

absolute india



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DIRECTOR COURTS CONTROVERSY AFTER POSTER OF HER DOCUMENTARY SHOWS GODDESS KAALI SMOKING

CONDEMNABLE

The director however tweeted and said "The film talks about the events when Kaali appears in an evening and takes a stroll in the streets of Toronto. Once you watch the movie you will change the hashtag from #ArrestLeenaManimekalai to a love you Leena Manimekalai'. The filmmaker also tweeted in Tamil and said that she has nothing to lose and wanted to be a voice that speaks without fear of anything. In another tweet, she said, "If the price is my life, I will give it."

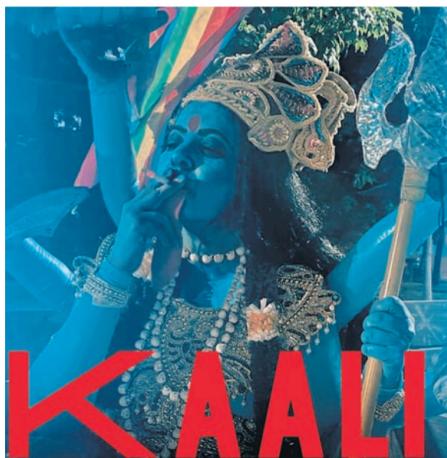
Team Absolute | Chennai

NRi Tamil filmmaker Leena Manimekalai has courted controversy after the poster of her latest documentary 'Kaali' showed Goddess Kaali, revered by millions, smoking a cigarette.

This has sparked outrage on social media and many are calling for the arrest of the filmmaker.

Netizens have come out stating that the poster is an insult to the Hindu community and that the filmmaker must put out an unconditional apology or face legal action. The micro-blogging platform Twitter is trending with the hashtag

#ArrestLeenaManimekalai with the netizens letting out their ire against the filmmaker. The poster of the documentary which was shared by Leena Manimekalai on Twitter depicts a woman dressed in the costume of Goddess Kaali smoking a cigarette. The poster also shows the actor cast as Kaali in addition to her trident and sickle wielding the LBGTQ+ community's rainbow flag.



Soon after she shared the poster on Twitter, the director was at the receiving end, and the social media users asked the Aga Khan Museum where the film was launched to take it down immediately.

Several people have appealed to Union Home Minister Amit Shah and the PMO to take action as the poster was blasphemous to Hindus. The director however tweeted and said "The film

another tweet, she said, "If the price is my life, I will give it."

A police complaint has been filed against the director. Advocate Vineet Jindal filed the complaint against the director for the poster of Goddess Kaali smoking a cigarette. The lawyer in his complaint mentioned that the poster was objectionable and offensive. He said that such instances should not be tolerated and legal action should be taken against her.

In a tweet, Vineet Jindal said that he had filed a complaint and the Delhi police have registered an FIR against the director Leena Manimekalai. He said, "The way this lady has portrayed Goddess Kaali smoking and having an LGBT flag in the background is completely offensive and objectionable. Whatever it is, it could be a way to escalate their name. But one thing, I must tell you is that this should not be tolerated and legal action should be taken against her. I have filed a complaint against this lady and the Delhi police have lodged an FIR against her."

TRS MAYOR JOINS CONGRESS



Hyderabad: Telangana's ruling TRS received a jolt on Monday when the Mayor of Badangpet Municipal Corporation and two corporators joined the opposition Congress.

Mayor Parijatha Narsimha Reddy, along with corporators Santosha Srinivas and Peddabavi Sudershan Reddy joined the Congress, in the presence of party leader Rahul Gandhi in New Delhi.

State Congress President A. Revanth Reddy and other party leaders were present. Parijatha was elected Mayor of the newly-created urban body on the outskirts of Hyderabad after defecting to the TRS from the Congress along with few other corporators. Alleging that she was being sidelined in the TRS, she sent her resignation to party's Ranga Reddy district chief and MLA Manchireddy Kishan Reddy.

GUJ POLICE RAIDS BJP LEADER'S LIQUOR PARTY, 41 HELD INCLUDING A MINOR

Valsad (Gujarat) | Agencies

The Crime Branch team of Valsad Police on Sunday night raided a BJP leader's liquor party and arrested 41 persons including a minor. All have undergone medical examination and investigation is going on.

According to police sources, the crime branch team had received specific information about liquor party being thrown in a farmhouse in Karanjveri village of Dharampur Taluka of Valsad district.

Police seized 25 Indian made foreign liquor bottles worth Rs 15,000 and goods to manufacture country liquor valued at Rs 64,000. Along with vehicles a total Rs 36 lakh worth muddamal was seized. The case is being investigated by Police Inspector D.M. Dhol.

Those arrested include Vinod Patel, Sarpanch of Nanakvada village, deputy sarpanch of the village and others associated with the ruling party.

"Not only Vinod Patel, but more than one lakh party workers were there in Valsad assembly constituency. I know Vinod personally, but don't know about other persons arrested by the police. I have no idea about booze party," said Bharat Patel, BJP sitting MLA from Valsad assembly constituency.



Police raided the party in the Dharampur assembly constituency area. Dharampur's BJP MLA Arvind Patel proudly said, "Such parties are not new, only those arrested are called culprits. I don't rule out the possibility of settling political scores -- within the party or outside. Vinod Patel's political opponent must have tipped of Valsad police about the liquor party." Sources from the party said all those arrested are close to Valsad MLA Bharat Patel. If his close confidants are arrested drinking liquor in the state, his image will be tarnished, someone within the party is trying to clip Patel's wings, who wishes to contest assembly election for the third consecutive term.

Gujarat is a dry state and has a law in force that proscribes the manufacture, storage, sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages.

MAHA'S RATNAGIRI FACES FLOOD FURY, NDRF TEAMS DEPLOYED

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Following heavy to very heavy rainfall since Sunday, several rivers across Konkan coast in Maharashtra, especially in Ratnagiri district, have been flowing above danger mark, leading to flooding of the low-lying areas and prompting deployment of NDRF for rescue efforts on Monday. With the Jagabudi river in Khed tehsil flowing above danger mark, residents in the area have been directed to evacuate. The NDRF has

deployed its team along with the dog squad at Chiplun in Konkan area, according to an official from the State Disaster Management Authority.

Jagbudi, Vashishthi, Shashtri, Sonavi, Kajali, Kodavali, Muchkundi and Bavnadi rivers have been flowing above their respective danger marks since Monday morning, local administration said.

"Under the influence of formation of low pressure area and intensification of monsoon flow, the west coast is expected to receive heavy rainfall, hence, alert

may be kept for the rise in river water levels of sub-basins of Vashishthi and Terekhol Tillari in Raigad, Ratnagiri, and Sindhudurg districts," an advisory from the Central Water Commission (CWC) said.

In fact, the CWC advisory had a warning for the entire Konkan belt starting from Palghar in the north till Sindhudurg in the south Konkan stating that due to continuous rainfall scenario, surface flow has increased over the region, hence more alert has to be kept in these districts.

FAKE IT OFFICIALS CONDUCT RAID IN DELHI, FOUR HELD

Team Absolute | New Delhi

In what seemed as a real inspiration taken from the Bollywood 'potboiler' 'Special 26', over a dozen people, impersonating as Anti-Corruption and Income Tax officials, conducted a raid in the national capital, an official said on Monday.

The police have so far managed to nab four of the accused, including one woman, who have been identified as Gurjant Singh (31), Navjot Singh (30), Satpal Singh (28) and Gurpreet Kaur (30).

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Shahdara), R. Sathiyasundaram, said a PCR call was received at around 6 p.m. on Sunday, informing that around 15 'Income Tax officials' have conducted a raid without the police and seized the mobile phones of all the family members.

When the the complainant asked

the accused to show a search warrant, the accused threatened the victims by saying that they had guns.

"The accused then started to open the cupboards, beds etc. on the ground floor and the first floor. Some of them even molested the complainant," the DCP said.

The accused snatched the mobile phones of the family members, along with a hand bag containing one gold ornament and Rs 15,000 in cash, and fled from the spot. However, as the house occupants were shouting during the commotion, the neighbours heard their cries and informed the police. The police were able to nab four persons, while the rest of the accused fled from the spot.

One Bolero car and ID cards of Anti Corruption Foundation of India were also recovered by the police. A search to nab the other accused is currently underway, the officer said.

Trespasser fiasco: Security beefed up at Bengal CM's residence

Kolkata | Agencies

After a trespasser entered the official residence of West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Saturday evening, Kolkata Police has decided to thoroughly overhaul the security arrangements there.

City police commissioner, Vineet Kumar Goyal called a special meeting of top police officials where it was decided that the security assignment in and outside the chief minister's residence at Kalighat in South Kolkata will be divided among specialized units of the city police namely Special Branch (SB) and Special Task Force (STF).

"The STF sleuths are specially trained for combating the anti-terrorist activities in the state.

However, considering the gravity of the situation, a section of the STF sleuths will now be dedicated for the chief minister's security," said a senior city police official who refused to be named.

He said that from now onwards there will be a three-tier security cordon in and around the CM's residence. The inner ring, which is inside the residence as well as its immediate surroundings will be manned by a joint team of plain-cloth SB officers



and uniformed reserve force (RF) personnel. Incidentally, since the trespasser was nabbed the city police is yet to disclose the identity of the person or spell out the motive behind his hiding at the CM's residence.

12 PEOPLE, INCLUDING SIX WOMEN, KILLED IN HIMACHAL ACCIDENT

Shimla: Twelve people, six of them women, were killed and three others injured on Monday when a private bus rolled into a gorge in the interiors of Kullu district in Himachal Pradesh, police said.

Most of the victims were locals and the bus was on its way from Shainshar to Kullu. The accident occurred close to Shainshar in the Sainj valley. Kullu Deputy Commissioner Ashutosh Garg said the Sainj-bound bus fell into the gorge at around 9.15 a.m. The injured have been admitted to Regional Hospital in Kullu town. Eyewitnesses said the administration has been facing a tough time extricating the victims from the badly-mangled bus. People in the area began the rescue operation even before the local authorities reached the spot. Expressing grief over the accident, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the bus accident in Himachal Pradesh's Kullu is heart-rending and announced Rs 2 lakh each for the next of kin of those who lost their lives.



In 'filmi-style' heist, over Rs 2 crore looted from Telangana bank

Hyderabad | Agencies

In a film-style burglary, thieves broke into a bank in Telangana's Nizamabad district and looted cash and jewellery worth over Rs 2.07 crore.



The burglary occurred in the Telangana Grameen Bank in Bussapur village in Mendora mandal of the district, police said. The crime was committed on Saturday night but came to light on Monday when the bank reopened after holiday on Sunday. The police said the burglars broke into the bank from adjacent office of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL), using gas-cutters to cut the iron shutter to enter the bank.

A police officer said gas-cutters were also used to break the locker and take out cash and other valuables.

Bank officials told police that Rs 7.22 lakh cash and gold jewellery worth Rs 2 crore was missing. The jewellery belonged to the depositors who had taken loans against the valuables. According to police, it was a well-planned heist. The burglars damaged CCTV cameras before committing the burglary. They were also believed to be wearing masks as a mask was found in the premises.

Senior police officials visited the bank. Investigators gathered clues from the scene.

Police said a case had been registered and they were working on certain clues to identify and track down the accused.

Ocean tourism needs to be sustainable, build resilience of communities: Report

DRAWING ON 32 CASE STUDIES AND EXAMPLES FROM 23 COUNTRIES TO IDENTIFY A SET OF PRIORITIES DESIGNED TO HELP CATALYSE SYSTEMIC CHANGE IN DESTINATION-WIDE MANAGEMENT THROUGH STRATEGIC INVESTMENT AND INTERVENTION BY GOVERNMENTS TO SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE RECOVERY FROM THE COVID PANDEMIC, THE REPORT PROVIDES A HOLISTIC ASSESSMENT OF THE CURRENT STATE OF COASTAL AND MARINE TOURISM.

