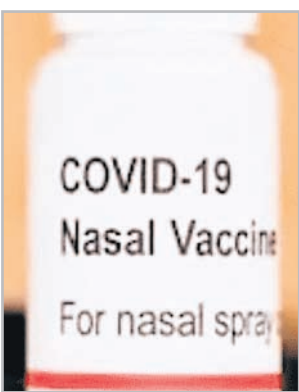


BHARAT BIOTECH'S INTRANASAL COVID VACCINE PRICED AT RS 800

Team Absolute | Hyderabad

Vaccine maker Bharat Biotech's intranasal vaccine for Covid-19, the first in the world, is scheduled to be introduced in the country as a booster dose shortly. The vaccine, iNCOVACC (BBV154), is now available on CoWin, and priced at Rs 800 for private markets and Rs 325 for supplies to the Centre and state governments, the Hyderabad-based company said. Last last month, Bharat Biotech received approval from the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) for the use of heterologous booster doses of iNCOVACC. It is a recombinant replication-deficient adenovirus vectored vaccine with a pre-fusion-stabilised SARS-CoV-2 spike protein. This vaccine candidate was evaluated in phases I, II and III clinical trials with successful results, the company said. iNCOVACC has been specifically formulated to allow intranasal delivery through nasal drops. The nasal delivery system has been designed and developed to be cost-effective in low- and middle-income countries, it added. "We have achieved the goals

we set for ourselves during this pandemic. We have developed COVAXIN and iNCOVACC, two Covid vaccines from two different platforms, with two different delivery systems, he vectored intranasal delivery platform gives us the capability for rapid product development, scale-up, easy and painless immunization during public health emergencies and pandemics," said Bharat Biotech Executive Chairman Dr. Krishna Ella. He thanked the Ministry of Health, CDSCO, Dept of Biotechnology, Govt of India, Technology Development Board, and Washington University, St Louis, for their support and guidance. As a needle-less vaccination, Bharat Biotech's iNCOVACC will be India's first such booster dose. India will now have more options when it comes to third doses or precautionary doses. iNCOVACC's manufacturing platform has the double benefit of enabling faster development of variant-specific vaccines and easy nasal delivery that enables mass immunization to protect from emerging variants of concern, the vaccine maker said. Clinical trials were conducted to evaluate iNCOVACC as a primary dose schedule, and as heterologous booster dose for sub-



jects who have previously received two doses of the two commonly administered COVID vaccines in India. iNCOVACC was developed in partnership with Washington University, St. Louis, which had designed and developed the recombinant adenoviral vectored construct and evaluated in preclinical studies for efficacy. Product development related to preclinical safety evaluation, large-scale manufacturing scale-up, formulation and delivery device development, including human clinical trials were conducted by Bharat Biotech. Product development and clinical trials were funded in part by the Government of India, through the Department of Biotechnology's, Covid Suraksha Program.



CHINA GIVES UP REPORTING COVID FIGURES AS VIRUS RIPS THROUGH POPULATION

Beijing: China's National Health Commission has announced that it will no longer be publishing daily Covid-19 infection figures, as the virus rips through the population with the abandonment of rolling lockdowns, mass tracking of citizens and compulsory testing, according to a media report. "As of today, we will no longer release daily statistics on the pandemic, with any data released by the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention for the purposes of reference and research," the health ministry said on its official website, RFA reported. The announcement came as China

said on Monday that beginning January 8, it will put an end to a mandatory quarantine on arrival for overseas travelers that had been in place since March 2020. It also followed a leaked ministerial document dated December 20 -- which analysts said was likely the result of computer modeling in the absence of widespread testing -- said around 250 million people may now be affected with Covid-19 following the lifting of control measures, RFA reported. Officials had already warned that the development of the current outbreak had become "impossible to track" in the absence of mass testing.

Fresh cold wave conditions likely to continue in Jan: IMD



Team Absolute | New Delhi

The northern parts of the country will witness fresh cold wave conditions from December 31 onwards, said India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Tuesday. R.K. Jenamani, senior scientist at the IMD, said cold days and severe cold days are mainly over south Haryana and western Uttar Pradesh. "The cold to severe cold wave is expected to continue over Punjab, Haryana, north Rajasthan and Delhi. Dense to very dense fog will continue to prevail in the belt. From December 28, there will be improvement due to western disturbance and on December 29, fresh snowfall is expected in Jammu & Kashmir, Leh and some parts of Himachal Pradesh," said Jenamani. Drizzle can be expected in parts of Punjab on December 29, said the IMD. Delhiites woke up to a chilly morning on Tuesday and dense fog

lowered visibility in some areas of the city, affecting road and rail traffic. "A minimum temperature of 7 degree Celsius was recorded in Delhi," said the Meteorological (MeT) office. The MeT office said that a layer of dense fog and moderate icy cold winds from the North were responsible for this steep fall in temperature. "Northwesterly dry and cold winds will continue over Northwest India. However, intensity of fog may decrease leading to marginal increase in day temperatures and abatement of cold wave from parts of West Uttar Pradesh, Delhi and Haryana. Minimum temperature may also increase marginally," said the MeT office. "Light snowfall is going on over the upper reaches of Western Himalayas. Another Western disturbance is expected around December 30 and 31st. Moderate snowfall is possible during that time. Temperatures may dip once again on New Year eve," he said.

Tiger cub found dead in Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve

Umaria (Madhya Pradesh) | Agencies

A tiger cub was found dead in the Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve (BTR) in Madhya Pradesh's Umaria district with forest officials suspecting another feline killed it during a fight. The reserve's patrolling team spotted the carcass in Khotoli range on Monday, BTR's field director Rajiv Mishra said in a statement.



