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

NO INTERIM RELIEF

Team Absolute | New Delhi

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

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



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

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

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

AAP'S LONE LS MP JOINS BJP

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Islamabad | Agencies

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

Team Absolute | New Delhi

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

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

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



Lok Sabha constituency for the forthcoming elections.

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

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

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

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

FORMER IPS OFFICER SANJIV BHATT CONVICTED IN 1996 NDPS CASE

Ahmedabad:

Former Indian Police Service (IPS) officer Sanjiv Bhatt was convicted in a 1996 narcotics case under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (NDPS) by the Palanpur Sessions Court, Gujarat on Wednesday. The case dates back to Bhatt's tenure as the District Superintendent of Police in Banaskantha, where he was accused of framing a lawyer, Sumersingh Rajpurohit, by planting 1.5 kg of opium in a hotel room in Palanpur.



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

MUST ADDRESS DIPPING FERTILITY RATES IN INDIA: EXPERTS A

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

Team Absolute | New Delhi

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

to infertility problems, the doctor said.

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

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

Team Absolute | New Delhi

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

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

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



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



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

Team Absolute | Mumbai

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Team Absolute | Mumbai

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

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



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

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

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

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

Team Absolute | Mumbai

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

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

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

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

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



the location.

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

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

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

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

Team Absolute | Nagpur

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

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



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

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

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

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

Team Absolute | Nagpur

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

incident, he said.

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

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

Team Absolute | Mumbai

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

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

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

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

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

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



having a clean image.

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

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

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

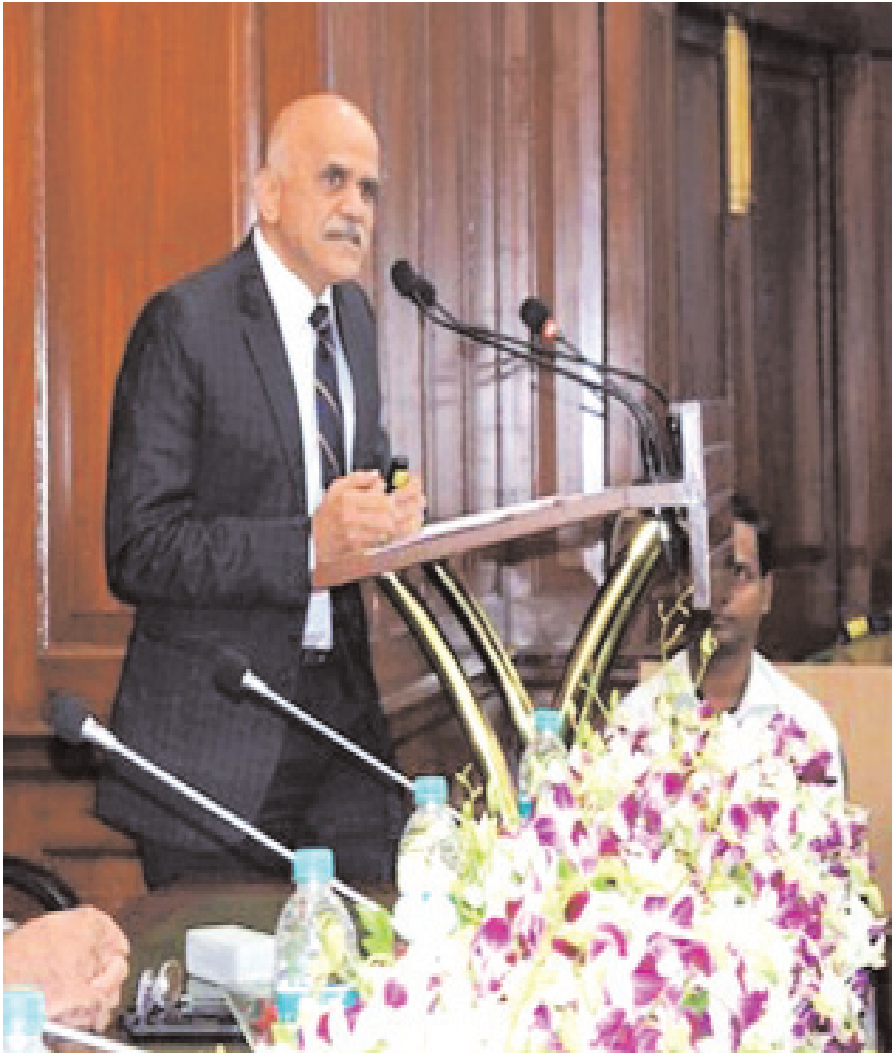
Team Absolute | Mumbai

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Quaid Najmi | Mumbai

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



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

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

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

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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Hon. Secretary

