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NOT GOVT'S VIEWS BUT OF FRINGE, INDIA CLARIFIES TO QATAR

India has clarified to Qatar that some offensive tweets it had raised are not the government's view but of fringe elements.

Doha/New Delhi | Agencies

India has clarified to Qatar that some offensive tweets it had raised are not the government's view but of fringe elements. Indian envoy Dipak Mittal made the clarifications in a meeting at the foreign office in Qatar.

In response to a media query regarding statement issued by Qatar MOFA on an offensive tweet in India, the Spokesperson of the Embassy of India in Qatar said, "Ambassador had a meeting in the Foreign Office in which concerns were raised with regard to some offensive tweets by individuals in India denigrating the religious personality. Ambassador conveyed that the tweets do not, in any manner, reflect the views of the Government of India. These are the views of fringe elements."

"In line with our civilisational heritage and strong cultural traditions of unity in diversity, Government of India accords the highest respect to all religions."

"Strong action has already been taken against those who made the derogatory remarks. A statement has also been issued by concerned quarters emphasizing respect for all religions, denouncing insult to any religious personality or demeaning any religion or sect," the statement said.

"Vested interests that are against India-Qatar relations have been inciting the people using these derogatory comments. We should work together against such mischievous elements who aim to undercut the strength of our bilateral ties." The BJP has taken action against Nupur Sharma and Navin Jindal on their offensive comments on Prophet and said that party's view is to respect all religions.

BJP ACTS AGAINST TWO LEADERS FOR MAKING INSULTING RELIGIOUS COMMENTS

Hours after it denounced insult of any religious personalities, the BJP on Sunday suspended party spokespersons Nupur Sharma and Naveen Kumar Jindal for their comments on Prophet Muhammad.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Hours after it denounced insult of any religious personalities, the BJP on Sunday suspended party spokespersons Nupur Sharma and Naveen Kumar Jindal for their comments on Prophet Muhammad.

Sharma is party national spokesperson and head of media department of BJP Delhi unit. In a letter to Sharma, member secretary, BJP Central Disciplinary Committee, Om Pathak said, "You have expressed views contrary to the Party's position on various matters, which is in clear violation of Rule 10 (a) of constitution of the Bharatiya Janata Party."

"I have been directed to convey to you that pending further inquiry, you are suspended from the party and from your responsibilities/assignments if any, with immediate effect," Pathak added.

In another letter to Jindal, Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta said, "The view expressed by you on social media to incite communal disharmony is against the basic thought of the party. You worked against party ideology and policy. Therefore, your primary membership of the party is canceled with immediate effect and you're also suspended from the party."



Gupta told IANS that there is no place for indiscipline in the party and no one is allowed to cross the party line. "It has come to our notice that Jindal has crossed the party line and tried to spread hatred and communal disharmony through his social media posts. We have cancelled his primary membership," Gupta said. Earlier in the day in a press statement, BJP national general secretary, Arun Singh said, "During thousands of years of the history of India, every religion has blossomed and flourished. The Bharatiya Janata Party respects all religions. The BJP strongly denounces insults of any religious personality of any religion. The Bharatiya Janata Party is also strongly against any ideology which insults or demeans any sect or religion. The BJP does not pro-



mote such people or philosophy." Singh noted that India's Constitution gives the right to every citizen to practice any religion of his/her choice and to honour and respect every religion. "As India celebrates 75th year of its Independence, we are committed to making India a great country where all are equal and everyone lives with dignity, where all are committed to India's unity and integrity, where all enjoy the fruits of growth and development," Singh said. Several FIRs have been filed against BJP national spokesperson Sharma in Maharashtra and violent clash erupted in Kanpur on June 3 after her remarks on Prophet Muhammad during a TV debate. Jindal also made insulting comment against Prophet Muhammad on social media.

BJP govt failed to give security to Kashmiri Pandits: CM Kejriwal

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday said that the BJP government has failed in giving security to Kashmiri Pandits.

Many meetings are being held, everyone wants to know the action plan ahead, he said.

"The BJP govt has failed in this. The era of 1990 has come again. They (Govt) don't have any plans. Whenever there is a murder in the valley, news comes that the Home Minister has called a high-level meeting, enough of these meetings, now we need action, Kashmir wants action," said Kejriwal. Kejriwal was speaking at a protest rally held by the AAP in Jammu and Kashmir.

He alleged that the administration in Jammu and Kashmir was not allowing Kashmiri Pandits to protest against the recent targeted killings in the Valley. "When they protest against the targeted killings, the present BJP government in Kashmir does not allow them to protest. If the government behaves like this, the suffering of the people becomes double," Kejriwal



said. Speaking on the targeted killings in the Valley, Kejriwal put forth a four-point demand to the Centre. He demanded an action plan to stop such incidents, cancel bonds signed with Kashmiri Pandits that say they cannot work outside Kashmir, fulfill the demands of Kashmiri Pandits and provide them security. He also lashed out at Pakistan and asked to stop proxy tactics. "Kashmir will always be part of India," he said.

While speaking at the rally, AAP MP Sanjay Singh alleged that the prime minister, home minister, all Union ministers and MPs were shedding crocodile tears in the name of 'The Kashmir Files' movie. "Today, Kashmiri Pandits are being massacred. I want to ask Modi ji where are your ministers, MPs and MLAs hiding right now?" Singh said.

The AAP demanded that the Kashmiri Pandits be given adequate security and their voices be heard.

'Reduce, reuse, and recycle' are concepts woven into our life: PM

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said that "reduce, reuse, and recycle" are the concepts woven into our life and the circular economy has been an integral part of our culture and lifestyle.

The Prime Minister was speaking after virtually launching a global initiative 'Lifestyle for the Environment (LiFE Movement)'. The launch will initiate 'LiFE Global Call for Papers' inviting ideas and suggestions from academics, universities, and research institutions to influence and persuade individuals, communities and organisations across the world to adopt an environment-conscious lifestyle.

Addressing the gathering, he said that today is an apt day for the launch of the global initiative 'Lifestyle for the Environment - LiFE Movement' as he stressed the need of the hour to solve the challenge faced by our planet using human-centric, collective efforts and robust action that further sustainable development. The Prime Minister reminded the gathering that this global initiative was proposed by him at COP-26 last year. "The vision of LiFE is to live a lifestyle that is in tune with our planet and does not harm it. And those who live such a lifestyle are called 'Pro-Planet People'. Mission LiFE borrows from the past, operates in the present, and focuses on the future. Reduce, reuse, and



recycle are the concepts woven into our life. The Circular Economy has been an integral part of our culture and lifestyle," he said. He noted that thanks to 1.3 billion Indians in the country, he was able to do many good things for the environment in our country.

"India's forest cover is increasing and so is the population of lions, tigers, leopards, elephants and rhinos. India's commitment to reach 40 per cent of installed electric capacity from non-fossil fuel-based sources has been achieved, nine years ahead of schedule. The target of 10 per cent ethanol blending in petrol has been achieved five months ahead of the November 2022 target. This is a major accomplishment given that blending was hardly 1.5 per cent in 2013-14 and five per cent in 2019-20," he said.

He also mentioned that renewable energy has a priority focus in the government. "Way ahead is all about inno-

vation and openness. When technology and tradition mix, the vision of life will be taken further," he said.

The Prime Minister recalled that Mahatma Gandhi talked about a zero-carbon lifestyle. "In our daily life choices, let us pick the most sustainable options," he said and urged the gathering to follow the principle of reuse, reduce, and recycle.

"Our planet is one but our efforts have to be many - One earth, many efforts. India stands ready to support any effort for a better environment and to further global wellness. Our track record speaks for itself," he added.

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Co-Chairman Bill Gates, who also participated in the programme, said: "I congratulate Prime Minister Modi for taking a lead on this global initiative of citizen action to promote pro-climate behaviours. Together we can build a green industrial revolution. The necessity for collective global action to address climate change has never been greater and India's role and leadership are crucial in ensuring that we reach our climate goals." The idea of LiFE was introduced by the Prime Minister during the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow last year. The idea promotes an environment-conscious lifestyle that focuses on 'mindful and deliberate utilisation' instead of 'mindless and destructive consumption.'

HIZBUL TERRORIST ARRESTED FROM KISHTWAR, J&K

Jammu: Police and security forces in a joint operation have arrested one Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) terrorist from Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Sunday.

He has been identified as Talib Hussain who "joined terrorist ranks of HM outfit in 2016 and remained active along with other terrorists of Kishtwar and was instrumental in recruiting youths into militancy," police said. But later on, due to some squabble with other HM terrorists, he left the group but remained active at large. However, "Kishtwar Police worked meticulously on the leads obtained about his whereabouts and pre-empted his move to affect the revival of militancy in the area as he got arrested after dodging the police and other security agencies for a long time," police said. Police have registered a case and investigations have been taken up.

Odisha cabinet rejig: 21 Ministers take oath, 7 new faces inducted

Bhubaneswar | Agencies

Twenty-one new ministers of Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's cabinet have taken oaths of office and secrecy in a glittering ceremony here on Sunday.

For the first time, the swearing-in ceremony was organised at the Lok Seva Bhawan (state secretariat). Governor Ganeshi Lal administered the oaths of office and secrecy to the newly-inducted ministers in presence of Chief Minister Patnaik and senior BJD leaders.

As many as 13 minister-designates have sworn in as cabinet minister while eight others took oath as minister of state (MoS). There were 20 members in the last council of ministers of Naveen.

The newly-inducted cabinet ministers area -- Jagannath Saraka, Niranjan Pujari, Ranendra Pratap Swain, Pramila Mallik, Usha Devi, Prafulla Kumar Mallik, Pratap Keshari Deb, Atanu Sabyasachi Nayak, Pradip Kumar Amat, Naba Kishore Das, Ashok Chandra Panda, Tukuni Sahu and Rajendra Dholakia.



Similarly, Samir Ranjan Dash, Aswini Kumar Patra, Pritiranjana Gharai, Srikanta Sahu, Tusharkanti Behera, Rohit Pujari, Rita Sahu and Basanti Hembram have sworn in as MoS.

Seven BJD legislators -- Rajendra Dholakia, Aswini Kumar Patra, Rohit Pujari, Srikanta Sahu, Pritiranjana Gharai, Basanti Hembram and Rita Sahu -- have been inducted as ministers for the first time in their political history. Similarly, Jagannath Saraka and Ashok Panda got promoted to cabinet rank from MoS.

Patnaik has increased the representation from western Odisha in his council to seven as the ruling BJD is facing challenge from BJP in the region.

A day before the reshuffle, for the first time in his 22

years of political history, Naveen had asked all ministers to resign from their positions with immediate effect.

Of the 20-member council of ministers, nine leaders were again re-inducted in the new cabinet.

Patnaik has dropped 11 ministers from the new council. The legislators who were dropped from the cabinet are -- Bikram Keshari Arukha, Padmanabha Behera, Pratap Jena, Aruna Kumar Sahoo, Sudam Marmdi, Susanta Singh, Dibya Shankar Mishra, Jyoti Prakash Panigrahi, Premananda Nayak, Raghunandan Das and Padmini Dian.

After swearing-in, cabinet minister Tukuni Sahu said, "I have already served as women and child development minister in Naveen's council. I will try my best to discharge whatever new responsibility will be given to me. Will work hard to realise the vision of our CM."

Thanking the Chief Minister for inducting him as a minister, first timer MoS Rohit Pujari said, "My only motive is to take forward the developmental works undertaken under the leadership of Naveen Patnaik."

