

absolute india

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India registered over a 3rd of global infant deaths due to Covid slowdown

POOR CHILDREN

The highest numbers of estimated excess infant deaths were in South Asia (8 countries), totalling 1,13,141, with more than a third of the excess projected to be in India (99,642). India has the highest number of annual births (2,42,38,000) as well as a particularly large projected economic shortfall of minus 17.3 per cent for 2020.

Parameters of the study

- ▶ THE RESEARCHERS LOOKED AT THE IMPACT OF THE AGGREGATE INCOME SHOCK REPRESENTED BY THE PROJECTED FALL IN GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP) -- THE TOTAL VALUE OF A COUNTRY'S ANNUAL GOODS AND SERVICES -- ON THE SURVIVAL OF CHILDREN AGED UP TO 12 MONTHS IN LOW- AND MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES.
- ▶ THEY LINKED DATA ON GDP PER HEAD OF THE POPULATION TO 5.2 MILLION BIRTHS, REPORTED IN DEMOGRAPHIC AND HEALTH SURVEYS BETWEEN 1985 AND 2018. MOST (82 PER CENT) OF THESE BIRTHS WERE IN LOW- AND LOWER MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES.
- ▶ THEY THEN APPLIED INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND ECONOMIC GROWTH PROJECTIONS FOR 2019 AND 2020 TO PREDICT THE EFFECT OF THE ECONOMIC DOWNTURN IN 2020 ON INFANT DEATHS IN 128 COUNTRIES.



researchers said. The reason: the world economy is expected to have contracted almost 5 per cent in the first year of the pandemic, increasing the numbers of people living in poverty by 120 million.

The study also acknowledged several limitations to their projected figures, including that their calculations drew on retrospective data, and that they only considered the short-term impact of GDP fluctuations on infant death rates.

Now book vax appointment on WhatsApp

New Delhi: After enabling users to download vaccine certificates, the MyGov Corona Helpdesk on WhatsApp now allows users to locate their nearest vaccination centre and book their vaccine appointment, the Union Ministry of Health and MyGov announced on Tuesday. WhatsApp users across the country will now be able to use the chatbot in English as well as Hindi by simply sending 'Book Slot' to the WhatsApp number +91 9013151515. To contact MyGov Corona Helpdesk chatbot, citizens can save the WhatsApp number on their phones and start a chat by typing 'Book Slot'. This will generate a 6-digit one-time password on the respective mobile phone number. Users can then choose a preferred date and location, based on the pincode and vaccine type. All users can follow this sequence to get a confirmation of their centre and day of their vaccine appointment.

Why 84 days wait for Covishield; Kerala HC to Centre

Kochi: The Kerala High Court on Tuesday asked the Centre to explain why there is a gap of 84 days for second dose of Covishield vaccine. The court also asked if it was possible to reduce the time gap if vaccines are sourced by parties themselves. The court asked whether the time gap was extended because it had better efficacy or was it because of the problems in sourcing vaccines in time. The Centre has been asked by the court to give its affidavit on these issues and posted the case for Thursday.

India's first mRNA vaccine phase-I clinical trial gets nod

New Delhi: The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), India's National Regulatory Authority, has approved Gennova Biopharmaceuticals Limited's work on the country's first mRNA-based COVID-19 vaccine for its clinical data of the phase-1 study. "Vaccine Subject Expert Committee (SEC) reviewed the interim phase-1 data and found that HGCO19 was safe, tolerable, and immunogenic in the participants of the study. The Director General (I), CDSCO, approved the proposal submitted for the phase 2 and 3 studies by Gennova Biopharmaceuticals Limited, a Pune-based biotechnology company," the Ministry of Science and Technology said in a release on Tuesday.

Maha Police arrest Union Minister Rane for 'slap-slur' on CM

Quaid Najmi | Mumbai
 In an unprecedented development in the state political history, the Maharashtra Police on Tuesday afternoon arrested Union Minister Narayan Rane for his 'slap slur' remark against Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, as an aggressive Shiv Sena protester vociferously all over the state.



This is said to be a first in the state when a serving Union Minister has been arrested and comes around 20 years after a union cabinet minister, the late Murali Manan and T.R. Bala, both in the government of the late Prime Minister A.B. Vajpayee, were nabbed by Chennai Police in June 2001.

In a day of fast-paced developments, a team of police personnel went to Rane's camp in Sangameswar in Ratnagiri in the Konkan region, whisked him off to a waiting vehicle and took him to the local police station for the other arrest-related formalities amidst tight security.

The sensational happenings came barely a couple of hours after Rane sharply dared that "nobody could do anything to him" or prevent him from "moving around freely". A team of senior

police officers met Rane and later completed the arrest formalities even as a large number of his supporters and a huge posse of police were present. Rane, whose health seemed to have deteriorated as he suffered from diabetes and hypertension, underwent a preliminary medical check-up and is expected to be taken to Nashik later. Anticipating the arrest possibility, Rane's team had moved the Bombay High Court seeking to stay the arrest but was declined urgent hearing in the matter.

Multiple police complaints have been filed against Rane with Police in Pune, Raigad, Nashik and at least two teams of Nashik and Pune police proceeded to nab the central minister. This afternoon, Leader of Opposition Devendra Fadnis had dropped hints at the upcoming possibilities, stating that if Rane was arrested, the party had kept a Plan B ready to carry forward the ongoing Jan Ashirwad Yatra.

Police arrested him under pressure: Rane's aide

Even as a police team was closeted with Rane, one of his aides, Pramod Jathar claimed that "no arrest warrant has been produced and the police allegedly pleaded that they were under 'pressure' to arrest Rane in five minutes". Jathar contended that the police were not following the due protocols, nor showing the arrest warrant or other documents for the same and not revealing under whose alleged 'pressure' they were taking the action. Angry Rane supporters and BJP activists raised anti-Maharashtra government slogans and threatened to block roads and highways till his "illegal arrest" was cancelled.

Demand to 'replace' Punjab CM gains momentum within Cong again

CHANDIGARH | Agencies

The demand to 'replace' Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh just months ahead of the Assembly polls once again gained momentum with Congress' 34 'sulking' legislators, comprising four Cabinet ministers, on Tuesday decided to apprise the high command over the widespread dissidence among the party ranks.



"Changing the CM is the prerogative of the party high command. But we have lost faith in him," Technical

Education Minister Charanjit Singh Channi told the media here.

He said the legislators unanimously authorised a five-member committee to apprise the party President Sonia Gandhi at the earliest about the dissent of the party workers over non-fulfillment of poll promises by the government. The five-member committee are Cabinet ministers Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa, who backed state union chief Navjot Singh Sidhu in the recent power struggle, Tript Rajinder Singh Bajwa and Sukhbinder Singh Sarkaria, Channi and Pargat Singh, considered close to Sidhu.

Punjab ministers, MLA demand action against Sidhu's aides

Chandigarh: Taking strong exception to the patently anti-national and pro-Pak comments of two of Navjot Singh Sidhu's aides, a group of Punjab Congress ministers and MLA on Tuesday called for strong action under the law against Malwinder Mali and Pyare Lal Garg. The statements of both these newly appointed advisors of Punjab Congress president Sidhu were clearly against India's interests, and detrimental to national security, said ministers Brahm Mohindra, Vijay Inder Singla, Bharat Bhushan Ashu, Balbir Singh Sidhu and Sadhu Singh Dharamsot, along with MLA Raj Kumar Verka.

Besides stringent legal action against them, they also urged the Congress national leadership to direct Sidhu to immediately rein in his aides in the interest of the party as well as the country. Mali said 'Kashmir belongs to Kashmiris' while Garg slammed CM Amrinder Singh for 'opposing Pakistan.'

MODERATE QUAKE SHAKES ASSAM, BENGAL & CHENNAI, NO DAMAGE REPORTED



Guwahati: A 'moderate' earthquake, measuring 4 on the Richter Scale, was reported in Assam's Kokrajhar and adjoining West Bengal and Bhutan on Monday, officials said.

The National Centre for Seismology (NCS) said that the tremors were felt in Kokrajhar and adjoining north Bengal and Bhutan at 1.13 p.m. on Monday afternoon. The quake occurred at a depth of 10 km from the surface. Disaster management officials in Guwahati said that so far there have been no reports of any injury or damage to the property and other assets. Meanwhile, Slight tremors were felt by people in some parts of the city on Tuesday afternoon due to a quake in the sea. The official said the quake happened about 12.55 p.m. Indian Standard Time. He also added the quake happened 190 km from Nellore coast in Andhra Pradesh.

Modi speaks to Putin on Afghanistan

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday discussed the recent developments in Afghanistan, along with bilateral issues. In the 45-minute-long discussion with the Russian President, Modi also discussed bilateral issues. The discussion assumes significance as it comes amid the fast-changing situation in Afghanistan where the Taliban has taken over the control of almost the whole country. While India has evacuated its diplomatic mission from Kabul, Russia has kept its diplomats in Kabul and likely wants to open the communications channels with Taliban.



CIA chief met top Taliban leader, Taliban denied extension

Kabul: A Taliban spokesman on Tuesday said that the United States must complete its evacuation of people from Afghanistan by the August 31, deadline set by the Biden administration. Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid says his group will accept "no extensions" to the deadline. Earlier, CIA Director William Burns secretly met the top Taliban figure in Kabul on Monday amid a chaotic US effort to evacuate American citizens and Afghans allied with the US in advance of an August 31 deadline, US officials said, the Wall Street Journal reported. Details of the meeting weren't immediately available, but the CIA chief's crisis diplomacy comes as the US is considering whether to extend the evacuation of people from the Kabul beyond the deadline.

151 CBI cases pending against MPs/MLAs, 58 punishable with life imprisonment, SC told

Team Absolute | New Delhi

▶ THE REPORT SUGGESTED THAT COURTS BEFORE WHOM THE TRIALS ARE PENDING MAY BE DIRECTED TO EXPEDITE THE TRIAL OF ALL PENDING CASES ON DAY-TO-DAY BASIS IN TERMS OF SECTION 309 OF THE CRPC.

▶ THE AMICUS SUGGESTED IN CASE, ADDITIONAL COURTS ARE REQUIRED, THE HIGH COURTS AND THE APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENT SHALL CONSTITUTE ADDITIONAL SPECIAL COURTS.

▶ ON AUGUST 10, THE TOP COURT GAVE LAST OPPORTUNITY TO THE CENTRE TO SUBMIT A DETAILED STATUS REPORT REGARDING DETAILS OF PENDENCY AND STAGE OF TRIAL OF CASES INVOLVING SITTING AND FORMER LAWMAKERS REGISTERED WITH THE CENTRAL AGENCIES, CBI, AND OTHERS.

