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NOAA AWARDS \$7.3MN FOR MARINE DEBRIS REMOVAL

Marine debris is not only a threat to wildlife in the ocean, Great Lakes, and waterways, but can adversely affect navigation safety and the economy. To address this growing challenge, the NOAA Marine Debris Program is dedicated to identifying, determining sources of, assessing, preventing, reducing and removing marine debris and addressing the adverse impacts of marine debris in the nation's marine environment and Great Lakes.

- ▶ With the addition of non-federal matching contributions, the total investment in these marine debris projects, announced on Thursday, is approximately \$14.7 million.
- ▶ The grants, selected after a rigorous and competitive review process, are spread across 14 states and territories, as well as eight international regions.
- ▶ The Marine Debris Act authorized the NOAA Marine Debris Program in 2006 as the lead federal program for addressing the problem. This program was reauthorized in 2018 through the Save Our Seas Act, and recently amended by the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act of 2020.



of Commerce has announced \$7.3 million in fiscal year 2021 grants supporting 25 projects to address the harmful effects of marine debris on wildlife, navigation safety, ecosystem health, and the economy. "Marine debris harms our coastal communities every day," said Nicole LeBoeuf, director of NOAA's National Ocean Service. "These grants fund critical clean-up, while also working to prevent the problem at the source and better understand the movement of marine debris. "These types of projects will help us remove the most harmful types of marine debris and mitigate the most harmful effects." Among the projects selected are the removal of up to 17

abandoned and derelict vessels from the Hudson River Estuary, representing all known abandoned and derelict vessels in the estuary; the removal of more than 100 metric tonnes of debris, including derelict fishing gear, from Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui Islands; an assessment of how marine debris moves from the upstream areas of the Guanica Watershed to the nearshore coastal waters of southwest Puerto Rico; reduction of the amount of marine debris entering the Tijuana River from the Los Laureles Canyon tributary in Mexico; and the launch of the North American Net Collection Initiative to collect and transform end-of-life fishing nets into high-

value consumer goods. Approximately \$1.8 million will support 10 removal projects in Alaska, California, Hawaii, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, New Jersey, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, and Washington. The grantees will implement locally developed and cost-effective activities to remove marine debris, including derelict fishing gear and other medium- and large-scale debris. Projects will benefit coastal habitats, waterways, wildlife, and surrounding communities. Approximately \$1.4 million will support five marine debris research projects in California, Delaware, Maryland, New York, and Puerto Rico. The grantees will investigate and identify the critical input pathways for marine debris introduction into the coastal zone. Approximately \$4.1 million will support 10 marine debris prevention and removal projects in the Great Lakes, Gulf of Alaska, Gulf of Maine, Gulf of Mexico, Mexican Caribbean, North America Pacific Ocean, Salish Sea, and Tijuana River estuary. The grantees will address common marine debris issues in Mexico and the US and US-Canada border areas that impact the US marine environment, including preventing or reducing the occurrence of marine debris, or removing marine debris from the environment.

WHO calls for global governance against Covid-19 pandemic

According to WHO, Covid-19 demonstrated how some governance structures failed to protect societies from the worst impacts of the pandemic, with some countries resorting to responses informed by politics rather than science, the Xinhua news agency reported.



Copenhagen | Agencies
The Pan-European Commission on Health and Sustainable Development convened by the World Health Organization (WHO) called for global governance and recommended the establishment of a Global Health Board "under the auspices of the G20". The Commission made the remarks during a press conference at the WHO Regional Office in Copenhagen on Friday. "It is necessary to enhance the position of health policy in overall policy-making by governments and international organisations by setting up a Global Health and Finance Board at the G20, recognizing that health is

a global public good," said Mario Monti, Chair of the Commission. In addition, the Commission called for regional bodies of governance such as a Pan-European Network for Disease Control and a Pan-European Health Threats Council to improve data-sharing and data-interoperability platforms across the vast Region. Further recommendations include countries in the region being called upon to fight inequality and so "decrease polarization in society", as well as a call for greater investment and innovation in Europe's health systems which have "proved flawed and not fit for the purpose" during the pandemic.

The Commission noted in the press release that Covid-19 showed that single-country solutions are not enough when it comes to the spread of communicable diseases in a hyper-connected, globalised world and such crises can only be tackled effectively through joint international action. "We are calling for action at all levels of society on fixing fractured societies; on safeguarding planetary health; on innovation and investment in health systems; and on better European and global governance," said Hans Henri P. Kluge, regional director for WHO Europe. "It's time to learn some important lessons, so we don't make the same mistakes again," Kluge said.

'Medicine from Sky' project launched in Telangana

The project entails India's first organised 'Beyond the Visual Line Of Sight' (BVLOS) trials as multiple drone consortiums are participating together to establish the use-case of long range drone-based medical deliveries. This is also the first drone programme since the Union Ministry of Civil Aviation had recently liberalised its drone policy.



first state to use drones to deliver medicines. The maiden drone delivered a five kg box of vaccine doses to a community health centre located three kilometres away in 10 minutes. The first sortie was carried out by a drone built by SkyAir Mobility for its Consortium partner 'Blue Dart Express'. Life-saving drugs, vaccines, blood and even organs for transplantation could easily be transported to remote places while saving precious time, Rama Rao said while speaking at the launch event. 'Medicines from the Sky' initiative is spearheaded by the Emerging Technologies Wing of the Department of Information Technology, Electronics and Communications in partnership with the World Economic Forum, NITI Aayog, and HealthNet Global (Apollo Hospitals).

Social media campaigns great way to reach people: Richa Chadha

Mumbai: Richa Chadha is doing her bit to create awareness about Covid-19 through her initiative on social media. She says social media campaigns are a great way to reach many people at one go.



Richa has started a social media initiative 'The KINDry', which is a space to discuss happenings around. This time around, she has used her page to spread awareness about the pandemic and help people in maintaining Covid appropriate behaviour. Richa said: "Social media campaigns are a great way to reach many people at one go and through The KINDry, my ultimate purpose is to educate people on covid appropriate behavior and encourage them to get vaccinated at the earliest." Through her page, Richa urges people to get themselves vaccinated at the earliest and be prepared to face the worst possible situation mentally and physically. She added: "The threat of the third wave of infections still persists and it is very important for people to maintain social distancing and stay at home. The second wave was devastating and a change in our behaviour is much needed."

A short-term tonic or a bigger role awaits?

Dhoni as a mentor

With the appointment of Mahendra Singh Dhoni as the mentor of Team India for the upcoming ICC T20 World Cup, several questions are arising in the minds of every cricket fan as to why the former India captain was picked by the BCCI? Is it a short-term tonic for a team that often falters in ICC events or a bigger role awaits MSD in the future? This further arises another question: How secure is the future of Ravi Shastri as chief coach now?

- ▶ Ravi Shastri's contract ends after T20 World Cup. It's possible the board would be looking at Dhoni as a long-term replacement for Shastri. If India can clinch the T20 World Cup and Shastri decides to quit, Dhoni will definitely be a strong contender.
- ▶ Shastri, who has been the full-time coach since 2017, is unlikely to be given a third term and a new face might be seen. But there's only one hurdle. Dhoni is still the captain of CSK and he might want to continue playing in the IPL.



Team Absolute | New Delhi
According to sources, BCCI Secretary Jay Shah has initiated the move to bring in Dhoni as the mentor of the Indian squad. Very few, not even the biggest of the BCCI officials, were in the know of the move. Interestingly, BCCI President Sourav

Ganguly was not present when the major decision was announced during a virtual press conference on Wednesday. His absence was also felt by many netizens. However, the BCCI chief had his reasons as he is currently touring with the team in England. Dhoni is expected to work closely with skipper Virat Kohli and keep him at the top of his decisions.

Dhoni is known for his sharp decision-making skills and his relationship with both Kohli and Shastri is set to bring a positive uplift in the Indian dressing room, or so it is believed. There is also talks that batting coach Vikram Rathore might get the big job if Shastri's contract is not extended or if he doesn't intend carrying on with the high pressure job. However, how good the experiment would turn out to be will be witnessed next month when the mega event begins in the UAE and Oman. Meanwhile, while most of the former cricketers have welcomed the "great" move, ex-India captain Sunil Gavaskar has cautioned about a problem that Team India might now face in the T20 World Cup when the two giants Shastri and Dhoni sit together and discuss "tactics and team selection". However, former chief selector MSK Prasad suggested that "Mahi will gel well."

Indian researchers develop wastewater treatment solution

- ▶ Working towards this, researchers from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, with Malaviya National Institute of Technology, Jaipur, and MBM College, Jodhpur, have developed a modified AOP solution.
- ▶ The "much-improved" AOP technology targeting zero discharge water management system is being utilized for the complete reuse of industrial dye wastewater for domestic and industrial usage at a rate of 10 Kilo litres/day.
- ▶ The treatment of toxic and highly carcinogenic industrial dyes of textile effluents is performed using this AOP technology for degrading and mineralizing recalcitrant organic matter from effluent wastewater.

Team Absolute | New Delhi
Indian researchers have developed an "improved" wastewater treatment solution that can completely reuse dye wastewater from textile industry, eliminating its toxicity and making it suitable for domestic and industrial usage. It reduces the water treatment costs and facilitate the reuse of the water in dry regions. The current three-stage treatment process for wastewater consisting of primary, secondary, and tertiary treatment is unable to treat toxic industrial wastewater. The stand-alone Advanced Oxidation Process (AOP) treatment technique for colour and odour properties in industrial effluents (dye-based) may be insufficient to meet set govern-



ment standards and is also limited due to the high cost of AOPs involving continuous supply of chemical reagents. The completely modified treatment process con-

sists of the primary dosing step followed by the sand filtration step, another AOP and subsequent carbon filtration step. It eliminates the need for the conventional primary, secondary, and tertiary processes resulting in maximum colour removal and meets the inland water discharge standards. It is a direct replacement of the existing treatment plant processes and consists of a low-cost solution of dye adsorption on acid-modified soil followed by a photochemical reaction step within a photocatalytic visible light filter and a unique carbon and PAN nano-mat fibre filtration process. Having been set up on a pilot basis, it remediates industrial wastewater. The technology has resulted in the recuperation of 50 per cent of the treatment cost incurred from conventional processes for water treatment (especially due to the high cost of sludge disposability) in the water-scarce regions of Rajasthan.

Woman marries man in police custody after withdrawing rape charges

MEERUT | Agencies
A woman, who had accused a man of rape and had got him arrested, turned hostile a day later and married him at a 'nikah' ceremony held in the police station. Ram Sanjivan, station house officer (SHO) Lisari gate, told reporters that the woman had levelled allegations of rape against a man and the latter was promptly arrested. "But when we spoke to the woman and interrogated her, she admitted she had pressed charges under family's pressure after the man refused to marry her. The two were in a relationship," said the SHO. Police officers then spoke



to both families who decided to solemnise the marriage as soon as possible. "A mauvi was brought to the police station by the families on Wednesday while a lawyer was also present. The 'nikah' ceremony was performed and refreshments were also served to the guests," the SHO said. He said that due procedure was followed in withdrawing the case.



CIVIL SERVICES CURRICULUM NEEDS TO BE CONSTANTLY MODIFIED: JITENDRA SINGH

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The civil services curriculum at Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration must suit India's changing scenario, said Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Saturday stressing upon the need for constant modification from time to time.

The minister said that the curriculum for IAS or Civil Services at Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA) must suit India's changing scenario and therefore, needs to be accordingly modified constantly and from time to time.

This is also important to re-orient present and future administrators for the visionary roadmap that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has laid down before us for the next 25 years till independent India turns 100," he said while addressing the valedictory session of Joint Civil-Military Program (JCM) at the Academy.

