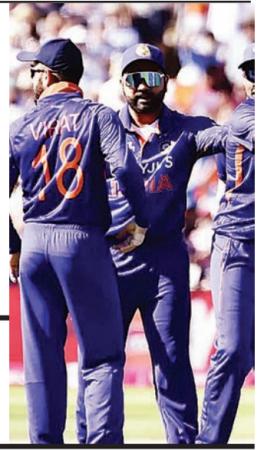


# absolute india

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**URGENT NEED TO REFILL GAPS IN INDIAN HEALTHCARE POST-COVID: REPORT**

## CURE THE HEALTH SYSTEM

- India's healthcare delivery system has historically suffered from ad-hoc regulation, poor monitoring, and modest budgetary allocations.
- The report highlighted how during the pandemic some states and Union Territories (UTs) succeeded more than others in streamlining the resources rapidly to fight Covid.
- The report calls for better data infrastructures to drive policy, and an aggressive push towards Universal Health Coverage to "fill the yawning gaps in the country's health systems".



aggregated sub-national level, and the parameters that need to be addressed in the short term. The report showed that in the domain of institutional support to the health sector, Meghalaya did exceedingly well, and Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, and even small states like Tripura, Goa, and Mizoram did relatively well. Jammu & Kashmir leads among the UTs. In terms of managing Covid-related health outcomes, Himachal Pradesh, among the large states, and small states like Goa and Tripura did better than others. Among UTs, Lakshadweep and Andaman and Nicobar Islands showed noteworthy results, even outperforming all states. Tamil Nadu and Chhattisgarh

to combat a potential new wave of the pandemic or any other health crisis of similar magnitude, than the poorer regions. Calling the Covid immunisation drive a "remarkable" achievement, the report advises the policy makers to "learn from the past three waves and ramp up investments in health and develop sound strategies for expected future waves". "As unprecedented as the Covid-19 crisis has been, it will not be the last. We are required to strengthen our health systems and make them harmonious, equitable, and sustainable. It would do us well to start doing this now," Saran said.

**“There is no better time than now to invest in health systems. Today, as the world sees a likely future of recurring infections, state leaders will need to prioritise the building of knowledge systems and investment in human capital and critical infrastructure, and to put into place robust evaluative mechanisms. This will need an across-the-board consensus for action.”**

*Dr Samir Saran, President, ORF*

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Over two years of Covid-19 pandemic laid bare the already failing health systems of India and people continue to suffer. With the country now facing recurring infections post-Covid, there is an urgent need to refill gaps in the healthcare systems, suggests a report on Friday. The 'Health Systems Resilience Index (HSRI)' report by global think tank Observer Research Foundation (ORF) offers insights into the state of the country's health systems at a dis-

## ARMY CARRIES OUT RESCUE OPS FOR AMARNATH YATRIS AT BALTAL

Srinagar | Agencies

The Indian Army is continuously carrying out rescue operation for the Amarnath Yatris injured in the cloudburst at Baltal in Kashmir. The Army in a statement on Saturday said the rescue team immediately rushed to the site after getting information about the casualties. "An Infantry Battalion led by Colonel along with Quick Reaction Teams, an additional company worth of personnel from Sector RR and a team from Special Forces reached the holy Amarnath cave along with specialised rescue equipment to undertake the rescue operation," the Army said. The Army said that the search, rescue and medical effort continued early Saturday morning. "At 6.45 a.m. the first ALH landed at site to commence evacuation of the injured. A total of 15 dead and 63 injured Yatris have been rescued. Both Army and civilian helicopters are carrying out relentless sorties to evacuate the injured and the dead." "The medical treatment of the injured Yatris (pilgrims) is ongoing. A total of 28 patients have been evacuated from the holy cave to Nilgaur advanced dressing



station. After stabilising, 11 persons have further been moved to SKIMS Srinagar in civil helicopters for treatment. Fifteen bodies have been moved from holy cave to Nilgaur. "Stranded Yatris are being escorted by Indian Army personnel till Baltal since the track is slushy and slippery. Simultaneously search was also commenced early morning at Amarnath Nar at Sangam for any possible casualties," the Army added. Lt General ADS Aujla, GOC Chinar Corps and Major General Sanjiv Singh Salaria, GOC Kilo Force, visited the Amarnath cave early Saturday morning to review the rescue and medical efforts being undertaken by the Indian Army. "The GOC Chinar Corps also interacted with the Yatris and locals and assured of all possible help from the Indian Army. "Citizens are advised to contact Army helpline number + 91-9149720998 for assistance/enquiry. Callers are also advised to have details of Yatris such as name, Yatra registration/RFID number, contact number, Aadhaar number and the last known location and time." "The Indian Army is committed to assist the Yatris in all possible ways and under all circumstances. The rescue and medical efforts will continue through the day and details will be updated for general information of the public."



**THE 105-YEAR-OLD 'BOLT GRANNY' BREAKING RUNNING RECORDS IN INDIA**

Chandigarh: Rambai is 105 years old and she is giving serious fitness goals to people around her. She started her sprinting career in the north Indian state of Haryana just a year ago, but has already won several medals in local competitions. She competes in her age category - and sometimes, she is the only runner in the fray. But for her, taking part in these competitions is more important than winning. Her family wants her to take it easy, but Rambai says that's not happening anytime soon, BBC reported.

## Ayurvedic drug can help kidney recovery: Study

Patients suffering from ascites -- a condition in which fluid collects in spaces within the abdomen -- can be treated by Ayurvedic poly-herbal drug that has potential not only to slow down the progression of chronic kidney disease but also restore normalcy in functional parameters of the vital organ, a team of researchers has claimed.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

In a study published in latest issue of Journal of Ayurveda and Integrated Medical Sciences, Assistant Professor Komala A. Siddesh Aradhyamath and researcher Mallinath IT from JSS Ayurveda Medical College and Hospital in Karnataka gave a range of Ayurvedic formulations along with AIMIL Pharmaceutical's innovation Neeri KFT for impaired kidneys. "A dose of 20 ml of this ayurvedic formulation daily --morning and evening -- was given for a month," the researchers said, adding the outcome was positive. The herbal drug not only helped protecting the kidneys of the patients from further damage due to the condition but also helped excreting the collected fluid from their abdomen. The consumption of herbal formulation had flushed out fluid from the abdomen through the urinary tract, said the researchers. The NEERI-KFT, a herbal medicine extracted from plants, is composed of

herbs such as Punarnava, Varun, Sigr, Sariva, Makoi and Sirish, also known for their diuretic properties. Sanchit Sharma from AIMIL Pharmaceuticals told reporter that in the past few years Neeri KFT has proven to be effective in strengthening the kidney as well as clearing toxic fluids from the body. As ascites usually occurs when the liver stops working properly or it malfunctions, leading to a build-up of fluid in the space between the abdominal lining and the organs. Ascites is the most common complication of cirrhosis (scarring of the liver). It affects around 60 per cent of people with cirrhosis within 10 years of their diagnosis, and the two-year survival rate is 50 per cent. Patients suffering with ascites may have the symptoms like painless swelling in the abdomen that worsens rather than going away; abdominal discomfort; weight gain; feeling full after eating a little, shortness of breath as pressure increases in the abdomen, pushing up on the diaphragm and reduction in the space for the lungs to expand.

## A special fashion shoot in Israel celebrates 30 yrs of Israel-India ties



The fashion shoot is currently taking place in Israel. The Embassy will be able to show an Israel that the Indian public may be unfamiliar with through this project. It is a one-of-a-kind project that we hope will pave the way for future opportunities and collaborations between Israel and India in the fields of culture,

Team Absolute | New Delhi

To commemorate 30 years of diplomatic relations between Israel and India, the Israeli Embassy in India collaborated with designer Sahil Kochhar to present a special collection for both men and women inspired by Israeli landscapes. On this occasion, H.E. Ambassador Naor Gilon,

Embassy of Israel, said: "This is another important project that the Israeli Embassy in India is leading this year to further strengthen the growing partnership and strong friendship between our two nations. The designer came up with the concept of involving local talent from Israel for the shoot. The idea was to have inclusion and local faces telling their stories. It was very important for

us to involve as many Israelis as possible in this project." Designer Sahil Kochhar said: "I look at this as a great opportunity to take forward our narrative of making sure we involve talents not only belonging to the fashion industry. To have a team from Israel and India working together on this project will ensure there is an exchange of culture, experiences and will have a bigger impact in building up the Israel and India relationship." The project's team is a mix of Indians and Israelis who collaborate on all aspects of the fashion shoot. This project is part of the 'Yachad' campaign, which is a Hebrew word that means 'together'. The designer and his team spent several months scouting Israeli talents who are the best at their craft for this campaign. The models chosen are not only professional models, but also local talent from various extreme sports from across the country.

## Lucknow school goes missing overnight, classes held on road

- Their historical school, Centennial Higher Secondary School and College, was gone and in its place stood a new private school.
- The hoardings and nameplate of the school had been changed and students and teachers were denied entry to the campus.
- After this, nearly 360 students sat outside the gate and the teachers took classes on the road.
- The school was founded in 1862 as a small school in Husainabad, Old City and has a long and proud history.
- It was established by Rev JH Messmore, a pioneer educationist missionary in Lucknow.

Lucknow | Agencies

This is a curious case of a 140-year-old school going missing, almost overnight. When teachers and students of this school in Lucknow's Golaganj locality returned after vacation on Thursday, a rude shock awaited them. A complaint was lodged by principal Rajiv David Dayal with basic education officer Vijay Pratap Singh and district inspector of schools Rakesh Kumar. Officials came to inspect the school in late on Thursday afternoon. The principal told reporters: "Around 10 permanent teachers and 360 students of classes 6 to 12 are enrolled in the school. When we reached the school, the

name had been changed and we were denied entry. The furniture had been moved out and we were told that the school had been shifted to the "play-ground under the tin shade." He said that he immediately lodged a complaint with officials of the education department who took cognizance and ensured to look into the matter. "It was traumatising for us. Imagine that you go to school with the zeal to study after the summer break and you find that your school no more exists. It is mental harassment of students," said a teacher. Meanwhile, District Magistrate Suryapal Gangwar said on Friday that classes at Centennial Higher Secondary School and College will be held on the



campus as before and a police force will be deputed outside the school to ensure law and order from Friday. Gangwar issued the directive after DIOS Rakesh Kumar submitted a report to him. He had inspected the school along with BSA and other officials on the complaint of principal Dayal that a private school has been opened on the premises due to a dispute in the school management. The matter related to the management is sub-judice. The DIOS said that since the school is a government-aided one, no private school can run on its premises. He also said that such a private school on the campus of a government-aided one cannot be granted affiliation by the Basic Education Council.

## BRAVEHEART DIES SAVING LIVES DURING AMARNATH TRAGEDY

Team Absolute | Jaipur

A retired policeman from Rajasthan's Bikaner, who saved many people from drowning in the flash flood triggered by cloudburst, was swept away in gushing waters near Amarnath cave shrine in South Kashmir Himalayas. The deceased was identified as Sushil Khatri, former in-charge of Sri Ganganagar traffic police station. Khatri's relative Sunita Wadwa, also hailing from the desert state, also died in the tragedy that killed 15 people and injured more than 40. Khatri was among the batch of 17 devotees who had left from Sri Ganganagar on July 3 and had retired from service just nine days before the tragedy struck. After his retirement, he had planned a holiday with his wife and son. Khatri, 61, was staying in a tent near the Amarnath cave. In the evening, as the flood water



gushed in, the tents started getting washed away. Many people of Sri Ganganagar, including Khatri, his relative Sunita and her husband Mohanlal were also present. Khatri saved many people before being swept away.



# TRANSFER-POSTING INDUSTRY FLOURISHING IN BIHAR: RJD

Patna | Agencies

After Chief Minister Nitish Kumar cancelled the transfer and posting of 149 officers of the Land Record and Revenue Departments, the RJD slammed the "double engine" NDA government as transfer-posting industry is flourishing in Bihar.

