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Lensman-anthropologist Rajesh Satankar rates Kumbh Mela as 'LOGISTICAL MARVEL'

Akshay Acharya | Mumbai
Photographer Rajesh Satankar, who is gearing up for his photobook exhibition of 'Celebration of Heritage' in Mumbai, has captured the essence of the Kumbh Mela in his lens. Portraying varied shades of spirituality in his pictures, Rajesh feels that the extravaganza makes for a textbook in logistics management given the sheer number of people attending the mela.

Rajesh spoke with correspondent and opened up on his journey of experiencing the beauty of the Kumbh Mela from close quarters, his analysis as an anthropologist about the growing influence of globalisation on human civilisation and the connecting thread between those attending the mela. Talking about the themes that intrigue him as a photographer, he told correspondent: "People, in all their fascinating complexities, are what truly intrigues me as a photographer. Perhaps it stems from my background in anthropology, but I find myself drawn to capturing the stories etched on people's faces, the way they interact, and the unspoken narratives of their everyday lives. There's magic in connecting with someone, hearing their stories, and then translating that essence into a single image. My passion for people photography manifests in a variety of ways."

He said that the grandiosity of weddings, the meticulous artistry of fashion shoots, and quiet moments of spirituality at the Kumbh Mela all hold a certain allure. Even the bustling energy of street life, with its random encounters and fleeting moments, sparks my creative fire.

When asked about the germ of the photobook, he told IANS that the idea for the book sprouted from two things that weighed heavily on his mind. Firstly, the Kumbh Mela effort-



lessly manages millions of people every single day. "It's a logistical marvel, and I felt this incredible story wasn't being shared widely enough. The second reason stemmed from a concern about the younger generation's awareness of the Kumbh Mela. It's a global phenomenon, yet there seems to be a gap in understanding, particularly among youth. The media often focuses heavily on the religious aspects, which are undeniably important, but there's so much more to the experience."

He said that he wanted to create a book that went beyond just rituals and customs.

"I envisioned capturing the vibrant spirit of the Kumbh Mela - the coming together of diverse cultures, the temporary city that springs up to accommodate millions, the joyous festivities, and most importantly, the human connections that form there. This wasn't just about showcasing the spiritual signifi-

cance of the Mela, though that's a powerful aspect too."

He said that it was about portraying the Kumbh Mela as a place where people from all walks of life, with different beliefs and backgrounds, come together in a spirit of unity and shared experience.

"That, to me, was the heart of the story waiting to be told," he said.

When asked how will globalisation manifest itself with ideas, values, and cultures travelling across the globe?

He said: "As an anthropologist, I'm fascinated by globalisation's impact on cultural exchange. Historically, migration has shaped civilisations and the Kumbh Mela embodies this beautifully. People from all walks of life converge, sharing traditions and fostering a global community. Technology like AI is accelerating this exchange, creating a 'glocal' world where global connections exist alongside local identities."

He said that this interconnectedness can break down cultural barriers and foster understanding.

"Imagine someone of a different faith attending the Kumbh Mela, discovering new perspectives or even a path to enlightenment through witnessing the pilgrims' devotion. The Mela becomes a platform for global faith exploration, not conversion," he said.

He said that the Kumbh Mela offers hope as millions come together united by a purpose yet celebrating their unique traditions. "This is a microcosm of the future I see - a world where globalisation fosters cultural exchange and understanding, while still allowing local traditions to thrive," he added.

'Celebration of Heritage' will be held at the Nehru Centre in the Worli area of Mumbai, with an inaugural function on May 11 and an exhibition on May 12.

Horse polo returns after 100 years to venue that hosted first Test on Indian soil

Team Absolute | Mumbai
After a huge gap of 100 years, the royal sport of horse polo will return to the iconic Bombay Gymkhana, the prestigious venue in Mumbai which hosted the first cricket Test match played on Indian soil. The Bombay Gymkhana is set to once again host the Bombay Gymkhana Arena Polo Championship at its hallowed turf on Sunday, as the premier polo event is being revived after almost a century. "The Bombay Gymkhana Polo Challenge Cup" was founded in 1882 and the inaugural edition was won by the Central India Horse team, but it was brought back home to the Bombay Gymkhana in 1885 by the Gymkhana's polo team.

Sanjiv Saran Mehra, President of Bombay Gymkhana, informed on Saturday, "As a precursor to the Bombay Gymkhana 150th year celebrations in 2025 we have plans to organise various sporting events, some new additions (like the Bombay Gymkhana 10K run which was held in March 2024 or reviving some sports events linked to our rich



sporting heritage. In this connection, we are reviving 'The Bombay Polo Challenge Cup' founded in 1882." Two teams, comprising a mix of players from the Amateur Riders Club, Mumbai and the Artillery Corps, Nasik, will battle it out for supremacy under floodlights in an arena format on Sunday. The Bombay Gymkhana, one of India's most prestigious and premier clubs founded in 1875, boasts a rich heritage of sporting history and culture. The Gymkhana, which takes pride in having hosted the first cricket Test match in India in 1933, was also the home of Polo with the sport being hosted by Bombay Gymkhana and competitions being conducted until 1920 at this iconic venue. The Bombay Gymkhana was also one of the venues when India hosted its first Hockey World Cup in 1982. It plays host to a couple of top squash, billiards and snooker and rugby events annually.

UPI payments see surge in India, leading people to overspending too: Experts

Team Absolute | New Delhi

As India's digital and less-cash journey gains steam, more and more people are not only purchasing their daily essentials via unified payments interface (UPI) mode of digital transactions but also costly home appliances, high-end gadgets and designer apparels, among other things.

The seamless digital journey via the UPI mode has also resulted in people overspending on stuff they actually may not need at times, experts said on Saturday.

The purchasing trend via UPI/QR code is due to the fact that digital transactions now take a jiffy to complete the purchase journey via smartphones.

According to a recent survey by IIT Delhi, nearly 74 per cent of people in the country are 'overspending' as a result of using UPI and other digital payment methods.

"The convenience and ease of digital transactions through UPI, in comparison to cash, may indeed lead to lower



awareness of spending, as transactions are seamless and reduce the tangible feel of money leaving one's possession," Prabhu Ram, Head, Industry Intelligence Group at market intelligence firm CMR, told IANS.

Latest data from the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) revealed that the number of Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions reached 1,330 crore in April. On a year-on-year basis, the UPI transaction count has increased by 50 per cent. Last year, the UPI transactions

increased by almost 60 per cent to reach a record 11,768 crore.

Ramesh Narasimhan, Chief Executive Officer-India, Worldline, said that UPI maintains its position as the uncontestable frontrunner, buoyed by substantial expansion in mobile transactions. "This trend underscores users' growing confidence and familiarity with smartphone-based payment methods," Narasimhan added.

The average ticket size (ATS) of UPI transactions has also declined by 8 per cent from Rs 1,648 to Rs 1,515.

According to experts, consumer spending in India is soaring, with people splurging on cars, smartphones, TVs and other items, boosting the country's economic growth. However, the trend has also seen people overspending on certain high-priced items, thanks to UPI.

A recent report by Nielsen Media India, on behalf of Amazon India, showed that digital payment methods are on the rise in the country, with 42 per cent of consumers saying they will choose UPI for online festive shopping.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Mahindra & Mahindra on Friday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) for the flagship Drone Didi Yojana, launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, to skill women to become drone pilots. Under this partnership, Mahindra and MSDE will conduct two pilots at National Skill Training Institutes (NSTI) in Hyderabad and Noida to skill 500 women in batches of 20 each.

The 15-day curriculum, which has been approved by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, will be conducted at these centres by RPTO (Remote Pilot Training



Organisation) instructors, the company mentioned.

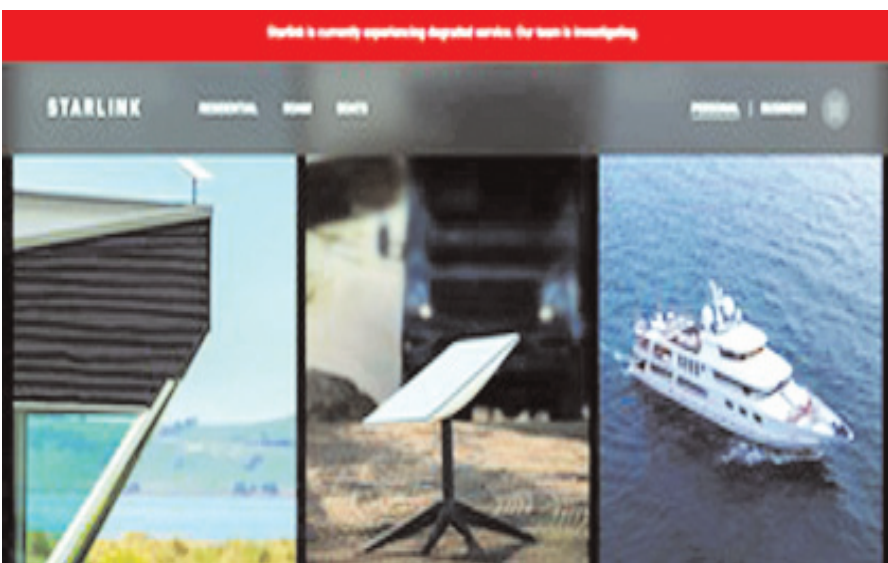
"The pilot under the Drone Didi Yojana represents a first-of-its-kind convergence of women, farming, and technology. We are delighted to provide technology training

to grassroots women and ensure that agriculture is equipped for the future," Dr Anish Shah, Group CEO & MD, Mahindra Group, said in a statement.

The programme aims to train 15,000 women to operate drones for agricultural purposes such as fertiliser sowing, crop monitoring and seed sowing. "This collaboration advances our mission of upskilling women for nation-building, particularly through the successful implementation of the Drone Didi programme in empowering women in emerging trades," said Atul Kumar Tiwari, Secretary, MSDE. The learnings and outcomes from the Pilot project will help MSDE in scaling up the Drone Didi Yojana at identified NSTIs or ITIs across the country.

As a further support to the intent of the Drone Didi Yojana, Mahindra said that it will soon roll out this training for women at the company's skilling centres at Zaheerabad, Telangana and Nagpur, Maharashtra.

Solar storm hits SpaceX's Starlink satellites



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Starlink, the satellite arm of Elon Musk's SpaceX, on Saturday, warned users of a "degraded service" as the biggest geomagnetic storm struck the Earth due to solar activity in a very long time.

"Starlink is currently experiencing degraded service. Our team is investigating," the company wrote on its website.

Earlier, in a post on X, the tech billionaire highlighted the severity of the storm, saying that it has put Starlink satellite fleet under intense pressure and described it as "the biggest in a long time".

"Major geomagnetic solar storm happening right now. Biggest in a long time. Starlink satellites are under a lot of pressure, but holding up so far," Musk wrote.

According to the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, a major storm is currently occurring, which is the largest one since October 2003.

This storm is expected to continue over the weekend and poses potential risks to various systems such as navigation, power grids, and satellite navigation.

Meanwhile, Musk has said that Tesla will be investing over \$500 million in its Supercharger network to create thousands of new chargers in 2024.

"Tesla will spend well over \$500 million expanding our Supercharger network to create thousands of new chargers this year," Musk wrote on X.

He also said that this money only accounts for new sites and expansions, and not for operations costs, which are much higher.

Trans actor Trinetra Haldar shares facial transformation



Team Absolute | Mumbai
Actress Trinetra Haldar, who was last seen in the streaming show 'Made In Heaven', has shared that she underwent facial transformation, recently. On Saturday, the actress took to her Instagram to share the news with her followers. She shared a picture of her face wrapped up in bandages in a graphic design. She penned a long note in the caption as she called the process the ultimate step in her transformation journey.

She wrote: "Facial Feminisation Surgery (FFS) in Spain isn't just a vacation, chaotic sketches and diary entries on opioids FFS is one of many interventions a trans person may undergo to feel more alignment between body and gender identity. Other gender-affirming interventions may include gender-affirming hormone therapy (GAHT/HRT), gender-affirming genital surgery, etc. My transition is complete."

