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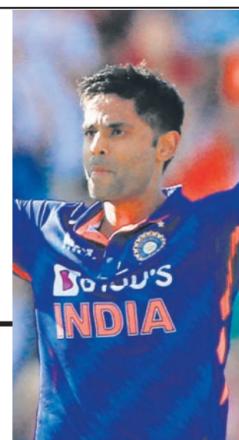
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ED SUMMONS SONIA GANDHI ON JULY 21 IN NATIONAL HERALD MATTER

New Delhi: Congress president Sonia Gandhi has been summoned by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to join the investigation in connection with the National Herald matter on July 21. Earlier, she couldn't join in the probe as she was not keeping well. Sources in the ED said that she will be asked the same set of questions which were asked to Rahul Gandhi during his five-day questioning. Her questioning which was scheduled to take place on June 23 was postponed on her request as she was not well. "We have to ask about her role in the deal between Young India and Associated Journals Ltd (AJL)," the sources said. Earlier Rahul Gandhi had said that the late Motilal Vora was looking after all these affairs. Vora held a 12 percent stake in YI whereas Rahul and Sonia held a 76 percent stake. As per the ED, the Gandhis are major beneficiaries in the whole deal. Earlier Pawan Bansal and Mallikarjuna Kharge were questioned by the ED. Since Vora has passed away the needle of suspicion pointed towards the Gandhis.

India to surpass China as world's most populous country in 2023: UN



Team Absolute | New Delhi

India is projected to surpass China as the world's most populous country in 2023, according to a UN report. More than half of the projected increase in

global population up to 2050 will be concentrated in just eight countries: Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines and Tanzania. Disparate growth rates among the world's largest countries will re-order their ranking

by size. In 2022, the two most populous regions are both in Asia: Eastern and South-Eastern Asia with 2.3 billion people (29 per cent of the global population), and Central and Southern Asia with 2.1 billion (26 per

cent). China and India, with more than 1.4 billion each, accounted for most of the population in these two regions.

The world's population is projected to reach 8 billion on November 15, 2022.

The latest projections by the United Nations suggest that the global population could grow to around 8.5 billion in 2030, 9.7 billion in 2050 and 10.4 billion in 2100.

Population growth is caused in part by declining levels of mortality, as reflected in increased levels of life expectancy at birth. Globally, life expectancy reached 72.8 years in 2019, an increase of almost 9 years since 1990. Further reductions in mortality are projected to result in an average longevity of around 77.2 years globally in 2050.

Life expectancy at birth for women exceeded that for men by 5.4 years globally, with female and male life expectancies standing at 73.8 and 68.4, respectively. A female survival advantage is observed in all regions and countries, ranging from 7 years in Latin America and the Caribbean to 2.9 years in Australia and New Zealand.

Yogi Adityanath expresses concern over population imbalance

Lucknow | Agencies

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Monday expressed concern over the population imbalance.

He said a population control programme must go ahead successfully but at the same time "population imbalance" should not be allowed to happen.

The chief minister said, "On one scale, population is an achievement of the society, but this will remain an achievement only when the society remains healthy and disease-free."

Speaking at a function to mark the commencement of 'population control fortnight', he noted, "When we talk about family planning/population stabilisation, we have to keep in mind that the population control programme must go ahead successfully, but at the same time a situation of population imbalance should not be allowed to happen."

He said programmes pertaining to awareness of population stabilisation have been running for the past five decades.

"If we have skilled manpower, it is an achievement for the society, but where there are diseases, shortage of resources and disorder, population explosion becomes a challenge on its own," he added.

Stating that Uttar Pradesh is the most populous state in the country, Yogi Adityanath said, "ASHA sisters, Aaganwadi workers, village pradhans, teachers and others can work together with the Health Department. Collective efforts are needed in this direction."



Congress demands white paper on Indo-China border issue



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Congress on Monday demanded a white paper on the Indo-China border issue and accused the Centre of not telling the truth.

Addressing a press conference here, Congress Deputy Leader Gaurav Gogoi in the Lok Sabha said that the party's stand was crystal clear on the issue that the status quo prevailing on the LAC prior to May 5, 2020 must be restored at all costs and there cannot be any compromise on this.

"We demand that Prime Minister Modi take the nation into confidence about the Chinese threat and address a press confer-

ence with the Defence Minister and External Affairs Minister to explain the current situation followed by a White Paper. A dedicated briefing on the confrontation should be made to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence on the China situation," said Gogoi.

He said that Parliament should hold a two-day debate and the government should appoint a full-time Chief of Defence Staff, a position that has been vacant for seven months during a critical period for our national security.

Gogoi also demanded the Withdrawal of the Agnipath scheme that threatens to demoralise our troops in a time of high national security threat.

The Congress alleged that more than two years after the border crisis with China began in eastern Ladakh, "Prime Minister Narendra Modi's strategy can be summed up with DDLJ: Deny, Distract, Lie, Justify. Speaking at an all-party meet on June 19, 2020, only four days after we lost 20 brave Indian soldiers in Galwan, the PM gave China a clean chit, saying: 'Na yahan koi hamari seema main ghus aaya hai, na hi koi ghusa hua hai'." Gogoi said, "India has lost the control of 1,000 square kilometres of territory where our troops could earlier patrol, but are now either blocked by the Chinese troops or are no longer able to enter because of disengagement agreements," said Gogoi.

India needs to work on artificial intelligence mechanism carefully: Rajnath Singh

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday said that the country should exercise restraint and caution while working on Artificial Intelligence (AI) mechanism and use it for the progress of humanity.

Singh cautioned that it should not be like nuclear power over which only a country or a group of countries have dominance.

"We have to use artificial intelligence (AI) for humanity's progress and peace. It should not be like nuclear power on which only a country or a group of countries have dominance and the other countries are deprived of this technology," he underlined while addressing a symposium on 'Artificial Intelligence in Defence' here. "We have to ensure the democratic use of the AI," he added.

The defence minister further said the arrival of technology is just like the movement of a clock because once it moves forward, it is not possible to walk it back. "We cannot stop the progress of artificial intelligence and we should not try to stop its progress. But we need to be careful about it," he said, adding that when a new technology brings a huge change, its transition period is also as huge and serious.

"Since AI is a technology that can



bring a massive change, we must be ready to face the legal, ethical, political, and economic upheaval that may follow," Singh noted. "We need to work on AI extremely carefully so that the technology does not get out of our control in the coming times," he added.

Speaking on the growth of Artificial Intelligence, Singh further quoted Russian president Vladimir Putin.

"I am reminded of a quote by Putin some time ago. You all know Russia is a technologically advanced country. In

the field of science and technology, it has gradually progressed. On artificial intelligence, Russian president Vladimir Putin had once said: 'Whoever becomes the ruler of the sphere, will rule the world.'"

However, India does not want to rule the world. India has always given one message that the whole world is a family. "We have never intended to conquer the world," Singh said, adding "but we also have to strengthen the AI technology in India so that no other country can overpower us," he added.

Amarnath Yatra resumes after 2-day suspension due to flash flood

Srinagar: Amarnath

Yatra, which was suspended for two days due to the flash flood disaster near the cave shrine, resumed on Monday morning.

Before the flash flood triggered by heavy localised rain hit the tented area on Friday evening, over 1.13 lakh pilgrims had Darshan inside the holy cave. "Flash flood debris has already been cleared and this time the track is being restored. Yatra was restored today after remaining suspended for 2 days," officials said. Yatris were initially allowed to move towards the cave shrine on the traditional Pahalgam-Cave shrine route on Monday.

Reports here said 37 Yatris are still missing while officials have confirmed 16 deaths and safe evacuation of over 15,000 stranded pilgrims. Another batch of 4,026 Yatris left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp in Jammu in two escorted convoys on Monday morning to perform the Yatra.

Congres, Shiv Sena term BJP-propped Maha government 'unconstitutional'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Hours after the Supreme Court decision on the Maharashtra political crisis, the Congress and the Shiv Sena said that the Bharatiya Janata Party-backed new government in the state is "unconstitutional" and it will face legal consequences.

Following the SC decision to hand over the matter pertaining to disqualification of 16 Shiv Sena legislators to a larger bench, Congress' chief spokesperson Atul Londhe said after the apex court considers the legal issues involved, Chief Minister Eknath Shinde-Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis may face problems. "The BJP-supported state government is unconstitutional and all decisions taken so far regarding the formation of the regime are also against the Constitution," he claimed.

The Nationalist Congress Party declined to comment



on the SC hearing on Monday, saying it will wait for the formation of the larger bench which will hear the Shiv Sena case soon.

Shiv Sena MP Arvind Sawant expressed concern at the manner in which various constitutional provisions and precedents have been flouted in Maharashtra to install the new government of Shinde-Fadnavis, and said this could prove detrimental to democracy. Londhe also said that the SC's move would clarify

several things, including whether the decision taken by the Maharashtra Assembly's Deputy Speaker was correct, especially since in the Rajendrasingh Rana case, the court had held that the first list should be taken into account.

"Therefore, the constitutional validity of all subsequent processes - such as taking the election of the new Speaker (July 3), the Governor's consent to the trust vote (July 4) - will also

have to be decided," he contended.

Claiming that most constitutional experts have opined that the decisions may go against the new state government, he said while the fate of the 40 Sena rebel MLAs has been pushed back by a few days, the Shinde-Fadnavis regime may not last too long.

"The BJP may have weaned away the gullible Sena MLAs, but they should realise that once the BJP achieves its political objectives, it would dump them (the rebel MLAs). The saffron party works on the principle of 'use-and-throw'... there's a threat to the country's democracy and the Constitution in the current atmosphere of an undeclared Emergency," alleged Londhe.

However, terming the apex court move as a "setback" for the Shiv Sena, BJP leaders have called upon the party to withdraw all its legal cases as they have lost all relevance.

ALT NEWS CO-FOUNDER ZUBAIR MOVES SESSIONS COURT FOR BAIL

New Delhi: Alt News co-founder Mohammed Zubair has moved a bail application in sessions court at the Patiala House courts, seeking bail in the case related to an "objectionable tweet" allegedly posted by him against a Hindu deity. The plea will be heard on Tuesday.

On July 2, Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Snigdha Sarvaria at the Patiala House Courts rejected the bail plea of Zubair in connection with the case and granted his 14-day custody as sought by the Delhi Police. "Since the matter is at the initial stage of investigation and given the overall facts and circumstances of the case and nature and gravity of the offences alleged against the accused, no ground for grant of bail is made out," Sarvaria said while dismissing Zubair's bail plea.

Atul Shrivastava, the newly-appointed Special Public Prosecutor for Delhi Police, opposed Zubair's bail plea, pointing out that the new charges invoked against Zubair are under Sections 120B (criminal conspiracy) and 201 (causing disappearance of evidence) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Section 35 of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act. He will be next produced before the court on July 16. As per the FIR, accused Zubair had used a screengrab of an old Hindi movie which showed an image of a hotel, with its board reading 'Hanuman hotel' instead of 'Honeymoon hotel'. In his tweet, Zubair had written, "BEFORE 2014: Honeymoon Hotel. After 2014: Hanuman Hotel."

Top Jaish, other terrorist killed in J&K, faced several cases

Team Absolute | Srinagar

A top JeM terrorist and his accomplice, who were involved in several cases, were killed in an encounter at Awantipora in Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama district on Monday, police said.

