

# absolute india

VOL. 11, ISSUE 185, MUMBAI | SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2024 | ₹5 | PAGE 08

PUBLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM MUMBAI, BHOPAL AND NEW DELHI

**NATION** > 02

**SC reserves verdict on Arvind Kejriwal's plea against ED...**



**HOLYWOOD** > 06

**I don't realize that I'm putting so many things before my relationship...**



**SPORTS** > 07

**Gambhir approached by BCCI for India's head coach role: Report...**



## At 47.4 Degrees Celsius, Najafgarh In Delhi Warmest In Country

**A BRUTAL HEAT WAVE SWEEPED SWATHES OF NORTHWEST INDIA ON FRIDAY, WITH MAXIMUM TEMPERATURES SOARING TO A SCORCHING 47.4 DEGREES CELSIUS IN WEST DELHI'S NAJAFGARH, MAKING IT THE WARMEST PLACE IN THE COUNTRY.**

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The mercury breached 45 degrees Celsius at 19 places in Rajasthan, 18 in Haryana, eight in Delhi and two in Punjab. Conditions are expected to turn worse with the severe heat wave over the northwest Indian plains predicted to continue during the next five days.

The threshold for a heat wave is met when the maximum temperature of a weather station reaches at

least 40 degrees Celsius in the plains, 37 degrees in the coastal areas, and 30 degrees in the hilly regions, and the departure from normal is at least 4.5 notches.

A severe heat wave is declared if the departure from normal exceeds 6.4 notches.

On Friday, the maximum temperature surged to 47.4 degrees Celsius in Najafgarh and 47.1 in Haryana's Sirsa.

According to India Meteorological Data (IMD) data till 7:30 pm,

Najafgarh was the warmest place in the country.

In Delhi, the mercury settled at 46.5 degrees Celsius in Mungeshpur, 46.2 degrees in Aya Nagar, 45.9 degrees in Pusa and Jafarpur, 45.8 degrees in Pitampura and 45.1 degrees in Palam.

Severe heatwave conditions are very likely in some parts of Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana and Delhi during May 18-21, the IMD warned. A fresh heatwave spell will commence over east and central

India from Saturday.

The Met office had earlier predicted a higher-than-normal number of heatwave days in the northern plains and central India in May.

Normally, the northern plains, central India and adjoining areas of peninsular India experience around three heatwave days in May.

The IMD had earlier warned of extreme heat in India during the April-June period, coinciding with the seven-phase Lok Sabha elections that end on June 1.



## CONGRESS WILL BULLDOZE RAM TEMPLE IF IT COMES TO POWER": PM NARENDRA MODI

Barabanki (UP) | Agencies

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday here alleged that the Congress will run a bulldozer over the Ram temple if the INDIA bloc comes to power. Addressing an election rally, PM Modi said the Congress is planning to challenge the Supreme Court's order on the Ram temple once it comes to power and will eventually demolish the temple.

"If Samajwadi Party-Congress comes to power, it will send Ram Lalla once again to a tent, and a bulldozer will be rolled over the temple," he said. "The country does not matter to them. For them, the game is for family and power," he added.

The Prime Minister was in Barabanki to seek support for party



candidate Rajrani Rawat who is contesting from the Lok Sabha seat.

He thanked the people for voting for him in the previous elections, saying it was their vote which ended the "500-year-long" wait for the Ram Mandir.

"People from Barabanki walked on foot to Ayodhya with bricks with 'Ram' inscribed on them. The youngsters, the first-time voters, will not understand the 500 years of wait... Generation after generation of our ancestors struggled and sacrificed," he said.

He alleged that Congress under its regime sent Ram Lalla to a "tent" and when it, along with the Samajwadi Party, was invited to the temple's consecration ceremony, the party refused to attend. "There is so much poison in their belly... I don't know what enmity they have with Ram," PM Modi said.

## Modi is trying to "rewrite" the Constitution: Rahul Gandhi

Amethi (Uttar Pradesh) | Agencies

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and Samajwadi Party Chief Akhilesh Yadav on Friday attended a joint public rally in Uttar Pradesh's Amethi to campaign for Congress and INDIA bloc candidate KL Sharma.

Speaking at the rally the Congress leader alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is attempting to "rewrite" the Constitution.

Seeking votes for the Congress candidate, Kishori Lal Sharma, Rahul Gandhi termed the 2024 Lok Sabha elections a "distinct election." "For the first time, a political party and its leaders are saying clearly that they would rewrite the Constitution and throw it away. This is a legacy of Gandhiji's, Ambedkarji's, Jawaharlal Nehru's and every citizen of the country," he said while holding a copy of the Constitution in his hand. He asked the gathering, "Would you let it (the Constitution) get erased? Is there any power in the world that can erase it?" "The first thing we have to do is protect the Constitution. Why? It is your voice.



Your future. Your thought is embedded in it. Whatever has been given to the poor people in the country so far, be it the right to land, assistance to farmers, or the green revolution, all of it has been achieved on the back of this book." Lashing out at PM Modi, he said, "(Prime Minister) Narendra Modi wants to put an end to this (Constitution). If it disappears, then there would be no public sector, no jobs, skyrocketing inflation, reservations would come to an end, and all of your rights would be snatched one by one.

## SC seeks ECI's response on disclosing 'authenticated' voter turnout after each phase of LS polls

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Friday sought the response of the Election Commission of India (ECI) on disclosing the authenticated record of voter turnout after each phase of polling for the ongoing Lok Sabha elections.

Posting the matter for hearing on May 24, a bench headed by the Chief Justice of India (CJI), D.Y. Chandrachud, granted a week to the poll panel to respond to the application seeking directions to the ECI to disclose on its official website the scanned legible copies of Form 17C Part-I (Account of Votes Recorded) of all polling stations containing the authenticated figures for votes polled, within 48 hours of the close of polling.

The bench, also comprising Justices J.B. Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, decided to take up the matter after advocate Prashant Bhusan mentioned it for urgent hearing.

The plea also demanded that the ECI should provide a tabulation of constituency and polling station-wise figures of voter turnout in absolute numbers and percentage form for the ongoing general elections.

Referring to the voter turnout data published by the ECI on April 30 for the first two phases of polling, 11 days after the first phase of polling on April 19, and four days after the



second phase of polling on April 26, the plea claimed "dereliction of duty" on the part of the poll panel in declaring election results (of the Lok Sabha and Assemblies through Electronic Voting Machines).

"The data, as published by the ECI in its press release dated April 30, 2024, shows a sharp increase (by about 5-6 per cent) as compared to the initial percentage announced by ECI, as of 7 p.m. on the day of polling." It is submitted that the inordinate delay in the release of final voter turnout data, coupled with the unusually high revision (of over 5 per cent) in the ECI's press note of April 30, 2024, and the absence of disaggregated constituency and polling station figures in absolute numbers, has raised concerns and public suspicion regarding the correctness of the said data," it said.

## VISA-FREE TRAVEL AGREEMENT LIKELY BETWEEN RUSSIA AND INDIA BY 2024-END

Moscow: Consultations between Russia and India on a bilateral agreement to ease travel will begin in June, a Russian minister has said, adding that Moscow and New Delhi were set to strengthen their tourism ties by launching visa-free group tourist exchanges.

"India is at the final stage of internal state coordination," Nikita Kondratyev, director of the Russian Economic Development Ministry's Department of Multilateral Economic Cooperation and Special Projects, was quoted by RT News as saying.

"Russia and India are set to strengthen their tourism ties as they gear up for the launch of visa-free group tourist exchanges. The first round of consultations between the two nations is scheduled for June, with an aim to finalise a bilateral agreement by the end of the year," the minister said.

## AAP Says Arvind Kejriwal Home Video Exposes Swati Maliwal "Lie", She Snaps

Team Absolute | New Delhi

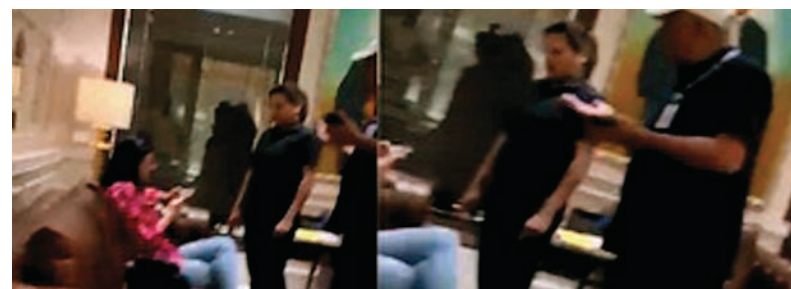
The Aam Aadmi Party and Swati Maliwal traded bitter barbs Friday evening as each pushed back against the other over the latter's claims - that she was "slapped seven times (and) kicked in the stomach" by Arvind Kejriwal's aide, Bibhav Kumar, while inside the Chief Minister's home.

AAP leader Atishi began the exchange with a sharp attack at a press conference, in which she accused Maliwal of colluding with the Bharatiya Janata Party to discredit the AAP during the general election.

Maliwal responded shortly afterwards on X (formerly Twitter), directing her anger at her alleged assaulter, Bibhav Kumar, and slamming him as a "goon" who had pressured the party into attacking her.

"This goon (seen as a reference to Kumar) is threatening the party, 'If I get arrested I will reveal all secrets'. That is why he is roaming in Lucknow and everywhere seeking shelter..." Maliwal tweeted.

"Today, under his pressure, the party



gave in. To save a goon my character was questioned... no problem, I have been fighting alone for the women of the country, I will fight for myself too."

"Do character assassination... the truth will come when the time comes!"

Earlier, Atishi referred to a 52-second video of Monday's confrontation between Maliwal and staffers at Kejriwal's home - in which she is seen (briefly) and heard arguing with the guards, who repeatedly demand she leave the premises. The woman in the video - believed to be Maliwal - refuses, threatens the guards with police action, and then dares them to physically throw her out.

Pointing to the video - which Maliwal has said is being viewed out of context - the AAP leader claimed it exposed "plans" hatched by the BJP to target Kejriwal - who was released on bail last week after his arrest in March on corruption charges - days before the Delhi Lok Sabha election.

Bibhav Kumar, the personal secretary (PS) to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal also lodged a complaint at the Civil Lines police station on Friday evening in connection with the allegations of physical assault levelled against him by AAP Rajya Sabha MP Swati Maliwal, the former chairperson of Delhi Commission for Women (DCW).

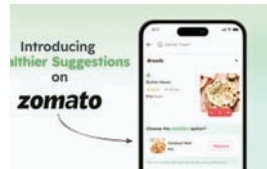
## Zomato CEO wants Indians to eat 'roti' instead of 'naan' to stay healthy

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Online food aggregator Zomato's Co-founder and CEO Deepinder Goyal on Friday launched a new feature to help customers make healthier choices. To begin with, the company has started suggesting 'roti' as an alternative to 'naan'.

Goyal said the company has seen a seven per cent "attach rate" for these suggestions, and "we have received overwhelmingly positive feedback for this feature."

"We are soon planning to scale this to other dishes and categories as well. For example, if you are craving a dessert, we might show you lower calorie desserts as options when you add the former to your cart," Goyal



posted on X social media platform. In March, Goyal faced flak over his decision to launch a 'pure veg mode' on the Zomato platform with riders wearing 'green' uniforms. After strong criticism, the company later 'changed' the colours from green to red even for rushing vegetarian deliveries to its customers across the country.

The food delivery platform posted a net profit of Rs 175 crore in Q4 FY24 compared to a loss of Rs 188 crore in the same period a year ago. The company's stock hovered around Rs 194 apiece on Friday.

## Suspicious Nepali husband cuts holes, 'locks up' wife's private parts in Pune

Quaid Najmi | Pune

In an incident of diabolical proportions, a Nepali national, suspecting his wife's fidelity, allegedly cut two holes and 'locked up' her private parts after brutally assaulting her, officials of the Wakad Police Station in Pimpri-Chinchwad near Pune said on Friday.

The accused Upendra Hudake, 30, has been arrested, while his 28-year-old wife has undergone emergency surgery in a local hospital where her condition is now described as 'stable.'

Investigating Officer Balaji Mete of Wakad Police Station told correspondent, "The couple hails from a village in Nepal. They had

come to Pune in early-May to look for employment and were living with Upendra Hudake's sister and her family near Wakad."

The horrific incident occurred on the night of May 11, when Upendra Hudake came home in a heavily drunken state and abused and assaulted his wife. Upendra Hudake threatened her with a kitchen knife and accused her of being unfaithful to him, which she denied.

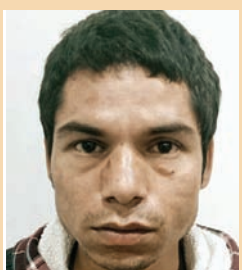
Not believing her, Upendra Hudake continued to beat and kick her, terrify-

ing her with the knife, and tied her up with a stole on the floor as she lay pleading with him to stop.

