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NORTHEAST WAS NEGLECTED, CONSIDERED THROUGH POLITICAL LENS: PM MODI

Team Absolute | Agartala

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said that the north-eastern region of the country was neglected as overall development of the country was seen on a piecemeal basis and viewed through a political lens.

Talking about the long prevailing neglect of the northeastern region, Modi said that earlier, our rivers from the northern and western parts of the country used to come to the east, but the Ganges of development used to stop before reaching here (the Northeast).

He said the region's huge potential will be unleashed by creating modern infrastructure and improving connectivity.

He expressed confidence that work being done in the region will take the country to new heights of growth.

"Today, the development of the country is seen with the spirit of 'Ek Bharat (united India)'," Modi said during his virtual speech from Delhi.

Without naming the previous Tripura governments, the Prime Minister criticised the earlier system wherein beneficiaries were not able



to get any benefits without giving bribes.

He said: "Today, the development of the country is seen with the spirit of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat'. Development is now considered synonymous with the unity-integrity of the country."

The aim of his government is to make the beneficiaries get the benefits of the scheme without any hassle

or middleman, the Prime Minister pointed out.

According to Tripura's Deputy Chief Minister Jishnu Dev Varma, following Prime Minister's intervention, taking into account unique geo-climatic condition of Tripura, the definition of 'kuccha' house has been changed specifically for the state, which has enabled such a large number of beneficiaries living in 'kuccha'

houses to get assistance to construct a 'pucca' house.

Praising Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb, Modi said: "Biplab Deb's government in the state and the government at the Centre are committed to take the progress of the state forward. The Prime Minister said the thinking that keeps Tripura poor, keeps the people of Tripura away from amenities, has no place in Tripura today.

"Now the double engine government is engaged in the development of the state with full force and sincerity."

The Prime Minister singled out India's confident 'Nari Shakti' for their yeoman contribution in the development of the country.

"As a major symbol of this Nari Shakti, we also have women's self-help groups. These SHGs have been connected with Jan Dhan Accounts. The collateral free loan available to such groups has been doubled to Rs 20 lakh," Modi said.

The Prime Minister said the country will celebrate the birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda every year on November 15 as 'Tribal Gaurav Diwas.'

Law needs to operate humanely, judiciary has to be sensitive about people's problems: CJI

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Chief Justice of India NV Ramana on Sunday said primarily the ability of constitutional courts is to function with absolute independence and necessary boldness in the face of adversity which defines institution's character and emphasized "the law needs to operate

humanely", and the state judiciary has to be sensitive to people's problems and their practical difficulties. The Chief Justice was speaking at the valedictory ceremony of the pan-India legal awareness and outreach campaign organised by National Legal Services Authority (NALSA). He said: "The State judiciary, being closely associated with the people, has to be sensitive and aware about their problems and practical difficulties. In particular, it needs to be cognizant about both victims and as well as accused and must facilitate their emergency needs." He added, "After all, the law needs to operate humanely. Remember, it is the trial court which is approached first by a woman in distress, a child in need of care, or an illegal detainee."

The Chief Justice emphasized that the court's decisions have a huge social impact, and it should be easily comprehensible and must be written in simple and clear language.

He said it is, primarily, the ability of constitutional courts to function with absolute independence and necessary boldness in the face of adversity, that defines the character of the institution. "Our ability to uphold the



Constitution sustains our impeccable character. There is no other way to live up to the faith of our people. Poverty is a misfortune for which the law cannot take any responsibility at all", he added. The Chief Justice said the stark divide between haves and have nots is still a reality and no matter how many cherished declarations,

"we successfully arrive at it, in the face of poverty, inequity and deprivations, it will all seem pointless."

He said: "Despite our being a part of a welfare state, benefits are not trickling down to the intended beneficiaries at the desired levels. People's aspirations about leading a dignified life are often met with challenges. One of them, primarily, being poverty."

The Chief Justice said: "Sadly, Independent India inherited a deeply fragmented society from its colonial past. Considering the same, Pandit Nehru had once said there could be no real freedom without economic freedom and that to call a starving man free, is but to mock him." He emphasized that all the members of the judicial family, transform the social order and give justice social, economic, political and cultural in such a manner that the people secure what was promised in the glorious Preamble. "The mind of the Indian judiciary can be known to millions largely through the actions of the trial court and the district judiciary... Without a robust justice delivery system at the grassroots level, we cannot imagine a healthy judiciary," he said.

ORDINANCES BROUGHT TO EXTEND TENURES OF CBI, ED DIRECTORS UP TO FIVE YEARS

New Delhi:

The Centre has brought in ordinances to extend the tenure of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and Enforcement Directorate (ED) chiefs up to five years. Currently, the tenure of directors of both central investigation agencies is of two years, and now, as per the ordinances, they can get an extension of maximum three years. President Ram Nath Kovind has approved the ordinances as Parliament is not in session and he is satisfied that circumstances exist which render it necessary for him to take immediate action. The CVC (Amendment) Ordinance and the Delhi Special Police Establishment (Amendment) Act Ordinance were issued to allow extension of tenure of the Directors of the CBI and the ED ahead of upcoming winter session of the Parliament. "Provided that the period for which the Director of Enforcement holds the office on his initial appointment may, in public interest, on the recommendation of the Committee under clause (a) and for the reasons to be recorded in writing, be extended up to one year at a time: Provided further that no such extension shall be granted after the completion of a period of five years in total including the period mentioned in the initial appointment," the Central Vigilance Commission (Amendment) Ordinance 2021 said. The Delhi Special Police Establishment (Amendment) Ordinance, 2021, has the same provisions in respect of the CBI Director, and it comes into force at once.



CBSE TO CONDUCT BOARD EXAMINATION IN NEW PATTERN

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) will be conducting the board examinations in a new pattern in which over 20 lakh students are set to appear.

Examination for the first term of Class 12 will begin from November 16, while for Class 10 it will start on November 17.

For assessing the students across the country, the examination will be held in two terms. Second term of the examination is expected to be held in March-April next year. According to the CBSE, this time, the students will be given 20 minute-reading time instead of 15 minutes. The first term will have Multiple Choice Questions and the duration for solving it is 90 minutes.

Every question will have four options, of which the student has to encircle the correct one. As every answer sheet will be scanned, no question can be left unanswered. Even if the students do not want to answer, then too, they will have to encircle an option provided for it.

Renowned educationist PS Kandpal said many examinations have been conducted on similar pattern.

Class 10 student Dipti Sharma said: "It is nice that the examination is being held in two terms due to which the syllabus has also been divided, thus reducing stress. There is also curiosity about the new examination pattern, she said.

Twelfth standard student Umang



Agarwal said, "There are many dilemmas as it is a new pattern of examination. Another student Sanchita Dikshit said: "All have been told about the examination pattern, including the right way to answer a question.

"Am just waiting to appear in the examination with the new pattern," he said. According to the CBSE, for Class 10 students, internal assessment marks have been divided into two parts - ten each. Similarly for Class 12, it has been divided into 15-15 marks.

This time, the students have been given an option to appear in the examination centre of their choice as due to Covid-19, many of them were displaced.

Many students are still at their native places while their schools are at other

locations. Covid-appropriate behaviour will be followed at all examination centres. Only 350 students will be allowed at an examination centre and a distance of six feet will be maintained among them.

Every child and invigilator will have to wear mask as per Covid-19 guidelines. As per date sheet released by the Board, examination for minor subjects will be held from November 16-17 while for major subjects from December 1.

For Class 12 students, the first examination will be of Sociology while last would be Home Science. The examination, which will start at 11.30 a.m., will end at 1.00 p.m.

Major examinations for Class 10 will begin from November 30 and end on December 11.

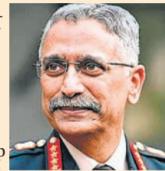
INDIAN ARMY CHIEF TO EMBARK ON MAIDEN ISRAEL VISIT

New Delhi: Aiming at enhancing military cooperation, Indian Army Chief General MM Naravane will embark on his maiden visit to Israel on Monday. During the five-day visit from Monday to Friday, Gen Naravane is slated to meet senior Israeli military and civilian leadership during which he will discuss avenues for further enhancing the Indo-Israel defence relations, according to a statement issued by the Indian Army.

The Army Chief will take forward the excellent bilateral defence cooperation between Israel and India through multiple meetings with senior officials of the security establishment and exchange views on various defence related issues.

He will also interact with the Service Chiefs and visit the Headquarters of the Ground Forces element of the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF). In the last two months, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar separately visited Israel to strengthen defence cooperation. During the Defence Secretary's visit, the two nations had decided to form a Task Force to formulate a comprehensive 10-year roadmap to identify new areas of defence cooperation. The decision came during the 15th meeting of the India-Israel Joint Working Group (JWG) on bilateral defence cooperation held in Tel Aviv, Israel.

The meeting was co-chaired by Kumar and the Director-General of Israel's Ministry of Defence, Maj Gen (Retd) Amir Eshel. The JWG is the apex body between the Ministry of Defence of India and Israel's Ministry of Defence to comprehensively review and guide all aspects of Bilateral Defence Cooperation.



HARYANA SHUTS SCHOOLS IN 4 DISTRICTS DUE TO AIR POLLUTION



Gurugram: A day after the Delhi government announced to shut schools amid air pollution, the Haryana government on Sunday also ordered closure of all schools private and government in four districts, Gurugram, Faridabad, Jhajjar and Sonapat, till November 17.

According to the order, both government and private offices have been advised to work from home.

Besides, there is a complete ban on operation of stone crushers and hot mix plants used in construction activities. The Deputy Commissioner of the concerned districts has been directed to constitute joint inspections teams for enforcing the directions and ensuring extensive checking, monitoring and action against the violators. The air quality in the National Capital Region currently reeling in the 'severe category', left people gasping for fresh air on Sunday morning.

Cong pays tribute to Nehru; irked on absence of Speaker, VP, ministers

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Congress leaders on Sunday paid rich tributes to the first Prime Minister of India, Jawaharlal Nehru. Interim President Sonia Gandhi visited the Shanti Van in the morning to pay her tributes.

Former Congress President Rahul Gandhi tweeted: "What we need is a generation of peace" - Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. Remembering India's first Prime Minister who greatly valued truth, unity and peace. "The Congress said, "On Chacha Nehru's birth anniversary, we wish for the bright & prosperous future of each & every child in India. Our commitment to the nation's future is unrelenting." The Congress leaders paid tribute to its stalwart and from Sunday the party is starting a nationwide agitation against inflation and price rise. However, Congress Chief whip in the Rajya Sabha (RS), Jairam Ramesh on Sunday alleged that during the traditional function in Parliament to mark the birth anniversary of India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, the Lok Sabha Speaker, Chairman RS and the central ministers were not present.

In a tweet Jairam said, "Extraordinary scene today in



Parliament at the traditional function to mark the birth anniversary of those whose portraits adorn the Central Hall. Speaker Lok Sabha absent. Chairman Rajya Sabha absent. Not a single Minister present.

"Can it get more atrocious than this?!! November 14 is Nehru's birth anniversary, and the Congress paid tributes to him, but was irked with the absence of prominent people in the customary function in Parliament. The Congress leaders paid rich tributes to Nehru. Interim President Sonia Gandhi visited the Shanti Van in the morning to pay her

tributes. Former Congress President Rahul Gandhi tweeted: "What we need is a generation of peace" - Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. Remembering India's first Prime Minister who greatly valued truth, unity and peace. "The Congress said, "On Chacha Nehru's birth anniversary, we wish for the bright & prosperous future of each & every child in India. Our commitment to the nation's future is unrelenting."

The Congress leaders paid tribute to its stalwart and from Sunday the party is starting a nationwide agitation against inflation and price rise.

BJP delegation meets Modi, demand reopening of Kartarpur Corridor

Team Absolute | New Delhi

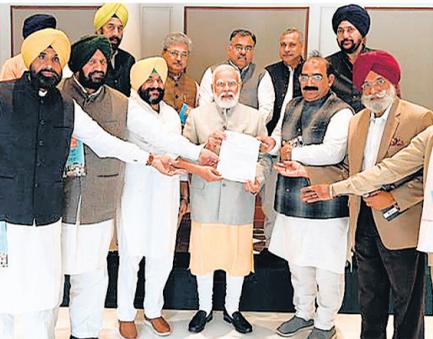
A BJP delegation on Sunday met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and requested to reopen Kartarpur corridor on occasion 'Guru Nanak Jayanti' on November 19.

