident should have been favored only because of their support. In Hatpipalya, Nemavar (Dewas) and Neemuch today, a tribal youth would have been killed by mob lynching, and repeated incidents of mob lynching in Madhya Pradesh in such a short span of time is not a good sign for the state. Further, MLA Arif Masood said that CBI investigation should be done by taking NSA action against those who carried out the incidents of in such mobilization.

Jobless civil engineer ends life, kills son by slitting throat; wife, daughter survive

The man's wife, 50, had also consumed poison with the man and he had tried to kill his 14-year-old daughter by slitting her throat like his son. However, the mother-daughter duo has survived and they have been admitted to a hospital, a police official said, adding that the girl is said to be in a critical condition.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Depressed over being jobless for the last few months, a 56-year-old civil engineer allegedly committed suicide by consuming poison after killing his teenage son by slitting his throat with a tile cutter at their residence on the outskirts of Bhopal, police said on Saturday. The incident occurred during the intervening night of Friday and Saturday, they said. His wife, 50, had also consumed poison with the man and he had tried to kill his 14-year-old daughter by slitting her throat like his son. However, the mother-daughter duo has survived and they have been admitted to a hospital, a police official said, adding that the girl is said to be in a



critical condition. "The man, Ravi Thackeray, was jobless for the last three months. Due to the financial hardships and depression, he and his wife Ranjana, 50, decided to end their lives and also kill their two children at their residence in Sahara Estate Township," Misrod Police Station Inspector Niranjana Sharma said. "The couple slit the throats of their children using a tile cutter and then consumed poison. While their 16-year-old son Ritesh died, their daughter Gunjan survived," he said. The mother-daughter duo has been admitted to the government-run Hamidia hospital, while the bodies of the man and his son have been sent for post-mortem, the inspector said. A case has been registered in this connection, he added.

Woman's private parts stitched by husband over infidelity suspicion

Team Absolute | Bhopal

In a bizarre incident, a 64-year-old man allegedly stitched the private parts of his 55-year-old wife using a needle and a thread at a village in Singrauli district. The sexagenarian, as per reports, suspected that wife was having an extramarital affair. After the incident, the 55-year-old woman approached a female police officer and lodged a complaint against her husband. The complainant was then referred to a state-run medical facility, where the stitches were removed. "He [accused] had used a local

thread and needle. She has suffered minor injuries. We have confiscated the needle and the thread," a police officer said. The police have registered a case against the 64-year-old accused, who is a quack, under relevant sections, including those for physical and mental harassment, the TOI report stated. The complainant has, however, asked the police to not take harsh action against her husband, an officer said. Efforts are underway to nab the accused, the officer added. The accused often had arguments with his wife. He suspected that his wife was having an affair with a man from their village. He used to thrash her.

Target to provide concrete shelter to all the poor by year 2024: CM



Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said that development would be possible only when there is total participation by the poor. In this inclusive development, the urban poor should get full benefits. Madhya Pradesh government is making efforts to ensure basic facilities of food, clothing and shelter to the urban poor who have been deprived of development. Free food grains were distributed in the Anna Utsav and today one lakh 29 thousand 292 urban beneficiaries are going to get concrete houses. Some of them will have griha pravesh into their own houses, some of them will have bhoomi-pujan and some are getting the installment of the scheme in their accounts. Is our target said Chouhan. By the year 2024, all the poor should get their concrete houses. Chouhan was addressing the programme held at Khandwa today in which the beneficiaries of the state level Pradhan Mantri

Awas Yojana (Urban) were gifted with new houses, Bhoomi-Pujan was held of newly approved houses and installment was paid for construction of houses. In the programme, one lakh 29 thousand 292 beneficiaries of the state were benefitted under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban). In this, an assistance of Rs 627 crores transferred to the accounts of 79 thousand 39 beneficiaries. Bhoomi-pujan was also performed for the construction of houses for 50 thousand 253 beneficiaries of the scheme. Chouhan addressed the urban beneficiaries of entire Madhya Pradesh from Khandwa. He said that the target is to provide pucca roofs over the heads of all poor families in the state by the year 2024. Landless families will be given ownership of pattas. Health security will be provided to all the poor with Ayushman Yojana cards. Chief Minister said that all basic facilities would be ensured in the cities of the state. Rs 44 thousand crore will be spent on development of cities in the upcoming times.

