

absolute india

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NEW OMICRON SUB-VARIANT SEEN BEHIND SURGE IN DELHI'S COVID CASES

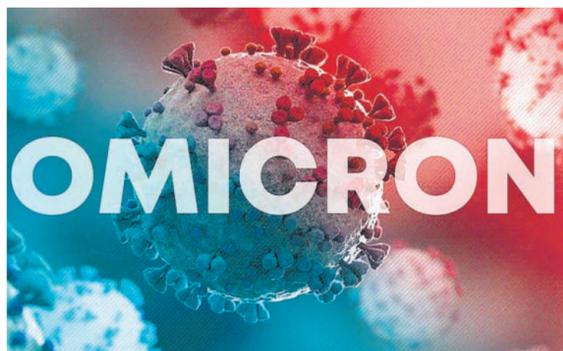
INDIA REPORTS 2,380 FRESH COVID CASES, 56 DEATHS

New Delhi: India on Thursday again reported a spike of 2,380 fresh Covid-19 cases in the last 24 hours, against the 2,067 infections registered the previous day, according to the Union Health Ministry. In the same period, there were 56 additional Covid-19 fatalities which increased the nationwide death toll to 522,062. Meanwhile, the country's active caseload has increased to 13,433, accounting for 0.03 per cent of the total positive cases.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A new Omicron sub variant may be the reason behind the sudden surge of Covid cases in Delhi, which witnessed over 60 per cent rise in fresh Covid cases on Wednesday at 1,009 cases.

According to a source from Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG), Omicron sub-lineage BA.2.12 was detected in several samples sequenced from the national capital. The source said that some other sub-variants have also been found that could be the reason behind the surge in the city. He added further that the new Covid mutant also seems capable of causing respiratory problems and reinfection who have previously been



IIT-MADRAS TURNS COVID CLUSTER AGAIN, 12 STUDENTS TEST POSITIVE

Chennai: With 9 more students in various hostels of IIT Madras testing Covid positive on Thursday, the total number of infected students rose to 12 in the past three days. The Greater Chennai Corporation has ordered testing of all students and teachers of the institution. Tamil Nadu health secretary Dr. J. Radhakrishnan visited the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras on Thursday. He said that the students have a mild infection and added that wards at the General Hospital, Guindy, are ready for the students if necessary. On April 19 a student who had a cold, fever and headache tested positive for Covid-19, and the next day two more students also tested positive.

infected by Covid. India has seen rise in Covid cases over last few weeks with some parts

TELANGANA URGES PEOPLE TO BE ON ALERT

Hyderabad: With Covid-19 cases on rise in some states, health authorities in Telangana on Thursday issued an alert and advised people to adopt Covid appropriate behavior. Director of Public Health G. Srinivasa Rao said though the positivity rate in Telangana has not gone up, people should follow precautionary measures like wearing of masks in crowded places. He said while there was no need for panic, people should be alert in view of the rise in cases in neighbouring states.

seeing more cases. On Thursday, the country reported 2,380 fresh Covid infections in last 24 hours, against 2,067 cases recorded on Wednesday. In the same period, the nation has also recorded 56 Covid deaths, taking the total number of deaths to 522,062, said the Union Health

PRECAUTIONARY DOSE TO BE AVAILABLE FREE AT ALL GOVT CVCS IN DELHI

New Delhi: The precaution doses for all eligible beneficiaries will be available free of cost at all government vaccination centres in Delhi, it was announced on Thursday. "In order to give the benefits of precaution doses to all eligible beneficiaries in Delhi, the same will be available for 18 to 59 years of age group, free of cost in all Government CVCS from April 21," the Directorate of Family Welfare said.

However, the provision of paid precaution dose in private CVCS will also continue to be available, it added further. The same vaccines, as used for previous dose, will be available for the precaution doses. It said that the citizens need not to register afresh for the administration of precaution doses. The Delhi government also said that necessary changes in CoWin have been made for Delhi wherein both online and walk-in appointments will be available.

The Union Health Ministry had decided to provide precaution doses for all 18 plus population from April 10 on the completion of nine months from the date of administration of second Covid doses.

Ministry on Thursday morning. The Weekly Positivity Rate in the country currently stands at 0.43 per cent, while the Daily Positivity rate has reported considerable rise at 0.53 per cent. However, Delhi's positivity rate stands at 5.70 per cent as per the health bulletin issued on Wednesday.

SC stops demolition drive in Jahangirpuri till further orders



Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Thursday extended the status quo order in connection with the demolition drive carried out by the North Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC) in Jahangirpuri until further orders.

A bench comprising Justices L. Nageswara Rao and B.R. Gavai said it will take a serious view of the demolition, which was carried out by the authorities, after the top court's order on Wednesday was communicated to the NDMC Mayor. The bench said it will take up this matter later.

The top court issued a notice on the petitions filed by Jamiat Ulama-I-Hind and others, against the demolition drive carried out in Jahangirpuri. The top court has scheduled the matter for further hearing after two weeks.

Jamiat Ulama-I-Hind has also filed another petition against demolition in other parts of the country - Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh.

During the hearing, the top court observed that it cannot stop demolition in the entire country, after a senior counsel contended that the court should stay demolition until further orders.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta submitted that in Jahangirpuri, the demolition drive to remove the encroachments on footpath

began on January 19, it was carried out in February, March, and on April 19, it was the fifth date of the drive.

Mehta said he can bring on record instances when notice is not required, and also illegal structures were given the notice. He added that the people moved the Delhi High Court last year and it had ordered demolition.

After a detailed hearing in the matter, the top court said it wants affidavits from the petitioners on the notices if served, and counter affidavits and till then status quo order will continue till further orders.

"BULLDOZERS TO CLEAR CHAIRS, BOXES?"

New Delhi: "Do you need bulldozers to clear stalls, chairs, tables, and boxes," asked the Supreme Court during the hearing on Thursday concerning the anti-encroachment drive in the violence-hit Jahangirpuri area of the national capital. The question by a bench was posed to Solicitor General Tushar Mehta after the law officer, appearing for the North Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC), said the law permitted the removal of "stalls, benches, boxes, ladders", etc, occupying public streets and footpaths without permission. Mehta submitted that there is no provision for notice to remove stalls, chairs, etc from footpaths and roads.

"So, the demolition carried out yesterday (Wednesday) was restricted to benches, boxes, and chairs," asked the bench to the Solicitor General.

At least 31 killed in four explosions across Afghanistan

Kabul | Agencies

Dozens of people have been killed or injured in four explosions across Afghanistan on Thursday, BBC reported. At least 31 people were killed, and 87 were wounded, a health official told the BBC.

The first explosion tore through a Shia mosque in the city of Mazar-e-Sharif.

The Islamic State (IS) claimed responsibility for the attack, saying it had remotely detonated a booby-trapped bag when the building was packed with worshippers.

The group called the attack part of an ongoing global campaign to "avenge" the deaths of one of its former leader and spokesman, BBC reported.



IS has not said it was behind the three other explosions, and it is not clear if they are connected.

The second blast saw a vehicle blown up near a police station in Kunduz, leaving four dead and 18 injured, a police spokesman said.

The BBC has also received

reports of a Taliban vehicle being hit by a roadside mine in eastern Nangarhar province, killing four Taliban members and wounding a fifth.

A fourth blast was caused by a mine planted in the Niuz Beyk area of Kabul, which wounded two children.

ONE KILLED AS BATTERY OF EV SCOOTER EXPLODES IN TELANGANA

Hyderabad: A man was killed and two others injured when the battery of an electric two-wheeler exploded in their house in Telangana's Nizamabad district.

According to police, the incident occurred on the night of April 19 in a house where the battery was being charged. An 80-year-old man, identified as B. Ramaswamy, died in the incident while his son B. Prakash and daughter Kamalamma suffered burn injuries when they tried to rescue him. They were admitted to a hospital.

The explosion occurred in a room where Ramaswamy was asleep. His son Prakash had been using the EV scooter for one year.

Ramaswamy was taken to a hospital in Nizamabad and later shifted to Hyderabad but he succumbed on the way. Police registered a case under Indian Penal Code Section 304A (causing death due to negligence) against Pure EV and took up investigation. Meanwhile, Pure EV issued a statement deeply regretting

Boris Johnson visits Sabarmati Ashram, tries his hand at spinning on 'Charkha'

Gandhinagar | Agencies

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson arrived in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, on Thursday morning, commencing his two-day visit to India. He started by first visiting Mahatma Gandhi's Sabarmati Ashram and tried his hand at spinning the 'Charkha'.

The British PM was received by Gujarat Governor Acharya Devvrat, Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, Education Minister Jitu Vaghani, Protocol Minister Jagdish Vishwakarma and top officials of the Gujarat government at Ahmedabad airport. Johnson was accorded a



regal welcome with dancers and musicians playing along the four-km route from the airport to a hotel in the city.

Johnson started his visit to the home state of Prime Minister Narendra Modi by visiting Mahatma Gandhi's Sabarmati Ashram where

he spent nearly 30 minutes. He also tried his hand at spinning the 'Charkha'.

He later met city based billionaire Gautam Adani. The meeting between the two took place at the headquarters of the Adani Group located in Shantigram,

Ahmedabad.

Johnson was accorded a traditional welcome. Many important issues including energy transition, climate action, aerospace and defence technology and development in the field of human capital were discussed between Boris Johnson and Gautam Adani.

Boris Johnson thereafter inaugurated a new factory set up by a leading U.K.-based group to manufacture JCB machines at the Halol plant. Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel accompanied the British Prime Minister to Halol. Johnson also interacted with the workers at the plant before climbing up a 4X4 bulldozer at the newly inaugurated facility.

Congress should be revived, says PK in his presentation

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The soul of the Congress must be kept alive. That was poll strategist Prashant Kishor's main pitch on Thursday for India's grand old party to be back in the electoral reckoning. But the body, he said, would have to be changed and reshaped. Interestingly, PK, as he is popularly known, in one of his many PowerPoint presentations, drew up a Nataraj, epitomising change and aggression. It represents power that

the Congress is now yearning for. This is why, overcoming her initial reticence over Prashant Kishor, Sonia Gandhi now wants him on board as a key member of the party.

Taking his cue from the criticism of the Congress by its opponents, Kishor has recommended shedding some traits - sense of entitlement, arrogance, lack of accountability, sycophancy, and corruption. He has also said that the party must connect with the masses and improve communication. Sources



say in his assessment of state after state, the poll strategist pointed out that in 2024 there would be a large number of young voters who

would have to be tapped. With them, the poor, rural folks, farmers, women, and the downtrodden must be targeted.

PILOT MEETS SONIA GANDHI, DISCUSSES FORWARD PLAN FOR RAJASTHAN

A day after Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot met Sonia Gandhi, his former deputy Sachin Pilot met the interim Congress President on Thursday and the party affairs in Rajasthan, where Assembly polls are due late next year, was the primary focus of the meeting.

Pilot discussed issues related to the committee which was formed after his rebellion from the Congress. While sources say that Pilot was happy with the outcome of the meeting, it was not clear what assurances were made to him and his return as state President - a post he was stripped of along with his Deputy Chief Ministership - was discussed or not. Pilot, however said that while he was ready to take on whatever responsibility the party will assign to him.

Maha: Cops nab 4 wanted Maoists with Rs 18L reward

Gadchiroli (Maharashtra) | Agencies

In a significant success, the police in Maharashtra's Gadchiroli on Thursday nabbed four wanted Maoists, including a woman, carrying a total reward of Rs 18 lakh on their heads, a top official said here.

Among those arrested from the Nelgunda forests -- as part of the Maoists' Tactical Counter Offensive Campaign 'week -- are two area committee members, said Superintendent of Police, Ankit Goyal.

They arrested Maoists have been identified as Babu alias Ramji Doghe Wadde, 30, Maruti alias Manik Sadhu Gawde, 34, Suman alias Janni Komati Kudnami, 24, and Ajit alias Bharat, all hailing from different villages in Gadchiroli.

The operation was conducted by the Gadchiroli Police crack teams after receiving a confidential tip-off that the Maoists would strike the villages in the Nelgunda area disguised as civilians.