"Massive corruption is taking place during the months of June and December every year and it was proven on Friday when Nitish Kumar cancelled the transfer-posting of 149 officials. It is an open secret in Nitish Kumar government that bribes are taken for the transfer-posting," RJD national spokesperson Mritunjay Tiwari said.

Tiwari pointed out that not only the ministry of Ram Surat Rai, who holds charge of the departments concerned, but every ministry is having the same situation.

Noting BJP legislator Gyanendra Singh Gyanu had alleged earlier that large scale corruption was taking place in every ministry for transfer-posting, Tiwari said that their leader Tejashwi Yadav has also mentioned corruption in transfers



and postings in the Assembly.

He also said that BJP legislator Gopal Narayan Singh had claimed that BJP and JD-U is "a mismatched alliance in Bihar" and if this is so, why are they running the government together. "The BJP and JD-U are in the government to eat

'malai', he said.

Senior RJD leader Bhai Virendra said: "After such corruption emerged in the government, Nitish Kumar should throw out Ram Surat Rai from the government."

Reacting to the issue, Rai said: "It is a special privilege of the Chief Minister to cancel the transfer-postings. I will give clarification, if needed. As far as RJD is concerned, they are in the opposition. Hence, it is not a big issue, if its leaders are criticising it." Bihar Governor Phagu Chauhan on Friday cancelled the transfer and posting of 149 officers of the Land Reforms and Revenue Departments, on the recommendation of the Chief Minister. Chief Minister Nitish Kumar found something fishy in the transfer and posting of 149 circle officers, settlement officers, and consolidation officers of these two departments, and recommended the cancellation. The Land Reforms and Revenue Departments are under the charge of Ram Surat Rai, of the BJP, and he had issued four notifications for the transfer and postings of 149 officers on June 30.

# Japanese Encephalitis claims 8 lives, 82 infected in Assam

Guwahati | Agencies

At least eight people died of Japanese Encephalitis (JE) in Assam in the past nine days while 82 were infected, prompting the Health Department to seek authorities to set up District Rapid Response Teams (DRRT) to keep a close watch on the situation.

JE and malaria kill many people in Assam every year, specifically during the monsoon season that usually starts in May and stretches to October.

According to the National Health Mission (NHM), since July 1, at least eight people have died and 82 people have fallen ill after being infected by the vector-borne diseases.

Principal Secretary, Health, Avinash Joshi and



NHM Director Dr. M S Lakshmi Priya on Saturday conducted a meeting, through video conferencing, with the district authorities and asked them to constitute DRRTs by July 16 to deal with the situation.

The NHM has also issued a standard operating procedure and guidelines to tackle the situation arising with the outbreak of the JE.

Last year, at least 40 deaths were reported due to JE, officials said.

# 3 held for spreading fake news on YouTube in Gujarat

Ahmedabad | Agencies

After recent incident of the killing of a tailor in Udaipur, the police in Gujarat were instructed to keep a watch on social media activities to ensure that no one spreads offensive messages, fake news, photos or videos on social media.

Accordingly, the officers of the Ahmedabad Cyber Crime branch and the Social Media Monitoring Cell were keeping a watch on different social media platforms.

They found some suspicious YouTube channels spreading fake news about some terrorist attack during the recent Rath Yatra festival although no such



incident had taken place.

The police traced these fake news to the YouTube channels of Jigar Dhamelia from Bhavnagar, Suresh Parmar from Ahmedabad and Suresh Luhar from Banaskantha. On Saturday,

all three of them were arrested by a team from the Cyber Crime police station on charges of trying to create public outrage by spreading fake news. The accused are aged between 20 and 26 years, the police said.

# MULAYAM SINGH YADAV'S WIFE PASSES AWAY

Gurugram: Samajwadi Party patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav's wife Sadhana Gupta Yadav has died here on Saturday, according to reports.

As per reports, she was suffering from lung disease and was admitted to Medanta Medicity hospital here four days ago after she complained of difficulty in breathing.

After her condition deteriorated, she was shifted to the intensive care unit (ICU). Earlier, she was admitted to Medanta Hospital in Lucknow, but when her condition started deteriorating, she was brought to Gurugram by air ambulance.

Sources said Mulayam Singh Yadav had come to see her in the hospital a few days back.

Sadhna Gupta was Mulayam Singh Yadav's second wife who was 20 years younger than him. Her son's name is Prateek Yadav while Bharatiya Janata Party leader Aparna Yadav is her daughter-in-law.

# Denied food after b'day party, drunk neighbour stabs woman, 2 daughters

New Delhi | Agencies

A drunk neighbour stabbed a woman and her two daughters in the national capital's Dwarka area as he was denied food by them after a birthday party, it was learnt on Saturday.

The incident took place on the intervening night of June 5-6 when the accused man, identified as Vicky, barged into their neighbour's house at around 12.30 a.m. and asked for food.

The victims were a family of seven people -- parents, four daughters and one son. On that particular night, they celebrated the birthday of their 5-year-old son and the sisters had organised a small party

for their brother.

"The accused who was completely drunk asked for food to which my mother told him that now everything has been finished and you please go to your home," the complainant, one of the daughters, said in the FIR registered by the police.

She alleged that within 10 minutes the accused came back with a knife and started threatening to kill all of them.

"He stabbed my mother twice -- first on the stomach and then on the shoulder. My elder sister, who came to rescue my mother, was also stabbed on the left abdomen and her intestines came out," the FIR, read.

At this time, the com-

plainant's younger sister also tried to intervene but she was also stabbed on her hand by the accused person.

As there was a lot of noise, people quickly gathered there and got hold of the accused and thrashed him.

Meanwhile, the police also reached the spot and took both the victims and the accused in separate vehicles to the Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital. As the women were grievously injured, they were not able to make any statement to the police then.

Later, based on the complaint, the police registered an FIR under Section 307 (attempt to murder) against Vicky and took him into custody.

# Burglars gang headed by woman busted in Delhi, 6 held

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A gang of burglars, headed by a woman, was busted with the arrest and apprehension of six people, including 4 minors in the national capital, an official said on Saturday.

The accused were identified as Ankit alias Lambu (19), 4 juveniles and the woman head of the gang -- Saloni alias Sita (20).

It was officially learnt that the accused Saloni is so desperate and inveterate at evading arrest that she hurts herself and tears her clothes to ambush the legal process and may even attack and injure police and the public.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (North District) Sagar Singh Kalsi said a man, who works in a private wine shop, approached Burari police station and reported in his complaint that on June 24, after locking his house, he along with his family members went to attend family function at his native place i.e. district Mainpuri, Uttar Pradesh. On June 28 at about 5.30 a.m., while the said man came back, he noticed that the lock at the main gate of his house and entrance lock at the backside room were broken. On checking, the jewellery



and cash worth Rs 12 lakh was found stolen from the almirah. Accordingly, the police registered a case under section 380 (theft in dwelling house) and 457 (lurking house-trespass or house-breaking by night in order to commit offence punishable with imprisonment) of the Indian Penal Code and initiated an investigation.

During the probe, CCTV cameras installed in the vicinity of the place of incident and possible routes followed by the culprits were checked and analysed and one person moving in odd hours was noticed. "On finding him in

odd timings suspicion was raised, he was intensely chased through CCTV footage and local intelligence also helped to identify him," the DCP said.

The technical clues then finally led the police team to all the accused who were nabbed from Gali No 3, Near Shamshan Ghat Mukundpur, Delhi on Friday. "The kingpin of the gang was a girl of 20 years who usually kept the juveniles under her control. She provides resources, accommodation as well as financial help to the juveniles & in return, she gets the major share of booty," the official said.

# Cash, jewellery worth crores recovered in CBI raid at ex-NBCC GM

Team Absolute | New Delhi

As the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the Income Tax department are conducting raids at the house of NBCC's former General Manager in Noida, the officials of Delhi Jal Board have also been named as an accused in the case.

The raid continues since Friday evening at the residence of D.K. Mittal in Sector-19, Noida.

The CBI said that a total Rs 1.2 crore in cash and cash counting machines were also recovered during the raids.

The CBI added that they have registered a case against five Delhi Jal Board officials -- Jagdish Kumar Arora, P.K. Gupta, Sushil Kumar Goel, Ashok Sharma, Ranjit Kumar and D.K. Mittal, the former General Manager, NBCC (India), NBCC Project Executive Sadhan Kumar and a private firm NKG Infrastructure Limited.

A CBI official said that the accused persons had conspired to provide undue favour to NKG Infrastructure



Limited and had made it technically eligible (which was otherwise not allegedly eligible).

A tender NIT 22 was issued in December 2017, for Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of electromagnetic flow meters and corresponding O&M operations for five years of Delhi Jal Board.

The accused and NKG Infrastructure Limited with the help of false certificates and fabricated deviation statement issued by NBCC qualified and bagged a tender worth Rs 38.02 crore.

The CBI official said that they conducted raids at 10 locations in NCR at the premises of the accused which led to a recovery of incriminating documents and digital evidences.

Cash worth Rs 1.5 crore, jewellery worth Rs 1.2 crore, fixed deposits worth Rs 69

lakh and various property documents were also recovered from the residence of the former NBCC General Manager. Further investigation in the matter is underway.

## CHANGE OF NAME

I AMITA KERKETTA is legally wedded spouse of No. 572339M Nb/Sub NELSON BECK presently residing at Vill Khajurtala Post Aksi PS Mahuadanr Aksi Latehar Jharkhand Pin: 822119 have changed my name from AMITA BECK to AMITA KERKETTA vide affidavit No. BC 401466.

## CHANGE OF NAME

I, ROKAYA FATMA D/O SERAJUL HAQU ANSARI R/O 425, BUDHWARA BHOPAL-462001 have changed my name to RUQAYA FATHMA for all future purposes.

## CHANGE OF NAME

I TAPASHI ROY SINHA is legally wife of No. 4575876F L/HAV SUNDAR SINHA presently residing at Vill Mangal Sing Jote Post- Hatighisa Dist- Darjeeling Pin:734429 have changed my name from TAPASHI to TAPASHI ROY SINHA vide affidavit No. BC 688410.

## CHANGE OF NAME

I BHAGWAN JAGDEV ARAKHARAO is legally F/o No. 4581068A Nk Arakharao Shuddhodhan Bhagwan presently residing at Manav Kirana Shop Jawal, Bheemnagar Teh Barshitakali Rajanda Akola Maharashtra Pin-444006 have changed my name from BHAGWAN to BHAGWAN JAGDEV ARAKHARAO vide Affidavit No. BC 577849.

## CHANGE OF NAME

I ANJANA BHAGWAN ARAKHARAO is legally M/o No. 4581068A Nk Arakharao Shuddhodhan Bhagwan presently residing at Manav Kirana Shop Jawal, Bheemnagar Teh Barshitakali Rajanda Akola Maharashtra Pin-444006 have changed my name from ANJANA to ANJANA BHAGWAN ARAKHARAO vide Affidavit No. BC 577848.

## CHANGE OF NAME

I No. JC571118N SUB SWJIT KUMAR MONDAL s/o BALARAM MONDAL presently residing at 891/H/13 Ramkrishna Pally ward No - 02 Arambagh District : Hooghly State : West Bengal Pin : 712601 have changed my son's name from SABHYA SACHI MONDAL to SABHYASACHI MONDAL vide affidavit No. AY 497846.

## CHANGE OF NAME

I MANDA RAHUL JADHAV is legally wife of No. 4578989P Nk JADHAV RAHUL RAMNATH presently residing at PO - Shinde Nasik St - MH Pin: 422102 have changed my name from smt JADHAV MANDA RAHUL to MANDA RAHUL JADHAV and changed my DOB from 29/11/1988 to 29/05/1988 vide affidavit No. BC 401433.

# TEJASHWI ACCUSES CENTRE OF SNATCHING 1.3CR JOBS PER MONTH

Patna: Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Yadav on Saturday accused the Narendra Modi government of snatching 1.3 crore jobs per month.

"During the 2020 Bihar Assembly election, the NDA had promised to provide 19 lakh jobs to people. During the 2014 Lok Sabha election, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had promised two crore jobs and assured that 80 crore people of the country will be employed till 2022. Instead of providing jobs, this government has snatched 1.3 crore jobs per month," Tejashwi said in a tweet.