The Chief Minister said that the illegal colonies that have mushroomed in the cities would be legalized. Moreover, noose on builders is being tightened so that illegal colonies do not surface in future. They will have to follow the rules. Chouhan also inaugurated a newly constructed cultural auditorium at Khandwa at a cost of Rs 19 crore 43 lakh today. On the request of Forest Minister Vijay Shah, he announced to name the grand auditorium after well-known singer Late. Kishore Kumar. Chief Minister said that Kishore Kumar's songs are highly inspiring. He also sang one of Kishore Kumar songs 'Ruk Jaana Nahi Tu Kahin Haar Ke' and said that this song kept his morale up during the days of Corona struggle. Shah said that in Khandwa, a national level Late Kishore Kumar Memorial Award has been instituted. He urged the Chief Minister to name the newly constructed cultural building in Khandwa after Late Kishore Kumar. Chouhan said that today former MP of Khandwa, Late. Nandkumar Singh Chouhan is being missed. The first programme under the Sambal Yojana was held in his presence in Khargone. Shri Chouhan was a remarkable leader, who left us all untimely. Chouhan directly interacted with selected beneficiaries of several districts through video conferencing. He congratulated and extended best wishes to the beneficiaries of the scheme. Chouhan had virtual interaction with beneficiaries and their families and sought information about the housing acquired in scheme and the education of the children along with the well being of the family. Chouhan handed over the keys of houses to 5 beneficiaries of Khandwa district under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban).



Janmashtami Celebration

Eves of 'Leading Ladies Club' and others celebrated the Janmashtami festival (Birthday of Lord Krishna) at Bhojpur Club on Saturday with reverence and faith. During celebration, different games, dance, song and recitations were performed. Ladies in traditional attires displayed good enthusiasm.



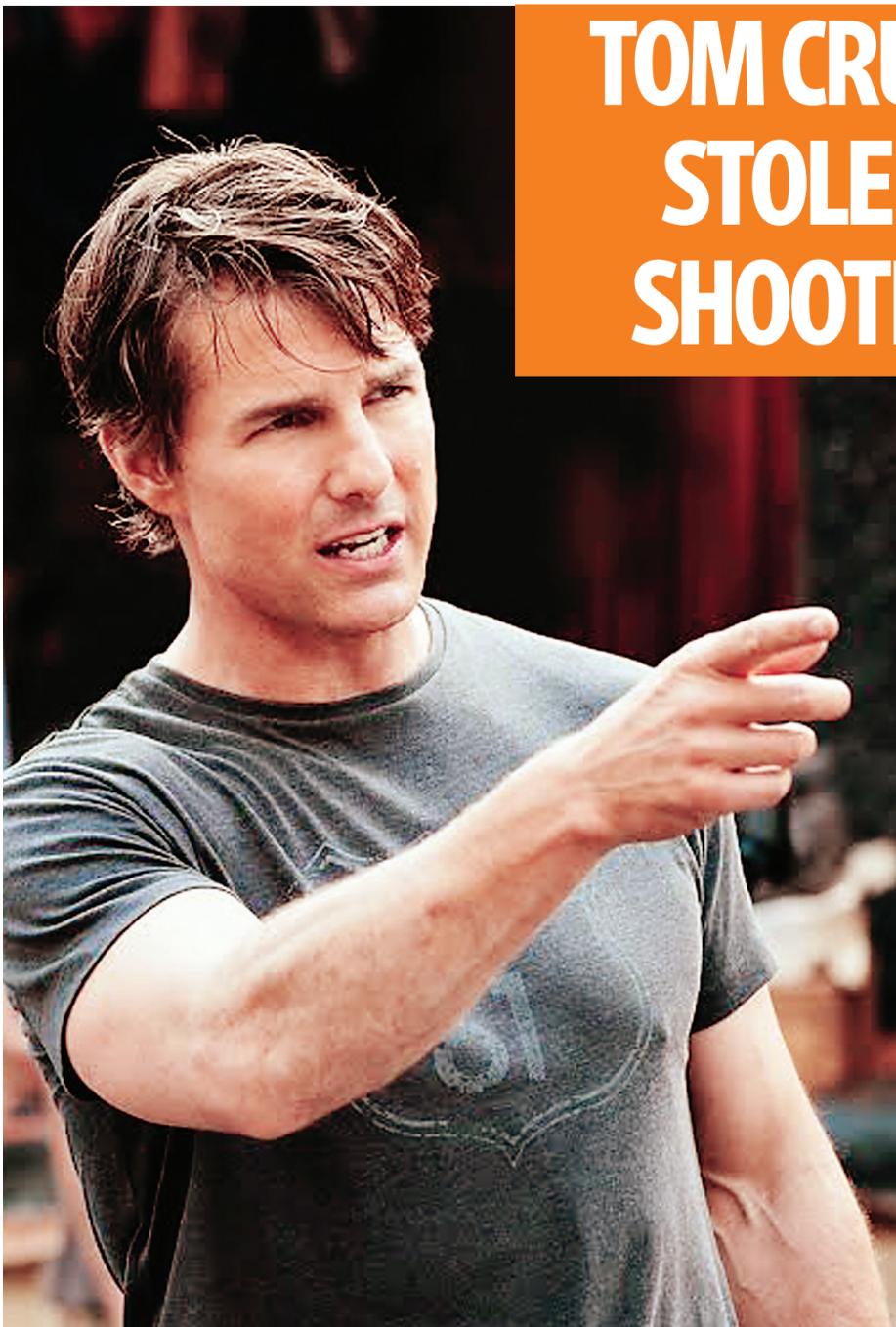
STATE LEVEL PROGRAMME ON AUGUST 29 CM will interact with beneficiaries of PM Swanidhi from Balaghat

Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan will also interact with the beneficiaries of PM Swanidhi Yojana by distributing loans to them at Balaghat from 1 pm on August 29. Urban Development and Housing Minister Bhupendra Singh will virtually participate in the programme. The speech and dialogue of Chouhan will be broadcast on various social media platforms like regional TV news channels and Doordarshan through webcast link. All ministers, MPs, MLAs and other public representatives have also been invited in the programme. All urban bodies will be virtually involved in this programme. Urban Development and Housing Minister Bhupendra Singh has informed that against the target of distributing loans

to a total of 4 lakh 2 thousand urban street vendors in the first phase of PM Swanidhi Yojana from July 1, 2020 to March 2022, 3 lakh 50 thousand beneficiaries have been benefitted and the state ranks second in the country. Identity cards have been issued to 6 lakh 72 thousand urban street vendors in the state. Out of these, applications of 5 lakh 41 thousand have been submitted in the banks. In the first phase of the scheme, till March 12, 2021, loans worth Rs 300 crore were disbursed to 3 lakh beneficiaries at the rate of Rs 10,000 per beneficiary. After this, till now 50 thousand new urban street vendors have been disbursed loans worth Rs.50 crore at the rate of Rs.10,000. Around Rs 11 lakh cashback has been received so far by the

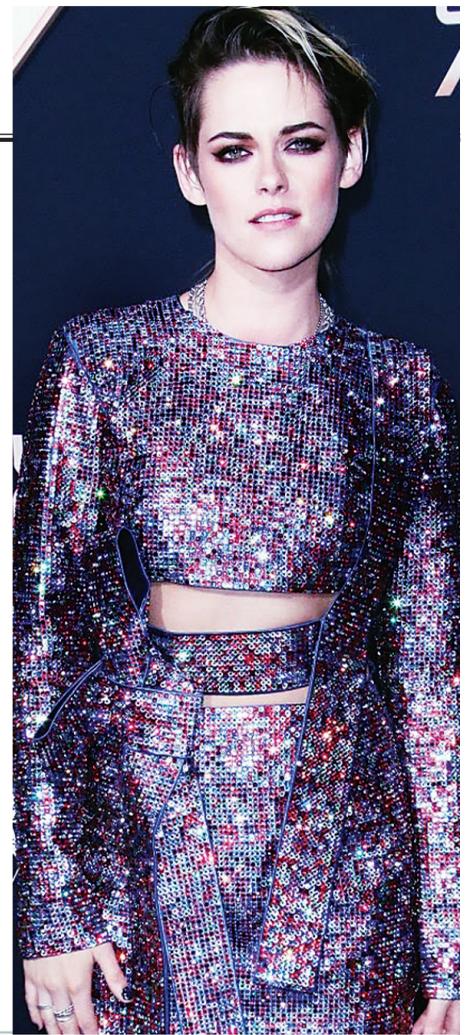
street vendors who are buying and selling through digital transactions. To encourage digital payments, street vendors doing digital transactions get a cashback of Rs 100 per month. The second phase of PM Swanidhi Yojana has started from August 18, 2021. Under the scheme, the urban street vendors of the first phase, who have fully repaid the loan of 10 thousand rupees, they become eligible for a loan of 20 thousand rupees. In this phase, a loan of Rs 20,000 each has been distributed to 600 street vendors in the state. While loans have been disbursed to only 1200 beneficiaries across the country. In this way, Madhya Pradesh ranks first in the country in the implementation of second phase of PM Swanidhi.

TOM CRUISE'S CAR STOLEN WHILE SHOOTING IN UK



London Agencies

Currently in the UK filming the latest 'Mission: Impossible' movie, and his luxury car got stolen by thieves. "Tom had been driven around in the car while in Birmingham and some of his luggage and belongings were inside it when it was taken," a source told The Sun newspaper, reports femalefirst.co.uk. The source added, "It's since been recovered by police because it was equipped with an electronic tracking device but everything inside it had gone. It's a huge embarrassment for the security team and the guy who had been driving it was hopping mad -- but not as mad as Tom!" The thieves used cutting-edge technology to clone the signal from the car's keyless ignition fob, before they stole the vehicle from the security team. However, luxury car brand BMW has already supplied the actor with an identical replacement.



