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SC ON CENTRE'S DENIAL ON DETAILED AFFIDAVIT IN PEGASUS ROW

BEATING AROUND THE BUSH

A bench headed by Chief Justice N.V. Ramana and comprising justices Surya Kant and Hima Kohli said the court will pass an interim order in the next few days and told the Centre that beating around the bush would not take the issue anywhere.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

After the Centre's denial to file a detailed affidavit clarifying whether Pegasus spyware was used or not, the Supreme Court on Monday reserved its order on a batch of petitions seeking independent probe into the alleged Pegasus snooping case. "Beating around the bush...we will pass some interim order," the chief justice told Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the Centre. The top court pointed at the response of former Minister for Electronics and Information Technology in Parliament in 2019. However, Mehta highlighted a recent statement made by Minister of Railways, Communications and Electronics & Information Technology of India on the floor of the Parliament clarifying the government's stand. The Chief Justice clarified that the court is also not keen on government disclosing any information which compromises the national security. The bench noted that if government were to file an affidavit, then it would have known "where do we stand on the subject".



WHETHER CENTRE USED PEGASUS OR NOT, CAN'T BE PUT ON AFFIDAVIT: CENTRE

New Delhi: The Centre on Monday stating national security reason told the Supreme Court it does not wish to file a detailed affidavit clarifying whether Pegasus spyware was used or not as it responded to a batch of petitions seeking independent probe into the alleged Pegasus snooping. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the Centre, submitted before a bench headed by Chief Justice N.V. Ramana that the government will disclose all details in connection with the Pegasus case before a panel of domain experts but not on an affidavit for national security reasons. The Centre reiterated that it has "nothing to hide" and emphasized that the government has on its own said it will constitute a committee of domain experts, who are not connected with the government, to examine spying allegations. "Such issues of whether Centre was using Pegasus or not cannot be debated in affidavits and can be looked into by domain experts," Mehta added.

RECONSIDER EXCLUDING COVID PATIENT'S SUICIDE AS COVID DEATH

With the Health Ministry and the Indian Council of Medical Research holding that "deaths occurring due to poisoning, suicide, homicide, deaths due to accident etc will not be considered as Covid-19 deaths even if Covid-19 is an accompanying condition", the Supreme court observed that it is prima facie of view that Covid patients who had committed suicide should be treated as Covid death. The bench comprising SG Tushar Mehta, representing the Centre, that the court has gone through the Centre's affidavit and it seems to be fine. However, it pointed out few issues, such as what about the persons who died by suicide while they were suffering from Covid, and how will the states implement the policy issued by the Centre. Expressing satisfaction with Centre's decision on a Covid-19 death certificate for granting compensation, the bench observed that there are some errors, which needs to be dealt with.

CAN'T LET IBC FAIL, AVOID DELAY

Raising concern over delays in corporate insolvency resolution processes (CIRP), the Supreme Court on Monday asked the National Company Law Tribunal and the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal to strictly adhere to the mandated 330-day timeline. Observing that judicial delay was one of the major reasons for the failure of the insolvency regime that was in effect prior to the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), the court said: "We cannot let the present insolvency regime meet the same fate." The bench, said that the NCLT and the NCLAT should endeavour, on a best effort basis, to strictly adhere to the timelines stipulated under the IBC and clear pending resolution plans forthwith. As per the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016, the CIRP should be completed within 180 days or within the extended period of 90 days and mandatorily be completed within 330 days, including any extension and the time taken in legal processes.

TN Assembly passes bill seeking exemption from NEET



Team Absolute | Chennai

The Tamil Nadu Assembly on Monday passed the bill seeking exemption from the National Entrance-cum-Eligibility Test (NEET) and make admissions to medical colleges based on the marks scored by the students in the Class 12 examinations (intermediate). Chief Minister M.K. Stalin had introduced the Tamil Nadu Admission to Undergraduate Medical Degree Courses Act-2021 and it was passed by voice vote. The principal opposition party AIADMK, which had walked out of the house earlier, later came back to support the bill. Former Chief Minister and the Leader of Opposition, K. Palaniswami had said that his party will extend its support to the Bill. However, members of the BJP walked out of

when the bill was put to vote. Stalin said his DMK has been opposing NEET from the beginning and after coming to power, has started the legal fight against it. He sought the support of the opposition parties for the bill. Stalin said the government is trying to bring the admission process for medical seats based on Class 12 standard marks. He said that the bill provides for 7.5 per cent reservation in medical colleges for students who had studied in government schools. The government will try to get the assent of the President for the Bill. This is the second time a bill for such a purpose was passed in the Assembly. A similar bill was passed by the assembly during the AIADMK regime but it did not get the President's assent. There has been severe opposition to the NEET in Tamil Nadu by students and the political parties.

Massive rainfall in Odisha, alert for Chhattisgarh & MP



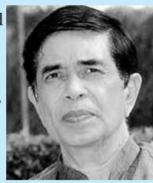
Team Absolute | New Delhi

Massive rainfall was recorded in several parts of Odisha as the depression over northwest Bay of Bengal and adjoining Odisha coast turned into a deep depression in the early hours on Monday. Odisha, north Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh are likely to get heavy rainfall during the next 48 hours, the IMD said. In Odisha's Puri district, two places -- Astaranga and Kakatpur -- received rainfall in excess of 500 mm in the last 24 hours along with more than three dozen other places with rainfall over 100 mm, 200 and even 400 mm during the same time. "It is very likely to continue to move west-north-

west wards across north Odisha, north Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh during next 48 hours," the IMD said, adding, it is very likely to weaken into a Depression during the next 24 hours. Light to moderate rainfall at many places with isolated heavy to very heavy falls very likely over north coastal Andhra Pradesh, Gangetic West Bengal, Jharkhand and Telangana on Monday and over Madhya Pradesh till Tuesday. Light to moderate rainfall at most places with heavy to very heavy falls at isolated places also very likely over south Gujarat, north Konkan, north interior Maharashtra (including Vidarbha) on Monday and Tuesday.

SENIOR CONG LEADER OSCAR FERNANDES PASSES AWAY AT 80

New Delhi: Senior Congress leader and former Union Minister Oscar Fernandes passed away in Mangalore on Monday. He was 80. A sitting Member of the Rajya Sabha, he was critically injured after he fell accidentally while doing his regular exercise on July 20 this year. He was admitted to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) in a super speciality hospital at Mangalore. Fernandes was the Union minister for transport, road highways, labour and employment in the UPA government headed by former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. Born on March 27, 1941, Fernandes started his political career as Councillor of Udipi Municipal Council in 1972. He is survived by his wife Blossom Fernandes, son and a daughter.



BHUPENDRA PATEL TAKES OATH AS NEW GUJARAT CM

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Bhupendra Patel, a first-time MLA, was sworn in as Gujarat's new Chief Minister. Union Home Minister Amit Shah attended the oath ceremony. Bhupendra Patel, the BJP MLA from Ghatlodia seat held earlier by Anandiben Patel, was an unexpected choice after much speculation circling around other names. Patel, 59, emerged as a compromise candidate over more obvious choices. Patel, who has a diploma in civil engineering, has been a member of the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation and the Ahmedabad Urban Development



Authority. He won the 2017 Gujarat election by a record margin. Patel's appointment is meant to mollify the

powerful Patidar community, which has been upset with the BJP and has backed the opposition Congress's Hardik Patel.

WHO CONGRATULATES INDIA FOR ADMINISTERING 75 CR VACCINE DOSES



Team Absolute | New Delhi

India's Covid vaccination coverage under the mass vaccination drive crossed the landmark of 75 crore doses on Monday. Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said in a Tweet that India has crossed the mark of administering 75 crore vaccine doses. The daily vaccination tally is expected to increase with the compilation of the final reports for the day by late on Monday night. More than 67 lakh (67,04,768) vaccine doses were administered till 5:30 pm on Monday. The World Health Organization Regional Office for South-East Asia (SEARO) has also congratulated India for achieving the 75 crore vaccination mark.

Brother-sister duo on top in CA final exam

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A sister-brother duo made headlines as the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) released results for the CA final exam on Monday with 19-year-old Nandini Agrawal topping the exam with 614/800 marks (76.75%) and her brother, Sachin Agrawal (21) securing All India Rank (AIR) 18. Both the students of Victor Convent School in Morena district of Madhya Pradesh prepared together for the IPCC (Integrated Professional Competency Course) and CA (Chartered Accountants) final. "Our strategy has been simple - we support each other but we critique even more. When we solve a question paper, he checks my answers and I check his. There were times when I lost hope but my brother helped me throughout that phase," said Nandini, who skipped two classes and studied in the same grade as her brother. She had passed class 12 in 2017 and is presently doing her articleship from PwC (Price Waterhouse Coopers). She had also got an AIR 31 in the IPCC exam. Sachin is pursuing his articleship from Gurugram-based firm, One Point Advisors. The duo advised aspirants to follow the ICAI study material for acing the exam saying, "it has worked really well for them". Their father is a tax consultant while their mother is a homemaker.



Worked hard for last one year to find dummy candidates: NEET cheat gang

- ▶ THE POLICE ARRESTED THIS 10-MEMBER GANG A FEW HOURS BEFORE THE START OF THE NEET EXAM ON SUNDAY.
- ▶ THE DUMMY CANDIDATES WERE CONVINCED TO TAKE THE TEST AND WERE GIVEN A BIG AMOUNT OF MONEY IN RETURN.
- ▶ THOSE FROM A POOR BACKGROUND WERE CHOSEN AND THE PICTURES OF THE CANDIDATES EDITED ON THE ADMIT CARD TO HELP THEM TAKE THE TEST, SAID OFFICIALS.
- ▶ POLICE INVESTIGATION CONFIRMED THAT THE GANG STARTED ITS SEARCH FOR DUMMY CANDIDATES A YEAR BACK FROM THOSE STUDENTS WHO HAVE TAKEN THE TEST AND CLEARED IT. MOST OF THESE ARE STUDENTS WHO ARE PURSUING MBBS NOW. THEY WERE CONVINCED TO SIT FOR THE REAL CANDIDATES AND PASS THE TEST.

Team Absolute | Jaipur

The police arrested a 10-member gang recently which was engaged in helping financially sound students crack the NEET exam with the help of dummy candidates who were made to take the test in their place by editing the pictures of the real candidates on admit cards. Surprisingly, these accused confirmed to police officials that they too were 'working hard' since the last one year to zero in on the dummy candidates. It was a hard task to find such candidates who could take the test and help the real candidates crack the exam, they revealed during interrogation.



The police received a tip-off that Anil Nimawat and Shardul were working to make dummy candidates take the test by accepting a large amount of money from the real candidates. When the police checked the mobile phone of Anil, they were

stunned to find the pictures, Aadhar and chat details with money transactions on the same. Police also figured out a detailed list of 15 names and other bank details and hence started arresting the accused persons since Saturday night.

Arrested on Sunday, police have taken the 10-member gang on remand till September 15 and seized one laptop and 15 mobile cells from their possession. Officials confirmed that the gang had plans to bring in fake examinees in the exam; however, they were arrested after the police acted on a tip-off. They confirmed that the dummy candidates were also helped financially from time to time so that their faith in the gang remained intact. Police got the details about the operation of the gang on WhatsApp chat via a tip-off which carried the money transaction and students' details. Further investigations are on in the matter.

SHUN PROTESTS IN STATE, PUNJAB CM APPEALS TO FARMERS

Hoshiarpur: Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Monday appealed to the representatives of farmers' unions not to hold protests across the state against the three Central farm laws passed as the state and its people have already expressed solidarity with them on this issue. In his address after laying the foundation stone of government college at Mukhlana village, he said the state where its entire people stood like a rock with them in favour of their legitimate issues, should desist from holding protests across the state against these "black" farm laws passed by the BJP-led Central government. Amarinder Singh said these ongoing protests at 113 places in Punjab by the farmers were not at all in the interests of the state, which has considerably impacted its economic development and hoped his request would be acceded by the farmers on agitation. The state Assembly and replaced by the state's own farm laws which were sent to the Governor for his assent but to "our dismay these have not yet been forwarded to the President".





