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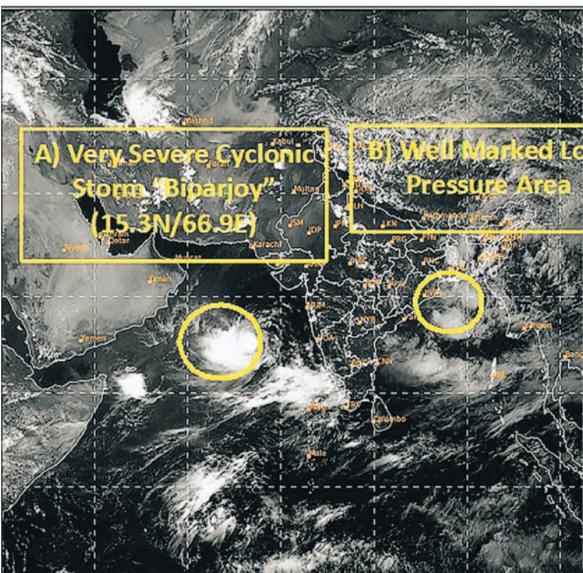


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CYCLONE 'BIPARJOY' SET TO INTENSIFY IN THE NEXT 36 HOURS, SAYS IMD



"The very severe cyclonic storm 'Biparjoy' (pronounced 'Biporjoy') over east central Arabian Sea moved nearly north eastward with a speed of 13 kmph during past six-hours and lay centered at 2.30 p.m. on June 9 over the same region near latitude 15.3 degrees North and longitude 66.9 degrees East, about 740 km west of Goa, 750 km west-southwest of Mumbai, 760 km south-southwest of Porbandar and 1,070 km south of Karachi. It would intensify further gradually during next 36 hours and move nearly north-northeast wards during next 48 hours and north-northwestwards during subsequent three days."

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Friday said that cyclone 'Biparjoy' is set to intensify in the next 36 hours and will be heading north-northwestwards in the next three days. It also said that the Southwest monsoon is likely to advance into the remaining parts of Kerala and additional areas of the southern peninsula within the next two days. The IMD further predicted that along and of the Saurashtra and Kutch coasts, squally wind speed,

reaching 35-45 kmph and gusting to 55 kmph, is likely to prevail on June 10 and likely to increase to 40-50 kmph and gusting to 60 kmph on June 11, 45-55 kmph gusting to 65 kmph during June 12, and 50-60 kmph gusting to 70 kmph June 13 and 14. "Sea condition is likely to be rough on June 10 and likely to become rough to very rough during June 11 to 14," it said. On the monsoon, the IMD said: "In the coming 24 hours, the monsoon is expected to progress into more regions of the central Arabian Sea, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and additional areas of

southwest, central, and northeast Bay of Bengal. It is also predicted to reach the remaining parts of Kerala, followed by the northeastern states and certain parts of Sub-Himalayan West Bengal and Sikkim in the subsequent two days." The weather department has forecast severe heat wave conditions in certain pockets of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh from Friday to Sunday. In Gangetic West Bengal, the heat wave is expected to continue until Tuesday, while in Odisha and Jharkhand, it is likely to persist until Monday.

El Nino has arrived, bringing promise of Worldwide Weather Turmoil

New Delhi: A weather-changing El Nino that packs the power to blunt the Atlantic hurricane season has begun.

Sea surface temperatures across the equatorial Pacific Ocean have risen 0.5C (0.9F) above normal and wind patterns have changed to the point where El Nino criteria has been met, the US Climate Prediction Center said Thursday. The agency that is part of the National Weather Service is also certain those conditions will persist.

"El Nino conditions are present and we expect them to mature and grow as we get into the Northern Hemisphere winter," Michelle L'Heureux, a forecaster with the center, said in an interview.

El Ninos upset weather patterns the world over and can bring drought to Australia and India and more rain during California winters. The phenomenon can unleash wind shear across the Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico that can tear apart hurricanes and tropical storms, though there are few other effects to North America over the next three months.

"Impacts over North America during the summer are very limited," L'Heureux said. "They are weak and don't persist from El Nino to El Niño event."

This marks the first El Niño in more than three years, and forecasters believe it will at least be a moderate and possibly a strong one. The stronger El Ninos are, the more likely they will have impacts on weather patterns around the globe.

Australia's Bureau of Meteorology said Tuesday that the world is on the verge of an El Nino, but came short of declaring one. The US and Australia use different criteria to define the phenomenon.

INTERNATIONAL REFEREE JAGBIR SINGH AFFIRMS BRIJ BHUSHAN'S INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOUR TOWARDS FEMALE WRESTLERS

Team Absolute | New Delhi

International referee Jagbir Singh on Thursday claimed that he has been a witness to Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh's inappropriate behaviour towards female grapplers on several occasions since 2013.

Brij Bhushan is currently under scrutiny after top Indian wrestlers, including Bajrang Punia, Vinesh Phogat and Sakshi Malik, demanded his arrest for alleged sexual harassment of women grapplers.

"I am an UWW referee since 2007 and I have been a referee before the birth of the protesting wrestlers. I also know Brij Bhushan for a long time," Jagbir told to a news agency.

"I couldn't say much because until the girls register complaints, I could not do anything. But I saw the episode with my own eyes and felt bad," he said.

Jagbir, who has been a coach-cum-international referee since 2007, said he witnessed Brij Bhushan's misbehaviour with his own eyes on numerous occasions. "After he became the president during his second tour in 2013 in Kazakhstan, the president told us 'I will feed you Indian food today' and he arranged a party in the junior wrestlers' hotel," he claimed.

"Brij Bhushan and his accomplices from Thailand were drunk and they misbehaved with the girls and I



One of the wrestlers taken to WFI office as part of probe: Delhi Police

New Delhi: Delhi Police on Friday took one of the six complainants, who have filed charges of sexual harassment against Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief and BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, to WFI's office in Delhi as a part of their ongoing probe into the matter.

The WFI office, located on at 21 Ashoka Road, is adjacent to Brij Bhushan's official residence in the national capital.

According to sources, the complainant willingly accompanied the police as part of the investigation process, and took part in scene re-creation.

However, confusion arose when reports began circulating that the female wrestler had been taken to "Brij Bhushan's home".

Refuting the reports, the Deputy Commissioner of Police, New Delhi, took to Twitter to clarify that "there are false rumors circulating about the matter of the female wrestler going to Brij Bhushan Singh's house. Please do not pay attention to the rumors. The Delhi Police had taken the female wrestler to the office of the WFI for investigation".

was a witness to that.

"In 2022, I witnessed something. Whenever the president used to travel inside the country for national tournaments, two to three girls were always with

him but we could never protest. We have seen that with our eyes." Jagbir, in fact, has corroborated the protesting wrestler's allegations in his testimony to the Delhi Police.

Woman among three killed, 2 injured in fresh Manipur violence

Imphal | Agencies

In a fresh incident of violence in restive Manipur, at least three people, including a woman, were killed and two other injured by the suspected militants in Manipur's Khoken village on Friday, police said.



Khoken village lies on the boundary between Kangpokpi and Imphal West district and the suspected militants and the victims belong to different communities. According to the police, the extremists, who were reportedly dressed in khaki and driving military vehicles, came to the Khoken village early on Friday morning and fired upon villagers with automatic rifles.

Accusing the Meitei community for the killing, Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF) said that this attack is yet another example of the utter disregard shown by the militants and

demanding swift action should be taken against the perpetrators.

"The incident also violated the peace process called by the Union Home Minister Amit Shah. We urge upon the authorities to take decisive actions against the militants," the ITLF said in a statement.

It said that one of the victims, Domkhohoi, was shot dead inside

a church when she was in early morning prayer.

Additional columns of the Army and paramilitary forces have been deployed to control the situation in the Khoken village.

Meanwhile, reports of incidents of violence including burning of houses were received from two other districts. But official confirmation has not yet been received.

Sharad Pawar, Sanjay Raut get death threats

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Two top opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) leaders, Nationalist Congress Party President Sharad Pawar and Shiv Sena (UBT) Chief Spokesperson Sanjay Raut, have received fresh death threats from unknown persons, here on Friday.

Pawar has been warned via a Twitter message threatening that he will meet the same fate as Dr. Narendra Dabholkar (the rationalist who was shot dead in Pune in August 2013), sending shockwaves in the political circles.

In a telephonic threat issued through Sunil Raut, MLA, his brother, Sanjay Raut, MP has been served an ultimatum to stop his 'morning loudspeakers' within a month failing which he would be "sprayed with bullets".

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Friday said his government has taken serious note of the death threat to NCP chief Sharad Pawar and he has given instructions



for a probe. His deputy Devendra Fadnavis said such threats will not be tolerated.

While Mumbai police registered a first information report (FIR) over the threat, Pune cops reviewed security at Sharad Pawar's residence in Shivajinagar area of the city.

Calling Pawar a "senior respected leader", Shinde said in a statement that all necessary precautions will be taken for his security. Police authorities have been asked to beef up Pawar's security if needed, the CM said.

20 newborns rescued after fire breaks out in Delhi hospital

New Delhi: Twenty newly born babies were rescued safely after a fire broke out at a children's hospital in Delhi, said a fire department official on Friday, adding that no casualty was reported.

The fire broke out on Thursday night. According to Atul Garg, the Director of Delhi Fire Service, a call regarding the blaze at New Born Child Hospital in Vaishali Colony was received around 1:35 a.m.

"Total nine fire units were rushed to the hospital. All the newborn children, a total of 20, were saved/rescued by DFS and shifted to nearby hospital," said Garg.

The official said that the fire was in the furniture, papers, and a shop in the basement of the building, which comprises basement, ground plus three storeys and hospital run at the first floor.

As per officials, 13 newborns were shifted to Arya hospital Janakpuri, two to Dwarka Mor in New born child hospital and two to JK hospital in Janakpuri while three babies were discharged from the New born child hospital, Vaishali.

PUTIN SAYS "LONG-EXPECTED" UKRAINE COUNTEROFFENSIVE HAS STARTED

Moscow: Russian President Vladimir Putin said Friday that a long-expected counter-offensive from Ukraine had begun but Kyiv had so far "failed" to reach its goals.



"We can definitely state that this Ukrainian offensive has begun," Putin said in a video interview published on Telegram by a Russian journalist. "But the Ukrainian troops did not reach their aims in any area of combat," he added.

Ukraine has for months said it was preparing a counter-offensive to repel Russian troops from its territories, but said there would be no formal announcement.

Putin said that "combat has continued for five days, with intense fighting yesterday and the day before." He said Ukrainian forces had suffered "significant losses" but "the offensive potential of the Kyiv regime still remains."

For several days, the Russian army has said it repelled assaults in the south of Ukraine, which would be the opening phase of Kyiv's offensive.

Why India is seeing a rise in hypertension, diabetes cases?

The study also showed that 136 million Indians are pre-diabetic, 213 million people live with high cholesterol, 185 million suffer from high LDL cholesterol or bad cholesterol, while 254 million live with generalised obesity and 351 million have abdominal obesity.

▶ The health experts stressed in regular physical activity such as walking, jogging, or cycling and reducing sedentary time.

