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OPPOSITION LESS ALL-PARTY UDA GOVT FORMED IN NAGALAND

In a significant political development, all the ruling and opposition parties in Nagaland, consequent upon their earlier agreement, on Saturday decided to form an all-party government named as United Democratic Alliance (UDA), Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio said.

KOHIMA | Agencies

After the meeting of the leaders of the ruling Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP) and its ally Bharatiya Janata Party, opposition party Naga People's Front (NPF) and two Independent MLAs, the Chief Minister announced the formation of the UDA government.

He tweeted: "The nomenclature of the United Democratic Alliance (UDA) for the opposition-less government in Nagaland has been unanimously resolved by the legislators and party leaders of the NDPP, BJP, NPF and Independent MLAs."

A statement signed by the leaders of all the parties said that the meeting of the legislators and party leaders of the NDPP, BJP, NPF and Independent MLAs was held at the state banquet hall in Kohima where it was unanimously resolved to adopt the nomenclature of UDA for the opposition less government in Nagaland. The meeting unanimously resolved to reiterate the joint resolution between the three parties signed on August 11 and 13 to resolve the Naga political issue involving various outfits, including the NSCN (IM), the statement said.

Besides Rio, other leaders who signed the joint press declaration included Deputy Chief Minister and BJP's legislature party leader Y. Patton, NPF legislature party leader and outgoing opposition leader T.R.



Zeliang, NDPP President Chingwang Konyak, NPF Secretary General Achumbemo Kikon, state BJP President Temjen Imna Along and Independent MLA Tongpang Ozukum. When approached by the media, the Chief Minister did not specify the NPF MLAs to be accommodated in the new cabinet headed by him. The 60-member Assembly has an effective strength of 59 after the death of an MLA.

The NPF is the single largest party with 25 seats, followed by the NDPP with 20 and the BJP with 12, while two are Independent MLAs.

The BJP was the ally of the NPF in Nagaland and neighbouring Manipur before choosing the NDPP as its partner before the 2018 Nagaland Assembly polls. The ruling and opposition parties have been making hectic efforts for the past several months to form an all-party government in the northeastern state with an aim to take forward the

Naga political issue between the Centre and Naga outfits and various other groups. "We have come together under a common platform to resolve the long-awaited Naga political issue. We wish the Naga issue is settled before Christmas," Zeliang told the media. The central leaders of the BJP, including party President J.P. Nadda, had recently in principle supported the move for an all-party government in Nagaland. The latest political development comes after almost all the parties in the northeastern state came together following the formation of the Core Committee on Naga Political Issue (CCoNPI) led by Rio (convener) on June 16. Nagaland Congress leaders said that the decision of the opposition NPF to join the Chief Minister Rio-led government "on the pretext of Naga political issue to converge into an opposition-less government" is an insult to the people of the state, as they fought the 2018 Assembly

polls against the BJP. The Congress in a statement also alleged that the main purpose for the political matrimony between the NPF and the ruling parties is to "raid the state exchequer and enjoy the perks of office while delaying the implementation of a Naga political solution". The Central government has been separately holding peace talks with the Isak-Muivah faction of the National Socialist Council of Nagalim (NSCN-IM) and eight other outfits, which came together a few years ago under the banner of 'Naga National Political Groups' (NNPGs). The NSCN-IM and other outfits entered into a ceasefire agreement with the government of India in 1997 and in the subsequent years held a political dialogue since then. The NSCN-IM, the dominant Naga group since August 1997, has held around 80 rounds of negotiations with the Centre.

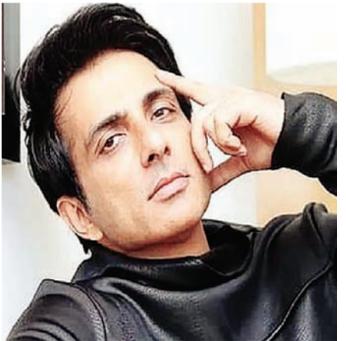
I-T dept sniffs out Rs 250-cr financial irregularities by Sonu Sood

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In a major revelation, the Income Tax Department on Saturday accused Bollywood actor Sonu Sood of financial irregularities worth over Rs 250 crore by way of unutilised charitable funds, bogus contracts and circular transactions with one of his partner companies, and diverting funds to evade taxes, officials said. He disclosures came after IT sleuths' swoop for two days on some 28 premises in Mumbai, Delhi, Lucknow, Jaipur, Kanpur and Gurugram in one of the biggest such investigative actions on any actor or entities linked with him. The operations continue.

In a rare official statement, the Income Tax Department, without naming him, has said that Sood evaded tax worth Rs 20 crore so far, besides listing other alleged wrongdoings emerging in its continuing probe.

An NGO, 'SOOD Charity Foundation', launched by the actor in July 2020 collected donations of Rs 18.94 crore till date of which it spent only Rs 1.90 crore towards various relief measures (for migrants), and the rest lies in the bank accounts. The SOOD Charity Foundation also raised another Rs 2.10 crore from abroad through a crowd-funding platform, violating provisions of the FCRA, said the tax department. Raids on a Lucknow-based infrastructure company with which Sood had entered into a tie-up for a realty project brought out more financial improprieties. Detailing them, the IT Department said the group was involved in generating fake bills of subcontracts to siphon off funds worth around Rs 65 crore. The group has also indulged in dubious circular transactions worth Rs 175 crore with a realty company based out of Jaipur. The IT Department said it has seized Rs 1.80 crore cash besides sealing 11 bank lockers, with further raids and investigation in progress. Revealing Sood's alleged modus operandi, the IT Department said that he routed his 'black money' income in the form of bogus unsecured loans from many fake entities. The probe found at least 20 such entities and the providers have admitted to the 'bogus accommodation entries', issuing cheques in lieu of cash, and instances where professional receipts were camouflaged as



loans in account books to evade taxes. These bogus unsecured loans, in turn, were ploughed back for making investments and acquiring properties, said the tax department.

The official revelations signal a huge setback for Sood, who scaled pinnacles of popularity during the Covid-19 pandemic by organising free flights, trains and luxury buses to enable migrants stranded in Maharashtra and other parts of India reach their homes. For his charities, the ruling Shiv Sena had uncharitably had labelled him as 'Mahatma Sonu Sood' who was actually helping the opposition BJP to discredit the Maha Vikas Aghadi government's good work during the pandemic in Maharashtra.

The actor essayed the role of an antagonist in the global blockbuster "Kung Fu Yoga" (2017), China's second-highest box-office grosser till date, starring superstar Jackie Chan, Disha Patani and Amrta Dastur.

Hobnobbing with top celebs like Union or state ministers, Governors and Chief Ministers, Sood was the star and co-host of a major international three-part tele-series 'BharatKeMahaveer', arising out of a partnership of United Nations in India, NITI Aayog and the Discovery Channel group.

Incidentally, Sood's 'Pravasirojgar' initiative entered into a joint venture with an Indian company backed by a Singapore-backed group with an initial investment of Rs 250 crore, to provide employment opportunities to Indian youth.

Porn-scam: 4 days after charge sheet, Raj Kundra seeks bail

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Four days after the Mumbai Police filed a charge sheet, businessman Raj Kundra - the prime accused in a porn racket - has filed a bail application seeking release as the investigations are now over.

The bail plea is likely to come up for hearing before a Mumbai Sessions Court on Monday.

Kundra, whose earlier bail applications were rejected, has contended that since the Mumbai Police has already filed a charge sheet, it is clear that the probe against him is over and he is now entitled to bail. Through his lawyer Prashant Patil, Kundra pointed out that after the first



charge sheet was filed against 9 other accused, 8 were enlarged on bail and sought bail on grounds of parity with them. Among other things, he has said that he was associated with a company which owns the apps, HotShot and Bollyfame for only 10 months, and the Covid-19 pandemic situation which exposes him to health hazards.

Babul Supriyo likely to be sent to Rajya Sabha

The induction of Babul Supriyo into the Trinamool Congress has quelled a lot of speculation in political circles of the state. The party with its ambitious plan to have its footprint at the national level wants to utilise Supriyo effectively and so the former BJP MP is likely to get a ticket to the Rajya Sabha in place of Arpita Ghosh.

KOLKATA | Agencies

That relations between Babul Supriyo and the BJP had turned sour became very clear when the former union minister wanted to quit active politics but the resignation of Arpita Ghosh from the Rajya Sabha with still more than five years to go was not clear. Sources in the party indicated that Ghosh had to make the sacrifice only to make way for the former BJP union minister.

The Trinamool Congress that is planning to increase its activities in the national capital believes that the presence of Supriyo who has been minister for seven years will help them to boost their presence in Delhi. Moreover, his experience in the BJP will help them to understand the strategy of the saffron brigade better. The party also wants to use Supriyo in their expansion plan in the North East, Jharkhand, Bihar and Odisha.

Though Supriyo said that he had been in touch with the



Trinamool Congress high command for the last four days but sources in the party said that the talks with Supriyo were going on for the last two months indicating that they started after Supriyo was removed from the ministry. BJP leader Anupam Hazra hinted at the Trinamool Congress' plans.

"Tar mane 'jhal-muri' rapha agei hoye gechilo, just opekha kora hochchilo Rajya Sabha te kivabe pathano jai!!! Tai hoito bechari Arpita devike eto torighori kore Rajya Sabha chere the-atre e mon dite bola ('Jhal-Muri' negotiation was already been made. Just waiting for him to be sent to the Rajya Sabha!!! That's why perhaps poor Arpita Devi was asked to leave the Rajya Sabha in such a hurry and was asked to focus on the-atre)," Hazra tweeted. Though the party leadership is tight lipped about their future plans, Supriyo has already hinted that there is something big that is coming up within three to four days. Speaking to the media Supriyo said, "Believe me or not this was an opportunity that suddenly came to me. Four days before I spoke to Derek regarding the admission of my daughter and then the conversation started. I had discussions with Didi (Mamata Banerjee) and Abhishek Banerjee and they offered me something (I won't reveal the details now) that was enough to satisfy my demand to work for the people of Bengal. It was difficult to say no to it".

"I have always wanted to work for the people and the Trinamool Congress has given me the opportunity to work for the development of Bengal. The party has given me the opportunity to work for the people. What more can I expect?" Supriyo said adding that he would be meeting Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday.

When asked whether he was going to the Rajya Sabha in place of Arpita Ghosh, Supriyo said, "I cannot say anything now. The party will make the announcements. I can only say that Trinamool Congress has opened up a huge opportunity for me".

Anupam Kher to get honorary doctorate from American university

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor Anupam Kher has been invited by The Hindu University of America to be conferred the prestigious Honorary Doctorate in Hindu Studies at a simple Hindu Vedic ceremony in Manhattan, New York on Saturday.

"It is an honour to be the first recipient of the Honorary Doctorate award from the Hindu University of America. I believe, through Hinduism, we can learn and understand the importance of harmony and acceptance. I wish to promote the same message of peace even further with the Doctorate," said Anupam Kher in a statement.

Speaking about Kher, Ved Nanda, Chair, Board of Trustees, said, "The Hindu University of America is privileged to confer its inaugural Honorary Doctoral degree on Padma Bhushan Sri Anupam Kher."

The Hindu University of America is a non-profit public charitable educational institution recognised as an online university with the mission to provide education in knowledge systems based on Hindu thought, involving critical inquiry, ethics, and self-reflection.

"Anupam Kher Ji, we indeed are honoured that you have graciously consented to accept the historic award of the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Hindu Studies from HUA. You are a constant source of inspiration to us all, and we express our deep appreciation for your monumental contributions,"



expressed Nanda.

In a similar vein, Dr Jashvant Patel, Chair Finance Committee, said, "Shri Anupam Ji, The Hindu University is proud and privileged to honour you with the Doctorate degree in Hindu Studies. In your life's journey, you have demonstrated and harmonized the wisdom, courage, and commitment in your growth with complete spiritual devotion. You would be a Sage-like role model of inspiration for our students, faculties, and trustees alike to learn and impart Vedic knowledge from the University. The Trustees of HUA are looking forward to having a closer association with you and your work on Hindu Sanskriti."

Apart from headlining more than 500 films globally and 100 plays, Kher is also the recipient of the IIFA Award for Outstanding Achievement in Indian Cinema, was nominated for the British Academy Film Awards (BAFTA), and achieved a record-breaking streak of winning eight consecutive Filmfare Awards. Kher has also been honoured with the Padma Shri Award in 2014 and the Padma Bhushan in 2016 for his outstanding work in cinema.

His latest book as an author 'Your Best Day Is Today' is his third bestselling book in a row. The veteran actor was last seen as a narrator in the TV documentary 'Bhuj: The Day India Shook'.

