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5G promises a new mobile gaming, OTT streaming experience to millions

Millions of Indians are spending close to five hours on their smartphones daily and 5G promises to revolutionise the Internet with super-fast connection speeds and reduced latency, giving gaming and OTT streaming a much needed boost, industry experts have said.



Team Absolute | New Delhi

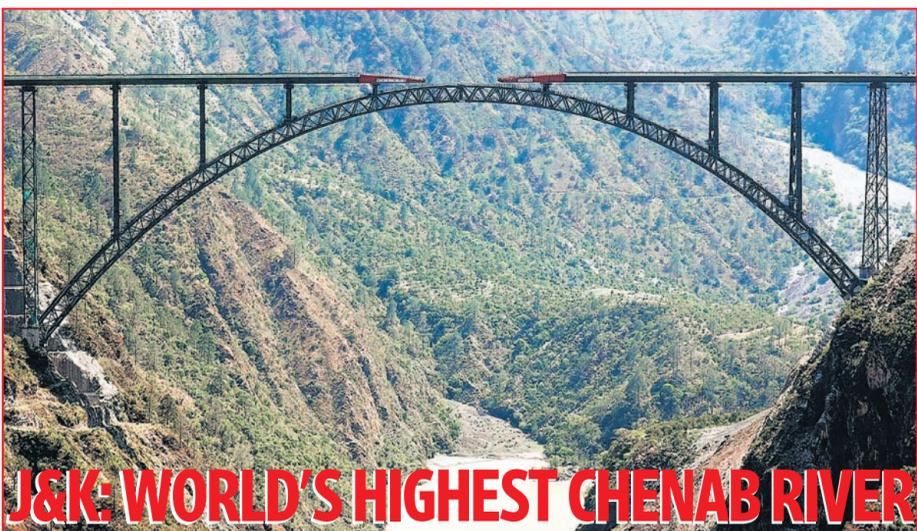
Millions of Indians are spending close to five hours on their smartphones daily and 5G promises to revolutionise the Internet with super-fast connection speeds and reduced latency, giving gaming and OTT streaming a much needed boost, industry experts have said. The Indian gaming industry is set to become a \$5 billion sector by 2025, with more than 450 million online gamers by 2023. OTT streaming is also picking up pace in the country. The installed base of smartphones with 5G capabilities has crossed five crore in the country. The 5G smartphone shipment share reached 29 per cent of overall shipments in the April-June period this year, which was the highest ever, according to Counterpoint Research. "5G will help in enriching viewer experience on regular as well as OTT platforms. For instance, at times, we see low-grade video performance during live streaming of cricket matches or other events on OTT platforms," Charu Paliwal, Research Analyst, Counterpoint Research, told IANS.

like high throughput and ultra-low latency, would enable an immersive mobile gaming experience in India.

"5G will help offload heavy computational power, offering gamers higher speeds and lower latency, meaning in-game action will be smoother than ever, with no lag between a gamer's input and the game's response -- whether it is for a single VR player at home, or an esports gaming community," Bansal told IANS. Global smartphone player OPPO, which partnered with Reliance Jio to conduct 5G trials in India, said that Jio tested its fast and low latency 5G network on the Oppo Reno 7 series smartphones. "While most 5G tests in India involved non-standalone models, OPPO developed its solutions on the SA network. Further, we have been collaborating with industry players and telecom operators for the most comprehensive 5G experience for our users," Tasleem Arif, VP, and R&D Head, OPPO India, told IANS. "With the advent of 5G, the user experience will transform in data download rates, up to three times greater spectrum efficiency, and super low latency, and next-generation technologies will become omnipresent," he

added. According to Madhav Sheth, CEO, realme India, VP, realme, and President, realme International Business Group, 5G will help drive greater use of smart technologies such as IoT, AI and VR, which in turn will revolutionise the development of new products and services that can be offered to customers. Another report this week said that 5G shipments in India grew 163 per cent (year-on-year) in the April-June period, and Samsung led the segment with a 28 per cent market share. One out of every three smartphones shipped in Q2 2022 was a 5G capable smartphone as shipments grew 7 per cent (quarter-on-quarter), according to Cyber Media Research (CMR)'s 'India Mobile Handset Market' report.

Muralikrishnan B, President, Xiaomi India, told IANS that with the 5G auction now complete, we expect the consumer demand for a well-rounded smartphone equipped with 5G to only increase. "We believe 5G is one of the innovations that has the power to transform, upgrade and uplift our nation. 5G will strengthen the AIoT ecosystem, offer the opportunity for real-time gaming, and enhance AR/VR experience," Muralikrishnan said.



J&K: WORLD'S HIGHEST CHENAB RIVER BRIDGE, TO GET 'GOLDEN JOINT'

Mumbai/Srinagar | Agencies

In a major milestone on the world's highest single-arch railway bridge over Chenab River, the overarch deck launch is scheduled for completion within a week, with a 'golden joint' linking the two sides, in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, excited officials said here on Friday. The 1.315 kms long bridge -- which is being built at a dizzying height of 359 metres -- can fit the entire Eiffel Tower (330 metres tall), plus roughly a 10-storied tall building below it. When completed, it will connect the Salal-A and Dugga railway stations on either side of the bridge with the mighty River Chenab gushing below in the picture-postcard Reasi district. "Both ends will finally meet to complete the bridge overarch deck and the segments will be joined with the help of High Strength Friction Grip (HSFG) bolts to mark the critical 'golden joint' on the iconic structure. This will complete the Chenab River bridge, 359 metre above the riverbed, an extraordinary achievement and heralding a new chapter in the history of J&K," Afcons Infrastructure Ltd. Deputy Managing Director Giridhar Rajagopalan told IANS in Mumbai. The bridge comprises 93 deck segments, each weighing around 85 tonnes, launched simultaneously from both

ends of the valley over the massive steel arch and work on joining five segments in full progress on the single line linking Katra (Jammu) with Qazigund (Kashmir), some 75 kms away, he said. The project is part of the ambitious 272-kms long railway line from Udhampur to Baramulla joining Jammu with the Kashmir valley as an all-weather highspeed alternative, named the 'Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link Project'. The bridge has so far gobbed up around 30,350 tonnes steel, comprising 10,620 tonnes to build the gigantic arch and 14,500 tonnes for the bridge deck, and stands majestically near the Kauri village on the upstream of Salal Dam. Explaining the high-tech that has gone into the construction, Rajagopalan said that for the first time in Indian Railways, incremental launching was done on transition curve and a longitudinal gradient, both at the same location, for the deck launching of the viaduct portion on the bridge. Normally, bridges are built incrementally on a straight or curved platform with a uniform radius, and executing launching activities in inclement weather with stormy winds was extremely challenging, and Northern Railways and Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd played a big role in finalising the bridge design, he added. Given the height, the extreme weather conditions and strong gales that often

lash the valley, the sophisticated automatic signalling system installed on both sides will stop the trains from crossing the bridge if wind speeds there touch 90-kmph. Stressing on quality and safety, a NABL laboratory was set up at the Afcons site to monitor quality at all stages, weld sample tests, etc, saving huge time, and NR permitted the use of Phased Array Ultrasonic Testing Machine to inspect welds for the first time in the country. The access roads to the project site helped generate local employment while providing connectivity to several remote villages in the region, the fabrication work was carried out in workshops at both ends with the heavy and bulky segments transported to the launch pad using a specialised modular trailer, said Rajagopalan. The Afcons team of engineers also designed a launch platform with a segment lifting capacity of 120 tonnes for a height of around 39 metre, developed and implemented several other innovations to overcome the various challenges of the treacherous mountainous terrain. The 272-km long railway line will have 38 tunnels (total length 119-kms) with the country's longest tunnel T-49 (12.75 kms), 927 big and small bridges (total length 13 kms), and mark a new era in the development and progress of Jammu & Kashmir, said officials.

JAGDEEP DHANKHAR ELECTED 16TH VICE-PRESIDENT OF INDIA

New Delhi: Former West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar on Saturday was elected as the 16th Vice-President of India.

The Election Commission announced that Dhankhar -- the NDA nominee, emerged victorious in the Vice Presidential election in which he was pitted against the Opposition's candidate Margaret Alva.

As the term of incumbent Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu ends on August 10, the members of both houses of the Parliament on Saturday voted to elect the next Vice-President.

Utpal Kumar Singh, returning officer for the vice presidential election, said that of total 780 electors, only 725 voted for the vice presidential poll. Of total 725 votes, 15 votes were found invalid and 710 votes valid.

As per the Election Commission, Dhankhar secured a total of 528 first preference votes, while Alva got only 182 votes.

Why Tejas fighter aircraft are in demand?

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The government had informed the Lok Sabha on Friday that Malaysia is procuring 18 Tejas fighter jets while the US, Argentina, Australia, Egypt, Indonesia and Philippines too have shown interest to procure the light combat aircraft (LCA).

Last year, the Indian government had awarded a Rs 48,000 crore contract to state-owned Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for manufacturing 83 Tejas jets to be delivered by 2023.

The indigenous Tejas fighter jet was in the news recently after becoming Malaysia's first choice. This Indian aircraft competed with the developed aircraft of China, Russia and South Korea, and due to its features, it overshadowed all the aircraft.

Defence expert Qamar Agha said that if compared to Sukhoi, Tejas is much lighter.

"Tejas is fully capable of carrying a load of eight to nine tonnes. It can fly with as many weapons and missiles as Sukhoi, which weighs more. Its biggest advantage



is its speed. Despite being light, its speed is unmatched. These aircraft can fly as fast as the speed of sound, i.e., Mach 1.6 to 1.8, up at an altitude of 52,000 feet," he said. Agha added: "The Tejas Mark-1A is also costlier than the Sukhoi-30MKI fighter aircraft because many latest equipment have been added to it. For example, it has radar developed in Israel. Apart from this, the aircraft also has an indigenously developed radar. It is very light and its fighter power is also better. It is a multi-functional fighter aircraft."

Tejas is fitted with an active electronically-scanned radar for critical operation capability. It can refuel in the air and be ready for war again. It can target enemy aircraft from a distance. Not only this, it also has the ability to dodge the enemy's radar.

LOAN EMIS TO RISE AS RBI INCREASES REPO RATE BY 50 BPS

The EMIs on the loan will rise as the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday hiked the repo rate by 50 basis points to 5.40 per cent to contain inflation.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The EMIs on the loan will rise as the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday hiked the repo rate by 50 basis points to 5.40 per cent to contain inflation. Several banks have already raised their borrowing rates and some will again increase their rates after this hike by the central bank.

"For any financial institution including NBFCs Cash in the Inventory. All NBFC must borrow money from the market and then lend to customers. Difference between borrowing cost and lending income is the profit for NBFC. With increase in borrowing cost NBFC has to increase the lending cost to maintain profitability. Usually interest rates on loans are variable and are linked to Repo cost directly or indirectly. Hence when the Repo rate is changed by the government, NBFC changes the lending rate. Eventually, this increase in lending rate translates to the increase in EMI as the duration of the loan remains constant," said Anshu Agarwal, Finance Head (India) of Branch International. Whenever the central bank increases the repo rate it is worrisome for existing and upcoming borrowers as their EMIs and interest rises.

According to the RBI norms, banks are required to link the interest rates of



loans with an external benchmark, which is generally the RBI's repo rate. Meanwhile, the bank deposit rates are also likely to increase, bringing some relief to the common man.

After the rate hike by the central bank, the timing of taking the loan is crucial for home loan borrowers as they usually borrow at floating rates.