▶ A balanced diet that includes fruits, vegetables, whole grains, lean proteins, and healthy fats should be followed, while limiting the intake of processed foods, saturated fats, trans fats, and sugary beverages.

▶ The doctors also recommended weight and stress management as well as regular health check-ups to keep a check on blood pressure, cholesterol levels and diabetes.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A number of factors like sedentary lifestyle, unhealthy diet and stress are driving a significant and rapid increase in non-communicable diseases (NCD) like hypertension and diabetes cases in India, doctors said on Friday.

According to an alarming new study led by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and published in the journal 'The Lancet Diabetes and Endocrinology', India is home to a whopping 315 million people with hypertension, and 101 million with diabetes.

These non-communicable diseases were also behind 65 per cent of deaths in India, and 40 per cent hospitalisation, a

study by Apollo Hospitals had revealed in April. Experts blamed significant changes in dietary habits -- from traditional Indian diets, consisting typically of whole grains, fruits, vegetables and legumes, to more processed and high-calorie foods. Certain gene variants when combined with unhealthy lifestyle factors increase the risk further, the doctor explained. Increased consumption of sugar, found in many ultra processed foods, has been linked to overweight and obesity, which affects nearly 40 per cent of the global population, including millions of children. A commonly used low or no-calorie alternative to sugar, known as non-sugar sweeteners (NSS), is also harmful to health in the long run, the expert said.

M3M director sent to 7-day ED custody for alleged diversion of investors' funds

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday confirmed that it has arrested Roop Kumar Bansal, promoter-director of real estate firm M3M Group, for alleged diversion of Rs 400 crore from the investors.

After the arrest, Bansal was produced before a special PMLA court in Panckula, Haryana, which remanded him to seven-day ED custody.

The ED recently conducted raids at the premises of IREO Group and M3M Group over allegations of diverting and siphoning off Rs 400 crores from the investors.

During the search operations, luxury vehicles, including Ferrari, Lamborghini,

Land Rover, Rolls Royce, Bentley and Mercedes Maybach, with an acquisition value of Rs 60 crore, jewellery, bullion worth Rs 5.75 crore, cash amounting to Rs 15 lakh, and various incriminating documents, digital evidence, and books of accounts were seized.

Bansal's arrest was made in connection with the investigations against IREO Group and M3M Group on charges of diverting funds, misappropriating funds of investors, customers etc.

According to the ED, the owners, controllers, and promoters of M3M Group, namely Basant Bansal, Roop Kumar Bansal, Pankaj Bansal and other key individuals, deliberately avoided the investigation.



MANIPUR VIOLENCE: CBI FILES 6 FIRS, INITIATES PROBE INTO PURPORTED CONSPIRACY

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has filed six FIRs and formed a special team to probe the alleged conspiracy related to the ethnic violence in Manipur, officials said. Union Home Minister Amit Shah, during his visit to Manipur, had ordered a CBI probe into the matter. "As part of the CBI investigation, six cases have been identified for further examination. One of these cases focuses on a possible common conspiracy, aiming to determine whether the ethnic violence was pre-planned. The investigation will delve into the details to uncover any evidence suggesting a coordinated effort behind the unrest," said an official. Last Thursday, the central government had announced several actions to bring peace and rebuild trust in Manipur, which has been facing unrest since May 3. These measures included the investigation of the situation by a



special team from the CBI and the formation of a Judicial Commission. During his Manipur visit, Amit Shah had told reporters in Imphal that a special team from the CBI would handle six cases connected to the riots. Additionally, a Judicial Inquiry Commission, led by a retired High Court judge, would investigate the origins of the violence and identify any potential conspiracy that led to unrest in the state. He had said that the government was taking these steps to understand the reasons behind the turmoil and hold those responsible accountable. As of June 3, a total of 3,734 FIRs have been filed in Manipur where clashes between the Kuki and Meitei communities have resulted in over 100 deaths since May 3. The district with the highest number of cases is Imphal West, with 1,257 FIRs registered. Kangpokpi district follows with 932 cases, and Bishnupur district with 844 cases, as per the Chief Minister's office.

Man cheated 50 women using matrimonial app over 20 yrs, held

Team Absolute | Gurugram

A 55-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly cheating 50 women of lakhs of rupees after marrying them through different matrimonial websites over a period of 20 years, police said here on Friday. Tapesh, a native of Jamshedpur, was arrested by the Gurugram police on Thursday from Odisha. The accused first married in 1992 in Kolkata and has two daughters. He disappeared in the year 2000, leaving behind his wife and daughters. In connection with the matter, the police said that a case was filed by a woman in Gurugram recently, in which she alleged that she met the accused through a marriage app and the duo solemnised marriage. But after three days of marriage, the accused cheated the woman of Rs 20 lakh, including jewellery, and fled. During the probe, the police came to know that in the meantime the accused went to Bengaluru and opened a job placement agency named 'Smart Hire Solution'. The accused there used to cheat young men and women on the pretext of getting a job, but when this act of cheating did not last long, he started dating divorced, widowed and married women through the Shaadi app. He started getting into relationship with middle-aged

women and started cheating on them. "The accused has so far married more than 50 women in the last 20 years and duped them. The accused was arrested at the drug de-addiction centre in Odisha. He will be taken into police custody for further probe," said a senior police officer.

TENSION AS UP MAN OFFERS 'NAMAAZ' IN TEMPLE

Hapur (UP): Goa Police have arrested a 30-year-old man for possessing drugs worth Rs 2.2 lakhs. Superintendent of Police Nidhin Valsan said that a Crime Branch team led by Police Inspector Nitin Halamkar conducted a raid at Guirim-Bardez in North Goa and caught the accused red handed with the narcotics. The seized drugs included a white coloured crystalline substance suspected to be MDMA weighing 15.10 grams; and 770 grams of marijuana which was found in a polythene pack parcel. The accused individual has been identified as Pappu Ram, a native of Jodhpur. Police are further investigating the case.

Prof Varsha Gaikwad appointed first woman President of Mumbai Congress

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge on Friday appointed veteran leader Prof. Varsha Gaikwad as the first-ever woman President of the powerful Mumbai Regional Congress Committee (MRCC), as per an official announcement. A former three-time state minister, she will replace the incumbent Ashok alias Bhai Jagtap who served in the position since December 2020. Incidentally, Prof Gaikwad's father, the late Eknath Gaikwad had also served as



the MRCC President from 2017-2020, and she becomes the first woman ever to head the city party unit, according

to her senior colleagues. Hailing from an Ambedkarite-Buddhist family, Prof Gaikwad - an MSc in Mathematics - taught at the Siddharth College, Mumbai, and has also served as a four-time MLA from Dharavi constituency in the south-central part of the city. She was appointed a Minister of State in 2009, later elevated to Cabinet rank till 2014, and also re-appointed with Cabinet status when the Maha Vikas Aghadi government ruled from November 2019-June 2022.

ED ISSUES SHOWCAUSE NOTICE TO XIAOMI OVER FEMA VIOLATION

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday said that the Adjudicating Authority has issued showcause notices to Xiaomi Technology India Private Limited, its officials and three banks under the relevant provision of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) on the basis of a complaint filed by the probe agency in connection with illegal remittances made by the company to the tune of Rs 5,551.27 crore. "The showcause notices have been issued to the company along with Manu Kumar Jain, ex-Managing Director, and Sameer B. Rao, the current Director and Chief Financial Officer of the company. The Adjudicating Authority has also issued show cause notices to three banks, CITI bank, HSBC Bank and Deutsche bank AG for



contravention of Section 10(4) and 10(5) of FEMA and directions issued by RBI by allowing foreign outward remittances in the name of royalty through the banks without conducting due diligence and without obtaining any underlying Technical Collaboration Agreement from the company," said the ED. The ED had earlier frozen

Rs 5,551.27 crore of Xiaomi Technology India Private Limited lying in its bank accounts under the provisions of the Foreign Exchange Management Act for unauthorised remittance of this amount in the guise of royalties abroad by the company. "The competent authority also observed that payment of royalties is nothing but a tool to transfer foreign exchange out of India and the same is in blatant violation of provisions of FEMA," the official said. The ED initiated a PMLA investigation in connection with the illegal remittances made by the company last year. During investigation, it was found by the ED that the company remitted foreign currency equivalent to Rs 5,551.27 crore to three foreign-based entities which include one Xiaomi group entity in the guise of royalty, in violation of Section 4 of the FEMA.

ILLEGAL COAL MINE CAVES IN DHANBAD; 3 KILLED, SEVERAL TRAPPED

Team Absolute | Dhanbad

At least three people were killed and several feared trapped in an illegal mine collapse in Jharkhand's Dhanbad. The mine belongs to BCCL (Bharat Coking Coal Ltd) in Jharia Koylanchal of Dhanbad. About 18 people who were secretly extracting coal were buried when the mine caved in. Of these, three people have been reported dead, while 14-15 people were injured. The accident took place early on Friday morning in the mine located at a place called Bhaura. An outsourcing company named Devprabha has the licence to mine in BCCL. A large number of people extract coal illegally from this mine. While they were mining, a shaft (roof) of the mine suddenly caved in, which led to panic among the people working there. Two of them died on the spot, while another



er died later. More than eight people were pulled out from under the debris with the help of the local people. Some of these injured are being treated at local hospitals. After the accident, angry people protested

before the BCCL area office with the bodies, demanding compensation. The locals alleged that smugglers were getting coal mined illegally in connivance with the CISF and the local police. Inspector Vinod Oraon

of Jorapokhar police station, who reached the spot after the incident, said that many people have been reported buried in the mine collapse. The police are investigating the matter.

Hyderabad temple priest kills illicit lover over pressure for marriage

Team Absolute | Hyderabad

Police have arrested a priest of a temple in Hyderabad for the murder of a woman with whom he was having an extramarital relationship. The shocking incident came to light on Friday, nearly a week after the priest killed the woman in cold blood and dumped her body in a manhole. The accused, who was already married and father of two children, was having extramarital relations with Apsara, a resident of Saroornagar. As she was exerting pressure on the priest for the marriage, he hatched a plot to eliminate her. Venkata Sai Krishna, priest of a temple in Saroornagar, killed the woman in Sultanpalli and dumped the body in a ma



hole in Saroornagar area. According to police, he took Apsara to Sultanpalli Shamshabad mandal on the city outskirts in a car. They had a heated argument over her proposal for marriage. The priest killed her by smashing her head with a boulder. He bundled the

body in a bag, kept it in the car and brought it back to Saroornagar, where he dumped it in a manhole. The accused then lodged a complaint with Shamshabad police that his relative Apsara had been missing since June 3. Police registered a case and took up an investigation. When the police checked the CCTV footage and mobile signals of Sai Krishna, they were shocked to find that the complainant himself was the killer. Police have arrested Sai Krishna, who confessed to the crime. The body was retrieved from the manhole and sent for autopsy.

