



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. Nakul Nath 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 Vishnu Deo Sai, 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 Kulu (Vice President), Yogesh Yadav, Vivek Tripathi, Aparajita Pandey, Santosh Gautam, Anand Jat, 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. Kishay 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.



Tom Cruise and Girlfriend Elsina Khayrova Split

Los Angeles | Agencies

Tom Cruise and his girlfriend, Elsina Khayrova, have called it quits shortly after debuting their romance. "They weren't gelling and realized they weren't romantically compatible," a source exclusively

reveals in the new issue of Us Weekly, on stands now.

According to the insider, Khayrova, 36, was the one to put an end to the their relationship. "There's no bad blood between them," the source tells Us. "They just had different ideas of what their relationship was going to be."

The actor, 61, and the Russian socialite, 36, were first spotted cozying up to each other at a December 2023 party in London's Grosvenor Square, though a source exclusively told Us at the time that the pair had been dating for "a while."

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Tom Cruise's Dating History Through the Years Nicole Kidman Katie Holmes and More 765 Related: Tom Cruise's

Dating History: A Look Back at

His A-List Romances

"They're very happy," the insider added. "And Tom's extremely confident about it working out for the long term. ... They've hung out at Tom's favorite private members club and regularly enjoy afternoon tea and gourmet dinners out in London."



WHEN EVA MENDES WAS SMITTEN BY RYAN GOSLING AFTER THEIR FIRST MEETING

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Eva Mendes spoke about meeting her partner and actor Ryan Gosling when they made their 2012 movie 'The Place Beyond the Pines.'

"I've never experienced anything like that," she said of working with her now-partner on the Today show.

"The way he works, his commitment to his craft, how he wants to make everything as best as it can be — and that means making his costars as best as they can be. Unfortunately — or fortunately — there's only one Ryan, so I pretty much stopped acting after that," she added. Mendes and Gosling started dating after meeting on set. The two, who are private about their relationship, share two daughters together. The couple welcomed their first

child, Esmeralda Amada, in September 2014, and then had Amada Lee in April 2016.

Mendes also spoke about taking a step back from acting after more than a decade onscreen not being a difficult decision to make.

"It was like a no-brainer. I'm so

lucky, and I was like, if I could have this time with my children — and I still work, I just didn't act, because acting takes you on location," she said.

"It takes you away. It was almost just like a non-verbal agreement that it was like, 'Okay, he's going to work and I'm going to work. I'm just going to work here,'" she added.

JOELY RICHARDSON ON HER CAREER POST 50: 'NO ONE WANTED ME'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Joely Richardson has opened up about ageism in Hollywood and how she had to pivot to start getting work again. She was talking about all the projects she's currently involved in, including Netflix's 'The Gentlemen' and 'One Day'. She also has Disney+'s 'Renegade Nell'.

The actress noticed a change after she turned 50, which she shared on ITV's This Morning, reports deadline.com.

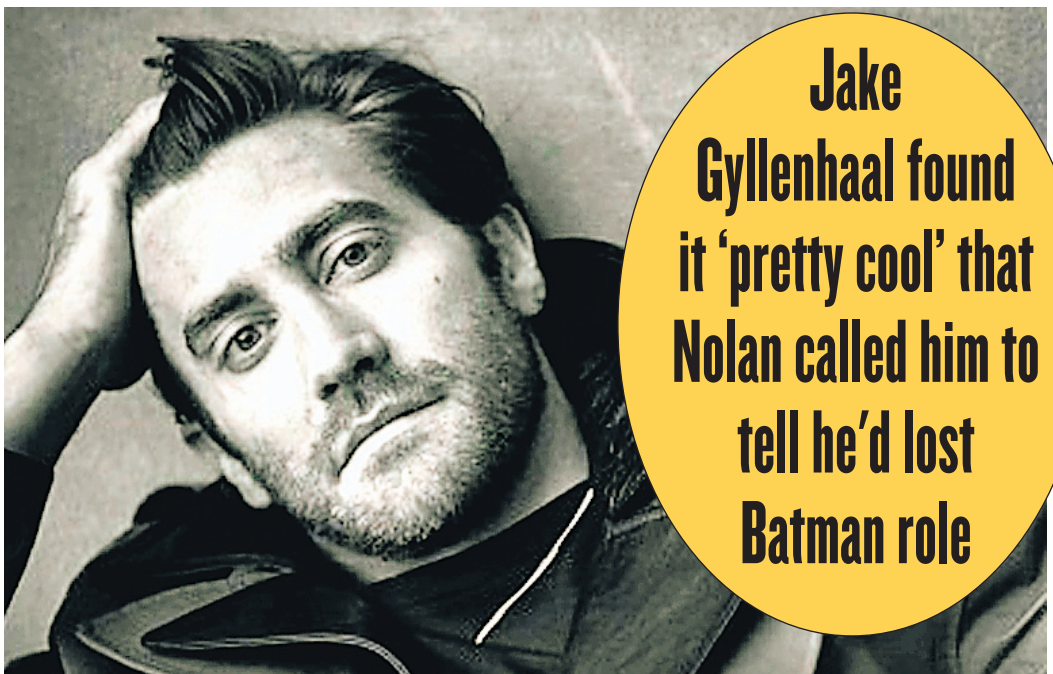
She recalled that when her agent "retired young to be with her mom," she was looking for a new agent and didn't find much luck.

