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PM Modi enumerates 'naari shakti' schemes at Varanasi event, gives tips on spiking poll percentage

Congress President Kharge attacks PM Modi in poll-bound Haryana

"BEAT DRUMS, CLANG THALIS"

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, addressing the Mahila Sammelan event in Varanasi on Tuesday, enumerated various pro-women measures and welfare policies launched under NDA to bring improvement in their lives. Giving some valuable tips on improving the poll percentage in elections, PM Modi urged the 'naari shakti' to lead the electorate by setting examples. "You should form groups, take out processions and marches, playing thalis and singing songs to encourage and inspire others to follow suit," he said while urging them to ensure that BJP wins every booth.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The program titled Naari Shakti Samvad, saw the presence of more than 25,000 women supporters at the rally venue.

Prime Minister, started off his speech by extending gratitude to the Matrushakti and went on to enlighten them on how the NDA government's various schemes were making their life easier and better.

"We have built 11 crore toilets for the comfort and convenience of women, we have built 4 crore houses and got them registered in the name of women members," PM Modi told the gathering. Mocking the Congress regimes for their ignorance of 'matrushakti', he said, "If a household can't run without women folk, how could they think that a country can run without women's power?"

PM Modi also informed the gathering about how various schemes were helping people save money.

He said that the free ration scheme helps them save about Rs 12,000 every year, Ujjawala Yojana helps a household save Rs 300 monthly and informed that close to 90,000 pregnant women in Varanasi alone got



Rs 6,000 in their bank accounts under the government-run scheme.

"More than 3 lakh people got operated for cataract for free," he further informed. He said that women have always taken precedence in NDA's policies in the past ten years and they remain a testimony of India's success story. He also spoke about the unprecedented surge of pilgrims at the Kashi Vishwanath and how the adjoining food and restaurant, hotel and homestays businesses have seen their businesses flourish. PM Modi's address to the thousands of women participants was also laced with an emotional touch.

CONGRESS AND SP HAVE NO RESPECT FOR SANATAN DHARM: PM MODI

Prayagraj (UP): Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday that the character of the Samajwadi Party (SP) and Congress is anti-development and they have no respect for Sanatan Dharm.

Addressing a rally in support of BJP candidates in Prayagraj and Phulpur, the Prime Minister said, "Inke liye, sushasan aur Sanatan ka 36 ka rishta hai." "You have seen stampedes in the Kumbh Mela but now these events are organised on a huge level and peacefully. SP and Congress had no concern for Kumbh Melas -- they were more concerned about their vote bank. They are competing with each other in appeasing their vote banks. Their boycott on the Ram temple decision was a part of this," he said.

The Prime Minister said that his mantra was "Virasat bhi, Vikas bhi" where development was done keeping the heritage intact. He further said that the Congress and SP had now started telling lies because their boat was now sinking. "They are telling lies about the Constitution. Everyone knows who tried to change the Constitution by imposing the Emergency. It was the Allahabad High court here that put brakes on the Congress misdeeds," he said, adding that it was Modi's guarantee that no one will be allowed to tamper with reservation and the Constitution.

'Jhoothon Ka Sardar'

Chandigarh | Agencies

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge on Tuesday called Narendra Modi 'Jhoothon Ka Sardar' (king of lies), as he accused the Prime Minister of abusing Rahul Gandhi to hide his failures of the last 10 years.

He also alleged that PM Modi wants to "snatch the Constitution" and "destroy democracy".

Speaking at a press conference here after addressing a public meeting in Haryana's Jagadhari, Kharge said, "He (PM Modi) claims that it is because of him that the nation is strengthened today. We had leaders like Indira Gandhi, who broke Pakistan into two and created a separate country (Bangladesh).

"He is constantly saying 'I did this, I did that'. But will the country be strengthened? What Rajiv Gandhi did, what Indira Gandhi did, what Nehru-ji did -- those are called real work."

