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EXTREME HEAT TO SCORCH INDIA DURING ELECTION PERIOD

- Maximum temperatures soared between 40-42 degrees Celsius on Sunday in certain areas of Rayalaseema in Andhra Pradesh, and isolated spots in West Madhya Pradesh, Gangetic West Bengal, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Vidarbha, Telangana, Coastal Andhra Pradesh & Yanam, and Madhya Maharashtra, as per IMD.
- On Monday, minimum temperatures were above normal by 3-5 degrees Celsius in many places across East Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Maharashtra, a few places in Bihar, and isolated spots in Odisha.
- According to IMD's prediction, heatwave conditions are expected in isolated areas of North Interior Karnataka from Monday through Friday. The heatwave conditions are likely in Rayalaseema, East Madhya Pradesh, and Gangetic West Bengal from Wednesday to Friday.
- Vidarbha and Jharkhand may experience heatwave conditions on Thursday and Friday, while warm night conditions are anticipated in isolated pockets of Madhya Maharashtra and Marathwada on Monday and Tuesday.
- In the national capital, on Sunday, the IMD reported a maximum temperature of 35.2 degrees Celsius, slightly above the seasonal average.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The weather office has forecast a longer number of heat wave days this summer in many areas of central, northern plains and southern India.

The maximum temperature between April and June is likely to remain above normal, Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, Director-General of India Meteorological Department (IMD), told reporters in a virtual press conference.

Two to eight days of heat wave is expected in many areas of central India, northern plains, and south India, the IMD said. It identified Gujarat, Maharashtra, north Karnataka, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, and west Madhya Pradesh.

Twenty-three states have prepared action plans to meet any situation owing to the heat wave, the IMD said.

Above-normal temperature is likely to persist over central India and western peninsular India. The poor will face the biggest impact of the heat wave, the IMD said. During heatwaves, elevated temperatures pose significant risks, especially for vulnerable people such as the elderly, children, and those with pre-existing health conditions. The IMD asked the authorities to take proactive measures as prolonged periods of extreme heat can lead to strain on infrastructure such as power grids and transportation systems. "To address these challenges, it is imperative for authorities to take proactive measures," the IMD said. "This includes pro-



viding access to cooling centres, issuing heat advisories, and implementing strategies to alleviate urban heat island effects in affected areas," the IMD said.

Union Minister for Earth Sciences Kiren Rijiju today said the country is predicted to experience extreme weather conditions this year, starting at the end of April and coinciding with the general elections, making it crucial for all stakeholders to prepare in advance. "We are anticipated to experience extreme weather conditions in the upcoming two-and-a-half months. This also coincides with the general elections in which around a billion people are expected to exercise their franchise," the Union Minister said at a press conference.

Rijiju said he met with stakeholders in view of the upcoming elections amid the prediction for extreme heat.

Delhi court sends CM Kejriwal to judicial custody till April 15

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Delhi court on Monday sent Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to judicial custody till April 15, while the AAP supremo moved an application to have three books -- Bhagavad Gita, Ramayana and How Prime Ministers Decide.

He was produced before Special Judge Kaweri Baweja of the Rouse Avenue Court on expiry of his previously extended Enforcement Directorate (ED) custody in connection with the money laundering case related to the alleged excise policy scam.

On March 28, Judge Baweja had extended his ED custody, holding that there were "sufficient reasons". However, she had allowed him to meet his family members and lawyers.

On Monday, the CM was produced amid heavy security while counsel for both ED and CM Kejriwal made submissions virtually. Senior Advocates Vikram Chaudhary and Ramesh Gupta appeared for him and



Additional Solicitor General (ASG) S.V. Raju for the probe agency.

Seeking his judicial custody, ASG Raju said that "we (ED) seek his judicial custody and no more ED remand".

Alleging the same what it had alleged last time, the ED said: "He (Kejriwal) is non-cooperative and is giving evasive replies."

The ASG made another similar submission as last

time saying that CM Kejriwal isn't giving password to his phone. The court was told by ASG that the ED might seek his custody later.

After a brief hearing, the judge sent CM Kejriwal to judicial custody till April 15. The accused has also moved an application to be provided with special diet, medicines, books and religious locket which he is wearing, while being in the custody.

India must become 'financially Aatmanirbhar' in 10 years: PM Modi

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Over the next 10 years, India must strive to become a 'financially Aatmanirbhar' economy and continue to march ahead confidently in the path of progress and development, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said here on Monday.

Speaking at the 90th anniversary celebrations of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the Prime Minister said the country's economy has risen in the past years from the inherited mess after the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government took charge in 2014, adding that it is now poised for take-off.

"India is among the



youngest nations in the world... Our policies have opened up new sectors in the economy, such as green energy, digital technology, defence, which is getting into the export mode, MSME, space, and tourism. The RBI must address the aspirations of the youth and develop 'out-of-the-box' policies for all these emerging sectors to help the youth," the Prime Minister said. Pointing out that globally there is a challenge for nations to strike a

balance between inflation control and growth, PM Modi called upon the RBI to study and develop a model for this which can be a trendsetter for the world, especially the Global South, while ensuring that the Indian rupee is accessible and acceptable world over. He said that in the next 10 years, India will strive to improve its 'financial independence' with the country's economy getting impacted minimally by global developments as "we are already on the way to becoming a world growth engine". PM Modi also recalled the RBI@80 celebrations in 2014 and the challenges and problems like NPAs confronting the country's banking system.

SC refuses to stay Varanasi court's order allowing Hindu prayers in Gyanvapi mosque cellar

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Monday refused to pass any interim order staying the Varanasi court's order allowing Hindu parties to offer prayers and puja in the southern cellar of the Gyanvapi Mosque.

A bench headed by Chief Justice of India (CJI) D.Y. Chandrachud said that it would be appropriate to maintain a status quo at the disputed site to allow both communities to offer religious worship.

"Bearing in mind the fact that the namaz is being offered unhindered by Muslim community post the district court and High Court orders, and the offering of puja by Hindu priest is confined to the area of tehkhana, it is appropriate to maintain status quo and allow both the communities to offer worship," said the Bench, also



comprising Justices J.B. Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, adding that status quo will not be disturbed except with the permission of the apex court

The Supreme Court was hearing a special leave petition filed by Anjumam Intezamia Masjid Committee against the decision of the

Allahabad High Court upholding the January 31 district court order regarding the conduct of Hindu prayers in the southern cellar or basement (tehkhana) of the Gyanvapi Mosque.

A bench of Justice Rohit Ranjan Agarwal of the Allahabad High Court gave the decision amid an ongoing civil court case involving conflicting claims over the religious character of the Gyanvapi compound.

Among other claims, the Hindu side has said that Hindu prayers were earlier offered by the family of one Somnath Vyas in the mosque's cellar until 1993, when the Mulayam Singh Yadav-led government allegedly stopped it. The Muslim side has opposed this claim and maintained that Muslims have always had possession over the mosque's building.

The matter will be heard next in July.

RBI directs banks to step up hassle-free loans to Self Help Groups

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The RBI on Monday directed all banks to provide adequate incentives to their branches in financing the Self Help Groups (SHGs) and establish linkages with them, making the procedures simple and easy.

"The group dynamics of working of the SHGs need neither be regulated nor formal structures imposed or insisted upon. The approach towards financing the SHGs should be totally hassle-free and may also include consumption expenditures. Accordingly, the guidelines should be adhered



to enable effective linkage of SHGs with the banking sector," the RBI has stated in its master circular to all banks.

The circular states that no loan-related and ad hoc service charges or inspection charges should be levied on

priority sector loans up to 25,000. In the case of eligible priority sector loans to SHGs/JLGs, this limit will be applicable per member and not to the group as a whole.

The RBI has also pointed out that loans to SHGs are allowed to be classified under Priority Sector Lending (PSL) under the respective categories such as Agriculture, MSME etc. The circular further states that SHGs, registered or unregistered, which are engaged in promoting savings habits among their members are eligible to open savings bank accounts with banks.

Katchatheevu issue a diversionary tactic of PM Modi: Stalin

Chennai: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Monday said that the Katchatheevu island issue is a diversionary tactic by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and questioned the sudden "love" of PM Modi and BJP towards the fishermen.

"The people of Tamil Nadu want to put forth only three questions to those, who, after being in a Kumbakarna slumber for 10 years, are displaying a sudden love for the fishermen for elections. Why does the Union government return just 29 paise out of the Rs 1 paid by TN as tax," Stalin wrote on X.

"Why has not been a single penny given to Tamil Nadu as flood relief despite the state having faced two natural disasters (the floods in Chennai and Thoothukudi in December 2023)," the Chief Minister asked.

The Chief Minister Stalin also called upon the Prime Minister to respond to the issues he has put forward. He was responding to Prime Minister Modi's attack on the Congress ceding the Katchatheevu islands to Sri Lanka in 1974. Prime Minister and the BJP had put the DMK also on the back foot stating that then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi had ceded Katchatheevu island to Sri Lanka with the knowledge and connivance of then Chief Minister and DMK leader, M.Karunanidhi, the father of MK Stalin.



Nakul Nath and Congress insulted tribal brothers: Dr. Mohan Yadav

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Calling MLA from Chhindwara district Shri Kamlash Shah as dishonest and traitor does not suit Kamal Nath's MP son and Congress candidate from Chhindwara Nakul Nath. Insulting tribal brothers is an old habit of Congress and Congress leaders. Congress always considered the tribal community as a vote bank and kept them away from development. Kamal Nath has been exposed in Chhindwara. Instead of developing Chhindwara, Kamal



Nath developed his family. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, lotus will bloom in Chhindwara also in this Lok Sabha elections. Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav and Bharatiya Janata Party State President and MP Vishnudutt Sharma said this while giving party membership to Chhindwara Mayor S Vikram Ahake and other Congress leaders. Chief

Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav said that Kamal Nath has created a lot of mess in Chhindwara and Nakul Nath has insulted the tribal brothers. It does not suit NALunath to call Amarwada MLA of Gond community Kamlash Shah dishonest and traitor. Hurt by all these things, today Chhindwara Mayor Vikram Ahake along with Congress officials and public representatives have joined the BJP. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav assured the Congress officials and public representatives who have joined BJP that he will leave no stone unturned in the development of Chhindwara.

Gold prices soar to record high

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Gold prices rose to a new lifetime high of \$2,263.53 per ounce in the international market on Monday as geopolitical tensions increase in Central Asia, and the US Fed has signalled a rate cut.

Tracking the rally in the international market, the MCX gold price in India (Gold Futures contract for April 2024 expiry) soared to a record high of Rs 69,487 per 10 gm in opening trade and was hovering at Rs



68,828 at 11:26 am. "The rise in gold prices has been triggered by the US Fed signalling a rate cut...Gold has continuously been the fond asset class for central banking and safe-haven investment avenue," said Colin Shah, Founder and MD of Kama Jewellery. Expectations of low inter-

est rates make financial instruments less attractive for investors compared to gold leading to increased purchases of the yellow and the rise in prices. Rising geopolitical risks and buying by central banks, led by China have also fuelled gold prices.

With no end in sight to the Russia-Ukraine war and the Israel-Hamas conflict spreading to the Red Sea region, gold is seen as an attractive safe haven asset by investors amid geopolitical uncertainty.

BJP targets Uddhav Thackeray, INDIA bloc over Ramlila Maidan rally

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Monday accused the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena (UBT) of creating "Gallic gondhal" (confusion on the streets).

The BJP also termed the INDIA bloc's rally at the Ramlila Maidan in the national capital on Sunday in protest against Arvind Kejriwal's arrest as the "grand meeting of the corrupt".

Quoting verses from famous ghazal writer Chandrashekhar Sanekar's work, 'Shing Funkale Tevha Nusta Banner Laun Ale...' (when the clarion was sounded, they just put up their banners and returned), Mumbai BJP chief Ashish Shelar said: "In recent times, Shiv Sena (UBT)'s culture has been to criticise the Prime Minister in the most demeaning language. Maharashtra and its Marathi Manoos are



known for their cultured behaviour... They have never entertained people who are rude and

uncivilised in their speeches." Shelar also asked Uddhav Thackeray if he was okay with the language used by his spokesperson while speaking in public.

"Sometimes in front of late Ahmed Patel or at times before Rahul Gandhi, Sharad Pawar, Mamata Banerjee or Arvind Kejriwal, Shiv Sena (UBT) spokesman Sanjay Raut is always ready to dance to their tunes," he claimed.

