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India likely to be Apple's 3rd largest market in next 2 to 3 years

- India is home to more than 850 million mobile phone users and has the potential to have over a billion smartphone users in the next five years.
- Apple shipped approximately 10 million iPhones in India last year, accounting for 7 per cent of the market share, as per Counterpoint report.
- Apple's continuing brand strength, combined with its ramped-up 'Make-in-India' production and strong online and offline retail presence, makes the brand accessible to more young Indian consumers.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

As Apple registered strong double-digit growth in India in the March quarter this year, experts on Friday said that the country will likely become the tech giant's third-largest market in the next two to three years. According to Tarun Pathak, Research Director at Counterpoint Research, Apple will continue to grow faster than the market and might grow more than 20 per cent this year in the country.

"In India, revenues grew to record levels due to better product mix and channel expansion. We believe Apple will continue to grow faster than the market and might grow over 20 per cent in 2024," Pathak told correspondent. According to experts, this gives a significant opportunity for Apple in terms of



the huge potential market outside China and the US in the coming years as most of these users are upgrading to their second or third smartphones right now and being 'mobile first', consumers are spending and upgrading to better and more expensive smartphones.

Moreover, Prabhu Ram, Head, Industry Intelligence Group at market intelligence firm CMR, said that given the headwinds Apple faces in the European Union (EU) and China, India will be a key growth engine over the next decade.

During the company's earnings calls on Friday, Apple CEO Tim Cook said that India is a major focus for the company.

The tech giant is geared up to manufacture over 50 million iPhones in India annually, as it aims to shift some of the production out from China.

GOVT LIFTS BAN ON ONION EXPORTS WITH PRICE RIDER

New Delhi | Agencies

The Government on Saturday lifted the ban on onion exports after about half a year, according to a notification from the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT).

"The export policy of onions is amended from 'prohibited to free' subject to a minimum export price of \$550 per metric ton with immediate effect and until further orders," the DGFT notification states.

The move forms part of the government's balancing act to assure farmers a higher price as well as keep inflation in check so that consumers are not hit. On April 27, the Government allowed the export of 99,150 metric tonnes of onion to six neighbouring countries -- Bangladesh, UAE, Bhutan, Bahrain, Mauritius and Sri Lanka. On December 8, 2023, the government banned the export of onions from March 31 this year. The ban was imposed to ensure adequate domestic availability and



keep prices in check as the outputs of both the Kharif and Rabi crops in 2023-24 are estimated to be lower as compared to the previous year and demand has increased in the international market. The National Cooperative Exports Limited (NCEL), the agency for export of onion to these countries, sourced the domestic onions to be exported through e-platform at L1 prices and supplied to the agencies nominated by the government of the destination country at the negotiated rate on 100 per cent advance payment basis, according to the Food

Ministry. The offer rate of NCEL to the buyers takes into account the prevailing prices in the destination market and also international and domestic markets. The quotas allocated for export to the six countries are being supplied as per requisition made by these destination countries. As the largest producer of onion in the country, Maharashtra is the major supplier of onions sourced by NCEL for export.

The Government had also allowed the export of 2000 metric tonnes (MT) of white onion cultivated especially for export markets in the Middle East and some

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

The procurement target for onion buffer out of Rabi-2024 under the Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF) of the Department of Consumer Affairs has been fixed at 5 lakh tons this year. Central agencies NCCF and NAFED are tying up local agencies such as FPOs/FPCs/PACs to support the procurement, storage and farmers' registration to begin the procurement of any store-worthy onion. A high-level team of the Department of Consumer Affairs, NCCF and NAFED visited Nashik and Ahmednagar districts of Maharashtra from April 11-13, 2024 to create awareness among the farmers, FPOs/FPCs and PACs about the procurement of 5 LMT of onion for PSF buffer.

NEW VITAMIN C-RICH BANDAGE TO BOOST BURN HEALING

New Delhi:

Italian researchers have developed a novel bandage developed from biodegradable material and loaded with vitamin C to help boost the healing process of burn wounds.



The bandage developed by the team from the Italian Institute of Technology (IIT) consists of zein -- a protein obtained from maize; pectin -- a sugar found in the peel of many fruits, like apple; and soy lecithin -- a substance sourced from the like-named plant.

The body's natural defence mechanism leads to inflammation after a burn, making the affected area red and swollen. However, inflammation when excessive can counterproductively trigger the generation of oxygen free radicals, and impede the healing process. The new bandage, detailed in the journal ACS Applied Bio Materials, was found capable of preventing an increase in the level of inflammation and cutting down the number of free radicals, thus reducing the time needed for healing.

"This is just one of the possible applications for this category of smart materials," said Athanassia Athanassiou, Principal Investigator of IIT's Smart Materials Unit.

Importantly, the bandage naturally degrades within a few days, providing an environmentally sustainable alternative to skin patches, the team said.

NCPCR ASKS ALL STATES TO PREVENT ILLEGAL TRANSPORTATION OF CHILDREN

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has asked Chief Secretaries/Administrators of all states and Union Territories to prevent illegal transportation of children.

In a letter issued on Friday to the Chief Secretaries/Administrators, the NCPCR said that recently 95 children were rescued and it was found that they had been attending unregistered madrasas in the Saharanpur District of Uttar Pradesh.

They disclosed that they were coerced into carrying bricks, cleaning toilets, and endured physical and mental abuse.

The NCPCR in its letter stated that whoever, for the purpose of exploitation, recruits, harbours, transfers or receives a person, commits the offence of trafficking.

In accordance with the mandate outlined in Section 13 (1) of the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005, the commission recommends that states must ensure that all children in the age group of 6-14 years are enrolled in neighbourhood schools and receive formal education.

In its recommendations to the states the NCPCR asked to ensure that in all such cases where it is found that money is being raised in



the name of children and children are illegally taken from one place to another, the concerned Investigating Officer may consider action in light of the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015 and Section 370 of the Indian Penal Code.

They also asked states to issue necessary directions to the District Collector/Magistrate of all Districts in state/UT to enhance vigilance in their respective districts, thereby preventing the illegal transportation of children between locations.

Additionally, the District Child Protection Unit (DCPU), Anti-Human Trafficking Unit (AHTU), and Special Juvenile Police Units (SJPU) should be instructed to conduct routine inspections and monitoring to deter such occurrences.

The compliance of the above recommendations may be sent to the commission within 15 days of issue of the letter, the official added.

'Honoured to be with the Thala'

AMITABH BACHHAN REUNITES WITH RAJINIKANTH FOR UPCOMING FILM 'VETTAIYAN'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood veteran Amitabh Bachchan and Tamil cinema's iconic star Rajinikanth have reunited for the upcoming film 'Vettaiyan'. The shooting of the film is underway in Mumbai.

On Saturday, Big B took to his Instagram and shared a picture with Rajini as he expressed his delight in working with him again.

In the picture, shared by Big B, both actors can be seen dressed in sleek and stylish suits as they share a warm hug.

Big B penned a heartfelt note in the caption as he wrote: "I'm honoured and privileged to be with the Thala the Great Rajni again. He hasn't changed at all, the same simple humble down to earth friend despite his stratospheric greatness (sic)." 'Vettaiyan', which marks the reunion of the two of the



biggest stars of Indian cinema after 33 years, was tentatively titled 'Thalaivar 170'. Big B and Thalaivar last worked together in the Hindi film 'Hum', directed by Mukul Anand which was released in 1991. 'Hum' was a massive rage in the 1990s and a huge success. The film also starred Govinda, Anupam Kher, Kimi Katkar, Deepa Sahi, Shilpa Shirodkar, Danny Denzongpa, and Kader Khan in pivotal roles. It is also remembered for its song 'Jumma Chumma De De'.

IIT Delhi, ITU to host UN-based robotics championship in India in October

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT Delhi) and the International Telecommunication Union

(ITU) on Saturday joined hands to organise the first ever UN-based educational robotics championship in India in October this year. The Robotics for Good Youth Challenge 2024-2025 is a global initiative of the ITU, as part of AI for Good, the UN platform on artificial intelligence (AI).

The event, to be organised by IIT Delhi's technology innovation hub IHFC, will put Indian students and their robotics expertise on the global map. It also looks at targeting students to offer robotic solutions for disaster management, which is a critical focus area across the world.

The challenge is designed for two age groups -- Junior (Class 6-8) and Senior (Class 9-12) -- where the participants will get to design, build, and programme a robot that completes a mission based on promoting the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The focus is on Robotics for Good, emphasising addressing natural disasters like earthquakes, seismic risk prediction, and soil and subsurface studies. The primary objective is to enable swift intervention during disasters to effectively minimise their impact. An India qualifying tournament will be held on October 17 at the International Exhibition Convention Centre in Delhi, before a qualifying tournament leading to the grand finale in Geneva during the AI for Good Global Summit 2025.



Inspiring voices of India's women panchayat leaders resonate at UN meet

- Supriya Das Datta from Tripura, Kunuku Hema Kumari from Andhra Pradesh, and Neeru Yadav from Rajasthan shared their experiences and innovations in local governance and advancing the localisation of sustainable development goals (SDGs) in many thematic areas.
- These ranged from combating child marriages to promoting health, education, livelihood opportunities, and environmental sustainability.
- The trio exemplified the transformative power of grassroots leadership as they articulated the challenges and struggles they faced and overcame in their journey of leadership.

New York | Agencies

The inspiring stories of India's elected women representatives of the Panchayati Raj institutions resonated in the hallowed halls of the United Nations Headquarters as three iconic grassroots leaders took the centre stage on Friday at the Side Event titled



'Localising the SDGs: Women in Local Governance in India Lead the Way'.

The Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations and the Ministry of Panchayati Raj jointly organised the Side Event in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) at the UN Headquarters Secretariat Building in New York. Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj set the tone for the event, highlighting India's unique Panchayati Raj system as a beacon of decentralised power and direct democracy that facilitates active people's participation. With more than 1.4 million elected women representatives, India's journey with the Panchayati Raj system is a narrative of empowerment, inclusion, and progress, particularly highlighting the strides made in women's leadership, she said. Ambassador Kamboj also emphasised the meticulous

alignment of local planning processes with the SDGs, with a special focus on addressing women's issues. Vivek Bharadwaj, Secretary in the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, said that empowering women at the grassroots level is playing a pivotal role in the advancement of India. He also highlighted the innovative approaches taken by the Panchayati Raj institutions in leveraging technology for development and policy interventions to ensure economic empowerment, citing examples like the 'Drone Didi' and 'Lakshmi Didi' initiatives of the Central government. The event witnessed keynote speakers including Deputy Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations, Andreas Lovold, and representatives from UNFPA, including Pao Smith, UNFPA Asia Pacific Regional Director.