Wadde belonged to Company No. 10 and was involved in the brutal murder of a policeman, Dushant P. Nandeshwar, at Pomke Kothi village on August 14, 2020, besides 13 other



major crimes like seven murders, three shootouts, two robberies and one arson, and carried a reward of Rs 8 lakh on his head.

Gawde worked as an area committee member in Gutta Dalam had three encounter killings and other offences registered against him with a reward of Rs 6 lakh on his head.

The sole woman nabbed, Kudnami, faced 11 major offences including three murders and eight encounters, and carried a reward of Rs 2 lakh, said Goyal.



INDIA MOVING FORWARD ON IDEALS OF OUR GURUS: PM MODI AT RED FORT; HAILS INDIA'S SELF-RELIANCE

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday attended the 400th Parkash Purab celebrations of Sikh guru Tegh Bahadur at the Red Fort. Welcoming one and all to the event, Prime Minister Modi said the shabad kirtan performance had given him immense peace. "Wahe guru ji da khalsa, wahe guru ji di fateh. We bow to Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur ji on his Parkash Purab. I salute and bow to all the 10 Sikh gurus, and extend my greetings on this occasion to the Sikh community across the world," he added. "The peace I got by listening to shabad kirtan now is difficult to express in words. Today, I have also had the privilege of releasing a commemorative postage stamp and coin dedicated to the guru. I consider it a special grace of our gurus," the prime minister said.

Mentioning Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, he said the celebrations at Red Fort had assumed a special significance. "I am happy that today our country is moving forward with full devotion on the ideals of our gurus. This Red Fort has been witness to many important periods. This fort has also seen the martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur and has also tested the courage of those who died for the country," PM Modi said.

Going back to Mughal ruler Aurangzeb's tyrannical rule, PM Modi said back then India had great hope to save its identity in the form of Guru Tegh Bahadur. "In front of



Aurangzeb's tyrannical thinking, at that time Guru Tegh Bahadur becoming 'Hind di chadar', stood like a rock. At that time there was a storm of religious fanaticism in the country. There were people in front of our India who considered religion as the subject of philosophy, science and self-research, who had committed violence and atrocities in the

name of religion," he added.

Hailing India's atmanirbharta, PM Modi ended his address to the nation by saying: "India has never posed a threat to any country or society. Even today, we think for the welfare of the whole world. When we talk of self-reliant India, we put the progress of the whole world in front of it."

The programme is focused on highlighting the teachings of Guru Tegh Bahadur, who sacrificed his life to protect religion and human values, ideals and principles in world history. He was executed for supporting the religious freedom of Kashmiri Pandits on the orders of Aurangzeb.

His death anniversary is commemorated as 'Shaheedee Divas' on November 24, every year. Gurdwara Sis Ganj Sahib, built at the spot where he was beheaded, and Gurdwara Rakab Ganj, the site of his cremation, in Delhi are associated with his sacrifice. His legacy serves as a great unifying force for the nation, said the prime minister's office.

The BJP noted that the Modi government has commemorated events related to Sikh gurus in a big way, with union minister Anurag Thakur adding that nothing could have been a more appropriate venue than the Red Fort for the grand exercise to remember the ninth Sikh guru. The Red Fort was chosen as the venue as it was from here that Aurangzeb gave orders for the execution of Guru Tegh Bahadur in 1675, as per the ministry of culture. Four hundred 'ragis' (Sikh musicians) performed shabad kirtan to mark the occasion. There will also be a grand light and sound show depicting the life of the ninth Sikh guru. Apart from this, gatka, the traditional martial art of Sikhs, will also take place. The programme has been organised by the ministry of culture in collaboration with the Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee.

20 helipads with night landing facility built in LWE regions, more soon

Team Absolute | New Delhi

With an aim for effective counter-insurgency operations against Maoist in the Left Wing Extremism (LWE) areas, as many as 20 helipads with night landing facility have been built in three states of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, and Odisha and more will come up within a few more months, CRPF officials said.

Noting that helicopters are an important component in anti-Maoist operations, the officials of the paramilitary force said that the air evacuations of the injured becomes the most important task when the operations against the ultras begin.

Giving details, they further said that 13 such helipads have been built in different parts of Chhattisgarh so far, four in Odisha and three in Jharkhand and all are operative now. A senior official in the security set-up in Chhattisgarh said that the helipads with night landing facility are now considered as a force multiplier and in case of injury, the security personnel can be evacuated to the nearest city hospital

for better medical management.

When the security personnel is assured that he will be quickly evacuated from the encounter areas in case of injury, his morale gets boosted, a commandant level officer said. He also said that some times, reinforcements are also needed but because of night, sometimes they only reaches by the next morning which provides enough window to the Maoists to escape back into the forests.

The officials also said that all these helipads are fitted with sensors and infrared enabled features which automatically guide the chopper when it is approaching. The helicopters are also fitted with the same type of sensors that help in recognising the landing ground.

They also said that the pilots of these choppers are well trained for night landing facilities and they are given night vision goggles to see in the dark.

The CRPF officials also said that more helipads are planned in other Maoist-affected areas like Telangana, and Maharashtra as well as these three states.

Ansar Sheikh's pic surfaces with Trinamool councillor from Haldia

KOLKATA | Agencies

Picture of Ansar Sheikh, one of the prime accused in the case related to the communal violence in Delhi's Jahangirpuri on April 16, has surfaced, where Sheikh could be seen sitting next to Sheikh Ajijul Rahman, a Trinamool Congress councillor from the Haldia Municipality in East Midnapore district of West Bengal.

After Ansar Sheikh's name surfaced in connection with the clashes in Jahangirpuri, it emerged that he owns a luxurious mansion in Haldia, a prime industrial township near Kolkata.

Sheikh Ajijul Rahman is the Trinamool Congress councillor from Ward No. 15 of Haldia municipality, who's also a member of the chairman-in-council of the same municipality.

In the picture, a smiling Ansar Sheikh could be seen sitting next to Ajijul Rahman with his right arm on the shoulders of the Trinamool councillor. When contacted, Rahman did not deny that he knew Ansar Sheikh.

"I do not recall when the picture was actually clicked. But I know Ansar Sheikh as a



local resident. It is possible that the picture was clicked somewhere, though I do not remember exactly where," Rahman said.

The picture surfaced just a day after BJP legislator and the Leader of the Opposition in West Bengal Assembly, Suwendu Adhikari, had claimed that Sheikh was not only a close associate of the Trinamool leadership in East Midnapore district, but was also associated in an attack on his vehicle on May 2, 2021, just immediately after the declaration of Assembly election results.

Jaisalmer HIT HARD BY SAND STORM

Jaipur: Jaisalmer was hit by a strong sand storm coming in from Pakistan late on Wednesday night, causing damage to the famous Golden Fort in the area. The sand storm created havoc in the golden city of Jaisalmer, shaking the walls of the over 800-year old fort, besides causing damage to the Hawa Pole carrying exquisite art works.

Fortunately, as the storm hit the area late in the night, there was no one around the fort and hence no injuries were reported. Locals confirmed that electricity poles were also uprooted at many places, while the strong wind blew away the tin roofs from many houses. The storm created havoc for around 45 minutes around midnight on Wednesday, leading to power cuts in Jaisalmer city.

After Jahangirpuri, BJP to urge East and South Delhi Mayors to remove encroachments

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A day after the North Delhi Municipal Corporation rolled out bulldozers in violence hit Jahangirpuri, the Delhi BJP is now planning to request the civic authorities for a similar drive in other parts of the national capital to remove encroachments by Bangladeshis and Rohingyas.

Sources in the Delhi BJP said that a similar encroachment removal drive will be carried out in other parts of the city in the coming days. "We had received the go ahead from the BJP central leadership for the anti-encroachment drive in Jahangirpuri. Now, the other two municipal corporations, East and South, will also be urged to remove encroach-



ments by Bangladeshis and Rohingyas in the coming days," they said. The anti-encroachment drive by the North Delhi Municipal Corporation was launched in Jahangirpuri following

Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta's letter after violence erupted in the area during a Hanuman Jayanti procession. The drive, however, was stopped following a Supreme Court order to

maintain the status quo.

Gupta on Thursday said that he would also write to the Mayors of East and South Delhi to conduct similar drives in their areas to bulldoze encroachments by Bangladeshis and Rohingyas. "I am also going to write letters to Mayors of East and South Delhi to remove encroachments and illegal construction by Bangladeshis and Rohingyas living in their jurisdiction," Gupta said.

It is learnt that the drive will be conducted in the areas where the civic bodies feel that there is a huge concentration of Bangladeshis and Rohingyas. Delhi BJP sources said some such areas have been identified and a drive will be conducted soon to clear the encroachments.

Assam court sends Jignesh Mevani to three-day police custody

GUWAHATI | Agencies

Chief Judicial Magistrate's court in Assam's Kokrajhar district on Thursday rejected the bail petition of Independent Gujarat MLA and Dalit activist Jignesh Mevani, and sent him to three-day police custody.

After the CJM court's order, the lawyers of Mevani told the media that they would appeal in the higher court seeking his bail.

Earlier on Thursday, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, while talking to the media on the arrest, had claimed that he was not aware of Mevani's identity or his arrest.

The Assam police refused to share the detailed reasons for the arrest of Mevani, who is also the convener of the Rashtriya Dalit Adhikar Manch.



However, another police official on condition of anonymity said that Mevani's arrest was made in connection with an "objectionable" comment he made through a tweet on April 18.

Mevani, who was elected from Gujarat's Vadgam Assembly constituency, was arrested by an Assam police team from Palanpur town in Gujarat on Wednesday night after a complain was filed by an Assam BJP leader, Arup Kumar Dey, on April 18 seeking action against him under the IT Act.

India condemns US lawmaker's visit to PoK

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A day after US Congresswoman Ilhan Omar went to Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, India on Thursday strongly condemned her visit.

At a briefing, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said that New Delhi has taken note of her visit to a part of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir which is currently occupied by Pakistan illegally.

"If such a politician wishes to practice her narrow-minded politics at home, that may be her business. But violating our territorial integrity and sovereignty in its pursuit makes it ours. This visit is condemnable," he said while briefing the media.

Omar, a member of the US House of Representatives representative, is on a five-day visit to Pakistan, and met a section of Pakistani political leadership to get to know their cultural,



social, political, and economic dynamics. She met President Arif Alvi and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and discussed a range of issues pertaining to bilateral, regional and global issues.

JAIPUR | Agencies

Mobile DJs have been banned in Jaipur in the wake of the Karauli violence which was reported on April 2 when stones were pelted on a procession being taken out to celebrate the start of the Hindu New Year and many shops and vehicles were gutted later.

As per the orders, the mobile DJs will not be allowed in any rally, marriage or any kind of procession.

Jaipur commissioner Anand Shrivastav said that those flouting the orders will be dealt with strictly. Mobile DJs, especially those on vehicles with mounted electronic music systems, for any function stay banned in Jaipur district, he said. Action will be taken against whoever defies the order under Section 188 of the IPC for disobeying a government order. Also,



vehicles carrying mounted music systems will not be permitted as per the Motor Vehicles Act. The city police will also run a campaign against such vehicles, he added. Earlier too, the home department had outlined terms and conditions for allowing DJs' use at religious and other events.

This order said, "Anyone seeking permission for DJs will have to fill a form sharing details on the content they are wishing to play. If competent authorities are satisfied, then only the content will be allowed to play," said the order.

Political parties received Rs 258.43 crore donation from Electoral Trusts

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Seven Electoral Trusts, which have declared receiving contributions during FY 2020-21, have got a total amount of Rs 258.49 crore from corporates and individuals and distributed Rs 258.43 crore (99.97 per cent) to various political parties, an analysis released on Thursday said.

Top 10 donors have donated Rs 223.00 crore to Electoral Trusts, which forms 86.27 per cent of the total donations received by the Trusts during FY 2020-21 and BJP received Rs 212.05 crore or 82.05 per cent of the total donations received by all political parties from Electoral Trusts.