State BJP chief spokesman Keshav Upadhye claimed that many leaders accused of looting the country had gathered for the INDIA bloc's rally in Delhi on Sunday. "However, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is determined to eliminate corruption from the country. No matter how much the leaders of the INDIA bloc protest, the judiciary will uphold the charges against them. These leaders will have to answer the voters on the corruption cases against them," Upadhye said.



WHEN WILL KEJRIWAL RESIGN, ASKS BJP AFTER COURT SENDS HIM TO JAIL; POINTS TO 'NAIR-ATISHI LINK'

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Hours after Arvind Kejriwal was sent to jail by a city court for 15 days, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Monday hurled a volley of charges on the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and its convener over its morality and probity standards and questioned, 'when will the Chief Minister resign?'

BJP spokespersons, in a press conference, also lambasted the INDIA bloc for rallying behind the Delhi Chief Minister, accused of looting public money in the now-scrapped liquor policy case. Sudhanshu Trivedi slammed the Delhi CM for playing the victimhood card in the aftermath of the arrest and said that he is being tried in the case, based on 'concrete evidence'.



when he was about to quit but Kejriwal has gone a step ahead," he said. Shazia Ilmi, one of the AAP's founding members, said that Kejriwal earlier betrayed the founding members and it was now the turn of new members like Atishi Marlena and Saurabh Bhardwaj. Citing Kejriwal's statements made

to the Enforcement Directorate (ED), she said, "Delhi CM told the central agency that Vijay Nair didn't report to him but to Atishi and Saurabh." Notably, Vijay Nair is the former communications-in-charge of AAP and also a key accused in the Delhi liquorgate. He was the middleman, who allegedly helped liquor mafias

acquire licences for liquor shops in the capital. Shazia also went all guns blazing on the INDIA bloc for rallying behind the AAP convener, arrested on charges of corruption at the same Ramlila Maidan.

"It was the same ground where Kejriwal fasted for 13 days seeking action against the corrupt leaders including those in the INDIA bloc, now the same group has closed ranks and is demonstrating for him," she told the press.

BJP spokesperson Shehzad Poonawala also drew the attention of the press towards a 'social media trend', hinting at Atishi being made a scapegoat in the liquorgate, to save the AAP convener.

Notably, Atishi Marlena, seen as the 'likely successor' of Arvind Kejriwal for the top post, holds the maximum number of portfolios in the Delhi government, some of which include Finance, PWD, Education and more.

Delhi HC issues notice to Centre on plea challenging ban on 23 'ferocious' dog breeds

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Delhi High Court on Monday issued a notice to the Central government on a petition challenging the recent notification banning 23 "ferocious" dog breeds in the country.

Declining to stay the notification, Justice Subramonium Prasad issued a notice to the Centre seeking its response to the petition.

The petition, filed by a dog trainer and a doctor, argues that the ban lacks any empirical basis or scientific justification. It contends that no comprehensive study was conducted in India to establish the alleged ferocity of these breeds, and the necessity for their prohibition.

The petitioners asserted that the sudden and blanket ban could lead to unnecessary suffering or euthanasia for dogs with no history of aggression. They also challenged the ban on specific breeds like Cane Corso, Rottweiler, and Terrier, highlighting its "arbitrary nature and lack of rational basis".

The petitioner dog trainer also invoked constitutional rights by arguing that the ban directly impacts his livelihood. He cited Article 19(1)(g) of the Constitution, which



guarantees every citizen the right to practice any profession, subject to reasonable restrictions in the interest of the general public.

The petitioner contended that the ban constitutes a severe encroachment upon his fundamental rights, stressing the "arbitrary and unreasonable" nature of the Centre's action.

He also said that the notification infringes upon his right to carry out his profession freely, and without undue interference.

Adhir Ranjan's 'traitor' jibe at Mamata Banerjee triggers war of words in Bengal

Kolkata | Agencies

Political slugfest surfaced in West Bengal on Monday after state Congress President Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury accused Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee of being a "traitor" to the opposition INDIA bloc.

"What kind of fear prompted the Chief Minister to break away from the INDIA bloc? Arvind Kejriwal or Hemant Soren did not break away from the opposition alliance, and as a result, both are behind bars now. The Chief Minister of West Bengal has clandestinely surrendered before the BJP just to save her dear ones from the clutches of the CBI and the ED," five-time Lok Sabha MP Chowdhury told mediapersons on Monday.

He also said that if the Chief Minister so proudly claims that the name 'INDIA bloc' was her brainchild, what was the reason for her to break away from that alliance?

"Whom did you want to please by breaking away from the opposition bloc even after accepting Rahul Gandhi as its leader once? Why did you unanimously announce Trinamool candidates for all the 42 Lok Sabha constituencies in the state? These are my straight questions to the Chief Minister,"



Chowdhury said. Reacting to the Congress leader's charges, Trinamool's state General Secretary Kunal Ghosh said, "Chowdhury is spreading a falsehood that Mamata Banerjee has severed ties with the INDIA bloc. Can he explain these charges to his leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, who have time and again embraced our Chief Minister?"

"I am saying it again that the term INDIA bloc was Mamata Banerjee's brainchild. The Trinamool has decided to go solo in West Bengal since the Congress' state unit is working as a double agent for the BJP and the CPI(M)," Ghosh said.

SS (UBT) slams BJP for its 'political claims' on India ceding land to Sri Lanka in 1974

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Shiv Sena (UBT) on Monday criticised the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for making "politically motivated" allegations that India's former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi had 'ceded' the Katchatheevu Island to Sri Lanka.

SS (UBT) MP Priyanka Chaturvedi said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has made serious allegations on this issue by quoting an RTI reply "for political point scoring" in the ensuing Lok Sabha elections with the hope to bag some seats in Tamil Nadu and dividing the electorate by 'casting aspersions'.

"Let's remember such decisions are taken by governments, which includes inputs and advice from professionals like diplomats, military officers, legal advisors and bureaucrats. To reduce them to one leader or one party is undemocratic, because a government is more than just one person," said Chaturvedi.

She pointed out that the RTI query was filed by a BJP leader who is contesting the election from TN and information shared is by the BJP government at the centre for scoring some political brownie



points. "Going by the BJP logic, will anyone from Arunachal Pradesh or Ladakh file an RTI regarding the land-grab by China after the 'jhoola' diplomacy of the PM and his declaration that nobody entered Indian territory nor is any of our post is in someone else's control, after the (June 2020) Galwan Valley clashes," Chaturvedi said. She questioned whether the BJP would file an RTI to know how Nepal released a map in 2020, claiming three villages in

the Kalapani, Lipulekh and Limpiyadhura (in Uttarakhand) as part of its territory. Referring to PM Modi's tweet on Katchatheevu Island, Chaturvedi said that India withdrew its claim on the isle during negotiations with Sri Lanka to normalise relations in 1974, when Indira Gandhi was PM and the DMK government in TN then did not object to it.

"India could not produce documentary evidence of historical fishing rights on this (Katchatheevu) island in Palk Strait whereas Sri Lanka had documentary evidence to prove its claim. The total land involved was 150 acres of this island and with that Indira Gandhi as PM also ensured the repatriation of 6 lakh Tamilians to India," said Chaturvedi.

She charged the government with ceding 112 enclaves to Bangladesh in return for 55 enclaves in a bid to resolve the border dispute with the neighbour, pending since Partition, owing to the ill-defined border lines in Sunderbans Delta.

"In total, India ceded more than 15,000 acres of land to Bangladesh in a bid to strengthen the relationship with its neighbour. This was hailed as path breaking and rightly so as larger neighbour India was looked at as magnanimous and large hearted in this agreement," said Chaturvedi.

Congress receives biggest jolt in Devbhumi Dwarka as around 800 workers join BJP



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Under the able leadership of popular Jammagar MP Poonamben Maadam and because of BJP's developmental ideology, Congress has once again received a big blow in the Halar region.

After Congress leaders in Jammagar district joined BJP, Devbhumi Dwarka

district has seen the biggest political change in the history with almost a complete wipeout of Congress in the district. Many important Congress leaders including the General Secretary of District Congress and the Leader of Opposition of Taluka Panchayat broke away from Congress to join the saffron party.

Among the leaders who joined the

BJP are Dwarka District Congress General Secretary and District Panchayat Member Ebbabhai Karmur, Opposition Leader and Taluka Panchayat Member Yogeshbhai Nandania, Taluka Panchayat Member Laxmanbhai Chavda, Dwarka Congress OBC Cell President Kishanbhai Bhatia, Taluka Panchayat Member Malsibhai Dahiya,

around 800 Congress workers including Dwarka District Youth Congress President Savan Karmur, APMC Director of Khambhalia Babubhai Gojia and 14 Sarpanches.

Jammagar MP Poonamben Maadam, state Cabinet Minister Mulubhai Bera and district BJP President Mayurbhai Gadhvi welcomed all the Congress leaders at a meeting in Khambhalia.

"Just like in the country, an atmosphere of Congress-mukt Jammagar Lok Sabha constituency has also been created. The people of India too, have decided to free the country from Congress," said Poonamben Maadam. "Leaders and workers of Congress have joined to make the country developed under the leadership of our beloved Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi," she further added. Due to the developmental vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the work done by Poonamben Maadam, the Congress party has received the biggest jolt in Devbhumi Dwarka district.

By defecting, these leaders have given a clear indication of their lack of faith in the leadership of the Congress and its ideology. Due to the defection of so many Congress members, the existence of the Congress in Dwarka district is almost wiped out.

LS polls 2024: Congress to release its manifesto on April 5



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Congress party is set to release its vision document cum manifesto at the All India Congress Committee (AICC) HQs in the capital on April 5.

Congress General Secretary K.C. Venugopal said on Monday that the party is all set to release its vision document on April 5 'after vast deliberations with people from across the country'.

Soon after the manifesto launch, the grand old party will hold mega rallies on

April 6, one in Jaipur and the other in Hyderabad.

Congress' public rally in Jaipur will see the party's top brass including party president Mallikarjun Kharge, Congress Parliamentary Party (CPP) Chairperson Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi addressing the public gathering. In the Hyderabad rally, Rahul Gandhi will declare the party's big poll promises to the public and seek their support in the run-up to the Parliamentary elections 2024.

"Our focus has always

been on giving the country a welfare-oriented, pro-development vision and that will be presented to the people for this election as well," said K.C. Venugopal.

Earlier, Jairam Ramesh said that the party's 'ghar ghar guarantee' campaign to distribute eight core guarantee cards across the country will be launched from April 3.

Meanwhile, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) announced its 27-member election committee, headed by Union Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday.

FIR against K'taka Deputy CM Shivakumar over derogatory posts against BJP leaders

Bengaluru | Agencies

The Karnataka Police have registered an FIR against Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and Congress leader B.R. Naidu in connection with derogatory posts against BJP leaders on social media.

The FIR is lodged at the High Grounds police station in Bengaluru, police said on Monday.

The Congress party had allegedly twisted BJP's campaign posters and carried out a "derogatory" campaign on social media.

Police have filed an FIR against Shivakumar, who is also the president of Karnataka Congress, and B.R. Naidu under the IPC Sections 153 (A) (promoting enmity between different groups), 504 (intentional insult, giving provocation), 506 (criminal



intimidation) and 464 (making of false document).

Yogendra Hodaghatta, former secretary of BJP Legal Cell, had filed a private petition before the Special Court for People's Representatives in Bengaluru over "derogatory" posters by the Congress party.

He claimed that the content of the BJP's campaign poster was twisted and presented to the public by the Congress. The court had ordered an investigation on the charges of forgery and spreading hatred between two groups.

From Germany to Jaipur, couple peddles 11,000 km before tying the knot

Archana Sharma | Jaipur

Edward and Sophie from Germany, after deciding to take a world tour on bicycles before tying the nuptial knot, reached Jaipur recently after travelling through Austria, Hungary, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia, Herzegovina, Montenegro, Albania, Macedonia, Greece, Turkey, Georgia, Armenia, Iran, and Pakistan.

Touring the Pink City on bicycles for four days, they left for Nepal on Sunday and shall get married after reaching Germany.