Los Angeles Agencies

Kristen Stewart stuns as Princess Diana in 'Spencer' trailer

Hollywood star Kristen Stewart looks every inch like royalty as she channels Princess Diana in the first trailer for 'Spencer', an upcoming biographical drama about the beloved royal. Directed by 'Jackie' filmmaker Pablo Larrain, 'Spencer' is set in 1991 and takes place over the Christmas holiday as Diana (born Diana Frances Spencer) grapples with the decision to end her marriage to Prince Charles. English actor Jack Farthing will play the heir apparent to the British throne, reports variety.com. First-look photographs of Stewart as the princess took the internet by a tizzy. Despite the minimal dialogue, the teaser shares a sneak-peek into the grand life at the Queen's Sandringham Estate, one that includes lavish meals and stunning attire. In the footage, Stewart, dressed to the nines at all times, becomes increasingly emotional as she grapples with rumours of affairs and evades ruthless paparazzi. The cast also includes Olga Helsing as Sarah, Amy Manson and Niklas Kohrt.

David Duchovny: Scientologists tried to recruit me

Los Angeles Agencies

Californication' star David Duchovny has revealed that he was attending the wedding of 'Melrose Place' actor Jason Beghe when

scientologists tried to recruit him

The former 'X-Files' star said: "They made a play for me. I did squeeze the cans and I did a session on the E-meter, and I realised immediately, because they're asking very personal questions, that they were gathering information that I didn't want to give out to a stranger." Duchovny went through an "auditing" session with the recruiters, but he says it "didn't go well", reports femalefirst.co.uk. He told The Daily Beast, "I didn't play



by the rule, and I never went back." Beghe, 61, was a scientologist at the time. However, Duchovny said that the actor didn't make any real effort to recruit him on behalf of the church.

Sandra Oh: Grey's Anatomy part was 'traumatic'

Los Angeles Agencies

Sandra Oh, who played Cristina Yang in the TV series 'Grey's Anatomy' from 2005 to 2014, described her role as "traumatic" as it earned her a whole new level of stardom. In a sneak peek from Oh's interview on 'Sunday Today with Willie Geist', she said, "To be perfectly honest, it was traumatic. It was traumatic." "I went from not being able to go out, like, hiding in restaurants, to then being able to manage attention, manage expectation, while not losing the sense of self." Oh believes her focus on mental health and visits to a therapist helped her cope with the pressures of stardom, reports femalefirst.co.uk. The 'Killing Eve' actress said: "Well, I have a good therapist. I'm not joking. It's very, very important." The actress previously recalled how her parents, who emigrated to Canada from South Korea during the 1960s, didn't approve of her acting career as they saw it as a "low" profession.



'Cinderella' director opens up on casting Pierce Brosnan, Minnie Driver

Los Angeles Agencies

Director Kay Cannon is all set to release her Hollywood film 'Cinderella', which will have actors Pierce Brosnan and Minnie Driver playing the role of King Rowan and queen Beatrice. Kay feels both the actors fit perfectly for the part. Referring to Pierce's famous stint as James Bond in a spy thriller franchise, Jay says, "Pierce Brosnan is, after all, Bond... James Bond." She adds, "He's incredibly charming and has a gravitas and wit that give the King some interesting layers. I loved that he was always open to making fun of himself, especially his singing." For the role of queen, Kay feels lucky to have an actress of Minnie's caliber. Besides them, the film will also have



actors Idina Menzel, Nicholas Galitzine and Billy Porter.

'Cinderella' will release on Amazon Prime Video, this September 3.



Christine Quinn 'Selling Sunset' in LA

Seoul Agencies

Christine Quinn was seen working on a forthcoming episode of the hit reality series Selling Sunset in Beverly Hills on Friday afternoon. The 32-year-old reality television personality was seen strolling along one of the city's walkways and soaking up the shining California sun while filming a scene for the upcoming fourth season of the Netflix program. The realtor has been featured on the series ever since its inaugural set of episodes, which originally premiered in 2019. Quinn sported a button-up white shirt and a black tie while working on the forthcoming season. The reality television figure also sported a black pin-stripe vest that showed off a slight portion of her toned tummy. The Bravo personality notably kept a sizable Louis Vuitton bag with her for the length of her time in the sun.



Natalie Imbruglia



PARALYMPIC TT: SENSATIONAL BHAVINA CONTINUES HISTORIC RUN, REACHES FINAL

Tokyo | Agencies

Indian paddler Bhavina Patel continued her sensational run at the Tokyo Paralympic Games, reaching the Women's Singles Class 4 final with a brilliant win against China's Zhang Miao on Saturday.

