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Maha Governor swears-in CM Eknath Shinde, Dy CM Devendra Fadnavis

Capping off a series of startling political events of the past 10 days, Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari administered the oath of office to Eknath Sambhaji Shinde as the 20th Chief Minister and Bharatiya Janata Party leader Devendra Fadnavis as the Deputy CM, here on Thursday evening.

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Capping off a series of startling political events of the past 10 days, Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari administered the oath of office to Eknath Sambhaji Shinde as the 20th Chief Minister and Bharatiya Janata Party leader Devendra Fadnavis as the Deputy CM, here on Thursday evening. The oath-taking ceremony came a day after former Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray resigned his post in the wake of a major rebellion in the Shiv Sena legislators that led to the collapse of the 31-month-old Maha Vikas Aghadi government.



After a string of fast-paced developments, the BJP decided to support a minority government headed by Shinde from outside. Later, following directives of the party top brass like President J.P. Nadda, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and even Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Fadnavis -

former two-time CM - finally agreed to join the new regime as the No 2 and Deputy CM. The two-member cabinet will be expanded soon with more MLAs inducted as ministers from the Shinde group of Shiv Sena and the BJP, according to party sources.

AMARNATH YATRA BEGINS WITH 'PUJA' AT CAVE SHRINE

Srinagar: To mark the beginning of 43-day long Amarnath Yatra, Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday performed the 'puja' of Baba Barani and prayed for peace, happiness and prosperity of all. "I have full faith that the devotees travelling from all over the country to seek the divine blessings of Shri Amarnathji will have a safe and memorable pilgrimage," Sinha said. Expecting a heavy footfall of yatis, the UT government and Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board (SASB) have made extensive arrangements for Yatra this year. The devotees can have 'Darshan' of the Holy Ice Lingam at the Holy Cave Shrine through live telecast of Morning and Evening Arti through Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board's website link: <http://www.shriamarnathjishrine.com/Aartilive.html> or through Shrine Board's Android based Application which may be downloaded through the link: <http://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.ncog.shriamarnath> In addition to the Lt. Governor, SASB Board members, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary, Nitishwar Kumar, SASB and Lt. General Amardeep Singh Aujla, GOC 15 Corps also participated in the puja.

DOZENS BURIED ALIVE IN MASSIVE MANIPUR LANDSLIDE; RESCUE ON

Imphal | Agencies

Rescue operations by the central and state agencies were underway on Thursday after a massive landslide triggered by incessant rains during the past few days in Manipur's Noney district buried dozens of people alive, officials said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah have spoken to Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh and assured him of all possible help to rescue the people and deal with the situation. In an advisory, Noney Deputy Commissioner Haulianlal Guite said the landslide occurred at the Tupul Yard Railway construction camp. The landslide also obstructed the course of the Ijei river which flows through Tamenglong and Noney districts. As the situation is still unfolding, the Deputy Commissioner has warned the general public, especially children, against going near the river. If the situation further deteriorates, it would wreak havoc to the low lying areas of Noney district, he added. The district administration, in coordination with various national and state disaster agencies, is undertaking search and rescue, relief operations work.



People have also been advised against travelling along the National Highway 37 due to multiple road blockages due to landslides. The district administration has also launched several helpline numbers for the affected people to call for assistance. The under construction Tupul station building, track formation and camps of construction workers got damaged as a result of the massive landslide. Chief Public Relations Officer of Northeast Frontier Railways Sabyasachi De said rescue teams from NDRF, SDRF, state government and the Railways rushed to the site. He said that full-scale rescue operations are in progress. Senior Railways officials, engineers

and equipment on construction sites have been pressed into the rescue efforts. So far, 19 people have been rescued and the injured individuals are being medically treated at Noney Army Medical unit. However, bad weather and fresh landslides are affecting the rescue operations. Concerted effort by all is underway to rescue the missing individuals. The Army helicopters are also being used to airlift the critically injured, the CPRO said. Meanwhile, Defence Spokesman Lt. Col. Mohit Vaishnava said the Indian Army on Thursday rescued 13 Territorial Army personnel, who were trapped following the massive landslide in Noney district. The personnel were deployed to provide security to the under construction railway line from Jiribam to state capital Imphal. Meanwhile, Chief Minister Biren Singh has held an emergency meeting. "Called an emergency meeting to assess the situation of the landslide in Tupul today. The search and rescue operation is already underway. Let's keep them in our prayers today. Ambulances along with doctors have also been dispatched to assist in the operation," he said in a tweet.

NIA changes plan fearing attack, Udaipur accused to be grilled in Raj

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has decided to question Riyaz Akhtari and Ghouse Mohammad, the two prime accused in the gruesome broad daylight beheading of a man named Kanhaiya Lal inside his tailoring shop in Udaipur, in Rajasthan only.

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The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has decided to question Riyaz Akhtari and Ghouse Mohammad, the two prime accused in the gruesome broad daylight beheading of a man named Kanhaiya Lal inside his tailoring shop in Udaipur, in Rajasthan only. Sources in the agency said that it received crucial inputs that the accused duo could be attacked by different organisations and hence it has decided to grill them in Rajasthan to avoid any untoward incident. Earlier it was reported that the two prime accused will be brought to Delhi by the NIA for questioning. "There are many more involved in the incident. It was a larger conspiracy which was executed in a well-planned manner. Not all those involved in hatching the conspiracy to execute the



killing have been arrested yet. And we don't want any untoward incident, as we have inputs that the accused might be attacked. Hence, we have postponed the plan to take them to Delhi," said a source. NIA sources claimed that accused could be part of a larger conspiracy. In 2014, Ghouse had gone to Karachi where he came in contact with the Dawat-e-Islami, a radical organisation.

Since then he was in touch with them. Both the accused recorded a video after beheading Kanhaiya Lal, stating that they took revenge for insult to Islam. In the viral video, one of the two accused could be heard saying, "I will make the video viral when I accomplish my goal to teach a lesson to the accused who has shown disrespect to our God."

MAN WHO SUPPORTED KANHAIYA LAL MURDER ON SOCIAL MEDIA HELD IN NOIDA

The Noida Police on Thursday arrested a man for sharing and liking a video and allegedly supporting the killing of Kanhaiya Lal, the tailor who was brutally murdered by two men in Rajasthan's Udaipur.

Noida: The Noida Police on Thursday arrested a man for sharing and liking a video and allegedly supporting the killing of Kanhaiya Lal, the tailor who was brutally murdered by two men in Rajasthan's Udaipur. A senior police official said the arrested accused was identified as Ashif Khan, a resident of village Chhaprauli of Noida sector 168. Noida Police had received a complaint that on Facebook, a video of Kanhaiya Lal murder was posted and Ashif was supporting and commenting in favour of the killing. The police lodged an FIR under section 505(2) and 295A of the IPC. A police team was formed to immediately nab the accused as it could have invited untoward incidents. "Ashif was held from a nearby area of the Expressway canal. We have recovered the cell phone which he used to post the message," the police said. The police said that they would produce him before the court.

India, Japan hold talks to strengthen cybersecurity

India and Japan discussed cybersecurity cooperation during the fourth India-Japan Cyber Dialogue on Thursday.



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India and Japan discussed cybersecurity cooperation during the fourth India-Japan Cyber Dialogue on Thursday. The two sides discussed the important areas of bilateral cyber cooperation and reviewed the progress made thus far in the areas of cybersecurity and Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), including 5G. The Indian Delegation was led by Muanpuui Salawi, Joint Secretary, Cyber

Diplomacy Division of Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), while the Japanese delegation was led by Yutaka Arima, Ambassador in-charge of Cyber Policy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA). The Indian delegation consisted of senior officials from the MEA, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Defence, National Security Council Secretariat, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Department of Telecommunication, Indian

Computer Emergency Response Team and National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre. The Japanese delegation included senior officials from the National Centre of Incident Readiness and Strategy for Cybersecurity (NISC), Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communication, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry and MoFA. Both sides agreed to hold the next India-Japan Cyber Dialogue in 2023.

India needs to have a strong maritime system: Ajit Doval

National Security Advisor Ajit Doval on Thursday inaugurated the first ever meeting of Multiagency Maritime security group on policy to discuss various aspects related to the national security.



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Doval said that security related to different areas such as borders and other parts of the country are very different. He said that it wasn't possible to fence the whole border that connects us with neighbouring countries. "You cannot fence them, put 24x7 vigilance, concept of sovereignty in land borders is territorial and well-defined," he said. He said that intelligence agencies had provided crucial information regarding security issues. He also discussed issues like smuggling, gun-running, counter-terrorism, espionage. Doval said that foreign intelligence makes efforts for espionage, sabotage and subvert and it couldn't be denied. He further said that Indian ocean has become competitive and there was need to be vigilant 24x7 to avoid clashes. Doval said that India was helping neighbouring countries during crisis such as at the time of disaster and other issues. "We need to have a strong maritime system and the time has come to achieve it," he said.

PM Narendra Modi launches several initiatives to strengthen MSME sector

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday launched several initiatives to raise and accelerate performance of the MSME sector. He said the MSME sector accounts for almost one-third of India's economy. Strengthening the MSME sector is strengthening the entire society, making everyone recipient of the benefits of development, he said.

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday launched several initiatives to raise and accelerate performance of the MSME sector. He said the MSME sector accounts for almost one-third of India's economy. Strengthening the MSME sector is strengthening the entire society, making everyone recipient of the benefits of development, he said. PM Modi was speaking at the 'Udyami Bharat' programme where he launched 'Raising and

Accelerating MSME Performance' (RAMP) scheme, 'Capacity Building of First-Time MSME Exporters' (CBFTE) scheme and new features of the 'Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme' (PMEGP) to ramp up the MSME sector. Addressing the gathering, Modi said that the efforts of MSME India will be a key driver of Aatmanirbhar Bharat. He said whatever heights the 21st century India will achieve, that will be dependent on the success of the MSME sector. He emphasised that it is important for India's MSME sector to be strong for increasing India's exports and for India's products to reach new markets. "Our government is taking decisions and making new policies keeping in mind your ability and the immense potential of this sector", he said, adding that the initiatives launched today and other measures undertaken by the government are linked with the quality and promotion of MSME. PM Modi also digitally transferred assistance to beneficiaries of PMEGP for 2022-23; announced results of the MSME Idea Hackathon, 2022; distributed National MSME Awards, 2022; and issued Digital Equity Certificates to 75 MSMEs in the Self Reliant India (SRI) Fund. Prime Minister remarked that when we say MSME, it expands in technical language

to Micro Small and Medium Enterprises. But these micro, small and medium enterprises are a huge pillar of India's growth journey. To strengthen the MSME sector, in the last eight years, the Prime Minister said, the government has increased the budget allocation for this by more than 650 per cent. "For us, MSME means - Maximum Support to Micro Small and Medium Enterprises", the Prime Minister stressed. Noting that more than 11 crore people are connected with the sector, PM Modi said that MSME is critical for employment generation. During the pandemic, the government decided to save the small enterprises and give them new strength. Under the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme, the central government has ensured Rs 3.5 lakh crore for MSMEs, he said. As per a report, this resulted in saving about 1.5 crore jobs. He said that MSME is a major medium for achieving the pledges of 'Amrit Kaal' of India's Independence. Underlining that for the first time, the turnover of Khadi and Village Industries has crossed Rs 1 lakh crore, he said that this has been possible because small entrepreneurs in the villages and our sisters have worked very hard. Khadi sales have increased 4 times in the last 8 years.



ACTIVE COVID CASELOAD IN INDIA CROSSES 1L-MARK AFTER 4 MONTHS

India reported 18,819 new Covid cases in a span of 24 hours, which is a considerable rise from the previous day's count of 14,506, taking the caseload to over one lakh-mark after a gap of four months, said the Union Ministry of Health and Family Affairs.



Affairs. In the same period, the country reported 39 more Covid deaths, taking the nationwide death toll to 5,25,116. The active caseload has also surged to 1,04,555 cases, accounting for 0.24 per cent of the country's total positive cases. The last time the active Covid caseload crossed the one lakh-mark was on February 28 when it reached 1,02,601.

