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LAKHIMPUR KHERI CASE: MINISTER'S SON SUMMONED FOR QUESTIONING

LAKHIMPUR KHERI | Agencies

The Lakhimpur Kheri police has summoned Ashish Mishra, son of Union Minister of State for Home Ajay Mishra Teni, for questioning in connection with the Lakhimpur Kheri violence in which nine persons, including four farmers, were killed. Inspector General of Police Laxmi Singh said two persons are already being questioned in the case. A notice under CrPC 160 has been pasted at the Lakhimpur Kheri residence of Ashish Mishra and he has been asked to present himself at the crime branch office of the reserve police lines at 10 a.m. on Friday. Ashish Mishra is the main accused in the violence that erupted in Lakhimpur Kheri on Sunday and left eight dead. Violence erupted when

four farmers were allegedly knocked down by vehicles driven by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) workers, including Ashish Mishra. Farmers allege that the minister's son was in one of the cars that mowed the farmers. Ashish has been named in the FIR lodged in connection with the incident under IPC Section 302 (murder). "If Ashish Mishra does not abide by the summons, legal procedure will be adopted," Singh said, but added that there was no time limit in the summons sent to Ashish. Opposition parties have been demanding immediate arrest of the accused in the case and the matter has now been taken up by the Supreme Court which has asked the state government to submit a status report on Friday.

'Who are accused, whether arrested or not': SC seeks answers on Lakhimpur Kheri violence

The Supreme Court on Thursday directed the Uttar Pradesh government to inform it on Friday as to who are the accused named in the FIR filed in Lakhimpur Kheri violence case and whether they have been arrested or not.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

We want to know who are the accused, whether arrested or not," a bench headed by Chief Justice N.V. Ramana and comprising Justices Surya Kant and Hima Kohli asked UP's Additional Advocate General Garima Parshad. It told the UP government counsel that the grievance is that "you are not properly investigating the matter". As Parshad described the Lakhimpur Kheri incident as "extreme, unfortunate", the Chief Justice responded: "We also feel the same way". The bench also directed her to provide immediate medical attention to the mother of a person, who was killed in the incident, as a lawyer informed the

bench that the mother is suffering from shock after loss of her son and is in critical condition. "Get her admitted in nearby government hospital," it said. As Parshad told the bench that SIT has been appointed to conduct probe and a judicial commission of inquiry has also been ordered into the violence, the top court asked her to get all the information associated with the incident - who is heading the judicial inquiry into the matter and what happened to the PILs filed in the Allahabad High Court in connection with the matter. The bench told Prasad to get instructions in the matter and listed it for further hearing on Friday. Two apex court lawyers had written to the Chief Justice,

seeking a CBI probe into the matter under the supervision of the top court. The letter, written by advocates Shiv Kumar Tripathi and C.S. Panda, said: "With regard to the seriousness of the killing of the farmers in Lakhimpur Kheri in Uttar Pradesh, it is incumbent upon this Hon'ble Court to intervene in the matter as flashed in the press." The lawyers had claimed that of late, violence has become the political culture of the country, and there is a need to protect the rule of law in "violence-ravaged" Uttar Pradesh, which is evident from media reports. Nine persons, including four farmers, were killed in the violence that had erupted during a farmers' protest in Lakhimpur Kheri.

TAKE ONE STEP MORE: SC ASKS CENTRE TO ALLOW GIRLS TO APPEAR FOR MILITARY COLLEGE EXAM

Team Absolute | New Delhi

After pushing the Centre on admitting women into the National Defence Academy (NDA), the Supreme Court on Thursday directed the government to make arrangements for the induction of girls into the Rashtriya Indian Military College (RIMC) by allowing them to take the exam scheduled on December 18, 2021. A bench headed by Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul asked the government to publish the modified advertisement seeking applications from girls. Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati informed the bench, also comprising Justice M.M. Sundresh, that preparations for the exam slated in December were already at an advanced stage and urged the court to allow for the induction of girls into the RIMC and Rashtriya Military School for the term beginning from January 2023 and not June 2022. However, the bench did not accept this contention and added that six months' time was sufficient to make preparations for the induction of girls in the June 2022 session. The bench told Bhati, "You are effectively postponing everything, why do you want to postpone for

a year?" Bhati responded that October 30, 2021 is the last date for submission of applications for the December exam. Justice Kaul remarked, "We are not saying that there are no difficulties, just take one step more". The bench recorded in its order that the respondent authorities must modify the preparatory work done for the December 18 examination and permit girls to take the exam. The top court has scheduled the matter for further hearing in January next year along with the matter connected with the induction of women in NDA. The Army Training Command in an affidavit in the top court said it is making arrangements to admit girl cadets/candidates to the Rashtriya Indian Military College (RIMC) and Rashtriya Military Schools (RMC) from the academic session 2022-23. The affidavit said the admission to RIMC is done through an all-India competitive examination held biannually in June and December every year for admission in January and July. "All states of the union are allotted one seat while Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal are allotted two seats, and Uttar Pradesh three seats," it added.

Haryana BJP MP's convoy 'hits' protesting farmer

Chandigarh: In a 'repeat' of Lakhimpur Kheri incident of Uttar Pradesh, a farmer during protest got injured in Naraingarh in Haryana on Thursday after he was allegedly hit by a car of BJP MP's convoy. The farmer union in a complaint alleged that farmers had gathered to protest against MP Nayab Saini with black flags whose cavalcade hit a farmer. BKU (Charuni) district chief Malkit Singh handed over a copy of complaint to the police. The farmers were gathered on the Naraingarh-Sadhaura road where the Kurukshetra MP and state Transport Minister Mool Chand Sharma came to attend an event to honour Covid warriors. Heavy police force was deployed to stop the farmers. After seeing the MP's convoy, farmers tried to stop the vehicles and show black flags. After the incident, the farmers blocked the road and demanded FIR in connection with the incident. Injured farmer Bhawanpreet Singh of Yamunanagar said, "I was standing with black flag to protest against BJP MP Nayab Saini when a driver hit the vehicle on me and I suffered leg injury." Later the farmers lifted their blockade on the assurance of appropriate action given by the police.

SC asks Centre logic behind Rs 8L income criterion for EWS quota

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Thursday shot a volley of questions at the Centre, seeking an explanation on the reason for fixing Rs 8 Lakh as income criterion for declaring economically weaker section (EWS) category to claim reservation in All India Quota seats in NEET examinations. A bench headed by justice DY Chandrachud asked Additional Solicitor General KM Nataraj: "What is the reason for fixing Rs 8 lakh income criterion. You have to demonstrate, what was the data before you?" The bench, also comprising justices Vikram Nath and BV Nagarathna asked how could this income criterion be applied uniformly across the country. Justice Chandrachud further queried: "Have you looked at the GDP per capita of every state and then devised this economic criterion... What exercise did you undertake for reaching Rs 8 lakh figure." Citing the difference between standard of living in a metropolitan city and a remote village, the bench said people living

in Mumbai and Bengaluru with the same annual earning cannot be compared with somebody living in Bundelkhand. Nataraj submitted before the bench that implementing reservation was a policy matter. The bench said: "You just can't say it is a matter of policy when we are asking what is the basis of Rs 8 lakh for EWS eligibility." The Centre's counsel submitted that same criterion of Rs 8 lakh was there for determining the creamy layer under the OBC quota. He added that in 2015, it was Rs 6.5 lakh, and in 2017 it was increased to Rs 8 lakh. The bench reiterated what was the exercise undertaken to arrive at Rs 8 lakh figure, or this criterion was merely mechanically lifted from the criterion applicable to OBC? Nataraj contended that to arrive at this decision, there was deliberation and with proper noting, which was approved by the Cabinet. However, not content with his answer, the bench asked cite contemporaneous study undertaken for it. The bench clarified that in the matter at hand it is dealing with pure economic backwardness.

The bench said: "The notification specifically adverts to Rs 8 lakh. Now you have an Office Memorandum of January 17 which combines Rs 8 lakh with assets." It further queried "is the Centre applying the asset cum income requirement?" Nataraj sought time to file an affidavit to address to queries put forth by the bench. During the hearing, the bench pointed out in Indra Sawhney judgment (Mandal case), those who were below the Rs 8 lakh income segment, filled the criteria of educationally and socially backwardness and economic backwardness. The top court has scheduled the matter for further hearing on October 20. The top court made these observations while hearing a clutch of petitions by Neil Aurelio Nunes and others against the 27 per cent reservation for Other Backward Classes (OBC) and 10 per cent reservation for EWS in all-India Quota seats for post-graduate medical courses. As many as 15 per cent seats in MBBS and 50 per cent seats in MS and MD courses are filled through All India Quota from the candidates selected through NEET.

Shah reviews security situation with NSA, IB Chief

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday reviewed the security situation with National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, Security Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla, Intelligence Bureau Chief Arvind Kumar and Director Generals of the CRPF and BSF and discussed the current situation prevailing in the country. The officials in the Home Ministry said that this was a routine meeting which has been held on a regular interval but it was learnt that the ongoing security situation in Kashmir was also discussed in the backdrop of 'lone wolf attack' on the individuals in the Valley. The sources in the security set up also said that during the meeting, the infiltration bid from the Pak-occupied Kashmir (PoK) at the behest of Pakistan was also discussed and the Home



Minister asked the BSF and CRPF chiefs to prevent the attempts of infiltration. Earlier in the day, the BSF DG Kuldeep Singh said that three lone wolf attacks have happened recently in Jammu and Kashmir but steps have been taken to prevent such attacks and security situation in the Valley is under control. Admitting that there have been some problems at few places in the J&K, the Force is strengthening the intelligence gathering there also, he said, adding that security situation in Jammu and Kashmir is under control and there has not been any increase in the terror attacks there.

Govt failed to protect Kashmiri Pandits: Cong

Team Absolute | New Delhi

After five people were killed in the last 48 hours by terrorists in Kashmir, the Congress on Thursday condemned the incident, and said the BJP has failed to protect the Kashmiri Pandits in the valley. Sonia Gandhi also instructed the party in J&K to extend support to the grieving families. The statement from the Congress said, "The BJP gov't's inability to protect the Kashmiri Pandit community and civilians at large is a direct result of the instability they have caused in the region. The increase in militancy and rise in violence is proof of this government's weak and apathetic attitude". The party said in the last 48 hours five persons, including M.L. Bindroo -- a prominent Kashmiri Pandit - have been killed in terror incidents. "We strongly condemn these atrocious attacks on civilians. Congress President Smt Sonia Gandhi has instructed in-charge Of the state Rajni Patil to extend

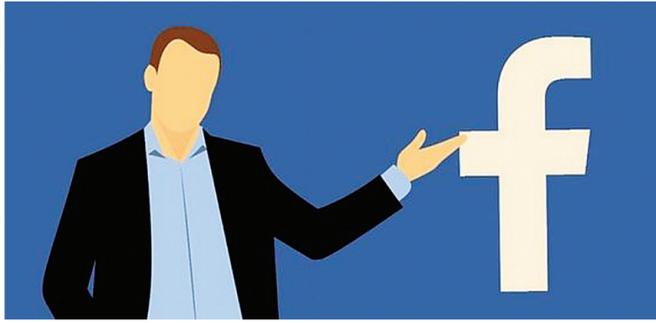


our support to the grieving families." Rahul Gandhi, who visited the state last month, too condemned the killings. In a tweet in Hindi, he said, "The incidents of violence are increasing in the valley. Terrorism has not stopped despite demonetisation and abrogation of 370 - the central government has totally failed to give security..." Earlier in the day, two teachers were shot and killed by terrorists inside a government higher secondary school in the Eidgah area of Srinagar. Reports here said among the slain teachers, was the principal of the school, Supinder Kaur and a Kashmiri Pandit teacher, Deepak Chand. Thursday's killings come two days after the terrorists shot a local Pandit, M.L. Bindroo, a non-local vendor from Bihar and a local taxi driver in Kashmir.