Police said acting on specific information generated by police regarding the presence of terrorists in village Wandakpora of Awantipora, a joint cordon and search operation was launched by the police, the army and, the CRPF. As the joint search party approached towards the spot where the terrorists were hiding, the hiding terrorists fired indiscriminately upon the security forces, which was retaliated effectively, leading to an encounter, a police official said. "In the ensuing encounter, two local terrorists of proscribed terror outfit JeM were killed and their bodies were retrieved from the site of encounter." They have been identified as Kaiser Rashid Koka, resident of Tengpora, Kaigam and Ishaq Ahmad Lone, resident of Lelhar, Pulwama. "As per police records, killed terrorist Kaiser Koka



was a categorised terrorist and involved in several terror crime cases including attacks on police/security forces and civilian atrocities. He was active since year 2018 and had ex-filtrated to Pakistan. After acquiring arms/ammunition and training, he infiltrated back to Kashmir Valley and was active in the areas of Awantipora, Pulwama. He was involved in an IED attack at Larmoo Awantipora on 02/05/2022 in which two CRPF personnel got injured," police said.

"The other killed terrorist, Ishaq Ahmad Lone, was a hybrid terrorist and was also involved in several cases including attacks on police/security forces and civilian atrocities. "Incriminating materials, arms and ammunition were recovered from the site of encounter. All the recovered materials have been taken into case records for further investigation."



CBI TO QUESTION CHITRA RAMKRISHNA IN PHONE TAPPING CASE

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is likely to record the statement of Chitra Ramkrishna, the former CEO-cum-MD of the National Stock Exchange (NSE) for allegedly tapping the phones of NSE employees between 2009 and 2017 with the help of former Mumbai Police Commissioner Sanjay Pandey. Ramkrishna is currently behind bars. The probe agency may move court for permission to record her statement in judicial custody. Her questioning is vital as she has been named as an accused in the matter.

The CBI had on Friday recorded the statement of Pandey in this connection at its Mumbai headquarters. CBI sources said that he can be called again to join the investigation. This case was lodged by the federal probe agency on the directions of the Union Home Ministry.

The CBI had also conducted raids in Mumbai, Pune and several other parts of the country in this connection. "Pandey ran iSec Securities Pvt. Ltd. It has been alleged that Ramkrishna used this firm to tap the phones of NSE's 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 phones illegally," sources had said.

The source said they would record the statements of the persons involved in the case.

Godavari crosses third danger mark at Telangana's Bhadrachalam

Hyderabad | Agencies

The Godavari river crossed the third level flood warning at Bhadrachalam in Telangana on Monday, prompting authorities to sound alert across the course of the river.

Following heavy rains in the upstream areas in Telangana and neighbouring Maharashtra, water level rose sharply at Bhadrachalam to reach 53 feet.

The Bhadradi Kothagudem district administration has sounded an alert across the course of the river, especially in the low-lying mandals. Some villages were cut-off due to submergence of connecting roads. Vehicular traffic to Dummugudem and Charla mandals came to a halt.

Transport Minister P. Ajay Kumar reviewed the situation with officials. The District Collector has asked the people in low-lying areas to reach relief camps. Five relief camps have so far been opened.

The river was in spate from Sri



Ram Sagar to Bhadrachalam due to incessant rains for the last 3-4 days in Maharashtra and Telangana's Adilabad, Karimnagar, and Nizamabad districts. Nine gates of the Sri Ram Sagar project have been opened to release the water.

The water flow at the project was 99,850 cusecs while 41,000 cusecs was being let out on Monday morn-

ing. The water level was 1,087 feet against the full level of 1,091 feet.

Sripada Yellampalli project also continues to receive heavy inflows. Irrigation officials have lifted 27 gates to release water for Parvathi barrage under Kaleshwaram project. Swarawati and Lakshmi barrages under Kaleshwaram were also receiving massive inflows.

Meanwhile, heavy rains continued to lash parts of Telangana for a fourth consecutive day on Monday, inundating low-lying villages and throwing normal life out of gear.

With the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) forecasting heavy rains and issuing red alert, the state government has declared holiday for all educational institutions for the next three days from Monday while the South Central Railway has cancelled a few trains.

Chief Minister K Chandrababoo Naidu on Monday reviewed the situation with officials. He spoke to ministers and public representatives over the phone and gave them necessary instructions.

According to Chief Minister's Office (CMO), the Chief Minister is speaking to officials of all districts to get the latest information about officials and issuing necessary directions. He enquired about the flood situation in Godavari and asked officials to take all precautionary measures.

Kids in protest: Child rights panel wants FIR against Aditya Thackeray

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In a big jolt, the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has asked the Mumbai Police to lodge a first information report against Shiv Sena's ex-Minister Aditya Thackeray for alleged use of minor children in his campaigns, here on Monday.

NCPCR Registrar Anu Chaudhary has shot off a letter to Commissioner of Police Vivek Phansalkar following a complaint to the effect received from one Dhruvman Joshi of Sahyadri Rights Forum.

Joshi has contended that Aditya Thackeray, 32, - son of ex-Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray - allegedly used minor kids in various social activities, protests and political campaigns in "so-called Save Aarey Protest" held recently.

The complainant said that social media links of the protest



shows several minor children participating, standing in rows holding placards, during the agitation.

Taking cognizance of the complaint, NCPCR Registrar Chaudhary said that the action is prima facie violative of the various prevalent child rights laws and the IPC. "In view of the above, the Commission thereby

requests you to investigate the matter urgently by lodging an FIR against the accused person(s), at once. The children should be identified and produced before the Child Welfare Committee as per Juvenile Justice Act, 2015 for recording their statements," Chaudhary told the Mumbai Police Chief.

The child panel rights chief has also sought an Action Taken Report along with a copy of FIR and statements of children recorded by the Mumbai Police within 3 days from receipt of her letter.

It may be recalled that since July 1, there have been online and physical protests by activists, local tribals and political parties, to save the Aarey Colony forests and slamming the new state government's move to construct the Mumbai Metro car-shed here from the earlier proposed site of Kanjurmarg.

PM UNVEILS NATIONAL EMBLEM CAST ON ROOF OF NEW PARLIAMENT BUILDING

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday unveiled the 'National Emblem' cast on the roof of the new parliament building. The Prime Minister also interacted with the Shramjeevis (workers) involved in the construction work of the new Parliament. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, union ministers Hardeep Singh Puri and Pralhad Joshi and others were present on the occasion. Rajya Sabha vice-chairman Hariyansh was also present.

The National Emblem is made of bronze with a total weight of 9,500 Kilograms and is 6.5 meter in height. It has been cast at the top of the Central Foyer of New Parliament Building. A supporting structure of steel weighing around 6,500 kg has been constructed to support the emblem. The concept sketch and process of casting of the National Emblem on the roof of New Parliament Building has gone through eight different stages of preparation from clay modeling/computer graphic to bronze casting and polishing.

SC agrees to examine HC judge transfer threat matter on Tuesday

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Monday agreed to examine a matter where a Karnataka High Court judge had claimed receiving a transfer threat in connection with his comments against the functioning of the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) in the state.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the Karnataka government, mentioned the matter before a bench headed by Chief Justice N.V. Ramana, who asked: "What is this threatening judge with transfer and all?"

The matter is in connection with Karnataka High Court Judge Justice H.P. Sandesh.

The bench was informed that the matter is regarding a series of directions passed by a single judge bench of

the high court on a bail plea along with some observations.

The high court, last week, came down heavily at the functioning of the senior officers of the ACB and Justice Sandesh said he was ready to protect the judiciary's independence at the cost of his judgeship.

Counsel also mentioned a separate plea before the apex court on behalf of ACB chief against whom certain observations were made by the high court. The ACB chief's counsel clarified that this was all in the media, and incorrect and it caused damage to his reputation.

After a brief hearing in the matter, the top court agreed to examine the plea on Tuesday and ordered for the listing of the matter before an appropriate bench.

The case was in connection with a criminal petition filed by an accused, who was arrested by the ACB for accepting bribes, allegedly on behalf of Deputy Commissioner, Bengaluru Urban.

"Your ADGP is apparently powerful. Someone had spoken to a high court judge who mentioned to me an instance of another judge being transferred. I will not hesitate to name the judge who gave this information.

There is a threat of transfers to this court. I will protect the independence of the judiciary at the cost of my judgeship," Justice Sandesh had said.

The high court also summoned ACB's special counsel to bring on record data, including B reports and charge sheets filed by the agency since its inception.

Dwarka Expressway will be operational in 2023: Gadkari

Gurugram | Agencies

Dwarka Expressway, also known as the Northern Peripheral Road (NPR) in the Haryana portion, which is being developed as the first elevated urban expressway in India, will become operational in 2023, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari said here on Monday.

It will reduce pressure on the Delhi-Gurugram Expressway (part of the Delhi-Jaipur-Ahmedabad-Mumbai arm of Golden Quadrilateral) and arterial roads that experience severe traffic congestion, primarily from the commuters of West Delhi, the minister said.

"Fifty to 60 per cent of the traffic on the Delhi-Jaipur

Expressway (NH-48) will be diverted onto the new expressway, thereby improving traffic movement towards Sohna Road, Golf Course Road and Golf Course extension road. Once operational, it shall immensely help reducing air pollution in Delhi-NCR as well, he added.

The Minister said it is a 16-lane access-controlled highway with provision of a minimum three-lane service road on both sides. The Expressway connecting Dwarka in Delhi to Gurugram in Haryana is being developed at a total cost of Rs 9,000 crore with total length of 29 km out of which 19 km length falls in Haryana while the remaining 10 km of length is in Delhi. Dwarka Expressway would have four multi-level interchanges (tunnel/under-

passes, at-Grade Road, Elevated Flyover & Flyover above Flyover) at major junctions, including construction of longest (3.6 km) and widest (8 lane) urban road tunnel in India. It begins from Shiv-Murti on NH-48 (Delhi-Gurugram expressway) and ends near Kherki Daula Toll Plaza, through Dwarka Sector 21, Gurugram border and Basai.

"This project plays a pivotal role in the plan to decongest the capital city of Delhi. Once the Dwarka Expressway is completed, it would provide direct access to upcoming India International Convention Centre (IICC) in Sector 25 of Dwarka and will also provide an alternate connectivity to IGI Airport through a shallow tunnel," he said.

CBI RAIDS 10 LOCATIONS IN TWO SEPARATE BANK LOAN FRAUD CASES

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Monday said that they have registered two separate cases of bank loan fraud of Rs 2,148 crore and conducted raids at 10 locations across the nation in this connection.

The first case was lodged on the complaint filed by the State Bank of India against Ushdev International Ltd, a Mumbai-based private firm and its Director-cum-Guarantor Suman Vijay Gupta, Prateek Vijay Gupta and unknown public servants on the allegations of causing loss of Rs 1,438.45 crore to the consortium member banks.

Ushdev International Ltd engaged in trading of ferrous and non-ferrous metals and its Promoter, Directors along with unknown entities had caused loss to SBI and consortium member banks allegedly by siphoning off funds, showing sales to overseas dormant entities, manipulating books of accounts, etc.

The accused misappropriated bank funds by giving advances to the entities which had not carried out business during last 5-9 years and provided loans and advances to its related parties. The accused thus violated the sanction terms and conditions.

"An alleged loss of Rs 1438.45 crore was caused



to the SBI and four other consortium member banks. Searches were conducted at three places at the premises of accused at Mumbai and Pune (Maharashtra) which led to the recovery of incriminating documents/articles," said the CBI official. The second case was registered against a

private firm namely M/s Anil Ltd and its six Directors, Amol Shripal Sheth, Kamalbhai R. Sheth, Anish Kasturbhai Shah, Indira J. Parikh Dipal Palkhiwala, Anurag Kothawala and Shashini A. Desai. The firm is based at Ahmedabad.

Bank of India filed an FIR against them for allegedly causing a loss of Rs 710.85 crore to a consortium of banks.

It was stated that M/s Anil Ltd was engaged in the business of production of entire range of unmodified and modified starch from basic maize starch and downstream products like Liquid Glucose, Dextrose Monohydrate, Anhydrous Dextrose, Sorbitol etc. M/s Anil Ltd had lent funds to related parties and others without approval of consortium banks with an intent to siphon-off the funds and deliberately entered into non-genuine transactions with its related parties to renew its credit facilities from the lender banks.