Farooq Abdullah accuses PM Modi of creating fear among Hindus

Team Absolute | Srinagar
Former J&K chief minister and National Conference (NC) President Farooq Abdullah alleged on Saturday that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is creating fear among the Hindus to remain in power.

Addressing an election rally in the old city Khaniyar area of Srinagar in support of his party candidate, Syed Ruhullah Mehdi, Abdullah asked people to stay away from the politics of divide and rule.

He said, "Modi is telling Hindus your mangalsutra will be taken away and sold to give money to Muslims. Are we such bad people that we will snatch mangalsutra from our mothers and sisters?"

"He tells them that if the INDIA bloc comes to power after the ongoing polls, their savings will be taxed and if they have two houses one would be taken away and given to Muslims. He does not talk about the issues of the common people who made him the Prime Minister in 2014," Abdullah said.

The NC President blamed the government for being in power and doing nothing for the common voter.

He said the prices of cooking gas, diesel, edible oil and vegetables have skyrocketed during Modi's 10 years in power.

He said all senior officers of police,



civil administration and higher bureaucracy in J&K are from outside. He said the voter has to prove

through the vote that he does not accept the decision taken on August 5, 2019. He even asked the voters to

check whether the EVMs were properly working or not when they go to cast their votes.

Arvinder Singh Lovely join BJP, after quitting Congress



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Arvinder Singh Lovely, former Delhi Congress chief and Rajkumar Chauhan, a former Congress minister, joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) at the party headquarters in the capital on Saturday.

Apart from Arvinder Lovely and Rajkumar, a couple of other known faces of the Delhi Congress unit including Naseeb Singh, Neeraj Basoya and Amit

Malik joined the BJP on Saturday. Notably, the Delhi Congress unit has been beset with intense turmoil and infighting, as the city leaders are miffed and upset over the alliance with the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the high command giving preference to 'outsiders' over local leadership, in ticket allotment for Lok Sabha polls and also for party's affairs. Rajkumar Chauhan, the former Delhi minister and the All India

Congress Committee (AICC) member resigned from the party last month after Delhi Congress' disciplinary committee objected to his 'dis-sent' to the party line. Arvinder Singh Lovely's resignation as the Delhi unit chief, last month, came as a big blow to the party. This followed a series of exits including couple of well-known names like Naseeb Singh and Neeraj Basoya, both former Delhi legislators.

President Murmu reaches Shimla for five-day visit

Team Absolute | Shimla
President Droupadi Murmu on Saturday reached Shimla for a five-day visit. She was received by Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla and Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu at Kalyani helipad in Charabra, near here, during her arrival. The President will be staying at Rashtrapati Niwas in Charabra. On May 6, she will attend the seventh convocation of the Central University of Himachal Pradesh in Dharamsala. On May 7, she will witness a cultural programme at the Gaiety Heritage Cultural Complex here. Later, she will also be attending a dinner hosted by the Governor at Raj Bhawan.



Convoy attacked by terrorists in J&K has been secured: IAF

Team Absolute | Jammu

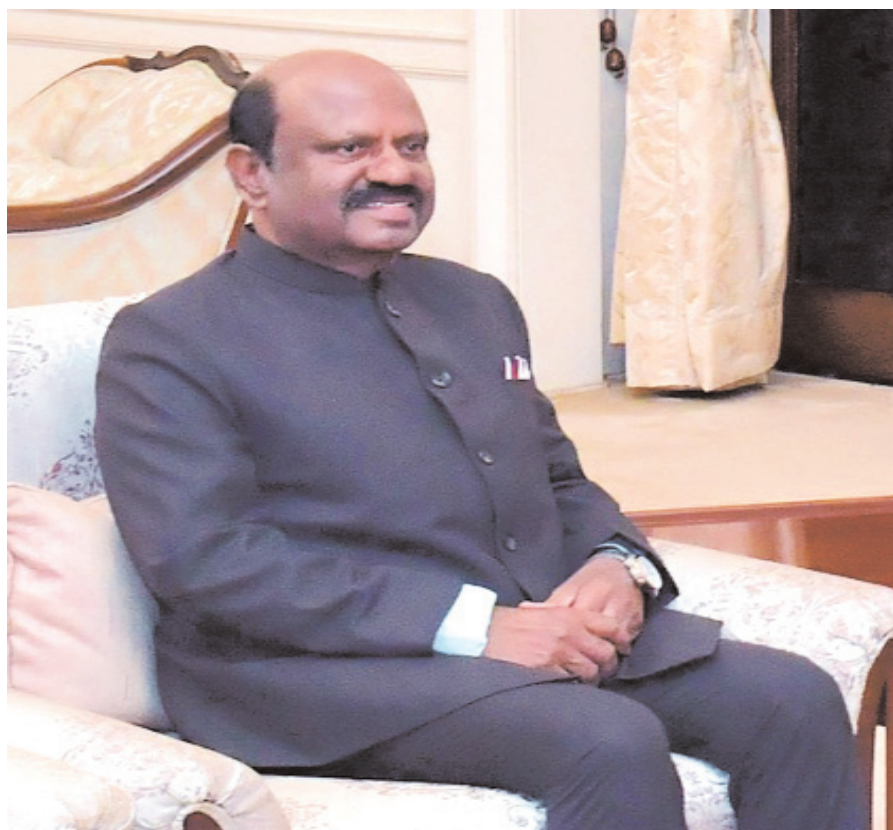
The Indian Air Force (IAF) said on Saturday that its convoy that was attacked by terrorists in J&K's Poonch district has been secured. The Air Force said in a post on X, "An Indian Air Force vehicle was attacked by militants in Poonch district near Shahsitar. Cordon and search operations are underway presently in the area by local military units. The convoy has been secured, and further investigation is under progress."

The terrorists attacked the Air Force vehicle at the Gursai forests in the Mendhar area of Poonch district late on Saturday afternoon.

Rashtriya Rifles and other security forces rushed to the spot and engaged the terrorists in a gunfight, which is going on. Sources said five Air Force personnel were injured in the initial firing by the terrorists, who have been airlifted to the Command Hospital in Udhampur, the headquarters of the Northern Command, for treatment.



Sexual harassment complaint against Bengal Guv: BJP, CPI(M) highlight TMC connections



Team Absolute | Kolkata
With the Trinamool Congress highlighting the sexual harassment complaint against West Bengal Governor, CV Ananda Bose, by a temporary staff member of Raj Bhavan in Kolkata, the Opposition parties including the BJP and CPI(M) have started questioning the links of the woman to the ruling party. The Opposition is pointing to an event where the mother of the accuser had contested as a Trinamool Congress candidate in a local election in East Midnapore District of West Bengal in 2002. East Midnapore is the native district of the woman who filed the police complaint of sexual harassment against Governor Bose on Thursday evening.

Governor Bose has described the allegation as an "engineered narrative" coined to gain electoral benefits.

The fact of the accuser's mother contesting as a Trinamool Congress candidate in 2002

was revealed to the media by veteran CPI(M) District Secretary in East Midnapore, Niranjan Sihi.

"I remember everything. To me this is a ploy to divert attention from other burning issues in the state like the Sandeshkhali development and the loss of school jobs," he said.

The BJP's former National Vice President, Dilip Ghosh, had described the entire development as a "scripted" strategy on part of the ruling party.

"This kind of dirty politics will result in the downfall of the ruling party. But one thing is clear. When the ruling party can target someone in this position and that too in such a manner, the condition of the ordinary public is well-imaginable," Ghosh said.

On Friday, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee at a public meeting questioned Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "silence" in the matter.

Congress' Deepender Hooda files nomination from Rohtak

Team Absolute | Rohtak

Congress' Rajya Sabha member Deepender Singh Hooda on Saturday filed his nomination papers for Lok Sabha polls from his home turf in Haryana's Rohtak -- a stronghold of the Jat community.

After filing the papers, a public meeting was organised that saw a gathering of party activists.

Speaking on the occasion, former Haryana chief minister and Leader of Opposition Bhopinder Singh Hooda said: "This is not just the Lok Sabha election but a fight to save the Constitution. Democracy will survive only if the Constitution survives. That is why Opposition parties have united and formed the INDIA bloc. In Haryana, this alliance is contesting the elections with full strength."

Son of two-time chief minister Bhopinder Singh Hooda,



Deepender, who inherited the politics from his family as his grandfather was a freedom fighter, has thrice won from the Rohtak Lok Sabha constituency in 2005, 2009 and 2014.

Deepender Hooda lost to BJP's Arvind Sharma in the 2019 general polls by a whisker.

Both candidates are in the fray again.

Arvind Sharma has promised to bring the Metro to Sampla in Rohtak district and announced to quit politics, if he failed to do so.

The Hoodas -- Deepender Hooda, his father Bhopinder Hooda and grandfather Ranbir Singh Hooda -- have represented Rohtak nine times.

In the Rohtak Lok Sabha seat, there are 18,86,796 voters who will cast votes along with nine other seats in the state on May 25.

Mother charged with murder for throwing newborn to death in Kochi

Team Absolute | Kochi

Twenty-four hours after a newborn was flung out the fifth floor of an apartment in Kochi, the police have registered murder charges against the infant's 23-year-old 'mother', who admitted to killing the child.

The woman, who lives with her parents in the apartment, delivered a child early on Friday morning in her bathroom. She confessed that she was jittery and when her mother knocked the door of her room, she packed the newborn in a courier cover and threw it on the road.

Shockingly, before throwing the baby, she stuffed cloth in the infant's mouth and strangled the newborn.

The police have now registered murder charges against the woman, who is presently under medical attention.

On Friday morning, Kerala woke up to a piece of shocking news with TV channels airing a CCTV clip showing the infant, wrapped in a plastic packet, falling from an apartment in Kochi.

After a preliminary probe, the police rounded up the woman and her parents who live on the fifth floor of the apartment.

While the woman admitted to flinging her child to the road, her parents said they had no clue as to what happened to their daughter.

The Kochi City Police Commissioner told the media on Friday that a detailed



probe will reveal if the woman was a rape victim.

The police are reportedly searching for a youth from Trissur in connection with the case.



Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

'SHAHENSHAH LIVES IN CASTLE': PRIYANKA GANDHI

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Saturday returned fire amidst the volley of slurs and onslaught against Rahul Gandhi by the BJP top leadership and trained guns at Prime Minister Narendra Modi for calling him 'Shehzada' at multiple election rallies.

"He calls my brother Shehzada but he is the one who crossed past the country from Kanyakumari to Kashmir and covered a 4000 km distance on foot. During the way, he met my brothers, sisters and farmers and understood their problems in person. On the other hand, Shahenshah Narendra Modi lives in a castle," said Priyanka at a poll rally in Gujarat's Banaskantha.

"Have you seen him on Television, he looks clean and tidy, his clothes have no spot or blemish, how can he understand your problems and daily travails," Priyanka asked the crowd, in a further jibe at the Prime Minister.

Priyanka was addressing the Nyay



Sankalp Sabha in Banaskantha, Gujarat on Saturday.

"Modi ji lives in his own castle. He

is surrounded by those in power, all are scared of him. Nobody dissents against him and those who raise

voices against him are silenced," Priyanka said at the public gathering.

CM Yogi slams Congress over inheritance tax

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Slamming Congress leaders for advocating the implementation of 'inheritance tax', Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday linked the entire idea with the 'Jizya' tax that was imposed on the Hindu community during the rule of Mughal emperor Aurangzeb.

Addressing a public rally in Madhya Pradesh's Ashok Nagar in support of BJP candidate and Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, the UP Chief Minister stated that the Congress party wants to impose the Jizya tax of the Aurangzeb era in spite of knowing well the atrocities committed by the Mughal emperor. "On one hand, Modi ji says that he will end the elements of slavery and will respect the heritage. On the other, Congress talks about imposing inheritance tax," said Yogi Adityanath.

He also expressed full confidence in BJP-NDA's triumph in the ongoing Lok Sabha elections.



"I have visited nine states so far for the BJP's campaign and have noticed a one-sided wave in favour of PM Modi across the country," said CM Yogi. Asserting that it was the Scindia family that had "pushed the Afghans out" of the Indian border, he also acknowledged Vijaya Raje Scindia's contribution to making the Ram temple dream in Ayodhya a reality. Jyotiraditya Scindia, who ended his decades-long association with Congress and

joined the BJP in March 2020, is contesting his sixth Lok Sabha election from his family bastion, Guna.

He had contested his last election on the Congress symbol in 2019 and lost to BJP's K.P. Yadav.

The Congress has fielded Rao Yadendra Singh Yadav against Scindia. The election in Guna, along with eight other Lok Sabha seats in Madhya Pradesh including Bhopal and Vidisha, will be held on May 7.

BJP confusing voters through CAA notification: Mamata Banerjee

Kolkata | Agencies

The BJP and the Central government are trying to confuse the Matua population concentrated mainly in West Bengal by notifying the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee claimed on Saturday.

"The Centre and Prime Minister Narendra Modi are confusing our Matua brothers. The implementation of CAA and applying for it does not mean automatic granting of citizenship. There are many uncertainties even after that," the Chief Minister said during an election meeting in Chakdaha in Nadia district, which has a sizable Matua population.

To recall, the Centre on March 11 notified the Citizenship (Amendment) Rules 2024, thus paving the way for enforcing the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), which seeks to grant Indian citizenship to persecuted Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists, Parsis and Christians who came to India



from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan before December 31, 2014.

The news triggered celebrations among the members of the Matua community, a backward-class Hindu group which came to West Bengal as refugees from neighbouring Bangladesh, and form a sizable population in the state.

"Five years back, the BJP managed to secure the Matua votes in the name of CAA. The party had then promised

to grant citizenships through CAA. But those were all lies. Now they are saying you must apply through the CAA form. Even after that, there is no guarantee of getting citizenship. In case you are not granted citizenship, you will be sent to the detention camps," she said.

"They tried to do the same thing in Assam. I will not allow the implementation of CAA in West Bengal as long as I am alive," the Chief Minister said.

SIT takes H.D. Revanna into custody from ex-PM Deve Gowda's residence

Bengaluru | Agencies

In a major development, the Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the sex video scandal involving JD-S MP Prajwal Revanna on Saturday took his father and JD-S MLA H.D. Revanna into custody after his anticipatory bail plea in a victim kidnapping case was rejected by the People's Representative Court in Bengaluru.

Sources said that H.D. Revanna has been taken into custody from the residence of his father and former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda in Bengaluru's Padmanabhanagar locality. He has been taken to the SIT office on the premises of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID).

H.D. Revanna opened the door himself and walked out with the SIT officers towards their vehicle. He did not make any remark at the time of his arrest.

The SIT officers reached the former PM's residence soon after the court turned down his anticipatory bail plea in a case related to the kidnapping of a woman who was allegedly sexually assaulted by his son Prajwal Revanna, the sources said.

Earlier on Saturday, the SIT traced



the kidnapped woman to the farmhouse of Rajashekar, the personal assistant (PA) to H.D. Revanna, at Kalenahalli village in Mysuru district.

In the court, Special Public Prosecutor B.N. Jagadish submitted that the case is about saving the life of a poor woman.

Jagadish argued that H.D. Revanna did not turn up before the authorities

even after being served three notices.

Senior counsel Muthy D. Naik, appearing for H.D. Revanna, argued that the only allegation against his client is a statement that he had called the victim to his residence.

Barring this, there is nothing to prove the role of H.D. Revanna in this case, he argued, adding that the statement was made by an accused in the

case, with whom his client has no connections.

He also claimed that the SIT has deliberately added IPC Section 364A, which attracts life imprisonment and capital punishment, to ensure that his client's bail plea is rejected.

The other IPC Sections invoked in the case -- 363 and 365 -- attract imprisonment of less than seven years. Therefore, to prove the innocence of H.D. Revanna, he should be granted bail, Naik submitted.

Meanwhile, the woman, who had gone missing on April 29, was found locked up in the farmhouse when the SIT officers reached there following a tip-off. Sources said Rajashekar is absconding ever since the SIT traced the missing woman to his farmhouse.

The woman is being brought to Bengaluru where her statement will be recorded.

On Friday, Karnataka Police registered an FIR against H.D. Revanna in connection with the kidnapping of the woman, believed to be one of the victims of the sex video scandal involving his son Prajwal Revanna.

The woman's son had registered a missing complaint naming H.D. Revanna as the prime accused in the case.

Cong candidate from Puri returns ticket citing lack of funds to fight LS poll

Bhubaneswar | Agencies

In a development that has left the cash-strapped Congress red-faced, the party's candidate for Puri Lok Sabha constituency Sucharita Mohanty, has declined to contest the election, citing lack of funding from the party.

"It is clear that only a fund crunch is holding us back from a winning campaign in Puri. I regret that without party funding, it won't be possible to carry out the campaign in Puri. I, therefore, return the INC ticket for the Puri Parliamentary Constituency herewith.

"I am a Congresswoman with core Congress values in my DNA. I shall remain a loyal soldier of the Congress and my leader Jananayak Rahul Gandhi," wrote the journalist-turned-politician in her resignation letter.

Following her nomination for the Puri Lok Sabha seat, Mohanty had also tried to arrange funds through crowd-funding. She shared a UPI QR code and other account details on her social media account seeking donations to contest the elections.

She was also unhappy with the Congress over the selection of candidates for seven



Assembly segments under the Puri Lok Sabha constituency and had reportedly requested party seniors to change the candidates in some of the seats. However, the party didn't pay heed to her.

Mohanty had fought from the Puri Lok Sabha constituency in the 2014 General Elections but lost to BJD candidate Pinaki Misra.

BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra has been contesting from the Puri Lok Sabha constituency while the ruling BJD has fielded former Mumbai Police Commissioner Arup Patnaik from the high-profile constituency.

Sulking for a week, Naseem Khan bounces back as Star Campaigner

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Following intervention by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and AICC General Secretary Ramesh Chennithala, Maharashtra unit Congress Working President Arif Naseem Khan on Saturday agreed to be a 'Star Campaigner' for the fifth phase of Lok Sabha elections.

Last month (on April 26), Khan had abruptly quit the Congress Campaign Committee as well as the post of Star Campaigner to protest against the lack of any Muslim candidate from the party as well as the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) alliance for the Lok Sabha polls.

Amid huge speculation over his future moves, Khan was summoned to Pune on Friday to meet Chennithala and Rahul Gandhi to resolve his grievances, and discussed all aspects with him for nearly two hours.

"We had very cordial discussions on various matters concerning the LS elections. I shall abide by the party decision and more shall be revealed on Monday," Khan told IANS on Saturday, without revealing any details.

Indicating everything is hunky-dory for now, the Congress late Friday night released its new list of Star Campaigners in which Khan is named prominently and will campaign for the Congress-MVA-INDIA bloc candidates in the state for the May 20 elections.

Earlier, the sudden move by the senior leader of the Muslim community,



who is a former state minister, had rattled the state Congress and also party units in other states across the country, with possible implications on the Muslim vote in nearly 20 seats in Maharashtra and many more in other states.

Khan was a contender for the prestigious Mumbai North Central Lok Sabha constituency, where the party has fielded city Congress President and ex-minister Prof. Varsha Gaikwad.

Her chief rivals include Bharatiya Janata Party's Ujjwal Nikam, besides the All India Majlis-E-Ittehadul Muslimeen's Ramzan Chaudhary and Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi's Santosh Ambulge.

The tricky situation arising out of Khan's move got compounded after

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge appeared to indicate that there could be opposition to a Muslim candidate from the MVA partner Shiv Sena (UBT), led by ex-Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, in his home seat.

Earlier, VBA President Prakash Ambedkar had slammed the Congress and MVA allies -- SS (UBT) and Nationalist Congress (SP) -- for denying a ticket to any Muslim candidate for the 48 LS seats in the state. Ambedkar had pointed out that the VBA had lived up to its promises and fielded several Muslims candidates in the state, while the AIMIM asked Khan to 'kick the Congress' and made an open offer to Khan to contest any LS seat in Mumbai on its party ticket.

In a succour to the Congress and the minority community, SS (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut promptly cleared the air by declaring that his party had absolutely "no reservations" to Khan's candidature, or any other candidate of the Congress.

"We have excellent relations with Khan. He is a senior Muslim leader and respected in political circles. If the Congress wants to field him from any seat, we shall wholeheartedly support him and ensure his victory," said Raut, and other SS (UBT) leaders also expressed similar sentiments.

