

absolute india

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LAKHIMPUR KHERI VIOLENCE: PROBE BY RETIRED HC JUDGE, COMPENSATION FOR VICTIMS

COMPROMISE...ACCEPTED

"Compensation of Rs 45 lakh each will be paid to the families of the four deceased, and a government job will be given to one family member, based on eligibility," it was announced at a joint press conference following several rounds of talks between the two sides. Compensation of Rs 10 lakh each will be paid to those injured. The administration also agreed to file a case under the Indian Penal Code's Section 120 (conspiracy), while a retired high court judge will probe Sunday's violence.

Team Absolute | Lakhimpur Kheri

After violence at a protest in Uttar Pradesh's Lakhimpur Kheri left nine people dead, an agreement was reached between farmers and the administration on Monday, with the latter accepting all their demands. Meanwhile, post-mortem examination of the deceased will be conducted on Monday. This was decided in a meeting between UP Police's Additional Director General of Police, Law and Order, Prashant Kumar, who had despatched to the area after the violence broke out, and top officials, following several rounds of talks between the Inspector General of Police, Lucknow Range, and a delegation of the farmers. Meanwhile, Bharatiya Kisan Union leader Rakesh Tikait, addressing a gathering, said: "This is a sad incident for the farmers... police also said that such an incident had happened for the first time. A case has been registered against the son of the (Union) Minister (Ajay Mishra) and the Minister's name has also been mentioned."



SC TO DECIDE RIGHT TO PROTEST

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday decided to examine a larger constitutional issue, if there can be an absolute right to protest by the farmers against the three agriculture laws, against the backdrop of stay on the laws by the top court. Citing the Lakhimpur Kheri violence, Attorney General K.K. Venugopal on Monday told the Supreme Court that an "unfortunate incident" happened and the protest against the farm laws must stop now. At this, the top court said that when "such incidents happen, nobody takes responsibility", noting that when it had already stayed the three farm laws, there is nothing to be implemented and what are the farmers protesting for? The bench noted that no one other than the court can decide the validity of the farm laws. The bench said it will examine the principal issue, whether right to protest is an absolute right? It added when the petitioner has already a writ petition, can he be permitted to still resort to protest when the matter is sub-judice.

PRIYANKA GANDHI SWEEPS ROOM IN DETENTION

Lucknow: A video of Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra sweeping a room with a broom has gone viral on social media. According to sources, the video is of the room where Priyanka has been detained since Monday morning at the Sitapur PAC headquarters. The room was apparently dirty and Priyanka asked for a broom and cleaned it herself. Congress workers slammed the police officials for not even giving a clean room to their leader.



AKHILESH, RAM GOPAL, SHIVPAL RELEASED IN LUCKNOW

Lucknow: Samajwadi Party leaders Akhilesh Yadav, Ram Gopal Yadav and their supporters have been released after almost six hours of detention in the Eco Garden in Lucknow. Shivpal Yadav was also released. The leaders were taken into custody on Monday morning while they were on their way to Lakhimpur Kheri to meet the families of those who died in Sunday's violence. Akhilesh has returned to his residence.

CONSPIRACY HATCHED BY FOREIGN FORCES: BJP MP

New Delhi: Expressing sympathy with the families of the farmers killed during a protest in Uttar Pradesh's Lakhimpur Kheri district, Vijaypal Singh Tomar, Rajya Sabha MP and former National President of the BJP Kisan Morcha while speaking to reporter alleged that foreign forces were involved in the violence on Sunday. He claimed that the incident in Lakhimpur Kheri was part of a bigger conspiracy and, therefore, a high-level inquiry must be ordered.

Sachin Tendulkar named in Pandora Papers, Government to investigate

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Government has decided to investigate 'pandora papers' leak that presented confidential records of 14 offshore service providers giving professional services to wealthy individuals and corporations seeking to incorporate shell companies, trusts, foundations and other entities in low or no-tax jurisdictions.



Legislative India spokesman Sachin Tendulkar has been named in the Pandora Papers investigation that unmasks the covert owners of offshore companies, incognito bank accounts, private jets, yachts, mansions, and even artworks by Pablo Picasso, Banksy and other masters, by providing more information than what is usually available to law enforcement agencies and cash-strapped governments. The International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) said people linked by the secret documents to offshore assets also include pop music diva Shakira, supermodel Claudia Schiffer and an Italian mobster known as "Lell the Fat One", besides Tendulkar. Tendulkar's attorney said the cricket player's investment is legitimate and has been declared to tax authorities. Shakira's attorney said the singer declared her companies, which the attorney said do not provide tax advantages. Schiffer's representatives said the supermodel correctly pays her taxes in the UK, where she lives. The ICIJ obtained the trove of more than 11.9 million confidential files and led a team of more than 600 journalists from 150 news outlets that spent two years sifting through them, tracking down hard-to-find sources and digging into court records and other public documents from dozens of countries. In most countries, it is not illegal to have assets offshore or to use shell companies to do business across national borders. Businesspeople who operate internationally say they need offshore companies to conduct their financial affairs.

SC says no state to deny ex-gratia to Covid victims

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Monday told the district disaster management authorities (DDMA) and the grievance redressal committees to avoid any technicalities and act as a helping hand, as it ruled that no state government would deny Rs 50,000 ex-gratia assistance to the kin of Covid victims, solely on the ground that the death certificate did not mention the viral disease as cause of death.



A bench of justices M.R. Shah and A.S. Bopanna said: "All endeavours shall be made by the district disaster management authority/district administration and even the grievance redressal committee to avoid any technicalities and all concerned authorities shall act as a helping hand, so as to wipe off the tears of those who have suffered because of the loss of a family member due to Covid-19." The top court also approved the Centre's proposal of paying Rs 50,000 to the next of kin of those who succumbed to the viral disease. The bench said: "No state shall deny the ex-gratia assistance of Rs 50,000 to the next of kin of the deceased solely on the ground that in the death certificate issued by the appropriate authority, the cause of death is not mentioned as died due to Covid-19." The bench said the ex-gratia will be over and above the compensation/amount to be paid by the Centre/states/Union Territories to be declared/provided under different benevolent schemes.

The power was granted to the Speaker by the Governor to administer the oath of office to the new MLAs under Article 188 of the Constitution. Officials said that this is the first time that a Governor has withdrawn the delegated power to the Speaker, thus escalating tension. However, the Speaker refused to comment on the issue.

Controversy erupts over Mamata's oath taking ceremony

Kolkata: A fresh controversy has erupted over the oath taking ceremony of three West Bengal MLAs, including Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, after Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar wrote a letter to Assembly Speaker Biman Banerjee, saying the "practice and proceedings at the level of the Assembly and the government have apparently emanated from misconception of law", leaving it to speculation as to whether the Governor would go to the Assembly for the oath taking ceremony as requested by the state government. Banerjee has expressed her desire to take oath in the Assembly on October 7. On October 1, the Speaker wrote to the Governor asking him to come to the Assembly for the oath taking ceremony of the newly-elected members of the House. The Speaker, who generally conducts the oath taking of the members of the Assembly, had to write to the Governor because Dhankhar had withdrawn Biman Banerjee's power to administer the oath of office to the members of the state legislature in the middle of September. The power was granted to the Speaker by the Governor to administer the oath of office to the new MLAs under Article 188 of the Constitution. Officials said that this is the first time that a Governor has withdrawn the delegated power to the Speaker, thus escalating tension. However, the Speaker refused to comment on the issue.

Facebook, WhatsApp, Instagram suffer major global outage

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Facebook, WhatsApp, Instagram and Messenger went down for millions of users, including in India, on Monday evening, as they were unable to send or receive messages on social media platforms. "We are aware that some people are having trouble accessing our apps and products. We are working to get things back to normal as quickly as possible, and we apologize for any inconvenience," Andy Stone, Facebook communications executive said in a tweet. According to DownDetector, a website that tracks WhatsApp outages, 40 per cent users were unable to download the app, 30 per cent had trouble in sending messages and 22 per cent had problems with the web version. People took to Twitter to report the problems they were facing with Facebook family apps, including posting memes and GIFs. "Sorry, something went wrong. We're working on it and we'll get it fixed as soon as we can," a message on the Facebook website read. "All of us coming to Twitter to see if Instagram, WhatsApp and Facebook are really down," a user tweeted. "Everyone rushing to Twitter to see if WhatsApp is actually down," another tweeted. "Instagram down, Facebook down,



WhatsApp down. You know who's in-charge now?" another user posted. Currently, there is no comment from the social media giant about what may be causing the problem or when these sites will be operational again. In April, Facebook and Instagram went down for millions of users for a couple of hours in various parts of the world. The outage was the second in less than a month for the social networking giant. People took to DownDetector as they were welcomed with "sorry something went wrong" error message from Facebook and Instagram. The outage appeared to affect Facebook's internal websites as well, famed developer Jane Wong noted in a tweet.

NEET-SS EXAM: Centre defends syllabus change, proposes to defer exam to Jan 2022

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Centre has told the Supreme Court that it has decided that the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) Super Speciality exam for 2021 can be deferred by a period of two months and be held on January 10-11, 2022.



Responding to a plea against the syllabus for the (NEET) PG Super Speciality exam 2021, the Centre said: "In terms of the revised scheme, the candidates are going to be tested/adjudged on the curriculum which they have already studied in their post-graduation course and have qualified for the final examination of their respective universities based on the same curriculum. Therefore, the modified scheme has not mandated the applicant candidates to study something different from which they have not studied already". The matter is scheduled for hearing on Tuesday. The affidavit was filed by the National Board of Examinations.

NASA images show polluted skies set to engulf north India soon

▶ THE LATEST NASA SATELLITE DATA SHOWS THAT MORE THAN 200 FARM FIRES HAVE BEEN RECORDED IN THE MAJHA REGION OF PUNJAB SINCE SEPTEMBER 1, ACCORDING TO MEDIA REPORTS. BY SEPTEMBER 29, THE COUNT OF FIRES WAS 66 IN PUNJAB AND 23 IN HARYANA.

▶ IN INDIA, 1.16.000 INFANT DEATHS IN 2019 WERE ATTRIBUTABLE TO AIR POLLUTION. COAL COMBUSTION WAS ATTRIBUTABLE FOR 1,00,000 DEATHS WHILE AMBIENT AIR POLLUTION KILLED 16.7 LAKH INDIANS, DATA RELEASED BY THE INDIAN COUNCIL FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH (ICMR) SHOWED.



Team Absolute | New Delhi

The clear blue skies over the national capital may go dark soon with dust and smoke as the stubble burning season nears. The satellite images by US space agency NASA have shown that crop residue burning has already started in several fields in Haryana and Punjab, according to media reports. Punjab annually generates 20 million tonnes of paddy straw, which is normally set on fire to quickly clear the fields for the next crop, resulting in choking of the

National Capital Region (NCR) in October and November, and causing major health effects. During October and November, stubble burning usually contributes between 20 per cent to 70 per cent of Delhi's air pollution. Last year, a report from the Environment Ministry showed that the average contribution of stubble burning to Delhi's air pollution increased from 10 per cent in 2019 to over 15 per cent in 2020. Meanwhile, state governments of Punjab, Haryana and Delhi and even the Centre have taken multiple measures to incentivise farmers and prevent them from setting their fields on fire. The Delhi government on Monday announced a set of 10 points formulated under its Winter Action Plan. It is also providing the Pusa-bio-decomposer, developed by the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, free of cost to its farmers to prevent stubble burning. The Punjab government is focusing on increasing use of paddy stubble in power generation.

Govt proposes amendment to Forest Act for 'conservation and development'

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Land held by any agency, originally acquired for non-forest purposes before October 1980, will be exempted from seeking any approval under the Forest Act 1980 for linear infrastructure projects - such as railway line or a road - as per a proposed amendment to the Act. "A landholding agency (Railways, NHAI, PWD etc.) is required to take approval under the Act as well as pay stipulated compensatory levies such as net present value (NPV), compensatory afforestation (CA) etc. for use of such land which was originally been acquired for non-forest purposes. The Environment Ministry is considering now to exempt such lands acquired before 25.10.1980 from the purview of the Act," said a consultation paper on the proposed amendments to the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, prepared by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC).



