

absolute india

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INDIAN STUDY SHOWS HILLY AREAS LINKED TO HIGH RISK OF CHILDHOOD STUNTING

WORRYING...

- Overall, stunting was seen among 36 per cent children, with a higher prevalence among those aged 18-59 months (41 per cent) than among those under 18 months of age (27 per cent).
- Stunting was also found to be more common among children of third or higher birth order (44 per cent) than it was among first-borns (30 per cent).
- Stunting rates were even higher among those children who had been small or very small (45 per cent) at birth.



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Children under 5 years of age in India, living at higher altitudes -- over 2,000 metres above sea level -- may be at about 40 per cent higher risk of stunted growth, according to a study on Friday. The study, published in BMJ Nutrition Prevention & Health, showed that despite various initiatives, childhood stunting, caused by chronic malnutrition, remains a major public health challenge in India, affecting over a third of 5-year-olds.

"In recent decades public health interventions in India have effectively tackled previously prevalent nutritional problems, such as Iodine deficiency, which are associated with living at higher altitudes," said Professor Sumantra Ray, Executive Director of the NNEdPro Global Institute for Food, Nutrition and Health, a think tank. "But this study highlights the complexities of malnutrition in hilly regions where wider determinants of malnutrition among the under-5s require further study to elucidate the relative contributions of heredity, environment, lifestyle, and socioeco-

nomnic factors," Ray added. To explore further, the researchers drew on data from the 2015-16 National Family Health Survey (NFHS-4) on 167,555 children under the age of 5. About 1.4 per cent of kids lived between 1,000 and 1,999 m above sea level, and 0.2 per cent lived at or above 2,000 m. However, the study is "observational" and cannot confirm "altitude as a cause of stunting", said the researchers. According to them, chronic exposure to high altitudes which can reduce appetite, restrict oxygen delivery to tissues, and limit nutrient

absorption are reasons for stunted growth. "Food insecurity also tends to be greater at higher elevations where crop yields are lower and the climate is harsher. Similarly, health care provision, including implementing nutritional programmes, and health care access are also more challenging," they said. The study showed that the mother's education, proper antenatal care, such as clinic visits, tetanus vaccination, and iron and folic acid supplements; and proximity to health facilities acted as protective factors against stunting.

Govt allows export of 99,150 tonnes of onion to 6 countries

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The government has allowed the export of 99,150 metric tonnes of onion to six countries -- Bangladesh, UAE, Bhutan, Bahrain, Mauritius and Sri Lanka, the Ministry of Consumer Affairs said on Saturday.

A ban has been imposed on onion export to ensure adequate domestic availability and keep prices in check as the output of both the Kharif and Rabi crops in 2023-24 are estimated to be lower as compared to the previous year and demand has increased in the international market.

The National Cooperative Exports Limited (NCEL), the agency for export of onion to these countries, sourced the domestic onions to be exported through e-platform at L1 prices and supplied to the agencies nominated by the government of the destination country at the negotiated rate on 100 per cent advance payment basis, according to the Food Ministry statement.

The offer rate of NCEL to the buyers takes into account the prevailing prices in the destination market and also international and domestic markets. The quotas allocated for export to the six countries are being supplied as per the requirement made.

As the largest producer of onion in the country, Maharashtra is the major supplier of onions sourced by



NCEL for export.

The government had also allowed the export of 2,000 metric tonnes (MT) of white onion cultivated especially for export markets in Middle-East and some European countries.

Being purely export-oriented, the production cost of the white onion is higher than other onions due to higher seed cost, adoption of good agricultural practice (GAP) and compliance to strict maximum residue limits (MRL) requirements.

The procurement target for onion buffer out of Rabi-2024 under the Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF) of the Department of Consumer Affairs has been fixed at 5 lakh tonnes this year. The Central Agencies, viz., NCCF and NAFED are tying up local agencies such as FPOs/FPCs/PACs to support the procurement, storage and farmers registration to begin

the procurement of any store-worthy onion. A high-level team of the Department of Consumer Affairs, NCCF and NAFED had visited Nashik and Ahmednagar Districts of Maharashtra during April 11-13, 2024 to create awareness among the farmers, FPOs/FPCs and PACs about the procurement of 5 LMT of onion for PSF buffer. In order to reduce the storage loss of onions, the Department of Consumer Affairs decided to enhance the quantum of stocks to be irradiated and cold stored from 1,200 MT last year to over 5,000 MT this year, with technical support from BARC, Mumbai.

The pilot of onion irradiation and cold storage taken up last year has been found to have resulted in the reduction of storage loss to less than 10 per cent.

PRADYUMAN SINGH BROKE THE RECORD OF CRICKETER CHRIS GAYLE IN THE UNIVERSITY MATCH



Lalit Sharma | Jaipur

Ojas Cricket Tournament 2024 was held at UPES University Dehradun. A league match held on Saturday was played between Amity Mohali University and Manipal University, Jaipur. In which Manipal University student Pradyuman Singh set a world record by scoring a century in 27 balls.

This ten-hour match was played with leather ball in which Pradyuman Singh played a total of 29 balls with the help of 12 sixes and 6 fours at a strike rate of 362.07 and scored 105 runs. In this, the century was scored on 27 balls only and Pradyuman Singh was "not out".

The complete record of the match is available on "KickHero" app. It is being told that Gayle had scored a century on 30 balls in the T-20 match in IPL, which is recorded as the "fastest century" in the history of cricket.

Till date, no world class cricketer has scored such a fast century in a T-20 match. In this match, Amity Mohali team had set a target of 127 runs while playing first, while chasing Pradyuman Singh played a record breaking innings.

Beauty addicts can now get Kylie Cosmetics in India

New Delhi | Agencies

"I am so excited to launch Kylie Cosmetics in India, I created Kylie Cosmetics to give my fans access to the makeup products that I use and love, and I can't wait to share my collection with all my fans in India," said Kylie Jenner, founder of Kylie Cosmetics.

In 2015, Kylie embarked on her beauty business with the launch of Kylie Lip Kits, a collection of three liquid lipsticks with corresponding lip liners. Since then, Kylie, supported by global beauty powerhouse Coty, has continued to expand her beauty empire around the world in over 50 countries and across eye, complexion, and countless innovations in lip. The beauty line is carefully crafted with clean formulations and vegan ingredients that deliver on-trend, high-quality, high-pigment, and high-performance

formulations that fans around the world have come to love.

In a significant milestone in the brand's global expansion, Kylie Cosmetics launches in India. Partnering with House of Beauty, the leading beauty speciality company that brings coveted international beauty brands to India, Kylie Cosmetics' arrival has been long awaited by Indian beauty consumers. This partnership marks the first time the brand has partnered with an Indian omnichannel specialist like House of Beauty.

The launch collection includes the best-selling matte and velvet lip



kits, as well as recent must-have launches such as Precision Pout Lip Liner, Power Plush Longwear Foundation, Kylash Volume Mascara, Power Plush Longwear Concealer, and Tinted Butter Balm. Kylie Cosmetics is available exclusively in 25 Sephora India stores nationwide and online at www.sephora.in.

WHATSAPP'S NEW FILTER OPTION WILL LET USERS GET LIST OF THEIR FAVOURITES FROM CHATS TAB

New Delhi: Meta-owned WhatsApp is reportedly testing a new feature that will offer users a dedicated "filter" to quickly get a list of their favourites from the chats tab on Android. According to WABetaInfo, the feature is set for release in a future update of the app. With this new chat filter, users will get to easily access and prioritise specific conversations with their favourite contacts and groups.

As per the report, this new tool will let users mark specific contacts and groups as favourites, making it easier to prioritise important chats and access those they engage with most often.

This feature is presently under development and it will be available in a future update of the app, the report added. Meanwhile, WhatsApp is reportedly working on a new feature that will let users react quickly to status updates on Android.

With the 'quick reaction feature for status updates', users will be able to quickly add a reaction to status updates, allowing them to express their appreciation for the posted content with ease.

UP topper shuts up trolls over her facial hair

Sitapur | Agencies

Prachi Nigam, who topped the Class 10 UP Board examinations this year by securing 98.5 per cent marks, has finally responded to trolls who have been trolling her for her facial hair. "Trolls can live with their mindset, I am happy that my success is now my identity," she said on Wednesday. This is the first time that Prachi has responded to trolls. She said that all her attention was focused on her studies and no one ever pointed towards her excess facial hair. "My family, my teachers, my friends never criticised me for my appearance and I never bothered about it either. It was only when my photograph was published after the results that people started trolling me and then my attention was drawn to the problem. My aim is to become an engineer and what will ultimately



matter are my marks and not the hair on my face," she said. Indian chess grandmaster Vishwanathan Anand extended support to Prachi and asked her to remain focussed on her academic goals. Meanwhile, Prof R K Dhiman, director of Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences (SGPGIMS) has said that the institute will treat Prachi free of cost. "The endocrinology will treat Prachi for hormonal issues that are responsible for facial hair growth and are common in children between the ages of 8-16 years. It can be cured within months," he said.

Indian-origin researcher unravels link between depression and heart disease

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Depression and cardiovascular disease (CVD) partly develop from the same gene module, said a team of researchers establishing the long-preserved link between the two conditions. Since the 1990s, it has been speculated that the two diseases are somehow related. About 280 million people worldwide have depression, while 620 million people have CVD.

Researchers from the University of Finland used blood gene analysis to unravel the clinical link between the two.

Their result, published in the journal *Frontiers in Psychiatry* showed that depression and CVD have at least one functional 'gene module' in common. The study may help identify new markers for depression and CVD, as well as find drugs to target both diseases. Gene module can be defined as



a group of genes with similar expression patterns across different conditions and hence likely to be functionally related.

"We looked at gene expression profile in the blood of people with depression and CVD and found 256 genes in a single gene module whose expression at levels higher or lower than average puts people at greater risk of both diseases,"

said first author Binisha H Mishra, a postdoctoral researcher at Tampere University in Finland.

The team studied gene expression data in the blood of 899 women and men between 34 and 49 years old.

Other genes in the shared module are involved in brain diseases such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and Huntington's disease.

LUCKNOW COPS GET AC HELMETS ON TRIAL BASIS

Team Absolute | Lucknow

The Lucknow Traffic Department has provided AC helmets, as part of a trial phase for the first time in Lucknow, to four traffic personnel. This "cool initiative" is designed to help cops on duty beat the heat under the scorching sun.

These helmets have AC vents to channel the coolness to the head along with a hard plastic shield that works as goggles to protect the eyes from the sun's glare. The helmet is connected to a large battery pack tied to the waist of a person. When the battery is drained, a red light on top will alert the person to put the helmet on charging. "The AC installed in the helmet will reduce the temperature by 10-15 degrees and this will provide relief to cops from the scorching heat," said ADCP (Traffic) Ajay Kumar. After a successful trial, about 500 such helmets will be procured from a Hyderabad-based company. A month-long trial will decide if the product can be introduced formally, said the official. "The number

will be decided by the higher authorities. The weight of the helmet is half of that of a normal helmet and our cops felt very comfortable," added the ADCP. "This is the second such initiative in UP, a similar trial was conducted by the Kanpur Police," said DCP (Traffic) Salmantaj Patil.

Recently, similar trials were conducted in Bhubaneswar, Vadodara and other cities. There will be two types of helmets - with battery back-ups of two and eight hours, respectively. Reportedly, the first one will be provided to traffic personnel while the one with more backup will be provided to police personnel. "Despite being comfortable for the user, the helmet will be checked for any health risk as one part of the body is cool and the rest is exposed to heat. We will examine if it has any negative effects," said the ADCP. "We can use the genes in this module as biomarkers for depression and cardiovascular disease. Ultimately, these biomarkers may facilitate the development of dual-purpose preventative strategies for both diseases," said Mishra.



TMC WRITES TO ECI COMPLAINING ABOUT CBI, NSG OPS AT SANDESHKHALI DURING SECOND PHASE OF POLLS

Kolkata | Agencies

The Trinamool Congress on Saturday wrote to the Election Commission of India (ECI) opposing the CBI and National Security Guard (NSG) raids at Sandeshkhali in North 24 Parganas District on Friday and expressed apprehensions that the central agencies might have 'planted' weapons at the search site to 'defame it' when the second phase of Lok Sabha polls were underway.