INDIA'S AUG RETAIL INFLATION EASES TO 5.30% AS FOOD PRICES COOL OFF

Team Absolute | New Delhi
Base effect, along with lower food prices, eased India's August retail inflation on a sequential, and year-on-year basis. Data, furnished by the National Statistical Office (NSO), showed that the Consumer Price Index (CPI) slipped to 5.30 per cent last month from 5.59 per cent in July.



Even on YoY basis, last month's retail inflation was lower than 6.69 per cent recorded for August 2020. The macro-economic data assumes significance as it brings retail inflation mark in the range of the Reserve Bank of India's set target of 2-6 per cent for CPI inflation.

The declining retail inflation rate reduces the chance of the RBI to further loosen up the monetary policy.

Region wise, the CPI Urban fell to 3.28 per cent last month from 4.56 per cent in July, and the CPI Rural came down to 3.08 per cent in August from 3.55 per cent in July.

As per the NSO data, the Consumer Food Price Index

decreased to 3.11 per cent last month from 3.96 per cent in July. The CFPI readings measure the changes in retail prices of food products.

In terms of CPI YoY inflation rate, pulses and products' prices jumped by 8.81 per cent, respectively, in August 2021.

Besides, meat and fish prices rose by 9.19 per cent, eggs became dear-

er by 16.33 per cent, and the overall price of food and beverages category was up 3.80 per cent.

However, vegetable prices declined by 11.68 per cent.

Furthermore, as per the official data, the inflation rate for fuel and light was at 12.95 per cent.

India Ratings and Research's Principal Economist Sunil Kumar Sinha said: "Strong base effect

resulted in the decline in retail inflation. It is seventh consecutive month of retail inflation remaining in excess of 5 per cent and 23rd consecutive month of retail inflation remaining in excess of the RBI's targeted inflation rate of 4 per cent. Although monsoon rainfall were lower in August 2021, it did not impact the cereals inflation adversely."

RBI warns against frauds in guise of KYC update

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cautioned the public against falling prey to frauds in the name of KYC (know your customer) update and sharing key details such as debit and credit card details and OTPs.

In a statement on Monday, the RBI said that it has been receiving complaints and reports about customers falling prey to frauds being perpetrated in the name of KYC update. The usual modus operandi in such cases include receipt of unsolicited communication, such as, calls, SMS, emails among others from customers by urging them to share certain personal, account, or login details, card information, PIN and OTP or install some unauthorised or unverified application for KYC update using a link provided in the communication.

Such communications are



also reported to carry threats of account freeze or closure, it said. Once the customer shares information over call or message application, fraudsters get access to customer's account and defraud the person.

Members of public are hereby cautioned not to share account login details, personal information, copies of KYC documents, card information, PIN, password, OTP, etc. with unidentified persons or agencies. Further,

such details should not be shared through unverified/unauthorised websites or applications," it said. In case people receive any such requests, they should get in touch with their bank. The RBI also clarified that while the Regulated Entities (REs) are required to undertake periodic updation of KYC, the process of periodic updation of KYC has been simplified to a large extent vide circular dated May 10, 2021.

WB govt questions NHRC panel's credibility, SC to hear plea on Sep 20

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The West Bengal government on Monday questioned before the Supreme Court the credibility of the NHRC panel, which examined alleged human rights violation in post-poll violence, contending that it consisted of members who are either members of the BJP or known to be closely associated with BJP.

Listing the members of the committee, which was formed to investigate the incidents of post-poll violence, senior advocate Kapil Sibal, representing the state government, noted that a few members were close to the BJP, having ties with the party. "Can you imagine these people have been appointed to collect the data? Is this a BJP investigating committee, my Lords?" he submitted. As a



bench comprising Justices Vineet Saran and Aniruddha Bose observed that if somebody had a political past and if he lands up in an official position, should the court treat him to be biased, Sibal said that the members are still uploading posts related to the BJP. "How can the Chairman of the human rights committee appoint such members?" he asked, seeking some interim order in the meantime. However, the bench said: "Nothing will happen. We'll

have it on Monday." The top court has scheduled the matter for further hearing on September 20 and pointed out that it will go through the chart submitted by the state government. The West Bengal government moved the top court against the Calcutta High Court order, which directed court-monitored CBI probe into the heinous cases of rape and murder during the post-poll violence in the state, after accepting the NHRC panel's recommendations.

2 sisters gang raped in UP, 3 held

Etawah | Agencies

Two sisters, returning from a women police station in the Etawah district, were allegedly abducted by three men and gang raped.

All three accused involved in the Sunday incident have been arrested by the police.

The two sisters have lodged a complaint against the three accused at the Sefai police station in Etawah district.

Station Officer-in-charge of Sefai police station, Mohd Hamid Siddiqui said, "Our team was patrolling under a railway over bridge, when we noticed three men, who started running away on seeing the police van. We arrested the three in an inebriated condition."

The police official said that when they arrested the three men, they heard wails from a nearby shop that was half closed. The two women alleged that the man who had given them lift and his accomplices forced them to drink alcohol.



They warned the sisters of dire consequences if they tried to call for help. The men took the sisters to a shop and sexually assaulted

them. The sisters were also brutally beaten up by the accused, according to one of the complainants.

WOMAN ATTEMPTS SUICIDE AFTER ALLEGED RAPE BY TRAFFIC COP

Kanpur: A woman, allegedly raped repeatedly by her uncle who is a traffic police constable, attempted suicide by jumping into the Ganga river here. The incident took place on Sunday evening. The woman was saved by divers. The

he woman, 25, is a resident of Mirzapur district. She alleged that her uncle, who is a head traffic constable, had called her family to Allahabad in January 2019 to attend Kumbh Mela. During her stay in Allahabad, her uncle took her to a hotel where he gave her a cold drink laced with sedatives, and after she fell unconscious, he allegedly raped her and made a video to blackmail her. She claimed that her uncle raped her several times in Allahabad and Kanpur over the past two years. When she became pregnant, he allegedly gave her a pill to abort the pregnancy.

Two children die in building collapse in Delhi, rescue ops on

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Two children died and one person was injured in a four-storey building collapse in Delhi on Monday. The police claims that three to four people are still under debris and authorities are making all efforts to locate them.



have been identified as Sushant and Somuya, aged 7 and 12 years.

IPS officer Anto Alphonse, who is serving as Deputy Commissioner of Police in North Delhi, said two children unfortunately died.

The kids were sitting in e-rickshaw while their mother stepped down to buy grocery, just outside the building, an eyewitness said.

During initial probe, it is found that construction and digging work was going on at

ICMR GETS NOD FOR USING DRONES FROM CIVIL AVIATION MINISTRY

New Delhi: The

Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) and Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) have granted conditional exemption from Drone Rules, 2021 to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay (IIT-B).

The ICMR has got the permission for conducting experimental Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS) vaccine delivery in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Manipur, and Nagaland upto a height of 3000 meters using drones. The IIT-B has received permission for research, development and testing of drones in its own premises.

This exemption to the ICMR shall be subject to the terms and conditions of the said airspace clearance and shall be valid for a period of one year from the date of approval of the said airspace clearance or until further orders, whichever is earlier.



Strengthen measures to prevent vector-borne diseases, states told

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Amid the ongoing Covid pandemic, the spread of viral and dengue fever across the country has come as a new concern, and the Union Health Ministry on Monday asked the states and UTs to strengthen the measures for the prevention and control of vector-borne diseases.

Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan, in a letter to all states and UTs, emphasised the acceleration of activities for prevention and control of vector-borne diseases such as dengue.

As it is the post-monsoon season, other viral illnesses are also on the rise along with fear of Covid infection. Along with Covid infection



which has badly affected it, Kerala has, so far, reported 68 cases of the Nipah virus. The neighbouring states are on alert and keeping a watch on those coming from Kerala.

A total of 578 cases of dengue have been confirmed in Uttar Pradesh's Firozabad

so far, along with a few cases of malaria, scrub typhus, and leptospirosis. Delhi and Maharashtra are also fighting the viral fever along with ongoing pandemic. The cases are likely to start reducing after temperature dips in October.

Refund for unutilised Input Tax Credit can't be claimed on input services: SC

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Monday upheld the validity of a rule of the Central Goods and Service Tax, which prescribes a formula excluding the refund of unutilised input tax paid on input services as part of input tax credit (ITC).

A bench comprising Justices D.Y. Chandrachud and M.R. Shah upheld the validity of Rule 89(5), overturning a 2020 Gujarat High Court judgment which had held that Rule 89(5) was ultra vires Section 54 (3) of the CGST Act, 2017. Rule 89(5) of the CGST Rules provides for the computation of the refund of ITC on account of an inverted duty structure. The rule was amended on April 18, 2018, with prospective effect, to ensure that refund of unutilised ITC can only be availed on input goods.

The bench said: "When there is neither a constitutional guarantee nor a statutory entitlement to refund, the submission that goods and services must necessarily be treated at par on a matter of a refund of unutilised ITC cannot be accepted." Such



an interpretation, if carried to its logical conclusion, would involve unforeseen consequences, circumscribing the legislative

discretion of Parliament to fashion the rate of tax, concessions and exemptions, it added.

The bench noted that in the field of taxation, the top court has only intervened to read down or interpret a formula if the formula leads to absurd results or is unworkable.

"In the present case however, the formula is not ambiguous in nature or unworkable, nor is it opposed to the intent of the legislature in granting limited refund on accumulation of unutilised ITC. It is merely the case that the practical effect of the formula might result in certain inequities," said the top court, in its 140-page judgment.

The bench noted the purpose of the formula in Rule 89(5) is to give effect to Section 54(3)(ii) which makes a distinction between input goods and input services for grant of refund. "Once the principle behind Section 54(3)(ii) of the CGST Act is upheld, the formula cannot be struck down merely for giving effect to the same," it said.

The top court said, however, given the anomalies pointed out by the assesses, "we strongly urge the GST Council to reconsider the formula and take a policy decision regarding the same".

K'taka woman stripped, sexually abused in viral video

Yadgir | Agencies

Four men have been arrested after a shocking video of a woman being stripped off, and then sexually abused and assaulted by a group of five in Karnataka's Yadgir district went viral, police said on Monday.

Yadgir Superintendent of Police (SP) Vedamurthy said the four arrested have told them that the incident had happened one and a half years ago. The police are yet to trace the woman and the video that has gone viral recently. The incident took place on the Yadgir-Shahapur state highway. The victim has not approached the police yet. "The police department has taken the case very seriously and Shahapur police have registered a suo motu case and the matter will be investigated," Vedmurthy stated. The video shows an adult woman attacked by four to five miscreants with



sugarcane sticks after being stripped off. The men beat her up in the pitch darkness even as she begs them to let her off. The miscreants tell the woman, no one is coming to her rescue and also speak about Rs 14,000 money they lost. The miscreants used the mobile torchlight and vehicle's headlight to shoot her. The accused also sexually assaulted her while the woman screamed and wailed out in pain as she was being beaten by the other accused. The video also showed the miscreants clicking selfies with the victim during the assault.



EMPLOYMENT TOP PRIORITY OF STATE GOVERNMENT: CHIEF MINISTER

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said that employment is on top priority of the state government. The state government is starting process of recruitment to one lakh posts in a few days. Along with creation of job opportunities, entrepreneurship, self-employment is also being encouraged by the state government. There are huge employment opportunities in the private sector. In view of this, the pace of industrial development and industrial investment has been accelerated in the state. In the last 17 months, 840 acres of land has been allotted to 384 units despite Corona pandemic. With this, Rs 11 thousand crore capital investment will be made and 22 thousand people will get employment. Despite the circumstances of Corona crisis in the state, there has been an increase of 48 percent in the number of industrial units, 32 percent in land allocation, 33 percent in capital investment and 38 percent in employment generation.