With Khan's return to the campaign fold, the MVA has heaved a sigh of relief that the minorities may not desert their LS candidates and would help defeat the MahaYuti-BJP nominees in the state.

Rahul Gandhi talks about wealth redistribution In the viral video

Team Absolute | New Delhi

While the Congress has repeatedly denied any 'wealth redistribution' promise in its election manifesto for 2024 Lok Sabha polls, a fresh pitch for the same by party leader Rahul Gandhi has stirred a fresh controversy.

A video of Rahul Gandhi is circulating on social media, where he is heard saying that the Caste census will not only establish the caste break-up of the country's population but also give a fair idea about their economic status. And, when this is established, it will lead to calls for re-organisation of wealth, as per their demography.

The location and timing of Rahul Gandhi's video is not stated but this has found widespread circulation on social media and also evoked many responses from the netizens.

The veracity of the undated video is yet to be ascertained but this is bound to embarrass the party and make it difficult to defend his reasoning. Many are questioning if the Congress doesn't talk about wealth redistribution in its poll manifesto, then why Rahul Gandhi is



pushing for the same again and again.

Many also objected to his theory and took potshots for suggesting such a shake-up in an economy on uptrend.

In the viral video, Rahul Gandhi is heard saying: "Caste census will establish which caste of the population has access to how much nation's wealth. How much farmers hold, how much resources women hold? After this, a new politics will begin. The status quo won't remain the same. People who represent 50 per cent of population will demand equal share in the nation's resources.

"Our thinking is that this will not only be caste census but will also be an economic survey," he further says in video.



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

Team Absolute | Mumbai

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

The polling will take place on May 13.

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

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

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

BMC-IMD alert

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

Team Absolute | Mumbai

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

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



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

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

Mumbai Police constable's mysterious death baffles authorities

Team Absolute | Mumbai

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

Pune : NCP(SP) | Agencies

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

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

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

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



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

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

to stoop to make any such personal comments."

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

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

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

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

Team Absolute | Thane

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

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

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

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



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

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

support her

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

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

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

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

Team Absolute | Thane

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

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

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

The defamation case was



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

linked the organisation to the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi.

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

Team Absolute | Mumbai

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

Team Absolute | Mumbai

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

Action was also taken against 154 illegal hawkers in the city. The operation was also focused on maintaining public safety in Mumbai. The police also inspected 800 establishments, including hotels, lodges, and musafirhanas.

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

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



THE EXISTENCE OF CONGRESS IN THE COUNTRY HAS BECOME THE BIGGEST MISFORTUNE: VISHNUDATT SHARMA

Team Absolute | Bhopal

State President of Bharatiya Janata Party and Khajuraho MP Vishnudatt Sharma, while addressing the workers' conference in Raghogarh of Rajgarh Lok Sabha constituency, said that during the 10-year tenure of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, a campaign to change the lives of the poor is going on. Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji did the work of bringing smile in the life of every poor.

There has been a change in every village and household through poor welfare schemes. The work has been done to change the lives of people of any caste or religion in the country. Prime Minister has brought changes in the life of the last person in line. Modi ji is the son of an ordinary family, who is the Prime Minister of the country today. It is possible only in Bharatiya Janata Party that an ordinary worker reaches positions like Prime Minister and Chief Minister. The Congress party has now become a family party. Modi ji knows what



poverty is. That's why we are working to wipe the tears of the poor. Before the workers conference, State President Sharma addressed a public meeting in Ashoknagar in support of Guna Lok Sabha party candidate and Union Minister Jyotiraditya

Scindia. Sharma said that while being the Prime Minister, Congress leader Late. Rajiv Gandhi used to say, if I send one rupee from Delhi, only 15 paise reaches the people. 85 paise is lost to corruption. After becoming

the Prime Minister, Modi ji planned to open bank accounts for everyone. India is the only country in the world where most of the people across the country have received both the Corona vaccines free of cost.

Whatever work Modi ji does, it has huge results. Today, the amount of beneficiary schemes is coming into the bank accounts opened by Prime Minister Modi ji with zero balance. Prime Minister promoted Digital India and today the amount goes directly into the accounts of the beneficiaries through DBT. Now if Prime Minister sends one rupee from Delhi for the poor, then only one rupee reaches the accounts of the poor. Not a single penny is misappropriated.

Sharma said that it is a matter of good fortune for all of us that our beloved Ramlala is seated in his grand temple. A grand Shri Ram temple has been constructed under the leadership of Prime Minister. Congress had even rejected the invitation to Lord Shri Ram temple. Now the people of Raghogarh will reject Congress.

Will kick corruption and land mafia out of Guna, promises Union Minister Scindia

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Making a promise to the people of his constituency in Guna, Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia said on Saturday that he will not allow any wrongdoing to take place in the area.

"Together, we will kick corruption and land mafia out of Guna, just like Yogi Adityanath is doing in Uttar Pradesh," Jyotiraditya Scindia said while addressing a public rally in Ashok Nagar that was also attended by the Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister.

Accusing former chief ministers Digvijaya Singh and Kamal Nath of playing a major role in derailing the development of Madhya Pradesh, Scindia said that schemes like 'Ladli Behna Yojana' initiated by the BJP have transformed lives in the state.

"Had the Congress government not been toppled in Madhya Pradesh, Kamal Nath and Digvijaya Singh would have misutilised the public money. Schemes like the Ladli Behna Yojana could not have been a reality," said Jyotiraditya Scindia.

Ashok Nagar, which goes to voting on May



7, falls in the Guna Lok Sabha constituency from where Jyotiraditya Scindia is contesting his sixth election.

The Union Minister also highlighted the work done by Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government over the last 10 years.

Having begun his political career after the death of his father and Congress leader Madhavrao Scindia in 2001, Jyotiraditya Scindia is contesting on BJP's symbol for the first time.

BJP is suppressing the Opposition: Sachin Pilot

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Congress leader Sachin Pilot on Friday accused the BJP of trying to polarise voters to divert their attention from the real issues as the Central government led by it "failed to fulfill promises made in the last two general elections".

Addressing a public rally in Madhya Pradesh's Rajgarh for Congress candidate Digvijaya Singh, the former Deputy Chief Minister of Rajasthan also accused the BJP government at Centre of suppressing opposition leaders by implicating them on fake charges.

Pilot appealed to Rajgarh voters to support Digvijaya Singh in the Lok Sabha election, saying that the latter has served the people for the last several decades. "Digvijaya Singh is among those leaders, who fight for the people. He



has served Rajgarh's people in different roles and now it's your (people) turn to elect him your MP," he said.

Congress veteran and two-time Chief Minister Digvijaya Singh is contesting his last election (as he has announced) from his home turf Rajgarh after three decades. In 2019, he contested from Bhopal against BJP's Pragya Thakur and lost.

The Rajgarh parliamentary constituency covers two Assembly segments -- Raghogarh and Chachoura -- of Guna District and one of Shajapur (Susner) and five Assembly segments of Rajgarh district.

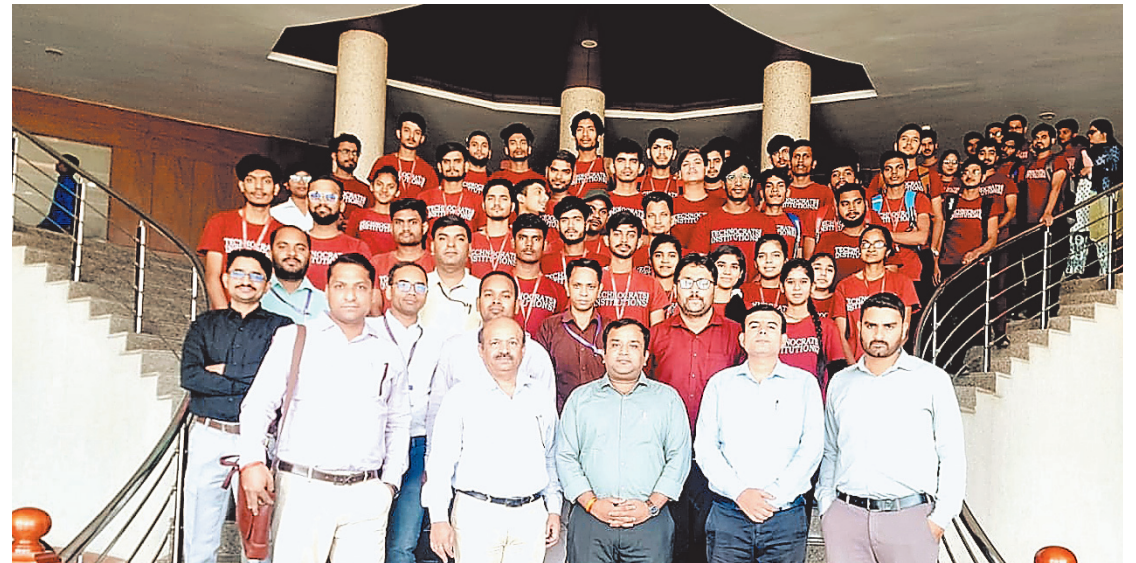
As Rajgarh Lok Sabha constituency shares a border with neighbouring Rajasthan, there are a large chunk of Rajasthan-origin voters.

Awareness program on cancer organized by AIIMS Bhopal

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Professor (Dr) Ajai Singh, Executive Director of AIIMS Bhopal, always emphasizes that we should go out of the hospital premises, among the people in the community to provide them health information. Only then will we be able to truly make people health conscious. In view of the increasing cases of cancer in the country, it is very important to create awareness.

HPV vaccination is very important to combat the problem of cervical cancer especially in women. Professor Singh places great emphasis on the education of children in particular. According to him, educating or making a child aware means educating or making a generation aware. In this connection, Dr. Shashank Bansal, Assistant Professor, Department of Medical Oncology, AIIMS Bhopal, organized an awareness program on cancer for the students of Technocrats institute of tech-



nology Bhopal on 4th May 2024.

In this awareness program, students were told about the screening technique through which any person can check himself at the primary level

whether he has cancer. The risk of cervical cancer in women is almost completely eliminated after HPV vaccination. Besides, students were also given information about how to

maintain their lifestyle. Because in the present lifestyle, children are mostly attracted towards junk food. Around 100 students participated in this cancer awareness program.