In a significant operation at Sandeshkhali on Friday afternoon, the CBI recovered a huge cache of foreign and Indian-made firearms, explosives and crude bombs from the residence of a relative of suspended Trinamool Congress leader Sheikh Shahjahan at Sandeshkhali.

Later, the Commandos of the NSG, too, joined the CBI officials in that search operation.

In its complaint to the ECI, a copy of which is available with IANS, the Trinamool Congress has accused the CBI of "carrying out an unscrupulous raid at an empty location in Sandeshkhali, West Bengal, on poll day, to tarnish the image of the All India Trinamool Congress (AITC)



during the ensuing Lok Sabha Elections, 2024." It has also claimed that while polling for three Lok Sabha constituencies in West Bengal was underway on Friday afternoon, the CBI officials conducted raids at vacant places in Sandeshkhali.

In the complaint, the ruling party has also raised questions about involving the NSG commandos in the operations. As per the ruling party's

complaint, despite repeated requests seeking the ECI's intervention on the hyper-activity of the central agencies during the polling period, no action or directive has been issued on this count. "Previously, we have brought to your attention the need for urgent guidelines/framework so that central investigating agencies cannot throttle the campaign efforts of various political parties, including AITC, who are

opposed to the ruling dispensation at the Centre.

"However, despite repeated representations, your office has turned a blind eye, while central probe agencies continue to wreak havoc across the nation, especially during the election period," the communicate to the ECI read.

In the letter to the commission, the Trinamool Congress has also accused the BJP's central leadership of regularly targeting the Trinamool Congress leadership.

"It is reiterated that in the absence of any representative of the state government, the purported recovery of arms and ammunition is possibly a ploy employed by the BJP in conspiracy with the CBI and the NSG to plant such weapons at the site.

"It would not be out of place to revisit that the Hon'ble Supreme Court has time and again held that free and fair elections form an important concomitant of democracy.

"In the present situation, the BJP has compromised the sanctity of the ensuing elections by spreading a sense of terror among the electorate, thereby attempting to gain an undue advantage in the ensuing elections," read the communicate to ECI.

Waqf Board case: Delhi court grants bail to Amanatullah Khan

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Delhi court on Saturday granted bail to Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLA Amanatullah Khan in connection with the Enforcement Directorate's (ED) complaint over non-compliance of its summons in the Delhi Waqf Board money laundering case.

The judge granted him bail on a bail bond of Rs 15,000 and a surety of the like amount. Khan appeared before Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (ACMM) Divya Malhotra of Rouse Avenue Court upon the summons issued to him by the court.

Last time, the ED had told the court that Khan was issued seven summons by the agency and that it would not withdraw its complaint.

Recently, the ED had questioned the AAP legislator in its office in the national capital for over 13 hours in the case.

Even the Supreme Court had recently refused to entertain his plea seeking anticipatory bail. The top court had voiced its displeasure over the MLA skipping ED summonses.

Special Public Prosecutor (SPP) Simon Benjamin, appearing for ED, had last time said that the ED will not withdraw its complaint, unlike the application seeking issuance of a non-bailable warrant against the accused.



"He committed the offence of non-compliance of summons; therefore, this complaint was filed," the SPP had said.

About ED questioning the legislator recently, it is noteworthy that Khan had arrived at the ED office after he was directed by the Supreme Court to join the probe, and he had left the agency's office post-midnight the next day after over 13 hours of quizzing in the case.

The sources had said that Khan was allowed to leave after questioning, however, he can be summoned again to join the probe.

The probe agency has alleged that Khan, previously a witness, later became an accused in the case by seeking anticipatory bail and evading investigation.

Alleging irregularities in polling, Barmer Independent nominee lays siege at SP office with supporters

Jaipur | Agencies

Ravindra Singh Bhati, the Independent MLA from Rajasthan's Sheo who's contesting the Lok Sabha elections from Barmer, gheraoed the SP office in Balotra on Saturday along with thousands of his supporters, alleging irregularities and police high-handedness during the polling held on Friday.

Bhati, who successfully contested the Assembly polls from Sheo as an Independent nominee after being denied a ticket by the BJP last year, is up against Union Minister Kailash Chaudhary of the BJP and the Congress' Umedaram Beniwal in Barmer, where polling was held on Friday. On Saturday, Bhati and his followers demanded action against the police who 'assaulted' his supporters and the release of those detained on Friday.

Bhati also posted a picture with his supporters who gathered outside the SP office. "Police uniform has always been the pride of the people, but this time the same men in uniform acted in a biased manner by arresting innocent people. No action has been taken against the 'irregularities' being reported during polling on Friday. I submitted a list to the police requesting the deployment of additional forces at certain booths, warning



them of the irregularities, but to no avail," Bhati said. The administration and the police were hand-in-glove, flouting the democratic norms by allowing irregularities during elections, Bhati alleged. Bhati along with his supporters reached the SP office on Pachpadra Road at 1.20 p.m. Seeing the gathering, a large force of police was deployed in front of the SP office to avoid any untoward incident even as Balotra SP Kundan Kanwaria called Bhati inside the office for talks. His supporters said a decision will be taken on lifting the gherao after the talks are over.

Rajkot | Agencies

Union Minister Parshottam Rupala addressed the Kshatriya community's concerns during a recent BJP event in Jasdan, Rajkot and urged them not to direct their ire against Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Union Minister Rupala admitted that he had made an error and stressed upon the community's significant contributions to both the nation and the BJP.

Union Minister Rupala had incurred the wrath of the Kshatriya community by making unsavoury remarks against the Maharajas. "I apologised for my mistake and did so in front of the community," Rupala explained.

"It's unfair to involve PM Modi in this. He is a leader not just for our country but globally. For 18 hours a day, PM Modi just thinks and works for the country. He considers 140 crore people his family. I accept my mistake but I don't consider it proper



if the Kshatriya community goes against the Prime Minister. This is not for politics, victory, or loss in elections but for our nation," the Union minister appealed. His plea came in

the wake of renewed protests from the Kshatriya community, expressing intentions to impact the BJP's performance in the ongoing Lok Sabha elections.

The Union minister called for a non-political approach to resolving the issue. "This isn't about election outcomes; it's about our society's cohesion," Rupala stated, urging Kshatriya leaders to work towards building bridges of understanding rather than politicising the grievance.

On April 25, Kshatriya community leaders from South Gujarat declared their continued support for the BJP amid protests against Rupala. This announcement came after a meeting with Gujarat BJP chief, CR Patil in Surat. Meanwhile, PM Modi is set to intensify the BJP's campaign efforts in Gujarat by addressing six election rallies on May 1 and 2 in Deesa, Himmatnagar, Anand, Wadhwan, Junagarh and Jamnagar.

According to BJP sources, the PM will start his campaign in Himmatnagar and Deesa on May 1, followed by Anand, Wadhwan, Jamnagar, and Junagarh the next day. He is also scheduled to arrive in the state capital on May 1 for an overnight stay.

Doctors are form of God : Poonia

Lalit Sharma | Jaipur

The 20th anniversary celebration of ISM EduTech was organized on Saturday at Le Meridien Hotel. The event was attended by edutech doctors from across the country and students studying abroad. In this program organized by Educational Technology Network, informative and inspirational topics were discussed. Chief guest of the function, Dr. Satish Poonia, former BJP President, said that during the global pandemic Corona, doctors played a remarkable role in saving the common citizens from the disease. That is why doctors were considered the gods of the earth. IESM EduTech is playing a huge role and important role in this field.

Dr. Phani Bhushan Pottu, CEO of ISM EduTech, said that for the last 20 years, it has been making a significant contribution in providing entry and



employment to economically weaker students from abroad in the medical field. EduTech empowers students by designing education on a strong structural framework that supports

immersive and interactive learning. EduTech aims to improve the experience, quality of care and patient outcomes in medical education in Rajasthan. With over 20 years of experience,

Edutech has empowered over 12,000 students to achieve. Fulfilling his dream of becoming an extraordinary doctor. Our extensive network includes 14 educational institutions.

As an international medical university with a worldwide reputation, we strive to provide transparent, personalized and systematic guidance, ensuring every student receives the practical support they need.

Dr. Oshiva Saxena said that those students whose dream of becoming a doctor in India is not fulfilled, we prepare them to serve in India by making them doctors in foreign countries. On this occasion, 11 doctors from Kyrgyzstan, 8 from Georgia, 4 each from Kazakhstan and Tajik, who made significant contribution in making Indian students abroad as doctors, were honored as per Rajasthani tradition by giving mementos, bouquets and covering them with shawls.

Patna | Agencies

Upping the ante against the Congress over its "appeasement" politics, Union Minister and BJP's Begusarai candidate on Saturday said that the grand old party has slit the throats of Hindu people and snatched their rights for Muslims.

While interacting with media persons in Begusarai, Giriraj Singh said, "The fight in the INDI alliance is about who has the right on the Muslim vote bank. Congress has slit the throats of Hindu people. Its leaders have snatched the constitutional rights of Hindus."

"I want to ask Congress leaders what they want. Are they planning to start a civil war in the country? Do they want Other Backward Class (OBC) people to take to the streets and create a ruckus?" Singh said. "When the issue of Karnataka was raised in the country, why did people like Lalu Prasad stay silent on it? Why Tejashwi Yadav is tightlipped on it? Congress should reveal why it has snatched the rights of OBC," he said in connection with reports of the Siddaramaiah government



including Muslims in OBCs.

When asked about opposition leaders targeting BJP on the electoral bonds, he said, "Lalu Prasad first took donations from a liquor company and now they are trying to target BJP leaders over electoral bonds. I want to tell them that everything is clear and transparent here."

A lot has changed, from tech to my hair', Pichai on completing two decades in Google

Team Absolute | New Delhi

On completing 20 years at the company, Alphabet and Google Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Sundar Pichai said that a lot has changed since then such as the technology, the number of people using their products, and his hair.

Pichai, who joined the tech giant in 2004 as a product manager, took to Instagram to share a small, heartwarming note on completing two decades in the company.

"April 26, 2004, was my first day at Google. A lot has changed since then - technology, the number of people who use our products... my hair," he wrote.

However, he mentioned that what hasn't changed for him is the "thrill I get from working at this amazing company". "20 years in, I'm still feeling lucky," Pichai said.

His post drew a lot of comments from users, congratulating him for completing 20



years at Google.

"Two decades of dedication, twenty years of triumphs, and a legacy of excellence," a user wrote. "I cannot decide which achievement is greater, 20 years in all the technological improvements you've brought or the fact that you haven't gone bald after 20 years in tech," wrote another jokingly. At Google, Pichai managed product management and innovation aspects for several products such as Chrome and Chrome OS. He also played an important part in the development of Google Drive.

Just 55 pc water in reservoirs in TN's drought-prone districts; farmers asked to switch crops

Chennai | Agencies

With most of the reservoirs in the drought-prone districts of Vellore, Ranipet, Thirupathur and Tiruvannamalai left with only 55 per cent of water, farmers have been advised to shift to crops that require less water.

Sources in the Tamil Nadu water resources department told IANS that the 55 per cent of water that is remaining in the major reservoirs of the region will not be used for agriculture and it will only be used for domestic consumption. The weather department has already said that the temperature in these districts would touch 44 degrees Celsius in days to come.

At present the temperatures in these districts are anywhere between 38 to 42 degrees Celsius.

Extreme heatwave conditions have led to the drying up of Palar River which is one of the main sources of water in this region.

The Tamil Nadu agriculture department has advised farmers to cultivate crops like maize, ragi, groundnuts, wheat and pulses like green gram and urad as these crops require less water. These crops, according to the Tamil



Nadu agriculture department officials, will also give higher returns to the farmers.

In Tamil Nadu the crops traditionally being cultivated by farmers are sugar cane, paddy and banana which require large quantities of water.

K Ramaswamy, a sugar cane farmer in Tirupattur, told reporter, "The agriculture department has already asked us to

switch from sugar cane and paddy farming to maize, wheat and ragi cultivation as there is extreme shortage of water in the region. We are however yet to decide on this even though the department has informed us of the benefits of switching over to the new crops."