The recovery of 13,827 patients in the last 24 hours took the cumulative tally to 4,28,22,493. Consequently,

India's recovery rate stands at 98.55 per cent. Meanwhile, India's daily positivity rate has also surged to 4.16 per cent, while the weekly positivity rate in the country currently stands at 3.72 per cent. Also in the same period, a total of 4,52,430 tests were conducted across the country, increasing the overall tally to over 86.23 crore.

As of Thursday morning, India's Covid-19 vaccination coverage exceeded 197.61 crore, achieved via 2,57,19,005 sessions.

ALT NEWS CO-FOUNDER MOHAMMED ZUBAIR BROUGHT TO B'LURU FOR PROBE

Bengaluru: Sleuths of Intelligence Fusion and Strategic Operations (IFSO) of Delhi Police has brought Mohammed Zubair, fact-checking website Alt News's co-founder to Bengaluru on Thursday for further investigation. Zubair has been arrested for allegedly hurting religious sentiments by a tweet from 2018. According to sources, Zubair will be taken to his residence in Frazer town locality of Bengaluru. The investigators are likely to seize his laptop and other electronic devices from his house for further investigation.

Opposition leader Siddaramaiah slammed the authorities for the arrest of Zubair. "It is a desperate attempt to sabotage freedom of expression. All lovers of democracy should unite to fight the government headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi which is all set to implement undeclared emergency in the country," he stated.

After wresting govt, will Shinde covet the Shiv Sena?

AFTER WRESTING THE STATE GOVERNMENT, THE QUESTION RANKLING SUPPORTERS OF OUTGOING CHIEF MINISTER UDDHAV THACKERAY IS - WILL THE NEW CM-DESIGNATE EKNATH SHINDE NOW GO ALL OUT TO GRAB CONTROL OVER THE 56-YEAR-OLD SHIV SEN?

Team Absolute | Mumbai

After wresting the state government, the question ranking supporters of outgoing Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray is - will the new CM-designate Eknath Shinde now go all out to grab control over the 56-year-old Shiv Sena?

A subtle indicator to this came this evening when hoardings went up in his home district of Thane

showing the late Shiv Sena founder Balasaheb Thackeray, the late Thane strongman and the CM-designate's mentor Anand Dighe, Shinde and his MP son Shrikant Shinde, and the party logo of a Tiger, the vehicle of Goddess Bhavani Mata.

Significantly, the picture of exiting CM and Shiv Sena President Uddhav Thackeray was conspicuously missing, though barely 10 days ago, Shinde was the de facto No 2 in the state cabinet, and most party banners, hoardings usually carry Thackeray's photos prominently.

Several party leaders like MP Sanjay Raut and Kishore Tiwari have made it clear that it is not so easy for "anybody to walk out" or "take away the party" and said mere claims mean nothing as there are a lot of other legal issues involved.

Other leaders pointed out that claiming the support of majority Sena MLAs will not guarantee that the Shinde faction can be treated as the 'real Shiv Sena' and get to keep the trademark party logo or its

recognisable election symbol of Bow & Arrow.

In a situation of a vertical split - though the Shinde faction has repeatedly asserted they have not quit the Sena and they are the real party - despite having the higher numbers of lawmakers like MLAs or MPs will not automatically entitle them to be recognised as a separate party or its vote-catching assets.

Other aspects like the party's different decision-making bodies, the other elected branches like its trade union, women's wing, youth wing, the number of party members, active members, etc, would also come into play besides the number of lawmakers.

Later, the rival claims would go to the Election Commission of India which would ultimately decide which of the split faction deserved to be the 'original party' and be allotted the party assets, after examining precedents in such disputes.

However, if the two parties are not satisfied then they would be free to approach the appropriate court for a legal solution.

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Metro Dairy disinvestment: Adhir Chowdhury to approach SC for CBI probe

Congress' West Bengal chief Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury on Thursday said that he would approach the Supreme Court against the Calcutta High Court order, ruling out a CBI probe into the state government's disinvestment of its stake in erstwhile joint venture Metro Dairy Ltd.

KOLKATA | Agencies

Congress' West Bengal chief Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury on Thursday said that he would approach the Supreme Court against the Calcutta High Court order, ruling out a CBI probe into the state government's disinvestment of its stake in erstwhile joint venture Metro Dairy Ltd.

On June 13, the high court's division bench of Chief Justice Prakash Srivastava and Justice Rajarshi Bharadwaj observed that since the state government did not adopt any opaque sale of shares, there was no need for any intervention by the court in the process. It also observed that the disinvestment process was neither arbitrary nor illegal.

Not happy with the ruling, Adhir Ranjan



Chowdhury has now decided to approach the apex court. Chowdhury's counsel, PK

Chattopadhyay said that the state government in 2017 sold its 47 per cent stake to private entity Keventer Group at a throwaway price of just Rs 85 crore and in the same year, Keventer Group sold 15 percent of this to a Singapore-based entity for Rs 135 crore.

"Without any vested interest the state government would never have divested its stake in Metro Dairy at such a throwaway price. So, we wanted a CBI enquiry in the matter. But since the division bench of the Calcutta High Court did not approve that, we will be moving to the Supreme Court with the same demand," he said.

Senior Congress leader P Chidambaram had appeared on behalf of Metro Dairy Ltd in the high court, but faced ire of a group of Congress-affiliated advocates when he came for the hearing.

Gehlot meets Kanhaiya Lal's family, assures strict punishment for accused

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Thursday met the family members of Kanhaiya Lal, who was beheaded in broad daylight inside his tailoring shop by two assailants on a crowded street in Udaipur on Tuesday.

JAIPUR | Agencies

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Thursday met the family members of Kanhaiya Lal, who was beheaded in broad daylight inside his tailoring shop by two assailants on a crowded street in Udaipur on Tuesday.

Expressing condolences, Gehlot assured all help to the family members of Kanhaiya Lal whom he handed over a cheque of Rs 50 lakh. The Chief Minister was accompanied by state Congress President Govind Singh Datasra, Minister of State for Home Rajendra Yadav, Revenue Minister Ramlal Jat, Chief Secretary Usha Sharma and DGP Mohan Lal Lather. Gehlot told the media, "I hope that the NIA conducts a quick probe in this matter so that the guilty persons are punished at the earliest. That is what the people of the state as well as the whole



country want." Gehlot said that the outrage being witnessed among the countrymen over the gruesome killing of Kanhaiya Lal shows that every citizen, irrespective of religion or caste, wants speedy justice and punishment for the culprits.

"I hope that the NIA will understand this sentiment. On such an occasion, I would like to say that this is not a fight between two communities in the name of religion. A link has been found connecting the incident to terrorism. The murder has been condemned by every religion," Gehlot said.

The Chief Minister also appealed to the people of the state to maintain peace.

Now BJP MLA in Gujarat complains against officials

After the opposition, elected representatives of Gujarat's ruling BJP have started alleging that bureaucrats are not working in the interest of the people.

GODHRA | Agencies

After the opposition, elected representatives of Gujarat's ruling BJP have started alleging that bureaucrats are not working in the interest of the people.

Addressing a gathering organised by the Panchmahal District administration in district head-

quarter Godhra on Wednesday, BJP MLA C.K. Raolji alleged that for bureaucracy the first and foremost question comes is 'what is for me?'

Minister of State for Water Resources Jitu Chaudhary was also present on the occasion. "Since the last three years, I have been listening to a few sentences in government offices, especially from government officers and employees, 'What is for me?', 'Why should I?' These sentences have deep meaning if one understands," Raolji said. He said that this needs to be changed. "Now if the government officers, instead of asking 'What is for me?', should ask 'What is for them?' Only then people's problems will be

addressed." Just two days ago, Deputy Speaker Jethabhai Bharwad had alleged that illegal sand mining is taking place on a large scale.

BJP's MP from Bharuch Mansukh Vasava has numerous times raised the issue of red tapism and bureaucrats' "insensitivity" towards people and that people's works are not being addressed on priority.

Recently in Bhavnagar, former Minister of State for Education Vibhavi Dave had walked out of the Bhavnagar University event, when she was not given a seat on the stage.

Several BJP people representatives in rural and urban bodies had also recently complained against officials.

'BJP MORE FOCUSED ON POLITICAL GAMES THAN NATIONAL GAMES'

Panaji: An Indian Olympic Association (IOA) decided to host national games 2022 in Gujarat, instead of Goa, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has criticised the BJP government saying it is more focused on 'political games', than national games. AAP Youth Wing National Vice President Siddesh Bhagat on Thursday addressed a press conference and said that Goa has lost the chance of hosting national games, as IOA has announced that it will take place in Gujarat.

Bhagat criticised the BJP government for not building suitable infrastructure to host National Games, despite the announcement being made 14 years ago, that is in 2008.

Calcutta HC slaps show-cause on top cop of Bengal police

A single-judge bench of the Calcutta High Court, on Thursday, slapped a show-cause notice to the West Bengal's Director General of Police, Manoj Malviya on charges of contempt of court.

KOLKATA | Agencies

A single-judge bench of the Calcutta High Court, on Thursday, slapped a show-cause notice to the West Bengal's Director General of Police, Manoj Malviya on charges of contempt of court.

Two other Indian Police Service (IPS) officers namely former Jhargram district police superintendent, Biswajit Ghosh and the current Jhargram district additional police superintendent

(headquarter), Kalyan Sarkar were also slapped notice.

There three police officers will have to be present at the Calcutta High court's division bench of Sabyasachi Bhattacharya on July 30 and explain why proceedings under contempt of court charges will not be initiated against them.

Justice Bhattacharya passed this ruling against the three police officers while hearing on a petition by leader of the opposition in West Bengal assembly, Suwendu Adhikari that he was stopped by police at least 20 km away from his destination while he was going to Netai in Jhargram district to attend a party programme on January 7, 2022.

In his petition he also alleged that he was stopped by the police showing reasons that the ruling Trinamool Congress too was organizing a party programme at Netai and hence his

entry there might disrupt law & order situation. He also alleged that the district police stopped him on January 7 this year following the instructions of the three police officers mentioned.

In his argument, Adhikari's counsel said that last year in the same bench during hearing on the security aspects of the leader of the opposition, the advocate general assured on behalf of the state government that Adhikari can move freely anywhere in the state and it will be the duty of the state to make arrangement for his security.

Even after that assurance from the state advocate general the leader of the opposition was stopped by police on January 7 this year from reaching his destination and hence it boils down to contempt of court. On hearing arguments from both sides, Justice Bhattacharya issued show-cause notice to the three police officials.

4 communal incidents in 3 months highlight intel failure in Rajasthan

JAIPUR | Agencies

Four incidents of communal violence in three months in Rajasthan have shifted the attention to the intelligence failure in the desert state and now questions are being raised on the governance.

The intelligence failure is being discussed all across the state after the brutal and horrific murder of Kanhaiya Lal, a tailor in Udaipur, the video of which was put on the social media.

In three months, communal riots have been reported in four districts of the state and surprisingly in all these incidents, the intelligence failed to give any input to the district administration.

In Rajasthan, the riots have taken place in Karauli, Jodhpur, Bhilwara and now the horrific murder in Udaipur, but the intelligence had no clue. In Karauli, stone pelting was reported on April 2 on the occasion of Ram Navami, but the intelligence had no idea about it. A total of 37 people were arrested while around 140 were booked. Some are still absconding. Several shops were set on fire. The police registered a case against 144



people but till now only 37 could be arrested.

A month later, communal tension erupted at Jalori Gate in Jodhpur triggered by dispute over raising flag of a certain community, near the statue of freedom fighter Bal Mukund Bissa. Internet was suspended for four days. Around 40 people were rounded up, and as usual there was no intelligence about the communal clash.

In Bhilwara, on May 5, in the Sanganer area, the fight between the two communities took the form of communal tension. Members of both the communities came on the streets. The police had to

shut down Internet for two days. While twenty five people were booked, only a few have been arrested so far. After six days, there was communal tension again in Shastri Nagar area of Bhilwara. The authorities again shut the Internet for a day. Bhilwara police had no intelligence about the communal tension in the area.

