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Avani first Indian woman to win gold, Antil wins gold with World Record



Paralympics

Tokyo: Shooter Avani Lekhara on Monday became the first Indian woman to win a gold medal in the Paralympic Games. The 19-year-old bagged gold, India's first at Tokyo 2020, in women's 10m Air Rifle SH1 with a world record score of 249.6 in the final on Monday.

This is also India's first gold medal in shooting in the Paralympic Games. Overall, she is the fourth Indian sports person to win a Paralympic gold after swimmer Murlikant Petkar (1972), javelin thrower Devendra Jhajharia (2004 and 2016), and high jumper Thangavelu Mariyappan (2016). Indeed, Avani is the first Indian female athlete to win a gold medal in either Olympics or the Paralympics. The silver medals won by Deepa Malik in 2016 Rio and para-table tennis player Bhavina Patel on Sunday were the best efforts by Indian female sports persons at the Paralympics. PV Sindhu and Mirabai Chanu have won silver medals for India in the Olympics. The 19-year-old Avani, who sustained spinal cord injuries in a car accident in 2012, qualified seventh for the final but shot superbly to leapfrog seven shooters in the first elimination series itself in the final and never looked back.

Tokyo: Sumit Antil set a new world record on his way to a gold medal in the Men's Javelin throw - F64 final at the Tokyo Paralympic Games on Monday. Antil hurled the spear to 68.55 metres, improving on his old mark of 62.88 set in November 2019. Antil's gold is the second of the day for India, making it the most successful day in the Paralympic Games. Avani Lekhara won the gold medal in women's 10m air rifle SH1 while Devendra Jhajharia and Yogesh Kathuniya won silver medals in the javelin (F46) and discus throw (T56) final. Sundar Singh Gurjar claimed a bronze medal in javelin throw F46, finishing behind Jhajharia. The 23-year-old from Sonapat, who lost his left leg below the knee after he was involved in a motorbike accident in 2005, participated in able-bodied javelin throw till 2015 before taking a break. On comeback in 2018, he started participating in para-sports and immediately made an impact, winning silver in the 2019 World Championships in Dubai. He opened his campaign at Tokyo 2020 with the first throw of 66.95 and followed it up with 68.08 in his season throw, which virtually sealed the issue in his favour as nobody else could manage to come closer to 68. Sumit hurled the spear to 68.55 on his fifth throw.



COVID 3RD WAVE TO PEAK BETWEEN OCT-NOV, SAYS IIT-KANPUR SCIENTIST

▶ If the third wave peaks, the country may see only 1 lakh daily cases as against more than 4 lakh when the deadly second wave was at its peak in May. The second wave killed thousands and infected several lakh.

▶ According to a study by the researchers of Institute of Mathematical Sciences, the R or the Reproductive value of the coronavirus pandemic was 0.89. It is necessary that the R value is under one that can help arrest the spread of infection.

▶ Last week's forecast was the same, but only the range of daily cases has been brought down to 1-1.5 lakh in the latest one. With the fresh data, the daily infections are further expected to drop in the range of a lakh.



Team Absolute | New Delhi

India may see a third wave of COVID-19 peaking between October and November if a more virulent mutant than the existing ones emerge by September, but its intensity is expected to be much lower than the second wave, a scientist involved in the mathematical modelling of the pandemic said on Monday. Manindra Agrawal, an IIT-Kanpur scientist who is part of the

three-member team of experts that have been tasked with predicting any surge in infections, said if no new virulent emerges, then the situation is unlikely to change. Last month, the model suggested that the third wave could peak between October and November and the daily cases could shoot between 1.5 lakh to 2 lakh every day if a more virulent mutant of SARS-CoV2 drive fresh infections. However, no mutant that was more infectious than the Delta, which drove the infections during the third wave, emerged. Agrawal said the fresh data comprising the vaccinations that have taken place in July and August, the sero-surveys that gave insights about the anti-bodies were factored in while assuming the scenarios. Vaccination has been the biggest weapon worldwide to combat coronavirus and more than 63 crore doses have been administered in the country, according to the CoWIN dashboard.

"STATUS QUO IS WHEN NO NEW MUTANT COMES AND NEW VARIANT IS WHEN 50% MORE INFECTIOUS MUTANT COMES BY SEPTEMBER. AS ONE CAN SEE, THE ONLY SCENARIO WITH SOME SEMBLANCE OF THIRD WAVE IS NEW VARIANT ONE FOR EPSILON = 1/33. IN THIS SCENARIO, NEW CASES RISE TO ~1 LAKH PER DAY."

33 kids, 7 adults die of mysterious fever in UP

Lucknow: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Monday confirmed that 32 children and seven adults had died in Firozabad, owing to a mysterious dengue-like fever in the district. Adityanath visited the families of those who lost their members and assured them of help. The Chief Minister also visited the 100-bed district hospital at Firozabad where children showing symptoms of the disease are being treated. At least 30 children recently lost their lives in this hospital, reportedly to the mysterious fever. Some of the districts in western Uttar Pradesh, including Mathura, Firozabad and Mainpuri, have witnessed a spike in cases of 'viral fever' which has made the government press the panic button. BJP MLA from Firozabad, Manish Asija, had claimed on Sunday that 40 children died last week from the disease.



Rockets fired at Kabul airport intercepted by US missile defence



Team Absolute | Kabul/New Delhi

Rockets fired towards the Kabul international airport were reportedly intercepted by a US missile defence system on Monday, the BBC reported.

The White House confirmed the attack, but said that its ongoing evacuations would "continue uninterrupted". The incident comes a day after a US drone strike thwarted what officials said was another attack on the airport, the BBC report said. The US is planning to withdraw its troops and complete evacuations from Afghanistan by Tuesday. On Monday morning, Afghan media reported that five rockets were launched from a car, flying over Kabul towards the airport. A US official told a news wire that their anti-missile defence system had intercepted the rockets.

Video and pictures carried by local news outlets showed smoke wafting across the rooftops of Kabul, and what appeared to be a

burning car on a street. The White House said President Joe Biden was briefed on the rocket attack.

6 Afghans killed after rocket falls into residential area in Kabul

Kabul: Six Afghan civilians, including four children, were killed after a rocket was fired at the Kabul airport where the US-led evacuation flights were continuing but failed to hit the target, a local source confirmed. "The rocket struck a house in Khwaja Bughra, a populated residential area in Police District 15, killing two adults and four children," Hajji Karim, a representative of the neighbourhood in the municipality district, told reporters at the site. The incident occurred roughly at 4:55 p.m. local time in the area, west of the Hamid Karzai International Airport, the Xinhua news agency reported.

Central India likely to see good rainfall this week

New Delhi: Heavy to very heavy rainfall is very likely at isolated places over central Maharashtra and Konkan and Goa on Tuesday, the IMD said on Monday. Further, heavy rainfall is likely at isolated places over east Rajasthan, east Madhya Pradesh, Vidarbha, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, and Tripura, Gujarat, Marathwada and Telangana on Tuesday, an India Meteorological Department (IMD) release said. For September 1, it has predicted heavy to very heavy rainfall is very likely at isolated places over Gujarat and Konkan and Goa while heavy rainfall is likely at isolated places over east Rajasthan, west Madhya Pradesh, Vidarbha, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura and central Maharashtra.



Situation in Afghanistan matter of concern, India on alert: Rajnath

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The deteriorating situation in neighbouring Afghanistan is of concern, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Monday. Delivering the Balramji Das Tandon seminar on 'National Security', he said: "Whatever is happening in the neighbouring Afghanistan raises concern with regards to the security apparatus. Our government is monitoring the evolving situation in the country."

He also stressed that the government wants security of Indians and also ensure that no



cross-border terror activities could take place, taking a cue from the ongoing situation in Afghanistan.

No Co-Ed in Afghanistan

Kabul: Abdul Baqi Haqqani, who has been appointed by the Taliban as the acting Minister for Afghanistan's Ministry of Higher Education, said classrooms for female students will be separate from those of males. Speaking with officials of public and private universities and employees of the Ministry on Sunday, Haqqani said Afghan girls have the right to study but they cannot study in the same classrooms with boys, Tolo News reported. He added that a safe educational environment will be provided for female students. The new acting higher education minister said that universities will be reopened soon and that the salaries of lecturers and the ministry's employees will be paid.



5 Dead, 2 Missing After Heavy Rain in Uttarakhand

PITHORAGARH | Agencies

Five people, including three children, were killed and two others went missing after three houses collapsed in a village following heavy rain in Dharchula sub-division of the district in Uttarakhand, an official said today. The incident took place in Jumma village late Sunday night, Pithoragarh District Magistrate Ashish Chauhan, who rushed to the spot to supervise relief and rescue operations, said.

"Five bodies, including those of three children, have been recovered, while the search for two more still missing is underway," SSB commandant M P Singh said. A helipad has been built in the affected area, a control room set up there and a medical team sent to the village to treat the injured, he said. Rescue operations will go on until all the missing persons are found



and the affected people are moved to safety, the district magistrate said. "The casualties could be higher as the affected village is on the top of a hill," Chauhan said. "We have made an aerial survey of the village by a helicopter and sent SDRF and NDRF teams, along with police and revenue teams, to the village to run relief and rescue operations on a war footing," the district magistrate said. Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami wanted to visit the spot himself, but could not do so due to bad weather.

5 including bride washed away in flooded streams in Telangana

Hyderabad: Five persons, including a bride were washed away in the rain-swollen streams in two separate incidents in Telangana's Vikarabad and Ranga Reddy districts. Rescue workers on Monday recovered three bodies from Thimmapur stream in Marpally mandal while the search was on for the fourth one. A car carrying six persons including the newly-wed couple was caught in flood waters while crossing the stream on Sunday night.

Class 2 student 'Rian the Lion' eager to enter 200 km cycling event

Rian had recently set a world record, cycling 108.09 km non-stop in 5 hours and 17 minutes at 20.8 km/hour. The record has been recognised by the World Book of Records, London.

CHENNAI | Agencies

Rian the lion. This is what the six and a half years old Rian Kumar is called by other cycling enthusiasts on the Old Mahabalipuram Road (OMR) and the East Coast Road (ECR).

Rian, who cycled over 100 km in under five hours setting a record, is waiting for the call to participate in the 200 km BRM (Brevets de Randonneurs Mondiaux), scheduled at Chennai on September 11.

"He is the youngest in the world to apply for a BRM. I have sent the organisers Rian's details and hope



that they would allow him as a special entry. He wants to join the national team for cycling and participate in the 'Tour de France', his mother Commander Gauri Mishra, a retired naval officer, told reporters. At a time when kids are after junk food - pizza, noodles and others - and play video games, this dal rice, idli and dosa loving boy is hooked to long-distance cycling, running, skating, and painting. "He likes long distance cycling, home cooked food and outdoor games," his mother told reporter. Mishra, however, said she is yet to get a geared cycle that suits Rian's height.

