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CJI: IF EXECUTIVE & LEGISLATURE WORK IN UNISON, JUDICIARY NEED NOT PLAY LAW-MAKER

CUTTACK | Agencies

Chief Justice NV Ramana on Saturday said the executive and the legislature should function in unison in realizing the constitutional aspirations, only then the judiciary would be spared from stepping in as law-maker and only then would it be left with the duty of applying and interpreting the law.

Speaking at the inauguration of a new building of the Odisha state legal services authority in Cuttack, CJI Ramana said the legislature needs to revisit the laws, and reform them to suit the needs of the time and people -- laws must match with our practical realities and the executive has to match these efforts by way of simplifying the corresponding rules.

He emphasized that the executive and the legislature should function in unison in realising the constitutional aspirations.

"It is only then, that the judiciary would not be compelled to step in as a law-maker and would only be left with the duty of applying and interpreting the same. At the end of the day, it is the harmonious functioning of the three organs of the state



that can remove the procedural barriers to justice," he said.

He pointed out that even after 74 years of independence, traditional and agrarian societies which have been following customary ways of life, still feel hesitant to approach the courts. Justice Ramana said: "The practices, procedures, language and everything of our courts feels alien to them. Between the complex language of the acts and the process of

justice delivery, the common man seems to lose control over the fate of his grievance. Often in this trajectory, the justice-seeker feels like an outsider to the system."

Elaborating on Indianisation of justice delivery system, as a primary challenge for the Indian judicial system, on which he had spoken earlier, Justice Raman said a harsh reality is that, often our legal system fails to take into consideration the social

realities and implications. He said people might be bringing their problems to the courts, but what remains at the end of a day is yet another "case". He said it is a general understanding of the people that it is the court's responsibility to make laws. "This notion has to be dispelled. This is where the role of other organs of the state, i.e. the legislature and the executive assumes great significance," said Justice Ramana.

Elaborating on the second challenge, enabling the people to "decode the justice delivery system by raising awareness", Justice Raman said the legal services have become an integral part of the judicial administration and lack of proper infrastructure and funds result in reduction of the activities carried out by these institutions.

"As a result, the number of beneficiaries who avail services of these institutions reduces. Ultimately the goal of access to justice for all gets hampered. If we want to retain the faith of our people, we need to strengthen not only the judicial infrastructure, but we also need to boost our outreach programs as well," he added.

Restaurants and bars to open in Kerala

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM | Agencies

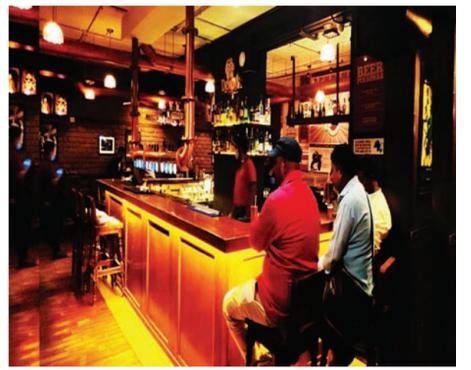
Even while Kerala on Saturday recorded 16,671 new Covid cases after 1,14,627 samples were tested in the past 24 hours, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said since the rate of infection has come down in the state, more lockdown relaxations will be allowed as a result restaurants and bars will now be open.

The day's test positivity rate was 14.54 per cent.

"Restaurants can now open for in-house dining but can seat only 50 per cent of its existing capacity. Bars also can open and all the employees and those coming to these places should have taken both the vaccine doses. Air conditioning should not be switched on," said Vijayan.

Indoor stadiums and swimming pools also can start functioning.

"It's been now 21 months since we have been going through lockdown norms.



But with 91 per cent of the above aged 18 years having taken the first dose and over 39 per cent taken the second dose, only 22 lakh are left now who have not had taken the vaccine and this includes those who turned Covid positive and for such people they will have to wait for three months. We have now decided to open educational institutions also and it will function

through strict guidelines," added Vijayan.

"So far as opening of movie halls is concerned, we have to work on it with regard to seating capacity and such issues. Once we finish that, we will take it up. So some more time is required," said Vijayan. Saturday recorded 120 Covid deaths taking the total death tally to 24,248 in the state.

AIIMS installs Vitros lab testing system on 66th foundation day

Team Absolute | Mumbai

On its 66th foundation day on Saturday, the All India Institute of Medical Sciences in New Delhi installed a Vitros Dry chemistry automated system that can conduct 50 diagnostic tests and present the results in 2-3 hours. The Dry Chemistry automated machine will save around 2 crore litres of water per year.

Union Health Minister Mansik Mandaviya digitally inaugurated the high throughput lab where the system has been installed in the RAK building. Along with the Minister of State for Health, Mandaviya also inaugurated an exhibition on the theme 'Digital Health and Medical Education' to mark the institute's 66th foundation day.

The automated system will significantly reduce the burden of laboratory medicine. There will be no involvement of water during the tests. "This will vastly improve patient care, as we are going to get the results of the tests in just three hours," said Subroto Sinha, HoD, Lab Medicine and Dean Research.



He added that previously, the doctors used to work on limited parameters and then in-depth investigation of sample was sent on the next day. Now the doctors can plan their treatment immediately with the help of this system. It will vastly improve patient care as almost 50 parameters for tests will now be available at any point of time everyday.

The system can present the results of over 50 types of tests with a single vial of blood.

Active Covid cases drop below 1% as India logs below 30K

Team Absolute | New Delhi

India on Saturday reported 29,616 fresh Covid cases in the past 24 hours. Of these, the highest number was reported from Kerala with 17,983 new infections and 127 fatalities.

In the same time the entire country reported 290 total deaths, as per the Union Health Ministry health bulletin. The Covid toll in India now stands at 4,46,658. India's active caseload stands at 3,01,442 which accounts for less than one per cent of total covid cases, the Union Health Ministry



updates showed. The total active cases in India is 0.90 per cent. The recovery rate currently stands at 97.78 per cent which is highest since March 2020. As per the health bul-

letin, a total of 28,046 people have recovered from Covid across the India in the last 24 hours, pushing the total recovery to 3,28,76,319 so far. The weekly positive rate in India is less than 3 per cent for 92 days and currently stands at 1.99 per cent. The daily positivity rate has also remained less than 3 per cent for last 26 days and presently stands at 1.86 per cent. Under the mass vaccination drive, a total of 71,04,051 vaccine doses were administered in the last 24 hours. India's Covid-19 vaccination coverage exceeded 84.89 crore and stood at 84,89,29,160 as per provisional reports till 7 a.m. on Saturday.

Restoration work of Dilip Kumar, Raj Kapoor's Peshawar homes begins

Raj Kapoor's ancestral home, known as Kapoor Haveli, and Dilip Kumar's ancestral residence are situated in the Qissa Khwani Bazaar area of Peshawar. As per government plans, the homes of both Bollywood stars would be restored to their original state.



Pakhtunkhwa government got possession of the properties, The News reported. Raj Kapoor's ancestral home, known as Kapoor Haveli, and Dilip Kumar's ancestral residence are situated in the Qissa Khwani Bazaar area of Peshawar. As per government plans, the homes of both Bollywood stars would be restored to their original state.

Initially, the debris from both houses was removed to begin the restoration work.

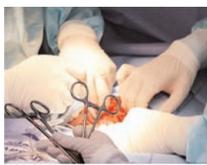
Meanwhile, Dilip Kumar's nephew Fawad Ishaq lauded the government's decision to restore his uncle and Raj Kapoor's ancestral home.

PGI doctors perform endoscopic removal of tumour through nose

CHANDIGARH | Agencies

Endoscopic surgeons S.S. Dhandapani and Rijnuneeta at the PGIMER here have performed total removal of complex planum meningioma, adherent to neurovascular structures, through the nose of two patients using 4K endoscopy system.

The patients -- a 48-year-old male and a 46-year-old female -- were referred to the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) with complaints of decreased vision. Their MRI scans revealed planum meningioma of 3 cm size at the base of the skull, abutting critical vascular structures such as anterior cerebral



and internal carotid arteries on both sides, as well as neural structures such as both optic nerves and pituitary stalk. These tumours are usually operated on through open surgery, and the remaining part is treated with radiation. Over the last few years, simple tumours are being removed through the nose endoscopically by neurosurgeons teaming up with ENT surgeons.

However, endoscopic removal through the nose is

highly challenging in complex meningiomas close to neurovascular structures. Dhandapani chose the endonasal corridor, as the skull opening and brain retraction are avoided if operated through the nose. The team studied the patients in detail using CT angiography navigation and planned for endoscopy. A 4K endoscopy system, installed recently in the Neurosurgery Department, was used for the purpose.

Compared to full HD, 4K system provides four times better resolution. The tumours were very firm and had to be dissected meticulously from the blood vessels of the brain, using angled endoscopes and could be finally removed totally through the nose.

Zero Covid death in Delhi for 8th straight day, logs 27 cases

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The national capital Delhi reported 27 fresh Covid cases in the last 24 hours, pushing the total cases in the city to 14,38,685 so far. However, no Covid fatality has been reported for the last 8 days. The death toll in the city continues to be at 25,085 as per the data shared by the Delhi Health Department.

With 0.04 per cent of infection rate in the capital city, the active case tally has come down to 379. A total of 39 Covid patients were discharged in the last 24 hours, taking the total number of recoveries to 14,13,221, the data showed. The national capital has recorded only three fatalities due to the Covid infection in September so far. Meanwhile, a total of 68,498 new tests were conducted in a day that includes 46,555 RT-PCR tests and 21,943 Rapid Antigen tests, taking the total number to 2,73,46,473 so far according to the Delhi Health Department data. There are 96 containment zones in the city at present. The death rate continues to be at 1.74 per cent in the national capital. A total of 126 Covid patients are being treated in home isolation at



present in Delhi.

Out of 1,62,344 vaccine doses administered in the last 24 hours, a total of 71,096 doses were administered for the first time and 91,248 for the second dose in Delhi.

The total number of cumulative beneficiaries vaccinated so far stands at 1,69,23,079, according to the bulletin shared by the Delhi Health Department.

Meanwhile, the sixth sero survey has started in the national capital where total 28,000 samples will be collected in a week. Delhi Health Minister Satyendra Jain on Saturday said he believes that a lot of people in the city will have antibodies this time.

Sonu Nigam on tribute to ghazal legend: 'Jagjit Singh lives on in our hearts'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

As a group of celebrated musicians that includes Sonu Nigam, Hariharan, Ankit Tiwari, Talat Aziz, Ash King are all set to pay tribute to iconic ghazal singer, the late Jagjit Singh, with a new project, Sonu took a moment to recall the legend and his timeless contribution to the world of music.

The project will be launched on the platform - Tips Rewind - A tribute to Jagjit Singh.

It will be a series of songs, Jagjit Singh's classic ghazals in a new-age reinterpretation.

The series will also feature singers like Babul Supriyo, Shaan, Sameer Khan, Amit Mishra, Bandish, Shahid Mallya and Navraj Hans. Since the first song of the series will release on September 29,



sung by Sonu Nigam, the singer said, "In the era of remixes, Tips Rewind will introduce the young generation to the purest form of music. Jagjit Singh ji lives

in our hearts and we thank him for leaving behind such a melodious and ever-green musical legacy." Kumar Taurani, of Tips music label said, "Tips Rewind is an initiative to introduce our younger generation to the musical treasure of Jagjit sahab and who better than their favourite singers from the young generation, presenting an old wine in a new bottle. He was a legend and he will live in our hearts forever. I would like to thank all the singers who have participated in Tips Rewind."

As the musical series will be presented by Skoda, Tarun Jha, Head of Marketing, Skoda, said: "We are honoured to be associated with Tips on this project. Jagjit sahab has left behind a musical treasure for us and our coming generations to listen, his body of work will be remembered forever."

V-P NAIDU ON 5-DAY TRIP TO RAJASTHAN FROM SUNDAY

Jaipur: M Venkaiah Naidu, the Vice President of India, shall be on a five-day tour to Rajasthan starting Sunday. In the first phase, he will visit Jaipur. Here, he will address Sainik Sammelan. Next, he will visit Tanot Mata temple where he will offer his prayers. This temple is famous as it remained undamaged despite facing many bomb attacks from Pakistan during 1971 India-Pakistan war. The temple is now being looked after by BSF jawans. He will also visit the site of Longewala war. Thereafter, the vice president will visit Thar desert and participate in cultural programmes.

Assam's highest civilian award for national integration to be conferred on Venkaiah Naidu

Guwahati | Agencies

The Assam government will confer the Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi Award for National Integration and National Contribution on Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu during his proposed visit to the state on October 3, officials said here on Saturday.