After whistleblower's accusation, FB says detecting hate content in Hindi, Bengali

Team Absolute | New Delhi

After whistleblower Frances Haugen accused Facebook of not taking action on fear-mongering and hate content related to India because of "the lack of Hindi and Bengali classifiers," the social network on Thursday said it is proactively prohibiting hate speech and content that incites violence in the country. In a statement to IANS, a Facebook spokesperson said that over the years, they have invested significantly in technology that proactively detects hate speech, "even before people report it to us". "We now use this technology to proactively detect violating content in Hindi and Bengali, alongside over 40 languages globally," the spokesperson added. "In addition, we have a team of content reviewers covering 20 Indian languages. As hate speech against marginalised groups, including Muslims, continues to be on the rise globally, we continue to make progress on enforcement and are committed to updating our policies as hate speech evolves online," the spokesperson added. According to Haugen's complaint filed with the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), "RSS Users, Groups,



and Pages promote fear-mongering, anti-Muslim narratives targeted pro-Hindu populations with V&I (violence and inciting) intent". An "Adversarial Harmful Networks - India Case Study", cited in one of the documents, quoted the author of the report as saying, "...and we have yet to put forth a nomination for designation of this group given political sensitivities". The complaint by Haugen alleged that Facebook's internal records show there was a problem of "lack of Hindi and Bengali classifiers" to flag off such harmful content.

Classifiers are automated systems and algorithms that are designed to detect hate speech in content on the social media platform. "There were a number of dehumanising posts (on) Muslims Our lack of Hindu and Bengali classifiers means much of this content is never flagged or actioned, and we have yet to put forth a nomination for designation of this group (RSS) given political sensitivities," the complaint read. India is one of the biggest markets for the social network, with a user base of over 400 million for Facebook and WhatsApp each, accord-

ing to third-party data. Both the BJP and the RSS were yet to comment on the complaint. In the past, Facebook has faced several allegations of inaction against hate content in India. In January this year, a Parliament Standing Committee on Information Technology (I&T) had issued summons to officials of Facebook and Twitter to question them over misuse of the social media or online news platforms. The committee has also questioned Facebook's India head Ajit Mohan over the issue of political bias on the social media platform. The allegations of a Facebook bias towards the BJP were reported in The Wall Street Journal in August 2020 and had claimed that Ankhil Das, the platform's then India Policy Head had opposed the idea of removing hate posts by BJP leaders, warning that this could hamper their "commercial interests". Das later quit Facebook. Meanwhile, Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg has posted a staunch defense of his company in a note to employees, saying that recent claims by an ex-employee about the social network's negative effects on society "don't make any sense".





Two arrested in Lakhimpur case, Union Minister's son untraceable

Lakhimpur Kheri | Agencies

Police in Uttar Pradesh's Lakhimpur Kheri have arrested two persons in connection with the Sunday violence in Tikunia village in the district.

The arrested persons have been identified as Luvkush Rana and Ashish Pandey, according to the police spokesperson.

Both are said to be close associates of Ashish Mishra, the son of Union Minister Ajay Mishra Teni.

A Lakhimpur police official said that the two were seated in one of the vehicles that mowed down farmers in Tikunia village on Sunday. The two are being interrogated by the police. The FIR has named Ashish Mishra and said that he was driving the car which ran over the protest-

ers. According to the FIR, Ashish also opened fire after getting down from the car and then he went into hiding. However, a fresh video of the incident suggests that three SUVs were involved in the Lakhimpur Kheri violence and those cars were not under any attack. The first SUV rammed a group of protesters who were walking with flags at an unexpectedly high speed, followed by the two other SUVs.

The Supreme Court, on Thursday, has asked Uttar Pradesh government to file a status report on who are the accused, against whom FIR is registered and those arrested by Friday.

Further raids are on in search of other accused, the official added. However, the minister's son is still untraceable, the official said.

Exodus continues in Bengal BJP, now Sabyasachi Dutta returns to Trinamool

Kolkata | Agencies

Putting an end to all speculation, BJP state secretary and former Mayor of Bidhannagar Municipality, Sabyasachi Dutta, returned to Trinamool Congress on Thursday, two years after leaving the party for the saffron camp.

Dutta took the party flag from state Commerce and Industry Minister Partha Chatterjee at the latter's room in the Assembly, a few yards away from the Central Hall where Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee took oath as an MLA just a few minutes before. State Transport Minister Firhad Hakim was also present on the occasion.

Speaking to the media after the ceremony, Dutta said, "I was an MLA from 2011 to 2021, besides serving as the Mayor of Bidhannagar Municipal Corporation. And everything was possible because of Mamata Banerjee. I cannot deny the fact that I left the party because of some misunderstanding. I wanted to come back and she (Banerjee) has accepted me. I shall work the way the party wants me to work." Dutta, who switched over to the BJP in



October 2019 and unsuccessfully contested the Assembly elections from Bidhannagar earlier this year, losing to Sujit Bose of Trinamool, had given enough hints of severing ties with the saffron camp.

Speaking to the media on the Lakhimpur Kheri incident on Wednesday, Dutta had said, "I have seen the incident on the television. It is not important to whom the vehicle belongs to... It is a tragic incident and the people

responsible for it should be hanged." "This cannot be a method to throttle any movement. This is a democratic country. We are not living under a Taliban government," he had said on Section 144 of CrPC being imposed by the Yogi Adityanath-led Uttar Pradesh government.

The remarks had further fuelled the speculation that Dutta's days in the BJP were numbered. The speculation was even more convincing because there were already rumours in the political circles that Dutta had got in touch with the Trinamool leadership and it was only a matter of time before he returned to his previous party.

However, party insiders were of the opinion that Dutta's entry into the party won't be smooth because of stiff resistance from the local leadership. Dutta shared a tainted relationship with Bidhannagar MLA and state minister Sujit Bose and also with the MLA from Rajarhat Newtown, Tapas Chatterjee, who had expressed their reservation about the 'ghar-wapsi' of the former Trinamool MLA.

Nadda reconstitutes BJP national executive committee

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) president JP Nadda on Thursday reconstituted the party's national executive committee.

According to the list issued by the BJP general secretary Arun Singh, 80 leaders including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, veteran leaders L.K. Advani, Murli Manohar Joshi, former national president Rajnath Singh, Amit Shah, and Nitin Gadkari have been nominated in the new committee.

Besides these 80 leaders, 50 leaders have been included as special invitees and 179 leaders as permanent invitees (ex-officio) have been included in the party's national working committee, including Chief Ministers from the BJP, Deputy Chief Minister, MLAs in various Legislative Assemblies and Legislative Councils.

Also, party leaders, former deputy chief ministers, national spokesperson, national front president, state in-charge, state co in-charge, state presi-



dent and state organisation general secretary are also included.

Nadda has also announced the names of the office bearers of his national team. Thirteen leaders

including former Chhattisgarh chief minister Raman Singh and former Rajasthan chief minister Vasundhara Raje, have been appointed national vice-presidents.

By adopting the one person one post formula, Union Minister Bhupendra Yadav has not been named as a national office bearer this time. Apart from Yadav, all the general secretaries included in the previous team have been given a place in the new team.

B.L. Santosh has once again been given the responsibility of National General Secretary (Organisation). However, this time Nadda has named only one co-organisation General Secretary, Shivprakash, while V. Satish has been appointed the organiser. The BJP president has also announced the name of 11 secretaries and 23 national spokespersons in his new team.

Along with this, the name of the presidents of various fronts of the party have also been announced, in which no change has been made.

Two Bajrang Dal activists arrested for moral policing in K'taka

Dakshina Kannada | Agencies

Two Bajrang Dal activists were arrested on charges of moral policing in Mangaluru city of Dakshina Kannada district of Karnataka on Thursday. The arrested persons were identified as Jayaprakash and Pruthvi.

According to the police, the moral policing incident had taken place late on Wednesday night when the victim and his friend were talking to a female friend in the limits of Kadri police station.

According to the com-

plaint by the victim, the accused who came on a bike stopped near the victim and his friend were speaking to their female friend. The accused asked the name of the complainant and after coming to know that he was a Muslim, they objected and abused him for talking to a Hindu girl. Later, they man-handled and assaulted him. The accused also threatened the victim.

Police said that the victims confronted the Bajrang Dal activists when they questioned them. Later, the police were called to the

spot and all were taken to the police station.

The victim told the police that at 10 pm he had dinner with his friend in Kankanady locality and after that they were heading towards their room near the Lalbagh area. On the way, they met a female friend. Later, they were joined by their classmates and the incident happened when they were chatting to each other.

Police Commissioner of Mangaluru N Shahikumar stated that the police have initiated action and arrested the accused persons.

28 civilians killed by terrorists in Kashmir in 2021: IG

Srinagar | Agencies

A total of 28 civilians have been killed by terrorists in Kashmir in 2021, IG Kashmir Vijay Kumar said in a statement on Thursday.

He said the terrorist handlers across the border have been frustrated by the successful operations against them and the elimination of many militants in Kashmir, which has led them to change their strategy and target civilians belonging to the minority communities, including women.

"In 2021, 28 civilians have been killed by terrorists so far. Out of the 28, five persons belonged to local Hindu/Sikh community while 2 were non-local Hindu labourers," the IG said in a statement.

"Due to killing of huge number of terrorists of all outfits, especially their leaderships, destruction of their support structures and continuous and effective maintenance of law and order, terrorist handlers across the border have

become frustrated and changed their strategy and started targeting unarmed policemen, innocent civilians, politicians and now innocent civilians from minority communities, including women," the IG said.

The statement further said that in all such cases, the terrorists used pistols. "These acts are committed by newly-recruited terrorists or those who are about to join terrorist ranks. In some cases, overground workers have been found directly involved. J&K Police are working hard and we are identifying all such part-time/hybrid terrorists and strictest action shall be taken against them," the statement said. "We have received several leads and are working on them. We have also been launching operations along with the security forces. We appeal to the general public, especially the minority communities, not to panic. We have been maintaining peace and will continue to do so," it added.

GOVT OWNS RESPONSIBILITY FOR NOT PREVENTING RECENT TERROR ATTACKS IN KASHMIR: L-G

Srinagar: The Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha, said on Thursday that the administration takes responsibility for not being able to prevent the recent terror attacks in Kashmir, even though there were no specific inputs in this regard.