The major parties that received donations include BJP, JDU, INC, NCP, AIADMK, DMK, RJD, AAP, LJP, CPM, CPI and Loktantrik Janta Dal, the analysis by Association of Democratic Reforms (ADR) said.

Future Gaming & Hotel Services contributed the highest amount worth Rs 100 crore amongst all donors of the Electoral Trusts, followed by Haldia Energy India Ltd with Rs 25 crore and Megha Engineering & Infrastructures Limited which contributed Rs 22 crore, to various Trusts.

As many as 159 individuals have contributed to Electoral Trusts in FY 2020-21: Two individuals contributed Rs 3.50 crore to Prudent Electoral Trust, 153 individuals contributed Rs 3.202 crore to Small Donations Electoral Trust, three individuals gave a total of Rs 5 lakh to Einzigartig Electoral Trust and one individual contributed Rs 1,100 to



Independent Electoral Trust, ADR said in a statement.

Top 10 donors have donated Rs 223.00 crore to Electoral Trusts, which forms 86.27 per cent of the total donations received by the trusts during FY 2020-21.

Prudent Electoral Trust donated Rs 209.00 crore to BJP, in contrast to Rs 217.75 crore contributed in FY 2019-20, while Jaybharath Electoral Trust donated Rs 2.00 crore of its total income to BJP in FY 2020-21.

Electoral Trust donated Rs 3.31 crore to INC. Prudent Electoral Trust donated to seven political parties, including major parties such as BJP, JDU, INC, NCP, RJD, AAP & LJP.

BJP received Rs 212.05 crore or 82.05 per cent of the total donations received by all political parties from Electoral Trusts while JDU received Rs 27 crore or 10.45 per cent of the total donations received by all parties from all Seven Electoral Trusts.

Other 10 political parties including INC, NCP, AIADMK, DMK, RJD, AAP, LJP, CPM, CPI and Lok Thantrik Janta Dal received a total of Rs 19.3801 crore collectively, the ADR analysis said.

There were 21 Electoral Trusts registered with the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) as per Election Commission guidelines as of 2019 and the updated list of approved Electoral Trusts by CBDT on September 8, 2021, shows there are two new Electoral Trusts registered.

CHANGE OF NAME

I No. 4570656N HAV BAIDHAR NAIK Father of SIDHARTH NAIK presently residing at Digposi Jamukeswar, Mayurbhanj Odisha, Pin: 757034 have changed my Son's name from SIDHARTH NAIK to SIDHARTH NAIK vide affidavit No. 75AA 761472 dated 20 Apr 2022.

CHANGE OF NAME

I Deepak Balwani S/o Shri P.C. Balwani Resident- flat no. 58 Green Heights Gulmohar Colony, Bhopal M.P. My Aadhar Card No. 86786468988 and my correct name is Deepak Balwani S/o Shri P.C. Balwani which is true and correct. In my all documents my name is Deepak Balwani S/o Shri P.C. Balwani. Passport No. IN Z6035289 my name is registered as Deepak Pohuchand Balwani which is wrong. In place of the said wrong name, the correct name is Deepak Balwani S/o Shri P.C. Balwani I want to register.



WOMAN ARRESTED FOR 'TRYING TO EXTORT' MONEY FROM MAHA MINISTER DHANANJAY MUNDE

AFTER THE FIR WAS REGISTERED AT MALABAR HILL POLICE STATION, THE CASE WAS TRANSFERRED TO THE CRIME BRANCH OF MUMBAI POLICE FOR FURTHER INVESTIGATION



Mumbai police took over the case and arrested Renu from Indore in Madhya Pradesh on Wednesday, an official said.

Mumbai police took over the case and arrested Renu from Indore in Madhya Pradesh on Wednesday, an official said.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A woman has been arrested for allegedly trying to extort crores of rupees from Maharashtra social justice minister Dhananjay Munde by threat-

GOVT TO ORGANISE BAL SABHAS FOR CHILDREN IN VILLAGES ON APRIL 24

According to an official statement, every gram panchayat is to organise Bal Sabhas, presided by a sarpanch to discuss issues concerning them and to hear their opinions and take necessary decisions.



The notification issued by the state rural development department on April 8 has listed concerns such as child marriage, child labour, issues that emerged due to the COVID-19 pandemic, child rights and its implementa-

tion, government schemes, children's participation in the decision-making process as per the 15th Finance Commission and their say in spending 10 per cent of the funds and creating child-friendly atmosphere in villages for

their growth. According to the official statement, Bal Sabhas and Bal Panchayats were organised in the pilot gram panchayats in Chandrapur, Latur and Nandurbar districts. Later, the programme was scaled at block-level in Chandrapur and Nandurbar.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Maharashtra government has decided to organise Bal Sabhas in every village on April 24, Panchayati Raj Day, to provide 11 to 18 years old children a platform to express their views and participate in the Panchayati Raj system, an official said.

MHT CET 2022 Exam Dates:

Maharashtra CET Exam in August after JEE and NEET exams: Uday Samant

Maharashtra Common Entrance Test or MHT CET 2022 has been postponed to August. Minister Uday Samant took to Twitter today, April 21, to make the announcement.



cluding on July 30, 2022. National Eligibility cum Entrance Test, NEET or NEET UG 2022 Exam is scheduled to take place on July 17, 2022. Both of these exams will be conducted by National Testing Agency, NTA.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra Common Entrance Test, MHT CET 2022 will be held in August 2022. State Minister of Higher and Technical Education, Uday Samant made the announcement today, April 21, 2022 on his official social

media. The MHT CET 2022 Exam will be held after the NEET 2022 and JEE 2022 Exams end.

month of August. After the Joint Entrance Examination, JEE Main 2022 both sessions and National Eligibility cum Entrance Test, NEET 2022 concludes. Joint Entrance Examination, JEE Main 2022, will be held in the months of June and July.

Maharashtra rescinds promotions, postings of 5 IPS officers

The home department on Wednesday evening issued orders promoting IPS officers and posting them to Mumbai and Thane



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra's home department on Thursday rescinded promotions and postings of five Indian Police Service (IPS) officers hours after issuing orders in this regard.

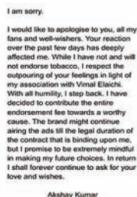
Wednesday evening issued orders promoting IPS officers and posting them to Mumbai and Thane. On Thursday morning, it issued another order, rescinding promotions and postings of five of them.

Punjabrao Ugale (Anti-corruption Bureau, Thane), and Sanjay Jadhav (Highway Security Squad). The five officers were promoted to the next level and posted to Mumbai and Thane.

Akshay Kumar issues apology for doing tobacco advert

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood superstar Akshay Kumar, who was recently seen in an advertisement of a tobacco brand along with Ajay Devgn and Shah Rukh Khan, has issued an apology for featuring in the commercial after it received flak from the netizens.



I am sorry. I would like to apologise to you, all my fans and well-wishers. Your reaction over the past few days has deeply affected me. While I have not and will not endorse tobacco, I respect the opinions of my fans in light of my association with Vimal Elaichi.



on the Internet, "While I have not and will not endorse tobacco, I respect the outpouring of your feelings in light of my association with Vimal Elaichi. With all humility, I step back. I have decided to contribute the entire endorsement fee towards a worthy cause."

BMC's medico is new President of Mumbai Obstetrics & Gynecological Society

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Dr Niranjan Chavan, of the BMC's LTM College and Sion Hospital, has taken over as the 69th President of the 88-year-old Mumbai Obstetrics & Gynecological Society (MOGS) for 2022-2023, at the country's first and biggest post-pandemic medical congregation held here, an official said on Thursday.



President and President-elect, 2 FOGSI Presidents-elect, 16 ex-Presidents of the 88-year-old MOGS. The International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (London) President Dr Jeanne Conry anointed Dr Chavan in a virtual appearance from the USA.

formed."The theme of the hybrid Congress was 'Vision for HER - Heal her, Educate her and Respect her', focusing on various aspects of women's health and wellbeing with over 4,400 gynecologists, doctors and other medical professionals attending from over 130 countries," Dr Chavan told IANS.

'Don't need lecture from Home Secretary': SC slams Centre in Abu Salem case

THE SUPREME COURT ON THURSDAY STRONGLY OBJECTED TO SOME STATEMENTS MADE BY THE UNION HOME SECRETARY, IN AN AFFIDAVIT ON HONOURING THE ASSURANCES MADE TO PORTUGAL DURING GANGSTER ABU SALEM'S EXTRADITION, SAYING THE JUDICIARY DOES NOT NEED LECTURING FROM THE OFFICIAL IN THE MATTER.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Thursday strongly objected to some statements made by the Union Home Secretary, in an affidavit on honouring the assurances made to Portugal during gangster Abu Salem's extradition, saying the judiciary does not need lecturing from the official in the matter.



that the government was bound by the assurance given to Portugal, while extraditing Abu Salem, a convict in Mumbai serial blasts, and would abide by it at an appropriate time. Nataraj submitted that the government was bound by the assurance and urged the court to first decide from when the concerned 25 years period would run and then the other issues can be decided on the basis of that.

in your wisdom you have given an assurance. I don't understand what the other remedies area," it said. Justice Kaul told Nataraj: "... don't appreciate it, the government cannot not take a stand before the court."

Maharashtra to start coal imports for blending from end-April as domestic supply remains low

The state witnessed an early onset of summer this year in February and the demand for power from agricultural and industrial consumers soared. Though there has been no power cut in the last 5-6 days, we are keeping a close watch, says top official.



demand for agricultural and industrial consumers also soared, resulting in a record demand of over 28,000 megawatts (MW) this month. While the state stepped up power generation, it couldn't match the rise in demand leading to a deficit of around 2,500 MW-3,000MW. Parts of the state faced power cuts earlier this month.

Maharashtra State Power Generation Company (Mahagenco), told Moneycontrol. He said that Mahagenco had issued a tender to import 20 lakh metric tonnes of coal to meet the shortage in the state and has managed to get it at "better rates" than the current global coal prices.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra will import coal from Indonesia by the end of April to use it for blending with domestic coal to meet the rising power demand even as domestic coal supply continues to be muted, a top official from the state's power utility told Moneycontrol.



EDITOR'S SPECS

Lesson to turncoats in UP

Former BJP MLAs who had crossed over to the Samajwadi Party on the eve of Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections, are now facing the heat. Revenue officials recently paid a visit to Roshan Lal Varma, who had crossed over to the Samajwadi Party along with former minister Swami Prasad Maurya. Revenue officials surveyed a building owned by his family to detect a possible violation of the building bylaws. Tilhar Sub-Divisional Magistrate Himanshu Upadhyay told reporters that following complaints against the former MLA, a team of revenue officials were sent to take measurement of the building. Terming the official action a "conspiracy" at the behest of his local opponents, Verma said he hopes for justice from Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. Verma said the building which was surveyed belongs to his daughter-in-law and that the action has been initiated under the influence of local BJP leaders, owing to political rivalry. "The land was purchased in 2010 and is registered in the name of my daughter-in-law Ruchi Verma. I myself want the measurement to be taken as per the provisions of the law. I have full faith in Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and, I hope, he will get an impartial probe conducted," Verma said. Another BJP MLA who joined the SP before elections, Brijesh Prajapati, has also been served a notice by the Banda Development Authority (BDA) asking him to explain the illegal construction of his house. He has been asked to vacate and demolish the illegal construction on his own within 15 days, failing which the same will be demolished by BDA and he will have to bear the cost. Prajapati was BJP MLA from 2017 to 2022 but lost the elections this time when he contested on a SP ticket. Notably, a petrol pump owned by SP's Bhojipura MLA Shazil Islam Ansari was razed in Bareilly district earlier this month.

The Language of Justice: Should there be a change?