Rajasthan Police have formed an SIT to probe if these riots were a part of any conspiracy, a report is yet to be given to the government.

Meanwhile, BJP State President Satish Poonia said that the Udaipur murder has highlighted the complete failure of the law and order as well as of intelligence in the state.

He said, "The Udaipur incident shows how criminals are becoming fearless which highlights the failure of the law and order of the state government. The NIA or central agency comes only when local administration fails. If the police administration and the state government become weak, it is the Home Minister and Chief Minister who have the moral responsibility to maintain law and order. It is regrettable that the CM appealed for peace through Twitter."

THE YOGI ADITYANATH GOVERNMENT HAS BANNED PROCESSIONS AND ANY KIND OF PROTEST AGAINST THE UDAIPUR INCIDENT IN THE STATE.

LUCKNOW | Agencies

The Yogi Adityanath government has banned processions and any kind of protest against the Udaipur incident in the state.

Director General of Police (DGP) D.S. Chauhan said security has been stepped up across the state and action would be taken against anyone making provocative remarks.

Additional DG, law and order, Prashant Kumar, said that permission would be needed for any religious or political function on the issue. Prashant Kumar said police are keeping vigil on social media posts from the



headquarters as well as district level.

"We are in touch with the central and state agencies for sharing intelligence inputs and threats and key details are being exchanged," he said. The ADG said that Uttar Pradesh Police have also opened dialogue with religious leaders to maintain social amity. The district police chiefs have appealed to citizens neither to post any comment on social media nor share any video related to the Udaipur killing.



REBEL SHIV SENA LEADER SHINDE LEAVES FOR MUMBAI TO MEET GOVERNOR

Rebel Shiv Sena leader Eknath Shinde on Thursday left for Mumbai to meet Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari.

Team Absolute | Panaji

Rebel Shiv Sena leader Eknath Shinde on Thursday left for Mumbai to meet Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari. Sources said that he held a meeting with all rebel MLAs this morning before leaving for Mumbai with a 'support letter'.



Shinde told the media-persons that he was going to Mumbai to meet the Maharashtra Governor. "I am going to meet the Governor. Rest all MLAs are here in Goa. We will let you know our next decision and steps," Shinde said. He was escorted by a police force during his travel to the Dabolim airport. Tight security was seen at the airport also. The BJP seniors leaders

With Shinde as Maha CM, BJP's bid to target Sena cadre

IN A SURPRISE MOVE, THE BJP HAS GIVEN THE POST OF CHIEF MINISTER TO SHIV SENA REBEL EKNATH SHINDE, IN A BID TO TAKE ALONG SENA CADRE AND PACIFY THE GROUND LEVEL WORKERS AND ISOLATE THE THACKAREY FAMILY FROM THE SHIV SENA AS THE REBELS WERE CLAIMING THAT THEY ARE THE REAL OUTFIT, SOURCES SAID.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

In a surprise move, the BJP has given the post of Chief Minister to Shiv Sena rebel Eknath Shinde, in a bid to take along sena cadre and pacify the ground level workers and isolate the Thackarey family from the Shiv Sena as



the rebels were claiming that they are the real outfit, sources said.

The BJP's strategy is to replace the Shiv Sena with the rebels at the helm and it will lead to frustration in the Sena camp and will eventually result in two factions in the Sena itself. The Shinde faction has argued in the Supreme Court that they have not left Shiv Sena.

Shinde who rose to ranks from Thane, was the protégé of Anand Dighe and is a firebrand leader and has tight grip over the Thane region and is the first Sena leader who has got the Chief Minister's post after leaving the party. Earlier, Chhagan Bhujbal, Ganesh Naik and Narayan Rane left Sena for the

CM's post but could not get it and are in different parties including BJP.

On Thursday morning, Sanjay Raut asked Shinde, "will you get the Chief Minister's chair? It could have only happened in Shiv Sena." But now the BJP has moved in a manner to pacify the Sena cadre on the ground which could have been very aggressive and the conflict would have started with the BJP.

A protégé of Anand Dighe, former Thane district chief of Shiv Sena, Shinde joined politics in 1980 and was elected as councillor in 1997, and as MLA in 2004. Since then he has been continuously winning and was the Urban Development Minister in the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government. He also served as the leader of the opposition in the Maharashtra Assembly. He joined the Shiv Sena in the '80s and was appointed Shakhya Pramukh of Kisan Nagar. In 2001, he got elected as leader of the house in Thane municipal corporation.

Phansalkar takes charge as new Mumbai Police Commissioner

Vivek Phansalkar was serving as the DG and MD of the Police Housing and Welfare Corporation before his current appointment.



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Senior IPS officer Vivek Phansalkar on Thursday took charge as the new Police Commissioner of Mumbai. He succeeded Sanjay Pandey, who has retired from the police service on Thursday. The 1989-batch IPS officer's appointment to the top post was announced by the Maharashtra home department on

Wednesday. Phansalkar took charge of his assignment at the police commissioner's office situated at Crawford Market in South Mumbai around 4.45 pm. He was serving as the DG and MD of the Police Housing and Welfare Corporation before his current appointment.

Phansalkar has served the Maharashtra Police in various key capacities, including as Thane police commissioner and state ATS chief.

'You did great sir.' Prakash Raj expresses support for Uddhav

Actor Prakash Raj was among several people who lauded Uddhav Thackeray, who chose to resign as Maharashtra Chief Minister late on Wednesday, saying the people would stand by him for the way he had handled the state.

Chennai | Agencies

Actor Prakash Raj was among several people who lauded Uddhav

Thackeray, who chose to resign as Maharashtra Chief Minister late on Wednesday, saying the people would stand by him for the way he had handled the state.

Taking to Twitter soon after Thackeray announced his resignation, leading to the collapse of the Maha Vikas Aghadi government, Prakash Raj said: "You did great dear sir Uddhav Thackeray and I'm sure people of Maharashtra will stand by you for the way you handled the state. The Chanakyas may eat laddoos today but your genuinity will linger longer. More power to you."

Prakash Raj wasn't the only one to express support for Thackeray.

Several other people including stars from Bollywood expressed support for him.

Actress Urmila Matondkar was one such person who too lauded the Shiv Sena supremo. She tweeted: "Thank you Uddhav Thackeray ji for your leadership in the most trying times of Covid and keeping our state away from communal hatred and bigotry. Your leadership has been exemplary, unbiased, courageous, responsible, transparent, communicative. Jai Maharashtra!"

Wrong advisors backstabbed Uddhav, rebel Sena leader hits out at Raut

Hitting out at Sanjay Raut, rebel Shiv Sena MLA Deepak Kesarkar on Thursday said here that they have not backstabbed anyone, but "a person like him (Raut) did it by giving wrong advice."

Team Absolute | Panaji

Hitting out at Sanjay Raut, rebel Shiv Sena MLA Deepak Kesarkar on Thursday said here that they have not backstabbed anyone, but "a person like him (Raut) did it by giving wrong advice."

He said that in Maharashtra, there was a constant tussle with the Centre, mostly ignited by Raut.

"Nothing like this has happened. If we want to make progress in our state, then we need to have a good relationship with the Centre. This is our role and we are going ahead with it. Eknath Shinde has gone to Mumbai, not to demand any powerful ministries, but to see how the development of Maharashtra will take place. Leaders of both the parties (Eknath Shinde and BJP) will decide on this and we all MLAs will be with them and support their decisions," Kesarkar said in Panaji.



"Now an alliance has taken place between those who have been elected by the people of Maharashtra. Hence, Sanjay Raut should stop speaking of backstabbing."

Kesarkar said that they are not against the party chief Uddhav Thackeray and are ready to talk to him, if he breaks the alliance with Congress and NCP. "But this never happened. We had told him to step out of Maha Vikas Aghadi."

He said that they have not taken this step for their vested interests or to get Ministries, but they have taken steps for their principles.

The rebel MLAs said they are still in Shiv Sena and never intended to hurt or disrespect Uddhav Thackeray. "Maharashtra had given verdict for Shiv Sena and BJP to remain united. This needed to be honoured. However, the Congress and NCP came to power, although they were defeated by the people," he added.

Majority Indians want BJP to stake claim to form govt in Maharashtra

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray resigned from the post in an emotional address on Facebook Live on June 29. Thackeray, heading the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government, announced his decision after the Supreme Court refused to stay the Maharashtra Governor's direction to hold a floor test in the Assembly on June 30.

The political crisis in Maharashtra had reached the Supreme Court when Shiv Sena chief whip approached the apex court challenging the Maharashtra Governor's direction.

The rebellion of a large section of Shiv Sena MLAs, led by senior party leader Eknath Shinde brought the

MVA government on the verge of collapse. Shinde has been claiming that he has the support of around 40 Shiv Sena MLAs and several independent legislators.

The Shiv Sena with 55 MLAs, headed the MVA government. The Congress party having 44 MLAs and Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) with 53 legislators were the alliance partners of the MVA government. The opposition BJP has 106 MLAs in the Maharashtra Assembly having a total strength of 288 members.

CVoter-IndiaTracker conducted a nationwide survey for IANS to know the people's views about Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) staking claim to form the government in the state in such a situation.

The survey highlighted that the majority of Indians

believe that the BJP should take initiative to form the government in Maharashtra. During the survey, while 61 per cent of the respondents asserted that BJP should stake the claim to form a new government in the state, 39 per cent expressed completely different opinions on the issue. Interestingly, during the survey, while the majority of NDA voters -- 80 per cent stressed that it is the right time for the BJP to take the lead to form the government in the state, opinion of opposition voters was divided on the issue.

As per the survey data, while 56 per cent opposition voters said that the BJP should not take initiative to form the government, 44 per cent spoke in favour of the BJP taking the lead to return to power in the state.

DOUBLE MURDERS AND SUICIDES OF A FAMILY SHOCK MUMBAI

Mumbai: A couple hanged themselves after killing two other family members in a building in Kandivali west suburb, shocking Mumbaikars, here on Thursday, police said.

Following a tip-off, a mobile police van rushed to the building where the crimes had occurred, on the first and second floors of a hospital. While the bodies of two women were found in a pool of blood with injuries on the second floor, two other persons were found hanging on the first floor, all victims said to be of a single family. The Kandivali Police have recovered four suicide notes from the scene, lodged a case of murder and the bodies were shifted to the nearby BMC Shatabdi Hospital.

Sanjay Raut to join ED probe in Patra Chawl scam case

A DAY AFTER UDDHAV THACKERAY QUIT AS MAHARASHTRA CHIEF MINISTER, SHIV SENA LEADER SANJAY RAUT ON THURSDAY SAID THAT HE WOULD JOIN THE INVESTIGATION OF ENFORCEMENT DIRECTORATE (ED) IN CONNECTION WITH A PREVENTION OF MONEY LAUNDERING CASE PERTAINING TO THE RS 1,034 CRORE PATRA CHAWL LAND SCAM.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A day after Uddhav Thackeray quit as Maharashtra Chief Minister, Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut on Thursday said that he would join the investigation of Enforcement Directorate



Raut in this matter too. Sources also claimed that the Patra Chawl case of the ED was also linked to DHFL case.

Soon after receiving the summons, Raut took to Twitter to allege that he was being victimised on the instructions of the Centre.

In April, the ED had attached property linked to Raut in connection with the land scam.

A property worth Rs 9 crore of Raut's associate Pravin Raut and assets worth Rs 2 crore belonging to Varsha Raut, the wife of Sanjay Raut, were attached by the ED. Pravin had eight parcels of land in Alibaug and a flat registered in the name of Varsha Raut which were attached. The ED had arrested Pravin in this connection.

"We had filed a charge sheet in the matter against Pravin, Sarang Wadhawan and Rakesh Wadhawan of HDIL and Guru Ashish Construction and others were named as accused in the charge sheet," said an ED official.

During the probe, the ED came to know that Pravin allegedly paid Rs 55 lakh to Varsha. This was paid from the bank account of Pravin's wife. The money was termed as proceeds of crime by the ED.