India records 4,270 fresh Covid cases, 15 deaths

India on Sunday reported 4,270 fresh Covid cases in last 24 hrs, a marginal rise against 3,962 Covid infection reported on previous day, the Union Health Ministry said on Sunday morning.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

India on Sunday reported 4,270 fresh Covid cases in last 24 hrs, a marginal rise against 3,962 Covid infection reported on previous day, the Union Health Ministry said on Sunday morning. In the same period, 15 Covid deaths were recorded, pushing the nationwide death toll to 5,24,692. Meanwhile, the active caseload of the country has also risen to 24,052 cases, accounting for 0.06 per cent of the country's total positive cases. The recovery of 2,619 patients in the same time span took the cumulative tally to 4,26,28,073.

Consequently, India's recovery rate stands at 98.73 per cent. Meanwhile, daily positivity rate has risen to 1.03 per cent, while the weekly



positivity rate in the country currently stands at 0.84 per cent. Also in the same period, a total of 4,13,699 tests were conducted, increasing the overall tally to over 85.26 crore. As of Sunday morning, the country's Covid-19 vaccination coverage exceeded 194.09 crore, achieved via 2,47,42,189 sessions. Over 3.44 crore adolescents have been administered with first dose of Covid-19 jab since the beginning of vaccination drive for this age bracket.

FEARING POACHING, CONGRESS APPOINTS OBSERVERS FOR RS POLLS

The Congress on Sunday appointed observers in Haryana, Maharashtra and Rajasthan for Rajya Sabha polls.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Congress on Sunday appointed observers in Haryana, Maharashtra and Rajasthan for Rajya Sabha polls.

Leader of the opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge has been appointed observer for Maharashtra, Pawan Bansal and T.S. Singhdeo for Rajasthan and Bhupesh Baghel and Rajeev Shukla for Haryana. The Congress in Haryana has moved the party MLAs to Chhattisgarh to protect them from being poached by the BJP-backed Independent candidate ahead of the Rajya Sabha



polls scheduled on June 10. The Congress was caught by surprise after the BJP backed Independent candidate for one of the two Rajya Sabha seats in Haryana upset its calculations. Independent candidate

Kartikya Sharma is likely to get votes from the JJP, apart from the surplus BJP votes.

Congress' headcase has increased after Kuldeep Bishnoi did not attend the recent party MLAs meeting. The Congress has a strength

of 31 votes in the 90-member Haryana Assembly, and a difference of a single vote can alter its equation.

Kartikya Sharma is the son of former Congress leader Venod Sharma and Ambala Mayor Shakti Rani Sharma. He is also the son-in-law of former Haryana Speaker Kuldeep Sharma, a Congress veteran. While Venod Sharma has left the party, Kartikya, 41, is the managing director of ITV Network which runs news channels. The Congress has fielded Ajay Maken from Haryana, while in Rajasthan its candidates are Mukul Wasnik, Randeep Singh Surjewala and Pramod

Tiwari. Dissent is already brewing in these two states as many party leaders are not happy with 'outsiders' being fielded from their states, and both Bhupinder Singh Hooda and Ashok Gehlot will face a tough task in keeping their flock together in Haryana and Rajasthan, respectively.

While the Congress in Rajasthan has taken its MLAs to Udaipur, in Maharashtra, the party has 44 MLAs with three surplus votes and Shiv Sena and BJP are in contest. So, the Congress party has deputed senior leader like Kharge for smooth transfer of surplus votes.

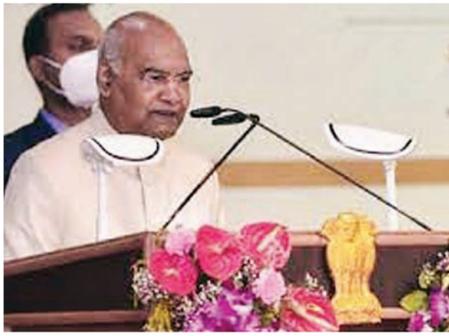


KABIR AND HIS TEACHINGS EVEN MORE RELEVANT TODAY: KOVIND

President Ram Nath Kovind on Sunday said that the life of the mystic poet and saint Kabir was an epitome of human virtue and that his teachings are relevant even in modern times.

Sant Kabir Nagar | Agencies

President Ram Nath Kovind on Sunday said that the life of the mystic poet and saint Kabir was an epitome of human virtue and that his teachings are relevant even in modern times. Inaugurating the Sant Kabir Academy and Research Centre here, the President paid homage to the Bhakti Movement saint at his Samadhi Sthal in Maghar. He also offered 'chadar' at his 'mazaar' (mausoleum) and planted a sapling on the premises of the Kabir Chaura



Dham. "The life of Kabir is an epitome of human virtue and his teachings are relevant today even after 650 years. Kabir's life was an ideal example of communal solidarity," Kovind said. "Kabir emphasised that humanity can only be served by having an attitude of affection towards the downtrodden. He did not get a formal education but acquired knowledge by his experiences in the company of saints. His teachings had shaken the

conscience of the fragmented society." The President said it was necessary to awaken the society which was divided on the lines of caste and creed.

Governor Anandiben Patel and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath were present on the occasion. The President also wished Adityanath on his 50th birthday.

The President will address a joint session of the state Legislature in Lucknow on Monday, the last day of his visit to Uttar Pradesh.

PFI ROLE IN KANPUR VIOLENCE NOW 'VISIBLE', SAYS POLICE

The Kanpur Police have said that the involvement of Popular Front of India (PFI), an extremist Muslim organisation, in the violence that erupted in Kanpur on Friday was getting 'visible'.

KANPUR | Agencies

The Kanpur Police have said that the involvement of Popular Front of India (PFI), an extremist Muslim organisation, in the violence that erupted in Kanpur on Friday was getting 'visible'.

The PFI had called for a bandh in Manipur and West Bengal on the same day. A connection is being investigated. Kanpur Police Commissioner, VS Meena, said in a statement on Sunday, "Documents related to the Popular Front of India (PFI) have been found during the searches. Documents related to the Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI) and Campus Front of India (CFI) were also found during searches at the premises of Zafar Hayat Hashmi, the main accused in the case."

The commissioner further said, "All arrests till now are based on photo-



graphic and video evidence from the scene of the riots. If there is any laxity on the part of the police officers, action will be taken accordingly."

The Kanpur Police have arrested a total of 29 people involved in the violence that erupted in the city's Parade Chowk area on Friday, June 3.

The local Muslim leader, Hayat Zafar Hashmi, was identified by the police as the main conspirator behind the violence. Police said Hayat Zafar Hashmi, who is also the national president of the Maulana Muhammad

Jauhar Ali Fans Association, called for the market shutdown to protest the remarks made by BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma during a TV news debate.

Hashmi allegedly incited people, which led to stone-pelting and clashes between two groups. Over 39 people, including multiple police personnel, were injured due to this. He has been detained and is being interrogated. Three FIRs have been filed against over 1,000 unknown persons for rioting and violence. The

other accused named in the FIR are Ehitsham Kabadi, Zeeshan, Aaqib, Nizam, Azizur, Aamir Javed, Imran Kale, and Yusuf Mansuri, among others. The accused will be booked under the Gangster Act and their property will be confiscated. The police said that six mobiles recovered from the accused are being scanned. The social media accounts of the accused are also being searched. Meanwhile, the markets in the area opened on Sunday and police patrolling is continuing.

Kerala SC/ST Commission registers case against police over atrocities

Kerala State Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes took a suo moto case against the policemen of Haripad police station on alleged atrocities committed in Alappuzha district's Champakkada colony.

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM | Agencies

Kerala State Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes took a suo moto case against the policemen of Haripad police station on alleged atrocities committed in Alappuzha district's Champakkada colony.

Chairman of Kerala SC/ST Commission B.S. Maoji while speaking to the mediapersons said that there were allegations that a few policemen had barged into a residence in the SC colony and abused women and children using caste slur.

The incident occurred on Saturday night and early hours of Sunday morning.



Congress leader and former Alappuzha District Congress Chief, M. Liju told IANS said, "The state

police must conduct a proper investigation into the matter. Why did the police barge into a Scheduled Caste colony in Haripad and use caste slur against women."

He said that after the police patrol party barged into the colony, they informed the Haripad Deputy Superintendent of Police that they were being held captive in the colony, and soon a huge police posse reached the place and assaulted women.

Residents of the colony, however, told the mediapersons that they had never held the policemen and it was a ploy of the police to bring in more men to the colony. Sruthi, 32, a resident of the colony while speaking to the mediapersons at Haripad said, "A huge police posse reached the colony at 1 a.m. on Sunday morning and forcefully took our brothers into custody from the colony and forced them into the police vehicle. I was dragged on the road and my dress was also torn in the scuffle." She said that no single woman police officer was present during the police raid in the colony late at night. Haripad Deputy Superintendent of Police did not comment on the incident even after repeated phone calls.

Bishnoi confirmed gang rivalry in Moosewala case, said Goldy Brar behind it: Sources

Sources in the Delhi Police's Special Cell have said that during questioning Lawrence Bishnoi said that 'it was Goldy Brar, a Canada-based gangster, who hatched the conspiracy to eliminate Sidhu Singh Moosewala' and the killing was the result of gang rivalry.



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Sources in the Delhi Police's Special Cell have said that during questioning Lawrence Bishnoi said that 'it was Goldy Brar, a Canada-based gangster, who hatched the conspiracy to eliminate Sidhu Singh Moosewala' and the killing was the result of gang rivalry.

Bishnoi is in the custody of the Cell, which is expiring Sunday and the police might seek an extension of the remand. The Special Cell had recently taken gangster Lawrence Bishnoi, an aide of Brar, into custody to interrogate him in the Moosewala's killing case.

The sources said that Bishnoi too has taken Brar's name as the brain behind the murder of Moosewala. Bishnoi told interrogators that Moosewala was involved in

conspiracy against their gang and hence they wanted to kill him. "Moosewala's name cropped up in our brother Vikramjit Singh Middukhera and Gurlal Brar's murder, but the Punjab Police didn't take any action against him. Moosewala was also involved in the encounter of our associate Ankit Bhadu. He hatched many conspiracies against us. Goldy Brar was angry with all this and he wanted to take revenge," Bishnoi told us.

Bharat Jodo yatra: Congress holds meet to chalk out cam-

The first meeting of the group which will oversee the 'Bharat Jodo' padyatra of the Congress party from Kanyakumari to Kashmir took place here on Sunday. The meeting was attended by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and others.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The first meeting of the group which will oversee the 'Bharat Jodo' padyatra of the Congress party from Kanyakumari to

Kashmir took place here on Sunday. The meeting was attended by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and others.

Sources say that a broad outline has been chalked out for the program.

Senior Congress leader Digvijaya Singh tweeted, "The first meeting of the Central Planning Group for Bharat Jodo Yatra took place today. The Kanyakumari to Kashmir yatra will start on October 2 and planning for it began in right earnest. Rahul Gandhi also attended the meeting." The yatra which will start from Kanyakumari and end in Kashmir will pass through at least 12 states. In these states the party will reach out to like-minded groups and political parties. The Congress' Bharat Jodo Yatra will try to take along

like-minded political forces and NGOs working in social sectors, sources said.

On May 15, Congress president Sonia Gandhi announced that the party will embark on a "Bharat Jodo" pad yatra from October 2, the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, and will also set a task force for internal reforms within a week.

"We will launch a national Kanyakumari to Kashmir Bharat Jodo Yatra on Gandhi Jayanti this year. All of us will participate in it. The Yatra is to strengthen the bonds of social harmony that are under stress, to preserve the foundational values of our Constitution that are under assault, and to highlight the day-to-day concerns of crores of our people," Gandhi had said.

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM GIRL ENTERS INDIA BOOK OF RECORDS FOR WARLI PAINTINGS

Thiruvananthapuram: Naziya Navas, a graduate from Thiruvananthapuram, has entered the India Book of Records by drawing pictures in the technique of Warli painting, an art form unique to the tribal community of North Sahyadri Range in Maharashtra.