BJP national general secretaries Tarun Chugh and Dushyant Gautam, Punjab unit president Ashwani Sharma, national spokesperson Sardar R.P. Singh and youth wing national secretary Tajinder Pal Singh Bagga and other leaders from

Punjab. The BJP's national vice president Saudan Singh led the delegation. The BJP delegation gave a memorandum to the Prime Minister requesting for the reopening of the Kartarpur Sahib corridor, which has been closed since March last year due to Covid-related restrictions. The memorandum lauded the Prime Minister's effort for ensuring construction of the corridor, which was neglected by the Congress and other parties.

The memorandum mentioned that the people were expecting the corridor to reopen while the country is moving ahead with the unlock process after vaccinating 110 crore eligible population and when active cases are around 1.35 lakh.

"On the occasion of Guru Nanak Dev



Maharaj's 'Prakash Parv' on November 19, we request you to give order to reopen the Kartarpur Sahib corridor. We have faith that you will act immediately," it said.

After the meeting, Bagga said that the delegation of Sikh leaders met the Prime Minister and requested to ensure reopening of Kartarpur Sahib corridor which has been closed since last year due to Covid.

"We are hopeful that the Prime Minister will address the demand of Sikh community like he did in the past by ensuring justice to 1984 riots victims," Bagga said.

Earlier, SGPC president Bibi Jagir Kaur and former union minister and Akali Dal leader Harsimrat Kaur Badal had also written to the Prime Minister demanding reopening of Kartarpur Sahib corridor.



AKHILESH YADAV RETURNS BJP'S 'JAM' FIRE

► **SAMAJWADI PARTY PRESIDENT AKHILESH YADAV ON SUNDAY HIT BACK AT THE BJP WITH HIS VERSION OF 'JAM.'**

KUSHINAGAR | Agencies

Akhilesh, on Sunday, returned the fire and said that 'JAM' in BJP means 'J for jhoot (lies), A for 'ahankaar' (arrogance) and M for 'Mehngai' (inflation)'. "Nobody except the BJP speaks so many lies at one go. Their arrogance in power is unmatched and prices in their regime have touched the skies. They have sent me jam and now I am sending them butter," he said at a press



conference here. Continuing his attack on the

BJP, Akhilesh said that the BJP was determined to implement laws

that will turn farmers into labourers. "Farmers will lose rights over their land, their crops. So many farmers have lost their lives in the ongoing agitation but the BJP is simply not bothered. A BJP minister and his son are accused of mowing down farmers but the BJP is not concerned. If they have their way, they will crush the Constitution too," he said.

Akhilesh alleged that the BJP government in Uttar Pradesh is only inaugurating projects initiated by his government.

"No development has taken place on the ground. The Modi government will now sell the Jewar airport which was the brainchild of my government. We may be backwards by caste but we are ahead of others when it comes to thinking and planning," he said.

Plea in Delhi HC seeks ban on Salman Khurshid's book comparing Hindutva to ISIS

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A petition has been filed in the Delhi High Court seeking direction to stop the publication, circulation, and sale of former Union Minister Salman Khurshid's book for its alleged remarks on Hindutva.

The plea filed by Advocate Vineet Jindal through Advocate Raj Kishor Chaudhary contended that the recently-launched book "Sunrise over Ayodhya: Nationhood in our times" authored by Khurshid compared Hindutva to radical jihadist groups like ISIS and Boko Haram.

The comment has been made in a chapter called "The Saffron Sky" on Page 113 of the book which reads as under "Sanatan dharma and classical Hinduism known to sages and saints was being pushed aside by a robust version of Hindutva, by all standards, a political version similar to jihadist Islam of groups like ISIS and



Boko Haram of recent years," the plea read.

Further, it stated that the equivalence of Hindutva to ISIS and Boko Haram is perceived as a negative ideology Hindus have been following and Hinduism is violent, inhuman, and oppressive.

Freedom of speech and expression under Article 19(1) of the Constitution goes hand-in-hand with reasonable restrictions that may be imposed under Article 19(2). So, in a country like India, which is perpetually on a communal tinderbox, where

religious sentiments run deep, where respect for certain public and historical figures always come accompanied with veneration for their demi-god status, it doesn't take much for malice to be coated with a toxic communal hue based on the contents of the book, the plea stated.

Earlier in a complaint to the Delhi Police, Jindal had demanded an FIR against Khurshid in the matter under 153, 153A, 298 and 505 (2) of IPC which are cognizable offences and very serious and

Post Diwali, Delhi hospital sees 10% more respiratory problem patients

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Delhi's Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Hospital has seen a growth of 8 to 10 per cent in patients suffering with respiratory problems due to pollution after Diwali, its Medical Director Dr Suresh Kumar said on Sunday.

Talking to IANS, Dr Suresh Kumar said that they everyday have 10-12 patients visiting the hospital with breathing problems. "Air pollution has become a major issue post Diwali. Elderly people and children are the main victim of the pollution," he said, adding that long-term exposure to chronically high PM 2.5 levels weakens the lungs' ability to function. The air quality in Delhi improved marginally on Sunday from Saturday's "severe" to "very poor category". According to

the forecast from the Air Quality Early Warning System, the AQI will continue to remain in the "very poor" category till at least Tuesday.

About the pollution caused respiratory and other problems, Dr Kumar said that they have capacity for 120 patients but due to the outbreak in pollution-related diseases post Diwali, they are getting around 140 patients every day in the hospital. He said the emergency and OPD wards are getting average 140 patients in total, with all types of problems, but most of them are suffering with respiratory and dipping levels of oxygen. It also includes the rising number of asthma cases in children. About the preventive measures, he said that only two things - use of masks and avoiding stepping outside - can protect people from such rising level of pollution.

Nadda on 2-day U'khand visit to review poll preparations

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) chief J.P. Nadda will be on a two-day visit to Uttarakhand from Monday to review the party's preparations for the Assembly elections scheduled to be held next year.

It is learnt that during his visit, the BJP chief will be holding several organisational meetings to take stock of the situation on the ground.

Uttarakhand Assembly poll is scheduled in February-March next year along with Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Goa and Manipur.

In a statement, BJP's media in-charge and Rajya Sabha member, Anil Baluni, said: "Nadda will be in Uttarakhand on a two-day visit from Monday (November 15) where he will participate in the 'Saheed Samman Yatra' and will hold several organisational meetings."



Nadda is expected to arrive in Dehradun around 9.50 a.m. on Monday. He will participate in 'Saheed Samman Yatra' in Chamoli district and also address a public meeting. He will also attend organisational meetings.

On Tuesday, Nadda will meet Subhash Chhabra, who

was imprisoned for 18 months under MISA during emergency, in Rudrapur.

Later on, he will interact with the Bengali community and chair organizational meeting. In Rudrapur, Nadda will address meeting of state office bearers, district in-charge, district president, president and general secretary of different wings of party state unit, assembly in-charge and co-charge, and vistarak.

Nadda will also separately meet BJP Uttarakhand in-charge and co-charge, election in-charge, state unit president and state general secretaries.

In August, Nadda had visited the hill state to take stock of BJP poll preparedness and attended over 10 meetings.

Sources said that during meetings, Nadda will review the progress of different organizational work in last two and half months.

Amit Shah chairs Southern Zonal Council meeting in Tirupati

TIRUPATI | Agencies

Union Home Minister Amit Shah chaired the meeting of the Southern Zonal Council here on Sunday. Chief Ministers, ministers and top officials from the southern states and Union Territories were attending the meeting, which began at a star hotel in the afternoon.

Chief Ministers of three states including host Andhra Pradesh were among the participants in the 29th meeting of the Southern Zonal Council. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy delivered the welcome address. Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and Puducherry Chief Minister N. Rangaswamy were also attending the meeting. The other states were represented by the ministers or officials. Telangana Home Minister Mohammed Mehmood Ali, Chief Secretary Suresh Kumar, Tamil Nadu Education Minister Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi, Kerala



Revenue Minister K. Rajan, Puducherry incharge Lt Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan, Andaman and Nicobar Lt Governor Devendra Kumar Joshi, and Lakshadweep Administrator Praful Patel were attending the meeting. The meeting was discussing 26 key issues such as cooperation between states, conflicts, border issues, internal security, infrastructure development, industries, tourism development, and economic development.

The meeting will also review the implementation of the decisions taken at the previous meeting.

Recent reduction in fuel prices a 'mockery,' slash cess: CPI-M

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Communist Party of India-Marxist on Sunday termed the recent reduction in fuel prices a "mockery" and demanded that additional cess and surcharges must be withdrawn immediately to provide some meaningful relief to the people.

In a statement after the its Polit Bureau meeting in the national capital, the party said that the cut in Central excise duty of Rs 5 per litre for petrol and Rs 10 per litre for diesel provides no relief to the people who are suffering from the growing burden of higher prices of petroleum production.

"This token reduction must be seen in the light of the fact that central excise constitutes Rs 33 per litre of petrol and Rs 32 per litre of diesel," it said.

The CPI-M said that the Central

government has made this meagre reduction from excise duties that are sharable with the states.

"However, it continues to collect special additional excise duty (surcharge) amounting to Rs 74,350 crore, additional excise duty (cess) amounting to Rs 1,98,000 crore, and other cess and surcharges amounting to Rs 15,150 crore, totaling a whopping Rs 287 lakh crores that are not sharable with the states," it noted, demanding that "these additional cess and surcharges must be withdrawn immediately to provide some meaningful relief to the people."

Referring to recent revelation in purchase of Rafale aircraft, the party said: "Even after the French investigative journal Mediapart revealed fresh evidence of commissions to middlemen in India and the documents related to this, along with the official negotiation details showing

that the Dassault Aviation substantially benefited, the Central government is refusing to investigate the scam."

"The efforts to bury high level corruption involved in the Rafale deal and the cover-up operation are reprehensible. While many governments of other countries have in some manner ordered investigations, the Modi government continues to remain obdurate in refusing to conduct such an investigation. This smacks of total complicity," it said. It demanded that a high-level independent enquiry must be conducted in the matter.

The CPI-M Polit Bureau also expressed concern about reports of attacks against minorities all over the country. "Rightwing groups patronised by the governments are emboldened to perpetuate such crimes. The administration, instead of protecting victims, actually pun-

ishes them and their supporters with the arrests under draconian laws," it said, claiming that in Uttar Pradesh, the use of NSA against Muslims have become common place along with numerous encounters.

"The fundamental right to offer prayers is being curtailed, as the recent incidents in the NCR, Gurgaon has shown," the statement said. It also demanded that the Centre withdraw its decision to extend the jurisdiction of BSF upto 50 km from the international border, from the earlier 15 km, in Punjab, West Bengal, and Assam.

The CPI-M Polit Bureau also extended solidarity and support to the decision of the Samyukta Kisan Morcha to observe the first anniversary of the historic kisan struggle by strengthening the mobilisation at the border points of Delhi and conducting protest actions in all state capitals on November 26.

Govt updates list of debarred, suspended from doing business

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Defence Ministry has put out an updated list of companies debarred, put on hold or suspended from doing business with the MoD.

According to an order by the Vigilance Department of Ministry of Defence, this is in accordance with MoD Guidelines for penalties in Business Dealings.

The six debarred firms are Singapore Technologies Kinetics Ltd (STK), Israel Military Industries Ltd. (IMI), T.S. Kisan & Co. Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi, R. K. Machine Tools Ltd., Ludhiana, Rheinmetall Air Defence (RAD), Zurich and Corporation Defence, Russia.

The 13 companies that are suspended or put on hold by MoD are IDS, Tunisia, Infotech Design System (IDS), Mauritius, IDS Infotech Ltd, Mohali, Aeromatrix Info. Solution Pvt Ltd, Chandigarh, Shanx Oceanering, Inter Spiro India Pvt Ltd, Experts



Systems, Unitech Enterprises, Kelvin Engineering, Atlas group of companies including Atlas Telecom and Atlas Defence Services, Offset India Solutions (P) Ltd. and its group companies and functionaries, Pilatus Aircraft Ltd, Switzerland and Vectra Advanced Engineering.

Two companies restricted from procurement are Rolls Royce and its allied and subsidiary companies and Tatra Trucks of Czech Republic.

Business dealings with SARR Freight Corporation and associated/allied Firms were suspended vide MoD

order dated 19.02.2021.

High Court of Delhi, in a case relating to Department of Defence Production, vide order dated 25.05.2021 stayed the operation of MoD order till 31.08.2021.

Further, the High Court vide directions dated 31.08.2021 has extended the stay till next date of hearing i.e. 07.01.2022.

Sources said Leonardo is now officially out of the list of suspended companies.

Leonardo has given a letter withdrawing their claims of 350 million euros on the cancelled Augusta order.

More power to Bengal BJP disciplinary committee to stop infighting

KOLKATA | Agencies

In an effort to control the internal rift within the party and arrest the spill-over effect of its negative impact on the people in general, the central leadership of BJP has given more power and authority to the state unit of the party.