MOST IMPORTANTLY, IT PROPOSES A FRAMEWORK THAT ENCOURAGES ACTION SIMULTANEOUSLY ACROSS THREE PILLARS: REDUCING THE NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF TOURISM ON THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT, ECONOMY AND COMMUNITY; REGENERATING ECOSYSTEMS, LOCAL MARKETS AND COMMUNITIES, AND BUILDING RESILIENCE TO THREATS AND FUTURE SHOCKS AND CRISES.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Alatest report on ocean and tourism across the world proposes a framework that encourages action to reduce the negative impact on the local environment and build resilience to threats and future shocks in view of climate change.

Coastal and marine tourism constitutes approximately 50 per cent of all global tourism, equal to \$4.6 trillion or 5.2 per cent of global gross domestic product (GDP). Tourism constitutes the largest economic sector for most Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and many coastal states.

In a business-as-usual scenario, coastal and marine tourism is expected to represent the largest ocean economy sector by 2030 (measured by GDP) and employ approximately 8.5 million people, second only to small-scale fish-

eries in terms of employment. Coastal and marine tourism is highly dependent on the quality of coastal and marine ecosystems to attract visitors, but the continued depletion and degradation of these natural assets is putting the sustainability and viability of the industry, along with the local communities that rely on it, at risk, said the report released coinciding with the UN Ocean Conference with more than 150 countries collectively agreeing to scale up science-based and innovative actions to address the ocean emergency. Pointing out that the current model of coastal and marine tourism is inherently unsustainable, characterised by high levels of economic leakage, seasonality and vulnerability to natural and economic shocks, the authors of the report said, "Mass tourism in and around coastal cities leads to higher costs of living



and relatively lower purchasing power for many locals.

"This situation is exacerbated by the seasonal nature of coastal and marine tourism, in particular in islands, contributing to job insecurity, low wages and high workload, affecting the wellbeing of locals and their access to resources." The report also warned

that systemic change will not occur without significant long term policy and regulatory commitments from governments to attract and support investments targeting sustainable and regenerative forms of tourism and provide the stability required by the private sector to confidently pursue new business models.



MEGHALAYA WINS 'BEST PERFORMER' AWARD IN NATIONAL STARTUP RANKINGS-2021 ALONG WITH GUJ, K'TAKA

SHILLONG | Agencies

Meghalaya, along with Gujarat and Karnataka, on Monday won the 'Best Performer' award in the National Startup Rankings-2021, officials said.

Officials here said that the results of the 3rd edition of ranking of states on support to the start-up ecosystem were released by Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal in a ceremony in New Delhi on Monday.

A total of 24 states and seven Union Territories participated in the exercise with seven reform areas and 26 action points. The states were categorised in five groups - Best Performers, Top Performers, Leaders, Aspiring Leaders and Emerging Startup Ecosystem.

On the recognition to Meghalaya, a state Planning Department official said that the state government had launched the PRIME (Promotion and Incubation of Market Driven Enterprises) programme in January 2020 to give a



concerted push to the creation of an ecosystem for the promotion of entrepreneurship in the state.

He said that the programme is an embodiment of Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma's vision of providing a platform and opportunities to entrepreneurs and making

entrepreneurship the preferred choice of livelihood in the state. As part of the programme, 100 aspiring entrepreneurs are selected via an annual open Chief Minister's e-Championship Challenge. Once onboarded, they are provided with mentorship,

incubation and infrastructural/logistics support through a network of PRIME hubs.

Taking cognisance of the fact that accessing formal financial services still remains a challenge in the state, various funding windows have been incorporated under the programme to help the entrepreneurs in accessing seed capital alongside credit/loans. As part of the funding initiative, grants upto Rs 5 lakh are provided to select entrepreneurs for product development and R&D related activities.

Further, interest-free loans of up to Rs 25 lakh are also provided to entrepreneurs to scale up their businesses/operations. Till date, over 210 entrepreneurs have secured funding from the programme and almost 1,300 entrepreneurs have benefitted from various other programme components such as accessing the co-working spaces and undergoing training. Almost 60 per cent of the beneficiaries under the program have been female entrepreneurs, the official said.

NC, PDP to contest J&K Assembly polls jointly

Srinagar | Agencies

Jammu and Kashmir's National Conference (NC) and the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) on Monday announced that they will contest the next Assembly elections in the UT jointly.

Addressing media here, NC President and the Peoples Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) Chairman, Dr. Farooq Abdullah said: "We will contest the elections together. There is a political party that said that they have left the alliance."

"The truth is that they were never part of the alliance. They had come to break us from within." His reference was to the Peoples Conference (PC) headed by Sajad Gani Lone who had initially joined the PAGD, but later left the grouping.

PDP President Mehbooba Mufti, who addressed



reporters separately, said: "We intend to contest the elections together as it is the will of the people that we should strive together for the restoration of our lost dignity." Responding to a question, Abdullah said elections can be held whenever the government wants.

About the ongoing Amarnath Yatra, he said Kashmiris have over the years ensured that the Yatra is held peacefully and smoothly. Asked about the

government's decision to have the national flag hoisted on every house under the 'Har Ghar Pe Tiranga' programme, Abdullah said: "The government can hoist the flag on every house, but it would be great if the people fly the national flag on their own."

The PAGD was formed in the aftermath of abrogation of Article 370 and downgrading of the state to a Union Territory in August 2019.

PM Modi shares success stories of digital India

Ahmedabad | Agencies

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday launched 'Digital India Week 2022' on the theme 'Catalyzing New India's Techade' nationwide at Mahatma Mandir here.

Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, Union Ministers Ashwini Vaishnav and Rajiv Chandrasekhar were present on the occasion.

During the event, a number of innovative digital initiatives were unveiled by the Prime Minister to make the benefits of public welfare easily available to the citizens through technology.

The Prime Minister inaugurated 'IndiaStack Global', 'My Scheme', 'Meri Pahechan', 'Digital India Bhashini', 'Digital India Genesis', 'Chips to Startup Program' and 'Catalyzing New India's Techade E-Book' at the event.

PM Modi shared many success stories of digital India during the inauguration. He said, India has set an example of how revolutionary the correct use of technology is for the whole of humanity as the Digital India Campaign. "I am glad that



this campaign, which started eight years ago, has been expanding itself with the changing times. The country which does not adopt modern technology with time, is left behind. India has been a victim of this during the Third Industrial Revolution. But today we can proudly say that India is leading the world in the Fourth Industrial Revolution, Industry 4.0," he said. He said, "Just remember the situation 8-10 years ago, there was a line to take birth certificate, to submit bills, for rations, for admission, for result and certificates. India removed so many lines by becoming online. Now even a street vendor uses the same digital payment system which a mall's showroom uses. I saw a video where a beggar was using digital payment QR code."

IMD WARNS OF VERY HEAVY RAINS OVER CENTRAL INDIA, WEST COAST

New Delhi: Heavy to very heavy rainfall at isolated places is very likely over east Madhya Pradesh, Vidarbha, Chhattisgarh, Konkan area of Maharashtra, Goa, coastal Karnataka, and Kerala, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Monday.

The monsoon trough is active and south of its normal position at this time of the year. There are strong westerly winds along the west coast in the lower tropospheric levels, IMD bulletin said. "The low pressure area over north Chhattisgarh and neighbourhood now lies over north Chhattisgarh and adjoining northeast Madhya Pradesh and the associated cyclonic circulation extends up to 5.8 kms above mean sea level, tilting southwesterly with height," it said. Widespread light/moderate rainfall is likely to continue over many parts of west coast, central India and islands.

The IMD also predicted isolated to scattered rainfall over rest parts of the country.

Tejashwi slams BJP after Udaipur killer's pics with its leader surface

PATNA | Agencies

RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav alleged that Riaz Akhtari -- one of the accused in Kanhaiya Lal murder case -- has links with BJP after his pictures with saffron party leaders appeared on social media.

In two back to back tweets on Sunday night, Tejashwi said: "Some photographs appeared in public domain indicating that the accused have links with BJP leaders."

"If an unfortunate incident takes place in a non-BJP ruled state, the Centre immediately intervenes and hands over the investigations to authorities coming under it. Majority of the anti-nationals who involve in anarchism, hatred, terrorism, rumours and disturbing the peace have direct or indirect links with RSS and BJP," Tejashwi tweeted.

"BJP has occupied the majority of the constitutional entities will go to any extent to save them. The situation of the country is not good," Tejashwi said in another tweet. Earlier on Saturday, Rajesh Ranjan alias Pappu Yadav, the



president of Jan Adhikar Party (JAP) also alleged that BJP and RSS are directly involved in Kanhaiya Lal's murder. He said that one of the attackers Riyaz was a leader of BJP minority wing of Rajasthan and close associate of former home minister Gulabchand Kataria. In a video statement, Pappu Yadav demanded a high-level inquiry of the gruesome incident to ascertain the role of BJP leaders and their connection with the murderer.

"The person involved in the gruesome terror incident of Udaipur was a member of BJP minority wing and he

has a photograph with former home minister of Rajasthan Gulab Chand Kataria. We demand an ATS investigation into the incident to unearth BJP's conspiracy and those behind it. The investigation should be based on the telephonic conversations of the accused and their phone locations. It should be brought out in the public domain," Pappu Yadav said.

"I was suspecting something fishy in gruesome terror incident of Udaipur. The terror incident of Udaipur could not be done on the without conspiracy," Pappu Yadav said.

MANIPUR LANDSLIDE TOLL RISES TO 46, 17 STILL MISSING

Imphal | Agencies

With four more bodies recovered on Monday, the death toll in the Thursday landslide at a railway construction site in Manipur's Noney district increased to 46, including 30 Territorial Army soldiers, while search operations were underway in inclement weather to locate the 17 still missing, officials said.

The latest four bodies included three Territorial Army personnel and another person who was unidentified as the body was mutilated. The 46 dead also include railway workers.

Despite fresh landslides on Sunday and continuous hostile weather conditions, the intensive search operations by the Indian Army, the Assam Rifles, the Territorial Army, and the National and State Disaster Response Forces continued at the incident site at



Tupul, district officials said.

Senior Army and disaster management officials are camping in ground zero supervising the rescue and recovery operations in the landslide-devastated mountainous Tupul,

where around 80 persons, including Territorial Army personnel, were buried alive after catastrophic mudslide that occurred on June 30.

The "Through Wall Radar" and search and rescue dogs were induct-

ed to hasten the search operation, officials said. Relentless efforts to search for the remaining missing Territorial Army personnel and civilians would continue till the last individual is found, a defence

Doctors remove three tumors in adrenal glands in siblings

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Two siblings from Uttarakhand diagnosed with large tumours in vital organs of adrenal glands received a new lease of life after undergoing complex surgeries, doctors said on Monday.

Disha Joshi, 15, and her younger brother Manan Joshi, 8, were taken to the hospital with very high blood pressure and various other complications, including seizures.

Manan had a large tumor measuring 4.5 cm in the left adrenal gland, while Disha had two tumors, one in each adrenal gland, said the doctors who performed the surgery at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital.

The doctors said that Disha had the larger tumor in her right adrenal gland measuring 5.5 cm, while the one in the left adrenal gland measured 2.5 cm.

"The initial challenge for us was to stabilise the blood pressure of the siblings before planning the complex surgery. We planned to remove the tumors and preserve the normal part of the adrenal gland because it is a very vital organ which produces



steroids and maintains blood pressure.

"We accomplished this by using minimal invasive surgery through key hole incisions," said Ashwin Mallya, urologist and robotic surgeon, who operated on both the patients. First Manan underwent a laparoscopic surgery for left adrenal tumor removal, which took two hours with 50 ml blood loss. After that Disha was operated upon using robotic technology, which took three-and-a-half hours.

The doctors said that biopsy reports of the tumors revealed pheochromocytoma (rare adrenal tumor). Genetic studies of the siblings have revealed a rare familial tumor syndrome called VHL syndrome, which causes tumors all over the body.