"Home loan rates are now expected to settle around 8 per cent per annum, which can put a short-term psychological dent on the demand for the mid and affordable housing segment, but we won't see that continuing for long," said Amit Goyal, CEO, India Sotheby's International Realty.

The monetary policy committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has unanimously voted to increase the policy repo rate by 50 basis points to 5.40 per cent.

Consequently, the Standing Deposit

Facility (SDF) rate adjusted to 5.15 per cent and Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate adjusted to 5.65 per cent.

This is the third consecutive rate hike by the central bank in this year after a 40 basis points hike in May and 50 basis points in June. With Friday's hike, the RBI has increased the rate by 140 basis points since May this year.

The central bank has retained its projection for GDP at 7.2 per cent, with Q1 at 16.2 per cent, Q2 at 6.2 per cent, Q3 at 4.1 per cent, and Q4 at 4.0 per cent, with risks broadly balanced. Real GDP growth for Q1FY24 is projected at 6.7 per cent.

On the inflation front, projections for the 2022-23 remain unchanged at 6.7 per cent, with Q2 at 7.1 per cent, Q3 at 6.4 per cent and Q4 at 5.8 per cent, with risks evenly balanced. CPI Inflation for Q1FY24 is projected at 5.0 per cent.

40 per cent work of Ram Temple construction in Ayodhya completed

Exactly two years after Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, 40 per cent of the temple construction work is complete, according to engineers at the construction site.

Team Absolute | Ayodhya

Exactly two years after Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, 40 per cent of the temple construction work is complete, according to engineers at the construction site. The first floor of the temple is expected to be ready by early 2024.

"This is a plinth construction, and that work is progressing fast. We have simultaneously started construction of the actual temple from the 'Garbha Griha' or the sanctum sanctorum area. Pink sandstone from Rajasthan is being used for the temple walls," Jagdish, one of the five supervising chief engineers employed by the Ram Janmabhoomi trust, told reporters on Friday.

The site was opened to the media on Friday by the temple trust. Videos taken at the site showed massive stones used in the plinth being lifted by huge cranes. The sandstone work was also visible at a distance.

In June this year, UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath took part in a ceremony to lay the foundation stone of the 'Garbha Griha'



or the sanctum sanctorum of the temple by placing the first carved stone in it.

The sanctum sanctorum will open for devotees just months before the crucial 2024 Lok Sabha election.

The total stone volume to be used for the temple project include 8 to 9 lakh cubic feet carved sandstone and 6.37 lakh cubic feet uncarved granite.

In a statement, the Ram Janmabhoomi trust, in charge of the temple construction, said white marbles from the Makrana hills of Rajasthan would be used in the sanctum sanctorum.

The temple trust said the total stone volume to be used for the temple project included 8 to 9 lakh cubic feet carved sandstone, 6.37 lakh cubic feet uncarved granite, 4.70 lakh cubic feet carved pink sandstone for the temple and 13,300 cubic feet Makrana white carved marble for the sanctum sanctorum.

Prime Minister Modi had attended the 'Bhoomi Pujan' or the foundation stone laying ceremony for the temple in August 2020 after which construction had started.

HOME-BASED COVID TEST KIT SHOWS PCR-LIKE EFFECTIVE RESULTS IN 45 MINS

New York: A team of researchers has developed a new at-home, saliva-based Covid-19 testing platform that can detect Covid-causing virus with the same level of sensitivity as PCR test in just 45 minutes. The study, published in the journal ACS Sensors, says the team developed a palm-sized testing kit, where an individual inserts into a cartridge and inserts it into the processing platform. Within 45 minutes, test results are sent to a custom Android app developed by the researchers. "PCR test results take about an hour to develop in a lab, but you have to factor in the time it takes to send the sample to a lab and for the lab to process it," said principal investigator Weihua Guan, associate professor at Penn State University in the US. "We wanted to create a viable alternative to the PCR for people to use at home, without having to endure the invasive nasal test," Guan added. The platform uses reverse transcription loop-mediated isothermal amplification, or RT-LAMP to detect the virus. The testing device first heats the saliva to 203 degrees Fahrenheit, the temperature at which viral particle shells break apart and release their genetic material.



PREZ, PM CONGRATULATE DHANKHAR ON BECOMING VICE-PRESIDENT

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday met Jagdeep Dhankhar to congratulate him soon after he was announced the winner in the Vice-Presidential election in which he was pitted against Opposition-backed Margaret Alva.

"Congratulations to Jagdeep Dhankhar on being elected Vice-President with resounding support across party lines. I am confident he will be an outstanding Vice-President. Our nation will gain tremendously from his intellect and wisdom," the Prime Minister said in a tweet.

"I thank all those MPs who have voted for Jagdeep Dhankhar. At a time when India marks Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, we are proud to be having a Kisan Putra Vice President who has excellent legal knowledge and intellectual prowess," he tweeted.



President Droupadi Murmu also congratulated Dhankhar on his win.

"Congratulations to Jagdeep Dhankhar on being elected the Vice President of India. The nation will benefit from your long and rich experience of public life. My best

wishes for a productive and successful tenure," she wrote on Twitter. "Congratulations to Jagdeep Dhankhar on winning the Vice Presidential elections. His long public life, wide experience and deep understanding of people's issues

will certainly benefit the nation. I am confident that he will make an exceptional VP & Rajya Sabha Chairman," Defence Minister Rajnath Singh wrote on Twitter. Home Minister Amit Shah also met and congratulated Dhankhar.

He tweeted: "I am sure that @jdhankhar1 ji as Vice President and Chairman of Rajya Sabha will prove to be an ideal guardian of the Constitution. I congratulate him on this victory. Also, under the leadership of PM Modi, I express my gratitude to NDA allies, other parties and members of Parliament for supporting Dhankhar."

Former West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar on Saturday was elected the new Vice-President.

As the term of incumbent Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu ends on August 10, the members of both Houses of Parliament on Saturday voted to elect the next Vice-President.

Education Minister, UGC, NTA review CUET (UG) exam arrangements

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Concerned over the recent technical issues that surfaced during the Central University Entrance Test (CUET) exams, top officials from the Ministry of Education, UGC, AICTE and NTA, along with Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, on Saturday reviewed the CUET (UG) exam arrangements in the test centres across the country. UGC chairman M. Jagadeesh Kumar said: "Elaborate arrangements have been done for a smooth conduct of CUET exams. We believe that now students will face no technical problem during the CUET exam. All arrangements for the August 7 (Sunday) exam have been made. A total of 63,404 candidates have registered in 276 test centres. He said that on Saturday, CUET exam -- in both morning and afternoon shifts, was conducted smoothly in 347 test centres. A total of 96,074 candidates had registered for the exam, Kumar added.

Taking cognizance of the inconvenience faced by the students in some of the centres of CUET exam, the National Testing Agency (NTA) and University Grants Commission (UGC) reviewed the entire situation. It was found that some of the centres failed to comply with the laid down protocols.

"Any incidence of non-compliance, sabotage and ignorance will be viewed very seriously and strict action will be taken against those centres to ensure smooth conduct of examinations in future," an official said.



The grievances of affected students can be addressed at e-mail uetgrievance@nta.ac.in. Candidates must mention their application number in the subject. NTA officials said that the testing agency is committed to protect the interests of the students.

The second phase of CUET (UG) exams started from August 4. Earlier on Friday, the examination scheduled for the first shift on August 5 was postponed at 20 exam centres. At the same time, the exams scheduled for the second shift was postponed at 30 centres, in different states of the country.

Even on Thursday, due to various administrative and technical reasons, the examination was postponed to August 12 at many exam centres in 17 states.

The UGC chairman, however, has said "now there will be no technical problem and the examination process will be smooth".

Centre asks 7 states with rising Covid cases to ensure effective compliance



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Amid rising Covid cases on daily basis, the Centre on Saturday wrote to seven states reporting rising infections, asking them to ensure adequate testing, and promote Covid-appropriate behaviour.

In a letter to Delhi, Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and Telangana, Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said: "Upcoming months are likely to witness mass gatherings in context of various festivities to be held in different parts of the country, leading

to large number of individuals undertaking intra- and inter-state journey or congregating at same places."

Noting that this may potentially facilitate transmission of infectious diseases, including Covid-19, he said that it is critical to ensure adequate testing is undertaken in all the districts of the state while maintaining the recommended share of RT-PCR and rapid antigen tests.

"The state must also closely monitor districts reporting higher cases, positivity rates and clusters to prevent further spread of infection and effective case management.

"In view of some changes in symptoms and clinical manifestation of the disease, it is crucial to monitor and report district wise Influenza-like illness (ILI) & SARI cases in all health facilities as per the guidelines, on a regular basis for detecting early warning signals of the spread of infection," he underlined in the letter.

The Genome Sequencing of prescribed samples of international passengers as well as collection of samples from sentinel sites (identified health facilities) and local cluster of new Covid-19 cases is equally important, he added.

The Centre has also asked these states to increase the pace of vaccination for all eligible population and accelerate the administration of free precaution doses.

These states have also been advised to diligently follow the five-fold strategy, 'Test-Track-Treat-Vaccinate and adherence to Covid Appropriate Behaviour within the community.

BIHAR: AFTER SARAN, HOOCH CLAIMS THREE LIVES IN VAISHALI

Patna: After Saran, suspected spurious liquor claimed three lives in neighbouring Vaishali district of Bihar. As per local villagers, two others are critically ill.

The tragedy occurred in two separate villages. While two men died in Sardei village, the third person succumbed in Dhadhua. Sunil Chaudhary and Vikash Chaudhary of the Sardei village were relatives. Two others are battling for their lives. They had consumed spurious liquor during "Chathi" (a celebration on the sixth day after the child is born) in Sardei village. Vikash's brother Shambhu Chaudhary also consumed liquor and stated to be critical. Another incident was reported in Dhadhua village under Jandaha police station in Vaishali district when a person named Karan Kumar consumed liquor on Friday night. He complained of abdominal pain on Saturday morning. The family members rushed him to a hospital in Jandaha where he succumbed. The district administration Vaishali has sent a medical team apart from police to investigate the incident. Sources say that some more people had consumed spurious liquor so the death toll may rise. Meanwhile, the toll reached 13 in the Saran liquor tragedy that occurred on Wednesday night. As many as 17 persons have lost their eyesight. The fatality is expected to rise further.

CISF jawan shoots dead colleague at Kolkata museum, apprehended



Kolkata | Agencies

A Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) trooper, who opened indiscriminate fire with his AK-47 rifle on Saturday evening, killing a colleague and critically injuring another, was neutralised and apprehended after over an hour-long operation by a joint team of Kolkata Police commandos and the paramilitary force, police said. The entire operation was led by the city Police Commissioner, Vineet Goyal himself who rushed to the crime spot at the Indian Museum, at the busy Park Street, immediately sporting a

bullet-proof jacket and metal headgear. The killed CISF personnel was identified as Assistant Sub Inspector identified as Ranjit Sarangi. The injured CISF officer, admitted to the state-run SSKM Medical College & Hospital, has been identified as Subir

which forced the killer jawan to come out in the open, following which he was quickly neutralised by the combat force commandos and apprehended.

Speaking to media persons, the Commissioner of Police said that the killer jawan was caught without any increase in the number of casualties. "At least 15 rounds were fired. We are investigating the reason why he resorted to indiscriminate firing. Prima facie it seems that he was suffering from mental depression," he said.

A senior city police official said that fortunately the firing happened after the Indian Museum gates were closed for the visitors and many staff of the museum had left. "Otherwise, the number of casualties would have been much more," he said.

This is the second case of a shooting by a security personnel on a Kolkata street in the last three months.

