

# absolute india

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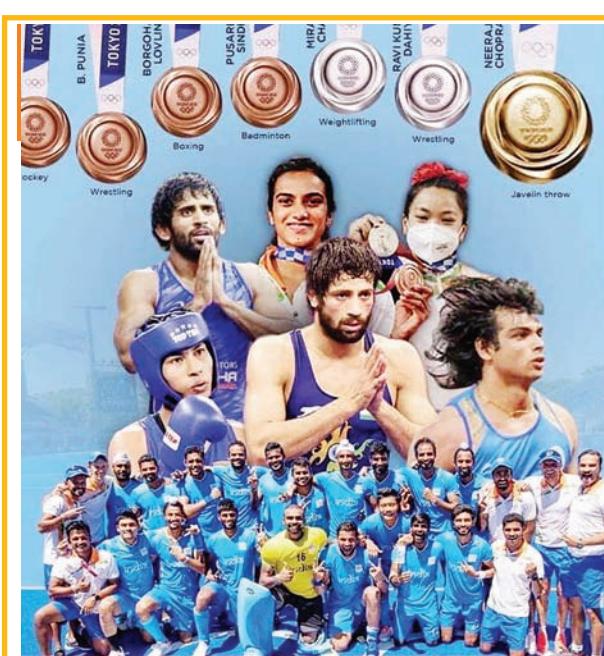
SC says judicial officers must feel safe, asks HC ...

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Rihanna is about to get even RICHER...

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Indian Olympic medallists receive heroic welcome ...



## Indian Olympians felicitated after returning home

**India's hero at the Tokyo Olympics -- Neeraj Chopra won Gold medal for Javelin Throw, Ravi Dahiya won Silver medal for Wrestling, Mirabai Chanu won Silver (Weightlifting), P.V. Sindhu Bronze (Badminton), Lovlina Borgohain Bronze (Boxing), Bajrang Poonia won Bronze (Wrestling) and the men's hockey team won the bronze medal.**

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Union Sport Minister Anurag Thakur on Monday felicitated the Olympians who returned home after winning medals from Tokyo Olympic at Ashoka Hotel. The felicitation ceremony was held to honour the Indian players' performance at Tokyo.

On Monday, a special ceremony honouring all seven Indian Olympic medalists, including all other national players who participated in the Tokyo Olympics, was held at the grand Ashoka Hotel. Felicitating the Olympians, Union Minister Anurag Thakur said, "Not only medals, You all have won the hearts of Indians". He continued saying, "You are the new heroes of new India". The minister said that you are

the real inspiration for youths who will play to win the medal now. He added further, "Indian youths will turn towards sports with new dream and aspirations".

This year India has won 7 medals at the Tokyo Olympics which has been the best ever performance till date.

India has won one gold medal, two silver medals and four bronze medals during the Tokyo Olympics 2020.

## 'No time for delay and no room for excuses': UN, UNFCCC on IPCC report

# "CODE RED FOR HUMANITY"

**The report from the Working Group I - 'Climate Change 2021: the Physical Science Basis' - is the first installment of the IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report (AR6), which will be completed in 2022. Global heating is affecting every region on Earth, with many of the changes becoming irreversible. The internationally agreed threshold of 1.5 degrees is perilously close.**

Team Absolute | New Delhi

United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres and the United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC) said that the IPCC report, released on Monday, underscored that "there is no time for delay and no room for excuses".

Guterres said, that "the alarm bells are deafening, and the evidence is irrefutable: greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuel burning and deforestation are choking our planet and putting billions of people at immediate risk".

Stating that it is indisputable that human influence has warmed the climate system, raising global surface temperature, the UNFCCC said that the IPCC report provides an update on the physical science basis of climate change and confirms that there is no going back from some changes that are



already affecting the climate system.

An initial synthesis of submitted new or updated NDCs, the nationally determined contributions to combat climate change early in 2021 showed that collective efforts fall far short of what is required by science to limit global temperature increases by the end of the century to 2 degrees Celsius, let alone the

### Sea level in Asia rising at faster rate: Indian scientist

Vishal Gulati | New Delhi

The sea level around Asia has increased faster than the global average, with coastal area loss and shoreline retreat. The sea level extremes that previously occurred once in 100 years could happen once every six to nine years by 2050, and every year by 2100 globally, says Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology Scientist Swapna Panickal.

Talking to correspondent exclusively about findings of the biggest update with its impact on India, she said the Indian Ocean is warming at a higher rate than the global oceans. With 7,517 km of coastline, India will face significant threats from rising seas. Across six port cities -- Chennai, Kochi, Kolkata, Mumbai, Surat and Visakhapatnam -- 28.6 million people will be exposed to coastal flooding if sea levels rise 50 cm, according to one study.

### Widespread, rapid & intensifying: IPCC warning on climate change

**New Delhi:** Describing it as a "stark assessment of the frightening future that awaits us if we fail to act", scientists across the globe on Monday said, many of the changes observed in the climate are unprecedented in thousands, if not hundreds of thousands of years.

Moreover, some of the changes already set in motion -- such as a continued sea level rise -- are irreversible over hundreds to thousands of years, the scientists said, adding, they are observing changes in the Earth's climate "in every region and across the whole climate system". In simplest terms: The climate has always changed but warming like that of recent decades has not been seen for millennia or longer. It is warming almost everywhere on the globe -- Australia, Asia, Europe, or North America; it is warming rapidly -- Iceland lost 750 sq kms of glaciers in the last two decades; the warming reversed a long-term cooling, and it has been a long time since it has been this warm. It is unequivocal that human influence has warmed the atmosphere, ocean, and land. Widespread and rapid changes in the atmosphere, ocean, cryosphere, and biosphere have occurred. However, strong, sustained reductions in emissions of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and other greenhouse gases would limit climate change; while benefits for air quality would come quickly, it could take 20-30 years to see global temperatures stabilise, they said.

### HIGHLIGHTS:

- ▶ Climate change is intensifying the water cycle. This brings more intense rainfall and associated flooding, as well as more intense drought in many regions.
- ▶ Climate change is affecting rainfall patterns. In high latitudes, precipitation is likely to increase, while it is projected to decrease over large parts of the subtropics. Changes to monsoon precipitation are expected, which will vary by region.
- ▶ Coastal areas will see continued sea level rise throughout the 21st century, contributing to more frequent and severe coastal flooding in low-lying areas and coastal erosion. Extreme sea level events that previously occurred once in 100 years could happen every year by the end of this century.
- ▶ Further warming will amplify permafrost thawing, and the loss of seasonal snow cover, melting of glaciers and ice sheets, and loss of summer Arctic sea ice.
- ▶ Changes to the ocean, including warming, more frequent marine heatwaves, ocean acidification, and reduced oxygen levels have been clearly linked to human influence. These changes affect both ocean ecosystems and the people that rely on them, and they will continue throughout at least the rest of this century.
- ▶ For cities, some aspects of climate change may be amplified, including heat, flooding from heavy precipitation events and sea level rise in coastal cities.

## Punjab Police foil major terror attack ahead of I-Day



Team Absolute | Chandigarh

a bag that contained the tiffin box in Daleke village on Saturday evening.

The DGP said an ex-sarpanch informed the police about the sighting of a drone on the night of August 7 that later returned towards the other side of the international border. The police was put on alert and extensive search was carried. During the search, an abandoned bag was found that carried seven nicely packed pouches that carried one plastic tiffin, five hand-grenades and 100 cartridges. An RDX weighing two-three kg, a switch and a remote control device were also found.

### 8-yr-old Hindu boy charged with blasphemy in Pak

**New Delhi:** An eight-year-old Hindu boy is being held in protective police custody in Pakistan after becoming the youngest person ever to be charged with blasphemy in the country, a media report said on Monday. According to the Guardian news report, the boy's family is in hiding and many of the Hindu community in the conservative district of Rahim Yar Khan in Punjab province, have fled their homes after a Muslim crowd attacked a Hindu temple after the boy's release on bail last week. Troops were deployed to the area to quell any further unrest. On August 7, 20 people were arrested in connection with the temple attack. The boy is accused of intentionally urinating on a carpet in the library of a madrasa, where religious books were kept, last month. Blasphemy charges can carry the death penalty, the Guardian report said.

## PM Modi gives 5-point agenda for maritime security at UNSC

Team Absolute | New Delhi



Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday gave a five-point agenda for enhancing maritime security and the need for international cooperation in this field.

Chairing a high-level meeting at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) on "Enhancing Maritime Security - A Case for International Cooperation" via video conferencing with several heads of States, he underlined a five-point agenda for the debate. He was the first Indian Prime Minister to preside over the UNSC Open Debate.

He called for removing barriers to maritime trade and also highlighted SAGAR (Security and Growth for all in the Region'), a 2015 Indian framework for regional maritime security.

"For free maritime trade, it is also necessary that we respect the rights of seafarers of other countries," Modi said. The Prime Minister mentioned that India, with this understanding, has

## DEFENCE MINISTRY HAD NO TRANSACTION WITH ISRAELI GROUP

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Defence Ministry put on record on Monday that it had nothing to do with snooping or Israel-based NSO Group Technologies.

In a written reply to a question of parliamentarian V Sivadasan in the Rajya Sabha on Monday, Minister of State (Defence) Ajay Bhattacharya said, "Ministry of Defence has not had any transaction with NSO Group Technologies." The minister was replying to a query whether the government had carried out any transaction with the NSO Group Technologies. Sivadasan is a Communist Party of India (Marxist) leader and member of the Upper House from Kerala.

Last week even the Supreme Court said allegations of Pegasus-related snooping are serious, if the reports in the newspapers are correct. The apex court had sought the Centre's stand on petitions. Apart from



that several petitions have been filed in the top court seeking a court-monitored probe into the Pegasus snooping allegations.

## Man bites baby snake in revenge bid, dies

Team Absolute | Patna

A 65-year-old drunk man chewed on a snake after the latter bit him in Bihar's Nalanda district.

The man was identified as Rama Mahto, a resident of Madhodeh village under Chandi police station.

The incident took place on Sunday and he died on Monday morning. The family members of the deceased, in a statement to the police said that Rama Mahto who was under the influence of liquor, was sitting in front of his house when a baby snake (Krait) bit him on

his leg.

Mahto managed to capture the viper and chewed it in a bid to take revenge. "While chewing the baby snake, Mahto was bitten more than 10 times on his face. After that he pulled out the snake and put it on a nearby tree. We asked him to go to the hospital for treatment but he refused and went to sleep. "Mahto claimed that it was a baby snake and it would not be poisonous. He was found dead on Monday morning," said Bhushan Prasad, president of Madhodeh Panchayat Samiti.

## In touch with IS leaders in Afghanistan & Syria, Damudi was instigating contacts in India

Anand Singh | New Delhi

Jufri Jawhar Damudi aka Abu Hajar Al Badri, who was arrested by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in connection with the ISIS 'Voice of Hind' module case was high up in the hierarchy of the Islamic State Khorasan Province (ISKP) and was in direct touch with its leaders in Afghanistan and Syria. He was instigating his cyber contacts to kill 'kufars' (disbelievers) in India.

The NIA had arrested Damudi from Karnataka's Bhatkal on August 6 in connection with the case after the agency carried out searches at several locations.

An NIA official related to the probe told correspondent, "Damudi was in the notice of the central investigative agencies since April 2020 for his active role in production and dissemination of IS propaganda monthly online magazine 'Voice of Hind'."



The official said that besides ISIS propaganda or media activity, Damudi was also looking after the logistical support, including procurement of arms and explosives, funding for mujahideen and recruitment. "He was in direct contact with the IS leaders in Afghanistan's Khorasan and Syria," the official said. The official said that Damudi also instigated his cyber contacts to kill 'kufars', police personnel, journalists, etc. and inflict damage to temples and government properties.