EDITOR'S SPECS

Most unicorns globally have 'underdog' founders

A global study of 845 unicorns and more than 2,000 tech leaders has revealed that most companies with a valuation of \$1 billion and above have "underdog" founders and female entrepreneurs are on the rise. The study, titled "Unicorn Founder DNA Report" by Defiance Capital found that 70 per cent of unicorns have "underdog founders" (like immigrants, women and people of colour). According to a TechCrunch report on Wednesday, unicorns used to earlier have only male founders "but this is changing with 17 per cent having a female founder in 2023". About half of them (53 per cent) have earned degrees from the top 10 global universities and 49 per cent of unicorn CEOs had STEM degrees, the findings showed. The study also revealed that unicorns were dominated by white founders, but that every third unicorn had an Asian founder. Several unicorn founders were forced to develop a growth mindset, "with values, work ethic, and ambitions all established during childhood". Meanwhile, India is now home to more than 8,000 startups that have women founders with a cumulative funding of nearly \$23 billion to date, according to the latest report by Tracxn, a leading market intelligence platform. Women entrepreneurs' share of startups in the Indian tech industry exceeds 18 per cent, and among funded companies, the share is more than 14 per cent. Women-led startups represent a significant 14.8 per cent share of the overall Indian tech funding pie at nearly \$155 billion.