He was speaking to reporters about the recent target killings of civilians by terrorists, with a majority of the victims being non-Muslims. "It is our responsibility, and we accept it. But there were no specific inputs," he said. The LG said this is a deliberate attempt to disrupt the tourist inflow and industrial investment coming to Kashmir by elements across the border and within Jammu and Kashmir who want to escalate terrorism. "We have to end this conspiracy and finish this entire ecosystem. Every effort will be made for that," he said. Sinha said it is an attempt to disrupt the communal fabric of Jammu and Kashmir. Paying homage to the deceased, he said the killers won't be spared. "There have been elaborate discussions with the members of security forces, and the enemies of humanity won't be spared," he said. Sinha said a strategy has been formed for the safety and security of 1.25 crore people of Jammu and Kashmir.

In the past few days, violence in Kashmir has seen many civilians being targeted, including prominent Kashmiri chemist M.L. Bindroo, Virinder Paswan, a vendor, and Mohamad Shafi. Supinder Kaur and Deepak Chand were gunned down at a school in Srinagar on Thursday.

Order probe into Lakhimpur Kheri violence by sitting judge: Priyanka

Lucknow | Agencies

Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Thursday demanded a probe by a sitting judge of the Supreme Court or a high court into the Lakhimpur Kheri violence.

She also said that Union Minister Ajay Mishra Teni, whose son is among those booked, should resign to ensure an impartial probe.

"In my view and that of the victims' families as well, the case should be probed by a sitting Supreme Court or high court judge, and not the retired judge," she said. The state government, on Thursday, had appointed retired high court judge Pradeep Srivastava to probe the Lakhimpur violence. Priyanka Gandhi visited a temple on the first day of Navratri and said that she was fasting. She said that she had prayed for the welfare of all. Meanwhile, as she left for Bahraich on Thursday to meet the family of another deceased farmer, Samajwadi Party President Akhilesh Yadav and Bahujan Samaj Party MP Satish Chandra Mishra made their way to Lakhimpur to meet the families of



those who had lost their lives in Sunday's violence. Akhilesh Yadav questioned the delay in the arrest of Ashish Mishra, son of Union Minister Ajay Mishra Teni and said that it was futile to expect any justice from the BJP government.

BKU spokesperson, Rakesh Tikait, while talking to reporters in Rampur, said that if Ashish Mishra was not arrested by October 12, when the post death rituals of the deceased persons will take place, the BKU would launch a massive agitation.

Telangana CM orders CB CID probe into Wakf properties

Hyderabad | Agencies

Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrababhan Naraiah on Thursday announced CB CID inquiry into alleged encroachments of Wakf properties.

He told the State Legislative Assembly that orders for the CB CID probe will be issued. He accepted the demand by Majlis-e-Itehadul Muslimeen (MIM) in this regard.

The Chief Minister told the House that his government is committed to protect Wakf properties. He pointed out that the government has already freed the Wakf and Endowment lands to prevent their encroachment or registration.

Rao said MIM leader Akbaruddin Owaisi also brought to his notice that the cases relating to Wakf land are not being argued effectively in the courts. On the demand for CB CID inquiry into irregularities, he said he had no objection to this.

During the debate on minority welfare two days



ago, Owaisi had drawn the attention of the government to the state of affairs in Wakf Board. He had sought immediate intervention of the government.

Responding to the chief minister's announcement, Owaisi thanked him.

Meanwhile, home minister Mohammed Mehmood Ali also welcomed the chief minister's announcement. He said that the chief minister is determined to protect Wakf and Endowment properties.

Ali said the chief minister by announcing the CB CID probe again showed his sincerity in addressing the issue.

The home minister hoped that all details regarding Wakf properties will come to light through the proposed comprehensive land survey in the state. According to him there are allegations of irregularities in Wakf properties before the formation of Telangana State. He made it clear that the present government has no involvement.

Ship raid: Congress says NCB flouted NDPS rules, demands probe

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Maharashtra Congress on Thursday accused the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) Mumbai Zone of allegedly flouting the NDPS Act rules while conducting the raid on a luxury ship on October 2, and demanded action against the agency officials.

Talking to the media, Congress State Spokesperson Sachin Sawant said that as per the NCB's own handbook if an accused has to be shifted or handed over to another officer after arrest, it can only be done with the written and signed consent of a senior officer. Besides, the rules say that the same officer who has nabbed any accused is responsible for his safety/security and must produce him before a court within 24 hours. "In the NCB raids on October 2, the rules seem to have been blatantly violated. How did a private person who is a Bharatiya Janata Party activist hand over the accused. The entire raid and busting the so-called rave party on the cruise ship are suspicious," Sawant said.

He charged the NCB officers with suppressing the truth by calling BJP activists Manish Bhanushali and



Kiran P. Gosavi as 'independent witnesses', when the very same person (Bhanushali) has admitted he was merely an 'informer' of the agency.

If such is the case, Sawant demanded that the NCB Mumbai officers should show the arrest details and the documents whereby two of the high-profile accused were handled by the two private persons who are BJP activists, 'compromising the security of the accused', and how they even clicked selfies with them (accused) that day. "These are extremely serious issues. The NCB Director-General and Maha Vikas Aghadi government must order an imme-

mediate probe in the matter. As per the NDPS Act, any officer found guilty of violating the rule book faces 10 years' jail plus fine of at least Rs 100,000," Sawant pointed out. The Congress leader's questions to the NCB came a day after the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) National Spokesperson and Minister Nawab Malik created a sensation by exposing the involvement of two 'BJP activists' and private persons in the ship raid.

Shiv Sena leader Kishore Tiwari, accorded MoS status, termed the emerging developments as "extremely serious" and demanded that the MVA should order the arrest of NCB Zonal Director

Sameer Wankhede and probe the raid thoroughly. Malik on Thursday warned that more revelations with evidence about the NCB would come out soon and reiterated that the central agency is gunning only for high-profile persons from Bollywood to get publicity and tarnish the image of Bollywood and the MVA government in collusion with the BJP.

Sawant added that while the NCB is running after small quantities of drugs in Mumbai by arresting celebrities, why is the agency not taking any action when huge stocks of narcotics were found at Mundhara Port in Gujarat in September.

"This raises doubts whether the NCB is doing its job or like other central agencies, it is only working for the BJP to harass the MVA government. If the D-G of NCB fails to take action against the Mumbai Zonal officers, then it will be clear it is pursuing a 'political agenda'," said Sawant.

The trio of Malik, Tiwari and Sawant said that a proper probe by the MVA government will unearth the truth about the ship raid and many more people will be exposed.



THE WORLD SAW THE COURAGE OF INDIANS IN DEALING WITH CORONA TRAGEDY: PM

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that the world has seen very closely the bravery with which Indians tackled the biggest tragedy in hundred years in the form of Covid infection.



was produced, which we were able to increase tenfold when the demand increased. This is unimaginable for the world.

in every state. Modi said that the India of the 21st century will move forward while meeting the expectations of the people.

Chief Minister Chouhan said that under the guidance of PM Modi, preparations to tackle the possible third wave of Corona are on. We are trying our best to avoid the third wave.

BJP declares candidates for Lok Sabha, Assembly by-polls

The by-poll to Khandwa Lok Sabha seat has been necessitated due to the demise of sitting BJP MP Nand Kumar Chauhan. The by-poll to Jobat (ST) Assembly seat necessitated due to the death of sitting Congress legislator Kalawati Bhuria while election on Raigaon (SC) seat necessitated due to death of BJP MLA Jugal Kishore Bagri and the election on Prithivipur Assembly seat necessitated due to death of Congress MLA Brajendra Singh Rathore

Zafar Alam Khan | Bhopal www.absoluteindianews.com

The BJP on Thursday announced Gyaneshwar Patil as its candidate for by-election to the Khandwa Lok Sabha in Madhya Pradesh.



Singh Purni from the Khandwa Lok Sabha seat. For the by-poll to Jobat (ST) Assembly seat in Alirajpur district, which fell vacant due to the death of sitting Congress legislator Kalawati Bhuria, the BJP has given ticket to Sulocana Rawat against Congress candidate Mahesh Patel.

Agriculture based skill development one of the most sought after courses: Nehru

Lecture series at the Institute of Good Governance on 'Effective Change - Sustainable Results'



Team Absolute | Bhopal

Developing skills according to the needs of the industries is must. Agriculture based skill development is one of the most sought after courses.

term programmes, which are self-sustaining and revenue generating. The university has a model of vocational education ranging from elementary education to doctoral programmes.

CM PLANTS MUNGA SAPLING



Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted a Munga sapling in the premises of his residence. Chief Minister is planting saplings every day as per his resolve.

Only 15 Of 230 MLAs Submitted Asset Details To MP Assembly

Despite a unanimous resolution requiring every Madhya Pradesh Vidhan Sabha member to provide details of their and their dependents' assets, only 15 of 230 MLAs have submitted information so far.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Two years after the Madhya Pradesh Vidhan Sabha passed a unanimous resolution making it mandatory for each member to furnish details of their and dependents' assets and properties annually, just



15 MLAs have so far declared their details in the 230-member House. The resolution was passed on December 8, 2019, and according to it, every member of the House must furnish details of their and dependents' movable and immovable assets every year by June 30.

10 BJP MLAs, including Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and the Speaker, and five Congress MLAs have submitted their details. Ex-Chief Minister Kamal Nath is yet to submit his.

Winners of various competitions held during State Level Wildlife Week reward-

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Taking inspiration from the various programmes organised in the Wildlife Week, there is a need to create a continuous attachment towards the conservation, promotion and protection of wildlife.



wild animals in the libraries of the schools. First, second and third prizes and citations were awarded to 67 winners in the Photography, Exhibition, Painting, (Open Category, Senior Category, Junior and Divyang Category), Rangoli (Senior and Junior), Photography (Senior and Junior Category), Mehndi (Open Category), Palm Painting, 'Just a Minute'

Competition (Senior and Junior), Creative Competition, Fancy Dress and Face Painting Competitions held during the State Level Wildlife Week.

On this occasion the premiere show of documentary made on Van Vihar National Park Zoo Bhopal and Sanjay Tiger Reserve was held. Apart from this, the coffee table book of Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve was released and website was launched.

Our priority is to make the lives of tribals better: Governor

- Provide specialist medical services to those suffering from sickle cell
Employment oriented education should be given by the university

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Governor Mangubhai Patel has said that a large number of tribal people live in Madhya Pradesh. About 21 percent of the population of the state belongs to the tribes.



ty in the life of tribal community. Continuous efforts will have to be made to bring improvement in the lives of the people of the tribal community.

also necessary along with development. Sickle cell disease is more prevalent in tribal areas. Many health disorders arise due to sickle cell disease.

University should reach the villages and the poor. The knowledge of the university should be utilised in the prevention of sickle cell disease and other diseases and in providing employment and self-employment to the people of tribal society.

20K BJP workers to campaign for 2 lakh hours in MP

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Gearing up for the next Assembly polls in Madhya Pradesh, over 20,000 workers of the BJP state unit will collectively work for two lakh hours among the people at booth level to expand the party base in the state.



each assembly constituency of Madhya Pradesh in all 230 assembly constituencies. 'In Madhya Pradesh, the party is already strong and after this campaign it will expand to new areas,' he said.

are being prepared about the duties and they will be trained to reach out to the people. By December, we will launch the campaign, the BJP Madhya Pradesh in-charge said.