Sanjay Raut explains what just happened in Maharashtra- in a photo

IN A CRYPTIC TWEET, SANJAY RAUT EXPLAINED WHAT EXACTLY HAPPENED IN MAHARASHTRA, A DAY AFTER UDDHAV THACKERAY RESIGNED FROM THE CHIEF MINISTER'S POST FACING THE REBELLION FROM EKNATH SHINDE.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A day after the collapse of the Maha Vikas Aghadi government in Maharashtra, Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut on Thursday tweeted a sketch of a man (Uddhav Thackeray) stabbed

from the back and said, "This is exactly what happened". In his first tweet on Thursday, Raut posted the logo of the Shiv Sena and tweeted 'Jai Maharashtra'. The rebellion that toppled the Sena-Congress alliance in the state came from Shiv Sena and the Sena leaders reiterated that they have been backstabbed by 'their own'. Raut on Thursday once again remembered and reminded people of the backstabbing.

Interacting with reporters on Thursday, Sanjay Raut said Shiv Sena is not born for power, but power is born for Shiv Sena. "This has always been Balasaheb Thackeray's mantra. We will work and come to power on our own once again," the Sena leader said. Talking about the moment Uddhav Thackeray announced his resignation, Raut said, "We got emotional yesterday when Uddhav Thackeray resigned as Chief Minister. Everyone has faith

in Uddhav Thackeray; people of every caste and religion support him. Sonia Gandhi and Sharad Pawar trust him."

Outgoing chief minister Uddhav Thackeray said several times in his interaction with the party cadre after the rebellion began that he has been backstabbed -- as the dissidence came from his own party, not from the alliance partners. In past week, Uddhav revealed that he got an inkling of the rebellion under Eknath Shinde and had a word with Shinde as well. When Shinde told him that many Sena MLAs wanted to join hands with the BJP, Uddhav sought a list of the names of those MLAs.

In his emotional appeal, Uddhav earlier recounted how Eknath Shinde got the ministry of Urban Development, a department which generally rests with the chief minister. Uddhav also referred to Eknath Shinde's son Shrikant Shinde who is a



Shiv Sena MP. Aadiya Thackeray earlier said Uddhav had offered the chief minister's post to Eknath Shinde before the rebellion began but he did not accept the offer and started weeping. The rebellion took place a month later.

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA Executive Engineer, North Mumbai Electrical Division. P.W.D., ESIS Hospital Compound, L.B.S. Road, Mulund (W), Mumbai-400080. e-mail: elnorthmumbai.ee@mahapwd.gov.in Tel. No. 022-25601327 e-Tender Notice No.19 /2022-23 Online percentage rate tenders in "B-1" form are invited by the Executive Engineer, North Mumbai Electrical Division, Mulund, Mumbai for the following work from The Electrical Contractor from Govt. of Maharashtra. (as per env. no.1 document) e-Tender document can be downloaded from the e-Tendering portal of P.W.D., Government of Maharashtra http://mahatenders.gov.in, The Executive Engineer, NMED, Mulund, Mumbai reserves right to accept or reject any tender. The conditional tender will not be accepted. Estimate Cost put to tender: 1). Est. No.ATL/NMED/MESD/KRL/1002/2022-23 Providing Fully Comprehensive Annual Maintenance of 4 nos Electrical Passenger Lifts, Johnson Make, G+10 (11 stops & 11 Land) in project Bldg. No.1, CTS No.627, Chunabhatti, Mumbai 22 (36 Months) Rs. 2049600/- 2). Est. No. ATAL/NMED/MESD/KRL/1001/2022- 23 Providing Hiring svrces of 6 Wiremen & 3 Unskilled Labour for maintaining Electrical Installation for All Non Residential and All Residential Buildings Under Kuria Section Kuria Mumbai (for 6 Months) Rs. 1371600/- 3). Est. No. ATL/NMED/MESD/GKPL/Lift Operators/ 902 /2022-23, Providing Services of Lift Operators on Contract basis to operate 6 nos Electric Passenger Lifts intalled in Residential Building no. 6,7 and 8 (G+14) of Residential Project Campus on CTS no.194B at Ghatkoper Mumbai-400067 (Period 180 days) Rs. 1998000/- 4). Est.No.ATL/MESD/GKP/Lift Operator/903/2022-23, Providing Hiring Services of 5 Wireman & 2 Unskilled Labour for maintaining Electrical Installation for Non- Residential Building & All Residential Building under Ghatkoper Section Ghatkoper Mumbai (2nd Call) Rs. 1076400/- Document Download/ Sale Period: Date:29.06.2022 to 14.07.2022 up to 17.30 Hrs. Bid Opening Date: 18.07.2022 after 14.00 Hrs. All information about e-Tender is available on following website. 1. Contractor should Quote Price Excluding G.S.T up to 12% will be Extra. 2. http://mahatenders.gov.in (If there will be change in e-Tender Notice, it will be informed on above website) 3. Executive Engineer, NMED, Mumbai for office Notice Board. 4. Criteria of post qualification is included in the work agreement. EE/NMED/TC/1489 /2022 Date: 23.06.2022 ROC-2022-23 / No.5 /C1615



EDITOR'S SPECS

Zubair's arrest: Theatre of the absurd

Mohammed Zubair, co-founder of fact-checking website Alt News, is being made to pay for his role in drawing wide attention to the vile remarks made on live television by a ruling party spokesperson that caused international embarrassment to the Government. The inherent absurdity of the charge that he sought to incite enmity between groups and insult religious feelings by sharing four years ago an image from a 40-year-old film and that the complainant is a pseudonymous Twitter handle make it clear that this is nothing but the establishment's vengeance playing out as a criminal case. Zubair's arrest is yet another instance of the regime's characteristic intolerance, and its resentment towards fact-checkers who frequently expose its claims. This reflects its well-demonstrated antipathy to anyone seeking to counter majoritarian bigotry. It is also consistent with the ongoing trend of targeting minority activists, ranging from administrative excesses such as demolition of houses of protesters and imprisonment of activists based on charges conjured up by the police and investigative agencies. The objective, it appears, is not merely his prosecution for an alleged slur against the Hindu god Hanuman, but to embark on a lengthy spell of persecution. The case itself will be seen in most jurisdictions as a prank rather than a prosecution. The image he had shared is from a film sequence that shows a couple finding to their dismay that 'Honeymoon Hotel' had been revised to 'Hanuman Hotel,' apparently conveying a message that it is not open to couples. The idea that this is an insult to Lord Hanuman is breath-taking in its absurdity, as there is no insinuation against the deity. That a magistrate entertained the FIR as well as granted police custody might seem shocking. But in times when even constitutional courts are seen as cooperating with the executive when it comes to restrictions on the freedom of citizens, it would have been a miracle if the magistracy had not followed suit. However, any judicial examination of the FIR would show that neither Section 153A nor Section 295A is attracted. How something said four years ago will incite enmity is beyond anyone's comprehension.

New Global Development Partnerships

Within a week two strong messages have emanated from the two sparring world powers, aimed at controlling the world or realigning the current global order. US President Joe Biden on June 26 and the Chinese President Xi Jinping on June 23 have announced two new global initiatives at BRICS and G7 Summits, respectively.

China v/s US

Last week in his address on June 22 at the 25th St. Petersburg International Economic Forum and the next day, on June 23 at BRICS Summit in Beijing, the Chinese President Xi Jinping stressed the need to forge greater synergy amongst countries for greater international development and close the development gap, by pooling resources, platforms and networks of development partnerships. Noting that the international community is keen to achieve more equitable, sustainable and secure development, Xi said it is important to seize opportunities, meet challenges head-on, and work on the implementation of the 'Global Development Initiative' (GDI) to build a shared future of peace and prosperity. The Chinese president proposed the GDI in his speech to the 76th Session of the UNGA in September last year. The plan charts a course for international development, based on China's goals and priorities. Meanwhile at the recent G7 Summit at Schloss Elmau in the Bavarian Alps, Germany, President Biden on 26 June relaunched his initiative to provide infrastructure funds to poor and developing countries only a year after a largely similar scheme was unveiled at the G7 conference in Cornwall last July under the label 'Build Back Better World'.

become an alternative to the Chinese belt and road initiative (BRI) that Beijing has used for more than a decade to expand its economic ties and influence with developing countries. The partnership aims to generate \$600 billion of private and public funds by 2027, with \$200bn over the next five years coming from the US. Projects cited at the event include a secure sub-sea cable linking Europe and south-east Asia, an industrial MRNA vaccine plant in Senegal, solar projects in Angola, a modular nuclear reactor plant in Romania and a port linking Christmas Island with the rest of the world.

Initiatives Galore

However, up until now, little has been heard of 'Build Back Better World' since last year, while in January the EU launched its own infrastructure fund for developing countries, called the 'Global Gateway', aiming to mobilise 53 billion in investments between 2021 and 2027. Initially, EU declared that this fund would work alongside 'Build Back Better World', and not be a rival. The UK, outside the EU, launched its own infrastructure project called the 'Clean Green Initiative.' There are reports that Japan is planning to raise \$65bn over the same period for regional connectivity, though this fund/project has not been christened, yet. All these various funds, though uniquely targeted against China have just created confusion for the politicians and the common man alike. Perhaps realising this Olaf Scholz, the German chancellor in his speech on June 26, implicitly acknowledged the confusion, saying there were advantages if the G7 countries showcased their offers under a common roof. It is reported that Biden, the European Commission president, Ursula von der Leyen, and the UK Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, met in November at Cop26 in Glasgow to evaluate their differing projects,



and whether by duplicating their efforts they were weakening what they were offering to poor countries. However, it does not appear from the statements that the funds are being fully merged into one funding stream, but instead are being more closely coordinated. The Guardian quoted Jake Sullivan, the US national security adviser and an important member of the project, saying at an event hosted by the Centre for a New American Security last week that the US-initiated partnership will cover global infrastructure, physical health and digital infrastructure and will provide "an alternative to what the Chinese are offering". "We intend for this to be one of the hallmarks of the Biden administration foreign policy over the remainder of his tenure," he said. On its part China has criticised the initiative as based on a "zero-sum game approach". The Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson, Wang Wenbin, said the relevant initiative from the US side ignores the desire of all countries for common development and win-win cooperation.

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come out of its Eurocentric mindset. India so far, has neither endorsed the Chinese president's GPI nor has commented so far on Biden's new initiative. It continues to pursue a completely independent international foreign and trade policy and due to its geo-political and economic importance, and its unwavering stand has endeared it to both the blocs, and both seem to be courting it seriously. Meanwhile, on June 28, the US announced a new alliance for the Pacific including Australia, Japan, New Zealand and the UK to boost economic and security ties with the Pacific island nations. Also, on the heel of the G7 summit, the NATO summit, to be held in Madrid this week, will for the first time include the top leaders of four Asia-Pacific countries, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand, and also for the first time, the bloc will identify China in its new strategic concept, a key document on NATO's future security trial and military development will be adopted at the summit. This underlines India's central role in the new thrust for the Indo-Pacific by the western nations led by the US and if India plays its cards well, it could translate into benefits for the country in both defence and economic & trade areas.

international

NATO DECLARES CHINA AS A SECURITY THREAT FOR THE FIRST TIME

NATO, the worlds most powerful military alliance, has declared China as a security threat for the first time, warning that Beijings ambitions and coercive behaviour is a major challenge to the groups interests, putting its forces on a potential war-footing against Russia, media reports said.



NATO, the worlds most powerful military alliance, has declared China as a security threat for the first time, warning that Beijings ambitions and coercive behaviour is a major challenge to the groups interests, putting its forces on a potential war-footing against Russia, media reports said. NATO's new 10-year strategic blueprint, agreed to by leaders at a summit in Spain on Thursday morning (AEST), called out the rising Asian power for conducting "malicious" cyber operations, for its strategic partnership with Russia, rapidly expanding nuclear arsenal and its efforts to dominate key supply chains, Sydney Morning Herald reported.