The Supreme Court has been informed that a total of 151 cases are pending against sitting and former MPs/MLAs in special CBI courts across the country, and as many as 58 cases are punishable with life imprisonment. However, in nearly one-third of the cases, the trial is moving at snail's pace - charges have not been framed, though offences were committed several years back.

Senior advocate Vijay Hansaria, appointed amicus curiae in a 2016, has filed the report in the top court. The CBI has furnished a status report dated August 19, to the amicus mentioning the details of the cases pending trial before different CBI courts and those under investigation. The CBI cases pending investigation



against MPs/MLAs are 37. According to the Enforcement Directorate's status report, a total number of 51

Members of Parliament, both sitting and former, are accused in cases arising out of offences under Prevention of Money

Laundering Act, 2002. However, the report does not show as to how many MPs/MLAs are sitting and/or former legislators.

Modi selling India's crown jewels to create monopoly: Rahul

New Delhi: Former Congress President Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of bringing the process of selling the "crown jewel" assets built by his party in last 70 years.

He also contended that the Congress is not opposing the privatisation process but "the entire NMP is designed to create a monopoly". Addressing a press conference at the party headquarters

Gandhi said: "The Prime Minister and the BJP said that the Congress had done nothing in last 70 years. There is a list here of all the assets that the Congress has helped build using the public money." Now the Prime Minister is in the process of selling the crown jewels of this country." Listing out the sectors which are going to be privatised, Gandhi said that these are being sold and one can guess to whom it is going. "And frankly, these will go to three to four people," he said.





Outrageous, man with surgical gloves feels entire body, yet gets off scot-free: AG

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Attorney General of India K.K. Venugopal termed Bombay High Court judgment, which held that 'skin-to-skin' contact is necessary to constitute sexual assault under POCSO Act, as outrageous. Slamming this judgment, the AG argued that a person wearing surgical gloves can feel the entire body of a woman and get away without punishment.



that the high court judge said skin-to-skin contact is required that would result in a person wearing surgical gloves and touching a woman inappropriately and getting an acquittal. He emphasized in this case, there was a girl child involved.

He said the girl was taken by the man, who touched her breast and pulled her 'salwar' down. The daughter yelled and the mother rushed to her rescue and then filed a complaint.

Criticizing the high court order, the AG stressed it will become a precedent binding on magistrates in

Maharashtra and added that there were 43,000 POCSO offences in the last one year. He added if somebody touches the breast of a woman, there is a punishment for a minimum of three years. The high court had modified the order of a sessions court, which sentenced a 39-year-old man to three years of imprisonment for sexually assaulting a 12-year-old girl.

The AG reiterated tomorrow any person who wears a surgical glove and feels the entire body of a woman including vagina without penetration and the minimum punishment of 3 years wouldn't apply to him. "This is outrageous. The judge clearly didn't see the far-reaching consequences", he argued. Advocate Rahul Chitnis, representing the Maharashtra government, said we are supporting the AG's submission.

The bench observed that service of show cause notice is complete in all matters. However, nobody appeared on behalf of the accused. The bench noted that it will ask the Supreme Court Legal Services Committee to

appoint someone as the counsel for the accused. "We can place the matter after two weeks", said the bench, as it listed the matter for further hearing on September 14.

The top court on January 27 had stayed the operation of the January 19 verdict of the Nagpur bench of the Bombay High Court after the AG had mentioned it and was allowed to file an appeal. The top court appointed senior advocate Siddharth Dave as amicus curiae in the matter.

On January 19, the high court had ruled that pressing the breast of a 12-year-old child without removing her clothes will only fall within the definition of outraging the modesty of a woman under Section 354 of Indian Penal Code (IPC).

The high court noted that considering the stringent nature of punishment provided for the offence, stricter proof and serious allegations are required. It further added the punishment for an offence should be proportionate to the seriousness of the crime.

Baghel, Deo met Rahul Gandhi; no discussion on leadership change

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Amid rift in Chhattisgarh Congress, former Congress President Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday met Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and Health Minister T.S. Singh Deo, but no discussion took place on change of leadership in the state.

The meeting lasted for over two and a half hours at the residence of Rahul Gandhi here. After the meeting, Chhattisgarh Congress in-charge P.L. Punia speaking to the media said, "There was no discussion on change of leadership in Chhattisgarh."

Punia also attended the meeting along with the state Chief Minister and the health minister. The meeting of these two leaders with Rahul Gandhi came amid Deo's reported claims for the top post in the state, demanding rotational chief ministership.

Both Baghel and Deo met with Rahul Gandhi as the infighting in Chhattisgarh Congress threatens to boil



over. The Congress had earlier faced similar situation in Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Karnataka, and some northeastern states.

There were several reports of differences between Baghel and Deo, with the latter lobbying hard for months to replace Chief Minister Baghel. On July 27, Deo walked out of the Assembly saying, "it is too much" after the opposition created an uproar demanding a House panel probe into Congress

MLA Brihaspat Singh's charge that the Minister was behind an attack on him.

Deo and Baghel have been making several trips to the national capital. Deo, for the record, maintains that "Sonja Gandhiji and Rahul Gandhiji will decide." Following his visit, Baghel also rushed to the national capital in July this year.

During his Delhi visit, Baghel said he would abide by the decision of the leadership and returned to Raipur in the same plane with Deo.

Punjab's sugarcane farmers withdraw stir as CM hikes price

CHANDIGARH | Agencies

Punjab's sugarcane farmers on Tuesday withdrew their agitation in response to Chief Minister Amarinder Singh's announcement of a Rs 35 per quintal hike in the state agreed price (SAP) for cane crushing season 2021-22, taking the price to Rs 360 per quintal, Rs 2 higher than in neighbouring Haryana.



causing fiscal losses to them.

The Chief Minister said the farmers were not to blame for the problem, which was caused by Punjab's poor finances. While he was always with the farmers and wanted to do his best for their welfare, the state's fiscal crisis had prevented him from increasing SAP earlier, he said, adding

balancing the needs of the farmers with those of the cooperative and private sugar mill owners was tough, given the prevailing fiscal situation.

Rana Gurjit Singh, who is himself a sugar mill owner besides being Congress MLA in Punjab, supported the farmers' demand for increase in SAP.

The matter was resolved during a meeting of farmers union leaders with the Chief Minister here, during which Amarinder Singh, while agreeing to the SAP hike, said the state's fiscal situation had prevented adequate increase in the SAP for the past three-four years.

The farmers union leaders had earlier pointed out that Punjab had failed to hike sugarcane SAP in proportion to Haryana over this period,

3 terrorists killed in Kashmir encounter refused to surrender

Team Absolute | Srinagar

Three terrorists killed in an encounter between terrorists and security forces at Sopore in North Kashmir's Baramulla district refused to surrender, officials said on Tuesday. Police said during the intervening night of 23/24 August 2021, based on specific input generated by Police regarding presence of terrorists in Pethseer area of Sopore, a joint cordon and search operation was launched by Sopore Police, Army (52RR) and CRPF in the said area.



"During the search operation as the presence of terrorists got ascertained, they were given opportunity to surrender, however, instead they fired indiscriminately upon the joint search party which was retaliated leading to an encounter," police said.

"However due to darkness the operation was suspended, while the cordon was kept intact. In the wee hours, repeated announcements were again made to the hiding terrorists to surrender, but the terrorists again

fired on joint search party and the fire was retaliated." In the ensuing encounter, three terrorists were killed and their bodies were retrieved from the site of encounter.

They have been identified as Faisal Fayaz, resident of Kapren Shopian, Gh Mustafa Sheikh, resident of Tekipura Kupwara and Rameez Ah Ghanie, resident of Zipor Dharamati, Shopian, affiliated with proscribed terror outfit

LeT (TRF). Police said as per its records the killed terrorists were part of groups involved in several terror crime cases including attacks on security establishments and civilian atrocities. Incriminating materials, arms and ammunition including one AK-47 rifle, two pistols were recovered from the site of encounter.

Police has registered a case and investigation has been initiated.

MAN KILLS 4 INCLUDING A CHILD ON SUSPICION OF EXTRA-MARITAL AFFAIR

Gurugram: In a shocking incident, a former army personnel allegedly killed his daughter-in-law and his tenant, his wife and one child with a sharp-edged weapon on Tuesday morning in the Rajendra Park area in old Gurugram.

Another girl child of the tenant is critical and was admitted to a private hospital.

Preliminary investigation suggests that extramarital affairs could be the reason behind the murder. The police came to know about the incident after the accused identified as Rao Rai Singh himself reached the Rajendra Park police station and informed them about the incident. Further investigation is on.

During the probe, it also came to light that the quarrel between the accused and victim was going on for the last one and a half year.

Liquor smuggler ordered to look after 5 children's education in Bihar

Team Absolute | Patna

A district court at Jehanpurnagar in Bihar's Madhubani district on Tuesday granted bail to a liquor smuggler identified as Nitish Kumar but ordered him to look after five children's education.



the liquor prohibition law in Bihar.

As per the court order, the accused will take up the

responsibility of these five children for three months, after which the family members of the children will give him certificates mentioning that the accused successfully fulfilled the responsibility which the court had given him.

Nitish Kumar was serving a jail term after an FIR under the Liquor Prohibition Act was registered against him in Madhepur police station on November 16, 2020.

Six, including five kids, die from mysterious fever in UP

Team Absolute | Mathura

A mysterious fever has claimed six lives, including five children, in the past one week. Nearly 80 persons have been admitted to various hospitals in Mathura, Agra and also in Rajasthan's Bharatpur. According to the health department officials, two children Sevak, 9, and Honey, 6, died in the hospital during treatment on Monday.

They were admitted with high fever. Others who died after reporting similar symptoms include Ruchi, 19, Avansh, 9,

Romiya, 2, and Rekha, 1. Chief medical officer Dr Rachna Gupta said that a team of doctors visited the village and took samples for diagnosis of malaria, dengue and Covid from the patients admitted in the hospital and their relatives. The cause of death is still not clear, said officials, adding that there is a possibility of dengue, as their blood platelets were found to be low along with fever. She said, "Insecticide was sprayed in the village and fogging was also conducted. Villagers have been asked to immediately report to the hospital if they feel feverish or had any such symptoms."



2 in 3 Indian adults addicted to being online due to Covid: Report

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Nearly two in three Indians (66 per cent) have become addicted to being online as a result of the Covid pandemic, a report released on Tuesday said. The 2021 Norton Cyber Safety Insights report by consumer security company NortonLifeLock is based on an online survey of more than 1,000 Indian adults conducted by the Harris Poll. The survey found that on average, adults in India spend 4.4 hours a day in front of screens, outside of work or educational time.