D.C. Pathak

Countering the long-range threat from a prime adversary

Since May 2020, the Chinese troops have engaged in aggressive activities and precipitated skirmishes along the Sino-Indian border. India has done well in the regime of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to carry out the necessary military build-up along the India-China border, particularly in Eastern Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh and also push forward the civilian settlements there to match the Chinese activities along LAC. A lot is being done also to enhance the Naval power of India in the Indian Ocean where China was using Male as a springboard for deploying its Naval 'spy' ship possibly for hydrographic studies in the Indian Ocean. China has managed to have an ingress in Afghanistan because of Pakistan's initiative in arranging a 'give and take' between the Taliban Emirate and the Marxist state and has also stepped up its political and economic bonding with India's neighbours including Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, and Maldives. India has to safeguard its neighbourhood against China's attempts to use these countries to create bases for anti-India activities. Against a Marxist China that has called for rallying behind the 'civilisational strength' of the country, India has to respond with the 'whole of the nation' strategy and project the mandate that democratic India was 'one nation'. The substratum of 'one man one vote' on which India's democracy has been tested over decades, leaves little scope for politics of religion, caste and region particularly when the governance of the country did not carry any denominational stamp and the state policies did not make any distinctions amongst citizens. Moreover, nationalism strengthens democracy and the political opposition would do well to own it with full vigour. India is a land of socio-cultural diversities and different modes of worship but with one secular political umbrella created by the multi-party system submitting to a common electoral process. Indian parties have to learn to keep national security above politics and not inject any element of 'separatism' in their campaigns. Narratives of 'majoritarianism', 'authoritarianism' and 'minority concerns' can not become the tools of running politics from behind and care has to be taken to ensure that 'influence warfare' of anti-India lobbies often working in conjunction with civil society groups opposed to the government of the day, did not damage our national interests by running a 'proxy' offensive for vested reasons. Indian voters always prove to be shrewd judge of the merit and performance of the rulers and opt for good governance. Also, the average Indian showed great sensitivity to matters of security of the nation and even pushed personal economic concerns into the background whenever called upon to contribute to such a higher cause. In the present context, the promise of a stable government would be a major concern of the voter. There is another emerging area of concern for India attributable to Sino-Pak collaboration. The Biden administration in the US has for some time been engaged in defending Islam as a faith that ought not to be discredited and defamed and seems to have felt particularly concerned over Islamophobic trends noticed in the US in the wake of the Israel-Hamas confrontation that began with the terrorist attack of Hamas on Israel on October 7 last year. In a statement issued by the White House on March 15, it was announced that the US will develop the first-ever "national strategy to counter the scourge of Islamophobia and hate in all its forms" in the US and elsewhere. The unusually large civilian casualties of over 30,000 resulting in Gaza from the Israeli attacks and domestic developments like forced resignations of the Presidents of Harvard and Pennsylvania universities for permitting pro-Palestinian demonstrations on the campus, seemed to have compelled the White House to try to be politically correct by speaking up against Islamophobia. Not unexpectedly, Pakistan and China co-sponsored on March 15 a draft resolution in the UN General Assembly on 'measures to combat Islamophobia', which was passed with 115 nations including both the US and Russia supporting it, no member expressing its opposition and 44 countries including India, Brazil, Ukraine and a number of European countries like UK, France, Germany and Italy, abstaining from voting. Pakistan was representing the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) -- the 57-member block of Muslim countries chaired by Saudi Arabia. India rightly took the stand that all acts motivated by anti-Semitism, Christianophobia or Islamophobia should be condemned and faiths other than Abrahamic religions should also be brought under the purview of the resolution. India pointed out that anti-Hindu, anti-Buddhist and anti-Sikh sentiments had also surfaced internationally. Indian representative strongly advised the UN to maintain itself above such faith-related matters as this otherwise would have the effect of dividing the world body into "religious camps". The move of Pakistan and China at the UN confirms the strategic strength of the Sino-Pak axis and reminds India of its adverse potential for this country. India houses the second-largest Muslim population in the world and believes in treating all religions with equal respect. There has been considerable criticism in Pakistan of the announcement of the implementation of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) by India which was meant for accommodating the non-Muslim minorities persecuted in the three Islamic countries in India's neighbourhood -- Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan. The Pak-sponsored resolution in UNGA was aimed, on one hand, at defending Islam against the implicit criticism of Sharia-ruled states for the unequal status accorded to non-Muslims by them and running down India, on the other, for the alleged suppression of Muslim minority in this country. Introducing the resolution in the UN General Assembly, Munir Akram, Permanent Representative of Pakistan at the UN, referred without naming India, to the lynching of Muslims by cow vigilantes as well as the attacks on women wearing the 'hijab' and particularly denounced the act of "gleefully consecrating a Hindu temple on the ruins of a historical 500 years old mosque". It appeared that UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and the US were on the same side of the fence -- in believing that there is a rising trend of anti-Muslim hate reflected in unequal immigration policies, profiling and restrictions placed on Muslims in according citizenship to them, in many parts of the world. The democratic world however, should be aware that it is Islam that claimed supremacism of faith on the ground that it was declared as the only 'perfect' religion -- which also happened to be the last -- and did not place other religions on an equal footing. The US wants to keep its hold in the Middle East and for that reason consistently stands by its old friends Saudi Arabia and UAE. It should however, be fully cognisant of the fact that in the wake of the 'war on terror', the hold of Islamic radicals had become stronger in the Muslim world creating a divide between the 'radicalised' countries hostile to the US-led West and those in deep friendship with the US. The former carries the historical legacy of the Nineteenth century Wahhabi Jihad that was directed against the European colonial powers in Algeria, Arabia and India -- this could be one reason why countries like the UK and France unlike the US, abstained from voting on the Pak-sponsored resolution against Islamophobia moved in UNGA. India has to watch out for hostile lobbies pushing ahead with their propaganda on Muslim issues on the lines of the UN verdict. Indo-US relations draw strength from a shared concern over the rise of Islamic radical forces in the Muslim world and this is reflected in the deep friendship enjoyed by the two countries with Saudi Arabia and UAE which were targeted by radical forces. The US policymakers would do well not to let any manoeuvrings of Pakistan or the influence of anti-India lobbies alleging unequal treatment of Muslim minorities in India, affect their better judgement. In the final analysis, there is no change in the security assessment that the Sino-Pak strategic alliance remains on top of the threats to India and requires a comprehensive handling in the spheres of defence, internal security and diplomacy. Both Pakistan and China, it may be recalled, had joined hands in campaigning against India on the issue of Kashmir, particularly after the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution by the Indian Parliament in August 2019. India has to be extra vigilant against the 'information warfare' being run by the two hostile neighbours of India on the domestic matters of this country. (The writer is former Director of the Intelligence Bureau. Views are personal)

Israel withdraws negotiators from Qatar after Hamas rejects truce deal

Tel Aviv | Agencies

Israel has recalled its negotiating team from Qatar after Hamas rejected its latest offer on a hostage deal and truce, an Israeli official said.

The delegation led by the Mossad chief, David Barnea, had been in Doha for eight days. Israel has said that it will not relent to many of the demands put forward by the mediators, including Qatar and Egypt on behalf of the Hamas side. According to sources in the Israel defence ministry, Hamas had again put forward a demand of a total ceasefire, withdrawal of Israeli troops and rehabilitation of Palestinians in northern Gaza from the south where they have been staying as refugees since the war broke out.

Meanwhile, Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in a statement on Tuesday night said, "Hamas wanted a permanent ceasefire and its decision to reject a US brokered compromise was clear proof of it not interested in continuing talks, and a sad testament to the damage caused by the UN Security council resolution."

The statement also said, "Israel won't cave into delusional demands made by Hamas."