Continuing his chilling assault Upendra Hudake took a sharp blade, cut two holes on both sides of her genitals, put iron screws and affixed a small brass lock on it, as the helpless woman lay bleeding and screaming for help. He even threw away the key of the lock. Hearing the commotion, a neighbour Lalit Parihar, a migrant labourer, rushed to the house where

he saw the badly injured and profusely bleeding woman lying writhing on the floor in pain.

He called for help and several people from the vicinity, including some other Nepalis living there, reached Upendra Hudake's home and they shifted her to a nearby hospital in a semi-conscious state, said the IO. There, she underwent an emergency surgery to remove the iron screws and lock, and stitch the deep wounds. IO Mete said that five days later on Thursday, when she was in a better condition, the woman took courage and lodged a complaint against her husband at the Wakad Police Station.



## Prosecution pushes for HD Revanna's judicial custody in sexual harassment case

Bengaluru | Agencies

Claiming that a rape charge has been included in the sexual harassment case against JD-S MLA H.D. Revanna, the prosecution argued on Friday before the Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (ACMM) court that he should be handed over to judicial custody.

Countering this, the counsel for Revanna claimed that the case against his client itself was false and lodged intentionally. After hearing the arguments, the court adjourned the matter to Monday (May 20). To recall, Revanna, the son of former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda, recently came out of prison in a kidnap case involving a woman victim of the alleged sex video scandal in which his son and JD-S



MP Prajwal Revanna is the prime accused.

On Friday, special public prosecutor Jayna Kothari, appearing for the Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the case, submitted that IPC Section 376 (rape) has been added to the sexual harassment case registered at the Holenarasipur police station. "The SIT probe is ongoing. If bail is granted now, it will influence the witnesses. Also, bail should not be granted to Revanna as a non-bailable section has been invoked in the case.





## SC RESERVES VERDICT ON ARVIND KEJRIWAL'S PLEA AGAINST ED ARREST IN EXCISE POLICY CASE

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Friday reserved its verdict on a petition filed by Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal challenging his arrest and subsequent remand by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in the excise policy case.

A bench headed by Justice Sanjiv Khanna clarified that CM Kejriwal could approach the trial court for grant of regular bail in the money laundering case notwithstanding the fact that the apex court reserved judgment in the matter.

The bench, also comprising Justice Dipankar Datta, finished hearing the oral arguments advanced by Solicitor General (SG) Tushar Mehta and Additional Solicitor General (ASG) S.V. Raju -- representing the ED -- and senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, appearing for the petitioner (Kejriwal). During the hearing, ASG Raju submitted that the probe agency has "chats" between Kejriwal and hawala operators, and disclosing such material to the accused prior to arrest could hamper the investigation. He added that at the stage of investigation, the adequacy of the "materials available" cannot be judicially scrutinised. In an order passed last week, the apex court ordered CM Kejriwal to be released on interim bail in the money laundering case till June 1 and directed him to surrender on June 2. It prohibited CM Kejriwal from signing official files unless it is required and necessary for obtaining clearance/approval of the Lt Governor of Delhi. Also, while out on interim bail, he will not visit the CM office or the Delhi



Secretariat. Earlier, the Supreme Court had asked Kejriwal as to why he had not moved a bail application before the trial court.

"We have not filed a bail application because the arrest is 'illegal' and the width of section 19 (of Prevention of Money Laundering Act) is much

wider when the arrest is per se illegal," his counsel had said. He contended that the ED is required to demonstrate the "necessity to arrest" on the "materials available" with a "reason to believe" that the accused has been guilty of an offence under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002.

## Sonia Gandhi makes an emotional appeal for Rahul in Raebareli

Raebareli | Agencies

Former Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Friday made an emotional appeal to the people of Raebareli for her son Rahul Gandhi who is contesting the seat.

Sonia Gandhi arrived halfway through a joint rally, addressed by Rahul Gandhi and Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, in Raebareli in Uttar Pradesh and started her speech with, "My head bows before you because you allowed me to serve you as MP. Raebareli is family for me - just like Amethi."

She said that she had many pleasant memories of her family's old relationship with Raebareli. "These memories are pious like Ganga Maa. Indira ji had a special



place for Raebareli in her heart. I gave Rahul and Priyanka the same lessons that I had learnt from Indira ji and Raebareli, the foremost being compassion for the poor." She added, "I have taught them not to fear if they

encounter difficulties in serving the people." She ended her speech with "Today, I am giving my son you. Please treat him like your own and Rahul will not let you down. Mera aanchal apke pyar aur ashirwad se bhara hai."

## Odisha set to witness 'double change', says Home Minister Amit Shah

Bhubaneswar | Agencies

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday asserted that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is heading towards a major triumph in Odisha.

"This time, Odisha is going to witness a 'double change'. It is going to be 'safronised' with over 15 MPs in Lok Sabha and over 75 MLAs in the Assembly," claimed HM Shah while addressing a public gathering in Rourkela Assembly constituency of Sundargarh district.

HM Shah credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi for ending the menace of Left Wing Extremism and stated that this election is all about restoring the Odia language, literature, culture and pride.

"This election is to make Modi the Prime Minister for the third time. This election aims to make India the world's third-largest economy. This election aims to create three crore 'lakshpati didis' in the country. This election is an election to start a new era of development by dethroning Naveen Babu (CM Naveen Patnaik) in Odisha," the Home Minister said.

In his speech, HM Shah mentioned that, for years, crores of devotees of Lord Jagannath



have been wondering about the issue of Ratna Bhandar (treasury of Jagannath Temple).

"They want to get the mystery of the keys of Ratna Bhandar unfolded. Naveen Babu is misleading the people and is playing with the faith and beliefs of the people," the Home Minister said. He also slammed the ruling BJD government in Odisha for making Puri a 'tourist hub' in the name of the Parikrama project and alleged that the western region of Odisha was meted out with step-motherly treatment.

## BJP does not understand self-respect of southern states: Vijayashanthi

Hyderabad | Agencies

Actor-politician Vijayashanthi, who has been lying low since leaving the BJP to join the Congress in November last year, on Friday said that the BJP does not understand the self-respect and regional aspirations of the southern states.

Vijayashanthi, who did not contest the Lok Sabha elections and also stayed away from the Congress campaign, in a post on X, criticised Union Minister and state BJP President G. Kishan Reddy for claiming that the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) will no longer exist in Telangana.

The veteran film star wrote that southern states have been following the path of regional emotions and public sentiments for their self-esteem. Those who don't understand this should know how people responded to leaders from Karunanidhi, M.G. Ramachandran, N.T. Rama Rao, Ramakrishna Hegde and Jayalalitha to the BRS and YSR Congress Party (YSRCP), she added.



Vijayashanthi said while the Congress understands the existence of self-respect in the south, the BJP has perhaps not even thought of it and this is reflected in Kishan Reddy's statement.

Her comments to defend the BRS triggered speculations in political circles that she may be planning to return to the party. She, however, denied any such plans.

Vijayashanthi, who was a BJP national executive member, defected to the Congress just two weeks before Telangana Assembly elections.

It was in December 2020 that Vijayashanthi returned to the BJP after 15 years.

Popular as 'Lady Amitabh' for her action roles in Telugu films, she joined the BJP in 1997 and served as General Secretary of the party's women's wing. She quit the BJP in 2005 to float a separate outfit, Talli Telangana, to fight for separate statehood for Telangana. She later merged Talli Telangana with the TRS (now BRS) and was elected to the Lok Sabha from the Medak constituency in 2009.

## Amid opposition by most parties, Tripura govt to implement CAA

Agartala | Agencies

The BJP government in Tripura is preparing to implement the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), Chief Minister Manik Saha announced here on Friday amid opposition from other political parties which fear the new law will trigger communal tensions in the state.

Speaking to the media on the sidelines of a blood donation camp at a mosque here, Saha said that after directions from the Centre, the state government is preparing to implement CAA in Tripura.

To recall, on March 11, the Centre notified the Citizenship (Amendment) Rules 2024, thus paving the way for enforcing the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), which seeks to grant Indian citizenship to persecuted Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists, Parsis and Christians who came to India from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan before December 31, 2014.

Following the advice of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), a six-member state-level empowered committee with the Director of Census Operations as its chairman was formed in Tripura recently to grant citizenship under the CAA.

"After the advice of the MHA, like other states and Union Territories in the country, a state-level empowered committee was constituted for granting Indian citizenship under the CAA. District-level committees headed by the District Magistrates of all the eight districts



were also formed accordingly," Rabindra Reang, Director of Census Operations, Tripura, told reporter.

He said the district-level empowered committees would receive applications under the CAA and scrutinise them before forwarding the same to the empowered panel. The official said those who want Indian citizenship under the CAA will have to apply to the district-level committee for consideration.

Under the Act, those living in areas under the Tribal Autonomous Council, which was constituted under the Sixth schedule of the Constitution, are not eligible to apply for citizenship, the official said.

## MAN GETS 30 YEARS IN JAIL FOR RAPING 5-YR-OLD GIRL IN UP

**Bijnor:** The special judge Prakash Chand Shukla of POCSO court in Uttar Pradesh's Bijnor district has sentenced a 24-year-old man to 30 years of rigorous imprisonment, after finding him guilty of raping a 5-year-old girl in November 2021. The court also slapped a fine of Rs 1 lakh on the convict, Rs 80,000 of which will be given to the survivor, said additional district government counsel (ADGC) Yogendra Singh.

According to Singh, a woman from the Mandavali area in Bijnor had lodged a complaint that her daughter was on her way to a madrasa when the accused lured her with candies and raped her on November 6, 2021.

The child somehow managed to reach home and informed her parents. "Based on the parents' complaint, police registered a case under IPC section 376ab (Whoever commits rape on a woman under 12 years of age shall be punished with rigorous imprisonment) and relevant sections of the POCSO Act against the accused," said the ADGC in the judgement on Thursday.



## Congress suffered a lot in MP in past few decades but is getting relief from factionalism to some extent

Team Absolute | Bhopal

If the defeat in the assembly elections in November last year was a major setback for the Madhya Pradesh Congress and several prominent leaders joining the ruling BJP led to shrinking ground, it is also believed that these political developments of the past six months have some positive aspects too.

These setbacks have undoubtedly demoralised the Congress cadre. However, at the same time, to some extent it has reduced the factionalism the party has been suffering from for decades in Madhya Pradesh.

Until a few years back, the Congress in Madhya Pradesh boasted a number of stalwarts -- Jyotiraditya Scindia, Suresh Pachouri, Kamal Nath, Digvijay Singh, Ajay Singh (Rahul) with a strong base in their respective regions.

Scindia left the Congress and joined the BJP in March 2020 and contested the Lok Sabha election on the Lotus symbol in 2024. Suresh Pachouri also shifted to the BJP.

Another Congress veteran Kamal Nath led the party for over five years and under whose leadership the party won the assembly election in 2018. However, the political developments unfolding after the 2023 assembly elections restricted him to his pocket borough Chhindwara. Kamal Nath managed to secure a



ticket for his son Nakul Nath, however, he did not campaign beyond his bastion even after polling in Chhindwara was completed in the first phase on May 19. He did not visit the Congress headquarters in Bhopal after he addressed a press conference in December last year, a Congress functionary told reporter.

"Kamal Nath has restructured the party and undoubtedly he led the party single handedly and he was an unopposed leader. But, rumours of his possible shifting to the BJP before the Lok Sabha elections and the drama which unfolded from Bhopal to Delhi was a drawback for him," a senior Congress leader said requesting anonymity.

## SC gives no interim relief to ex-Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Friday refused to consider the plea filed by former Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren seeking interim release to enable him to campaign during the ongoing Lok Sabha elections.

A Bench presided over by Justice Sanjiv Khanna was hearing Soren's plea filed against his arrest in connection with a money laundering case linked to an alleged land scam.

However, the Bench, also comprising Justice Dipankar Datta, asked the federal anti-money laundering agency to file its reply, including the interim relief, by Monday (May 20). Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Soren, submitted that polling in Jharkhand commenced on May 13 and the remaining three phases of elections will be held on May 20, May 25 and June 1.

Sibal added that there exists "no material" against the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) leader and the money laundering case is



based on oral statements stating that the land in question belongs to the former Chief Minister. "I am not in possession of land and I've never been," he said. Opposing this, Additional Solicitor General (ASG) S.V. Raju, representing the Enforcement Directorate (ED), stated that Soren is directly involved and he could not be released on interim bail since he was arrested way before the Lok Sabha elections schedule was announced.

## Anjali murder case: K'taka Police nab killer, probe reveals accused exploited women

Hubballi | Agencies

Karnataka Police have nabbed the killer, Vishwa, also known as Girish, in the sensational Anjali Ambigera murder case, police said on Friday.

Preliminary investigations reveal that Vishwa was a habitual thief who exploited innocent young women. The accused is also a drunkard and was caught while attempting to commit theft. He was also part of a gang which stole bikes.