Bhavina came back strongly from a game deficit to stun World No 3 Miao 3-2 in the thrilling semifinal clash on Saturday, setting herself up for a historic attempt at winning a first gold medal at the Paralympic Games for herself, and the fifth overall for the country.

After losing the first game 7-11, the 34-year-old government employee from Ahmedabad, Gujarat, fought back brilliantly to beat Miao, the Rio Paralympic Games silver medallist, 7-11, 11-7, 11-4, 9-11, 11-8 in the 34 minutes contest.

First-time Paralympian Bhavina has now assured India at least a silver medal, the first in table tennis at the Paralympic Games. India's 12 medals at the Paralympics so far have come



from three sports -- athletics (10 including 3 gold), powerlifting (1 bronze), and swimming (1 gold). In the final to be played on

Sunday, Bhavina will take on Chinese World No. 1 Zhou Ying, the player to whom she had lost in straight games in her first match in Tokyo Paralympics in the group stage.

It is a sensational comeback for the Indian paddler as she not only made it past the preliminary round after losing to Zhou but also beat three strong opponents including the Rio 2016 gold medallist Borislava Peric Rankovic of Serbia and silver medallist Miao to reach the final.

If she wins the final against Zhou Ying on Sunday, Bhavina will become the first Indian woman to win a gold medal at the Paralympic Games. She will be only the fourth person ever after swimmer Murlikant Petkar (1972), javelin thrower Devendra Jadhav (2004, 2016), and high jumper Mariyappan Thangavelu (2016) to win a gold medal for India at the Paralympic Games.

If she loses, she joins Deepa Malik as the only woman to win a medal for India in the Paralympic Games.

3rd Test: India succumbs to innings defeat, series level at 1-1

Leeds | Agencies

India, who had entered fourth day with hopes of a fightback, succumbed to the pace of England's Ollie Robinson as they folded for 278 in the first session to lose the third Test by an innings and 76 runs here at Headingley on Saturday.

Robinson took 5/65, his best haul in Test cricket which triggered an Indian collapse in the second innings while Craig Overton took three wickets and James Anderson had a wicket to his name. With this win, England have levelled the five-match series at 1-1.

Resuming from 215/2, India collapsed in a heap and lost their last eight wickets for 63 runs to be bowled out for 278 before lunch on fourth day of the Test. The last seven wickets fell for 41 runs in 54 minutes.

At the start, India played out three maiden overs with the new ball. They were given an early jolt when Cheteshwar Pujara shouldered arms and planted his front pad to offer no shot to Ollie Robinson. But the ball nipped in to hit the front pad. England took the review and got the decision overturned, ending Pujara's stay at his overnight score of 91.

Virat Kohli had some nervous moments against James Anderson, including a caught behind decision overturned after Ajinkya Rahane convinced him to do so. The Indian captain got two boundaries off Robinson to reach his first half-century of the series. But the pacer had the last laugh as Kohli (55) tried to defend, only for the edge to go high to the first slip.



In the next over, Rahane (10) nicked behind on fifth stump line to keeper Jos Buttler off Anderson. Rishabh Pant's stay at the crease lasted just seven balls, prodding away from the body and edging to third slip off Robinson for just one.

Mohammed Shami was able to overturn a lbw call off Robinson. But Shami was bowled through the gate after Moeen Ali got one to spin in from outside off. Robinson finally got his second five-wicket haul of the series as Ishant Sharma nicked behind to Buttler.

Ravindra Jadeja scored some boundaries, offering some resistance. But the left-hander's stay was cut short at 30 as Craig Overton got one to nip away and take the edge to Buttler. Overton finished off the match by forcing Mohammed Siraj to edge to the second slip.

The fourth Test between the two teams will start at The Oval from September 2.

Chongtham, Suresh in final of Asian Youth & Junior Boxing

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Three Indian youth boxers, led by 2021 World Youth bronze medallist Bishwamitra Chongtham (51kg) stormed into the finals at ASBC Asian Youth & Junior Boxing Championships in Dubai on Saturday.

In the 51kg semifinal, Bishwamitra Chongtham continued his rich form and made light work of Tajikistan's Abdurakhmonzoda Akarali on his way to the final. The sharp and diminutive Indian boxer displayed his speed and skill throughout the bout and played on the counter to secure an easy 5-0 win. He will face Kuziboev Ahmadjon of Uzbekistan in the final.

In the light-flyweight semifinal, Vishwanath Suresh (48kg) was up against Brunei's Sayed Fadel. The Indian boxer had a tough start in the first round but after gauging his opponent's strategy, he came back strongly in the remaining rounds and played from a distance to convincingly win the bout 5-0. He will square



off against Kazakhstan's Sanzar Tashenbay in the final.