Singh called for joint programmes by institutes which are devoted to capacity building for good governance like, for example, LBSNAA, National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG), Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA), Institute of Secretarial Training and Management (ISTM) and others so that instead of working in silos, there could be synergistic programmes which



would supplement the individual efforts made by these institutes.

He also suggested widening the range of the visiting faculty at the Mussoorie Academy and making Guest faculty more inclusive of scientific experts, industrial entrepreneurs, successful Start-ups and women achievers.

One major step taken by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) in the direction of major reforms, the Minister said, was instituting "Mission Karmayogi", which when defined would be the emphasis on shift of functioning from 'Rule to Role'.

Congratulating the Course Coordinator and the staff of the Academy for successfully conducting the one-week Joint Civil-Military Programme, Singh also complimented the officers who attended the programme, which is intended to provide structural interface between Civil Service officers and Armed Forces officers for a better and shared understanding, coordination and collaboration during joint duties and for the purpose of serving the national security of the country.

The Minister said, this programme was initiated in 2001 in the aftermath of Kargil War and has gone a long way in familiarizing the participants with the challenges of external and internal security and plays a wider role in exposing the participating officers to the imperative Civil-Military synergy.

As India enters 75 years of its independence, said Singh, and plans for the next 25 years, such programmes enable us to prepare the Civil and the Military authorities to jointly work in different conflict situations internally as well externally.

Deep-seated infighting in all BJP ruled states: Congress

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Soon after Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani resigned from his post on Saturday, the Congress said that there is an internal rift in all the BJP-ruled states, which exposes the failure of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah.

Taking to Twitter, the chief spokesperson of the Congress, Randeep Singh Surjewala, said, "Two things stand out today - 1) Deep-seated infighting in all BJP ruled states, be it Gujarat, Rajasthan, UP, MP, Assam or Haryana. 2) 'Bhakt' media remains oblivious to fratricidal wars in the BJP, for their only mandate is to focus on opposition ruled states."

He added, "This show failure of PM's & HM's leadership. If their anointed CM, Vijay Rupani has failed #Gujarat & its people after 5 years, onus must lie at the doorsteps of Modi. Time to



rid Gandhi-Patel's 'Karamboom' of the machiavellian BJP & its leadership."

In a surprise move, Rupani on Saturday resigned as the Chief Minister of Gujarat, ahead of next year's Assembly elections in the state. Rupani became the fourth BJP CM to be changed in the last six months in three states -- Uttarakhand, Karnataka and Gujarat.

"I am resigning from the post of the Chief Minister. I thank PM Modi and the party for giving me an opportunity to work for five years," Rupani told reporters.

In March, the saffron party had replaced then Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat with Lok Sabha member Tirath Singh Rawat. In July, four months after being made the CM, Tirath Singh Rawat was replaced by two-time MLA Pushkar Singh Dhami.

After Uttarakhand, BJP replaced BS Yediyurappa with BS Bommai in Karnataka. Sources said that the saffron party may declare Rupani's replacement by Sunday. Most likely, his replacement could be Deputy Chief Minister Nitin Patel.

ED serves notice to Abhishek Banerjee, third in this month

KOLKATA | Agencies

The Enforcement Directorate has again served notice to Abhishek Banerjee asking him to appear before the ED officials in Delhi on September 21. This is the third notice served to Banerjee in this month in the alleged coal smuggling case.

Earlier on September 6, Banerjee appeared before the ED officials and he was interrogated for nine hours. The next day again he was asked to come to the office but Banerjee replied that it was impossible for him to appear because of his pre-scheduled political programs. The central agency again served a notice asking him to appear on September 21.

The interrogation of Banerjee has sparked debate across political circles with chief minister Mamata Banerjee attacking the BJP government on the issues alleging that the Modi-Shah duo were indulging in vindictive politics. "They don't have any proof. They are only harassing him (Abhishek Banerjee). When they can't fight us politically, they are using the central agencies to scare us," Mamata Banerjee said on the interrogation of Abhishek Banerjee who also happens to be her nephew. The case, filed under criminal

sections of the (PMLA), was filed by the ED after studying a November, 2020 FIR of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) that alleged a multi-crore coal pilferage scam related to the Eastern Coalfields Ltd mines in the state's Kumustoria and Kajora areas in and around Asansol. Local state operative Anup Majhi alias Lala is alleged to be the prime suspect in the case. The ED had earlier claimed that Abhishek Banerjee was a beneficiary of funds obtained from this illegal trade. He has been denying all charges. On September 6, after being interrogated by ED for nine hours Abhishek Banerjee had said, "It is difficult to cow us down by these agencies. We are not Congress that we will sit back and watch. We will go to all the places where democracy is being killed and butchered by the BJP".

Apart from Abhishek Banerjee, the ED summoned his wife Rujira Banerjee, his lawyer Sanjay Basu and two IPS officers - Shyam Singh and Gyanwant Singh for interrogation. Rujira Banerjee, however, told the central agency that in this pandemic situation, it would not be possible for her to go to Delhi for interrogation and asked the probe agency to come to her home to question her.

'Replacing Rupani might help BJP beat anti-incumbency'

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Strong resentment among BJP cadre at ground level against him is one of the main reasons for removal of Vijay Rupani from the post of Gujarat chief minister, sources told IANS.

Rupani on Saturday resigned from the office. A section in the party believes that the decision to replace the chief minister might help the party beat anti-incumbency against the government among its own cadre.

While there is no clarity at what exactly led to Rupani's resignation, saffron party sources said that there are many reasons for removal of Rupani and there was strong resentment against him among party cadre.

"There was a strong resentment among cadre against Rupani. His popularity is low among BJP workers. The removal of Rupani will help the party control the dissent at ground



well in advance ahead of next year's assembly polls. In other words we can say that the move might help the party beat anti-incumbency against the government and the chief minister among its own cadre," a BJP leader said. It is learnt that while discussing the reasons for Rupani's removal, the party leadership decided keeping workers unhappy will

adversely affect the party's electoral performance in the state polls, which is all set to become triangular with the entry of Arvind Kejriwal's Aam Aadmi Party (AAP).

Another leader pointed out that it is a political course correction ahead of assembly polls. "By bringing a new face, BJP will try to address the issue of social engineering in the state,

which played a crucial role in state politics," he said. A party insider claimed that Rupani lacks the quality of fire brand leader and may not be able to take on Congress and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) which is all set to contest state polls scheduled in November - December next year. "He (Rupani) was good in executing the given works or assignments, but lacked the quality we needed in our chief ministerial candidate to take on Congress and AAP in assembly polls. Workers are demanding a leader who can lead the party from the front under guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and union home minister Amit Shah," he said.

Rupani took the state's Chief Ministerial position on August 7, 2016, and is representing Rajkot West in the Gujarat Legislative Assembly. It is learnt from sources that the party will declare Rupani's replacement by Sunday.

Farmer unions to meet state representatives again on Sat

KARNAL | Agencies

The farmer unions' meeting with the Haryana government representatives ended late on Friday night at the mini secretariat in Karnal.

After the three-hour long meeting with the Haryana Additional Chief Secretary and other officials again ended inconclusively, the farmer unions decided to resume the meeting again at 9 am on Saturday to mull over the demands of the agitating farmers.

The farmers at the protest site now expect some positive outcomes from Saturday's meeting.

Bhartiya Kissan Union President Gurnam Singh Chaduni said that Friday's meeting ended on a positive note.

"We are again meeting tomorrow morning and we expect some positive outcomes from the government," he said. Chaduni also said that Saturday's meeting is expected to be short, which is likely to yield some



positive outcomes.

BKU's Haryana unit chief Ratan Man Singh said, "We have discussed the issues with the state officials and the meeting ended on a positive note. We will meet again tomorrow with our demands." Asked about BKU

leader Rakesh Tikait's participation in the meeting, Singh said that his representative may participate in the meeting on Saturday as he is not present in Karnal at the moment.

Meanwhile, the farmer unions are also meeting on Saturday afternoon

to discuss the future course of action if their demands are not met by the government.

Additional Chief Secretary Devendra Singh and Deputy Commissioner of Karnal Nishant Yadav participated in the meeting on Friday evening. From the farmers' side was represented by Chaduni and other state leaders.

The farmers are sitting on dharna outside the mini secretariat in Karnal for the last four days over their demanding action against IAS officer Ayush Sinha, the then Karnal SDM who was caught on camera allegedly telling policemen to hit the farmers if they crossed the line during their protest on August 28.

The agitating farmers are also seeking Rs 25 lakh compensation and a government job for kin of the farmer who died in the incident, and Rs 2 lakh compensation each for the injured persons.

Espionage accused sent on two-day remand for questioning

Jaipur | Agencies

A Jaipur court on Saturday sent an espionage accused, the MTS Railway Post Office worker, a resident of Jodhpur, on a two-day remand to the state intelligence team of Rajasthan.

He was arrested on Friday for allegedly supplying secret documents of the Indian Army to a Pakistani woman agent. Now he has been sent to the remand till September 13 for questioning.

According to Director General of Police Intelligence Umesh Mishra, the accused had made his Facebook ID in the name of Bharat Godara. About 6 months ago, a message from a female Pakistani intelligence agent came on his Facebook messenger, after which the accused started talking to the said female agent through a voice call and video call on WhatsApp. Information was shared about the documents of strategic importance coming to the Railway Post Office related to the Army.

Two mobile phones have been recovered



from the possession of the accused. The accused used to delete entire information before leaving the office, however the intelligence team has been successful in recovering a lot of deleted data and chats by conducting technical tests of mobile phones.

Information about the arrest of the accused was sent to the superintendent of his department, Jaipur Division. Intensive interrogation is being done in collaboration with the CID Intelligence and Military Intelligence and his bank account details will be checked on Monday to know if any money was paid in lieu of information. After checking all suspicious mobile numbers, efforts are being made to find out if this Pakistani female agent was in touch with any other person and what kind of information was shared with them. Information will be sought to find out as to how much information sent affects the national security system, said the officials.

HINDU ACTIVISTS IN K'TAKA TOWN ENTER CHURCH, ALLEGE CONVERSIONS

Udupi: Tension prevailed in the coastal town of Karkala in Karnataka's Udupi district after activists from a Hindu group barged into a church at the time of prayers, alleging religious conversions. The incident took place on Friday. Karkala police have registered a case against the members of the right-wing Hindu Jagaran Vedike and a church priest. Security has been beefed up in the town of Karkala and Kukkandur village church. According to police, the members of the Hindu Jagaran Vedike barged into a church in Kukkandur village alleging that the church authorities assembled more than 35 Hindus there to carry out religious conversions. The police have questioned Benedict, the church pastor for allegedly carrying out conversions.

Police sources said Benedict did not have permission to hold religious meetings. Earlier, there was a complaint filed against him on July 15 for organising religious meetings with the intention to carry out conversions.

The pastor was warned by the police not to carry out such activities without permission. However, on Friday, the programme was held without permission, the police said. The police have also recorded the statement of Sunil, a labourer who participated in the prayer meeting, saying that Benedict forced him to attend the church prayers.

The police have registered a case against Hindu Jagaran Vedike members under IPC sections 143 (unlawful assembly), 147 (rioting), 149 (offence committed during unlawful assembly), 504 (intentional insult), 506 (criminal intimidation) and 323 (voluntarily causing hurt) based on the complaint filed by Benedict. It was alleged that the activists misbehaved with women after barging inside the church, so the police have also registered a case under IPC 354 (assaulting or using criminal force on women).