The accused targeted gullible young women, enacting a drama of love and playing the emotional card to forcefully extort gold, silver, and cash from them. When Anjali did not agree to any of his attempts to rob her and outrightly rejected his offer to go with him to Mysuru city, he brutally killed her.

The police had formed two teams to hunt down the killer. One of the teams was searching in the south Karnataka region, and another team, which launched a hunt in Davanagere, nabbed him. The accused was arrested by the police on Thursday.

The police could not catch him sooner as the



killer did not carry a mobile phone and did not use his phone for 15 days, before murdering Anjali. The jurisdictional Bendigeri Police were aware of the killer's history, but even after the complaint by the girl's family, they showed "utter negligence". The 24-year-old Vishwa entered Anjali Ambigera's (20) res-

idence at 5.30 A.M. on Wednesday and stabbed the young woman multiple times before she could react. Vishwa dragged Anjali Ambigera all over the house, kicking and stabbing her. Later, he pushed her into the kitchen where he stabbed her repeatedly. Despite efforts by Anjali's grandmother and two sisters to stop the attacker, he killed her and managed to flee. The incident occurred in the Veerapura Oni area within the jurisdiction of the Bendigeri Police Station.

Vishwa had been blackmailing Anjali and pressuring her to accompany him to Mysuru without informing her parents. The incident which took place close on the heels of MCA student Neha Hiremath's brutal murder by the jilted lover has raised concern over the safety of women all across the state.

The BJP had demanded the resignation of Home Minister G. Parameshwara while the Congress leaders have also demanded that the Hubballi-Dharwad Police Commissioner Renuka Sukumar should be transferred for failing to sensitise the police force regarding issues of women's safety.





# Mumbai Police's Secret Operation To Catch Billboard Collapse Accused

Team Absolute | Mumbai

At the heart of the tragic billboard collapse in Mumbai, which claimed 16 lives, was an advertising agency, Ego Media Pvt Ltd, that had installed the fateful structure. The owner of the company, Bhavesh Bhide, managed to evade police for 3 days, but was finally arrested from Udaipur. He was arrested after an extensive manhunt spanning three states. The collapse of the 120 feet by 120 feet billboard claimed the lives of 16 and left 75 others injured. The catastrophic incident, which occurred amidst strong winds and unseasonal rains, prompted swift action from law enforcement agencies. Following his realization that the police were closing in on him, Bhavesh Bhide fled, setting off a pursuit that led through various cities. To evade capture, he kept changing his location and assumed a false



identity. His flight led authorities to Lonavala, Thane, and Ahmedabad before finally ending in Udaipur, where he was found hiding in a hotel under an assumed name. He would be in a new city every time the cops closed in on him, and Mumbai Police had to deploy eight teams, which worked round the clock, to track Bhide. The team revealed that

Bhavesh Bhide, upon learning of the impending police action, initially fled to Lonavala with his driver before returning alone to Mumbai the next day. Subsequently, he traveled to Thane, but continued his elusive journey to Ahmedabad, where he put up with a relative. He ultimately sought refuge in a hotel in Udaipur, where he was finally

nabbed by the Crime Branch. He was caught after the investigation team utilised a combination of technical expertise and human intelligence. He had used his brother's name to book the room at the Udaipur hotel. The Udaipur operation was so discreet that even the local police were not informed that a team was in town to catch Bhide. "The operation was a top secret, and even the Udaipur police did not know about it," said an official on the investigating team. The hoarding collapsed onto a nearby petrol pump in the Chhedanagar area in Ghatkopar during gusty winds and heavy unseasonal rains, killing 16 people and injuring 75 others. This incident has highlighted severe lapses in the regulatory oversight of advertising installations in Mumbai, sparking calls for stricter enforcement of safety standards.

# NCP state chief visited Nashik hotel where Sharad Pawar stayed, claims NCP(SP) leader

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A senior leader on Friday claimed that the rival Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) state chief had allegedly visited a hotel in Nashik in Maharashtra where several NCP(SP) bigwigs were staying. NCP(SP)'s former Minister Anil Deshmukh told media persons that recently the Ajit Pawar-led NCP's state President Sunil Tatkar had gone to the same hotel in Nashik where NCP(SP) President Sharad Pawar and state President Jayant Patil were staying during the Lok Sabha poll campaign. "Tatkar had gone to the hotel... We don't know why. He even met some of our party activists. He has not contacted me or any other leaders in the NCP (SP)," Deshmukh said, without elaborating when or in which hotel. Nashik will be voting on May 20 and another local NCP strongman and Minister Chhagan Bhujbal -- who was angling for an LS ticket -- is now reportedly miffed with the party leadership. To a question, he dismissively said even if Tatkar approaches the NCP(SP), he will not be entertained in any manner, nor will be



given a re-entry to the NCP (SP) -- ending political speculation on a possible change of equations post-LS results. After the NCP founded by Sharad Pawar split in July 2023, Tatkar threw his lot with the Ajit Pawar faction. A sitting MP from Raigad Lok Sabha seat, Tatkar is the MahaYuti-NCP united candidate there for the ongoing Parliament elections, pitted against the Maha Vikas Aghadi-Shiv Sena (UBT) combine nominee Anant Geete. Raigad was among the 11 Lok Sabha constituencies which completed the polling on May 7, while the fifth, biggest and final phase of LS polling shall be held on May 20 for 13 seats, including 10 in Mumbai and the Mumbai Metropolitan Region.

# Air India flight dodges tug tractor collision at Pune airport, passengers safe

Team Absolute | Pune

An Air India flight, with 180 passengers onboard for Delhi, narrowly avoided a collision with a tug tractor as it was taxiing towards the runway at Pune Airport, an airline official said on Friday. The incident occurred on Wednesday at Pune airport. The plane sustained damage to its nose and a tyre near the landing gear following the encounter with the tug tractor. However, despite the incident and resulting damage, all passengers and crew members aboard were reported as safe.



with a Chennai-bound Air India Express plane, sending shivers down the spines of 169 passengers aboard the Air India Express flight. According to reports, the IndiGo aircraft was awaiting clearance to enter the runway when it inadvertently brushed the wingtip of the Air India Express plane.

Air India spokesperson said, "There was an incident related to one of our aircraft, which was to operate Pune to Delhi, at the time of its pushback. The aircraft was held back for checks, all passengers were offloaded safely and the flight was cancelled."

"Passengers were eventually refunded their full fares and offered complimentary rescheduling. Those with onward international connections were flown to Delhi by other carriers. An investigation into the incident has already been initiated," said Air India spokesperson.

However, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is yet to respond to the incident.

In March, an IndiGo aircraft narrowly avoided a collision

# UP CM to campaign in Mumbai for Ujjwal Nikam, traffic advisory issued

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Mumbai Police on Friday issued a traffic advisory for motorists ahead of Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath's campaign in city for BJP's Mumbai North Central candidate Ujjwal Nikam on Saturday, May 18. In a traffic notification, the police said, whereas, on 18th of May at 15.00 hrs. to 16.00 hrs. Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) has arranged a public meeting for promotion of Mumbai North Central constituency candidate Ujjwal Nikam at Bharat Cinema Naka, New Mill Road in Kurla (west) area of Mumbai. The police said that traffic congestion is likely especially



on the road leading to the venue. Hence it is necessary to make an order for traffic management. The police on Friday shared the details of traffic diversions and alternate route that motorists and the

public can use to avoid traffic snarls on Saturday evening. The police said following roads will be a 'No Entry Road' and the motorists may use the below alternate roads for their travel - Vehicular traffic coming

from Halav Pul via New Mill Road are restricted. Alternate Route: Vehicles shall take a right turn at Shri Krishna Chowk on New Mill Road and move towards Sitaram Bhairu Marg - Surve Junction and from their proceed to desired destination. - Vehicles coming from Belgrami Junction towards Kurla Railway Station are restricted. Alternate Route: Vehicles shall take a U-turn at Belgrami Junction and move towards Surve Junction and proceed their desire destination from Kurla Depot. "The said order shall remain in force on 18/05/2024 between 12.00 hrs. to 17.00 hrs," the Mumbai Police said.

# Woman alleges rape onboard express train; case registered

Team Absolute | Thane

A case has been registered against an unidentified person for allegedly raping a woman after rendering her unconscious onboard an express train in Maharashtra's Thane district, an official from the Government Railway Police (GRP) said on Friday. The victim has alleged that she was travelling by Uttar Pradesh-bound Tulsī Express on March 10 when an unidentified person administered a harmful substance to render her

unconscious and allegedly raped her, the official said. According to the news agency, the woman has claimed that the assault took place 40 minutes after the train left the Lokmanya Tilak Terminus (LTT) in Kurla in Mumbai and arrived at the Thane railway station, she said. The complainant approached the GRP in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh, in April, 39 days after the alleged incident, and from there, the complaint was forwarded to Thane after 21 days, she said, the news agency reported.

# SII invests in IntegriMedical to advance India's 1st needle-free tech

Team Absolute | Pune

Serum Institute of India (SII), the world's largest vaccine manufacturer, on Friday announced a strategic investment in IntegriMedical to advance Needle-Free Injection System (N-FIS) technology. With the investment, SII will acquire a 20 per cent stake in IntegriMedical. The investment will also accelerate the development and commercialisation of the N-FIS technology, making it more widely accessible to patients in India and worldwide "At SII, we are constantly seeking opportunities to invest in technologies that align with our mission to make healthcare accessible and affordable for people worldwide. IntegriMedical's Needle-Free Injection Systems (N-FIS)



represent a significant advancement in drug delivery and we envision a needle-free solution to deliver vaccines," said Adar Poonawalla, CEO, Serum Institute of India. Instead of the traditional needles, IntegriMedical's US-patented N-FIS makes use of high-velocity jet streams using mechanical power to effectively

and consistently administer biologics and drugs. The innovative drug delivery solution aims to alleviate pain during administration, providing needle-phobic patients with a pleasant and stress-free experience, and preventing needle-stick injuries and cross-contamination. "We are excited to have Serum Institute of India as our strategic partner. This investment is a testament to the potential of our Needle-Free Injections System technology and its ability to revolutionise drug delivery," said Sarvesh Mutha, MD, IntegriMedical. The global N-FIS, valued at \$12.49 billion in 2022, is projected to experience substantial expansion with a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 14.16 per cent from 2023 to 2028. It is likely to reach a valuation of \$27.65 billion by 2028.

# Manoj Jarange-Patil aborts state tour after falling ill; admitted to hospital

Team Absolute | Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar

Shivha Sanghatana chief Manoj Jarange-Patil who embarked on a state tour to drum up support for the Maratha reservations cause, fell ill on Friday, following which he was rushed to a private hospital here. Jarange-Patil is currently undergoing treatment at the Galaxy Hospital, where he had been earlier admitted on a couple of occasions, said an aide. He is suffering from heat-related weakness and dehydration though his condition is reported to be stable, and he continues to be under medical supervision, the aide

said. The development came a day after Jarange-Patil announced that he would launch a fresh hunger strike from June 4 -- the day of the announcement of Lok Sabha election results -- at his native village Antarvali-Sarati in Jalna district. Besides the fifth round of hunger strike, he said he would take out a massive rally from Beed district on June 8. Jarange-Patil warned that Marathas would contest all the 288 seats in the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly elections due in October in case the ruling MahaYuti government failed to concede all the pending demands of the Marathas.

# Fake currency notes of over Rs 2 lakh face value seized; man held for printing them in Panvel

Team Absolute | Thane

The police have arrested a man for allegedly printing fake currency notes in Panvel taluka of Maharashtra's Raigad district, and seized from him counterfeit notes of more than Rs 2 lakh face value after conducting a raid, an official said on Friday, reported a news agency. According to the police, the 26-year-old accused, identified as Prafulla Govind Patil, had learnt the technique of printing fake currency notes primarily by watching YouTube videos, he said. "Acting on a tip-off, a police team of the Central Crime Unit raided

a room located in a chawl at Palekhurd village in Taloja MIDC area on May 15 and counterfeit notes were recovered from the room," Assistant Commissioner of Police (Crime), Navi Mumbai, Ajaykumar Landge, said, as per the agency. "The accused had taken the room on rent and with the use of two costly scanners, he carried out the task of printing fake notes. He first scanned the genuine Rs 50, Rs 100 and Rs 200 currency notes on a cotton paper, slit them and pasted the silver/green radium strips on it and pressed it with iron before selling them," he said. During the raid, the police recov-

ered more than 1,440 counterfeit notes - 574 notes of Rs 50 denomination, 33 notes of Rs 100 denomination and 856 notes of Rs 200 denomination - collectively of Rs 2,03,200 face value, the official said. The accused had failed in Class 9 exam and worked as a labourer in a company that procured old computers as well as printers and sold them after refurbishing them. Apart from the YouTube videos, he learnt the technique of printing the counterfeit notes at his workplace, the police said. An offence has been registered against the accused at the Taloja police station, they said.