"I went to get another agent, and it was like no one wanted me," she said. "And so, even though I had Golden Globe nominations, and blah, blah, blah, zero people wanted a woman over 50."

The actress then got new agents and said they "started finding little ins wherever we could, doing The Sandman (also Netflix), Lady Chatterley's (Lover) playing the northern housekeeper Mrs Bolton, just like trying to sort of get through the door so people would consider me for roles. And then, they started to come."

Richardson called being on the Ryan Murphy show a "dream" and after the series ended, "wanted to do something else" and returned to theater and "did lots of Off-Broadway productions."

"I needed that," she added about doing theater after the FX series. "It was like a lovely bridge."



Jake Gyllenhaal found it 'pretty cool' that Nolan called him to tell he'd lost Batman role



Los Angeles | Agencies

Actor Jake Gyllenhaal spoke about what it was like losing two major roles during the final rounds of casting, which includes Christopher Nolan's 'Batman Begins' and Christian in Baz Luhrmann's 'Moulin Rouge!'

In 'Moulin Rouge', the audition process came down to Gyllenhaal, Heath Ledger and Ewan McGregor. It's here where Gyllenhaal first heard of Ledger, who later featured as his co-star in 'Brokeback Mountain'.

"What I felt was disappointment when I didn't get it. Both Heath and I were disappointed," Gyllenhaal said on 'The Howard Stern Show'.

"But that's Ewan McGregor's part. You learn to go, 'There's another one. I can try and go in and audition for another one. I'll get something else. You keep that attitude.'

The actor maintained that healthy mindset when he lost out on 'Batman Begins', reports variety.com. "To (Nolan's) credit and to Baz (Luhrmann's) credit, both of those directors called me personally to tell me (I didn't get the role),"

Gyllenhaal said. "And they will tell you why. When you get that far, there's a real legitimacy to you potentially getting something."

"It's not like they're going, 'Oh, thanks so much.' They are going, 'I saw these aspects of you that I really wanted in the role and are wonderful, but in the end I ended up moving this way because it matches better with this person who is opposite you or would be opposite you.'

"The colour of their hair or their height, whatever it is!! There are all these non factors that really are the inexplicable stuff that if you start to pick away at it doesn't work, it's not healthy."

He added: "To me, I just go: 'Look at how far you got! So just try and keeping going.' That's what I felt," the actor continued. "I remember getting a call from Christopher Nolan and thinking, 'I just got a call personally from Christopher Nolan.' He found it "pretty cool."

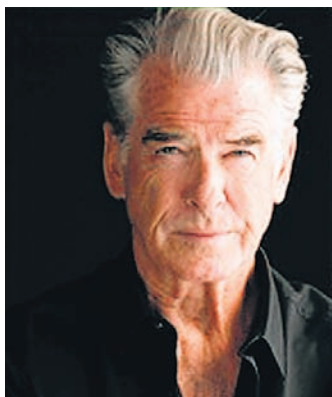
"That's pretty cool. I've got pretty far. I went from them going they aren't sure (about me) to a call saying they're really thinking about you for this movie. So okay, I should keep going. I should just keep going."

Pierce Brosnan to Aaron Taylor-Johnson on playing Bond: 'Be bold'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Former James Bond depicter Pierce Brosnan has given his stamp of approval to actor Aaron Taylor-Johnson to play the suave spy. Taylor-Johnson is rumoured to be the next 007 agent. Brosnan played James Bond through the 1990s. Talking about the next to take on the role of the spy agent, Brosnan said that Taylor-Johnson "has the chops" to take it on, reports deadline.