Unemployment is one of the key issues that the RJD leader has been raising against the BJP government and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar. During the 2020 Bihar Assembly election, Tejashwi had promised to give 10 lakh jobs in his first cabinet meeting if he was elected to power. The NDA leaders countered his claim with providing 19 lakh jobs to the youth of Bihar. The RJD leader had earlier said that the Prime Minister recently announced to give 10 lakh jobs in next one-and-a-half years. "Bihar government is claiming to provide 19 lakh jobs and the Centre is saying it will give 10 lakh jobs. Will 10 lakh jobs count from the 19 lakh jobs promised in Bihar?" Tejashwi asked.



# Idgah Maidan row: Hindu activists to go ahead with bandh on July 12

Bengaluru | Agencies

Hindu activists have decided to go ahead with the bandh plan demanding celebration of Hindu festivals at Idgah Maidan in Chamarajpet area of Bengaluru. The decision was taken even as Congress MLA Zameer Ahmad Khan has assured that the the Maidan will be preserved as a playground.

The convener of the Citizen's Forum Rukmangada at a press conference reiterated the earlier stand of observing bandh on July 12. "MLA Zameer Ahmad Khan seems to have lost his mind. He earlier claimed that if B.S. Yediyurappa became the Chief Minister, he would turn into a watchman. He never kept his word. There is no question of withdrawing the bandh," he said. "None from our organization attended the meeting where MLA Zameer Ahmad Khan said that Idgah Maidan will be used as a playground," he said.

However, when media persons asked him whether the celebration of Hindu



festivals would be allowed in the Idgah Maidan, Zameer Ahmad Khan did not answer the question and left the place. At least 25 Hindu organisations as well as local groups have joined hands to wage legal battle over the claims of the Wakf Board that Idgah Maidan is its property and it will only allow celebrations of national festivals.

The organisations are carrying out door to door campaign in Chamarajpet to create awareness for the need to retain the Idgah Maidan as a playground. They have also slammed the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike

(BBMP) for its dual stand over the property. Initially, BBMP claimed that Idgah Maidan is its property; later the civic agency denied it. Hindu organisations have slammed BBMP and urged the ruling BJP government to intervene and resolve the matter. The activists have also stated that as per the Supreme Court order, Muslims should be allowed to conduct prayers on two occasions in a year and rest of the days the ground should be used as a layground. Chamarajpet Citizens' Forum has confirmed that bandh will be observed in Chamarajpet and Hindu activists, local organisations will take out a bike rally on July 12 from Sirsi Circle to Idgah Maidan. Chamarajpet is home to sizable number of Muslim population represented by Congress MLA Zameer Ahmad Khan. Hindu activists have warned that he is not an MLA for only one religion. With BBMP elections round the corner and the state entering the election year the authorities are concerned about the develop-

ment.

# absolute india

People only see what they are prepared to see.  Ralph Waldo Emerson

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HEAVY RAINS CAUSE FLOODING IN SEVERAL CITIES, ORANGE ALERT IN MUMBAI TILL TUESDAY

## AQUATIC MAHARASHTRA

At least 130 villages in three districts of Maharashtra, all in the Marathwada and Vidarbha regions, were affected by heavy rains which caused floods in parts of these districts and at least 200 people were evacuated, but fortunately, no casualties are reported, officials said on Saturday. In the Gadchiroli district in east Maharashtra, communication with 128 villages is lost due to heavy rains.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Several parts of Maharashtra have been witnessing heavy rainfall over the past few days amidst the wet spell on the state since the onset of a tor-  
rential monsoon. The Mumbai Regional Meteorological Centre on Wednesday issued a heavy rainfall alert for the next five days for Mumbai, Thane and other parts of Maharashtra. It also issued an orange alert for Mumbai and Thane till July 10. On Thursday, as heavy rainfall lashed Mumbai, the Andheri Subway was waterlogged.

Severe water logging was also recorded in several parts of the metropolitan on Wednesday. On Tuesday, water logging was witnessed in Dadar and Sion, along with the overflowing of Powai Lake. The capital city has been witnessing heavy rain since Monday following which areas are waterlogged and traffic movement has been affected. On Tuesday, a landslide incident was reported in Ghatkopar's Panchsheel Nagar in Mumbai amidst heavy rains, demolishing a house. And on Wednesday, another landslide was reported near Pratapgarh Fort in Maharashtra's Satara district.

Several rivers in the state have reached the warning level. The Kundalika river has crossed the warning level and the water level of the Amba, Savitri, Patalganga, Ulhas and Garhi rivers is slightly below the warning level. The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) has deployed 17 teams in areas of Maharashtra that have reported heavy to very heavy rainfall.

Residents of two villages in Hingoli district of Maharashtra are being shifted to safety after heavy rainfall in the region caused flooding in Asana



### MUMBAI ON RED ALERT FOR FURTHER RAIN

Mumbai: Indian commuters walk through floodwaters past stranded motor vehicles after heavy torrential rains paralysed the city of Mumbai. In many areas, waterlogging led to huge traffic snarls and people were seen wading through brown and

black murky water which flooded the streets. Bus services and commuter trains - which are the lifeline of the city's transport system - were also disrupted, leaving people stranded on stations for hours. Traffic on a key national highway con-

necting Mumbai to the tourist state of Goa was diverted after a landslide in Chiplun city. Meanwhile, the IMD has also issued flood alerts for the southern state of Kerala and parts of Himalayan state of Himachal Pradesh amid incessant rains.

river. So far, at least 200 people have been evacuated. Parts of Hingoli district, located in Marathwada region of the state and around 200 kms from here, have been getting heavy showers over the past couple of days. Two men were washed away in the rain-swollen water bodies in separate incidents that occurred in Bhiwandi taluka of Maharashtra's Thane district.

Although the water level is slowly decreasing now, the administration has been shifting the residents of these villages to a Zilla Parishad school nearby, district collector Jitendra Papalkar said. No loss of human life has been reported so far and the situation is being monitored,

### TELANGANA ON ALERT

Hyderabad: The Telangana government on Saturday asked all departments to be on alert as heavy rains continued in many parts of the state. Chief Minister K. Chandrababu Naidu instructed Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar to alert all the departments concerned and take quick safety measures in the wake of incessant rains.

Following the red alert in Telangana and also in Maharashtra, the CM appealed to people not to take risks during heavy rains. He urged them not to venture out of their homes unless there is an emergency and take all precautions. In the wake of heavy inflows and flooding in River Godavari and Pranahitha, he alerted state irrigation officials and instructed them to take necessary steps.

he said. In the 24-hour period ending 8 am on Friday, Hingoli district recorded 230.70 mm rainfall, which is

### HEAVY RAINFALL HALTS KEDARNATH YATRA AGAIN

Rudrapur: Amid the ongoing heavy rainfall from Sonprayag onwards in Uttarakhand, the Kedarnath Yatra has been stopped once again for ensuring the safety of the pilgrims amid apprehensions of untoward incidents, the Rudrapur district administration informed on Saturday.

Badrinath highway was also blocked due to the falling of several boulders at the Birahi and Pagal Nala area, following the overnight rainfall on June 25. The India Meteorological Department has predicted isolated heavy rainfall over Uttarakhand on Sunday and Wednesday (July 10 and July 13). The IMD has also forecasted extremely heavy rainfall over Uttarakhand for today (Sunday, July 10).

## Angry protesters set fire to Sri Lanka PM's private house

### ANTI-GOVT PROTESTERS STORM SL PRESIDENT'S HOUSE

Colombo: Demanding the resignation of Gotabaya Rajapaksa, anti-government Sri Lankan protesters on Saturday stormed the President's House in Colombo braving several police and military barricades and tear gas shells.

Security forces fired teargas and water cannons to disperse the protesters but later withdrew and resorted to firing in the air.

At least 20 people have been hospitalised following violent clashes between the police and the protesters. Since early Saturday night, there were attempts to disperse the protesters and university students who had occupied the area near the President's House overnight.

The President's whereabouts are currently unknown but it is suspected that he is at the heavily-guarded Army headquarters in Battaramulla.

Susitha Fernando | Colombo

Anti-government protesters on Saturday set fire to Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe's private residence in the heart of Colombo after his security attacked them. The protesters, who marched to Colombo on Saturday morning demanding resignation of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and Prime Minister



Wickremesinghe, stormed the President's official residence, braving police, and later occupied the Prime Minister's official residence, the Temple Trees. Later, the protesters marched to Wickremesinghe's private residence in Colombo 7 and surrounded it, demanding that he step down. However, the police's elite Special Task Force (STF) attacked the protesters and six journalists from a private television station. Angered by the attack, the protesters had set fire to the house of Wickremesinghe who had left it with his wife. "Protesters have broken into the private residence of Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe and have set it on fire," the PM's office announced.

At the party leaders meeting summoned by the Speaker to solve the current crisis, Wickremesinghe had refused to resign from his post. Later he announced that he would resign once an all-party government is formed and a political group proved its majority in the parliament.

## CBI, I-T raid ex-NBCC official's house, Rs Two cr recovered

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), as well as the Income Tax (I-T) Department are conducting raids at the house of former NBCC officer D.K. Mittal in connection with the Prevention of Corruption Act. The CBI team reached the house on Friday night and have been searching the

house since then.

An I-T source said the Department was called to conduct raids after the CBI team recovered a huge amount of cash.

After the I-T team reached Mittal's house on Saturday morning, they counted the cash which turned out to be Rs 2 crore. Apart from the cash, jewellery was also recovered.

Mittal had recently retired from the NBCC and had been living in Sector 19 area of Noida.

The I-T officials are scanning the bank accounts of Mittal. They are checking the last three years transactions.

The CBI lodged the case under relevant sections of the Prevention of Corruption Act after which the raid was conducted.

## Jagan Mohan Reddy elected YSRCP president for lifetime

Guntur | Agencies

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has been elected the lifetime president of the ruling Yuva Jana Sramika Rythu Congress Party (YSRCP).

An announcement in this regard was made on the second and final day of the party plenary here on Saturday.

YSRCP general secretary V. Vijaysai Reddy, who was the returning officer for the election of the party president, announced the unanimous election of Jagan Mohan Reddy as the lifetime president of the party.

A total of 22 sets of nominations were filed on behalf of Jagan Mohan Reddy by YSRCP leaders on Friday. No other leader filed nomination for the post.

YSRCP leaders on the dais congratulated Jagan Reddy on his election. The participants



in the plenary hailed the announcement with loud cheers and slogans.

The YSRCP will now move the Election Commission of India (ECI) to convey that it has modified its constitution for Jagan Reddy's election as the YSRCP president for his lifetime. The party leaders are confident of getting ECI's nod. They cited the case of DMK, which was allowed by the Election Commission to name M. Karunanidhi as the party chief for life.

## Musk cancelled twitter deal, will pay \$1 bn as deal termination fee

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Tesla CEO Elon Musk, who has cancelled the \$44 billion Twitter buyout deal, will have to pay \$1 billion in termination fee to the micro-blogging platform. As per an earlier filing with the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), "Musk will be required to pay Twitter a termination fee of \$1 billion", if he cancels the deal.

Musk was expected to provide equity financing of approximately \$21 billion on his own. The Tesla CEO had said that Twitter is violating the terms of his \$54.20-per-share offer by refusing to give him more information about how much of the platform's traffic is driven by fake accounts. He then threatened to blow up the deal over the issue. With him terminating the deal, Tesla shares went up more than 14



per cent in after-hours trading on Friday, as investors reacted positively to Musk's move. Tesla shares rose 14.51 per cent to close at \$752.29. Musk in May committed to provide an additional \$6.25 billion in equity financing for his \$44 billion Twitter takeover, bringing his total equity commitment to \$33.5

billion and bringing relief for Tesla investors. Tesla stock had nosedived more than 30 per cent after Musk announced to fund his Twitter buyout by borrowing against his Tesla ownership stake. Twitter on Saturday announced to sue Musk over terminating the deal.