The consultation paper has been posted online for inviting comments/suggestions on the proposed amendments to the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 within 15 days. Although the paper was posted online on Monday, it is dated October 2, thus effectively leaving just 13 days for comments/suggestions.



COMPLAINT AGAINST HARYANA CM OVER ALLEGED REMARK AGAINST FARMERS

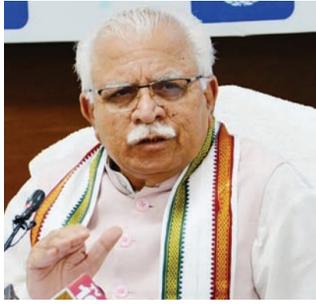
Gurugram | Agencies

Two practising lawyers at the Gurugram district court on Monday filed a complaint with the police based on the viral video of Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar. The Chief Minister in the viral video is seen allegedly talking about "tit for tat" against protesting farmers during a meeting of the BJP's Kisan Morcha in Chandigarh.

The complainant advocates have been identified as Mandeep Sehra and Dinesh Kumar.

In the complaint, they said, "A video went viral on October 3 in which the Haryana CM asked to form volunteers groups of 500, 700 and 1,000 for northern and western Haryana as there was no problem in South Haryana and asked to pick up sticks ('utha lo dande') and then at every place, 'sath satham samacharet'. What does it mean -- it means tit for tat (jaise ko taise). He also said, do not worry when you remain there (in jail) for a month, three months or six months, you will become big leaders, your names will be etched in history".

"This video was available on social media and YouTube and even few newspapers have carried this news item," the complaint said, adding that he along with his family are in deep shock after the CM's remarks. The complainant further said that they are worried that after Khattar's video



goes viral, riots and violence may spread in the state. Apart from this, Gurugram District Congress Committee members on Monday burnt an effigy of the Haryana Chief Minister over his alleged remark against protesting farmers.

"Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar is saying pick up a stick and don't care about having means to tell the media that the Sudhakar and Vaishali, who have two small children, were leading a normal life. According to the neighbours, the couple were religious and used to conduct prayers in the morning. The Telugu couple who spoke fluent Tamil were generally reserved and did not have many visitors, a resident said. As to Sudhakar's job, police said he

Developing indigenous technology need of the hour: Rajnath Singh

New Delhi | Agencies

Developing new technologies indigenously is the need of the hour, said Defence Minister Rajnath Singh pointing out that it is extremely important not just for strengthening national security but also ensuring overall development of the country.

Singh's statement came during felicitation ceremony of the winners of 'Dare to Dream 2.0' Contest of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in New Delhi.

Singh gave away awards to 40 winners - 22 in Individual category and 18 in Startup category. He also launched 'Dare to Dream 3.0' to promote innovators & startups and provide a platform to the young ignited minds in the country.

Dare to Dream is DRDO's pan-India contest to promote Indian academicians, individuals and startups to develop defence and aerospace technologies and systems.



DRDO provides technical and financial support to the winners for realisation of their ideas under the Technology Development Fund (TDF) scheme. Singh also gave away DRDO Young Scientists awards for

the year 2019. Sixteen DRDO scientists, under the age of 35 years, were awarded for their outstanding contribution in areas of their expertise. During the occasion, Singh said they reflect the energy, enthusiasm

and commitment of the youth of the country to create something new.

He exuded confidence that the winners in the fields of innovation, design and development will inspire young minds and create path-breaking innovation in future.

The 'Dare to Dream' challenge, he said, represents the vision and mission of the government as also the mandate of DRDO.

Singh reiterated the government's resolve to build a strong and self-reliant 'New India' which, he said, can only be achieved through a collaborative effort. He termed 'effort' and not just 'desire' as the key for an individual, society and the nation to achieve success. Saying that India is one of the oldest countries in experience & culture and the youngest with about 60 per cent of the young population, he encouraged the youth to observe, learn & create new innovations and play their part in taking the country to greater heights.

The heroin seizure in Gujarat that had its impact on a Chennai middle class apartment

Chennai | Agencies

The residents of middle class Govardhan Giri Apartments in Chennai's Kolapakkam are now wary.

For they are seeing a lot of visitors these days - media, probe agency officials - after the seizure of huge heroin in Gujarat's Mundra Port late last month.

After Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) officials seized a huge haul of 3,000 kg heroin, estimated to be valued at about Rs 21,000 crore, from the port, the development had its reverberations in Govardhan Giri apartments with residents, Machavaram Sudhakar and wife Govindaraju Durga Purna Vaishali, getting picked by the agency.

The arrests came as a huge surprise and shock not only for other residents of the apartments but also for those living on that street.

The couple certainly does not seem to be capable of having means to source heroin of huge scale or value.

With little prodding, residents with a bit of reluctance would tell the media that the Sudhakar and Vaishali, who have two small children, were leading a normal life.

According to the neighbours, the couple were religious and used to conduct prayers in the morning.

The Telugu couple who spoke fluent Tamil were generally reserved and did not have many visitors, a resident said.

As to Sudhakar's job, police said he

was employed with a cargo agent while the residents were told that he was working with a company.

It is said Sudhakar had lost his job last year post Covid-19 pandemic and the company Aashi Trading Company came into being around that time.

The heroin shipment originated from Afghanistan, and was shipped to Gujarat from Iran's Bandar Abbas Port. The goods and services tax (GST) number used for consignment allegedly belongs to a company registered in Andhra Pradesh's Vijayawada.

However, it was later found that Vaishali, a resident of Chennai, had taken the GST registration last year giving the Vijayawada address.

The building is owned by Vaishali's mother Govindaraju Taraka.

Vaishali had also taken an import and export license (IEC Code) from the Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) for export and import purposes.

After the DRI got a tip off that the narcotics were declared as semi-processed talc stones, originating from Afghanistan and shipped via Iran's Bandar Abbas to Mundra, it detained two containers for examination under the provisions of Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substance Act.

Subsequently, the couple were arrested and taken to Gujarat for further investigation while their two children were with their close relative.

Woman gang-raped in Delhi, one held

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A 27-year-old woman, who took an auto-rickshaw, was allegedly taken elsewhere and gang-raped by four men near the ITO area of the national capital, and one accused has been arrested, police said on Monday.

In her complaint, the woman, a resident of Uttar Pradesh's Sambhal, stated that she boarded the vehicle from northeast Delhi's Khajuri Khas area for Kashmere Gate on Saturday.

However mid-way, she was taken to an isolated room where she was raped by the auto-rickshaw driver and three others and then dropped at the Kashmere Gate. Sources said that doctors have medically examined the vic-



tim. Police, meanwhile, have arrested the auto-rickshaw driver who has confessed to his crime. The police have registered an FIR against the 4 accused people including the auto-rickshaw driver at the IP Estate police station. Searches are going on to nab the other three accused.

Contaminated water kills 6 in K'taka dist, admin on high alert

Vijayanagar | Agencies

The administration of Karnataka's newly created Vijayanagar districts on high alert after the death toll due to consumption of contaminated water in Makarabbi village in Hoovinahadagali taluk of the state rose to 6.

Considering the emergency, the district administration has stationed two ambulances in the village to shift patients quickly to hospitals in case anyone develops symptoms of diarrhoea and vomiting.

The deceased are identified as Lakshamma, Basamma Havanooru, Neelappa Belavagi, Goneppa, Mahadevappa and Kenchamma, all from Makarabbi village. As many as 200 people who fell sick after drinking contaminated water are being treated at Ballary, Hospet, Hubballi, Haveri and other hospitals.

Two people died on September 23 and another person, a 50-year woman succumbed on October 1.

Sources said Makarabbi village where the tragedy took place has a population of more than 2,000 people. During installation of new



pipeline to borewells, old pipes got damaged and sewage water got mixed up with drinking water.

More than 50 people whose health condition turned critical have been shifted to various hospitals in Hubballi, Davanagere, Haveri, Ballary and other places. Sources say that many are still in a critical state.

Taluk Health Inspector Dr Vinod said that 9 cases of vomiting and loose motion were reported first on Aug 26 and they were admitted to a nearby hospital. They responded to the treatment and recovered. A team of officers visited the village and collected three samples of water. Among these, 2 samples report showed that the water is unfit to be used for drinking purposes.

TN CM LAUNCHES FACE RECOGNITION SOFTWARE TO AID POLICE PROBE

Chennai: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Monday launched face recognition software to aid the state police in its investigations. The software would help compare the photos of suspects with a data resource of over 5.30 lakh photos updated in the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network Systems (CCTNS).

An official statement from the state police said that the software would help track down accused persons, suspected persons, and missing persons. It would also help in identifying corpses by comparing with the data available with the CCTNS. The software would also share the information about a person to all the police stations and would help nab the culprit if he or she commits an offence in another police station area. The arrest warrant pending against an individual will also be identified by the software and also if there is any crime history of the concerned person. This software can be installed in the computers used in the police stations as well as in the smartphones of the police personnel who are on the ground doing duty.

Congress suspends Assam MLA arrested for 'provocative' remarks

The Congress on Monday suspended its Assam MLA Sherman Ali Ahmed, who was arrested on Saturday for his "communally provocative" comments on the September 23 violence during an eviction drive in the state's Darrang district, which left two dead and 20 others injured.

Guwahati | Agencies

State Congress General Secretary Bobbeeta Sharma said that state party President Bhupen Kumar Borah has suspended Ahmed with immediate effect for violating party discipline.

Assam Police on Saturday first detained and then arrested the MLA from his official residence in Guwahati for his "communally provocative" controversial comments on mar-

tyrs of Assam agitation (1979-1985).

The 54-year-old three-time legislator justified the killing of eight people in Darrang in 1983 during the Assam agitation, triggering controversy across the state with various organisations lodging complaints at different police stations, leading to the police arresting him under various sections of the Indian Penal Code. Many parties and civil society organisa-

tions have been organising demonstrations during the past two weeks in many districts demanding action against him.

The Congress last week served Ahmed show-cause notice and asked him to reply within three days.

Sharma said that the MLA's "provocative comments and statements" have damaged the reputation and credibility of the AICC and the state Congress.

UP girl killed by brothers for marrying outside caste

In a case of an "honour killing", four men in UP's Meerut city allegedly killed their sister for marrying a man from a different caste.

Meerut | Agencies

The incident took place on Saturday when three brothers and cousins allegedly killed their 18-year-old sister for "maligning" the family name.

The accused took help of their friends and the police have booked ten persons for murder.

According to the police, the woman belonged to a different caste and her family was against the marriage.

She had recently informed her family about her relationship which enraged her brothers. The family put pressure on her to marry someone else of her choice.

A complaint was filed by the



woman's 'husband' following which an FIR was registered against the accused. The complainant claimed

that the girl, 18, succumbed to her injuries after being badly beaten. She was hurriedly cremated by her family.

Station house officer of Bhawanpur said that 10 people have been booked under IPC sections 302 (murder), 201 (causing disappearance of evidence of offence), and 147 (for rioting).

"We had started questioning members of the family and became suspicious as they were trying to hide something. Police teams are now trying to nab the suspects," the SHO added. In the FIR, the complainant claimed that he had married the woman at a temple in July. He alleged that his 'wife' was receiving life threats from her brothers.

"We got married after she turned 18 in July. They came to know about it. Her family cremated her before I could call the cops," the man said.

4 killed in road accident in Bihar's Rohtas district

Patna | Agencies

Four of a family were killed and another injured when the car they were travelling in collided with a truck coming from opposite direction in Bihar's Rohtas district on Monday.

The accident took place at the Sabrabad village under the Chenari police station on Sasaram Arrah state highway

The deceased were identified as Diwakar Saw, Krishna Kumar Saw, Gopal Prasad Saw and Ashok Gupta, who died on the spot. Another person, Pappu Gupta, was seriously injured and was taken to Varanasi for treatment.