Intensify crackdown on police recruitment paper leak: Punjab CM Amarinder Singh

Chandigarh | Agencies

As the Punjab Police department geared up for the next stage of its mega recruitment drive, Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Saturday directed the DGP to intensify the crackdown on leak of exam papers after six people were reportedly arrested for their suspected involvement in cheating during the written test on August 22.

The directives come ahead of the commencement of written exams for head constables (investigation cadre), to be conducted from September 12 to 19 for 75,544 applicants for 787 vacancies, followed by exams for constables (district and armed cadres), slated for September 25-26 with a whopping 470,775 candidates having applied for 4,358 vacancies.

Following this, in a first-of-its-kind move by any state police in the country, another recruitment drive will take place in October for appointing 2,600 uniformed specialists in the Punjab Police Department.

The Chief Minister asked DGP Dinkar Gupta to further intensify the security meas-



ures at the examination centres in view of reported attempts by recruitment fraudsters

and scamsters to sabotage and subvert the examination process.

Jammers and other electronic gadgets were being installed in all examination centres to prevent internet or bluetooth connectivity, said Dinkar Gupta, in the wake of the arrest of six persons by Khanna Police in connection with cheating through bluetooth connectivity during the written test for sub-inspectors held in Chandigarh and across Punjab from August 17 to 24. More arrests are likely in the case, he said, adding that any person, whether candidate of a tout or a professional scamster found involved in any examination related malpractices will be immediately booked and arrested. Gurpreet Kaur Deo, Chairperson of the Central Recruitment Board for Constables, said strict protocols have been laid down for securing the areas outside the test centres as well as within the venues, and multiple rounds of physical frisking will be carried out, apart from use of various types of electronic and digital gadgets.

The Punjab Police mega recruitment drive is being conducted through six recruitment boards, each constituted under an ADGP-rank officer.

“ A lie can travel half way around the world while the truth is putting on its shoes.”



Charles Spurgeon

HEAVY RAINS LASH IGIA; OPERATIONS NOT IMPACTED

FERRY TERMINAL



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Heavy rains waterlogged several areas of the national capital's IGI Airport here on Saturday morning. Accordingly, the arrival area of Terminal 3 was waterlogged for "half an hour" before it was cleared. The incident took place after relentless rains lashed the national capital since Friday late night. However, flight operations continued unhindered at the airport. In a tweet, the Delhi International Airport Limited said: "Due to sudden heavy rain, for a short period, there was waterlogging at the fore-

court. Our team was immediately aligned to look into it and the issue has been resolved." Besides, several airlines said that inclement weather has delayed some flights. "#6ETravelAdvisory: Due to bad weather in #Delhi, flight departures and arrivals are impacted," IndiGo said in a tweet. On its part, SpiceJet tweeted: "Due to bad weather in Delhi (DEL), all departures or arrivals and their consequential flights may get affected." In addition, Vistara said: "Due to waterlogging on account of heavy rains in Delhi, traffic congestion is expected. Customers travelling are advised to allow more time for their journey to the airport. Thank you!"

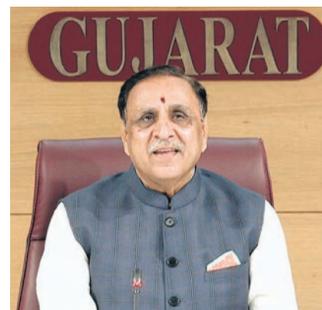


Delhi traffic paralyzed

New Delhi: Incessant heavy rainfall on Saturday morning caused waterlogging in several areas in the national capital and its nearby regions, affecting daily commuters and causing traffic disruptions. Pictures and videos surfacing from areas like Madhu Vihar, Jorbagh, Motibagh, RK Puram, Sadar Bazar area and ITO showed vehicles stuck in middle of roads partially inundated, slowing down the traffic to a snail's pace. Zakira Underpass near Inderlok was closed. Traffic policemen are actively diverting the traffic to avoid any kind of further disruption. Commuters on their way to offices have taken shelter under bus stops, metro stations or whichever place or platform they could find nearby.

Gujarat CM Rupani resigns ahead of the end of term

Strong resentment among BJP cadre at ground level against him is one of the main reasons for removal of Vijay Rupani from the post of Gujarat chief minister, sources told reporter. Rupani on Saturday resigned from the office. A section in the party believes that the decision to replace the chief minister might help the party beat anti-incumbency against the government among its own cadre. While there is no clarity at what exactly led to Rupani's resignation, saffron party sources said that there are many reasons for removal of Rupani and there was strong resentment against him among party cadre.



Legislative Assembly. It is learnt from sources that the party will declare Rupani's replacement by Sunday. Most likely his replacement could be deputy chief minister Nitin Patel.

RUPANI REMOVED AS GOVT FAILED DURING COVID: BHARAT SOLANKI

Ahmedabad: The Congress has alleged that Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani was removed because the state government failed to perform during Covid and provide relief to the public. Bharat Singh Solanki, former Union Minister and Congress leader said, "Rupani failed to provide relief during Covid and we demand Nitin Patel should also be removed as he has also failed to work in the interest of the people. His removal is proof that he failed on all fronts." The Congress leader alleged that it's a face saving exercise by the BJP to divert people's attention and focus on the Prime Minister, as it cannot afford to contest elections on the basis of the performance of the state government. Solanki said, "now Congress has the challenge and opportunity to become a viable option in the eyes of the public."

Team Absolute | Gandhinagar

In a major political development, Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani on Saturday tendered his resignation to Gujarat Governor Acharya Devvrat at his residence, Raj Bhavan in Gandhinagar. The BJP leader confirmed that he has resigned from the top post. "I am resigning from the post of the Chief Minister. I thank PM Modi and the party for giving me an opportunity to work for five years," Vijay Rupani told the reporters at Raj Bhavan. "I am just a worker of the organisation and will continue to be so. For the upcoming state Assembly elections, definitely our PM Modi will be the face," Rupani said, when asked who will be the face for the elections, as he and the party earlier had declared that the 2022 elections will be led by him. "I will accept whatever responsibility the party gives me," said Rupani. Vijay Rupani took the state's Chief Ministerial position on August 7, 2016, and is representing Rajkot West in the Gujarat

KARNAL FARMERS AGITATION ENDS WITH COMPROMISED FORMULA

Govt Steps Down

State government will set up an inquiry committee of retired High Court judges to probe against SDM Ayush Sinha. Meanwhile, during the probe, which will be completed within a month, he will be sent on leave.

Team Absolute | Karnal

Bharatiya Kisan Union President Gurnam Singh Chaduni and Haryana Additional Chief Secretary (ACS) Devender Singh on Saturday announced to conclude the week-long agitation in Karnal. The decision was announced at a joint press conference after the first round of talks between farmers union leaders and the Haryana government representative. ACS Singh said that "after several round of talks with farmers leaders we have reached up to an agreement considering farmers demands". Talking about other demands, the ACS said that two members of a farmer family who died in the unfortunate incident will be given jobs of the sanction posts on DC rate. He said that chances are high to turn these posts permanent. Meanwhile, Chaduni said in the press conference that the talks ended on a positive note and they were happy that the



government has considered their demands. He added that jobs will be provided to the two family members of the family within a week. However, being asked about one of the other major demands of registering an FIR against Sinha, he said filing a complaint after the probe by the retired judges will give more strength to the case. On ending the agitation, Chaduni said that "we are satisfied with the outcomes and this is our victory", adding that the protest against the new farm laws will continue as usual on the Delhi border and across the nation.

SAKINAKA RAPE VICTIM SUCCUMBS

Mumbai: The 30-year-old woman, who was raped and brutalized with rod, succumbed to her injuries following excessive bleeding at a civic hospital a short while ago, an official said. "It's a tragic end... She had suffered very severe internal injuries and has passed away," Shiv Sena MLC Manisha Kayande told reporter. She said the victim has two minor daughters and appealed to Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray to consider compensation for them.

The incident, which was discovered early on Friday morning, sparked outrage all over the state with the National Commission for Women taking note on Saturday. A police official said that the attempt to murder charges shall now be enhanced to murder on the sole accused arrested, Mohan Chavan, and further investigations are on.

Karnataka farmer outfits to support Sept 27 Bharat bandh

Team Absolute | Mysuru

Members of Karnataka Farmer Organizations Federation and State Sugarcane Growers Association have extended their support to the nationwide bandh call given by Samyukta Kisan Morcha on September 27 protesting against the Union government's controversial farm laws. Kurubur Shanthakumar, the President of the association on Saturday said, members of his federation have also extended support for the bandh call. He urged the pro-farmer political parties who are against these laws to openly express support to farm organizations, and to take part during this protest. Farmers in all taluks, district level, and prominent hobli towns will hit the streets on the day supporting the Samyukta Kisan Morcha. He condemned the stubborn attitude of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for



Farmer's leader Rakesh Tikait continues his sit in protest amid flooded roads due to heavy rains in Delhi

not withdrawing anti-farmer laws despite the members of Samyukta Kisan Morcha comprising 500 farmer organizations had been staging a nine month long protest at Delhi-Haryana - Ghazipur borders. As RSS supported Bharatiya Kisan Morcha activists too held nationwide protests against these farm laws, the union government must withdraw these laws. Shanthakumar also lashed out at Union Minister of state for agriculture Shobha Karandlaje for not responding to the woes of farmers.

VEILED AFGHAN WOMEN RALLY IN SUPPORT OF TALIBAN IN KABUL

Hamza Ameer | Kabul

After the Taliban deployed security in Kabul opted to aerial gunfire, lashes and manhandling of female protesters, who were marching in an anti-Taliban rally in Kabul; veiled women have taken to the streets and staged a rally in support of the Taliban regime. Around 300 women, wearing black veils marched on the streets of Kabul and later sat at the Kabul university lecture theatre, asserting their support to the Taliban leadership, especially on gender segregation. The women were carrying with them Taliban flags while the speakers criticized the west for what they called, an illegal invasion of Afghanistan. In comparison to a women-led anti-Taliban protest rally, where participants and even journalists were blocked, stopped and assaulted by the Taliban security personal; the Taliban heavily guarded this

particular pro-Taliban rally. Taliban spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid, responding to a question about the anti-Taliban protest rally, said that there is no permission for any rally unless it is permitted by the Taliban regime. This interpreted in one way means that anyone wanting to raise their voice against the Taliban, will not be allowed to voice their concern, while on the other hand, it means that a pro-Taliban event or rally, will be allowed by the Taliban regime, primarily because it would act at a counter-narrative to anti-Taliban sentiments, especially with reference to women's rights in the country. The speakers at the Shaheed Rabbani Education University, where the pro-Taliban women gathered, said they were against those women, who are protesting against the Taliban on the streets, insisting that those women are not representatives of women.

