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PLEA IN SC CHALLENGES CONSTITUTIONAL VALIDITY OF AGNIPATH SCHEME

The plea said the Central government, contrary to the constitutional provisions and without having approval from the Parliament and without any gazette notification, quashed the century-old army selection process and imposed the scheme on the country.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A plea has been moved in the Supreme Court challenging the constitutional validity of the Agnipath scheme, to induct youth into all three armed forces for a period of four years. The plea, filed by advocate M.L. Sharma sought a direction from the top court to quash the notification issued by the Ministry of Defence on June 14 announcing the scheme. Noting that a large section of youth have started protesting against the scheme in various parts of the country, the plea said: "According to the impugned press note... dated 14.06.2022, after 4 years out of 100 per cent selected candidates for Permanent Commission in Indian Army, 25 per cent will be continued in Indian Army force and the rest 75 per cent will be retired/denied jobs in



the Indian Army. During 4 years they will be paid salary and perk but after 4 years, denied candidates will get no pension etc."

ARMY ISSUES NOTIFICATION FOR AGNIVEER RECRUITMENT AMID PROTEST

New Delhi: Amid widespread anger and protest over Centre's Agnipath scheme, the Indian Army on Monday issued notification for the first round of recruitment through the scheme. As per the notification, the registration for the recruitment rallies will start from July. "The registrations will be opened from July onwards by the respective Army Recruitment Offices (ARO) for Agniveer General Duty, Agniveer Technical, Agniveer Technical (aviation/ammunition examiner), Agniveer clerk/store keeper technical, Agniveer tradesman (10th pass) and Agniveer

Tradesman (8th pass) as per the ARO rally schedule", the Army notification reads. The notification released by the Indian Army broadly outlines terms and conditions of service, eligibility, discharge and other important information related to the scheme. "Agniveers enrolled under the scheme will not be eligible for any kind of Pension and Gratuity", said the notification issued on Monday. The service of the 'Agniveers' will commence from the date of enrolment. They would form a distinct rank in the Army, different from other existing ranks, it said further. The

personnel enrolled under this scheme will be required to undergo periodical medical checkups along with physical/written/field tests as per orders, said the notification.

SKM TO HOLD DAY-LONG PROTEST AGAINST AGNIPATH ON JUNE 24

New Delhi: The Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) on Monday announced it would join the nationwide agitation against Agnipath defence recruitment scheme by observing a peaceful protest on June 24. The coordination committee of the SKM - a consortium of 40-odd farmers' organizations from across India that was formed two years ago to protest the now-repealed three farm laws - held a meeting earlier in the day where it was decided that peaceful protests would be held right up to district and tehsil level all over the country on June 24.

COACHING INSTITUTES PROVIDING STUDENTS MISLEADING INFO?

New Delhi: The intelligence agencies fear that the coaching institutes might mislead or provoke more students against Centre's Agnipath scheme, and a few such coaching centres are already under the scanner in various states. In Bihar, UP, Haryana and Andhra Pradesh, the role of coaching centres is being probed. State police have been asked to keep a close eye on coaching institutes. "The institute owners told students that it was a contractual job of four years, and there is no future after that. The second lie they spread was that the first six months recruits won't get salary or might be given only half of it. This angered the students," said a source. In Bihar alone, three coaching centres came on the radar of the police where 23 FIRs were lodged and 147 people were arrested. In UP's Alipur, the role of coaching institute has been suspected and four FIRs have been lodged. B. Anuradha, the SP of Secunderabad, Government Railway Police (GRP) had also confirmed that coaching institutes played a key role in provoking aspirants to go on the rampage and vandalize government properties.

BJP MLA COMPARES AGNIPATH PROTESTERS TO JIHADIS

Patna: BJP MLA Hari Bhushan Thakur on Monday said that those who are protesting against the Agnipath scheme are Jihadis. They have nothing to do with patriotism. "Those protesting against the Agnipath scheme are jihadis or they are those with vested interest. Those who want to serve the nation are very happy with the scheme. This is not a job but a service to the nation. People have to sacrifice their lives for it," Thakur said.

RAILWAYS CANCEL OVER 500 TRAINS

New Delhi: As many as 529 trains were cancelled on Monday in the wake of massive pan-India protest against the Centre's newly introduced defence recruitment scheme Agnipath. Of the 529 trains, 181 were mail/express trains and 348 were passenger trains. Apart from them, the Railways also partially cancelled 4 Mail Express and 6 passenger trains. The Northern Railways said that 71 Delhi bound commuter trains (including return services) and 18 East bound train services scheduled from different northern railway terminals were cancelled.

'SOME DECISIONS MAY SEEM BITTER': PM

Bengaluru: Amid massive protest over the new recruitment policy in defence forces Agnipath, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said that some of the initiatives of the government may seem to be bitter today, but they will bear fruits tomorrow. Addressing a massive rally in Bengaluru after several inaugurations, foundation laying and dedication programmes, Prime Minister Modi said, "Few of our initiatives might seem to be bitter in the present times. But, they will bear fruits in the coming days."



Covid virus likely leaked from Wuhan lab: WHO chief

THE ORIGIN OF COVID HAS REMAINED THE SUBJECT OF A POLITICAL AND SCIENTIFIC DEBATE WITH SCIENTISTS AND POLITICIANS GLOBALLY CONTENDING THAT THE CORONAVIRUS JUMPED INTO PEOPLE FROM BATS, OR HAVE BEEN LEAKED FROM A LABORATORY. THE WHO, IN ITS INITIAL ASSESSMENT, HAD STATED THAT IT WAS "EXTREMELY UNLIKELY" THAT COVID MIGHT HAVE SPILLED INTO HUMANS FROM A LAB, BUT LATER THE AGENCY ADMITTED TO FLAWS IN THE REPORT AND ORDERED A NEW PROBE.

Wuhan lab, according to a report. According to WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the most likely explanation was a catastrophic accident at a laboratory in Wuhan, where infections first spread during late 2019, Daily Mail reported.

However, publicly, the UN health agency maintains that "all hypotheses remain on the table".

Initially the WHO was criticised for its deferential approach to China, but in the absence of any compelling evidence of "zoonotic" spread -- the process by which a virus leaps from animals to humans -- the global agency is now adopting a more neutral public stance, the report said.

"We do not yet have the answers as to where it came from or how it entered the human population. Understanding the origins of the virus is very important scientifically to prevent future epidemics and pandemics," Ghebreyesus was quoted as saying this month.

"All hypotheses must remain on the table until we have evidence that enables us to rule certain hypotheses in or out. This makes it all the more urgent that this scientific work be kept separate from politics," he said.

LONDON | Agencies

Just days after saying that the Covid lab leak theory needs "further investigations", the World Health Organisation (WHO) chief has privately confided to a senior European politician that the pandemic originated from China's infamous

Two of six assailants who gunned down Moosewala held from Gujarat



Team Absolute | New Delhi

In a major breakthrough, the Special Cell of Delhi Police said on Monday that it has arrested three persons -- two main shooters and their facilitator -- who were involved in the brutal killing of Punjabi singer Shubhdeep Singh, popularly known as Sidhu

Moosewala. The two accused shooters, identified as Priyavrat alias Fauji (26), a resident of Sonapat in Haryana, and Kashish alias Kuldeep (24), a resident of Jhajjar in Haryana, were arrested from Kutch district in Gujarat on Sunday. Addressing the media here on Monday, Special Commissioner of Police (Special Cell), H.S. Dhaliwal, said that Priyavrat was the head of the module of gangsters who led the team of shooters. He was in direct touch with Canada-based gangster Goldy Brar at the time of the incident.

"He was the main shooter and executioner of the murder who could be seen in the CCTV footage of a petrol pump in Fatehgarh just before the incident," Dhaliwal said. Priyavrat was previously involved in two murder cases and was arrested in 2015.

CABLE CAR GETS STUCK MID-AIR, ALL 11 PASSENGERS RESCUED

- ▶ THIS IS THE SECOND INCIDENT INVOLVING CABLE CARS IN INDIA IN LESS THAN THREE MONTHS.
- ▶ THREE PEOPLE DIED AFTER TWO CABLE CARS CONNECTING THE TRIKUT HILLS IN JHARKHAND'S DEOGHAR COLLIDED IN APRIL DUE TO A TECHNICAL GLITCH.
- ▶ A SIMILAR INCIDENT IN TIMBER TRAIL OCCURRED ON OCTOBER 13, 1992, WHEN THE CABLE BROKE NEAR THE DOCKING STATION AND THE CABLE CAR CARRYING 11 PASSENGERS SLID BACKWARDS.
- ▶ IN THE PANIC, THE OPERATOR HAD JUMPED OFF THE CAR JUST AS IT BEGAN ITS SLIDE AND DIED AFTER FALLING ON A ROCK.

Parwanoo (Himachal Pradesh) | Agencies

Eleven people, including two senior citizens, were stranded mid-air in a cable car for around six hours before being rescued at the famed Timber Trail private resort in the state's Solan district.

They were rescued by deploying another cable car trolley. Deputy Superintendent of Police Pranav Chauhan told the media.

According to police, the cable car was mid-way when the trolley's shaft developed a snag. Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur reached the spot to oversee the rescue operation. A video message by the strand-



ed tourists appealed for help saying they had been stuck in the cable car for over two hours, but received no help.

Anita Garg, one of the rescued passengers, said they remained

stuck for five to six hours. Of the eleven, 10 belonged to five families. The attraction at the resort on the Shivalik hills is the ride in a cable car to Timber Heights (5,000 ft) on a mountain top.

RAHUL GANDHI SUMMONED BY ED FOR 5TH TIME



New Delhi: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has been summoned on Tuesday - for the fifth time - by the Enforcement Directorate for questioning the investigation in connection with its probe in the National Herald case. Till now, he has been questioned for about 40 hours by the anti-money laundering agency, including on Monday. Gandhi was reportedly questioned about a few transactions made by Kolkata-based Dotex Merchandise Pvt Ltd.

Telangana school offers Rs 5,000 for admission

- ▶ With the help of contributions made by donors, the school management has ensured all the facilities for the children studying from Class 1 to 7.
- ▶ The school is also offering two pairs of uniforms, shoes, socks, books, bag and bus pass, all free of cost.
- ▶ Students also get a mid-day meal under the state government's scheme.
- ▶ The local body has ensured sufficient greenery in the school premises and spruced up the building.



Hyderabad | Agencies

At a time when parents are worried over hefty fees for admission of their children into private schools, this government-

run school in Telangana is offering Rs 5,000 for parents admitting their children. Public representatives in Godhumakunta village in Medchal-Malkajgiri district came up with the innovative idea to encourage admissions into local Mandal Parishad elementary school. Sarpanch Mahendra Reddy and his deputy Anjaneyulu took the initiative to encourage parents to send their children to the government school. The public representatives have also displayed a flexi at the school entrance to announce the offer. It also highlights the main features of the school and the facilities provided for students. The school offers in both Telugu and English medium. From this academic year, the state government had introduced English as the medium of instruction for Classes 1 to 7.