# BJP has failed to convey any narrative to people in elections: Uddhav Thackeray

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray on Thursday said the BJP has failed to convey a narrative to the people in the ongoing Lok Sabha elections. Unemployment and inflation affect everyone, and people are angry about the BJP's rule of the last ten years, he said in an interview to a news channel. The BJP has not succeeded in communicating any narrative to the people in this election. Its farce of the last ten years is visible to the country," he said. To a question about Muslims gravitating towards the Shiv Sena (UBT) since



he broke off the ties with the BJP, Thackeray said, "We have not abandoned our Hindutva ideology, and will not do so in future. Our Hindutva is one that helps light the cooking stove in a house, the BJP's Hindutva is one that

burns down a house." The BJP has been targeting Uddhav for 'abandoning' his party's original Hindutva ideology by joining hands with the Congress. The "Dharavi model" of handling the coronavirus pandemic became popular when he was Maharashtra chief minister, and he did not discriminate against any community during that period, Thackeray said. The BJP's claim of the opposition promoting "vote-Jihad" will not have any effect, he said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has understood neither Shiv Sena founder Bal Thackeray's Hindutva nor his ideals, Uddhav claimed.

**GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA**  
Maharashtra Medical Goods Procurement Authority, Mumbai  
e-mail - [maha.mmgsa2023@gmail.com](mailto:maha.mmgsa2023@gmail.com)  
MMGPA, 1st Floor, Arogya Bhavan, St. Georges Hospital Compund, MUMBAI - 400 001.

**TENDER NOTICE** Date :-17/05/2024

Chief Executive Officer, Maharashtra Medical Goods Procurement Authority, Mumbai invites tender in two Envelope system from the eligible bidders for the following items for purchase of medicines.

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Name of Item(s)	Prebid Meeting	Period of sale, download & submission of bid	Bid Opening
1	E-95	Hospital Consumables (DHS-Hospitals)	Dt.22-05-2024 At 12.00 hrs.	Dt.17-05-2024 at 10.00 AM to Dt.30-05-2024 upto14.00 PM.	Dt.31-05-2024 at 14:01 hrs.

1. For detailed information, the interested bidders may visit the website <https://mahatenders.gov.in>.

2. The Chief Executive Officer reserves the right to increase or decrease the quantity to be purchased and also reserves the right to cancel all the tenders without giving any reason to.

**For e-tendering help/ information, please contact.**  
Website: - <https://mahatenders.gov.in>  
Contact No. 022-22621886 / 022-22621973  
Email -- [maha.mmgsa2023@gmail.com](mailto:maha.mmgsa2023@gmail.com)

Signature/---  
Chief Executive Officer,  
Maharashtra Medical Goods  
Procurement Authority, Mumbai

ROC-2024-25/No.-5/C55





EDITOR'S SPECS

**Global life expectancy, poor health to rise by 2050**

Despite geopolitical, metabolic, and environmental threats, a new study on Friday showed that global life expectancy is expected to increase by 4.9 years in men and 4.2 years in women by 2050. However, people are likely to spend more years in poor health, revealed the study based on the latest findings from the Global Burden of Disease Study (GBD) 2021, published today in *The Lancet* journal. Researchers attributed this to an increased shift from a range of communicable, maternal, neonatal, and nutritional diseases (CMNNDs) to non-communicable diseases (NCDs) -- like cardiovascular diseases, cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and diabetes. Global life expectancy is predicted to increase to 78.1 years of age in 2050 (a 4.5-year increase). Global healthy life expectancy (HALE) - the average number of years a person can expect to live in good health - will increase to 67.4 years in 2050 (a 2.6-year increase). "In addition to an increase in life expectancy overall, we have found that the disparity in life expectancy across geographies will lessen," said Chris Murray, Chair of Health Metrics Sciences at the University of Washington and Director of the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME). Murray added that the biggest opportunity to speed up reductions in the global disease burden is through policy interventions aimed at preventing and mitigating behavioural and metabolic risk factors. "There is immense opportunity ahead for us to influence the future of global health by getting ahead of these rising metabolic and dietary risk factors, particularly those related to behavioural and lifestyle factors like high blood sugar, high body mass index, and high blood pressure," Murray said.

**In secluded hamlets of Himachal, political intrigue seems a world away!**

Vishal Gulati

In secluded Himalayan hamlets nestled close to the icy heights adjoining Tibet, political intrigue seems to be a world away. Among the stark, rugged and landlocked landscapes here, the inhabitants, mostly the Buddhists, devote themselves to the season's harvest of peas, barley, and potatoes, weaving their lives around the cycles of the Earth rather than the clamour of distant power plays. Hardworking women farmers in the picturesque Spiti Valley are currently preparing fields for sowing peas, the main crop from late May to mid-September. They told correspondent that if they busy themselves with political activities, they will miss the sowing season, something they can ill-afford to do. Kaza, part of the remote but picturesque Lahaul-Spiti District in Himachal Pradesh, falls in the sprawling Mandi parliamentary constituency, one of the toughest and covers almost two-thirds of the state. Incidentally, this time the people of Kaza will also vote for their MLA and incumbent Ravi Thakur, who represented the Lahaul-Spiti seat, but resigned as a Congress lawmaker. He's again in the fray for the bypoll as a BJP nominee and is pitted against Congress candidate Anuradha Rana. BJP rebel and former minister Ram Lal Markanda is also trying his luck but as an Independent candidate. For the Mandi parliamentary constituency, the battleground shifts between "royalty" and "reel", as Congress legislator Vikramaditya Singh, the scion of the erstwhile royal family and son of Virbhadra Singh, challenges actress Kangana Ranaut. Vikramaditya has toured Kaza, while Kangana is yet to knock on doors asking for votes. The outgoing MP Pratibha Singh has opted out of the election. The world's highest polling station, Tashigang (15,256 feet), is



located in the Spiti Valley. It's currently covered in a blanket of snow. Kaza is located at an altitude higher than Leh, where temperatures plummet below minus 30 degrees centigrade in winter. "Owing to economic significance, we are currently busy sowing peas. If there is a delay in sowing, the crop would be impacted," remarked local grower Anita Bodh. Another farmer Lahmo Bodh added, "These politicians come only when they seek our votes. Once they get elected, they will disappear. In November 2022, we had voted to elect our legislator. Now he's again in the fray, but has switched sides. This is bad practice. We will go and vote but will not attend public meetings as we are busy doing household chores and farming." In Spiti, women farmers play a prominent role in agricultural tasks, from field preparation to sowing, irrigation and harvesting. They opt for minimal use of fertilisers and rely on manure. After transitioning to apple cultivation in the arid terrain as the primary cash crop, their earnings have spiked. As per field reports, the visiting politicians are getting an audience of less than 150 at their public meetings. Thirteen gram panchayats fall in the

Spiti Valley, mainly populated by tribals, who are largely farmers. The gram panchayats are Losar, Kibber, Kaza, Langcha, Demul, Lalung, Dhankar, Tabo, Gue, Hal, Khurik, Kungri and Saganam. For the politicians too, it is tough to reach out to their constituents via road. To reach Kaza, helicopter is the easiest, time-saving mode of transportation. And to reach some of the tiny hamlets, with elevations ranging from 15,000 feet to 20,000 feet above the mean sea level, one has to trudge more than 10 kms. Kaza is some 320 kms from state capital Shimla through Kinnaur District and equidistant from the picturesque Manali tourist resort and the Lahaul Valley via Kunzum Pass. The bumpy and uncomfortable drive from Shimla and Manali towns onwards towards Spiti is a motorist's nightmare as the road remains closed at one place or another most of the time. The Kunzum Pass is still closed for traffic owing to ongoing snow-clearing operations. Traditionally, in the Lok Sabha polls, the electorate here favours the party at the helm in the state. These elections are being seen as a referendum on Himachal Pradesh's 16-month-old Congress government. The Congress wrested the state from the BJP in December 2022, winning 40 seats in the 68-member Assembly, reducing the BJP to 25. Besides the Mandi seat, which includes Kullu, Mandi and some areas of Chamba and Shimla districts, the tribal-dominated Kinnaur and Lahaul and Spiti, the other three parliamentary constituencies are Shimla (Reserved), Kangra and Hamirpur. The bypoll to six Assembly seats, which fell vacant after the disqualification of Congress MLAs, would be held simultaneously with the Lok Sabha polls on June 1. The bye-elections will be held in Dharamsala, Sujampur, Lahaul-Spiti, Barsar, Gagret and Kutlehar seats.

**Mamata's flip-flop on INDIA bloc in line with her history of shifting political stands**

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's contradictory statements about the Opposition INDIA bloc are consistent with her history of shifting political stands. On February 2 while interacting with media persons she said that the Congress will pay heavily throughout the country in the forthcoming Lok Sabha polls and expressed doubt whether the grand old party would be able to win 40 seats also. She had also said that the Congress does not have the strength to take on the BJP in the saffron-ruled states in North India. Now, with just three phases of the Lok Sabha polls remaining, the Chief Minister has taken a 180 degree turn and is saying that the INDIA bloc will finish the tally with 315 seats, while the BJP will bag a maximum of 195. Poll statisticians are wondering how the INDIA bloc will bag 315 seats if the Congress, which is a major partner in the alliance, remains limited to 40 constituencies. The confusion is compounded by the fact that though she is making such rich predictions about the INDIA bloc, she has remained silent on the Trinamool Congress' possible seat-count in West Bengal. Her recent statement that she will provide outside support to the probable INDIA bloc government at the Centre is yet another contraction of her earlier claims of Trinamool Congress leading the alliance after the polls. However, her predictions give rise to the question that if the INDIA bloc ends up with a tally of 315 seats, how relevant will the Trinamool Congress' support be to the alliance then? While the BJP's West Bengal leadership has chosen to ignore such contradictory statements by the Chief Minister, the Congress and CPI(M) leaders have started



attacking her on this issue. Congress President in West Bengal and five-time party Lok Sabha MP, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, said such contradictory statements are examples of the Chief Minister's constantly shifting political stand. "I do not trust her. She broke away from the INDIA bloc. Now she is trying to unite with us again after understanding that we are becoming stronger nationally," he said. CPI(M) General Secretary Sitaram Yechury has claimed that after total non-cooperation with the INDIA bloc for the last few months, such contradictory statements in their favour are meaningless to them. Political observers, however, say that such U-turns are nothing new since the formation of Trinamool Congress by Mamata Banerjee in 1998 by breaking away from the Congress. In the beginning the Trinamool Congress had an alliance with the BJP and she even became the Union minister of Railways in the late

Atal Bihari Vajpayee-led Government. However, she resigned from the Cabinet following the Tehelka sting-operation on Defence bribery just before the 2001 West Bengal Assembly elections and allied with the Congress to take on the mighty CPI(M)-led Left Front. After the Left Front came back to power with a huge majority in 2001, she again broke her ties with the Congress, reunited with the BJP and again became a minister in the Union Cabinet. Thereafter, in the 2004 Lok Sabha polls Trinamool Congress became a single-MP party with only Mamata Banerjee winning from the Kolkata-Dakshin constituency. She started distancing herself from the BJP after that and before the 2009 Lok Sabha polls she partnered with the Congress, taking advantage of Left Parties withdrawing support to the Dr Manmohan Singh-led UPA-I Government. After spectacular results in 2009 in West Bengal in alliance with the Congress, she continued with that political friendship with the country's oldest national party till the 2011 West Bengal Assembly polls, which marked the end of the 34-year Left Front regime and the beginning of the Mamata Banerjee-led government's rule. However, her relations with the Congress started to sour as the latter started complaining about constant poaching in its camp by the ruling party. The Congress and Trinamool Congress again parted ways before the 2014 Lok Sabha polls.

international

**EU tells Microsoft to provide information on GenAI risks in Bing search else face fine**

London | Agencies  
The European Commission on Friday directed Microsoft to provide more information about the generative AI (GenAI) features in its search engine Bing else face fine, as the tech giant failed to respond to a March 14 request for inputs regarding specific risks stemming from Bing's GenAI features. The Commission stepped up its enforcement actions against Microsoft and the company now has time till May 27 to provide the requested information to the Commission on Bing's generative AI features, notably "Copilot in Bing" and



"Image Creator by Designer". If Bing fails to reply within the deadline, the Commission may impose fines up to 1 per

cent of the provider's total annual income or global turnover and periodic penalties up to 5 per cent of the

provider's average daily income or worldwide annual turnover. The regulator can also impose fines up to 1 per cent of the provider's total annual income or worldwide turnover for incorrect, incomplete, or misleading information in response to a request for information. "Following its designation as 'Very Large Online Search Engine', Bing is required to comply with the full set of provisions introduced by the Digital Services Act (DSA)," said the Commission. Microsoft was yet to react to the "legally binding request for information."