The hawks in the Israeli establishment, including Defence Minister Yoav Gallant were not willing for even a temporary truce. This is owing to the military intelligence reports

that Hamas military infrastructure has crumbled and only four battalions were remaining in southern Gaza and that it was only a matter of time before Hamas caves in.

The IDF chief has also briefed the Israel war cabinet that it was only a matter of time for the army to defeat Hamas and to take out its elusive and dreaded leader, Yahya Sinwar -- the mastermind of the October 7, 2023 massacre.

The Israel defence ministry sources told IANS that the Hamas was trying to buy time and was expecting an escalation of violence in the West Bank area by the Hezbollah side before the end of Holy Ramzan month, which would force Israel to enter into mediation at the behest of international pressure.

Childbirths in South Korea hit another low in January: Report

Seoul | Agencies

The number of babies born in South Korea fell to a record low for any January this year, data showed on Wednesday, deepening woes about the country's demographic picture due to rapid ageing and ultra-low birth rate. A total of 21,442 babies were born in January 2024, down 7.7 per cent from a year earlier, according to the data compiled by Statistics Korea. It marked the lowest figure for any January since the statistics agency began compiling related data in 1981, Yonhap news agency reported.

The decline has also accelerated in recent years from a 1 per cent on-year fall in January 2022 and a 5.7 per cent decline in January 2023.

In January 2000, newborns stayed over 60,000 but fell below 50,000 in 2002 before sliding further to the 30,000 level in 2016.

The report said the January figure has hovered around the 20,000 level since 2020.

In terms of monthly readings, it marked the first time since March 2023 that the number of newborn babies rose to the 20,000 level, and the country usually logs a larger number of newborns in January, according to the agency.

South Korea is experiencing grim demographic changes, as many young people opt to postpone or give up on getting married or having babies in line with changing social norms and lifestyles, as well as facing high home prices, a tough job market, and an economic slowdown.

Last year, the number of babies born in the country dropped 7.7 percent on-year to an all-time low of 229,970, the report said.

The total fertility rate, the average number of expected births from a woman in her lifetime, also hit a record yearly low of 0.72, which came far below the 2.1 births per woman needed to maintain a stable population without immigration.



In the fourth quarter of last year alone, the rate came to 0.65, the lowest-ever quarterly figure.

The number of deaths inched down 0.5 per cent on-year to 32,490 in January this year, the report said.

The population, accordingly, declined by 11,047, the sharpest fall for any January ever. The number of deaths has outpaced that of newborns since November 2019.

The number of couples getting married rose 11.6 per cent on-year to 28,000, the data also showed, as more couples tied the knot after delaying marriage during the earlier stages of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The number of couples getting divorced climbed 9.5 per cent on-year to 691, according to the data.

South Korea is expected to be a highly aged country by 2072 as the median age will increase from 44.9 in 2022 to 63.4 in 2072, and the population will tumble to around 36.22 million in 2072 from last year's 51 million.

Six people presumed dead in Baltimore bridge collapse



Washington | Agencies

Six people, who went missing due to a bridge collapse in the US city of Baltimore, are presumed dead.

Addressing a press conference, Rear Admiral Shannon Gilreath said due to the cold water temperatures and harsh sea conditions, it was likely the missing individuals were dead, Xinhua news agency reported.

The US Coast Guard has suspended search and rescue efforts.

The 2.6-km-long Francis Scott Key Bridge, a major bridge that held Interstate 695, collapsed at about 1:30 a.m. local time early Tuesday morning after being hit by a Singapore-flagged large container ship, which experienced a power failure before the collision.

The six individuals who went missing, all road maintenance workers, were reportedly on the bridge repairing potholes when the collapse occurred.

Two other people were rescued from the Patapsco River earlier, with one in critical condition, according to local authorities.

In brief remarks from the White House Tuesday, US President Joe Biden said he wants the federal government to pay for the reconstruction of the bridge. The bridge opened to traffic in 1977 and saw approximately 11.5 million vehicles crossing it each year.

"We're gonna work with our partners in Congress to make sure the state gets the support it needs," President Biden said.

Private information of 2.7 million Pakistanis compromised



Islamabad | Agencies

A joint investigation team (JIT), which was formed to probe data leak from National Database and Registration Authority (Nadra), has confirmed that the personal information of 2.7 million Pakistanis had been compromised, local media reported.

The JIT unearthed the scandal in its report submitted to the Pakistan's Ministry of Interior, stating that the data theft took place between 2019 and 2023, Geo News reported.