"Some body parts of the cub were found to have been eaten," the statement said without elaborating. After an autopsy, the carcass was disposed of as per the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) guidelines and its viscera was sent to a laboratory for an examination,

Mishra said. According to the All India Tiger Estimation Report 2018, Madhya Pradesh was home to 526 tigers, the highest in any state of the country. Madhya Pradesh has a number of tiger reserves, including Kanha, Bandhavgarh, Pench, Satpura and Panna.

Telangana has highest MBBS seats to population ratio: Govt

Hyderabad: With 19 MBBS seats for one lakh population, Telangana now has the highest ratio of medical seats in the country, state Health Minister T. Harish Rao said on Tuesday. The country's youngest state has a total of 6,690 seats with a population of 3.51 crore (as per 2011 census). Karnataka stands second with 17.91 seats for one lakh population while Tamil Nadu is at third position with 15.35 seats. Telangana has second highest ratio of PG seats in the country. For every one lakh population, the state has 7.22 PG seats. Karnataka stands first with 9.06 seats for the same population. The Health Minister said that under visionary leadership of Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao, Telangana is shining like a diamond in medical education, despite Central government's discrimination in allotting medical colleges. He stated that BJP-ruled states are not even in competition. The minister said that the measures taken by the Chief Minister to make medical education accessible are yielding the results. The state set a new record this year with a student who had secured 8,78,280th rank in NEET, got an MBBS seat under B category. With eight new medical colleges, the state now has added 1,150 MBBS seats.

Woman having 2 kids elopes with teenage girl to 'marry', FIR lodged

Team Absolute | Ranchi

In a bizarre incident, a divorced woman, having two kids, has allegedly run away with a teenaged girl in Jharkhand's Dhanbad, with the latter's family alleging that the woman wants a same sex marriage and hence, she has "kidnapped" the girl. The teenager's family has met senior police officials and have urged them to take strict action against the woman and rescue the girl. According to the information, the woman and the teenage girl went missing on September 15. Now, the local police has lodged an FIR in this matter and a team has been set up to look into the matter. A source said that the teenaged girl lived in Bhooli area of Dhanbad and was in a relation with the older woman despite her family's strong disapproval. However, the woman and



the girl kept on meeting each other despite being warned. Both had said that they wanted to marry each other. Both went missing on September 15. The family of the teenager launched a search but they failed to find her. Her cell phone was also found switched off. On December 26, the teenager's mother met senior police officials and told them that her daughter and the woman had

once fled from the spot but they returned after that within a week. DSP Amar Kumar Pandey told reporter that they have lodged a case after receiving a complaint in this respect. Police said that they were conducting raids at all the possible hideouts of the woman. "This could be a matter of human trafficking or same sex marriage. We are working on both the angles," police said.

MOVE FROM WOMEN EMPOWERMENT TO WOMEN-LED DEVELOPMENT: PRESIDENT

Hyderabad | Agencies

Stating that larger participation of women results in better overall development, President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday called for quickly moving ahead from the phase of empowering women to the stage of women-led development. "We should quickly move ahead from the phase of empowering women to the stage of women-led development. It is already happening in many fields. It must happen in a much bigger way," she said in her address to the probationers of the 74th batch of the Indian Police Service at the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy, Hyderabad. The President asserted that in line with "our stated national priorities, Nari Shakti has to play a major role in achieving the targets we have set for ourselves during the 'Amrit Kaal'". "A truly 'Atmanirbhar



Bharat' pre-supposes 'Atmanirbhar Nari'. It is very rightly said that when you invest in a woman, the woman invests in everyone else. It is heartening to note that women are demonstrating greater participation in our democratic process," she said. Describing the rising share of women voters as one of the biggest achievements of Indian democracy in recent times, she noted that the leadership pipeline of women has to become larger and stronger in every walk of life. The President also emphasised that women in leadership positions, like woman police officers, should always help other women, especially the vulnerable.

Local manufacturing push to drive 60% Indian employers to hire new talent in Q1 2023

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The government's reforms to boost local manufacturing have triggered the creation of new jobs in the sector, and 60 per cent of employers in the manufacturing segment aim to recruit and expand their resource pool in the first quarter of 2023, a report showed on Tuesday. The positive higher hiring sentiment is attributed to large-scale enterprises (69 per cent), followed by medium (44 per cent) and small (39 per cent) businesses. The overall intent to hire for both the manufacturing and services sectors combined grew from 65 per cent in Q3 to 68 per cent in Q4 of the ongoing financial year, according to the report published by employment services provider TeamLease. "The global employment rate has increased considerably post the last Covid-19 wave and is poised to grow stronger in the coming quarters. With domestic demand increasing, despite stringent external conditions, the manufacturing industry is projected to witness all-encompassing growth," said Mahesh Bhatt, Chief Business Officer, TeamLease Services. In the January-March 2023 period, employers in the manufacturing sector are most enthusiastic about recruiting at the junior level (60 per cent) and entry-level (55 per cent), followed by mid-level (27 per cent) and



senior level (24 per cent). The intent to hire is greater in Metro and Tier I cities (94 per cent) as compared to Tier II cities (73 per cent), Tier III (43 per cent), and the rural sector (23 per cent). The cities with the highest intent to hire are Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi and Pune. "Hiring intent for Q4 has increased by 3 per cent and will continue to surge in the coming quarters as well. Production-linked incentive schemes, along with financial impetus for the manufacturing segment that the

budget is likely to address, will promote employment optimism," said Balasubramanian, Vice President and Business Head - Consumer and Healthcare, TeamLease Services. Further, attrition appears to be more balanced in the sector. Apart from healthcare and pharmaceuticals that have shown a double-digit attrition rate during the July-September period this year, the manufacturing industry has single-digit attrition rates, said the report.

