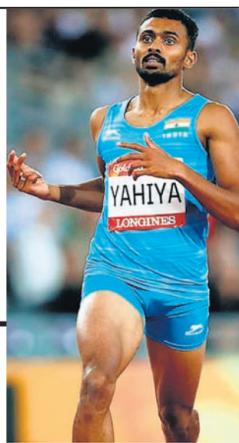


absolute india

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Chief Justice of India says CBI, IB not helping judicial officers

THREAT TO JUDGES

The top court made these strong observations while hearing a suo motu case in connection with the mowing down of Dhanbad Additional District Judge Uttam Anand by an auto-rickshaw and sought a status report on the investigation from the Jharkhand government through the Chief Secretary and the DGP within a week. The Chief Justice noted that the Jharkhand government has done nothing in connection with the security of judicial officers, against the backdrop of the presence of coal mafia in the state and pointed out that Anand was killed nearby his colony.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana on Friday said that a new trend has developed in the country to malign the judges, if people do not get orders of their choice, and when judges complain to the CBI and the IB, they also do not help.

The bench, which also comprised Justice Surya Kant, said that in some cases where gangsters and high-profile accused are involved, they attempt to intimidate judges physically and mentally, and some people, who do not get orders of their choice, circulate messages on WhatsApp and other social media platforms with an intent to malign judges. The Chief Justice added that it is sad that the Central Bureau of Investigation has done nothing. "No



change in CBI attitude. We are sorry to observe that." As the Jharkhand government said it had handed over the case to the CBI for further investigation and it will provide full cooperation to the investigating agency, the CJ said: "So, you washed up your hands."

"New trend developed in the country. If an adverse order is passed, then judiciary is maligned... No freedom given to judges. If judges complain to the IB and the CBI, they are not helping the judiciary at all. This is a serious matter. I am saying it with a sense of responsibility."

SC seeks Centre's clear stand on vacancies in tribunals

New Delhi: Chief Justice N.V. Ramana on Friday highlighted the sorry state of affairs of tribunals across the country, while reading out a long list of vacancies in them and told the Centre to clear its stand, whether it is really keen to continue tribunals or prefer closing them. The bench read out the long-list of vacancies across the tribunals and added that 19 presiding officers, 110 judicial members, and 111 technical members are pending in all the tribunals. The bench added, "The impression we are gathering is that it appears the bureaucracy does not want the tribunals. The Centre should clear its stand whether it really, really wants to continue the tribunals or close them down."

Highest award for sports named after Major Dhyhan Chand

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday announced the country's highest sporting award 'Khel Ratna Award' named as 'Major Dhyhan Chand Khel Ratna Award'. Till now the award was known as 'Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award'. Hockey legend, Major Dhyhan Chand, had represented India from 1926 to 1949 and scored over 400 goals in his career.

In a series of tweets, Prime Minister Modi made the announcement renaming the Khel Ratna Award. "I have been getting many requests from citizens across India to name the Khel Ratna Award after Major Dhyhan Chand. I thank them for their views. Respecting their sentiment, the Khel Ratna Award will



hereby be called the Major Dhyhan Chand Khel Ratna Award. Jai Hind," Modi said. "Major Dhyhan Chand was among India's foremost sportspersons who brought honour and pride for India. It

is fitting that our nation's highest sporting honour will be named after him," he said.

CONGRESS WELCOMES RENAMING OF AWARD

New Delhi: The Congress welcomed the move but said that the Narendra Modi and Arun Jaitley Stadiums should also be renamed. Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Singh Surjewala said, "Modiji should not have used the name of hockey legend Major Dhyhan Chand as we have utmost respect for him (Dhyhan Chand) and Rajiv Gandhi will be remembered for his sacrifice for the nation."

He said he hoped the government will rename stadiums in the name of great players and change the name of Narendra Modi Stadium and Arun Jaitley Stadium also. Congress leader Divyavijaya Singh was more sarcastic and said, "I hoped that he would rename the award as Narendra Modi khel award this is in English called megalomania."

Chess player Viswanathan Anand was first recipient of the award started in 1991-92. Other recipients of the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award were Leander Paes, Sachin Tendulkar, Dhanraj Pillay, Pullela Gopichand, Abhinav Bindra, Anju Bobby George, Mary Kom and Rani Rampal. The award carries a cash prize of Rs 25 lakh.

SC RULES IN AMAZON'S FAVOUR, HOLDS EMERGENCY ARBITRATION AWARD ENFORCEABLE

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court, in a big relief to e-commerce giant Amazon, on Friday upheld the order of the Singapore emergency arbitrator restraining the Kishore Biyani-led Future group from going ahead with its Rs 24,713-crore deal with Reliance Retail.

A bench of Justices R.F. Nariman and B.R. Gavai noted the first question to be determined by this court is whether an emergency arbitrator's award can be said to be within the contemplation of the Arbitration Act, and whether it can further be said to be an order under Section 17(1) of the Act.

"An emergency arbitrator's award, i.e., order, would undoubtedly be an order which furthers these very objectives, i.e., to decongest the court system and to give the parties urgent interim relief in cases which deserve such relief," noted the top court, in its 103-page judgment.

The bench answered this question by declaring that full party autonomy is given by the Arbitration Act to have a dispute decided in accordance with institutional rules which can include emergency arbitrators delivering interim orders, described as "awards".

"Such orders are an important step in aid of decongesting the civil courts and affording expeditious interim relief to the parties. Such orders are referable to and are made under Section 17(1) of the Arbitration Act," said the judgment authored by Justice Nariman on behalf of the bench.

The bench said the emergency arbitrator's order is enforceable in India and the Indian Arbitration laws also allowed it, as it declared Future Retail's appeal against the Delhi High Court's single judge order was not maintainable. The top court said the Delhi High Court's single judge was right in upholding the emergency arbitrator's October 25 order.

RBI keeps key rates intact, maintains accommodative stance

Team Absolute | Mumbai

To protect the nascent economic recovery, the Reserve Bank of India retained its key short-term lending rates during the third monetary policy review of FY22.

Besides, the growth-oriented accommodative stance was retained to give a push to economic activity despite high retail inflation levels. Accordingly, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das pointed out that any departure from the present pro-growth monetary policy stance might "kill the nascent and hesitant recov-



reverse repo rate was kept unchanged at 3.35 per cent, and the marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the 'Bank Rate' at 4.25 per cent. It was widely expected that MPC would hold rates and the accommodative stance.

India to carry out military drill with China and Pakistan

Team Absolute | New Delhi

As India makes efforts to thwart threats at its borders from China and Pakistan, troops from the three countries are set to take part in a mega anti-terror drill of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in Russia aimed at expanding cooperation to deal with the growing menace of terrorism and extremism. As part of the SCO initiative, the Peace Mission Exercise is conducted for member states.

Peace Mission-2021 is an anti-terrorist command and staff exercise of member countries. More than 3,000 soldiers are expected to participate in the drill.

The Indian Army will be conducting air reconnaissance and protecting facilities during the joint drills with the Chinese People's Liberation Army and the Pakistan Army. The joint exercise



will be conducted by the Central Military Commission of Russia from September 11 to September 25. The drill will involve tactical-level operations in an international counter-insurgency or counter-terrorism environment under the SCO Charter. The joint exercise will strengthen mutual confidence, interoperability and enable sharing of best practices among the armed forces of the SCO nations.

India, China pull out troops from Gogra in Ladakh

In a major breakthrough, India and China have withdrawn troops from the friction Patrolling Point (PP) 17A in Gogra along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Eastern Ladakh, the Indian Army said on Friday. The Indian Army said that both the countries have ceased forward deployments in this area in a phased, coordinated and verified manner. The force said that all the temporary structures and other allied infrastructure created in the area by both sides have been dismantled and mutually verified. This agreement ensures that the LAC in this area will be strictly observed and respected by both sides, and that there is no unilateral change in status quo. With this, one more sensitive area of face-off has been resolved.

Nitish government likely to conduct caste census on its own

Patna: Bihar's Nitish Kumar government is likely to conduct a caste-based census in the state on its own expense, say ruling Janata Dal-United leaders. The leaders said that Nitish Kumar has a clear stand on this issue, and is waiting for the Centre's response on his proposal. If it refuses, he will activate "Plan B" for the state to conduct the exercise on its own. Nitish Kumar on Wednesday wrote a letter to PM Narendra Modi, seeking an all-party meeting on this issue. JD-U MP Sunil Kumar Pintu said: "If the Centre refuses our proposal, in that case, Nitish Kumar has a clear stand to conduct the census at the state government's expense." JD-U Parliamentary Board President Upendra Kushwaha said: "If a religion-based census is possible in the country, why is the Centre hesitating on a caste-based census."

Child Can Use Mother's Surname: Delhi HC

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A father does not own his daughter and cannot dictate terms, and every child has a right to use his or her mother's surname, the Delhi high court on Friday observed.

The court's observation came while hearing a plea by a minor girl's father seeking direction to the authorities to reflect his name as his daughter's surname in official documents and not her mother's name.

Justice Rekha Palli, however, declined to pass such a direction and said, "A father does not own the daughter to dictate that she should use only his surname. If the minor daughter is happy with her surname, what is your problem?" The court said

every child has a right to use his/her mother's surname if he/she wishes to.

During the hearing, the man's counsel submitted that his daughter is minor and cannot decide such issues on her own and that the child's surname was changed by his estranged wife. The court was told that the child's name was changed from "Srivastava" to "Saxena" by the petitioner's estranged wife. He claimed that the change in name will make it difficult to avail insurance claims from the insurance firm as the policy was taken in the name of the girl with her father's surname. The court, which declined to allow the plea, disposed of the petition with a liberty to the man to approach his daughter's school to show his name as the father.

'Don't lower the guard for another six months'

Dr Soumya Swaminathan, Chief Scientist of World Health Organization (WHO) warned that coming half an year is going to be crucial and people need to be extra care full to avoid Covid-19 infection.

Team Absolute | Chennai

Chief scientist of the World Health Organization Dr Soumya Swaminathan on Friday warned that if the SARS-CoV-2 virus continues mutating, then a new variant that could be worse than Delta can emerge. According to scientific projections amid the speculations of a third wave of the pandemic which has already begun in the country, Dr Swaminathan dismissed fears that the third wave will be impacting the children most and said it is not yet time to let down the guard.

Speaking to a news agency, Dr Swaminathan said 65 per cent of children and adults have developed antibodies, according to the ICMR serosurvey. This data proves that children have



"I know everybody is tired, everyone wants to meet their family, organise parties. But this is not the time to let down your guard. Let's be careful for another six months. The six month period is not for the virus to disappear, but for vaccine coverage to increase."

also been mildly affected by Covid, though their infections might have been mild. So the assumption that children will get affected the most in the third wave as they have not been affect-

ed in the first two waves has no scientific backing as it is wrong to assume that children were not affected in the first two waves. "We should not be too worried about a third wave affecting children. There is no scientific evidence," Dr Swaminathan said.

COVID-19 vaccines may not stop Delta spread: UK

"Some initial findings ... indicate that levels of virus in those who become infected with Delta having already been vaccinated may be similar to levels found in unvaccinated people. This may have implications for people's infectiousness, whether they have been vaccinated or not. However, this is early exploratory analysis and further targeted studies are needed to confirm whether this is the case."

Public Health England said in a statement.

Fake Covid reports by labs led to positivity error during Kumbh: ED

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Enforcement Directorate on Friday searched the homes and offices of the top executives of five diagnostics firms for alleged money laundering in connection with a fake COVID-19 testing scam during the Kumbh Mela in Uttarakhand.

The Enforcement Directorate started investigation after a case was filed by the Uttarakhand Police.