Kher will next be seen in his 519th film 'Shiv Shastri Balboa' opposite Neena Gupta.

Shrill sounds of ambulance horns to be replaced with musical notes of flute, harmonium

JAIPUR | Agencies

The harsh, shrill, loud and alarming sounds of ambulance horns which will script a success story in states like Rajasthan, MP, Maharashtra and Gujarat. The Delhi-Mumbai Expressway will be axis controlled and neither humans nor animals will be allowed to walk on it. Hence, the vehicles can be driven at a speed of around 140km/hour, he said adding that "We are thinking of allowing a speed of 100 km per hour on this road. We are discussing the scope of changing traffic rules in this regard," he added. The Delhi-Mumbai expressway will script a successful development story in the tribal belts of Rajasthan, MP, Gujarat and Maharashtra by developing the socio-economically and educationally backward districts.

Around 4 crore trees will be planted on the sides of the expressway to check pollution, he said.

transformation in the transport sector which will script a success story in states like Rajasthan, MP, Maharashtra and Gujarat.

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Around 4 crore trees will be planted on the sides of the expressway to check pollution, he said.



CENTRE REOPENING INDIA FOR TOURISTS, GOA CAN PLAY BIG ROLE: PM

PANAJI | Agencies

The Central government is taking steps to reopen India to foreign tourists, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Saturday, adding that Goa, with its 100 per cent coverage of the first Covid-19 vaccine dose, could play a big part in the revival of the country's tourism industry.

"The Central government is taking steps to welcome foreign tourists back. The government has taken a decision to give five lakh tourists free visas. Travel and tourism stakeholders will be given loans up to Rs 10 lakh with a 100 per cent guarantee by the government.

"Tourist guides are being given the facility of taking a loan of up to Rs 1 lakh. In the future too, the Central government will be ready to help those who take the tourism sector forward," Modi said during a virtual interaction with health workers, ruling politicians, administrative officials and a cross section



of people from Goa.

"India's vaccination drive is not a cover for health, but a cover for livelihood too. It is important that tourism destinations open as soon as possible. The 'Char Dham' yatra will begin soon in Uttarakhand. Goa's 100 per cent vaccination

will become important to revive the tourism sector. If hotel industry workers, taxi drivers, hawkers, shopkeepers are vaccinated, it will give peace of mind to the visiting tourists. "Goa is a part of a select group of tourist destinations where people are vaccinated," the Prime

Minister added.

While encouraging the revival of tourism, Modi however said that the pandemic should not be taken lightly. "Domestic and international tourists can take pleasure in coming here... Numbers have come down, but we still cannot take this virus lightly. You will get as many tourists and travellers depending on how much importance you give to safety and hygiene."

Speaking to reporters after the virtual interaction with Modi, Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant said that tourism and tourism-related activities were the key to the revival of the state's economy.

"When I say the economy should be revived, it is not just the casino industry, but the hotel industry too. We should refer to them (casinos) as tourism related activities. Sometimes people only mention casinos. We will resume all these activities as soon as possible after the government takes a decision," he said.

Amarinder's resignation self-admission of party's failures: Sukhbir

CHANDIGARH | Agencies

Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) President Sukhbir Singh Badal said on Saturday that Amarinder Singh's resignation from the post of Punjab Chief Minister is a self-admission on the part of the Congress and its high command that the party has failed to perform and has nothing to show in its more than four-and-a-half years of governance.

Asserting that this is a testimony to what the SAD has been stating all along, Badal said Amarinder Singh has been punished by nature for lying with 'Gutka Sahib' in hand and that every member of the Congress would suffer the same fate.

He said a mere change of guard would not save the Congress' sinking ship in Punjab adding that the entire state Cabinet as well as Congress MLAs are steeped in corruption and are running various kinds of mafia rackets, including sand, liquor and drugs mafias. "The Congress cannot hope to save its incompetent government and befool the Punjabis with a mere change in face," the SAD chief said.

Badal said the devious ploy of the Congress high command to avert a backlash against the party by putting the blame on one person alone would not succeed.

"Punjabis know that the entire Congress in Punjab is known for open loot and lawlessness. Its ministers and MLAs patronised gangsters. Its ministers looted the state exchequer



of thousands of crores of rupees. It failed to undertake any development or infrastructure projects in the state," he said.

Badal said Congress President Sonia Gandhi and the Gandhi siblings -- Rahul and Priyanka -- could also not escape responsibility for making Punjab suffer for more than four-and-a-half years. "First of all, Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi were the force behind the election manifesto of the Congress for the 2017 Assembly elections. The Gandhi family not only kept Amarinder Singh in power, but also failed to move against any of his corrupt ministers. It also failed to prevail upon Amarinder Singh to fulfil the promises made to the people. Amarinder's failure is the failure of Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi," Badal said in a statement.

Sunil Jakhar frontrunner as Punjab CM replacement

Chandigarh | Agencies

Former Punjab President Sunil Jakhar is frontrunner for the post of Chief Minister, sources said as party wants to project non Sikh face ahead of polls to counter AAP which is gaining ground in the state.

Sources say that party wants a Sikh, Navjot Singh Sidhu as state party chief and non Sikh combination in the polls. Other name doing the rounds is of Pratap Singh Bajwa.

Indicating loud and clear 'rebellion' by Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh, if he was forced to resign by the Congress high command, his Press Secretary on Saturday said the people who 'surprised' the betrayal should be ready for a 'shock' with vengeance.

"If people 'surprise' you with betrayal, you have a right to 'shock' them back with due vengeance. Period," Press Secretary Vimal Sumbly informed in a tweet, without talking about the ongoing tussle between the Chief Minister and the high command.

Meanwhile, AICC's deputed party general secretary Ajay Maken and Harish Chowdhry reached Chandigarh as central observers for



the Congress Legislative Party (CLP) meeting slated to be held in the evening. State party in charge Harish Rawat is also here.

Just a few hours ahead of a meeting of the CLP, the high command is said to have conveyed to Amarinder Singh to resign to enable the election of a new incumbent.

However, the Chief Minister 'threatens' to quit the party for being humiliated.

BJP calls Babul 'opportunist'; Trinamool says more to follow

Though the Trinamool Congress has overwhelmingly accepted Babul Supriyo in the party, the BJP on Saturday accused their two-time MP from Asansol of betraying not only the party, but also the people of his constituency.

KOLKATA | Agencies

The Congress and the CPM, however, termed it as 'politics of opportunists'.

In a surprising turn of events, former Union minister Supriyo, who had to resign from the Union ministry on July 7, joined the Trinamool Congress on Saturday, receiving the Trinamool flag from the party's national General Secretary Abhishek Banerjee at the latter's office in South Kolkata.

Though the Trinamool hailed the entry of Supriyo into the party, the BJP



MP met with severe criticism from his former camp.

"Babul Supriyo left the party after he was left without a portfolio and this proves that he was in the party only for gains. Now he is with the Trinamool Congress because, perhaps, they have promised something big. He is an opportunist. He has not only betrayed the party, but also the people of his constituency. One thing I can say is that the BJP will again get an MP from Asansol," BJP spokesperson Samik Bhattacharya said.

countering Bhattacharya, Trinamool MP and veteran leader Sougata Roy told the media, "After the Assembly elections, four BJP MLAs and one MP have joined the Trinamool Congress and more are likely to follow. There are many big names in the BJP who are waiting. This is the beginning of the end of BJP. No right-thinking people can stay there."

Senior BJP leader and the party's national secretary Rahul Sinha said, "This is a temporary shock and the BJP will surely get over it."

"This cannot be politics. To lure people with money and power or threaten people with police and agencies and bring them into the party fold cannot be healthy politics. The BJP is an organisation-based party that runs on certain ethics and principals. So we are not bothered about it." "What the BJP did before the elections was ethical politics? They were taking our people and now when the process has reversed, they have suddenly become concerned about ethics and principals. They are getting the same return and they will see it again," Trinamool Congress spokesperson Kunal Ghosh said. CPM leader Sujan Chakraborty said, "The person who was all praise for Narendra Modi and had accused Mamata Banerjee has suddenly changed colour. Mamata Banerjee has suddenly become an extraordinary leader. Is this politics? This is business. Trinamool Congress has offered him a better bet, so he is with them. If tomorrow any other party offers him something better, it will take two minutes for him to leave Trinamool."

'No room for complacency in Covid management'

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Emphasising the need to strictly enforce Covid-19 appropriate behaviour, Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba directed all the states and authorities on Saturday not to leave any room for complacency.

Gauba held a high-level meeting to review and discuss the Covid-19 management and response strategy. Drawing on examples from foreign countries that reported multiple Covid peak, the cabinet secretary expressed concern over certain pockets in the country that are reporting high test positivity and advised the state health administrators to undertake granular analysis of their Covid-19 trajectory, ramp up their health infrastructure, undertake stocking of essential medicine and augment human resources at the earliest, to meet any potential surge in cases, an official communique stated.

Gauba highlighted that about 70 districts in 15 states are cause of concern as 34 of these districts are recording a positivity rate of over 10 per cent and 36 districts in the range of 5-10 per cent.

According to the statement, in the view of the



upcoming festival season, states have been directed to ensure all necessary precautions and effective enforcement for avoidance of mass gathering and congested closed spaces along with strict adherence to the existing guidelines regarding malls, local markets, and places of worship. "They were advised to closely monitor the case trajectories in all districts on a daily basis to identify early warning signals and ensure imposition of restrictions and adherence to CAB," the statement read.

Along with sticking to the five-fold Covid

Containment Strategy (Test, Treat, Track, Vaccinate, CAB adherence) to control the spread of virus, it was noted that urgent action on augmentation of hospital infrastructure, oxygen availability, building up buffer stocks of critical drugs, ambulance services and implementation of IT systems, helplines, telemedicine services is required. Health Secretary stated that funds have been released to all states and union territories under emergency Covid response package which should be promptly and optimally utilised. Moreover, chief secretaries were urged to conduct a district-level review and ensure that adequate medical infrastructure and supplies commensurate with the projected requirements are urgently mobilised. Private sector capacities may also be duly inventoried and deployed based on the emerging requirements, the statement added.

The meeting was virtually held in the presence of Rajesh Bhushan, Union Health Secretary and Dr V.K. Paul, Member (Health), NITI Aayog along with chief secretaries, additional chief secretaries (Health), principal secretaries (Health), municipal commissioners, district collectors and other senior officials of state and union territories across India.

Nadda gives tips to Dalit leaders for assembly polls

New Delhi | Agencies

With an eye on next year's crucial assembly polls in Uttar Pradesh, BJP national president JP Nadda on Sunday gave tips to the Dalit leaders who had gathered in Varanasi, the parliamentary constituency of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on how to win votes.

Referring to various schemes run by the Modi government Jan Dhan Yojna, Antyodaya, toilets, housing, education, Ujjwala, Ayushman Bharat, campaign to connect villages with electricity, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Samman Yojana, Mudra loan etc -- Nadda claimed that for the first time in the country the government is following the right path shown by Babasaheb Ambedkar.

Nadda said that the work that the Modi government has done for the Dalit members of the society in the last 7 years, the previous governments could not do even in 70 years.

In view of the number of Dalit voters in Uttar Pradesh, while virtually launching the two-day meeting of the BJP Scheduled Caste Front's national executive convened in Prime Minister Modi's parliamentary constituency Varanasi, the BJP President claimed that the Modi government has taken the steps in the interest of Dalits



which no previous government had ever taken. He asked the workers to take the facts along with the data directly to the Dalit voters. Accusing the opposition parties of using Dalits only as a vote bank, Nadda said that the Congress has always insulted Babasaheb and the BJP has only respect for him. After OBC voters, the number of Dalit voters is very high in Uttar Pradesh. Out of 403 seats in the UP Legislative Assembly, 84 seats are reserved for the SC category. The population of Dalit voters in the state is about 21 per cent and out of this, more than half are Jatavs -- about 54 per cent. In 42 districts of the state, the population of Dalit voters is more than 21 per cent. The history of the last three assembly elections shows that the political party which got more seats out of the reserved seats, was because of the Dalit votes.

I resigned as I felt humiliated, but Sidhu is a disaster: Amarinder

Team Absolute | Chandigarh

Senior Congress leader Amarinder Singh on Saturday resigned from his post as the Chief Minister of Punjab after months of political tussle, saying he stepped down as he felt 'humiliated'.

At the same time, he said that the "future politics option is always there and I will use that option".

Amarinder Singh also termed Punjab Congress chief Navjot Singh as a 'disaster' who would not be acceptable to him as his successor.