Kumar Mihir

With the ongoing imbroglio regarding a link language, the debate whether English should continue to be the official language of the Supreme Court and the high courts has resurfaced again. Article 343 of the Constitution provides that the official language of the Union of India shall be Hindi. However, for all official purposes, English was allowed to be used along with Hindi. Further, Article 344 provides for Scheduled languages, which are those languages that are listed in the 8th schedule of the Constitution and are given official recognition and encouragement by the Central government. Apart from the above, Article 348 of the Constitution mandates that all proceedings in the Supreme Court and in every High Court shall be in English language until Parliament otherwise provides by law. Further, Article 348 (2) provides that the Governor of the state may, with the previous consent of the President, authorise the use of the Hindi language or any other language used for any official purpose of the State, in the proceedings of the high court having its principal seat in that State provided that decrees, judgments or orders passed by such high courts shall be in English. The Official Language Act, 1963 also reiterates the above position and Section 7 thereof provides that the use of Hindi or official language of a State in addition to the English language may be authorised, with the consent of the President of India, by the Governor of the State for the purpose of judgments, decrees etc. made by the High Court for that State. No law has been made in this regard by the Parliament so far. Therefore, English continues to be the language for all the proceedings of the Supreme Court. Today the Registry of the Supreme Court accepts pleadings only in



English and Order VIII Rule 2 of the Supreme Court Rules, 2013 mandates that no document in language other than English shall be used for the purpose of any proceedings before the Court, unless the same is accompanied by a translation of the same in English. The use of Hindi has been authorized in the proceedings as well in the judgments, decrees or orders in the high courts of the states of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar and several other states. In this background, the 18th Law Commission of India in its 216th Report on Non-Feasibility of Introduction of Hindi as Compulsory Language in the Supreme Court of India has, after detailed discussions with all stakeholders, inter-alia, recommended that the higher judiciary should not be subjected to any kind of even persuasive change in the present social context. The Law Commission recognised that language is a highly emotional issue for the citizens of any nation being a great unifying force and is a powerful instrument for national

integration. It is not merely a vehicle of thought and expression, but for Judges at the higher level, it is an integral part of their decision-making process. Judges have to hear and understand the submissions of both sides, apply the law to adjust equities. Arguments are generally made in higher courts in English and the basic literature under the Indian system is primarily based on English and American textbooks and case laws. Thus, judges at the higher level should be left free to evolve their own pattern of delivering judgments. Another reason for use of English in higher judiciary is that in view of the national transfer policy in respect of the high court Judges and to facilitate movement of lawyers from high court to apex court, it is important to ensure that they are not confronted with any linguistic problems and English remains the language at both the levels. Thus, it is a little late to delve into the question whether the Parliament should provide a different language for the Supreme Court and the high courts when English has been followed for the last 75 years.

Having adopted and excelled at the common law system, the Indian judicial system has gained a historical advantage to have the use of a language which is almost the language of the entire world now. Further, the question of language being used in the higher courts of the country is to be decided with ease in implementation of the system of public law, the international human rights regime, the International Intellectual Property regime and the increasingly integrating economic laws and trans-border transactions which mandates an integration with the legal systems of other countries and jurisdictions. It is for this reason, the full court of the Supreme Court has retained English as its official language and has repeatedly rejected the proposal for use of Hindi or any regional language in the proceedings of Constitutional Courts. People demanding the change often cite Article 351 of the Constitution which provides that it shall be the duty of the Union to promote the spread of Hindi Language so that it may serve as a medium of expression for all elements of composite culture of India. However, they lose sight of the fact that the Constituent Assembly itself made it clear that the use of Hindi must not be imposed on the peoples speaking other Languages against their wishes. Even though I agree with the concept of an indigenous link language between all states of India, changing the established language of justice will lead to nothing but chaos. Regional influences play a vital role in the politics and culture of respective states and we have already seen even after division of states on linguistic basis, they are still fighting on issues of boundary and water amongst others. Therefore, compulsory imposition of Hindi or any other regional language

on other parts of the country, will only lead to adding fuel to fire and will aid the fissiparous and divisive forces, which are at work in their malicious attempt to hamper the national integration and maintaining the unity and solidarity of the country. As Justice Krishna Iyer said, "I feel the nationalistic feeling behind the plea for Hindi, but I cannot ignore the realities on the ground in our multilingual country. I am all for Hindi as a personal preference, but I am all against Hindi by compulsion, especially of judgments of the Supreme Court of India. Wisdom is different from obscurantism. Let us give Hindi a high place in national expression and full facility for instant translation of every representation people wish to make to the higher courts as an integral part of free legal aid. The three-language formula which has some official status may well be considered for implementation, whatever be the cost it may involve. Linguistic militancy will alienate and divide but federal pluralism is democratic sensitivity." Therefore, the current linguistic imbroglio with respect to the usage of language in courts is futile. Instead of tinkering with something which is working just fine, we need to concentrate on improving other aspects of our judicial system which needs a complete overhaul especially with the huge pendency which has arisen after the Covid-19 Pandemic. The goal must be "delivery of justice in appropriate time", i.e., to provide a fair, quick, transparent, effective, and accountable judicial system that promotes access to justice for all. (The writer is Advocate-on-Record at the Supreme Court of India. Views are personal)

international

RUSSIA SAYS UKRAINE'S MARIUPOL CITY CAPTURED

Moscow | Agencies

Russian Defence Minister Sergey Shoigu informed President Vladimir Putin on Thursday that the country's forces have fully captured Ukraine's key Black Sea port-city of Mariupol, the media reported. However, more than 2,000 Ukrainian militants still remain entrenched at the Azovstal steel plant in the city, RT News reported citing Shoigu as saying. When Mariupol was encircled in early March, some 8,100 Ukrainian soldiers, foreign mercenaries remained inside, according to the Minister's estimates. More than 1,400 militants have laid down their arms, Shoigu said, adding that over 142,000 civilians have also been evacuated from the city that has been under siege for weeks.



President Putin has called Shoigu's plan of storming the Azovstal plant "inadvisable" and ordered to "safely block" the area instead while extending to those inside another offer to lay down their arms, the RT report said. Russia has twice sought to establish a humanitarian corridor for those willing

to leave the plant in recent days, but both attempts failed, it added. Shoigu said that the Russian forces had announced ceasefires and opened humanitarian corridors for two hours a day for the past two days on Putin's orders to allow those inside the Azovstal plant to leave. "We have made some 90 buses and 25 ambulances ready for them," Shoigu said, adding that cameras have been mounted in the area to monitor the situation. "No one has left the Azovstal (plant)," he said, adding that some 100 civilians from other areas seized this opportunity to evacuate. Sergey Volyna, the commander of Ukraine's 36th Marines Brigade, which is holed up at the plant, claimed that "hundreds" of civilians were trapped in the facility.

US CAPITOL BRIEFLY EVACUATED DUE TO 'PROBABLE THREAT'

Washington | Agencies

The US Capitol and its surrounding buildings in Washington D.C. were briefly evacuated due to "a probable threat" from an aircraft. The US Capitol Police sent out an alert on Wednesday evening telling individuals on the Capitol Complex to leave, reports Xinhua news agency. The advisory was rescinded about 20 minutes later. "The Capitol was evacuated out of an abundance of caution this evening," the Capitol Police tweeted. "There is no threat at the Capitol." "The Congressional buildings are now open for staff to go back inside. Our federal, state, and local partners are still working to get more information," they added. The aircraft was reportedly being flown by the US Army Golden Knights, whose members parachuted into Washington's Nationals Park as part of a pre-game performance. The Capitol Police were reportedly unaware of the aircraft and thought it was a threat, triggering the evacuation notice. Nationals Stadium is less than 3 km from Capitol Hill.



Biden likely to visit SKorea from May 20-22: Sources

Seoul | Agencies

US President Joe Biden is likely to visit Seoul from May 20-22 for his first-ever summit with his incoming South Korean counterpart Yoon Suk-yeol, sources said on Thursday. Biden has widely been expected to visit South Korea before or after he travels to Japan to attend a Quadrilateral Security Dialogue meeting around May 24, reports Yonhap News Agency. Sources said May 20-22 emerged as the likely dates of his visit during talks between officials in Seoul and Washington. "I believe the US is planning the visit with the aim of newly strengthening the alliance relationship with South Korea," one source said. Details are still being set up, including the time of day Biden will arrive in Seoul and the summit

venue, as Yoon will have relocated the presidential office out of Cheong Wa Dae and into what is now the Defence Ministry compound. A US advance team is expected to arrive in Seoul this weekend to look at possible venues. Potential summit sites currently include the MND Convention, a facility used for weddings and banquets adjacent to the Defence Ministry, and the nearby National Museum of Korea. Yoon's chief of staff Chang Je-won acknowledged the two countries are in talks over the dates of Biden's visit. "We're not at the stage of making any announcements. Nothing's been decided," he told reporters. The meeting is set to become the earliest-ever South Korea-US summit to take place following a South Korean President's inauguration. Yoon will take office on May 10.

Russia's new ICBM able to penetrate all modern anti-missile defences

Moscow | Agencies

Russia's new RS-28 Sarmat Inter-Continental Ballistic Missile was launched successfully from the Plesetsk cosmodrome in the north of the country. The test launch on Wednesday was the first in a series of trials required for the adoption of the new weapon by Russia's strategic forces, RT reported. The missile flew across the whole country, touching down at a test site in Russia's Far East. "Inert warheads touched down in a designated area at the Kura training ground on the Kamchatka Peninsula," the military said, RT reported. The new silo-based strategic missile is set to replace the R-36M/R-36M2 Voevoda ICBMs. Compared to its predecessor, the Sarmat can carry more weapons, as well as be fitted with new types of warheads, including "hypersonic



glider units," the military noted. President Vladimir Putin called the launch an "event of great significance" for Russia, congratulating the military on the successful test launch. The new system has top tactical and technical characteristics and is able to penetrate all modern anti-missile defences. It has no analogues in the world and will not have any for a long time," Putin said. Trials of the new missile are expected to be completed later this year. After that, the Sarmat will officially enter service and the first munitions will be supplied to the country's strategic missile forces.

Clashes again erupt in Jerusalem's Al-Aqsa Mosque compound

Jerusalem | Agencies

Israeli police on Thursday entered the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound in East Jerusalem to facilitate the arrival of Jewish visitors to the flash-point holy site, sparking new clashes, according to local media. Israel's state-owned Kan Reshet Bet Radio reported that "hundreds" of Jewish visitors escorted by police forces arrived in the early morning hours at the site, which is holy to both Muslims and Jews, reports Xinhua news agency. The police said in a statement that Palestinians barricaded themselves inside the mosque and hurled fire-crackers and stones at the Jewish officers. Palestinian media reported that the police responded by firing tear gas and rubber-coated metal bullets. At least one Palestinian was injured, according to a statement by the Palestinian Red Crescent. At least 200 Palestinians have been injured at the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound during clashes with Israeli forces over the past few weeks. The disputed holy site, known to



Muslims as the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound and to Jews as the Temple Mount, is located in the Old City of Jerusalem, which Israel annexed during the 1967 Middle East war. The site has been administered by Jordan's Muslim Waqf but secured by Israeli police. The Israeli-Palestinian clashes in East Jerusalem and four deadly Palestinian attacks in Israeli cities in recent weeks come as the Muslim holy month of Ramadan coincides with the Jewish holiday of Passover, with thousands of Muslim worshippers and Jewish visitors arriving at the hilltop compound.

PHILIPPINE STORM DEATH TOLL CLIMBS TO 224

Manila | Agencies

The death toll in the Philippines due to the landslides and flooding triggered by tropical storm Megi has increased to 224, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) said on Thursday. The NDRRMC said 221 deaths were recorded in the central Philippines and three in the southern region, reports Xinhua news agency. It also added 147 more are missing. Megi dumped rains in central and southern Philippine regions before and after it made landfall on April 10, inundating many areas and triggering landslides in several villages in Leyte province. The central Philippines is usually the gateway of typhoons to the country. Landslides and flash floods are common across the Philippines during the rainy season, especially when typhoons hit. The Philippines is one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world, mainly due to its location in the Pacific Ring of Fire and Pacific typhoon belt. On average, this archipelagic country experiences 20 typhoons every year, some of which are intense and destructive. Megi is the first storm to batter the Southeast Asian country this year. Typhoon Rai, the 15th to lash the Philippines last year, killed more than 400 people. The category 5 typhoon destroyed more than 1.7 million houses in eight provinces. The UN estimated over 9.9 million people across the six worst-hit regions were affected by the typhoon.