According to senior leadership of the party these additional powers are vested on the state unit to accelerate the process of discipline in the party rank and file.

"The central leadership is busy with a lot of things and occasionally it takes a lot of time to take action on certain indiscipline within the party. Naturally the damages and rift widen leading to irreparable loss to the image of the party. So the central leadership wants the state unit to take action immediately and not wait for the consent of the high-command," a senior leader told IANS on the condition of anonymity.

Party's state President Sukanta Majumdar has forwarded a list of instructions to the disciplinary committee members where it has been told that the disciplinary committee



will now have a free hand to take immediate and strict disciplinary actions against party leaders resorting to anti-party activities. The disciplinary committee will not require the nod of the party's central leadership for taking that disciplinary action.

"However, the disciplinary action will be subject to approval from the state president. We will just have to inform the central leadership on this count. There had been several complaints from the districts about such factional infightings. We will review them shortly," a senior member of

the disciplinary committee said. The decision comes in the midst of the bitter war of words between the former state President Dilip Ghosh and veteran leader and former governor of Tripura Tathagata Roy where the latter alleged that Ghosh along with the central leadership, including Kailash Vijayvargiya was responsible for the pathetic performance of the party in the recent assembly polls.

Not only that, the party has recently expelled Howrah Sadar President Surajit Saha for speaking openly against the leader of the opposition Suvendu Adhikari. On Wednesday the expulsion letter signed by state BJP vice-president Partap Banerjee was issued against Saha for breaching the organisational discipline.

"If the disciplinary committee comes across any leader resorting to anti-party activities it will have to inform the central leadership within 24 hours and suggest punitive measures within 48 hours. Complaints of factional infighting have reached the disciplinary committee from all the 39 organizational districts of the party," a senior state BJP leader said.



MUMBAI ACHIEVES 100% FIRST DOSE COVID VACCINATION TARGET: MINISTER

Maharashtra Health Minister Rajesh Tope said 92,36,500 people in Mumbai have received the first vaccine dose, while 59,83,452 have got the second dose as well.



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Mumbai has achieved 100 per cent COVID-19 vaccine first dose target with all eligible beneficiaries above the age of 18 getting covered, possibly making it the first city in the country to do so,

Maharashtra Health Minister Rajesh Tope said on Saturday.

He said 92,36,500 people in the metropolis have received the first dose, while 59,83,452 have got the second dose as well. He congratulated Brihanmumbai Municipal Commissioner

Iqbal Chahal and Mayor Kishori Pednekar for the feat.

"Mumbai has administered the first dose of the COVID-9 vaccine to 100 per cent of the eligible population. Mumbai is probably the first city in the country to achieve this mark," he said.

Top-rung Maoist Milind Teltumbde among 26 slain reds

Team Absolute | Mumbai/Gadchiroli

Top CPI (Maoist) Central Committee Member Milind Teltumbde -- who carried a booty of Rs 50 lakh -- is among the 26 Maoists, including 4 women, who were gunned down by the security forces in Gadchiroli district, Home Minister Dilip Walse-Patil said here on Sunday.

Milind, aged around 57, is the brother of human rights activist and scholar Anand Teltumbde -- the brother-in-law of Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi President Dr. Prakash Ambedkar.

Anand Teltumbde is among the so-labelled 'Urban Maoists' who were raided in early and mid-2018 in connection with the Koregaon Bhima-Elgar Parishad cases, and is currently lodged in the Talaja Jail, Raigad.

Among those eliminated include at least four women Maoists, 13 carrying huge rewards on their heads and three Commanders of various Dalams active in the Naxal-infested district and surroundings -- making it one of the most successful security operations in recent years.

The prominent Commanders who have been obliterated include: Kishan alias Jaiman of Korchi Dalam and Sannu alias Kovachi of Kasansur Dalam, Lokesh alias Mangu Podyam



of Company No. 4. Besides Teltumbde with a reward of Rs 50 lakh, Mangu Podyam alias Lokesh carried a booty of Rs 20 lakh, and Shivaji Ravji Gota alias Mahesh with Rs 16 lakh on his head.

Those who carried lower amounts of rewards include: Kishen alias Jaiman and Sannu alias Kovachi (both Rs 8 lakh), and Tilak Manku Jade alias Bhagatsingh alias Pradeep (Rs 6 lakh). The others are: Manso Sukhran Boga alias Vimla, Dalsu Raju Gota alias Bandu, Dalpat Lalsai Kachlami alias Pramod, Musakhi alias Kosa, Sadhu Sonu Boga alias Prakash, Lacchhu, Dilip Hirooram Tulayji alias Navluram (all Rs 4 lakh

and Chetan Pada Rs 2 lakh).

The security forces recovered a large cache of arms and ammunition comprising 5 AK-47 rifles, 5 SLRs, three mm pistols, an INSAS gun, a 12-bore gun, and a .303 rifle, besides other weapons. The encounter, spread over Saturday early hours to late afternoon or more than 12 hours, is one of the biggest with 16 C-60 Commandos and over 500 personnel participating in the operation in the dense forests on the Maharashtra-Chhattisgarh borders.

The high fatalities notwithstanding another 70-plus extremists are reported to have fled under cover of darkness as many of their associates fell to

the bullets of the security forces. Top police officials suspect that a major forest convention was underway to possibly plan out some armed operation.

However, the security officials managed to get a realtime whiff from the intelligence networks, and resulted in the warfare lasting nearly 12 hours. Jade and Vimla Boga happened to be the personal bodyguards of Milind Teltumbde, and the identity of a few of the slain Maoists is being established, said officials.

In the past around 4 years, the Maharashtra security forces have registered massive victories against the insurgents, and killed around 90 so far besides recovering big caches of weapons, arms and ammunition.

More than 40 Maoists including 4 commanders were gunned down in a bloody gun-battle in the district on April 22-23, 2018 - till date the biggest anti-Maoist operation.

On May 21 and October 11 this year, 13 and five Maoists respectively were killed in the encounters in different areas of Gadchiroli, followed by the November 13 operations that saw 26 Maoists eliminated.

In addition, on March 3-4 last year (2020), the security forces stormed a huge arms and ammunition manufacturing factory thriving in the deep jungles of the district.

Section 144 imposed in Pune Rural after violence reported in several places

SECTION 144 WAS IMPOSED IN PUNE RURAL ON SUNDAY BECAUSE OF VIOLENCE IN SEVERAL PARTS OF MAHARASHTRA OVER REPORTS OF A MOSQUE BEING VANDALISED IN TRIPURA.



Pune | Agencies

Section 144 was imposed in Pune Rural on Sunday in view of violence in several parts of Maharashtra over reports of a mosque being damaged and vandalised in the Kakraban area of the Gomati district in Tripura.

On Friday, Muslim outfits took out a rally in protest of alleged violent

incidents in Tripura at Maharashtra's Amravati, Malegaon, Nanded, Yavatmal and Washim. In Amravati, over 8,000 people gathered outside the collector's office demanding that atrocities against minorities in the north-eastern state be stopped. When they were leaving the office, stone-pelting took place at three locations between Chitra Chowk and Cotton Market under the limits of the Kotwali police station. Later on Saturday, in protest against rallies organised by

Muslim organisations, the BJP organised a bandh. During the bandh, an angry mob took to the streets and hurled stones at shops. The police baton-charged to bring the situation under control.

Thereafter, police issued orders imposing curfew in Amravati under CrPc sections 144 (1), (2) and (3) to prevent any untoward incident. As per the order, a gathering of more than five people is banned. Except for emergencies, people are not allowed

to venture outside. Also, internet services have been suspended for the next three days, starting at 10 pm on Saturday. Maharashtra's Home Minister taking cognisance of the incident, said, "We will definitely investigate this. We will investigate the rallies that were taken out in Maharashtra over the incidents that may or may not have taken place in Tripura, we will also assess the damages. I'll tell you more after reports come." However, on Saturday, The Ministry of Home Affairs called the reports of a mosque being vandalised and damaged in Tripura 'fake, and a complete misrepresentation of facts.'

"The mosque in Dargabazar area of Kakraban has not been damaged and the Tripura Police in Gomati district is working to maintain peace and tranquillity," said the Ministry of Home Affairs. "There is no reported case of damage of the structure of any Masjid in Tripura in the recent past. There is no report of simple or grievous injury or rape or death of any person in these incidents as alleged in some social media posts," it added.

Motherless minor girl married off by father, raped by 400 people including cop over 6 months

A girl was alleged allegedly raped by 400 different people in Beed district of Maharashtra over a period of six months.

Aurangabad | Agencies

In the latest case in the series of grim and acutely distressing sexual assault incidents reported in the country, a minor girl became pregnant after she was allegedly raped by 400 different people, including a policeman, over a period of six months in Beed district of Maharashtra. This comes weeks after the alleged gang-rape of a minor girl by 33 youths in Dombivli area of the state's Thane district near Mumbai sparked a political

storm and massive public outrage in the state.

As per the details of the latest case, the minor girl's mother passed away nearly two years ago, following which her father married her off to a man, a media report stated. She stayed at her matrimonial home for over a year before returning to her family, as her father-in-law used to harass her. After a few days, she went to Ambejogai town to look for a job.

In Ambejogai, she was allegedly sexually assaulted by two people who had promised to give her a job. Thereafter, she was allegedly raped by hundreds of other people, including a police officer. In total, she suffered sexual abuse by 400 different people, leaving her pregnant.

The survivor is two months pregnant. The Child Welfare Committee's process to abort

the foetus is underway. Based on the complaint lodged by the survivor, the police have registered a case. Four people have been placed under arrest and the case is being investigated by the police. Earlier, a minor girl had alleged that she was gang-raped by the 33 youngsters multiple times at different locations in Dombivli area between January 29 and September 22 this year. In January, one of the accused youths had sexually assaulted the girl and recorded a video of the heinous act. Later, the video was used to blackmail her into having sex with the other accused. Based on a complaint, a case against the accused under Sections 376, 376 (N), 376 (3), 376 (D) (A) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

Over 58 lakh farmers register on Maha gov't mobile app, upload details of crops under cultivation

Team Absolute | Mumbai

More than 58 lakh farmers have so far registered themselves with the Maharashtra government's mobile application pertaining to crop survey, and cultivators from some districts have listed details of over 350 crops being grown during the kharif season, an official said.

The 'e-Peek Pahan' app is a facility recently developed by the state government with the help of the Tata Trust to allow farmers to upload details of their crops. This helps the government understand about the crops being grown and the exact area under cultivation in the state.

Such database gives an idea about the estimated production of food grains, oil seeds and cash crops. Based on it, import-export policies or decisions related to it can

be made, the revenue department official said.

"Since the facility was launch on August 15 this year, in the first two months, 58,39,804 farmers have registered themselves with the application. Out of them, 52,84,598 farmers have registered their kharif crop details as well," he said.

The area under kharif cultivation in Maharashtra is 1,49,73,625 hectare, of which crop details on 62,82,494 hectare have been registered on the app since August 15 this year. Details of another 6,35,383 hectare of agricultural land have also registered with the app under the 'whole year' category, which pertains to farmers who take more than one crop cultivation in a year, the official said. The government expects farmers to upload season-wise crop information, which will provide an accurate data about area

under cultivation for every crop, he said.

Earlier, there was an approximate estimation as information collection was a manual process and it was impossible for revenue officials to gather so much data more than once a year, the official said.

As per the revenue department's data, since August, the highest area of land under cultivation, as listed on the app, is in Jalgaon (4,89,691 ha), followed by Amravati (4,26,736 ha) and Yavatmal (3,94,233 ha).

Besides, farmers from Nashik district have registered 384 different crops to be cultivated this year, followed by 372 in Ahmednagar and 370 in Pune district.

Jalgaon district is also on top in terms of land owners who have registered on the app at 3,64,724, followed by 2,65,465 in Yavatmal and 2,59,988 in Chandrapur dis-

After 2 days of violence, Maharashtra gov't says situation in Amravati under control

ADDRESSING A PRESS CONFERENCE, STATE HOME MINISTER DILIP WALSE PATIL SAID THAT THE ROLE OF ORGANISATIONS SUCH AS THE RAZA ACADEMY WILL BE PROBED.

