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Kejriwal's plea against ED arrest, custody rejected; matter to be heard on April 3

NO INTERIM RELIEF

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday refused any interim relief to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, who has been arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in an excise policy case and is currently in its custody.

Justice Swarna Kanta Sharma, hearing Kejriwal's plea contending that his arrest and the remand order passed by a trial court were illegal and that he was entitled to be released from custody immediately, said that the probe agency has to be granted an opportunity to file a reply. "... the respondent has to be granted an opportunity to file a reply, as an opportunity for effective representation, and declining this opportunity would amount to a denial of fair hearing as well as



violation of one of the principles of natural justice i.e., audi alteram partem, which is applicable to both the parties and not one," the court observed. Appearing for Kejriwal,

senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi urged the high court to order his release on Wednesday since his ED custody ends on Thursday, and contended that no reply is

required to be filed on behalf of the ED. In response to this, the court observed that while hearing and deciding a case, it is duty-bound to hear both sides fairly, keeping in mind the principles of natural justice. "Thus, the reply by the Directorate of Enforcement is essential and crucial to decide the present case," the judge noted. Justice Sharma also observed that she cannot presume that the respondent will have no reply to file and will remain bound only by the contentions raised before the trial court. "Further, any release order from custody will amount to enlarging the accused/petitioner on bail or interim bail, as an interim measure," she observed. Justice Sharma has given the ED time till April 2 to file its reply to Kejriwal's interim application seeking immediate release from ED custody and even on the main petition, issued notice to the probe agency. The matter will be heard next on April 3.

AAP'S LONE LS MP JOINS BJP

New Delhi: In a major political setback to the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in Punjab, the party's lone MP in the Lok Sabha, Sushil Kumar Rinku (48), joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) here on Wednesday.

In the bypoll to the Jalandhar Lok Sabha constituency held in May last year, Rinku trounced Congress' Karamjit Kaur by a thumping margin of 58,691 votes, as the grand old party faced defeat in the seat for the first time since 1999.

Rinku, a former Congress leader, joined the BJP in the presence of the party's National General Secretary Vinod Tawde and Punjab BJP chief Sunil Jakhar at the party headquarters here. AAP MLA from Jalandhar (West), Sheetal Angural, also joined the saffron party along with Rinku.

AK'S DIRECTIVES FROM CUSTODY MAY ADD TO HIS & AAP'S LEGAL HASSLES

New Delhi: Two orders issued by Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal from the custody of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) over water and sewage issues in the national capital have triggered a controversy about the legitimacy and legality of such a step -- which could potentially multiply legal hassles for the Delhi CM as well as the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP).

The probe agency is examining the veracity and source of the so-called directives issued by CM Kejriwal to his ministerial colleagues Atishi and Saurabh Bharadwaj. The ED is very likely to raise the legality of sending such orders before the Rouse Avenue Court when Kejriwal is presented next before the court on the expiry of his existing remand timeline. After his arrest, CM Kejriwal first issued an order to Water Minister Atishi from the custody of the ED on Sunday, while another directive was issued on Tuesday to the health department on smooth functioning of the AAP's flagship Mohalla Clinics.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has claimed that CM Kejriwal, despite being remanded to ED custody, is more concerned about the people of the national capital than himself.

However, the issuance of directives by Kejriwal in custody has triggered allegations of illegal operations and unlawful takeover of the Delhi CM's office.

RAID ON AAP LEADER'S RESIDENCE BASED ON KEJRIWAL'S INFORMATION

New Delhi: Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Wednesday conducted raids at the residence of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Deepak Singla in the excise policy case, sources said. Sources said that the raids come after information was revealed during the grilling of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, who was arrested on March 21 in the case and subsequently remanded to ED custody until March 28 by a Delhi court.

Singla, a former AAP candidate, had contested elections from Delhi's Vishwas Nagar Assembly seat under the AAP banner.

BLA claims killing more than 30 Pakistani soldiers, issues stern warning to China

Islamabad | Agencies

The Baloch Liberation Army claimed killing more than 30 Pakistani soldiers as it targeted PNS Siddique, the country's second-largest naval air station located in Turbat and warned China on its "illegal" settlements and projects in Balochistan.

In a statement, the group said that its Majeed Brigade successfully concluded the fifth phase of "Operation ZirPahazag" to "retaliate against ongoing Baloch genocide" and save the region from Chinese "occupation and exploitation".

"Majeed Brigade of Baloch Liberation Army, in the fifth phase of Operation ZirPahazag, last night (Monday) at ten o'clock, attacked the occupied army's Naval Airbase, PNS Siddique,



engaging the enemy till morning and successfully achieving the objectives of the operation by killing more than thirty enemy soldiers," BLA spokesperson, Jeeyand Baloch, stated.

The statement came as local media reports in Islamabad said that the attack killed one paramilitary

soldier while security forces on the Pakistan side killed all five attackers in retaliatory fire. Pakistan's Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said the "terrorists" attempted to attack PNS Siddique in Turbat and the assault was "foiled" due to the "swift and effective response by the troops".

ED REGISTERS CASE AGAINST IT FIRM OF CM VIJAYAN'S DAUGHTER

Kochi: The Enforcement Directorate on Wednesday initiated an investigation into a money laundering case involving Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's daughter Veena Vijayan's IT firm and the Cochin-based mining firm CMRL.

The case is already being probed by the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO).

The Kochi office of the ED has filed an ECIR in the case. The ECIR is similar to the FIR lodged by the police for cognizable offences.

This issue was first raised last year by Congress MLA Mathew Kuzhalsadan on the basis of a media report, which quoted an Income Tax Department officer as saying that "CM Vijayan's daughter Veena Vijayan's IT firm Exalogic had received Rs 1.72 crore from the mining company CMRL, in which the KSIDC has around 13 per cent stake". Initially, CM Vijayan and the CPI(M) defended the case both inside and outside the Assembly. They said that this was nothing but a political witch hunt. But the defence fell apart when the SFIO took up the probe last month.



ECI notice to Cong's Supriya Shrinete, BJP's Dilip Ghosh for distasteful remarks against women

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Wednesday issued a show cause notice to senior Congress leader Supriya Shrinete and the BJP's Dilip Ghosh for their distasteful remarks against women, in the run-up to the Lok Sabha elections.

The Congress' social media incharge, Supriya Shrinete, in a now deleted post, made disparaging and derogatory remark against actress Kangana Ranaut, who is the BJP's candidate from Mandi, while BJP MP, Dilip Ghosh, made offending remarks against West Bengal Chief Minister, Mamata Banerjee. The poll panel found the remarks of both the leaders "undignified and in bad taste."