On June 10, a Kolkata Police constable, deputed for security of Bangladesh Deputy High Commission at busy Park Circus, opened fire with his Insas rifle, killing one woman, before committing suicide.

FOUR DIE AS LPG CYLINDER EXPLODES ON A BOAT IN GANGA RIVER IN PATNA

Patna: Four persons died and over 20 injured after an LPG cylinder exploded in a motorboat in the middle of Ganga river in Patna's Maner area, an official said.

The explosion took place due to leakage of LPG from the cylinder while one of its sailors was cooking food on the motorboat.

As the motorboat did not drown in the river, other sailors managed to bring it to the banks of Ganga river at Maner. The injured were admitted to the local hospital in Maner.

The motorboats are generally used for the transportation of sand. Majority of the boats are run by the sand mafia in the region.

Woman sedated, gang-raped in Delhi spa; four arrested

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A 22-year-old woman, working at a spa in the national capital, was allegedly sedated and gang raped by two men, an official said on Saturday, adding that four persons have been arrested in connection.

The arrested were identified as Rahul, a manager at the spa; Satish Kumar, a customer; and owners of the spa Brij Gopal and Sandeep.

Furnishing details, Deputy Commissioner of Police (northwest) Usha Rangani said a PCR call was received at Maurya Enclave police station regarding sexual assault of a woman at the spa located in Pitampura, after which the police immediately rushed to the spot.

"At the spot, the victim, along with her husband, was present outside the spa centre and complained

regarding sexual assault on her by the manager and one more person," DCP Rangani said.

In her complaint, the woman stated that she joined the 'Ocean Spa Centre' on July 30 and on August 4 around 6 p.m., a person came and demanded sexual favour.

"The accused manager offered her a cold drink. After consuming it, she felt dizzy and both raped her," the senior official said.

After the police learnt about the incident, the victim was sent to hospital for medical examination and a counsellor from Delhi Commission for Women was called.

Accordingly, the police registered an FIR under section 354A (Sexual harassment and punishment for sexual harassment), 328 (Causing hurt by means of poison, etc., with intent to commit an offence) and 376 D (gang rape) of the Indian

Penal Code and immediately arrested Rahul and Satish Kumar.

The official said that the owners were having MCD licence, and "the concerned civic agency has been intimated to cancel the license and seal the premises".

Later, the police also registered a case under section 188 of the IPC against Ocean Spa Centre for violation of guidelines and following which the owners, Brij Gopal and Sandeep, were also arrested.

"Further, preventive action under appropriate sections of law has been taken against them," the official added.

Meanwhile, the Delhi Commission for Women chairperson Swati Maliwal also took cognizance of the incident, and pointed out that prostitution or sex rackets are being openly run in the national capital.

Militant outfits call for I-Day boycott in Five NE states

Guwahati | Agencies

Banned militant outfits United Liberation Front of Assam (Independent) and a Yung Aug-led faction of the Nationalist Socialist Council of Nagalim (Khaplang) have called for a 'total boycott' of the celebrations of India's 75th Independence Day in five northeastern states.

The groups also called for observing a general strike in five northeastern states -- Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, Tripura, and Meghalaya.

In a joint statement, the militant outfits told people "at all levels" not to participate in all forms of 'fake' Independence Day activities.

"Our protest calling for a boycott of the fake Independence Day of colonial India will be a total shutdown from 00.00 hours to 18:00 hours on August 15," the statement said.

It said that the Covid-19 pandemic has crippled the socio-economic development of



the entire world as well as the West-Southeast Asian (WeSEA) region and thousands of indigenous farming families have lost their homes due to floods and landslides. "After 75 years of so-called Independence, the indigenous people are suffering from debt, GST, soaring prices of essential commodities, and hundreds of other problems. It is unfair, historically irrelevant, and worthless for a state, which is unable to stand by the suffering people in such a time of declining living standards, to celebrate its 76th preposterous Independence Day on August 15," the statement said. The ULFA-1, which during the past one year has twice extended the unilateral ceasefire and also refrained from calling bandh and boycott during last year's Independence Day, and this year's Republic Day celebrations, recently recruited some youth as its armed cadres.

Congress protest: FIR lodged against partymen for obstructing, hurting public servants

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Delhi Police has registered an FIR against Congress party workers for allegedly obstructing and hurting police personnel during their protest march in the national capital, an official said on Saturday. "We have registered an FIR under sections 186 (Obstructing public servant in discharge of public functions), 188 (Disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant), 332 (voluntarily causing hurt to deter public servant from his duty), 34 (common intention)," a senior Delhi Police official told IANS. The Congress party on Friday carried out a nationwide protest against the policies of the Central government which has allegedly led to rise in unemployment and inflation in the country.

As many as 65 Congress lawmakers, including Rahul Gandhi, were detained from the Vijay Chowk, close to Parliament while in total 335 protesters were detained under section 65 of the Delhi Police Act in order to maintain law and order in the area.



Special Commissioner of Police, L & O Division, Dr Sagar Preet Hooda informed that the Congress party protested at various sites of New Delhi, including Akbar Road, Vijay Chowk and Jantar Mantar.

He said that the protesters were appropriately warned about the prohibitory orders in force in the area and repeatedly requested to disperse from the area, however, they continued the protest, thereby violating prohibitory orders under section 144 CrPc.

"When the police personnel moved in to contain the situation, the protesters tried to obstruct the police officers from performing their duties, manhandled and injured them," Hooda said.

Wheat prices record spike, touch Rs 2,500 per quintal mark in Delhi mandis

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Wheat prices have seen a significant rise to cross a record Rs 2,500 per quintal due to slower supplies and robust demand. According to traders in Delhi, the heat wave led to lower production of wheat this year, impacting the domestic supplies of the agricultural produce.

Jai Prakash Jindal of Delhi Lawrence Road Mandi said that the prices have been going up daily since the last few days.

"Even today the rate went up by Rs 30 and now the price here is Rs 2,550 per quintal. In Haryana, it is Rs 2,400 per quintal, while in Rajasthan the price is Rs 2,370 per quintal," he said. The mandi prices were hovering around Rs 2,150 to Rs 2,175 per quintal since the ban on wheat export was imposed on May 14, 2022. Jindal



said that production has been on the lower side this year and the government did not stop export at the right time. "A lot of wheat was already exported by the time the government put a ban on wheat export. It should have been done earlier," he said,

adding that import of wheat will be needed to fulfil the festive demands in the upcoming months of October and November. Government data revealed that wheat export has increased in the last few years. Wheat valued at \$2,121.5 million was

exported in 2021-22. In the first four months of 2022-23 (April-July), wheat worth over \$1,190 million was exported. The reasons for the increase included various factors like international demand-supply situation, rise in global commodity prices and conflict between major wheat exporting nations like Ukraine and Russia, etc. Meanwhile, government sources said that the Centre may take a few initiatives to meet the demand and to curb the rising prices of wheat. It may scrap the 40 per cent import duty on wheat. Besides, it can also impose stock holding limits on wheat and voluntary disclosure of wheat stocks held by stockists and traders. Officials said that the procurement of wheat has fallen due to higher purchase of wheat by traders as market price of the produce has shot up due to prevailing international geopolitical situations.

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CRACK DOWN ON OPPO, VIVO, XIAOMI CAN PUSH THEM TO LEAVE INDIA: CHINESE STATE MEDIA

For Chinese processing and manufacturing enterprises that originally tried to make India an overseas product-processing centre, if it is indeed increasingly difficult and unprofitable to operate in the country, then withdrawing from India is also an available option, state-run Global Times has said.



into cases of alleged tax evasion by three Chinese mobile companies -- OPPO, Vivo India and Xiaomi.

"Frequent investigations by the Indian side into Chinese enterprises not only disrupt those companies' normal business activities, but also impedes the improvement of business environment in India and chills the confidence and willingness of market entities, especially Chinese enterprises, to invest and operate in India," read a commentary in the publication.

Since April 2020, out of 382 foreign direct investment (FDI) proposals the central government received from Chinese firms, India approved only 80 as on June 29. "The number pres-

ents the increasingly difficult business environment facing Chinese investment and companies doing business in India," the report said. Some manufacturers have turned their eyes to Southeast Asian countries such as Vietnam after withdrawing from India. "Faced with competition from Vietnam, India should no longer set obstacles for its manufacturing development, and should stop carrying out crackdown on Chinese investment," the report added.

Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, the China-India trade is on course to cross \$100 billion for the second consecutive year as it has gone up to \$67.1 billion in the first half of 2022. "Hopefully India can provide a fair

and non-discriminatory business environment for Chinese investors, which will be mutually beneficial to both Chinese enterprises and India's manufacturing ambitions," the commentary read.

OPPO India, Xiaomi India and Vivo India were served notices by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) for duty evasion, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman informed the Rajya Sabha this week. A show-cause notice demanding Rs 4,403.88 crore has been served to OPPO Mobiles India Ltd based on an investigation conducted by the DRI, while five cases of Customs duty evasion have been registered against Xiaomi Technology India, Sitharaman said in a written reply.

The DRI detected customs duty evasion of around Rs 2,217 crore by Vivo Mobile India Private Ltd.

A show-cause notice has been issued to Vivo India demanding customs duty amounting to Rs 2,217 crore, under the provisions of the Customs Act.

Dhanbad judge murder case: Both convicts sentenced to life term without remission

Dhanbad (Jharkhand) | Agencies

A special CBI court here on Saturday sentenced both the men convicted of the sensational murder of Additional District and Sessions Judge, Dhanbad, Uttam Anand, who was mowed down while out a morning walk, to life in jail for remainder of their natural life without any remission.

The court also imposed fine of Rs 30,000 each on Lakhan Kumar Verma and Rahul Kumar Verma, who were convicted by the court on July 28 - exactly an year after the crime.

Anand was on a morning walk on July 28, 2021 when he was mowed down deliberately by an auto-rickshaw, seriously injured, and succumbed during treatment. The gory visuals caught on CCTV had created an outrage across the nation and drawn the attention of the Supreme Court, which took up the case suo moto, and ordered the Jharkhand High Court to monitor the trial.

The state government had handed over the probe to the CBI, which had registered the case on August 4, 2021.

The case was earlier registered by State police on a complaint from Anand's wife and two accused were arrested by local police.

After taking over the investigation of the said case, the CBI constituted a Special Investigation Team. After thorough investigation, covering all the possible aspects, the CBI



filed a charge sheet on October 20, 2021 against both accused.

As many as 58 prosecution witnesses were examined in the trial was completed in six months, while the entire investigation and trial was completed within record time of around one year from the said incident.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

For Chinese processing and manufacturing enterprises that originally tried to make India an overseas product-processing centre, if it is indeed increasingly difficult and unprofitable to operate in the country, then withdrawing from India is also an available option, state-run Global Times has said.

The Indian government is looking

After pressure from India, Sri Lanka urges China to defer entry of Chinese 'spy' ship

Colombo | Agencies

Amid pressure from its immediate neighbour India, Sri Lanka has urged China to delay the entry of controversial Chinese ship 'Yuan Wang 5' into the Chinese controlled port in Southern Hambantota.

In a letter to the Chinese Embassy in Colombo, the Foreign Ministry of Sri Lanka stated, "The Ministry wishes to request that the arrival date of the vessel Yuan Wang 5 in

Hambantota to be deferred until further consultation is made on this matter." Referring to the permission given on July 12 allowing the Chinese ship to enter the Hambantota Port, the Foreign Ministry said, "The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka presents its compliments to the Embassy of People's Republic of China in Colombo and has the honour to refer to the Ministry's Note No. PR/0640/2022 dated July 12, 2022 conveying the clear-

ances for the visit of the vessel Yuan Wang 5 to enter the Port of Hambantota for replenishment purposes."