In one of the closest semifinal bouts of the day, Jaydeep Rawat (71kg) faced Murasebekov Bekbol of Kyrgyzstan. The bout witnessed a lot of mighty blows from both sides and a lot of clinching in what was a high-intensity attacking affair. Throwing caution to the wind, India's Jaydeep decided to go for all-out attack in the last round and landed more clear punches to nail a 3-2 split victory. He will face a tough challenge from Abdullaev Alokhon of Uzbekistan in the final.

On the other hand, Deepak (75kg) suffered a 1-4 defeat against Kazakhstan's Bakbergen Aliaskarov in the

semifinal. In the 70kg women's semifinal, Lashu Yadav lost 0-5 to Gaukhar Shaibekova of Kazakhstan.

With Vishwanath, Bishwamitra and Jaydeep entering the final, India will now have five men fighting for gold in the youth men's section. Vanshaj (63.5kg) and Vishal (80kg) have already secured their place in the final. Meanwhile, Daksh (67kg), Deepak (75kg), Abhimanyu (92kg) and Aman Singh Bisht (92+kg) settled for bronze after ending their campaign in the semis. All the final matches in the junior category will take place on Sunday and the youth finals will be played on Monday.

WE NEED TO BE PATIENT, BUILD PARTNERSHIPS: KOHLI

Leeds | Agencies

Virat Kohli said on Saturday that his team's batsmen have a challenge at hand in the remaining two Tests against England bowlers delivering immaculate lines and lengths.

"Basically, they bowled a lot better than us in this match," said Kohli to media after India's innings and 76-run loss to England in the third Test. "The way they bowled in the morning with new ball, the areas they bowled at, the lengths they bowled, you have to be precise [against that] with everything in your decision making. It is not like you will make an error and your edge is so far that the delivery won't catch. We have to accept this, they won't make it easy for us here," added Kohli. "Here we have to make double effort to score runs. Double the concentration. We should take this as an opportunity and a test. We have to show what character and patience we have," said Kohli.

No pressure, thought of 21st Grand Slam motivating: Djokovic

Tokyo | Agencies

World No. 1 tennis player, Novak Djokovic of Serbia, will be chasing history over the next fortnight at the US Open, where a title would give him a record-breaking 21 majors and the Grand Slam, having already won the Australian Open, French Open and Wimbledon this year.

Djokovic is currently tied with Swiss legend Roger Federer and Spanish clay-court specialist Rafael Nadal on 20 Grand Slam titles apiece and a fourth US Open title to add to his three previous triumphs -- in 2011, 2015 and 2018 -- will move him past the two tennis stalwarts.

The 34-year-old Djokovic said that he was not allowing the pressure of expectation to overcome him, and was rather motivated to play his best tennis.

"Obviously I know how big of an opportunity is in front of me here in New York, where historically I've played really well over the years. It's probably the most entertaining tennis court that we have. [The] crowd will be back [in the] stadium," Djokovic said.

"I can't wait. Honestly I'm very motivated to play my best tennis. But I have to hit one ball at a time, try to be in the moment, have a guiding star in a way, a



dream to win a Slam here, which would obviously complete the calendar Slam," Djokovic told aptour.com.

Djokovic added that even without 20-time major winners Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer competing at Flushing Meadows, there will be plenty of tough challengers. Second seed Daniil

Medvedev of Russia triumphed in Toronto, Germany's Alexander Zverev won the Tokyo Olympics and Cincinnati, and Greece's Stefanos Tsitsipas is also a big contender. Djokovic has not competed since the Tokyo Olympics. But the Serbian said that his preparation for the season's final

INDIA WOMEN PLAY JAPAN IN ASIA CUP BASKETBALL OPENER IN SEPTEMBER



Mumbai: India have been grouped with defending champion Japan, South Korea, and New Zealand in Division I of the FIBA Women's Asia Cup 2021 basketball tournament to be played in Amman, Jordan, next month.

India are in Group A for the eight-team top division of the Continental basketball tournament which will be held at the Prince Hamza Hall in Amman, Jordan, from September 27 to October 3. China, Australia, Chinese Taipei, and the Philippines make up Group B.

India, which hosted the 2019 edition of the event at Bangalore, will be opening their campaign against five-time defending champions and Tokyo, 2020 silver medallist, Japan on September 27. The preliminary league matches will be played from September 27-29 and the top team from each group will directly qualify for the semifinals while the teams placed second and third in each group will compete in two qualification matches to decide the other two semifinalists. The semifinals will be played on October 2 and the final on the next day.