Supriya Shrinete kicked up a storm when she mocked Kangana Ranaut for bagging the BJP's nomination from Mandi



Lok Sabha constituency for the forthcoming elections.

The BJP launched a blistering attack on the Congress spokesperson, accusing her of making sexist slurs on its candidate, while the latter tried to firefight the backlash.

The BJP's Dilip Ghosh stirred controversy when he taunted CM Mamata Banerjee over her

father. Speaking to the Press, the BJP MP had claimed, "Wherever Mamata goes, she claims herself to be the daughter of that state. She should first identify her father."

The Trinamool Congress went all guns blazing against Dilip Ghosh, describing him as a "repeat offender" when it came to women.

FORMER IPS OFFICER SANJIV BHATT CONVICTED IN 1996 NDPS CASE

Ahmedabad:

Former Indian Police Service (IPS) officer Sanjiv Bhatt was convicted in a 1996 narcotics case under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic



Substances Act (NDPS) by the Palanpur Sessions Court, Gujarat on Wednesday. The case dates back to Bhatt's tenure as the District Superintendent of Police in Banaskantha, where he was accused of framing a lawyer, Sumersingh Rajpurohit, by planting 1.5 kg of opium in a hotel room in Palanpur.

The Gujarat Crime Investigation Department (CID) arrested Bhatt for allegedly fabricating evidence against Rajpurohit. Bhatt was already serving a life sentence for a custodial death case dating back to 1989. In this earlier case, the Jamnagar court found Bhatt guilty of causing the death of Prabhudas Vaishnani, who succumbed to injuries sustained while in police custody.

MUST ADDRESS DIPPING FERTILITY RATES IN INDIA: EXPERTS A

- According to a recent study published in The Lancet, India's total fertility rate saw a significant decline from 6.18 in 1950 to 1.91 in 2021.
- The study predicted that it may further drop to 1.3 by 2050 and 1.04 by 2100.
- Reasons that lead to infertility include rising levels of obesity, stress, smoking, pollution, and unhealthy lifestyles, said the doctor.
- Infertility can affect the total fertility rate (TFR) by delaying childbearing age and reducing conception probability.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The decline in fertility rates in India is a matter of concern and must be addressed properly by taking into account factors like urbanisation, education, and women's empowerment, said health experts on Wednesday.

"Numerous factors such as education, religious beliefs, and the contraceptive prevalence rate (CPR), influence the total fertility rates of a country. In addition, delay in marriage and childbirth and change in social norms favouring smaller family size, financial independence, more and more women pursuing careers over motherhood, also result in a reduced fertility rate," Dr. Rachita Munjal, Senior Consultant, Birla Fertility & IVF, Gurugram, told correspondents.

TFR can be defined as the average number of children born to a woman in her lifetime.

"The psychological impact of infertility and related complications prompts couples to reconsider family plans, potentially leading



to fewer children. The societal stigma surrounding infertility and fertility treatment further restricts couples from seeking medical help, contributing to a lower TFR by limiting access to treatment," Dr. Rachita said.

Dr. Nisha Bhatnagar, Medical Director at Infinite Fertility, told correspondents that the declining fertility levels can have manifold ramifications for public health policy and society.

However, reproductive technology developments like egg freezing can provide personalised answers

to infertility problems, the doctor said.

"Egg freezing has become a recognised technique for maintaining fertility, especially for those who choose to delay having children for personal or professional reasons," Dr. Nisha said. However, these are not a cure-all for the general trends in population, the expert said, emphasising the need for more comprehensive public health policies that take into account "socioeconomic factors such as urbanisation, education, and women's empowerment."

China leads in govt-backed exploitation of zero-day bugs: Google report

Team Absolute | New Delhi

China continues to lead the way for government-backed exploitation of zero-day vulnerabilities and the cyber espionage groups in the country exploited 12 zero-day vulnerabilities in 2023, up from seven in 2022, a Google report said on Wednesday. A zero-day bug is a vulnerability in a system or device that has been disclosed but is not yet patched.

In 2023, Google observed 97 zero-day vulnerabilities exploited in the wild.

That's over 50 per cent more than in 2022, but still shy of 2021's record of 106, according to the report by Google's Threat Analysis Group (TAG) and cyber-security firm Mandiant. "Attackers are now shifting focus to third-party components and libraries in 2023. Zero-day vulnerabilities in third-party components and libraries were a prime attack surface in 2023, since exploiting this type of vulnerability can scale to



affect more than one product," said James Sadowski, Principal Analyst, Mandiant Intelligence. The team observed an increase in adversary exploitation of enterprise-specific technologies in 2023, with a 64 per cent increase in the total number of vulnerabilities from the previous year and a general increase in the number of enterprise vendors targeted since at least 2019. Exploitation associated with financially motivated actors proportionally decreased last year. "Financially motivated actors accounted for 10 zero-day vulnerabilities exploited in 2023, a lower proportion of the total than what we observed in 2022," said the Google report.



PM MODI, CMS OF 5 BJP-RULED STATES AMONG PARTY'S 40 STAR CAMPAIGNERS FOR MP

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The BJP has released the list of 40 star campaigners for Madhya Pradesh in the run-up to the Lok Sabha elections. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, party chief J.P. Nadda, Union Ministers Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh, Nitin Gadkari, Jyotiraditya Scindia, and Smriti Irani, Chief Ministers Mohan Yadav (Madhya Pradesh), Yogi Adityanath (Uttar Pradesh), Himanta Biswa Sarma (Assam), Vishnu Deo Sai (Chhattisgarh) and Bhajan Lal Sharma (Rajasthan) are among the star campaigners for the party. Former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Deputy Chief Ministers Rajendra Shukla and Jagdish Devda, state BJP president V.D. Sharma, state in-charges Mahendra Singh and Satish Upadhyay have also been named as party's star campaigners. Voting for the 29 Lok Sabha seats in Madhya Pradesh will take place in four phases on April 19, April 26, May 7, and May 13. The BJP has declared its candidates for all 29 seats in the state. The BJP had won 28 seats in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.



UMA BHARTI MISSING FROM LIST

Bhopal: Former Madhya Pradesh chief minister Uma Bharti is missing from the BJP's list of star campaigners for the Lok Sabha polls in the state. However, the party has picked Suresh Pachouri, who recently switched over from Congress, for the job. The ruling party on Tuesday night released its list of 40 star campaigners for Madhya Pradesh, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah. Uma Bharti, who had led the BJP to victory in the 2003 assembly polls, had also failed to make it to the BJP's list of star campaigners during the 2023 state polls. Earlier this month, the senior BJP leader had said that she would not contest elections for the next two years and instead work for the rejuvenation of the Ganga river, but also made it clear that she won't retire from politics.