The accused had misappropriated the value of closing stock as well as fixed assets and thus cheated the banks. "Searches were conducted at seven locations including at Ahmedabad and Pune at the premises of accused which led to the recovery of several incriminating documents, articles, some property documents and Rs 38 lakh," said the official.

Investigation in both the cases is on.

AMIT SHAH LAYS DOWN 3-POINT STRATEGY IN RAJ FOR MISSION 2023

Jaipur: Union Home Minister Amit Shah during his recent visit to the pink city told the party workers that the 2023 Rajasthan Assembly polls will be contested on a three-pronged strategy -- PM face, Panna model and Hindutva, sources said.

Interacting with workers at state BJP headquarters in Jaipur in a closed-door meeting, he said: "Workers should concentrate on the Panna booth model and strongly promote Prime Minister Narendra Modi's welfare schemes. Also, issues related to Hindutva need to be worked upon."

Party sources told IANS that the mission 2023 blueprint seems to be set as instructions have been given to work on Panna and booth models taking cue from Gujarat model.

Before the meeting, Shah presided over the 30th meeting of Northern Zonal Council in Jaipur and discussed the growing threat of cybercrime and strategies for its prevention. The Union Home Minister stressed upon the states and Union Territories to conduct awareness campaigns on cyber-vigilance through various mediums. In view of the profound impact of cyber crimes on national security, public order and economic activity, the Council emphasised the need to ensure the security of the nation's cyber space and the security of citizens as a whole.

Shah had advised agencies of the Central and state governments to use common software developed by the Ministry of Home Affairs, to work together to identify the issues of concern and to trace the offenders and take strict action against them. In this context, it was decided that a committee under the chairmanship of the Union Home Secretary with all concerned departments and State governments would prepare a strategy to deal with the growing menace of cyber crime.

SC sentences Vijay Mallya to 4 months in jail for contempt of court

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Monday awarded four months' jail to fugitive businessman Vijay Mallya and imposed a fine of Rs 2,000 under contempt charge, and added that adequate punishment is must to uphold the majesty of the law.

In March, the top court had reserved the order on sentence to Mallya, who was found guilty of contempt in 2017 for disobeying court's order for not disclosing full particulars of assets in case between the SBI and Kingfisher Airlines.

A bench headed by Justice U.U. Lalit also ordered Mallya to deposit USD 40 million, which he had transferred to his family members in violation of the court orders.

The top court noted that Mallya did not show any remorse for his conduct and also did not appear before the court. The top court ordered Mallya to deposit USD 40 million with interest within four weeks, failing which attachment



against his properties will be initiated.

On February 10, the top court gave final opportunity to Mallya, seeking his appearance, before it pronounced sentence in the contempt case filed by banks, in which he was found guilty.

The top court said it has found

Mallya guilty of contempt and punishment has to be imposed. It added that going by normal logic the contemnor has to be heard, but he has not appeared before the court so far.

The bench clarified that if Mallya is not present in the hearing, then the matter will be taken to its logical conclusion.

According to a judgment delivered on July 14, 2017, Mallya was found guilty of contempt for not paying Rs 9,000 crore worth of dues to the banks despite repeated directions. Additionally, he was also accused of not disclosing his assets and also secretly trying to dispose of the assets to defeat the purpose of recovery proceedings.

On October 6 2020, the Ministry of Home Affairs told the Supreme Court that the UK Home Office has intimated that there is a further legal issue which needs to be resolved before Vijay Mallya's extradition takes place and this issue is outside and apart from the extradition process having effect under the UK law.

Crisis in Goa Cong: Sidelined Kamat, Lobo have BJP roots

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Goa crisis in Congress has been engineered by two leaders who have come from the BJP and now want to make "Ghar Wapsi", say party sources.

Former Chief Minister Digambar Kamat was sidelined in the Congress after election results and the party chose to make another former BJP leader Michael Lobo as Leader of opposition that triggered revolt. Now both Kamat and Lobo have joined hands to give a blow to the Congress.

Kamat started his political career from the Congress, joined the BJP and then again crossed to the Congress in 2005. He was made the Chief Minister in 2007 after ignoring Pratap Singh Rane, Luizinho Falerio and other senior leaders.

Lobo joined the Congress from the BJP just ahead of the recent Assembly elec-

tions. After initially being appointed as the Leader of Opposition, Lobo was removed from the post.

Veteran Congress leader Dinesh Gundu Rao has alleged that Kamat and Lobo have hatched a conspiracy to break the party. After this, the Congress is going to take action against both.

The Congress was fighting a crisis in Goa where its unit is facing a threat of defection after half of the MLAs did not turn up in the legislative party meeting.

The Congress has sent party General Secretary Mukul Wasnik to get the house in order.

The party has blamed former Chief Minister Digambar Kamat and Michael Lobo for the situation, and will take action against them.

The development comes on the heels of Maharashtra where the party has sent Mohan Prakash to report to the party high command.



ON CAMERA, BJP LEADER'S THREAT FOR HOMES WITH CONGRESS FLAGS

Team Absolute | Bhopal

"Click pictures of all those houses which have Congress flags. Deprive them of all services," a BJP leader is heard telling a crowd in a widely shared video from Madhya Pradesh. As the video went viral on social media, the BJP leader, Prahlad Patel, claimed that the video was "doctored" and sought an investigation by the police.

Patel is the BJP candidate for the mayoral elections in Ratlam, about five hours from capital Bhopal.

According to reports, Patel was upset at seeing Congress flags put up at a locality where he was campaigning after which he issued an open threat.

"Click pictures of all those houses which have Congress flags. Deprive them of all services. It doesn't matter if we don't get votes from 5-10 houses but we need to teach them a lesson," a furious Prahlad Patel is heard saying in the video.

Patel has called for an investigation into the "doctored" video.

"I am going to request the police to investigate this. Whoever is behind this should be punished," he said.

Patel is facing a tight contest from Congress's



Mayank Jat in the Ratlam mayoral contest.

After the video went viral, the Congress candidate issued a statement calling it the arrogance of BJP leaders.

On Saturday, Chief Minister Shivraj Chauhan addressed a roadshow and meeting in support of

Prahlad Patel. While the meeting by Chouhan reportedly did not witness large crowd, a public meeting by Mayank Jat was well attended.

Ratlam is among the five cities of Madhya Pradesh which will vote in the second and last phase of urban local body polls on July 13.

MP-NAGPUR HIGHWAY CLOSED DUE TO FLOODS, 3 BHOPAL-BOUND FLIGHTS LAND IN INDORE

Due to heavy rain for the last 24 hours, a flood-like situation developed in several parts of State on Monday. The capital city Bhopal received over three inches of rainfall in just four hours, which resulted in several residential colonies, streets and highways being flooded.



In Bhopal, several residential colonies were water-logged, at many places four-wheelers were seen in floodwaters. Due to water-logging, many petrol pumps had to stop services for hours in the city.

Due to the unprecedented heavy downpour in the catchment areas of Kanhan river in Satpura valley and the opening of all the 16 gates of the Navegaon-Khairi reservoir, there is heavy flooding in the Kanhan river. Because of this, vehicular movement on the national highway connecting Chhindwara (Madhya Pradesh) and Nagpur (Maharashtra) was stopped early on Monday.

The Vidisha district administration has announced the closure of schools due to the heavy rain. Data received from the India Meteorological Department's

(IMD) regional official in Bhopal, the heaviest rainfall was in Chhindwara district at 9 mm.

Heavy rain lashed many districts including Morena, Chhindwara, Bhopal and Indore. Flood-like situations were witnessed in districts like Saunsar in Chhindwara, Morena and many others.

According to the Met officials, moderate to heavy rain is expected in many areas of the state. Madhya Pradesh Agriculture Minister Kamal Patel assured of compensation to the farmers who suffer crop loss due to the incessant rain. Talking to the media, the minister said, "The weather has been bad for 2-3 days. Rain & hailstorms have damaged standing crops. Officials have been asked to survey the affected villages. 25 per cent of the compensation money will be paid immediately."

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As per reports, due to continued rain and bad weather in Bhopal, at least three Bhopal bound flights were diverted to Indore. As per the Raja Bhoj Airport authorities, flights that were diverted to Indore include the Hyderabad to Bhopal (Indigo flight), Mumbai to Bhopal (Air India) Delhi to Bhopal (Air India flight).

ORANGE ALERT ISSUED FOR 33 DISTRICTS INCLUDING BHOPAL, INDORE AND JABALPUR

As per the IMD prediction, very heavy rainfall between 64.5 to 204.4 mm range could lash these 33 districts. The orange alert puts officials in "be prepared" mode and will be valid till Tuesday morning.

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Madhya Pradesh has been put on rainfall alert as the India Meteorological Department has predicted heavy to very heavy rainfall in 33 of 52 districts in the state. The IMD issued an orange alert for these 33 districts even as seven people lost their lives in the state due to lightning amid steady rain over the past 24 hours.

As per the IMD prediction, very heavy rainfall between 64.5 to 204.4 mm range could lash these 33 districts. The orange alert puts officials in "be prepared" mode and will be valid till Tuesday morning.

The 33 districts which have been put on alert include

Bhopal, Indore, Jabalpur and Narmadapuram.

"A low-pressure area lying over Odisha is bringing moisture from the Bay of Bengal to MP. Besides, a cyclonic circulation over southern Pakistan is causing moisture incursion in MP from the Arabian Sea," said Ved Prakash Singh, senior meteorologist at Bhopal Meteorological Centre.

According to him, a monsoon trough passing through Guna and Damoh was carrying moisture from both sides to the central and southern parts of Madhya Pradesh, causing rains.

Since June 1, the death toll due to lightning in MP has gone up to 60, with seven of these losing their lives to lightning strikes in the 24-

hour period ending at 2:30 pm on Monday.

"The seven deaths in the last 24 hours comprised two in Mandla, and one each in Ashok Nagar, Datia, Guna, Narsinghpur and Narmadapuram," an official said. As per IMD data, Pachmarhi, Madhya Pradesh's only hill station, witnessed 103.2 mm of rainfall in a 24-hour period ending 8:30 am on Monday.

The data also showed that Raisen, Betul, Narmadapuram, Jabalpur, Chhindwara, Bhopal, Gwalior and Indore received 86.4 mm, 72.6 mm, 70.4 mm, 55.0 mm, 55.0 mm, 46.4 mm, 21.9 mm and 17.2 mm rainfall, respectively, during this period.

Four held for beating tribal man, inserting petrol in his private parts

Indore: Four persons were arrested on Monday on charges of attempt to murder and other offences for allegedly assaulting a 21-year-old tribal man in Indore in Madhya Pradesh, a police official said.

As per the complaint of the youth, his landlord and three others confined him to a house, beat him, inserted petrol in his private parts and then shot a video of his in the nude, the Tejaji Nagar police station official said.

"The victim, a student hailing from Alirajpur, was living on rent along with his two sisters in the house of accused Nazim Khan. The latter suspected that the tribal youth had extorted Rs 50,000 from his son and bought a laptop," Tejaji Nagar police station in charge RD Kanva said.

"On 9 July, Khan took the victim on the pretext of buying a goat, confined him to a house and assaulted him. Khan and three other accused poured petrol in his private parts from a small bottle, shot his video in the nude and threatened to circulate it," Kanva added.

The official said Khan (35) and his associates Aadil Khan (22), Saddam Patel (35) and Salman Patel (27) have been booked under Indian Penal Code section 307 (attempt to murder) and other offences.

Meanwhile, several functionaries of the Hindu Jagran Manch assembled at the police station and demanded strict action against the four accused.