I-T department raids firm involved in tax evasion of Rs 400 crore



Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Income Tax Department said on Monday that it carried out search and seizure operations on June 15 at the premises of a leading industrial group in Chennai engaged in

Coimbatore and Hyderabad, which led to the recovery of cash and gold worth Rs 5.5 crore.

During the course of the search operations, various incriminating documentary and digital evidences were seized.

The official added that these non-genuine purchase bills were either obtained from its regular material suppliers or from accommodation entry providers.

The seized evidences revealed that the payments made to the material suppliers through cheque were received back in cash for making unaccounted investments and also for other purposes.



RUCKUS IN BENGAL ASSEMBLY AS MAMATA SAYS AGNIPATH BJP'S 'PLOY' TO CREATE OWN ARMY

KOLKATA | Agencies

The West Bengal Assembly on Friday witnessed pandemonium after Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said the Central government's Agnipath scheme was a 'ploy' of the BJP to 'create its own armed forces'.

"The announcement for the Agnipath project was not made by the defence ministry. The announcement was made by the Union home ministry. This is actually a ploy of the BJP to create its own cadre force under the garb of army training. The defence forces are just being used as a facade. The BJP is projecting a lollypop to create a force of its own goons throughout the country," the chief minister said on the floor of the House during the ongoing monsoon session of the Assembly.



While she was narrating her speech, the opposition BJP legislators led by the leader of the opposition Suvendu Adhikari started protesting and shouting slogans. The ruckus took a serious turn after the chief minister said that she

walkout from the House. Later Adhikari told the media that the Indian Army by making such comments and that too standing on the floor of the House.

"Her comments come as insults not only for the future Agniveers for the entire armed forces. She is threatening us that she will send the unemployed youths to our houses and encourage them to take law into their own hands. This is a thoroughly unconstitutional approach. As chief minister she cannot say such things and that from the floor of the Assembly," the leader of the opposition said.

Earlier, speaking at the Assembly without directly referring to the recent row of teachers' recruitment irregularities, the chief minister admitted that there had been some mistake on part of the state government. "We have provided employment to almost one lakh individuals since we came to power. There can be 100 mistakes. But opportunity has to be given to rectify the mistakes," the chief minister said.

will send the Agniveers thrown out of jobs after four years to the residence of the BJP leaders in the state and ask them to demonstrate there. "After four years of service many will lose their jobs. I will send them to your residences and you will have to take responsibility for their jobs," she said.

These comments agitated the BJP legislators further. They rushed to the well of the House and started protesting and shouting slogans. Soon the BJP legislators staged a

Prez Poll: Yashwant Sinha's name might surface in Oppn meeting

KOLKATA | Agencies

With three names proposed by the opposition parties as candidates for the forthcoming Presidential poll rejecting the offer, Trinamool Congress, with support from a couple of other political parties, might project someone from within the party in the opposition meeting convened by Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar on Tuesday. Sources said that in all probability, Trinamool will propose the name of the party's national Vice President and former Union minister Yashwant Sinha.



Instead of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, her nephew and Trinamool's national General Secretary Abhishek Banerjee will attend the meeting convened by Pawar on Tuesday.

"Proposals have come from a couple of parties to propose the name of Yashwant Sinha as the probable opposition candidate for the Presidential

poll. However, everything will depend on the proceedings of Tuesday's meeting and depending on the names suggested by the other parties at the meeting," a top leader of Trinamool Congress said on condition of anonymity.

Sinha, a retired IAS officer, had served first as the Union Finance Minister and then as the External Affairs Minister in the NDA government led by Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

He quit the BJP in 2018 before joining Trinamool Congress in 2021. He was appointed as the party's national Vice President just before the Assembly elections last year.

On June 15, Trinamool had convened an opposition meeting in Delhi where the name of Sharad Pawar was proposed as the unanimous opposition candidate. However, Pawar had turned down the offer.

Mamata Banerjee then proposed the names of National Conference (NC) chief Feroz Khan Noon and former West Bengal Governor Gopal Krishna Gandhi as the two probable names.

Flood situation worsens in Assam, toll rises to 81

GUWAHATI | Agencies

The flood situation in Assam deteriorated further on Monday with the death of 11 more persons, taking the death toll to 81, officials said, adding that around 48 lakh people have been affected in 32 of the state's 34 districts.



Even as the national and state agencies, including the National Disaster Response Force, are working round-the-clock in the relief and rescue operations, the Assam government has asked the Army to be on stand-by mode to reach out to the affected people.

According to the officials of the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), the fresh deaths were reported from eight districts while seven persons are missing in five districts.

The officials said that since April this year, due to pre-monsoon and monsoon rain, 64 people including children and women were killed while 17 people died due to landslides.

An ASDMA bulletin on Monday night said that 47,72,140 people, including 10,43,382 children, have been affected by the floods.

In all, 810 relief camps and 615 relief distribution centres have been opened in all the affected areas. A total of 2,31,819 people are staying in the relief camps while over 1,13,485 hectares of crops have been damaged.

The water in five rivers -- Brahmaputra, Kopili, Beki, Pagladiya, Puthimari -- is flowing above the danger level at several places.

DELHI REPORTS DROP IN COVID CASES, BUT 6 DEATHS NOW

DELHI REPORTS DROP IN COVID CASES, BUT 6 DEATHS NOW

New Delhi: Delhi on Monday reported a significant decline in Covid cases in last 24 hours, at 1,060, against 1,530 on the previous day, while there are as many as six new deaths, as per the government health bulletin.

Meanwhile, the Covid positivity rate has jumped to 10.09 per cent, while the number of active cases has slightly declined to 5,375.

With 1,221 patients recovering in the last 24 hours, the total number of recoveries has gone to 18,91,536. The number of patients being treated in home isolation has risen at 4,095.

With new Covid cases, the total caseload of the city has jumped to 19,23,149 while the death toll has reached at 26,238.

Police ask Dalit girl to go to court on her own to record statement in harassment case

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A day after IANS broke the story about how a Dalit student of a reputed college under Delhi University was being harassed by her jilted lover, and the police allegedly didn't help her, senior police officers took note of the matter and lodged an FIR.

However, the women police officers asked the girl to go to the court on her own if she wanted to get her statement recorded. The girl then reached the Tis Hazari court on her own.

Sameer Sharma, DCP, Outer Delhi, said that an FIR under the relevant sections of the IPC was lodged in this respect.

The girl had alleged that her parents had asked her to quit education after the accused, Abhishek Rathore, allegedly circulated her



photos. They had approached the cops but no action was taken. The victim's family then

approached different authorities. A news agency broke the story after which cops

swung into action and lodged the FIR. However, they have not arrested the accused yet.

Delhi court grants bail to Bhim Sena chief who made remarks against Nupur Sharma

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Delhi Court has granted bail to Bhim Sena chief Nawab Satpal Tanwar, who was arrested for his remarks against suspended BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma.



A video of Tanwar had gone viral on social media in which he had announced a reward of Rs 1 crore for any person who severed her tongue for her alleged comments on Prophet Muhammad.

Duty Metropolitan Magistrate Dev Saroha of Patiala House Courts in an order passed on Sunday, granted bail to Tanwar subject to conditions, including not to leave the country without seeking prior permission of the court and furnishing a bail bond of Rs 50,000 with one 'sound surety' in the like amount.

The court said his bail is subject to the condition that whenever he is fit for investigation then he must cooperate fully with the IO.

In the order, the court noted that

the FIR was registered on June 9 under section 504, 506, and 509 of IPC and section 153A was added on June 10 after an analysis of the complete video.

"This is the first thing which shows the haste in which the FIR was registered as first the FIR registered and then complete video was

analyzed. The IO despite being questioned has failed to answer why he was in such a hurry to register the FIR even when he had not seen the complete video," the order read. The court also noted the fact that the accused is a member of Bhim Sena is not relevant as Bhim Sena is not a Banned Organisation.

7 BOOKED FOR MARRYING WOMAN TO IMPOTENT MAN

Shahjahanpur (UP): An FIR has been lodged against seven people for allegedly marrying a woman to an impotent man.

The woman's husband, along with others, has been named in the FIR.

Superintendent of Police (Rural) Sanjeev Bajpayee said that as per reports, the family married off the girl with great pomp, but when she reached her in-laws' house, she got to know that her husband was impotent.

The woman's family had given the husband Rs 10 lakh in cash besides other household items as gifts.

"When the bride learnt that her husband was impotent and told her in-laws, her sister-in-law thrashed her and threatened to kill her" the police official said.

He further said that the matter was being investigated and action would be taken accordingly.

War of words over 'Agnipath' creates uneasiness in BJP-JDU alliance

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Violent protests over the 'Agnipath' scheme for recruitment in the armed forces has created uneasiness in the BJP-JDU alliance in Bihar. Leaders in the saffron party feel that a war of words between both the parties has once again raised doubts over the continuity of the alliance.



The BJP leaders in the national capital feel the relationship between the party's Bihar unit and the JD-U hit a new low with the way leaders of the alliance partners are speaking against the scheme, JD-U leaders have worsened the situation, which is creating doubts about the continuity of the alliance," a BJP leader in Delhi said.

The BJP central leadership was surprised with the

central leadership from time to time has asked the state unit to refrain from speaking against the JD-U or Chief Minister Nitish Kumar. By speaking against the scheme, JD-U leaders have worsened the situation, which is creating doubts about the continuity of the alliance," a BJP leader in Delhi said.

The BJP central leadership was surprised with the

silence of Chief Minister Kumar over the violent protests in the state. "Kumar's silence and JD-U leaders demanding withdrawal of the Agnipath scheme has put the alliance under severe strain. Instead of controlling the violent protests, the JD-U leaders are fuelling it through their statements," a senior party functionary said.

7 terrorists killed in three encounters in Kashmir

SRINAGAR | Agencies

The Jammu and Kashmir Police along with the Army have neutralised seven terrorists, including two Pakistani nationals in three anti-terror operations in Kupwara, Kulgam and Pulwama districts in less than 24 hours, officials said on Monday.



One terrorist was killed in an ongoing firefight with the security forces in the Chatpora area of South Kashmir's Pulwama district on Monday.

The Jammu and Kashmir Police along with the Army have neutralised four terrorists during a firefight that started on Sunday at Lolab in North Kashmir's Kupwara district, officials said.

"Two more terrorists including terrorist Showkat got neutralised (total 04). Incriminating materials, arms and ammunition recovered.

Search going on," police said in a tweet.

Earlier, police said the Kupwara Police along with Army launched a joint anti-terrorist operation on Sunday on the disclosure of an arrested terrorist Showkat Ahmad Sheikh in the forests of Chandigam Lolab area of Kupwara. During the search of a hideout, the hiding terrorists started firing indiscriminately upon the joint search party which was retaliated effectively leading to an encounter.

EC delists 111 registered unrecognised political parties

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Election Commission on Monday delisted 111 registered unrecognised political parties (RUPPs) for failing to fulfil mandatory requirements.