About eight in 10 (82 per cent) said that the amount of time they spent on screens, aside from educational or work purposes, has increased significantly during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Smartphones by far are the most common device Indian adults surveyed feel they are spending too much time on (84 per cent). The majority of Indian adults (74 per cent) agree that the amount of time they spend in front of a screen negatively impacts their physical health, while more than half

(55 per cent) say it negatively impacts their mental health. "It is understandable that the pandemic has increased our dependence on screens for activities that could otherwise have been done offline. It is important for every individual, however, to find a healthy

balance between their on-screen and off-screen time so that their health and, more importantly, their children's health is not adversely impacted," NortonLifeLock's Director, Sales and Field Marketing, India & SAARC Countries Ritesh Chopra said in a

statement. The survey also showed a lack of trust among Indian adults in smart home devices and/or the companies that manufacture them.

Nearly half of adults decided against purchasing a smart home device due to security concerns or because of privacy concerns (40 per cent). People also cited a lack of information about smart home devices (40 per cent) and a lack of transparency from smart home device manufacturers about how they use consumer data (35 per cent) as reasons for not purchasing a smart home device. "The online landscape has seen an increase in the numbers and types of cyber threats. Users must take great care of how and where they use their connected devices. Convenience should not come at the cost of security," Chopra said.

"Today, the loss of personal or confidential information can have very serious repercussions indeed. It is important for parents to be aware of this fact and to educate their children on the need for cyber safety," he added.

LIQUOR KILLS THREE IN AGRA VILLAGE, ONE CRITICAL IN HOSPITAL



Team Absolute | Agra

Three persons in a village near Dauki police station in Agra, died of consuming alcohol, early on Tuesday. One person in critical condition has been admitted to the district hospital, according to Fethahabad SDM. Officials said, three persons from village Kaulara Kalan, under Dauki police station, died after consuming alcohol from a local outlet.

Investigations are on. Samples have been taken from two 'Thekas' which have been sealed. Cops at the village however doubted, in fact, some have denied, that the cause of deaths was spurious or poisonous liquor, though overconsumption might have been a factor. Post-mortem will bring out the truth, an official said. Of the three deceased, one is around 50 years of age and the other two in their early thirties.



मध्यप्रदेश शासन



सबको वैक्सीन मुफ्त वैक्सीन



धन्यवाद मोदी जी!

कोविड-19 से पूर्ण सुरक्षा एवं
दोनों डोज़ के लिए
टीकाकरण महाअभियान



टीकाकरण महाअभियान. 2

25-26 अगस्त, 2021 से

#MPVaccinationMahaAbhiyan2



कोरोना से संपूर्ण सुरक्षा के लिये सभी नागरिकों को कोरोना टीके के दोनों डोज़ लगवाना अत्यंत आवश्यक है। प्रदेश के 18 वर्ष से अधिक आयु के ऐसे सभी लोग, जिन्होंने पहली डोज़ नहीं लगवाई है, वह पहली डोज़ लगवायें और जिन्होंने पहली डोज़ के बाद दूसरी डोज़ नहीं लगवाई है, ऐसे सभी लोग अपनी दूसरी डोज़ अवश्य लगवायें। यह ध्यान रखें कि कोरोना टीके की दोनों डोज़ लगने के बाद ही आपके अंदर कोरोना से लड़ने की पूरी क्षमता विकसित हो सकेगी।



शिवराज सिंह चौहान
मुख्यमंत्री, मध्यप्रदेश

प्रत्येक जिले के ब्लॉक/ग्राम/वाई स्तर के आपदा प्रबंधन समूहों, धार्मिक, सामाजिक, राजनैतिक, शासकीय, अशासकीय, स्वयंसेवी संगठनों और सभी जागरूक नागरिकों के जन सहयोग से टीकाकरण महाअभियान।

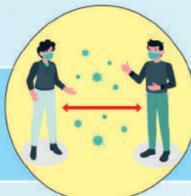
ध्यान रखें



वैक्सीनेशन अवश्य करवायें।



हमेशा मास्क पहनें।



दूरी बनाये रखें।



हर समय कोविड अनुकूल व्यवहार का पालन करें।



भीड़-भाड़ वाले स्थानों पर जाने से बचें।



समय पर हाथों को सेनेटाईज/धोते रहें।

शासकीय टीकाकरण केंद्रों में 18 वर्ष से अधिक आयु के सभी लोगों के लिए मुफ्त टीके उपलब्ध हैं।

दो डोज़ पूर्ण, सुरक्षा संपूर्ण



MAHA HAS 231 DELTA PLUS PATIENTS, INCLUDING 128 IN MUMBAI

The state Health Department said that another 27 Delta Plus cases were reported, taking the state total to 231, besides five deaths till date - two from Ratnagiri and one each from Mumbai, Raigad, and Beed.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In an alarming development, the BrihanMumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) on Monday revealed that Mumbai has a staggering 128 patients of the Delta Plus variant of Covid-19 besides of Alpha, Kappa and other strains, while 27 more were reported from rest of Maharashtra.

With this, the number of Delta Plus cases in the state has now reached 231. The BMC's latest figures emerged from the tests conducted on the first batch of 188 samples at the civic-run Kasturba Hospital. While 128 patients are found infected with the Delta Plus, 2 were Alpha types, 24 were Kappa types, and the rest showed common Covid-19 virus infections. The tests were conducted at the



state of the art Next Generation Genome Sequencing Lab at the Kasturba Hospital, inaugurated by Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray

earlier this month. The state Health Department said that another 27 Delta Plus cases were reported, taking the state total

to 231, besides five deaths till date - two from Ratnagiri and one each from Mumbai, Raigad, and Beed.

The new cases are from Amravati and Gadchiroli, six each, Nagpur five, Ahmednagar four, Yavatmal three, Nashik two, and Bhandara one. Exercising extreme precautions, the Health Department has launched a search for close contacts of all infectees on a war footing, besides ascertaining their travel history, vaccination status, recent medical status and other relevant details to prevent more infections, said the officials.

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

'Sack Rane from Union Cabinet', Shiv Sena writes to PM

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Shiv Sena on Tuesday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi demanding dismissal of Union MSME Minister Narayan Rane from the cabinet for his 'slap slur' against Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray.

In his letter, MP and Shiv Sena Group Leader in the Lok Sabha Vinayak B. Raut strongly condemned the language used by Rane against the CM of Maharashtra.

"On the evening of August 23, in Mahad, Raigad, Rane said: 'What kind of CM is this who doesn't know the Independence Day of India. If I was there, I would have slapped him,' while addressing the media," Raut said.

"I don't think a person like (Rane) who doesn't know his limits as a Union Minister has the right to continue in the cabinet. I fail to understand what kind of a message is conveyed to the masses by a Union Minister who uses such language. It's also an insult to the PM," Raut added in the letter.

He requested the PM to immediately seek Rane's resignation and sack him from the Union Cabinet. The missive

came even as massive demonstrations were held all over Maharashtra against Rane's comments with police resorting to mild-caning of the protesters in Mumbai and some other parts when BJP activists came face-to-face in counter-protests.

Leaders of Sena or its affiliated wings lodged complaints with Pune, Nashik and Raigad police demanding Rane's arrest and prosecution, stone-pelting in Nashik, Thane, burning Rane's effigies in different districts, sit-ins and other forms of protests.

The ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi partners Nationalist Congress Party-Congress came out in full support of Thackeray and said Rane's utterances are "an insult to the people of Maharashtra."

Leaders of the BJP like Chandrakant Patil said he did not endorse Rane's comments, while Republican Party of India (A) Union MoS Ramdas Athawale pointed out that "Rane is a product of Shiv Sena and used the language they understand."

Meanwhile, continuing his 'Jan Ashirwad Yatra' in Ratnagiri, Rane said he had come for the "blessings of the masses" and urged them to ignore the protests held by the Sena.

Rane under fire for 'slap' slur against CM Uddhav Thackeray

Team Absolute | Mumbai

At least three complaints have been filed against Union MSME Minister Narayan Rane for allegedly threatening to 'slap' Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, sparking fresh tensions between the Bharatiya Janata Party and Shiv Sena, here on Tuesday.

Irate Shiv Sena and Yuva Sena activists retaliated by erecting a hoarding in Dadar with a picture of Rane and a cocky caption -- 'Kombdi Chor' (Chicken Thief) -- and others lodged police complaints against him in Pune, Nashik and Raigad districts.

The Union Minister, who hails from the state, is currently on a 'Jan Ashirwad Yatra' from Mumbai to Sindhudurg and the alleged comments came during a rally in Chiplun (Ratnagiri) on Monday night.

While Sena and its affiliated wings have reacted sharply to Rane's comments, the local BJP leaders sought to defend him saying it was made in a typical 'Thackeray-style language'. Even as the police beefed up security for



Rane's home in Mumbai, Sindhudurg and a resort where he was camping, his son Nitesh Rane said that they are consulting legal advisors in the matter. This is the second major brush between the former allies turned enemies BJP-Sena in a week. Last Wednesday, Sena activists 'cleaned and purified' the late Balasaheb Thackeray Memorial at Shivaji Park after Rane paid obeisance there prior to launching his yatra.

However, despite the police complaints, Rane's team has made it clear that the ongoing 'Yatra' will continue undisturbed till August 27 as originally planned.

Will Resolve Row With CBI On Anil Deshmukh Probe: Maharashtra To Court

The Maharashtra government had earlier claimed the documents sought by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) did not have any relevance to the agency's probe into allegations of corruption against NCP leader Anil Deshmukh.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Maharashtra government told the Bombay High Court on Tuesday that it would amicably resolve with CBI the issue of sharing documents with the central agency over its probe against former state home minister Anil Deshmukh.

The state government had earlier claimed the documents sought by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)

did not have any relevance to the agency's probe into allegations of corruption against NCP leader Deshmukh.

A division bench of Justices SS Shinde and NJ Jamadar was hearing an application filed by the CBI, alleging that the state government was not cooperating by refusing to hand over certain documents in connection with the probe against Deshmukh.

The court last week asked the state government to reconsider over the matter and asked it to inform if it was willing to share any documents.

Senior counsel Rafiq Dada, appearing for the state government, told the High Court's bench on Tuesday that



Anil Singh, who appears for the CBI. The bench then posted the matter for further hearing on August 26.

