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HM Amit Shah's doctored video

DELHI POLICE SUMMONS THREE TELANGANA CONGRESS LEADERS

Hyderabad | Agencies

Delhi Police on Monday summoned Telangana Congress social media in-charge, state coordinator and spokesperson in connection with a doctored video of Union Home Minister Amit Shah over reservation.

A team of Delhi Police reached Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) headquarters Gandhi Bhavan, and served notice on party's social media in-charge Manne Satish, state coordinator Naveen Pettem and spokesperson Asma Tasleem. The notice has been reportedly served under section 91/160 of the Criminal Procedure Code.

Earlier, sources said that Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has also been summoned to appear before Delhi Police IFSO's Cyber Crime Unit on May 1 in connec-



tion with the doctored video of HM Shah, where his statement indicating a commitment to abolishing reservation quotas for Muslims in the state, was changed to make it seem that he was advocating scrapping of all reservations. Sources told reporter that CM Reddy has been asked to appear with his mobile phone

allegedly used for posting the fake video on X. Meanwhile, Delhi Police has asked Satish to appear before the department's Special Cell on May 1 for investigation into a case registered on April 28.

The Congress leaders have been asked to provide information about the video tweet-

ed/re-tweeted by them on their X handle.

They have also been told to bring mobile phone/ laptop/ tablet or any other electronic device used to create/upload/tweet the video.

They have also been directed to also bring electronic devices used to record the video before uploading and tweeting the same.

Delhi Police registered a case under IPC sections 153, 153A, 465, 469, 171G read with 66-C IT Act. The video of a speech delivered by Home Minister Amit Shah at Siddipet in Telangana's Medak district at a BJP election rally on April 25 was allegedly doctored and circulated on social media.

MAN ARRESTED IN ASSAM

Guwahati: Assam Police have arrested one person in connection with a doctored video involving Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Monday. The arrested person has been identified as Reetom Singh.

"Assam Police have arrested an individual named Reetom Singh in connection with the fake video involving Honourable Home Minister Sri Amit Shah," the Assam CM tweeted.

A senior police officer confirmed that the arrest was made on Monday.

NOT AFRAID OF NOTICES

Bengaluru/Hyderabad: Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, reacting to the notices served on him and other state Congress leaders by Delhi Police over an alleged doctored video of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, on Monday asserted that they are not afraid of such notices. He alleged that after using the CBI, the ED and the IT, Prime Minister Narendra Modi was now using the Delhi Police to win the elections. "We are not the ones to be afraid. We are the ones who respond," he said while addressing an election rally of the Congress at Sedam in Karnataka. "Modi Ji and Amit Shah Ji were so far using ED, IT and CBI to win the elections. I have just received information that Delhi Police have reached the Telangana Congress party office. Somebody posted (video) on social media and they reached the Gandhi Bhavan with the notice for the Telangana Congress President and Chief Minister. This means that after using ED, IT and CBI, Modi Ji is using Delhi Police to win elections," he said. Revanth Reddy cautioned the people of Karnataka that if they voted for the BJP, they would lose SC, ST, and minority reservations.

CONG CANDIDATE FOR INDORE LS SEAT WITHDRAWS NOMINATION, JOINS BJP



Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Congress party today lost its second Lok Sabha candidate within days, just before voting in the seat.

Akshay Bam, the Congress candidate in Madhya Pradesh's Indore, dropped out of the race and joined the BJP today. The shocker emerged in a post by senior Madhya Pradesh BJP leader Kailash Vijayvargiya, who flouted the candidate in a photo taken in a car. "Congress Lok Sabha candidate from Indore Akshay Kanti Bam is welcome in the BJP under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, party national president JP Nadda, Chief Minister Mohan Yadav and state president VD Sharma," Vijayvargiya said in the post.

Today was the last day of nominations for Indore, which votes in the fourth phase of elections on May 13.

"Three candidates, including Congress' Bam, withdrew their nominations today as per the due procedure. The process has also been video-graphed," District Collector Ashish Singh told reporters.

Congress had pitted poll debutant Bam, 45, against the incumbent BJP MP Shankar Lalwani in Indore, which has the largest electorate in Madhya Pradesh. The Congress chose him at a time a

string of party workers, including three former MLAs, have switched to the BJP in Madhya Pradesh.

The opposition party lost a candidate in Gujarat's Surat last week following a series of dramatic events that included the disqualification of the Congress nominee and the withdrawal of eight candidates - including the BSP pick and independents - one after the other. On April 22, the BJP's Mukesh Dalal was declared unopposed winner for the Surat Lok Sabha constituency. As the Congress suffered its second setback, the party's local leaders in Indore expressed their disappointment and questioned the leadership's decision to choose Mr Bam as candidate.

"I had warned about Akshay Bam to our party leaders. I had warned that he would withdraw his nomination. It pains us that party workers like us have been serving the Congress for years yet the ticket was given to people like him," said local Congress leader Devendra Singh Yadav to news channel. During the scrutiny of nominations, the BJP's legal cell had raised an objection on Bam's nomination form for not mentioning the addition of section 307 of IPC or an attempt to murder case in a 17-year-old land dispute.

BJP DELEGATION COMPLAINS TO EC

New Delhi: A delegation led by Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Monday approached the Election Commission of India (ECI) and filed a complaint against the Congress demanding stringent action over a doctored video involving Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

The BJP delegation in its complaint alleged that the Congress circulated a doctored video of Amit Shah, aiming to disrupt the election process. The BJP also urged the ECI to take steps to ensure free and fair elections in West Bengal, raising concerns over Trinamool Congress' acts. Vaishnaw told reporters that the Congress intends to derail the entire election process by using deep fakes, and morphed and fake videos.

Rahul Gandhi bats for Dalit rights in Gujarat's Patan

Patan | Agencies

Insisting that the ongoing Lok Sabha election is a critical battle between two contrasting ideologies, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday criticised the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) for posing a "direct threat" to India's democracy and constitution.

"This is a fight between two thought processes. On one side, the BJP and RSS want to finish our constitution while on the other, we in the Congress and the INDIA bloc are safeguarding it," said Gandhi while addressing a rally in Patan Lok Sabha constituency in Gujarat.

He also criticised the government's policies like the Agnipath Scheme and increased privatisation, which he said aimed at dismantling the reservation system. "You will not find an Adivasi or a Dalit among the top anchors and editors in the country. Nor will you see unemployed youth or farmers on television,



which instead showcases the opulent weddings of the wealthy and Bollywood actors," said Gandhi.

'Why did you not file an application for bail?': SC poser to CM Arvind Kejriwal

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Monday questioned incarcerated Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, who has filed a petition challenging his arrest and subsequent custody by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in the excise policy case, as to why he has not moved a bail application before the trial court.

"Till date, you did not file an application for bail?" queried a bench headed by Justice Sanjiv Khanna.

In response, senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, appearing for Kejriwal, said: "We have not filed a bail application because the arrest is 'illegal' and the width of section 19 (of Prevention of Money Laundering Act) is much much wider when the arrest is per se illegal." He added that the ED is



required to demonstrate the "necessity to arrest" on the "materials available" with a "reason to believe" that the accused has been guilty of an offence under the anti-money laundering law. Interjecting, Additional Solicitor General S.V. Raju, representing the ED, said that Kejriwal did not object to the subsequent custody. "If initial arrest is illegal, therefore, I (Kejriwal) did not object to subsequent custody," Singhvi responded. Further, he argued that

documents, including CBI's FIR and ED's ECIR, did not connect Kejriwal remotely with the alleged scam. "There are three supplementary charge sheets (by CBI) where I am not named," Singhvi said, adding that mere "non-

cooperation" of a witness or denial of interim relief by the Delhi High Court would not be a ground for arrest. Rising for the day, the apex court said: "We will take it up tomorrow."

REFUSED TO HALT CALCUTTA HC ORDER AXING 25,753 SCHOOL JOBS

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday refused to pass any interim direction staying the Calcutta High Court's order cancelling 25,753 appointments in teaching and non-teaching posts made by the West Bengal School Service Commission (WBSSC) in 2016. However, a bench, headed by CJI D.Y. Chandrachud, said that no precipitative action will be taken by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) against the state government officials who were involved in approving the creation of super-numeric posts till the next date of listing. The Bench, also comprising Justices J.B. Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, said that it will take up the matter for further hearing next Monday. It also asked the petitioner side to demonstrate if there was any secondary material available to segregate valid appointments of all the 25,753 persons empanelled in 2016 for various categories of jobs at secondary and higher secondary schools in the state.

Day not far when you will travel in bullet train, PM Modi tells Puneites

Pune | Agencies

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday assured Puneites that it is his guarantee to the citizens of Maharashtra that the day is not far when they will travel in a bullet train.

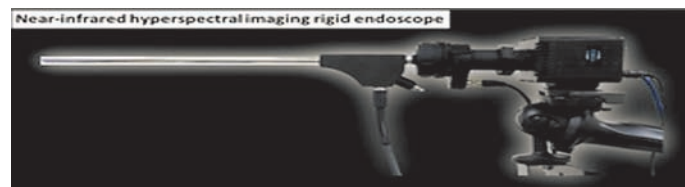
"This is Modi's guarantee to Maharashtra's brothers and sisters, that the day is not far away when you all will be traveling in a bullet train. During Manmohan Singh's 'remote' government, the amount they spent on infrastructure, we have spent that much on infrastructure in one year," PM Modi said in Pune. He was addressing a campaign rally for MahaYuti nominees Muralidhar Mohol (Pune), Sunetra Pawar (Baramati), Shivajirao Adhalrao (Shirur) and Srirang Barne (Maval). "Congress ruled the country for 60 years. But, during



the Congress rule, more than half of the people of the country did not have basic facilities. We have only had the opportunity to serve you for 10 years but in this period we have not only fulfilled the basic needs but also worked hard to fulfill the aspirations of every class. We are moving forward with a vision to fulfil both needs and aspirations," he added. Listing various infrastructure projects, PM Modi said that they all reflect the image of a modern India.

World's 1st rigid endoscope system to help deep tissue imaging during surgery

- The system is capable of hyperspectral imaging (HSI) -- a technique that captures and processes information across a given electromagnetic spectrum -- from visible to over-thousand-nanometre wavelengths.
- While various types of HSI devices have been developed, for OTN wavelengths, ordinary visible cameras lose sensitivity and only a few commercially available lenses exist that can correct chromatic aberration.
- The team also identified several future research directions for improving this method, including enhancing image quality and recall in the visible region and refining the design of the rigid endoscope to correct chromatic aberrations over a wide area.



Team Absolute | New Delhi

A team of scientists from Japan has developed the world's first rigid endoscope system that can see the invisible and help boost outcomes of advanced medical procedures. "At the core of the innovative system lies a supercontinuum (SC) light source and an acoustic-opto tunable filter (AOTF) that can emit specific wavelengths," according to the team from Tokyo University of Science (TUS) and RIKEN in Japan. "An SC light source can output intense coherent white light, whereas an AOTF can extract light containing a specific wavelength,"

said Professor Hiroshi Takemura from TUS. "This combination offers easy light transmission to the light guide and the ability to electrically switch between a broad range of wavelengths within a millisecond," he added. Their findings were published in the journal Optics Express.

"With these further advancements, in the coming years, the proposed HSI technology is expected to facilitate new applications in industrial inspection and quality control, working as a 'superhuman vision' tool that unlocks new ways of perceiving and understanding the world around us," the researchers said.

JJP's former Haryana chief, other leaders join Congress



Chandigarh | Agencies

Jannayak Janta Party's (JJP) former Haryana President Nishan Singh on Monday joined the Congress along with hundreds of office-bearers and senior leaders of the former party.

Rahul Makkar, a former JJP candidate and grandson of late Amirchand Makkar, a three-time MLA from Hansi, joined the Congress, along with JJP's former state Vice President Surendra Laiga and former state General Secretary Ramesh Godara. Nishan Singh had won

from the Tohana assembly segment in 2000 on the Indian National Lok Dal's (INLD) ticket but lost three consecutive polls in 2005, 2009 and 2014. As JJP chief, he enjoyed the trust of top party leadership. Along with them, hundreds of sarpanches, former sarpanches, councillors, former committee members and retired employees also joined the Congress and expressed faith in the leadership of Leader of Opposition Bhupinder Hooda and state party President Chaudhary Udaibhan.