**Russia reports over 100 Ukrainian drone attacks**

Moscow | Agencies  
Russian authorities on Friday reported more than 100 Ukrainian drone attacks, causing at least one fatality and damage in various regions. The Krasnodar region in the south of Russia and the Belgorod region on the border with Ukraine were particularly badly affected. In Belgorod, a woman and her son died after a drone hit their car, according to Governor Vyacheslav Gladkov. The father and another man were injured. According to images from the scene, a large fire also broke out at a petrol station after it was hit. In Tuapse in the Krasnodar region, there was a major fire at an oil processing plant. As per the eyewitness reports on social networks, a harbour and an oil depot were hit in the Black Sea city of Novorossiysk. The local authorities reported that, however, all drone attacks had been repelled. In the city of Sevastopol on



the Black Sea peninsula of Crimea, which Russia annexed in 2014, the power went out after debris from a downed drone hit a municipal substation, according to the governor there. The Defence Ministry in Moscow reported that Russian air defences had intercepted or destroyed 102 drones, half of which were over Crimea. Six unmanned explosive boats were also destroyed in the Black Sea, Russia said. Ukraine is firing at targets on Russian territory on a daily basis, over two years after the war broke out. With Western help, the country has also significantly expanded its own drone production.

**Indonesia's Semeru volcano erupts five times**

Jakarta | Agencies  
The Semeru volcano in Indonesia's East Java province erupted five times on Friday, spewing volcanic ash up to 900 meters over its peak, according to the Center for Volcanology and Geological Hazard Mitigation. "The first eruption was at 6.29 a.m. local time, with a column of white to grey ash as high as 500 meters heading to the southwest," said Semeru Volcano Monitoring Post officer Liswanto, Xinhua news agency reported. The second eruption occurred at 6.50 a.m. local time, launching ash as high as 600 meters above its peak, while the third eruption occurred at 7.28 a.m. local time, releasing an ash column as high as 700 meters. Volcanic ash was thrown up to 500 meters in the fourth eruption and 900 meters in the fifth, which happened at 7.57 a.m. and 8.05 a.m. local time, respectively. Authorities have urged people to stay out of the danger zone within a 5 km radius and 13 km southeast of the crater to prevent harm from hot clouds, lava flows and lahars. People are advised to avoid rivers that originate from the Semeru crater against possible cold lava flows.



**North Korea fires short-range ballistic missiles toward East Sea: JCS**

Seoul | Agencies  
North Korea fired several short-range ballistic missiles toward the East Sea on Friday, the South Korean military said, a day after South Korea and the United States staged combined aerial drills involving advanced stealth jets. The Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) said it detected what are presumed to be short-range missiles fired off the eastern coastal city of Wonsan at 3:10 p.m. toward the East Sea, Yonhap news agency reported. "The North Korean missiles flew about 300 kilometres and landed in the East Sea," the JCS said. The South Korean military denounced the latest missile launch as "a provocative act" that threatens security and stability on the Korean Peninsula and vowed a stern response to the North's provocations. "Our military has ramped up monitoring and vigilance against additional launches while closely sharing information related to North Korean ballistic missiles with the US and Japanese authorities," the JCS said in a text message to reporters. The launch comes after the North fired 600-mm super-large shells, considered to be short-range ballistic missiles, toward the East Sea on April 22. North Korean state media said leader Kim Jong-un guided tactical drills simulating a nuclear counterattack involving "super-large" multiple rocket launchers for the first time.



Pyongyang's latest missile launch comes a day after two South Korean F-35As and two US F-22 Raptors carried out joint combat drills over the central region of South Korea in an apparent show of air power against evolving North Korean military threats. On the same day, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping issued a joint state-

ment opposing "acts of military intimidation" against North Korea by the US and its allies during their summit in Beijing. Earlier in the day, Kim Yo-jong, the sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, dismissed allegations of military cooperation between Pyongyang and Moscow, emphasising the country's weapons are solely intended to target South Korea.

**Clash between Afg-Pak border guards kills 5, injures 5: Afghan media**

Kabul | Agencies  
Five persons were killed and five others sustained injury as a result of a clash between the border forces of Afghanistan and Pakistan over the past four days, Afghan local media outlet TOLO News reported Friday. The clash between Afghan and Pakistan border forces, reports Xinhua News Agency, has been continuing close to the border area in Zazai Aryub and Dand wa Patan districts of the eastern Paktia province, the private media outlet added. Afghan officials have yet to make any comment.

**Up to 2,000 gallons oil may spill into Gulf of Mexico as barge hits bridge in US**

Houston | Agencies  
Up to 2,000 gallons of oil may have spilt into the Gulf of Mexico after a bunker barge struck a bridge in the island city of Galveston, eastern Texas, the US Coast Guard estimated. The source of the leakage from the barge has been contained after the accident, said the US Coast Guard, reports Xinhua news agency. The Coast Guard said it deployed planes and drones to evaluate the extent of the oil spill on Thursday while closing about 6.5 miles (10.5 km) along the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, a busy shipping channel for the region. Galveston is about 50 miles (80.5 km) away from downtown Houston, the largest city in Texas. "We're pretty confident there was much less oil introduced to the water than we initially estimated," Coast Guard Captain Keith Donohue told a news conference. "We've recovered over 605 gallons of oily water mixture from the environment, as well as an additional 5,640 gallons of oil product from the top of the barge that did not go into the water," Donohue said. The 321-foot barge, which has the capacity to hold 30,000 barrels of oil, was carrying 23,000 barrels, which amounts to nearly 9.66 million gallons, when it slammed into a pillar of the Pelican Island Causeway bridge on Wednesday, Rick Freed, vice president of barge operator Martin Marine, told the news conference. A tugboat lost



control of two barges "due to a break in the coupling" connecting them. One of the barges slammed into the bridge, the Coast Guard said. Freed said an investigation is still underway. The crash led to the partial collapse of the bridge, forcing the only land connection from Galveston to Pelican Island to shut down. No injuries were reported. "The harmful consequences of oil are once again impacting our coastal communities, wildlife, and waters," Joseph Gordon with an ocean conservation group named Oceana said in a statement. The spill will probably have minimal long-term consequences, considering the volume of oil on board the barge, Danny Reible, a Texas Tech University professor, told ABC News on Thursday. The accident came weeks after a cargo ship slammed into a support column of the Francis Key Bridge in Baltimore on March 26, claiming six lives.





## IIT INDORE DESIGNED 2 SPECIAL MICROCHIPS TO PROTECT AGAINST CYBER CRIME, FABRICATED FROM 144 DESIGNS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Team Absolute | Indore

To protect against cyber crime, two chips designed by the students and researchers of IIT Indore have been approved by a German company by selecting them from 144 designs from around the world. Through these chips, data security can now be done directly through hardware instead of software. For hardware security, this chip has been designed by IIT Indore's PhD researcher Neha Maheshwari and the accelerator chip has been designed by MS researcher Radheshyam Sharma in collaboration with MTEch researcher Komal Gupta and BTEch student Satvik Reddy.

Germany's Effables Corporation had sought chip designs from institutes around the world, for which they had received 144 designs, including 4 designs from IIT Indore, but Effables Company has selected 2 designs and fabricated the chip. Now IIT has started their trial.



### THIS IS HOW BOTH THESE CHIPS WILL WORK

One of the two chips will work on hardware security application, which will ensure cyber security. It will help in generating security keys for various applications like device authentication and privacy policy and will prevent unauthorized access of data. The second accelerator chip will act as a hardware accelerator for AI applications, which will perform matrix multiplication, speech recognition, image processing and generating computer graphics. With the help of these chips, in future the data kept in mobile, computer and cloud server will be more secure and hackers will not be able to easily steal the data of the device.

## Kejriwal should apologize in Swati Maliwal case: Mohan Yadav

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav has made a big attack on the indecency with Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Rajya Sabha member Swati Maliwal at the residence of Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal. He has asked Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to apologize and clarify the situation.

While discussing with journalists in the capital Bhopal, Mohan Yadav said that this is a matter of Delhi's AAP party and Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's behavior inside his house. Chief Minister Mohan Yadav said that for the first time after independence, it is happening that a CM has to go to jail in some case and he does not even leave the post. There should be a fight in their house and the CM should do nothing. I felt a lit-



tle disappointed about all this. They should take immediate cognizance of this incident and take action against whoever is responsible. Chief Minister Mohan Yadav further said that Swati Maliwal is a big leader of his party, she is a woman. In our

## Kejriwal should apologize in Swati Maliwal case: Kamal Nathwal case: Mohan Yadav

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Senior Congress leader and former Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Kamal Nath has claimed that BJP's attempt to give a communal color to the elections has failed.

Former Chief Minister Kamal Nath wrote on X regarding the Lok Sabha elections, "BJP's drumbeat has been exposed in this Lok Sabha election. From the very beginning, the Bharatiya Janata Party has been trying to give a communal color to the elections and divert the public from the basic issues. But the people are focused on basic issues like education, employment and development. This election is a wonderful example of the awakening of the people of the country."

He further wrote, "Now the 140 crore people of India have understood well that the development of the country means the development of the people. This development cannot happen until the youth are provided employment and the farmers are provided with crops. Fair prices, financial assistance to women, favorable business environment for traders and deprived sections of the society do not get equal share."

Referring to Congress' Nyaya Patra, Kamal



Nath wrote, "Congress' Nyaya Patra has infused new hope and energy among the citizens of the country. Voters have come in favor of Congress in the first four phases of the elections and in the remaining three phases I am going to give even more support to the Congress party."

## Temperature crossed 42 degrees in 13 cities

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The system of active storm, rain and hailstorm is weakening in Madhya Pradesh since last one week. The weather remained changed only in some districts on Friday. The rest was scorching hot. Gwalior was the hottest. The temperature here was recorded at 43.7 degrees. The temperature in Chhatarpur's Naugaon reached 43 degrees, while in 11 cities it crossed 42 degrees. The effect of hot winds was seen in the northern part of the state. On Saturday, there will be intense heat in half of the state, while the other half may be affected by rain and storm.

Meteorologist Dr. Divya E. Surendran said that there is still activity of Western Disturbance. Its effect will be seen on Friday also, hence there will be light rain and thunderstorm in 12 districts including Chhindwara, Khandwa. At the same time, there will be effect of intense heat at some places in Gwalior-Chambal, Bhopal, Indore divisions.



The system will pass on Saturday. Due to this, an alert of heat wave, i.e. hot winds, has been issued for Gwalior-Chambal.

Earlier on Friday, there was intense heat in some places and the weather changed in some places. It was cloudy in Betul, Jabalpur, Seoni, Chhindwara, Pandhurna, Mandla, Burhanpur, Narmadapuram, Raisen, Indore, Dhar, Barwani, Khargone, Ujjain, Ratlam, Jabhua, Narsinghpur, Balaghat and Dindori districts. Showers also fell at some places. On the other hand, Gwalior remained the hottest. The temperature here reached 43.7 degrees. An increase of 1.4 degrees was seen in the temperature here. It was 43 degrees in Naugaon of Chhatarpur district. Similarly, mercury was recorded at 42 degrees or more in Ratlam, Satna, Sidhi, Shivpuri, Khajuraho, Damoh, Tikamgarh, Khandwa and Guna. Gwalior was the hottest among big cities. The mercury was recorded at 40.7 degrees in Bhopal, 39.8 degrees in Indore, 39.7 degrees in Jabalpur and 41.4 degrees in Ujjain.

## Camps in Collectorate, NHM offices and all health institutions on World Hypertension Day

Team Absolute | Bhopal

On the occasion of World Hypertension Day, on 17th May, testing, counseling and awareness camps were organized in all the health institutions including the Collector Office, Bhopal National Health Mission Office. Blood pressure of 9212 people was checked in these camps.

In the camp organized at the National Health Mission office, 132 people were screened, out of which 26 new blood pressure patients were found. Of these, two patients were found to be below 30 years of age.

In the camp organized at the Collector's office, 265 people were examined, out of which 67 people were found to have the problem of high blood pressure. All of them were advised to check blood



pressure regularly, follow up, improve their eating habits and lifestyle. In these camps, information about identification of symptoms of high blood pressure, control and prevention of high blood pressure was also given.

Blood pressure of 1819 workers was checked in the special camps being organized at 14 labor centers of Bhopal.

This year the day is being celebrated on the theme of "Measure Your Blood Pressure Accurately, Control it, Live Longer".

Poster competitions were organized to provide information regarding daily activities, diet, exercise and stress management to control blood pressure through awareness programs in Ayushman Arogya Mandirs. Besides, a competition was organized to prepare nutritious and low cholesterol dishes from locally available food items.