The official said, Damudi, who was high up in the hierarchy of ISKP and a key ISIS operative on cyberspace claimed to be based in Afghanistan or Pakistan. The official said that he was taking all security precautions to evade his detection by the intelligence agencies in India. The official said that Damudi also accepted his association with Afghanistan-Pakistan-based IS operatives and involvement in production



# SC says judicial officers must feel safe, asks HC to monitor judge death probe

## SC JUNKS FLIPKART, AMAZON PLEA AGAINST CCI PROBE

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday declined to entertain a plea by e-commerce giants Amazon and Flipkart, saying they must face an inquiry by Competition Commission of India (CCI) for anti-competitive practices. A bench headed by Chief Justice N.V. Ramana and comprising justices Vineet Saran and Surya Kant said: "Big organisations like you (Flipkart and Amazon) should volunteer for inquiry... Inquiry has to be conducted." The bench declined to interfere with the orders of the Karnataka High Court, which refused to interfere with the preliminary enquiry ordered by the CCI into their alleged anti-competitive practices.

"Carefully perusing the material available on record, we see no reason to interfere with the impugned orders passed by the High Court of Karnataka dismissing the Writ Appeals of the petitioners. The Special Leave Petitions are, accordingly, dismissed," said the top court in its order. Time to reply to the notice is extended by a further period of four weeks from today. It is made clear that no further extension of time would be granted for the purpose," court added. Amazon had moved Karnataka High Court against a CCI order which had called for a Director General level investigation into allegations of anti-competitive conduct in the online sale of smartphones on its platform. The Delhi Vyapar Mahasangh (DVM), the informant before the CCI, had alleged predatory pricing, deep discounting, preferential seller listing, and exclusive partnerships, among others, against Amazon and Flipkart.



Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Monday told the CBI though it has filed a status report, in a sealed cover, of its probe into alleged murder of Dhanbad ADJ Uttam Anand, but there was nothing concrete, and directed the investigating agency to file a weekly status report before the Jharkhand High Court.

A bench headed by Chief Justice N.V. Ramana, and comprising Justices Vineet Saran and Surya Kant, told Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the CBI, that: "There is nothing in the sealed cover. We wanted something concrete. Seizing of vehicle and arrest was done by the state police.

Your people have not pointed out anything about motive and reason."

The bench noted apart from the specific incident in question, it had also taken up this matter to take note of attempt to resolve the alarming situation in the country where judicial officers and lawyers are being pressurised and intimidated by threats of, and/or actual violence. "There is, therefore, an institutional need to create an environment where judicial officers feel safe and secure," it said.

Mehta submitted that persons, who were driving the auto that hit the judge during his morning jog on July 28, have been arrested and details will come out into the matter. The bench asked the Jharkhand High Court to continue monitoring the matter every week.

## 8 killed, 4 injured as truck runs over people sleeping on roadside in Gujarat's Amreli

Gandhinagar | Agencies

At least eight people were killed and four injured after a truck ran over about a dozen people sleeping on the roadside in Gujarat's Amreli district on Monday. Chief Minister Vijay Rupani has announced financial aid of Rs 4 lakh to the kin of each victim.

The truck driver, going towards Mahua, lost control over the vehicle at Baadhada village in Savarkundla Tehsil of Amreli district at around 3 in the morning on Monday.

Eight of the victims are believed to have



died on the spot, while four to five others have been severely injured. All the victims were rushed to the Savarkundla Hospital. According to sources one of the injured is feared to have succumbed to his injuries. The CM, expressing shock over the inci-

dent, has announced Rs 4 lakh as financial aid to the families of each victim. He instructed the authorities to help the injured and ordered the Amreli collector to launch a probe into the incident. Rupani also offered his condolences over the incident.

## K'taka police seize Rs 2 crore worth of drugs, 2 held

Bengaluru: The Karnataka police arrested two drug peddlers and recovered Rs 2 crore worth of drugs from them on Monday. Acting on a tip off, the City Market police arrested Pappu Ram alias Ravi Purohit (20) and Chunnnil alias Sunil (20), both from Rajasthan. After the investigation, the cops raided the house of Pappu Ram and recovered 800 grams of MDMA, 1.6 kilograms of brown sugar, 1.7 kilograms of ganja and other narcotics materials worth Rs 2 crore. The accused were arrested at the time when they were about to sell drugs. The accused had established a network of customers including software professionals, businessmen and college students in the city. The police have launched a hunt for other persons involved in this case. The cops were looking for the accused persons for over 10 months and a team had gone to Rajasthan in search of them, explained DCP West Sanjeev Patil. A case has been booked under sections of 120 B IPC (criminal conspiracy to commit an offence), Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) act. The investigation is on.



## SHILPA SHETTY, MOTHER BOOKED FOR FRAUD IN LUCKNOW

Lucknow | Agencies

There is more trouble brewing for Shilpa Shetty as she and her mother Sunanda Shetty have been named in an alleged case of fraud in Uttar Pradesh.

A team of Lucknow Police is expected to be in Mumbai to question Shilpa and her mother Sunanda in the alleged fraud case in the name of a wellness centre.

Two FIRs have been registered at Hazratganj and Vibhuti Khand police stations in Lucknow and the police has now intensified the investigation in both the cases.

According to police officials, Shilpa Shetty runs a fitness chain named Iosis Wellness Centre. The chairman of this company is Shilpa Shetty, while her mother Sunanda is the director.



It is alleged that Shilpa Shetty and her mother took crores of rupees from two people in the name of

opening a branch of the wellness centre, but the promise was not fulfilled.

In this case, Jyotsna Chauhan, resident of Omaxe Heights, filed complaint at Vibhuti Khand police station and Rohit Veer Singh at Hazratganj police station for being allegedly cheated.

The Hazratganj Police and Vibhuti Khand Police have sent notices for questioning to Shilpa Shetty and her mother.

DCP (East) Sanjeev Suman said that the investigation officer in this case will leave for Mumbai on Monday to question actress Shilpa Shetty and her mother Sunanda. He will examine all the points in this matter.

Sanjeev Suman said that the matter is high-profile and hence the police are closely investigating all the points.

## Amid opposition walkout, RS passes 3 bills on Monday

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Rajya Sabha passed three bills on Monday before being adjourned for the day. The house passed the Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2021 which enables to set up central university in Ladakh. The Lok Sabha has already passed this bill.

The Rajya Sabha returned The Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2021 during which the opposition staged walkout from the house.

The house also passed Tribunals Reforms Bill, 2021 for which the opposition moved a resolution to send it to the select committee but it was defeated as the government managed numbers in the house.

The opposition's move to send the bill to a select committee came as a surprise to the government as it was not prepared but with the help of other parties it could muster the number in the house.

Earlier in the day, the Rajya Sabha paid tributes to freedom fighters on Quit India Movement Day and the house congratulated the



Olympians specially Neeraj Chopra for winning gold after which the house was adjourned till 12 noon then again till 2 p.m. and after passing tribunals reform bill the house was adjourned till 3.36 p.m. After the two other bills were passed, the house was adjourned for the day. During the proceedings Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge demanded discussion on the Pegasus project snooping issue while the MPs shouted slogan till the walkout. In between TMC raised point of order while from the government side Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi alleged that the opposition is obstructing the members who are willing to participate in the discussion. The opposition also objected on supplementary business list in the morning ahead of proceedings, the opposition parties on Monday decided to support the Constitution Amendment to the OBC Bill. Fifteen opposition parties met at the office of the Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge where the decision was taken. After the meeting, Kharge said, "The opposition parties have decided that it will support The Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Seventh Amendment) Bill 2021 being introduced in Parliament today."

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Gandhinagar | Agencies

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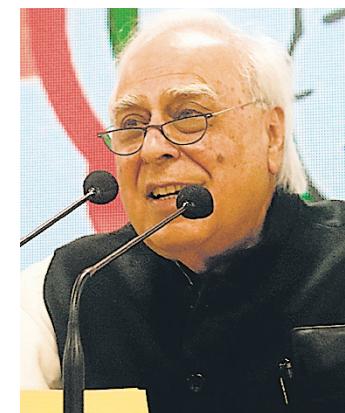
## Sibal's private dinner party becomes talk of the town in Lutyens' Delhi

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Senior Congress leader Kapil Sibal on Monday hosted a dinner attended by political bigwigs from the party and like-minded parties, creating a buzz in political circles given his recent role in party affairs.

He was the prime mover behind the letter written to interim party chief Sonia Gandhi calling for wide-ranging reforms and is also seen one of the leaders who has serious differences with the working of Rahul Gandhi.

Those who arrived for the dinner at Sibal's Teen Murti Marg residence included NCP supremo Sharad Pawar, Trinamool Congress' Derek O'Brien, DMK's Tiruchi Siva, RLD President Jayant Chaudhary, Samajwadi Party President Akhilesh Yadav, accompanied with his senior party leader Prof Ram Gopal Yadav, RJD supremo Laloo Prasad, besides Congress leaders Manish Tewari, Shashi Tharoor,



and Anand Sharma.

Sources say the meeting was nothing to do with politics but was gathering a day after Sibal turned 73, while sources close to the leaders say that this is a part of the opposition regrouping ahead of the crucial Assembly polls next year.

The Congress leaders attending the dinner rejected any speculation that it was related to party's inter-

nal functioning but said they want strong opposition unity ahead of 2024 elections.

While Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is on a two day tour to Srinagar but prominent among missing leaders was Ghulam Nabi Azad who was also one of the Congress leaders pushing for reforms in the party.

The Congress leaders, who came to be known as 'G-23', wanted elections from block to CWC level in the party and wrote a letter to Sonia Gandhi in this regard. The dinner coincides with a year of the letter which took the party by storm, but its demands are still to be implemented with Sonia Gandhi still the interim President and Rahul Gandhi calling the shots in the decision making process, even as the party lost all crucial polls in Assam, Bihar, Kerala, Puducherry, and West Bengal. The only solace was Tamil Nadu, where it was part of the DMK-headed alliance.

## BJP leader, wife shot dead by terrorists in J&K's Anantnag

Srinagar | Agencies

The Kulgam Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Kisan Morcha President and his wife were shot dead by suspected terrorists in South Kashmir's Anantnag district on Monday, sources said.

According to sources, terrorists barged inside the house of Ghulam Rasool Dar, who was also a 'Sarpanch' (Village Head), and fired indiscriminately critically injuring him and his wife. They were taken to a hospital where they were declared dead. Police personnel have reached the spot. The area



has been cordoned off and a search operation has been launched to nab the terrorists. BJP J&K Spokesperson Altaf Thakur has strongly condemned the killing of Ghulam Rasool Dar and his wife. Calling the killings as barbaric and cowardly, Thakur said attacking and killing innocent people will lead to nowhere and the acts reflect the frustration on the part of the terrorists.

## Govt announces nominations open for Padma Awards

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Ministry of Home Affairs on Monday announced that the online nominations and recommendations for the Padma Awards for 2022 have been opened till September 15. The recommendations for these civilian awards Padma Vibhushan, Padma



Bhushan and Padma Shri are given every year and the recipients names are announced on the occasion of Republic Day. The nominations, recommendations for Padma Awards will be received online only on the Padma Award portal <https://padmaawards.gov.in>. The government is committed to transform the Padma Awards into "People's Padma". "All citizens are therefore requested to identify talented persons whose excellence and achievements really deserve to be recognized from amongst women, SC/STs, divyang persons and who are doing selfless service to society and make their nominations/recommendations," the Ministry said.