INDIA BLOC AN ALLIANCE OF CORRUPT & DYNASTIC PARTIES, SAYS JP NADDA

Kothagudem (Telangana) | Agencies

BJP national president JP Nadra has termed the INDIA bloc as an alliance of corrupt and family-owned parties.

He said leaders of parties which are part of the INDIA bloc are either in jail or on bail.

JP Nadra said this while addressing an election rally here on Monday in support of BJP candidates for Khammam and Mahabubabad Lok Sabha constituencies. He pointed out that Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, P. Chidambaram, Karti Chidambaram, and Lalu Yadav (who is also a member of the INDIA bloc) are all on bail. He also mentioned that BRS leader K. Kavitha, AAP convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Manish Sisodia are in jail.

JP Nadra also slammed Congress for allegedly planning to impose a tax to take away the hard-earned assets of people.

The BJP leader also alleged that the Congress government in Telangana took away the reservation of OBCs, SCs and STs to provide religion-based reservation to Muslims.



The BJP president said Dr B.R. Ambedkar had clearly stated that the reservation cannot be given on the basis of religion but only on the basis of caste and backwardness.

Alleging that the previous BRS government in Telangana was indulging in many scams, he said

the new Congress government in the state is also not looking honest.

He said that BJP is the only party which has a vision, thinking and intent to take the country ahead.

"We want to form a stable and strong government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra

Modi. Strong government means taking decisions and implementing them like construction of Ram temple at Ayodhya and repealing Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

JP Nadra alleged that whenever the Congress was in power, the country saw weak and helpless governments whose prime minister invited terrorists for talks and the governments which indulged in scams every day. JP Nadra said that under PM Modi's leadership, the Indian economy was growing rapidly. Countries like the US, Europe, Australia, Japan and China are all facing economic slowdown and India is the only country whose economy is growing, he said.

Asserting that India under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership became the fifth-largest economy, he said that in two years, it will become the third-largest economy. JP Nadra said that 25 crore people were lifted out of poverty.

He also said that it was PM Modi-led government which cared about the poor, villages, tribals, Dalits, oppressed sections, youth and farmers. The BJP chief said that in five years, people will get cooking gas through pipelines.

Central agencies started to target SAD after it quit NDA alliance: Sukhbir Badal

Bathinda (Punjab) | Agencies

Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) President Sukhbir Badal on Monday alleged that central agencies started a campaign against his party immediately after it quit the BJP-led NDA government and even planted their own men to accuse the party of committing sacrilege.

Addressing a gathering at Sardulgarh town in favour of his wife and party candidate from the Bathinda parliamentary seat, Harsimrat Kaur Badal, he said those who had attacked the SAD virulently for the acts of sacrilege eight years back, including self-styled panthic leader Baljit Singh Daduwal, had now joined the BJP.

"This proves there was a sinister agenda to defame the SAD and weaken it," he said.

Noting that the SAD was known for selfless service, he said: "Leaders like Parkash Singh Badal have been jailed for as long as 16 years in far-off places like Tamil Nadu's Coimbatore and Panchmari. Badal Sahab even did not avail bail to attend his daughter's wedding."

He said the situation had



changed now and people now wanted that they should be taken out of jail after one year alone.

Sukhbir Badal also took on the BJP for taking over Sikh religious bodies. He said the BJP government in Maharashtra had tinkered with the Sri Hazoor Sahib Gurdwara managing board and nominated 12 members to the board to take it into its control.

He said members of the Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee had been co-opted into the BJP even as the SGPC (Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee) had been broken to create a separate gurdwara committee for Haryana. He said Sikh bodies under the

control of the BJP like the Delhi Committee led by Manjinder Singh Sirsa were now even denying 'langar' to those who were holding 'dharnas' against Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The SAD President also asserted that the Central government had virtually taken over the AAP government in Punjab, alleging that Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann was already functioning as a "B team of the BJP" and was ready to become the BJP's Chief Minister in Punjab in case the party formed the government at the Centre.

In an emotional pitch to the electorate, the SAD President also asked the audience not to vote for the Congress.

Quick action by Telangana Cyber Security Bureau saves citizen's Rs 1 crore

Hyderabad | Agencies

Swift action by the Telangana Cyber Security Bureau on a complaint by a citizen about unauthorised transactions from his bank account resulted in saving the entire amount of above Rs 1 crore.

The victim lodged a complaint with the cyber crime helpline at the TS Cyber Security Bureau (TSCSB) within 12 minutes after receiving three messages about the transfer of money from his Axis Bank current account.

According to TSCSB Director Shikha Goel, Harsh, a resident of Nacharam in Hyderabad, on Saturday morning, received three messages about the transfer of money from his bank account. The unauthorised transfers were to the tune of Rs1,00,10,005. He immediately alerted the Axis Bank and also complained at the Cyber Crime helpline number 1930. The helpline immediately uploaded the transaction details on the CFCFRMS portal, alerted Axis Bank and HDFC Bank, to which the amount was fraudulently transferred by the suspect, and ensured that the amount was put on hold, she said.

"This is an example of swift action by the victim in reporting the crime on 1930 within the golden hours and by the 1930 helpline



staff in alerting the banks concerned and intercepting the fraudulent money from going into the hands of suspects, resulting in saving the entire amount of above Rs.1 crore," Goel said.

She met the complainant and complimented him for reporting within 12 minutes to 1930. She also appreciated the staff of 1930 who acted promptly and made sure that the amount was put on hold within 25 minutes of reporting. She appealed to people to report any cyber fraud to helpline number 1930 immediately.

Congress complains to EC against BJP, cites poll code 'violations' in 20 cases across states

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Congress on Monday claimed to have submitted at least 20 complaints against the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and its star campaigners with the Election Commission of India (ECI) demanding necessary action for 'blatant violations' of the Model Code of Conduct.

Congress General Secretary Jairam Ramesh took to X and informed that a party delegation comprising Rajiv Shukla, Gurdeep Singh Sappal, Supriya Shrinete, and others went to the Election Commission to lodge complaints against the BJP related to poll code violations in different states.

In its slew of complaints, the Congress has accused the BJP of repeated religious pitches during poll campaigns, 'vicious' and 'malicious' statements by the top BJP leaders in Rajasthan, fake news circulation against its poll manifesto, besides



alleging EVM tampering and booth capturing in Assam.

In its representation against Yogi Adityanath, the Congress complaint

alleges that the UP Chief Minister made false statements about its manifesto.

It said that the Chief Minister false-

ly claimed that Congress wanted to impose Sharia law, which was aimed at invoking religious sentiments and influencing the elections.

The party also accused Union Minister and top BJP leader Anurag Thakur of making misleading and provocative statements with the intent of giving a false impression that the Congress manifesto was tilted towards a certain community.

Ahead of the third phase of polling on May 7, the election heat seems to be shifting to the poll panel, as earlier in the day, the BJP also lodged a complaint against the grand old party.

A BJP delegation led by Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and national spokesperson Anil Baluni lodged a complaint with the EC against the Congress, accusing the party of circulating a fake and morphed video of Home Minister Amit Shah with the purpose of derailing the poll process.

Sex scandal: BJP-JD(S) distance themselves from Deve Gowda's grandson, NDA's Hassan candidate Prajwal Revanna

Bengaluru | Agencies

The BJP and JD(S) have distanced themselves from the alleged sex scandal involving NDA candidate for Hassan, Prajwal Revanna, who is former Prime Minister, HD Deve Gowda's grandson.

Senior BJP leader and Leader of Opposition, R Ashoka stated in Bengaluru on Monday that "no one is above the law and all are equal before the law."

"Former CM and JD(S) President HD Kumaraswamy has spoken about it. The government has formed a Special Investigation Team (SIT). Let the government take action," Ashoka stated.

The SIT was formed in the backdrop of a letter written by the Karnataka Women's Commission chief to the state government.

It is alleged that Prajwal Revanna was



involved in harassing and sexually abusing thousands of women and he recorded the acts. According to sources, Prajwal Revanna has gone to Germany after the formation of the SIT.

Reacting to the controversy, BJP state President, BY Vijayendra stated in

Bagalkot, "Let the truth come out in the SIT probe." Former National General Secretary of the BJP, CT Ravi stated in Hubballi that the law was the same for all citizens. "It can't be said that this case will impact the results of the election but it can't be ruled out that it won't have an impact at all."

"We have not given Prajwal Revanna a ticket to contest the Lok Sabha elections, the JD(S) fielded him from Hassan Lok Sabha seat as the NDA candidate," Ravi stated. Former Chief Minister and JD(S) state President, HD Kumaraswamy stated that those "who had committed crime will get suitable punishment. Let the probe reveal the truth. There is no question of pardoning the guilty."

Meanwhile, JD(S) MLA Sharana Gowda Kandakur wrote a letter to HD Deve Gowda on Monday demanding the suspension of his grandson from the party.

FRAUDSTERS USING TELANGANA CHIEF SECRETARY'S DP TO MAKE FAKE CALLS

Hyderabad: Cyber Crime police in Telangana have registered a case against unknown persons for using the profile picture of Chief Secretary Santhi Kumari to make fake calls.

Fraudsters are allegedly demanding money in the name of the top bureaucrat. A complaint was lodged with Cyber Crime Police Station, Telangana State Cyber Security Bureau (TSCSB). The police registered a case and took up further investigation. According to an official statement, some miscreants by using the DP of Chief Secretary Santhi Kumari with mobile number +977-984-4013103 are making fake calls.

SBI Life Insurance registers New Business Premium of Rs. 38,238 crores for the year ended on 31st March, 2024.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

SBI Life Insurance, one of the leading life insurers in the country registered a New Business Premium of Rs. 38,238 crores for the year ended on 31st March, 2024 vis-a-vis Rs.29,589 crores for the year ended March 31, 2023. Single premium has increased by 44% over previous year.

Establishing a clear focus on protection, SBI Life's protection new business premium stood at Rs. 4,165 crores for the year ended March 31, 2024 marking a growth of 15%. Protection Individual new business premium stands at Rs.951 crores for the year ended March 31, 2024. Individual New Business Premium stands at Rs. 23,832 crores with 14% growth over previous year.

SBI Life's profit after tax stands at Rs. 1,894 crores for the year ended March 31, 2024.

The company's solvency ratio continues to remain robust at 1.96 as on March 31, 2024 as against the regulatory requirement of 1.50.



SBI Life's AUM also continued to grow at 27% to Rs. 3,88,923 crores as on March 31, 2024 from Rs. 3,07,339 crores as on March 31, 2023, with the debt-equity mix of 64:36. Over 95% of the debt investments are in AAA and Sovereign instruments. The company has a diversified distribution network of 3,16,038 trained insurance professionals and wide presence with 1,040 offices across the country, comprising of strong bancassurance channel, agency channel and others comprising of corporate agents, brokers, Point of sale persons (POS), insurance marketing firms, web aggregators and direct business.

Girl dies while dancing at sister's wedding in UP

Team Absolute | Meerut (UP)

An 18-year-old girl simply collapsed and died while dancing at her sister's wedding ceremony in Meerut.

The girl has been identified as Rimsha who was dancing at her sister's 'haldi ceremony' (a pre-wedding event) on Friday evening.

A video of the tragic incident, which is now being widely circulated on social media platforms, shows Rimsha trying to match dance steps with her family members to loud music.

Seconds later, she is seen touching her chest and trying to hold the hand of the boy dancing next to her, before collapsing.

Rimsha was taken to a hospital, where doctors declared her brought dead. It is suspected that she suffered a heart attack. Following the tragedy, the wedding was performed on Sunday without any music and in the presence of only close family members.



New IIT-K study sheds light on air pollution sources, impact on health

Kanpur (UP) | Agencies

A new research from IIT-Kanpur has identified major sources of air pollution along with the impact on health in North India.