A Warli painting made by her of 5 inches in length and breadth has fetched her the India Book of Records recognition. Her entry breaks the previous record of a 10-inch length and breadth Warli painting. Naziya has not learned painting formally and picked up the tricks of the trade from the internet. She has drawn more than 100 pictures so far.

Talking to IANS, Naziya said that it was during the Covid-19 lockdown that she entered the world of Warli painting and has already sold several of her drawings online and earned money from it.

She said that she is planning to learn drawing and painting in a systematic manner from Mumbai in the coming days. Naziya has already sent her pictures to the Guinness World Records.

Naziya is the daughter of Navas and Najma of Kaniyauram in Thiruvananthapuram.

Telangana Guv seeks report on Hyderabad gang rape

HYDERABAD | Agencies

Telangana Governor Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan has sought a report from the police on the gang rape of a 17-year-old girl in Hyderabad.

The Governor has asked Chief Secretary Suresh Kumar and Director General of Police Mahendar Reddy to submit a report about the case in two days.

Soundararajan went through media reports about the incident in which the minor girl was allegedly raped by five accused in a car in Jubilee Hills on May 28. She said she was deeply anguished by the heinous crime and sought a comprehensive report from police on the inci-

dent. Meanwhile, Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief coordinator Dr RS Praveen Kumar has called for stringent action against the culprits and also demanded action against those who leaked the videos. "It is urgent that the culprits must feel the full weight of law in the rape of a minor but it is equally pertinent to punish those beasts who leaked the videos into public domain," tweeted Kumar, a former Indian Police Service (IPS) officer.

"You have almost shut the doors for the victim and her family to recover from trauma."

The BSP leader was apparently referring to the release of a video by BJP MLA Raghunandan Rao, allegedly showing a boy in an intimate act with the victim in

a car. The BJP leader claimed that the accused is the son of an MIM MLA.

The BJP MLA disputed the police statement giving a clean chit to the MIM MLA's son.

Hyderabad police have identified five accused including three juveniles in the sensational case. One of the juveniles is the son of a Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) leader, who heads a government-run minority body.

Police on Sunday arrested a fourth accused, a juvenile in the case, while the fifth, a major, is still absconding.

The accused committed the crime after offering to drop the victim at home while she was returning from a pub where she had attended a party.

NIA chargesheets 6 for trafficking Rohingyas, Bangladeshis into India

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has filed a charge sheet in the NIA Special Court in Guwahati against six persons in the case of human trafficking of Rohingyas and Bangladeshi Muslims into India.

The charge sheet was filed against Kumkum Ahmed Choudhury alias K.K. Ahmed Choudhury, Ahia Ahmed Choudhury, Bapan Ahmed Choudhury, Sahalam Laskar, Jamaluddin Choudhury and Wanbiang Suting, under sections 120B, 370(3) and 370(5) of IPC.

The case pertains to the trafficking of Rohingyas and Bangladeshis into India for the purpose of exploitation and in order to settle them in India permanently on the basis of fake Indian docu-



ments. The case was registered suo-moto by the NIA on December 27, 2021.

"Investigation has revealed that the accused persons were involved in organised human trafficking of Rohingyas and Bangladeshi, minor girls, women and others in association with other conspirators based in different parts of India and Bangladesh. The accused persons had arranged for transportation, accommodation, procurement of fake documents, etc., for the trafficked Rohingyas," the NIA said in the charge sheet.

SUSPEND BJP TELANGANA CHIEF TOO, DEMANDS KTR

Soon after the BJP on Sunday suspended its spokesperson Nupur Sharma and leader Naveen Kumar Jindal over their derogatory religious comments, TRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao demanded it suspend its Telangana chief Bandi Sanjay Kumar.

Hyderabad | Agencies

Soon after the BJP on Sunday suspended its spokesperson Nupur Sharma and leader Naveen Kumar Jindal over their derogatory religious comments, TRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao demanded it suspend its Telangana chief Bandi Sanjay Kumar.

"If the BJP truly respects all religions equally, should you also not suspend the Telangana BJP chief who made an open public statement wanting to dig up all the mosques & impose a ban on Urdu?" tweeted Telangana Rashtra



Saimithi (TRS) leader.

"Why this selective treatment Nadd? Any clarification?" KTR asked BJP President J.P. Nadda. Bandi Sanjay, who is also a Member of Parliament, has made controversial statements in recent days. Alleging that Muslim rulers in Telangana demolished several temples and built mosques over them, he

demanding digging at all mosques, saying there was a possibility of finding Shiva Lingams underneath.

The BJP MP also stated that if the BJP comes to power in Telangana, it will abolish all madrasas, do away with reservation for Muslims and remove Urdu as the second official language.

Meanwhile, another TRS leader Krishank Manne said Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP have put India to shame.

"If only the BJP could hear its own Indians, India wouldn't have to be threatened by Arab. Narendra Modi ji, you should have done this before Arab said boycott India. You and your BJP have put India to Shame Mr. Prime Minister. Late (Prime Minister Atal Bihari) Vajpayee ji would be feeling ashamed of you," tweeted Krishank, who is social media convener of TRS.

The TRS leader also said that in Indian history, no country ever asked India to apologise. He wrote that because of Narendra Modi and BJP, Qatar is asking the government of India to apologise for the statements. "History will remember this day on how BJP has put India to shame," he said.

PM to launch national portal for credit linked Govt schemes

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the 'Iconic Week Celebrations' of the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Corporate Affairs at Vigyan Bhawan here on June 6 (Monday), and launch the national portal for credit linked government schemes - Jan Samarth Portal.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the 'Iconic Week Celebrations' of the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Corporate Affairs at Vigyan Bhawan here on June 6

(Monday), and launch the national portal for credit linked government schemes - Jan Samarth Portal.

This 'Iconic Week' is being celebrated as part of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' (AKAM) from June 6 to June 11. "Jan Samarth Portal is a one-stop digital portal linking Government credit schemes. It's a first of its kind platform which directly connects beneficiaries to lenders. The main purpose of Jan Samarth portal is to encourage inclusive growth and development of various sectors by guiding and providing them with the right type of government benefits through simple and easy digital processes. The portal ensures end to end coverage of all the linked schemes," the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said.

The Prime Minister will also inaugurate a Digital Exhibition which traces the journey of the two Ministries over the past eight years.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT POSSIBLE ONLY IF ENVIRONMENT IS PRESERVED: CM THACKERAY

"Development is a must, but not at the cost of environment damage. In the last few years, there is more rain in less number of days and the incidents of landslides are also rising," Maharashtra CM Uddhav Thackeray pointed out.

Team Absolute | Mumbai Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Sunday said sustainable development was possible only if the environment was protected and preserved.

last few years, there is more rain in less number of days and the incidents of landslides are also rising," he pointed out. Every stakeholder was important in preserving the environment and if united efforts were taken, any initiative for environment protection would be a success, he added.

Maharashtra maybe seeing 4th Covid wave, masks will soon become mandatory: Aadiya Thackeray

The western state has seen a spike in Covid-19 cases for the past one week and the daily tally has been over the 1,000-mark for the last four days.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra environment and tourism minister Aadiya Thackeray on Sunday said the state could be seeing the fourth wave of the Covid-19 pandemic, while urging people not to panic.



have not made wearing masks mandatory but will make it soon. I also appeal to the public to receive the booster dose of the vaccine on time," said Thackeray junior.

in Covid-19 cases for the past one week and the daily tally has been over the 1,000-mark for the last four days. On Saturday, Maharashtra added 1,357 cases which pushed the total figure to 78,91,703. Nearly 600 patients

recovered and one more patient succumbed to the virus, taking the total number of recoveries and deaths to 77,37,950 and 1,47,865 respectively. A day ago, state health minister Rajesh Tope said that wearing masks is not mandatory yet in public places, but appealed to people to wear them in areas of Covid-19 surge.

Maharashtra stands firmly behind Kashmiri Pandits: Thackeray

Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray said that Maharashtra has always maintained a sensitive relationship with Kashmiri Pandits.



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra stands firmly behind the Kashmiri Pandits and will do everything possible to help them, assured Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Saturday.

nine Kashmiri Pandits were assassinated. Hundreds of frightened Kashmiri Pandits have started fleeing. The whole country is outraged," stated a release quoting Thackeray. Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray expressed grave concern over the situation in the valley. He said that Kashmiri Pandits are literally on the run in Kashmir Valley.

education to the children of Kashmiri Pandits in Maharashtra as a special matter. Mentioning the Shiv Sena chief has consistently raised his voice for the protection of Kashmiri Pandits, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray said that Maharashtra has always maintained a sensitive relationship with Kashmiri Pandits.

'deeply concerning.' He further said that the doors of Maharashtra are always open for Kashmiri Pandits. Speaking to media persons on the recent killings of Hindus in the Kashmir Valley, Thackeray said, "The situation in Kashmir is deeply concerning. It's unfortunate that the situation is repeating again. We expect the Government of India to take strong measures to ensure their protection."

Ketaki Chitale case: Group of advocates meets Maharashtra Gov BS Koshyari, seek CBI probe

The delegation met Koshyari on Saturday and also sought an inquiry into the alleged assault on Chitale outside Kalamboli police station while she was being arrested on May 14

Team Absolute | Thane

A group of advocates met Maharashtra Governor BS Koshyari and sought a CBI probe into the matter involving actor Ketaki Chitale, who has been jailed for sharing an allegedly objectionable post against NCP chief Sharad Pawar on Facebook last month.



engraving defamatory matter among other offences. These cases were filed against the 29-year-old TV actor after her May 13 post, in which she reportedly made objectionable statements on Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief's appearance, illness and voice.

Maharashtra HSC Result expected to be released on June 10

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra State Board of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education, MSB-SHSE would be releasing the Maharashtra HSC Results 2022. As per the last update, HSC Results 2022 date has been set and official notice would be released soon.

2022 date, time While the minister has shared the date, time has not been announced. Based on the past trends and custom followed by the board, it is expected that the Maharashtra HSC Result 2022 would be announced at 11 am and released online at 1 pm.

Raza Academy protests in Mumbai against targeted killings in J&K, says 'we stand by Kashmiri Pandits'

Raza Academy staged a demonstration outside Minara Masjid in Mumbai against the recent targeted killings in Kashmir. "Take action against those who are doing these atrocities. We stand by Kashmiri Pandits," said president Muhammad Saeed Noori.



A bank manager, identified as Vijay Kumar, was shot dead outside his office by terrorists in the Kulgam district of Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra-based radical Muslim fundamentalist Islamists group Raza Academy staged a demonstration outside Minara Masjid in Mumbai against the recent targeted killings in Kashmir.

Earlier, 36-year-old Hindu woman teacher Rajni Bala from Jammu's Samba district was shot dead by terrorists at a government school in Gopalpora, Kulgam. Last month, two civilians - including Kashmiri Pandit employee Rahul Bhat - and three off-duty policemen were killed in Kashmir by terrorists.

getted killing of Kashmiri Pandits and Hindus has been going on in Kashmir Valley. Within a month, nine Kashmiri Pandits were assassinated. Hundreds of frightened Kashmiri Pandits have started fleeing. The whole country is outraged," the CM said.

3 KIDS AMONG 5 KILLED AS CAR RAMS INTO TRUCK ON PUNE-BENGALURU HIGHWAY

The accident took place on Saturday afternoon near Yewalewadi Phata area in Kasegaon area of Sangli when the car was heading from Pune to Jaysingpur in neighbouring Kolhapur



Pune: Three children and two adults from a family were killed when their car rammed into a stationary container truck on the Pune-Bengaluru highway in Maharashtra's Sangli district, police said on Sunday.