According to the sources, the JIT has completed investigations into the enormous scandal of an alleged breach of Nadra's database and the officials concerned at the ministry are reviewing the contents of the report compiled by the panel.

The JIT report, the sources said, has identified that the data theft took place from the Multan, Karachi, and Peshawar offices of Nadra, Geo News reported.

The stolen data was allegedly moved from Multan to Peshawar before it finally reached Dubai, the sources said.

The JIT report has said there is proof that the stolen Nadra data was apparently later sold in Argentina and Romania, Geo News reported. The government formed the JIT after a cyber security incident occurred in March 2023.

Russian lawmakers mull over reinstating death penalty after terror attack



Moscow | Agencies

Russian lawmakers are discussing lifting the moratorium on the country's death penalty, following a recent deadly terror attack at a Moscow concert hall. "Today, there is no other form of punishment for these scumbags other than capital punishment," said Leonid Slutsky, head of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia, referring to the suspects of the terrorist attack, at a plenary session of the State Duma, or lower house of the parliament, on Tuesday. Slutsky also noted that incitement to terrorism should be punished by imprisonment, Xinhua news agency reported.

State Duma Speaker Vyacheslav Volodin proposed creating an inter-factional working group to analyze legislation regarding the use of the death penalty and migration policy.

Chairman of the State Duma Committee on State Building and Legislation Pavel Krashenninnikov said the committee is ready to discuss various proposals and bills on the moratorium on the death penalty, adding that it is ultimately important to "keep a cool head" when making such decisions. According to current legislation, capital punishment remains legal in Russia, however, a moratorium on the death penalty was instituted in 1996, after the country had joined the Council of Europe. Russia's Constitutional Court imposed a ban on the death penalty in 1999.



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

Team Absolute | Mumbai

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



UMA BHARTI MISSING FROM LIST

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



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

Chhindwara | Agencies

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



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

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

Congress formed new media team in Madhya Pradesh

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



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

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

Team Absolute | Bhopal

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



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

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

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

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

Anuppur | Agencies

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



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

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

party candidate Himadri Singh and Anuppur District President Ramdas Puri.

Hotel businessman commits suicide by shooting himself in Bhopal

Team Absolute | Bhopal

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



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

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

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

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

Team Absolute | Bhopal

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



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

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

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

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

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



Sumitra Mahajan inaugurates 56th National Kho Kho Championship in Delhi

New Delhi | Agencies

Former Speaker of Lok Sabha Sumitra Mahajan on Wednesday inaugurated the 56th National Kho Kho Championship after a colourful program at Indira Gandhi Sports Complex in the capital.

Indian Kho Kho Federation President Sudhanshu Mittal, Secretary General KS Tyagi, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh Prachar Pramukh Ramlal and Delhi MP and Vice Chairman of the Organising Committee, Ramesh Bidhuri, along with chief guest of the event Sumitra Mahajan unveiled the mascot 'Dhaakad' of the 56th Kho Kho Championship.

Addressing the players and the coaches present on this occasion, Sumitra Mahajan said that she herself played this sport and is now happy to promote this.

Notably, former Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan was an excellent Kho Kho player in her time.

"When we used to play Kho Kho and used to watch other sports on Doordarshan, we wondered when Indian sports would be shown on it. Our games just need a playing area and our children can play it. There is a feeling of love in Indian sports. When one gets hurt, one falls in love with the soil. As we moved into the city, the playgrounds became fewer.



We had to save our playgrounds."

Regarding the Indian Government's plans to promote indigenous sports, Sumitra Mahajan said: "The government started Khelo India to promote Indigenous sports. After Khelo India many players have shown their talent in various sports. Kho Kho Federation President Sudhanshu Mittal is at the forefront of promoting this game and under his leadership, the Kho Kho Federation has embarked on a new path. Promoting Indian sports is the priori-

ty of the government. We not only hope but also believe that in the future, Kho Kho will strengthen its identity in the world as an Indian sport."

Indian Kho Kho Federation President Sudhanshu Mittal said that Delhi is thrilled to host the 56th National Kho Kho Championship with such tremendous participation from across the country.

"Kho Kho is not just a game, it is an emotion for the people of India. It is a cultural phenomenon that unites

people. We are proud to provide a platform to talented players to showcase their skills and inspire the next generation of Kho Kho players," he said.

Addressing the gathering, Ramesh Bidhuri said that this National Championship under the aegis of the Kho Kho Federation is an opportunity for the players to showcase their talent. He thanked Delhi Kho Kho Federation and Sudhanshu Mittal for organising the national championship.