The victims were going to the Moradabad village near Sasaram city to fix the marriage of Diwakar's niece. When they reached Sabrabad village, their car collided with a speeding truck coming from the opposite direction. "We heard a loud sound after the impact



of both vehicles. The local villagers reached at the spot and rescued one of the victims," said a villager in a statement to the police. "The villagers informed us about the accident near Sabrabad village. The car was mangled due to the intense impact of the accident. We have recovered the

dead bodies after cutting the car using gas cutters," said P. Sharma, investigating officer of the Chenari police station.

"We have registered an FIR under rash and negligent driving amounting to deaths against the errant driver of the truck. He will be arrested soon," the official said.



EVERY DEMAND FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF CHITRANGI WILL BE FULFILLED: CM

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that the state government is committed to uplift the poor sections along with the all-round development of the state. Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana is being run for every poor family of the state to have their own house. In view of the problem of sand in construction of houses for the beneficiaries of the scheme, sand policy will be changed soon, in which sand will be given free of cost to the housing beneficiary to build his own house.

Chouhan was addressing the dedication and foundation stone laying programme of development works at Chitrangi in Singrauli district on Monday. Chouhan dedicated and laid the foundation stone of construction works of 325 tap water schemes of Jal Jeevan Yojana by performing Bhoomi-Pujan. The total cost of these cluster water schemes being made under Jal Jeevan Mission is Rs 1663 crore. Chouhan distributed benefits to the beneficiaries of Ujjwala Yojana, Livelihood Mission and Village Industries Department. Chouhan said that Singrauli district including Chitrangi is being given the gift of water schemes through Jal Jeevan Mission. Now sisters and daughters will not have to go to get water from hand pumps and wells. Clean water will reach the house from the tap.

Chouhan dedicated four buildings costing 17 crore 26 lakh 37 thousand. It includes Jagannath Singh Memorial College building, District Education and Training Institute building Baidhan, Government College building Sarai and Government Higher Secondary



School building Bardi. Chouhan said that along with BA, B.Sc and B.Com courses will also be conducted in the college from the next session. Sub-division office will be made in Dudhmania if required. Chouhan said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is a symbol of development. He has given benefits of many development schemes to the poor. He said that as per the demand of the residents of the area, all the required roads including mini stadium would be constructed here.

Chouhan said that the beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana are facing a lot of difficulty due to getting sand for construction of their houses at very expensive prices. He announced that free sand would be supplied to the beneficiaries of PM Awas Yojana. For this, the sand policy will also be changed. Chouhan said that in addition to the list of 2011, a survey would be conducted for the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana so that maximum number of poor families could be given the benefit of

the scheme. Chouhan said that radical changes have to be brought in the lives of the families living in the forest. Now the forest committees will auction the tendu leaves and the distribution of dividend will also be done through them to the tribals of the forest. He said that the right of community forest management would also be given to the forest dwellers. Chouhan said that every demand or complaint received from common citizens should be dealt with seriously. He said that as much as reward is necessary for good work, punishment for wrong or negligence is equally important. Chief Minister instructed the officers to expeditiously resolve the applications received regarding Janadhikar Patta, Kanya Vivah Yojana, payment of wages for labour work, approval of housing under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana etc. Chouhan directed to remove the CEO of Chitrangi Janpad, Gulab Singh Kusam and to investigate the office of Naib Tehsildar Shri Sanjay Jat.

Shock to Congress ahead of by-elections!

The ruling Bharatiya Janata party (BJP) and the opposition Congress have begun hectic preparations for the by-polls. But the way Congress is getting setbacks in the initial days itself seems that the grand old party is lagging behind BJP.

Zafar Alam Khan | Bhopal
www.absoluteindianews.com

With the announcement of the dates for the by-elections to be held on three assembly and one parliamentary seat in Madhya Pradesh, the Congress has suffered couple of major setbacks.

Senior party leader and former state president Arun Yadav has thrown the party into confusion by withdrawing his candidature from Khandwa Lok Sabha seat. A day prior to this, three times former Congress MLA Sulochana Rawat joined the BJP along with her son. Congress claims that it has become clear that BJP does not have candidates, that is why it is snatching Congress leaders and making them its candidates. On the other hand, BJP says that if people are leaving Congress then there is no fault of BJP in this.

Congress leader Arun Yadav's tweet on Sunday night was like a blast in the Congress, which said that due to family reasons, he withdraws his candidature from the Khandwa Lok Sabha elections, though he had started campaigning for the Lok Sabha.

Yadav while talking to this correspondent over phone said on Monday that I am withdrawing from the elections due to personal reasons, I have contested the Lok Sabha elections four times, now a youth should be fielded.

Yadav said he will continue to take part in the organizational activities for the Khandwa LS bypoll and ensure the



Congress wins handsomely. Meanwhile, political analysts termed Yadav's refusal to contest the Lok Sabha bypoll as a major strategic step against his opponents in the party. Yadav was active in the Khandwa Lok Sabha constituency for the last six months and his candidature was being considered the strongest in the party, and sources said, after the announcement of the bypoll date, he had visited Delhi twice in the last four days and met senior leaders.

Notably, Yadav has once been an MP from Khandwa and has contested three elections from there. He had started his campaign from there in full swing in the past and suddenly questions are being raised on his sudden departure.

On his withdrawal from the field like this, BJP state president VD Sharma said that the neglect of Digvijay Singh and Kamal Nath is the reason for such withdrawal of OBC leader Arun Yadav, BJP has nothing to do with it.

Before Arun Yadav, on Saturday night itself, former Congress MLA and former minister Sulochana Rawat joined the BJP with her son in the presence of Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan at his house. Congress was considering to field Sulochana from Jobat assembly constituency, this was also a setback for Congress. Now Congress is alleging that BJP does not have any candidates.

By-elections to three assembly and one Lok Sabha seats in Madhya Pradesh are going to be held later this month and both the major political players in the state, the ruling BJP and the opposition Congress have begun hectic preparations for the by-polls. But the way Congress is getting setbacks in the initial days itself seems that the grand old party is lagging behind BJP.

The bypoll necessitated due to the death of BJP MP Nandkumar Singh Chauhan, will take place on October 30.

CM PLANTS SAPTAPARNI SAPLING



Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted Saptaparni sapling in Smart City Park today. Saptaparni is an evergreen medicinal tree, which has great importance in Ayurveda. Chouhan plants a sapling every day in fulfilment of his resolve. Today MLA Devsar Subhash Ramcharitra was also present on the occasion.

MILD TREMORS OF EARTHQUAKE RECORDED IN SEONI

Seoni: According to the pictures released by the Meteorological Department, it is being shown at a distance of 106 kilometers from Nagpur and five kilometers under the ground.

Mild tremors of earthquake, with an intensity of 3.6 reactor were felt in Seoni on Friday morning. However, no loss of life or property has been reported in this earthquake. The tremors were felt in the Kurai area of Nagpur Road in Seoni district. According to the pictures released by the Meteorological Department, it is being shown at a distance of 106 kilometers from Nagpur and five kilometers under the ground. Earlier, on 21 September, 2020 also an earthquake shock was recorded in Seoni. According to the locals, earthquake tremors are felt every day in Dunda Seoni and Chunabhatti area.

The first earthquake of magnitude 3.3 was recorded in Seoni in October 2020. Earthquakes of magnitude 3.1 and 3.5 were recorded twice a day on 31 October.

CIVIC OFFICIAL CAUGHT BY LOKAYUKTA COPS

Ujjain: The Ujjain unit of SPE caught Hariram Kachhole while accepting Rs 20,000 after demanding 40 per cent commission for releasing Rs 1 lakh from a Rs 2.22 lakh bill.

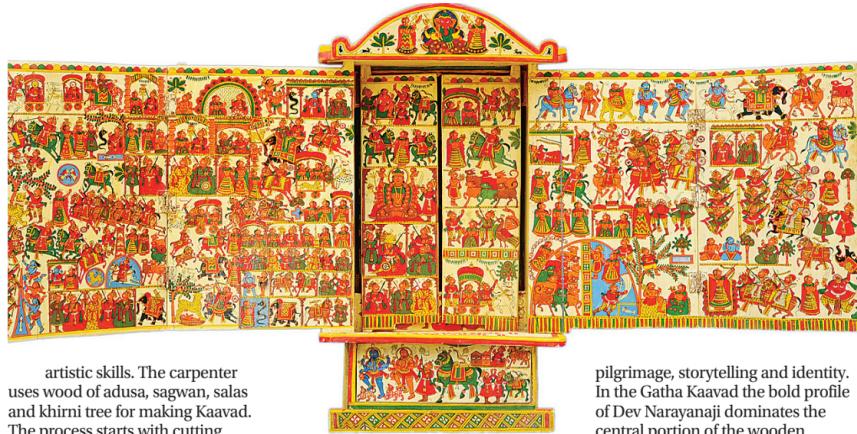
An accountant with Bhaurasa Nagar Parishad was held in Madhya Pradesh's Dewas district on Monday for allegedly demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 20,000, a Lokayukta special police establishment official said. The Ujjain unit of SPE caught Hariram Kachhole while accepting Rs 20,000 after demanding 40 per cent commission for releasing Rs 1 lakh from a Rs 2.22 lakh bill of a person who had supplied water to the civic body from his tubewell, SPE Superintendent of Police (SP) Shailendra Singh Chouhan informed. "He was caught while accepting the final installment of Rs 20,000 of the Rs 40,000 bribe he had demanded. Kachhole has been booked under the Prevention of Corruption Act," he said.

Folding, mobile wooden temple depicting the myth of Dev Narayan is first exhibit of the week at IGRMS

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Under the Latest and popular online series of Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya (IGRMS) entitled 'Exhibit of the Week' the "DEV NARAYANA MAHA GATHA KAAVAD" (A folding, mobile wooden temple depicting the myth of Dev Narayan) collected from 2006. The Community of Joshi, Bhillwada, Rajasthan. It's Measurement Height - 152.5 cm., Width - 91 cm., Thickness - 27 cm. (Door open condition - One side door - 146 cm., Other side - 134 cm.) displayed in the audience as the first Exhibit of the month of October, 2021 through official website, Facebook, Instagram and twitter page of the IGRMS.

In this regard Praveen Kumar Mishra, Director, IGRMS said that The Kaavad is a portable painted wooden shrine having visual narratives on its multiple panels hinged together. Traditionally these are made by Suthar (Carpenter community) or Joshi community for the itinerant Kaavadiya Bhat (storytellers) who perform Kaavad Baachan (recitation) for their hereditary patrons spread far wide in Rajasthan and neighbouring states. The word Kaavad comes from Kivaad means a door that open the layers of story. Kaavad making is a meticulous process involving technical and



artistic skills. The carpenter uses wood of adusa, sagwan, salas and khirni tree for making Kaavad. The process starts with cutting pieces of wood, shaping them into the panels then coating them with a local white chawak powder. Red colour is used as the base, and then different colours are used. Most of the colours are derived from minerals in the form of powder mixed with a solution of tree resin which acts as an adhesive. Mostly white, red, blue, yellow, green and black colours are used. Once all the colours are applied detailing begins. The Chitrakar first outline the figure on the painted wooden panel using a fine brush. The figures are painted with bright colours in successive lay-

ers. The painting is followed by the detailing then the wooden pieces are assembled with the help of hinges. The story from the epic Mahabharata, Ramayana and Puranas along with the stories of historical figures, ancestors and folktales are told. For reciting the story the Kaavadiya starts unfolding the front panels and proceeds gradually to the inner most one. At the end of the story he opens the final panel offering his audience a glimpse of the deity represented on it. For audiences it brings together elements of

pilgrimage, storytelling and identity. In the Gatha Kaavad the bold profile of Dev Narayanaji dominates the central portion of the wooden shrine. The storytellers sing the ballad of Dev Narayanaji, a pastoral deity, considered an avatar (incarnation) of Vishnu who has the power to cure all diseases. The epic of Dev Narayana is one of the longest and most popular religious oral narratives of Rajasthan.