The study by Professor Sachchida Nand Tripathi of the Department of Civil Engineering and Department of Sustainable Energy Engineering, IIT-Kanpur, published in the journal 'Nature Communications' reveals that local emissions, particularly from incomplete combustion of various fuels, play a significant role in air pollution and associated health risks in the region.

While previous studies have highlighted the severity of air pollution in India, identifying the exact sources and their relative contributions has remained a challenge.

Prof Tripathi's team, in collaboration with national and international researchers, analysed air quality data from five locations across the Indo-Gangetic plain, including sites in and around Delhi-NCR, to gain a comprehensive understanding of the issue, according to an official release.



Prof Tripathi said, "The crucial insights from our study into the sources of air pollution and their impact on health in northern India will help us to develop more effective strategies to improve air quality and protect public health. The study has led to a greater understanding of the dominant role played by local emissions and inefficient combustion." Inside Delhi ammonium chloride and organic aerosols from traffic, residential heating, and industrial activities are key contributors. Outside Delhi emissions from agricultural burning and secondary

organic aerosols formed from these emissions are more prevalent.

Contributing to the problem is the incomplete burning of fuels like wood, dung, coal, and petrol. This creates harmful particles that can damage our lungs and cause various health problems.

Regardless of location, the study identified organic aerosols from incomplete combustion of biomass and fossil fuels as the major factor driving air pollution's oxidative potential - a key indicator of its ability to cause adverse health effects.

Prof. Tripathi explained further, "The oxidative potential refers to the free radicals that are generated when pollutants interact with certain substances in the environment or our bodies. "These free radicals can cause damage by reacting with cells, proteins, and DNA. Oxidative potential measures how likely air pollution is to cause this reaction, which in turn can lead to health problems like respiratory diseases, heart disease, and accelerated ageing. "There is an urgent need to address this issue and reduce emissions through targeted interventions to improve combustion efficiency in various sectors."



Five PMs in five years is INDIA bloc's new formula: PM Modi's swipe at Oppn alliance

Team Absolute | Solapur (Maharashtra)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday attacked the INDIA bloc and the Shiv Sena faction led by former Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray saying that "they have created a new formula whereby there will be five PMs in five years." "Naqli (fake) Shiv Sena says there are many options in the INDIA bloc for the PM's post. They have not been able to decide who will be the INDIA bloc leader or their face. Will you hand over this country to them when this is their state of affairs? They seem to have planned to make one PM every year thereby five PMs in five years," he claimed. PM Modi was speaking at the campaign rally for the BJP nominee Ram Satpute from the Solapur seat where he is pitted against the Congress candidate Praniti Shinde. PM Modi claimed, "One of them will become the PM for the first year, he will plunder the treasury as much as he wants and the next year another leader will become the PM."



"Then for the next three years three PMs will rule and plunder the country. Will our country work like this?" "Friends, you have known this Modi for many years but do you know who is the leader of the INDIA bloc? No one knows their leader as there is a tussle going on there over the name of the leader. "The name of their front has not been decided,

we do not know who their face is. Despite this, can these people run such a big country? Will you hand over this country to these people?" he asked. He added, "No one will hand over our country to them even by mistake." "These people have done whatever they can to capture power and have divided the country," he claimed. PM Modi tore into the INDIA bloc members saying, "They do not want to run the country, they don't care about the future of the people as they just want to make money." "You know me. I do not want money, wealth and fame but I only want your blessings. I hope you choose the guarantee for development for the next five years," he said. "On the other side, there are people, who before 2014 plunged the country into the abyss of corruption, terrorism and misrule. Despite its tainted history, the Congress is trying to regain power. However, it is not possible as INDIA bloc has miserably failed in two phases of polling," he added.

Sharad Pawar says people's mood in the country has changed vis-a-vis BJP



Team Absolute | Pune/Ahmednagar/Satara

Nationalist Congress Party (SP) President Sharad Pawar said on Monday that winds of change are blowing all over the country and even the people's perceptions vis-a-vis the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is different now owing to its lapses and failures. Addressing election rallies for the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) candidates in the Shirur and Ahmednagar Lok Sabha constituencies, Pawar said he has interacted with thousands of people in the past few weeks while campaigning all over Maharashtra and sensed their desire for change. "The masses, farmers, workers, youth, and women are upset by the overall working style of the people who got the opportunity to rule the country for 10 years, but have let them down," said Pawar. Adding to the crises in different sectors are the clouds looming over the Constitution authored by B.R. Ambedkar which has come under threat from the BJP, he claimed. "However, the Prime Minister (Narendra Modi) doesn't believe so... In all his speeches, he keeps criticising Jawaharlal Nehru and other ex-PMs, and also... The PM cannot get sleep at night without targeting us (the opposition). He must uphold the dignity of his post through work," Pawar

said. However, the present regime doesn't believe in the parliamentary democratic system or the opposition, and how a harmonious relationship between the ruling party and the opposition is required to resolve national problems, the senior leader said. "When I was the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, then PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee and his senior ministers would often sit with me and discuss issues, they sought our opinions and if they felt we were right, they assured to implement them," recalled Pawar. "But the present-day rulers want to change the Constitution, and their leaders are saying this publicly... They have not bothered to hold local elections here for so many years, they do not want the people to have the right to vote for their decisions and are trying to take away the authority vested by the Constitution," he warned. Addressing a largely rural and farming audience in the rallies along with other MVA leaders of the Congress and Shiv Sena (UBT), Pawar said. "The people in whose hands Maharashtra is today have no interest in the issues concerning the masses." "This election is for the country, and if we all don't play a united role, Maharashtra will face a crisis situation. The masses are clamouring for change and there is a need to achieve it through the current elections in a democratic manner," Pawar said.

Mahadev betting app's lengthening shadow over Bollywood



Akshay Acharya | Mumbai

Actor Sahil Khan, who was arrested in Jagdalpur, Chhattisgarh, this past Saturday, in connection with the Mahadev betting app controversy, became the 17th Bollywood celebrity/influencer to come under the scanner of central and state agencies for their alleged involvement with the now-discredited app. The 'Style' and 'Excuse Me' actor's detention came days after Tamannaah Bhatia, who is awaiting the release of her Tamil film 'Aranmanai 4', was summoned by the cyber cell of the Maharashtra Police for her alleged involvement in the promotion of a subsidiary app. These two back-to-back developments set off conversations among Netizens on whether Bollywood

celebrities/influencers were getting sucked into a dark world in the same way as some of their predecessors were linked with the underworld, especially the fugitive gangster Dawood Ibrahim. Last October, Ranbir Kapoor and Shraddha Kapoor, who shared the screen in the 2023 hit film 'Tu Jhoothi Main Makkaar', were called in for questioning by the Enforcement Directorate for receiving payments to promote the betting app. They were asked to provide explain the source of the payments. Likewise, comedy superstar Kapil Sharma's name also popped up during the investigations. He was called in by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) after he attended the wedding of Saurabh Chandrakar, the Mahadev betting app founder, in Ras Al Khaimah, United Arab Emirates. The wedding, which reportedly saw Rs 200 crore being lavished, according to media reports, had first brought Chandrakar and his operations under the ED's scanner. Kapil Sharma's presence there brought back memories of Bollywood stars attending events organised by the members of Dawood Ibrahim's gang in the UAE. Actresses Hina Khan and Huma Qureshi, too, were summoned by the central agency to understand their involvement in the app, including the money that they received for promoting it. The ED suspects that these payments could be the proceeds of illegal betting. Besides quizzing these Bollywood stars, the Maharashtra Police Cyber Cell has already recorded statements of rapper Badshah and the managers of actors Sanjay Dutt and Jacqueline Fernandez in the snowballing case.

Waaree Energies seals 400 MW solar module supply deal with GIPCL



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Waaree Energies Limited announced on Monday that it has secured a 400 MW module supply order from Gujarat Industries Power Company Limited (GIPCL). The contract entails the comprehensive supply of solar PV modules incorporating advanced bifacial technology for the 2,375 MW RE Park near Village Khavda, Great Rann of Kutch, Gujarat, the company said. "Waaree Energies Limited will undertake the manufacturing, testing, packing, and transportation of these solar PV modules while adhering to the prescribed quality standards and with an aim to execute the project in a timely manner. Each module features ALMM category specifications and a capacity ranging from 540 Wp to 570 Wp," it added. Waaree Energies CMD Hitesh Chimanlal Doshi said, "This initiative underscores our commitment to promote domestic manufacturing, generate employment, and support the nation's ambitious renewable energy targets."

Salman Khan firing case: MCOCA invoked; 3 accused sent to police custody till May 8

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Two days after the police invoked the stringent Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA), the three main accused in the firing case outside actor Salman Khan's home were on Monday sent to police custody till May 8, while one was given judicial custody for health reasons. Vicky Gupta (24), Sagal Pal (21), and Anuj Thapan (32) have been sent to police custody till May 8 as the investigators want to unravel the entire conspiracy behind the pre-dawn shooting outside Khan's Bandra West home on April 14. The fourth accused, Sonu Chander Bishnoi (37), was remanded to judicial custody on health grounds. Last weekend, after the arrests of Sonu Bishnoi and Thapan, plus two others named as wanted accused, the Mumbai Police slapped



the dreaded MCOCA besides the Indian Penal Code and Arms Act. The two others are mafia don Lawrence Bishnoi, and his brother Anmol Bishnoi, who had claimed responsibility for the firing on April 14. While Gupta and Pal are accused of firing five rounds at Khan's Galaxy Apartments, Sonu Bishnoi and Thapan allegedly supplied them with two pistols and bullets. The pistols and bullets were flung into Tapi River in Surat (Gujarat) by Gupta and Pal, who later fled to Kachchh district bordering Pakistan from where they were nabbed within 36 hours of the incident on April 16. After nabbing Gupta and Pal, both from Bihar, the police also arrested Sonu Bishnoi and Thapan from Punjab on April 25 and brought them to Mumbai. Anmol Bishnoi, who is now wanted in the case, is reportedly living in Canada, and keeps travelling to the US and other nations, while his brother Lawrence Bishnoi is currently jailed for various crimes.

Visionary political leadership, talented youth to help India reach \$30 trillion GDP by 2047: SAP

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Stable and visionary political leadership, young talented population, vast AI and startup community and innovations across businesses will help India reach its \$30 trillion GDP growth goal by 2047, Paul Marriott, President for Asia Pacific Japan (APJ) of cloud software major SAP said here on Monday. Emphasising the need to make India's journey from "incredible to inevitable" to become 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047 as laid out by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the top company executive said that the country is now the fastest growing economy and the third most digitised nation in the world. "India can reach its \$30 trillion GDP goal by 2047 which is a staggering 10 times from today. It is possible with the kind of innovations we are seeing in businesses across all the segments, with an amazing political leadership at the helm," Marriott told a packed house at the company's flagship event in the financial capital. He stressed that businesses in the country must join the generative AI bandwagon and grow further at scale.



"We are investing significantly in India to empower cutting-edge technology to give businesses the next big opportunity in an AI era," he noted. In this direction, the company is providing Indian businesses with solutions across three key areas: make supply chains intelligent and sustainable, innovate with Business AI and empower India's growth through SMEs (small and medium enterprises). Manish Prasad, President and Managing Director for SAP Indian Subcontinent, informed that about 60 per cent of India's GDP touches the SAP ecosystem. "When it comes to inclusive growth, 80 per cent of our customers in India represent small and medium businesses. That is the foundation for future growth," Prasad told the gathering. SAP has its largest R&D development centre in India outside of Germany where it is headquartered. There are 75 million SME businesses across India, giving employment to nearly 123 million people in the SME ecosystem in the country.