## VILLAGER BURNT ALIVE BY KANGAROO COURT IN ASSAM

Guwahati: A man has been allegedly burnt alive as a punishment by a village kangaroo court in Assam's Nagaon district. The man has been identified as Ranjit Bordoloi. The incident that took place in the Bor Lalung area of Nagaon district came to light only after the police had launched a search operation to find Bordoloi. According to reports, a few villagers claimed that the man was burned alive and the body was buried later. Police sources said on Saturday that Bordoloi was suspected to have killed a woman in the village earlier. A woman identified as Sabita Pator died under unnatural circumstances a few days back. The local village kangaroo court took up the matter in which Bordoloi reportedly admitted to killing the woman," a police source said. "Subsequently, an angry mob burnt him to death," the source added. Nagaon Superintendent of Police Leena Doley told reporter: "We have found the dead body. The circumstances which led to the incident are being investigated."

## India logs 18,840 new Covid cases, 43 deaths

New Delhi | Agencies

India on Saturday reported 18,840 Covid infections, a marginal rise against previous day's 18,815 count in a span of 24 hours, as per the Union Health Ministry data.

In the same period, 43 fatalities took the nationwide death toll to 5,25,386.

Meanwhile, the active caseload has also risen to 1,25,028 cases, accounting for 0.29 per cent of the total positive cases.

The recovery of 16,104 patients in the last 24 hours took the cumulative tally to 4,29,53,980. Consequently, India's recovery rate stands at 98.51 per cent.

Meanwhile, the Daily Positivity rate has marginally dropped to 4.14 per cent, while the Weekly Positivity Rate currently stands at 4.09



per cent. Also in the same period, a total of 4,54,778 tests were conducted across the country, increasing the overall tally to over 86.61 crore. As of this morning, the Covid-19 vaccination coverage exceeded 198.65 crore, achieved via 2,60,37,032 sessions. Over 3.74 crore adolescents have been administered with a first dose of Covid-19 jab since the beginning of vaccination drive for this age bracket.

## INTERMITTENT FASTING MAY REDUCE COMPLICATIONS FROM COVID-19: STUDY

New York | Agencies

In the study, researchers identified 205 patients who had tested positive for the virus between March 2020 and February 2021 -- before vaccines were widely available.

Of these, 73 said they regularly fasted at least once a month. Researchers found that those who practised regular fasting had a lower rate of hospitalisation or death due to coronavirus.

While Horne said that more research is needed to understand why intermittent fasting is associated with better Covid outcomes, he said it's most likely due to a host of ways that it affects the body.

For example, fasting reduces inflammation, especially since hyperinflammation is associated with poor Covid-19 outcomes. In addition, after 12 to 14 hours of fasting, the body switches from using glucose in the blood to ketones, including linoleic acid.

People who regularly fast are less likely to experience severe complications from Covid-19, suggests a study. Intermittent fasting has previously shown to have a host of health benefits, including lowering the risk of diabetes and heart disease. The findings, published week in BMJ Nutrition, Prevention & Health, showed that Covid patients who practised regular water-only intermittent fasting had lower risk of hospitalisation or dying due to the virus than patients who did not. "Intermittent fasting has already shown to lower inflammation and improve cardiovascular health. In this study, we're finding additional benefits when it comes to battling an infection of Covid-19 in patients who have been fasting for decades," said Benjamin Horne, director of cardiovascular and genetic epidemiology at Intermountain Healthcare in the US. "Intermittent fasting was not associated with whether or not someone tested positive Covid-19, but it was associated with lower severity once patients had tested positive for it," Horne said. "There's a pocket on the surface of SARS-CoV-2 that linoleic acid fits into -- and can make the virus less able to attach to other cells," he said. Another potential benefit is that intermittent fasting promotes



autophagy, which is "the body's recycling system that helps your body destroy and recycle damaged and infected cells", Horne added. Horne stressed that these results are from

people who have been practising intermittent fasting for decades -- not weeks -- and that anyone who wants to consider the practice should consult their doctors first, especially if they are old-

erly, pregnant, or have conditions like diabetes, heart, or kidney disease. Researchers also stressed intermittent fasting shouldn't be seen as a substitute for Covid vaccination.



# LIGHTNING STRIKES KILL 16 PEOPLE IN MP IN LAST 3 DAYS

Team Absolute | Indore

At least 16 people were killed due to lightning strikes in different parts of Madhya Pradesh in the last three days.

On Saturday morning, a 60-year-old woman died on the spot after she was struck by lightning in Shivpuri.

The victim's son has been hospitalised with severe burn injuries.

On Friday, six college students who had gone on a picnic at a forest area Sheopur district were also struck, leading to the deaths of three while the remaining were severely injured and admitted to the Gwalior Medical College.

In another incident in Bhind, two women identified as Ramkali (70) and Gyanodevi (40) died in Sukand village.

In Chhatarpur, a mother and her son died on the spot while working in their farm in Maharajganj village. Another 50-year-old woman farmer died under similar circumstances in Amarwan village in other incidents,



a 35-year-old from Shivpuri, and two adults in their 30s and 40s in Gwalior also died due to the same reason. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a

warning of lightning and thunderstorms in eight districts of Madhya Pradesh. "We are witnessing heavy rainfall in many parts of the state due to a low-pressure area in central

Madhya Pradesh. In Gwalior-Chambal region, there was a lot of lightning activity due to the formation of cumulonimbus clouds on Wednesday," Vedprakash Sharma, IMD scientist and radar head in Bhopal, said.

Sharma said that due to climate change, lightning incidents during monsoon have increased.

The IMD has predicted heavy rain with thunderstorms and lightning in several parts of the state including Sheopur, Shivpuri, adjoining parts of Guna, Agar, Rajgarh, Neemuch, Mandasaur, Ujjain, Bhind, Ratlam, Dholawad, Shajapur during Saturday afternoon.

IMD scientists said Madhya Pradesh recorded the highest number of cloud formation and lightning incidents across the country in 2021.

"With predictions of lightning and thunderstorms, it is necessary to issue warnings at village levels through public display and announcement systems. The MP government should make arrangements," said an official.

# Tribal woman set on fire over land dispute in Guna, dies

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A tribal woman who was set ablaze by a group of men over a land dispute, succumbed to her injuries in Hamidia hospital here, police said on Saturday.

She had received 80 per cent burn injuries.

Rampyari Bai, a resident of Dhaneria village under Guna district, was set on fire by a group of villagers for resisting encroachment on her land. Enraged over her constant resistance, the group of villagers allegedly set her afire at the village on July 2.

Medical superintendent of Hamidia hospital, Dr Ashish Gohiya confirmed that the woman passed away on Friday night. He said that the body has been handed over to her family for last rites.

The woman belonged to the Saharia tribe, which has been classified as a particularly vulnerable tribal group.

As per her complaint lodged with the police, six bigha land that the accused were trying to encroach upon was reportedly allotted to



Rampyari Bai's family under a chief minister's welfare scheme launched by the former Digvijaya Singh government.

Reports say that the local administration had also settled a dispute pertaining to the land in the family's favour in May this year. But still, the miscreants didn't budge from their stand and continued to make attempts to encroach upon their land.

The incident sparked a nationwide outrage and various agencies and people

condemned the incident demanding arrest and stringent punishment to the culprits.

Police had arrested five persons, including two women, in connection with the incident. A video, purportedly shot by the accused, went viral on social media, in which the woman was seen crying in pain, with smoke all around her.

The person shooting the video was heard saying the woman had torched herself.

# CM Chouhan plants saplings of Peepal, Neem and Almond

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted Peepal, Neem and Almond saplings in the Smart City Park today. Vijay Budhwani, Pawan Bhaduria, Rakesh Malik, Amit Chaurasia and Rakesh Singh of Mahadev Campus Welfare Society also took part in the plantation.

Society is working continuously for environment protection and cleanliness.

Along with this, special activities are also being conducted to motivate all the residents for cleanliness, waste segregation and composting every day. The society has received the award of the



cleanest residents association of zone number-9.

**Importance of plants**  
The Peepal planted today is a shady tree, which purifies the environment. It has religious and Ayurvedic signifi-

cance. Rich in antibiotic elements, Neem is known as the supreme medicine. Almond is a fruit. Technically, it is the seed of the almond fruit. The almond tree bears pink and white fragrant flowers.

## CM CHOUHAN GREETES PEOPLE OF STATE ON EID-UL-AZHA

Bhopal : Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has felicitated and extended his good wishes to the people of the state on Eid-ul-Azha.

CM Chouhan has said that this festival gives a message of sacrifice, devotion and mutual trust and inspires to strengthen humanity and brotherhood.

CM Chouhan has appealed to celebrate the festival of Eid-ul-Azha with peace, harmony and accord as per the glorious tradition of India.

# MP Assembly's Monsoon Session likely to be postponed to August

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Monsoon Session of Madhya Pradesh Assembly, scheduled to start from July 25, is likely to be postponed to August in view of the elections to the posts of chairpersons of rural and urban local bodies.

Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Narottam Mishra, on Friday met with the Leader of Opposition (LoP), Govind Singh, over the issue. Mishra told the press that the opposition has agreed with the government's stand to postpone the session. The letter of consensus will now be submitted to the state's Governor.

Mishra further informed that the state government will make a demand to the governor to postpone the assembly session. Government spokesperson and Home Minister, Narottam Mishra said that the session of the Legislative



Assembly in the state is from July 25. At the same time, apart from Janpad Panchayat, Zila Panchayat, there are also elections for the Presidents of Municipality Council.

"On this basis, we will write a letter to the Governor demanding that the assembly session be called in August," said Mishra. The BJP also proposed to the

Leader of the Opposition to demand extension of the date of counting of votes, scheduled on July 18.

Counting of votes of local body polls, which are scheduled on July 17 and 18 are also likely to be postponed for one or two days in view of voting for the Presidential election. "The MLAs will be in Bhopal to vote for the Presidential elections. The counting of votes for the second phase of urban body elections is to be held on the same day. The five-day monsoon session of the Madhya Pradesh Assembly will start from July 25," an official had said on Wednesday.

However, the opposition Congress in the state has demanded that the Monsoon Session duration be increased to 20 days. "The Monsoon Session of the Madhya Pradesh Assembly will begin on July 25 and continue till July 29," an assembly official had said.

## TWEETS THAT HURT SENTIMENTS SHOULD BE STOPPED: HM TO TWITTER CEO



Bhopal | Madhya Pradesh Home Minister Dr Narottam Mishra has written a letter to Twitter CEO Parag Aggarwal amid the controversy over the black film. In this letter, he has urged to take steps to stop tweets hurting religious sentiments and disturbing social harmony. In the letter written by Home Minister Dr Mishra, it has been said that Twitter currently holds global importance in communication and exchange of information, it has been seen for a long time that some mischievous elements are religious in the desire of cheap popularity and quick success. Through Twitter, such commentary comments and illustrations on topics that are completely undesirable as well as disturb social harmony and hurt the sentiments of a particular religion.

Home Minister Mishra has further written that this type of subject matter should be examined before publication on Twitter and in case it is objectionable, it should not be put on Twitter. Along with this, those who try to spread such material repeatedly in the society through Twitter should be identified and their account banned.

The State Home Minister has expressed hope to the CEO of Twitter that he will take concrete steps in this direction, so that Twitter can work more effectively in its original purpose. It is to be known that in the past, many pictures have been shared on Twitter regarding the black film and there has also been a situation of controversy regarding this.

# Uma Bharti slams Shivraj; seeks Nadda's intervention on liquor policy

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Veteran BJP leader and former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Uma Bharti on Saturday wrote a letter to the party president J.P. Nadda, seeking his intervention on the liquor policy in the BJP-ruled state.

Expressing her concern over the liquor policy implemented by the Shivraj Singh Chouhan-led government, Bharti said she has been opposing it for few months, but now she is feeling "suffocated".