Explaining how these labs allegedly ran the fraud, the Enforcement Directorate said they used a single mobile number, address and form for several people and inflated the number of Covid testing without actually testing anyone. Some of the names in the Covid testing record have not even visited the Kumbh Mela, the probe agency said. Due to false negative testing by these labs, the

positivity rate in Haridwar at that time was shown at 0.18 per cent, while the actual was 5.3 per cent. The Enforcement Directorate said it has seized incriminating documents, bogus bills, laptops, mobile phones and property documents. The companies raided by the probe agency today are Novus Path Labs, DNA Labs, Max Corporate Services, Dr Lal Chandani Labs and Nalwa Laboratories. The homes of their top executives in Dehradun, Haridwar, Delhi, Noida and Hisar were searched, the probe agency said in a statement. These labs were given a contract by Uttarakhand government for conducting rapid antigen test and RT-PCR test during the Kumbh Mela. These labs allegedly did not carry out the required number of tests, but made fake entries for Covid testing and raised bogus bills.



Marital rape good ground to claim divorce, says Kerala HC

Team Absolute | Kochi

In a ruling that could have far-reaching implication in divorce cases, the Kerala High Court on Friday held that marital rape can be a good ground to claim divorce. The verdict by a division bench of Justices A. Muhamed Mustaque and K. Edappagath came as it turned down an appeal filed by the husband challenging a judgement of a family court granting divorce on the ground of cruelty and dismissal of a petition for restitution of conjugal rights.

While the family court, granting divorce, pointed out that the husband often sought financial assistance from his father-in-law besides physically and mentally abusing his wife, the high court went a step further.

It ruled that "a husband's licentious disposition disregarding the autonomy of the wife is a marital rape, albeit such conduct cannot be penalised, it falls in the frame of physical and mental cruelty... Merely for the reason that the law does not recognise marital rape under penal law, it does not inhibit the court from recognising the same as a form of



cruelty to grant divorce. We, therefore, are of the view that marital rape is a good ground to claim divorce".

The bench also pointed out that while marital rape is not a criminal offence under Indian law, it amounts to cruelty and can, therefore, entitle a wife to divorce.

It also noted that the "insatiable urge for wealth and sex" of the husband had

forced the respondent to take a decision for divorce.

"The appellant's licentious and profligate conduct cannot be considered as part of normal conjugal life. Therefore, we have no difficulty in holding that insatiable urge for wealth and sex of a spouse would also amount to cruelty," the court ruled as it upheld the divorce granted by family court.

FIVE KILLED IN TRUCK-CAR COLLISION IN TELANGANA

Hyderabad: Five persons, including three of a family returning from hospital, were killed in a road accident in Telangana's Sangareddy district on Friday, police said.

The accident occurred near Chowtkur village when a car collided head-on with a truck coming from the opposite direction.

According to police, all five occupants of the car were killed. Three of the deceased were identified as Amba Das (40), his wife Padma (30), and their son Vivek (6). The family hailed from Sangaipet village of Medak district.

As Vivek was unwell, his parents had taken him to Government Hospital at Sangareddy. The accident occurred when they were returning home from the hospital.

The bodies were shifted to Sangareddy Government Hospital for autopsy.

Bomma, Sharad Pawar discuss Maha-K'taka water dispute

Bengaluru | Agencies

Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and veteran Maharashtra leader and National Congress Party chief Sharad Pawar on Friday discussed streamlining of sharing information on interstate water resources data on a real-time basis to mitigate floods in both the states.

Both state governments have entered an agreement to set up data-sharing platforms for better water management of the Krishna river basin and Bhima river.

Sources in the Karnataka Irrigation Department told reporter that there are still some more hiccups which need to be sorted out. "Although we are in regular touch with our counterparts, we need a 'political will' from both states to resolve certain hiccups," a source said but declined to elaborate on what those hiccups were.

Another source in the Irrigation Department



stated that Karnataka is worried about the ongoing water dispute between Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, which was carved out from undivided Andhra Pradesh in 2014.

"Since then there is a need for other states which share Krishna river to reorganise and fight with these two states which are trying their best to seek more share. Hence, CM Bommai may have informally trying to muster support from Maharashtra leaders," the source said.

After the "unscheduled cordial meeting", the Karnataka Chief Minister's office, in a statement, said

that both leaders deliberated on issues concerning water dispute between states.

"Our aim is to resolve every possible dispute through the talks. In this direction, we held discussions," the statement quoted Bommai as saying.

On his part, Pawar, in a tweet, said: "On my visit to Bangalore, I got a call from Karnataka CM Shri Bommai who expressed his wish to meet me. Keeping the respect of his position in mind, I decided to go and pay a courtesy call on him. @cmofkarnataka @bsbommai #bangalorevisit."

UP Congress to train 70K party workers in 675 camps



Team Absolute | New Delhi/Lucknow

After training about 100 party workers in Chhattisgarh, the Congress in Uttar Pradesh has prepared a blue print to train about 70,000 party workers in 675 camps ahead of the crucial Assembly elections in the state scheduled next year.

Accordingly, in all the 823 blocks of the state, committees have been formed, and all the 8,123 Nyay panchayat presidents are working to build the party, while village-level committees are also being set up in Uttar

Pradesh, sources said. The party's organisational in-charge for Uttar Pradesh, Anil Yadav, said, "We have divided the state into eight zones and we will start the camps simultaneously after August 10." The eight zones are Gorakhpur, Allahabad, Sultanpur, Lucknow, Kanpur, Bareilly, Mathura and Ghaziabad. Yadav said that the party will train the workers in handling social media following which social media groups will be activated at the village and Nyay panchayat levels. The training would also focus on the Congress ideology and how to corner the adversaries in the state, where the party has been out of power for the past 32 years.

Till now, the Congress in Uttar Pradesh plans to go solo and contest all the seats in next year's Assembly polls. The party has also finalised ticket distribution in 70 seats, sources said. The Congress is also focusing on caste groups in the state. On Tuesday (August 3), the party had observed 'Dalit Swabhiman Diwas' to woo the community and highlight the atrocities faced by the weaker sections of the society at the hands of non-Congress governments, sources said.

Covovax for adults in Oct, for children in Jan-Feb: Poonawalla

The CEO of Serum Institute of India, Adar Poonawalla, on Friday expressed hope that another vaccine against Covid-19 being developed by the institute may be launched in October for adults and for children by January-February next year.



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Poonawalla, who met Union Home Minister Amit Shah in the Parliament for 30 minutes on Friday evening, said "We are very thank-

ful to the government and Prime Minister Narendra Modi for their support for improving and helping our industry to scale up vaccine manufacturing."

He added that his company is always trying to expand its Covishield production capacity to meet the demand.

"The Covovax vaccine for kids will be launched in the first quarter of next year, most likely in January-February," said Poonawalla.

He also thanked the government for its support to Serum Institute and sounded hopeful that Covovax will be launched for adults in October, depending on approvals from the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI).

Earlier in the day, the Serum Institute CEO met Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya and discussed the Covishield supply and scaling up production in India.

In return, Mandaviya assured the government's support in Covishield production to combat the Covid pandemic.

Meanwhile, the government has informed that 44.42 crore doses of Covishield have been supplied by the Serum Institute of India while 6.82 crore doses of Covaxin have been supplied by the Bharat Biotech International Limited for the National Covid Vaccination Programme from January 16 to August 5.

ARMS, AMMUNITION RECOVERED IN J&K'S SAMBA

Jammu: A cache of arms and ammunition, including two pistols, was recovered in a joint operation by Jammu and Kashmir Police and army in the Union Territory's Samba district on Friday, officials said. The operation was launched on a credible intelligence input.

"In Rajpura area of Samba district, army and police personnel recovered a gunny bag wrapped in with plastic tape. On search, two pistols, five magazines, 122 rounds, and one silencer were found in the packet," a police officer said. Police said investigation has been initiated in this regard.

OPPN JOINS FARMERS' PROTEST, AAP SKIPS

The opposition led by Rahul Gandhi on Friday joined the farmers' protest at Jantar Mantar here. The AAP, however, did not join the protest.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The leaders assembled in the Parliament premises and then boarded a bus to reach the venue. Rahul Gandhi along with other leaders sat with the agitating farmers. He said, "Everybody in the opposition has gathered to extend support against the 'black laws'. We want a discussion over Pegasus, but they (Government) are not allowing the discussion, Narendra Modi has intercepted every Indian's phone with the spyware." The Congress leader said, "One thing that is the history of our great land -- the victory of the kisan, over oppression, over discrimination and over tyranny. This time too, history will repeat."

Though the opposition is trying to



show itself as a united front, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), Shiromani Akali

Dal (SAD) and the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) did not join the protest.

All the three parties are also against the new farm laws and support the agitating farmers.

AAP MP Sushil Gupta said that if the protest was done under the leadership of LoP Mallikarjun Kharge, then they would have joined.

The AAP and the SAD-BSP combine are pitted against the Congress in Punjab. All the parties are supporting farm agitation but differ in showing solidarity.

Earlier in the day, the opposition met at the office of the Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge and decided to continue with their demand of discussion on Pegasus snooping issue, farm laws and fuel price hike. The leaders also decided to join the farmers' protest at Jantar Mantar.

178 OFFICER TRAINEES PASS OUT OF SVP NATIONAL POLICE ACADEMY



Hyderabad | Agencies

A total of 178 officer trainees, including 34 foreigners, passed out of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (SVP) National Police Academy here on Friday.

The Dikshant Parade of the 72nd batch of officer trainees, including 144 Indian Police

Service (IPS) probationers, was held at the Academy on Friday.

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Nityanand Rai took the salute at the Dikshant Parade, which was led by Ranjeeta Sharma, the all-round topper of the batch.

Dikshant Parade marks the culmination of the basic

training of the IPS officers at the Academy.

The batch with 33 women, also included 23 IPS probationers. The foreign officer trainees were from Nepal, Maldives, Mauritius and Bhutan. There were 12 trainees from Bhutan, 10 from Nepal, 7 from Maldives and 5 from Mauritius.

ED summons Mehbooba Mufti's mother on Aug 18



Team Absolute | Srinagar

Enforcement directorate (ED) on Friday summoned Gulshan Nazir, mother of former J&K Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti, on August 18. A summons issued by ED Assistant Director Sunil Kumar Meena has asked her to be present for questioning before the investigating officer on August 18. Gulshan Nazir was earlier also summoned by the ED twice in July, but had refused to respond to those summons. Sources said she had sought details of the FIR in which she was accused, but the ED had not responded to her request.

Appointed employees in compliance with new IT rules: Twitter

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Twitter Inc on Friday informed the Delhi High Court that it has made appointments to the positions of Chief Compliance Officer and Resident Grievance Officer, and Nodal Contact Person, in new IT Rules.

Senior advocate Sajan Poovayya, representing Twitter, submitted that renewed affidavits have been filed in the court.

"Twitter Inc initially hired Vinay Prakash through a third party contractor... the initial appointment was done this way to expedite it because Twitter Inc did not have a corporate presence in India. The appointment was considered contingent because Twitter Inc is expected to convert the position to a full-time employee as soon as



practicable. Twitter Inc has since converted Prakash to a full-time employee effective August 4, 2021," said Twitter in its affidavit.

The affidavit added Prakash is fully capable of performing the functions of Chief Compliance

Officer and Resident Grievance Officer as per new IT rules. And, it added that Shahin Komath has been appointed as Nodal Contact Person.

Centre's counsel submitted that the requirements under the

Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 (IT Rules, 2021) were seemingly complied with.

Justice Rekha Palli recorded that Twitter looks to have complied with the court's orders and listed the matter for further hearing on August 10.