Those interested can see this object from home through the Official site (https://igrms.com/wordpress/?page_id=6097) and Facebook site (<https://www.facebook.com/NationalMuseumMankind>), Instagram and twitter page of the IGRMS.

LAND RIGHTS RECORDS TO BE DISTRIBUTED IN 3000 VILLAGES: RAJPUT

Bhopal: Revenue and Transport Minister Govind Singh Rajput informed that records of rights would be distributed to one lakh 71 thousand beneficiaries under Swamitva Yojana in 3000 villages of 19 districts of the state. It was informed that a state-level programme will be held in Harda on October 6 under the Jan Kalyan and Suraj Abhiyan, in which land rights papers will be distributed in person. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will virtually participate in the programme. Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan will inaugurate the programme. Rajput informed that the distribution of rights records in 1399 villages of the state which was done virtually by PM Modi on April 24, 2021 due to Corona, will now be directly distributed on October 6. The implementation of this scheme in the state has been started in three phases by covering 10 districts each sequentially. Rajput informed that in the Swamitva Yojana, maps are being prepared with the help of Survey of India on the settlement areas in villages through drones by conducting door-to-door surveys.

Police probe to ascertain whether explosive was used in Neemuch shrine attack

THE PLACE OF WORSHIP, LOCATED 70 KM AWAY FROM NEEMUCH, WAS DAMAGED AND ITS PRIEST AND A DEVOTEE WERE THRASHED WITH STICKS ALLEGEDLY BY TWO DOZEN MASKED PEOPLE AT JAWAD TEHSIL ON THE INTERVENING NIGHT OF SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, POLICE HAD SAID.

Team Absolute | Neemuch

Police probing the attack on a shrine in Neemuch district have sent samples of the damaged portion to the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) to ascertain whether any explosive was used by attackers, an official said on Monday.

The place of worship, located 70 km away from Neemuch, was damaged and its priest and a devotee were thrashed with sticks allegedly by two dozen masked people at Jawad tehsil on the intervening night of Saturday and Sunday, police had said.

The attackers had left behind a pamphlet claiming the shrine was involved in converting Hindus to Islam.

Police on Monday evening said they had not made any headway in the investigation so far.

The injured devotee, Abdul Rajjak, and the priest Noor Baba, who sustained minor injuries in the incident, returned to their homes in Rajasthan after receiving medical treatment, Superintendent of Police Suraj Kumar Verma said.

He said the debris of the damaged portion of the religious place was sent to the FSL

to ascertain whether an explosive was used in the attack, and if yes, its type.

Verma said the dargah had been shut for investigation.

Asked whether the police got some leads regarding the accused, the SP only said that investigations were on.

When asked whether the attack was executed by a new radical group given that its modus operandi was different, the police officer said it was hard to tell anything at this juncture.

This religious place is located in a forested and deserted area under the Ratangarh police station area in the

Neemuch district which is close to Rajasthan, he added.

Noor Baba had lodged a complaint with the police on Sunday following which an FIR was registered against 24 unidentified people on the charges of rioting, damaging the place of worship etc., under the Indian Penal Code, police said.

The SP on Sunday said the place of worship sustained just "five per cent damage" but also admitted that the attack had weakened its pillars. He had denied reports that the attackers were armed with swords and spears but said they were carrying lathis.

CM WILL GIVE MANY GIFTS OF DEVELOPMENT AT THE TRIBAL CONVENTION IN JHABUA

Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan will attend the tribal convention organised in Jhabua on Tuesday. Tribal people from different districts including Jhabua district will participate in the convention. Chouhan will also distribute benefits to the eligible people in various schemes and communicate with the women members of self-help groups by giving many gifts of development works in the convention. Chouhan will inaugurate 12 construction works of various departments. The cost of these construction works is Rs 32 crore 13 lakh 83 thousand. Along with this, foundation stone and bhumi puja of 38 different works of 107 crore 91 lakh 67 thousand and will be done. Chief Minister will also inaugurate 3 oxygen plants in Jhabua district. These include newly constructed 1000 LPM capacity at District Hospital Jhabua, 500 LPM capacity at Civil Hospital Thandla and 500 LPM capacity oxygen plant at Civil Hospital Petlawad. Along with this, the Anganwadi centre in Kakradarra and Darra Falia Dhebar in development block Rajapur will also be dedicated by Chief Minister Chouhan.



EDITOR'S SPECS Cloud hacking in India

A new report shows that India now ranks second only to the US in most security threats on Cloud, followed by Australia, Canada and Brazil, and malware was the technique used most often in reported incidents. With the shift to a more flexible pandemic workforce, cyber criminals have introduced new and updated threats and tactics in campaigns targeting prominent sectors, such as government, financial services and entertainment. According to the 'Advanced Threat Research Report: October 2021' by McAfee Enterprise, the government was the most targeted sector in Q2 of 2021 with a 64 per cent increase in publicly reported cyber incidents. Ransomware has evolved far beyond its origins, and cybercriminals have become smarter and quicker to pivot their tactics alongside a whole host of new bad-actor schemes. Names such as REvil, Ryuk, Babuk and DarkSide have permeated into public consciousness, linked to disruptions of critical services worldwide. The most targeted sectors by ransomware in Q2 of 2021 were the government, followed by telecom, energy, and media and communications. Spam showed the highest increase of reported incidents -- 250 per cent -- from Q1 to Q2 2021, followed by Malicious Script with 125 per cent and Malware with 47 per cent. Financial services were targeted the most among the reported cloud incidents, followed by healthcare, manufacturing, retail and professional services. The US experienced the most reported incidents in the second quarter, and Europe saw the largest increases in reported incidents in Q2 with 52 per cent, said the report. The second quarter of 2021 was a vibrant quarter for ransomware, earning its place as a high-profile cyber agenda item for the US administration following the Colonial Pipeline attack.

China's aggressive expansionism is no balm for Century of Humiliation

The fourth-largest empire in the world at its time, the Qing dynasty lasted for almost three centuries commencing 1634. It was not only the largest but also the last dynasty in Imperial Chinese history.

N.C. BIPINDRA

Its true downfall began in 1839 when it lost to the British in the First Opium War. Soon, the French, Russians, Japanese and Germans nibbled away various parts of China. The final nail in the coffin of humiliation came about with the Eight-Nation Alliance comprising Germany, Russia, Britain, France, Austria-Hungary, the United States, and Italy quelling the Boxer Rebellion 1900.

The Chinese Communist Party or CCP has been propagating the theory that the period 1839 to 1949 was a Century of Humiliation. The CCP also wants the world to believe that it was CCP alone that brought an end to this subjugation in 1949 completely deleting any references to the giant contributions made by Sun Yat-Sen or Chiang Kai-Shek or the Kuomintang in the first half of the 1900s.

Since 1949, the CCP has gone all out to publicise the injustices meted to the Chinese during the Century of Humiliation. The CCP itself was founded in 1921. An accurate reading of history would reveal China does not have the exclusive tag to the harshness of colonial history.

Most poor countries of the 18th to 20th Century experienced similar or worse conditions by the colonial powers. Whether it was South America, Asia or Africa, colonies were exploited and humiliated in their lands. While today there are no colonies, many are still recovering from the effects of that exploitation. The British were the largest colonisers and today have a Commonwealth of Nations in its attempt to heal injuries it inflicted.

It is 2021 now. The centenary of the CCP. While propagating exaggerated versions of the Century of Humiliation and how the CCP freed the Chinese from it, one wonders what exactly the CCP has done to prevent a repetition of such colonial atrocities or how it has campaigned for human dignity and values.

A peek into the giants of CCP since 1949 and their attitudes would enable us to understand the present and the future that CCP has to offer the world. Mao Zedong, the CCP founder, strongman and first Chairman famously quipped, "Political power grows out of the barrel of the gun". And Mao was himself the architect of one of the ugliest genocides perpetrated any-

where in the world. His 'Great Leap Forward' followed shortly by the 'Cultural Revolution' resulted in an estimated 70 million deaths -- all Chinese. The figure is comparable to the death toll all over the world due to World War II. For many Chinese, it appeared Mao was aiming at 100 million deaths to compete with the Century of Humiliation. After Mao's death, Deng Xiaoping's 24-character strategy prophesized "Observe calmly; secure our position; cope with affairs calmly; hide our capacities and bide our time; be good at maintaining a low profile; and never claim leadership." China saw an economic boom during this period, shedding its Communist ideologies and moving more towards a free-market Capitalist approach. If there was one blot on Deng, it was the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre. The period also saw world powers attempting to reconcile with China and the Tiananmen Square incident no longer affects the present. Finally, the world was hoping that China would be a proponent of Human Rights along with development.

The world was in for a rude shock. After assuming full control of China, Xi Jinping not only emphasised the need to return to Mao's principles by ordering mass re-prints of his famous 'Little Red Book' (that contained a realist Mao's policies of the world within and outside China) but has also stressed the eventual realisation of the great Chinese Dream. This intractable desire is evident in the early indoctrination of impressionable schoolchildren whose textbooks contain elaborate stories of how unfair the world has been and how it is a question of honour to reclaim what is theirs rightfully. Today, there is everything from school competitions to television shows that actively attempt to realise the Chinese dreams of Xi Jinping. Such emphasis of passionate ideology stoking Chinese nationalism can be loosely compared to the indoctrination of young Islamic students in the name of 'jihad'. The Chinese version dwells more on the nationalist need to reclaim their rightful place in history. Xi, it appears, wants to not just return to Mao's principles but outdo Mao in every metric feasi-



ble. He intends to remain the President for life, just like Mao -- not just of the CCP, but also China.

If Mao was responsible for over 70 million deaths, Xi has started in earnest by subjecting inhu-

man unspeakable atrocities against the Uyghurs. From mass internment, organ harvesting, forced religious conversions, forced marriages, et al -- indeed Xi has arrived. Today, CCP's China boasts the highest per capita cameras in the world for monitoring its population. Every citizen is mandatorily required to install a variety of applications on their mobile phones so that the CCP can monitor every move of yours. Non-compliance is rewarded by prompt arrest. CCP's centenary celebrations can claim the undisputed title of the ultimate surveillance state in the world. All the above could always be brushed under the carpet in the guise of foreign propaganda against the peaceful rise of the Chinese. Approaching gullible smaller countries in the name of development and aid, just as the colonial powers did in the 18th and 19th centuries, Chinese commerce is being followed up by its flag. The CCP is diligently gobbling up small countries through its debt-trap diplomacy. And where the countries do not bend, strong-arm tactics are employed through blackmail, stoppage of developmental work and other means. In its elaborate plan, it is not just debts that are employed. Taking over of local telecommunications, transport and perhaps most importantly control of the media have become the standard tools to colonise the host countries. From Papua New Guinea to Vanuatu; from Kenya, Nigeria, Zambia, Djibouti, Egypt, Democratic Republic of Congo to South Africa; from Ecuador, Venezuela to Argentina; from Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Mongolia, Laos, Maldives, Cambodia, Malaysia, Philippines, Tajikistan to Indonesia; from Montenegro to Ukraine and counting, CCP it seems is giving the 21st Century a lesson in neo-colonialism. The behaviour witnessed by the world is not restricted to combative words, but in aggressive actions too. In early April 2020, a

Vietnamese fishing trawler near the Paracel Islands was rammed and sunk by a Chinese coastguard ship.

In May 2021, when there were photographs of Indian cremations consequent to COVID-19 deaths, instead of providing solace as a mature neighbour, Weibo, the Chinese official website compared how Hindus in India light pyres while the Chinese ignite their rockets to launch satellites to outer space. Recently, Ukraine was pressured into withdrawing its support for a United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva that called for scrutiny of the treatment of Uyghurs in the Xinjiang region. The threat was simple. Ukraine was first forced to purchase Chinese-made 500,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines which itself are under scrutiny for their efficacy. Once Ukraine supported the UNHCR resolution, CCP threatened to not deliver on the doses which were already paid for. There are many more such examples. Of late, the CCP has gotten into a 'Wolf Warrior' mode through its diplomats. Wolf Warrior is a 2015 Chinese movie on its Special Forces. Perhaps CCP diplomats have assumed everyone other than themselves are thugs and opine that CCP behaviour too must be thug-like! When arrogance fills up, it spills over out in the open. Sample all the tweets by CCP's official diplomats and foreign ministry spokespersons. CCP diplomats, it appears, are proud of their trolling than any form of maturity or healing nature on social media platforms. It is time someone reminded the CCP that having endured the miseries of colonialism, one would expect a 21st Century China to heal itself and other past colonies, with a humane approach; instead of turning into the Marshal of the very same devouring behaviour and mete out the exact treatment to lesser privileged. Humiliating one's population and subjecting others to neo-colonialism is no balm to heal the century of humiliation is perhaps the most important lesson that the CCP needs to draw as it commemorates its centenary.