BJP candidate from Chhindwara Vivek Bunt Sahu filed nomination in the presence of CM

Chhindwara | Agencies

Vivek Bunt Sahu, BJP candidate from Chhindwara, one of the most prestigious Lok Sabha seats in Madhya Pradesh, filed his nomination papers on Wednesday in the presence of senior party leaders. On this occasion, Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav made many allegations against Congress leader Kamal Nath. Congress has once again made Nakul Nath, son of former Chief Minister Kamal Nath, its candidate from Chhindwara. Nakulnath had filed his nomination papers on Tuesday itself. On Wednesday, BJP candidate Vivek Bunt Sahu filed his nomination with a show of strength. A large number of workers were present in his rally.



Apart from the Chief Minister, State President Vishnudutt Sharma, State Government Ministers Kailash Vijayvargiya and Prahlad Patel were also present in the Collectorate office while filing nominations. In the public meeting organized on this occasion, CM Yadav fiercely attacked Kamal Nath. He said that people of the same family are sitting here by matching their horoscope, first the father is MP and now the

son is contesting the elections. The people of Chhindwara know what he did in the last four and a half decades. Kamal Nath had made an emotional appeal to the local people on Tuesday and said that he devoted his youth to the development of Chhindwara and did not even see his family. The Chief Minister took a jibe at this and said that the people of Chhindwara know the truth.

Congress formed new media team in Madhya Pradesh

Bhopal: Congress has formed a new media team in Madhya Pradesh. State President's Media Advisor K.K. Mishra has been made while the chairman of the media department will be former minister Mukesh Nayak. Congress has given responsibility to a total of 33 people in the media department in the state, in which, apart from the media advisor to the state president, the chairman of the media department, a total of 22 spokespersons have been made. Bhupendra Gupta, Mrinal Pant, Shailendra Patel, Kunal Chaudhary, Vipin Wankhede, Vinay Saxena, Nisha Bangre, Roshni Yadav and Abbas Hafiz will be the main spokespersons. Other spokespersons are - Ashok Marscole, Baijnath Kushwaha, Ravi Saxena, Amit Sharma, Ram Pandey, Mithun Ahirwar, Ravi Verma Farhana Khan, R.P. Singh, Swadesh Sharma, Sangeeta



Sharma, Avnish Bundela, Rajkumar Kulu (Vice President), Yogesh Yadav, Vivek Tripathi, Aparajita Pandey, Santosh Gautam, Anand Jay, Abhinav Barolia, Sparsh Chaudhary, Avni Bansal, Reena Borasi. While making new appointments in the media department, state party president Jitu Patwari expressed hope that the policy of the Congress party will play an important role in reaching out to the people through media.

A battle to save political strongholds for Scindia, Digvijaya and Kamal Nath

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Amid the electoral battle between the ruling BJP and the Congress, some seasoned politicians in Madhya Pradesh will also be fighting to save their own bastions and pocket boroughs. Prominent among these political stalwarts are Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia and two former chief ministers, Congress veterans Digvijaya Singh and Kamal Nath. A member of the erstwhile royal Scindia family of Gwalior, Jyotiraditya Scindia contested and won the first Lok Sabha (bypoll) election after his father and Congress leader Madhavrao Scindia, a Lok Sabha MP from Guna, died in a plane crash in 2001. Jyotiraditya Scindia (53) was re-elected as MP from his family's pocket borough Guna for the next three consecutive terms - 2004, 2009 and 2014. In fact, Guna was one of the two Lok Sabha seats that the Congress managed to win despite a massive wave in favour of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi in 2014. However, Jyotiraditya Scindia lost the election from Guna against the BJP's KP Yadav in 2019. One year later, Jyotiraditya Scindia along



with 22 Congress MLAs had shifted into the BJP, resulting in the end of the Kamal Nath-led Congress government in March 2020. Jyotiraditya Scindia, who is a Rajya Sabha MP, is contesting his sixth Lok Sabha election, but the first on the BJP's symbol. Spanning eight Assembly seats of the three districts of Guna, Shivpuri and part of Ashok Nagar, most of the time, this particular seat was represented by the members of the Scindia family. Local people said the seasoned politician is taking this election as a matter of prestige and is determined to get his pocket

borough back. Congress veteran and former Chief Minister, Digvijaya Singh is contesting the Lok Sabha election from his home turf Rajgarh. Interestingly, the Rajgarh parliamentary constituency covers two Assembly segments - Raghogarh and Chachoura of Guna District and one Assembly seat of Agar-Malwa (Susner) along with five Assembly segments of Rajgarh District. Veteran Rajya Sabha MP, Digvijaya Singh was elected as a Lok Sabha MP twice from Rajgarh, in 1984 and then again in 1991. In

1993, he became the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh and remained on the post until 2003. Digvijaya Singh's younger brother Laxman Singh represented this particular Lok Sabha constituency five times, including one term on the BJP's symbol. As the Congress could win just one Lok Sabha seat in the previous election, and Digvijaya Singh had also lost against BJP's Pragya Singh Thakur from Bhopal in 2019, the grand old party, which is striving hard to find its lost ground in Madhya Pradesh, has fielded the former CM from his home district Rajgarh this time. The Congress had won the last Lok Sabha election from Rajgarh in 2009, while the BJP's Rodmal Nagar won two previous elections in 2014 and 2019. Another Congress veteran Kamal Nath is making all efforts to retain his bastion Chhindwara, the only parliamentary constituency the BJP lost in the previous general election. Though, ex-CM Kamal Nath is not the candidate from Chhindwara Lok Sabha seat, he is leading the campaign for his son and sitting MP, Nakul Nath. Senior leader Kamal Nath had won nine Lok Sabha elections from Chhindwara, and he would be fighting to save his stronghold.

India became the 5th largest economy in the world due to Modi ji's good governance and development: Rajendra Shukla

Anuppur | Agencies

The country is safe in the hands of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The Prime Minister is working to make the country an economic superpower. Today thousands of workers here have shouted that this time it will cross 400. Due to the development and good governance done by the Prime Minister, India has become the 5th largest economy in the world. Narendra Modi will become the Prime Minister for the third time and the country will become the country with the third largest economy in the world. To make Modi ji the Prime Minister for the third time, all of you should give your vote and blessings to the BJP candidate and make him victorious with historic votes. Deputy Chief Minister of the state, Rajendra Shukla said this while addressing the rally of the party candi-



date from Shahdol parliamentary constituency, Himadri Singh, after reaching Anuppur Collectorate office and filing

her nomination. The meeting was also addressed by State Government Minister Dilip Jaiswal, Shahdol MP and

party candidate Himadri Singh and Anuppur District President Ramdas Puri.