CM Chouhan plants Mahogany saplings in Murar

Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted saplings in Murar Circuit House premises during his stay in Gwalior. He planted mahogany saplings. MPs VD Sharma and Vivek Narayan Shejwalkar along with other public representatives were present. Chouhan said that we all have to plant more and more saplings in this rainy season, so that our Gwalior remains a green city. Ships, boats, furniture, decorative items etc. are made from the wood of mahogany tree. Its plant becomes fully mature in 12 years. Besides, its leaves are useful in the treatment of diseases like cancer, diabetes, hypertension, etc. The oil released from its leaves helps in controlling mosquito population. In Punjab, farmers have made mahogany a means of employment. In the rainy season 1500 saplings of mahogany will be planted by the Municipal Corporation Gwalior at different places.



STATE GOVT ORDERS PROBE INTO DENIAL OF AMBULANCE TO CARRY BODY OF A CHILD IN MORENA

A day after a video surfaced on social media showing an eight-year-old child cradling his younger dead brother's body and sitting near a drain, after the hospital administration refused an ambulance to transport the body, the Madhya Pradesh government issued a show-cause notice to the civil surgeon in Morena district hospital on Monday.

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A day after a video surfaced on social media showing an eight-year-old child cradling his younger dead brother's body and sitting near a drain, after the hospital administration refused an ambulance to transport the body, the Madhya Pradesh government issued a show-cause notice to the civil surgeon in Morena district hospital on Monday.

As per the home minister and the state government's spokesperson Narottam Mishra, a show-cause notice was issued to the Morena district hospital's civil surgeon and financial assistance provided to the family under various government schemes. "The government has taken the matter very seriously and the CEO of the Zilla Panchayat has been asked to submit a report within 24 hours," Mishra told the press on Monday.

The 8-year-old boy is seen seated with the body of his 3-year-old brother on his lap as his family desperately looks around for an ambulance, as per a video going viral. In the video the boy is seen seated on

the ground, against a wall, waiting for his father to take the body home for cremation. The father is seen looking for a vehicle to take the body home as the hospital refused to provide an ambulance.

As per reports, villager Poojaram Jatav had brought his three-year-old son Raja to the district hospital. Raja was suffering from anaemia, and succumbed during the treatment at the government-run hospital.

As the ambulance that brought Raja from Ambah Hospital had returned immediately, Jatav asked the doctors and staff of the hospital for a vehicle to take the body to the village but they refused, saying that there was no vehicle in the hospital, and asked him to hire another vehicle.

A hapless Jatav then came out of the hospital with the body of Raja, along with his eight-year-old son Gulshan.

On receiving the information, SHO Yogendra Singh reached the spot. He picked up the body and went straight to the district hospital. Soon, the hospital administration arranged an ambulance and the body was sent home.

CAMPAIGN INTENSIFIED IN 'NASHA MUKT BHARAT ABHIYAN' DISTRICTS

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The state government has issued instructions to intensify the activities in 15 districts of the state included in the 'Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan' and make entry in the National App NMBA, so that they can be continuously evaluated at the national level. Madhya Pradesh is one of the leading states in the campaign. In the month of August, three states and districts will be rewarded for their excellent performance in the 'Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan' in the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'. In view of the success of the campaign, the central government has also decided to start 'Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan-2.0'. Presently the campaign covers 272 districts in need of public awareness against drug abuse in the country. In the second phase, 100 other districts will be covered. 15 districts are included in the campaign from Madhya Pradesh and the names of the districts have been sought for the second phase.

The entry of 23 thousand 321 activities in Jabalpur district and 20 thousand 765 in Datia during the fortnight from

June 14 to 30 by the Social Justice and Disabled Welfare Department was highly appreciated. The collectors of 15 districts of the state - Sagar, Indore, Narmadapuram, Mandasaur, Satna, Gwalior, Bhopal, Ujjain, Chhindwara, Narsinghpur, Neemuch, Ratlam, Jabalpur, Rewa and Datia have been told to carry out anti-drug public awareness activities in collaboration with all the departments in the remaining month of July. Entries of activities by district and master volunteers should be done on real time on 'Nashamukt Bharat Abhiyan' (NMBA) mobile app.

In the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', entries must be registered on the app by completing various important activities of 'Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan' simultaneously at 75 important places in the district with the help of departments and public representatives. Mass programmes should be organized on the very important 'historic day' of the month of July - 'Tiranga Diwas', birth anniversary of freedom fighter Chandrashekhar Azad, death anniversary of Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak etc.

GAU-SAMVARDHAN BOARD WILL PLANT 21 THOUSAND SAPLINGS IN GAUSHALAS ON HARIYALI AMAVASYA

Bhopal: Madhya Pradesh Gau-Samvardhan Board (Working Council) Chairman Swami Akhileshwaranand Giri informed that on the upcoming Hariyali Amavasya (July 28), a target of planting 21 thousand saplings has been set by the Gau-Samvardhan Board. The saplings of different species will be planted in the state's a big number of gaushalas. In all the registered gaushalas, 5 saplings each will be planted and plantation will be done in Kamdhenu Gau Abhayaranya (Cow Sanctuary) premises located in Salaria of Agar-Malwa. Swami Akhileshwaranand Giri told that on the day of Hariyali Amavasya, massive sapling plantation will be done in the presence of saints in 'Basawan Mama' and 'Gau Vansh Vanya Vihar' of Rewa district, Ranighati area and Lalitpara Gau-shala of Gwalior district.

Plantation will also be done by the Animal Husbandry and Dairy Department in the office premises of the state. He appealed to the general public to participate in plantation. He said that Hariyali Amavasya is an important part of Indian festival tradition to preserve nature and environment. For thousands of years, this festival has been giving the message of beautifying and covering the earth with greenery. Its observance has become even more relevant in the context of the present environmental imbalance.

ORAL QUIZ ON OCCASION OF WORLD SNAKE DAY AT RMNH

Bhopal: Regional Museum of Natural History, Bhopal (A Regional Centre of National Museum of Natural History, New Delhi) is organizing an Oral Quiz for the students of class 9th to 12th on 16th July, 2022 on the occasion of World Snake Day. The theme of Quiz is "Snakes of India". A school can send their one team comprising two students as contestant and five students as observer. Only 08 teams will be allowed in this competition on "First Come First Serve" basis. School may send the list of students (Contestant & Observer) and escort teacher for registration through email rmnhbhopal@gmail.com on or before 14th July, 2022. The students are advised to report at 10:00 am in the museum premises on 16th July, 2022 along with their Identity Card. First, Second, Third and one Encouragement prize will be awarded with attractive prizes. All students will receive participation certificate on same day.

MP forest department prepares plan to contain wild elephants

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Madhya Pradesh forest department has prepared a composite plan to check the wild elephants menace, which has become a serious issue especially in areas sharing the forest zone with neighbouring state Chhattisgarh. The increasing number of wild elephants and their attacks on people and destroying farmers paddy has become a big nuisance. Finding a permanent solution now seems a herculean task for the forest department.

A team of Madhya Pradesh forest officials had recently visited Karnataka to study and prepare a plan for this purpose. A senior forest official told IANS that the department has prepared a composite plan and the report has been submitted to the state government. The proposed plan is likely to be discussed during the monsoon session of the assembly. In its proposal, the forest department has recommended additional allocation of funds to implement the scheme, to be provided by the Centre and the state government on a 60:40 ratio.

The step has been taken after Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan in a meeting with forest officials recently expressed concern over the wild elephants menace and directed the department to find a permanent solution to this issue.

The department has proposed to set up 'Hathi Mitra', where local youths will be trained and provided the necessary equipment to defend themselves against elephant attacks. "At least four to five youths from the affected villages will be trained, who will be tasked to monitor the location of elephants and alert the people," a senior official told IANS.



Official told IANS.

The forest department has also recommended beekeeping in villages located near the forest zones. Officials are of the view that since elephants fear bees, this step can be a better option. "Villagers will be provided financial assistance by the state government for beekeeping," an official said.

Further, the forest department has planned to confine wild elephants within a limited area and for this purpose a particular area would be earmarked where food will be provided to the elephants. Officials believe that elephants take village routes in search of food

and if they are provided food within an earmarked zone, they will not come out of the forest. The department has also recommended that the government build pucca houses in the elephant affected areas, so that people can find a safe place to shelter from elephant attacks.

However, wildlife activists who spoke to IANS, had different views. Ajay Dube, a wildlife activist, said that the idea of beekeeping may be dangerous. "Suppose, bees attack the elephants, in which case the elephants can become more ferocious and run amok towards villages. If that happens, it would be impossible to control them. Similarly, the idea of building pucca houses will not be a concrete solution. Recently in West Bengal, elephants demolished a concrete building where food for mid-day meals was stored."

Dube claimed that the elephant menace cannot be contained in Madhya Pradesh until the state government, the forest department and the wildlife department together prepare an inter-state strategy for this purpose. "Most of these elephants come from neighbouring states -- Chhattisgarh and Odisha. The MP government should chalk out an inter-state plan with these states. The entire Shahdol division is affected by the wild elephants menace and this area is closely connected with Chhattisgarh." Madhya Pradesh is part of the central Indian elephant habitat. The habitat extends over 21,000 sq km in the states of Odisha, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and southern West Bengal, at times extending to Madhya Pradesh and Bihar, and holds a population of over 3,000 elephants. The report highlights that elephants also stray into Madhya Pradesh's eastern districts of Singrauli and Anuppur from bordering northern Chhattisgarh.



EDITOR'S SPECS

Amarnath tragedy could have been averted

More than two years after the announcement, Doppler radar at Banihal in Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir is still not functional. It is a crucial missing link that could have helped avert the tragic deaths of over a dozen people at Amarnath Shrine in the UT on Friday. The IMD had forecast only 'very light rain' and later said that such localised high rainfall events occur regularly even when authorities term it as an event of cloudburst. A Doppler radar is an important tool that gives the India Meteorological Department (IMD) a more accurate assessment of the clouds and rainfall in the given range of the radar, 100 km in case at Banihal. At Banihal, this Doppler radar is an X-band radar to be installed at a high point to get clearer access to the atmospheric changes in the hilly terrain. The location is under the Defence Geoinformatics Research Establishment (DGRE), that too at a high altitude, away from any village. The radar is slated to cover the entire Pir Panjal range and once functional, would also be helpful in predicting better weather forecast for the 270 km Srinagar-Jammu national highway, the main road used by Amarnath Yatis. The IMD has automatic weather stations (AWS) all along the Yatra route, both from Pahalgam side and the Baltal side. However, they only give data for realised weather, i.e., for what has happened, light rain, thundershower, heavy rain, or snow fall etc. That data is useful in the long term. Data from the Doppler radar, as it gives a real time assessment, is helpful for the local administration and the disaster management personnel, especially so for the hilly terrain, as the advance information about the ensuing extreme weather event can prevent fatalities.