Weeks ahead of the visit of the Chinese 'spy' ship, India had expressed its concern with the government of Sri Lanka. India had cautioned that it monitors closely all the developments with regard to her security, in the backdrop of the arrival of Chinese 'research' vessel which was planned to reach Hambantota on August 11.

NOIDA HIGHRISE FRACAS: ACCUSED 'POLITICIAN' ON THE RUN

Noida | Agencies

A manhunt is underway to nab self-proclaimed Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Shrikant Tyagi, who has been accused of outraging a woman's modesty during an argument over the plantation of palm trees near his apartment at a residential society here.

The BJP has distanced itself from Tyagi, saying he was never part of the party. Tyagi's social media accounts, however, tell a different tale. On his official Twitter handle, Tyagi

presents himself as a devoted party leader having pictures with a range of senior saffron party functionaries. He also posted multiple edited images that had BJP's logo. Tyagi, however, locked his Twitter account hours after the incident.

"We have seized a total of three cars -- one Toyota Fortuner, one Tata Safari and one Honda Civic -- that belong to Tyagi," a Noida Police official told IANS.

To trace his location, the police have detained four persons, including Tyagi's wife. "We have constituted four teams that are working to nab the accused. We have also detained

his wife for questioning," the official said. Apart from Tyagi's wife, the police have detained his brother, driver and manager. "All of them are currently being questioned," informed the official.

The matter came to light on Friday when several video clips of the incident went viral on social media in which the Tyagi could be heard hurling abuses at the woman. Social media users also shared the response of the victim woman in which she narrated the entire incident. "I live in Grand Omaze. A man named Shrikant Tyagi, residing on the ground floor, was encroaching the

society by planting small and large plants in the common area. When I asked him to remove them, he refused. And when I tried to remove them, he hurled abuses at me, my husband and our kids," the woman said. In the same video, the residents of the society could also be seen accusing Tyagi of encroaching the area by planting small and large plants.

As per one of the videos of the incident, accessed by IANS, Tyagi could also be seen pushing and threatening the woman. "Don't you dare touch my plants otherwise I will see you..." he could be heard saying.

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आज़ादी का
अमृत महोत्सव
हर घर विरंगा
13-15 अगस्त 2022



नरेन्द्र मोदी, प्रधानमंत्री

शिवराज सिंह चौहान, मुख्यमंत्री

अभूतपूर्व विस्तार... सबके लिए, सब जगह



सम्पूर्ण कायाकल्प अभियान

शासकीय अस्पतालों में
इलाज की अत्याधुनिक
सुविधाएं सुलभ कराने के
उद्देश्य से मध्यप्रदेश
सरकार का अभियान
अत्यावश्यक
दवाओं की
उपलब्धता

- अब शहरों से लेकर ग्रामीण स्तर तक अधिक संख्या में रोगियों को गुणवत्तापूर्ण आवश्यक दवाएं उपलब्ध।
- शासकीय अस्पतालों में गंभीर बीमारियों की दवाइयां उपलब्ध होने से इलाज पर खर्च में कमी आएगी।
- नये दवा समूहों में एन्टीमाइग्रेन, एन्टीकेन्सर, डायलिसिस सॉल्युशन, नवजात शिशु देखभाल, एन्टीहॉर्मोनल, मसल रिलेक्सेंट, नाक-कान-गला, डिमेंशिया तथा दंत चिकित्सा के औषधी समूह उपलब्ध।



आपकी सेहत, हमारा संकल्प

लोक स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण विभाग, मध्यप्रदेश



POLICE REACHES MADHYA PRADESH CONGRESS HEADQUARTERS

▶ A TEAM OF THE MADHYA PRADESH POLICE REACHED THE CONGRESS'S STATE HEADQUARTER, INDIRA GANDHI BHAVAN, AT SHIVAJI NAGAR HERE ON SATURDAY.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A team of the Madhya Pradesh police reached the Congress's state headquarter, Indira Gandhi Bhavan, at Shivaji Nagar here on Saturday.

They reached without any prior intimation at 1.30 pm, just before a delegation of the party led by Vice President MPCC Media Department, Sangeeta Sharma, was set to leave the office to hand over a Tricolour to Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) Chief Mohan Bhagwat, a source from the party told IANS. The RSS chief, who is currently on a three-day visit to Bhopal, will attend



the concluding meet of Vishwa Sangh Siksha Varg. The programme is to infuse Indian values among Hindus living abroad and its concluding ceremony will be held on August 7.

The Madhya Pradesh Congress unit had announced on Friday that they will handover a Tricolour to Mohan Bhagwat during his visit to Bhopal on Saturday and as per their plan, the Congress lead-

ers were about to leave, when officials arrived and deployed a heavy police force outside the Congress headquarters.

The Bhopal police is yet to make any statement on this issue.

The Congress and the BJP has been involved in a verbal faceoff over the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' programme, which is part of the 'Azadi Ka Mahotsav' celebrations.

PRESIDENT DROUPADI MURMU PAID COURTESY VISIT BY GOVERNOR PATEL



Bhopal: The President Droupadi Murmu was paid a courtesy visit by the Governor of Madhya Pradesh Mangubhai Patel at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

President Murmu was greeted by Governor Patel with a shawl-shripal and he presented her a Maheshwari Sari and a memento of Sanchi Stupa. President Murmu presented a copy of the Constitution of India to the Governor Patel.

Maoists kill villager on suspicion of being police informer

■ A villager was killed by Maoists on suspicion on being a police informer in the forest area of Madhya Pradesh's Balaghat district, police said on Saturday.



Team Absolute | Bhopal

A villager was killed by Maoists on suspicion on being a police informer in the forest area of Madhya Pradesh's Balaghat district, police said on Saturday.

The deceased has been identified as Lahu Dhurve, a resident of Malajkhand village. Maoists also took away the corpse, police said, adding that efforts are on to get the body back with the villagers' help.

Confirming the incident, Balaghat Superintendent of Police (SP) Sameer Saurav said: "A villager identified as Lahu Dhurve was shot dead by Maoists in a forest area who took the body with them.

On receiving information, a team of police reached the spot and investigation is underway."

A handwritten note was found from the spot, which read that "Communist Party

(Maoist) takes the responsibility of killing Dhurve." It further warned the police to stop making the local people informers by luring them with money.

Maoists also warned villagers that anyone trying to be a police informer, will meet the same fate.

However, it's not the first such incident in Balaghat forest area, which is tribal dominated and also a Naxalite zone.

MPPSC ASPIRANTS TAKE OUT PROTEST MARCH

■ Thousands of Madhya Pradesh Public Service Commission (MPPSC) aspirants took to streets on Friday to protest against non-declaration of exams' results of 2019 and 2020.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Thousands of Madhya Pradesh Public Service Commission (MPPSC) aspirants took to streets on Friday to protest against

non-declaration of exams' results of 2019 and 2020.

The aspirants marched on roads of Madhya Pradesh's financial capital Indore. They protested peacefully, holding Tricolours and chanting slogans 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai', 'We Want Justice' among others.

The aspirants assembled at Bholaram Ustad Marg (in Indore city) and marched towards MPPSC office. After reaching there, they demanded that results of 2019 and 2020 should be released at the earliest as many of them are getting over-age.

Meanwhile, coaching centres were also closed and the

students preparing for MPPSC and other government exams also joined the protest.

They said that the elections are held in 15 days and results would declare within five days, but MPPSC exams held after a gap of four years and then the matter gets pending the court.

The issue of MPPSC's results for the exams conducted in 2019 and 2020 are before the Madhya Pradesh High Court. People aware with the matter said that results are pending for the last three-and-a-half-year due to the OBC reservation issue.

CM GREETES TWO PLAYERS FOR WINNING SILVER MEDALS

Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan extended good wishes to Priyanka Goswami for winning silver medal in Women's 10 thousand metre Walk Race event and Avinash Sable for winning silver medal in Men's 3000 metre Steeplechase event in Commonwealth-2022 Games at Birmingham. CM Chouhan said that Indian players are making the country proud with their excellent performance, it is a matter of pride for the country.

CONG PREPARING LIST OF CORRUPT OFFICIALS

■ Amid the controversy surrounding the National Herald case, Madhya Pradesh Congress MLA Jitu Patwari said that the party is preparing a list of corrupt officials who would be punished once the Congress comes to power in the state.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Amid the controversy surrounding the National Herald case,



Madhya Pradesh Congress MLA Jitu Patwari said that the party is preparing a list of corrupt officials who would be punished once the Congress comes to power in the state. Patwari alleged that

many senior officials in the state are working as agents of the ruling BJP.

Addressing a press conference here, Patwari said the Congress will soon release the names of the corrupt offi-

cial in the public domain. "MP Congress is preparing a list of corrupt officials who are working as BJP's agents and making money out of it. The party will make the list public soon. These officials will face tough action once the Congress comes to power in Madhya Pradesh," Patwari said. It may be recalled that during the recent urban local body and panchayat elections, Madhya Pradesh Congress chief Kamal Nath and the party's Rajya Sabha MP Dignvijaya Singh had accused senior bureaucrats of "working as political agents of BJP."

Bundelkhand's 'Jallianwala Bagh' led to martyrdom of 21 freedom fighters

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The people of Bundelkhand have also made a major contribution to the freedom struggle of the country.

Chhatrapur district's Charan Paduka area had witnessed a blood-bath similar to Punjab's Jallianwala Bagh on the orders of British political agent Fisher.

On January 14, 1931, when people gathered in Charan Paduka to protest against the taxes imposed by the colonial administration and were planning an agitation, Fisher gave orders to fire in which 21 freedom fighters were martyred.

It was a major agitation whose leaders Pandit Ram Sahai Tiwari and Heera Singh had already been arrested by the colonial police.

This incident is reminiscent of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre as on April 13, 1919, people protesting against the Rowlatt Act were fired upon on the orders of General Dyer in which hundreds of people were killed.

Charan Paduka area lies on the banks of Urmila river and when the order to fire was given, many people jumped into the river leading to the river's water turning red. At that place, a fair is held and tributes are paid to the martyrs.

Bundelkhand senior journalist

Ravindra Vyas said the situation here is like "shaheedon ki chitaoon par lagenge har baras mele" (fairs will be held on the pyres of martyrs every year), where on Makar Sankranti a fair is held and people ranging from political parties to social organisations come to pay tributes.

This area has not got an identity at the state or country level.

In 1930, Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi's non-cooperation movement was at its peak and his Dandi March had posed a challenge to the colonial rulers. At that time people in Bundelkhand were also uniting to fight for the freedom of the country. People were angry with the

colonial police and it was evident at the Mahrajpur assembly too.

The district magistrate was present there but his presence had an adverse effect on the protestors and they started pelting stones at his car.

After this, cases were filed against many people post which many of them were slapped with fines and others were jailed.

This year, the country is celebrating 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' but till date, not even a single memorial has been built for the martyrs of Charan Paduka. There is a pillar on which a torch is visible, that is the only identity of the place. Promises were made many times but not fulfilled.

Make state govt party in plea for FIR against Kareena Kapoor: HC

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Madhya Pradesh High Court on Friday ordered that the state government be made a party in a petition seeking FIR against Bollywood actress Kareena Kapoor over use of the word 'Bible'.

The court's observation came during hearing a petition seeking FIR against the actress for using the word 'Bible' in the title of her book - "Kareena Kapoor Khan's Pregnancy Bible", which, according to the petitioner, allegedly hurt the religious sentiments of the Christian community. Advocate

Christopher Anthony had moved the High Court in July this year, challenging the additional sessions court's February 26 order dismissing his plea.