INFILTRATION BID FOILED, TERRORIST KILLED IN J&K

Jammu: One terrorist was killed after an infiltration bid was foiled at the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Monday.

The Army said that in the early hours a terrorist from across the LoC made an attempt to infiltrate in the Poonch sector. "Alert Army troops detected the infiltration bid by effective use of the integrated surveillance grid," the Army said. "On being challenged by the Army troops, there ensued a fierce firefight with the terrorist in which one terrorist was neutralised, and his body along with an AK-47 rifle has been recovered." The operation is still in progress in the area. "This action by alert Army troops displays a resolve of the Indian Army to thwart any misadventure along the Line of Control," the Army



Ahead of Harish Rawat's visit to Punjab, factionalism escalates in Congress

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Ahead of Congress General Secretary Harish Rawat's visit to Punjab to de-escalate tension between the two factions, the Navjot Singh Sidhu's camp has opened a front against Rawat and challenged his statement on Amritsar.

In a statement, Punjab Congress General Secretary Pargat Singh had posed a challenge to Harish Rawat should tell when it was decided that Punjab elections will be fought under the leadership of Chief Minister Amarinder Singh.

"Election will be fought under the leadership of Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi," Pargat Singh said.

Harish Rawat had met Rahul Gandhi on Saturday and briefed him about the situation there which has arisen after the statement of Navjot Singh Sidhu. Rawat is scheduled to visit Punjab in a day or two and will talk to Chief Minister Amarinder Singh and state president Navjot



Singh Sidhu and sort out the issues arising out of the differences between the two leaders. Rawat had on Friday met interim President Sonia Gandhi and apprised her of the situation in the state.

"Punjab situation is under control... I have apprised her about the situa-

tion in the state," he told reporters after the meeting. Sidhu speaking at a party function in Amritsar last week had 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 won't let me take deci-

sions, eint naal eint bi kharkaonga (it will be disastrous for the party). There's no point in becoming a show-piece," Sidhu had said without mincing words. Speaking about the Punjab model, Sidhu said, "Punjab model means people make policies for trade, industry and power. Giving power back to the people."

The meeting happened in wake of some "rebel" MLAs seeking time from Sonia Gandhi to press for the removal of Chief Minister Amarinder Singh.

Rawat has been facing a tough task to balance both sides in Punjab as Sidhu and Amarinder Singh are at loggerheads.

Meanwhile, Amarinder Singh's confidante and Cabinet minister Rana Gurmit Singh Sodhi hosted a dinner at his residence on Thursday.

A total of 58 MLAs and eight MPs attended the dinner and expressed confidence that the party would win the 2022 polls under the leadership of Amarinder Singh. "The journey has started today," Sodhi informed in a tweet.

Yogi Bans Meat, Liquor Trade In UP's Mathura

Team Absolute | Mathura

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Monday imposed a complete ban on the sale of liquor and meat in Mathura.

"The officers concerned are directed to make plans for the ban as well as for the engagement of people involved in such activities in some other trade," he said.

The chief minister was speaking at the Krishnotsava 2021 programme in Lucknow.

He suggested that those engaged in liquor and meat trade may take up selling milk in order to revive the glory of Mathura, that was known for producing huge quantity of animal milk. Adityanath also prayed to Lord Krishna to eliminate



the novel coronavirus infection.

"Every effort will be made to develop Brij Bhumi and there will be no dearth of funds for this. We are looking at a blend of modern technology and the cultural and spiritual heritage for the development of the region," he said.

The priest-turned-politician also complimented Prime Minister Narendra Modi for giving a new direction to the country.

He said places of faith neglected since long are being revived now. Cabinet ministers Laxmi Narain Chaudhary and Shrikant Sharma were also present on the occasion.

Kisan Morcha expresses shock over Haryana CM's statement

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Expressing deep shock and objection over Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar's defence of a "murderous official" in the state, the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) on Monday gave a deadline of September 6 to the Haryana government to lodge a murder case against the SDM allegedly involved in the lathi charge incident. "After facing serious injuries during the brutal lathi charge in Karnal district on August 28 during the protest against a Chief Minister's event there, Sushil Kajal succumbed to the same. The SKM reiterates the demand that the state government should immediately slap murder charges and file a case against SDM Ayush Sinha, in addition to dismissing him and all other officials involved in the unacceptable violence unleashed on peaceful protesters on Saturday," the SKM said in a release.



"It is utterly shocking that the Chief Minister of the state is choosing to brush aside the barbaric and illegal instructions as only a wrong choice of words. It once again clearly reiterates what we have been saying, which is that the Khattar-Chautala government is at war with its own people," the release said. A video had gone viral of the SDM shouting out instructions to policemen

to use force to stop the protesting farmers. Khattar had told a press conference that the officer's "choice of words was not correct" but said, "if any action has to be taken (against the officer), it would first have to be assessed by the district administration." Mobilisation efforts continue in various states and districts for the Kisan Mahapanchayat on September 5 in Muzaffarnagar in Uttar Pradesh.

JAMIAT ULEMA-E-HIND APPEALS TO NON-MUSLIMS NOT TO SEND GIRLS TO CO-ED SCHOOLS

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The President of Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind (JUH), Arshad Madani, has appealed to all non-Muslims not to send their daughters to co-educational schools to save them from 'obscenity, while emphasising on schooling of girls in separate schools. In a press statement issued on Monday after the working committee meeting of the JUH, Madani said, "Immorality and obscenity is not a teaching of any religion. It has been condemned in every religion of the world because these are the things which spread misbehaviour in the society. Therefore, we will also ask our non-Muslim brothers to refrain from giving co-education to their daughters to keep them away



and higher secular educational institutions in which children can be provided equal opportunities of education. Madani said that Muslims must equip their children with higher education at any cost. "We desperately need schools and colleges in which our children, especially girls, can get higher education without any hindrance or discrimination" he said.

Woman arrested for torturing 2-year-old son

Chennai: A special team of Tamil Nadu police has arrested a 22-year-old woman from Andhra Pradesh after a video went viral in which she was seen beating her 2-year-old son.

The police registered a case after a complaint was received from the woman's husband. The woman, who has been identified as Thulasi, was seen thrashing her two-year-old son, Pradeep, repeatedly punching on his face. People who watched the video were shocked and demanded action against her.

The police said that the woman is a resident of Madura Metturu village in Villupuram district of Tamil Nadu. Her husband, Vadivazhagan, confirmed that the woman is his wife.

The couple had entered into a quarrel after Thulasi was regularly found talking to another man over phone. Vadivazhagan had sent her to her father's place in Chittoor in Andhra Pradesh over this issue.

The police arrested the woman on Sunday and brought her to Sathyamangalam in Tamil Nadu on Monday. The police are ascertaining whether the video was circulated by Thulasi's husband or some other person.

Delhi Police bust fake call-centre under the name of PM loan scheme

Delhi Police have busted a fake call-centre that was involved in defrauding people under the pretext of providing them personal loans under the 'Pradhan Mantri Loan Yojana' and arrested 12 people.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The group was running the fake call-centre from Rohini in north Delhi to cheat people, offering them loans at a low interest rate under the name of the Centre's scheme, police said.

"They would make phone calls to people and offer them loans on exceptionally cheap rates. Once the victim was trapped by the lucrative offer, they would ask the targeted person to pay some money as processing fee," said Deputy Commissioner of Police, Rohini, Pranav Tayal.

Once the processing fee is paid, they would keep asking them for money on one pretext or the other, such as consultancy charges etc. To show the customers that it is an



authentic deal, they used to collect their documents and IDs to gain faith.

Using this modus operandi, they duped people in different states, including Maharashtra, Karnataka, West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh, the police said.

Eleven women and the key accused, Deepak Saini, who was the manager of the fake call-centre, have been arrested.

A case has been registered at the Rohini police station under Sections 419, 420, 120-B, 34 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

The development has come a week after three members of a gang involving a fake call-centre were arrested for allegedly cheating internet users by sending bogus pop-up notices.

UP man kills younger brother over 'open defecation'

Team Absolute | Pilibhit

A man has been arrested for killing his younger brother in a fit of rage over the issue of defecating in his field.

The incident took place in the Ghunchay area of Pilibhit district on Sunday.

According to police, a woman had defecated in the cane field of her brother-in-law following which she was confronted by her nephews.

This led to an argument and soon, her husband stepped in. The argument took a violent turn and the brothers and nephews started hitting each other with sticks.

The younger brother, who was repeatedly hit on the head, collapsed and died on the spot before he could be taken to the hospital. An FIR has been registered against the elder brother and his three sons under IPC section 304 (culpable homicide) and he has been arrested.



Puranpur Station House Officer (SHO) Harish Vardhan said, "Premraj Rathore was killed by his elder brother Baburam and his three sons after a heated argument. Baburam is in our custody and we are searching for the sons."

FIR against Manish Sisodia, Sanjay Singh in Agra



Team Absolute | Agra

The success of the 'Tiranga Yatra' in the Taj city by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), which drew thousands of party workers, has had its fallout in an FIR being registered against Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, Sanjay Singh and 17 others at the Loha Mandi police station on Monday.

FIR has also been regis-

tered against 450 unnamed persons. It is alleged that the rally on Sunday had more people than the number given in the permission to the party. The accused have been charged with violating Covid-19 norms. After Lucknow, this was the second Tiranga Sankalp Yatra in Agra, in which thousands of people participated with the national Tricolour.

"Clearly, the success has

irked the BJP government in Uttar Pradesh," an AAP member said.

Only the other day, the Yatra by a Union minister S.P. Singh Baghael, which had thousands of people and vehicles, was welcomed all over the city, was also in gross violation of all pandemic norms and section 144, but no action was taken, he added.

Woman's throat slit for rejecting marriage proposal, succumbs

Team Absolute | Bengaluru

In another shocking crime reported from Karnataka, a youth in Bengaluru on Monday slit the throat of his former co-worker right on a road after she rejected his marriage proposal again, police said.

The victim was identified as Anita, 23, a private company worker, and the accused as Venkatesh, 22. Both hailed from Andhra Pradesh, had worked for the same company for three years, and were known to each other very well.

The incident took place when Anita was walking towards her workplace at about 7 a.m. Venkatesh stopped her and proposed to her. When Anita rejected him, he took out a knife and slit her throat.

When blood began gushing out of her neck, Venkatesh, with the help of her co-workers who were on the same stretch, took her to a nearby hospital, where she succumbed to her injuries. DCP, West, Sanjeev M. Patil said Venkatesh has been



arrested and the police have also seized the weapon from the scene of crime. "Preliminary investigations suggest that the accused and victim were close to each other. They were working in a private company as staff checkers and also distributed

goods to retail shops. Three months ago, Venkatesh joined another company. But, they lived on different floors of the same building," he said.

Lakshmi and Venkatesh were very close. Her father objected to it and she moved away from him.