He also said that Haryana, which was ruled by the Congress from 2004 to 2014, has always been the state to walk the path of development. "However, the current government has forgotten this. PM Modi always says that he has a double-engine government that can do anything. However, he never provides the records to back his claims. The only thing



he does is abuse the Congress." The Congress came to power with a historic majority of 414 seats in 1984 under the leadership of Rajiv Gandhi. During that time, Rajivji formulated 11 important policies considering every section of the society," the Congress chief said. Earlier, addressing the public meeting in Jagadhari, Kharge said the current fight is between the people of the country and PM Modi, because the public is "fed up with him".

As per the INDIA bloc's seat-sharing pact, the Congress is contesting nine seats in Haryana, while the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) is in the fray from Kurukshetra.

Both the BJP and its former coalition partner JJP are contesting 10 seats, while the INLD is in the fray on seven seats.

Polling in all the 10 Lok Sabha seats in Haryana will take place in the sixth phase on May 25. The results will be out on June 4.

40 Killed, homes torched as gunmen raid mining community in Nigeria

Lagos | Agencies

Gunmen riding motorbikes killed around 40 people in a raid on a mining community in north-central Nigeria, opening fire on residents and torching homes, the local government said on Tuesday. The attack late on Monday on Wase district in Plateau state

was the latest violence in an area which has long been a flashpoint for disputes over resources and for outbreaks of intercommunal clashes. Armed men invaded Zurak community, shooting sporadically and torching houses, Plateau state commissioner for information Musa Ibrahim Ashoms told AFP by telephone.

"As we speak, about 40 people have been confirmed dead. Zurak is a popular mining community," he said. Local youth leader Shafi Sambo also said at least 42 people had been killed in the raid. Wase has deposits of zinc and lead, while Plateau as a whole is known for its tin mining industry.

Widespread 5G spectrum availability to add \$27 billion to India's GDP: GSMA

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The widespread availability of spectrum for 5G is likely to contribute about \$27 billion to India's gross domestic product (GDP) by 2030, a GSMA report said on Tuesday.

The organisation, which represents mobile networks worldwide, said the upper 6 GHz band must also be part of the spectrum roadmap of the country.

According to Luciana Camargos, Head of Spectrum for the GSMA, India's 5G momentum has gained global attention and respect.

"For it to continue, and for the full realisation of the Indian government's digital ambitions, a clear roadmap to deliver spectrum for growing mobile demand is needed," Camargos said in a statement. "The upper 6 GHz band must be part of that roadmap and bringing it into commercial use will require close collaboration between government and the mobile industry."

India is among the fastest-growing markets for 5G globally. The 5G users in the country are using nearly 3.6 times as much mobile



data traffic compared to 4G since its launch in October 2022 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The 5G device ecosystem in India is rapidly evolving, with approximately 17 per cent of active 4G devices, totalling 134 million out of 796 million, now being 5G capable, according to the 'Nokia Mobile Broadband Index' report. The launch of 5G has emerged as a significant catalyst for the growth in data usage.

One killed, two hurt in post-poll clash between RJD, BJP supporters in Chapra; Internet cut for two days

Patna | Agencies

One person died and two others were injured in post-poll violence between RJD and BJP supporters in Bihar's Chapra city on Tuesday.

Two BJP supporters, Ramakant Singh and Ravikant Singh have been arrested in connection with the violence and the district police have also recovered the weapon which was used in the commission of the crime. Internet services have also been suspended for two days.

The election to the Saran Lok Sabha Constituency was held on May 20 and tension between BJP and RJD cadres erupted on Monday evening after Rohini Acharya, the RJD's Saran candidate and daughter of former Bihar Chief Minister Lalu Prasad Yadav, reached a polling booth in Chapra city just towards the end of



polling. Rohini Acharya was heckled by some BJP supporters there, which led

to an altercation between the people from both the parties and she left the spot. Following that incident, there

was a heated exchange of words between RJD and BJP supporters at Bhikhari Thakur Chowk in Chapra on Tuesday morning.