Arjan Nagra clinches title in first leg of National Eventing Championship

Gurugram | Agencies

Nicolas Colsaerts, who called the DLF Golf and Country Club a tough course, got down to business as the Hero Pro-Am ahead of the Indian Open was conducted on Wednesday morning. Whereas, Manvendra Singh and Sthavi Asthana claimed the second and third positions respectively at the ongoing NEC Eventing Novice & Pre Novice 2023-24 Championship at the Army Polo & Riding Centre.

Nagra did not concede any penalty while clearing 11 obstacles, completing the run in exactly one hour. He also did not concede a penalty in show jumping but in the dressage section was 31.6 seconds more than the allowed time-limit.

In the 44-rider competition, over a 380-metre course, Nagra conceded the least penalties (31.6) and was followed by Manvendra (31.9) and Sthavi (34.2) in the leader-board.

The eventing competition, also known as horse trial, comprises three disciplines dressage, cross country and show jumping.

Manvendra, who rode Hercules, and Sthavi who was riding Rustam Jee, also conceded penalty only in the dressage event.

The second leg of the National Eventing Championship will begin on Thursday.



IPL 2024 Rohit Sharma marks 200th appearance for MI; becomes third player to play 200 games for a team

Hyderabad | Agencies

Mumbai Indians' veteran opener Rohit Sharma is all set to mark his 200th match for the franchise via the Wednesday's clash against Sunrisers Hyderabad at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium.

Rohit now becomes just the third player after MS Dhoni (CSK) and Virat Kohli (RCB) to play 200 games for a single IPL team. He was also given a '200' special jersey by MI mentor, the legendary Sachin Tendulkar, ahead of Wednesday's match.

Overall, this is Rohit's 245th IPL match, including taking in the appearances he made for the now-defunct Deccan Chargers, which is the second-most to Dhoni's 252 matches. Rohit has played in the IPL for Mumbai Indians in 14 different editions of the tournament, making him the only player to achieve this feat for the franchise.

Since he became a part of the franchise in 2011, Rohit has become the all-time



leading run getter for them in the IPL, scoring over 5000 runs. Nobody else has more than 3500 runs for MI in IPL. Rohit has won 16 Player of the Match awards for Mumbai Indians, which again are the most by any MI player.

Rohit, who captained MI to five IPL title wins, is only the second Indian after the legendary Sachin Tendulkar to score a IPL hundred for MI and also has the 2nd highest

individual score for the franchise in the IPL, scoring 109 not v Kolkata Knight Riders at Eden Gardens in 2012.

Rohit has featured in 111 wins for Mumbai Indians, the most by any player for the franchise. He has also been the captain in 87 of those wins, again a record for the franchise. He has made 35 scores of 50+ for Mumbai Indians in the IPL, easily the most by any player for the franchise.

New Delhi | Agencies

World number one Novak Djokovic has ended his partnership with Croatian coach Goran Ivanisevic following a challenging start to his 2024 season.

Djokovic and Ivanisevic, the former Wimbledon champion, forged a formidable bond since joining forces in 2018. Under Ivanisevic's guidance, Djokovic honed his skills and embarked on a remarkable journey that saw him surpass tennis legends Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal to become the most successful men's singles player in Grand Slam history.

Taking to Instagram on Wednesday, March 27, Djokovic confirmed the split, acknowledging the duo's on-court chemistry fluctuated



over the years but emphasizing the enduring strength of their friendship. "Goran and I decided to stop work-

ing together a few days ago. Our on-court chemistry had its ups and downs, but our friendship was always rock solid," said Djokovic.

"I remember clearly the moment I invited Goran to be part of my team. It was back in 2018, and Marian and I were looking to innovate and bring some serve magic to our duo. In fact, not only we brought serve, but also lots of laughter, fun, year end no 1 rankings, record breaking achievements and 12 more Grand Slams (and a few finals) to the count since then. Did I mention a bit of drama too?" Despite their successful collaboration, Djokovic's recent performances have raised concerns. A semi-final exit at the Australian Open was followed by a shocking third-round defeat at Indian Wells to world num-

ber 123 Luka Nardi. Djokovic's subsequent withdrawal from the Miami Open further underscored his need to recalibrate his approach amidst a demanding schedule.

Ivanisevic's contributions to Djokovic's career have been widely recognized, with the Croatian coach even nominated for the ATP Coach of the Year in 2023, following Djokovic's triumphant capture of three out of four Grand Slam titles.

Djokovic faces a pivotal juncture in his quest for tennis immortality with the French Open looming on the horizon. As he navigates the uncertainties of a coaching transition, Djokovic remains resolute in his pursuit of further Grand Slam glory, sharing the record for most Grand Slam singles titles with Margaret Court.