EDITOR'S SPECS

Congress: Change of guard on cards!

Amid demands for a Congress Working Committee meeting by a section of leaders, the Congress is likely to call the meeting of its highest decision-making forum this month to deliberate on important issues related to the party. But the 'G-23', who are pushing for wide-ranging changes in the party, have to muster numbers in the CWC to push for any change or pass any resolution contrary to the wishes of the current leadership. The CWC can remove or appoint a new President but a two-third majority is required any changes. "The Working Committee shall consist of the President of the Congress, the Leader of the Congress Party in Parliament, and 23 other members of whom 12 members will be elected by the AICC, as per rules prescribed by the Working Committee and the rest shall be appointed by the President. The quorum for a meeting of the Working Committee shall be eight," says the party constitution. A Congress leader said that it is unlikely that the G-23 gets support of a majority, as its leaders and their supporters are not more than six in the current CWC if P. Chidambaram and some others are counted. Azad, Mukul Wasnik, and Anand Sharma, who were signatories to the letter written to Sonia Gandhi last year for visible and effective leadership and reforms in the party, are among the CWC members. G-23 leaders have recently raised their pitch, in wake of some high-profile exits from the party, noting that the issues they raised have not been dealt with so far. Senior Congress leader Kapil Sibal had launched an attack on the party leadership, asking who was taking decisions in the party. He said that the demand of organisational elections has not been met even a year after the letter was written.

SENATE HEARINGS DO NOT EXPLAIN CAUSES OF AMERICAN SHAME

The US top brass was on one of its frequent visits to the confessional, the Senate Armed Services Committee, revealing just enough to reassure the American people that they have an open system. Defence Secretary Gen. Lloyd Austin must by now be in drill rattling off boo-boos by the military on more occasions than one. I can never forget his being grilled by the same committee during the Syrian war when he was a four star General.

SAEED NAQVI

The issue then was a relatively small matter. Gen. Lloyd was responsible for the training of Syrians who would fight Bashar al Assad's 'militants'. An initial \$500 million had been set aside for their wages plus state-of-the-art military hardware. Having received strenuous training, the Americans trained as a mirror image of Jabhat al Nusra just melted away exactly as the celebrated Afghan army did. There was an uproar. Secretary of Defence, Ashton Carter wept before TV cameras. It fell to Gen. Lloyd Austin's lot to face the then Senate Committee.

Senator: "How many of the men you trained are still with us, fighting?"

Gen. Austin: "Four or five."

The General, now Secretary of Defence, was not as embarrassingly exposed on the Afghan withdrawal. He had the entire top brass for company to face the Senators. As on the previous occasion he was candid.

"We have to consider some uncomfortable truths. We did not fully comprehend the depth of corruption and poor leadership in the senior ranks." Did he mean that had the senior ranks not been so corrupt, the foot soldiers, all 3,00,000 (three lakhs) of them would have been loyal?

There are lamentations galore on Ashraf Ghani's "unexplained rotation of commanders". Austin said, "We did not anticipate the snowball effect caused by these deals." This enabled the Taliban commanders to strike deals with local leaders. In brief, "the Afghan army we trained simply melted away, in many cases without firing a single shot."

This kind of a hearing is like a parade of American democracy in action. It can cause millions of viewers watching the show to suspend critical faculties. Not only did the Afghan army not fire a shot, in places it virtually spread out the red carpet for the Taliban to enter. In revelations like the Senate hearing, a great deal is covered up. The real story on an epic scale remains untold. Some really tough question needed to be asked. Why did it end this way? Many observers had told the US that this is the way the cookie would crumble. What the Senators needed to find out is 'why' did it crumble this way? President Joe Biden is right. Any end to a 20-year-old involvement, unpopular with the people, would end in a



mess. It is just as well that it has ended. But that is Biden's point of view. The world is running around trying to cope with the void left behind.

"American troops cannot and should not be fighting and dying in a war that Afghan forces are not willing to fight themselves." Can this statement of Biden's be disputed? "We could not provide them with the will to fight for their future."

The patronizing tone in the last sentence does reek of the quantity called American exceptionalism. This exceptionalism was obsequiously accepted by all in days when the US was paramount. Today even in a grouping like AUKUS, the US stands out as the only country that does not play cricket.

The withdrawal, despite military advice to the contrary, reflects on Biden decisiveness. His boss in an earlier era, Barack Obama became aware of the futility of extending the Afghan expedition, as early as 2010, but he allowed Gen. Stanley McChrystal and Gen. David Petraeus to talk him out of decisive action. They were looking for the perfect occasion, like the Philanderer, postponing his rendezvous until the wife is in another city, servants have taken leave, there is pitter-patter of rain and, at hand, a hubble-bubble charged with aphrodisiacs. Stars were never going to be in such perfect constellation. To that extent, Biden is right.

One could have written the script from the earliest days of the occupation when Americans were raining yellow packets of food to soften the population. The goodwill thus earned would breed informants with solid facts on the location of Al Qaeda operatives. "Red-hot" information would be passed onto the US chain of command right upto the fighter unit, airborne in a jiffy with lethal ordnance. A posse of Al Qaeda were on the march on the other side of the hill, whispered the informant. The group was bombed to smithereens. Field reports next morning revealed that the Americans had bombed a wedding procession. The "informant" had taken revenge on a rival tribe. Such mishaps were common.

Should not the Senators know how many wedding processions were bombed in this fashion? Would such episodes not augment the ranks of US haters by geometrical progression? Lyndie England became the notorious military officer, smiling over a pile of naked Iraqis tortured at the Abu Ghraib in Baghdad. This happened within a year of the US occupation of Iraq. How many Lyndie Englands posed with tortured Afghans by way of trophy over two decades? Torture cages at Bagram were televised recently. The macabre headlines of marines urinating on a pile of dead Afghans made page one in many newspapers. A clipping from The Guardian is a bleak page in my scrapbook. Thousands of doors crashed open, men kicked and punched in front of their women.

The 3,00,000 Afghan soldiers being trained came from these homes. Green on Blue attacks were a consequence: Afghan trainees would turn upon their trainers, killing them. The collaborating media stopped reporting these incidents because they demoralized the Occupation. This and much, much more the Senators need to know in full public view to cleanse the soul of America and restore to it the $\bar{y}i\bar{z}lan$ which was its pride.

(Saeed Naqvi is a senior commentator on political and diplomatic issues. The views expressed are personal. He can be reached on saeednaqvi@hotmail.com)

international

S Korean NSC discusses ways of reopening talks with North

Seoul | Agencies

Top security officials held a National Security Council (NSC) meeting on Thursday and discussed ways of reopening stalled dialogue with North Korea after the recent restoration of cross-border communications after a near two-month suspension.

On Monday, the North reopened the cross-border hotlines, 55 days after the North began refusing to answer South Korea's calls in protest of an annual combined military exercise between the South and the US, reports Yonhap News Agency. In Thursday's NSC meeting, led by National Security Office Director Suh Hoon, top security officials discussed efforts to re-engage with the North in light of the

restoration of cross-border communications.

They assessed positively the fact that direct military and government hotlines between the two Koreas were operating as normal since their restoration this week, and stressed the importance of maintaining stability in the political situation related to Pyongyang and preventing a build-up of military tensions.

The officials agreed to closely review latest developments on the North while strengthening communications and cooperation with related nations. They also agreed to strengthen "practical cooperation" with Japan to develop a "future-oriented" relationship and promote co-prosperity with Tokyo following the inauguration of new Prime Minister Fumio Kishida.

Philippines VP files candidacy for presidential polls

Manila | Agencies

Maria Leonor Robredo, Vice President of the Philippines, on Thursday filed her certificate of candidacy hours after she officially announced that she will run for President in the May 2022 election.

Robredo, 56, submitted her certificate to the Commission on Elections with her daughters and left the poll body without announcing who her running-mate will be, reports Xinhua news agency.

"I will fight. We will fight. I offer myself as a candidate for the presidency in the 2022 elections," Robredo said in a news conference earlier.

The opposition coalition 1Sambayan endorsed Robredo to be its presidential candidate. She had delayed her announcement after trying to forge a united opposition slate with other presidential contenders, but her efforts failed.

Popularly known as Leni, Robredo entered the national political spotlight after her husband, former Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo, died in a plane crash in 2012.

She stepped into the political arena in



2013, when she won a seat in the House of Representatives.

The other major contenders who have filed their certificates to officially contest the May 9, 2022, are Manila Mayor Francisco Domagoso; boxing icon-turned-politician Manny Pacquiao; Ferdinand Marcos Jr, the only son of late President Ferdinand Marcos; and Senator Panfilo Lacson.

Meanwhile, incumbent President Rodrigo Duterte has announced his retirement from politics, adding that he

will not contest for Vice President in 2022 elections.

His former long-time aid and Senator Christopher Go, 47, has his candidacy for Vice President.

The upcoming polls will elect the President, Vice President, half of the 24-member Senate, members of the House of Representatives, and other local officials.

Candidates have until Friday to file their official certificates to contest the polls.

Peruvian President announces PM's resignation

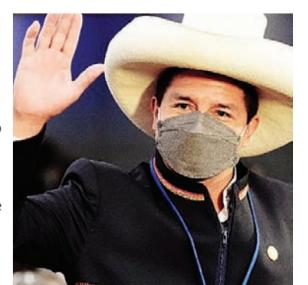
Lima | Agencies

Peru's President Pedro Castillo has announced the resignation of Prime Minister Guido Bellido to preserve the "governability of the country" mired in political tension since the latter took office on July 29.

"Today I have accepted the resignation of the President of the Council of Ministers Guido Bellido Ugarte, whom I thank for his services rendered to the nation," the president said in a nationwide address. Bellido's letter was released on Wednesday afternoon announcing his "irrevocable resignation of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers as you (Castillo) have requested of me", reports Xinhua news agency.

According to the local El Comercio newspaper, Bellido's resignation came amid "serious questions regarding his tax investigations, contradictions and disorder within the cabinet", as well as "his public confrontations" with Foreign Minister Oscar Maurtua.

According to Castillo, the decision to accept Bellido's resignation was to ensure "tranquility and cohesion in government".



EGYPT, PALESTINE DISCUSS PEACE PROCESS

Cairo: Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sisi held a phone conversation with his Palestinian counterpart Mahmoud Abbas to discuss the peace process between Palestine and Israel.

"The two leaders have reviewed the recent development of the Palestinian cause and the peace process," said the Egyptian presidency office in a statement. Sisi stressed his country's efforts in coordination with the Palestinians to revive the peace process for restoring the rights of the Palestinian people and promote security and stability in the region, reports Xinhua news agency. Abbas hailed the Egyptian-Palestinian ties, saying that Palestine values Egypt's efforts and endeavors for boosting the Palestinian cause and reaching a fair and comprehensive solution. The two leaders agreed on continuing bilateral talks and coordination in the coming period with regard to issues of common interest.

The Islamic Hamas Movement said the atmosphere of the talks with Egypt's General Intelligence Service Chief Abbas Kamel in the Egyptian capital Cairo is "positive." Hamas said that the two sides discussed a series of issues related to the political developments, the bilateral relations, achieving Palestinian unity, and rearranging the internal Palestinian affairs.