Konkan village stops dumping of fly-ash, saves mangroves

Nandgaon became national news after locals protested against illegal fly ash dumping in their farmlands

Team Absolute | Mumbai

World Environment Day certainly puts into focus the enormity of the climate crisis at hand. Not ones to lose hope, these people have worked hard to make a change on the ground.

society members in a research study published by three organisations - the Centre for Sustainable Development, Manthan, and Asar, which looked at pollution and its impact on local communities near the two thermal power plants.

fascinated by the Mandavi Creek in Vengurla in Sindhudurg of the picturesque coastal Konkan belt of Maharashtra. She would look out at the shimmering seas and thick mangroves that sprawled across the creek, telling people how unfortunate it was that few people were aware of the location.

Maharashtra to conduct first-ever estimation of dolphin population in MMR coastal waters

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Maharashtra government will conduct the first-ever dolphin population estimation across the coastal waters of the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR). A recent pilot study in South Mumbai's Backbay resulted in 27 sightings of Indian Ocean humpback dolphins, prompting the state to conduct a detailed study across MMR.



group comprised six individuals, including juveniles and sub-adults. The principal investigator of the project, Shaanak Mod, along with cetacean ecologist Mahi Mankeshwar and marine enthusiast Pradip Patade used a total of seven boat surveys to observe the dolphins.

Mumbai coast- Sassoon dock, Versova and Madh jetty, and Bandra Worli sea link among others. These dolphins usually live in shallow, coastal waters.

The humpback dolphins are known to be travelling in groups called pods and it is rare to spot a single dolphin near the coast. Dolphins are endangered cetacean species, protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.



EDITOR'S SPECS

BJP leadership should pay heed to RSS chief's words, "Don't go looking for a shivling in every mosque."

RSS Sarsanghchalak Mohan Bhagwat's comments on the Gyanvapi controversy while speaking to a gathering of swayamsevak in Nagpur on Thursday are significant and welcome. In a speech that roamed the themes traditionally favoured by the RSS, of Hindu society, national unity and power, and which spoke of Indian exceptionalism and "santulan (balance)" at home and abroad, including in Ukraine, and reiterated the RSS view of "vividhata (diversity)" in terms of "bhasha (language)", "pooja/panth (sect)" and "praant (region)" as the "saaj saija (decoration)" of "ekta (unity)" that is, diversity as an accoutrement or embellishment of unity, not a value in its own right some lines could be read as a departure and a potential softening. Even as he spoke of the "vishesh shraddha (special faith)" of the "Hindu samaj" on Gyanvapi, the RSS chief opened a door: There is a history that we didn't make, he said, and that we cannot change, as Hindus and as Muslims, but as far as the RSS is concerned, its agitational role was confined to the specific circumstances of the (Ayodhya) movement. "Ab hamko koi aandolan nahin karna hai (now we will not be involved in any campaign)". If a solution cannot be found through negotiation ("aapas mein mil baith kar, sahmata se"), everyone should accept the decision of the courts. Meanwhile, "roz ek jhagda kyun badhana hai (why create a daily conflict)", let there be no more hunts in mosques for "shivlings." To be sure, past experience of the playing out of Hindu-Muslim disputes over places of worship and the RSS's own shadowy politics in them, serve as a health warning against over-reading what Bhagwat said, and what he meant. And yet, his attempt to prise away, even if just a bit, the Hindu-Muslim present from its past resentments, his underlining of the authority of the courts, and most of all, his caution, in nearly so many words, against an overzealous Hindu assertion and triumphalism raking up old disputes and creating new confrontations, is heartening.

ECONOMY STILL IN THE WOODS

No country can become an economic powerhouse if the Labour Force Participation Rate is 40 per cent. The bulk of India's working age population is either not working or not looking for work. And despite educating more girls, the LFPR of women is an abysmal 9.4 per cent.

The National Statistical Office released the provisional estimates of national income and quarterly estimates of GDP on May 31, 2022. Addressing the media, the Chief Economic Adviser was subdued and cautiously optimistic. He knows, as most economists know, that the Indian economy is not yet out of the woods.

The Bad and Worse

The worst piece of news is that the size of the economy at constant prices on March 31, 2022 (Rs 147.36 lakh crore) was about the same as it was on March 31, 2020 (Rs 145.16 lakh crore), meaning that we are running to stand in the same place! However, individual citizens have become poorer because the per capita income has declined in the two years from Rs 1,08,247 to Rs 1,07,760.

The next bad news is that the graph of quarterly GDP growth in 2021-22 is a sloping graph: the numbers for the four quarters are 20.1, 8.4, 5.4 and 4.1 per cent. In terms of output (value addition), there is no sharp rise. In the pre-pandemic year of 2019-20, GDP in the fourth quarter was Rs 38,21,081 crore, and we exceeded that number only in the fourth quarter of 2021-22 which recorded Rs 40,78,025 crore.

There is no place for the boast that, at 8.7 per cent, India is the fastest growing large economy. That boast has no meaning given the state of inflation, unemployment, number of people below the poverty line, prevalence of hunger, decline in health indicators and decline in learning outcomes. The growth rate of 8.7 per cent, impressive as it may appear, has to be seen in perspective. Firstly, it is on the back of negative growth of (-) 6.6 per cent in the previous year. Secondly, when China grew at 8.1 per cent in 2021, it added USD 2,600 billion to its GDP in twelve months (at current prices) while India growing at 8.7 per cent in 2021-22 added only USD 500 billion to its GDP in twelve months (at current prices).

Once we are sober, we may look at the prospects for 2022-23 and beyond.



Obsessed with ourselves, we forget that there is a world outside. We need the world's markets, products, capital, technology and innovation. The economies of the world are under stress. Inflation and interest rates are rising in the United States and demand is flagging. China's GDP growth will be squeezed because of repeated lockdowns. Soaring gas prices have reduced the purchasing power of Europeans.

RBI's Monetary Policy Committee noted (May 4, 2022) that the IMF has revised down the global growth rate in 2022 from 4.4 per cent to 3.6 per cent and the WTO has revised down the world trade growth rate from 4.7 per cent to 3.0 per cent. IMF has projected inflation at 5.7 per cent in advanced economies and 8.7 per cent in

developing economies. The MPC has identified the "worsening external environment, elevated commodity prices, persistent supply bottlenecks andvolatility spillovers from monetary policy normalization in advanced economies" as formidable headwinds. I doubt if anyone in the government is listening. The RBI's monthly report (May, 2022) has identified five critical elements for reviving animal spirits and spurring growth that are private investment, higher government capital expenditure, improved infrastructure, low and stable inflation and macroeconomic stability.

Of the five elements, the government has control over 'government capital expenditure' alone, but its capacity to invest larg-

er amounts in capital works this year will be severely restricted because of post-budget actions like cut in fuel taxes, increase in subsidies and increase in welfare expenditure. Of the rest, private investment will not gather pace as long as there are supply bottlenecks and unutilized capacity. As for foreign investors, Cairn, Hutchison, Harley-Davidson, General Motors, Ford, Holcim, Citibank, Barclays, RBS and Metro Cash & Carry have left or are leaving India. Any improvement in infrastructure will require a radical change in the processes involving tendering, pricing, execution and accountability - all of which are missing today. We are adding 'quantity' to our infrastructure but not 'quality'. And the Modi government's past record shows that it is clueless on inflation and macroeconomic stability.

Above all, one can steer a ship in choppy waters only if the captain and the mates share a team spirit and common goals. No consensus exists today between the Centre and the states on crucial issues. GST has broken the trust between the Central government and the state governments. Add the hatchet jobs done by Governors and the blatant misuse of the Central agencies against every Opposition party (witness the unprecedented spectacle of state ministers being arrested by Central agencies).

There is also a larger problem. No country can become an economic powerhouse if the Labour Force Participation Rate is 40 per cent. The bulk of India's working age population is either not working or not looking for work. And despite educating more girls, the LFPR of women is an abysmal 9.4 per cent. Besides, the current unemployment rate is 7.1 per cent. We have a sick economy. We have excellent diagnosis. There are medicines in the pharmacy. But, the doctors on the job are either quacks or don't care if the patient is dying a slow and painful death.

international

43 KILLED IN MASSIVE B'DESH CONTAINER DEPOT BLAZE

Dhaka | Agencies

A massive blaze, followed by a powerful explosion at a private container depot in Bangladesh's Chittagong district has killed a total of 43 people, including seven firefighters, and injured some 500 others of which 10 of them were police personnel, authorities confirmed on Sunday.

The devastating blaze broke out at about 10.30 p.m. on Saturday at the private BM Container Depot Ltd, a Netherlands-Bangladesh joint venture company, in Sitakunda.

Authorities said that within 40 minutes of the raging fire, there was a massive explosion and the blaze spread from one container to the other due to the presence of explosive chemicals.

The Director General of Fire Service said none of the owners or directors of the company are available, and amount or type of chemicals stored or how many containers are there is not immediately known.

As the fire is still raging which might take another 24 hours to be



completely doused, it is not possible to go near the depot, the official added.

So far 15 of the deceased have been identified, health officials said.

Assistant Director of Chittagong Fire Service and Civil Defense, Md Faruk Hossain Sikdar told IANS:

"Around 29 firefighting units are working to douse the blaze and 50 ambulances are on standby at the spot." The ICU beds are already full at the Chittagong Medical College

Hospital (CMCH), about 21 km away from the depot, while leave of the doctors have been cancelled in case of a crisis. The injured people have been admitted to the different hospitals, including the CMCH and the Combined Military Hospital (CMH).

The district's Divisional Commissioner Md Ashraf Uddin told IANS that 150-200 army personnel, deployed from Dhaka, have also reached the spot.

He said the fire has been raging for

13 hours now, and is yet to doused.

Regarding the dead firefighters, he said that they were in close proximity to a container while trying to put out the blaze when it suddenly exploded.

According to a fire official, it was difficult to immediately identify which of the hundreds of containers in the depot. "In this situation, entering the depot is extremely dangerous. As a result, putting out the fire is impossible," he said.

DIG Anwar Hossain of the Chittagong Range Police said there were still explosions inside the depot.

The Divisional Commissioner told IANS that there are two canals linked with the depot through drains which are also connected to the Bay of Bengal. The Army team will work on checking the extent of chemical leakage from the depot to the Bay of Bengal, he added.

He further said that families of the deceased are being given Tk 50,000, while Tk 20,000 is being given to the kin of the injured.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, President Abdul Hamid and Speaker of Parliament condoled the deaths.

Three killed in Philadelphia shooting

At least three people were killed and 11 others injured during a shooting spree in the US city of Philadelphia, authorities said on Sunday.

Washington | Agencies

The incident took place in 200 block of South Street just before midnight on Saturday.

Police on patrol heard numerous gunshots and saw several active shooters firing into a crowd, 6abc Philadelphia News quoted a top police official as saying to the media on Sunday morning. At least two guns were recovered from the scene, the official said, adding that one of them had an extended

magazine.

Numerous shell casing were found along the 200 and 300 blocks, he said.

According to the police official, the victims comprised two men and a woman and they suffered multiple gunshot wounds. The identities of the victims and the injured persons have not been disclosed.

The Philadelphia incident follows several high-profile mass shootings across the country.

Ten people were killed at a Buffalo, New York, gro-

cery store on May 14, while 19 children and two teachers were shot dead at an elementary school in Uvalde, Texas, on May 24.

On June 1, four people were shot and killed at a Tulsa, Oklahoma, medical building, and the next day, three people died in a shooting outside a church in Ames, Iowa. So far this year, the US has seen at least 233 mass shootings with more than 18,000 deaths due to gun violence, according to the nonprofit organisation Gun Violence Archive.