Hotel businessman commits suicide by shooting himself in Bhopal

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Hotel businessman Nadir Rashid (70) committed suicide by shooting himself in his house on Wednesday morning in Bhopal, the capital of Madhya Pradesh. Police have not found any suicide note. The reasons for suicide have not been revealed as no suicide note has been found. According to information received from the police, Nadir Rashid, owner of Hotel Jahannuma Palace, living in Shyamala Hills police station area, shot himself at his house, due to which he died. Rashid is also related to the Nawab family of Bhopal. It is coming to light that he is suffering from illness and is suffering from depression. On receiving information about the suicide of hotelier Rashid, senior police officers reached the spot. Besides, his relatives have also gathered at his residence.



Why he committed suicide has not been revealed. Police is investigating the matter.

NOMINATION PAPERS WILL BE FILED FOR THE SECOND PHASE FROM MARCH 28

Bhopal : Chief Electoral Officer Anupam Rajan has told that, nomination papers will be filed in 7 Lok Sabha constituencies of Madhya Pradesh from March 28 in the second phase of Lok Sabha Elections-2024. Rajan said that Lok Sabha elections are to be held in Madhya Pradesh in 4 phases. In the second phase, voting will be held in Lok Sabha parliamentary constituencies number-6 Tikamgarh (SC), number-7 Damoh, number-8 Khajuraho, number-9 Satna, number-10 Rewa, number-17 Hoshangabad and number-29 Betul (ST). Election notification for the second phase will be released on Thursday, March 28. Nomination papers will be filed by the candidates from this day itself. The last date for filing nomination papers is April 4. The nomination papers will be scrutinized the next day on April 5. Candidates who have filled the nomination form will be able to withdraw their names till 8th April. Voting for the second phase will be held on April 26. Counting of votes for all phases of voting will take place on June 4, 2024.

AIIMS Bhopal Successfully Saves Three Children with Rare and Complex Congenital Heart Diseases

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Under the leadership of Professor (Dr.) Ajai Singh, Executive Director of AIIMS Bhopal, for the first time, rare and complex congenital heart diseases in pediatric patients were cured without surgery using Nitinol device. In a remarkable display of medical expertise and innovation, the Cardiology team at AIIMS Bhopal has achieved a milestone by saving the lives of three children suffering from rare and complex congenital heart diseases through percutaneous transcatheter interventions. The first case involved a 1-year-old female child weighing 6 Kg, presenting with feeding difficulties and chest indrawing. Upon diagnosis of a rare congenital heart defect known as Aortopulmonary window, the team swiftly performed percutaneous transcatheter device closure using a button-like nitinol device. This timely intervention prevented the child from becoming inoperable, utilizing only venous access from the groin to minimize risks associated with arterial access in pediatric cases. In the second case, a 3-year-old boy weighing 12 kg was diagnosed with a large Ostium secundum Atrial septal defect of size 25 mm. Initially slated for surgical closure, the Cardiology team determined that



percutaneous transcatheter device closure was a viable and less invasive alternative. The child was successfully managed with a 28 mm button-like nitinol device, sparing

him from the need for cardiac surgery. The third case involved a 12-year-old male boy experiencing shortness of breath and dangerously low oxygen saturation lev-

els. Diagnosed with AV Malformation of Lung through bubble contrast 2D echocardiography, a preoperative CT Angiography was conducted to plan a percutaneous closure of the malformation. The procedure was executed with precision using a Vascular Plug device, resulting in the normalization of the child's oxygen saturation to 95%. These complex percutaneous pediatric interventions were spearheaded by the Cardiology team at AIIMS Bhopal, led by Dr. Bhushan Shah with Dr. Amber Kumar, Dr. Kishlay Shrivastava, and Dr. Madhur Jain. Their collaborative effort with the Cardiac Anaesthesia team, led by Dr. Vaishali Waindeskar and Dr. S R A N Bhushanam Padala, and the CTVS team, led by Dr. Yogesh Niwariya and Dr. M Kisan, ensured the success of these groundbreaking procedures. Executive Director Prof. Dr. Ajai Singh extended his heartfelt congratulations to the entire team for their unwavering commitment to excellence in patient care and their pioneering spirit in taking on new challenges. This marks the first instance of AIIMS Bhopal performing such complex interventions in pediatric patients, underscoring the institution's dedication to pushing the boundaries of medical innovation and improving outcomes for patients.

GOODS WORTH OVER RS 31 CRORE 92 LAKH INCLUDING RS 1.5 CRORE CASH SEIZED

Bhopal : Chief Electoral Officer Anupam Rajan said that after the Model Code of Conduct for Lok Sabha Elections-2024 came into effect from March 16, 2024, continuous action is being taken by the police and other enforcement agencies. He said that from March 16 to March 26, Goods worth Rs 31 crore 92 lakh 54 thousand 401, including Rs 1 crore 58 lakh 76 thousand 450 in cash, were seized. During this period, 6 lakh 58 thousand 157 liters of liquor worth Rs 10 crore 56 lakh 21 thousand 800 has also been seized. Similarly, 8 thousand 696 kg of drugs worth Rs 4 crore 53 lakh 33 thousand 8 and more than 152 kg of precious metals worth Rs 3 crore 32 lakh 52 thousand 934 have been seized. Besides, other materials (readymade, garments etc.) worth Rs 11 crore 91 lakh 70 thousand 209 have been seized.



Eknath Shinde, Ajit Pawar, Ashok Chavan among BJP's 40 star campaigners for Maharashtra

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The BJP on Wednesday announced the list of 40 star campaigners for Maharashtra where the party, along with MahaYuti allies, has set an ambitious target of 45 plus of the total 48 Lok Sabha seats in the state. Interestingly, the BJP has included names of Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar and union minister of state Ramdas Athavale indicating that the party treats allies on par to achieve its ambitious target in Maharashtra and at the national level of 400 plus seats.

Similarly, former Chief Minister and veteran Congress leader Ashok Chavan, who is now Rajya Sabha member after joining the BJP, figured in the list.



BJP insiders said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to address about 25 rallies during five phases of election.

The list of star campaigners was announced a day before the MahaYuti plans to announce seat sharing agreement (on Thursday).

The list of star campaigners include PM Modi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Goa CM Pramod Sawant, Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel, Chhattisgarh CM Vishnu Deo Sai,

Madhya Pradesh CM Mohan Yadav , Rajasthan CM Bhajanlal Sharma, Maharashtra CM Shinde and Deputy CM Pawar.