Will you continue with INDIA-MVA post-polls: Prakash Ambedkar to Uddhav Thackeray

Team Absolute | Pune

Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi (VBA) President Prakash Ambedkar has attempted to raise doubts about Shiv Sena (UBT) President and former Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray's allegiance to the Maha Vikas Aghadi-INDIA bloc state and national Opposition alliances post-election results, here on Monday. Ambedkar called upon Thackeray to prove his credentials by giving in writing that he would continue to support the Congress-MVA after the results of the ongoing Lok Sabha 2024 elections are declared in the first week of June. The VBA chief also asked the Shiv Sena (UBT) to make a formal commitment that it will support and continue the MVA partnership even for the upcoming Maharashtra Legislative Assembly elections due in October this year. "Why can't Thackeray make this written declaration to the voters now... Let it be clear to the public, otherwise, all this is meaningless," said Ambedkar, implying differences in the MVA. Earlier, the VBA chief had indicated that after the election results, the Shiv Sena (UBT)

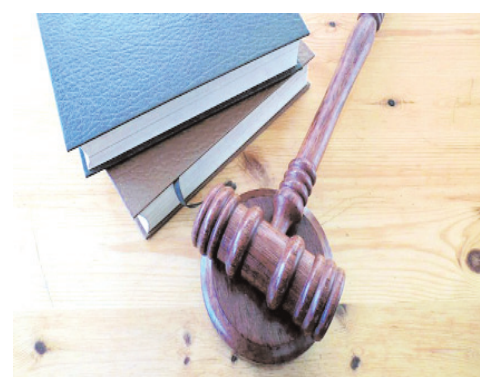


and Nationalist Congress Party (SP) are likely to switch sides with the BJP, which could emerge as the single-largest party. The VBA, which is contesting independently in at least 45 of the 48 LS constituencies in the state, earlier held several rounds of negotiations for seat-sharing with the MVA allies, Congress-Shiv Sena (UBT)-NCP (SP) and other smaller partners. However, the talks collapsed over serious reservations among the MVA allies on the number of seats to be allotted to the VBA, which at one point had demanded an equal share of 12 seats from the three main MVA constituents, and its purported strength to contest and win 27 seats on its own.

4 Accused Convicted, 10 Acquitted In Mumbai Toxic Liquor Tragedy

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Sessions court on Monday convicted four accused and acquitted 10 others in the 2015 hooch tragedy, in which more than 100 people lost their lives in Mumbai's Malvani area. Additional sessions judge Swapnil Tawshikar found the accused, Raju Tapkar, Donald Patel, Francis D'mello and Mansoor Khan, guilty of criminal conspiracy, culpable homicide not amounting to murder and other relevant charges under the Indian Penal Code and Bombay Prohibition Act. The court will hear the prosecution and defence arguments on sentencing on May 6. More than 100 people died after consuming spurious liquor in the Lakshmi Nagar slum at Malvani in the western suburb of Malad in June 2015. The judge, while pronouncing the order, held that "there was a marathon of evidence in the case and then a marathon final arguments".



The tragic incident had caused the death of 106 persons and injuries to around 75, including permanent loss of eyesight, the court noted. While the prosecution argued that all the accused persons were involved in a criminal conspiracy, the court held that the examination of

nearly 240 witnesses did not define a clear chain of evidence. The prosecution had failed to prove the involvement of all the accused in the criminal conspiracy, it said. During the trial, special public prosecutor Pradeep Gharat informed the court that at the outset, the deaths of people by consuming spurious illicit liquor in the state is a re-arrest of the rear case since only one or two such deaths have occurred in the last two decades in Maharashtra. The prosecution had examined a witness who helped Tapkar sell the hooch, while a few other witnesses who deposed in the case had consumed the liquor in the den of one of the accused persons. The prosecution also submitted the dying declaration of one of the victims and the deposition of victims who lost their eyesight in the tragedy. There were 16 accused in the case, one of whom died during the trial, and one remains on the run.



EDITOR'S SPECS

SP looks towards non-Yadav OBCs in eastern UP

The Samajwadi Party (SP) is apparently making a conscious effort to downplay its pro-Yadav image and has focused on non-Yadav OBCs in candidate selection in eastern Uttar Pradesh. The SP has chosen candidates belonging to OBC caste groups like Kurmi, Nishad, Rajbhar, Bind and Kushwaha on prominent seats. The idea is obviously to bring the other backward castes closer to Yadavs and form a consolidated vote base. The Samajwadi Party, for instance, has fielded Pappu Nishad from Sant Kabir Nagar. He is challenging BJP candidate Parveen Nishad, son of Nishad Party President Sanjay Nishad in this seat. In Basti, SP has chosen veteran Ram Prasad Chaudhary, a Kurmi, to challenge BJP sitting MP Harish Dwivedi. Dwivedi had defeated Chaudhary in the 2019 elections. The BSP, this time has nominated Daya Shankar Mishra as its candidate. In Jaunpur, former BSP minister Babu Singh Kushwaha is the SP candidate. He is pitted against Kripa Shankar Singh of the BJP. Singh is the former minister of the Maharashtra government. The BSP has fielded Sreekala Reddy Singh, wife of mafia don and former MP Dhananjay Singh. In Salempur, the Samajwadi Party has fielded Rama Shankar Rajbhar, who wields influence among his Rajbhar community, while the BJP has repeated its sitting MP Ravindra Kushwaha. The SP has fielded Pintu Sainthwar, another OBC, from Kushinagar while it has named Lalji Varma, a Kurmi leader, from Ambedkar Nagar. The SP has also named a Kurmi candidate from Pratapgarh -- S P Singh Patel. The SP, this time, has only five Yadavs in its list -- Akhilesh Yadav from Kannauj, Dharmendra Yadav, from Azamgarh, Dimple Yadav from Mainpuri, Akshay Yadav from Firozabad and Aditya Yadav from Budaun. It is another matter that all of them belong to the same family.

Life and Agriculture in danger due to deepening water crisis

Lalit Garg

Due to adverse human behaviour, earth's temperature is on rise and the resulting climate change has now become a threat to every aspect of human life, as well as to water bodies and rivers. The dangerous impacts of climate change are being felt at alarming levels on total water storage in major reservoirs and river basins, including the Ganga, Indus and Brahmaputra, which could lead to serious water consequences for people. The latest figures of the Central Water Commission show the seriousness of this increasing water crisis in India. The latest figures show an alarming decline in the levels of reservoirs across the country. According to the report dated April 25, 2024, the water available in major reservoirs in the country has declined by thirty to thirty-five percent in proportion to their earlier storage capacity, which is a big decline compared to recent years. This points towards a drought-like situation; the root of which is said to be the effect of the El Nino phenomenon and lack of rainfall. Life cannot be imagined without water. Apart from human beings and animals, water is also essential for all forms of agriculture, vegetation and most industrial production processes. But today India is standing under the shadow of a serious water crisis. Unplanned industrialization, increasing pollution, shrinking deserts and glaciers, falling water level of rivers, lack of rainfall, environmental destruction, insensitivity towards rampant exploitation and misuse of natural resources are leading India to an impending major water crisis. Water levels in 150 major reservoirs across India are currently at 31 per cent, with South India being the most affected region, with 42 reservoirs currently at only 17 per cent of the total capacity. This marks the lowest water potential observed in various regions of India. The situation is worrying in other areas too, with reservoir capacity at 34 per cent in the west and 32.5 per cent in the north. However, the situation in eastern and central India is better; they have 40.6 percent and 40 per cent of the active capacity of their reservoirs respectively. Rainfall last year was deficient, especially in South India. The 2023 monsoon was uneventful as it was an El Nino year, which was also a climate pattern that typically causes hot and dry conditions in the region. This has created a lot of anxiety. Currently, irrigation is also being affected, and there are growing concerns about the impact on drinking water availability and hydropower generation across the country. Looking ahead, more heat is expected in the coming months, indicating that a major water crisis is going to emerge in the coming days. This reduction in water storage has occurred due to lack of adequate rainfall for a long period. Due to which, drought-like and unsafe conditions have arisen in many areas. Due to which various crops are being adversely affected. One reason for this is that even today half of the cultivable land in the country is dependent on monsoon rains. In such a situation, the future of agriculture completely depends on the vagaries of monsoon. In fact, due to continuously increasing heat the water level is shrinking rapidly. Due to its serious consequences, water shortage has become serious in states like Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. The country's IT hub Bengaluru is facing a severe water crisis, which is not only affecting agricultural activities, but everyday life is also being badly affected. In such a situation, to deal



with any impending crisis, there is a need to intensify water conservation efforts from homes to all agricultural practices and industrial works. There is also an urgent need for major investment in water infrastructure and management systems to improve water storage and distribution efficiency. Along with this, there is a need to promote traditional techniques of water conservation. Also, there is a need to run public awareness campaigns to motivate the common people to promote judicious use of this valuable resource of nature. By conserving water and ensuring adequate availability, we can improve the environment and also solve the problem of climate change. You may wonder how much water a human being uses in his lifetime, but does he try to save that much water? Climate change has led to 134 percent increase in flood events since 2000, and 29 percent increase in drought duration. Water is a basic requirement for the existence of life on earth. Water consumption has increased exponentially with the increase in population, but the amount of clean water on Earth is decreasing. Climate change and rising earth's temperature have made this problem a serious crisis. Like in many parts of the world, India is also threatened by an impending water crisis. About 18 percent of the global population lives in India, but only four percent of the water resources are available to us. The efforts that have been made since ancient times to deal with the problem of water crisis in India are expected to be adopted on a large scale and to bring about a water conservation revolution. Rivers, which have been the source of pure water for centuries, are getting polluted, now climate change is having a detrimental effect on them. The water harvesting system is deteriorating, and the groundwater level is continuously depleting. Considering the very low percentage of safe and potable water on earth, water conservation or water save campaigns have become very important for all of us. To bring more

efficiency in saving water, a proper water management system should be promoted by builders in all industrial buildings, apartments, schools, hospitals etc. Atal Bihari Vajpayee is running for groundwater management in 8220 gram panchayats of seven states of the country. This is the world's largest program led by local communities. Also, efforts like tap water, cleaning of rivers, and removal of encroachments are being done under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The main means of saving water here are rivers, ponds and wells. Adopt them, protect them, give them protection, do not abandon them to the desert. People should start collecting rain water at the village level. Rain water can be saved by creating or renovating small or big ponds with proper maintenance. About 70 percent of the earth's surface is filled with water. But, potable water is only three percent. Out of this, we are actually able to use only one percent of freshwater. While using water, we do not think at all about saving water, as a result of which a situation of water crisis has arisen in most of the places. Water crises and critical situations have existed from ancient times. For this reason, there has been an ancient tradition of making Nadi, Pond, Johad, Bandha, Sagar, Samand and Sarovar etc. for water conservation in the provinces like Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh etc., where nature and culture have been in harmony with one another. The forts of Rajasthan are famous anyway, but their water management is especially worth seeing and is also exemplary. The tradition of water harvesting is linked to the social structure there and due to the religious attitude towards water, natural water sources are worshipped.

international

'N.Korea installs mines on inter-Korean road within demilitarized zone'

Seoul | Agencies

North Korea has installed land mines on an inter-Korean road within the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) separating the two Koreas, a South Korean military official said on Monday, the latest in a series of moves to shut down cross-border roads. The military detected the North laying mines on the unpaved road inside the DMZ late last year near Arrowhead Hill in Cheorwon, 85 km northeast of Seoul, Yonhap news agency reported, citing the official.

The path was created under a 2018 inter-Korean military agreement to connect the South and the North for joint efforts to excavate remains of



those killed near the hill during the 1950-53 Korean War. Since late last year, the North has installed mines on all roads between the two Koreas once seen as symbols of inter-

Korean reconciliation and cooperation.

In January, North Korean troops were spotted installing mines on two inter-Korean roads -- the Gyeongui road

between the South's western border city of Paju and the North's Kaesong and the Donghae road along the east coast. Last month, the military also detected the North removing dozens of streetlights along the two roads.

The moves came after the North's leader Kim Jong-un called for scrapping a decades-long policy of seeking unification with South Korea and defining their relations as those between "two states hostile to each other." In January, Kim gave instructions for "strict" measures to block all the channels of inter-Korean communication along the border, such as cutting off the Gyeongui land route to an "irretrievable level."

Gaza | Agencies

A Hamas official has said that the group will not accept any agreement with Israel that does not include a cessation of hostilities in the Gaza Strip.