FORMULA 1 UPDATES CALENDAR FOR THE 2021 SEASON TO 22 RACES

London: Formula 1 on Saturday revealed its updated calendar for the remainder of the 2021 season. The season will now have 22 races, including a slot for a yet-to-be-announced race in late November. F1 started the year with an eye for a record-breaking 23 races, only for the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic and travel restrictions to force changes. The Japanese Grand Prix joined Canada, Singapore and Australia in officially being cancelled earlier in this month. The Dutch Grand Prix at Zandvoort, the Italian GP at Monza, and the Russian race at Sochi will take place on their original dates.



Paralympic archery: Rakesh Kumar in pre-quarters, Swami exits

Tokyo | Agencies

India continued to have a mixed day at the Tokyo Paralympic Games archery competition as Rakesh Kumar made it to the pre-quarterfinals while Shyam Sundar Swami crashed out of the Men's Individual Compound Open.

Kumar, the 35-year-old from Katra near Jammu, defeated Hong Kong's Ka Chuen Ngai while Swami went down to Matt Stutzman of the United States in the 1/16 Elimination round. Kumar, who was placed third after the 72-arrow ranking round, continued with his superb run by outclassing Chunenka Ngai of Hong Kong 144-131 in the 1/16 Elimination Round at the Yumenoshima Final Field on Saturday.

Kumar got off to a superb start as he shot 29 (10, 10, 9) out of a possible 30 in the first three arrows (called end in archery), opening up a two-point lead as Ngai could manage only 9, 10, 8.

He shot a 10 and an inner 10 (X) and a nine in the second end with Ngai managing a poor 25 with two 8s and a nine.

Kumar continued in the same vein as he shot 29, 28, and 29 in the next three rounds for a total score of 144 out of 150. Ngai's game went downhill as he shot a 27, 24, and 28 in the last three rounds for a total of 131.



Swami gave Stutzman a tough fight as he lost 139-142. Kumar will now take on Marian Marecak of Slovakia in the pre-quarterfinals on Tuesday (Aug 31).

On Sunday, he will figure in the Mixed Team Compound Open pre-quarterfinals along with Jyoti Balyan. India will take on Thailand for a place in the quarterfinals.

We have become fearless following Tokyo success: Hockey player Gurjit

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Indian women's hockey team drag-flick specialist Gurjit Kaur, who was one of the architects of the side's fourth-place finish at the Olympics, said the players had "become fearless" following their performance in Tokyo and that going forward "it will help us perform well in major tournaments".

The 25-year-old defender, who has been nominated for the FIH Women's Player of the Year Award 2020/21, etched her name in the history books of world hockey following her heroics in the Olympics quarterfinal match against Australia. She scored a match-winning goal from a penalty corner in India's historic 1-0 win, which earned the side a place in their first-ever semifinal at the Games.

"People have started watching us, and I am sure our performance will inspire young girls to take up hockey. The



Tokyo Olympics marks the beginning of a new era of Indian hockey. We have gained a lot of confidence, we have become fearless, and going forward it will certainly help us perform well in major tournaments. I also hope we get the same amount of love and respect going forward," she added. On her nomination for FIH Women's Player of the

Year Award, Gurjit said, "It's a huge thing for me to be nominated for the FIH Women's Player of the Year Award. For an athlete, it's one of the best things when all your hard work and sacrifices get recognised at a world level, and I am really happy to see my name on that list. It will give me extra motivation to do even better for the team." Asked about the decisive goal against Australia, Gurjit said, "I think that's my job, and I just did it. My job is to drag-flick, and I got a chance, which I converted." "No doubt, there is my name on the scoresheet, but that doesn't mean it was mine alone, it was a team goal. Each one of us contributed to it, from the defence line to midfielders, to strikers, who created the penalty corner, and eventually, it was my responsibility to convert it," she added. The team missed out on the Olympic medal by a whisker, losing to Great Britain in the bronze-medal play-off match. However, the Amritsar-born player feels that there are a lot of positives to take from this dream campaign.

SRK, Deepika to shoot song in Spain for 'Pathan'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Superstars Shah Rukh Khan and Deepika Padukone will be shooting a song in Spain for the upcoming film "Pathan", directed by Siddharth Anand. Shah Rukh and Deepika will not only shoot crucial parts of their film in Spain but will also shoot a massively mounted song there. A source said close to progress revealed, "No Bollywood film has ever shot song sequences in these places. Sid Anand will shoot a spectacle of a song in Spain and things are totally under wraps to control all possible leaks. The intent is to create a song that is visually so grand that it is an instant hit. "All necessary permissions are being worked on for a smooth shooting experience in Spain." The source shared that "Pathan" is "turning out to be an insanely awaited visual extravaganza". "Pathan" also stars John Abraham. Other details about the movie are still under wraps.