CIVIL SERVICE IS NOT JUST A CAREER, IT'S A CAMPAIGN TO BUILD THE COUNTRY AND SERVE THE PEOPLE: CM

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that public servants have an important contribution in the progress, development and welfare of the state. I salute all those public servants who have contributed in transforming the state from a BIMARU state to a developing state. Chouhan said that civil service is not just a career, it is a campaign to build the country and serve the people. Public servants have the power to change the country and the state and change the lives of the people. Public servants should always strive for capacity building and work with the spirit that there is always scope for improvement.

Chouhan was a programme at the RCVF Academy of Administration on the 17th Civil Services Day. Officers of Indian Administrative Service, Indian Police Service, Indian Forest Service, State Administrative Service, State Police Service and State Forest Service posted in Bhopal along with Chief Secretary Iqbal Singh Bains were present. Chief Minister inaugurated the programme by lighting the lamp.

Chouhan said that the civil servants in Madhya Pradesh set a wonderful example during the Corona period. They were not afraid, they accepted the challenges and fulfilled their responsibilities by putting themselves at risk. Many officers and employees laid down their lives while on duty. Many public servants continued to do their duties despite having been infected. He said that I have a pleasant experience of working with public servants, I am proud of the team of the state.



Chouhan said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has amazing leadership qualities. He considers all aspects of life and provides result oriented leadership to the country. Some examples are Millet Mission, Natural Farming, Amrit Talab Yojana and Mission Karma Yogi. Giving guidance to the public

servants, Chouhan said that it is necessary to keep trying to do better than what we are doing at present. It is necessary to upgrade oneself and make oneself efficient and fit according to the changing technology and circumstances. For this, by taking appropriate training and making efforts at individual level, we can continuously improve our work capacity. Chief Minister also gave his own example in time management and setting priorities.

Chouhan stated the need to give time to one's family along with government work and take care of one's own health. Shri Chouhan said that meditation-yoga and pranayama are necessary for physical health and mental peace.

At the outset, a short film produced by Madhya Pradesh Public Relations on the role of public servants in the difficult times of Corona was screened. The film shows the role of the public servants in the management of Corona, cleanliness, education system, law and order, digitalization to crack down on mafia, campaign launched to make government services accessible to the common people easily, power supply, Jal Jeevan Mission, and implementation of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana.

Police To Slap NSAs On More People In Khargone Violence Incident: SP

The incident pertains to the stone-pelting incident and violent clashes that took place on the occasion of Ram Navami on April 10 in Madhya Pradesh's Khargone.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Days after riots broke out in the Khargone city, the Madhya Pradesh police in a bid to escalate its actions against the accused in the commu-

nal clashes that broke out earlier on the occasion of Ram Navami is all set to invoke the National Security Act (NSA) against the people whose names have been identified in connection to the incident. Speaking about the same, Ankit Jaiswal, Superintendent of Police (SP), Khargone apprised the media and said that NSA has been already slapped against two accused and more will be imposed on a few other accused whose names have been identified. In view of the recent relaxations provided in the riot-hit Khargone for a stretch of 6 hours, the Khargone SP further added that more relaxations in the

curfew will be implemented soon after a meeting. Further informing about the actions to be taken against the miscreants behind the Khargone violence incident, IPS officer Ankit Jaiswal also announced a reward of Rs 10,000 each for information on the absconding anti-social elements. "Around 106 such accused are on the run. A total of 169 people have been arrested so far and 57 cases have been registered so far. Also, a total of 63 FIRs have been filed in Khargone. They've been identified through video footage while some names revealed by victims", he added.

CM PLANTS KACHNAR AND GULMOHAR SAPLINGS IN SMART GARDEN

Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted saplings of Kachnar and Gulmohar along with representatives of CSC, e-Governance Services India Limited in Smart Garden today. Along with Chief Minister Kamlesh Banjaria, Lokesh Joshi and Prateek Sharma planted saplings. CSC is working to make Ayushman Cards, E-Shram Cards and to reach Pradhan Mantri Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (digital literacy campaign) to the common people in the country. Along with this, every year tree plantation has been done in each Gram Panchayat by the company. In this sequence, on April 25, tree plantation will be done in the gram panchayats of the entire state. Among the saplings planted on Thursday, Gulmohar is considered one of the most beautiful trees in the world. It is also rich in medicinal properties. Small and medium height trees of Kachnar are found all over India. It is also full of medicinal properties.



Narottam Mishra became strict during the riots, said a big deal on illegal Bangladeshi and Rohingya

POLICE WILL CONDUCT INTENSIVE SEARCH OPERATION TO IDENTIFY FOREIGN INFILTRATORS IN MADHYA PRADESH. HOME MINISTER NAROTTAM MISHRA SAID THAT INSTRUCTIONS HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO ALL THE SPS AND POLICE STATIONS IN THIS REGARD.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Madhya Pradesh government has become strict regarding the increasing riots in the country. Shivraj government is in action after the riots in Khargone on Ramnavami. Meanwhile, Home Minister Narottam Mishra has increased the strictness. He has asked to run a campaign against illegal infiltration in the state. Narottam Mishra said that in this regard instructions have been given to all the SPS and police stations. Police will conduct intensive search operation to identify foreign infiltrators in Madhya Pradesh.

Mishra said that an intensive operation would be launched to identify foreign

infiltrators in Madhya Pradesh. The police have been prepared for this. In this the help of intelligence will be taken. Landlords will be questioned. Regarding the Khargone riots, he told that after the arrest of 167 people so far, the police has announced a reward of Rs 10,000 each against the 106 absconding accused.

It is believed that this campaign of the Home Minister has been raised recently after the arrest of four terrorists of Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen (JMB) Bangladesh in Bhopal. At the same time, it is also being said that after the names of illegal Bangladeshi and Rohingya Muslims in the increasing riots in the country, these steps are being taken as a precaution.

TRIBALS TO GET BONUS ON TENDU LEAVES

Bhopal: Tribals in Madhya Pradesh will get a bonus on Tendu leaves, and 20 per cent of revenues incurred on timber wood will be given to forest committees so that they can use it as per their needs, said Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Chouhan on Thursday. Also, 'Van gram' will be transformed into 'Rajiv Gram', he added. The Madhya Pradesh government has planned a mega event in the state capital Bhopal on Friday to start the distribution of bonuses to 22.6 lakh tribal Tendu leaf collectors of the state, a senior forest department official said.

Power fail, mike off in Shivraj's program; CM remembered the Energy Secretary like this; Congress took a jibe

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Suddenly the power went out in a program of Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan. The CM has given a funny reaction when the lights are off. In fact, the CM was attending a program of the Academy of Administration on Civil Service Day. This program was going on in Bhopal. IAS, IFS and IPS officers were present in this program.

Shivraj Singh Chouhan's address was going on the stage. Was going to tell a story during his address. In the meantime, there was a power cut in the middle. As soon as the power went

out, it got dark. Not only this, the CM's mic was also turned off. After this, CM Shivraj asked from the stage itself, is Sanjay Dubey (Principal Secretary of Energy Department in Madhya Pradesh) here? Chief Minister Shivraj further said, there is also a crisis of coal right now. When I spoke to Sanjay yesterday morning, he was saying that get more rucks.

It is being said in some media reports that during the CM's program, the lights went off for about 5 minutes. Now the State Energy Minister Pradyuman Singh Tomar has ordered an inquiry regarding this. At the same time, Congress is raising

questions regarding the issue of power failure. Congress spokesperson Narendra Saluja tweeted and wrote that 'During Mamaji's address at the Academy of Administration on Civil Services Day, there was a power outage for a long time ... the mic was also turned off. Mamaji also mentioned about the coal crisis...? The power crisis in the state is understandable. Energy Minister Pradyuman Singh Tomar says that Congress is worrying a lot at this time, there is continuous power failure in Maharashtra, first worry about it. The power failure in CM's program may be an accident

tal event that the transformer may have gone bad. If the light is going out for hours every day, then we can consider it as our deficiency. But suddenly the light goes off in the program, it is an accidental incident. Still, we have ordered an inquiry in this matter. Along with this, Energy Minister Pradyuman Singh Tomar said that if there is a problem of lighting in the state, then why does the Congress not raise this issue by going to the House. Why does she keep speaking only in front of the media? If there is a power failure in CM's program, then we will get it investigated.

406 Mobile Veterinary Units Approved for State

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Animal Husbandry and Dairy Minister Prem Singh Patel informed that 406 mobile veterinary units have been approved by the Central Government for 4 crore 6 lakh livestock of the state. A new component of the Mobile Veterinary Unit has been included by the Government of India in the scheme for establishment and strengthening of Central Veterinary Hospitals and Dispensaries. Under the scheme, one mobile veterinary unit will be operated for

every one lakh livestock. Patel informed that the vehicle of mobile veterinary unit will be fully equipped with modern equipments and staff. The vehicle will have a veterinary, a paravet and a vehicle driver-cum-assistant. Apart from this, necessary equipments related to veterinary, minor surgery, artificial insemination, disease investigation will be installed in the vehicle. Projectors, speakers etc. will also be installed for publicity. A provision of Rs. 18 lakh 72 thousand per mobile veterinary unit has been made per year

for the necessary human resources, medicines, POL for the vehicle and maintenance etc. It will have 60 per cent central share and 40 per cent state share. A provision of Rs. 16 lakh has also been made for vehicle, vehicle furnishings, equipment required for veterinary treatment, publicity equipment and fabrication. This amount is 100 percent Centre share based. Call centre will also be set up for mobile veterinary unit. Call operator and veterinary doctor will be appointed in the call centre.

CM GARLANDED ON THE PRAKASH PARV OF GURU TEGH BAHADUR JI

Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan paid floral tributes to the 9th Guru of Sikhs, Tugh Bahadur, by garlanding his portrait on the occasion of Prakash Parv. Home Minister Narottam Mishra was present. Guru Tegh Bahadur was a revolutionary and a great personality of his time. He was born on Vaishakh Krishna Panchami in Amritsar, Punjab. Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib has a unique place in world history among those who sacrificed their lives to protect religion and human values, ideals and principles. His childhood name was Tyagamal and his father's name was Guru Hargobind. From his childhood, he was saintly, very thoughtful, generous minded, brave and fearless. Guru Tegh Bahadur ji sacrificed his life for the protection of religion and for religious freedom. That is why he is called 'Hind ki Chadar' in the true sense.



Dalit bridegroom rides horse under police protection

Upper-caste villagers allegedly threatened him with consequences if he did so for a ritual on Wednesday

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A 22-year-old Dalit bridegroom in Madhya Pradesh's Damoh district rode a horse for his marriage ritual under police protection after upper-caste villagers allegedly threatened him

with consequences if he did so on Wednesday, said police. Police said they also put 11 people under preventive arrest.

Damoh police superintendent DR Teniwar said they sent a team to Neeraj Ahirwar's Sagoriya village to provide protection to him for the ritual after he posted a video seeking help.

Ahirwar, 22, sought protection for the Raccwai ritual for which the groom rides a horse and roams around his village before

visiting a temple. Some villagers belonging to the Lodhi community asked him not to ride a horse because he is a Dalit. Dalit rights activists and Madhya Pradesh Scheduled Caste Commission member Pradeep Ahirwar rushed to support him. "I saw his appeal on social media. So, I came here to support him in the fight against discrimination. It is sad; people are still facing caste discrimination," said Pradeep Ahirwar.

Forest Committees of Madhya Pradesh Have Done a Remarkable Job

Team Absolute | Bhopal

In Madhya Pradesh a remarkable work has been done in the direction of community participation, forest management, conservation and improvement through forest committees, which is unique in the whole country. The families associated with these forest committees have also become financially empowered.