The duo said that they aim to stand together and face whatever challenges come their way; hence, decided to take the tour. "We will tour half the world on bicycle and will not only see the world closely but also face together whatever challenges come our way. We will get a chance to understand each other more closely. It is very attractive to hear that touring the world on a bicycle with your beloved is not easy," said Edward. Sophie said: "We were being welcomed here everywhere." The duo reached Jaipur

Khazana Mahal on bicycles. Anoop Srivastava, founder and director of Jaipur Khazana Mahal, said: "Edward and Sophie spent almost the entire day in the museum, closely studying the gems and jewellery. Sophie got mesmerised seeing Kundan Meena jewellery -- the speciality of Jaipur -- and promised to wear Kundan Meena jewelry for her wedding."

During their three-day stay in Jaipur, both of them also visited Amer Palace, City Place, Jantar Mantar, Albert Hall and Hawa Mahal.





Nitin Gadkari plucked 'Orange City' Nagpur for BJP, aims for a hat-trick

Team Absolute | Nagpur

Maharashtra's second capital and India's 'zero mile centre', Nagpur is also known as the 'Orange City' for its luscious fruits by the same name, and its orange 'pedhas' and 'barfis' that are savoured all over. Nagpur Lok Sabha seat was also a 'zero-luck' for the Bharatiya Janata Party desperate to make it a stronghold. It was bagged once by senior leader Banwarilal Purohit (1996) presently the Governor of Punjab, though he had earlier won it twice on Congress tickets (1984 & 1989). It again slipped out of the BJP hands and Congress' Vilas B. Muttemwar grabbed it and retained it four times -- 1996, 1998, 2004 and 2009, besides his previous three terms as MP in 1980, 1984 and 1991, and two stints as MoS at the Centre. However, in the BJP wave of 2014 led by Narendra Modi (later PM), Muttemwar was flung out by the perpetually smiling Nitin Gadkari, and the latter repeated the feat in 2019, vanquishing the ex-BJP MP, Nana Patole who contested on a Congress ticket. Both times, the BJP heaved a sigh of relief that it had finally got a toehold into a traditional Congress bastion in Nagpur -- where the RSS is headquartered. This time, Gadkari -- with a formidable reputation as 'the highway-man of India' is back to the grime of campaign to ensure a hat-trick, against a relative lightweight, Congress' Vikas P.



Thakre of the INDIA bloc and backed by Prakash Ambedkar's Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi (VBA), for the April 19 Lok Sabha polls. Historically, since the 1952 Lok Sabha elections, Nagpur voted for Congress 12 times, plus in one by-election, the BJP bagged it thrice, including twice by Gadkari and the All India Forward Bloc (AIFB) won once in 1971. As a key Congress bastion, Nagpur had sent several stalwarts to parliament including Madhav Shrihari Aney, Jambuwantrao Dhote, Banwarilal

Purohit, Datta Meghe, Vilas Muttemwar (7-time elected) and from 2014, Gadkari. Interestingly, the Nagpur LS seat comprises six assembly segments of which four are held by the BJP, including the ex-CM and current Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis, and two won by the Congress. They include Nagpur South West (BJP, MLA Devendra Fadnavis), Nagpur South (BJP, MLA Mohan Mate), Nagpur East (BJP, MLA Krishna Khopde), and Nagpur Central (BJP, MLA Vikas Kumbhare), besides Nagpur West (Congress, MLA Vikas Thakre, now pitted against Gadkari), Nagpur North-SC (Congress, MLA Nitin Raut). Besides being the state's second capital which hosts the Winter Session of Maharashtra Legislature, Nagpur houses the RSS headquarters, the famed Deekshabhoomi where Dr. B. R. Ambedkar and over four-lakh Dalits embraced Buddhism on October 14, 1956, the 'Zero Mile Stone' erected by the British in 1907 marking the country's geographical centre, and a designated international airport. Dotted with big and small lakes and deriving its name from the ancient River Nag flowing here, Nagpur -- Maharashtra's third-biggest and the fifth-fastest growing city in the world, has also remained the central focal point of national politics, particularly in the past decade or so, amid sporadic demands for a separate Vidarbha state with Nagpur as its capital.

Urvashi Rautela breaks her silence on controversy over her and Rishabh Pant



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Urvashi Rautela, who recently got embroiled in a controversy surrounding cricketer Rishabh Pant, has issued a clarification expressing that her recent remarks were not directed towards anyone but were a part of a script. The actress recently featured in an advertisement for a matrimony brand. In the video, Urvashi was talking about actors, businessmen, singers and batsmen and said "Kuch log toh meri height ke bhi nahi hai." While the advertisement went viral, the actress found

It's a generic brand script given by the brand & it's their prerogative. Not directed towards anyone #spreadpositivity. As a responsible individual, I understand the impact individuals can have from me as the brand's basic ambassador. #hope #inspirekindness

herself entangled in an unnecessary controversy in which it was alleged that she indirectly mocked Indian cricketer Rishabh Pant in the video. The actress has now issued a clarification on the rumours in order to shut all trolls. On Monday, Urvashi took to the Stories section of her Instagram, and wrote: "It's a generic brand script given by the brand and it's their prerogative. Not directed towards anyone, #spreadpositivity. As a responsible individual, I understand the impact individuals can have from me as the brand's basic ambassador #hope #inspirekindness."

Meanwhile, on the work front, Urvashi is currently enjoying the success of 'Love Dose 2.0' with Yo Yo Honey Singh, and is currently gearing up for 'Jahangir National University' (JNU) where she is playing a college politician. The actress also has projects like 'Welcome 3' with Akshay Kumar, 'NBK109' with Bobby Deol, Dulquer Salmaan, Nandamuri Balakrishna, 'Baap' (remake of Hollywood blockbuster 'Expendables'); with Sunny Deol and Sanjay Dutt and 'Inspector Avinash 2' with Randeep Hooda in the pipeline.

Bombay High Court grants Sameer Wankhede relief in Sushant Rajput drug case

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Bombay High Court granted temporary relief to IRS officer Sameer Wankhede in the Sushant Singh Rajput drug case. Until April 10, no coercive measures will be implemented against Wankhede in response to the Narcotics Control Bureau's (NCB) notifications of anomalies in the investigation. The NCB launched a preliminary investigation against Wankhede in connection with the drugs case that led to Rajput's



death, as well as another involving the arrest of a Nigerian national for drug possession. These inquiries arose from anonymous accusations of irregularities in the investigations. According to the report, following Rajput's death in June 2020, the NCB initiated an investigation into alleged drug use in the film industry, leading to the filing of a case against Rajput's girlfriend Rhea Chakraborty, her brother Showik, and others for alleged drug possession, consumption, and funding.

Cops book 4 for illegal transportation of cows

Team Absolute | Navi Mumbai

Navi Mumbai Police registered a case against four persons on charges of illegally transporting cows in an inhumane manner, an official said on Monday. As per a report, a local hotel owner on Sunday had intercepted a tempo on Talaja MIDC road while it was transporting eight cows towards

neighbouring Mumbai by the accused. According to the report, an official from Talaja police station said that the cows were crammed inside the tempo and were being transported without proper permits, food or other essential requirements. The official added that four more cows were spotted kept in deplorable conditions at the premises of the four accused in Talaja.

Cong's Prithviraj Chavan ready to contest Satara LS seat of NCP (SP) quota

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Senior Congress leader Prithviraj Chavan on Monday expressed his readiness to contest the Satara Lok Sabha constituency if allotted the seat from the Nationalist Congress Party (SP) quota. He made it clear that the Satara seat belongs to the NCP (SP) quota and anybody nominated by that party would be acceptable to the other Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) allies. "However, in case the NCP (SP) gives up the seat, I am prepared to contest from there on the Congress name-symbol," Chavan, a former state Chief Minister and Union Minister, told the media. Incidentally, NCP (SP) President Sharad Pawar had indicated on March 29 that he was studying the prospects of various party candidates from Satara from his party plus Chavan (Congress). Sitting Satara MP Shrinivas D. Patil, 83, has decided to bow out of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls race owing to ill-health, while the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is reportedly toying with the idea of nominating Chhatrapati Udayanraje Bhonsle. Chavan said that he would contest Satara only if granted permission by the party and on the Congress name and symbol (hand). State NCP (SP) President Jayant Patil held discussions on Sunday with Chavan -- who had earlier been elected thrice to LS from the erstwhile Karad (now, Satara after the delimitation of 2008), and previously even his mother, Premala Chavan was elected from there four times including in a by-election. The NCP (SP) is scouting around for a strong candidate to grapple with Bhonsle in case he is nominated by the BJP, and Chavan would be the first leader of a national stature to enter the 2024 poll fray from the



Congress in the state. In the eventuality of the NCP (SP) giving Satara to the Congress, the latter might reciprocate with some other seat from its quota as a goodwill gesture, as part of adhering to the alliance politics of 'give-and-take', said a party leader.

BJP, Shiv Sena talks continue over six 'difficult' Maha LS seats

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Despite burning the midnight oil over hard negotiations, the stalemate continues between BJP and Shiv Sena over six Lok Sabha seats, including Thane, Palghar, Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg, Nashik, Sambhajanagar and Dharashiv. Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Devendra Fadnavis held three rounds of talks so far but could not arrive at a consensus as both have taken aggressive stands claiming the winnability factor in those six seats. Insiders from both parties pointed out that CM Shinde and DyCM Fadnavis have hinted that the workable solution will now be possible only after the intervention of Union Home Minister Amit Shah. Of the six seats, Thane is held by Shiv Sena UBT after the split in June 2022, Palghar by Shiv Sena (led by Eknath Shinde), Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg by Shiv Sena UBT, Nashik by Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena, Dharashiv (until recently known as Osmanabad) by Shiv Sena UBT and Sambhajanagar by AIMIM. The bone of contention is that BJP has staked claim over Thane, Palghar, Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg, Sambhajanagar and Nashik while Shinde faction has made a strong pitch not to leave these seats to BJP. Both



parties claim their better winning prospects riding on Modi wave and Modi ki guarantee.

CM Shinde is not ready to give Thane seat considering it as a matter of prestige. Incidentally, Thane is CM Shinde's home turf. On the other hand, BJP has argued that after the split in Shiv Sena, Shinde faction lacks a formidable candidate to take on sitting MP Rajan Vichare from the Shiv Sena UBT.

In Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg, CM Shinde is under tremendous pressure from Industry Minister Uday Samant and his brother Kiran Samant to field the party nominee instead of leaving it to BJP. However, BJP is keen to nominate former Union Minister Narayan Rane and hopes to snatch the seat from Shiv Sena UBT. In Palghar too, BJP is confident to win the seat based on its increased presence and also because of the work of RSS and organisations affiliated to it. BJP

hopes to get support from Hitendra Thakur-led Bahujan Vikas Aghadi in Palghar. Similarly, in Sambhajanagar, which was until recently known as Aurangabad, Shinde faction has considered the nomination to the party's Minister Sandipan Bhamre or Maratha reservation activist Vinod Patil. On the other hand, BJP has made a strong pitch for Sambhajanagar seat as the party believes that it was in a comfortable position to take the advantage of divided opposition and cracks within Shiv Sena UBT. The Union Minister Bhagwat Karad is BJP's likely nominee in Sambhajanagar. The Shiv Sena UBT has announced its nomination to former MP Chandrakant Khaire.

On top of it, the Ajit Pawar-led NCP's claim over Nashik has made the ongoing seat-sharing process more complicated. NCP Minister and Samata Parishad founder Chhagan Bhujbal has claimed that his nomination has been pitched by none other than senior BJP leaders which has clean bowled the Shiv Sena in particular. The sitting MP Hemant Godse has already launched his campaign without waiting for the official announcement of seat-sharing agreement while Bhujbal is confident to get the nomination from his party. Bhujbal has categorically made it clear that he will contest the Nashik seat on the party's clock symbol and not on BJP's lotus. However, the local BJP is not in tune with Bhujbal's proposal citing that it has three legislators and the backing of over 70 former corporators from the Nashik Municipal Corporation and also from the adjoining Trimbakeshwar civic body. As far as Dharashiv seat is concerned, Shiv Sena UBT has already nominated sitting MP Omraje Nimbalkar who has started his campaign by stepping up outreach with voters. BJP is expected to field party legislator and former Minister Rana Patil while Shinde faction is finding it difficult for a suitable nominee who can take on Omraje Nimbalkar. NCP led by Ajit Pawar hopes to get the Dharashiv seat and it has already shortlisted three names, including party legislators Satish Chavan and Vikram Kale and the district officer-bearer Suresh Birajdar.