CONGRESS TO BEGIN BHARAT JODO YATRA IN BIHAR FROM JAN 5



Patna: The Congress will start Bharat Jodo Yatra from Bihar's Banka district in the new year, a party leader said on Tuesday. Congress Legislature Party leader Ajit Sharma said that the Bharat Jodo Yatra in Bihar will start from January 5 and it will be headed by party President Mallikarjun Kharge. "After the big success of Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra, our party has decided to do the same in Bihar too. Our national President Mallikarjun Kharge will lead the Yatra and it will help the Congress to gain political ground in Bihar," he said. "The BJP is facing an uneasy situation due to the big success of Bharat Jodo Yatra of Rahul Gandhi. This is the reason why they are doing propaganda and wrongful statements to mislead the people. Lakhs of people are supporting Rahul Gandhi in Bharat Jodo Yatra."



Mock drills held to check COVID-19 preparations

VISHVAS SARANG SAYS STATE READY TO HANDLE ANY SITUATION

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Mock drills were conducted at various hospitals in Madhya Pradesh on Tuesday to check the preparedness of health facilities to handle any surge in COVID-19 cases and state Medical Education Minister Vishvas Sarang said they are ready to deal with any situation.

Amid a spike in COVID-19 cases in some countries, the Centre has asked states and Union Territories to conduct mock drills at all COVID-19 hospitals as part of precautionary measures. Madhya Pradesh minister Sarang was present during the exercise conducted in the government-run Hamidia Hospital in state capital Bhopal.

After inspecting the health facilities in the hospital, Sarang said such drills were conducted in all government medical institutions in the state. "We are ready to deal with any situation."

The drill was conducted to check the preparedness of oxygen generation, Intensive Care Unit, Paediatric Intensive Care Unit, oxygen supported beds, medicines," Sarang said while appealing all to follow COVID-19 appropriate behaviour. The minister



ter said he will not celebrate his birthday on December 29 to avoid a gathering of people. He said the COVID-19 situation in Madhya Pradesh was under control and not a single positive case was reported from the state in the recent past. "We are following

all directives of the Centre. The state hospitals have 43,000 beds," he said. The oxygen plant at the Hamidia Hospital was being monitored round the clock through GPS, Sarang said. As on Monday evening, active COVID-19 cases in Madhya Pradesh

stood at four and there was no report of any new positive case from the state, officials said.

Madhya Pradesh has so far reported 10,54,918 COVID-19 cases including 10,776 deaths due to the viral infection, they said.

Various types of art and culture are hidden in tribes of our state: Governor

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Governor Mangubhai Patel said that Madhya Pradesh holds a special identity in the field of arts, handicrafts and handlooms in the whole world. There are more than 45 tribes in Madhya Pradesh, in which lay various types of hidden art and culture. Governor Patel was addressing the Converge 2022 festival organised by National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) at Tatya Tope Nagar.

Governor Patel expected the teachers and students of NIFT to take advantage of this diversity and incorporate it in their designs and products. This will not only encourage the culture of India, but also provide cultural and economic security to these tribes on the land full of historical art and natural beauty of Bhopal. Governor Patel said that NIFT is counted among the top fashion education institutes in the world. Due to the growing need in this field, NIFT Bhopal is one of the 18 campuses located in different states and



union territories of the country. He said that along with fashion education, NIFT is also promoting sports, culture and literature through this festival. Patel inaugurated the programme by releasing pigeons and balloons. He unveiled the special cover of the Postal Department. Director, NIFT Bhopal, Lt. Col. Ashish Agarwal gave the welcome address and Joint Director Akhil Sahai proposed the vote of thanks.

WE HAVE EXPLOITED NATURE, WE MUST UTILIZE IT WISELY: CM CHOUHAN

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that Indian culture is an integralist. When many civilizations were disappearing in the world, the hymns of the Vedas were being composed in our country. Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam stems from our soil only. With the formula of Sarve Bhavantu Sukhina: Sarve Santu Niramaya, our sages apprised how to live happily and peacefully in the world. He said that we have disturbed the natural balance by exploiting nature. Utilising resources wisely will only protect this creation. He said that the state government will work on the idea and action plan prepared regarding water element in the Sujalam conference today.

Jan Abhiyan Parishad of the state has made attempts to revive 313 rivers. The Chief Minister called for balanced use of water, water conser-



vation, organic farming and protection of environment. He said that the earth has to be saved, only then our existence will be saved. If the balance of the five elements is not maintained, then the balance of the earth will get disturbed. Chief Minister Chouhan was addressing the three-day Sujalam conference dedicated to the Panch Mahabhutas (sky, water, air, fire, earth) organised by the Madhya Pradesh Jan Abhiyan Parishad in Ujjain today to prepare Indian and



indigenous discussion on the purity of water and to put its scientific aspects on the world stage. The water collected from 313 rivers was offered to the mango tree in the programme.

Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat said that saints in our country have given their entire lives to save this civilization. He said that we all are fortunate that the concept of Panchbhutas has developed in our country. He said that with the Namami Gange campaign, the water

of the entire Ganga river has been made purified for bathing in just five years. Uninterrupted availability of water for all is our biggest challenge in the times to come.

The guests also released the book 'Sumangali'. The book has been edited by the Vice Chancellor of Maharishi Panini University, Dr. Vijay Kumar J and Anandil Joshi. A documentary based on water produced by Deendayal Research Institute was also screened.

Congress files complaint against minister over land "gift"

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The opposition Congress in Madhya Pradesh has filed a complaint against Revenue Minister Govind Singh Rajput over allegedly taking a "gift" of 50-acre land in Sagar district from his brother-in-laws earlier this year. The Singh brothers purchased the land in September 2021, just months before it was "gifted" to the minister.

The Congress has filed the complaint with the 'benami properties prohibition wing' of the income tax department. The alleged irregularities in the transaction have robbed the state of several crores, the Congress said, alleging it was just a process to help the minister launder black money.

A news channel found that the land, when purchased by the Singh brothers, was described in documents as a



non-irrigable wasteland. But after the minister got it, it was classified as irrigable farmland. The Congress alleged the process was meant to evade stamp duty. With the land named irrigable farmland, the minister and his family received benefits under the state's 1959 law on land revenue. Under Section 58(3) of the Land Revenue Act, the minister did not have to pay further revenue.