Earlier, Bharti made headlines on the issue either by throwing stones at liquor shop or sitting on protest in front of liquor shops and



expressing her resentment against top BJP leadership, including Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Chouhan. However, for the first time, she took this issue publicly to the party's national president. Bharti made the letter public on her Twitter account. In her three-page

letter, Bharti has attacked Chouhan mentioning that: "You (Shivraj) respect me a lot and also you know me very well that I do not go against party's set of rules, but I do not compromise with subjects that are related with my faith." Bharti further mentioned

whenever she had a discussion on the liquor policy issue with Chouhan, she always maintained secrecy, because she was convinced that a positive result will come out. "It made me a subject of mockery and criticism," she added.

She further wrote, "Demand of ban on liquor sale in Madhya Pradesh is not my personal arrogance, but it is subject of respect of women, safety of families, which is directly connected with livelihood of youth and social harmony."

Bharti appealed to Nadda to discuss this issue with senior party leaders and frame an unified liquor policy for all BJP ruled states.

## 81.92 PERCENT VOTING IN LAST PHASE OF THREE-TIER PANCHAYAT ELECTIONS

Bhopal : In the third and final phase of the three-tier Panchayat General Election-2022, peaceful polling was held in all 92 development blocks. Total 81.92 percent estimated voting has taken place. Of these, 81.60 percent are female, 82.60 percent are male and 12.12 percent are other voters.

## CM CHOUHAN EXPRESSES GRIEF OVER THE PASSING AWAY OF SADHNA GUPTA

Bhopal : Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has expressed grief over the demise of Sadhna Gupta, wife of former Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Mulayam Singh Yadav. CM Chouhan has prayed for the peace of the departed soul and strength to the bereaved family members to bear this intolerable loss.

# 3 children drowned

Team Absolute | Bhopal

In Bhopal, the capital of Madhya Pradesh, three girls who had gone to bathe in the water filled in the pit died due to drowning. Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has expressed grief over this accident. According to the information received, on Friday, three girls, who were seven to 12 years old, went to bathe in water filled in a pit in Berasia area of the capital. All three died due to drowning in the water.

Expressing grief over the accident in Berasia area of



Bhopal, Chief Minister Chouhan said that this news is heart breaking. He has prayed to God to give peace to the souls of the children and strength to their families to bear the loss. Chief Minister Chouhan has directed the District Administration, Bhopal to provide financial assistance to the families of the deceased children.

## STATE GOVERNMENT ISSUES HELPLINE NUMBER FOR AMARNATH PILGRIMS

Bhopal : The state government has issued a helpline number for getting information and helping the citizens of the state who are trapped due to cloudburst during the Amarnath Yatra. For information and help from the cities of the state, the helpline number is 181 and for information from outside the state the helpline number is 0755-2555582.

# My 15 months tops 15 years of Shivraj government: Kamal Nath

Team Absolute | Bhopal

State President of Congress's Madhya Pradesh unit Kamal Nath has accused Shivraj Singh Chouhan of lying and said that the development work done in 15 months of his government is heavy on 15 years of Shivraj government. Former Chief Minister and State President of Congress Kamal Nath has tweeted and said, "Being afraid of my 15-month government's resolve to do public friendly works, public friendly schemes, development works, change the direction of the state, then my government is in the middle of bargaining and bidding." It was demolished and now they are serving the lie that my government has not done any development work.

Kamal Nath has claimed that Shivraj ji, the work of 15 months of my government is still heavy on your 15 years of government. The witness of this is the people of the state themselves.

Kamal Nath further said, "I challenge you every day to come to the public after taking your 15 years' account and I also bring my 15 months' account, the public will decide for itself."



Referring to the problems of the public, Kamal Nath said, "If you had done public interest in the last 15 years, you would not have wandered like this today and even today you do not have to show false dreams that are misguided by false declarations.

# Madhya Pradesh HC stays construction of Adi Shankaracharya statue

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Madhya Pradesh High Court has stayed the construction work of 108-foot high statue of Adi Shankaracharya to be built on a 54-foot high platform in Omkareshwar in Khandwa district.

The division bench headed by Chief Justice Ravi Malimath and Justice Vishal Mishra has also issued a notice to the state government and sought a response in view of the damage to nature and neglect of the local public faith.

The court's decision came while hearing a petition challenging the construction of 'Statue of Oneness' (Adi Shankaracharya), an ambitious project of the BJP-led state government. The petitioner -- Lokhit Abhiyan Samiti (an Indore-based NGO) had opposed the cutting of trees and digging up of the mountain.

During the hearing, the counsellor appearing for the NGO argued that "cutting of number of trees and digging of the mountain for construction of the 'Statue of Oneness' would damage natural beauty of the area". Upon hearing, the court



issued a notice to the state government and sought a response in view of the damage to nature and neglect of local public faith by this project. The court also summoned a reply from the Khandwa Collector, DFO and Revenue Officer and the State Archaeological Department.

Notably, Shivraj Singh Chouhan's cabinet had approved the proposal to build a 108-foot tall statue of the 8th century Indian philosopher Adi Shankaracharya, along with a museum dedicated to him and an International Advaita Vedanta Sansthan at Omkareshwar at a cost of Rs 2,141 crore. Shankaracharya is known for consolidating the doctrine of Advaita Vedanta, a Hindu school of philosophy. On November 5 last year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a 12-foot statue of Shankaracharya at the Kedarnath Temple in Uttarakhand.

## SEC SHRI SINGH CONDOLES DEATH OF 2 EMPLOYEES DURING ELECTION DUTY

Bhopal : State Election Commissioner Basant Pratap Singh has expressed grief over the abrupt demise of two employees while on election duty. Singh has prayed has prayed for the peace of the departed souls and strength to their families to bear this immense loss.

It is noteworthy that in the three-tier panchayat general election, polling officer number 2 of polling centre no. 7 of Shajapur district Gram Panchayat Bhawan, Kadala, Rameshwar Dadaniya, assistant teacher, Government Secondary School, Pipliya Indore, died suddenly on July 8. In-charge Tehsildar Ganesh Deshbhrtar died in a road accident in Maihar while on Panchayat election duty in Satna district.

State Election Commissioner Singh has directed to grant ex-gratia amount of Rs.8 lakh each to the next of kin of both the deceased.



# CONG CHARGES BJP OF 'TALIBANIZING' INDIA IN VEIL OF NATIONALISM

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In a blistering attack, the Congress on Saturday accused the Bharatiya Janata Party of 'bloodying' the country's atmosphere in the guise of 'hypocritical nationalism', and labelled it as a 'Bharat Jalao Party' against the backdrop of a spate of violent incidents across India.

AICC spokesperson Ajay Kumar said in the recent past weeks, there have been several instances like the Pulwama killing, murder of Kanhaiya Lal in Udaipur, a jailed terror financier Niranjan Hojai in Assam, in which the BJP's links have emerged, "tearing the veil" of its hollow nationalism.

Detailing the incidents at a media conference, he alleged that the BJP's activists were involved in some of these killings and terror activities in the country.

"A prime accused in the Udaipur killing - one Mohammed Atari - turned out to be a BJP worker and employed with a company of a BJP leader Gulabchand Kataria's son-in-law, and enjoys close ties with several senior BJP leaders," said Dr. Kumar.

Similarly, one of the two Lashkar-e-Taiba militants captured in Jammu & Kashmir, Talib Hussain Shah, is a BJP office-bearer and his photos with Union Home Minister Amit Shah have gone viral, while another BJP leader and a Sarpanch, Tariq Ahmed Mir was nabbed in J&K in 2020 on charges of supplying arms to terrorists, he added.

Maharashtra Congress Chief Spokesperson Atul Londhe said in the June 2022 murder of a pharma-



chemist Umesh Kolhe in Amravati, the prime accused Irfan Khan had taken part in the election campaign of local independent MP Navneet Kaur-Rana and her husband MLA Ravi Rana.

"The links between the BJP and the Rana couple are no secret... The Amravati killing occurred on June 21, the Udaipur murder took place on June 28, yet Navneet Kaur-Rana wrote a letter to Amit Shah on June 27, demanding the NIA should probe the matter. How did she know about the incident one day in advance? Was it all pre-planned?" Londhe demanded. In the local body elections in Srinagar, the BJP had fielded Mohammed Farooq Khan, a supporter of the terrorist Masood Azhar, while a Dy.SP of J&K Devendra Singh was arrested for

transporting two militants to Delhi."The then Lt. Governor had written a letter saying that it would not be in the national interest to probe the matter. Where is Devendra Singh now? He was in Pulwama during the February 24, 2019 terror attacks and it is still not clear from where the 200 kg RDX used in it came from," said Kumar. Following the Indian Airlines plane hijack (1999), the former BJP government had released the Jaish-e-Mohammed dreaded terrorist Masood Azhar at Kandahar in December 1999, and he later masterminded the attacks on Indian Parliament (December 13, 2001), the November 26, 2008 Mumbai terror attacks and Pulwama strike in February 2019.

In Madhya Pradesh, a Bajrang Dal activist Balram Singh was arrested in 2019 in a terror funding matter, and earlier in 2017, Dhruv Saxena of the BJP's IT Cell was linked with Pakistan's ISI in an illegal telephone exchange case, said Dr. Kumar.

Labelling the BJP as 'Bharat Jalao Party,' he said it is not in the national interest to ally with terrorists and sell-out the country's interests -- and cited the examples of former Congress Prime Ministers who sacrificed their lives without compromising on the nation's security. Referring to the Amravati incident, Londhe said though it has been over a fortnight since Kolhe was killed, Navneet Rana goes around performing poojas everywhere instead of visiting the Kolhe home to console the family. The Kumar-Londhe duo said that the 'Bharatiya Jhootha Party' is attempting to Talibanize India, but the Congress will not allow it at any cost.

# Maha CM Eknath Shinde to expand cabinet in a couple of days

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Asserting that there is no political agenda vis-a-vis the first visit to the national capital with Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis after forming the government in Maharashtra, Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Saturday said the portfolio allocation would take place after Aashadhi Ekadashi that falls on Sunday.

Ahead of their meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Shinde and Fadnavis addressed media here. Incidentally, Shinde did much of the talking after a two line introduction by Fadnavis.

Answering a question about portfolio allocation, Shinde said, "Tomorrow is Aashadhi Ekadashi. We (Shinde and Fadnavis) will meet in Mumbai after that and then discuss portfolio allocation."

Aashadhi Ekadashi witnesses the largest congregation of devotees from across Maharashtra gathering at Pandharpur in Satara district after walking on foot for



almost a month. The main puja is led by the Chief Minister and his wife every year. To a question if the government will last (the remaining) two and a half years (term of the assembly), Shinde claimed, "We will not just last the remaining term but also win the next polls with 200 MLAs."

Shinde refused to comment on the issue of Shiv Sena approaching the Supreme Court challenging the formation of the government and election of Speaker and said, "The matter is sub-judice. I don't want to talk about it. Ultimately, in a

democracy, all that matters is numbers and majority. We are 164 and therefore we are in majority. We have a Constitution, there is a law, and there are rules. Nobody can venture outside that frame. We have formed the government as per rules, nothing is illegal and we have full faith in the judiciary."

Earlier, after landing in Delhi on Friday evening, the duo called on President Ram Nath Kovind, Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, and also BJP president J.P. Nadda as part of what they termed as 'courtesy meetings'.

# Maha Covid-19 tally crosses 80 lakh, fatalities inch towards 148K

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Covid-19 cumulative tally in Maharashtra crossed the 8-million mark - which is below The Netherlands and above Iran - since the outbreak of the pandemic in the state in March 2020, health officials said here on Saturday.

The state on Saturday notched 2,760 fresh infections, and the total shot up to 80,01,433 total cases, recorded in the past 26 months.

In comparison, The Netherlands has declared 82,31,077 cases till date, while Iran has reported 72,46,707 cases on date, standing at No 16 and No 17, respectively, on the Worldometer.

Maharashtra's Covid-19 fatalities have touched 147,976 - which is just below



France's 150,017, though that European nation figures at No 4 in the world with 3,21,15,604 total cases till date as per Worldometer data. Exactly a month ago, on June 9, Maharashtra had touched the 79 lakh cases mark, and the state has maintained a healthy recovery rate of 97.92 percent plus a low fatality rate of 1.84 percent. In the past 26 months, Pune and Mumbai have been

the worst hit by Covid-19, both in terms of cases and deaths, among the 36 districts in the state.