6 DEAD, 4 INJURED IN ROAD ACCIDENT NEAR PATNA



Patna: Six persons, including four women, died while four sustained injuries after a mini truck laden with scrap overturned on two e-rickshaws at Bakhtiyarpur on the outskirts of Patna on Friday. The road accident occurred on State Highway 106 when an e-rickshaw was trying to overtake a mini truck. The police said that the driver of the mini truck applied brakes following which his vehicle overturned on two e-rickshaws, including the one which tried to go past it. Three persons died on the spot while three others succumbed at the hospital during the treatment. The deceased have been identified as Ranjit Mishra (55), Lalpari Devi (55), Kiran Kumari (24), Manoj Kumar (35), Inder Devi (65) and Ranju Devi (30). The injured have been identified as Nitish Kumar (25), Lakshita Kumar (15), Mani Kumar (18) and one more person.

'ABAYA' CONTROVERSY EVOKES STRONG CRITICISM IN KASHMIR



Team Absolute | Srinagar

The controversy triggered by the refusal of a college principal to allow students inside the college wearing an 'Abaya' has evoked strong criticism in Kashmir. Abaya is an Islamic dress worn as a loose gown by a woman. The students appearing for the common entrance test for colleges conducted by the NTA were initially refused entry into the college by the principal at one of the exam centres in Srinagar city as the girl candidates were wearing Abaya. Better sense prevailed on the principal who later allowed the students to take their test while wearing the same dress. Former Chief

Minister and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president, Mehbooba Mufti told reporters, "They are trying to repeat what was done in Karnataka. Abaya is an Islamic dress and we will not accept any dictate on this. They cannot put pressure on us as to what we should wear or not wear. Whatever a person wants to wear, he/she has the freedom to wear it." National Conference (NC) spokesman, Tanvir Sadiq told reporters that the act of the principal is condemnable as anybody should be allowed to wear the dress of his/her choice. "If a woman wears Abaya, that is fine and if she does not want to wear it, that is her decision and there is nothing objectionable about it," Sadiq said.

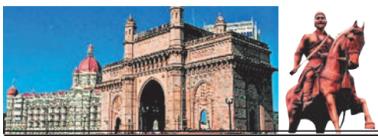
Telangana Congress plans Karnataka-like 'five guarantees'

Team Absolute | Hyderabad

The Congress in Telangana is planning five guarantees in the Assembly elections scheduled later this year on the lines of similar promises made in Karnataka, where the party stormed to power last month. Waiver of farm loans up to Rs 2 lakh, LPG cylinder for Rs 500, monthly allowance of Rs 4,000 for every unemployed graduate, filling two lakh vacancies within a year of forming government, bonus along with Minimum Support Price (MSP) for agriculture produce, increased financial assistance to farmers under Rythu Bandhu, annual job calendar and electric bikes to girl students are the promises likely to be included in party's manifesto. The party leaders are working to finalise five major guarantees from these promises to woo the voters. The party has already announced some of these promises as part of declarations for farmers, youth and unemployed. Like in Karnataka, the Congress party is keen to release its election manifesto much before the polls, which are due in November-December. Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) chief A. Revanth Reddy told mediapersons on Friday that the Congress party will announce its manifesto on September 17. He said the manifesto will be drafted in tune with the aspirations of Telangana people. Revanth Reddy said the party's central leadership already held talks with some state leaders in this regard. He exuded confidence that the Karnataka result will be repeated in Telangana. The party had released its declaration for farmers in May last year while last month it released a declaration for youth and unemployed. The party is likely to release declarations for some other sections in the



coming days and take them to people. Meanwhile, addressing the national executive of Youth Congress, Revanth Reddy urged the Youth Congress to gear up to defeat the KCR government in Telangana. He said the youth leaders who fight for the party's victory will have a bright future. He recalled that Telangana state was created with the sacrifice of 1,200 students and youth. He reiterated that if the Congress comes to power, it will scrap the Dharani portal. He alleged that the portal was being used to grab the lands of farmers. He stated that those involved in land grabbing would be sent to jail. Revanth Reddy also accepted the challenge of BRS leader K.T. Rama Rao for a debate on the development of Telangana during Congress rule between 2004 and 2014 and after BRS came to power in 2014.



THANE WOMAN'S 'BUTCHERY': COPS DIG DEEP INTO ACCUSED'S MIND, ANTECEDENTS

Team Absolute | Quaid Najmi | Thane

As Maharashtra's Mira Road town continues to shudder with new revelations, police investigators are trying to dig deep in the mind of Manoj Sane, who cold-bloodedly butchered, chopped, cut, minced, boiled and roasted the body pieces of his young companion Saraswati Vaidya, 32, officials said on Friday. The investigating officials have found how Sane, 56, has been giving evasive replies and even attempting to mislead the probe teams as he is interrogated in police custody, granted by a Thane court till June 16. On Friday, it has emerged that Sane and Vaidya were actually husband and wife and not merely live-in partners as originally claimed, said Mira Bhayander-Vasari Virar's Deputy Commissioner of Police Jayant Bajbale, who is directing the probe into the sensational case to piece together many loose ends to get the correct picture. "During the probe, we found that the accused (Sane) and the victim (Vaidya)



were married, and they had even informed this to her sisters. However, they kept this fact hidden from others because of their age difference," he said. The police have recorded the statements of at least three elder sisters of Vaidya who were in regular touch with her and reached here from Ahmednagar to join the police probe. They have revealed that the duo had entered wedlock in a temple marriage cer-

emony several years ago, and now the police have asked for their DNA samples to match with their youngest sibling, who met a gory end earlier this week. In contrast, two of Sane's brothers in Mumbai have declined to comment anything to the police saying that they had severed all relations with him many years ago and do not have any knowledge of his recent activities. On Thursday, Sane had made wild claims that Vaidya had allegedly committed suicide last Saturday (June 3) and he had not killed her. An ITI certificate-holder, he also claimed that he was detected HIV-positive some 15 years ago and had no physical relations with Vaidya, who was planning to appear for her SSC exams and he was tutoring her in maths at his home. He also contended how she was like a "daughter" to him rather than a live-in partner, but now the facts are falling into place in bits and pieces. Sane told the probers that after her "suicide", he tried to dispose off her body parts as he would have become the prime suspect for her death, and then he himself

intended to commit suicide. The probe teams are still trying to ascertain what exactly happened between the couple, soring their relations and ending with what is considered the most ghoulis murder in recent times. The MBVV police have formed multiple teams to trace Sane's other acquaintances, friends, business associates, etc. who can shed some light on his mind, his background, whether he was of a violent nature, and other aspects to help deduce the real motives behind his bestiality. The Nayanagar police of Mira Road virtually stumbled across the gruesome crime in Akashdeep building on Wednesday evening after neighbours complained of a stench emanating from the non-descript seventh floor flat No 704. After the police team opened it, they entered into a veritable "house of horrors" - comparable with some blood-curdling Hollywood or Ramsay Brothers films - that has now become the talk of the nation, and managed to nab Sane as he tried to flee the spot.

'Who are offspring of Godse and Apte', Owaisi's retort to Fadnavis

Team Absolute | Hyderabad/Mumbai

Taking strong exception to 'Aurangzeb ki ulad' remark of Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi asked him "who are the offspring of Nathuram Godse and Narayan Apte, the killers of Mahatma Gandhi". The Hyderabad MP slammed Fadnavis for making the remark while referring to riots in Kolhapur. "Tell us who are the offspring of Godse and Apte," asked Owaisi. He alleged that 30,000 RSS men came out on streets after the alleged display of an image of Tipu Sultan in Kolhapur. "It was not an image of Tipu Sultan but was of some Allah Waley (saint) and the local people explained this to police," Owaisi said while addressing a public meeting in Hyderabad on Thursday night. "Maharashtra minister Deepak Kesarkar said that 21 people were arrested for displaying the image of Tipu Sultan. Tell me which section of IPS says you can't keep a photo of Tipu Sultan," he asked. The All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) president lashed out at the BJP and Sangh Parivar for spreading hatred and maligning Islam

and Muslims. He also alleged that there is a conspiracy to create riots in Maharashtra before the Lok Sabha elections. He was all praise for AIMIM MP from Aurangabad Intiaz Jaleel for standing in front of the temple for three hours to foil the designs to create communal trouble. Referring to the list of 44 banned organisations in the first schedule of UAPA, he dares the BJP and RSS to also make a list of prohibited names like Tipu Sultan, Aurangzeb, Babar, Khilji, Jahangir, Bahadur Shah Zafar and Quli Qutb Shah. "You also say that we will not include in this list names of Godse, Apte and Madanlal Pahwa because they are dear to us," he said, referring to the killers of Mahatma Gandhi. Owaisi said 50 public meetings were held in Maharashtra in the name of Love Jihad to spread hatred. "Do you know where the Love Jihad started...," he asked. "We know your history... I can cite many such examples," taunted Owaisi. He also referred to the recent incident in which a girl eloped with her lover the day after BJP MP Pragya Singh showed her the movie 'Kerala Story'. The AIMIM chief advised BJP and Sangh Parivar not to interfere in love affairs.

Congress: 'Absolute jungle-raj under Shinde-Fadnavis, act or quit'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Criticising the Maharashtra government here on Friday, the Congress has alleged that there is 'absolute jungle-raj' in the state under the Shiv Sena-Bharatiya Janata Party regime of Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis, and if they cannot manage the show, "they must quit". Maharashtra unit Congress president Nana Patole told mediapersons that in the past few weeks, Maharashtra state has been rocked by communal riots, disturbances, robberies, rapes and gruesome murders in or around Mumbai. Now, even top opposition leaders - like Nationalist Congress Party president Sharad Pawar and Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut and his brother MLA Sunil Raut - are getting open death threats on public platforms.

"There is a total collapse of the law and order in the state. Under the Shinde-Fadnavis, an 'absolute jungle-raj' prevails everywhere. Does a government even exist and does the state have a home minister? The situation is so terrifying that such questions are bound to be asked," said Patole. He said that at least 10 cities in the state have been rattled by riots in the past three months and everyday, there are reports of communal frictions from different cities. "It is going on with the blessings of this government. The ruling allies are creating a religious discord in the state and constantly attempting to incite communal passions to hide their incompetence," said Patole. He said, however, instead of taking strict action against such rioters, the police sit idle and even the gangsters and anti-social miscreants are making a mess in the state almost daily,

something that never happened in the past in a progressive state that gave heroes like Mahatma Jyotirao Phule, Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj or B.R. Ambedkar. "Now, even the leaders of the Opposition are getting brazen death threats via social media. The Supreme Court had called this government 'impotent' in the past. All this is happening to prevent them from speaking against the state government and its shortcomings," Patole claimed. He challenged that if the Shinde-Fadnavis government is unable to maintain law and order, then it should immediately quit and go home instead of propagating the ideology that killed people like Narendra Dabholkar or Govind Pansare. Patole also assured that when the Opposition government returns to power, it will ensure stringent action

Raut alleges threats 'state-sponsored' as one tracked in Maha's Amravati

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A political storm was kicked up in Maharashtra again as two top Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) leaders -- Nationalist Congress Party President Sharad Pawar and Shiv Sena (UBT) Chief Spokesperson Sanjay Raut -- received fresh death threats from unknown persons, here on Friday. Sharad Pawar has been warned via a Twitter message threatening he will meet the same fate as Dr. Narendra Dabholkar (the rationalist who was shot dead in Pune in August 2013), sending shockwaves in political circles. Moving swiftly, the state police's Cyber Cell has tracked down the purported suspect, Saurabh Pimpalkar to Amravati, a local history-sheeter, who made the Twitter threat, and now he is being probed. In a telephonic threat issued through Sunil Raut, MLA, his brother, Sanjay Raut,



MP has been served an ultimatum to stop his 'morning loudspeakers' within a month failing which he would be "sprayed with bullets". Sanjay Raut pointed an accusing finger at the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and alleged that the threats to him and Pawar are 'stage-sponsored', and said the state government took no action in the previous threats he had received.