## Pakistan made 33 infiltration attempts, Chinese none this year: India



Team Absolute | New Delhi

A total 33 infiltration attempts were made along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir till June this year but no case of infiltration was reported along the India-China Border, Parliament was told on Monday. Replying to a query in the Upper House, Minister of State for Defence Ajay Bhatt stated that 11 terrorists were killed along the Line of Control when they were trying to enter India territory and 20 were apprehended. Talking about the Indo-Bangladesh border, a total of 441 infiltration

attempts were made till June this year. The minister also stated that 740 people were apprehended and one was killed.

In addition, 11 infiltrators along the Indo-Nepal border have been apprehended this year till June. At the India-Myanmar border, post the military coup of February 1, 2021, a total of 8486 Myanmar nationals and refugees crossed over into India, out of which 5796 were pushed back and 2690 are still in India. Infiltrators apprehended by the forces at the borders are handed over to the concerned state police.

On infiltration attempts along the India-China border, the minister pointed out that no case of infiltration has been reported this year. On August 6, there was another major breakthrough between India and China on the border dispute with both the countries withdrawing troops from friction Patrolling Point (PP) 17A in Gogra at the Line of Actual Control in Eastern Ladakh -- the place where the border dispute erupted in May 2020. The Indian Army has stated that both the countries have ceased forward deployments in this area in a phased, coordinated and verified manner.

## UPROAR IN ASSEMBLY; OPPPOSITION DEMANDS RESTORATION OF TRIBAL DAY HOLIDAY

On the first day of monsoon session, the Opposition leaders staged protest in the well of the House, accusing the BJP-led state government for insulting tribal by taking away their rights of celebrating the day

**Team Absolute | Bhopal**

The Congress on Monday staged a protest in Madhya Pradesh assembly demanding that the state holiday on World Tribal Day on August 9 be restored.

On the first day of monsoon session, the Opposition leaders staged protest in the well of the House, accusing the BJP-led state government for insulting tribal by taking away their rights of celebrating the day.

The International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples was marked for the first time by UN General Assembly in December 1994. But in the state, it was only in 2019 that then Congress-led state government announced a public holiday on August 9 and also allocated budget to every district to organise programmes.

Leader of Opposition in the state assembly, Kamal Nath, said, "The BJP-led state government cancelled the holiday and changed to an optional leave. The state government has not allocated any budget for celebration. It is harassing tribals and working against them."

"Atrocities against people of our



Meanwhile, BJP Member of Parliament Gajendra Patel, who is also the national general of BJP Scheduled Tribe Morcha, claimed that the World Tribal Day is a conspiracy by those who want to convert tribals into Christians.

"People of the tribal community celebrate so many festivals but some anti-national organisations and missionaries focus on August 9 as World Tribal Day to misguide and convert them. They organise programmes to attract tribal towards their religion on the pretext of providing help, medical aid, and education," he said.

Jai Adiwas Yuva Sangathan protested against Patel's statement. JAYS general secretary Dr Anand Rai said, "The state government and its leaders are insensitive towards tribals. The UN has declared it the World Tribal Day. It has nothing to do with politics. The government first scrapped the holiday and now, a BJP MP is calling it a conspiracy. They remember tribals only at the time of elections." We will intensify our protest if World Tribal Day state holiday is not restored. Madhya Pradesh has 15.31 million tribal population which constitutes more than 21% of total population.

community have increased...We will not allow injustice," said tribal leader and Congress MLA Hirbal Alawa.

Amid protest, Congress leaders walked out of the House and sat on dharna outside the assembly. Later, the House was adjourned for the day.

Hitting back at the Congress, chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said, "It is an optional holiday but it

has become a habit of the Congress to do indecent politics. Today, they insulted the departed soul of tribal leader Nirmala Bhuria and others by not paying tribute to them."

"The BJP doesn't need any certificate from Congress about how much they care about tribals. We will observe Janjati Gaurav Diwas on November 15 on Birsa Munda's birth anniversary," he said.

CM reviews status of Corona and vaccination work

## Do not reduce the testing of corona: Shivraj Singh Chouhan

- After first dose, second dose must be administered within prescribed time
- Speed up vaccination work again
- Speed up vaccination work again



**Team Absolute | Bhopal**

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that the testing of corona should not be reduced in any district of the state. We have to stop the third wave of corona from entering the state at any cost. Along with this, precautions like wearing mask, social distancing etc. should be compulsorily taken.

Chouhan said that cent percent vaccination of eligible population in the state has to be done at the earliest. After the first dose, get the second dose mandatory. Complete protection from corona infection will be available only after the second dose.

Chouhan said that the vaccination work in the state

should be speeded up again, as there was disruption due to rain. There should also be a mega campaign for vaccination.

Chouhan reviewed the status of corona and vaccination work in Mantralaya on Monday. Medical Education Minister Vishwas Sarang, Chief Secretary Iqbal Singh Bains, Additional Chief Secretary Health Mohammad Suleman etc. were present.

There have been 10 new cases of corona in the state. The number of active cases is 149. Weekly positivity is 0.02% and today's positivity is 0.01%. There have been 108 new weekly cases, as against 106 in the week before and 86 in the week prior to that.

Chouhan said that about 70 thousand corona tests are

being conducted daily in the state. Corona testing is less in Ashoknagar, Sheopur, Kati, Rajgarh, Khargone, Gwalior, Vidisha, Datia, Ratlam and Balaghat districts, testing should be increased in these districts. Chief Minister Shri Chouhan congratulated the tests being carried out exceeding the target in Damoh, Dindori, Alirajpur, Indore and Dewas districts.

In the review of the vaccination work, it was found that 53% of the eligible population of the state has been given the first dose of corona vaccine and 10% of the population has been given the second dose too. So far, a total of 2 crore 93 lakh people have been given the first dose and 57 lakh people the second dose.

## November 15 will be celebrated as Tribal Pride Day: CM

**Team Absolute | Bhopal**

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that November 15 will be celebrated as Tribal Pride Day in the state. On this day there will be a government holiday and a special campaign will be launched for tribal culture, tradition and values of life, employment and economy in the entire state. The state government will leave no stone unturned for the welfare of tribals. Chouhan was addressing media representatives on Monday.

Chouhan said that August 9 is World's Indigenous Day. There is a provision of optional holiday on this day. Tribal Ministry was established by Former Prime Minister Atal Bihari

Vajpayee. The state government is constantly active in the direction of tribal welfare. Monuments were constructed at the Samadhi sites of tribal heroes Rani Durgavati, Tantya Bhil, Bhima Nayak, Shankar Shah, Raghu Nath Shah in the state. Ashrams, schools and hostels were started in every village. Arrangements were made by the state government to pay the fees of tribal students studying in private medical, engineering colleges. Arrangements have also been made for tribal students to study abroad. The state government has started buying forest produce at minimum support price. Along with this, forest rights have also been given to lakhs of people.

### EXHIBITION OF BAMBOO BASED FIBER BOARD PRODUCTS LAUNCHED

Bhopal: Assembly Speaker Girish Gautam and Chief Minister Chouhan inaugurated the exhibition of bamboo based fiber board products organised in the assembly premises by lighting the lamp. Home and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Narottam Mishra was also present. Chouhan also had a look at the exhibition. With an aim to establish bamboo as an alternative to wood, consumer products manufactured by bamboo based engineered board were displayed. Artisan Agrotech Private Limited Indore manufactures doors, furniture for bedroom, dining room, bathroom and kitchen products. This initiative, launched with the aim of developing a green and sustainable economy, will pave the way for increasing the income of farmers.

## Play an effective role in protection of students' interest: Governor

**Team Absolute | Bhopal**

Governor Mangubhai Patel has said that regulatory commissions should play an effective role in protecting the interest of students in private universities. The problem solving process should be transparent and effective. Redressal should be ensured within the time limit. The Commission should actively cooperate in the role of coordinator and guide in this work for effective implementation of National Education Policy in private universities. Patel was reviewing the Private University Regulatory Commission at Raj Bhavan on Monday.

Patel said that the Commission should monitor the academic calendar of private universities. It should be ensured that the examinations are held on time. The evaluation work



should be completed within the stipulated time period. Also, examinations results should be declared on time. He said that year wise information about the number of students studying in the university and comparative placement status should also be maintained. Placement cells should be set up in all universities. He also told the need to make online arrangements for problem solving of students studying in private universi-

sities and working teachers. Governor Patel also discussed the efforts to increase the Gross Enrolment Ratio. He said that planned efforts should be made to increase the Gross Enrolment Ratio in higher education in the areas and sections where it is low. He expressed happiness that the male-female gross enrolment ratio is equal in the state. He also stressed the need for special focus on quality of

education. He directed private universities to collaborate with universities to implement the National Education Policy. The Governor said that attention should be paid to the improvement of existing courses, research and innovation in the context of the National Education Policy. Efforts should be made to increase access to education for deprived and disabled students by setting up scholarship funds by industries, private charitable institutions, conducting courses through online medium. Focus should also be on expanding works of faculty up-skills and motivation. According to the National Education Policy, effective efforts should be made to integrate the inter-subject courses with the existing courses. Private universities should be encouraged to improve infrastructure and achieve higher grading.

## MP BJP to monitor anti-party statements by its leaders

Rao said that a centralised monitoring system will be set up at the state level to keep real-time monitoring of anti-party comments or statements of state leaders and office bearers at different levels of the organisation.

**Team Absolute | Bhopal**

To keep a check on the party's motor-mouth leaders speaking against the state leadership, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Madhya Pradesh is setting up a centralised monitoring system to check the comments and statements of their party leaders in real time.

Madhya Pradesh BJP in-charge, P Murlidhara Rao told IANS that a centralised monitoring system will be set up at the state level to keep real-time monitoring of anti-party comments or statements of state leaders and office bearers at different levels of the organisation.



Explaining the purpose of the new proposed monitoring system, Rao said, "The BJP as an organisation grew across the state and became too big. When you run such a big organisation, you witness human conflicts and to address these conflicts you need to evolve a complete redressal mechanism otherwise the organisation will face problems. The new plan is one such effort for quick redressal of concerns."

For real-time monitoring of comments against the party leadership or the state government, a technology-based monitoring system will be put in place in Bhopal. For the real-time monitoring of statements of motor-mouth party leaders, the BJP is also planning to develop an app. "It is not actually an app but a modern time enabling tool for real-time monitoring of the statements or comments made by our leaders, which will pop up in the dashboard. Such tools are already available. We cannot call it an app but it is a 'centralised concern and command centre' for real-time monitoring comments and statements made by our party leaders," Rao added. In May, several BJP MLAs and senior leaders had questioned Covid management by the Shivraj Singh Chouhan government in the state.

### PM GIVES GUIDANCE TO ARMERS; CM PARTICIPATES IN FARMER-WELFARE PROGRAMME



Bhopal: Chief Minister Chouhan virtually participated in the farmers' welfare programme organized under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Apart from providing guidance to the farmers, PM Modi also interacted with the farmers. Over Rs 19 thousand 500 crores was transferred to the accounts of about 10 crore families of farmers of the country under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Ni�hi Yojana by Modi during the programme. Rs 6 thousand is provided every year to the beneficiary farmer families eligible under the scheme in three instalments. So far, an amount of more than Rs 1 lakh 38 thousand crore has been transferred to the accounts of farmers under the scheme.