Union Ministers Narayan Rane, Anurag Thakur, Jyotiraditya Scindia, Smriti Irani, MoS Raosaheb Danve-Patil, former chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis are also included in the list.

Other star campaigners include Sampat Choudhari, Vinod Tawde, Chandrashekhar Bawankule, Ashish Shelar, Pankaja Munde Palve, Chandrakant Patil, Sudhir Mungantiwar, Radhakrishna Vikhe-Patil, Piyush Goyal, Girish Mahajan, Ravindra Chavan, K Annamalai, Manoj Tiwari, Ravi Kisan, Amar Sable, Vijaykumar Gavit, Atul Save and Dhananjay Mahadik.

Shiv Sena (UBT) names 16 Maha LS candidates, three from Mumbai

Team Absolute | Mumbai

After days of dilly-dallying, the Shiv Sena (UBT) announced its list of 16 Lok Sabha candidates, including three from Mumbai, here on Wednesday. They include: Arvind Sawant (Mumbai South), Sanjay Dina Patil (Mumbai North-East), and Amol G. Kirtikar (Mumbai North-West). The party has fielded old loyalists: Anant Geete (Raigad), Vinayak Raut (Sindhudurg-Ratnagiri), Chandrakant Khaire (Chhatrapati Sambhajanagar -Aurangabad), Bhausaheb Waghchore (Shirdi), Rajan Vichare (Thane), and Omraje Nimbalkar (Dharashiv - Osmanabad).

The other nominees include: Prof. Narendra Khedekar (Buldhana), Yavatmal-Washim (Sanjay



Deshmukh), Sanjog Waghare-Patil (Maval), Chandrarhar Patil (Sangli), Nagesh Patil-Ashtikar (Hingoli), Rajabhau Waze (Nashik) and Sanjay Jadhav (Parbhani).

With this, the opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) has announced a total of 28 candidates for the 48 LS seats in the state, comprising

Congress' 12 and SS (UBT)'s 16. The Nationalist Congress Party (SP) is likely to announce its list of nominees on Wednesday and more contenders, including the smaller allies and possibly Prakash Ambedkar's Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi (VBA), may be fielded later as the five-phased election progresses in the state.

Munawar faruqui detained during raid at Mumbai Hookah bar, released later

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Stand-up comedian and reality TV star Munawar Faruqui was among 14 people detained during a raid at a hookah parlour in Mumbai, police said on Wednesday.

The Big Boss 17 winner was later released, news agency said quoting a Mumbai police official.

According to police, the hookah parlour in the city's Fort area was being run illegally and Rs 4,400 in cash and nine hookah pots worth Rs 13,500 were seized during the raid on Tuesday.

The raid began around 10.30 pm on Tuesday and continued till 5 am of Wednesday, an official said.

A case has been registered under sections of the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act. The police are still conducting a search at



the location.

"During the raid, the police found stand-up comedian Munawar Faruqui and others smoking hookahs at the joint. We also have a video of their act. We detained Faruqui and others, but they were later allowed to go as the sections slapped against them were bailable," a senior police official told news agency PTI.

Faruqui and other were served notices and allowed to leave, he added.

The 32-year-old reality TV star became popular as a stand-up comedian and rapper on YouTube a few years ago.

'Elect Nitin Gadkari with record majority', Fadnavis urges voters

Team Absolute | Nagpur

The MahaYuti partners in Maharashtra -- BJP, Shiv Sena, NCP, and factions of the Republican Party of India -- staged a show of strength on Wednesday as Union Minister and BJP nominee Nitin Gadkari filed his nomination from Nagpur. Leaders present at the rally unanimously urged the workers to work wholeheartedly to ensure Gadkari's victory by a record margin. Two-time sitting MP from Nagpur, Gadkari is up against Congress nominee Vikas Thakre this time. Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis, and NCP Working President Praful Patel were present at the rally before Gadkari filed his nomination, among others.

"Gadkari, who is the commander-in-chief of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Viksit Bharat 2047 resolution, should be elected with a record majority. The work done by the Narendra Modi government in the last 10 years was a trailer... A lot more needs to be done to



make the country strong and developed. "Under the leadership of PM Modi, we want to create a poverty-free, unemployment-free, and egalitarian India in the next five years. The Prime Minister has resolved to make India a developed country by 2047. New milestones will be set up in the next five years, and therefore people should elect Narendra Modi as the Prime Minister for the third time," said Fadnavis.

BJP nominee from Bhandara-Gondiya, Sunil Mendhe, also filed his nomination on Wednesday. Mendhe is pitted against Congress nominee Prashant Patole. The BJP, which has resolved to achieve 'Mission 45-plus' with its allies in Maharashtra, proposes to reach out to one crore voters by organising 21,000 Namo Samvads across the state. At

the Namo Samvad events, the party plans to present a comparative picture of India before and after 2014, with a focus on the emergence of a New India under the Narendra Modi-led government. BJP General Secretary Vikrant Patil said that many important leaders at the national and regional levels will campaign for the Lok Sabha elections. The Namo Samvad meetings will be organised to reach out to the maximum number of voters directly. These meetings will be scheduled as per the voting phases in the state. Nearly 300 speakers will participate in these meetings which will be held at 21,000 Shakti Kendras, he said. Patil also said that the party will undertake several other programmes, including 'Namo Choupal' and 'Coffee With Youth' in the rural areas of the state.

Man kills son for objecting to his loud phone call, both were drunk

Team Absolute | Nagpur

A man allegedly killed his 28-year-old son following a heated argument between them over speaking loudly on a phone at a village in Maharashtra's Nagpur district, police said on Wednesday. The incident took place at Pipra village, around 30 km from Nagpur city, on Monday, and the victim died during treatment at a hospital the next day, an official said. The accused, Ramrao Kakde, was arrested following the

incident, he said.

"Kakde hit his son, Suraj, with a steel rod following a heated argument after the latter objected to his loud phone conversation. Suraj was admitted to a hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries on Tuesday," the official of Bela police station said. According to police, the father-son duo was under the influence of liquor when the incident took place. Kakde was booked under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) section 302 (murder) and was arrested, he added.

VBA goes solo, Ambedkar names 8 LS candidates, allies with Jarange-Patil

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Rattling the Opposition, the Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi (VBA) President Prakash Ambedkar has virtually snapped ties with the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) and named 8 out of 9 Lok Sabha candidates, while forming a new front with the Maratha community with the Shivba Sanghatana leader Manoj Jarange-Patil, here on Wednesday.

Simultaneously, Ambedkar said that the VBA will support certain candidates of the Congress in the state, offering some solace to the MVA.