The CBI, in its application filed last month, said it had written a letter to the State Intelligence Department, seeking details of a communication sent by senior IPS officer Rashmi Shukla on the issue of corruption in

he had a meeting with senior government officials.

"We will be able to reconcile the matter. We will put an end to this hopefully," Dada said.

He told the court that a meeting would be held with Additional Solicitor General

police transfers and postings, but the SID refused to provide them, claiming they were part of an ongoing investigation.

On July 22, the high court held that the CBI can inquire the allegations of corruption in transfers and postings of police personnel limited to its nexus with Deshmukh, and had dismissed a petition filed by the Maharashtra government seeking that some parts of the central agency's FIR against the NCP leader be quashed. The CBI had on April 21 this year lodged an FIR against Deshmukh on charges of corruption and misuse of official position. The FIR was registered after the agency conducted a preliminary enquiry against Deshmukh following an order from the High Court on April 5.

Deshmukh, who resigned from his post in April following the allegations, has repeatedly denied any wrongdoing.

Protests erupt over Rane's 'slap' slur against Uddhav Thackeray, police cane protesters

Mumbai Police resorted to mild caning against protesters at Juhu as thousands of Shiv Sena and Bharatiya Janata Party workers staged vociferous eye-ball protests in Mumbai and all over Maharashtra flaying Union Minister Narayan Rane's 'slap' slur against Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray here on Tuesday.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Thousands of activists demonstrated outside the Bharatiya Janata Party's Central minister's residence at Juhu in Mumbai, other

places in Thane, Raigad, Pune, Nashik, Aurangabad, Ratnagiri and other towns, waving black flags, raising anti-Rane slogans and demanding his sacking from the Union Cabinet.

Simultaneously, Sena activists lodged at least three police complaints against Rane in Nashik, Raigad and Pune, seeking his arrest and prosecution for his purported remarks. In Mumbai, an irate Yuva Sena district president Amey Ghole retaliated by erecting a hoarding in Dadar with a picture of Rane and a cocky caption -- 'Kombdi Chor' (Chicken Thief), while angry Sainiks stoned BJP offices in some parts of the state. Reacting, the BJP activists also launched anti-Sena protests in Mumbai and other parts of the state, with workers of both parties coming face-to-face in some areas as the

police attempted to prevent any scuffles. The Union Minister, who hails from the state, is currently on a 'Jan Ashirwad Yatra' from Mumbai to Sindhudurg and the alleged comments came during a rally in Chiplun (Ratnagiri) on Monday night.

Even as the police beefed up security for Rane's home in Mumbai, Sindhudurg and a resort where he was camping, his son Nitesh Rane said that they are consulting legal advisors in the matter.

In guarded reactions, BJP State President Chandrakant Patil urged that "verbal wars should be fought with words only" and while he did "not endorse the remarks", accused the Maha Vikas Aghadi Government of "misusing power".

Ruling ally, Nationalist Congress Party all-India Spokesperson and Minister Nawab Malik castigated the

remarks, terming them as "not an insult to the CM, but to the people of Maharashtra", and attempts by the BJP to foment violence in the state as they did in West Bengal.

Congress Spokesperson Sachin Sawant said the BJP's attempts to undermine the MVA government will not succeed and "those BJP leaders who make such vulgar remarks need sympathy, restraint and mental treatment". This is the second major tiff between the former friends-turned-foes BJP-Sena in a week, further deepening the rift, amid speculation whether Rane could face stringent action from the police.

Last Wednesday, Sena activists 'cleaned and purified' the late Balasaheb Thackeray Memorial at Shivaji Park after Rane paid obeisance there prior to launching his yatra.

Action against Rane against constitutional values: BJP

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Condemning the arrest of Union minister Narayan Rane, the BJP said on Tuesday that the Maharashtra government's action goes against constitutional values.

The Maharashtra Police on Tuesday afternoon arrested Rane for his 'slap' slur against Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, even as agitated Shiv Sena workers protested vociferously all over the state. Rane had allegedly threatened to 'slap' Uddhav Thackeray, sparking fresh tension between the BJP and the Shiv Sena. The Maharashtra police arrested Rane from Sangameswar in Ratnagiri in the Konkan region of the state.

Reacting to the arrest of Rane, BJP chief J.P. Nadda said in a social media post, "The arrest of Union Minister Narayan Rane ji by the Maharashtra government is a violation of constitutional values. We will neither be scared nor suppressed by such action. These people are troubled by the immense support the BJP is

getting in the 'Jan Ashirwad Yatra'. We will continue to fight democratically and the Yatra will go on."

Former Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis tweeted, "Action against Union Minister Narayanrao Rane is absolute vendetta. We strongly condemn this gross misuse of police force and suppression. Sharjeel Usmani is free but Narayan Rane is arrested. This is their 'Hindutva' and this is what Maharashtra looks like." Condemning the arrest of Rane, BJP national General Secretary and Maharashtra in-charge CT Ravi said, "I strongly condemn the arrest of Union minister and senior leader Rane by the 'Maha Vasooli Aghadi' government. Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray is behaving like a dictator who is protecting the corrupt while arresting those who question it." Condemning the 'barbaric manner' of Rane's arrest, Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs, Arjun Ram Meghwal, said that the BJP will continue to fight for safeguarding democratic values.

BJP 'hugs' Rane, but minus 'slap slur' against Thackeray

The Bharatiya Janata Party on Tuesday unequivocally rejected Union MSME Minister Narayan Rane's 'slap slur' comments against Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Simultaneously, the Leader of Opposition Devendra Fadnavis said that the party stands solidly behind Rane and accused the Maha Vikas Aghadi government of 'misusing' the police to target the BJP leaders.

Addressing the media, he said that the party does not endorse Rane's comment threatening to 'slap' the CM, but also would not tolerate any attempts by the MVA government to slap 'cognisable offences' against the Union Minister.

"The statements may attract non-cognisable charges, but they are illegally trying to make it 'cognisable' and police teams have been despatched to act against Rane. This will not stand in the courts," Fadnavis asserted.

He further said that if Rane is arrested, the ongoing 'Jan Ashirwad Yatra' will not be halt-



ed and it would be continued forward by others like Leader of Opposition (Council) Pravin Darekar, Ashish Shelar, etc.

"The government is taking prompt steps against Rane. But they did not show such speed to act vis-a-vis Sharjeel Usman who abused Bharat Mata and Hindutva in Maharashtra. The (MVA) has no courage" Fadnavis said. The reference was to the Aligarh Muslim University student and anti-CAA activist who is facing a case under Pune Police for his statements on January

30 this year at an Elgar Parishad meeting. Fadnavis' comments came amid an all out agitation triggered by Rane's statement of Monday night, with Shiv Sena and BJP activists coming in direct confrontation and police resorting to mild caning to control them. Responding to Sena challenges that he would not be allowed to step out of Chiplun around in his Yatra, Rane dared anybody to come and stop him from moving around in his processions. "They can do nothing. If they have the guts, ask them to

come and see me. I am still going around freely, no?" Rane retorted sharply. As the ruling MVA partners Shiv Sena-Nationalist Congress Party-Congress stuck together, Sena activists staged massive demonstrations in Mumbai, Thane, Pune, Raigad, Ratnagiri, Nashik, Aurangabad, Kolhapur, Nagpur, Amravati and other places. Sena activists agitated by stone-pelting or vandalism at BJP offices, a mall allegedly linked with Rane in Pune, road blocks, tearing off BJP banners or hoardings, burning his effigies, carrying hens and beating his photos with shoes, sit-ins, a letter to the Prime Minister asking him to sack him, and offers to 'bear the full cost of mental treatment' for Rane at the Thane Mental Asylum.

Fadnavis issued a veiled warning that if the BJP offices were targeted and the police remained mute spectators, there would be repercussions as the BJP activists are also street-fighters who are fully capable of protecting themselves, but urged for restraint.

BJP state President Chandrakant Patil distanced himself from Rane's comments, while Republican Party of India (A) President and Union MoS Ramdas Athawale pointed out that "Rane is a product of Shiv Sena and spoke the language they

Sex Racket busted, Minor Rescued

One person have been arrested and police are investigating to find out involvement of others.

Team Absolute | Nagpur

A minor girl and a 27-year-old woman were rescued after police busted a sex racket operating from a salon near Medical chowk in Nagpur city of Maharashtra. One person has been arrested in this case. The police conducted the raid following a tip-off from the locals.

"One of the rescued girls is only 17-year-old. We have registered a case against the arrested accused under several sections of Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Immoral Traffic Prevention Act," said an officer of the Imambada police station.

The officer further added that the locals provided us inputs that a sex racket was being operated from a salon. "Locals called us and informed that they suspect a sex racket was being oper-

ated on pretext of a salon," said a police officer.

The officer added that on receiving several inputs about the salon, a team was formed. "A raiding team including female officers was formed. We raided the salon and rescued two girls and arrested one. We recovered several objectionable materials from the salon," added the officer.

The police are also investigating to find out the involvement of other people in the case. Last month in yet another similar incident police rescued four women after conducting a raid at a chawl in Vasai town of Palghar district. Two people including a transgender were arrested for forcing the women into prostitution. These women had lost their jobs due to the Covid-19 lockdown.



EDITOR'S SPECS

Janmashtami without Dahi Handi

Emphasising the priority to human lives, the Maharashtra government on Monday declined permission for multi-tiered 'human pyramids' to various dahi-handi groups to celebrate the festival next week. The decision was taken at a meeting of the Dahi-Handi Coordination Committee with Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar, cabinet ministers, MLAs and top officials. While a majority of the dahi-handi organisers have agreed to comply with the government directives, the opposition Bharatiya Janata Party and Maharashtra Navnirman Sena leaders have strongly criticised the move to restrict the celebrations. The government reiterated that the state has just recovered from the 7-month long Covid-19 second wave, and cited the NITI Aayog's latest precautionary warning on the upcoming 'third wave' which can hit children in a big way. The govt pointed out how some people agitate against Covid-19 restrictions and said that such people should think of the people first since the world has had a bitter experience with the coronavirus. Even countries where both doses of vaccinations are given, restrictions are being imposed again as the third wave has wreaked havoc, so Maharashtra would need to be very careful. Government urged all the organisers to cooperate since the ongoing Delta Plus variants is deadly and spreading fast, and if it gets out of hand, the achievements of the past 18 months would be wasted. BJP and MNS leaders slammed the Maha Vikas Aghadi government for not permitting the festivities with full protocols in respective localities instead of the 'Govinda' troupes moving around to participate in competitions. Mumbai is renowned for the some of the most ostentatious, colourful and tall multi-tiered human pyramids of six to nine levels, during Dahi-Handi, with separate troupes of women, children, and foreigners participating.