Chief Medical and Health Officer, Bhopal, Dr. Prabhakar Tiwari said that high blood pressure is a disease considered to be a silent

killer. This disease is also being seen in youth. Its main reasons are irregular lifestyle, lack of physical labour, stress, use of cigarette, beedi, tobacco and alcohol. The possibility of heart disease also increases in people suffering from diseases like high blood pressure, diabetes, obesity, high cholesterol. All medicines for the treatment of high blood pressure are available free of cost by the government. These medicines are given as per medical consultation from district hospitals to health and wellness centres. Under the Non-Communicable Disease Control Programme, free blood pressure and diabetes screening is done in all government health institutions. Along with regularizing diet and lifestyle, it is very important for every person to get blood pressure and diabetes checked regularly.

### TWO BIKES COLLIDE IN NARSINGHPUR, 4 DEAD

Narsinghpur: Two bikes collided with each other in Narsinghpur district of Madhya Pradesh on Thursday. Four people died in this accident. Apart from the driver, a woman and two girls were riding on one bike, while only a young man was on the other bike. The woman, her son and granddaughter died in the head-on collision, while a young man riding on another bike also died. A girl has been seriously injured in this accident, who has been referred to the Medical College of Jabalpur.

On the state highway, two bikes collided near Khamaria Farm House on Saikheda-Jakholi road of Saikheda police station area. Four people died in this accident. Apart from the driver, a woman and two girls were riding on one bike, while only a young man was on the other bike. The woman, her son and granddaughter died in the head-on collision, while a young man riding on another bike also died. A girl has been seriously injured in this accident, who has been referred to the Medical College of Jabalpur.

## "ANIMAL CLAY MODEL MAKING WORKSHOP"

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Regional Museum of Natural History, Bhopal (A Regional Centre of National Museum of Natural History, New Delhi) is organizing various environmental educational programmes under Summer Nature Study Programme- Green Cub for the students of class 5th to 7th.

In continuation of the environmental educational programmes, 'Animal Clay Model Making Workshop' was arranged for the participants on 17th May, 2024. Shri Arvind Anupam, Modeller of RMNH, Bhopal facilitated the participants with the demonstration to create 3D Model of Crocodile and of Turtle. At the beginning of session, Shri Anupam informed that pond soil should be selected for clay preparation. Pond soil should be crushed and mashed to get fine soil and adequate quantity of water with little sand can



be mashed to get proper clay for model making.

During the workshop, participants made 3D Models of Crocodile and Turtle with soil under the guidance of Shri Arvind Anupam, Modeller. He also detailed about the various techniques/process of making models which are used in museum.

Manik Lal Gupta, Scientist-C of the museum informed that museum will inaugurate

Summer Nature Study Programme- Green Teen for the students of class 8th to 10th on 18th May, 2024 on the occasion of International Museum Day and participants will visit museum under the guidance of Museum Interpreter. Also the participants of Summer Nature Study Programme- Green Cub will learn to create the birds & animals through Origami.

## AIIMS Bhopal Hosts Successful AYUSH Camp

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Under the guidance of Prof. Dr. Ajay Singh, Executive Director of AIIMS Bhopal, the AYUSH department conducted a successful health camp in Bakaniya village, Phanda Block, on Thursday. Many patients attended and benefited from the comprehensive health services offered.

Medical Officer Dr Tariq Barkati and yoga instructor Chanchal Suryavanshi represented AYUSH at the camp. The event featured AYUSH counselling, yoga sessions, and the free distribution of AYUSH medicines, aimed at providing holistic healthcare solutions.

Participants ranged from young adults to senior citizens and came from various socio-economic backgrounds. They sought relief from chronic conditions like



arthritis, anxiety, and high blood pressure, as well as preventative health measures and overall wellness improvement. Feedback from patients has been overwhelmingly positive, highlighting significant physical and mental health improvements. Attendees appreciated the personalized attention from experienced trainers and the supportive community atmosphere. Reported benefits included reduced

pain and stiffness, increased flexibility and strength, better stress management, and enhanced relaxation and inner peace. Participants also valued the inclusion of traditional healing practices like Unani medicine, which offered additional health solutions. The integrated approach of combining ancient knowledge with modern techniques resonated well with the community.

## New criminal laws will make the justice system accessible and accountable and will increase trust

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Three new criminal laws are being implemented in the country. These laws are going to make the justice system accessible and accountable and also increase trust.

Addressing the workshop 'Vartalaap' organized by PIB on these new laws in Bhopal, the capital of Madhya Pradesh, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Bhopal Zone 1, Priyank Shukla said, "Indian Justice Code, Indian Civil Defense Code and Indian Evidence Act, the criminal justice system. There are efforts to make it more accessible, accountable, trustworthy and justice driven. These laws will come into effect from July 1, 2024."

He said that the Indian Civil Defense Code, 2023 has provisions for protecting the rights of victims in several ways. There are more than 30 provisions that effectively protect the rights of victims by giving priority to them.

Deputy Commissioner of Police Shukla said that earlier the copy of the charge sheet was given only to the accused, now the victim will also get the copy of the charge sheet. Emphasis has been laid on promoting scientific methods in investigation. Forensics will be mandatory in all crimes punishable with punishment of seven years or more. He also highlighted in detail other features of the Indian Civil Defense Code, 2023.

Addressing the program, Additional District Prosecution Officer Priyanka Upadhyay said that the purpose of the Indian Justice Code, the Indian Civil Defense Code and the Indian Evidence Act,

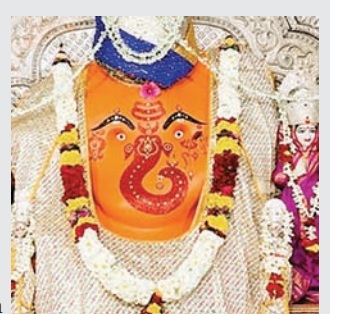


2023 is to provide justice rather than punish. The effort of these laws is to provide justice on time. A new chapter on crimes against women and children has been included in the Indian Judicial Code. In these laws, more emphasis has been given on the use of technology. A lot of provisions have been made in these laws to empower the victims. Prashant Patharabe, Additional Director General, PIB, Bhopal, highlighted the objectives of the workshop. He said that with the Indian Justice Code, Indian Civil Protection Code and Indian Evidence Act, 2023 becoming law on 25 December 2023, a new era has begun in the criminal justice system of India. Addressing the workshop, Dr. Satyendra Sharan, Deputy Director, PIB, Bhopal, said that with the implementation of the new laws, a person can lodge an EFIR or FIR in any police station, irrespective of the jurisdiction of the police station. Also, a copy of the FIR can be obtained electronically.

## THERE WILL BE NO FEE FOR DARSHAN IN THE WORLD FAMOUS KHAJRANA GANESH TEMPLE

Indore: Indore Collector and Chairman of Shri Khajrana Ganesh Temple Management Committee, Collector Ashish Singh has denied the charge of charging fifty rupees to have a close darshan of Khajrana Ganesh Temple. Calling it a mere rumour, Collector Ashish Singh termed the viral message about offering darshan at Khajrana Ganesh temple for a fee as false. He said that this is a rumour. No such decision has been taken by the temple management committee. The Collector clarified that any decision related to the temple can be taken only in the meeting of the Management Committee, which cannot be done now due to the implementation of the Code of Conduct.

It is being told that this rumor of charging a fee for close darshan in Shri Khajrana Ganesh Temple spread due to the statement of the priest of the temple in which he also said that this nominal darshan fee can be kept so that the system runs smoothly. However, now after this denial by Collector Ashish Singh, the situation has become completely clear that no fee is being charged for the darshan of Lord Shri Ganesha in Indore Khajrana Temple. The previous arrangement for darshan in the temple will continue.







# I don't realize that I'm putting so many things before my relationship: Cardi B

Los Angeles | Agencies

Are they or aren't they together? That's the question fans are asking after Cardi B and Offset reunited at a 2024 Met Gala after-party earlier this month. But nearly five months after the pair announced their separation, Cardi, 31, is ready to share what could be next for her marriage.

"I think it through," the "Bodak Yellow" rapper shared with Rolling Stone in an interview published Thursday, May 16. "We think it through, because we do love each other. It's not even about love. We're best friends and it's like, 'OK. Well, there was a time that I didn't have a best friend or I didn't have a support system.' It's not even about, 'How do you leave a partner?' How do you stop talking to your best friend?"

Cardi and Offset — who share Kulture, 5, and Wave, 2 — have had an on-again, off-again relationship over the years with their most recent split happening in 2023. In December, the Whipshots founder took to Instagram Live to admit she'd be single "for a minute."

In her latest interview, Cardi admitted that she doesn't always put her romantic relationship high on the priority list.

"We have our own bad stuff. We're from two different worlds," she explained. "Sometimes I cannot be...not that I cannot be a wife. It's just like, my career takes my life. You know what I'm saying? My career comes first, then my kids come second. And then sometimes I don't realize that I'm putting so many things before my relationship."



Los Angeles | Agencies

## DIRECTOR SANDRINE BONNAIRE ONBOARDS 'SLOW JOE' BIOPIC STARRING JACKIE SHROFF

International filmmaker Sandrine Bonnaire has come on board to direct veteran Bollywood star Jackie Shroff in the upcoming film 'Slow Joe', which is based on the late Indian musician Joseph Manuel Da Rocha.

"Joseph Manuel Da Rocha's story is moving and extraordinary, demonstrating that it's never too late to overcome adversity and achieve your dreams. I am truly excited to be a part of this film with its talented cast and cannot wait to begin filming," Bonnaire said in a statement.

Da Rocha, known as Slow Joe, was a former heroin addict and drug dealer, who was born in Mumbai, was disowned by his family, was heartbroken at 50, and later moved to Goa and cleaned up.

In 2007, during a trip to Goa, Lyon-based French musician Cedric de la Chapelle met Joe, 64, who was making ends meet as a hotel room broker. Joe, also a poet and musician, sang for de la Chapelle, who was captivated by his voice and recorded some of his cappella songs.

Jackie said in a statement: "I am thrilled to have Sandrine Bonnaire on board to direct 'Slow Joe'. Her exceptional talent and vision will undoubtedly elevate the film to new heights."

"Working alongside such a respected filmmaker is an honour, and I am eager to bring Slow Joe's extraordinary journey to audiences worldwide."

The film is produced by Isabella Sreyashii Sen and Olivier Dock, co-CEOs of Singapore production house Hazelnut Media.

"We are extremely excited to bring this international story of hope to the screen and thrilled to have Jackie and Sandrine on this project," said Sen and Dock.



# Britney Spears Says She Misses Her 'Beautiful' Family

Los Angeles | Agencies

Despite a complicated relationship over many years, Britney Spears says she misses her family. In a new social media post, the pop star reflected on her bond with mom, Lynne Spears, and other relatives.

"We all have issues with our family but dear God you can't help how much you love them," Britney, 42, wrote via Instagram on Wednesday, May 15. "I'm not in this picture but I sure as hell feel like I am. On a side note ... If you know me, I've always ended up at this kids table at every function I've ever been to!!! The most elite expensive dinners and I always find myself just like this sitting in the back with the kids"

In addition to posting the cover of Yasmin Mogahed's book, Reclaim Your Heart, the "Oops! I Did It Again" singer shared a throwback photo of Lynne, 68, and sister Jamie Lynn Spears' daughters sitting at a kids' table together.



## Aishwarya's Falguni & Shane Peacock-designed Cannes outfit doesn't impress netizens

Los Angeles | Agencies

Bollywood star Aishwarya Rai Bachchan sauntered the red carpet at the 77th Cannes Film Festival in a black and gold custom-made outfit by designers Falguni and Shane Peacock.

However, social media users were not impressed. Aishwarya wore a black and gold gown with golden patterns and puffed sleeves. The ensemble also had a long train featuring 3D gold floral embellishments. She completed her look with nude make-up and chose to keep her hair half-tied.

However, social media users were not impressed by her recent look on the red carpet.

One user wrote: "Looks like a 5 y/0 conducted a DIY craft project on a bin bag."

"Someone please remind her that she's one of the most beautiful women on earth, and she doesn't need to keep covering her arms all the time," said another. A netizen came in support of the actress.

A user said that: "Most of us got to know about Cannes because of Aishwarya. Sent me to nostalgia. Happy to see her, the outfit can be whatever." This year, the theme of the event, which began on May 14 and will conclude on May 25, is "Many Ways To Be An Icon".



## Jessica Biel calls her marriage to Justin Timberlake 'a work in progress'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Jessica Biel says that her marriage to singer-actor Justin Timberlake is a "work-in-progress" and she is always trying to "find the balance" while he is away on tour.

"It's always a work in progress, right? It's constantly trying to find the balance, trying to find the time we can connect."

"Thank goodness for Zoom and FaceTime. For parents who are gone a lot, that has been really helpful. Just finding the time we can connect and see each other in person or get him with the kids, the actress told 'The View'.

"We've never done this before with two, I'm exhausted. There's been four shows. I don't know how he's gonna do it or how we're gonna do it, but we're gonna get through it, somehow, some way!" added Biel, who has been married to

Timberlake since 2012 and has sons Sillas and Finneas with him.