Congress media cell chief KK Mishra filed the complaint against the minister. The Congress complaint alleged Rajput "amassed massive amounts of wealth illegally from 2020-2022", with which he has purchased immovable properties in the name of several 'benami' people in different parts of the state. An investigation of stamp duty evasion should also be conducted against him, Mishra

said.

"The nature of the land also changed at least twice within a year. Anyone can smell major fraud...The Chief Minister needs to get the matter investigated at highest level and the concerned minister should resign," said former law minister and Congress MLA PC Sharma.

Not just the Congress, former BJP leader Rajkumar Dhanaura said the minister's brother-in-laws are not financially strong enough to buy such a vast tract of land. "It is the minister's black money which has been invested to buy the land -- first in the name of his brother-in-law. A year later, the land was transferred to the minister and his relatives through donation," said the leader, who was expelled by the BJP a couple of months ago for opening a front against Rajput.

FIVE ILLEGAL STRUCTURES OF DRUG PEDDLERS RAZED

Indore: Five illegally constructed structures of drug peddlers and those involved in criminal activities, were demolished by a joint team of Indore Municipal Corporation, district administration and police. As part of the government's anti-gang drive, removal of IMC accompanied by police reached Naya Basera at Chhoti Khajrani and demolished illegally constructed structures. The removal gang demolished Girdhari Sanwale's residential building constructed on 6000 sq ft plot at Naya Basera in Ward No 44. Besides, the removal gang also demolished illegally constructed structures of Javed, Salman, Javed Nizam and Najvi Javed at Naya Basera. Deputy commissioner Lata Aggrawal said that some of the razed structures were pucca and others were kutcha houses.

Complaint filed against BJP's Pragya Thakur over 'derogatory' speech against minorities

Team Absolute | Bhopal | Bengaluru

A police complaint has been lodged against BJP MP Saadhvi Pragya Singh Thakur in connection with an alleged "blasphemous" and "derogatory" speech against the minority community during her recent Karnataka visit, police said on Tuesday. The complaint has been lodged by Tehseen Ponawalla, a venture capitalist and political analyst, through social media with Shivamogga SP G.K. Mithun Kumar. A copy of the complaint has also been marked to Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai. Pragya Thakur, an MP from Madhya Pradesh, had participated in the Hindu Jagarana Vedike's South Annual Convention organised in Shivamogga city on Sunday. She had also visited the residence of Bajrang Dal activist Harsha who was hacked to death for spear-heading the campaign against hijab.

The complainant accused Pragya Thakur of making a highly "blasphemous" and "derogatory" speech against the minority community while speaking at the function. She had asked people to give a befitting answer to love jihad in the same fashion. She further asked Hindus to take care of their girl children and keep weapons at home. If there is no weapon at least sharpen the knife used for cutting vegeta-



bles. "They had killed our Harsha with a knife. They have used knives to kill Hindu activists, we have to keep our knives sharpened to face any eventualities. If our knife cuts vegetables well, it can be effective on our enemies as well." The complainant stated that Pragya Singh's speech is an open call for use of arms against the minority community. "It is further submitted that the said speech has the potential effect of intolerance, hatred, violence inter alia against a particular community which is an offence. He has urged the police to register case against the Saadhvi under IPC Sections 153-a for promoting enmity between religions, 153-b for assertions prejudicial to national integration, 268 for public nuisance, 295-a for deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage religious feelings, 504 for intentional breach of peace and 505 for statement conducing to public mischief.

RANGOLIS, BALLOONS TO WELCOME NRIS AT 51 SQUARES IN CITY

Indore: With public participation, Indore Municipal Corporation has planned to turn inaugural day of three-day Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) convention into a festival. It has planned to make rangolis at 51 squares and release balloons from the same places when Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate PBD on January 9. "Rangolis will be made to welcome the Prime Minister and NRIs at 51 select squares in a traditional way. Mayor-in-Council members and corporators, and public clad in traditional attire will also be present to greet the guests," said Mayor Pushmitra Bhargava.

Besides, balloons will also be released from these select squares when PBD convention will be inaugurated. A meeting with various originations for these arrangements will be held shortly.

COLD GRIP OVER CHAMBAL REGION LIKELY TO REMAIN TILL TODAY

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A cold wave is sweeping through the Gwalior-Chambal region of Madhya Pradesh as temperatures dipped below 4 degrees Celsius, the regional weather office said. The first cold wave of the region started Monday and was expected to continue till Wednesday, the MeT office said.

According to the Meteorological Department, the weather conditions in the region will remain the same for the next two days till Wednesday.

Gwalior Meteorological Centre in-charge Hukam Singh on Monday said, "Due to the onset of northern winds, a cold wave is being felt from today onwards in the region." "The hills are receiving



ing snowfalls, which have contributed to the chilled northern winds," he added.

"In the coming days, the mercury may dip further. The maximum temperature may also hover around 17 degrees Celsius," Singh

said. "Cold waves and fog conditions are forecast for the coming days. Due to a Western Disturbance, there is snowfall in the hilly areas, so the cold wave will continue in the entire region," he explained. The day and night

temperature difference was around 15 degrees. "The cold wave will continue for the next two days in the entire Division," Singh said. People in the region said the extreme cold was felt from Sunday evening around 5 pm. They have been lighting bonfires and covering themselves in woollens. Children were being kept indoors and various precautionary arrangements were being made for stray animals to protect them from the severe cold.

The minimum temperature in Gwalior remained at 3.6 degrees Celsius. It was the second coldest city in the state after Bhind which recorded 3.4 degrees Celsius. The temperature in Bhopal was 12 degree Celsius.