The other respondents in the petition are the book's co-author Aditi Shah Bhimjyani, Amazon Online Shopping and Juggernaut Books.

Anthony told the court that he had filed a complaint at Omti police station in Jabalpur in September last year, against the actor.

The holy book 'Bible' can't be compared with the pregnancy of the actor, Anthony argued.

Earlier, Anthony had moved a magistrate's court in Jabalpur after the police did not take any action on the complaint. However, the court had dismissed the petition observing that there was nothing objectionable or obscene in publishing the name 'Bible' with the word pregnancy.

After that, Anthony had approached the sessions court, which also rejected his plea, following which he moved the High Court.

"The petitioner has not impleaded the state as a party. Therefore, he is directed to implead the state as a party," the court said.

CM AND MP VD SHARMA PLANTED SAPLING IN THE MEMORY OF LATE SUSHMA SWARAJ



Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted saplings in Smart City park along with the office bearers of New Life Development Society.

Chief Minister Chouhan planted a Peepal plant along with MP VD Sharma on the third death anniversary of former Union External Affairs Minister Late Sushma Swaraj in her memory. Ladli Laxmi 3-year-old girl Mokshi Sharma also planted saplings along with Chief Minister Chouhan. Kachnar and Khirmi saplings were also planted.

Peepal planted today is a shady tree. It purifies the environment. It has religious and Ayurvedic significance. Kachnar is a beautiful flowering tree. Nature has made many plants and trees that are full of medicinal properties, among them Kachnar is one. The leaves, stem and flowers of this tree, which is laden with flowers after mid-March, are all useful. Kachnar is considered among beautiful and useful trees. Khirmi tree is found in India in the states of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu etc. Its fruits are like Neem fruits, they are called Khirmi.

CM Chouhan takes part in swearing-in programme of mayor and corporators

New flyovers will be built in Bhopal, proposal to run cable cars: CM

- Bhopal Mayor Malti Rai and newly elected corporators take oath
- Will soon present five-year development roadmap before the public
- Public representatives should play an active role for a green and clean city
- State government will get full support for the development of Bhopal

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said that all measures will be taken in Bhopal to provide better transport facilities to the citizens, to make the city green, for better arrangement of drinking water and sanitation. For this, there will also be a provision of adequate funds in different schemes. The roadmap for the five year development of Bhopal will be presented soon. The central government has given consent for the construction of new flyovers in Bhopal. Chouhan was addressing the swearing-in ceremony of the newly-elected Mayor of Bhopal Malti Rai, Chief Minister Chouhan congratulated Mayor Smt. Rai and corporators.

Chouhan said that the corporators and other public representatives should set the example of public service with humility. The image is determined on the basis of the behavior of the public representative and the work done for the general public. Chief Minister said that the Bhopal Municipal Corporation would be provided necessary financial assistance for development works on behalf of the Madhya Pradesh government.

Chouhan said that he has got several flyovers sanctioned for Bhopal in a recent meeting with Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari. Several flyovers are proposed, including Bhopal Haat Chouraha near Shaurya Smarak

to 6 no. bus stop, ISBT to Gautam Nagar, Ayodhya bypass road to Karond Chouraha, Behind TT Nagar Stadium to Polytechnic College intersection via Nanke Petrol Pump-Roshanpura intersection and Raikhedi Pump House to Visarjan Ghat of Sant Hirdaram Nagar. Apart from this, an elevated corridor will also be constructed from Lady Hospital, Kali Mandir to Shahjahanabad police station via Alpna Tiraha-Nadra bus stand. Chouhan said that along with road transport in Bhopal, in the near future new modes of transport would be made available to the general public by using modern technology related to air connectivity. This includes the cable car. Chief Minister said that work related to Metro train is in progress, where the operation of the metro will make transport easier for the increasing population. At the same time, transportation facilities like new flyover and cable car operation will also be beneficial for the resi-



dents. The use of CNG in place of diesel and petrol will be the priority for the operation of vehicles, so that the environment of the city is also not affected adversely.

Chouhan said that Bhopal is a wonderful city. I have spent my

childhood in Bhopal riding bicycles in every street here. This is where I completed my education. I have got the privilege of working for the development of Bhopal. It is my resolve that I will do my best to pay off the debt of my childhood to the city. Bhopal is progressing steadily. I plant saplings everyday. We all should make efforts to maintain Bhopal's greenery. Chouhan called upon all the public representatives to play an active role in making the city clean and green.

Chief Minister said that Bhopal is turning into a hi-tech city. Bhopal is becoming a metro city. Visitors to Bhopal are awestruck by its beauty. Be it Bhojtal or lower lake, everyone gets to see a wonderful city. Be it Chowk Bazaar in the old city or BHEL or Govindpura area, every place is unique. Bhopal should become a city which is capable of providing employment to maximum people. Different industries should come up and means of self-employment should increase. The

role of self-help groups should become more important. In place of bulk connections for water supply, works will be done to provide individual connections and to improve sewage system. Chouhan said that the roadmap for strengthening basic facilities and development would be placed before the public on the Pride day of Bhopal. Earlier, due to the election code of conduct, Pride Day could not be celebrated.

Chief Minister said that many schemes of the central government and Madhya Pradesh Government are being run. Corporators should play an active role by being alert so that citizens get maximum benefits of ration, house, education, treatment as well as other beneficiary oriented schemes. The development work should also be done with quality. Chouhan said that everyone should join the campaign 'Har Ghar Tiranga'. In an appeal to the people, Chief Minister said that people's representatives and citizens together should unfurl the national flag at every house on the 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav', a symbol of patriotism. MP VD Sharma said that the elected corporators have to make efforts with full energy to make Bhopal city clean and green. It is hoped that determined efforts will bear fruit. Chouhan started the programme with Kanya Pujan. Collector Bhopal Avinash Lavania administered oath to the Mayor and corporators. Medical Education Minister Vishwas Sarang, Former MP Alok Sanjar, MLA Rameshwar Sharma, Krishna Gaur, Former Minister Umashankar Gupta, Sumit Pachauri, Bhagwan Das Sabnani, Rahul Kothari, Lokendra Parashar, Shaiban Singh Pal, Surjit Singh Chouhan, Lilly Agarwal, public representatives and a large number of citizens were present.



ED GRILLS SANJAY RAUT, WIFE IN PATRA CHAWL SCAM CASE

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) is grilling Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut and his wife Varsha Raut in connection with the Prevention of Money Laundering case pertaining to Patra Chawl land scam case

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) is grilling Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut and his wife Varsha Raut in connection with the Prevention of Money Laundering case pertaining to Patra Chawl land scam case.

Raut is already in ED custody while his wife was summoned to join the investigation last Thursday.

Varsha was summoned after transactions done on her account came to light. ED is likely to ask her about this transaction.

Sanjay Raut was on Sunday arrested by the ED after he skipped several summons. He was sent to ED custody later on by the court.

The ED had earlier questioned Pune businessman Avinash Bhosale in DHFL Yes Bank case, and the sources claimed that they wanted to grill Raut in this matter too. Sources said that Patra Chawl case



of ED is also linked to DHFL case. In April, the ED had attached

Raut's property in connection with the land scam.

Property worth Rs 9 crore of Raut's associate Pravin Raut and assets worth Rs 2 crore belonging to Varsha Raut, the wife of Sanjay Raut, were attached by the ED.

Pravin had eight parcels of land in Alibaug and a flat registered in the name of Varsha Raut which were attached. The ED had arrested Pravin in connection with the matter.

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

The ED came to know during the probe that Pravin allegedly paid Rs 55 lakh to Varsha. This was paid from the bank account of Pravin's wife.

The money was termed as proceeds of crime by the ED.

It has also alleged that the travel expenses of Sanjay Raut were borne by Pravin which included his hotel stay and air tickets.

Gang-rape of 35-yr-old woman in Bhandara sparks outrage

▶ IN ANOTHER SHOCKER, A WOMAN WAS BRUTALLY GANG-RAPED IN MAHARASHTRA'S BHANDARA, SPARKING A POLITICAL WAR BETWEEN THE RULING EKNATH SHINDE-DEVENDRA FADNAVIS REGIME AND THE OPPOSITION MAHA VIKAS AGHADI.



around 35, was sexually assaulted between July 30 and August 2 near Kanhadmo village under the Kardha police station in Bhandara district.

She was dumped by the assailants near the highway where some villagers noticed her, naked and bleeding profusely from serious injuries, and alerted the police.

The police rushed her first to a local hospital in Bhandara but as her wounds were deep, she was shifted to the Nagpur government hospital where she has undergone a surgery. However, her condition is still critical.

The Chairperson of Maharashtra State Commission for Women, Rupali, took serious cognisance of the incident, while other leaders compared it to

the decade-old Nirbhaya incident of Delhi. Following an uproar, Chief Minister Eknath Shinde has ordered a Special Investigation Team (SIT) led by a woman IPS officer to probe the case, which he termed as "a serious and gruesome incident".

As per the preliminary police probe, at least three persons were involved in the crime of which two have been traced and picked up for questioning, details of which are not immediately available.

The Bhandara Police are scouring the CCTV footages on the Bhandara-Gondiya highway besides launching a manhunt for the one or more persons who may have been involved in the crime in the district and the adjoining areas.

Bank of Baroda to raise Rs 1,000 cr via infrastructure & affordable housing bonds

Bank of Baroda, the second largest state-owned bank, is planning to raise Rs 1,000 crore through issuance of infrastructure and affordable housing bonds on August 12, a source close to the development told IANS.



a source close to the development told IANS.

coupon is expected to set on the bonds considering the higher demand for PSU bonds.

The bonds have got 'AAA' ratings with 'Stable' outlook from ICRA and India Ratings and Research.

On June 27, the board of directors of the bank has approved raising Rs 5,000 crore through Long term Bonds for financing of infrastructure and affordable housing.

The source said Rs 5,000 crore is expected to raise by the bank in tranches.

Whereas, on July 16, the investment committee of the bank approved raising Rs 1,000 crore through this bonds.

INDIA'S FOREX RESERVES RISES AFTER 4 WEEKS OF FALL

India's forex reserves rose around \$2.4 billion during the week ending July 29 after falling for the four consecutive weeks. The rise was seen on back of positive inflows by the foreign investors in the Indian equity market.



Bank has also used its foreign exchange reserves accumulated over the years to curb volatility in the exchange rate," he added. During the current financial year (up to August 4), the US dollar index (DXY) has appreciated by 8.0 per cent against a basket of major currencies. In this milieu, the Indian rupee has moved in a relatively orderly fashion depreciating by 4.7 per cent against the US dollar during the same period, faring much better than several reserve currencies as well as many of its EME and Asian peers.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

India's forex reserves rose around \$2.4 billion during the week ending July 29 after falling for the four consecutive weeks. The rise was seen on back of positive inflows by the foreign investors in the Indian equity market.

The country's foreign exchange reserves rose by \$2.315 billion to \$573.875 billion during the week ending June 29, according to the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) weekly supplementary statistical data.

"India's foreign exchange reserves, supplemented by net forward assets, provide insurance against global spillovers. Our umbrella remains strong," RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said. "The Reserve

POLICE RECOVER ARMS, AMMUNITION BURIED BY MAOISTS

▶ NOTCHING A MAJOR SUCCESS 10 DAYS BEFORE INDEPENDENCE DAY, THE MAHARASHTRA POLICE HAVE RECOVERED A LARGE CACHE OF ARMS, AMMUNITION AND EXPLOSIVES BURIED BY MAOISTS IN THE DENSE FOREST, A TOP OFFICIAL SAID HERE ON FRIDAY.