On July 28, the Delhi High Court took strong objection on the affidavits filed on behalf of Twitter stating that it has appointed chief compliance officer and grievance officer as "contingent workers".

Justice Rekha Palli had objected to the use of word "contingent worker" in the appointments, asking: "What is this term contingent worker? What does this mean? This gives an impression that his duties are based on some contingencies."

The court noted that it is not clear as to who is the third-party contractor? "This is not done. Tell me. I don't understand, you are saying contingent, this is not compliance," it added.

"Are you serious?" it asked Twitter, on replacing the word interim with contingent.

After hearing arguments, the high court had given one week as the final opportunity, to Twitter to file a better affidavit in terms of the earlier orders passed, and adjourned the matter to August 6.

The High Court was hearing a plea filed by Amit Acharya, through advocate Akash Vajpai, against the non-compliance by Twitter India and Twitter Inc with the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 (IT Rules, 2021).



ED RAIDS DESHMUKH'S RESIDENCE

The Enforcement Directorate on Friday conducted searches on premises linked to former Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh in Nagpur in connection with a money laundering case.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday conducted a search at former Maharashtra home minister Anil Deshmukh's premises in connection with a money laundering case.

The search is going on at three places in Nagpur. Earlier in the week on August 2, the NCP leader skipped the Enforcement Directorate (ED) summons for questioning.

"Deshmukh has skipped summons and has sent a two-page letter to the agency through his advocate," an ED official related to the probe told news agency IANS.

This was the third time Deshmukh skipped ED summons in connection with the case.

The ED had claimed its probe found that "Deshmukh, while acting as home minister of Maharashtra, with dishonest intention has



received illegal gratification of approximately Rs 4.70 crore in cash from various orchestra bar owners, through (suspended) Sachin Waze, then the assistant police inspector of Mumbai Police." On Friday, the

ED issued fresh summons to the NCP leader and his son Hrishikesh Deshmukh to appear before the probe agency's office in south Mumbai on Monday, but they skipped it. The ED had summoned Anil Deshmukh under provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) as the agency wants to further record his statement in the case. Anil Deshmukh has denied any wrongdoing in these instances and his lawyers have called the ED action against him unjustified. The ED's case against him and others was made out after the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) first carried out a preliminary enquiry followed by a regular case being filed on the orders of the Bombay High Court. The court had asked the CBI to look into the allegations of bribery made against Anil Deshmukh by former Mumbai Police commissioner Param Bir Singh.

BJP starts 'rail-bharo' stir, wants Mumbai train travel for all commuters

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Thousands of activists of the Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Friday launched a city-wide 'rail-bharo' agitation demanding reopening of suburban train travel for all commuters who are fully vaccinated.

Spearheaded by Leader of Opposition (Council) Pravin Darekar and local legislators in different suburbs, the agitation saw angry activists barging into major railway stations and sitting in local trains. The police, out in full strength, erected barricades to prevent the activists from entering the railway premises and detained scores who flouted the orders.

Travelling a short distance as a token protest, Darekar said that the Railway Ministry is willing to allow commuters who have taken both their Covid-19 vaccination doses, but want a proposal from the Maharashtra government.

"When the government is allowing flights, BEST and ST buses with restrictions and precautions, then why millions of commuters debarred from the suburban trains, which are the lifeline of



Mumbai," Darekar demanded. The agitations were held simultaneously at Churchgate, Ghatkopar, Mulund, Borivali, Kandivali, Goregaon, Vile Parle by the local legislators, besides adjoining stations in Thane.

Mumbai suburban trains are barred for ordinary commuters, barring the essential services and other approved categories, since the past 17 months, in view of the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions. The activists, including many women, carried banners, placards and waved copies of Covid-19 vaccination certificates, raised slogans condemning the state government and trooped inside the railway stations or trains.

The leaders pointed out that depriving the ordinary commuters of local train travel has raised a question mark on their survival as they are suffering from pay cuts or job losses. "It is very expensive and takes hours to travel from distant suburbs to their workplaces by roads and highways. If liquor bars can start why not local trains," demanded MLA Atul Bhatkalkar in Kandivali. Darekar said that the BJP has written several times to the state government to permit the inoculated persons to commute by suburban trains, but there has been no response, and now even the Bombay High Court is considering the same issue.

Maharashtra floods:

JuH sets up relief camps in temple, other places

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Jamiat-i-Ulama Hind (JuH) has set up flood relief camps in the coastal region of Maharashtra, which has been badly affected by floods, especially the MHADA and Chiplun areas.

"Relief works are being carried out by JuH's Maharashtra unit in these areas, including conducting medical camps. A medical camp has been set up at the Mahakali Temple in Chiplun, where locals are being treated by doctors," said Arshad Madani, the President of JuH.



The JuH said that since auto rickshaws and small vehicles have become non-functional due to the floods, various teams of motor mechanics have been rushed to the affected areas to repair a large number of motor-bikes, rickshaws and other small and heavy vehicles. More teams of motor mechanics and electricians from different units of JuH are arriving from different parts of Maharashtra to the different areas of the Konkan region which have been affected by the floods.

Sonu Sood Sends Relief Packages To Flood-Affected Regions Of Maharashtra

The floods have wreaked havoc in several districts of Maharashtra and the actor is helping out people who've got stuck in the interior regions without basic necessities.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood actor Sonu Sood, who has been involved in numerous COVID-19 relief efforts since last year, recently extended support to people who are stuck in the flood-affected regions of Maharashtra.

The floods have caused heavy damage in several districts of Maharashtra and the actor is helping out people who've got stuck in the interior regions without basic necessities.

Sonu is working on sending over relief packages to places like Chiplun, Mahad and many other interior regions. Talking about the same, Sonu said, "These villages have been severely affected by the floods, and they are all 20-30 kilometres away from the major highways. Therefore the relief materials have not reached there." He added, "We have already spoken to the sarpanches of these villages. Basic necessities like buckets, tumblers, utensils, mats, clothes and even food materials - all are being sent. My team will be there to give it to the families personally. A couple of trucks will reach tomorrow and a few more should reach a day



and his team are trying their best to reach these interior villages. Kshetrapal, Rudrani, Dondashi, and many others villages will get relief material from them. More than 1000 houses in the entire region will get served these relief materials and the second truck with the relief materials will be reaching the villages in nearly four days.

later." A lot of relief material has already reached the places nearby to the highways, but the interior villages are still deprived of getting the proper necessities. Sonu

The actor has been trying to help out as many people as possible amid the COVID-19 pandemic with his altruistic works. From delivering oxygen cylinders to helping the needy get proper medical attention to setting up oxygen plants - Sonu has been doing it all. Sonu had received his first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine at Apollo Hospital, in Punjab on April 7. Along with getting vaccinated against the infection, the actor had also launched "Sanjeevani - A Shot of Life", an initiative to encourage people to get vaccinated against the novel coronavirus and for raising awareness about the inoculation drive in the country.

Separately, on the film front, Sonu will feature in Chiranjeevi-starrer upcoming Telugu movie "Acharya." He also has "Prithviraj", co-starring Akshay Kumar.

Governor skips inauguration of 'old' hostel in Nanded

Local media reports and social media posts said SRTM University officials had misled him by not telling Raj Bhavan that the building was three years old



Team Absolute | Mumbai

On a controversial three-day tour of three districts of central Maharashtra, Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari skipped the inauguration of a minority girls and boys hostel in Nanded, apparently because he was told the structures had been in use for the past three years.

On Wednesday, Koshyari had made minor changes to his tour, apparently

because the state Cabinet had sent him a dissent note accusing him of encroaching on elected public representatives' rights by proposing to review developmental works, and scheduling the inauguration of the hostels but keeping in dark the Minority Affairs Department, which had constructed the property. Minority Affairs Minister Nawab Malik had objected to the event saying the

property had not been transferred to the university. He had accused Koshyari of trying to create two power centres in the state. Koshyari did alter the itinerary slightly by shifting the review meetings to the circuit houses from the collectors' offices, but decided to attend the inauguration. He changed his mind just ahead of the programme in Nanded on Thursday morning, apparently because local

media reports and social media posts said that the SRTM University officials had misled him by not telling Raj Bhavan about the building's status.

The Maha Vikas Aghadi gave Koshyari a further snub. Nanded's Guardian Minister Ashok Chavan skipped the governor's visit, though it could be seen as a breach of protocol. The former chief minister was in Mumbai on Thursday. Parbhani's Guardian Minister Nawab Malik and his Hingoli counterpart Varsha Gaikwad are also expected to avoid the governor over the next two days. Commenting on the tour, Shiv Sena spokesperson Sanjay Raut said the BJP was trying to rule the states where it was not in power. "What is happening in Delhi and West Bengal? The governor of Maharashtra is doing the same. Let him try.

Now a 'Federation of Muslim Institutions' for better coordination and utilisation of govt funds and schemes

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A 'Federation of Muslim Institutions in Maharashtra' is being created for better coordination among Muslim trusts, Dargahs, Mosques, Madrasas and to create awareness about and utilise the government fund and schemes. "Different dargahs, madrasas, mosques or other Muslim managed institutions registered either with the Waqf Board or charity commissioner need to join hands and stay united.

Nobody will interfere in the affairs of the trust. We just want to create a federation where information will be shared and government schemes availed," said Mahim Dargah's managing trustee and Haji Ali Dargah's trustee Suhail Khandwani

who is steering the Federation. He added that, due to lack of awareness, several government schemes to empower minorities don't reach deserving individuals and institutions.

He further stated that 40 to 50 Muslim trusts from across Maharashtra have already shown interest to join the Federation which will work for the benefit of all members and the community at large. The Federation will soon call a meeting of its members.

Abdur Rauf Memon of Madrasa Faizan-e-Raza and Raza Masjid in Mumbai said that the Federation was needed because many didn't know the rules and regulations to run institutions. "Due to lack of information and awareness, we remain at a

disadvantage. The state government circulars are in Marathi which many of us cannot read. The Federation will get them translated into English, Urdu and Hindi so that everyone can read them. Coordination and cooperation will help us grow," said Memon. Trustee of Mahim Sunni Muslim Kabrastan Mohammed Ibrahim Khan said that the Federation would also try to persuade trustees of the mosques to utilize a part of mosque premises for career counselling, job hunts and vocational training of the community's youths. "Barring five times a day, the huge spaces at mosques remain unutilized. We will try to convince the mosques' trustees to start these services," said Khan.

26 container homes to provide temporary accommodation to Taliye landslide victims

The district administration of Raigad in Maharashtra has received 26 container houses to provide temporary accommodation to the residents of Taliye village.

Team Absolute | Raigad

The district administration of Raigad in Maharashtra has received 26 container houses to provide temporary accommodation to the residents of Taliye village, which were affected by a devastating landslide last month, an official said on Friday.

The village, located in Mahad tehsil, had witnessed the deadliest landslide on July 22 following heavy rains, flattening several houses there. The inci-

dent had claimed the lives of 84 persons. While 53 bodies had been recovered from the site, 31 missing persons were declared dead later.

Before the landslide, there were 31 houses in the village, officials said. In a statement, Raigad district collector Nidhi Choudhary said, "We have received 26 container houses for the families in Taliye affected by the landslide. Prominent companies have donated these units as part of their corporate social responsibility (CSR)."

These container houses have basic amenities, including toilets and kitchen platforms. The government is going to supply water and electricity to these houses. However, it is not mandatory for the villagers to move into these makeshift dwellings, she said. "Since it takes time even to construct temporary shades for the affected peo-

ple, these container houses will be used for the time being," she said, adding that these units have been kept in an open area in the village, away from the landslide site. As soon as the process to acquire land for the affected people gets over, their permanent rehabilitation will be done, she said.