Relief for property buyers in Maharashtra as ready reckoner rates stay unchanged for 2024-25

Sanjay Jog | Mumbai

Ahead of the auspicious Gudi Padwa, there is good news for the property buyers in Maharashtra as the state government has decided to maintain the status quo in the ready reckoner (RR) rate for fiscal 2024-25.

This means the RR rate, or the standard rate fixed by the state government for the value of land, residential or commercial, below which property transactions cannot take place, of 2023-24 will continue in place from April 1 till further changes. The RR rate is also the minimum value considered for paying the stamp duty to the state government.

The RR rate was not changed in 2019-20, 2020-21, and 2021-22 but the state government had revised it in 2022-23. It remained unchanged in 2023-24.

The government's move came in the wake of the ongoing Lok Sabha election process and also after legislators of both ruling and oppo-



sition parties had opposed any hike in RR rates citing the realty sector, which was adversely affected by the coronavirus pandemic, is on the verge of recovery. State Revenue Department's Deputy Secretary Satyanarayan Bajaj

issued a notification on Sunday afternoon conveying the state government's decision to the state's Inspector General of Registration and Controller of Stamps, as the new RR rate is applicable from April 1 every year. According to the Revenue

Department, Maharashtra tops among other states in the higher recovery of stamp duty and registration fee, which is one of the key sources of the state's own revenues.

In 2019-20, the state government had mobilised Rs 28,989 crore through stamp duty and registration fee, Rs 25,651 crore in 2020-21, Rs 35,171 crore in 2021-22, Rs 37,500 crore in 2022-23, and over Rs 50,000 crore in 2023-24 (as the final numbers are still out).

Anand Gupta, Vice President of the Builders Association of India said: "The government's decision to maintain the status quo in RR rate is commensurate with the ground reality prevailing in the property market. At present, the realty sector is reasonably progressing at the rate of 10-15 per cent based on the property transactions. The status quo in RR rate will not have any adverse effect on the growth rate of property transactions as the growth will continue as happened in 2023-24."

Mumbai customs seize gold worth Rs 6.30 crore

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Mumbai customs seized gold over 10.68 kg valued at Rs 6.30 crore, including foreign currency, between March 27-31, officials said, reported news agency. "From March 27-31, the Airport Commissionerate, Mumbai Customs, seized over 10.68 kg of gold valued at Rs 6.30 crore, electronic goods, foreign currency, and assorted cosmetics across 22 cases," an official of Mumbai Customs said on late Sunday. Gold was concealed in the check-in



bag, handbag, clothes worn, on the body of the passengers, body cavity, and padlock, they said. In March, foreign currency and items worth Rs 10.60 crore were seized across eight different cases, as per officials.

"On March 20-22, Airport Commissionerate, Mumbai Customs seized FC valued at 5.36 crore, diamonds valued at 3.75 crore, and gold valued at Rs 1.49 crore, together valued at 10.60 crore across 8 cases," said Mumbai Customs in a statement earlier in the month.



EDITOR'S SPECS

UP's 'family constituencies'

There are parliamentary constituencies, there are assembly constituencies, and in Uttar Pradesh, there are 'family constituencies' as well. For these family constituencies, it does not matter which member of the family contests the polls, as long as the seat remains within the family. In some cases, even the party does not matter - getting elected does. BJP MP Maneka Gandhi began her political career in Pilibhit in 1989 when she won on a Janata Dal ticket. She lost in 1991 to BJP's Parshuram Gangwar but won it back in 1996 as Janata Dal candidate. For the first time in these years, Pilibhit does not have a Gandhi in the fray since Varun has been denied a ticket by the BJP. In the Misrikh Lok Sabha seat, the ticket for 2024 has been juggling between the family members even though this is not their family seat. The Samajwadi Party initially named Rampal Rajvanshi as its candidate. Twenty days later, his ticket was cancelled and his son Manoj Rajvanshi was named candidate. A fortnight later, Manoj was replaced with his wife Sangita Rajvanshi, who is now the candidate. No one is complaining because the ticket, after all, remains in the family. The Ambedkar Nagar Lok Sabha constituency, for the past one decade, has been a bastion of the Pandey family. Rakesh Pandey won in 2009 on a BSP ticket, lost in 2014 and then his son Ritesh Pandey won back the seat in 2019. The Gonda Lok Sabha seat, at present, has turned into a battleground for not one - but two families. The Kheri Lok Sabha constituency can truly be termed as a family constituency. The Varma family has won 10 Lok Sabha elections from this seat, beginning with Bal Govind Varma in 1962, 1967, 1971 and 1980.

Why did Lawyers Write A Letter against Lawyers?

Lalit Garg

In the legal system, lawyers and judges often engage in debate and argumentation to prove or disprove points of law. Maybe this practice weakens the country and hurts national values. This judicial fraternity, which is important among the four pillars of democracy, has a group of top lawyers active in protecting the accused of political criminals, scams and corruption, this is a natural part of our justice system, which is a big cause for concern. More than 600 lawyers from across India, including senior advocate Harish Salve and Bar Council of India Chairman Manan Kumar Mishra, have written a letter to Chief Justice DY Chandrachud, expressing concern over the increasing conditions for protecting political criminals. This effort is commendable and inspired by nationalism. The 'vested interest groups' attempting to manipulate the judicial process, influence court decisions and tarnish the reputation of the judiciary with baseless allegations and political agenda must be widely condemned. There is also a question: why did the lawyers have to write letters against the lawyers? The concern of 600 lawyers against these dangerous and anti-national attempts to influence the judiciary is not unwarranted. This awareness of lawyers has become necessary for the prestige and fairness of the justice process. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has appreciated this meaningful and relevant effort of the lawyers. He said that intimidating and threatening others is the old Congress culture. Five decades ago, the Prime Minister said he had called for a committed judiciary - they shamelessly seek commitment from others for their self-interests but avoid any commitment towards the nation. No wonder 140 crore Indians are rejecting him. This is the sacred responsibility of the judicial fraternity of our nation and all the lawyers take an oath in the witness of God and the soul to fulfill this responsibility with devotion and honesty. But for the past few years we have been seeing that a certain section of our lawyers are ignoring the sanctity and dignity of the Indian judicial process. The big reason for concern is that this group is creating such pressure in its favor, which is creating a threat to the integrity of the judiciary. But in the last two decades, more responsibility, awareness and sensitivity have been seen among the judges and they have not accepted to bow down to any economic or political pressure in the interest of the country. Since independence, a special kind of group of lawyers has developed in our country, which has been getting the protection and encouragement of the ruling parties. They have become adept at covering up crimes and saving hardened criminals and political criminals facing serious charges and are earning huge sums of money and holding big positions in politics. Such big lawyers often appear in the cases of big people and politicians and the income disparity among lawyers also shows that politically and economically capable people have more chances of getting justice than the common people. The law and order system becoming expensive for the general public and the hopelessness of fair justice also stems from such selfish lawyers. This big discrepancy and irony has also encouraged crime in politics. Due to this, the profession of lawyers has become controversial and the credibility of the judicial process has also been questioned. The question is, why did the lawyers feel



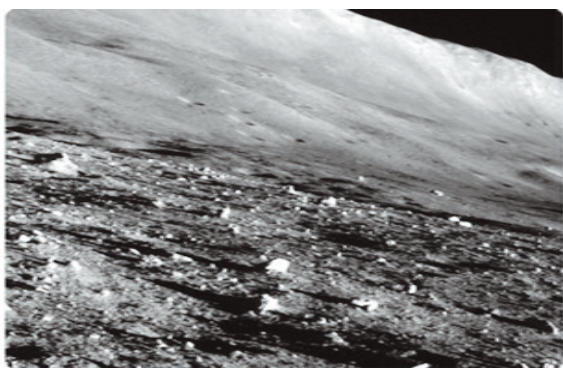
the need to write such a letter? Because these days some politicians are standing in the dock and a special group of lawyers is active to save them, who, while trying to cover up the truth, work in various ways to save the so-called criminals in political interest. Such selfish lawyers, in a special way, create false stories of the so-called better past and the golden era of the courts, comparing it with what is happening in the present. These are nothing but deliberate statements made to influence court decisions and to embarrass the courts for some political gain. It is disturbing to see that some lawyers defend politicians during the day and then try to influence judges through the media at night. The statement by such self-serving lawyers that it was easy to influence the courts in the past shakes public confidence in them. That is why there was a need for the lawyers to write a letter to the other side. There is no political purpose in writing such a letter, but there is a moral and national urge. In this letter, the Supreme Court has been requested to take strict and concrete steps to protect our courts from such attacks. Lawyers expressed concern that 'special groups' were trying to obstruct the proceedings of the courts. Especially efforts are being made to create obstacles on those issues which are related to politicians and political parties. Such tactics are damaging our courts and endangering our democratic structure. The lawyers allege that their actions are spoiling the atmosphere of nationalism, development, trust and harmony, which is the fundamental characteristic of the functioning of the judiciary. In the letter, the lawyers have called for a united, equitable, impartial stand in support of the judiciary to ensure that the judiciary remains a strong pillar of democracy. Certainly, judges should behave equally in front of well-known lawyers or powerful accused, without any political bias or prejudice and our judges do the same. Still, there remains scope for complaint and if some lawyers together feel the need to write such letters, then it only shows the country's aware-

ness and loyalty towards the country. Such letters cannot be criticized, such letters are tools to control the corrupt winds of politics. Such letters demand more awareness and sensitivity especially from the judges. If something goes against the values and standards anywhere in the society, in any part of the country, then we should not remain neutral thinking what should we do? Remaining silent after seeing something wrong is also a crime. Therefore, there should be no escape from evils and inconsistencies; there should be refinement of them. This letter of the lawyers is indicative of such sophistication which is required to maintain democracy as well as the well-established Constitution. Another group of lawyers has become active against the group of lawyers who wrote the letter, it is natural for them to be active because their wrong intentions have been thwarted along with their huge earnings. The mutual allegations and counter-allegations between the two groups of lawyers are also quite serious and sad. In the election season, this is an issue on which debate may continue for some days to come. The matter is really serious. Keep in mind, the letter of 600 lawyers also raises concerns about the fabricated theory of bench fixing, whereby attempts to influence the composition of judicial benches and question the integrity of judges is perhaps not new. In such a situation, it must be said that the dignity of any pillar or constitutional institution in the country should not be tarnished. The platforms that provide justice to the public should not be clouded by injustice, selfishness and demands. As a people working to uphold the Constitution while building a New India and a Strong India, it is time for our courts to stand up and keep a strong guard against attempts to blur its existence and identity.

international

Japan's Moon lander goes dormant again: JAXA

Team Absolute | New Delhi
After surviving two recent lunar nights, Japan's Smart Lander for Investigating Moon (SLIM) has now gone dormant, the country's space agency JAXA said on Monday. SLIM, also known as "Moon Sniper" in Japanese, touched down on the lunar surface on January 20. While SLIM achieved a pinpoint landing within 100 metres of the target, as planned, it, however, landed upside-down. With its solar panels not facing the sun, the lander cannot generate power. Mission officials were worried about the lander freezing, and not able to withstand the



harsh lunar nights, where temperatures fall as low as -130 degrees Celsius. The unmanned lander weighing 200 kilograms survived the winter, although "some tem-

perature sensors and unused battery cells are starting to malfunction", JAXA said. It also transmitted new images back to Earth. The lander has successfully aced its second

overnight operation and has been put to sleep, JAXA said. "SLIM completed its second overnight operation in the early hours of March 30th, and went dormant again," JAXA said in a post on X on Monday. "During this operation, we mainly checked the status of several devices by turning on switches and applying loads. Although there are some malfunctions in some functions of MBC, it still works, so we are carefully checking its status," it added. MBC is the multi-band camera used to examine lunar rocks. Japan is the fifth nation to complete a soft landing on the lunar surface, after Russia, the US, China and India.