Times are changing, hope filmmakers take note: Rakul Preet

Hyderabad | Agencies

Actress Rakul Preet Singh is gearing up for the release of her upcoming Telugu film 'Konda Polam' alongside Panja Vaishnav Tej. The actress, who has worked with both senior and young actors, feels that the stereotypes of onscreen pairings are broken now. Rakul, who has worked with senior actors like Ravi Teja and Mahesh Babu, has also featured alongside younger stars like Sundeep Kishan. "I think the industry has completely changed today. Gone are the days when people used to think that if you work with senior actors, you can't work with junior actors, and vice versa. I think it's way past that... Now it's about the roles, it's about how you look and how you carry those," said Rakul. "Times have changed now. Films are changing and evolving and I really hope that the filmmakers see that and more opportunities and scripts come like that," she added.

Sunny Leone all set to show up at 'Big Boss OTT' house

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Ten years after Karenjit Kaur Vohra better-known as Sunny Leone, attained national prominence as a 'Big Boss Season 5' contestant, she will enter the 'Big Boss OTT' house for the 'Sunday Ka Vaar' episode. Leone took to her social media account to confirm the news. In a video she has uploaded, she talks excitedly about the connections in the house. Sunny said in the video, "I am going crazy for 'Big Boss OTT'. No matter how much you see, it won't be enough. This season is all about connections. So, where there are connections, there I am. I am coming this weekend to do a lot of fun, in my style. See you and stay connected." Soon, social media was agog with speculation that Leone, who was in Gurugram on Saturday to launch a perfume, would be accompanied by her husband and business manager, Daniel Weber. The other big mystery that Leone has not solved is whether she's coming to the 'Big Boss OTT' house as a contestant, challenger or guide. The question will only be answered on Sunday.



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor Kunal Kapoor, now seen playing Babar in 'The Empire', goes down memory lane to recall times when he used to be present on film sets and ask himself, "Why am I doing this?" The actor has also opened up on his love for his craft. In a conversation with our correspondent, he said, "When I found acting, I understood that this is what I want to do for the rest of my life - I want to be on the sets every day, that is how much I enjoy and love it. There are times, though, when you find yourself in situations where the material coming your way is not what you want to do. Opening up on being a part of 'The Empire' cast and his expectations about more roles coming his way after this, Kapoor said on a hopeful note, "When you are a part of a show like this and I hope it does really well, it opens up a lot more opportunities for you. I do hope a lot more roles come my way now, and not the same roles over and over again that I have been getting in the first 10 years of my career."

Kunal Kapoor: Good roles more important than just being in films

DIVYA AGARWAL: NOT AFRAID OF KARAN JOHAR 'EVICTING' ME FROM 'BIG BOSS OTT'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

'Big Boss OTT' contestant Divya Agarwal recently opened up about the remarks made by Karan Johar against her. While speaking to Akshara Singh, she said, "I won't change myself because of Karan's criticism." She spoke about his (Karan's) opinion about her and said that he doesn't have the right to talk so nastily about her, especially when he doesn't know her. The actor has been in the news ever since the show began. Whether it's her fights with co-contestants Shamita Shetty and Pratik Sehajpal or the host Karan Johar himself, she has been grabbing headlines for one reason or another. She made waves online but what got her the most attention from netizens was her war of words with the host, Karan Johar. Claiming that Karan's statements have made her life difficult inside the 'Big Boss OTT' house, Divya said that she will speak up when something wrong is being said about her, irrespective of who is standing in front. She added that she is not afraid of Karan getting her out of the show and said, "I am an artist, and I will continue to work, if not here then somewhere else."



INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Nia Sharma

Ali Merchant is excited about his chat show 'Inspiring Icons'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor-anchor-DJ Ali Merchant says that he is very excited about his debut with the chat show 'Inspiring Icons' and his first guest actor -- R. Madhavan. Ali, known for appearing in TV shows like 'Yeh Rishta Kya Kehlata Hai', 'Looteri Dulhan', 'Yeh Hai Aashiqui', 'Vikram Betaal Ki Rahasya Gatha', said how the OTT space is becoming exciting for him. "The dearth of exciting roles has kept me away from TV for a long time, however, the way OTT

content is shaping up in the country, engaged me and when I got an opportunity, I could not resist. It's a bigger space in terms of creativity with no restrictions like the ones you have on television," said Ali. In the show 'Inspiring Icons', Ali talks to Madhavan about his journey and working in the different film industries, be it Bollywood and South Indian film industry. During the conversation, Madhavan shares how stepping out of comfort zone was his way to grow as an actor. The show releases on August 29 on MiDiWorld app.