The farmers have also been advised to switch to drip irrigation techniques for water conservation.

Congress slits throat of Hindu people for Muslims, alleges Giriraj Singh

Patna | Agencies

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"I want to ask Congress leaders what they want. Are they planning to start a civil war in the country? Do they want Other Backward Class (OBC) people to take to the streets and create a ruckus?" Singh said. "When the issue of Karnataka was raised in the country, why did people like Lalu Prasad stay silent on it? Why Tejashwi Yadav is tightlipped on it? Congress should reveal why it has snatched the rights of OBC," he said in connection with reports of the Siddaramaiah government

Voters boycott polling at four places in Assam's Silchar LS seat

Silchar | Agencies

Residents, angry over a variety of reasons, boycotted polling in four areas of Assam's Silchar Lok Sabha constituency on Friday.

Voting was boycotted in the Rangkhari area of Silchar town; along with the South Mohanpur neighbourhood in Sonai; Durga Nagar Tea Garden and the East Dayapur area of Udharband in Cachar district.

Residents of Chittaranjan Road in the Rangkhari area of Silchar alleged that they have been suffering from waterlogging problems for a long time. In protest, they boycotted polling. The residents also threatened to hold a road blockade on May 6 onwards and if the situation persists, they will also boycott the vote in the 2026 Assembly polls. There was an uproar in the town after the news of the

vote boycott spread. Leaders from the ruling party and Cachar district administration officials reached the spot to pacify the protesters but the residents were adamant about their decision.

Asit Baran Nag, an old-age resident of the area, said that they have been suffering from the problem of waterlogging for the past 10-12 years.

"Knee-deep water accumulates in the street in a single rain. Many people are suffering from various diseases while trampling this dirty water. We have repeatedly approached the municipality officials, the Water Resources Department and the local MLA on the issue, but nothing was done. Finally, we had no option left but to boycott the polling," he said.

The area has a total of 120 voters and all of them refrained from exercising their voting rights.

Knowledge is of no value unless you put it into practice.



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BJP-NDA LEADING 2-0 AFTER FIRST TWO PHASES: PM MODI

Priyanka Gandhi chants BJP's 'Ab Ki Baar' slogan with a twist

Sunita Kejriwal's roadshow for LS polls highlights husband's plight

Kolhapur | Agencies

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said that it is clear from the "one-sided voting" in the first and second phases of Lok Sabha elections that a strong BJP-NDA government is going to be formed at the Centre for the third consecutive time.

"I bow to the family members who came to Kolhapur in Maharashtra to offer their blessings," PM Modi said while addressing a rally for Shiv Sena nominees Sanjay Mandlik from Kolhapur and Dhairyashel Mane from Hatkanangale, respectively. "Kolhapur is recognised as the football hub of Maharashtra. Football is very popular among the local youth here. In football terminology, yesterday, after the completion of the second phase, BJP-NDA is leading 2-0," PM Modi said.

"Kolhapurkars (residents of Kolhapur) will score such a goal that the heads of the INDIA bloc will be shaken. INDIA bloc has scored two 'own goals' of anti-national and hate politics. Due to this, it is certain that the Modi government will come to power again," PM Modi claimed. Earlier, PM Modi began his speech by saying



'Jai Bhavani'. Kolhapur houses the temple of Goddess Mahalakshmi -- one of the Shakti Peeths.

PM Modi also criticised the grand old party, saying if the Congress-led government comes to power, it will repeal the CAA.

"INDIA bloc will give five prime ministers in 5 years. Making the government and earning money is its agenda. The people of Maharashtra will give a strong reply to the Congress which boycotted the inauguration of Ram Mandir which was constructed, after 500 years. This is an election with a resolve for a developed India," PM Modi said.

Terming the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena as "naqli" (fake) Shiv Sena, PM Modi claimed that it was marching with the Congress, which is at the forefront of

appeasement. "Uddhav Thackeray aligned with those who believed in Aurangzeb. Congress is gearing up to implement the Karnataka model of reservation to Muslims," PM Modi said, adding that the Congress will change the Constitution to provide reservations to Muslim community based on religion. "Congress and INDIA bloc leaders are confused after the first two phases. Now, they have started speaking the language of polarisation. If the Congress-led coalition government comes, they are thinking of reimposing Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir. They also want to repeal the CAA," PM Modi said.

In Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, the INDIA bloc leaders are speaking in the language of dividing South India.

Latur | Agencies

Giving a twist to the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's slogan of "ab ki baar 400 paar", Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra has said the people have seen through the "theatrics" of the current government and gave a new mantra of her own: "ab ki baar aap ki sarkar, ab ki baar janata ki sarkar" (this time, a government run by you, a government run by the people!)

Attacking the BJP in the crucial state of Maharashtra which, at 48, elects the second-highest number of Lok Sabha MPs, Priyanka said at a rally in Latur on Saturday that the people have decided to vote out this government that has given rise to inflation and unemployment and bring in a dispensation that serves them.

While speaking about the failures of the BJP-led government at the Centre and the Congress' guarantees, Priyanka was interrupted by someone in the audience who chanted an "ab ki baar" slogan in her party's favour.

Seizing on the opportunity to take a dig at the BJP and PM Modi, who have crystallised their target of



the NDA winning 400 Lok Sabha seats into the "ab ki baar 400 paar" (this time, over 400 seats) slogan, Ms Gandhi said in Hindi, "Ab ki baar aap ki sarkar, ab ki baar janata ki sarkar. You have suffered enough. PM Modi and all his ministers have understood that the people's mood is changing, that their drama and theatrics will no longer work and the only thing that will work is the truth."

"Your vote is for roads in your area, schools for your children, water in your homes and for employment. Don't vote in favour of a leader or a party, vote in your own favour, for your family, village, city and country. Leaders get arro-

gant when in power and that's what you are seeing now," she said.

"A Prime Minister is using his office to talk about things like the Congress stealing your 'mangalsutras'. This country has seen so many great Prime Ministers - not just from the Congress - like Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi, Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Manmohan Singh. But PM Modi has reduced the stature of the office so much that instead of asking for votes using his achievements, he is talking about a political party stealing your ornaments using an X-Ray machine," she said.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Sunita Kejriwal on Saturday held a roadshow in the East Delhi Lok Sabha constituency in what was viewed as an exercise aimed also at building a political narrative surrounding her husband Arvind Kejriwal's incarceration, apart from kicking off the campaign for the Parliamentary polls in the national capital. Following Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's imprisonment and the INDIA bloc rallies at Ramlila Maidan and Ranchi's JSCA Stadium, Sunita Kejriwal's roadshow served as a continuation of efforts to garner public sympathy and support amid challenging political circumstances. Her public appearance on the roads of the national capital represented an attempt to evoke empathy and solidarity among the public for her husband's plight, leveraging emotional resonance as a



strategic tool in the political arena. By taking her message directly to the streets of Delhi, Sunita Kejriwal sought to humanise the narrative surrounding her husband's imprisonment, emphasising the personal and familial impact of his incarceration on their lives. The roadshow, following high-profile rallies some time back, indicated a concerted effort to sustain momentum and public attention on the issue, amplifying the visibility of Arvind Kejriwal's situation within the broader political discourse amid the campaign for the Lok Sabha elections.

ED'S CLAIMS ON EVIDENCE DESTRUCTION 'BASELESS'

New Delhi: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has filed a counter affidavit in the Supreme Court in response to the Enforcement Directorate's (ED) submissions, wherein the probe agency had claimed that a total of over 170 mobile phones were changed/destroyed by accused with others during the period of alleged excise policy scam.

Kejriwal, in his affidavit, has refuted the ED's claims of evidence destruction or disappearance concerning mobile phones, saying that there is no evidence to support such allegations against him. The AAP supremo has condemned his arrest as politically motivated, arguing that it unfairly advantages the ruling party during the ongoing elections, compromising the principle of 'free and fair elections.'

Kharge keeps suspense over Congress candidates in Amethi, Raebareli

Guwahati | Agencies

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge kept suspense over party candidates in Amethi and Raebareli while defending Rahul Gandhi's decision to contest Lok Sabha polls from Wayanad in Kerala.

Addressing a Press meet here, Kharge said, "People of Wayanad wanted Rahul Gandhi as their MP. That is why he has chosen to fight from that seat."

He mentioned that the names of the Congress candidates for both Amethi and Raebareli seats will be announced sometime later.

"Wait for a few more days. We will announce our candidates in both the seats," the senior Congress leader said, adding that two BJP stalwarts Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Lal Krishna Advani also changed their Lok Sabha seats many times.

Meanwhile, Kharge also took a jibe at Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma



over his remarks that "if Congress President wants, he can also join the BJP".

Reacting to this, the Congress President said, "I am the leader of the opposition in Rajya Sabha and my opponent is Modi and not the CM of here. So, I will speak to Modi and let him (Assam CM) face our people here."

Kashmir boat capsiz tragedy ANOTHER STUDENT'S BODY RECOVERED AFTER 12 DAYS

Srinagar: Body of another student lost in Jhelum boat tragedy was recovered from the river on Saturday.

Divers and teams deployed by the authorities have been looking for the three persons who went missing after a boat capsized in Jhelum River on April 16 in Gandbal Batwara area of Srinagar district, in which six people were killed while three went missing. The body of one student was recovered on Friday, while another body was recovered on Saturday. Officials said that one person is still missing after this boat tragedy that shook the society as the victims were minor school children.

Businesses in Nagaland's Dimapur begin indefinite shutdown to protest extortion by underground outfits

Dimapur (Nagaland) | Agencies

An indefinite shutdown of trades, shops, and business establishments, called by the Dimapur Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI), began in Nagaland's commercial capital Dimapur on Friday to protest against "unabated extortion" by underground outfits.

Traders bodies of other Nagaland districts also extended support to the Dimapur shutdown.

The DCCI had earlier urged the state government to take immediate steps against the illegal and forcible extortion of money from the business community by underground outfits. It said that the administration and the law enforcement agencies can no longer afford to overlook such illegal activities badly affecting the business



community. "We had to launch the indefinite shutdown of trades as no

action was taken by the government against the extortionists," a DCCI statement said, adding that there was "no end in sight to the unabated multiple taxation, intimidation and summons by the groups".

It urged other organisations, civil societies and the people to extend support to their cause.

DCCI President Akashe K. Zhimomi said that they are hopeful that the state government will come forward to help the business community.

In support of the DCCI agitation, the Kohima Chamber of Commerce and Industries imposed a 12-hour shutdown of all commercial establishments, barring pharmacies and hotels, in the state capital on Friday.

The situation was similar in most of the other districts.