MP High Court: B.Ed. -D. El.Ed. Important decision in the dispute

Team Absolute | Jabalpur

MP High Court has given an important decision in a case related to primary teacher recruitment. The High Court said that according to the decision of the Supreme Court, all the B.Ed degree holders who have been appointed before August 11, 2023, will remain on the job. But according to the condition of the Supreme Court, it will be mandatory for all these B.Ed degree holders to do a 6-month bridge course. The court has clearly said that if he does not complete the bridge course within one year, his appointment will be cancelled.

After the decision of the Supreme Court, the High Court has considered the appointments of B.Ed degree holders as primary teachers as illegal. At the same time, freedom has been given to file a separate petition regarding the legality of



Teacher Recruitment Rules 2018. This decision was given by the division bench headed by Justice Sheel Nagu. On behalf of hundreds of

D.El.Ed students, a petition was filed in the Madhya Pradesh High Court challenging the appointment of B.Ed degree holders to the post of primary teachers. Advocate Rameshwar Singh Thakur, on behalf of the petitioners, said that on November 8, 2023, the Supreme Court had declared B.Ed degree holders ineligible for appointment to the post of primary teacher. Madhya Pradesh government had filed a review petition in the Supreme Court for clarification of this decision.

He said that the state government had filed an affidavit stating that out of the total 21962 appointments of primary teachers, there are 11,583 B.Ed candidates. The remaining posts have been filled by D.El.Ed candidates. After the order of the Supreme Court, 284 B.Ed degree candidates have been appointed from the waiting list.

58.14 bulk liters of illicit liquor seized from smuggler

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Under the direction of Collector Kaushalendra Vikram Singh, Assistant Excise Commissioner Deepam Raicura was getting information for a long time that former famous slip liquor smuggler Dhansingh Atmaj Kunjilal Raghuvanshi, age 50 years, resident of old Bhopal including Panchsheel, Apsara, Subhash Nagar, Ashoka Garden, Station. Ashoka Garden, Bhopal, on the accurate information of the informer, the Excise team patrolling the area, as per the instructions of Excise Controller Ramgopal Bhaduria, tried to stop him by setting up a blockade at Prabhat intersection near Prabhat petrol pump. But the accused tried to escape, but was surrounded and caught



by the Hamrah staff. On being searched, a total of 36 bottles of foreign liquor from 01 black colored bag and 173 pav of foreign liquor from the second bag were recovered from the two wheeler Suzuki Axis number MP-05-MX-4418 in the possession of the accused. 58.14 bulk liters of liquor was

recovered and excise duty was taken.

It is also noteworthy here that recently the Excise Department has sent illegal liquor smugglers Anil Ahirwar, Hemwati Bai, Aman Chandalia, Ashif Khaw to jail on charges of illegal liquor smuggling.

ELECTION CAMPAIGN WILL STOP FROM 6 PM ON MAY 5 FOR THE THIRD PHASE OF VOTING

Bhopal: In the third phase of Lok Sabha elections-2024, the election campaign will stop from 6 pm on May 5 in the 9 Lok Sabha parliamentary constituencies of Madhya Pradesh where voting is to be held from 7 am to 6 pm on Tuesday, May 7.

Chief Electoral Officer Anupam Rajan has said that there is a provision to stop election campaigning in the parliamentary constituency 48 hours before the scheduled end of voting. After the deadline for campaigning ends, persons from outside the area, who are not voters in that Lok Sabha Parliamentary Constituency, will have to leave that constituency. To ensure this, intensive surveillance operations are carried out. In the third phase, voting is to be held on May 7 in 9 Lok Sabha parliamentary constituencies of Madhya Pradesh, Morena, Bhand (SC), Gwalior, Guna, Sagar, Vidisha, Bhopal, Rajgarh and Betul (SC).

Madhya Pradesh Health Department issued heat stroke advisory

Heat stroke can be fatal. A person goes into shock when he gets heatstroke. In case of heat stroke, first of all measures should be taken to reduce the body temperature by giving water to the patient. Special care should be taken to ensure that there is no shortage of water in the body. Soak a cloth in normal temperature water and rub it on the body. It is important to take the patient to the hospital as soon as possible.



Team Absolute | Bhopal

In view of the increase in temperature, CMHO Bhopal has issued an advisory to prevent heat stroke. Besides, instructions have been issued to institutions ranging from district hospitals to sub-health centers to remain on alert for the treatment of heat wave cases. ORS corners have been created in all health institutions for initial management of heat stroke. All necessary arrangements for management and treatment of vomiting, diarrhoea, fever have been ensured at the health centres.

When heat stroke occurs, the

body temperature reaches 104 degrees Fahrenheit. This condition may occur gradually or may occur suddenly. In case of complicated condition, the kidney may stop functioning. If heatstroke is not treated immediately, a person may even die.

ORS Zinc Corners have been created in all the health institutions of the district. Here, along with the availability of ORS and Zinc, the method of preparing the solution, methods of its use and its benefits are also being explained.

ORS solution removes water deficiency in the body and also reduces the frequency of diarrhoea.

AVOID DEHYDRATION

- Chief Medical and Health Officer, Bhopal, Dr. Prabhakar Tiwari said that due to prolonged exposure to strong sunlight and heat, there is a deficiency of water and salt in the body.
- To prevent this, it is important not to remain in direct contact with sunlight for too long. In case of extreme heat, it is important to drink plenty of water, cover the head and ears properly with cloth, wear light cotton clothes and wear glasses, umbrella, hat and shoes in the sun.
- In case of excessive sweating, one should drink ORS solution, lassi, buttermilk and fruit juice. In case of dizziness or nausea, one should stop at a shady place and take rest, cool water or as per availability, fruit juice, lassi, etc. should be consumed.
- In case of vomiting, headache, high fever, advice should be sought at the nearest health center. In case of heat stroke, the person should initially rest by lying down in the air under a fan. In case of fever, a cold water bandage should be applied on the head. Special care should be taken of small children, elderly and sick people during the



Khloe Kardashian opened up about her sexuality

Los Angeles | Agencies

Khloe Kardashian is giving hints to the potential future of her love life. The 'Kardashians' star recently opened up about her sexuality in a cryptic social media post. She didn't seem to snub the idea of dating women. The mum-of-two hasn't had the best of luck when it comes to her exes, Tristan Thompson and Lamar Odom, reports Mirror.co.uk.

But now it seems she could be open to change in a revealing message on her X account. After a string of high-profile breakups, one fan wrote on the social media site: "I still think Khloe should be a lesbian."

As per Mirror.co.uk, the upload attracted hundreds of interactions, including a reaction from Khloe herself. Refusing to shut down the idea, she replied: "Well you never know what my future holds."

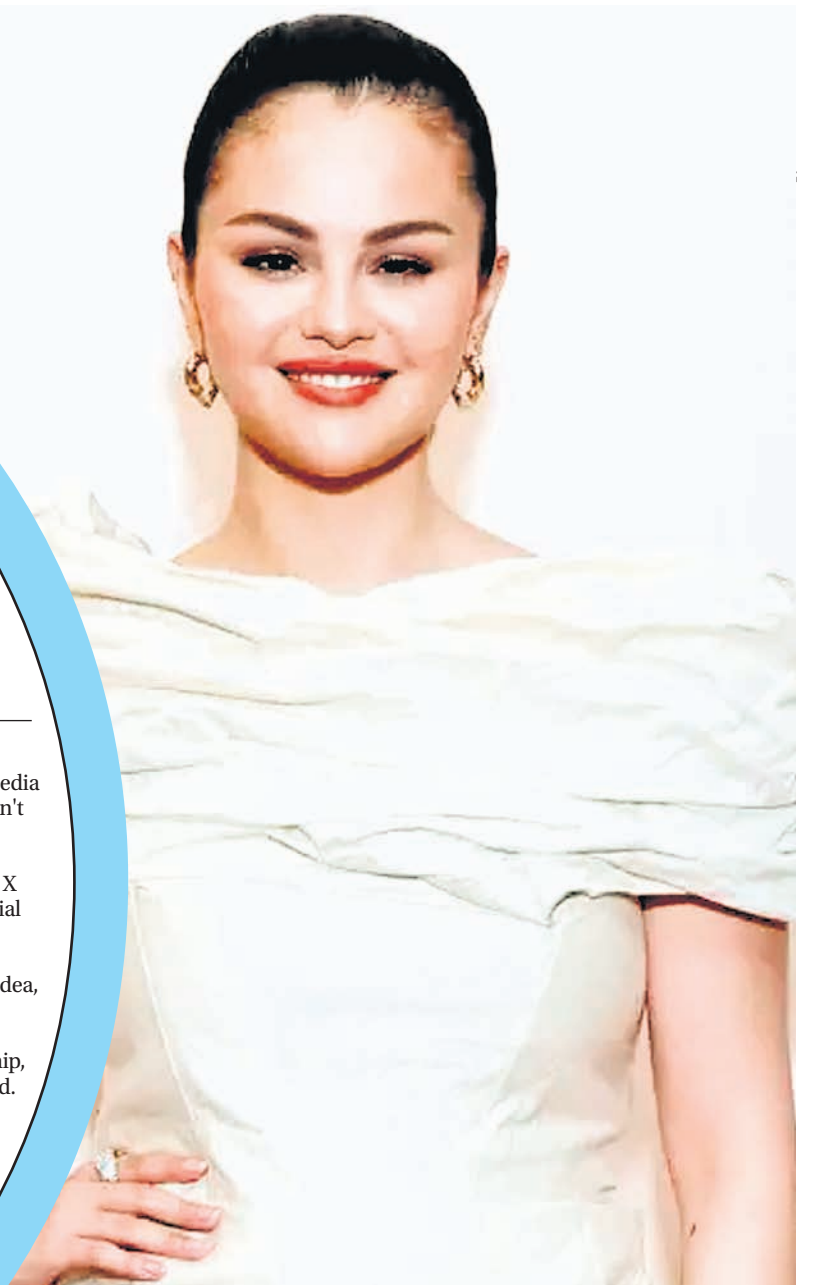
Her response sparked a huge reaction from her followers. Again, Khloe didn't deny any chance of her future in a same-sex relationship, replying with the crying laughing emoji, without a message attached.

Despite the candid revelation, it was recently revealed that the star "isn't focused on dating" at all. Khloe has had a rocky relationship history and found herself at the centre of a cheating scandal when she dated Tristan. The pair seemed to be very happy and even welcomed two children together, but their relationship crumbled when it was revealed Tristan had fathered a child with another woman behind Khloe's back.

Now, the pair are said to be "co-parenting well together".

While Tristan has expressed his hopes at getting back with Khloe, it seems she doesn't feel the same.

