

absolute india

VOL. 5, ISSUE 165, NEW DELHI | TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 2022 | ₹5 | PAGE 08

PUBLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM NEW DELHI, MUMBAI AND BHOPAL

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US BODY RECOMMENDS DESIGNATING INDIA OVER RELIGIOUS FREEDOM VIOLATIONS

STOP FANATICISM

A US watchdog has for the second year running recommended that the State Department should designate India as a "country of particular concern", a category it uses for countries whose governments engage in "systematic, ongoing, and egregious violations" of religious freedoms.

▶ THE US COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM (USCIRF) HAS RECOMMENDED THIS DESIGNATION FOR 15 COUNTRIES IN ITS ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2022 RELEASED ON MONDAY.

▶ TEN OF THEM WERE DECLARED COUNTRIES OF PARTICULAR CONCERN BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT IN 2021 -- MYANMAR, CHINA, ERITREA, IRAN, NORTH KOREA, PAKISTAN, RUSSIA, SAUDI ARABIA, TAJIKISTAN AND TURKMENISTAN. THE REST WERE AFGHANISTAN, INDIA, NIGERIA, SYRIA AND VIETNAM.

▶ THE USCIRF REPORT ALSO RECOMMENDED IN THE CASE OF INDIA THAT THE US SHOULD IMPOSE 'TARGETED SANCTIONS ON INDIVIDUALS AND ENTITIES RESPONSIBLE FOR SEVERE VIOLATIONS OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM BY FREEZING THOSE INDIVIDUALS' OR ENTITIES' ASSETS AND/OR BARRING THEIR ENTRY INTO THE UNITED STATES'.



Hindu-nationalist agenda -- that negatively affected Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Dalits, and other religious minorities. The government continued to systemise its ideological vision of a Hindu state at both the national and state levels through the use of both existing and new laws and structural changes hostile to the country's religious minorities.

The report added: "In 2021, the Indian government repressed critical voices -- especially religious minorities and those reporting on and advocating for them -- through harassment, investigation, detention, and prosecution under laws such as the

Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) and the Sedition Law."

The USCIRF describes itself as an independent, bipartisan US federal government agency created by the 1998 International Religious Freedom Act. It monitors the state of religious freedom around the world and makes policy recommendations to the president, secretary of state and congress. The USCIRF had made the same recommendation for India -- to be declared a country of particular concern -- in 2021 as well, but it was not accepted. The commission's recommendations are not binding on the US government or the Congress. The

State Department compiles its own international religious freedom report every year. "We are disheartened by the deterioration of freedom of religion or belief in some countries, especially Afghanistan under the Taliban's de facto government since August. Religious minorities have faced harassment, detention, and even death due to their faith or beliefs, and years of progress toward more equitable access to education and representation of women and girls have disappeared," USCIRF Chair Nadine Maenza said in a statement announcing the release of the 2022 report.

Yashwant Raj | Washington

In 2021, the report said in its key findings, "The Indian government escalated its promotion and enforcement of policies -- including those promoting a



RAJASTHAN, MP FACED 25 HEAT WAVE, SEVERE HEAT WAVE DAYS THIS SUMMER

The part I of the IPCC's (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) Sixth Assessment Report in October 2021 had warned that every additional 0.5 degrees Celsius of warming will increase hot weather extremes, along with extreme precipitation and drought. Heat waves in India are likely to "last 25 times longer by 2036-2065" if carbon emissions remain high and push global temperature rise to 4 degrees Celsius by the end of the century.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The early heat waves of 2022, that began on March 11, have impacted 15 Indian states and Union Territories, as of Sunday, with Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh suffering the most with 25 heat waves and severe heat wave days each during this period and also has had an adverse impact on the rabi crop. According to an analysis of India Meteorological Data (IMD) data by the Centre for Science & Environment (CSE) Down to Earth (DTE) on Monday, after Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, the hill state of Himachal Pradesh has been the most affected by heat waves this year with 21 heat wave and severe heat wave days.

Although CSE/DTE counted the heat wave period as single phase from March 11 to April 24, the IMD had held that the first spell was from March 11 to 21 and the second spell started on March 26 and ended between April 20-23 for large parts of India with isolat-

ed pockets still witnessing heat wave and severe heat wave conditions.

As per IMD definition, a heat wave is when the temperature of any place crosses 40 degrees Celsius in the plains, 37 degrees in coastal areas, and 30 degrees in the hills. It also declares a heat wave when a place registers maximum temperature that is 4.5 to 6.4 degrees Celsius more than the normal temperature for the area for that day; and it is a severe heat wave if this temperature is over 6.4 degrees. Another criterion used by the IMD to declare a heat wave is when temperature of a given place touches/crosses the 45 degrees Celsius mark and after 47 degrees Celsius, it is a severe heat wave.

The sea surface temperatures over east and central Pacific Ocean become cooler-than-average during La Nina. This affects the trade winds flowing over the ocean surface through changes in wind stress. The trade winds carry this weather disturbance elsewhere and affect large parts of the world.

TWO DEAD, 4 INJURED IN DELHI HOUSE COLLAPSE

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Two people died while four sustained injuries after a three-storey building collapsed in South West Delhi on Monday afternoon, a police official said.



According to the official, a PCR call was received at 1.25 p.m. at the South Campus police station regarding the collapse of an under construction building at Satya Niketan. "On reaching the spot, the building was found collapsed and six people were stuck inside as per the information given by one of their co-workers," Deputy Commissioner of Police (south-west) Manoj C said. At the same time the Fire Department had also received the call about the incident, after which six fire tenders were immediately pressed into service.

"Renovation work was in progress in the three-storey building when the incident took place," Delhi Fire Service chief Atul Garg told reporter.

One labourer, who was outside the building at the time of the incident, narrowly survived with injuries and was subsequently admitted to a hospital. A JCB crane was then deployed to clear the debris.

In a joint operation by the Delhi Police, the Delhi Fire Service and the National Disaster Response Force, five people who were trapped under the debris of the building were rescued and rushed to a hospital. Currently 4 people are under treatment and two have expired," the DCP informed. The rescue operation is now over.

Twitter 'inching closer' to finalise \$46.5 bn deal with Elon Musk

SAN FRANCISCO | Agencies

Despite internal disagreements, the Twitter board is reportedly inching towards finalising the hostile takeover deal worth \$46.5 billion made by Tesla CEO Elon Musk, and an announcement was expected as early as Monday (US time).



The Washington Post reported, citing people close to the matter, that Twitter is in discussions to "sell itself to Elon Musk" and could "finalise a deal as soon as this week".

"The two sides met Sunday to discuss Musk's proposal and were making progress, though still had issues to hash out, the people said. There is no guarantee they will reach a deal," the report said.

The New York Times also reported that Twitter's board is seriously considering Musk's offer to buy the company.

Musk's initial bid of about \$43 billion was seen as undervaluing

the company significantly.

The Tesla and SpaceX CEO last month further revealed his Twitter takeover plan that will see \$25.5 billion in loans and \$21 billion in personal equity -- taking the final bid to \$46.5 billion.

In a fresh filing with the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), Musk said that the funding is provided through two debt commitment letters from Morgan Stanley Senior Funding, in which the bank commits to offering a series of loans worth \$25.5 billion.

The remaining \$21 billion will be managed by Musk on his own.

The filing had made it clear that Twitter has not formally responded to Musk's offer.

The billionaire is willing to pay \$54.20 per share to buy 100 per cent of the company.

I&B MINISTRY BLOCKS 16 YOUTUBE NEWS CHANNELS FOR SPREADING DISINFORMATION

New Delhi: The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has blocked 16 YouTube news channels, including six Pakistan and ten India based channels having a cumulative viewership of over 68 crore, for spreading disinformation related to the country's national security, foreign relations and public order.

The ministry also blocked one Facebook account.

"It was observed that these channels were used to spread fake news over social media on matters related to national security, India's foreign relations, communal harmony in the country, and public order. None of the digital news publishers had furnished information to the Ministry as required under rule 18 of the IT Rules, 2021," the I&B ministry said. Utilizing the emergency powers under

the IT Rules, 2021, the Ministry vide two separate orders on April 22, issued directions for blocking of 16 YouTube based news channels and one Facebook account. The ministry noted that the content published by some of the India based YouTube channels referred to a community as terrorists, and incited hatred among the members of various religious communities. Such content was found to have the potential to create communal disharmony, and disturb public order. "YouTube channels based in Pakistan were found to have been used in a coordinated manner to post fake news about India on various subjects such as the Indian Army, Jammu and Kashmir, and India's foreign relations in the light of situation in Ukraine, etc," the ministry said.

'US wants to see a weakened Russia'

KIEV | Agencies

US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin has said that he hopes Russian losses in Ukraine will deter its leadership from repeating its actions elsewhere, BBC reported.

Ukraine can still win the war if given the right support, he added.

He also announced that the US would allocate an extra \$713 million of military aid to Ukraine and other European nations.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has accused the West of attempting to "split the Russian society and destroy Russia from within".

Austin, a retired four-star general, was speaking after meeting Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky in Kiev. Also involving Secretary of State Antony Blinken, the visit marked the highest-level trip to Ukraine by US officials since the invasion began over two months ago, BBC reported.



The meeting between the US and Ukrainian parties, which ran for over three hours, came as Russia escalates its military campaign in the south and east of the country.

At a news conference in Poland after the visit, Austin told reporters that the US wants to see "Russia weakened to the degree that it can't do the kinds of things that it has done by invading Ukraine".

INDIA'S MILITARY SPENDING 3RD HIGHEST IN THE WORLD: REPORT

▶ India is facing the threat of a two-front war -- from China and Pakistan. Since 2020, India has been engaged in border dispute at Line of Actual Control with China.

▶ The report also stated total global military expenditure has increased by 0.7 per cent in real terms in 2021, to reach \$2,113 billion.

▶ It stated that the five largest spenders in 2021 were the US, China, India, the UK and Russia, together accounting for 62 per cent of expenditure, according to new data on global military spending.

The report stated that India's military spending was up by 0.9 per cent from 2020 and by 33 per cent from 2012. In a push to strengthen the indigenous arms industry, 64 per cent of capital outlays in the military budget of 2021 were earmarked for acquisitions of domestically produced arms.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

India's military spending of \$76.6 billion ranked third highest in the world followed by the US and China, stated Sweden based think-tank -- Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) -- in its report published on Monday.

World military spending continued to grow in 2021, reaching an all-time high of \$2.1 trillion. This was the seventh consecutive year that spending increased.

As a result of a sharp economic recovery in 2021, the global military burden -- world military expenditure as a share of world gross domestic product (GDP), fell by 0.1 percentage points, from 2.3 per cent in 2020 to 2.2 per cent in 2021.

Meanwhile, the US military spend-



ing amounted to \$801 billion in 2021, a drop of 1.4 per cent from 2020. The US military burden decreased slightly from 3.7 per cent of GDP in 2020 to 3.5 per cent in 2021.

Russia increased its military expenditure by 2.9 per cent in 2021, to \$65.9

billion, at a time when it was building up its forces along the Ukrainian border. This was the third consecutive year of growth and Russia's military spending reached 4.1 per cent of GDP in 2021.

As it has strengthened its defences against Russia, Ukraine's military spending has risen by 72 per cent since the annexation of Crimea in 2014. Spending fell in 2021, to \$5.9 billion, but still accounted for 3.2 per cent of the country's GDP.

China, the world's second largest spender, allocated an estimated \$293 billion to its military in 2021, an increase of 4.7 per cent compared with 2020. China's military spending has grown for 27 consecutive years. The 2021 Chinese budget was the first under the 14th Five-Year Plan, which runs until 2025.