The VBA's candidates are: Prakash Y. Ambedkar (Akola), Sanjay G. Kewat (Bhandara-Gondiya LS seat), Hitesh P. Madavi (Gadchiroli-Chimur), Rajesh W. Belle (Chandrapur), Vasant R. Magar (Buldhana), Prajakta T. Pillewan (Amravati), Prof. Rajendra Salunke (Wardha), Khemsing P. Pawar (Yavatmal-Washim), and the nominee for Ramtek shall be announced on late Wednesday.

Ambedkar said the VBA will support Congress candidate Vikas Thakre from the Nagpur constituency to take on Union Minister Nitin Gadkari, and the OBC Bahujan Party candidate in Sangli.

The VBA Chief added that he had a detailed negotiation with Jarange-Patil on Tuesday and it was decided to nominate OBC and Muslim candidates who are not being given any nominations by other major parties.

Flanked by top VBA leaders like state President Rekha Thakur, Vice-President Siddharth Mokale, D. Pundkar, Farooq Ahmed, Arundhati Sirsat, Ashok Sonone and others, Ambedkar said that a new front with Jarange-Patil will be formed "to initiate the politics of transformation", with maximum candidates from the poor and backward communities,



having a clean image.

The new front will declare its full 'inclusive' list of Lok Sabha candidates on April 2, from the poor, marginalised, underprivileged Marathas and Muslims, who will be supported by the masses.

The VBA's announcement came amid appeals by the Congress-Shiv Sena (UBT)-Nationalist Congress Party (SP) and an offer of around 4-6 seats to stand with the MVA.

Newspaper delivery-boy to Mumbai 26/11 hero, IPS officer Sadanand V Date to helm elite NIA

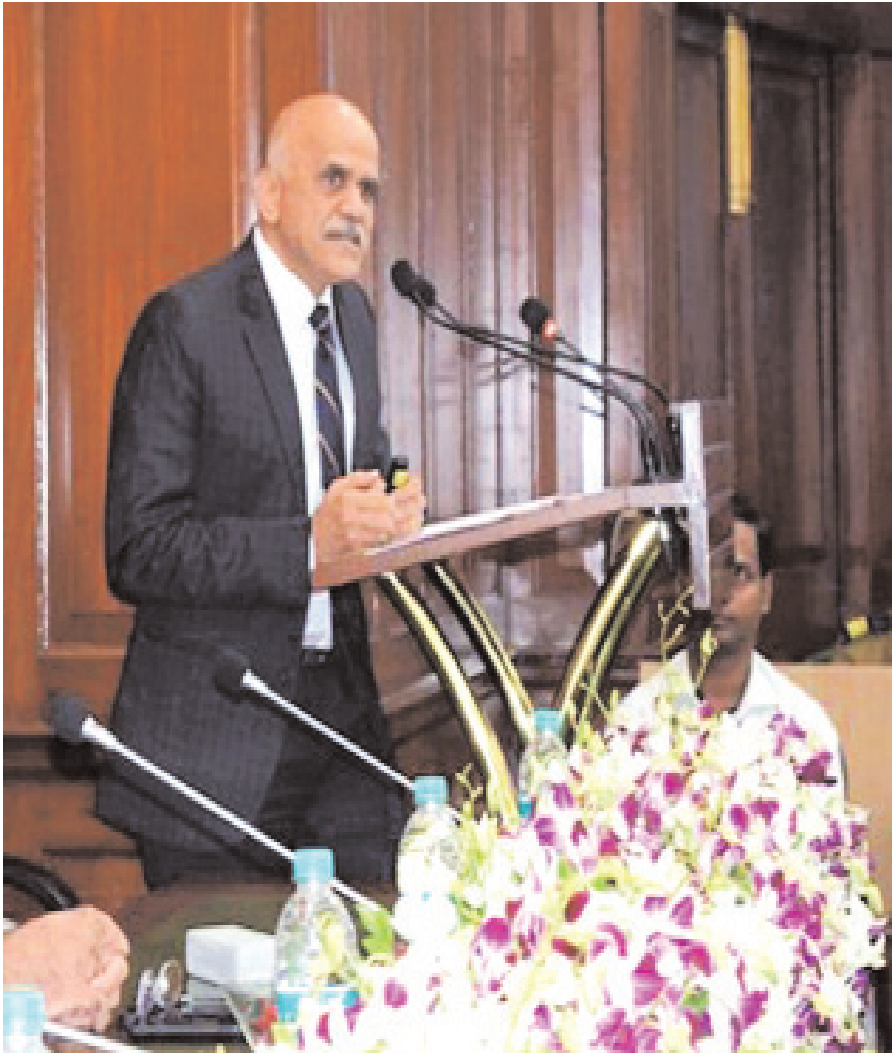
Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad chief Sadanand Vasant Date has been appointed as the Director General of the National Investigation Agency (NIA), according to a Personnel Ministry order. Date is a 1990-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of Maharashtra cadre.

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of Date as the Director General (DG) of the NIA for a tenure up to his superannuation on December 31, 2026, stated the order dated March 26.

He will succeed Dinkar Gupta, who is due to superannuate on March 31.

The ACC also appointed Rajeev Kumar Sharma, a 1990-batch IPS officer of Rajasthan cadre, as the Director General of the Bureau of Police Research & Development. He will have a tenure up to his superannuation on June 30, 2026, the order said. Sharma will succeed Balaji Srivastava, who completes his tenure at March end. Piyush Anand will be the new chief of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF). A 1991-batch IPS officer of Uttar Pradesh cadre, Anand is presently the Special DG of the Central Industrial Security Force



(CISF). He has been appointed as the DG of the NDRF for a period of two years, the order said. Anand will

replace Atul Karwal, retiring on March 31. The ACC also appointed S Suresh, a 1995-batch IPS officer of Kerala

cadre, as the Additional Director General of the Special Protection Group (SPG).