Pune's tally has touched 14,72,905 cases with 20,549 deaths, and Mumbai is next with 11,17,474 cases and 19,624 fatalities, while Washim reported the lowest number of infections - 46,329 cases, and Hingoli has notched the lowest deaths - 514 deaths, till now.

# BJP assured us it won't target Uddhav Thackeray: Kesarkar

Amid Eknath Shinde's rebellion, the BJP had promised not to target Shiv Sena president Uddhav Thackeray and his family, a spokesperson of the rebel Sena faction claimed here on Saturday.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

BJP leader Kirit Somaiya, who often accused the previous Thackeray-led government in Maharashtra of corruption, told him that he was unaware of this "understanding," rebel Shiv Sena MLA Deepak Kesarkar told reporters here.

Kesarkar and some other rebel MLAs had earlier expressed disapproval of Somaiya's continued tirade against Thackeray.

"When we (rebel Sena MLAs) returned from Guwahati and held a meeting with BJP leaders, we made it clear that we have hurt the head of our family (Thackeray), but we will not allow any criticism against him," he said.

Devendra Fadnavis agreed with this, and when



Somaiya continued to attack Thackeray, Fadnavis had a word with him, Kesarkar said.

"Somaiya called me today and said he wasn't aware of the understanding reached between us and Fadnavis," he added.

Kesarkar further said that in the last two-and-half years (when the Thackeray-led coalition government was in power), all Sena leaders, MLAs and ordinary workers protested against anyone who levelled allegations against the Thackeray family.

On Friday, Thackeray had alleged that the rebel Sena legislators had kept mum when the BJP was levelling allegations against him and his family. "Like us, Fadnavis also respects Uddhav-ji," Kesarkar said. Senior Sena leader Eknath Shinde became chief minister last month after rebelling against Thackeray and toppling his government with support from the BJP.

# Ex-Mumbai top cop questioned by CBI in phone tapping of NSE employees

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has questioned former Mumbai Police Commissioner Sanjay Pandey for allegedly tapping phones of employees of National Stock Exchange of India Limited (NSE) between 2009 and 2017.

On the directives of the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, the CBI registered a new case against former NSE Chief Chitra Ramkrishna.

The statement of Pandey was recorded at CBI's Mumbai headquarters. He was let off after questioning on Friday. However, he was asked, as per CBI sources, that he can be called again to join the investigation.

The CBI on Friday had conducted



raids in Mumbai, Pune and several other parts of the country in connection with the NSE case. The CBI source said that between

2009 and 2017, the phones of employees of NSE were illegally tapped by Ramkrishna and Pandey.

"Pandey ran iSec Securities Private Ltd. It has been alleged that Ramkrishna used this firm to tap the phone of NSE employees. The phone calls made by NSE employees between 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. were tapped and recorded by iSec Securities Pvt Ltd. It has been alleged that Pandey helped in tapping the phone calls illegally," the source added. The source said that they would record the statements of the persons involved in the case.

The source added that this fresh case was recently lodged by the CBI. Further investigation in the matter is underway.

# Maha Speaker asks DGP to ensure cows are not slaughtered on Bakrid

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra Assembly Speaker Rahul Narvekar has written a letter to the state Director General of Police (DGP) Rajnish Seth, instructing him to ensure that the cows are not slaughtered on the day of Bakrid. According to an agency, in a letter to Maharashtra DGP, the Maharashtra Assembly Speaker said, "The police should ensure that the cows are not slaughtered on the day of Bakrid on July 10."

Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) has written a letter to the Speaker of the Assembly demanding that the slaughter of cows be stopped, on which the Speaker of the Assembly directed the Maharashtra Police DGP, an agency reported.

Meanwhile, Karnataka Animal Husbandry Minister Prabhu B Chavan has also appealed to people not to sacrifice cattle for the Bakrid festival while warning of stern action against the offenders. The Minister emphasised the



Cow Slaughter Prohibition Act has already been in force in Karnataka. He instructed the officials of the Animal Husbandry Department and the Police Department to keep an eagle eye on the illegal movement of cows and beef to/from outside the state and be proactive in preventing cow slaughter, agency reported.

# 3 DIE, 47 FALL ILL AFTER DRINKING POLLUTED WATER IN AMRAVATI

Mumbai: Three persons died and 47 fell ill after drinking polluted water from open wells in two villages of Maharashtra's Amravati district, an official said on Saturday.

As per a statement issued by the chief minister's office (CMO), the affected persons belonged to Paach Dongri and Koylari villages of Melaghat in Amravati.

Chief Minister Eknath Shinde has announced compensation of ₹ 5 lakh each to the family of the victims, it was stated.

Earlier in the day, Eknath Shinde, who is currently in Delhi, phoned the collector of Amravati and directed that medical treatment be provided to the affected persons at the earliest and if needed, they be admitted to a private hospital, the statement said.

At least 50 persons fell ill after consuming polluted water from open wells and of these, three have died. The victims suffered from diarrhoea, it said.

The district collector informed the chief minister that condition of some patients was critical. To which, Eknath Shinde asked him to ensure that all efforts are taken to see that the toll does not rise.

# Bombay HC thwarts Kerala CPM leader's son's bid to settle sexual abuse case

The Bombay High Court (HC) on Saturday thwarted an attempt by Kerala CPM State Secretary Kodiyeeri Balakrishnan's son Benoy Kodiyeeri's bid to settle an alleged sexual abuse case involving him.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Benoy and the complainant were on a mutual understanding for an out-of-court settlement and approached the court to terminate the litigation.

However, a division bench of the Bombay HC refused to hear the mutual application filed by Benoy and the woman seeking to end the court proceedings.

The Mumbai-based woman, who is originally from Bihar, had approached the Mumbai Police in 2019 to file an alleged sexual abuse case against Benoy that took place 10 years ago.

The woman had filed a complaint at Mumbai's Oshiwara police station on June 13, 2019, saying that her son who is aged 11 years was fathered by Benoy.

The police had registered an FIR against the CPM leader's son under alleged charges of sexual abuse and criminal intimidation. Benoy had said that the woman was blackmailing him but the



court had ordered a paternity test and the results are awaited.

According to the woman, Benoy was in a relationship with her since 2008 when she was working in a dance bar in Dubai and had promised to marry her.

But when she came to know that Benoy was already married, she decided to file a complaint with the police.

In the complaint, the woman said that she became pregnant in 2009 and Benoy had moved her to a flat in Andheri West, Mumbai, and on July 22, 2010, her son was born.

She said that Benoy used to take care of her and had paid the rent for the accommodation.

However, in 2018 the CPM leader's son was charged in a financial fraud case she inquired about him and found that he was already married.

The woman was then threatened by Benoy and his powerful relatives and hence she lodged a complaint with the police.



# Kirsten, Jesse tie the knot in Jamaica

Los Angeles | Agencies

Kirsten Dunst, known for her work in 'Spiderman' (2002) and most recently in Jane Campion's 'The Power of the Dog', has married her partner for six years (and co-star) Jesse Plemons ('Breaking Bad', 'Black Mirror') in Jamaica after six years of togetherness. The couple started dating in 2016 after getting to know each other while working together on the second season of FX's ' Fargo'; they got engaged the following year, reports The Hollywood Reporter.

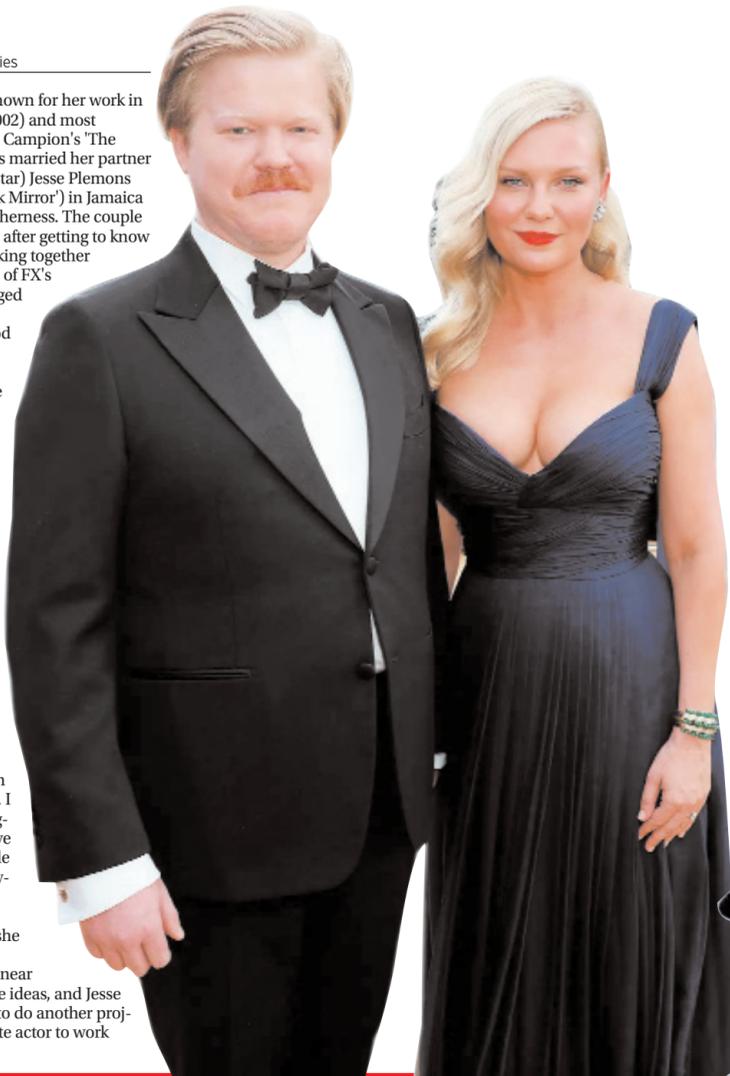
Further details about the nuptials are awaited by the pair, who share sons Ennis, 4, and James, 14 months.

In February, Dunst told Los Angeles Times about the couple's hope to soon make things official.

"We call each other husband and wife," Dunst, said at the time.

"But we have to get married at this point. It's ridiculous. We just haven't planned a wedding. There was Covid, then we had another child. I didn't want to be pregnant, get married, have a party and not be able to have fun with everybody."

In an interview the actress said she hoped to work with Plemons again in the near future. "We have some ideas, and Jesse and I definitely want to do another project." "He's my favourite actor to work with."



# Vijay Amritraj documentary in the works with Sami Khan

Los Angeles | Agencies

Former Indian tennis player and actor Vijay Amritraj, who was a part of the Indian team which reached the final of Davis Cup in 1974 and 1987, is now a subject of a documentary directed by Oscar nominated filmmaker Sami Khan, who had earlier directed St. Louis Superman, reports Deadline.

The untitled feature is being executive produced by Calabasas partners Kapil



Mahendra and Paul Beahan, apart from Prakash Amritraj and Dhaval Desai. Documentary will chart Amritraj's rise from his childhood in India, overcoming serious health issues, to his emergence as a top player in the 1970s and 1980s, when he defeated Jimmy Connors, Bjorn Borg and John McEnroe in their primes.

Sami Khan said in a statement, "Vijay Amritraj was a legend and inspiration in my house growing up and it's an absolute honour to help tell his story. Amritraj was a pioneer among South Asian athletes, and I know our film will have urgent resonance today. Kapil, Paul, Prakash, and Dhaval are amazing partners on this journey, and I can't wait to share Amritraj's tale with audiences soon."

Along with elder brother Anand, Vijay Amritraj, who was awarded the Padma Shri in 1983, was an integral part of the Indian team that boycotted the 1974 Davis Cup final against South Africa to protest

Apartheid. Vijay is also the elder brother of Ashok Amritraj (himself a former tennis player), the long-time film producer and CEO of Hyde Park Entertainment.

Los Angeles | Agencies

Legendary guitarist Carlos Santana, who was rushed to hospital after he passed out on stage during a Michigan concert earlier this week, has postponed the next five shows of his 'Miraculous Supernatural 2022' tour with Earth, Wind & Fire, reports Variety.