7-YR-OLD RAPED IN EAST DELHI

New Delhi: A 7-year-old girl was allegedly raped in east Delhi, and the hunt is on for the unknown perpetrator, police said on Monday. Deputy Commissioner of Police, East, Priyanka Kashyap said a PCR call was received in Laxmi Nagar police station regarding sexual assault of a minor girl. As per the initial enquiry, the police found out that the incident took place when the girl was playing outside her place of residence. "One unknown person came to her, took her to an abandoned place, and sexually assaulted her," the DCP said. Based on the complaint, the police registered an FIR under appropriate sections of the Indian Penal Code and the POCSO Act.

India achieves complete vaccination of 90% of adult population

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Monday informed that 90 per cent of India's adult population has been fully vaccinated with both vaccine doses against Covid-19.

Calling the occasion an extraordinary feat, he tweeted, "What an extraordinary feat! With PM @NarendraModi Ji's mantra of Sabka Saath, Sabka Prayas, India achieves complete vaccination of 90 per cent of its adult population. Way to go! We will win the battle against the pandemic together!"

In the age group of 18-44 years, a total of 55,83,57,087 first doses and 50,22,61,478 second doses have been administered so far. The number of precaution doses administered in this group stands at 32,40,839, as per the health ministry report.

India's Covid-19 vaccination coverage has exceeded 197.98 crore



(1,97,98,21,197) as per provisional reports till 7 a.m. on Monday. This has been achieved through 2,58,55,578 sessions.

So far, more than 3.69 crore adolescents have also been adminis-

tered with the first dose of Covid-19 vaccine, said the ministry.

Meanwhile, India on Monday recorded 16,135 new cases of Covid-19 infection along with 24 deaths due in the past 24 hours. An increase

of 2,153 cases has also been recorded in the active Covid-19 caseload in the same period.

The total active cases of Covid infection have risen to 1,13,864, the health ministry data showed.

ED attaches property in Rs 772 cr PMLA case

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday said that they have attached 16 immovable properties held in the name of Dreamz Infra India Ltd, TGS Constructions Pvt Ltd, Disha Choudhary, the MD of Dreamz Infra India Ltd, Mandeeep Kaur, the MD of TGS Constructions Pvt Ltd and others in connection with the Ponzi investment scheme run by them.

The ED initiated money laundering investigation on the basis of more than 125 FIRs registered with Bangalore city against Dreamz Infra India Ltd, TGS Constructions Pvt Ltd, Gruha Kalyan, Sachin Naik alias Yogesh, Disha Choudhary, Mandeeep Kaur and others.

The ED learnt during the investigation that the modus operandi adopted by these companies and persons was that they duped the common public by taking huge deposits promising affordable apartments in and around Bangalore. It was also learnt that from the year 2011-12 to the year 2016-17, the accused collected more than Rs 722 crore from more than 10,299 customers and misappropriated the said funds for their own benefit.

And thus they cheated the gullible customers without handing over the flats and without refunding the deposit amounts to them and the accused persons further threatened the customers with dire consequences.



TRIBAL WOMAN THRASHED, PARADED WITH GARLAND OF SHOES IN DEWAS

In a shameful incident, a tribal woman was thrashed and forced to carry her husband on her shoulders wearing a garland of shoes in Madhya Pradesh's Dewas district. The incident came to light after a video went viral on social media, where a group of men were seen thrashing the woman.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

In a shameful incident, a tribal woman was thrashed and forced to carry her husband on her shoulders wearing a garland of shoes in Madhya Pradesh's Dewas district. The incident came to light after a video went viral on social media, where a group of men were seen thrashing the woman.

As per the police, the woman's husband was seen thrashing her brutally in front of villagers and later the woman was forced to carry her husband on her shoulders. The villagers were also seen putting a garland of

shoes on her.

The woman (30) was punished for her alleged relationship with another man. The police said that the woman was missing for three-four days and later she was found with one of her male friends. This made her husband and community members furious and they decided to punish the woman. As many as nine persons, including the victim's husband were arrested and they have been booked for assaulting, rioting, outraging the modesty of a woman and criminal intimidation, the police said on Monday. The incident was reported on Sunday but came to light on Monday. Dewas additional

superintendent of police Suryakant Sharma said, "The woman went missing a week ago. Her husband filed a missing complaint at Uday Nagar police station. Recently, he came to know that the woman was living in the house of a man who is stated to be her close friend. The husband of the woman reached the house and dragged her out in front of the villagers. Later, she was thrashed brutally." "The villagers forced her to wear a garland of shoes and forced her to carry her husband. Four villagers helped the woman in carrying the husband and walking in the village", Sharma added.

Later, the woman's friend filed a complaint with the police. The woman informed the police that she got married at the age of 15 and her husband used to harass her so she ran away. Police are investigating the matter after registering a case against 11 named and 15 unnamed people under section 147 (punishment for rioting), 354 (assault or criminal force to women with intent to outrage her modesty), 294 (using obscene language), 323 (punishment for voluntarily causing hurt), 452 (house trespassing), 509 (insult the modesty of woman) and 506 (criminal intimidation).

Voting on July 6 in 133 urban bodies of 49 districts in first phase

VOTING WILL BE HELD IN 11 MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS, 36 MUNICIPALITIES AND 86 CITY COUNCILS. VOTING WILL BE THROUGH EVM. EVMS WILL HAVE WHITE BALLOT PAPER FOR MAYOR, PINK FOR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION CORPORATOR, YELLOW FOR MUNICIPAL COUNCIL CORPORATOR AND BLUE FOR CITY COUNCIL CORPORATOR.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

In the first phase of Urban Bodies Elections-2022, voting will be held in 133 urban bodies of 49 districts on July 6 from 7 am to 5 pm. Counting of votes will be held on July 17 from 9 am. A total of 13 thousand 148 polling centres have been set up. The second phase of polling will be held on July 13.

State Election Commissioner Basant Pratap Singh has informed that in the first phase, polling will be held in 11 municipal corporations, 36 municipal councils and 86 city councils. Voting will be through EVM. EVMS will have white ballot paper for mayor, pink for municipal corporation corporator,

yellow for municipal council corporator and blue for city council corporator. It is mandatory for the voter to bring any one of the 20 Identity Cards prescribed by the Commission for voting. For the election of mayor and corporator in Municipal Corporation, if there are 15 or less than 15 candidates including NOTA, one control unit and two ballot units will be established. If there are more than 15 candidates for any post, an additional ballot unit will be set up. In municipalities and municipal councils, if there are 15 or less than 15 candidates, one control and one ballot unit will be set up and if there are more than 15 candidates an additional ballot unit will be set up.

MP rains: IMD issues 1 orange, 2 yellow alerts

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The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Monday afternoon issued an orange alert, which calls on the administration to be prepared, for heavy to very heavy rainfall in 15 districts in Madhya Pradesh even as rain continued to lash several areas in the past 24 hours.

The IMD also issued two yellow alerts, which calls on officials to be updated, one forecasting likely heavy rainfall at isolated places in Khandwa district and Bhopal and Narmadapuram divisions, and the second for possible thunderstorms with

lightning at isolated places in the districts of 10 divisions, including Bhopal, Indore, Jabalpur and Gwalior.

All these alerts are valid till Tuesday morning, an IMD official said. The orange alert warns of likely heavy to very heavy rainfall at isolated places in Jabalpur, Balaghat, Mandla, Satna, Anuppur, Shahdol, Umaria, Dindori, Katni, Narsinghpur, Chhindwara, Seoni, Sagar, Damoh and Chhatrapur, he said. According to Shakti Singh, scientific assistant at IMD's Bhopal centre, large parts of the state are witnessing rain. "Monsoon covered all of MP on July 1. The state,

so far, has received 11 per cent less rainfall than the normal average. Between June 1 and July 4, it has received 147.1 millimetre rainfall against the normal average of 164.7 mm," Singh said.

As per IMD data, Sagar, Khandwa, Bhopal, Jabalpur, Gwalior and Indore received 68.6 mm, 63.0 mm, 25.7 mm, 5.9 mm, 3.4 mm and 3.0 mm rainfall respectively in a 24-hour period ending at 8:30 am on Monday.

A low pressure area over north Odisha and some other reasons were bringing moisture to MP, which in turn was causing rains, Singh added.

PVT EMPLOYEES WILL GET FACILITY TO VOTE

Bhopal: Secretary State Election Commission Rakesh Singh has told Labor Commissioner, Indore that in order to give opportunity to the voters working in the establishments and institutions located in the urban body areas, it is necessary that on the day of the general election of the urban body, employees residing in the urban areas and wards should be allowed to arrive at work place four hours late or leave four hours early or remain absent for four hours in between. The first phase of urban body elections will be held on July 6 and the second phase on July 13.

TORCH OF 44TH CHESS OLYMPIAD REACHES BHOPAL

Grand Master Anurag Mahamal hands over torch to Sports Minister Scindia

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The torch relay of the 44th Chess Olympiad flagged off by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on June 19 reached Bhopal on June 4. The torch rally led by Grand Master Anurag Mahamal reached TT Nagar Stadium, where it was welcomed by Sports and Youth Welfare Minister Yashodhara Raju Scindia.

Scindia said that Chess Olympiad is going to be held for the first time in India. About 2 thousand players from 187 countries will give their performance from July 28 to August 10 at Mahabalipuram, Tamil Nadu. Scindia said that it is a matter of pride for the country that Chess was born in India, presently Chess Olympiad is being held



again in India after many years. She said that this is an opportunity for Madhya Pradesh as the Chess Olympiad torch will leave for New Delhi after passing through prominent cities of the state including Ujjain, Indore, Bhopal, Sanchi and Gwalior. Scindia said that there are 74 Grand Masters of Chess in the country. Many players will be encouraged by the

Olympiad to be held in India. She said that time comes for every game, now it is time for chess in India. Grand Master Anurag Mahamal handed over the torch of the 44th Chess Olympiad to Sports Minister Scindia who further handed it over to Head of Chess Association Adhoc Committee Gurmeet Singh. In the programme, Smt. Scindia spoke to the skilful child chess players and encouraged them. Principal Secretary Sports & Youth Welfare Dipti Goud Mukherjee, Former Director CBI Rishi Kumar Shukla, Director Sports & Youth Welfare Ravi Kumar Gupta, Regional Director SAI Satyajit Sankrit, International Master of Chess Akshat Khampariya, a large number of players and sports lovers were present.

COORDINATION COMMITTEE FORMED UNDER CHAIRMANSHIP OF CS

Bhopal: The State Government has constituted a coordination committee under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary for the hospitality, accommodation and security arrangements of the international participants during the meetings of the G-20 group to be held in two cities of the state, Indore and Bhopal. In the coordination committee, Additional Chief Secretary General Administration, Home, Principal Secretary Industrial Policy and Promotion, Chief Executive Officer Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Good Governance and Policy Analysis, Bhopal will be members. Principal Secretary Tourism has been made Member Secretary and Nodal Officer. It is noteworthy that in the period from 1 December 2022 to 30 November 2023, India will chair the G-20 group. More than 190 meetings are to be organised at different places in the country during this period.

CHIEF MINISTER PLANTS JAMUN SAPLING IN INDORE

Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted a Jamun sapling with public representatives in the Residency Kothi complex in Indore on Monday. Jamun is an evergreen tree whose fruits are purple in colour. This tree is found in India and other countries of South Asia and Indonesia etc. The use of Jamun is helpful in the control of diabetes.



5 ARRESTED FOR SETTING TRIBAL WOMAN ON FIRE

A TRIBAL WOMAN WHO WAS SET ON FIRE IN GUNA DISTRICT IS STILL CRITICAL AND BATTLING FOR HER LIFE WITH SEVERE BURN INJURIES ON HER BODY. THE WOMAN WAS SET ON FIRE BY A GROUP OF MEN OVER A LAND DISPUTE ON SATURDAY.

ACCORDING TO THE POLICE, THE INCIDENT TOOK PLACE ON SATURDAY AND THE VICTIM, IDENTIFIED AS RAMPYARU SEHARIYA, HAS BEEN ADMITTED TO DISTRICT HOSPITAL, WHERE HER CONDITION IS STATED TO BE SERIOUS.