She further said that she didn't think this final step would happen anytime soon, but it has. "I did this by myself, for myself, and still can't believe it. Transition to me is deeply spiritual, and not the stuff of tabloids and speculative nonsense. I haven't talked about wanting FFS at all mostly out of fear of public scrutiny and judgement, but why shy away from something so important in this journey of accessing myself? Who cares what anybody thinks or believes? Truth be told, I've wanted this for a decade, and there were lots of reasons to wait. I ticked them all off one by one." "I have no interest in promoting bodily intervention, but I do believe in transparency, as has always been the case, especially as a doctor. My reasons were gender affirmation and confidence therefrom, as extensively deliberated on over years of therapy. Others may have their own. Doing this alone hasn't been easy, but my god, I'm convinced I'm ***** invincible," she concluded.

Visually impaired lottery seller pardons man who stole her tickets



Team Absolute | Kottayam (Kerala)

Rosamma life is all about honesty, hard work and forgiveness. She sits quietly on the roadside selling lottery tickets to those who desire to check their luck. She trusts people to pay her every time they pick a ticket. She cannot see the faces but can recognise the voices.

Visually impaired Rosamma ekes out a living by selling Kerala State Lottery tickets here.

Recently she realized that the balance tickets and the cash were not tallying. She suspected some customer

who was taking the ticket but not paying money.

Upset by this, she got in touch with a fellow visually impaired lottery seller, her friend in Malappuram.

It was he who suggested she get a pen camera and she bought one through online mode.

Determined to catch the thief, she pinned the camera on her dress. And in the evening when she gave the pen camera to a friend who checked the visuals, the thief was identified.

"I get to know my customers through their voice and when the person, who was caught on the pen camera, came again. I told him that he had done a wrong. Initially, he tried to wriggle out, but when he was told that he had been caught on her pen camera, he admitted his crime and said he would compensate me, but I refused," said 45-year-old Rosamma.

"Then I told him that he needed to assure me that he would never again do this cheating, especially to those who are in deep distress due to various reasons. He agreed he would not do it again and in return, I promised him that I would not reveal his name or show the visuals to any person," said Rosamma.





PM MODI SPREADING HATRED IN SOCIETY, ALLEGES PRIYANKA GANDHI

Hyderabad | Agencies

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi has accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of spreading hatred in the society. She claimed that PM Modi's truth has come out before the people as he can't seek votes on the basis of his performance.

"He seeks votes only in the name of religion. He only spreads hatred in the society for his political gains," she said.

On the last day of the election campaign in Telangana, she addressed the public at Tandru in Chevella constituency and a roadshow in Kamareddy in Zaheerabad constituency.

She said if PM Modi had worked, laid roads, built schools, hospitals and industries, he would have sought votes on the basis of these issues.

She alleged that, in 10 years of his rule, PM Modi did nothing for the poor, farmers, workers, women and small traders. "What has he given you? Demonetisation, GST, price-rise, unemployment and the gift of hatred," she remarked.



Asserting that the country was formed on the basis of love, non-violence and truth, the Congress General Secretary said that all countrymen are brothers and sisters.

She also accused PM Modi of giving away the country's resources to a few friends. "He waived off loans of 16 lakh crore of a few billionaires," she said.

Priyanka Gandhi said the people of

the country have awakened. "They don't want hatred. They want employment and development. Farmers need support, women need to stand on their feet and workers need fair wages," she said.

The Congress leader appealed to people to bring a change. "Tell Modiji and his every candidate that enough is enough. We don't need your government. We don't need your anti-

constitutional ideology," she said.

"Bring a government which can re-establish politics of honesty and democracy. Send a message from here that we will save democracy and Constitution and fight to protect reservation," she added.

The Congress leader urged people to bring a government which does not misguide them but serves them.

"You have to decide whether you want a leader who never went to a poor's house or a leader who walked 4,000 km and met the poor. Do you need a leader who utters lies or a leader who never retreats from the path of truth," she said.

With Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy by her side, she asked people if they were happy with his government.

She said the Congress has given more guarantees in Lok Sabha elections. Eldest woman member of every poor family will get Rs 1 lakh every year. There will be the legal guarantee for MSP for farmers. For the educated unemployed, the government will come out with a scheme Pehli Naukri Pakki, she added.

Vijayamma appeals to Kadapa voters to support Sharmila

Kadapa | Agencies

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's mother Y. S. Vijayamma on Saturday appealed to people of Kadapa Lok Sabha constituency to vote for her daughter and state Congress President Y. S. Sharmila Reddy, who is contesting from Kadapa Lok Sabha constituency. Breaking her silence on the last day of the campaign, Vijayamma released a video appealing to voters of Kadapa to elect her daughter with a huge majority. She said she was making an appeal to all those who respect and love the Late Y. S. Rajasekhara Reddy to cast their vote in favour of his daughter and gave her an opportunity to serve the Kadapa constituency.

Vijayamma, who has been staying away from active politics for the last couple of years, is reported to be in the United States. Sharmila has entered the fray from Kadapa against her cousin and sitting MP Y. S. Avinash Reddy of the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP).

Sharmila has been bitterly criticising her brother for fielding Avinash Reddy despite the CBI naming him as an accused in the murder of their uncle and former minister Y. S. Vivekananda Reddy. Supported by Vivekananda Reddy's daughter Y. S. Sunitha Reddy, Sharmila has called upon people to defeat Jagan Mohan Reddy for shielding the murder accused. Vivekananda Reddy was



murdered a few days before the 2019 elections.

Sharmila, who had campaigned actively for YSRCP in the 2014 and 2019 elections, fell out with his brother when he allegedly started ignoring her after becoming the Chief Minister in 2019. Vijayamma resigned as the honorary President of YSRCP in 2022 to back her daughter, who had floated YSR Telangana Party. She merged the party with Congress early this year and was appointed president of the Andhra Pradesh Congress committee.

YSR, as Rajasekhara Reddy was popularly known, was Chief Minister of the united Andhra Pradesh from 2004 to 2009. He died in a helicopter crash in September 2009, a few months after leading the Congress to power for a second consecutive term.

In the May 13 elections, Jagan Mohan Reddy is seeking re-election from Pulivendula, one of the seven Assembly segments in the Kadapa Lok Sabha constituency.

'Whenever his party becomes weak, Sharad Pawar joins Congress', taunts Fadnavis

Pune | Agencies

The Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Devendra Fadnavis, said on Saturday that whenever Sharad Pawar's party becomes weak, he joins the Congress and later leaves it.

Clarifying that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has not made an 'offer' to NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar, but 'advised' him to join the NDA, the senior BJP leader said, "From 1977 till date, we have seen that whenever Sharad Pawar's party weakens, he merges with the Congress and then exits.

"Sharad Pawar had said that he contested the elections on five different symbols. If we look at his political career, whenever his party became weak, he joined Congress, corrected his position, and then left the party," Fadnavis said. He said that PM Modi has advised Pawar not to merge with the Congress, which is a sinking ship, but to join the NDA.

"Sharad Pawar has realised that the Ajit Pawar-led NCP nominee will win the Baramati seat. So he made a statement that the regional parties should merge with



Congress after June 4. So, he knows the outcome of the elections. Already you are drowning, and now you are going to a sinking ship," Fadnavis said.

On his part, Pawar has ruled out the possibility of joining the BJP-led NDA, saying that there is no question of joining "such people who have no faith in democracy".

MEHBOOBA MUFTI ACCUSES ADMINISTRATION OF 'TRYING TO FIX ELECTIONS'

Srinagar | Agencies

Former J&K Chief Minister and PDP President Mehbooba Mufti on Saturday alleged that the J&K administration is 'trying to fix elections'.

Addressing a press conference here today, Mehbooba Mufti alleged that the authorities have imposed restrictions for 48 hours from 6:30 pm on Saturday under Section 144 in Pulwama, which is part of the Srinagar Lok Sabha seat going to polls on Monday.

"From 6:30 pm today, Section 144 has been imposed in Pulwama district which is unprecedented. It has not happened before that restrictions are imposed where the elections are to take place and that too till the time of the conclusion of the elections.

They (the administration) are trying to harass the people so that they do not come out to vote," she said.

She said that preparations are being made to commit fraud in the elections.

"The election is being fixed," she



said. The former Chief Minister added that her party workers, who were organising meetings, have also been detained ahead of the polling.

"This is not restricted to Pulwama only. Some days back, there was an attack in Surankote (in Poonch dis-

trict of Jammu). Following the attack, our 50 to 60 workers have been detained," the former Chief Minister said. She said that if the Election Commission of India (ECI) has to repeat the 1987 elections then why this "drama of elections" is being

enacted in Kashmir?

"If they have to create Ikhwan (government gunmen) or the party of Ikhwan, their proxies whom they are supporting then they should say it. The administration is not yet openly coming out in support of their proxies as they are waiting for the elections to conclude in two seats in Srinagar and Baramulla. After that, they will declare their support in Rajouri-Poonch (part of Anantnag-Rajouri seat). The election was delayed there only because of their party, the party of suited-booted Ikhwan. They have created political Ikhwan whom they support fully, the whole government machinery supports them," Mehbooba Mufti said.

She said that government officials are under pressure to selectively target and harass the PDP workers.

"L-G Manoj Sinha should stop this election drama. If you want to do fraud in the name of elections then tell us and we will leave and will not put the lives of our workers at risk," she said.

'Missing' posters put up at AAP MLA Amanatullah Khan's residence days after petrol pump assault

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Noida Police on Saturday put up 'missing' posters at the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLA Amanatullah Khan's residence, days after booking him and his son in a violent assault case at the city's petrol pump.

The police have formed three teams to find out the 'whereabouts' of AAP MLA and his son and also intensified their search operation to trace the duo.

Amanatullah Khan's son had thrashed the employees of a petrol pump in Noida Sector 95, the video of which went viral on social media. In the CCTV footage, the AAP leader's son and his aides could be seen jumping the queue at the petrol pump and then thrashing the staff after a heated exchange.



After the assault incident, the Noida Police had booked AAP MLA's son and himself for creating disorder. The report said Amanatullah Khan also reached the fuel station after the fracas and threatened the fuel station employees. Noida Police on Saturday reached AAP

MLA's Okhla residence and pasted missing posters. An official said that the duo have kept their phones on 'switch off' mode and are untraceable. The police also said that they have tried to reach both Amanatullah and his son but both are deliberately avoiding them. Meanwhile, the cops claim

that they have enough evidence and have also taken account of eyewitnesses regarding the violent altercation that took place at the Noida petrol pump on May 7. Notably, AAP MLA Amanatullah Khan is also accused in a case linked to irregularities in the Waqf Board case.

Idashisha Nongrang becomes first woman police chief of Meghalaya

Shillong: Idashisha Nongrang, a 1992 batch IPS officer coming from a tribal background, was on Saturday appointed the first woman Director General of Police (DGP) of Meghalaya.

Currently serving as the Director General of Civil Defence & Home Guard in Meghalaya, Nongrang will assume charge with effect from May 20, replacing L.R. Bishnoi who will retire on May 19, officials said. The move follows a recommendation by the Empanelment Committee of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC). Congratulating Nongrang, Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma posted on X: "Heartiest congratulations to Smti Idashisha Nongrang, IPS, on her appointment as the new DGP. Breaking barriers and making history, she became the first tribal lady from our state to hold this position, a moment of immense pride for all of us. Wishing her all the best!"

Two days before polls, wife of Trinamool candidate joins BJP in Bengal

Kolkata | Agencies

Two days before the May 13 Lok Sabha elections at Ranaghat in West Bengal's Nadia district, Swastika Maheshwari, the wife of Trinamool Congress candidate Mukut Mani Adhikari, joined the BJP on Saturday.