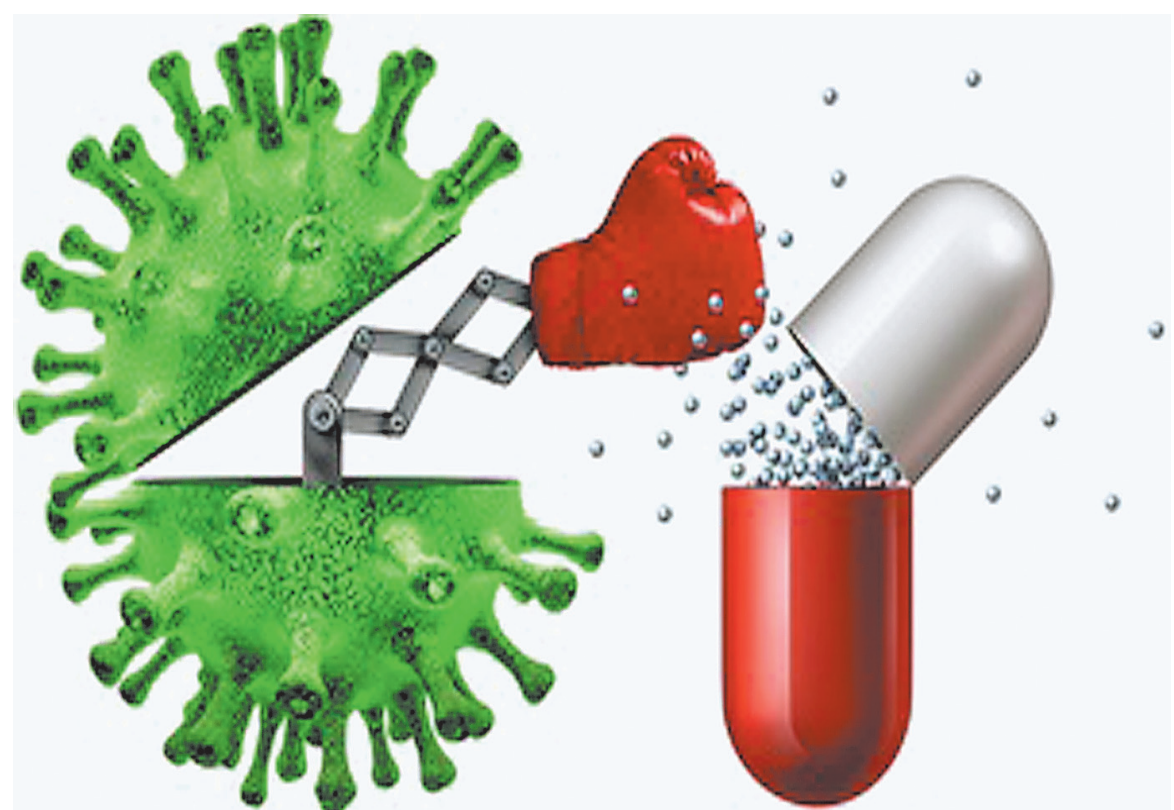
2 CRPF PERSONNEL KILLED IN ATTACK BY ARMED GROUP IN MANIPUR

Imphal: Two Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel, including a Sub Inspector, were killed and two others have been injured after armed groups attacked a camp of security forces in Manipur's Bishnupur district early on Saturday, police said.

A police official said that a suspected Kuki armed group opened fire and threw bombs towards a Meitei village at Narayansena under Moirang police station and one of the bombs exploded inside the outpost of 128-battalion CRPF at Narayansena, injuring four personnel.

Sub Inspector N. Sarkar and Head Constable Arup Saini succumbed to their injuries later, and Inspector Jadav Das and constable Aftab Hussain with splinter wounds were taken to a nearby hospital. The official said that additional security forces have been rushed to the areas and a massive search operation is underway to find out the perpetrators of the attack.

Covid-19 worsened 'silent' spread of antimicrobial resistance: WHO



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Indiscriminate use of antibiotics during the Covid-19 pandemic worldwide may have worsened the "silent" spread of antimicrobial resistance (AMR), according to a report by

the World Health Organisation on Friday.

The WHO report found that about 75 per cent of patients were treated with antibiotics "just in case" they help, even though only 8 per cent of hospitalised patients with Covid required antibiotics

to fight the bacterial co-infections.

AMR is one of the top global public health and was directly responsible for about 1.27 million deaths and contributed to 4.95 million deaths worldwide in 2019.

Antibiotic use soared during the

Covid-19 pandemic. Between 2020 and 2022, it increased by 83 per cent in the Eastern Mediterranean and the African Regions, while the Western Pacific Region accounted for a 33 per cent rise, the global health body said.

"The highest rate of antibiotic use was seen among patients with severe or critical Covid-19, with a global average of 81 per cent. In mild or moderate cases, there was a considerable variation across regions, with the highest use in the African Region (79 per cent)," the WHO report said.

"When a patient requires antibiotics, the benefits often outweigh the risks associated with side effects or antibiotic resistance. However, when they are unnecessary, they offer no benefit while posing risks, and their use contributes to the emergence and spread of antimicrobial resistance," said Dr Silvia Bertagnolio, WHO Unit Head for Surveillance, Evidence, and Laboratory Strengthening Division for AMR.

"These data call for improvements in the rational use of antibiotics to minimise unnecessary negative consequences for patients and populations."

The findings are based on data from 450,000 patients admitted to hospitals for Covid in 65 countries between January 2020 and March 2023, as recorded in the WHO Global Clinical Platform for Covid-19.

The report will be presented in a WHO scientific poster at the upcoming ESCMID Global Congress, in Barcelona, Spain to be held from April 27-30.

MAN DRAGGED, RUN OVER BY SPEEDING CAR IN INDORE



Bhopal: In a shocking incident, a man was dragged and run over by a car on Saturday in Madhya Pradesh's Indore district, the police said. The incident occurred at the Malwa Chowk in the city.

The victim identified as Kishorilal has been admitted at a hospital for treatment.

Kishorilal has received severe injuries, the police added. The incident recorded on a CCTV camera showed that Kishorilal was driving a bike and his wife was seated on the pillion seat.

A car with high speed hit the couple due to which they fell on the road, following which Kishorilal got up and headed towards the car.

However, the driver of the car pushed its accelerator to escape. Kishorilal in an attempt to save himself from another hit from the car, jumped on its bonnet. However, the accused driver did not apply brakes and dragged Kishorilal for a few metres. As a result, Kishorilal lost his balance and fell in front of the car. However, the driver did not stop the car and ran away crushing the victim.

On the basis of the CCTV footage, the Indore police have registered a case against the unidentified (car driver) and a search has been initiated, the police said.



CONGRESS PARTY IS HUNGRY FOR VOTES: CM MOHAN YADAV

Team Absolute | Gwalior-Guna

On Saturday, Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav organized rallies in support of BJP candidate from Gwalior Lok Sabha seat Bharat Singh Kushwaha in Karera Assembly and in support of BJP candidate from Guna Lok Sabha seat and Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia in Badarwas of Kolaras Assembly and Myna of Bamori Assembly. Addressing the public meetings, he said that there was once a terror of bandits in the ravines of Chambal. Bandits used to abduct people in broad daylight, but under the rule of these bandits, Congress left the people abandoned. The then Congress government could not even protect him. After this, the BJP government completely eliminated the dacoits from the ravines of Chambal and now the Congress party also has to do the same. Congress party is hungry for votes. Prime Minister Narendra Modi honored the soldiers and farmers of the country.

Dr. Mohan Yadav said that Congress has committed a great sin by rejecting Shri Ram's invitation, this is the arrogance of Congress. Congress leaders always kept creating obstacles in the construction of Shri Ram Temple. He never worried about Shri Ram Temple. They continued to run their politics in the name of Shri Ram Temple, creating division between Hindus and Muslims, but when the decision of the Supreme Court came, the entire country welcomed the decision of the Supreme Court, but Congress also objected to the decision of the Supreme Court.

The party raised objection. This is the thinking of Congress. Congress never cared about the country, they only cared about saving one family.



Dr. Mohan Yadav said that Congress wants to grab the property of the poor, tribals, backward people and Dalits of our country. He has said in his manifesto that he will conduct an economic survey of the resources in this country. Rahul Gandhi's

guru Sam Pitroda is saying that there is a very good tax in America, we will get it implemented in India. Manmohan Singh, the then Prime Minister of the Congress regime, used to say that the Muslim brothers have the first right over this country.

Cong in strong position in 88 seats in India after 2nd round of LS polls: Kamal Nath

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Congress veteran Kamal Nath on Saturday said the voting pattern in the last two phases of the Lok Sabha elections indicated that the people want change at the Centre.

The former Chief Minister said that the Congress gave a tough fight in the two rounds of polling and was in a strong position in nearly 88 seats across the country.

"The Congress is in a very strong position in 88 seats across the country including 6 seats in Madhya Pradesh," Kamal Nath said.

He added, "It has become clear that the people of the country have rejected the politics of hatred."

Kamal Nath, who campaigned extensively in Chhindwara seat to ensure a second victory for his son Nakul Nath, said the Congress was in a strong position in six out of the 12 seats that have gone to polls in Madhya Pradesh so far.

Earlier, Kamal Nath had asserted that the Congress would win at least 12 out of 29 Lok Sabha seats in Madhya Pradesh.

However, Kamal Nath,



who is the senior most Congress leader in Madhya Pradesh and headed the party from 2018 to 2023, remained confined to Chhindwara.

Despite the fact that polling in Chhindwara was over in the first phase, Kamal Nath is yet to campaign in any other constituency in the state.

After a stunning loss in the Assembly elections held in November last year,

Kamal Nath was replaced with Jitu Patwari as state Congress chief. Congress General Secretary, Priyanka Gandhi, who during the Assembly polls led the campaign from the front along with Kamal Nath, is also yet to visit Madhya Pradesh for campaigning for the Lok Sabha polls.

Priyanka Gandhi will address her first public rally for the Lok Sabha elections in Morena on May 2.

Investigation into blast case at Raza Metal Industries in Jabalpur intensified

Team Absolute | Jabalpur

NDRF and NSG have now taken over the investigation of the blast case at Raza Metal Industries in Jabalpur. The bomb disposal squad of NSG (National Security Guard) from Delhi and the NDRF (National Disaster Response Force) team from Bhopal reached the spot and are taking stock of the entire situation. Local police is also present on the spot.

Efforts are being made to collect evidence related to the explosion. SIT has also been formed for investigation. The investigation team has expressed suspicion that the explosive materials were purchased from ordnance manufacturing. The scope of investigation can reach other security institutions including Ordnance Factory



Khamaria. It is noteworthy that recently there was a massive explosion in the scrap yard of history-sheeter Shamim Kabadi, Raza Metals Industries, located at Khajri-Khiriya Bypass, in which two people were killed. The explosion was so strong that the surrounding area was shaken. Last Friday, Shamim Kabadi's

palatial house was razed to the ground in the presence of top officials. The value of Shamim Kabadi's house was estimated at Rs 3 crore. Shamim Kabadi is still absconding. The police issued a statement saying that the search for him is ongoing. He will be arrested soon.

MAHAKAL TEMPLE'S PHOTO NOT TO BE PRINTED ON THE PRASAD PACKETS?

Team Absolute | Ujjain

A big news related to the world famous Mahakal temple of Ujjain has come to light. There may now be a ban on the photo of the temple being used on the packets of Prasad available in the Mahakal temple. The dispute regarding the temple photo has now reached the High Court.

In fact, on April 19, 2024, a petition was filed in the Indore bench of the High Court by Mahant Sukhdevanand, celibate Guru Shrimahant Yoganand, celibate Shri Shambhu Panch Agni Akhara Indore, Guru Shri Swami Radhakantacharya Ji Maharaj Shri Durgashakti Peeth and Pandit Sharad Kumar Mishra. He had filed a petition stating that printing Mahakal Temple, Omkareshwar Temple and Om on Mahakal Laddoo Prasad packet was wrong, also demanded its removal.

A hearing on this was held by the High Court Indore Bench on 24 April. Advocate Abhisht Mishra said in the court that a large number of devotees come to Shri Mahakaleshwar temple every day. Those who buy packets of Prasad here. After that people eat the Prasad and throw it in the dustbin. This is an insult to Sanatan Dharma. How many photos of God are thrown in the dustbin every day? This hurts the sentiments of the devotees. The sentiments of those who filed the peti-



tion have been hurt.

Advocate Abhisht Mishra told the court that an application has been given to the temple committee twice regarding this matter. Also met the administrative officials of the temple but no solu-

tion has been found. When no attention was paid from their side, a complaint was lodged in the PMO office, after which the PMO office reached the CM helpline. But still no action was taken. After this I was forced to come to court.

Run 'Chalo booth ki ore' campaign at every polling station

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Under the Lok Sabha Elections-2024, the third and fourth phase of voting in the state is going to be held on 7th May 2024 and 13th May 2024 respectively. To motivate more and more people to vote in the voting process, the 'Chalo booth ki ore' campaign should be run at every polling station. Chief Electoral Officer Anupam Rajan has given these instructions to the Collectors and District Election Officers of the respective districts.

Rajan said that for the third phase this campaign should be run on May 1 and for the fourth phase on May 7 and

other events should also be organized to increase the voting percentage. Under the campaign, intensive SVEEP was conducted at each polling station through Booth Awareness Group (BAG) members, Campus Ambassadors, Resident Welfare Committees (RWAs), Electoral Literacy Clubs (ELCs), Non Government Organizations (NGOs), Election Pathshala and local people. Action should be taken to make people aware and motivate them to exercise their franchise by organizing activities. Instructions have also been given to provide high quality photographs and videos of the organized activities.