FROM 'CONGRESS BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION' TO BJP'S 'ELECTION DIRECTORATE'

Saiyed Moziz Imam Zaidi

Political opponents of the Bharatiya Janata Party allege that the ED, IT department and the CBI are being misused by the party to fix rivals. The ED has become the "Election Directorate" of the BJP, they said, while the CBI was once called the Congress Bureau of Investigation. The recent political developments in Maharashtra where the Uddhav Thackeray led MVA was unseated with the help of Shiv Sena rebels has led to the Opposition alleging that the ED was used to topple the government and the agency had been threatening the MLAs since the MVA government came into existence. The ED has been named by the Opposition as the BJP's Election Directorate which is being used to topple the elected governments in the states and comes into play ahead of the elections. Regarding Maharashtra, Congress communication in-charge Pawan Khera said, "Introducing the new ED Sarkar. #Maharashtra." Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha openly accused the ruling party, "BJP and the Central government are fully responsible for destabilising a stable govt in Maharashtra to form their own govt in the state." The recent face off between the Opposition and the ED was over the questioning of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in the AJL/Young India case pertaining to the National Herald. The Congress hit the streets to oppose the action but the ED will now question Congress president Sonia Gandhi in the same case in mid July. On the Rahul Gandhi issue, party MP Karti Chidambaram who is also facing the ED said in a tweet, "The repeated summons to Rahul Gandhi by the ED is nothing but crude harassment. And ED Directors standard conduct is abominable. But the way they are harassing Rahul Gandhi is the pits. This is being done only for the voyeuristic pleasure of certain people and their blind followers who harbour deep prejudice." It's not only the Congress which is facing the ED wrath, said an opposition



leader, but the TMC, Shiv Sena, JMM, AAP and others who are hurdles in the BJP's path are getting the same treatment. Aam Aadmi Party minister Satyendra Jain is in jail, Nawab Malik and Anil Deshmukh of the NCP are also in jail. Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has defended Satyendra Jain and has alleged that he was targeted due to political prejudice. Kejriwal has not removed Jain from the cabinet despite his judicial custody. The Congress also alleged that those opposition leaders have not been investigated who have joined the BJP including Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and Mukul Roy who switched to the BJP and then rejoined the TMC. However this doesn't mean that the Congress tenure was very clean. It often faced allegations of misusing the CBI which was termed as the Congress Bureau of Investigation. The apex court had said it was a caged parrot. Two prominent political parties, the

Samajwadi Party and the Bahujan Samaj Party, had often alleged harassment by the CBI. While the SP was in the dock over DA cases filed by a Congress leader, the BSP was entangled in the Taj Corridor case. Vishwanath Chaturvedi, petitioner in the Mulayam Singh DA case, has been upset with the Congress for being ignored and alleged that, "it was his case which was used to blackmail the Samajwadi Party to support the UPA government during the no confidence motion in 2008 when the Left Front withdrew support opposing the nuclear deal." He said "the UPA government did not have full majority so they were discreet but the BJP has a brute majority so they are more direct. The way has changed but not the misuse, the same ED whose officials are now with the BJP was instrumental in cases against YSRCP leader Jagan Mohan Reddy." When some Samajwadi Party-linked people were raided ahead of elections its

president Akhilesh Yadav categorically said, "Earlier, the Congress also used to intimidate people by misusing central agencies like the I-T, CBI and the ED." He charged that now the BJP is doing the same thing. In 2019 the then Jharkhand Chief Minister Raghubar Das had alleged that the UPA government had misused the CBI to target Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP president Amit Shah in the Sohrabuddin Sheikh case. "The Congress had indulged in politics to trap Narendra Modi and Amit Shah in the name of a dangerous offender and is even now indulging in such efforts as it is the nature of the Congress to glorify terrorists," he had said. On Friday the ED raided present Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren's close aide Pankaj Mishra, so both the governments are not far behind, Chaturvedi asserted.

international

SRI LANKA'S CABINET OF MINISTERS TO RESIGN IF NEW GOVT FORMED: PM'S OFFICE

Colombo: Sri Lanka's cabinet of ministers have decided to resign if an agreement is reached to form an all-party government, the Prime Minister's Office said in a statement on Monday. In discussions held with Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe in state capital Colombo, all the ministers who participated in the discussion were of the opinion that as soon as there is an agreement to form an all-party government, they are ready to hand over their responsibilities to the new government. Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa on Saturday said he will step down from duty on July 13, Xinhua news agency reported. On Saturday, protesters stormed the President's residence and office, and the Prime Minister's house was set on fire. Sri Lanka's political leaders are now calling for an all-party government to be formed in order to take the country forward.

UKRAINE PLANS A 'MILLION-STRONG ARMY' WITH NATO WEAPONS TO RETAKE SOUTH

Kyiv | Agencies Ukraine plans a "million-strong army" equipped with Nato weapons to retake the south of the country from occupying Russians, its Defence Minister Oleksii Reznikov said, as per media reports. Retaking the areas around the Black Sea coast was vital to the country's economy, Reznikov said, the BBC reported. However, the comments are more of a rallying cry than a concrete plan, analysts say. The Defence Minister's remarks come as Russia makes progress in taking territory in the eastern Donbas region. An attack on a block of flats on Sunday killed at least 24 people - with nine people rescued from under the rubble, Ukraine's state emergency services said. Rescuers are still looking for



survivors at the site of the five-storey building in Chasiv Yar, near the city of Kramatorsk, in the Donetsk region which has been the focus of a Russian push, BBC reported. In his interview with The Times

newspaper, Reznikov praised the UK for being "key" in the transition from providing Ukraine with Soviet-era weapons to Nato-standard air defence systems and ammunition. He said weapons deliveries

needed to be sped up. "We need more, quickly, to save the lives of our soldiers. Each day we're waiting for howitzers, we can lose a hundred soldiers," he said. "We have approximately 700,000 in the armed forces and when you add the national guard, police, border guard, we are around a million-strong," the defence minister said. However, Dr Jack Watling, senior research fellow at the Royal United Services Institute, cautioned against the figure. "It's not a million-strong force that will be conducting a counter-attack," Watling told the BBC. "Normally you would want operational surprise when you launch a counter-attack, so announcing it publicly is partly about forcing the Russians to have to commit resources more widely to guard against this threat."

South Korea, US, Japan vow to bolster cooperation on North Korea

Washington: The chief nuclear envoys of South Korea, the US and Japan reaffirmed their shared commitment to a stronger trilateral cooperation against North Korea's threat during their meeting in Indonesia last week, according to the US State Department. Kim Gunn, Seoul's new special representative for Korean Peninsula Peace and Security Affairs, on Friday met his US counterpart, Sung Kim, and Japan's Takehiro Funakoshi on the resort island of Bali, where the G-20 foreign ministers' session was held, Yonhap news agency reported. "US Special Representative Kim reaffirmed the importance of enhancing trilateral security cooperation in the face of the North Korea's continued destabilising and unlawful ballistic missile launches and committed to work closely to mitigate the threats posed by North Korea's malicious cyber activity," US Department Spokesperson Ned Price said in a press release. "They reiterated their commitment to a diplomatic path and called upon Pyongyang to return to dialogue," Ned added.



S KOREAN MISSILES CAPABLE OF DEALING 'FATAL BLOW' TO POTENTIAL ENEMY: JCS CHIEF

Seoul | Agencies South Korea's top military officer said on Monday that the country's missile forces are capable of dealing a "fatal" blow to a potential enemy, in an apparent message of deterrence against North Korea's nuclear and missile threats. In a meeting with reporters, new Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) Chairman General Kim Seung-kyum commented on his visit last week to a unit of the Army Missile Strategic Command, which he said was designed to deliver such a warning. "As North Korea has undertaken various strategic provocations and is threatening South Korea... I thought I should send a different message to the enemy," Kim said, referring to South Korea by its official name. "Missiles that South Korea possesses are at a considerable level. I thought (the visit) carried and should carry a warning message that (South Korea) is capable of sending a fatal blow to the enemy," he added.



Kim referred to the North as an enemy but noted that there is no need to call it an enemy or antagonise it should it not pose any threat, Yonhap news agency reported. "Soldiers exist to protect the nation from enemy threats, provocations and invasion," he said. The top military officer also stressed the importance of exercising the "right to self-defense" based on "basics and principles" in case of enemy provocations. "If an enemy provokes, we conduct operations based on our right to self-defense. You don't need to ask a question on whether to exercise that right," he said, apparently highlighting the role of lower-level field officers responding to North Korean provocations. Kim, Former Deputy Commander of the South Korea-US Combined Forces Command, took office on Tuesday amid growing concerns about the possibility of Pyongyang conducting what would be its seventh nuclear test or other provocative acts.

LEGISLATIVE, LOCAL ELECTIONS 'TAKING PLACE IN PEACE:' CONGOLESE PREZ

Brazzaville: Congolese President Denis Sassou Nguesso has said that the voting procedures for the 2022 legislative and local elections were "taking place in peace" across the country. Nearly 2.8 million Congolese voters have been going to the polls since Sunday morning to elect their deputies to the National Assembly and their municipal and departmental councilors, Xinhua news agency reported. More than 2,000 candidates are mobilised for the two elections, after which the National Assembly and the departmental and municipal councils will be renewed. "If the elections take place on a regular basis, that is a good sign. Democracy is a process and we must continue to learn and move forward. I think we are on the right track," Nguesso added on Sunday. The two elections were going smoothly in all the departments of the country, according to Henri Bouka, President of the National Independent Electoral Commission.

Israeli ministers say run jointly in elections, aim for government 'without extremists'

Jerusalem | Agencies Leaders of two parties in Israel's outgoing coalition government have announced that they would run jointly in the upcoming national elections. Benny Gantz, Israel's Defense Minister and leader of the centrist Blue and White party, and Gideon Sa'ar, Justice Minister and leader of the right-wing New Hope party, called on Sunday in a joint statement for a centrist unity government with Gantz at the helm that would "say no to extremism". "Today, we are laying the foundation of the next government," Gantz said. Sa'ar said the new alliance was formed in a bid to break Israel's three-year political deadlock and establish "a broad national unity government not dependent upon the fringes". The Israeli Defence Minister was "the best-suited leader to stand at the helm of a unity gov-



ernment," he added. The announcement marked the first shift in the political map since the parliament voted to dissolve itself on June 30 following the collapse of the coalition government, sending the country to its fifth elections in fewer than four years. Gantz previously served as Chief of Staff of the Israel Defense Forces and Sa'ar was a member of former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's right-wing Likud party, Xinhua news agency reported. Both Gantz and Sa'ar were part of the outgoing coalition government composed of eight ideologically diverse parties united only by the will to oust Netanyahu, who is facing a criminal trial in three separate corruption cases.



MUMBAI COURT DECLINES DEFAULT BAIL TO ANIL DESHMUKH, 2 OTHERS

In yet another setback, a Mumbai Special Court has declined default bail to ex-Minister Anil Deshmukh and two other co-accused in a corruption case, here on Monday.



Team Absolute | Mumbai
In yet another setback, a Mumbai Special Court has declined default bail to ex-Minister Anil Deshmukh and two other co-accused in a corruption case, here on Monday. Special CBI Court Special Judge S. H. Gwalani refused the default bail pleas of Deshmukh and his former aides Kundan Shinde and Sanjeev Palande. The trio of Deshmukh, Shinde and Palande had moved the Special Court seeking a default bail contending that only a 59-page "incomplete" charge sheet without any accompanying documents, had been filed by the CBI. The CBI had strongly opposed the bail stating that the charge sheet was complete and the court had also granted additional time to enable them furnish all documents which had been complied

with. Appearing for the CBI, Additional Solicitor-General Anil Singh argued that the charge-sheet was complete with the names of the accused, the provisions under which they were charged and arrested, plus the lists of witnesses, evidence and enclosures in the case. He submitted before the Special Court that the plea for default bail should have been filed before the charge sheet and after the right to default bail arose. Deshmukh's lawyer Aniket Nikam, among other things, argued that of the three things the CBI was supposed to provide from bar owners, Vaze's re-statement and the police transfers only the first one was investigated. Following a Bombay High Court order, the CBI had registered an FIR against Deshmukh

and others on April 21, 2021 under sections of the Prevention of Corruption Act and Indian Penal Code for alleged corruption in matters pertaining to postings and transfers of police officials. Shinde and Palande were arrested soon after the CBI probe started after its Preliminary Enquiry report into corruption allegations of Rs 100 crore against Deshmukh who was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) early hours of November 2, 2021 under PMLA charges. The former Mumbai Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh had levelled the charges against Deshmukh in his March 30, 2021 letter to the then Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, sparking off a massive political row. One of the accused linked with Deshmukh's case dismissed cop Sachin Vaze, in custody for the Mansukh Hiran murder case, has recently turned an approver.

SC asks Maha Speaker not to decide on disqualification proceedings against rebel Shiv Sena MLAs

The Supreme Court on Monday asked the new Maharashtra Legislative Assembly Speaker, Rahul Narwekar, not to decide on the disqualification proceedings initiated against Shiv Sena MLAs, including Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, until the court hears the matter.