The forest area of the state is 94 thousand 689 square kilometers, which is the highest in comparison to other states. It is 12.3% of the total forest area of the country. Forest committees are working in 15 thousand 608 villages for public participation in the management of 79 lakh 70 thousand hectare forest area of the state. In the last one decade, forest committees in 1552 villages have improved the forest area of 4 lakh 31 thousand hectares. At a time when the forests are under threat all over the world, these committees have done a great job in collaboration with the Forest Department.

The State Minor Forest Produce Cooperative Federation is working with the objective of getting fair price to the families collecting forest produce. The innovative measures of the association have brought a positive change in the lives of tendu patta

collectors. Tribal families living in remote areas were given remuneration of Rs. 415 crores and distributed dividend of Rs. 192 crores by collecting tendu leaves even after lockdown due to Covid-19 in 2021 tendu patta season.

In the old policy, 70 percent of the dividend was given as a bonus to the collectors. In addition, 15% of the amount was spent for the social and economic welfare of the collectors and 15% on the conservation and development of minor forest yielding species in the forest areas. Now according to the spirit of "PESA Act", 75% of the profit from the business of tendu leaves is given to the collectors, 10% for the socio-economic welfare of the collectors and 10% for the conservation of minor forest produce species in the forest areas and 5% for the Gram Sabhas.

In the new resolution by the Forest Department, a provision has been made to give 33% of the amount received from the entry of tourists in the national parks to the forest committees. The committees have been empowered to conduct eco-tourism work in the allotted areas. The income from this will go to the forest committees. This will give opportunities to the local youth to start economic activities.

One-third of the villages in the state are situated

in or near the forest areas. The livelihood of the residents there is based on forests.

In self-reliant Madhya Pradesh, the target is to prepare a micro plan of 5000 forest committees by the end of this year. This will provide employment opportunities. Along with this, the village community will be able to stand on their feet by producing the forest produce of their need.

The dividend given to the forest committees has been increased. Earlier, 20 percent of the net profit amount was available at the district level, due to which the amount could be distributed only in a few districts. Most of the committees were deprived of benefits. According to the new resolution, each committee will get 20 percent of the revenue received from the utilization done in its area. Earlier, the dividend distribution of wood and bamboo was up to Rs 50 crore. Now it has increased to around 160 crores per year.

The right to constitute and reconstitute forest committees has now been entrusted to the Gram Sabhas. Arrangements have also been made to include women and people from weaker sections in the executive committee of the Forest Committee. Various types of forest produce are produced in the state. In this, Mahua, Tendu Pattas, Harra, Bahera,

Amla and Chironji are prominent. In accordance with the spirit of the PESA Act, Gram Sabhas have been given full rights to minor forest produce.

Such decisions have been taken under the leadership of Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, which have proved to be transformative for the collecting families associated with forest committees. Forest committees have got huge economic benefits. For example, by fixing the support price of 32 forest produce, about 17 lakh families have benefited. These families have benefited by giving 75 percent instead of 70 percent of the net profit of the tendu patta business.

The collection rate of tendu patta has been continuously increased. Remuneration and bonus have also been paid in the same proportion. Tendu leaves collection rate was Rs. 400 per standard bag in the year 2005, which has now increased to Rs. 2500 hundred per standard bag.

The remuneration paid was Rs. 67 crore in the year 2005, which has increased to Rs. 415 crore in the year 2021. Eklavya Education Scheme for the children of collectors has been going on for the last eleven years, due to which an amount of Rs. 2 crore one lakh has been provided to 1712 children for education.



'SPIDER-MAN: ACROSS THE SPIDER-VERSE' BUMPED TO 2023, 'THE EQUALIZER 3' ANNOUNCED

Los Angeles | Agencies

Sony Pictures has updated its upcoming theatrical release calendar, dating its Marvel Comics adaptation 'Madame Web', officially revealing a new entry in Denzel Washington's 'The Equalizer' series and delaying the release of 'Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse' to 2023.

According to 'Variety', 'Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse', the sequel to 2018's acclaimed 'Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse', has been pushed to June 2, 2023. The animated follow-up had been slated to hit theatres on October 7 of this year.

Additionally, the film has been re-titled, dropping its original parenthetical subtitle of 'Part One'. 'Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse Part II', the already announced threequel in the 'Spider-Verse' series, has also been given an official release date of March 29,



2024. 'Across the Spider-Verse' will continue the story of Miles Morales.



Joaquim Dos Santos, Kemp Powers and Justin K. Thompson are co-directing

from a screenplay by Phil Lord, Christopher Miller and David Callaham.

'Madame Web', a new entry in the studio's self-branded Sony Pictures

Universe of Marvel Characters, is now slated to hit theaters on July 7, 2023, positioned in the middle of next year's summer season.

The origin story stars Dakota Johnson as the title character, a clairvoyant with abilities to see into the spider world. Sydney Sweeney also stars, while S.J. Clarkson will direct a script by Matt Sazama and Burk Sharpless.

Sony has also officially revealed 'The Equalizer 3', another instalment in Washington's action franchise.

While Washington and series director Antoine Fuqua have both recently teased a follow-up to 2018's 'The Equalizer 2', this marks the first official acknowledgement from Sony regarding the project. 'The Equalizer 3' is set to hit theatres on September 1, 2023.

'Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile', a live-action musical adaptation of the children's book series of the same name, has been bumped up from November 18, 2022.

Vin Diesel ends suspense over 'Fast & Furious 10'; action flick to be called 'Fast X'

Los Angeles | Agencies



Hollywood action star Vin Diesel took to Instagram to share that 'Fast & Furious 10' will officially be titled 'Fast X', also announcing the launch of production. "Day one" the action star wrote, reports 'Deadline'.

While details with regard to the plot of 'Fast X' have thus far been kept under wraps, Tyrese Gibson, Ludacris, Michelle Rodriguez, Sung Kang, Jason Momoa, Daniela Melchior and Brie Larson will also star. Justin Lin is on board as director and will also produce alongside Diesel, with the film set to bow in theatres via Universal on May 19, 2023.

Lin has been one of the lead directors for the action franchise, having previously helmed 2011's 'F9', as well as 'Fast & Furious 6', 'Fast Five', 'Fast & Furious' and 'The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift'. The franchise is Universal's biggest of all time - its films having collectively grossed over \$6.6 billion worldwide.



'THE KARDASHIANS' BECOMES MOST-WATCHED PREMIERE IN AMERICA

Los Angeles | Agencies

Kim Kardashian-starrer reality show 'The Kardashians' is its biggest series premiere in US history, says network Hulu.

According to 'Variety', the streamer did not provide specific viewing numbers, as the platform does not release ratings. Outside of actual subscriber numbers, which Disney has to reveal for shareholders, the Disney-owned streamers have never given out any actual viewership data.

Hulu also claims the new show is the most-watched Star Originals series, (so not including Disney's Marvel or 'Star Wars' streaming titles) on Disney+ and Star+ across global markets.

"'The Kardashians' is the most-watched series premiere on Hulu in the United States, and on Disney+ and Star+ among Star Originals,

across all global markets to date," a Hulu spokesperson shared with Variety. Hulu's record-breaking number for 'The Kardashians' is based on the premiere episode hours watched in the first three days of its release, since the show launched on April 14.

'The Kardashians' is the new series from the Kardashian-Jenners, following their groundbreaking show on E!, 'Keeping Up With the Kardashians', which ran for 15 years, 20 seasons and numerous spinoffs.

The Kardashian clan ended 'KUWTK' in 2020. Soon after,



they announced they'd be joining the Disney family with a new pact at Hulu. Under the deal, Hulu will be launching 40 episodes of 'The Kardashians', spread out over 10-episode seasons.

The Hulu series is a more elevated version of the original show that made the family famous. It is presented more documentary-style, and the family often breaks the fourth wall.

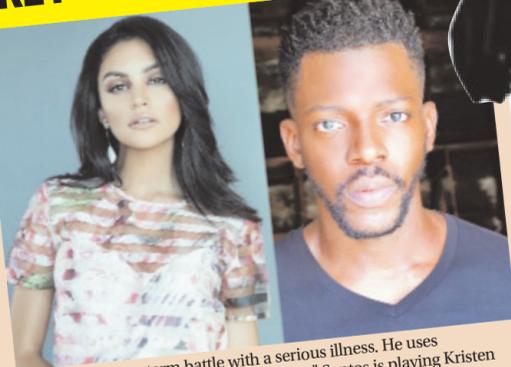
'The Kardashian' stars matriarch Kris Jenner with her daughters Kourtney Kardashian, Kim Kardashian, Khloe Kardashian, Kendall Jenner and Kylie Jenner. All six women also serve as executive producers on the series that digs in deeper to their businesses, but still keeps a large focus on their personal lives, which has always been the bread-and-butter of the Kardashian brand.

BIANCA A. SANTOS, CEDRIC SANDERS JOIN 'GREY'S ANATOMY' CAST

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actors Bianca A. Santos and Cedric Sanders have been added as recurring cast members on Season 18 of 'Grey's Anatomy', playing a married couple in a dire medical situation - as if there is any other kind at Grey Sloan Memorial these days.

Sanders is playing Simon Clark, who is described thusly: "A devoted husband/father-to-be, Simon is depleted from a long-term battle with a serious illness. He uses humour to distract himself from how serious his condition really is." Santos is playing Kristen Clark, who as Simon's spouse "struggles to remain stress-free for her unborn baby, while trying to support her extremely ill husband", reports 'Variety'. According to 'Variety', viewers will first see the Clarks on the May 12 episode of 'Grey's Anatomy', titled 'I'll Cover You', and the episode's logline reveals that Link (Chris Carmack) is Simon's doctor: "A former patient of Link's, Simon, is in the ER with his pregnant wife on a new episode of 'Grey's Anatomy'". Santos and Sanders will appear in three episodes this season.



Kissing is the key to a happy marriage: Julia Roberts

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Julia Roberts says "kissing" is the key to a marriage while appearing on 'The Late Show with Stephen Colbert'.

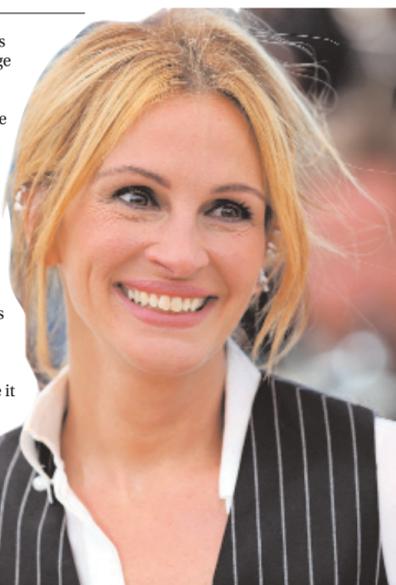
The 'Pretty Woman' star believes the key to her more than two decades of marriage to cinematographer Daniel Moder is not forgetting to have a smooch and show each other affection while appearing on 'The Late Show with Stephen Colbert', reports femalefirst.co.uk.

After being asked by host Stephen Colbert to reveal her tricks on the count to three. The 54-year-old actress said immediately: "Kissing".

The 57-year-old talk show host said the key was taking the time to "apologise", and immediately wanted to take it back.

Stephen quipped: "Well, I would like to apologise to my wife for not saying kissing."

Elsewhere, Roberts spoke about her new miniseries 'Gaslit'.



Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Millie Bobby Brown is "grateful" that 'Stranger Things' has given her a platform and prefers to focus on the positive aspects of being in the spotlight after starring in the Netflix series.

The 18-year-old actress was catapulted to global fame when she was just 12 due to her portrayal of Eleven in the Netflix sci-fi series and she insists that rather than focus on the negative aspects of celebrity she feels "extremely lucky" to have been given the opportunity to be part of such a fantastic show, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

In an interview with the brand new issue of SFX magazine, Bobby Brown said: "We're extremely lucky to have these opportunities. And all we can do, now that we have this platform, is make sure that everyone, every young person around the world, gets to achieve their dreams. So that's kind of what I'm doing more. I'm focusing on being grateful for what I have, and the platform that I have."

The actress said that she has been able to bond with her co-stars who have gone through the same experience - particularly Finn Wolfhard as the pair have suffered with anxiety.