Campaign will run on 20,456 polling stations of the third phase. In the third phase, voting is to be held in 9 Lok Sabha constituencies of the state. This campaign will be run at 20 thousand 456 polling stations which includes Betul, Morena, Bhind, Gwalior, Guna, Sagar, Vidisha, Bhopal and Rajgarh Lok Sabha constituencies. Campaign at 18,007 polling stations in the fourth phase.

In the fourth phase, this campaign will be run at 18 thousand 7 polling stations in 8 Lok Sabha constituencies of the state. This includes Dewas, Ujjain, Mandasaur, Ratlam, Dhar, Indore, Khargone, Khandwa Lok Sabha constituencies.

POLLING OFFICERS SHOULD ACCEPT THE DOCUMENTS KEPT IN DIGILOCKER: VD SHARMA

Bhopal: State President of

Bharatiya Janata Party and Khajuraho MP Vishnudatt Sharma has written a letter to the Chief Electoral Officer requesting that the Commission should instruct the Collector and Returning Officer of the Lok Sabha constituencies where voting is pending. Also accept the documents kept in DigiLocker for voting, so that the young generation can exercise the fundamental right to vote.

State President Vishnudatt Sharma has said in a letter to the Chief Electoral Officer that many youths came to vote in Khajuraho Lok Sabha constituency during the voting held on April 26. When the officials deployed at the polling stations asked him for the documents, he showed the documents kept in DigiLocker. But at many polling stations, polling officials did not accept the documents kept safe in DigiLocker and asked for hard copies of the documents. Due to this, many youth were deprived of voting and the voting in the entire Lok Sabha constituency decreased by about 5 percent.



Inauguration of Rural Health Center of AIIMS Bhopal at Chiklod Kalan

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Professor (Dr) Ajai Singh, Executive Director of AIIMS Bhopal, on Saturday, April 27, inaugurated a rural health center in Chiklod village of Raisen district with the aim of providing better health facilities. After the inauguration, Professor Singh said that taking health facilities to the villages and providing health facilities to every person is our first goal. He said that AIIMS always strives to ensure that people in rural areas get better health facilities and good treatment. With the opening of this health centre, people of Chiklod and surrounding villages will now be able to get better treatment here.

AIIMS has been providing health services in Chiklod and Gauharganj for the last several years. But in this newly constructed rural health center in Chiklod, various services will be provided by skilled and experienced experts of AIIMS Bhopal for common diseases as well as various health problems. Problems related to heart disease, eye disease, skin disease, gynecological disease, pediatric disease, orthopedic disease, surgery etc. will also be solved. If necessary, the patient will also be referred to AIIMS Bhopal, so that any serious disease can be treated on time. This center will be operated by the Department of Community and Family Medicine of AIIMS.

SIT should be formed under court supervision in electoral bond scam: Prashant Bhushan

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A petition has been filed in the Supreme Court by Common Cause and Center for Public Interest Litigation for the formation of a court-monitored SIT in the electoral bond scam. Analysis of the data indicates possible corruption and illegality. This was said today by the country's well-known lawyer Prashant Bhushan, RTI activist Ajay Dubey and social worker Rachna Dhingra in a joint press conference.

Advocate Prashant Bhushan said that the electoral bond data made public after the historic decision of the Supreme Court indicates that large scale potential transactions through bonds were done by companies and political parties. Data shows that companies that got big projects donated huge sums through bonds to ruling parties close to



getting the projects.

Apart from potential bribery, the data suggests regulatory inaction on companies making donations through electoral bonds and potential money laundering with loss-making shell companies donating money to political parties. Additionally, the data highlights possible extortion cases involving agencies like the Enforcement Directorate (ED), CBI and the IT department.

The electoral bond scam is probably the biggest corruption scam in the coun-

try, which needs a thorough investigation by an independent body. On February 15, 2024, in a landmark judgment, the Supreme Court declared the Electoral Bond Scheme (EBS) unconstitutional and banned the further sale of electoral bonds. The Supreme Court held that electoral bonds violate the voter's right to information under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution.

Analysis of the information reveals that loss-making companies are donating huge amounts of money through electoral bonds, companies are donating many times more than their profits and companies included in the watch list of investigating agencies are donating huge amounts of money through electoral bonds. All this indicates that the electoral bonds scheme was encouraging money laundering and black money transactions through shell companies.

Congress's focus on Chambal, Rahul-Priyanka will campaign

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Voting has taken place on 12 seats in 2 phases of Lok Sabha elections in Madhya Pradesh. There have been only 2 visits by national leaders of Congress in both these phases. Now in the third phase, Congress's focus is on Gwalior-Chambal region. Voting for the third phase is on 7th May. Before this, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi will come to Chambal to campaign.

Rahul Gandhi will be on Bhind tour on 30th April. After this, on May 2, Priyanka Gandhi will hold a road show in Morena. Before the visit of Rahul-Priyanka, Congress has started trying to show unity.

There are 4 Lok Sabha seats in Gwalior-Chambal, Bhind, Morena, Gwalior and Guna. Congress has been winning elections continuously in Guna from 1999 to 2014. In 2019, BJP's KP Yadav defeated Jyotiraditya Scindia. After this Scindia joined BJP in 2020. This time BJP has fielded Scindia by cutting the



ticket of KP Yadav.

Congress has fielded Rao Yadendra Yadav, son of former MLA Rao Deshraj Singh Yadav, against him. In Guna, Congress seems hopeful of getting the support of Yadav voters if KP ticket is cut. In such a situation, MP Congress is exerting its strength here.

PM's language is like Ravana, voting percentage is making them feel that they are going to lose: Jitu Patwari

Team Absolute | Bhopal

State Congress President Jitu Patwari said in Bhind, "PM Modi is speaking every kind of language, from Mangalsutra to hatred, division. The percentage of voting is making them feel that they are going to lose." On BJP's 400-pass slogan, he said, "Ravana also used to say that there is no one in the world who can kill me, but Ram killed him. PM's language is like Ravana, ego is like Ravana, ego always loses."

Patwari, former Union Minister Arun Yadav reached Umri on Saturday for a meeting in support of Congress candidate Phoolingsh Baraiya from Bhind Datia Lok Sabha seat. Earlier in the discussion with the media, Patwari said,



"Those who have joined BJP under allurements, where these people will be after the elections will be known after the elections." He claimed that Congress is coming to power. Is. Congress is winning Bhind-Datia seat. Congress will reject Agniveer scheme, Modi's guarantee of China's goods. In Umri's election meeting, Jitu Patwari said for Bhind Datia's sitting MP and BJP candidate Sandhya Rai, "Once he stood in the Parliament and looked eye to eye with PM Modi and talked to the farmers."



'Not a rebel', asserts Maha Congress Working President Naseem Khan after quitting poll campaign

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Day after he quit the Congress electioneering as Star Campaigner and the Campaign Committee, state Working President M. Arif Naseem Khan said that he is not a rebel and continues to respect the party leadership as always, here on Saturday.

Speaking to the media, Khan said that contrary to speculation, his decision was "not influenced" by any extraneous factors but out of sheer disappointment as the Congress-Maha Vikas Aghadi has not fielded a single Muslim minority candidate for the ongoing Lok Sabha polls in the state.

"I was assured that the city and state units had recommended my name for a Lok Sabha seat, but that has not happened. As the Muslim community's leader in the Congress, I am barged with embarrassing questions for which I have no answers. Hence I have resigned from my responsibilities for the LS polls," said Khan.

He added that he remains with the party and will highlight his grievances before the Congress high command soon in the interest of the minorities



who are solidly standing with the party in all the 48 LS seats.

"However, wherever I go, I am being asked 'whether the Congress wants only Muslim votes, but doesn't need any Muslim LS candidates', and I have nothing to say to them...", a peeved Khan pointed out.

The state Working President's decision late on Friday sent shockwaves

in the Congress-MVA circles, coming a day after the Congress named Mumbai city chief Prof. Varsha Gaikwad as the candidate for Mumbai North Central LS constituency.

"I have no objections against Gaikwad's nomination, she is like my younger sister. I have no complaints vis-a-vis the state and central leader-

ships which are working all out to oust the BJP in the state and country, nor will I do anything to weaken their efforts," said Khan.

Asserting that he was fully behind the Nehru-Gandhi family, plus Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, he claimed that "I am not a rebel", but raising his voice on a genuine issue concerning the minorities supporting the Congress party.

"In the past, there were many Muslim candidates fielded in Maharashtra and other parts of India... This time (2024), the MVA has not nominated a single Muslim in the state though their population here is around 12 per cent (around 1.50 crore) of the total 12 crore people in the state," argued Khan.

In 2014 and 2019, the Congress had nominated a sole candidate, Hidayatulla Barkatulla Patel in Akola, who lost to the Bharatiya Janata Party's Sanjay S. Dhore on both occasions. Khan reiterated that in the past he had always worked sincerely for the party in Maharashtra and other states he was assigned, but in protest against the decision ignoring any Muslim candidates in 2024, he had decided to opt out of the Congress' election campaign.

'Kick Congress, join us': AIMIM offers Mumbai LS ticket to Arif Naseem Khan

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Jumping to fish in troubled waters, the All India Majlis-E-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) on Saturday called upon state Congress Working President M. Arif Naseem Khan to dump his party and throw his lot with the Hyderabad-based outfit, here.

State AIMIM President and MP Syed Imtiaz Jaleel wondered "why Khan has quit only as Star Campaigner and from the Congress Campaign Committee.

"Ideally, you should have resigned from the party that simply wants Muslim votes, but not their leadership. These parties will do nothing for the Dalits and Muslims, but we are ready for you," said Jaleel, making an open offer to Khan.

"Arifbhai, why don't you contest the election on an AIMIM ticket which we are ready to offer you in Mumbai... Even if we have already declared our candidate, I guarantee you that we shall drop him and field you from anywhere," declared Jaleel, hoping to lure Khan.

On his part, Khan guardedly said, "I cannot comment on any offers by any political parties at this juncture... I am very much a part of the Congress."

Jaleel urged Khan to "display guts and grab the AIMIM opportunity, and kick the Congress (laat maro)" to contest the LS elec-



tions from Mumbai.

"This could be a big game-changer for you... Take it and join us. No need to remain in a party that has no respect or dignity for a person of our stature," said Jaleel.

He warned Khan that if he missed this chance, then he would be reduced to "arranging chairs" in the Congress and a pre-decided coterie will sit in power, disregarding the Muslims and Dalits.

The AIMIM has started courting Khan after he rattled the Congress-Maha Vikas Aghadi by quitting his election-related responsibilities after the allies failed to field even a single Muslim candidate in the state for the 2024 LS polls.

4 Injured After Fire Breaks Out In Mumbai Hospital

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Four persons were injured in a fire that broke out in a hospital in Kandivali West in Mumbai on Saturday, a civic official said. The blaze started at 1:50pm in the rear part of WINS Hospital, which is located in 30-storey 'Kesar Ashish' building near Mahavir Nagar, and was doused at 2:05pm, the Fire Brigade official said.

"Four persons sustained injuries in the fire that was confined to electrical wiring, installations and the compressor of the centralised air conditioning mechanism in the facility," he said. Swadhin Mukhi (56)



received 35-40 per cent burn injuries, Rajdeo (35) sustained 15 per cent burn injuries, while Narendra Maurya (45) and Sunil (35)

had superficial burn wounds, he said. "They have been hospitalised and their condition is stable as per doctors," the civic official said.

BJP fields 26/11 counsel Ujjwal Nikam from Mumbai North Central; drops Poonam Mahajan

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The BJP has denied renomination to its two-term sitting MP Poonam Mahajan from the Mumbai North Central Lok Sabha constituency and fielded prominent lawyer Ujjwal Nikam -- who served as the Special Public Prosecutor in several high-profile cases, including the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks -- from the seat.

With Nikam's nomination, the suspense is finally over the BJP's candidature for the high-profile seat, including those of sitting MP Mahajan, Mumbai BJP chief Ashish Shelar, singer Anuradha Paudwal, and actress Madhuri Dixit.