Vikramotsav-2023 will start from February 18

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that preparations started for Vikramotsav 2023 in Ujjain should be completed on time. After the dedication of Shri Mahakal Lok, the number of national and international tourists and devotees coming to Ujjain has increased. Therefore, the activities to be carried out in Vikramotsav should be made the centre of public attraction. Chief Minister Chouhan was addressing the meeting of Vikramotsav at CM's residence Samatva Bhavan today. It is notable that Vikramotsav is to be held in Ujjain from 18 February to 22 March 2023.



Chief Minister Chouhan said that lakhs of earthen lamps were offered on Shiv Deepawali in Ujjain in the year 2022, the participation of the citizens of Ujjain was commendable. He said that the programme of offering earthen lamps on the first day of Vikramotsav of the year 2023 should be grand and dignified. Efforts should be made so that the programme is recorded in the Guinness Book of World Records.

Zelensky put forward a peace plan for ending the Russia-Ukraine conflict at the G20 summit in Indonesia last month.



MAHA LEGISLATURE EXPRESSES SOLIDARITY WITH MARATHI-SPEAKING PEOPLE ON K'TAKA BORDER

Team Absolute | Nagpur

In a much-anticipated development, the Maharashtra Legislature here on Tuesday adopted a resolution unanimously expressing full solidarity with the Marathi-speaking people living on the Karnataka border villages.

The resolution said the government will pursue the ongoing legal battle before the Supreme Court to merge the 865 Marathi-speaking villages with Maharashtra in Belagavi (Belgaum), Karwar, Nippani, Bidar, Bhalki and other towns and commit to include "each and every inch" of the lands there.

The state government will also urge the Centre to implement the decisions made at the recent meeting chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah with the Chief Ministers of Maharashtra Eknath Shinde and of Karnataka Basavaraj Bommai in New Delhi.

"The state government remains firmly and with full commitment with the Marathi-speaking people



from the 865 villages," said the two-page resolution, moved by Shinde and adopted by the entire house with a voice vote and thumping desks.

With Speaker Rahul Narwekar in the Chair in the Assembly, Shinde, Leader of Opposition Ajit Pawar and other leaders reiterated their full commitment to stand by the six-decade old struggles

of the Marathi-speaking people in the borders.

"Maharashtra has already respected the will of the Marathi-speaking people from 865 villages for their inclusion in the state. The government has provided a slew of amenities and facilities for social, education and economic development," said the resolution.

It added that the govern-

ment has also provided other concessions like the benefits under the Chief Minister Relief Fund, special incentives for admissions to engineering and medical streams, pre-training for IAS, etc.

The Maha Vikas Aghadi allies like former Chief Minister and Shiv Sena (UBT) President Uddhav Thackeray, Congress state President Nana Patole and leaders of Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and other parties heartily welcomed the passing of the resolution.

However, Thackeray questioned whether the Maharashtra government's initiatives shall be applicable to the Marathi-speaking people in Karnataka given that state's aggressive stance on the issue.

"We shall welcome any such resolution that is in Maharashtra's interests. We still demand that given the current circumstances the disputed boundary areas must be declared as Union Territory to protect the local Marathi-speaking people," Thackeray demanded.

CM BASAVARAJ BOMMAI STRONG REMARKS ON BORDER ROW WITH MAHARASHTRA

Maharashtra/ Bengaluru:

Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai has strongly condemned a resolution moved in the assembly of neighbouring Maharashtra, resolving to protect the state's interests amid a border row between the two states where the BJP is in power.

Karnataka, too, recently passed a resolution on the border row. Reacting to Maharashtra's latest move, Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said there is no provision for the resolution they (Maharashtra leaders) have passed.

"They are provoking and threatening to divide us. We condemn this. Many decades have passed since the State Reorganisation Act was passed (in 1956). People in both states live in harmony," Bommai said.

"Maharashtra is playing politics. And passing such a resolution is just a political gimmick. We stand by our decisions. Not a single inch of Karnataka will go to Maharashtra. We will continue to protect the interest of Kannada people, in Karnataka and Kannada-speaking community outside the border," Bommai said.

"When the case is pending in Supreme Court, why did they pass such a resolution? Our resolution is different from theirs. Our resolution says we will not let go of our Karnataka (land), while they say want to snatch it from us. When the case is pending in Supreme Court, there's no meaning to the resolution. We believe in the Supreme Court," the Karnataka Chief Minister said.



Case filed over display board for flashing abusive message: Police

Team Absolute | Mumbai

An abusive message was displayed on a digital traffic advisory board in Dindoshi area of Mumbai after which a case was registered against unidentified hackers, a police official said. The city civic body had installed smart traffic polls near a mall in Goregaon (east) suburb. A contractor had placed two LED screen boards on one of the polls for displaying traffic-related advisories.

At 9.10 pm on Thursday, an abusive message was displayed on the LED screen, the official said on Monday. The message remained there for more than an hour before the power supply to the board was cut off, he said.

The contractor who had installed the boards told civic officials he was not aware of



the incident. He told the police that somebody might have hacked into the system and relayed the message. A case was registered against unidentified hackers under related sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Information Technology Act, the police official said.

Maharashtra Opposition's 'Unique' Protest

Team Absolute | Nagpur

The members of Maharashtra opposition today held a 'unique' protest against the policies of the Eknath Shinde-led government.

Several MLAs of Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA), an alliance of Uddhav Thackeray-led faction of Shiv Sena, Nationalist Congress Party and the Congress, sang Marathi folk songs at the Vidhan Bhavan complex in Nagpur alleging corruption by the state ministers.

The videos show the legislators singing folk songs and playing a musical instrument called manjira or taal. They called out names of several state ministers accusing them of corruption.

According to the convention, Nagpur, the second capital of Maharashtra, hosts the winter session of the state legislature. This year's winter session is scheduled to end on December 30.

Earlier this month, opposition members staged a



protest against the state government in Mumbai over various issues, including Maharashtra-Karnataka border dispute and Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari's controversial remarks on Maratha warrior king Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.