Sami Abu Zuhri, a senior Hamas official, said in a statement on Sunday that the group "will not accept any agreement that does not include a cessation of war in Gaza", Xinhua news agency reported.

Abu Zuhri added that Israel's response, which reached the movement through mediators, is under study, and that it is too early to reach a decision regarding it. A Hamas delegation is scheduled to visit Cairo on Monday, to deliver the movement's response regarding a ceasefire in Gaza and to negotiate a hostage-for-prisoner swap deal with Israel, according to a source from the movement.

The source, who preferred not to mention his name, added that the delegation is headed by Khalil Al-Hayya, the Hamas deputy chief in Gaza.



Earlier in the day, as reported by Israeli public radio, a senior Israeli official described the current development as "decisive moments in the efforts to reach a new hostage deal with Hamas."

The official added, "We are awaiting the response of Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar," expecting it to be made "within the next 48 hours." He noted that Israel has expressed readiness to make "very significant concessions" regarding the return of displaced persons to northern Gaza. On Saturday, Hamas announced that it had received Israel's official

response to the movement's position on the Gaza ceasefire, which was submitted to the mediators Egypt and Qatar on April 13. At the time, Hamas reiterated its demands, including "a permanent ceasefire, the withdrawal of the (Israeli) army from Gaza, the return of the displaced to their areas and places of residence, the increase of relief and aid for the strip, and the start of its reconstruction." Abu Zuhri noted in the Sunday statement that Hamas would study the new Israeli proposal, and upon completion, it would hand over its response to the mediators.

The movement's announcement came after Egyptian Intelligence Chief Abbas Kamel recently arrived in Israel in an effort to broker a ceasefire deal between the conflicting parties.

Kamel held a series of meetings with Israeli security officials on the potential military operation in Rafah and the release of detainees, according to Israeli media outlets.

Qatar, Egypt and the United States are seeking to reach a deal for a prisoner exchange and a second ceasefire between Israel and Hamas, following the first one that ended last December. Israel estimated that there were still about 134 Israelis held hostage in Gaza, whereas Hamas announced that 70 of them had been killed in Israeli indiscriminate airstrikes. Israel holds more than 9,000 Palestinian prisoners in its jails, whose conditions have worsened since its war on Gaza began last October, resulting in deaths among them, according to Palestinian organizations concerned with prisoners.

A conviction can cost Trump his vote, some Republican support: Analysis

Yashwant Raj | Washington

A conviction for former President Donald Trump on any of the 91 criminal charges he is facing across four separate cases will not prevent him from running for the White House but it will cost him the support of a third of his own Republican party voters and Independents, according to polls, and deprive him of his own vote.

Trump is currently on trial in Manhattan in a case of falsification of business records in regard to hush-money he allegedly paid an adult porn star in 2016 for not going public with their affair.

He is facing 34 charges in the case, each of which carries the punishment of four years in jail. But a conviction will not land him in prison immediately as he will be able to appeal it in the appellate court and eventually the Supreme Court.

The other three cases have not gone on trial yet.

A Reuters/Ipsos poll in February found that while the majority of Americans - 55 per cent - will not vote for Trump if he is either convicted or is in jail, a third of Republicans - 32 per cent - said they won't, and 24 per cent said they were not sure yet of what they will do.

A vast majority of Democrats - 90% - said they won't vote for him if he was convicted or jailed.

Another poll by Ipsos, done with Politico magazine in Month, found that a third of Independent voters said they would be less likely to support Trump if he were to be convicted in the Justice Department's case against him for trying to subvert the 2020 election through the January 6 insurrection and the Manhattan case of falsifying business records.

Independent voters are critical in determining the electoral outcomes in the handful of swing states that decide the presidential election every cycle.

The poll did not cover views about the two other cases, mishandling of classified documents and trying to overturn the 2020 vote



count in Georgia.

A conviction would not, however, stop him from running. The US Constitution only lays down three qualification rules for running for President: 35 years of age, a natural-born citizen, and a resident of the US for 14 years.

There are no rules on criminals and felons, and although some states have barred felons from running, these rules do not apply to elections for federal offices. But a conviction will take away his vote in Florida, where he lives.

People convicted of a felony are disenfranchised by Florida state law till the completion of the jail sentence or payment of a fine. Felons can, however, apply for a waiver from the Governor.

He could, however, switch to New York state where he has lived most of his life to keep his vote because of the more permissive rules, which allow felons to vote during parole or probation.

But if he is imprisoned, he will lose his vote. Only the states of Vermont, Maine, and Washington DC allow felons to vote.

14 killed in bus crash while on pilgrimage in Mexico



Mexico City | Agencies

At least 14 people died and 31 were injured when the bus they were travelling in while on pilgrimage overturned near Malinalco in central Mexico. The accident occurred on Sunday morning on the Capulin-Chalma highway and state police have attended to it, the local Mexican security secretariat said in a statement. Medical

units also rushed to the scene to transport the injured to hospitals.

How the driver had come to lose control remained unclear.

According to media reports, the pilgrims from Guanajuato state were travelling to Chalma, the site of a Christian sanctuary to the south-west of Mexico City. The sanctuary is one of the most important destinations for pilgrims in Mexico.

15 killed in Israeli airstrikes on Rafah



Gaza | Agencies

At least 15 Palestinians were killed on Sunday night in Israeli airstrikes on three residential buildings in the southern Gaza Strip city of Rafah, Palestinian official news agency Wafa reported on Monday. Many others were still trapped under the rubble and civil defence crews were working to rescue them, Xinhua

news agency reported, citing local sources.

The Israeli army killed 66 Palestinians and wounded 138 others during the past 24 hours, bringing the total death toll to 34,454 and injuries to 77,575 since the Israeli-Palestinian conflict broke out on October 7, 2023, the Hamas-run Health Ministry said in a statement on Sunday.



FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 74 YEARS, CONGRESS IS NOT IN THE FRAY IN INDORE

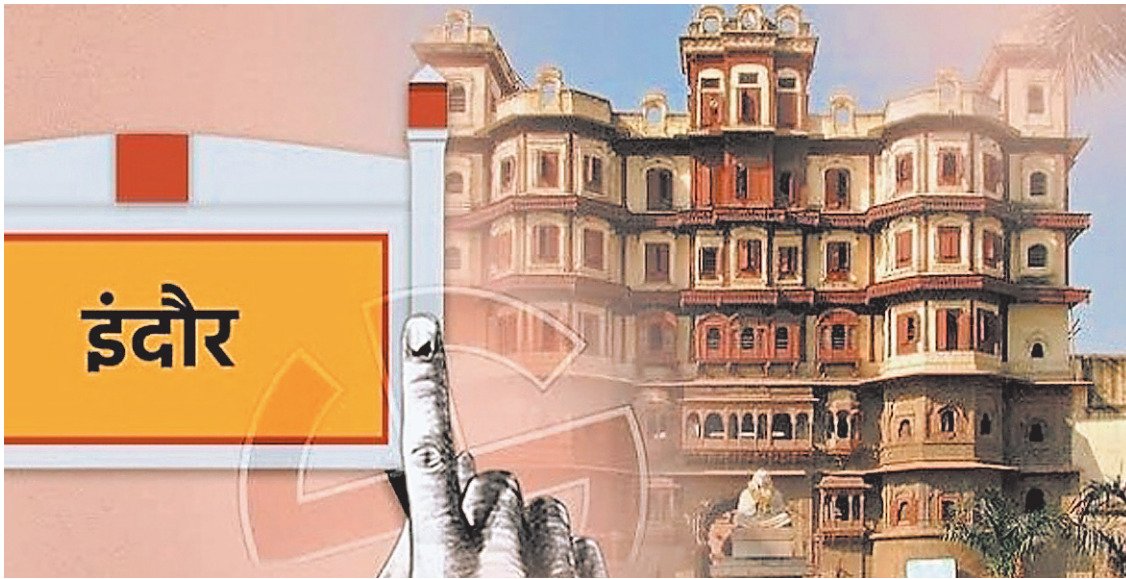
Now even Lord Krishna is going to smile: Mohan Yadav

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Giving a big blow to Congress in Indore, the party's official candidate Akshay Kanti Bam has withdrawn his nomination. With this, the challenge of Congress to BJP in Indore has also ended. This is the first time in the history of Lok Sabha elections held in Indore when no Congress candidate will be in the fray. Congress has always been contesting in the Lok Sabha elections held in Indore since 1951. Out of which Congress has won the elections seven times, but this time it has completely left the field in the elections.

Elections were held for the first time in Indore in 1951, when Nandlal Surya Narayan of Congress won the election. Since then, Lok Sabha elections have been held in Indore 17 times. Out of which Congress has won seven times, whereas BJP has won the election nine times. Janata Party and Communist Party have won the elections here once each.

The BJP won its first election in Indore in 1989, when Sumitra Mahajan defeated former Chief



Minister of Madhya Pradesh Prakash Chandra Sethi, after which Indore became a stronghold of the BJP and Mahajan was an MP from Indore eight times. In 2019, BJP fielded Shankar Lalwani as its candidate, when he defeated the Congress candidate by a margin of 5 lakh votes. Congress candidate Akshay Kanti

Bam had reached the election office along with BJP MLA Ramesh Mendola, where he withdrew his nomination. After this, he left for the BJP office along with Cabinet Minister Kailash Vijayvargiya and MLA Mendola, where he took membership of the BJP. Regarding withdrawal of nomina-

tion, Akshay Kanti Bam said that ever since he submitted his nomination, he was not getting any support from the Congress party. However, efforts are also being made in the political circles that since the time the form was filled, the opposition party Congress was putting pressure on Akshay Kranti.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav, while addressing a press conference in Ranchi on Monday evening, said that Congress always insulted Hindus in vote bank politics. Sometimes he asked for proof of Lord Ram's birth and sometimes he rejected the invitation to consecrate the Lord's life in the temple. It was the resolve of BJP that we got our Ram temple. This time the vote should go to Mathura. Now Lord Krishna is also going to smile.

He said that this Lok Sabha election is different from other elections. This time, PM Modi is not fighting the elections for himself, rather the people of the country want elections to be held under his leadership for the development of the country and public interest. PM Modi is such a saintly personality, who dedicated every moment of his life for the



country. If we evaluate his ten-year tenure as Prime Minister, we will find that many issues in the country were resolved, which had remained major problems for 70 years.

Dr. Yadav said that no one had even imagined that Article 370 would be removed from Kashmir. Congress used to threaten that if this happened, rivers of blood would flow. But, PM Modi did it. Under his leadership, everything from surgical strikes to air strikes took place and today not a single incident of terrorism is happening in the country. Under the leadership of PM Modi, the country became the fifth largest economy from 11th.

The new education policy has paved the way for a radical change in the education system of the country.

Discussing Jharkhand, Dr. Yadav said that it is the land of sacrifices like Birsa Munda. It is PM Modi who reached his birthplace for the first time. Without taking the name of former Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren, Dr. Yadav targeted him and said that PM Modi neither does wrong nor tolerates wrong. If someone robs the rights of the poor, it is not possible for him to survive under PM Modi.

Dr. Yadav also addressed an election rally in support of BJP candidate Kalicharan Singh from Chattr Lok Sabha seat before Ranchi.

There is no guarantee for Chinese goods and Modi ji's words: Charan Singh Sapra

Why are famous faces missing from the election campaign of Madhya Pradesh?

Team Absolute | Bhopal

After two phases of elections, it seems that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has gone berserk. They are speaking lies, baseless and double standards. Congress is so upset with the party's Nyay Patra that they are cursing it unbridled every day. Congressional Justice Letter 05 reaffirms the Justice 25 Guarantee.

Describes a plan to help the needy and the poor. BJP, Shah and dictators want to give it a communal colour. They want to divert attention from development and discuss mutton, fish, Maoist thoughts and infiltrators. This is not a part of our manifesto by inheriting the Muslim League, but still the Prime Minister wants to keep the election narrative on this. Polarization is his Brahmanstra.