G-23'S AZAD, HOODA, TEWARI GET PLACE IN 'CHINTAN SHIVIR' COMMITTEES

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Congress has finally given space to 'G-23' leaders, like Ghulam Nabi Azad, Manish Tewari, Anand Sharma, Bhupinder Singh Hooda, and Mukul Wasnik in the committees formed to devise agenda for the party's 'Chintan Shivir' (brainstorming camp) to be held in Rajasthan next month.

Hooda, a former Haryana Chief Minister, will be heading the committee formed for the farmers which is going to be prime focus of the party in the upcoming elections, while Azad, a former Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, has been appointed a member in the political matters committee.

Former Union Ministers Sharma and Tewari will be members in the committee on economy, and Wasnik will be heading the committee on organisations. The foremost important committee on political matters will be headed by Mallikarjun Kharge,



the economic matters committee by P. Chidambaram, the committee on social justice will be headed by Salman Khurshid and that on youth and empowerment by new Punjab unit chief Amarinder Singh Raja



Warring, Former Rajasthan Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot has been given prominence by being appointed a member of the economic committee. The Congress on Monday said that it will hold a three-day brain-

storming session -- 'Nav Sankalp Shivir' -- in Udaipur from May 13 and the focus would be the 2024 elections.

"Congress President has decided to convene the Chintan Shivir of the Indian National Congress 'Nav Sankalp' in Udaipur on May 13th, 14th and May 15, 2022. About 400 Congressmen and women from every state will participate.

"The focus of the deliberations will be on the current political and economic situation and the challenges they pose to our society. Issues relating to the welfare and well-being of kisans, Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, OBCs, religious and linguistic minorities, women, social justice and empowerment and youth will also be discussed in detail. "In addition, matters relating to organisational restructuring and strengthening will also be examined," said the statement. The Chintan Shivir will also deliberate on the broad strategy of the party for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

For 2024 polls, BJP discusses plan to win 73,000 polling booths

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Preparing for the next general election in 2024, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has formed a four-member committee to draw up a strategy to win over 73,000 'weak' polling booths where the party has not performed well in the previous election.

The first meeting of the four-member committee was held on Monday in the national capital. The four members of the committee are BJP national vice presidents -- Bajajay Jay Panda and Dilip Ghosh, national general secretary C.T. Ravi and national president of SC morcha, Lal Singh Arya.

If required, more members will be included in the committee.

Ghosh told IANS that the BJP has failed to perform well in 73,000 booths out of 10.40 lakh polling booths across the country.

"Today four members of the 'Weak Booth Committee' met for the first time to draw the strategy to win these 73,000 polling booths in the next general election. The sole objective of this committee is to make party presence felt in the polling booth where it is weak. We discussed steps needed to take to win these polling booths. Our focus is to win these booths in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls," Ghosh said. The strategy drawn by the committee will be conveyed to the state unit and work-



ers will be trained to reach out to the voters with the party ideology and development agenda of BJP government at centre and states.

Ghosh noted that there are many factors for the party's poor show in these 73,000 polling booths across the country.

"Most of these booths are in the states where BJP is not in power like West Bengal and some southern states. Some of these booths are minority dominated. We will work to win people's support in these weak booths across the country before the next Lok Sabha polls and it will help in improving our performance," Ghosh added.

Old, incendiary object triggers bomb scare in south Delhi

Team Absolute | New Delhi

An old, corroded, and incendiary object found lying on a roadside in south Delhi briefly triggered panic in the area on Monday evening, police said.

"We received a call around 6 p.m. regarding a bomb being planted at Jhandu Park, Mohammadpur, RK Puram," a Fire Department official said, adding that one fire tender was immediately pressed into service.

Deputy Commissioner of Police, Southwest, Manoj C., however, told IANS that no explosives were found.



"It just seems like an old, corroded, incendiary object of a round shape," he said,

denying reports that a hand grenade was found from the spot. "We are still examining it," he said.

Meanwhile, the police personnel have cordoned off the area from where the object was recovered and a bomb disposal squad was called to examine it. "Necessary precautionary measures are being taken," the DCP said.

The latest incident comes in against the backdrop of improvised explosive devices being twice recovered in the national capital in January and February and investigation still underway in this regard.

TEJ PRATAP YADAV ANNOUNCES RESIGNATION FROM RJD

PATNA | Agencies

RJD leader Tej Pratap Yadav, who on Monday faced allegations of beating up a party youth leader, announced his resignation from the RJD after meeting his father and party's national President Lalu Prasad.

RJD youth leader Ramraj Yadav accused Lalu Prasad's elder son of beating him during Iftar party, held at the official residence of his mother and former Chief Minister Rabri Devi on Friday.

Tej Pratap Yadav claimed that he has always respected the members of the party, but accused a section of leaders of "conspiring" against him.

"I always walked on the path of our leader Lalu Prasad Yadav. RJD state President Jagadanand Singh, MLC Sunil Singh and (brother Tejeshwi Yadav's political advisor) Sanjay Singh conspired against me..." he said.

Ramraj Yadav, who is the RJD's Patna Youth Wing President, on Monday alleged that Tej Pratap Yadav and five of his aides held him captive in a room inside Rabri Devi's residence and



beat him mercilessly. They had also made a video clip of the incident. "I was looking after three pandals inside Rabri Devi's house on March 22 on the day of Dawat-e-Iftar when Tej Pratap Yadav came and asked me to follow inside a room in the residence. As soon as I went there, he started beating me. There were 5 more men present there. Tej Pratap asked me to take off my clothes and then he beat me in a completely naked stage. Moreover, one of the persons also made a video of the incident while Tej Pratap and others persons were beating me," he alleged.

According to the youth leader, Tej Pratap Yadav wanted him to work in his Chitra Janshakti Parishad, but was angry with him since his refusal.

Following the sensational allegation, Tej Pratap Yadav has uploaded an old photo of Ramraj Yadav and himself on Twitter.

Terming Ramraj Yadav "my younger brother and a strong member of RJD", he claimed that the youth leader levelled the allegations under the influence of a section of party leaders.

Don't buy gold from shops owned by Muslims: Hindu outfits in K'taka

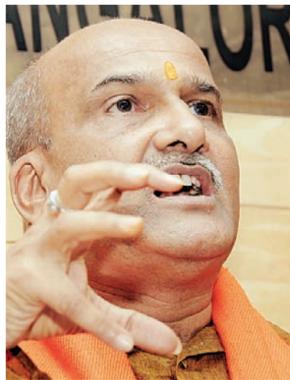
BENGALURU | Agencies

With Akshaya Tritiya round the corner, Hindu outfits in Karnataka have urged people not to purchase gold from jewellery shops owned by Muslims on the day of the festival.

Akshaya Tritiya is a Hindu festival which is believed to bring good luck, and people believe that buying gold on this day will turn their fortunes. The festival will be celebrated on May 3.

However, the auspicious occasion has been given a communal tone this time with Hindu outfits urging people not to make any purchase from jewellery shops owned by Muslims. Posts and messages to this effect have gone viral on social media.

Pramod Muthalik, founder of Sri Ram Sena, said on Monday that people should make purchases only from



shops owned by Hindus on Akshaya Tritiya.

"The money which you pay for gold jewellery at Muslim shops will reach organisations working against Hindus. The money will find its way to organisations based out of Kerala, where scores of Hindus have been killed by fundamentalist groups. Your money will help them commit more atrocities on Hindus in Kerala," he said.

T.A. Sharavana, the President of Karnataka Jewellers Association, said that the statements are being made to create unrest in the society.

"It should be left to the discretion of the customer to make purchase of their choice," he said.

According to sources, about 30 per cent of gold merchants in Karnataka are Muslims and in Bengaluru, 50 per cent of reputed gold jewellery shops are owned by Muslims. The shops have already started making attractive offers for the upcoming festival.

SC AGREES TO HEAR PLEAS CHALLENGING ABRIGATION OF ARTICLE 370 AFTER SUMMER VACATION

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday agreed to consider the listing of pleas challenging the abrogation of the provisions of Article 370, which gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir after its summer vacation. Senior advocate Shekhar Naphade, representing one of the petitioners in the matter, submitted before a bench, headed by Chief Justice N.V. Ramana and comprising Justice Hima Kohli, that matter needs urgent hearing against the backdrop of delimitation exercise being carried out in the Union Territory.

He said: "This is the Article 370 matter. The delimitation is also going on."

15 warships, subs carried out firing drills in western seaboard: Indian Navy

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Indian Navy on Monday says that it carried out weapon engagement and missile firing drills from 15 warships and submarines on the Western Seaboard recently.

It said that the multiple ordnance on target missions included participation of 15 warships and submarines and a large number of maritime patrol aircraft, integral helicopters, fighter aircraft, and remotely-piloted aircraft. The ships at sea were under the tactical command of Flag Officer Commanding, Western Fleet. The missile firings undertaken in mid April were focused on validating combat worthiness of various weapon systems deployed on the frontline units.

These included the potent Veer Class, Talwar Class and Brahmaputra Class warships carrying out anti-air engagements against high speed sea-skimming air targets in tactical scenarios. In another long range engagement, the Brahmaputra class ship sank the target -- a decommissioned naval warship --



with precision in a sea skimming profile. An underwater launched missile successfully hit its target at maximum range, proving the lethality and versatility of the Indian submarines.

Hijab Ban: 6 K'taka students return without writing Class 12 exams



YADGIR (KARNATAKA) | Agencies

Refusing to take off their hijab, six students in Karnataka's Yadgir district returned home without writing their Class 12 exams on Monday.

The incident took place at the Government Pre-University College in Yadgir.

The girl students, who had come to write their economics exam, insisted with the authorities to let them write the paper wearing hijab. After their request was turned down, the students walked out from the examination centre, refusing to take off their hijab. The crucial Class 12 exams are being conducted peacefully across the state.

The students, especially the Muslim girls, are following the uniform rules and writing their papers without wearing hijab.

As many as 68,84,255 students have enrolled for the board exams, which began on April 22 amid tight security in the backdrop of the hijab row.

The special bench of the Karnataka High Court had earlier dismissed the petitions seeking to allow students to attend classes wearing hijab. It also mentioned that wearing hijab is not an essential part of Islam.

Following the court order, the Karnataka government banned hijab in classrooms and announced that hijab-clad students and teachers will not be allowed inside the examination centres.

Aliya Assadi, one of the petitioners, took to Twitter to

slam the decision to ban entry of hijab-clad students.

"Again and again we face disappointment! BJP MLA Raghupathy Bhat had threatened us with criminal cases against us if we go to attend exams tomorrow. What is the crime here? Where is our country headed to," she had questioned. On April 22, Assadi and Resham Farooq tried to enter the examination centre in Udipi clad in hijab. BJP MLA Raghupathy Bhat had lashed out at them for 'disturbing' other students, saying they were just trying to create a scene before the media.

Bhat had also warned that if the students repeat their act, they should be charged with a criminal case for contempt of court.

CONFUSION IN JAHANGIRPURI OVER FEARS OF ANOTHER DEMOLITION



New Delhi: There was brief confusion in the national capital's Jahangirpuri area on Monday over the fear of more demolitions after one JCB was noticed in the Azad Chowk area there, an official said. Deputy Commissioner of Police (northwest) Usha Rangnani said at around 12.30 p.m., a police vehicle noticed a JCB at Azad Chowk, Shah Alam Bandh road in Jahangirpuri, removing the boundary grill around the statue of freedom fighter Chandrashekhar Azad. Seeing it, some people gathered there under the impression that the statue of Azad was being removed. "Immediately, the work of removing the grill was stopped. On enquiry it was found that work was started to install a high mast National Flag by Executive Engineer, SWR-I, PWD on the directions of local AAP MLA Pawan Sharma," DCP Rangnani said, adding that no damage was caused to the statue.

