



CM YADAV-LED MP GOVT WILL RUN WITH FULL SPEED AFTER LS POLLS: PM MODI

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said that the Chief Minister Mohan Yadav-led Madhya Pradesh Government will speed up its development work once the Lok Sabha elections are over.

Addressing a public rally in Morena Lok Sabha constituency in Chambal region of Madhya Pradesh, the Prime Minister said the state witnessed tremendous growth under the BJP government in the last few decades.

He said Madhya Pradesh was a BIMARU state under the Congress regime, and the BJP government made it a progressive one.

"Chief Minister Mohan Yadav's government will run with full speed and Madhya Pradesh will see more growth after the Lok Sabha elections," he said.

Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, who is contesting the election from his family bastion Guna, senior BJP leader Narendra Singh Tomar, who represented Morena Lok Sabha seat twice, CM Mohan Yadav and state BJP chief, VD Sharma were present on stage.

CM Yadav, who replaced veteran BJP leader and former Chief Minister, Shivraj Singh Chouhan,



completed 100 days of his government recently.

PM Modi hit out at the Congress, calling it a "problem."

"People of Madhya Pradesh eliminated the problem twice. The Congress is a problem for the progress of the country," he stated.

Modi continued to sharpen his attack on the Congress on Thursday during an election rally, alleging that the grand old party accepted the country's division on the basis of religion. He made this accusation while addressing a public rally in Madhya Pradesh's Morena on Thursday.

He said that the BJP was trying to cleanse the "sin" that the Congress committed years ago. "Instead of opening the chains of 'Ma Bharati', the Congress cut its arms. The Congress accepted the country's division on the basis of religion," PM Modi said while addressing a large gathering. PM Modi said that the Congress divided the country earlier and is not ready to listen even today.

"The Congress' agenda is to divide the country for power. Once again, it is desperate to return to power," the PM added. The BJP has won the Morena Lok Sabha seat for the last seven terms since 1996.

Former Union Minister and Madhya Pradesh Assembly Speaker, Narendra Singh Tomar represented this constituency twice.

This time the BJP has fielded a new candidate from Morena, Shivmangal Singh Tomar against the Congress' Satyapal Singh Sikarwar, a former BJP MLA.

Preparations for second phase of voting completed in Madhya Pradesh, fate of many veterans at stake

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Voting is going to be held in six parliamentary constituencies on Friday in the second phase of Lok Sabha elections in Madhya Pradesh. In this phase, the fate of 80 candidates including Union Minister Dr. Virendra Kumar and BJP State President Vishnu Dutt Sharma is to be decided. There are a total of 29 Lok Sabha seats in the state, elections for which are being held in four phases. The first phase of voting was held on April 19 and now the second phase of voting is taking place on April 26.

In the second phase in the state, voting will be held from 7 am to 6 pm in Tikamgarh (SC), Damoh, Khajuraho, Satna, Rewa and Hoshangabad. In this phase, two seats are in discussion due to heavyweight candidates. Union Minister Dr.



Virendra Kumar is in the fray from Tikamgarh and BJP State President and current MP Vishnu Dutt Sharma from Khajuraho.

In Damoh, there is a contest between two new faces, Rahul Lodhi of BJP and Tarwar Lodhi of Congress.

Similarly, in Sagar also two new faces are facing each other. While Congress has fielded Guddu Raja, BJP has fielded Lata Vankhade as its candidate.

In Satna, four-time MP Ganesh Singh is contesting against Congress's Siddharth Kushwaha and BSP's Narayan Tripathi. In Rewa, BJP candidate Janardan Mishra is facing Congress's Neelam Mishra.

For the convenience of voters, there will be a public and general holiday on the day of voting on April 26 in six Lok Sabha parliamentary constituencies of the second phase.

Explosion in scrap warehouse of Jabalpur, cracks in houses

Team Absolute | Jabalpur

There was an explosion in a scrap warehouse in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh on Thursday afternoon. Due to this explosion, cracks have appeared in many houses. Some people have also been injured.

According to information received from the police, there was an explosion in a scrap warehouse in Khajuri Khiriyi bypass area of Aadhari Tal police station area on Thursday afternoon. The explosion was so intense that the sound was heard several kilometers away and the nearby houses also cracked. The roof of the warehouse was badly damaged.



Collector Deepak Saxena told reporters that there was an explosion in the scrap warehouse and details of how many people were injured in the incident are being gathered. Local people

have said that after hearing the sound of the explosion, they felt as if an earthquake had occurred. Bomb casings have also been found on the spot and there is a possibility of gunpowder etc.

THERE IS PANIC IN BJP, THEY DO TEMPLES AND MOSQUES: SACHIN PILOT

Team Absolute | Ujjain

Former Deputy CM of Rajasthan Sachin Pilot said in Ujjain, "There is an atmosphere of change in the country. People are tired of the same promises and assurances. Frustration and anger are visible in the speeches of BJP leaders after the first phase of elections. BJP leaders are very fond of playing with the word 'M-M'. They talk about Muslims and Hindus, about temples and mosques, about Mangalsutra.

Pilot was addressing the election rally on Thursday in support of Mahesh Parmar, the candidate from Ujjain-Alot Lok Sabha seat. He said, '272 MPs are required to form the government. Why does BJP need 400 MPs? Somewhere in their mind, this is what their leaders themselves say and today the top leaders of BJP are forced to refute on an open platform that we will not tamper with the Constitution, we will not tamper with reservation. Why do you even have to



refute it? Rajiv Gandhi's MPs had crossed 400 in 1984, sometimes he said that he would end the opposition.