According to the officials, the prize amount of the biennial award, which was named after Gopinath

Bordoloi, a freedom fighter and the first Chief Minister of Assam after India's independence, was increased to Rs 5 lakh from Rs two lakh. The award also carries a citation. Bordoloi was called the architect of modern Assam and he was bestowed the Bharat Ratna for his contributions to the society in 1999. An official in the Assam Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said that the award had become irregular over the years and the cabinet in its

meeting chaired by Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Friday decided to scrupulously make the award a biennial affair.

The CMO official said that the cabinet also decided to change the names of the state's highest civilian awards, to be given in various fields. Assam Ratna award from now onwards will be known as Asom Baibhav, Assam Vibhushan as Asom Saurav and Assam Bhusan and Assam Shree award as Asom Gaurav.



BALAKOT, GALWAN CLEAR SIGNALS OF INDIA'S BEFITTING RESPONSE: RAJNATH

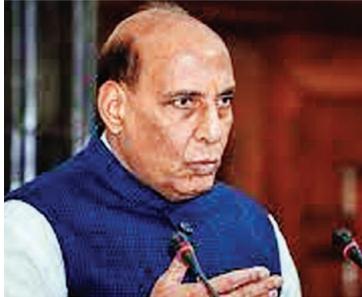
Team Absolute | New Delhi

India's actions in Balakot and Galwan are clear signals to all aggressors, that any attempt to threaten sovereignty will be given a swift and befitting response, Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Saturday.

Speaking at National Defence College Convocation ceremony, Singh said, "We are faced with belligerence on our land borders challenging the status-quo, cross border support to terrorism, and increasing efforts to counter our goodwill and outreach in our neighbourhood."

Galwan Valley, Chinese People's Liberation Army had "unilaterally changed status quo" due to which clashes took place on June 15, 2020. India lost 20 soldiers and Chinese four. India and China are engaged in border dispute for last 16 months. Both the countries after clashes at Galwan Valley resorted to de-escalate the tension at the border through military and diplomatic talks. On February 26, 2019, Indian Air Force fighter jets crossed the Line of Control and destroyed terror launch pads in Balakot in Pakistan. India's warplanes hit a Jaish-e-Mohammed camp in Balakot to avenge killing of 40 CRPF personnel in the Pulwama terror attack.

Singh asserted that India is totally committed to



peace and goodwill amongst all nations but "threats to its internal and external security will no longer be tolerated."

"From a security perspective, the nation and our military are acutely aware that the future military strategies and responses will need proactive synergy amongst all elements of our armed forces to safeguard our national security interests," he said. Singh pointed that while the conventional threat remains, the grey-zone threats necessitate the adoption of an "all of government" approach with all elements of state power coming together to

anticipate and mitigate future challenges. "These not only come at a long term financial cost, but also undermines the intellectual capital of our own industry. No country that aspires to develop as a knowledge-based economy can sustain such reliance on defence imports," he said.

Talking about self-reliance, he said that one aspect where both knowledge and wisdom coincide is the ability to seek and gain self-reliance. India has for far too long remained dependent on import driven technologies. He also pointed out changing character of conflicts.

"Cyber, space, artificial intelligence, and big data analytics are some of the areas that are fast emerging as enablers in this context. The world has witnessed rapid transformation in all these areas of scientific knowledge," said the minister adding that this technological progression must be accompanied by its military interpretation within the strategic community. "This is where the role of institutions like NDC again comes to the fore. Look beyond the obvious," he said. e also talked about the idea of 'vasudhaiva kutumbakam' (the world is one family). "This thought of 'the world as a family' is not only relevant socially and economically in a globalised world, it can only reinforce the urgent need to create a unified approach to conflicts both within the country and globally."

DRDO espionage case: Suspected female operative gave marriage proposals to two accused

BHUBANESWAR | Agencies

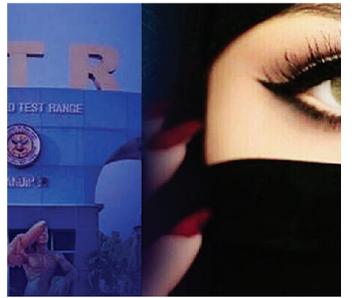
Revealing more details about the DRDO espionage case, a senior official of Odisha police on Saturday said the suspected female operative had given marriage proposals to two of the arrested accused.

The Odisha police on September 14 had arrested five former contractual employees of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) unit at Chandipur, on charges of sharing classified defence information with foreign agents, who were suspected to be from Pakistan.

As per our investigation so far, the suspect woman was issuing a UK mobile phone number and chatting with the accused on social networking sites like Facebook, WhatsApp and Instagram," said additional director general (ADG) of Odisha police (crime branch) Sanjeeb Panda.

The 'mysterious' woman had made video calls to two of the accused in Hindi and she was in contact with the five accused through seven Facebook accounts under different names and profile pictures, Panda said.

e said the suspected woman operative had also given marriage proposals to two of the arrested accused and promised to



visit the house of another accused located in Chandipur.

"Our efforts are also underway to find out details of the bank account of Dubai from which money was transferred to the bank account of one of the accused. Besides, we are inquiring whether they received money from any other sources," he said, adding, further investigation is also on to get details of the UK phone number.

The Crime Branch had taken the five accused on a seven-day remand. After detailed interrogation, they were produced in the court on Friday. If required, the Crime Branch will seek further remand of the accused, he informed.

Extension of limitation period to file cases ends on Oct 2: SC

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court has ordered the extension granted in connection with the limitation period to file cases in courts, in the backdrop of Covid pandemic situation, to end on October 2, 2021.

A bench headed by Chief Justice N.V. Ramana and comprising justices L. Nageswara Rao and Surya Kant said: "In computing the period of limitation for any suit, appeal, application or proceeding, the period from March 15, 2020 to October 2, 2021, shall stand excluded. Consequently, the balance period of limitation remaining as on March 15, 2021, if any, shall become available with effect from October 3, 2021".

The bench added that in cases where the limitation would have expired during the period from March 15, 2020 to October 2, 2021, notwithstanding the actual balance period of limitation remaining, all persons shall have a limitation period of 90 days from October 3, 2021. It further added that in the event the actual balance period of limitation remaining, with effect from October 3, 2021,

is greater than 90 days, that longer period shall apply. In another direction, the bench said: "The period from March 15, 2020 to October 2, 2021 shall also stand excluded in computing the periods prescribed under Sections 23 (4) and 29A of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996, Section 12A of the Commercial Courts Act, 2015 and proviso (b) and (c) of Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 and any other laws, which prescribe period(s) of limitation for instituting proceedings, outer limits (within which the court or tribunal can condone delay) and termination of proceedings."

In March last year, the top court had taken up the issue suo motu, and directed the suspension of limitation periods, citing restrictions to contain the spread of Covid. However, the top court had recalled this order in March this year, after taking note of decline in Covid cases in the country.

The Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association had then moved the apex court, seeking suspension of limitation periods in the backdrop of second wave of Covid.

Pilot meets Rahul: Lobbying & WhatsApp calling picks up pace in Raj and Delhi

Jaipur | Agencies

Speculating about major changes in Rajasthan politics after Punjab, lobbying and WhatsApp calling have picked up pace in the state and Delhi after former deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot met Congress leader Rahul Gandhi twice in Delhi in the last one week. This time, he met Priyanka Gandhi too along with Rahul which is raising eyebrows of many leaders from the Gehlot camp.

While a few Rajasthan ministers and MLAs have reportedly visited Delhi for lobbying, there are others seen busy making WhatsApp calls to discuss newer permutations and combinations coming up in the state.

Before leaving for Delhi, Pilot met Rajasthan Speaker CP Joshi which led to speculation being rife that Pilot was busy making his camp stronger, and hence major changes will be

reported here.

Meanwhile there is speculation that Pilot may be given the Pradesh Congress Committee presidency or a major portfolio in the government as CM Ashok Gehlot presently handles a number of portfolios. There are also reports that Congress veteran leader from Madhya Pradesh Digvijaya Singh might visit Rajasthan on October 1 to talk to MLAs here and draft a strategy for upcoming changes in the political



map." These changes, the high command feels, are required not only for the upcoming assembly polls in 2023 but also for the Lok Sabha polls in 2024," they added. "In December 2018, the Congress won 99 seats out of 200 and Ashok Gehlot was made the CM even though he was not the CM face during the poll campaign. After five months of these elections, Lok Sabha polls were held, where Congress scored a duck out of 25 seats."

Now, the next elections are scheduled in 2023 and the party is contemplating a new CM face so that the 2019 Lok Sabha results are not repeated in the 2024 parliamentary elections, said Congress sources.

In fact, veteran strategist Prashant Kishor has chalked out a comprehensive strategy and submitted it to Congress president Sonia Gandhi. Gandhi, they said, had shared it with leaders like Ambika Soni and others. In his report, Kishor has recommended major changes in Punjab, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh.

These are the states where the Congress is on a strong wicket and hence the party should not take them lightly, he recommended.

Eventually, in the next few days, there will be major changes in the desert state which has been lying low in terms of political action.

BJP to finalise strategy for UP Assembly polls in Delhi meeting

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, who was recently appointed the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) election in-charge for Uttar Pradesh, returned to New Delhi with his team after three days of marathon party meetings and several rounds of deliberations with the party leaders at different levels in Uttar Pradesh's capital Lucknow.

According to a BJP leader, the party's strategy for the 2022 Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections has been discussed in detail in the meetings held in Lucknow.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, BJP State President Swatantra Dev Singh, Deputy Chief Ministers Keshav Prasad Maurya and Dinesh Sharma and all party leaders involved in the election campaign discussed in detail the functioning of the Uttar Pradesh government, expanding the party organization, the preparations for the Assembly elections and the feedback from the people on the functioning of the Uttar Pradesh government.

The BJP leader said a big meeting of the central party leaders will be held in Delhi soon to deliberate upon the report presented by this team of party state election in-charges and co-incharges and to decide the election strategy by the party on the basis of this report.



The alliance with the Nishad Party was announced by Dharmendra Pradhan in Lucknow on Friday, but it will be decided in the central BJP leaders meeting about the distribution of Assembly seats given to NDA's allies -- Apna Dal and Nishad Party. A BJP leader, who will be a part of the party's central leadership meeting in Delhi, said that on the basis of this report, the election preparations

will be finalised on many key issues such as the number of election rallies to be held by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and in which poll-bound areas of Uttar Pradesh. The election campaign tours of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, BJP National president JP Nadda, and other top party leaders, will also be finalised.

Apart from this, a decision will be taken regarding campaigning by BJP leaders from other states adjoining Uttar Pradesh such as Haryana, Delhi, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan and Jharkhand in border districts. The BJP government is in power in Haryana, Madhya Pradesh and Uttarakhand while in Bihar, the BJP-JD(U) alliance is in power.

The poll issues and slogans with which the BJP will enter the electoral fray in Uttar Pradesh will also be decided in the central leadership meeting. The party's focus is also on the positive use of social media to gain an edge over the opposition parties in the psychological electoral battle. The blueprint for better management up to the booth level will also be finalised.

Another BJP leader, who will be a part of the top party leadership meeting, said after the meeting with party state in-charge Dharmendra Pradhan, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and the party State President, other senior party leaders, all party state co-incharges have also been given the responsibility of different areas.

Objections to NEP natural, says LS Speaker Om Birla

Bengaluru | Agencies

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Saturday said that objection to implementation of National Education Policy (NEP), is natural.

He was addressing the media here on Saturday. Answering a question on strong objections raised by the Congress for implementation of NEP, he said, the government will implement NEP only after deliberations and considering advantages as well as disadvantages.

Birla opined that, discipline and decency are missing in Parliament and Assemblies these days. The good message has to reach to the public. Pro-people programmes must be taken up by the legislators and media should play an active role in making the demo-



cratic roots stronger, he said.

During Covid, it was difficult to convey Parliamentary proceedings, in spite of that, the proceedings were conducted successfully, he underlined. It is ok to have verbal fights, shoutings in sessions but, the members should not cross the limits of decency, he noted. On the occasion of completion of 100 years of Public Accounts

Committee of Parliament, centenary celebrations will be held on December 4-5 in New Delhi, he explained.

Om Birla refused to answer a question on Congress boycotting his joint session speech which was held on Friday. However, Karnataka assembly speaker Vishveshwara Hegde Kageri recalled that on June 24, 2002, then Lok Sabha Speaker Manohar Joshi had addressed the legislature in the same assembly and S.M. Krishna was the Chief Minister then.

He further added, in Gujarat and Rajasthan also similar programmes are being held.

"On capacity of Speaker, the decisions we take are final. The objections are not tenable. Those who oppose this should understand this," Kageri maintained.