India, Australia junk China terming QUAD as Asian NATO

Formed in 1949, NATO is a military alliance of 28 European countries and two North American nations to promote democratic values and commitment to peaceful resolution of disputes. With growing QUAD influence in the Indo-Pacific region promoting free, open and inclusive region-based international law, China has been calling it as the Asian NATO.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

India and Australia on Saturday jointly junked China's claims that the QUAD is akin to Asian NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organisation). The QUAD, officially the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, came up as an informal group of three countries: The US, Australia and Japan. Later India joined the group. After the India-Australia 2+2 ministerial dialogue here on Saturday, Indian External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said: "QUAD is a platform where four countries have come to cooperate for their benefit and world's benefit." Junking China's reference to QUAD as Asian NATO, Jaishankar said: "Looking back, I think a term like NATO is a Cold



War term. QUAD looks at the future. It reflects globalisation and compulsion of countries to work together. "If you look at the issues QUAD has focused on today like vaccines, supply chains etc., I can't see any relation with NATO or any other organisation. I think it's important not to misrepresent what is the reality out there." Jaishankar's Australian counterpart Marise Payne also expressed similar views on China's claims. The Australian Foreign Minister said:

"As Australia and India have re-energised relations, there is also the opportunity to work through smaller groups like the QUAD or other pieces of regional architecture like ASEAN. QUAD members are champions of ASEAN's centrality." The QUAD Leadership Summit is likely to take place on September 24 and it is expected to be attended by the heads of the QUAD member states, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

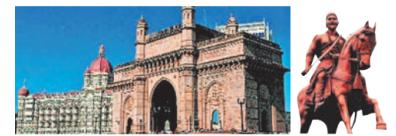
WAS OFFERED MONEY WHILE QUITTING CONG IN K'TAKA: FORMER BJP MINISTER

BELAGAVI | Agencies

Shrimant Patil, a former Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) cabinet Minister in Karnataka and the party's Kagwad MLA, on Saturday said he was offered money at the time of quitting Congress by the BJP government.



"But I declined the offer of money and demanded that I should be given a good position in the BJP-led government so that I can do social service," he added. "It was true that I was given an offer of money. I did not take the money and asked for a good portfolio. Accordingly, I was given a cabinet berth. Now, they (BJP) have dropped me from the new cabinet. However, I have the confidence of getting a cabinet berth in the coming days," he said. "I have discussed with senior leaders regarding the cabinet portfolio and Maratha community is also pitching in for me, demanding inclusion in the new cabinet. The senior BJP leaders have assured me that I will be accommodated in the cabinet," Patil added. Opposition parties in Karnataka have been targeting the BJP government alleging horse-trading of 16 MLAs belonging to the Congress and the Janata Dal (Secular) which ended the coalition government of the JD(S) and the Congress. Later, The BJP formed the government in the state under the leadership of former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa. When Yediyurappa was asked to step down, Shrimant Patil, who was then a cabinet minister was not included in the cabinet of the new Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai.



CM THACKERAY PROMISES FAST-TRACK TRIAL AND 'SEVERE PUNISHMENT'

Thackeray said that he has discussed the matter with state Home Minister Dilip Walse Patil and Mumbai Police Commissioner Hemant Nagrale.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Calling the dastardly rape and murder of a woman in Mumbai's Sakinaka a "disgrace to humanity," Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Saturday assured a fast-track trial and asserted that the accused will be severely punished. "The heinous crime that took place in Saki Naka is a disgrace to humanity. The case will be tried on fast track and the culprit will be severely punished, ensuring justice to the woman who lost her life due to this dreadful crime. Officials are directed to speed up investigation," Thackeray said in a statement. Thackeray said that he has discussed the matter with state Home Minister Dilip Walse Patil and Mumbai Police Commissioner Hemant Nagrale. "I have directed the authorities to expedite the investigation into the case," the CM said.



NCW TAKES COGNIZANCE OF SAKINAKA RAPE CASE

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A 30-year-old woman, who was raped and brutalized with rods, remain unconscious and critical in a civic hospital. As the incident sparked outrage all over the state, the National Commission for Women took note of it here on Saturday. NCW Chairperson Rekha Sharma has taken serious cognizance of "this barbaric incident where a woman was raped and brutalized" in Mumbai. Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray has also taken grave note of the incident and is discussing it with concerned officials, while Leader of Opposition Devendra Fadnavis said he was "shocked" over the development. Terming the incident as "sad and shocking", Home Minister Diip Walse-Patil said that the arrested accused would be given the most stringent punishment. Mumbai Mayor Kishori Pednekar said that "the victim remains unconscious, and is being treated" at the BMC's Rajawadi Hospital in Ghatkopar. Shiv Sena MLC Dr. Manisha Kayande visit-

ed the hospital and informed that the victim has undergone on surgery and is still serious. "As per information, the victim is married and has two kids. Whether the act is committed by one person, or more is not known and it is a matter of investigation," she told mediapersons later. According to police, the woman was first raped and beaten with a rod, then the rapist allegedly shoved a rod in her private parts, dumped her body on a desolate stretch before decamping from there. The incident took place on the intervening night of Thursday-Friday on Khairani Road of the Sakinaka area of north-west Mumbai. After a caller alerted the Control Room, police rushed there and recovered the woman lying in a pool of blood around 3.30 a.m. on Friday. The police immediately rushed the victim in a critical condition to the BMC's Rajawadi Hospital in Ghatkopar, and Deshmukh said "she remains under treatment". Sakinaka Police Station Senior Police Inspector Balwant Deshmukh said that the accused, identified as a local, Mohan Chavan, 45, was arrested hours after the das-

tardly crime. He has been charged under Indian Penal Code Sections 307, 376, 323, and 504 and is being interrogated by a police team. The police are waiting for the woman to regain her consciousness to record her statement which could throw light on the entire episode. They are also scouring the CCTV footage of the vicinity and questioning potential witnesses in the area continues. The incident was strongly condemned by Deputy Chairperson of Maharashtra Legislative Council Neelam Gorhe, many women activists and commoners, with many demanding the immediate passing of the Shakti Act which proposes death penalty for rape. Kayande appealed to the CM to extend financial assistance to the traumatized victim under the state's Manodhairya Scheme, for her proper treatment and rehabilitation. Top police officials are supervising the investigations and the possible involvement of others besides the arrested-accused in the crime that shook the people on the eve of the state's biggest festival Ganeshotsav which started on September 10.

Record 17 Lakh Hectares Affected by Rains, Floods This Year: Wadettiwar

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra Relief and Rehabilitation Minister Vijay Wadettiwar on Saturday said approximately 17 lakh hectares of farm land have been affected by excessive rains and floods this year, which could be a record for the past 50 years, and the state government was taking all necessary steps to provide relief to those affected. Speaking to reporters in Nagpur, he said the 17 lakh hectares that have been affected are spread over Marathwada, north Maharashtra, Konkan and a few districts of Vidarbha. "This (area) damage caused by rains, floods and cloudburst is a kind of a record for the past 50 years. This is just preliminary information and I have directed concerned district collectors to conduct panchnamas (assessment)," he said.

He said the 17 lakh hectares that have been affected are spread over Marathwada, north Maharashtra, Konkan and a few districts of Vidarbha.

Wadettiwar said compensation of up to Rs 4 lakh each had been given to the kin of those who had died, while relief has been provided for damaged homes, and work was underway to provide compensation as per SDRF (State Disaster Response Fund) norms to farmers for crop damage. "However, the compensation criteria as per SDRF norms have been same for the last six years, which is Rs 6,800 per hectare. We have requested the Central government to change these criteria and increase compensation for greater relief to farmers," Wadettiwar said.

Fadnavis accuses State govt of interfering in police department

Team Absolute | Raigad

Senior BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis on Saturday alleged that there has been "increased interference" of the Uddhav Thackeray-led government in the state police department. "Even since the formation of the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government, there has been increased interference in the police department. This government has been interfering in the police force, which is a disciplined force. The police should be treated with respect. There have been objections about the recent police transfers as some police officials complained about downgrading of their posts or being sidelined," Fadnavis told reporters. The former state chief minister claimed



that several IPS officers met him and pointed out that protocols were breached in the recent transfers in the police force. When asked about NCP minister Nawab Malik's objection to the IPS officers meeting Fadnavis, he said, "When I was chief minister, many IPS officers used to meet NCP president Sharad Pawar. I never objected to it." He asserted that IPS officers keep meeting senior political leaders as per the tradition in the state. "There is democracy in Maharashtra. It should not be treated like West Bengal," the Leader of Opposition in state Legislative Assembly said.

MAHARASHTRA GOVERNMENT IS ANTI-HINDU: RANE

Rane said, "Maharashtra government is imposing restrictions at the time of festivals. It is wrong. This is an anti-Hindu government. They think of restrictions only when Hindu festivals are there. Except for Hindus, there is no restriction in the festival of any religion. Shiv Sena speaks of but their Hindutva ended the day they parted ways with BJP."

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Slamming the Shiv Sena, Union minister Narayan Rane on Friday said the Maha Vikas Aghadi government is anti-Hindu. Rane said, "Maharashtra government is imposing restrictions at the time of festivals. It is wrong. This is an anti-Hindu government. They think of restrictions only when Hindu festi-



vals are there. Except for Hindus, there is no restriction in the festival of any religion. Shiv Sena speaks of but their Hindutva ended the day they parted ways with BJP." Asked about the lookout circular issued against Rane's family mem-

bers by Pune city police, the Union minister said, "It is wrong. We neither received notice nor do we have any information. We already paid off the loan of Rs 25 crore. We have asked the bank to inform us about the amount of interest. For settlement, the date is

October 16. We will go to court against whoever is trying to defame us." Pune city police on Thursday issued a lookout circular against Rane's wife Neelam Rane and son Nitesh Rane in connection with cases related to unpaid loans taken from a financial institution. Notably, Mumbai Police on Thursday imposed Section 144 in the city from September 10 to 19 to curb the public celebrations of the Ganesh Chaturthi festival in view of the Covid-19 pandemic. No processions of Ganapati will be allowed and more than five persons can't gather at a place, said the Mumbai commissioner's office. Devotees have to take the darshan of Lord Ganesha online and they cannot visit mandapas across the city. The order is being issued from Mumbai commissioner's office and will be applicable under the jurisdiction area Mumbai police commissionerate.

Yash Raj Films introduces health insurance for daily wage earners

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Filmmaker Aditya Chopra has launched 'Saathi Card' to provide health insurance, school fee allowance, ration supply, among other benefits to the industry's daily wage earners and their families. To sustain this beyond just a response to Covid-19, Aditya has launched the Saathi Card, modelled on the lines of an international policy concept - "universal basic support" under The Yash Chopra Foundation, to provide health insurance, school fee allowance, ration supply, annual health check ups among other benefits to the industry's daily wage earners and their families.



Akshay Widhani, Senior Vice President of YRF, said: "At Yash Raj Films we believe not just about reactively donating but it is rather a more strategic thought process and plan of action to create sustainable impact in the lives of our beneficiaries."



Any individual who is a registered member of the Hindi Film Federation in Mumbai, is 35 years of age or above and has at least one direct dependent, is eligible to apply for the card. "The Saathi Card is our way of being there as a friend

and support system to those who form the backbone of our industry. In times to come, we will expand the scope of this support to enhance the quality of life for those part of our community," Widhani added. Card holders will be able to use it for healthcare including health insurance up to Rs 2 lakhs, free annual check-ups and discount on medicine bills and treatment services. Registered individuals can also use the card to support their children's education as YRF is providing an allowance for school fees, stationery and uniforms. They can also use the card to purchase ration supplies.

MINOR RAPED, DIES BY SUICIDE; ACCUSED ARRESTED

Amravati: A minor who was allegedly raped died by suicide in Daryapur of Maharashtra's Amravati. The rape accused has been arrested and sent to police remand till September 15. As per the Police Sub-Inspector of the Yevda police station, Dilip Patil, a complaint was registered yesterday claiming that a man repeatedly raped the 15-year-old minor and impregnated her. "We received a complaint that a man repeatedly raped her. She became pregnant and later hanged herself to death. Accused arrested and case registered. Court sent accused to police remand till September 15," Patil said.