Macron calls for ending escalation between Israel, Palestine

Paris | Agencies

French President Emmanuel Macron called for an end to the violent escalation between the Israelis and the Palestinians and urged the two sides to move toward a peaceful resolution.

Macron made the remarks in a phone conversation with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas to discuss ending the growing tension in the Palestinian territories, Xinhua news agency reported. Macron called on both sides to avoid tensions and move to initiatives that would lead to a political horizon to facilitate peace and stability in the region.

He also invited Abbas to visit Paris. Abbas said that the current situation in the Palestinian territories cannot be tolerated, criticising Israel for not following its commitments to the signed peace agreements.

Tension between the Israelis and the Palestinians



has been flaring over the past weeks as a series of Palestinian attacks set off almost daily raids by Israel to arrest suspects in the West Bank.

The tension was further fueled by clashes at the holy Al-Aqsa mosque compound in East Jerusalem.

The Palestinians have been seeking to establish an independent state on the Palestinian territories seized by Israel in the June 1967 Middle East War, including the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

Bajram Begaj elected as Albania's new President

Tirana | Agencies

Bajram Begaj, who held the post of the Chief of General Staff of the Albanian Armed Forces (AAF), has been elected the country's new President of Albania, with 78 votes in favour, four against and one abstention.

A total of 103 out of the 140 MPs were present at the beginning of Saturday's Parliament session, but only 83 participated in the voting, reports Xinhua news agency.

The majority of the opposition MPs, including those of the main opposition Democratic Party boycotted the process. Speaking to reporters on Friday, Rama declared that the ruling Socialist Party (SP) parliamentary group has decided to propose Begaj as the candidate for president.

Following this proposal, Begaj held a meeting with Rama at the Prime Minister's office where he informed Rama that he was honored to be proposed



for the post.

On Saturday, in a letter to the media, Begaj announced that he has resigned from his military post as major general in order to pave the way for the lawmakers to continue with the election procedure. "If Parliament decides today that I will be the next president of the republic, the arrows of my compass in this high task will be the respect for the other and love

for the homeland," Begaj said in the letter. Prior to Saturday's session, the Law Commission accepted and verified the proposal signed by 37 SP lawmakers, which was sent to the parliament on Saturday morning.

On Saturday, outgoing President Ilir Meta signed the decree on Begaj's dismissal as Chief of General Staff of the AAF, as well as the release as an active service in the Armed Forces of Major General Bajram Begaj. The Albanian Parliament had failed to elect a new president in the first three rounds as no candidates were proposed by any of the parliamentary groups.

According to the country's constitution, a total of 84 votes in favour are needed to elect a proposed candidate as president in the first three rounds and 71 votes in fourth and fifth rounds.

Begaj, 55, will take oath as the new president on July 25 to replace Meta, who will be in office until July 22.

Philippines raises alert level of volcano

Manila | Agencies

Authorities in the Philippines on Sunday raised the alert level for the Bulusan volcano after it spewed a grey plume about a kilometre high into the sky.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology said the "phreatic eruption" occurred around 10.37 a.m., and lasted approximately 17 minutes.

Ashfall was reported in towns near the volcano, located in Sorsogon province, southeast of Manila, Xinhua news agency quoted the Institute as saying. "Alert level one is now raised over Bulusan volcano, which means that it is currently in an abnormal condition," it said, warning of "increased possibilities of sudden and hazardous phreatic eruptions".

The phreatic eruption is a "steam-driven explosion that occurs when water beneath the ground or surface is directly heated by hot rocks or new volcanic deposits or indirectly by magma or magmatic gas".

Before the eruption, the Institute said it recorded 77 volcanic earthquakes in the past 24 hours.



The institute prohibited people from entering the 4-km danger zone and urged residents of villages in the extended danger zone to be vigilant.

"People living within valleys and along the river and stream channels, especially on the southeast, southwest and northwest sector of the edifice, should be vigilant against sediment-laden stream flows in the event of heavy and prolonged rainfall should a phreatic eruption occur," the Institute warned. It also warned airplanes to avoid flying close to the volcano's summit. Bulusan is one of the Philippines' most active volcanoes.

In January 2018, the volcano spewed ash about 2.5 km high into the sky.



INNOVATIVE WORK IS BEING DONE IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION: CM

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that in the National Achievement Survey 2021 in the field of education, it has come to the fore that Madhya Pradesh has achieved fifth position in the country by doing innovative work. Improvement is clearly visible in the field of education. The National Achievement Survey is conducted every three years. Prior to this, in the year 2017, Madhya Pradesh was ranked 17th in this survey. The state will try to achieve top rank in the upcoming survey. Good results are obtained in every field when the society gets involved. There is also a need for a campaign to connect the society with the schools. We are also serious about better implementation of the new education policy and boosting the quality of education. Chouhan was inaugurating the Learning from National Achievement Survey workshop at Kushabhau Thakre International Auditorium.

Chief Minister said that the nationwide education survey conducted by the Central Government is the biggest survey in the country. Its objective is to improve the quality of education for the future by obtaining feedback on the educational levels of the students up to the national, state and district level. The survey for classes 3, 5, 8 and 10



was sample-based, in which the level of academic achievements in Mathematics, Science, Environment, Social Science, English and Language was checked. The survey covers central government schools, state government schools, private schools and aided schools.

Chouhan said that teachers who teach students diligently are helpful in bringing good results. These teachers do their work with a sense of joy who move away from teaching in a traditional way and make the teaching material clear to children instead of making them memorize it. By acquiring such education, the students will be helpful in building the India of tomorrow. If it is the goal of the teacher while teaching that he has to prepare the

new generation, then this work becomes meaningful. A teacher is not only a teacher but also a Guru who does the work of sprucing up the life of the student. Appreciating the teachers, CM said that he himself has come out of the government school. His teacher Ratanchand Jain has been an ideal teacher. All the students respected him wholeheartedly. Teachers and students of government schools are second to none. During the Corona period, the Education Department saved the children from getting frustrated while imparting education through various mediums, such innovations are commendable. The Education Department deserves congratulations for this new education culture. Chouhan said that efforts should be made to make schools more useful

by improving the nature of the campaign. Efforts should also be made to adopt the best innovations of other states. Work should be done through healthy competition, so that we should not lag behind in benefiting the students. Eminent persons and former students of different fields should also visit their old schools once or twice a year and visit there and help in the development of facilities. Stating that it is necessary to develop the qualities of discipline, diligence, honesty in children and to be recognised as a person who lives not only for himself but for all, Chief Minister said that the people's representatives and various institutions of the society should be connected with education and try to give shape to the personality of children. Parents-teacher meetings should be held every month in schools. We should also be ready to play the role of teacher. CM said that I also have a desire to visit school once or twice a month and teach children. I went to the classes and discussed with the children. Chouhan said that a task force has been constituted in the new education policy in the state, in which the process of continuous dialogue is going on. Rewarding and felicitating best performing teachers through ranking system and personality development of students through organisations like NCC should be continuous.

Pay farmers for the procured wheat promptly: Chief Minister

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that the payment of wheat procured by the farmers should be made promptly. The farmers whose payment is due should not face any problem in getting the amount. Chouhan was reviewing the payment of procurement of wheat on support price at his residence today.

Chouhan said that payment should not fail in the bank accounts of farmers. He said that the amount should be transferred to the bank accounts of the farmers at the earliest. Efforts should be made to ensure that farmers are not defaulters and do not have to pay interest amount. Chief Minister said that necessary information should be provided to the farmers. They should also be made aware to get necessary documents from them for payment of amount. It was informed in the meeting that



so far payment of amount of wheat procured has been made to 4 lakh 99 thousand farmers. Remaining farmers will be paid soon. Chouhan directed that efforts should be made to increase the Moong rakha in the state. Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection Minister Bisahul Singh, Chief Secretary Iqbal Singh Bains and senior officers concerned were present.

CM PLANTED NEEM AND BANYAN SAPLINGS

Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted Neem and Banyan saplings along with the members of Jeevitasha Foundation social organisation in Smart city park on Sunday. Neem sapling planted by CM Chouhan is known as a medicine abundant in antibiotic elements. Banyan tree is also called Vat Vriksha or Bad. Banyan has religious significance, besides according to Ayurveda it is possible to cure many diseases from the banyan tree.



Recognise the talents of Divyangjan, not the weaknesses: Governor Mangubhai Patel

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Governor Mangubhai Patel has said that to get success in life, it is necessary to have thinking, not means. If physical deficiencies or weaknesses are taken as inspiration, then disability becomes helpful in personality development. What is needed is the belief that Divyangjan are no less than anyone, they need guidance, cooperation and support. He has called for not recognising the weaknesses of Divyangjan, recognise their talents and develop them and it is necessary for the society to be cooperative in giving new direction to their energy. It is the responsibility of everyone to understand the problems of their differently-abled siblings and be sensitive and cooperative while doing whatever work they do, wherever.

Patel was addressing the 5th Deaf Festival 2022 organised by Deaf Cane Foundation in the auditorium of People's University. He honoured the deaf-dumb Divyang talents in the programme and conferred DCF Life Time Achievement Award 2022 on AISCD New Delhi's Director Sonu Anand, DCF Best Dance Award 2022 on Deaf Kathak Dance Performance Jabalpur Director Ankit Sen and Best India's First Advocate Award 2022 to Sarah Sunny from Kottayam, Kerala. He had a look at the exhibition of materials prepared by Divyangjan. On this occasion the parents of deaf and dumb Divyangs were present. Governor Patel said that the vision and role of society is crucial in making Divyangjan capable and feel equal with others. Referring to the differently-abled child who excelled in singing in a TV programme, he said that the need of the hour is to believe that Divyangjan is not less than anyone. Persons affected by physical disabilities can lead a better



quality of life if they get equal opportunities and access to effective rehabilitation. Appreciating the rehabilitation of Divyang brothers and sisters by Divyangjan, he congratulated the institution for successful organisation of Deaf Festival. In the programme, Sharad Dixit, Adviser of Deaf Cane Institute, said that the proposal has been submitted to the government regarding primary education to university level education of deaf and dumb Divyang people. Preeti Soni, General Secretary of Deaf Cane Institute expressed the happiness of the Governor's arrival in sign language. She said that the organisation conducts training programmes for personality development and provides teaching of subjects like Mathematics and English in the rehabilitation efforts of the Divyang. She said that efforts are being made to open schools for the primary education of Divyang children. President of the National Association of the Deaf, New Delhi, AS Narayanan expressed his views in sign language on the efforts made for Divyangjan in the National Education Policy 2020. President of Madhyanchal Deaf Association, Saju Stephen, in his speech in sign language, expressed the need to celebrate Sign Language Day. The vote of thanks was given in sign language by Mohini Mittal.

Need of the hour is for coming generation to be aware and active for environment protection : CM

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that the thoughts and sensitivity of children towards saving nature has been effectively expressed through art mediums. The coming generations should be aware and active for environmental protection, this is the need of the hour. Chouhan was addressing children on the occasion of World Environment Day at the Jal Tarang Interpretation Center developed under the Bhoj Wetland project at Boat Club in Bhopal. Chouhan distributed prizes to the winners of painting competition and quiz organized on environment protection. He congratulated the children who gave the message of protecting the environment through painting. Chief Minister also visited the Jal Tarang Interpretation Center. Addressing the children, Chief Minister Chouhan said that, it is necessary to learn various arts, enhance understanding about environment and enhance activities of personal interest along with studies, to hone one's talent. Chouhan said that the state ranks fifth in the country in the quality of education. We have to bring our state at number one. For this, the teachers as well as the students have to work hard. Chouhan while motivating the



children said that they should study a lot and try seriously to get admission in the best institutes of the country. On getting selected in the institutes, the cost of study will be borne by the state government.