Choudhary said that similar container houses are going to be used at Sakhar Sutarwadi and Kevnala villages in Poladpur tehsil of the district for temporary rehabilitation of villagers. Eleven persons had died during landslides in these two villages after the rain fury last month. At least 213 people died and thousands were evacuated as incessant rainfall caused flooding and landslides in many parts of Maharashtra. Raigad, Ratnagiri, Kolhapur, Sangli and Satara were among the worst-affected districts.

Mumbai court pulls up Maharashtra CID for delay in probing Khwaja Yunus custodial death case

Hearing the Khwaja Yunus custodial death case, the court said it receives progress reports in all other cases except this one. "This is suspicious," it said.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Sessions court in Mumbai has pulled up the Maharashtra CID for its failure to timely investigate the alleged custodial death of Khwaja Yunus that took place in 2003.

The court on Friday said it receives progress reports in all other cases except this one. "This is suspicious," it added. The court had ordered Superintendent of Police (SP) (CID), Navi Mumbai to appear before it and explain the delay.

Hearing the case, Judge UJ More pointed out that Khwaja Yunus, 27, died in police custody in 2003, and since 2009, the trial in this case has been going on. Several police personnel are facing charges in this case.

Yunus was picked up by the cops from Parbhani in December 2002 in connection with a blast in a BEST bus in Ghatkopar, Maharashtra. He later died in police custody. The court said so far only one witness has

deposed in this case, while the victim's mother has been running from pillar to post to get justice.

Dismissed Mumbai Police officer Sachin Waze is an accused in this case. He was in the news recently for his alleged involvements in the Antilia bomb scare case, the murder of businessman Mansukh Hire and the corruption and extortion charges against former Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh. He is currently in jail.

Pulling up the CID, Judge More said there are two petitions related to this case that are pending in Bombay High Court while one is in the Supreme Court. "However, in none of these petitions, the courts have ordered a stay on the trial. Despite this, the trial has been stalled. In every case, we get progress report. Why not in this case? This is suspicious."

The court said the government has changed special public prosecutors (SPP) thrice in this case. First, advocate RB Mokashi was appointed SPP. He was then replaced

with Yug Chaudhry, who in turn was replaced by Dhiraj Mirajkar. In April 2018, Mirajkar's appointment too was cancelled by state government.

Judge More said while it is the state government's prerogative to appoint an SPP, changing them affects the case. He added that the court had to issue a show-cause notice to get the case diary.

"How can a case diary not be submitted? There is no stay order from any court on this. Why is this case not progressing? It has been pending for the past 10 years. How will the witness remember anything? CID officers don't come to court and summons reports are not being filed. What should the victim and accused do?" the judge asked. Meanwhile, the CID has assured the court that its officers will attend all hearings in this case. The CID has also sought one month to appoint an SPP. The court agreed to this and has posted the matter for hearing on September 7.



IMD ISSUES ORANGE ALERT FOR 5 DISTRICTS, YELLOW ALERT FOR 12

Both alerts are valid till Saturday morning, the India Meteorological Department said.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

At a time when several areas of Madhya Pradesh are facing flood-like situation, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Friday issued orange and yellow alerts for 17 districts of the central state. While an orange alert forecasts "very heavy to heavy rain," a yellow alert is for "heavy rainfall."

The orange alert is for five districts, and has projected rainfall measuring between 64.5 mm and 204 mm. These districts are: Vidisha, Raisen, Rajgarh, Guna and Ashok Nagar. Meanwhile, the yellow alert, forecasting rainfall measuring between 64.5 mm to 115 mm, is for the following 12 districts: Sehore, Shajapur, Agar-Malwa, Neemuch, Mandasaur, Shivpuri, Datia, Sheopur, Seoni, Sagar, Tikamgarh and Niwari. Both alerts are valid till Saturday morning.

Additionally, the weather department has projected showers or thundershowers at most places falling under nine divisions, including those in the state's Capital city of Bhopal. "A lower pressure area is



lying over central parts of north Madhya Pradesh. Almost all of Madhya Pradesh received intermittent rainfall in the last 24 hours. Guna district in the Gwalior division was lashed by rainfall measuring 156 mm, between 8:30 am to 2:30 pm on Friday," PK Saha, a senior meteorologist at the IMD's Bhopal office, said. Madhya

Pradesh has been battered by very heavy rainfall in the past few weeks. Meanwhile, speaking on the flood situation in Ashok Nagar, chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan tweeted he spoke to Union home minister Amit Shah to send a team of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) for rescue operations. "Helicopters

of the Indian Air Force are not being able to take off due to heavy rains. Teams of the NDRF and the Army will soon arrive to rescue those stranded. Two additional teams of the State Disaster Response Force, too, have been sent to Ashok Nagar," Chouhan tweeted.

Demolished infrastructure to be re-built in flood-hit districts, task force will be formed: CM

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said that necessary assistance will be given on priority to people in the districts of the state where there has been loss of life and property due to excessive rains and floods. Ahead of the Cabinet meeting in Mantralaya on Friday, Chouhan informed that floods have caused a lot of damage in some districts of the state. The state government will leave no stone unturned in providing relief. In view of the seriousness of the situation, a task force will be formed by involving various departments for the purpose of relief work for the public. The task force will include ministers additional chief secretaries and principal secretaries. Different department like urban administration, Panchayat and rural development, public works, water resources, health, public health engineering, energy, revenue, agriculture and animal husbandry will also be part of the task force. Necessary arrangements will be made to restore the infrastructure as much as 50 kg additional food grains will be provided to the flood affected families.

Chouhan said that package will be announced for the flood affected and full help will be provided to them. PM Modi has also assured that all possible assistance will be provided. People whose houses have been destroyed, will be provided financial aid under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana for which convergence with MNREGA will also be done. Rs one lakh 20 thousand will be arranged per housing unit. At present, such people will be provided assistance of a lump sum amount of Rs 6 thousand, to take a house on rent elsewhere or to get their damaged house repaired. Rs 4 lakh will be given to those families who have suffered untimely death of any member. Instructions are also being given for the arrangement of food grains. Chouhan said that he has visited the flood affected areas in the districts of Gwalior and Chambal divi-



sions. He had never seen such a terrible disaster in his life. Many houses were destroyed in this disaster. Piles of rubble are visible in the affected areas. Food grains and other essential items have been damaged along with household items. Cattle have also been washed away. The infrastructure has also been damaged. Electric transformers and poles have been uprooted. There is evidence of terrible destruction. Chouhan said that it is relieving that many lives could be saved due to timely rescue action. The destruction is massive but we will put in our best. Ministers are also doing their best in the affected areas. Administrative team is also active in every district. No stone will be left unturned in relief work. It is our resolve to bring out the citizens from the disaster.

Chouhan said that a report is being sent to the central government after preliminary survey. After this, a detailed report of the damage caused by the floods will also be sent. Every department has been asked to play an active role so that citizens get maximum assistance as per their eligibility. The major flood affected districts are Shivpuri, Sheopur, Guna, Datia, Gwalior, Bhind and Morena. Chouhan thanked all the individuals and agencies engaged in rescue operation for saving the lives of the people in the flood affected areas. Chief Minister Shri Chouhan expressed his gratitude to the Army, Air Force, Home Guard, SDRF, NDRF, local administration, in-charge and local ministers for playing an active role in rescue operations through boats and helicopters.

Economist Prof. Shamika Ravi calls on Chief Minister

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Prof. Shamika Ravi, renowned economist and Director (Research) of Brookings Institution Washington's India Centre, New Delhi, called on Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan at Mantralaya on Friday. Prof. Shamika is in Bhopal for a lecture at Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Good Governance and Policy Analysis, Bhopal. The Vice Chairman of the Institute, Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi was present on the occasion of the meeting. Prof. Shamika Ravi has also been a member of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council.



Welcoming Prof. Shamika to the capital, Chouhan told her about the steps taken in the field of good governance in Madhya Pradesh. Chief Minister Chouhan said that work has been done continuously to provide various services to the general public and to ease the procedures in the

administrative system. Due to this, citizens have started getting better facilities. Chouhan informed about the damage caused due to recent excessive rains and floods in some districts of the state and the relief efforts of the state government.

August 7, National Handloom Day

Handloom industry will be a strong link in Atmanirbhar Madhya Pradesh

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Handloom industry is a strong link in realizing the dream of Atmanirbhar Madhya Pradesh. National Handloom Day is observed every year on August 7 in honour of the art of handloom weavers and enriching the handloom industry in the country and the state. This year also National Handloom Day is being celebrated at Gauhar Mahal, Bhopal.

Commissioner Handloom Rajesh Kaul informed that programmes are being organized to celebrate the 7th National Handloom Day in handloom clusters of Chanderi, Maheshwar, Sarangpur, Mandasaur,

Varaseoni and Sausar by the Handloom Directorate and Sant Ravidas MP Handicrafts and Handloom Development Corporation. On this occasion, 50 weaver beneficiaries of Bajag block, Pindrukhi and Sarwahi village newly developed handloom cluster of Dindori district will be provided handloom and accessories and 5 weavers will be provided with warp machines at 90 percent subsidy.

In this sequence, workshops will be organized for weavers in Maheshwar and Chanderi. In the traditional handloom cluster Chanderi, 75-day workshops will be started for design development of real-zari wedding sarees and for textiles based on the

designs of the state's architectural heritage. Out of these, 40 weaver entrepreneurs will be benefitted. In Maheshwar, 30 entrepreneurs will be selected and benefitted in the workshops of Real-Zari Wedding Saree and Architectural Design Development. Similarly, 20 weaver entrepreneurs will Sawan Utsav has been organized by the Corporation from August 01 to 14, 2021 at Gauhar Mahal, Bhopal, this year, in order to sell the weavers' material due to Covid pandemic, in which the weavers and handicraftsmen of the state will be given a chance to sell their material. On August 7, the products prepared by the weavers of the state will be displayed through

Mrignayani Emporium in a virtual exhibition organized by National Handloom Development Corporation, Government of India, Ministry of Textiles. Weavers of Chanderi, Maheshwar, Sarangpur and Mandasaur will interact directly through Zoom meeting during the National Handloom Festival organized by the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, New Delhi.

A special discount of up to 30 percent will also be given to the customers during the handloom week from August 7 to August 14, 2021 at 24 Mrignayani Emporiums of Sant Ravidas M.P Handicrafts and Handloom Development Corporation of the state.

Prime Minister to address Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana programme

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana programme to be organized in the state on August 7 is an ambitious programme of the state government. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the programme through VC. He will also interact with the beneficiaries. Ministers and officers of other states are coming to Madhya Pradesh to participate in the programme. Just as the Corona management and vaccination campaign of the state by the Crisis Management Committees was a topic of discussion in the whole country similarly, the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana programme has also become a topic

of discussion in the whole country.

Chouhan has said that except seven flood-affected districts of Gwalior, Morena, Bhind, Shivpuri, Sheopur, Datia and Guna, this programme will be organized in the form of a festival in the rest of the state. Chouhan said that on August 7, a programme would be organized at all 25 thousand 435 fair price shops in the state. Free ration material will be distributed in bags to 100 beneficiaries on the first day at each shop. Later free ration will be distributed to the remaining beneficiaries. This event should be organized with strict adherence to Covid-19 precautions. A nodal officer should be appointed for each shop. Chouhan informed that PM Modi will virtually join this programme starting at 10 am on August 7. The general public will also be connected

to the programme through electronic and social media along with the beneficiaries present at all the fair price shops. The ministers in charge should ensure necessary coordination for the preparations of the programme in his respective district.

A nodal officer has been appointed for each fair price shop by the District Collector under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana Karyakram, who will organize the programme and oversee preparations. The nodal officers will report to the control room set up in the district about all the preparations at the shops allotted to them. There will also be a social team for each shop, which will include members of the Vigilance Committee, Crisis Management Committee, Gram Panchayat Secretary and local distinguished persons.