One side fired on the other and a youth named Chandan Rai and his two friends Manoj Rai and Guddu Rai sustained bullet wounds.

While Chandan Rai succumbed to his wounds, Manoj and Guddu were injured and are in hospital.

After Tuesday morning's violence, angry people staged a protest at Bhikhari Thakur Chowk and the supporters of the RJD placed the dead body on the road and protested against the district administration for its partisan attitude.

They vandalised some private and government properties, burnt tyres and vandalised Sadar Hospital following the killing.

When the police team reached the spot, they attacked the cops.

Sexual harassment case: Ex-WFI chief pleads 'not guilty', court frames charges

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Delhi court on Tuesday formally framed charges related to sexual harassment and intimidation against Wrestling Federation of India's (WFI) former President Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh in a case filed by female wrestlers.

After the BJP leader pleaded not guilty to the allegations, Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Priyanka Rajpoot of the Rouse Avenue court ordered the framing of charges under relevant sections for sexual harassment, using force to outrage women's modesty, and criminal intimidation against him.

Claiming a trial, Singh said: "Why will I plead guilty when I am not guilty?" Many female wrestlers led by Olympians Sakshi Malik and Vinesh Phogat had conducted protests for months



against Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh at the Jantar Mantar in New Delhi.

Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, the sitting MP from Uttar Pradesh's Kaiserganj, has not been renominated by the BJP, which had, instead, given a ticket to his son Karan Bhushan Singh.

Demearing remarks against Bengal CM: ECI bars Abhijit Gangopadhyay from campaigning for 24 hours

Kolkata | Agencies

The Election Commission of India (ECI), on Tuesday barred former judge of Calcutta High Court and BJP candidate for the Lok Sabha polls, Abhijit Gangopadhyay from campaigning for 24 hours, as a fallout of his derogatory comments against Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee made earlier this month.

As per the ECI's order Abhijit Gangopadhyay, who is contesting from Tamluk Lok Sabha constituency in East Midnapore District of West Bengal, has been barred from campaigning for a period starting from 5 P.M. on Tuesday till 5 P.M. on Wednesday.

At a public meeting in Haldia on May 15, Abhijit Gangopadhyay said in Bengali, "Mamata Banerjee, how much are you being sold for? Your rate is Rs 10 lakh, why? Because you're getting your make-up done by Keya Seth? Mamata Banerjee, is she even a woman? I keep wondering sometimes."

On May 17, the ECI slapped a show-cause notice on Abhijit Gangopadhyay acting on a complaint from the Trinamool Congress accusing him of making derogatory comments about



Mamata Banerjee. Accordingly Abhijit Gangopadhyay replied to the show-cause notice within the stipulated time-frame on May 20.

After reviewing his reply, said insiders from the office of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), West Bengal, the commission decided to bar him from campaigning for 24 hours.

The demearing remarks by Abhijit Gangopadhyay went viral after a video emerged online a day later in which he could be heard wondering about the amount at which CM Banerjee was getting sold.

Polling for Tamluk along with seven other Lok Sabha constituencies is scheduled in the sixth phase on May 25.

Food regulator finds no trace of ethylene oxide in Indian spices

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Amid the global furore over the alleged presence of a "cancer-causing substance" in certain spices from India, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has cleared more than a dozen samples of spices from MDH and Everest brands.

According to the analysis report, the extensive testing found no traces of ethylene oxide (ETO) in the samples collected from several states.

The rigorous process of testing for ethylene oxide was performed at NABL-accredited laboratories notified by the FSSAI.

The food regulator also picked up 300 spice samples of other brands for testing and found "no presence of ETO".

The testing process began after several countries start



ed monitoring spice products manufactured by Indian spice giants MDH and Everest over the alleged presence of a 'cancer-causing' agent. Food regulators in Hong Kong, Singapore, Australia and New Zealand warned against using certain products from MDH and Everest over the presence of ethylene oxide at "levels exceeding the permissible limit". The Spices Board, under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, had said that all spice consignments would be accompanied by a cleared analytical report for ETO issued by the Spices Board.