State President of Madhya Pradesh Congress Jitu Patwari said, 'The scene is telling that times are about to

change. It has been 10 years since the promises made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, what happened in these 10 years? 17 governments were toppled, 500 MLAs were bought, 200 MPs defected. The black money was to come from Swiss Bank, Rs. 15 lakhs

each were to be received from this bank, its list did not come, but SBI's list came.

He said, 'Baba Ramdev had said that he would make petrol Rs 30/litre, but I made it Rs 100/litre. Sisters are being stripped of their clothes in Manipur, PM Modi has made such a country.' Questioning Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav, he said why Mahakal does not investigate the corruption in the public.

Former Union Minister Arun Yadav said, 'Congress is going to become an MP in this Lok Sabha. I say with certainty that we are going to form a grand alliance government. This is a government of commission agents. He did not even spare Baba Mahakal. BJP MP from Rewa takes 30% commission. Rewa MP has earned commission of Rs 29 crore in 10 years. There is a fixed rate for every work.

Rajya Sabha MP Vivek Tankha said, 'If we get 5 seats in Madhya Pradesh, it means that the opposition government is being formed at the Centre.'

Advanced machine for cervical cancer detection inaugurated in AIIMS Bhopal

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Liquid Based Cytology (LBC) PAP test service for the detection of cervical cancer was launched by the Department of Pathology and Lab Medicine of AIIMS Bhopal on 25.04.2024. Inaugurating this facility, Professor (Dr.) Ajai Singh, Executive Director, AIIMS Bhopal, said that the opening of this facility will greatly help in screening cervical cancer among women in Central India and it can be detected in the early stages. Today, cervical cancer has emerged as one of the biggest problems in the country. Cervical cancer detection through LBC technique takes less time. Besides, its accuracy is also very high. Women in the age group of 25 to 65 will get special benefits from this facility.

AIIMS Bhopal is the first government institute in the entire Madhya Pradesh where such a facility will be available. Dr. Vaishali Walke, Head of the Department of Pathology and Lab Medicine, said that with the introduction of the facility of this



machine, cases of cervical cancer will now be identified early and their prompt treatment will be

ensured. Till now cervical cancer is diagnosed through traditional PAP test.

Congress manifesto is the voice of the people: Kamal Nath

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Former Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Kamal Nath has described the Congress manifesto as the voice of the people.

Kamal Nath wrote on social media platform And felt."

Kamal Nath says, "Congress's five justice is an innovative effort to give strength and power to youth, women, farmers, workers and every weaker section through participatory justice. Come with Congress and strengthen the campaign of providing justice to all. Do it. We are among you with many public welfare schemes like employment to youth, loan waiver to farmers, MSP to women, remuneration of Rs 400 per day to workers, caste census etc."



Congress Leader sits in drain water, takes a dip in polluted river

Team Absolute | Ujjain

In a bold act of protest against the pollution of the Shipra River, Congress' Ujjain Lok Sabha seat candidate Mahesh Parmar on Tuesday took a dip in the river and sat in the overflowing drain water entering the river.

Mahesh Parmar expressed his determination to clean up the river and restore its purity. "Today, after taking a dip in the Shipra River, I took a vow that until the Shipra River is purified and the discharge of sewage into it is stopped, I will fight for Shipra Maa till my last breath. I request the people of Ujjain that this is a matter of honour and pride for Ujjain. Please come to the streets and fight for this cause," Mahesh Parmar said.

Despite claims of development and a "double-engine government" by the ruling party, the condition of the river has deteriorated, Mahesh Parmar emphasized.

"The people who claim that there is a double-engine government in Madhya Pradesh and the country for the past 10 years, such as Members of Parliament, MLAs, ministers, and other public representatives, and this is the condition of the Shipra River. Despite those who talk about



development, and our Chief Minister spending crores, this is the current state," Mahesh Parmar said.

Parmar will be facing Anil Firojija of the BJP who is the sitting MP from Ujjain. Ujjain goes to the polls in Phase 4 on May 13. Polling for the Lok Sabha in Madhya Pradesh will be conducted in four phases, with the next three phases of voting scheduled for April 26, May 7 and May 13. The counting of votes has been scheduled for June 4. Madhya Pradesh has a total of 29 Lok Sabha constituencies, making it the sixth-largest state in terms of members it sends to the Lower House. Of these, 10 seats are reserved for SC and ST candidates, while the remaining 19 are unreserved.

Migration from Bundelkhand will now stop: Vishnu Dutt Sharma

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh's Khajuraho MP and BJP state president Vishnu Dutt Sharma says that in his first term, the foundation stone for the prosperity of Bundelkhand has been laid and in the next term, the stigma of drought, poverty, unemployment and migration on the face of this region will be completely eradicated. It will disappear and this area will shine like a sun tilak.

BJP state president Sharma is completing his first term as MP and voting is taking place in the second phase of Lok Sabha elections on Friday, April 26.

In a special conversation with correspondent, he said, "In the last five years, efforts have been made to change the picture of Bundelkhand. A network of roads has been laid, health services are improving and work is going on on an action plan to give a new shape to tourism. Ken Betwa Link Project will bring revolutionary changes in the area which is facing water problem. When there is water, irrigation for the fields will become easier due to the availability of water. It will also gain momentum."

He said, medical colleges are being



established in every district here which will make it easier for people to get health facilities. Referring to the prosperity of Bundelkhand, Sharma said that this is the area where there are diamonds in the land and there is a possibility of getting everything from LPG gas to petroleum. Not only is there a diamond in the land, the common man here is also no less than a

diamond, who goes to different parts of the country and sheds his sweat and is contributing like a diamond in the development of the country.

Referring to the changing picture of Bundelkhand under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Sharma said that an international level airport has been built here, rail facility like Vande Bharat has been

provided, the work of Ken Betwa Link Project is going on at a fast pace, in every district. Medical colleges are being started and Ayurveda Medical College is going to be established in Khajuraho. State Chief Minister Mohan Yadav is engaged in a campaign to bring inclusive development on the ground.