AFTER TWO YEARS, PCMC TO RESTORE DAILY WATER SUPPLY IN PIMPRI-CHINCHWAD FROM NOVEMBER

Team Absolute | Pune

Residents of the Pimpri-Chinchwad Municipal Corporation (PCMC) have reason to cheer. Two years after it restricted water supply in the industrial city to alternate days, the civic administration has decided to restore daily supply in a couple of months. The move follows directions from the state government, besides the near-completion of construction of a jackwell. Pavana dam, the lifeline of Pimpri-Chinchwad, is also currently full. "We are planning to restore daily water supply to the city from November," Municipal Commissioner Rajesh Patil told The Indian Express Saturday. "The work of a jackwell in Talawade is nearing completion, after which we should be able to resume daily supply," he added. The civic administration introduced alternate day water supply in the city in 2019, refusing to budge despite protests from citizens and political parties. It argued that the system ensured equitable distribution of water to all parts of the city. "Pavana dam is full but our system is not ready to make water available every day. In the next two months or so,

The civic administration had introduced alternate day water supply in 2019 arguing that the system ensured equitable distribution of water to all parts of the city.

we should be in a position to supply every day," said PCMC executive engineer Pravin Ladkat. He said Pimpri-Chinchwad will get additional 100 MLD water from Andra dam from November. "We will be taking the water from the Indrayani river at Talwade. A jackwell work will be completed in the next two months. The water will be routed to the purification plant in Chikhali from where it will be supplied to the entire town," he said. PCMC will also get 200 MLD water from Bhama Askhed dam. "The closed pipeline laying work from the dam will take more than a year to complete," Ladkat said. "Sector 25 in Nigdi-Pradhikaran is our pilot project which we plan to extend to the entire industrial town once our water projects are completed. In Sector 25, there is a population of 8,000 to whom we currently supply water 24x7 since May," he said.

ASHA WORKERS TO GO ON STRIKE ON SEPTEMBER 24



Team Absolute | Pune

Over 70,000 community women health workers in Maharashtra, a, who played a vital role in fight against Covid-19, will go on a statewide day-long strike on September 24 over non-payment of various components of their honorarium amounting to Rs 4,000 for the last few months. These include a monthly Covid incentive of Rs 1,000 promised by the Centre and a newly announced monthly hike of Rs 3,000 by the Maharashtra government. These health workers, known as Asha, also get incentives based or calculated on various sundry jobs that they do in a month. "We aim to take the statewide strike of these workers across the country on September 24," said MA Patil, president, Maharashtra Rajya Gatapravartak Ani Ashaswayamsevika Sangha a statewide union of Asha workers. "We didn't get the hiked payment of Rs 2,000 from April 2021 onward and payment of additional Rs 1,000 from July 2021. Besides, the Centre also stopped paying us Rs 1,000 Covid incentive from April this year," Patil said. Despite repeated attempts, N Ramaswami, commissioner (family welfare) and director, NHM, Maharashtra chapter could not be contacted for his comment.

Jailor, His Colleague Attacked with Sharp Weapons Inside Kalyan Jail

An offence was registered against the two inmates, identified as Mohammad Altaf alias Maftab Khalid Shaikh and Ankit Mahendra Prasad.

Team Absolute | Thane

Two undertrials allegedly attacked a jailor and his colleague with sharp weapons at Adharwadi jail located at Kalyan in Maharashtra's Thane district, police said on Saturday. The incident took place earlier this week and an offence was registered in this connection at Khadakpada police station against the two inmates, identified as Mohammad Altaf alias Maftab Khalid Shaikh and Ankit Mahendra Prasad, they said. The victims suffered injuries in the incident, police said. In his complaint lodged with the police, jailor Anand Pansare said that on Wednesday, when he was on duty in the barracks, he spot-



ted undertrial Altaf coming out of a cell that was not allotted to him. When he questioned Altaf about it, the latter attacked him with a blade, injuring him seriously. The jailor said in the complaint that he suffered injuries on his neck. The inmate also punched him on his stomach. When jail sepy Bhausaheb Ganjve rushed to save the jailor, the duo also attacked him with a blade and a cutter, police said. After that, the prisoners hid themselves behind the toilet blocks in the prison. They also threatened that if anybody tried to catch them or came close

to them, they would harm themselves. After a lot of effort, the jail staff finally caught hold of the duo, an official said. Following the incident, the injured jailor and his colleague were taken to a hospital, where they received first aid. An offence was registered against the accused duo under sections 120-B (criminal conspiracy), 332 (voluntarily causing hurt), 333 (voluntarily causing grievous hurt) to deter public servant from his duty) and 353 (assault or criminal force to deter public servant from discharge of his duty) of the IPC, police said.

Fire breaks out at chemical factory in Palghar



Team Absolute | Palghar

A fire broke out in a chemical factory at Boisar Tarapur industrial area of Palghar district of Maharashtra at 3 AM on Saturday. As per the information shared by Palghar disaster management, the fire tenders reached the location as soon as they received the information and started dousing the fire. "The factory was closed due to Ganesh Chaturthi holiday and no worker was present inside when the fire broke out," they said. The

The fire tenders reached the location as soon as they received the information and started dousing the fire.

police and the fire brigade are present on the site. No casualties have been reported and the cooling operation is still underway. More details are awaited.



MP GOVT'S 'GANGSTER' LAW TO DISTRIBUTE PROCEEDS OF ORGANIZED CRIME AMONG POOR

The law in the making will particularly focus on crackdown against organized mafia/syndicates engaged in rampant illegal mining, land sharks and the illicit liquor mafia.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Shivraj Singh Chouhan government in Madhya Pradesh is working on bringing a law against organized crime under which property attained/proceeds generated through illegal means will be distributed to the poor.

"A new Gangster Act is in the making in MP, which will aim at tightening the leash on organized crime, including the illicit liquor mafia. Under Section 16(5) of the law, provision will be made not only to confiscate property attained through organized crime, but also to distribute it among the poor," State's Home Minister Narottam



Mishra told media reporters.

"That particular provision in the law, the draft of which is being finalized, will ensure that property snatched or obtained from poor people by the organized criminals goes back to

the same poor people and not the organized criminals or syndicates," Mishra claimed.

He added that the new Gangster Act will also have provisions for special fast track courts to ensure speedy trial of cases of

organized crime. The new Gangster law being drafted will also have specific provisions for motivating witnesses, as well as have provisions for punishment to those who directly or indirectly aid organized crime gangs/syndicates.

According to informed official sources, the draft of the new law will be put before the state cabinet for approval next month, after which it will be introduced as a Bill in the winter session of the Vidhan Sabha.

The law in the making will particularly focus on crackdown against organized mafia/syndicates engaged in rampant illegal mining, land sharks and the illicit liquor mafia.

16 Districts of State Record Deficit Rainfall

Bhopal: Madhya Pradesh has recorded 802 mm rainfall so far this monsoon, which is a deficit of about six per cent, an official from the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Saturday.

Madhya Pradesh has recorded 802 mm rainfall so far this monsoon, which is a deficit of about six per cent, an official from the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Saturday.

According to the IMD, the central state has received 802 mm rainfall so far since June 1 as against the average 854.8 mm recorded during this period. At least 16 districts in the state have recorded deficit rainfall, of which 11 are in the eastern and five are in the western part of the state, the IMD's latest data revealed.

Jabalpur district has received the lowest -44 per cent rainfall, while Singrauli has received the highest +47 per cent showers in east Madhya Pradesh, it was stated. Jabalpur has received 573 mm rain against its average 1,017.3 mm, while Singrauli saw 1,105.9 mm rains against the normal 754.8 mm. As per the IMD data, Dhar district has received 510 mm rain against the normal 742 mm (-31 per cent), while Sheopur has received the highest 1,258 mm rain against its average 630 mm (100 per cent) in the western part of the state.

Farmer Dies By Suicide, Family Blames Debt And Crop Loss

Speaking to media, the farmer's uncle Bhagwan Patidar said Jitendra had told him that he was taking the step due to loan and crop losses.

Team Absolute | Khargone

A 37-year-old farmer allegedly died by suicide after being unable to repay loans and suffering crop losses in Khargone district, police said today.

Jitendra Patidar was found hanging from a tree in his farm in Pandhaniya village yesterday, the official said. "We received information on Friday evening that a farmer had committed suicide under Mengan police station. A team of officials from the district administration and agriculture department reached the spot immediately," subdivisional

magistrate (SDM) Satyendra Singh said.

When asked about the loan burden on the farmer and crop losses as alleged by his family, the official said the matter will become clear after a probe.

The district had recorded lesser rainfall compared to last year, but the recent down-pour had improved the situation as far as crops are concerned, Singh said. According to sources, the farmer's family owned 18 acres of land. The body of the farmer was handed over to his family after a post-mortem today morning, it was stated.

Speaking to reporters,

the farmer's uncle Bhagwan Patidar claimed that Jitendra had spoken to him over the phone before committing suicide and had said that he was taking the extreme step due to increasing burden of loan and crop losses.

"Jitendra's loan amount from banks and cooperative societies had risen to ? 10-12 lakh. He was depressed, as he was unable to repay the amount. Apart from this, he had also faced some crop losses due to poor rains. I tried to make him understand, but he hanged himself by the time I reached the spot," Bhagwan said.

CM TO INTERACT WITH SELF-HELP GROUPS OF STATE

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan will hold virtual dialogue with the women of the groups on September 14 in the Women Self-Help Group Orientation and Dialogue Programme.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan will hold virtual dialogue with the women of the groups on September 14 in the Women Self-Help Group Orientation and Dialogue Programme. Self-help groups from all district headquarters will participate in this programme starting at 11 am. Women from groups in rural areas will join the programme through various media. Chouhan said that many schemes are being run in the state for the social and economic

empowerment of mothers, sisters and daughters. Financial assistance is also being provided through banks to empower self-help groups to make women financially strong. Chief Minister said that the campaign of women empowerment will go on continuously in Madhya Pradesh.

It is noteworthy that more than 3 lakh 37 thousand women self-help groups are actively participating in various activities in the state. The state government is also doing the work of providing market to the material produced by the groups.

CM PLANTS JAMUN SAPLING IN SMART UDYAN



Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Saturday planted Jamun sapling in Smart Udyan. Shri Chouhan plants saplings every day in fulfilment of his resolve. Anil Agarwal (Lily) was also present on the occasion. Jamun is an evergreen tree with purple coloured fruits. This tree is found in India and other countries of South Asia and Indonesia etc.

Ganesha idol holding sanitary napkins to spread awareness on menstrual hygiene

Team Absolute | Indore

Madhya Pradesh-based NGO has made an idol of Lord Ganesha holding sanitary napkins in his hands to spread awareness on menstrual hygiene. (Image: News18) A Madhya Pradesh-based NGO has made an idol of Lord Ganesha holding sanitary napkins in his hands to spread awareness on menstrual hygiene.

Every year, on the occasion of Ganesha Chaturthi, people across the country make idols of Lord Ganesha with unique themes to spread awareness on any important social issue. Similarly, this year an NGO in Madhya Pradesh's Mhow town has made an idol of Lord Ganesha holding sanitary napkins in his hands to spread awareness about the importance of menstrual hygiene. The NGO named 'Aniwayara', which works to spread awareness on menstrual hygiene and distributes sanitary pads across the country has tried to depict Lord Ganesha in the form of a responsible husband promoting men-



strual hygiene by holding sanitary napkins in both hands. The organisation has installed the idol in its office in Mhow.

In accordance with the theme, Goddesses Riddhi and Siddhi have also been placed on both sides of Lord Ganesha's idol. "After movie Bahubali hit theatres, the Lord had appeared in Bahubali avtaar (image) on Ganesha festival, so I thought why can't he take this message forward on menstrual

hygiene," said Ankit Bagdi, a young author who founded NGO 'Aniwayara'. He has distributed around 20 lakh pads since April 2020 using his personal savings.