Maheshwari, who is already contesting a divorce suit against her husband, joined the BJP at a party rally at Ranaghat in the presence of megastar and BJP leader Mithun Chakraborty.

"Anyone voting for Mukut Mani Adhikari will be cheated exactly like me," she said.

The development comes as a major embarrassment concerning Adhikari, against whom Maheshwari filed a complaint just a few days after their marriage last year accusing him of cruelty against her. Adhikari's nomination as Trinamool Congress candidate has been marred with controversy. He was elected as a BJP legislator in the 2021 West Bengal assembly elections from the Ranaghat-Dakhin constituency, one of the seven under the Ranaghat Lok Sabha. Earlier this year, he joined Trinamool Congress. However, his name was announced as a Trinamool Congress candidate from Ranaghat before he



resigned as a BJP legislator. As the BJP started making an issue of it, he finally resigned from the state assembly as a member last month. Till the time this report was filed, there was no reaction from Adhikari.

Videos of three abducted car dealers tortured with electric shocks to private parts go viral in Karnataka; 7 arrested

Yadgir | Agencies

The Karnataka police have arrested seven persons for the brutal torture of three kidnapped second-hand car dealers in Kalaburagi district of the state on Saturday.

Horrifying videos, which went viral on social media, show the kidnappers administering electric shocks to the victims' private parts. The victims, were in a nude state.

The arrested abductors had been identified as Imran Patel, Mohammad Matheen a.k.a Steel Matheen, Mohammad Zia Ul Hussain, Mohammad Afzal Sheik, Hussain Sheik, Ramesh, and Sagar. The gang reportedly includes others, and the police have launched a hunt for them. The victims lodged a complaint with the Vishwavidyalaya police station in Kalaburagi on May 5 at 9:30 p.m., complaining that they were kidnapped while showing a second-hand car to the accused on May 4.

The victims were held captive at an isolated location, assaulted with sticks, and extorted for money. The accused tortured the victims, demanding more money. The police have initiated a further investigation into the matter.



Amid fuel shortage, NFR operates 2 freight trains carrying petrol, diesel in NE states

Agartala | Agencies

Amid the disruption of train services in a few northeastern states for the past 17 days due to landslides in the hill section of Assam leading to a shortage of transport fuel and essential items, two freight trains, carrying petrol and diesel, reached Tripura and Silchar (Assam) from Guwahati to provide relief to the people.

Northeast Frontier Railway's (NFR) Chief PRO Sabyasachi De said the two freight trains, each consisting of 50 wagons carrying petrol and diesel, crossed the risky Jatinga Lumpur-New Harangajao section in Assam's Dima Hasao district safely at noon on Saturday.

Railways and state government officials said the arrival of the freight train in Tripura and southern Assam



would lessen the shortage of transport fuel in southern Assam, Tripura, Manipur, and Mizoram.

According to the NFR officials, passenger and goods train services have

been affected in the region since April 25 owing to heavy landslides causing damage to railway tracks in the Jatinga Lumpur-New Harangajao section under Lumding division after

heavy rains lashed the mountainous Dima Hasao district, a connecting route to southern Assam, Tripura, Manipur, and Mizoram.

Hundreds of workers and technicians, led by railway engineers, are working round-the-clock to restore the train services in the mountainous areas.

Considering the weak railway tracks and soil in the region, the NFR is now operating a limited number of trains in the daytime on the hilly route, besides regulating long-distance and express trains.

According to the officials, the stocks of fuel -- petrol and diesel -- and other essential goods in southern Assam, Tripura, Mizoram, and parts of Manipur are not adequate due to the restrictions on the movement of goods trains.



absolute india

'YOGI ADITYANATH WILL BE SACKED'

ARVIND KEJRIWAL'S BIG CLAIM IF BJP WINS LOK SABHA ELECTION 2024

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Arvind Kejriwal, addressing his first press conference since leaving jail, said that the Bharatiya Janata Party will not only imprison Opposition leaders but also leaders from their own party. Mr Kejriwal claimed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has started a "one nation, one leader" mission and he will soon end the political career of Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath too.

"Our country is very old, whenever a dictator tried to take over, the people uprooted him. Today again a dictator wants to end democracy. I have come to beg from 140 crore people," he added.



In his speech, he singled out PM Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah as engineers behind a power takeover within the BJP, referring to how the BJP changes chief ministers in many states before assembly

'PM TO QUIT AT 75'

New Delhi: Kejriwal in his first press conference a day after being released from jail attacked PM Modi as someone who wants 'one nation, one leader', alluding to the BJP's push for 'one nation, one election' system. "These people ask INDIA bloc about prime ministerial face. I ask BJP who will be their PM? Modi ji is turning 75 on September 17 next year. He himself made the rule in 2014 that people aged 75 will be retired. They retired LK Advani, Murli Manohar Joshi, Sumitra Mahajan. He will retire next year. He is seeking votes to making Amit Shah the Prime Minister. Will Amit Shah fulfil Modi ji's guarantee?" said the AAP chief who got interim bail till June 1 to campaign for the Lok Sabha elections, already three of the seven phases completed.

elections to "clip their wings". He also warned that all the opposition leaders including Chief Ministers Mamata Banerjee, and MK Stalin would be sent to jail in case the BJP-led NDA comes to power after the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. "They will send opposition leaders to jail and will finish them (Nipta denge) ... Our ministers, Hemant Soren (former Jharkhand CM), ministers of Mamata Banerjee's party (Trinamool Congress) are in jail... If they (BJP) win again, then Mamata Banerjee, MK Stalin, RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, Uddhav Thackeray (UBT Chief) and other opposition leaders will all be in jail." Kejriwal said.

NARENDRA MODI WILL CONTINUE TO BE PM EVEN AFTER TURNING 75: AMIT SHAH

Hyderabad: Asserting that Narendra Modi will continue to be the Prime Minister in the third term of NDA, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday sought to clarify that the BJP Constitution has no rule that a leader who reaches the age of 75 years should not hold the post.

"Modiji is not only going to complete this term but will continue to lead the country in future. There is no confusion in BJP. They want to create confusion," he said when asked to comment on Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's statement in which he said that PM Modi should be retiring after turning 75 on September 17. "I want to say this to Arvind Kejriwal and company and the entire INDI alliance you need not rejoice over Modiji turning 75. It's not written anywhere in the BJP's constitution," he said at a Press conference here.

11 Maha LS seats campaigning ends



Team Absolute | Mumbai

The high-octane campaigning for voting in 11 Parliamentary constituencies in Maharashtra in the fourth phase of Lok Sabha elections concluded on Saturday with both MahaYuti and Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) brimming with confidence of emerging victors. The 11 constituencies which will go for polling on May 13 include Nandurbar, Jalgaon, Raver, Jalna, Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar (Aurangabad), Beed, Pune, Shirur, Ahmednagar, Shirdi and Maval. The recent controversy over Maratha and OBC reservations and caste politics dominated the major part of the campaigning narrative of both MahaYuti and MVA. There are a total of 298 candidates in the fray in the

11 Lok Sabha seats while 2,28,01,151 voters will exercise their voting rights. For the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the polls are a crucial test to retain its supremacy in Nandurbar, Jalgaon, Raver, Jalna, Pune, Ahmednagar and Beed constituencies. In the tribal dominated Nandurbar seat, sitting MP Heena Gavitt hopes to score a hat-trick. She is locked in a direct fight with Congress nominee Gopal Padvi. In Jalgaon, the BJP has fielded former legislator Smita Wagh, replacing sitting MP Unmesh Patil, against Shiv Sena (UBT) nominee Karan Pawar. In Raver, incumbent MP Raksha Khadse -- daughter-in-law of veteran leader Eknath Khadse who will soon rejoin BJP -- faces an acid test to win for the third time. She faces a challenge

from NCP (SP) nominee, Shriram Patil -- an industrialist. In Jalna, Union Minister Raosaheb Danve, who is expecting a win for the sixth consecutive term, is pitted against Congress' Kalyanrao Kale. In Pune, former mayor Murlidhar Mohol is engaged in a direct fight against Congress legislator Ravindra Dhangekar while the heir of the pioneers of the cooperative movement, Sujay Vikhe Patil is locked in a fight against Covid warrior and NCP (SP) candidate Nilesh Lanke. In Beed, the BJP dropped sitting MP Pritam Munde, who is the daughter of former union minister Gopinath Munde and fielded her sister -- Gopinath Munde's elder daughter -- Pankaja Munde against NCP (SP) candidate Bajrang Sonawane.

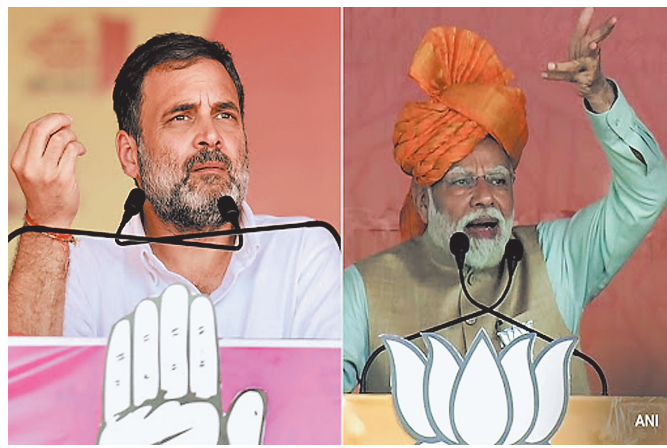
PM Modi recalls 1998 Pokhran tests that showcased India's strength to world

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Remembering the historic feat achieved in India's nuclear capabilities during the 1998 Pokhran tests, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said that the day is not only a testament to India's emergence as a nuclear power but also highlights the country's ongoing growth and strengthening status as a global pioneer in technological innovations. Saturday marks the anniversary of the 1998 Pokhran nuclear tests, the first time India made the world aware of its capabilities. "25 years ago today, Atal Ji's gov-

ernment conducted nuclear tests in Pokhran, showcasing India's strength to the world. While India demonstrated its potential, the Congress continues to sow fear by suggesting Pakistan's possession of nuclear weapons," PM Modi said while addressing an election rally in Odisha's Kandhamal. Criticising Congress for its softened stance, he added: "They repeatedly try to frighten us, warning about Pakistan's atomic bomb. However, Pakistan is struggling to manage its own situation. They're even trying to sell their bombs, but no one wants to buy them because of their poor quality." Several top BJP

leaders and ministers also greeted the scientific fraternity of the country while recalling the Pokhran tests of 1998.



"If and when PM agrees...": Rahul Gandhi on invitation for public debate

Team Absolute | New Delhi

After he said he was 100% ready to take on Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a public debate on the Lok Sabha elections, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has formally replied to a letter by two former judges and a senior journalist inviting him and the PM to be part of such an event. Stating that he or Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge would be pleased to participate in the debate, the Wayanad MP has asked the potential organisers to let him know if the PM agrees to do so as well. Former

Supreme Court judge Madan Lokur, former Delhi High Court Chief Justice Ajit Prakash Shah and N Ram, senior journalist and former editor of 'The Hindu', had written to PM Modi and Rahul Gandhi on Thursday, proposing a public debate between them. The letter said that the Lok Sabha election has reached its halfway mark and while both sides have raised important questions about each other's manifestos and key issues, there had been no "meaningful responses". "To this end, we believe that citizens would hugely benefit by hearing directly from our political leaders through a public debate on a non-partisan and non-

commercial platform. It would be ideal if the public heard not just the questions of each side, but also the responses. We are of the view that this would help to strengthen our democratic process immensely," the letter said. "As the principal parties fighting the election, the public deserve to hear from their leaders directly. Accordingly, either myself or the Congress President would be pleased to participate in such a debate. Please do let us know if and when the Prime Minister agrees to participate, following which we can discuss the details and format of the debate," Rahul said in a response posted on X.