Team Absolute | New Delhi
The Supreme Court on Monday asked the new Maharashtra Legislative Assembly Speaker, Rahul Narwekar, not to decide on the disqualification proceedings initiated against Shiv Sena MLAs, including Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, until the court hears the matter. Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, representing Uddhav Thackeray camp, mentioned the matter before a bench headed by Chief Justice N.V. Ramana. Sibal said the disqualification plea is listed on Tuesday before the Speaker, and it should not be decided till the top court decides the

matter. The Chief Justice told Tushar Mehta, representing the Maharashtra Governor, "Please inform the Assembly Speaker not to take any decision... Let us see, we'll hear the matter." Sibal pressed for an urgent hearing in the matter. The Chief Justice said the listing of the matter will take some time, as a bench needs to be finalised. "But inform the Speaker what we said," added Justice Ramana. Nearly four petitions are pending before the apex court in connection with the political developments in Maharashtra. Two petitions have been filed by Shinde faction MLAs against the disqualification proceed-

ings initiated by the then Deputy Speaker of the Maharashtra Assembly on the disqualification petitions filed by Sunil Prabhu. The third plea is filed by Prabhu against the summoning of the Assembly by the Governor for the floor test. Another plea was filed by Prabhu challenging the newly appointed Speaker removing Ajay Chaudhary and himself from the posts of leader as well as chief whip of the Shiv Sena legislature party. In June, the top court allowed the Shinde and other rebel MLAs to file their written response by July 12 to the disqualification notice sent by the Deputy Speaker.

Aaditya Thackeray hints at vertical split in Eknath Shinde camp

Aaditya said the doors of Matoshree (Thackeray's residence) were, are and will be opened for those who want to return to the party fold.



Team Absolute | Mumbai
Is the camp of crossover Shiv Sena MLAs led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde already a house divided? Going by the words of the Yuva Sena chief and former minister, Aaditya Thackeray, on Sunday, it would seem so. Aaditya claimed that a vertical split among the rebel legislators was bound to surface shortly. "There are two groups: one comprising legislators coerced into crossing over while the other comprised legislators with monstrous ambitions," claimed Aaditya, who is conducting a 'loyalty' tour, especially in the constituencies of rebel legislators, with a resolve to defeat them in the next assembly elections. He claimed that those legislators who had been forcibly made to join the Shinde camp, were desperately eager to come back and join the Thackeray-led Shiv Sena. Aaditya said the doors of Matoshree (Thackeray residence) were, are and would always be open for those wanting to return to the party fold. "There is no anger or hatred in

our minds about you (rebel MLAs). We used to consider you Shiv Sainiks, we believed in you," he noted. However, he challenged the rebel legislators saying, "If there is any shame or courage left, resign and go to the polls." "No matter how much you give some people, they will not be happy and will continue to complain. However, a division in the legislators from Shinde camp will be visible soon," he declared. Aaditya's revelation came ahead of a slew of petitions from the Thackeray-led Shiv Sena and the Eknath Shinde camp slated for hearing on July 11 in the Supreme Court. The younger Thackeray was echoing the line taken by his father and party president Uddhav Thackeray, who had dared rebel legislators to resign and face mid-term elections in the state. The former forest minister, Sanjay Rathod, who had jumped to the Shinde camp, announced that rebel leaders were ready to return to Matoshree

and hinted that the chorus was growing. However, he insisted that Thackeray should immediately banish his coterie. Aaditya's disclosure comes days after cracks surfaced between the Shinde camp and its ally, the BJP, over BJP leader Kirit Somaiya's 'mafia raj' barb against Shiv Sena president and former chief minister Uddhav Thackeray. Several legislators from the Shinde camp slammed Somaiya but threatened that they would not tolerate insults to Thackeray as they were least bothered about power. The statement by Aaditya also comes at a time when several aspirants are openly staking claim for ministerial berths. Rifts have surfaced among rebel legislators as they are engaged in making serious allegations against each other even before the cabinet expansion by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde.

Ritu Chaudhary: People consider 'infertility' as taboo

'Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi' actress Ritu Chaudhary Seth, who is part of the short film 'Infertility', says that she found the subject of the film very different from what is made nowadays and that is what motivated her to be part of it.



Team Absolute | Mumbai
'Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi' actress Ritu Chaudhary Seth, who is part of the short film 'Infertility', says that she found the subject of the film very different from what is made nowadays and that is what motivated her to be part of it. "The subject itself is very unique. It's something that a lot of people in our society, even educated people shy away from and consider it as a taboo. So that is what I feel is unique about the film. Infertility isn't a disease. It's something that can be treated and that's how it should be handled," she says. She adds: "I think an issue such as this one should be very openly discussed and tackled. Also the field of medicine has become so progressive now. There is a cure and way out for everything and it is not something that one needs to hide from and be ashamed about. It is very normal and the truth of the times that we live in and just

needs to be treated." The actress says that people are loving the film. "Till now the response has been amazing and I am getting a lot of DMs and calls that the subject is brilliant and the way it has been portrayed is even more brilliant. People are liking it," she says. Talking about her association with Shipra and Shivankar Arora, she says, "They are like a breath of fresh air to work with. I enjoyed the whole process of shooting, discussing, and reading with them. I really hope that we can do a lot more work in future." Meanwhile, the actress has been part of different mediums and says that she looks at every project as her first one. "I have been around for a really long time but I treat everyday on set as a new day. I treat myself as a newcomer and I need to learn everyday and start fresh every single day. One thing I say very confidently about myself is that, the fire to learn and the fire to

do something new, still hasn't diminished." "This is the one thing that makes me grow. We need to be ready to learn each and every second of living the day. The day you stop learning and think that you know it all then that's the end of it," she says. Talking about the roles she wants to play, she says: "I am looking out to play strong characters. In the beginning of my career it was about the lead roles but now I wish that in TV or any other medium I get to play a layered character which has shades to it, as that is a dream role for any actor." She concludes: "Any medium which has content to watch on is competition to another. OTT has competition to television but TV has its own audience as the content is slightly different from what you see on OTT. TV has a loyal audience but I don't think that one of the others is going to wipe out."

ROAD TO 2024:

In saga Maharashtra and Devendra Fadnavis, the many messages by BJP

Team Absolute | Mumbai
With the recent political developments in Maharashtra, culminating in the installation of the Eknath Shinde-led government of BJP MLAs and Shiv Sena rebels, the BJP has again sent several messages intended at the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. The way the political drama unravelled on the last day June 20 with the announcement of both Shinde as Chief Minister and Devendra Fadnavis as Deputy CM, was undoubtedly unexpected for not just the BJP support base but also RSS cadre. The consensus was that Fadnavis, having been denied the post in November 2019 and seen as the prime mover behind the Sena coup, would finally receive what he saw as his due and become CM again. Not only did the national leadership make him step aside for Shinde, Fadnavis was publicly made to stand down on his decision to not join the government and accept the Deputy CM post. While a section of the BJP was angry over the "humiliation" Fadnavis was subjected to, with some even expressing it publicly, the party was working to a plan. A part of it is a rethink on the BJP strategy to choose leaders from non-dominant castes in states as CM - a move



in place since the 2014 win at the Centre, that had the backing of both Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah. Hence, Manohar Lal Khattar in Haryana, Fadnavis in Maharashtra and Raghuraj Das in Jharkhand, from outside the Jat, Maratha and tribal communities that dominate the states, respectively. With Modi at the peak of his popularity, the message was that the party need not depend on trite formulas like dominant castes. However, despite expanding its membership and reach, the BJP had gone on to lose power in Maharashtra and Jharkhand in 2019, and could form a government in Haryana only with the help of the Jannayak Janata Party. Since last year, the BJP has

who claims the legacy of Bal Thackeray. The second aim of the BJP in allowing Shinde to be CM was to send a message to potential allies. A senior BJP leader said: "As we try to expand to new regions, mainly in the south, it is important for the leadership to signal regional and smaller parties that the BJP is ready to give up the top post if you stand by us." It also helps the BJP counter the charge of centralising power if it has strong units with emboldened leaders. Seen as keen on leaving a legacy of a robust organisation, Modi has been urging the BJP not to hesitate to make "sacrifices" to strengthen the party in states. His appeal to BJP leaders to reach out to communities other than Hindus, especially weaker and backward sections, aka Pasmanda Muslims, must be seen in this light. As per other leaders, a message was also directed at Fadnavis himself, with the intention being to "clip the wings" of the former CM. While once seen as enjoying the confidence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he reportedly never had the whole-hearted backing of Home Minister Amit Shah. However, at least three party leaders who have direct access

to the RSS said Fadnavis had joined the club of the "sidelined" leaders in the party. One of them even said: "Now it's clear that Fadnavis will never be the chief minister of Maharashtra. He will be brought to national politics and will just be one of the Union ministers." Citing Fadnavis's proximity to Nagpur (the RSS headquarters), some of them say he will be a replacement to Nitin Gadkari after the next Lok Sabha election. According to yet another group of leaders, the cutting of size of Fadnavis is in line with the diminution of the Brahmin leadership in the BJP, as the party promotes non-Brahmin forward castes as well as frames its politics around backward communities. Some leaders see it as deliberate downsizing of "Brahmin faces close to the RSS." Disillusionment has been building up among Brahmin leaders. In May, Union minister and former Maharashtra BJP president Raosaheb Danve said he did not want to see Brahmins "just as municipal councillors or council presidents" and that he hoped to "see a Brahmin holding the post of CM of this state." What all leaders agree on is that whatever the message, it fits in with the party's plans for 2024.

SC: CENTRE BOUND TO HONOUR COMMITMENT GIVEN TO PORTUGAL DURING ABU SALEM EXTRADITION



Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Monday said that the Central government is bound to honour the commitment given to Portugal's government for not imprisoning gangster Abu Salem for more than 25 years. A bench headed by Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul said the Central government should forward the documents to the president in connection with the release of Salem from jail after he completes 25 years, in accordance with the commitment given to the Portugal government. However, the top court did not entertain submissions of Salem's counsel that when the government calculates his 25 years imprisonment. The top court also made it clear that the detention period will start from October 2005 when he was extradited from Portugal. Advocate Rishi Malhotra represented Salem in the top court. In May, the Supreme Court reserved its order on a plea by gangster Abu Salem claiming that as per the extradition treaty between India and Portugal, his jail terms cannot extend beyond 25 years. After the top court's order, Salem would be released from jail in 2030. During the hearing, Salem's counsel contended that the assurance was given to the Portugal government by the Indian government, that Salem will not be either awarded death penalty or punished

The Supreme Court on Monday said that the Central government is bound to honour the commitment given to Portugal's government for not imprisoning gangster Abu Salem for more than 25 years.

beyond 25 years, however, he has been sentenced with life imprisonment. While hearing the matter, the bench noted that the courts are not bound by the assurance given by the governments, however the government may practice its executive power. Malhotra then submitted that Salem was in custody in Portugal since 2002, and he was arrested following a red corner notice. He added that extradition started in 2003 and went for almost two years and in 2005, he was handed over. Additional Solicitor General KM Nataraj, representing the Central government, had submitted that it will start by the time, when "we took him into custody and for the part of assurance, we'll consider it but on the part of the judiciary, it can be decided independently". Salem has been convicted in Mumbai serial bomb blasts. On April 21, the Supreme Court had strongly objected to some statements made by the Union home secretary, in an affidavit on honouring assurance made to Portugal during Salem's extradition, saying the judiciary does not need lecturing from the home secretary in the matter. The Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla has told the Supreme Court that the Indian government is bound by its assurance given to the Portugal government during the extradition of gangster Abu Salem, a convict in Mumbai serial blasts case, however the question of honouring its assurance will arise only when the period of 25 years is to expire.