Chouhan said that this unit proposed by Gokuldas Exports will be built on 10 acres of land. A capital investment of Rs 110 crore will be made by the company, in which employment will be available to more than 4 thousand local people. Also, more than three-fourth of the employees in the plant will be women. About 10 thousand people will get employment from this unit itself. Aacharpura Industrial Area has been devel-



oped on 146 hectare land. There are 154 plots in Textile Park, Aacharpura, in which there is a potential of capital investment of Rs 800 crore for setting up industries.

Chouhan said that along with Aacharpura industries would be developed on 200 acres of land available in Bandikhedhi village, 10 km away from here. Similarly, the land available in Patalpur near Berasia has been identified for agro-based industries. Our aim is to provide better employment opportunities to the local youth and women.

Chouhan said that the state has taken a long leap in ease of doing business. The state now ranks fourth in the country. It is our endeavour that Madhya Pradesh should be in the top three in the next ranking. Steps

like 'Start Your Business in Thirty Days' have been taken to encourage the establishment of industries in the state. All the activities related to establishment of industries are being conducted from single window.

Chouhan said that labour based industries are being promoted in the state to create maximum employment opportunities. Investment in industries like pharma, auto, textile and garments, food-processing, engineering products etc. are being encouraged.

Inviting industrial units for investment in the state, Chief Minister said that if you have the desire to set up an enterprise, the government has the power to cooperate in fulfilling this dream. With your will and the power of the government, we will build an

Atmanirbhar Madhya Pradesh with new will-power. The state government will leave no stone unturned in extending all possible assistance. A GIS based portal has been prepared for approval of investment proposals of industries through a single window system. Provisions for deemed approval have been implemented making the process of land allotment simpler and shorter. 45 services of 12 departments have been integrated with the single window system of the state.

Chouhan said that we are working fast towards making business easy. Under the 'Ek Zila- Ek Utpad' scheme, 64 specific products of all the districts have been selected. Industrial corridors will be developed on both sides of 'Atal Progress-Way' and 'Narmada Expressway'. Both these corridors will give new pace and direction to the construction of Atmanirbhar Madhya Pradesh.

Chouhan said that cluster based expansion of micro, small and medium industries is being encouraged in the state. Under this, 13 clusters will be developed in the state in different sectors like furniture, toys, textile, food processing, agriculture, electrical, mechanical, namkeen, engineering etc. The work of branding and marketing of village industries products at national and international level is in progress.

Chouhan said that a huge land bank is available for industries, in which 30 thousand acres of developed land and 33 thousand 664 acres of undeveloped land is also available for industrial areas.

100% Covid vax, a tribal village in MP shows the way



Team Absolute | Jhabua

A remote village in Jhabua district of Madhya Pradesh has become the first one in the state to vaccinate all its adult population against the coronavirus disease.

Narasimhunda village, which falls in Rama Block, is the first in the state to have inoculated its entire adult population with both doses of Covid vaccine.

The total population of this village is 178, out of which 110 eligible persons have been inoculated. Of these, 20 are above the age of 60, while 15 are in the age group of 45 to 59 and 67 in the age group of 18 to 44. Apart from this, four health workers and three frontline workers of the village have also received both doses of the vaccine.

Jhabua District Magistrate Somesh Mishra says that efforts are on to get 100 percent people vaccinated in the entire district. There are seven gram panchayats in the district where all the eligible

population have received at least the first dose. The health department is working to ensure that all the eligible people get vaccinated in villages other than Narasinghunda.

In the tribal-dominated areas, vaccination was not less than a challenge, as tribal community members were not ready to be convinced easily. Even in Jhabua district, there were attacks on the parties that went to administer jabs. In March-April this year, Jhabua district was second from the bottom in the state -- 51st out of 52 districts in terms of vaccination. Immunization Officer Dr Rahul Ganawa has said that at present 73 per cent of the eligible population of the district have received the first dose of the vaccine, and efforts are on to finish the job by the end of September. The health department is getting the support of all sections of the society. Also, the search is on for those who have gone out of the district.

Mumbai-Delhi Expressway:

Gadkari to inspect MP stretch in Indore

The project, scheduled for completion in November next year at an estimated cost of Rs 8,437 crore, will pass through Mandsaur, Ratlam and Jhabua.

Team Absolute | Indore

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari will inspect the Madhya Pradesh stretch of the under construction 8-lane Delhi-Vadodara-Mumbai Expressway on September 16 in Indore, an official said on Monday.

The project, scheduled for completion in November next

year at an estimated cost of Rs 8,437 crore, will pass through Mandsaur (102.4 km), Ratlam (90.1 km) and Jhabua (52 km), covering a total distance of 245 km in MP, a National Highway Authority of India official said. "Out of this 245 km, construction of 106 km road is already completed and the rest of the work will be completed by November 2022. Some 2,674 hectares of revenue land and 217 hectares of forest land were acquired for the project in the three MP districts," he said. In the three districts in the state, the 8-lane expressway will have 214 bridges, 511 culverts, 100 small and big underpasses and seven toll booths, with passenger amenities being developed at 12 places, the official informed.

Now, dengue outbreak fear grips MP

Team Absolute | Bhopal

As the second wave of Covid-19 in Madhya Pradesh is ebbing, dengue is posing a new threat to the people of the state. As the number of dengue patients surge, the state government is worried about the people infected with the viral infection.

The BJP government in the state will launch "Dengue se Jung Janata Ke Sang" campaign on Wednesday to spread awareness among the people in the fight against dengue. The number of dengue patients have risen in the last few days.

The state government has advised the public not to allow stagnant water at any place for more than a week. The people must clean their coolers, water tanks, pots, vase, old tyres, waste boxes, empty plot pits etc. They must also use chemicals like Temephos 50 per cent solution, BTI powder and BTI liquid for mosquito larvae control. The administration has advised outdoor fogging with chemical cyphenothrin 5 per cent in the affected areas



and space spraying with insecticide pyrethrum 2 per cent in houses located within 400 metres of the house of a dengue patient.

Preparations are being made to facilitate dengue prevention and control activities and run publicity campaigns to make the people aware about the menace of dengue. Several teams will be formed for conducting larval

survey, space spray, fogging and clearing water-logged areas. Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan told the people, "Due to unnecessary stagnation of water around the houses, dengue-causing larvae gets a chance to flourish. With awareness, corona and dengue as well as other infectious diseases can be prevented." The Chief Minister said, "A

decision has also been taken to run the 'Dengue se Jung Janata Ke Sang' campaign on September 15. Dengue cases have been reported in the state so my government has decided to start this campaign. All government staff are pitching in for fogging, destroying larvae, maintaining cleanliness, applying mosquito killing medicines in water-logged areas. This war against dengue also has to be fought with the cooperation of the general public." Commenting on the surge in dengue infections, former Chief Minister and Congress leader Kamal Nath said, "The number of dengue and viral fever patients in Madhya Pradesh is continuously increasing at an alarming rate. Several districts have been infected with dengue and have become hotspots for the disease. The hospitals are fully occupied with patients. The plight of crumbling health services is coming to the fore every day. The BJP government must immediately make all necessary arrangements for prevention of dengue on a war footing."

COVID norms flouted during BJP MLA's birthday celebrations

The celebrations were so grand that the COVID protocol was neglected completely as hundreds of people gathered to celebrate MLA's birthday when Section 144 was imposed in Indore.

Team Absolute | Indore

Amid the looming threat of a possible third wave of the pandemic, COVID norms were openly flouted during the birthday celebrations of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MLA Akash Vijayvargiya in Madhya Pradesh's Indore on Sunday.

A video of his birthday party, celebrated with much pomp and show, in the city has gone viral on social media. The celebrations were so grand that the COVID protocol was neglected completely as hundreds of people gathered to celebrate MLAs birthday when Section 144 was imposed in the city.

Social distancing norms were flouted whereas masks were not worn by attendees. Indore police have earlier issued Section 144 for the Ganesh Chaturthi festivity. The legislator is the son of BJP General Secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya. On June 26, Akash Vijayvargiya was arrested for allegedly assaulting a municipal official with a

cricket bat over an argument with civic officials during the demolition drive. However, he was later released on bail.

Following his release, the BJP MLA had said that he did not regret thrashing a municipal official with a cricket bat, as he had been left with no other option when women were being mistreated during a demolition drive.

"I am not guilty or embarrassed about what I did as it was in the public interest," said Akash Vijayvargiya. "A woman was being dragged brutally in front of the police and I couldn't think of doing anything else... I pray to god I am not compelled to pick up the bat again."

SIX IPS OFFICERS TRANSFERRED

Bhopal: According to the letter issued on Monday, Assistant superintendent of police (ASP) Abhinay Vishwakarma posted in Indore will be the new city superintendent of police (CSP) of Bhopal.

The state government has transferred six IPS ranked officers and assigned them to their new responsibilities.

According to the letter issued on Monday, Assistant superintendent of police (ASP) Abhinay Vishwakarma posted in Indore will be the new city superintendent of police (CSP) of Bhopal. ASP Bhopal, Abhishek Anand will be given responsibility of CSP of Jawra, Ratlam district. ASP Gwalior Moti-Ur-Rehman will be the new CSP of Azad Nagar of Indore district. Similarly, ASP Jabalpur Priyanka Shukla will hold the charge as a CSP of Bargi, Jabalpur district.

Heavy rain lashes City: Met issues heavy rainfall warning for several district

It is expected to move in the West Northwest direction across Odisha and Chhattisgarh towards Madhya Pradesh bringing rain in Vindhya and Mahakaushal regions in next 24 hours.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A brief spell of heavy rain lashed the state capital on Monday noon. Meteorological department has attributed the brief spell of rain to depression over Northwest Bay of Bengal and adjoining Odisha coast which has intensified into a deep

depression. It is expected to move in the West Northwest direction across Odisha and Chhattisgarh towards Madhya Pradesh bringing rain in Vindhya and Mahakaushal regions in next 24 hours. Besides, the low-pressure area is now over the South Gujarat region and associated cyclonic circulation. Monsoon trough is passing through the center of low-pressure area over South Gujarat, Khandwa and Balaghat in Madhya Pradesh, Sambalpur in Odisha. This trough is responsible for the rain in entire Madhya Pradesh, said met department officials. In the last 24 hours, Monsoon was vigorous over Odisha as a moderate to heavy with one or two heavy spells of rain occurred over Odisha.

Chouhan attends oath taking ceremony of Gujarat CM



Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan attended the swearing-in ceremony of the newly appointed Chief Minister of Gujarat, Bhupendra Patel, in Ahmedabad on Monday.

Chouhan also met Union Home Minister Amit Shah and other guests at the swearing-in ceremony. Chief Minister congratulated and extended his best wishes to the newly appointed Chief Minister for his new responsibility.

NEP will make India a Knowledge Super Power: Khan

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Kerala Governor Arif Mohammad Khan, Higher Education Minister Mohan Yadav and Makhnal Chaturvedi Journalism University Vice Chancellor Prof. KG Suresh inaugurated the five-day faculty development programme focused on 'National Education Policy: Implementation for Quality Education' at Makhnal Chaturvedi National University of Journalism and Communication.