China reacted to being labelled a threat by calling the Western alliance a "Cold War remnant" and a source of instability that is "smearing" Beijing's international reputation. Australia

New Indian envoy presents his credentials to Nepal President

Kathmandu | Agencies

Indias new Ambassador to Nepal, Naveen Srivastava, who has arrived in Kathmandu to take up his assignment, presented his letter of credence to President Bidhya Devi Bhandari on Thursday. At a function at the President's office, Srivastava presented his credentials where senior officials from the government of Nepal and the Indian Embassy in Kathmandu were present. This will pave the way for Srivastava to work in a full-fledged manner in Kathmandu. During the meeting, Srivastava conveyed greetings from the President and Prime Minister of India, according to the Indian Embassy in Kathmandu. Srivastava added that the recent visit of Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba to India and that of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Nepal had imparted renewed momentum to the bilateral relationships between the two neighbouring countries. He also conveyed his commitment to take forward the friendly relations between the two nations, the Indian Embassy said in a statement. India had appointed Srivastava as



its new Ambassador to Nepal on May 17. He succeeded Vinay Kumar Kwatra, who completed his Nepal assignment in April after he was appointed India's Foreign Secretary on May 1. Srivastava was heading the East Asia Division that deals with China, Japan, Korea and Mongolia before his appointment as Ambassador to Nepal. He also headed the Indian delegation in several rounds of diplomatic talks with China on the eastern Ladakh border row. Srivastava, a 1994 batch of Indian Foreign Service officer, had previously served as the Indian Ambassador to Cambodia from 2015-17.

HONG KONG RIGHTS PROTESTERS CLASH WITH CHINESE NATIONALS IN MELBOURNE STADIUM

Melbourne: Chinese 'nationalists' have clashed with Hong Kong human rights protesters at a China versus Australia basketball match, media reports said. Crowds were left shocked at the violent display during the FIBA World Cup qualifier on Thursday at the John Cain Arena in Melbourne, Daily Mail reported. Activist Max Mok alleged that he was 'assaulted' after he began shouting 'free East Turkestan' and 'Hong Kong independence'. Footage showed him yelling and holding a poster before he is pushed by a larger man as his girlfriend tries to hold him back. Mok's poster was demanding the release of Mirzat Taher, an Australian Uyghur political prisoner held in China for 25 years, Daily Mail reported. Another protester brandishes a Tibetan flag -- used since the 1960s as a symbol of the Tibetan independence movement. The flag is banned in mainland China because the Communist superpower claims Tibet as its territory, therefore says the flag of the People's Republic of China should represent it. Security personnel at the John Cain Arena were forced to intervene to break up the clash and then called in the police to assist them. It is understood that the police removed some of the crowd members involved from the stadium.

Israeli Parliament dissolves, FM Yair Lapid to become PM

Israeli lawmakers on Thursday unanimously voted to dissolve Parliament, after Prime Minister Naftali Bennett's fragile coalition government collapsed, triggering the fifth general election in less than four years.

Tel Aviv | Agencies

Israeli lawmakers on Thursday unanimously voted to dissolve Parliament, after Prime Minister Naftali Bennett's fragile coalition government collapsed, triggering the fifth general election in less than four years. The 120-member Knesset (Parliament) voted 92-0 to dissolve and to hold the election on November 1, Xinhua news agency quoted an official statement as saying. Bennett is expected to hand power to Foreign Minister Yair Lapid, leader of the centrist Yesh Atid party, under the power-sharing deal they agreed upon following inconclusive elections in 2021. Lapid will officially become the caretaker Prime Minister on Friday and will hold the position until the next government is formed. In a televised address on Wednesday, the outgoing Prime

Minister had announced that he will not run in the November polls, saying the past year was marked by personal attacks against him and constant attempts to topple his government by the opposition led by his predecessor Benjamin Netanyahu. He added that it was "hard" for him and his family. Bennett led a coalition made up of eight ideologically diverse parties, including Dovish liberals, centrists, Hawkish right-wingers and an Arab party that had made history by joining for the first time a ruling coalition in Israel, united with the aim of ousting Netanyahu who is facing a criminal



trial over corruption charges. Netanyahu, who is now the opposition leader, has been holding talks on establishing a new coalition government within the current Parliament without dissolving it, according to reports by state-owned Kan TV news and other local media. But he and his right-wing Likud party are reportedly far from recruiting enough lawmakers for the move.

NZ PM URGES DEMOCRATIC NATIONS TO STAND FIRM AS CHINA BECOMES 'MORE ASSERTIVE'

Auckland | Agencies

New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern has urged the democratic nations to stand firm as China becomes "more assertive" and "willing to challenge international rules and norms", in New Zealand's first-ever formal address to Nato, the media reported. New Zealand has toughened its tone recently on security and Beijing's growing presence in the South Pacific, in part due to the signing of a security pact between China and Solomon Islands, The Guardian reported. At a summit where Nato for the first time identified Beijing as a serious challenge, Ardern dedicated part of her speech to warning of China's increasingly muscular international presence -- while calling for dialogue and diplomacy rather than increased militarisation in response, The Guardian reported. "China has in recent times also become more assertive and more willing to challenge international rules and norms," she said. "Here, we must respond to the

New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern has urged the democratic nations to stand firm as China becomes "more assertive" and "willing to challenge international rules and norms", in New Zealand's first-ever formal address to Nato, the media reported.

actions we see. We must stand firm on the rules-based order, call for diplomatic engagement and speak out against human rights abuses at all times when and where we see them. But we also must resist the temptation to simplify the increasingly complex world in which we live." Much of the New Zealand prime minister's speech was dedicated to calls for diplomacy, multilateralism, and commitment to dialogue, even as the US and other western partners have increasingly hardened their positions on Russia and China. "New Zealand is not here to expand our military alliances. We are here to contribute to a world that lessens the need for anyone to call on them," she said.



CAST VOTE FEARLESSLY

PREPARATIONS FOR SECOND PHASE OF POLLING COMPLETED: SINGH

State Election Commissioner Basant Pratap Singh said on Thursday that all preparations for the second phase of the three-tier Panchayat elections to be held on Friday July 1, have been concluded and asserted the voters to exercise their franchise fearlessly.

Team Absolute | Bhopal



1, have been concluded. Voting will be held from 7 am to 3 pm. Counting of votes will be held at the polling centres immediately after polling. Tight

security arrangements have been made for the purpose of conducting polling peacefully. More than 49 thousand police force has been deployed in the second phase of polling. Polling teams have left for all the polling centres on Thursday.

Significantly, in the second phase there are 23 thousand 967 polling centres in 7655 village panchayats of 106 janpad panchayats in 47 districts. Among these, 3580 polling centres are sensitive. In the second phase, there are 291 posts of district panchayat members, 2283 post of janpad panchayat members, 7655 posts of Sarpanch and 1 lakh 22 thousand 146 posts of Panch. After unopposed election at some posts, the number of posts for actual election is 291 for district panchayat members, 2227 for janpad panchayat members, 7373 for Sarpanch post and 22 thousand 451 for Panch post.

Not resources but skill is must for self-employment: Governor

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Governor Mangubhai Patel has said that it is necessary to have knowledge, skill, morale and self-confidence for self-employment. Referring to the successful entrepreneurs of the country, he said that all of them started from a very small scale. Huge successes have been achieved through hard work and self-confidence. Governor exhorted the youth not to wait for jobs and establish self-employment through acquired skills.

Patel was addressing the participants at the concluding programme of Rural Tribal Technical Training by the Sandsadiya Sankul Yojana at Sandipani Auditorium in Raj Bhavan while distributing certificates. Training certificates and overall health certificates were provided to the tribal youth of Anuppur, Jabua, Betul, Barwani, Khargone and Dhar districts of Madhya Pradesh including Gujarat, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan.

Patel said that cooperation and support in the efforts of nation development is the responsibility of every individual and society. He appreciated the efforts of the tribal youth for skill upgradation and village development in the cluster development project. He said that skilled man-power is an important factor in the overall development of the country and the state. Skill development of youth is the cornerstone of Atmanirbhar Bharat, which is the national need of the present times.

Patel said that ready-to-work human resource should be made available to the



employers at the local level through employment-oriented training courses. Regular system of evaluation and monitoring of institutions is essential for quality skill training. The training institutes should also be given regular guidance and encouragement for better performance. Efforts should also be made for new methods and techniques of study and research to increase the efficiency of training institutes. He expected that it is also necessary to connect the rural tribal youth with employment at the local level and update them with new technology and knowledge in the project.

Patel appealed to the youth to cooperate in the development of tribal community and in the control of sickle cell through Sabke Saath, Vishwas and Prayas. To control the disease, male and females who are Sickle Cell carriers should not marry each other. Pregnancy test of pregnant woman should be made mandatory. He said that when Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi was the Chief Minister of Gujarat, unprecedented work was done by him for the development of tribal community and prevention of sickle cell. He is really the

messiah of the tribal community. With his efforts, out of one crore seven lakh tribal population of Gujarat, one crore four lakh people are being tested for sickle cell and arrangements are being made for their treatment. For this, all of them are deeply grateful to the Prime Minister Shri Modi. He said that 98 percent of the sickle cell affected people are from the tribal community. Tribal society constitutes 21 percent of the population of Madhya Pradesh, which at present is about one crore 83 lakhs. For such a large population, the genetic disease sickle cell is even deadlier than Covid.

Union Minister of State for Electronics, Information Technology, Skill Upgradation & Entrepreneurship Rajiv Chandrashekhar addressed the programme virtually from Delhi. He said that skill upgradation is the passport to enter the new possibilities being created in New India. Parliamentary Development Project is the launching pad from where youth can achieve new heights in life. He said that villages pave the way to Atmanirbhar Bharat. Therefore it is necessary for the youth to create employment at the local level through their skills.

Agristack Steering Committee formed

Bhopal: The Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has decided to develop Agristack Digital so that the farmers may digitally obtain the benefits of the services available to them and also in view of the possibility of boosting the benefits of the services received by the farmers. The IT system and database for developing Agristack is to be ready by March 31, 2023. To review its progress, the State Government has constituted a Steering Committee under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary. The committee will have Additional Chief Secretary, Farmers Welfare and Agriculture Development, Additional Chief Secretary Finance, Principal Secretary Revenue, Commercial Taxes, Information and Technology, Planning, Economics and Statistics and representatives nominated by the Central Government as members. The Commissioner of Land Records will be the member secretary of the committee.

National anthem and national song to echo in Mantralaya

Bhopal: Mass recitation of the national song "Vande-Mataram" and the national anthem "Jana Gana Mana" will be held on July 1 at 11 am in Vallabh Bhai Patel Park at Mantralaya. In the event of rain, the recitation will be held in room number 506 of the Mantralaya Number-1. It is worth mentioning that the national anthem and national song are recited at Patel Park on the first working day of every month.

DEORA CONGRATULATES BUSINESS COMMUNITY, TAXPAYERS AND CONSUMERS

MADHYA PRADESH COMMITTED TO EFFICACIOUS IMPLEMENTATION OF GST
ECONOMY STRENGTHENS UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF PRIME MINISTER MODI

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Finance and Commercial Taxes Minister Jagdish Deora has congratulated the business community, taxpayers and common consumers on the successfully completing 5 years of GST.

On GST Day, July 1, Deora said that the Indian economy

has been strengthened by GST under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Breaking the barriers of inter-state trade and commerce, India has transformed into 'One Nation-One Tax'. GST has helped India to increase its stature among the world's economies.

Deora said that Madhya Pradesh is committed to implement GST more effectively under the leadership of Chief Minister Shri Shri Chouhan. He said that GST has made it easier for businesses and consumers to comply with the taxation system. Uniformity of tax is increasing competition among industries, thereby increasing the quality of products thus benefitting the consumers.

Deora said that along with businessmen, governments

have also benefited from GST. The government plays a critical role in strengthening the federal system. He said that the central and state governments were managing several indirect taxes. The complexities were high. Now the tax system has been strengthened with a uniform tax rate and system across the country. Deora said that a transparent tax code was must for a state like Madhya Pradesh, which has potential for foreign investment. GST has provided the solution. Madhya Pradesh is preparing to play an important role in achieving the huge goal of \$5 trillion economy in future. Attracting high quality foreign capital is a priority. The transparency and ease of doing business brought by GST will increase foreign investment.