ZENDAYA REVEALS PLAN TO DIRECT AN EPISODE OF 'EUPHORIA' 3

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Zendaya hopes to direct an episode of the hit teen drama 'Euphoria' next season. The 25-year-old actress, who stars as drug addict Rue in the hit teen drama and also serves as an executive producer, has shared that she was set to helm episode six of season two, but she was needed in front of the camera. reports aceshowbiz.com.

Speaking to Vogue Italia, she said: "It's funny. I was actually supposed to direct episode 6, but then I had to act in it. I didn't have enough time, so unfortunately, I wasn't able to this time around."

I wanted to have enough time to do it the right way." However, she hinted, "So, next season probably."

Star expressed her desire to try her hand at different elements of

the film industry, including directing. She said in 2019: "I don't want to live in a box. I want to be able to push myself. I think before I was feeling too comfortable, so I want to prove to others, and myself, that I can do it."

"I just want to continue to do what I love, and that's acting," Zendaya went on to add.



PC CHEERS FOR HUBBY NICK JONAS IN LAKE TAHOE

Los Angeles | Agencies

Priyanka Chopra and Nick Jonas are usually encouraging of one another and make an effort to cheer for one another. Nick Jonas recently took part in the Celebrity Golf Tournament in Lake Tahoe, with Miles Teller, Justin Timberlake, and others.

Priyanka also came to the arena to wish Nick luck during the game.

Chopra was seen in a sporty pose in videos posted on social media from the competition, wearing a casual dress paired with a blue jacket and a hat. During this outing, the actress was seen sporting white shoes.

Priyanka was also seen mingling with fans throughout the game and even signing her autograph for a fan. Nick also posted a photo with Miles Teller and Paige Renee Spirancac from the golf pitch before the competition, writing, "Such a fun first round at the #achampionship in Tahoe with Miles Teller and @paige.renee.birdies and pars tomorrow!"

Nick is an enthusiastic golfer. In terms of the recent competition, while Nick had his wifey rooting for him, his daughter Malti Marie Chopra Jonas was not seen.



RUSSO BROTHERS ARE COMING TO INDIA FOR 'THE GRAY MAN' PREMIERE



Los Angeles | Agencies

Filmmaking sibling duo - Anthony and Joe Russo better known as "The Russo Brothers", who are revered for doling out some of the biggest and most successful films of all times, will be attending the premiere of their upcoming streaming movie 'The Gray Man', in Mumbai.

The film, an action-packed story, stars Ryan Gosling, Chris Evans, Ana De Armas and Indian superstar Dhanush. The director duo will join Dhanush in Mumbai soon to meet fans at the film's premiere in India, the dates for which will be revealed soon.

In a video message to their Indian fans, the Russo brothers jointly shared, "We're so excited to be coming to India to see our dear friend Dhanush for our new movie 'The Gray Man'. Get ready India, see you soon."

The film, which additionally stars Reg-Jean Page, Billy Bob Thornton, Jessica Henwick, Wagner Moura and Alfre Woodard, is based on the novel of the same name by Mark Greaney. The film will drop on streaming platform Netflix on July 22.

Miles Teller in talks with Cruise for 'Maverick' follow-up film

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood actor Miles Teller, who plays son of Maverick's late best friend Goose, opposite Tom Cruise in one of the highest grossing films of the year 'Top Gun: Maverick', revealed that he has been having conversation with Cruise around the follow-up film, reports Deadline. The actor, quoted by Deadline, told Entertainment Tonight: "I've been having some conversations with Tom about it. We'll see."

Teller added, though, the decision would inevitably be up to Cruise, who initially didn't savour the prospect of making a sequel before bestowing his legendary commitment to the film. "That would be great, but that's all up to TC," Teller said. "It's all up to Tom." Deadline added that Cruise, meanwhile, remains hard at work on his latest Mission Impossible film. He was last seen shooting scenes in London in between trips to watch the tennis action at Wimbledon and the Rolling Stones concert at Hyde Park.



Chris Evans backs Anthony Mackie as Captain America amid

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Chris Evans who is famous for his portrayal of Steve Rodgers also known as the Cap in Marvel Cinematic Universe, has shown his support for Anthony Mackie amid speculations about his return in the fourth 'Captain America' movie. The Hollywood Reporter tweeted about Julius Onah being tapped to direct 'Captain America 4'.

In one of its tweets, the site posed a question if Evans would reprise his role as the titular superhero in the upcoming movie. "It is unclear if Chris Evans would reprise his role as the first #CaptainAmerica (though if the question of who is entitled to carry the shield continues, all bets are off)," read the tweet, which prompted a response from Evans himself. "Sam Wilson is Captain America," the star simply wrote. Evans made his first appearance as Steve Rogers a.k.a. Captain America in 2011's 'Captain America: The First Avenger'. He continued to portray the character in two other 'Captain America' movies and 'The Avengers' films.



DIAZ REVEALS SHE MAY HAVE UNKNOWNLY SMUGGLED DRUGS

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Cameron Diaz opening up about her early days as a model in Paris, she believes, she was once used as a "mule" to carry illegal substances in a locked suitcase, reports aceshowbiz.com.

The actress talked about her struggle to land a job prior to scoring her breakout role in "The Mask" during an appearance on the 'Second Life' podcast. "I started working as a catalogue model and I got enough money to move to Paris and get an apartment, which

I shared with a girl who is still one of my best friends," she shared.

"But I was there a full year and didn't work one day. I couldn't book a job to save my life," the mother of one continued to divulge. "Then I got one job but, really, I think I was a mule carrying drugs to Morocco - I swear to God." She added: "This was the early '90s, and they gave me a locked suitcase that had my 'costumes' in it. It was before TSA or anything like that."

"I'm this blonde-haired, blue-eyed girl in Morocco. I'm wearing torn jeans and platform boots, with my hair down - this is really unsafe...I told them, I don't know, it's not mine, I've no idea whose it is," she added. "That was the only job I got in Paris." Diaz said she eventually left the suitcase with custom officials when she returned to France after the modelling job. After 8 years, the actress has announced she's ready to make her acting comeback for a new Netflix movie titled "Back in Action".

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Alessandra Ambrosio



Changwon World Cup

ARJUN BABUTA STRIKES GOLD IN MEN'S 10M AIR RIFLE

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Shooting at his best over two days, India's Arjun Babuta won his maiden ISSF World Cup stage gold, beating Tokyo Olympics silver medallist Lucas Kozzeniesky of the USA 17-9 in the gold-medal match on Monday morning.

Arjun had qualified second to make it to the top-eight ranking round on Sunday, along with compatriot Paarth Makhija who had qualified in fifth place. The Chandigarh lad carried on his good form on Monday, topping the ranking round with a scintillating 261.1 to storm into the gold-medal encounter.

Kozzeniesky shot 260.4 to join him even as qualification leader Sergey Richter of Israel settled for bronze with a score of 259.9. Paarth had to be happy with fourth place with 258.1.

There was no stopping Arjun in the final as well as he raced to a 10-4 lead after the first seven single-shot series. The winner of each series gets two points while the points are split in case of a tie and the first to 16 wins the match. The American did not give up till then end but Arjun pulled out those big high 10s when it mattered most and finished clinically



in the end for a convincing 17-9 score-line to help India open their account with the brightest medal possible. This was also national foreign rifle coach Thomas Farnik's first medal on his very first international assignment. The Austrian had been appointed to the job just ahead of the Changwon ISSF World Cup.

India have fielded a 32-strong squad in the Changwon World Cup which has more than 430 athletes from 44 nations competing. The World Cup ends on July 21 with 30 gold medals on the roster.

Terrassa (Spain) | Agencies

India's hopes of making it to the quarterfinals of the FIH Hockey Women's World Cup 2022 were dashed late on Sunday with Spain beating them 1-0 on home turf in the do-or-die crossover match here.

It was Marta Segu (57th minute) who scored the lone goal of the match.

With a place in the last-eight at stake, both teams got off to a nervy start. It took them a while to settle down and build on a good structure. It was not until a little over eight minutes into play that India earned the first penalty corner of the match through Neha, who skilfully tackled the Spanish defender inside the circle.

India, however, could not make much of the opportunity with the hosts defending doggedly. They further built on a speedy counter attack creating a brilliant shot on goal but Beatriz Perez was slightly off target.



The following minutes saw Spain being awarded back-to-back penalty corners but they could not beat

India's defence. The second quarter witnessed both teams trade PCs but the goalkeepers were on top of their

game.

With the scoreboard reading 0-0, the match continued to remain tense in the third quarter. The final quarter was action-packed with Spain getting off the mark with a good attack but Savita yet again defended well. Indian forward line, on the other hand, worked a stupendous attack with Salima and Lalremsiami in the circle but missed the target by a whisker.

Just when it looked like the match would go into the shootout, Spain found a breakthrough in the 57th minute. It was Clara Ycart who drove into India's circle and took a shot on goal, but Savita blocked it away. However, Marta Segu was perfectly positioned in front of the goal-mouth to pick up the rebound and put it past India's goalkeeper. Though India fought hard in the dying seconds of the match, Spain defended the goal which drew curtains on India's medal hopes at the World Cup.

India will take on Canada in the 9th to 16th placing match on July 12.

Youth Men's and Women's National Boxing

Devika, Abhiwardhan shine as 7 boxers from Maharashtra advance to finals

Chennai | Agencies

Reigning junior national champion Devika Ghorpade and Abhiwardhan Sharma showed their dominance as Maharashtra's seven boxers, including five women, entered the finals of the 5th Youth Men's and Women's National Boxing Championships here.

Haryana's women's team and Services Sports Control Boards' (SSCB) men's team also continued their brilliant show with 11 boxers from each making their way into the finals.

Devika Ghorpade (52kg) extended her fine form and started the proceedings for Maharashtra on a great note as she began the bout against Punjab's Kuldeep Kaur with positive intent.

Devika's relentless attack forced the referee to stop the contest in the second round and give the result in her favour. She will fight against Haryana's Anjali in the final. In the 57kg feather weight category, Aarya Bartakke got the better of



Rajasthan's Anju in a thrilling contest. Both the boxers threw caution to the wind and traded heavy blows throughout the bout but Aarya showcased great composure and skills to prevail over her opponent by a 4-1 split verdict. She will face Mizoram's Naom Chingsanuami in the summit clash. Sharvari Kalyankar (75kg), Nasweera Mujawar (81kg) and Kanchan Suranse (81+kg) were the other women boxers from Maharashtra to enter the final. They will face Haryana's Muskan, Pranjal and Kirti respectively in

their gold medal matches.

In the men's section, Maharashtra's Abhiwardhan (92kg) blanked Rishabh Pandey of Uttar Pradesh 5-0 in a one-sided affair. He will square off against Asian junior champion Bharat Joon of Haryana in the final.

The other male boxer from Maharashtra to reach the final was Usman Ansari (51kg), who defeated Uttarakhand's Vishwas Mehra 5-0. He will take on SSCB's Jadumani Mandengbam in the final.

Delhi's Sanjana (48kg) and Shivani (70kg) also progressed into the finals after getting the better of Himachal Pradesh's Priya and Rajasthan's Sanjana respectively by identical 5-0 margin.

Anand Yadav (57kg), Adarsh Katara (60kg) and Aman Singh (92+kg) are the Madhya Pradesh boxers to reach the finals. Punjab's Tejaswi Vashisht also emerged victorious on the fifth day of the competition as he defeated Ayush Yadav of Manipur in a 4-1 split verdict in the men's 75kg semi-finals.

Chandimal, Jayasuriya guide Sri Lanka to famous victory; level series with Australia 1-1

Galle | Agencies

Dinesh Chandimal slammed an unbeaten double century, his best knock in Test cricket while debutant Prabh Jayasuriya scalped another six-wicket haul in the second innings to guide Sri Lanka to a famous victory over Australia, by an innings and 39 runs, in the second Test at Galle to level the two-match series 1-1.