The unknown caller, speaking in a menacing tone, even warned a similar fate to Sunil Raut if his elder sibling (Sanjay Raut) failed to stop his 'morning loudspeakers' (daily morning media interactions), and "we shall send you both to the crematorium". Taking strong umbrage, NCP MP Supriya Sule called on Mumbai Police Commissioner Vivek Phansalkar and lodged a complaint seeking a probe and strict action in the matter, while Raut has shot off a letter to the police on the threats he received. An agitated Sule warned that if anything happens to her father, "then the state home department (headed by Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis) shall be held responsible for it". She also drew the attention of Union Home Minister Amit Shah to the development even as many NCP leaders slammed the government and demanded immediate action.

BRS mulls campaign in all constituencies of Maharashtra Assembly

Team Absolute | Hyderabad

In a major exercise to expand in Maharashtra, Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) is planning a campaign in all 288 Assembly constituencies by highlighting Telangana development model. BRS national president and Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao suggested the BRS leadership to take up the campaign. He asked them to constitute nine committees in every village with the participation of all sections of people. Leaders from different parties and social organisations from Maharashtra continue to join BRS. For a second consecutive day several leaders joined the BRS in the presence of CM KCR at Pragati Bhavan, his official residence on Thursday. Addressing the leaders, KCR said that the Telangana development model mainly the welfare of people and the farmers should be spread widely through leaflets, booklets, social media, posters, hoardings etc. The BRS chief



said that the party is working with a spirit of extending Telangana schemes to the people of Maharashtra as well. He noted that people from all walks of life including farmers are extending support to the BRS. KCR lamented that the Maharashtra government is not

able to provide irrigation water to the farmers of Maharashtra despite the state being blessed with abundant water resources. Many leaders became Chief Ministers and Union Ministers, but the people of Maharashtra have not been taken care of, he remarked.

60 rescued, one injured in Mumbai building blaze

Team Absolute | Mumbai

At least 60 residents were rescued and one was injured in a major fire that broke out in a residential building in the congested Zaveri Nazar area of South Mumbai early on Friday, the BMC Disaster Control said. The blaze took place in an old six-storey building at Dhunji Street as people slept around 1.30 a.m. The Mumbai Fire Brigade teams rushed there to battle the conflagration with the flames engulfing all the floors of the building. As a precaution, the firemen quickly evacuated the residents using the staircase of an adjacent building even as the ceiling and portions of the stairway started collapsing. One person, Parag Chakankar, 40, sustained certain minor injuries in the fire, but he was treated and allowed to go.



After a battle of nearly six hours, the blaze was finally extinguished around 8 a.m. Friday and now cooling operations are going on.

NCP launches 'jail-bharo' to protest against BJP comparing Pawar with Aurangzeb

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Angry activists of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) staged massive protests and a 'jail-bharo' agitation after the ruling ally Bharatiya Janata Party leader called senior leader Sharad Pawar as a "reincarnation" of the Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb, here on Friday. Scores of activists shouting anti-BJP slogans and carrying placards marched to Azad Maidan ground and courted arrest there, and they were bundled into waiting police vans which drove them to the Yellow Gate Police Station. The NCP has demanded stringent action against ex-BJP MP Dr Nitesh Rane, the elder son of Union MSME Minister Narayan Rane for his defamatory tweet against the NCP patriarch and said it must be yanked off immediately. NCP Chief Spokesperson Mahesh Tapase dared the government of Shiv Sena Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and BJP's Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis to act against Dr Nitesh Rane - the broth-



er of BJP MLA Nitesh Rane - "if they have any morality left".

He said that "secularism is the soul of Sharad Pawar and any such

attempts will put secularism in danger in the country", and now

it's the duty of the government to uphold the Constitution.

Air India's San Francisco-Mumbai flight cancelled due to technical snag

Mumbai: Air India flight AI180 from San Francisco to Mumbai was cancelled on Thursday following a technical issue, said the airline officials. "Air India flight AI180, scheduled to operate from San Francisco (SFO) to Mumbai (BOM) on June 8, was cancelled due to an unforeseen technical issue. Affected guests have been offered the option of alternative flights or full refund for the cancelled flight," an Air India spokesperson said. "We will also reimburse all expenses that our guests may incur towards hotel accommodation and transportation until they take flight. Air India regrets the disruption to our guests' travel plans and the inconvenience. The safety of our guests and staff will remain our top-most priority," the spokesperson added.



EDITOR'S SPECS

Now, KCR's main target is Congress

In a surprising shift in strategy, Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhara Reddy has started singling out the Congress party for his attacks while sparing the BJP, which had been his main target for the last couple of years. The speeches made by KCR at public meetings in Nirmal and Nagarkurnool districts this week have baffled the political circles as he went all out to attack Congress party but avoided criticizing the BJP. The content and tone and tenor of his speeches indicate a shift in strategy ahead of Assembly elections, which are due to be held towards the end of 2023. At both the public meetings, the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) chief slammed the Congress party and called on the people to throw the party in Bay of Bengal. Not long ago, KCR was using the same words for the BJP. KCR at his public meeting at Nagarkurnool launched an all-out attack on Congress saying by repealing Dharani it wants to bring back the regime of middlemen and corruption in the revenue administration. The BRS chief, however, was silent on BJP, whose leaders are equally critical of Dharani. Union minister for tourism and culture G. Kishan Reddy had said last month that KCR family and BRS were looting people using Dharani portal. At most of his public meetings over the last two years, KCR minced no words to attack BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi over a host of issues ranging from hate politics to discrimination against Telangana. His silence on BJP at the public meetings raised eyebrows in political circles. The development is significant as it comes days after the Congress party stormed to power in neighbouring Karnataka. Political analysts say that changed political equations in the wake of BJP's poll debacle in Karnataka may have led to KCR changing tack.

INDIA NEEDED TO PLAY A FEW PRACTICE GAMES BEFORE WTC FINAL

Yajurvindra Singh

The final of the World Test Championship between Australia and India is presently being played at the Kennington Oval in London. The two top teams of World cricket are battling for The Mace, a specially crafted trophy, for the biggest prize in cricket.

It has been two long years of playing Test series against several rivals that have culminated in an India versus Australia summit clash.

The World Test Championship (WTC) is a very good initiative by the ICC to revive and recognize the true cricket champion.

In the past, one did various permutations and combinations to unearth the leading side. The mighty West Indies ruled the roost in the late 70s and early 80s, whereas, the fighting Australians brought in their rights to be called a champion side at the turn and early years of the century.

Thereafter, the claim to be the best, oscillated between a handful of cricket-playing nations, most performing exceptionally well only at home.

The WTC, however good it may be, needs to be structured better. The cramped international calendar has made it difficult for teams to play each and every Test-playing nation. This itself leaves a huge question mark and thoughts to ponder over. A good example of it is that India, having reached the final of both the editions of the Test Championships, have never played Pakistan in a Test series. For both these sides, one does not need to have a home and away series, but, one at a neutral venue.

A championship becomes authentic only if all the top Test-playing sides come into play and have an equal opportunity to prove their worth. A good way to solve this would be to have a three-year cycle rather than a two-year one. The idea is not to complete a tournament for the sake of it, but, for it to be more conclusive and convincing.

A one-match final, especially in England, leaves a lot up to the weather gods. The inaugural championship final, due to an extra day, managed a New Zealand victory in the earlier final. However, fortunately, the WTC 23 final has got underway without a heavenly intrusion until now. Apparently, rain has been predicted to play a part during the weekend and India, in the position that they are in at present, would be praying to "Indra", the God of rain to save them from a possible defeat.

This brings one to a few points to think about. One is that the championship should be played to the finish. The other is that the team that gets the 1st innings lead wins in an eventuality of a draw. However, the most prudent way would be to have a three-match final and the team that heads the league table should be the winner in the event of a drawn series.

Sharing a World championship trophy on account of a draw is definitely not an exciting conclusion, either for the cricketers or the followers.

A championship needs a victor. The penalty kicks in World Cup football and the penalty shoot-out in hockey are two good examples in sports of a good way to conclude if there is no



result. The ongoing WTC Final has shown how exciting and demanding Test cricket is. India, on a cloudy day, like many sides in the past in England, opted to field, especially as they had four seamers to exploit the conditions. The battle that ensued between the Australian batters and the Indian pacers was thrilling.

Patience, determination, concentration and an element of luck were what kept the top-order Australian batsmen in the fray. One forgot the strike and run rate as survival was the name of the game. Finally, hard work pays and Australia came through brilliantly with centuries scored by Steve Smith and Travis Head. Both of them combined to put the Indian bowlers at bay, who had to bowl more than they had ever bargained or practised for.

The Indian Premier League (IPL) may be a good indicator to recognize talent, however, a five-day Test match is entirely a different ball game. India, have still got three more days to get back into the game. In cricket, a game is not won or lost till the last ball is bowled.

The Indian players needed to get acclimatized to the conditions in England. India made this very mistake when they played the inaugural WTC Final against New Zealand and seemed to have blundered again because of their commercially beneficial IPL commitments.

India, needed to play a few practice games before being subjected to a one-match decider. The length to bowl or adjustment required to bat against the best, are areas where a player needs time to master. Unfortunately, the Indian bowlers

looked less prepared, although each one of them have the skill to exploit the conditions.

A cloudy sky overhead in England is one that a batter is always worried about. Rohit Sharma, as the captain and an opener must have thought quite seriously about whether to expose his batters to conditions which have been the reason for India's downfall in the past. His decision was quite understandable, however, with sunshine soon after, his morning bloom turned to gloom.

Steve Smith is a player one admires. He has proved that Test cricket is not about fancy strokes but one which requires a system and planning to be effective. He has structured his game accordingly and shown that he is one of the best in the trade.

Travis Head has done exceedingly well recently, however, he has a definite weakness to the short bouncing deliveries to his body. India found this out later in the day and even after crossing a century, he looked uncomfortable against the pace of Md. Siraj. The future for Head will be a barrage of short deliveries henceforth, one that he will need to conquer in the future.

India, have an uphill task at present. A bit of assistance from the weather and some resolute batting can still keep them in the hunt to uphold the "Mace" jointly.

(Yajurvindra Singh is a former India cricketer. The views expressed are personal)

international

UKRAINE DAM BREACH TO HAVE DISASTROUS ECONOMIC, ECOLOGICAL CONSEQUENCES: EXPERT

Kiev | Agencies

The breaching of a major dam in southern Ukraine and the subsequent collapse of the Kakhovka hydroelectric power plant earlier this week, will lead to devastating economic and ecological consequences, an expert has said.

"Up to 1 million people may face drinking water problems," Oleksii Kuschch, an economist at "United Ukraine" think-tank, told Xinhua in an interview.