Mother, Daughter Among 3 Killed In House Fire

The blaze erupted around 3 am, when five members of a family were asleep in their duplex house, sub-inspector Shadev Sahu of the Gorabazar police station said.

Team Absolute | Jabalpur

A woman, her seven-year-old daughter and sister were charred to death in a fire that broke out

at a house in Gorabazar locality of Jabalpur city on Friday, police said.

The blaze erupted around 3 am, when five members of a family were asleep in their duplex house, sub-inspector Shadev Sahu of the Gorabazar police station said.

The security guard of the colony noticed smoke coming out of the house and raised an alarm, following which the fire department was pressed into service, the official said.

Neha Soni (32), her sister

Ritu Soni (39) and niece Pari, who were sleeping on the first floor of the house, were completely charred to death, while Neha's husband Aditya and mother-in-law Aruna (70) were rescued, he said.

According to the police, Aditya is employed with the West Central Railway, and Neha's sister Ritu and niece Pari had come down from Bhopal for a visit a few days ago.

The cause of the fire is yet to be ascertained and the incident will be probed further, the official added.

How money was spent is more important than how much was spent: Expert

Team Absolute | Bhopal

How money is spent is more important than how much money is spent. The US spends 18 per cent of GDP while Singapore spends only 4 per cent on healthcare, but the health indices are almost the same. Senior Fellow Brookings Institution Washington DC Prof. Shamika Ravi said this in her lecture on 'The Promise of Social Enterprises in Indian Growth and Development' in the lecture series 'Effective Change-Sustainable Results' at Atal Behari Vajpayee Institute of Good Governance and Policy Analysis.

Prof. Shamika Ravi said that social enterprises provide services only to the people of low and middle income group of cities. Social

enterprises should be used better in states like Madhya Pradesh to improve health services. She said that compared to other states, better work related to Covid-19 vaccination has been done in Madhya Pradesh. Similarly, if work is done in other sectors also, development will get momentum. Prof. Ravi said that cities act as engines of growth in any country. Giving information about the per capita income, he said that the per capita income of Punjab and Nagaland is almost the same. Prof. Ravi said that the market should be available for the material produced by the farmers. Better management of natural resources is essential for profitable farming.

Prof. Ravi said that real time data is essential for development plans. She

informed that the formation of Gramin Bank in Bangladesh and Self-Help Groups in Andhra Pradesh started simultaneously. She also answered the queries of the audience.

Vice-President of the Institute of Good Governance Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi said that a model of entrepreneurship based development which is not dependent only on government grants will have to be created. He said that a roadmap for development should be made through self-help groups and cooperative societies. Prof. Chaturvedi said that we are constantly in touch with civil society organizations. He also told about the Khushi Baby organization of Rajasthan. Prof. Chaturvedi also stated the need for proper utilization of CSR funding.

Request made to send Central team immediately to state for assessment of flood damage

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The State Government has requested the Central Government to immediately send an inter-ministerial central team to assess the damage caused by the unprecedented heavy rains in the first week of August, especially in 8 districts of Gwalior, Chambal division. The data is being collected by the state government by conducting field survey to submit a detailed memorandum. Principal Secretary Revenue Manish Rastogi has said in a letter sent to the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (Disaster Management Division) today that the assessment of the damage in the affected areas by the central team will enable the state to get additional assistance under the National Disaster Relief Fund, which is urgently needed.

It has been informed in the letter that the torrential rains in a very short time in Gwalior and Chambal division have caused massive damage. Due to heavy rains, the water of Chambal, Sindh, Parvati, Kuno, Seep and Kuwari rivers also reached dangerous level. Many settlements and villages of Sheopur, Shivpuri, Morena, Guna, Gwalior,

Datia, Bhind districts have been evacuated and people have been shifted to safe places due to floods.

In the letter sent to the Central Government, it has been said that on April 1, 2021, the expenditure of the State Disaster Relief Fund was nil. There is a provision of Rs 2427 crore under the State Disaster Relief Fund 2020-21. Out of this, 20 percent i.e. Rs 485.4 crore has been earmarked for Mitigation and Rs 970.80 crore has been earmarked for Covid-19. After spending 576.13 crores under SDRF between 1st April, 2021 and 5th August, 2021, the balance amount is Rs 1364.47 crores. In view of the future possibility of Covid infection, this amount is insufficient to provide relief to the flood affected. Therefore, there is a need for additional assistance from NDRF. In the letter sent, information about rainfall in the state has also been given. According to the information, the average rainfall in Madhya Pradesh till date is 503.2 m.m. against which 12 percent more i.e. 562.7 mm rainfall has occurred. Significantly, the state had received 23 percent less average rainfall till July 20 and 3 percent less till July 25. Almost all the districts of Gwalior and Chambal divisions were grappling with low

rainfall. In the first week of August, unprecedented rainfall occurred including 114.5 mm in Sheopur district in 24 hours on 1st and 2nd August in which Vijaypur, Karahal and Sheopur tehsils recorded 165.5, 126 and 115 mm of rainfall respectively. Similarly, Shivpuri district recorded 141.8 mm of rainfall in a single day. Tehsils of the district-Berad, Pohri, Narwar, Piparsama, Badarwas, Kolaras, Shivpuri (City) recorded 286 m.m., 195, 163, 136.5, 135, 125 and 117 m.m. of rainfall respectively within 24 hours.

Similarly, Sheopur district received 195 m.m. of rainfall on 2nd and 3rd August. Tehsil Virpur recorded 215 m.m. of heavy rainfall and Vijaypur 175 m.m.. Shivpuri district recorded 312.8 m.m. of rainfall during this period. In Tehsil Shivpuri (city) of the district 470 mm, Pichore 417, Piparsama 389.5, Pohri 384, Khaniyadana 327 m.m. excessive rainfall. Similarly, out of 136.4 m.m. of rain in Guna district, Bamori tehsil received 271 m.m., Raghavgarh 158, Guna (city) 142.6 m.m. of heavy rainfall. In Ashoknagar district 154 m.m. of rainfall occurred including Tehsil Isagarh 195 m.m., Chanderi 188, Ashoknagar (City) 138 mm.



EDITOR'S SPECS

SAARC nations united for climate

In a bid to reduce impact of climate crisis on aquaculture and fisheries, the SAARC countries have sought to join hands to implement strategies for battling the phenomenon's fallout on the sector. This was the outcome of a two-day online consultative meeting of fishery scientists from India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Bhutan held by the SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC) as experts identified the climate crisis as a major concern in the aquaculture and fisheries sector in the region's countries. At the meeting, participants felt the urgent need for implementing strategies such as introduction of climate-friendly technologies in fisheries and aquaculture as well as measures for sustainable utilisation of resources. Experts voiced concern over dwindling marine catch and aquaculture production, environmental disruption in aquatic ecosystems and its rippling effect on livelihood of the stakeholders, owing to climate change and associated developments. They suggested that technologies of seaweed farming and integrated multi-trophic aquaculture (IMTA), including cage fish farming could be adopted to reduce the impact of the crisis, to a certain extent. Besides, the sector could use 'green fishing vessels' with built-in design features for energy saving and fuel saving technologies to reduce carbon emission. ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute Principal Scientist Prathibha Rohit, while presenting India's status report about the sector, said mariculture sector (cage farming, seaweed farming, mussel culture) needed comprehensive development in the areas of leasing policies and hatchery development. "Inadequate infrastructure especially in fishing harbours, cold chain and distribution system, limited scope for expansion due to overcapacities in territorial waters, deficiencies in processing and value addition, depleted stocks in inland water bodies, low adoption of technologies and shortage of skilled manpower are some of the gaps in the sector in the country," said Rohit.

AUGUST AND EVERYTHING AFTER: MONETARY POLICY REVIEW AUG 2021

The policy review was set against a market expectation of largely status quo on most things. The CPI forecast was expected to be raised, which would be mechanical given the higher than expected May print received in June. Additionally there was expectation around enhancement of the variable rate reverse repo (VRRR) amount from the current Rs 2 lakh crore, although this expectation wasn't uniform across market participants. Given this, it prima facie delivered largely on expectation but with two caveats, as it were: One, a lone dissent on maintenance of accommodative stance from external member Prof. Varma.

Suyash Choudhary

Two, RBIs average inflation forecast for the year at 5.7 per cent which is higher than what most market participants were expecting (although this can be looked positively as well since the likelihood of policy setters being negatively surprised now is that much lesser). The following table summarizes the changes. The Assessment Combining impressions from the Governor's statement as well as the monetary policy committee (MPC) resolution, domestic growth seems largely on track with June and July printing decent recovery as second wave restrictions began getting rolled back. The prospects for all three components of aggregate demand (consumption, investments, and net exports) are found to be encouraging, although risks remain including from global commodity prices, financial market volatility, and from new waves of infection. However, even with these improvements in aggregate demand, the underlying conditions are still deemed to be weak with a large amount of slack in the economy persisting. The MPC also notes some moderation in the pace of global recovery with the resurgence in infections in parts of the world. Recent inflation pressures are acknowledged but the assessment is that these are transitory and largely driven by adverse supply side factors. Thus aggregate supply is also lagging below pre-pandemic levels and this needs rectification through further government steps. Importantly, and lags in supply response notwithstanding, the assessment remains that policy support from all sides - fiscal, monetary and sectoral - is required to nurture the 'nascent and hesitant' recovery. Recasting Into Framework At an optimal level of aggregate supply (AS), monetary policy would ordinarily try and ensure that aggregate demand (AD) remains within this bound. Failure to do so would lead to generalized inflationary pressures. However, the current situation is much more complex. Even with improving prospects, AD lags much below pre-pandemic levels. But due to a variety of factors AS has fallen as well. This is leading to

inflationary pressures even at a much lower than desired level of AD. Furthermore, this fall in AS is not uniform but varies sharply from one sector / industry to another. One choice before the RBI / MPC is to already start to address the AD - AS imbalance via traditional monetary policy even though the imbalance is at a much weaker level of AD and is probably sector level. This would address potential perceptions of 'behind the curve' as well as help anchor inflation expectations now. However, it is also quite likely that AS is only temporarily depressed and comes back with a lag (adjusted for longer term scarring), thereby addressing the inflationary pressures currently being seen. RBI / MPC are clearly of the view that this indeed is likely to happen and therefore are unwilling to settle for a lower equilibrium (that is try to address the imbalance at a lower level of AD-AS). It is thus that the Governor re-emphasizes that RBI remains in 'whatever it takes' mode while also acknowledging that the 'MPC continues to be conscious of its mandate of anchoring inflation expectations as soon as the prospects for strong and sustainable growth are assured'. If the above framework sounds theoretical, then it is. But so is the discussion on a very small marginal change in monetary accommodation (which is what almost the entire spectrum of views on monetary policy encompasses currently) from standpoint of its effect on the actual economy; especially in the context of the 'K' shaped recovery where most entities that may actually benefit from very low levels of policy rates may already not be needing it (the problem is the lower arm of the 'K' where risk spreads and even availability of organized credit may be an issue). The argument then boils down to whether the RBI/MPC perceived that the necessary conditions for a further step towards removal of accommodation have been achieved yet or not. And given the still subdued AD and risks from the next wave, the judgement clearly was that they haven't. Remember also that there is a multiple step process of unwind in this cycle as well, given the exceptional nature of accommodation that has had to be put in place. The first step of moving away from de-facto yield