TN teacher's YouTube maths videos a hit among students

► THE YOUTUBE VIDEOS OF A TAMIL NADU GOVERNMENT SCHOOL MATHEMATICS TEACHER, TAMIL SELVAN HAVE BECOME A MAJOR HIT AMONG STUDENTS OF CLASSES X, XI AND XII.

CHENNAI | Agencies

Students who are stuck with problems in mathematics avail of the YouTube videos of Tamil Selvan and find solutions.

The maths teacher told reporter, "I am a postgraduate in mathematics and have been teaching in government school, Kalapatti. After my school hours, I teach the concepts of maths interactively in the Tamil language in YouTube videos."

He said that earlier it was tough for him to explain the concepts during the lockdown period in the online mode, but when he commenced uploading videos on YouTube, things became easier.

Sukanya, a class XI student of the Kalapatti school, told IANS, "The YouTube videos are awesome. They are in Tamil language and the concepts are explained in detail by Tamil Selvan Sir. Whenever I get doubts, I refer to YouTube and get answers. This



revision exam I got 92 percent in mathematics, thanks to him."

The teacher said that his YouTube videos have more than 13000 subscribers and students from all schools are viewing his videos. He clarified that he has not monetized the videos and he was clear that this was only a service to the student community and not for monetary purposes.

Tamil Selvan said, "I have uploaded more than 300 videos and students have commented to me that this is very helpful to them. I am thankful that the students are getting hold of the concepts of mathematics through my YouTube videos."

He said that he would be uploading

more than 1150 videos on the concepts and mathematical problems in the days to come and will try to reach out to more students across the state.

K. R. Kannan, a senior officer with the education department, told reporter, "The initiative is excellent and Tamil Selvan explaining mathematics in the Tamil language will help students understand the concepts well. The 13000 subscriber base is indeed clear proof that his YouTube videos have become a hit among the students. The department is contemplating supporting him and other teachers who can provide support to students in other subjects also in a simple manner."



NATURAL FARMING MUST BE ADOPTED TO KEEP THE EARTH FIT FOR FOOD PRODUCTION: CM

Rs 900 per month will be provided for rearing indigenous cow for natural farming. 75 percent assistance on purchase of natural farming kits. Madhya Pradesh Natural Agriculture Development Board constituted in the state. CM Chouhan virtually participates in National Workshop on Innovative Agriculture organized by NITI Aayog



Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that the use of chemical fertilizers in the Green Revolution has fulfilled the shortage of food grains, but now its fatal consequences are coming to the fore. Due to the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, the surface of the earth is becoming hard and prone to human diseases. There is a need to control its use, which is possible only through natural farming. Prime

Minister Narendra Modi's vision of natural farming is the vision of conservation of the earth. His call is our mantra. To save Mother Earth from chemical fertilizers and pesticides and to keep it fit for habitation and food production for the coming generations, natural farming must be adopted. Prakritik Krishi Vikas Board (Natural Agriculture Development Board) has been constituted in Madhya Pradesh to encourage natural farming. The state government is taking several steps to create an environment up to the village level to adopt natural farming and help farmers in this.

Chief Minister Chouhan took part virtually in the National Workshop on Innovative Agriculture organized by NITI Aayog from Mantralaya. Governor of Gujarat, S Acharya Devvrat addressed the national workshop held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi in the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. The first session of the workshop was chaired by Dr. Ravi Kumar, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog. Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan along with Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy also gave their views virtually

in the first technical session on natural farming in the states.

Chouhan said that there are 52 districts in Madhya Pradesh. Initially, special activities will be conducted to encourage natural farming in 100 villages of each district. With the current Kharif crop, natural farming activities will start in 5,200 villages of the state. Workshops will be organized in the state to create an environment. A state level workshop will be organized for the officers of the departments related to agriculture in the month of May, under the guidance of the Governor of Gujarat, Acharya Devvrat. So far, 1 lakh 65 thousand farmers of the state have shown interest in natural farming. Natural farming will be done on both sides of Narmada river. Chief Minister Chouhan said that just as farmers were provided subsidy on chemical fertilizers and other assistance for green revolution, similarly, it is necessary to encourage farmers to adopt natural farming and provide them assistance. Indigenous cow is essential for natural farming. Only from the indigenous cow can Jeevanmrit and Dhanjeevanmrit be made. Chouhan said that farmers adopting natural farming would

be provided Rs.900 per month i.e. Rs.10 thousand 800 per year for rearing indigenous cows. Along with this, 75 percent amount will be provided by the government to the farmers for taking natural farming kits. Services of 5 full time workers will be provided in each block to guide in natural farming. Also a Kisan Mitra and Kisan Didi will be provided in each village, who will act as master trainers for natural farming. Honorarium will also be given to the workers and master trainer.

Chief Minister Chouhan said that he himself will start natural farming in 5 acres of his own land to bring the concept of natural farming into practice. Along with this, all the members of the State Cabinet and the farmers of the state have been appealed to adopt natural farming in some areas out of their cultivable land. This will motivate the farmers of the area and seeing the positive results of natural farming, other farmers will also adopt natural farming. Madhya Pradesh is suitable from the point of view of natural farming, traditionally chemical fertilizers are not used here in the tribal dominated area of 17 lakh hectares.

CORONA SITUATION NORMAL IN THE STATE: CHIEF MINISTER

Not a Single Case of Corona in 48 out of 52 Districts. Chief Minister Reviewed the Situation of Corona



Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that there is not a single case of Corona in 48 out of 52 districts of the state. Bhopal, Chhatarpur, Gwalior and Morena have only one positive case each. Cent percent vaccination of eligible children in the state should be ensured. Chief Minister Chouhan was addressing the review meeting of Corona at Mantralaya. Medical Education Minister Vishwas Sarang, Public Health and Family Welfare

Minister Dr. Prabhuram Choudhary, Chief Secretary Iqbal Singh Bains, Additional Chief Secretary Health Mohammad Suleman and officials of Health Department were present.

Chief Minister Chouhan said that the states of North India, which have comparatively more cases, should be monitored and people should be aware and alert. In the meeting, a presentation was given about the global situation of Covid and the status of infection in other states of the country.

CM Chouhan Planted Karanj and Cassia Saplings in Smart City Garden



Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted saplings in Smart City Garden along with Tribal Advisory Cell Chairman Deepak Khandekar. Chief Minister Chouhan planted

saplings of Karanj and Cassia. Megha Shrivastava, Reena Shrivastava, Deepika Malviya and Dilip Malviya of Dance Zone Academy affiliated to CPSD Foundation also planted saplings. The foundation encourages people to plant saplings and take care of

them by presenting saplings on their birthdays. The foundation has also worked in the field of making citizens aware of cleanliness. The foundation also provides necessary support to the children of economically weaker sections in their studies.

Chief Minister Chouhan Took an Emergency Meeting on Smooth Drinking Water Supply

Gave Instructions to the Departments of Rural Development, Urban Development, PHE and Water Resources to Make Coordinated Plan for Drinking Water Supply

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan called an emergency meeting at the residence office at 6:30 am regarding smooth drinking water supply during the summer season in the state. In the meeting, Additional Chief Secretary PHE Malay Shrivastava, Managing Director of Jal Nigam Tejasvi S Nayak, Commissioner Bhopal Gulshan Bamra, Chief Engineer K.K. Songariya and other senior officers were present. Chief Minister Chouhan expressed concern about the drinking water situation in the state.

Chief Minister Chouhan instructed for smooth supply of drinking water and non-potable water and said that problems and gaps like water not filling in the tanks due to low pressure and electricity should be identified and resolved immediately. A system of quick coordination should be established in relation to power supply.



The availability of water should be ensured by providing hand pumps where needed and transporting water where water is required. The use of as much infrastructure as has been created for water supply should be ensured. The shortage of staff should be removed by outsourcing and making other necessary arrangements for the staff. Chief Minister Chouhan said that the officers should not only show the good condition of the field level, but also give information about the problems. It is our responsibility as well as religion to solve the problems and find a solution by doing necessary coordination. Chief Minister Chouhan said

that he should be informed immediately about whatever problems are being faced up to the village level in the supply of basic necessities like drinking water and whatever gaps there are, I should be informed about the real time situation. Chief Minister Chouhan said that information about water problem is being received from the entire state. It is our duty to give relief to the people. Officers should go from village to village, see the problem and work to solve it and tell the solution to the people. The staff engaged in the arrangement of water supply at the field level should be made aware of their responsibilities. Chief Minister Chouhan directed

the officers to immediately hold a meeting of the state level staff. Chief Minister Chouhan said that it is upsetting to see the problems of the people over basic necessities. By sitting on these posts related to the basic needs and expectations of the public, if there is no keen desire to solve the problems, then we are not fulfilling the responsibility of the public servant. The staff available with the state government can do a better job. The potential of the employees should be fully utilized. Employees, officers should also be emotionally motivated to provide basic necessities like drinking water to the public.

AGRICULTURE COOPERATIVES WILL BE COMPUTERIZED IN MP

Team Absolute | Betul | Bhopal

The economic disturbances in the primary agricultural credit cooperative societies in Madhya Pradesh are not hidden from anyone. To prevent these, preparations are on to computerize all the primary agricultural credit cooperative societies. State Cooperative Minister Arvind Bhadauria, while accepting the economic disturbances in the agricultural credit committees during the Betul stay, clearly said in the meeting

of the officers that these committees would be computerized. Strict action should be taken in the cooperative societies in which cases of economic disturbances.

Betul Collector Amanbir Singh Bains suggested that the cooperative societies in the district from which the distance of the villages is more than 20 km and farmers face inconvenience in reaching these societies, there should be re-delimitation and the work area of the societies should be made as per the convenience of the farmers.

POLITICAL BETS ON LOUDSPEAKER NOISE IN MADHYA PRADESH

Team Absolute | Bhopal

After the restrictions on the use of loudspeakers in Uttar Pradesh, political bets have started on loudspeakers in Madhya Pradesh. There is no one in support of loudspeaker noise, but everyone's style is different regarding the ban on noise because in this also the people of political parties are seeing political gains and losses. In the last few days, there has been a situation of communal tension in many areas in the state and in the meantime the debate on loudspeaker has also intensified. Former Chief Minister Uma Bharti and former national president of Bajrang Dal Jai Bhan Singh Pawaiya have openly demanded a ban on loudspeakers on the lines of Uttar Pradesh.

After the statements of two big leaders, this process is moving forward rapidly. Bhopal MP Pragna Thakur says that people who are Sanatani worship and do spiritual practice,



but do not disturb anyone and do not give trouble to anyone, but in the worship method, if someone is harmed or with a conspiracy. It

does this process with the intention of doing work, it is dishonest, impure and conspiracy, it is absolutely wrong.

On the other hand, BJP state president Vishnu Dutt Sharma believes that a decision should be taken on a subject like loudspeaker with mutual consent. It is not necessary to make laws for everything. Some work can also be done with mutual consent and understanding. What is the need of the society and what is not should be considered.

While BJP leaders directly and indirectly talked about the ban on loudspeakers, the same former Chief Minister Digvijay Singh's brother and MLA Laxman Singh is also in favor of the ban. They say that banning loudspeakers will be a good decision, there will be no riots, the public will get relief, neither Ram is dead nor Allah. What would some fools tell and teach to the powers that maintain the world?