Addressing the FDP, Governor Khan said that the objective of the National Education Policy is to make India a super knowledge power in the field of education in the world. This education policy will make the youth more skilled. He said that the mantra of our country is 'Aa no bhadra: kratovo yantu vishwato'. That is, we welcome good ideas from all sides. This is our culture. The National Education Policy-2020 also emphasises on the all-inclusive idea of Indian culture. It respects diversity. He said that education has no importance without social responsibility. The National Education Policy is supposed to



promote social responsibility within the student. Yadav said that it is an illusion that without English there can be no progress. We should look at many countries of the world including Japan and France, which work in their mother tongue. We have a bouquet of languages. He said that there is no problem with any language, but if one gets education in his mother tongue then more effective results will be achieved. The National Education Policy respects and promotes Indian languages. When we talk about our

education policy, we talk about connecting with our roots. We should have got rid of Macaulay's education policy in 1947 itself. Yadav said that India is the nation with the youngest population in the world and is full of possibilities. Today India has the ability to answer many questions of the world. He said that education should be such that it creates a sense of pride and inspires sacrifice. In this context, he also narrated the stories of the birth of Shri Krishna, the sacrifices of Ma Yashoda and Nand Baba and the sacrifice of

Panna Dhai. KG Suresh said that it is a matter of happiness for us that Madhya Pradesh is the first state to implement the National Education Policy. He said that we are the first university, which has implemented 7 courses as per the National Education Policy, out of which 5 are media courses. Vice Chancellor Prof Suresh said that the National Education Policy is a document to make India a world leader in the field of knowledge again. He said that we have signed MoUs with other universities to implement the National Education Policy. Now the students of MCU will be able to study the open elective courses of Rajiv Gandhi Technological University in the open elective courses and the students there will be able to study the open elective courses conducted in MCU.

MCU Registrar Prof. Avinash Bajpai said that subject experts from all over the country would be involved in the FDP for five days. This FDP will prove to be very important in the implementation of the National Education Policy. He informed that more than 200 participants from 23 states are taking part in the programme.

CM PLANTS NEEM SAPLING IN SMART CITY PARK



Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted a Neem sapling in Smart City Park on Monday. Khategaon MLA Ashish Sharma was also with him. Chief Minister Chouhan plants a sapling every day in fulfilment of his resolve. Rich in antibiotic elements, Neem is known as the supreme medicine. Neem may be bitter in taste, but its benefits are like nectar. Neem is also very useful from environmental point of view.



EDITOR'S SPECS

Reminder to PM of 'forgotten promise'

Ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Aligarh on Tuesday, the Bhartiya Kisan Union (BKU) members said over 5,000 farmers from across the district will go to the event to remind him of the 'pending promise' of a potato processing unit in the district. The Prime Minister will be in Aligarh to lay the foundation stone of Raja Mahendra Pratap Singh University. The farmers said they will leave for Aligarh early in the morning on Tuesday by private vehicles and roadways buses. They will not hold any demonstration at the Prime Minister's event but will highlight their demands only with hand-made posters. The Modi government has completed seven years but the potato processing unit still remains a dream. BKU will go to Aligarh to remind him of his promise he made before the 2014 Lok Sabha elections. BKU's women wing leader, Savitri Chahar, said, "We trusted the Prime Minister and farmers voted for BJP in the Lok Sabha and Assembly elections. In return, we got nothing." According to farmers, a potato processing unit in Agra is necessary as it will supplement farmers' income and create a scope for manufacturing of various potato products at the local level. Farmers will not have to preserve potatoes in cold storages for a long time. The unit will also generate employment opportunities. Agra is the largest potato producing district of northern India, cultivating in around 75,000 hectares of land. Besides the processing unit, farmers at the Aligarh rally are also going to demand for a subsidy on cold storage charges. At present, there are 270 cold storage units in Agra district with a total capacity of over 25 lakh metric tonnes. Modi will also allocate land to 19 investors, investing Rs 1,500 crore in Aligarh node of the defence corridor.

MARITIME DIMENSIONS OF A CONTINENTAL DEBACLE

"... those once bitten by a snake fear even a twisted rope," William Dalrymple, Return of a King: The Battle for Afghanistan 1839-42.

Binay Kumar Singh

India's foreign policy outlook, which previously had a continental focus, has now come of age with a distinct maritime flavour. Apropos, Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired a high-level UNSC debate on Enhancing Maritime Security - A Case for International Cooperation on August 9. India's maritime diplomacy has considerably enhanced under the SAGAR initiative (Security And Growth for All in the Region), bestowing upon us the moniker of Preferred Security Partner in the IOR (Indian Ocean Region). Recent events in Afghanistan have laid bare the inadequacies of modern military tactics against a determined and well-funded guerrilla outfit. William Dalrymple's prophetic words above would also suggest that the US is likely to tread carefully in Afghanistan in coming years. While the fallout of Afghanistan's dramatic collapse will be felt in coming weeks and months, India must remain nimble and fleet-footed to the developing situation in the maritime domain.

Alibi for Pakistan-Sponsored Maritime Terror
Afghanistan presents Pakistan

and the mendacious ISI with an alibi for engaging in maritime-based terror activities. With the resurgence of Taliban, IS-K, Al Qaeda and Haqqani Network, Pakistan may ramp up terror-related activities to harm India, including in the maritime domain. The current disaffection of the western world with Afghan terror groups and shift of their focus away from Pakistan may embolden ISI to strike India. Indian maritime security agencies, headed by the Indian Navy, would need to remain aware and cognisant of this emerging threat.

J&K Flare Up
Having wrested Afghanistan from the worlds lone super-power has been a proverbial shot-in-the-arm for the worlds terror-factories. The New York Times recently quoted Ali Mohamed Ali, a former Afghan security official Afghanistan has now become the Las Vegas of terrorists, radicals and extremists who are chanting and celebrating the Taliban victory.

Pakistan's waning Kashmir narrative has made the Imran Khan government and the ISI desperate for an opening. They are not likely to miss this opportunity to channel hardened fighters across their Eastern border to hamper progress

being made in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. Indian security forces must remain alert to such misadventures and be prepared for retaliatory actions.

PLA Navy
2020 was watershed year in many regards, particularly due to emergence of the Covid-19 virus in Wuhan and belligerence of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and its military. Medieval tactics by the People's Liberation Army (PLA) in Ladakh was matched by shrill provocations by CCP's state-run media. The Indian military deployments and manoeuvres in subsequent months clearly demonstrated to the CCP, India's dominating position astride the Indian Ocean. This is likely to have had significant impact on the CCP's calculus, since the PLA (N) would have been at considerable disadvantage in the IOR in case of an escalation.

The PLA Navy already deploys an Anti-Piracy Escort Force in the Red Sea. PLA (N) planners are unlikely to miss an opportunity to augment their presence in the IOR and will be watching events in Afghanistan with a hawk-eye. Any emergent window of opportunity in the maritime domain must, therefore, be tracked and acted upon. However, Navies cost money and ships are

designed, planned and built over decades. While the current government has shown resolve to bolster Indian Navy's assets, there is an urgent need to review inter-service allocation of precious capital resources.

MNF Engagement
The Indian Navy is one of the pre-eminent stabilising forces in the extended IOR and is engaged in capacity and capability building with regional navies and maritime agencies. However, while the Indian Navy engages with individual navies, there has been some hesitation towards participation in multi-lateral constructs such as CTF 150/151/152, EMASOH etc. The emerging crisis in Afghanistan offers an opportunity for greater engagement with these maritime security constructs and may be the segue that Indian Navy has been awaiting. The recent uptick in Quad engagements is also indicative that Indian foreign policy would support engagements in multi-lateral constructs.

Refugee Crisis
An immediate fallout of Taliban's capture of Kabul was an exodus of asylum seekers and Afghan nationals, who were likely to be persecuted by the new totalitarian regime. While present evacuations are primarily by the air/ land route, India

must monitor sea routes for refugees and asylum seekers who have managed to reach sea-ports. Further, the possibility of inimical elements being implanted among fleeing Afghans cannot be ruled out.

Maritime Dimensions of Afghanistan Crisis
The Afghanistan imbroglio, while set in a land-locked scenario, has distinct maritime dimensions. The recent bombing at the Hamid Karzai International Airport and US airstrikes against IS-K in Afghanistan's Nangarhar province and Kabul indicate that while US may have ended the battle, they may have inadvertently stepped into a war. Indian military strategists must take the long view of the current Afghanistan crisis; while the nature of the land conflict fought for over two decades by the US is unlikely to change, there are likely to be incremental shifts in the maritime domain. Despite being a land-locked country, reverberations of Afghanistan's debacle in the maritime domain are now a certainty; India's maritime pundits must remain focussed and astute.

(Author and columnist Binay Kumar Singh can be reached on Twitter @BinayBharat. All views expressed are personal.)

On a mission decoding insect recipes from across the country

Sukant Deepak

In 2018, while working at Rosie and Peter's Food Forest in Goa, learning how to grow food using regenerative and resilient systems, she was walking around in the garden one day when she noticed that the cacao fruit was being taken over by a colony of weaver ants. "And we wanted the fruit. So as a means of integrated pest management if you will, we decided to eat the ants. There were four of us, one climbed the tree, the others were holding the garbage bag below the ant nest and finally, with a large pair of secateurs, we cut the nest into the bag, ran to the house and put it into the freezer for a couple of hours. Once they were dead, we made chutney, roasted them on a pan and dipped them in chocolate and even made a little ant-tea out of them. Weaver ants are

really sour, and that's my favourite taste profile so I was ecstatic," smiles Tansha Vohra, a writer on food, culture and sustainability, who has been selected as one of the residents for the Serendipity Arts Residency in Culinary Arts/Vohra remembers writing a story about the process and wondering why insects weren't a part of her regular diet. That followed research on who actually eats them regularly. Her research showed that there are several communities that eat insects in India today, but are historically excluded or are on the margins of the national identity for a number of reasons, and so their culture and tradition is not as accessible. "This sparked my curiosity about entomophagy in India and three years later, I get to study and do research first hand," she says.

In fact, according to the UN FAO document released in 2013, by 2050, there will be nine bil-

lion people on this planet with not enough land to feed them all and the animals that they eat. The report advocated for edible insects as very real future food, given the extensive sustainability metrics of rearing insects vs livestock. "As I said earlier, a lot of the people who do eat insects in our country are marginalised, and their food is met with disgust or ambivalence. But it is these practices that display the principles of sustainability and regenerative food systems - and we have so much to learn from this," Vohra says. Her project, 'Boochi', which she says is the most non-scientific classification of all 'crawley' things in Kannada, and the first word she learnt to refer to insects with, hopes to archive, document and decode insect recipes from across the country. Vohra feels that recipes are

treasure troves of information as they tell us about taste preferences, seasonality, harvesting methods, gender roles, special equipment/utensils belonged, among other things. "I hope to record this information to help us create resilient food systems for the future. My recipe collaborators are also people who have eaten insects growing up, and I hope that my project gets to give them the mic and let them tell their story and share information with me. I'm just here to ask the questions," she says. She hopes to get about 20-30 people to cook with an insect at their own home, share the meal with someone and record the experience.

international

NEED DEEPER COOPERATION TO ADDRESS GLOBAL HEALTH CRISIS: UN CHIEF

■ The Covid-19 pandemic is the most complex immediate challenge facing our world and it is undermining hard won social, economic and environmental gains." Guterres

United Nations | Agencies

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has called for deeper international cooperation to address global health crisis, and reduce poverty and inequality.

"We need deeper international cooperation to address the global health crisis, reduce poverty and inequality, achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and avert climate catastrophe," the top UN official said on Sunday in his video message on the UN Day for South-South Cooperation, which is celebrated



globally on September 12 every year. "The Covid-19 pandemic is the most complex immediate challenge facing our world and it is undermining hard won social, economic and environmental gains," Guterres was

quoted as saying by Xinhua news agency.

"In such trying times, the solidarity that underpins South-South cooperation has once again proven vital for developing countries."

"Throughout the pandemic, countries of the Global South have shared their knowledge and resources to support response and recovery efforts," the Secretary-General said.

Guterres called for "building inclusive and resilient societies, empowering women and youth, leveraging digital, greener and bluer initiatives, and expanding sustainable financing."

Noting that South-South and triangular cooperation offer concrete solutions to these shared challenges, he said that "the United Nations will continue to support these efforts - including through our System-wide Strategy on South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable Development."

"As the world seeks to ramp up Covid-19 response and recovery and tackle the existential threat of climate change, South-South and triangular cooperation is more essential than ever," said Guterres.

Israeli fighter jets strike Hamas facilities in Gaza

Gaza | Agencies

Israeli fighter jets on Monday attacked several military posts and facilities that belong to the armed wing of the Islamic Hamas Movement in the Gaza Strip, but no injuries were reported, according to security sources.