Gadchiroli Superintendent of Police Ankit Goyal said that the recoveries came soon after the Naxal Shaheed Saptah (Naxals Martyr Week) that is observed annually from July 28 - August 3 by the banned CPI (Maoist) in various regions.

"During that week, the rebels carry out various subversive activities against the government to create ter-

ror among the people, for which they procure large quantities of arms, ammunition and explosives in advance and hide them in deep forests for future use," said Goyal.

Following a tip-off on Thursday that Maoists belonging to the Korchi LOS, Tipagad LOS and Company No. 4 had buried a large quantity of such items in the Hetalkasa forests in the

Kotgul region.

Goyal ordered a team headed by Additional SP Somay Munde comprising the elite C-60 commandoes of Special Operation Squad, a CRPF Platoon and a bomb squad to investigate and recover the buried arms cache. They reached the identified site and found the deadly booty buried in a huge plastic can, along with other stuff belonging to the Maoists. The recoveries include 2 pressure cooker including one stuffed with explosives, 4 car remotes, 3 bundles of wires, 8 packets of distemper colour, yellow, grey, white and other coloured powders of various quantities, 2 Maoist notebooks among other objects.

The bomb squad immediately defused the explosive-laden cooker in the forest and the remainder stuff was collected and shifted to Gadchiroli for further investigations, said Goyal.

The police have again issued an open appeal to the red rebels in the region to surrender and join the social mainstream taking advantage of the government's rehabilitation policies.

Mumbai-bound Vistara flight returns to Varanasi after bird hit

A Mumbai-bound Vistara flight returned to Varanasi after it suffered a bird hit, Aviation regulator DGCA said.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A Mumbai-bound Vistara flight returned to Varanasi after it suffered a bird hit, Aviation regulator DGCA said.

Vistara A320 aircraft VT-TNC operating flight UK622 (Varanasi-Mumbai) was involved in an air turn back to Varanasi due to a bird hit. The aircraft has landed safely in Varanasi with and the radome is damaged. It has been declared aircraft on ground (AOG), the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said.

In a statement, a spokesperson of the private carrier said: "Vistara flight UK 622 operating from Varanasi to Mumbai on August 5, 2022 turned back to Varanasi due to a bird strike during depar-



ture. Due to a maintenance inspection of the aircraft being required, another aircraft has been sent from Delhi to Varanasi to fly the passengers to Mumbai. It has been our constant endeavour to minimise inconvenience to our customers in such unavoidable situations whilst keeping safety as our topmost priority."

This is the second such incident of bird hit. A Go First

flight operating from Ahmedabad to Chandigarh was diverted to Ahmedabad after a bird hit on Wednesday.

Multiple incidents of technical snags and diversion of flights have been reported in the last few weeks. As per government data, a total of 478 technical snags related occurrences were reported in the planes in the last one year between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022.

MAHA CONGRESS PROTESTS AGAINST INFLATION, UNEMPLOYMENT, MANY LEADERS DETAINED

Scores of Congress leaders and workers were detained after they attempted to stage protests on Friday outside the Maharashtra Raj Bhavan to highlight issues of inflation and unemployment.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Scores of Congress leaders and workers were detained after they attempted to stage protests on Friday outside the Maharashtra Raj Bhavan to highlight issues of inflation and unemployment.

Led by state President Nana Patole and city chief Bhai Jagtap, hundreds of leaders and activists, raising anti-government slogans with banners and posters, were stopped by a large posse of police near Vidhan Bhavan at Nariman Point as they marched towards the gubernatorial residence in Malabar Hill.

"We are protesting democratically, peacefully and going to Raj Bhavan to lodge a protest against the Bharatiya Janata Party-led Central government. People are suffering under high prices and runaway inflation, the growing unemployment among the youth, the harassment due to Goods and Services Tax, and related issues," Patole said.

Besides neglecting farmers' issues, the BJP government

has also "snatched food from the poor" by imposing GST on essential food items, and launched the Agnipath scheme "to rub salt on the wounds" of the unemployed youth, he added.

Flaying the police action, Congress leader Balasaheb Thorat said: "In a democracy, we have the right to protest but the current BJP government is trying to silence us.



"Even before the Independence, we had the right to protest and we shall continue to raise our voice against the hardships borne by the common masses."

According to Patole, when the Congress had announced the protests on Friday, many leaders were already under detention since Thursday night by the Eknath Shinde-Devendra Fadnavis government. This was done to crush the agitation and deprive the Opposition of their right to

protest peacefully, he said. A Congress leader told the media that over 10,000 people including Patole, Jagtap, Thorat, Ashok Chavan, Naseem Khan, Varsha Gaikwad, Chandrakant Handore, Aslam Sheikh, Prithviraj Chavan, Manikrao Thakre, Nitin Raut, Wajahat Mirza and Atul Londhe, from Mumbai and surrounding districts, were taken forcibly to waiting police vans and whisked off to the local police station. The police had also stopped vehicles sporting Congress flags, attempting to reach Raj Bhavan from different parts of the state, as part of the all-India agitation, besides demonstrations carried out in other major cities in Maharashtra. Patole, Jagtap and others also slammed the BJP for the reprehensible treatment meted out by the Delhi Police to senior Congress leaders like Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi while protesting in the national capital.

"We are opposing the political tyranny of the BJP government. It is not a crime to highlight peoples' issues in a democracy, but Prime Minister Narendra Modi's regime does not believe in Democracy and is muzzling the Opposition," Thorat said.



Chris Hemsworth calls CWG gold medallist Mirabai Chanu 'legend'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Chris Hemsworth, who plays Thor, the god of Thunder, has said that CWG gold medallist Mirabai Chanu is worthy of Thor's hammer and even called her a legend.

Chris's praise comes after

Chanu won gold at the ongoing Commonwealth Games 2022 in Birmingham. She was feted with the honour after she lifted 201 kilos.

A social media user had tweeted to Chris, saying: "Time for Thor to give up his hammer."

To which, he replied: "She is worthy! Congrats, Saikhom, you legend." An ecstatic Chanu replied to

Hemsworth saying: "Thank you so much @chrishemsworth, always love to watch you."

The reference was made because apart from Thor, no other superhero can pick up the Mjolnir. Thor's Mjolnir is the hammer of the thunder god Thor in Norse mythology, used both as a devastating weapon and as a divine instrument to provide blessings.



CARA DELEVINGNE READY TO TEACH ABOUT SEX WITH NEW SERIES

Los Angeles | Agencies

Model-turned-actress Cara Delevingne will be diving into some of the biggest questions about sexuality in an upcoming new documentary titled "Planet Sex with Cara Delevingne" for Hulu.

"On this immersive journey, she puts her mind and body on the line in search of answers regarding human sexuality, its joys, mysteries, and constantly changing nature," the streamer announced.

"In every episode, she shares her own personal experiences. Uniquely unfiltered and authentic, there's no limit on how far Cara's willing to go to explore what makes us all human."

In recent years, Delevingne has become more open about her own journey of sexuality, reports online.

"I never really came out," she told British Vogue in July.

"It was more that I just decided that I was done with being in the closet, I was done with being ashamed for who I loved and who I was. So, for me, it was just being like love is love and we should be able to love who we want."

In 2020, Delevingne shared that she was pansexual, telling Variety, reports online.

"Growing up, I didn't really see many people liked me, so I'm just really grateful to be one of those people representing."

Delevingne can currently be seen in a recurring role on season two of the Hulu hit comedy "Only Murders in the Building", alongside friend Selena Gomez.



ANNE HECHER HOSPITALISED AFTER GETTING SEVERELY BURNT IN CAR CRASH

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Anne Heche was hospitalised in a critical condition after crashing her car into a home in the 1700 block of Walgrove Avenue in West Los Angeles.

According to reports from NBC4LA and CNN, Heche suffered burn injuries when the Mini Cooper she was driving burst into flames, according to multiple published reports, reports Variety.

TMZ broke the news of the accident on Friday with a report that included overhead video of the accident scene in the Mar Vista area and a person identified as Heche being taken away in an ambulance.

The occupant of the home was not hurt in the accident, which caused significant damage to the front of the small house, according to TMZ and CNN.

Heche was also reported to have been involved in an accident a few minutes before the Walgrove Avenue crash at a nearby apartment complex. TMZ posted video that it claimed showed Heche speeding down a street in a blue Mini Cooper.

Heche is a TV and film veteran who gained fame in the late 1990s as the romantic partner of Ellen DeGeneres in the months after DeGeneres made international headlines as a mainstream entertainer who came out as a lesbian. After the relationship ended, Heche said the scrutiny and notoriety was a detriment to her acting career.

Kim Kardashian, Pete Davidson split after nine months of dating

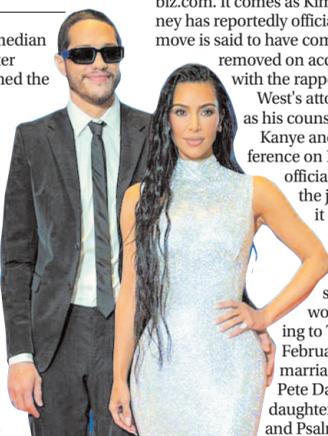
Los Angeles | Agencies

Reality TV star Kim Kardashian and comedian Pete Davidson have reportedly split after nine months together. An insider claimed the pair called it quits earlier this week, reports aceshowbiz.com.

"Kim and Pete have decided to just be friends. They have a lot of love and respect for each other, but found that the long distance and their demanding schedules made it really difficult to maintain a relationship," the source said. The comedian has been spending much of his time working on a film in Australia. As for Kim, mom-of-4, has been juggling her businesses and co-parenting with ex-husband Kanye West in Los Angeles.

Page Six said it was told the split "had nothing to do with Kanye" and that their divorce is "moving forward".

The insider added to the outlet, "They are focusing on co-parenting," reports aceshow-



biz.com. It comes as Kim's ex Kanye West's fifth divorce attorney has reportedly officially withdrawn from his case. The move is said to have come months after she filed to be removed on account of an irreconcilable breakdown with the rapper.

West's attorney, Samantha Spector, was relieved as his counsel on Friday, according to TMZ.

Kanye and ex-wife Kim had a trial-setting conference on Friday, Aug 6, and Spector was set to officially withdraw on a date next week, but the judge apparently ended up approving it on Aug 6.

The judge informed the court Kanye needed to take action and submit his financial declarations to settle lingering issues or the case would head to trial in December, according to TMZ. Kim filed to divorce him in February 2021 after more than six years of marriage. She had been dating comedian Pete Davidson since last autumn and shares daughters North, Chicago, as well as sons Saint and Psalm with Kanye.

FREIDA PINTO CELEBRATED HER WEDDING WITH A NAP

Los Angeles | Agencies

US-based Indian actress Freida Pinto, who married photographer Cory Tran in a low-key ceremony two years ago in front of just two witnesses in California, celebrated her wedding by taking a nap. She wasn't interested in a lavish party because the couple were more focused on "building a life together" than just one day.

"We're not wedding people," she told Britain's Marie Claire magazine, reports aceshowbiz.com.

Explaining she had woken up, chosen a long-sleeved white Needle and Thread

gown from her wardrobe and then gone to get married, she added: "And then we went home and had a nap."

"For our brains and our souls and our bodies, it was just perfect. The focus was on building a life together, not just planning a wedding," she explained.

The couple have 8 month old son Rumi-Ray. The actress finds the "ever-changing" baby stage of parenting both "exhilarating and exhausting".