It said it has evidence of serious financial impropriety, willful attempts for tax evasion, and other illegal financial activities against them amounting to fraudulent use of privileges and public trust available to them. "These 111 RUPPs, whose address of communication was statutorily required as registration requirement under section 29A (4), and any change in address was required to be communicated to the ECI under section 29A (9), which they have not complied with," the poll panel said.



The EC also said that these parties have been either found to be non-existent on verification or the letters issued by them, in pursuance to the Commission's order, dated May 25, have returned undelivered by the Post Department. It said any party aggrieved from this, may approach the Chief Electoral Officer concerned or the Election Commission within 30 days of the issue of this order along with all evidences of existence, and

other legal and regulatory compliances.

The segregated list of such RUPPs shall be sent to respective CEOs and the CBDT for requisite action under an extant legal framework, it added.

Earlier, the EC sought action against 2,174 parties for failing to submit their list of donors. It has been reported that income tax exemptions have been taken to the tune of Rs 445 crore in 2018-19 by 199 RUPPs and Rs 608 crore in 2019-20 by 219 RUPPs. Of these, 66 RUPPs have claimed income tax exemption without submitting contribution reports in Form 24A as mandated under section 29C of the Act.

CHANGE OF NAME
I POONAM TIWARI is legally wedded spouse of No. JC-571885M SUB BHAKTA WATASAL TIWARI presently residing at VIL+PO- Moonichhapra Teh- Baria Dist-Ballia St- U.P Pin:277209 have changed my name from PUNAM TIWARI to POONAM TIWARI Vide affidavit No. BC 577784.

CHANGE OF NAME
I SARADA THAKUR is legally wedded spouse of No. 4578065F NK MAHESH PRASAD PATRA presently residing at VIL-Kapsi, PO/PS/Teh-Sinapali, Dist-Nuapada, State- Odisha Pin-766108 have changed my name from SARADA PATRA to SARADA THAKUR and changed my DOB from 18/09/1983 to 15/03/1982 Vide affidavit No. 36AA 080290.

CHANGE OF NAME
I DEEPTIMAYEE PRADHAN is legally wedded spouse of No. 4572496X CHM SUREN KUMAR PRADHAN presently residing at VIL - Khalagan PO - Sankhapur PS - Bantala Dist - Angul Teh - Angul St - Odisha Pin-759129 have changed my name from DEEPTI MAYEE PRADHAN to DEEPTIMAYEE PRADHAN vide affidavit No. 36AA 080292.

CHANGE OF NAME
I No. 4581100K Nk KALE SUNIL KUMAR s/o Kale Ankushrao presently residing at Warappaon Lokhandi Sawargaon Beed Maharashtra pin -431517 have changed my son's name from SOHAM to SOHAM SUNILKUMAR KALE Vide affidavit No. 36AA 080293.



MAHA SHOCKER

NINE KIN OF TWO BROTHERS' FAMILIES COMMIT SUICIDE

Team Absolute | Sangli

In a chilling incident, at least nine members of two brothers' families allegedly consumed poison and ended their lives in Mhaisal village near Miraj, police said here on Monday.

The deceased included a veterinarian and his brother, a school teacher, their mother, their respective spouses and children, as nine bodies were recovered from their neighbouring homes.

The motive behind the drastic step and the kind of toxic substance they consumed are not known immediately, and more details are awaited.

The deceased have been identified as Akkatai Yelappa Vanmore, her son veterinarian Manik Y. Vanmore, his wife Rekha, their daughter Pratima and son Aditya, plus members of the other son's family of schoolteacher Popat Y. Vanmore, his wife Rekha and their daughter Sangeeta and son Shubham, according to officials.

The news of the alleged mass suicide spread like wildfire with scores of shocked people rushing to the homes in Ambika Nagar area of the village.



Top police officers, including Sangli Superintendent of Police Dikshitkumar Gedam, Mhaisal police inspector Chandrakant Bendre and others rushed to the spot to investigate the matter.

The bodies have been sent for autopsy and other procedures, the police said.

This is considered the second biggest macabre incident of its kind in

Maharashtra after the Kasarvadavli case in Mira Road, Thane, in which an accountant, Hasnain Anwar Warekar, sedated and killed 14 of his family members before killing himself.

Seriously injured Sabia Y. Bharmal (22) was the sole survivor of the domestic carnage of 2016, which remained in the spotlight for months.

MUMBAI RECORDS 2,087 NEW COVID-19 CASES, ONE DEATH

Mumbai: The Capital city reported 2,087 new Covid-19 cases and one death of a 50-year-old Female, according to Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) on June 19.

The recovery rate in the BMC area is 97 per cent. The growth rate of Covid-19 infections in Mumbai stood at 0.178 per cent for the period between June 12 and 18, and the case doubling rate is 381 days, the BMC bulletin said.

A total of 15,026 tests were carried out in the city, taking the cumulative test count to 173,87,817.

Of the 2,087 new patients, 1,992 are asymptomatic and 95 patients have been hospitalised. Of 95 patients, 11 patients are on oxygen support, the bulletin stated.

SC refuses to release Nawab Malik, Deshmukh to vote in MLC election



Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Supreme Court on Monday denied the pleas of Maharashtra Nationalist Congress Party lawmakers Nawab Malik and Anil Deshmukh to be released temporarily to cast their votes in the ongoing state Legislative Council election.

Minutes before the poll, a vacation bench of Justices C.T. Ravikumar and Sudhanshu Dhulia declined to grant interim relief to NCP leaders, who moved the top court challenging the Bombay High Court order, which last week refused to grant them temporary release.

However, the top court said a further interpretation of Section 62(5) of the Representation of the People Act, will be considered by it to examine whether arrested lawmakers -- MLAs and MPs -- could be allowed to vote in elections to Rajya Sabha and legisla-

tive councils. Section 62 (5) imposes a bar on a prisoner from voting.

Senior advocate Meenakshi Arora, appearing for the petitioners, submitted before the bench that polling is being held on Monday, as she pressed for an interim relief. The lawmakers sought temporary release from prison - under escort protection -- to cast their votes in the election, which is underway.

During the hearing, the bench noted that regarding the entitlement of vote, the question is whether the person is in prison or not.

"If you are in prison, in connection with preventive detention, there's no bar at all but if it's falling under money laundering (which doesn't fall into exception)... prima facie Section 62(5) applies," the bench told the petitioners' counsel.

Both NCP leaders are lodged in prison in separate cases under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

3 banks duped of Rs 150 cr by 'Tamasha' and 'Nautanki' firms-turned-NPAs

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Three prominent Indian banks have been taken for a dramatic ride of a total Rs 150 crore by a couple of Indian companies, which have now become nightmarish Non Performing Assets, here recently.

They are: IDBI Bank Ltd (Rs 92.69 crore), Bank of Baroda (Rs 49.23 crore) and HDFC Bank Ltd. (Rs 6.27 crore), besides interest, penalties, etc. The loans were sanctioned to M/s. Great Indian Nautanki Company Pvt. Ltd. (GINCPL), with directors/guarantors Anumod Sharma, Dr. Anu Appaiah, Viraf Sarkari and Sanjay Chaudhary.

The corporate guarantor named is the Great Indian Tamasha Company Pvt. Ltd. (GITCPL), and other guarantors are Wizcraft International Entertainment Pvt. Ltd., S.G. Investments Pvt. Ltd.

Now, the IDBI Bank, HDFC Bank and Bank of Baroda have sought bids through an e-auction for the sale of 107.24 acres of lands owned and mortgaged by GITCPL with these banks in an attempt to recover their outstanding dues. The land parcels going under the hammer are situated in the Perour village's Ballamvati Mandal Panchayat of Kodagu district in Karnataka.

The GITCPL was running the Kingdom of Dream in Gurugram, near Delhi, and the auc-

tion bids were called under the SARFAESI Act for the default of the huge loans.

In May 2021, the National Company Law Tribunal had admitted a plea by IDBI Bank to invoke proceedings under the insolvency and bankruptcy laws against Wizcraft International Entertainment Pvt. Ltd. for failure to pay up around Rs 60 crore, which the original loan borrower, GINCPL has defaulted on. The bids for the properties -- with a reserve price tag of Rs 1,153 lakhs -- will remain open between July 16-22, and the e-auction will be conducted on July 27, as per a public announcement. In the plea before the NCLT, the IDBI Bank had alleged that Wizcraft being the corporate to the loan it granted to GINCPL had issued an "unconditional and unrecoverable" Corporate Guarantee by which it undertook to pay forthwith upon demand without any demur all amounts payable by the borrower, GINCPL. The IDBI Bank also initiated proceedings under the SARFAESI Act to recover its dues. Banking and corporate circles in Mumbai expressed dismay over the development and questioned if the IDBI Bank, HDFC Bank and Bank of Baroda had exercised "due diligence", and especially, the companies' bizarre names with dubious words like 'Tamasha' and 'Nautanki' didn't sound weird or rang warning bells.

Maharashtra Council Polls: 4 of ruling allies, 5 BJP candidates win

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Four candidates of Maharashtra's ruling alliance and five of the BJP got elected to the Legislative Council today amid cross-voting by Congress members. The result for one seat, for which two Congress candidates are now vying -- is yet to be declared. The contest for the 10th seat has become a prestige battle for the state's ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi after the upset in the recently held Rajya Sabha election, where the Shiv Sena candidate was defeated.

In the results declared already, Shiv Sena candidates Sachin Ahir and Amshya Padvi won. So did Eknath Khadse and Ramraje Nimbalkar from Sharad Pawar's Nationalist Congress Party. BJP's Shrikant Bharti, Praveen Darekar, Uma Khapre and Ram Shinde won too.

The results of Congress candidates Chandrakant Handore and Bhai Jagtap are yet to come. The fate BJP's Prasad Lad remain unknown as well. Of the three, only two will be able to go to the Legislative Council.

Sources said 44 Congress MLAs are



present in the assembly, but the results made it clear that only 41 MLAs have voted for the Congress in first preference. Three Congress MLAs have cross-voted. The results are yet to come. Altogether, 11 candidates were in the race for 10 seats in

the Legislative Council, with MVA allies Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress fielding two candidates each. The BJP nominated five candidates.

While nine candidates were assured of a victory, given the parties' strength in the state assembly, the

main contest was between Congress's Mumbai President Bhai Jagtap and BJP's Prasad Lad. Each candidate required the support of at least 26 MLAs to win, and the 29 MLAs of smaller parties or independents will play a crucial role in the elections.

MAN KILLS WIFE OVER SUSPICION OF HAVING AFFAIR; ARRESTED

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Tilak Nagar cops have arrested a 40-year-old man for killing his 30-year-old wife on suspicion of having affair with another man. The man, identified as Satish Jawale stabbed his wife at a tea stall where she was waiting for her mother. Along with the accused, his friend Swapnil Pawar has also been arrested by the cops.



Vidyavihar. Dipali was a beautician and used to take orders for weddings and small ceremonies.