Venkatesh had also approached the victim with a marriage proposal on Saturday and had been rejected. On Monday, he bought a knife in a supermarket for Rs 80 and used it for the crime, the DCP said.

It has been gathered that Lakshmi's parents got her married with a relative while she was a minor. Lakshmi had told Venkatesh that she is getting married. It is not known if she was marrying the same person or a different one. The police are collecting further information.

Even as the horrific Mysuru gang rape still figures in the headlines, there have been a number of such cases in Karnataka in the recent period.

Just last week, a jilted lover had repeatedly stabbed a woman college student in Bengaluru for spurning him time and again. In Mysuru, a gang of robbers, emerging with their haul from a jewellery shop, had shot and killed a passerby on the fears that he could identify them or foil their escape.



THE FESTIVAL OF KRISHNA JANMASHTAMI IS BEING CELEBRATED WITH GREAT POMP

The festival of Krishna Janmashtami is being celebrated with great pomp, the daughters of the Nirbhaya Women's Shelter Home family reached their maternal in-laws (Nirbhaya Ashram) so that the brother could make a defense thread.



Team Absolute | Bhopal

The festival of Krishna Janmashtami is being celebrated with great pomp across the country today. In this episode, the festival of Krishna Janmashtami was celebrated with great enthusiasm at Nirbhaya Mahila Swadhar Greh located in Shahjahanabad, Bhopal. Celebrate Janmashtami and tie Rakhi to his brother, Sher Afzal Khan, President of

Nirbhaya Foundation. On this occasion, the secretary of Nirbhaya Foundation, Rashmi Manu Vyas, the Director of the Nirbhaya shelter home, Samar Khan, counselor Pooja Singh Rana, Pooja Sharma etc. dignitaries were present. Sher Afzal Khan told that every year on the Ashtami date of Bhadrpadma month. Krishna Janmashtami is celebrated, all the sisters of the Nirbhaya shelter home family celebrate this festival together. Rashmi Vyas told that Lord

Krishna was born on Ashtami Tithi, so he takes great care of Ashtami Tithi in determining Janmashtami. Worshipping Shri Krishna on this day brings children, age and prosperity. Samar Khan told that this year on Ashtami all the daughters of our Nirbhaya shelter home family have come together to the shelter home because she could not come on Rakhi. That's why everyone has come on Ashtami so that she can meet each other and tie Rakhi to her broth-

er. Matki decoration competition was organized on this occasion. Children decorated colorful matki in an attractive and beautiful way. The girls mesmerized everyone by presenting devotional songs. During this, the girls presented a dance. Mona gave a presentation of Nandlala Bhajan spoken to Yashomati Maiya. On this occasion, all the staff of the institution, including Bharti Narware, Indra Maurya, Nisha Chaudhary, Uzma Khan etc. were present.

Vimukt Jati Diwas

Vimukt, Ghumakkad and Ardhghumakkad tribe panchayat today at Chief Ministers residence

On the initiative of Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, a special Panchayat of Vimukt, Ghumakkad and Ardhghumakkad tribes will be organised on August 31, Vimukt Jati Diwas. The Panchayat will start at the Chief Minister's residence from 11 am. Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Backward Classes and Minorities Welfare, Vimukt, Ghumakkad and Ardhghumakkad Tribes Welfare Shri Ramkhelawan Patel will also be present.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Chouhan has started the process of formulation and implementation of welfare programmes and schemes on the basis of their ideas and suggestions by establishing dialogue with different sections of the state. Its main objective is to connect the concerned classes with the mainstream of development by providing maximum benefits. In this sequence, with the resumption of the Panchayats of different classes, Panchayat of Vimukt, Ghumakkad and Ardhghumakkad classes is being organised.



Chief Minister Chouhan believes that many castes in the country could not join the mainstream as they were away from the process of development. There is a need to give more emphasis on welfare programmes for connecting them with the entire society and for their economic prosperity. Tribes are also the identity of Madhya Pradesh. Madhya Pradesh government is committed for the development of these tribes. At the Chief Minister's residence, Chief Minister Chouhan will interact with the representatives of these tribes coming from all over the state. In the past, various panchayats have been organised by the Chief Minister Chouhan in the interest of women, farmers, students, businessmen, players and other sections. Based on the deliberations held in these Panchayats, the provisions of the schemes were modified so that the people of these sections could get the benefits of welfare programmes in a better way.



CHIEF MINISTER PLANTS KADAMBA SAPLING



Bhopal : Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted a Kadamba sapling in Smart City Park today. Chief Minister Chouhan plants a sapling every day in fulfillment of his resolve. Kadamba is considered to be the tree of Gods. Kadamba is famous in Ayurveda for its medicinal properties. Its fruits are similar to lemon. Kadamba flowers have their own importance. The mention of these fragrant flowers is found in ancient Vedas and compositions. There is also a mention of Radha-Krishna's many Leelas (pastimes) in the fragrant atmosphere of this tree.

Registration of vehicles engaged in transportation of minerals is necessary

Team Absolute | Bhopal

After the disclosure of fake transport passes in Panna district of Madhya Pradesh, the mining department and administration of many districts have become alert. Vehicle owners transporting minerals in Bhopal have been asked to get registered with the Mining Department.

Bhopal's District Mineral Officer has appealed to the owners of vehicles engaged in transportation of minerals to make registration of vehicles compulsorily. Most of the minerals are transported by vehicle owners by tractor-trolleys, dumpers and trucks. E-TP (Electronic Transit Pass) is not generated due to non-registration of these vehicles on e-Khanij portal. Due to non-generation of the e-TP, the revenue received by the govern-



ment is also being lost. Not only this, due to non-availability of E-TP in the vehicles transporting minerals, heavy fines are collected by registering cases of illegal quarrying transport on the vehicles.

The Mineral Officer said that arrangements have been made by the Mineral Resources Department for the registration of vehicles

transporting minerals on the departmental website. After registering the vehicles on the website, after obtaining the E-TP from the valid contractor, the minerals can be transported. Transportation of minerals without registration on the departmental website comes under the category of illegal transport.

Now emphasis on vaccination of students and teachers

Team Absolute | Bhopal

After the weakening of the second wave of corona epidemic in Madhya Pradesh, life of common people has returned to normal. Educational institutions have also started opening, during which emphasis is being laid on vaccination of more and more people, in this sequence, apart from eligible students, a campaign to vaccinate teachers of schools and colleges is also going to be launched before September 5. Vaccination has been considered the most effective weapon against corona, which is why the campaign to vaccinate every eligible person is in full swing. Many classes have also been started in educational institutions in the state, while in colleges along with many other classes, education is about to be started. Emphasis is being laid on the vaccination of students and teachers keeping in mind that studies should pick up full pace and Corona does not get a chance to show its effect.

Sources say that from September 1 to

September 5, apart from the eligible students, a campaign for vaccination of teachers is going to be conducted. Efforts would be that all teachers and students should be vaccinated by September 5, Teacher's Day. There are a large number of students and teachers who have not been vaccinated, those who have already received the first dose, special emphasis will be given to apply the second dose. It may be known that a special campaign has been launched for the vaccination of teachers in the state in the past, but still many teachers are left out of getting vaccinated. In this situation, there is a risk of infection if the teachers and students come in contact. Keeping this in mind, now the campaign is going to be launched once again. Vaccination maha campaigns have also been conducted in the state and people are being encouraged to get vaccinated. So far 4.5 crore people have been vaccinated. There are more than one crore people left in the state who have not received the first dose.

Governor Patel launched 130 new courses of Vikram University

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Governor Mangubhai Patel inaugurated 130 new courses of Vikram University at Vikram Kirti Mandir. Governor Patel said that more than 130 innovative courses are going to be started in the university simultaneously. There will now be a total of 180 courses. New courses will take the youth to new heights in future. The new curriculum will free the youth from being tied to one subject and will help them to move forward and make them self-dependent. The Governor said that the universi-



ty should make efforts to promote Sanskrit language. We all should make efforts to ensure that India becomes Vishwaguru again. Extending best wishes to all the people on Janmashtami, Governor Patel said that Ujjaini has been the shikshasthali of Lord Shri Krishna. I am feeling proud to have come to the holy and pious city of Ujjaini. The city of Ujjaini has been a holy

city since ancient times. People here are fortunate that Lord Krishna himself acquired education by staying here in the ashram of Guru Sandipani. At that time, the royal family and common children all used to acquire education together at the Gurukul. Lord Shri Krishna and Sudama simultaneously acquired education under Guru Sandipani's guidance. Lord Krishna taught Arjuna to perform his duty in the war of Mahabharata. Patel said that many students who have passed out of Vikram University, have attained important positions in life.

CHIEF MINISTER EXPRESSES GRIEF OVER THE DEMISE OF DUSHYANT KUMAR'S WIFE

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Bhopal : Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has expressed grief over the demise of Rajeshwari Dushyant, wife of eminent poet and ghazal writer late Dushyant Kumar.

Chief Minister Chouhan has tweeted and prayed for the peace to the soul of Rajeshwari Dushyant Kumar and to give strength to the family to bear this profound grief.

30 days' sentence of convicted prisoners will be waived off: Dr Mishra

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Jail and Home Minister Dr. Narottam Mishra has said that the prisoners convicted in heinous crimes in the jails of the state, the 30 days' sentence of the remaining inmates will be waived off. Dr. Mishra said this during the Shri Krishna Janmotsav programme at Central Jail, Bhopal. MP Pragya Singh Thakur and Medical Education Minister Vishwas Sarang were also present in the ceremony. Jail and Home Minister Dr. Mishra encouraged the prisoners in a cultural programme organised in the meeting room of the



Central Jail on Shri Krishna Janmashtami. Accepting the demand of local MP Thakur, he assured that the canteen would be started from today

as per the material available in the Central Jail. Dr. Mishra said that arrangements would be made for fruits and vegetables for the prisoners observ-

ing fast on the day of Shri Krishna Janmashtami in the jails of the state. Special dishes will be arranged for the remaining prisoners.

CM Chouhan congratulates gold and silver medallists

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has congratulated the players who won gold and silver medals for India in the Tokyo Para Olympics. Chief Minister Chouhan said that these sports persons have made India proud by winning medals

with their talent. It may be noted that today India has got 2 medals in Para Olympics, which includes India's first gold medal. Avani Lakhera won the Gold Medal by securing first position in 10m Air Rifle Shooting. Similarly Yogesh Kathunia got a silver medal in discus throw.

CHOUHAN CONGRATULATES GOLD MEDALIST ANTIL

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that today is a day full of achievements for India in Para Olympics. While in other sports India has bagged gold and silver in various competitions held on August 29 and 30. At the same time, Sumit Antil has won the gold medal for India in athletics this evening. This is a matter of joy for the countrymen.