A source explained: "She isn't focused on dating and doesn't want any outside distractions right now. Family always comes first for her and she is happy with where she's at in her life."



I think I've created boundaries to help me: Selena Gomez

Los Angeles | Agencies

Selena Gomez may be on Instagram now, but that doesn't mean she should take any toxicity from social media trolls. The 31-year-old Only Murders in the Building star addressed the reason why she has her Instagram comments limited from the public.

"I disabled all my comments on my photos on Instagram for only my friends," she told TODAY at the Rare Beauty's Mental Health Summit earlier this week. "So, I think I've created boundaries to help me. Obviously people fussed about it. They fuss about everything."

Despite how some people have apparently criticized her, Selena pointed out that she "felt empowered by doing that, by saying, 'This is just for me.'"

On Thursday, May 2, the Hulu actress shared photos from the occasion, which was her makeup company's annual event to discuss mental health.

Ali Wong suffers makeup mishap

Los Angeles | Agencies

Los Angeles, May 4 (IANS) Golden Globe-winning actress Ali Wong's recent makeup session didn't go as planned. The actress poked a little fun at her latest makeup look in a new Instagram video.

The actress shared a selfie clip, filmed backstage before the opening night of her Los Angeles residency at The Wilton. Wong said that her glam wasn't quite what she expected, reports People magazine.

"I do my own makeup to save time and money," she explained in the clip. "I forgot my eyebrow pencil, so I had to make do with this kinda reddish-brown eyeliner that I applied to my eyebrows."

While talking to the camera, Wong leaned her face closer to show off her brows, which are a different colour from her dark hair.

As per People, the comedian found humour in the situation, adding: "I think it looks kinda crazy. I look like an X-Men villain."

Her comment section was filled with playful, yet supportive messages. "GURL! I'm on my way...child!!," Daniel Martin, the global director of artistry for Tatcha, wrote. Another added: "This is art, people will celebrate it." While Wong may have forgotten her eyebrow pencil, the 'Always Be My Maybe' actress slayed awards season this year. It all started in January when she wore \$238,000 worth of diamonds at the 2024 Critics Choice Awards and a jade-green Givenchy gown.

Wong's stylist, Tara Swennen, helped turn her style up several notches with jewelry from Jared's collaboration with Shy Dayan. She also added a necklace made of pear-shaped emeralds and diamonds from the Jared Atelier x Shy collection, worth more than \$18,000. A platinum marquise-cut diamond ring and princess-cut diamond drop earrings completed her look.

CHARLIE PUTH TEASES NEW TRACK, HINTS AT TAYLOR SWIFT FOR NAME-CHECK

Los Angeles | Agencies

Singer-composer Charlie Puth, who is known for his unusual ways of composing songs, has appreciated the recognition from billionaire singer Taylor Swift.

Charlie teased a new song on TikTok just days after responding to a Swift, 34, who named him in a song on her new 'The Tortured Poets Department' album, reports People magazine. "These last couple weeks have been really crazy for obvious reasons, but I wanted to share something with you," the 'We Don't Talk Anymore' singer wrote over a clip of himself



singing along to his new song.

He further mentioned: "This is a song I wrote about my friend called 'Hero'. Sometimes I get a little nervous being overly honest in my music which is why this was sitting on my hard drive for a while. But I think someone out there was giving me a sign

that I needed to release it. So, I declare 'Hero' will be out everywhere on May 24 as the first single of my new album. Thank you for your support...you know who you are."

As per People, on Swift's 11th studio album, which was released on April 19, she name-checks the musician in the title track. In the song, Swift playfully mocks a former flame about his love for vintage typewriters and likening himself to legendary poets. "You smok'd, then ate seven bars of chocolate/We declared Charlie Puth should be a bigger artiste", she sings on the track, making a reference to the 'We Don't Talk Anymore' singer.



KYRA SEDGWICK REVEALS SHE & HUSBAND KEVIN BACON HAVE HAD SEX IN MOVIE SET

Los Angeles | Agencies

Kyra Sedgwick didn't hold back from discussing her personal life during a recent appearance on Watch What Happens Live With Andy Cohen. The 58-year-old actress was prompted about her sex life with husband Kevin Bacon. After a caller asked whether or not she and the Footloose star, 65, have ever fooled around on a movie set, Kyra confirmed they have.

"Yes! Absolutely," she answered, before adding, "Oh yeah. If the trailer's rockin', don't come a-knockin'!"

Kyra and Kevin started dating after meeting on the set of 1987's Lemon Sky. One year later, they got married and eventually welcomed their now-adult children Travis Bacon and Sosie Bacon — both of whom followed in their parents' footsteps by becoming actors.

Drake, Kendrick Lamar get more personal in new respective diss tracks

Los Angeles | Agencies

The fight between rappers Drake and Kendrick Lamar continues to rage. While the war of words between them through diss tracks so far has caught the attention of the listeners, this time it's personal.

After Kendrick Lamar released his new diss track '6:16 in LA' earlier, both rappers dropped response tracks, one after the other, reports Variety.

Drake released 'Family Matters' and Lamar put out 'Meet the Grahams'. Drake was first up with 'Family Matters', where things take a very personal turn. "You mentioned my seed now deal with his dad", begins the Toronto native on his seven-minute track. "I gotta go bad, I gotta go bad."

As per Variety, among the sprawling shots he takes at Lamar on the track, he guns for his foe and his relationship with his fiancée Whitney Alford.

"Don't even go back to your hood and plant no money trees", he states, referring to Lamar's 'Money Trees' that came out in 2012. "Say you hate the girls I f** but what you really mean / I been with black and white and everything in between / You the Black messiah w**** up a mixed queen / And hit vanilla cream to help out with your self-esteem."

Lamar got just as personal on 'Meet the Grahams', on which each verse is addressed directly at Drake's family members including his son Adonis, mother Sandra, father Dennis and apparently a daughter that Drake has never addressed.

"Dear Adonis, I'm sorry that that man is your father, let me be honest, it takes a man to be a man, your dad is not responsive", he says in the track. "I look at him and wish your grandpa woulda wore a c**** / I'm sorry that you gotta grow up and then stand behind him (sic)."



ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Rachel Zegler



IPL 2024: DU PLESSIS, KARTHIK ENSURE RCB'S PLAYOFF HOPES ARE ALIVE WITH FOUR-WICKET WIN OVER GT

Bengaluru | Agencies

Captain Faf du Plessis top-scored with a blistering 64 while Dinesh Karthik applied the finishing touches after a batting wobble as the duo ensured Royal Challengers Bengaluru kept alive their playoff hopes with a four-wicket win over Gujarat Titans at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium on Saturday.

After Yash Dayal, Vyshak Vijaykumar and Mohammed Siraj picked two wickets each in a superb bowling performance to bundle out GT for a below-par 147, du Plessis and Virat Kohli gave RCB a blazing start with a 92-run opening stand coming in just 35 balls. Du Plessis was more aggressive of the two, hitting 10 fours and three sixes in his 23-ball stay at the crease. After he fell, GT triggered a spectacular RCB batting implosion by picking up six wickets from overs 6-11. It took Karthik's 21 not out and Swapnil Singh's unbeaten 15 to get RCB over the line and help them jump to seventh place in the points table. RCB's win also meant GT slid to ninth place and Mumbai Indians became the new occupants of tenth position in the points table.

Chasing 148, Kohli began by lofting and whipping Mohit Sharma for a brace of sixes in the opening over. Du Plessis greeted Joshua Little with a pulled four, followed by taking two fours and a six



in the 20-run second over. He then took the attack to debutant spinner Manav Suthar, taking a six and four in the third over, followed by heaving Mohit over mid-wicket to bring up RCB's fifty in just 19 balls. There was just no stopping du Plessis as he took three more fours off Mohit in an 18-run fourth over.

After a sublime Kohli dispatched Suthar for two sixes, du Plessis completed his fifty in 18 balls and went on to slam Little for two fours and a six in the last over of power-play. But Little had the last laugh by cramping du Plessis for room and a short fine leg took the catch on top-edge, as RCB ended the Power-play at 92/1.

A brace of lovely sweeps from Swapnil Singh off Noor, followed by him slamming Rashid down the ground for a huge six ensured RCB got over the line with 38 balls to spare and relief written large on the faces of their camp.

Brief scores

Gujarat Titans 147 all out in 19.3 overs (Shahrukh Khan 37, Rahul Tewatia 35; Yash Dayal 2-21, Vyshak Vijaykumar 2-23) lost to Royal Challengers Bengaluru 152/6 in 13.4 overs (Faf du Plessis 64, Virat Kohli 42; Joshua Little 4-45, Noor Ahmad 2-23) by four wickets.

TUC 2024: China to meet Indonesia in Uber Cup final

Chengdu (China) | Agencies

Host China will compete for the Uber Cup title against Indonesia after beating Japan 3-0 in Saturday's semifinals. Indonesia rode on their strong singles players to overcome defending champion South Korea 3-2 in the other semifinal of the Thomas and Uber Cup Finals 2024 here.

Olympic champion Chen Yufei ousted Aya Ohori 21-18, 21-15 in straight games, before world No. 1 Chen Qingchen and Jia Yifan made it 2-0 with a comeback victory in the doubles over Nami Matsuyama and Chiharu Shida 14-21, 21-13, 23-21. He Bingjiao then sealed the final spot for China by defeating Nozomi Okuhara 21-8, 21-18.

Playing on home soil for the first time since 2016, China, the record holder with 15 titles in the tournament history, aim to reclaim the title after losing to South Korea two years ago.

Also on Saturday, Indonesia knocked out defending champion South Korea 3-2, by winning all three singles matches to reach the final for the first time since 2008, reports Xinhua. "This is our first semifinal in the past 14 years, so winning this match means a lot to the team," said Gregoria Mariska Tunjung, who took the first point for Indonesia with a 21-15, 21-13 victory over Sim Yu-jin. "My



dream since I was a kid was to win the Uber Cup," added the rising star.

In the first doubles, Baek Ha-na and Lee So-hee levelled the score by beating Apriyani Rahayu and Siti Fadia Ramadhanti 21-6, 21-18. Indonesia regained the upper hand when Ester Nurumi Tri Wardoyo won over Kim Ga-ram 20-22, 21-16, 21-12, before Jeong Na-eun and Kong Hee-yong tied the semifinal again by taking the second doubles match over Lanny Tria Mayasari and Ribka Sugianto 21-15, 21-14. During the decisive third singles match, Komang Ayu Cahya Dewi rallied from one game down to triumph over Kim Min-sun 17-21, 21-16 and 21-19, awarding Indonesia the ticket to the final.