WILL NOT GO INSIDE RAJ BHAVAN EVEN IF I AM INVITED: MAMATA BANERJEE

Kolkata | Agencies

In an oblique reference to the sexual harassment controversy surrounding West Bengal Governor CV Ananda Bose, the state's Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Saturday afternoon said that she would never go inside Raj Bhavan even if she was invited. "I will not go inside Raj Bhavan even if I am invited. I would be better to meet on the streets. Whatever I heard about you it will be a sin to sit beside you," the Chief Minister said this without directly referring to CV Ananda Bose or the recent police



complaint against the Governor, accusing him of outrage of modesty. However, Governor Bose has vehemently denied the accusations.

Without directly referring to the recent screening of CCTV footage at Raj Bhavan for the public earlier this week, Mamata Banerjee said that she had got a copy of the original footage and the edited version. "I have kept it with myself. I have also got the edited copy. All are yet to be revealed. Today I received yet another pen-drive. What authority do you have to harass a woman?" Mamata Banerjee questioned. Without directly naming Bose, the Chief Minister also made a reference to the recent statement by the Governor that he will not tolerate high-handedness over Raj Bhavan.

Char Dham Yatra hit by rain, snowfall day after it began

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Uttarakhand was hit by heavy rainfall today, a day after the Char Dham Yatra began. The sudden weather change posed difficulties for the devotees on the adventurous pilgrimage. It's been raining heavily in the Ganga valley, including at the Gangotri temple, one of the pilgrimage sites of Char Dham Yatra along with Yamunotri, Kedarnath, and

Badrinath. The weather also took a turn in Badrinath today as the higher peaks witnessed snowfall and the low lying areas were hit by rain, a day before the doors of the revered temple are set to open for the devotees. Earlier in the day, a huge crowd of devotees was stuck in long queues for hours on the hilly path to Yamunotri. The devotees blamed the authorities for the lack of proper management.

The Char Dham Yatra began yesterday, as the doors of Yamunotri, Kedarnath, and Gangotri temples were opened for devotees. The doors of Yamunotri and Kedarnath were opened at 7 am yesterday while the door of the Gangotri temple opened at 12.25 pm in the presence of thousands of devotees. Every year, lakhs of devotees turn up for the yatra from April-May to October-November.

DEATH TOLL FROM AFGHANISTAN'S FLOODS EXCEEDS 330

Kabul: More than 330 people have been killed as rainstorms and flash floods hit major parts of the provinces of Baghlan, Takhar, Badakhshan and Ghor of Afghanistan, according to the Afghanistan office of the World Food Programme and local Afghan officials, Xinhua news agency reported. The UN agency said Saturday on social media that more than 300 people have been killed in northern Baghlan province alone, with more than 1,000 houses destroyed. "WFP is now distributing fortified biscuits to the survivors," it said. Local officials said on Saturday that at least 160 people have been killed and 117 others injured as rainstorms and flash floods hit major parts of the provinces of Baghlan, Takhar, Badakhshan and Ghor of war-ravaged Afghanistan.

What Causes A Solar Storm? Indian Scientist Explains

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A celestial event is unfolding as solar flares and coronal mass ejections dazzle the skies, potentially extending the spectacle as far south as Alabama and Northern California in the US. However, alongside the beautiful auroras, there are concerns over potential disruptions to Earth's communications networks this weekend. Explaining the phenomenon, a scientist said solar flares are common and so happen all the time. "It happens when the sun gets to the peak of its activity of the 11-year cycle. After every 11 years, the activity of the sun goes from high to low and in 2025 the activity is going to be at its peak," scientific officer at the Institute for Plasma Research Centre Dr Ravi AV Kumar told news agency. The rarity of this solar storm harks back to October 2003, according to the US National Oceanic



and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) space weather prediction centre, marking a significant celestial occurrence not seen in many years. The chance of solar flares coming out at this time are more, as these are highly charged particles of plasma

which can travel at very high velocities, the scientist said. The faster these particles move the more dangerous they are, he added. "Since these are charged particles from the Sun, they can get deflected from the Earth's magnetic field. Some of these deflected particles can come to polar regions of the Earth, which then interact with gas molecules in the upper atmosphere," Dr Kumar said. "They produce a colour called Aurora. When there is a very strong solar flare like the one which happened yesterday, combined with the Earth's atmosphere and magnetic field, it produces Auroras. People are very fortunate to even see this right up to northern Italy," Dr Kumar said. "The Aurora could also be seen in Ladakh... Flares come and go; they don't affect us directly but can affect our day-to-day activities like communication as the satellites can be disrupted. Satellite TV signals and radio communication could also get disrupted," the scientist said.



BMC-IMD alert

258 CANDIDATES IN FRAY FOR 11 SEATS IN MAHA GOING TO POLLS ON MAY 7

Team Absolute | Mumbai



As many as 258 candidates are in the fray for the third phase of Lok Sabha elections at 11 constituencies in Maharashtra scheduled for May 7, a top poll official said on Friday.

The voting will take place in 23,036 polling centres as 2,09,92,616 people will exercise their voting rights.

The polling will take place in Raigad, Baramati, Dharshiv, Latur, Solapur, Madha, Sangli, Satara, Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg, Kolhapur and Hatkanangale.

Maharashtra Chief Electoral Officer, S. Chockalingam, said that all arrangements have been made for ensuring free and fair polling in these Lok Sabha seats.

He added that special booth-wise teams have been established to spread awareness among the people so that there will be a higher voting percentage.

Amid the controversy over the delay in the release of final voter turnout data by the Election

Commission of India (EC) for the first two phases of the Lok Sabha polls, Chockalingam defended the poll panel's move, saying that there has been a difference between the assessment and the final data.

He further said that whatever the EC has done it has been as per the prescribed norms. In Maharashtra, 62.71 per cent of voting was reported in the second phase of elections that took place on

April 26 in Buldhana, Akola, Amaravati, Wardha, Yavatmal-Washim, Hingoli, Nanded, and Parbhani.

Chockalingam added that there are a total of 298 candidates who are in the fray during the fourth phase of elections that will be held in 11 constituencies comprising Nandurbar, Jalgaon, Raver, Jalna, Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar, Maval, Pune, Shirur, Ahmednagar, Shirdi and Beed.

The polling will take place on May 13.

As many as 2,28,01,151 people from these constituencies will exercise their voting rights.

As far as the fifth phase of elections in 13 constituencies, 173 candidates are in the fray.

The polling will take place on May 20 in these 13 seats comprising Dhule, Dindoshi, Nashik, Palghar, Bhiwandi, Kalyan, Thane, Mumbai North, Mumbai North West, Mumbai North East, Mumbai North Central, Mumbai South Central and Mumbai South.

High swell spring-tide waves to hit Mumbai in next 36 hrs

Team Absolute | Mumbai



High swell waves measuring 4.24 metres shall lash the Mumbai coastal areas in the next 36 hours, the BrihanMumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) said in an alert based on the IMD's advisory, here on Saturday.

Accordingly, on Saturday afternoon (May 4) the low tide waves would be around 1.40 metres tall (2.36 pm), and the subsequent high tide waves shall be 4.08 metres high (9.09 pm). On Sunday (May 5), the low tide waves shall be 1.05 metres high (03.30 am), followed by the high tide with waves of 4.04 metres height (09.50 am). On Sunday, the low tide measurement would be 1.32 metre (3.35 pm) and the subsequent high tide the waves shall be the highest at 4.24 metres (9.56 pm). The BMC has called

upon citizens, tourists, or weekend picnickers to avoid going to the beaches, shores or sea-fronts and cooperate with all the concerned agencies, as the coastal and low-lying areas may experience high surges due to the tall waves in the Arabian Sea. Accordingly, the sea levels are expected to rise by an average of half to 1.5 metres during the high tide and spring tide phases, and even

fisherfolks have been advised to exercise utmost caution, and keep their boats safely moored away from the shores to avoid damage or collision. The BMC Commissioner Bhushan Gagrani has directed all the city wards and concerned agencies, as well as the Mumbai Police and Mumbai Fire Brigade plus life-guards, beach security personnel and others to coordinate and be ready for any emergencies.

Mumbai Police constable's mysterious death baffles authorities

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The death of a Mumbai Police constable has sent shockwaves through the city, as authorities grapple with unraveling the circumstances surrounding his death.

Vishal Pawar was stationed at the Worli Police Headquarters. In a statement before his death, Pawar recounted a harrowing ordeal that unfolded during his commute on the night of April 27. He claimed to have been accosted by the 'fatka gang' in Matunga, who, after snatching his mobile phone, rendered him unconscious with a toxic injection.

After hours of unconsciousness, Pawar regained consciousness and somehow made his way home, only to be subsequently admitted to the hospital. Sadly, he succumbed to his injuries soon after.

The case prompted the railway police to register a murder case and initiate an investigation. However, after scrutinising CCTV footage and conducting analyses of Pawar's mobile phone records and location, the police assert that there is no evidence to substantiate his version of events.

According to police sources, investigations revealed discrepancies in Pawar's account. While he claimed the incident occurred at



9.30 pm, CCTV footage placed him near Kailash Lassi Shop in Dadar until midnight on the same night. Authorities suspect Pawar may have been under the influence of alcohol and possibly skipped duty on the day of the incident, casting doubt on the credibility of his narrative. Yet, the pivotal question remains unanswered: if nothing untoward occurred, how did Pawar die?

Authorities are now waiting for the results of the post-mortem report to shed light on this perplexing case.

Hope Uddhav Thackeray never needs PM Modi's help: Sharad Pawar

Pune : NCP(SP) | Agencies

President Sharad Pawar on Saturday expressed the hope that his ally and Shiv Sena (UBT) chief, Uddhav Thackeray never requires any help from Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Pawar said this while answering a mediaperson's question on the PM's remarks in a television interview that he is always there to help former Maharashtra Chief Minister Thackeray if the need arises, while referring to the latter's past health issues.

"Whatever the PM may say, I hope and pray that Uddhav Thackeray never is in a situation where he would be compelled to seek assistance from Modi," said Pawar with a smile.

Concurring with the NCP(SP) supremo on the issue, Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut said, "Pawar



has said the right thing." To a question, "if Pawar cannot handle his family, then how can he look after Maharashtra", the senior

Pawar hit back saying, "When did (Modi) manage his own family... The situation of his family members is a matter of concern... But I don't want

to stoop to make any such personal comments."

The senior Pawar accused PM Modi of making many casual statements which never materialised, and which raised doubts in the minds of the public whether the government would be able to deliver or not. "That's why faith in the PM is waning," he said.

Sharad Pawar said that earlier too, PM Modi used to attack former PM, Dr. Manmohan Singh's policies, "but today, Modi is implementing the same policies."

"The people have understood these contradictions... The masses compared the 10 years of Dr. Singh with Modi's 10 years. They have realised that Dr. Singh used to work quietly and deliver results, but the outcome of Modi's work is not known though he spends a lot of time in commenting and criticising," Sharad Pawar pointed out.

Aspiring candidate accuses man with identical name of using his papers to file nomination

Team Absolute | Thane

The police in Thane district have registered a case after an aspiring candidate for the Lok Sabha elections 2024 accused a person with an identical name of taking his nomination papers by trickery and using them to submit his candidature, an official said on Saturday, reported news agency.

In his police complaint on Friday, Milind Devram Kamble said a party had given him the 'A, B' forms, allowing him to file his nomination from the Bhiwandi Lok Sabha seat. A, B' forms denote that a political party has given the go-ahead to a certain candidate and the person should be allotted the poll symbol of that party.

The complainant claimed that a man named Milind Kashinath Kamble cheated him, took his original forms and other documents, including PAN and Aadhaar, and filed his candidature taking advantage of the similarities between their names.

Friday was the last date for filing the nomination for the Bhiwandi Lok Sabha constituency, where polling will be held in the fifth phase on May



20. Based on the complaint, the police Bhiwandi town police have registered a case against Milind Kashinath Kamble for cheating and criminal breach of trust under the Indian Penal Code, the official added.