Last day for exemption in surcharge of various taxes of urban bodies

Up to 100 percent rebate in surcharge of taxes

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Commissioner Urban Administration and Development Nikunj Kumar Shrivastava has informed that the decision to exempt citizens from the surcharge of various taxes of urban bodies was taken on June 3, due to the decline in employment and business in other areas due to the Corona pandemic. The benefit of this exemption will be available till August 31, 2021. Shrivastava has urged the citizens to take advantage of this exemption by paying the pending taxes till August 31.

Citizens can deposit tax/consumer charges/rent/land rent, online through website mpenagarpalika.gov.in or UPI like Phone Pay, PayTM, Google pay or in urban body office. Messages have also been sent by the Urban Administration

Department to the concerned taxpayers, by visiting the link of which payment can also be made. In those cases of property tax in which the amount of tax and surcharge is outstanding up to Rs 50 thousand, there will be 100 percent exemption in surcharge. In cases of wealth-tax in which the amount of tax and surcharge is up to Rs one lakh, there will be 50 percent exemption in surcharge and in wealth-tax related cases in which the amount of tax and surcharge is more than Rs one lakh, only 25 percent will be exempted in surcharge. There will be 100 percent exemption in surcharge in cases of land rent / rent of assets disposed by urban bodies, in which the total due amount including surcharge will be outstanding up to Rs 20 thousand, in cases of land rent / rent of assets disposed by urban bodies in which the total amount due including surcharge

will be between Rs 20 thousand to Rs 50 thousand, 50 percent will be exempted in surcharge and in cases of land rent / rent of assets disposed by urban bodies, in which the total amount due including surcharge is more than Rs 50 thousand, there will be 25 percent exemption in surcharge. Water consumer charges / water cess cases in which the amount of tax and surcharge will be up to Rs 10 thousand, there will be 100 percent exemption in only surcharge, in cases of water consumer charges / water cess, in which the amount of tax and surcharge is more than Rs 10 thousand and Rs 50 thousand, there will be 75 percent exemption in only surcharge and in cases of water consumer charges / water cess, where the amount of tax and surcharge is more than Rs 50 thousand, 50 percent exemption will be given in only surcharge.

Women brutally thrashed in Chhatarpur over land dispute

Team Absolute | Chhatarpur

There was a fierce ruckus in the land dispute in the Satai police station area of Chhatarpur. During this, a video of women being brutally lathi-charged has also surfaced. It is seen in the video that women are running here and there to save themselves. Those injured in the assault have been admitted to the district hospital. At the same time, the police have arrested the accused who assaulted.

The matter is of Satai Nagar Thanh area. Victim Bablu Yadav says that I have land in ward number-8. The Rakwar family has raised objections on this land in the court. The matter is going on

in the court. On Monday morning, the Rakwar family was getting the construction work done on the disputed land. On getting the information, my father reached the spot and asked to stop the work. On this, Komal, Harikishan and Hariram Rakwar started abusing the father. he father was explaining to him that he started beating him with sticks. When my wife Ramkunwar Yadav, sister-in-law Maya and nephew Bharat came to rescue them, they were also brutally thrashed. The condition of the wife is critical in the attack. He has been referred to the district hospital. Some people present there made a video of this entire incident.



EDITOR'S SPECS

Loss of funding in Afghanistan

The withdrawal of US forces and return of the Taliban in Afghanistan has stoked much fear and dejection among research scientists who predict huge losses not only in terms of funding but also of science. During their reign from 1996-2001, the fundamentalist group brutally enforced a conservative version of Islamic Sharia law, characterised by women's-rights violations and suppression of freedom of expression, Nature reported. But after they were overthrown in 2001 by a US-led coalition and a new government elected in 2004, international funding including from the World Bank, the US Agency for International Development and other organisations poured into Afghanistan and universities thrived. But with the regime now taking over again, scientists fear for their lives and the future of research. While many are fleeing out of the country, those who remain face lack of funding and the threat of persecution for being involved in international collaborations, or because of their fields of study or their ethnicity, the report said. News reports claim that billions of dollars in overseas finance for Afghanistan's government, such as assets held by the US Federal Reserve and credit from the International Monetary Fund, have been frozen. In the last 20 years, some three dozen public universities have been established or re-established since 2010, and tens more private universities have been set up. Even the student population at public universities grew to 170,000 in 2018 from 8,000 in 2001, and one-quarter of these were women, the report said. Further, the number of research papers also increased to 285 in 2019 from 71 in 2011, according to Scopus - a database of peer-reviewed literature. While many researchers have gone into hiding, or plan to cross into neighbouring countries, some are also seeking asylum overseas. In August alone, humanitarian organization Scholars at Risk (SAR) in New York City received more than 500 applications from people in Afghanistan.

AUTUMN'S SHADOW ON THE ARAB SPRING

Asad Mirza

The onset of the Arab Spring had raised expectations in the region of power being transferred to the people ultimately, but the ensuing developments have completely changed the dynamics of the pro-people movements in the region.

While most of the Indian media has been obsessed with developments taking place in Afghanistan, it has nearly missed the country, which was the fountainhead of the so-called 'Arab Spring' about ten years back when people toppled a dictator that had ruled it for 27 years. Arab Spring had nurtured hopes that democracy might be able to get a toehold in many Arab countries based on the aspirations of the people.

However, recent events in Tunisia have raised concerns whether the small country which shook the power centres in this vast and strategic region, will it be able to handle its own aspirations as expressed by people ten years back. On 25 July, Tunisian President Kais Saied stunned the world by announcing the suspension of the parliament, the sacking of the cabinet and assuming emergency powers citing an imminent threat to the Tunisian state. These extraordinary measures are supposed to last for 30 days.

For Tunisia watchers the development came as no surprise, as Tunisians have changed ten governments in the last ten years and are moving along the path, which may lead the country towards anarchy. The events of the last ten years have infused most Tunisians with a sense of hopelessness and a loss of faith in parliament and the country's political parties.

This explains why Mr Saied's draconian measures were met with jubilation on the streets. His supporters were simply fed up with parliament, and yearned for change.

But not everyone in Tunisia was happy. BBC reports that foremost among them was Ennahda

(Renaissance) Party, the Islamist party that has the biggest block in parliament. It denounced Mr Saied's move as a coup. Other parties as well as independent observers concur.

So, now the world will be watching the next move of the four organisations -- known as the Quartet for National Dialogue -- which in 2013 succeeded in brokering a compromise between Islamists and their secular rivals and averted protracted civil strife.

Some observers believe the fault lies with the constitution that created multiple centres of power: the president, the prime minister and the parliament. In an ideal world that should create a well-balanced political order, with checks and balances that prevent domination by the president. But in an extremely polarised society it was a recipe for paralysis.

For the ruling party, problems accumulated - especially with Covid spiralling out of control -- the governance broke down, and the president occasionally blocked parliament and vice versa, each side tweaking the text of the law to suit its own purpose. However, what happens in Tunisia will not stay in Tunisia, as the experience of the past decade has demonstrated. Most autocrats of the region are harping once again that "Arabs are not fit for democracy" and the democratic forces are clinging to the hope that Tunisia will remain a beacon for the rest of the region. In fact, Tunisia is the third Arab country after Egypt and Sudan to say that it is fed up with the rule of the Islamists. With the exception of Qatar, most of the Arab countries have long regarded the Muslim Brotherhood and other Islamist groups as a major threat to security, stability and peace.

Many pro-west Arab commentators have drawn parallels with what happened in Egypt in 2013, when Abdul Fattah Al Sisi, then minister of defence and now president, intervened to remove the elected Muslim Brotherhood president. Most Arab commentators



have accused the Islamists, specifically the Muslim Brotherhood, of spreading chaos and instability in the Arab world.

Khaled Abu Toameh, a journalist based in Jerusalem, writing for Gatestone Institute on the issue says that evidently, many Arabs are pleased that the rule of the Islamists in Tunisia has finally come to an end. The jubilation in the Arab countries over the toppling of the Ennahda Party sends a clear message to the rest of the world against embracing or appeasing the Islamists. Toameh gives examples of various other writers in his report, like;

Abdel Aziz Khamis, a Saudi journalist, told Sky News Arabia that the reason the Tunisian Islamists failed was because they "failed to believe in democracy in its true meaning, including freedom of the media, the independence of the judiciary and economic and social rights."

Prominent Saudi journalist and writer Abdul Rahman Al-Rashed stated that he was not surprised by the downfall of the Islamists in Tunisia. As the ruling party was associated with chaos and assassinations once they were in government. Al-Rashed wrote for Al

Arabia newspaper, "...the extraordinary measures the president took came to rescue the country before the collapse. In fact, what he is doing is saving the Tunisian regime, and Tunisia, the country, from the chaos that had begun."

Sawsan Al-Sha'er, one of Bahrain's most influential journalists and intellectuals, expressed relief over the ouster of the Islamists of Tunisia and said that this should serve as a reminder to all Arabs that Islamist parties -- Shiite and Sunni alike -- care about nothing else but grabbing power.

Saudi writer and journalist Abdel Aziz Khamis expressed hope that what happened in Tunisia would spread to other Arab countries. Urging Arabs to learn from the failed experience of the Islamists in Tunisia, Khamis listed a number of reasons why the Ennahda party failed: "It failed because it was not able to find real solutions to Tunisia's problems and because it was not concerned with serving the people or improving their living conditions."

Khamis said that the Ennahda Party also failed because

it was unable to transform itself into a political party "in the modern sense of the word." The party, he added, "was not able to leave the ranks of the Muslim Brotherhood."

However, if we analyse the reasons behind the failure of Islamist parties in the region, then one fact would emerge that first these parties are not given time to settle-in and start delivering, but are embroiled in various internal and external issues. The puppet master behind most of these interventions are the western countries and in fact these nations are least concerned whether there is a despotic or a democratic government till the time their gains are assured. And that might be one of the reasons why the Arab Spring has failed to deliver what it promised, i.e. power to the people.

(Asad Mirza is a political commentator based in New Delhi. He writes on Muslims, educational, international affairs, interfaith and current affairs. Views expressed are personal)

international

Taliban's supreme leader shows up in Kandahar

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The supreme leader of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, Mullah Hibatullah Akhundzada, arrived in Kandahar province from an unknown place on Sunday. He has reportedly met with the tribal leaders of Kandahar province and the IEA is due to release a statement on his behalf, Khaama News reported. The supreme leader of whom the world has only a single photo is due to come to the Afghan capital and hold a series of talks with other Taliban officials and Afghan politicians and leaders, the report said. Prior to that, Mullah Abdulghani Baradar, the co-founder of Taliban and head of Taliban's political office in Doha, had also landed in Kandahar province before coming to Kabul along with a delegation. The Taliban's governance is said to be conducted from Kandahar province. Negotiations over the upcoming government



in Afghanistan are expected to be expedited after the supreme leader arrives in Kabul. Earlier, the acting minister of information and culture and spokesperson of the Taliban, Zabihullah Mujahid, had said that their cabinet will take shape in the upcoming two weeks.