## AESL inaugurates Extension Centre in Bairagarh

**Team Absolute | Bhopal**

To further the motto of expanding its network to various parts of the country to help thousands of students realise their dreams of becoming doctors and ITI students, Akash Educational Services Limited (AESL), the national leader in test preparatory services, today inaugurated an Extension Centre at Bairagarh. The new centre will be an Extension of Akash Institute's Branch in Bhopal and will have 4 classrooms accommodating 125 students. The extension center will cater to students in the town with classes in Bhopal being streamed live in Bairagarh. The faculty will visit the Bairagarh centre on weekends to meet students face to face and clear their doubts. The extension centre will cater to students preparing for Medical and Engineering Entrance Examinations as well as offer Foundation-level courses that help them prepare for various types of competitive examinations e.g. Olympiads etc. apart from strengthening their basics. Speaking about the

inauguration of the new centre Aakash Chaudhary, Managing Director, Aakash Educational Services Limited said: "The new extension centre in Bairagarh will be a big boon for local students aspiring to become doctors and ITI students. Today, Aakash is widely known for providing quality education throughout the country through its Pan-India network of Centres. The quality of our educational content and the effectiveness of our teaching methodologies, as evidenced by the number of selections of students, have made Aakash one of the top choices for students intending to qualify for undergraduate medical and engineering courses." Added Chaudhary, "We are very pleased to open our extension branch near Bhopal and expand our footprint in Madhya Pradesh. The addition of this branch to our national network reflects our commitment to offering standardized quality teaching, modern infrastructure and an environment conducive for learning to students across India, using technology-enabled systems."

## Covid Can't Harm MP Where "Shiv" Is Chief Minister: BJP Leader

Currently, Shivraj Singh Chouhan is the chief minister of Madhya Pradesh, while Vishnu Dutt Sharma is the state BJP president. The Congress claimed BJP leaders were only engaged in seeking applause from their party workers by making such statements, despite 3.28 lakh deaths from January to May this year in the state, which the opposition party said was much higher than the normal fatality rate in the state.

In a tweet on Sunday, Chugh said, "How

## Lecture organised at IGRMS on 'International Indigenous People's Day'

**Team Absolute | Bhopal**

in the field of anthropology, especially in the Andaman and Nicobar region. Pandya while addressing online via Facebook Watch Live said that The lecture is built out of the response (visual Anthropological documentation) of three PVTG of Andaman island. Community members were shown images of museum collections from the islands as displayed nationally and internationally. This leads to engaging in a conversation focused on how and what the community member would like their own curated collection and representation of their culture.

can corona harm Madhya Pradesh where state president is Vishnu and Chief Minister is Shiv." He was at the state BJP office here to participate in the launch of the Rashtriya Swasthya Swayansevak Abhiyan, a programme to provide health care training to BJP workers so that they can volunteer during the pandemic and other health-related crisis. Chugh also said that 135 crore doses of COVID-19 vaccines will reach health centres in the country by December this year.

Meanwhile, state Congress spokesman Bhupendra Gupta hit out at the BJP, saying its leaders speak like this only to seek applause from their party workers. Gupta claimed "3.28 lakh people died in Madhya Pradesh between January and May this year, which was 54 per

cent higher than the normal death rate." He further claimed that the BJP state president himself admitted that 3,500 people from the families belonging to BJP workers and leaders had died due to COVID-19.

"Chugh should have told us where Shivraj and Vishnu Dutt were when COVID-19 was wreaking havoc? Were they sleeping? How will they curb the pandemic in future?" Gupta asked. On equating the two leaders with the Hindu Gods, he said, "Such dictatorial forces in the entire world consider themselves as supreme powers. Such forces believe they are God." However, state BJP secretary Rajneesh Agrawal said this was just a way of speaking. "He (Chugh) only mentioned the first names of the CM and the BJP state presi-

dent," Agrawal pointed out. He said the BJP government and the party organisation were engaged in serving the people during the pandemic. "The pandemic spread across the world. It was important how the state government dealt with it and the party organisation served the people in the time of crisis. Now, the pandemic is under control," he said. The Congress only spread chaos during the pandemic crisis, Agrawal alleged. On Sunday, Madhya Pradesh reported 10 COVID-19 cases, taking the tally of infections to 7,91,960, while the death toll remained unchanged at 10,514, as per the state health department. The number of recoveries in the state stood at 7,81,298, leaving the state with 148 active cases, as per official figures.



# 45 CASES OF DELTA PLUS VARIANT FOUND IN MAHARASHTRA, THREE IN PUNE DISTRICT

State health minister Rajesh Tope said cases of Delta Plus variant had increased, but there was no need to worry.

**Team Absolute | Pune**

Genomic surveillance by the state health department has identified 45 cases of Covid-19 caused by Delta Plus variant, across Maharashtra, with 13 in Jalgaon and 11 in Ratnagiri districts. Three cases have been detected in Pune, five in Thane and six in Mumbai. Remaining cases have been detected with one each in Sangli, Kolhapur, Sindhudurg, Palghar, Aurangabad, Kolhapur and Beed districts.

Out of the 45 cases, 27 people infected with Delta Plus variant are male while the remaining are female. A total of 20 people infected by this variant are in the age group 19 to 45, 14 between the age group of 46 and 60, six children are aged below 18 and five are aged above 60.

State health minister Rajesh Tope said cases of Delta Plus variant had increased, but there was no need to worry. Tope said immediate meas-



ures, such as travel history of the person, vaccination status and focus on contact tracing and testing, were being taken.

"So far, we have information on 34 out of 45 cases infected with Delta Plus variant and, barring one death, most are stable and have a mild form of the disease," state surveillance officer Dr Pradeep Awate said. "At present, it does not seem a worrisome situation as there has

not been an increase in the transmission rate," Dr Awate said.

He said surveillance, however, was critical, and that the Covid positivity rate was still high in some pockets of Pune district. While two cases of Delta Plus variant were from Purandar tehsil and one from Chakan area in Pune district, there was not much transmission of the variant in the immediate locality, he added. "Even as we relax restrictions

and open up, we should be concerned about rural areas in Pune district as there is high positivity in some pocket and, hence, there has to be aggressive testing," Dr Awate said. Delta Plus variant, also known as B.1.617.2.1 or A.Y.1, contains a mutation in the spike protein that the virus uses to enter human cells; it is called K417N. So far, Delta Plus has been found in low numbers. Till August 4, there were 83 cases of the variant in the country. While initially, to monitor variants of SARS-CoV-2 virus, genomic sequencing was being conducted at Pune's National Institute of Virology, a centre was soon set up by Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomic Consortium in December last year with a network of 28 laboratories. In Maharashtra, every district sends 100 random samples for genome sequencing as part of a collaboration with CSIR-Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology with the state government.

# Government issues Covid-19 guidelines for Muharram

In view of the coronavirus outbreak, religious gatherings and public celebrations are banned in the state at present.

**Team Absolute | Mumbai**

The Maharashtra govt has issued a set of guidelines to observe Muharram in the state. In a circular released last week, the government has disallowed large processions and gatherings, like last year.

In view of the coronavirus outbreak, religious gatherings and public celebrations are banned in the state at present.

This year for the celebrations of Muharram, the government has banned large processions and gatherings in view of the pandemic.

The state government announced that mourning processions will not be allowed this year in line with the Covid-19 curbs imposed on social and religious gath-



erings by the Centre and state governments.

To adhere to the Covid-19

norms people who live in societies should not congregate to observe the day, instead, should attend cultural/social gatherings (Majlis) online.

The permission of the local administration is mandatory to set up Chhabils (stalls). Only sealed water bottles should be distributed from

the Chhabils. Social distancing and public hygiene must be followed.

The notice also announced that this year, permission will not be given to take out Tazia. And not more than 4 people will be allowed for any programmes.

Muharram is observed by Muslims to mourn the death of Hazrat Imam Hussain, in the battle of Karbala, in the seventh century.

## IITM Pune's Earth System Model features in the IPCC report

**Team Absolute | New Delhi**

It is the most up-to-date physical science understanding of the climate system and climate change for the whole world. And, for the first time, India's indigenously developed climate model is part of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's report in connection with the south Asian monsoon.

R Krishnan Raghavan and Swapna Panickal from Pune's Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) are the two scientists who have worked on and associated with the state-of-the-art Earth System Model (ESM) that can better predict the impact of climate change on the Indian monsoon/South Asian monsoon.

"India had always complained to the IPCC that it considered the models from developed countries only and never from any developing world. So, finally this time, for the first time, IPCC has taken into consideration our Earth System Model (ESM) developed by IITM,

Pune," former Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Dr Madhavan Rajeevan told IANS.

This was possible because, unlike earlier times when large chunk of geographical areas remained unrepresented, the AR6 is aiming at providing climate change impact region-wise so that the targeted information is available to the respective governments to act upon timely to plan and implement mitigation measures.

There are several other Indian authors and reviewers involved in the tedious process of bringing out the in-depth assessment for climate change and its impact across the world. When asked which Indian / Asian reports were being considered and used by IPCC, Dr Panickal said, while several studies from the region were considered, it was the Ministry of Earth Sciences' 2020 report on 'Assessment of Impact of Climate Change in the Indian Region' that has been taken note of in the IPCC report.

## ED ATTACHES ASSETS OF ARA PROPERTIES IN PUNE

**New Delhi:** The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday attached immovable property worth Rs 4 crore of the ARA Properties in Pune, where the offices of Avinash Bhosale Infrastructure Ltd and other group companies are located. An ED official said that the financial probe agency had attached the land, where corporate offices of ABIL and its other group companies are situated. The official said that Avinash Bhosale is the promoter of the ABIL group companies.

The ED launched a money laundering investigation on the basis of an FIR registered by the Pune Police. The FIR alleged that the land situated at Yashwant Ghadge Nagar Cooperative Housing Society in Maharashtra's Pune was transferred by Ranjit Mohite to ARA Properties in violation of Original Allotment Conditions existing at that point of time, whereby the land could have been transferred only to the government commissioned officers, being a primary condition at the time of allotment of this land by the government in 1951.

The official said that during the probe, search and seizure operations were carried out at various places and incriminating documents were seized. The documents found during the search corroborated the allegations made in the FIR.

## Donkey milk sells for Rs 10k per litre in Maharashtra

Donkey milk is considered a specialty item, as one donkey produces only about a litre of milk daily

**Team Absolute | Mumbai**

Donkey's milk is being sold for Rs 10,000 per litre in Maharashtra's Umarga town, according to several media reports.

Ten traders are currently selling donkey milk, known to boost immune function and circulation, door to door at a cost of 100 rupees for 10 ml. About 80 percent of the bacteria in donkey milk is lactic acid bacteria, making

it effective in preventing stomach upsets. Livestock development officer Dr Dattatraya Ingole said it has been used to treat heart ailments, infectious diseases, liver related diseases, fever and asthma, leading to a rise in the demand and price of donkey milk. A year earlier, a news paper has quoted a donkey farmer as saying that donkey milk was selling for almost Rs 5,000 per litre. While cow and goat milk are protein rich, donkey milk is known to be rich in trace elements, including vitamins and minerals.

Some researchers believe it might help treat type II diabetes, but there is not yet any medical research to back this up and more studies are needed.

Donkey milk is less allergenic than cow's milk and closer to human milk, and is hence fed to infants.

Additionally, donkey milk doesn't usually contain the foodborne pathogens found in other kinds of milk, giving a longer shelf life.

Donkey milk is not just used for its health benefits, but is also a component of cosmetics and has a reputation for skin hydration. It can be frozen to be converted into a beauty powder, according to a study.

Mumbai local train services will start from August 15 for people who have taken both the doses of Covid-19 vaccine, Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray announced on Sunday.

Local train operations were shut down in April this year during the ravaging second wave of Covid-19.

**Team Absolute | Mumbai**

Maharashtra chief minister Uddhav Thackeray announced on Sunday that fully vaccinated citizens of Mumbai can travel in local trains from August 15. Another condition that the chief

## Maha dairy farmers on warpath for better prices

**Team Absolute | Mumbai**

Thousands of dairy farmers in Maharashtra launched a 3-day long agitation demanding fair remunerative prices as per law for their milk products and to end exploitation by private milk producing companies, leaders said here on Monday.