The breaching of the dam and the subsequent destruction of a hydroelectric power plant in the Russian-controlled Nova Kakhovka region in the early hours of Tuesday, have led to mass evacuations as water levels downstream rapidly increased.

Officials have said that 30 towns and villages along the river have been flooded and nearly 2,000 homes have been submerged in the city of Kherson -- the region's capital controlled by Ukraine.

Of the 30 flooded towns and villages, 20 are controlled by Ukraine and 10 are occupied by Russia.

Kiev and Moscow have traded



accusations over the dam's destruction, without providing concrete proof that the other is culpable.

It is not yet clear whether the dam was deliberately attacked or whether the breach was the result of structural failure.

Apart from the humanitarian consequences, the catastrophe will take a heavy toll on the economic development of Ukraine's central Dnipropetrovsk and southern Mykolayiv, Kherson, and Zaporizhzhia regions, Kuschch said.

"The water use intensity in the regional gross domestic product will change significantly -- industrial enterprises will lack water. These are mainly enterprises in the processing industry and metallurgy," he said, citing the industrial cities of Kryvyi Rih

and Nikopol among those to be severely hit by the water crisis.

In addition, the disaster will stop the water supplies to about 30 irrigation systems, which irrigated about 1 million hectares of agricultural fields, the expert said, adding as a result, Ukraine may lose 10-15 per cent of its agricultural potential due to indirect or direct influence of the breaching incident.

Consequently, Ukraine's southern regions, where vegetable growing and horticulture were concentrated, may soon turn into semi-deserted areas.

"The land use in this region will be changed. Instead of vegetables and moisture-loving plants, mostly unpretentious plants, primarily sunflowers, will be grown in the region," Kuschch said.

As the Kakhovka plant destruction would cause the loss of approximately 60 per cent of water resources in the regional water balance of Mykolayiv, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions, soil salinization may become another environmental disaster, posing risks to people's health, he warned.

"In the absence of water and irrigation, groundwaters, which consist pri-

marily of salt marshes in this region, will rise... Some salt marshes in the region contain heavy metals and harmful substances that could be spread by the wind. They enter the human body through the respiratory system. This can lead to an increase in serious diseases and abnormalities in the development of children," Kuschch said.

The expert estimated that the restoration of the Kakhovka plant and its structures would take about five years and require about \$2 billion. The attack on the Kakhovka hydroelectric power plant is possibly the most significant damage to civilian infrastructure since the Russia launched its full scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, according to UN Undersecretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Martin Griffiths. "The sheer magnitude of the catastrophe will only become fully realized in the coming days. But it is already clear that it will have grave and far-reaching consequences for thousands of people in southern Ukraine," he told an emergency meeting of the UN Security Council.

Amid 'worst heat wave in history', Siberia reports record-breaking temperatures

Moscow | Agencies

Siberia, known for its harsh cold climate, has reported record breaking temperatures as the Russian region is currently amidst the "worst heat wave in history".

On June 3, temperatures reached 37.9 degrees Celsius in Jalturovosk, its hottest day in Siberia's history, climatologist Maximiliano Herrera told CNN on Thursday. Several all-time heat records were also broken on Wednesday, including in Baevo, which reached 39.6 degrees and Barnaul, which hit 38.5 degrees.

Some of these stations have between five and seven decades of temperature recordings, Herrera told CNN. "So we can say it's really exceptional. It's the region's 'worst heat wave in history'," he added.

"Records keep falling today (Thursday) with again temperatures around 40



degrees Celsius," Herrera told CNN. An intense and prolonged heat wave in 2020, which saw the Arctic Siberian town of Verkhoyansk hit 38 Celsius, would have been "almost impossible" without human-caused climate change, according to an analysis by a team of international scientists. "Siberia is one of the fastest warming regions on the planet with hot extremes increasing in intensity," Omar Baddour, chief of climate monitoring and policy services at the World Meteorological Organization, told CNN.

The region "has seen some very intense heat waves", said Samantha Burgess, deputy director of the European Union's Copernicus Climate Change Service. "These heat waves have major implications for people and nature and will continue to happen more frequently unless we rapidly cut emissions of greenhouse gases," she told CNN. It is not just Siberia that has seen record heat this week. On Wednesday, temperatures of more than 45 degrees were recorded in China, 43 degrees in Uzbekistan and 41 degrees in Kazakhstan.

US House panel plans hearing on UFO claims

Washington | Agencies

A panel of the US House of Representatives is planning to hold a hearing on Unidentified Flying Objects (UFO) after a former intelligence official claimed that the Washington government has allegedly found crashed alien spacecraft, the media reported.

According to an ABC News report on Thursday, the powerful House Oversight Committee is in the "early stages" of preparing the hearing.

When asked about the unconfirmed claims, Committee Chairman James Comer told a reporter on Tuesday: "I've heard about it, I don't know anything about it... We plan on having a hearing."

In a statement to ABC News the following day, Committee spokesman Austin Hacker said: "In addition to recent claims by a



whistleblower, reports continue to surface regarding unidentified anomalous phenomena. The House Oversight Committee is following these UAP (unexplained anomalous phenomenon) reports and is in the early stages of planning a hearing."

Meanwhile, Republican Representatives Anna Paulina Luna and Tim Burchett have confirmed on Twitter that they will lead the Committee's investigation into the UFOs.

On Monday, the former intelligence official, David Grusch, had said that the government has a covert program focused on recovering debris from crashed, non-human origin spacecraft and is attempting to reverse-engineer the technology, online tech outlet The Debrief reported.

The former official has said he gave evidence of such a program to Congress and the Office of the Inspector General for the Intelligence Community.

TRUMP INDICTED IN CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS CASE

Washington | Yashwant Raj

Former US President Donald Trump has been indicted with multiple federal criminal charges in connection with his handling of classified documents from his presidency.

Trump, who became the first former President in US history to face federal criminal charges, announced his indictment in a post on his social media platform Truth Social on Thursday.

"I have been Indicted, seemingly over the Boxes Hoax," Trump wrote, referring to the boxes of documents that he had carried with him from the White House at the end of this presidency to his Mar-a-Lago home in Florida, which contained many files that were



described as "classified".

"I AM AN INNOCENT MAN!" he wrote in a subsequent post and said in a video, using capital letters that he is known to for rhetorical flourish. The former President, who is huddled with his advisers in his Bedminster home in New Jersey, will appear on Tuesday afternoon at the federal courthouse in Miami.

The indictment will be unsealed then, detailing the charges. US media is report-

ing that Trump has been indicted with seven criminal charges, including conspiracy to obstruct justice and willful retention of documents.

The former President has sought to portray the indictment as a political move by President Joe Biden, who beat Trump in the race for the White House in 2020. Trump is running again and is likely to win the Republican nomination to go up against Biden in 2024; he is the frontrunner.

Trump already holds the dubious honour of being the first American President to face criminal charges when he was accused of 37 counts in a case in New York, where he was born and lived most of his life, in connection with paying off an adult film star to keep quiet about an affair that he has denied publicly.



STATUE OF LORD BIRSA MUNDA AND SHABRI MATA WILL BE INSTALLED IN KOLGARHI WITH RESTORATION WORK : CHIEF MINISTER

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Kol Bhavan will be built in Rewa. Restoration of Kolgarhi to give respect, honour and dignity to the Kol community. Kols who have received the land rights letter will also get housing facility.

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that the restoration of Kolgarhi to give respect, honour and dignity to the Kol community. More than Rs 3 crore has been sanctioned for the restoration of Kolgarhi. Statues of Lord Birsa Munda and Mata Shabri will be installed in Kolgarhi and a ghat will also be constructed in the Tamas river. Kol Bhawan will be constructed in Rewa, where the children of Kol Samaj will get the facility to stay. Chief Minister Chouhan attended the huge Kol Tribal Convention at Tyonthar in Rewa district. Chief Minister Chouhan said that today land rights letters have been provided to more than 3 thousand beneficiaries. They will also be given the facility of accommodation along with the residential rights letter. Saturday, June 10, will be a historic day for the state. On this day, Rs one thousand will be transferred to the accounts of more than one crore 25



lakh sisters eligible under Mukhyamantri Ladli Bahna Yojana. Ladli Utsav will be held in all Gram Panchayats and every ward of the city, which is like the beginning of a golden age for women. The interest waiver amount will be transferred to the farmers on June 13.

Along with this, the amount of Kisan Samman Nidhi will also be released to the farmers. On this day, an amount of Rs 2300 crore will also be released to the farmers under the Crop Insurance Scheme. He said that my life is for the service of the poor. I will

live for them and die for them too. Chief Minister Chouhan provided land rights letters to the beneficiaries in the Tribal Conference. Earlier, the Chief Minister performed bhoomi-pujan of renovation of Kolgarhi and Teonthar Lift Irrigation Project. The CM honoured the daughters by performing Kanya Pujan. He offered floral tributes to Mata Shabri and Lord Birsa Munda. Rewa MP Janardan Mishra said that Chief Minister Chouhan got memorials made for tribal heroes like Tantya Bhil and Rani Kamalapati. Now he has given a great gift to the entire area by performing bhoomi-pujan for the renovation of Kolgarhi. There is no one like the Chief Minister who cares for the tribal brothers. MLA Teonthar Shyamal Dwivedi welcomed the guests. Describing the historical importance of Kolgarhi, he expressed gratitude to the Chief Minister for its restoration. He demanded construction of Chaura Ghat and construction of bridge at Neer Gehri Ghat and creation of tehsil in Raipur Sonori. District Panchayat President Neeta Kol said that today is a historic day full of happiness for Teonthar. Today Chief Minister Chouhan has fulfilled the age-old demand of Kol Samaj for the renovation of Kolgarhi.

Accused held in basketball player suicide case in Rewa

Team Absolute | Bhopal



The Madhya Pradesh Police said that they have arrested a person from Rewa district, who allegedly forced a 20-year-old basketball player to commit suicide. The victim has been identified as Sanjana Barkade, who was living with her parents in Jabalpur, had committed suicide by hanging herself from a ceiling fan at her rented house on June 5. The police are in the search of a potential clue which could have made the victim to take the extreme step. After verifying the social media accounts of the victim, police found a suspected person identified as Abdul Mansuri aka Rajan. During the investigation, police found that Mansuri had befriended the victim as Rajan. "Mansuri concealed his identity and posing as a Hindu, he befriended Sanjana Barkade, on the

social media and the duo started chatting. A few days later, he came to meet her and clicked photos and recorded videos with her," police said. As per the police, after some time, Mansuri started threatening her to convert to Islam or else he will show her videos and pictures to her family members. Meanwhile, according to the police, victim's parents has lodged a complaint against Mansuri accusing him of forcing their daughter to convert her religion and to marry him. Sanjana disagreed and stopped talking to him. However, Mansuri continued to threaten her following which Sanjana ended her life.