Whole city of New Orleans loses power due to Hurricane Ida

New Orleans | Agencies

New Orleans, the biggest city in Louisiana, is now without power after powerful Hurricane Ida made a landfall in the US state, local officials said.

Sunday also marked the 16th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina's destructive landfalls in Louisiana and Mississippi, reports Xinhua news agency. "New Orleans has no power. The only power in the city is coming from generators," NOLA Ready, New Orleans' emergency preparedness campaign, tweeted on Sunday night.

Across the coastal state, nearly 870,000 customers have lost power after Ida's landfall, according to latest data from the tracking website power-outage.us. The loss of power was due to "catastrophic transmission damage" from the powerful Category four hurricane, said power company Entergy. New Orleans Emergency Management Services tweeted earlier Sunday it has suspended all operations due to Hurricane Ida.

Heavy rains and strong winds are expected to pound New Orleans Sunday night. Experts are especially worried about the storm's current slow move-



ment, sustained power and direction, according to local media reports. New Orleans has spent \$14 billion to upgrade its flood protection system after heavy suffering from Hurricane Katrina 16 years ago, according to a USA Today report.

However, facing the threat of Ida, Deputy City Administrator Officer Ramsey Green has warned that "it's an incredibly fragile system. That system can change at any point".

Ida made landfall in Louisiana on Sunday afternoon and was downgraded to a Category three later in the evening. However, the risk remains high since Category three storms generally have sustained winds of 111 to 129 mph, and the damage they cause can be devastating, the National Hurricane Center (NHC) said on its website. "Well-built framed homes may incur major damage or removal of roof decking and gable ends. Many trees will be snapped or uprooted, blocking numerous roads. Electricity and water will be unavailable for several days to weeks after the storm passes," the NHC said.

Ida grew into a Category four storm within hours early Sunday morning, hours before its landfall.

The so-called "rapid intensification" is typically defined to be a tropical cyclone intensifying by at least 35 mph in a 24-hour period, according to Colorado State University meteorologist Phil Klotzbach.

That can happen when a storm encounters an extremely conducive environment such as very warm water, low vertical wind shear and high levels of mid-level moisture, Klotzbach told local media.

11 DEAD, 6 INJURED IN PERU BOAT COLLISION

Lima: At least 11 people died and 6 others were injured after two boats collided on the Huallaga



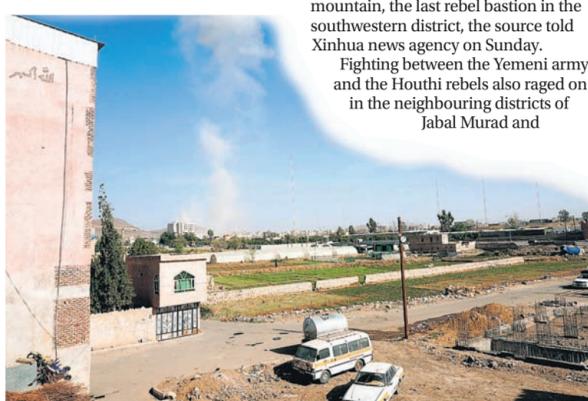
River in the Peruvian district of Yurimaguas, authorities said. Meanwhile, an unknown number of passengers were missing, according to the Sectorial Emergency Operations Centre of the Ministry of Health.

The accident occurred on early Sunday morning when a barge, which had left with around 80 people onboard from Santa Maria to Yurimaguas, was hit by a motorboat, reports xinhua news agency. The people on the barge, including about 20 children, were asleep while returning to Yurimaguas after a religious event, local media reported. Members of the Peruvian Navy and the Sectorial Emergency Operations Centre arrived on the scene with three initial rescue brigades, health staff, two technical teams and an ambulance. Local police have started an investigation into the accident.

12 Houthi rebels killed in Saudi-led airstrikes

Sanaa | Agencies

At least 12 Houthi rebels were killed when Saudi-led coalition airstrikes hit two pick-up vehicles in Rahabah district in Yemen's central



province of Marib, a Ymilitary source at the scene said.

The coalition airstrikes came as the Yemeni troops were advancing from two directions towards Al-Sadara mountain, the last rebel bastion in the southwestern district, the source told Xinhua news agency on Sunday.

Fighting between the Yemeni army and the Houthi rebels also raged on in the neighbouring districts of Jabal Murad and

Sirwah.

Houthi-run al-Masirah TV reported 15 coalition airstrikes against the Houthi positions in those districts in the last 24 hours, without providing more details.

The Houthis began in February a major offensive on Marib in an attempt to seize control of the oil-rich province, the government's last northern stronghold.

The UN has warned that the offensive on Marib, which hosts nearly 1 million internally displaced people, could lead to a major humanitarian catastrophe.

Yemen's civil war flared up in late 2014 when the Iran-backed Houthi group seized control of much of the country's north and forced the internationally recognised government of President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi out of the capital Sanaa.

The Saudi-led Arab coalition intervened in the Yemeni conflict in March 2015 to support Hadi's government.

PALESTINIAN PREZ, ISRAELI DEFENCE MINISTER MEET IN RAMALLAH

Ramallah | Agencies

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas met Israeli Defence Minister Benny Gantz in the West Bank city of Ramallah during which they discussed "security-policy, civilian and economic issues".

Taking to Twitter late Sunday, Gantz said: "This evening I met with PA Chairman Mahmoud Abbas to discuss security-policy, civilian and economic issues. I told Chairman Abbas that Israel seeks to take measures that will strengthen the PA's economy."

"We also discussed shaping the security and economic situations in the West Bank and in Gaza. We agreed to continue communicating further on the issues that were raised during the meeting."

Meanwhile, Hussein al-Sheikh, a member of the central committee of Abbas-led Fatah party, said in a statement that Abbas and Gantz discussed all aspects of the Israeli-Palestinian relations.

The meeting is the first of its kind since 2014, when the peace negotiations between the two sides stopped. Gantz discussed with Abbas on



resuming ties between the two sides and boosting the economy of the Palestinian Authority, an Israeli media reported.

On July 20, Gantz wrote on Twitter that he spoke with President Abbas on the phone to express "well wishes on the occasion of Eid al-Adha", adding that "trust-building between Israel and the Palestinian Authority will benefit the economy and security of the entire region".

The Palestinian-Israeli peace process has been stalled since April 2014, after the US had sponsored the peace negotiations for nine months without making any tangible progress due to deep differences on borders, security, and Israeli settlement.



POLICE ACTION ON FARMERS IS "TALIBANI MENTALITY": RAUT

Slamming the Bharatiya Janata Party-led government, Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut on Monday said the police action against protesting farmers in Haryana's Karnal is a kind of "Talibani mentality".

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Speaking to mediapersons, Raut said, "Attack on farmers is a shameful incident for the nation. This is a kind of Talibani mentality. Farmers are doing protests for two years on the Ghazipur border, Haryana border... They are fighting for their rights." "The SDM gave an order to break the head of the farmers and the government is not serious about this issue. How can this government say it is for the poor and for the farmers? It does not even listen to farmers' "Mann ki Baat", said Raut. The Shiv Sena MP's remarks



came after several farmers were injured during police action in Haryana's Karnal on Saturday. A farmer injured in the lathi-charge also died on Sunday. Meanwhile, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Sunday summoned Maharashtra Minister Anil Parab in connection with a money laundering case. On this, Raut said,

"Our transport minister Anil Parab suddenly received a notice by ED. This is not a big thing for us. This is not a death warrant. This is a threat for us. The ED has placed the best officer in the office of the BJP or the BJP functionary in the office of the ED. Those involved in politics get this kind of letter." He further said the Maha Vikas

Aghadi government in Maharashtra is very strong and the BJP cannot break it.

"The government has been in power for two years and will complete its term. The wall will not break, no matter how hard you try. We welcome the love letter. No matter how many letters you send, millions of our Shiv Sainiks are ready," he added.

Haryana Police lathi-charged protesting farmers near the Bastar toll plaza on Saturday, where they gathered in large numbers to protest against a programme that Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar was scheduled to attend.

Following the incident, a clipping of a video went viral on social media, which was also tweeted by BJP MP from Pilibhit Varun Gandhi, in which Karnal SDM Ayush Sinha could be purportedly seen instructing policemen to "crack their (protesting farmers') heads" to prevent them from moving forward.

Later issuing clarification on the viral clipping, Sinha said that "stone pelting had started at many places... It was said during the briefing to use force proportionately."

ED raids Shiv Sena minister Anil Parab, MP Bhavana Gawali

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Building up pressure on the Shiv Sena, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday raided multiple locations belonging to senior Shiv Sena Transport Minister Anil Parab and five-time Lok Sabha MP Bhavana P. Gawali, sources said.

The ED raids came a day after Parab was slapped with a notice requiring his appearance on August 31, but he said he will consult legal experts in the matter.

On the other hand, Gawali said that she has not received any ED notice so far, even as the agency raided around half a dozen locations linked to her in Washim district, including some trusts, a college, and social and business organisations. While Patil is a close aide of Sena president and Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, Gawali is the party's sole woman face in the lower house of the parliament, elected twice from Washim and thrice from the Washim-Yavatmal constituency. "It (ED notice) is a legal matter. We shall deal with it legally," Parab said on the develop-



ment, which came a week after Union MSME Minister Narayan Rane was arrested, granted to magisterial custody and then given bail during his 'Jan Ashirwad Yatra'. Reacting to the issue, Sena MP and chief spokesperson Sanjay Raut said that the notice issued by the ED is not "a death warrant", but "a love letter" for political workers. "Only the frequency of such 'love letters' has increased after many unsuccessful attempts (by the opposition BJP) to breach the wall of the Maha Vikas Aghadi government, which remains strong and impregnable. We are not scared by it," Raut told mediapersons. National Congress Party spokesperson and Minority

Affairs Minister Nawab Malik said that such notices and raids are an outcome of "a clear political vendetta" witnessed against states ruled by non-BJP parties. "Some BJP leaders say in advance that so and so leader will face action and the central agencies start working. There's a strong doubt in the minds of the people all over India about the ED and even the Supreme Court has made certain observations recently," Malik said. He pointed out how when leaders from other parties join the BJP, all actions against them are dropped, and reiterated that the MVA will not be cowed down by such tactics.