"We are celebrating 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', so I thought why not devote the festival theme on women's freedom to menstrual hassles," he said, adding that response to the theme on social media has been encouraging so far.

Betul district selected in teak product promotion scheme

Bhopal: Betul district has been selected for teak product promotion scheme. Here after assessing the quantity of teak production, exploring the possibilities of growth in it and listing the value addition of the products, a strategy for their marketing will be prepared. The Forest Department has prepared a list of artisans and institutions engaged in the initial processing of teakwood and in making teakwood products in the "One District-One Product" scheme. Marketing strategy is being prepared by listing the possibilities of value addition of the products. For this, cooperation will be taken from All India Institute of Wood Science Technology Bengaluru and Indian Institute of Forest Management.

CM PAYS TRIBUTE TO ACHARYA VINOBA BHAVE

Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan paid tributes to Vinoba Bhave ji on his birth anniversary. Chouhan garlanded his portrait in the auditorium at his residence. Acharya Vinoba Bhave was born on September 11, 1895. He was a freedom fighter and social worker. He is considered the national teacher of India. He spent the last years of his life in the ashram of Pawanar, Maharashtra. He started the Bhoodan movement. He was imprisoned in the Nagpur Jhanda Satyagraha. Vinoba Bhave was a very learned and considerate person. Vinoba Bhave also studied and contemplated on the modern principles of economics, politics and philosophy. He was the first person to have received the International Ramon Magsaysay Award for Community Leadership in 1958. He died on November 15, 1982. In 1983, he was posthumously awarded the Bharat Ratna, the country's highest civilian award.



Families of 3 forest personnel martyred while protecting wildlife honoured

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of Forest Force Ramesh Kumar Gupta has said that the forest personnel of the Forest Department set an excellent example of devotion to duty by sacrificing their lives for the protection of forests and conservation of wildlife of the state. The department is proud of the sacrifice of such martyred forest personnel. On the occasion of National Forest Martyrs Day, Gupta was felicitating the kin of the forest personnel, who were martyred while on duty, at

the Forest Rest House Complex located at Char Imli.

In the programme, the kin of three martyred forest personnel were honoured with a cheque of Rs one lakh each and a citation. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) Alok Kumar along with officers and employees of the Forest Department were present.

Shri Madanlal Verma, working as a forest guard in the Forest Division, Dewas, attained martyrdom when he was shot on February 4, 2021, during an encounter with wild animal hunters in Ratanpur beat of Punjapura circle of the forest area.

Divisional Forest Officer, Dewas has issued orders to name Ratanpur beat after Martyr Madanlal Verma on the day of Martyrs Day of forest workers.

Raj Parikshit Bhatt, working as a forest guard in Satpura Tiger Reserve Hoshangabad, attained martyrdom on May 5, 2021 during efforts to control the fire accident in the forest area.

Suryaprakash Ade, who was working as a forest guard in the Balaghat forest division, had attained martyrdom in an attempt to control the fire accident that took place on April 12, 2021 in the forest area.

CM congratulates Shubham of Raisen

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has congratulated Shubham Chouhan of Raisen district on receiving the National Youth Award. Chouhan extended best wishes for a bright future to Shubham, who had come to his residence to meet him. It may be mentioned here that Shubham Chouhan has been honoured with the National Youth Award for the year 2018-19 by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India in recognition of his outstanding services towards the community. Shubham Chouhan has been given this

award for works related to cleanliness campaign, voting awareness programme, plantation campaign, blood donation camp, health awareness programme, making rural areas open defecation free (ODF) and women empowerment works. Shubham is a resident of village Tamot of Raisen district. National Youth Awards are being given since 1985. The objective of these awards is to motivate the youth to achieve excellence in the field of national development or social service and to develop a sense of responsibility towards the community. The award consists of a medal, a certificate and an amount of Rs one lakh.

Works of more than Rs 2521 crore approved in Jal Jeevan Mission

The Public Health Engineering Department of the Government of Madhya Pradesh has approved water supply schemes costing Rs.2521 crore 23 lakh 44 thousand in Jal Jeevan Mission. This includes the highest ever 2840 water bodies in the rural areas.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The state government's effective initiative regarding the water arrangements of rural areas in the state is in progress. In this sequence, the Public Health Engineering Department of the Government of Madhya Pradesh has approved water supply schemes costing Rs.2521 crore 23 lakh 44 thousand in Jal Jeevan Mission. This includes the highest ever 2840 water bodies in the rural areas.

Additional Chief Secretary, Public Health Engineering Department, Malay Shrivastava informed that after examining 2840 proposals received in connection with rural water supply

schemes of 45 districts of the state as per rules, approval has been issued after approval. He said that for the first time, the department has given one-time approval for water supply schemes of such a huge amount. The field staff of the department will ensure to provide drinking water through tap connections to the rural population by completing the water supply schemes as soon as possible.

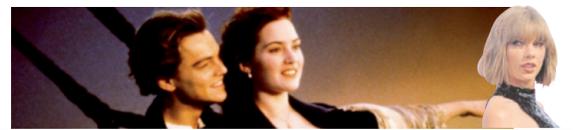
In order to supply drinking water through domestic tap connection to the entire rural population of the state, the Public Health Engineering Department is continuously working on the establishment and expansion of water structures under the National Water Life Mission. So far, arrangements have been made to provide drinking water

through tap connections to 100 percent households of about 3260 villages in the state. Jal Jeevan Mission gives priority to villages affected by water quality, Sansad Adarsh gram and Scheduled Castes and Tribes dominated villages. The Public Health Engineering Department had set a target of providing 22 lakh 805 tap connections to the rural population by the current financial year (March 31, 2022). With this approval of the total 2840 water supply schemes by the department, the remaining target will be met in the coming months with the planned and time bound action of the department. Approval has been given by the Public Health Engineering Department to Bhopal district's 31 water bodies, Raisen 53, Sehore 17, Vidisha 37, Rajgarh 37,

Hoshangabad 97, Betul 194, Harda 44, Dhar 34, Jhabua 14, Khargone 148, Barwani 07, Khandwa 57, Ujjain 29, Neemuch 03, Shajapur 29, Ratlam 80, Agar Malwa 11, Dewas 107, Mandasaur 64, Gwalior 28, Ashoknagar 19, Shivpuri 39, Datia 02, Guna 23, Morena 266, Sheopur 27, Bhind 46, Sagar 82, Panna 11, Chhatarpur 57, Tikamgarh 06, Jabalpur 205, Katni 57, Mandla 90, Balaghat 28, Narsinghpur 26, Dindori 51, Chhindwara 207, Seoni 183, Rewa 145, Satna 23, Sidhi 55, Shahdol 40, and 31 water bodies of Anuppur district. Along with new water supply schemes, works will also be done under retrofitting by re-building the already constructed drinking water infrastructure in various villages under the mission.

NATIONAL LOK ADALAT ORGANISED AT REAL ESTATE APPELLATE TRIBUNAL

Bhopal: In the National Lok Adalat held on September 11 at Madhya Pradesh Real Estate Appellate Tribunal, Bhopal, 3 cases were resolved with mutual consent. These cases were related to the debt of Rs 58 lakh 14 thousand 516. Registrar Madhya Pradesh Real Estate Appellate Tribunal Sachin Jain has informed that a Bench was constituted for Lok Adalat under the chairmanship of JS Mathur, Member of the Tribunal. This included Advocates Brijesh Parmar and Rohit Sharma. A total of 9 cases were presented before the committee. Out of these, cases of Rashmi Nayak vs. Adinath Builders, M/s Ansal Housing and Construction Limited vs. Naveen Chadha and AG-8 Ventures Limited and others vs. Aastha Agrahari Vaish and other cases were resolved.



Nicki Minaj's husband pleads guilty for failing to register as sex offender

New York | Agencies

Nicki Minaj's husband Kenneth Petty has pleaded guilty for failure to register as a sex offender in California after being convicted of attempted rape. In new court documents filed in the US District Court in Central District of California and obtained by Billboard, Petty withdrew his initial not guilty plea to the single-count indictment and changed his plea to guilty. Petty was charged after he was arrested at a traffic stop in Beverly Hills in 2019 and police discovered he had not registered as a sex offender in the state when he moved there from New York three years prior. The filing also notes that Petty acknowledged in documents he signed that he was required to notify New York of a change of address if and when he moved to another state and it was his responsibility to follow all laws regarding registration as a sex offender. In March 2020, the 43-year-old Petty registered with the California Megan's Law database, which tracks local sex offenders in California, where he and Minaj currently live with their infant son, and had his charges dropped by the Los Angeles District Attorney's office. But he still faced federal charges from the Department of Justice which this plea deal addresses. Petty is now scheduled for sentencing on January 24, 2022. The New York State department labels Petty as a level-two sex offender, which deems him of having a moderate risk of a repeat offense, after he was convicted of attempted rape in the first degree in 1994.



KRISTEN STEWART SHARES TITBIT ABOUT PRINCESS DIANA

London | Agencies

Hollywood Actress Kristen Stewart, who is set to play Princess Diana in the movie 'Spencer', said she loved how "present" the late royal was.

The 31-year-old actress will play the late royal, who died in a car crash in 1997 at the age of 36, in Pablo Larraín's biographical drama, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

She said: "Even when she looked her most beautiful and most substantial, she also felt like she could kick her shoes off and like walk outside with you, ask how you are, and you would feel that honesty from her. It's hard to do that when you are teetering around on heels and looking like no one can come near you."

"We do see that as beautiful but she was really able to be there; she was so present -- that's my favourite thing about her."

The movie takes place a few days over Christmas 1991 at Queen Elizabeth's Sandringham Estate, as Diana, who was born Diana Frances Spencer, decides to end her marriage to Prince Charles.

Stewart said there were royal advisers around on the Motion Pictures' set to ensure the film remained "authentic", and she learned to curtsy while shooting the movie.



JESSICA CHASTAIN'S HUSBAND FINDS HER SUCCESS 'SEXY'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Jessica Alba faced sexism while starting her career in the entertainment industry. The 'L.A.'s Finest' star said that people in Hollywood didn't take her seriously when she was starting out and she would often dream of being "treated the way (she) saw men being treated" on movie sets, reports aceshowbiz.com. She said: "I always wanted to be treated the way that I saw men being treated. Men were told, 'Oh, you're really smart' if you have ideas about the character or the story, where for the women it was like, 'What? You have an opinion?' It was like you came off as aggressive, where a man just looked really assertive and powerful." "I think attitudes about strong women were quite oppressive in a lot of ways when it came to women having an equal standing," Alba added. Eventually, Alba racked up an extensive on-camera resume and started her own business in 2012 in the form of The Honest Company. Asked when she felt most empowered in her career, she said she had to "allow" herself to feel that way.

Jessica Alba talks about experiencing sexism early in acting career

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Jessica Chastain's husband Gian Luca Passi de Preposulo feels it's "sexy" that she earns more than him and she doesn't believe women should be made to feel guilty for their success. Chastain told the Daily Mail newspaper's Baz Bamigboye: "Well my own husband! I wouldn't be with a man who didn't celebrate it. It's a modern thing now with women in the workforce and their earning power, and people valuing us for what we can do. It's very important to be around men who celebrate that." She will next be seen opposite Oscar Isaac in 'Scenes From a Marriage', a five-part drama series in which her tech boss character Mira earns far more than her academic spouse Jonathan and it explores the dynamic between them, reports femalefirst.co.uk. She said: "She doesn't want to emasculate her husband, because she can feel that he's uncomfortable with it, so she allows him to be king of the home. He's always blocking her, in terms of relations with her daughter. Mira mutes herself to make him feel OK." The series is based on Ingmar Bergman's 1974 movie of the same name and the actress said that it was "super raw" to shoot.