THE FIVE ARRESTED ACCUSED HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AS PRATAP DHAKAD, HANUMANT DHAKAD, SHYAM DHAKAD, AVANTI BAI AND SUDAMA BAI, SAID PANKAJ SHRIVASTAVA, SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE, GUNA.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Five people, including two women, have been arrested for setting a 45-year-old tribal woman on fire over a land dispute in Madhya Pradesh's Guna district, police said.

According to the police, the incident took place on Saturday and the victim, identified as Rampyaru Sehariya, has been admitted to district hospital, where her condition is stated to be serious.

The five arrested accused have been identified as Pratap Dhakad, Hanumant Dhakad, Shyam Dhakad, Avanti Bai and Sudama Bai, said Pankaj Shrivastava, superintendent of police, Guna.

They have been booked under Section 307 (attempt to murder) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and relevant sections of the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes (prevention of atrocities) Act, added Shrivastava.

Rampyari's husband Arjun Sehariya, 52, a resident of Dhanoria village, told the police that he had six-and-a-half bighas of leased land but Pratap, Hanumant and Shyam, all residents of the same village, were trying to encroach.

"Naib tehsildar Bamori assessed the land in May and gave the possession of the land to Arjun. But on July 2, the three Dhakads reached there to sow soybean crop," said the SP, adding that Rampyaru Sehariya stopped them from sowing.

"Pratap Dhakad, Hanumat Dhakad and Shyam Dhakad poured diesel on Rampyaru and set her on fire. Arjun went to the field at around 2.30 pm and found his wife screaming. She told him that the three accused set her on fire by pouring diesel. Arjun rushed his wife to the district hospital," the SP added.

"We have arrested all the accused and further investigation is on," the SP said.

Pay adequate attention to planning and training in Dastak Abhiyan: Health Commissioner

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Adequate attention should be paid to preparing the action plan and training the staff associated with the campaign before the Dastak campaign. Health Commissioner Sudam Khade said this at the inaugural session of the workshop of Dastak Abhiyan. A workshop was conducted in connection with the preparations for the campaign. Khade said that the officers of the Health Department should prepare an action plan keeping the health resources in mind. He said that attention should also be paid to training along with better planning. Quality training leads to better results at the implementation level. The Health Commissioner said that the campaign has to be made really effective. Documentation of the entire process of the campaign should also be done.

Khade said that publicity should be done using accessible means to deliver the message in rural areas. Also systematic documentation of the campaign is must. MD NHM



Priyanka Das gave a presentation related to the Dastak campaign. She said that this year we have to conduct the campaign with full preparation. She informed that the campaign aims to proactively identify and manage major childhood diseases in children up to the age of 5 years, so that child mortality can be reduced. In the campaign, a joint team of ANM, ASHA and Anganwadi worker will visit the homes of families with children up to the age of 5 years to check the health of the children and ensure the identification, proper treatment and management of

diseases. Activities mainly including identification, management and referral of pneumonia in infancy and childhood, proactive identification, referral and management of severely malnourished children, active screening and management of severe anaemia in children in the 6 months to 5 year age group, proactive screening and management of congenital malformations in children will be done by the Dastak team. The Dastak team will inquire about the vaccination status of partially vaccinated and children who have left out in the vaccination, during

the home visit. Dastak team will increase awareness regarding prevention of diarrheal disease. Director NHM (Vaccination) Dr. Santosh Shukla, Deputy Director IEC Bureau Dr. Archana Pundhir, Deputy Director Child Health Dr. Himani Yadav, Deputy Director NCD Dr. Ashish Saxena, UNICEF representative Dr. Vandana Bhatia, Deputy Director Immunization Dr. Saurabh Purohit and the Chief Medical and Health Officer, District Immunization Officer and other officers who came from the districts were present.

AAP tries new push in MP via civic polls

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) is all set to make an entry in Madhya Pradesh in the coming local body elections and has fielded candidates in 14 of the 16 municipal corporations. It has promised the electorate free electricity and water, and corruption-free municipal corporations committed to resolving civic issues.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal held a road show in support of the party's Singrauli mayoral candidate Rani Agarwal on Saturday. In his address, the AAP convener said, "We will solve all the issues of the municipality, including roads, electricity, water, and employment with the support of the people of Singrauli. Both the BJP and the Congress are peas of the same pod. They both only care about amassing wealth when in power. The AAP doesn't believe in gobbling up funds, we put money in the common man's pockets." Referring to his government's welfare schemes in Delhi, Kejriwal promised to replicate it in Madhya Pradesh by giving free electricity, free education, and free water, and developing the education system, "We will change Singrauli in the next five years if voted to power," he told the voters. "If I cannot walk the talk, I won't show my face in the next election seeking votes." The AAP made its debut in Madhya Pradesh

in 2013 but failed to make any impact in the state's politics. Now, looking to expand its footprint nationally after Punjab and Goa, the party is eyeing states such as Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh and Assam, it has decided to enter the poll fray in Madhya Pradesh. AAP state president Pankaj Singh said that the party started off with two membership drives Mission "Buniyad", followed by Mission "Vistar" to consolidate its presence in the state and has more than 2.5 lakh workers across the state.

On June 26, the AAP released its poll manifesto called the "Seva Vachan Patra." The AAP state chief explained that in every ward won by the party it would ensure free water, a library, and a mohalla (neighbourhood) clinic. Singh said 22,000 education institutions were shut down in 2018 and at least 42,000 schools did not have drinking water facilities as either handpumps or taps were not functioning. He alleged that only the schools run by BJP leaders and workers were thriving in the state. The AAP leader also announced that cleaning workers on contract would be made permanent municipal employees if the AAP got elected. The local body polls are being held in the backdrop of a heated debate between the Congress and BJP over reservation for Other Backward Classes (OBCs).

ENSURE UNINTERRUPTED POWER SUPPLY ON DAYS OF POLLING AND COUNTING

Bhopal: Secretary State Election Commission Rakesh Singh has directed the Managing Directors of all the three power distribution companies of the state to ensure uninterrupted power supply in the urban body elections to be held on July 6 and July 13 and during counting of votes on July 17 and 18.



EDITOR'S SPECS

Why Mayawati is alone?

If indecision is the hallmark of any political party in the present times, it is the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP). The party which has been on a downslide since the past one decade -- losing seats and votes with an alarming frequency -- remains completely undecided about its political posturing. BSP supremo Mayawati has been juggling with her vote banks with statements that contradict her own words, and this has led to utter confusion in the ranks. She issues statements in favour of minorities and then goes on to field a candidate that will ease the victory of BJP in Azamgarh. She strides on to the stage at a party meeting, holding a trident in hand, and then tweets about secularism in politics. The BSP President shooed away all major Dalit leaders from her party and believed that Brahmins would help her regain the glory of 2007. When that did not happen, Satish Chandra Mishra -- the No. 2 in the party -- has been gradually pushed into oblivion. Mayawati is now left without any 'friends' in UP. Her own vote bank has shifted substantially to the BJP, but the fear of known and unknown keeps her away from making an aggressive bid to reclaim her base. Mayawati is ploughing a lonely furrow and this is entirely her choice. Her strong sense of insecurity makes her remain within the confines of her ivory tower. She does not meet party leaders, party workers and other political leaders. Her interaction with the outside world is restricted to a tweet a day and her press conferences are a one-to-one affair with a single news agency. A one-time associate of late Kanshi Ram said that Mayawati has frittered away the ideology of her own mentor and has experimented with the upper caste, which demolished all that the BSP stood for.

LOSING OPPORTUNITIES: OPPN NEEDS TO GET ITS ACT TOGETHER

Deepika Bhan

A sleepy and disjointed opposition may be a boon for any ruling dispensation, but for a nation and a democracy, it is a downhill moment. India has been seeing a slide in the opposition's performance for the past several years. It has totally failed to make itself relevant and rise to the occasion.

It is not that the government at the Centre is perfect and leaves no scope for opposition, but the knee-jerk reactions of the opposition make it look non-serious. The country is confronting a multitude of problems, which the opposition could have taken up constructively and offered relevant alternative plans. It is here where the opposition fails and lays bare its weakness, narrow-mindedness, and business-as-usual attitude. The Nupur Sharma episode did land the Narendra Modi government in a difficult situation. It faced one of its biggest diplomatic crises after an international outcry over the remarks against the Prophet. As the government has been on the backfoot, battling the issue both inside and outside the country, the opposition could have risen to the situation by stressing on secular nationalism. But it failed. And some opposition leaders seemed to be adding fuel to the fire. This extraordinary situation should have got a united opposition to put up a formidable challenge. Together with civil society, the opposition could have worked hard on the theme of secular nationalism and struck a chord with the people.

The opposition could have rallied for the secular credentials it keeps on flaunting from time to time. When the current occasion demanded that they act in this manner, the opposition leaders just fell short.

Writing a few lines on social media, or taking personal potshots at Prime Minister Modi and other leaders, most of the opposition leaders failed to differentiate between the BJP, a political party, and India, the nation.

The only opposition leader who raised a pertinent point was the Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao, who tweeted, "Why should India as a country apologise to the international community for the hate speeches of BJP bigots? It is the BJP that should apologise; not India as a Nation."

Had the opposition told this line, it could have set a narrative rolling.

What should have been an opportune



moment to push the Modi government harder in domestic politics was lost. Instead, the lackadaisical approach and tepid response of the opposition has helped the BJP cement its political dominance.

The deep divisions in the opposition was also exposed during its hunt for the Presidential candidate. Although 17 parties did come together to finally zero in on former NDA minister Yashwant Sinha, the chinks within could not escape the public eye.

The opposition hopelessly has failed to come up with a strategy not only for attacking the government on its failures, but also to show itself as a viable alternative to Modi's BJP.

SEASONAL INVOLVEMENT, REACTIVE POLITICS

Most of the present-day political leaders from the opposition have the image of being seasonally involved. The Gandhi siblings -- Rahul Gandhi-Priyanka Vadra -- have failed to create the image that Indira Gandhi had built for herself and the party. The Congress is failing in every election and the pattern has now become predictable.

In the public mind, Rahul Gandhi lacks leadership qualities. This was also proved by his younger sister during the Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections. The failure of Rahul-Priyanka has not only hurt the Congress, but also the prospects of the opposition.

On most matters, the opposition's stance does not go beyond reactions. A lot of noise is made and it dies out soon with no follow-up action or plan. The farmers' agitation is a case in point. All the opposition parties came out

in support of the striking farmers, spoke up for them while attacking the Centre vehemently, and sat with them. The Centre took the laws back and the agitating farmers went back to their homes. The opposition, after grabbing all possible photo opportunities, went silent.

Had the opposition been calculative, it could have sustained the agitated mood of the farmers by taking up their cause. Farmers in the country continue to face challenges on several fronts and thousands have committed suicide in the past several years for various reasons. But the opposition dropped the issue and forgot about it. Its affirmative action on the issue could have forced the Centre as well as the state governments to sit up and take notice.

SOCIAL MEDIA DOESN'T GUARANTEE MASS BASE

Mere TV bytes or words on Twitter and other social media cannot help create a mass base. Reactions to situations are fine, but the absence of follow-up actions with concrete alternative plans can never help the opposition achieve what Modi did in 2014.

The line that Prime Minister Modi drew around him in 2014 has only been growing. A majority of the people believe that many of the opposition leaders treat the Prime Minister as an enemy. The opposition calls him names -- from 'maut ka saudgar' to 'psychopath' -- and has taken jibes at his 'chai-wala' background. In many of the situations, whether political or non-political, the opposition's one-point agenda is to just attack Modi and blame him for everything. The more they make it personal, the more Modi gains.

Perhaps this was realised by Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal. Initially, he went hammer and tongs against Modi, even calling him a psychopath. But he soon realised the negative effect it has on people when Delhiites repeatedly elected BJP MPs from the seven Lok Sabha seats in the national capital, even though in the Assembly Kejriwal's AAP rules. As a result, he has stopped attacking Modi directly and always refers to the Centre or BJP government in his criticism. This is not so with other opposition leaders. People perceive Rahul Gandhi's daily

criticism of Modi as negative and personal. A few leaders from the G23 group of Congress rebels had suggested that he should refrain from making personal attacks on Modi, but their views based on their considerable experience was not considered.