curve control to orderly evolution of the yield curve has already been implemented. The second of enhancing VRRR has been announced today but without step three yet of signaling change in stance. It can be reasonably argued that the time for signaling change in stance and actual adjustments to the effective policy rate has not yet come, with the risks highlighted and still unfolding when the system is already at a lower than desired level of AD currently. Market Implications The enhancement in VRRR to double its current amount is being undertaken gradually and with explicit guidance that this shouldn't be read as a reversal of the accommodative policy stance. The so-called GSAP program is now reintroducing 'on-the-run' bonds (benchmark 5 year has already been announced for the next GSAP auction) which is on the margin positive for market participants. However, possibly the dissent in stance as well as a higher than expected revision to CPI may be leading some market participants to fear that we are that much closer to step three in the unwind cycle. This is getting reflected most particularly in the rise in swap rates post policy. While the fears are somewhat understandable, we can't help but observe that market bias seems quite one way. Put another way, there seems to be extreme conviction that significant normalisation is coming sooner rather than later despite what the RBI / MPC are saying. To clarify, it is quite logical to expect that the current emergency level of accommodation will expire soon. However, swap curves are pricing in not just an early exit from the current level of accommodation but also a fairly significant increase in overnight rates thereafter. Further, market is not fully considering the possibility that peak policy rates in this cycle may actually turn out to be lower than the last one. Not to extrapolate, but it may be noted that one way expectations with respect to US policy normalization have had serious cause for rethink over the past few weeks and months. Even in the Indian context given a relatively subdued fiscal response and with possibly

a global peak on the reflation trade having been achieved, there is two-way risk to the above expectation even as RBI may have to move off the current emergency levels of overnight rate sometime soon (possibly first quarter of calendar 2022). From investors standpoint, we would reiterate our previous observations. 1. It isn't obvious that interest rate swaps are the best protection against future policy normalization given the sizeable rate hikes that they are already pricing and the fact that they don't get directly impacted by bond supply, which is the number one pressure point for Indian markets. 2. Intermediate duration points (4 - 6 years) seem well positioned to benefit from carry plus roll down even in an environment of gently rising bond yields. 3. Spreads on corporate bonds (including lower rated bonds) generally speaking for tenors beyond 3 - 4 years seem too shallow and such tenors are better played with sovereign assets. 4. While some amount of 'bar-belling' may be prudent, the cost of holding cash is large and only makes sense if one wants to hedge against tail risks that may entail sharp and short period rises in yields. In particular, a 'business as usual' gentle rise in yields is not enough grounds to sit on large amounts of cash given the extraordinary steepness even at intermediate duration points. An additional point, and a recent thought, as expressed above is that if peak reflation is behind us it is likely that market discussions on peak policy rates in this cycle now start taking prominence. In the case of US, market price action recently seems to already be factoring in a lower than last cycle peak policy rate. We currently believe that this will likely be true in the Indian context as well.

(Suyash Choudhary is Head - Fixed Income at IDFC AMC. The views expressed here are personal)

international

Guterres calls for progress towards n-weapon free world

"I am deeply concerned by the lack of progress toward the goal of a nuclear-free world," he said in a video message for a ceremony to mark the anniversary.



Nagasaki three days later, killing about 210,000 people by the end of that year. The nuclear attacks eventually brought about the end of Japan's colonisation and invasion of many East Asian countries, and the end of World War II. "I am deeply

concerned by the lack of progress toward the goal of a nuclear-free world," he said in a video message for a ceremony to mark the anniversary. States in possession of nuclear weapons have been modernising their arsenals in recent years, sparking a new arms race, but the decisions by Russia and the US to extend the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty and engage in a dialogue on arms control "are welcome first steps towards reducing the risk of nuclear catastrophe", the UN chief said. "I call on all states that possess nuclear weapons to adopt risk reduction measures, individually and jointly," said Guterres. "The only guarantee against the use of nuclear weapons is their total elimination."

MEXICAN LAWSUIT AGAINST US ARMS MAKERS NOT INTERVENTION



Mexico City: Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador has denied that his government's lawsuit against US arms manufacturers constituted "intervention" in Washington's domestic affairs. Addressing reporters here on Thursday, the President made it clear the suit was against arms makers and their lax sales practices, not against the US government or Americans' right to bear arms, reports Xinhua news agency. "It is not an interventionist act, it is not against the US government, it is a civil procedure because we are affected by the lack of control over the sale of weapons," Lopez Obrador told reporters at the National Palace in Mexico City.

S Korea, US agree on efforts for Pyongyang engagement

Seoul | Agencies

During a phone call on Friday, South Korean Foreign Minister Chung Eui-yong and US Secretary of State Antony Blinken agreed to make continued efforts to engage with Pyongyang and foster lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula, an official statement said. "The Minister and Secretary agreed that the South and the US would continue to make coordinated diplomatic efforts for substantive progress toward the goal of the complete denuclearization and establishment of permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula," Yonhap News Agency quoted the statement issued by the Foreign Ministry in Seoul as saying. "Especially, the two countries held concrete consultations on ways for cooperation with the North, including humanitarian cooperation, and agreed to continue efforts for engagement



Ned Price, spokesman of the US

State Department, said Blinken reiterated US support for inter-Korean reconciliation. "The Secretary and the Foreign Minister reaffirmed their commitment to complete denuclearization and establishment of permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula, and the secretary confirmed US support for inter-Korean dialogue and engagement," Price said. He added that the two also discussed recent developments in North Korea and "agreed to explore humanitarian initiatives on the Korean Peninsula". In a tweet after the phone call, Blinken said that he had a "good conversation" with Chung. "I reaffirmed US support for inter-Korean dialogue and engagement, and the importance of the US-South Korea Alliance for complete denuclearization and establishment of permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula."

S African Prez announces major Cabinet reshuffle

Johannesburg | Agencies

In a much anticipated Cabinet reshuffle, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa has made major changes, including that of the Finance Minister's post. In an address to the nation late Thursday night, he said the country is facing several challenges such as accelerating vaccination program, ensuring peace and stability in the wake of the recent outbreak of violence and destruction as well as rebuilding the economy, reports Xinhua news agency. "I am therefore making changes to the national executive to improve the capacity of the government to effectively undertake these tasks," the President added. Ramaphosa announced Enoch Godongwana as the new Finance Minister after Tito Mboweni requested the President to excuse him from his duties. Former speaker of the National Assembly Thandi Modise has been announced as the new



Defence and Military Veterans Minister, replacing Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula. Suspended Health Minister Zweli Mkhize, who was embroiled in some corruption scandal, resigned from his position and has been replaced by his former Deputy Minister Joe Phaahla. Another notable change was to do away with the Ministry of State Security and place political responsibility for the State Security Agency in the Presidency. "This is to ensure that the country's domestic and foreign intelligence services more effectively enable the President to exercise his responsibility to safeguard the security and integrity of the nation," Ramaphosa said.

Nawaz Sharif files appeal after UK rejects visa extension

New Delhi/Lahore | Agencies

After the UK's Home Department refused to extend Nawaz Sharif's stay in London on "medical grounds", the former Pakistan Prime Minister filed an appeal at the British Immigration Tribunal in response, a media report said on Friday. The decision of the Home Department prompted the incumbent Imran Khan government to offer the opposition Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supremo to arrange his return to Pakistan at a notice of 24 hours if he is willing, said the Dawn news report. "The UK Home Department has refused to extend Sharif's stay in the country any further on medical grounds. However, Sharif will legally remain in the UK till the tribunal issues its decision on his plea for his



stay in the country," PML-N information secretary Marriyum Aurangzeb told Dawn news on Thursday. "Sharif has already filed an appeal with the British Immigration Tribunal challenging the Home Department's decision. The UK Home Department's decision will remain in effect till the tribunal arrives at a decision," she added. Dispelling an impression that Sharif had applied for asylum after refusal of his visa extension, Aurangzeb said: "This does not in any way amount to a political asylum and is only a request for an extension to his stay on medical grounds." She castigated the ruling Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) ministers for doing politics on the health of Sharif.

"As long as the treatment of Sharif is not completed and doctors do not allow him travel he will remain in the UK," she said. The "rented spokespersons" of the "imposed regime" were doing politics on Sharif, who had earlier returned to Pakistan leaving his ailing wife on deathbed, only to save their jobs, Aurangzeb further told Dawn news. The passport of Sharif, who has been 1 1/2 absconding in London since November 2019 on medical treatment grounds, had expired in February this year. The PTI government had declined a request for issuance of a new diplomatic passport to Sharif. Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed had already declared that Sharif's passport would not be renewed as per "instructions from Prime Minister Imran Khan."

US urges new Iranian govt to return to nuke talks

Washington | Agencies

The US has urged the new Iranian government under President Ebrahim Raisi to return to negotiations aimed at restoring the 2015 nuclear deal, reiterating that the diplomatic opportunity will not last forever. Raisi, who was elected as Iran's new President on June 18, formally assumed office after he was sworn in at Parliament on Thursday, reports Xinhua news agency. "Our message to President Raisi is the same as our message to his predecessors... The US will defend and advance our national security interests and those of our partners. We hope that Iran seizes the opportunity now to advance diplomatic solutions," State Department spokesperson Ned Price told reporters in a briefing on Thursday. "We've made very clear that we are prepared to return to Vienna to resume negotiations," he said.

"We urge Iran to return to the negotiations soon so that we can seek to conclude our work." After six rounds of indirect negotiations which started in Vienna on April 6, Washington and Tehran still have serious differences over how to revive the landmark nuclear deal, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). "This process cannot go on indefinitely," Price said. "The opportunity to achieve a mutual return to compliance with the JCPOA won't last forever." In his swearing-in ceremony on Thursday, Raisi rejected concerns about the country's nuclear program, calling it "peaceful". He said Iran supports and welcomes any diplomatic proposal for the lift of sanctions. The new President also dismissed the policy of pressure and sanctions, saying that the anti-Iran pressures will not cause the Iranian people to give up their legal rights.



KANYE, KIM MATCH OUTFITS AGAIN

Los Angeles | Agencies

Kim Kardashian matched outfits with Kanye West yet again at his second Donda streaming event after bringing their children to Atlanta for the occasion. Like the first launch event last month, the second one was held at the

“ You came here to show that you're still in love with me

Mercedes-Benz Stadium and saw Kim and her estranged husband dressed in the same color.

Once again Kim had to watch from the stands as Kanye performed his track Love Unconditionally in which he pleaded with her to 'come back' to him. He also introduced a new song in which he goaded her: "Time and space is a luxury but you came here to show that you're still in love with me." By the time the second launch was held this Thursday, with a more polished version of the album played for the audience, Kim and Kanye were both in black.



Tinashe celebrates launch of her new album

Los Angeles | Agencies

Tinashe turned heads on Thursday night as she left Craig's in West Hollywood after celebrating the launch of her fifth album, 333. Tinashe sported a beautiful red dress that exposed her toned legs while leaving the celebration.

Taking to

Instagram to document her night, she posed with a smile on her face and held a glass of red wine in the restaurant.

The singer stood out in a bright yellow strapless dress with eyelet tie detailing at the front. She matched the daring ensemble with a leather trench coat which had a fur trim round the collar and sleeve, also in the same yellow.

Adding the finishing touches to the look, she carried a bright pink box bag in her hand and elevated her height with strappy silver heeled sandals.



VANESSA HUDGENS DANCES THE NIGHT AWAY DURING CAPRI GETAWAY

Los Angeles | Agencies

Vanessa Hudgens was sharing yet more insight into the stunning trip as she took to Instagram to share a series of selfies and videos.

The actress looked jaw-dropping in a plunging sheer gown with no bra underneath as she posed for the camera before larking around on a yacht in style. She looked sensational in the ensemble, as she showed off her perky cleavage from beneath the sheer brightly coloured gown.