India to showcase arts, culture at Expo 2020 Dubai

Dubai | Agencies

From the biggest pavilion of the 192 participating countries in the Expo 2020 Dubai, India is out to showcase what it has to offer to the world -- from arts and culture, rich history and tradition, to opportunities that exist for individuals and corporates.

The six-month-long Expo kicked off on October 1 with Dubai expecting a large number of visitors despite the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. With the number of daily infections now well below 200 for the past week, the city has opened itself to the world.

Most visitors are allowed to travel with a valid negative RT-PCR test within 72 hours. However, India is still in the category that requires a valid negative PCR test certificate (with a QR code) for a test conducted within 48 hours, and a rapid PCR test report with a QR code for a test conducted at the departure airport within six hours of departure.

The pavilion features a kinetic facade of 600 individual colourful blocks. The panels rotate and the facade presents a different look with each rotation, a unique representation of the country's



theme at the Expo, 'India on the Move'.

The Indian pavilion was officially inaugurated by Piyush Goyal, Minister for Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, and Textiles. Goyal said the Pavilion "shows an India on the move, it describes a new India rejuvenated, reinvented and revitalised, which can convert any adversity into an opportunity".

As the country comes out a deadly second wave of the pandemic, India is eager to make an impression on the world and the Expo is a great platform.

Palestine slams Israeli court's decision on Jews' right to pray at al-Aqsa

Ramallah | Agencies

Palestine has condemned an Israeli court's decision that granted Jewish worshippers limited rights to pray at al-Aqsa Mosque in the old city of East Jerusalem.

In a statement, the Palestinian Ministry of Foreign Affairs called the move "a flagrant aggression against al-Aqsa Mosque", Xinhua news agency.

The Al-Aqsa Mosque compound is a site holy to both Muslims and Jews, the latter of whom call it the Temple Mount.

The statement said that the Israeli court's decision "is a step towards dividing the holy compound of the mosque", adding that "it will lead to dangerous consequences on al-Aqsa Mosque and its historical and legal status quo". It also said that it will exert all efforts and employ all political and diplomatic action to confront this decision.

The statement added that the foreign ministry will coordinate efforts with Jordan, the Arab League, and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) on both the regional and international levels.

Meanwhile, Arab League Secretary-



General Ahmed Aboul-Gheit also condemned the court's decision, saying it was "dangerous" and mirrored intentions of the new Israeli government and its continuous plans for targeting the Palestinian presence.

Aboul-Gheit said the Israeli policies, including the court decision, risk provoking the Palestinians as it touches religious sentiments.

He called on the international society to bear its responsibility for maintaining the legal and historical position of Jerusalem city.



DAY AFTER NCP SLAMS NCB, IT RAIDS PREMISES LINKED WITH AJIT PAWAR CONG CLAIMS NCB FLOUTED NDPS RULES IN SHIP RAID, SEEKS PROBE

The targets of the IT Department were the Jarandeshwar Sugar Mills, Daund Sugar Mills, Pushpadanteshwar Sugar Mills, Ambalika Sugar Mills, and offices or residences of Ajit Pawar's three sisters in Pune and Kolhapur.



Control Bureau for allegedly including some Bharatiya Janata Party activists in its raids on an alleged rave party aboard a luxury cruise ship on October 2, in which Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan Khan was arrested. The targets of the IT Department were the Jarandeshwar Sugar Mills, Daund Sugar Mills,

Pushpadanteshwar Sugar Mills, Ambalika Sugar Mills, and offices or residences of Ajit Pawar's three sisters in Pune and Kolhapur.

Confirming the raids, Pawar said the IT Department has raided a few firms connected with him and it is their right but denied any wrongdoings.

"I am not sure whether they were conducted for political purposes or for getting more information. We have been paying all taxes promptly," Pawar told media persons.

Pawar, the nephew of NCP President Sharad Pawar, also expressed "pain" at the manner in which his sisters are being targeted by the IT Department, and said that the motive behind the action is still not clear. "My sisters have been raided, one in Kolhapur and two in Pune. It they are targeted because they are related to me, then the people of the state must consider the levels to which the central agencies are being misused to target us," he said.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Maharashtra Congress on Thursday accused the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) Mumbai of allegedly flouting the NDPS Act rules while conducting the raid on a luxury ship on October 2, and demanded action against the agency officials.

Addressing the media, the Congress State Spokesperson Sachin Sawant said that as per the NCB's own handbook, any accused who has to be shifted or handed over to another officer after arrest, it can be only with the written and signed consent of a senior officer.

Besides, the rules say

that the same officer who arrests any accused is responsible for his security and must produce before a court within 24 hours.

"In the NCB raids on October 2, the rules seem to have been blatantly violated. How did a private person who is a Bharatiya Janata Party activist hand over the accused? The entire raid and busting the so-called rave party on the cruise ship are suspicious," Sawant said.

He charged the NCB officers of suppressing the truth by calling the BJP activists as 'independent witnesses', when the very same person has said he was merely an 'informer' of the agency.

If this is the case,

Sawant demanded that the NCB Mumbai officers should show the arrest details and the documents whereby two of the high-profile accused were handled by the 2 private persons who are BJP activists, 'compromising the security of the accused', and they even clicked selfies with them (accused) that day.

"These and other issues are extremely serious matter. The NCB Director-General and Maha Vikas Aghadi government must order an immediate probe in the matter. As per the NDPS Act, any officer found guilty of violating the rule-book faces 10 years' jail plus fine of at least Rs 100,000," Sawant pointed out.

Aryan Khan, 7 others sent to 14 days' judicial custody

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Mumbai magistrate's court on Thursday sent Aryan Khan, son of Bollywood megastar Shah Rukh Khan, besides 7 others accused in the rave party raids aboard a ship, carried out by the Narcotics Control Bureau, to 14 days judicial custody.

Declining the NCB's plea for another four days custody till October 11 for the 8 main accused, Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate R.M. Nerlikar sent them to 14 days judicial custody and also transferred the case for further hearing to the Special NDPS Court.

Aryan Khan's lawyer Satish Maneshinde and advocate Taraq K. Sayed, representing another accused Arbaaz



Merchant, said that now they plan to move the appropriate court for regular bail on Friday. Creating a huge sensation, the NCB sleuths had raided a rave party on the luxury ship Cordelia Cruise on October 2 and detained

Aryan and 7 others. Later, the following day, they were formally arrested and produced before ACMM Nerlikar on Sunday who sent them to a day's custody, which was extended till October 7.

All places of worship in Maha open doors, devotees out in force

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Lakhs of devotees from all religions thronged thousands of places of worship which were thrown open on Thursday after nearly six months in Maharashtra, as the threats of a Covid-19 third wave appeared to have receded, officials said.

While temples rang bells, mosques saw azaans being recited, hymns were sung in churches, gurbani and shabads in gurudwaras, plus prayers in derasars, Buddh viharas, fire temples, et al, in Mumbai and other parts of the state, adhering to full Covid protocols as directed by the government.

Leading the state, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, along with his wife Rashmi and son Aditya who is Tourism Minister, went to pray at the famed Mumbadevi Temple in south Mumbai, of the deity from whom the city gets its name. Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar, along with Nationalist Congress



Party state President and Minister Jayant Patil, prayed at the Shree Siddhivinayak Ganpati Temple in Prabhadevi.

Other ministers joined celebs and commoners in different places of worship which have been cleaned and span, with fragrance of sandalwood, incense and agarbattis emanating from

there, creating the right ambience for devotees. All places of worship like ISKCON temples at Chowpatty and Juhu, the Haji Ali Mausoleum in Worli, the Mount Mary Church in Bandra also attracted thousands for the first prayers after a long bout of closure. Similar crowds were witnessed at the Shri Saibaba Temple in Shirdi and the

Shaneshwar Temple in Shaneshingnapur, both in Ahmednagar, the famous Takhat Sachkhind Shri Hazur Abchalnagar Sahib gurudwara in Nanded, the Ashthavinayak Temple, the Mahalaxmi Temple, Haji Malang Dargah, the Trimbakeshwar Temple and Saptashringi Temple in Nashik, Jivdani Temple in Palghar, Jejuri Temple in Pune, Godiji Parshwanath Jain Temple in Mumbai and more.

The opening up of worship places gave a fillip to the local economy with thousands of vendors selling pooja items, prasad, flowers, garlands, 'chadars', religious books, scriptures, holy water bottles, photos, candles, lamps, flags, festoons, film memorabilia, and other devotion-related materials also sprang into action to cater to the customers, while gurudwaras prepared for their traditional 'langars' and some mosques for the 'niyaz-jamaats' for devotees.

Maharashtra govt to launch 'Mission Kawach Kundal' to ramp up Covid vaccination

The 'Mission Kawach Kundal' is being undertaken as the Central Government has set a target of inoculating 100 crore people by October 15, state Health Minister Rajesh Tope said

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Maharashtra government will undertake a special vaccination drive against Covid-19 from October 8 to 14, with a target of inoculating 15 lakh people everyday, state Health Minister Rajesh Tope said on Thursday.

The 'Mission Kawach Kundal' is being undertaken as the Central Government has set a target of inoculating 100 crore people by October 15, Tope said while speaking to reporters, adding that Union Health minister Mansukh Mandaviya held a discussion with him over the matter yesterday.

The Maharashtra health minister said Mandaviya told him that the state should play a greater role in this initiative and also assured him that there will be no shortage of vaccines for the state.

"We will launch 'Mission Kawach Kundal' from October 8 to 14 under which we plan to vaccinate 15 lakh peo-

ple everyday," Tope said.

As per the CoWIN app, till Thursday noon, more than 92.85 crore doses were administered. Maharashtra has inoculated 8.54 crore people till now.

Tope said the state had achieved the target of inoculating 15.16 lakh people in a day in the past. He said the state's target is to inoculate 9.15 crore people (eligible for taking vaccine in the state).

Of them, six crore people have been administered the first dose, he said, adding that 3.20 crore people are yet to receive the first jab.

"If these 3.20 crore are given the first dose, then everyone aged 18 and above will be vaccinated," he said. The minister said so far, 2.5 crore people have been given the second dose of vaccine.

"If the first dose is prioritised, then the fear of the third wave (of COVID-19) will be minimised. The severity will be less and ICU and oxygen demand will be under control and deaths could be averted," Tope said. Ahead of the spe-

cial inoculation drive, meetings with district administration were undertaken to assess any shortcomings that could be addressed. The minister said steps will be taken to mobilise people to get vaccinated.

Religious and social leaders, NGOs and social organisations will also be roped-in for this, he added.

Maharashtra on Wednesday reported 2,876 new coronavirus positive cases and 90 fatalities while 2,763 patients recovered, a state health department official said.

Maharashtra witnessed a marginal rise in the number of COVID-19 cases but the fatalities rose sharply compared to Tuesday when the state had logged 2,401 infections and 39 deaths.

With the new additions, the tally of infections in Maharashtra rose to 65,67,791, the death toll to 1,39,362 and the count of recoveries to 63,91,662, leaving the state with 33,181 active cases, the official said.