It may be noted that the Jal Tarang Interpretation Center was established in the year 2004 near the Boat Club, on the banks of the Upper Lake, to create sensitivity and awareness among the general public about the

conservation of ponds and wetlands. In this, information related to ponds and wetlands has been displayed through models, exhibits, equipment. In the center, information about flora, fauna and birds found in Bhoj Wetland and complete details related to the use of water has been displayed in an attractive manner. The center has information about the river system of the state and the environment, weather, ecosystem of different conti-

nents of the world. Activities are also conducted in the center to enhance the knowledge of children through games. Chouhan gave away prizes to painting competition winners including Ishika Singh, Priyal Jain and Sheetal Gupta and quiz winners Atifa Naaz, Pragna Kansotia and Shikha Yadav. Publication material focused on environmental protection was also presented to the children by Chief Minister Chouhan.

Priestly Prison: Bhopal Central Jail inmates trained to become priests

The Bhopal Central Jail has initiated a unique step to make prisoners serving life imprisonment sentence mentally strong, and also make them able to restart life with spiritual thoughts when they eventually come out from jail.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Bhopal Central Jail has initiated a unique step to make prisoners serving life imprisonment sentence mentally strong, and also make them able to restart life with spiritual thoughts when they eventually come out from jail.

For this purpose, the jail authority with the help of Gayatri Shakti Peeth has started making prisoners 'priests' with an over a month-long training course.

In the first batch of training that began in March-April, nearly 50 jail inmates, who are convicted of serious crimes such as murder, rape, dacoity, kidnapping, have been trained as priests.

Most of them will be out of jail in the next 4-5 years, either due to completion of their conviction period or reduction in their jail term considering their good conduct in the prison.

The second batch of training will start soon and the jail authority is set to initiate the selection process of prisoners for this purpose.

The inmates are selected on the basis of behavioural report, interest, ability of reading and writing and most importantly, their willingness to accept the training.

"Last time, we had prepared a long list of over 500 inmates on the basis of their reports, of which around 150 had cleared written test. However, only 42 of them were selected for training. We are set to start the process of selection of inmates in the next one or two weeks," Dinesh Nargave, Superintendent of Bhopal Central Jail, told IANS.

After the selection process is done, these inmates will be trained for 4-5 hours daily for over a month by the teams of Gayatri Shakti Peeth.

"Most of these inmates either have committed a heinous crime or they belong to poor families who

can't afford expensive lawyers to present their cases. Most of such prisoners suffer from depression in jail. It's an effort to make their minds stronger to restart their lives after getting out of jail," Nargave added.

Nargave, who has been the Superintendent of Bhopal Central Jail for over five years now, told IANS that he had implemented this idea for the first time when he was posted at the Shahdol prison a few years back.

"When I was appointed as head of Shahdol district jail, I heard that Gayatri Shakti Peeth provides such services to jail inmates. This idea had worked a lot and therefore when a delegation of Gayatri Shakti Peeth, Bhopal, came up with this proposal, I asked them to conduct training at the jail premises," Nargave added.

For the priest training course, the inmates were given eight to 10 religious books with mantras. They were taught three subjects -- Karmkand, Sangeet and Boudhik -- between 1 p.m. and 4 pm by eight teachers.

In Karmkand, they were taught various ways of performing puja for occasions such as death, birth, marriage, Griha Pravesh etc., as per Hindu rituals.

In the Sangeet class, they were taught about the use of traditional instruments like 'dafli' and others, including tone and tenor of singing bhajans (devotional songs) and how to properly recite mantras.

"We prepare them (prisoners) for training step-by-step. First, we encourage them for narrating stories from religious and historical books. Once they start showing interest, we take further steps to encourage them to chant mantras and shlokas," said Ramesh Nagar, a member of Gayatri Shakti Peeth, who was one of the trainers.

The Bhopal Central Jail at present has 3,605 prisoners, including 11 convicted under NSA.

CHIEF MINISTER SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN PAYS HOMAGE TO GURU GOLWALKAR



Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan paid tribute to Guru Golwalkar ji by garlanding his portrait on his death anniversary at his residence today. Born on 19 February 1906 in Ramtek, Maharashtra, Madhav Sadashivrao Golwalkar took over as the Sarsanghchalak of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh after Dr. Hedgewar. He was inclined towards national organisation works from the beginning. He was greatly influenced by the philosophy and work style of Swami Vivekananda. Guru Golwalkar contributed in many fields to build a capable India. Guru Golwalkar passed away on June 5, 1973 in Nagpur.

Contract workers can be included in polling teams in case of shortage of government employees

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Secretary State Election Commission Rakesh Singh has informed that if the number of employees of state government in the district is not sufficient to form polling parties, then as an exception, the employees/officers of the central government, banks, Life Insurance Corporation of India can be included in the polling parties. In case of shortage of government employees, contract workers who have completed more than 3 years of service in the polling parties should also be included.

Contractual workers must not be appointed to post no. 1 of Presiding Officer and Polling Officer, because in the absence of Presiding Officer, Polling Officer No. 1 only can fulfil the duties of the presiding officer. Contract workers can be included in the polling party on the post of polling officer number 2, 3 and 4. If it become necessary to appoint a female employee due to shortage of male staff, then at least 2 female employees should be included in the polling party. Women polling officer

should be given duty in the same development block in which she is working. Exempting such woman polling officer from being present in the polling station from the eve of the poll, she should be allowed to be present at the polling station one hour before the commencement of the poll. Field level officers/employees engaged in essential services like public health, water supply, transport, milk supply, commercial tax, excise registration and stamp and electricity supply should not be included in the polling parties. Employees of these departments who work in the office can be given duty in the election. All officers/staff of judicial service have been exempted from election duty. Therefore, they should not be given any duty in the election. No officer/employee posted in any development block should be appointed as presiding officer or polling officer at any polling station in the same development block. No officer/employee who is a native of any development block should be appointed as presiding officer or polling officer in any polling station falling under it.

Singh has directed the District Election Officers that employees whose retirement period is due in 6 months or less, should not be included in the polling party. Other election related work can be given to such employees. Disabled/physically challenged employees should not be included in the polling party. Other election related work can be given to such employees.

After the election, the work of counting of votes for the post of Panch/Sarpanch will be done 'except in exceptional cases' at each polling station itself. This work will be done by the polling officers under the supervision and direction of the Presiding Officer. The selection of the Presiding Officer should be done carefully keeping in view the seniority and experience so that he can discharge the important and sensitive work at the time of polling and counting boldly, with confidence and efficiency. If there is a shortage of polling teams in the districts, the collector of the district can inform the Commission by requesting the divisional commissioner to provide polling teams from the neighbouring districts.



BUNDCHEN SAYS SHE SUFFERED PANIC ATTACKS WHEN SHE HIT 'RB' AT 22

Supermodel Gisele Bündchen has shared that she suffered anxiety and panic attacks at the start of her modelling career and admits she was downing a bottle of wine every night after hitting "rock bottom." The 41-year-old beauty has opened up about the dark days of her early 20s and shared an unhealthy diet of coffee, wine and cigarettes played havoc with her mental health.

She told Vogue magazine: "From the outside it looked as if I had everything and I was 22 years old. On the inside, I felt as if I'd hit rock bottom."

"I was starting my day with a mocha Frappuccino with whipped cream and three cigarettes, then drinking a bottle of wine every night," Bündchen further shared.

"Imagine what that was doing to my mind."

After hitting breaking point, Bündchen was pointed in the direction of a naturopath who helped her detox and turn her life around. She cut out caffeine, alcohol and cigarettes and embraced a diet of vegetables, nuts and small portions of lean meat.

The catwalk beauty explained the gruelling regime gave her terrible migraines but her symptoms disappeared after three months and she started feeling healthier again. She said: "The doctor a I remember him saying, 'Well do you want to live? It was that simple.'"

After completing the detox programme, Gisele has maintained a healthy lifestyle ever since and now credits a healthy diet, meditation and exercise with keeping her on track.

She added: "I think I feel better in my forties than I did in my twenties and not just physically, because we're all told that life is over at 40 and feel like I'm just beginning."

Los Angeles | Agencies

Brosnahan was 'not funny' prior to starring in 'The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel'



Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Rachel Brosnahan was told she was "not funny" before landing the starring role on "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel".

She stars in the title role of aspiring stand-up comedienne Midge Maisel on the hit Amazon Prime series but was initially told to consider a different kind of acting career before landing the part, reports aceshowbiz.com.

She said: "I spent the first couple years of my career being told I was not funny. It wasn't like an insulting thing. It was really just a lot of people who were professionals kind of saying, 'You might want

to head in a different direction. Maybe consider something over here.'"

The former "Manhattan" actress, who eventually won a Primetime Emmy Award for her role on "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel", went on to reveal that just hours before being offered the part, she had been rejected at another audition because casting directors wanted "someone funnier."

At Prime Video show's FYC event, she said: "I think it's been a really challenging and really incredible exercise over the last couple of years. But I'm eternally indebted to (executive producers) Amy Sherman-Palladino and Daniel Palladino for saying yes and taking that

kind of chance on someone like me."

"The day I found out I was going to be their Midge, (I) lost a role that morning because I wasn't funny enough," she further recalled, "They wanted someone funnier."

During the event, panel moderator Danny Strong recalled a conversation he had with producers about their challenge in finding the right person to take on the role and claimed that had they not found Rachel in the end, the show may "never" have happened.

Los Angeles | Agencies



Will Poulter 'never planned' to star in 'GOTG Vol. 3'

Actor Will Poulter has opened up about joining the Marvel Cinematic Universe. In a new interview, the "We're the Millers" actor said that he never expected to be cast in 'Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3'.

The 29-year-old actor will star alongside the likes of Zoe Saldana and Chris Pratt in the upcoming superhero movie as villain Adam Warlock but said he "never planned" to be part of the Marvel Cinematic Universe.

He said: "I've gotta say, I never banked on being involved, in any capacity, really, but I'm certainly very grateful," reports aceshowbiz.com.

"I'm especially grateful that my introduction has taken place in the world of the Guardians, specifically," Will continued. "It's a franchise that I'm a particularly big fan of, and I couldn't ask for a nicer, more fun introduction, really, into the Marvel universe."

"The Score" star was then asked if he had "considered" the possibility that he may have to sign up to appear as the character in several other MCU movies and TV shows, to which he acknowledged that he had to but has no idea what is in store for the character following his upcoming debut in 'Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3'.

He told Collider: "Yeah, you do have to entertain that possibility (of signing up for more). The truth is, I don't actually know what the future holds for me, regarding the character. Certainly, it comes with a certain level of commitment that requires consideration, but obviously, I'm very grateful to have

been given the role!

"I think variety certainly makes it interesting for me and I hope interesting for audience members too, but it's the quality of the material, more than anything else. I let the script guide me. I don't tend to allow genre, or size, or medium, or anything like that, to dictate my choices, wherever possible."

'Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3' is set to be released in May 2023.

CHRIS MARTIN ON BECOMING A BROADWAY STAR: 'IT'S MY DISTANT DREAM'



Los Angeles | Agencies

Coldplay frontman Chris Martin has weighed in on his future when his band is no longer making music.

The 'Fix You' crooner has candidly shared that he wants to become a Broadway star, reports aceshowbiz.com.

The 45-year-old singer has previously claimed that his band Coldplay will stop making records in 2025 and he has his eye on his next career move as he dreams of starring in a stage version of Disney's 'Mary Poppins'.

He said, "I have this distant dream of being in Mary Poppins on Broadway or something, but that's a long way off."

The 'Yellow' hitmaker has previously had cameo roles on 'Modern Family' and 'Curb Your Enthusiasm', but he admits he's not much of an actor at present so some lessons are required.