Political bets continue on the noise of loudspeakers in the state, but both the ruling party and the opposition are raising their voice against the noise of loudspeakers.

Provide certificate that no house has 2 power connections in rural areas by May 31

HAVE BECOME CHIEF MINISTER ONLY TO SUPPORT IN CRISIS RELIEF OF 30 THOUSAND RUPEES PER HECTARE WILL BE GIVEN FOR MORE THAN 50 PERCENT CROP LOSS

Team Absolute | Bhopal

He said that discussions have been held with Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan to expand the organizational structure of power companies. A decision will be taken on this soon.

Reward or punishment should be given on the basis of tripping after maintenance work

Tomar said that records should be maintained of monitoring and inspection of

maintenance works of power lines and transformers. The power workers should be rewarded and punished after analyzing the tripping that occurs after the maintenance work.

Energy Minister Tomar said that wide publicity should be given to 'Chief Minister Bill Relief Scheme-2022' and certificates should be distributed to eligible consumers. The certificates can be distributed from door-to-door to the beneficiaries.

IMRAN MARRIED A HINDU GIRL IN GWALIOR POSING AS RAJU

Team Absolute | Gwalior

A case of love jihad has come to the fore in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh. Here a young man named Imran married a Hindu girl and later got her converted. Along with this, many others including Maulana made him a victim of their lust. Police registered a case against five people and arrested two. The case is of last year, when a young man named Imran of Dabra, by telling his name as Raju Jatav, trapped a Hindu girl in his trap. The victim girl told the women police of Dabra about the deceit and harassment she had faced with her.

The girl has told the police that she is a resident of Navagraha Colony Gol Pahadia area of Gwalior. She met Raju Jatav on January 1, 2021. Raju had told himself to be a resident of Dabra. After that one day Raju took her to Dabra, where by mixing intoxicants in a cold drink, she did wrong things with her. She got pregnant. On this, Raju's mother convinced her to get an abortion and assured them of mar-



riage. The girl told the police that both were married according to Hindu rituals at the Sheeta Mata temple and on the same night gave a party at a hotel located in the city centre. On going home, he came to know that Raju is not a Hindu but a Muslim and his name is Imran. After this, Maulana was called and converted to Islam and the marriage was performed. After getting married, Maulana raped her after getting the chance. His two brothers-in-law also did wrong things to him. Not only this, there was constant harassment in the house. For about six months, they were treated like animals by making them hostage in the house. One day after getting a chance, the girl managed to escape from the house.

Superintendent of Police Amit Sanghi told reporters that on the complaint of the girl, a case has been registered against five people. Dabra police have also arrested two accused.



EDITOR'S SPECS

TMC to be new opposition in UP!

The Trinamool Congress is quietly stepping into the opposition space in Uttar Pradesh. After campaigning for Samajwadi Party in the recent Assembly elections, the Trinamool is apparently eyeing a bigger role in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. A Trinamool delegation will be visiting Prayagraj on Sunday where a family of five was found murdered on Saturday. This is the first party from outside the state to visit the site of crime. The Samajwadi Party (SP), which is the main opposition force in Uttar Pradesh, has not gone beyond condemning the incident in a press statement. SP MLA Shivpal Singh Yadav, however, did visit the family of the deceased on Saturday but said that he had come in his 'personal capacity'. The TMC delegation's Lalitesh Tripathi, who joined the Trinamool after quitting the Congress, said that the Prayagraj murders were 'shocking' because they come days after another family of five was murdered in the city. Sources said that Trinamool had decided to play a more proactive role as an opposition party in Uttar Pradesh and will take on the Yogi government head on. It may be recalled that five members of a family were killed with sharp-edged weapons in the Khevrajpur village in Prayagraj. This is the second such case reported in the state in one week. Last Saturday, the bodies of five members of a family were found inside their house in Prayagraj. The bodies of the woman and three daughters were found with their throats slit open, while the man was found hanging from a noose. The Prayagraj incidents come days after the BJP sent similar teams to Bogtui in Birbhum district where nine people were burnt alive, and to Hanskhali in Nadia district where a minor girl died after she was allegedly gang-raped.

COVID KNOCKS AGAIN: PROACTIVE INDIVIDUAL APPROACH MIGHT KNOCK IT OUT

Pavan Kaushik

It was April 2021 when I was also found to be infected with Covid, after a first dose of vaccine. My oxygen levels were fluctuating and fever was now coming down. It was a panic situation for me as well as my family. I don't know for how many hours I had to lie on my stomach to bring back my oxygen levels and how many medicines I had to take to be alive. I don't remember how many times I drank the Ayush Kadha and had everything that the doctors suggested.

I recovered but lost my father in the next 15 days. Not everyone could sense what the coronavirus had in store. Some knew the risk and some took the risk in spite of knowing.

We had believed that Covid has become matter of past and here the intruder comes knocking back again. Slowly and steadily it is spreading the venom and one by one nations have started having cases, and the cases are increasing

alarmingly. Swift action by the Delhi government and now by Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) to make wearing masks compulsory is a proactive approach and also a reminder of what can be in store in coming days. It is time corporate sector should make wearing masks compulsory for all its employees, before the situation becomes out of control and work-from-home again becomes a reality.

Proactive approach is the only option that we have or is it that we have another body to live in. It is also a reminder to our daily routine that is exhausted, full of stress and anxiety, and has no space for a breather or yoga. We believe in medication rather than meditation. We believe there is medicine for every health problem and have forgotten what the havoc the virus had created just about two years back retired money or references. Have we forgotten how desperately we were searching for oxygen cylinders to save our beloved people?

When Covid knocked each and every country in 2019-20, the best of the developed countries were neither prepared nor equipped to handle such mass spread of the deadly virus. We experimented, we learnt and we decided to go step-by-step. But, before we could actually bring forward a decisive cure, which we still don't have, the damage was already done. Many families lost their loved ones in just few days. Nothing helped, even the prayers went in vain. Many who some-how recovered are still struggling with the respiratory infections. Many still don't know what is in store for the future. The Centre should take immediate precautionary steps, not to panic people, but to make people responsible. Wearing masks and getting administered compulsory booster dose of vaccine should be the immediate first step and the second step should be imposing ban on public gathering with immediate effect.

Right from a small shop-keeper to large corporates, the agenda for the



next three months should be to make all workers and employees adhere to all guidelines, issued by state and Central governments time to time.

Above all, the key would be how we as citizens respond to Covid now. We need to become responsible and administer zero tolerance towards Covid precautions. No excuses and no fault findings. Healthy life is better than having

health issues. Building immune system systematically is better than taking medicines. Visiting doctor might be of help, but administering strict discipline and guidelines would benefit more.

The choices are not much. Let us knock Covid out, before it knocks us and our economy out.

(Pavan Kaushik is a Communicator, Storyteller and Writer)

ONLY 1 IN 4 HOSPITALISED COVID PATIENTS FEEL FULLY RECOVERED AFTER A YEAR: STUDY

One year after having Covid-19, only around one in four patients, who were hospitalised, felt fully well again, says a new study. The study, published in The Lancet Respiratory Medicine, found that being female versus being male (32 per cent less likely), having obesity (half as likely) and having had mechanical ventilation in a hospital (58 per cent less likely) were all associated with a lower probability of feeling fully recovered at one year.

"We found female sex and obesity were major risk factors for not recovering at 1 year," said researcher Rachael Evans from the University of Leicester in the UK.

"In our clusters, female sex and obesity were also associated with more severe ongoing health impairments including reduced exercise performance and health-related quality of life at 1 year, potentially highlighting a group that might need higher intensity interventions such as supervised rehabilitation," Evans added.



The most common ongoing long-Covid symptoms were fatigue, muscle pain, physically slowing down, poor sleep, and breathlessness.

For the study, the team used data from the post-hospitalisation Covid-19 (PHOSP-

COVID) study which assessed adults who had been hospitalised with Covid-19 across the UK and subsequently discharged.

A total of 2,320 participants discharged from the hospital between March 7, 2020, and April 18, 2021, were assessed five months after discharge and 807 (33 per cent) participants completed both the five-month and one-year visits at the time of analysis (and the study is ongoing).

These 807 patients had a mean age of 59 years, 279 (36 per cent) were women and 28 per cent received invasive mechanical ventilation.

The proportion of patients reporting full recovery was similar between 5 months (501 (26 per cent) of 1965) and 1

year (232 (29 per cent) of 804).

In an earlier publication from this study, the authors had identified four groups or 'clusters' of symptom severity at five months, which were confirmed by this new study at one year. Of the 2,320 participants, 1,636 had sufficient data to allocate them to a cluster: 319 (20 per cent) had very severe physical and mental health impairment, 493 (30 per cent) had severe physical and mental health impairment, 179 (11 per cent) moderate physical health impairment with cognitive impairment, and 645 (39 per cent) mild mental and physical health impairment.

Having obesity, reduced exercise capacity, a greater number of symptoms, and increased levels of the inflammatory biomarker C-reactive protein were associated with the more severe clusters.

international

Congo sees another Ebola outbreak

Kinshasa | Agencies

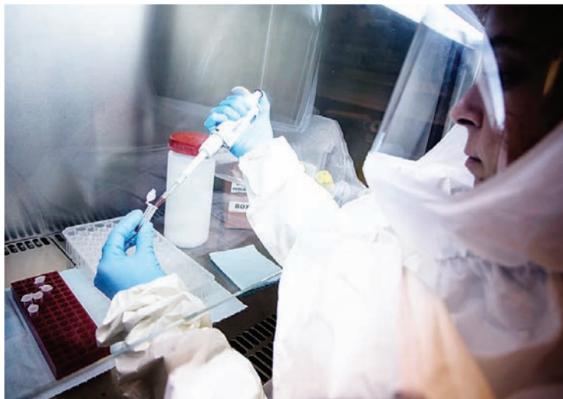
After a patient died of Ebola, the health authorities in the Democratic Republic of Congo have declared an outbreak of the deadly disease - the sixth since the last outbreak in 2018.

So far, just one case has been confirmed, the World Health Organisation (WHO) said in a statement.

The patient, a 31-year-old man from Mbandaka, a city in the north-western Equateur Province, began experiencing symptoms on April 5 and after more than a week of care at home, sought treatment at a local health facility. On April 21, the patient was admitted to an Ebola treatment centre for intensive care but died later that day.

Having recognised the symptoms, health workers immediately submitted samples to test for Ebola virus disease. Investigations to determine the source of the outbreak are ongoing, the global health agency said.

"Time is not on our side," said Dr



Matshidiso Moeti, the World Health Organisation (WHO) Regional Director for Africa, in the statement.

"The disease has had a two-week head start and we are now playing catch-up. The positive news is that health authorities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo have more

experience than anyone else in the world at controlling Ebola outbreaks quickly," Moeti added.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo is experiencing its fourteenth Ebola outbreaks since 1976. The current outbreak is the sixth since 2018 alone - the most frequent occurrence

in the country's Ebola history. Previous outbreaks in Equateur Province were in 2020 and 2018, with 130 and 54 recorded cases respectively. All efforts to stem the current outbreak - including testing and tracing anyone who came in contact with the patient. The country, which already has stockpiles of the rVSV-ZEBOV Ebola vaccine, will also soon start administering the shots through ring vaccination strategy -- where contacts and contacts of contacts are vaccinated to curb the spread of the virus and protect lives. "Many people in Mbandaka are already vaccinated against Ebola, which should help reduce the impact of the disease," said Dr Moeti. "All those who were vaccinated during the 2020 outbreak will be revaccinated." Ebola is a severe, often fatal illness affecting humans and other primates. Case fatality rates have varied from 25-90 per cent in past outbreaks. There is, however, effective treatment available and if patients receive treatment early, as well as supportive care, their chances of survival improves significantly.