The agitations were held in 14 largest milk-producing districts of northern, western and Marathwada regions of the state with hundreds of farmers taking to the streets, shouting slogans for their demands.

Farmers protested by emptying cans of milk on roadsides, feeding stray animals or offering to temples to draw the state's attention to their plight, said Milk Producer Farmers Action Committee (MPFAC) Coordinator Ajit Nawale.

"We have written to Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar and Dairy Development Minister Sunil Kedar to immediately accept our 8-point demands in the interest of the dairy farmers and the consumers at large," said All India Kisan Sabha President Ashok Dhawale.

On account of the long pandemic lockdown, the milk farmers are virtually



on the verge of starvation along with their cattle owing to unfair or very low remunerative prices for their milk.

"We have demanded hiking the minimum remuneration by Rs 15 for cow milk, sold at Rs.20 now, and buffalo milk sold at Rs.45 currently, to ensure the dairy farmers get better returns and recover their costs," said Nawale.

The MPFAC has also demanded that the state government should end the exploitation of dairy farmers by the 350-odd big companies selling branded milk products. "In Gujarat, the state government encourages only 'Amul' and Karnataka supports 'Mahanandi'. But, in Maharashtra, 74 percent of the milk pro-

duction is bought by the corporates, and the rest 24 percent goes to the traditional milk cooperatives which are now in shambles owing to the politicians," Dr. Nawale said. The MPFAC has sought a subsidy of Rs.5 per litre to farmers who suffered during the lockdown period, enact suitable laws to prevent the 'loot' of the dairy farmers, ensure FPR as per law for milk, share in profits made by the corporates dabbling in the dairy business, legal guarantee to ensure milk is available to consumers at affordable prices. Referring to the cheating of the milk farmers by faulty milk-meters, the MPFAC seeks all dairy organisations must use only certified milk-meters and appoint independent inspectors to check them on regular basis.

Dhawale said the state government should announce a grant and launch an animal insurance scheme for the dairy farmers for their long-term security.

The protests on Monday a year after a weeklong state-level agitation in August 2020 were carried out simultaneously in Kolhapur, Sangli, Satara, Ahmednagar, Aurangabad, Beed, Pune, Nashik, Jalgaon, Latur, Osmanabad, Solapur, Parbhani and Nanded, said a Spokesperson PS Prasad.

Staffers are allowed to travel in local trains. Here are the steps to be followed and things to keep in mind before boarding local trains:

The Maharashtra government has created special railway passes for travelling in the local trains. Those who are fully vaccinated and have completed 14-day period after their second dose of Covid-19 vaccine can apply on a specially-created app to get special railway passes on their smart phones. Those who do not have smart phones, can obtain the pass offline, according to announcement made by Thackeray. These passes can be collected from the local ward offices. These passes will have QR codes so that the railway administration can verify their authenticity.

The chief minister urged the people of Mumbai to not allow anyone to obtain passes illegally.

## Four persons booked for fraudulently obtaining Overseas Citizen of India cards

In the month of June, the officials posted at the special branch department of the Mumbai police came across their documents and saw that there is a major age difference between the two foreign nationals and their wives.

**Team Absolute | Mumbai**

The Mumbai police have registered a case against four persons including two foreign nationals from the United Kingdom and Canada for allegedly submitting forged documents to obtain an Overseas Citizen of India card (OCI).

The police said that the OCI cards were issued to both individuals in 2019 but the incident came to light in July (2021) after which an application was filed and a

## Time for BJP to quit, says Maha Congress on 'Quit India' anniversary

He accused the BJP at the Centre of attempting to disrupt and dismantle all the democratic institutions built up over the years, with the country going through an eclipse since 2014 with all pillars of democracy under serious threat.

**Team Absolute | Mumbai**

As the country enters the 80th year of the historic 'Quit India Movement' that hastened the end of British rule, the Maharashtra Congress said here on Monday that now the time has come for the country to be rid of the Bharatiya Janata Party government.

At a public meeting to mark the 79th August Kranti Divas at the famed August Kranti Maidan here, state Congress President Nana Patole, city party chief Bhai Jagtap, and other top leaders said the Quit India call by Mahatma Gandhi and other top leaders of the Freedom Movement had shaken the British Empire and culminated in India's Independence five years later.

"The Congress Party made a huge contribution in the freedom struggle. But today, those who did not contribute anything to the country's independence are in power and are working hard to undermine and discredit that freedom and democratic systems



Narendra Modi, now is the time to give a call of 'Quit BJP' and save the nation," Jagtap said.

Revenue Minister and CLP Leader Balasaheb Thorat said that all out efforts are

underway by the present government to break the systems given by Dr B. R. Ambedkar's Constitution and we must protect it and ensure a bright future for the country. It was because of the determinations and sacrifices of the Congress and freedom fighters that the country could get Independence. Today, those very values and principles are endangered, democracy is under threat and now the challenge is to establish the rule of democracy," urged senior leader and PWD Minister Ashok Chavan.

Almost the entire state Congress top brass were present at the function including Ministers Aslam Shaikh, Varsha Gaikwad, Baba Siddiqui, Charan Singh Sapra, Naseem Khan, Chandrakant Handore, Hussain Dalwai, Janet D'Souza, Rajan Bhosale, Zeeshan Siddiqui, Abhay Chhajed, Husnabano Khalifa, Satish Manchanda and others. The Congress leaders recalled the services and sacrifices of various martyrs, felicitated freedom fighters or their families and later took an oath to 'Save the Constitution and Democracy.'

case was registered at Azad Maidan police station on August 4.

According to the police officials, the UK national booked in the case has been identified as David John Lincoln, while the Canadian national is Daniel Harris Akler.

Lincoln claimed that he married one Indian national Jyoti Vishe and submitted a marriage certificate and other relevant documents at the BMC office on 11 November 2015. Akler alleged that he married Shanti Naik and submitted documents to the BMC in December 2015. "On the basis of their documents, both of them were issued OCI cards in October 2019," said an officer. In the month of June, the officials posted at the special branch department of the Mumbai police came across their documents and saw that there is a major age difference between the two foreign nationals and their wives.

**Team Absolute | Mumbai**

The Mumbai police have registered a case against four persons including two foreign nationals from the United Kingdom and Canada for allegedly submitting forged documents to obtain an Overseas Citizen of India card (OCI).

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## EDITOR'S SPECS

## Rajiv Gandhi phobia

**B**uoyed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's decision to rename Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award after Hockey legend Major Dhyan Chand, an online petition has been initiated by the residents of Kodagu demanding change of the name of Nagarhole National Park (Tiger Reserve) also known as Rajiv Gandhi National Park. Kodagu based activists Naveen Madappa and Vinay Kayapanda have launched the campaign on Change.org. on August 7 with an aim to sign around 7,500 people but it had reached 6,404 signatories at 22:45 on Sunday and it was still counting. Mandappa and Kayapanda who have initiated the social media campaign to rename present Rajiv Gandhi National Park (Nagarhole National Park) as Field Marshal K.M. Cariappa. Cariappa was the first Indian Commander-in-Chief (C-in-C) of the Indian Army and most decorated son of the soil and Kodavas revere him to this date like a demigod. Both activists have tagged this to Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and the Prime Minister. The name Nagarhole has been derived from two Kannada words, 'Nagara' means snake and 'ehole' means river. The name strikes the true meaning to this National Park where a few serpentine streams fork through the rich tropical forests. In 1974, some other reserve forests were added to bring the area as Nagarhole Game Reserve and then it was classified as a National Park by extending the area by 643.39 sq kms in 1988. It was declared as a Tiger Reserve in 1999 and now, it extends up to 853 sq kms. Reaching upon 6,000 signatures on Sunday evening, the petitioners have also thanked the signatories said that Indian citizens need to be recognised and just not few politicians. Both petitioners asserted on Change.org that lets break the curse let India be truly liberal and let India develop more than any.

## MAN-ANIMAL CONFLICT GETTING TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT

Dogs and monkeys -- the first, man's oldest friend from the animal world, and the other, man's closest relation from the animal world, loved and revered as an epitome of faith in the Hindu lore.

## D.C. PATHAK

**B**ut, no less than 300 stray dogs are estimated to have been killed by poisoning in a small village in Andhra Pradesh around a fortnight ago. And, around the same time, in neighbouring Karnataka, at least 60 monkeys were found in gunny bags strewn along a country road one fine morning. Found dead or dazed, the simians are believed to have been drugged before their capture.

Predictably, the grisly incidents provoked a hue and cry in several quarters. Animal rights activists took up the matter in Andhra Pradesh, and local police reluctantly filed a case in the matter, finally. In Karnataka, the High Court taking suo motu cognisance, ordered an enquiry into the killings of the monkey.

While a few persons, belonging to traditional animal-trapper communities, have been arrested in Karnataka for the monkey murders, in Andhra Pradesh, the perpetrators have been identified as tribals who are animal hunters.

Both cases show certain disturbing similarities. In Andhra Pradesh, the animal rights activists have pointed their fingers at the village panchayat officials for ordering the disposal of the stray dogs which were overrunning the village.

In Karnataka, the monkeys were trapped and being transported away, allegedly at the behest of villagers fed up with the monkey menace to their crops.

While instances of cruelty meted out to animals regularly make their way to news headlines, these have generally been isolated cases involving individuals or small groups. In contrast, the recent incidents in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka are a 'commissioned' crime. The one, by concerned village officials, and the other by irate villagers.

The scale and planning involved in these organised' pogroms, raises concerns and questions. The man-animal conflict over



dwindling habitats is no longer about 'wild' animals like leopards, tigers, and elephants alone, but has expanded to include domesticated species and species that have acclimated to urban surroundings, which are home to humans.

So big a problem is the issue of cruelty to animals? Is it a problem in the making? While the Central government does not maintain records of crimes against animals, the Animal Welfare Board of India compiles data on complaints on reported cruelty to animals.

Compared to 155 cases that were reported in 2014-15, the numbers grew to 228, 256 and 225 respectively in the next three years. Following a comparative lull in 2018-19 when 144 cases were reported, the numbers grew to 300 in 2019-20, 383 in 2020-21, and stood at 210 in the first seven months of 2021-22.

The above figures may just be the proverbial volcano's tip, and not exactly reflect the ground realities because it is given that every case of animal cruelty is not recorded. Secondly, these are just a number of cases filed, and do not detail the numbers of animals subjected to cruelty. Take for instance, the case of the 300 dogs killed in Andhra Pradesh, or that of the 60 monkeys in Karnataka.

A sharp rise in such incidents can be noticed over the last two years, which incidentally corresponds to the emergence of the covid pandemic. Of late, a number of animal cruelty cases have been initiated on the basis of videos trending on social media. It raises the question of whether remaining cooped up indefinitely in homes, is taking a silent toll on human sensitivities, leading to acts of cruelty on innocent animals. While it

certainly does not justify such inhumane acts, the Covid fallout is definitely not to be ignored.

The abysmally low penalties and punishments laid out in the law, are also a factor fuelling acts of cruelty against animals. For instance, a Rs 50 fine is the highest penalty for a first offence under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960.

"Dogs are poisoned, cows have been burned with acid, and countless other animals across India are abused every day -- and the current penalties are often not enough to deter people who want to harm them," states PETA India in its online campaign that demands a relook at the outdated deterrents for cruelty against animals.