Nikam is pitted against Congress nominee Varsha Gaikwad, whose nomination was announced on Thursday.

Some sources claimed the BJP dropped Mahajan due to an adverse poll survey on her winning prospects. By nominating Nikam, the party has put up a new face from the seat who represents the 'Marathi Manoos'.



Marathi-speaking people consist 38 per cent of the population in the Mumbai North Central region, followed by 22 per cent Muslims, and 18-20 per cent people from North India, among others.

Both Nikam and Gaikwad will make efforts to woo the Marathi voters.

Incidentally, former Chief Minister and Shiv Sena (UBT) President Uddhav Thackeray, who resides in Bandra East, has already announced that he will vote for Gaikwad.

North Central Mumbai comprises Vile Parle (BJP), Bandra West (BJP), Bandra East (Congress), Kalina (Shiv Sena-UBT), Chandivali (Shiv Sena), and Kurla (SC seat, Shiv Sena) Assembly segments.

In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, Mahajan polled 4,86,672 votes (53.97 per cent) to defeat Congress nominee Priya Dutt, who got 3,56,667 votes (39.55 per cent).

In 2014, Mahajan, who entered the poll fray for the first time, had got 4,78,535 votes (56.61 per cent) against Congress' Priya Dutt, who managed 2,91,764 votes (34.52 per cent).

Man quits "Toxic" job, dances to dhol beats in front of ex boss

Team Absolute | Pune

A man recently said goodbye to his allegedly toxic workplace, and it was no ordinary farewell. Aniket, a sales associate, summoned musicians to his office and danced to the beats of dhol while his boss looked on. This not-so-usual departure from the company was posted online by popular content creator Anish Bhagat.

"I think a lot of you are going to relate to this. Toxic work culture is so prominent these days. Lack of respect and entitlement is quite common," the creator claimed.

Bhagat claimed that Aniket left his job of three years due to a "very toxic" work environment. In a video shared on Instagram, Aniket said that his raise was in "peanuts" and there was no respect from his boss. He said he felt stuck because he was "from a middle-class family."



To make Aniket's exit memorable, Bhagat, along with Aniket's friends, organised a surprise party outside his office on his last day. They brought in dhols and waited for his manager to come out. As soon as he did, Aniket

shook his hand, and said, "Sorry sir, bye-bye". Next, he was dancing to the beats of the dhol. His manager, visibly annoyed, tried to stop the filming.

Bhagat narrated that the manager "got super pissed" and "started push-

ing people," adding, "Now I know why (Aniket) quit."

Later, the group visited a temple, and in the evening, Bhagat and Aniket's friends threw him a surprise party, presenting him with a cake and posters that read, "aatma nirbhar bharat" (self-reliant India). Bhagat revealed that Aniket would now pursue his passion of becoming a fitness trainer and gifted him some gym shoes. "Aniket is ready to begin with his next step. I hope this story inspires people. If you're looking for a trainer, you can reach out to @aniketrandhir_1718." Mr Bhagat wrote.

In a 2023 report by Harappa Insights, toxic bosses and toxic workplace environments were cited as major factors in employees quitting their jobs. The report found that 58 per cent of employees quit their jobs because of toxic bosses, while 54 per cent left due to toxic workplace environments.

Bus erupts in flames on Mumbai-Pune Expressway, 36 escape unhurt

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Thirty-six passengers aboard a private luxury bus narrowly escaped death when the vehicle burst into flames on the Mumbai-Pune Expressway in Maharashtra early Saturday morning.

The incident took place around 7:30 am near Adhe village in Maval as the bus was en route from Mumbai to Pune. According to sources, the fire erupted after a tyre burst and a subsequent short circuit. Quick thinking by the bus driver ensured safe evacuation of all passengers, averting what could have been a tragic incident.

The Indian Reserve Battalion (IRB) patrolling team, along with fire depart-



ment officials and Vadgaon Maval traffic police, swiftly mobilised to the scene and successfully extinguished the flames. Videos of the incident show the bus completely engulfed in fire while thick plumes of smoke billowed into the sky. Fire department personnel managed to put out the blaze, however, the bus was completely burnt

due to intensity of the fire. Traffic on the expressway was momentarily halted to allow for the firefighting efforts and to ensure the safety of commuters in the vicinity. Authorities are currently investigating the precise cause of the fire, while the passengers are being assisted with onward travel arrangements.

CYCLE RALLY ORGANISED IN MUMBAI ON MAY 1 TO INCREASE VOTER TURNOUT

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Mumbai suburban district election administration will be hosting a grand bicycle rally on May 1 to urge people to enthusiastically cast their ballots in Lok Sabha Elections 2024. Voting in Mumbai and other constituencies will be held on May 20. The rally, organised on Maharashtra Day, will commence at 6.30 am near the District Collector's office near Chetana College.

Deputy Commissioner Prasad Khairnar of the Mumbai Suburban Social Welfare Department announced that participants must register online to join the rally organised to increase the participation of voters in Lok Sabha Elections 2024. A spokesperson from the collector's office said, "Voting for Lok Sabha Elections 2024 in four constituencies in Mumbai suburban district limits will be held on May 20.

As a part of a campaign to increase voter turnout, we have been conducting several awareness programs alongside the 'Sweep' program and thus have also organised the cycle rally."



The official added that the co-hosts of the event are Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation, Mumbai and Mulund Riders and Mumbai Suburban District's Deputy District Election Officer. "The rally will be flagged off in the presence of District Collector and District Election Officer Rajendra Kshirsagar and other dignitaries. Among the dignitaries participating in the rally are Mumbai City Additional District Collector Farog Mukadam, BMC Deputy Commissioner Vishwas Mote, Prasad Khairnar, Assistant Commissioner, Social Welfare, Mumbai East, and other officials," another official from the collector's office said.

Fisherman's body, died in Pakistan jail, to be brought home

Team Absolute | Palghar

The body of a 45-year-old fisherman from a coastal village in Maharashtra's Palghar district, who passed away in a Karachi jail in Pakistan, is expected to be repatriated to his hometown in the coming days, as confirmed by an activist.

The deceased, Vinod Laxman Koal of Goratpada village in Dahanu taluka, was apprehended by Pakistani police in October 2022 for allegedly trespassing in their territorial waters. He was later incarcerated in a Karachi jail, where he suffered a stroke on March 8 this year and died on March 17, according to Jatinder Desai, a representative of a social movement dedicated to assisting Indian prisoners in Pakistan.

According to the report, Koal's family was informed of his death by other Indian captives in the same jail and they instantly sought aid from the local MLA who pushed the issue with the government thus facilitating the repatriation of



Koal's mortal remains.

Koal's family was told of his death by other Indian captives in the same jail. They instantly sought aid from the local MLA, who pushed the issue with the government, facilitating the repatriation

of Koal's remains.

A relative of the deceased fisherman expressed their anguish, saying that the family had been eagerly expecting the repatriation of Koal's remains. Desai further stated that efforts are

being made to transport Koal's dead remains from Pakistan to Dahanu while keeping to all essential norms. The route is planned to involve stops in Amritsar, Ahmedabad, Pune, and Mumbai before arriving at the final destination.

Desai also relayed positive news that a group of 35 fishermen, including five from Dahanu, who are currently held in Pakistani jails, will be released soon and reunited with their families in Maharashtra and Gujarat.

According to another agency report, in 2022, the Pakistani authorities arrested 16 Indian fishermen of which seven were from Palghar's Dahanu. Communist Party of India (Marxist) MLA from Palghar, Vinod Nikole sought intervention of the Maharashtra government for their release. Pakistani authorities had allegedly arrested the fishermen for being "well inside Pakistani waters" and thereby violating "Pakistani Law and UN Convention of Law at Sea". Desai further stated that efforts are



'I definitely had an extreme life': Nicole Kidman

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Nicole Kidman, who is known for 'Dogville', 'Eyes Wide Shut', 'Days of Thunder', 'The Invasion', among others, has said that she "craves" the extremes.

The 56-year-old actress has worked across a variety of genres and says she loves pushing herself to try new things, reports 'Female First UK'.

She told The Hollywood Reporter: "I made 'Dogville' after 'Moulin Rouge'. I went from lavish extremes. I'd come from sequins and trapezes, top hats, hundreds of people singing and dancing. And suddenly I was in Sweden for 'Dogville', completely in the dark. But then I went to Spain and made 'The Others' with Alejandro Amenabar, who didn't speak English. I even worked here in Nashville on 'Stoker' with director Park Chan-wook, who also doesn't speak English. I crave those extremes, those emotions. I've definitely had an extreme life."

She revealed that she is always surprised by the reactions her movies elicit from fans.

She further mentioned, quoted by 'Female First UK', "There are always surprises. I have people come up to me about all different films, and the things that reach the most number of people aren't necessarily the ones that get the most passionate response from people. Obviously there have been massive hits, and you go, 'Well, that worked!'"

"But it's the ones that find their way to people. I am amazed that people even know who I am. My kids say to me, 'Gosh, you can't go anywhere that you're not known.' That's always what surprises me," she added.



BRITNEY SPEARS, HER FATHER JAMIE SETTLE LEGAL DISPUTE OVER CONSERVATORSHIP

Los Angeles | Agencies

Pop icon Britney Spears and her father, Jamie Spears, will no longer be pursuing the legal battle over her conservatorship. The two have settled the dispute over legal fees after the first filing in December 2021. More than two years after the conservatorship that had given the singer's father control of her life ended, the pair settled the dispute over the legal fees pertaining to the conservatorship battle, reports 'People' magazine.

Attorneys for both parties told 'People' that the pair settled for an undisclosed sum in Los Angeles Superior Court.

"Although the conservatorship was terminated in November 2021, her wish for freedom is now truly complete," Spears' attorney, Mathew S. Rosengart, said in a statement.

Rosengart further mentioned, "As she desired, her freedom now includes that she will no longer need to attend or be involved with court or entangled with legal proceedings in this matter. Britney Spears won when the court suspended her father, and Britney Spears won when her fundamental rights and civil liberties were restored."

As a result of this settlement, the two have avoided going to trial over the alleged financial misconduct during her conservatorship. The trial was set to start in May, reports 'The New York Times'.

The dispute followed the 13-year conservatorship that began in 2008. Jamie was removed as the conservator of her estate in September 2021, and the entire conservatorship was terminated two months later.

Shakira hasn't lost hope in love despite her split from Gerard Pique

Los Angeles | Agencies

Pop singer Shakira, who split from soccer star Gerard Pique in acrimonious circumstances in 2022, has expressed her continued belief in love. Shakira, speaking to Marie Claire UK, stated: "I cannot say that I don't believe in love because I see the example of my parents after 50 years together; how they look into each other's eyes and hold hands and can't live apart from each other. I've witnessed love, I just haven't been that lucky myself."

She referred to monogamy as a utopia, adding, "Monogamy is a utopia. But I've been compensated in other ways, with the love of my fans, my children, and true friends. Oscar Wilde said that friendship is the purest form of love and I think that's true. It lasts longer - at least in my experience."

Shakira said: "My relationship (lasted) 12 years, but my friends will be there for a lifetime. When hardship came, that's when I learned how truly important friendship was."

The singer revealed that she had always sought a partner similar to her father, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

"Deep down, I always thought having a husband was the most important thing in my life. I was in search of that man, like my dad, who I'd have kids with and then make plans to be with forever - like my parents, who are still so in love. I made many sacrifices for this. I was loyal. But sometimes things don't go as planned. You move on."



Despite their legal battle Jenna Dewan, Channing Tatum 'don't hate each other'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actors and former couple Jenna Dewan and Channing Tatum have maintained an amicable co-parenting relationship despite their legal battle over the profits from the 'Magic Mike' franchise. The former couple split in 2018, but they have still not agreed on the terms of their divorce, and they are currently battling over the 'Magic Mike' movie franchise, which Dewan previously said in court documents was "developed and co-financed by Channing during marriage with community effort and marital funds," as reported by femalefirst.co.uk.

However, despite the legal issues, a source told people.com: "They have been co-parenting, and although the remaining money issues are frustrating, they don't hate each other."