Sachin Waze allowed to have treatment at Private hospital

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A special court here on Monday refused to grant the National Investigation Agency (NIA) the custody of dismissed police officer Sachin Waze for questioning in the Antilia bomb scare case but allowed him to get admitted at a private hospital for the treatment of his heart ailment. The cost of such treatment is to be borne by Waze and his family, the court said. Waze, currently in judicial custody, had told the court through his lawyer that three of his arteries had "90 per cent blockage" and that doctors had advised immediate surgery for the same. He urged the court to permit him to seek private medical treatment saying he did not wish to die in custody like



tribal rights activist and Jesuit priest Stan Swamy. Swamy, an accused in the Elgar Parishad-Maoist link case, died on July 5, while awaiting bail on health grounds. Last week, the NIA had applied to the special court seeking the custody of Waze for two days, and of his co-accused and former police officer Sunil Mane for five days in the Antilia bomb scare case. Both accused,

along with eight other accused arrested in the case, are currently in judicial custody. The special court on Monday also refused to grant the custody of Mane to the NIA. Previously, Waze was in the NIA custody for 28 days and Mane for 15 days. The NIA had sought further custody saying it wanted to question Waze and Mane to corroborate statements of witnesses in the case. The NIA had arrested Waze for his alleged involvement in placing an explosives-laden vehicle on Carmichael Road near billionaire Mukesh Ambani's residence Antilia on February 25. Later, he was booked for the murder of Thane businessman Mansukh Hiran, who purportedly owned the car.

TEHSILDAR, PEON HELD FOR BRIBERY

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Thane: A Class I revenue official and his peon were arrested on Monday in Kalyan in Thane district for allegedly demanding and accepting bribes, a Maharashtra Anti Corruption Bureau official said. Kalyan tehsildar Deepak Alde (45) had allegedly demanded Rs 1 lakh from a person to issue an order over a land deal, while his peon Manohar Harad (42) sought Rs 20,000 as bribe, he said. The two were held in a trap laid during the day, after which a case under Prevention of Corruption Act was lodged in Kalyan police station, he informed.

Former Unitech promoters shifted to Mumbai prisons from Tihar

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Sanjay Chandra and Ajay Chandra, former Unitech promoters accused of money laundering, were shifted from Tihar Central Jail to the premises of Arthur Road Jail and Taloja Central Jail in Mumbai respectively on Sunday morning. Sandeep Goel, Director General of Tihar Prisons, said that Sanjay Chandra and Ajay Chandra both were taken under police escort to Mumbai by train on Saturday morning. "They reached Mumbai and were lodged in the respective jails there in the early hours of Sunday," Goel said. In the meantime, Delhi Police Commissioner Rakesh Asthana has initiated inquiry



about the conduct of the Tihar Jail Superintendent and other staff for conniving with the Chandra brothers to flout the court orders and undermine its jurisdiction. On Thursday, Supreme Court had ordered that former Unitech promoters --

inside in connivance with the prison staff. The financial investigating agency had also alleged it had unearthed a "secret underground office" in Delhi being operated by the erstwhile Unitech founder Ramesh Chandra and visited by his sons Sanjay and Ajay while on parole or bail. The top court had also directed the Delhi Police Commissioner to personally hold an inquiry about the conduct of the Tihar Jail Superintendent and other staff for conniving with them to flout the court orders and undermine its jurisdiction. Delhi Police chief had been directed to submit a report to the court within four weeks. The ED is probing money laundering charges against the Chandras and Unitech Ltd.

Mumbai lawyer questions UP gov't on Kalyan Singh's jumbo 'tehraveen' rites

Quaid Najmi, Amrita Verma | Mumbai

A Mumbai-based prominent Supreme Court lawyer on Monday petitioned the Uttar Pradesh government, questioning the need for a jumbo 'tehraveen', the 13th day post-death rituals in memory of the late Bharatiya Janata Party leader Kalyan Singh. In a plea to UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Barrister Vinod Tiwari -- who is also Allahabad High Court Bar Association Member -- has taken strong umbrage at the proposed rites for the late 89-year-old leader, who died on August 21 after a prolonged illness. "During the ongoing Corona pandemic, when the Centre has imposed restrictions on all big gatherings, the mega-ritual ceremony for the 'Maha Bhavya' of the late UP CM Kalyan Singh's 'tehraveen' with 1,00,000 people expected to participate, comes as a rude shock," an incensed Tiwari told correspondent. Shooting off an email plea to Yogi, the Barrister has urged him to not only arrest the upcoming lavish 'tehrvi' rituals for the late UP CM, but also take strong action against the organisers to prevent the state's image from getting further sullied, especially after the gory incidents of the Covid patients' dead



bodies seen floating in River Ganga. Though the CM's Secretariat promptly acknowledged Tiwari's private missive to Yogi, they advised him to share his grievance on the state's public portal 'Jan-Sunwai' for speedy redressal, as the August 30-31 'Maha-Bhavya' preparations enter the final stages. "Earlier, the Tablighi Jamaat was being wrongly tarnished as super-Covid-spreaders, later the Kumbh Mela in Uttarakhand, then Kerala Sabarimala Temple gatherings and other such

events...How different is it for Kalyan Singh's 'tehraveen' rituals," demanded Tiwari. Detailing the massive preparations underway for the 'tehraveen' Tiwari said that including 80,000-1,00,000 people from all over India, between BJP activists, legislators, parliamentarians, ministers, chief ministers, union ministers, RSS leaders and other dignitaries are expected to troop down to Atrauli in Aligarh district. To welcome the VVIPs, two helipads are coming up at Pilkhuni village, and the road from Dhanipur airport to Ramghat is being done up on a war-footing as it is heavily potholed owing to the monsoon. Similarly, the road linking Ramghat to KMV College is being spruced up, at least 3-4 massive pandals with huge stages are being readied by over 700 artisans, plus German hangar tents are being erected on the college campus. An army of over 1,400 cooks has already started preparing for the 'tehrvi' ritual feast a variety of dishes like kachori, chhole-puri, mutter-paneer, potato latte, mutter-pulao, sweet boondi and laddoos prepared by a team of Rajasthani experts, sweet and sour kashifal, etc. Hordes of Atrauli civic workers are going around giving the town a gleaming polish while over a 100 CCTV cameras with two control rooms will snoop over each cranny and nook during the 'tehraveen'.

ED Questions Jacqueline Fernandez in money laundering case

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Enforcement Directorate is questioning Bollywood actress Jacqueline Fernandez in an alleged money laundering case. The 'Bhoot Police' actress is reportedly being interrogated in the case in Delhi. According to a report of a news agency, Jacqueline is being questioned by the ED for the last 5 hours. The report reads, "Enforcement Directorate (ED) is questioning Bollywood actress Jacqueline Fernandez in Delhi for the last five hours, in a money laundering case." An ED official reportedly said that, "She is facing allegations of money laundering and that is why she is being questioned as a witness in



the ongoing case." Meanwhile, according to another report, a Special Investigation Team (SIT) had questioned the celebs in July

2017 as part of the investigation in the case and had arrested a South African for allegedly supplying cocaine in August 2017.

For 2nd year Covid mars Janmashtami festivals in Maha, BJP protests

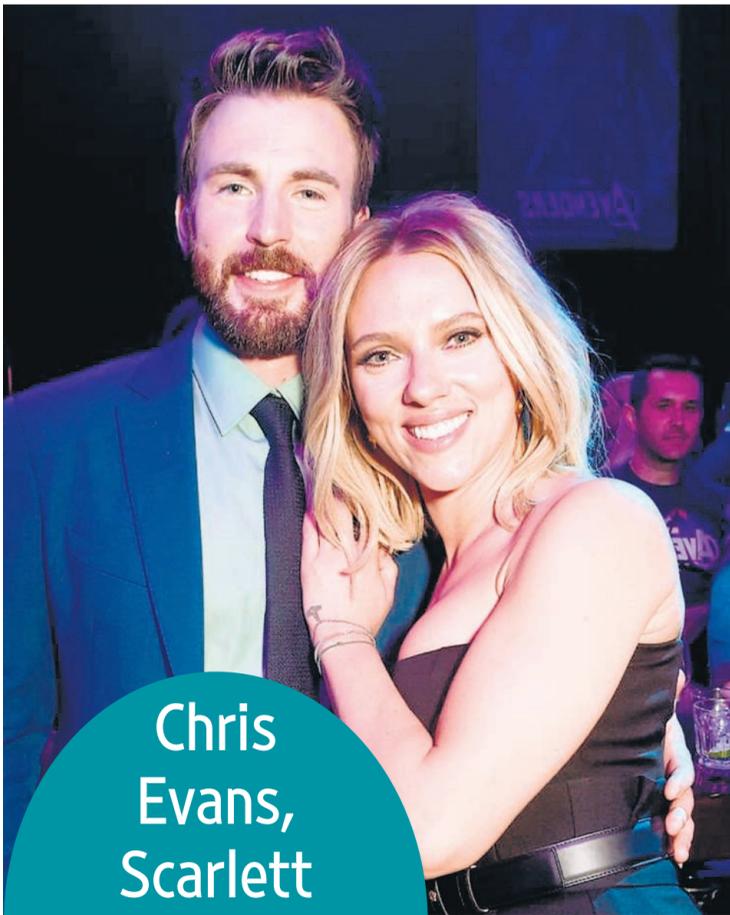
Token festivities marked the birthday of Lord Krishna -- celebrated as 'Janmashtami' and 'Dahi-Handi' -- owing to rains in most parts of Maharashtra coupled with the Covid-19 restrictions recommended by the Centre, for the second consecutive year here on Monday.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Scores of Krishna Temples in Mumbai, including the ISKCON Temples at Girgaum and Juhu were decorated with bright lights, flowers, the deities sporting brand new attires, though there were no devotees present for the celebrations on account of the Covid-19 protocols. However, most temples have organised live 'aartis', online 'darshan' and donations and other facilities for devotees to celebrate the festival from their homes safely, as the Corona 'third wave' could be lurking close. Protesting the continuous closure of temples and other places of worship, the Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party launched a 'shankhnaad' agitation all over the state demanding reopening of the temples. Many BJP activists in Mumbai,



Thane, Palghar, Pune, Nashik, Kolhapur, Aurangabad and other districts, priests, women devotees and others slammed the Maha Vikas Aghadi government, raising slogans, carrying black placards and posters, for deliberately trampling upon peoples' religious sentiments by keeping temples and other worship places shut. The BJP agitation came barely four days after the Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan's missive to the Maharashtra government asking it to curb crowded festivities for the Dahi-Handi and Ganeshotsav festivals, both mega-crowd pullers in view of the potential threats from the Covid-19 'third wave'. The state Health Minister Rajesh Tope has already warned that the third wave could be a possible "Tsunami" over 6-million (60-Lakh) cases in the state, or triple the figures notched in the first wave in 2020, and higher than the figures recorded in the first and second waves. In view of the potential threats sounded by the Centre and the state, the Congress Spokesperson Sachin Sawant has attacked the BJP for once again "playing temple politics", and Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar warned that even the 'Jan Ashirwad Yatras' could lead to a surge in Covid cases. Some BJP activists alleged that while the shutters were downed on temples, other places of worship like mosques or churches were allowed to function as the MVA government wanted to appease minorities and threatened to forcibly enter temples.