K'taka BJP is puppet of RSS, working on their orders: Siddaramaiah

Bengaluru | Agencies

Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai has no faith in democracy and a parliamentary system of governance, Siddaramaiah, the Leader of the Opposition has said, adding the entire government, including Bommai, is behaving like a puppet of the RSS and working on their orders.

The Congress party will start a statewide protest against price rise from October 2 till the prices are reduced, he said.

The position of the Speaker is above politics and political parties. His/Her decisions should always be unbiased. What is the sanctity of the position, if the speaker behaves like a member of a political party, he said. "New National Education Policy is an attempt to enable upper caste and RSS to enslave marginalised sections, Dalits and women. If we try to oppose, Speaker jumps to justify the government," he charged.

The BJP government has decided to hand over KIADB land that was acquired at a cost of Rs 1.5 crore per acre amounting to Rs 175 crore to acquire 116 acres. The same land is now being given to CESS at just Rs 50 crore. The current market price is Rs 300-400 crore, he said.

"The prices have increased drastically after



Narendra Modi became Prime Minister. Both Central and State BJP governments are looting from the common man. Narendra Modi government has increased the excise duty of Diesel from Rs 3.45 to Rs 31.84 and excise duty of Petrol is increased from Rs 9.21 to Rs 32.98. Let him reduce excise duty by 50 per cent. The Narendra Modi government has collected about Rs 23 lakh crore as excise duty in the last 7 years," he said.

Kanhaiya Kumar and Jignesh Mevani to join Congress on Sep 28

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Former JNUSU President Kanhaiya Kumar along with independent Gujarat MLA Jignesh Mevani will join Congress on September 28, sources close to the CPI leader and Mevani have confirmed.

The Congress has decided to make it a high profile induction with presence of senior leader Rahul Gandhi during the joining of both the leaders. The day coincides with the birth anniversary of Shaheed Bhagat Singh.

While both the leaders have switched off their cell phones and only phones of those close to them are working.

Both the leaders had met Rahul Gandhi recently and sources say that talks have been finalised between these leaders and the Congress party. The Congress wants to rope in these two leaders ahead of assembly polls



and particularly Mevani before Gujarat polls for their oratory and crowd pulling capabilities. Mevani is an independent MLA in



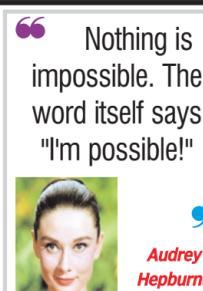
Gujarat and has won election with the support of the Congress. The trio of Alpesh Thakor, Hardik Patel and Mevani was with the Congress in

2017 elections when Congress did put up a good show but could not win elections and now Congress wants to rope in Mevani ahead of polls while Alpesh has joined the BJP.

Sources in the Congress say that he has been meeting Rahul Gandhi in the past and the offer to join the party has been pending since the last Lok Sabha polls.

Sources also said that during the talks in the past, Kanhaiya Kumar had emphasised on having his own team to work in Bihar in order to start a movement and then gradually take it to the national level.

The Congress in Bihar in the recent Assembly polls was almost routed. It could manage to win just 19 seats out of 70 seats it contested in alliance with the RJD and its performance was considered one of the reasons for the defeat of the grand alliance.



'Regressive': Without naming Pak, Modi slams Imran's crude rhetoric

UNITED NATIONS | Agencies

Without once naming Pakistan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday ripped his Pakistan counterpart Imran Khan's harsh rhetoric targeting India by slamming "countries with regressive thinking that are using terrorism as a political tool". Modi was speaking at the United Nations General Assembly in New York and his address came a day after Khan's litany. During a Friday address, Khan had framed Pakistan as a victim 'wrongfully trapped between American and global double standards'. "For the current situation in Afghanistan, for some reason, Pakistan has been blamed for the turn of events by politicians in the US and some politicians in Europe," Khan said, adding: "From this platform, I want them all to know, the country that suffered the most, apart from Afghanistan, was Pakistan when we joined the US war on terror after 9/11."

Khan's toughest words were reserved for India. India, in its right of reply on Friday, hit back. "This is the country which is an arsonist disguising itself as a firefighter," Sneha Dubey, a first secretary in India's UN Mission, said on Friday. "Pakistan nurtures terrorists in their backyard in the hope that they will only harm their neighbours. Our region, and in fact the



entire world, has suffered because of their policies," she said. The morning after, Modi closed it out. "These countries must understand that terrorism is an equally big threat to them. Also, it is absolutely essential to ensure that Afghanistan's territory is not used to spread terrorism or for terrorist attacks," Modi said in the tail end of his address, which kicked off the weekend programming at the UNGA.

"We also need to be alert and ensure that no country tries to take advantage of the delicate situation there, and use it as a tool for their own selfish interests. At this time, the women and children of Afghanistan, the

minorities of Afghanistan, need help. And we must fulfil our duty by providing them with this help," Modi said.

Earlier this week in a joint statement, Quad leaders Modi, Scott Morrison of Australia and Yoshihide Suga of Japan and US President Joe Biden slammed terrorist proxies and cross-border attacks, without naming Pakistan or China. This messaging comes soon after US withdrawal from Afghanistan and amid the deepening mistrust between the US and Pakistan, which remains important to US intelligence because of its proximity to Taliban leaders now in charge of the war-torn nation.

CJI: Legislature needs to revisit laws, reform them to suit people

CUTTACK | Agencies

The Chief Justice of India, NV Ramana, said on Saturday that the legislature needs to revisit the laws and reform them to suit the needs of time and people. He emphasised that if the executive and the legislature function in unison to realise the constitutional aspirations, the judiciary will not be compelled to step in as a law-maker.

Speaking at the inauguration of a new building of the Odisha State Legal Services Authority in Cuttack, Ramana said the legislature needs to revisit the laws and reform them to suit the needs of time and people -- "laws must match with our practical realities and the executive has to match these efforts by way of simplifying the corresponding rules".

Emphasising that the executive and the legislature should function in unison, the CJI said, "It is only then, that the judiciary would not be compelled to step in as a law-maker and would only be left with the duty of applying and interpreting the same. At the end of the day, it is the harmonious functioning of the three organs of the state that can remove the procedural barriers to justice."

He pointed out that even after 74 years of Independence, traditional and agrarian societies, which have been following customary ways of life, still feel hesitant to approach the courts.

Ramana said: "The practices, procedures, language and everything of our courts look like alien to them. Between the complex language of the acts and the process of justice delivery, the common man seems to lose control over the fate of his grievance. Often in this trajectory, the justice-seeker feels like an outsider to the system."

Elaborating on Indianisation of justice delivery system as a primary challenge for the Indian judicial system, on which he had spoken earlier, Ramana said a harsh reality is that "often our legal system fails to take into consideration the social realities and implications". He said it is a general understanding of the people that it is the court's responsibility to make laws.

"This notion has to be dispelled. This is where the role of other organs of the state, i.e., the legislature and the executive, assumes great significance," Ramana said. Elaborating on the second challenge, enabling the people to "decode the justice delivery system by raising awareness", the CJI said the legal services have become an integral part of the judicial administration and lack of proper infrastructure and funds result in reduction of the activities carried out by these institutions.

"As a result, the number of beneficiaries, who avail services of these institutions, reduces. Ultimately, the goal of access to justice for all gets hampered. If we want to retain the faith of our people, we need to strengthen not only the judicial infrastructure, but we also need to boost our outreach programmes as well," he added. Ramana said considering the gravity of the challenge, "we have decided to launch a country-wide robust legal awareness mission in the upcoming week".

Concluding his speech, the CJI said: "The power and strength of any justice-delivery system is derived from the faith of the people in it. The Bar and Bench need to work in conjunction to affirm the faith that a citizen has in the justice delivery system. We are mere custodians. I am sure that you will be able to make use of this grand edifice, for the service of the people."

Rift in Maharashtra government, Congress leader writes letter to Governor, targets Uddhav Thackeray

Congress leader Vishwabandhu Rai writes to Maharashtra Governor criticising MVA gov't stand on Sakinaka rape-murder case. "CM is head of a regional party and his political concern is regionalism. He targeted people from other states in the case to satisfy his vote bank," Rai wrote

Zafar Alam Khan

Criticising the Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government's stand on the country's financial capital Mumbai's Saki Naka rape-murder case, Congress leader Vishwabandhu Rai has written a letter to the Governor of Maharashtra. In a two-page letter, he directly put Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray and his party in the dock. Congress leader Rai wrote, "The CM is the head of a regional party and his political concern is regionalism. He targeted people from other states to satisfy his vote bank."

The suggestion of convening a special session in the Legislative Assembly on the increasing rape and violence against women in Maharashtra is highly commendable. You have taken this issue seriously. I thank you for this.

After the Saki Naka rape case, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray has indirectly blamed the Parpovantis (people from other states) for this. A rapist of any language, religion, caste should be punished with death.

Crime against women in Mumbai has increased by 144 percent in the last few months. In the year 2020, 2061 rape cases have been registered in Maharashtra. Apart from this, many cases are happening every day. In the Saki Naka incident, the Mumbai Police Commissioner had given an absurd statement saying that the police cannot be everywhere. It is a direct shunning of responsibilities. Action should be taken against such irresponsible commissioner.



The Chief Minister of Maharashtra is also the president of a regional party. Their political concern is provincialism. Therefore, by directly targeting the people of other states in the Saki Naka rape case, he has tried to satisfy his own vote bank. Directly or indirectly targeting the people of any other state by any Chief Minister is a condemnable act. Some other political parties in Maharashtra also do petty politics by taking the help of this.

When the Chief Minister starts doing politics over a crime, then on whom should the people of the state depend for fair justice? That's why I felt it appropriate to write this letter to you.

The so called secular leaders of MVA have also kept silence on this politics. It appears that insulting people of other states is part of the 'Common Minimum Programme' of this government. All these secular leaders are seen under the pressure of the Chief Minister.

Centre to bring new cooperative policy soon: Amit Shah

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said that the government will bring a new cooperative policy with suitable changes, the new policy will be implemented by the end of this year. Addressing the first Cooperative conference here, he said that the cooperative sector needs to be strengthened and all important units in the entire network will soon be computerised.

"Many people say that cooperative is state subject but I must tell you that we will not have any confrontation with the states and will be working with them in poverty amelioration and help them in the matter of coop-

eratives", Shah said.

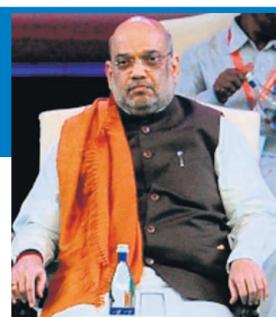
He also said that all Pax, district cooperative banks, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development and other important financial institutions will be revamped with a new software system.

The Minister also announced that a new cooperative will be created for the fishermen in the country which will help them in their business in many ways. Noting that the Cooperative credit facility has to be made more liberalised, Shah further said many people in this country do not get small loans from banks or financial institutions as they do not have any paper or something to mortgage, these cooperative institutions will address their concern.

He also said that cooperative sector will have major role in achieving the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's target of five trillion dollar economy by 2025 and after creating a new Ministry, nobody will be able to do injustice to this sector.

He also urged the representatives of the various cooperative federations to make this sector successful, training, skill development and transparency was required for filling in posts and appointing office bearers. Shah also said that creating the Ministry of Cooperation was the need of the hour and this will develop and make the poor, farmers, women and downtrodden of the society.

The PM Modi's mantra of 'sahkar se samridhi' (prosperity from cooper-



ation) will play an important role in poverty alleviation in rural India.

The Minister also attacked the critics who say that the days of the cooperatives are over. Referring to the example of Amul Cooperative, Shah further said that it was created on the vision of Sardar Patel with only 80 farmers in 1946 and now its turnover has been over Rs 53,000 crore per annum.

NEW PUNJAB CABINET TO TAKE OATH ON SUNDAY

Team Absolute | Chandigarh

Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi on Saturday met Governor Banwarilal Purohit here to submit the names of ministers likely to be inducted into the new Cabinet and will take oath on Sunday evening. Official sources told IANS 15 ministers are likely to take oath of office at 4.30 p.m. on Sunday.

Those likely to be dropped from the previous Amarinder Singh cabinet include Balbir Singh Sidhu, Gurpreet Singh Kangar, Rana Gurmeet Sodhi, Sadhu Singh Dharamsot and Sundar Shyam Arora. The new faces in the Cabinet likely to be Kuljit Singh Nagra, Sangat Singh Gilzian, Pargat



Singh, Raj Kumar Verka, Amarinder Raja Warring, Gurpreet Kotli and Rana Gurjit Singh. It is learnt that the party high command has

asked the Chief Minister to retain Brahm Mohindra and Tript Rajinder Singh Bajwa on the same portfolios.