Meanwhile, Maharashtra's Chief Minister Eknath Shinde has expressed his confidence in the Mahayuti alliance winning all six seats in the Mumbai region in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections 2024. The Maharashtra CM was speaking on Shiv Sena candidate Yamini Jadhav's nomination and said that people came out in large numbers to

support her. Speaking with reporters, Eknath Shinde said, "South Mumbai MLA Yamini Jadhav filed her nomination. People in thousands were present to support her. This is Mahayuti's strong fort..." He added, "Work done by the central government in the last 10 years and our government in two years speaks for itself. All six seats of Mumbai will be won by Mahayuti candidates."

Friday, after filing her nomination, Yamini Jadhav talked about solving the issues faced by the public. Speaking to reporters, she said, "As a public representative, I will try my best to solve the issues that the public is facing." The Shiv Sena led by Eknath Shinde on May 1 nominated Yamini Jadhav as its candidate for Mumbai South Lok Sabha seat who will face sitting Sena UBT MP Arvind Sawant. Yamini Jadhav was among the 39 MLAs who pledged support to Shinde when he revolted against Uddhav Thackeray in June 2022.

Jadhav is a first-time MLA and is a former corporator. She is the wife of the former standing committee chairman of Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) Yashwant Jadhav.

Rahul Gandhi RSS remark defamation case: Hearing posted for June 29

Team Absolute | Thane

A court in Thane in Maharashtra on Saturday posted the hearing in the defamation case filed against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi to June 29.

When the matter came up for hearing during the day in the magistrate's court in Bhiwandi, an adjournment was sought on the ground that a writ petition filed by the applicant was pending in the High Court and no order had been delivered on it as yet, Gandhi's counsel advocate Narayan Iyer said.

After hearing both parties, the magistrate posted the matter for hearing on June 29, Iyer said.

The defamation case was



filed by local RSS member Rajesh Kunte claiming Gandhi in a speech had

linked the organisation to the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi.

I feel pity for Smriti Irani, says Sanjay Raut on nomination of KL Sharma from Amethi

Team Absolute | Mumbai



Taking a dig at BJP's Amethi candidate Smriti Irani, Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut on Saturday said that he feels "pity" for her as she will now have to face defeat from Rahul Gandhi personal assistant, reported news agency.

Addressing a press conference, Sanjay Raut said, "I feel mercy and pity for Smriti Irani because now, she will lose to Rahul Gandhi's PA... This is a well-thought-out decision. KL Sharma is a loyal worker of the Congress party. He has worked for several years with Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi in Amethi."

He added further that people close to the Gandhi family have contested from Amethi in the past as well. "People close to the Gandhi family have fought from Amethi previously... Why is the BJP so concerned?..."

From RK Dhawan to many other people, several have contested from Amethi. Why does the BJP have an issue with this? They should contest their elections," Raut said.

Raut praised KL Sharma by calling him a grassroots worker amid ongoing Lok Sabha elections 2024 and said, "He is a grassroots worker. If a grassroots worker contests elections, what problem does the BJP have in that? He is a Congress worker only. He has not been brought from outside like the BJP brings people to contest elections. KL Sharma is winning the elections. This time he will defeat Smriti Irani."

After weeks of deliberations and speculations,

Congress announced on Friday that Rahul Gandhi will be its candidate from the traditional Gandhi family stronghold of Raebareilly in Uttar Pradesh, while KL Sharma will contest from Amethi in the ongoing Lok Sabha elections 2024.

The Amethi seat has been represented by Rahul since 2004, and he remained a member of Parliament from the constituency until 2019. His father and former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, too, was an elected member of Amethi in the Lower House from 1981 till his death in 1991. Sonia Gandhi contested elections from there in 1999 before passing the baton on to Rahul in 2004.

Sharma will go head-to-head with Union Minister Smriti Irani, who claimed victory over Rahul Gandhi in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, flipping the Congress bastion seat.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Mumbai Police conducted a special overnight 'All Out Operation' in the city and nabbed as many as eight wanted or absconded accused, the police said on Saturday.

According to the police, Mumbai Police conducted the operation on the intervening night of May 3 and 4. The operation involved a coordinated effort by the cops across the city.

Top police officials, including Additional Commissioners of Police, Deputy Police Commissioners, Divisional Assistant Commissioners, and Senior Police Inspectors, were part of the massive operation ahead of the voting for the Lok Sabha elections 2024 in Mumbai on May 20. The motive was keep up and maintain the law and order in the city, sources said.

The police said, Mumbai Police's special 'All Out Operation' was undertaken in the city under the guidance of Mumbai Police Commissioner,



Vivek Phansalkar and Special Mumbai Police Commissioner, Deven Bharti and Joint Commissioner Satyanarayan Chaudhary.

All the regions in city police's jurisdiction, zonal divisions under Mumbai Police jurisdiction and the traffic police were part of the operation in which several offenders were

nabbed, the police said.

During the operation, a significant combing effort was carried out, resulting in the arrest of as many as eight suspects who had either been wanted or absconded in criminal cases. Action was taken against 53 people against whom non-bailable warrants were issued, the police said. A thorough investigation under the

NDPS ACT cases was also undertaken during the operation, resulting in as many as five drugs cases.

The officials also took action against illegal possession of weapons and preventive actions were taken in 49 cases. "Two illegal firearms were confiscated by the police officials and two people have been arrested in the matter during the special operation," an official said.

Action was also taken against 154 illegal hawkers in the city.

The operation was also focused on maintaining public safety in Mumbai. The police also inspected 800 establishments, including hotels, lodges, and musafirhanas.

Mumbai Police also conducted nakabandis at 111 spots in the city, a staggering 7233 two-wheeler and four-wheeler vehicles were inspected during organised nakabandis.

Around 77 motorists were penalised under the Motor Vehicle Act (MV Act) for drink and drive and action was taken against 2440 in various cases of MV Act, the police said.



NOW THE GATHERING OF LEADERS IN NIMAR-MALWA

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Voting is going to be held on 8 seats of Nimar-Malwa in the fourth phase of elections in Madhya Pradesh. This is the reason why this area has turned into a political arena and politicians have gathered here. These leaders are also preparing to make their last move to win the elections.

Voting has taken place in three phases of Lok Sabha elections in the state and the chessboard is completely laid for the fourth phase. In this phase, voting is to be held on 8 seats of Nimar-Malwa area on May 13. There are less than 24 hours left for the election campaign, so both the major political parties - BJP and Congress have put in all their strength. The eight seats on which voting is to be held on Monday, all of them are currently in the control of BJP. While BJP wants to maintain its lead, Congress is trying hard to make inroads here.

In the election campaign on behalf of BJP, Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav, State President Vishnu Dutt Sharma, former Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan,



State Government Minister Kailash Vijayvargiya, state election in-charge Dr. Mahendra Singh, co-in-charge Satish Upadhyay and many other leaders held meetings. Meetings and workers are ranging from conferences to road shows. Some are flying by helicopter and

some are measuring roads. On one hand, BJP has fielded its entire team, while on the other hand, Congress is also not lagging behind in the campaign. Party state president Jitu Patwari, Leader of Opposition Umang Singhar, former Chief Minister Digvijay Singh, for-

mer Union Minister Arun Yadav and other leaders are engaged in the election campaign. Election campaign on these 8 seats of Nimar-Malwa area will stop on Saturday evening. Before this, big leaders of both the parties are preparing to make the final move.

Are the positions of these 10 ministers of MP govt really in danger?

Sanjay Saxena | Bhopal

After coming to Bhopal, Amit Shah had warned that those ministers who have less voting in the Assembly this time compared to 2019, will have to lose their ministerial posts. So, after three phases of voting, are the positions of 10 ministers of Madhya Pradesh government now in danger? The turnout of these ministers in their assembly constituencies was less than last time.

In Andal Singh Kanshana, there was 19.4 percent less voting. In Vijay Shah's Harsud, there was 12.7 percent less voting. There was 6 percent less voting in Vishwas Sarang area. There has been 9.5 percent less voting in Govind Rajpooj's assembly constituency. There was 10 percent less voting in Rakesh Shukla's Mehgaon. There was 7 percent less voting in Karan Singh Verma's constituency. In Narayan Singh



Kushwaha's Gwalior South assembly constituency, voting was two percent less. There was 7 percent less voting in Energy Minister Pradyuman Singh Tomar's Gwalior assembly constituency. Similarly, 7 to 9 percent less voting has been recorded in the assembly constituencies of Krishna Gaur and Gaurav Tetwal.

In such a situation, the positions of these ministers are now in danger. Amit Shah is said to be very angry with the fact that despite giving targets, there has been less voting in the assembly constituencies of many ministers. BJP strategists believe that due to this the party may have to suffer loss in the elections.

Investment scam exposed in Bhopal

Fraud worth lakhs in the name of Gold Desert Coin

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Cyber Cell has exposed a major cryptocurrency scam, in which the accused defrauded investors of crores of rupees through a fake crypto exchange. In this scam, with strings attached to Dubai, the accused lured people to invest in DGC/GDC coins and promised benefits like Bitcoin. He created IDs of around 10,000 people on his crypto exchange and conducted high-profile seminars across the country. Ultimately, he committed a fraud of around Rs 5 crore.

17 April 2024 Rajendra Viraj Singh Verma, a resident of Katara Hills, Bhopal, has filed an investment scam complaint, in which he has alleged that he was defrauded of Rs 1.15 lakh in the name of investing in Gold Desert Coin. According to Mr Verma, accused Sumit Jain, Atul Jain and Trilok Patidar lured him into this investment scheme through the website golddesertcoin.info.

The complainant said that he was assured that the value of his money would increase manifold if he invested in Gold Desert Coin (DGC). In an organized meeting, which was arranged by the accused Patidar, they were also told that the amount of their money



would triple after investment.

In this case, a crime has been registered under section 406, 420, 120 (B) of the Indian Penal Code and investigation has been started. This incident has reminded investors to exercise caution in online investment schemes. Bhopal Police has arrested one accused in this case, and the search for other accomplices is on. This scam is being investigated by a special team of Bhopal Cyber Cell, in which the accused have been caught through technical analysis and evidence collection. Mobile phones, laptops, and PCs have been seized from the possession of the accused.

NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY DAY CELEBRATED IN MPCST

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Technology converts the idea into a product and through this technology we can achieve our desired" says Dr. Anil Kothari, Director General of Madhya Pradesh Science and Technology Council. He made this statement in the Madhya Pradesh Science and Technology Council. On the occasion of National Technology Day, he said that science and technology have covered the distance of 100 years in 20 years. He said that the whole country is doing good work in innovation and especially grass root innovation. If you have good understanding of technology then your future is very bright. 38 labs of CSRI are also doing special work in the field of science and technology. Through MPCST we provide opportunities to researchers to realize their ideas. He said that technology shows the direction of the future. That now the time has come to adjust our ancient technology and glorious tradition with the latest technology and adapt the new science to the country. He said that MPCST is working to provide opportunities for everyone in the field of



technology in the entire state with new programs and schemes.

Chief guest of the program, former Managing Director of Crisp, Dr. Mukesh Sharma said that technology has two parts - one theoretical and the other practical side. Through models and simulations we

can know the technology closely. We are number one in the world in IT related technology and in almost all the developed countries of the world, experts from India are working in IT related technology. He said that technology has great importance in our society and this tech-

nology works to simplify our lives.

On this occasion, Vikas Shende, Principal Scientist and in-charge of MPCST Science and Technology Popularization Scheme, said that our country is moving very fast in the direction of technology. We are at 42nd and 40th position in IP ranking and innovation ranking respectively. In adverse circumstances like Corona, we not only faced it through vaccines and generic medicines made through our indigenous technology but also exported this technology to many countries of the world.

He said that the number of start-ups in the space sector was 1 in 2014, which has increased to 174. He told that our number in patent filing has also increased to ninety thousand every year.

On this occasion, a technology-based hands-on workshop was organized in MPCST in which the technology was explained through various experiments by Mr. Pankaj, an expert from IIT Gandhinagar. Shri Pankaj told that through these experiments we can not only understand the principles of our course material but can also make it very interesting.