On the question of Congress's continuous attacks on Bharatiya Janata Party and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Sharma said that whether Congress or opposition parties, they are completely surrounded by dynastic politics and are unable to counter the current Modi wave. Are not capable. Their situation is exactly like that at the time of flood, when the water is in spate, all the poisonous creatures from snakes to scorpions gather on a tree to save their lives. Exactly such is the Indi alliance of opposition parties, who have come together to save lives and will start fighting later. Despite this, they are going to get swept away in the Modi wave.

There are a total of 29 Lok Sabha seats in the state. In the last elections, BJP had won 28 seats while Congress could win only one Chhindwara. BJP claims that the party will win all 29 seats in this election.



LS second phase polls in Raj

Two Union ministers, Lok Sabha Speaker, ex-CM Gehlot's son in fray

EDITOR'S SPECS

Traffic cops report 15 pc drop in 'over-speeding' violations

Delhi Traffic Police claimed a notable decrease in over-speeding violations, with a reduction of approximately 15 per cent in prosecutions issued for such offences compared to the same period last year until April 15. Data shared by the Delhi Traffic Police revealed that up to April 15, a total of 816,372 notices were issued for over-speeding violations, marking a significant drop from the 952,367 notices issued during the corresponding period in 2023. A senior traffic police official said that through meticulous planning and implementation, they have significantly curbed over-speeding incidents on the city's roads and the systematic deployment of OSVD cameras has played a pivotal role in monitoring and regulating vehicular speed, thereby fostering safer road conditions for all commuters. "Enhanced deterrence measures have been instrumental in dissuading motorists from violating speed limits. The visible presence of Over Speed Violation Detection (OSVD) cameras serves as a deterrent, instilling a sense of responsibility among drivers and promoting adherence to traffic regulations," said the official. The official said that furthermore, OSVD cameras accurately capture instances of over-speeding, allowing for swift and precise enforcement actions against violators. "In addition to enforcement efforts, the Delhi Traffic Police has actively engaged in public awareness campaigns to educate citizens about the importance of adhering to speed limits for road safety. These campaigns have helped in fostering a culture of compliance and responsible driving behaviour among the general public," the official added.

Four Lok Sabha constituencies have become high profile seats in the second phase of elections scheduled on Friday as two union ministers, a Lok Sabha Speaker and former Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot's son are in the fray. The two union ministers trying their fate at the hustings are Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and Kailash Choudhary, while Vaibhav Gehlot and Om Birla are also in the fray.

While Gajendra Singh Shekhawat is contesting from Jodhpur, Kailash Choudhary is contesting from Barmer, Om Birla from Kota and Vaibhav Gehlot from Jalore Sirohi.

In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat defeated Vaibhav Gehlot by over 2.74 lakh votes.

Vaibhav was fielded by the Congress from Jodhpur then, however, this time he is a candidate from the Jalore-Sirohi seat.

The BJP has fielded Lumbaram Choudhary from this seat. It had won by 2.61 lakh votes last time but it has cancelled the ticket of Devji Patel, who had won three-consecutive elections from Jalore Sirohi.

Kailash Choudhary is in a triangular fight for the Barmer Jaisalmer seat. There is a direct challenge coming in from Independent candidate Ravindra Singh Bhati. He won Assembly elections from the Sheo seat as an Independent after being denied a ticket by the BJP.

Further, the Congress has fielded Umeda Ram Beniwal from Barmer. Beniwal joined the Congress after resigning from the RLP. In the Assembly elections, he contested from Barmer and was defeated by Congress veteran Harish Choudhary by a margin of mere 900 votes.

The Congress is banking on Beniwal due to his huge following in the Jat community.

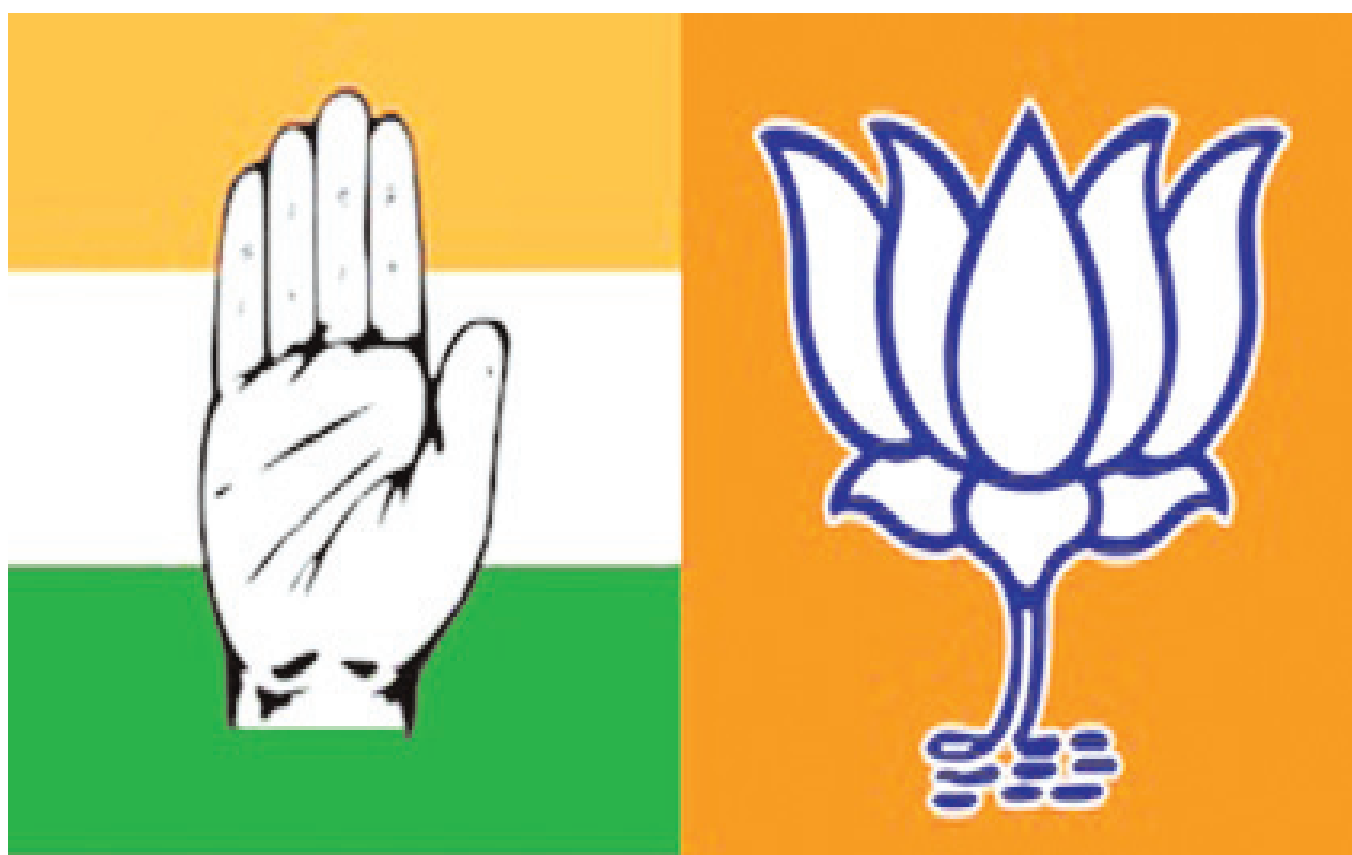
So, given the triangular contest, everybody is sweating it hard in order to win.