Baku World Cup: Shreyasi best-placed Indian after day one of Trap qualification

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Shreyasi Singh shot a three-round total of 69 to be currently placed eighth in the women's trap competition of the ongoing International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup in Baku, Azerbaijan on Saturday. She has the best returns for an Indian shooter across the men's and women's competitions.

India has sent only a Shotgun squad for the Baku World Cup, which offers crucial ranking points ahead of the Paris Olympics.

Former Commonwealth Games champion Shreyasi shot a perfect round of 25, sandwiched between two rounds of 22 each. She will come back on Sunday morning for two more rounds of qualification. A top-six finish will ensure a berth in the final, which is scheduled for Sunday evening. Italian Erica



Sessa leads the field with 73.

Among the other results: Women's Trap: Rajeshwari Kumari (score 65, place 26th), Manisha Keer (score 63, place 35th)

Men's Trap - Vivaan Kapoor (score 71, place 25th), Bhowneesh Mendiratta (score 70, place 38th), Prithviraj Tondaiman (score 69, place 48th).

India's Akash, Vishvanath, Nikhil and Preet storm into finals of Asian U-22

Astana (Kazakhstan) | Agencies

Four Indian boxers Akash Gorkha, Vishvanath Suresh, Nikhil and Preet Malik advanced into the U-22 men's finals at the ASBC Asian U-22 & Youth Boxing Championships 2024 here on Saturday.

Senior national champion Akash extended his dominant run in the 60kg category with a 5-0 win over Ilyasov Sayat of Uzbekistan in the semifinals.

After reviewing the bout, reigning Youth World Champion Vishvanath (48kg) won 5-2 against Baricuatro Bryan of the Philippines. The other two U-22 men's semifinalists, Nikhil (57kg) and Preet (67kg) also won their bouts with a similar 5-2 score-line after a bout review against Mongolia's Dorjyambuu Ganbold and Almaz Orozbekov of Kyrgyzstan, respectively.

Meanwhile, it was a heartbreak for M. Jadumani Singh (51kg), Ajay



Kumar (63.5kg), Ankush (71kg), Dhruv Singh (80kg), Jugnoo (86kg) and Yuvraj (92kg) as they ended their campaigns with bronze medals following their losses in the U-22 semis. Later on, Saturday night, nine

women boxers, including Olympic-bound Preeti (54kg), will be in action in the U-22 semi-finals.

The U-22 finals will be played on Tuesday. In the youth women's semifinals

played on Friday night, reigning Junior World Champion Nisha (52kg) and Asian Youth Champion Nikita Chand (60kg) along with five other boxers entered the finals.

Lakshay Rathi (92+kg), Annu (48kg), Yatri Patel (57kg), Parthavi Grewal (66kg), Akansha Phalasalwal (70kg) and Nirjhara Bana (+81kg) suffered defeat to end their campaigns with bronze medals in the youth category. The youth finals will now have 14 Indian pugilists with seven each in both men's and women's category fighting for the gold.

The finals for the youth category will be played on Monday.

Overall, the Indian boxers have secured 43 medals in the prestigious tournament, which has been witnessing high-voltage action with the presence of 390-plus boxers from more than 24 countries, including strong boxing nations such as China, India, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan fighting for the medals across 25 weight categories.

Hardik Pandya looked like a man under pressure, says Graeme Smith



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Former South Africa captain Graeme Smith said Mumbai Indians skipper Hardik Pandya has looked like a man under pressure in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024 after the five-time champions suffered a 24-run loss to Kolkata Knight Riders at the Wankhede Stadium on Friday evening.

This is also their eighth defeat in 11 matches of this season so far, leaving MI in ninth position and more importantly, their playoffs chances are now hanging by a slim thread. "Hardik has really struggled; he's looked like a man under pressure. That's created a little turmoil in the air, who knows how that's affected the people. But even the batting lineup, they look like they're confused."

"Tilak Varma and Naman Dhir were fighting in the middle order, Dhir was batting at three, and Hardik moving all over the place. They should have had Tilak at 3, Sky at 4, and Hardik batting at 5 throughout the season, with David at 6."

"Then, figure out your bowling units. All over and all around, they've been a very confused team this season and it's been hugely disappointing from one of the mega franchises of the IPL. A lot of people in the MI fanbase and camp will be very sore after this," said Smith to JioCinema.

Apart from a leadership role, Hardik is enduring a horrid time in IPL 2024 with both bat and ball. With the bat, he has amassed only 198 runs, averaging just 19.8, while picking only eight wickets at an economy rate of 11.

Shane Watson, the former Australia all-rounder, was left baffled over certain on-field decisions from the MI camp. "To keep bowling Naman Dhir when it was so critical (KKR were at 57-5), it was a big mistake from the leadership of the Mumbai Indians, whether it was Hardik Pandya making the decisions or information coming from the sideline."

"Bumrah had bowled only one over at that stage, so (they needed) to get him in the game again to try and break the

partnership of Venkatesh Iyer and Manish Pandey, but they didn't. They just let them cruise and build momentum in the partnership."

"Before you know it, they hadn't played a shot in anger and that built the partnership to a point where it was too late when he came in. There were a lot of baffling decisions from the Mumbai Indians' leadership, which is going to be hard to explain," he said.

Amidst all the gloom for MI, Suryakumar Yadav rose to be the bright light via his 35-ball 56. "With Sky at the crease, you always believe you have a chance. He was head and shoulders above every other batter in the MI lineup, nobody looked at all comfortable with the conditions, the pressure, or with their games." "SKY came right with excellent stroke play, the usual hitting the ball in awkward areas. He played spin well, he played seam well, front-end or back-foot. While he was there, the whole fanbase of MI thought they had a chance," concluded Smith.

Soderberg leads after Volvo China Open second round

Shenzhen | Agencies

Sebastian Soderberg seized the frontrunner position at the Volvo China Open second round here on Friday, as 68 players advanced to the weekend rounds, having made the cut at three under par. The Swede finished the round as the sole leader, scoring 16 under par. Paul Waring claimed second place, ending the day at 13 under par, while Guido Migliozzi secured third place with a score of 12 under. In a three-way tie for fourth place at 11 under are Gordon Brix, Adrian Otaegui, and Joel Gurrbach, reported Xinhua.

Reflecting on his performance, Soderberg expressed, "It's been two very good days, but we're halfway through the tournament and, as soft



as it is, it's very scoreable. I think the challenge is that you have to hit it quite straight off the tee. I wouldn't say I'm too relaxed, but it's a nice position to be in."

With back-to-back second-place finishes during the Asian swing, Soderberg's confidence remains high. However, as he approaches the weekend, he remains

committed to staying present and positive. "I feel very confident. The pressure is a lot higher when we're leading heading into the weekend. Keeping my emotions in check is important, and being in this position for a few weeks is going to help me, hopefully," Soderberg said. England's Waring also climbed the leaderboard in

the morning, shooting seven under par. He believed the course complements his style of play, providing ample opportunities to maintain his aggressiveness. Waring noted, "The course is quite soft, and the greens aren't spinning too much, so you can be quite aggressive, especially off the tee. Knowing that the scores are low, you've got to keep going, hit one shot at a time, and build the momentum."

In the afternoon, Migliozzi delivered a strong performance, shooting five under par. Reflecting on his round, the Italian said, "It's been another great day on the golf course. My game is feeling good; I'm playing better and striking the ball the way I prefer. I'm happy, having fun on the course, and it's good to be in the mix after two days."

LSG might have to play the rest of the event without Mayank Yadav : coach Justin Langer

Team Absolute | Lucknow

Lucknow Super Giants are reconciled to probably playing the rest of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024 without young tearaway pacer Mayank Yadav. Even if there is a possibility of getting him back, it would be a huge test for the pacer, said LSG head coach Justin Langer ahead of their upcoming clash with Kolkata Knight Riders at the Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium.

Yadav had returned for the match against Mumbai Indians at the same venue on April 30 but pulled after bowling 3.1 overs, returning to the dugout as his injury flared up again.



Langer said there were no updates on Mayank Yadav on Saturday but felt his injury was the usual one that young fast bowlers have to suffer early in their careers. "No updates. He had a scan. He has got a small tear in a similar area where the last one was. So, it is very

unfortunate. We saw the impact he had made," said Langer in the pre-match press conference on Saturday.

"He came back into the game, but we can also see there's been a lot of discussion about fast bowlers, and he spoke to (Jasprit) Bumrah after the game and he reassured him that he's going to be a fast bowler," said the former Australia coach. "Part of his journey as a young fast bowler, he's going to get injuries, and in

my experience every young fast bowler, probably until they get to 24-26, are going to experience different injuries and also most unfortunate is he's got huge potential," he added.

Langer dispelled the notion that Yadav had made a pre-mature return against Mumbai Indians, which led to his injury aggravating. "He did his rehabilitation, (it) was excellent. He went into the game, had a couple of balls before the game, he was completely pain-free, so I was very sad for him and it's disappointing for LSG as well," said the LSG coach.



Dia Mirza warns against trimming trees for the monsoon

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Dia Mirza, who actively participates for social and environmental issues, on Saturday, opened up on the destruction of biodiversity in the urban spaces and trimming of trees for monsoon, urging the officials to ensure implementation of better practices.

Taking to Instagram, Dia, who was last seen in 'Made in Heaven', shared a beautiful picture of herself sitting under a tree. She is seen wearing a blue suit paired with a white shawl. She also shared a series of pictures, featuring exotic birds and wildlife species.

The long post started with a shayari of Kaifi Azmi:

"Each year, the months of April and May are particularly heartbreaking when one witnesses the destruction of biodiversity in our urban spaces. Trees are being 'trimmed' in preparation for the monsoon...The 'trimming' is unscientific, and horrific, because the entire canopy/shade is axed away by unfeeling, unthinking individuals. The country is



reeling in an acute heatwave. The trees that offer us some respite with their shade in our cities are being cruelly cut," read the note.

Dia added: "Year on year, we reach out to authorities begging, pleading for a more refined process. But to no avail. In the comments list out the benefits of tree cover in urban centres and tag @my_bmc so we can urge them to ensure that better practices are implemented. The images are not a representation of the reality we are dealing with. But are a representation of what one feels and what one can experience when we allow nature to do her magic."