Hyderabad | Agencies

Maharashtra home minister Dilip Walse Patil said on Sunday that the situation in violence-hit Amravati was under control, a day after internet services were snapped and an indefinite curfew was imposed in the city following two straight days of violent protests. Addressing a press conference, the minister also said that no casualties have been reported from



Amravati thus far. Maharashtra home minister Dilip Walse Patil said on Sunday that the situation in violence-hit Amravati was normal, a day after internet services were snapped and indefinite curfew was imposed in the district after two straight days of violence. Addressing a press conference, the minister also said that no casualties have been reported from Amravati thus far. "We'll definitely investigate the rallies that were taken out in Maharashtra over the incidents that may not have taken place in Tripura. We

will also assess the damages. I'll tell you more after reports come," Walse Patil said. On the possible role of the Mumbai-based Raza Academy, which gave the initial bandh call for Friday, the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader said that an investigation will be conducted. "I can't tell you today, but we will probe this. Be it the Raza Academy or any other organisation, their motive behind the rallies will be probed," he said. On Friday, violence broke out in at least three cities--Amravati, Malegaon and Nanded--as Raza Academy held a

day-long bandh to protest against reported incidents of mosques being vandalised in Tripura. While the situation was brought under control in Malegaon and Nanded, fresh violence was reported from Amravati, during yet another shutdown, called by the opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), to protest against clashes from the day before. The police resorted to lathi-charge during the BJP's demonstrations, leading to injuries to at least 10 people. As the situation escalated, authorities imposed prohibitory orders, and also rushed in reinforcements from the nearby districts.

The ruling Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi, comprising the Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress, has accused the BJP, which is in power in the north-eastern state, of 'conspiring to destabilise the Maharashtra government.' The Tripura Police, state government, as well as the Centre, have all refuted reports of vandalism of mosques in the state.

Cruise ship case: Accused searched by panch witness... seizure illegal, says Mumbai Court

THE COURT HAD LAST MONTH GRANTED BAIL TO NUPUR SATIJA, GOMIT CHOPRA, ISHMEET SINGH CHADHA AND SHREYAS NAIR. THE DETAILED ORDER OF THE BAIL APPLICATIONS WAS MADE AVAILABLE ON SATURDAY.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In its detailed order granting bail to one of the accused arrested by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) in the cruise ship drug raid case, the special court has said that

she was searched by a panch witness and not an empowered officer, which is a breach of the NDPS Act and therefore the seizure is "illegal." The court had last month granted bail to Nupur Satija, Gomit Chopra, Ishmeet Singh Chadha and Shreyas Nair. The detailed order of the bail applications was made available on Saturday. Satija, a 29-year-old Gurgaon resident, was arrested by the NCB, which claimed that a search in her room on the cruise had led it to an intermediate quantity of MDMA or Ecstasy pills. Satija, through her lawyers, had argued that the search was illegal, as it was carried out by a female panch witness, who is not authorised to carry out search and seizures.

It was also submitted that Satija was arrested by a male officer post-sunset without permission of the magistrate, in violation of legal procedures. "...personal search of the

accused, as well as search of room, was taken by female panch witness. Admittedly, there was no lady officer present and no panchnama was carried out by person authorised for that purpose... Search is undertaken by female panch who is not an empowered officer to effect search and therefore there is breach of section 42 of the NDPS Act," the court said referring to the provisions related to search, seizures and arrests.

It added that Satija is entitled to be granted bail on the ground that the seizure was illegal and in breach of the NDPS Act.

While granting bail to Chopra, who the NCB alleged had provided the contraband to Satija as there were WhatsApp chats between them, the court said that chats are only regarding consumption. "Though prosecution (NCB) relied upon WhatsApp chats, it can be seen that WhatsApp chats are

regarding only consumption of contraband and not regarding sell, purchase or for any other use of contraband..." the court said.

It added that the aspects of conspiracy alleged against all the accused would be dealt with in depth during the trial. But prima facie material did not show conspiracy or abetment as alleged by NCB, the court said.

While granting bail to Chadha, who was found at the cruise terminal allegedly with 15 MDMA pills, and Nair, who is alleged to have provided the contraband, the court said that apart from a statement, the NCB had not brought on record specific evidence to show that Nair had supplied the contraband or that he was dealing in its business.

So far, 15 of the 20 arrested in the case have been granted bail - three by the Bombay High Court and 12 by the special court.

16-year-old girl called 'prostitute' by teacher for letting fellow student keep his head on her lap

A case has been registered against the private tutor under Section 12 (sexual harassment) of the POCSO Act and Section 509 (act, word or gesture intended to insult woman's modesty) of the IPC.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A 16-year-old girl was allegedly called a prostitute by her tutor in Maharashtra's Mumbai, reportedly after she let a fellow student keep his head on her lap. Following a complaint, the police arrested the tutor under relevant provi-

sions of the Indian Penal Code and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act.

The incident occurred on October 29 in Mumbai's Andheri (West) area where the 48-year-old arrestee takes private tuition classes. The tutor claimed that during a class, he noticed a male student keeping his head on the teenage girl's lap. He flew into a rage and chided the 16-year-old girl. He made abusive remarks and even used the "prostitute" word.

The girl, after coming back home, informed her parents about the matter. Her parents then approached the police. The girl informed the cops that the fellow student's head touched her lap while he was picking up his pencil which he had dropped.

The police registered a case against the teacher under the IPC's Section 509 (act, word or gesture intended to insult woman's modesty) and the POCSO Act's Section 12 (sexual harassment). "We arrested the tutor the same day. He was produced before a sessions court where he was granted bail," a police officer as said.

This comes days after a woman in Telangana's Hyderabad apparently filed a false complaint alleging that she was gang-raped by her neighbour and two of his friends. As per reports, the woman in question told the police that she resorted to filing a false complaint of gang-rape because her neighbour had refused to give her a sum of Rs 10,000 for medical treatment.



EDITOR'S SPECS

Lakhimpur Kheri to harm BJP in UP polls

The Lakhimpur Kheri violence that claimed the lives of nine persons in Uttar Pradesh on October 3 will harm the poll prospects of the ruling Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) in the Assembly elections scheduled in the state next year, as per the opinion Poll. According to the survey, 62 per cent of the voters feel that this issue will harm the saffron party in Assembly elections, while only 21.5 per cent feel that it would help the BJP. A total of 16 per cent respondents feel that it will not have any impact on the elections. According to the 2019 cross tabulation, 48.4 per cent of BJP voters, 64 per cent of Congress voters, 80.6 per cent of Samajwadi Party (SP) voters, 77.1 per cent of Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) voters and 68.6 per cent of other political parties feel that the incident will harm the saffron party in the coming elections. Only 28.2 per cent of BJP voters, 20 per cent of Congress voters, 12.9 per cent each of SP and BSP, and 14 per cent others feel that it would help the BJP. A total of 22.2 per cent of BJP voters, 16 per cent Congress voters, 6.5 per cent SP voters, 10 per cent BSP voters and 17.4 per cent others said that this would not have any impact on the Assembly polls. As per the survey, over 56 per cent respondents are not influenced by the record Covid vaccinations in the state, while 44.3 per cent think that it will have an impact on the voters. The survey was conducted across all the 403 Assembly constituencies in the state with a sample size of 3,571 in each.

PEOPLE ACROSS THE GLOBE LOOK TO COP26 TO KEEP 1.5C ALIVE

Vishal Gulati

With people around the world now looking to COP26, hoping that the delegates of nearly 200 nations can agree on the steps needed to keep 1.5C alive, in a way that is just, fair and sustainable, COP President Alok Sharma said it will take all of "us working together to get there".

"I would like to thank all parties for their constructive and focused advice in the informal stocktaking plenary this afternoon (Friday)," he said in a statement.

"My team and I are now engaged in intensive consultations with groups and parties in an effort to reflect the views expressed, find the right balances and develop texts that will have been built collectively."

Sharma said it is his intention to issue revised documents overnight, based on the consultations that are on-going.

"I envisage formal plenary meetings in the afternoon to adopt decisions and close the session on Saturday," he added.

Patricia Espinoza, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), began COP26 by calling on delegates "to consider the choices

that we must make, and the trust vested in you by billions."

As 197 nations on Friday approached the official end of the 26th meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP26) to the UNFCCC, it also marks the beginning of the hard work that is needed to prevent climate chaos and build a positive brighter future with bold commitments to end the use of coal and other fossil fuels.

COP observers told correspondent that the second draft that came on Friday appears significantly more balanced with stronger elements on adaptation, finance and loss and damage. The elements of the text aimed at speeding up action to close the gap towards emissions goals are there -- with no radical changes from the previous version and dates still intact.

However, the language on coal and other fossil fuels has been softened, and the inclusion of the commitment in a final deal would be seen as a landmark moment.

Seeing the dissent and anger, the third draft has mention of "efforts towards the phase-out of unabated coal power and inefficient fossil fuel subsidies".

The draft urges countries which have not

landed new plans to do so by 2022, requests all countries to raise climate targets in line with 1.5-2C by end of 2022, commissions annual UN assessment of climate plans from 2022, urges countries to deliver net zero mid-century plans by 2022 and signal to countries to accelerate shift off fossil fuels, coal to renewable energy.

All 197 parties will need to agree on each and every word of the final agreement.

The UK aims to bring countries together to agree to a comprehensive, ambitious and balanced outcome that takes forward coordinated climate action and resolves key issues related to the UNFCCC, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement.

Paris set the destination -- limiting warming well below 2 degrees, aiming for 1.5 degrees -- Glasgow must make it a reality.

As per the UK Presidency of the COP26, the aims of the negotiations: the outcome to accelerate action to reduce emissions, strengthen adaptation and resilience to climate impacts and scale up finance and support.

At COP26, delegates will be aiming to finalise the 'Paris Rulebook', the rules needed to implement the 2015 Paris Agreement, and

conclude outstanding issues from COP25 in Madrid. They will also seek to deliver on all essential negotiating items for 2020 and 2021.

"From our extensive engagement with countries, the most commonly raised priorities include: enabling ambition through carbon markets, rules for the transparent reporting of action and support and common timeframes for emission reduction commitments," says the UK.

Responding to the latest cover decisions, Sanjay Vashist, Director, Climate Action Network South Asia, told IANS, "For the people of South Asia, a region that is being slammed by climate induced disasters every day, COP26 was indeed the last chance to find permanent solution to the climate crisis, unfortunately the voices of the most vulnerable and the most impacted have been silenced and the interest of the fossil fuel corporations have been clearly pandered to by the UK COP presidency."

"Instead of building trust, the global south has been cheated once again. Instead of funding for loss and damage what we have is yet another greenwash that will ensure genocide by extreme weather events in developing countries," Vashist added.

JNANPITH WINNER SENDS OUT STRONG MESSAGE ON CLIMATE CRISIS

Indias highest literary award winner sent out a strong message on the impending climate catastrophe at a special ceremony here as part of the 40th Sharjah International Book Fair (SIBF).

Taking a swipe at the COP26 climate talks that ended the same day in Glasgow, Amitav Ghosh said on Friday that enough hasn't come out of the summit that had some of the world's top leaders attending it.

"More needs to be done at a global level with sea levels rising and aquifers drying up," he said while explaining how his latest book "The Nutmeg's Curse: Parables for a Planet in Crisis" was inspired by the people of Banda islands in Indonesia and through it how he found that the origins of contemporary climate crisis lay in 'Western colonialism's violent exploitation of human life and the natural environment.

The book, published only last month, has been called a successor to The Great Derangement where the 2018 Jnanpith winner first wrote about climate change and its impacts.

"I had to address questions (on climate change) I

encountered and saw first-hand closer home," said Ghosh while talking about how he first wrote on the topic, moved by the situation in the Sunderbans in his native West Bengal -- a mangrove area in the delta formed by the confluence of three rivers where rising sea levels were "gobbling up islands" in front of his eyes.

"Nutmeg and Mace are endemic to the Banda Islands thanks to their fertile volcanic soil. Because of the nutmeg tree, Banda became the centre of the world and the Bandanese very prosperous until the European colonialists entered, plundered and left," said the winner of Padma Shri, one of India's highest honours, and author of best-sellers such as "The Calcutta Chromosome" (1995), "The Glass Palace" (2000) and "Gun Island" (2019).

Talking about the central theme of his book, he said, it

explores 'the nutmeg's curse' of how an abundance of a natural reserve (spice trees) led to the elimination of their very preservers (Bandanese).

"The planetary crisis is exactly the same. It's a resource curse. It's exactly what's happened with fossil fuel in places in Iraq and Libya in recent history," he said while explaining how the dynamics of climate change today are rooted in a centuries-old geopolitical order constructed by Western colonialism.

"The Nutmeg's Curse: Parables for a Planet in Crisis" has been described as a powerful work of history, essay, testimony, and polemic that traces our contemporary planetary crisis back to the discovery of the New World and the sea route to the Indian Ocean.

international

SHOOTINGS ACROSS US CONTINUE TO RISE



Washington: People in the US are living with gun violence, as shootings across the country continue to rise, according to the American Broadcasting Company (ABC).

In Philadelphia, there were 1,500 people shot through October this year, with nearly 400 people killed, Xinhua news agency reported on Sunday citing a recent ABC story as saying. Gun violence is not unique to Philadelphia, the ABC report said, adding that homicides have been on the rise this year in cities all over the country.