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Jodie Comer

'KATE': MARY WINSTEAD DISPLAYS HER PHYSICAL PROWESS WITH APLOMB

FILM REVIEW

BY TROY RIBEIRO

Streaming on Netflix

Direction: Cedric Nicolas-Troyan
Cast: Mary Elizabeth Winstead, Michael Huisman, Woody Harrelson, Tadanobu Asano, Miyavi, Jun Kunimura and Miku Martineau.

Duration: 106 minutes
Ratings: ***1/2 (three stars and half)

Despite being a generic, assassin-on-the-prowl thriller, 'Kate' is engaging. The second of this week's female assassin films, 'Gunpowder Milkshake' being the other, 'Kate' is an exciting action-packed ride where the troubled, titular character is forced to fight her way out of various situations while experiencing a complete physical breakdown.

Set in Japan, 'Kate' is the story of the swift and agile assassin who was raised to kill, by the mercenary Varrick (Woody Harrelson). With all training and no childhood, Kate is the best of her lot and is thus given the most prestigious of assignments. She had never slipped up in the past twelve years.



But, this time for an assignment in Osaka, she flinches, when she realises that she has to shoot her target - a yakuza boss who is in close proximity of his daughter Ani (Miku Martineau). With this incident, Kate relives her past and wants to get out of the system.

Soon while preparing for an assignment in Tokyo, she meets Stephen (Michael Huisman), a handsome stranger in a bar and lands up sleeping with him. It is when she passes out before her mission and lands up in the hospital, she realises that there are others out there who also want her eliminated. She realises this after discovering that she has

been injected with a lethal poison.

Escaping from the hospital, she uses her last day to frantically find out who wants her dead and why? During the process as a redemptive act, she befriends Ani.

Elizabeth Winstead displays Kate's physical prowess with authority, which screenwriter Umair Aleem and director Cedric Nicolas-Troyan have designed. She delivers fabulous, smash out moments including an early brawl inside a yakuza hotspot where she interrupts a dinner, showing little patience for those who refuse to answer her questions. That's not all, despite Kate's fragile state, Winstead

continues displaying her agility against an army of goons, in the seamlessly choreographed action-sequences, with aplomb.

Miku Martineau is shrill and over dramatic as Ani the seeming, tagalong character. Jun Kunimura as Kikjima the Yakuza leader and Tadanobu Asano as Renji his second-in-command appear like stock characters.

Director of Photography Lyle Vincent's cinematography occasionally gets across the visual richness of urban Japan, but at least there are those occasions. Overall, with Kate being a generic tale, one wonders why is it set in Japan?





US Open

DJOKOVIC TO CLASH WITH MEDVEDEV FOR TITLE

New York | Agencies

Alexander Zverev may have spoiled world No. 1 Novak Djokovic's dream of a Golden Slam at the Tokyo Olympic Games, but the Serbian did not let the German halt his pursuit of the Grand Slam at the US Open as the winner of 20 majors won 4-6, 6-2, 6-4, 4-6, 6-2 on Saturday (IST) to set up a title clash with Russia's Daniil Medvedev.

Djokovic battled past the fourth-seeded Zverev at Flushing Meadows and moved within one win of becoming the first man since Rod Laver in 1969 to complete a Grand Slam by claiming all four major trophies in a single season.

For most of the clash, Djokovic was patient. But after securing a double-break lead in the decider, the world No. 1, who is currently tied with Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal on 20 Slam titles apiece, stepped on the gas to triumph after three hours and 33 minutes.

Djokovic, who will play second seed Daniil Medvedev for history on Sunday, has already won the Australian Open, French Open and Wimbledon this year. A victory against the Russian would give him 21 major crowns.

Djokovic is now 36-10 in five-setters and Zverev is 16-10. This year, the world No. 1 is 4-0 and the recent Cincinnati champion is 1-3. Djokovic leads the pair's ATP head-to-head series 7-3. Zverev's big serves gave Djokovic trouble early on, allowing the German to sprint to the lead. But after taking the first set, the German got off to a slow start in the second.



Medvedev books final berth

New York: Russian Daniil Medvedev marched into the US Open final after he produced a dominant performance to overcome 12th seed Felix Auger-Aliassime of Canada 6-4, 7-5, 6-2 at Flushing Meadows in New York. The second seed, who has dropped just one set en route to the final, is now one match away from capturing his first major title at Flushing Meadows. The Russian soaked up the pressure from Auger-Aliassime's powerful groundstrokes and rallied from 2-5 in the second set, saving two set points at 4-5, before advancing after two hours and three minutes on Saturday (IST).



The elephant in the room is the IPL: Nasser Hussain after Test cancellation

London | Agencies

Former England skipper Nasser Hussain put the blame for the cancellation of the fifth Test between India and England at Old Trafford to cricket's relentless scheduling, adding that the "packed schedule" and "the elephant in the room that is the Indian Premier League" had created the mess.

After several conference calls and feverish attempts by the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) and the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) to find a solution, the Test was called off because "the Indian players refused to play".

In his column for the Daily



Mail, Hussain wrote on Saturday, "Sure, they (spectators) will get their money back but they will not get to see any action, will not be reimbursed for travel and accommodation and are missing out on what might have been a thrilling conclusion to a fabulous series."

"This was a complete and utter mess. Unfortunately, though, it is where we are in the world of cricket right now due to a packed schedule and the elephant in the room that is the Indian Premier League. As soon as Covid got into the tourists' camp, some of the decision-making was about that tournament, and it is worth remembering that India have always been wary about the positioning of this Test match so close to it," said Hussain. Hussain said that the IPL was non-negotiable for the Indian cricket board, adding that the BCCI was not too happy about the positioning of the fifth Test close to the IPL, which is being held in the United Arab Emirates.

ISL winner Hernan Santana joins NorthEast United FC

Guwahati | Agencies

The 2020/21 Indian Super League (ISL) semi-finalists NorthEast United FC have announced the signing of Spanish midfielder Hernan Santana ahead of the new season of India's premier football league.

"New challenge ahead! Very happy to announce my arrival at NorthEast United FC. Looking forward to starting this new chapter in my career and getting back to the league action. Here we go!" Santana wrote on Twitter on Friday evening.

The 31-year-old played a big role in Mumbai City FC's triumph last season. Santana featured in 19 games and scored two goals for Sergio Lobera's side who won the League Shield as well as the ISL trophy.



Santana is the sixth signing of the Highlanders in recent days. He follows Emanuel Lalchhanchhuaha, Laldanmawia Ralte, Sehnaj Singh, Tondonba Singh -- another player who represented the Islanders last season -- and Joe Zohleriana into the team. Lalchhanchhuaha and Zohleriana were with Bengaluru FC last season, while Sehnaj and Laldanmawia were with SC East Bengal and Hyderabad FC respectively in ISL 2020/21.

Disciplined bowling helps South Africa take 1-0 lead vs Sri Lanka

Colombo | Agencies

A disciplined effort from the South African bowlers, especially Keshav Maharaj (1/19) and Tabraiz Shamsi (1/20), helped the tourists defeat Sri Lanka by 28 runs to take a 1-0 lead in the three-match T20 series at the R Premadasa Stadium in Colombo here on Friday evening.

Batting first, the visitors posted 163/5 thanks to a brisk start to their innings with openers Reeza Hendricks and Quinton de Kock looking in fine touch. The pair established a 73-run opening wicket stand as South Africa look set for a big total. But Wanindu Hasaranga again showcased why he is regarded as one of the best all-rounders in the



shortest format of the game. In reply, Sri Lanka had a steady start with openers Dinesh Chandimal and Avishka Fernando looking steady at the crease. But they could not capitalise and convert it into a big stand as Fernando was run-out on 11 by Anrich Nortje. Despite Chandimal's knock of 66 not out, the target proved to be too much for the hosts as they eventually ended up losing the contest by 28 runs with the Proteas going 1-0 up in the three-match series.

Brief scores
South Africa 163/5 in 20 overs (Q de Kock 36, R Hendricks 38, A Markram 48; W de Silva 2/23) beat Sri Lanka 135/6 in 20 overs (D Chandimal 66 not out; K Maharaj 1/19, T Shamsi 1/20).

Daruvala claims F2 Sprint Race for first win of the season

Monza (Italy) | Agencies

India's Jehan Daruvala of Carlin Racing put on a controlled performance in the second F2 Sprint Race at Monza to claim his first victory of the season, ahead of Trident rookie Bent Viscaal and PREMA Racings Robert Shwartzman, who took his fourth podium of the year.

Daruvala crossed the line 6.1s in front of Viscaal, who scored a maiden Formula 2 podium, according to information reaching here. Shwartzman was a late entrant into the top three after reverse polesitter David



Beckmann locked up late in the race and fell from second to fifth, behind Liam Lawson. Championship rivals Oscar Piastri and Guanyu Zhou finished one behind the other in seventh and eighth, while Hitech Grand Prix's Juri Vips was ahead of them in sixth.

Piastri leads the Drivers' title fight on 124 points, ahead of Zhou on 116 and Shwartzman on 105. Vips is fourth with 90 and Dan Ticktum is fifth with 89.

In the Teams' title fight, PREMA are first with 229 points, in front of UNI-Virtuosi on 175 and Hitech on 162. Carlin are fourth with 160 and ART fifth with 120.

After securing a second successive pole on Friday afternoon, Piastri will look to extend his Championship lead in the Feature Race. The PREMA will line up ahead of Daruvala and Zhou in Sunday's Feature race.

Ronaldo scores a brace on second debut for Manchester United

Manchester | Agencies

Cristiano Ronaldo struck a brace of goals in his first match on return to Manchester United on Saturday. Ronaldo scored twice -- his first in the first-half added time and then in 62nd minute -- on his second debut for the club as the Red Devils defeated Newcastle United 4-1 at the Old Trafford.

Bruno Fernandes (80th minute) and Jesse Lingard (90+2) scored late goals to send Manchester United to the top of the table with 10 points from four matches. Manchester City were second with nine points.

Ronaldo had recently moved to Manchester United -- the club at which he had made a name for himself, from Italian champions Juventus. From United, the Portuguese superstar had gone to Spanish giants Real Madrid.

Back in his favourite role for United after a gap of 12 years, CR7 needed the first half to get going as he opened the scoring for United in first-half injury time. After missing a couple of half-chances, Ronaldo got his first goal when he capitalised on a chance after Newcastle keeper Freddie Woodman spilled the ball inside the six-yard box off an effort by Mason Greenwood. Ronaldo was the quickest to react and tapped the ball



into the goal to make it 1-0 for United. Ronaldo had scored his 84th and last goal for Manchester United 12 years and 124 days ago.

Though Newcastle restored parity early in the second half via Javier Manquillo, Ronaldo put United ahead again in the 62nd minute, capitalising on an inch-perfect pass by Luke Shaw to slip in a left-footer between goalkeeper Woodman's legs.

At 36-year 281 days, Ronaldo became the oldest player to score a brace in a Premier League match.

In other matches on Saturday, Arsenal beat Norwich 1-0, Manchester City defeated Leicester City by a solitary goal, Brentford lost 0-1 to Brighton, Wolverhampton beat Watford 2-0 while Crystal Palace thrashed Tottenham Hotspur 3-0.

Durand Cup: Luna penalty seals debut win for Kerala

Kolkata | Agencies

Indian Super League (ISL) side Kerala Blasters started their Durand Cup campaign with a 1-0 victory on debut against the Indian Navy Football Team at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Kirangan (VYBK) on Saturday.