Pressure to withdraw report on incident of rape of minor in Bhopal

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh Congress Committee spokesperson, Sangeeta Sharma drew attention to a serious matter in which the accused are pressurizing to withdraw the report after the incident of rape of a minor in Bagmugalia police station area.

According to Sharma, accused Manish Savner and Avtar raped the minor by luring and threatening her for the last two years. The victim had recently lodged a report of this incident at Police Station Bagh Sivnia.

When the accused came to know about this report, they started pressurizing the victim and her family members to withdraw the



report.

Sharma also said that the accused are associated with BJP and Avtaar is said to be the convener of Arera Mandal. She highlighted this as a worrying trend in Madhya Pradesh, where such incidents with women and girls have become common and pressure is exerted on the victims by people from BJP and its affiliated organizations.

Sangeeta Sharma has warned the government that if the victim does not get justice, the Congress Party will be forced to launch a mass movement against the government. She has demanded that the accused should be arrested immediately and strict action should be taken under the POCSO Act.

Police station incharge suspended after raid in Ashoka Garden

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The police station in-charge has been suspended in connection with the raid on the house of Khatri family in Ashoka Garden of the capital Bhopal. After the raid, the policemen disappeared after locking the room where the money was kept. After this, the bag full of money was shifted somewhere else from the house. People were seen carrying money in CCTV cameras.

According to sources, the policemen in civil dress also took away three bags full of money. After the suspension of the station in-charge, other policemen involved in the

action are also on the radar of the authorities. A recording of money being taken away has been found from a policeman's mobile.

Head constable Megh Khatri, constable Rahul Rana, constable Devendra Gurjar, constable Mahendra Jat, and constable Avinash were present at the spot during the operation. Based on CCTV footage and mobile recordings, action may be taken against many more policemen soon. Some policemen were not on duty, yet they reached the spot.

This incident is being thoroughly investigated, and officials are investigating all the policemen involved in this case.

MP HIGH COURT NOTICE TO KAREENA KAPOOR ON PREGNANCY BIBLE

Team Absolute | Jabalpur

Madhya Pradesh High Court (Jabalpur) has issued a notice in the case of Bollywood actress Kareena Kapoor Khan's book 'Kareena Kapoor Khan Pregnancy Bible'. The single bench of Justice GS Ahluwalia has also sought replies from the book's co-author Aditi Shah Bhimjiani, Amazon India and Juggernaut Books. The next hearing in the case will be on July 1.

Advocate Christopher Anthony had filed the petition in the High Court in 2022. The first hearing was held in August 2022, when the High Court had also asked the state government to form a party. Later the matter cooled down a bit. The hearing took place on May 10 after Anthony submitted his memorandum in the court.

It has been argued in the petition that adding Bible to the name hurt



Ieh Ali Khan

the sentiments of people of Christian religion. Anthony says that the Bible is the religious text of Christianity. The description of the teachings of Lord Jesus is found in this holy book.

The use of Bible in Kareena's book is hurtful. Kareena Kapoor launched this book written on pregnancy on 9 August 2021. He called this book his third child. On the launch of the

book, she discussed with Karan Johar online and talked about the ups and downs in life during pregnancy. Kareena told that the second pregnancy was difficult for her as compared to the first pregnancy.

Kareena took to social media platform on 9 July 2021. Posted the video on Instagram. She asks, 'What? Is it baking?' After this She takes out the book from the microwave and says, 'It is baking.'

It was written, 'My pregnancy and my 'Pregnancy Bible' Writing, it has been a journey.

She wrote, 'There were some good days and some bad days, some days I was eager to go to work, but some days I was struggling to even get out of bed. This book describes my physical and emotional experiences during both my pregnancies. These are very personal details. In many ways this book is like my third child, from its conception till its birth day.'

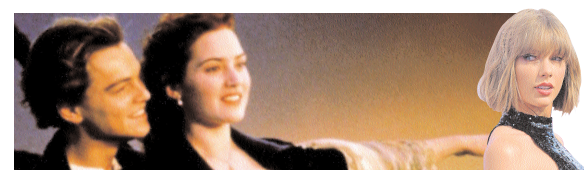

we win
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NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Regulation 29 and 47 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, that a meeting of the Board of Directors of We Win Limited is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, the 21st May 2024, inter alia to consider and approve the Financial Results (Standalone & Consolidated) of the company for the financial year ended on 31st March 2024. The said notice may be assessed on the company's website at www.wewinlimited.com under investor tab and also on the website of stock exchange at www.nseindia.com and www.bseindia.com.

Place: Bhopal
Dated: 10/05/2024

For We Win Limited
Sd/-
Ashish Soni
(PAN: HC056623A)
Company Secretary & Compliance Officer



Miranda Cosgrove Still Doesn't Feel 'Safe' in Her Home

Miranda Cosgrove is still haunted by her 2016 stalking incident. The 30-year-old iCarly alum revealed in a new interview with Bustle published on Friday, May 10, that she still doesn't "feel super safe" in the home where her stalker lit himself on fire and fatally shot himself in her yard eight years ago.

"That's another reason why I go back and forth to my parents' house so much," Miranda explained. "I just don't feel super safe in that house. For two years after it happened, I wouldn't really stay there. Then, I got into a relationship and because that person was there with me, I was less scared. But I don't really like being there on my own that much."

The former Nickelodeon star also pointed out that she met the woman who got shot by the stalker at the time. The unnamed woman looks similar to Miranda and was driving near her house at the time of the incident.

"This girl came up to me, and she was like, 'I didn't know if I should tell you this here or how to say this, but I'm actually the girl that was at your house that got shot at,'" Miranda recalled. "She seemed like she processes things in a similar way that I do. She said she'd just gone through a breakup."

"Well, he broke up with me last night," and she started telling them all about her breakup.



Never really "pursued" a career in the movies: Jennifer Connelly

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood actress Jennifer Connelly, who made her acting debut in the 1984 crime film 'Once Upon a Time in America', has revealed that she never really "pursued" a career in the movies. Jennifer began her career as a child model, and her mom ultimately convinced her to become an actress instead, reports 'Female First UK'.

During an appearance on 'Late Night With Seth Meyers', Jennifer shared: "I started working when I was so young - I started working when I was ten years old. And it wasn't something that I had pursued. I never even did a school play. Like, I didn't even watch movies."

The actress added: "It was my mom's idea, and I was like, 'Do I really wanna do this? This isn't what I chose for my life.'"

As per 'Female First UK', Jennifer previously recalled feeling like a "product" during her younger years.

She told Australia's Marie Claire magazine: "Performing from such a young age, it kind of has an impact on the way one grows up and develops. There's a lot of personal exposure ... you're putting yourself in a film, you are the product. And if that's something that isn't initiated by oneself as a kid, I'm sure you can imagine it can be a little uncomfortable."

Jennifer also recalled wondering whether she'd become an actress "for someone else."

She explained, "There were different times, in my late teens and as a young adult, where I was like, 'Is this really what I want to do? What is my relationship to this job?' Because I had started so young, I felt like there was a large part of me that was doing it for someone else."

Joey King says she's pretty much allergic to everything

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Joey King seems to be pretty much allergic to everything. 'The Kissing Booth' star, 24, recently took to her social media and shared a photo of an allergy test she had undergone.

Her entire back was covered in markings made of orange ink, reports 'People' magazine.

An allergy test involves a skin prick test, also known as a puncture or scratch test, to check for immediate allergic reactions to as many as 50 different substances at once.

According to 'People', this test is usually conducted to identify allergies to pollen, mold, pet dander, dust mites, and foods. Parts of King's skin were also red from being freshly pricked.

In the caption, she wrote: "Wanna hang out? I'll bring the antihistamine." The photo received more reaction than just her skin, with her peers and fans weighing in on her results.

"What aren't you allergic to?" one person asked. Another wrote: "I'm not an expert, but I think you're allergic to some stuff!" Comedian Dax Shepard commented, "Great. So basically...everything?"

Meanwhile, Channing Tatum added: "Bro." Despite her allergies, it's remarkable that she didn't fall ill during a recent trip to Barcelona. During an April visit to 'Jimmy Kimmel Live', King told the late-night talk show host, 56, all about a major meal she had while on vacation with her husband Steven Piet.



Sean 'Diddy' Combs files motion to dismiss Jane Doe sexual assault lawsuit

Los Angeles | Agencies

Rapper Sean 'Diddy' Combs' lawyers have filed a motion to dismiss a lawsuit accusing him of sexual assault. The motion comes five months after the music mogul, 54, former Bad Boy Entertainment president Harve Pierre, and another individual labelled "Third Assailant" were sued by a woman known as Jane Doe in the US District Court for the Southern District of New York, reports People magazine.

The December 2023 filing accused the individuals of sex trafficking and gang-raping Doe when she was 17 years old. Combs has previously denied all claims in his ongoing sexual assault lawsuits.

According to court documents filed on May 10 (Pacific Standard Time), accessed by 'People', Combs' attorneys claim that this is Doe's "second attempt to state an entirely false and heinous claim against the Combs Defendants".

Regarding the plaintiff's use of "trigger warning" in her pleading, as "legally irrelevant", the motion alleges that it was a "stunt" "intended to prominently showcase a baseless and time-barred claim, which was designed to cause the Combs Defendants unwanted publicity, embarrassment, and financial costs."

As per 'People', the motion states, "Combs and his companies categorically deny Plaintiff's decades-old tale against them, which has already caused incalculable damage to the reputations and business standing of the Combs Defendants, even before any evidence has been presented." The filing further argues that Doe "cannot allege what day or time of year the alleged incident occurred," calling for the case to be "dismissed now, with prejudice, to protect the Combs Defendants from further reputational injury and before more party and judicial resources are squandered."

As previously reported by 'People', the accuser's lawsuit claims that she was given drugs and alcohol before being "viciously gang-raped" "one after the other" after being convinced to take a private jet to Combs' recording studio in New York City.

Jane Doe's lawyer, Douglas H. Wigdor, previously said in a statement that "the depravity of these abhorrent acts has, not surprisingly, scarred our client for life."

The rapper has been hit with multiple sexual assault lawsuits in the past couple of months.

Jamie Foxx removes bad influences from his circle to revamped lifestyle

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood actor Jamie Foxx has made radical changes to his lifestyle as he is determined to put his "party animal" days behind him after experiencing a health scare last year. The Oscar-winning actor is said to be a changed man, having overhauled his life and revamped his friend list to make sure he stays healthy, reports 'Mirror.co.uk'. The 56-year-old was hospitalised in April 2023 after suffering an undisclosed illness while working on 'Back in Action' in Atlanta, Georgia. This following month, Jamie thanked his fans for "all the love," admitting he felt "blessed" to still be here. He is now back at work, and in March, he seemed to be on top of the world as he accepted an award from the African American Film Critics Association. An insider has now told Radar Online that Jamie is focusing all his energy on staying healthy.

The source said: "Jamie has a long history of being a major party animal, but he's ready to put those days behind him." As per



'Mirror.co.uk', the source added, Jamie knows he "needs to get healthy once and for all," so he has cleaned up his diet and removed "bad influences" from his circle of friends.

The insider said: "He was so out of control after his Oscar for Ray that his Hollywood friends had to step in. He cleaned up his act, but by no means did he go totally cold turkey - and over the years, it took a toll. He now realises he needs to get healthy once and for all. He's booted the bad influences from his circle and really cleaned up his diet." Furthermore, the source said Jamie is now focusing on eating foods that will "nourish his body" and has even started doing meditation as part of his revamped lifestyle.

Jeff Bridges, Dave Bautista, Bryan Cranston join cast of monster movie 'Grendel'

Los Angeles | Agencies

The makers of the live-action monster film 'Grendel' have finalised its cast, with Jeff Bridges taking on the role of Grendel, alongside Dave Bautista as Beowulf and Bryan Cranston as King Hrothgar.