Jodhpur is witnessing yet another tight contest as the Congress this time has fielded Karan Singh Uchiyada who also comes from the Rajput community like Shekhawat.

So it's Rajput Vs Rajput on this seat due to which the community's votes will split and Jats and Vishnois will be the deciding factor here.

Shekhawat got a strong chunk of Rajput votes which was over four lakh in the last election, however, this vote bank will now be divided, said political sources.

In the second phase, Om Birla is facing a tough fight from Prahlad Gunjal from Kota. Birla had won last time by 2.79 lakh votes, however this



time, the Congress has fielded ex-BJP leader Gunjal against him.

Gunjal has been a loyalist of Vasundhara Raje and the former CM and Birla's relations are not very strong.

So now all eyes are focussed on whether Raje will help her loyalist Gunjal.

Further the Congress' former minister Shanti Dhariwal and Gunjal were political rivals who faced each other in recent Assembly polls too. Gunjal was defeated by a thin margin of over 2,500 votes by Dhariwal.

Dhariwal and Birla share a good bonding and Kota calls them the 'Om Shanti' pair. So now people are waiting to see if Dhariwal will help Birla or the Congress' candidate Gunjal.

In Jalore Sirohi the BJP has fielded a grassroots worker Lumbaram Choudhary against Vaibhav Gehlot.

BJP workers say Lumbaram Choudhary

knows the demographics of this region well and has been campaigning on his two-wheeler which, they say, is his plus point.

Calling Vaibhav Gehlot a prince, BJP workers say he doesn't have a reach in the interiors because four wheelers can't go there and he can't walk long distances in the hills.

Meanwhile, Ashok Gehlot, his wife and daughter-in-law are camping in Jalore Sirohi and campaigning for Vaibhav.

Although there is a tough contest on these four seats, both the Congress and BJP are making claims of winning.

Congress General Secretary Swarnim Chaturvedi said that Barmer, Jodhpur, Kota and Jalore Sirohi seats are coming to the party's kitty.

"There is a tough fight but we are confident of winning these seats. The BJP is scared and so it sent PM Modi to Barmer and

Jalore Sirohi and Amit Shah to Kota. Recently Kangana was called to Jodhpur as BJP sensed danger here too," he added.

Meanwhile Narayan Panchariya, BJP state Vice President said, "We are talking of development in all our programmes because the country will be a 'Developed India' by 2047. Voters trust our vision and mission. Hence PM Modi is spreading the message of 'Viksit Bharat 2047' among the people."

"On the contrary, the Congress has been speaking badly of Kangana who will represent woman power in Parliament after winning from Mandi. So people are watching everything. Wait for June 4 when we will emerge as the winners," he added.

international

Russia warns NATO nuclear facilities in Poland, says, 'could become military target'

Moscow | Agencies Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov on Thursday warned that NATO nuclear facilities, if permanently located on the Polish territory, will become a military target for Russia. "The expansion of the practice of joint NATO nuclear missions - regardless of who becomes that country or those countries that can join those already participating in this practice - is of a purely destabilising nature. And in fact, threatening," Ryabkov said, Xinhua news agency reported.



In an interview with Russia's TASS news agency, he said that the approach of joint nuclear missions by NATO countries near Russian borders exacerbates security threats.

"I'm not even talking about permanent deployment, which is also being hotly discussed by hotheads in Warsaw. Therefore, all those politicians

who are now enthusiastically discussing such a scheme in Poland and beyond, for their own reasons, must understand: shifts in this direction

will not add to Poland's security, but the corresponding facilities will certainly become a target. They will be at the forefront of our military planning," he stressed. Ryabkov referred to the ongoing discussion about deploying NATO nuclear facilities in Poland as an "evolving story."

Moscow closely monitors how Warsaw addresses this topic, he said.