The day the opposition stops its jeering politics against Modi, half the battle will be won. The common man is reeling under inflation, shrinking employment opportunities, and law and order challenges. The issues are many, but the opposition seems to be hardly concerned, except for engaging in occasional social media outpourings.

The Congress from time to time has been trying to engage its leaders by organising protests, which hardly produce any effect or find support among the masses.

TOO MANY REGIONAL PLAYERS

The rest of the opposition, mainly dominated by regional parties, are too preoccupied with local politics that rising to the national level seems to be impossible for them.

Mamata Banerjee has been trying to acquire a national status, but the violence-riddled politics of West Bengal as well as her minority appeasement formula and scams involving her partymen are coming in her way. Then there is Arvind Kejriwal, whose national ambitions are well known. The Punjab win did give him the necessary boost, but the recent loss in a bypoll in an AAP-dominated region has exposed chinks in his armour. The opposition parties need to introspect and come out with a strategy to take on Modi's BJP. The saffron party has not failed to convert every occasion in its favour.

Temple or mosque visits, or the political yatra, cannot be just for selective periods. The country needs continuous deliberations over each and every action and decision of the government. The nation needs an active opposition because it is they who make the government productive. A lethargic opposition with uninspiring leaders cannot be expected to shoulder this national responsibility.

international

UKRAINE CONFIRMS FALL OF LYSYCHANSK CITY TO RUSSIA

Kiev | Agencies

Ukrainian forces have withdrawn from their positions in Lysychansk after the key eastern city in the separatist Luhansk region fell to the Russians, the military in Kiev confirmed.

In a social media post late Sunday night, the General Staff said: "After heavy fighting for Lysychansk, the armed forces of Ukraine have been forced to withdraw from their occupied positions and lines." Given the overwhelming advantage of the Russian occupying forces in terms of artillery, aircraft, multiple rocket launchers, ammunition and personnel, continuing the defence of the city would have led to fatal consequences. In order to preserve the lives of Ukrainian defenders, the decision was taken to with-



draw. Lysychansk's fall came a week after its twin city Severodonetsk was captured by the Russian forces on June 25.

Capture of the two cities means Russia now controls nearly all of Luhansk region and much of neighbouring Donetsk, the two Russian-backed separatist regions that form the industrial

Donbas. Lysychansk and Severodonetsk were the last remaining Ukrainian positions in Luhansk.

In his video address to the nation, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Sunday night insisted that Ukrainian forces will return to Lysychansk, "thanks to our tactics, thanks to the increased supply of modern weapons".

Ukrayinska Pravda reported. He added that "Ukraine is surrendering nothing".

Regarding Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu's statement earlier in the day that his forces had captured Lysychansk and taken full control of Luhansk region, Zelenskyy said: "When Moscow officials report on the situation in Luhansk Oblast, let them remember the reports and promises they made before February 24, during the first days of the invasion, in the spring, and now." Let them make a realistic assessment of what they have achieved during this time, and the price they paid for it. Because their current reports will be reduced to dust, just as their past ones were. "The President further noted that Ukrainian forces continue to gradually advance in Kharkiv, Kherson, and the Black Sea.

OVER 100 DEAD AS FLOOD CONTINUES IN BANGLADESH

Dhaka | Agencies

The toll from Bangladesh's unprecedented floods has risen to more than 100, the authorities said. According to a daily flood report of the Health Emergency Operation Center and Control Room on Sunday, the floods have killed 102 people in 27 of the 64 flood-affected districts between May 17 and June 28. Most victims died from drowning, snake bites and lightning in the flood-hit areas, showed the report.

At least 7 deaths were reported in the last 24 hours as of Sunday morning, Xinhua news agency reported.

With roads washed away by the floods triggered by heavy seasonal rains and onrush of water from hills, the authorities have still been battling to deliver supplies in many northeastern and northern districts. The floods have caused widespread damage to houses and crops across vast swathes of northern and northeastern regions.

Bangladeshi State Minister for Disaster Management and Relief, Md Enamur Rahman earlier told reporters that both the government and private agencies have been working together in the greater Sylhet region worst hit by the floods.

Pak army chief tells military, ISI to stay away from politics



Islamabad | Agencies

Pakistan Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa has issued fresh directions to all his commanders and key officers, including those associated with the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), to stay away from politics and avoid interacting with politicians.

These directions have been given in the wake of Imran Khan-led PTI propaganda against the military establishment alleging certain ISI officials of having been involved in political engineering to manipulate the upcoming by-elections in Punjab to the disadvantage of PTI, The News reported.

Defence sources lament over these allegations and disclosed that the ISI

sector commander, Lahore, who is being maligned by the PTI leaders, is not even in Lahore for over a fortnight in connection with some of his professional work in Islamabad.

PTI leader and former Health Minister of Punjab, Yasmin Rashid recently named the sector commander and alleged him of having been involved in politics to engineer the by-elections in the province.

Before Rashid, it was former Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi who had alleged that some invisible forces are active to influence the by-elections in the province against the PTI, The News reported. Of late, the PTI Chairman Imran Khan also alleged that some of his candidates have complained to him of receiving telephone calls from unknown numbers.

He also said that his party leaders and workers were being pressurised to engineer the by-elections.

Defence sources insist that the PTI, instead of maligning the security establishment, should share the evidence. These sources claimed that even if an iota of evidence is provided, strict action would be initiated against responsible.

SECURITY GUARD COMMITS SUICIDE INSIDE INDIAN EMBASSY IN KATHMANDU

Kathmandu | Agencies

A security guard serving in the Indian Embassy in Kathmandu committed suicide inside the premises, the mission has confirmed.

The guard, an Uttarakhand native, shot himself on Sunday night while on duty but the incident came to light only on Monday morning, an Embassy official said.

"As soon as we came to know that he committed suicide by shooting himself, we informed the Nepal Police," the official added.

It has been learnt that the victim was suffering from depression.

An investigation into the incident is currently underway.

In January 2005, two Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) guards were killed and another injured in an "accidental firing" in the Indian Embassy premises.

Three dead in Copenhagen shopping mall shooting

Copenhagen | Agencies

Three people were killed and several others injured, three of them critically, during a shooting at a Copenhagen shopping mall, one of the biggest in Denmark, police confirmed on Monday. "A man in his 40s and two teenagers were killed" in the shooting at Field's Shopping Center located in the Amager district, Copenhagen Chief Police Inspector Soren Thomassen said at a press conference on Monday. At around 5.35 p.m. on Sunday evening, police received a call regarding the incident, according to Thomassen. At 5.48 p.m., a 22-year-old Danish man in possession of a rifle and ammunition was arrested outside the shopping mall, he said. The motive for the shooting remains unknown and the suspect will face questioning by a judge on Monday. Thomassen said the police cannot rule out the possibility of a terror attack so far. On Sunday night, Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen said

Denmark had suffered a cruel attack. "Denmark was hit by a cruel attack on Sunday night... Several were killed. Even more wounded. Innocent families shopping or eating out. Children, adolescents and adults." Our beautiful and usually so safe capital was changed in a split second," the BBC quoted the Prime Minister as saying. Denmark's royal family said their "deepest sympathy" was with "the victims, their relatives and all those who are affected by the tragedy." "We do not yet know the full extent of the tragedy, but it is already clear that more people have lost their lives and that even more have been injured," said the joint statement by Queen Margrethe, Crown Prince Frederik and Crown Princess Mary. The Field's opened in 2004 and is the second largest shopping mall in Denmark. It has more than 140 shops and restaurants. The last time Denmark witnessed a major terror incident was in 2015, when two people were killed and six police officers were injured during an attack on a cultural centre and a synagogue in Copenhagen.

Time, venue of new round of nuclear talks being finalised: Iranian negotiator

Tehran | Agencies

Iran's chief nuclear negotiator Ali Bagheri Kani has said that the time and venue of a new round of talks to revive the 2015 nuclear deal are being finalised, according to the official IRNA news agency.

"The negotiations in Doha took place within a pre-determined framework," Bagheri Kani said on Sunday, adding that "the time and venue of next negotiations are being finalised in the exchanges" between Iran and the European Union (EU).

He did not specify whether the next round of talks will take place in the format of Iran and the P4+1 (Britain, China, France, Russia plus Germany) or will be held indirectly between Iran and the US, Xinhua news agency reported.

Iran and the US held indirect talks on Tuesday and Wednesday in the Qatari capital of Doha, with the mediation of EU coordinator Enrique Mora, to address their differences over the revival



of the nuclear deal, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

The Doha talks did not bear results, but Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian described the talks as "positive".

Iran signed the JCPOA with the world powers in July 2015, agreeing to curb its nuclear programme in return for the removal of sanctions on the country.

However, former US President Donald Trump pulled Washington out of the agreement in May 2018 and reimposed unilateral sanctions on Iran, prompting the latter to drop some of its commitments under the pact.

The Iranian nuclear talks began in April 2021 in Vienna, but were suspended in March this year because of political differences between Tehran and Washington.



MAHA CM EKNATH SHINDE WINS HOUSE CONFIDENCE WITH 164 VOTES

As expected, Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's government supported by the Bharatiya Janata Party on Monday won the critical 'vote of confidence' in the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly.



Devendra Fadnavis in the past two days. On Sunday, the alliance candidate and BJP's advocate Rahul Narwekar was elected the new Speaker, trouncing the Maha Vikas Aghadi's Shiv Sena nominee Rajan Salvi with a comfortable margin.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

As expected, Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's government supported by the Bharatiya Janata Party on Monday won the critical 'vote of confidence' in the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly.

I was suppressed for long time: Shinde after winning trust vote

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Monday said he had been suppressed for a long time and the rebellion led by him was a fallout of the unfair treatment meted out to him, an apparent reference to his old association with the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena.

"The happenings of today didn't happen in just one day," Shinde said in his victory speech after the newly-formed government led by him won the trust vote in the Legislative Assembly.

Shinde's rebellion last month with a section of Shiv Sena MLAs culminated in the collapse of the Uddhav Thackeray-led MVA government. Shinde took oath as the chief minister on June 30 with Devendra Fadnavis as his deputy.

Quoting former deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar, Shinde said the senior NCP leader had told him that an 'accident' has occurred in Shiv Sena after the formation of the tripartite Maha Vikas Aghadi government, which came to



power in November 2019.

Without taking names, Shinde also referred to Uddhav Thackeray's statement that NCP chief had informed him ahead of the formation of Maha Vikas Aghadi that leaders of Congress and NCP were not keen to work under Shinde.

"But after the formation of the MVA government, Ajit Pawar told me that an accident took place in your own party (Shiv Sena). We were never against you becoming the chief minister," Shinde

NCP's Ajit Pawar elected new Leader of Opposition in Maharashtra

NATIONALIST CONGRESS PARTY LEADER AND FORMER DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER AJIT PAWAR HAS BEEN ELECTED THE NEW LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION IN MAHARASHTRA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, HERE ON MONDAY.

name of Ajit Pawar for the august post which was announced in the House.

Pawar, 62, will now lead the combined Opposition -- Congress, Shiv Sena and other parties against the new Chief Minister Eknath Shinde - supported by the Bharatiya Janata Party - in the government. His election came even as the Opposition wanted a tough and experienced leader of stature for the critical post given the recent major political upheavals that saw the collapse of the 31-month-old 3-party Maha Vikas Aghadi alliance regime headed by Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on June 30.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Nationalist Congress Party leader and former Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar has been elected the new Leader of the Opposition in Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, here on Monday. State President and the NCP Legislative Party leader Jayant Patil proposed the

Maharashtra an 'ED' government: Devendra Fadnavis

Team Absolute | Mumbai

After the opposition raised slogans of "ED, ED" during the trust vote as rebels voted in favour of Eknath Shinde, Maharashtra deputy chief minister Devendra Fadnavis defended the newly formed government stating that they were indeed the E-D government of 'Eknath and Devendra.'