Dipendra Rescued After Falling Into 40-Foot Borewell

Video footage showed the boy stoically waiting to be rescued from the pit. He could be seen sitting patiently in a gritty display of courage and resistance. 5-year-old Deependra, fell into an open bore-well on 29 June.

Team Absolute | Chhatarpur

A five-year-old boy was rescued on Thursday, nearly 10 hours later, after he fell into a 40-foot bore-well in Chhatarpur district, officials said. The incident took place at village of Narayanpura Patharpur near the district headquarters. The child is being accompanied by the parents to the hospital for medical checkup. Prima facie, the child seemed well, officials said as people cheered.

Video footage showed the boy stoically waiting to be rescued from the pit. He could be seen sitting patiently in a gritty display of courage and resistance.

The district administration had lowered a camera and oxygen pipe in the bore-well and the child's movements could be seen in the footage, Chhatarpur's Collector Sandeep JR said.

The rescue team had dug a parallel pit up to the depth of 25 feet and connected the bore-well with a tunnel to reach the child, Madhya Pradesh's Additional Chief Secretary, Home, Rajesh Rajora said.

Heavy rains hampered the rescue operation but rescuers had covered the borewell's



opening to prevent the entry of rainwater, an official said. "The bore-well is in the agricultural land belonging to the child's father," Chhatarpur Superintendent of Police Sachin Sharma said.

The boy, Dipendra Yadav, is a resident of Patharpur village of Orchha Road police station area. He had gone to a field on an excursion with his family; he fell into the bore-well while playing. The district administration and rescue teams were on the spot to aid in the rescue effort.

Chief Minister Shri Shri Chouhan spoke to the boy's mother on the phone. The chief minister had directed the chief secretary, his principal secretary and the collector of Chhatarpur to take all necessary steps to rescue the child, an official said.

A large number of people gathered near the site and police had to circle off the area to keep them away. The Chhatarpur district administration, along with a

27-member team of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) called in from Lucknow, State Disaster Emergency Response Force (SDRF) teams from Jabalpur and Sagar, and a unit of Army personnel successfully completed the rescue operations. Meanwhile, Chief Minister Shri Shri Chouhan who was personally monitoring the rescue operation tweeted, "All your blessings have bore fruit. Due to the prayers of the people of the state and the relentless efforts of the the district administration and rescue team, Deependra, who was trapped in the borewell, has been rescued safely. Deependra is completely healthy. At present, he is kept under the supervision of doctors."

Earlier on Wednesday Chief Minister Chouhan had directed the chief secretary, his principal secretary and the collector of Chhatarpur to make all necessary arrangements to rescue the child, an official said.

CM plants saplings of Banyan, Neem and Karanj

Bhopal: Chief Minister Shri Shri Chouhan along with the students of National Service Scheme unit of Hamidia College planted saplings of Banyan, Neem and Karanj in Smart-city Park on Thursday. The students presented the Chief Minister with anga-vastra and souvenir.



It may be noted that Chief Minister Chouhan has been a student of this college. Student of the Hamidia college Ashutosh, Neeraj, Mohit, Shahrukh, Vishal and Pritesh accompanied CM in the plantation programme. Professors of the college including RS Narwaria, Rajendra Prasad Shukla and Anil Kumar also planted saplings. NSS students have been active participants in environment-conservation, water-conservation, voter-awareness, health-awareness, helping the poor, Covid vaccinations, working in the interest of animals and birds besides plantations in Ankur campaign. Banyan has religious significance. In Ayurveda, Banyan tree is used to treat several diseases. Rich in antibiotic elements, Neem is known as the supreme medicine. Karanj plant is also considered important in Ayurvedic medicine and used for religious purposes.

TASK FORCE SUBMITS REPORT TO CM

NITI Aayog praises MP's efforts in the field of reducing infant and maternal mortality

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The task force constituted to reduce maternal and child mortality in the state handed over its final report to Chief Minister Shri Shri Chouhan on Thursday. Task force chief Prof. Shamika Ravi handed over a copy of the report to Chief Minister Chouhan. The task force was formed last January by the Madhya Pradesh under the chairmanship of Prof. Shamika Ravi who has been part of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council. The task force has submitted the report on June 30 within the stipulated period.

Chouhan said that the task force has done a good job, but this is not a destination, it's a halt. The task force will continue to work in future also. He said that we also have to implement this report, so that it can be successful in reducing the mortality rate of mothers and children even more. Chief Minister said that expected improvements have been seen in Madhya Pradesh with constant work and monitoring in the area. Combined efforts by the Department of Health and Women and Child Development have been successful in this area. A lot of work has also been done in other areas in the state. Greater focus on reducing maternal

and child mortality will give better outcome. The task force has also done the work of coordinating with the Madhya Pradesh State Policy and Planning Commission. Chouhan congratulated the task force for giving timely report and thanked Prof. Shamika Ravi and other members.

Prof. Shamika Ravi said that this is the beginning of the journey. The development of the road map will also be supported by the members of this team and we will continue the support. Implementation will continue after determining the tasks to be done in the long term and short term. Along with the final report of the task force, she expressed the need for scientific documentation of other data received, which will benefit other states including Madhya Pradesh.

NITI Aayog has placed Madhya Pradesh in the category of best performing states in the SDG India Index report, which is a sign that good work has been done in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals of health in Madhya Pradesh. Madhya Pradesh is also active in implementing the possibilities of reforms. Madhya Pradesh took special initiative by forming a task force as compared to other states. Task Force Members Additional Chief Secretary Health Mohammad



Suleman, Additional Chief Secretary Women and Child Development Ashok Shah, Prof. Suparna Ghosh, Priyanka Das and Health Commissioner Sudam Khade were also present. Task force members Prof. Ramesh Agarwal and Lokesh Sharma are also included.

The report of the Task Force consists of seven chapters. These include the role of nutrition, monitoring of health data, study of health care and resources, improvement in care of infants and mothers, current status and background, expenditure on health and improvement in this sector through good governance and other measures. The report includes suggestions for

elimination of malnutrition in children, elimination of physical infrastructure and resource constraints for better outcomes in the field of mother-child welfare, dietary supplements for infants, routine immunization, prevention of diseases, expansion of blood bank facilities, referral arrangements for newborns and transportation facilities. Apart from this, the efforts of the Madhya Pradesh government to provide malnutrition, health education and values to the children of Anganwadi centers and the campaign conducted with people's participation under the leadership of Chief Minister Shri Chouhan are mentioned.

The maternal mortality rate in Madhya Pradesh is declining at the rate of 5.8 percent. The national average is 7.5. Similarly, the mortality rate of newborn babies in Madhya Pradesh is decreasing at the rate of 0.6%. The national average rate is 3.8 percent. According to these indices, Madhya Pradesh will be able to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals expected in 2030 in the coming 33 years, so the pace of this work will be increased further. The task force has identified 5 key areas to achieve the targets in the area of maternal and child health.

Regular review at the government level - Regular review is useful in eliminating the shortcomings in order to improve the overall system of public health service in Madhya Pradesh. High level review by Chief Minister Chouhan has started showing best results.

Physical infrastructure and resources - This report provides one such roadmap. This includes reform frameworks and packages such as Ending Preventable Maternal Mortality along with India Newborn Action Plan. The report also analyzes the availability of resources according to the population.

The report states that malnutrition has a negative impact on the health of mothers and infants. Anemia is a mat-

ter of concern. Efforts should be made to bring good results by intervening as per UNICEF's suggestion for determinants of malnutrition. Along with the consumption of well-nourished diet, the emphasis is on prevention of diseases through vaccination, food security, dietary supplements and related publicity.

Madhya Pradesh has been advised to increase the assistance for the lower strata of the society, financial assistance for OPD care in the form of family health account, in the report regarding expenditure in the health sector. A suggestion has also been made in the report to create a Health Outcome Fund.

In the report, improvements in the data architecture require data entry, backend validation and timely identification of problems. Anmol, Samagra, Sampark and Nutrition Tracker are all data portal guides. With these, the state government is using data to secure the health and nutrition services provided to the beneficiaries and to ensure the accessibility of the schemes. The present challenges of data systems have also been highlighted in the report. The task force has made specific recommendations for various reforms that ensure better public services for civic health and nutrition.



CAMERON DIAZ 'BACK IN ACTION', TO STAR OPPOSITE JAMIE FOXX IN OTT MOVIE

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Cameron Diaz is leaving retirement behind as she is set to star alongside 'Django Unchained' star Jamie Foxx in an OTT action-comedy film 'Back in Action'.

The two actors have earlier worked together on 1999's sports drama 'Any Given Sunday' and 2014's 'Annie' remake, which was Diaz's final film role before "retiring", reports 'Variety'.

Foxx made the announcement on Twitter, sharing audio from a phone call with Diaz, who can't seem to find the words to tell the world that she's returning to the silver screen. "I don't know how to do this, you know?" she said.

As per 'Variety', Foxx brought in someone who knows a thing or two about returning to work after hanging up their hat: Tom Brady, who earlier this year retired from the NFL only to rejoin the Tampa Bay Buccaneers 40 days later.

Diaz confirmed the news on her Instagram Story, writing, "Jamie Foxx, only you could get me back in action!!! I can't frickin wait it's gonna be a blast!"

Seth Gordon is directing the movie from a script he wrote with Brendan O'Brien.



James Bond being reinvented, new movie after 2 years

Los Angeles | Agencies

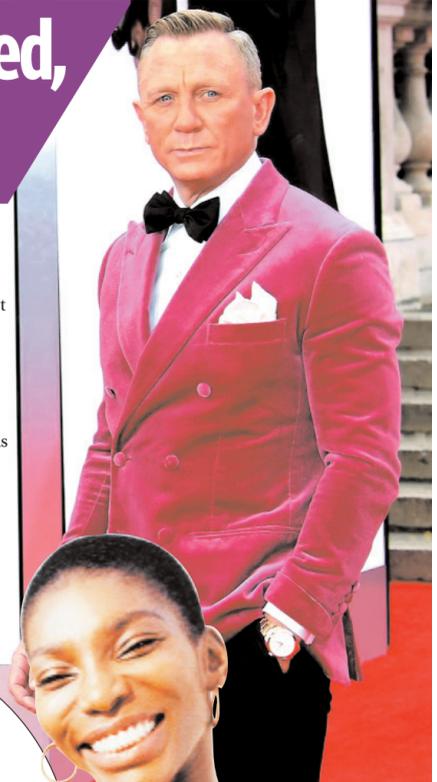
Charming and stylish British secret service agent James Bond won't be returning to the silver screen for at least two years as the character is getting a revamp as per the franchise producer Barbara Broccoli, reports 'Deadline'.

The producer told 'Deadline' at a star-studded private event

in central London to honour Broccoli and her brother Michael G. Wilson for their BFI Fellowships, that it will be "at least two years" before the next 007 movie begins filming. He said that the task of finding an actor to replace Daniel Craig hasn't begun "because it's a reinvention of Bond".

Broccoli wouldn't be drawn on who would play Bond next, but did offer an update on the

decision-making process. She said, "Nobodys in the running. We're working out where to go with him, we're talking that through. There isn't a script and we can't come up with one until we decide how we're going to approach the next film because, really, it's a reinvention of Bond. We're reinventing who he is and that takes time. I'd say that filming is at least two years away."



Michaela, John, Paul join cast of OTT series 'Mr. and Mrs. Smith'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Michaela Coel, John Turturro and Paul Dano are set to join Donald Glover and Maya Erskine for the OTT series 'Mr. and Mrs. Smith'.

Exact character details for the other three actors are being kept under wraps, aside from the fact they will appear in guest star roles, reports 'Variety'.

John, essayed by Glover, and Jane, played by Erskine, are hired by a mysterious spy agency, venturing into espionage, marriage, and learning to intimately navigate both.

As per 'Variety', the casting represents a reunion of sorts for Turturro and Dano, who both starred in the hit DC film 'The Batman' though they did not share any



scenes. Glover is credited as the co-creator and executive producer on 'Mr. and Mrs. Smith' alongside Francesca Sloane. Sloane also serves as showrunner. New Regency's Yaviv Milchan and Michael Schaefer and Wells Street Films' Jenny Robins will also executive produce.