BORIS JOHNSON BATTLES TO FEND OFF SEXISM ROW

London | Agencies

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's "basic instinct" is under a scanner as a new, full-blown sexism controversy enveloped the United Kingdom's parliament.

A sensational piece in the right-wing Mail on Sunday newspaper headlined: "Tories (Conservative party members) accuse Angela Rayner (Deputy Leader of the Opposition Labour party) of Basic Instinct ploy to distract Boris" - a reference to the steamy 1992 film starring Sharon Stone. It further captioned: "MPs claim Labour deputy leader likes to put PM 'off his stride' by crossing and uncrossing her legs at PMQs (prime minister's questions in the House of Commons)".

The paper quoted a spokesman for Rayner, 41, as saying the suggestion was "categorically untrue". She does wear short skirts while sitting on the front bench next to the Labour leader, Sir Keir Starmer during PMQs, but this is generally considered in the western world today as smart rather than sexy dressing. Johnson contacted Rayner on Sunday to convey that he considered claims about her misogynistic. Referring to the newspaper article, he tweeted: "As much as I disagree with Angela Rayner on almost every political issue, I respect her as a parliamentarian and deplore the misogyny directed at her anonymously



today." On Monday, The Guardian daily reported: "Johnson is also understood to have written directly to Rayner. The contents of the letter have not been shared, except for one quote reported by the Telegraph (a pro-Johnson broadsheet) that stated: 'The comments were not in my name'." On BBC Radio, the shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer Rachel Reeves said: "I am sick and tired of the way that female MPs and women are treated in parliament." She described the incident as an "outrageous slur on Angela". Thereafter appearing on the TV programme BBC Breakfast, she added: "She (Rayner) doesn't need to use her sex to win an argument or put the Prime Minister off, or whatever was suggested in that article. She does it by the strength of her argument."

ISRAEL STRIKES LEBANON FOLLOWING ROCKET ATTACK



Tel Aviv: The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) said Monday that the military fired artillery into Lebanon after a rocket hit the Jewish state.

"In response to the projectile launched from Lebanon into northern (Israel), IDF Artillery forces are currently targeting the source of the launch in Lebanon," the Forces said in a tweet. The projectile launched from Lebanon fell overnight in an open field near a Kibbutz community in northern Israel, with no damage or injuries reported, reports Xinhua news agency. No group has claimed responsibility yet. IDF spokesman Ran Kochav told Kan Reshet Bet Radio that Palestinian groups likely fired the rocket. The incident came amid rising tensions over clashes at the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound in East Jerusalem.

TOP US OFFICIALS MEET ZELENSKY IN KIEV

Kiev | Agencies

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin met Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in Kiev, marking the first visit by top American officials to the war-torn nation since Russia began its invasion on February 24.

Zelensky on Monday put out several pictures on Instagram, in which he said that the "visit of a delegation of high-ranking US officials to Kiev at this crucial moment for the Ukrainian state is very valuable and important".

The visit on Sunday came unannounced and the US government is yet to make an official statement on it.

The President added that he discussed with Blinken and Austin about "defense assistance, strengthening sanctions against Russia, financial



support for Ukraine and security guarantees".

A CNN report said that Blinken and Austin also met Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba, Defence Minister Oleksiy Reznikov, and Interior Minister Denys Monastyrsky.

Citing a senior State Department official, the report said that Blinken told Zelensky about the return of American diplomats to Ukraine.

According to the official, the diplomats will "start with day trips into Lviv" and "graduate to potentially other parts of the country and ultimately, resume (their) presence in Kiev". Blinken added that President Joe Biden will nominate Bridget Brink, the current American envoy to Slovakia, as the US Ambassador to Ukraine, CNN quoted the official as saying.

TALIBAN SHIFTING TERRORISTS AWAY FROM BORDER AFTER PAK WARNING

Islamabad | Agencies

The Taliban-led government in Afghanistan has started taking steps to shift terrorist groups away from the regions along the country's border with Pakistan to other parts after a series of recent attacks drew strong reaction from Islamabad.

Officials familiar with the development told The Express Tribune on Sunday that Pakistan after recent spate of cross-border terrorist attacks conveyed to the Afghan Taliban in clear terms to take action against terrorist groups or face the consequences. In response to Islamabad's strong message, the Taliban have decided to persuade the banned terror outfit Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and its affiliates to move from border regions to other areas of Afghanistan.

"Some of the groups have already been moved out of our border regions," said a senior Pakistani official, who deals with the issue. Pakistan, the official said, though doesn't agree with the approach but accept the Taliban's decision to at least to stop immediate cross-border terrorist attacks.



Oil depot on fire in Russian city near Ukraine border

Moscow | Agencies

A fire broke out on Monday at an oil depot in Bryansk, a large Russian city near the Ukraine border.

The blaze occurred at a premises operated by Transneft-Druzhba JSC and at another location, officials told RIA Novosti.

No casualties have been reported and there is no threat to residential buildings, RT reported citing the Ministry of Emergency Situations as saying.

"The evacuation of the population is not planned. According to preliminary information, there were no victims," its press service stated. Local residents have reported that explosions were heard and sirens are audible in social media videos, according to TASS News Agency. Another fire was recorded in the Fokinsky district of the city, the causes of which have not yet been



established, Moscow daily Kommersant has reported.

Bryansk is home to over 400,000 people, and is an important regional hub, RT reported. An Interfax source revealed that a 10,000-tonne tank of diesel fuel was ignited. State-owned Rossiya-24 TV has suggested that the second object that caught fire was a diesel fuel depot in a military unit. Before Monday's incident, officials in Bryansk region had warned of a potential terrorist threat.

Similar fears were announced in parts of Voronezh and the entirety of the smaller Belgorod region, where Ukraine was accused of shelling an oil depot earlier this month.



RANA COUPLE'S PLEA TO QUASH POLICE FIR DISMISSED BY BOMBAY HC

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Bombay High Court on Monday dismissed a plea filed by independent MP-MLA couple, Navneet Rana and her husband Ravi Rana, respectively, seeking to quash the second of two FIRs registered against them for resisting arrest on Saturday after a huge row over their plans to recite 'Hanuman Chalisa' outside the private home of Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray.



The Ranas' lawyer Rizwan Merchant said that after they receive the notice, they would decide in 72 hours their next course of action.

A division bench of Justice P.B. Varale and Justice S.M. Modak also observed that there was considerable merit in the submissions made by Special Public Prosecutor Pradip Gharat.

The judges upheld his contention on the FIR pertaining to chant religious verses near the personal home of the CM since such an act at the residence of another person or at a public place is a breach of personal liberty of the other person, and the Maharashtra government was justified in its apprehensions that it could lead to a law and order situation in Mumbai.

arrested the Ranas under IPC's Section 153(A) (promoting enmity between groups on grounds of religion race, etc), and the stringent Bombay Police Act's Section 124(A) pertaining to sedition.

On Sunday, the Mumbai Police also filed a second FIR around 2 a.m. against the Ranas under IPC's Section 353 for alleged assault of a public servant and obstructing public servant from discharging their official duties.

Merchant argued that the second FIR, was "an abuse" of the legal process and the subsequent addition of the offence of "sedition" was unsustainable. SPP Gharat countered by saying that the second FIR was registered for a separate offence relating to obstructing police from discharging their duties, for which the court has granted relief to the extent of serving the Ranas a 72-hour notice for any action under it. The Mumbai Police had served the Ranas notice on Saturday, requesting that the couple refrain from carrying out their plans, and they did not listen after which they were detained and arrested that evening. SPP Gharat said that despite the notice, the Ranas continued to give media and online interviews, creating apprehensions in society, and their statements posing a serious threat to the law and order situation after which the action was taken against them. Amid high drama at their Khar home, the Rana couple was arrested on Saturday evening and produced before a Bandra holiday Magistrate Court which remanded them to 14 days' judicial custody while posting their bail plea for hearing on April 29.



M'ashtra BJP leaders meet Nityanand Rai over attack on Kirit Somaiya

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A delegation of Maharashtra BJP leaders on Monday met Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai and raised the issue of the attack on former MP Kirit Somaiya who has 'Z' category security and other state government issues.

BJP leader Kirit Somaiya, after meeting Rai, said that the Minister has assured them that he would talk to Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla in detail and take a report on whatever is going on in Maharashtra.

Somaiya added that Rai has assured them that a special team of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) or if necessary, an officer from the Home Ministry will be sent to Maharashtra. Earlier in the day, the BJP leaders including Kirit Somaiya met Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla and apprised him of the prevailing situation in the state. They also

demanding a central probe into the attack on Somaiya. The delegation also demanded that a central team be sent to the state to review the situation where the BJP leaders are being targeted by the ruling party's cadre.

Somaiya, after meeting Bhalla, said the Home Secretary has been studying the situation in the state and if needed a special team would be sent to Maharashtra.

Somaiya, while talking to the media after the meeting, said that there was an urgent need to send a central team to Maharashtra. "From a slum dweller to the elected representative, all are being attacked in Maharashtra by the ruling party workers," Somaiya said.

Referring to the attack on him on Saturday evening in Khar police station in Mumbai, Somaiya said that despite his Z category protection, he was attacked in the police station premises on Sunday. "This was an attempt to kill me," Somaiya alleged.

Ex-Union Home Secretary Madhav Godbole dies at 85

Team Absolute | Pune

Senior IAS officer and former Union Home Secretary Dr Madhav Godbole passed away following a cardiac failure at his home here on Monday, a family member said.

He was 85 and breathed his last surrounded by his family members.

Dr Godbole is survived by his wife Sujata, son Rahul and daughter-in-law Dakshina, daughter Meera and son-in-law Mahesh and grandchildren.

Dr Godbole completed his Master's in Arts and a Ph.D in Economics from University of Mumbai then did his M.A. in Development Economics



from Williams College, Massachusetts, US. Author of around 22 books, including 13 in English, penning papers, and as a regular columnist with several major publications, Godbole took voluntary retirement in March 1993

when he was the Union Home Secretary and Union Secretary, Justice.

During his long bureaucratic career, he chaired several important government committees, including the Enron Power Project in Maharashtra and management of India's international borders.

He also served in key positions in Maharashtra like Principal Finance Secretary, Chairman of Maharashtra State Electricity Board, and at the Centre like Secretary, Petroleum & Natural Gas Secretary, Urban Development, besides a five-year stint with Asian Development Bank at Manila, Philippines.

Barmy Army trolled for wishing Sachin on birthday with image of his dismissal

Team Absolute | Mumbai



England's Barmy Army has been trolled for posting an image of Sachin Tendulkar on his 49th birthday, which shows the legendary cricketer walking away after being dismissed as England players celebrate his wicket in the background.

Along with the image, the Barmy Army tweeted, "Happy Birthday Little Master (cake symbol)".

The image has come in for massive criticism from Tendulkar's fans, who have termed it an insult to the legendary player who has 51 Test centuries, the highest by any cricketer in the world.

Tendulkar celebrated his 49th birthday on April 24 with the cricketing world paying tribute to the 'Little Master' and calling him an inspira-

tion to the future generations. But the notorious Barmy Army chose the occasion to post an image of Tendulkar's dismissal in a Test match.

A fan wrote that England's collective top order these days was finding it difficult to score as many runs as Tendulkar used to score in his prime.