Tatum, and Dewan, 43, who share daughter Everly, 10, are set for a trial in December.

Another insider said: "Both would like to get beyond these final issues. Each is in love with someone else and wants to move ahead."



Ryan Reynolds, Hugh Jackman pay tribute to 'Deadpool & Wolverine' art director

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood stars Ryan Reynolds and Hugh Jackman, who will be soon in the upcoming cinematic extravaganza 'Deadpool & Wolverine', have honoured the art director Ray Chan following his death at the age of 56.

The co-stars shared their "devastated" reactions to the loss of Chan, whom they worked with on 'Deadpool & Wolverine' in their social media posts, reports 'People' magazine.

Marvel Studios confirmed Chan's death in a statement on April 24.

The late filmmaker was credited for helping "imagine and design the Marvel Cinematic Universe" after joining the studio on 'Thor: Dark World'.

As per 'Variety', Chan was reported to have died on Tuesday in Wales where he resided.

"RIP Ray Chan," Reynolds, 47, began in a tribute statement on X, following the news, "Words are pretty inadequate in comparison to this loss."

"There's an incomparable reservoir of skill, tender grit and talent no longer with us. As production designer, he was as important a creative force on 'Deadpool & Wolverine' as the writers, director and stars," he continued.

"I don't pretend to know every chapter of Ray's heart, but I know it's unusual to encounter someone with that level of artistry, who simultaneously moved through the world with such an indelible humanity."

'People' further says that Reynolds praised Chan for his work in building the Marvel universe, adding that he was "just awesome to be around" and he "will be missed by everyone".

The actor concluded his tribute by recalling his final moments with Chan during reshoots for 'Deadpool & Wolverine' earlier in April.

Jackman, 55, paid tribute to Chan on his Instagram Stories, writing, "There

was not a day shooting when I didn't marvel at what he created. He created magic. There was this look in his eyes. The look of a man who loved his craft. I've had the pleasure of working with some of the best in the business. Ray was at the very top."

"We did a bit more shooting two weeks ago, for that I will be forever grateful," he continued.

"It not only gave us the opportunity to fine tune our film but it gave us the bonus of time with Ray. Time for him to finish the job he loves so much. He told a great story. And man -- I am so honoured to have played a role."



ROBERT DOWNEY JR. WANTS TO RETURN AS IRON MAN

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Robert Downey Jr. has expressed interest in reprising his role as Iron Man.

However, there is one problem, the character died at the end of 'Avengers: Endgame'.

Speaking with GamesRadar at the Sands: International Film Festival, the film's directors, Joe and Anthony Russo, seemed baffled at the notion of a Downey return.

"I don't know how they would do it. I don't know what the road to that would be," Anthony Russo told GamesRadar, reports deadline.com.

"I mean, we closed that book, so it would be up to them to figure out how to reopen it," Joe Russo added.

Marvel head Kevin Feige refuted the claim that it was mulling over bringing Iron Man back.

He had earlier said Marvel Studios could not "magically undo" Tony Stark's death in 'Avengers: Endgame'.

"We are going to keep that moment and not touch that moment again," Feige told Vanity Fair.

"We all worked very hard for many years to get to that, and we would never want to magically undo it in any way."



ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



JoJo Fletcher



IPL 2024: Delhi Capitals beat Mumbai Indians by 10 runs

Team Absolute | New Delhi
Fast-bowlers Rasikh Salam and Mukesh Kumar secured a 10-run victory over Mumbai Indians to get their fifth win of IPL 2024 at the Arun Jaitley Stadium here on Saturday. In what was another run-fest at the venue, opener Jake Fraser-McGurk continued his good showing by slamming a sensational 84, including getting fifty in just 15 balls, while Tristan Stubbs smashed an unbeaten 48 to carry DC to a mammoth 257/4.



Impact player Suryakumar Yadav looked dangerous when he brought out his wristy flick, glance, cut, one-handed loft and slice to make a 13-ball 26, before lobbing a catch to cover off a slower off-cutter from Khaleel as MI ended the Power-play at 65/3, marking it the third time they lost three wickets in the six-over phase of IPL 2024.

Hardik kept MI in the hunt by hitting Kuldeep Yadav for three fours and a six to collect 19 runs off the ninth over before Tilak lofted and reverse-swept Axar Patel for six and four respectively in the tenth over. Hardik pulled and sliced Mukesh for six and four respectively, before miscuing a slog to mid-wicket off a slower ball from impact player Rasikh.

Two balls later, Rasikh took out Nehal Wadhwa, who nicked behind to Pant. Tilak was at his proac-

tive best in taking 21 runs off Kuldeep in the 15th over - pulling and lofting for a brace of sixes, before heaving and reverse-sweeping for two fours. Tilak reached his fifty in 25 balls by heaving Lizaad Williams over fine leg for four.

With 64 runs needed from the last three overs, David dispatched Mukesh for two sixes over long-on fence and a pulled four. Pant came up to the stumps and it worked as Mukesh had David trapped plumb lbw. But Tilak ended the 23-run over by glancing a Mukesh full toss over backward square leg for six.

The equation came down to 41 runs off the last 12 balls, and Rasikh struck by having Mohammad Nabi hole out to long-on in a 16-run 19th over. Tilak's run-out on the first ball of the final over and Chawla holing out to long-on the last ball ensured DC got their second straight win in Delhi.

Brief scores:
Delhi Capitals 257/4 in 20 overs (Jake-Fraser McGurk 84, Tristan Stubbs 48 not out; Mohammad Nabi 1-20, Jasprit Bumrah 1-35) beat Mumbai Indians 247/9 in 20 overs (Tilak Varma 63, Hardik Pandya 46; Rasikh Salam 3-34, Mukesh Kumar 3-59) by 10 runs.

Thomas Uber Cup: Indian women start campaign with dominant win over Canada

Chengdu (China) | Agencies

A young women's team illuminated the courts as Asian champions India kicked off their Uber Cup campaign with a resounding 4-1 victory over Canada in the opening Group A tie of the Thomas & Uber Cup badminton competitions here on Saturday. In the absence of top singles and doubles players, India was led by the dynamic duo of Assam's Ashmita Chaliha and Isharani Baruha, along with Manipur's Priya Konjengbam. The Indian squad showcased its mettle despite the lack of international experience as the 17-year-old Anmol Kharb and Shruti Mishra (23) also showed their class on Saturday. The young contingent led by Ashmita had the responsibility of giving India a winning start and the left-handed shuttler showed her mettle and they did just that. The world no 53 Ashmita upset Canada's Michelle Li, ranked 28 places above her, 26-24, 24-22 in a 42-minute clash that saw the Indian save a total of six game points across the two games. The 24-year-old Ashmita trailed 1-6, but the left-handed player soon closed the gap to 5-7, with a forehand winner and net kill. Ashmita soon ramped up the pace and claimed a 9-8 lead after playing a beautiful reverse slice drop and crosscourt smash.



Yet, Li managed to nose ahead 11-10 at the mid-game break. However, in a topsy-turvy battle, Ashmita fought back from a slow start to clinch a nail-biting victory 26-24, 24-22, displaying her prowess with every smash and drop shot.

The doubles combination of Priya Konjengbam and Shruti Mishra then doubled India's lead with a 21-12, 21-10 win over Catherine Choi and Jeslyn Chow. With precision and finesse, they secured crucial points, beating Canadians with the score of 21-11, 21-10, propelling India to a 2-0 lead in the tie. Priya and Shruti - India's national champions - went up 11-3 in the opening game. Since Choi had to play the match without her regular doubles partner Josephine Wu, Priya and Shruti exploited the conditions. Priya-Shruti quickly broke away to a 19-7 lead. The spotlight then shifted to 20-year-old Isharani Baruha, who made

her mark on the big stage with a commanding performance in the second singles match. With confidence and determination, she outplayed her opponent, Wen Yu Zhang, sealing victory with a scoreline of 21-13, 21-12 in just 29 minutes to give India an unassailable lead.

Canada finally scored their first point when Jackie Dent and Crystal Lai defeated Simran Singh and Ritika Thaker 21-19, 21-15 in the second doubles rubber. India's star in the successful Asian Team Championship campaign, Anmol Kharb then wrapped up the tie with a 21-15, 21-11 win over Eliana Zhang. The 17-year-old Anmol rose to the occasion, showcasing her talent with a dominant straight-game victory in the final rubber, securing India's triumph with a 4-1 win.

The men's team will kick off their Thomas Cup title defence against Thailand in Group C later in the day.

Squash: Velavan Senthilkumar in semis of of PSA Challenger Tour event



Team Absolute | New Delhi
National champion Velavan Senthilkumar stormed into the semifinals of the Batch Open squash, a USD 12,000 PSA Challenger Tour event, in Paris with a straight-games victory over Jakub Solnický of the Czech Republic.

Top seed Senthilkumar, ranked 58 in the world, defeated the fifth-seeded Czech 11-5, 11-6, 11-2 in 37 minutes in the quarterfinals on Friday to set up a last-four clash against Hong Kong's Andes Ling. Elsewhere, fourth seed Akanksha Salunkhe lost to fifth seed Alina Bushma of Ukraine 7-11, 7-11, 8-11 in 29 minutes in the quarterfinals of the Expression St James Open, a USD 20,000 PSA Challenger Tour event in Springfield, US.

Archery WC: Indian men's compound and mixed team win gold



Shanghai | Agencies

Dynamic Duo Indian compound mixed team of Abhishek Verma & Jyothi Surekha Vennam defeated Robin & Lisell Jaatma of Estonia 158-157 to win third gold medal for India at the Shanghai World Cup, here on Saturday. Earlier in the day, Indian

men's compound archery team of Prathamesh Fuge, Priyansh & Abhishek Verma bagged the second gold defeating The Netherlands 238-231.

The men's compound team missed the world record created by team USA in the 2011 Turin World Cup by just 1 point. Vennam along with

Priyansh will contest the compound individual women's and men's semi-final later today.

Previously, World Champion Indian women's compound Archery team of Parneet Kaur, Aditi Swami & Jyothi Surekha Vennam won the first gold for India after defeating Italy in the summit clash with a score 236-225.

Archery WC: Jyothi Vennam wins individual title, becomes second Indian to win treble in a WC Stage



Shanghai | Agencies

Jyothi Surekha Vennam won the gold medal in the women's individual compound category after beating Andrea Becerra 146(9*)-146(9) of Mexico to win her third gold at World Archery on Saturday. She became only the second Indian archer after Deepika Kumari (S3, 2021) to win three gold

medals at a single World Cup Stage. Previously she had won gold medals in compound mixed and women's compound team.

She also became the third compound female archer after Sara Lopez (S2, 2016) & Sarah Sonnichsen (S2, 2017) to win treble (three medals in a single season). Jyothi also booked her ticket to the Archery World Cup Final in Tlaxcala

La Liga: Guler goal gives much-changed Real Madrid win over Real Sociedad

Madrid | Agencies

A first half goal from Arda Guler saw Real Madrid win 1-0 away to Real Sociedad to move another step closer to the La Liga title on Friday night.

Arda scored from around 10 meters from goal as a much-changed Madrid side opened up a 14-point lead over FC Barcelona, who play at home to Valencia on Monday, reported Xinhua.

With his side due to play Bayern Munich in Germany in the Champions League semi-final on Tuesday, Carlo Ancelotti produced a revolution in his starting 11, with Dani Carvajal, Nacho and Aurelien Tchouameni virtually the only regular players certain to start next week to kick off in San Sebastian.

Perhaps because of that, Real Sociedad had the best of the opening exchanges, with Ander Barrenetxea firing wide, before Take Kubo drew a save from Kepa, who was getting a rare start.

Benat Turrientes fired just over the bar from just outside the Real Madrid area, before the league leaders opened the scoring just before the half hour, when Carvajal sent over a low cross for Arda Guler to side-foot home.

Kubo had the ball in the Madrid net four minutes



later, but after initially giving the goal, the referee ruled it out after the VAR advised him of a prior foul from Barrenetxea on Tchouameni.

The second half started with another chance for the home side as Kepa got down low to his left to palm away another effort from Turrientes.