The 'Enola Holmes' star explained: "And I know that everyone, all of the young people on the show, we all have our problems and we all have our issues. Something that Finn and I both really relate in is our anxiety. And we've always kind of bonded over that."

Millie Bobby Brown grateful for 'Stranger Things' platform

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Adriana Lima



IPL 2022:

M.S. DHONI STEERS CSK TO THREE-WICKET WIN OVER MUMBAI INDIANS

Mumbai | Agencies

M.S. Dhoni's late flourish (28 not out off 13 balls) helped Chennai Super Kings defeat Mumbai Indians by three wickets in an IPL 2022 match at D.Y. Patil Stadium, here on Thursday.

Pacer Mukesh Choudhary's sensational bowling performance (3/19) helped Chennai Super Kings restrict Mumbai Indians to 155/7 in 20 overs despite a fighting half-century by Tilak Varma (51 not out off 43 balls).

Varma top-scored for Mumbai while Suryakumar Yadav (32), Hrishik Shokeen (25), and Kieron Pollard (14) were the other contributors with the bat for them. On the other hand, Dwayne Bravo (2/36), Mitchell Santner (1/16) and Maheesh Theekshana (1/35) were the other wicket-takers for CSK besides Mukesh.

Chasing a modest target, CSK were also off to a poor start as Daniel Sams removed Ruturaj Gaikwad in the very first ball of the second innings. Mitchell Santner, who had replaced Moeen Ali and came to bat at No 3, looked in con-



rol and hit two fours. But, the left-hander mistimed a bouncer from Sams and got out for 11 runs, leaving CSK at 16-2 after 2.3 overs. From there on, two veteran batters -- Robin

Uthappa (30) and Ambati Rayudu (40) stitched a partnership of 50 runs for the third wicket and kept CSK in the game. However, once they got out, Chennai were back in trouble as the next two batters -- Shivam Dube (13) and Ravindra Jadeja (3) didn't do much. But, it was Dwayne Pretorius (22 off 14) and Dhoni (28 not out off 13) who hit important runs and kept CSK in the chase till the last over. CSK needed 17 runs in the last over and Pretorius was trapped leg-before off the first ball. DJ Bravo came to bat next and took a single in the second ball of the over and Dhoni hit Unadkat for 6, 4, 2, 4 in the next four deliveries to seal victory for CSK. Daniel Sams (4/30) was the most successful bowler for Mumbai while Jaydev Unadkat (2/48) and Riley Meredith (1/25) also chipped in with wickets.

Brief scores:

Mumbai Indians 155/7 in 20 overs (Tilak Varma 51 not out, Suryakumar Yadav 32; Mukesh Choudhary 3/19, Dwayne Bravo 2/36) vs Chennai Super Kings (Ambati Rayudu 40, MS Dhoni 28 not out; Daniel Sams 4/30)

Asian wrestling: Sarita Mor, Sushma Shokeen win bronze for India



Indian wrestlers Sarita Mor and Sushma Shokeen won bronze medals in their respective women's freestyle weight categories at the 2022 Asian Wrestling Championships, here on Thursday.

Ulaanbaatar (Mongolia) | Agencies

The 27-year-old Mor won two of her four group matches in the 59kg division to finish third in the field of five wrestlers. She lost to eventual gold medallist Sara Natami of Japan via technical superiority and suffered a narrow 1-2 loss to three-time World Championship medallist Shooovdor Baatarjav of Mongolia in her first two matches.

However, Mor bounced back to defeat Dilfuza Aimbetova of Uzbekistan via technical superiority and Diana Kayumova of Kazakhstan 5-2 to take bronze. The remaining three Indian women wrestlers -- Manisha (50kg), Sonika Hooda (68kg) and Sudesh Kumari (76kg) - in action on Thursday failed to win medals. India currently has seven bronze medals in the ongoing tournament. Indian Greco-Roman wrestlers -- Sunil Kumar (87kg), Arjun

Halakurki (55kg) Neeraj (63kg), Harpreet Singh (82kg) and Sachin Sahrawat (67kg) - had won medals in the first two days of the continental meet.

Indian women's freestyle wrestlers competing in the 53kg, 57kg, 62kg, 65kg and 72kg weight divisions will be in action on Friday while men's freestyle wrestlers, including Tokyo Olympic medallists Ravi Kumar Dahiya and Bajrang Punia, will take the mat on Saturday.

Manchester City back on top, while Arsenal take big win in Premier League

London | Agencies

Manchester City remain Premier League leaders after three second-half goals from Riyad Mahrez, Phil Foden and Bernardo Silva gave them a 3-0 win at home to Brighton.

Pep Guardiola's side went into the game under pressure after Liverpool's 4-0 thrashing of Manchester United on Tuesday. After a first 45 minutes in which they controlled the ball but failed to get it into the net, they made short work of their rivals after the break.

Arsenal's 4-2 win away to Chelsea puts them level on points with Tottenham in the battle to qualify for next season's Champions League, Xinhua reports. Mikel Arteta's side recovered from a run of three consecutive defeats with two goals from Eddie Nketiah, a goal from Emile Smith-Rowe and a late penalty from Bukayo Saka. Chelsea pulled one back after Nketiah's opener thanks to Timo Werner, while Cesar Azpilicueta levelled Smith-Rowe's second for the Gunners, but Chelsea had no response as Arsenal sealed the win in the second half.

Miguel Almiron's 32nd-minute goal gave



Newcastle United a 1-0 win at home to Crystal Palace in a mid-table clash, while Richarlison's injury-time equaliser saved a vital point for Everton in a 1-1 draw at home to Leicester City. Leicester were the better team and had chances to seal the win after Harvey Barnes' fifth-minute opening goal, but Richarlison's late strike leaves Everton four points clear of third from bottom Burnley, who entertain Southampton later on Thursday.

Real Madrid move closer to title with win in Pamplona; Granada hold Atletico to draw

Madrid | Agencies

Real Madrid took another step toward winning the La Liga title this season with a 3-1 win away to Osasuna on Wednesday night.

Ante Budimir equalised a minute later after good work from Chimmy Avila, but Marcos Asensio restored Madrid's lead on the stroke of half-time after Herrera had saved Dani Ceballos' shot.

Madrid were given two penalties in the second half after fouls on Rodrygo, but Herrera saved both of them, although Lucas Vazquez assured the three points deep into injury time, Xinhua reports.

Atletico Madrid moved into second place with a 0-0 draw at home to Granada, who had Aitor Karanka in their dugout for the first time.

Atletico had plenty of chances but



only managed one shot on target in the entire game. Both Barca and

Sevilla will overtake Atletico with draws in their respective matches on

Thursday, while a point is not enough to lift Granada out of the bottom three.

Getafe took a big step towards ensuring another season in the top-flight with a 2-0 win away to Celta Vigo, thanks to two goals from Borja Mayoral, who hit the target in the 23rd and 51st minutes of the game.

Villarreal won their east-coast derby 2-0 at home to Valencia, while Betis' top-four hopes were dented by a 1-0 defeat at home to Elche, who have just about assured their survival in the top flight for another season.

Finally, Mallorca took an important 2-1 win at home to Alaves, who remain bottom of the table, six points from safety.

Barcelona play Real Sociedad later on Thursday, while Cadiz are at home to Athletic Club Bilbao and Levante face Sevilla.

Santosh Trophy

Manipur edge out Gujarat 2-0



Malappuram (Kerala) | Agencies

Manipur defeated Gujarat 2-0 in a Group B encounter at the 75th National Football Championship for the Santosh Trophy, here on Thursday.

In a tightly-contested first half, both teams

were unable to find their way but Manipur, after shocking the defending champions had suffered a setback with a loss to Odisha, set the tone for the game.

Manipur's right side was particularly productive as Singit and Somishon Shirak both constantly dropped dangerous balls into the

area but were unable to break the deadlock in the first half.

Manipur started the second half much like they ended the first, hogging the possession and passing neatly in midfield.

In the 48th minute, Jenish Singh played Sudhir Laitonjam through into the box on the

right. The winger was perfectly placed to deliver a cross for his forwards crowding the box. Instead, he chose to shoot, from a tight angle on goal. It required a shot of extreme quality to score, and he was still rising as it hit the top corner of the net. Manipur, finally, had the lead. From there on Manipur took complete control of the game, intent on ensuring they got all three points. They kept the pressure constantly on Gujarat, shifting flanks, and creating chances at regular intervals.

In the 67th minute, the pressure told, albeit in the most extraordinary way. An innocuous cross was cleared away by Gujarat's defence only to fall on the head of Shirak on the edge of the box. The forward headed the ball back into the box to no one in particular. Siddharth Nair messed up a routine clearance to instead volley the ball into his own goal and give Manipur a two-goal advantage.

Raikhan used that half-chance to impress upon his players the necessity for control. Manipur had played just well enough to deserve the points, but even then Gujarat were not prepared to go away easily. In the dying moments, from range, Nair, Avi Amin and Kanani had shots at goal, each missing by narrow margins as Manipur held on for the win. Gujarat, despite two brave and creditable performances, were left with no points to show for it.

Teammates, former players hail Kieron Pollard's contributions to world cricket



Mumbai | Agencies

Many contemporary cricketers including legend Sachin Tendulkar hailed the West Indies player Kieron Pollard for his contribution to world cricket.

In a 15-year-long illustrious career, Pollard represented West Indies in 123 ODIs and 101 T20Is, amassing 4275 runs across formats and picking 97 wickets. Pollard announced his retirement from international cricket on Wednesday.

Pollard walks away as one

of the most significant influencers of modern-day cricket -- no other West Indies men's cricketer has played more T20I matches than him and smashed the second-most sixes (234) in international cricket, only behind Chris Gayle's 553.

Cricketer icon Sachin Tendulkar termed the West Indian cricketer as a fighter and challenger with a terrific attitude on the field.

"A fighter and a challenger with a terrific attitude on the field! Congratulations Polly!!," he wrote on Twitter.

Jr men's academy nationals SIX-STAR DILRAJ GUIDES PUNJAB HOCKEY CLUB TO BIG WIN

Jamshedpur | Agencies

Top contenders RoundGlass Punjab Hockey Club Academy, Olympian Vivek Singh Hockey Academy and Markandeshwar Hockey Academy registered wins on the second day of the 2nd Hockey India Junior Men's Academy National Championship 2022 here on Thursday. In the first match of the day, RoundGlass Punjab Hockey Club Academy registered a massive 18-0 win over Dhyan Chand Hockey Academy in the Pool D fixture.

Dilraj Singh (14', 29', 35', 37', 38', 39') starred with as many as six goals, while Shivam Rana (44', 50', 55') registered a hat-trick for RoundGlass Punjab Hockey club Academy. Arshdeep Singh (27', 40') and Rajbeer Singh (33', 43') netted twice, while Savraj Singh (42'), Ujwal Singh (47'), Rajat Sharma (48'), Harmanjit Singh (56') and Lalpreet Singh (57') contributed a goal each for the winning team. In another Pool D match, Olympian Vivek Singh Hockey Academy beat HAR Hockey Academy 7-1. Jayhind Yadav (4', 43') and Ramchandra Yadav (39', 57') bagged a brace, while Suraj Yadav (12'), Vishal Kumar (19') and Avanish Singh (38') scored a goal each for Olympian Vivek Singh Hockey Academy.

IPL 2022

IN-FORM RAJASTHAN MEET CONFIDENT DELHI IN CLASH OF POWERPLAY SLAYERS

Mumbai | Agencies

On eight and six points respectively from six matches, an in-form Rajasthan Royals meet a confident Delhi Capitals in a clash of power-play slayers in match 34 of IPL 2022 at the Wankhede Stadium on Friday.

Coming into this match which was previously to be held at MCA Stadium in Pune till six Covid-19 cases in the Delhi camp forced a venue change, both Delhi and Rajasthan won their last matches at the Brabourne Stadium.

A win for Rajasthan could help them dislodge Gujarat Titans from the top of the table while a win for Delhi will take them into the upper half of the points tally provided their superior net run rate doesn't take a huge hit.