A population explosion caused by lack of systematic birth control mechanisms for these species, is cited as the major factor behind this emerging problem. In India, kill rather than birth control, is the convenient mantra for civic officials tasked with maintaining hygiene in our villages, towns, and cities. For them, the costs of finishing off the problem works out cheaper than sterilisation of the dumb animals. Animal rights' activists on the other hand call for sterilisation programmes for these creatures as the solution, in the long run. For now, even as the ball keeps getting lobbed from one quarter to the other, there's no doubt that the problem has to be resolved -- sooner rather than later. For all the problems that semi-domestic stray animals like dogs, cats and even monkeys cause, they do come with some benefits. For instance stray dogs and cats, play an important role as natural scavengers that keep rodents and disease at bay. Eliminating them totally means inviting new problems, apart from the ethical issues involved in such flagrant vigilante responses. The man-animal conflict certainly seems to have come closer home, possibly, a bit too close for comfort.

## international

## TALIBAN RECEIVED MEN, WEAPONS, EXPLOSIVES FROM PAKISTAN

**T**he Taliban have received men, weapons and explosives but also direction from across our southern frontiers, which is Pakistan, said Ahmad Shuja Jamal, head of international affairs at Afghanistan's National Security Council.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

**I**n an interview with Al Jazeera, he said: "That is why (they) are able to put up with such a stiff resistance across the country."

Jamal said of the many explosive devices that were used to killed American soldiers in Afghanistan, 80 per cent of them used ammonium nitrate which is fertiliser but also a precursor for explosives were produced in two Pakistani factories.

"If you focus on a given sliver of time, at any given moment, a province may have come under the Taliban's control. But I think the situation remains completely fluid, which means, as we are speaking, the Afghan National Defence and Security Forces are actually rallying and pushing the Taliban out of the province of Kunduz." Similar action is



happening in Sheberghan and similar action is happening in other provinces that you've listed as having fallen into the Taliban's hands," he said.

The Taliban militants are not capa-

ble of holding the provincial capitals. They have simply been unable to do that and as you have said a few moments ago, the last time they were able to capture any provincial capital was six years ago in 2015, he added.

Jamal said the civilians are really bearing the brunt of all this.

"Because we've seen an increase in civilian casualties just as the Taliban have escalated their violence. Approximately two-thirds of the casualties have been women and children and that speaks to the Taliban's modus operandi which is that they're using civilian homes to hide but also launching attacks and that is creating a terrible toll for civilians."

Jamal said Kunduz is the gateway to Central Asia because if the Taliban is able to establish a foothold in this province, then with the multiple terrorist organisations, the IMU in Uzbekistan, the Ansar Allah from Tajikistan, and the multiple other ones, they are able to link Central Asia so the fight here by the NDSF is not just for us but it is for Central Asia and the neighbourhood.

## Dixie Fire grows to 2nd largest in California's history

San Francisco | Agencies

**D**ixie Fire, a fast-moving wildfire has grown to become the second largest in California's history as more than 8,500 firefighters are continuing to battle 11 major wildfires across the state, authorities said.

Dixie Fire, raging in Northern California, was at 463,477 acres and only 21 per cent contained, said the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire) in an incident report on Sunday.

The fire surpassed the Mendocino Complex Fire, which scorched 459,123 acres in 2018, reports Xinhua news agency.

In California's history, it's now only behind the massive 2020 August Complex Fire, which burned 1,032,648 acres, according to Cal Fire.

The fire, which started on July 13, also became the



largest wildfire so far this year in the country.

The fire, burning through four counties in Northern California, had destroyed at least 404 structures and forced thousands of local residents to evacuate.

More than 5,100 firefighters are working to contain it.

According to Cal Fire, six of the top seven largest wild-

fires in the state's history, including the Dixie Fire, have occurred since 2020.

More than 6,000 wildfires have burned nearly 580,000 acres in California this year, according to the Cal Fire's 2021 Incident Archive.

The state and most of the U.S West are in the grip of a severe drought of historic proportions.

## Shocked by the grave violations against children in Afghanistan: UNICEF

Kabul | Agencies

**U**NICEF said that it is shocked by the rapid escalation of grave violations against children in Afghanistan.

A UNICEF statement said in the last 72 hours, 20 children have been killed and 130 children have been injured in Kandahar province, 2 children were killed and 3 were injured in Khost province, and in Paktia province, 5 children were killed and 3 were injured.

The atrocities grow higher by the day, said UNICEF Afghan Representative Hervé Ludovic De Lys. "These are not numbers. Each one of these deaths and each case of physical suffering is a personal tragedy. These children are much loved and longed-for daughters and sons, brothers

## Support for Australian PM falls to 18 month-low

Canberra | Agencies

**A**ustralian Prime Minister Scott Morrison's approval rating has fallen to its lowest level since March 2020, according to a new poll published on Monday.

The Newspoll survey said that Morrison's personal approval rating has fallen into negative territory for the first time since the coronavirus hit Australia, reports Xinhua news agency.

The opinion poll found that the proportion of voters satisfied with Morrison's performance in handling the pandemic dropped from 52 per cent in mid-July to 48 per cent compared to a record-high 85 per cent in April 2020.

For the first time since April 2020, after restrictions were first introduced across Australia to prevent the spread of Covid-19, more voters were dissatisfied with Morrison than satisfied, giving him a net rating of negative two. The poll was conducted amid growing frustration over Australia's troubled vaccine rollout. About half of Australia's population in New South Wales, Victoria and



Queensland has experienced a lockdown so far in August to prevent the spread of the Delta variant. Death toll increased from 923 at the end of last month to 936 on Sunday. Amid the country's biggest wave of infections in 12 months, Newspoll found that support for Morrison's management of the vaccine rollout fell a further two points from mid-July to 38 percent. Rising dissatisfaction with Morrison has left the Coalition party facing an uphill battle to win a fourth consecutive term in the government at the general election, which is due to be held before May 2021.

## Israel will not accept rocket fire from Lebanon: PM

Tel Aviv | Agencies

**I**sraeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett has warned Lebanon that his country "will not accept" rocket fire.

Speaking at a cabinet meeting on Sunday, Bennett said that the Lebanese government and army "should take responsibility for what happens in their backyard", reports Xinhua news agency. The Prime Minister made the remarks a day after the armed Lebanese group, Hezbollah fired rockets at Israeli territory.

Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah also said that the Lebanese Shia movement does not fear any Israeli war and "we are fully prepared for the war and we are certain that we will win it". On August 6, about 19 rockets were fired at northern Israel by Hezbollah, causing no injuries.

The Israeli army said in a statement that most of the rockets were intercepted by its aerial defence systems and the rest landed in open areas adjacent to the Lebanese-Israeli border.

Hezbollah said the rockets were in retaliation to the Israeli airstrikes in southern Lebanon a few days earlier.

The airstrikes were carried out after three rockets were fired from Lebanon towards Israel on August 4, causing no injuries.

## SAUDI TO START RECEIVING UMRAH REQUESTS FROM FOREIGNERS

Riyadh: Starting from Monday, Saudi Arabia will begin receiving requests to perform Umrah an Islamic pilgrimage to Mecca from foreign worshippers, the government announced. For concerns over the Covid-19 pandemic, only the vaccinated and the recovered will be provided with permissions, Xinhua news agency quoted the Ministry of Haj and Umrah as saying in the announcement.

The Deputy Minister of Haj and Umrah, Abdul fattah bin Sulaiman Mashat said the authorities determine the countries from which Umrah performers come, and their numbers on a periodic basis according to the classification of preventive measures. He called upon the performers to adhere to organisational plans and health procedures set by the Ministry.

## SARA DAVIES JOINS STRICTLY COME DANCING LINE-UP

Los Angeles | Agencies

Sara Davies has been revealed as the sixth star set to compete on Strictly Come Dancing. She joins presenter Rhys Stephenson, AJ Odudu, GBB's John Whaite, Robert Webb and Tom Fletcher in the impressive line-up. The Dragons' Den star could not hide her excitement as she was confirmed to be a celebrity contestant and chatted on Good Morning Britain on Monday.

Speaking about the show, Sara said: "My Mom and Dad are going to be so excited. I'm really nervous because so far the producers keep asking me if I can dance. Truth be told - I haven't got a clue! I've not danced since I did ballet lessons when I was little." A businesswoman, her company Crafter's Companion, which she started as a student, now employs almost 250 people worldwide and has earned her the affectionate nickname of the Crafting Queen. She is the recipient of over 30 business awards and, in 2016, she was appointed Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) for services to the economy.



**Chrissy Teigen glammed up for Obama's 60th birthday bash**



Los Angeles | Agencies

Chrissy Teigen looked sensational as she got all dolled up in Martha's Vineyard for Barack Obama's ultra high-profile 60th birthday bash.

The model and mother of two, 35, shared an assortment of pictures and video to her Instagram of her look for the soirée, which consisted of a beautiful and flowing white dress.

Chrissy also included a brief video clip of a stylist preparing her voluminous hairstyle, which had her brownish blonde locks straight and wavy with extra bounce.

She has tried to maintain a positive and uplifting tone on her social media ever since a major bullying scandal tarnished her reputation earlier this year.

'It's spelled zhuzh, that is bonkers' she captioned the snippet.

Barack Obama's birthday party attracted an incredibly starry guest list over the weekend, including huge names such as Beyoncé, Oprah Winfrey, Alicia Keys, Steven Spielberg, Al Sharpton and George Clooney.



## hollywood

**Rihanna is about to get even RICHER!**



Los Angeles | Agencies

Rihanna oozed seductive in an ad for her new Fenty perfume after officially becoming a billionaire last week. The 33-year-old superstar shared the promo for her brand's first fragrance with her more than 102 million Instagram followers. Rihanna, who was clad in two layered white sports bras and khaki pants with a long fuzzy cardigan, was seen standing in a verdant field. The ad has her voiceover which says, "We're \*\*\*d up, most of the time. And it's not because we want to be that way. It's because we've dealt the hand and guess what? We don't run from it." "We deal with it and so you want me to tell you what a woman is supposed to smell like? However the f\*\*\* they want to feel," she concluded as the clip ended with a shot of the perfume bottle. Earlier in the week, the beauty mogul was officially proclaimed a billionaire. Forbes reported that Rihanna's net worth was a staggering \$1.7 billion.



**Georgina Rodriguez sparkles at Starlite's benefit gala**

Los Angeles | Agencies

Model Georgina Rodriguez was breathtaking in a sparkling green gown with thigh-high split at the Starlite's benefit gala in Marbella, Spain. The stunning girlfriend of Cristiano Ronaldo dazzled in the strapless number, which hugged her curves and pushed her assets up high. She also opted for a matching manicure and accessorised with silver and green jewels, while styling her raven locks sleek and straight for the occasion.

Georgina and footballer Cristiano famously met while she was working as a retail assistant in Madrid, as they caught eyes across the rails in Gucci in 2016. Last year, she admitted that the meeting with the Juventus star saw her 'fall in love at first sight'. Last year, Georgina sparked speculation that she'd tied the knot with her beau when she referred to him as her 'husband' in a gushing post celebrating her 26th birthday.



**Bella Hadid got rainbowed!**

Los Angeles | Agencies

Bella Hadid shared a rainbow-hued slideshow of herself hanging out at what appeared to be her mother Yolanda's \$4M 32-acre farmhouse in New Hope, PA. In the caption, the 24-year-old IMG Model rambled on and on about astrology.

Bella - who boasts 44.7M Instagram followers - was celebrating the annual cosmic alignment known as the lion's gate portal. Hadid also copy and pasted astrology text from MoonReading.com as she shared random snaps of roses and a tiny snake. One of the images showed the half-Palestinian, half-Dutch socialite holding a baby, which appeared to be her big sister Gigi's 10-month-old daughter Khai with Zayn Malik.

Bella's slideshow pictures were likely old as she also Instastoried several behind-the-scenes images from a photo shoot in Manhattan.

**KHLOE KARDASHIAN OOVES CONFIDENCE IN A NUDE BODYSUIT**

Los Angeles | Agencies

Khloe Kardashian struck an optimistic tone on the internet just one day after news on/off ex Tristan Thompson had been traded to the Sacramento Kings.