The sources said that the fighter jets fired air-to-ground missiles at five different military posts and facilities in the northern, central, and southern Gaza Strip for a third day in a row in response to rockets fired towards Israel, reports Xinhua news agency.

Unknown militants have been firing rockets from the Gaza Strip towards Israel since the night of September 10.

Three rockets were fired towards Israel and the last one was on Sunday night, which had lightly injured at least five Israelis, said the sources. One claimed responsibility for launching the three rockets over the past three days towards Israel. However, an Israeli army spokesman said in a statement that Hamas, which rules the Gaza Strip, "is fully responsible for the rockets attacks". Hamas-run al-Aqsa television said that local residents heard the buzz of Israeli army drones and fighter jets, and then several explosions were



heard all over the Gaza Strip after striking military posts belonging to the movement.

On Saturday and Sunday, Israeli fighter jets attacked military posts and facilities that belonged to Hamas in the northern and central Gaza Strip according to the sources, which added that no injuries or damage were reported. An Israeli army spokesman said in two separate statements on Saturday and Sunday that Israeli fighter jets attacked posts that were used for manufacturing homemade rockets in addition to attacking weapons caches in the Strip. The spokesman held Hamas, which has been ruling the Strip since 2007, is responsible for any attack that is carried out against civilians in Israel and that Israel would immediately respond.

ISRAEL-UAE TRADE REACH \$523.2 MN IN H1: REPORT

Tel Aviv: This is a jump of about 177 per cent compared to a trade figure of \$188.9 million recorded throughout all 2020, Xinhua news agency quoted the report released on Sunday as saying.

Following the normalisation of ties between Israel and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), the trade volume of the two nations reached \$523.2 million in the first half of 2021, according to a report issued by the Federation of Israeli Chambers of Commerce (FICC), the country's largest business and employers' organisation. This is a jump of about 177 per cent compared to a trade figure of \$188.9 million recorded throughout all 2020, Xinhua news agency quoted the report released on Sunday as saying. Excluding diamonds, trade between the two countries totalled \$229 million in January-June, up 143 per cent from \$94.2 million in all 2020. Israeli imports from the UAE jumped almost three-fold in the first half to \$342.2 million compared to all of 2020, while without diamonds, the imports amounted to \$178.6 million, an increase of about 136 per cent. Israeli exports to the UAE rose 145 per cent to \$181 million in the first half, while without diamonds the exports rose 174 per cent to \$50.4 million on September 15, 2020, at the White House.



Malay Parliament convenes amid new political alignment

Kuala Lumpur | Agencies

Malaysia's second parliament session of the year convened on Monday amid changes in the balance of power between the ruling coalition and the opposition.

This is the first gathering of the Lower House of the Parliament since the appointment of Ismail Sabri Yaakob as the new Prime Minister in August, with the country facing political pressures, a sluggish economy and the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, reports Xinhua news agency.

The session is scheduled to last until October 12.

In his address to the MPs, the country's King Sultan Abdullah Sultan Ahmad Shah urged cooperation and stability to help the country recover from its many challenges and thanked the government and opposition MPs for coming to a cooperative agreement. "I also welcome and greatly appreciate the efforts towards realizing the new bipartisan cooperation approach among all quarters that will create a new political landscape and bring about changes in the country's administration system," the King said



in his opening speech.

While describing such political maturity as a positive change, Sultan Abdullah said only with strong unity, solidarity and togetherness of the people as a big Malaysian family, can the country face all challenges and trials.

He also cautioned the MPs to avoid becoming complacent and satisfied in the efforts to curb Covid-19 in the country and urged the implementation of a whole-of-society effort strategy with effective communication narratives. Like his predecessor Uhyiddin

Yassin, Ismail Sabri also commands a narrow majority among MPs and cross party cooperation is seen as crucial for him to govern effectively.

Ismail Sabri has taken a more conciliatory tone in dealing with the opposition since being appointed in August.

He met opposition leaders and offer to work together by inviting them to join the national recovery council and the special committee on Covid-19. Malaysia has seen daily fresh infections hover around the 20,000 mark since August, with deaths reaching a new high on September 11 after 592 deaths were reported, pushing the total fatalities to 20,711, while there are some 237,277 active cases.

The government has ramped up its vaccination rate with some 227,476 doses administered on Sunday alone and some 65.4 per cent of the population have received at least one dose and 52.6 per cent are fully vaccinated. Restrictions have largely been eased across the country and more economic sectors being allowed to operate, with domestic tourism opening up in some states and inter-district travel being allowed.

'N Korea test-fires new long-range cruise missiles'

Pyeonggiang | Agencies

North Korea successfully test-fired new type of long-range cruise missiles on Saturday and Sunday, the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported on Monday.

The launched long-range cruise missiles traveled for 7,580 seconds along oval and pattern-8 flight orbits in the air above the territorial land and waters of North Korea and hit targets 1,500 km away, Xinhua news agency cited the KCNA report as saying. The development of this weapon system "holds strategic significance of possessing another effective deterrence means for more reliably guaranteeing the security of our state and strongly containing the military maneuvers of the hostile forces against North Korea", the state media noted. The development of the long-range cruise missile "has been pushed forward according to the scientific and reliable

weapon system development process for the past two years" and detailed tests of missile parts, scores of engine ground thrust tests, various flight tests, control and guidance tests, warhead power tests, etc. were conducted with success, according to the report.

"In all, the efficiency and practicality of the weapon system operation was confirmed to be excellent," it said. Pak Jong Chon, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, watched the test-launches with some leading officials and scientists in the field of the national defence science.

Pak stressed the need for the field of the national defence science to go all out to increase the defence capabilities, the war deterrence of the country and keep making achievements in meeting the grand and long-term targets of securing war deterrence, the report said.



Maharashtra Academic Year To Begin From November 1: Samant

Maharashtra Higher and Technical Education Minister Uday Samant on Monday said classroom teaching in colleges may not start from November 1, when the academic year is scheduled to begin.

Team Absolute | Vengurla
Maharashtra Higher and Technical Education Minister Uday Samant on Monday said classroom teaching in colleges may not start from November 1, when the academic year is scheduled to begin. Samant while talking to media persons said a decision on online or physical classes will be taken as per the situation prevailing at that time, with district collectors, who are also the head of respective disaster management committees, being consulted. "I have said the academic year will begin from November 1. I have not said physical classes will begin

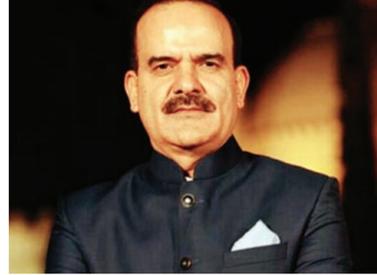
from that day. Right now, taking that risk (of starting offline classes) is a big challenge," the minister said. "We have to consider the fact that not all eligible beneficiaries have been administered the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, while only 17-18 per cent have got the second dose. If all students had received both doses, we could have thought of starting physical classes," Samant said. He also said the state government would file FIRs against firms if they discriminate between the students who have passed during COVID-19 pandemic and others while providing jobs. "It is not their (students') mistake that they did not

have practicals (due to the pandemic). If any industry refuses employment to such students, then FIRs will be filed," he said. Speaking on the upcoming Chipli Airport in Sindhudurg, Samant said the facility would be inaugurated by Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on November 9, adding that credit for it should be given to former Union minister Suresh Prabhu. He also said the induction of Narayan Rane, who holds considerable sway in the Konkan region, in the Narendra Modi government may have boosted the morale of BJP workers but it had not demoralised Shiv Sainiks in the area.

BJP asks MVA to unravel mystery of 'missing' ex-HM and ex-CoP

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The opposition Bharatiya Janata Party in Maharashtra on Monday urged the Maha Vikas Aghadi government to come clean on the curious case of 'missing' former Home Minister Anil Deshmukh and ex-Mumbai Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh. Leader of Opposition (Council) Pravin Darekar said that the home department must find out their whereabouts and inform the people where Deshmukh and Singh are currently located. "The government should ascertain whether Deshmukh is in Mumbai, Nagpur, his constituency, or elsewhere, and also where Singh is currently. The latter (Singh) is still an officer working under the Home Department," Darekar told mediapersons here. His comments came amid reports that the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has sought the help of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to trace Deshmukh, who is sought by both the central agencies for probe. Similarly, Singh is on the radar of Maharashtra police and a probe commission investigating his March 'letter-bomb' wherein he had levelled certain allegations of corruption



retired Justice K. U. Chandiwala Commission set up by the Maharashtra government. Last week, Chandiwala had issued a bailable warrant of Rs 50,000 against Singh and placed the matter for further hearing on September 22. Earlier, Singh was fined thrice which he paid up, even as he moved the courts challenging the setting up of the probe panel. Among those 'skipping' calls to join the probe is former state Intelligence Department chief Rashmi Shukla, who bunked Mumbai Police's two summons in April in connection with the investigation into the alleged illegal phone-tapping case of several prominent persons. However, in May, Shukla, 56, agreed to record her statement with a police team which went from Mumbai to Hyderabad, where she is posted as the Additional DGP of CRPF, South Zone. The cases involving Deshmukh and Singh are also linked to the probe into the planting of an SUV with 20 gelatin sticks and a threat note near Mukesh Ambani's house 'Antilia' in south Mumbai, followed by the death of the vehicle's owner, Mansukh Hiran. He Mumbai Police filed a chargesheet in the case earlier this month, detailing the sequence of events. The police also invoked terror and murder charges against all the accused.

Mumbai back on Global Citizen Festival list, Anil Kapoor to host show

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The well-known global festival Global Citizen Live's broadcast has once again listed Mumbai as one of the host cities of the show. Mumbai will be part of the worldwide broadcast on September 25 and will be representing India. The event will be hosted by actor Anil Kapoor. The last time Mumbai was part of the Global list was in 2016. The show, which is in partnership with Wizcraft will have appearances by Sadhguru, Amitabh Bachchan, Ayushmann Khurrana, Arjun Kapoor, Ananya Panday, Bhumi Pednekar, Dia Mirza, Farhan Akhtar, Hritik Roshan, Janhvi Kapoor, Kiara Advani, Riteish Deshmukh, Sara Ali Khan and Sonakshi Sinha. Global Citizen Live aims in India and G20 to reduce carbon emissions in line with preventing more than 1.5 degree Celsius of global warming. It calls on the wealthiest nations to deliver on promise to give \$100 billion annually to address climate needs of developing countries; timed to UN General Assembly and G20 and COP26 climate meetings. Aaditya Thackeray, Minister of Tourism and Environment, Maharashtra said, "When it comes to climate change, we are running out of time to reverse the damage caused. I am confident that the Global Citizen Festival will steer a mass movement on the world stage to fight climate



change now." Liza Henshaw, COO, Global Citizen, "Five years ago, we held our first Global Citizen festival in Mumbai. We were amazed at the reaction and warm reception we received from the hundreds of thousands of global citizens, the City of Mumbai and the Maharashtra State. Global Citizens across India are an essential part of our movement, and we are proud to return to Mumbai for Global Citizen Live." Andre Timmins, Co-Founder, Wizcraft, said "We are thrilled and honoured to be working with the Global Citizen team again. The historic moment that we created together in November 2016 with Global Citizen Festival India moved our country to a new level of advocacy and an understanding of how one voice, one action can make a difference. We are so pleased to have the opportunity to be working with the team again to bring Mumbai and India to the world with this momentous special edition in September. There is an exciting show being planned at our beautiful and iconic Gateway of India, for Global Citizens everywhere." "With more yet to be announced, Global Citizen Live has revealed line-ups for its COVID-19-compliant, free-ticketed events in: Los Angeles (presented by Verizon) with Stevie Wonder, Adam Lambert, Chloe x Halle, Demi Lovato, HER, ONEREPUBLIC, Ozuna, The Lumineers and 5 Seconds of Summer, New York City (presented by Citi and Cisco) with Coldplay, Billie Eilish, Camila Cabello, among others.