During just one week in July, there were 430 deaths and over a 1,000 people shot, according to data collected from the Gun Violence Archive. So far this year, there have been 17,723 deaths due to gun violence, not including suicides. There were more than 19,400 shooting deaths in 2020, and 15,400 in 2019. "The environment is a hostile environment," Joshua Cornelius, a 17-year-old senior at a north Philadelphia school, told ABC News. "It's a real war zone."

Afghan FM confirms Kabul mediating between Pak, TTP

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Afghanistan Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi has confirmed that Kabul is mediating between the Pakistan government and banned Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) for peace in the country, Geo News reported.

In an exclusive interview with Geo News, Muttaqi said there is no individual of the Islamic Emirate but as a matter of policy the whole Islamic Emirate is mediating between the government of Pakistan and the banned TTP.

He expressed confidence that the talks will yield positive result, adding that the establishment of peace and end of war is in the interest of all.

Meanwhile, he said that Afghanistan welcomed the peace talks between the Pakistan government and TTP, with the undertaking that it would continue to support Islamabad in its peace endeavours. The Afghan Foreign Minister told a gathering that the Taliban government had not dismissed a single woman and invited all of them back to work. He claimed that all anti-Pakistan elements had left Afghanistan, and expressed hope that the Pakistan-TTP peace process would



be extended.

"We will do everything we can to ensure that the territory of Afghanistan is not used against anyone. The people of this region have suffered a lot, and we must not allow the suffering to continue," he said, the report said.

He dismissed the idea of integrating opposition leaders in the interim Afghanistan administration, stressing no state has the authority to force them to accept former governments' representatives into the governance system. The Taliban already have constituted an inclusive government that included representatives from all ethnic groups across the country, he

claimed.

Referring to different countries' demands for different ethnic groups to be included in the government, Muttaqi reminded that Tajiks, Baloch, Turkmens, Nuristanis, Uzbeks and a number of other ethnic groups are part of the administration in Afghanistan. "If by inclusivity they mean the participation of diverse ethnic communities in Afghanistan and people from different regions of the country, then our current cabinet and government meet the criteria," he asserted, the report said. He said that if former president Ashraf Ghani's government was considered inclusive, then all the people who worked in the previous administration had been kept in the current administrative system.

"And if by inclusivity they mean political opposition figures have a seat in the cabinet and other high positions of power, then please show us an example of such a government anywhere in the world where opposition figures are also occupying positions of power," he asked.

Castigating the demand, he said: "We have never requested Biden to give a berth to Trump and his cabinet members. So why are they asking us?"

BULGARIA VOTES TO ELECT PRESIDENT, PARLIAMENT

Sofia: Bulgarians went to the polls on Sunday to elect a President and a National Assembly.

As many as 23 candidates, including current President Rumen Radev, are running for President, while 20 parties and seven coalitions are taking part, reports Xinhua news agency. 00 polling stations across the country and 750 more in 68 other countries opened for 6.7 million eligible voters.

The first exit polls will be announced immediately after polls close in the evening. The official result of the presidential election must be released no later than Tuesday evening, with those for Parliament on Thursday. The President is elected directly by the people for a period of five years. To be elected, a candidate requires more than half of the valid ballots, provided that more than half of all eligible voters have cast their ballots in the election.

Radev's term will expire at the end of January 2022. The National Assembly is Bulgaria's legislative body. It has a four-year term and parties and coalitions need to gain at least 4 percent of votes to enter Parliament.



UAE backs establishment of Palestinian state under 2-state solution

Abu Dhabi | Agencies

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) supports the establishment of a Palestinian state within the framework of a two-state solution, Khalifa Shaheen Al Marar, Minister of State, said during an event here on Sunday.

The UAE normalised ties with Israel following the signing of the Abraham Accords in September 2020 and Al Marar reaffirmed that the historic pact will not affect the UAE's support for the Palestinian cause.

"The signing of the Abraham Accords has not changed the view of the UAE regarding the Palestinian issue and the need for a solution between Israel and Palestine. The UAE reaffirms its support for the establishment of a Palestinian state within the framework of a two-state solution," he said.

Al Marar was speaking on the opening day of the Emirates Policy Center's (EPC) eighth Abu Dhabi Strategic Debate (ADSD) held on Sunday.

The Minister said the Abraham Accords is a relationship between the UAE and Israel and is not against any third party. "From the UAE's perspective the signing of the Abraham Accords was not to target any third party. The Accords has



come at a very important point in the Arab-Israeli conflict and the trajectory of the peace process." He noted the signing of the Accords was part of a strategic vision for the Arab-Israeli problem.

"It will not change the demands and the outstanding issues related to the Israel-Palestinian issues," he said.

Al Marar said the UAE does not believe in using

force as a tool of foreign policy and is committed to not using hard power.

"The story of the UAE in the past 50 years is a success story in all fields from building a modern state and a successful federal structure and developing a diversified economy, as well as developing human capacity," the Minister said during a panel on 'UAE's 50th Anniversary: A Regional Power with a Global Vision.'

The UAE was formed in 1971, and Al Marar said the guiding values of the UAE's foreign policy over the next 50 years are tolerance, fraternity, rights and justice.

"The nature and goal of the UAE's foreign policy over the next 50 years is to promote goodwill and good neighbourliness. We want to reconnect and build new bridges with the international community not just to reduce tensions but also find solutions for ongoing crises."

He stressed that the UAE will never interfere in any countries' internal affairs but seeks to mitigate tension in the region.

The two-day Abu Dhabi Strategic Debate brings together top decision-makers, strategic studies experts, and scholars from all over the world to focus on the regional and international environments in the post-Covid-19 era.

Iran's FM urges 'serious' approach for 'good deal' in nuke talks

Tehran | Agencies

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian has called for a "serious" approach of the negotiating sides in the upcoming nuclear talks for a "good deal".

"I believe that if the opposite sides enter the Vienna talks with a serious and positive approach, it will be possible to achieve a good agreement in a short time," Amir Abdollahian was quoted as saying.

The Islamic Republic and the remaining parties to the 2015 nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), are set to meet in the Austrian capital of Vienna on November 29 to resume the negotiations which were paused in June due to Iran's presidential election and the subsequent alteration in the administration. "The Islamic Republic has no intention to be locked in the stalemate remaining from the previous negotiations," he said, urging for "effective and verifiable removal of (US) sanctions and the return of the opposite sides to their full obligations" as the necessary steps for the progress of the talks. Washington's behaviour in imposing new sanctions against Iran has made providing "objective guarantees" an unavoidable necessity, he said, refer-



ring to the Iranian officials' persistence for the guarantees that the next US administrations will not repeat the legacy of former President Donald Trump by withdrawing from the deal and re-imposing sanctions against Tehran.

Amir Abdollahian also pointed to the recent European tour of Iran's nuclear negotiator Ali Bagheri Kani, saying that he has had "explicit and useful" talks in a number of European capitals ahead of the scheduled reconvene of the talks. The JCPOA Joint Commission is scheduled to reconvene in Vienna with the participation of delegates from China, France, Germany, Russia, the UK, and Iran. The US, which terminated its participation in the agreement in May 2018, is expected to engage in the talks indirectly.

PM NARENDRA MODI IN BHOPAL TODAY: WILL LAUNCH MANY SCHEMES

► PM WILL ALSO DEDICATE NEWLY DEVELOPED (PPP MODEL) RANI KAMLAPATI STATION DURING HIS VISIT.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be in Bhopal for a day on November 15, 2021. Prime Minister Modi, will launch several tribal development and welfare programmes during the Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas celebration on the occasion of birth anniversary of Amar Shaheed Bhagwan Birsa Munda. Modi will also dedicate the newly developed (on PPP model) Rani Kamlapati Railway Station. Governor of Madhya Pradesh Mangubhai Patel and Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan along with several union cabinet ministers, state ministers, member of parliaments, also be present during the event.

PM Modi, will arrive in Bhopal, for a day's stay at 12.30 pm on Monday, November 15, 2021. He will attend Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas celebrations on birth anniversary of Amar Shaheed Bhagwan Birsa Munda at Jamboree



Maidan at 12.50 pm. Modi will visit the exhibition of self-help groups and their products at the function. He will also visit the photo exhibition of martyrs and heroes of the freedom struggle from the tribal community and Madhya Pradesh. Prime Minister will launch the 'Ration- Aapke Gram' scheme by handing over the keys of the ration vehicle. The scheme provides PDS Ration to Janjatiya community at village level. A short film on the scheme 'Ration- Aapke Gram' will be screened.

Modi will launch the Madhya Pradesh Sickle Cell Haemoglobinopathy Mission by providing genetic counselling cards to two persons. A short film on the mission

will be screened in the program. Also, Modi will provide appointment letters to three out of 20 newly appointed Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) teachers. A film will also be screened on the Janjatiya village Narsinghrunda of Jhabua district, the first village which has achieved the feat of 100 percent Covid vaccination in the state.

The Prime Minister will lay virtual foundation stone of 50 Eklavya Model Residential Schools and will address the programme. After this, he will dedicate the newly developed Rani Kamlapati station. The Prime Minister will also have a walk through at the newly developed station premises.

No stone will be left unturned in making tribal brothers and sisters empowered and for their development: CM

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Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that the State Government will leave no stone unturned in making tribal brothers and sisters empowered and for their development. Raja Sangram Shah Award will be given annually for the best work in the field of tribal art and culture. Chouhan said that Raja Sangram Shah ruled 52 bastions of the tribal community. He was interacting with the tribal art community after dedicating the newly constructed Gallery of Tribal Heroes at the Tribal Museum.

Welcoming the tribal artists to Bhopal, Chief Minister said that today Bhopal and Madhya Pradesh are painted in tribal colours. Our culture, art, dance traditions are amazing. Tribal society lives life in its joy and fun, this is the speciality of this society. You people have come on Bhopal Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas. Bhopal Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas means we are warriors too. Tribal heroes have offered even the last drop of their blood to cut the shackles of slavery from the feet of Mother India.

Chouhan said that this entire area was Gondwana. From Ginnorgarh to Garha Mandla was the kingdom of the Gonds. The tribal community used to have 52 bastions. Chief Minister said that Nizam Shah used to rule in Ginnorgarh. His wife's name was Kamlapati.

Chouhan said that history had for-



gotten Rani Kamlapati. Tribal warriors were forgotten. Expressing gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chouhan said that Habibganj railway station has been named after Rani Kamlapati on his initiative. Modi has accepted the proposal sent by the State Government. We are grateful to them.

Chouhan said that the university built in Chhindwara has been named Shankar Shah-Raghunath Shah University. Memorials are being set up for all our tribal warriors. A memorial of Tantiya Mama has been established in Khandwa district, Bhima Nayak in Barwani district. A memorial is being

established in Jabalpur in the name of Raghunath Shah-Shankar Shah. Tribal Museum is coming up in Chhindwara. Chouhan said that all the traditions and culture of the tribal community have been kept in the Tribal Museum built in Bhopal.

Chouhan said that Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas is being celebrated on the initiative of Prime Minister Shri Modi. It is an occasion to pay homage to the tribal heroes. Our art, culture and traditions should also be encouraged. Tribal pride day has also been organized to encourage them. Tribal Pride Day is a campaign to transform tribal life.

BJP MLA accused of grabbing crores worth Gond Family's Land

■ BJP Sidhi district president Indrasharan Singh said the accusation against MLA Shukla are serious and the leader should come clean about this.

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The family of one Mahkam Singh has filed a case in a sub-divisional magistrate (SDM) court, accusing four-time BJP MLA Kedarnath Shukla and his brother Markande Shukla of land grabbing.

The matter came to the family's notice around three months ago, when they approached the revenue department to divide the land amongst Mahkam Singh's four sons and their families.

Advocate Madan Pratap Singh, who is representing the family, said that the case represents a violation of section 170 (B) of MP Land Revenue Code, 1959. This section says that if a non-tribal person buys tribal agriculture land and fails to notify the SDM, district magistrate and the revenue department within one year of the purchase, then the land will revert to the person to whom it originally belonged. If that person is dead, it will revert to his legal heirs. "Permission from the SDM, collector and the revenue officer is unavailable in this case. Nor were they notified. Besides, the family never sold



the land to anyone," said the advocate. Danbahadur Singh, one of the applicants, has also given a written complaint to the Sidhi district collector and superintendent of police (SP) and with the land records of the revenue department, demanding a fair enquiry to see how the ownership of the land has changed without his grandfather's consent. Speaking over the phone, Danbahadur Singh said, "My grandfather Mahkam Singh owned the land when Sidhi was in the Rewa princely state. And as per the revenue department records, the land is in his name until 1972. But ownership of the land change thereafter." Another applicant, 80-year-old Gulab Singh, a son of Mahkam Singh, said that Kedarnath Shukla's father used to graze cattle on their land and it prompted a dispute in 1984-85. "To take revenge, he stripped our father naked and paraded him around the village and chased us away. Since then, we have stayed away from the land but never sold it to him." "After our complaint, many other Gonds in the vil-

lage have levelled the same allegation: that their land has been grabbed by the BJP MLA, but owing to fear they refrain from making complaints," he added. MLA Shukla refused to comment over the issue and said that the matter is 'sub-judice' and he will present his documents there.