REGROUPING OF TERROR OUTFITS MAY DISTURB PEACE IN J&K

Vinod Kumar

Everyday something or the other is reported about atrocities being committed by Taliban fighters in Afghanistan. They have reportedly asked the US to vacate Afghanistan before August 31. They threatened the US Army of dire consequence if it fails to abide by the dictate of the Taliban. This is just the beginning as the Taliban taking over Afghanistan is not only troublesome for the country of its origin but also a global threat which has been proved time and again. Taliban terrorists in Afghanistan are up to their best at the moment they are known for. Killing innocent people for lame excuses, curtailing civil rights, women being forced to follow all kinds of coercive restrictions besides having their own sets of rules in the name of Sharia. These things have become new normal in the country that has got a new master in the name of Taliban. They also entered the Indian embassy and consulate when they were closed and not a single official was present there indicating their respect for the sovereignty of other nations because embassies are sovereign entities. There are many governments, international agencies and organisations to take note of that but a Taliban government or continuous war in Afghanistan will be detrimental for India which is facing a terror menace for a long time. The Government of India that has been successful in curbing terrorist activities in Jammu and Kashmir and its spillover effect across the country will have to redraw its strategy to deal with the present development in Afghanistan. Peace that has gradually started setting in Jammu and Kashmir will have a new threat from these developments beyond the Durand line. The government in India has

been successful to the large extent in curbing the terrorist activities in Jammu and Kashmir. It is a well-known fact that cross-border terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh is the main cause of concern for India with terrorists sneaking into India from Pakistan but with Afghanistan becoming a new terror heaven after Taliban has taken over the country, India needs to re-strategize its Jammu & Kashmir policy. Mercenaries from Syria, Sudan, Egypt, Libya and many other parts of the world will turn to Afghanistan to consolidate the Taliban and to claim their share of the pie. Islamic terrorist organization Islamic State (IS) and Islamic State Iraq and the Levant - Khorasan (ISIL-Khorasan) are also a cause of concern that was raised by External Affairs minister of India S Jaishankar in the UNSC emergency meeting. The US too has accepted the potent threat of these organisations. Moreover, terrorist organizations of Pakistan may get shelter in Afghanistan as there is pressure on Pakistan due to the Financial Action Task Force which has crippled Pakistan to rear terrorist organisations on its land. With countries like Pakistan, China and even Russia giving legitimacy to the Taliban government in some way or the other way, the Government of India needs to tread very cautiously as certainly it has trade and many other interests in the region but security is the major cause of concern. The issue of Jammu and Kashmir which is seeing a new dawn of peace after Article 370 and 35A was made inoperative might witness a surge of terrorist incidents in view of developments in Afghanistan. Pakistan will leave no stone unturned to destabilize the region as its every nefarious attempt to disrupt peace in the region was foiled so far in the past. Foreign mercenaries are neutralized



in Jammu and Kashmir with the help of security forces. But once the battle in Afghanistan is over, mercenaries will be sent to Jammu and Kashmir to help radicalized youths in the state to execute terrorist activities that are being done by banned outfit Jamaat e Islami (JeI). After Jamaat e Islami was banned in the newly carved out Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh as UTs, the organization has reportedly shifted its base in the remote areas of the UT from its urban centres to avoid glare of the security forces. But they are continuing with their agenda in a changed manner by radicalizing tender minds. This is a big challenge for the Indian security forces and other security apparatus of the country. If the government is trying to resume democratic process in Jammu and Kashmir with peace being the first condition, then attempts are also being made in J&K to intensify terrorist activities which is reflected in the killings of Ghulam Rasool Dar and his wife, killing a two-year-old girl in a grenade attack, killing of some other

BJP workers, killing of Rakesh Pandita and many more such incidences. Regional political outfits of J&K and radical organisations have become irrelevant due to them being exposed for corruption, nepotism, blocking terror funding and banning organisations like Jamaat e Islami. This old order is collapsing fast in J&K. Apparently, there was laxity on part of the government to take the matter of JeI to its logical end. Ban on JeI appeared to be an ad hoc move and random counter terror measure. The organisation like JeI is well equipped in eluding the official ban by going into hibernation and re-consolidate themselves when things become suitable for it. This is exactly what it did in Kashmir. They stopped some of their activities and also stopped roaming around with Islamic appearances. They continued their work undercover. Reportedly, they are in touch terror networks with Turkey and Muslim

brotherhood of Egypt. They will certainly play a major role in creating unrest and in intensifying militancy the way they were doing in the past. With the Taliban taking over reins in Afghanistan, the situation will be congenial for extremist and separatist elements in Jammu and Kashmir. India must also be ready to deal with more intense operations resulting from possible strengthening of ties between Kashmir-centric terror groups and the transnational Terror Groups like Taliban, ISKP and Al Qaeda. The information war is yet another instrument in their hand that they have been using very aggressively. So, the government must be ready to deal with these elements for the betterment of Kashmir in particular and goodness of the country in general. (Writer is a freelance journalist based at Delhi. The views expressed are personal)

international

UK PM TO URGE G-7 LEADERS TO STEP UP SUPPORT FOR AFGHANS

London | Agencies

UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson is to urge the world leaders at a virtual G-7 meeting to step up support for refugees fleeing the Taliban in Afghanistan. Johnson will chair a G-7 Leaders' meeting on Tuesday afternoon. He will call for an increase in aid, and promise "to use every humanitarian and diplomatic lever" to protect human rights in the country, reports the BBC. Ahead of the meeting, Johnson has said that the first priority should be "to complete the evacuation of our citizens and those Afghans who have assisted our efforts over the last 20 years". "As we look ahead to the next

phase, it's vital we come together as an international community and agree on a joint approach for the longer term," he added. The British Prime Minister would also ask the US President Joe Biden to extend the 31 August deadline for withdrawing the troops from the war-weary country. It comes amid a race to evacuate thousands from Kabul airport. The UK, France and Germany have all raised the possibility of US forces staying beyond the end of August to continue the airlift, and reports suggest Mr Biden will decide within the next 24 hours whether to push back the deadline. However, a Pentagon spokesman said on Monday the US's focus remained "getting this done by the end of the month". Meanwhile, the Taliban has said

that any extension would be a "clear violation" of an agreed deal. More than 7,000 people have now been flown out of Kabul on RAF flights since 13 August -- but UK ministers have been clear that British forces in Kabul cannot stay once the Americans have left. The UK and US say they will work together to allow eligible people to leave when the current phase of the operation ends. The UK Prime Minister and the US President had committed to "driving international action" to stabilise the situation, support the Afghan people and "work towards an inclusive and representative Afghan government". The UN's Human Rights Council will also hold its own emergency session on Afghanistan on Tuesday.

CHINA HITS OUT AT US OVER AFGHAN WITHDRAWAL

Beijing: Hitting out at the US for its withdrawal from Afghanistan, China accused Washington of having "selfish" foreign policy priorities. It said that the US had used the rhetoric of a rules-based global order to defend its own "bullying, hegemonic behaviour", reports the BBC. "The US can wantonly conduct military intervention in a sovereign country and does not need to be responsible for the suffering of the people in that country," China's Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin told a press briefing. "The US can arbitrarily smear, suppress, coerce and bully other countries without paying any price," he added. China has called at the meeting of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva for the US, UK, and other countries to "be held accountable for the violation of human rights committed by their military in Afghanistan". However, US President Joe Biden, in a press briefing last week had defended the move to pull out troops from Afghanistan. Biden had said that he stands "squarely" behind the US exit from Afghanistan.

South Korea, Russia discuss peninsula peace process

Seoul | Agencies

Nuclear envoys of South Korea and Russia discussed the Korean Peninsula issues, and agreed to continue close consultations for the progress of the peace process in the peninsula. Noh Kyu-duk, South Korea's special representative for Korean Peninsula peace and security affairs, held a meeting with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Morgulov who arrived here on Saturday for a six-day trip, reports Xinhua news agency. The South Korean Foreign Ministry said on Tuesday that Noh and Morgulov exchanged opinions on the entire peninsula situation, discussing bilateral cooperation for progress in the complete denuclearization of and permanent peace settlement on the peninsula. Noh assessed Russia's support and cooperation for progress in inter-Korean cooperation and the resumption of dialogue between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and the United States. The South Korean diplomat called on



Russia to play a constructive role in the DPRK's return to dialogue. Morgulov shared the need for a rapid resumption of dialogues involving relevant countries, including those between the DPRK and the United States and between South Korea and the DPRK, and the importance of sustaining stability on the peninsula and in the region. He reaffirmed Russia's willingness to play its constructive role in the peaceful settlement of the peninsula issues. The two diplomats agreed to continue close consultations for the progress of the Korean Peninsula peace process.

Kamala Harris slams Beijing for 'coercion' in South China Sea

Singapore | Agencies

US Vice President Kamala Harris has accused Beijing of coercion and intimidation in the South China Sea, adding that the US would "stand with our allies in the face of threats". The remark by the US Vice President was made during a speech made in Singapore on the first leg of a South East Asian tour. Harris' trip is seen as an attempt to reaffirm US commitment to the region, reports the BBC. She also talked about the US pull-out from Afghanistan, where she insisted the decision was "courageous and right". On China, Harris criticised its claims "to the vast majority of the South China Sea," which she said were based on intimidation and coercion. "These unlawful claims have been rejected by the 2016 arbitral tribunal decision and Beijing's



actions continue to undermine the rules-based order and threaten the sovereignty of nations," the BBC quoted her as saying. Harris was referring to a landmark legal victory the Philippines won over China, concerning territorial incursions in the South China sea. Since 2012, and despite the tribunal ruling, there has been a constant Chinese Coastguard presence there - with Filipino fishermen reporting harassment by the authorities. In recent years, China has been increasingly assertive over what it says are centuries-old rights to the contested region, and has been rapidly building up its military presence to back up those claims.