21 STRAY DOGS FOUND DEAD IN RATNAGIRI CITY, FIR LODGED

Mumbai: The bodies were found in different areas like Arogya Mandir and ICICI Road in the city.

Ratnagiri city police Thursday registered an FIR for the suspected killing of 21 stray dogs in the city that were found dead between Wednesday night and Thursday morning. The police said the death toll may increase by a few more. Vinit Choudhary, senior police inspector of Ratnagiri city police station, confirmed the development to The Indian Express. He said, "A person who works for animal rights has lodged an FIR with us early on Thursday. The post-mortem of the 21 dogs has been done at a hospital and samples have been taken for a chemical analysis report. Poisoning is suspected. Further probe is on."

Experts say Covid-19 spike can't be ruled out in Maharashtra, advise caution

On Monday, BMC was reported to have told the Bombay high court that the vaccination drive was progressing smoothly with there being no shortage of vaccines now and the municipality didn't see a third wave of the disease coming

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Mumbai reported more than 624 fresh Covid-19 cases on Wednesday, crossing the 600-mark which was seen 84 days ago on July 14 when 619 infections were registered in the city. This comes a day after the Brihanmumbai Municipal

Corporation (BMC) said a spike in cases could not be ruled out completely due to upcoming festivals and seasonal migration. Mumbai also reported seven deaths, taking the city's Covid related death toll to 16,136 out of the total 746,703 infections it has registered so far. The city's recovery rate is at a healthy 96% and the fatality rate is 2.16%. The city has 5,451 active cases and it reported 1.50% positivity rate on Wednesday.

On Monday, BMC was reported to have told the Bombay high court that the vaccination drive was progressing smoothly with there being no shortage of vaccines now and the municipality didn't see a third wave of the disease coming. However, it added that a spike in cases cannot be ruled out.

"The situation in the city is very comfortable right now and it is maybe safe consider-

ing we are able to handle the caseload very well and there is adequate health infrastructure to handle cases. However, we cannot completely rule out any further spike. There are festivals including Navratri, Dussehra and Diwali coming, where there will be gatherings," Suresh Kakani, BMC's additional municipal commissioner told HT on Tuesday.

"We cannot make any claim that a third wave will not come. In Ahmednagar district, several villages are facing a spike and we cannot claim anything on the above lines. We have to remain cautious and continue following Covid-19 appropriate behaviour, and get vaccinated, considering it is definitely helping in controlling the spread," Kakani added, clearly articulating that BMC was not in a position to rule out a third wave of Covid infections.

Covid Vaccine certificates or negative test reports must for non-Maharashtra devotees at Nanded temple

Temples of Mahur and Tuljapur in Osmanabad district, including the Goddess Tulja Bhavani temple, along with Jyotirlingas of Ghrishneshwar in Aurangabad and Parli Vajinath in Beed district opened for devotees this morning after remaining closed for nearly 6 months due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Pilgrims from outside Maharashtra visiting the famous Renuka Mata temple at Mahurgad in Nanded district will have to carry certificates showing their fully vaccinated status, while those not inoculated should possess the latest negative COVID-19 test reports, an official said on Thursday.

Temples of Mahur and Tuljapur in Osmanabad district, including the Goddess Tulja Bhavani temple, along with Jyotirlingas of

Ghrishneshwar in Aurangabad and Parli Vajinath in Beed district opened for devotees this morning after remaining closed for nearly 6 months due to the coronavirus pandemic. The annual yatra organized on the occasion of Kojagiri Purnima (from October 18 to 20) in Tuljapur has been canceled this year in view of the pandemic, the official said.

The district administration of Nanded has implemented a pass system - both online and offline - for devotees coming for 'dar-

shan' at the Renuka Mata temple at Mahurgad. The administration has made negative RT-PCR (done within 72 hours) and rapid antigen (within 24 hours) test reports mandatory for devotees who have not undergone vaccination against coronavirus. Pilgrims coming from out of Maharashtra will have to produce certificates showing they have been fully vaccinated against the viral infection to gain entry into the temple, the official said.

COVID-19: Mumbai becomes first district in Maharashtra to fully inoculate 50% adult population Around 86 lakh (93%) have been inoculated with at least one jab

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Mumbai has become the first district in Maharashtra to fully inoculate 50% of its 92.4 lakh adult population, according to reports from The Times of India. More than 44.6 lakh people have received both the jabs, while around 86 lakh (93%) have been inoculated with at least one jab, the report said.

This development comes as Mumbai reported 629 new COVID-19 cases on October 6, Wednesday, taking the total tally to 7,45,729.

540 COVID-19 patients recovered and were discharged on Wednesday, taking the recovery count to 7,22,636. Now, there are 4438 active cases in the city.

The city recorded 7 deaths due to coronavirus on Wednesday, which pushed its fatality count to 16,136 as per data released by the city's civic body.

On Wednesday, 39,569 tests were conducted. May 17 had reported the lowest count rate with just 17,640 tests. Till date, 1,05,74,242 tests have



been conducted in the city.

Meanwhile, the doubling rate on Mumbai has declined to 1131 days, while the weekly growth rate has increased to 0.06 percent.

There are total 0 containment zones in the city and 48 buildings have been sealed as per today's data. Recovery rate of Mumbai district has increased to 97 percent. Meanwhile, Maharashtra on Wednesday reported 2,876 new coronavirus positive cases and 90 fatalities while 2,763 patients recovered, a state health department official said. Maharashtra witnessed a marginal rise in the number of COVID-19 cases but the fatalities rose sharply compared to Tuesday when the state had logged 2,401 infections and 39 deaths.

With the new additions, the tally of infections in Maharashtra rose to 65,67,791, the death toll to 1,39,362 and the count of recoveries to 63,91,662, leaving the state with 33,181 active cases, the official said. Maharashtra's case recovery rate now stands at 97.32 per cent while the fatality rate is 2.12 per cent.



Ryan Reynolds: I fell in love with character of Guy from 'Free Guy'

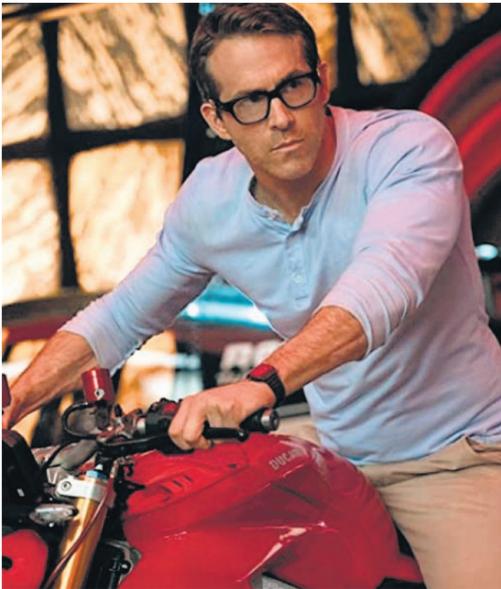
Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Ryan Reynolds has revealed the reason behind doing the film 'Free Guy', which is all set to stream from October 15 in Hindi, Tamil and Telugu only on Disney+ Hotstar in India.

The film tells a story of a bank teller who discovers he is actually a background player in an open-world video game.

Talking about the character and why he said yes to the movie, actor Reynolds shared: "I fell in love with the character of Guy, who is looking for some kind of authorship in his life and some semblance of belonging."

Adding further, he said: "He has a childlike innocence to him and a very rote kind of pattern that he



goes through each and every day. He's obscenely optimistic, but then he meets this woman who helps him grow, and I think that is something a lot of people can relate to.

"She helps him grow in interesting and unique ways, and he gains his own sort of agency and an ability to begin thinking for himself, as a result."

Directed by Shawn Levy, the film also stars Jodie Comer, Lil Rel Howery, Joe Keery, Utkarsh Ambudkar and Taika Waititi amongst others.

It is produced by Reynolds along with Levy, Sarah Schechter, Greg Berlanti and Adam Kolbrenner with Mary McLaglen, Josh McLaglen, George Dewey, Dan Levine and Michael Riley McGrath serving as executive producers.

Tom Cruise Los

Tom Cruise learning to fly World War II plane for 'Mission: Impossible 8'

Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Tom Cruise has reportedly been learning to fly a World War II military plane for dogfight scenes in 'Mission: Impossible 8'.

The 59-year-old star, who is known for performing his own stunts in his action blockbusters, has been spotted flying a 1943 Boeing Stearman Model 75 at the Duxford Airfield in Cambridgeshire in the UK, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

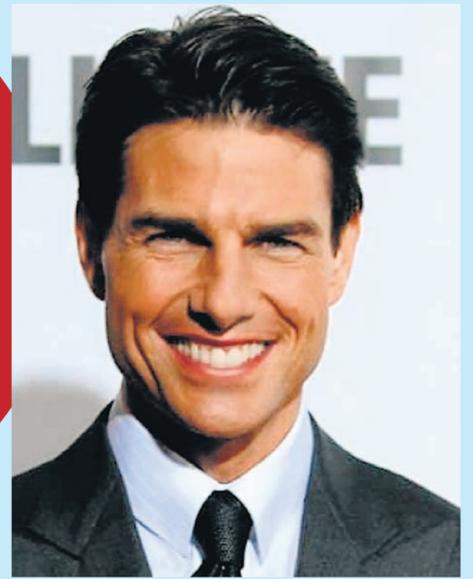
The plane, which had two movie rigs on its wings, will be filmed in a chase with another wartime plane.

The star has already begun his work as agent Ethan Hunt for 'Mission: Impossible 8', which is not slated for release until 2023, even though filming has only recently wrapped on the upcoming 'Mission: Impossible 7'.

A source told The Sun newspaper's Bizarre column: "Tom had started to learn to fly a Boeing Stearman biplane earlier this year for a major stunt scene in 'Mission: Impossible 8'. It's obviously a highly skilled task but as usual he has no plans to cut any corners or bring in a stuntman."

The source added: "Filming has only just wrapped on 'Mission: Impossible 7' but Tom has not given himself a break. And trying to film jaw-dropping scenes with an 80-year-old plane is particularly dangerous."

Cruise is also set to fly planes in 'Top Gun: Maverick' and previously promised fans that there has "never been" an aerial scene quite like the one that will be featured in the movie, which is a sequel to the 1986 hit 'Top Gun'.



Lashana Lynch joined 'James Bond' to do massive stunts

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood actress Lashana Lynch has shared that the prospect of performing "massive stunts" was a key reason for her joining the cast of the 'James Bond' movie 'No Time To Die'. The 33-year-old actress plays 00 agent Nomi in the new 'James Bond' movie and admits that she really wanted to feel "strong and powerful" by getting her teeth into action scenes, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

Asked about her wishes from the Bond movie, Lynch told ComicBook.com: "There's two things. I really wanted to create a really realistic character who was fun and ambitious and witty and all of these things."

"But I really just wanted to do massive stunts, if I'm being honest. I just wanted to kick people in the face and handle weapons and roll on the ground and get dirty and wear combat trousers and big boots and feel really strong. I wanted to feel strong and powerful, internally and externally and, thankfully, I got to do that." She also shared that she was grateful 007 officials took her advice on board and decided to make Nomi an agent who was questioning her abilities. Lynch said: "The nice thing about - from the audition onwards - was I could tell that they had a really good idea of Nomi, but that they were waiting for the person who they cast to collaborate with them, which is nice. And it doesn't always happen, actually."