The way the voting percentage has decreased in the two phases of elections, it shows that people are disappointed towards BJP. The voting percentage of women in Madhya Pradesh is between 11 to 12 percent. This shows that the dear sister has also under-



stood that she has been cheated and on the pretext of Rs 3000, she is being given only Rs 1250. It is possible that this scheme will be completely stopped after the elections. The farmer of Madhya Pradesh is angry that he has been betrayed, the BJP government has backed down after promising Rs 2700 for wheat and Rs 3000 for paddy.

Youth, unemployed, labourers, farmers and women are troubled. Promoting privatization, the country's Navratna companies are selling SAIL, Bell, Jai, Rail, Airport, Port to their capitalist friends at throwaway prices. RSS chief did damage control and said that he is not anti-reservation, but Mohan

Bhagwat ji himself had written in his main paper Panch Janya Organizer in 2015 that reservation should be reviewed, reconsidered, campaign in 2017. Chief Manmohan Vaidya openly opposed reservation, Guru Gowalkar had also expressed opposition in his book Vichardhan. This is a well thought out conspiracy of BJP RSS. There is a hidden agenda, that is why they are continuously attacking the manifesto of Congress. Because one of our five justices is participatory justice, once the caste census is done, reservation will also be done accordingly. That is why if reservation and the Constitution are to be saved then BJP has to defeat RSS.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The campaign for Lok Sabha elections is in full swing in Madhya Pradesh. Two phases of voting have already taken place, but some famous faces of the state are not seen campaigning. The question is arising whether these leaders have kept themselves away from campaigning or the party is not showing interest in getting them to campaign.

There are a total of 29 Lok Sabha seats in the state, where voting is taking place in four phases. The first two phases of voting have taken place on 12 seats on April 19 and April 26. Voting is to be held in 17 parliamentary constituencies in the next two phases.

If we look at the politics of the state, this is probably the first election in the last two and a half decades in which former Chief Minister Uma Bharti, former minister and Yashodhara Rajee Scindia, who belongs to the Scindia royal family, and Bhopal MP Pragya Thakur are not seen campaigning.

If we look at the political journey of these three women leaders, Uma Bharti and Pragya Thakur have been identified as staunch Hindu leaders, while Yashodhara Rajee Scindia is



related to the Scindia royal family. Talking about Uma Bharti, she has been a Union Minister and has also held the responsibility of the post of Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh. She has deep roots in the backward class and she herself comes from the Lodhi class. While he played a big role in the Ram Mandir movement, he is also a big face of Hindu politics. He has influence in many parts of the

state. Similarly, Bhopal MP Pragya Thakur is also a Hindutva face and she is always in the news due to her statements. On the other hand, former minister Yashodhara Rajee Scindia has influence in many places of Gwalior and Chambal region. BJP is putting all its strength into the election campaign and leaders from national level to state level have

been given the command of campaigning for different parts. But these three big faces of BJP are not seen in the election campaign.

The question is arising whether there was no demand for these leaders from the candidates or whether the party does not want to use them. These leaders have also not shown interest in campaigning on their own behalf.

MULTIMEDIA QUIZ ORGANIZED AT SANT HIRDARAM GIRLS COLLEGE

74 candidates in fray in 8 Lok Sabha constituencies of the fourth phase

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Sant Hirdaram Girls College organized the Voter Number One Multimedia Quiz under the Voter Awareness Campaign as part of the SVEEP initiative by the District Administration. The main objective behind organizing this activity was to disseminate awareness among the young voters and increase their participation in voting. The program was attended by SVEEP Coordinator Dr. Ravikant Thakur, SVEEP team member Mohan Malviya, and the team of MY FM. College Principal Dr. Dalima Parwani, Program Officers Prof. Vibha Khare, Dr. Meena Barse, Prof. Deepika Saxena, and a large number of students were present during the occasion.



College Principal Dr. Dalima Parwani, in her welcome address, stated the importance of voter aware-

ness and participation in the upcoming session. She urged everyone to ensure their significant participation

in the voting process. She further added that the youth represents India and therefore vote and inspire others to vote. Utilize your valuable vote without fail.

Coordinator of the SVEEP program, Dr. Ravikant Thakur, stated that a true patriot is one whose finger bears the mark of voting. It is essential for the youth to be aware of their responsibilities. They should grab opportunities and face challenges. He effectively conducted a multimedia quiz in various 6 phases and also explained important information.

The College Management congratulated the National Service Scheme unit for the successful organization of this event extended best wishes for future endeavours.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Electoral Officer Anupam Rajan has said that as per the election programme of Lok Sabha Elections-2024, 74 candidates are finally left in fray after completion of the process of withdrawal of nomination papers filed for the fourth phase. On Monday, the last day for withdrawal of nomination papers, 16 candidates withdrew their nomination papers.

Rajan told that 8 candidates remain in fray in Lok

Sabha parliamentary constituency number-21 Dewas (SC), 9 candidates in number-22 Ujjain (SC), 8 candidates in number-23 Mandsaur, 12 candidates in number-24 Ratlam (SC), 7 candidates in number 25 Dhar (ST), 14 candidates in number 26 Indore, 5 candidates in number 27 Khargone (ST) and 11 candidates in Lok Sabha Parliamentary Constituency No. 28 Khandwa. The affidavits and other information of these candidates can be seen on the Election Commission of India website link

https://affidavit.eci.gov.in/. Voting for the fourth phase will be held on Monday 13 May. Counting of votes will take place on June 4.

It may be noted that on April 29, 1 candidate has withdrawn his nomination papers in Lok Sabha parliamentary constituency number-21 Dewas (SC), 1 candidate in number-24 Ratlam (ST), 1 candidate in number-25 Dhar (ST), 9 candidates in number-26 Indore, 1 candidate in No. 27 Khargone (ST) and 3 candidates in Lok Sabha Parliamentary Constituency No. 28 Khandwa.

FIR LODGED AGAINST STATE CONGRESS PRESIDENT JITU PATWARI AND JHABUA CONGRESS MLA BHURIA

Indore: A case has been registered against Madhya Pradesh Congress President Jitu Patwari and Jhabua MLA Vikrant Bhuria under 228 IPC, Section 23 of POCSO Act and Section 74 of JJ Act at Jobat police station in Alirajpur district. Both the leaders along with their supporters had come to meet the family members of a rape victim. The complainant has accused both the leaders of revealing the identity of the victim and her family members, on which the police has taken action.

Let it be known that regarding the case of gang rape of an eleven year old tribal minor girl by two youths in a village near Jobat, Jitu Patwari and Dr. Vikrant Bhuria along with several Congress workers and leaders had reached the victim's house and met her and took her photographs and he had also made the photos of the house viral. He had also held a press conference in Jobat regarding this issue. However, the police arrested the accused and sent the victim girl to a juvenile home. Now, with the filing of FIR against the state president of Congress during the election period, the political activity has intensified.

AIIMS Bhopal: A Beacon of Hope for Patients from Andaman and Beyond

Team Absolute | Bhopal

In a remarkable testament to the growing trust and expertise of AIIMS Bhopal, patients from far-flung areas, including Andaman, are increasingly turning to the institute for advanced medical treatment. Spearheaded by Professor (Dr.) Ajai Singh, Executive Director of AIIMS Bhopal, the institution has witnessed a substantial surge in patient influx over the past two years. The burgeoning reputation of AIIMS Bhopal is underscored by the notable rise in patients seeking treatment not only from Madhya Pradesh and neighboring states but also from distant regions, such as Andaman. During the last two years, only in the domain of surgical oncology, the influx of patients has been substantial. The outpatient department (OPD) has witnessed a remarkable increase from 7500 to 15000 patients, with admissions to the ward doubling and surgical cases more than doubling to over 1000 cases during the same period.

A recent case exemplifies the institute's commitment to providing world-class healthcare services. A 90-year-old patient hailing from Andaman sought treatment at AIIMS Bhopal after experienc-

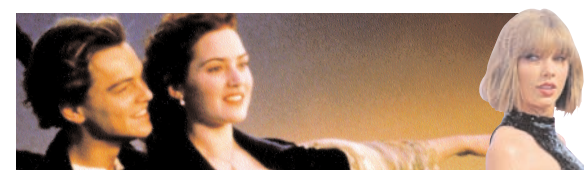


ing constipation and irregular bowel movements for six months. Following inadequate treatment in Andaman, the patient sought further medical assistance in Chennai. It was there, amidst a flurry

of diagnostic tests and consultations, that the grim reality unfolded - a diagnosis of cancer in the terminal part of the large intestine, posing significant risks given his advanced age. Undeterred, the patient's family turned to the Trauma and Emergency Department of AIIMS Bhopal, where Dr. Yunus recommended immediate intervention in surgical oncology.

Under the expertise of Surgical Oncologist Dr. Nilesh Srivastava and his team, the patient underwent successful surgery via low anterior resection, a procedure tailored for rectal cancer. Remarkably, the patient experienced a swift recovery and was discharged within a mere 10 days, marking a triumphant victory over adversity.

Rectal cancer, often associated with middle and advancing age, presents unique challenges in elderly patients. However, AIIMS Bhopal stands firm in its commitment to delivering unparalleled healthcare services to every patient, irrespective of age or circumstance. Professor (Dr.) Ajai Singh reaffirms the institution's unwavering dedication to providing optimal healthcare solutions, ensuring that no patient is left behind in their journey towards wellness.



Beyoncé to perform at MTV Video Music Awards after 8-year hiatus

Los Angeles | Agencies

Singer-songwriter Beyoncé is set to perform at the upcoming edition of MTV Video Music Awards to mark its 40th anniversary this

September. This is the first time since 2016 when the 'Cowboy Carter' hitmaker will grace its stage, reports *'Mirror.co.uk'*. Back in 2016, she won eight trophies, and performed a 16-minute Lemonade medley. Even having earned VMA nominations in 2018, 2020 and 2021, the 42-year-old still didn't grace the show with an appearance and skipped last year to tour with Renaissance. "Beyoncé is a huge get for the VMAs and will be a huge ratings draw," a source said. "She is currently figuring out how her appearance will look and whether it will be one song or a tribute similar to her 2014 closing performance when she received the prestigious Michael Jackson Video Vanguard Award." The source continued: "As it's such a big year, the ceremony wants to reclaim some of its prestige so reality TV stars from some of the more lowbrow shows and TikTok will have had a harder time gaining entry while artists like Dua Lipa, Muni Long and Billie Eilish will be given priority treatment." "They are also hoping to book Taylor Swift," they added.



Morgan Freeman sings Elton John's 'Your Song' to Nicole Kidman

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood actress Nicole Kidman received the prestigious AFI Life Achievement Award, the highest honour given by the American Film Institute at Los Angeles' Dolby Theatre.

At the event, she was greeted by a special video message from her friend Morgan Freeman, who sang a line from Elton John's song 'Your Song', reports *'Variety'*.

The actor sang the line, "How wonderful life is while you're in the world" from the song. The annual tribute saw Kidman's closest friends and colleagues, including Oscar winners Meryl Streep, Morgan Freeman, Reese Witherspoon and Oscar nominee Naomi Watts in attendance as they paid tribute to her illustrious career. As per *'Variety'*, Nicole Kidman wore a form-fitting gold sequin gown. She entered the theatre to a standing ovation as a recording of 'Diamonds Are a Girl's Best Friend' played overhead. The programme began with a video featuring Freeman in a spoof of Kidman's recent ad campaign for AMC Theatres to promote the return to moviegoing in the wake of the pandemic. "Somehow she makes heart-break feel good in a place like this," Freeman said in the video. Freeman then came out on stage at the Dolby to extend his congratulations to Kidman as a fellow AFI Life Achievement recipient, who was honoured in 2011.

Justin Bieber tears up in his Instagram pictures leaving fans concerned

Los Angeles | Agencies

Singer-songwriter Justin Bieber broke down in tears in a new social media post without his wife Hailey Bieber.

The singer took to his Instagram on Sunday, and shared a string of pictures in a carousel post on the photo-sharing platform. And in one of the offerings, the 'Baby' hitmaker could be seen getting emotional, reports *'Mirror.co.uk'*.