(N. C. Bipindra is Chairman, Law and Society Alliance. The views expressed are personal.)

international

FUMIO KISHIDA ELECTED NEW JAPANESE PM TO SUCCEED SUGA

Tokyo | Agencies
Fumio Kishida, leader of Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), was elected on Monday as the country's new Prime Minister to succeed Yoshihide Suga. As the ruling coalition led by the LDP controls both chambers, 64-year-old Kishida secured a majority of votes of both the House of Representatives and the House of Councillors during a special Parliament session called to elect a new Prime Minister, reports Xinhua news agency. After naming his new Cabinet in the afternoon, Kishida will be formally inaugurated in a ceremony at the Imperial Palace and hold a press conference in

the evening. "This is the real starting point. I will go forth with a strong sense of determination, with a strong resolution," he said at the LDP's headquarters in Tokyo shortly before the session started. Kishida's first major test as Prime Minister will be the general election. He is planning to hold the election on October 31, while campaigning for members of the House of Representatives is set to begin on October 19. According to local media reports, he plans to hold the vote on November 7. On Monday morning, Suga's Cabinet resigned en masse, little more than a year after its formation, amid criticism over its lack of ability to curb Covid-19.

ASSAD CALLS JORDANIAN KING FOR 1ST TIME SINCE SYRIAN WAR

Damascus | Syrian President Bashar al-Assad made a phone call to Jordanian King Abdullah II for the first time since the Syrian War began in 2011. According to a statement issued by the Syrian presidential official, Assad and King Abdullah II discussed bilateral relations and ways to boost cooperation to achieve the interest of both peoples during their call on Sunday, reports Xinhua news agency. The relations between Syria and Jordan deteriorated significantly when the latter chose to support Western-backed rebels in the Syrian civil war. The two sides also reached an agreement to jointly develop the water resource on their borders.

Ethiopia's incumbent PM sworn in for new 5-yr term

Addis Ababa | Agencies
Ethiopia's incumbent Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed was sworn in on Monday for a new five-year term in office. The swearing-in ceremony was held as part of the first day of the Ethiopian House of Peoples' Representatives (HoPR)'s new five-year term, reports Xinhua news agency. Abiy's ruling party Prosperity Party's won a landslide victory in national elections held in June. He then was appointed by the HoPR and the lower house of the Ethiopian Parliament as Prime Minister. Following his appoint-



ment, Ahmed is expected to form a new cabinet, which will form the new federal government structure. He was first appointed as the country's Prime Minister in April 2018. He had served the East African country at different high-level positions,

including as Minister of Science and Technology. Ahmed's Prosperity Party secured more than 400 out of 436 parliamentary electoral constituencies, according to the National Electoral Board of Ethiopia.

Palestinian Prez, Israeli ministers discuss peace process

Ramallah | Agencies
Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas held talks with two Israeli Ministers to discuss the peace process between the two sides in the West Bank city of Ramallah, the state-run Wafa news agency reported. During the meeting on Sunday with Israeli Minister of Health Nitzan Horowitz and Minister of Regional Cooperation Issawi Frej, Abbas said that it is important to end the Israeli occupation and achieve just and comprehensive peace in the region, through the implementation of international resolutions, Xinhua news agency reported citing Wafa. Abbas stressed the necessity of halting Israeli settlement, stopping raids on



Palestinian towns and villages, and ceasing homes demolition and displacement of the Palestinians in East Jerusalem. The two Israeli Ministers explained to Abbas their position, which supports the two-state solution and the joint cooperation to build confidence between the two sides. Meetings between Abbas and Israeli ministers and officials have been taking place over the past three months as the bilateral direct peace negotiations had been stalled since March 2014.

Pope Francis, faith leaders sign joint climate appeal ahead of UN summit

Faith leaders along with Pope Francis on Monday requested political action for climate change ahead of the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) scheduled for November 1-13 in Glasgow, Scotland.

Vatican City | Agencies

The Pope and the faith leaders also presented a joint declaration to Alok Sharma, the president-designate of the COP26 summit, and to Luigi Di Maio, Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs. In his address to the participants at a meeting, Pope Francis expressed gratitude for their presence, which shows a "desire for a deepened dialogue among ourselves and with scientific experts" and proposed three concepts to guide their reflection: Openness to interdependence and sharing, the dynamism of love, and the call to respect. "COP26 represents an urgent summons to provide effective responses to the unprecedented ecological crisis and the crisis of values that we are presently experiencing, and in this way to offer concrete hope to future generations," said the Pope. He said "care for our common home is also a call to respect: respect for creation, respect for our neighbour, respect for ourselves and for the creator". Responding to the 'religious' call, Sharma said in a tweet: "An honour to receive, together with @luigidimaio, the #Faith4COP26 Appeal from His Holiness Pope Francis. This is a critical message to the world and world leaders ahead of #COP26 #G20."



The latest report published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), a United Nations organisation, is a stark warning from scientists around the world that human activity is damaging the planet at an alarming rate. The report warns that climate change is already affecting every region across the globe and that

without urgent action to limit warming, heat-waves, heavy precipitation, droughts, and loss of Arctic Sea ice, snow cover and permafrost, will all increase while carbon sinks will become less effective at slowing the growth of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. The report highlights that cutting global emissions, starting immediately, to net zero by mid-

century would give a good chance of limiting global warming to 1.5C in the long-term and help to avoid the worst effects of climate change. As extreme events are felt across the globe, from wildfires in North America to floods in China, across Europe, India and parts of Africa, and heat-waves in Siberia, COP President Sharma has been negotiating with governments and businesses to increase global climate ambition and take immediate action to help halve global emissions in the next decade and reach net zero emissions by mid-century in order to keep the 1.5C goal set out in the Paris Agreement within reach. The UK is already showing leadership with clear plans to reduce its emissions by 68 per cent by 2030 and 78 per cent by 2035, leading to net zero by 2050. Today, more than 70 per cent of the world's economy is now covered by a net zero target -- up from 30 per cent when the UK took over as incoming COP Presidency. Some progress has been made since the Paris Agreement was signed in 2015. More than 85 new or updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to 2030, representing over 110 parties, have been submitted to set out how countries will cut their emissions and address the climate crisis.

MANILA MAYOR OFFICIALLY JOINS 2022 PRESIDENTIAL RACE

Manila: Manila Mayor Francisco Domagoso on Monday filed his certificate of candidacy to run for May 2022 presidential elections in the Philippines. Domagoso, 46, popularly known by his celebrity nickname Isko Moreno, and his running-mate Willie Ong, a doctor with more than 16 million followers on Facebook, filed their certificates of candidacy at the Commission on Elections, reports Xinhua news agency. The mayor of the Philippine capital will run under the political party Aksyon Demokratiko, of which he is the President. According to a recent survey published by Pulse Asia, 13 per cent of the Filipino respondents expressed support for Domagoso as a "probable" presidential candidate. Monday's development comes two days after incumbent President Rodrigo Duterte announced his retirement from politics, adding that he will not contest for Vice President in 2022 elections. Meanwhile, his former long-time aid and Senator Christopher Go, 47, has his candidacy for Vice President. On October 1, Filipino boxing icon and Senator Manny Pacquiao became to first candidate to file his official certificate, just days after he announced his retirement from boxing.



Covid-19:

LOCKDOWN IN 61 MAHARASHTRA VILLAGES

Over five dozen villages in Ahmednagar have been shut-down for 10 days starting Monday even as Maharashtra is moving towards unlock, 61 villages in the Ahmednagar district will go for complete lockdown for ten days starting from Monday, October 4.

Team Absolute | Ahmednagar

Over five dozen villages in Ahmednagar have been shut-down for 10 days starting Monday even as Maharashtra is moving towards unlock, 61 villages in the Ahmednagar district will go for complete lockdown for ten days starting from Monday, October 4.



and Satara (2,113).

The recovery rate in Ahmednagar is 96.4 per cent, while the fatality rate is 2.1 per cent. During the 10-day lockdown schools, shops, and religious places will remain closed while essential services will remain operational. The district administration will announce containment zones in villages where the

number of patients is high. Entry to outsiders will be banned for 10 days. Out of 61 villages, 24 villages are from Sangamner taluka. As of October 3, Maharashtra has 35,888 active cases. Currently, 2,43,152 people are in home quarantine and 1,386 people are in institutional quarantine. The case fatality rate is the State is 2.12 per cent.

LAKME WON'T CARRY TESTS ON ANIMALS FOR ITS COSMETICS PRODUCTS

Mumbai: Just in time for the World Animal Day on Monday, Lakme has agreed to join PETA US 'Global Beauty Without Bunnies' programme, which certifies cosmetics, personal-care, and household goods companies and brands that don't test on animals. "Lakme, which is owned by Hindustan Unilever, will now feature the programme's PETA-approved bunny logo on its packaging," PETA India said in a release here.

"Not testing any of our products on animals is critical to our values at Lakme and is in line with Unilever's Positive Beauty vision," said head of innovations at Lakme, Sumati Matti. In India, testing cosmetics or their ingredients on animals was banned in 2014, as was the importation of animal-tested cosmetics. In 2020, the government released the Cosmetics Rules 2020, which include provisions to strengthen the ban on the importation of animal-tested cosmetics.

"Don't See Third Covid Wave Coming": Mumbai Civic Body Tells High Court

The vaccination drive is going on smoothly, with over 42 lakh people fully vaccinated and over 82 lakh people having received the first dose, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation told the Bombay High Court.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) told the Bombay High Court on Monday that it does not apprehend a third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic in the city as the vaccination drive is going on smoothly, with over 42 lakh people fully vaccinated and over 82 lakh people having received the first dose.

BMC counsel Anil Sakhare also told the HC that 2,586 bed-ridden people have so far been administered both the doses of COVID-19 vaccine while 3,942 such people have got the first jab. "The work is on. It is going on smoothly. Now, there is no shortage of

vaccines too. Mumbai is safe. We do not see a third wave (of the COVID-19) coming," Sakhare said.

A division bench of Chief Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice GS Kulkarni was hearing a public interest litigation filed by advocates Dhruvi Kapadia and Kunal Tiwari earlier this year, seeking a direction to both the Union and Maharashtra governments to start door-to-door vaccination for senior citizens aged 75 and above, specially-abled people and those who are bed-ridden.

The plea said such people would not be in a position to step out of their houses to go to the vaccination centres and inoculated.

The Union government had earlier said it would not be able to start a door-to-door vaccination programme, but last month gave a go ahead to it.

The Maharashtra government in August said it would initiate the drive and had started door-to-door vaccination of bed-ridden people as a pilot project.

On Monday, Dhruvi Kapadia told the court that the purpose of filing the PIL was served as now even the Centre has framed a policy to vaccinate such people at their homes.

The court then disposed of the plea and said, "We are happy now that even these persons are not deprived of the COVID-19 vaccine."

Aryan Khan, two others sent to NCB custody till Oct 7

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Mumbai court on Monday extended, till October 7, the NCB custody of Aryan Khan - son of Bollywood megastar Shah Rukh Khan and producer Gauri, following his arrest after the rave party aboard a luxury cruise ship was busted.

Besides, the court also sent two co-accused Mummun Dhamecha and Arbaaz Merchant, who were arrested along with Aryan, to the custody of Narcotics Control Bureau till October 7.