'MATILDA THE MUSICAL' TO OPEN 66TH BFI LONDON FILM FEST

Los Angeles | Agencies

'Matilda the Musical' based on Roald Dahl's novel of the same name, is set to open the 66th BFI London Film Festival which is set to be held from October 5 to October 16, this year, reports 'Variety'.

The Netflix adaptation stars Emma Thompson, Lashana Lynch, Stephen Graham, Andrea Riseborough and Sindhu Vee and introduces Alisha Weir as Matilda.

Directed by Tony award-winning director Matthew Warchus, who also developed and directed the stage show for both London's West End and Broadway, the film is produced by Tim Bevan and Eric Fellner for Working Title and Jon Finn and Luke Kelly of The Roald Dahl Story Company.

Commenting on the occasion, Warchus, said in a statement accessed by 'Variety', "What a delight to be opening this tremendous film festival with singing, dancing, green hair and chocolate cake. It's a real honour to be sharing this joyful and empowering tale of a little girl's courage and compassion at such a prestigious event."

'Matilda the Musical' tells the story of Matilda Wormwood - a little girl with big curiosity whose parents content themselves with trashy TV and dodgy money-making schemes. On meeting her inspirational teacher, Miss Honey, Matilda is encouraged and begins conjuring her own fantastical tales. Excited to attend Crunchem Hall, Matilda is surprised to find the school is an ominous and oppressive place led by the villainous Miss Trunchbull.



R. KELLY SENTENCED TO 30 YEARS FOR SEX TRAFFICKING

Los Angeles | Agencies

American songwriter-record producer R. Kelly has been sentenced to 30 years in prison as he faces conviction for racketeering and eight counts of violating the Mann Act, which prohibits transporting people across state lines for prostitution, reports 'Variety'. Kelly has been in jail since July of 2019; 45 witnesses testified for the government. As per 'Variety', he still faces child pornography and obstruction of justice charges in Chicago as well as charges in state courts in Illinois and Minnesota. Kelly, one of the most successful hitmakers of the 1990s and early 2000s, was found guilty of all nine counts against him in September, after a six-week trial revealed how he had used employees and intermediaries to lure fans and hopeful singers into sexually abusive and controlling conditions, including locking them in rooms without food or access to a bathroom for days.



Music label acquires guitarist Frank Zappa's song catalogue and beyond

Los Angeles | Agencies

Guitarist-songwriter legend Frank Zappa's family has entered into an agreement with a major record label over the rights of the musician's recordings, publishing catalogue, film archive, name and likeness, and the contents of 'The Vault', the

storage facility that houses his complete archives, reports 'Variety'.

The agreement is between Universal Music Group (UMG) and the Zappa trust -- comprising the musician's children Moon, Dweezil, Ahmet and Diva Zappa -- and spans his four-decade career.

As per 'Variety', the deal, terms of which were not disclosed, expands on a previous partnership and the assets will continue to be managed by the company's recorded-music catalogue division, Universal Music Enterprises (UME), and Universal Music Publishing Group.

Zappa, who died in 1993 of prostate cancer at the age of 52, was an obsessive documentarian of his own work, and his vault contains a substantial amount of unreleased material. He was posthumously inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1995 and awarded the Recording Academy's Lifetime Achievement Grammy Award in 1997.



Camila Cabello



INDIAN BOXER SACHIN ADVANCES TO QUARTERFINALS IN ELORDA CUP

Reigning youth world champion Sachin made his way into the men's 57kg quarterfinals of Elorda Cup with a crushing win over Ykhlal Gylychjanov in Kazakhstan's capital, Nur-Sultan on Thursday.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Reigning youth world champion Sachin made his way into the men's 57kg quarterfinals of Elorda Cup with a crushing win over Ykhlal Gylychjanov in Kazakhstan's capital, Nur-Sultan on Thursday.

According to information received here, Sachin produced a power-packed performance against his opponent from Turkmenistan to register a 5-0 win. Most aggressive among the two pugilists, Sachin exhibited a great display of skillful boxing and maintained his dominance throughout the contest.

Meanwhile, the challenges of Simranjit Kaur and two other Indians ended on the second day of the tournament following defeats in their respective matches.

The former World Championship bronze medalist, Simranjit went down fighting 2-3 against China's Xu Zichun in an intense women's 60kg



Last-8 bout.

Lakshya Chahar and Harsh Lakra, on the other hand, conceded identical 0-5 defeats to their Kazakh rivals

in the men's section.

The reigning national champion Lakshya lost to Abzal Kuttybekov in the 86kg quarterfinal encounter while

Harsh was outpunched by Yerassyl Zhakpekov in the 80kg preliminary round. Later in the day, 2021 Youth World champion Gitika (48kg) and six other Indian women boxers -- Amrit (63kg), Kalpana (66kg), Priyanka Thakur (70kg), Lalita (70kg), Babita Bisht (81kg) and Sushma (+81) -- will fight in the quarterfinals.

Sushma will face a relatively tough challenge as she will take on the former world and reigning Asian champion Lazzat Kungeibayeva of Kazakhstan. Kalpana will also square off against another Kazakh boxer, Madina Nurshayeva--the 2017 Asian champion. Top players from strong boxing countries such as India, Uzbekistan, and hosts Kazakhstan, Cuba, China, and Mongolia, are competing in the inaugural edition of the Elorda Cup. The finals will be played on July 4. Late on Wednesday night, Kirti lost to Japan's Rinka Tanaka by a close 2-3 margin in the women's 60kg opening round match.

ENG v IND, 5th Test: Jasprit Bumrah to lead India in Edgbaston Test, Rishabh Pant to be his deputy



India right-arm pacer Jasprit Bumrah on Thursday was named by the senior selection committee to lead India in the rescheduled fifth Test against England at Edgbaston, starting on Friday, said an official release by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

Birmingham | Agencies

India right-arm pacer Jasprit Bumrah on Thursday was named by the senior selection committee to lead India in the rescheduled fifth Test against England at Edgbaston, starting on Friday, said an official release by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

The release also said that wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant will serve as Bumrah's deputy for the much-anticipated Test match.

Bumrah becoming India's captain for the Edgbaston Test comes after regular skipper Rohit Sharma tested positive for Covid-19 on the second day of the warm-up match against Leicestershire

last week. He had scored 25 runs in the first innings of the match but didn't come out to bat in the second innings after testing positive for Covid-19.

But with Sharma still infected with Covid-19, it means that Bumrah, who was vice-captain when India last played Tests, against Sri Lanka at home in March, will be captaining the side at Edgbaston from Friday. He will now become the 36th Test captain of India, becoming the first fast bowler to be India's Test skipper since Kapil Dev led India against Pakistan at Bengaluru in March 1987, which was also legendary batter Sunil Gavaskar's final Test match.

"Mr Rohit Sharma, Captain, Indian Cricket Team is ruled out of the rescheduled fifth Test against England to be played from Friday. Rohit played under a RAT Test on Thursday morning and returned a positive result for COVID-19. The All-India Senior Selection Committee has named Mr Jasprit Bumrah as captain for the upcoming Test and Mr Rishabh Pant as his deputy," said the BCCI in its official release. With Bumrah becoming the Test captain of India for Edgbaston Test,

2022 is set to be the year where the national side had six different captains across all formats, the highest for any calendar year. He also becomes the eighth man to lead India since 2021.

Previously, India had played under five captains in 1959; they were Vinoo Mankad, Hemu Adhikari, Datta Gaekwad, Pankaj Roy and Gulabrai Ramchand.

India currently lead the five-match series for the Pataudi Trophy 2-1, having registered famous victories at Lord's (by 151 runs) and The Oval (157 runs) last year apart from a draw in Trent Bridge and a loss by an innings and 76 runs at Headingley. A win at Edgbaston will seal the series in their favour, which will be just the fourth time the visitors won a Test series in England after 1971, 1986 and 2007. India's Test squad: Jasprit Bumrah (Captain), Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, Hanuma Vihari, Cheteshwar Pujara, Rishabh Pant (vice-captain) (wicket-keeper), KS Bharat (wicket-keeper), Ravindra Jadeja, Ravichandran Ashwin, Shardul Thakur, Mohammed Shami, Mohammed Siraj, Umesh Yadav, Prasadh Krishna and Mayank Agarwal

MALYSIAN OPEN BADMINTON: SINDHU, PRANNOY IN QUARTERS; KASHYAP LOSES IN 2ND ROUND

Former World Champion PV Sindhu and Thomas Cup-winner H.S Prannoy advanced to the quarterfinals as India had another mixed day at the Malaysian Open, the BWF World Tour Super 750 event, here on Thursday.

Kuala Lumpur | Agencies

Former World Champion PV Sindhu and Thomas Cup-winner H.S Prannoy advanced to the quarterfinals as India had another mixed day at the Malaysian Open, the BWF World Tour Super 750 event, here on Thursday.

Sindhu and Prannoy won their second-round matches in contrasting styles while the country's top men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty withdrew from the event due to an injury and P. Kashyap and women's doubles player Srivedya Gurazada lost their respective matches.

After losing the first game, Sindhu made a stellar comeback to beat Thailand's Chaiwan Phittayaporn 19-21, 21-9, 21-14. The seventh seed will next face second-seed Tai Tzu Ying in the quarterfinals.

Meanwhile, in the men's singles, Prannoy continued his excellent run by beating World No. 4, Chou Tien Chen, in straight games, 21-15, 21-7. He will next face Indonesia's seventh seed, Jonatan Christie. Kashyap lost a tight first game as he went down 19-21, 10-21 to Kunlavut Vitidsarn of Thailand in a second-round match. The men's doubles pair of Rankireddy and Shetty gave a walkover to the Malaysian duo Sze



Fei Goh and Nur Izzuddin of Malaysia. Rankireddy pulled a muscle in his core and though he had recovered a bit on Thursday, it was not enough to play. With the Commonwealth Games less than a month away, the coaches and

physios advised him to withdraw from the event. Teaming up with Ishika Jaiswal of the United States, Srivedya Gurazada lost to Feby Valencia Dwijayanti Gani and Ribka Sugiarto of Indonesia 12-21, 8-21 on Thursday.

Delhi HC restrains 'rogue websites' from live streaming India-England series

The Delhi High Court has restrained 39 'rogue websites' from livestreaming the upcoming India-England international cricket series 2022 by infringing the copyrights of Culver Max Entertainment (former Sony Pictures Networks India).

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Delhi High Court has restrained 39 'rogue websites' from livestreaming the upcoming India-England international cricket series 2022 by infringing the copyrights of Culver Max Entertainment (former Sony Pictures Networks India).

"Defendants No. 1 to 39 are restrained from, in any manner, hosting, streamlining, reproducing, distributing, making available to the pub-

lic and/or communicating to the public or facilitating the same on their websites through the internet in any manner whatsoever, any cinematograph work, content, programme and show or event in which the Plaintiff has copyright," Justice Sanjeev Narula said in an order dated June 29.

The court also allowed the requests of plaintiffs seeking the appointment of a Local Commissioner to check the illegal broadcast and directed the official to make a sample recording of illegal transmission, if he finds it.

Apart from the illegal websites, the court also restrained a group of Distribution Platform Operators (DPOs) -- Direct to Home (DTH) operators for cable TV services--from illegally hosting, broadcasting, distributing or making available the matches to the public. Plaintiff said it is owning

"SONY TEN Network" of channels and has acquired an exclusive license from England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) to broadcast the sporting event to the public in the territories of India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, and the Maldives.

It was pleaded that the present suit is initiated against websites, Uniform Resource Locators (URLs), Multi System Operators (MSO), Local Cable Operators (LCO) who are habitual defaulters and have in the past also infringed the plaintiff's exclusive rights for the broadcast of such matches. The Internet Service Providers (ISP) and Statutory government bodies have been impleaded as proforma parties for the purpose of implementing the order of this court against the infringing parties.