Ex-MP Sanjay Nirupam skins Congress for 'total surrender' to Shiv Sena (UBT); may rebel

Quaid Najmi | Mumbai

Veteran Congress leader and ex-MP Sanjay Nirupam on Wednesday whiplashed his own party leadership, alleging an abject 'surrender' to the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) ally, Shiv Sena (UBT), headed by former Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray. Nirupam (59) launched a broadside at the Congress and SS (UBT) after the latter announced its list of 16 Lok Sabha candidates, including the Mumbai North West seat which he (Nirupam) had coveted. The SS (UBT) has fielded Amol G. Kirtikar -- an accused in the infamous 'khichdi scam' of the BrihanMumbai Municipal Corporation and the son of rival Shiv Sena MP Gajanan Kirtikar -- as its candidate for Mumbai North West, taking the MVA allies Congress and the Nationalist Congress Party (SP) by surprise. "I will not support such a 'khichdi chor' (thief) candidate... He has been unilaterally thrust upon Congress by the SS (UBT). We hope the (Congress) -- which adopts a 'high moral ground' vis-a-vis corruption -- lodges its strong protest with Thackeray for the tainted nominee (Amol Kirtikar)," Nirupam said. Launching a veiled attack at



Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, state Congress chief Nana Patole, and the party's Mumbai head Varsha Gaikwad - without taking names - Nirupam said the party has abandoned its lakhs of activists all over the city, state and the country. "The leadership does not seem to be bothered about its workers... The Congress talks of 'Nyay' (justice) to various sections of society, but injustice is being meted out to its own workers. Enough is enough...no more. Now it will be a decisive move for me," Nirupam said. Turning to the SS (UBT), the former three-term MP said that by announcing Amol Kirtikar's name for Mumbai North West, Thackeray has thrown a challenge at the Congress, which failed to carry out tough negotiations in the seat-charing talks. "The SS (UBT) is not as powerful as perceived... It can-

not win a single seat in Maharashtra without Congress' support. Yet, it has pressurised us and that is highly condemnable. But the Congress did not retaliate though seats were snatched away by SS (UBT). Our leadership even failed to save Mumbai, Sangli, and other seats," said Nirupam.

He alleged that the move by Thackeray indicates 'a hidden agenda' to finish off the Congress in the state and bury it in Mumbai - both places where it held sway for decades in the past.

"We have shown enough patience, but not anymore. I was waiting to be called for Mumbai North West which I was keen to fight. All options are open for me. I will announce my next move in the coming week or so," said Nirupam, signaling a banner of revolt.

Amid the attack by Nirupam, other senior party leaders, including Congress Legislative Party (CLP) leader Balasaheb Thorat, expressed strong disapproval at the SS (UBT) for announcing candidates for Mumbai and Sangli seats where discussions are still going on. "The SS (UBT) must adhere to the principles of coalition sincerely... There's time even now. We hope they will reconsider their

PUBLIC NOTICE

Late. Tukaram Sambhanna Nakman was a member of the Mahatma Phule SRA Co-Operative Housing Society Limited,having, Address Free Press Journal Road, Nariman Point Mumbai. 400021, and holding flat no.325 in the building of the Society, died on date. 04-04-2023 without making nay nomination. The Society hereby invites Claims or objections from the heir or heirs or other claimants / objector or objectors to the transfer of bie said shares and interest of the deceased Member in the capital / property of the society within a period of 15 days from the publication of this notice, with copies of such documents and other proofs in support of her claims / objections for transfer of shares and interest of the deceased Member in the capital / property of the society. If no claims / ojections are received within the period prescribed above, the society shall be free to deal with the shares and interest of the deceased Member in the capital/ property of the society shall be dealt with in the manner provided under the by-laws of the Society. A copy of the registered Bye-laws of the Society / with the secretary of the Society between 7 PM to 8 PM from the date of publication of the notice till date of expiry of its period.

Dated -27-3-2024
For and on behalf of
Mahatma Phule SRA Co-operative
Housing Society Limited.
Hon. Secretary

PUBLIC NOTICE

Late. Nitin Tulshiram Shenalkar was a member of the Mahatma Phule SRA Co-Operative Housing Society Limited,having, Address Free Press Journal Road, Nariman Point Mumbai. 400021, and holding flat no. 304 in the building of the Society, died on date.31-10-2021 without making nay nomination. The Society hereby invites Claims or objections from the heir or heirs or other claimants / objector or objectors to the transfer of bie said shares and interest of the deceased Member in the capital / property of the society within a period of 15 days from the publication of this notice, with copies of such documents and other proofs in support of her claims / objections for transfer of shares and interest of the deceased Member in the capital / property of the society. If no claims / ojections are received within the period prescribed above, the society shall be free to deal with the shares and interest of the deceased Member in the capital/ property of the society shall be dealt with in the manner provided under the by-laws of the Society. A copy of the registered Bye-laws of the Society / with the secretary of the Society between 7 PM to 8 PM from the date of publication of the notice till date of expiry of its period.

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Hon. Secretary



Ananya Panday says she's 'not just friends' with Aditya Roy Kapur

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Ananya Panday, who received a lot of positive response to her work, has said that she and her rumoured beau Aditya Roy Kapur are "not just friends". The actress recently appeared on the 6th season of the popular chat show 'No Filter Neha' hosted by Neha Dhupia, and broke her silence on her equation with the 'Aashiqui 2' actor. In the promo of the show, Ananya and Neha can be seen discussing about Aditya and Ananya goes on to say that she and Aditya are not just friends but very good friends.

Neha Dhupia said: "I clicked a photograph and

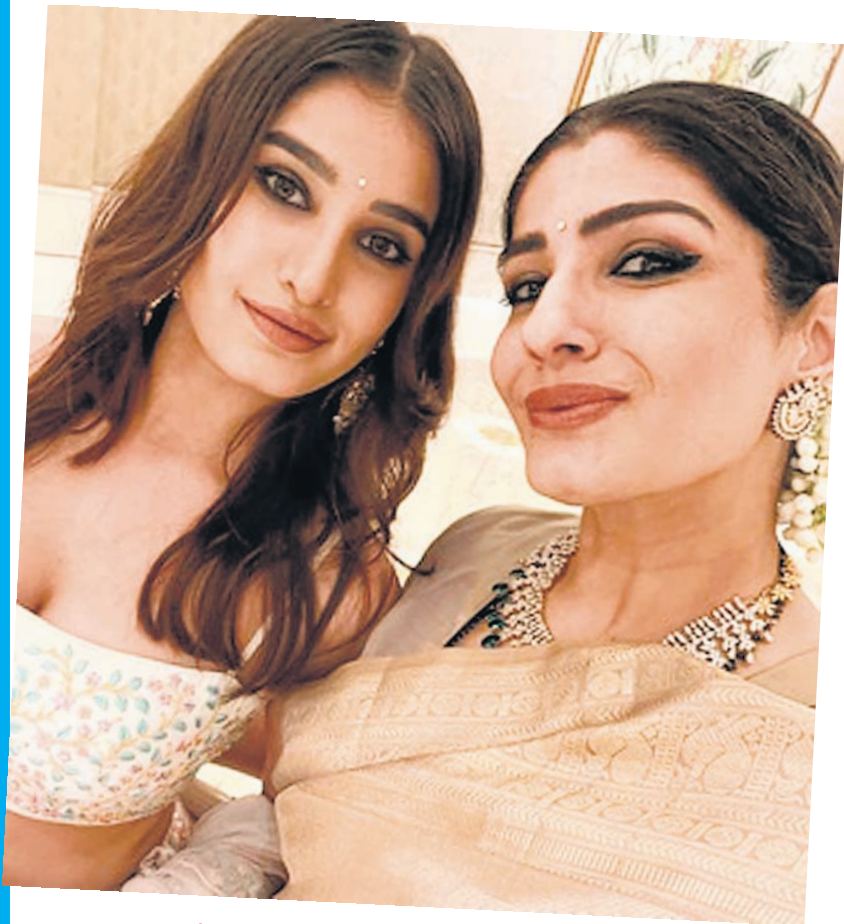
got the hashtag An-Adi. You and Aditya Roy Kapur were just talking, so I am just gonna clarify that you guys are just friends, just talking. I happened to click a photograph at Kriti Sanon's Diwali party and people started zooming into it. Do you wanna talk about that moment?"