A fan commented: "Little mindfulness is what we expect from every individual and concerned authority". Another user wrote: "It is together that we will be able to save our biodiversity."

On the activism front, the actress has adopted two cheetah cubs in Lucknow. In 2017, she was appointed the brand ambassador for the Wildlife Trust of India and supported campaigns to raise awareness about the shrinking space for wild elephants in the country.

"Summer is here.... bringing the heat : Sonakshi Sinha

Team Absolute | Mumbai

"Summer is here.... bringing the heat : Sonakshi =====2nd lead

Mumbai, May 4 (IANS) Sonakshi Sinha, who is recently seen as 'Fareedan' in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's web series 'Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar', on Saturday, treated fans to her look of the day, styling colourful breezy co-ord set.

Taking to Instagram, Sonakshi, who has 28 million followers on Instagram, shared a string of photos, wearing a baby pink coloured top, paired with sky blue coat with multicoloured leaves printed on it. The look was completed with matching wide-legged pants.

The diva opted for nude pink lips, winged eyeliner, contoured and blushed cheeks. She kept her hair side parted and straight open.

Sonakshi rounded off the look with statement rings and earrings.

The post is captioned: "Summer is here.... bringing the heat with #heeramandionnetflix."

'Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar' marks the OTT debut of Bhansali. It also stars Manisha Koirala, Aditi Rao Hydari, Richa Chadha, Sharmin Segal and Sanjeeda Sheikh.



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Taapsee Pannu, who was recently seen in the Shah Rukh Khan-starrer 'Dunki', has shared pictures from her vacation in the Netherlands. On Saturday, the actress took to her Instagram and shared 3 pictures in which she can be seen soaking in the colours of her vacation with her sibling Shagun Pannu and cousin Evania Pannu.

In the pictures, the actress can be seen posing next to cycles over a canal in Amsterdam. All three of them are dressed in woollens with Taapsee donning a black turtleneck t-shirt which she paired with a woollen coat, a pair of denims and leather boots.

The actress wrote in the caption: "My kind of Amsterdam. Canal, cycling and sibling." Taapsee is quite active on Instagram, of late. Earlier, the actress took to her Instagram to share pictures from her aerial yoga session. Aerial yoga blends traditional asanas and yoga philosophies with the art of aerial acrobatics, utilising fabrics or ropes suspended to assist practitioners in creating various shapes.

"MY KIND OF AMSTERDAM. CANAL, CYCLING AND SIBLING." : TAAPSEE

Mira Rajput offers a peek into brothers Shahid and Ishaan's 'staring contest'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Mira Rajput, wife of Bollywood superstar Shahid Kapoor, on Saturday, gave a glimpse of her husband's "staring contest" with her brother-in-law Ishaan Khatter.

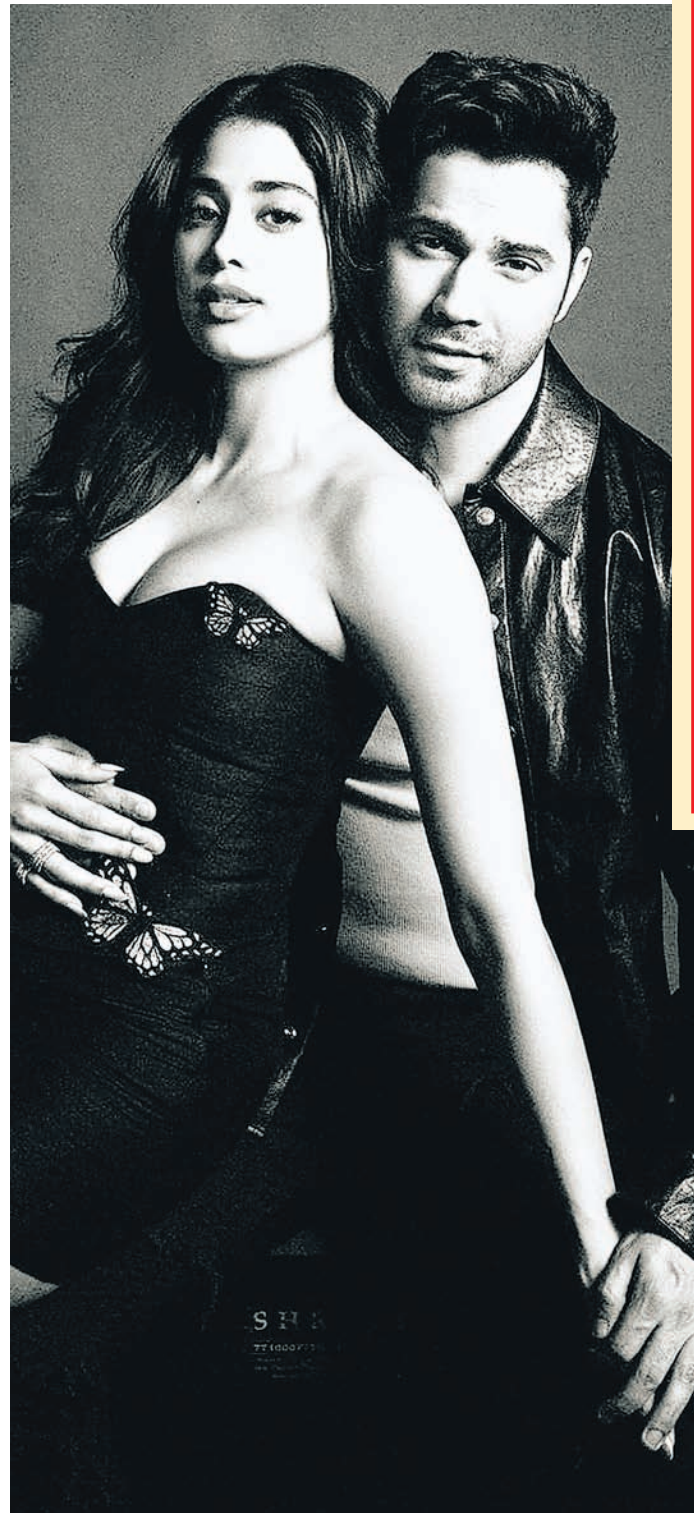
An avid social media user, Mira, who has 4.7 million followers on Instagram, took to the Stories section and shared an adorable peek, wherein the actor-brothers Shahid and Ishaan are playfully staring at each other.

Shahid can be seen lying on the bed, wearing a plain white T-shirt, while Ishaan is standing on the other side and smiling.

Mira captioned the post: "Staring contest." Shahid married Mira in July 2015. The couple have two kids-- daughter Misha and son Zain.

The 'Kabir Singh' fame star is the son of actors Pankaj Kapur and Neliima Azeem. His parents got divorced when he was three years old. His mother, Neliima, later married actor Rajesh Khattar, and they have a son, Ishaan.

He was last seen in the science fiction romantic comedy 'Teri Baaton Mein Aisa Uljha Jiya'.



Varun, Janhvi reunite for 'Sunny Sanskari Ki Tulsi Kumari'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood stars Varun Dhawan and Janhvi Kapoor have started shooting for their upcoming film 'Sunny Sanskari Ki Tulsi Kumari'.

On Saturday, director-producer Shashank Khaitan took to the Stories section of his Instagram and shared a picture of the clapboard notifying his followers about the film's shoot.

He wrote on the picture: "Day 1, Sincere gratitude."

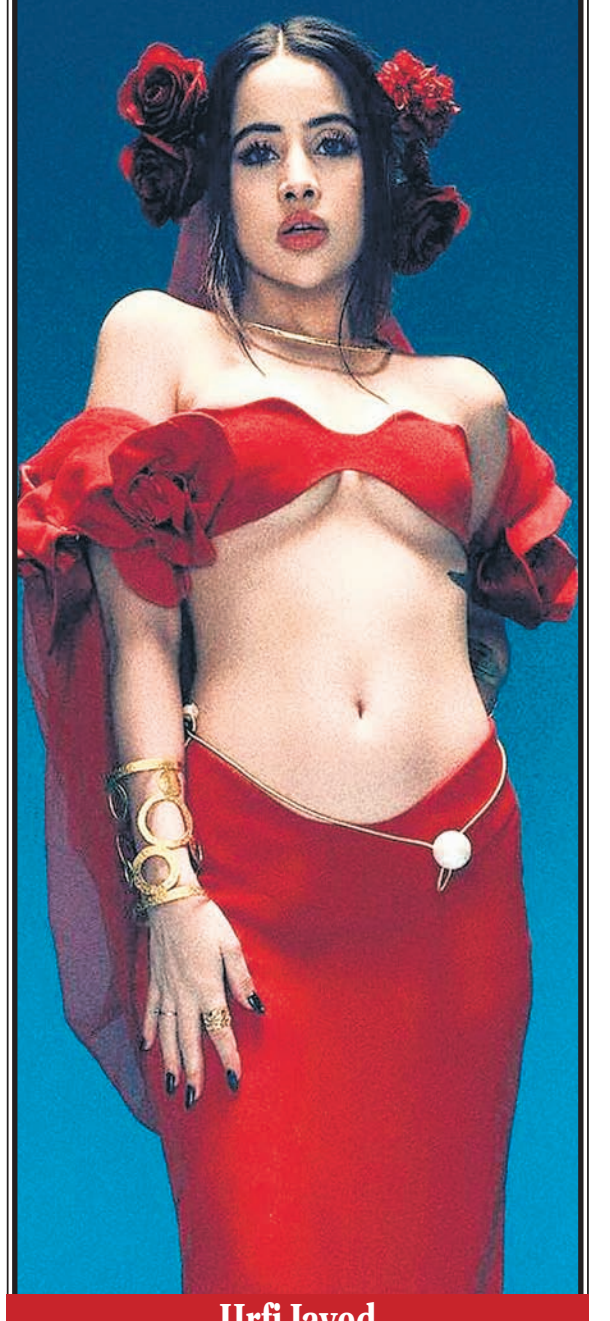
Varun also shared the picture posted by his director on his Instagram

Stories. Even Karan Johar shared the picture, saying, "Only love for you, go make the best movie Shash."

'Sunny Sanskari Ki Tulsi Kumari' marks Varun's third collaboration with Shashank after seven years. It also marks the second collaboration between Shashank and Janhvi after her debut film 'Dhadak'.

Produced by Hiroo Yash Johar, Karan Johar, Apoorva Mehta, and Shashank Khaitan, the film also stars Rohit Saraf, Sanya Malhotra, and Akshay Oberoi in key roles.

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Urfi Javed