"I have submitted my resignation. The future politics option is always there and I will use that option when the time comes. At the moment, I am still in the Congress," Amarinder Singh, 80, who has been active in politics for the past 52 years, told the media after resigning from the top post.

Making it clear that he would explore and exercise his future options when the time comes, Amarinder Singh said he would decide his future course of action in consultation with his supporters, who have stood by him for over five decades.

Justifying his decision to step down months before the state goes to the polls, Amarinder Singh said, "I was humiliated three times by the Congress leadership in the past two months. They called the MLAs to Delhi twice and now convened a CLP here in Chandigarh today.

"Apparently, they (Congress high command) do not have confidence in me and did not think I could handle my job. But I felt humiliated in the manner in which they handled the whole affair." "Let them appoint who they trust," he said, taking a dig at the party leadership.

"I had decided in the morning. I had spoken to the Congress President in the morning. I had told her that I am resigning," he added. Amarinder Singh, who was at the helm in his second stint, also told a news channel that he would never accept Sidhu as the Chief Minister. "He is a total disaster. He could not run a sin-



gle ministry. How will he run the whole state? I know the man. He has no capability," Amarinder Singh said. An official statement from the Raj Bhavan said that Governor Banwarilal Purohit has accepted Amarinder Singh's resignation along with those of his council of ministers.

The Governor asked Amarinder Singh and his council of ministers to continue in office for the transaction of routine business till an alternative arrangement is made.

The resignation of the Chief Minister and his council of ministers came just minutes ahead of a crucial meeting of the Congress Legislative Party (CLP) to elect a new leader.

The minute-by-minute changing political tussle in the state began close to midnight on Friday when Punjab Congress in-charge Harish Rawat tweeted about the decision to hold an urgent CLP meeting on Saturday.

About 10 minutes later, Sidhu directed all the MLAs to be present at the CLP meeting.

The announcement by Rawat was seen as an indication from the high command to appoint a new incumbent under whose helm the party will go to the Assembly polls, slated in March 2022. Responding to the political developments, former state Congress President Sunil Jakhar tweeted: "Kudos to Sh Rahul Gandhi for adopting Alexandrian solution to this Punjabi version of Gordian knot. Surprisingly, this bold leadership decision to resolve Punjab Congress imbroglio has not only enthralled Congress workers but has sent shudders down the spines of Akalis."

In the political circles, Jakhar, who was elected thrice (2002-2017) from Abohar, is seen as the frontrunner for the CM's post.

He, however, had lost to Sunny Deol from Gurdaspur in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections despite his party winning eight of the 13 seats in the state. He had won the seat in the bypolls in October 2017 after it fell vacant following the death of sitting BJP MP Vinod Khanna.

The decision to call the CLP came in the wake of a fresh letter signed by at least 50 out of the 80 Congress legislators who had expressed their dissatisfaction with Amarinder Singh and demanded his removal from the Chief Minister's post.

Nothing is impossible. The word itself says "I'm possible!"



Audrey Hepburn

CAPTAIN QUILTS IN PUNJAB, TAKES TEAM ALONG

CHANDIGARH | Agencies

Just minutes ahead of the crucial Congress Legislative Party (CLP) meeting on Saturday, Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh reached the Governor's house and submitted his and his council of ministers resignation to him.

"CM @capt_amarinder has met Punjab Governor and submitted his and his council of ministers' resignation," the Chief Minister Media Advisor Raveen Thukral informed in a tweet.

Earlier in the day, the party's high command is said to have conveyed to the Chief Minister to resign to enable the election of a new incumbent.

However, the Chief Minister 'threatened' to quit the party for being humiliated.

"Amarinder Singh spoke to Congress President Sonia Gandhi in the morning and told her he is being humiliated and he will resign from the party," a close confidant of the Chief Minister, told IANS.

According to some senior party leaders, the high command has categorically asked Amarinder Singh to



step down.

The minute-by-minute changing political development began at about 11.42 p.m. on Friday when Punjab

Congress in-charge Harish Rawat tweeted about the decision to hold an

urgent CLP meeting on Saturday.

Almost 10 minutes later state party chief Navjot Sidhu directed all the MLAs to be present at the CLP meeting. The announcement by Rawat is being seen as an indication from the

high command to appoint the new incumbent under whose helm the party will go to the Assembly polls, slated in March 2022.

Responding to the political developments, former state President Sunil Jakhar tweeted: "Kudos to Sh Rahul Gandhi for adopting Alexandrian solution to this Punjabi version of Gordian knot."

"Surprisingly, this bold leadership decision to resolve Punjab Congress imbroglio has not only enthralled Congress workers but has sent shudders down the spines of Akalis."

The decision to call the CLP comes in the wake of the fresh letter signed by a majority of legislators who expressed dissatisfaction with Amarinder Singh and demanding his removal from the Chief Minister's post.

Meanwhile, AICC's deputed party general secretary Ajay Maken and Harish Chowdhry reached Chandigarh as central observers for the Congress Legislative Party (CLP) meeting slated in the evening. State party in charge Harish Rawat is also reaching here.

Indianisation of our legal system need of the hour: CJ Ramana

BENGALURU | Agencies

Chief Justice of India Justice NV Ramana called for Indianisation of legal system in the country on Saturday in a function held in Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru organised by the Karnataka State Bar Council to pay tributes to Late Justice Mohana M Shantanagoudar.

"Very often our justice delivery poses multiple barriers for the common people. The working and the style of courts do not sit well with the complexities of India. Our system, practices, rules being colonial in origin may not be best suited to the needs of the Indian population," he opined.

"The need of the hour is the Indianisation of our legal system. When I say Indianisation, I mean the need to adapt to the practical realities of our society and localise our justice delivery systems. For example, parties from a rural place fighting a family dispute are usually made to feel out of place in the court," he observed.

They do not understand the arguments or pleadings which are mostly in English, a language alien to them. These days judgments have become lengthy, which further complicates the posi-



tion of litigants, he elaborated.

For the parties to understand the implications of a judgment, they are forced to spend more money, he underlined. "Courts need to be litigant centric, as they are the ultimate beneficiaries. The simplification of justice delivery should be our pressing concern. It is crucial to make justice delivery more transparent, accessible and effective," he noted.

Procedural barriers often undermine access to justice. The common man should not be apprehensive about approaching the courts and authorities. While approaching the Court, he should not feel scared of the Judges and Courts. He should be able to speak the truth, he said.

It is the duty of the lawyers and the judges to create an environment that is comforting for the litigants and other

stakeholders. We must not forget that the focal point of any justice delivery system is "the litigant is the justice seeker", he explained. In this light, usage of alternate dispute mechanisms such as mediation and conciliation would go a long way in reducing the friction between parties and would save resources. This also reduces the pendency and requirement for having lengthy arguments with lengthy judgments. As Justice Warren Burger, the former Chief Justice of the United States stated, I quote- "The notion that ordinary people want black-robed judges, well-dressed lawyers in fine courtrooms as settings to resolve their disputes is incorrect. People with problems, like people with pains, want relief and they want it as quickly and inexpensively as possible," he noted.

Global Anxieties: Rupee to be under tapering fears

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Global anxieties along with rising imports and persistently high crude oil prices will weaken the Indian rupee in the coming week.

Experts opined that US FOMC meet will instil tapering fears, at the same time, imports are expected to rise on waning impact of Covid 2.0.

Any timelines for tapering measures in the US can potentially drive FPIs (Foreign Portfolio Investors) away from emerging markets such as India. Significantly, the recent sizeable inflow of FPI funds has been credited to have lifted the domestic markets to record high levels.

"Rupee is expected to weaken on the back of rising crude oil prices to over \$75 per barrel and increasing bond yields in India and nervousness building in the US will impact the rupee," said Sajal Gupta, Head, Forex and Rates at Edelweiss



Securities. "Besides, rising domestic vaccination speed will accelerate imports, however, robust equity flows would counter the impact to some extent." Last week, rupee closed at 73.48 to a USD before oscillating between 73.30 to 73.60. "US Fed is going to announce outcome of its FOMC meeting this week, which will sway currencies around the globe," said Devarsh Vakil, Deputy Head of Retail Research, HDFC Securities. "Spot USDINR is expected to consolidate in the range of 73.25 to 73.65 ahead of next week's US FOMC meeting and swirl according to outcome

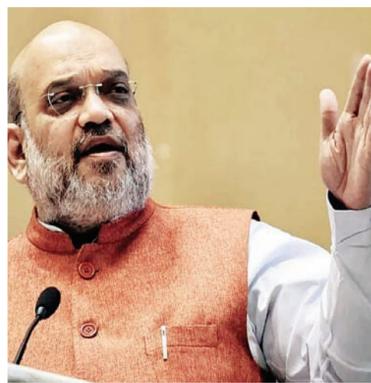
of FOMC meeting." Gaurang Somaiya, Forex and Bullion Analyst, Motilal Oswal Financial Services, said: "Investors will be awaiting for announcement of the inflation and growth of the US economy, which means any hawkish statement could support the dollar at lower levels." Apart from the Fed policy meeting, the Bank of England will also release its policy statement and that could provide trigger to the GBPUSD pair that has been getting support at lower levels. "For the week, the USDINR (Spot) is expected to trade with a negative bias and quote in the range of 73.05 and 74.20."

MP government has started giving rights to tribals: Amit Shah

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Good work has been done in the direction of tribal welfare has been done in Madhya Pradesh under the leadership of Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan. Along with the central government, the state government has also prepared many schemes for the development of tribes and implemented them at the field level. Work has already been done for tribal development in Madhya Pradesh, but from today Shivraj Singh Chouhan has started giving rights to the tribal class. Union Home and Cooperatives Minister Amit Shah said this while addressing a programme organized on the martyrdom day of Amar Shaheed Shankar Shah and Kunwar Raghunath Shah organized at Garrison Ground in Jabalpur. He said that both the central and state governments are dedicated towards tribal development. Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has done many works for tribal welfare at the field level.

Home Minister Shah said that I consider myself very fortunate to have got the opportunity to lay the foundation stone of a memorial to be built at a cost of Rs 5 crore on the martyrdom day of Sanskardhani's Amar Shaheed Shankar Shah and Kunwar Raghunath Shah. The foundation stone of



the memorial that has been laid today will serve as an inspiration for the youth and society for thousands of years to come. The Home Minister said that, we are celebrating Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav on the completion of 75 years of independence on a call by Prime Minister Narendra Modi under which a museum is being constructed to discover

and cherish the history of such martyrs, who have no mention in history. Nine places have been selected across the country, in which work is being done at a cost of Rs 200 crores including Chhindwara of Madhya Pradesh. The work of museums has started and so far Rs 110 crore has been spent.

Shah said that if we look at the history of the awakening of independence, the role of tribal heroes has been the highest among those who made sacrifices in freeing Maa Bharati from the chains of slavery in the 1857 revolution and before that. In his remarks, Shah elaborated on the contribution of such heroes including Bhagwan Birsa Munda, Tanya Bhil, Rani Durgavati and other tribal heroes in the struggle for freedom across the country. Shah said that the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav is being celebrated under the leadership of PM Modi across the country on the completion of 75 years of independence. The intention behind celebrating the festival is that in liberating us, there are many such unsung heroes and brave hearts, who are not mentioned anywhere in history. The history of such soldiers is being searched and along with preserving their memories, work is being done to acquaint the common man with the stories of their patriotism.

IAF to conduct air show over Dal Lake on Sept 26



SRINAGAR | Agencies

The Indian Air Force (IAF) will conduct an air show over the Dal Lake in Srinagar on September 26 as part of the ongoing 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', marking the 75th year of India's Independence.

Defence ministry spokesman Colonel Enron Musavi said the air show would be part of the ongoing celebrations commemorating 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'.

"Air Force Station, Srinagar, will conduct an air show at Dal Lake in Srinagar on September 26. The event being organised in collaboration with the J&K govern-

ment will be flagged off by Manoj Sinha, the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, at the Sher-e-Kashmir International Conference Centre," Musavi said.

The display will include flypast by various aircraft of the IAF. The spectators would also get to witness para-motor flying and IAF's sky diving team Akash Ganga in action.

"The display team will be performing in the Valley after a gap of 14 years.

The Symphony orchestra of the IAF will perform at the event, which would also consist of a photo exhibition depicting the history of IAF," Musavi said.

Maharashtra speeds Covid vaccination drive: 13,20,581 inoculated on Saturday

Maharashtra currently leads the nation in terms of citizens fully vaccinated against Covid. Till now, Maharashtra has administered a total of 73,257,136 vaccination doses. 20,600,374 citizens have been fully vaccinated

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Amidst the apprehensions over the third wave of the pandemic, Maharashtra is currently speeding up its vaccination drive. On Saturday, 1,320,581 doses were administered, which is the second-highest one day figure to date. The highest was on September 8, when 1,517,311 doses were administered.