DE SILVA, MENDIS GAIN BIG IN ICC TEST RANKINGS AFTER SYLHET TWIN TONS



New Delhi | Agencies

Sri Lanka batters Dhananjaya de Silva and Kamindu Mendis have made huge gain in the ICC Men's Test Player Rankings after both the batters notched twin centuries in the first Test of the two-match series against Bangladesh in Sylhet to help their side score a comprehensive 328-run victory.

De Silva has moved up 15 spots to a career-best 14th position while Mendis has re-entered the rankings

in joint-64th position after recording only the third instance in Test history of two players from the same team scoring a century in each innings of a Test match, ICC reports. The previous two instances were of Australia's Ian Chappell and Greg Chappell against New Zealand in Wellington in 1974 and Pakistan's Azhar Ali and Misbah-ul-Haq against Australia in Abu Dhabi in 2014. Sri Lanka's new-ball bowlers Kasun Rajitha and Vishwa Fernando have also made notable

gains in the latest men's rankings update. Rajitha has jumped six places to 38th position after returning match figures of eight for 112 while Fernando has moved from 50th to 43rd after finishing with seven for 84.

Bangladesh's middle-order batter Mominul Haque's second innings knock of 87 has lifted him eight places to 50th while fast bowler Khaled Ahmed's four wickets in the match have taken him from 98th to 89th position.

Rybakina outlasts Sakkari; Azarenka battles past Putintseva into Miami semifinals

Florida | Agencies

2023 finalist and No.4 seed Elena Rybakina made a return trip to the Miami Open semifinals with a 7-5, 6-7(4), 6-4 win over No.8 seed Maria Sakkari.

Rybakina won the first set despite losing a 4-2 lead, and rallied from that deficit in the second set to earn herself two match points in the 10th game -- but she failed to convert.

A missed backhand in the net cost her the first, and a Sakkari down-the-line forehand was too much for her to handle on the second -- and a half-hour later, Indian Wells runner-up Sakkari forced a final set, WTA reports.

She will next need



to knock off three-time tournament champion Victoria Azarenka to advance the final to the final at Hard Rock Stadium for the second year in a row.

Former World No.1 Azarenka defeated another Kazakh, Yulia Putintseva, in a three-set quarterfinal earlier Tuesday.

No.27 seed Azarenka needed 2 hours and 55 minutes of play to fend off unseeded Putintseva and clinch a spot in the Miami semifinals for the fifth time in her career.

Azarenka is playing Miami for the 15th time, having won the title in 2009, 2011 and 2016. She has 43 career match-wins at the event, fifth-most behind only Serena Williams (76), Venus Williams (67), Stefanie Graf (59) and Gabriela Sabatini (45).

Golf: Indian Open returns with strong field; Anirban Lahiri to lead India's charge

New Delhi | Agencies

As Indian Open returns for its 2024 edition, two-time Olympian golfer Anirban Lahiri will lead India's charge at the tournament featuring 144 players, including 33 Indians. The golf tournament starting on Thursday at the DLF Golf & Country Club in Gurugram carries a prize purse of USD 2.25 million this year to attract the best of talent.

The Indian Open is the biggest golf event in India and the leading line-up of players include Rasmus Hojgaard and Yannik Paul, who will be looking to make their mark on Indian soil.

Hojgaard will be the highest-ranked player in competition this year. Masters-bound Kazuki Higa is another name to watch, while Thorbjorn Olesen aims to defend his 2023 title. Lahiri, currently 401st in world golf rankings and third amongst Indians, returns to the Indian Open after five years, and others leading Indian challenge include Shiv Kapur, Shubhankar Sharma and Aman Ahlawat.

Lahiri's last global win came at this very event back in 2015 and a year later he was second. Since then he has had countless sec-



ond places, none more memorable than the runner-up finish at the PLAYERS Championship in 2022.