Despite repeated attempts, collector Mujeebur Rehman Khan did not respond. But, Sidhi SP Pankaj Kumawat said, "After the complaint, we have sought a report from the revenue department to look into the matter. Action will be taken based on the report." Commenting on the issue, Congress MLA and former state home minister Bala Bachchan said, "While the BJP is celebrating the Janjati Gaurav Diwas (Tribal Pride Day), on the ground, their MLAs are grabbing tribal lands. This is the real face of the BJP." Indrasharan Singh, the BJP's Sidhi district unit president, said the accusation against MLA Shukla are serious and the leader should come clean about this. "He always talks about the development of the marginalised, but he is being accused of grabbing land from tribal communities. I urge the district administration to take appropriate action and handover the land to the rightful owners," he said. Former chief minister Digvijay Singh has levelled a similar allegation against the BJP state president VD Sharma, accusing him of grabbing lands that belong to tribal communities in Panna district, which falls under his parliamentary constituency Khajuraho.

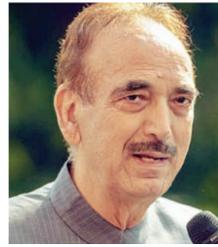
Country's Politics has become communal: Ghulam Nabi Azad

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Senior Congress leader and former union minister Ghulam Nabi Azad said here on Sunday that politics of the country has turned communal. "There is no political ideology in present day scenario, the only thing that is adopted by every party and leader is communal approach, Hindus have become Hindu and Muslims have become Muslim in every party," he said.

Expressing pain over the current state of politics in the country he said that entire country has changed, hatred politics is fast making roads among the political fraternity and that is not good in the interest of the nation.

Strong Opposition is essential to maintain true spirit of democracy. It neces-



sary in the centre as well as in the states, said Azad. He was in Bhopal to attend a private function. The senior Congress leader avoided questions on central Congress leadership or his relations with the BJP. When asked about PM Modi's 'true friend' remark on Azad's farewell from Rajya Sabha, he replied that it was mere Parliamentary courtesy.

"Meeting of leaders from different political parties was common. Differing views does not mean personal enmity. But times have changed now. Even courtesy calls and meetings of leaders from different political parties is seen with suspicion," said Ghulam Nabi Azad. Had one seen my photographs with Atal Bihari Vajpayee or LK Advani, the present day media might have started speculating about changing loyalties. "I had cordial relations with leaders from all political parties," he added. Azad also expressed anguish on present state of politics. "Communalism, casteism, regionalism, corruption has overpowered today's politics. Political leaders of pre-independence era only are given respect. Today's netas are termed as goons and looked down upon," he added.

CM pays obeisance to Kailash Sarang

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan paid homage to Late Kailash Sarang on his death anniversary. Chouhan paid floral tributes by garlanding the picture of Kailash Sarang in the auditorium at his residence.

Late Sarang was an efficient organiser, able administrator, writer, thinker, journalist, poet and Shayar (Urdu poet). He was had rich versatile talent. Kailash Sarang was born on 2nd June 1934 in Dumar village of Raisen district. He was a Rajya Sabha MP from 1990 to 1996. Sarang wrote a book on Prime



Minister Shri Modi titled "Narendra Se Narendra". He was always dedicated for the upliftment of the suffering class of the society. He passed away on November 14, 2020. Chief Minister Chouhan tweeted that, "I consider myself fortunate that I have always been getting his guidance and blessings. Even today his life mantras inspire



me. His entire life was devoted to the service of the nation, society and the poor. He served the organisation till the last breath of his life. May father like Kailash Sarang ji always have affection on us workers; his invaluable ideas may keep showing us path. I pay homage to the feet of Late Kailash Sarang ji on his death anniversary.

Congress kick-starts 2-week 'Jan Jagran Abhiyan'

■ "From November 14 to 29, Congress workers and leaders will march through villages and towns, speaking to people on the BJP's policies that resulted high inflation in the country," said a state Congress spokesperson.

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The Madhya Pradesh unit of Congress on Sunday kick-started the first phase of its two-week 'Jan Jagran Abhiyan' campaign, during which party leaders and workers will visit the rural parts in the state in an effort to highlight the rising inflation and target the BJP government at the Centre.



"From November 14 to 29, Congress workers and leaders will march through villages and towns, speaking to people on the BJP's policies that resulted high inflation in the country," said a state Congress spokesperson. During the visit, they

will clean Dait habitats, distribute pamphlets on the rising prices and will stay in rural areas in the night.

As part of the campaign, veteran Congress leader and former Chief Minister Digvijaya Singh will visit the districts of Mandla, Datiya, Panna and

Guna. The Madhya Pradesh Congress Committee has also set up a control room to monitor the smooth running of the campaign. Senior party leader and MLA PC Sharma will be heading the control room. Slamming the BJP for its policies at the Centre and the state, Digvijaya Singh said the Congress Working Committee (CWC) has noticed the party has taken decisions and made policies that have adversely affected the Indian economy. "The BJP government's policies have resulted high inflation, widespread unemployment and economic recession. We will also tell the people about the mismanagement of the Covid pandemic by the BJP government." He said that the Congress has been raising its voice against all these issues for long and now it has decided to reach to the people through the 'Jan Jagran Abhiyan.'

MP reports highest tiger deaths between 2012-2019

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh has reported the highest number of tiger deaths between 2012 and 2019 and in this year alone, 36 of the big cats lost their lives in the state.

The increasing number of tiger deaths in almost all the reserves in Madhya Pradesh is not only putting a risk on the 'tiger state', which it won against Karnataka in 2018, but it has also raised an alarm for forest departments to take more protective measures. Madhya Pradesh won the 'tiger state' status in the All India Tiger Estimated Report 2018 by a difference of just two big cats - 526 to Karnataka's 524.

But the state has lost over 200 tigers between 2012 and 2019 (36 till November 13, 2021), followed by 141 in Maharashtra and 123 in Karnataka during the same period.

The Kanha Tiger Reserve, which is popularly known as Kanha-Kisli National Park located in peripheries of two districts Mandla and Balaghat, has reported 43 tiger



deaths between 2012 and 2019, the highest in the country. Bandhavgarh National Park, another major tiger reserve located in Umaria district (the border between Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh), has reported 38 tiger deaths in the same period. Pench National Park or Pench Wildlife Sanctuary, which is located between two Sioni and Chhindwara districts, has lost 17 tigers, while Satpura Tiger Reserve in Hoshangabad district and Sanjay-Dubri in Sidhi district have lost three

and four, respectively, according to the National Tiger Conservation Authority's report.

However, the officials in the reserves were of the view that the tiger population has continued to grow and it never decreased despite the deaths. These dispersing tigers often ended up falling victim to wire traps, poachers and human-animal conflicts. Surprisingly, in the past fortnight, two tigers were reported dead which were fitted with radio-collared mechanism. "Security sys-

tem of tigers at each reserve need to be strengthened with modern mechanism. Death of the two radio-collared tigers in have created another challenge because the mechanism was considered to be secured in terms of locating movement and other activities of tigers. Increasing population and territorial fights among them are another big concern which needs more attention," said a senior wildlife official at the Kanha National Park. Meanwhile, wildlife activists told IANS said that situation is unlikely to improve until a Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF) is formed and deployed in reserves. In 2000 when the number of tigers were on a decline due to human interferences, increasing incidents of poaching and trafficking, the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) had recommended states having tiger reserves to set up STPF. Following the recommendation, Odisha, Karnataka and Maharashtra formed STPFs. However, Madhya Pradesh is yet to set-up such a force.

CM planted Kadam and Karanj saplings in Smart Garden

Indores YouTuber Kumari Khanak Hajela also planted saplings along with the Chief Minister

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan along with YouTuber Kumari Khanak Hajela of Indore planted Kadamba and Karanj saplings in Smart Garden on Sunday. Chouhan took information from Khanak about the activities conducted by her. Chief Minister is constantly trying to encourage the participation of the society in plantation. In this sequence, he is planting saplings every day with social organisations, voluntary organisations and people who encourage tree plantation at the individual level. Kumari Khanak Hajela is



famous for her YouTube channel 'Gapshap with Khanak.' She actively participates in social works. For the past three years, she makes videos on issues like financial inclusion, online payments and uses the money from her YouTube channel for social works. Kumari Khanak Hajela is also active in works like conducting activities for environmental protection, providing nutritious food to children and arranging educational materials. Kumari Khanak delivered kits of essential medicines to the needy living in Dhar-Jhabua during the

second wave of Covid-19. Khanak believes that Corona can be defeated if everyone fights together against Covid-19. She has been associated with Seva Bharti and Guruji Seva Nyas in Indore city and is also active in providing necessary arrangements for the children of Matrichhaya.

The Kadamba or Kadam planted today is considered to be a tree of deities. Kadamba is famous in Ayurveda for its medicinal properties. Its leaves are very big and gum comes out of them. Its fruits are like lemons.



Kylie Minogue's new album 'Disco: Guest List Edition' is out

Los Angeles | Agencies

Pop star Kylie Minogue has released 'Disco: Guest-List Edition', via BMG. It features new collaborations, remixes and more. This new version of the album follows the barnstorming 2020 release of 'Disco', Kylie's eighth UK No. 1 album, which saw her make chart history once more as the first female artist to have a UK No. 1 album in five consecutive decades.

'Disco: Guest-List Edition' includes the hit track 'Kiss of Life' with pop star Jessie Ware, recently released alongside the fashion-filled visual directed by Sophie Muller.

The video features the two pop stars alongside an array of conspicuous individuals from the Theo Adams Company, including London's nightlife high-priestess, Princess Julia.

Also included on 'Disco: Guest-List Edition' is the hugely successful single 'A Second to Midnight' with Years & Years, which was deemed 'dazzling' by NME and a 'delightful disco fever dream' by Rolling Stone. The release also includes new track 'Can't Stop Writing Songs About You' with disco legend Gloria Gaynor, plus remixes from Basement Jaxx, Purple Disco Machine and fan favourite 'Real Groove (Studio 2054 Remix)' with Dua Lipa.

"My Disco: Guest List Edition is out now. I absolutely loved being able to add to the DISCO album with the help of these amazing artists! Thank you always and forever Jessie Ware, Years & Years, Gloria Gaynor and Dua Lipa," Kylie said.

'Disco: Guest List Edition' is available in multiple formats, including digital CD and vinyl.



THE ROCK OPENS UP ABOUT ACTING OPPOSITE GAL GADOT IN 'RED NOTICE'

Los Angeles | Agencies

He made his acting debut in 'The Mummy Returns' in 2001, and since then, WWE wrestler-turned-Hollywood superstar and producer Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson has reprised the lead role in a series of global blockbusters, starting with 'The Scorpion King' in 2002. With his latest production, 'Red Notice' streaming on Netflix from Friday, November 12, Johnson joined a select roundtable with journalists, including reporter, to talk about his ability to be a hit machine and the pressure of competing with his previously successful characters.

Reported to have cost \$200 million to produce, 'Red Notice', an action-comedy drama also starring Ryan Reynolds, Gal Gadot and the UK-Indian actress Ritu Arya, must notch up a viewership of 83 million households globally before it can be regarded as a commercial success, according to 'The New York Observer'. Johnson's Seven Bucks Productions has co-produced the film. Johnson said: "One could interpret that you feel pressured, but I think it all comes down to the choices you make, and whatever the script and character are. You gotta love what you are doing and whatever gets you out of your bed and you're passionate about it, then really that is what all that matters."

Crowned the 'Sexiest Man Alive' in 2016, the 49-year-old star has starred in blockbusters such as 'The Rundown', 'Walking Tall', 'Southland Tales', 'The Game Plan', 'G.I. Joe: Retaliation', 'Hercules', 'San Andreas', 'The Fast and the Furious', 'Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle', its sequel 'Jumanji: The Next Level', and most recently, 'Jungle Cruise'.

ANIMATED 'X-MEN,' 'SPIDER MAN,' 'MARVEL ZOMBIES' SERIES ANNOUNCED

Los Angeles | Agencies

Marvel Studios announced that the company is expanding its slate of animated series for Disney Plus with three new shows: 'X-Men '97', 'Spider-Man: Freshman Year', and 'Marvel Zombies'.