Polish President Andrzej Duda, in an interview with the Fakt newspaper on Monday, stated that the Polish authorities have repeatedly discussed with the US the possibility of deploying nuclear weapons in Poland within the framework of NATO's nuclear sharing arrangements and expressed readiness for it if necessary.

US delivered new long-range missiles to Ukraine: Pentagon

Washington | Agencies The US shipped a new long-range missile system to Ukraine after the delivery received a secret sign-off, the Pentagon has said. The precision weapons were part of an emergency military package for Ukraine announced by the US in March, but were not explicitly listed "in order to maintain operational security for Ukraine at their request".



last week and this week on the occupied city of Berdyansk in south-east Ukraine.

According to reports, further ATACMS missiles are also to be included in the military package announced by US President Joe Biden on Wednesday following approval by Congress.

The Pentagon did not explicitly state on Wednesday if the ATACMS missiles supplied were models with a range of around 300 kilometres or those with a shorter range.

Last October, Ukraine deployed ATACMS missiles that came from the US. At the time, these were models with a shorter range of around 165 kilometres. The Ukrainian government has been pleading for missiles that can strike targets much farther away.

President Joe Biden had instructed his team to make the delivery after Russia procured ballistic missiles from North Korea and used them against Ukraine, the Pentagon said on Wednesday.

The Army Tactical Missile Systems - known as ATACMS - will help Ukraine to deny Russia a safe haven anywhere in the occupied Ukrainian territories, the depart-

ment said.

Several US media outlets, citing US government officials, reported that the missiles arrived last week and have already been used.

NBC News said Ukraine launched an attack on the occupied Crimean Peninsula

Five killed in road accident in Afghanistan

Kabul | Agencies Five commuters lost their lives and another was injured in a road accident in Surubi district along Afghanistan's Kabul-Jalalabad highway. The accident occurred on Wednesday night, Xinhua news agency reported.

The accident happened along the highway linking the capital of Kabul to eastern provinces, when a passenger vehicle veered off the road and bumped into the mountain, leaving five dead and another injured, Kabul police spokesman Khalid Zadrant posted on his X account.

The injured are now receiving treatment in a local hospital. Fatal road accidents are common in Afghanistan due to poor road conditions, reckless driving, difficult terrains, overloading, overtaking and overspeeding.

North Korea touts ties with Russia on Kim-Putin summit anniversary

Seoul | Agencies North Korea on Thursday reaffirmed its commitment to further strengthening ties with Russia on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the first-ever summit between North Korean leader Kim Jong-un and Russian President Vladimir Putin. Kim and Putin held their first summit in the far eastern Russian city of Vladivostok on April 25, 2019, and also met at Russia's Vostochny spaceport in September last year. Yonhap news agency reported. "It is the consistent stand of the DPRK government to attach utmost importance to the DPRK-Russia relations and invariably develop the tradition of deep-rooted friendship," North Korean Vice Foreign Minister Im Chon-il said in an English-language statement uploaded on the ministry's website. DPRK stands for the North's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The official said the two nations have strengthened their cooperation and extended full support to each other on the "com-



mon front to smash the military threats and provocations, and high-handed and arbitrary practices of the imperialists."

"The DPRK-Russia relations rooted in comradeship and militant unity will steadily develop into invincible comradely relations and eternal strategic relations," Im said.

Im also reiterated the North's support for Russia in its war with Ukraine and pledged to stand aside the Russian military. Ties between Pyongyang and Moscow have significantly deepened following last year's summit, spawning speculation over their arms deal for Russia's use in the war.

Fears grow over medical professors' mass resignations in South Korea

Seoul | Agencies Resignations by medical professors in South Korea in protest against the government's medical school quota hike plan were supposed to take effect from Thursday, sparking concerns over its impact on the medical system already reeling from the monthslong walkout by trainee doctors.



feared to be taking a turn for the worse, as there have been no signs of medical staff backing down amid their standoff with the government.

"We've sought legal consultations about whether resignations come into force though they have not even been opened. Medical professors of the university are supposed to walk off their job starting around May 1," an official of the school emergency committee said.

Medical professors have been struggling to fill the void of junior doctors and major hospitals have already reduced surgeries and treatments for patients markedly.

Professors are also reviewing taking a day off every week, saying that they are experiencing "excessive" workload, fatigue, and burnout, and they are "frustrated with the government's unilateral and unreasonable push" for medical reform plans.

Patients' groups appealed for professors' restraint to maintain essential emergency care services and treatments for serious cases.

Officials said most professors, who work as senior doctors at major hospitals, appeared to have continued to serve on the first day of resignations coming into force and no issues had been reported at hospitals regarding the resignation submission, Yonhap news agency reported.

Since March 25, medical professors nationwide have submitted their resignations, which would begin to take legal effect after the lapse of one month.

The professors have taken the step in support of junior doctors who have left their workites since February 20 in protest of the government's plan to boost the number of medical students by 2,000 start-

ing next year. "Each professor designated their own resignation date given their work schedules and other things," an official of the emergency committee of Seoul National University's medical school said.

The government has said that no resignations have been accepted so far and "not many" professors have submitted resignations.

Around 7 per cent of the country's total medical profes-

sors, or around 800, have tendered their resignations, and a mere 80 cases have been received by universities, according to some officials. Some have raised questions about resignations taking effect simply because one month has passed even though some of them failed to meet due procedures and formal requirements, while others say they can be valid even without approval from their employers. The situation, however, is



Nicola Coughlan warned about not getting work for supporting Palestine

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Nicola Coughlan, who is known for her role of Penelope Featherington in the hit streaming show 'Bridgerton', has revealed she faced repercussions for her vocal support to Palestine during the Israel-Hamas conflict. The actress shared that she was told her support for Palestine could affect the acting roles she's offered, reports 'Mirror.co.uk'.