He said, "Modern Family" was my daughter's favourite show at the time and we bonded over that show. And 'Curb Your Enthusiasm' is Curb Your Enthusiasm so how could you ever say no to that. I'm not an actor clearly I'm good for a cameo or two here and there."

Martin said: "I'm not a great cook. I've cooked twice in the last 10 years and both times the Fire Brigade came and I'd like to send a shout out to them in the North London Fire Department who've saved me twice. The second time they came and said 'have you been cooking again?'"

He said that he lives on "pasta and toast" because "I said I'd cook dinner, but then I got distracted and went to work on a song and then forgot until, anyway!"

50 Cent likens Madonna to aliens months after issuing apology

Los Angeles | Agencies

Despite issuing an apology to singer Madonna months prior for poking fun at her, rapper 50 cent mocked the pop icon once again by likening her to aliens.

He reposted Madonna's racy image on Instagram.

In the snap, the singer had her knees up and legs slightly open. She rocked a black bodysuit and stockings which she paired with huge matching glasses.

In the follow-up slides, 50 Cent attached photos of aliens, reports aceshowbiz.com.

In the caption, he wrote: "I hope she didn't make her kids take this picture. LOL at 63 somebody tell her to chill out please."

Madonna has yet to respond to his recent troll.



However, she was enraged when the emcee dubbed her NSFW photos "the funniest s**t" and laughed at her, "That's Madonna under the bed trying to do like a virgin at 63. she shut out, if she don't get her old a** up."

After the 'Hung Up' hitmaker blasted him, the 'Power' star posted this note, "I must have hurt Madonna's feelings, she went and dug up a old MTV, TRL photo from 03. Ok I'm sorry I did not intend to hurt your feelings. I don't benefit from this in anyway. I said what I thought when I saw the picture because of where I had seen it before I hope

you accept my apology," he added. Madonna, however, wasn't buying his statement. "You were trying to shame me. You were trying to humiliate me. Your apology is fake, it's bulls**t, and it's not valid. Let me just hit those four, five points about your apology being invalid," she said to the camera while she got her hair done by her stylist. "Number one, it's not hard to find footage of you and me hanging out."

"Number two, an apology is not valid if you don't know what you're apologizing for," she went on fuming. "What you should be apologizing for is your misogynistic, sexist, ageist behavior and remarks."

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Hailey Bieber



1st Test, Day 4:

JOE ROOT SLAMS UNBEATEN 115, CROSSES 10,000-MARK IN ENGLAND'S FIVE-WICKET WIN OVER NEW ZEALAND

Joe Root finished unbeaten on 115 and also crossed the 10,000-run mark in the longest format of the game as England wrapped a five-wicket victory over New Zealand on day four of the opening Test at Lord's on Sunday.

London | Agencies

Joe Root finished unbeaten on 115 and also crossed the 10,000-run mark in the longest format of the game as England wrapped a five-wicket victory over New Zealand on day four of the opening Test at Lord's on Sunday.

With Ben Foakes (32 not out) playing an important role from the other end, Root helped England knock off the remaining 61 runs to take a 1-0 lead in the three-match series.

The victory also marked the winning start of Ben Stokes-Brendon McCullum era as captain-head coach in Test cricket for England. With a flick through leg-side for a brace against Tim Southee, Root completed his 26th Test hundred and also crossed the 10,000 Test runs milestone, becoming only the 14th cricketer and just the second Englishman after Sir Alastair Cook to achieve the landmark. At 31 years, five months and five days, Root has reached 10,000 Test runs landmark at exactly the same age as Cook - making the



English pair the joint-youngest players to reach the milestone. Other batters to reach the milestone include Sachin Tendulkar, Ricky Ponting, Jacques Kallis, Rahul Dravid, Kumar Sangakkara, Brian Lara, Shivnarine Chandernaul, Mahela Jayawardene, Allan Border, Steve Waugh, Sunil Gavaskar and Younis Khan.

"I was so glad I was here to witness that - an unbelievable knock by an unbelievable player. He is the most complete England batsman in all

forms. It is absolutely mad that it is exactly the same age. I am happy to call it a draw," said Cook on BBC Test Match Special after Root entered the 10,000-run club on the back of a brilliant unbeaten knock under pressure, especially when England were 69/4 in a chase of 277. Resuming from 216/5 under overcast skies and needing 61 runs with five wickets in hand, England avoided any dismissals as Root and Foakes settled quickly. As Foakes got the runs through bound-

aries, Root, resuming from 77, entered the 90s on the back of good running between the wickets and a crisp straight drive.

Root swiftly brought up his century off 156 balls, to thunderous applause from fans, home as well as away dressing rooms. Root smacked Southee for three boundaries, including the last one pulled fiercely through mid-wicket, to seal an outstanding win for England after see-saw first three days. It also meant Root put a full stop to chances of the second new ball coming for New Zealand's crafty bowling attack. Root left the field to rapturous applause from the crowd, going a little emotional on his way back to the dressing room on an unforgettable day for the ex-England skipper.

Brief scores :

England 141 in 42.5 overs and 279/5 in 78.5 overs (Joe Root 115 not out, Ben Stokes 54, Kyle Jamieson 4/79) beat New Zealand 132 in 40 overs and 285 in 91.3 overs by five wickets

Mayers, Brooks smash tons as West Indies make clean sweep of ODI series vs Netherlands

Kyle Mayers and Shamarh Brooks slammed fine centuries as West Indies made a 3-0 clean sweep of the One-day International series against the Netherlands with a 20-run victory here.

Amstelveen | Agencies

Kyle Mayers and Shamarh Brooks slammed fine centuries as West Indies made a 3-0 clean sweep of the One-day International series against the Netherlands with a 20-run victory here.

The win sees West Indies climb the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Super League table to fourth with 80 points. Netherlands, on the other hand, are at the bottom with 25 points.

It was Mayers and Brooks' maiden centuries as they helped the tourists post a massive 308/5 in 50 overs. But their total could have been even larger if not for some tight bowling from Ryan Klein.

Klein conceded just 19 from his last three overs, as West Indies could only muster 67 from their final 10 overs with the loss of late wickets also slowing them down. Mayers and Brooks combined superbly for a 184-run stand for the second wicket, finding the boundary at ease and finishing with a total of 11 sixes between them. Mayers in particular found scoring easy, with the left-hander smashing eight fours and seven sixes during his entertaining 106-ball stay.



Brief scores :

West Indies 308/5 in 50 overs (Kyle Mayers 120, Shamarh Brooks 101 not out) beat Netherlands 288 in 49.5 overs (Vikramjit Singh 54, Max O'Dowd 89, Musa Ahmed 42; Sherman Lewis

Netherlands were in the hunt for victory for much of their run chase and this was due to a steady knock at the top of the order from right-hander Max O'Dowd, ICC reports. The 28-year-old put on 98 for the opening wicket alongside Vikramjit Singh (54) and then changed his game somewhat during the middle overs as he attempted to play as the anchor and guide the Dutch team home. O'Dowd fell in the 43rd over to signal the end for the Netherlands, but not before the opener showed his class with his fifth ODI half-century and highest one-day score of 89.

Garcia, Mladenovic beat Gauff, Pegula to win French Open women's doubles title

The pair of Caroline Garcia and Kristina Mladenovic clinched the 2022 French Open women's doubles title after beating American duo of Coco Gauff and Jessica Pegula in the final, here on Sunday.

Paris | Agencies

The pair of Caroline Garcia and Kristina Mladenovic clinched the 2022 French Open women's doubles title after beating American duo of Coco Gauff and Jessica Pegula in the final, here on Sunday.

2016 champions and French hopes Garcia and Mladenovic took 1 hour and 44 minutes to register a 2-6, 6-3, 6-2 win on Court Philippe Chatrier and capture their second Roland Garros title as a team.

Former WTA Doubles World No 1 Mladenovic also



claimed the title alongside Tímea Babos in both 2019 and 2020 and she now has won a total of four Roland Garros women's doubles titles. Garcia and Mladenovic were sturdier behind their first deliveries, winning 65 percent of their first-service points compared to a 51 percent success rate for the Americans. The French squad went 0-for-6 on break points in the first set, but were 5-for-6 in the last two sets combined.

Break point success set the tone of the opening frame early. Gauff and Pegula saved five break points before Gauff held for 1-1, then broke Mladenovic in the very next game en

route to a one-set lead. But Garcia and Mladenovic took charge in a topsy-turvy second set when Mladenovic punched a volley winner to break the Pegula serve for 5-3. Garcia served out the set in the next game to level the final. In the opening game of the third set, a crosscourt backhand winner by Garcia polished off a love break of the Gauff serve, and the French pair raced to 4-0 from there.

Serving for the championship at 5-2, Mladenovic had to save a break point and saw her first two match points slip away, but on the third opportunity, a Garcia overhead wrapped up the title for the home team.

Daughter of tea vendor, Kajol Sargar becomes first gold medallist of KIYG 2021

Daughter of a tea stall vendor, Kajol Sargar's only connection with sport until three years ago was her daily visits to a local gymnasium to watch her elder brother Sanket train as a weightlifter.

Panchkula | Agencies

Daughter of a tea stall vendor, Kajol Sargar's only connection with sport until three years ago was her daily visits to a local gymnasium to watch her elder brother Sanket train as a weightlifter.

The 16-year-old from Sangli in Maharashtra also watched in awe as he steadily rose up the ranks to become one of India's top lifters; but that didn't inspire her enough to take up the sport.

All that changed in 2019, when she saw Rupa Hangandi, also from Sangli, clinching the gold medal in the Khelo India Youth Games in Pune.

"My brother is more than five years older than me. I never really talked sport with him before," Kajol Sargar said after becoming the first gold medallist in the Khelo India Youth Games 2021 here on Sunday. "It was only after learning about Rupa Hangandi's success in the Khelo India Youth Games that I felt that I should also try weightlifting," she revealed.

Kajol, who now trains under Mayur Sinhasane, lifted a total of 113 kg in



the women's 40kg category to kick-off Maharashtra's march towards the top of the medal's tally.

Kajol only managed 50kg in snatch in her third attempt to fall behind Assam's Rekhamoni Gogoi, who lifted two kilograms more going into clean and jerk. But she lifted 60kg and 63kg in the clean and jerk to jump to the

top of the podium. Rekhamoni (109 kg): 52kg snatch, 57kg clean and jerk) slipped to third as Arunachal Pradesh's Sandiya Gungli bagged the silver with a total of 111 kg (47kg snatch, 63kg clean and jerk).

Kajol had won a bronze medal in the Youth Nationals in August 2021 in Patiala but a wrist injury earlier this

year forced her to rework her targets for the year. "I was trying to lift 70kg during training and got hurt. I was out of action for over two months and even missed out on the Nationals in Bhubaneswar in March. This title is an important milestone in my three-year journey and would inspire me to work harder," she added.

Athapaththu's century earns Sri Lanka a consolation win; Pakistan take series 2-1

SRI LANKA CAPTAIN CHAMARI ATHAPATHTHU LED FROM THE FRONT WITH 101 OFF 85 BALLS, LEADING HER TEAM TO A COMMANDING 93-RUN WIN OVER PAKISTAN IN THE THIRD AND FINAL ODI OF THE SERIES AT

Karachi | Agencies

Sri Lanka captain Chamari Athapaththu led from the front with 101 off 85 balls, leading her team to a commanding 93-run win over Pakistan in the third and final ODI of the series at Southend Club on Sunday.

Despite the loss, Pakistan had an unassailable lead in the series and won by 2-1. After Chamari's blitz took Sri Lanka to 260/7, the tourists then bowled out Pakistan for 167 in 41.4 overs. From the series, which is a part of the ICC Women's Championship, Pakistan now have four points while Sri Lanka collected two points from Sunday's win, ending their tour on a high after losing T20I series 3-0 and first two ODIs.