36 Palestinians killed in overnight Israeli strikes across Gaza

Gaza | Agencies
At least 36 Palestinians were killed and dozens others wounded in overnight Israeli strikes across the Gaza Strip, Palestinian sources said. In the town of Bani Suhaila, east of Khan Younis, at least 11 were killed and dozens of others injured on Sunday in an Israeli drone attack targeting a group of Palestinians, Xinhua news agency reported. Meanwhile, a Palestinian woman and her child were killed in an Israeli artillery shelling that targeted a residential house in the "Al-Mawasi" area, west of Khan Younis, sources told Xinhua news agency on Sunday. In northern Gaza, 17 Palestinians were killed and at least 30 wounded in the Israeli bombing on Saturday night of a gathering of Palestinians who were waiting for aid at the "Kuwait" roundabout in the Al-Zaytoun neighbourhood, south of Gaza City, local sources and eyewitnesses said. In the Maghazi Palestinian refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip, at least six people were killed after an aircraft bombed a residential house. Ambulance crews and the Civil Defence Service have



rushed to recover some other residents buried under the rubble of the camp. Israeli forces also launched airstrikes and intense artillery shelling on the outskirts of the city of Deir al-Balah in the central Gaza Strip, according to Palestinian security sources. The sources told Xinhua news agency that the air and artillery bombardment was accompanied by an incursion of mobile troops into the "Al-Baraka" area, which lasted for several hours, during which an unidentified person was arrested from one of the houses. Israel has been launching a large-scale offensive against Hamas in the Gaza Strip to retaliate against a Hamas rampage through the southern Israeli border on October 7, 2023, during which about 1,200 people were killed and more than 200 were taken hostage.

Indonesian army apologises for explosion in military complex



Jakarta | Agencies
The Indonesian Army has apologised for the massive explosion at a military complex near Jakarta two days ago. The blast occurred at an ammunition warehouse in Ciangsana village, Bogor Regency, West Java province at 18:30 p.m. local time on Saturday, forcing 135 families to evacuate, Xinhua news agency reported on Sunday. Maruli Simanjuntak, Chief of Staff of the Indonesian Army, visited the site on Sunday and said that there were no casualties in the incident and stressed that the Army would review the current ammunition storage mechanism. "I apologise to the nearby communities in particular for this incident," he added. According to him, the warehouse that exploded was used to store expired ammunition to be destroyed. Meanwhile, military chief Agus Subiyanto has said that he would provide compensation for the people whose houses were damaged by the explosion. An investigation for the cause of the explosion is still underway.

Pakistan court suspends Imran Khan's sentence in Toshakhana case

Hamza Ameer | Islamabad
In a major positive development for former Pakistan Premier Imran Khan and his wife, the Islamabad High Court (IHC) has suspended the 14-year sentence of the former Prime Minister and his wife Bushra Bibi in the Toshakhana case. Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi were found guilty in the Toshakhana case, a case related to mishandling and illegal means of acquiring gifts received by foreign dignitaries by Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi during their time in office. Imran Khan was sentenced in the case days before the general elections, in what was being said as a hasty proceeding and a hasty decision to ensure Imran Khan stayed behind bars. The verdict was initially announced by the accountability court on 31 January, which was later challenged in the Islamabad High Court (IHC), which now has suspended the sentence and has allowed Imran Khan and his wife Bushra to be released on bail. During the proceedings at the Islamabad High Court (IHC), the court heard the appeal by Imran Khan's lawyer against the 31 January 2024 verdict by the accountability court, in which Imran Khan and his wife were found guilty of misusing the state's gift repository, sentencing Imran Khan and his wife to 14 years imprison-



ment while a fine of Rs 787 million each on the accused was also slapped. The Islamabad High Court (IHC) division bench, comprising IHC Chief Justice Aamer Farooq and Justice Mian Gul Hassan Aurangzeb took up the appeal against the sentence. Barrister Ali Zafar represented Imran Khan while NAB prosecutor Amjad Pervaz represented the National Accountability Board (NAB). The relief for Imran Khan and his wife

Bushra Bibi is a big success and news for Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) supporters and followers, who have been taking our protests and rallies and holding social media campaigns for the release of their leader Imran Khan, who they say has been put behind bars in false, fake and concocted cases with an intent to punish Imran Khan for standing against global powers like the United States and call out the country's powerful military establishment for their interference in the country's politics.

Taliban confirms detention of 2 US nationals in Afghanistan

Kabul | Agencies
Afghan caretaker government's spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid has confirmed the detention of two US nationals in Afghanistan, local media said. "A number of foreign nationals, including two US nationals, have been held in Afghanistan and the reason for their imprisonment is a violation of Afghanistan's laws," Afghanistan National Radio and Television quoted Mujahid on Sunday as saying. Without providing more details, the official noted that anyone who obtains an Afghan visa and enters the country is obliged to respect the law of the land, Xinhua news agency reported. Mujahid also said that in other countries, if Afghan nationals violate the law, they will definitely be arrested.



The Afghan administration's spokesman made the remarks amid reports that some in the US have been asking President Joe Biden to ensure the release of Americans held in Afghanistan and bring them back to their homeland.



JOLT TO CONG AS CHHINDWARA MAYOR VIKRAM AHAKE JOINS BJP

Team Absolute | Bhopal

In a fresh jolt to Congress in Madhya Pradesh, the mayor of Chhindwara Municipal Corporation, Vikram Ahake joined the BJP on Monday.

Chhindwara is a stronghold of Congress veteran Kamal Nath, and Vikram Ahake was considered to be one of his trusted aides.

Ahake, a young tribal leader, was elected as the Chhindwara Mayor in 2022. He was made a poster boy by the Congress. Kamal Nath's supporters had then released Ahake's photographs showing him working in fields, forest and riding bicycle with the message that a young tribal leader had been encouraged by the party.

On Monday Ahake reached the BJP headquarters in Bhopal and joined the BJP. Madhya Pradesh BJP President V.D. Sharma, who is contesting for his second term from the Khajuraho Lok Sabha seat, welcomed Ahake and some other Congress workers.

The jolt to Kamal Nath came a day after one of his trusted aides and Congress MLA, Kamlesh Shah (Amarwara) shifted to the BJP on Sunday. The Congress bagged all



eight Assembly seats of Chhindwara in 2023.

Former MLA Deepak Saxena, who had even vacated the Chhindwara Assembly seat for Kamal Nath in 2019, has maintained distance from

the Nath family. Saxena has not joined the BJP so far, however, he had a close-door meeting with CM Mohan Yadav last week.

On the other hand, Kamal Nath, who is making all efforts to ensure the

second victory for his son, is making an emotional appeal to seek support from Chhindwara voters. Kamal Nath had won as many as nine Lok Sabha elections from Chhindwara and he was also elected MLA twice.

SC refuses to stay ASI survey of Bhojshala Temple site

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Monday refused to stay the decision of the Madhya Pradesh High Court directing ASI survey of the entire site of Bhojshala Temple cum Kamal Maula Mosque.

A bench presided over by Justice Hrishikesh Roy issued notice to the Union government, Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), Hindu front for Justice Trust and others on a special leave petition filed by Maulana Kamaluddin Welfare Society.

In the meantime, the Bench, also comprising Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra, directed that the courts below will not act upon the survey report.

The apex court clarified that no physical excavation should be done by ASI at premises in question which in effect could change the character of the structure.

On March 13, the Indore Bench of the MP High Court ordered ASI to undertake a complete scientific investigation, survey and excavation of the site, including carbon



dating of the age, life of various structures both above and beneath the ground.

The High Court said that the right to worship and perform rituals in the disputed premises would be considered and determined only after receipt of the report from the Expert Committee consisting of not less than

five senior most officers of ASI.

The petitioners had contended that many ASI reports prepared from time to time have stated that originally constructed Bhojshala and Vagdevi temple was dismantled to install and construct a mosque over at the instance of Islamist rulers and force.

Digvijaya Singh Fears Defeat: VD Sharma

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Due to fear of massive defeat in the upcoming Lok Sabha polls, Congress leader Digvijaya Singh is proposing a way to conduct voting through ballots, Madhya Pradesh Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) chief VD Sharma said on Monday.

Sharma made the remark while talking to reporters in the state capital Bhopal on Monday, after Mr Singh, who is contesting from the Rajgarh Lok Sabha seat, on Sunday proposed a way of conducting elections through ballot paper in his constituency.

"Due to fear of massive defeat and seizure of security deposit, Digvijaya Singh is saying that people do not want to vote through EVM but through ballot paper. Are you the Election Commission? What are you? Digvijaya Singh ji, the country is governed by laws. If you are playing the role of Election Commission, then sub-



mit an application that I want to work in Election Commission," Sharma said. "The Election Commission is a constitutional body and it is conducting elections. Digvijaya Singh's situation has become such that he is looking for an 'excuse for his defeat.' This is the condition of Congress. Congress free India will be created," the BJP leader added. Congress leader Singh said on Sunday that he was working to get 400 people to file nominations from his constituency so that polling could be conducted through the ballot paper.

DIGVIJAYA SINGH HITS CAMPAIGN TRAIL IN RAJGARH LOK SABHA SEAT

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Congress veteran Digvijaya Singh who is contesting the Lok Sabha election from his home turf after three decades, kick-started his campaign with a week-long 'padyatra' in Rajgarh constituency on Monday.

Accompanied by staunch supporters and Congress workers from his home district Rajgarh, two-time former Chief Minister Digvijaya Singh started his 'padyatra' from Khilchipur Assembly segment, and the yatra will cover 25 kms every day.

The grand old party has fielded Digvijaya Singh from Rajgarh to take on two-time BJP MP, Rodmal Nagar.

The 77-year-old Digvijaya Singh won two Lok Sabha elections from Rajgarh (1984 and 1991), and lost one against the BJP's Pyarelal Khandelwal in 1989.

He had also contested the last Lok Sabha polls in 2019 from Bhopal and had lost to the BJP's Pragma Singh



Thakur. His younger brother, Laxman Singh, was elected as MP five times between 1999 and 2004, the last time being for the BJP. The BJP bagged the Rajgarh con-

stituency for two-consecutive terms (2014 and 2019), and therefore, the party has retained Rodmal Nagar, an RSS functionary and loyalist of ex-CM, Shivraj Singh Chouhan for the third term. Rodmal Nagar defeated

the Congress' Mona Sustani by a margin of over four lakh votes in 2019.

However, it's not the first time Digvijaya Singh has chosen the 'padyatra' route as he walked with Congress leader Rahul Gandhi during the first phase of the 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' from Kanyakumari to Kashmir last year.

Before that, he along with his wife Amrita Singh had carried out a 'Narmada Parikrama' covering around 4000 kms ahead of the Assembly elections in 2018.

Meanwhile, the BJP took a dig at Digvijaya Singh, saying the Congress leader was attempting to save his political career.

"The people of Madhya Pradesh have decided to give all 29 Lok Sabha seats to Prime Minister, Narendra Modi. Therefore, no matter whether he (Digvijaya Singh) embarks on a foot march or runs a marathon, his defeat is guaranteed," MP BJP President, VD Sharma said.

Once fathers were face to face, now political competition between sons

Guna | Agencies

There is an interesting contest on Guna seat in the Lok Sabha elections of Madhya Pradesh. Here earlier there was competition between fathers and this time there is competition between sons. This time there is a contest between BJP candidate and Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia and Congress candidate Rao Yadendra Singh Yadav.

Guna is considered to be the area of influence of the Scindia royal family. This can also be understood from the success achieved by this family here. So far 19 elections have been held in this parliamentary constituency, out of which members of the Scindia royal family were elected 14 times. Vijayaraje Scindia was elected six times while Madhavrao Scindia and Jyotiraditya Scindia were



electd four times each. Jyotiraditya Scindia had contested the 2019 elections from here as a Congress candidate and was defeated. This time he is contesting as a BJP candidate. BJP has fielded Scindia by canceling the ticket of its sitting MP KP Yadav for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. At the same time, Rao Yadendra Singh is beating the beat from Congress's side.

The political enmity between the two families is old. Here in the 1999 elections there was a contest between Madhavrao Scindia and Deshraj Singh Yadav. After that, in the 2002 by-election, Jyotiraditya was

facing Deshraj Singh. Now Scindia is facing competition from Deshraj's son Yadendra Singh. Yadendra Singh's family is recognized as an old BJP family. His father Deshraj Singh Yadav has been a big leader of BJP. Yadendra Singh has also been in BJP, but before the 2023 assembly elections, he had joined Congress along with other members of his family. Now Yadendra Singh's mother, who is a District Panchayat member, has returned to BJP and other family members have also joined BJP.

Guna parliamentary constituency consists of assembly constituencies of three districts, these include three assembly constituencies of Shivpuri, two of Guna and three of Ashoknagar. Out of these eight assembly constituencies, six are occupied by BJP and two by Congress.