Santana's manager said in a statement that the postponements were made "out of an abundance of caution for the artist's health," reports variety. The announcement adds that all shows as planned, beginning July 23 in Paso Robles, California, through the end of 2022 are still confirmed and will be performed as scheduled. As per Variety, a representative of Santana said that the incident earlier this week was due to serious heat exhaustion and dehydration. Variety quoted Vriomis, President, Universal Tone Management, saying: "I regret to inform you that the Santana band has postponed tonight's show at Ruoff Music Center Noblesville, Indiana."

# Julius Onah to direct fourth 'Captain America' film

Los Angeles | Agencies

The fourth film of the superhero series 'Captain America' is set to roll the camera under the wings of director Julius Onah, who is known for his work on 'The Cloverfield Paradox' and 'Luce'. The movie, which will star Anthony Mackie, will build on the events from the 2021 OTT series, 'The Falcon and the Winter Soldier', reports 'Variety'. That show's creator and head writer, Malcolm Spellman, is writing the screenplay with Dalan Musson, a staff writer on the series. As per 'Variety', on the show, Mackie's Sam Wilson struggles to accept the



mantle of Captain America that Steve Rogers (Chris Evans) gave him at the end of 2019's 'Avengers: Endgame' ultimately learning to accept the title and the cultural weight that comes with it.

'Variety' further states that the film does not yet have an official title or release date, but expectations are high that Marvel Studios could announce both later this month at San Diego Comic-Con, where the studio will be presenting for the first time since 2019 after SDCC was cancelled in 2020 and 2021 due to the pandemic.



Santana pushes back show dates following onstage collapse



Los Angeles | Agencies

Sarah Jayne Dunn is never shy showing off her bikini body and hit headlines earlier this year for joining OnlyFans. And she showcased her toned physique in a black bikini as she soaked up the sun on holiday in Marbella on Saturday, reports dailymail.com. The former Hollyoaks actress looked sensational as she topped up her tan and strolled along the sand while hitting the beach.

Styling her blonde locks into beachy waves, the racy model opted for a full coverage makeup look despite her day in the sun. She looked like she was having a great time on her holiday while relaxing by the sea and was seen chatting with a pal before checking her phone.

SARAH JAYNE DUNN SHOWS OFF HER SIZZLING PHYSIQUE

Los Angeles | Agencies

The drama surrounding Johnny Depp's multi-million-dollar defamation lawsuit against his ex-wife Amber Heard, refuses to die. The things have turned judicially weird, as a wrong juror took the chair during the legal proceedings, reports 'Deadline'.

A partially redacted new filing by the Aquaman star's legal team, accessed by

'Deadline', read, "Ms. Heard had a right to rely on the basic protection, as prescribed by the Virginia Code, that the jurors in this trial would be individuals who were actually summoned for jury duty."

"In this case, it appears that Juror No. 15 was not, in fact, the same individual as listed on the jury panel," attorney

Elaine Bredehoft added in language similar to a previous filing of June 24.

"Ms. Heard's due process was therefore compromised. Under these circumstances, a mistrial should be declared, and a new trial ordered."

According to the recent filing, it seems that there are two individuals residing at the same

address with, at the very least, "the same last name" - one a 77 and another a 52-year-old.

The former was the one summoned, but it looks like the latter was the one who showed up.

Unaware of this at the time and during the media-frenzied trial, Heard's defence team now wants an explanation and to see some consequences, which could take the shine off Team Depp.

Shadow over Depp-Heard verdict



## ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Megan Thee Stallion



## Wimbledon 2022

# Elena Rybakina beats Jabeur to win historic maiden Grand Slam title

London | Agencies

Elena Rybakina of Kazakhstan defeated Ons Jabeur of Tunisia to win the women's singles title at Wimbledon in three sets and claimed a historic maiden Grand Slam title for herself and her country.

Rybakina fought back brilliantly after losing the first set to defeat third seed Jabeur 3-6, 6-2, 6-2 in a final between two first-timers.

Rybakina lost her serve early in the first set as Jabeur took a 3-1 lead and went on to a dominant 6-3 win. Jabeur is the first female player from the Arab world to reach this stage in a Grand Slam competition and though she started well, Rybakina was too good for her on Saturday.

Rybakina found her rhythm in the second set and dominated the match thereafter, negating Jabeur's dogged style of play that involves mixing power-



ful groundstrokes with well-disguised drop shots, with big serves and brilliant net play.

The 23-year-old Moscow-born Rybakina broke Jabeur early in the second set, and then got the better of her rival's serve once again to take the

match into a decider.

Though Jabeur tried to fight back in the final set and had three break points at 2-3 down, Rybakina, who defeated former champion Simona Halep in the semifinal, saved all three and went on to win the set, match and Championship.

## 2nd T20I: Jadeja, bowlers lead India to unassailable 2-0 series lead over England with 49-run win

Birmingham | Agencies

Ravindra Jadeja's fighting knock followed by a clinical bowling effort led India to an impressive 49-run win over England in the second T20I and 2-0 unassailable lead in the three-match series, here on Saturday.

Riding on Jadeja's innings (46 not out off 29), India posted a decent 170/8 in 20 overs, after being invited to bat first. Apart from Jadeja, Rohit Sharma (31 off 20) and Rishabh Pant (26 off 15) were the other main scorers for India. Defending a challenging total, Bhuvneshwar Kumar struck with the first ball of the innings, getting the dangerous Jason Roy caught at slip. In his very next over, he took the big wicket of Jos Buttler through an under-edge, which Pant was sharp to spot and force India to go for the review. That was the fifth time Bhuvneshwar had Buttler's number. Jasprit Bumrah, who was back in the



### Brief scores

India 170/8 in 20 overs (Ravindra Jadeja 46 not out, Rohit Sharma 31; Chris Jordan 4-27) beat England 121 all out in 17 overs (Moeen Ali 35, David Willey 33 not out; Bhuvneshwar Kumar 3/15) by 49 runs

fold after a long Test as captain, followed up Bhuvneshwar's twin strikes with the wicket of Liam Livingstone, who was undone and bowled by a slow off-cutter, and later with the wicket of dangerous Sam Curran. Yuzvendra Chahal, into the attack immediately after the PowerPlay, deceived Harry Brook in the air and had him caught in the deep as India's bowlers continued to pick wickets through the middle overs. From there on, England never looked in contention to chase the winning

total. Moeen Ali (35 off 21) and David Willey (33 not out off 22) tried hard but it was not enough as England were bowled out for 121 all out in 17 overs, losing by a huge margin of 49 runs.

Bhuvneshwar, who finished with 3 for 15, was adjudged the Player of the Match while Jasprit Bumrah (2/10) and Yuzvendra Chahal (2/10) and Harshal Patel (1/34) were the other wicket-takers for India. Earlier, India's new opening pair of Rohit Sharma and Rishabh Pant gave India an attacking

start. Both Rohit and Pant picked their spots, maximising the powerplay as David Willey and Moeen Ali faced some heat.

It was Richard Gleeson, the oldest T20I debutant for England, who gave hosts their first breakthrough by dismissing Rohit in the fifth over of the innings. Despite Rohit's wicket, Pant went down the track and smacked a length delivery by Moeen over long-off for a smashing six as India crossed the 50-run mark. However, Gleeson came back to claim the wicket of Kohli (1) courtesy of a superb catch by David Malan at backward point. In the very next ball, Pant stepped out to Gleeson but got an inside edge to the keeper, leaving India struggling at 69/3.

However, Jadeja held one end up and added useful runs with the rest of the batters to push India to 170-8 in 20 overs. Chris Jordan (4-27) and Richard Gleeson (3-15) were the wicket-takers for England.

## 2ND TEST, DAY 2

# KARUNARATNE, MENDIS LEAD SRI LANKA'S FIGHTBACK AGAINST AUSTRALIA

Galle | Agencies

Brilliant knocks from Dimuth Karunaratne (86) and Kusal Mendis (84 not out) led Sri Lanka's fightback on Day 2 of the second Test after Prabath Jayasuriya's brilliant spell (6/118) helped them bowl out Australia for 364 at the Galle International Stadium, here on Saturday.

Karunaratne and Mendis stitched a partnership of 152-run stand for the second wicket for Sri Lanka, who were 184/2, trailing Australia by 180 runs at stumps on Day 2.

Resuming day two at 298/5, Australia were in a commanding position but the Sri Lankan bowlers, especially debutant Prabath Jayasuriya had other plans. Wicketkeeper-batter Alex Carey was the first one to be dismissed on Day 2, falling for 28, trying to attempt an audacious reverse-sweep against Jayasuriya.

Jayasuriya clinched his five-wicket haul, with Mitchell Starc edging one to first slip for 1. Skipper Pat Cummins too couldn't last long, with Kasun Rajitha trapping him lbw for 5. Jayasuriya's debut Test became all the more memorable as he got his sixth by scalping Lyon for 5.

Sri Lanka's valiant fight-



### Brief scores

Australia 364 (Steve Smith 145 not out, Manus Labuschagne 104; Prabath Jayasuriya 6-118, Kasun Rajitha 2-70) lead Sri Lanka 184/2 (Dimuth Karunaratne 86, Kusal Mendis 84 not out) by 180 runs.

back got completed when Mitchell Swepson fell for 3 against Maheesh Theekshana, with Australia being bowled out for 364. Steve Smith was left stranded at the other end, remaining unbeaten on 145.

In reply, Pathum Nissanka's struggles against pace continued as he was dismissed by Mitchell Starc on 6, going for a flashy poke.

However, skipper Karunaratne and Mendis embarked on a brilliant

stand, with the Australian bowlers looking largely hapless against the patient approach of the pair. Both the players brought up their half-centuries, as the Australians grew desperate to break the stand.

With the day approaching its final phase and the total crossing 160, the visitors were now in desperate need of a breakthrough and the solid stand between Karunaratne and Mendis was finally broken by Mitchell Swepson.

## Wrestler Bajrang gets visa to travel to the US for training

New Delhi: India's Olympic Games bronze-medallist wrestler Bajrang Punia has got his visa to travel to the United States to train ahead of the Commonwealth Games 2022.

The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports was assisted by the cooperative attitude of the Ministry of External Affairs and the British High Commission, who helped Bajrang obtain his UK visa, said Sports Authority of India (SAI) in a statement on Saturday.

Bajrang as well as wrestler Deepak Punia will leave for the US on July 10. They will train at the Michigan University until July 30, following which both will leave for the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham.

The Union Sports Ministry's Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) has facilitated the exposure trip.

"The training stint in the US will be helpful for preparation for the Commonwealth Games and upcoming major competitions like the Wrestling World Championship, scheduled for September in Belgrade," said SAI.

Bajrang is also the winner of the Commonwealth Games gold and silver medals. He also won gold in the 2018 Asian Games in Jakarta.



## Malaysia Masters Prannoy loses to Angus Ng Ka Long in semis despite winning first game

Kuala Lumpur | Agencies

India's campaign in the Malaysia Masters 2022 ended on a disappointing note when its lone representative H.S Prannoy went out despite winning the first game in the men's singles semifinal, here on Saturday.

Prannoy went down to Angus Ng Ka Long of Hong Kong after winning the first game, losing 21-17, 9-21, 17-21 in a 64-minute encounter here.

The Indian shuttler, ranked 19th, won the first game easily, taking lead from 3-3 to 6-3 up and then maintained an upper hand winning five points at one stretch to take the lead. He maintained his 2-3 points advantage throughout.

The Prannoy took an early lead in the decider going



ahead from 3-3 to open an 8-4 lead. But Angus Ng Ka Long fought back strongly and tied scores at 9-9 when Prannoy hit a drop shot into the net and extended the lead to 9-13 winning nine of the 10 points at that juncture.

Prannoy's defeat ended India's campaign in the Malaysia Masters without a title as PV Sindhu had lost in the women's singles quarter-finals while the other players had crashed out in the earlier rounds.