Chris Evans, Scarlett Johansson to star in 'Ghosted'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Avengers' co-stars Chris Evans and Scarlett Johansson, who are popularly known for playing 'Captain America' and 'Black Widow', respectively, are teaming up for an adventure movie titled 'Ghosted'. Dexter Fletcher, who helmed 'Rocketman', is set to direct the project, which

will be written by Rhett Reese and Paul Wernick, who penned 'Deadpool' and 'Zombieland'.

Evans will produce the project along with David Ellison, Dana Goldberg and Don Granger of Skydance, the company that made 'The Tomorrow War' for Amazon.

For Johansson, this is the second deal she has made since filing her lawsuit against Disney over reported contract breaches with the Disney+ release of 'Black Widow'.

The first was coming on board the new Wes Anderson movie, which is now shooting in Spain.

Poster of Blackpink singer Lisa's first single album 'Lalisa' unveiled

Seoul | Agencies

South Korean girl band 'Blackpink' member Lisa unveiled the title poster of her first single album 'Lalisa'. Lisa took to the social media of Blackpink's official account and shared the poster on Sunday night.

She wrote on Instagram, "Lisa - 'Lalisa' Title poster."

In the title poster, Lisa is seen posing with her face covered with diamond nail extensions and chunky jewellery. 'Lalisa' album will release on September 10.

'Blackpink' is a South Korean girl group formed by YG Entertainment, consisting of members Jisoo, Jennie, Rose, and Lisa. The group debuted in August 2016 with their single album 'Square One', which featured 'Whistle' and 'Boombayah'.



SHARON STONE: I THOUGHT I'D LIKE TO GET OLDER LIKE A DANCER

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Sharon Stone says she always thought she would like to get older like a dancer as they age beautifully and have great posture.

Stone shared on 'The Drew Barrymore Show', which airs on Zee Cafe in India.

The actress revealed to Drew, "When I got to be 40, I thought, I am going to get older. So, how do I want to get older, and I thought I'd like to get older like a dancer. I always thought that the women who were dancers age so beautifully, and they had great posture."

"I thought, I have to behave more like a dancer. I'm going to have to eat better. Hence I'm thoughtful about what I put in my body, and the way I treat it so that I get to keep it."



JENNIFER LOPEZ ACCIDENTALLY LEAVES PRICE TAG ON!

Venice | Agencies

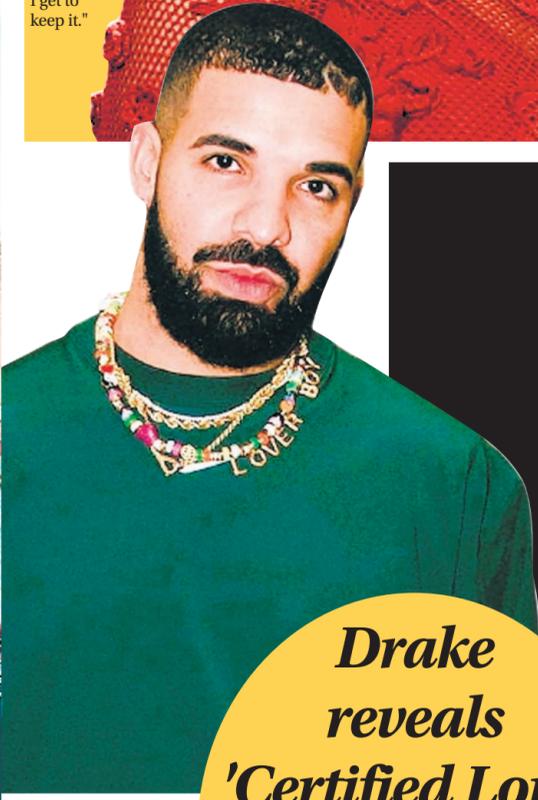
Hollywood singer and actor Jennifer Lopez suffered a fashion faux pas as she arrived at a Dolce & Gabbana event in Venice sporting a floor-sweeping floral cape. It seems that she accidentally forgot to remove the price tag.

The price tag was seen hanging on a green silk floral cape that Lopez wore for the event.

Her dramatic ensemble consisted of a floral teal, green and pink cape with puffed sleeves and a bralette beneath. The look featured black silk trousers adorned with roses and glitter block heels.

The 52-year-old star strutted along a jetty as she left her hotel, making her way to a water taxi to take her to the glam event. She had her security and glam team but her stylists failed to notice the label still attached to the cape, reports dailymail.co.uk.

Dolce & Gabbana are hosting a weekend-long event, with a Saturday night party the evening before.



Drake reveals 'Certified Lover Boy' release in cryptic video

Toronto | Agencies

Canadian rap star Drake chose a unique style to announce his upcoming highly anticipated album 'Certified Lover Boy'.

The album is nearly here if a cryptic video on ESPN's 'SportsCenter' is to be believed.

In an average-looking 'SportsCenter' promo on ESPN, the video glitched in and out for a few seconds, and a man holding a cardboard sign reading 'CLB September 3' briefly appeared with garbled audio. The normal 'SportsCenter' video came back in, and it was business as usual, despite

the odd message according to Deadline.com.

The video quickly made the rounds on social media, and Drake fans immediately understood it as an announcement for his upcoming sixth studio album, following his most recent album 'Scorpion' from 2018.



ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY

Heidi Klum



PARALYMPIC GAMES: HISTORIC WIN FOR AVANI; WORLD RECORD FOR SUMIT

2 GOLD, 2 SILVER, 1 BRONZE FOR INDIA

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Indian para shooter Avani Lekhara won the 10m Air Rifle - SH1 gold for the country at the Tokyo Paralympic Games on Monday. After her historic win the shooter expressed that she was feeling "on top of the world" and would be aiming for more glory here as well as in the future. The 19-year-old Avani became the first Indian woman to win gold in the Paralympic Games when she shot a world record score of 249.6 in the finals on Monday. This is also India's first gold medal in shooting in the Paralympic Games. "I'm so happy I could be the one to contribute it. Hopefully, there's a lot of medals more to come," said the para shooter, who is paralysed below the waist after an injury to the spinal cord during a car accident in 2012.

"I can't describe this feeling; I'm feeling like I'm on top of the world. It's unexplainable," said Avani, who is being coached by Chandra Shekhar in her hometown Jaipur since 2016. "I was just saying one thing (in the finals); that I have to take one shot at a time. Nothing else matters now, just take one shot at a time and just finish it," the 19-year-old said. "I just think that I



have to follow the process. Beyond that, I try not to think about the score or the medal tally."

Another golden glory came in for India when Sumit Antil set a new world record on his way to a gold medal in the Men's Javelin throw - F64 final at the Tokyo Paralympic Games on Monday.

Antil hurled the spear to 68.55 metres, improving on his old mark of 62.88 set in November 2019. Australia's Michael Burian won the silver medal with 66.29 metres while Sri



Lanka's Dulan Kodithuwakku took the bronze medal with 65.61 metres. Both Antil and Burian went past the old world record while the Sri Lankan came up with his personal best.

Antil's gold in the second of the day for India, making it the most successful day in the Paralympic Games. Sandeep Choudhary - an F44 category athlete -- finished fourth with a throw of 62.20m, his season's best effort just not good enough against athletes who were in great form. Sandeep has a best throw of 66.18 and he



would have been in medals if he had managed to repeat that. It was a bitter-sweet day for Devendra Jhajharia, a double gold medallist in the Paralympics having won gold medals in 2004 in Athens and 2016 in Rio who was gunning for a third gold medal. Jhajharia had to be satisfied with his throw 64.35, much better than his world



TOKYO 2020



record of 63.97 Gurjar, a two-time world champion, took the bronze medal with a best throw of 64.01 metres on Monday. It was a quiet redemption for Gurjar as he had tragically missed a chance to compete at the Rio Paralympics in 2016 because he turned up late for his event. Discus thrower Yogesh Kathuniya brought home the second silver medal of the day. Kathuniya won the medal in Men's Discus Throw F56, finishing second with a distance of 44.38.

Vinod Kumar loses his medal

Discus thrower Vinod Kumar lost his F52 category bronze medal at the Tokyo Paralympics after being found ineligible in disability classification assessment by the competition panel.

"Bronze medal Mr Vinod Kumar in F52 category sitting discus has been cancelled. This has been confirmed by Chef de Mission Mr Gursharan Singh. Though before the events the players were classified by the IPC officials themselves, but during the competition it was found faulty. A detailed report is awaited," the Paralympic Committee of India (PCI) informed. The 41-year-old BSF man produced a best throw of 19.91m to finish third behind Piotr Kosewicz (20.02m) of Poland and Velimir Sandor (19.98m) of Croatia on Sunday.



Asian Youth Boxing: Bishwamitra strikes gold, silver for Vishvanath

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Living up to the favourites tag, India's Bishwamitra Chongtham on Monday displayed some brilliant boxing -- effective defensive technique and graceful footwork -- in the mens 51kg final to clinch a gold medal at the 2021 ASBC Asian Youth Championships in Dubai.

According to information received here, the 2021 World Youth Championships medallist Bishwamitra defeated Uzbekist n's Kuziboev Ahmadjon by split 4-1 in the summit clash to hand India its first gold in the youth event at the ongoing championships. Bishwamitra kept his cool throughout the match and hit some precise punches before winning it.

Meanwhile, Vishvanath Suresh went down fighting against the reigning youth world champion Sanzar Tashkenbay of Kazakhstan and finished his campaign with a silver medal in the 48kg category after a defeat by a unanimous decision.

Later on Monday, Vanshaj (64kg), Jaydeep Rawat (71kg), and Vishal (80kg) will be seen in action in the men's finals while Nivedita Karki (48kg), Tamanna (50kg), Simran Verma (52kg), Neha (54kg), Preeti



(57kg), Preeti Dahiya (60kg), Khushi (63kg), Sneha Kumari (66kg), Khushi (75kg) and Tanishbir Kaur Sandhu (81kg) will fight for gold in t'e women's category.

Five Indian boxers, including one woman, have claimed bronze medals in the youth event after finishing in the semi-finals. Among men, Daksh (67kg), Deepak (75kg), Abhimanyu (92kg), and Aman Singh Bisht (92+kg) bagged bronze medals while Lashu Yadav (70kg) ended with a bronze in the women's category.

In the last Asian Youth Men & Women Championships, held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia in 2019, India had claimed 12 medals, including five gold.

10 teams to compete in I-League Qualifiers 2021 in Bengaluru

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Indian football season is set to kick off with the I-League Qualifiers 2021, which will take place at the Bangalore Football Stadium in Bengaluru in October. A total of 10 teams will represent as many states in the Qualifiers from within a centrally-organised bio-bubble in Bengaluru.