2021 GRACIE AWARDS

Taylor Swift thanks fans for 'Folklore' film win

Los Angeles | Agencies

Taylor Swift accepted the grand award for special TV for her documentary film 'Folklore: The Long Pond Studio Sessions' at the 2021 Gracie Awards, which streamed online Tuesday night, reports Billboard.com.

Presented by the Alliance for Women in Media Foundation, the Gracie Awards "honors exemplary programming created by, for and about women," according to the organisation. Besides thanking her collaborators, including Jack Antonoff and Aaron Dessner, for their work on the Grammy-winning 'Folklore' and the accompanying Disney+ concert film, the superstar expressed her gratitude to the health care professionals on site who ensured the project was COVID-safe during production. Before signing off, Swift gave the biggest thank you to her fans. "Thank you for caring about all of this. Thank you for being the reason why we could come together in this way. You made this album what it is. And you continue to just blow me away all the time," the singer shared in the speech. Other 2021 Gracie Awards honorees included Kelly Clarkson for her eponymous talk show and former first ladies Hillary Clinton and Michelle Obama for their respective podcasts, 'You and Me Both With Hillary Clinton' and 'The Michelle Obama Podcast'. Newcomers were recognised as well. Nineteen-year-old Maitreyi Ramakrishnan took the award for actress in a breakthrough role - comedy for her lead role in Mindy Kaling's Netflix sitcom 'Never Have I Ever'.

'THE MANOR': A HAUNTING DRAMA OF TERROR

FILM REVIEW

TROY RIBEIRO

(Streaming on Amazon Prime).

Direction: Axelle Carolyn
Cast: Katie Amanda Keane, Fran Bennett, Nicholas Alexander, Bruce Davison, Barbara Hershey, Shelley Robertson, Stacey Travis, Nancy Linehan Charles, Jill Larson and Ciera Payton.

Duration: 96 minutes.
Ratings: *** (three stars)



Despite the owls hooting, birds cawing, and the wood creaking, there is nothing eerie or creepy in Director Axelle Carolyn's 'The Manor'. It is not a scary film, but a robust haunting drama of terror that will make you think twice before putting your loved ones into an old-age home. The film begins on an innocuous note with a sprightly Judith (Barbara Hershey) celebrating her seventieth birthday with her near and dear ones. During the celebrations, she falls as a result of a stroke.

Three months later, after being diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, Judith moves into Golden Sun Manor Nursing Home, an assisted living facility. She claims that being an independent person, she wouldn't want her family to witness her "being diminished".

Judith's daughter Barbara (Katie Amanda Keane) is cool with her mother's decision. But Barbara's son Josh (Nicholas Alexander) is not too happy about his grandmother's resolve. He argues with his mother that when he was young, his grandma was there to take care of him and now it's time "for us to take care of her". The moment captures the bond between the young grandson and his grandma. While outwardly the facility appears to be a perfect place for its senior citizens, Judith is taken aback by the handling of the inmates after she is made aware of the fine-print she signed during admission. Being a free-spirited person, she feels bogged down by her own doing, especially after she witnesses strange occurrences and has nightmarish visions.

As residents begin to die mysteriously, Judith is convinced that a sinister presence is haunting the massive estate. She frantically tries to escape even as her devoted grandson

doubts her sanity and not the demons she fears. How she convinces her grandson to help her forms the crux of the story.

Just like how Roland (Bruce Davison), a fellow resident at the Manor, mentioned to Judith when she arrived, "It takes a bit of a time, but ultimately, all fit in." Similarly, the screenplay, too, moving on at a slow pace and an even note, like a slice-of-life film, ticks all the boxes of a good film that is not too serious about death or senility.

Barbara Hershey looks fab as the septuagenarian and she does give a convincing performance. She is aptly supported by the entire cast.

Overall, on the production front, the principal set of 'The Manor', though majestic in appearance, is hardly exploited. Cinematographer Andreas Sanchez's frames are atmospheric and the sound design is ominous, elevating the viewing experience.

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Christine Quinn



INDIAN PREMIER LEAGUE 2021

KINGS THRASH CSK BY 6 WICKETS, KEEP PLAYOFF HOPES ALIVE

Dubai | Agencies

Riding on a quickfire fifty by skipper KL Rahul (98 off 42) and a clinical bowling effort, Punjab Kings thrashed Chennai Super Kings by six wickets in the 53rd match of the IPL 2021, at Dubai International Cricket Stadium, here on Thursday.

This was Punjab's sixth win in 14 matches and they still have an outside chance of advancing to the playoffs. A hard-earned fifty by Faf du Plessis (76 off 55) took Chennai Super Kings to 134/6 in 20 overs on a tough pitch. Punjab Kings were excellent with the ball and Arshdeep Singh (2/35) and Chris Jordan (2/20) were the main wicket-takers for them. Chasing 135 for the win, openers Rahul and Mayank Agarwal gave Punjab a flying start, putting on 46 in 4.3 overs.

However, Shardul Thakur dismissed Mayank (12) and Sarfaraz Khan (0) in the same over to give Chennai Super Kings two quick breakthroughs.



Unfazed by things at the other end, KL Rahul kept on playing aggressive cricket and completed his half-century in 25 balls. Shahrukh Khan, who was promoted up the order, also hit one huge six before getting out to Deepak Chahar.

Aiden Markram, who came to bat next, scored 13 of 8 before giving his wicket to Shardul Thakur. In the end, Rahul remained unbeaten on 98 and single-handedly helped Punjab

Kings overhaul the target in the 13th over. Earlier, CSK were off to a poor start as they lost the wickets of Rituraj Gaikwad (12) and Moeen Ali (0) inside the powerplay.

Arshdeep Singh provided Punjab Kings the first breakthrough as he dismissed Gaikwad. The in-form opener tried to take on the short-pitch delivery bowled by Arshdeep but got a top edge and Shahrukh Khan completed the catch. Faf du

Plessis was then joined by Moeen Ali, who didn't trouble scorers and was dismissed for a duck.

Du Plessis looked in fine touch and hit back-to-back boundaries. But, he didn't get the required support from the other end as Robin Uthappa (2), Ambati Rayudu (4) got out cheaply. Both Uthappa and Rayudu were dismissed by Chris Jordan, who is playing this game in place of Nicholas Pooran.

In the final overs, Du Plessis batted freely and hit a few lusty boundaries to give impetus to CSK innings. His fine innings came to an end for 76 in the last over of the innings and he added 67 runs for the sixth wicket with Jadeja. Dwayne Bravo hit a four in last few balls and helped CSK post a total of 134-6 in 20 overs, which was not enough in the end.

Brief scores:

Chennai Super Kings Innings - 134-6 in 20 overs (Faf du Plessis 76 off 55, Chris Jordan 2/20, Arshdeep Singh 2/35) lost to Punjab Kings 139-4 in 13 Overs (KL Rahul 98 off 42; Shardul Thakur 3/28)

IPL 2021: KOLKATA ALMOST SEAL PLAYOFF SPOT WITH A HUGE WIN OVER RAJASTHAN

Sharjah | Agencies

Shivam Mavi (4/21) and Lockie Ferguson (3/18) shared seven wickets between themselves to demolish Rajasthan Royals by 86 runs at Sharjah Cricket Stadium here on Thursday.

Rajasthan's crushing loss in their final match of the IPL 2021 means that Punjab Kings are out of the tournament while Mumbai Indians' chances are left hanging by a very slim thread. Chasing 172, Rajasthan were reduced to 17/4 in power-play. Shakib Al Hasan struck on the third ball of the innings as Yashasvi Jaiswal went for a reverse sweep but missed it and was bowled. In the next over, Sanju Samson clipped Mavi's first ball to mid-wicket. Ferguson's double strike in the fourth over left Rajasthan in deep shambles. Liam Livingstone top-edged a pull off a short ball to deep square leg. Two balls later, Anuj Rawat was beaten for pace and trapped plumb in front of the stumps.

Glenn Phillips and Shivam Dube struck a six each off Sunil Narine but didn't last for long at the crease. In the next over, Phillips was hurried for a pace and bowled by a straight delivery from Mavi. Three balls later, Mavi went past Dube's attempted flick to hit the stumps. From there, it was a free fall for Rajasthan. Chris Morris was trapped lbw for a duck by Varun Chakravathy. Rahul Tewatia's



three boundaries off Mavi in the tenth over helped Rajasthan avoid the ignominy of lowest-ever total in the IPL. Tewatia then slog-swept Chakravathy for a six. Jaydev Unadkat lofted Ferguson for a boundary in the 12th over. But on the next ball, Unadkat holed out to deep cover. Tewatia continued to wage the lone battle, hitting boundaries against Ferguson and Narine. An attempt in taking a second run resulted in Chetan Sakariya's run-out in the 16th over. Mavi put an end to Rajasthan's misery as Tewatia bottom edged to his stumps, giving the right-arm pacer his fourth wicket of the match.

Brief scores:

Kolkata Knight Riders 171/4 in 20 overs (Shubman Gill 56, Venkatesh Iyer 38, Rahul Tewatia 1/11, Glenn Phillips 1/17) beat Rajasthan Royals 85 all out in 16.1 overs (Rahul Tewatia, 44, Shivam Dube 18, Shivam Mavi 4/21, Lockie Ferguson 3/18) by 86 runs.

JUNIOR SHOOTING WORLDS

Manu bags fourth gold as India dominate with 20 medals

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Top pistol shooter Manu Bhaker bagged her fourth gold as India continued its domination of the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Junior World Championship in Lima, Peru, bagging a gold and silver medal on the eighth day of competition. India also won two silver medals on an eventful day on Wednesday.



International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Junior World Championship in Lima, Peru, when the men's trap team secured silver, going down to Italy 4-6, in the gold medal match.

The trio of Bakhtyaruddin Malek, Shardul Vihan and Vivaan Kapoor had qualified for the match after placing second out of seven teams in qualification, with a combined score of 473 out of 525. Italy was strong throughout the competition having topped qualification with a huge 486, late on Wednesday night.

The junior women's trap team though missed out on a medal when Kirti Gupta, Aadya Tripathi and Divya Singh went down 2-6 to Germany in the bronze medal match.

After disastrous outings in the Tokyo Olympics a few weeks back, the Indian shooters seem to have got their winning touch back as they continued to reap a rich medal harvest in Lima. The gold and two silver medals on Wednesday takes India's tally to nine gold, eight silver and three bronze medals as the maintained its position atop the rankings table, according to information received here.

The Indian junior women's sports pistol team comprising Manu Bhaker, Rhythm Sangwan and newly crowned world junior champion in the individual women's sports pistol Naamya Kapoor, dominated proceedings in the 25m pistol team women junior competition on Wednesday beating USA 16-4 in the gold medal match.

This was Manu's fourth gold of the competition to go with one bronze, while it was the 14-year old Naamya's second gold of the championship.

India picked up a silver medal in the 25m rapid fire pistol junior men competition when Adarsh Singh fell short of USA's Henry Turner Leverett in the six-man final.