## If Ashwin can be dropped from Test side, then Kohli can also be dropped: Kapil Dev

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Since November 2019, Virat Kohli hasn't scored a century in international cricket and has been in a lean patch across all formats. Now, legendary all-rounder and 1983 World Cup winning captain Kapil Dev feels that when ace off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin can be dropped, then Kohli could be dropped as well from the Indian team. With players like Deepak Hooda, Suryakumar Yadav, Rishabh Pant and Shreyas Iyer in the mix, it is

getting tougher for Kohli to own a place in the playing eleven, especially with the Men's T20 World Cup happening in Australia in October-November.

"Now the situation is such that you might be forced to bench Kohli from the T20 playing XI. He will have to perform better. If world No. 2 bowler Ashwin can be dropped from Test side, then (the) world No. 1 batter can also be dropped."

"Virat Kohli has still a lot of ability and talent. You hope such a player comes back (into form). It's not as if you completely leave him out. If he isn't perform-

ing now, it's fine (to leave him out). Youngsters are playing well. But the day Virat scores runs, can you keep him out? If you can keep Ashwin out, you can keep anyone out," said Kapil to ABP News. Talking further about Kohli's poor form and the rising competition from young cricketers, Kapil remarked, "At the moment, Virat is not batting at a level which we have seen him do over the years. He has made a legendary name for himself because of his performances. But if he isn't performing, you can't continue to keep these boys (young players) out."



## National 2-wheeler racing: Rajini Krishnan wins third race; Balappa dominates Novice Class

Chennai: Rajini Krishnan (RACR Castrol Power1) posted yet another lights-to-flag victory, his third consecutive, in the premier Pro-Stock 301-400cc category of the MMSC fmsci Indian National Motorcycle Racing Championship 2022

Sarvesh Balappa extended his domination in the Novice Class as he led a podium sweep for his team, Axor Sparks Racing in the second round of the event at the Madras International Circuit, here on Saturday.

Later, Deepak Ravikumar scripted a grand recovery for Petronas TVS

Racing with a fine win in the Pro-Stock 165cc category. The premier team had failed to pick up any points in the first round last month, but Ravikumar, displaying top pace, brought some cheer to his team as he took a comfortable win from SK69 Racing's Rajiv Sethu and Pacer Yamaha Team's Mathana Kumar, who had won both the races in the previous round. TVS Racing missed a 1-2 finish as KY Ahamed, hot on Ravikumar's heels, crashed on exiting the last corner on the last lap.

Veteran Rajini, a 10-time National Champion, was in a league of his own

through the six-lap Pro-Stock 301-400cc Open race. He started from pole position, and was hardly challenged especially after his closest rival, TVS Racing's KY Ahamed crashed attempting an overtake at the Bridge Complex "S" section.

Ahamed, running a close second, made contact with Rajini's Yamaha R3 and slid to the ground. It forced his teammate, Deepak Ravikumar, immediately behind him, to run wide and Rajini disappeared into the distance for a comfortable victory. Ravikumar finished second ahead of Speed Up Racing's Anand Rajendran.



## ASIAN CHAMP VISHWANATH SURESH, CHANDIGARH'S ROHIT CHAMOLI ADVANCE TO QUARTERS

Team Absolute | Chennai

Reigning Asian champion Vishwanath Suresh and Rohit Chamoli extended their impressive run to storm into the men's quarterfinals by registering emphatic wins at the 5th Youth Men's and Women's National Boxing Championships here on Saturday. While Vishwanath, representing the Services Sports Control Board (SSCB), thrashed Chandigarh's Sushant Kapoor by 5-0 in the 48kg category, 2021 Asian

junior champion Rohit of Chandigarh outpunched Bhubendra Kumar of Uttar Pradesh by a similar margin in the 51kg pre-quarterfinals contest. Jadumani Mandengbam (51kg) was the other SSCB boxer to progress to the men's quarterfinals. He beat Manipur's Edipak Laishram Singh by unanimous decision.

For Chandigarh, besides Rohit, Parineeta Sheoran also advanced to the Last-8 stage from the women's section after securing an easy 5-0 win over Andhra Pradesh's

Vyashnavi Nethala in the 48kg category.

Meanwhile, six pugilists from Maharashtra, including four women, made their way into the quarterfinals on the third day of the event.

Aarya Bartakke began the day for Maharashtra with a thrilling 3-2 win against Uttar Pradesh's Anamika Yadav in an intensely fought women's 57 kg pre-quarterfinal. Vaishnavi Waghmare (60kg), Aditi Sharma (66kg) and Sana Gonsalves (70kg), on the other hand, claimed comfortable wins.

## We are still alive in the women's World Cup and that's what matters: Captain Savita

Terrassa (Spain) | Agencies

India women's hockey captain Savita has said that while the pool matches might not have gone in the side's favour in the FIH Women's Hockey World Cup, the fact that the team was still alive in the competition was all that mattered right now. After finishing third in Pool B, the India team will take on hosts Spain in the crossover match on Sunday for a place in the quarterfinal.

On the eve of the do-or-die match, Savita said, "We knew the pool matches were going to be really tough. We fought hard and never gave up, but it's just that the results haven't been in our favour. However, we should quickly put it behind us, and focus on what's next. We are still in contention and will give our everything to qualify for the quarterfinals."

The India team played out two thrilling draws against England (1-1) and China (1-1) respective-



ly, before suffering a 3-4 loss against New Zealand in the pool stage of the tournament.

India vice-captain Deep Grace Ekka stressed on the need to make further improvements.

"I think we could have played a lot better in the three matches we played. We created many chances in the pool stage, especially in the last game, but our (penalty corner) conversion was not up to the mark. So, we certainly have to improve on our conversion, we have to be more clinical. At the end, it's all about converting those opportunities," she stated.

The home side, Spain, registered two wins and a loss in the pool stage. They started their campaign with a 4-1 win against Canada but lost 1-4 to Argentina in their second match. However, they bounced back with a 4-1 victory over South Korea to finish second in Pool C.

The last time India and Spain faced each other was during the FIH Hockey Pro League 2021/22, where both teams shared the honours. India won the first match 2-1, while Spain responded with a 4-3 win in the second leg of the double-header held in Bhubaneswar, Odisha earlier this year.



## RAQESH REACTS TO TROLLS ABOUT HIS BREAKUP WITH SHAMITA



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Shamita Shetty and Raqesh Bapat have become the talk of the town since they entered into Bigg Boss OTT. The duo developed feelings for each other inside the house and they also came into a relationship in the show. Even after coming out of the show, the two are often spotted spending quality time together.

Reacting to the reports of their breakup, Raqesh posted a shirtless monochrome picture on his social media and wrote, "Who is dating whom? Who is cheating whom? Who is wearing what? Whose family is better or worse? Who is taking a stand for whom? Vs What is my purpose and my contribution to the world I live in? What is my long-term vision for myself and my family and for people I can help? What are my long-term goals? What are my short-term goals? What is my personal cash flow and how do I save and invest? What skills do I keep learning? How can I be a better version of myself? Can we change our self-talk? Is it that difficult? Try it if you love me and you will love it."



## SARGUN MEHTA MAKES HER BOLLYWOOD DEBUT

Mumbai: Actress Sargun Mehta, who is already known in the Punjabi film industry and was recently seen in her home production 'Saunkan Saunkne', is all set to make her Bollywood debut soon. The actress will be seen in a Bollywood film called 'Mission Cinderella', which stars Akshay Kumar. "It's very important to wait for the right role, no matter where you are stepping in, especially when you are stepping in a new medium because altogether there is a new audience and they are," she says. "They are going to perceive you and look at you in a certain way. Even the industry has formed a perception of who you are. When I was choosing it, I didn't want to stand aside and be not talked about. Whether good or bad, but no matter what it is at least there is something to talk about." Bollywood is quite different from the Punjabi film industry, "I was so scared at first. I was excited because it's my first project in Bollywood and it was Akshay sir. Everything was giving me the jitters and I can't begin to tell you how I gave my first shot," she says.

## Pooja Hegde's vacation plan

Team Absolute | Hyderabad

Pooja Hegde, who was last seen in 'Radhe Shyam' and 'Beast', took to social media to share her delight about her impending one-month vacation.

Her followers were quick to reply and wish her a nice journey when she tweeted a cheerful image of her boarding a flight to Bangkok.

Pooja is taking a month off from work to travel across three continents and four cities, flowing with the joy of travel. Sharing the picture, she wrote: "1 month. 3 continents. 4 cities. Let's go. #gypsiegirl!"

The actress, who was also seen in a special song in 'F3', will soon appear in the pan-India film 'Jana Gana Mana' alongside 'Liger' actor Vijay Dverakonda. Pooja will also be seen in 'Kabhi Eid Kabhi Diwali' with Salman Khan and in 'Cirkus' with Ranveer Singh.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Karan has been one of the prominent names in the Telly world and has been a part of numerous daily soaps, and has also hosted several reality shows. The actor enjoys a massive fan following on his social media handle and often keeps fans updated with his whereabouts.

Recently, he was seen in the popular web series 'Never Kiss Your Best Friend Season 2'.

The actor is making a comeback on television after six years with the show Channa Mereya. Talking about returning back to TV space, Wahhi says, "TV has gone through ups and downs but it's still consistent. It is shot differently. But I'm happy with my show as it's written so well. I love the aspect that there are makers who are so passionate about making a show."

His six years of sabbatical from daily

soap has not bothered Wahhi, who didn't keep a

## Karan Wahhi back on TV



are doing the same thing over and over again. Sometimes you become complacent and we don't get to know that. I felt so drawn to how the producers made me sit down and take me through the character. That's rare to happen," Wahhi elaborates.

## Ranveer says his authentic choices turn out to be disruptive

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor Ranveer Singh, who recently appeared on the non-fiction OTT show, 'Ranveer vs Wild with Bear Grylls', is thrilled with the appreciation that the show has received in just 24 hours.

The actor shared that although he doesn't purposely try to be disruptive, his choices turn out to be disruptive in nature thanks to the authenticity that those choices entail. His choice of being a part of the show is no different.

Reacting to the response to the recently released Netflix show, the actor said, "It's the disruptive nature of the concept and the format that people have really taken to. Though my intention is never to disrupt or be disruptive, I just happen to make authentic choices and they happen to be disruptive choices; whether it's in my choice of films, the characters I create."

Ranveer further shared how he analysed that the show consists of 'Navaras', "I remember, instinctively reacting to it in the room telling the Banijay and Netflix teams that this is there because it's got all the Navaras. It's got humour, emotion, thrill, suspense, romance, it's got so many flavours and to add to that; the audience is participating in the journey. I am really happy that what was an experiment for me has worked so well."

Collaborating with Bear Grylls, Ranveer said, "I am an adrenaline junkie. I love when that rush of adrenaline hits me when I am doing a certain scene or when I am doing action or when I am shooting movies or doing a stunt or stuff like that. I like fast cars, I like speed, I like motorcycles, so I am inclined to that. Adventure is a space that I hadn't

really explored, which is why when I was pitched this prospect I was very excited by it."

He added, My first thought was how cool it would be to go off to a forest, something I had never done before. I am very grateful that it was with Bear Grylls who is the king of the jungle.



## Urmila remembers late choreographer Saroj Khan

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood actress Urmila Matondkar had worked with late choreographer Saroj Khan on several projects including 1995 film 'Rangeela'. She considers Khan as her mentor and recalls working with her on the show 'DID Super Moms'.

Urmila, who is among the panel of judges on the show, remembers the choreographer and shared her experience. She was judging the performance by one of the contestants Anila Rajan. Urmila says: "My eyes were fixated on you throughout the performance. It was such beautiful choreography, and it was literally like a bolt of strong lightning in the house. I remember when I started my career, I struggled a lot. I never learnt how to dance, it was difficult for me."

Recalling how Saroj Khan helped her in polish her dance skills, she said: "Soon, I started working with Saroj Khan Ji, I saw the ringmaster's precision in her and she taught me a lot of things. Similarly, the most beautiful part of your performance was the same precision and how effortlessly you performed."



## INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Manushi Chhillar