Trade between Afghanistan, Pakistan increases by 50% after Taliban takeover

Kabul | Agencies

Trade between Afghanistan and Pakistan has risen by 50 per cent in the past week as the Taliban now hold control over Afghanistan's borders and dry ports. Afghanistan's chamber of commerce and industry said that despite the problems in transit, trade has gone up, local media reports said. Deputy of the chamber Khan Jan Alokozai said because of the closure of banks the problems in the transit sector are still visible but the exports of Afghanistan and imports of Pakistan have seen a rise. Meanwhile, members of Afghanistan's chamber of commerce and investment also met with the members of the Taliban on Monday, August 23, and shared the problems of the private sector and the Taliban assured to solve them. Iran has also said that the export of gas and oil has been increased after the Taliban asked the country



to. Spokesperson of Afghanistan Islamic Emirate AIE Zabullah Mujahid in a gathering on Monday said that they are focused on the economic situation and are working hard to implement the schemes they have prepared. In a rare move, AIE's commis-

Afghanistan: Spain warns that people will be left behind

Madrid | Agencies

Amidst the rush to evacuate its citizens from war-torn Kabul, Spain has issued a warning saying that it will not be able to evacuate all Afghans who served in Spanish missions or worked with its government. Speaking to a prominent Spanish radio network on Tuesday, Defence Minister Margarita Robles said that the country will evacuate as many people as possible but there are people who will be left behind due to the "dramatic" situation on the ground. Earlier in the day, her UK counterpart Ben Wallace issued a similar warning. "Not everyone would be evacuated before the 31 August deadline agreed with the Taliban," a report by the BBC quoted Wallace as saying. "We have taken out 2,000 people in the last 24 hours and 10,000 since April," Wallace said. "Our focus is to get as many people out, but the scale of the challenge means that not everyone will get out. We are ruthlessly prioritising people," he alerted. Foreign forces are facing a looming August 31 deadline to get all troops out of Afghanistan, including the remaining US forces that are currently controlling Kabul airport. The Taliban have warned of 'consequences' if foreign forces remain in the country after August 31.





IS JLO SET TO RECEIVE HER SIXTH ENGAGEMENT RING?

Los Angeles | Agencies

Ben Affleck browsed engagement rings at a Tiffany & Co store in Los Angeles on Friday, hinting at the possibility of proposing to Jennifer Lopez for a second time. As reported by Page Six, the 49-year-

old took notes in the store while joined by his mother Chris and his children Violet, 15, Seraphina, 12, and Samuel, nine, shared with ex-wife Jennifer Garner.

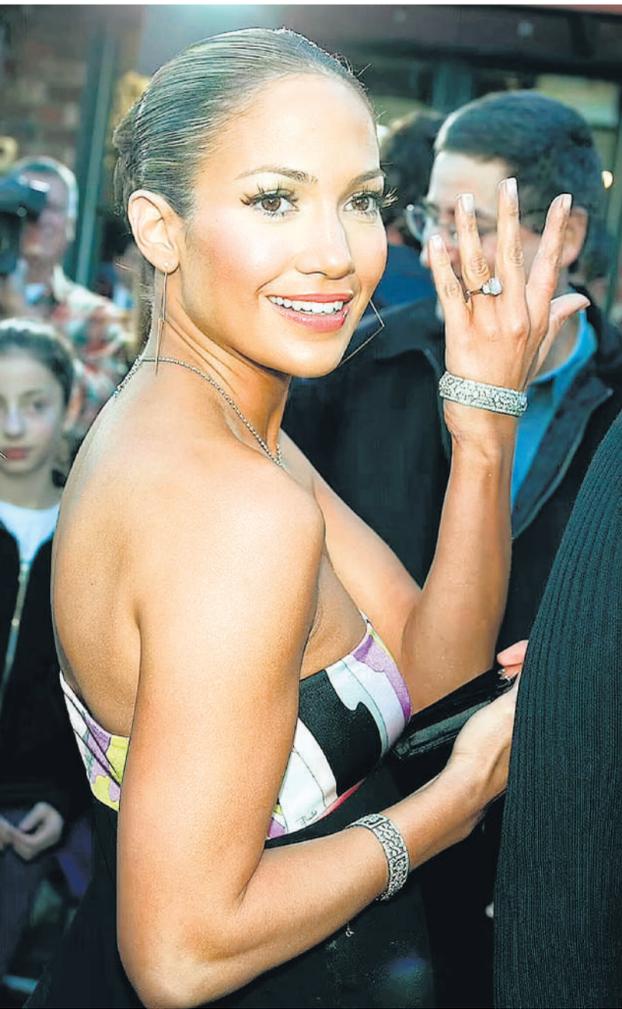
Ben proposed to J.Lo back in 2002 with a show-stopping engagement ring from Harry Winston, now reportedly

worth an estimated \$12million USD (£8.8million). They split in 2003 and were pictured back together for the first time in May this year.

When Ben first asked Jennifer to marry him back in 2002, he gave her a 6.1-carat pink diamond in a radiant cut that cost a reported \$1.2million USD -

and it turned out to be quite the investment.

Not only is the couple back together, but the ring is also believed to be worth ten times more than it was nearly two decades ago as the price of the rare coloured diamond has soared.



Why No Big Wedding!

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Anna Faris shared that she tied the knot with the cinematographer Michael Barrett in secret in July, and explained that she chose to elope rather than have a huge wedding ceremony because of her 'age'.

Faris has been married twice before to actor Ben Indra from 2004 to 2008, and to actor Chris Pratt from 2009 until 2018.

"It's been awesome, we're really happy," Faris told Page Six while at LAX. Talking about why she and Barrett eloped, she added, "I think with a little

bit of age, you don't necessarily need the whole thing. (It was) just us." The actress earlier spoke about marrying Barrett on her podcast in July, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

She said, "I'm looking around ... my fiancé's right ... he's now my husband. Yes, we eloped. It was awesome, yeah, it was great. It was at a local courthouse up in Washington State, it was great." Faris added that she and Barrett had an "immediate kind of intimacy".



Los Angeles | Agencies

Academy award-winning actor Emma Stone will be seen playing the title role in the film 'Cruella'. She described the character as "fun and intoxicating".

Talking about how she bagged the role, Stone said, "I met with the folks at Disney. They were playing around with the idea of an origin story of Cruella de Vil and wanted to know if I would be interested."

She added, "There was a lot to figure out and to see if

it made sense to tell a story about her. But the character's so much fun and so intoxicating, they had an interest in finding what that story could be." Stone said that it is fun to "see the origins of Cruella".

"And we've had fun exploring what makes a villain. How people can be affected by the events that have happened in their lives, or how they can choose to kind of crumble underneath the weight of something, or rise up above it and maybe, not always, take

it to the best or most 'moralistic' place."

Releasing on August 27, 'Cruella' will be released in Hindi, Tamil and Telugu on Disney+ Hotstar Premium and Disney+ Hotstar VIP.



Emma Stone: Fun to see the 'origins of Cruella'

HUGH JACKMAN, REBECCA FERGUSON ON WORKING WITH LISA JOY ON 'REMINISCENCE'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actors Hugh Jackman and Rebecca Ferguson have talked about working with filmmaker Lisa Joy in the upcoming film 'Reminiscence'.

Joy, who earlier co-created and directed 'Westworld', makes her feature film directing debut with 'Reminiscence' and directs from her own original screenplay. Jackman said, "When I met with Lisa, she had shown me some of the visuals and I understood what the movie was about in general, but I hadn't seen the script. And I was already excited about it. I was excited about the world of the film."

The film is about a private investigator of the mind, who navigates the darkly alluring world of the past by helping his clients access lost memories.

Ferguson says, "Lisa's way of writing - there's a poetry, a musicality without sounding ridiculous. It makes me, as an actor, want to be absolutely truthful to each and every word. I think, other than the writing, the first thing I fell in love with was that Mae was portrayed in many different ways. She's portrayed through others' ideas of her."

Warner Bros Pictures is all set to release 'Reminiscence' in select cities on August 27.



Sofia Vergara 'educated' herself after cancer scare

Los Angeles | Agencies

'Modern Family' star Sofia Vergara was diagnosed with thyroid cancer at the age of 28, and she handled the shock news by educating herself about the condition.

"At 28 years old during a routine doctor's visit, my doctor felt a lump in my neck. They did a lot of tests and told finally me I had thyroid cancer," Vergara said during the 'Stand Up To Cancer' telethon.

She added, "When you're young and you hear that word 'Cancer', your mind goes to so many places but I tried not to panic and I decided to get educated. I read every book and found out everything I could about it. I was fortunate to have caught it early and to have the support of my doctors and most importantly, my family."

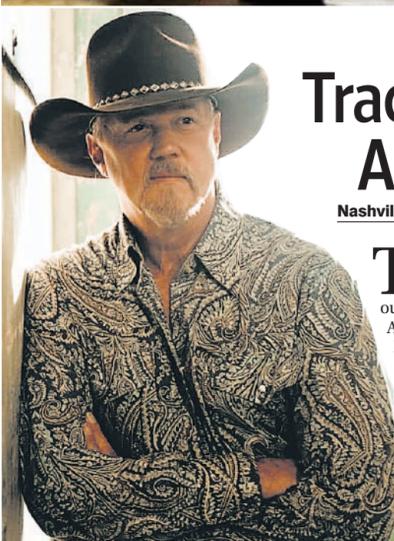
The 49-year-old actress believes she learned a lot from her health scare.



ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Joanna Chimonides



Trace Adkins to perform at ACM Honours on Aug 25

Nashville | Agencies

Trace Adkins and Sarah Trahern are all set to perform at the 14th Annual Academy of Country Music Honours on August 25. ACM Honours is a live event held after the ACM Awards show, dedicated to celebrating special award honourees, off-camera category winners, and ACM Industry and Studio Recording Awards. The ACM Honours will be hosted by two-time ACM award winner Carly Pearce. The line-up of artists confirmed to perform at the ACM Honours include Lauren Alaina, Devin Dawson, Jessie Jo Dillon, Ronnie Dunn, Sara Evans, Nicolle Galyon, HARDY, Alan Jackson, Chris Janson, Lady A, Ashley McBryde, Carly Pearce, Raelynn, Jordan Reynolds, Brittney Spencer, Keith Urban, Laura Veltz, Sam Williams, and Lee Ann Womack.

Special awards recipients to be celebrated at the 14th Annual ACM Honours include Ken Burns' Country Music, RAC Clark, Luke Combs, Ross Copperman, Dan + Shay, Rascal Flatts, Joe Galante, Toby Keith, Lady A, Loretta Lynn, Gretchen Peters, and Curly Putman. The event will take place on August 25 at Nashville's historic Ryman Auditorium and will be live-streamed on Circle Network's social media channels.



Paralympics declared open, Tek Chand leads Indian contingent

Tokyo | Agencies

A little one-winged plane who dreams of taking to the sky but has to cross many hurdles before it succeeds - depicting the internal and external struggles of a physically challenged person - formed the core theme of a technically well-orchestrated ceremony at which Japanese Emperor Naruhito declared the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games open on Tuesday.