Brosnan starred with Taylor-Johnson in the 2009 film 'The Greatest'. "One of the first movies we made, one of our earliest movies, was The Greatest — and he was in it," Brosnan said. "He was The Greatest in it. It's a lovely



movie with Aaron and Carey Mulligan and Susan Sarandon and myself. So yes, I read the news about his possibilities of being a Bond, so I would definitely tip my

hat to the fellow." If Taylor-Johnson becomes the next Bond, Brosnan advises the actor: "Be bold. Go out there, have a great time. Just love it. Just go for it."

LOVE IS BLIND'S AMY CORTES AND JOHNNY MCINTYRE WANT TO WAIT '3 TO 4 YEARS' BEFORE HAVING CHILDREN



Los Angeles | Agencies

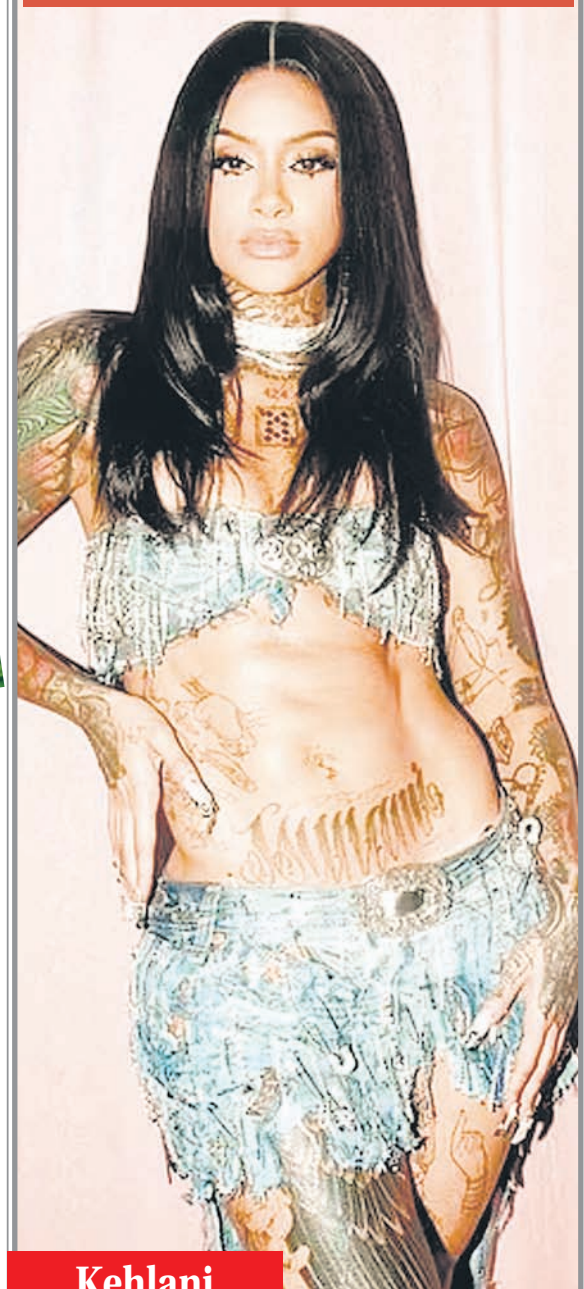
Amy Cortes and Johnny McIntyre are looking forward to having kids — but aren't necessarily in a rush to expand their family. "In my perfect world, I would love to [have kids] when I'm in my early thirties, but it just really depends," Amy, 27, told Us Weekly while promoting her and Johnny's partnership with Natural Cycles. "I feel like we've had a beautiful year and we definitely want to keep continuing to do stuff within our marriage, traveling and just exploring each other and the world together."

Love Is Blind's Amy Cortes and Johnny McIntyre are looking forward to having kids — but aren't necessarily in a rush to expand their family.

"In my perfect world, I would love to [have kids] when I'm in my early thirties, but it just really depends," Amy, 27, told Us Weekly while promoting her and Johnny's partnership with Natural Cycles. "I feel like we've had a beautiful year and we definitely want to keep continuing to do stuff within our marriage, traveling and just exploring each other and the world together."

Amy, who married Johnny, 28, in the LIB season 6 finale, noted that she's "hoping" that the couple wait "three to four" more years before having children. "That aligned with his timeline as well so it's perfect," she explained.

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Kehlani



IPL 2024

SRH BEAT MI BY 31 RUNS IN SIX-HITTING RUN FEST

Hyderabad | Agencies

Local lad Tilak Varma made a stunning 64 off 34 balls, but his efforts went in vain as Sunrisers Hyderabad emerged triumphant in a stunning six-hitting run fest with a 31-run win over Mumbai Indians to open their account in IPL 2024 at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium on Wednesday.