After Disney purchased 20th Century Fox in 2019, and the 'X-Men' movie franchise was on its last legs with the poorly received 'Dark Phoenix' and 'The New Mutants', many observers expected Marvel Studios to reboot the X-Men and reintegrate the characters back into the Marvel Cinematic Universe, reports variety.com.

Instead, for its first swing at the team of powerful mutant superheroes, the company is reaching back to its own origin story: 'X-Men '97' will be a continuation of the beloved 1990s 'X-Men' animated series that ran for five seasons on the Fox network from 1992 through 1997.

The show, which debuted in primetime before moving to Saturday mornings, was such a sensation that it's widely credited for convincing 20th Century Fox to make the live-action 'X-Men' movie, which launched the modern era of superhero cinema when it premiered in 2000.

One of the associate producers on that film was current Marvel Studios chief Kevin Feige. Effectively, without the 'X-Men' animated series, Marvel Studios probably wouldn't exist.

Beau DeMayo, who wrote Netflix's animated 'The Witcher' spin-off 'Nightmare of the Wolf', will serve as head writer on 'X-Men '97'. The show is set to premiere in 2023.

'Spider-Man: Freshman Year', meanwhile, will be tied to the MCU while also evoking Marvel's deeper history, with an aesthetic approach that, according to a press release, "celebrates the character's early comic book roots".

This show will follow Peter Parker on his journey to becoming Spider-Man within the MCU, suggesting the show might dramatise this Peter's origin story, something the live-action movies with Tom Holland bypassed entirely.

As for 'Marvel Zombies', it also connects to Marvel comics, specifically a limited series written by Robert Kirkman with art by Sean Phillips that launched in late 2005 in which pretty much all the Avengers become, well, zombies.

BRITNEY SPEARS SPEAKS OUT AFTER CONSERVATORSHIP TERMINATION

Los Angeles | Agencies

Following the most pivotal court date in her conservatorship saga, which officially ended 13 years of

restrictions and monitoring, pop star Britney Spears is speaking out and rejoicing. "Good God I love my fans so much it's crazy," she wrote on Instagram that accompanied cheering fans outside the courthouse. "I think I'm gonna cry the rest of the day!!!! Best day ever a praise the Lord a can I get an Amen #FreedBritney."

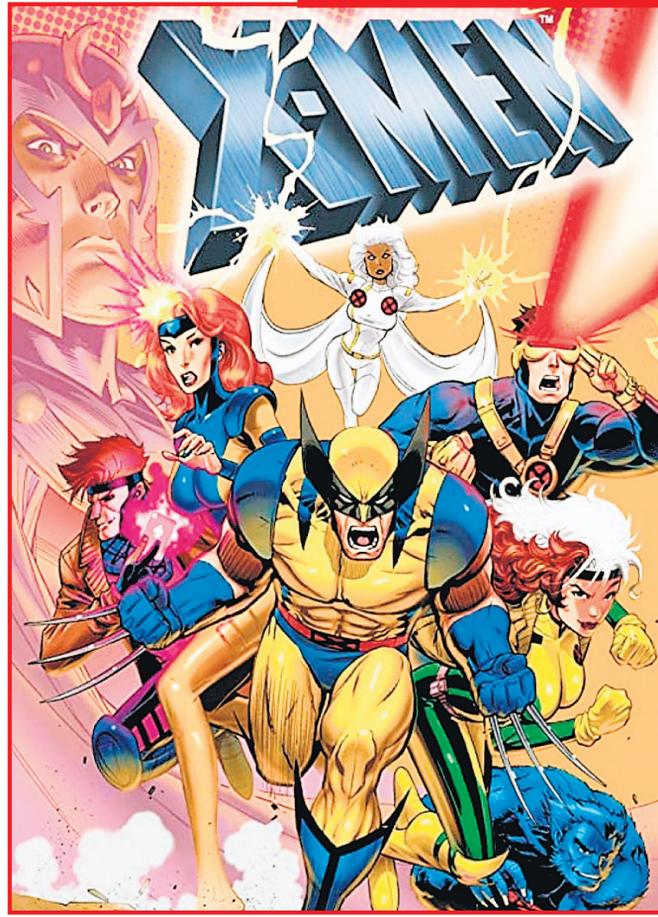
Judge Brenda Penny announced on Friday afternoon: "The court finds and determines that the conservatorship of the person and the Estate of Britney Jean Spears is no longer required." Friday's brief hear-

ing went smoothly, with all parties consenting to termination. Spears did not attend the hearing, reports variety.com. Spears has been under a conservatorship since 2008 when her father,

Jamie Spears, placed her under the court-ordered arrangement. At the time, the star had endured a series of public pitfalls, arguably brought on by the media's heavy scrutiny of her sex life, personal life and parenting decisions, causing paparazzi to swarm around her.

But over time, circumstances changed.

Throughout the 13 years of the conservatorship, Spears continued to perform and work grueling hours, making hundreds of millions of dollars touring, recording music, attending award shows and putting on numerous shows per week at her Las Vegas residency. Conservatorships are intended to be a last resort for non-functioning individuals, typically elderly with dementia or Alzheimer's.



ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Bella Thorne

'Predator' prequel 'Prey' to stream in Summer 2022

Los Angeles | Agencies

'Prey', which is set in the 'Predator' universe with an Indigenous woman as its lead, will stream on Hulu in the US in summer 2022.

In some international markets, it will stream on Disney Plus under the Starbrand, and in Latin America, it will premiere on Star Plus, reports variety.com.

Reports about the existence of a 'Predator' reboot were out there, but its first look, title and the timing of its release were officially announced on Friday as part of its Disney Plus Day promotional event. 'Prey' is produced by Jhane Myers, and is one of a slate of films from 20th Century Studios.

It is directed by Dan Trachtenberg of '10 Cloverfield Lane' fame.

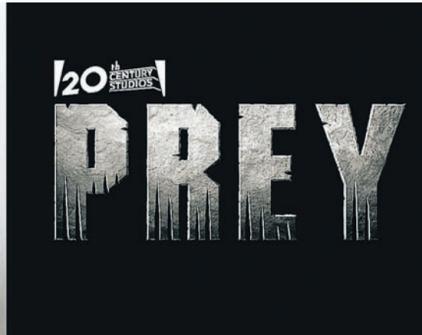


The Indigenous actor Amber Midthunder plays Naru, who according to Disney, wants to "prove her worth as a warrior", and "certainly gets her chance when she comes face to face with

the most dangerous hunter of all, the other-worldly predator".

It's not clear whether 'Prey' will be released in theatres.

The 'Predator' franchise began in 1987 with Arnold



Schwarzenegger toplining the original title. Five more titles in the franchise have been released since then, most recently 2018's 'The Predator' directed by Shane Black.

There were three other 2022

films announced Friday in the Hulu/Star cohort.

'Rosaline', a new take on 'Romeo and Juliet', is from the perspective of the character from the play who is discussed, but never appears: Juliet's cousin Rosaline, with whom Romeo is in love. Kaitlyn Dever stars, and Karen Maine directs.

'The Princess' is an "irreverent action movie set in a fairytale world", and further described as "Sleeping Beauty meets John Wick". Joey King stars, and Le-Van Kiet directs. 'No Exit' stars Havana Rose Liu in what is characterised as a "harrowing suspense-thriller" in which the lead character is "stranded by a blizzard and forced to find shelter at a highway rest area with a group of strangers".

It is based on the 2019 novel by Taylor Adams of the same name.



MEN'S T20 WORLD CUP: IT'S HUGE: WADE ON AUSTRALIA'S MAIDEN TITLE

Dubai | Agencies

Wicket-keeper batsman Matthew Wade on Sunday said that it was a huge achievement for Australia to win the maiden Men's T20 World Cup trophy, adding that the boys had the belief to become the first team to achieve success for their country. A clinical unbeaten knock from Mitchell Marsh (77 not out off 50 balls) along with a crucial half-century from David Warner (53 off 38 balls) led Australia to

their first Men's T20 World Cup trophy, defeating New Zealand by eight wickets in the final of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup at the Dubai International Stadium on Sunday. "It's huge. First T20 World Cup coming in, felt like a lot of people wrote us off early, but internally we spoke about how we could be the first team to achieve this for Australia," said an elated Matthew Wade, who played a match-winning knock in the semi-final against Australia. "Something really, really special. More than my

innings (against Pakistan), the partnership (with Stoinis) will stand out. We didn't realise we scored as many runs as we did. Today we were confident that if the boys could get off to a good start we can do this. Thankfully Mitch (Marsh), Davey, and Maxi did it," he added. Star batsman Steven Smith also echoed Wade's sentiments, saying that it is an honour to be here with the boys and take the trophy home. "It means a lot. We have worked hard for a long time and it is an honour to be here with

the boys and take the trophy home. Warner's last two weeks have been amazing. A lot of people were writing him off. He came in with exceptional intent and took the game away at the start," said Smith. Sharing his excitement, pacer Pat Cummins said, "Pretty pumped. Once we go back home it will sink in. A lot of support back home, they've gotten up at 1 am." With Sunday's win against New Zealand in the final, Australia ended their 14-year-long wait for a maiden T20 World Cup trophy.

Daryl Mitchell replaces injured Conway in New Zealand squad for India Test series

Auckland: | Agencies

New Zealand Cricket (NZC) on Sunday replaced injured Devon Conway with in-form batter Daryl Mitchell in the Black Caps' Test squad for the upcoming GJ Gardner home tour of India.

Conway was earlier ruled out of the tour and the ICC T20 World Cup final against Australia with a broken hand sustained in New Zealand's semifinal win over England on November 10. The wicketkeeper-batter was ruled out following a freak injury that he picked up by striking his bat in frustration when dismissed against England.

New Zealand coach Gary Stead



said Conway would return home with the T20 squad after their three-game series in India next week, while Mitchell will stay on for the two-Test

series starting later this month.

"It's a shame for Devon to miss out on the first series of the new World

Test Championship cycle, but it also offers up an opportunity for someone else," Stead said on Sunday.

"Daryl's versatility means he can cover a lot of batting positions and he's certainly got plenty of confidence at the moment. He's proven he can perform in Test cricket and I know he's excited to rejoin the Test group," said Stead. New Zealand head to India on November 15 to begin the tour with three T20 Internationals, the first of which is on November 17 in Jaipur, followed by Ranchi on the Nov 19 and Kolkata on the Nov 21.

The two-Test series starts in Kanpur on November 25 with the second Test in Mumbai from December 3.

Great honour to receive Arjuna Award, says Shikhar Dhawan

Team Absolute | New Delhi

After being presented the Arjuna Award, Indian batter Shikhar Dhawan took to social media to thank everyone who supported him in his journey, including his family, friends and the national cricket board (BCCI).

The 35-year-old Dhawan was conferred with the Arjuna Award by President Ram Nath Kovind in recognition of his outstanding achievements in the sport, on Saturday.

"Arjuna award receive karna mere live bohot sammaan ki baat hai. Mai un sabhi logon ka dhanyawad



karna chahta hu jo iss safar mein mere saath khade rahe mere coaches, doctors, support staff, BCCI, teammates, sabhi fans, mere doston aur mera parivar. (It is a great honour for me to receive the Arjuna Award. I would like to thank all the people who stood by me on this journey

the coaches, doctors, support staff, BCCI, teammates, all the fans, my friends and my family)," Dhawan wrote on Twitter. "Aap sabhi ke pyaar aur saath ke bina ye possible nahi ho pata. Ye ek bohot hi unbelievable feeling hoti hai Jab aapka hard work acknowledge kara jaata hai aur mai sab logo ke liye apna Bohot bohot abhaar vyakt karna chahta hu. I will continue to work hard to make my country proud. Congratulations to all the awardees." (This would not have been possible without your love and support. It is such an unbelievable feeling when your hard work gets acknowledged.

Stafanie Taylor becomes third women cricketer to score 5000 ODI runs

Karachi | Agencies

West Indies captain Stafanie Taylor became the third player to score 5000 Women's ODI runs, after England's Charlotte Edwards and India's Mithali Raj, during her team's third ODI against Pakistan, here on Sunday.

The 30-year-old Taylor went past the 5000-run mark when she took a single off Sadia Iqbal to score her 42nd run of the innings. During the process, she also became the fastest woman cricketer to achieve the feat. The West Indies captain reached the landmark in the 129th innings of her career.

India ODI skipper Mithali Raj, who took 144 innings to reach the 5000 runs milestone, was the previous fastest women cricketer. Former England captain Charlotte Edwards is the



third player to have over 5000 runs in ODIs. She crossed the historic 5000 mark in her 156th ODI innings.