Also joining the cast are Thomasin McKenzie as Queen Wealhtheow, Aidan Turner as Unferth, and T Bone Burnett as the Shaper, who will also provide original songs for the film, reports 'Variety'.

Robert D. Krzykowski is set to helm the film from the screenplay he adapted from John Gardner's novel.

Palisades Park Pictures, led by CEO Tamara Birkemoe, is launching international sales ahead of Cannes for the story of the legendary monster at the heart of the Beowulf epic poem, who steps forward to tell his side of the tale. As per 'Variety', production is set to begin later this year in Europe. Jim Henson's Creature Shop will handle practical creature



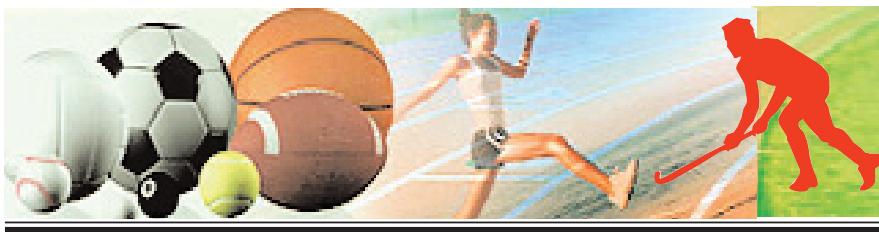
work and design. 'Grendel' is produced by Brian Henson and Vince Raisa for the Jim Henson Company, Krzykowski and Jay Glazer, who acquired the rights

to the novel in 2020, Dennis Berardi, and Jon D. Wagner. Executive producers include Bridges, John Sayles, Birkemoe, and Joe Jenckes of Ashland Media Finance.



Jessica Alba

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



IPL 2024: BRILLIANT BOWLING HELPS KKR BEAT MI BY 18 RUNS, BECOME FIRST TEAM TO REACH PLAYOFFS

Kolkata | Agencies

Ishan Kishan struck a 22-ball 40 but Kolkata Knight Riders rode on a superb bowling effort spearheaded by spinners Varun Chakravarthy and Sunil Narine as Kolkata Knight Riders beat Mumbai Indians by 18 runs in Match 60 of Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024 which was curtailed to 16-overs a side because of rain at the Eden Gardens on Saturday.

With this win, Kolkata Knight Riders became the first team to secure their place in the Playoff, moving to 18 points from nine wins from 12 matches. This was their second win over MI this season, having beaten them at the Wankhede stadium a few days back.

Mumbai Indians were looking on course at 65 for no loss with Ishan Kishan and Rohit Sharma at the wicket. But the KKR bowlers pulled things back, bowled good lengths and varied the pace on a wicket on which the ball was gripping and bouncing a bit. Chakravarthy (2-17), Harshit Rana



(2-34) and Andre Russell (2-34) bowled brilliantly to check the Mumbai Indians progress and restricted them to 139/8 after a 21-ball 42 by Venkatesh Iyer and 23-ball 33 by Nitish Rana helped them recover from a precarious 40/3 after they were asked to bat first by Mumbai Indians. Andre Russell (14-ball 24)

and Rinku Singh (20 off 12) struck some lusty blows towards the end as KKR reached a challenging 157/7. KKR were again looking in trouble at the end of the Power-play with Ishan Kishan going strong before Sunil and Varun Chakravarthy applied the brakes. Chakravarthy was their best bowler and he troubled

the batters, not allowing the batters to get under the ball or hit horizontal bat shots. This was Mumbai Indians' ninth defeat in 13 matches this season and they will wrap up their campaign on May 17 at the Wankhede with a clash against Lucknow Super Giants. Tilak Varma hblasted Harshit Rana for a four and six off successive balls and then reverse-hit for another boundary. But Nehal Wadhwa was run out going for a double off the last ball, leaving Mumbai needing 41 off 12 balls. Naman Dhir hammered Russell for two sixes and a four off four deliveries and when Phil Salt slipped a skier off the final ball of the over MI scored 18 runs off the 14th over.

Brief scores

Kolkata Knight Riders 157/7 in 16 overs (Venkatesh Iyer 42, Nitish Rana 33; Piyush Chawla 2-28, Jasprit Bumrah 2-39) beat Mumbai Indians 139/8 in 16 overs (Ishan Kishan 40, Tilak Varma 32; Varun Chakravarthy 2-17, Harshit Rana 2-34, Andre Russell 2-34) by 18 runs.

IPL 2024: In Rishabh Pant's absence, Axar Patel to lead DC

Bengaluru | Agencies

In the absence of designated skipper Rishabh Pant who is suspended for a match for maintaining a slow-over rate, Delhi Capitals' head coach Ricky Ponting said left-arm spin all-rounder Axar Patel will be leading the side in their important Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024 clash with Royal Challengers Bengaluru at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium here on Sunday.

"Axar Patel will be our captain tomorrow. He's obviously been vice-captain of this franchise now for the last couple of seasons. Obviously, very experienced IPL player, an experienced international player, a very sensible guy, understands the game really well. He's really excited, to be honest," said Ponting in the pre-match press conference on Saturday. Pant will miss DC's



ten minutes short on the innings timer, which meant they could field only four fielders outside the 30-yard circle as per the in-game slow over-rate penalty. Apart from the suspension under the IPL Code of Conduct for over-rate offences, Pant was fined INR 30 lakh.

"We started talking about it a couple of days ago when there was a possibility that Rishabh might be banned, so he's got his head around it, we've done our bowlers' meetings today. He'll catch up with all the guys tonight, go through all the plans, and make sure he's ready to lead the team well tomorrow."

"What I know about him is, you've only got to watch the way he goes about his cricket to understand that he is a sensible guy that's always involved and in tune with the game, so I'm sure he'll lead the team really well tomorrow," added Ponting.

crucial clash against RCB after being handed a one-match suspension for his side's third slow over-rate offence in the tournament, recorded during their 21-run win over Rajasthan Royals at the Arun Jaitley Stadium on May 7.

Ahead of the last over of RR's innings, DC were found

Rifle/Pistol Shooting: Manu, Anish, stay on course for top finish at Olympics Selection Trials

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Olympian Manu Bhaker and India's top men's rapid-fire pistol (RFP) shooter Anish Bhanwala stayed on course for a top finish at the first ever Olympic Selection Trials (OST) Rifle/Pistol, shooting solid qualification rounds in their 25m pistol OST T3 matches respectively.

Taking aim in Bhopal's MP State Shooting Academy range, Anish topped the men's 25m RFP with a score of 587, while Manu came third in the women's 25m pistol with 585, as both maintained the top rank among the five shooters in each event.

The finals will be played on Sunday when there are crucial podium points to be won by the five qualified shooters.

In the women's pistol sec-



Singh (579) was fourth while Abhidnya Ashok Patil (575) was fifth. This means that whatever happens in the finals on Sunday, Manu would go into the fourth trial with at least a four-point cushion over her nearest competitor. The fight for the second spot is currently very tight between Esha, Rhythm and Simranpreet.

Anish Bhanwala too is assured of a two-point cushion over his nearest challenger in the men's RFP after his stand-out 587 on Saturday. Here Vijayveer Sidhu and Bhavesh Shekhawat are in a close fight for second with the former edging it currently, with Adarsh and Ankur seemingly looking out of it.

The fourth trial, depending on how each of the five in each event perform, could change all those equations, however, given the fine margins involved.

tion, Rhythm Sangwan, after having two ordinary outings by her standards in Delhi, bounced back with a top score of 586, while Simranpreet Kaur Brar continued an inspired run to pip Manu Bhaker to second on inner 10s with a 585. Esha

'I have seen miracles happen' says Shubman Gill on GT playoff hopes

Ahmedabad | Agencies

Following the Gujarat Titans' 35-run win over the Chennai Super Kings at Narendra Modi Stadium on Friday, captain Shubman Gill stated that "we all believe that we can still make it into the playoffs," with just two games remaining.

Shubman Gill and B. Sai Sudharsan unleashed an outstanding assault on Chennai Super Kings bowling attack by slamming centuries each to power Gujarat Titans to a comfortable 35-run win over Chennai Super Kings.

The win sees GT jump from the bottom place to eighth position. CSK, meanwhile, remain in fourth place with 12 points, with their NRR taking a hit as it now stands at 0.49. Though they are ahead of Delhi Capitals and Lucknow Super Giants on points and NRR, CSK's defeat gives them and Royal Challengers Bengaluru hope to be alive in the race to playoffs.

"It was great watching him (Sai Sudarshan). Last year he missed out on a hundred in the finals and having comeback and the way that he played in the middle overs watching from the other end. He's someone who works very hard on his game and for someone like him to be able to execute those shots



like that it's just magnificent," said Shubman Gill during the post match press conference.

"Our always style is to have the best combination in the team as possible. But unfortunately, Wriddhi Bhai had to miss out because of a nigggle and we had no other option to open with Sai and me and it worked out well for us today." "The chances of us

qualifying was 0.1 or 1 per cent. I think all of us, all 25 of us, we all believe that we can still make it into the playoffs. Because I have seen miracles happen with this team in the past couple of years and we all do believe in that."

The Gujarat Titans not only boosted their own chances of making it to the playoffs but helped other teams in the likes of the RCB, LSG and DC who are all eyeing the number four spot. Shubman Gill put on an excellent batting partnership with fellow opener, Sai Sudharsan as the young batting duo tied Quinton de Kock & KL Rahul for the highest opening partnership (210 runs) in IPL history. "When I got out, I was a bit frustrated. I thought as a batting unit, we left 10-25 runs out there. At one point we were 195/0 in 15 overs, so I thought that 250 was a pretty gettable score and I was thinking about that. We lost our last three games and it was important for us to win this one and that is what me and Sam were discussing. Every over we tried to maximise our opportunities against every challenge that was thrown at us," added the 24-year-old. Chennai on the other hand will be looking to make a major comeback in their penultimate game against the Rajasthan Royals who are in the running to finish at the top of the table.

Italian Open: Djokovic makes first round winning return against Moutet

Rome | Agencies

Novak Djokovic made a winning return to Tour after beating French lucky loser Corentin Moutet to reach the third round of the Italian Open.

The Serbian, playing in his first match since the Monte-Carlo semifinals last month, overcame a sluggish start to win 6-3, 6-1 in Rome. Following an hour and twenty-six minutes, Djokovic overcame a 1-3 hole in the opening set and effectively countered Moutet's court craft in the second set to win.

In their second Lexus ATP head-to-head match, Djokovic hit consistently against Moutet, forcing the Frenchman to take chances with his retrieval abilities. According to ATP Stats, the 98-time tour-level champion broke Moutet's serve six times to advance to an 18-0 lead in the first round of play in Rome.

"Match play is different to practise



sets," Djokovic said. "I played a lefty and I have not practised with a lefty in a while, so it took me a little time to adjust to the different rotations of the

ball. The first four games were quite bad from me. A bad start. I lost both my services games. "But then I played well. I only lost

one game from 1-3 down. Corentin is a very talented player. He has great hands and is very unpredictable. You don't know what comes up next, so I had to stay focused, which I did and it is a good opening match."

The top-ranked player in the PIF ATP Rankings, who last won the ATP Masters 1000 event in 2022, is a six-time Rome champion. With his victory over Moutet taking him to 1099, Djokovic is chasing his first trophy of the season and his 1100th match win in the Italian capital.

"You always have doubts," Djokovic said when asked if he had any ahead of his return to Tour.

"Every single match. It is just the manner of how you deal with them and how long they stay there. How long they overwhelm your whole being and mind. It is an internal battle always more than an external battle. If you win that battle the external battle becomes a little bit more likely for you to win."

Neeraj Chopra 'not happy' after finishing second in Diamond League

Doha | Agencies

Olympic and World Champion Neeraj Chopra was 'not happy' after finishing second in the javelin throw discipline of his first Diamond League event of the year on Friday.