The Irish actress has been vocal about her support for Palestine amid the Israel-Hamas war on social media. She explained her support and willingness to be vocal - especially about the children of Palestine - comes from a "moral responsibility to give back" because of her privileged position. Nicola noted her desire to be proactive in support of causes she believes strongly in began before she landed her breakout role in Derry Girls.

As per 'Mirror.co.uk', she recalled getting involved in several causes, including campaigning for marriage equality in Ireland and marching for abortion rights. "I've always cared about causes and social justice," she told Teen Vogue. "To me, it always becomes about supporting all innocent people, which sounds oversimplified, but I think you've got to look at situations and just think, 'Are we supporting innocent people no matter where they're from, who they are?' That's my drive". Nicola admitted she's been told that certain agents and studios may not want to work with her due to her vocal support for Palestine amid the ongoing conflict. Despite the warning, she continues to wear her Artists4Ceasefire pin. At the 2024 Oscars, Rami Youssef, Billie Eilish, Finneas O'Connell and Ava DuVernay were among the celebrities also seen wearing the pin. She said, "You do get told, 'You won't get work, you won't do this.'"

Billie Eilish reveals her dramatic 2021 blonde hair transformation caused an identity crisis

Los Angeles | Agencies

Grammy Award-winner Billie Eilish revealed that her dramatic blonde hair transformation sparked an identity crisis, leaving her feeling like she had "no idea" who she was. In an interview with Rolling Stone, she said: "And then I dyed my hair blonde, and I immediately was like, 'Oh, I have no idea who I am'." The glamorous look aligned with the softer feel of her sophomore album, 'Happier Than Ever', but ultimately, it felt like too much of a departure from Eilish's true self, reports people.com. "In a weird way, that was a little like being in a tornado cellar, reading a cute little story," Eilish's brother and collaborator, Finneas O'Connell, said in the profile. "It was a coping mechanism for an album." Eilish showcased her new icy blonde hair in a March 2021 Instagram video. She made her Met Gala debut six months later in a peach tulle Oscar de la Renta corset ball gown, with her blonde hair styled into a glamorous bob.



Kaley Cuoco jokes she is 'mom of the year' after planning daughter's b'day

Los Angeles | Agencies

Kaley Cuoco, who is best known for playing Penny in the sitcom 'Big Bang Theory', has called herself 'mom of the year'. The 38-year-old actress gave the title to herself after she planned her daughter's first birthday party all by herself. Cuoco welcomed baby Matilda into the world last year with Tom Pelphrey and admitted that when it came to marking the little one's first birthday, she took it upon herself to become "mom of the year" by throwing a Disney-themed party, reports 'Female First UK'. The actress told Access Hollywood, "I planned a Minnie Mouse-themed birthday party. I did it all by myself, I was mom of the year. All by myself, swear to God, on my own! It is shocking because I'm not great at stuff like that but, no, I did it." According to 'Female First UK', the former 'Big Bang Theory' star also joked that she is "very proud" to have made it to a year and said that everything should now be plain sailing until her little girl reaches adulthood. She said: "I'm very proud of making it to a year, I feel like it's going to be so easy now. The next 17 years are going to be nothing." The actress had previously shared that Tom and she end up getting emotional at every small milestone with their daughter. She told 'People': "Tom and I were sitting with Matilda the other day, and she was literally staring at us, and she touched both of our faces, and just gave us this innocent, just really joyful, 'Hi' smile. I mean, I could cry right now. We both looked at each other and we started tearing up. He goes, 'Is this our life now, where we just cry at everything she does?'" Cuoco has four dogs named Ruby, Opal, King and Blue, and she joked that little Matilda had been "thrown to the wolves" upon her birth and thought she



might have to "send her back," had the tot not gelled with her canine companions. She said, "Oh my God, she got thrown to the wolves literally. After she was born, I'm like, 'If this child doesn't like dogs, I might have to send her back. There's no choice. This is your life. This is it. They have jumped on her. They have crawled across her. We have let them lick her, kiss her. Our paediatrician was like, 'It's okay.' So they love her so much."

Courtney Cox opens up on why she wishes she'd been a "firmer parent" to her daughter

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Courtney Cox, who shares a daughter, Coco, with her former husband David Arquette, reflected on her upbringing, acknowledging instances where she hesitated to intervene in certain situations despite sensing that something wasn't right at the time. Cox opened up on the 'Minnie's Questions' podcast, expressing, "I didn't want to step in even though I knew something wasn't right because she would get so mad at me. I did understand, and I should've trusted myself, and I should've stepped in." "I'm not saying I made her who she is, but you do see things in other people, whether it's just always taking care of people and being the nicest person. And I mean, that's one of the things with age, I've learned to say no, I've learned to have boundaries," she added. Reflecting on her parenting journey, Cox admitted, "But I mean, earlier on when she was a kid, or not even that many years ago, I wish I'd been a firmer parent." Currently, in a relationship with Snow Patrol rocker Johnny McDaid, Cox shared a surprising anecdote about their past. She revealed that there was a moment when he split up with her just one minute into a counselling session. Describing the experience as intense, she added: "We broke up in therapy. I didn't know it was coming. He broke up with me within the first minute, I was like, 'What?' I was in so much pain. I also don't like surprises. There was that much that needed to be dealt with that he had to protect himself around his heart." The 'Scream' actress further disclosed that when they eventually reconciled, she had gained valuable insights about her own relationship with the world.