Sharing 10 recent pictures as part of a photo dump, Justin gave fans a glimpse into his daily life.

But midway through the selection of photos, Justin caught fans off-guard with two photos that saw tears streaming down his face.

As per *'Mirror.co.uk'*, the front-facing camera was very close up, with the tears incredibly visible. Justin's high emotions were also apparent. Fans were quick to spot how his wife, Hailey, 27, wasn't included in his post.



Although she did leave a comment under it, with her making a joke that her husband is a "pretty crier".

In the comment section, fans were quick to pick up on the crying snaps and Hailey's comment.

One person said: "Are you okay bro?" while another speculated: "Is that a sign?" which seemingly referenced the recent split rumours that have plagued the pair. "I think he and Hailey might be in a bit of a crisis," someone else said, while another penned: "Justin, what happened? Why are you crying?" Back in March, divorce rumours were going wild on social media, with this forcing Hailey to take to her Instagram to clear up any speculation of a possible split.

"Just FYI, the stories and constant 'blind items' I see on TikTok are 100 per cent of the time wrong (sic)," she penned at the time.

She went on to add that the claims are "made out of thin air" and "come from the land of delusion".

RUSSELL BRAND IS FINALLY GETTING BAPTISED AND LEAVING HIS 'PAST BEHIND'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actor-comedian Russell Brand has announced that he will be "taking the plunge" and getting baptised as it is an "opportunity to leave the past behind".

The comedian and actor posted a video and said that he was cementing his Christian faith after a difficult year, which included facing serious sexual assault accusations, reports *'pagesix.com'*. In the video announcement, Brand said: "This Sunday, I'm taking the plunge. I'm getting baptised."

"What's been explained to me is, it's an opportunity to die and be reborn. An opportunity to leave the past behind and be reborn in Christ's name."

Referencing a verse from the Bible, he added: "Like it says in Galatians, you can live as an enlightened and awakened person." The 'Rock of Ages' star said the prospect of baptism was "so inviting and beautiful." "People are so cynical about the increasing interest in Christianity and the return to God, but to me, it's obvious," he said. "As meaning deteriorates in the modern world, as our value systems and institutions crumble, all of us become increasingly aware that there is this eerily familiar awakening and beckoning figure that

we've all known all of our lives, within us and around us. And for me, it's very exciting."

The 48-year-old initially wanted to get baptised in the River Thames, but after discovering it had high levels of E. coli in it, he decided against it.

This new development comes months after the actor-comedian was accused of raping, sexually assaulting, and abusing four women for seven years.

Brand denied the allegations that first surfaced in September 2023.

He had said that he was "very, very promiscuous" in his past and that all sexual interactions he had at the time were "absolutely always consensual."



ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Katharine McPhee



Ethan Hawke reveals his daughter Maya won't share 'Stranger Things' spoilers

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actor-director Ethan Hawke, who recently directed his eldest daughter Maya, 25, in the feature film 'Wildcat', shared that his daughter is a thorough professional and won't give him spoilers from her show 'Stranger Things'. The actor shared that Maya is currently filming the new season of the hit Netflix show in Georgia, but despite his best efforts, she won't reveal any spoilers, reports *'People'* magazine. He told 'People', "I nudge her for them, and she

won't give them up. She says, 'You've got a big mouth'. So nope, not even to dear old dad." He also discussed the difference between the dad in him and the director in him when he's directing his daughter. He said: "I can be proud of her and geek out with so much joy when I watch 'Stranger Things'. But when I'm directing her, I have a job to do, which is to make sure we accomplish that goal." Despite having "tremendous respect for her talents," Ethan, 52, emphasised that he had to ensure he didn't fawn over her acting while wearing his director's hat.

"We had so many amazing collaborators and all these very serious artists that were there to try to make serious work. They weren't there for it to be cute or for us to make a home movie," he said. According to 'People', 'Wildcat', which delves into the life and work of short-story writer Flannery O'Connor, was Maya's idea. She was introduced to the author's work in high school and then acquired the rights to the stories. However, Ethan said that they both knew bringing Flannery O'Connor's life to the big screen wouldn't be easy.



TUC 2024

India sail into Thomas Cup QF with 5-0 win over England

Chengdu (China) | Agencies

Defending champions Indian men's badminton team reached the quarterfinals of the Thomas Cup after scoring a comfortable 5-0 win over England in their second group C encounter, here on Monday. World No 9 HS Prannoy set India on course with a commanding 21-15, 21-15 victory over Harry Huang, securing an early lead.

"The idea today was to be as clinical as possible because we saw against Thailand that one result here and there could have affected us. Personally, I am happy that I gave the team a winning start as it also helps my confidence going forward," said Prannoy, who had lost the opening match against Thailand to Kunlavut Vitidsarn. Asian Games gold medalists Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty then were put under pressure by the English combination of Ben Lane and Sean Vandy but the world no. 3 combination banked on their big match experience to pull off



a 21-17, 19-21, 21-15 win in an hour and five minutes. Speaking about yet another tough win, the doubles combination of Satwiksairaj and Shetty said the conditions are quite difficult and they are happy that they found a way to win both their matches so far. "Things were not going our way always and it's always difficult to play a left-right combination as we hardly

practice against such combinations in India. But we hung in there and that will help us ahead in the tournament," said Satwik. With the team management opting to rest Lakshya Sen for this tie, Kidambi Srikanth sealed the victory with a 21-16, 21-11 win over Nadeem Dalvi and assuring India of a quarterfinal berth. Following Srikanth's win, MR Arjun

and Dhruv Kapila showcased their prowess in the second doubles match, winning 21-17, 21-19 against Rory Easton and Alex Green. Then, Kiran George registered a 21-18, 21-12 victory over Kayan Cholan in the third singles rubber, completing a 5-0 scoreline for the Indian team.

India had earlier beaten Thailand 4-1 in their Group C opener on Saturday. On Wednesday, India will face Indonesia in a rematch of the 2022 final to determine the group C leader. India and Indonesia both have two points, having secured identical victories against England and Thailand. However, Indonesia currently leads the Group C standings by virtue of winning more games.

Results: India bt England 5-0 (HS Prannoy bt Harry Huang 21-15, 21-15; Satwiksairaj Rankireddy/Chirag Shetty bt Ben Lane/Sean Vandy 21-17, 19-21, 21-15; Kidambi Srikanth bt Nadeem Dalvi 21-16, 21-11; MR Arjun/Dhruv Kapila bt Rory Easton/Alex Green 21-17, 21-19; Kiran George bt Cholan Kayan 21-18, 21-12)

BRIJESH, SAGAR AND SUMIT CONFIRM MEDALS FOR INDIA AT ASIAN U-22 & YOUTH BOXING

Astana (Kazakhstan) | Agencies

Indian pugilists Brijesh Tamta, Sagar Jakhar and Sumit registered victories to enter the semifinals and assured themselves of medals in the youth category of ASBC Asian U22 & Youth Boxing Championships 2024 in Astana, Kazakhstan on Monday.

Brijesh (48kg) started the day for India in a hard-fought bout against Uzbekistan's Sabirov Sayfidin, with both boxers winning one round each as it all came down to the decider which the youngster from India won 4-3 after the bout was reviewed.

Sagar Jakhar (60kg) and Sumit (67kg) clinched identical 5-0 victories against Thailand's Kalaseeram Thanaphansakon and Korea's Hong Seo Jin respectively.

Jitesh (54kg) lost 0-5 against Kazakhstan's Tulebek Nurassyl.

With these three medals, India is now assured of eight medals in the youth category as five women boxers Annu (48kg), Parthavi Grewal (66kg), Nikita Chand (60kg), Khushi Pooniya (81kg) and



Nirjhara Bana (+81kg) will start their campaigns in the semi-finals.

Rahul Kundu (75kg), Hemant Sangwan (86kg) and Lakshay Rathi (+92kg), and Laxmi (50kg), Tamanna (54kg), Yatri Patel (57kg), Shrusthi Sathe (63kg) will play their youth quarterfinals later on Monday.

On Tuesday, Asian Games bronze medalist Preeti (54kg), who has already qualified for the Paris Olympics, will kickstart her challenge against Uzbekistan's Uktamova Nigina in the women's U-22 category along with Tamanna (50kg) and Priyanka (60kg). Meanwhile,

Vishvanath Suresh (48kg), Akash Gorkha (60kg), Preet Malik (67kg), Kunal (75kg), Jugnoo (86kg) and Rhythm (+92kg) will be in action in the men's U-22 category.

The Boxing Federation of India has fielded a 50-member 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 category will be played on May 6 and 7 respectively.

T20 World Cup: Williamson to lead as NZ name experienced 15-man squad

Wellington | Agencies

Kane Williamson has been named captain as New Zealand announced an experienced 15-man squad for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup, starting from June 1 in the USA and the West Indies.

This is Williamson's sixth appearance in a T20 World Cup and his fourth tournament as captain. Tim Southee, currently sits as the leading wicket-taker in the history of T20Is, earned a selection in his seventh T20 World Cup.

Moreover, pacer Trent Boult is set for his fifth T20 World Cup. Devon Conway, who is currently recovering from a thumb injury, has also been picked in the squad.

Pace bowler Ben Sears will travel and train with the team as injury cover.

Bowler Matt Henry and batting all-rounder Rachin



Ravindra are the only two members of the 15 without ICC T20 World Cup experience.

"Matt has worked exceptionally hard on his skills across the phases of a T20 game to come back into selection consideration. Rachin has made every post a winner in the past 12 months and it was exciting to see him continue that trajectory over the summer in the T20 format against Australia," said coach head Gary Stead.

New Zealand will leave for the tournament on May 23. They open their campaign against Afghanistan in Guyana on June 7.

New Zealand Squad: Kane Williamson (C), Finn Allen, Trent Boult, Michael Bracewell, Mark Chapman, Devon Conway, Lockie Ferguson, Matt Henry, Daryl Mitchell, Jimmy Neesham, Glenn Phillips, Rachin Ravindra, Mitchell Santner, Ish Sodhi, Tim Southee. Travelling Reserve: Ben Sears

IPL 2024: 'Chasing is something we have to work on', admits SRH skipper Cummins

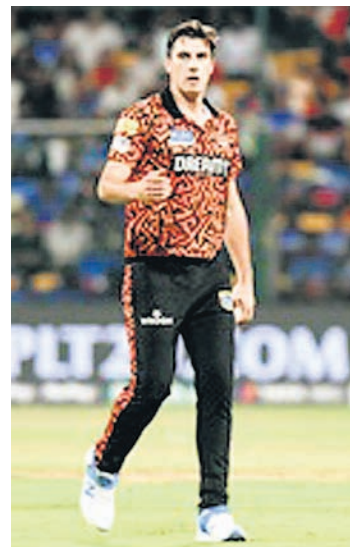
Chennai | Agencies

Pat Cummins, the Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) skipper, had no qualms in admitting that acing the chases is an aspect they have to work upon after losing to Chennai Super Kings by 78 runs.

On a dry MA Chidambaram Stadium pitch, CSK captain Ruturaj Gaikwad fell two runs short of becoming the second batter to hit back-to-back IPL centuries, while Daryl Mitchell got his maiden fifty in the tournament as the duo carried the hosts' to a huge 212/3.

In reply, SRH, who elected to bowl first due to the dew factor, were never in it to chase it down and were eventually bowled out for 134 in 18.5 overs, which is also their second straight attempt over not acing a batting second innings.

Deshpande struck thrice in powerplay to pick IPL-best figures of 4-22, while Matheesha Pathirana, Mustafizur Rahman (two wickets each), Ravindra Jadeja and Shardul Thakur (one scalp each) were also



amongst the wicket-takers for CSK. "It's hard to put a finger on it. There's nothing really that went to plan here. It feels pretty well suited for chasing, but it hasn't come off yet, so we have something to work on. There's definitely dew here; I haven't

seen much so far anywhere else in other venues, but we didn't make the most of it. They bowled really well, so the dew didn't factor in as much as we would have liked," said Cummins in a post-match press conference.