Real Sociedad continued to press for an equalizing goal, but were unable to create clear chances despite their pressure, although

Ancelotti reacted in the 67th minute replacing Guler and Dani Ceballos with Fede Valverde and Vinicius Jr.

The home side had the ball in the net again with 18 minutes left to play, but Mikel Oyarzabal's 72nd effort was ruled out for offside.

Oyarzabal then saw a lob go just wide, before Sheraldo Becker blazed just over the bar as Real Sociedad continued to pin their rivals back, but they were unable to turn their pressure into a goal.

Archery WC: Indian women's compound team bags gold in Shanghai



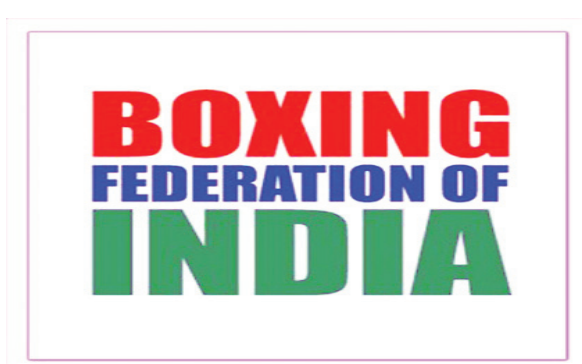
Shanghai | Agencies

World Champion Indian women's compound Archery team of Parneet Kaur, Aditi Swami & Jyothi Surekha Vennam won the Shanghai World Cup after defeating Italy in the summit clash with a score 236-225, here on Saturday. The Indian women's team, who are the

reigning world champions and seeded No. 1 here, set up a title clash with Italy, defeating Turkey and Estonia to confirm their status as the leading side in the category.

The trio of reigning U-18 and senior champion Aditi, Asian Games gold-medallist Jyothi and Parneet Kaur dropped just 10 points through the two matches to confirm their superiority.

Boxing: Aryan, Jitesh give India a winning start in ASBC Asian U-22



Astana (Kazakhstan) | Agencies

Youth boxers Aryan (51kg) and Jitesh (54kg) started India's challenge on a winning note on the opening day of the ASBC Asian U22 & Youth Boxing Championships 2024 here on Saturday. Both Aryan and Jitesh put up dominating performances throughout their bouts to clinch identical 5-0 victories against Jo Hyeon Woo of South Korea and Chen Yu Chen of Chinese Taipei, respectively.

Other Indian pugilists Jatin (57 kg), Sagar Jakhar (60 kg) and Yashwardhan Singh (63.5 kg) will be in action in the youth category later on Saturday. However, Jadumani Singh M. (51 kg), Akash Gorkha (60 kg), Ajay Kumar (63.5 kg) and Ankush (71 kg) will begin India's campaign in the U-22 category on Sunday.

The Asian Games bronze medallist Preeti (54 kg), who has already qualified for the Paris Olympics, will kickstart her challenge on Tuesday against Uzbekistan's Uktamova Nigina in the women's U-22 category.

The Boxing Federation of India has fielded a 50-member Indian squad for the ongoing prestigious tournament, which has been witnessing high-voltage action with the presence of 390-plus boxers from more than 24 countries, fighting for the medals across 25 weight categories. The finals for the youth and U-22 categories will be played on May 6 and 7 respectively.



I genuinely don't understand Bollywood : Parineeti Chopra

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood actress Parineeti Chopra, who has been receiving a lot of positive response to her work in the recently released streaming series 'Amar Singh Chamkila', opened up on financial challenges during the initial phase of her career.

The actress said that she was asked by her advisors to hire a fitness expert and a nutritionist and pay them Rs 4 lakh a month to lose weight. This was something that she could not afford especially when she was paid Rs 5 lakh for her first film.

Talking to Raj Shamani on his podcast, Parineeti said that she doesn't come from a very rich background.

She said, "I'm actually a very simple, middle-class girl. I genuinely don't understand Bollywood. I genuinely don't know how people in Mumbai operate. I don't have these high-flying friends. I don't have a trainer, stylist, everything already ready for me. And people who were already from here and already knew this world judged me a lot."

The actress then shared how she went up to a co-actor who "grew up in Mumbai" and in the world of films.

When she told him about financial challenges owing to high expenditure for a fitness expert and the nutritionist, her co-actor told her if she can't afford them, she is not in the right profession.

She said, "I was like, 'I don't have Rs 4 lakh a month to pay. I don't make that money.' This is my third film." And I remember going up to a co-actor of mine who has definitely grown up in Bombay, in this world, and of course, comes from a place of privilege.' He's like, 'Why aren't you hiring these people?' And I said, 'Listen, but I really can't afford it.' I was paid Rs 5 lakh for my first film. He was like, 'If you can't afford it, then you shouldn't be in this profession.'"



With Prabhas, Kamal Haasan, Big B lead roles 'Kalki 2898 AD' to release in June

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Upcoming sci-fi film 'Kalki 2898 AD', with Prabhas, Kamal Haasan and Amitabh Bachchan essaying the lead roles, will be released in theatres on June 27 this summer.

The film also stars Deepika Padukone and Disha Patani.

The makers of the film made the announcement about the release of the film on Saturday precisely two months before the scheduled date.

Not long ago, the makers gave a glimpse to Big B's character of Ashwatthama in the film. The Bollywood icon was seen covered in bandages in the clip. The clip impressed the fans with the stunning de-aging transformation of the legendary actor.

The character reveal video, a true pan-India teaser, also showcased a blend of languages, including Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada and English.



AASIF SHEIKH TALKS ABOUT HIS BONDS WITH SALMAN



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor Aasif Sheikh, who essays the role of Vibhuti Narayan Mishra in the hit television show 'Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai', has said that Bollywood superstar Salman Khan has always shown immense respect and affection to him. He also said that the two may not frequently chat but whenever they reconnect it feels like time hasn't passed since their last interaction.

Aasif has worked with Salman in seven films, including 'Karan Arjun' and their recent collaboration, 'Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan'.

Talking about his equation with Salman, he said, "I have had the privilege of being part of numerous films and sharing screen space with Salman Khan, but among them all, 'Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan', holds a special place in my heart. It was also the final or last project of the very talented Satish Kaushik ji, and all my scenes were alongside him. The moments we shared on set are memories I'll always hold dear. This film marks my seventh collaboration with Salman Khan. Salman has consistently shown me immense respect and affection."

He further mentioned, "Despite occasional long gaps between our meetings, it feels like no time has passed whenever we reconnect. I deeply admire Salman, particularly his unwavering support during difficult times, which paved the way for me to secure significant roles. Our bond is both special and enduring. I eagerly anticipate collaborating with him and others on more projects. My sole aim in life right now is to continue entertaining viewers."

Dressing well isn't about self-importance, but self respect :

Suniel Shetty

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor Suniel Shetty imparted some insightful words on fashion and style, emphasising that dressing well is a reflection of "self-respect" rather than "self-importance". The 62-year-old actor looked dapper in an ivory suit. He completed his look with sunglasses, showcasing his handsome salt-and-pepper look.

"Dressing well isn't self-importance. It's self-respect," Suniel captioned the reel, which he shared on Instagram.

The actor was dressed to impress for the reality show 'Dance Deewane', where he serves as a co-judge alongside actress Madhuri Dixit Nene.

On the film front, Suniel is set to appear in 'Welcome to the Jungle', featuring an ensemble cast including Akshay Kumar, Sanjay Dutt, Disha Patani, Anil Kapoor, Raveena Tandon, and Jacqueliene Fernandez.

The first instalment, released in 2007, starred Akshay Kumar, Katrina Kaif, Anil Kapoor, Nana Patekar, and Paresh Rawal in lead roles.

The second instalment, titled 'Welcome Back', was released in 2015 and featured John Abraham and Shruti Haasan.



Nobody can declare if someone's film or song will be a certain hit : Diljit Dosanjh

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Popular actor-musician Diljit Dosanjh emphasised that the success of a film or song cannot be guaranteed solely based on the presence of a specific individual.

Asked Diljit, who has given blockbusters including his recent release 'Chamkila' and chartbuster hit songs, if he feels that it is his golden period since everything he does turns into gold.

Diljit responded "Nobody can declare that if someone's film or a song will be a sure shot hit. It is God's grace. No actor or director can say, 'I am there, that is why the film is a hit'. There is nothing like that, it is all because of God."

Reliability plays a crucial role in attracting audiences to Diljit's work.

"I think like this too. Sometimes people say that the audience would like it, but I feel that I am the audience myself. If I like it, then the audience will like it too. I feel like I am the audience too. I always see films and songs through the perspective of the audience."

Diljit's mindset aligns closely with his audience.

"I feel whatever questions they have, I have the same in my mind too. I have never felt disconnected... that the audience is someone else and I am someone else."



Pet parents Raveena, John Abraham, Priyamani, others share wisdom on a 'pawrfect' summer

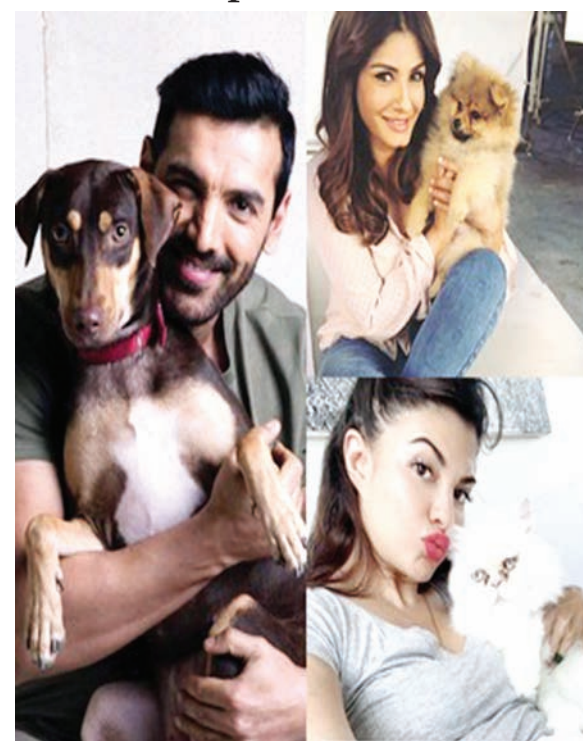
Team Absolute | New Delhi

The summer season can be unforgiving, not just to humans but also to birds and animals. Bollywood celebrities and pet parents, including John Abraham, Raveena Tandon, Priyamani, and Jacqueliene Fernandez, among many others, have shared their advice on how to help furry friends during soaring temperatures. Raveena, a dog mom to Lucifer, her cute Pomeranian, urged people to place cool and clean water for birds, dogs, and cats during the summer season.

The actress told reporter: "Birds and community dogs and cats suffer during the summer. I ask everyone to please place mud pots filled with cool, clean water outside your home or in places where there are community or working animals. Inexpensive mud pots will help keep the water cool and won't tip over."

John, an ardent animal lover with two furry babies named Sia and Bailey, shared that rising temperatures can cause dehydration and heatstroke. He places water bowls to help.

"Amid rising temperatures, it's crucial to help animals avoid heatstroke and dehydration. By taking simple, compassionate actions, we can help our animal friends beat the heat. That's why my friends and I place bowls of water in gardens and on windowsills, balconies, and ter-



aces," John said.

The actor stressed: "It's important to change the water regularly."

Actress Priyamani, known for her compassion towards animals and adopting puppies, advised on how to "cool down" cats and dogs.

"Unlike humans, dogs can sweat only through their foot-pads, and they cool themselves by panting. High temperatures can cause them heat stress and physical injuries -- including brain damage -- and can even result in death," Priyamani said.

The actress added: "For

companion cats, create a well-ventilated space, with windows lined with protective netting or mesh, where they can go to cool down in your house."

Jacqueliene, a cat mom to four felines -- Yoda, Loki, Miumiu, and Xyza, strongly believes in "adopt and not shop," which she has been promoting on social media.

The actress told that she ensures her "animal companions stay hydrated."

"It's also a good idea to feed fruit to birds and animals used for work, as it is a nice, sweet treat that helps them rehydrate," she added.

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Lopa Mudra