DREW BARRYMORE SPENT THE 'MOST CHASTE' EVENING OF HER LIFE WITH JORDAN KNIGHT

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Drew Barrymore recalled spending the "most chaste" evening of her life with New Kids on the Block member Jordan Knight at the peak of his fame. The actress reminisced about what she anticipated to be "every girl's fantasy" as she found herself in the hotel room of the New Kids on the Block singer during his pop heyday. However, the pair simply played music until the early hours of the morning before Barrymore headed home. Speaking on her self-titled talk show to Knight's bandmate Donnie Wahlberg and his 'Blue Bloods' co-star Bridget Moynahan, Barrymore shared, "I thought about a night that I remember walking through a sea of girls at a hotel on the Sunset Strip." She added: "And it was in the late eighties, early nineties, and I got to go into Jordan Knight's hotel room, and it was like, literally, I was getting to live out every girl's fantasy. All we did was he played the keyboard, and at about three in the morning, I left and went home." "It was the loveliest, most chaste evening of my life. You didn't think that was where it was going. I know that wasn't where I wanted it to go, I think, at the time."



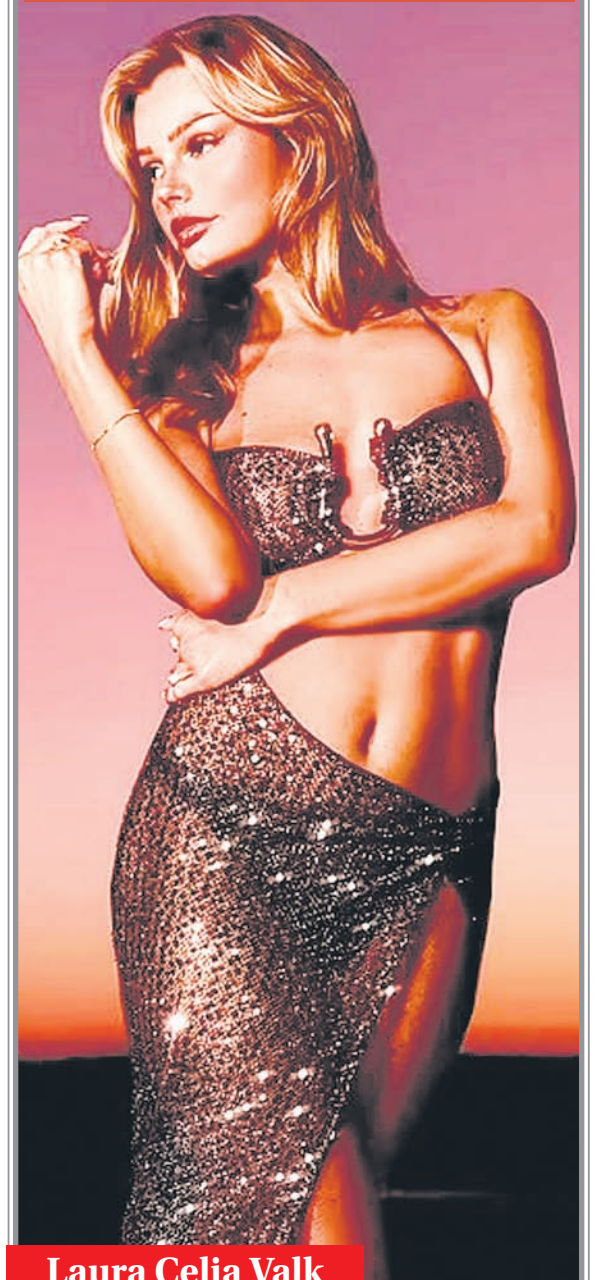
NICOLA COUGHLAN, LUKE NEWTON LOUNGED TOGETHER IN THE BUFF WHILE FILMING 'BRIDGERTON'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actors Nicola Coughlan and Luke Newton's friendship made shooting intimate scenes in the upcoming season of the period drama series 'Bridgerton' feel a lot less daunting. The actress, known for her role as Penelope Featherington on the show, disclosed this during an interview with Teen Vogue. Discussing the comfort level while shooting intimate scenes with Newton, the Irish actress shared: "Yeah, so it's really funny," she said when asked about the rumours. She said: "That is true." "It is a testament to the fact that we just got to a point where we were so comfortable together," she added. "We'd just finished the big sex scene, the most intense and involved one... and we just felt relieved." Coughlan noted that logistics also played a role, given that they weren't wearing "real clothes". She said they would have exposed themselves to the crew if they stood up. Regarding Newton's perspective, he said that having a solid platonic relationship with the actress made the experience "easier". "Having shot (romance) scenes with Nicola and with actors that I would perhaps meet on the same day, I think a lot of people think it's better not to know the person," he added. "But I actually think having a really solid friendship with someone and trusting someone is a lot easier," the actor continued. "We could support each other in whatever way we needed on set, and also just have a laugh about it. I'm really glad we got to share it together. It was like having a really close friend as you're going through something that's maybe quite daunting."



ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Laura Celia Valk



'Abhaar aur mera param saubhagya'



Big B on being honoured with Mangeshkar Award

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Megastar Amitabh Bachchan, who was feted with the Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Award for his remarkable contributions to the field of cinema, has expressed his gratitude for the honour.

Amitabh took to X (formerly called Twitter) and shared a picture of himself receiving the award from Usha Mangeshkar, sister of the late legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar.

"Aabhaar aur mera param saubhagya," he wrote in the caption. Actor Randeep Hooda, actress Padmini Kolhapure, and music composer A.R. Rahman were also seen

sharing the stage with Amitabh, who received the honour on the memorial day of Deenanath Mangeshkar, the theatre-music veteran and father of the Mangeshkar siblings.

Rahman was also feted with the Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Award for his contributions to the field of music, along with Randeep, Ashok Saraf, and playback singer Roopkumar Rathod.

'If it doesn't challenge you, it won't change you': Anupam Kher

Mumbai: Veteran Bollywood star Anupam Kher, at the age of 69, has redefined fitness goals with his latest workout video, where he is seen lifting weights for a back workout.