Shivraj Chouhan's 22,000 announcements unfulfilled: Kamal Nath

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh Congress president Kamal Nath on Friday said 22,000 announcements of Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan in the last 18 years remain unfulfilled and alleged corruption had hollowed out the state. Speaking to reporters, Nath said Chouhan was making announcements at double speed ahead of Assembly polls, likely to be held at the end of the year. Chouhan has been chief minister of the state since November 2005,



except for a brief period between December 2018 and March 2020. "Probably, he (Chouhan) is thinking that by making announcements, all his sins will be washed away. Corruption, like termites, has eaten up the state. They (Bharatiya Janata Party government) have made the state hollow in all spheres, be it education, health, employ-

ment, law and order," Nath alleged. MP has a debt of Rs 3.30 lakh crore and the state government was now forced to borrow just to pay interest. The borrowings are not used for development, but to award contracts and obtain a commission on them, the senior Congress leader and former CM alleged. Nath claimed Congress workers were being implicated in false cases and warned such pressure politics does not work for long as "the day after tomorrow (alluding to a regime change) always comes".

Why Kamal Nath-Digvijay are silent in the case of Damoh's Ganga-Jamuna school: BJP

Team Absolute | Bhopal



There have been several revelations related to the Ganga-Jamuna High School, which came into controversy after photographs of Hindu girls wearing hijab-like scarves were shown in posters in Madhya Pradesh's Damoh district. Now it has come to light that there is a secret passage from the school to the mosque. Citing this path, the BJP has raised questions on the silence of the former Chief Minister and Congress leaders. BJP's state spokesperson Narendra Saluja says that due to the activism and assertiveness of the state government, action has been possible on Damoh's school. Every day new

facts are coming out in the investigation apart from the school management putting pressure for religious conversion. But it is surprising that Congress leaders like Kamal Nath and Digvijay Singh, who have been making fierce statements on the Hijab episode of Karnataka to the Kerala story, are silent on this whole incident. In this matter, his

silence has not been broken for the last seven days. He did not even tweet about this incident. Saluja said that Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Home Minister Dr. Narottam Mishra and State President of the party Vishnuoddutt Sharma immediately took cognizance of the issue of girls wearing hijab in Damoh school. The Chief Minister gave instructions for strict action. The investigation of the school is going on and new facts are coming out everyday in that investigation. How school children were forced to convert, to read Namaz, to recite verses. Even the wristbands tied in the hands of the students were cut off, the tilak applied on the forehead was erased, cases of con-

version of female teachers teaching in the school have also come to the fore. He further said, a secret passage from the school to the mosque has also been found during the investigation. The school administration had tampered with the map of India in its logo, which was being used by the school administrators in all their commercial institutions. In the investigation, along with terror funding, foreign funding is also coming to the fore. Saluja said that despite so many facts including religious conversion coming to the fore, till date no statement of any Congress leader has come against the school operator. Congressmen who comment on every small and big incident are silent.

19 rural youth got jobs in Flipkart Rural youths from Chhattisgarh trained at CRISP



Team Absolute | Bhopal

Efforts are on to provide employment opportunities in Madhya Pradesh, in this sequence, 19 youths who have received training from Deendayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana of State Rural Livelihood Mission have got jobs in Flipkart company. Mission's Chief Executive Officer L.M. While providing offer letters to the youth, Belwal said that it is very important to have discipline and punctuality to move forward in life. He always encouraged the youth by suggesting them to move forward in the path of progress with a smile. QUESH, a subsidiary of Aajeevika Mission, has provided assistance in the placement process. Along

with this, the company has arranged air travel from Bhopal to Chennai to reach the work place. Two girls are included in the selected 19 youths from Katni, Burhanpur, Shahajpur, Agar-Malwa, Dewas. It is notable that the Deendayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana is being run by the Madhya Pradesh State Rural Livelihood Mission. Under the scheme, educated unemployed rural youth of 18 to 35 years are provided free residential training for employment-self-employment and after training, assistance is provided in setting up self-employment. Along with this, employment opportunities are also made available through employment fairs. So far about 6 lakh youth have been benefited under the scheme.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A Three Month long residential job-oriented Training programme for Assistant Electrician was organized by CRISP for the rural youths from selected villages (36 villages from Chhattisgarh (Bilaspur, Korba & Janjgir Champa District). A special camp was organized in the selected villages for the mobilization. All the trainees were selected based on their performance as per the selection criteria and their details were verified by NTPC prior to final selection. This training programme was sponsored by NTPC Sipat. Total 25 trainees attended the training programme. During the training programme the participants were provided technical inputs on the selection and correct use of hand, power tools and electrical devices, installation of lighting and low voltage electrical wiring, assembly, installation and maintenance of low voltage electrical panels. Apart from technical inputs, the trainees attended sessions related to working effectively in



a team to deliver desired results at the workplace. The training was strictly conducted as per the job role requirement of the assistant electrician. The assessment was done by the assessment agency nominated by the sector skill council. All the trainees successfully completed the assessment and got certified by

NSDC. The placement cell of CRISP organized campus interviews for these trainees as a result all the trainees got a placement offer from an Industry based in Ahmedabad. Dr. Shrikant Patil MD of CRISP congratulated all the trainees on the successful completion of the training programme and on receiving the placement

offers. The officials from NTPC Sipat have appreciated the training programme and the efforts put in by the CRISP team. It is assured by NTPC Sipat to organize similar programmes for the rural youths in the near future to achieve the overall objective of providing quality training and job opportunity.

Continuous action is being taken against those indulging in irregularities in distribution of relief amount

Team Absolute | Bhopal

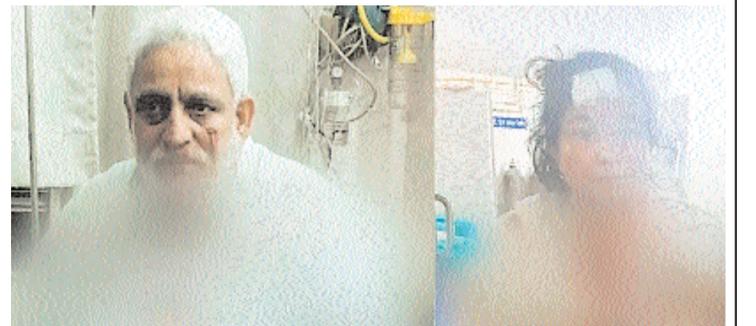
The state government is continuously monitoring and reviewing the process of payment of relief amount in the approved cases of flood, heavy rain, drought and pest attack in the state from the year 2018 to 2022-23. Strict action has been taken against the officers and employees who indulged in irregularities in the payment of the amount. So far FIR has been registered on 20 and 11 have been suspended, order of official punishments have been passed against 11, this way, after taking action against 245 government employee, Rs 4 crore 34 lakh was recovered and the amount was deposited in the government treasury. In Sheopur, the bank accounts of those who indulged in irregularities have been put on hold. Along with this, action will also be taken to recover the amount by selling their property. The government has been taking action regularly and has suspended 32 employee. These include Tehsildar, Patwari, Naib, Nazir and Clerk. FIR has been registered against 20 people in Seoni, Sehore, Shivpuri, Bhand and Indore. Sanction for prosecution

has been issued in 131 cases of irregularities while working on various posts. Criminal cases have been registered against 11 Tehsildars and Naib Tehsildars in the Lokayukta. Along with this, departmental inquiry is underway against 29 officers and punishment has been passed in 11 cases. Departmental investigation is being undertaken by registering 35 criminal cases against Girdawars working in Revenue Department, 11 have also been suspended and departmental probe is going on against 35. The government is taking action and recovery is also being made from those who engaged in irregularities in the relief amount in the districts. Rs 1 crore 24 lakh 15 thousand has been recovered in Dewas, Rs 34 lakh 47 thousand 693 in Chhatrapur, Rs 11 lakh 61 thousand 619 in Khandwa, Rs 64 lakh 54 thousand 524 in Mandsaur, Rs 69 lakh 17 thousand 696 in Raisen and Rs 20 lakh 71 thousand 214 have been recovered in Satna. Rs 40 lakh 19 thousand 796 is being recovered in Vidisha and Rs 11 lakh 5 thousand 674 in Sheopur. In Bhand, after recovery of Rs 97 lakh 96 thousand, an amount of Rs 33 lakh has been returned to the eligible farmers.

Congress leader couple attacked in car parking dispute

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that planting trees should not be a ritual but a resolution. By planting trees, we save the earth and also make arrangements for our oxygen. The Chief Minister called upon the citizens to plant saplings and also take the responsibility of taking care of them. Chief Minister Chouhan said this after planting saplings on World Environment Day near Raja Bhoj Airport. Chief Minister Chouhan said that injustice has been done to Mother Earth for materialism. The weather cycle has changed as a result of indiscriminate exploitation of Mother Earth. We can improve the health of the earth by making a little change in our lifestyle and by planting trees. We have to make it a habit to plant saplings on our birthdays, marriage anniversaries, family memo-



ries and our achievements. Along with this, by taking a pledge to save electricity, water and use single-use plastic, we can also contribute to environmental protection. Chief

Minister Chouhan said that with enthusiasm and positive thinking it is necessary to maintain continuity of work for environmental protection.



Selena Gomez

shouts 'I'm single' while watching football game

Los Angeles | Agencies

Singer-actress Selena Gomez isn't scared to talk about being single. The actress recently, through TikTok, poked fun at the highs and lows of dating while watching a soccer game with friends. She hilariously screamed to the athletes: "I'm single. I'm just a little high-maintenance. But I'll love you soooo much," reports People magazine. The video quickly went viral, with fans adding in the comment section: "so relatable," "hilarious," and "so real." The 'Only Murders in the Building' star added in the caption: "The struggle man lol." The musician opened up about her dating life during her first-ever 'Saturday Night Live' hosting stint in May 2022, where she expressed that she has no interest in dating apps and is "manifesting love." "I would like to say that I'm looking for my soulmate," she said. "But at this point, I will take anyone." Speaking about her experience dating in Hollywood, Gomez has expressed that dating in the public eye "is so cliché." She shared during a previous interview with Zane Lowe: "It's just everyone dates everyone. It always seems to be within this little bubble - and it's because it's safe." The singer was last romantically linked to The Chainsmokers' Drew Taggart after the pair were spotted at a bowling alley together in January.



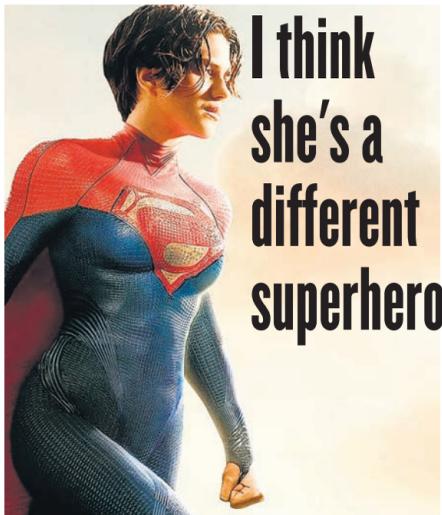
'Extraction 2' delves into Tyler Rake's backstory, says Chris Hemsworth

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Chris Hemsworth, who is gearing up for the release of his upcoming release 'Extraction 2', has shared that the film will go back in time to the past of his character and will present the events that have made him the

in the present. The film, which is set to release on OTT on June 16, promises to take audiences on another thrilling adventure filled with high-octane action and suspense. As he steps back into the shoes of his character Tyler Rake, Chris Hemsworth shared: "It's tricky to carry on with a character and not explain his past. So much of the first film was about Rake and the young boy he was rescuing. We touched a little bit on his backstory, and this new film gave us an opportunity to really dig into that and find out why he is the way he is. With 'Extraction 2', we take that depth and plunge headfirst into uncharted territories, unearthing the hidden layers and delving deeper into the heart of the story." The film will be available to stream on Netflix on June 16.