Biel has released 'A Kids Book About Periods' and talked about how she wants her sons to be aware of female reproductive health, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

"It was kind of an accident. Female reproductive health has always been interesting to me. It just felt like an important subject to start with to demystify, de-stigmatise and give parents and young people who are about to experience big changes in their bodies a tool and a resource," she said.

The actress said that it is important for everybody to know about the changes a family member or a loved one is experiencing.

She concluded by saying: "I have a period, and I want my boys to understand what I'm going through, I want them to be supportive or maybe eventual partners. When I was young and I was learning about sex-ed and health, we were separated, so it was all a mystery, and it doesn't feel right."



Brooks Nader

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY





## Gambhir approached by BCCI for India's head coach role: Report

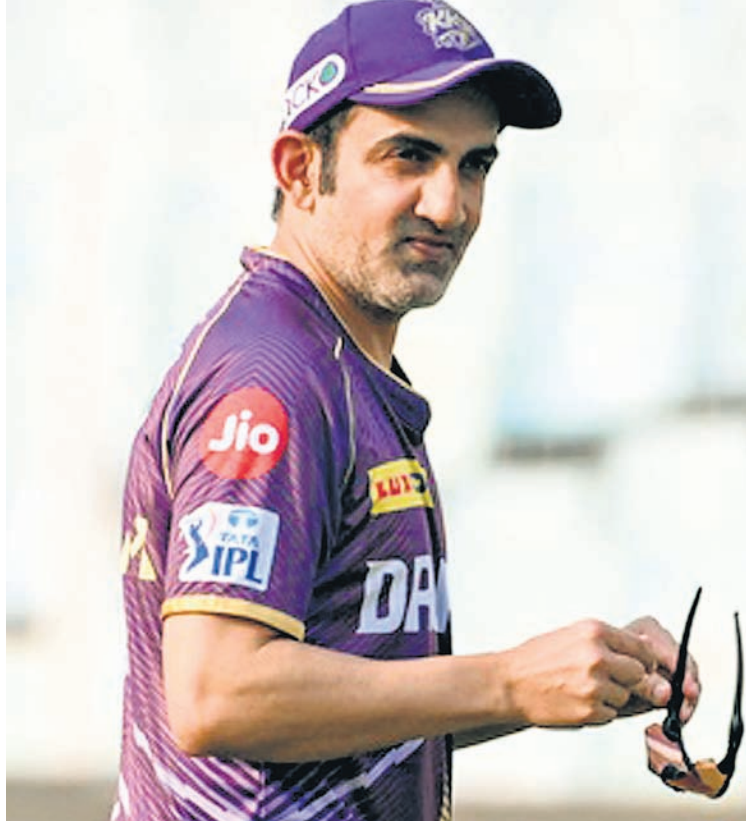
New Delhi | Agencies

Former India opener Gautam Gambhir has reportedly been approached by the BCCI to become the next head coach of the senior men's team. Earlier this week, the BCCI officially invited applications for the India head coach's post with May 27 set as the deadline.

As per the job description, the new India men's head coach would be for all three formats from July 2024 till December 2027. Dravid's original contract as India's head coach began after 2021 Men's T20 World Cup in November and had come to an end with the 2023 Men's ODI World Cup at home and was extended till this year's Men's T20 World Cup.

Now, a report in ESPNcricinfo on Friday says Gambhir, the current mentor of two-time IPL champions Kolkata Knight Riders, is on top of the BCCI's wishlist to take up the position after Rahul Dravid's term gets over at the end of the 2024 Men's T20 World Cup, to be held in the West Indies and the USA from June 1-29.

The report further said Gambhir has been contacted by the BCCI to seek his interest in the top job, and



further discussions are expected after KKR complete their IPL 2024 campaign. "However, the deadline for applying for the India head coach job is May 27, a day after the IPL final. Dravid, it is learnt, has communicated to the BCCI his decision not to seek another tenure," it added.

Gambhir, 42, has no previous experience of being the head coach at international or domestic level, but has been in a mentorship role in the IPL. He was the mentor of the Lucknow Super Giants franchise in IPL 2022 and 2023, where they qualified for the playoffs in both seasons.

Ahead of the IPL 2024 season, Gambhir moved to KKR in the same mentorship capacity, where the Shreyas Iyer-led side is expected to finish the league stage on top of the points table and play the Qualifier 1 in Ahmedabad.

As a player, left-handed opener Gambhir was a member of India's triumph in Men's T20 World Cup in 2007 and later, in the 2011 Men's ODI World Cup victory. He also captained KKR to winning two IPL titles in 2012 and 2014, as well as runners-up finish in the now-defunct Champions League T20 in 2014.

## 'I feel proud to still compete at highest level': Ronaldo

New Delhi | Agencies

Portugal and Al-Nassr star striker Cristiano Ronaldo has played down his retirement plans saying he is still competitive at the highest level.

The 39-year-old is the highest goal-scorer in the international circuit with 128 goals and remains very electric on the field. In his debut season for Saudi franchise Al-Nassr, the striker has netted 48 goals across competitions.

Refuting his near-future retirement plans, Ronaldo expressed his desire to continue his career in the game.

"I feel proud to have this age and still compete at the highest level. It's great and it gives me motivation to carry on. If you look at my career for the last 20 years, my level is high. If you are top for 20 years, it's unbelievable. I do that and I continue to do that. For me it's a big achievement," Goal.com quoted him as saying on the Whoop podcast.

With 891 goals to his name, Ronaldo has the potential to take his goal tally



to 1,000 to become the first player in the history of football to achieve the feat.

Ronaldo said that he has to push himself to remain at this level after lifting league titles in England, Spain, and Italy in addition to five Champions League triumphs.

"My biggest motivation is to carry on. It's not easy to be at this level. To still push, to still motivate, to carry on, to score goals, to be in good shape, to compete with the young lions that are coming and that when they play

against me, they want to show me that they are stronger and faster than me. You have to prepare very well not just physically but mentally, too. This is the challenge," he said.

Ronaldo has the opportunity to add more silverware to his cabinet with the club and country as well in 2024 as Al-Nassr have qualified for the King Cup of Champions final while Portugal are hoping for another shot at continental triumph in this summer's European Championship.

## Thailand Open: Satwik-Chirag and Ashwini-Tanisha into semis; Meirba suffers exit



Bangkok (Thailand) | Agencies

The top Indian doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty in men's and Ashwini Ponappa and Tanisha Crasto in women's category, progressed to the semifinals of the Thailand Open with straight-game wins respectively, here on Friday.

Former world number one pair Satwik-Chirag outclassed lower-ranked Malaysian duo of Junaidi Arif and Roy King Yap (21-7, 21-14) in the third-round encounter that lasted for 38 minutes.

Earlier in the women's doubles combo of Ponappa and Crasto clinched a hard-fought (21-15, 21-23, 21-19) victory over the Korean pair of Shin Seung Chan and Lee Yu Lim.

In the men's singles, Meirba Luwang suffered the third-round exit (12-21, 5-21) against Thailand's Kunlavut Vitidsarn.

## IPL 2024: CSK or RCB, who will seal final playoff spot amid rain threat in Chennai?

Chennai | Agencies

As the ongoing IPL 2024 inches closer to its culmination, the excitement remains at the pinnacle as five-time champions Chennai Super Kings (CSK) and Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) fight for the final playoff berth in their last league stage encounter.

Table toppers Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR), Rajasthan Royals (RR) and Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) have already booked their place for the knockout stages but the last team to join them in the playoffs is yet to be ascertained.

RCB are on a five-match winning streak after outclassing Delhi Capitals by 47 runs in their previous game. Despite the forgettable start, the Bengaluru-based franchise gained momentum in the middle of the season to stay alive in the title race. With



12 points in 13 matches, RCB are placed sixth in the standings. RCB must need to win the match

against CSK to bolster their hopes of a title finish. It is not just a win but by a certain margin to better their net run

rate than the defending champions. On the other hand, Ruturaj Gaikwad-led Chennai hold 14 points in 13 games and currently occupying fourth spot in the points table. A win against RCB will make them the final team to progress to playoffs.

However, they can still qualify even after losing the match on the basis of net run rate (NRR). CSK need to minimise the losing margin to keep their NRR intact.

There is also a possibility of a washout as the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a warning for heavy rainfall in Chennai on Friday and Saturday (match day).

In case of a washout or a truncated match, the scenarios will favour the hosts more than RCB. Both teams will get a point each in case of no result while if the overs are reduced, RCB will find it difficult to support their NRR even after a win.

## Golf: Amateur Avani and Tvesa Malik top Indians at German Masters

Brandenburg (Germany) | Agencies

Tvesa Malik and amateur Avani Prashanth were the top Indians after the first day at the Amundi German Masters. The duo shot even par 72 each and were Tied-18th as the remaining five Indians in the field faced varying fortunes.

Diksha Dagar and Pranavi Urs carded 2-over 74 each and were T-44. However, at one time Pranavi was T-3 as she reached 2-under with the help of two eagles in her round. A triple bogey at the finish cost her dearly.

Vani Kapoor and Sneha Singh shot 3-over 75 each to be T-62 and Amandeep Drall, playing her first LET event of the season was T-79 with 4-over 76.

Germany's Patricia Isabel Schmidt fired an opening round of 68 (-4) to lead by one shot at the end of the first day. The German star, who grew up near Stuttgart, began her first round from the 10th tee at Golf & Country Club Seddiner See with the wind in full force.



Schmidt made a double bogey on her first hole, however, she soon recovered rolling in birdies on holes 12, 17 and 18 to make the turn in 35 (-1).

The 28-year-old, who won the 2023 Belgian Ladies Open on the LET, then made three more birdies on holes one, six and eight for her 68 and leads her home tournament on four-under-

par. Two players sit in a tie for second place just one shot further back with Austria's Emma Spitz and Swedish amateur Meja Örtengren both on three-under-par. They shot 3-under 69 each.

Three-time LET winner Försterling, who is from Berlin, had a slower start and was two-over after 10 holes but had an excellent finish with four birdies in her final six holes for a round of 70 (-2).

Tvesa had four birdies and four bogeys and Avani had the same. Pranavi, a former Order of Merit winner on Women's Pro Golf Tour, began on the tenth with bogeys on the 10th and the 11th, but she then eagled the Par-5 12th and the Par-5 16th. A dropped shot on 17th meant she turned in 1-under 35. After five pars from the first to the fifth, she birdied the sixth to go 2-under but dropped a shot on the seventh and then had a triple bogey on the Par-4 ninth, her closing hole.

## Premier League: Chelsea beat Brighton to boost European hopes

Rome | Agencies

Nicolas Jarry advanced to his first ATP Masters 1000 semifinal at the Italian Open, rallying past sixth seed and 2022 finalist Stefanos Tsitsipas 3-6, 7-5, 6-4.

Favourite on the eve, Tsitsipas was unable to close out a match in a second set in which he added five break points to bring about a turning point in a match which, as the minutes passed, Jarry managed first to straighten out and then to bring to his side.

The 28-year-old displayed mental fortitude throughout the two-hour and 38-minute thriller, during which he fought off 11 of 13 break points faced, according to Infosys ATP Stats.



The Chilean produced relentless power from the baseline, striking 23 forehand winners, including a 166 kilometres-per-hour bruiser, to spoil Tsitsipas' quest for a third consecutive semifinal

appearance in Rome. Jarry will face 14th seed Tommy Paul in Friday's semifinals. The Santiago native won their lone meeting at Roland Garros last year.

# COME IN NUMBERS AND ENJOY THE GAME: SUNIL CHHETRI'

New Delhi | Agencies

The outgoing Indian football legend Sunil Chhetri urged home fans to come in numbers and enjoy his final international game against Kuwait in the FIFA World Cup Qualifiers at Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata on June 6.

On Thursday, Chhetri announced his retirement from international football in a video posted on his social media accounts.

When asked about his expectations from the passionate home crowd in Kolkata, Chhetri said don't be nervous and enjoy the game while remaining hopeful of the 'happy' ending.

"Just come and encourage us as what you're doing. A lot of grounds in our country have done amazingly, even when we talk about the national team but Salt Lake is at the top, it is unbelievable. It is derived a lot by fans who are supporters of Mohun Bagan, East Bengal, Mohammedan SC or local clubs but strangely no matter how these clubs are doing in that year, they come in numbers for the national team and they're outstanding.

"So just don't be nervous, I know it's a big game. Let's enjoy it as much as we can. come in numbers and enjoy. hopefully, we can all go happy after the game," Chhetri told IANS in a virtual interaction organised by AIFF on Friday.

The 39-year-old stalwart of Indian football will retire from the sport as the highest-capped player and the country's top goal-scorer. The experienced striker has played 150 matches and scored 94 goals for the Blue Tigers.