She said: "Nothing is constant and it's just absolutely joy-giving and exhilarating and exhausting, all at the same time."

Freida became a global star thanks to her role as Latika in Danny Boyle's

'Slumdog Millionaire' and though she remembers the release of the film as a "special" time, she said the aftermath was "not very pleasant" because things got so "overwhelming".



ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Kylie Jenner

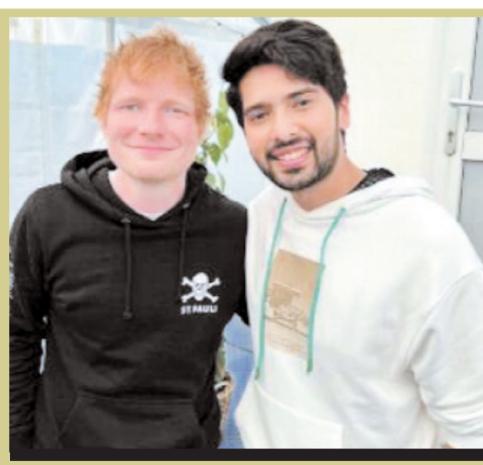
Ed Sheeran, Armaan Malik pose together for picture in Copenhagen

Los Angeles | Agencies

Indian singer Armaan Malik got a chance to meet Grammy-winning singer Ed Sheeran in Copenhagen. Armaan, who reimagined Sheeran's version of '2step' and collaborated with him for it, took to social media to share a picture from their rendezvous.

In the caption space, Armaan wrote: "Truly an emotional evening for me. From doing a song with @teddysphotos to finally meeting him, talking about music and life and watching him live in concert. Thank you Ed for being so warm and humble, what a beautiful night"

Much before their collaboration '2Step', Sheeran and Armaan share a similar career trajectory and a certain forever-like flavour of music. Recently, Armaan released the love anthem 'You'.





CWG 2022: PV SINDHU ENTERS SEMIS WITH WIN OVER GOH JIN WEI

Ace Indian shuttler PV Sindhu reached the women's singles semifinals at the Commonwealth Games 2022 after seeing off a tough challenge from Malaysian No 1 Goh Jin Wei in the quarter-finals, here on Saturday.

Birmingham | Agencies

Ace Indian shuttler PV Sindhu reached the women's singles semifinals at the Commonwealth Games 2022 after seeing off a tough challenge from Malaysian No 1 Goh Jin Wei in the quarter-finals, here on Saturday. Sindhu, a two-time Olympic medallist, beat Goh Jin Wei 19-21, 21-14, 21-18 at the National Exhibition Centre for her second win over the Malaysian at CWG 2022. She had beaten the Youth Olympic Games champion 22-20, 21-17 in India's mixed team final earlier in the week. Former world champion Sindhu started the match strongly but Goh Jin Wei, seeded sixth, went into the break trailing by just two points. Goh Jin Wei then used her skillful drop shots to trouble PV Sindhu and lead for the first time in the match at 16-15. The Indian ace tried to mount a comeback using her height to create



angles but Goh Jin Wei unleashed a flurry of smashes to take the opening game.

Sindhu, known for her endurance, amped up her game to tire out Goh Jin Wei with longer rallies and lead

11-8 at the second break. Goh Jin Wei, who is on a comeback trail after retiring due to health reasons last year, struggled physically and could not close the gap as the match stretched into the decider. With tactics paying off, Sindhu continued to test Goh Jin Wei physically with an average of nine shots per rally. Despite trailing at one stage, she persisted to beat Jin Wei in one hour and 17 minutes. This will be Sindhu's third straight semi-finals at the Commonwealth Games. She has a bronze and a silver from the 2014 and 2018 editions, respectively. The 27-year old will now take on the fourth seed Yeo Jia Min from Singapore for a place in the final. World championships silver medallist Kidambi Srikanth and India's highest-ranked men's badminton player Lakshya Sen will be in action later in the day in the men's singles badminton event.

Gukesh defeats Caruana in India's win over top seed US in Chess Olympiad

Sixteen-year-old Grandmaster (GM) D.Gukesh (Elo rating 2,684), the Indian chess 'Rajinikanth', on Saturday set the Chennai Olympiad on fire defeating America's super GM Fabiona Caruana (Elo rating 2,783).

Mamallapuram | Agencies

Sixteen-year-old Grandmaster (GM) D.Gukesh (Elo rating 2,684), the Indian chess 'Rajinikanth', on Saturday set the Chennai Olympiad on fire defeating America's super GM Fabiona Caruana (Elo rating 2,783). India-2 team handed out a royal defeat to the top seeded US. With this victory, Gukesh perhaps enters the Olympiad history with the highest score of 8/8 and three more rounds to go. Gukesh continued punching above his weight and delivered the knockout punch at Caruana, who was nearly 100 ELO points above the Indian. Playing with black pieces, Gukesh opted for the Sicilian defence and for a long time, was on the backfoot. "Gukesh had some trouble in the opening and Caruana had a great advantage. But Gukesh managed the position well without giving an inch to his opponent on the 64-squared board," GM Vishnu Prasanna, the coach of India's latest chess sensation, had told IANS. According to Prasanna, the American, though having the advantage, was not able to



press it forward around the move 21/22. "While holding on to his position well, Gukesh got his opportunity between moves 28-31 and cashed on that," he added. Prasanna, a long term coach of Gukesh, said his ward's jump like this was unexpected before the tournament. "Gukesh handled the pressure very well even though he didn't have the experience of playing at this level till now," he said. Three other juniors in the India-2 team also punched well above their weight to defeat the top seeded USA team filled with super GMs - those having an ELO rating over 2,700. On the fourth board, Indian GM Raunak Sadhwani handed out a 45 move defeat to GM Leinier Dominguez Perez (2,754). Indian GM Nihal Sarin (2,651) drew with Levon Aronian (2,775), and GM R. Praggnanandhaa (2,648) split points with GM Wesley So (2,773).

Boxers Nitu, Amit Panghal reach finals to maintain hopes of rich medal haul

Mamallapuram | Agencies

Indian boxers Nitu Ghanghas and Amit Panghal stormed into the finals of their respective weight divisions with comprehensive wins at the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games here on Saturday. Nitu was in superb form and pummelled Canada's Priyanka Dhillon into submission in their semifinal of the women's Minimum-weight (over 45-48kg) contest, winning the match when the referee stopped the contest with the opponent totally outclassed. Amit Panghal scored a dominating 5-0 win on points against Patrick Chinyemba of Zambia in the semifinal bout in the Men's Flyweight (over 48-51kg) division. These were the only two semifinals for India in the morning session on Saturday. In the Women's Minimum-weight semifinal, Nitu was a treat to watch as she attacked from the start as she started aggressively and did not allow her opponent any chances. The girls from Haryana won the first round easily getting 10 points from all five judges. Her



opponent was knocked down twice and was given the standing count twice, forcing the referee to eventually call off the bout. Amit also registered a comfortable win against his rival from Zambia in a well-fought bout. Amit won a close first round in which he was judged to have lost by three of the five judges on the panel. He came back strongly to win the next round, winning the bout on the cards of four of the five judges. He maintained the momentum in the third round and won it on four of the five judges' cards and made it to the final.

CWG 2022: Priyanka, Sable race ahead to historic silver medals in Birmingham

Mamallapuram | Agencies

Race walker Priyanka Goswami and steeple-chaser Avinash Sable maintained India's medal-winning spree in track and field as they bagged a silver apiece in their respective disciplines to add to the silver and bronze won by Murlisree Shankar and Tejaswi Shankar in the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games here. Both clinched India's first medals in the 10km race walk and 3000m steeplechase respectively and also set new national records in the process, further establishing themselves as India's best medal hopes in the next few years. Priyanka shattered the three-year-old national record to clinch the silver medal in the women's 10km race walk at the Alexander Stadium, on Saturday morning. Tokyo Olympian Priyanka clocked 43:38.82, a new Indian national record, to claim her podium place, improving on the national record held by Khushbir Kaur at 44:33.5 since 2017. The Indian improved her previous personal best of 48:30.35 by almost five minutes to win the medal.



She finished second behind Australia's Jemima Montag who clocked 42:34.30 for a new Commonwealth Games record and a personal best. Emily Wamuyi Ngii won the bronze medal in 43:50.86. With this, Priyanka also became the first Indian woman to win a medal in race walk at the Commonwealth Games. Prior to this, Harminder Singh was the first Indian to have won a medal in race walk -- bronze -- in the 20km event in 2010 CWG in Delhi. Sable was even more awesome as he became the first non-Kenyan to win a medal in the 3000m steeplechase at the Commonwealth Games

since 1994. The Kenyans have won every steeple-chase race at the last 10 CWG editions, claiming all the spots on the podium. Sable entered the Kenyan bastion and came out with a silver medal. He also set a national record with a timing of 8:11.20, which is his personal best, finishing second behind Kenya's Abraham Kibiwot, who took gold at 8:11.15, nearly ending the race in a photo finish as he tapped into some unknown reserves of energy to produce a brilliant kick, literally finishing on the heels of Kibiwot. Kenya's Amos Serem won the bronze medal in 8:16.83 seconds. Though he claimed the silver, Sable was not happy with his last lap and said it could have been better. "My last lap was a bit disappointing, but I'm really happy because it is a long time since India won a long-distance medal," he later told the reporters. Just like Sable did in the steeplechase, Priyanka bagged the first silver medal for India in 10km race walk at the Commonwealth Games. She was happy for obvious reasons with her overall effort on Saturday.

World cup Shooting squads felicitated by National Rifle Association of India

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Indian junior and senior Shooting squads, both of whom topped the medals tally in the last held ISSF World Cup stages- the junior competition in Suhl, Germany, in May and the senior world cup stage in Changwon, Korea, in July, were on Saturday felicitated by the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) here. The Shooters and members of the support staff of both the squads were honoured with a commemorative NRAI trophy on the occasion. Among those present on the occasion besides the members and support staff of the squads, were NRAI senior vice-president Kalikesh Narayan Singh Deo, NRAI secretary general K Sultan Singh and Karni Singh Shooting Range (KSSR) administrator Dr GP Goswami. Addressing the gathering, Singh Deo said, "It was a fantastic performance by both the squads and you should applaud yourself the loudest. We at the NRAI had decided to honour you for your performance the moment you came back from your assignments,



because every medal that you win for the country is precious. We also wanted you to know that our foremost goal of winning an Olympic gold medal remains the focus and we are trying to provide you with all the necessary support that you need to achieve the same." "We have already got the best domestic and international coaches for you and there are also physiotherapists as well as mental conditioning and therapy professionals, also now associated with the squads. We are also trying our best to professionalise the sport further by bringing in High Performance Directors for example, who will be joining the squads soon. With Paris just

about two years away, you will continue to find more such things being introduced, in order that you can perform at your best for India." Some prominent Shooters who were present personally to collect their trophies were Olympians Anjum Moudgil (50m 3P bronze, Changwon), Manu Bhaker (10m & 25m pistol silver, Suhl) and some talented juniors like Rhythm Sangwan (25m pistol gold, Suhl), Naamya Kapoor (25m pistol bronze, Suhl) and Abhinav Shaw (10m Air Rifle silver, Suhl), among others. At Suhl, the squad won a whopping 36 medals with 14 gold, 16 silver and six bronze whereas in Changwon, the senior squad also topped the table with India winning five gold, six silver and four bronze medals for a total of 15 medals. At Changwon, in the senior combined (Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun) World Cup, India again topped the table with 15 medals with a break-up of. The shooters are now in national camps yet again with the next assignments being the national selection trials followed by the World Championships in September/October.