After several hours of arguments between the NCB lawyers and the advocates of the three accused, the court rejected the latter's plea for bail and sent the three to the agency's custody for another 3 days.

The trio was produced before the court after their one-day remand granted on Sunday ended.

Earlier, on Monday morning the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) produced the eight arrested accused in the rave party bust on a cruise ship before the Additional Metropolitan Magistrate, said official sources.

Those produced before the court include Aryan Khan, son of Bollywood megastar Shah Rukh Khan, model Mummun Dhamecha and Arbaaz Merchant



who have been remanded to a day's NCB custody by the Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate RK Rajebhosale. The remaining five are: Nupur Sarika, Ismeet Singh, Mohak Jaswal, Vikrant Chhoker and Gomit Chopra, who were arrested late on Sunday night and shall be produced before the court today for remand. The eight revellers were nabbed at various times on Sunday after the NCB swooped onto

their alleged drug party aboard the Cordelia Cruises ship on Saturday evening, shocking people in the entertainment industry and the common masses. Arguing for bail, advocate Satish Maneshinde said that his client Aryan Khan was arrested on the basis of some social media chats, he was invited for the party and had no ticket, no boarding pass, no seat or cabin and no drugs were found on his person. The NCB's special public prosecutor Advait Sethna contended that Aryan Khan was nabbed in connection with the different types of drugs found on him plus Rs 1,33,000 during the raid on the cruiser moored at the International Cruise Terminal. The spokespersons of Congress Atul Londhe and Shiv Sena's Kishore Tiwari slammed the NCB actions, terming it as a 'diversionary tactic' to deflect attention from the huge quantity of drugs allegedly smuggled through the Mundra Port in Gujarat, which is operated by the Adani Group.

Last month, the DRI had raided the port and found two containers with around 3,000-kgs of drugs worth Rs 21,000 crore from there, and the Opposition parties have demanded a Supreme Court-monitored probe into the incident.

School-bells ring again in Maha, students welcomed with sweets, flowers

A full 18 months after remaining shut during the Covid-19 pandemic lockdown, a majority of the schools in Maharashtra - barring the primary sections - reopened on Monday.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

School-bells started ringing at the appointed morning hour urging students to hurry for classes, while in many schools, teachers and non-teaching staff welcomed the pupils with roses, chocolates, or sweetmeats to mark the special day.

Enthusiastic students turned out in their crisp

uniforms, lugging their schoolbags, in singles, double or in groups of friends, and waited patiently at the gates for their temperature checks and hand sanitisation, before proceeding to the classrooms.

School Education Minister, Prof Varsha Gaikwad visited a few schools in Sion-Dharavi and interacted with the students in their classrooms, counselling to take all cares and return to the school routines as in the pre-pandemic era.

"A new day has come, a new journey begins, step out into the light and step inside the classroom. Welcome!" she said.

Mumbai Mayor Kishori Pednekar also visited a couple of schools, spoke with the students, and staff and directed all protocols be followed plus all amenities like drinking water, clean toilets, fumigated classes, be available to the children.

Following a government decision, all schools from Class 5-12 in the rural areas and from Class 8-12 in urban areas have thrown the doors open for students from Monday.

However, some like the Gyan Ganga International School in Pune, shut the gates on many of the students ostensibly since they had not paid their fees for the previous year, sparking protests from parents and political parties.

In several districts, some government and semi-private schools, students attended their first day in darkness as power supply was snapped off allegedly due to non-payment of old bills.

Students and parents were harried in some urban centres like Mumbai, Thane and Pune, as they had to make own commuting arrangements as school buses did not resume services.

Mumbai Airport Terminal 1 to reopen from Oct 20 NCB raid on cruise ship meant to divert attention from Mundra port drugs haul: Congress

Team Absolute | Mumbai

After almost 18 months closure during the Covid-19 pandemic lockdown, the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport's Terminal 1 will resume for domestic operations from October 20, an official said on Monday.

Initially, it will cater to around domestic 156 flights daily, while 396 domestic and international services shall be handled by Terminal 2.

After a brief resumption in March this year, the operations on T1 were suspended and all operations continued from T2 in the wake of the second wave.

The CSMIA said that the move follows the nationwide vaccination drive and the increased passenger confidence in air travel and all Covid-19 protocols shall be strictly adhered to for peoples' safety.

From October 20, Star Air, AirAsia, TruJet, GoFirst will resume services from T1, while a few flights of IndiGo will restart operations



from October 31. The CSMIA has made arrangements for 12 registration desks and 12 testing booths for the incoming-outgoing passengers at T1 to enable them to undergo RT-PCR tests at the airport.

The T1 will also implement physical distancing through measures such as the re-arrangement of seating, and installation of plexi-glass to minimise face-to-face interactions amongst others at the terminal.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Congress on Sunday alleged that the raid conducted by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) on a cruise ship in Mumbai and subsequent action against some persons was an attempt to deflect attention from the "real issue" of the drugs seizure at Mundra port in Gujarat.

The party also demanded a Supreme Court-monitored probe into the drugs haul at the port. Last month, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) had seized 2,988.21 kg heroin, likely worth Rs 21,000 crore in the global market, from two containers at the Adani-operated Mundra port in Gujarat's Kutch district.

On Sunday, the NCB detained Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan Khan and seven others after raiding a Goa-bound cruise ship in Mumbai and recovering drugs from them.

"There is a news that a Bollywood actor's son has been arrested. Where did this drug come from? The NCB has come out and all of sudden saying that it has caught drugs from a cruise ship," Congress spokesperson Shama Mohammed told reporters.

They are deflecting attention from the real issue. The real issue is Mundra port, the drug cartels in the country and drugs that is smuggled from Afghanistan, she alleged. "They (NCB) catch some people here and there so that media will show that case, (that will) divert the attention. But I want you all to write about Mundra port, why it is not investigated? Why it is not investigated? What is happening there? Why is it ignored?" she asked.

Had the drugs not come from there (port), there would not have been any party happening (on the cruise ship), she claimed.

Seeking an SC-monitored investigation into the drug seizure at Mundra port, the Congress spokesperson said that drugs are smuggled into India from Afghanistan, which will fund terrorist organisations, separatist groups and eventually create political instability in the country. She also questioned the silence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah on the drug seizure at Mundra port, which has happened in their home state.

"Gujarat is becoming a hub of drugs smuggling," Mohamed said, and expressed apprehen-

sions that privatisation of ports would lead to such activities.

The Maharashtra Congress welcomed the raid on the rave party on board the cruise ship, but expressed doubt if it was done to suppress the Mundra port drugs seizure. It is good if the government stops peddling of drugs and their consumption in the state. We welcome it. But at the same time, it has to be noted that there has been no action or discussion on the seizure of drugs worth Rs 21,000 crore at the Mundra port in Gujarat. There is room for doubt if such raids are being conducted to shift focus from the last month's seizure," state Congress spokesperson Atul Londhe said.

He sought to know what action was being taken in the Mundra port seizure case.

"What are the agencies doing to stop drug trafficking from the international borders?" Londhe asked.

BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis said he has learnt from the media about the NCB action in the sea and he would comment on it as further information about the raid is awaited.

Three corporators for each prabhag in 2022 civic elections

Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee (MPCC) chief Nana Patole said the Congress will continue to "democratically oppose" the three-member panel system.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Ahead of the civic elections in the state next year, Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari on Sunday issued an ordinance amending the Maharashtra Municipal Corporation Act as part of which each prabhag or panel will elect three corporators. The decision will be applicable to all civic bodies in Maharashtra barring Mumbai where the "one ward, one corporator" system will continue to be implemented.

Following the ordinance, the Maharashtra government will notify the State Election Commission (SEC) to start the poll process for the three-corporator-per-prabhag system. Issuing the ordinance, the Governor said, "In

view of the Covid crisis in municipal corporation areas, it has been agreed upon that a multi-member ward will help in controlling the situation. Therefore, after reviewing the situation, and to streamline the functioning of the civic bodies, the government has carried out the amendment to the Act. Each panel will elect three members and not less than two or more than four. Since the state legislature is not in force as of now, the ordinance is being issued for the three-member panel system." Balasaheb Khandekar, who heads the election department of the Pimpri-Chinchwad Municipal Corporation (PCMC), said the SEC will ask the civic bodies to demarcate the boundaries based on the 2011 population census. "Besides, it will decide upon the reservation in the panels and updation of the voters list after which the civic bodies will get into the act," he added.

Khandekar said in PCMC, only one panel will elect two corporators while the rest 42 will elect three corporators. "However, the number of corporators at 128 will remain the same," he said. Corporator Asha Shendge said, "I was elected last year when four corporators were elected from one panel. In 2017, PCMC had 32

prabhags. In 2002, the three-corporator panel system was in place, which will now return for 2022 elections."

The government decision has come despite the state Congress vehemently opposing the system.

Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee (MPCC) chief Nana Patole said the Congress will continue to "democratically oppose" the three-member panel system. The Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), which too had opposed the system, has now decided to accept the government decision. Shiv Sena's support to the system is evident with Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, who is also the Sena chief, giving his final approval to it.

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MLA Laxman Jagtap said, "Whether one member is elected or three, it won't make any difference to the BJP. We will have more number of corporators than (we did in) the 2017 elections."

In 2017, the BJP had grabbed power in PCMC by unseating the NCP. It was the maiden victory for the BJP since the first PCMC elections in 1986. Following all subsequent elections till 2017, either the Congress or the NCP had ruled the civic body.

Woman critical after 'drunk' driver rams into her car

The incident happened around 1.30 am on Sunday on the northbound stretch of Bandra-Worli Sea Link. The police rushed Lakhya to Bhabha hospital and after that, her relatives admitted her to a private hospital where her condition is said to be serious.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A 30-year-old advocate suffered severe head injuries and is battling for her life at a hospital after her car was allegedly

rammed into by another vehicle driven by an 'inebriated' driver on the Bandra-Worli Sea Link in the early hours of Sunday.

The victim is identified as Saloni Samir Lakhya (30), an advocate by profession and a resident of Khar (west).

The incident took place around 1.30 am on the northbound stretch of Bandra-Worli Sea Link when Lakhya was driving back home in her Celerio car, said the police.

The accused, Sachin Kharatmal (45), a resident of Malad west, was driving a BMW car and was in an inebriated condition at the time of the accident, said the police.

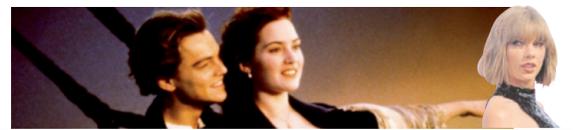
Kharatmal was returning home with his sister and

brother-in-law. He crashed his car into Lakhya's from the rear, severely damaging the car, said the police.

The police rushed Lakhya to Bhabha hospital and after that, her relatives admitted her to a private hospital where her condition is said to be serious. Kharatmal's sister fractured her hand in the accident.

Assistant sub-inspector Dilip Sawant, who was on duty, registered a suo moto FIR against Kharatmal for rash driving, causing grievous injury, dangerous driving and drunk driving under IPC and MV Act.

Kharatmal was granted bail on Sunday. The police said it was not a case of hit-and-run as the accused was arrested from the spot and his car was seized.



It's raining moolah for 'No Time to Die', 'Venom' sets U.S. box-office record

New York | Agencies

Daniel Craig's final outing as James Bond has shaken and stirred the international box-office with a first-weekend earning of \$119 million, even as the 'Venom' sequel starring Tom Hardy brought cheer to the U.S. market by setting a pandemic record of raking in \$90.1 million in its opening weekend. According to Variety.com, 'Venom: Let There Be Carnage' beat the previous records set by another Marvel property, 'Shang Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings', and the Scarlett Johansson-starrer 'Black Widow'. The 25th James Bond movie, 'No Time to Die', meanwhile, looks all set to recover its delayed production costs of \$250 million, plus another \$100 million spent on marketing and promotions, when it releases in the week ahead in 15 major markets, including France, Russia and North America, before it lands in China on October 29. China, incidentally, is now the world's largest movie theatre market, having topped the U.S. when the pandemic was raging. This past

Friday, September 30, 'No Time to Die' opened in 54 markets internationally. 'Venom: Let There Be Carnage', which is much darker than its 2018 predecessor, which also had Tom Hardy in the lead, interestingly, is playing only in cinemas, as opposed to being also available on-demand in a hybrid release format. Although a Marvel franchise, like Disney's 'Shang Chi', which it has displaced from the No. 1 spot, 'Venom: Let There Be Carnage' is being released by Sony Pictures. The second movie of the Sony Spider-Man Universe, the super villain action thriller will arrive in India on October 14. It will be the first Hollywood film to be released theatrically across Maharashtra after cinemas are allowed to open in the state on October 22.