But since she shifted, Satish used to visit their place pleading with her and promising to not beat her. After living during April and May, Dipali again went

to live with her husband in June 2022. "She was tired of his daily 30 to 40 calls and visits, he used to follow her too," told mother Nanda Bhingare. "When she want to husband's place in June and nothing happened for 12 days, we thought her ordeal has ended" she added. On June 19 at around 9.15 pm, when Dipali was waiting for her mother to arrive at a tea stall near her home, Satish arrived on a bike with a friend and attacked Dipali. "He came saw her and slashed her on neck and cheeks with a knife and ran away on a bike with his friend from the spot," told an official from Tilak Nagar Police station.

Dipali's mother who arrived a couple of minutes after the attack found her daughter in a pool of blood, with the help of the local resident, she was rushed to Rajawadi Hospital, where she was declared dead on arrival.

NEED TO HIRE 400 MORE STAFF MEMBERS TO GIVE PHONE ACCESS TO JAIL INMATES: GOVT TO BOMBAY HC

Team Absolute | Mumbai

On Monday, the Maharashtra government told the Bombay High Court that prisons in the state were severely short-staffed. It also mentioned that the state did not have the infrastructure to provide phone and video call access to jail inmates.

In an affidavit filed in the Bombay High Court through Maharashtra Additional Director-General (Prisons) Sunil Ramanand, the state government said it will need to hire at least 400 more staff members to even begin offering such facilities to prison inmates.

The government was responding to a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed by the People's Union of Civil Liberties, seeking immediate installation of

phones and other electronic modes of communication for the resumption of video and voice calling facilities in all prisons in the state, so that the inmates can speak with their lawyers and relatives. The PIL said during the first two waves of the Covid-19 pandemic, prison authorities across the state had provided telephone and video conference facilities to all prisoners irrespective of the offences they were charged with.

The state government, in its affidavit, said the above facility had been introduced as an "exception" between 2020 and 2021 "purely on compassionate and humanitarian grounds" because of the pandemic-related restrictions.

In its affidavit, the state government said it had provided for 'coin boxes' where inmates could make phone calls

after depositing coins in the phone box, and added that it had also procured "smart phones, Wi-Fi (facilities), tablets etc" for phone and video calls.

However, now that the state had resumed 'mulaqaat', or physical meetings between inmates and their lawyers and other visitors, the above facilities had been withdrawn, it said.

The state did not have the requisite "machinery or infrastructure" to continue providing telephone and video conferencing facilities, the affidavit informed. Besides, while the 'Model Prison Manual, 2016' prepared by the Union Home Ministry provides for video and phone call facilities for inmates, the manual has not yet been adopted by Maharashtra, the state government told the HC.

Yoga in train: Mumbai local commuters perform asanas while travelling

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Ruchita Shah, a young Mumbai-based journalist, has been a regular traveller on the local trains, touted as the lifeline or rather a second home for the more than 22 million city-dwellers.

Many spend hours commuting in it, bonding over games, sharing common griefs and joys and also festivals. Besides being a journalist, Shah who has been an avid yoga practitioner, once came up with the idea of performing yoga while being on a train.

What started as a fun activity in 2017, with just one person teaching 15-20 people has spiralled into a full-blown foundation that is helping scores of Mumbaiers perform yoga, while travelling. "I used to travel in the train every day, to commute to office and to yoga class from Borivali to Grant Road to Bandra and back home. We had a group on the train, playing cards, having fun and lots of other activities. It was our second home. One day it struck me that we do so many things on the train, why not try yoga," Shah said.

"In a busy world, where we work for more than 9



hours and travel takes another two or more hours, we don't have time left for exercise or yoga. The commuting time in the train can also be utilised for our health - that was the thought behind the initiative," she added.

After taking due permission from Western Railways, the initiative was officially rolled out on International Yoga Day in 2017, where commuters performed asanas for the first time in the train for about 15-20 minutes.

Six years later, more than 100 yoga teachers, both young and old, have joined the programme now run by Heal-Station, a yoga learn-

ing platform, founded by Shah.

There are a few yoga asanas that focus on breathing, like sitting parvatasana, sukshma vyayama which helps loosen joints and removes the energy blockages, and other stretching exercises like shoulder rotation that helps relax both the body and mind. These can be practised even in a crowded train both while standing and sitting," Shah said.

A team of 30-45 teachers together with commuters perform yoga in Mumbai's local trains on two days: on International Women's Day (March 8) and on International Yoga Day

(June 21). The International Day of Yoga has been celebrated annually on 21 June since 2015, following its inception in the United Nations General Assembly in 2014. The year 2022 being the sixth for the initiative also coincides with the 75th year of India's Independence. Thus to mark that, Shah said about 75 teachers will participate and they have also taken permission from Central Railways to spread the programme to more parts of Mumbai. A team will also teach commuters at the historic Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus, which is also a UNESCO World Heritage site.



EDITOR'S SPECS

Fourth Covid wave is already upon us!

Since March 2020, the Covid pandemic has caused widespread havoc in India, apart from the whole world. The country had to face one of the strictest lockdowns in the early phase of the pandemic, causing the GDP growth rate to collapse in the April-June quarter of 2020. Then followed large scale deaths in the first wave; followed by even more deaths and stress during the second wave in April-May 2021. In January 2022, the country faced a third wave of the pandemic though the extent of deaths was much lower because a large majority of the population had taken both the vaccine doses. In the second week of June, despite booster doses, the number of new Covid cases has once again crossed 10,000 per day, the highest in almost four months. One key reason for the spike in cases is people not following Covid appropriate behaviour like wearing masks in crowded places. So has India been confronted with a fourth wave of the pandemic? A majority of Indians seem to think that a fourth wave is already upon us. This was revealed during a survey conducted. Overall, 62 per cent of the respondents felt that the fourth wave has already arrived, while 38 per cent did not share the sentiment. Surprisingly, political and ideological divides were seen even on this non-partisan issue. While 45 per cent of NDA supporters felt the fourth wave has arrived, about 71 per cent of opposition supporters shared the same sentiment. A rural-urban divide was also clearly visible. While about 50 per cent of urban respondents were of the opinion that the fourth wave has arrived, two thirds of rural respondents agreed with the contention. Among other categories, there seemed to be no differences of opinion with a majority stating that the fourth wave has indeed arrived in the country.

AS AGNIPATH FIRE SINGES INDIA, SOME QUESTIONS FOR OUR POLITICIANS

Deepika Bhan

Agnipath -- whenever one comes across this word, one is reminded of the 1990 Amitabh Bachchan film, 'Agneepath', which was also the title of a famous motivational poem by his father, Harivansh Rai Bachchan. The Hindi word literally means 'the path of fire', but it now seems as if the country is literally walking on one.

The last fortnight has seen tumultuous events rocking the country -- a situation that should be an eye-opener on how playing politics on sensitive issues can land a nation in trouble and pit its own people against each other. If a TV debate exposed the vicious nexus of politicians and religious leaders, violence during protests against the new defence recruitment plan without understanding it fully has once again exposed deep-rooted insecurities in our society. It is the vulnerability of the masses that comes in handy for the opportunists, who can be inside as well as outside the country.

The fallout of the controversial remarks on the Prophet by a BJP leader showed how international powers can play dirty. Likewise, the violent protests against the Agnipath scheme prove that vested interests can manipulate young minds.

Who were the instigators?

The horrifying images of burning trains in Bihar and Telangana and vandalised railway stations in several other states have rattled the nation. The young people resorting to such violence even before understanding the scheme point to the extent manipulation of insecurities can play a part.

Bihar was the first to witness the violence soon after the scheme was announced on June 14. Why did this happen? Perhaps the answer can be found in what the Patna District Magistrate Chandrasekhar Singh is reported to have said on Saturday. He said that CCTV and other video footage as well as WhatsApp messages of some coaching centres were found on the mobile phones of the arrested students. The role of coaching centres in inciting the violence will be probed, he said. Even in Secunderabad, the police have



identified a few people, including the owner of a private coaching centre, who allegedly instigated the job aspirants to resort to violence at the railway station on June 17. It is being reported that messages asking the aspirants to assemble were circulated in a group called 'Hakimpet Army Soldiers', allegedly created by the coaching centre owner.

The coaching centres fear a loss of business once the scheme is rolled out, hence they instigated the young men.

In the row fanned by Nupur Sharma and Naveen Kumar, the issue was blown up about a week after the comments were made. Sharma's statement was used by Alt News co-founder Mohammed Zubair, after which an outrage was unleashed.

Sharma unconditionally withdrew her statement and the BJP suspended her and expelled Naveen Kumar, but the rage turned into a fireball. Several Muslim religious leaders issued death threats to Sharma and led violent protests in many parts of the country. AIMIM and other political parties played to the gallery.

Several Muslim nations condemned the statement. The US, too, red-flagged the comments without a verification of the facts? The reason is not very far to locate. It is the Russia-Ukraine war and the politics of oil. Though India has condemned the Russian invasion, it has rejected the US-led sanctions against its old partner. India has been buying

oil from Russia and the US is not happy about it. Hence, when the Prophet controversy broke out, the Islamic countries reacted and the US too jumped in. Sources say that the US instigated the countries to up the pitch to corner India.

Do our politicians keep failing us?

Whether it was the Prophet row or the raging protests over the Agnipath scheme, the politicians have found opportunities to manoeuvre opinions.

The Agnipath protests have caused losses of thousands of crores. In Bihar, the BJP has pinned the blame on the Rashtriya Janata Dal. The Union Minister from Bihar, Giriraj Singh, said the RJD's violent protests have led to the burning down of government property and led Biharis to their death. He said Bihar will have to give a befitting reply to the RJD.

In Hyderabad, some protesters said that those who were vandalising public property had been sent by some politicians. The fact that only railway property was targeted in the Agnipath violence is baffling. At the forefront of the violent agitation is the Left students' organisation, AISA. In Bihar, the RJD has actively supported the agitation and the BJP's ally, Janata Dal (United), has adopted a sympathetic attitude towards the

protesters, who have also targeted the BJP leaders and their offices.

The houses of Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Renu Devi and the BJP state president and West Champaran MP Sanjay Jaiswal have come under attack. The BJP alleged that in the garb of youth protests, the attacks were motivated. The Congress has extended its satyagraha against the Enforcement Directorate action on Rahul Gandhi to the Agnipath protests, although certain leaders, such as Manish Tewari, have praised the scheme.

The BJP's failure to make a convincing case on the now-repealed farm laws seems to be playing out in the Agnipath case too. The instigators were quick to create doubts, but the ruling party has been unable to put the positives across.

Even in the Prophet controversy, BJP was rattled at first by the growing negativity within the country and in the Muslim nations. When the country seemed to be getting overwhelmed by the emotions as a result of the controversy, no political leader came out to douse the flames. Most of the opposition parties feared losing vote banks, so either kept silent or spoke against Nupur Sharma and the BJP. What and how the case was portrayed to the world and how TV networks jumped on it should be a cause of worry for the country's intelligence, security and political establishment. It took a Pakistani Maulana whose video has now gone viral to put the Prophet row in perspective. What he said should have been the line of Muslim leaders and scholars closer home. Instead, they instigated people with their statement and created a negative image of the country on global platforms.

Who will douse the fire?