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

Team Absolute | Mumbai

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

Neha Dhupia said: "I clicked a photograph and

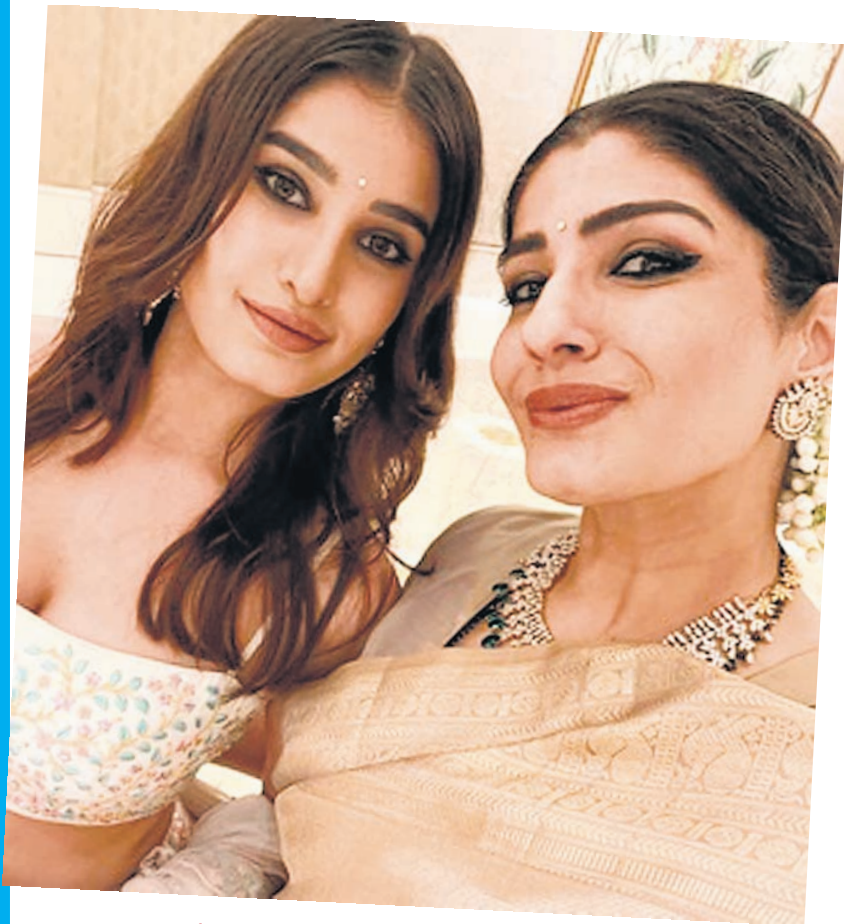
got the hashtag An-Adi. You and Aditya Roy Kapur were just talking, so I am just gonna clarify that you guys are just friends, just talking. I happened to click a photograph at Kriti Sanon's Diwali party and people started zooming into it. Do you wanna talk about that moment?"

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



Raveena Tandon

Reveals she is best friends with her children



Team Absolute | Mumbai

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

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

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

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



Team Absolute | Mumbai

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

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

Telangana.

Many regional news portals have carried reports confirming the news.

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

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

Aditi made her film debut in 2006 with the Malayalam film

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

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

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

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

Kartik Aaryan endured 14 months of boxing training

Team Absolute | Mumbai

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

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

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

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



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

Team Absolute | Mumbai

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

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

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



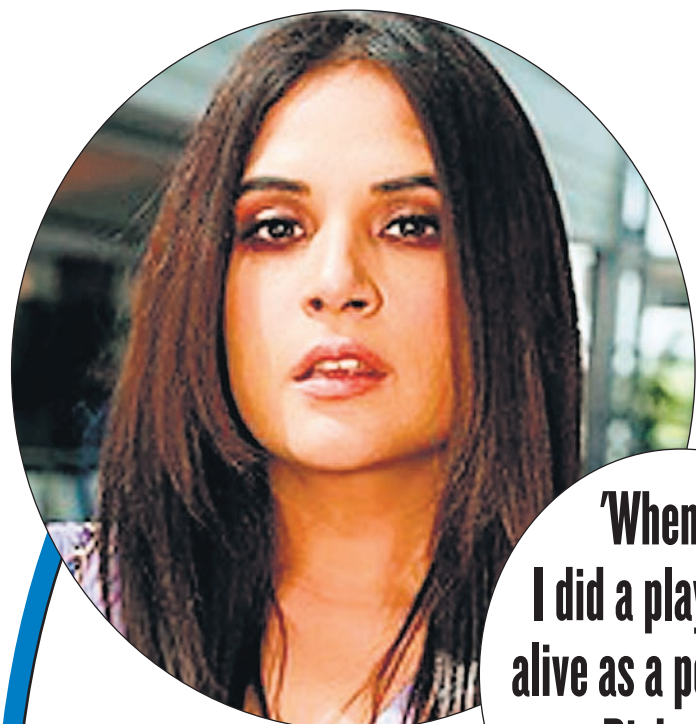
my passion and will always remain so. I continue to juggle between my plays, my TV show Vanshaj, and films. I love touring across India with my plays, especially 'Mahabharat'. It gives me a chance to interact with a wide variety of theatre-loving audiences."

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

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Rupali Jagga



Team Absolute | Mumbai

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

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

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

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

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

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

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