Resulting over the box-office numbers (the film also made \$13.8 million in Russia, the only other market where it has been released), Sony's Chairman, Tom Rothman, said in a statement quoted by Variety.com. "With apologies to Mr Twain: The death of movies has been greatly exaggerated."



MILEY CYRUS DANCES WITH MEGAN THEE STALLION AT AUSTIN CITY LIMITS 2021

New York | Agencies

It was a hot girl fall for concert goers at the first weekend of Austin City Limits Fest 2021, where Megan Thee Stallion's set welcomed a surprise guest, Miley Cyrus, reports Billboard.com.

Miley rushed onto the stage to dance with Meg, and the pair shared a hug in front of the crowd.

"Dreams DO come true! Me & @theestallion doing hot girl s---!" she posted on Instagram, where she uploaded a video clip from the October 1 show.

"Love youuuu," Megan wrote back. "ACL WEEKEND 1 was Maybbbbbbe just A LITTLE TOO OOOO ICONIC!" Cyrus said in another post that included clips from her own performance and a video of Shawn Mendes singing along.

The Austin City Limits Music Festival is taking place on October 1-3 and October 8-10, at Austin's Zilker Park.



China's 'Battle at Lake Changjin' claims global box-office crown

Los Angeles | Agencies

China's 'The Battle at Lake Changjin' was the highest grossing film anywhere in the world over the past weekend, with \$203 million, according to Variety.com. That score was fractionally lower than the combined total earned by 'No Time to Die' (\$119 million in international markets) and by 'Venom: Let There Be Carnage' (\$90.2 million in North America). The film was the far away winner in mainland China, where it was released on Thursday, a day ahead of the October 1, National Day holiday. Over four days on release, it earned \$234 million, according to consultancy Artisan Gateway. Additional data from local provider Ent Group showed that 'Battle' enjoyed a massive 157,000 screenings per day.

That put it ahead of 'My Country, My Parents', which earned \$70.6 million over the weekend proper and a 'Venom'-like \$90.4 million total over four days. Both films are examples of the patriotic triumphalism that has come to typify the Chinese box-office since it reopened, after the pandemic in July last year, and both capitalise on the sentiment stirred up around the annual celebrations of the country's birth, some 72 years ago. 'Changjin' earned \$12.9 million of its total from Imax giant screens, making it the third biggest Imax opening weekend of all time behind sci-fi title 'The Wandering Earth' and Chinese New Year comedy 'Detective Chinatown 3'. Made with a production budget reported to be over \$200 million, the film has three of China's top directors: Chen Kaige, Tsui Hark and Dante Lam.



Billie Eilish protests Texas abortion law

New York | Agencies

On the Austin City Limits 2021 stage this weekend, Billie Eilish revealed that she had partly wanted to cancel her appearance at the Texas music festival in protest against the state's restrictive new abortion law, reports Billboard.com. But she came through for her Texas fans.

The law that Texas enacted in September prohibits abortions after around six weeks, when cardiac activity is detected, but at which time many women are not even aware they are pregnant. The law does not make exceptions for rape or incest and very few for health reasons. It also employs a controversial method of enforcement that allows private citizens to sue abortion providers who violate the law, as well as anyone who aids a woman in obtaining an abortion, for \$10,000 or more.

"When they made that s--- a law, I almost didn't want to do the show because I wanted to punish this f---ing place for allowing that to happen here," Eilish can be heard saying on the ACL Fest stage at Zilker Park on October 2 in a video clip filmed by fans. "But then I remembered that it's you guys that are the f---ing victims, and you deserve everything in the world. And we need to tell them to shut the f--- up," she told the crowd, reportedly putting up her middle finger. "My body, my f---ing choice!" Eilish, who celebrated her first arena show in over a year just a couple weeks ago, shouted. She urged the ACL crowd to join her.

'I always thought there was somebody waiting to attack me': Alexandra Burke

Los Angeles | Agencies

Alexandra Burke has revealed she needed therapy following her appearance on Celebrity SAS: Who Dares Wins.

The pop star, 33, emerged victorious during Sunday night's final of the Channel 4 show, alongside Wes Nelson and Aled Davies. But the aftermath left Alexandra suffering with panic attacks and bouts of paranoia. Speaking to The Mirror, she said: 'I was crying all the time. If I saw an advert for the Army, I had a panic attack. That side of it was really awful.'

From there, the singer admitted she had been to therapy and hadn't been sleeping. 'I always thought there was somebody outside waiting to attack me. So I got a bit paranoid,' she added. Despite the tough readjustment, The X Factor star - who lost her mum, Soul II Soul singer Melissa Bell, in 2017 - was proud to be the only woman to reach the final of the exhausting series.

'All I could do was think of my mum because I was just like: 'She'd be so immensely proud of me. She'd be so proud,'" Alexandra recalled. And she remains optimistic, something evidenced during her appearance on Lorraine last week.



Amy Day



IPL 2021

Dhawan and Hetmyer guide Delhi to a tense three-wicket win over Chennai

Dubai | Agencies

Shikhar Dhawan and Shimron Hetmyer played critical knocks to guide Delhi Capitals to a tense three-wicket win over Chennai Super Kings in Match 50 of IPL 2021 at Dubai International Stadium here on Monday.

Chasing 137, Delhi hunted down the target with two balls to spare and now sit on top of the points table.

Delhi began well with Prithvi Shaw taking two fours off Josh Hazlewood in the second over. But Deepak Chahar took him out in the next over as Shaw sliced to mid-off. Shikhar Dhawan tore into Chahar in the fifth over, smacking the pacer for four boundaries in a row.

Hazlewood took his first wicket of the match as Shreyas Iyer sliced a catch to cover in the final over of power-play. Rishabh Pant, who survived caught behind and stumping appeals, smashed two boundaries to long-on off Ravindra Jadeja and Moeen Ali. But Pant played one shot too many as he top-edged a slog-sweep to point off Jadeja in the ninth over. Debutant Rupal Patel picked two boundaries off Jadeja, pulling through mid-wicket which was followed by late cutting a faster delivery past slip in the eleventh over. Jadeja bounced back in his next over as Patel mistimed the loft to long-on.



Ravichandran Ashwin's promotion backfired in the 15th over as a cross-seam delivery from Shardul Thakur went through the gate and hit the stumps after brushing past the back pad. Dhawan overturned a caught behind decision. But three balls later, the left-hander chipped a drive straight to cover. Shimron Hetmyer welcomed Dwayne Bravo in the 18th over with boundaries slammed over

bowler's head followed by ball running to the rope after K Gowtham spilled a catch at long-on. In the next over, Hetmyer whacked a six over deep square leg off Hazlewood to bring the equation down to six in the final over. Bravo had Axar Patel dismissed in the final over, driving straight to cover. Kagiso Rabada finished off in style with a clip through fine leg to seal a tight win for Delhi.

Brief scores:

Chennai Super Kings 136/5 in 20 overs (Ambati Rayudu 55 not out, Robin Uthappa 19, Axar Patel 2/18, Ravichandran Ashwin 1/20) lost to Delhi Capitals 139/7 in 19.4 overs (Shikhar Dhawan 39, Shimron Hetmyer 28 not out, Shardul Thakur 2/13, Ravindra Jadeja 2/28) by three wickets

Ashes could be in doubt, hints ECB

London | Agencies

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) have released a statement on the Ashes tour, saying that they will make a decision over 'whether the conditions in place are sufficient for the tour to go ahead' later this week. The Ashes tour to Australia has been in doubt due to the quarantine conditions and players' families accompanying them for the five-match series.

"Over the weekend we have been talking to England men's players and management to provide them with the latest information about the proposed arrangements for this winter's scheduled Ashes tour," said ECB on Monday. "We remain in regular and positive dialogue with Cricket Australia over these arrangements as the picture is constantly evolving. With health and wellbeing at the forefront, our focus is to ensure the tour can go ahead with conditions for players and management to



perform at their best." "We will continue talking to our players this week to share the latest information and seek feedback. Later this week the ECB Board will meet to decide whether the conditions in place are sufficient for the Tour to go ahead and enable the selection of a squad befitting a series of this significance. "The series is scheduled to start from December 8 and end on January 18. England are due to name a large squad with an England Lions team to be present in

Australia while the Ashes are on. Last week, England captain Joe Root said he was desperate to be part of the tour, but did not confirm his participation. Prime Minister Boris Johnson has also stepped in on behalf of his country's cricketers and had pleaded with his Australian counterpart Scott Morrison in Washington DC last month for the families to be allowed to travel to Australia with the players to lessen the stress caused by staying away from the family during Christmas.

SAFF Championship

India start campaign with 1-1 draw against Bangladesh

Male | Agencies

The Indian football team began its SAFF Championship 2021 campaign with a 1-1 draw against Bangladesh at the National Football Stadium, in Male, Maldives on Monday.

Captain Sunil Chhetri had put the Blue Tigers in the lead in the 27th minute, but a 74th-minute goal from Bangladesh's Yeasin Arafat saw the teams share the points on the day. India had a strong start to the match as they got on the attack and troubled the Bangladesh defence from the get-go.

Liston Colaco had a lively start to the match, sending a free-kick towards Chhetri, a chance that was fended off by the Bangladesh defence. Soon after, the attacking midfielder jinxed past a couple of



defenders on the right, and pinged in his cross, but the defence again managed to get to the end of the cross. Chhetri broke the deadlock in the 27th minute, as he smashed a cut-back by Udanta Singh from the right, and sent it crashing into the back of the Bangladesh net. This was the talismanic striker's 76th goal in international football. With a little over 15 minutes left, Yeasin Arafat levelled the score for

Bangladesh, heading a Jamal Bhuyan corner into the Indian goal. India pushed forward, looking for the winner, and Chhetri created another opportunity with five minutes of regulation time left. The India skipper chested the ball down in the Bangladeshi penalty area, wrong-footed a defender and laid it off for Manvir. However, the latter's shot was headed clear off the line.

SOHA BREEZES INTO PQFS OF AITA WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP



Bengaluru: Top seed Soha Sadiq breezed past Kaavya Palani of Tamil Nadu to enter the pre-quarterfinals of the AITA Rs 1 lakh Women's tennis championship played under the aegis of KSLTA, here on Monday. The Karnataka girl registered an easy 6-0, 6-1 win in her opening round tie on a day which did not see any casualties as far as seeds were concerned. Fourth seed Pooja Ingale of Maharashtra and her third seeded Akanksha Nitture too advanced to the next round with comfortable victories. Pooja got the better of Litya Reddy of Andhra Pradesh 6-2, 6-2 while Akanksha beat Harivarshini M of Tamil Nadu 6-0, 6-1.

Make women's Tests a five-day affair to avoid draws: Aussie coach

Gold Coast (Queensland) | Agencies

The one-off pink-ball women's Test between India and Australia, which ended in a draw with the tourists holding the upper hand, has once again sparked the debate on whether women's Tests should be made a five-day affair to make them more result-oriented.

India women dominated the D/N Test and would have earned a historic win had it been a five-day affair.

Australia just about avoided follow-on on Day 4 before declaring 136 runs behind India's first-innings score of 377/8. India then played 35 overs in the second innings before declaring after tea to set Australia an improbable 272-run target in 32 overs.

Chasing 272 runs in the final session of the final day, Australia were 36 for two in 15 overs before players of both teams shook hands and settled for a draw. Inclement weather on the first two days also played a role in denying India victory, with 100 overs being lost.