The mother-of-one started the day sharing a glowing shot of herself in a nude bodysuit to Instagram before going on to post several mindful quotes to her Story. "Every situation in life is temporary. So, when life is good, make sure you enjoy and receive it fully," one powerful quote read.

Khloe definitely appeared to be living in the now in her Instagram photo, offering a cool stare while laying on the floor with her bronzed legs splayed out in front of her.

She had her dark hair styled smooth and straight while going with high contour makeup. The youngest Kardashian sister added some mystique with green contacts.

## ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Nicole Scherzinger

# INDIAN OLYMPIC MEDALLISTS RECEIVE HEROIC WELCOME

**ANURAG THAKUR, KIREN RIJU FELICITATED 7 MEDALLISTS OF TOKYO OLYMPICS**



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Thakur felicitated the seven Olympic medalists, namely Neeraj Chopra, Ravi Kumar Dahiya, Mirabai Chanu, PV Sindhu, Bajrang Punia, Lovlina Borgohain, and the men's national Hockey team, at a gala felicitation program at the Ashoka Hotel in New Delhi.

Among those present on the occasion to felicitate them also included Union Minister of Law and Justice Kiren Rijiju; Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports Nisith Pramanik; Secretary-Sports Ravi Mittal, and Director-General, Sports Authority of India, Sandip Pradhan.

Gold medalist Neeraj, silver medalist Ravi, bronze medalists Bajrang, Lovlina and Manpreet returned to India after a long flight today after gracing the closing ceremony of Tokyo 2020 last night.

They were joined by the other medalists Mirabai and Sindhu during the grand felicitation.

Success at Olympics reflects New



India's desire to dominate: Anurag Thakur

Sports Minister, Anurag Thakur said, "Tokyo 2020 was an Olympic Games of many firsts for India. The success of Team India at the Olympics is a reflection of how New India desires and aspires to dominate the world...even in sports. The Olympic Games showed us

that with self-discipline and dedication we can be champions."

"Team India excelled and inspired while Indians cheered and celebrated all around. Truly sports is a great unifier as our athletes come from villages and cities, north to south, from east to west. Their journey is an incredible story of resilience and sporting excellence," he

added. The Sports Minister further said that there were many firsts, a 128-member Indian contingent, 7 Olympic Medals, our first Olympic gold medal in an Athletics event, two successive medals in consecutive Olympic Games by PV Sindhu, a medal(bronze) won by the Indian men's team in hockey after a gap of 41 years and a historic entry to the semi-finals by the Women's hockey team.

"We also had the first female sailor from India to qualify for the Olympics - Nethra Kumaran, first Indian fencer from India to make it to the Olympics - Bhavani Devi, the best place achieved by an Indian in Equestrian eventing - Fouaad Mirza, the best-ever finish for Indian Rowers, the highest-placed finish by an Indian in golf by Aditi and a national record was set in the steeple-chase by Avinash Sable," said Thakur.

"And let me add, the foundations of sports in India are firm; under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, various schemes such as TOPs and Khelo India have shown results ensuring podium finish. We will continue to support our sports persons and we endeavour to make India a sporting powerhouse," he added.

India will be a force to reckon on:

Kiren Rijiju

Union Minister Kiren Rijiju praised the performances of all the athletes and reiterated that India will be a force to reckon with by the 2028 Olympics. "I am thrilled beyond words to share this space with our champion athletes today. This is a historic event with India registering its best-ever performance in the Olympics. We have much to be

proud of, we have a hockey medal after 41 years and a first-ever gold in athletics. And it's not just our medal winners, each athlete has put their best in Tokyo and I congratulate all of them."

The other highlights of the games included Bhavani Devi, Nethra Kumaran and Aditi Ashok. While Bhavani became the only fencer from India to make it to the Olympics since the sport was introduced, Nethra became the first female sailor from India to qualify for the Olympics. Aditi Ashok meanwhile, finished 4th in golf and registered the highest-placed finish for any Indian in the sport at the Olympics.



## Indian team departs for London for 2nd Test against England

Nottingham | Agencies

The Indian Test team has departed for London, where it will play the second Test against England at Lord's starting on August 12. Wicketkeeper-batsman Wriddhiman Saha, who did not play the first Test, posted a picture of himself with teammates Mohammed Shami, Cheteshwar Pujara and Mohammed Siraj in the bus on way to London.

"On way to #London from Nottingham @cheteshwar1 @MdShami11 @mdsirajofficial @BCCI," tweeted Saha along with the picture.

The first Test between the two teams had ended in a draw after the fifth and final day on Sunday was washed out due to rain.



over.

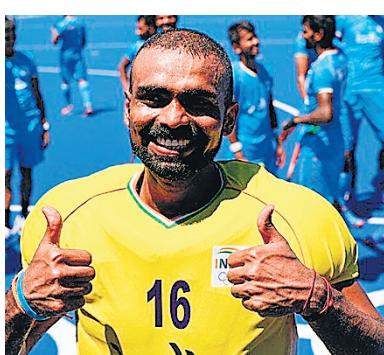
The duo had left for England a day before the start of the first Test. They will be out of quarantine during the course of the second Test.

India are due to play four more Tests over the next two months.

**UAE based Indian expat announces Rs 1 cr reward for PR Sreejesh**

**Thiruvananthapuram:** PR Sreejesh has yet again been appreciated for taking Indian Men's Hockey to "newer heights" by helping it secure the Olympic bronze medal in the Tokyo Games.

Shamsheer Vayalil, Chairman and Managing Director of UAE-based, VPS Healthcare on Monday announced a cash reward of Rs 1 crore for Sreejesh.



Sreejesh, who hails from Kochi, pulled off a stunning save in the last few seconds of the match resulting in the bronze medal after decades for India.

"Through his outstanding performance at the Olympics, Sreejesh has brought joy to Indians around the world. As a fellow Malayali, I take tremendous pride in his achievement. Thanks to his efforts, the interest in hockey has been renewed. His performance, along with that of the entire Indian hockey team, will serve as encouragement for hundreds of youths in the country," said Vayalil.

Sreejesh thanked Vayalil for his message and the gesture of appreciation.

Sreejesh, who returns to India on Monday after the successful Tokyo campaign, will be presented with the cash prize at a special function in Kochi, later this month.

## PURANIK WINS RAPID CHESS TITLE AS INDIANS DOMINATE IN RIGA

**Mumbai:** Abhimanyu Puranik won the title as Indian players dominated the Riga Technical University 2021 Rapid Open Chess at Riga in Latvia. Puranik finished with eight points from nine games in Tournament G section, winning eight games and losing one as a no-draw approach worked spectacularly for him. SL Narayanan finished third and Aravindh Chithambaram fourth both tied for the second spot with Igor Kovalenko of Latvia on 7.5 points. Kovalenko finished second on tie-breaker. Arjun Engalsi finished sixth after sharing the fifth spot with three others while NR Visakh came eighth after ending clubbed with seven players on 6.5 points. In the final round on Sunday, Puranik defeated compatriot Narayanan in a wild game as he had to beat him to ensure he finished clear first and pocketed the first prize of 360 euro. Narayanan was just a half-point behind and a draw could have impacted Puranik's chances.

The 21-year-old from Pune won the ninth round game to finish with eighth point. Puranik is among a group of 34 Indians that is participating in the Riga Technical University 2021 Classic Chess Tournament, which started on Monday. The main group also includes Nihal Sarin, who with a rating of 2655 is the fifth highest ranked Indian in the FIDE Rankings list for August 2021.



## SPECIAL DISHES AWAIT INDIAN OLYMPICS CONTINGENT BACK HOME

Team Absolute | New Delhi

All the contingents of Team India, who made the tricolour soar high during the Tokyo Olympics 2020, were given a rousing welcome as national heroes on Monday. Special dishes have been prepared for all Indian players at the Ashoka Hotel in the national Capital with special care on protein intake and nutrition for the players. Apart from this, special dishes have also been prepared according to the different regions to which each Indian player belongs.

On Monday a special ceremony honouring all seven Indian Olympic medalists, including all other national players who participated in the Tokyo Olympics will be held at the grand Ashoka



Hotel. The chefs of the hotel prepared a variety of dishes for all Indian players. Chef Arvind Rai of Ashoka Hotel in a special conversation with said, "It is a matter of great pride for the players to come here as we got the privilege of serving them food. Special dishes have been prepared for all Indian players with adequate amount of protein intake and nutrition for the players. Apart from this, special dishes have also been prepared according to the different regions to which each Indian player belongs.

"Since the players are from different states, we have prepared mostly Indian cuisine such as deep fry, continental, less spicy etc whichever dish the Indian contingent prefers." Fish Amritsari, Mutton Rogan Josh, Butter Chicken, Fried Fish, Paneer Kadhi etc have been included as dishes in the hotel for the Indian Olympians.

**Performance in first Test will boost India's morale: Karthik**

Nottingham | Agencies

Former India wicketkeeper-batsman Dinesh Karthik has said that the Indians have done enough to go to the second Test with an upper hand. Though the first Test at the Trent Bridge ended in a draw, India had done enough to trouble the English definitely had the upper hand going into the final day. India will take a lot more from this game than England would. Overall, they played a very good brand of cricket," Karthik said on Sky Sports. "Bumrah set the tone in the first over, setting up Rory Burns the way he did, the bowling unit was good and I thought the batters came in with a lot of intent," Karthik added further.

Both captains Joe Root and Virat Kohli have said that their respective teams have taken a lot of confidence.

"We certainly felt like we are on top of the game. We bowled well enough and batted well enough to stay in the contest," Kohli had said after the match. Host captain Root said that the second innings performance in which England scored 303 to set India a target of 209 would give his team confidence after the disastrous first innings performance. "We're going to Lord's a lot more confident that if we'd performed in the second innings like we did in the first innings," Root had said after the match on Sunday.

## Pressure to cancel Winter Olympics in China mounts

Team Absolute | New Delhi

As the Tokyo Olympic Games come to a close on Sunday, the focus shifts to the 2022 Winter Olympics, being hosted by Beijing in February. A worldwide call seeks to boycott the Winter Olympics over China's clampdown on human rights for its ethnic minorities.

Some of the protesters have called for a diplomatic boycott of the Beijing Winter Olympics. This would mean that officials and diplomats refrain from attending the games while the sports persons attend it.

Who is protesting?

In June, a coalition of over 200 human rights organisations wrote to NBC Universal to cancel its broadcast deal for the Beijing games. A letter to the company said: "We represent a coalition of 200 global campaign groups and are writing to you to urge NBCUniversal to cancel its broadcast deal for the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympic Games due to China's genocide against the Uyghur people, the severe and escalating repression in Tibet, Southern Mongolia, Hong Kong, and China proper, and geopolitical bullying of Taiwan".

Why the calls to boycott Beijing Olympics?