"People taunt that it's an ED government. Yes, it's an ED government, of Eknath-Devendra," said the deputy CM. The opposition has alleged that the Shiv Sena rebels choose to lean towards Shinde led, BJP supported Shiv Sena, was linked to a connection with the Enforcement Directorate,

which is a central probe agency.

During the MVA crisis, Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut stressed that the MLAs were jumping ships fearing action by the central agency. Additionally, amid the crisis Raut was also summoned by the ED in a land grabbing-money laundering scam.

Maharashtra chief minister Eknath Shinde on Monday won the crucial floor test in the state Assembly on the last day of the two-day special session of the House.

In the 288-member House, 164 MLAs voted for the motion of confidence, while 99 voted against it.

Three legislators abstained from voting, while 21 legislators, including Congress's Ashok Chavan and Vijay

Wadettiwar, were absent during the trust vote.

Speaker Rahul Narvekar announced that the trust vote was carried by a majority vote.

After the death of a Shiv Sena MLA recently, the current strength of the Assembly is reduced to 287, thus the majority mark is 144.

Last month, Eknath Shinde launched a rebellion against the Sena. The majority of MLAs sided with him, which led to the collapse of the Maha Vikas Aghadi government led by Uddhav Thackeray. Shinde was sworn in as the chief minister on June 30, a day after Thackeray quit the post. BJP's Devendra Fadnavis was sworn in as the deputy CM.

Uddhav Thackeray jolted, Legislature removes Shiv Sena LP leader, Chief Whip

IN A MAJOR SETBACK FOR THE SHIV SENA LED BY UDDHAV THACKERAY, THE MAHARASHTRA LEGISLATURE SECRETARIAT HAS STRUCK DOWN APPOINTMENTS OF AJAY CHAUDHARY AS THE SHIV SENA LEGISLATURE PARTY LEADER (SSLP) AND THE CHIEF WHIP SUNIL PRABHU.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In a major setback for the Shiv Sena led by Uddhav Thackeray, the Maharashtra Legislature Secretariat has struck down appointments of Ajay Chaudhary as the Shiv Sena Legislature Party Leader (SSLP) and the Chief Whip Sunil Prabhu.

The action came late on Sunday. The legislature has accorded recognition to the Sena rebel leader -- now Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, as the SSLP and the rebel group's nominee Bharat Gogawale as the Chief Whip.

Following the rebellion in the Sena which erupted on June 20, the Sena had removed its then SSLP leader Shinde and replaced him with Ajay Chaudhary, besides naming Prabhu as the Chief Whip.

Termining the Shiv Sena moves as 'illegal', the rebel group camping in Guwahati hit back by appointing



Gogawale as its Chief Whip and claimed Shinde continued to be the SSLP leader. Chaudhary said on Monday (July 4) that the Legislature Secretariat has no authority to strike down the appointments and they would challenge it in the court. Early in the day, Sena's Prabhu and the Shinde Group's Gogawale issued

Whips on all Shiv Sena leaders pertaining to the confidence vote scheduled later in the day.

It maybe recalled that on Sunday also, both sides had issued Whips to all Sena MLAs, leading to strong objections and bitter counter-claims after the Speaker elections.

While the Sena claimed that 49 (rebel) MLAs flouted its Whip, the Shinde Group contended that 16 (Sena) MLAs had not obeyed its Whip for the Speaker polls.

Sena Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Raut Monday strongly slammed the State Legislature Secretariat move and said the party is prepared for a long-drawn legal battle against the decision.

Citing several precedents, Raut reiterated that the 56-year-old 'party led by Thackeray is the only Shiv Sena', and all the MLAs have won elections on its ticket and party symbol.

Uddhav group moves SC against Speaker for recognising whip nominated by Eknath Shinde faction

The Uddhav Thackeray-led group of Shiv Sena has moved the Supreme Court against the action of the newly elected Speaker of the Maharashtra Assembly, who recognised the whip nominated by the Eknath Shinde faction as the chief whip of the Shiv Sena.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Uddhav Thackeray-led group of Shiv Sena has moved the Supreme Court against the action of the newly elected Speaker of the Maharashtra Assembly, who recognised the whip nominated by the Eknath Shinde faction as the chief whip of the Shiv Sena.

Senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi mentioned the plea for urgent listing before a vacation bench comprising Justices Indira Banerjee and J.K. Maheshwari. Singhvi contended that the

Speaker has no jurisdiction to recognise the whip nominated by Shinde as Thackeray is still the head of Shiv Sena political party. He said, "Speaker cannot recognise the whip...the party recognises the whip". He added that earlier Shinde group had challenged the Shiv Sena official whip Sunil Prabhu, but the court declined to pass any interim order.

Singhvi said the Speaker has no jurisdiction to recognise whip and this is changing the status quo of proceedings before the top court. He added that the Speaker on Sunday elected the whip. After hearing brief submissions, the top court agreed to hear the matter on July 11, along with pending petitions connected with political development caused after the rebellion in the Shiv Sena.

The new ruling alliance partner Bharatiya Janata Party's MLA, Advocate Rahul Narvekar was elected the new Speaker of Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, on Sunday.

On Monday, Chief Minister Eknath S. Shinde, supported by the BJP, sought a 'vote of confidence' in the new government sworn-in on June 30 after the col-

lapse of the MVA government.

Last week, Thackeray camp, led by Sunil Prabhu, moved the Supreme Court, seeking suspension of 16 MLAs, including Eknath Shinde, from the Maharashtra Assembly till disqualification proceedings initiated against them are decided and also urged the court to restrain delinquent MLAs from entering the Maharashtra Assembly.

Prabhu has filed the plea through advocate Javedur Rahman, which will be mentioned Monday before a vacation bench. The plea said till date there is no dispute regarding the leadership position of Uddhav Thackeray as the president of the Shiv Sena political party. It cited the resolution passed in the national executive meeting of the Shiv Sena political party held on June 25, this year, where Thackeray's leadership was reaffirmed and the conduct of the delinquent MLAs led by Eknath Shinde has been criticised. The plea said it has further been resolved to take necessary steps to disqualify the rebels from the membership of the legislative assembly. The court scheduled this matter for hearing on July 11.

UDDHAV DARES BJP TO HOLD MID-TERM POLLS

Mumbai: Shiv Sena president and former CM Uddhav Thackeray on Monday alleged it was the BJP's ploy to finish his party, and challenged it to hold mid-term elections in the state. "This is BJP's ploy to end the Shiv Sena, I dare them to hold mid-term polls in the state. Instead of playing all these games, we will go to the court of people. If we are wrong, people of the state will send us home and if you (BJP and Shinde group) are wrong, people will send you home," the statement said quoting Thackeray. He also asked experts to express their views on whether political developments in the state were in accordance with the Constitution or whether constitutional norms were violated.

Bombay HC seeks Maharashtra reply to plea against metro station renaming

THE PETITION ALLEGES THE NAME WAS CHANGED FROM PATHANWADI TO DINDOSHI UNDER UNDUE PRESURE FROM MLAS ATUL BHATKALKAR AND SUNIL PRABHU DESPITE DINDOSHI NOT BEING THE NEAREST WADI.



public-interest petition opposing the changing of a metro station's name from Pathanwadi to Dindoshi.

The petition, filed by the social organisation Naeef Roshni through advocate Sahood Anwar Naqvi, challenged the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA)'s July 18, 2019 order to revise the station names on lines 2A and 7 of the Mumbai Metro. The organisation claimed that the renaming was in "sheer violation of the policy framed by the MMRDA pertaining to naming metro stations".

The organisation alleged that the name was changed under undue political pressure from two MLAs, Atul Bhatkalkar and Sunil Prabhu, despite RTI replies stating that Dindoshi is a revenue village and not the nearest wadi. It said the renaming was "arbitrary", affected the sentiments of Pathanwadi residents and was against their constitutional rights. The court directed the organisation on June 9 to deposit Rs 1 lakh as a precondition to hear its petition. On Monday the organisation informed a bench of Justice Anil K Menon and Justice Makarand S Karnik that the deposit had been made, after which the court granted two weeks for the government to file its reply.

SPEAKER WILL DECIDE REBEL MLAS' DISQUALIFICATION:BJP

Mumbai:Replying to Shiv Sena MP Arvind Sawant who sought disqualification of rebel Shiv Sena MLAs for not following the party's order, Union Minister and BJP leader Raosaheb Patil Danve said 'Speaker will decide it.'

Raosaheb Danve Patil said, "It will be decided by the Speaker. If both the parties will go to the court, then the court will take further decision on it."

Rahul Narvekar of the BJP was elected Speaker of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly on Sunday.

Arvind Sawant demanded rebel MLAs' disqualification along with the new Assembly Speaker, Rahul Narvekar. Arvind Sawant had said, "39 of our MLAs did not follow our whip and did not follow the order of the party, so we have demanded their disqualification from the new Assembly Speaker, Rahul Narvekar."

MUMBAI EX-TOP COP SUMMONED BY ED IN NSE CO-LOCATION CASE

In a latest development in connection with National Stock Exchange's (NSE) co-location scam, the Enforcement Directorate has summoned 1986 batch IPS officer and former Mumbai Police Commissioner Sanjay Pandey to join the probe.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

In a latest development in connection with National Stock Exchange's (NSE) co-location scam, the Enforcement Directorate has summoned 1986 batch IPS officer and former Mumbai Police Commissioner Sanjay Pandey to join the probe.

Pandey has been asked to get his statement recorded before the ED at its Delhi based Headquarters. Pandey is close to former Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray.

ED's case is on the basis of the CBI's case. In April, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) had filed its first charge sheet in the matter against Chitra Ramkrishna the ex CEO of NSE and Anand Subramanian, the ex-Group Operating Officer of the NSE.

Subramanian was arrested by the CBI on February 24 while Ramkrishna was placed under arrest on March 6. The federal probe agency is probing the matter since May 2018 but they haven't found any concrete evidence to



identify mysterious Himalaya Yogi with whom the classified information was shared by Ramkrishna. Recently, the SEBI imposed a fine of Rs 3 crore on her, following the market regulator finding that she allegedly

shared vital inputs about the NSE with the yogi. "Information regarding organisational structure, dividend scenario, financial results, human resource policies and related issues, response to regulator, etc, were shared by her with the yogi," said the source. Between 2014 and 2016 she sent emails at rigyajurama@outlook.com.

On April 1, 2013, Ramkrishna became the CEO and MD of NSE. She brought Subramanian to NSE as her advisor in 2013. Subramanian was made the Chief Strategic Advisor of NSE. He served at this post between 2013 and 2015 before being made Group Operations Officer and Advisor to the MD between 2015 and 2016, despite having no exposure to the capital market. Previously working as a mid-level manager in Balmer and Lawrie, he had seen his salary increased from Rs 15 lakh to Rs 1.68 crore annually, and then to Rs 4.21 crore.

Subramanian quit NSE in October 2016 and Ramkrishna in December 2016. The CBI then swung into action in the case in 2018 and since then they are probing the matter.

MAHARASHTRA GOVT TO REDUCE VAT ON FUEL SOON: CM

Mumbai: A decision to reduce VAT on fuel will be taken in the state cabinet, Shinde informed the House, while replying to a debate after he won the floor test.

The Maharashtra government led by the Shiv Sena (Eknath Shinde faction) and BJP will reduce Value Added Tax (VAT) on fuel soon, Chief Minister Eknath Shinde informed the State Assembly on Monday.

A decision to reduce VAT on fuel will be taken in the state cabinet, Shinde informed the House, while replying to a debate after he won the floor test.



Los Angeles | Agencies

Amber Heard wants the verdict of the defamation trial against her ex-husband Johnny Depp to be tossed out. Heard's attorney filed a motion requesting that including the \$10.35 million in damages awarded to Depp by the jury, reports Variety.

In addition to Heard's attorneys arguing that the verdict is not supported by evidence, the 43-page document submitted to the Fairfax County Circuit Court also calls "to investigate improper juror service", 'Variety' adds.

It claimed that public information indicates that a juror who served during the trial was born in 1970, despite court officials listing the person's birth year as 1945.

Heard's lawyers wrote, "This discrepancy raises the question whether Juror 15 actually received a summons for jury duty and was properly vetted by the court to serve on the jury."