This edition of the I-League Qualifiers will also see as many as seven teams make their debut -- Hyderya Sports FC (J&K), Corbett FC (Uttarakhand), Delhi FC (Delhi), Madan Maharaj FC (Madhya Pradesh), Rajasthan United FC (Rajasthan), Kerala United FC (Kerala), Ryntih SC (Meghalaya). The likes of ARA FC (Gujarat), Kenkre FC (Maharashtra), and FC Bengaluru United (Karnataka), who have played in the competition before, complete the line-up.

All 10 clubs have all gone through



the process of nomination by their respective state football associations, and have successfully submitted the required documents for the league and club licensing on time.

The 10 participating teams will be split into two groups of five teams

each. The 'group stage' will be conducted in a round-robin format, with every team playing their rival clubs within their respective group once. The top two teams from each group will proceed to the 'final round', which will be played in another

round-robin format with each of the four teams playing against each other once. The team that finishes at the top of the pile in the 'final round', will earn promotion to the I-League 2021/22 season by virtue of winning the I-League Qualifiers 2021.

US OPEN: TSITSIPAS VS MURRAY CONTEST HEADLINES DAY 1



New York: World No.3, Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece, will aim to begin his quest for a maiden Grand Slam later on Monday when he takes on former champion, Britain's Andy Murray, in the US Open opening-round match at the Arthur Ashe Stadium.

The last time Tsitsipas squared off against a Grand Slam champion at a major, he came up agonisingly short, having led Serbia's Novak Djokovic two sets to love in the French Open final in June. That defeat lingered as the Greek fell to American Frances Tiafoe in the first round at Wimbledon a fortnight later, but has since rediscovered his form on North American hard courts, with back-to-back ATP Masters 1000 semifinals in Toronto and Cincinnati. "He's someone that has been putting a lot of work to get back and has been playing very good tennis to be standing where he's at right now. I think I'm going to go for it, try my chances against him," Tsitsipas said of Murray. Murray, having contested only seven tour-level singles events this year on his road back from hip surgery, tested Hubert Hurkacz of Poland and Tiafoe in respective second-round meetings in Cincinnati and Winston-Salem leading to the US Open. Nine years since his first major triumph in New York (2012), the 34-year-old world No. 112 would aim for nothing less than an upset win on Day 1. Second seed Daniil Medvedev of Russia opens his campaign on Monday against Richard Gasquet, in the night session on Arthur Ashe Stadium. Two years ago, Medvedev surged back from two sets down and pushed Spaniard Rafael Nadal to a fifth set in his maiden Grand Slam final at Flushing Meadows.

Hockey India's domestic calendar to resume from October

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Hockey India domestic season is scheduled to resume in October after the pandemic halted the national calendar in March due to the second wave.

Hockey India has given instructions to host state member units and participating teams to take strict precautions and enforce all the Covid protocols established by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and respective state governments, as well as Hockey India's guidelines to host domestic events.

The season will recommence with the first Hockey India Sub-junior Men Academy National Championship 2021 in Bhopal from October 4-13. The first Hockey India Junior Men Academy National Championships 2021 will also be held in Bhopal from October 18-27. The first Hockey India Junior Women Inter-Department National Championship 2021 scheduled for October this year will be held in New Delhi. The 11th Hockey India Junior Women National Championship 2021 will be held in Simdega, Jharkhand in October, while the 11th Hockey India Junior Men National Championship 2021 too is being



scheduled in October in Telangana. The 11th Hockey India Senior Women National Championship 2021 is provisionally scheduled to be held at Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh in October.

Woakes returns to England squad, Buttler to miss fourth Test

London | Agencies

England all-rounder Chris Woakes will return to the squad for the fourth match against India beginning September 2 at The Oval, after recovering from a heel injury.

While Woakes' return is a welcome boost for England, they will be without the services of Jos Buttler. The wicket-keeper-batsman is awaiting the birth of his second child, and has been replaced in the squad by Sam Billings. England head coach Chris Silverwood said the seamer would further strengthen their pace unit while also offering value with the bat.

Saqib Mahmood has been released from the squad, with Mark Wood recovering well from the injured right shoulder he sustained during the second Test. "Mark Wood is making excellent recovery from his jarred right shoulder," said Silverwood. "He



bowled in the middle on the last day at Headingley with our bowling coach Jon Lewis and was starting to get through his spells pain-free.

"For the first time in this series, it is pleasing to have several options with our bowling stocks as we approach the latter stages of the series," he added. England squad for the fourth Test: Joe Root (c), Moeen Ali, James Anderson, Jonathan Bairstow, Sam Billings, Rory Burns, Sam Curran, Haseeb Hameed, Dan Lawrence, Dawid Malan, Craig Overton, Ollie Pope, Ollie Robinson, Chris Woakes, Mark Wood.

Stuart Binny retires from all formats of cricket

Bengaluru | Agencies

Indian all-rounder Stuart Binny has retired from all formats of cricket. The 37-year-old had last played for India in a T20I against West Indies in Lauderhill, US in August 2016.

Binny, the son of former India all-rounder Roger Binny, represented India in six Tests, 14 ODIs and three T20Is. His bowling figures of 6/4 against Bangladesh in the second ODI at Mirpur in June 2014 remains the best-ever

performance by an Indian bowler in ODIs. "I would like to inform that I have decided to retire from international and first-class cricket. It has given me tremendous joy and pride to have represented my country at the highest international level," said Binny in a statement on Monday.

Binny represented Karnataka in domestic cricket from 2003/04 to 2018/19. His standout domestic season was in Karnataka's Ranji Trophy triumph in 2013/14 when he scored

443 runs at an average of 43.22 and scalped 14 wickets with an average of 32.64. He was a member of the 2014/15 Ranji Trophy win too. For 2019/20 season, he shifted to Nagaland. Overall, Binny scored 4,796 runs at an average of 34.25 and took 148 wickets at an average of 32.36. He has 1641 runs at an average of 20.01 and 73 wickets at an average of 25.87 in T20 cricket. In List A cricket, Binny made 1,788 runs at an average of 25.54 and took 99 wickets at an average of 32.31.





Connections gets candid in Bigg Boss house with Sunny

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Indian film actress Sunny Leone has entered the 'Bigg Boss OTT' house. In a candid conversation with host Karan Johar, Sunny spoke about her favourite contestant in the house, as she revealed Divya Agarwal as her favourite contestant as she has a "strong personality".

She played fun games like 'Coconut Task', the contestants had to do some steamy dance moves to showcase their compatibility followed by another task where they picked one contestant who they accepted and the one they wanted to block! Interesting, isn't it? She played Cupid for the housemates.

Sunny Leone recalled her own 'Bigg Boss' days and said, "Bigg Boss OTT" is all about #StayConnected, so I am here to spread some more love! As the host of 'SplivsVilla', I know what real connections look like and there are contestants who have some amazing bond-



TAMANNAAH BHATIA LAUNCHES BOOK 'BACK TO THE ROOTS'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Tamannaah Bhatia launched her book 'Back to the Roots' which she has co-authored with celebrity lifestyle coach Luke Coutinho. The book unearths India's ancient secrets of health and wellness.

Speaking about the launch of 'Back To the Roots', new author Tamannaah said, "India is a library full of age-old knowledge on healthy living. It's about time that we revisited our traditional ways of wellness and put this knowledge to use. All the chapters in 'Back To the Roots' are complete with tried-and-tested secrets that have served generations of this country."

Tamannaah is gearing up for the release of 'Maestro', which is the Telugu remake of Bollywood film 'Andhadhun'. Besides this, she will be seen in Telugu films 'Seetimaar', 'Gurthunda Seethakalam' and the Hindi drama 'Plan A Plan B' on the horizon for the year.



Kota Factory S2 set to premiere

Team Absolute | Mumbai

'Kota Factory' revolves around the town of Kota - its students, its people and its coaching industry. The show tells this tale through the eyes of a vulnerable teenager 'Vaibhav' and 'Jeetubhaiya'. It showcases the life of Indian students who prepare for competitive exams. The second season will follow the life of Vaibhav on his journey to Maheshwari - one of Kota's leading training institutes, and how he tries to balance his friendships, his relationship with his mentor and the looming pressure of getting into IIT. The show's director RaghavSubbu said, "As a director, I try to create stories that inspire and enthrall audiences throughout. Season 2 of 'Kota Factory' will chronicle the journey of students at Kota and the struggles they face on a daily basis, which will make it more engaging and realistic."

The second season of India's first black-and-white web series titled 'Kota Factory' is all set to premiere on September 24 on Netflix.

DISHA PATANI: PRABHUDEV A LIKES TO IMPROVISE

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Disha Patani, who collaborated with Prabhudev in the film 'Radhe', says the choreographer-filmmaker likes to improvise.

Reminiscing about working with rabhudeva, Disha said, "When I was offered 'Radhe', I was really excited to work on the film. It's been a learning experience, as with any project. Prabhu Sir likes to improvise while I am used to being prepared before going on the set." The 29-year-old actress, who is rumoured to be dating actor Tiger Shroff, talked about how 'Radhe' has some "catchy" numbers. "I love dancing and the film has some really catchy songs like 'Seeti Maar' that I thoroughly enjoyed preparing for. I look forward to entertaining my fans with more films like this," she added.

PRABHAS, POOJA'S NEW 'RADHESHYAM' POSTER UNVEILED

Team Absolute | Hyderabad

A new poster featuring actors Prabhas and Pooja Hegde from their upcoming film 'RadheShyam' has been unveiled on the occasion of Janmashtami on Monday. In the poster, Prabhas looks dapper in a suave tuxedo and Pooja is sporting a breathtaking ball gown. The actress is seen playing a piano while the actor is standing next to her and looking at her lovingly. Director Radha Krishna Kumar said, "We have worked very hard and left no stone unturned in ensuring that we bring audiences a theatrical experience they won't forget." He added, "RadheShyam" comes to theatres on January 14, 2022 and we are so excited to present the poster of the film on a special day like Janmashtami."

The multi-lingual love story is set in Europe in the 1970s and has been shot extensively in Italy, Georgia and Hyderabad. The film is presented by Gulshan Kumar and T-Series. It is produced by UV Creations, Bhushan Kumar, Vamsi and Pramod.



Lavina Tandon feels 'blessed' to play 'Mirabai'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Lavina Tandon has been roped in to portray the role of 'Mirabai' in the show 'Vighnaharta Ganesh'. On Janmashtami, she shares her experience of playing the character of an ardent devotee of Lord Krishna.

Lavina says, "I am so honoured to be a part of this mythological show and portray 'Mirabai' who is a devotee of Lord Krishna. The dynamics of Lord Krishna and Mirabai are so pure. I feel blessed to be portraying that on screen."

The story revolves around Mirabai, a dedicated devotee of Lord Krishna who worshipped him religiously. In the episode, there will be a celebration of Janmashtami and Mirabai will be seen getting the auspicious sight of Krishna. Further, it is also seen that Mirabai requests Lord Krishna to take her along with him.

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Karishma Tanna