India won its 20th medal in the ongoing

ICC to replace 'batsman' with 'batter' with T20 World Cup

Dubai | Agencies

The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Thursday confirmed that it will replace 'batsman' with gender-neutral term 'batter' in all its playing conditions, starting with this month's men's T20 World Cup, scheduled to be played in UAE and Oman.

In September, the Marylebone Cricket Club announced it would be replacing the word 'batsman' with 'batter' in the Laws of Cricket. That change will now be reflected across all ICC playing conditions going forward.

The ICC said over the past four years it has been moving away from the word "batsman", with "batter" implemented regularly in commentary and across the organisation's channels. ICC acting CEO Geoff Allardice said the MCC's decision to move to 'batter' in the Laws of the game was one they 'welcomed'.



SAFF CHAMPIONSHIP 2021

INDIA HELD TO A DRAW BY SRI LANKA

Team Absolute | New Delhi

India played out a stalemate against Sri Lanka at the National Football Stadium in Male, Maldives, on Thursday, in their second game of the SAFF Championship 2021. The Blue Tigers now have two points from as many games.

According to information received here, India had a dominant start to the game, putting the two fullbacks to use, in order to stretch the opposition. Mandar Rao Dessai, who was playing left-back, went on a few dangerous outings, and on the quarter-hour mark, almost found Sunil Chhetri with a dangerous cross. However, the India skipper could not connect his header, as the ball went inches over him and into the keeper Sujan Perera's hands.

Blue Tigers boss Igor Stimac brought on Yasir Mohammad in place of Suresh Wanjiam, at the start of the second half, and that substitution seemed to have an immediate effect. The midfielder acted as a pivot in



the middle of the park, controlling the ebb and flow of the game. Liston and Udanta kept charging at the Sri Lankan defenders from both the wings, looking to find their captain in the middle of the box. However, the rub of the green evaded the Indians. Yasir was again involved in a close chance a little under 10 minutes into the

second half, when his free-kick was met by Chhetri inside the box, but the latter's header was tipped over the crossbar by Sujan Perera.

Minutes later, Chhetri played Udanta through behind the defence, setting the winger up for a one-on-one finish against Perera, but the assistant referee had already raised his flag.

You will see me in yellow but not sure as player: Dhoni

Dubai | Agencies

Chennai Super Kings skipper MS Dhoni on Thursday said that fans will see him in 'yellow' in IPL 2022, but he doesn't know if he will be part of the franchise as a player or in some other role.

Dhoni, who has been CSK's captain since the inaugural edition of the IPL in 2008, highlighted that there is a 'lot of uncertainty' because of the two new teams coming in and the mega auction, next year.

"Well, you can see me in

yellow next year. But whether I will be playing for CSK? There are a lot of uncertainties around it for a simple reason that we have two new teams coming up. We don't know the retention policy. We don't know how many foreigners, Indian players we can retain, the money cap that every player will be cutting from



the kitty," said 40-year-old at the toss ahead of CSK's match against Punjab Kings in Dubai.

INDIA WOMEN BLAST RUNS BEFORE RAIN ENDS FIRST T20I

Gold Coast | Agencies

The Indian women's cricket team recovered from a precarious position of 55/3 to reach 131 for 4 in 15.2 overs before heavy rain stopped the proceedings in what was developing into an intriguing clash between the bat and the ball in the first of the three women's T20I against Australia at the Carrara Oval here on Thursday. The match was abandoned with only 15.2 overs possible.

India got off to an explosive start with Smriti Mandhana, who scored a brilliant century in the one-off Test last week, and Shafali Verma putting on 31 runs on the board.

Shafali dealt exclusively in sixes, hitting three in her 14 ball stay, while Smriti looked intent on taking down



the left-arm spin of Sophie Molineux, and it needed Ashleigh Gardner's introduction in the fourth over to shift

the tone, with the off-spinner removing both openers in the space of five balls. Smriti got out first, caught by

Hannah Darlington for 17. Shafali was caught by Georgia Wareham for 18.

Aussie quick Tayla Vlaeminck (0-32), who in her fourth over hit 122.9kph (and amused viewers when the television speedo claimed she hit what would have been, by some distance, a world-record 145km/h on two occasions), according to a report on Cricket Australia website.

It was Jemimah Rodrigues who came to India's rescue, the right-hander cutting the spinners beautifully as she got back in her crease and played the ball late and into the gaps.

But soon after, the rain set in, leaving Australia (seven points) needing to claim just one of the remaining two matches to claim the series, and India (five points) still requiring another two wins.

Spain end Italy's unbeaten run, reach Nations League final

Rome | Agencies

Former World Champions Spain are through to the UEFA Nations League Final after beating Italy on home soil at the San Siro, ending the home side's unbeaten run of 37 matches. Ferran Torres score both goals for the side managed by former Barca boss Luis Enrique Martínez as Spain reach Sunday's final where they await the winner of the second semifinal between France or Belgium.

Torres put Spain ahead in the 17th minute, steering a left-wing cross from Mikel Oyarzabal past Italy keeper Gianluigi Donnarumma into the far corner. He added his second in the first half added time when he was left unmarked to head in another fine cross from Oyarzabal.



NAME AUS-IND WOMEN'S SERIES AFTER JHULAN, CATHRYN

Gold Coast | Agencies

On the lines of the men's series between the two countries being called Border-Gavaskar Trophy, former Australia leg-spinner Beams wants the trophy between the India and Australia women teams to be re-named as Goswami-Fitzpatrick in honour of India pacer Jhulan Goswami and Cathryn Fitzpatrick of Australia.

Kristen made this suggestion as India and Australia women teams, engaged in an enthralling series that has seen the Aussies dominate the One-day matches and Indians nearly triumphing in the one-off day-night Test, get ready to play the first T20 International.

Kristen Beams represented Australia on 49 occasions, including the 2016 T20 World Cup, and now offers expert analysis as part of the



ABC Grandstand team having called time on her playing career at the end of 2019.

And she gave many reasons why she wants the India-Australia women's series named after Jhulan and Cathryn.



KARTIK AARYAN GAINED 14 KILOS FOR FREDDY!

Team Absolute | Mumbai

It's often that one hears of transformations where an actor gets lean or ripped for a movie role; however, very few actors have adopted a different approach to gain weight like Aamir Khan has successfully done in the past and now it's Kartik Aaryan.

After wrapping up his film Dhamaka in a record time of 10 days, the popular star went on to do something super impressive for Freddy as well. Kartik gained about 12 to 14 kilos, which was a requirement for his role in Ekta Kapoor's Freddy, a romantic thriller packed with unpredictable twists and sharp turns.

Maintaining good physique is a must for most actors but when Kartik was told about this requirement for his character, he didn't even bat an eyelid to make it happen

for the film.

He worked closely with his trainer Samir Jaura on his physique based on the requirements of his character in Freddy. Sameer is known to be quite the pro at body transformations and has worked with some of the biggest names in Bollywood through their transformation journeys. Everyone's been singing praises for Kartik Aaryan who has been on a roll and is part of some of the most highly anticipated films including Ram Madhvan's action-thriller 'Dhamaka', Shashanka Ghosh's romantic thriller Freddy and the horror-comedy, BhoolBhulaiyaa, release of which is just most awaited by his fans.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Samiksha Batnagar has donned the producer's hat for a short film titled 'Bhraamak', which released digitally on October 4. The short film was released on Hungama Play. The thriller film stars Samiksha Batnagar and Jai Shankar Tripathi.

It also marks the directorial debut of Rishi Singh into films. Rishi's wearing multiple hats this time around as producer, cinematographer and music director of this film.

The film is slated to release on several other big platforms in days to come.

Samiksha is currently busy with the rehearsals for Delhi's Ramlila, during which she will essay the role of Sita.

Samiksha Batnagar turns producer with short film 'Bhraamak'



For me it's very important for a film to be successful but definitely loved and appreciated by audience" - says Priyanshu who will soon be seen in Rashmi Rocket



Team Absolute | Mumbai

ZEE5 will soon bring forth an exciting sports drama Original film, 'RASHMI ROCKET', headlined by the incredibly talented Taapsee Pannu. Akarsh Khurana's adept direction has added a magical touch to the movie. The movie is based on Rashmi, an incredibly fast runner who dreams of crossing the finish line as an athlete and making a mark for her country. However, she soon understands that the race to the finish line has multiple obstacles, and what seems like an athletic competition turns into her personal battle for respect, honour, and her individual identity. The central topic of the movie is gender testing in sports.

Every actor wants his project to be a huge success, however, the definition of success differs for each one of us. Similarly, Priyanshu Pannu who plays a key role in the movie has a unique way of defining the success of a movie. He shares, "For me as an actor life has been about just keep trying and never giving up even after many failures which resonates with our line from Rashmi Rocket - 'Haar jeet parinaamhain, Koshish humarakaamhain'. For me it's very important for a film to be successful but definitely loved and appreciated by audience. If our film has made impact, it should have lasting impression and people should talk about it even later in life. It should affect them emotionally somewhere and that's how I like the film and also my character to affect audience. That's how I measure the success of a film basically when it has a lasting impact on people's minds for long."

That's truly a novel way of defining success! Produced by Ronnie Screwvala, Neha Anand and Pranjalkhandhviya, written by Nanda Periyasamy, Aniruddha Guha and Kanika Dhillon and directed by Akarsh Khurana, 'RASHMI ROCKET' also stars Supriya Pathak, Abhishek Banerjee, Priyanshu Pannu and Supriya Pilgaonkar.

The movie is set to premiere on ZEE5 on 15th October

TAMANNAAH BHATIA: I ENJOY THE WHOLE HUSTLE OF BEING ON A SET

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Tamannaah Bhatia has a packed schedule this year. She says she enjoys the whole hustle of being on a set.

The actress is shooting for 'F3' in the south, then she has 'Dost Yaar' in Bollywood and is shooting for 'MasterChef' Telugu. She also has 'Plan A Plan B' in Hindi and 'GurthundaSeethakalam' down south.

Tamannaah said: "I enjoy the whole hustle of being on a set and getting on another immediately after. It is hectic to transport yourself mentally from one place to another because the characters and their environment are different."

She added: "But that's where the homework comes in. The process of understanding the script and the role before going on floors is what makes the switching relatively easy."

Kajol, Revathy collaborate for film titled 'The Last Hurrah'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress-turned-director Revathy and actress Kajol have joined hands for the upcoming film 'The Last Hurrah'.

Inspired by a true story and real characters, 'The Last Hurrah' tells a tale of an exemplary mother, Sujata, who battled the most challenging situations one can ever face with a smile. The film is currently in pre-production and will soon go on floors. Talking about her first collaboration with Kajol and choosing this story for her, Revathy said: "Sujata's journey in 'The Last Hurrah' is extremely close to my heart. It's not only relatable but also inspiring. When Suuraj, Shradha and I were discussing this film, Kajol was the first person who came to our mind." Her soft yet energetic eyes and her beautiful smile will make you believe that anything is possible and that is exactly how Sujata is. I am very excited for this collaboration and to be working with Kajol for this 'heartening story'. Kajol said that when she heard the story of 'The Last Hurrah', she could instantly connect with Sujata and she thought her journey was incredibly inspiring.



INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Mrunal Thakur