She scraped her hair into a high bun while going for a flawlessly made-up look, which only added to the glamour of the ensemble.

It comes just days after she took to the photosharing site to state that she 'missing' her recent stay on the Italian island of Capri, as well as her tight knit vacation crew. In a slideshow shared to Instagram on Wednesday, the actress gave fans a candid look at one night of her trip where she attended the star-studded Unicef fundraiser.



Samuel L. Jackson shares his chemistry with Ryan Reynolds



Los Angeles | Agencies

Actor Samuel L. Jackson plays the role of hitman Darius Kincaid in "Hitmans Wives Bodyguard" released in India on Friday.

One of the most beloved and popular actor across genres, Jackson, shared his chemistry with Reynolds

who essays the role of bodyguard Michael Bryce in the film.

Jackson shared, "We understand what comedy is, what humour is. And we both know what we want to see ourselves doing on screen. Ryan and I have the right person to play against, someone that has the right sensibility and timing, the comedic understanding of

what we're trying to do." In the film, the duo of Bryce and Kincaid are back on another life-threatening mission.

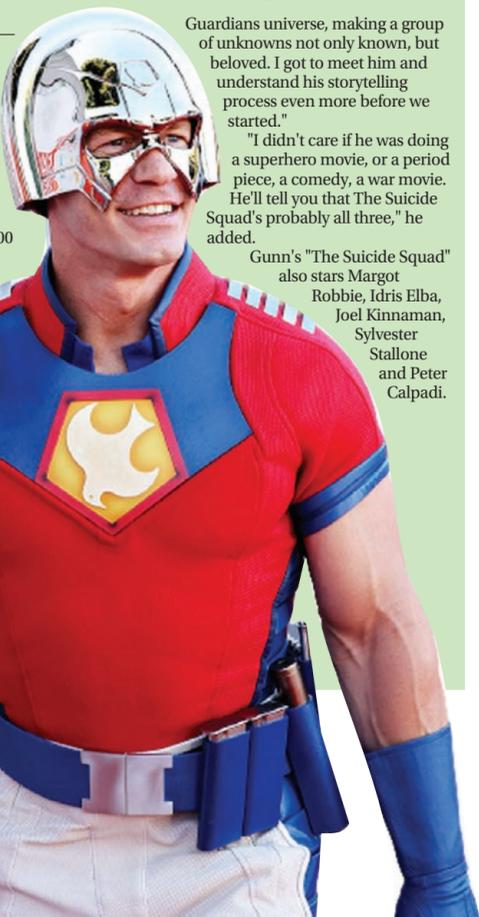
Still unlicensed and under scrutiny, Bryce is forced into action by Darius Kincaid's volatile wife, the infamous international con artist Sonia Kincaid (Salma Hayek).

JOHN CENA REVEALS WHY HE WANTED TO DO 'THE SUICIDE SQUAD'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star John Cena has shared what drew him to do the film "The Suicide Squad". The former WWE champion said it was because of the filmmaker James Gunn he wanted to feature in the movie.

Cena said, "James Gunn, 100 per cent. I admire him. I admire his work and his ability to tell stories. I was flat out completely impressed with what he did with the



Guardians universe, making a group of unknowns not only known, but beloved. I got to meet him and understand his storytelling process even more before we started."

"I didn't care if he was doing a superhero movie, or a period piece, a comedy, a war movie. He'll tell you that The Suicide Squad's probably all three," he added.

Gunn's "The Suicide Squad" also stars Margot Robbie, Idris Elba, Joel Kinnaman, Sylvester Stallone and Peter Calpadi.

Megan Thee Stallion: School has kept me grounded

Los Angeles | Agencies

Grammy winning-rapper Megan Thee Stallion has shared how studying for a college degree has kept her level-headed.

The "Savage" hitmaker is due to graduate with a degree in health administration from the Texas Southern University later this year, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

"School has kept me grounded," the 26-year-old rapper told People.

She added, "I might have an amazing night but knowing I have to finish a paper, project or my homework to graduate, keeps my head on straight."

In February, Thee Stallion reassured her social media followers that she's committed to her studies despite her chart success after one Twitter user cast doubt on her ambition.

The rapper said, "They swore I wasn't gone get that degree (laughing emojis)."

The "Body" hitmaker previously said that her dream of opening an assisted living facility was inspired by her own family.



ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Joey King

INDIA MISS BRONZE MEDAL AFTER 4-3 DEFEAT TO GREAT BRITAIN

Tokyo | Agencies

There was no fairy-tale ending for the Indian women's hockey team as its dream of winning a bronze in their maiden entry into the medal round came crashing down in a 4-3 defeat to Great Britain at the Tokyo Olympic Games on Friday. On Friday, India came up with another brilliant performance, proving that their storming run into the semifinals was no flash in the pan.

Gurjit Kaur's (25th min, 26th min) brace of goals and a superb field goal by Vandana Katariya (29th min) went in vain as Great Britain struck through Elen Rayer (16th min), Sarah Robertson (24th min), Hottie Webb Pearne (35th min) and Grace Balsdon (48th min) to seal the victory.

It was heartbreak for Rani Rampal's team as two cards (a yellow and green) in the second half meant India played at least seven minutes with 10 players on the field and that turned the momentum into Great Britain's favour.

India started poorly as the players were slow off the blocks, allowing Great Britain to dominate possession. But the Indians managed to survive and made a couple of attacks of their own as the teams were locked goalless after the first quarter.

But the second quarter changed the complexion of the match as first the British went into the lead scoring two goals through Elena Stan Rayer and Sarah Robertson. The Indians came back to reduce the margin when they earned a penalty when the ball hit a Great Britain defender's foot



on a counter-attack. Gurjit Kaur fired home a powerful flick in the 24th minute to put it past goalkeeper Madeleine Hinch. Salima Tete created the next goal as India continued to attack and went ahead when Vandana scored India's third goal off a superb pass by Navneet Kaur to go 3-2 up before half-time. But all that good work came unstuck in the third quarter when Great Britain

equalised in the 35th minute and then sealed victory in the fourth quarter when Grace Balsdon scored the winner in the 48th minute off a penalty corner.

The Indians had a penalty corner of their own but Gurjit's flick was blocked by the goalkeeper as they failed to level the scores again and ended the match distraught.

Golfer Aditi Ashok stays on course for historic medal in Tokyo

Tokyo | Agencies

India's Aditi Ashok continued with her great form as she moved to the second spot after the third round in women's golf competition, remaining on course for a maiden medal at the Olympic Games.

The 23-year-old Aditi ground out a 3-under 68 in the third round of the women's golf competition at Kasumigasaki Country Club to be in sole second place on 12-under 201. She was three shots behind leader and world No. 1, Nelly Korda of the United States.

Aditi lived up to her calling by continuing to produce some phenomenal golf to be on the cusp of an historic medal for India.

Aditi, who started the day tied for the second spot with three others, was able to pull two clear of a group of four players, Japan's Mone Inami, Emily Kristine Pedersen of Denmark, Australian Hannah Green and New Zealander Lydia Ko, who all share third place on 203 with 18 holes remaining on Saturday. Saturday's final round will



begin an hour earlier than on Friday so that the players get out on the course and get back before the potential bad weather strikes, the International Golf Federation (IGF) said in a release on Friday.

Following the return of golf into the Olympic program in 2016, no Indian golfer, men or women, has won a medal

and Aditi knows fully well what a podium finish would mean for the game in the country.

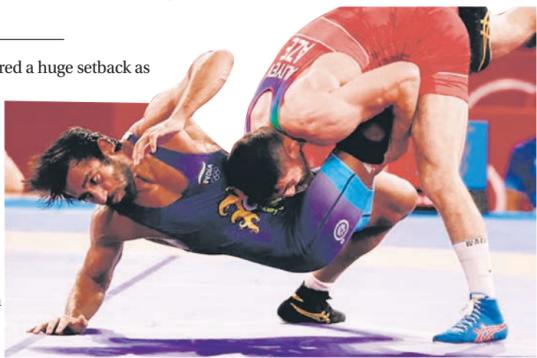
However, she plans to stick to the proverbial "one shot at a time" routine when she joins Korda for the second successive day in the final group which will include Lydia Ko, the silver medalist in Rio.

Olympics: Bajrang Punia loses in semis, to fight for bronze

Tokyo | Agencies

India's Bajrang Punia suffered a huge setback as he lost to Aliyev Haji of Azerbaijan, going down 12-5 on points in the semifinals of the 65kg freestyle wrestling and will now fight for the bronze medal on Saturday.

Punia, who had survived a scare in the pre-quarterfinals against Akmatiev Ernazar of Kyrgyzstan and outplayed Ghiasi Cheka Morteza of Iran in the semifinals, went behind 1-4 on points in the first period and then came under repeated attacks from the Azerbaijani in the second to lose by a big margin. Punia did fight back in the second period by claiming four points but Aliyev, the bronze medalist in 57kg in Rio de Janeiro and a three-time world champion in 61kg, proved too strong with late attacks. Punia will now face the winner of the repechage round bout between Senegal's Adama Diatta and Kazakhstan's Daulet Niyazbekov in the bronze medal match on Saturday. Punia was India's best hope for a gold



medal at the Tokyo Olympics but he did not have a perfect build-up for the mega event as he struggled for a proper sparring partner in the country during the lockdown. Though he went to Europe to prepare for the Olympics, his progress was also hampered by an injury to his right knee, which was heavily strapped on Friday.

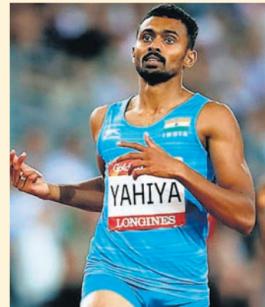
In the final, Aliyev will face Japan's Takuto Otoguro, the 2018 world champion, in the gold medal match.

MEN'S 4X400M RELAY: INDIA CREATES ASIAN RECORD BUT FAILS TO QUALIFY FOR FINAL

Tokyo: The Indian men's 4x400m relay team created a new Asian record but that was not enough for the quartet to qualify for the final at the Tokyo Olympics on Friday.

The team comprising Muhammad Anas, Noah Nirmal Tom, Arokia Rajiv and Amoj Jacob finished fourth in the second heat at the Tokyo Olympic Stadium with a timing of 3:00.25. Italy (2:58.91) and Netherlands (2:59.06), who ran in the first heat, took the slots for the 'fastest losers' combined from both heats to reach the final.

Poland emerged as the winners of the second heat with a timing of 2:58.55. Jamaica finished second with 2:59.29 while Belgium came third with 2:59.37. Anas clocked a timing of 45.67 in the first leg and moved ahead of South Africa and Colombia. Noah ran 45.06 in the second leg while Rajiv clocked 44.84 in the third leg. Jacob made an incredible effort in the last leg to move from sixth to finish fourth, but fell short of making the final. Overall, India were placed ninth behind the eight finalists including the USA (2:57.77), Botswana (2:58.33) and Trinidad & Tobago (2:58.60) from the first heat. The Indian team bettered Qatar's gold medal timing of 3:00.56 set in the 2018 Asian Games at Jakarta. The men's relay team was ranked 13th out of the 16 teams to make the cut for the Olympics. They had achieved a season best timing of 3:01.89 at the Inter-State Athletics meet in Patiala held in the last week of June to improve their ranking.