Anupam took to Instagram and shared a video. In the clip, he is seen using a lat pulldown machine, which helps strengthen the back and improve posture.

"If it doesn't challenge you, it won't change you," Anupam captioned the clip, which had the Shiva Tandav Stotram by singer Shankar Mahadevan playing in the background.

In the clip, the 69-year-old actor's back is towards the camera, and he is seen shirtless as he works out on the machine.

On the work front, Anupam is all set to return as a director after over two decades with 'Tanvi The Great'.

The film also features Oscar-winning music director M.M. Keeravani, Japanese DOP Keiko Nakahara, and National Award-winning choreographer Kruti Mahesh, who has choreographed numbers such as 'Ghoomar', 'Dholida', and 'Garmi'.

Anupam, who made his directorial debut with the 2002 film 'Om Jai Jagadish' starring Anil Kapoor, Fardeen Khan, and Abhishek Bachchan, announced 'Tanvi The Great' on his 69th birthday in March.



'TO DREAMING BIGGER, TAKING ON TOUGHER BATTLES': PRITHVIRAJ

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Malayalam superstar Prithviraj Sukumaran, celebrated his 13th wedding anniversary on Thursday. The superstar took to his Instagram and shared a picture with his wife, Supriya Menon. In the photo, both of them can be seen wearing sunglasses and embracing each other while enjoying a boat ride. In the caption, the actor penned a note, saying, "Happy anniversary partner! From being friends to the parents of an incredible little girl, this has been one hell of a ride! To dreaming bigger and taking on tougher battles, can't wait to see where this journey takes us in the years to come." Supriya also shared a sweet post for her husband on social media. She wrote: "13 years with you! Wow! From being kids when we met to now being parents of a wonderful little girl! How far we have walked together on this road that's been rocky many times! And yet here we are! Happy 13th anniversary @therealprithvi. To many more years together where we push each other to achieve our dreams and live our best lives."

Animal breeding industry is cruel : Jacqueliene

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Jacqueliene Fernandez, an avid animal lover, has stepped forward in support of them, urging everyone to adopt instead of shop.

Jacqueliene took to Instagram and shared a video on her story section. The clip showcased distressing conditions in which dogs, including two Pomeranians, one husky, and one poodle, were kept by a breeder before being rescued. The actress, who herself is a cat mom, captioned the clip: "Another reason to adopt and not shop. The animal breeding industry is cruel and often illegal."

On the work front, Jacqueliene, who was last seen on screen in Rohit Shetty's 'Cirkus', will next be seen in 'Fateh', starring Sonu Sood.

The film, also starring Vijay Raaz, revolves around a former gangster hired to guard a young woman.

The actress will also feature in 'Welcome to the Jungle', the third instalment of the 'Welcome franchise', reportedly set for



release in Christmas 2024. The first instalment of the 'Welcome' series was released in 2007, starring Akshay Kumar, Katrina Kaif, Anil Kapoor, Nana Patekar, and Paresh Rawal in lead roles.

WOMEN HAVE BORNE THE BRUNT OF GENDER BIAS FOR A VERY LONG TIME : PRIYANKA

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Priyanka Chopra Jonas, has said that women have borne the brunt of gender bias for a very long time.

The actress shared that her documentary is a call for solidarity and action to help women rise above the odds. 'Women of My Billion' (WOMB), directed by Ajitesh Sharma, is a stark and touching chronicle of the fight against all forms of violence faced by women in India. It follows the journey of Srishiti Bakshi as she embarks on a walking pilgrimage from Kanyakumari to Kashmir, spanning 3,800 km over 240 days, with a mission to find and share stories about women, their struggles, dreams, and rights.

Discussing the documentary, Priyanka said in a statement: "Women have borne the brunt of gender bias for far too long, enduring a silent struggle against entrenched social injustices that seek to suppress their voices. With 'WOMB', the aim is to transcend these struggles - to be a beacon of hope." "WOMB" is not merely a depiction of pain and suffering but a rallying cry and call for solidarity and action. We hope this film takes us a step closer to a world where every woman is appreciated, honoured, and empowered to soar," she added.



Pratika Sood

Lara Dutta: OTT has led to a greater representation of 'real' characters

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Lara Dutta made her streaming debut in 2020 with the action-comedy series 'Hundred'. Four years later, the actress has another show, 'Ranneeti: Balakot & Beyond', streaming on OTT.

Having spent close to half a decade in the streaming medium, the actress shared insights regarding OTT.

The actress said that the streaming medium today is growing tremendously, with many platforms coming into the picture. With numerous platforms available, there are greater avenues to explore different characters. Lara emphasised that OTT inspires a greater representation of characters, particularly bringing "real" characters to the forefront. Elaborating on this, the actress told: "The wonderful thing about OTT is that because there are so many platforms, you are addressing different segments of an audience. You have to create content that speaks to all of them." "It has resulted in not just greater representation of characters from different walks of life but also ones that are 'real'. OTT is a complete game-changer and has tremendous growth in the future," she said.

Lara also spoke about her character in 'Ranneeti: Balakot & Beyond', describing her as a lone wolf - someone who is ready to give her all for the country.

The actress said: "Manisha doesn't have a military background, but there are some similarities between us. I think the script is your starting point for a character. Manisha is a lone wolf, and she's very straightforward. It was interesting and fascinating to build out this kind of character for me. She's kind of careless about people and stuff, but when it comes to the country, she's ready to give everything."

"My approach to the character is to flesh out what you have never seen in the character, like the background story of the character. To create a character like Manisha Sehgal, I prepared from scratch. I'm sure when the audience watches this series, it will keep them on the edge of excitement," she added.