In addition to Depp's \$10 million in compensatory damages, plus \$350,000 in punitive damages, the jury also awarded Heard \$2 million in compensatory damages for her counterclaim.

Heard's attorneys further wrote in the fil-

ing that "Mr. Depp presented no evidence that Ms. Heard did not believe she was abused. Therefore, Mr. Depp did not meet the legal requirements for actual malice, and the verdict should be set aside."

Amber Heard's attorney urges court to toss out defamation trial verdict

HAS LINDSAY LOHAN MARRIED SECRETLY? HER LATEST INSTA POST SUGGESTS SO

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Lindsay Lohan, who is set to make her comeback on the big screen, recently took to her Instagram to share a mushy picture with Bader Shammam, the man whom she calls her "husband".

The post since then has sparked marriage rumours of the actress who is known to be a very private person. Captioning the picture, Lohan wrote: "I am the luckiest woman in the world. You found me and knew that I wanted to find happiness and grace, all at the same time. I am stunned that you are my husband. My life and my everything. Every woman should feel like this everyday."

In November last year, Lohan had announced her engagement to her financier, Shammam. The actress had shared a slew of pictures with her fiancé and flaunted her engagement ring as well, People magazine said.

On the work front, the Mean Girls actress will be soon seen in a new Netflix holiday romantic comedy alongside Chord Overstreet.



'MINIONS: THE RISE OF GRU' ON WAY TO HIGHEST JULY 4 WEEKEND FILM OPENING

Los Angeles | Agencies

Animated comedy film 'Minions: The Rise of Gru' is set to emerge as the highest film opening in the US over the July 4 Independence Day weekend.

The film has minted \$108 million over the weekend thereby setting the box office on fire. It is expected to collect a sizable \$127.9 million by Monday evening, reports Variety.

Based on box office estimates, Variety reports film will smash the record for the highest film opening

over US Independence Day, overtaking Paramount's 2011 blockbuster 'Transformers: Dark of the Moon'.

After Disney's Pixar film Lightyear fell short of expectations, Hollywood had been looking at film to test the viability of animated flicks on the big screen.

Variety states that film almost matched its predecessor, 2015's Minions (\$115 million over three days), in terms of opening weekend returns.

Overall, July 4 ticket sales are another encouraging sign that movie going is slowly but surely rebounding from COVID-19.

Bonnie Wright with hubby attend Olive Uniacke's wedding party

Los Angeles: Bonnie Wright who played Ginny Weasley in Harry Potter attend Olive Uniacke's wedding party with husband Andrew Lococo, as they are seen for the first time since they got married. They tied the knot back in March with a gorgeous outdoor celebration. reports; dailymail.uk.com. And Bonnie Wright and her husband Andrew Lococo were in the wedding spirit once again, as they were spotted departing Olive Uniacke's start-studded celebrations on Sunday. The Harry Potter actress, 31, looked chic in a bright blue satin dress - as she departed the wedding party of Rosamund Pike's stepdaughter. Donning a satin maxi dress with a puff sleeve and ruched neckline, Bonnie looked stunning for the late night marital bash. Holding onto her arm was Andrew, who looked dapper in a suit and white shirt, adding patent black brogues to the ensemble.

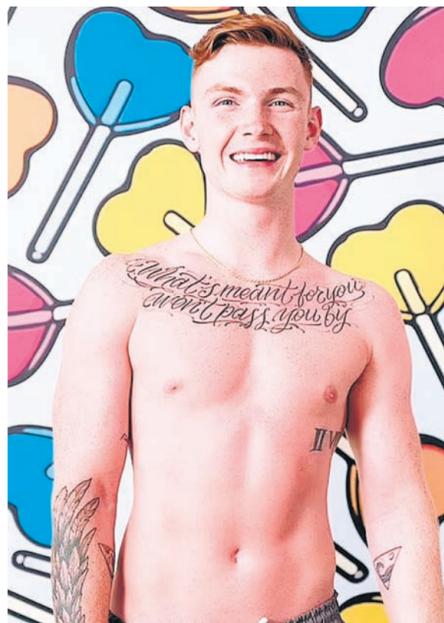


Ashanti performs at the Essence Festival in New Orleans

Los Angeles | Agencies

Ashanti ensured all eyes were on her as she took to the stage at the 2022 Essence Festival of Culture at the Louisiana Superdome in New Orleans on Sunday. The star effortlessly commanded attention on stage where she let her dyed locks fall loose down her shoulders. The performance comes after Ashanti received a star on the Hollywood Walk Of Fame earlier this year for her contributions to the music industry.

Guest speakers Tichina Arnold and Ja Rule joined the performer at the ceremony where she fought back tears as she thanked her family and friends. She said: "Through the good times, the bad times where it means the most. I am so grateful for our incredible, unbreakable bond. It just means so much, we've been through so many dark moments, so to be here today celebrating life together as a family and as a unit, I'm so grateful. In thanking her mother for years of support, the actress told the crowd about the early days of her career when her mom bought her a souvenir star and told her 'you're gonna get one of these one day.'"



Ronan Keating admits his 'heart was beating out of his chest' watching son enter Love Island

Los Angeles | Agencies

The former Boyzone star Ronan Keating confessed to being 'nervous as hell' as Jack was introduced as one of six Casa Amor boys hoping to tempt the villa girls away from their partners. reports; dailymail.com.

Singer Ronan, who's also a dad to Missy, Ali, Cooper, five, and Coco, two, said the entire family are tuning into Love Island to support Jack, after starring on the ITV2 dating series was something he 'wanted to do.'

"I'm excited for him though, this is something he wanted to do, and I'll always support him and all my kids in their endeavors."

"The house is not the same without him and his little brother and sister are missing playing with him every day but we're tuning in every night to get our Jack fix and see where this adventure takes him," said Ronan.

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Nazanin Mandi



Florida Cup: Indian boxers claim 14 medals

ALFIYA STUNS FORMER WORLD CHAMP TO CLINCH GOLD

Nagpur-girl Alfiya thrashed the 2016 world champion and a strong contender for the title, Lazzat Kungeibayeva by a 5-0 margin without breaking a sweat in the women's +81kg final while Gitika clinched a thrilling 4-1 win over compatriot Kalaivani in an intense all-Indian women's 48kg final. Alfiya and Gitika were making their senior international debut.



Kazakhstan's capital Nur-Sultan on Monday.

Two other female boxers, Kalaivani Srinivasan and Jamuna Boro signed off with silver medals as India ended their campaign with 14 medals including 10 bronze.

Alfiya proved too strong for the reigning Asian champion Kungeibayeva as she completely dominated the bout which eventually ended as a one-sided affair with a unanimous decision in Alfiya's favour. The experienced Kazakh boxer looked clueless against the young

Indian, who demonstrated remarkable skills.

Gitika, who hails from Rohtak, handed the country the first gold of the day by winning an intense all-Indian final against Kalaivani wherein both the boxers started with an aggressive intent and kept attacking each other. While they continued to exchange heavy punches, Gitika effortlessly shifted gears as the bout progressed and did enough, in the end, to tilt the result in her favour.

Meanwhile, the 2019 World Championships bronze medalist

Jamuna gave her all against Uzbekistan's Nigina Uktamova but ended up with a 0-5 loss in the 54kg final.

Alfiya and Gitika fetched themselves prize money of USD 700 for their gold medal-winning feats while silver and bronze medal winners were awarded USD 400 and USD 200 each respectively.

With the addition of two gold and as many silver medals on the final day, the Indian contingent also concluded its campaign with 14 medals, including 10 bronze, in the inaugural edition of the tournament.

Indian women boxers secured two gold, two silver and six bronze medals in the tournament which witnessed top players in action from strong boxing countries such as India, Uzbekistan, hosts Kazakhstan, Cuba, China and Mongolia.

Jyoti Gulia (52kg), Sakshi (54kg), Sonia Lather (57kg), Neema (63kg), Lalita (70kg) and Babita Bisht (81kg) were the six bronze medallists in the women's category.

Among men, Kuldeep Kumar (48kg), Ananta Chopade (54kg), Sachin (57kg) and Jugnoo (92kg) claimed bronze medals.

A 33-member Indian contingent took part in the tournament with two teams in the women's section.

2nd ODI RENUKA'S 4-28, SMRITI-SHAFALI'S RECORD STAND HELP INDIA BEAT SRI LANKA BY 10 WICKETS

A four-wicket haul by Renuka Singh Thakur followed by a record-opening stand between Smriti Mandhana (94 not out) and Shafali Verma (71 not out) helped India women romp to a comprehensive 10-wicket victory against Sri Lanka women here, taking a 2-0 lead in the series.

Pallekele | Agencies

India won the toss and elected to bowl first and soon got success with Renuka Singh Thakur and other bowlers making early inroads.

In only her fourth ODI, Renuka put up a stunning performance, ably assisted by Meghana Singh, to bowl out Sri Lanka for a sub-par total. Renuka had picked up three wickets in the first match with the hosts folding for a similar total of 171.

Renuka got to work soon enough, dismissing three Sri Lankan wickets under seven overs. Meghana took the all-important scalp of Sri Lanka captain Chamari Athapaththu as the hosts were reduced to 42/4 in the 16th over. Meghana also dismissed Nilakshi de Silva crippling Sri Lanka further.

Run-outs didn't help either as India's fielding was mostly on point barring a few lapses. Anushka Sanjeevani and Kavisa Dilhari were both run-out and Deepti Sharma cleaned up the tail with the wickets of Inoka Ranaweera



Brief scores:

Sri Lanka Women 173 all out in 50 overs (Ama Kanchana 47 not out, Nilakshi de Silva 32; Renuka Thakur 4-28, Meghana Singh 2/43, Deepti Sharma 2/30) lost to India Women 174 for no loss in 25.4 overs (Smriti Mandhana 94 not out, Shafali Verma 71 not out) by 10 wickets

and Achini Kulasuriya, according to a report on the ICC website.

A tight bowling performance meant that Sri Lanka were able to hit only 11 fours in their innings as they were bowled out for 173.

Smriti Mandhana and Shafali Verma started cautiously but soon abandoned that approach to take on a more aggressive role. India's fifty came up in the ninth over and from there the duo did not look back. Soon after her fifty,

Mandhana accelerated with Verma playing her shots at the other end as they raced to complete a win without losing a wicket.

Their 174-run stand is the fifth-highest partnership for India in women's ODIs and the highest against Sri Lanka.

With this win, India have not only gained an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match ODI series but also got two crucial points taking their total to four in the ICC Women's Championship 2022-25.

Test experience will come in handy in white-ball series vs England: SA's Laura Wolvaardt

Northampton | Agencies

first Test cap during the

Charismatic South Africa batter Laura Wolvaardt has said the drawn one-off Test against England Women recently was a "great learning experience" and she would utilise the learnings from the game when the white-ball series against the hosts begins on July 11 with an ODI. The 23-year-old made her Test debut against England but was unlucky to be dismissed by England pacer Issy Wong cheaply in both innings even as Marizanne Kapp scored 150 and an unbeaten 43 in the two innings to save the day for the Proteas in a rain-marred match. Wolvaardt was one of nine South Africa players that earned a



four-day clash in Taunton last month, with the right-hander contributing scores of 16 in both innings. And while Wolvaardt would have loved to have scored more with the bat, she said it was still a superb experience to be able to represent her country in a red-ball cricket against a tough England side.

ENG v IND, 5th Test England on track in chase of 378 despite Bumrah taking out Crawley

Birmingham | Agencies

Despite India skipper Jasprit Bumrah taking out Zak Crawley just before the tea break, England have managed to keep themselves on track in a mammoth chase of 378. At tea, England are 107/1 in 24 overs, requiring 271 runs more to achieve their highest successful chase in Test cricket.

After Ben Stokes took the remaining three wickets to end India's second innings at 345 in 81.5 overs, the effect of the heavy roller on the pitch was apparent by the terrific opening stand of 107 between Lees and Crawley, before a ball change and Bumrah brought India back to life an over before tea.