Human rights campaigners feel that allowing China to hold the games will give legitimacy to Beijing and embolden it to further deprive its



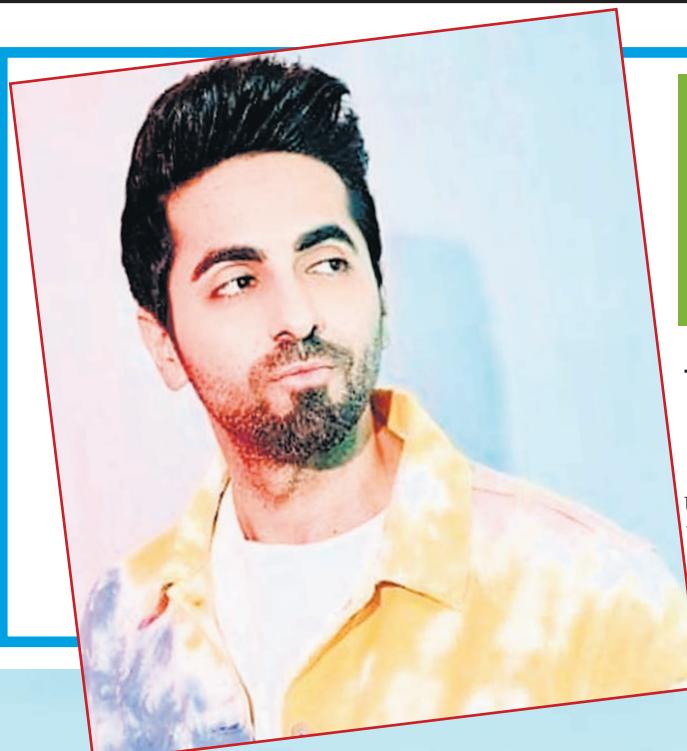
minorities of basic freedoms and human rights.

Campaigners say that Beijing has tightened surveillance on ethnic minorities like the Tibetans, put more Muslim Uighurs in concentration camps and has completely suspended international laws in Hong Kong.

What does China say?

China, which is overly sensitive to criticism, has reacted strongly over the boycott calls. In July, Wang Wenbin said: "China firmly opposes the politicization of sports and the interference in other countries' internal affairs by using human rights issues as a pretext".





## SONU SOOD RETURNS TO HIS MACHO AVATAR

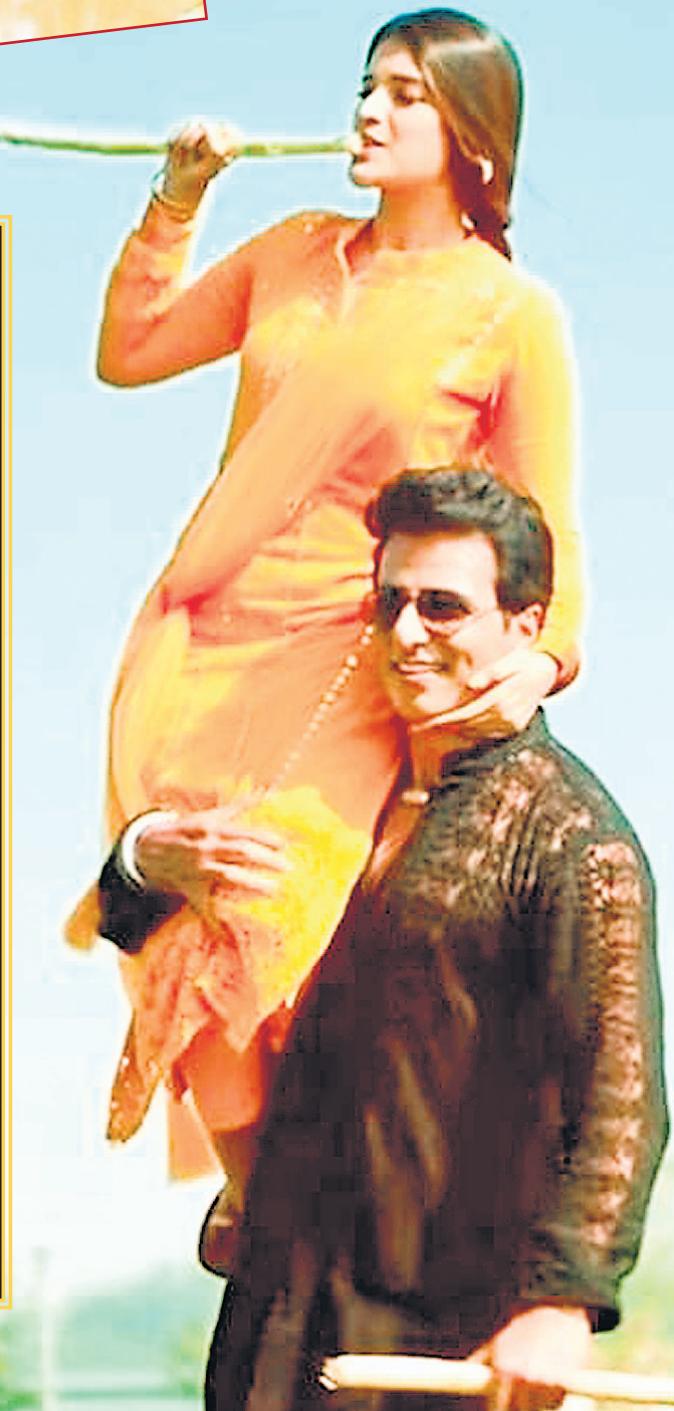
Team Absolute | Mumbai

**S**onu Sood, who might have gone missing from action owing to his incredible philanthropic work during the pandemic, is romancing Nidhhi Agerwal in a new single titled "Saath Kya Nibhaoge," directed by Farah Khan.

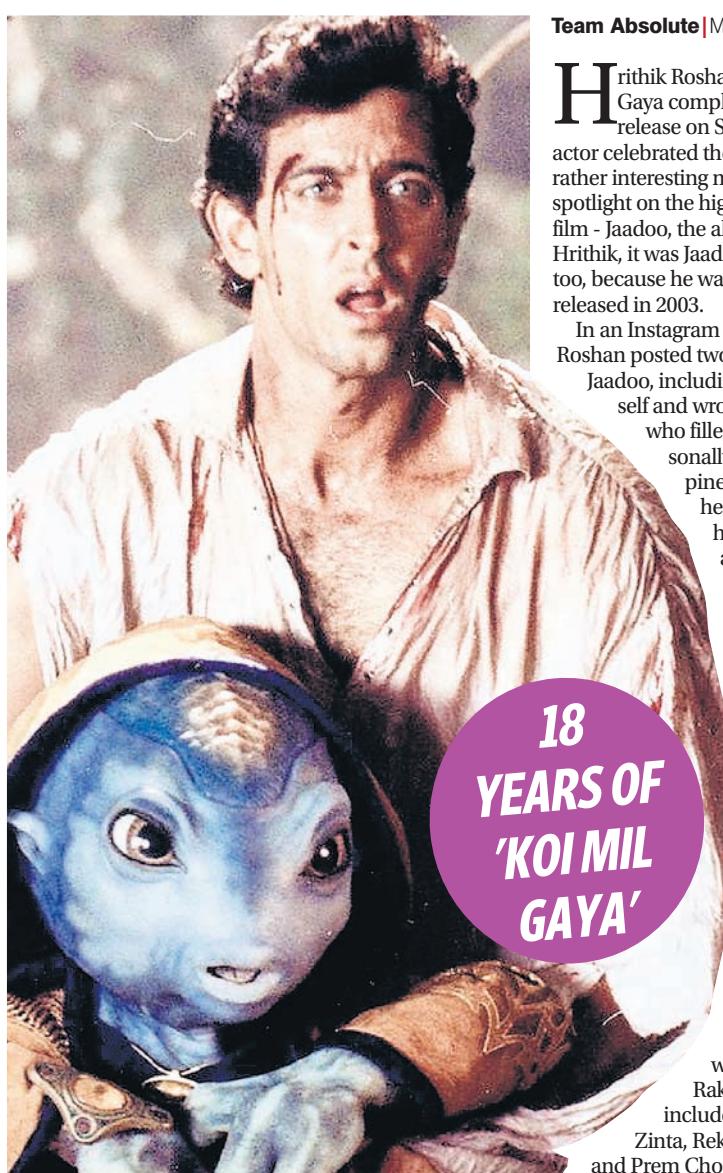
"Saath Kya Nibhaoge" is a rehashed version of Altaf Raja's popular 90s track "Tum To Thehre Pardesi." It shows Sonu and Nidhhi as past lovers who get separated due to circumstances, only to reunite when Sonu comes to the rescue her.

As the two come face-to-face again memories of their romance return.

The reprised version has been sung by Altaf Raja while Tony Kakkar has joined the vocals. The latter has also composed and written the new lyrics.



## Hrithik Roshan celebrates Jaadoo's 21st birthday



18  
YEARS OF  
'KOI MIL  
GAYA'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

**H**rithik Roshan starrer Koi Mil Gaya completed 18 years of release on Sunday and the actor celebrated the occasion in a rather interesting manner. He put the spotlight on the highlight of this sci-fi film - Jaadoo, the alien. According to Hrithik, it was Jaadoo's 21st birthday too, because he was 3 when the film released in 2003.

In an Instagram post, Hrithik Roshan posted two screenshots of Jaadoo, including one with himself and wrote, "To the one who filled Rohit's and personally my life with happiness & magic. He held Rohit's hand, healed his scars and made him believe in miracles. "Jaadoo was merely 3 when he entered Rohit's life. 18 years have passed by, he turns 21 today. Sometimes, I wonder how he would look like today! What do you guys think? Happy birthday Jaadoo! #Happy Birthday Jaadoo #18Years Of KoiMilGaya."

"Koi Mil Gaya" was directed by Rakesh Roshan and includes the cast of Preity Zinta, Rekha, Johnny Lever and Prem Chopra.

## Aishwarya Majmudar talks about her upcoming track

Team Absolute | Mumbai

**S**inger Aishwarya Majmudar, who is known for her tracks like 'Aaj Unse Kehna Hai' in the movie 'Prem Ratan Dhan Payo' and 'Tere Bin Nahi Laage' from 'Ek Paheli Leela', is coming up with her new track 'Prem Rang Maniyaaro' featuring Devarshi Shah.

The song depicts the story of a newly-wed couple. Aishwarya not only has given her voice but also has a dance sequence in Gujarati attire. She will be seen per-

forming 'Garba' with certain modifications.

"The entire process of building the song has been a learning process and helped me find my identity," says Aishwarya.

Talking about how she came up with the song, the singer adds: "I remember waking up in the middle of the night with a string tune annoying me in my sleep. I didn't know then what it would substantiate into, but that one tune got made into 'Prem Rang' and hence this song is no less than a dream!"



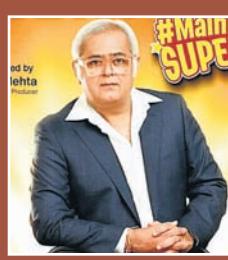
## Neha Bhasin: Non-film music is taking centre stage again

Team Absolute | Mumbai

**S**inger Neha Bhasin is happy that independent music is taking centre stage, but adds that she minces no words while talking about famous actors being a part of these numbers. Bhasin said: "How does she see the music industry right now evolving? Because of Covid everything is very in between in general. Where I do see a shift is that non-film music is taking centre stage again because films have taken a bit of a back seat. "But music industry and non-film music main bhi wohi ho raha ki jo famous actors hain unko songs main daldo chahe gaane kaisai bhi ho (But in non-film music they are putting bollywood stars no matter how or what the song is). I don't know." The singer, who is currently seen as a contestant in "Bigg Boss OTT", says she does not see the evolution of music content. "Bigg Boss OTT" is hosted by Karan Johar. It streams on Voot Select.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

**HANSAL MEHTA TO JUDGE 'MAIN BHI SUPERSTAR'**



is a perfect opportunity for talent from across the

country that seeks ways to make a name in the industry. I look forward to being a part of this exciting journey and picking three remarkable actors from the entries."

"Kudos to MX TakTak for bringing forth one of this talent hunt initiatives in the user-generated content space. I've always believed in the power of talent and the advent of such platforms gives talent a great opportunity to flourish," he added.

#MainBhiSuperstar challenge requires participants to submit their short video clips on the app acting out their favorite scene from any film in their own unique ways.

Hansal Mehta will shortlist the top three creators who will get a chance to be featured in a web series on MX Player.



Surbhi Chandra

## INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY