Sunday Special

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Fourth Test: Rohit Sharma's ton puts India in control...

Paralympic: Indian contingents remained on top (in different games) at the podium

GOLD, SILVER, BRONZE

- It was double delight for India at the Asaka Shooting Range on Saturday as Manish Narwal and Singhraj won gold and silver respectively as they finished 1-2 in the P4 - Mixed 50m Pistol SH1 at the Tokyo Paralympic Games here.
- Narwal shot a Paralympic record 218 in the final while Singhraj, who had won a bronze medal in the 10m Air Pistol SH1 earlier this week, finished second with a score of 216.7. Sergey Malyshev of the Russian Paralympic Committee (RPC) took bronze with a score of 196.8.

TOKYO | Agencies

The 19-year-old Narwal had qualified seventh while Singhraj was fourth going into the final but both the Indians shot brilliantly, holding their nerves to surge to the top of the list. Narwal is the world record holder in the final, set at Al Ain, UAE, in March this year.

Singhraj, 39, shot into the lead after the first elimination round but Malayshev soon came back to open up a two-point lead as Uzbekistan's Server Ibragimov, who topped the qualifying, Iran's Sareh Javanmardi and Serbia's Zivko Papaz all got eliminated one after another.

Narwal remained calm and composed and shot a couple of 10s to claw back into contention, moving to fifth position with 104.3 points. Singhraj was consistent enough to hold on to the third position.

In the second elimination round, Singhraj and Manish were lurking behind each other in fourth and fifth positions with Malyshev leading followed by two Chinese Lou Xiaolong, and Chao Yang in second and third. However, the tables turned with the Chinese slipping to the fourth and fifth with scores of 7.5 and 8.7 respectively and Indians Narwal and Singhraj taking up third and fourth positions.

Malyshev, who till then was sailing smoothly, buckled under pressure and shot 6.9 and 8.5, and Narwal shot a 10 and Singhraj 9.2 to jump to the top two positions, the Russian settling for bronze.

In the next two shots, Narwal managed 8.4 and 9.1 while Singhraj made 8.5 and 9.4 respectively but that was not enough for him to overtake Narwal and Singhraj had to be satisfied with the silver, his second medal at Tokyo 202.

Haryana announces rewards for 2 Tokyo Paralympics medallists

Chandigarh: Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Saturday announced a reward of Rs six crore and Rs four crore respectively along with government jobs for Manish Narwal for winning gold and Singhraj for taking silver in the mixed 50m pistol event at the Tokyo Paralympic games. Both the medal winners are from Faridabad district in the state. Khattar said as per the state's sports policy, awards, government jobs and other facilities for paralympic players are on par with other sportspersons.

Bhagat wins first gold for India in badminton

Tokyo: Pramod Bhagat became the first badminton player from India to win a gold medal at the Olympics or Paralympic Games, beating Great Britain's Daniel Bathell 2-0 in the Men's Singles SL3 final at the Tokyo Paralympic Games on Saturday.Bhagat, the 33-year-old from Bhubaneswar who contracted polio at age four, defeated the Briton 21-14, 21-17, coming back from 4-9 deficit in the second game to claim his first gold medal as badminton made its Paralympic Games debut at Tokyo. PV Sindhu's silver medal in the 2016 Olympics at Rio de Janeiro was the previous best for India in the Olympics and Paralympics. Sindhu has also won a bronze medal at Tokyo 2020 Olympics last month. Bhagat, the top-ranked player in the world, is the reigning World Champion in SL3 class having won the title by beating Bathell in the final in Basel, Switzerland in 2019.

Manoj Sarkar wins Bronze

Compatriot Manoj Sarkar, who had lost to Bathell in the semifinal, came back strongly to beat Japan's Fujihara Daisuke 2-0 in the bronze medal match. Sarkar, ranked fourth in the world, trailed initially but fought back to win the first game 22-20 in 22 minutes. He then rode the momentum to win the second game 21-13 to win the bronze medal at the Yoyogi National Stadium.

Govt revises NLEM: Slashes prices of 39 common drugs

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has been working for a long time to extend price control on medicines. The Standing National Committee on Medicines was tasked with preparing the list of which medicines should be available in adequate numbers and assured quantity.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Revising the 'National List of Essential Medicines' (NLEM), the central govenrment has slashed the prices of 39 commonly used drugs.

The prices were slashed for the anti-cancer, anti-diabetes, antiviral, antibacterial, anti-retroviral, anti-TB drugs, and also for some that are used in Covid treatment. The experts working on the NLEM list have deleted 16 odd drugs from the list.

The commonly used drugs, which were brought under the price cap includes Teneligliptin -- an anti diabetes drug, popular anti-TB drugs, Ivermectin -- used in Covid treatment, Rotavirus vaccine, among others.

The government had begun an exercise for the revision of the NLEM, which was notified in 2015 and implemented in 2016. It is a departure from the present practice, where all essential medicines automatically go under price control.

The committee headed by Balram Bhargava, Secretary in the Department of Health Research and Director General of the ICMR, send the list to a second committee comprising senior officials from NITI Aayog, Health Secretary and Secretary in the Department of Pharmaceuticals, which decides on which drugs are to be put under the price cap.

Ex-Haryana CM Chautala finally clears Class 10 English paper

Chandigarh: Former Haryana chief minister Om Prakash Chautala scored 88 marks out of 100 in the English paper in the class X exam, the state's Board of School Education said on Saturday.The board announced the results of the supplementary examination.Chautala last month passed the class XII exam but the result was withheld as he hadn't cleared the English paper for class X. He had enrolled in class XII of the board's Open School last year but exams couldn't be held because of the pandemic.

I'm not Tendulkar, the entire team has to work together: CJI

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Chief Justice of India, N.V. Ramana, on Saturday thanked the Centre for clearing the names of nine judges in record six days after they were recommended for elevation to the top court by the collegium, and emphasised that he expects the names of judges for appointment at various high courts are also cleared in the same speed.

The CJI was speaking at a felicitation function organised here by the Bar Council of India. It was attended by Law Minister Kiran Rijiju and several top court judges, days after the appointment of three women judges, including a future woman Chief Justice, and six other judges at one go in the top court. According to the latest data, there are 465 vacancies in the high courts across the country against a total strength of 1,098 judges. On Friday night, the Supreme Court collegium sent as many as 68 names -- the highest at one go -- to the Centre for appointment as judges at 12 high courts. Out of the 68, there are 44 lawyers while 24 are judicial officers. Ten out of the 68 are women. The top court collegium has made the recommendations for the high courts of Allahabad, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Punjab and Haryana, Calcutta, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Gauhati, Karnataka, Madras, Kerala and Jammu and Kashmir. Maximum recommendations have been made for the Allahabad High Court.

The top court collegium has sent the name of Marli Vankung, the first woman judicial officer from Mizoram, for elevation to the Gauhati high court.

"You all gave credit to me for the appointments. But this is not my credit... I am not (Sachin) Tendulkar, the entire team has to work together, only then we will win the match."

Girls with unconventional careers

Archana Sharma | Jaipur

Rajasthan, which was once known for its low sex ratio and lower literacy rate for women, is now making news with its girls winning laurels for the state by earning name and fame while choosing the most unconventional careers, irrespective of whether they were brought up in rural or urban areas of the state.

Avani Lekhara (19) is the latest example. She won the gold medal in women's 10m air rifle standing event in the SH 1 category at the Tokyo Paralympics. She was brought up in a small town Dholpur and had met with an accident due to which her spinal cord was injured.

Avani, wanting to do something different, chose shooting. The accident left her demotivated but the biography of Olympic gold medallist shooter Abhinav Bindra instilled fresh hope in her and she worked hard to add a feather in her cap.

In the same series, 10-year-old athlete Pooja Vishnoi from Guda Vishnoiyan village of Jodhpur was in the news for her six packs which she developed when she was 7. Besides being an athlete, she is a cricketer too and is the only member from Rajasthan in the Virat Kohli Foundation. Pooja recently shot an ad with cricketer Mahendra Singh Dhoni. Presently, she is working hard to bring a medal for India in the next youth Olympics to be held in 2024. The Virat Kohli Foundation manages her sport and diet plan too. She is the youngest member among 16 kids selected by the Foundation.

Another young woman Megha Kapoor is hitting the headlines by being a certified health coach and has clients from Delhi, Mumbai, USA and even Africa while being located at Jaipur.

When young, she was irritated with comments related to body shaming which inspired her to take up this unconventional profession. After somebody at her sister's wedding asked her if she was eating for 2 people, it hurt her and her self-esteem and gave birth to a whole lot of body image issues. She then chose this career and went to London to pursue the course. "Being a female fitness coach means competing in a very male dominated industry in India - not easy but that should never stop us," says this founder of Megha Squad adding "Unfortunately, in India, not many people know about being a certified health coach. However, the COVID pandemic has taught us to take health awareness seriously and act upon it. So, people have started being more conscious of their lifestyle choices when it comes to health and hence the career is now drawing more credence."

Young Covid warriors debunk myths, spread facts on vaccine safety

A young group of Covid warriors in rural Rajasthan is leading the charge to educate and protect their communities to fight the challenge of an infodemic triggered by the misinformation circulated via social media, which has led to instances of vaccine refusal and resistance to following the Covid-19 safety protocols.

- In these tough times, adolescents have stepped forward and are helping in reducing the risk from Covid-19 along with explaining the urgency of working to end the pandemic by getting vaccinated and following Covid appropriate behaviours. This will go a long way to provide strength and encourage everyone to work together at the community level.

Team Absolute | Jaipur

While countering the wave of myths and misinformation around vaccines and promoting social distancing and mask use, these adolescents have been busy providing the locally contextual information. These youngsters are led by the Population Foundation of India's Feminist Adolescent Youth-led Action (FAYA) programme.

Rakesh Parmar, a resident of the Dabella village in Dungarpur district, formed a team with his friends during the lockdown, to provide healthcare support to his community. His team's specific focus was to ensure the availability of health services to young girls and women.

Teena, 17, hails from the Malikheda village, Dungarpur. "During the pandemic, I volunteered and created awareness around the Covid symptoms in my community." Community efforts in adolescents, is a great effort to engage the young ones in civic services.

Rinku, 18, from the Jaal ki Jhonpariyan village in Bundi district, studies in Class 12 and is an active member of the FAYA group. In a nation where female hygiene and anatomy is an unspoken taboo, this initiative sensitises young girls towards a naturally biological process.Also generating awareness around the spread of Covid and motivating community members to wear masks, is 15-year-old Anil, from Bawdi, Tonk, 15-year-old Limka from Talibpura village and 17-year-old Umesh, from Mohammed Nagar of Tonk district.

Portfolio inflows to boost India's forex reserves further

- The value of the country's gold reserves rose by $192 million to $37.441 billion.
- SDR value increased by a whopping $17.866 billion to $19.407 billion.
- The country's reserve position with the IMF rose by $14 million to $5.110 billion.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Healthy portfolio as well as general FDI capital inflows are expected to further boost India's foreign exchange reserves in the coming weeks.

Accordingly, the portfolio equity capital is attracted to India on the prospects of faster economic recovery.

Lately, issuance of green and AT1 bonds by India's corporate as well as banking sector along with FDI flows in general have led to a healthy accrual of forex reserves. Emkay Global Financial Services' Lead Economist Madhavi Arora said, "The reason is optimism over India's accelerated economic recovery and no signs of tapering in the US. This trend is expected to continue." Consequently, India's stock markets attracted over Rs 6,000 crore in just few sessions last week.

The inflow led to a stronger rupee as well as booming equity indices. The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) forex reserves increased to $633.558 billion from $616.895 billion reported for the week ended August 20.

AMIT SHAH'S REMARK ON BOMMAI HAS NOT GONE DOWN WELL WITH PARTY LEADERS

BENGALURU | Agencies

Union Home Minister Amit Shah's statement on winning the next Karnataka assembly elections under the leadership of Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai has not gone down well with senior party leaders.

Former chief minister Jagadish Shettar who refused to join the cabinet of Bommai saying that it hurts his self respect to be under his junior, on Saturday met B.S. Yediyurappa, who recently stepped down from the CM's post to make way for Bommai.

Both leaders discussed for about 30 minutes the developments in the Karnataka BJP. Sources said that both are unhappy with Amit Shah's statement projecting Bommai as the future leader of the party. Those close to them opined that there was no urgency to make such an announcement as there is still time for assembly elections.

Minister for Rural Development and Panchayat Raj K.S. Eshwarappa contradicted the statement of Amit Shah in Shivamogga by stating that

he is for collective leadership in the state."Amit Shah has said that BJP will come to power in the next elections under the leadership of Bommai. I don't know under what circumstances Amit Shah issued those statements. The party is for collective leadership. Bommai will also play a key role," he maintained.

No hurry, can wait till next polls: Vijayendra

Bengaluru: B.Y. Vijayendra, Karnataka BJP Vice President and son of former chief minister B.S. Yediyurappa on Saturday said that he would wait till 2023 as he is not in a hurry to contest elections.

Vijayendra clarified his stand as it was speculated that he would contest in the upcoming by-elections of Sindhagi and Hanagal assembly constituencies. The by-elections are being held due to the death of Sindagi MLA M.C. Managooli and Hangal MLA and former minister C.M. Udasi.

Vijayendra's statement came right after the announcement by Home Minister Amit Shah that party will go to next elections under the leadership of Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai.

President Kovind greets teachers on the eve of Teachers' Day

President Ram Nath Kovind on Saturday greeted teachers across the country on the eve of Teachers' Day.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

In a message, the President said, "Teachers' Day is observed on the birthday of great educationist, philosopher and former President of India, Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan. I extend my warm greetings and best wishes to all the teachers' on the occasion of Teachers' Day.

"Teachers' Day is an occasion when we honour the dedicated services of all the teachers who play a leading role in the intellectual and moral development of our children. In Indian tradition, teachers are placed at the same pedestal as God.

"During the Covid-19 pandemic, the pedagogy adopted by the teachers also underwent a major change. During lockdown, our teachers accepted every challenge associated with the introduction of an online medium of education. They took effective steps to enable uninterrupted education of the students."On this occasion, let us all express our gratitude to the entire teaching community for its invaluable contribution towards building a strong and prosperous nation."In India, Teachers' Day is celebrated annually on September 5 to mark the birthday of the country's former President, scholar, philosopher and Bharat Ratna awardee, Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, who was born on this day in 1888.

After TN and Kerala, now K'taka to ban online gambling

BENGALURU | Agencies

The Karnataka government has decided to impose a ban on online gambling & betting in the state barring lottery and horse racing at Saturday's cabinet meet. The government also announced that it has earmarked Rs 17.7 crore for the purchase of medicines to treat Covid patients.

Minister for Law J.C. Madhuswamy explained that the government will amend the Karnataka Police Act in the upcoming session (Sept 13) to ban online gambling. This has been done as per the directions of the High Court. However, the ban will not include lottery, wagering, betting on horse races, he said.

"The ban includes all forms of wagering or betting including in the form of tokens valued in terms of money paid before or after its issue, electronic means, virtual currency, electronic transfer of funds with any game of chance," Madhuswamy explained.

The government had submitted to the court that it is drafting a bill on banning online betting, gambling in July. Tamil Nadu and Kerala have already banned online gambling. Madhuswamy explained that in order to be ready to face the Covid third wave, the government has allotted Rs 17.7 crore towards the purchase of 50 medicines including Remdesivir. He further said that the cabinet discussed withdrawal of the night curfew in the state. The cabinet gave authority to Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai to take a call after discussing with DC's and SP's of districts and experts, he added.

Missing woman found 6-ft under lover's kitchen

Thiruvananthapuram | Agencies

Thiruvananthapuram: The Kerala Police on Saturday exhumed a woman's mortal remains from a pit dug inside her lover's home in Idukki district after she was reported missing since August 15, said an officer.

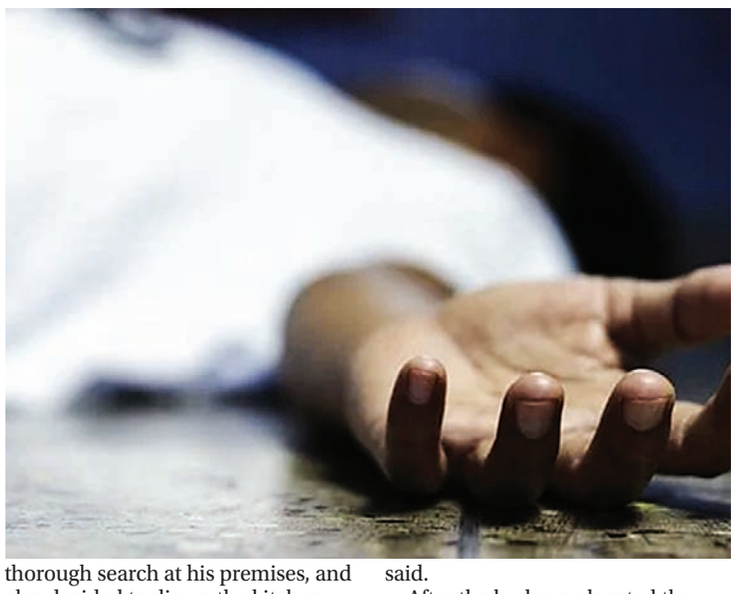
The body that was dug out from the kitchen was identified by her youngest son, who confirmed it to the police.

Sindhu, a mother of three, has been staying with Binoy, her lover, for the past four years after she separated from her husband.

The two along with her 12-year-old son were staying in a very small house near Adimali that belonged to Binoy.

The police and the locals started the search for Sindhu, after her relatives approached the local police and filed a petition that she has been missing since this Independence Day.

Following investigations and after finding that Binoy suddenly too, went missing, on Friday, the police along with the others carried out a thorough search at his premises, and also decided to dig up the kitchen.



Sindhu was found buried in a six feet pit. The crime and the cover-up was carried out with expertise -- this became clear as lot of chilly powder was put in the pit along with the body to distract sniffer dogs, experts said.

After the body was located the police stopped digging and it was on Saturday morning they returned with forensic experts and the body was taken out.

The Idukki police, which is overseeing the operations said that the body will now be taken to the Kottayam Medical College for conducting an autopsy.

Sindhu's relatives said that Binoy on August 10 took her youngest son who stayed with them to his relative's house and came back alone.

On August 11, Sindhu reportedly called her daughter who lives with her father. She complained about being harassed by Binoy.

And after that there was no communication from Sindhu.

On August 14, the youngest son returned to Binoy's house and found his mother missing and the message was passed on to her relatives, who the next day filed the missing complaint.

Even though the police came, they did not give much significance to the statement of her young son, that the kitchen of the house was re-done and they left.

However, things started to move faster, once Binoy went missing. The police decided to dig up the kitchen floor after her relatives raised more doubts. A man hunt is underway for Binoy.

Purging Nehru from Indian history like skipping Ronaldo from football records: Chidambaram

Panaji | Agencies

Wiping out the name of the country's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru from Indian history is akin to skipping Cristiano Ronaldo from the history of football or the Wright brothers from the history of aviation, former Union Finance Minister P. Chidambaram said on Saturday.

Speaking at a Congress meeting in South Goa's Margao town, Chidambaram also said that homogenisation efforts by the BJP-led Central government is the "biggest enemy of India".

"Imagine if the history of football is written, Cristiano Ronaldo will not be there? If the history of motor car is written, Henry Ford will not be there? If the history of aircraft is written, the Wright brothers will not be there? The BJP is attempting to rewrite history. We must stand up against this. And the party which can stand up against this can only be the Congress," Chidambaram said.

The former Union minister said this while referring to a poster released by the Indian Council for Historical Research on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of India's Independence, in which, Chidambaram said, Nehru was missing."And let me warn you. If you allow this trend to continue, they will remove Jawaharlal Nehru chapters from history books. Yes, Sardar Patel is there, and we are happy with that. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad is there, we are happy. But why is Jawaharlal Nehru not there," Chidambaram asked.

The senior Congress leader is currently on a three-day visit to Goa in his capacity as the All India Congress Committee's senior observer in-charge of the 2022 Goa Assembly polls.

Chidambaram also singled out the 'attempts to create a homogenised culture in the country' as one of the biggest threats facing India.

"There are forces in this country who want to homogenise India. One language, one religion, one culture, one food habit. How can we accept that? Not only how should I accept it, but why should

K'TAKA WOMAN RAPED INSIDE HOSTEL, ACCUSED ARRESTED

Mysuru: A 23-year-old was raped by a known person inside a ladies hostel in Mysuru, police said, adding that the accused has been arrested.

The incident took place on Friday and the accused is a driver of a religious study centre. According to the police, the accused after seeing the girl all alone raped and injured her with a knife before escaping.The incident came to light after her hostel mates returned, after which the victim was rushed to the hospital.

The police said that the victim and accused were known to each other.

Law and Order DCP Pradeep Gunti visited the crime scene and police officers collected CCTV footage from surrounding areas. They also recorded statements by the victim's friends and hostel mates.

Nitish Kumar reacts casually to his MLA's behaviour in train

PATNA | Agencies

Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar on Saturday reacted casually to the alleged indecent behaviour of his party's legislator Gopal Mandal.

Gopal Mandal, the JD-U MLA from Gopalpur in Bhagalpur district, was walking in his undergarment in the AC First Class compartment of the Patna-New Delhi Tejas Rajdhani Express on September 2. He was also allegedly involved in arguments with fellow passengers after the latter objected to his behaviour.

An FIR has been registered against Gopal Mandal by the Government Railway Police at New Delhi railway station.

When reporters asked Nitish Kumar about what action is being taken against Gopal Mandal for his behaviour, he said: "These things keep happening. The investigation is underway. (E Sab To Hota Hi Rahta Hai. Jaanch Bhi Ho Hi Raha Hai)." He said this while laying the foundation stone of a double decker flyover on Patna's heavily congested Ashok Rajpath road.

The RJD and the LJP have slammed Gopal Mandal for walking in his undergarment in a train. RJD spokesperson Chitranjan Gagan said: "The indecent behaviour of the MLA has tarnished the image of Bihar. It is because of such leaders, people of other states mock us."

"We have to maintain the dignity of the place we are living in. There is some decorum that we have to follow as there are women, children and elderly people around. The behaviour of that MLA was comdemnable. Nitish Kumar should take action against him," said Chirag Paswan during his Ashirwad Yatra in Arrah.

GOA ON ALERT OVER HEAVY RAIN WARNING IN NEXT 48 HOURS: CM

Panaji: The Goa administration has been put on high alert amid a warning issued by the India Meteorological Department about heavy rainfall in the state over the next 48 hours, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant tweeted late on Saturday.

"In view of the warning issued by the IMD, Goa, regarding Heavy Rainfall in the state over next 48 hours, I have directed the state administration to be on high alert & to immediately spring into action for taking all precautionary measures and prepare for the oncoming showers," Sawant tweeted. Goa had been previously paralysed for several days due to heavy winds and rain which accompanied Cyclone Tauktae, which led to a loss of Rs 148 crore in the state due to damage to property.

AAP says people of Punjab want development like Delhi

Chandigarh | Agencies

Responding to the survey conducted by ABP-C-Voter with a focus on Punjab's 2022 elections, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Saturday said the people of Punjab were upset over the non-fulfilment of promises made by Chief Minister Amarinder Singh during 2017 elections and would give a befitting reply in 2022 by forming the AAP government in the state.

The party states, "Impressed by the work done by the Arvind Kejriwal-led Delhi government for the welfare of the people, people of Punjab want to form AAP government in order to develop the state as has been done by AAP in Delhi."

In a statement here, AAP state co-incharge Raghav Chadha said the contemporary political leaders of Punjab have left no stone unturned to shatter the mission and vision of the martyrs who laid down their lives for the betterment of the nation and the state.

As a part of well-planned conspiracy, while the leaders filled their coffers, the youth of Punjab got addicted to drugs.

Criticizing the Congress government, Chadha said the Amarinder government had not fulfilled any of its promises in the last four years.He said before the elections Amarinder Singh had taken an oath and said that drug addiction would be eradicated in four weeks but he has categorically backtracked from his statement.Besides, the Chief Minister had said after the formation of the Congress government in Punjab all sorts of mafia will be wiped out, employment will be provided to every household, electricity prices will be reduced and drugs will be eradicated, none of the promises that were made have been fulfilled.

For Generation Ace

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"Love thy neighbor as thyself because you are your neighbor. It is illusion that makes you think that your neighbor is someone other than yourself."

Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan

NO SERIOUS HEALTH EFFECTS LINKED TO MRNA COVID VACCINES

- *The analyses compared specific health events among all Covid-19 mRNA-vaccinated people during the first 3 weeks after inoculation with health events among similar types of patients during the 3 to 6 weeks after mRNA vaccination.*
- *The total number of people evaluated was 6.2 million for the first dose of either mRNA vaccine and 5.7 million for the second dose.*
- *Outcomes tracked included neurological disorders such as encephalitis and myelitis, seizures, and Guillain-Barre syndrome; cardiovascular problems such as acute myocardial infarction, stroke, and pulmonary embolism; and others such as Bell's palsy, appendicitis, anaphylaxis, and multisystem inflammatory syndrome.*

NEW YORK | Agencies

A team of researchers combining the health records of 6.2 million patients found no serious health effects that could be linked to the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna mRNA Covid-19 vaccines.

The study, published in the journal JAMA, indicates mRNA Covid-19 vaccines were not associated with significantly higher rates of 23 serious adverse events. "The world is relying on safe and effective vaccines to bring an end to the Covid-19 pandemic. The Vaccine Safety Datalink is ideally suited to carry out this important surveillance and we will continue to monitor the safety of all vaccines that protect against Covid-19," lead author Nicola Klein, from the Kaiser Permanente.The Vaccine Safety Datalink (VSD) is an ongoing collaboration between US health plans and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The study reported findings from mid-December 2020 through June 26, 2021.The study authors highlighted their findings about cases of confirmed myocarditis and pericarditis among young individuals, as that has become an outcome of a concern.

ADMINISTER 2ND DOSE TO ELIGIBLE PERSONS: CENTRE

New Delhi: The Centre has asked the states to quickly saturate the first dose coverage among the 18+ population. In a review meeting with the north-east and hill states on Saturday, health secretary Rajesh Bhushan told the states to saturate the 18+ age group with the 1st dose and focus on the 60+ age group and administer the 2nd dose to those eligible.

The Centre asked the states to closely monitor the stock from State Vaccine Stores to Cold Chain Point, check rational distribution and restrict vaccine wastage to below 2%. They should update data on eVIN on a daily basis, check supply of other denomination syringes as per availability (0.5 ml/1ml/2 ml/3ml Auto Disable/Re-use Prevention Syringes/Disposable) for Covid vaccination.

Meanwhile, India continues to report a higher number of daily Covid cases. A total of 42,618 new Covid cases were reported in the last 24 hours, pushing the total tally to 3,29,45,907. In the same duration, 330 deaths were reported across the country.

'LACK OF GLOBAL STANDARDS KEY BARRIER TO IMPLEMENT COVID CERTIFICATES'

London: The lack of global standards for Covid-19 certificates is a key barrier to their successful implementation around the world, a new report has warned.

Experts have called for widely-accepted international standards for documentation that records Covid-19 vaccination and health status, although implementing them quickly will be difficult.

The report emphasised that Covid-19 health status certificates should be available to all, not only those with high levels of digital literacy but highlighted the risks of fraud associated with paper-based certificates.

The researchers call for policymakers to ensure coronavirus health status certificate providers abide by basic data protection principles, including lawfulness, fairness and transparency, purpose limitation, data minimisation, accuracy, storage limitation, integrity and confidentiality and accountability.

It identifies three key barriers to implementation -- lack of trust, lack of global standards and lack of a holistic approach.

BENGALURU NURSING COLLEGE SEALED AFTER IT REPORTED 34 CASES

Bengaluru: The Karnataka government has sealed the nursing college in Horamavu, Bengaluru where 34 cases of Covid infections were reported. The decision was taken to conduct Covid tests for people living in surrounding areas. After a nursing college in KGF was found with Covid positive cases, Christian Nursing College in Horamavu reported 34 cases of infections. Infected students have been shifted to Covid Care Centres for isolation. College will be shut for 7-8 days and then testing will be conducted again. The area has been declared as micro containment zone and 700-800 residents around the college will be tested as a precautionary measure, the minister said, said Health and Medical Education Minister K. Sudhakar.

AERIAL FIRING BY TALIBAN CLAIMS AS MANY AS 70 LIVES

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Taliban fighters on Friday night opened gunshots in the air across the country, which killed over 70 people around Afghanistan, and the numbers may be higher due to the absence of reports from the provinces.An emergency hospital in Kabul has that confirmed that 17 bodies and 40 wounded people were rushed to the hospital on Friday night, Khaama News reported. Unconfirmed reports from Jalalabad in Nangarhar province said that 17 people have been killed or wounded in Friday night's gunshots. The Taliban officials, meanwhile, condemned the gunshots and warned of tough repercussions in case repeated. The head of the military commission and son of the founder of the Taliban, Mullah Yaqoob Mujahid, said that Panjshir province has not been taken and no one is allowed to shoot in the air. He added that the culprits will be arrested and disarmed if the aerial shots are repeated again.

WILL NEVER GIVE UP: AHMAD MASSOUD

New Delhi: Leader of the anti-Taliban resistance forces in Panjshir province, Ahmad Massoud has said that he will never stop his resistance for the sake of God, justice, and freedom. Massoud said that the resistance in Panjshir and protest for the rights of women by women in Afghanistan indicate that people never give up when it comes to standing for their legitimate rights, Khaama News reported. On Friday night, the war in Panhshir province intensified and there were reports of its collapse which were then denied.

Centre signs Karbi peace pact with 6 militant groups of Assam

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on Saturday signed a tripartite 'Karbi Peace Accord' here bringing to an end the decades long agitation and unrest in Assam.

The peace agreement was signed in the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal and representatives of the six Karbi outfits.

The militants groups are People's Democratic Council of Karbi Longri (PDCK), Karbi Longri NC Hills Liberation Front (KLNLF), Karbi People's Liberation Tiger (KPLT), Kuki Liberation Front (KLF) and United People's Liberation Army (UPLA).

Describing the agreement as historic, the Union Home Minister Amit Shah said, "By signing the Historic Karbi Anglong Agreement, the government is committed to resolving the decades-old crisis, ensuring the territorial integrity of Assam".Assam Chief Minister meanwhile said the Karbi Anglong agitation had as much mass support as the Assam agitation, and lauded the peace accord being signed.The Karbi peace pact will ensure greater devolution of autonomy to the Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (CAAC), protection of identity, language, culture of Karbi people and focussed development of the Council area, without affecting the territorial and administrative integrity of Assam.

The Karbi armed groups have agreed to abjure violence and join the peaceful democratic process as established by law of the land. The Agreement also provides for rehabilitation of cadres of the armed groups. The Government of Assam shall set up a Karbi Welfare Council for focussed development of Karbi people living outside KAAC area. The Consolidated Fund of the State will be augmented to supplement the resources of KAAC and the present settlement will give more legislative, executive, administrative and financial powers to KAAC.

RPI TO PROPOSE 'ONE CHILD POLICY' BILL

Gandhinagar: Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, Ramdas Athawale-led Republican Party of India (RPI) on Saturday said it will put up a proposal before Prime Minister Narendra Modi soon to bring a law on 'One family, one child' to check the increasing population of the country.

"Rising population is a thing of worry for our country. If we want to develop our country then our population needs to be brought down. Earlier there was a slogan 'Hum Do, Humare Do' for family planning. But it is our party's view that now it should be 'Hum Do, Humara Ek'," Athawale told the media in Ahmedabad.

Seven arrested for irregularities in on-going JEE examination

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Central Bureau of Investigation has arrested seven people, including two directors and four employees of a private company, in its investigation on allegations of committing irregularities in the ongoing JEE (Main) Examination-2021.

Three of the arrested were produced before a Delhi court and sent to police custody till September 9.

Six of the arrested accused -- Siddarth Krishna, Vishambhar Mani Triapthi, Ritik Singh, Anjum Dawoodani, Animesh Kumar Singh, and Ajinkya Narhari Patil - are from Affinity Education Private Ltd. One accused has been identified as Ranjeet Singh Thakur.

It was alleged that the said company and its Directors were manipulating the online examination of JEE (Mains) and facilitating aspiring students to get admission in top NITs in consideration of huge amount by solving the question paper of the applicant through remote access from a chosen examination centre in Sonepat (Haryana).

It was also alleged that the accused used to obtain Class 10 and 12 mark sheets, the user IDs, passwords, and post-dated cheques of aspiring students in different parts of country as security and once admission was done, they used to collect heavy amount ranging from Rs 12 to Rs 15 lakh per candidate.

Searches were conducted at 19 places including at Delhi and NCR, Pune, Jamshedpur, Indore, and Bengaluru which led to recovery of voluminous incriminating documents and devices.

ANOTHER BJP MLA, FOURTH SO FAR, RETURNS TO TRINAMOOL

Kolkata: On a day when the Election Commission announced the bypolls in Bhowanipur from where Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee will seek to get elected to the West Bengal Assembly, the Trinamool Congress received a boost with another BJP MLA joining the ruling party on Saturday, taking the tally of saffron party MLAs joining the Trinamool camp to four.

Kaliaganj MLA Soumen Roy on Saturday joined the Trinamool Congress in Kolkata in the presence of state minister and party leader Partha Chatterjee.

Justifying his return to the party, Roy said, "I had to contest from Kaliaganj on a BJP ticket due to some circumstances. But my soul and heart belong to Trinamool. I joined the party again to support Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's efforts. I apologise to the party for the time I was not with it."

Ever since the Trinamool swept the polls to retain power in West Bengal, many leaders who had switched to the BJP from the Trinamool camp before the Assembly polls have returned to the party.

43.8 percent feel their life and country are both in 'poor state'

- **THE SURVEY FOUND THAT OVERALL, 13.3 PER CENT SAID THE 'COUNTRY IS MOVING FORWARD BUT NOT MY LIFE', 29.3 PER CENT SAID THE 'COUNTRY IS MOVING FORWARD AND MY LIFE TOO', WHILE 5 PER CENT SAID THAT 'LIFE IS IMPROVING BUT THE COUNTRY IS IN POOR STATE'.**

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A total of 43.8 per cent respondents in the ABP-CVOTER-IANS BATTLE FOR THE STATES - WAVE 1 survey feel that their 'life and the country both are in a poor state'. The survey was conducted in the five states that will go to the polls next year -- Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Goa and Manipur.In the 'country is moving forward but not my life' category, 23.3 per cent respondents are from Manipur, followed by 11.2 per cent from UP, 11.1 per cent from Uttarakhand, 7 per cent from Goa and 2.8 per cent from Punjab.In the 'country is moving forward and my life too' section, Goa tops with 40.5 per cent, followed by Uttarakhand at 36.8 per cent, UP at 31.4 per cent, Manipur at 27.2 per cent and Punjab at 10.5 per cent.

In the 'my life is improving but the country is in poor state' category, 11.8 per cent respondents are from Manipur, 8 per cent from Punjab, 6.3 per cent from Uttarakhand, 4.1 per cent from UP, and 2 per cent from Goa.In the 'my life and country both are in a poor state' section, Punjab has highest number of respondents at 75 per cent, followed by 49.6 per cent in UP, 44.5 per cent in Goa, 43.9 per cent in Uttarakhand and 33.3 per cent in Manipur.The overall sample size for the survey was 81,006 in five states covering 690 Assembly seats. This state poll is part of the largest and definitive independent sample survey tracker series carried out in India over the last 22 years, conducted by independent international polling agency CVoter.

EC announces bypoll for Mamata on September 30

Kolkata | Agencies

After much speculation, the Election Commission of India announced the date for the bye-elections in Bhabanipur and elections in two other assembly constituencies - Samsergunj and Jangipur in Murshidabad district on Saturday. The elections in these three constituencies will be held on September 30 and counting will be held on October 3.

The elections in Samsergunj and Jangipur were withheld because of the death of the candidates before polls during the recently concluded assembly election in West Bengal. On the other hand, a bye-election in Bhabanipur assembly constituency is scheduled because the existing MLA Sovondeb Chattopadhyay resigned to make room for chief minister Mamata Banerjee.

Banerjee lost to the Leader of Opposition Suvendu Adhiakri in Nandigram in the recently concluded polls and is still not an elected member of the legislative body.

Pune plot case:

KHADSE, KIN IN FRESH TROUBLE AFTER ED FILES CHARGESHEET

Team Absolute | Mumbai

There was fresh trouble for senior Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Eknath Khadse after the Enforcement Directorate (ED) filed a chargesheet in the Pune MIDC plot case, officials said here on Saturday.

The ED has named Khadse, his wife Mandakini, son-in-law Girish Chaudhary, a former government sub-registrar Ravindra Muley and a realtor Benchmark Buildcon Pvt. Ltd., in the deal that was effected in 2016.

Earlier in April 2017, the state Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) had lodged a case against Khadse following a complaint by an activist Hemant Gawande who claimed irregularities in the Bhosari MIDC land deal which led to a huge loss to the exchequer.

The complainant contended that when Khadse was the Revenue Minister in the erstwhile Bharatiya Janata Party-led government, he had allegedly pressurized government officials to clear the land deal.

While Khadse was forced to quit as minister in June 2016, a judicial commission headed by retired Justice Dinkar Zoting was set up to probe the matter.

After the ACB case, the ED lodged a complaint and summoned Khadse and others in December 2020, while his son-in-law Chaudhary was arrested in July. The central agency also questioned other officials involved in the controversial transactions.

The ED said that the land sale deed was executed in the name of Mandakini Khadse and Chaudhary at Rs 3.75 crore by the owner Abbas Aqani, and the amount was much lower than the prevailing market valuation of over Rs 31 crore.

The transaction was intended to get compensation of thrice the market rate of the plot from the MIDC for which Khadse allegedly misused his powers as a minister.

The ED probe also said that they allegedly used Benchmark Buildcon Pvt. Ltd to launder Rs 2 crore to Chaudhary and it found several shell companies used to route the funds. Later, the ED attached assets, properties and bank accounts of the Khadse couple and Chaudhari, in Pune and Jalgaon districts.

Khadse was summoned and questioned by the ED in January and July, but his wife has skipped the summonses on health grounds.

Meanwhile, after remaining in the political wilderness for over six years, Khadse joined the NCP in October, 2020.

Maha factory blast:

1 killed, 1 missing, 6 injured

At least one factory worker was killed, another missing while six others were injured when an explosion ripped through a textile unit in the Boisar MIDC area followed by a huge blaze, police said here on Saturday.

Team Absolute | Palghar

The incident occurred around 5.30 a.m. at the Jakharia Fabrics Pvt. Ltd. when a handful of night-shift workers were on duty, said Boisar MIDC Police Station Senior Inspector Suresh Kadam.

The massive blast, followed by a raging fire reportedly ripped through the boiler room of the two-decades-old company manufacturing blended polyester cotton, viscose fabrics, yarn dyeing, cotton linen, fabric yarn processing and other products.

At least one worker was killed, one more said to be missing and six more injured in the tragedy.

Police teams along with three fire tenders from Boisar rushed to the scene and doused the flames in an hour, according to the fire brigade officials.

The Directorate of Industrial Safety and Health has sent a team to join the probe, while the police have summoned the company's top executives from Bhiwandi (Thane) for enquiries.

The injured are identified as: Ganesh Patil, Arvind Yadav, Murali Gautam, Amit Yadav, Umesh Rajwanshi and Mukesh Yadav and they have been rushed to a private hospital for treating their burns.

The body of the deceased worker -- whose identity is yet to be established, has been sent for an autopsy to Palghar, and further probe is on, said Kadam.

Water department finds pollutants in 291 samples collected in Raigad

The department had collected samples from all talukas to keep a check on illnesses caused due to polluted water in the region: Official

Team Absolute | Raigad

At least 291 out of 4,640 water samples collected in Maharashtra's Raigad district were found to be polluted, an official from the local administration said on Saturday.

The water department of the Raigad Zilla Parishad had collected samples from all talukas to keep a check on illnesses caused due to polluted water in the region, the official said.

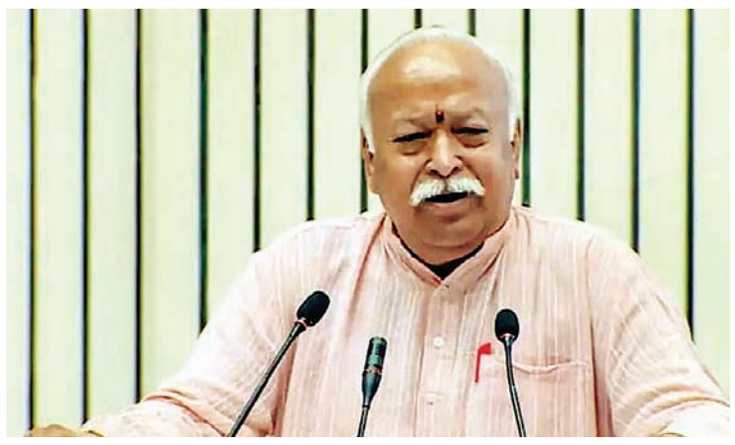
Out of the 4,640 water samples collected by the department, 291 were found to be polluted, he said, adding that the samples were sent to a district-level laboratory and five other taluka-level testing facilities.

At least 125 samples from Karjat were found to be polluted, which is the highest, while pollutants were detected in two samples each from Uran, Roha and Poladpur talukas, the official said.

No pollutants were found in water samples from Murud, Tala, Mhasala and Shrivardhan, he said.

Assembly polls, Taliban likely to be discussed in RSS meeting

Team Absolute | Nagpur



A two-day meeting of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) has commenced in Nagpur in which the assembly elections in several states next, current issues of the country and the world including the Taliban takeover in Afghanistan would be discussed.

The meeting is being held in the presence of more than three dozen affiliated organisations of RSS and top BJP functionaries.

The main agenda of this meeting -- on September 3 and 4 -- is to "achieve all the goals by improving the mutual coordination between all the affiliated organisations of the Sangh".

In this meeting led by Sangh's Sarsanghchalak Dr. Mohan Bhagwat, Sahakaryavah Dattatreya Hosabale, the strategy of the Sangh and its affiliated organizations in the next year's Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Gujarat and Goa assembly elections is likely to be drawn.

An appeal could be made to all the affiliated organizations to extend proper cooperation to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in these elections.

Also, the farmers' agitation against the Centre's newly passed farm laws has been going on in the country for a long time. The impact of this movement is being felt in areas dominated by farmer leaders in Punjab, Haryana and western Uttar Pradesh. In such a scenario, the issues related to farmers are also likely to be discussed.

The biggest concern of the RSS is the assembly polls in Uttar Pradesh, the country's largest state. Therefore, two provincial level coordination meetings have already been held in Lucknow.

Nagpur-based RSS ideologue Dilip Deodhar told reporter: "The coordination meeting of the Sangh in Nagpur is very important."

On the other hand, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh's Akhil Bharatiya Prachar Pramukh Sunil Ambekar said in a statement issued in connection with the meeting, "In Nagpur, a small general informal coordination meeting of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh is being held on 3-4 September 2021. The meeting includes some national level officials of the Sangh and some different organisations like Vishwa Hindu Parishad, Vidyarthi Parishad, Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh among others."

Solution for OBC quota in sight

All-party meeting agrees for asking state backward class commission to collect empirical data even as some ruling partners are hell-bent on asking information from Centre

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A week after they met to find a solution to restoring the OBC reservation in local bodies, major political parties in the state deliberated on the issue again on Friday. A difference of opinion persisted this time as well, with some hell-bent on asking the Centre for the empirical data. They were, however, also in agreement with the majority view that the state's backward class commission (BCC) should also be asked to collect the data required as early as possible to reinstate the reservation.

There was unanimity on postponing the elections, scheduled for February next and throughout 2022, if the quota wasn't restored. But, since the state government can recommend to the state election commission only in exceptional cases, and the absence of OBC quota isn't a formidable excuse that can be given to delay the elections, the COVID-19 situation is most likely to be a strong reason to postpone the polls till the data comes in, either from the Centre or BCC. Mumbai, Thane, Pune and Nagpur are among the big-ticket civic corporations that are scheduled to go to the polls next February. Almost two-thirds of the state's zilla parishad and panchayat samiti bodies and a host of small- and medium-size city municipal councils will also elect new members. In addition, some municipal bodies that could not have polls in 2020 and 2021 because of the pandemic will be part of a mega exercise that assumes the significance of mini assembly polls. The stakes are very high for all parties, especially the ruling trio. The OBC quota was quashed earlier this year by the Supreme Court, which wants the state to do certain things before allowing it to be restored. The order was in a case related to five districts where the 28 per cent quota for the OBCs was disproportionate to their population. The SC had stated that the total reservation cannot exceed 50 per cent and directed the state to conduct the triple test.

The chief minister's office said in a statement that it was decided unanimously to direct the backward class commission to prepare empirical data at the earliest, after seeking Advocate General's advice. "It was also decided to postpone the polls if the data and BCC's report are delayed."

Drama theaters, auditoriums, other cultural programmes to resume in state from November

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Drama theatres and Auditoriums and other cultural programmes could resume in Maharashtra from November, as Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray has given in principle approval to open the drama theatres from 5th of November. Similarly, Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar has said that the State Government will not increase the restrictions during the upcoming festive season, but may come out with harsh decisions on the very next day if any violation of COVID-19 protocol is seen anywhere in the state.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray has given in principal approval to open the drama theatres and auditoriums and resume the cultural programmes from November 5 in the backdrop of the improving situation in the state. A delegation of Marathi theatre personalities and producers met him in Mumbai yesterday and sought permission to reopen the drama theatres. While considering their demand he gave in principal approval and made it clear that he will be compelled to impose lockdown if the oxygen demand crosses beyond 700 metric tonnes in the state. Speaking in another meeting Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar also gave the similar assurance of not imposing strict restrictions during Ganesh Festival in the state. But at the same time appealed the people to avoid crowding and issued stern warning of imposing strict restrictions immediately after the violation of COVID Appropriate Behaviour. He said that people should not forget that the global pandemic has not ended yet and they will have to follow the COVID- 19 protocols keeping this in mind.

CISF CYCLE RALLY REACHES AGA KHAN PALACE

Mumbai: In Maharashtra, the cycle rally of Central Industrial Security Force, which started from Yerwada Jail in Pune in the morning, reached the historic Aga Khan Palace this afternoon. This rally, being held as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, was flagged off by CISF Additional Director General of Southern Zone Anil Kumar. Earlier, a cultural programme was organized in front of Yerwada Jail from where the rally started. Yerwada Jail is the place where historic Poona Pact was signed when Mahatma Gandhi fasted to protest against the communal award. This place has been used as a prison by Britishers for Mahatma Gandhi, Kasturba Gandhi and Mahadeobhai Desai during the 'Quit India Movement'. Marble memorials were put later on in the memory of Kasturba and Mahadeobhai as both of them breathed their last in this place.Along the 1,703-km-long route, the rally will cover historically significant spots and birthplaces of heroes of India's freedom struggle, over a period of 27 days. A team of 12 CISF cyclists are participating in the rally led by an Assistant Sub Inspector.

COVID-19:

Maharashtra cumulative vaccination tally crosses 6.15 crore

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In the ongoing vaccination drive, Maharashtra on September 3 has vaccinated 7,24,505 in 3,533 sessions.

According to data released by the government, Maharashtra, as of 7 am on September 4, inoculated 6,15,16,137 people.

As per the state government data, 2,04,15,180 individuals aged between 18 and 44 years received their first vaccine dose and 25,15,560 received their second dose since the inoculation drive for this age group began on May 1.

So far, 12,92,670 health care workers have been administered the first dose of the vaccine, while 10,07,964 of them have got their second dose.

Similarly, 21,40,648 frontline workers in the state have till now received their first vaccine dose and of them, 15,14,391 got their second dose. Meanwhile, Maharashtra on Friday reported 4,313 new coronavirus infections and 92 fatalities, which pushed the caseload to 64,77,987 and death toll to 1,37,643, the state health department said. Pune region recorded the highest 35 deaths during the day. As many as 4,360 patients recovered from the viral infection, taking the total of recovered patients to 62,86,345. There are now 50,466 active coronavirus cases in Maharashtra. The state's case recovery rate stands at 97.04 per cent while the fatality rate is 2.12 per cent.

'No one needs to panic': Cops amid evacuations at Mumbai airport as flyers fume

Amid the mock drill, several flyers complained of chaos and alleged that Covid-19 protocols were flouted during the process.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Mumbai airport's Terminal 2 was evacuated on Saturday morning for a mock drill, police said, urging people not to panic as several photographs on social media showed passengers being moved out of the area. "A mock drill is being conducted at Mumbai international airport. No one needs to panic," an official of the Mumbai Police told media persons. Even as authorities assured that the mock drill was not expected to affect the flight schedule, several passengers did not know about the evacuation process. Later, officials at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) said they conducted a "simulated mock drill exercise as per scheduled security protocols." "The mock drill was held this morning at Terminal 2 location in collaboration with (the) CSMIA's multiple stakeholders," CSMIA said on Twitter. "After all successful assessments and checks, the terminal was continued to be declared safe with the drill completed at 11:48 hours," it said.

Several passengers, including television show consultant Siddhartha Basu and journalist Cyrus Dhabhar, said the Mumbai airport evacuation led to chaos and alleged that Covid-19 protocols were flouted during the process. "

100 PC ELIGIBLE PERSONS SHOULD GET FIRST DOSE OF VACCINE BY SEPTEMBER: CM CHOUHAN

Vaccination Mega Campaign in the state on PM Modi's birthday on September 17, Chief Minister Chouhan reviews Corona control and arrangements

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said that 100 percent population that has not been able to get the first dose should be vaccinated by the end of September. A Vaccination Maha Abhiyan is being launched in the state on the birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on September 17. Chief Minister Chouhan said that vaccination work must continue at the same pace, so that the citizens get the first dose along with the second dose on time.

Chief Minister Chouhan was reviewing the situation and arrangements of Corona in the state at Mantralaya. Medical Education Minister Vishwas Sarang, Chief Secretary Iqbal Singh Bains, Director General of Police Vivek Johri, Health Commissioner Akash Tripathi, Public Relations Commissioner Dr. Sudam Khade and other officers were present in the meeting. Ministers from different districts also participated in the meeting through video conference.

Chief Minister Chouhan said that the report of positive cases of Corona in some districts of the state is a sign that we should become cautious. Public awareness activities should be carried out constantly and people should be made aware and alert about Corona infection. Any person who has any health related problem, should go for a check up at the hospital. Positive cases coming up in the districts every day must be monitored.

Chief Minister said that the members of the Crisis Management Group and the Minister-in-Charge should continue to interact with each other and take stock of the Corona situation. This should be taken as an alarm bell and everyone should become careful. Chouhan also discussed with Sagar and Jabalpur collectors and got information regarding positive cases reported in their districts. Chouhan said that along with daily monitoring, contact tracing should also be done so that the spread of infection can be prevented by implementing necessary measures.

'CORONA SE DARO NA, ISE HAI HARANA'

Bhopal : Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan was presented a booklet Corona-19 'Corona se daro na, ise hai darana' by Dr. A.K. Choudhary. In this booklet, detailed information has been given regarding the symptoms of Corona, measures to prevent its spread, Covid-19 appropriate behaviour, Parivartan Abhiyan and major drugs used for treatment after infection. Chief Minister Chouhan said that there is a need to educate the public constantly on this subject. Therefore publication of such books is commendable.

Archbishop congratulates the teachers of the nation

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Archbishop Leo Cornelio congratulated all the teachers and the staff of all the education institutions for their noble task of moulding and shaping the future India in their respective classrooms on the occasion of "Teachers Day". The teacher is that important link in the society which sows the seeds of nation-building among the children. Teachers and students live every day in an environment where there is constant interaction between them.

The teachers are held in high esteem for their commitment to uphold the human values like peace, justice and equality of all humans through their day to day interaction with the students of 21st century. It is said that - a teacher's income increases with increase in knowledge and prosperity of people and nation. That's why we should be proud of all dedicated teachers who sacrifice their time and energy for the building up of human society.

However, in the prevailing circumstances, face-to-face communication is not possible while online communication has become the new normal. All the same, this does not have the same effect as in the classroom. Nevertheless, all the people associated with the education world are worthy of being congratulated for their learning skills and their herculean efforts to ensure that the education of the children is not unduly affected. Some states have gradually started opening schools beginning with higher classes. Here also the role of teachers becomes important since they have to accomplish their teachership while, at the same time, keeping in mind their own safety and of their students.

"We need teachers of good will and ethics to ignite the young minds of our country, or else the backbone of our nation would be easily destroyed because our nation is in need of youth with good character and positive values".

Chief Minister Chouhan plants Neem sapling in Smart Udyan

Bhopal : Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan today planted a Neem sapling in Smart City Udyan. Chouhan plants saplings every day as a part of his resolve. Former MLA of Alirajpur Nagar Singh Chouhan was also present on this occasion. Rich in antibiotic elements, Neem is known to be the best medicine. Neem may be bitter in taste, but its benefits are like nectar.

DEMAND OF RIGHTS

People in capital raised their voice against the mismanagement and lack of basic facilities. Notably, city is still in deficit of full quota of rain but most of the roads the state's capital are in worst condition. Almost all the major roads are covered with big potholes.

Governor and CM extends greetings on Teachers' Day

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Governor Mangubhai Patel and Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has greeted and extended best wishes to all teachers on the occasion of Teachers' Day. They appreciated their efforts to keep the education system smooth and for their dedication towards social responsibilities during the Covid period.

Governor Mangubhai Patel in his congratulatory message said that the place of Guru has always been highest in Indian culture. This is the glorious identity of Indian culture. Our teachers have a major role in imparting knowledge and skills from generation to generation. In view of their contribution to the nation's prosperity, Teachers' Day is celebrated as a mark of respect to them all over the country.

Chief Minister Chouhan said that even during the Corona period, the teachers did the work of educating, training the students through virtual classes. The role of teachers during this period was commendable.

CM PAYS TRIBUTE TO DADABHAI NAOROJI ON HIS BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

Bhopal : Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan paid tributes to Dadabhai Naoroji, popularly known as The Grand Old Man of India, on his birth anniversary. Chouhan garlanded the picture of Dadabhai Naoroji at his residence.

Dadabhai Naoroji made a significant contribution for India's independence. He is counted as one of the founders of political and social leadership in India. He pointed out the evils of colonial administration. He was an intellectual, educationist, economist, staunch nationalist, social reformer and teacher. Dadabhai Naoroji played a major role in the establishment of several organizations such as the Royal Asiatic Society of Bombay and the East Indian Association in London. He was the first Indian to be a member of the British Parliament. He served as Member of Parliament in the United Kingdom, the House of Commons as a member of the Liberal Party. Dadabhai Noroji died on June 30, 1917.

All facilities to new industrial investment proposals in state

Team Absolute | Bhopal

While encouraging new investment proposals in the state, necessary facilities are being provided by the state government. The proposals received recently for investment in the fields of textile, food processing, logistics, health and education are being examined. Office bearers of Earn India Manufacturing, Hindustan Petroleum, Avigna Private Limited, Sagar Group and Vihaan Enterprises have met Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan this week with the investment proposals.

Chief Minister Chouhan has assured the investors that all necessary facilities including land will be provided to them by the state government. It is the right of the investors to avail the concessions given under the Industrial Policy. In view of the need to generate a large number of jobs after the Corona era, new investments will be given a lot of encouragement. Efforts are also being made to attract industrialists from other countries, especially from China etc. to India.

In this sequence, last month the CEO of Earn India Manufacturing has also met Chief Minister Chouhan and apprised him about the intention of setting up a unit of LED lights and smart home products costing Rs. 200 crore. A proposal has been made by Hindustan Petroleum to support the establishment of Cancer Specialty Hospital at Hoshangabad with a capital expenditure of Rs. 400 crores. Vihaan Enterprises has proposed to set up processing units and plants with an investment of Rs. 185 crore. This industry is proposed to be set up in village Basapur-Jarrapur near Budhni in Sehore district. Avigna Private Limited has informed about its proposal in the field of agriculture and logistics. Sagar Group has taken forward its work plan to start a multi-specialty hospital in Bhopal with an investment of Rs.1000 crore.

Teen from MP who eloped taken back from Kerala

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A team of Madhya Pradesh police officials arrived here after a missing complaint was registered for a 17-year-old girl in the central state. They located the girl with the help of their Kerala counterparts from a cardamom plantation in Idukki district and took her back.

Speaking to reporter, a police official attached to the Nedumkandam Police station in Idukki said they had no clue of what the case was until the Madhya Pradesh police sought their help.

"The girl who is a minor had come to Kerala with her friend and was staying in our police station limits. We did not have any information of it. It was only after the team form MP came did we come to know of it. Then we also joined in the probe and soon located the girl.

"The girl's male friend, however, escaped. The MP team after completing all the formalities took her back," said the police official who did not wish to be identified.

The couple was in Idukki for a few days. The police from the girl's home state tracked her down using cell phone tracking, found out her location and arrived at Nedumkandam.

Minor beaten up for suspected love jihad

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A 16-year-old Hindu boy who had allegedly run away with a girl was beaten up by a group of men in Madhya Pradesh's Dewas district allegedly on suspicion that it was a case of so-called 'love jihad', police said on Saturday.

No arrest has been made so far in connection with the incident which took place four days ago. Both the girl and the boy hail from Uttar Pradesh, police said. A video of the incident also went viral on social media.

The boy had reportedly run away with the 12-year-old girl from Balia in Uttar Pradesh and police in Dewas had been alerted to look out for them, said an official.

A team of police personnel spotted them in a bus at Bhunsara toll booth, 17 km from Dewas city, said Sonkach area sub-divisional officer of police (SDOP) Prashant Singh Bhadoria. Just as the police was taking them away, over a dozen men, who were apparently following the bus in two cars, appeared on the spot and set upon the boy, he said. The video showed several men slapping, hitting and punching the boy even as the policemen tried to stop them.

The accused apparently thought that the boy was Muslim and had run away with a Hindu girl, said another police official. Both are in fact Hindu, he said.

"They thought it was a case of 'love jihad'. We were telling them that both were from the same community, but they didn't listen," he said, adding that if the boy had not been rescued by the police in time, he might not have survived.

'Love jihad' is a term used by some right-wing leaders who claim that there is a 'conspiracy' to lure Hindu girls and convert them to Islam through marriage.

The girl and the boy were taken to a safe place and later handed over to the Uttar Pradesh police, the SDOP said.

On Friday, Dewas district police registered a case against four men who were identified from the video, and 15 other unidentified persons under IPC sections 353 (use of criminal force on any person with a public servant in the execution of his duty as such public servant), 147 (rioting), 323 (voluntarily causing hurt) and 294 (use of obscene word).

"We are trying to identify the other accused. As the charges against the accused are bailable and do not invite punishment of more than seven years, we are going to serve notice to them (before deciding on arrest)," SDOP Bhadoria said.

Ethan Hawke is 'trying to stay alive'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actor Ethan Hawke, who has appeared in smaller projects such as 'First Reformed' and 'Juliet, Naked' in recent years, says that he often feels as if he is trying to stay alive in the film industry and is prepared to work on a number of projects at a time. The 50-year-old actor told TheWrap: "I've just always put one foot in front of the other, just trying to keep moving. Sometimes I feel like a cat, you know, just trying to stay alive." He shared that he is grateful that independent films have become easier to make, reports femalefirst.co.uk.Speaking at the Karlovy Vary Film Festival, where he was honoured with the President's Award, Hawke said: "One of the things that's happened in the way the film business has changed is that independent movies take so much less time to make.

"When I was younger, it'd be a big deal if you made two movies in a year, but that was because most movies took about four of five months to make, you know. We shot 'First Reformed' in five weeks. We shot 'Juliet, Naked' in six weeks."

The actor will star in Robert Eggers' historical thriller 'The Northman' and said that it was the largest scale movie he had worked on for a long time.

He said: "I did the Robert Eggers film this year, which was the first film in a while that I've done that was really big. Robert really strives for a level of excellence that's really exciting.

"It was one of the rare times when you're making an independent movie that has a real budget around it, so he was able to work at a pace that was more like it was when I started." Hawke said that the movie will "feel a lot bigger" than Robert's previous picture 'The Lighthouse', which featured Willem Dafoe and Robert Pattinson.

'MALIGNANT' A 'PALETTE CLEANSER'

The Conjuring' director James Wan is more than happy to return to his horror roots with the forthcoming film 'Malignant' as he says he needed a "palette cleanser" after directing the superhero blockbuster, 'Aquaman' starring Jason Momoa.

Los Angeles | Agencies

Wan, who has co-created both the 'Saw' and 'Insidious' franchises, told Entertainment Weekly: "Right after 'Aquaman 1', I knew I was jumping in to 'Aquaman 2' at some point, but I needed to take a little break, I needed a palette cleanser.

"There's only so many PG-13 movies I can make before I get bored of that. I wanted to go back to the kind of movies I used to make that I haven't made for a while." Wan said that he wasn't worried if his "people" didn't think a return to horror was a wise career choice following his work on 'Aquaman', reports femalefirst.co.uk. Wan quipped: "I'm sure they were secretly thinking it. I don't know. I think they were just excited that I was excited, that was the bottom line. My people know that I'm very much driven by the projects that excite me. "They've tried in the past to get me to do things that I'm not interested in and they have seen firsthand it gets nowhere.'"Malignant' stars Annabelle Wallis as Madison, a woman tormented by shocking visions of grisly murders, and Wan shared that he was desperate to work with her after collaborating on the film 'Annabelle' in 'The Conjuring' Universe - another horror series created by the filmmaker.

Halle Berry's 'Moonfall' unveiled

Los Angeles | Agencies

Los Angeles: Known for his iconic work in the post-apocalyptic science fiction cinema world, the first look of filmmaker Roland Emmerich's upcoming sci-fi adventure 'Moonfall' has taken everyone by surprise. The film is scheduled to hit the screens in February 2022.

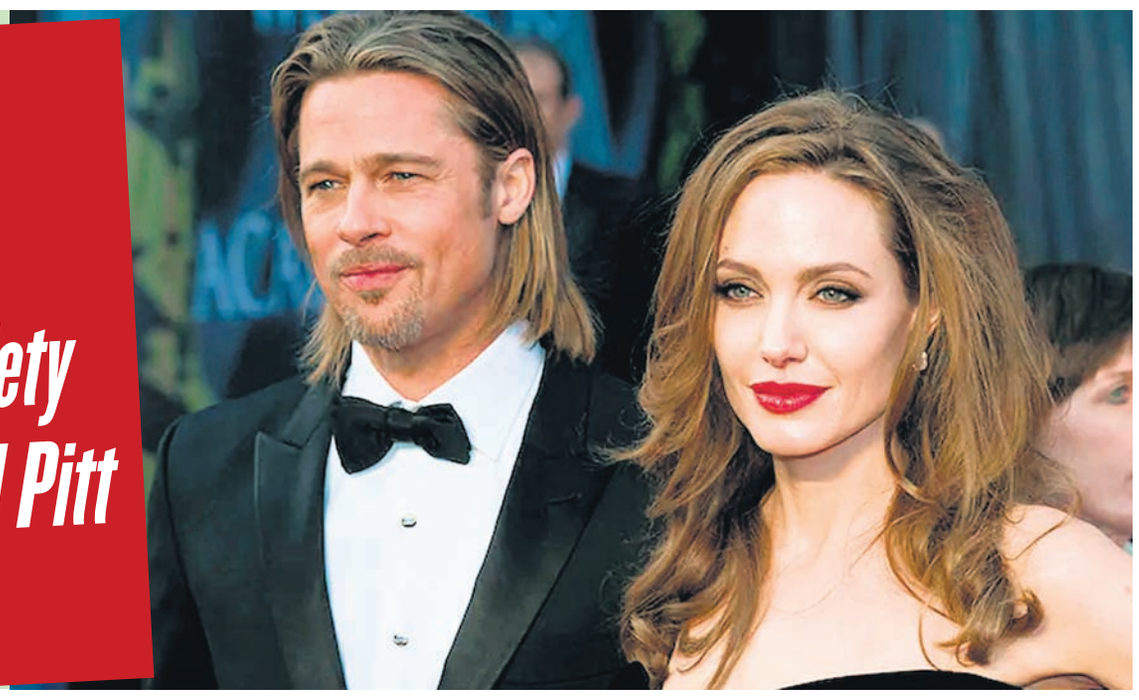
The film is packed with a star studded cast including Halle Berry, Patrick Wilson, John Bradley, Michael Pena, Charlie Plummer, Kelly Yu, Eme Ikwuakor, Carolina Bartczak and Donald Sutherland.

'Moonfall' traces the effects of a mysterious force knocking the moon from its orbit around Earth and sending it hurtling on a collision course with life.

Emmerich is known for helming movies such as 'The Noah's Ark Principle', 'Universal Soldier', 'Stargate', 'Independence Day', 'Godzilla', 'The Patriot', 'The Day After Tomorrow', '2012' and 'Midway'.

'Moonfall' is scheduled to be released in February 2022 by PVR Pictures in India.

Angelina feared for family's safety during Brad Pitt marriage



Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress-filmmaker Angelina Jolie has claimed that she feared for the safety of her "whole family" during her marriage to Hollywood star Brad Pitt, although she hopes they can "heal and be peaceful" in the future. Jolie previously claimed that her former husband was verbally and physically abusive towards their children - Maddox, 20, Pax, 17, Zahara, 16, Shiloh, 15, and 13-year-old twins Knox and Vivienne - including an incident on a private plane involving eldest son Maddox, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

In a new interview, the actress suggested she was scared for her children's wellbeing while se was married to the actor.

Jolie was asked by The Guardian newspaper why she decided to write her upcoming book on children's rights, and she said that she "can't speak about" it because of her own legal situation.

When asked to clarify, the publication reported Angelina "confirmed by nodding that she was alluding to her divorce and the allegations of domestic abuse she made against (Brad)".

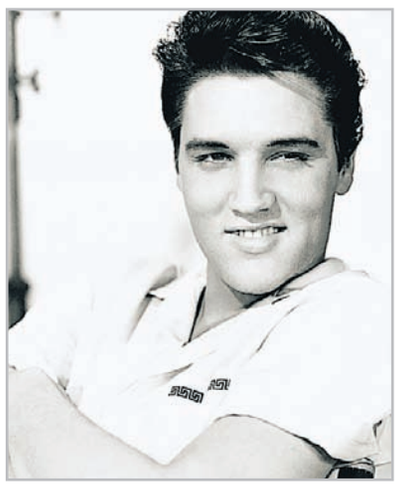
Jolie was then asked if she feared for the safety of her children, and the star replied: "Yes, for my family. My whole family." However, the "Those Who Wish Me Dead" star has said she's hopeful for the future, and wants herself, Pitt, and their children to "heal and be peaceful".

Lady Gaga unveils 'Dawn of Chromatica' remix album

Los Angeles | Agencies

Lady Gaga unveiled her new remix album 'Dawn of Chromatica'. The pop star took to Instagram to make the announcement of her new album along with the levitating blue photo. She wrote, "Pain is a Sine. #DawnofChromatica I invite you to dance to this album in celebration of young artistes all over the world. Artistes who see the world, feel the world, and put that feeling into something bigger than all of us: music. All love, LG xx." The photo shows Lady Gaga in levitating blue attire and pink hair. 'Dawn of Chromatica' is released via Interscope Records.

The new project, produced by Gaga's Chromatica collaborator BloodPop, features a bevy of artistes offering their own versions of tracks such as 'Rain on Me', 'Stupid Love', and many more. Among the artistes included are Charli XCX, Rina Sawayama, Arca, Pabllo Vittar, Ashnikko, Shygirl, Dorian Electra, LSDXOXO, Bree Runway, A.G. Cook, and more. 'Dawn of Chromatica' isn't the only Lady Gaga album that fans can look forward to in 2021. Earlier in August, Gaga, also known as 'Mother Monster', announced that she and Tony Bennett would be reuniting with another album of jazz standards, this time paying tribute to Cole Porter, titled 'Love for Sale', due out October 1, 2021, according to Billboard.com.



ELVIS PRESLEY'S WHITE JUMPSUIT UP FOR AUCTION

Los Angeles | Agencies

Late music legend Elvis Presley's iconic white jumpsuit and cape are up for auction, along with other items that previously belonged to the singer.

The 'Jailhouse Rock' hitmaker donned the white eyelet jumpsuit and cape, which were designed by Bill Belew, for a string of shows at New York's Madison Square Garden in 1972 and now the outfit is going under the hammer, reports femalefirst.co.uk. Kruse GWS Auctions will open live bidding on Saturday and the jumpsuit has an opening bid of $350,000, while the cape is currently going for $50,000. Various other Presley items are up for sale in the auction, including a collection of his hair saved by the singer's barber, the helmet he wore in 'Viva Las Vegas', and a Bible given to him by a fan.

One lucky fan can enjoy a private lunch in Beverly Hills with Presley's former wife Priscilla Presley, who is thrilled her former spouse's belongings will be going to good homes.

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY

Dakota Johnson

FOURTH TEST: ROHIT SHARMA'S TON PUTS INDIA IN CONTROL

London | Agencies

Opener Rohit Sharma's maiden overseas century and his important partnerships with Cheteshwar Pujara and K.L. Rahul helped India wrest initiative and move into driver's seat on the third day of the fourth Test against England at The Oval on Saturday.

Sharma, who had scored seven Test centuries before and all of which came in India, added 83 for the first wicket with Rahul (46) and 153 with Pujara (61) to take India into a position from where they can hope to take 2-1 lead in the series which is level at 1-1.

When bad light stopped play, India skipper Virat Kohli was unbeaten on 22 and Ravindra Jadeja was not out on nine. The two have added 33 runs so far for the fourth wicket.

India opener Rohit Sharma and No. 3 batsman Cheteshwar Pujara tweaked their respective batting styles and curbed natural instincts to drive India into a position of strength.

Thanks to Sharma's gritty and circumspect eighth Test century -- his first overseas -- and Pujara's uncharacteristic attacking display at the start, India had already taken a 100-run lead by tea on the third day to overturn a 99-run first innings deficit and move into a place from where they can dictate terms to the tiring England side.

By tea, the two had put on an unbeaten 116-run partnership for the second wicket.

Pujara had come in after the fall of K.L. Rahul's wicket in the first session with the score of 83 and raced to 14 off 21 deliveries before lunch to take India past the deficit.

He hit fours Ollie Robinson and Craig Overton -- on a full and a short delivery -- as bowlers found it difficult to find assistance from the pitch.

India are 171 runs ahead and have seven wickets in hand. There are two more days to play.

Brief scores (Stumps, Day 3)

India 191 and 270/3 in 92 overs (Rohit Sharma 127, Cheteshwar Pujara 61, Ollie Robinson 2/67, James Anderson 1/49) vs England 290.

US Open:

Teenager Alcaraz stuns world No 3 Tsitsipas

New York| Agencies

Spain's Carlos Alcaraz bagged the biggest win of his career at the US Open, upsetting world No. 3 Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece 6-3, 4-6, 7-6(2), 0-6, 7-6(5) in a high-quality contest to become the youngest player to reach the fourth round at a major since 1992.

In a battle of swinging fortunes, the 18-year-old ranked 55th in the world rallied from 2-5 in the third set, saving three sets points and breaking twice to avoid going down two sets to one, before advancing in four hours and six minutes.

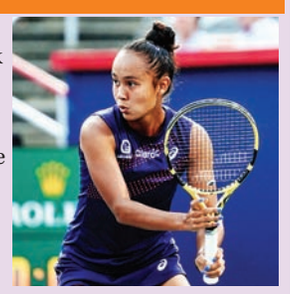
Alcaraz is the youngest player to beat a top-3 tival at a major since Michael Chang,

17, defeated world No. 1 Ivan Lendl and world No. 3 Stefan Edberg at the French Open in 1989. Alcaraz, whose previous biggest victory came against then World No. 14 David Goffin of Belgium at the Great Ocean Road Open in February, will next play qualifier Peter Gojowczyk after the German defeated Swede Henri Laaksonen 3-6, 6-3, 6-1, 6-4. The Juan Carlos Ferrero-coached player is the youngest to reach the fourth round at a major since Ukraine's Andrei Medvedev, 17, at the French Open in 1992 and the youngest in New York since Chang, 17, in 1989. The Spaniard now holds a 2-0 record in fifth-set matches.

Alcaraz captured his maiden tour-level title in Umag and reached the last four in Winston-Salem.

FERNANDEZ ENDS OSAKA'S TITLE DEFENCE

New York: Canada's Leylah Fernandez, ranked 73rd in the world, accounted for one of the biggest seeds in the first week of the US Open, defeating No.3 Naomi Osaka of Japan 5-7, 7-6(2), 6-3 to end the 2020 champion's title defence in the third round.The win is the 18-year-old's second top-5 win of her career and puts her into her first Round of 16 at a Slam, where she will face 2016 US Open champion Angelique Kerber of Germany.Fernandez is a former junior champion at 2019 French Open who made her top-100 debut a year ago after the US Open. A left-hander who chose tennis over football, Fernandez won her first WTA title earlier this season on the hardcourts of Monterrey. Since that triumph in March, Fernandez had not won back-to-back main draw matches until her first two rounds in New York.



Naomi Osaka might take a break from tennis

New York | Agencies

World No.3, Naomi Osaka of Japan, has said that she is unsure when she will play her next match following her third-round defeat at the US Open against Canadian 18-year-old Leylah Fernandez. Osaka, 23, came into this year's event as the defending champion, but Fernandez came up with an inspired performance on Friday evening to win 5-7, 7-6(2), 6-4. Afterward, Osaka was quoted as saying by wtatennis.com that she doesn't "feel happy" when she wins.In May, Osaka pulled out of the French Open, citing mental health reasons. She then opted to skip Wimbledon. Osaka returned to the court in July at the 2020 Tokyo Games, where she became the first tennis player to light the Olympic torch. The US Open was just Osaka's second tournament since the Olympics. She played the Western & Southern Open two weeks ago, where she defeated Coco Gauff of the US in her opening match before losing to eventual runner-up Jil Teichmann of Switzerland.

Top class, series defining knock

London| Agencies

India opener Rohit Sharma on Saturday got acknowledgement for his first overseas century with former cricketers from India and England applauding his effort and even calling it a series-defining effort.

Sharma scored 127 off 256 deliveries as he batted patiently contrary to his natural instincts on the third day of the fourth Test between India and England. In fact, he managed to reach his half century only in 145 deliveries before he raced to his century in 204 balls as he switched gears once England were ahead of India. This is Rohit Sharma's first century abroad. Also he became first Indian cricketer to score hundred runs in all three formats of cricket against England.

TTFI questions Manika's timing of bringing up serious allegations against national coach

Team Absolute| New Delhi

The Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI) is bemused why star player Manika Batra remained silent for more than five months and then levelled serious charges against national coach Soumyadeep Roy that he tried to influence her to lose in an Olympic Qualification tournament in March this year, only after being served a show-cause notice in August for indiscipline.

Manika had made history at the Tokyo Olympic Games by becoming the first TT player from the country to reach the third round at the Games before losing to Austria's Sofia Polcanova.

In a controversy that has been festering for some time now, Manika had refused national coach Roy's help during her singles matches in Tokyo after her personal coach Sanmay Paranjape was not given FOP 'field of play' access due to limited accreditations handed out by the Tokyo Games Organisers.

On her return from Tokyo, TTFI served Manika a show-cause notice for indiscipline and asked her to explain her refusal to allow Roy to sit courtside and help her during her matches.

Manika in her response to TTFI's show-cause denied charges of indiscipline and instead alleged that national coach Roy had "pressurised me during the qualification tournament in Doha in March 2021 to concede my match to his student to enable her to qualify for the Olympics".

Speaking to reporter from Lucknow, TTFI secretary general Arun Banerjee said that when Manika's personal coach Sanmay Paranjape was not accredited for 'field of play', there was no way he could sit courtside and guide Manika.

Banerjee questioned Manika's logics behind waiting for five months to allege that national coach Roy had pressurised her to concede her match to his student during the Olympic qualification tournament in March.

BOWLING TO SHAFALI VERMA WILL BE A REALLY GOOD CHALLENGE: SUTHERLAND

Brisbane: Australia's fast-bowling all-rounder Annabel Sutherland believes that bowling to Indian opener Shafali Verma will be a really good challenge. She also said that she will be ready to bowl with the new ball if asked to do so.

Annabel had bowled with the new ball in three ODIs against New Zealand in Brisbane last year.

"There's a number of fast bowlers in the squad with Darcie (Brown), Stella (Campbell) and Tayla (Vlaeminck), plus the allrounders -- it's a pretty good fast bowling attack. Anyone who gets the new ball will no doubt take it with both hands... I'll certainly be putting my hand up for that as much as I can," said Annabel in an interview to cricket.com.au. "But no matter who takes the new ball, it will be a pretty good line-up. I think (bowling to) Shafali in particular, how hard she comes at the ball is in the powerplay, it'll be a really good challenge and one all the girls are really looking forward to." Annabel is back in the Australian team after being ruled out of the series against New Zealand at the last minute due to a stress reaction in the femur of right leg. She revealed that the call to not take part in the away tour to New Zealand was due to the risk of early signs developing into a serious injury.

RAIKKONEN OUT OF DUTCH GP

Zandvoort: Alfa Romeo's Formula 1 driver Kimi Raikkonen will not take part in the Dutch Grand Prix at Zandvoort circuit after testing positive for COVID-19. Robert Kubica will fill in for Raikkonen for his first race since Abu Dhabi 2019 alongside Antonio Giovinazzi for the race on Sunday. Raikkonen, who announced on the eve of the race at Zandvoort that he will retire at the end of the season, returned the result at an on-site test after taking part in the practice race on Friday.

The 41-year-old is currently isolating in his hotel, with the Alfa Romeo team saying he is "displaying no symptoms and is in good spirits".

After lacklustre first game, India looks to bounce back vs Nepal

Kathmandu| Agencies

India will have to come up with a much improved performance on Sunday to make up for their lacklustre showing in the first of a two-friendly match-up against Nepal earlier this week. Igor Stimac's side went into the contest at the Dasharath Stadium in Kathmandu as favourites but failed to live up to their billing and were lucky to get away with a 1-1 draw.

Nepal showed much better control on the ball, particularly in the first half. India did improve in the second half after the introduction of Anirudh Thapa and Rahim Ali in place of Brandon Fernandes and Glan Martins respectively and got the equaliser through Thapa but they would know well how disappointing they were on the evening.Defensively too, the Indians didn't look compact. Chinglensana Singh's back-pass that gave Anjan Bista a big opportunity to put Nepal ahead in the 35th minute was nothing short of a shocker. Almost all through the game, the Nepalese attackers looked threatening.

India would be under tremendous pressure on Sunday. In the lead-up to the first game, Stimac had said these two games will provide India with a big practice opportunity ahead of the 2021 SAFF Championship which will kick off in the Maldives next month. The Croatian had also admitted that the expectations are high from his boys in the five-team tournament and that they will be heading into the competition as favourites together with hosts Maldives.

Ben Stokes could miss T20 World Cup in the UAE

London| Agencies

England all-rounder Ben Stokes could miss the men's T20 World Cup in Oman and the UAE in October and November. Stokes has been on an indefinite break from all forms of cricket since July to take care of his mental well-being and give time to his left index finger to heal after surgery.

Stokes is not a part of the ongoing five-match Test series against India and will not take part in the second leg of IPL 2021 starting from September 19. West Indies pacer Oshane Thomas has been called in as a replacement for Stokes in Rajasthan Royals.

"Whether he does travel to Dubai to feature in England's attempts to unite both global white-ball belts next month is unclear, although sources close to Stokes say 'he is not even thinking about cricket at the moment'," said a report by the Daily Mail on Saturday.

With the deadline of naming the squads for the T20 World Cup on September 10, England's selectors are expected to meet this weekend to decide on the 15-member squad and three reserves. An announcement on the squad could come by September 9, a day before the start of the final Test against India at Manchester.

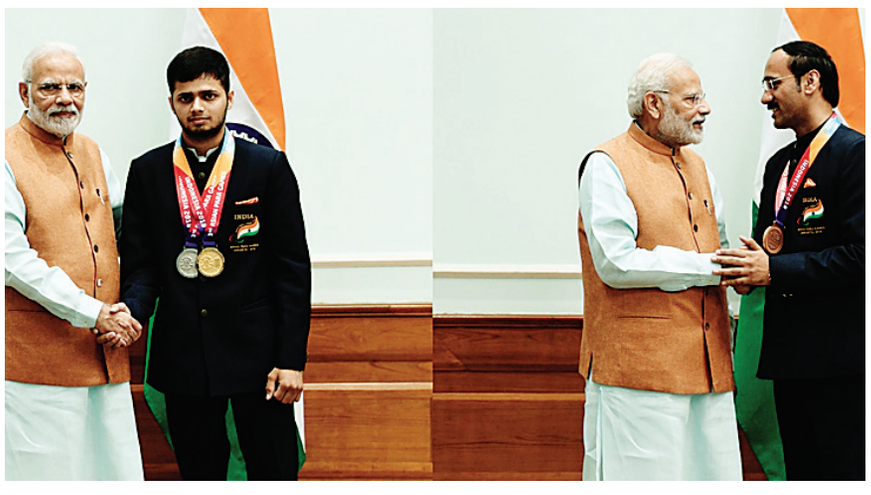
PM, shooter Bindra, cricketer Sehwag shower praise on para shooters

Team Absolute| New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and India's first individual Olympic Games gold medallist Abhinav Bindra were among the first to congratulate shooters Manish Narwal and Singhraj, who won gold and silver respectively in the P4 - Mixed 50m Pistol SH1 at the Tokyo Paralympic Games on Saturday.

In what has been the best performance by Indian para athletes at the quadrennial showpiece, para shooters Narwal and Singhraj, along with rifle shooter Avani Lekhara, have erased the painful memories of 15 top Indian shooters firing blanks one after another at the Tokyo Olympics less than a month back.

In a series of tweets PM Modi said, "Glory from the Tokyo #Paralympics continues. Great accomplishment by the young and stupendously talented Manish Narwal. His winning the Gold Medal is a special moment for Indian sports. Congratulations to him. Best wishes for the coming times. #Praise4Para."



For Singhraj, PM tweeted, "The outstanding Singhraj Adhana does it again! He wins yet another medal, this time in the Mixed 50m Pistol SH1 event. India rejoices due to his feat. Congrats to him. Wishing him the very best for the future endeavours. #Paralympics #Praise4Para."

Bindra, winner of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games gold in 10m air rifle, tweeted after the success of Narwal and Singhraj, "The greatest gift we as a nation can give to our Paralympic Team and champions is to use this moment as a way to make the disabled population in our country more inclusive. That would be amazing impact leveraging on the power of sport!"

In another tweet, Bindra said, "1-2 for India! The stuff of dreams...Gold for Manish Narwal with a Paralympic record in mixed 50m SH1! And Silver for Singhraj Adhana, his second medal of the #Tokyo2020 Paralympics. Just Incredible. Congratulations to both, we all are so proud #Praise4Para."

"What a wonderful moment to see two Indians winning both the Gold as well as Silver. #Gold for 19 yr old Manish Narwal #Silver for Singhraj Adhana. Make that 15 medals. Brilliant display from Team India at #Paralympics," tweeted former India cricketer Virender Sehwag.

Katrina Kaif :

AS A FITNESS ENTHUSIAST I VALUE DISCIPLINE

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood actress Katrina Kaif urges people to opt for disciplined eating and control their intake of sugar as she believes we look what we eat.

The actress has become the face of 'Fitness ka Pehla Kadam' campaign as part of the low-calorie sweetener brand Suger Free.

Talking about health and fitness, Katrina said, "As a fitness enthusiast I know how important discipline is; especially when it comes to what we eat."Mentioning her association with Sugar Free, she further added, "There is a natural synergy in the way we see fitness and getting healthier as an organic lifestyle movement allowing you to make the choices that are right for each individual.

"I hope we can together motivate people to take their first baby steps to get fitter with Sugar Free Green which uses sweetness from natural stevia leaves."

Katrina will be next seen in 'Phone Bhoot', 'Tiger 3' and 'Jee Le Zaara'. Currently, she is busy shooting with Salman Khan in Turkey for 'Tiger 3'.

'Hai Taubba 3'

POULOMI DAS TALKS ABOUT PLAYING BISEXUAL CHARACTER ON SCREEN

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Poulomi Das has been roped in as a lead in the web show 'Hai Taubba 3'. The first two seasons were released in the first half of 2021.After being a part of three shows like 'Baarish', 'Paurashpur', and 'Bekaboo', Poulomi is going to test new waters as she has never played anything like this before.

The 'Kartik Purnima' actress said: "For me, 'Kesar' is somebody who is looking for a conclusion that she is not getting in her life. She is an old school girl who is trapped in today's time looking for commitment. However, she is today's girl."

For the first time, Poulomi will play a bisexual character on screen. She also revealed: "She is in a relationship with a guy but in love with a girl. So, the story is about self-discovery, how things turn bitter for her, and changes dynamics of her relationships."

'Hai Taubba 3' is a collection of stories that were distributed in two chapters. The first chapter went on air on May 6, the second one on May 21 and all these stories had one common emotion of love that is non-conformist.

Season 3 is about women breaking societal taboos. Women this time will walk out of their boring married lives, challenge the status quo, and explore their individuality. 'Hai Taubba 3' will soon stream on ALTBalaji.

Sneha Namanandi of 'Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2' turns producer

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Along with being an actor and entrepreneur, Sneha Namanandi has now ventured into production. The 'Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2' actor has named her production house after her pet dogs, Maui and Miguel.

"I wanted to name my company after my dogs or something about them. I feel that whatever good happens in my life is because of them, their energies, and their blessings," says Sneha who has worked in films like 'Torbaaz' and 'Yeh Hai Paranormal Ishq'.

She adds: "I am glad to announce that I am producing my first project, a chat show titled 'Zindagi Reloaded' and I am very excited about it."Revealing the concept of the chat show, she adds that the actors on the show are the ones whose journey would interest common people. "We want to send a message to commoners that even celebrities face struggles and their journey isn't easy. The guest will perform a small stand-up, it would be like a prologue and then the chat show will start," she elaborated. So how will she manage acting, production, and pet cafe, all at the same time?"I always want to do a lot of things in my life. I don't want to sit idle, there's just one life and I want to explore as much as I can. I am passionate about whatever work I take up," she explains.

SAIF TALKS ABOUT HIS CHARACTER IN 'BHOOT POLICE'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor Saif Ali Khan has talked about what attracted him to feature in the upcoming horror-comedy 'Bhoot Police' and his character Vibhooti.

The movie focuses on two brothers Vibhooti and Chiraunji as they travel in their van throughout the country hunting down and driving away Bhoots, Djinns, Daayans, Churails, and many more.

Saif shares why he agreed to portray 'Vibhooti' in the movie.He said: "I loved the script the first time I heard it, it was one of the most surprising entertaining scripts and very interesting character because of what he (the character Vibhooti) goes through".

Saif added: "From being an unbeliever to believer and various things. I liked the way he dressed, the world he's from, the accent he speaks in and completely irreverent person and slightly twisted person Vibhooti is, it's an interesting character". 'Bhoot Police' also stars Jacqueline Fernandez, Yami Gautam, Jaaved Jaafri, and Jamie Lever in pivotal roles. Tips Industries Ltd in association with 12th Street Entertainment presents 'Bhoot Police', directed by Pavan Kirpalani. It is produced by Ramesh Taurani, Akshai Puri, and co-produced by Jaya Taurani. The movie is all set to release on September 17, on Disney+ Hotstar.

On Rishi Kapoor's birth anniversary, his final film's poster unveiled

Team Absolute | Mumbai

On the occasion of late Bollywood star Rishi Kapoor's 69th birth anniversary, the poster of his final film 'Sharmaji Namkeen' directed by debutant Hitesh Bhatia, has been unveiled.The poster was shared on the official Instagram handle of Farhan Akhtar and Ritesh Sidhwani's Excel Entertainment on Saturday morning. In the photograph, the veteran actor is seen holding a briefcase. He is smiling ear-to-ear as he walks on an empty road dressed in a brown sweater paired with a green muffler and black pants.Alongside the poster, the caption read: "We are proud to present, the poster of a very special film -- Sharmaji Namkeen, starring one of the most celebrated actors in the Hindi film industry whose inimitable work and sparkling career we will cherish forever, Mr. Rishi Kapoor."As a mark of love, respect and remembrance of him and as a gift to his millions of fans, here is the first look of his final film."Rishi Kapoor breathed his last on April 30, 2020. He battled leukemia. He was 67.Rishi Kapoor's daughter Riddhima Kapoor Sahni shared the film's poster on her Instagram, as well. Veteran actor Paresh Rawal stepped in after Kapoor's demise.

Rubina, Nikki to enter 'Bigg Boss OTT' house as guests

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Actresses Nikki Tamboli and Rubina Dilaik are all set to enter the 'Bigg Boss OTT house as guests for the Sunday Ka Vaar episode.

The show, which is hosted by Karan Johar, will now see two popular contestants of 'Bigg Boss 14' -- Nikki and Rubina.In a recent promo, both Nikki and Rubina could be seen in conversation over the phone about their favourite contestants, also revealing their excitement to visit the house.When Nikki asks Rubina who is her favourite contestant, the latter names Shamita Shetty, saying she is her favourite as she is playing really well. To this, Nikki says her favourite is Pratik Sehajpal because of his attitude.

In the end, they ask the audience to get ready for some fun with them this Sunday. Besides Nikki and Rubina, Ronit Roy and Richa Chadha will also be there in the 'Bigg Boss OTT' house to promote their web series 'Candy'. 'Bigg Boss OTT' streams on Voot.

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY

Sonali Raut

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