"Their (England) own top order can't make enough runs as he (Tendulkar) could alone in his prime," tweeted a fan, while another wrote, "Your (England) player cannot even sit with @sachin_rt on the same bench. You cannot beat our any player when it comes to performance."

Another fan asked the Barmy Army to show respect and be "gentle" to the cricketer on his special day.

OIL PRICES WILL REMAIN ABOVE \$100/BARREL AS LONG AS UKRAINE WAR RAGES ON

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The most serious effect of the Russia-Ukraine war for the world economy will be higher commodity prices. Oil prices will remain above \$100/barrel for as long as the conflict rages on, EIU said in its global outlook report.

The threat of sanctions on Russian hydrocarbon exports and uncertainty surrounding supplies will exacerbate existing market tightness. European gas prices will rise by 65 per cent this year, after a five-fold rise last year. Europe has limited gas stockpiles, and there are concerns about gas supplies for the 2022/23 northern hemisphere winter season. Europe is reducing its demand for Russian gas, which will lower Russian output and put further pressure on supplies, Agathe Demarais, Global Forecasting Director, EIU, said.

"We expect higher commodity prices to fuel global inflation, which will spike to 7.7 per cent this year, a 26-year high," EIU said.

Despite concerns about the impact of the Russia-Ukraine conflict on their economies, the major central banks are doubling down on their efforts to control inflation. We forecast that the Federal Reserve (Fed, the US central bank) will now raise rates by 225 basis points in 2022 and also commence balance-sheet run-off. The European Central Bank will now discontinue its quantitative easing programme at the end of June 2022, the



report said. Russia is also a major producer of several base metals, including aluminium, titanium, palladium and nickel. Following spikes in all of these markets last year, prices will remain at peak levels for as long as the conflict continues. This will have a substantial impact on industrial sectors

(such as the automotive industry) across the globe, but especially in Europe. Prices of agricultural commodities (wheat, maize, barley and rapeseed) will soar. Ukraine and Russia together account for more than a quarter of global wheat trade and produce 12 per cent of calories consumed globally.

Shehbaz Sharif urged to release Indians stuck in Pak jails

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Mumbai-based activist on Monday urged Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to immediately release and repatriate 245 Indian fishermen stuck in the country's jails for long.

In a tweet, activist and journalist Jatin Desai has said that these prisoners have already completed their prison sentences long ago, but continue to languish behind bars.

"While 14 have served their terms in 2018, 151 completed their sentences in 2019 and the remaining 80 in 2020. But they have yet to be released," Desai said and also tagged External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar in the



post.

Keeping these fishermen in prison even after they have served their full sentences is "inhuman" and ideally both countries should release and hand over each other's prisoners as soon as they serve their jail term, he urged.

As per the latest data, around 625 Indian fishermen are still in Pakistan's jails and some 80 Pakistani fishermen

continue to languish in India's prisons.

On February 4, a fisherman Nanu Ram Kamalia died in Pakistan's Landi Jail, but his mortal remains were repatriated to India via Wagah Border only after two months, on April 4, to reach his village in Gujarat for the last rites the following day.

Activists on both sides have been making regular appeals to the governments of both countries to consider the plight of the fisherfolk caught, jailed by both sides, forced to undergo prison terms and are still deprived of freedom after completing their sentences, causing huge trauma to their families, and sought a formal mechanism for permanent resolution to such issues.

The Bhagtani Saga: After 10 years, no hope for 2500 victims duped of Rs 427 cr

Quaid Najmi | Mumbai

Nearly 10 years after they were cheated of more than Rs 427 crore by a Mumbai realtor, 2,500 victims run from pillar to post to recover their hard-earned monies.

The builders are Laxman Lachhman Bhagtani, 70, and his sons -- Dipesh and Mukesh, all directors of JVPD Properties Pvt. Ltd. and Jaycee Homes Pvt Ltd.

According to the victims, between 2012-2013, they paid up the part or full amounts of around Rs 427-crore for 1-BHK or 2-BHK flats in projects in Mumbai, Thane and Navi Mumbai.

As the Bhagtanis failed to live up to their commitments of starting and completing the construction on time, the total amount with interest and taxes has shot up to nearly Rs 1,000-crores now (2022).

Around 2017, the builders informed the prospective flat buyers that owing to changes in the laws they could not estimate the project completion time and hinted at cancelling it.

The buyers were given options to shift to other projects which were costing higher, and if they wanted a refund of their investments, the builders would provide post-dated cheques or online payments scheduled after 2-3 years.

Some of those who opted to cancel received 2 to 3 per



cent of their amounts, but the builders' cheques bounced and no online payments were received, and the investors moved the Mumbai Police, Economic Offences Wing and other departments seeking justice.

In December 2017, Dipesh Bhagtani called a meeting of all investors and sought another 1-2 years time to clear his payments, claiming the Bombay High Court did not allow it, but the company also failed to deposit an amount of Rs 22 crore as directed by the court.

The next month, January 2018, Dipesh Bhagtani was arrested by the EOW and was in the lockup for 19 months, while his father and sibling managed to evade the law.

Meanwhile, in mid-2018, feeling the heat of at least nine cases, Laxman Bhagtani and his other son Mukesh Bhagtani managed to flee from India and the InterPol issued a red corner notice against them in November 2018.

Acting on the notice, the father-son duo was nabbed in Dubai in July 2020, at the height of the Covid-19 pandemic, and the EOW froze 125 bank accounts of the Bhagtanis and their companies, slapped attachment orders on at least four of their properties.

Simultaneously, the EOW initiated proceedings to get the father-son duo nabbed in Dubai extradited to India, but the current status is not available.

In the past 10 years, many of the stunned investors suffered heart attacks or other serious ailments, some succumbed, others were paying through their nose for the bank loans they had picked up for the non-existent (till date) projects and their dream homes.

Sayli Kamble of 'Indian Idol 12' fame ties the knot with boyfriend Dhawal

Team Absolute | Mumbai

'Superstar Singer 2' captain Sayli Kamble tied the knot with

boyfriend Dhawal on Sunday at Royal Garden in Kalyan, Mumbai. The singer has shared a reel on her social media handle from the venue where the wedding ceremony took place.

Many of her wedding pictures and videos are going viral on social media.

The couple got engaged last year. They got married in typical Maharashtrian style.

Sayli was looking beautiful in her yellow sari with a fuchsia pink border and a purple wedding shawl. Her smile was enough to share her happiness.

In another picture, Dhawal was looking suave in off white kurta pyjama and a tur-

ban. The videos also show guests dancing and enjoying the ceremony.

Sayli's friend and 'Indian



Idol 12' fame Arunita Kanjilal has spoken to the media and informed them about attending the wedding.

She said: "I will be attending the wedding today and I am very happy for Sayli di."

'Indian Idol' contestants Nachiket Lele and Nihal Tauru attended the wedding and shared pictures on their social media accounts.



Megan Thee Stallion talks about Tory Lanez alleged shooting incident

Los Angeles | Agencies



Rapper-actress Megan Thee Stallion talks about the 2020 incident in which rapper Tory Lanez reportedly shot her on 'CBS Mornings'. Megan has claimed publicly that Lanez shot her in the feet after an argument following a party at Kylie Jenner's house in July 2020. But it has never been fully explained and a court case is ongoing. Megan has slowly revealed details on social media and in interviews; while Lanez has vaguely denied it in statements and in several songs. But according to a

preview clip of the interview with Gayle King that airs on Monday, Megan tearfully discussed the issue on television with her for the first time. Megan repeats her claim that Lanez yelled "Dance, b***h!" as he shot at her feet, reports 'Variety'.

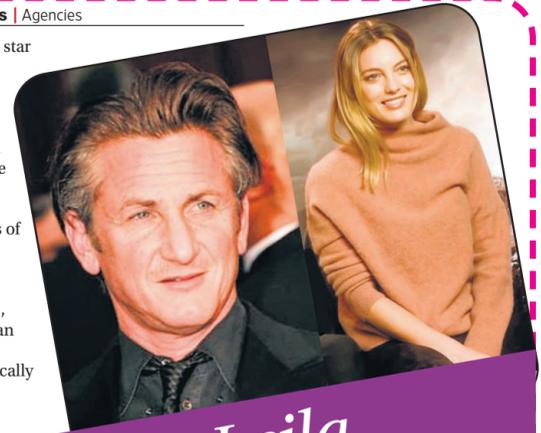
Lanez was arrested in connection with the incident and later was arrested again for reportedly violating court orders from contacting her; he posted bail in both cases.

She has claimed that he offered to pay her in exchange for keeping quiet about the incident. Megan unveiled a new song called 'Plan B' that apparently addresses the incident during her performances at the Coachella festival over the past two weekends.

The next court hearing is scheduled for September.

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Sean Penn and actress Leila George, who got married in July 2020, have finalised their divorce after almost two years of their marriage. According to people.com, the Oscar winner, 61, and the Australian actress, 30, first became romantically linked in 2016. George then



Sean Penn, Leila George finalise divorce

filed for divorce in October 2021 after just over a year of marriage. In January 2022, the pair, who have been spotted out together since the filing, including on New Year's Eve, retained their own private judge in order to expedite the divorce process through California's backlogged courts. On Friday, their divorce was finalised and approved, according to documents obtained by People. The documents state that Penn and George officially separated in September 2021, and cite irreconcilable differences as the reason behind their breakup. Neither is seeking spousal support from the other. Earlier this month, Penn spoke with the magazine Hollywood Authentic in support of his work in Ukraine amid the ongoing Russian invasion, and he also opened up about his relationship as well, including how he "f***** up the marriage" by being "very neglectful". Penn was previously married to Robin Wright, 56, with whom he shares daughter Dylan, 31, and son Hopper, 28. He was also married to Madonna from 1985 to 1989.

NATASHA LYONNE DETAILS STORY BEHIND MARLON BRANDO'S 'SCARY MOVIE 2' CAMEO

Los Angeles | Agencies

One of the last roles for legendary actor Marlon Brando involved holding the breast of young actress Natasha Lyonne in the horror comedy parody 'Scary Movie 2'. However, the scene never made it into the final cut.

Speaking to Entertainment Weekly's video series 'Role Call', Lyonne said Brando dropped out of the project, allegedly because of illness. But before he did, he filmed a scene with her, and she retained a video copy of that memorable meeting, reports 'Deadline'.

The scene in question came at the start of the sequel, a scene parodying 'The Exorcist'.

Lyonne played a Linda Blair-esque young girl who was possessed, with two priests (played in the film by James Woods and Andy Richter) attempting to exorcise the demon. Brando was originally in Woods' role before dropping out. "I have a VHS copy of the dailies that I got because Marlon Brando's final role - sadly for him, but luckily for me - is doing this 'Exorcist' opening teaser," she said. She said: "I don't know what he was thinking, really." The actress continued: "He had an oxygen tank and he just kind of held my boob, because that was in the script. He was supposed to be like, 'The power of Christ compels you.' I just remember being like, 'Ah, this is the surrealism that Andr Breton, Salvador Dali were talking about.'"



Britney takes 'little social media hiatus' after sharing 10-year music break

Los Angeles | Agencies

Britney Spears wants to take some time off social media. The singer, who is expecting her first child with her fiancé Sam Asghari, has announced that she is taking "a little social media hiatus."

Making use of Instagram, the 40-year-old wrote: "I'm going on a social media hiatus for a little while (phone emoji)!" alongside a video of a baby lounging in a chair with sunglasses, a robe and rollers in their hair. She continued, "I send my love and God bless you all!!! adding some red heart and rose emojis, reports aceshowbiz.com.