Money dispute behind Sakinaka rape-cum-murder: Mumbai Police

Police Commissioner Hemant Nagrale said on Monday that the police investigations have ascertained the sequence of events which arose from a monetary dispute and culminated in the crime.

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Three days after the heinous rape-cum-murder of a 32-year-old woman in Mumbai's Sakinaka, police investigations have ascertained the sequence of events which arose from a monetary dispute and culminated in the crime, Police Commissioner Hemant Nagrale said on Monday. The Maha Vikas Aghadi government has announced a compensation of Rs 20 lakh for the three minor daughter of the victim who succumbed to her grievous injuries on Saturday. Providing details, Nagrale said that the accused - Mohan Chauhan, 45, a jobless driver hailing from Uttar Pradesh's Jaunpur - has confessed to the crime which



resulted in a massive political furore in the state. The accused and the victims were known to each other and met several times. Financial arguments led to the crime, and the police have recovered the object with which he brutalised her and later hid it added. Since the victim belongs to a Scheduled Caste, the police have added charges under the SC/ST Atrocities (Prevention) Act, said Nagrale.

Maharashtra Police chief urges cops to act quickly on crimes against women

In a social media post, DGP Sanjay Pandey urged the police force to speed up probe in cases pertaining to crimes against women and increase patrolling at vulnerable spots. **Team Absolute |** Mumbai
Urging police personnel to act swiftly to stop crimes against women, Maharashtra Police chief Sanjay Pandey asked them to

increasing patrolling at vulnerable spots in the wake of the Sakinaka rape case. In a social media post Sunday, the DGP said, "Rape and murder of minor girls had taken place in Maharashtra in the past few days and the police must probe them as soon as possible, arrest the culprits and charge sheets must be filed within 60 days." The police must also ensure increased patrolling at railway stations, colleges and other vulnerable spots to prevent eve-teasing, he said. A team from the National Commission for

Women had met the DGP on Saturday in connection with the Sakinaka case in which a 32-year-old woman was raped and her private parts injured severely using an iron rod inside a stationary tempo at Sakinaka in the early hours of Friday. She succumbed to the injuries at a hospital the following day. Chief minister Uddhav Thackeray had also made suggestions to the police force recently to ensure better patrolling at vulnerable locations and on helping homeless women at shelters in collaboration with NGOs.

YRF CONDUCTS SECOND PHASE OF VACCINATION FOR FILM INDUSTRY WORKERS

Mumbai: Yash Raj Films has initiated the second phase of the vaccination drive that will have thousands of workers from the Hindi film fraternity get their first and second jabs of the Covid-19 vaccine. Filmmaker Aditya Chopra had pledged to inoculate as many people as possible from the film fraternity so that the Mumbai movie industry bounces back quickly, and daily wage earners return to work. Akshaye Widhani, Senior Vice President of Yash Raj Films, confirmed this development. He said: "Vaccinating the workers of the industry is of prime importance to YRF. We want the industry to bounce back completely and above all, the workers to have financial stability." Widhani added: "The second phase of our vaccination drive will make thousands of daily wage earners double vaccinated and also aid in inoculating many more." In June, Aditya opened the doors to the studios for the first phase of YRF's vaccination drive for the industry that inoculated close to 5,000 workers.

Bombay HC to Maharashtra: How many mentally ill homeless people vaccinated against Covid?

The Bombay High Court has asked the Maharashtra government to submit details on the number of mentally ill homeless people who have been vaccinated

The Bombay High Court directed the Maharashtra government on Monday to file an affidavit giving details of how many mentally ill homeless people had been identified and registered for vaccination against COVID-19. A bench of Chief Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice GS Kulkarni directed the state government to file the affidavit within three weeks. The bench also directed the



Team Absolute | Mumbai
The Bombay High Court directed the Maharashtra government on Monday to file an affidavit giving details of how many mentally ill homeless people had been identified and registered for vaccination against COVID-19. A bench of Chief Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice GS Kulkarni directed the state government to file the affidavit within three weeks. The bench also directed the

Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) to file an affidavit, informing the court about the number of such people registered for vaccination and those who were already vaccinated in the city. The bench was hearing a public interest litigation (PIL), seeking better access to vaccination against COVID-19 for citizens, including those who were mentally ill or not in a position to give consent for the inoculation. On Monday, the Union government's counsel, Additional Solicitor General Anil Singh, told the bench that while the Centre had issued an SoP (standard operating procedure) for vaccinating the homeless and mentally ill people, it was the state police's responsibility to identify them, locate their relatives, or to take them to a shelter home so that they could be registered for vaccination. Singh also said that over 21,000 urban homeless people across the country had been registered for vaccination and more than 8,000 of them were inoculated against COVID-19. The Maharashtra government's counsel, Gita Shastri, submitted an affidavit stating that a total of 1,761 mentally ill people across the state had been vaccinated against COVID-19. The bench, however, noted that the state's affidavit was "silent" on the number of mentally ill people who were homeless, without legal guardians, and not in a position to give their informed consent for vaccination. Such people pose a greater risk of spreading the coronavirus and therefore, must be identified and vaccinated by the state authorities at the earliest, the court said. "Every citizen, no matter in which condition, needs to be taken care of by the state," the High Court said. "File an affidavit stating how many mentally ill people who are homeless or found wandering in the community, and what steps are being taken to vaccinate them?" the court said to the state government.

State EC announces by-polls on October 5

By-polls will be held in Dhule, Nandurbar, Akola, Washim, Nagpur, Palghar zilla parishads and panchayat samitis. MVA & BJP set to field OBC nominees in vacant posts & restoration of OBC quota to be the main plank.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Days after the Supreme Court ruled that the state government cannot postpone the elections, the State Election Commission on Monday released schedule for by-polls in Dhule, Nandurbar, Akola, Washim, Nagpur and Palghar zilla parishads and panchayat samitis in these districts. The polling will be held for the by-elections of 85 constituencies of six ZPs and 144 constituencies of PS on October 5 while counting will take place on October 6. The SC had said that the Election Commission has the authority to declare the poll schedule and postpone the elections. The ensuing by-polls will be crucial for the Maha Vikas Aghadi government especially when the Supreme Court has scrapped OBC elections in local bodies citing it was beyond the 50% quota ceiling. The restoration of quota will be possible only after the State Commission of Backward Classes (SCBC) compiles the empirical data on OBCs. Ruling and Opposition parties were unanimous that the elections be postponed but in the wake of apex court's order the State Election Commissioner UPS Madan today declared the poll schedule. The ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi partners including Shiv Sena, NCP, Congress and opposition BJP have already announced that they will field OBC candidates on the vacant posts as the reservation has been scrapped. The MVA partners insist that the Centre should provide the empirical data on OBCs while BJP claims it was not required as SCBC's exercise will pave the way for restoration of quota.



However, in view of the Supreme Court order dated July 6, 2021 and the request made by the state government to postpone the by-elections due to Covid-19, the SEC had postponed the elections. In the case, which was heard on September 9, 2021, the Supreme Court ruled that the state government's restrictions on Covid-19 of August 11, 2021 did not apply to by-elections. In view of the apex court order, the SEC today ordered the by-poll schedule especially in the wake of dip in the COVID 19 patients in the state. The SEC had sought reports from Dhule, Nandurbar, Akola, Washim and Nagpur district collectors on the number of corona patients and the daily death toll during the week. It showed that the Corona situation in these districts was under control. The by-elections for Zilla Parishad and Panchayat Samiti of Dhule, Nandurbar, Akola, Washim and Nagpur announced on June 22, 2021 did not include the by-elections of Palghar Zilla Parishad and its adjoining Panchayat Samiti. Because at that time Palghar district was included in level-3 as per the norms of state government regarding CPVID 19. Therefore, by-elections were not declared. However, Madan said the by-poll process in Palghar ZP and PS has also been launched. According to the by-poll schedule for six ZPs and PS, nominations will be filed from September 15 to 20 and scrutiny on September 21. As far as the by polls in Dhule, Nandurbar, Akola, Washim and Nagpur ZPs and the PS, the list of valid candidates will be published on September 21.



MTV VMAs 2021

BIEBER, LIL NAS, RODRIGO, BTS BIG WINNERS

New York | Agencies

As X's 'Montero' took home video of the year award at the MTV Video Music Awards 2021, held at Barclays Center in Brooklyn here on Sunday for the first time in eight years. Justin Bieber, Olivia Rodrigo, BTS, and Billie Eilish, among others, also won multiple Moon Person awards. Here's a look at this year's record-setters:

Olivia Rodrigo, 18, took the song of the year award for 'Drivers License'. She also became the fifth-youngest best new artist winner to date at the VMAs. Bieber was just 16 when he won in 2010. Avril Lavigne, Austin Mahone, and Billie Eilish were each 17 when they won. The Kid LAROI, who MTV revealed was this year's runner-up, is also 18. Rodrigo also won push performance of the year, again edging out The Kid LAROI.

Bieber won artist of the year. He's the first male winner in the category since Ed Sheeran, who was the inaugural winner four years ago. Bieber also won the best pop award for 'Peaches'.

Korean boy band BTS 'Butter' won the best K-pop award. BTS has won that award in all three years it has been presented. They won last year for 'On' and two years ago for 'Boy with Luv'. BTS also won group of the year for the third year in a row. They are the first group to win in that category three years running. 'Butter' also won song of summer. This is the second year in a row that a K-pop act has won in that category. Blackpink won last year for 'How You Like That'.

Doja Cat's silky 'Kiss Me More', featuring SZA, took the best collaboration award. It's the fourth all-female collab to win the best collaboration, following Beyoncé and Shakira's "Beautiful Liar" (2007), Lady Gaga feat. Beyoncé's "Telephone" (2010) and Lady Gaga with Ariana Grande's "Rain on Me" (2020).

Silk Sonic's 'Leave the Door Open' won the best R&B

award.



Travis

Scott's 'Franchise' won the best hip-hop award. It's the first male-fronted hit to win in that category since Kendrick Lamar's 'HUMBLE' four years ago.

Eilish's 'Your Power' was a surprise winner for video for good, beating, among others, H.E.R.'s Oscar-winning 'Fight for You'. Eilish also won best Latin for 'Lo Vas A Olvidar', a collab with Latin superstar Rosalia. It's Rosalia's second win in the category. She took the award two years ago for 'Con Altura', a collab with J Balvin.

Beyoncé's 'Brown Skin Girl' won the best cinematography award. Queen Bey didn't do the cinematography, but at the VMAs, artists share in the technical awards. This is her 29th VMA, which extends her record as the artist with the most awards. Madonna is a distant second, with 20 awards.

Foo Fighters were the inaugural winner of the global icon award, which the VMAs imported from the EMAs, the MTV European Music Awards. This is a year of recognition for the veteran band, which will be inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame later this year.

Machine Gun Kelly won the best

alternative for the second year in a row. He took the award this year for 'my ex's best friend'. He won last year for 'Bloody Valentine'. MGK is the only the second act to win back-to-back awards for the best alternative. The first was Nirvana, which managed a three-peat from 1992-94 with 'Smells Like Teen Spirit', 'In Bloom' and 'Heart-Shaped Box'. The category went on a 20-year hiatus from 1999-2019, according to Billboard.com.



KRISTEN STEWART TALKS ABOUT 'OBSESSING' OVER PRINCESS DIANA

Los Angeles | Agencies

Kristen Stewart, who stars as the late Princess Diana in psychological drama film 'Spencer' has admitted to 'obsessing over her character while preparing for the role.

She said: "She means a lot to me, but it's all relatively new because I'm from LA and didn't grow up in England. Before this, she was not something that was at the forefront of my mind, because I lived so far away from it all. Now I can't stop thinking about her." I often wonder what she'd think about what's going on in the world right now. To be honest, I've now consumed pretty much all there is to consume in terms of videos and interviews.