With his back against the wall, the Indian star came up with his best throw in his sixth and final attempt in Doha but missed the top spot by just 0.2 metres. Chopra had a best throw of 88.36 metres, ending behind Jakub Vadlejch of the Czech Republic, who finished first with a best effort of 88.38.

"Honestly, I felt I could throw beyond 88m, but that did not happen. I am happy with the fact that I was consistent with my throws, but not with my efforts. My first throw was very bad (foul)," Neeraj said to NNIS. "This is my first competi-



performances, and I will throw over 90m," he said.

Talking about his burgeoning rivalry with Jakub, who finished behind Neeraj at the Tokyo Olympics and fell to third place at the Eugene World Championships with the Indian snatching away the silver medal, Neeraj said, "It was a good competition with Jakub, I was just behind by 2 cm. It feels good when there is a good contest. We push each other to go for better throws. In the upcoming competitions I will do better."

Neeraj Chopra will next participate in the Federation Cup, starting from May 12, which will be his first domestic tournament in three years. Neeraj last competed in the 2021 Federation Cup which was held before the Tokyo Olympics, the javelin thrower made his mark by becoming the first Indian to win an Olympic gold in athletics.

Dharav High School's Family Fun Fest 2024 Shines

Lalit Sharma | Jaipur

The Family Fun Fest 2024, held at Dharav High School, Jaipur, was a resounding success, uniting over 110 parents in a day of spirited competition and community bonding.

Featuring six dynamic activities including Mini Cricket, Shooting Bonanza, Table Tennis, Tug of War, Dodgeball, and Sitalia, the event showcased the remarkable energy and sportsmanship of participants.

Congratulations to the winners across various categories whose exceptional skills elevated the event to new heights. Ms. Seema Sehajpal, Principal, expressed her delight at the success of the event, stating,



"The Family Fun Fest 2024 exemplifies the spirit of our school community - one of unity, sportsmanship, and joyful participation. I am

proud of all the parents who participated and made this event such a memorable success.

James Anderson to retire following England's first Test against West Indies at Lord's

London | Agencies

England's veteran fast-bowler James Anderson has announced he will retire from international cricket after the first Test of their upcoming home summer against West Indies at Lord's, starting on July 10.

Anderson, 41, became the third bowler after Shane Warne and Muttiah Muralitharan to reach the landmark of 700 Test wickets - the most by any fast bowler - earlier this year during England's fifth and final match of their India tour at Dharamshala.

But reports emerged in various sections of the British media on Friday that Brendon McCullum, England's Test coach, has asked for Anderson, the country's leading wicket-taker in Tests, to retire to build a team for the future, especially with Ashes happening in 2025-26.

"Hi everyone. Just a note to say that the first Test of the summer at Lord's will be my last Test. It's been an incredible 20 years representing my country, playing the game I've loved since I was a kid."

"I'm going to miss walking out for England so much. But I know the time is right to step aside and let others realise their dreams just like I got to



because there is no greater feeling," said Anderson in his Instagram post on Saturday. Anderson made his Test debut against Zimbabwe in 2003 and has earned 187 caps so far in the format, which is also an England record. He sits in second position on the all-time list of Test appearances behind only the legendary batter Sachin Tendulkar, who played 200 Tests for India. "I couldn't have done it without the love and support of Daniella, Lola, Ruby and my par-

ents. A huge thank you to them. Also, thank you to the players and coaches who have made this the best job in the world."

"I'm excited for the new challenges that lie ahead, as well as filling my days with even more golf. Thank you to everyone who has supported me over the years, it's always meant a lot, even if my face often doesn't show it. See you at the Test, Go well, Jimmy," he added. Anderson also played 194 ODIs and 19 T20Is for England but became a Test-match specialist fast-bowler in 2015. Anderson had been in patchy form during last year's Ashes, taking only five wickets from four games, following which he signed a new one-year central contract in October 2023. On this year's Test tour of India, which England lost 4-1, Anderson picked 10 wickets from four matches. It is not clear whether Anderson will continue to play for his county side Lancashire. "I don't think we'll ever see a bowler to match Jimmy again. It has been an honour as an England fan to watch him, and to marvel at his skill with the ball. To still be bowling at the top of his game at 41 is remarkable, and he is a true inspiration and role model for peers and younger generations alike," said Richard Thompson, ECB Chairman.





loves to live in slip dresses : Iulia Vantur

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Actress Iulia Vantur has described her style as 'casual chic, cool glam' and shared how she loves to live in slip dresses, as they are sexy and feminine.

Describing her fashion statement, the Romanian model and singer, Iulia told: "Casual chic, lately cool glam, adapted to the Gen-Z trends, especially when it comes to my show or my music appearances. But I love and I live in slip dresses, they are my favourites, the comfiest, sexy and feminine. I also love suits - three-piece suits - powerful, sexy, it can be glam too."

Iulia shared that fashion is creativity and inspiration but it is not something that she follows blindly, no matter what.

"I choose trendy elements that suit my body, my personality, my style, and the message I want to convey to people around me because your look is also a visual business card," she said.

If she follows any Gen-Z fashion trends, Iulia added: "I do, especially when I go for my singing events or shows, when I go to the studio, jamming sessions or concerts. I feel comfy and cool wearing baggy, loose jeans and simple T-shirts. I don't go extreme with oversized jackets because I feel they don't suit me but I like them."



Meenakshi Seshadri recalls her music, dance performances at age of 3

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Legendary actress Meenakshi Seshadri took a trip down memory lane, reminiscing about her humble beginnings and getting nostalgic about her journey, which started with music and dance performances at the age of three.

Meenakshi, who made her film debut in 1983 with 'Painter Babu', is trained in four Indian classical dance forms -- 'Bharatanatyam', 'Kuchipudi', 'Kathak', and 'Odissi'.

The actress, who appeared on the stage of the kids singing reality show, 'Superstar Singer 3' in the 'Meenakshi Seshadri Special' episode, took a stroll down memory lane and shared an anecdote about her career.

The episode featured a mesmerising performance by nine-year-old Nishant Gupta from Gurugram, Haryana, along with captain Mohd Danish, who performed a beautiful rendition of the soul-stirring Rajasthani folk song 'Baawre' from the film 'Luck by Chance'.

Talking about the performance, Meenakshi said: "Oh my God, that was absolutely fulfilling for everyone! The excitement was palpable, and we all just stood there, swaying to the rhythm, while both Nishant and Danish were performing. It was truly fantastic."

The 60-year-old actress, who has sung poetic notes in JP Dutta's 'Kshatriya', reflected on her journey, stating, "Today, standing on this stage, after witnessing these young kids, I was reminded of my humble beginnings when I started my jour-



ney in music and dance performances at the age of three and look at where I am now. May your future shine as bright as the stars, filled with success and happiness."

Meenakshi then requested a duet combo of folk singing and folk dance and joined Nishant onstage to perform alongside him.

In awe of Meenakshi's performance, super judge Neha Kakkar shared: "It's truly surreal to watch you perform live; it filled my heart with so much joy. Your performance was an absolute treat to witness, so beautiful and graceful. Thank you for gracing our stage with your enchanting presence."

Madhuri's hubby surprises her to wish birthday

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Madhuri Dixit's husband Dr Shriram Madhav Nene paid a special visit with their dog Carmelo on the sets of the reality show 'Dance Deewane', surprising his better half with a handwritten letter to wish her a 'happy birthday'.

Madhuri will be celebrating her 57th birthday on May 15, and the makers of the show dedicated the weekend episode to the 'Dhak Dhak' girl of Bollywood, paying tribute to her.

To make the night special, Dr Nene and Madhuri enthralled the audience with a charming dance performance to the song 'Tum Se Milke'.

The episode commenced with all contestants orchestrating a grand entrance for Madhuri, giving roses to her and dancing to the tune of 'Bholi Si Surat'.

Actress Ankita Lokhande delivered a heartfelt tribute, and shook a leg together with Madhuri to the song 'Humko Aaj Kal Hai' from the 1990 film 'Sailaab'.

Madhuri was also left emotional after watching a video message from her elder sister and her children.



"My Doctor Rakul Preet Bahut intelligent hai : Jackky Bhagnani

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor-producer Jackky Bhagnani on Saturday gave a sneak peek of his 'doctor' wife and actress Rakul Preet Singh, sharing insights into her eating habits and praising her intelligence.

Jackky, who tied the knot with Rakul on February 21 in Goa, took to Instagram stories to share a video featuring the diva.

In the video, Rakul is seen donning a half-sleeved white T-shirt and oversized round-framed sunglasses, with her hair left open and wet.

The video captures Rakul enjoying her breakfast, which seems to be poha, although it's not explicitly mentioned.

Jackky can be heard saying, "She is chewing and eating," to which Rakul adds, "that will make a paste in your mouth."

The 'Youngistaan' actor further said: "It takes 21 minutes to tell your brain," with Rakul completing the sentence, "that you are full."

Jackky concludes the video by remarking, "Bahut intelligent hai yeh (she is very intelligent)."

The video is captioned: "My Doctor Rakul Preet."

Rakul and Jackky had a two-in-one wedding ceremony, first with the 'Anand Karaj' in the Sikh tradition, followed by a Sindhi-style ceremony, symbolising both their cultural backgrounds.



I'll do what I want, as I please : Uorfi Javed

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood Social media sensation Uorfi Javed, who serves as the mischief maker in the dating reality show, has a word of advice for the contestants on the show. She recently dropped a bombshell which sent shockwaves through the villa. She said: "Now it's time to reveal sabse naya twist, sabse creative twist. Kaafi time laga mujhe sochne ke liye (it took me a lot of time to come up with this twist) but I think I am a genius."

Tensions reached a boiling point during the dome session, dramatic events unfolded, triggering a chain reaction of emotions. It began with seemingly trivial incidents, a spilled cup of tea ignited a storm of accusations and apologies. Addy wasted no time in pointing



fingers at Siwet, sparking an apology from Siwet without

offering any defence. This unexpected turn of events left

everyone stunned.

Uorfi's mischievous move sent the dome session into chaos, stirring up a whirlwind of emotions. Despite the turmoil, Nayera and Arbaz stand firm in their determination to test their fate before the oracle.

Uorfi said: "Yeh jo mischief maker hai kabhi aapko disappoint kar deti hai, kabhi kabhi khush kar deti hai, but maine theka nahi liya hai kisi bhi cheez ka so mujhe jo karna hai woh karungi aur aise twist aur bhi aate rahenge, kab kaise kya woh main hi decide karungi aur main hi batatungi (The mischief maker sometimes disappoints you or makes you happy. But, I've not taken the onus of anything, I'll do what I want. You guys shall await such twists. When the twists will happen and how they will unfold, I will decide.)

Language was a big challenge while working in different film industries : Sonali Bendre

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Sonali Bendre, is one of the actresses from Hindi cinema to have explored different film industries of India.

While she worked across Tamil, Marathi, Kannada and Telugu cinema, the actress said that for her, language was a big challenge while working in those film industries, and she wished that she was a little more conversant with the film teams back then.

Reflecting on her experience of working across the film industries of India, the actress told: "We didn't say pan-India in the 1990s, we just did different cinema from across states. I have done one film in Marathi cinema, 'Anahat'. It was a fabulous story. I have done a wonderful Tamil film, it was a love story on the Internet, the time when people used to visit cyber cafes. I have done Kannada films as well and of course, Telugu films. Out of all, I enjoyed working in Telugu cinema and I did more of it. They're very gentle people."

Although the actress feels that the fun part of the similarity between different film sets of different industries is that it's a film set, she does feel that if the language barrier wasn't there, things would have been more dynamic for her as an artiste while working on films in different lan-



guages.

"The creativity, the feeling of satisfaction after a day of good work, is the same across the film sets. The only difference, I feel, is that of the language. Unfortunately, I didn't know all the languages and couldn't be very conversant with the people on the sets of those films. I knew the meaning of the words but I wasn't very comfortable in speaking the language seamlessly with confidence. So, it was 4 times the work compared to Hindi cinema for me," Sonali Bendre said.



Shobita