The Little One-Winged Plane, with several people helping her set up her dream by preparing the runway, fuelling her dream, made it to the centre stage soon after the ceremony started, and remained part of the narrative till it achieved its dream accompanied by a big musical number with musicians and dancers with varying impairments at the heart of it.

And for the nearly three-hour opening ceremony, the Little One-Winged Plane depicted the life story of a majority of the 4,403 athletes from 162 territories that have gathered in Tokyo for the Paralympic Games despite the health scare caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. Representatives from 162 nations and a team of refugees walked into the Olympic Stadium, which had witnessed an opening ceremony for the Olympics a few weeks back, keeping the focus on the athletes who will be getting into the field searching for medals. The Indian contingent at the Parade was led by javelin thrower Tek Chand, who came in as a late-minute replacement as the organising committee asked India's original flag bearer



MariyappanThangavelu to go into isolation because he had come in close contact with a Covid-positive person during his flight from India to Japan. Only a limited number of Indian athletes and officials participated in the ceremony. Six athletes, along with Mariyappan, are in quarantine. The Parade was led by the Refugee Paralympic Team and ended with Japan stepping in last for the Games held after the pandemic. China, which is participating in the Summer Paralympics for the 10th consecutive time, has sent a delegation of 251 ath-

letes - 132 female and 119 male - with the oldest athlete being 56 years old and the youngest 16 years old. The Chinese will compete in 20 of the 22 sports.

AFGHANISTAN FLAG INCLUDED IN OPENING CEREMONY

Though no athlete was representing Afghanistan, the International Paralympic Committee broke tradition and included the country's flag in the opening ceremony as a gesture of "solidarity and peace".

Afghanistan's flag was carried by a Tokyo 2020 volunteer, who was accompanied by a United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees representative. Two athletes were to represent Afghanistan in Tokyo but they could not make it because of the chaos caused by Taliban taking over of their country.

FIVE COUNTRIES MAKE PARALYMPIC DEBUT

Five countries made their Paralympic Games debut as a total of 162 nations and a delegation of refugees took part in the parade during the Opening Ceremony for Tokyo 2020 Games. The new entrants into the Paralympic family at Tokyo are Bhutan, the Maldives, Grenada, Paraguay, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. A total of 21 countries, members of the International Paralympic Committee (IPC), decided not to participate this year - either because of the travel restrictions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic or because no athlete managed to qualify for the Games.

Asian Youth Boxing: Suresh, three other Indians in semifinals



Dubai | Agencies

Vishvanath Suresh and three other Indian men boxers made it to the semifinals on the fourth day of the ASBC Asian Youth & Junior Boxing Championships here on Tuesday.

Vanshraj (64kg), Daksh Singh (67kg) and JaydeepRawat (71kg) were the other three pugilists to enter the last-4 stage and confirm medals for the country. Vishvanath gave India a perfect start to the day as he outperformed

ZholbborosovAmantur in the men's 48kg quarterfinal and secured a dominating 5-0 win. The Kyrgyz boxer Zholbborosov was no match for Vishvanath as the Indian, showing tactical brilliance and great power, held advantage over his opponent throughout the match.

Vanshaj too claimed an identical victory against Tajikistan's MakhkamovDovud while Jaydeep was declared the winner with Referee Stopping the Contest (RSC) in the second round against the local boy Eissa Mohammed

Alkurdi. On the other hand, Daksh had to fight hard against Kyrgyzstan's TurdubaevEldar during his split 4-1 victory. Meanwhile, Victor Shaikhom Singh (54kg), Vijay Singh (57kg) and Rabichandra Singh (60kg) couldn't manage to progress as they suffered defeats in their respective quarterfinals.

Having already secured themselves and the country medals, seven Indian junior pugilists, including four girls, will aim for a spot in the final as they will fight in the semifinals on Day 5 of the prestigious continental event, in which both the age groups - junior and youth - are being played together for the first time. Among boys, RohitChamolli (48kg), Ankush (66kg) and Bharat Joon (+81kg) will be seen in action while Muskan (46kg), DevikaGhorpade (50kg), Aarzo (54kg) and SupriyaRawat (66kg) will fight in the girls' category.

WTA rankings: Teichmann jumps 32 places, Barty consolidates position at top



London: World No.1 tennis player Ashleigh Barty cemented her place at the top of the WTA rankings, while Swiss player JilTeichmann, who lost to the Australian world No. 1 in the Western & Southern Open final in Cincinnati on Sunday, made a massive leap of 32 ranking spots - from world No. 76 to 44 - following her giant-killing spree in the WTA 1000 event.

Teichmann had stunned world No.2 Naomi Osaka in the round of 16 for her biggest career win by ranking. She then notched a quarterfinal victory over 12th-ranked Belinda Bencic, her countrywoman and the reigning Olympic champion, and then dispatched No. 5 seed Karolina Pliskova of the Czech Republic in the semifinal in Cincinnati - a WTA 1000 tournament - to set up a title clash with Barty. Meanwhile, Barty's reign atop the WTA rankings continues. She enters her 83rd consecutive week and 90th overall atop the rankings, the ninth most all time. Barty will need to protect her No.1 ranking for another eight weeks to equal American Lindsay Davenport's 98 weeks at No.1 in order to move into eighth place.

By winning the title in Cincinnati, Barty added 900 ranking points and extended her lead at the top to 3,175 points ahead of world No.2 ArynaSabalenka of Belarus, who this week moved up to her career high No. 2.

is the biggest reason behind why I could win the 2019 FIH Rising Star of the Year Award and also stand a chance to win the accolade for the second time," added Prasad. On the bronze-medal performance in Tokyo, Prasad said that it was just the beginning of the resurgence of Indian hockey.

"However, we also need to realise that this is just the beginning, and there's still a lot of room for improvement. We have raised the bar, and we have to do even better. There will be more challenges ahead, and we need to be fully prepared for whatever comes our way."

BUOYANT INDIA HAVE TAIL UP AGAINST DEPLETED ENGLAND

Leeds | Agencies

The Indian Test team returns to Headingley after 19 years, buoyant and hopeful of taking a 2-0 unbeatable lead with a win in the third Test that begins on Wednesday against an England that is struggling on multiple fronts.

India lead the series 1-0 after two Tests. The first one at Trent Bridge, Nottingham, was drawn while the tourists won the second at Lord's, London, by 151 runs.

India, despite three of their most experienced batsmen - CheteshwarPujara, skipper ViratKohli and AjinkyaRahane - failing to notch up with big scores and being easy meat, have the advantage thanks to opener K.L. Rahul's form and the pace bowling attack.

Rahul and the pace bowlers have shone in the first two Tests. Bowlers JaspritBumrah and Mohammed Shami haven't just taken wickets but also scored important runs in the second innings of the second

Test that eventually won India the match.

Unlike India, England's batting has struggled with only skipper Joe Root putting up scores of note. They've had to bring in Dawid Malan, who was otherwise considered a white ball specialist and have already removed two of the top three batsmen that started the series. Zak Crawley and Dominic Sibley, who both were openers at the start of the series, are already out. But what has made matters worse is injuries to the leading bowlers. As if injuries to Jofra Archer, Ben Stokes (a pace bowling all-rounder and an X-factor player), Chris Woakes, Stuart Broad and Ollie Stone weren't enough, England have lost the services of Mark Wood, who is out of the third Test due to a shoulder injury.

England have called up

3RD TEST:



Saqib Mahmood, who is likely to get a look-in for the third Test.

The host wouldn't have been in such a poor situation had they held their nerve in the second Test. As ViratKohli's men tempted them into losing temper, they walked into the trap and handed the advantage back to India in the first session of the fifth and final day.

Though Joe Root, who will be playing at his home ground, has promised that they will let India play the way they want to and will focus on their own style of play, it remains to be seen if England have within them the ability to overcome the setback at Lord's in the second Test and win the series.

There have been six matches between the two sides at the venue with England winning three and

India two.

India squad:Rohit Sharma, KL Rahul, CheteshwarPujara, ViratKohli (Captain), AjinkyaRahane (vice-captain), Rishabh Pant (wicket-keeper), R. Ashwin, RavindraJadeja, Axar Patel, JaspritBumrah, Ishant Sharma, Mohammed Shami, Mohammed Siraj, Shardul Thakur, Umesh Yadav, WriddhimanSaha, Prithvi Shaw, Suryakumar Yadav, Mayank Agarwal, HanumaVihari, Abhimanyu Easwaran, Prasidh Krishna, ArzanNagwaswalla.

England squad: Joe Root (captain), Moeen Ali, James Anderson, Jonathan Bairstow, Rory Burns, Jos Buttler, Sam Curran, Haseeb Hameed, Dan Lawrence, Saqib Mahmood, Dawid Malan, Craig Overton, Ollie Pope, Ollie Robinson, Mark Wood.

Afghanistan's ODI series moved from Sri Lanka to Pakistan

Colombo | Agencies

Logistical issues related to air travel and the 10-day lockdown imposed in Sri Lanka has forced the Afghanistan-Pakistan ODI series to be moved from Sri Lanka to Pakistan. The three-match series will start from September 3 and the venue will be decided in a day or two.

The series, which was to be held in Hambantota in Sri Lanka has been moved to Pakistan as the Afghanistan



Cricket Board (ACB) was finding it difficult to arrange for the team's travel from Kabul to Sri Lanka after the Taliban took control of the country and the resultant chaos disrupted air travel, according to a report in espn-cricinfo. The Afghanistan team that has assembled in Kabul was to travel by road to Pakistan and fly to Dubai from where it was to take another flight to Colombo. The team will now travel to Pakistan by road later this week.

Bengaluru FC, Maziya look to finish AFC Cup campaign on a high

Male (Maldives) | Agencies

With an aim to finish their campaign on a positive note, both Indian Super League (ISL) side Bengaluru FC and Maldives' Maziya Sports & Recreation will lock horns in their AFC Cup Group D South Zone encounter at the National Football Stadium in Male, Maldives later on Tuesday evening.

Bengaluru FC are already out of the inter-zone semifinal reckoning having lost to fellow ISL side ATK Mohun Bagan 2-0 in their opener and then split the points against Bashundhara Kings in their last game after a goal-less draw. Like Bengaluru FC, Maziya are out of the reckoning having been beaten by both Bashundhara Kings and ATK Mohun Bagan in their previous games.

Barring the last 20 minutes against the Kings, Bengaluru FC have been sub-standard so far in the competition, particularly in the final third

where both Cleiton Silva and skipper Sunil Chhetri have



failed to deliver the goods. Youngsters Naorem Singh, Bidyashagar Singh and Danish Farooq, however, showed a lot of promise against the Kings. As far as Maziya are concerned, they dominated ATK Mohun Bagan in the first half and even took the lead in the 25th minute through Aisam Ibrahim.