Chamari, who had struggled to get going on the tour, finally displayed her immense batting prowess with a scintillating century to set a solid platform for her side's imposing total after she won the toss and opted to bat first for the fifth time on the tour. The left-hander posted the sixth century of her 50-over career off the 82nd ball of her knock, laced with 13 fours



and a six.

Though she fell shortly for 101 with Nida Dar dismissing her in the 31st over, Chamari had done her job by then to set a platform for Sri Lanka's total. She began by taking the attack to Pakistan's bowlers after losing Hasini Perera (3) and Hansima Karunaratne (0) in quick succession. Chamari found an able partner in

Harshitha Madavi as the duo added 152 for the third-wicket, becoming the first Sri Lanka pair to share a partnership above 150 in ODIs. After Athapaththu's departure, Madavi kept the scoreboard moving for Sri Lanka. She was eventually dismissed in the 44th over for 75 off 128 balls and added 60 for the fourth-wicket with Kavisha Dilhari (28).

For Pakistan, Anam Amin and Fatima Sana took two wickets apiece for the hosts while Nida and Omaira Sohail had a wicket each. In their pursuit of 261, Pakistan were pegged back after a decent start, slumping from 41/0 to 48/4 in nine overs.

Sidra Amin, Muneeba Ali, captain Bismah Maroof and Nida Dar were dismissed in quick succession as Sri Lankan bowlers tightened the screws. Though Omaira fought hard with her 40 off 61 balls and all-rounder Aliya Riaz hit 56 off 82 balls, Pakistan never recovered from the collapse in the first ten overs as the required run-rate surged and none of the batters could catch up with it.

Chamari capped off a brilliant day in the field with 2/20 in six overs while Oshadi Ranasinghe took 2/29. Kavisha, Sugandika Kumari and Inoka Ranaweera took a wicket apiece in Sri Lanka's win which came in the 42nd over.

Brief scores :

Sri Lanka 260/7 in 50 overs (Chamari Athapaththu 101, Harshitha Madavi 75; Anam Amin 2/43, Fatima Sana 2/51) beat Pakistan 167 all out in 41.4 overs (Aliya Riaz 56, Omaira Sohail 40; Chamari Athapaththu 2/20, Oshadi Ranasinghe 2/29) by 93 runs

Focus is to keep bowling in right areas, not on Akhtar's fastest delivery record, says Umran Malik

India's speed sensation Umran Malik has made it clear that he is not focusing on breaking Shoaib Akhtar's fastest delivery record of 161 kph, and said that his plan is to keep bowling in right areas and help India win against South Africa.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

India's speed sensation Umran Malik has made it clear that he is not focusing on breaking Shoaib Akhtar's fastest delivery record of 161 kph, and said that his plan is to keep bowling in right areas and help India win against South Africa.

Many young Indian bowlers impressed the experts and fans with their sheer pace in the recently concluded IPL 2022 but Malik was the standout performer because of his raw pace. The Sunrisers Hyderabad pacer had a breakout season as he picked 22 wickets in 14 matches and often clocked speeds in excess of 150 kmph. For his impressive performance in IPL 2022, Malik got the Emerging Player award.

The young pacer was rewarded for his IPL performances as he got picked in the India squad for the T20I series against South Africa, beginning on June 9 in Delhi. "My focus is not on that record right now. I want



to bowl well, bowl in the right areas and help my country win all five matches against South Africa. I want to keep it 150 or above to maintain my body and strength," Umran told News24 Sports. The 22-year-old seamer consistently produced quick deliveries in the IPL 2022. He bowled the second fastest delivery of the season 157 kph after Lockie Ferguson (157.3 kph) surpassed him in the final. Malik

credited his statemate Abdul Samad for the pace he got in his bowling. Malik and Samad both are from Jammu & Kashmir state and have been practicing together since childhood.

"Abul motivated me a lot. Whenever I used to bowl to him, he would say I am bowling slow. So, then I would deliver with more pace. And then the gym and proper exercise helped me in this," Umran added.



SHAH RUKH KHAN, KATRINA KAIF TEST POSITIVE FOR COVID; KAT COMPLETE QUARANTINE

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan and Katrina Kaif have tested positive for Covid. However, the actress has completed her quarantine period. The news about SRK contracting the virus comes right after Hindi film actors such as Karik Aaryan, Katrina, Aditya Roy Kapur had tested positive. Akshay has recently recovered from the infection. According to reports, Katrina could not attend the IIFA 2022 event in Abu Dhabi as she was on a road to recovery from Covid. On the work front, SRK has three films on his platter - 'Pathan', 'Dunki' and 'Jawan', a highly-anticipated film with Atlee. Taking a pan-India route, 'Jawan' will release in five languages - Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam and Kannada on June 2, 2023.

AMAAL MALLIK: HAVE NO PLANS TO PURSUE AN ACTING CAREER IN BOLLYWOOD



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Singer-composer Amaal Mallik, who has always received appreciation for his music as well as for his screen presence in his music videos, says he has no plan to join acting.

The singer has appeared in music videos like 'Tu Mera Nah', 'Pyar Ek Tarfaa' and 'Tujhe Chaahta Hoon Kyun' and now planning to release a couple of more songs in the near future.

Considering the fact that his acting skill in his last released video 'Tujhe Chaahta Hoon Kyun' received so much love, the question of him joining acting comes naturally.

Amaal said, "I know, many times I am suggested to try my hand in acting because my fans always write to me how they love watching me on-screen. But no, I have no plan to join Bollywood for acting. I am making music and I am super happy and con-

tent in my mind with it. I also think that my acting and expression look real in music videos because I only composed and sang those songs, so I know each emotion in and out. If I am acting in a film as a character, I have to fake expression, one has to be trained in that. I am only a trained musician."

The artiste also highlighted how he utilises time with more musical productivity. "I think with the kind of music we are doing now, whether it is me, Bhai (Armaan), we are trying to bring back the Indi-pop era of 90's where Sonu, KK, Shaan sir used to sing some of the mind-blowing songs."

"With my 'Zindagi Aa Raha Hoon Main', 'Main Rahoon Ya Na Rahoon', 'Barsaat' I tried to do that. I really have a musical vision for our independent music and I am working on it. Perhaps that is why I have no time for acting (laugh)," Amaal signed off.

ABHISHEK BACHCHAN AND AISHWARYA RAI BACHCHAN STEAL HEARTS IN IIFA

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The actress Aishwarya Rai Bachchan joined her husband Abhishek Bachchan in an unexpected dance at the 22nd IIFA awards, which were hosted at YAS Island in Abu Dhabi. At the award presentation, Abhishek was seen dancing and giving a hyped-up dance performance on songs like 'India Wale' from

'Happy New Year' and 'Macha Macha' from 'Dasvi'. Later, the actor exited the stage and was seen dancing with his wife Aishwarya and daughter Aaradhya Bachchan. In a video posted on the IIFA's official Instagram page, Abhishek Bachchan can be seen in a white sherwani in the video, while Aishwarya and Aaradhya can be seen



seated in the front row, mirroring his steps. "The impromptu performance by #AbhishekBachchan with #AishwaryaRaiBachchan wins our hearts," read the caption. Aishwarya will appear in Mani Ratnam's 'Ponniyin Selvan', while Abhishek will appear in 'SSS-7'.

KANNADA ACTRESS RADHIKA PANDIT'S PIC WITH HUBBY YASH, GOES VIRAL

Bengaluru | Agencies

Award-winning Kannada actress Radhika Pandit and 'Rocking Star' Yash's photo shared on social media has gone viral. The celebrity couple, especially Radhika, shares family photos (including her children Ayra and Atharv) on many occasions. Both have a huge social media fan following.

This time, the 'Love Guru' and 'Mr and Mrs Ramachari' star has not only shared the picture, but also added a caption that warmed the hearts of the couple's fans. "I read somewhere that, 'A good painter needs only three colours: Black, White and Red.'"

The picture has got 2.69 lakh likes almost instantaneously and many more people are loving it. After the record-shattering success of 'KGF: Chapter 2', Yash has been spending quality time with his family, though there's much anticipation about his upcoming projects.



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It was an evening full of glitz, glamour and sparkles at the 22nd edition of IIFA awards, where actors Vicky Kaushal and Kriti Sanon took home the top honours, Best Actor and Best Actress, respectively. Vicky was honoured with the Best Actor award for his impeccable performance in the film 'Sardar Udham' while Kriti bagged the Best Actress trophy for her portrayal of a single mother in the film 'Mimi'.

In the Best Picture Category, it was Sidharth Malhotra and Kiara Advani-starrer 'Shershaah', which was also feted with the Best Direction, Music Direction, Playback Singer (female) and (male) hon-

ours.

Sai Tamhankar and Pankaj Tripathi were named as the best Performance In A Supporting Role (Female) and Performance In A Supporting Role (Male) for their roles in 'Mimi' and 'Ludo', respectively.

Suniel Shetty's son Ahan won the Best Debut (Male) award for 'Tadap' while Best Debut Female went to Sharvari Wagh for 'Bunty Aur Babli 2'.

The sports drama '83', based on Indian cricket captain Kapil Dev, starring Ranveer Singh, took home the trophy for Best Story

Vicky Kaushal, Kriti Sanon take home top honours at IIFA Awards 2022



(Adapted) and lyrics for 'Lehra Do'. The evening, hosted by Bollywood superstar Salman Khan, was full of laughs and stunning performances by Shahid Kapoor, Nora Fatehi, Honey Singh, Neha Kakkar and Sara Ali Khan, among many others.

Maninee De's next film is on women's health and hygiene

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Maninee De needs no introduction having done shows like 'Jassi Jaisi Koi Nah', 'Naamkaran' and others. Currently, she is shooting in Uttarakhand for a film.

Speaking about her role and the film, Maninee says: "This film is based on a real story from the Northern Hills and is based on a practice mostly seen in the villages of Uttarakhand. The woman is forced to give birth alone in a cowshed and is forced to fend for herself and her newborn all alone in most unhygienic conditions."

"After giving birth she is considered untouchable for a few days. It's a high risk of life for the mother and her newborn baby. She is supposed to cut the Umbilical cord on her own."

"Women are not allowed to bathe or be under the sunlight. It's malpractice and due to this a lot of women and children die. This film will be a message to the world that this kind of ritual still exists and should be removed and addressed at the earliest. The subject left a huge impact on me."

She also adds: "I am playing a Garhwali woman and we are shooting in Himari village in Uttarakhand. I am enjoying the pollution free environment and scenic beauty of Uttarakhand."

Maninee also shares: "I am a huge supporter of women rights and also extremely concerned about our health and hygiene. I am doing this film because I passionately believe in the cause and let's hope that we get rid of these kinds of rituals."

The film is directed by Rajiv Ranjan and also stars actors like Himani Shivpuri, Bijendra Kala.



Prabhas went to Bengaluru to celebrate the success of Rocky-Bhai

Team Absolute | Mumbai

KGF Chapter 2 has set several box office records. Even after a month of release, the mega-smash is still reigning supreme at the box office. This time, Vijay Kiragandur threw the success bash approximately 50 days after the film's premiere, ensuring that it became the most talked about event in Bengaluru. All KGF members attended the success bash, and everyone made a magnificent entrance in the evening.

Few would have anticipated that when Karnataka Film Industry performers assembled at the High Lounge at World Trade Center, they would be greeted by the presence of Darling star Prabhas. The Rebel Star went all the way from Hyderabad to Bengaluru to celebrate KGF Chapter 2's success and Prashanth Neel's birthday. When Bahubali came to the celebration, everyone was astonished. The Superstar has been cast in the next mega-project Salaar. Salaar, directed by Prashanth Neel, is one of the most anticipated movies of 2023, set to be released in the third quarter of 2023.

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Rubina Dilaik