The Uddhav Thackeray-led Sena, which was ousted from power earlier this year, has been attacking the state government, accusing it of not taking a stronger stand in the border conflict with Karnataka. According to the convention, Nagpur, the second capital of Maharashtra, hosts the winter session of the state legislature. This year's winter session is scheduled to end on December 30. Earlier this month, opposition members staged a protest against the state government in Mumbai over various issues, including Maharashtra-Karnataka border dispute and Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari's controversial remarks on Maratha warrior king Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.

Chanda Kochhar, husband approach Bombay HC against their arrest

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Former ICICI Bank CEO and MD Chanda Kochhar and her husband Deepak Kochhar on Tuesday approached the Bombay High Court, calling their arrest by the Central Bureau of Investigation in a loan fraud case illegal. The court, however, refused to grant urgent hearing and directed the Kochhars to mention the matter before the regular bench once it resumes after vacation.

A lawyer representing the Kochhars said that no prior sanction, as required under the law, was obtained by the CBI before their arrest.

The probe agency arrested the Kochhars on Friday night after questioning them briefly. It alleged that they were evasive in their responses and did



not cooperate in the investigation. The CBI had named the Kochhars and Venugopal Dhoot, chairman of the Videocon Group, along with Nupower Renewables (NRL) managed by Deepak Kochhar, Supreme Energy

Private Ltd (SEPL), Videocon International Electronics Ltd. (VIEL) and Videocon Industries Limited, in its FIR registered in 2019 under IPC sections related to criminal conspiracy and the Prevention of Corruption Act.

The CBI has alleged that ICICI Bank had sanctioned credit of Rs 3,250 crore to the companies of the Videocon Group promoted by Dhoot in violation of the Banking Regulation Act, RBI guidelines, and credit policy of the bank.

The probe agency arrested Dhoot, 71, on Monday in connection with the case. The CBI has alleged that a sanctioning committee headed by Chanda Kochhar in 2009 approved a term loan of Rs 300 crore to VIEL in contravention of the rules and policies of the bank by abusing her official position as a public servant. The day after the loan was disbursed, Dhoot transferred Rs 64 crore to L from VIEL through SEPL, the CBI has alleged. The Kochhar couple and Dhoot have been remanded in CBI custody till December 28.

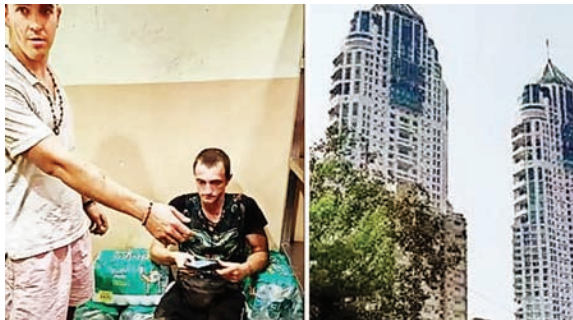
TWO RUSSIANS YOUTUBERS HELD FOR ENTERING 60-STOREY TWIN COMPLEX TO SHOOT STUNT VIDEO

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Two Russian YouTubers have been arrested for allegedly entering a 60-storey twin tower complex in Tardeo here to shoot a stunt video, police said on Tuesday. The duo was arrested late on Monday night and an offence registered under section 452 (house trespass) and other relevant provisions of the Indian Penal Code was registered against them, an official said.

The Russian embassy was informed about the incident after the first information report (FIR) was registered, he said.

The accused had allegedly sneaked into The Imperial, a plush twin tower complex, to shoot a stunt video and were



spotted in the CCTV cameras by the on-duty security guards, who immediately informed the police and cornered them, the official said.

During the probe, it was found that the duo had climbed up to the 58th floor of one of the towers using the staircase and had allegedly intended to ascend from the outside and record a video

while performing the stunt, he said.

After the guards spotted them, the accused came down to the 28th floor and then sneaked into a podium on the fifth floor, before jumping into the hillock, the official said. The accused sustained some hand and leg injuries, he said, adding that further probe is underway.

DEPUTY CM, BJP LEGISLATORS ATTEND SANGH PROGRAM IN NAGPUR

Mumbai: Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Bharatiya Janata Party legislators on Tuesday attended the Sangh Parichay Varg (an introduction to the RSS) program in Maharashtra's Nagpur city, where the winter session of the state legislature is currently underway. Fadnavis told reporters that the legislators were also given the book 'Bhavishya Ka Bharat', which is a compilation of the lecture series of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat. "Since the last 25 years, BJP legislators have been visiting memorials and attending the Sangh Parichay Varg during the winter session in Nagpur as this is our place of inspiration. We get the energy of nationalism from here," Fadnavis said after attending the programme held at Dr Hedgewar Smruti Mandir in Reshimbagh here.



Hospitals conducted mock drill to check health infrastructure preparedness for Covid-19

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Hospitals in Mumbai carried out mock drills on Tuesday to check the preparedness of health facilities to handle any spike in COVID-19 cases, Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) officials said. In the wake of a spurt in COVID-19 cases in some countries like China, Japan, Brazil and South Korea, the Union government has issued guidelines, asking the hospitals to conduct mock exercises across the country.

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Monday said all state health ministers will take part at their level in the mock drill to be conducted throughout the country at all COVID-19 hospitals as part of the precautionary measures.

In Mumbai, the medical facilities which will conduct the mock drill include the civic-run Seven Hills Hospital (having 1,700 beds) and Kasturba Hospital (35 beds), government-run Cama Hospital (100 beds), St George Hospital (70 beds), Tata Hospital (16 beds), and Jagjivan Ram Hospital (12 beds).

The state-run J J Hospital also informed that it will conduct the mock drill. According to civic doctors, the exercise is designed to check



the readiness and response of hospitals in the wake of a rise in COVID-19 cases in some countries.