When asked about his feelings on the final encounter in India jersey, the captain said, "For now, we are just thinking about Kuwait. Thankfully, at the camp, we announcing it (retirement), everything is done and dusted. We are quite calm, all of us and just thinking about Kuwait."

The legendary forward remains 'optimistic' of Indian football's growth in the coming years.

"Very bright, I'm really optimistic. A lot of fight for different positions. If you talk about



no. 9, it is a challenging position. There are a lot of candidates doing well. Unfortunately, they do not get enough games in at the position in ISL. In due time, I hope that changes. A lot of attacking players are doing really well whether you take the two finalists - Liston Colaco and Manvir Singh, Vikram Pratap and Lallianzuala Chhangte, Anirudh Thapa or Sahal Abdul Samad playing no 10. All these attacking players have done really well.

"I do understand no. 9 is a very specific one but I'm pretty sure, we will get it with the talent we have. We, as a country, need to be very patient. At the start, a lot of will chip in before we finally get the one," Chhetri responded on the prospect of his replacement.

Talking about the decision to hang his international boots, Chhetri said he came to the conclusion due to the 'mental aspect'.

"The retirement decision was not because of physical aspect, I am still fit, running, chasing, defending, the hard work is not difficult, the reason is to do with mental aspect," Chhetri said.





## SRK gets friendship ultimatum from Karan Johar in leaked clip

Team Absolute | Mumbai

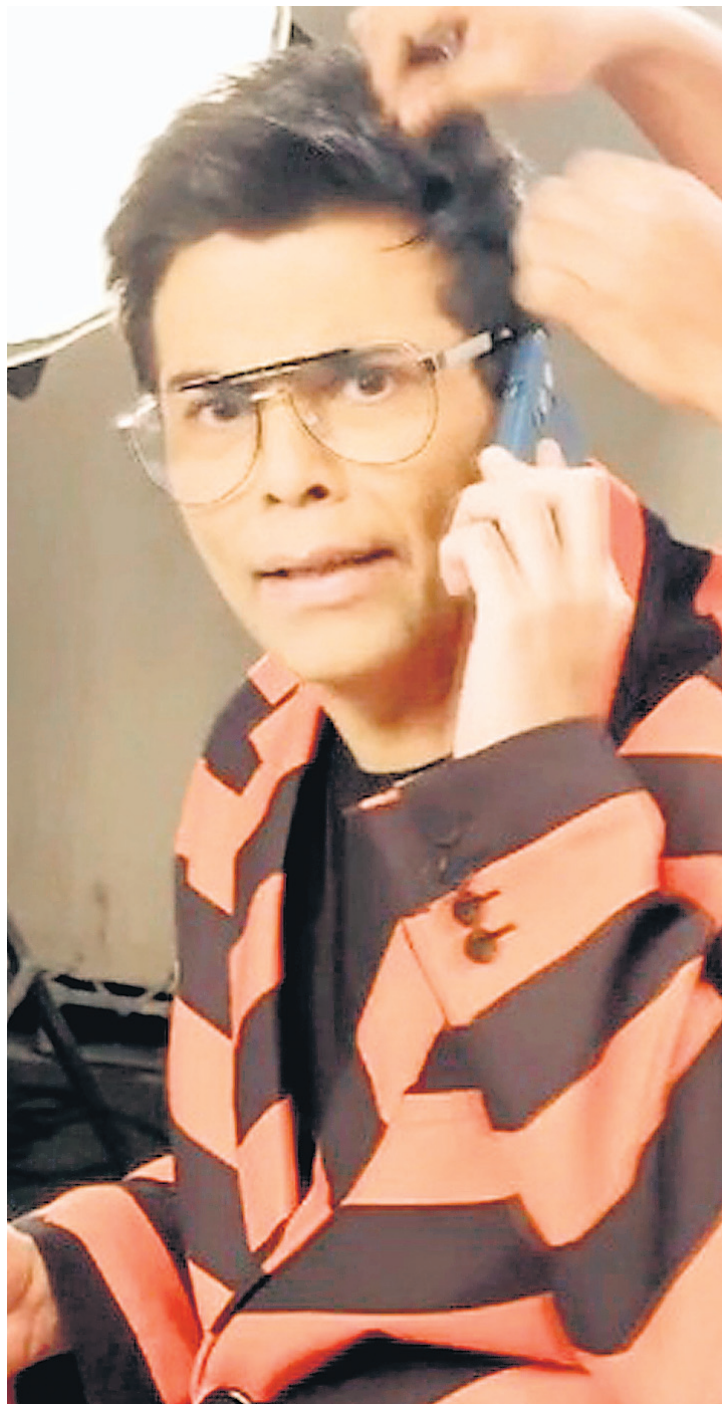
A leaked video of Bollywood filmmaker Karan Johar in conversation with superstar Shah Rukh Khan has surfaced on the Internet, sending the fans into a tizzy on what's putting pressure on their friendship.

KJ and SRK, the two powerhouses of Indian cinema, are known to be best of friends having worked together in several films. However, the new video shows KJ talking to SRK in a seemingly casual yet profoundly intriguing manner about taking up a certain project.

In the video, Karan Johar tactfully hints at a potential rift in their friendship if Shah Rukh Khan proceeds with a mysterious brand collaboration. However, KJ notices that someone is recording him and quickly jumps to address the camera person as the video cuts abruptly.

The atmosphere, though light-hearted on the surface, carries an undercurrent of curiosity.

The video has now gone viral on social media, leaving the fans perplexed. The intrigue surrounding this unexpected turn in Bollywood's narrative is palpable, leaving netizens on the edge of their seats, craving for more insights into the close relationship between these two titans of the film industry.



## CHILDREN PREFER ENTERTAINMENT OVER MESSAGES IN FILMS: FARAH KHAN

Team Absolute | Imphal

Filmmaker-choreographer Farah Khan shared how kids love to watch entertaining films and they don't want messages to be told all the time through films.

Farah, who was present at the launch of the trailer of the upcoming film 'Chhota Bheem and the Curse of Damyaan' on Friday shared her views on making more kids-friendly films.

The 'Main Hoon Na' director said: "Whatever films I have made, it was loved by the kids. It doesn't need to be said to be a kid's friendly film to invite kids to watch the film. Kids love entertainment. They do not want messages to be told. They have schools for that. So, the real challenge is to make entertaining films that children can watch." Talking about the trailer of 'Chhota Bheem' she added: "It is a fantastic trailer. We all are Chhota Bheem fans. Indian kids need a home-grown superhero. Otherwise, we are always taking them to watch English films like Avengers, and Harry Potter. This is the first live-action film for kids. I want to congratulate the whole team for this film." In 'Chhota Bheem and the Curse of Damyaan', Bheem and his friend destroy Damyaan from dark magic. The trailer of the film 'Chhota Bheem and the Curse of Damyaan' also saw the presence of filmmaker-choreographer Farah Khan.



## Sudesh Bhosale recalls Kishore Kumar's dictum

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Playback singer Sudesh Bhosale recalled an anecdote about Kishore Kumar, sharing how the icon used to say that one should convey all the feelings and excitement in just three minutes of a song.

The new episode titled 'A-Z of Kishore Kumar' of the kids singing reality show 'Superstar Singer 3' paid homage to Kishore, and his timeless classics.

It saw the presence of Sudesh, who is known for his songs like 'Ek Doosre Se Karte Hain Pyaar Hum', 'Jooma Chumma De De', and 'Say Shava Shava', among numerous others.

Atharv Bakshi, the 12-year-old from Hazaribagh, Jharkhand, stole the spotlight with his mesmerising performances on 'Oh Hansini' and 'Aanewala Pal Jaane Wala Hain'.

Sudesh was left emotional and impressed by Atharv's talent,



and not only praised him but also requested him to sing Kishore Da's classic 'Kuvun Men Kud ke Mar'.

Talking about the performance, Sudesh shared: "I've sung both of these songs many times, but what truly amazes me is the depth of emotion and expression Atharv brings to his singing. Kishore Da used to say that in just three minutes, one must convey all the feelings and excitement, and you all have surpassed that with flying colours. Your performance was magical, and I'm at a

loss for words to express how

impressed I am. God bless you abundantly." "Remember, live every moment to the fullest, and your talent is truly a blessing, honed through years of dedicated practice. Always approach the stage with joy, not just with the desire to win. I have no doubt that you all will achieve great heights, but never forget to keep your parents' happiness above all. And a big thank you to all the musicians who poured their hearts into the music," he added.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

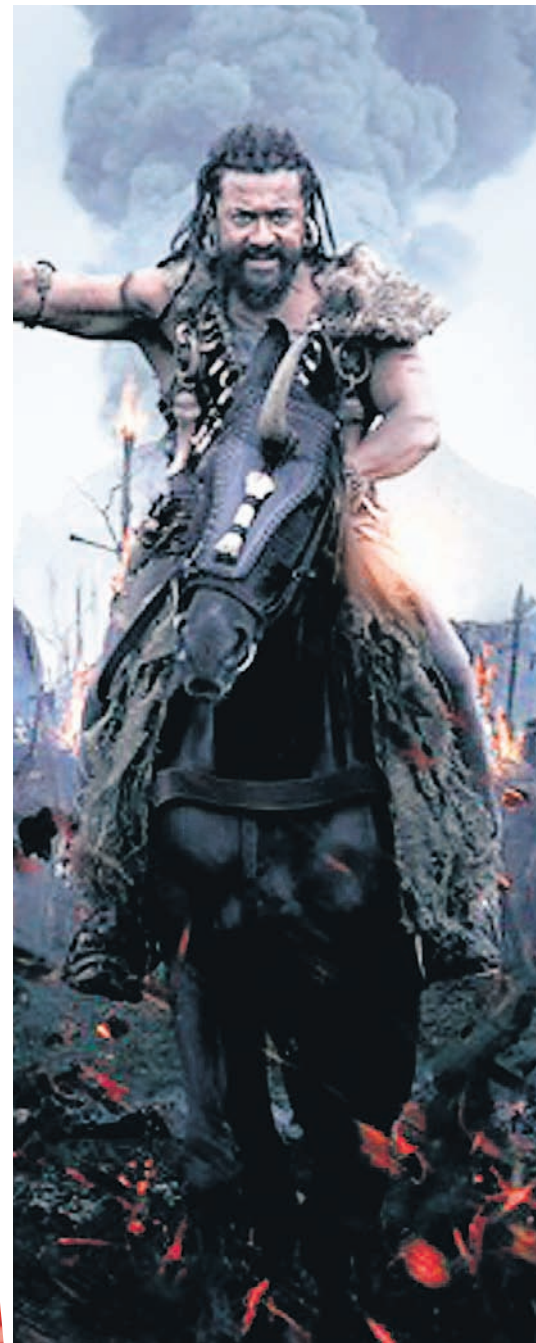
National Award-winning actor Rajkummar Rao has talked about his humble beginnings, sharing that he was not raised with a lot of money, but it was his mother who supported him and helped him reach where he is today.

Rajkummar told: "It's not been easy. That's why I love parents, no matter whose parents they are. My parents really supported me. My mother especially supported me, and there were a lot of tough times. I was not raised with money around."

The actor talked about how he got the chance to go to the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII). "I have not seen too much money in life, but I also know other parents who knew that I wanted to go to FTII and there's not enough money at home, and they would also come out and help my mother so that she can do those things for us," said the actor, who has appeared in over 30 films since 2010.

Rajkummar, who made his acting debut with 'Love Sex Aur Dhokha' in 2010, is happy that today he is referred to as "ghar ka beta" by the audience.

"That's why I am grateful to my parents, and that's the reason that people connect as 'humare ghar ka hi ladka hai' because main hoon. I am that boy who has come from nowhere and who has worked genuinely very hard to be where I am today," said the Gurgaon-born star.



## BIGGEST WAR SEQUENCE OF SURIYA SIVAKUMAR-STARRER 'KANGUVA' FEATURES 10,000-PLUS PEOPLE

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Suriya Sivakumar's upcoming Tamil fantasy action film 'Kanguva' has the biggest war sequence, featuring more than 10,000 people, and the action, stunts, and visualisation of the entire war episodes are done under international expertise.

According to the sources: "The makers, Studio Green, along with director Siva and the entire team, have worked on every aspect of the war sequences to do justice to the theme and subject. The film has the biggest war sequence, featuring Suriya, Bobby Deol, and more than 10,000 people."

"Right from the action, stunts, and visualisation of the entire war episodes, everything is being done under international expertise with an aim to deliver cinematic grandeur," added the sources.

Earlier, the poster of the movie featured Suriya in dual avatars, one of a tribesman and the other of a gun-wielding urban corporate guy dressed in a suit.

The film promises a raw, rustic, and new visual experience to the audience with human emotions, powerful performances, and never-seen-before action sequences on a massive scale.

# I was not raised with money around : Rajkummar Rao



INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Sony Charista