After Chandimal's unbeaten 206 took Sri Lanka to 554 in the first innings, Jayasuriya followed up his first-innings figures of 6-118 with 6-59 in the second to grab 12 wickets on debut and cause Australia to collapse to an innings defeat after losing nine wickets in the final session on day four. Australia's disappointing batting display in the second innings will again raise question marks about their ability to bat against the turning ball,



especially with a crucial Test series against India coming up next year.

Resuming with an overnight lead of 67, Chandimal and Ramesh Mendis (29) went about their business in the first hour by frustrating the visitors. Chandimal was looking rock-solid while Mendis chipped with some valuable runs before their 68-run stand was broken by Mitchell Starc trapping the latter lbw.

Maheesh Theekshana would also perish for 10 before

lunch. But after that, Chandimal went on the attack, smashing the Australian bowlers around and edging closer to a double century. He reached the milestone by hitting Starc for back-to-back sixes, as the Sri Lankan dressing room and fans around the stadium erupted in applause. Chandimal also became the first Sri Lankan to score a double century against Australia in Test cricket. Australia's misery finally ended when Mitchell Swepson

trapped Kasun Rajitha lbw, but the hosts had grown their lead to 190. Sri Lanka had a crucial wicket when Ramesh trapped David Warner lbw before tea break. After that, it was a Jayasuriya show all the way. He had Usman Khawaja caught at short leg and then trapped Steve Smith lbw for a duck in the same over to trigger the Australian collapse. Travis Head was beaten all ends up by a ripping off-break from Ramesh before Jayasuriya struck thrice in the space of eleven balls.

Brief scores:

Australia 364 and 151 in 41 overs (Marnus Labuschagne 32; Prabh Jayasuriya 6-59) lost to Sri Lanka 554 in 181 overs (Dinesh Chandimal 205 not out, Dimuth Karunaratne 86; Mitchell Starc 4-98, Mitchell Swepson 2-100) by an innings and 39 runs

Marizanne Kapp named ICC Women's Player of the Month for June

South Africa all-rounder Marizanne Kapp on Monday was named winner of the ICC Women's Player of the Month award for June 2022.

Dubai | Agencies

In securing this month's award, Marizanne overcame fellow nominees in compatriot, pacer Shabnim Ismail and England's Nat Sciver. She is also South Africa's first ICC Women's Player of the Month winner since now-retired opener Lizelle Lee was crowned in March 2021.



Marizanne won the award thanks to her solid and fierce resistance in the face of a hostile England bowling attack in the one-off Test match at Taunton which secured her side a valuable draw. In what was her first Test match since 2014, Marizanne came in with her side's backs against the wall at 45 for four and produced a batting masterclass.

She demonstrated her full repertoire of classy stroke-play on the way to scoring a national record of 150. Her resistance salvaged a respectable 284 for her team in the first innings, and while England set an imposing score in response, Marizanne once again starred for her team with a score of 43 not out before rain curtailed play on the final day.

Bairstow bags ICC Men's Player of the Month Award for June 2022

Dubai | Agencies

England's in-form batter Jonny Bairstow on Monday bagged the ICC Men's Player of the Month for June 2022. Bairstow bags this award for the first time, getting the better of his teammate Joe Root and all-rounder Daryl Mitchell of New Zealand.

Bairstow was crowned following a month of memorable performances in his side's 3-0 ICC World Test Championship (WTC) series victory against reigning champions New Zealand.

Bairstow's remarkable run continued into July, where twin centuries of 106 and 114 not out in his side's victory in



the rescheduled fifth Test against India at Edgbaston saw them reach home in a record-breaking run chase of 378. Bairstow's continued dominance already lines him up as a potential contender for the ICC Men's Player of the Month award for July 2022.

Bairstow is currently the

leading run-scorer in Test cricket this year, making 994 runs in eight matches at an average of 76.46, including six centuries and a fifty. He will be next seen in action with the ODIs against India starting from Tuesday at The Oval, after being rested from recently-concluded T20I series.

Suryakumar Yadav is India's very own Mr 360 degrees: Aakash Chopra

Former India opener Aakash Chopra has claimed that star batter Suryakumar Yadav is India's 360-degree player. Suryakumar's heroics on Sunday went in vain as England defeated India by 17 runs in the 3rd T20I.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The right-handed batter showed a range of shots on his way to an impeccable century.

Chopra lavished praise on Yadav following his sensational innings in the 3rd T20I as he compared the batter with South Africa's great AB de Villiers.

"Surya's knock was not just bravado but also a lot about the game sense knowing where the fielders were and where the bowlers were likely to bowl. He's India's very own Mr 360 degrees," Chopra said exclusively on the Koo app.

India might have lost the match but the visitors won the T20I series 2-1 against England.

Coming to the match,



England smashed 215 in the allotted 20 Overs as Dawid Malan and Liam Livingstone wreaked havoc on Indian bowlers. Chasing 216, India

didn't have a great start as the visitors lost skipper Rohit Sharma, wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant and Virat Kohli inside 5 overs.

England v India

Rohit Sharma-led side looks to continue fireworks from T20Is to ODIs

London | Agencies

Though India and England are on the road to prepare for Men's T20 World Cup in Australia in October-November, there is also an ODI World Cup to be hosted by the visitors in the same time period next year.

If India's long-term planning for the ODI World Cup needed an initial push, then the upcoming three-match series against the World Champions in this format of the game, starting from The Oval on Tuesday, is the perfect way for them to kickstart it.

For now, it is India, with their new, aggressive approach of batting in T20Is and fetching them 2-1 win over England, who come in as the favourites in the ODI series. This year, India have had a mixed bag in ODIs - lost 3-0 to South Africa in January before defeating West Indies by the same margin at home.

With the addition of ace opener Shikhar Dhawan, one can think of India to be stronger in the batting department despite Virat Kohli's form facing intense scrutiny apart from the bowling department having a sorted look. "All matches are important for us. We can't play



thinking ODIs are not a priority, but we have to keep in mind the workload of each player. We will make changes but our ultimate goal is to win matches.

"We will not leave that thought process

behind. For us, the aim is to understand white-ball cricket, how to play (as) new guys are playing. 50 over is an extension of T20 (cricket). Maybe you take less risk in ODIs as compared to T20 cricket but you have to take it," asserted India skipper Rohit Sharma on importance of ODIs in a Men's T20 World Cup year.

England, on the other hand, will be playing in the format for the first time since the retirement of their 2019 World Cup winning skipper Eoin Morgan. After defeating the Netherlands 3-0, England suffered a setback by conceding the T20I series to India. Newly-appointed skipper Jos Buttler and Jason Roy were amassing big runs against the Netherlands in ODIs. But the duo were unable to carry on the same approach against India in T20Is, falling early and cheaply and would be itching to bounce back in ODIs.

The hosts will also be boosted by the return of their star players Ben Stokes, Joe Root and Jonny Bairstow after playing huge roles in England winning four out of four Tests this summer. As the recently-concluded T20I series showed, one can expect a neck-to-neck battle between the two teams, with small margins determining who will emerge victorious in the ODI series.



THERE'S A FINE LINE BETWEEN REAL ACTING AND FAKENESS, ANJANA SUKHANI

Shachi Chaturvedi | Mumbai

Anjana Sukhani is one of the country's most well-known faces. Her 'natural' presentation of characters has won her a large following base. This time, Anjana is preparing to wow the audience as the quintessential 'bahu' in her forthcoming web series, 'Saas Bahu Aur Achaar Pvt Ltd.'

Anjana will be seen as 'Manisha,' the 'ideal bahu' in the drama.

Talking about her character, Anjana shared that she found her role too good to be true when she initially read the screenplay. She further stated, "I phoned my director and asked him, 'Do individuals like Manisha really exist?' It was absolutely difficult to guarantee that the character didn't come off as artificial. There's a fine line between real acting and fakeness, and I was extremely careful not to cross it. I carefully watched each shot to ensure the representation looked 'real.' It took me a lot of practice to ensure the naturality of Manisha came out."

Talking about her relationship with people on set Anjana mentioned "I used to have many healthy arguments with my director about understanding the character and layers. As the character questioned all of my convictions." Further talking about the co-star Namrata, actress continues saying, "We didn't talk to each other on purpose to keep things honest. Neither she nor I took any steps to become friends. We tried not to converse much so as not to expose our closeness on camera."

JOHN IS TO BE BACK WITH AN ACTION-THRILLER



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Team

Absolute | Mumbai

Sargun Mehta has progressed from a TV actress to a Punjabi lead actress and now a producer. The actress/producer recently discussed the participation of the Punjabi cinema community at Cannes.

The actress while making a dig at south films says, "With the south industry making a show of strength at this year's festival, what do you think stops the Punjabi industry from reaching that level? Though Punjabi films have a huge global following, frankly I don't know why we haven't reached Cannes yet. This time when I saw the south industry making its presence at Cannes, I thought why not us? It's a question that has come into my mind quite recently. Maybe we were all just so consumed with what was happening with our own industry that we were not

John Abraham is a busy actor with a lot of projects in the works. He was most recently seen in Attack: Part 1 with Jacqueline Fernandez and Rakul Preet Singh, Prakash Raj and Ratna Pathak Shah in supporting parts. Dinesh Vijan recently stated that he will be collaborating with John Abraham on a geopolitical thriller named Tehran. Written by Ritesh Shah and Ashish Prakash Verma, the story is based on actual events.

Now, actor has unveiled the first look of his forthcoming project and announced that production has begun. Taking to his Twitter handle, John wrote: "Lights. Camera.

Time for some ACTION! #Tehran shoot begins.

In the introduction video, John Abraham appears passionate in his first look of the film. If this sneak peek is any indication, spectators can expect an action-packed story based on actual events.

I DON'T KNOW WHY WE HAVEN'T REACHED CANNES YET, SARGUN MEHTA

thinking bigger and beyond. But, this is going to be something that we are going to be rooting for very soon." When asked about her job experience while sharing the workspace with hubby Ravi Dubey, the actress stated, "It's the best thing ever. I thoroughly enjoy working with Ravi. Both of us are in sync, being creative people. But both of us have different viewpoints on every subject. Where I am going wrong, he catches it and vice versa. And regarding who calls the shots and decision making depends on what decision it is. We don't overlap our roles, and we are managing it well. He's not my colleague."



Mandira Bedi might be seen in Ekta's upcoming series

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The well-known face of TV industry, Mandira Bedi may be seen in Ekta Kapoor's upcoming family drama, tentatively titled 'Sansaar'. The show is on the lines of 1994 movie 'Raja Babu' starring Karisma Kapoor and Govinda.

Till now there has been no official statement from the makers or the actors but if the sources are to be believed, then Mandira has joined the cast of the show.

A source close to the show says: "Mandira has been locked out by the makers to play a negative lead role in the show. She will play one of the significant characters in the series. The actress will be seen playing a business tycoon who's mother to the female lead in the show. She will be seen as a possessive mother." As per sources, veteran actors like Aruna Irani and Alok Nath are coming together to play male lead's parents in it. Pearl V. Puri will be seen playing the male lead and there is no confirmation on the female lead. As per social media, Mahika Sharma may also be seen in the show. Though nothing has been confirmed officially.



Shahid has the funniest reaction to wife Mira's phone habits



Hi lover

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood actor Shahid Kapoor and wife Mira Rajput shared hilarious greetings on Instagram as they sat besides each other busy with their cell phones.

Shahid has started taking dig at wife Mira's reported fascination with her cell phone. The actor shared a video in which he can be seen making a face as he watches Mira scrolling on her cell phone.

The couple also greeted each other on their Instagram Stories.

Shahid and Mira are currently celebrating their 7th marriage anniversary. Mira and Shahid shared pictures of them together on their Instagram handles to wish each other. He said "Hi lover" along with a picture of them in a car. Mira shared a similar picture and wrote, "Hi honey".



INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Nia Sharma