After an eventful fourth day involving a couple of sporting declarations, Australia head coach Matthew Mott has



called for an extra day of play in women's Tests.

"The five days for me is ideal... the last couple of Tests we've lost a full day of cricket so essentially you're playing a 3-day game on a surface that doesn't have any wear and tear. It is difficult. If this game had gone another day, I think we would've seen a very good Test match,"

Motts said in the post-match press conference on Sunday. Mott also mentioned that inclement weather was inevitable at this time of the year in Queensland, and a little more time in the game would've benefited everyone. Earlier, India's one-off women's Test against England in June, which was also rain-affected, had also ended in a draw.

T20 WORLD CUP VENUES TO OPERATE AT 70 PER CENT FAN CAPACITY



Dubai: In a sign that things could be as close to normal as possible during the ICC T20 World Cup, scheduled to commence in the UAE and Oman later this month, the organisers have announced that all venues in the UAE will be "operating at approximately 70 per cent of maximum seated capacity", the International Cricket Council said on Monday. "In the UAE, all venues will be operating at approximately 70 per cent of maximum seated capacity, whilst Abu Dhabi has also introduced new socially distanced 'pods' of a maximum of four spectators on their east and west grass grounds. The Oman Cricket Academy has had a temporary infrastructure built to welcome 3,000 fans," the ICC said.

The ICC and event hosts, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), have worked closely with host authorities to ensure fans can be welcomed in a safe environment and Covid-19 protocols will apply at all venues.

The T20 World Cup is the largest sporting event to be held in the region and it will be the biggest global cricket event since the pandemic with fans in stadia.

The tournament kicks off with the Round 1 match between Oman and Papua New Guinea in Muscat. Australia and South Africa will play the first match of Super 12s on October 23 in Abu Dhabi, which will be followed by the replay of the 2016 final between England and West Indies -- also October 23 -- in Dubai. Arch-rivals India and Pakistan will play in Dubai on October 24.

ICC said the tickets had been priced between 10 OMR and 30 AED in Oman and UAE respectively.

I know my best in Test cricket is yet to come: Rohit Sharma

Abu Dhabi | Agencies

Indian opener Rohit Sharma felt that his best in Test cricket is yet to come after having a stunning tour of England, which he described as 'good' for himself. Sharma was the highest run-scorer for India in the Tests against England with 368 runs in eight innings at an average of 52.57, including a hundred and two half-centuries. Sharma's 127 in the second innings of the fourth Test at the Oval was his first Test hundred in overseas conditions.

"England tour was a good one for me, based on where I was standing in Test cricket before that. But I wouldn't say this was my best. I know my best



in Test cricket is yet to come. I utilised the time, 15-20 days after the World Test Championship final in Southampton. I understood those small little adjustments and technique required when playing in England. I am really happy with how I batted on that tour. I will now look to take that confidence forward and build on that success in Test cricket," Sharma said during a virtual press conference organised by Adidas on Monday for the launch of its campaign. The 34-year-old believes that the series is over for him and admitted there is no clarity on the fifth Test in Manchester, which was cancelled due to concerns of COVID-19 outbreak in the Indian camp.

ASIAN TT CHAMPIONSHIPS: INDIA END CAMPAIGN WITH THREE BRONZE

Doha: India won two more medals and ended their Asian Table Tennis Championships 2021 campaign with a total of three bronze medals, here on Monday. Sharath Kamal Achanta-Sathiyan Gnanasekaran and Manav Thakkar-Harmeet Desai, the two Indian men's doubles teams lost their respective semi-final clashes and had to settle for bronze medals. Olympians Sharath and G Sathiyan were beaten 3-0 (11-5, 11-9, 13-11) by Japan's Yukiya Uda and Shunsuke Togami.

IPL 2021 playoffs qualification: KKR front-runners in race for final spot

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Chennai Super Kings, Delhi Capitals and Royal Challengers Bangalore have qualified for the playoffs of the IPL 2021. But the fight for the fourth and final spot has heated up after 49 matches in the season.

The Virat Kohli-led side on Sunday became the third side to qualify for the play-off -- with 16 points in 12 matches -- after beating Punjab Kings. No other team can reach the 16-point mark while Delhi and Chennai are jostling for the top spot after having sealed 18 points from 12 games each.

Kolkata Knight Riders are currently the front-runners in the race for the final spot. The two-time champions pulled away from the mid-table clutter with a six-wicket win over Sunrisers Hyderabad in Dubai on Sunday.



They have 12 points from 13 matches and they have a positive Net Run Rate (NRR) of +0.294. They are the only team to have a positive NRR among the four teams that are still

in contention for the playoffs spot.

Here we take a look at the final spot conundrum

Kolkata Knight Riders -- 4th position with

12 points

Their upcoming match is against Rajasthan Royals on October 7. If Kolkata win this match by a good margin, it will be the end of roads for the other three teams.

Punjab Kings - 5th position with 10 points
Their upcoming match is against CSK on October 7. Right now, the tournament is almost over for Punjab.

Rajasthan Royals - 6th position with 10 points

Their upcoming matches are against MI on October 5 and KKR on October 7. They will have to win both the matches to enter the play-offs.

Mumbai Indians: 7th position with 10 points

Their upcoming matches are against RR on October 5 and SRH on October 8. They will have to win both the matches by a huge margin.



'Never came with a plan to act'

Made In Heaven fame, Yaaneea Bharadwaj shares, "I am very happy to be working with a director like Vishal Furia and a self-made woman Nushratt Bharuccha on the film, Chhorri"

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The talented actress Yaaneea Bharadwaj who became a known face since her impactful performance in 'Made In Heaven', opens up on how she got interested in the field of acting, hence, coming into Bollywood. Yaaneea shares, "My sister was studying in Mumbai so that is why I had come to just be with her, I never came with a plan to act at all. One day I was just sitting at Prithvi and enjoying the vibe there when a play director asked me if I wanted to act. I was still not too sure but then he introduced me to Salim Arif sir who was directing a play with new comers at the time and I got the role and that is how I got into theatre. So I did my first play was at

Prithvi theater then the second one happened at the NCPA and after a few plays I stopped doing theater because it can't pay for you to live in an expensive city like Mumbai."

She continues, "After that I started watching world cinema. And it was world cinema that inspired me. When I watched very differently made cinema like the one-take film, Victoria or Seven Psychopaths and the character of Sybil in Head ON, all this js what inspired me. Had it not been for acting I would have definitely been in the field of astrophysics or something to do with science otherwise mountaineering. I have done a lot of treks, I have scaled mountains of the height upto 5600 metres also and it's my dream to attempt for Everest atleast once even now."

She has 2 other unannounced projects lined up besides the feature film, Chhorri."



A.R. Rahman: Docu-feature was unexplored territory for me

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Oscar-winning music director A.R. Rahman says creating music for a docu-feature was an 'unexplored' space for him until now, as he has composed the music for Netflix's upcoming 'House of Secrets: The Burari Deaths'.

The docu-feature traces the mystery behind Delhi's infamous Burari deaths, where 11 members across three generations of a family were found dead under strange circumstances in their house in Delhi.

Directed by Leena Yadav and Anubhav Chopra, the original score of the docu-series is composed and produced by Rahman.

Rahman said, "Collaborating with Leena Yadav ji on House Of Secrets was a unique experience for me. Since the docu-series concerns a sensitive, complex issue, it required a distinct, nuanced musical approach -- enigmatic yet gripping. I am glad to have worked on such a project, which so far has been unexplored territory for me."

Leena, earlier known for making films like 'Shabd', 'Parched', 'Rajma Chawal' - shares her experience of working with the iconic music director.

Bhuvan Bam's first web series 'Dhindora' talks about 'aam aadmi'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Popular YouTuber Bhuvan Bam has opened up on his first web series 'Dhindora'.

Talking about the series, Bhuvan said: "We first conceptualised Dhindora in 2017. Seeing it come to life now, is a surreal moment for all of us. It is the story of an 'aam aadmi' and his journey, when certain incidents happen to him and how everyone connected to him responds to these."

In the series spanning over eight episodes, Bhuvan will be seen essaying nine characters from his YouTube channel 'BB Ki Vines'. Talking about his characters in the show, Bhuvan shared: "I am playing multiple characters from the BB Ki Vines universe, and I had to prep differently for all the nine characters that I play on the show. Playing multiple characters at the same time was especially challenging yet thrilling."



Art is an eternal feeling: DJ Chawla

New Delhi: Music and dance knows no boundaries, they connect hearts and bring people together. DJ Gaurav Chawla has been doing the same with his extraordinary skills at deejaying. With his over 14 years of experience in the deejaying industry, he excels in the art of making his audience groove to the beats. Further extending the grounds of his career, it is a significant announcement about the launch of his brand-new website [https://www.djgauravchawla.com/]. The website is launched by his team as his birthday present on 2 October, 2021. Many well-known Event Managers and Artists gave their benign presence to his birthday celebration and became a part of this successful launch of his website.



Gaurav Chawla's and William Jacob's Project -

The DJ Based Band - 'Mixtrax ?? Band' and the triple dose of entertainment 'Bob the Trio' also performed on this celebration. Anamika, 'Koi Karta Hoga mera Intezaar fame' also dedicated few songs to her best friend and the birthday boy 'Gaurav Chawla'. The DJ's for this evening was DJ Amit San and DJ Regan and the event was hosted by Emcee Yash Khatri.

'Bigg Boss 15'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

'Bigg Boss 15' hosted by Salman Khan has started and this time as the theme is 'jungle' so contestants are experiencing altogether different situations.

As the contestants settle inside the house, the 'sankat' in the jungle has started creeping in. We already saw Donal Bisht was saved from the nomination as Ieeshan Sehgal nominated himself and during a conversation with other contestants Umar Riaz called Donal manipulative.

Also Afsana Khan shares about her marriage in November with other contestants and how she has put her wedding plans on hold for this show. Jay Bhanushali suggested to Ieeshan that he should open up as he is nominated for the week and needs votes. There were also some heated conversations among the participants.

In today's episode a big fight erupted between Afsana and Vidhi right after 'Bigg Boss' commanded everyone to turn in their belongings except for the essentials. As Vidhi hurried everyone to follow the order,

Afsana suddenly lost her nerve and started screaming at her. "Tu hoti kaun hai mujhe bolne

Big fight erupts between Afsana-Vidhi, Jay-Pratik



waali?" (who are you to say all this to me) she fired at her. Equally strong-willed herself, Vidhi also lashed out at Afsana, threatening to hit her to quieten her down.

Meanwhile, another fight took place between Jay and Pratik. The continuous shenanigans of Pratik regarding the house rules irked Jay and Umar. While Jay warned Pratik to watch his mouth, the latter hit back by bringing up orders from Bigg Boss. While Umar and Karan sided with Jay, Nishant took Pratik's side. Thus alliances have started forming in the jungle, where survival will become challenging with every passing minute!

'Bigg Boss 15' airs every Monday to Friday at 10:30 pm and Saturday-Sunday at 9:30 pm on COLORS.

HOW SHINY DOSHI RELATES TO HER 'PANDYA STORE' CHARACTER?

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Shiny Doshi has all the reasons to be happy. She is getting appreciation for her portrayal of 'Dhara Pandya' in the show 'Pandya Store' and the daily soap has recently completed 200 episodes.

As she says: "It feels amazing! Amazing to be a part of a show that is extremely close to my heart right now. People have loved all the characters in the show. The journey has been beautiful. And actually we didn't realize that it completed 200 episodes because the whole cast is so crazy and we all youngsters are having so much fun on the sets. We're hoping to complete 2,000 now." Audiences have connected to her character 'Dhara'. How much do you relate to your character? She replies: "First of all I'm very grateful to all the audiences who've been loving me as 'Dhara'. In real life I connect with 'Dhara' on certain things. She is caring, intelligent, she knows how to come up with solutions to all the problems and she respects others. So, of course I am like her but at the same place 'Dhara' is somebody who will put all the other people ahead of herself. But I will think of myself also while thinking about others."



INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Priya Banerjee