MAN SHOT DEAD FOR RESISTING ATTEMPT TO KIDNAP HIS SISTER IN GUNA

Guna: A 25-year-old man belonging to the nomadic community Pardi died after he was shot for resisting a bid to allegedly kidnap his sister in Madhya Pradesh's Guna district, an official said.

The incident took place in the Dharnavada area, about 40 km from the district headquarters, police said.

Dharampal Pardi was shot in the foot by a person after he objected to an alleged attempt to kidnap his sister, said Sub-Inspector Rajendra Singh, the in-charge of Dharnavada police station. A profusely bleeding Dharampal was rushed to a nearby hospital, which referred him to Bhopal for better medical care. Police have registered a case of murder against seven to eight individuals and efforts are on to nab them, the official said, adding that the crime seems to be the fallout of an old enmity.

BJP engaged in making Chhindwara a battlefield: Kamal Nath

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Former Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Kamal Nath has made a big attack on BJP regarding Chhindwara. He has said that Chhindwara is a place of work and a place of penance for me, but BJP wants to make it a battlefield.

Kamal Nath wrote on Twitter, "I have been doing penance for 45 years to make Chhindwara the most developed area of India. Chhindwara is a place of work and a place of worship for me. BJP people want to make this sacred land a battlefield. Bharatiya Janata Party is contesting in this election. Money power, muscle power and power are being misused. Leaders are being intimidated and threatened."

He further wrote, "The people of Chhindwara are watching this act of BJP very carefully and have decided to give a befitting reply to those who are attacking Chhindwara. Before every election, BJP lies, deceit and bargaining." But, when the election results come, it is known that the people of Chhindwara



have given appropriate punishment to BJP for its crime. Chhindwara will not tolerate any mischief with its honor and will continue to move forward on its development journey.

Elderly man ablazed, lost his life in Betul

Team Absolute | Betul

In Betul district of Madhya Pradesh, an elderly man died due to fire in his field. This accident happened when the old man was extinguishing the fire of grass and wood kept near his house. Police have registered a case of culpable homicide against the farm owner.

Aathner in-charge Sarvind Dhurve said that Jogi Padam, a resident of Umr, died due to burns in the fire of Narvai. On the complaint of the deceased's son Bhurul Padam, the police have established a case and started investigation. In this case, Rajik Khan, the farm owner who burnt Narvai, has also been booked under section 304 of culpable homicide and taken into custody. It is being told that a per-



son named Rajik Khan, resident of Lalkhedhi, had burnt Narvai in his field on Sunday night. The Narvai fire had reached the wood and grass kept in front of Jogi Padam's house near the field. While extinguishing it, Jogi Padam got caught in the fire and died due to burning.

On receiving police information, the fire brigade team reached the spot and the fire was brought under control. The police is also investigating the matter and finding out whether there was any negligence on the part of anyone in the incident.

Swacchaarambh marks the commencement of "Swacchta Pakhwada" with Shramdan at AIIMS Bhopal

Team Absolute | Bhopal

AIIMS Bhopal embarked on its journey towards cleanliness and sanitation with the inauguration of "Swacchta Pakhwada" under the auspices of "Swacchaarambh" by Prof. (Dr) Ajai Singh, Executive Director & CEO, AIIMS Bhopal. The event commenced with a poignant tribute to Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation, highlighting his pioneering efforts towards fostering awareness about cleanliness and sanitation. During the ceremony, Prof. (Dr) Ajai Singh led the staff in taking the Swacchta Pratigya, emphasizing the significance of personal hygiene, sanitation, and environmental protection. Every member pledged to diligently work towards promoting sanitation awareness, infection control, and hygiene practices. The Executive Director underscored the impor-



importance of reducing plastic waste and urged the staff to educate themselves and others in their surroundings about adopting

cleanliness practices at work, home, and within the community. Following the pledge, a

'Shramdan' drive was organized, with the participation of various sections of staff members, including Faculty members, Nursing Officers, Engineering & Sanitation staff, under the leadership of the Executive Director & CEO. The Shramdan drive, coordinated by the Housekeeping & Sanitation Department, saw active involvement across all departments and sections of AIIMS Bhopal.

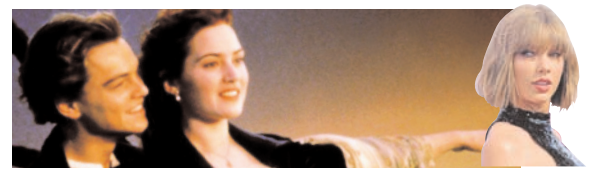
The Swacchaarambh event witnessed a significant turnout. All attendees pledged to embrace cleanliness not just for the duration of Swacchta Pakhwada but throughout the year, with the overarching goal of fostering a clean and healthy environment at AIIMS Bhopal. The collective aim is to contribute towards the vision of a Swacch AIIMS, a Plastic-Free AIIMS, and a Swasth AIIMS, aligning with the broader national initiative of Clean India - Healthy India.

SP CHANGED TICKET FROM KHAJURAHU SEAT, FIELDER MEERA YADAV IN PLACE OF MANOJ YADAV

Bhopal: Samajwadi Party has changed its candidate from Khajuraho Lok Sabha seat of Madhya Pradesh. SP has given ticket to former MLA Meera Deepak Yadav. Earlier on March 30, Manoj Yadav was declared as a candidate. Two days later, his ticket was canceled and Meera Yadav was fielded. Manoj Yadav has been made the state president of Madhya Pradesh Samajwadi Party.

Meera Yadav will face BJP candidate and sitting MP VD Sharma on Khajuraho seat. Let us tell you that Congress has left Khajuraho seat for SP as part of the alliance. Congress is contesting elections on 28 out of 29 seats in the state. Voting for Khajuraho seat will be held in the second phase on April 26. Elections are to be held on 7 seats of MP in the second phase of Lok Sabha elections.

Manoj Yadav's ticket has been canceled for the second time. Earlier, after giving ticket from Bijawar in the 2023 assembly elections, Samajwadi Party had canceled the ticket of Manoj Yadav. Former MLA Rekha Yadav was fielded in her place. Now, two days after declaring her name from Khajuraho Lok Sabha seat, Meera Yadav was made the candidate.



Rebel Wilson USED WEIGHT LOSS DRUGS

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Rebel Wilson shared that she briefly used Ozempic to help with her weight loss but added that she no longer uses the drug.

"Someone like me could have a bottomless appetite for sweets, so I think those drugs can be good," she said during a new interview with the Sunday Times.

The 44-year-old started her "year of health" in 2020 after speaking to a fertility doctor who told her she had a better chance of a successful IVF if she lost weight, reports pagesix.com.

"Basically no one apart from my mom wanted me to lose weight," she continued.

The actress added: "People thought I'd lose my pigeonhole in my career, playing the fat funny character, and they wanted me to continue in that."

Wilson decided to take on the challenge for herself, starting slowly with long walks and a low-sugar, high-protein diet.

Eventually, she worked her way up to two-and-a-half hour workout sessions, consisting of running up the steps of the Sydney Opera House in Australia and doing "crazy" cardio sessions.

"It so felt good that I kept going," Wilson added.

"I wasn't dealing with my emotions properly, I was just stuffing my face and holding on to them," she told the outlet.

Wilson, after reaching her goal weight, said she is now at a comfortable weight where she feels "curvy and solid," adding she's even experienced "positive reinforcement" in the ways she is treated.

She has openly spoken about her journey, even sharing in June 2023 that she gained weight after welcoming her daughter, Royce Lillian, via surrogate with her fiancée, Ramona Agruma, in November 2022.



DOLLY PARTON ONCE TOYED WITH THE IDEA OF TAKING HER OWN LIFE

Los Angeles | Agencies

Country music icon Dolly Parton has talked about how once she thought about taking her own life as she opened up about personal struggles she went through in the 1990s. Parton has enjoyed decades of success but shared that there was a time in the 1990s, when a number of things had left her "wounded" and she turned to writing music as a form of therapy.

"I was overweight, I was feeling bad and I was going through a business relationship and I had felt betrayed. It was one of those perfect storms. I wasn't going to commit suicide, but I pondered," she told SiriusXM, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

"I never went to a therapist, just went to my guitar, started writing songs. My music is my best therapy. Not everybody knew what I was going through, I was just working wounded. You don't stop living just because you have a broken heart or a broken spirit. You've still got jobs to do."

The 'Jolene' hitmaker reasoned that "almost everybody" has probably endured the same sort of mental struggle she did at some point in their lives and jokingly compared her own life to rocky road ice cream as opposed to vanilla. She said: "I bet nearly everybody has been in the dumps that I've had. I always said I'd rather be on a rocky road than vanilla."

'CHILLING ADVENTURES OF SABRINA' STAR CHANCE PERDOMO DIES IN MOTORBIKE CRASH

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actor Chance Perdomo, who has worked in the series 'Gen V' and 'Chilling Adventures of Sabrina', passed away at the age of 27 due to a motorcycle accident. The actor's publicist confirmed his death in a statement: "It is with heavy hearts that we share the news of Chance Perdomo's untimely passing as a result of a motorcycle accident."

"Authorities have advised that no other individuals were involved. His passion for the arts and insatiable appetite for life was felt by all who knew him, and his warmth will carry on in those who he loved dearest. We ask to please respect the family's wish for privacy as they mourn the loss of their beloved son and brother."

Representatives for the Los Angeles Police Department were unable to confirm if Perdomo's death occurred in Los Angeles. The coroner's office did not immediately respond to request for comment, reports variety.com.

Perdomo had gained the spotlight for his roles in Netflix's 'Chilling Adventures of Sabrina' and 'The Boys' spinoff series 'Gen V'.

Mourning the actor's death, the 'Gen V' producers said in a joint statement: "We can't quite wrap our heads around this. For those of us who knew him and worked with him, Chance was always charming and smiling, an enthusiastic force of nature, an incredibly talented performer, and more than anything else, just a very kind, lovely person." The statement further read: "Even writing about him in the past tense doesn't make sense. We are so sorry for Chance's family, and we are grieving the loss of our friend and colleague. Hug your loved ones tonight." Born in 1996, in Los Angeles, California, he appeared in several television shows and short films before he was cast as a series regular in 'Chilling Adventures of Sabrina', also starring Kiernan Shipka, Ross Lynch and Jaz Sinclair.



Elizabeth Hurley's son says filming his mum's racy scene felt 'totally normal'

Los Angeles | Agencies

British actress Elizabeth Hurley and her son Damian Hurley "felt totally normal" while he directed her in racy scenes. The mother-son pair say they feel more like siblings, which they know seems unusual to outsiders. Damian has spent years taking photographs of his mother wearing bikinis. The 58-year-old actress shared there was "nothing gratuitous" shot for 21-year-old Damian's 'Strictly Confidential' film, and added that she "felt very comfortable" getting intimate with another woman in front of her son, who was behind the camera, reports mirror.co.uk.

The actress also shared that the "budget couldn't run to" hiring an intimacy coordinator on set, reports mirror.co.uk.

"I hate to say that it felt totally normal. I don't know what that says about us," Damian said.

He added: "I was speaking to a lot of my friends who are also second generation of parents in the industry. They say exactly the same thing: that things to outsiders that may seem totally strange and extraordinary, for us we'll just have grown up with in everyday life."

He explained his relationship: "We're like siblings. I think when it's just two of you, any face of 'I'm the parent, you're the child, I'm going to tell you off' goes out the window."

"You start seeing each other as real humans way sooner than when there are two parents, two kids, and you're separated from the adults," he told the Sunday Times.



Lily Allen's mother feared the singer would meet an end like Amy Winehouse

Los Angeles | Agencies

Singer Lily Allen, who is now settled with her 'Stranger Things' actor David Harbour, went through a tough time when she achieved fame as a singer.

Her mother Alison Owen said she saw her daughter and Amy Winehouse go through similar struggles when they first got into the public eye.

Owen, who is a producer on the upcoming Amy Winehouse biopic 'Back to Black', told The Times that she thought being in the spotlight "would destroy my daughter" and lead her down the same grim path Winehouse ended up on.

Winehouse died of alcohol poisoning on July 23, 2011, at the age of 27. Her brother believed that bulimia was also to blame.

Referring to Allen's former-actor father Keith Allen, she added: "Lily fitted the bill because, early in her success, her role model was her dad."

"She'd seen him idolised for swearing, taking drugs and being drunk in the Groucho Club (in London), so in her young brain she thought that's what you did when you became famous."

"She didn't realise it's only OK for men. Women get punished for it."