All India Kiteboarding: Dylan Fernandes and Katya Saini emerge champion

Tuticorin | Agencies

Dylan Fernandes and Katya Saini emerged champions in men's and women's category respectively in the 3rd All India Kiteboarding Championships here on Thursday.

As the final day of the championship came about, the organisers were uncertain regarding the competition as the wind conditions were not ideal. Dylan who led the men's category in Day-2 showed another consistent performance to beat defending champion Arjun Motha of Aqua Outback & Jehan Hoshi Driver of Quest Adventure Sports Academy with a total net score of 10.00. Arjun & Jehan maintained their 2nd & 3rd position with total net scores of 19.00 & 22.00 respectively. "It was an intense day and all the racers gave their best. I started on a rough patch but eventually worked my way up and it feels great to be the National Champion," said the National Champion Dylan. The women's category, Katya Saini of Aqua Outback who was leading from



Day 1 did not have any slip ups and finished the regatta as the Women's National Champion with a total net score of 8.0. Keona Rajani of PKA finished 2nd and Avishma Matta finished 3rd with 14.00 & 30.00 total net score respectively. "It was a humbling experience to be in such an intense competition. I was confident & my consistent performance paid off. I am super happy to have won the

women's title," said a proud Katya.

The final day of the championships were concluded in the presence of Captain Jitendra Dixit, Joint Secretary General of The Yachting Association of India, Ashoke Takkar, President, Tamil Nadu Sailing Association and Ajit Diaz, President, Chennai Sailing Academy. "This championship just didn't mark the new champions but will also lead us to the gateway of the

upcoming Asian Games & Olympics for our country. We are determined to send kiteboarders from India to participate in the International competitions," Dixit said. The competition had racers from all backgrounds & ages to have participated, the youngest being Siddharth George, aged 13 and the oldest being Phillippe Dartnell, aged 67 who finished 4th in the men's category.

Two players and three members of support staff of Indian men's hockey team test positive for Covid-19

Two players and three members of the support staff of the Indian men's hockey team, currently preparing for the Commonwealth Games 2022 in Bengaluru have tested positive for Covid-19, Hockey India confirmed in a statement on Thursday.

Bengaluru | Agencies

Two players and three members of the support staff of the Indian men's hockey team, currently preparing for the Commonwealth Games 2022 in Bengaluru have tested positive for Covid-19, Hockey India confirmed in a statement on Thursday. India



hockey stalwarts such as goalkeeper PR Sreejesh, Krishan Pathak, Surender Kumar, Harmanpreet Singh, Varun Kumar and Amit Rohidas are among 31 players included in the Commonwealth Games camp, which began on June 27 in Bengaluru and will conclude on July 23 when the team leaves for Birmingham for the quadrennial showpiece. "The RTPCR tests were

conducted on Wednesday morning. They have mild symptoms and have been isolated," Hockey India said in a release. After their impressive outing in Europe where the men's team lived up to the billing against Belgium and the Netherlands in thrilling FIH Pro League double-headers, the team is in the national camp at the Sports Authority of India centre in Bengaluru, where players

are doing the final fine-tuning for the mega event. India, which is being led by Manpreet Singh, is scheduled to begin their campaign on July 31 against Ghana. Grouped in Pool B, India will also take on hosts England, Canada and Wales in the round-robin league matches.

Campers' list: PR Sreejesh, Pawan, Surender Kumar, Harmanpreet Singh, Varun Kumar, Amit Rohidas, Jugraj Singh, Jarnanpreet Singh, Manpreet Singh, Hardik Singh, Shamsher Singh, Vivek Sagar Prasad, Akashdeep Singh, Nilakanta Sharma, Gurjant Singh, Mandeep Singh, Dilpreet Singh, Sukhjeet Singh, Lalit Kumar Upadhyay, Abhishek, Gursahibjit Singh, Mandeep Mor, Sanjay, Mohd Raheel Mousen, Sumit, Moirangthem Rabichandra Singh, Gurinder Singh, Jaskaran Singh, Ashis Kumar Topno, Krishan B Pathak, Shilananand Lakra.

Women's Hockey World Cup: We will do everything to win a medal, says defender Gurjit Kaur

Amsterdam | Agencies

The ace defender Gurjit Kaur said that the Indian team is aiming for a podium finish in the upcoming 2022 Women's Hockey World Cup following a remarkable performance in the FIH Hockey Women's Pro League 2021/22.

Appearing on the FIH Women's Hockey World Cup 2022 special episode of 'Hockey Te Charcha', Gurjit spoke candidly about the Indian team's preparations and the prospects for the coveted event.

When asked about the mood in the Indian camp in Amsterdam, the charismatic def-flicker said, "Yes, we are thrilled to be here. This is my second World Cup appearance. So, to be honest, I'm hoping to savour every moment this time around. And, in short, we are all ecstatic to be here." "Hockey is a prominent sport in the Netherlands. A lot of people play hockey in this country. We went to a ground one day and observed several young players playing hockey; perhaps this is why the Netherlands produces so many



world-class players," Gurjit stated while speaking about the mood in the Netherlands ahead of the much anticipated 2022 Women's Hockey World Cup. Gurjit also highlighted the improvements Indian team has made in the recent, particularly since the 2020 Tokyo Games. "We have progressed a lot since the Tokyo Games. Yes, we did not win a medal in Tokyo, but we did perform admirably there. So, certainly, that performance did boost our morale."

Words fall short to express gratitude, actress

Raashi tells fans



Team Absolute | Chennai

Actress Raashi Khanna, who plays the female lead in director Maruthi's 'Pakka Commercial' which is scheduled to hit screens this Friday, on Wednesday expressed her heartfelt gratitude to fans for their unconditional support to her.

Taking to Instagram, the actress said, "The crazy schedules, the 24-hour shifts, the night shoots, the diets, the workouts, the multiple city hopping - every second feels worth it when I get to meet you and see your love and enthusiasm."

"Words always fall short for me to express my gratitude. Thank you for all your love and support through and through. My heart is full! p.s: 'Pakka Commercial' releases tomorrow. Hope to really entertain you through this one and bring a smile to your face. Lots of love your way!"

The film, that has been written and directed by Maruthi, is being presented by Allu Aravind and produced by Bunny Vass.



Nia Sharma's new music video is out

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The new music video 'Paisa Paisa' featuring celebrated tv actress Nia Sharma released on Thursday. Nia said, "This being my 12th music video, I've dabbled in all kinds of genres by now. From dance numbers to heartbreak songs, I've left probably nothing."

'Paisa Paisa' sounded quirky from the title itself and the storyboard was equally fun to be a part of. I

hope it finds its way into the clubs soon and leaves everyone grooving to it."

Adding to that Starboy who is also seen in the video, Nia said, "It was a very different experience because this song is very unique. When it started, we didn't anticipate using Paisa Paisa as a hook line but the beat was so good that it fits perfectly."

The video, released on YouTube, is directed by Gaurav Mehra, and produced by BCC Music Factory and Amit Majithia.

Vidyt Jammwal on the North-South debate

I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY ACTORS ARE FIGHTING OVER IT

Aakruti Bagla | Mumbai

Vidyt Jammwal might have carved a niche as an action star with his high-octane and death-defying stunts in films like 'Force' and the 'Commando' series. He also received an extremely positive response for his stint in the film Khuda Haafiz. The sequel of the film is all set to release on 8 July 2022.

Ahead of the release, the actor opened up about how the action is a notch higher in Khuda Haafiz 2. He said, "Sky is the limit when it comes to defining high for me. All I can say is that in 11 years of my career, I still design and perform every action scene on my own. I am very greedy that way. I don't think even a stunt double from Jackie Chan's team can match up to my steps."

The Khuda Haafiz actor has been relentless in his attempts to revive Kalaripayattu to its former glory. Talking about being a pioneer in this art to light, the actor said, "I am enthusiastic since the age of 3. It's the first martial art in the world. Also, till the time I started acting, I don't think anyone knew about it in India. But if you go out in countries like China and America people are aware of its significance. It is indeed a proud moment for me when people identify me with it."

As for the top action, it was hardwork that was Vidyt's key to success to cement this title for himself. About the same, he quipped, "I feel proud to see my name appearing on the top of the list. I have worked hard to achieve it. It is something you cannot purchase. There maybe times when you don't fail to recognize you and it often happens in India. All you need to have at that time is the spirit you going."

In Bollywood, the actor has also worked in Kollywood and Tollywood films. Sharing his opinion on the South cinema prevailing these days, he averred, "Being a Fauji's son, be it North, south, east or west, it's all the same for me. If films down south are performing well, it's a very good thing. I don't understand why actors are fighting over it. I just don't see any difference."



Milind Soman returns to music videos after 25 years



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor and model Milind Soman is returning to music videos after 25 years with a party song, 'Shringaar'. Composed by Vayu with rap by Raftaar, 'Shringaar' has been sung by Akasa and Aastha Gill and directed and choreographed by Punit J. Pathak.

Sharing his experience, Milind says: "It was so super fun to do a music video after 25 years. When 'Shringaar' came my way, I instantly loved the track, and wanted to be a part of it. The track has a great vibe and I'm super excited to work with the amazingly talented Aastha, Akasa and Raftaar, who make the song what it is. Shringaar is undoubtedly the party anthem of the year and not just me, my mother and my wife also loved the song."

Akasa adds: "I feel like Vayu and I have a special bond now and as blessed as I am to work on his creations there's also this homely feeling of comfort with him. Similarly with Aastha, we're so similar in our goofy boyish energies that we switch into the glam divas you see in the videos. I love working with her!" Aastha also shares: "Reuniting with my old team has been an absolute blast as it has allowed me to relive all the old memories that we had while shooting 'Naagin'. Be it Raftaar, Vayu or AKASA, all of them have their own style and are extremely talented. It was an absolute delight to work with Milind Soman and his energy is infectious. Shringaar has turned out to be one of the most incredible experiences of my life." Speaking about 'Shringaar', Raftaar adds: "It has been a pleasure working with Aastha, Akasa, Vayu and Milind Soman. They are super talented artists, honest and dedicated. With the right kind of lyrics and composition, I don't doubt its potential to dominate the party scene. It's a fascinating dance number that I loved rapping for."

Actress Jayashree opens up on working with hubby, his ex-girlfriend

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Jayashree Venketaramanan, remembered for playing the lead role in TV show, 'Na Bole Tum Na Maine Kuch Kaha', is currently shooting for series 'Bivi And Me' along with husband Akhlaque Khan and his former girlfriend Roopal Tyagi.

She says: "The series was quite special for my husband Akhlaque, he is writing, directing and acting in it. We both had been planning it for sometime now. We wanted to make an episode which could take our audience back to the 70s. The song, theme, mood, all of it. Interestingly, it was earlier just reels for social media during lockdown but the great feedback and appreciation from our audience helped us to turn it into a digital series. Jayashree's husband Akhlaque has also brought his former girlfriend Roopal Tyagi on-board for the



show. On working with her husband's former girlfriend, Jayashree said: "Roopal is a talented actress and is a very nice individual. My husband was very sure to get her on-board. He was in fact sure that she would happily join us and take the challenge. And when we approached her she was excited too." "We all were worried because it was a little tricky to shoot but on the day of shoot, everything went smooth. Despite being my husband's ex, I have never felt odd or awkward around her. And honestly we all are mature individuals. Past hardly matters. And I never believe to complicate things unnecessarily."

SANYA MALHOTRA OPENS UP ON WORKING WITH RAJKUMMAR RAO

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood actress Sanya Malhotra will be seen opposite Rajkumar Rao in 'HIT: The First Case'. Sharing her experience of working with her co-star and collaborating with director Sialish Kolanu, Sanya said: "I was really excited when I got to know that I would be part of HIT. I joined the sets when Raj and other actors had already shot a big chunk of the film. But it just did not feel like I am entering a set mid-way. Raj on the sets and Raj in front of the camera are two different personalities." "Of course, it depends on the mood of the character and the mood of the scene that he is in. In that way, he is very passionate and very professional. Our energies matched on the sets from day one. It was a great experience working with Raj, the director and the entire team. I am really looking forward to seeing the audience take on this thrilling journey of our film," she added.



Amyra Dastur