Spears' social media departure announcement came a little over two weeks after she announced her pregnancy. "I lost so much weight to go on my Maui trip only to gain it back. I thought, 'Geez what happened to my stomach???' My husband said, 'No you're food pregnant silly!!!!' she wrote in an Instagram post she shared on April 11. "So I got a pregnancy test and uhhhhh well I am having a baby." She even announced that she's planning to take a long break from the music industry to focus on herself.

Kim Kardashian accused of editing out inches from waistline in another 'photoshop fail'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Reality TV star Kim Kardashian has been accused again of yet another photoshop fail with people claiming she edited her waist in a series of pool-side shots. Kim was called out over the three Instagram images she posted, along with the caption "Sunday in

my @skims", reports mirror.co.uk.

The reality TV star was seen with her arms raised above her head on every picture, dressed in a sports bra and oversized jogging bottoms. But it was her midriff that drew the greatest attention, especially the apparent absence of, or curious position of, her belly button.

One user said: "You forgot to leave in your belly button." Another follower asked: "Skin looks weird too. Right?"

Many Instagram users then began to see the photographs in a different light with one querying: "Something is off about the second pic or is it just me?"

Two netizens did jump to Kim's defence, responding:

"Just you." The sceptical remarks continued, though, with one person saying: "You can see where you photoshopped your waist" and another adding: "Does anyone else think this looks hella edited." This is not the first occasion in recent times that Kim has been accused of photoshopping images of herself.



K-POP SENSATION SEVENTEEN REVEAL PROCESS OF CREATING THEIR FIRST ENGLISH SINGLE 'DARL+ING'

Durga Chakravarty | New Delhi

K-pop sensation SEVENTEEN, labelled as "Performance Kings" among many other titles, consists of thirteen members -- S.Coups, Jeonhan, Joshua, Jun, Hoshi, Wonwoo, Woozi, DK, Mingyu, The8, Seungkwan, Vernon, and Dino. They have come out with their very

popular boy band through the number.

Talking to correspondent about what their first English single 'Darl+ing' stands for and how it fits in your fourth full-length album, Vernon from the band said: "'Darl+ing' is a sweet love song. We wanted to express our affection for everyone who's with SEVENTEEN every step along the way. The plus sign is an emphasis on the idea of 'being

first English single 'Darl+ing' and hope that their fans, whom they lovingly call "Carats" feel closer to the

together,' the idea of CARATS, our listeners and SEVENTEEN coming together as one.

"The placement of the plus sign in front of 'ing' also signifies the fact that it's an ongoing relationship that is very much in our present."

Vernon, who is a member of SEVENTEEN under the 'Hip-Hop Team', added that it is an "important goal" for them "this year is to really connect with all our listeners, to build an experience we share as 'TEAM SEVENTEEN'." So we poured our most honest thoughts and feelings into the upcoming album. With 'affection for our listeners' being one of those emotions, 'Darl+ing' is a starting point to an album that most transparently shows who we are, to date."

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Michelle Keegan



IPL 2022

CLINICAL BOWLING, DHAWAN'S UNBEATEN 88 HELP PBKS BEAT CHENNAI BY 11 RUNS

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A clinical bowling performance after a fighting unbeaten 88 by seasoned opener Shikhar Dhawan helped Punjab Kings subdue Chennai Super Kings by 11 runs in Match 38 of IPL 2022 at the Wankhede Stadium here on Monday.

Dhawan carried his bat as he scored an unbeaten 88 off 59 deliveries, hitting 9 fours and 2 sixes and shared a 110-run partnership with Bhanuka Rajapaksa to guide Punjab Kings to a competitive 187/4 in 20 overs after being asked to bat first.

Kagiso Rabada (2/23), Rishi Dhawan (2/39) and Arshdeep Singh (1/23) bowled superbly as they denied Chennai Super Kings many chances in the last four overs.

Chennai Super Kings had reached a good position thanks to Ambati Rayudu, who blazed to 78 of 39 balls and had taken Chennai from 40/3 to a stage when they needed 47 off 24 deliveries. But Rabada cleaned up Rayudu with a superb yorker and Arshdeep bowled a superb 19th



over, leaving Chennai Super Kings needing 27 off the final six deliveries.

Despite the presence of MS Dhoni and Ravindra Jadeja, Chennai Super Kings fell short by 11 runs, ending up with 176/6 off their 20 overs.

Rayudu came in to bat with Chennai struggling at 40/3 and took them to safety with a blazing 78 off 39 balls, hitting seven fours and 6 sixes to raise hopes for a CSK victory. He

raised 64 runs off 32 deliveries for the fifth wicket partnership.

But in the end, Jadeja (21 off 16 balls) could not guide his team to victory as from needing 47 off 24 balls, they reached a stage where they needed 27 off the last six deliveries with Jadeja and M.S Dhoni at the crease.

The former India opener despatched Mukesh Choudhary for

two superb boundaries off successive deliveries and repeated the act a ball later, shuffling across the stumps and chipping away a delivery sent down the leg side as he completed his half-century in 37 deliveries, hitting five fours and one six. He also struck Dwayne Bravo for two successive fours the first off a free-hit after the West Indian bowler landed the first delivery of his over outside the return crease outside off attempting to bowl a wide yorker. In the 19th over, the Delhi opener struck Pretorius for a neat four over short fine leg and also planted Bravo into the stands over the short leg-side boundary for a six, helping Punjab Kings to a good total.

Brief scores:

Punjab Kings 187/4 in 20 overs (Shikhar Dhawan 88 not out, Bhanuka Rajapaksa 42; Dwayne Bravo 2/42) beat Chennai Super Kings 176/6 in 20 overs (Ruturaj Gaikwad 30, Ambati Rayudu 78, Ravindra Jadeja 21 not out; Kagiso Rabada 2/23, Rishi Dhawan 2/39) by 11 runs.

Santosh Trophy: Services defeat Odisha 2-0

Malappuram | Agencies

Defending champions Services got the better of Odisha 2-0, thanks to two second half goals in a Group B game of the Hero 75th National Football Championship for Santosh Trophy at the Kottappadi Football Stadium here on Monday.

The result means Odisha will have to wait for the outcome of the Karnataka-Gujarat game to find out who makes it through to the semi-finals of the tournament.

Odisha, needing a point to secure qualification, started the brighter and dominated proceedings in the first half. The first chance of the game fell to left winger Chandra Muduli. After some fine build-up play by Odisha, who kept the ball on the ground for the most part of the game, Chandra Muduli got the ball with space to run into. He whipped in a dangerous ball inside the box but Kartik Hantal could not



get any sort of contact to divert the ball goalwards.

Another presentable chance fell to the young winger Chandra this time in the 40th minute. A through ball from the Odisha mid-field was chased down by the pacey winger, who managed to outrun two defenders but his final touch let him down and allowed Services goalkeeper Subhaji Basu to close him down in the nick of time.

The rebound fell to Kartik Hantal but he failed to hit the rebound on target as the ball trickled wide.

Kartik Hantal was put clear through on goal but the young forward took too much time to settle which allowed Services defender Zothanpuia to put in a brilliant last ditch tackle to take the ball off the attacker's feet at the last moment.

This did not deter Kartik Hantal as he kept trying hard and he came closest to handing Odisha a well deserved lead. His left footed effort from a narrow angle in the 42nd minute rattled the crossbar and ensured both teams headed into the break goalless.

National esports c'ship

Shikhar stuns Tirth Mehta to clinch Asian Games berth

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Hearthstone athlete Shikhar Choudhary stunned 2018 Asian Games star Tirth Mehta in the semifinals on his way to clinching his berth at the 2022 Asian Games in Hangzhou.

Shikhar Choudhary, Karthik Varma and Team Temple of Kings came up with some good performances at the Esports Federation of India's (ESFI) National Esports Championships 2022 (NESC '22) to secure themselves berths at the 2022 Asian Games.

While Choudhary outperformed Karthik Varma Vegasna 3-1 and 3-2 in the



Shikhar



Karthik Varma



Temple of Kings

best-of-three final clash of Hearthstone, India's one of the most popular League of Legends team, Temple of Kings, comprising of captain Akshaj Shenoy, Samarth Arvind Trivedi, Mihir Ranjan, Aditya Selvaraj, Aakash Shandilya and Sanindhya Malik, thrashed Team Coco Cats 3-0 comfortably in the best-of-five grand finals.

The second-placed ath-

letes of FIFA, Street Fighter-V & Hearthstone will also be included in the Indian contingent. The ongoing NESC '22 has been played virtually, owing to the pandemic situation. The winners of NESC '22 will participate in the AESF's Road to Asian Games - Regional Qualifiers (June-July, 2022), which are being held for seeding at the main event in China.

I-LEAGUE: INDIAN ARROWS REGISTER 2-1 WIN OVER REAL KASHMIR

Kolkata | Agencies

Indian Arrows scored more than one goal for the first time this season to secure a 2-1 win over Real Kashmir in the ongoing I-League at the Naihati Stadium, here on Monday.

Sajad Parray and Parthib Gogoi were on target for Arrows while Real Kashmir had to walk away with three major injury concerns.

The young lads of Indian Arrows got off to a very composed start, retaining possession well in mid-field and the defensive third. However, the initial attacks came from Real Kashmir. A long ball was whipped out to the front by Rohmingthanga Bawlte towards Mason Robertson. The ball was a tad heavy and Robertson hesitated as Arrows keeper Zahid Bukhari advanced and claimed the ball.

Real Kashmir were able to keep their head in the game as they snatched a leveller seven minutes



later. Bawlte lobbed a good ball into the box and Malem Meitei

beat his marker and headed the ball past Bukhari to draw his side

level. Both sides entered the opposition box frequently but were unable to convert any of their chances as the first half ended with both sides getting a goal for themselves.

In the second half, Shimray had a couple of opportunities inside the first ten minutes of the second half. The first chance was thwarted by Halen Nongtou while Brijesh Giri's well-timed tackle denied the second. At the other end, Vibin Mohanan went on a good run from midfield. The youngster had options on either side but chose to shoot himself and saw his effort blocked by the defence of Real Kashmir. The full-time whistle was blown and Indian Arrows emerged with an unexpected victory. The victory takes the young side level on points with Real Kashmir. A third win of the season means Arrows have now won more games than Real Kashmir.

FORMULA 3: KUSH MAINI GETS FIRST POINTS AT IMOLA

Imola (Italy): Kush Maini, from Bangalore, demonstrated tremendous maturity over the course of a difficult weekend in the 2022 FIA Formula 3 Championship, finishing fifth in the feature race here on Sunday.

Maini's fifth-place finish earned him his first points of the season. The FIA Formula 3 Championship, with normally 30 cars on the grid, is brutal competitive, with drivers needing near-perfect weekends to finish at the front.

Running as a support race to the main F1 weekend, the series will move to the Barcelona race track in Spain on May 20-22. Despite not being able to show his true potential, the Omega-Seiki and JK Racing-backed driver qualified in 10th place. On Saturday Kush Started the Sprint race 3rd on the Grid and was involved in battles in the top 5 when an unlucky drive-through penalty jeopardised his Sprint Race, with the Indian eventually finishing 20th.



Oslo Cup chess

Praggnanandhaa beats Vietnam's Liem in the third round

Oslo | Agencies

It was two months back that India's young Grandmaster Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa caused a sensation in the chess world by beating world champion Magnus Carlsen in the fourth round of the Airtings Masters elite online chess tournament.