Owen said photographers would wait for her daughter in the early days of her fame and "say things like, 'I see your single's going down the charts', or, 'You've put on weight, Lily'" in the hope of making her "angry or cry".

She also spoke about feeling disturbed after seeing Winehouse being on drugs and shockingly thin while out with her former partner Blake Fielder-Civil, 41, at a



music industry party. Owen said: "Amy was as thin as a pencil. And she and Blake were in the middle of this room dancing in a full-on sexual way. Both were clearly 'using' and I remember thinking, 'This is an accident waiting to happen. This is going to be a disaster.'"



Rebel Wilson opens up on weight loss journey, says she's an emotional eater

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Rebel Wilson, who recently slammed actor Sacha Baron Cohen over leaked intimate scenes, has opened up on the "emotional war" she went through over her weight.

The actress, 44, opened up about her weight loss journey and recalled experiencing a mental tug-of-war because she was "a proud fat female" while also being ashamed of her eating behaviours, reports 'People' magazine.

She told 'People', "I think to many people I'm a beacon of body positivity because I see people who are considered medically obese if you look at their weight, but I think they are absolutely beautiful. I really think beauty is in

any shape and size so I do really promote that."

She further mentioned: "So people are like, 'Well, how can you be so body-positive and then be hating yourself?' But I wasn't hating myself, I was only

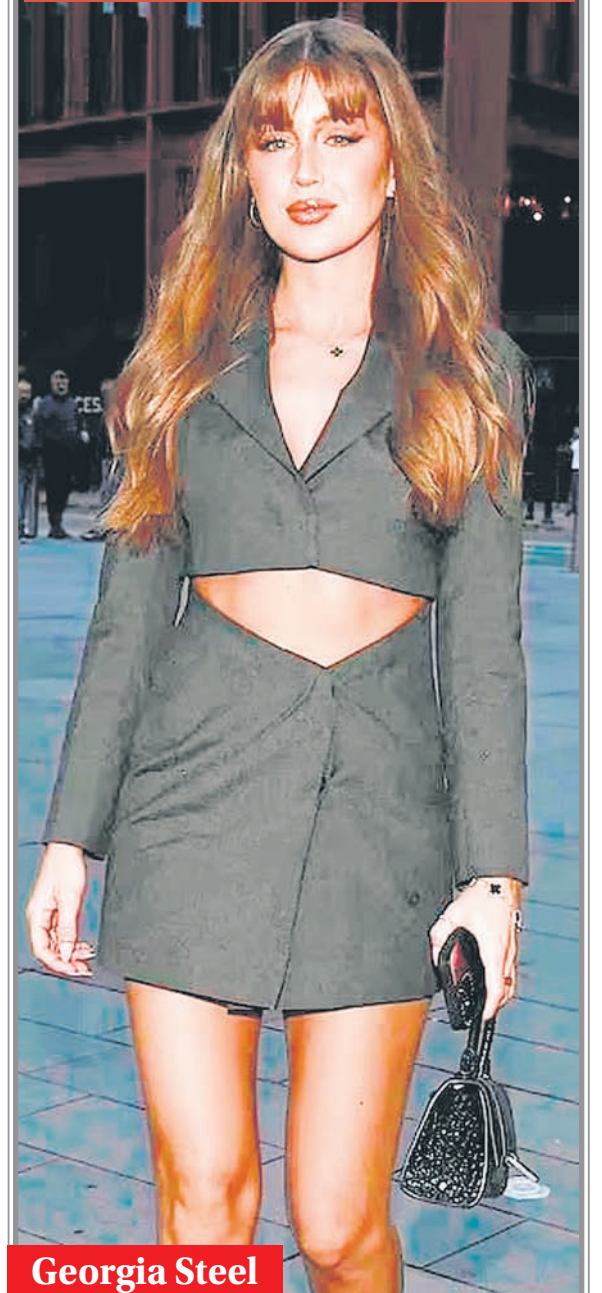
hating those shameful behaviours." "For example, eating a whole tub of ice cream every night and then feeling bad about myself, making myself get up early in the morning and go to the gym for an hour and a half and running on that treadmill until sometimes my back would hurt."

As per 'People', she said that cycle continued until she understood the emotional roots of her behaviour.

She described herself as an "emotional eater" and says it took time for her to change her lifestyle, with the help of therapy.

She said: "I would be hard on myself. I'm like, 'How can I be a person who excels in so many things and gets two university degrees, and can make millions of dollars, and can start from nothing and then create this huge career, but I couldn't lose weight?' I would always beat myself up about that and go, 'What's wrong with me?'"

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Georgia Steel



DJOKOVIC SET TO SURPASS FEDERER AS OLDEST NO.1 IN ATP RANKINGS HISTORY

New Delhi | Agencies

Serbian great Novak Djokovic, who began his 419th week in numero uno position, will break Swiss legend Roger Federer's record as the oldest No. 1 in ATP rankings history by the end of this week at 36 years and 321 days old.

In February last year, Djokovic surpassed Stefanie Graf's tally of 377 weeks to claim the record for the most weeks by a men's or women's tennis player as World No. 1.

Djokovic first became World No. 1 on 4 July 2011 at the age of 24. In contrast, both of Djokovic's great 'Big 3' rivals, Federer and Rafael Nadal, reached No. 1 for the first time aged 22, according to ATP stats.

Nearly 13 years after becoming World No. 1 for the first time, Djokovic has spent a large percentage of his time atop tennis summit. Monday signalled the start of his record-extending 419th week as World No. 1, meaning he is now 109 weeks clear of second-placed Federer (310 weeks).

Since he turned 30 on May 22, 2017, the Serbian has won 31 tour-level titles, including 12 of his 24 Grand Slams, 10 of his 40 ATP Masters 1000 crowns, and two of his seven Nitto ATP Finals trophies.



Jannik Sinner beats Grigor Dimitrov to win Miami Open

Florida | Agencies

The third time is the charm for Jannik Sinner. After finishing runner up in 2021 and 2023, the Italian won the 2024 Miami Open title by beating Bulgarian Grigor Dimitrov 6-3, 6-1 in men's singles final at the Hard Rock Stadium.

This is the third title for the World No. 3 this year, after the Australian Open and Rotterdam. He is 22-1 this season and is the first Italian to win the Miami Open.

Next week, he will climb one position in the ranking, up to No. 2.

"It was a great performance for me, especially in the semi-final and final, which for me is more important. Being number two is an amazing feeling. Sport is one thing, and life is very different, I am happy to be in this position, just enjoying every moment. These are special days, winning a tournament, doesn't matter what kind of tournament, it means a lot to me," said the Italian as



quoted by tournament website.

The 22-year-old converted two break points in the first set, in the fifth and ninth games, to close in 42 minutes.

In the second set, Sinner also had two breaks, in the fourth and sixth games, and served for the match at 5-1, clinching his win in 1 hour and 13 minutes. He won 88% of first-serve points (21 of 24).

As for the remainder of the season, Sinner still thinks there is a lot of improvement

to be done.

"The clay season is coming, usually, I struggle there, let's see what I can do this year. Rome for me is an important tournament because playing in front of your home crowd is always amazing. I am very relaxed. I have the feeling that I have learned many things from last year, what I can do better physically and mentally, I am in a different shape. So, let's see how it goes," exclaimed the new Miami Open champion.

Sthavi Asthana emerges champion in individual category at National Eventing Championship

New Delhi | Agencies

Sthavi Asthana emerged champion in the individual category of the National Eventing Championship, here at the Army Polo and Riding Centre on Monday.

It is the second consecutive podium finish for Asthana in the two-leg national event, having finished third in the first leg of the championships. Ashish Malik finished second and his joy was doubled as he also earned a podium finish in the team event, finishing third.

Asthana copped four penalty points in the jumps section, the error coming on obstacle number 10A. He also conceded four penalty points in show jumping but did not concede any time penalty and also excelled in the Dressage and Cross Country section, logging 36.9 points. Malik, on the other hand, copped two penalty points (Time) but was clean in jumps.



He finished Dressage and Cross Country with 38.9 points. Asthana and Malik were joined by Raju Singh (42.5) on the podium after he secured the third position. Prince Sharma (56.4) was a distant fourth. However, Prince had the solace of winning the team championship alongside Vimal Kumar, Pradeep Kumar and K Mahesh. Competing as team RVC C and College, the quartet finished the competition with 198.6 points.

The winners were much ahead of the second-placed team comprising Ankit Tyagi, HS Tomar, Saurabh Kumar and Sachin Chandel. They finished with 243.6 points but interestingly, they were also from the RVC C and College team.

The third place went to the Team ASC Centre North that had Sandeep, Narayan Singh, Ashish Malik and Mahendra Singh. They logged 244.9 points.

Fastest ball of IPL 2024: The story of a rapid Mayank Yadav

New Delhi | Agencies

The cricketing world has been buzzing since March 30, all thanks to Mayank Yadav's outstanding display of raw speed and bounce, leaving everyone in awe during Lucknow Super Giants' home match against Punjab Kings.

At the BRSABV Ekana Cricket Stadium on Saturday evening, Mayank breached the 150kmph mark nine times. The speed gun captured one of his deliveries at 155.8 kmph, making Mayank the holder of the fastest delivery in the ongoing season. It is also the tournament's sixth fastest ball, & second only to SRH's Umranshi Malik in terms of Indian bowlers.

Yadav's match-winning spell of 3-27 in four overs, where he used short balls to perfection for dismissing Jonny Bairstow, Prabhsimran Singh and Jitesh Sharma - helped LSG beat Punjab Kings by 21 runs to seal its first win of the competition.

Krunal Pandya mentioned Mayank's name as a player to watch out for in a video on the franchise's social media accounts. In a virtual interaction, head coach Justin Langer said Mayank caught his eye by bowling at a good pace.

His IPL franchise website labels him as 'medium-fast', but that will probably



change after outclassing PBKS batters with pure pace. Mayank's speed and thrilling performance have generated buzz among cricket fans, leading to suggestions of fast-tracking him into the Indian team.

Mayank, who took the Player of the Match award on his IPL debut, expressed later how speed has captivated him throughout his life, citing rock-

ets, superbikes, and supersonic jet planes as particular sources of fascination.

Back home in Punjabi Bagh, a bustling neighborhood in West Delhi, his father Prabhu Yadav beamed with pride as Mayank claimed Bairstow as his inaugural IPL wicket. Prabhu recalled how his love for fast-bowling inspired Mayank to become one too.

"I was a fan of fast-bowlers, particularly Courtney Walsh and Curtly Ambrose, as well as of Glenn McGrath, Shaun Pollock, and Jacques Kallis. Mayank knew I enjoyed watching fast-bowlers bowl. So he got the idea of becoming a fast-bowler on seeing my interest towards them," said Prabhu to IANS.

Mayank's journey in fast-bowling began at eight, but it was a trial at the prominent Sonnet Club in 2017, founded by late Tarak Sinha, that changed everything. Coach Devendra Sharma, who now runs Sonnet Club, which has produced over a dozen players for India, including Rishabh Pant, praised Mayank's quick pace despite his frail look.

"I took his trial as Tarak sir was out of station that time. Seeing his really quick bowling, I was left in awe and wondered, 'Fitness wise, his built is very weak, yet bowls very fast.' I realised quickly that he's got God-gifted talent. His deliveries go very quick off the wicket and his action is very easy and smooth."

"I informed Tarak sir about him and when he arrived next week, we slowly got him into playing various tournaments. We also worked on his fitness and by giving him consistent game time, he slowly became ready to play for the main Delhi side."

THE GOAL WAS TO SECURE MY SPOT FOR PARIS OLYMPICS : MIRABAI

Phuket (Thailand) | Agencies

Tokyo Olympic silver medallist Mirabai Chhanu finished third in the women's 49kg group B event of the IWF World Cup and has all but qualified for the 2024 Paris Games.

Returning after a six-month-long injury layoff, Chhanu showcased her resilience by lifting a total of 184kg (81kg snatch + 103kg clean and jerk), which is the final and mandatory qualifier for the Paris Olympics.

However, the official announcement for the qualification will come after the conclusion of the World Cup when the Olympic Qualification Ranking (OQR) will be updated.

Speaking after the competition, Mirabai said, "It feels incredible to come back after an injury. Almost every lift I made today felt clean, clear, and powerful, and I'm leaving this competition



feeling strong and confident. The rehabilitation was tough and demanding, but with the support of everyone involved in my rehab and recovery, I pushed through all the complications.