While the Rishabh Pant-led side produced an all-round show to thrash Punjab Kings by nine wickets, Rajasthan banked on Jos Buttler's century and Yuzvendra Chahal's five-fer, including a hat-trick, to upstage Kolkata Knight Riders by seven runs in a high-scoring thriller. All four wins of Rajasthan in IPL 2022 have come by batting first, completely going against the 'win toss and chase total' formula. With the bat, Buttler has been a major contributor, scoring centuries in two victories and is currently the leading run-scorer of the tournament with 375 runs coming at an average of 75.00 and strike rate of 156.90. Another chief contributor with the



bat has been Shimron Hetmyer, who's stepped up to do the finishing job with aplomb, scoring 223 runs at an average of 74.33 and strike-rate of 179.83. But Rajasthan know that they will need runs from batters beyond Buttler and Hetmyer, including captain Sanju Samson, to get the big runs. With the ball, Chahal being the leading wicket-taker with 17 wickets and Ravichandran Ashwin keeping the scoring rate tight from the other end despite taking just two wickets, has helped Rajasthan a lot. With Obed McCoy impressing at the end against Kolkata, it means that Rajasthan can put Trent Boult for new-ball duties in the first half of the innings on the bounce. On the other hand, Delhi showed incredi-

ble mental toughness to dish out impressive shows with bat and ball to end up on the winning side against Punjab. In Prithvi Shaw and David Warner, Delhi have the most dynamic opening pair in the tournament.

While Shaw has scored 217 runs in six matches at an average of 36.17 and strike rate of 170.86, Warner has notched up three fifties on the trot in amassing 191 runs in four matches at an average of 63.67 and strike rate of 152.80.

But what would concern Delhi would be the batting which comes after Shaw and Warner. Captain Rishabh Pant has played some cameos but hasn't been consistent with his stroke-play. Rowman Powell, their designated power-hitter, has scored just 31 runs in the tournament. Sarfaraz Khan needs to be given a consistent run to showcase his variety of shots.

In the bowling department, Delhi have been spot-on. Kuldeep Yadav has gained back his confidence and best self in Delhi, picking 13 wickets in six matches at an average of 14.30 and an economy rate of 7.85. In all of Delhi's wins, Kuldeep has picked the 'Player of the Match' award, boosting his confidence and game in a fresh IPL franchise setup. Lalit Yadav (four wickets) and Axar Patel (three wickets) have been supporting Kuldeep well with tight displays. In the pace department, lefties are ruling for Delhi as Khaleel Ahmed (10 wickets) and Mustafizur Rahman (four wickets) have applied the brakes on the opposition batters.



Aakanksha Singh RECALLS HER ACCIDENT WHILE SHOOTING

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Aakanksha Singh, who will be seen in the upcoming Ajay Devgn-starrer 'Runway 34', reveals how she was injured on the sets of the movie. Ajay along with Rakul Preet Singh, Aakanksha Singh and Angira Dhar will be appearing as celebrity guests on 'The Kapil Sharma Show'.

During a conversation with the host Kapil, Aakanksha recalls: "Post shoot, when I headed towards my vanity and stepped down to sit in my car, I was wearing normal slippers."

"The moment I was about to climb down the footpath, I twisted my foot. That's how I got a fracture which was nothing serious."

Ajay then adds how Big B, gifted his co-actor Aakanksha a buggy to travel across the set.

The upcoming thriller movie 'Runway 34' is directed and produced by Ajay Devgn. It features Ajay Devgn, Amitabh Bachchan, Boman Irani, Rakul Preet Singh, Angira Dhar, and Aakanksha Singh.



APARSHAKTI KHURRANA: IT'S THE BEST TIME TO BE A MULTIFACETED ARTISTE

Team Absolute | Mumbai

From acting in multiple projects like 'Dangal', 'Stree', 'Street Dancer', 'Helmet' to singing songs and appearing in music videos, the recent one being 'Balle Ni Balle', Aparshakti Khurrana is doing it all. He says he has no plan to slow down as it is the right time for an artiste to explore every avenue.

While his latest released music video 'Balle Ni Balle' is receiving a lot of love, the question naturally arises that being a Bollywood actor why he is doing music videos. In conversation with reporter, Aparshakti said, "I will do it all, my singing, acting, voice-over work, hosting and more. You see, earlier, the music video was one of the mediums for budding actors to find visibility. Now, things have changed completely. I love singing. In the music scene, I have friends. So when I sing a song, it's more like collaborating with a friend. Also I think, this is the best time to be a multifaceted artiste."

While he mentioned that he does not strategise his career but goes with the flow, asked if he has any priority set for his music career, Aparshakti said, "I think acting is my first love and acting put me on the map. So acting is my first love!"

Currently, the actor is occupied with his upcoming Vikramaditya Motwane's web show 'Stardust', films like 'Berlin', 'Dhokha' and 'Jab Khuli Kitab'.

While the experience of life is making him a mature artist, Aparshakti shared how fatherhood has changed him as an individual.



Chandni Sharma decodes her multilayered character in the show

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Actress Chandni Sharma, who essays the lead character of Akanksha in the show 'Kaamna', has been receiving praises for the way her character is evolving in the show.

Shedding light on her character transformation, she said: "Playing Akanksha has been one of the challenging experience because her character has seen a drastic transformation right from the start of the show. She is not a negative character rather she is just a woman with big dreams and is carried away by the worldly pleasures of life which makes her do things without thinking about the repercussion that comes along with it."

In the show, Akanksha is depicted as an ambitious woman who is right now fighting legal battle with her husband to get the custody of her son. Despite the fact her character is not completely grey, it has got negative shades as well. The actress asserted that she found herself fortunate to get a chance to essay multilayered character on-screen. "Even with so much going on, she is still this loving mother who really cares for her son and does everything possible to win him back. I may not agree to Akanksha's character all the time but I am glad to have got a chance to play a character with multiple layers because as actor its helping me understand different nuances of acting. Audience may find Akanksha's character unfair but if they are do so that means I am doing justice to my character and that makes me really happy," she added.

AYUSHMANN TO PLAY UNDERCOVER COP IN POLITICAL ACTION THRILLER

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Bollywood star Ayushmann Khurrana will be seen in the avatar of an undercover cop in the upcoming political action thriller 'Anek', directed by Anubhav Sinha. Although, he has earlier played a cop in 'Article 15', which too was incidentally directed by Anubhav, this will be the first time when he will be essaying such a character. While talking about his character in the film, Ayushmann said "This is the first time the audience will see me in this avatar. I have played a cop before but this is the first time they will see me going undercover. Joshua in Anek is street smart and intelligent." He further mentioned, "He knows his way around people and can fight

bad guys not only in a physical capacity but also with his great intellect. I was very pumped to try my hands at portraying Joshua as it gave me an opportunity to explore something I hadn't done before. I owe it to my audience to offer them new experiences with each film"

Sharing his approach for this character, he said, "As an undercover cop, Joshua has the perfect traits of a spy and I had to work on my physical and mental skills to portray that. Right from his observation skills to his ability to combat the enemy, the character's journey keeps one intrigued and gripped throughout. Also, the action sequences had to look real and raw to fit into the world of Anek and to portray what Anubhav had envisioned, I was inscribed with the right amount of guidance and training."

JERSEY: SHAHID KAPOOR STARRER IS A CAPTIVATING TALE OF HOPES, DREAMS AND LOVE

FILM REVIEW

BY AAKRUTI BAGLA

Directed by: Gowtam Tinnanuri

Cast:- Shahid Kapoor, Mrunal Thakur, Pankaj Kapur, Ronit Kamra, Prit Kamani

Duration:- 2h 50 min

Rating:- 3.5/5



Story: Shahid Kapoor and Mrunal Thakur starrer is a remake of a Telugu hit of the same name. The story begins with Kittu (Prit Kamani) narrating his father Arjun Talwar's (Shahid Kapoor) tale of making a comeback on the cricket ground in his mid 30's in order to prove himself and living up to his son's expectations who consider him as his hero. Arjun promises his son to get him a Jersey on his birthday but fails to do so due to financial instability. A celebrity cricketer quits playing cricket at the peak of his career. But why does he do so?

Will he be able to get the jersey? Will he make it to the team irrespective of his age? The questions will be in 2 hr 50 mins.

This film about the trails, tribulations, challenges, failures and the eventual success of Arjun Talwar is

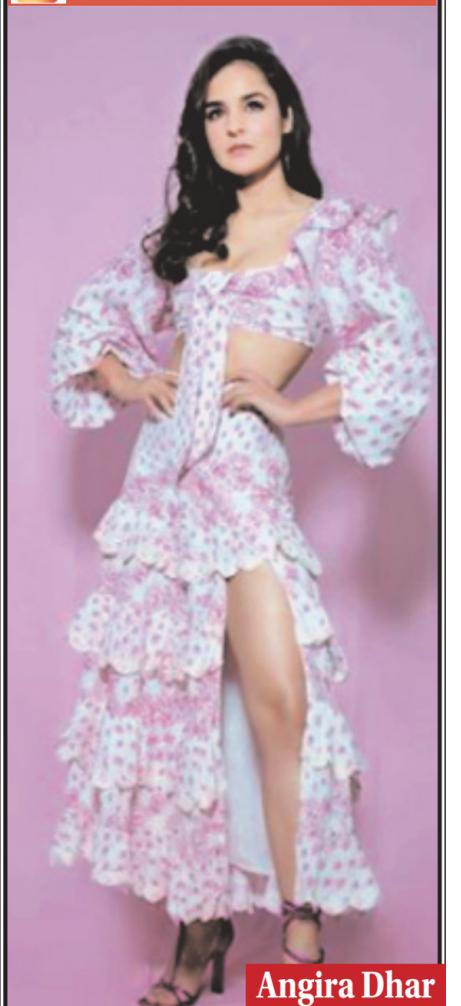
engaging and entertaining. It sheds light on hope, dreams and family love. **Performances:** Shahid Kapoor once again wins hearts with his outstanding performance as Arjun Talwar. The pain in his eyes when he feels helpless and the moment of joy when he is with his son are palpable. Not only this, he even pulls off cricket portions with panache.

Mrunal Thakur as Arjun's wife Vidya is the bread earner of the family who works hard to make ends meet. She have aced the role as the hero's wife act, who supports, shuns and loves him. Over the years Vidya and Arjun's relationship has meandered, but it's their son Kittu (Ronit Kamra) who is a ray of hope in their struggling life. The bond between kitu and Arjun is an absolute delight to watch. Pankaj Kapur as the mentor of Arjun, who motivates

him to come back and make him realize his potential is endearing.

Technical aspect: The film never becomes boring, due to its engaging narration. Just like Telugu version, Gowtam Tinnanuri's direction is captivating. The sports scenes are captured beautifully. Editing is fine, but it could have been a bit coherent during the first half. Apart from emotional and dramatic sequences, the film also has some entertaining moments. The background score works well with the scenes. Songs by Sachet Parampara do make it to the playlist. On the whole, Jersey is a realistic sports drama that promises a roller coaster ride of emotions. If you are an ardent cricket fan and go out to watch the film for that sake, it may be a bit disappointing. Also, if you have watched the Telugu version, the film might cease to excite you.

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Angira Dhar

SHARAD MALHOTRA: Content is king now, everything else comes later

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With so much varied content available on the tips of your fingers, it's important to make an impact in the first few minutes, says actor Sharad Malhotra.

The actor, who recently shot for his short film 'The Hindu Boy', in Kashmir says that short films and web series are the in thing now, but they need to hit the right chord with the audience for them to be loved, appreciated and garner views.

"Short films are a great way to vent out your creative juices. They are restricted to a certain budget, so not very heavy on the pocket too. Like I said, earlier you have those pent up emotions, out of the box ideas, you can make a short film, feel good about it and if lucky, you get to showcase it on a good platform and earn some bucks too." He adds: "Web series are the current flavour of the season. Thanks to the world going digital, everyone wants to watch something on their phone and if you crack it right, there is no looking back. I myself have been listening to some very exciting and mind boggling content for web.