SASHA CALLE ON PLAYING SUPERGIRL IN 'THE FLASH'



I think she's a different superhero

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Sasha Calle is all set to play Supergirl in Andy Muschietti directorial 'The Flash' starring Ezra Miller. Talking about the same, the actress said her character is beautiful and strong, but also has complexities like any other human being, even though she's an alien. Stepping into the shoes of Supergirl for the very first time in a live action cinematic adaptation, Calle went in depth regarding her experience with the role. The actress said: "Playing Supergirl is an absolute honour. I love her with all my heart. I think she's a different superhero. I think she's very beautiful and strong, but she also has complexities like any other human being, even though she's an alien. "I think I will always say that playing her is one of my greatest honours and I feel very proud and honoured to be colliding with her and feeling her and experiencing her." She said that Supergirl is not this perfect hero. Calle explained: "She is an alien in all of the ways. She has no home. She comes to a place where she thinks she's going to find safety and she is placed in this cell --that's a lot of pain and suffering that she goes through, even after losing her parents and her planet." "It was amazing when I read the script and I thought, this is everything I've ever wanted to play and more," she said. "I feel very lucky and excited that people are going to get to see her. I wish I would have had someone like her to look up to when I was little -- I wish I would have had that Supergirl," she added. Warner Bros. Pictures will be releasing 'The Flash' in India on June 15.



Just 10 yrs older yet played Tom Holland's mom: Emmy Rossum on 'The Crowded Room'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actors Emmy Rossum and Tom Holland play mother-son in the show 'The Crowded Room'. The 'Shameless' star has talked about being cast in the role while only being 10-years-older than the Spider-Man depicter. "It makes sense when I read the script," Rossum told Entertainment Tonight, reports Deadline. "Candy's a super young mom, she's almost a child in her own right when she becomes pregnant at age 16. You watch as I age from 25 to 35, which is actually younger than I am now." Rossum is 36 years old while Holland is 27 in real life. One thing that drew Rossum to playing the role of Candy was "the relationship between mother and son and the closeness and everything that they're grieving in later episodes." 'The Crowded Room' is a 10-episode limited series that revolves around Danny Sullivan, played by Holland, a man who is arrested following his involvement in a shooting in New York City in 1979. The thriller is told through a series of interviews with curious interrogator Rya Goodwin (Amanda Seyfried), Danny's life story unfolds, revealing elements of the mysterious past that shaped him, and the twists and turns that will lead him to a life-altering revelation.

How 'Never Have I Ever' amped up Richa Moorjani 'confidence' on set

Los Angeles | Agencies



Actress Richa Moorjani, who is popularly known by her character name Kamala from 'Never Have I Ever', has heaped praise on the show's set for not only boosting her faith in herself, but also for always making her feel like she was truly welcome. "First of all, I was not the only brown person, and I was playing an Indian character with an Indian name who was allowed to have a slight Indian accent, but the comedy's not about her accent. It's just part of who she is," Moorjani told PEOPLE. Moorjani wrapped up filming in August 2022, and she immediately travelled to Calgary in Alberta, Canada, to film the fifth season of ' Fargo' for six months, which she calls an "incredible experience." "There was nothing wrong with me being the only brown person. In fact, I think coming off of a set like Never Have I Ever just gave me more confidence walking onto another set where I didn't have other brown people," she shares. "I just felt more comfortable than I might have felt in the past coming off of a set where I was a lead character and always made to feel like I belonged." Show creators Mindy Kaling and Lang Fisher were conscious of giving their cast a voice on set, and Moorjani says the freedom of not having to check even a small part of her true self made the biggest difference. "I didn't feel like I had to, for lack of a better word, white-wash myself in any way. I felt like I got to just be my full authentic Indian self, and I was not the only one."

"We just felt so comfortable being able to say, for example, little things - like I remember on the very first day of shooting for me, it was a family dinner scene with Poorna (Jagannathan) and Maltreyi (Ramakrishnan), and they had put out forks and knives and stuff for us to use, and we were like, 'Oh, actually we would be eating with our hands if it's Indian food,'" Moorjani reminisced. The authenticity didn't stop there.

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Demy Rose



WTC FINAL

AUSTRALIA'S LEAD SWELLS TO 296 DESPITE LOSING FOUR WICKETS IN 2ND INNINGS

London | Agencies

Marnus Labuschagne overcame a fiery examination and uncharacteristic start to be 41 not out as Australia increased their lead to 296, finishing day three's play at 123/4 in 44 overs in the World Test Championship final against India at The Oval, here on Friday.

It was an interesting day where India made a spirited fight back, thanks to a splendid 109-run partnership between Ajinkya Rahane (89) and Shardul Thakur (51) helping the side avoid follow-on. But Australia are still in a strong position as they bowled out India for 296 in the first innings, gaining a vital 173-run lead.

India put up a much-improved show with the ball, using short balls to good effect and were bang on in their tactics too, resulting in David Warner, Usman Khawaja, Steve Smith and Travis Head being out before the day came to an end.

Keeping Labuschagne company at stumps on day three is Cameron Green at seven not out and through the duo, Australia will be aiming to increase their lead to 400 and beyond to set up a stiff chase for India.

India continued from where they left off in the second session -- getting extra bounce while pitching consistently in good and short lengths to trouble Khawaja and Labuschagne. Umesh Yadav entered the wicket-takers list by enticing Khawaja to drive a



wide length ball, and nicked behind to KS Bharat. Labuschagne finally found his release from a scratchy start by flicking off Umesh and Shami twice for fours while Steve Smith got up and running by pulling off Shami and punching against Umesh to pick a brace of boundaries.

The duo then resorted to strike-rotation to keep the scoreboard ticking as the ball stopped being lively, with Labuschagne taking driving and pulling off pacers for boundaries while Smith fired an edge past slip off Ravindra Jadeja for four.

The 62-run partnership came to an end when Smith danced down the

pitch against a short and wide ball from Jadeja and skied high to cover-point. Travis Head was kept in check by spinning in balls from Jadeja while being troubled by bouncers from Siraj, though he did get a pulled six off a no-ball.

Head was dropped on 12 when Umesh couldn't catch his slog-sweep off Jadeja at deep mid-wicket to concede a six. But a ball later, Head's attempt to cover drive against the turn backfired as Jadeja took a catch off his own bowling. Labuschagne and Cameron Green stayed at the crease, resisting every challenge from Indian bowlers till stumps arrived.

Brief scores

Australia 469 in 121.3 overs and 123/4 in 44 overs (Marnus Labuschagne 41 not out, Steve Smith 34; Ravindra Jadeja 2/25, Umesh Yadav 1/21) lead India 296 in 69.4 overs (Ajinkya Rahane 89, Shardul Thakur 51; Pat Cummins 3/83, Cameron Green 2/44) by 296 runs.



FIH PRO LEAGUE

Indian men down Argentina 3-0 to climb back to top of standings

Eindhoven | Agencies

A superb second-half performance during which skipper Harmanpreet Singh, Amit Rohidas and Abhishek scored a goal apiece helped India defeat Argentina 3-0 in the men's FIH Hockey Pro League and climb back to the top of the points table.

India had slipped to the second spot after losing a couple of matches in London before coming back strongly to beat Belgium (5-1) and Great Britain 4-2 via a shoot-out. They started the Netherlands run with a 1-4 defeat here on Wednesday.

On Thursday, India held the advantage in the first half and created a few chances but could not score a goal.

Things turned in their favour as after a goalless first half, India earned their first penalty corner of the match in the third quarter with captain Harmanpreet Singh producing a powerful drag into the bottom right corner to finally break the deadlock.

With that, Harmanpreet extended his lead

at the top of the scoring chart to nine goals, with 18 in the tournament so far.

Harmanpreet was on the bench when India were awarded their next penalty corner. The trap wasn't a good one, but Amit Rohidas managed to pick up the bobbling ball nonetheless and drilled a great drag flick into the top left of the goal.

As the clock wound down at the end of the match, Argentina threw all their players forward to push for a goal. But they were caught on the counterattack, Vivek Prasad and Abhishek finding themselves two-on-one with the keeper. Vivek laid off the pass to Abhishek to tap it in and seal the 3-0 victory.

Skipper Harmanpreet Singh, who was named Player of the Match, credited their defence for the victory.

The win took India to the top spot with 27 points from 14 matches, one ahead of Great Britain, who have played 12 matches so far. Spain (17 from 8 matches) are third with Australia (16 from 12 matches) and Argentina (13 from 13 matches) in fifth position.

Intercontinental Cup: Lebanon open campaign with a 3-1 win over Vanuatu

Bhubaneswar | Agencies

Lebanon opened their Intercontinental Cup 2023 campaign with a 3-1 victory over Vanuatu at the Kalinga Stadium, here on Friday. The Cedars expectedly started the game on the strong foot, charging forward through the right flank. Ali Tneich had the day's first try at the target for Lebanon, but the midfielder couldn't keep it in the frame.

On the other hand, Vanuatu kept playing on the counter attacks and managed to keep their opponents at bay. In the 15th minute, the South Pacific Ocean nation made their first shot on target and provided a statement of intent. Godine Tenene cut in from the left flank and went for glory, but his scuffed shot was comfortably saved by the Cedars' goalkeeper Ali Sabeh.



Lebanon, nevertheless, kept marching forward and performed some darting runs through the wings. Their relentless attacking moves forced Vanuatu to stay on the back foot. Minutes before half time, goalkeeper Massing Kalotang turned up big for Vanuatu. The custodian denied Khalil Bader in the 40th minute when he tipped the ball away from the line

and went on to make back-to-back saves against Hassan Maatouk's on-target attempts. In the end, Lebanon were left to rue missed chances as the scoreline remained 0-0 at the break. The two sides showed reinvigorated spirit following the referee's decision to witness an end-to-end game in the initial part of the second half.

French Open: Swiatek ends Haddad Maia's dream run to make third final in Paris

Paris | Agencies

Defending champion Iga Swiatek booked her place in the Roland-Garros final for the third time in four years after she ended the dream run of 14th seed Beatriz Haddad Maia, beating the Brazilian 6-2, 7-6(7).

Just as she did in 2020, when she won her first Grand Slam title as the unseeded World No.54, Swiatek hasn't dropped a set en route to the final, where she will face the unseeded Czech player Karolina Muchova, who edged out No.2 seed Aryna Sabalenka in a three-set thriller earlier on Thursday.

The win also ensured Swiatek will retain the No.1 ranking after Roland Garros concludes, whatever the



result against Muchova.

The Pole had to come from a break down in each set and saved a set point in the second-set tiebreak and eight games marked the most she lost in her six matches so far this fortnight. After turning around

an 0-1 head-to-head against Haddad Maia, Swiatek will seek to do it against Muchova in Saturday's final. The Czech won their only prior meeting four years ago in Prague, when Swiatek was a 17-year-old ranked No.95 in the world.