They have been asked to upload all reports collected during the drill on the Union government's dedicated portal for COVID-19.

As per the BMC's release issued about preparedness of the "health infrastructure" on Monday, it has identified 10 civic hospitals, three government hospitals and 21 private hospitals having 2,124 isolation beds, of which

1,523 are functional. The hospitals have 1,613 oxygen-supported beds and of those 1,021 are functional.

They have 579 ICU beds, of which 473 are functional and of the 1,079 ventilators, 954 are functional, the release said.

Out of the 3,245 doctors, 3,453 paramedics and 5,784 nurses, as many as 2,828 doctors, 3,246 paramedics and 4,029 nurses are trained in COVID-19 management, it said. To diagnose and track COVID-19 cases, the city has a daily testing capacity of 1,35,035 at 34 hospitals and 49 laboratories, according to the release. Also, the stock of medicines like Remdesivir, Tocilizumab, Methylprednisolone, Dexamethasone, Amphotericin B Deoxycholate and Posaconazole is available.

"The medicines will be procured and made available in future if cases increase," the release said, adding that PPE kits, N-95 masks, nebulizers and pulse oximeters are available in adequate quantity.

The city has 859 functional oxygen concentrators and 2,933 oxygen cylinders, apart from 79 Pressure Swing Adsorption (PSA) oxygen plants of 1,468 metric tons capacity and liquid medical oxygen of 268 metric tons capacity, it added.

Red sandalwood worth Rs 6 crore seized in Bhiwandi



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The Waliv police have seized red sandalwood worth about Rs 6 crore. According to the police, after a tip off, on the check post of Bhiwandi Common Road in the wee hours of Monday they stopped a suspicious container. During the search they found high-quality red sandalwood hidden amid sacks of onions in it. Two people have been detained and the container seized. During interrogation, it is learnt that the wood had come from Hyderabad, and was to be taken to Dubai from Uran port. A total of 450 pieces of high-

quality red sandalwood, 25 Kg each (single piece) were wrapped properly in sacks kept under the bags of onions. The accused said the smell of the sandalwood was greatly reduced by the odour of the onions which is why it was hidden among the sacks. "The seized material is high-quality red sandalwood which is worth more than Rs 6 crore. With the help of a forest officer, we have conducted the Panchnama. The process of registering the FIR is underway," said Deputy Commissioner of Police Suhas Bavche. Red sandalwood or red sanders is endemic to India and is endangered.



Filming sex scenes with Jennifer Aniston 'was torture': Jake Gyllenhaal

Los Angeles | Agencies

Filming intimate scenes is anything but a cakewalk and Hollywood star Jake Gyllenhaal's experience is a testimony to it. The actor has revealed he felt "awkward" while filming sex scenes with Jennifer Aniston, describing the whole experience as "torture".

The actors starred alongside one another in the 2002 comedy 'The Good Girl', which follows two lovers who are bored in their dead-end jobs and end up embarking on an affair. Forty-two-year-old Jake admitted that he had a huge crush on Jennifer, 53, which made it difficult to film sex scenes with her.

"It was torture, yes it was, but it was also not torture. I mean, come on. It was like a mix of both," Jake joked during an appearance on 'The Howard Stern Show'.

Explaining his embarrassment, Jake said: "Weirdly, love scenes are awkward because there are maybe 30, 50 people watching. That doesn't turn me on."

He added: "Most of the time, it's oddly mechanical, right? And also it's a dance, like, you choreograph it for a camera. It's one of those like a fight scene, you gotta choreograph those things and I always have tried."

Jake then told presenter Howard that Jennifer had suggested they use a pillow to help them feel more comfortable during the bedroom scenes.

Los Angeles | Agencies

Jake then told presenter Howard that Jennifer had suggested they use a pillow to help them feel more comfortable during the bedroom scenes.

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"I definitely protected him," she said in the interview, "and I still will in the eyes of my kids. For my kids. So, in my home, my kids don't know anything that goes on (in) the outside world."



Los Angeles | Agencies

She further mentioned, "As soon as I started reading this part I got a sense that she was very rigid and repressed in the way she behaved and moved, as if she was hiding something. And that's what we find out in Season 2: She came to Paris from the beach town of Saint-Tropez to get a career and had to toughen up to face the Parisian scene. By the start of Season 3, she's understood that she can work with Emily and has freed herself from her American bosses. I didn't expect my character to evolve so much and I'm very pleasantly surprised."

Los Angeles | Agencies

As per a daily newspaper, the relationship sadly didn't last and ended 'amicably' in summer this year.

Gigi has been single since she split from Zayn. It seems as though model Victoria isn't the reason for Gigi and Leo's fizzled out 'romance', with a source close to the 'Catch Me If You Can' actor claiming that he and Victoria "are not dating". The insider said they were part of a bigger group when they were spotted on an outing in Hollywood.



Los Angeles | Agencies

The barber kept his look simple in a black T-shirt while his girlfriend looked stylish in a black baker boy hat and white ensemble. Sipping on Espresso Martinis, the pair smiled to the camera as he simply captioned: 'Special ??'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Claire's warning comes after earlier this year, Kim Kardashian threatened to sue Roblox after her son Saint, saw an ad for her 'unreleased' sex tape. Kim was left shocked as she saw Saint laughing at his iPad while play



Nina Dobrev



Salman Khan Birthday bash

SRK and Salman hug each other, the actor hugs and kisses ex-girlfriend

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood's Bhaijaan Salman Khan turned a year older today. The actor celebrated the 57th bash in a grand way with celebrities like Sangeeta Bijlani, Iulia Vantur, Tabu and Sonakshi Sinha to Kartik Aaryan, Pooja Hegde and Shah Rukh Khan in attendance.

Salman was also seen making a grand entry at the party, which was reportedly held at his sister Arpita Khan's Mumbai home. The actor celebrated his birthday along with his niece Ayat Sharma.