1st Test: INDIA TAKE 95-RUN FIRST INNING LEAD ON RAIN-HIT DAY



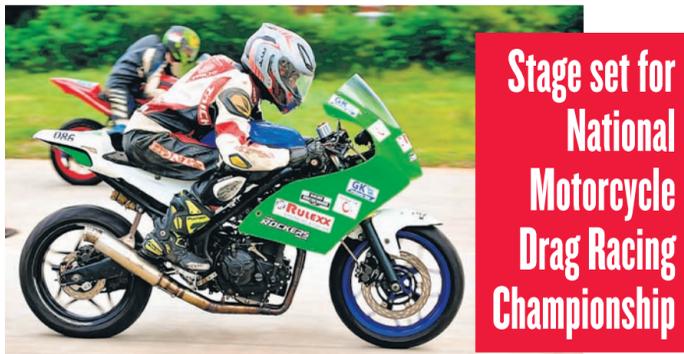
Brief scores

England: 183 all out in 65.4 overs & 25/0 in 11.1 overs vs India: 278 all out in 84.5 overs (KL Rahul 84, R Jadeja 56, R Pant 25, J Bumrah 28, R Sharma 36, J Anderson 4/54, O Robinson)

Nottingham | Agencies

India's tail wagged finally as Jasprit Bumrah (28) and Mohammed Siraj (7) added 33 runs for the last wicket to take India to 278 to take a first innings lead of 95 runs, on the third day of the first Test against England here on Friday. K.L. Rahul (84) and Ravindra Jadeja (56) were the main contributors to the visitor's first innings total.

England had wiped off 25 runs of the lead at the draw of stumps which was hastened due to rain. This is the second successive day when rain played spoilsport in the final session. Opener Rahul's gritty 84 off 214 deliveries and his 60-run partnership with Jadeja had taken India past England's 183 on a day when England pace bowler James Anderson went past former India leg-spinner Anil Kumble's Test tally of 619 wickets to become the third highest wicket-taker ever. Anderson now has 621 wickets and his scalp of Rahul that saw him reach the milestone was the one that ended the partnership which had threatened to take the game away from England. Anderson soon gobbled up Shardul Thakur.



Stage set for National Motorcycle Drag Racing Championship

Chennai | Agencies

The Madras Motor Sports Club will kick-start the 2021 season with a round of the MMSC FMSCI Indian National Motorcycle Drag Racing Championship at the refurbished MMRT circuit here on Saturday.

The event, the first after the Covid-19 pandemic, will be conducted with strict Covid-19 safety protocols in place and behind closed doors. MMSC Vice-President Vicky Chandhok said: "In these difficult times of the pandemic, we are not taking any chances with the health of the participants and offi-

cial. So, the Covid safety protocols will be strictly enforced."

While creating a secure bio-bubble, the MMSC also has deployed a fully-equipped medical team to deal with any emergency. Entry to the track is restricted to competitors and officials, the club informed in a release on Friday. As in the past, there are eight categories: 2-stroke (Super Sport) - Up to 130cc and 131-165cc. Girls (4-Stroke) - Up to 165cc. Super Sport Indian - Up to 165cc, 226-360cc and 361-550cc and Super Sport - 851-1050cc and Above 1051cc. The field will be headlined by Bengaluru's Hemanth Mudappa, the reigning national champion representing Mantra Racing. He will be astride a BMW S1000 RR in the 851-1050cc category and the Suzuki Hayabusa in the Above 1051cc class.

Haryana announces Rs 50L Olympic women hockey players from state



Chandigarh: Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Friday announced an award of Rs 50 lakh each to the nine members of the Olympics women's hockey team representing the state. "I congratulate the Indian team for their praiseworthy performance at the Tokyo Olympics," the Chief Minister said. In a hard-fought bronze play-off match the Indian team lost 3-4 to Great Britain.

WE ACHIEVED SOMETHING BIGGER THAN A MEDAL: SJOERD MARIJNE

Tokyo | Agencies

The chief coach of the Indian women's hockey team, Sjoerd Marijne, said his team may not have won a medal at Tokyo 2020 but his players did achieve something bigger as they inspired the country to dream of success at the Olympics.

India went down 4-3 to Great Britain in a closely-fought bronze medal playoff on Friday despite fighting back from a two-goal deficit. The team led 3-2 at half-time but the British came back strongly in the second half and denied them a historic medal in only their third appearance in the Olympics since women's hockey made its debut in 1980 at Moscow. Marijne's team stunned



everyone by making it to the semifinal by beating mighty Australia, world No. 2, in the quarterfinal after scrapping through the preliminary round, and though they went down to Argentina in the semis and Great Britain, the team came up with a fighting display in all its matches and had more than a billion lauding the effort.

Asked what his message to the team was after the defeat, Marijne told the media he told them he was proud of their performance.

"The first emotion is about losing... yeah you want to win but, really, I feel proud. I'm proud of the girls, how they again showed their fight and skills. Normally when (the) Indian women's

team are 2-0 down, it always becomes 3-0, 4-0... but now they kept fighting. We came back in the match, we were even one-up," Marijne was quoted as saying by the International Hockey Federation (FIH).

He said the girls should be proud that they achieved something bigger than a medal.



MESSI WON'T STAY: FC BARCELONA

Barcelona | Agencies

ACE footballer Lionel Messi will not stay at FC Barcelona due to La Liga regulations, the Spanish league club has confirmed in a statement. The

announcement ends the Argentine star's 21-year old relationship with the club that saw him score 672 goals in 778 appearances and win 10 La Liga and four Champions League titles.

"Despite FC Barcelona and Lionel Messi having reached an agreement and the clear intention of both parties to sign a new contract today, this cannot happen because of financial and structural obstacles (Spanish Liga regulations)," said FC Barcelona in a statement on Thursday.

Messi had clinched his maiden Copa America title with Argentina as a free agent last month as he remained without contract with the club during the latter stages of the tournament. His contract had expired on June 30 and had led to speculations over his move elsewhere. "As a result of this situation, Messi shall not be staying on at FC Barcelona. Both parties deeply regret that the wishes of the player and the club will ultimately not be fulfilled," the club added.

Serbian defender Slavko Damjanovic joins Chennaiyin FC

Chennai | Agencies

TWO-time Indian Super League (ISL) champions Chennaiyin FC (CFC) have completed the signing of defender Slavko Damjanovic on one-year deal ahead of the 2021/22 season. With 151 club appearances in his nine-year-long career as professional footballer, the left-footed centre-back will provide much-needed stability to the club's



backline. The Serbian could also prove to be a potential attacking threat from set-pieces. Slavko played a pivotal role in Buducnost Podgorica's fourth Montenegrin League title in 2019/20 and also featured in their Europa League qualifying matches that year. "I am so happy to join [Chennaiyin FC]. I hope we win the league. The coach is bringing in good players. I will give my everything for the team. I look forward to representing a city with such culture," the Montenegro-born footballer said.

Mani Ratnam's 'Navarasa' preview a musical extravaganza

Team Absolute | Chennai

The team of upcoming Tamil anthology 'Navarasa' hosted a virtual musical event - Symphony of Emotions - based on the theme of nine emotions. Musical artists from all over the country expressed nine different emotions -- anger, compassion, courage, disgust, fear, laughter, love, peace and wonder. The musical extravaganza is headlined by a 50-member voice choir performance led by the legendary AR Rahman. The event was a fundraiser to support the musicians performing film music on-stage whose livelihoods were adversely impacted by Covid-19. The film marks the bringing together of the Tamil film industry led by renowned filmmakers Mani Ratnam and Jayendra Panchapakesan. Addressing the virtual crowd gathered, filmmaker Mani Ratnam said, "We are thankful to everyone that has joined this evening and we are proud of the work that all the talent has done on the film. Navarasa has been a pleasure because we were in capable hands." "Navarasa" will release on Netflix on August 6.



Chitrashi Rawat loves reducing stress from others' lives



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Chitrashi Rawat, who is a part of the new television program, titled "Zee Comedy Show" shares her experiences of interacting with frontline workers like police, doctors and nurses on the sets of the show. "We had an opportunity to perform in front of the police, doctors and nurses on our show. They interacted with us and shared their story, how stressful it has been for our frontline workers. When they said that they enjoyed being a part of this show, it felt so good! These people work so hard to keep us safe," said Chitrashi. The actress also expressed that she is happy and excited to be back to shooting after quite some time! "After 1-1.5 years of so much of stress, to get associated with Zee Comedy Show is a great opportunity to cheer myself up. I'm really excited to be back on set, back on the shoot, doing something that I personally enjoy a lot," she shared. "Zee Comedy Show" airs on Zee TV.

Sunny Leone: 'Shero' one of my most interesting films

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Sunny Leone wrapped up the shooting for her film "Shero" in Kerala on Thursday. Directed by "Kuttanadan Marappa" fame Sreejith Vijayan, "Shero" is Sunny's first Malayalam film in a lead role. The film is shot in Munnar and other parts of Kerala and action is a crucial element of the film.

As she wrapped the film, she said, "There are movies that challenge you and make you want to push yourself harder. Shero is just that film for me. I wanted to nail it to the tee." "Shero" is a psychological thriller in which Sunny plays the character of Sarah Mike, a US-born woman with roots in India. The film traces the story of a chance holiday and the chance happenings on it form the narrative. The film will be released in Malayalam, Tamil, Telugu and Hindi.



MELLOW D'S 'ROKO ROKO' IS ABOUT THE STRUGGLE OF A BROKEN HEART

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Singer Mellow D is back with his latest single 'Roko roko', which has been written, composed and sung by him. 'Bigg Boss 14' fame actress Nikki Tamboli features in the video alongside the singer. Talking about the song, Mellow D said, "Roko roko" is about the true struggle of a broken heart. While working on the track, I wanted to make sure that the listeners actually feel the emotions of betrayal, pain and rage in the composition. At the same time, I wanted to tell them to never let heartbreak bring you down, leave your worries behind and live life on your own terms."

Nikki, who features in the music video, said: "When I heard the song, it was so good and addictive. I heard a heart break song in a party vibe after a long time and I'm sure a lot of people will connect to it." "Roko roko" released on Friday on the YouTube channel of Big Bang Music.



Preity Zinta feels proud she did 'Dil Chahta Hai'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Farhan Akhtar's maiden directorial, "Dil Chahta Hai" is all set to clock two decades of its release in Hindi cinema. Actress Preity G. Zinta, who played Shalini in the movie, has gone down memory lane and said that she is proud she did the movie. Reminiscing about the film, Preity said: "This is surreal, celebrating 20 years of 'Dil Chahta Hai'. I remember Farhan telling me that whenever he makes a film, he would love for me to be part of it." She says whenever she thinks about the film, she gets a smile on her face.

"I have so many fond memories from the shoot and always have a big smile on my face when I remember those mad days," added the actress.

"Dil Chahta Hai" will be showcased on &Pictures on August 10 to mark its two decade run in Hindi cinema.

MAMTA SHARMA, SHAHEER SHEIKH RECREATE 'SAAJAN'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Playback singer Mamta Sharma and TV actor Shaheer N. Sheikh have recreated the famous "Saajan" film song "Mera Dil Bhi Kitna Pagal Hai" as an ode to Madhuri Dixit and Sanjay Dutt. Mamta and Shaheer will share screen space in the music video of the reprised track which has been directed by Ashraf Ali.

About the reprised song, Mamta said: "Being an avid Madhuri Dixit fan, this is a project that is very close to my heart and is my humble ode to her legacy. I had a great time putting this project together. I hope the listeners love this recreated version of the track." Shaheer is known for playing pivotal roles in TV serials like "Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise Bhi" and "Yeh Rishtey Hain Pyaar Ke". He is popular for his role of Arjuna in "Mahabharat". Sharing his experience on the video, Shaheer said: "I had a great time shooting the video with Mamta Sharma as the song is one of my personal favorites. Mamta and I have tried to capture every sentiment attached with the song and hope our fans will appreciate the effort." "Mera Dil Bhi Kitna Pagal Hai" reprised version released on the Ishtar YouTube channel on Thursday.

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Aamna Sharif