Ananya Panday said: "I never said just friends Neha, you said that. Like we are very good friends now, not just friends. I don't think there's much to talk about."



Raveena Tandon

Reveals she is best friends with her children



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Raveena Tandon shared that she is best friends with her children and that it helped her build a relationship with her on-screen son in the show 'Patna Shukla'.

Raveena Tandon who plays the character of Tanvi Shukla, said: "There is an instance in the film where Tanvi's son forgets his lunchbox, she chases the school bus to deliver it midway. I think that is one scene every mother will relate to." "Every house has chaotic mornings but a mother will cut through the chaos and come through for her children and that is something even I have personally done when my children were going to school."

She then went on to share details about the relationship she shares with her daughter Risha and son Ranbir. "I'm best friends with my kids and the same dynamics we've portrayed on screen with Tanvi's son. Bringing that chemistry on screen with Patna Shukla brought back some lovely memories for me with my children. I'm sure the audience will feel the warmth and pure friendship that Tanvi and her son share."

'Patna Shukla' is based on a fearless lawyer who takes matters into her own hands when she sees a student entangled in an education scam, and soon realises that she is pitted against a Chief Minister candidate.



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actors Aditi Rao Hydari and Siddharth Chaturvedi have reportedly tied-the-knot secretly in a temple in Wanaparthy, Telangana. According to reports, the two got married in a quiet ceremony but have not made any official announcement yet.

The two actors reportedly got married on Wednesday morning at the Sri Ranganayakaswamy Temple in Wanaparthy's Srirangapur in

Telangana.

Many regional news portals have carried reports confirming the news.

The actors began dating after working on the 2021 film 'Maha Samudram'. However, the two always kept their relationship away from the public eye.

It was earlier this year, when the 'Wazir' actress took to social media to confirm their relationship.

Aditi made her film debut in 2006 with the Malayalam film

Aditi Rao Hydari, Siddharth get married in Telangana temple: Reports

'Prajapathi', after which she starred in movies such as 'Yeh Saali Zindagi', 'Rockstar', 'Wazir' and 'Padmaavat'. She will next be seen in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's 'Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar'. Aditi was first reported to be married to Satyadeep Mishra. However, she never confirmed her marital status. It was in 2013 she revealed that the two have gone their separate ways. Siddharth made

his acting debut with filmmaker S. Shankar's coming-of-age Tamil film 'Boys' in 2003. He was then seen in films such as 'Aayutha Ezhuthu', 'Nuvvostanante Nenoddantana', 'Rang De Basanti', 'Bommarillu' and 'Chashme Baddoor' to name a few.

The actor was married to his childhood sweetheart named Meghna in 2003. However, by 2006, the couple were living separately. In 2007, they got divorced.

Kartik Aaryan endured 14 months of boxing training

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood star Kartik Aaryan, who will be soon seen in the upcoming sports drama, underwent boxing training for 14 months for his part in the film. The actor plays a Paralympic gold medalist in the film.

To get into the skin of the character, Kartik followed a strict fitness regime in which he shed 20 kgs and completely gave up on sugar as a part of a tailored diet.

The film's canvas is also quite huge as it has been shot across India and the UK. In India, the film has been shot in Wai village of Maharashtra, Kashmir and in the UK it has been shot in London.

This is the first time the actor has stepped into such a physically demanding role, given that it's based on Murlikanth Petkar. 'Chandu Champion' is directed by Kabir Khan, who is known for films like 'Bajrangi Bhaijaan', 'Ek Tha Tiger', 'New York' and '83'. The film also marks Kartik's reunion with producer Sajid Nadiadwala after their last successful collaboration over 'Satyaprem Ki Katha'.



Puneet Issar on theatre: There's no knowledge or art form that can't be shown on stage

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor Puneet Issar, who essays the role of Dadababu in the television show 'Vanshaj', has said that theatre is the ultimate artform for an actor and that there's no knowledge, art, wisdom, or action that theatre cannot successfully reproduce.

On the occasion of World Theatre Day on Wednesday, the actor spoke about his love for theatre and how the medium gives him satisfaction as a thespian.

He said: "I have always loved theatre. It is



my passion and will always remain so. I continue to juggle between my plays, my TV show Vanshaj, and films. I love touring across India with my plays, especially 'Mahabharat'. It gives me a chance to interact with a wide variety of theatre-loving audiences."

"The applause from the audience that echoes the auditorium is very close to any theatre artist and it gives us an adrenaline rush. There is no such knowledge, art, wisdom, or action, which cannot be shown in theatre. Theatre experience allows an actor to grow. It's the best playfield for any actor," he added.

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Rupali Jagga



Team Absolute | Mumbai

'Whenever
I did a play, I came
alive as a performer',
says Richa on World
Theatre Day

On the occasion of World Theatre Day on Wednesday, actress Richa Chadha spoke about how she owes a lot to theatre.

"The reason you feel alive when you perform is because you have some kind of theatre experience. I would really recommend that people treat theatre as an end in itself and not as a stepping stone to films because the journey of theatre is very rewarding," Richa told IANS.

She said that working on a play for months and then bettering it each time is a "really enriching experience."

"I have found that whenever I have done a play I have come alive as a performer and I feel warmed and charged up, and it is after all an actor's medium. So, I owe a lot to theatre and I hope I can give back as well."

On the work front, Richa will be seen in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's debut web-series 'Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar'. It also stars Sonakshi Sinha, Aditi Rao Hydari, Sharmin Segal, and Sanjeeda Sheikh.

The series explores the cultural reality of Heeramandi, a district, through the stories of courtesans and their patrons, set against the tumultuous backdrop of the Indian freedom struggle of the