The past fortnight's mayhem has created a deep sense of insecurity all around the country. Whether it is communal hatred or motivated violence in the name of a recruitment policy, the country is on an Agnipath.

The frequency with which riots, arson and looting are occurring means that there is a well-oiled internal system that enables this to happen in several places at the same time. And helping the internal network are the external forces which have their own axes to grind.

international

Zelensky warns against greater Russian hostility amid EU bid

Kiev | Agencies

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has warned of "greater hostile activity" by Russia in the coming days, as Kiev awaits news on its bid to join the European Union (EU), the media reported on Monday.

In his nightly video address to the nation, the President said on Sunday: "Tomorrow a historic week begins. One of the most important since 1991. A week when we will hear the answer from the European Union on the candidate status for Ukraine."

"And in such a week, we should expect greater hostile activity from Russia. Purposefully, demonstratively. And not only against Ukraine, but also against Europe."

"We are preparing. We warn partners. And we are grateful to



everyone whose strength today means our victory tomorrow."

Just four days after Russia launched its invasion of Kiev on February 24, Zelensky had signed an official appeal to the EU asking for the accession of Ukraine via a new special procedure.

And on June 11, European

Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said the bloc will finalise the assessment on granting Ukraine EU candidate status by the end of that week.

Von der Leyen gave the EU membership questionnaire to the Ukrainian President during her visit to Kiev in April.

No absolute majority for Macron after legislative polls

Paris | French President Emmanuel Macron will not have an absolute majority in the upcoming National Assembly following the second round of legislative elections, according to the final results published on Monday by the Interior Ministry.



Macron's alliance Ensemble won 245 seats in Sunday's elections, falling short of the 289 seats required for an absolute majority, reports Xinhua news agency. Left-wing alliance NUPES led by Jean-Luc Melenchon won 131 seats and the far-right National Rally led by Marine Le Pen made history with 89 seats, according to the official results.

The abstention rate of the second-round vote stood at 53.77 per cent, compared to 57.36 per cent in 2017, the Ministry added.

According to French news channel BFMTV, the Cabinet Ministers who were not elected as deputies in their constituency will have to leave the government.

Sunday's elections include 572 run-off races with a total of 1,148 candidates to elect the 577-member National Assembly.

Macron, who defeated Le Pen to secure his second presidential term in April, had an absolute majority during his first term.

One teen dead, 3 adults injured in Washington shooting

Washington | Agencies

A shooting incident in Washington, D.C. killed one teenager, while three adults were injured, police said on Monday.

The shooting occurred late Sunday night in "the area of 14th and U Street, NW", a popular area filled with stores, restaurants and bars, Xinhua news agency quoted the Metropolitan Police Department as saying.

Metropolitan Police Chief Robert Contee told reporters that a 15-year-old was killed while three adults -- two civilians and one police officer -- were wounded but are expected to survive.

D.C. Police Union tweeted that the officer who was shot "has been transported to the hospital and is in stable condition".

A free music festival marking Juneteenth was being held in that area when the shooting broke out and caused panic among the crowd.



Contee said the event was held without permission.

The incident came a day after shots were fired inside a large shopping mall in Virginia, near Washington, D.C.

No one appeared to have been shot but three people were taken to the hospital for injuries suffered while they were fleeing from inside, according to police.

More than 20,000 people have died due to gun violence across the US so far this year, according to the latest data from Gun Violence Archive.



5.9-MAGNITUDE EARTHQUAKE JOLTS TAIWAN

Taipei | A 5.9-magnitude earthquake jolted Taiwan's Hualien county on Monday.

According to the China Earthquake Networks Centre (CENC), the epicentre of the quake that struck at 9.05 a.m. was monitored at 23.66 degrees north latitude and 121.52 degrees east longitude, with a depth of 10 km, Xinhua news agency reported.

All counties and cities across the island felt the tremor.

Another four earthquakes occurred subsequently, including a 5.0-magnitude quake at 9.39 a.m., according to the island's meteorological agency.

No injuries or casualties have been reported so far.

SAUDI ARABIA LIFTS COVID CURBS, PERMITS TRAVEL TO INDIA

Riyadh | Agencies

Saudi Arabia has lifted Covid-19 travel restrictions on its citizens, the Ministry of Interior announced on Monday. Travel curbs were lifted on the following destinations: Turkey, Ethiopia, Vietnam, and India, Al Arabiya reported.

The move comes a week after the Kingdom dropped some precautionary Covid-19 measures, including wearing face masks indoors and providing proof of vaccination in order to enter most public places.

Despite the relaxation of Covid-19 measures, the Ministry of Interior said last week that people will still be required to wear masks in the Grand Mosque in Mecca, places regulated by the Saudi Public Health Authority Weqaya, and places and events that impose their own mask



mandates. The vaccination time frame for Saudi Arabian citizens who want to travel abroad has also been extended, Al Arabiya reported. Travelers were previously required to have received their third Covid booster dose within three months of the second, but that time frame has now been extended to eight months. Coronavirus restrictions in the Kingdom were loosened earlier this year in March when outdoor mask mandates, social distancing measures, PCR tests for inbound travelers, and quarantine-on-arrival rules were dropped.

Twenty Indian fishermen released from Karachi jail

Karachi | Agencies

Twenty Indian fishermen were released from the Malir District Jail, Karachi, and were sent to Lahore by bus from where they will be handed over to Indian authorities through the Wagah border.

Their travel expenses were borne by the Edhi Foundation, and they were also given clothes, ration, essentials and cash as gifts as well, The Express Tribune reported.

They had been arrested for violating maritime boundaries and were released after completion of their sentences.

Those released include Kanji, Manu, Dana, Jiva, Ramesh, Dinesh, Davis, Miro, Narain, Bhanra, Lalji, Nanji, Abu Omar, Younis, Nisar, Aqeel, Amin, Farid, Anis and Dinesh.

Malir District Jail Senior Superintendent Muhammad Arshad said that when the Indian fishermen



were arrested and transferred to the jail, they were provided all facilities as per the prevailing laws. Prisoners were treated with leniency, while consular access was granted for their release, The Express Tribune quoted Arshad as saying. After receiving all the evidence and

proof, the stages of their release were completed by the Home Department and they were released from jail on Sunday morning. Saad Edhi was present in the jail on behalf of the Edhi Foundation and supervised all the affairs.



CM Chouhan's message to the people of the state on International Day of Yoga

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has established India's ancient form of Yoga in the whole world. Yoga is established in the world and today it is also working to cure the whole world. International Yoga Day is celebrated in almost every country of the world. In a message issued on International Yoga Day, Chief Minister Chouhan, extended warm wishes to the people of the state and inspired them to adopt yoga.



tive through yoga. Chief Minister Chouhan said that when I got Covid during the Covid period, I continued practicing Asanas and Pranayama, which helped me fight against Covid.

Chief Minister Chouhan said that if the body is healthy, then our immune system can fight against diseases. Chief Minister Chouhan has appealed to the people of the state to practice yoga and pranayama every day and not only on International Day of Yoga and make the body healthy. Our body is a storehouse of infinite powers, through this we can do many great things.

Chief Minister Chouhan said that if the body is healthy, then our immunity can fight against diseases. In his message to children and youth of the state, Chouhan said that if they practice yoga, pranayama and meditation every day, then their intellect will also become sharp. Along with this, you will be able to concentrate on studies in a better way and the ability to work will also develop to achieve the set goals in life.

Let us practice yoga everyday. Chief Minister Chouhan thanked the organizations like Patanjali Yogpeeth for being continuously active in the promotion of Yoga.

controlled life and eating habits. Through Asanas, we keep our body flexible and healthy. Pranayama is the process of breathing, which strengthens our lungs, it also controls the mind.

Chief Minister Chouhan said that I myself work for 18 hours a day, take a balanced diet and try to maintain regularity in my life. Along with this, I do asanas, pranayama and meditation every day. As a result I never have a problem working 18 hours a day. I am constantly filled with positive energy. We can all be posi-

Faced with criticism on Agnipath remark, Vijayvargiya blames 'toolkit'



Team Absolute | Bhopal

During a press conference on Sunday in Indore, Vijayvargiya made the remarks while defending the Centre's Agneepath scheme on four-year contractual military recruitment that has sparked protests in many parts of the country and is being questioned by many parties.

The BJP leader said the scheme promises several benefits for those who are not retained in service after four years. Discipline and obeying orders are key in the armed forces. "Assume that one who would join as Agniveer at the age of 21, he will still be 25 by the time he leaves the force. He will have Rs 11 lakh cash in his hand. He will also be displaying the Agniveer medal on his chest," he said. "If I have to hire someone for the security for the BJP office here, I will give a preference to an Agniveer," he added. This statement fuelled controversy in Madhya Pradesh and the opposition -- Congress -- accused him of insulting the armed forces.

Finding himself cornered from the opposition and social media users for his remark, Vijayvargiya tried to cover up blaming an alleged toolkit gang for distorting his statement. "What I clearly meant was that, Agniveer who came out of the Agnipath Yojana will definitely be trained and committed to duty, his excellence will be utilised in whatever field he will go after completing his service in the Army," he said, adding that "the nation is well aware of the conspiracies of this toolkit gang against the national heroes."

Faced with criticism for his remark on Centre's Agnipath recruitment scheme in armed forces, BJP national general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya blamed an alleged 'toolkit' gang for distorting his statement. Veteran saffron leader from Madhya Pradesh, Vijayvargiya alleged that an unseen toolkit gang distorted his statement and insulted the workers of the country. His statement that 'Agniveers will be given preference in the security jobs at his party office' drew flak from the opposition as well his own party MP Varun Gandhi.



CM CHOUHAN PLANTS BANYAN, CASSIA AND SAPTAPARNI SAPPLINGS

CM Chouhan's son Kunal planted a banyan sapling on the occasion of his birthday

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planting saplings along with his son Kunal and members of Ujjwal Bhoomi Foundation in Smart City Garden.

June 19 was the birthday of CM Chouhan's son Kunal. As CM i Chouhan was busy, Kunal could not plant saplings with him on Sunday. Kunal planted a banyan sapling along with CM

Chouhan on the occasion of his birthday.

Importance of saplings Banyan has religious significance among the saplings planted today, besides it is possible to cure many diseases from the banyan tree according to the Ayurveda. The bark and leaves of Cassia are used in making Ayurvedic medicines. Saptaparni plant is an evergreen medicinal tree, which has great importance in Ayurveda.

Three Maoists gunned down in Balaghat

OUT OF TURN PROMOTION AND GALLANTRY AWARD WILL BE GIVEN TO JAWANS AND POLICEMEN

This action was led by ASP Balaghat accompanied by Hawk Force and Madhya Pradesh Police personnel. SP Balaghat Range and CO Hawk Force guided the entire proceedings. In this encounter, one DCM (Divisional Committee Member) and two ACM (Area Committee Member) associated with Naxalism, Manoj and Rame (Female), who had a reward of more than Rs 30 lakh on their heads, were killed. AK-47, 303 and 12 bore action guns have been recovered from them.