After sizzling half-centuries from Heinrich Klassen, Abhishek Sharma and Travis Head helped SRH amass an astonishing 277/3, the highest-ever score in the competition's history, MI looked to get the chase done thanks to heroics of Tilak and other batters.

But SRH's bowlers shined by giving no pace and keeping the scoring rate in check in the middle overs to keep MI to 246/5. With this being MI's second defeat in a game where many records tumbled in front of 35,080 fans, questions will be asked of their listless bowling and changes made in the line-up, as well as of captain Hardik Pandya's performance and decision making.

Chasing a mammoth 278, Rohit Sharma and Ishan Kishan were off the mark from the word go. Rohit hit



Unadkat for two leg-side sixes in the second over, while Kishan smacked Bhuvneshwar Kumar for a four and three maximums in the third over as MI reached 50/0.

But Shahbaz Ahmed struck with his second ball in the fourth over to have Kishan slog-sweeping to deep mid-wicket and fall for a 13-ball 34. Rohit was dropped by Abdul Samad at mid-on, but couldn't make much of the reprieve as his top-edge on the pull was caught by backward square leg off Pat Cummins.

Naman Dhir and Tilak Varma began to deal in hitting sixes regularly off SRH's bowlers to keep MI in the

hunt of a massive chase. The stand-out point came when Tilak scooped, switch-hit and swept Shahbaz for three sixes in the tenth over, before slamming a four off Jaydev Unadkat through extra cover to get his fifty in 24 balls.

The 84-run stand off 37 balls for the third wicket ended when Dhir slashed straight to extra cover off Unadkat. Tilak and Hardik Pandya hit three boundaries between themselves, before the former was tricked by a slower delivery from Cummins and was caught at long-on, after the strategic timeout.

MI went 20 balls without a bound-

ary, before Tim David flicked, slashed and smashed Bhuvneshwar for a four and two sixes. David would hit Unadkat for a six and four each, before the pacer bounced back by having Hardik Pandya top-edge a pull to keeper behind.

Impact Player Romario Shepherd hit a six and two fours in the final over, but it wasn't enough to deny SRH a win in an absolute run-fest of a match which had the most runs scored collectively and most sixes ever hit in a T20 game.

Brief scores

Sunrisers Hyderabad 277/3 in 20 overs (Heinrich Klassen 80 not out, Abhishek Sharma 63; Piyush Chawla 1-34, Hardik Pandya 1-46) beat Mumbai Indians 246/5 in 20 overs (Tilak Varma 64, Tim David 42 not out; Pat Cummins 2-35, Jaydev Unadkat 2-47) by 31 runs

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 leaderboard.

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.

Djokovic ends partnership with coach Ivanisevic amid winless start to season

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.



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

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

'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 Murlikant 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.

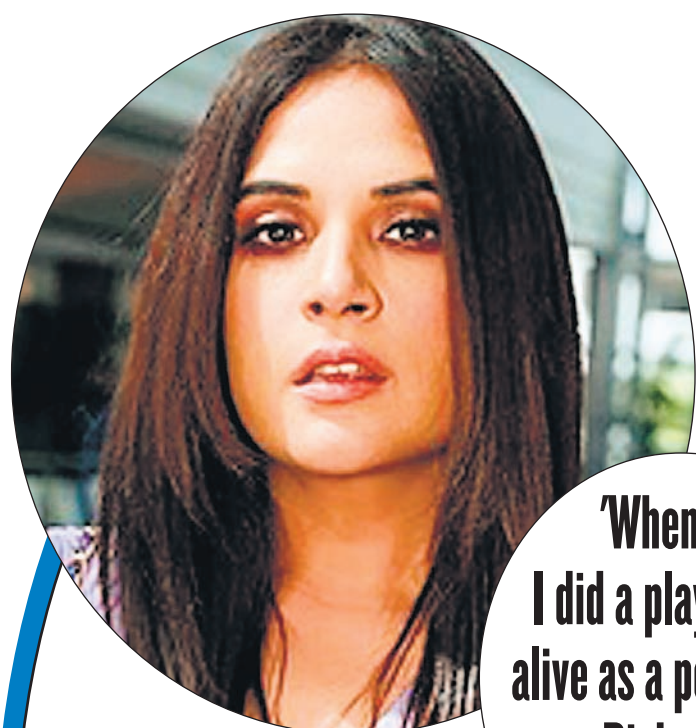
On the occasion of World Theatre Day on Wednesday, the actor spoke about his love for theatre and how the medium gives him satisfaction as a thespian.

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.



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

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Rupali Jagger