Maharashtra currently leads the nation in terms of fully vaccinated citizens. Till now Maharashtra has administered a total of 73,257,136 doses, of which 20,600,374 citizens have been fully vaccinated. This means that 22.88% of the targeted population have been fully vaccinated. The target is to approximately vaccinate 90,000,000 citizens. The Maharashtra government has the infrastructure to vaccinate 1.50 million daily. "Maharashtra is doing a good job in vaccination, and this will help us to face the third wave, if any," said Dr Subhash Salunke, advisor, Government of Maharashtra on Covid-19



management.

"Unlike last year, we now have a major population which is vaccinated, and this will be our greatest weapon to fight the third wave," he added. However, he cautioned, "The challenge today is how effective the vaccines are against the variants," he added.

Dr Wiqar Shaikh, professor of medicine, Grant Medical College and Sir JJ Hospital, describes the fully vaccinated people figures as abysmally low. "The current pace shows that we can reach our target by only next year and by that time, we may have to face the third wave. More than the vaccines, we need to stress on adopting Covid-appropriate behaviour like wearing

masks, observing social distance and washing our hands regularly. Even people who have taken vaccines are getting infected," said Shaikh.

Maharashtra on Saturday recorded 3,391 new Covid-19 cases and 80 deaths, while saw 478 cases and six deaths. The state's case tally has now reached 65,18,502, while the toll stands at 138,469. There were 165,363 tests done on Saturday in state, while the number of recoveries clocked 3,841.

There are currently 47,919 active patients across the state, of which Pune tops with 12,699 patients followed by Thane with 7,396 active patients and Ahmednagar with 6,230.

Former Union Minister Babul Supriyo joins Trinamool Congress

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Former union minister and BJP MP Babul Supriyo on Saturday joined West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's All India Trinamool Congress (AITC).

"Today, in the presence of National General Secretary Abhishek Banerjee and Rajya Sabha MP Derek O'Brien, former union minister and sitting MP Babul Supriyo joined the Trinamool family," the official account of the AITC tweeted.

On July 31, Babul, also a playback singer, declared that he had quit politics and would soon resign as the MP too. He had cited a difference of opinion between him and the state BJP leaders, saying that it was "harming the party." "I will continue to work constitutionally as an MP in Asansol. Politics is beyond the constitutional post and I will not join any other party. I will vacate the MP bungalow in Delhi and release

security personnel from their duties soon," he was quoted saying.

A minister in the Narendra Modi Cabinet, Supriyo was dropped in a reshuffle that took place in the month of July. Post his leaving the saffron party, he had told media that if someone asks whether leaving the politics was somehow linked to losing ministry then he said that it is true to some extent. He also added differences with the senior leadership since the assembly poll campaign as another reason. It is yet to be seen whether Supriyo will resign from his Lok Sabha seat or leave it to the Bharatiya Janata Party to move the Speaker's office for his disqualification post the latest move. Earlier in the day, Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) reduced the security cover of Babul from Z to Y category, an official ministry said.

Having joined BJP in 2014, Babul Supriyo has been elected twice from Asansol

THAROOR ASKS FOR IMMEDIATE CHANGE OF LEADERSHIP IN CONGRESS



Thiruvananthapuram:

Three-time Thiruvananthapuram Lok Sabha member Shashi Tharoor on Saturday said there should be a new leadership of the Congress party. "None has spoken a word against Sonia Gandhi, but she herself is saying she wishes to step down and hence a new leadership should take over quickly." "If Rahul Gandhi wishes to take over, it should happen quickly," said Tharoor to the media as he arrived near Ernakulam on a day that saw the party's Punjab unit implode.

He said if the Congress has to come back, things should fall in place quickly and should get ready to face the elections and for that it should happen now.

Incidentally by now various feeder organisation of the Congress party have been firmly demanding that Rahul Gandhi should take over as the new president.

Tharoor was part of the Group of 23 Congress leaders, who last year wrote a letter to Sonia asking for sweeping changes in the party.



MAHA ATS DETAINS 7TH TERROR SUSPECT FROM MUMBAI

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Days after the Pakistan organised terror module was busted by Delhi Police, the Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) on Saturday arrested a man from Mumbai, whose name had propped during the investigation.

The ATS has detained a terror suspect from Mumbai's Jogeshwari suburb, four days after the Special Cell of Delhi Police arrested six extremists from different parts of India.

The latest in the list, identified as Zakir, will be taken to Delhi for further probe into the busted Pakistan-based terror module involving gangster Anees Ibrahim Kaskar, the brother of absconder mafia don Dawood Ibrahim Kaskar,



currently holed up in Pakistan. One of the six terror suspects - Jan Mohammad Shaikh - was a resident of Dharavi in Mumbai. Zakir's name had emerged during the interrogation of the arrested terror suspects, the sources said.

Of the six terrorists arrested earlier this week in a sensational operation by the Delhi Police, at least two were trained in Pakistan and had allegedly conspired for terror strikes in India.

They were produced before a court in the national capital which on Wednesday remanded them to 14 days' custody of the Special Cell.

The Maharashtra ATS chief Vineet Agrawal had categorically said on Wednesday that there was no recce conducted in Mumbai, nor weapons or explosives found in the state after the busting of the terror module by the Delhi Police.

Probe Agency Moves Court After Maharashtra Ex-Minister Skips Several Summons

Enforcement Directorate had issued multiple summonses to Anil Deshmukh in the money laundering case registered against him.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has moved a court here against former Maharashtra home minister Anil Deshmukh for failing to appear before the probe agency despite being summoned multiple times in a money laundering case.

The ED filed the plea in a special court yesterday seeking action against Deshmukh under IPC Section 174 (non-attendance in obedience to an order from public servant). The section attracts a simple imprisonment for a term which may extend to one month or fine up to five hundred rupees or both.

The probe agency had issued multiple summonses to Deshmukh in the



money laundering case registered against him. However, the NCP leader has failed to appear before it so far.

Two of Deshmukh's aides - Sanjeev Palande and Kundan Shinde - have been arrested in the case. They are

currently in judicial custody. Besides the duo, the probe agency in its chargesheet filed recently has named dismissed Mumbai police officer Sachin Waze as an accused. However, Deshmukh or his family members have not been made accused in the chargesheet.

The ED launched a probe against Deshmukh and his associates after the CBI filed an FIR against the NCP leader on April 21 after former Mumbai police commissioner Param Bir Singh accused him of corruption.

Singh had alleged that Mr Deshmukh asked Sachin Waze to collect ₹ 100 crore from city bars and hotels every month, a charge denied by the former minister.

Deshmukh resigned as a minister in April this year.

COVID-19:

Maharashtra cumulative vaccination tally crosses 7.19 crore

As per the state government data, 2,56,20,762 individuals aged between 18 and 44 years received their first vaccine dose and 43,17,313 received their second dose since the inoculation drive for this age group began on May 1.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In the ongoing vaccination drive, Maharashtra on September 17 has vaccinated 12,56,311 people through 4,868 sessions. According to data released by the government, Maharashtra, as of 7 am on September 18, inoculated 7,19,07,937 people.

As per the state government data, 2,56,20,762 individuals aged between 18 and 44 years received their first vaccine dose and 43,17,313 received their second dose since the inoculation drive for this age group began on May 1. So far, 12,93,173 health care workers have been administered the first dose of the vaccine, while 10,46,657 of them have got their second dose. Similarly, 21,42,761 front-line workers in the state have till now received their first vaccine dose and of them, 16,59,513 got their second dose. Meanwhile, Maharashtra on Friday, September 17, recorded 3,586



fresh COVID-19 cases, taking the number of active cases to 48,451. Besides, 67 COVID-19 deaths were reported in the day, taking the number of total fatalities to 1,38,389.

4,410 patients were discharged in the day, taking the tally to 63,24,720. The recovery rate in the state is 97.08%. The case fatality rate in the state is 2.12%. Currently, 2,81,072 people are in home quarantine and 1,813 people are in institutional quarantine. The Mumbai circle--which consists of MCGM, Thane, TMC, Navi Mumbai, KDMC, Ulhasnagar MC, Bhivandi Nijampur MC, Mira

Bhayandar MC, Palghar, Vasai Virar MC, Raigad, Panvel MC--recorded 939 new cases. The Nashik circle--which consists of Nashik, Nashik MC, Malegaon MC, Ahmednagar, Ahmednagar MC, Dhule, Dhule MC, Jalgaon, Jalgaon MC, Nandurbar--reported 862 fresh COVID-19 cases. The Pune circle--which includes Pune, PMC, PCMC, Solapur, Solapur MC, Satara--recorded 1303 new cases. The Kolhapur circle--which includes Kolhapur, Kolhapur MC, Sangli, Sangli MC, Sindhudurg, Ratnagiri-- reported 323 new cases. The Aurangabad circle--which

consists of Aurangabad, Aurangabad MC, Jalna, Hingoli, Parbhani, Parbhani MC-- reported 24 fresh cases. The Latur circle--which consists of Latur, Latur MC, Osmanabad, Beed, Nanded, Nanded MC--recorded 99 fresh cases. The Akola circle--which includes Akola, Akola MC, Amaravati, Amaravati MC, Yawatmal, Buldhana, Washim-- recorded 18 fresh cases. Nagpur circle--which includes Nagpur, Nagpur MC, Wardha, Bhandara, Gondia, Chandrapur, Chandrapur MC, Gadchiroli --reported 18 fresh cases.

Sindhudurg airport gets aerodrome licence

This will now enable the Sindhudurg airport operator to throw open the new aviation facility for the airlines and general public

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Sindhudurg airport has received an aerodrome license from the Director-General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). The aerodrome license will now enable the airport operator to throw open the new aviation facility for the airlines and general public.

Sindhudurg's Chipli airport, an SPV of IRB Infra, has a 2,500-metre-long runway and can handle 200 departing and 200 arriving passengers during peak hours.

The DGCA in the license issued to the company stated, "The license authorises the aerodrome to be used as a regular place of landing and departure to all persons on equal terms and conditions by aircraft requiring specifications of the runway and associated facilities including granted exemptions equal to or less than those indicated in the Aerodrome Manual." Virendra Mhaiskar, chairman and managing director (CMD) of the company said, "We are very happy to achieve yet another milestone in the current year and see the airport receive the license to operate after successful completion. With a concession period of over 90 years and a compelling regional proposition, it offers meaningful avenues of growth. We now look forward to opening the facility for airline operators and the general public soon."



This comes after the Union civil aviation minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, last on Thursday, unveiled a 100-day ambitious plan to bring major reforms in the aviation sector, including operationalising five airports, six heliports and 50 new routes under the regional connectivity UDAN scheme that included Sindhudurg airport.

Before this, Scindia had also written to chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray to speed up the process of commencing operations from the airport. Sindhudurg airport with a cost expenditure of approximately ₹800 crores and a concession period of above 90 years is the first of its kind in the south Konkan region, which is aimed at enhancing air connectivity of the region with western Maharashtra and southern states. "The airport will not only generate passenger traffic but will also be a boon for the economic development of the region as it will facilitate and boost cargo transportation, generate direct as well as indirect employment and other business opportunities for the local people," read the statement from IRB. "It has potential to become a cargo hub of the western region as there is ample space for handling the cargo, and is expandable to meet the future growing needs," it added.

Tribal man axes wife to death

The accused allegedly attacked his wife Vanita (40) with an axe when he found her in an inebriated state on Friday afternoon, the official said, adding that the victim, who sustained severe stab wounds, died

Team Absolute | Palghar

A 46-year-old tribal man allegedly axed his wife to death over her addiction to alcohol in Dahanu taluka of Palghar district, police said on Saturday. The accused

Sandeep Gangya More, a resident of Ranshet Bhoir Pada, was arrested under section 302 (murder) of the IPC, late on Friday night, Palghar Police PRO Sachin Navadkar said. The accused allegedly attacked his wife Vanita (40) with an axe when he found her in an inebriated state on Friday afternoon, the official said, adding that the victim, who sustained severe stab wounds, died.

The couple had children and frequently argued over the woman's drinking habit, he said. Based on a complaint lodged by the couple's son, the police registered an offence and arrested the accused, the official said, adding that further probe is underway.

Supreme Court Favours Rs 25 Crore Funds For Maharashtra Covid Orphans

Maharashtra has 19,000 children who lost a parent due to COVID-19 and 593 who lost both, the Supreme Court noted, favouring disbursement of state funds.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court is in favour of disbursing the over Rs 25 crore deposited by the Maharashtra government in the Supreme Court registry five years ago, to children who lost both parents during the Covid pandemic in the state.

A bench of Justices of India DY Chandrachud and BV Nagarathna noted earlier this week that the state has about 19,000 children who lost a parent due to COVID-19 and 593 who lost both their parents. Maharashtra, one of the worst

affected states during the second wave of the pandemic earlier this year, had deposited the money in the Supreme Court registry in an old matter related to medical college admissions.

The Supreme Court noted that the government of Maharashtra formulated a policy on June 17, 2021 envisaging that Rs 5 lakh be placed in a fixed deposit for children who lost both their parents due to the pandemic and the money will be payable to them after they attain the age of maturity.

"The amount of Rs 20 crores which was deposited (by Maharashtra government) in pursuance of the order dated December 2, 2016 stands enhanced to Rs 25,53,25,548 as a result of accretions of interest," the bench said. The Supreme Court said before it directs the disbursement of the money to the State of Maharashtra, it wants that a concrete statement be placed on affidavit

about the manner in which the money will be utilised for the benefit of children affected by the death of either or both parents due to the Covid pandemic. "The Secretary, Women and Child Development of the State of Maharashtra shall file an affidavit within a period of three weeks. The Court shall thereafter pass an appropriate order after scrutinizing the proposal," the bench said in its order passed on September 13.

Advocate Sachin Patil, appearing for the Maharashtra government, submitted a note giving details on how the money would be utilized in the interests of the children.

In a pending matter, he said, the Supreme Court was informed by the Maharashtra government that 593 children had lost both their parents and the data was uploaded on the Bal Swaraj website of the National Commission for Protection of

Child Rights (NCPDR). The estimated figure is subject to further verification, he added.

The Supreme Court appreciated Patil's assistance and his suggestion that the amount be used for the benefit of children who lost one or both parents due to Covid.

On December 2, 2016, the Supreme Court listed the matter for further hearing on October 4, while hearing an appeal of students against a Bombay High Court order on admissions to a medical college had said that since the State of Maharashtra is supporting the cause of the students, it should deposit an amount of Rs 20 crore in this court by December 15, 2016.

On December 16, 2016, the Supreme Court, while dismissing the appeal of the students, directed that the amount be kept available for utilization for juvenile justice issues.

Over 85% Mumbai population has Covid-19 antibodies: Latest BMC sero survey

The latest survey, which covered 8,674 people, found a sero positivity rate of 87.02 per cent in slums, and 86.22 per cent in non-slum areas.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The fifth sero survey conducted by the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) in Mumbai in August 2021 shows that 86.64 per cent of the 8,674 people surveyed have antibodies against Covid-19. This is significantly higher than the third sero-surveillance conducted in March this year, which found 36.3 per cent of those surveyed had antibodies against Covid-19.

The latest survey, which covered 8,674 people, found a sero positivity rate of 87.02 per cent in slums, and 86.22 per cent in non-slum areas. This is the first time that there is a meagre difference in the sero positivity of the slum and non-slum population in the city.

Also Read | In push on PM's birthday, a vaccination record: 2,50,10,390 jabs in 1 day

The last sero survey, conducted in March this year, had found a sero positivity of 41.6 per cent in slums

and 28.5 per cent in non-slum areas. "Overall, the sero-prevalence in slum and non-slum areas in the city of Greater Mumbai is much higher as compared to the last serosurvey," stated the civic body in its statement.

BMC has conducted three sero-surveillance studies for Covid-19 and one sero-surveillance study for the paediatric population previously. The latest sero-surveillance was conducted between August 12 and September 8 this year.

This sero-surveillance also included the vaccinated population. The BMC had expected antibodies per cent to rise in this survey owing to the mass immunisation programme. The survey found sero-prevalence amongst partially and fully vaccinated participants is 90.26 per cent, while sero-prevalence amongst those who have not taken Covid-19 vaccine is 79.86 per cent.

"The results are in line with what we had expected. We also wanted to include the vaccinated population in the survey," the deputy executive health officer in BMC, Dr Daksha Shah said. "The sero prevalence is at 86.64 per cent, it does not indicate protective levels of IgG antibodies. As we know, the antibodies level starts

declining after a month of the infection. Therefore, the citizens mustn't be complacent and we recommended them to continue to strictly follow the 'Covid-Appropriate Behaviour'."

"Sero-prevalence was significantly higher in study subjects who received either first or both doses of COVID-19 vaccine as compared to their unvaccinated counterparts. It is essential to strengthening the ongoing COVID-19 vaccination program," stated the civic body in a statement released on Friday.

The rise in antibodies in the non-slum population in this survey is indicative of recent infection trends. In the first wave, slums were worst affected. However, in the second wave, the data by the BMC had shown that out of 87,000 active cases in April this year, 90 per cent were concentrated in high rise buildings while slums account for just 10 per cent.

In July 2020, the results of the first serosurvey showed seroprevalence stood at 16 per cent in non-slums. In August, a second survey, however, showed that sero prevalence rose marginally to 18 per cent for non-slums. In March this year, seroprevalence in non-slum areas was 28.5 per cent.

Antibodies are formed within a week to three weeks

of infection, but their levels start declining after a few months of the infection. The first sero survey last July showed 57 per cent population in slums had antibodies. This reduced to 45 per cent in the second survey in August 2020, and 41.6 per cent this March.

The survey was conducted by the BMC health department, The Lokmanya Tilak Municipal General Hospital and Medical College, Sion Hospital with support from A.T.E. Chandra Foundation and IDFC Institute.

BMC stated that the study was cross-sectional and included participants above 18 years of age, from all 24 wards of the city. Study participants were selected by systematic random sampling and those visiting municipal dispensaries and general practitioners' clinics in slum and non-slum areas respectively.

Out of the total samples, 20 per cent were health care workers. Sero-prevalence in health care workers is 87.14 per cent. The marginal difference was found in the gender-wise sero-prevalence with females showing 88.29 per cent sero-prevalence as compared to males at 85.07 per cent. Civic officials said based on the survey, they plan to accelerate vaccination programmes to increase antibody levels in the population.

MP SETS NEW RECORD BY VACCINATING MORE THAN 27 LAKH PEOPLE IN A DAY

- CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan expresses gratitude to all
- 14.78 lakh get first dose and 12.35 lakh get second dose

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh has again made a new record on September 17, by vaccinating 27 lakh 14 thousand 795 people in a day. Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has expressed his gratitude to public representatives, administration, doctors, health workers, voluntary organizations and citizens for the record achievement made under Vaccination Maha Abhiyan-3.

Chouhan has said that our target is to ensure that every eligible person should get the first dose of vaccine by September 26. With Prime Minister Narendra Modi's support, the state is getting free vaccine as per requirement. To achieve the set target, the work of vaccination will continue in the state. Vaccination Maha Abhiyan-3 became such a big success due to the constant efforts of Chief Minister Chouhan and adoption of public-participation model of the state. A unique example has been set with more than 27 lakh people getting vaccinated in the



country in a day. In 16 districts of the state, more than 100 percent vaccination was done against the target. Out of the total vaccinations, 14 lakh 78 thousand 869 citizens were given the first dose of the vaccine and 12 lakh 35 thousand 926 citizens were given the second dose. Chouhan said that our priority is to win over Corona. Chief Minister said that the arrangements made at all the vaccination centers under the record vaccination in the state. People came forward with self-

motivation and ensured their participation in the great campaign.

Chouhan said that in the Vaccination Maha Abhiyan, to and fro arrangements were made by the local administration for the elderly and the differently-abled to reach the centre. In many areas, the elderly and differently-abled people played the role of motivator and also inspired people to get the vaccine. The participation of different sections of the society has been important in the positive

atmosphere created in the vaccination campaign in the entire state. Every citizen of the state is aware of Corona infection. Soon 100 percent people of Madhya Pradesh will come under the protection cover of vaccine. Members of district, block and village and ward level Crisis Management Committees also played an active role in providing vaccine protection cover to the citizens of the state. The members performed the role of motivator at the vaccination centers in urban and rural areas.

Uma Bharti Sets Deadline for MP Govt to Implement Liquor Ban

Uma Bharti held a press conference at her residence here in Bhopal on Saturday. The firebrand BJP leader said else she will take to the streets for the purpose.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Speaking to the media in Bhopal on Saturday, Bharti to a question affirmed that she will take to streets in favour of liquor ban may be on the Narmada riverbank or Chambal or Betwa on the sides of Taal Talaiya (Bhopal). "We will run an awareness campaign on the same seeking the State government's support but if it doesn't work, I will jump into the campaign personally," said the sadhvi, saying she will remain at Gangesagar (Uttarakhand) till Makar Sankranti i.e. January 14.

Though she heaped praises on Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan calling him an elder brother and Guru who taught him several things. If such a person remains the Chief Minister he will run the State properly, she said. "I remain satisfied completely and keep my blessings, cooperation and best wishes with him (Shivraj)," added the former chief minister of Madhya Pradesh. Continuing, she also heaped praises on BJP State head VD Sharma calling him an excellent state chief and a composed politician with virtues like decency, balanced approach and makes an excellent team with CM Shivraj. It will be great if a liquor ban is imposed under both of them in MP, she added. "Both the leaders have said de-addiction could be achieved through public awareness but personally I believe that this could only be achieved through Lath (stick) and public awareness," said Bharti.

As far as the revenue loss is concerned, Bharti said she has the formula to make up for the losses in case of a liquor ban but added that she will only tell the two senior leaders about it. Praising Prime Minister



Narendra Modi, Yogi Adityanath and Shivraj Singh Chouhan, she said she is always with them and there is no alternate to BJP. "However, I am firm on issues like liquor-ban and Ken-Betwa river link," she said.

Bharti said during the lockdown when the liquor shops were closed, none had died due to it.

Yet again taking a line different to her party, Bharti said she is with the diamond excavation project in Chhatarpur (Bada Malhera) but only the forest isn't harmed and diamonds are excavated for the betterment of the youth through a modern technique without destroying forests (Buxwaha).

She, however, clarified she isn't with people like NBA founder Medha Patkar as she leaves things halfway through and cited examples of Tehri and Indira Sagar dams which were built despite strong opposition from Patkar and her colleagues. "We need to take up issues where we get dragged right till the very end. It has to be a promised end, (made to ourselves)," she said.

Unique initiative to use state-of-the-art technology in wildlife conservation

Panna Tiger Reserve formed "Drone Squad"

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Taking an initiative to use state-of-the-art technology in wildlife conservation, Panna Tiger Reserve has started operating "Drone Squad". Monthly action plan for "Drone Squad" operations is prepared every month.

Drone squads are helping in the search and rescue of wildlife, locating the source of wildfires and providing immediate information about its impact, avoiding the risk of potential human-animal conflict and ensuring compliance with wildlife conservation laws. The "Drone Squad", which became available in Panna Tiger Reserve a month and a half ago, is proving to be

very useful. Panna Tiger Reserve (PTR) has recently constituted a "Drone Squad" for conservation, monitoring and management of wildlife. It is working successfully.

The Drone Squad consists of a drone, model 'DJI Phantom Drone'. It works with enough battery to operate it for a long time. A vehicle has been specially kept for this. A drone operator is accompanied by an assistant. A monthly schedule is issued by the Drone Squad with clear guidelines regarding the operation and use of drones.

Currently, the use of drones is envisaged for law enforcement, surveillance, search and rescue of wild

animals, forest fire detection and protection and reducing human-animal conflict. In the future, the use of drones will also be planned in the field of wildlife management, ecotourism. It will also help in documentation of biodiversity. Drone squad has proven to be capable of assisting the field staff in efficient control and monitoring of illegal activities in a short span of time. Drone operations have the advantage of being able to collect large amounts of data that need to be stored, processed and analysed. This will prove to be a new initiative in creating trained manpower using state-of-the-art technology in wildlife conservation.

Sacrifice day will be made every year: CM

- PESA Act will be implemented in the state in a phased manner: CM
- Chhindwara University to be named after Raja Shankar Shah
- 'Ration aapke dwar' system to start in tribal dominated development blocks

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said that the mighty kings Shankar Shah and Kunwar Raghunath Shah have sacrificed their everything to protect their motherland, their religion, their state and to cut the chains of independence of Mother India. We worship all those heroes who laid down their lives for the motherland. A grand memorial dedicated to such tribal heroes will be constructed, which has been inaugurated today.

Shivraj Singh Chouhan said that the mighty kings Shankar Shah and Kunwar Raghunath Shah have sacrificed everything to protect their motherland, their religion, their state and to country's independence. We



worship all those heroes who laid down their lives for their motherland. A grand memorial dedicated to such tribal heroes will be constructed has been inaugurated today. Balidan Diwas will be celebrated every year on September 18. The programme will be organized every year.

Chouhan also informed about the decisions taken by the state government for the upliftment of tribal community. Shri Chouhan said that on November 15, the birth anniversary of Lord Birsa Munda would be celebrated as Tribal Pride Day. Tribal Pride Day will be organized in the entire state with great pomp and show. Chouhan announced that Chhindwara University would be renamed as 'Raja Shankar Shah Vishwavidyalaya'. Chouhan said that we are going to give the right of community forest management to tribals. PESA Act will be implemented in the state in a phased manner. He spoke

about forest management according to the spirit of PESA Act. He said that the PESA Act empowers the Gram Sabha to protect and conserve community resources. Forest is also a community resource. To implement this, we are going to give the responsibility of setting up Community Forest Management Committees to the Gram Sabha. Now the Community Forest Management Committees will prepare an annual micro plan according to the working plan and get it approved by the Gram Sabha. Only committees will implement that plan. The staff of the Forest Department will help the committees in this work. The government will provide necessary financial resources. Along with the rights of forest management, we have decided to present the best example of 'Gram Swaraj'. We have decided to solve the problems that rose in the implementation of the fifth schedule of the Panchayati Raj system. We have

decided that the rights of community forest management will be given to tribal brethren. The forest committee will also do the work of selling tendu leaves. Chouhan spoke about starting ration aapke dwar (ration at your doorstep) from November 1, Madhya Pradesh Foundation Day in tribal-dominated development blocks of the district. He said that ration will be delivered door-to-door in tribal-dominated development blocks in the state from November 1. In 89 tribal dominated development blocks of the state, now no tribal will have to make rounds of shops to get ration. The government will send the ration of their rights to their homes. We have a new scheme to deliver ration from village to village. Its benefit will be given to 23 lakh 80 thousand families living in more than 7 thousand 500 villages of our tribal development blocks. Ration material will be delivered to these families in vehicles. To provide employment to our tribal youth in the village itself, the government will hire ration vehicles from them. Bank loan will be provided to youth to buy these vehicles, for every ration vehicle, Rs 26 thousand per month will be given to our young vehicle owners, so that they will be able to earn their livelihood.

CM PLANTS KADAMBA SAPLING



Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted a Kadamba sapling in Smart City Park today in fulfillment of his resolve to plant saplings every day. Kadamba is a flowering tree. Its leaves are like mahua leaves and fruits are round like lemon. It is important to increase greenery and from environmental point of view.

CM PAYS TRIBUTE TO MARTYR MADAN LAL DHINGRA

Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan paid homage to freedom fighter martyr Madanlal Dhingra on his anniversary. Chouhan garlanded the portrait of Martyr Madanlal Dhingra in the auditorium at his residence.

Martyr Madanlal Dhingra, a freedom fighter, was born on September 18, 1883 in the Punjab province. He went to England in 1906 for higher education. In London, Dhingra came in contact with eminent nationalists Vinayak Damodar Savarkar and Shyamji Krishna Varma. All the patriots there were angry with the death sentence given to revolutionaries like Khudiram Bose, Kanhai Lal Dutt, Satinder Pal and Kashi Ram. As a result, Madanlal Dhingra fired shots at Sir William Hutt Curzon Wylie at the annual festival of the Indian National Association. After hearing the case of Madanlal Dhingra in July, 1909, he was hanged by the British Government on August 17, 1909.

Man, Set On Fire By Woman's Family Over Relationship, Dies; 4 Arrested: Police

In his dying declaration, the man alleged that he had got a call on Thursday night and he was asked to visit the woman's house for a meeting. He said that when he went there, four members of her family poured kerosene on him and set him ablaze, the Superintendent of Police said.

Team Absolute | Sagar

A 25-year-old man was burnt to death allegedly by the family members of a woman he was in love with at a village in Madhya Pradesh's Sagar district, police said today.

The incident occurred in Sagar district late on Thursday night and four members of the woman's family have been arrested in this connection, Superintendent of Police (SP) Atul Singh said.

The 23-year-old woman with whom the man was in a relationship, also suffered burn injuries. She

claimed that the man accidentally caught fire in a bid to set her ablaze after pouring kerosene on her at her place, while her family members tried to rescue both of them, the senior police officer said.

The man died during treatment at a local hospital on Friday. In his dying declaration, he alleged that he had got a call on Thursday night and he was asked to visit the woman's house for a meeting. He said that when he went there, four members of her family poured kerosene on him and set him ablaze, the Superintendent of Police said.

Later, when the man's family

members got information about the incident, they took him to the hospital, he added.

A case of murder has been registered against the four accused and further investigation is being carried out, the senior police official said.

The family members of the man blocked the Sagar-Bina road on Friday evening demanding that the house of the woman's family be demolished. However, they called off the protest after an assurance from Madhya Pradesh's Urban Administration Minister Bhupendra Singh.

BJP NOMINATES L MURUGAN AS ITS RS CANDIDATE

Bhopal: The BJP has named Union Minister of State L Murugan as its Rajya Sabha candidates from Madhya Pradesh. Murugan has become part of the Narendra Modi-led Cabinet after a reshuffle was undertaken earlier this year. Murugan who had previously been the state president of the BJP's Tamil Nadu unit was appointed as a Minister of State in the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying as well as the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

CM Chouhan pays homage to immortal martyr Raja Shankar Shah and Raghunath Shah

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan paid homage to the immortal martyrs of 1857, Raja Shankar Shah and Raghunath Shah, on their day of sacrifice. Chouhan garlanded their portraits in the auditorium at his residence. Recalling the sacrifices of the immortal martyrs, Chouhan, in a message to the media at Smart Park, said that today is the sacrifice day of Raja Shankar Shah and Raghunath Shah. They had sacrificed themselves for the freedom of their country. Due to betrayal by some people, the plans of the revolutionaries were leaked out ahead of time. Later they were arrested and they were gunned down after being tied to the mouths of cannons. But before that they were asked what their last wish was. They expressed the desire to read the poem of revolution the flames of

which were burning all around them. They gave the supreme sacrifice of their lives while reciting this poem with a smile on their faces. We are celebrating the 75th year of independence. A programme was organized in Jabalpur on the sacrifice day of Raja Shankar Shah and Raghunath Shah. It may be noted that Puva village, which has become a part of Jabalpur city at present, was the residence of Raja Shankar Shah and Raghunath Shah. Staying here, they secretly inspired the soldiers to take part in the revolution in the Great War of 1857. The soldiers of the 52nd Regiment of Jabalpur often used to visit the house of Raja Shankar Shah in this regard. Together with their revolutionary comrades and the soldiers of the 52nd Regiment, the father and son planned the revolution.

AMIT SHAH PAY HOMAGE ON THE MARTYRDOM DAY OF AMAR SHAHEED RAJA SHANKAR SHAH AND RAGHUNATH SHAH

Bhopal: On the occasion of Amrit Mahotsav of Independence, Union Home and Cooperative Minister Amit Shah along with Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan reached Malgodam Chowk on Saturday and paid floral tributes at the statues of tribal hero Amar Shaheed Raja Shankar Shah and his son Kunwar Raghunath Shah on their 164th Sacrifice Day, who sacrificed their lives to protect the country and religion.

Chief Minister Chouhan and Union Minister of State for Steel and Rural Development Faggan Singh Kulaste presented to Shah pictures of the holy birth place of independence movement hero Raja Shankar Shah and Kunwar Raghunath Shah in Mandla district and the Rajstambh of the Gondwana kingdom established in Ramnagar Mandla. Under the 75th Amrit Mahotsav of Independence, Union Home Minister Shah and Chief Minister Chouhan remembered the sacrifices of Raja Shankar Shah and Kunwar Raghunath Shah of Gondwana kingdom. The royal family of the Gondwana kingdom has the distinction of being the first among the princely states of India in the first freedom struggle, who were tied with the mouth of cannon and executed.



PREGNANT CELEBRITIES IN SHEER OUTFITS



Los Angeles | Agencies

Some of our favorite celebrity fashionistas have been pregnant while in the public eye, but they haven't let their baby bumps halt their style A-game! In fact, these ladies have made maternity fashion look sexier than ever, and one way they're doing it is with sexy, sheer looks. From dresses to jumpsuits and more, sheer has become a hot trend, even amongst pregnant women, and we've rounded up some of our favorite looks of them all. Whether it's during a night out in New York City like Kylie Jenner, or on one of the most buzzed-about red carpets of the year, like Ciara, these ladies have slayed the sheer game while pregnant. Of course, Kim Kardashian couldn't miss an opportunity to hop on the trend back when she was pregnant, as well. Keep clicking through the gallery to see more photos of stars wearing sheer looks while pregnant!

Taylor Swift announced a surprise revamp of her 'Wildest Dreams'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Taylor Swift announced a surprise revamp of her 1989 single 'Wildest Dreams' on Friday on her social media. "Hi!" she wrote on Twitter and Instagram story, "Saw you guys got Wildest Dreams trending on TikTok, thought you should have my version."

Inspired by her fans getting the song trending on TikTok, Swift posted a clip to TikTok with the new version of 'Wildest Dreams', along with the caption, "Someone said slow zoom makes you look like the main character I said make it Taylor's Version pls."

Two hours later, she posted another video using the rerecording, with on-screen text reading, "You set a date in November with Red but then someone mentions 1989," referencing her two different albums, which are both slated to be re-released reports Variety.com.

The original version of the song, released in 2014, has been trending on TikTok lately, with people using it alongside videos in which the camera slowly zooms in on their face. Swift has been rerecording her first six albums following a dispute with her old label.

'Red (Taylor's Version)' is set for release on November 19.



ENRIQUE RETURNS WITH FINAL AFTER 7 YEARS

Los Angeles | Agencies

Enrique Iglesias has returned with part one of his FINAL album after releasing 'Sex & Love' on March 14, 2014. The Spanish pop star released the much-awaited album on Friday night. He had previously announced it could well be his last album.

Enrique announced the release of his album on Instagram. The 11-track set includes previously released hits that date back to 2015, including the Nicky Jam-assisted 'El Perdón', to his latest summer anthem 'Me Pase' with Farruko. As for the five never-before-heard tracks on the album, standouts include 'Te Fuiste', a team-up with Myke Towers produced by Ovy on the Drums, and 'Pendejo' released alongside a music video. 'Te Fuiste' starts slow with prickly guitars but quickly builds momentum powered by a reggaeton beat, just in time for Myke Towers' entrance reports Billboard.com. According to Iglesias, there will be a second part to FINAL. "It might be my final album," Iglesias said during an Instagram Live earlier this month. "It's not something that I have been thinking about for the past few months. It's something that I have been thinking about for the past few years. There's going to be Vol. 1 and Vol. 2, but they're final. I'm in that moment in my life, that chapter in my life, where I think it's the right time to put it out and I've been thinking about this since 2015."

Russian film beats Tom Cruise epic to be first shot in outer space

Los Angeles | Agencies

More than 60 years after the erstwhile Soviet Union beat the United States into orbit with the launch of its Sputnik satellite, a new space race is heating up between the two rivals, reports. The Russians plan to produce the first feature film 'The Challenge' to be shot in outer space, ahead of Tom Cruise's upcoming \$200-million space epic. "The Challenge" is the story of a Russian doctor who's sent to the International Space Station to save the life of a cosmonaut. If all goes according to plan, the production team will lift off next month on a 12-day mission to pull off the historic first.

Last year NASA announced that it was partnering with Elon Musk's SpaceX and Tom Cruise to shoot a movie that would be partly filmed aboard the International Space Station. Directed by Doug Liman, the untitled film was rumored to have a budget of \$200 million.

Russian space agency Roscosmos then announced its own plans to shoot an out-of-this-world (literally!) feature, hoping to achieve liftoff



before its Hollywood counterpart. A collaboration between Roscosmos, public broadcaster Channel One, and leading studio

the project approval to go ahead.

Shipenko and Peresild are scheduled to blast into orbit on October 5 in a Soyuz spaceship piloted by Anton Shkaplerov, a veteran cosmonaut, with a backup crew on standby in the event of any last-minute medical problems.