Team Absolute | Bhopal

Three armed Maoists, including a woman, were gunned down during an encounter in Madhya Pradesh's Balaghat district, police said on Monday. According to the police, the victims, aged between 35 to 40 years, were associated with Platoon 56 of the Vistar Dalam and Darekasa Dalam.

The encounter was carried out by the Balaghat Police Hawk Force in Kadla village under the Bahela police station limits. Confirming the development, Inspector-General of Police Sanjay

Singh said: "Three naxals were killed and police personnel present at the spot are carrying out an investigation." One of them also carried a bounty on his head, he added. Balaghat, a tribal-dominated area in Madhya Pradesh is connected with the neighbouring state of Chhatisgarh.

During a meeting last week with Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan informed him that the process of recruiting local youth in the Balaghat Police Hawk Force will begin soon and a policy will be unveiled for surrendered naxals.

No one is allowed to disturb peace, be it a Naxalite or a criminal: CM Chouhan

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that the state government is busy in eliminating Naxalites. Chief Minister Chouhan has tweeted that 'Out of turn promotions and gallantry award will be given to the policemen who killed the Naxalites by risking their lives. Chief Minister Chouhan appreciated the duty and courage of the policemen and jawans and said that the state is proud of brave heroes like you. Chief Minister Chouhan said that Madhya Pradesh is an island of peace and no one is allowed to disturb its peace, be it a Naxalite or a criminal. Our government is softer than a flower for gentlemen and harsher than thunderbolt for the wicked.

Processing units should be set up according to mass production of guava

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that industrial institutions should cooperate in realizing the possibilities of fruit production and its processing in Madhya Pradesh.

Such units can be set up especially in view of the huge production of guava in many districts. Chief Minister Chouhan was holding talks with Chairman, M/s Parle Agro Private Limited, Prakash Chauhan, CEO Schauna and other representatives, who came to meet him at Mantralaya today.

The officials of the institute informed Chief Minister

Chouhan about the proposed new investment in Madhya Pradesh. Accordingly, a ready-to-serve fruit drinks manufacturing unit is being expanded in Mandideep district Raisen for dairy and fruit based beverages. The institute has also reserved 2.06 acres of land for this project.

The proposed capital investment would be Rs 340.86 crore and employment would be given to more than 150 people. Presently Parle Group is manufacturing various fruit drinks and dairy products by operating 10 industrial units in the country including Mandideep in food processing sector. Since 1985, Parle Group has made efforts in this field.



Birds are making their nests ahead of monsoon

Team Absolute | Bhopal

With the arrival of the monsoon season, the tweet of birds has increased and birds from other countries have also started appearing. Birds of South Asia have also come in Madhya Pradesh and they have started making their homes too. The Bay of South Asia, which is called Baya

Weaver, is a group of these birds engaged in making their homes. These birds are cooperating with each other and are busy making their home. Capital's environmental lover and nature photographer Anil Gulati has released a video on social media in which a group of birds are making their home.

In the pictures and videos that Gulati has

released on social media, it is understandable that the birds are engaged in making their home by kneading the grass, this house is no less than the art of a weaver. This bird of South Asia is light yellow in color and they come here only during monsoon and make their settlements. Similar settlements in the Kolar area of the capital are also engaged in making this bird.

BJP favors clean politics: Shivraj

Team Absolute | Bhopal

During the urban body elections in Madhya Pradesh, the matter of making the family members of criminal background as candidates is hot. On this, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has claimed that the BJP is in favor of clean politics. The BJP changed the candidate when the case of giving ticket to the wife of a man of criminal background in Indore came to light. Even after that many more names are coming out, regarding this, Chief Minister Chouhan said, Congress has criminalized politics. Criminals were made public representatives. BJP is in favor of clean politics. Our leaders, who are leading the country, have a clear instruction from Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the



party that politics will not be allowed to be criminalised.

Referring to the change of candidates in Indore, he said, as soon as it came to the notice of Indore ticket that the family of a criminal had got the ticket, immediately I and the state president and organization general minister spoke and immediately took back that ticket. If any such thing will come to notice in future also, then it is for sure that BJP will not elevate a habitual, notorious criminal to the post of public representative.

Chouhan further said, in public life, elected representatives from the people are for public service, public welfare and development. There is no place for criminals here.

SOLIDARITY CHALLENGE BEFORE CONGRESS IN MADHYA PRADESH

Team Absolute | Bhopal

In Madhya Pradesh, the campaigning for the urban body elections is in full swing, the tours of leaders have started and meetings are also being held there. Once again the biggest challenge before the Congress in these elections seems to be unity. Now the situation is that the leaders are speaking abusive words to their senior leaders.

Factionalism in Congress has always been synonymous with each other. At present, factionalism is not openly, but continues to eat inside. Leaders are even accusing each other and many audios are also going viral.

An audio of former minister Sajjan Singh Verma has gone viral, purportedly abusing former chief minister Digvijay Singh. This is not the first time that an audio of Sajjan Singh Verma has gone viral, even before that a video went viral in



which Verma was making unparadonable statements against the former Chief Minister.

On Verma's statement, BJP's media department in-charge Lokendra Parasar tweeted, "From the whole day I have been thinking that how much the parents of 'Gali

Veer' must be repenting that why did we name the son Sajjan.

A senior Congress leader says that the unity that should be there in the party at the time of elections is not visible. Under the leadership of state president Kamal Nath, no leader can speak openly, but many leaders

have limited themselves. The audio and video of senior leaders like Sajjan Verma are raising many questions. The question arises as to why action is not taken against Verma even after his controversial statements. If this trend continues, then the indiscipline in the party will increase further.

Political analysts believe that Kamal Nath's efforts are continuing to strengthen the Congress in the state, but he is not getting the support of the people of the party itself.

If any leader in the party makes unrestrained statements and action is not taken against him, then it gives strength to many leaders. Today it is necessary that the stick of discipline should be run in the party and the leaders who show inaction should be given advice. If the party does not change its approach, then one has to be prepared for losses in the coming days.



Chris Evans prefers returning to 'Fantastic Four' than reprising Captain America

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Chris Evans says reprising his role as Johnny Storm in 'Fantastic Four' would be an "easier sell" than playing Captain America again. The actor played the Human Torch or Johnny Storm in 2005's 'Fantastic Four' and its sequel 'Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer' and he would love for the Marvel superhero to make a comeback as he doesn't believe the character has had his "day" yet, reports aceshowbiz.com.

In an interview with MTV News, Evans said, "God, wouldn't that be great? Wouldn't that be great? No, no one's ever come to me about that. I mean, I don't exactly look the same anymore."

"That was 15, almost 20 years ago. Oh my God, I'm old. But I really love that character, but I think aren't they doing something now with 'Fantastic Four'?" "I would love it. That would actually be an easier sell to me than coming back as Cap. You know what I mean? Cap is so precious to me. And you know, I almost don't wanna disrupt what a beautiful experience that was," he said.

"But Johnny Storm, I feel like he didn't really get his day. That was before Marvel really found its footing. So, I loved that role and, you know, who knows." Last year, Chris shot down a rumour he was set to return as Captain America.



JLo PRAISED AFTER USING GENDER-NEUTRAL PRONOUNS TO INTRODUCE HER CHILD EMME

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Jennifer Lopez introduced her child Emme using gender-neutral pronouns during a public event. Lopez of two was joined by Emme, one of the twins whom she shares with her former husband Marc Anthony, for a performance at the Los Angeles Dodgers Foundation Blue Diamond Gala, which raised \$3.6 million for local causes. Before singing a cover of Christina Perri's 'A Thousand Years', she introduced the teen using "them/they" pronouns, reports aceshowbiz.com. "The last time we performed together was in a big stadium like this and I ask them to sing with me all the time, and they won't. So this is a very special occasion," the star said of Emme, referring to the Super Bowl halftime performance she also brought Emme on stage for in 2020. The 52-year-old quipped about Emme: "They are very, very busy. Booked. And pricey! It costs me when they come out. But they're worth every single penny because they're my favourite duet partner of all time. So if you will indulge me." In a video which has gone viral, the 14-year-old used a rainbow-coloured microphone during the performance. Emme further joined JLo for a verse of Bruce Springsteen's 'Born in the USA' and the intro of her own hit 'Let's Get Loud'. Many quickly assumed that "they" is how Emme identifies and fans loved that JLo respects Emme's choice of pronouns. "They" is how Emme identifies. "This was JLo sharing that information. It's beautiful to see her supporting her child," one commented on the duo's performance. Another gushed: "Awww JLo respecting the pronouns." A third person, who is also a mother, dubbed JLo a "mom goal" and tweeted: "I need to work on saying they with so much ease for my child. #momgoal #lovemythey."



Nicole Kidman to star, produce thriller feature 'Holland, Michigan'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood actress Nicole Kidman is re-teaming with Amazon Studios for the Mimi Cave directed thriller 'Holland, Michigan'. The feature, based on Andrew Sodroski's (Manhunt) script, topped the 2013 Black List, and involves secrets that lurk beneath a Midwestern town with a Hitchcock bent. Kidman will star and produce with Per Saari under her Blossom Films, reports 'Deadline'. Kidman starred in Amazon's 'Being the Ricardos' as Lucille Ball, a role which earned her a Best Actress Oscar nomination, a Golden Globe Best Actress-Drama win, and a SAG nomination. The actress is also starring in and producing the Amazon drama series 'Expats'. According to 'Deadline', 'Being the Ricardos' launched worldwide on Prime Video December 21, 2021 and was No. 1 on the service its opening week and among the highest debuts of any movie drama release on Prime Video. Cave directed the comedy horror thriller 'Fresh' which premiered at this year's Sundance Film Festival and was acquired by Searchlight Pictures.



PRIYANKA SHARES PICTURE OF NICK, DAUGHTER MALTI IN MATCHING SNEAKERS

Los Angeles | Agencies

Indian actress Priyanka Chopra Jonas shared an adorable photograph of her husband Nick Jonas and daughter Malti Marie twinning with Nick in customised shoes. Priyanka took to Instagram, where she shared the photograph of Nick standing with his back towards the camera, holding their little baby girl, who wore a wine coloured dress. Malti Marie is in white sports shoes with 'MM' written on them, Nick's shoes have 'MM's Dad' written on them.

However, their faces are not visible in the picture. The actress posted it on Monday and wrote: "Happy 1st Father's Day my love. To watch you with our little girl is my greatest joy.. what an amazing day to come back home. I love you.. here's to many more." Nick shared the same picture and wrote: "First Father's Day with my little girl. Thank you @priyankachopra for the incredible Father Daughter sneakers and for making me a daddy I love you so much. Happy Father's Day to all the dads and caretakers out there." Priyanka and Nick welcomed their first bundle of joy, Malti in 2022. Their daughter was born via surrogacy.