From cricket to high jump: Meet Australian pacer Mitchell Starc's 'sporting' family

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Most often in many professions, one big and successful person inspires his/her siblings or near-and-dear ones to achieve big things in life and one such individual is Australian cricketer Mitchell Starc, whose younger brother Brandon Starc clinched a silver medal in high jump at the ongoing Commonwealth Games in Birmingham. Most of the cricket fans in India or across the world know about Mitchell's exploits with the ball at a cricket playground but Brandon is also creating his own legacy in sports and coming out of elder brother's shadows. Batting through the injury and pain, Brandon cleared



2.25 metres in high jump to win silver at CWG 2022 behind New Zealand's Hamish Kerr, who took the gold on countback. The whole process was not easy for Brandon who would jump, often miss the height he needed, walk away to his chair and take off his shoe. He'd rub his foot, tape his heel, put his shoe back on and jump again. The defending champion missed once at

2.15m, took three attempts to get over 2.19m, two to get over at 2.22m, but then cleared 2.25m with his first effort. That was the jump to get him into the silver medal when pain and logic said he would not. Brandon began his athletic career at Parramatta Little Athletics while attending Lidcombe Public School. However, he began to focus on the high jump in 2009 while attending Hills Sports High School. The Australian won silver with a personal best of 2.19m on his international debut at the inaugural Youth Olympic Games in 2010. He was placed eight in the Commonwealth Games in 2014, a year later he raised his record to 2.30m, before clearing 2.31m in the qualifying round at the world championships.

FIH apologises for shootout gaffe during India-Australia women's hockey semifinal

Birmingham | Agencies

The International Hockey Federation (FIH) has issued an apology over the gaffe committed during the shoot-out between Commonwealth Games women's hockey semifinal match between India and Australia, which resulted in the Hockeyroos re-taking a shot that was saved by Indian goalkeeper Savita. India goalkeeper Savita had saved the shot taken by Ambrosia Malone but the umpires soon stepped in and asked it to be re-taken as the timer had malfunctioned and did not start. Australia took the shot again and this time they scored and went on to win the shoot-out 3-0, ending an impressive comeback by the Indian team that had trailed 0-1 for a major part of the match before coming back to equalise in the fourth quarter. "In the semifinal match of the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games between Australia and India (Women), the penalty

shootout started mistakenly too early (the clock was not yet ready to operate), for which we apologise," the FIH said in a statement on Saturday. The FIH however defended the decision to re-take the penalty but promised to thoroughly review the incident to avoid similar issues in the future. "The process in place for such situations is that the penalty shootout has to be re-taken, which was done." "This incident will be thoroughly reviewed by the FIH in order to avoid any similar issues in the future," said the FIH in its statement. The decision by the umpire has come in for heavy criticism in India with the hashtag #cheating trending on social media. Janneke Schopman, chief coach of the Indian women's hockey team, and goalkeeper and skipper Savita Punia have expressed their displeasure over the umpire's decision. The coach was scathing in her comments and said "people who don't understand sport who make those decisions".

Richard Thompson announced as next Chair of England and Wales Cricket Board

Los Angeles | Agencies

Richard Thompson on Saturday was announced as the next Chair of the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB). Thompson, 55, will take up the five-year post from September 1 and will be leaving his current role of Chair at Surrey County Cricket Club and will fill the position left vacant since Ian Watmore stepped down in October 2021. Thompson's appointment came following a rigorous selection process, chaired by Independent Director Brenda Trenowden. The Nominations Committee unanimously recommended Thompson to the ECB Board and he is now all set to succeed Martin Darlow, who has been in post as Interim Chair since April. "I am immensely proud to become Chair of the ECB at what is a hugely important time for cricket. Cricket has given me the chance to meet an incredibly diverse range of amazing people. Their passion, endeavour and love for the game is what



I want to harness, to take our game forward, to new heights across England & Wales." "Cricket should be the most inclusive sport in the country, welcoming people from all backgrounds, helping bring communities together. For those communities where we have fallen short, I will work tirelessly to restore their trust in the game." "With the Men's & Women's Ashes on the horizon, ICC Men's T20 World Cup in October and the recent successes in our red ball game, along with hosting the ICC Women's T20 World

Cup in 2026 there is much ahead of us." "I am looking forward to using my experience and love for the game in taking this opportunity to give cricket a fresh start. Alongside the Board and senior leaders at the ECB, we will work with the counties and the recreational game. Collaboration and partnership will be the key to our sport's future," said Thompson in an official statement. "We are delighted to announce Richard's arrival to the ECB as Chair. His blend of exceptional commercial and cricket administration experience supports our aims to grow and diversify the game whilst guiding the game as we face challenging financial headwinds." "I'd also like to say many thanks, on behalf of the ECB, to Martin Darlow, for his excellent stewardship in recent months. Cricket has faced many challenges in 2022 and Martin has helped steer the ship until Richard's arrival, and I'm pleased that he'll continue to provide his invaluable wisdom and insight through his role as Deputy Chair of the Board," stated Brenda.



Kareena Kapoor Khan says she was never offered role of 'Sita'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Kareena Kapoor Khan has finally spoken up about the rumours of demanding a hefty amount to play Goddess Sita in the film adaptation of the epic Ramayana. Kareena has a 'Do Tuk' response to the haters who are mocking her with memes for seeking a fortune to feature in the magnum opus. According to a channel's report from last year, Kareena formerly demanded 6-8 crore, but she upped her pay for the film. Kareena was alleged to have wanted a large sum because the project would need her to labour for several months. According to numerous media outlets, Kareena requested Rs 12 crore for her role as Sita. The actor has recently emphasised that these charges are false. Kareena claims that she

Lalit Modi finds ladylove Sushmita 'hot' in breathtaking vacay pics

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Last month, Lalit Modi and Sushmita Sen startled everyone by announcing their relationship. Ever since then, while some sections of people are trolling the two, while some are appreciating them. Sushmita Sen is an avid social media user and loves travelling. Last month, the diva was vacationing in Maldives and Sardinia. Lately, she has been uploading stunning pictures and videos from her holidays. On Friday, when Sushmita Sen shared a throwback video from Sardinia, Lalit could not stop himself from praising the actress's beauty. He showered her with compliments in the comments section of the post. Sushmita Sen shared the video on Instagram

and captioned it, "Align, pause, breathelet go!!! A lesson in surrender, as I experience the cushioned embrace of the Mediterranean Sea!! Beautifully captured @itsalways_Where life has depth I am all in!! I love you guys!!! #dug-gadugga (sic)."

Sushmita's boyfriend Lalit Modi took to the comments section and wrote, "looking hot in sardinia (sic)."

For those who are unaware, Lalit Modi was the former cricket administrator. He was the founder, first chairman and

Commissioner of the Indian Premier League (IPL). He was previously married to Minal Modi. They had two children together—son Ruchir and daughter Aliya. While Sushmita was dating model Rohman Shawl. They broke up in 2021.

On the work front, Sushmita Sen is gearing up for Aarya Season 3.



was never offered the role. Kareena recently remarked in an interview with a news portal, "The reason I never gave an explanation is because I was never offered that film. I don't even know why I was put into that because I wasn't the choice for the film. These all are made-up stories and I don't want to put anybody down because maybe even they need stories. Every day people are looking for some sort of stories on Instagram but I don't know where it came from."

Kareena is now anticipating the release of Advait Chandan's Laal Singh Chaddha, in which she co-stars with Aamir Khan. Kareena portrays Rupa in the official remake of Tom Hanks' Forest Gump. Rupa is the Indianized version of Jenny, who is played by Golden Globe nominee Robin Wright.



Alia Bhatt flaunts her baby bump as she poses at preview of the song

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Alia Bhatt, Ranbir Kapoor and Ayan Mukerji are all set for the release of their much-awaited magnum opus Brahmastra: Part one Shiva. The flick is all set to release on 9 September 2022.

Ahead of the release, parents-to-be Ranbir and Alia were spotted at the Brahmastra song preview event in the city on Saturday afternoon. The two stars were seen with director Ayan Mukerji as they arrived in style for the preview of the Brahmastra song Deva Deva.

For the event, the trio opted for a casual yet stylish look. They were brimming with joy as they posed for the shutter bugs. While Alia opted for an easy breezy yet chic brown dress, Ranbir opted for an all-black look for the event today.

On the work front, Alia Bhatt will next be seen in Rocky aur Rani ki Prem Kahani, while Ranbir has Luv Ranjan's next yet untitled and Animal in his pipeline.

AMid breakup rumours Disha left a cute comment on tiger's recent post

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Disha Patani and Tiger Shroff are making news after a breakup rumour circulated on social media for quite some time. In the midst of these rumours, Tiger came to Instagram on Thursday and posted a video of himself showing off his martial arts talents. In the video, he can be seen punching a human, whom he refers to as a human punching bag. Sharing the video, Tiger wrote: "Didn't feel like training today... so the boys decided they wanted to kick his ass...not my idea #humanpunchingbag #goodnight."

However, Disha Patani's reaction to the video drew the most attention. "I want to do it tooo," she wrote. Tiger Shroff and Disha Patani's break-up has been making news for the past few days.

While neither actor has broken their silence or released an official comment, a report claims that they split up after the Heropanti star denied marrying Disha this year. According to an acquaintance, "Disha wanted Shaadi but



Tiger was not ready to commit to a matrimonial relationship for now." Tiger will next be featured in Karan Johar's latest action thriller Screw Dheela. Shashank Khaitan directed the film. The leading lady's formal announcement and the film's release date are still awaiting.

Samiksha Jaiswal I look forward to inspiring people which a villain cannot

Aakruti Bagla | Mumbai

Very few actors gain immense popularity from their debut shows, and one of them is Samiksha Jaiswal. She gained fame with her character portrayal as Mehek. Samiksha was later seen in Bahu Begam where she played a multi-shaded character. And now the actress will be seen playing a cop in the show 'Control Room'.

Ahead of the show, the actress exclusively interacted with Absolute India News. Here are the excerpts from the conversation.

- ▶ **On initial reaction when the role was narrated**
The actress will be playing a cop for the first time. Recalling her take on the role when it was proposed to her, the actress said, "I heard it and felt like giving it a shot. Later, when I wore the uniform, I felt and looked so good that there was no looking back."
- ▶ **On referring to Rani Mukerji's Mardaani to prepare**
When asked about who she referred to for effortlessly getting into the character's skin, Samiksha quipped, "Anyday 'Mardaani', as Rani Mukerji did a fabulous job in it. I wish to have the sassiness she carries."
- ▶ **On audience still remembering her as Mehek**
Samiksha also shared what sort of responses she has been receiving for her characters as Mehek and Noor. Feeling grateful for the same she averred, "People call me adorable and the kind of love they shower is so real that I can feel it. I am eternally grateful for it. Even Noor was a character of different shades and people specifically from the Muslim community connected with it. I feel happy about playing such diverse roles and people from different spectrums connecting with me."
- ▶ **On whether she likes positive or grey shade characters**



The actress further revealed whether she likes playing an antagonist or a protagonist. She said, "Despite having a grey shade Noor was the heroine of Bahu Begam. And heroine cannot be wrong after a point in time. At this stage in life, I look forward to inspiring people which a villain cannot."

▶ **On things getting affected post-pandemic**
The actress went on to share how things have changed post-pandemic and how she is dealing with it. Talking about the effect of the pandemic, Samiksha shared, "It has definitely affected a bit because an actor's shelf life is such that if we are not active, people tend to forget us. I still feel I am very fresh and gradually grasping how the industry works."

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Tamannah Bhatia