Lees began by successfully taking boundaries off Shami and Bumrah in the first three overs. Crawley was more cautious to balls outside the off-stump before leaning into drives off Shami and Bumrah.

As England raced to 43 runs in eight overs, India introduced Ravindra Jadeja into the attack. But it had little effect on England as Lees danced down the pitch to drive through mid-off before nailing the gap through point to make it two boundaries off Jadeja's opening over.

Lees continued to be eye-catching in his stroke play, with an upper cut-off Mohammed Siraj being a standout. He then got his fifty in



just 44 balls with a copybook style back-foot punch through cover-point off Siraj.

Crawley, who survived a caught behind appeal off Jadeja, brought out some exquisite

drives and flicks and started to find gaps crisply for fun. The left-right duo brought up England's century in 19.5 overs, marking the first-century stand between the two. For India, who got to change the ball after 20.5 overs, Bumrah brought himself on in the 22nd over and got success on the fourth ball as Crawley's off-stump was castled, with the batter offering no shot to an in-ducker, providing India a vital breakthrough an over before tea.

Earlier, Stokes, who had taken over Virat Kohli on Sunday, bounced out Mohammed Shami, having him caught at deep backward square leg. Jadeja never got going and Stokes ended his stay by getting one to jag in sharply and force the left-hander to chop on his stumps. Bumrah, the Indian skipper, pulled him for a huge six over fine leg. But Stokes had the last laugh on the very next ball as Bumrah went for the same shot, only to hole out to fine leg, with Stokes ending with 4-33 in 11.5 overs as India set England a mammoth target of 378.

Brief scores:

India 416 and 245 in 81.5 overs (Cheteshwar Pujara 66, Rishabh Pant 57; Ben Stokes 4-33, Matthew Potts 2-50) against England 284 and 107/1 in 23 overs (Alex Lees 56 not out, Zak Crawley 46; Jasprit Bumrah 2/24). England need 271 runs to win.

INDIA'S ANAHAT WINS GERMAN JR OPEN SQUASH



New Delhi: India's Anahat continued her winning streak and won German junior open squash championship super series event, held at Hamburg between July 1-4.

In the finals, the 14-year-old beat Malak Samir of Egypt 3-0 in the girls under 15 category. She reached the finals beating the Malaysian top seed Whitney Isabelle Wilson 3-1 in the semifinals and Savannah Moxham of Belgium in the quarterfinals. Anahat has won 46 national circuit titles, 2 national championships and 9 international titles.

Two green cards at the back end disturbed our rhythm vs England: India hockey coach

Amstelveen | Agencies

India women's hockey team head coach Janneke Schopman has conceded the two green cards at the back end disturbed the team's rhythm in the opening Pool B match of the FIH Women's Hockey World Cup Spain & Netherlands 2022 against England, which ended in a 1-1 stalemate on Sunday night.

Goals were scored by Isabelle Petter (9th min) and Vandana Kataria (28th min) as they helped their respective teams add a crucial point on the points table.

Reflecting on the performance, India head coach Schopman said, "I think we started the game really well, creating a penalty corner in the opening minute. England were dangerous at times but



we managed to play well on the ball and defended calmly most of the time. We were unlucky in our penalty corner execution and in the end the two green cards disturbed our rhythm a little.

"Overall, I'm quite happy with our performance but also know we can be better in certain areas," she added.

Captain Savita, who made some remarkable saves, was happy the team had come out of the tough test with a point in the kitty.

India will now take on China in their second pool match in Amstelveen on Tuesday. The two teams have faced each other three times this year, with India winning

all three matches. India registered a 2-0 win in the 3rd/4th placed match in the Asia Cup and won both the FIH Pro League matches (7-1 and 2-1) earlier this year against their Asian counterparts.

China also played out a 2-2 draw against New Zealand in their opening match of the tournament.

Powell powers West Indies to 35-run win against Bangladesh in second T20I

Roseau (Dominica) | Agencies

West Indies fans enjoyed a commanding performance from their team in the second T20 International, as they brushed aside Bangladesh by 35 runs at Windsor Park to take a 1-0 lead in the three-match series on Monday (IST).

With international cricket returning to the island for the first time since 2017, spectators packed the stands and they witnessed a fine innings from by Rovman Powell (61 not out off 28 balls) which set up the match-winning total of 193/5 off 20 overs.

In reply to West Indies' big total, Bangladesh struggled from some superb new-ball bowling from Obed McCoy and finished on 158/6 from their 20 overs. Shakib Al Hasan top-scored with 69 not



out from 52 balls to reach the milestone of 2,000 runs in his 98th T20 International.

The third game of the series will be played in Guyana.

Brief scores:

West Indies 193/5 in 20 overs (Brandon King 57, Nicholas Pooran 34, Rovman Powell 61 not out; Shoriful Islam 2/40) beat Bangladesh 158/6 in 20 overs (Shakib Al Hasan 68 not out, Alif Hossain 34; Obed McCoy 2/37, Romario Shepherd 2/28) by 35 runs.

Wimbledon 2022

RYBAKINA POWERS PAST MARTIC, BOOKS MAIDEN QUARTERFINAL SPOT

London | Agencies

Elena Rybakina advanced to the Wimbledon quarterfinals for the first time in her career after a hard-fought 7-5, 6-3 win over Petra Martic of Croatia here on Monday.

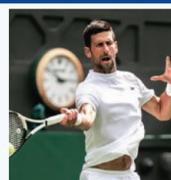
It took Rybakina, the No. 17 seed, one hour and 20 minutes to overcome the world No. 80 Croatian in a match that was tighter than the 7-5, 6-3 scoreline suggested. The 31-year-old

Martic recovered from a 0-3 deficit in the first set, claiming four games straight to take a 4-3 lead. But helped by her power hitting, the Kazakhstani recovered to level in the eighth game and secured the 46-minute opener in the 10th game. Rybakina seized the ascendancy when she broke Martic's serve for a third time in the sixth game of the second set, closing out the victory with a forehand winner on her first match point. She will face either Alize Cornet or Ajla Tomljanovic in the quarterfinals.

Djokovic on course for seventh Wimbledon title

London | Agencies

Serbian tennis ace Novak Djokovic remained on course for his seventh Wimbledon title, ending Dutch wildcard Tim van Rijthoven's dream debut with a 6-2, 4-6, 6-1, 6-2 victory on Centre Court to secure a quarterfinal berth at SW19. The top-seeded Djokovic was challenged by his 25-year-old opponent's powerful serve and forehand, but showed his championship class by playing a superb baseline game to set up a last-eight clash against 10th seed Jannik Sinner of Italy.





Ranveer Singh likely to host reality OTT show

Team Absolute | Mumbai

After the successful season of 'Bigg Boss OTT 1' hosted by Karan Johar, a source close to the reality show says that popular Bollywood actor Ranveer Singh has replaced him for the next season. Nothing has been confirmed officially, though, and no announcement has been made yet. The source said: "Makers have started working on the second season of BB OTT. As they couldn't get dates from Karan Johar, the makers have finalised Ranveer Singh to host the show. He has earlier worked for the channel for another reality TV show, The Big Picture." Divya Agarwal emerged as the winner of the first season and Nishant Bhatt was named the runner-up. Popular actress Sharmista Shetty made a flurry of headlines during the show. Bigg Boss OTT will stream on Voot Select.

Sini Shetty of Karnataka takes the ultimate crown of grace, home

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Femina Miss India 2022 is none other than Sini Shetty of Karnataka. Where Rubal Shekhawat from Rajasthan became the first runner-up, and Shinata Chauhan from Uttar Pradesh was announced as the second runner-up. Sini Shetty beat everyone and took the crown home.

Sini represented her state Karnataka in the Femina Miss India 2022. She is currently studying CFA. Meanwhile, dance was always her hobby. The Miss India 2022 completed her learning of arangetram and Bharatanatyam when she was fourteen.

Shini describes herself as a hustler, tenacious, personal and dynamic person. She wants to take on her responsibilities and want to pursue it in good faith. She takes this opportunity to reform society with incredible tenacity, carefulness and compassion.

Judged by Neha Dhupia, Rohit Gandhi, Rahul Khanna, Shiamak Davar, Malaika Arora, Mithali Raj, and Dino Morea, this year's grand finale was organised at the Jio World Convention Centre in Mumbai today, July 3.



SUNIEL SHETTY & VIVEK OBEROI COMES TOGETHER FOR A CRIME THRILLER

Team Absolute | Mumbai

OTT is known for telling tales that go beyond the ordinary, reaching deep into India's hinterlands, and is once again devoted to bringing to life themes that resonate with the public. After delivering back-to-back blockbusters such as Ek Badnaam...Aashram3, Matsya Kaand, and Campus Diaries, all of which have received over 100 million views on the entertainment super app, the OTT platform is set to bring another gripping, ground-breaking web series for its audiences titled Dharavi Bank. The programme, directed by Samit Kakkad, will be offered for free on an OTT platform alone.

Suniel Shetty, Vivek Oberoi, and Sonali Kulkarni will provide powerful performances in the key parts. The series was extensively shot in several sites in Dharavi, one of the world's biggest slums.



Payal Rohatgi to wear granny's gold 'kada' on her wedding

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Payal Rohatgi, who is all set to tie the knot with wrestler Sangram Singh on July 9, has chosen to wear temple jewellery on her big day and also her granny's gold 'kada'.

While sharing details about this special Jewellery, Payal said: "My Nani, I loved her. She has given me her gold kada which I am going to wear with my wedding jewellery. She was a sardarni."

I am going to miss her on my big day a lot, as she is not around. So I am going to wear her gold kada in her memory, as a blessing from her." Payal added.

After 12 years of togetherness, Payal Rohatgi and Sangram Singh will tie the knot on July 9 in the presence of family and close friends in Agra.

Salman's movie shelved, I didn't expect things to go wrong: Atif Afzal

Aakruti Bagla | Mumbai

Popular New York based music director Atif Afzal gained worldwide recognition with his music compositions for various American series including Marvel's 'Loki', 'NCIS: Los Angeles' and 'The Twilight Zone season 2'. Some of his popular Bollywood projects include Nawazuddin Siddiqui's 'Monsoon Shootout', Shreyas Talpade starrer 'Baji', 'Prague', 'Pune 52' and 'Resort to Love'. Afzal recently composed music for series 'Ms Marvel'. In an exclusive interview with Absolute India News, he spoke about his journey and experience.

Excerpts from the chat:

Q: What do you have to tell about your association with MCU for the second time with Ms Marvel and how is it different from your previous compositions?

A: After Loki, I did have a feeling that I will work on another Marvel project in the future. But, when I was approached, it still felt surreal.

I have composed two songs for Ms Marvel. These are full-fledged tracks as opposed to the more dreamy track which I did for Loki last year.

Q: Talking about music, Can you shed light on how regional; Bollywood and Hollywood cinema are different?

A: Personally, the only thing

similar for me across all industries was my music-making process. I always experimented with my music. The differences, though, are plenty. Firstly, the moment you are hired for a film in Hollywood, they trust you and your music 100%. I get to take complete charge. Very rarely my tracks or film score gotten. Secondly, everything is a bang as per the timeline and a huge time is given to the preparation so that it can be executed well.

Q: The music industry has evolved since you entered. How do you see these changes and specifically what are your thoughts on remakes?

A: The way the music industry is evolving is really constructive, more for the new rising talents. Today, you don't need a record label to sign you. These days, I am glad to see independent musicians popping up, and hope the trend continues. There are definitely some enablers like social media and streaming platforms that have played a huge role. The two next big things are AI and NFTs. We are going to see a huge shift in the way music will be consumed in the next ten years.



Q: Some of your music got shelved. How did you deal with those failures and manage to rise?

A: Obstacles show you the future! They are necessary for your life. In the first few years, rejections came more often than acceptance. It used to be tough to deal with at the beginning. However, I knew that it was a matter of finding that one director who believes in your music. Salman Khan's movie got shelved at a stage where I didn't expect things to go wrong. I worked for his film for 6 months without a penny paid to me. Later, I was told that the film is not happening. So, my mantra is - Embrace rejections!

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Aakanksha Singh