OSCAR-WINNING FILMMAKER PAUL HAGGIS ARRESTED IN ITALY ON SEXUAL ASSAULT CHARGES

Los Angeles | Agencies

Oscar-winning Canadian screenwriter and director Paul Haggis has been arrested in Ostuni, Italy, on charges of sexual assault and aggravated personal injury reportedly inflicted upon a still unidentified woman who has pressed charges. According to several Italian press reports and a note from the public prosecutor of the nearby city of Brindisi, Haggis is charged with forcing a young "foreign", meaning non-Italian, woman to undergo sexual intercourse over the course of two days in Ostuni, where he was scheduled to hold several master classes at the Allora Fest, a new film event being launched by Los Angeles-based Italian journalist Silvia Bizio and Spanish art critic Sol Costales Doulton set to run from June 21-26, reports 'Variety'. Bizio has confirmed to Variety that Haggis is under arrest. "Under Italian Law, I cannot discuss the evidence," Haggis' longtime personal attorney Priya Chaudhry said in a statement. "That said, I am confident that all allegations will be dismissed against Mr. Haggis. He is totally innocent and willing to fully cooperate with the authorities so the truth comes out quickly." In statement The Allora Fest said they have "learned with dismay and shock the news that Paul Haggis is in custody for alleged violence". According to 'Variety', the fest's directors "immediately proceeded to remove any participation of the director from the event" and "At the same time, they express full solidarity with the woman involved", they added.

Neil Diamond croons 'Sweet Caroline' in rare post-retirement appearance

Los Angeles | Agencies

Baseball fans received a treat from singer Neil Diamond, who gave a rare live performance of 'Sweet Caroline' at the Boston Red Sox game. Diamond retired from concert touring in 2018 following his Parkinson's Disease diagnosis, reports 'Variety'.

This post-retirement appearance is the first time that Diamond has performed at Fenway since 2013. He performed the song then as the Red Sox played their first home game since the Boston Marathon bombing.

According to 'Variety', in a video shared by Fox Sports: MLB on Twitter, Diamond is enthusiastically singing along to his classic while



sporting a black and red Boston Red Sox letterman jacket.

The native New Yorker and 'Sweet Caroline' have become symbols of Boston over the years, as the Red Sox play the song during the eighth inning of every home game at Fenway Park.

The 25-year ritual has led to a revival of the 1969 single, with other sports teams picking up a similar practice, including the NFL's Carolina Panthers, who prompt in-stadium 'Sweet Caroline' singalongs during every game.

Following Diamond's retirement announcement in 2018, he made it clear he would "remain active in writing, recording and other projects for a long time to come". Diamond has only made infrequent live appearances since.



Bella Hadid



FIH Hockey Pro League

INDIAN WOMEN'S TEAM LOOKS TO END DEBUT SEASON ON A HIGH

Rotterdam (Netherlands) | Agencies

Currently placed third in the standings, the Indian women's hockey team will be looking to end its debut campaign in FIH Pro League on a high note when it takes on the United States in its last double-header matches in Rotterdam this week.

India will meet the USA on June 21 and 22 hoping to widen the gap with fourth-placed Belgium, who too have two matches remaining in the league.

The Indian team led by Savita registered a 2-2 (2-1 SO) shootout win and a narrow 2-3 loss in its previous Pro League matches against the current Champions Argentina on weekend. India are currently placed in the third position in the league table with 24 points from 12 matches.

Argentina topped the table with 42 points from 16 matches, the Netherlands are second with 34 points from 14 matches while Belgium are fourth with 22 points from 14 matches. The matches between India and England (women), initially scheduled on April 2-3 in Bhubaneswar were cancelled.



Consequently, it has been agreed between the FIH and the two nations that the six points available for these two matches be awarded to India. Speaking ahead of the two-legged tie against the USA, Savita said, "For us, the most important thing is that we could execute our plans and put up an improved performance on the weekend against Argentina. However, we could have done better, but I feel these matches are confidence booster for us ahead of the World Cup." With the FIH hockey women's World Cup 2022 just around the corner, Savita said that the team is shaping up really well for the marquee event. "We are glad that we have got a good opportunity of playing in Europe just a few days ahead of the World Cup, so the build-up towards the big event has been really great. The team is shaping up really well for the World Cup," the Indian Captain concluded.

The double-header with the USA will also be the first time that chief coach Janneke Schopman will meet the team that she coached before taking up the India job. India had edged past the Schopman-coached USA in Olympic qualifiers for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games.

Asian Track Cycling

Ronaldo Singh shines as India bag two more bronze medals



New Delhi | Agencies

World Junior Champion Ronaldo Singh Laitonjam claimed the country's first-ever international medal in the 1km Time Trial event as India had another successful day at the Asian Track Cycling Championship, bagging two bronze medals on Day 3.

Birjit Yumnam won the second bronze medal for the hosts as they took their overall tally to 20 medals here at

the IGI Stadium.

The day, which had five finals scheduled, also witnessed a major crash that left the Indian rider involved with a minor injury.

The riders were gearing up for the Men's Elite 10km Tempo Race -- the second event of the Omnium event when Malaysia's Zulhelmi Zainal and India's Viswajit Singh collided with each other. Due to an injury, Viswajit left the event while Zulhelmi Zainal got up and finished the race. Zulhelmi

completed all four events of Omnium and was placed 8th in the final standings.

Asian Record holder Ronaldo Singh pedalled his cycle with a speed of 58.254 km/h and clocked 1:01.798s to win a bronze medal in the 1km Time Trial event of the Men's Senior category. This was his and India's first-ever medal in this event. Yuta Obara of Japan won gold in 1:01.118s (speed 59.902 km/h) while Malaysia's Mohammad Fadhil clocked 1:01.639s to claim silver.

Russian player switches nationality to avoid Wimbledon ban

London | Agencies

Doubles world No 43 tennis player Natela Dzalamidze has switched her nationality from Russia to Georgia for competing in Wimbledon, starting from June 27.

In April, Wimbledon imposed a ban on Russian and Belarusian players following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. However, Moscow-born tennis player Natela figured out a way to get herself into The Championships -- by changing her nationality from Russia to Georgia.

The 29-year-old is on the Wimbledon entry list as a Georgian, having competed at the French Open in May under a neutral flag. At Wimbledon, she will compete in the women's doubles



event with Serbia's Aleksandra Krunic.

The grass-court Grand Slam starts on June 27 with Russian world number one men's singles player Daniil Medvedev and Andrey

Rublev along with top women players Aryna Sabalenka, Victoria Azarenka and Daria Kasatkina among others barred from competing in the third Grand Slam of the year.

Dravid indicates Karthik and Pandya could be his 'enforcers' in ICC T20 World Cup

Bengaluru | Agencies

India chief coach Rahul Dravid has indicated that Dinesh Karthik and Hardik Pandya could be vital cogs in the country's campaign in the ICC T20 World Cup in Australia later this year, saying that "both of them are our enforcers" as the side looks to overcome the disappointment of last year's tournament and come back strongly in the 2022 mega event.

Both Karthik and Pandya have come up with heartening performances in the drawn five-match T20I series against South Africa, with the former scoring a match-defining half-century in Rajkot that helped the hosts level the series at 2-2.

The fifth and final game at Bengaluru on Sunday was washed out.

"He (Karthik) is picked for a very specific skill and he was picked for that based on what he has been doing particularly well over the last two or three years," Dravid said post-match on Sunday. "It almost came together perfectly for us in that game at Rajkot when we needed that big performance in the last five overs to be able to make a par score.



"He (Karthik) and Hardik (Pandya) batted beautifully for us and both of them are our enforcers at the end and guys that can capitalise on the last five or six overs as well as anyone in the world. It was really nice to see Karthik come off and do what he

has been picked to do and it certainly opens up a lot more options for us going forward. Innings like that (in Rajkot) means he is certainly knocking very hard," added Dravid.

While the start of the 20-over showcase is still more than three months away, India still have many issues to iron out as they zero in on their final 15-player squad for this year's tournament.

With Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma, Jasprit Bumrah and KL Rahul either rested or injured for the recently completed T20I series against South Africa, a host of fringe performers were given the chance to put their best foot forward during the five-match series. That quartet are almost certain to feature in India's squad that will travel to Australia at the start of October for the four-week long tournament, but there are seemingly many spots still open for the remainder of India's touring party, according to ICC.

India still have at least 13 T20Is to play before they fly to Australia, with matches against Ireland (two), England (three), West Indies (five) and Australia (three) slated between now and the start of the tournament on October 16.

England men's cricket team to tour Pakistan in September this year: Report

Lahore | Agencies

The England men's cricket team looks all set to tour Pakistan in the second week of September to play seven T20I matches, according to a media report in Pakistan.

According to a report by television channel Samaa, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) and the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) are in the process of giving the final touches to the tour.

"The seven-match T20I series will be played from September 15 to October 02. Matches are expected to be played in three venues -- Multan, Rawalpindi and Lahore," the report claimed citing sources.

Last week, Pakistan Cricket



Board Chairman Ramiz Raja, after meeting British Commissioner Christian Turner, said that dates for the tour will be announced soon.

Initially, England were scheduled to play five T20Is but former ECB Chief Executive Tom Harrison

approved the addition of two more T20Is to make up for pulling out of a tour of Pakistan last year, the report claimed. The two cricket boards have also established a working committee to make the series successful, the report said.

INDIA'S JEHAN DARUVALA GETS HIS FIRST TEST DRIVE IN F1 WITH MCLAREN

Mumbai: Young Indian race driver Jehan Daruvala moves a step closer to realising his dream of becoming a Formula 1 competitor when he gets to test drive with former World Champions McLaren at the Silverstone circuit in England this week.

Jehan will drive McLaren's MCL35M car at the Silverstone circuit on Tuesday and Wednesday, becoming only the third Indian after Narain Karthikeyan and Karun Chandhok to drive a Formula 1 car. "I am really excited at getting this opportunity to test an F1 car. It has been my dream to drive an F1 car and it is a big opportunity for me as very few people get such a chance. I am looking forward to doing my best in the test," said Daruvala, who will continue to be a part of the Red Bull Junior Team which he joined in 2020. The 23-year-old Mumbai-born driver is currently participating in the F2 Championship and has done well so far in the season to be placed third in the overall standings. Though testing an F1 car is no guarantee to getting a regular race drive in Formula 1, it is still a big opportunity for a young driver as he gets a chance to impress teams as they scout for talent for future racing positions.

Rohit Sharma begins practice with the India Test team

Leicester (England) | Agencies

India's regular skipper Rohit Sharma on Monday commenced his practice with the Test side during their first training session in their new training base at Leicestershire.

The Indian Test team, which had a couple of training sessions after it arrived in London last week, has now shifted base to Leicestershire ahead of a tour match against the county side from June 24-27 at Grace Road in Leicester.

In a video posted by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on Instagram, Sharma and his opening partner Shubman Gill were seen



having a go with the bat in the practice session.

"#TeamIndia opens captain @rohitsharma45 and @shubmangill are getting into the groove on Day 1 of our nets session," wrote the BCCI alongside the video.

In photos shared by the BCCI, all-rounder Kamlesh

Nagarkoti has also seen training alongside Shardul Thakur and Jasprit Bumrah, hinting that he could be included by the side as a net bowler. "Hello from Leicester and our training base for a week will be @leiccc #TeamIndia," wrote the BCCI alongside the photos on Twitter. The rescheduled fifth Test between India and England will get underway from July 1 to 5 at Edgbaston in Birmingham. India are currently leading the five-match series against England 2-1 before the fifth and final Test at Old Trafford, slated to begin on September 10 last year, was postponed abruptly due to a fear of a Covid-19 outbreak in the visiting party.