"I've watched everything that you could hear or see. I even go to sleep with it on." The actress also observed that in spite of their obvious differences, they also shared some similar personality traits, reports femalefirst.co.uk. Stewart, who was once the highest-paid actress in the world, thinks those similarities helped her in the role. She told The Sun on Sunday newspaper: "I'm not a very good actor. I can't fake it." I reveal part of myself. I don't know how people fabricate a performance. It's scary and weird and it's also a bummer. "I don't think I'm good at doing anything that isn't coming from some real place. I've always had to sort of vouch for the characters that I've played in order to love them enough to play them."

Stewart said that her own fame pales in comparison to that of the late Princess.

Gerard Butler opens up on his role in 'Copshop'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Gerard Butler, who plays professional hitman Bob Viddick in the upcoming action thriller 'Copshop', has opened up on how he saw himself in both that character and his part in 2018's 'The Vanishing'. Speaking to HeyUGuys.com, he said: "I wouldn't call it talent, but it's definitely natural. I definitely have that - you know, that movie I made, 'The Vanishing', in Scotland a couple of years ago. It was interesting, delving into every part of that madness - I thought, 'S***, this is all me.' I have all this in me, I have light, I have a lot of darkness. So with Viddick, it was the same idea, tapping into that crazy part of you, that part that could kill somebody, or could be unleashed." The 51-year-old actor also pointed to the importance of "having fun" on screen, even when it comes to the darker roles, reports femalefirst.co.uk.



Alanis Morissette was victim of 'statutory rape'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Singer Alanis Morissette took "years in therapy" to realise she was a victim of multiple incidents of statutory rape when she was just 15.

The 47-year-old singer said in new documentary 'Jagged', "I'm going to need some help because I never talk about this. It took me years in therapy to even admit there had been any kind of victimisation on my part," the Washington Post newspaper reports.

"I would always say I was consenting, and then I'd be reminded like 'Hey, you were 15, you're not consenting at 15.' Now I'm like, 'Oh yeah, they're all paedophiles. It's all statutory rape,'" she added.

The 'Ironic' hitmaker, who has Ever, 10, Onyx, five, and Winter, two, with her husband Mario 'Souleye' Treadaway, didn't name her reported abusers, she said she had issued calls for help but music industry figures ignored her.

She said: "I did tell a few people and it kind of fell on deaf ears. It would usually be a stand-up, walk-out-of-the-room moment." Morissette hit out at those who would criticise her for only speaking out now, saying it is often the case that women aren't heard when they do try to explain what they have been through.



Britney Spears and Sam Asghari are officially engaged

New York | Agencies

Britney Spears and Sam Asghari are officially engaged. Spears made the official announcement on Sunday on her social media. Showing the rock on her finger with Sam, she wrote, "I can't f---ing believe it." She shared the news on Instagram with several ring emojis in her caption.

In a video, Britney is seen waving her hand with the massive diamond ring in front of the camera with a slight grin before kissing a smiling Sam on the cheek. In the video, Sam asks looking at Britney, "Look at that, you like it?" and a happy Britney said, "Yeah."

Meanwhile, Sam shared another look at the ring on his own Instagram account, where he tagged Britney and left a simple prince-and-princess emoji caption.

It was love at first sight when Britney, 39, and Sam, 27, met in October 2016 on the set of her 'Slumber Party' music video.

"The couple made their longstanding relationship official today and are deeply touched by the support, dedication, and love expressed to them," Asghari's manager Brandon Cohen added in a statement to Billboard, noting that Spears' ring was designed by New York City jeweller Roman Malayev.

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Bretman Rock





Indian players refused to play fifth Test, they were dead scared: Ganguly

New Delhi | Agencies

BCCI president Sourav Ganguly has said that the Indian players refused to play the Manchester Test against England because of COVID-19 concerns and denied that the upcoming Indian Premier League (IPL) had played any part in the decision.

The fifth and final Test in Manchester was called off just a couple of hours before the toss on Friday amid health concerns among India's players following a coronavirus outbreak in their coaching camp.

"The players refused to play but you can't blame them. Physio Yogesh Parmar was such a close contact of the players. Being the only one available after Nitin Patel isolated himself, he mixed freely with the players and even performed their Covid-19 tests. "He also used to give them a massage, he was part of their everyday lives; 1/2 The players were devastated when they came to know that he had tested positive for Covid-19. They feared they must have contracted the disease and were dead scared. It's not easy staying in a bubble. Of course, you have to respect their feelings," Ganguly was quoted as saying by The Telegraph.



BCCI OFFERS TO PLAY TWO EXTRA T20IS IN ENGLAND NEXT YEAR

New Delhi: The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has offered to play two extra T20 internationals in England next year following the last-minute cancellation of the fifth Test in Manchester due to Covid concerns. According to a Daily Mail report, "However, the offer -- designed to help ease a potential shortfall of 40 million pounds in English cricket's already stretched budget -- would be instead of, not as well as, the rescheduled Test. The offer of a rescheduled Test still stands." It may depend on whether the various broadcasters, who paid 25 million pounds for the rights to the Old Trafford Test, would be willing to settle for two evenings' cricket rather than five full days. India will be back in England next summer for three T20 and three one-day internationals, all squeezed into the first fortnight in July. Meanwhile, there is still confusion over the result of the Test series, which India led 2-1 before the 'cancelled' game. The ECB has written to the world cricket governing body (ICC) to decide the fate of the cancelled fifth Test at Old Trafford.

Medvedev lifts trophy, denies Djokovic calendar Grand Slam

US OPEN

"[I feel] a lot of happiness. That's my first Grand Slam. I don't know how I'm going to feel if I win a second one or third one. That's my first one, so I'm really happy. Means a lot to me."

New York | Agencies

Russian world No. 2 Daniil Medvedev made history, winning his first major title with a stunning 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 win against world No. 1 Novak Djokovic in the US Open final, which prevented the Serb from completing the calendar Grand Slam on Monday (IST). Djokovic, after winning the first three majors of the year, was trying to become the first man since Rod Laver in 1969 to win all four majors in one season and break a tie with Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal for the most major titles in history (20 each). But Russia's 25-year-old Medvedev played patiently to become the third Russian man to earn Slam glory, joining Yevgeny Kafelnikov and Marat Safin. Medvedev made his first major



final two years ago at the US Open on the same court inside Arthur Ashe Stadium. On that occasion, the Russian suffered a five-set loss against Spain's Rafael Nadal. But this time, Medvedev controlled the match from the first game and earned the biggest win of his career after two hours and 15 minutes. The Russian leads all players on the ATP Tour since 2018 in hard-court titles (12), finals (17) and wins (147).

TOUGH TO SWALLOW LOSS: DJOKOVIC

"Of course, part of me is very sad. It's a tough one to swallow, this loss, I mean, considering everything that was on the line. But on the other hand I felt something I never felt in my life here in New York. The crowd made me [feel] very special. They pleasantly surprised me."

STOSUR-SHUAI PAIR CLINCHES WOMEN'S DOUBLES TITLE

New York: Samantha Stosur of Australia and Zhang Shuai of China won their 11th straight match to triumph in the US Open women's doubles final over American teenagers Coco Gauff and Caty McNally at Flushing Meadows on Monday (IST). The No. 14-seeded Australian-Chinese duo paired up to win their second Grand Slam women's doubles title as a team with a 6-3, 3-6, 6-3 win over the 11th-seeded American teenagers. Stosur and Zhang, who also won the 2019 Australian Open, have won their last 11 matches, as they confirm their standing as the top team on tour at the moment. They came into the US Open having won the title in Cincinnati last month. Stosur has now claimed four Grand Slam women's doubles titles, two of which have come in New York. She also won the US Open in 2005 alongside Lisa Raymond, as well as 2006 French Open with Raymond. Stosur also has won three mixed doubles Grand Slam titles.



ROOT, EIMEAR VOTED ICC PLAYER OF THE MONTH FOR AUGUST

Dubai | Agencies

England Test captain Joe Root was voted as ICC Men's player of the month for August. Ireland all-rounder Eimear Richardson was voted as the player of the month in women's category, said the International Cricket Council (ICC) on Monday.

Root beat competition from Indian pacer Jasprit Bumrah and Pakistan speedster Shaheen Afridi to win the award for a stellar month of August. Root scored 507 runs in three Tests against India in August. He scored three centuries, 109 in Trent Bridge, an unbeaten 180 in Lord's and 121 at his home ground in Headingley, which resulted in an England win. All three centuries propelled him to sit at the top of the Test Rankings for batsmen. In the women's award, Eimear saw off tough competition from team-



mate Gaby Lewis and Thailand's Nattaya Boochatham. Eimear put in a fine all-round display in the ICC Women's T20 World Cup Europe Qualifier last month, which led her to



be named the Player of the Tournament. She took seven wickets at an economy rate of 4.19 in the tournament, including important spells of 2/6 in the opener against

Germany and 2/24 against group-toppers Scotland. She also returned 2/0 and 1/22 against France and Netherlands respectively, as Ireland came second in their group.

Durand Cup: FC Goa beat Sudeva Delhi FC, enter quarters

Kolkata | Agencies

FC Goa became the third team to make it through to the quarter-finals of the 130th Durand Cup football tournament, after defeating Sudeva Delhi FC 2-1, courtesy goals from Muhammed Nemil and Spaniard Jorge Ortiz Mendoza, here on Monday. Whereas, William scored from a penalty for Sudeva. The two sides clashed in a Group B encounter and fortunes could not have been more diverse for the two sides in the end. While Goa maintained a hundred percent win record after two games, Sudeva have now gone down in both of theirs and are out of the reckoning. The game played again under heavy underfoot conditions and at times in heavy rain had to be completed under the powerful lights of the VYBK in the second half. The change worked as Ortiz scored the



second for Goa in the 80th minute with a shot from just outside the box which beat Legend, struck the underside of the crossbar, and fell in before coming out. Sudeva did manage a consolation very late in injury time when William Pauliankhum converted a spot-kick thanks to a foul by Edu Bedia in the box, but it was too late.

CAMEROONIAN PACER 'MANKADS' FOUR UGANDAN BATSWOMEN

Gaborone (Botswana): Cameroon pace bowler Maeva Douma 'Mankaded' four Ugandan batswomen in a single match of the Women's T20 World Cup African region qualifier. Her effort though went in vain as her team lost by 155 runs after being all out for 35.

Uganda were cruising along at 153 for 1 in 15.3 overs after electing to bat. However, at that point, Maeva ran out opening batswoman Kevin Awino who had backed up at the non-striker's end. In the same over, Maeva ran out Rita Musamali (for 59) in similar fashion. Maeva, a 16-year-old right-arm medium pacer from Yaounde, then dismissed batswomen Immaculate Nakisuuyi and Janet Mbabazi through Mankading in the 20th over.

Uganda ended with 190/6 in 20 overs but then dismissed Cameroon for just 35 in 14.3 overs to seal the match by 155 runs.

De Kock, Shamsi help SA clinch T20I series vs Sri Lanka

Colombo | Agencies

An unbeaten 58 off 48 deliveries by South African opener Quinton de Kock and fine bowling performances by Aiden Markram (3/21) and Tabraiz Shamsi (3/20) helped the visitors come up with a commanding performance to win the second T20I at the R Premadasa Stadium against Sri Lanka by nine wickets, to take an unassailable 2-0 lead in the series.

Batting first, Sri Lanka were bundled out for 103 in 18.1 overs. In reply, South Africa notched up the required total for the loss of one wicket with 35 balls remaining.

Looking to restore parity in the series, Sri Lanka opted to bat first. Praveen Jayawickrama was handed his T20I debut while Kusal Perera returned to the playing XI



for the first time since he suffered a shoulder sprain ahead of the series against India. For South Africa, Rassie van der Dussen was

drafted into the team in David Miller's place. Spin at both ends helped South Africa put the brakes on the scoring. The No.1 ranked

T20I bowler, Tabraiz Shamsi, struck twice in two overs to dismiss Dhananjaya de Silva and Dasun Shanaka.