Meanwhile, the Chief Minister said he would meet the ministers, MLAs and other political functionaries every Tuesday in his office from 11.30 a.m. to 2.30 pm in order to ensure better coordination between the government and people's representatives.

A spokesperson for the Chief Minister's office said the Chief Minister ordered that Cabinet meeting would be held every Tuesday at 3 p.m. and all the administrative secretaries and heads of department will remain present in their offices every Tuesday.

MP Chief Minister Announces "Diamond Park" In Panna District

Panna district, located over 380 km from Bhopal, has reserves estimated to be containing diamonds totalling 12 lakh carats, according to officials.



addressing a programme at a Polytechnic College Ground here on Friday.

Panna district, located over 380 km from Bhopal, has reserves estimated to be containing diamonds totalling 12 lakh carats, according to officials.

Meanwhile, 105 diamonds weighing 144.32 carat, excavated from Panna mines, fetched Rs 1.87 crore during the three-day auction that concluded on Thursday, diamond officer Ravi Patel said.

The proceeds from the auction of

raw diamonds would be given to the miners who found them after deducting government royalty and taxes at 11.5 per cent, which is Rs 21.51 lakh in this auction, he said.

He said a 14-carat diamond, the biggest diamond available for auction, went unsold and will be put in the next auction after three-months. "This 14-carat diamond could not reach the auction price... At times it happens due to clarity of colour. It is a big size gem but quality degraded due to black spots. We want

it to fetch good rates," he said.

A carat is a unit of weight used to measure the size of a gemstone such as a diamond. The per-carat rate of a gemstone depends on its quality.

A 12.08-carat diamond fetched the highest price of ₹ 42.40 lakh at the auction. It was sold at the rate of ₹ 3.51 lakh per carat, the officer had said earlier. However, an 8.22-carat diamond mined earlier this month attracted the highest price per carat in the auction attended by traders from various parts of India.

"This 8.22-carat diamond was sold at ₹ 4.51 lakh per carat fetching ₹ 37.07 lakh," he said. A group of four labourers had found this 8.22-carat diamond from leased land in the Hirapur Tapariyan area of the Panna district and deposited it in the Panna's Diamond Office on September 13.

Patel said a 6.47-carat diamond was sold at ₹ 15.36 lakh at the rate of ₹ 2.37 lakh per carat. Similarly, a 5.05-carat diamond was sold at ₹ 11.66 lakh.

During this three-day auction, a total of 155 gemstones weighing 206.68 carats were put up for sale.

Cyclone Gulab takes shape, likely to make landfall on Sunday

BHUBANESWAR | Agencies

Cyclonic storm 'Gulab' (pronounced as Gul-Aab) has formed over northwest and adjoining west-central Bay of Bengal, said India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Saturday evening.

The IMD has issued cyclone warning for north Andhra Pradesh and adjoining south Odisha coasts.

At 5.30 p.m. on Saturday, the cyclonic storm 'Gulab' lay centered about 370 km east-southeast of Gopalpur of Odisha and 440 km east of Kalingapatnam of Andhra Pradesh, it said.

The cyclone is likely to move nearly westwards and cross north Andhra Pradesh - south Odisha coasts between Kalingapatnam and Gopalpur around Sunday evening.

Under its impact, heavy rainfall would occur in some places of Kendrapada, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, Khordha, Ganjam, Nayagarh, Kandhamal and Cuttack districts. The coastal and south Odisha districts are very likely to experience heavy to very heavy rainfall for next two days.

Squally wind speed reaching 75-85 kmph gusting to 95 kmph is likely along and off Odisha coasts from Sunday afternoon, till midnight in Ganjam, Gajapati districts, 55-65 kmph gusting to 75 kmph along & off Khordha, Puri, Rayagada and Koraput districts, 50-60 kmph gusting to 70 kmph over Nabarangpur and Malkangiri, the IMD bulletin said.

There may be damage to thatched huts, minor damage to power and communication lines due to breaking of branches and paddy crops, banana, papaya trees and orchards, it said. As sea conditions would be rough, the fishermen are advised not to venture into the sea, along and off Odisha coasts northwest & adjoining west-central Bay of Bengal till September 27.

Meanwhile, the Odisha government has asked the concerned district collectors to remain alert and take measures to counter the cyclone.

Special Relief Commissioner P.K. Jena said 42 ODRAF teams, 24 NDRF teams and 102 Fire Service teams will be deployed in seven districts which are likely to be most affected by the cyclonic storm.

He said the IMD has predicted that seven districts would experience less wind but heavy to very heavy rainfall on Sunday and Monday. Due to heavy rainfall, flash floods may occur in Rushikulya, Nagavali and Vamsadhara rivers and landslides in Gajapati and Rayagada districts and small trees may also be uprooted, Jena said.

"During 2018 Cyclone Titi, we witnessed landslides in Gajapati district. We have directed officials in Gajapati and Rayagada districts to take appropriate steps to deal with landslide incidents. Directions have also been issued to take steps for proper evacuation in areas which are prone to landslides," he added.



EVERY POOR HAS THE RIGHT TO LAND: CHIEF MINISTER CHOUHAN

CM announces Mukhya Mantri Bhu-Adhikar Yojana
Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay's dream of Antyodaya to come true

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has announced the Mukhyamantri Bhu-Adhikar (Patta) Yojana on the birth anniversary of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay. Chief Minister Shri Chouhan said that every poor has the right to land. This scheme is being implemented to fulfil the dream of Antyodaya of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay. Under the scheme, poor people who do not have a place to live, will be provided with a plot to live. In cities where land is not available, arrangements will be made to make multi-story buildings. Housing for the poor will also be built on the land that has been freed from mafia. This is service to the poor. We will continue to work for the welfare of the people by following the path shown by Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay. Chouhan was addressing a programme organized on the birth anniversary of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay at his statue site in Lalghati. Chief Minister Chouhan garlanded the statue of



Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay and paid floral tributes.

Paying obeisance to Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay, Chief Minister Chouhan said that Pandit ji was very sensitive towards the poor true to his name Deendayal. Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay gave the idea of nation building on the basis of its culture, rites, traditions and life values. The philosophy of Integral Humanism of Pandit Deendayal ji is based on the spirit of fundamental unity. We have to work for everyone. The one who is poor, is backmost and bottommost, that poor is our God. Service to him is

service to God.

Chouhan said that several poor welfare schemes are being run under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, like free vaccination, education for all, food distribution for all etc to implement this spirit and idea of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay. Chief Minister said that the state government is running several schemes like Mukhyamantri Annapurna Yojna, Sambal Yojana, free education of children, arrangement of money for poor women before birth of child and post delivery, Kanyadan, Ladli Laxmi etc.

CM gifts College, Stadium and Tehsil building to Raigaon

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan reached Raigaon in Satna district and attended the Kothi Jandarshan programme from Raigaon. Addressing a huge public meeting at Raigaon, Chouhan said that now every landless and homeless person will be given land patta for housing. Mukhyamantri Bhu-Adhikar Yojana is being implemented in the state from today to give land pattas to poor of every category. In the first phase of this scheme, the poor will be identified through a survey. After this, they will be given residential plots in the available government land. If government land is not available, private land will also be purchased and given to the poor. In this scheme, Satna district will be made a model. Amidst applause in the public meeting, Chouhan approved Rs one crore 15 lakh for opening a college in Raigaon from this session and construction of tehsil building, opening of CM Rise School and upgradation of Primary Health Center into Community Health Center. He also announced rural sports stadium at Raigaon, construction of electric sub-station at village Mudaha, restoration of Masaan Baba and Bhurajna Devi temples and construction of a temple of Sant Ravidas in Srinagar village. Chouhan also announced construction of 2 roads and 2 stop



dams. He said that out of the announcements made during the Jandarshan two weeks ago, 12 have been approved and work is being done on the rest. Those will also get approval soon. He said that the Government Hospital of Rampur Baghelan would be upgraded to Civil Hospital.

After reaching the public meeting, the Chief Minister first paid tribute to Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay on his birth anniversary and performed kanya puja. On this occasion, Chief Minister said that Jandarshan is an opportunity to lovingly communicate with common people. I have come here to solve the problems of the people and to provide them the benefits of welfare schemes. Women of self-help groups will be given new employment opportunities. Ek

Zila-Ek Utpad Yojana will also increase employment opportunities. One lakh people will be recruited in the state in the next one year.

Chouhan said that rumours are being spread about Raigaon area that a limestone quarry project is being made here in the entire area. All farmers should remain fully assured that limestone mining will not be allowed in the land where cultivation is done. Chouhan said that the threat of Corona is not over yet. Those who have missed vaccination can get the first dose of vaccine in the vaccination campaign on September 27. Vaccination is the most effective way to avoid Corona. He said that free education has been arranged for girls. Free food grain is being distributed among the poor. He also discussed about distribution of

food grains with the people. The general public informed that food grains is being supplied regularly. Chief Minister also discussed about Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao campaign and Ayushman Upchar Yojana. Chouhan said that the government would be run with the cooperation of the common people. Efforts are being made to give full opportunity to every poor person for development based on the principle of Integral Humanism of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay.

In his welcome address, Member of Parliament Ganesh Singh informed about the development works being done in the area. He put forth the demands of road construction, power sub-station and other demands for development of Raigaon.

CM learned the reality of schemes from people during Jandarshan Yatra

Huge crowd gathered from Raigaon to Kothi Jandarshan Yatra

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A huge crowd gathered in Satna district during Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan's Jandarshan Yatra from Raigaon to Kothi. Chouhan, while holding Jandarshan in various villages, took information from the general public about the implementation of welfare schemes and development works of the government. He interacted with the villagers in village Dhaurhara, Itma, Gopalganj, Semaria, Karsara and Rakselwa. He directed the concerned officers to dispose of the applications received from the general public on the spot. Forest Minister and District In-charge Minister Kunwar Vijay Shah, MP Ganesh Singh, Minister of State for Backward Classes and Minority Welfare Ramkhelawan Patel, former Minister and MLA Rewa Rajendra Shukla and other public representatives accompanied Chief Minister Chouhan in the Jandarshan Yatra.

Chouhan, while interacting with the general public at village Dhaurhara, said that now every landless poor will be given land pattas under the Mukhya Mantri Bhu-



Adhikar Yojna. Today this scheme has been announced in Raigaon public meeting. Collectors will conduct a survey of eligible families soon. Chief Minister was accorded a warm welcome by Sarpanch Mrityunjay Singh in village Itma. Chouhan instructed to start the work of Nal-Jal Yojana immediately at a cost of Rs. 93 lakh by making big bores in

three places under Jal Jeevan Mission to solve the drinking water problem of the common people. He announced construction of a sliding rail (rapta) in the nullah and a meeting hall in the high school building. Chief Minister announced the construction of road from Dhaurhara to Khamaria, community toilet and four roads at a cost of Rs 13

lakh. He said that a temple of Sant Ravidas would be constructed in village Srinagar. Water connections will be provided to 389 families of the village through Jal Jeevan Mission. In the next step of Jandarshan, Chief Minister Chouhan interacted with tribal families in village Gopalganj. He said that all the landless poor families would be given land pattas to build houses. With the Jal Jeevan Mission, water will soon be supplied to every household in the village through taps. Chouhan said that Rs 93 lakh has been sanctioned for supply of drinking water from tap in 343 houses of village Itma and Gopalganj. The Chief Minister also interacted with the general public during the Jandarshan programme in village Karsara and Rakselwa. He took information from the general public regarding the distribution of free food grains, drinking water system and electricity supply. In village Paikouri, Chouhan instructed the officers of Water Resources Department to examine the demand letter given by the general public regarding Patihar dam. He said that after conducting a re-survey of the Patihar dam, its estimate would be prepared.

Woman constable allegedly gang-raped, act shot on video; 2 arrested

In her complaint, the woman claimed she was raped by the main accused, his brother and another man at a birthday party, the police said.

Team Absolute | Neemuch

A woman police constable has alleged that she was gang-raped by three men in Neemuch district who then filmed the act and threatened to kill her.

According to the police, the incident took place earlier this month but the 30-year-old lodged a complaint on September 13 after which a probe was conducted and a case registered against five persons. The accused included the mother of the main accused. In her complaint, the woman claimed she was

raped by the main accused, his brother and another man at a birthday party, the police said. The main accused's mother further blackmailed her and a relative also threatened to kill her and tried to extort money from her, they further said.

"The accused had befriended the victim on Facebook and had been interacting with her on WhatsApp since April. He invited the victim to his younger brother's birthday party, where she was raped by three men," said Anuradha Girwal, in-charge of the women police station.