It will be very difficult for Serena to win Wimbledon again, says Karolina Pliskova

London | Agencies

Former world No. 1 Karolina Pliskova has said that it would be very difficult for the 23-time Grand Slam winner Serena Williams to win Wimbledon again after being absent from the WTA tour for nearly 12 months.

The 40-year-old Serena announced her intention to play the third major of the year and at this week's Rothesay International at Eastbourne. Williams suffered an injury to her right leg at Wimbledon in 2021 and was forced to retire in the first round but has accepted a wild card to return to the All England Club, where she has won the title on seven occasions. Serena will pair up with Ons Jabeur to play doubles at Eastbourne before she once again attempts to draw level with Margaret Court's tally of 24 Grand Slams. "I think it will be difficult, super



difficult for her no matter which kind of player she is because this is a thing where you still need some time," Pliskova was quoted as saying by Sky Sports. "She is an amazing player, she achieved so much and still a number of players will be super scared to play her. This is her advantage but let's see the level.

Manpreet Singh returns to lead full-strength India hockey team in Commonwealth Games

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Manpreet Singh will lead the India men's hockey team, while Harmanpreet Singh will be his deputy for the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, beginning on July 29.

India have been grouped in Pool B along with England, Canada, Wales and Ghana, and will begin their campaign on July 31 against Ghana.

Manpreet's return as captain of the 18-member side for the quadrennial games could see India recreate the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games magic, where they won bronze after a gap of more than four decades. Add to it the fact that drag-flick specialist and vice-captain Harmanpreet Singh is the highest goal scorer of the FIH Pro League, India can



look forward to a sterling performance in Birmingham.

The squad includes the experienced goalkeeper PR Sreejesh and Krishan B Pathak, who returns to the team after a brief injury break. Defenders Varun

Kumar, Surender Kumar, Harmanpreet Singh, Amit Rohidas, Jugraj Singh and Jarmanpreet Singh have been named in the team. The midfield includes the experience of Manpreet Singh, Hardik Singh, Vivek Sagar Prasad, Shamsher

Singh, Akashdeep Singh and Nilakanta Sharma, while experienced strikers Mandeep Singh, Lalit Kumar Upadhyay, Gurjant Singh and Abhishek will lead the charge in attack.

In their previous outing at the Commonwealth Games in Gold Coast, India suffered disappointment finishing fourth. However, after an impressive outing in the FIH Pro League this year, the Indian team is poised to achieve success in Birmingham.

Speaking about the team selection, chief coach Graham Reid said, "We have gone with a tried-and-tested team for the Commonwealth Games. These players have the experience of playing top teams in high pressure games in the FIH Pro League which was a good exposure for us ahead of the prestigious quadrennial event.



Rakhi Vijan rubbishes rumours of playing Daya Ben

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Taarak Mehta Ka Ooltah Chashmah has been making headlines for quite some time. Disha Vakani, who played Daya, took maternity leave in 2017. However, the actress has not returned since. People have been missing Daya Ben from the programme, which has affected the show's TRPs. However, the creators manage to do a good job.

Asit Kumarr Modi, the program's producer, confirmed Daya's return to the show a few days ago. She did, however, reveal that Disha Vakani will not be reprising her role as Daya Ben. This announcement surprised people since everyone adored Disha. Asit Kumarr Modi also stated that they have begun the search for a new Daya Ben.

Since then, a slew of celebrity names has circulated as potential replacements for Daya. It was recently announced that Hum Paanch actress Rakhi Vijan has been cast as Daya Ben in the programme. The production firm has been tight-lipped about the situation, and Rakhi has not responded.

Rakhi did, however, speak up about her role as Daya in Taarak Mehta Ka Ooltah Chashmah. She has now revealed whether or not she will portray Daya. The actress revealed her absence from the programme on Instagram. She tweeted a photo of herself with Disha and stated that the producers had not reached her.

Rakhi stated, "Hello every!..this news is a rumour... Which shocks me...I haven't been approached by the producers or the channel."



Kangana shares an endearing post appreciating Dharmendra's beauty

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Kangana Ranaut has always been vocal about whatever she feels and never hesitates in expressing her feelings. Be it taking a dig or heaping praise on someone, the actress pours her heart out on her social media handle. Recently, the actress shared a black and white picture of veteran actor Dharmendra. She captioned it, "Appreciation post for @aapkadharam ji beauty," adding a red heart emoji. The veteran actor is also quite active on social media and keeps his fans updated about his

health and upcoming projects.

He will be next seen in Apne 2, which will star him alongside his sons Sunny Deol and Bobby Deol and grandson Karan Deol. Dharmendra also has Rocky Aur Rani Ki Prem Kahaani, starring Ranveer Singh, Alia Bhatt, Shabana Azmi, and Jaya Bachchan, in his pipeline. Meanwhile, Kangana was last seen in Dhaakad, which tanked at the box office. She will next be seen in Tejas, where she will play an Indian Air Force officer. She is also working on Emergency, which is a portrayal of the life of late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.



PARESH RAWAL'S CHARACTER IN 'HERA PHERI' INSPIRED AKASH MAKHIJA TO BECOME AN ACTOR

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor Akash Makhija, best known for 'Half Girlfriend' and 'State of Siege 26/11', gets candid about essaying the role of Aatish Pathak in the web series 'Nirmal Pathak Ki Ghar Wapsi'.

Giving insight about his role he states: "Aatish Pathak is boy from Buxar who is a huge Salman Khan fan. He has his political background too as he is contesting for MLA elections. He has good and bad side but what makes him most loveable character is his love for Nirmal (Vaibhav Tatwawadi)." Sharing about how he prepped for the role he says: "I'm huge Raju Shrivastav fan. I have performed those Gajodhar Bhaiya sketches of him in school. So, I already had an idea about Bihar. For this show, I spent 45 days with my

director who himself is from Buxar." "Before shooting, I had spent more than 10 days in the village. Manoj Tiwari songs are on top of my music list. Listening to Bihari songs helped me a lot and I used to speak Bihari even when I was not shooting."

Talking about playing different kind of roles in his OTT shows, he adds: "It's really difficult to do that at times. Some part of the character always stays with you. But that's what acting is all about. It's your craft and experiences which can surpass that and mould you in any character you want." "Rather than grooming and lifting weights, I try to learn more and more languages and dictions. I guess that's what helps me to play any character with conviction. Also, I would want to do dark comedy. I have always been fan of that genre and there are very few actors who can do

that. Vijay Raaz is one of them and I want to play those shades."

He opens up about the challenges he faced in his acting journey. "I started back in 2000 when 'Hera Pheri' movie released. I saw that film more than 50 times I guess and I started mimicking Baburao character played by Paresh Rawal. Later in college, I did theatre for 3 years and kept auditioning," he says.

"As an outsider to this industry, even getting a chance to audition for a particular role is a huge thing for us. There are thousands of actors out there trying their luck everyday. I begged casting directors to at least test me for the roles I am fitting in. I travelled from Kalyan to Andheri everyday for 10 years to just audition. Most of the days, I came back home without even giving a single audition," he concludes.

Adaa Khan on the challenges of working in audio show

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Actress Adaa Khan, who started her career with modelling and later rose to fame with 'Naagin' and 'Khatron Ke Khiladi', recently did an audio show titled, 'Hello Jaanu'. She shared her experience of doing the project and how she prepared for it.

Adaa is playing the character of Vaidehi, a married woman who is facing issues in her life. 'Hello Jaanu' is an audio show about four married women who are secretly working at the call centre, which is called 'Hello Jaanu' and it is run by Gurpreet Aunty, played by actress Supriya Shukla.

"This is the first time I am doing an Audible show. I've never done something like this. I was also expressing myself while I was giving my voice and I was also acting and which was fun. For me, it was very different. But I had a great time and definitely learnt a lot,"

says Adaa. On how she prepared herself for this audio show, she replies: "We had our creatives around us while we were giving voiceovers and while we were in the studio, and had to do a lot of voice modulation. When you're enacting something that people can't see, you have to do it through your voice. So, even the smallest of expressions or smallest of just a breath or a sigh, it has to be expressed through your voice, which is very important."

"There was our team who were there listening and were correcting, which is why as I said I learnt a lot. It required a lot of hard work because I was playing a lot with my voice. It was a good learning experience for me. And, of course, a lot of hot water with honey and ginger helped me a lot to keep my voice just fine. When we were recording for long hours as well."

Adaa further states that the viewers, especially women will connect to the show as it is a story of four female characters and their problems in life.

"There are four women and they have different stories. So, I am sure the audience will connect to it as it talks about women related issues and complexities of relationship which is the USP of this show."

On her future projects, she says: "I have done a few OTT shows for Hungama Play, which is going to come soon. And of course, as of now, I'm really excited for the Audible show, which is my first try towards Audible. So let's see how it goes. I'm very excited for the feedback from the audience."

The audio show is available on Audible.



Rana Daggubati's fans tell him to take it easy with his experimental approach

Team Absolute | Hyderabad

Rana Daggubati, who rose to fame across India for his most portrayal in S.S. Rajamouli's 'Baahubali', appears to have fallen short of the mark.

After the massive success of the 'Baahubali' duology, Rana hasn't had much success, and his supporters are worried that he's squandered the entire 'Baahubali' excitement.

The 'Aranya' star has been working on a variety of projects, and his fans have embraced his unconventional approach to acting. However, since then, his admirers have begun to get concerned because he has not achieved any sizeable hits. Fans tell Rana to focus on building a strong market for himself and concentrate on commercial films in order to retake control of popular opinion. 'Virata Parvam', Rana's most recent film, has had a dismal start with weekend box-office figures not encouraging.

"If all goes according to plan, Rana's career will be on track in no time. He's a seasoned performer. However, a few decisions were made incorrectly," wrote one of his supporters on social media.

Rana's participation in Pawan Kalyan's 'Bheemla Nayak' had a bigger impact because the film had two strong actors going head-to-head. Apart from his trials with subjects, this is the type of subject Rana's admirers want him to choose.



Shehnaaz dances to Moosewala's songs on her ramp debut

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress and social media sensation Shehnaaz Gill, who has finally made her ramp debut, was seen dancing to late Punjabi singer Sidhu Moose Wala's track 'Akhiyan De Samne' as she turned showstopper at a fashion show in Gujarat. Shehnaaz turned into a coy bride as she was dressed in all red and had held on to her dupatta as she sauntered the ramp. She later broke into an impromptu dance as she finished her walk.

When she was eventually joined by the designer Samant Chauhan, she went on to break into an impromptu dance and had some fun on the ramp before turning back.

She captioned the video: "Debut walk done right! Walked for the super talented designer @samantchauhan. Thank you people of Ahmedabad for making us extra special for me! Your hospitality and love is immeasurable."



INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Avneet Kaur