Sri Lanka lost their final three wickets in a span of eight balls and were bowled out for just 103 after being 52/2 at one point.

In reply, South Africa had a blistering start, with Quinton de Kock playing the role of an aggressor. Reeza Hendricks on the other hand was happy to rotate the strike. The wicketkeeper-batsman looked in sublime touch, playing some fine shots.

Brief scores

Sri Lanka 103 in 18.1 overs (K Perera 30; A Markram 3/21, T Shamsi 3/20) lost to South Africa 105/1 in 14.1 overs (Q de Kock 58 not out, A Markram 21 not out) by 9 wickets.

ISL 2021/22 season to begin from November 19

Mumbai: The Football Sports Development Limited (FSDL) on Monday announced fixtures for the first 11 rounds of the Indian Super League (ISL) 2021/22 season, which will begin on

November

19. The

league this

season will

introduce a

late 9:30

pm kick-off

for its

Saturday

double

headers. The

regular

weekday

schedule

remains unchanged

with matches

kicking off at

7:30 pm. Title-holders

Mumbai City FC will

test a renewed

FC Goa resilience

as early as

November 22, in one of

the high-octane

rivalries emerging

in the league.

The first instalment

of India's premier

derby SC East

Bengal vs ATK Mohun

Bagan will be played

out as early as in

the second round of

the season on

November 27. The

remainder of the

ISL 2020/21 fixtures

will be announced

in

December 2021.



I need to stay fresh as much as I can: de Villiers

Dubai | Agencies

Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) batsman AB de Villiers said for an old man like him, it is important to stay fresh as much as possible. He also said that the pitch was a little sticky, which made it tough to hit big shots in his first practice session after completing quarantine.

In a video posted by RCB on Twitter, the 37-year-old de Villiers was seen trying to hit the ball all over the park. "It was very good. The wicket was a bit sticky so it was quite tough actually. Bowlers



bowled very well and it's humid here, we are gonna sweat a lot which is good for losing a bit of weight but for an old man like me, I need to stay fresh as much as I can," said de Villiers.

The former South Africa captain felt nice about reuniting with his RCB team-mates after the first half of IPL 2021 in India. Royal Challengers Bangalore will begin their second half of IPL 2021 campaign against Kolkata Knight Riders on September 20 in Abu Dhabi. They are currently at third place in the points table with 10 points from seven matches.

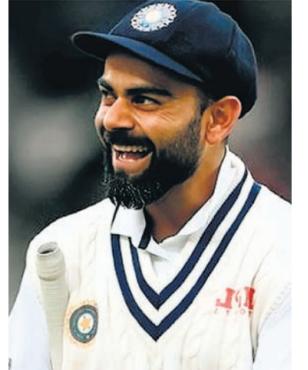
Virat Kohli will remain captain of all formats: BCCI

Chetan Sharma | New Delhi

BCCI treasurer Arun Dhimal on Monday rubbished reports suggesting that Team India captain Virat Kohli is likely to step down as skipper of the limited-overs format after the ICC T20 World Cup. There are reports doing the rounds that Kohli might lose his white-ball captaincy and Rohit Sharma could be asked to lead the limited-overs side if the team fails to win the ICC T20 World Cup to be held in the UAE and Oman in October-November this year. However, Dhimal rubbished such claims. "This is all rubbish. Nothing (as) such is happening. This is all what you guys (media) are talking about. BCCI has not met or discussed anything on this issue (split captaincy),"

Dhimal told correspondent. "Virat will remain as the captain (of all formats)."

Earlier, it was reported that Kohli has been very successful in Test cricket, but the onus of leading the side in limited-overs cricket could fall on Sharma because of the former's failure to guide the side to victory in ICC events despite having some of the best bowlers and batters in the game. Sources had said the BCCI top brass has been discussing the issue since India's loss to New Zealand in the World Test Championship final in England, where they were reportedly unhappy with the Indian skipper's team selection. Kohli had played two spinners in seamer-friendly and overcast conditions during the WTC final. But Dhimal said, "no such meeting took place."



I'm trying to tell people to not stereotype themselves: Ayushmann Khurrana

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor Ayushmann Khurrana says that his aim as an artiste is to constantly tell people not to stereotype themselves or others. He said his film 'Dream Girl', which completes its second release anniversary on Monday, intended to do just this. Ayushmann said: "Consciously or unconsciously we are constantly conditioned to stereotype everything around us. Sometimes, we aren't even aware that we are either getting stereotyped or stereotyping others or, stereotyping ourselves." The star credits his director Raaj Shaandilyaa and his producer Ekta Kapoor for trying to convey this important message through the film. "I loved the script of 'Dream Girl' because it told us to not stereotype ourselves because that would limit us from realising our potential and make a difference. It told us that when we break this cycle, we can action positive change in society," said the actor. He added: "My character Karamveer broke away from stereotyping himself when he decided to become Pooja. To me, that was a fresh and disruptive thought and it hit home for me because I'm constantly looking out for such subjects that stand out and has a message to give to audiences." Ayushmann reveals he will be satiated as an actor if he continues to be on this mission to shatter stereotypes.



Team Absolute | Mumbai

In one of the Indian film industry's biggest collaborations, T-Series and Reliance Entertainment have joined hands to produce more than 10 films together across varied genres, including big-budget tentpoles as well as mid- and small-budget content-rich films.

This giant collaboration that brings two major production houses together with an investment of approximately Rs 1,000 crore will bring forth films ranging across different genres, production scales, talent and music. Bhushan Kumar's T-Series and Reliance Entertainment have worked together on the music marketing front for more than 100 films. Now for the first time both studios will collaborate to produce a slew of films, marking the start of a larger long-term relationship for content creation between the two organisations.

The extensive line-up of films is in various



T-SERIES, RELIANCE ENTERTAINMENT JOIN HANDS TO PRODUCE FILMS; INVESTMENT PEGGED AT RS 1,000CR

stages of development.

Bejewelled with three big-budget blockbusters, the lineup also features films headlined by some of the country's most revered on-screen and off-screen talents. Others

in the pipeline are Hindi remakes of Tamil blockbuster action thrillers, a mega historical biopic, an espionage thriller, a courtroom drama, a satirical comedy, a romance drama and a film based on shocking true events. T-Series is the largest music record label in India and one of the top successful film production companies. Reliance Entertainment is a leading media and entertainment company in the country with more than 300 commercially and critically acclaimed movies in its portfolio.

The new slate of film will be produced in the next 24 to 36 months under the aegis of some of these partnerships. At least four to five films will have a big-screen release worldwide, starting next year (2022).

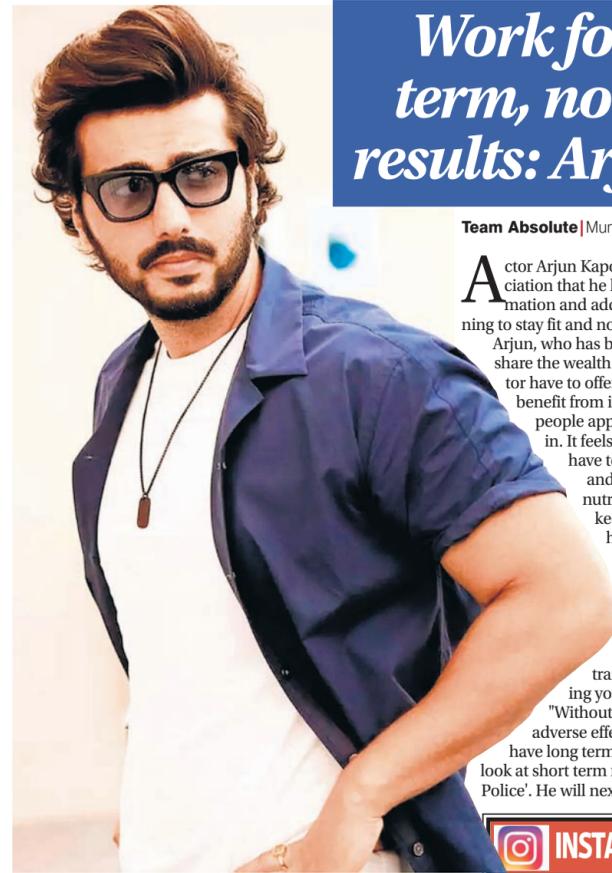


DEEPIKA SHARES RANVEER'S 'EARLY MORNING LOOK'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Deepika Padukone clicked a picture of her husband and actor Ranveer Singh, whom she lovingly called her "morning view".

Deepika posted the picture on Instagram, where she captioned the picture, which currently has 536K likes on the photo-sharing website. This is not the first time Deepika and Ranveer have engaged on PDA on social media. The power-couple keep sharing pictures and loved-up comments on their social media for each other. Ranveer and Deepika will soon be seen sharing screen space in filmmaker Kabir Khan's sports biography '83', based on India's win at the World Cup in 1983 under the captaincy of Kapil Dev.



Work for the long term, not for quick results: Arjun Kapoor

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor Arjun Kapoor says he feels encouraged with the appreciation that he has been receiving for his physical transformation and added that one should have long term planning to stay fit and not look at short term results.

Arjun, who has battled obesity for the longest time, wants to share the wealth of knowledge that his trainer and food curator have to offer through his social media so that people benefit from it. He said: "It is really encouraging to see people appreciative of the hard work that I'm putting in. It feels great to constantly try to become better. I have to give a lot of credit to my trainer Drew Neal and Akshat Arora, who has taken care of my nutritional needs with his inventive dishes, for keeping me on track. I'm really lucky that I have them to keep me focussed on my fitness goals every single day." The actor said that a lot of people have been asking him to share how he has transformed himself and so he is thinking of starting chat sessions on social media with his trainer, food curator, among others to "discuss how a transformation can be achieved without pushing your body close to the edge". He added: "Without doing it in a harmful way that can have adverse effects on one's body and health. One should have long term planning to stay fit and healthy and not look at short term results." Arjun's latest release includes 'Bhoot Police'. He will next be seen in 'Ek Villain: Returns'.

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor Vidyut Jammwal recently 'popped the question' to girlfriend Nandita Mahtani and got engaged. However, not many know that he made the proposal in a typical action avatar.

The actor posted a picture with Nandita from the day of the proposal, which happened while he was rappelling down from a 150 metre high wall at a military camp close to Agra.

Vidyut proposed to Nandita on September 1 while rappelling. The two later went to the Taj Mahal to celebrate but made the announcement to the fans much later.

In the picture uploaded on his Instagram account, Vidyut, known for his action scenes, wrote: "Did it the COMMANDO way 01/09/21."

On the work front, Vidyut will star in his maiden production 'IB 71'. The film marks his banner's first collaboration with Reliance Entertainment.

HEIGHT OF ROMANCE: VIDYUT JAMMWAL PROPOSED TO NANDITA WHILE RAPPELLING



Mallika Sherawat on playing Ekta Kapoor-like TV producer in 'Nakaab'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

When asked about the same, Mallika says: "I have immense respect for Ekta and all that she has achieved in what was always a male-dominated industry. And while many may like to compare, my character Zohra is in fact made of a strong fabric, and I can totally relate to her. I started out from scratch and worked hard to reach where I am today." She adds: "All I can say is that it takes a lot of perseverance to make it on your own. As a single woman, it was tough, there are hurdles that you might think you will never be able to cross but eventually you make your way through. Kudos to all the women out there, trying to carve their own

path." "Nakaab" revolves around cop Aditi Amre (Esha Gupta) who get assigned to a high-profile death case of a prime-time television actress Vibha Dutta (Ankita

Chakraborty) who was very close to Zohra Mehra (Mallika Sherawat). Aditi's monotonous life turns upside down when she starts unfolding intricate details about the case. As Aditi embarks on this journey with her senior, Pawan Bisht (Gautam Rode), she discovers a part of her own personality that she never knew existed within her. The Soumik Sen directorial features Esha Gupta, Gautam Rode, Mallika Sherawat and Ankita Chakraborty, and is all set to release on September 15 on MX Player.



Jenny Chopra