The constable and victim, who was earlier posted in Neemuch, is currently working in Indore district, the official said, adding that further probe is underway.

The main accused and his mother were arrested in connection with the crime, Girwal added.

CM pays tributes to Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya



Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan paid homage to Pandit

Deendayal Upadhyaya on his anniversary. Chouhan garlanded his portrait in the auditorium at his residence. Pandit Deendayal

Upadhyaya was born on September 25, 1916 in Nagla Chandrabhan in brajbhumi Mathura. He was co-founder of Bharatiya Jana Sangh. Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya was a thinker and organiser of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh. Presenting the Sanatan (traditional) ideology of India in an epoch-making form, he gave a vision of Integral Humanism to the country. He wanted a strong and powerful India. Along with politics, he also had a keen interest in literature. He passed away on February 11, 1968.

CM PLANTS KARANJ SAPLING IN SMART CITY PARK



Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Saturday planted a sapling at Smart city Park at Shyamla Hills. Chouhan today planted a sapling of Karanj, which is considered important in Ayurvedic medicine. Chouhan is continuously planting saplings as part of his resolve to plant saplings every day.

3 sanitisation workers die while repairing sewerage pipeline

Those present on the spot alleged delay in the team reaching the spot and carrying out the rescue work. Relatives of the deceased also blocked roads following the incident.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Three sanitisation workers died of asphyxiation after they inhaled poisonous gases while repairing a sewage pipe in Singrauli district Friday evening.

The incident took place around 3 pm in Kanchi village which falls under Waidhan police station, merely 2 km from the district headquarters. The repair works were carried out by a private contractor identified as KK Spun

Pvt Ltd.

The first person to enter the pipeline was 35-year-old Kanhaiya Yadav, who after a while, asked for some equipment. The second worker, identified as Indrabhan Singh (24), went down with the equipment. When the two did not come out for a long time, the supervisor sent in a third worker, identified as Narendra Rajak (30), inside the pipeline to check on the duo. Sometime later, when even Rajak did not respond, the district administration was informed who rushed to the spot. A team of the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) along with fire brigade and a team of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) brought the three out from the pipeline.

They were rushed to the trauma centre of the district hospital but were declared dead on arrival. However, those present on the spot alleged delay

in the team reaching the spot and carrying out the rescue work. Relatives of the deceased also blocked roads following the incident. Speaking to the media, Collector Rajeev Ranjan Meena said, "The team reached as soon as they were informed. Prima facie, it appears that the sanitization workers went down to do the work without any safety equipment and thus, a case has been registered against those responsible." At Waidhan police station, an FIR has been registered against site engineer Uttam Kumar, supervisor Salauddin Khan along with other for culpable homicide not amounting to murder under Section 304 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). Meena also informed that the families of the workers will be given compensation along with other insurance benefits. "We will also try to fulfill their needs in the best possible manner," said Meena.

Madhya Pradesh is the confluence of wildlife and biodiversity tourism

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh is now becoming the first choice for those who wish to view nature. The state has become a new place of natural beauty with the joining together of wildlife tourism and biodiversity tourism. The habitat where wild animals like tiger, leopard, gharial, vulture, chital, barasingha reside presents many breathtaking dimensions of biodiversity.

The number of tourists is increasing in the national parks like Kanha, Bandhavgarh, Pench, Panna and Satpura. In these, the process of advance booking by tourists has been started. In the last two years, despite an epidemic like Corona, about 2 lakh 87 thousand tourists visited the Kanha Tiger Reserve area and about 9.97 crore and one lakh 69 thousand tourists visited Pench Tiger Reserve, thus the management received an income of Rs 5 crore 96 lakh. Similarly, 33 thousand tourists arrived at Eco Centre Deori in Morena district and Chambal Safari Raighat. As a result, the management earned an income of Rs. 2 lakh 20 thousand. It is noteworthy that the National Chambal Sanctuary is known for Gharials, Turtles, Dolphins and more than a hundred types of migratory/resident birds. Madhya Pradesh is the Tiger Capital not only of the country but to the world. Management in Kanha and Pench Tiger Reserves is considered as the best in the country. Panna Tiger Reserve has attracted the attention of the whole world in increasing the population of tigers. It is a unique example in the contemporary wildlife conservation history of the world. Now Madhya Pradesh is also at the fore in India in the number of leopards. The State Government and the Forest Department are continuously making efforts to increase the number of tigers and as a result of active management, the



number of tigers is increasing continuously. The landscape of central India is very important for the survival of tigers. The tiger reserves of North India and South India are connected through the corridor of Madhya Pradesh. A large area has been freed from biological pressure by resettling about 190 villages for the habitat of tigers. At present, all the villages in the core areas of Kanha, Pench and Kuno Palpur have been resettled. More than 90 percent of the core area of the Satpura Tiger Reserve has also been freed from biological pressure. There is an opportunity to see nature closely in the about 5 thousand square kilometers buffer zone of Tiger Reserves of the state- Bandhavgarh, Panna, Pench, Kanha, Satpura and Sanjay Tiger Reserve. Madhya Pradesh Forest (Recreation and Wildlife Experience) Rules 2015 have been made for the purpose of planned

and controlled development of botanical tourism activities. With these efforts, illegal logging, quarrying and grazing in the forests of the state is being stopped. Efforts to raise the standard of living of the villagers living around the buffer zone have also been added to this chain. Due to non-availability of tiger sightings in the core area to the tourists, a tiger interpretation area is being built in the buffer zone. Through these, tourists coming from remote areas can see the tiger up close in its natural surroundings. Efforts are on to inculcate sensitivity towards the environment among the youths and to connect them with nature, such as bird watching, nature trails, botanical knowledge, adventure sports and boating etc. The Satpura Tiger Reserve, which is included in potential list of UNESCO World Heritage, has 15 species of grass for food for herbivore wild animals. Seeing different types of grass is also a unique experience for tourists. It is the oldest forest wealth of the country, full of unprecedented natural beauty, which has been carefully preserved. The 26 species of flora found in the Himalayan region and 42 species found in the Nilgiri forests are also found in abundance in the Satpura forest area. Hence, like the vast Western Ghats, it is also named as the Northern Ghats. Some species like the insectivorous Ghatapami, Bamboo, Hissalu, Daruhaldi are found both in Satpura and in the Himalayas. Similarly, red sandalwood is the main species found in both the Western Ghats and Satpura. The cinchona plant, from which quinine, the drug of malaria is made, is found here in large areas. In terms of internal management of protected areas, Satpura Tiger Reserve is the best example of the country in itself. Satpura alone accounts for 17 percent of the country's tiger population and 12 percent of the tiger habitat.

CM WILL ATTEND THE REVIEW MEETING OF NAXAL AFFECTED STATES

Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan will attend the meeting of Naxal affected states under the chairmanship of Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi on September 26, 2021. Chouhan will give information related to the control of Naxal problem in Madhya Pradesh in this meeting of ten Naxal-affected states. The meeting will start at 2.00 pm.



AHEAD OF DIWALI, CINEMAS, THEATRES TO REOPEN IN MAHARASHTRA

The move came a day after the government permitted the reopening of most schools in the state from October 4 and all places of worship from October 7, with restrictions and protocols, as the Covid-19 situation appears to be easing in the state.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Saturday announced that all cinema halls and drama theatres in the state will reopen from October 22, just ahead of Diwali and 18 months after the box-offices were shut in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic plus the series of lockdowns since March 2020.

"The work is underway to prepare a detailed SOP in this regard which will be announced soon," said the CM as the announcement spread ripples of excitement in the film and theatre worlds now gearing up to return to 'full houses', 10 days before the Diwali festival.

The CM held detailed discussions with the Covid Task Force members -- Chief Secretary Sitaram Kunte, Additional Chief Secretary (Health)



Dr Pradeep Vyas and Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut and others.

At the meeting were present from the Bollywood and Marathi film industry captains to President of Multiplex Association of India

Kamal Gianchandani who is also the CEO of PVR Pictures, Inox Leisure Ltd CEO Alok Tandon, Cinepolis India CEO Devand Sampat, Carnival Cinemas CEO Kunal Sawhney, PEN Studios'

Jayantilal Gada, and PEN Marudhar Director Sanjay Chhatar.

Others who attended the meeting were film personalities like Rohit Shetty, Makrand Deshpande, Subodh Bhawe, Aadesh Bandekar and other representatives from the stage and silver screen.

Shetty profusely thanked Thackeray and greeted the latest development by announcing a Diwali release for his much-awaited buzzy film "Sooryavanshi" starring Akshay Kumar and Katrina Kaif and others, hoping to send the cash registers ringing away after 18 months.

The move came a day after the government permitted the reopening of most schools in the state from October 4 and all places of worship from October 7, with restrictions and protocols, as the Covid-19 situation appears to be easing in the state.

BJP will get another opportunity to come to power: Fadnavis

Addressing a gathering of Mathadi workers in Navi Mumbai to commemorate the 88th birth anniversary of labour leader late Annasaheb Patil, the former chief minister said, "We will again get an opportunity to come to power. Ups and downs are part of democracy."

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Senior BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis on Saturday said ups and downs are part of democracy and hoped the BJP would get another opportunity to form its government in Maharashtra again.

Addressing a gathering of Mathadi workers in Navi Mumbai to commemorate the 88th birth anniversary of labour leader late Annasaheb Patil, the former chief minister



called for a speedy resolution of issues concerning head-loaders.

"We will again get an opportunity to come to power. Ups and downs are part of democracy," he said. Fadnavis said the issues of Mathadi workers would have been resolved had his government got more time.

The Sena-led Maha Vikas Aghadi government came to power after the Assembly polls in October 2019.

"Now, this government has the opportunity to resolve the problems of Mathadi workers. I am confident that the issues will be resolved. Even if the issues are not resolved...we will get another

opportunity (to solve them). But that is not an issue," the Leader of Opposition in the Maharashtra Assembly said, adding that all parties should try to work for the cause of Mathadi workers without bringing politics.

Union Labour and Employment Minister Bhopender Yadav and several other Mathadi leaders, along with BJP leaders from Navi Mumbai, were present at the function.

Fadnavis requested the Union minister to resolve the issue related to exemptions granted under section 194C of the Income Tax Act, which is not addressed in the new IT portal.

Candidates fume at last-minute cancellation of health dept exams

Health Minister Rajesh Tope announced the cancellation of the exams for the Group C and D staffers scheduled for Saturday and Sunday via social media, triggering a wave of protests.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Lakhs of candidates and several political leaders slammed the government for the last-minute cancellation of the health department's recruitment exams to fill up 6,200 vacant posts for which over 800,000 hopefuls have applied, here on Friday.

Health Minister Rajesh Tope announced the cancellation of the exams for the Group C and D staffers scheduled for Saturday and Sunday via social media, triggering a wave of protests.



Apparently, the outsourced company, Nyasa Communication Pvt. Ltd, which was awarded the contract to make arrangements for the exams could not complete the requirements on time, preparations for which started around mid-August.

"The company informed the state government on (Thursday) evening at 7 pm, leaving no other option with the state. It was tasked with the preparations like setting up a dedicated website, accepting online applications, issue hall tickets, conduct the written exams, prepare the merit list, etc," said Tope.

The health department stated that the next exams date would be announced in "a few days after making full preparations".

This resulted in anger spilling over onto the social media with many agitated candidates posting photos and videos showing them already en route in trains, buses, to reach the examination venues.

Opposition politicians like BJP's Nilesh Rane also targeted the Maha Vikas Aghadi government for 'looting' the poor candidates, saying they have already paid the examination fee of Rs 630 with GST, so who would compensate them for the loss.

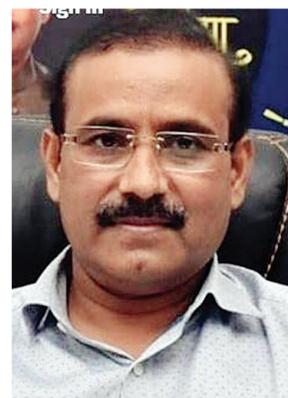
BJP demands CID probe into postponement of health department exam

BJP MLA Atul Bhatkalkar said, "Health minister Rajesh Tope should resign. The state government should order a CID investigation and within one month, it should submit its report."

Team Absolute | Mumbai

BJP Saturday demanded a CID investigation into the fiasco that led to the postponement of the examinations of the state Public Health Department to fill up 6,205 vacant posts of Group C and D categories.

BJP MLA Atul Bhatkalkar said, "Health minister Rajesh Tope should resign. The state government should order a CID investigation and within one month, it should submit its report. Three months back, we had cautioned the state government against giving the contract to the said private firm.