FERNANDEZ-TOWNSEND BEAT GAUFF-PEGULA TO REACH WOMEN'S DOUBLES FINAL

Paris: The No.10 seeds Leylah Fernandez and Taylor Townsend needed just 64 minutes to book their place in the first Grand Slam final together, defeating No.2 seeds Coco Gauff and Jessica Pegula 6-0, 6-4 in the women's doubles semifinals at the French Open, here on Friday.

With this, Townsend advanced to her second major final, having been runner-up alongside Caty McNally at last year's US Open to Barbora Krejickova and Katerina Siniakova.

For Fernandez, the 2021 US Open runner-up in singles, the result marked her first Grand Slam final in doubles. They will face either No.6 seeds Nicole Melichar-Martinez and Ellen Perez or the unseeded Hsieh Su-Wei and Wang Xinyu for the title.

The Canadian-American duo first teamed up at Indian Wells in March, and their record together now stands at 14-4. The defeat of Gauff and Pegula reverses the result of the Miami final, which the all-American team won 7-6(6), 6-2.

Townsend also exacted a measure of revenge for last year's Roland Garros semifinals, which -- partnering Madison Keys -- she lost 6-4, 7-6(4) to Gauff and Pegula.

INDIA LET THEMSELVES DOWN IN THE FIRST HOUR OF DAY 1, SAYS RICKY PONTING

New Delhi | Agencies

As India seemed to struggle against a dominant Australia in the first two days of the World Test Championship (WTC) Final at The Oval, London, former Australia captain Ricky Ponting has expressed his belief that India let themselves down in the first hour of the opening day of the one-off Test.

Australia maintained their pole position on Thursday, posting 469 in the first innings, thanks to Travis Head's 163 and Steve Smith's 121 and polished bowling performance from their four fast bowlers, as they reduced Rohit Sharma-led side to 151/5.

"I think where they let themselves down was in the first hour yesterday and bowling too short. With the wicket conditions, the overhead conditions they had and the brand-new Dukes ball, they had to bowl fuller and get the ball driven back down the ground," Ponting told the ICC.

"They needed to have Australia four or five down at lunch and they only had them two down which was a pretty good result (for Australia)," he added. Ponting said that moments



before the toss, he noticed a deep discussion between India's head coach Rahul Dravid and the team's captain.

India left out Ravi Ashwin from the playing XI and instead fielded a pace-heavy bowling attack. Unfortunately, this strategy did not yield the desired results in the first innings as Travis Head and Steve Smith notched up centuries, forging an impressive 285-run partnership for the fourth wicket.

"I know the captain wears the brunt of it (criticism), but I know it's not only his decision," Ponting noted.

"I saw Rahul Dravid and him out (Rohit) in the middle yesterday morning and they had a long discussion about what they wanted to do at the toss."

"If they wanted to bowl first I think they had to play the four seamers. So far you would say it hasn't paid off - but there is a long way to go and we probably shouldn't be too quick to judge," he said.

FIFA announces new payment model for Women's World Cup 2023

Geneva (Switzerland) | Agencies

FIFA on Friday announced its new member association distribution model for the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023 in Australia and New Zealand, with at least 30,000 U.S. dollars to be distributed to each player for participating in the tournament.

According to the financial allocation, each player will receive 30,000 U.S. dollars for the group stage, while the champions will have 270,000 U.S. dollars for each player, with the prize money each player gets between round of 16 and runners-up varying from 60,000 to 195,000 U.S. dollars.

FIFA said the initiative marks another concrete step to develop women's football and ensure players receive a fair deal, a commitment that FIFA hopes sets a stan-



dard across the industry, Xinhua reported.

"Under this unprecedented new distribution model, each individual player at the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023 can now fully rely on remuneration for their efforts as they progress through the tournament," said FIFA president Gianni

Infantino. Each participating member association will get at least 1.56 million U.S. dollars, and the winners will be distributed 4.29 million U.S. dollars.

According to FIFA, its total investment in the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023 is budgeted to exceed 500 million U.S. dollars.

Women's Junior Asia Cup 2023: India gear up for Japan challenge in semifinals

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Indian junior women's hockey team takes on Japan in the semifinals of the Women's Junior Asia Cup 2023 in Kakamigahara, Japan on Saturday with the winner getting an opportunity to earn a place in the upcoming FIH Junior Women's World Cup 2023.

India confirmed their place in the last four with a resounding 11-0 victory over Chinese Taipei on Thursday. The impressive victory also meant that India finished the tournament's group stage unbeaten

and atop the Pool A table.

Now, India prepare to face Japan in the semifinals on Saturday, with the winner advancing to the tournament's final and also confirming their berth in the upcoming FIH Junior Women's World Cup 2023.

Notably, the top three teams in the Women's Junior Asia Cup 2023 will earn automatic qualification to the FIH Junior Women's World Cup 2023, which will be held in Santiago, Chile from November 29 to December 10, 2023.





'IT'S AT 30 WHEN REAL ADULTING HITS YOU,' SAYS TAMANNAH BHATIA

Mumbai: Actress Tamannaah Bhatia, who has two upcoming streaming releases, feels that the real adulting starts once people enter their 30s. The actress will be soon seen in the upcoming streaming show 'Jee Karda' which follows the story of even friends navigating the chaos of life in their 30s.

Tamannaah, who plays the role of Lavanya in the series said that she "deeply relates" to the characters in the show as they face the challenges of peer pressure, both in college and school, and even in their 30s.

The actress said: "It's at 30 when real adulting hits you. This show provides a sneak peek into the lives of people dealing with the trials and tribulations of adulting, showcasing how they navigate through it all. At its core, Jee Karda is a fun slice of life with a touch of drama, offering a reflection of the lives we lead."

The show, which also stars Aashim Gulati, Suhail Nayyar, Anya Singh, Hussain Dalal, Sayan Banerjee, and Samvedna Suwalka, has been directed by Arunima Sharma and produced by Dinesh Vijan's Maddock Films. 'Jee Karda' will drop on June 15 on Prime Video.

Tamannaah also has 'Lust Stories 2' in the pipeline in which she will be seen along with Vijay Varma.

MTV Roadies gets inclusive, gives transwoman contestant a ticket to ride

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The upcoming episode of the youth adventure reality show 'MTV Roadies Karm Ya Kaand' will see the transwoman contestant Neerja Punia showcasing the grit and passion within as the show will continue to break gender biases and establish a benchmark for inclusivity.

She will be seen shedding light on the

issues faced by transgenders in today's society, including her transformative journey and its impact on one's emotional, physical and financial well-being.

Neerja is a transwoman in her early twenties and a runway model from Haryana. She defeated societal prejudice by making it to the 'MTV Roadies' auditions.

Gang leader Rhea Chakraborty said: "This journey and your transition are

emotionally challenging, and you need a lot of support from the people around you actually... jo zyadatar logo'n ko nahi milta (a lot of people don't get the support)." The gang leaders are eager to have Neerja in their gang as she shows strength, resilience, and the power to challenge stereotypes!

'MTV Roadies Karm Ya Kaand' will air on Saturday and Sunday on MTV and Jio Cinema.

VIDYUT ON HIS DEATH-DEFYING STUNTS: 'IT SCARES ME BUT THAT'S THE FIRST PART'

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Action star Vidhut Jammwal, who is currently shooting for his next 'Crakk- Jeetega toh Jiyega', an adrenaline rushing extreme sports film, agrees that the death-defying stunts he does scare him initially but he surpasses it.

Vidhut, who can be tagged as a superhuman, has time and again performed stunts that are daring. Be it doing pushups on glass bottles or working out with a fully loaded gas cylinder - he has done it all.

Does it never scare him when he performs such stunts? "It scares me but that is the first part. Then you surpass it. No, I am fearful of everything I start with but once you get into the groove I think the fear leaves you. To raise the bar is first for yourself," he told reporter.

The actor added: "You start thinking about what is it you want to do next, what is it that you have not done, what is that your body has not experienced, or your mind has not arrived at. Once you go through all these things then you reach."

The upcoming film, directed by Aditya Dutt, is based on two brothers who are set to perform daring stunts mixed with extreme sports to win. It is written by Sarim Momin and Rehan Khan.

Asked how much is too much for an actor to invest in a character, pat came the reply from Vidhut: "I think to limit yourself is a sin, you should always be unlimited."



Sohum Shah on why movies, web series have greater reach than other artforms



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor Sohum Shah, who has been receiving a lot of positive response for his recently released streaming show 'Dahaad', has explained the reason behind the audio-visual content's wide reach and why it appeals to a lot of people compared to other art forms like painting, music or photography. Talking to IANS, the actor said: "Kahaniyaan toh har kisiko sunane ka shauk hi hota hai na (Everyone loves good stories). The kids are also told bed time stories. Stories engage the minds of the audience and keep them on the edge, not like

other artforms don't do but stories connect with the mass audience on a very basic level."

In the series, Sohum essays the role of a cop from a small town who has earlier faced charges of corruption. He further mentioned: "Modern art for instance often requires you to be equipped with a certain kind of understanding and perception about that artform, the colours and themes, but a good story can be easily grasped by the audience of all kinds, that's the reason I feel films have a very big audience base."

'Dahaad' is streaming on Prime Video.



Team Absolute | Mumbai

This August 11 fans will be spoilt for choice: three different movies of three different genres will be releasing on the same date with three different big stars.

The Ranbir Kapoor-starrer 'Animal', Sunny Deol's 'Gadar 2' and 'OMG 2' headlined by Akshay Kumar will battle it out at the box office.

The Anil Sharma-helmed 'Gadar 2' is the sequel of the massive 2001 hit 'Gadar: Ek Prem Katha', starring Sunny Deol, Ameesha Patel and Utkarsh Sharma in the lead roles. The film revolves around patriotism and love for family, and is slated for an August 11 release.

'OMG 2', a sequel of 'OMG: Oh My God', the 2012 comedy drama starring Akshay Kumar and

Parash Rawal, is being helmed by Amit Rai, and features Akshay, Pankaj Tripathi, Yami Gautam, Arun Govil and Aamir Naik in the lead roles. The film revolves around the education system in the country and is also slated for an August 11 release.

'Animal' sees the returns of Sandeep Vanga Reddy, he of 'Kabir Singh'/'Arjun Reddy' fame, in the director's chair. It star cast includes Ranbir Kapoor, Anil Kapoor, Bobby Deol and Parineeti Chopra. The film is a noir gangster film, which also revolves around the family succession drama. And despite rumours flying around about a delay in the release of the film, it is slated to hit the screens on August 11.

Patriotic drama, comic caper, gangster thriller -- it is quite a

Akshay, Sunny, Ranbir to battle it out for box-office honours on Aug 11

choice for the audience on August 11, but the big question is who will be the one laughing all the way to the bank. Will Akshay finally break his box-office jinx? Can Sunny reprise the success of the original 'Gadar'? And, is Ranbir set to continue his honeymoon with the audience?

Interestingly, 'Gadar: Ek Prem Katha' clashed with Aamir Khan's 'Lagaan', and despite both being period dramas, the two films did incredibly well at the box office.

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Dia Sharikadze