At a news conference in Moscow on Thursday, Peresild said it was "too late" to be afraid of the cosmic task ahead. "If you're afraid of wolves, you shouldn't go into the forest," she said, adding: "There is just no time left for fear." Konstantin Ernst, CEO of Russia's Channel One, which has commissioned the movie, played down the notion of a new space race heating up the cosmos, noting that "cinema isn't sports". "We certainly would have preferred arriving at the International Space Station at the same time with Tom Cruise. We would have enjoyed shooting the film together much better," Ernst told 'Variety'. The Russian super-producer drew a comparison to the first manned international space mission, which was conducted jointly by the U.S. and the Soviet Union in 1975, adding: "Since we have got a chance to travel there earlier, we will certainly use it." Channel One will broadcast the launch on October 5 and offer live streams in multiple languages across its web platforms.

Ernst described it as "a breathtaking reality show and a chance to attract millions of TV viewers". He added: "At the age of 12, I was a member of the young cosmonaut club hoping to fly into space. For me personally, this is a childhood dream coming true."



Hailey Baldwin 'Doesn't Bother' Her When She's Called 'Justin's Wife'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hailey Baldwin is not afraid to simply be known as 'Justin's wife' - for now. The model opened up to singer Demi Lovato in a podcast episode on September 17 just call her Mrs! Hailey Baldwin has set the record straight when it comes to her official title in her two-year (or three?) marriage to pop sensation Justin Bieber. On a Friday, September 17 episode of "4D with Demi Lovato," the high-fashion model opened up about how she feels about being called "Justin's wife." Nothing. She

feels absolutely nothing. At least, not in a bad way. "When you marry someone that is really well known, you also accept that a lot of the time people are going to be like, 'Oh yeah, that's blah, blah blah's wife.' It doesn't bother me," 24-year old Hailey said to her famous 29-year old peer Demi. And what's more is that she likes it. Hailey enjoys being known as Justin's Mrs. because she's already carved out a place in the world for herself, on her own terms. The former ballet dancer turned supermodel has walked the biggest fashion runways of the world from Paris to New York, graced the pages of countless luxury fashion magazines

and has been featured in scores of campaigns for fashion designers and high-end brands. Need. We. Go. On? "It bothers me when people try to take it and flip it and be like, 'People wouldn't know who you were if you weren't his wife.' Because I disagree. I'm sorry, but I disagree...I have all my own work relationships, I do my own thing, I have my own job, I have my own money," the sixth-year Met Gala guest (Justin's only been once) admitted to the Dancing with the Devil producer. "When we split up and we didn't talk for a very long time, I feel like I worked very hard to continue establishing who Hailey was and I still work to establish that."

Los Angeles | Agencies

Rihanna and ASAP Rocky hit up a NYC seafood joint at 3am on Friday, Sept. 17, and the photos are so adorable. So cute! Rihanna and ASAP Rocky packed on some sweet PDA while enjoying a late-night date night at El Puerto Seafood & Fish Market in Harlem during the early morning hours of Friday, Sept. 17. The rapper, and Rihanna, had big smiles on their faces as they held hands. Rihanna wore a black leather bomber jacket with a white tank underneath and black leather pants. She also accessorized her look with a fuzzy black bucket hat, black sunglasses, a pearl necklace, and a gold chain with a huge gold medallion. Meanwhile, ASAP Rocky wore a black hooded zip-up sweatshirt with crossing guard-like reflectors on each elbow and black leather pants. This cute date night comes just days after Rihanna and ASAP Rocky made their red carpet debut as a couple at the 2021 Met Gala on Sept. 13.

RIHANNA & ROCKY HOLD HANDS DURING LATE-NIGHT DATE



ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Kourtney Kardashian



IPL 2021:

TOURNAMENT RESUMES WITH CSK-MI CLASH

Dubai | Agencies

Mumbai Indians (MI) and Chennai Super Kings (CSK), the two most successful Indian Premier League franchises (in terms of titles won), will clash in the first match of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2021's second leg here on Sunday. While CSK are second on the points table with five wins from seven matches - 10 points - MI are fourth with four wins -- eight points -- from seven games.

MI have often started slowly, but they have ramped up their performance towards the end of the tournament.

In the ongoing season, they seemed to have got into dominating phase in the sixth and seventh matches but then Covid-19 brought the tournament to a halt.

It will be interesting to see how they start afresh.

MI's two key Indian players -- Rohit Sharma and Jasprit Bumrah -- have just returned from the Test series against England and how quickly they acclimatise to conditions is going to have a bearing on the performance of their team.

For CSK, Shardul Thakur will turn up



with renewed confidence having churned out a match-winning performance in the fourth Test that India won at The Oval.

CSK could have the edge as they will be rested and better prepared. Opening batsman Faf du Plessis will again be vital at the top along with Rituraj Gaikwad. The South African batsman is the third highest run-getter in the league with 320 runs from seven matches at an average of 64.

In the duel in the first leg, Mumbai Indians came out winners by four wickets. Although CSK scored 218/4 in 20 overs in Delhi with half-centuries from Moen Ali, du Plessis and Ambati Rayudu, MI rode unbeaten 87 off 34 balls to win on the last ball of the match.

Knowing the power-hitting strength and batting depth of the two teams, a high-scoring match could be likely.

The match and the remaining matches will also be a chance for Rohit to strengthen his credentials as a capable captain.

A lot of focus will be on him as he will be against a team led by arguably India's best short-format skipper, MS Dhoni.

England women look to seal ODI series against New Zealand

Worcester | Agencies

Hosts England will be hoping to gain an unassailable lead in the three-match ODI series when they meet New Zealand in the second women's One-Day International at New Road here on Sunday.

England had gained an early 1-0 lead in the three-match series against New Zealand, though a comeback from the visitors is still on the cards.

The bowlers of both the teams matched each other in the first ODI but it was the England batting that proved to be the difference. However, New Zealand were able to take the game closer than one would imagine, all due to the magnanimous efforts of Amy Satterthwaite with an unbeaten 79* to chase down 242.

The efforts from New Zealand's tail that waged and forced England to put on their thinking caps was a positive for the visitors to take from the match.

England were provided with a stable base by the openers Tammy Beaumont (44) and Lauren Winfield-Hill (21). The start was followed by Heather Knight's gritty innings of 89 off 107 in partnership with Katherine Brunt who made a crucial 43. The duo's 88-run stand



pushed the hosts to a par total of 241 before being bowled out in the final over.

England will be hoping that their batters will deliver the goods once again, especially the openers will give them a good start.

England captain Heather Knight said they will also be looking to add to the team and have a wider squad.

"You had to really extend your partnerships, hide your ego as a batter, and be disciplined in what you attacked. A lot of learning, a bit closer than it felt in the end. We want to find ways to add to the team and improve it, as well as have a wider squad."

The hosts grappled early command over the defense with three wickets for 31. Satterthwaite and Sophie Devine attempted to repli-

cate the Knight-Brunt partnership while adding 78 runs for the third wicket.

However, the wickets kept tumbling once Devine was dismissed for a steady 34. The visitors were bundled out for 211 in 46.3 overs despite Satterthwaite's solitary retaliation of 79 not out as England sealed a 30-run win.

New Zealand captain Sophie Devine was confident that they will come up with better performance than in the first ODI: "We knew we were capable but didn't keep wickets in hand. We saw the damage the lower order can do, it's one that got away, and that's the positive. We know that the game is going to ebb and flow, got to hang tough at times."

National Boxing: Hussamuddin sails into the quarterfinals on Day 4

Bellary | Agencies

Commonwealth Games bronze medallist Mohammad Hussamuddin (57kg) continued his rich form and stormed into the quarterfinals at the 5th Elite Men's National Boxing Championships at the Inspire Institute of Sports in Bellary, Karnataka on Saturday.

Defending champion Hussamuddin, who is representing Services Sports Control Board (SSCB) was up against Chhattisgarh's Sahil in the pre-quarterfinal. Playing from a distance, Hussamuddin displayed smart and mature boxing and landed a lot of punches to secure a unanimous 5-0 win. He will face Rushikesh Goud of Maharashtra on Sunday.

In the other round-of-16 match in the 57kg category, Haryana's Sachin was up against Manipur's Jobson Yengkokpam. Sachin, the 2021 World Youth champion, who caused a huge upset on Friday by defeating World Championship medallist Gaurav Bidhuri made light-work of his opponent and comfortably won 5-0 to book his spot in the quarters.

Meanwhile, Goa's Roshan Zamir (54kg) defeated Suraj Bhan Singh of Rajasthan 3-2 in one of the closest bouts of the day that saw a lot of attacking intent but the former claimed victory after a dominant last round.

Rajasthan's Bhim Pratap Singh (51kg) and



Delhi's Rohit Mor (57kg) progressed into the quarterfinals with identical 5-0 victories on the fourth day of the Championships. In the 60kg match, Tripura's Parvinder Poonia beat Prabhu Murali of Tamil Nadu 5-0.

Chandigarh's Aman (67 kg) and Sachin (71kg) impressed everyone with their attacking boxing as both of them claimed Referee stopped the contest (RSC) wins in the second round and sailed into the quarters. Aman defeated Orissa's SR Sahoo and Sachin got the better of Uttarakhand's Devender Singh.

The gold medallist of the ongoing championships, which will go on till September 21, will earn a berth in the upcoming 2021 AIBA Elite Men's World Boxing Championships, which is scheduled in Belgrade, Serbia from October 24 to November 6.

IPL 2021 issues final list of replacements

Dubai | Agencies

The list of replacements of the second leg of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2021 was officially released on Saturday with Delhi Capitals (DC), Mumbai Indians (MI), Punjab Kings (PBKS), Rajasthan Royals (RR), Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) and Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) making changes to their team. While some of the replacements have already been announced, some were named a day before the resumption of the tournament.

DC have brought in Ben Dwarshuis to replace England all-rounder Chris Woakes. Australian left-arm pacer Dwarshuis has played 82 T20s and has taken 100 wickets. The franchise has also named left-arm medium pacer Kulwant Khejroliya as replacement for M. Siddharth. Khejroliya has represented Mumbai Indians & Royal Challengers Bangalore in the past.

Mumbai Indians have named Gujarat's left-arm medium pacer Roosh Kalaria to their squad in place of Mohsin Khan. Kalaria has played 54 first-class matches, 46 List A games and 31 T20s picking a total of 271 wickets. Punjab Kings had already named Adil Rashid and Nathan Ellis as replacement players for Jhye



Richardson and Riley Meredith have added one more player to the list. With David Malan unavailable, South Africa's Aiden Markram will replace him in the squad.

Rajasthan Royals have added the West Indian duo of Oshane Thomas and Evin Lewis to the squad. They will replace Ben Stokes and Jos Buttler. Thomas, a right-arm pacer, has played 17 T20s and represented RR in the past. Lewis, a left-handed batsman, has played 45 T20s, scoring 1318 runs at a strike-rate of 158.03.

He also has 2 hundreds and 9 fifties to his name. RR had earlier named Tabraiz Shamsi and Glenn Phillips in the squad. Royal Challengers Bangalore have picked Bengal medium-pacer Akash Deep to replace injured Washington Sundar. Akash Deep has thus far played nine first-class matches, 11 List A games and 15 T20s and has 73 wickets against his name. RCB had earlier made four replacements to their squad, bringing in Wanindu Hasaranga, Dushmantha Chameera, George Garton and Tim

David for Adam Zampa, Daniel Sams, Kane Richardson and Finn Allen respectively. Sunrisers Hyderabad have brought Sherfane Rutherford on board as a replacement for England wicketkeeper-batsman Jonny Bairstow. The West Indian, who has played seven IPL games, had earlier been part of Delhi Capitals and Mumbai Indians.

The list of replacements:

Delhi Capitals: Kulwant Khejroliya for M Siddharth; Ben Dwarshuis for Chris Woakes.

Mumbai Indians: Roosh Kalaria for Mohsin Khan.

Punjab Kings: Nathan Ellis for Riley Meredith; Adil Rashid for Jhye Richardson; Aiden Markram for David Malan.

Rajasthan Royals: Tabraiz Shamsi for Andrew Tye; Glenn Phillips for Jofra Archer; Oshane Thomas for Ben Stokes; Evin Lewis for Jos Buttler.

Royal Challengers Bangalore: Wanindu Hasaranga for Adam Zampa; Dushmantha Chameera for Daniel Sams; George Garton for Kane Richardson; Tim David for Finn Allen; Akash Deep for Washington Sundar.

Sunrisers Hyderabad: Sherfane Rutherford for Jonny Bairstow.

RANINDER SINGH RETURNS AS PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

Raninder Singh was re-elected as the President of the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) - the governing body for the sport of shooting in the country at the elections held within the premises of Punjab Cricket Association, here on Saturday.

Mohali | Agencies

The General Body Election of the NRAI had representation from 59 of its members of whom 56 voted in favour of the re-electing Raninder Singh while three votes were cast in favour of his opponent Shyam Singh Yadav, the NRA said in a release on Saturday.