All those responsible for hiring a blacklisted company to conduct the examination should be punished."

He added, "Tope's decision to postpone the examination at an eleventh hour is also highly condemnable and

an irresponsible conduct. The state government clearly overlooked the anxiety and efforts of lakhs of candidates who were to appear for the examinations." On Friday, the state government said it is postponing the examinations slated to be held on September 25 and 26. Through a video recording, Tope conveyed the message that the examinations were being deferred due to technical glitches on the website from which the hall tickets were to be downloaded. As many as eight lakh aspirants were to appear for the examinations.

Tope blamed the private contractors for the fiasco and apologised to all candidates and said new dates for the examinations will be announced soon.

BJP also demanded the government to compensate the students who were all set to appear for the examinations. "The state government should announce the new examination dates in advance and immediately order an investigation into the matter," Bhatkalkar said.

Maharashtra parties call for inclusion of caste data in 2022 census

Addressing the conference, Chhagan Bhujbal said, "Anybody who questions the Centre, comes under the scanner of investigating agencies. We will pursue the OBC reservation case in the Supreme Court and take it to its logical end."

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The OBC Reservation Rights Conference passed a resolution in Jalgaon on Saturday demand-

ing caste-based census in the country. The meeting was chaired by state cabinet minister Chhagan Bhujbal. Addressing the conference, Bhujbal said, "Anybody who questions the Centre, comes under the scanner of investigating agencies." "We demand the enumeration of caste during the 2022 population census. Unless there is a caste-wise census, how can one determine the quota percentage. On what basis are welfare schemes meant for backward classes going to be determined?" the minister for food and civil supplies asked. Bhujbal said, "In the past, Dr B R Ambedkar had brought 7,500 caste groups together on one platform.

24 tigers were killed in Maharashtra in last 3 years

As per the RTI response, 15 out of 24 tiger deaths were reported between January 2020 and September 8, 2021, indicating that the Covid-19 induced nationwide lockdown, beginning March 2020, and subsequent restrictions might have aided in the poaching activity in Maharashtra

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Nagpur takes pride in being called the Tiger Capital of India but the big cats are seemingly not safe in the five tiger projects in Maharashtra's Vidarbha region. As per state wildlife department, 24 tigers and 57 leopards have been killed since 2018, mostly in



acts of poaching. Abhay Kolarkar, the RTI activist, who sought the details from Maharashtra wildlife wing, said 20 out of the 24 tigers and 45 out of the 57 leopards were poached in the state since January 2018. All these tiger deaths, including those poached, have been in the Vidarbha region. Five out of the state's six tiger projects in Maharashtra are in Vidarbha region. They are Melghat (Amravati), Tadoba (Chandrapur), Pench (Nagpur), Bor

(Wardha) and Navegaon-Nagzira (Bhandara). Sahyadri is Maharashtra's only tiger project outside of Vidarbha and is spread over Satara, Sangli, Kolhapur and Ratnagiri districts.

As per the RTI response, 15 out of 24 tiger deaths were reported between January 2020 and September 8, 2021, indicating that the Covid-19 induced nationwide lockdown, beginning March 2020, and subsequent restrictions might have aided in the poaching activity.

Maximum of the poached tigers were from Chandrapur district, home to the famous Tadoba tiger sanctuary. Of these, four each were reported in Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve (TATR) division and Bramhapuri forest division and three in Umered-Karhandla Tiger Reserve. All the 57 leopards were killed between January 2018 and September 3, 2021 in various parts of Maharashtra. Of these, 45 were poached, and there was a seizure of leopard skin in one case.

MAN KILLS WIFE, 2-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER BEFORE DEATH BY SUICIDE: POLICE

Beed: The incident took place in Sirsala village of Parli taluka in Maharashtra's Beed district. A 28-year-old man allegedly killed his wife and two-year-old daughter before committing suicide in a village in Maharashtra's Beed district, police said today.

The incident took place in Sirsala village of Parli taluka on Friday, an official said. According to the police, Allahbakh Ahmad Sheikh allegedly killed his wife Shabnam (28) and daughter Ashfia by slitting their throats and later hanged himself. Allahbakh was employed as a welder at a thermal power station in Parli town, assistant police inspector Pradip Ekshinge of Sirsala police station said. The couple was supposed to attend a wedding in Parbhani, and when the duo did not reach the venue, the family came to their house and found that the door was locked from the inside, the official said. Suspecting something amiss, the relatives broke open the door and found Allahbakh hanging from the ceiling, while his wife and daughter lay in a pool of blood, he said. The bodies were sent for post-mortem and a case has been registered, he said, adding that the killings might have been a result of a domestic feud.

Maha BJP LoP Pravin Darekar is a 'crorepati labourer': Sena leader

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Leader of Opposition in the Maharashtra Legislative Council, Pravin Y. Darekar, "is a 'crore-pati' labourer who has allegedly mis-declared his professional credentials in his election affidavits", claims a criminal complaint lodged with the Ghatkopar Police Station against the Bharatiya Janata Party leader.

The complainant, Vasantrao Naik Sheti Swavalamban Mission (VNSSM) Chairman Kishore Tiwari, accorded a MoS status, raises certain uncomfortable questions to Darekar.

A former Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) MLA from 2009-2014, Darekar is currently a BJP MLC since 2016, appointed Leader of Opposition of Upper House since 2019, and is also shown as the Chairman of Mumbai District Central Cooperative Bank (MDCCB) or Mumbai Bank, comprising the categories of representatives of registered cooperative societies.

In the police complaint, Tiwari said Darekar is said to be a member of the 'Pratigya Mazur Sahakari Sanstha' (PMSS)

Ghatkopar, a labour cooperative society, on the basis of which he is represented as a director with the Mumbai Bank, and as fulltime Chairman since 2015.

However, in his statutory affidavits in Form 26 for the two elections Darekar has stated on oath his profession and that of his wife Sayli Darekar as 'independent business', Tiwari contended.

"This is blatantly false and a misleading declaration on the basis of which he was elected to the house on both occasions. He is looting the government through full salaries, allowances, honorariums and privileges, and as LoP now even enjoying a Cabinet Minister rank, and at the same time availing the coveted position and perks of Mumbai Bank," Tiwari said.

Despite repeated attempts by IANS, including a brief questionnaire, there was no response from Darekar or his team in the



matter. Elaborating on the recently-emerged revelations, the Shiv Sena's former face accused Darekar of pretending to be a 'labourer', and through the PMSS as a voter at the MDCCB or Mumbai Bank.

Even his wife and one of his brothers are proclaimed 'labourers' and as the PMSS representatives are voters in the same Mumbai Bank, as per the police complaint.

"Can the honourable LoP explain whether he and his family members are 'daily wage earners', or have they misused the 'labour' tag to snatch positions and swindle the government," Tiwari pointedly asked. "This is an extremely serious matter as all positions were gained based on fraudulent or fictitious documents and false declarations. I urge the Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, the Union Cooperative Minister Amit Shah, Enforcement Directorate and others to probe and initiate

criminal action," said a grim Tiwari.

He pointed out that as per the Supreme Court, the affidavit of an election candidate or Form 26 filed during the nomination can be used as evidence to prosecute in case of a cognizable criminal offence.

Moreover, the Maharashtra government's Model Rules for labour cooperative societies define a labourer as a person whose main means of subsistence is manual labour, he pointed out.

"From this it is clear that Darekar is primarily disqualified as a 'labourer' and hence all the pay, perks, facilities, concessions he was given till date amounts to cheating the people and defrauding the government coffers that attracts criminal action," he said.

Currently, one or more cases are pending pertaining to the alleged scams in the Mumbai Bank since 2014-2015.

Tiwari demanded that Shah and Thackeray order an immediate enquiry through the concerned agencies, book Darekar and conduct the trial in a fast-track court as per the mandate of SC, failing which he would file a PIL in the court.

Kapil Sharma cheating case: Dilip Chhabria's son nabbed

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Mumbai Police has arrested Bonito Chhabria, the son of acclaimed vehicle designer Dilip Chhabria in connection with a cheating complaint lodged by comedian Kapil Sharma, an official said here on Saturday.

Bonito, who was summoned by the Economic Offence Wing (EOW), was arrested after being questioned - nearly 10 months after his father was arrested in vehicle financing racket in December 2020 by the Crime Branch. In his complaint last year, Sharma had claimed that he was allegedly cheated of Rs 5.30 crore by Chhabria and others in a designer vanity bus deal. Kapil Sharma said that he had paid over Rs 5 crore to Chhabria in March-May 2017 for the bus,

but till 2019 the vehicle was not given to him after which he moved the National Company Law Tribunal. Last year, Chhabria hit back with a bill of Rs 1.20 crore as parking charges for the yet to be delivered vanity bus after which Sharma lodged the police complaint in September 2020. The EOW carried out its preliminary enquiry into the complaint before registering it as a first information report. During the investigations, Bonito Chhabria's involvement came to light and he was called for interrogation after which he was arrested on Saturday. It may be recalled that on December 28, 2020, the Crime Branch made the sensational arrest of Dilip Chhabria - considered the czar of designer cars - for an alleged multi-state vehicle financing racket worth over Rs 22 crore, and secured bail in May this year.

MUSK, GRIMES BREAK UP AFTER THREE YEARS TOGETHER

San Francisco | Agencies



SpaceX and Tesla CEO Elon Musk and Grimes have broken up after three years together, Page Six reported. The SpaceX founder confirmed that he and the Canadian singer are "semi-separated" but remain on good terms and continue to co-parent their one-year-old son, the epically named X A A-Xii Musk.

"We are semi-separated but still love each other, see each other frequently and are on great terms," Musk told Page Six on Saturday.

"It's mostly that my work at SpaceX and Tesla requires me to be primarily in Texas or traveling overseas and her work is primarily in L.A. She's staying with me now and Baby X is in the adjacent room," Musk said.

Page Six first revealed in May 2018 that Musk and Grimes were dating. They welcomed their son in May 2020. They were last seen together at the Met Gala earlier this month, when Grimes, 33, walked the red carpet alone. Musk, 50, also attended the event but only joined her inside, the report said.

Ellie Goulding feared she'd die during severe panic attack

Los Angeles | Agencies

Singer Ellie Goulding feared it was the end of her life when she suffered a terrible panic attack while travelling on a train, as she recalled how her mind just "completely crashed".

Goulding said: "I was on a train, going to my friend's dad's funeral, sadly, and I was going back through where I grew up and I remembered the old person that I was and it hadn't caught up with this new person that I was trying to make myself as a recording artiste, and I think it just completely crashed."

"And just at that moment the train broke down and it was just this coming together of things where it came out in this massive panic of, well I was sweating, and my heart was pounding and I was having palpitations and I had these feelings of dread -- which made me think I'm going to die." The 'Love me like you do' hitmaker added: "I was like, 'Is this death? Is this dying?', because that's how severe it was as a physical reaction." She feels it is something she has developed as she gets older, reports femalefirst.co.uk.



Miss Money Bags

Los Angeles | Agencies

It seems that Rihanna has slowly been processing what it really means for her to now be a billionaire.

In an interview with The New York Times, the singer and businesswoman commented on her new financial status, explaining that she's still getting used to it, reports Complex.com.

"It's tricky because it's hard to even accept that's where you're at because I know where I've come from," she said.

"At the same time, it feels good to be able to inspire young women and boys, who like me, come from humble beginnings, who come from parents who are immigrants or who are immigrants themselves, to be able to do this."

She echoed similar sentiments on the red carpet of her Savage X Fenty Vol 3 show. "You know, it was real weird getting congratulations texts from people for money... I never got congratulated for money before. That shit is crazy."

She added, "I get scared when the pedestal comes into play and people put you up there and keep wanting to put you up there," she told Extra TV. "I wanna feel my feet on the ground because I know it's not gonna be a fall at all if anything, right?"

In early August, Forbes announced that Rihanna had become a billionaire with a net worth of approximately \$1.7 billion. Most of that derives from her business endeavours, with her 50 per cent share of Fenty Beauty being reportedly valued at \$1.4 billion on its own.

Her finances have landed her the title of 'wealthiest female musician in the world', and the second wealthiest female entertainer after Oprah.

Rihanna provided a three-word response after learning of her updated net worth, "God is good."

Rihanna opens up about becoming a billionaire

'BIRDS OF PARADISE': DOES NOT FLY TOO HIGH

FILM REVIEW

TROY RIBEIRO

(Streaming on Amazon Prime)

Direction: Sarah Adina Smith
Cast: Diana Silvers, Kristine Forseth, Jacqueline Bisset, Caroline Goodall, Helene Cardona and Nassim Lyes.