Stafanie hit a fantastic century (102 off 117), remained not out, and guided her team to a convincing six-wicket win over Pakistan in the third ODI at the National Stadium in Karachi. Meanwhile, Stafanie is now also the first player with 5000-plus runs and 100-plus wickets in Women's ODIs.

Asian Archery Championships: Indians start well in recurve and compound sections

Dhaka | Agencies

Indian archers came up with good scores to be placed towards the top of the seedings list after the qualification round in both recurve and compound sections of the 22nd Asian Archery Championships in Dhaka, Bangladesh on Sunday. Youth World Champion Ankita Bhakat in recurve and Abhishek Verma -- who had done well in the World Championships in Yankton, USA in September -- were both placed in the top five in Individual Competitions.

The Indian men's and women's teams qualified in second place in both the recurve and compound sections behind South Korea in the team competitions. The Indian pairs were also placed second in both compound and recurve mixed team competitions.

In the men's recurve section, Kapil (675) was the best-placed Indian at fifth position. Pravin Jadhav, who made his Olympics debut at Tokyo 2020 in August this year, was sixth with 670. National champion Parth Salunke came in seventh with a score of 670 but hit 31 inner 10s as opposed to Pravin Jadhav's 33. India's Sukhchain Singh was placed 11th.

The Indian team of Kapil, Pravin Jadhav, and Parth Salunke had a total tally of 2015 from 216 arrows and was placed second behind Korea, with a total of 2039. Bangladesh (1996), Kazakhstan (1956) and Iran (1904) completed the top five in the nine-team competition.

The Indian team got a bye in the next round and will take on Saudi Arabia in the quarter-finals on Tuesday (November 16).

In the women's recurve competition, Youth World Championship medalist Ankita Bhakat finished fifth in the qualifying with a score of 657. Madhu Vedwan also scored 657 but hit 10s and bulls-eye 24 times compared to Ankita's 26 and was thus placed sixth. India's Ridhi and Komolika Bari finished seventh and eighth, respectively. The Indian combine of Ankita (657), Ridhi (650), and Madhu (657) had a total of 1964, finishing a distant



second behind the Korean team that compiled an Asian Record total of 2045. India will take on the winner of the match between Kazakhstan and Vietnam in the quarter-finals. The Indian archers did well in the compound section too.

In the men's qualification round, Rishabh Yadav, who was third with 708, was the best-placed Indian, finishing ahead of Abhishek Verma, the World Cup gold-medallist, who was placed fourth with a score of 707. Aman Saini and Mohit were placed 13th and 16th, respectively, in qualifying.

Rishabh Yadav, Abhishek Verma, and Aman Saini will compete together in the compound men's team event. They were placed second with a score of 2113, behind Korea who scored a Championship Record score of 2131. In the women's compound

section, world championships silver-medalist Jyothi Vennam was the best Indian, finishing fourth with a total of 701. Parneet Kaur and Priya Gurjar finished with identical scores of 700 but Parneet, on the back of 24 shots in the 10s came in fifth ahead of Priya, who had 19 shots in the 10s and was sixth. India's Muskan Kirar was seventh with a score of 697.

Jyothi, Parneet and Priya will take part in the compound women's team competition. They were seeded second with a total of 2101. The South Korean team of Kim Yun-Hee, Oh Yoo-Hyun, and Song Yun-Soo shot a world record total of 2116 in the qualifying round, improving on the previous record of 2112 set by Colombia in 2019.

The Indian pairs were placed well in the Mixed Team competitions too.

In Recurve Mixed Team competition, the Indian pair of Ankita (657) and Kapil (675) was placed second with a total of 1332 behind the Korean combine of Ryoo Su-Jung (687) and Lee Seung-Hyun (680) who had a total of 1367. In the Compound section, the Indian combine of Jyothi (701) and Rishabh Yadav (708) was placed second with 1409 behind the Koreans, who had a total of 1424.

LAXMAN FINALLY AGREES TO HEAD NCA: SOURCES

New Delhi: The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has managed to convince former cricketer VVS Laxman to head the National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Bengaluru, sources said. After Rahul Dravid took over the post of Indian team's head coach, there were reports that Laxman might be appointed as a new head of NCA.

However, later it was said that the former batter "is uninterested". But now he is ready to take the charge after the BCCI officials held a meeting with him in Dubai. "There were some issues and it has been sorted out. The board wanted him to take the responsibility and he is the right man to come in place of Dravid," sources said. It is also learnt that Laxman has also agreed to leave the lucrative commentary career for the NCA. "Laxman is currently mentor of IPL team Sunrisers Hyderabad, apart from being a commentator and cricket analyst. And he will leave it all for NCA now."

Avani, Bhavina travel for award ceremony in specially-designed accessible vehicles

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Para-shooter Avani Lekhara has made the country proud by winning not one but two medals at the recently concluded Tokyo 2020 Paralympics.

For this feat, she was chosen for Major Dhyan Singh Khel Ratna Award, the highest sports award in the country.

But one thing she has been fighting is her war against inaccessible environments. Travelling places on wheel-chair is never easy and Avani from her childhood has realised this.

India's another champion athlete, Bhavina Patel, won a silver medal at the Tokyo 2020 Para Games in table tennis. She was chosen for the prestigious Arjuna Award this year. Along with accolades and awards with Avani, Bhavina shares her pain and problems because she too is a wheel-chair-restricted athlete.

Svayam, a charitable trust that promotes accessibility for the differently abled, then came to the rescue of the champion para-athletes and enabled them a smooth commute till the Rashtrapati Bhavan for the National



Awards Ceremony on Saturday.

Svayam, with its specially-modified vehicles, enables wheelchairs to be directly moved inside the vehicle hence doing away with the embarrassment these players usually face when they have to travel.

"These vehicles have been a great revelation and understand the needs

of athletes on wheel-chairs. We have to wear a saree for the function and if it hadn't been for these vehicles, it would have been nearly impossible for us to be in official attire. It is a start and I hope it sends out a message that we need an accessible environment for everyone," says Avani. "Svayam has not only provided

these vehicles, but also have made some rooms accessible for wheel-chair athletes in the Ashok Hotel where we have been staying. It is high time we understand that accessibility is a big issue not only for people with disability, but also elder and injured people," said Arjuna Awardee Bhavina.

ICC T20 World Cup could reach American shores by 2024

Sydney | Agencies

The ICC T20 World Cup could reach the American shores as early as in 2024 with the game's global governing body expected to award a joint bid for the lucrative tournament to USA Cricket and Cricket West Indies (CWI), according to reports.

"Cricket's governors may choose the United States as a venue for the first Twenty20 World Cup in the next events cycle as a springboard to help the game's bid for inclusion in the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics," said a report in smh.com.au on Sunday.

The report said that the decision to award the T20 World Cup to venues, hitherto uncharted, was imminent in the next cycle, "and that an outward, global focus would mean they (tournaments) were more widely distributed than in the recent past".

"This would be the first global tournament not hosted by either India,



England or Australia since the 2014 T20 World Cup in Bangladesh. Under changes that same year wrought by the 'Big Three' -- the Board of Control for Cricket in India, the England and Wales Cricket Board and Cricket Australia -- every event between 2015 and 2023 was awarded to one of the game's richest three countries," said the report.

The report said that taking the T20 World Cup to the US would also serve "as a launch pad for cricket's long-awaited inclusion in the Olympic Games, starting with LA in 2028 and following up with Brisbane in 2032."



'RRR' producers say ticket prices too low in AP for film to break even

Team Absolute | Hyderabad

Big-ticket movie 'RRR', which is directed by 'Baahubali' fame S.S. Rajamouli, is currently in deep trouble. If the ongoing ticket price in Andhra Pradesh is taken into consideration, there is no way the makers would be able to break even for the whopping budget they have put into the making of the big-budget movie.

Being a heavy-budget movie, the makers are trying to get the issues resolved.

The producers of 'RRR' are apparently not ready to reduce the selling price to the buyer because even a cut

down of 20 per cent would result in a huge loss of Rs 20 crore. Analysts believe that even at the above prices, there is no way that the budget investment is achieved. At this juncture, there were talks that 'RRR's production house DVV Entertainments would approach the courts to resolve their issues.

Surprisingly, DVV Entertainments came up with a tweet explaining that they would not seek legal recourse and instead will plead with the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh to resolve the ticket pricing issues.

"It is true that the slashing of ticket prices will affect our film immensely. But we at #RRRMovie have no intention of going to court. We are trying

to approach the honorable Andhra Pradesh CM garu and explain our situation for an amicable solution," the makers wrote.

The ticket pricing issue in Andhra Pradesh started after Janasena chief and Telugu star Pawan Kalyan raised it with the government.

"I work hard in my movies and earn money unlike YSRCP party people who have cement industries, liquor industries and earn money in illegal ways," Pawan had commented at a movie event. These comments by Pawan had triggered the government to impose laws so as to slash the prices of movie tickets.



BHUMI

FEELS LUCKY TO GET SCRIPTS VERY DIFFERENT FROM HER DEBUT FILM

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Young Bollywood star Bhumi Pednekar is on a roll with a lineup of films such as 'Bheed', 'Badhaai Do', 'Govinda Naam Mera' and 'Raksha Bandhan', calls herself lucky to find scripts that are distinct right from her debut in 2015 with 'Dum Laga Ke Haisha'.

Bhumi said: "My slate of films will give audiences a unique theatrical experience with every project. I will have five releases on the big screen next year and all of them are super diverse and different from each other."

"I have been lucky to have always found scripts that are distinct right from my debut and next year I will be able to give audiences five very different sides to my personality through the characters that I'm playing on screen."

She added that she is really excited about these films.

Bhumi is happy that the theatres are bouncing back to business.

"This is the best news for the industry that has suffered a lot because of Covid-19. People want to see good cinema and the success of 'Sooryavanshi' proves just that. I was always confident that people will return to the theatres and people are feeling safe to do so now." They will keep coming in to see good cinema and want to relive the theatrical experience. I'm fortunate that I have some really quality films under my belt to give to audiences next year," she added.

Kratika Sengar, Nikitin Dheer expecting first child



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor Nikitin Dheer and his actress wife Kratika Sengar, who is known for her role in the popular television show 'Choti Sarrdaarni', are all set to welcome their first bundle of joy.

Kratika and Nikitin shared a loved-up picture on Instagram to make the big announcement.

They both chose a simple caption and wrote: "Dheer Junior coming this 2022."

Rumours around Kratika's pregnancy had been doing the rounds on social media since March. According to reports, there were rumours that the actress left the show because of her pregnancy. She was associated with the show for over two years.

Nikitin was recently seen in Siddharth Malhotra-starrer

'Shershaah'. He was also seen in 'Sooryavanshi'. The actor is popularly remembered as Thangabali from the 2013 film 'Chennai Express' starring Shah Rukh Khan and Deepika Padukone.

He will next be seen in the Telugu crime drama thriller titled 'Khiladi' starring Ravi Teja.



SANDEEPA DHAR TO STAR IN IMTIAZ ALI'S WEB SHOW

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Sandeepa Dhar is collaborating with filmmaker Imtiaz Ali for his yet-untitled upcoming web show. Exploring new dimensions of versatility with an interesting project, Sandeepa marks her first collaboration with the prolific storyteller Imtiaz for a web show in the comedy genre. Directed by 'Laila Majnu' director Sajid Ali and Archit, the show is written by Imtiaz. Talking about the same, Sandeepa says, "For every actor it is a great opportunity to work with a marvelous storyteller like Imtiaz Ali, who is known to bring out the best in his actors." She added: "The characters from his stories come alive so beautifully on screen and stay etched in our minds as well as our lives." Sandeepa says that she has always craved for roles that stand out as an individual with elements that make it distinct and memorable. "We have already shot major portions of the show and I'm extremely thrilled about our collaboration and I am eagerly looking forward to present the show to the audience." Apart from the same, Sandeepa will also be seen in Anushka Sharma's production 'Mai', which will stream on Netflix.

Suriya presents gold coins to 'Etharkkum Thunindhavan' unit



Team Absolute | Chennai

Director Pandiraj recently announced that he had completed shooting 'Etharkkum Thunindhavan' which features 'Jai Bhim' star Suriya in the lead.

Now, sources say that actor Suriya pleasantly surprised the unit members by gifting them gold coins.

Says a highly placed source that is close to

the unit of the film, "It is true. Actor Suriya gave away gold coins to all the technicians and artistes working on the film. This does not include the top notch professionals heading the various departments."

While it is not known if all the technicians got coins of the same weight, the source says

that seniors in some departments like the direction department and the cinematography department were gifted one sovereign coins. Nevertheless, the gifts, the source said, had made the entire unit happy.

The film, which is produced by Sun Pictures, has Priyanka Arul Mohan playing the female lead. Like most of his other films of Suriya, this one too will espouse a social cause.



Ragini Nandwani