The journey to get here required relentless dedication and hard work, and I couldn't be happier being back on the ramp - lifting and competing for my country." "The goal was to secure my

spot for the Paris Olympics, and now that I am almost through for the Paris Olympics, all my attention is on making a mark at the Paris Olympics."

In the women's 49kg OQR, the 2017 world champion is presently ranked second, behind Jian Hui Hua of China. The top ten lifters in each weight division will earn a spot in the Olympics in Paris. Speaking on Mirabai's performance, coach Vijay Sharma said, "Our entire focus leading up to this event was solely on her (Mirabai's) rehabilitation. Seeing her perform comfortably today, given she is returning after six months of injury and rehabilitation, makes me proud of all the hard work we have done. Today, she was comfortable and confident in her lifts." "Now that we're almost through, our focus is firmly set on the Paris Olympics 2024. It's time to channel all our energy into preparing for the main event in Paris.

T20 WC: 'Kohli is doing fine, selectors don't go by social media memes', says BCCI official

New Delhi | Agencies

Stylish Indian batter Virat Kohli is currently leading the IPL 2024 batting chart with 181 runs in three matches. His strike rate (141.41) is not that impressive, but a BCCI official believes that Kohli will improve it, considering his form and experience.

Before the start of IPL 2024, there were reports that Kohli might find it tough to get a place in India's squad for the T20 World Cup, scheduled later this year, and chief selector Ajit Agarkar will be keeping a close watch on the former Indian captain's performance.

However, Kohli's two back-to-back fifties in three matches of the cash-rich league, has lifted his chances for World Cup



contention.

Though RCB has lost two matches, Kohli's form with the bat is currently a topic of discussion among netizens. Some are questioning his strike-rate while some are praising his innings. Memes related to his "not-so-impressive" strike rate are also getting viral.

Speaking to IANS, a BCCI official -- on condition of

anonymity -- said that Kohli despite coming from a long break, is "playing well" and added that selectors "don't go by social media memes" while picking up a team.

"See, it is just the beginning (of the league) and Kohli has started fine. He will improve his strike rate as well in the coming matches. As far as I personally feel, he will make it (to the World Cup squad). Selectors don't go by social media memes. Cricket is played on the field not on social media platforms," the official added.

The T20 World Cup 2024 is scheduled to kickstart from June 1 onwards in West Indies and USA, following the conclusion of IPL 2024 season. Team India are placed in Group A alongside Pakistan.

Premier League: Man City, Arsenal's draw leaves Liverpool on top

Manchester | Agencies

Resolute defensive display from Arsenal earned the Gunners a point as they played out a goalless draw with Manchester City at the Etihad Stadium, leaving Liverpool top of the table. City dominated the ball, with 72 per cent possession, but were unable to create many clear-cut chances, with Gabriel and William Saliba superb for Arsenal. Mikel Arteta's side drop to second, two points behind Liverpool following the Reds' 2-1 win over Brighton & Hove Albion earlier in the day. City are a point further back in third.



Nathan Ake and Mateo Kovacic both went close for City whilst former Blue Gabriel Jesus and sub Leandro Trossard threatened for the visitors. In the end though, the two were forced to settle for a point with Liverpool

emerging as new leaders after their earlier 2-1 win at home to Brighton. City, who only managed one shot on target, were held to their first 0-0 draw in the Premier League since March 2022 against Crystal Palace, ending their run of 75 consecutive league games without any being goalless. One concern for Arsenal will have been the sight of Saka limping off during the second half, with Arsenal next in action at home to Luton Town on Wednesday.

I had self-belief, whatever happens I need to be back on the ground', says Pant

Visakhapatnam | Agencies

After enthraling everyone with a 32-ball 51 as Delhi Capitals (DC) beat defending champions Chennai Super Kings (CSK) by 20 runs, skipper Rishabh Pant said he always had the self-belief to return to the cricket field irrespective of whatever happened.

Sunday's game at Visakhapatnam was Pant's third game in competitive cricket after recovering from a life-threatening car accident in December 2022. Promoting himself to number three, Pant was at 23 off 23 balls, before accelerating by making 28 runs in his next eight balls before holing out to long-off to make a fifty in the IPL after 465 days.



"See, as a cricketer I don't think about (feeling like being back), but at the same time I have to give my 100% each and every day. So what I did was I took my time initially because I haven't played much cricket in the last one-and-a-half to two

years so I thought I have to give myself enough time.

"At the same time I kept believing that I could change the match at the end. I think I always had self-belief that whatever happens in life, I need to be back on the ground.

That was the thought process and I never thought about anything else," said Pant after the match.

Asked about how was the wait for him in returning to the field, Pant replied, "One-and-a-half years. Because every day I love to be on the field and this is something I have depended my life on. Yes, that one-and-a-half years was a wait but at the same time you've got to keep doing what you can as a cricketer and keep learning from it."

Opener Prithvi Shaw, playing his first game of the season, smashed a 27-ball 43, including four fours and two sixes. Pant was impressed with how he fared in DC's first win of the season. "I think definitely he has been working hard from last two weeks and he put him-

self on the line all the way. And we thought that it's time to give him a chance and he flourished."

With the ball, Khaleel Ahmed bowled a brilliant spell of 2-21, including taking out Rachin Ravindra and Ruturaj Gaikwad. Fellow pacer Mukesh Kumar shined at the back-end of the innings by picking 3-21.

"I think bowlers have been very clinical. Yes, we talked about we can all learn from our mistakes and I can say that we have learned. "I think it will depend on match to match, but at the same time if Mukesh can bowl at the death it's very nice. The good thing was that he got injured but he still came back to the field and bowled that superb over," concluded Pant.



Exterior badal bhi jaaye, fitrat nahi badalti : **Karan Johar**

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Filmmaker Karan Johar has shared some pearls of wisdom on fillers, botox and going under-the-knife for changing the exterior.

Karan took to his Instagram stories and shared a hilarious lengthy note in Hindi talking about changing the external body. The filmmaker wrote: "Fillers laga lo fulfilment nahin milti... Make up laga lo umar hai ghat thi (Applying fillers

doesn't bring fulfillment... applying makeup doesn't make you younger)." Karan added: "Karlo jitna bhi Botox, lagoge jaise madhumakkhi ne kaat liya... Naak badalne se gand itar nahi banti (No matter how much Botox you do, you'll end up looking like a fly stung you)."

"Going under the knife se exterior badal bhi jaaye... Lekin meri jaan... Fitrat nahi badalti (Going under the knife will only change your exterior and not your nature)." On the work front, it has been reported that Karan is working on the third instalment of 'Student Of The Year', which will be made into a series for OTT.

**Fillers laga lo fulfilment nahin milti...
Make up laga lo Umar hai ghat thi
....
Karlo jitna bhi Botox, lagoge jaise madhumakkhi ne kaat liya ...
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Going under the knife se exterior Badal bhi jaaye...
Lekin meri jaan ...Fitrat nahi badalti ...**



Pov: wearing well fitted clothes today, because when I tried a kaftan dress...



Parineeti Chopra puts pregnancy rumours to rest with savage post after pictures of her in loose-fit attire go viral

WATCH: Parineeti Chopra Sparks Pregnancy Speculation As She Sports Puffer Jacket In Mumbai

Is Parineeti Chopra Pregnant? Netizens Share Their Theories Speculating 'Goodbye' For Actor And Raghav Chadha

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Parineeti Chopra on Monday has debunked rumours of her pregnancy by sharing a video of herself wearing 'fitted clothes'. Recently, during the trailer launch of her upcoming streaming movie, Parineeti wore a loose black coloured kaftan dress. Rumour mills were abuzz with the speculation around the actress' pregnancy, after her recent wedding with AAP Rajya Sabha MP Raghav Chadha. However, the actress had earlier put all rumours to rest, as she took to Instagram stories and wrote a note: "Kaftan dress = pregnancy, Oversized shirt = pregnancy, Comfy Indian kurta = pregnancy." On Monday, Parineeti took to Instagram and shared a Reel, wherein she can be seen wearing a white top, matching pants and blazer. The actress is giving major boss lady vibes in the outfit. The video includes a caption that reads: "POV - wearing well fitted clothes today, because when I tried a kaftan dress..." then the video shows several news headlines stating 'Is Parineeti Chopra pregnant?'. The video is captioned as: "Entering my fitted clothes era". In the Stories section, she wrote: "Add to cart: Fitted clothes only." Fans took to the comment section and wrote: "They are jobless bro". Another user said: "Don't give them so much attention". One fan said: "epic".

Parineeti's chic response to pregnancy rumours

MADHUR BHANDARKAR VISITS ERAWAN SHRINE, SAYS 'STUNNING EXAMPLE OF SYNCRETISM'



Team Absolute | Mumbai

National Award-winning filmmaker Madhur Bhandarkar visited the Erawan Shrine in Bangkok and called it a stunning example of the combination between Hinduism and Buddhism.

Bhandarkar, who is currently holidaying in Thailand, took to X (formerly called Twitter) and shared a video and a picture from the shrine, which he said represents guardian spirits in Thai animist beliefs.

"Visited the #ErawanShrine in #Bangkok, a stunning example of syncretism between #Hinduism and #Buddhism. Built in 1956, this shrine represents guardian spirits in Thai animist beliefs. #Feelingblessed #Thailand #ErawanShrine," he wrote.

The Erawan Shrine, which houses a statue of Phra Phrom, the Thai representation of Brahma, the Hindu God of creation. The name also refers to Mahabrahma, the ruler of the Brahma realm in Buddhist cosmology.



Shilpa Shetty shares glimpse of 'fab' core morning workout

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Actress and fitness enthusiast Shilpa Shetty has shared a sneak-peek into her "fab core" workout but also gave a disclaimer that it is not for beginners.

Shilpa took to X (formerly called Twitter) and shared a video of herself working out with her gym buddy.

In the video, the two are seen balancing each other.

The actress captioned the clip: "First day of the week and Monday of April. Add to that the feeling of successfully attempting this workout on the first try. It isn't as easy as it seems, but it's a fab core workout. The person at the top should perform a pike, while the person at the bottom performs a weighted sit-up keeping a strong tight form (If you aren't synchronised, it can lead to a fall)".

"Did it with @YashmeenC, my gym buddy. Tag a friend you'd like to try this with. And if you do it, don't forget to tag me! P.S.: This workout needs a strong core. So, it should not be attempted by beginners. #MondayMotivation #SSKsFitnessChallenge #fitness #SwasthRahoMastRaho #FitIndia #coreworkout #fitnessmotivation."

Bobby Deol's new hairdo sets Insta on fire: 'living in the moment', he says

Team Absolute | Mumbai



Bobby Deol on Monday treated fans to his new killer suave look, leaving the fans in awe of his outfit and hairdo.

Bobby, who enjoys 3.1 million followers on Instagram, shared a Reel video, wherein he can be seen wearing a white V-neck T-shirt, and paired it with black blazer and matching palazzo pants. He rounded off the outfit with white shoes, a key locket and transparent sunglasses.

The eye-catching part

of the look was his hairstyle, which he styled as side braids and tied them in a bun. He is also sporting an edgy beard look.

The post is captioned as: "Just out here, living in the moment."

Fans dropped several fire emojis in the comment section. One user wrote: "One of your best looks", another said, "charming as always."

On the professional front, Bobby was last seen in the action drama 'Animal', directed by Sandeep Reddy Vanga. The movie stars Ranbir Kapoor in the lead, while Anil Kapoor, Bobby, and Rashmika Mandanna play pivotal roles.



Team Absolute | Mumbai

On April Fools' Day, actor Tiger Shroff did not leave any chance to hilariously prank his co-star Akshay Kumar. Tiger on Monday shared a video on

Instagram. The clip begins with Tiger shaking a big bottle of soft drink and then runs to play in the garden. Akshay comes in to join the game but the 'Baaghi' star asks him to first bring in the bottle. Tiger then makes Akshay open the bottle, which fizzes out and the drink inside gets spilled all over the 'Airlift' star.

The 34-year-old actor, who is the son of veteran star Jackie Shroff, captioned the clip: "April (flower emoji) bade miyan (laughing emoji)".

On the work front, Tiger and Akshay are set to appear together on the big screen in the film 'Bade Miyan Chote Miyan', which also stars Sonakshi Sinha, Alaya F and Manushi Chhillar.



Masoom Shankar