Duration: 113 minutes
Ratings: ** and 1/2 (two and a half stars)

Friendship and competition are two sides of the same coin. They can never see eye to eye. This dichotomy is evident in director Sarah Adina Smith's young adult drama, 'Birds of Paradise', which is based on A.K. Small's novel, 'Bright Burning Stars'. Featuring some of the dark facets of the ultra-competitive, professional Ballet Universe in Paris, the film focuses mainly on Marionette aka Marine Elise Durand (Kristine Forseth) and Kate Sanders (Diana Silvers) at a prestigious Ballet School in France, where all the students are very committed and the competition aspect plays a huge role in their lives, as well as in keeping the narrative moving.

While Kate is an aspiring American ballerina who arrives at the institution on a scholarship, Marine with her high connections, is the star ballerina and the favourite of the institution. Their association starts on the wrong foot after Kate innocently mentions Ollie, a student who had recently killed himself. But soon, being room-



mates and opponents for the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to join the Paris Opera Ballet, they form an inseparable bond forged by their respective family tragedies and a fierce love for dance.

They call each other "best friends", yet they are poles apart on intimacy and trust factors, frequently stepping on each other's toes.

Forseth and Silvers are brilliant and impressive actors. But in the film, they appear dull, tired, and jaded in their "warriors of pain" role. The duo appears shouldering the weariness of their world. Jacqueline Bisset as Madame Brunelle is flat and perfunctory. Her lines and general disposition remind you of Neena Gupta in the Indian Star Plus reality show 'KamzorKaddiKaun'.

While the film captures the haunting nature of the compelling story, it also triggers a lot of contexts but does not end up addressing all of them. Ensnared in its own dance bubble, the narrative gets lost in its muddled aesthetic pretensions. Yes, it even recycles tired tropes of ballet dance training we've often seen in films earlier. Also, the dance sequences never give you the feeling of satisfaction, and its sensual art-house moodiness also appears cliched.

In one of the lines of the film, we are told, "Ballet has never been an even playing field. It's always been about sex, blood, money..." and, all this is very superficially touched upon. Overall, 'Birds of Paradise' does not have, "a rebel's heart, will of steel and eyes set true North."

Daniel Craig: James Bond role was everything to me

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actor Daniel Craig, who is stepping down from his role as the iconic spy 007 after the release of 'No Time To Die', says his role as James Bond is "everything" to him.

'No Time To Die' has gone through numerous delays due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and Craig added it is "very emotional" for him to call time on the iconic role.

Craig said: "It's everything. It's been close to 16 years of my life, and it's been incredible to do these films."

"Bond films don't get made very often so to have this opportunity has been the biggest thing in my professional career obviously, but also one of the biggest things my life, so it is very emotional. I am glad I am ending it on my terms - I am grateful to the producers for allowing me to do that - but I will miss it."



The actor jokingly said: "I will probably be incredibly bitter when the new person takes over."

Craig said that the plot of the movie is still "shrouded in mystery", reports femalefirst.co.uk.

Speaking on The Graham Norton Show,

he added: "It's shrouded in mystery because we've been delayed for so long and we were worried about it getting out so we locked it down. We haven't shown it to anyone, but we are confident it is very good, and we want people to experience it in the cinema."

"There's a lot going on in the movie, but I don't want to give anything away. I can say we start where 'Spectre' left off, Madeleine and Bond have gone off into the sunset and then as usual the s*** hits the fan."

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Sara Sampaio



IPL 2021:

DELHI OVERCOME RAJASTHAN IN LOW-SCORING ENCOUNTER

Abu Dhabi | Agencies

Superb bowling on a slow pitch where batting was difficult helped Delhi Capitals outplay Rajasthan Royals by 33 runs in a low-scoring match and move to the top of the points table in IPL 2021 at the Shaikh Zayed Cricket Stadium here on Saturday.

It was the first day-match of the UAE leg of the IPL 2021 and the conditions were tough for the batters -- the scorching conditions making batting even more difficult on a pitch on which the ball was not coming on. Rajasthan skipper Sanju Samson won the toss and decided to bowl first, reckoning that the pitch will ease off in the second innings. But nothing sort of that happened as Delhi Capitals put on a modest 154/6 and then came out to defend it with a lot to spare. Shreyas Iyer top-scored for Delhi with 43 and Shimron Hetmyer, who hit some pleasing boundaries during his short stay at the wicket, contributed a quick 28 as Delhi ended with a small total. Chasing a below-par target of 155, Rajasthan could manage only 121 for six in 20 overs, skipper Sanju Samson's unbeaten 70 went in vain as Delhi Capitals used the conditions brilliantly to score their eighth win in IPL 2021 and moved past Chennai Super



Brief scores

Delhi Capitals 154/6 in 20 overs (Shreyas Iyer 43, Shimron Hetmyer 28, Rishabh Pant 23; MMustafizur Rahman 2/22, Chetan Sakariya 2/33) beat Rajasthan Royals 121/6 in 20 overs (Sanju Samson 70 not out; Anrich Nortje 2/18, Rabada 1/26).

Kings to the top of the table with 16 points.

Rajasthan got off to a disastrous start, down to 17/3 in the fifth over with Liam Livingstone (1), Yashasvi Jaiswal (5), and David Miller (7) falling to some good bowling, Avesh Khan, Anrich Nortje (2/18), and R Ashwin (1/20), who claimed his 250th IPL wicket. Rajasthan Skipper Sanju Samson waged a lone battle, keeping the scoreboard moving with singles and twos through small nudges and touches interspersed with trick shots, reverse sweeps, and

scoops, hitting boundaries here and there. But in the end that proved too little and too late as Rajasthan fell well short of the target.

Put into bat, Delhi Capitals, too, got off to a poor start as both openers Shikhar Dhawan (8), who had the Purple Cap at the start of the match for being top scorer, and Prithvi Shaw (10) returning to the dugout with just 21 runs on the board. Dhawan (8) was the first to go, bowled by Kartik Tyagi as he chopped onto his stumps a delivery that landed at good length on mid-

dle and off and did not take off from the wicket. Shaw too did not last long as he tried to loft Chetan Sakariya from the middle and off only to balloon a simple catch to Liam Livingstone at mid-off. Delhi ended the Powerplay with 36/2.

Tyagi, who took a fifer in Rajasthan's first match, was taken for 11 runs in his second over with both Pant and Iyer hitting him for a boundary each. Delhi managed only three boundaries in the first eight overs in the hot and breezy conditions as Iyer and Pant resurrected the innings with a 62-run partnership. Iyer lofted Rahul Tewatia into the stands over his head for the first six of the Delhi Capitals innings and also handed Tabraiz Shamsi the same treatment, backing off to leg to make room and swatted it over extra cover. With Iyer and Pant trying to cut loose, Rajasthan skipper Samson made an inspired bowling change and brought in left-arm pacer Mustafizur Rahman. And the Bangladesh pacer broke the dangerous partnership by getting Pant to chop on to his wicket a fullish delivery wide outside the off. Pant got out for a run-a-ball 24 (4x2). Delhi were three down for 83. Iyer too was out soon as Delhi slumped to 90/4 in the 14th over, stumped by Samson off Tewatia.

Sania Mirza in doubles final at Ostrava Open

Team Absolute | Ostrava

Sania Mirza and her Chinese partner Zhang Shuai stormed into the women's doubles final at the Ostrava Open WTA tennis championship, beating Japan's Eri Hozumi and Makoto Ninomiya in straight sets on Saturday.

Sania-Zhang, seeded second here, defeated the Japanese pair 6-2, 7-5 in an hour and 20 minutes and await the winner of the other semi-final between Pola's Magda Linette and Bernarda Pera of the USA, the top seeds, and the American-Kiwi team of Kaitlyn Christian and Erin Routliffe.

Sania and Zhang had reached the semi-finals by beating Anna Danilina of Kazakhstan and Lidziya Marozava of Belarus 6-3, 2-6 10-6.

In the semi-final clash, Sania and Zhang opened up a 4-0 lead and though they were broken in the fifth game, the Indo-Chinese pair maintained their serve after that as they won the set 6-2. The Indo-Chinese pair converted all three break points while saving two of the three on their serve. They managed to put in



72.7 percent of their serves while their rivals could only manage 58.3 percent.

The Japanese pair put up a better fight in the second set as they surged ahead by breaking the service of the Indo-Chinese pair in the fifth game. However, Eri Hozumi and Makoto Ninomiya surrendered their lead in the 10th game. Sania Mirza and Zhang Shuai took off from there to wrap up the match in straight sets.

Sania will be playing her second final of the season. Earlier, she had lost in the title match at Cleveland Championships last month with American Christina Mchale of the USA. Sania and Zhang converted two of the six break points they earned while their rivals could convert only one of the two they had. They put in 73.5 percent first serve and had an ace while their rivals served two double faults.

Rajasthan captain Samson fined Rs 24 lakh for slow over-rate

Abu Dhabi | Agencies

Rajasthan Royals captain Sanju Samson was fined Rs 24 lakh for his team's slow over-rate during its IPL 2021 match against Delhi Capitals on Saturday in the Shaikh Zayed Cricket Stadium. In a low-scoring match, Rajasthan lost to Delhi by 33 runs.

"As it was the team's second offence of the season under the IPL's Code of Conduct relating to minimum over rate offences, Rajasthan Royals captain Sanju Samson was fined Rs 24 lakh. The rest of the members of the playing XI were each fined lesser of either Rs 6 lakh or 25 percent of their individual match fee," said a release from the Indian Premier League (IPL).

This is the second consecutive time Samson has been fined for slow over rate in the UAE leg of IPL 2021. Samson was earlier fined Rs 12 lakh for slow-over rate after his team's thrilling two-run win over Punjab Kings in Dubai on Tuesday.



Rajasthan's next match in IPL 2021 will be against Sunrisers Hyderabad in Dubai on Monday.

PUCOVSKI YET TO REGAIN FULL FITNESS AS ASHES SELECTION LOOMS

Young Australian batting sensation Will Pucovski is yet to regain full fitness as he aims to make the cut for the Ashes series, scheduled to commence in December this year, following a shoulder reconstruction surgery.

The Victorian star has limited himself to just batting at the nets even as the Sheffield Shield season is set to move into top gear. "Pucovski has not suffered a setback but is yet to regain full movement in the joint and ligaments, which is not uncommon after major surgery," a Sydney Morning Herald report said on Saturday. Quoting a Victoria state insider, the newspaper said that "the tightness is affecting his ability to play the cut and pull shots, while his fielding is also restricted."

Durand Cup: Bengaluru FC overcome gritty Army Green to enter semis

Kolkata: | Agencies

Bengaluru FC (BFC) came from behind to beat Army Green 3-2 in the final quarter-final encounter of the 130th Durand Cup at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan (VYBK) on Saturday and set up a last-four clash with FC Goa on Wednesday.

Wungngayam Muirang, Leon Augustine, and Namgyal Bhutia struck for BFC while Lallawmkima and Vibin T. V. struck for the Greens, both incidentally via penalties.

Army Green created pressure early on and were rewarded for that as Lallawmkima scored from the spot in the 9th minute to give them the lead.

However, the Naushad Moosa-coached BFC did not take long to bounce back as Muirang scored the



equalizer in the 20th minute, courtesy of a magical free-kick that curled into the back of the net, giving Green's keeper Sarath no chance whatsoever.

Bengaluru played an attacking game post that and created quite a few chances but failed to convert any of them in the first half.

However, they did not take long to go ahead in the second session as Leon Augustine scored the second goal for his team just minutes after the restart.

Bhutia then scored the third just before the three-quarter hour mark to give the Blues a comfortable two-goal cushion. Dip Majumdar and Deepak Singh did create some chances and put pressure on the Bengaluru goal but the Blues defence did well to keep the lead intact.

In the last few minutes, Army Green pulled one back, through another spot-kick but it was all over by then.

India could play one Test in England next year: Reports

London | Agencies

India could play one Test match in England next year, says a report by ESPNcricinfo. The one Test match could replace the fifth Test at Old Trafford in Manchester which was cancelled due to Indian team unable to field an eleven after assistant physiotherapist Yogesh Parmar tested positive for COVID-19.

It is understood that a space in England's schedule in 2022 has been agreed to be kept for the Test. There are thoughts of the one Test likely to complete the 2021 Test series which India currently lead 2-1.

"It has not been confirmed at this stage whether the match will be a standalone game or complete the series started in August, but it will



avert the majority of financial losses incurred by the ECB due to the abandonment in Manchester. It may also avert any further disagreements between the ECB and the BCCI about

the reasons for the abandonment and who should take responsibility for it," further said the report.