Uruguayan midfielder Adrian Luna scored the match-winner off a spot-kick in the 72nd minute.

Scores remained level at half-time and given how wasteful both teams were in either half, it seemed that the 130th Durand Cup was heading for its first goalless draw. The Navy team did an incredible job in their opening game when they came back from a goal down to win against Delhi FC and had they only tucked away from the biggest chance they had on Saturday in the 74th minute, they could have ensured passage to the quarter-finals. The opportunity sprung



out of a Navy counterattack. Ultimately, it was squandered, not once but twice. First, Sreyas VG had to put his shot away with only Albino

Gomes to beat, but the Blasters custodian palmed it away. Only for the ricochet to fall straight at the feet of PM Britto, who had an open goal to aim for. The former East Bengal winger, however, astonishingly shot wide.

The breakthrough goal came two minutes earlier, following an erratic challenge inside the box by Navy's Dalraj Singh, which was adjudged to be yellow-card worthy and a penalty was awarded to Kerala.

Adrian Luna stepped up and made no mistake in making it 1-0 for his side. "We are happy with the three points. It was our idea of today's game. It was really hard in these circumstances with the rain and the condition of the pitch. We wanted to finish the game without injuries but now we have to see how to recover some of our players", said Kerala Blasters Head Coach Ivan Vukomanovic following the game.

Ram-Salisbury clinch US Open men's doubles title

New York | Agencies

Fourth-seeded Rajeev Ram and Joe Salisbury battled back to overcome Jamie Murray and Bruno Soares 3-6, 6-2, 6-2 in the US Open men's doubles on Saturday (IST) to lift their second major trophy as a team.

The duo rallied from a set down against Murray and Soares, winning 78 per cent (36/46) of their first-serve points to secure victory after one hour and 44 minutes. The American-British pair triumphed at the Australian Open in 2020 and arrived in New York in strong form, after clinching their first ATP Masters 1000 crown as a team in Toronto.



They now hold an 11-1 record since Wimbledon, where they reached the semifinals.

Earlier this year, Ram and Salisbury defeated Murray and Soares in the last four at the Australian Open,

before falling to Ivan Dodig and Filip Polasek in the championship match. They now lead Murray and Soares 2-0 in their ATP head-to-head and hold a 2-1 record as a team in major finals.

New Zealand arrive in Pakistan after 18 years

Islamabad | Agencies

The New Zealand team has arrived in Pakistan after 18 years for a white-ball tour featuring three ODIs and five T20Is. The Tom Latham-led side landed at the Islamabad airport on Saturday and headed to the hotel where they will serve a three-day mandatory isolation before starting practice from September 15, according to the itinerary released by Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB).

New Zealand had abandoned its tour of Pakistan in 2002 after a bomb exploded outside the team hotel in Karachi. The explosion happened two hours before the start of the second Test. The Black Caps returned to play five ODIs in 2003, which was its last trip of Pakistan.



The 2021 trip also brings former Sri Lankan cricketer Thilan Samaraweera back to the country. Samaraweera was a member of the Sri Lankan team attacked by militants near the Gaddafi Stadium in

Lahore in 2009. After Sri Lanka abandoned the tour immediately, Samaraweera was treated for shrapnel shots in the left thigh and took three months after surgery to remove the bullet to get back on the field. He is now serving as a member of the coaching staff of the New Zealand team on their tours of Bangladesh and Pakistan.

In the meantime, the three ODIs scheduled to be played on September 17, 19, 21 in Rawalpindi will not be counted in the ICC ODI Super League and will be played as a bilateral series. Pakistan have 40 points from four wins out of nine matches, standing at sixth place in the table. New Zealand have won all three matches, picking 30 points and are ranked tenth in the table.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Vaani Kapoor has two films lined up for release now "Shamshera" and "Chandigarh Kare Aashiqui", and the actress says she is looking forward eagerly for her films to come

out. "I am just eager for all my films to come out and theatres to open and have 100 per cent occupancy because I personally also feel... I have good films in hand and I love my movies and I am just hoping people can watch them," Vaani, whose latest release is "Bell Bottom", shared while speaking to reporter.

The 33-year-old actress is hopeful that people will like "Chandigarh Kare Aashiqui", which also stars Ayushmann Khurrana, and the Ranbir Kapoor starrer 'Shamshera'.

"I am trying not to take any pressure and hope that these films work. That's all," said the actress.

Vaani Kapoor eager for all her films to come out

PRANATI RAI PRAKASH UNSPOOLS CHILDHOOD MEMORIES OF GANESH CHATURTHI

Team Absolute | Mumbai

'Cartel' actress Pranati Rai Prakash has taken a journey down the memory lane to recall Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations from her childhood days. Talking about the festival, Pranati said, "Most of my memories of Ganesh Chaturthi are from Mumbai because it's here that people celebrate the occasion in the grandest style. I have memories of making idols, visiting places, watching dance processions, and praying."

"However, as a child, I never saw a huge procession because I was always inside the Army cantonment and we did everything inside. But I loved dancing and eating different types of sweets, playing with my friends and being around aunts who would tell us stories," she recalled. Opening up on how she celebrates the festival now, the actress said, "This year, I've made a painting of Lord Ganesh that I shared on social media for my fans and followers. I wished all my close ones through messages, followed by visiting their places, being a part of the pooja, having a meal together and celebrating the presence of the Ganapati Bappa!" On the work front, Pranati features in the latest Alt Balaji web series 'Cartel'.

Bhoot Police director calls Saif-Arjun 'formidable pair'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

"Bhoot Police" director Pavan Kirpalani has heaped praises on the actors of his film Saif Ali Khan and Arjun Kapoor. He says that the two were a perfect cast to portray Vibhooti and Chiraunji and that it's almost like a dream come true to get these brilliant actors to play the characters. Kirpalani said: "Saif Ali Khan and Arjun Kapoor are the perfect cast to portray Vibhooti and Chiraunji, it's almost like a dream come true to get these two brilliant actors to play these characters. Vibhooti is tailor-made for Saif, everything about Vibhooti fits Saif like a glove, he's owned and took the character to the next level."



He shared: "In my books Vibhooti is Saif's one of best performances, he owns the character." Kirpalani added that Arjun brought such gravitas and heart to Chiraunji and has elevated the character beyond what was written.

He added: "Together both Saif-Arjun are a formidable pair, they literally have made each other's performance a lot better because of their interplay, their friction, and the love that they have for each other, it played out really well. It's really amazing to have these two talented actors in the film, they brought life to the reel brothers". 'Bhoot Police' also stars Jacqueline Fernandez, Yami Gautam, Jaaved Jaafri, and Jamie Lever in pivotal roles. The movie released on September 10 on Disney+ Hotstar.

'Khatron Ke Khiladi 11' contestants reveal their hidden talents

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In this weekend's episodes of 'Khatron Ke Khiladi 11', the title prize contenders show the world that they have something more to them than just their penchant for flirting for danger. Vishal Aditya Singh, who is known for his competitive streak, has a thing for poetry. He'll be seen reciting a self-composed 'shayari' for none other than actress Sana Makbul. Looks like love is in the air in Cape Town. The cheer from his fellow contestants will boost Vishal's enthusiasm, inspiring him to read out his heartfelt 'shayari' penned for Sana in the most romantic style. Listening to her beloved's poetry, Sana just can't stop blushing and giggling. Varun Sood reveals his talent for playing the guitar. The critically acclaimed singer Rahul Vaidya will join forces with him and sing to his tunes. Divyanka Tripathi Dahiyia, who has been surprising the viewers and her fans with her action-packed moves on the show, shall flamboyantly display her skills in rifle-shooting. As 'Khatron Ke Khiladi 11' inches towards the finale, in spite of all the fun and laughter, things are about to get serious as back-to-back elimination rounds hover upon all the contestants. This weekend the show will witness a double elimination! Which two of contestants will be out and leave the rest to fight for another day? Only time will tell! 'Khatron Ke Khiladi 11' airs every Saturday and Sunday on COLORS.



I LOVE ACTING BUT PRODUCING IS ALSO GREAT: DINO MOREA

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Dino Morea has got a great response for his performance as Shaibani Khan in the latest series 'The Empire' and his production venture 'Helmet'. He says he loves to act but he also finds creating content as a producer greatly satisfying.

Talking to reporter about which one is more daunting producing or acting, Dino shared: "When I constantly started saying no to all the terrible offers coming my way I wanted to stay connected to the film industry. I wanted to produce and create content that I would like watching... My first film was 'Jism 2'."

The 45-year-old actor took almost nine years for his next production venture 'Helmet', starring Aparshakti Khurana.

He revealed why: "I took some time after that because I was really confused about whether to produce or act... I decided to let me do both and it is possible. I am capable. I can make great content and the content I am confident about..." Fortunately, 'The Empire' came his way. "After all the hard work and saying no for so long, I think the red light has turned to green... The patience and persistence is paying off. I am happy about... I still love acting but producing is also great. I want to create more content, we are pitching for three more movies," he said.



'KYA MERI SONAM GUPTA BEWAF A HAI': A CURIOUS TALE THAT GROWS ON YOU



BY TROY RIBEIRO

Streaming on Zee5

Direction: Ssaarabh Tyagi

Cast: Jassie Gill, Surbhi Jyoti, Vijay Raaz, Surekha Sikri, Atul Srivastava, Vibha Chibber, Bijendra Kala, Neelu Kohli, Sahiba Vij and Shrikant Verma.

Duration: 137 minutes

Ratings: **1/2 (Two stars and half)

Set in the small town of Bareilly, this fictional film is a curious tale, based on true events. Well, at the beginning of 2016, social media was flooded with images of a few currency notes marked with a note in blue ink, "Sonam Gupta 'bewafa hai' (Sonam Gupta is unfaithful)." The tone of the message clearly denoted the voice of a jilted lover, but the film is not just another revenge saga.

The film helmed by Jassie Gill who plays Sintu the ditched lover, is the pampered son



of his middle-class parents (Atul Srivastav and Vibha Chibber). He is a little laid back when it comes to his ambition and routine. Despite being twenty-eight years old and twelfth passed, his mother fascinates him marrying a fair, rich, smart and fabulous girl.

Unbeknownst to his mother, Sintu starts dating Sonam Gupta (Surbhi Jyoti) a colleague from his locality. The only daughter of her parents (Rajendra Kala and Neelu Kohli), Sonam is a smart and conniving lass, who cons Sintu into believing that she loves him

too. And feigning that her parents would not accept his proposal, she cajoles Sintu to elope with her. Predictably, at the appointed hour she does not show up, making Sintu believe that she is unfaithful. How he copes with life, forms the crux of the tale.

While Sintu's character is rounded and well-etched, Sonam's is poorly written and one-dimensional. Also, the plot moving on an even keel, lacks dramatic moments. The inciting moments too are low key and lacklustre. But nevertheless, punning on the word, "big" the film smoothly and boldly navigates a male-sensitive topic probably rarely seen in Hindi Cinema, where it is used in a derogatory manner. While, both Jassie Gill and Surbhi Jyoti enact their parts with conviction, it is the actors in supporting roles who steal the show. The quizzical cum bewildered expression on Mr. Gupta's face doubting his own daughter's intentions to marry Sintu, when he tells him, is worth mentioning.

Vijay Raaz in a flat role as the money lender Sanjeev Naagral, is unimpressive and Surekha Sikri as the Sintu's Dadi is wasted.

On the directorial front, there are a few jerky moments in the film and visually too, it suffers from continuity issues. Overall, the film despite its shortcomings is a film, that grows on you.

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Sara Ali Khan