"We're highly motivated to finish well in this tourna-

ment. We had a good game, created a lot of chances and I think we deserved to win (against the Kings). One thing we know is that the Maziya team played two games and lost, but we need to respect them. We need to focus on our style. From the game against the team from Nepal (Tribhuvan Army FC), we have made several steps," said Bengaluru FC head coach Marco Pezzaioli.



'Bronze medal in hockey just the beginning, room for improvement'

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Indian men's hockey team midfielder, VivekSagar Prasad, who has been shortlisted for the (international hockey federation) FIH Rising Star of the Year Award 2020/21 said on Tuesday that it was a "surreal feeling" to have been nominated for the second time in the same category.

The youngster was instrumental in the team's bronze medal-winning feat at the Tokyo Olympics. Speaking about the feeling of becoming an Olympic medalist at the age of 21, Prasad said, "It hasn't really sunk in yet. I still can't believe I was part of the Olympic medal-winning team. It's a dream of every athlete, and I am really blessed to be able to

live this dream at the age of 21."

This is the second time Prasad has been nominated for the honour after winning the FIH Rising Star of the Year Award in 2019/2020.

"I never imagined this would happen again. It's a surreal feeling to have been nominated for the second time in the same category (FIH Rising Star of the Year Awards). I got to know this late in the night when I saw texts from my friends congratulating me for this. To be honest, it's really overwhelming."

The midfielder added that his seniors had a big role to play in his achievements.

"It's the result of teamwork and the support of senior players. Since my debut, senior players have been the biggest source of my motivation. They have helped me play my natural game without any fear and pressure, and that

Jamshedpur FC sign three-year deal with Laldinpuia



New Delhi: Jamshedpur FC have signed PC Laldinpuia for the upcoming season of the Indian Super League (ISL) and the defender will soon be joining the squad for the pre-season camp. After signing a three-year deal, Dinpua - as he is fondly called - said, "I am so glad to be here. Playing in the top league of India one day was my dream and it has finally come true. I thank the club and the head coach for trusting in my abilities." Dinpua has been handed jersey number 4. Meanwhile, Jamshedpur FC head coach Owen Coyle said he had a keen eye on the defender for some

time now. Born in Mizoram, Dinpua began his career with Mizoram Premier League side Bethlehem Vengthlang before moving to ChhingaVeng. After the 2018/19 season, he was given the 'Best Defender award' in the Mizoram Premier League. He also participated with the club during their 2nd Division campaign. Following good performances in the Mizoram Premier League, the 24-year-old was called up to represent Mizoram in the Santosh Trophy in both 2018 and 2019. In September 2020, Dinpua joined Aizawl FC and played a part in all 14 matches of the Hero I-League season, also scoring a goal in the process.



PRATIK GANDHI'S 'RAAVANLEELA'

SET TO RELEASE IN CINEMAS

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Pratik Gandhi's feature film 'RaavanLeela' is all set to release in cinemas on October 1. The actor took to social media to announce the release date of the film along with its poster on Tuesday.

'RaavanLeela' is Pratik Gandhi's Bollywood debut in the lead role opposite actress Aindrita Ray. Pratik will be seen in the role of Rajaram Joshi in the dramatic entertainer.

Pratik, 41, rose to prominence with his role of Harshad Mehta in the web series 'Scam 1992'.

'RaavanLeela' is helmed by Hardik Gajjar and written by Shreyes Anil Lowlekar. The actor's upcoming films are 'DedhBighaZameen' and 'AtithiBhooto Bhava'.



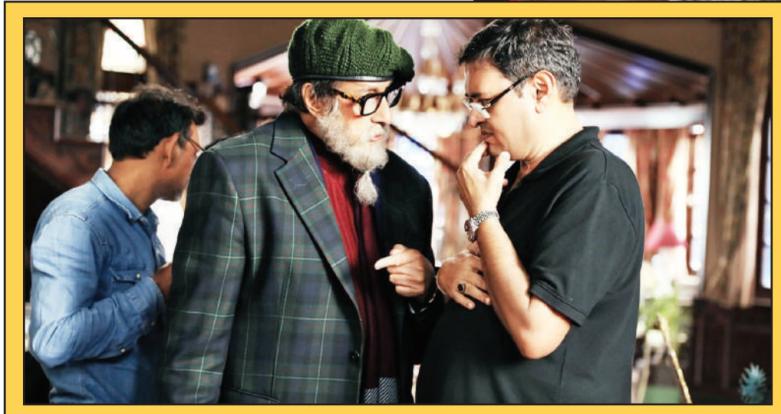
गम में क्यों तूने रावण को देखा...

Mouni's classic groove to 'Leke Pehla Pehla Pyaar'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Mouni posted a dance video on Tuesday while she was in the midst of a shoot as she grooved to "LekePehlaPehlaPyaar."

She posted it with a caption that read, "Lover of the classics.. #WhenInWaitingForTheShot." The post left her admirers in a frenzy, with many of them dropping heart and fire emojis. While Vikrant Massey liked the video, Mouni's close friend and KumkumBhagya star Sritijha enjoyed the video as well and wrote "Too good" in the comments section. Earlier today, Mouni had shared a set of photos on her profile in her athleisure look. "#grateful #thankful #blessed #work #work #work" she shared in the caption. On the work front, Mouni was recently seen in the music video "BaitheBaithe" alongside AngadBedi.



Amitabh doesn't act like a superstar on set: RummyJafry

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Director RummyJafry is all set for the release of his upcoming film 'Chehre' starring Amitabh Bachchan and Emraan Hashmi in the lead.

Opening up on his experience of directing Amitabh in the film, RummyJafry said "'Chehre' is my fourth film with Amitabh

Bachchan. I have worked with him in two films - one as a writer and one as a director. He is so disciplined, dedicated and involved that there is absolutely no stress for the director on the set. You will not feel that such a senior actor, a superstar is present on your set. He is always on time, very hard-working and doesn't interfere with the director's work."

The film is releasing in theatres amid the Covid-19 pandemic, which makes the director excited as well as a little nervous.

Starring Amitabh Bachchan, Emraan Hashmi, Annu Kapoor, Krystle D'Souza, Dhritiman Chatterjee, Raghubir Yadav, Siddhanth Kapoor, and Rhea Chakraborty, 'Chehre' hits theatres on August 27.



SONI SINGH EYEING RE-ENTRY INTO 'BIGG BOSS'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Soni Singh, who is currently seen in 'Hero: Gayab Mode On', wants to re-enter the reality television show 'Bigg Boss' hosted by Salman Khan.

She says, "I did 'Bigg Boss' during its 8th season and got evicted almost after a month. That time I wasn't prepared much for the show. I was good to everyone and couldn't express myself or take a stand for myself. I was busy in making

relations and was good to all. I want to re-enter the show and want to entertain my audience."

"Like I said, being good backfired for me. Now I want to be an entertaining factor. I feel I'm best at making people laugh with my crazy activities. Also I have that grey side like my roles on screen. I can be the entertaining factor of the show."

Soni, recently has featured in shows like 'Naamkarann', 'VishYaAmrit: Sitara' and 'Aladdin - NaamTohSunaHoga'.



PrateekKuhad unveils surrealist 'Khone Do' music video

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Singer-songwriter PrateekKuhad released the official music video for 'Khone Do'. The track appears on his recently released Hindi EP 'ShehronKeRaaz'.

Elaborating on the theme of 'Khone Do', Prateek said, "I wanted to explore the idea of deep physical and emotional intimacy that lovers share by the

idea of them being in bed together. I've experienced that intimacy and I'm sure so many others have as well."

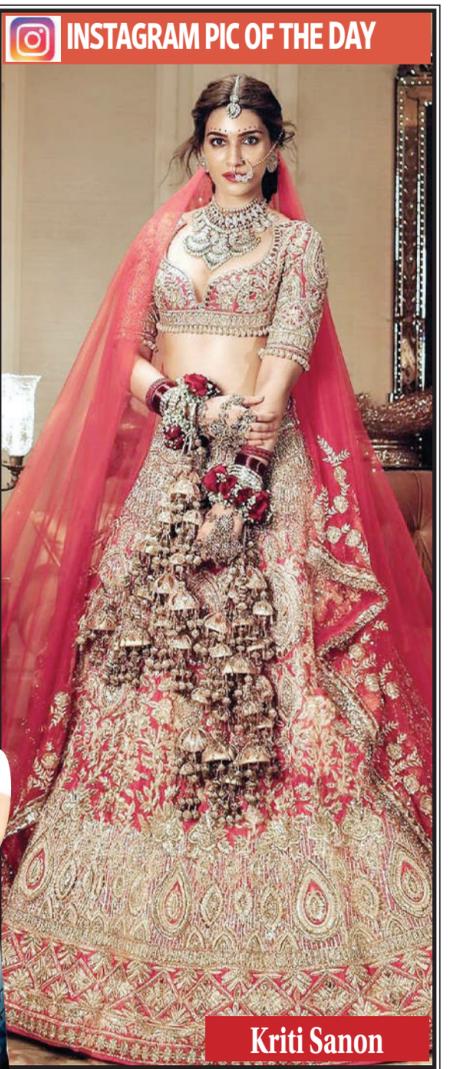
Directed by filmmaker ReemaSengupta, the whimsical video meanders through fantastical dreamscapes with the collage art brought to life by RushilBhatnagar and Sourya Sen. It serves as a surrealist exploration of the shared dreams of lovers depicted

through experimental photomontages. The four-track collection includes 'Kasoor', 'Tere Hi Hum', 'ShehronKeRaaz' and the latest 'Khone Do' that is streaming now on Prateek's official YouTube channel. 'ShehronKeRaaz' is available now on all streaming platforms via Elektra Records.

After 'Bajre Da Sitta', it's 'Oceana' for Rashmeet

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Rashmeet Kaur of 'Bajre da Sitta' fame has collaborated with DJ Gurbax, who is at the forefront of the bass music movement in India. The two have created a single 'Oceana', released on Tuesday. Rashmeet, 27, shared about her new creation, "It was amazing how I've been able to creatively experiment on this showcase. It's empowered me as I've been able to incorporate an element of reinvention." Elaborating on the thought behind the song, she expressed, "Self-discovery was something I was focused on during lockdown while I was working on this liberating piece. I wanted to incorporate those themes of self-love and self-belief." "'Oceana' is an appeal to continue living life and not validating yourself on basis of another's opinion or affection," added Rashmeet.



Kriti Sanon