However, one celeb who stole everyone's thunder at the bash was none other than Shah Rukh Khan. Photos and videos of the actors hugging at the party are trending big time and have been curated by several fan pages dedicated to both the actors on social media. Meanwhile, the birthday boy also cut the cake with the paparazzi stationed outside the venue. While most celebs arrived at the party in black outfits, Sangeeta Bijlani made a statement in a sparkly blue dress. She was also seen with Salman outside the party venue, where he gave her a hug and kissed her forehead.

Katrina Kaif, who earlier dated Salman, also took to the story section of her Instagram to send birthday wishes to Salman with whom she will share the screen in their upcoming spy-action movie 'Tiger 3'. Calling Salman an "OG (original gangster)", she shared a monochromatic picture of him seated on a bike. Salman appears to be staring into the camera lens as he sports a light stubble in the picture. Katrina wrote on the picture, "Tiger Tiger Tiger ka happy birthday @beingsalmankhan #OG."

Salman Khan had recently finished the filming of Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan, which is directed by Farhad Samji. The movie is slated to be released in theatres in April next year. Salman Khan will also be seen in the highly-awaited film Tiger 3, which will reunite Salman with Katrina Kaif.



I love Honey Singh's vibe: Saurabh Prajapati

Mumbai: Saurabh Prajapati, one of India's newest choreographers, recently finished a fantastic piece of work alongside Yo Yo Honey Singh and stunning Iulia Vantur. The group earned a lot of positive attention for its rendition of the Ramgopal Verma song Yai Re from Rangeela.

Speaking more about it Saurabh says, "I am happy that Yai Re is trending worldwide. This song will always be a special song to me for two main reasons: It's my first song with my favourite Yo Yo Honey Singh. It was just so much fun working with him. I love his vibes and his music. There is something magical about him and his infectious energy. From our very first meeting we got connected. Working with Iulia Vantur was another wonderful experience. She is so hard working and I must mention here she pulled off the entire choreography in one day. She is very passionate and focused when it comes to work. The original was brilliantly choreographed by Ahmed Khan and I am glad that I have got the opportunity now."

Saurabh also adds, "I want to thank Director Mihir Gulati for having faith in me - the entire team is amazing. It's a team work for everyone - right from to DOP Manish Shuntly to all the assistant directors and Aadesh Gola production team. At the end when I saw the final outcome I was overwhelmed with the result. As a choreographer I am blessed to be part of this cult song. What Urmila Matondkar has done is unbelievable. I wanted to make this a party anthem of 2023 and give it a different concept. In future, I wish to choreograph and direct more songs and try to create my own niche in the music videos."



Farah Khan gives reality show contestant an Om Kapoor makeover

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Filmmaker Farah Khan gave a makeover to the 'Indian Idol 13' contestant Shivam Singh and made him look like Om Kapoor, the role played by superstar Shah Rukh in her film 'Om Shanti Om'.

Furthermore, after the makeover, Shivam entered the show in a six-pack with foreign performers and danced to the track 'Dard Ae Disco'.

Farah said: "You made it feel like the

original song," to which judge Vishal Dadlani also added: "All the credit goes to Farah." Shivam also sang the song 'Jag Suna Suna Laage' from the film. The top 10 contestants included Rishi Singh from Ayodhya, Bidipta Chakraborty, Debosmita Roy, Senjuti Das, Sonakshi Kar from Kolkata, Chirag Kotwal from Jammu, Vineet Singh from Lucknow, Navdeep Wadali from Amritsar, Shivam Singh and Kavya Limaye from Gujarat.

'Indian Idol 13' airs on Sony Entertainment Television.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Shriya Pilgaonkar, who is awaiting the release of her streaming show 'Taaza Khabar', is gushing about her co-actor, YouTuber Bhuvan Bam's rise as a digital superstar. Bhuvan, who swayed the nation with his relatable videos on YouTube will be seen essaying the role of a sanitation worker in 'Taaza Khabar'. Commenting on Bhuvan's journey, the actress said, "It's incredible to see Bhuvan's journey and evolution. He really is such a wonderful person and it has been an absolute pleasure to work with him. I could see the hard work and passion with which he has approached this character." She further mentioned, "He has done an outstanding job as Vasya and the Madhu-Vasya chemistry has turned out to be really special. We got to know each properly through the process of the shoot and we're good friends now. I think people are going to enjoy our on-screen chemistry. This cast and crew in general has been fun to work with." She went on to state how the show's story skillfully weaves two ends of parent-child love and love between romantic partners, "The story beautifully explores the relationship between a parent and their child as well as between 2 lovers. And of course, I love the music of our show. It's a great vibe. I'm sure the viewers are going to have as much fun watching as we've had making the show." Produced by Rohit Raj and Bhuvan Bam under BB Ki Vines productions, and directed by Himank Gaur, the series will release on Disney+ Hotstar on January 6, 2023.

"It's incredible to see Bhuvan's journey and evolution: Shriya Pilgaonkar



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Popular TV actor Amar Upadhyay has started out as a producer with his show 'Kyunkii Tum Hi Ho'. The actor gets candid about his production debut and the kind of response it is getting from the audience. Upadhyay says: "Till date, people gave me so much love as an actor. It is because of their love I am what I am today. And I am truly grateful that my fans have supported me and loved my show 'Kyunkii Tum Hi Ho'."

Amar made his stint as Mihir Virani in the show 'Kyunkii Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi' and was also seen as Virendra Pratap Singh in 'Molki'. Currently, he is working as producer and actor for the show.

In conclusion, he notes: "As soon as I got to know, I immediately called up our writers to give even better content given that now they have very high expectations which has now put me under a great pressure as a producer and as an actor to do even better."

Upadhyay signs off by saying: "So yes, it does put us producers and actors under a lot of pressure."

Amar Upadhyay debuts as producer



Kriti Sanon