It also said that discussions earlier had included a possibility of the one

Test being replaced by two T20Is. With India already scheduled to tour England next year as part of a white-ball tour, it would have been more suitable for the visitors.

The report also said that the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) has received a proposal from Cricket Australia (CA) on their plans for the tourists during the Ashes, scheduled to begin in Brisbane from December 8.

While the details of the plans are unclear, it is understood that the schedule, which includes details on quarantine arrangements and bio-secure bubbles throughout the trip, are better than what had been feared. It also means a probability of fewer withdrawals from the England squad for the Ashes.

India's Jyothi storms into the final in World Archery Championships

Yankton | Agencies

India's Jyothi Surekha Vennam stormed into the final of the Compound Women Individual competition at the World Archery Championship, beating Mexico's Andrea Recerra in the semi-finals here on Saturday.

Jyothi, who had won two silver medals in the competition so far in the Compound Women's Team and Compound Mixed Team on Friday, defeated her Italian opponent 148-146 in a closely-fought last-four encounter. The 25-year-old Indian seeded



sixth following the ranking round will meet top-seed Sara Lopez of Colombia in the final. Sara defeated Slovenia's Toja Ellison 150-147 in the other semi-final. Jyothi, who defeated Amanda Mlinaric of Croatia 150-144 in the quarter-finals, started with a perfect 30 in the first three arrows, taking a two-point lead as Andrea managed only 28 with two 9s and an X. The 25-year-old from

Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh had her lead down to one as she could manage 29 as against 30 by her opponent in the next end (59-58). The lead was back to two (89-87) as Jyothi shot a perfect 30 in the next arrows while her Mexican opponent managed 29 in the third end. Andrea won the next end 30-29 to make the score 118-117 as both archers continued to shoot superbly, managing 10s and 9s. With the lead down to one point, Andrea was fancying her chances in the fifth and final end but Jyothi shot two 10s and an X as her opponent managed only 29, the Indian emerging deserving winner.

A steady leadership is desired by all the teams

Captaincy has been a hot topic over the past week, be it for Team India or for a franchise in the Indian Premier League (IPL). And the man in the centre of the sandstorm in the UAE has been Virat Kohli.

While the Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) will be on the possible lookout for a new captain, it might be the same story for a few other franchises as well. The scenario might be different for others, but a steady leadership is definitely desired by all the teams.

Chennai Super Kings (CSK) have Mahendra Singh Dhoni at the helm; and with a player, leader and mentor like him, you may look no further. But they too will need to plan for it in the coming months. It is a team high on experience but the youth elements are limited.

Suresh Raina might have been in consideration, but since he has retired from all forms of the game now, he remains only a franchise



cricketer. Hence an upcoming, talented player like Ruturaj Gaikwad may come into the fray. He has age on his side, is among the top brass of identified talent (players) by the Indian selectors and has been shown the confidence by his franchise. His debut for CSK was not the brightest last year in the UAE, but the team stuck with him right at the top even when the going was tough. They backed him to come good, which he eventually did. With a couple of half-centuries, he announced his talent at the IPL, repaying the faith and confidence that team had shown when they were languishing at the bottom of league table. For a player that is worth gold. A feeling of being wanted, desired in the dressing room. It is the best confidence booster a player can receive, especially at the beginning of his/her journey. His days spent alongside Dhoni is possibly the best grooming the player from Maharashtra might have. And, he is hand-

picked by Dhoni for CSK. Much junior to Dhoni, but their paths have crossed in domestic cricket. So, a young talent that has been identified, backed and groomed from the start is a good prospect to incorporate the values and systems of the franchise and its team. A similar luxury does not exist with RCB at present. The team has big names, but no young talent has been spotted yet to lead the franchise.

Devdutt Padikkal is the only young player who can be in the mix. He is a certainty in the playing XI and has a possible future with Indian cricket. Again, a player who is a product of domestic cricket and has been a performer right from his junior days in Karnataka.

I do believe that the speed of the leader is the speed of the team. Yes, every player in the team is absolutely essential and needs to be self-reliant too, but you do need a solid leader at the top to lead this pack.

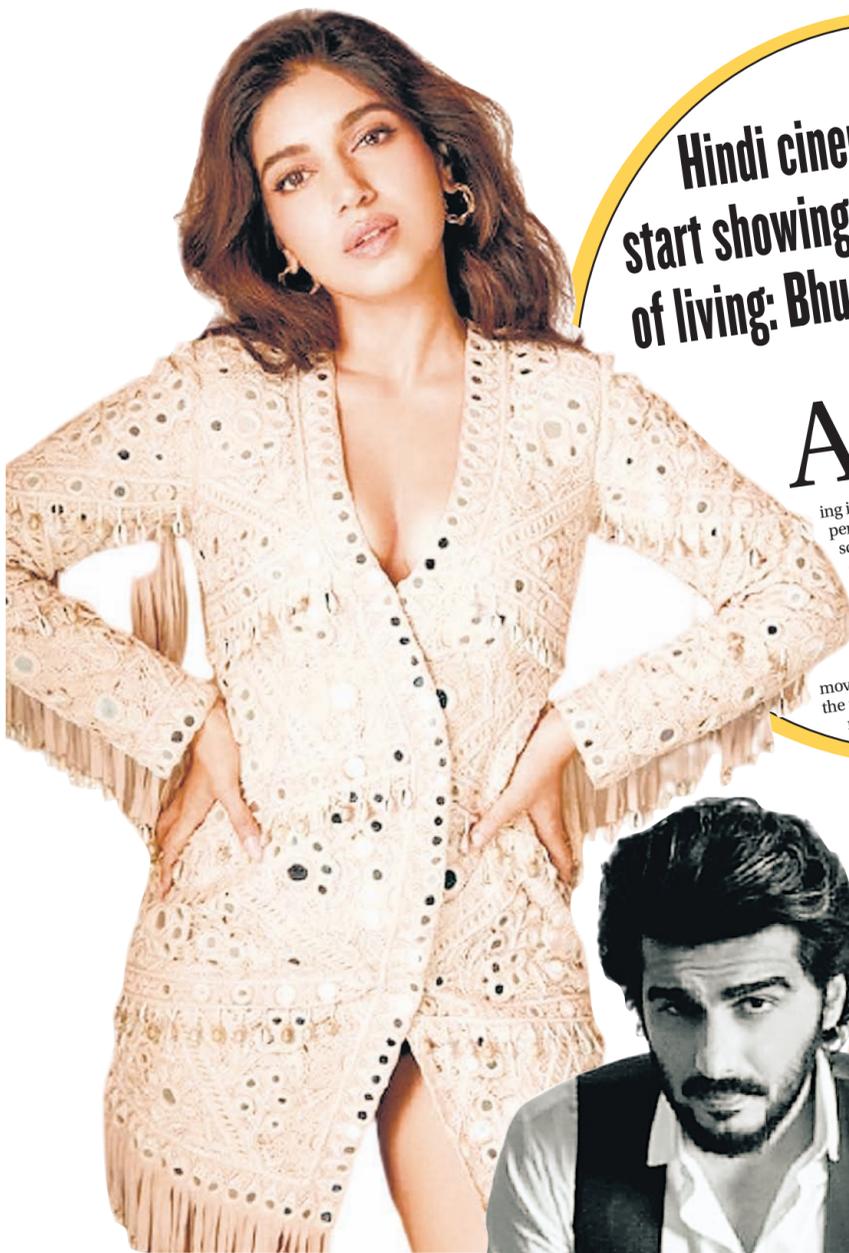
Hindi cinema should start showing sustainable way of living: Bhumi Pednekar

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress and climate activist Bhumi Pednekar feels that it is time for Hindi cinema to start showing a sustainable way of living in their films. Bhumi, in a chat with reporter, said: "I definitely feel that it's high time that Hindi cinema starts showing a sustainable way of living in their films. I feel like as a fraternity we are woke and I personally would like to believe that we are more conscious than other industries, but I still feel like we aren't doing enough."

The actress, who has three films lined up 'Mr. Lele', 'Raksha Bandhan' and 'Badhaai Do', feels that there is a need for narratives in films that provide communication.

"I do feel that we need narratives in films/movies that provide the communication as it's the most powerful medium to get the message across to the masses," she added.



'KKK 11' contestants and their daring fashion statements

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The versatile actress also knows so well how to carry herself with whatever she wears. With her lovely flowy hair, and comfortable yet chic clothes, she made sure that she's able to do all her stunts in style. Be it fuchsia pinks or just the white, stripes or blocks, she has set some cool trends one can try next time.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Action-based show 'Khatron KeKhiladi 11' is known for its adventurous stunts with host Rohit Shetty's quirky and witty attitude. Besides this the ladies on the show have also been giving some fashion goals to viewers.

Be it Shweta Tiwari, Divyanka Tripathi or Nikki Tamboli, each one of them have set one or another trend to follow for their fans. Let's take a look at some of the styles which the audience witnessed on the show this season:

NIKKI TAMBOLI

Ex-Bigg Boss contestant and actor Nikki has worn some amazing well-coordinated activewear that looked so awesome and one would love to try it next time for a gym session. And then her wavy, honey almond-coloured hair just also seemed so perfect.

DIVYANKA TRIPATHI

From being the perfect 'bahu' on-screen to doing stunts on the sets of 'Khatron KeKhiladi 11', Divyanka seems like doing everything perfectly and in the same way her wardrobe on the show was commendable. From wearing bold colours like red and black, to pairing it with beautiful and braided hair, her fans correctly named her 'sherni' for her daring looks and stunts.

Arjun Kapoor attends 'two bootcamps'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Arjun Kapoor attended two bootcamps in the last three months for his physical transformation in Alibaug. The actor says he has no shame in admitting that given his condition, he has to work twice as hard than others. "I'm in a good space right now trying to push my body as much as possible so that I can be the best version of myself. I'm a work in progress and I will always be one."

"It is what makes my resolution even stronger and I'm currently thriving in this feeling. Arjun has shared a video detailing his day at the bootcamp in Alibaug and also talked about his diet. "In the last three months, I have managed to do two bootcamps with my trainer Drew Neal. He has taken me out of the city and we have spent over two weeks, per bootcamp, trying to achieve the best results. I'm only thankful to Drew for believing in me and for motivating me to reach higher," Arjun said.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Ihana Dhillon, who met with a serious accident last month and suffered seven fractures, says she is recuperating well and that post her recovery she will be back to work. Ihana met with a very serious accident in August and was in the intensive care unit (ICU) for several days.

Ihana said: "I am very grateful to the Almighty for saving me. It was a devastating accident and it could have been a lot worse. The people that I have around me are incredible and each day felt like a blessing." Ihana will be commencing work from October. She added: "I would be resuming work next month. I am recuperating well. There is more work to be done but things should be fine soon. We need to take a moment each day to be grateful to be alive and kicking. This is a wonderful life. Sadly we understand it sometimes after something happens. Love and light to all." Ihana made her Bollywood debut with the movie 'Hate Story 4'. She has also starred in Punjabi movies such as 'Daddy Cool Munde Fool', 'Tiger' and 'Thug Life'.

Ihana Dhillon recuperating well after serious accident

'ZINDAGIEK SAFAR HAI SUHANA'



Hema Malini recalls picturisation of the song with Rajesh Khanna

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood star Hema Malini will be on dance reality show 'Super Dancer: Chapter 4' as a special guest for a special episode dedicated to her this weekend. The contestants and their gurus will be seen performing on some of her hit tracks. Among all those performances, it is contestant Florina and her guru Tushar Shetty who amazed Hema Malini most with their dance moves. They perform on 'Zindagiek safarhaisuhana' from the 1971 film 'Andaz' starring Shammi Kapoor and Rajesh Khanna with her. Hema Malini also tries to match Florina's dancing steps. Hema Malini, who seems mesmerised by their performance, praised them saying: "What should I say? I don't understand! This little girl, how does she do all this? I just wonder! And Tushar, you have trained her so well. I like this concept of guru-shishya. I have seen her perform many times and I really love the way you dance. Great! God bless you." Going down memory lane, she also narrates an interesting incident related to the song. She reveals: "One day director Ramesh Sippy Ji informed us that the whole song will be picturised on a motorbike. I was a little shocked and wondered what do we do? The first time I sat behind Rajesh Khanna Ji on the bike, I asked whether he knew how to ride or not? After that, as soon as the song played, he started jumping and all! The only thing he didn't do was stand on the bike, but this is what he was asked to do, and finally he did that exceptionally well." The grand finale of 'Super Dancer: Chapter 4' - 'Nachpan Ka Maha Mahotsav' - will be held on October 9. 'Super Dancer: Chapter 4' airs on Sony Entertainment Television.

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Shama Sikander