Pragg, as he is fondly called, gets another chance of doing it again, beating Magnus Carlsen in the fourth round of Oslo Esports Cup, the first off-line event that is part of the 2022 Meltwater Champions Chess Tour season. He had defeated Jordan van Foreest and Shakhryar Mamedarov in the earlier rounds.

And what gives Praggnanandhaa hopes of repeating his performance against Carlsen is his brilliant form in



this event in which he leads the field by winning the third straight match. India's 16-year-old superstar-in-the-making is the only player with 9/9 points and has won the maximum USD 22,500 prize so far after crushing Liem Quang Le of Vietnam with a game to spare. Pragg now faces world champion Carlsen in Round 4. Beat Carlsen, as he did two months ago, and the youngster will be the hot favourite to win the first Major of the 2022 Meltwater Champions Chess Tour, conducted by the Play Magnus Group and has a prize fund of USD1.6 million over nine events with more than 40 world-renowned players taking part. The teenager was overjoyed with his win against the speed chess specialist Liem, who beat Carlsen on Friday.

LIVERPOOL'S DERBY WIN PUTS EVERTON INTO DROP ZONE

London | Agencies

Liverpool kept pace with Manchester City at the top of the Premier League after a 2-0 win at home over local rivals Everton in the Merseyside derby. While the win late on Sunday means Liverpool are just a point behind City as they look to win four titles this season, Everton drop into the bottom three after Burnley's win earlier in the day.

Liverpool had 82 per cent of the ball against their neighbours, but it was not until the 62nd minute that left-back Andrew Robertson opened the scoring with a header.

Luis Diaz was the provider of Liverpool's second goal with a spectacular overhead kick that sat up perfectly for Divock Origi to seal the win, Xinhua reports.

Earlier, Gabriel Jesus scored four goals as Manchester City cruised past relegation-haunted Watford 5-1.

The Brazilian scored in the 4th, 23rd and 52nd minutes, and also netted a 49th-minute penalty as Pep Guardiola's side enjoyed an easy ride ahead of Tuesday's Champions League semifinal first leg against Real



Madrid.

Christian Pulisic scored a 90th minute goal to give Chelsea a 1-0 win at home over West Ham and spare Jorginho's blushes. The Brazilian had missed a penalty a minute earlier after Craig Dawson, who was sent off, pulled down Romelu Lukaku to deny him a

goalscoring opportunity.

Arsenal moved fourth and virtually ended Manchester United's slim hopes of a top-four finish with a 3-1 win at the Emirates Stadium, thanks to first half goals from Nuno Tavares and Bukayo Saka, who scored a penalty.

Sub-jr women's academy nationals

SAI, Salute, Punjab Hockey Club reach quarters



Gwalior: Sports Authority of India (SAI) Academy, Salute Hockey Academy and Roundglass Punjab Hockey Club Academy won their respective pool matches and made it to the quarterfinals of the 2nd Hockey India Sub-Junior Women's Academy National Championship 2022 here on Monday.

In Pool A, SAI Academy beat Ghumanhera Riser's Academy 15-0. Captain Tanuja Toppo (3', 10', 14') and Karuna Minz (33', 34', 38') struck a hat-trick each, Binati Minz (23', 30'), Nisha Dadel (26', 48') and Jyoti Xaxa (28', 47') scored a brace each, while Himanshi (5'), Mahima Rawat (15') and Sonali Ekka (22') also registered their names in the scoresheet for SAI Academy in the first match on the third day of the competition.

In the second match of the day in Pool D, Salute Hockey Academy beat Jai Bharat Hockey Academy riding on a brace by Tamanna (6', 21') to finish on top at the end of the group stage matches.

In Pool B, HIM Academy were declared 5-0 winners after Bhai Bhelo Hockey Academy Bhagta forfeited the match. Malwa Hockey Academy Hanumangarh also forfeited their Pool C match on Monday, handing Anantapur Sports Academy a default 5-0 win.

In another Pool C match, Roundglass Punjab Hockey Club Academy defeated Smart Hockey Academy, Raipur 8-1. Captain Anmolpreet Kaur (5', 51'), Prabhjot Kaur (7', 48'), Sanna (3'), Saina Samal (29'), Rajdeep Kaur (37'), Namneet Kaur (45') scored for Roundglass Hockey Club Academy, while Smart Hockey Academy, Raipur's lone goal was struck by Kudrat in the 39th minute.

The Pool D game between Dhyam Chand Hockey Academy and SGPC Hockey Academy was cancelled.

In the quarterfinals to be played on Tuesday, Madhya Pradesh Hockey Academy will meet HAR Hockey Academy, Salute Hockey Academy will take on Smart Hockey Academy, Raipur, Roundglass Punjab Hockey Club Academy will play against Jai Bharat Hockey Academy while SAI Academy will run into HIM Academy.



ALIA BHATT BEATS JENNIFER LOPEZ

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Alia Bhatt has had an incredible run as an actress. While fans have been impressed by the projects she's worked on, the actress is always making sure that her social media is buzzing. In fact, Alia was the talk of the town (and still is) a few days ago for her wedding to Ranbir Kapoor, and when the actress released photos with her groom, she stormed the internet. Alia was ruling the digital realm with her style game even during the promotions of Gangubai Kathiawadi, which is why it doesn't surprise anybody that she is the only Indian actress to make it to the list of top 5 celebrity influencers on Instagram.

Alia is ranked fourth among the top five movie and actors/actresses Instagram influencers, beating Jennifer Lopez. While Zendaya is at the top of the list, followed by Tom Holland and Will Smith, it makes us proud to see Alia as the lone Indian among these international celebs. Alia is in the prime of her career. Alia's work schedule is impressive; she is now filming Rocky Aur Rani Ki Prem Kahani and will soon be seen in Brahmastra. Jee Le Zaraa is also set to premiere in 2023. The best news, though, is that Alia will be making her Hollywood debut soon. She will star with Gal Gadot and Jamie Dornan in an international spy thriller Heart Of Stone.

With so much amazingness in her life, it appears that the actress's path is only going up.

Navya Naveli Nanda REACTS TO A NAKED BODY MIRROR SELFIE OF RUMOURED BOYFRIEND SIDDHANT

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Navya Naveli Nanda, Amitabh Bachchan's granddaughter, has been linked to Bunty Aur Babli 2 actor Siddhant Chaturvedi. It all started with a couple of days ago Instagram posts between the two. Now, the aspiring entrepreneur has responded to a recent Instagram post by Gehraiyaan actor Siddhant Chaturvedi. Siddhant took a shirtless selfie and captioned it with his thoughts. The actor enjoys poetry and quotations. In the captions of his posts, he frequently expresses his ideas. The selfie appears to have been taken from his vanity truck. Siddhant is seen with curly hair that is extremely cute. In the caption, he pondered; "Aaj zada, kal hum kam the... Maine tumhe tab dekha tha, jab mujhe koi nahi dekhta tha, Aaj tum ho, aur main bhi yahan, Aur ye nazrein hum pe, Aaj zada, Kal kam the... #SiddyChats / ? / #MyNotes." Siddhant sure has a way with words, no? Even Navya Naveli Nanda reacted to his post. This time, she did not comment though. However,

Navya did like Siddhant's post. The actor has a way with words, doesn't he? Navya Naveli Nanda, too, had a response to his post. She didn't say anything this time, though. Navya, on the other hand, liked Siddhant's post. Due to their Instagram posts, followers had previously noticed a connection between the two. Fans were left wondering if they were together in the same area after their posts regarding the moon and the location. According to rumours, Siddhant has been filming in Rishikesh. Although both are the newest speculated coupling in B-town, they have yet to respond to their relationship rumours. Their social media banter or replies, on the other hand, keep them in the news. Siddhant Chaturvedi's upcoming film Phone Bhoot stars Katrina Kaif and Ishaan Khatter. According to IMDB, he has Yudhra alongside Malvika Mohanan, which is an action-packed romance drama. With Ananya Panday and Adarsh Gourav, he will next be featured in Kho Gaye Hum Kahan. Siddhant's last known film was Gehraiyaan. Navya, on the other hand, has remained aloof from the spotlight.

Akshay Kumar and Radhika Madan commence shooting for their upcoming Tamil remake

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Filming on Akshay Kumar's next film, a Hindi version of Tamil classic 'Soorai Pottru', began on Monday. Radhika Madan plays a significant role in the film. The remake will be directed by Sudha Kongara, who also directed the Suriya-starrer original, which debuted on an OTT platform in November 2020. Akshay took to Twitter to announce the start of filming and to ask his fans for title suggestions for the film. Sharing the news with his fans Akshay tweeted, "With the auspicious coconut-breaking and a small prayer in our heart, we begin the filming of our yet untitled film which is about dreams and the power of it. In case you'll have any title suggestions, do share and of course, your best wishes". Suriya responded to Akshay's tweet and replied, "Proud and heart filled."



Aamir Khan drops another hint of his mystery Kahani!

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Aamir Khan has been keeping the internet on the tip of its toes with the mystery of Kahani taking over his social media feed. With every video being dropped, Aamir Khan seems to be letting the cat out of the bag but only for us to be left hanging on the cliff.

Since the time Aamir Khan playing box cricket went viral, the netizens have been restless. Adding more to this anticipation, Aamir Khan has released a video of him playing foosball. Khan is seen donning a neon orange T-shirt with a quirky quote from his cult film Andaz Apna Apna. The quote read 'Release GoGo'.

Revealing more details of his mysterious Kahani, Amir says "I have decided where to narrate Kahani on 28th. I will narrate it on a radio station as it is a decent place to recite the Kahani. And the radio station which I have chosen is Red FM" Now that our curiosity is elevated, our calendars are marked for 28th April, as we wait with bated breath for Aamir Khan's 'Kahani'.



DEEPIKA IS MY FIRECRACKER: RANVEER SINGH

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Ranveer Singh is all set to entertain us with his performance in Jayeshbhai Jordaar. The trailer of the film was unveiled by the makers a few days ago. On 25 April, first song of the film, Firecracker was launched. The song was launched at a college event in Mumbai where Ranveer's fans went into frenzy after seeing the glimpse of the song.

At the song launch Ranveer Singh called wife Deepika Padukone his firecracker. He said, "I am lucky because I have Lakshmi at home i.e. Deepika Padukone. Since the time Deepika has come into my life, my life has got on track. Since 2012 it's been 10 years to me and my baby. She is my firecracker". Seeing the excitement of college students, Ranveer reminisced his college days. For the unversed, Jayeshbhai Jordaar stars Ranveer Singh, Shalini Pandey, Boman Irani and Ratna Pathak Shah in pivotal roles. The film is all set to release on 13 May 2022 in theatres.



'We will definitely do it'

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Furthermore, the 'RRR' actor stated, "We have already discussed it, and we will definitely do it." In addition, he stated that he will produce the multi-starrer film. While Ram Charan will appear in 'Acharya' alongside his father, famous megastar Chiranjeevi, he is being questioned about a part with his uncle, popular Telugu actor Pawan Kalyan. The 'Magadheera' actor has claimed that he has been working on a few projects that he will soon finish, following which he is willing to plan a film with Pawan Kalyan. The uncle-nephew team has yet to announce a tentative date or year for their future collaboration. On April 29, the action picture 'Acharya,' directed by Siva Koratala, will be released in theatres. Ram Charan is now filming his next film, tentatively named 'RC 15,' in which he will be romanced by Kiara Advani and directed by Shankar Shanmugham. Gautham Tinnanuri's film will star Charan, alongside he's also working on another project, as well.

Ram Charan has stated that he will appear alongside his uncle Pawan Kalyan in a film.