After the elections, Raninder Singh said, "I am honoured and humbled that the members have reposed faith

in my leadership. Together we have achieved a lot for Indian shooting and the time has now come to take it to another level."

"This election was not about the chair but about its basic capability to be autonomous, yet at the same time not be violative of the National Sports Code we genuinely welcome and voluntarily follow. Indeed, the strength the Code provides us, has and will continue to support us in presenting clarity and strength to discharge our



duty to the sport and its athletes. But more importantly, not allow shadowy mentors of dubious challengers to politicize."

Kanwar Sultan Singh, Randeep Mann, and Kalikesh Narayan Singh Deo were elected unopposed as the Secretary-General, Treasurer, and Senior Vice President respectively. Speaking after the declaration of

the election results, Secretary-General, NRAI, Kanwar Sultan Singh said, "I am thankful to the members of the NRAI General Body for entrusting me with the responsibility of carrying forward the federation's vision of taking the sport shooting to new horizons. Our next goal is to analyse the unexpected Tokyo 2020 performances and learn from them in order to create a roadmap for Paris 2024."

A total of eight Vice-Presidents were elected. Pawan Kumar J. Singh and Sheila Kanungo were elected unopposed as the Joint Secretaries. For the post of Honorary Secretary G Susheel; Ishwar Rohal; Kumar Tripurari Singh; Meghasham Shripad Bhangale; Moirangthem R. Singh and R. Ravikrishnan were also elected unopposed.

A total of 16 governing body members were elected.

Promoted to senior group, defender Suman Devi wants to make opportunity count

New Delhi | Agencies

Having been promoted to the senior core group from the junior ranks, young defender Suman Devi Thoudam wants to make this opportunity count and learn all about playing under pressure from her counterparts who have returned from a historic outing at the Tokyo Olympics.

"I was in the junior camp here in SAI when the Olympics was going on and we were all glued to the TV during the Olympics. Every match India played was thrilling. Even though India couldn't start well, I feel they still played extremely well

against the Netherlands, Germany and Great Britain. They are much more experienced than our team and yet we held strong against them but fell short," said Suman Devi.

"Watching the Indian team and how they bounced back in the tournament to beat Ireland, South Africa and Australia in the quarterfinal really inspired us a lot," said Suman who led the Indian team during their successful tour to Argentina earlier this year. "It's not going to be easy because the core group is quite strong and I have to really prove myself in every session and make every opportunity count."

She further expressed that her focus now will be on honing her skills in the camp. "I am not really thinking too much about cementing my place in the senior team. My focus right now is to learn as much as I can from the senior players who have had this great experience of playing in back-to-back Olympics.

"They have so much to share, particularly about playing under pressure and how one must not give up till the last whistle. I also really wanted to train under Jannet Schopman. She is a great player herself and I feel very fortunate to get this opportunity to be coached by her," said Suman.

Harmilan, Aishwarya claim golden doubles in National Open Athletics

Warangal | Agencies

Harmilan Kaur Bains (Punjab) completed the women's middle-distance double while Railway's B. Aishwarya achieved the same feat in women's horizontal jumps at the 60th National Open Athletics Championships at the Jawaharalal Nehru Stadium here on Saturday.

Harmilan added the 800m crown to the 1500m title she won a couple of days earlier here while Aishwarya won the Triple Jump title less than 24 hours after claiming the Long Jump title. To her credit, Aishwarya won both events with the best efforts of the year by an Indian woman jumper. The Railways athlete, who won the Long Jump with a leap of 6.52m, edged out Renu Grewal (Haryana) by 4cm to double her

joy.

Harmilan Kaur Bains, 23, drew on her stamina and speed to show a clean pair of heels to Delhi runner KM Chanda for the fourth successive time this year. The Punjab athlete had won the 800-1500 double in the National Inter-State Championships in Patiala in June and though Chanda employed different tactics here, the Punjab runner was ready and emerged on top.

In a keen battle at the Triple Jump pit, it was Renu Grewal who led the competition at the halfway stage, with an effort with 13.42m on her third attempt to improve on her own season's best effort of 13.39m. Aishwarya, whose best in the first three jumps was a 13.31m, responded with two jumps past that mark, logging 13.49m and 13.55m for a new personal best. Hard as the Haryana jumper tried on her last attempt, she

could only get to 13.51m.

There was joy for Services when its athletes swept all podium places in the men's 800m and the gruelling 50km Race Walk to complete a hat-trick after it send out all three medallists in the men's 3000m Steeplechase on Friday. Mohammed Afsal showed lasting power to edge ahead of Ankesh Chaudhary and Krishan Kumar in the 800m final.

There was more good news for Services camp when Pole Vaulter S Siva improved on his own Meet Record, raising it to 5.12m from the 5.10m that he had cleared in Ranchi in October 2019.

In the Heptathlon contest, Akshatha made light of the 118-point first-day gap with Sowmiya Murugan (Railways) with a good show at the long jump pit where she logged 5.88m. Sowmiya Murugan regained the lead with a 37.32m effort

in Javelin Throw but the Kar'ataka athlete's won the 800m by a 6.63 seconds margin to win the all-rounder's crown with a 46-point margin. Haryana's Sonu Kumari too may have upstaged Sowmiya Murugan had she been able to muster a slightly better distance with the Javelin Throw. She ended up a mere four points behind the Railways all-rounder.

Earlier, Railways' counter-protest against Delhi in the Mixed team 4x400m relay was upheld by the Jury and it was reinstated in the silver medal position behind Tamil Nadu. Railways argued that its third-leg runner, Kiran Pahal, was forced to step inside the kerb as a result of being pushed by Delhi's Pooja soon after they set off on their runs. Delhi returned fourth place.





SHILPA SHETTY ANOTHER CRYPTIC POST, TALKS ABOUT 'NEW ENDINGS'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Shilpa Shetty Kundra uploaded a page from a novel on her Instagram story, leaving followers wondering what it meant. It is the second such post by the actress after the arrest of her husband Raj Kundra in a porn-related case.

The post, uploded on Saturday on her Stories, had a quote from author Carl Bard. It read: "Though no one can go back and make a brand new start, anyone can start from now and make a brand new ending." The page ended with two lines: "I don't have to be defined by things I've done in the past. I can make the future what I want it to be". As a supplementary charge sheet was filed against Raj recently, Shilpa had gone to Vaishno Devi.

Earlier, in August, Shilpa had posted a quote from author Sophia Loren, which read: "Mistakes are part of dues one makes for a full life."

Shilpa celebrated Ganesh Chaturthi with her son Viaan and daughter Samisha a few days back.

'Shershaah' to be screened in inflatable theatre at Himalayan film fest

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The beautiful landscapes of Ladakh are going to witness the first edition of 'The Himalayan Film Festival 2021' (THFF) from September 24 to September 28 as part of the celebrations of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' for commemorating 75 years of India's Independence.

While 'Shershaah' directed by Vishnuvardhan shall be the opening film, Ladakhi film 'Shepherdess of the Glaciers' directed by Christiane Mordelet and Stenzin Dorjai will be the closing film. 'Shershaah' will be screened in the auditorium at the Sindhu Sanskriti Kendra and in Picturetime's inflatable theatre. It is being hosted by the Union Territory of Ladakh.

On Ladakh now experiencing the joys of watching films on the big screen and sharing his thoughts on the upcoming

film festival in Ladakh, Sushil Chaudhary, Founder and CEO, Picturetime asserts: "The theatre we installed last month at the height of 11,562 ft where we screened 'Bellbottom', witnessed a mind boggling response and now we are elated to collaborate with the Administration of UT Ladakh and participate in 'The Himalayan Film Festival', the highest altitude film festival in the world."

Popular films from the Himalayan states viz Assam, Sikkim, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Uttarakhand, Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Ladakh besides Indian panorama selected films will be showcased during the festival.

The festival is being organised in collaboration with the Directorate of Film Festivals under the Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and will be held at the Sindhu Sanskriti Kendra at Leh. The administration of Ladakh has

also collaborated with Picturetime (An inflatable cinema theatre company) to also screen films in one of the Picturetime theatres. There will also be a competition section for short films and documentaries to recognize talented film-makers in the Himalayan region of India.

Tamannaah looks for challenges to expand her range as actor

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Tamannaah Bhatia's recent Telugu release 'Maestro' is drawing appreciation from the audience. Talking about picking the right projects, she says like every artiste, she too likes challenges.

"As an actor, you are always hungry for challenging roles which allow you to expand your range," says the actress, who plays a negative character in the Telugu remake of Bollywood flick 'Andhadhun'.

'Maestro' also stars Nithiin and Nabha Natesh in lead roles. Talking about her role, which was played by Tabu in the Hindi version, the actress says: "With 'Maestro', I had a lot to play with while performing on the set. Because a genre like thriller needs a balance between what you know and what you want your audience to know. Also, a character as twisted as Simran gives you enough fodder to work with. I am ecstatic to know that the audience is loving my interpretation of the character."

Tamannaah will next be seen in the Telugu films 'F3' and 'Gurthunda Seethakalam'.



Renuka Shahane: 'Crime Patrol...'

'Gumraah Bachpan' will help parents spot warning signs among kids

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Well known television and film actor-director, Renuka Shahane, who will anchor 'Crime Patrol Satark: Gumraah Bachpan', says the purpose of the show is to alert parents to look out for warning signs of criminality among children. Shahane told: "My sole purpose as an anchor and a mother of two children is to encourage people to understand what goes on in the minds of teenagers and to recognise the warning signs that can be addressed in time." She adds: "Every episode aims to educate the audience, especially the parents on how they can spot the warning signs and how they can stop their kids from committing such inevitable crimes."

On what she hopes to achieve with this show in terms of changing people's minds, she said: "It's too early for me to say that I'll make a difference. I think I will need some time to even approach the show's level of brilliance. I don't even want to come close to beating that, but I'd like to draw inspiration from previous seasons of the show and at the very least raise awareness among the public by engaging with them."

NEHA KAKKAR SHARES HER TROUBLED JOURNEY TO SUCCESS

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The performance by contestant Anshika and guru Manan, who danced on a medley song including 'Ludo', 'Coca Cola' and 'Yaar Na Mile', has impressed the special guests -- Honey Singh, Neha Kakkar and Tony Kakkar -- in 'Super Dancer Chapter 4'.

Seeing Anshika, Neha shared the story of her journey out of orthodoxy and how her parents helped her break barriers being a girl in the field of singing and entertainment. She said: "Our family used to live in Rishikesh and I was very small, may be four years old, when I started singing. My sister started before me. Currently, Rishikesh has become a lot more advanced, but earlier everyone used to taunt my parents saying 'you make your daughters sing... what kind of a father is he?' But my father worked hard and made sure that the talent his daughters had came out in front of the whole world. We started singing in

'jagrans' and though people found it very difficult to accept the fact that girls are singing, we always had immense support from our parents." Shilpa Shetty Kundra, Geeta Kapur and Anurag Basu, the judges of the dance reality show, also enjoyed the dance moves of Anshika and Manan. Witnessing the performance, Neha was stupefied. She especially congratulated Anshika for bringing 'finesse' to her act and commended Manan for his choreography, saying: "Anshika you nailed it yaar! Manan great job, great job, god bless you, wow!" Honey Singh crowned Anshika with the title 'Dynamite'.

It was Anurag Basu's Kattappa moment as well but, he did not break the cup this time and instead gave the cup, which was full of chocolates, to Anshika, calling her "truly international". Judge Geeta Kapur was also very impressed by the medley performance, calling Anshika the definition of Super Dancer.

Three reasons why Mika is 'jealous' of Badshah

Singer Mika Singh has made some interesting revelations about his bond with Badshah, the special guest in 'Zee Comedy Show'. During a 'Baba ki Darbar' act where Sanket Bhosale enacts Sanjay Dutt's role as a chat show anchor, the former asked Mika, who is also a judge in the show, about three things that make him jealous of Badshah.

To which, Mika jokingly said: "Firstly, I am jealous of the fact that every song he makes becomes a huge hit. Secondly, he is 6 feet tall, which makes me even more jealous. Lastly, I've been a part of the entertainment industry for the last two decades, and I was running at a speed of 100 km/hr. Badshah, on the other hand, ran at 200 km/hr and overtook me. I've worked so hard, came from Punjab till here and he came one day and took over. That's why I am very jealous of Badshah." Reacting to Mika, Badshah said: "This is not true, Mika Paaji is the king. However, having said that, as a kid, I wanted to be the first person to buy a Hummer, but Mika ji bought it first. Also, I wanted to sing a song like 'Something', but he has sung it. That's what makes me jealous of Mika Singh."

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Mouni Roy