Of SRH's four defeats in IPL 2024, three of them have now come while chasing, including them unable to hunt down 207 against Royal Challengers Bengaluru. Cummins also asked for his middle-order batters to step up if the top-order fails to fire in run chases.

"When the openers have gone off, it's been crazy, and everyone's fallen behind. A few totals that we've set up well. In Delhi, we got ourselves into a little bit of a rut. But middle to lower order built back up so that things got some big scores. They almost got over the line against KKR from our middle order.

"So there have been different batters throughout the tournament that have set up. Obviously, the openers have been fantastic and here, we probably needed two or three guys to make a big impact, but it just never

really got going, unfortunately," he added.

At the same time, Cummins also felt there weren't much reckless shots from his batters, who were undone by the brilliance of CSK bowlers. "It's not just random slogging. Like our guys still pick their bowlers. It's something that we talk about - picking matchups that suit you and if it's a green light, then you know, go for it.

"If it's not your match-up, then be a little bit smarter about it. I've been really happy how the boys have been going about it. Even tonight, I don't think there were too many reckless shots.

Cummins signed off by saying batters' are majorly calling the shots' this time in the IPL, with the tournament witnessing six 250+ totals. "T20 is always being heard on the batting side. There are more 200s kind of games than the 120s game. The way we set up, I think that's the best chance for us because we got some aggressive batters, and that's our best way to win a tournament by playing like the way we are."

RINKU HAS TO BE A CERTAINTY IN THE 15 FOR T20 WC, SAYS K SRIKANTH

New Delhi | Agencies

Krishnamachari Srikanth, the former India opener and chief selector, said left-handed hard-hitting batter Rinku Singh has to be a certainty in the 15-member India squad for the upcoming Men's T20 World Cup.

Rinku shot to the limelight with five sixes on last five balls of the Kolkata Knight Riders' innings against Gujarat Titans in IPL 2023, a season where he continuously showed his finishing skills. He made his India T20 debut later in the year and amassed 356 runs in 15 games, staying not out in seven of them at a high strike rate of 176.23.

With the KKR top order doing bulk of scoring so far for the side in IPL 2024, Rinku hasn't got much time to bat, making 112 in eight matches at a strike-rate of 157.74. "A classic example is Rinku Singh. Rinku Singh is a certainty in my 15. He hasn't got that many opportunities to bat in the IPL but you see his international track record, it's an amazing track record. Amazing track record in South Africa and with every opportunity he has got. So Rinku Singh has to be a certainty in the 15."

"But if we go by recent form or opportunities, he hasn't got enough opportunities. End of the day you've to forget who the player is and

look at what is his track record. Is he a great player, is a deadly player, is he fit? So Rinku Singh has to be a certainty, he has to get the Visa and he will fasten his seat belt to take the flight to the United States to play the game as one of the 15 members in the side," said Srikanth, who was the chief selector of India's 2011 World Cup winning teams, on 'Ticket to World Cup' episode of Star Sports Press Room Show.

Matthew Hayden, the former Australia batter, believes IPL has brought out some a lot of Indian talent to the fore, who are now being talked about in selection race of the upcoming Men's T20 World Cup. "I tell you it's a true credit to the IPL, that it gets so much headspace in terms of selection, for international cricket. "It's a testimony to how brilliant the competition is and it's also a credit to the way the IPL has allowed it's foreign players, to play and strengthen the tournament. I'm not sure there's another across T20 cricket that's equal. How good is it, because we have found Jaiswal and he's just one of the many like Rinku who have been discovered by IPL cricket."

India, the 2007 edition winners, will begin their Men's T20 World Cup campaign in June 5 against Ireland at the Nassau County International Cricket Stadium in New York.



They are slotted in Group A alongside Pakistan, Canada and tournament co-hosts USA.

MotoGP 2024: Honda's Joan Mir gains eight places after charging to 12th at Jerez

Jerez | Agencies

A good performance on the weekend helped Joan Mir as he extracted the maximum from the Spanish Grand Prix as he gained eight places after battling back to 12th place finish in the latest race of the MotoGP Championship 2024. His teammate at the Honda Team, Luca Marini will aim to look for answers during Monday's test at the Circuito de Jerez - Angel Nieto.

Record-breaking weekend crowds of 300,000 were treated to another Spanish Grand Prix for the history books on Sunday. With blue skies and not a hint of Saturday's rain, Joan Mir was determined to repeat his forward progress from the Sprint and end a complicated weekend on a high. Starting well, the #36 moved from 20th to 16th in the space of a single lap and maintained a steady pace further into the points, the Honda Team informed in a release on Monday.

Locked in a battle with Raul Fernandez for most of the race, Mir crossed the line in 12th and just under a tenth of a second from his best result of the season so far. The 2020 World Champion was full of praise for the Honda Team, which worked diligently throughout. His attention immediately turns to continuing to find improvements in testing.

Marini's Sunday was complicated by the opening melee of



the 25-lap Spanish Grand Prix. Initially launching well, the Italian found himself embroiled in contact down the field and did his best to recover from there. Unable to match his pace from earlier, the #10 and his team are aiming to use Monday's test to help them find what was missing.

The entire Honda Team will remain at the Circuito de Jerez - Angel Nieto for the in-season MotoGP Test. Both Joan Mir and Luca Marini are looking forward to another day of riding in order to continue developing the 2024 Honda RC213V.

Joan Mir thanked the team for their work in helping him finish 12th and make progress. "We have to be content with what we achieved today. From the start of the weekend until now we have been able to improve, and I really have to say thanks to my team for their work in helping us make this progress.

"I was able to make a solid race, I think achieving the best

that I could with the package that we have at the moment. Of course, the gap is still very big and we need to keep on working but tomorrow, Monday, we have a test. I am looking forward to trying what we have to understand what the next steps are," the Honda Team quoted him as saying in the release.

Luca Marini, who finished 17th in Spanish GP, said they will try to find reasons for the huge gap between him and Joan Mir during Monday's test runs.

"It was a really tough race. At the start, I launched well but then there was a lot of contact in the back, and we took some damage. When I tried to find my rhythm, I was much slower than I was expecting and the gap to Joan Mir was too big. We need to understand it and fortunately we have the test tomorrow. It will be important not just for the future but also for the next races. For sure Joan made a good race, but we are still far," he said.

'We stand a very good chance at this Olympics,' says Indian shooter Heena Sidhu

New Delhi | Agencies

Once the poster girl of the Indian shooting, former World No.1 Heena Sidhu believes that the country stands a "very, very good chance" at the 2024 Paris Olympics, considering the record number of quotas achieved in recent events.

India has secured 21 quotas in shooting for the 2024 Summer Games, scheduled to begin from July 26, 2024.

Heena took to Twitter to share her thoughts. "We are going with

the largest-ever, and definitely the most talented team, to this Olympics. On the other hand



trials are still underway, but I do believe that we stand a very, very good chance at this Olympics. Few

weeks to go!! #Paris2024 #Olympics2024," she wrote.

On Sunday, Maheshwari Chauhan won the Olympic quota with a silver medal in Women's Skeet in the Shotgun Olympic qualification championship in Doha.

It was the 21st Olympic quota for India, and the fifth in shotgun. India missed three Olympic quota, one each in men's and women's trap, apart from men's skeet. It had swept all the possible 16 Olympic quota in rifle and pistol.



Nargis Fakhri recalls how she felt shooting for her 1st song 'Hawaa Hawaa'



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Nargis Fakhri, who was recently seen in the web series 'Tatubaaaz', reminisced about her nervousness on the sets of her debut film, 'Rockstar'. On the occasion of International Dance Day on Monday, the actress said that the

first song she danced to on-screen was 'Hawaa Hawaa' from her debut film. The actress has impressed the audience with her dance moves in songs like 'Yaar Naa Miley', 'Galat Baat Hai', and 'Oye Oye'. However, the first is always special and challenging, as Nargis shared: "I remember my first instance of dancing on screen

with 'Rockstar' for the song 'Hawaa Hawaa', and it remains incredibly special. "Recalling the nerves she felt on set, Nargis said: "I was a wreck on the set as I was so nervous, but once the music started playing, I couldn't stop my feet from tapping. It was a big thing and so exciting as well! I hope to do it more often on

screen." The actress also shared that she strongly believes that dancing is one of the best forms of expression on screen. "For me, it is a form of meditation as well, because when I am dancing, I tend to forget my stress. Not just dance, I enjoy watching some great choreography as well," she added.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Raveena Tandon is surely the epitome of grace and elegance, as she treated fans to beautiful pictures of herself wearing a saree made of sustainable, recyclable material.

Taking to Instagram, the actress, who was most recently seen in the legal drama film 'Patna Shuklla', shared a series of photos donning a plain red transparent saree.

Raveena opted for a matching halterneck blouse.

For makeup, Raveena is all glammed up with nude pink glossy lips, Kohl-rimmed eyes, and highlighted cheeks. She kept her hair tied in a clean bun.

The 'K.G.F: Chapter 2' actress opted for golden earrings and matching bangles.

The post is captioned: "Red. In this blistering heatwave! #globalwarming is real folks. Wake up to it before it's too late. In a saree made of sustainable recyclable material by @vaishalisstudio." Fashion designer and wife of actor Arbaaz Khan, Shura Khan, commented on the post and said: "Stunner." Sonakshi Sinha dropped fire emojis.

RAVEENA WEARS SAREE MADE WITH RECYCLABLE MATERIAL IN THIS 'BLISTERING HEATWAVE'



Ankita Lokhande on how dance taught her a lot from her first performance in school



Team Absolute | Mumbai

On the occasion of International Dance Day on Monday, actress Ankita Lokhande shared how dance has been an integral part of her life and has imparted valuable lessons to her. Ankita took to X and shared a video.

The clip begins with her putting a "teeka" on Lord Natraj. Subsequently, she is seen wearing her ghungroos before commencing her classical dance performance.

The video then showcases snippets of the actress's dance performances in movies and shows. "Dance has always been an integral part of my life. Mere first school annual day performance se lekar ab tak, dance has taught me a lot," Ankita wrote.

"This reel is just a short summary of my connection with dance. Happy International Dance Day #Ankita #AnkitaLokhande #InternationalDanceDay," she added.



Preity Zinta misses 'Pati Parmeshwar' drops adorable video

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Currently busy with the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL), Punjab Kings co-owner Preity Zinta on Monday shared an adorable video with pictures of her husband Gene Goodenough, saying she is missing her 'Pati Parmeshwar'.

Taking to Instagram, Preity shared a Reel, which includes a montage of throwback pictures of the couple. There are also some glimpses of some unseen videos in the Reel.

The post is captioned: "I miss u already #patiparmeshwar #ting."

The 'Veer-Zaara' actress also added the tune of the song 'Tu Kya Jaane' from the recently released movie 'Amar Singh Chamkila' starring Diljit Dosanjh and Parineeti Chopra. The couple has twins - a boy, and a girl.

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Aishwarya Sushmita

Grandad Dharmendra wishes he had spent more time with his parents



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Veteran star Dharmendra took a trip down memory lane as he talked about his parents and expressed regret over not spending more time with them. Dharmendra took to X and shared an old picture featuring himself, his father, Kewal Kishan Singh Deol, and his elder actor-filmmaker son, Sunny Deol. In the image, Dharmendra and Sunny are seated on either side of his father, who is pictured sitting on a chair holding a walking stick.

Accompanying the image, Dharmendra wrote: "kaash! MAA BAAP ko aur waqt diya hota! (I wish I had spent more time with my parents!)" The actor also shared a picture on Instagram with the caption: "Friends, with your good wishes and his blessings, I got busy with my kheeti baadi. Love you all..... This cute tractor..... A lovely gift from a loving fan and friend from Rajkot This year you will see me in IKKEES (21) A BEAUTIFUL FILM by SRIRAM RAGHAVAN." Fondly known as the "He-Man" of Bollywood, Dharmendra has worked in over 300 films in a career spanning over six decades. His latest on-screen appearance was in the Shahid Kapoor and Kriti Sanon-starrer 'Teri Baaton Mein Aisa Uljha Jiya'.