SCORCHING HEAT PUSHES DELHI'S POWER DEMAND TO ALL-TIME HIGH OF 7.7 GIGAWATT

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Delhi's peak power demand reached an all-time high of 7,717 MW today afternoon amid intense summer heat, Discom officials said.

According to the State Load Dispatch Centre (SLDC), Delhi, real-time data, the peak demand of the city broke all previous records.

It reached 7,717 MW at 3.33 pm, they said.

Delhi's previous all-time high peak power demand was recorded at 7,695 MW on June 29, 2022, officials said.

The national capital is reeling under intense heat with a steady temperature rise. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted heat wave conditions in many parts of Delhi and severe heatwave conditions in some areas.

It has also issued a red alert for the next four days. According to the seven-day forecast, the maximum temperature will be in the range of 44 to 47 degrees Celsius. The minimum temperature on Tuesday settled at 30.7 degrees Celsius, four



notches above normal, according to the IMD. The maximum temperature of the day is expected to be around 45 degrees Celsius.

The discom officials have projected the city's peak power demand to cross 8,000 MW this summer to top around 8200 MW. On Monday

Delhi's peak power demand clocked 7,572 MW - highest ever in May in Delhi. The previous peak power demand for May was 7,438 MW, recorded in 2023, discom officials said.

A spokesperson of BSES discoms BRPL and BYPL said the peak

demand was met successfully in their respective distribution areas. On their part, BRPL and BYPL successfully met the peak power demand of 3,404 MW and 1728 MW in their respective areas. He said the BSES has made advance arrangements to meet the soaring power demand through power purchase agreements and network strengthening through substantial investment. Around 2,100 MW of green power to play an important role in powering Delhi during the summer months, he added. Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited (TPDDL) successfully met the peak power demand of 2,225 MW in its distribution area of North Delhi without any outages and network hindrances, said a spokesperson of the discom. The power demand can be attributed to weather conditions that lead residents to use more air conditioning and cooling appliances.

Air conditioning can contribute to 30-50 per cent of the total annual energy consumption of any domestic or commercial establishment, discom officials said.

Will visit Sandeshkhali after Trinamool's victory in Basirhat: Mamata Banerjee

Kolkata | Agencies

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said on Tuesday that she will visit Sandeshkhali only after Trinamool Congress wins the Basirhat Lok Sabha seat in North 24 Parganas district under which the Sandeshkhali Assembly segment falls.

"I will visit Sandeshkhali soon after our party candidate from Basirhat, Haji Nurul Islam, gets elected. Nurul has always been my favourite. I like him because he never differentiates between people based on religion. He always has a smile on his face," the Chief Minister said while addressing an election meeting at Basirhat in support of Nurul Islam on Tuesday.

Banerjee also accused the BJP of hatching a fresh plot to create tension in Sandeshkhali.

After the 'fake' reports of sexual harassment of



women in Sandeshkhali, the BJP is now trying to create tension over temples there, she claimed.

"I have got some specific information about BJP's Plan B, which includes attempts to create tension over religious places. I request all of you not to get trapped in this plot," the Chief Minister said.

Banerjee also claimed that the BJP will be ousted from power after the Lok Sabha elections. "They only know how to spread false propaganda. They are constantly saying that everyone in Trinamool Congress is a thief. But they are the most notorious thieves in the entire country," the Chief Minister said.

Congress dares PM Modi to expel Sambit Patra for gaffe on Lord Jagannath



Bhubaneswar | Agencies

The Congress on Tuesday dared Prime Minister Narendra Modi to expel BJP

spokesperson and Puri Lok Sabha candidate Sambit Patra from the party for his controversial remark on Lord Jagannath. Patra found himself in the

middle of a political storm after he suggested on Monday that Lord Jagannath is a devotee of PM Modi, drawing sharp criticisms from different quarters. Patra later apologised for his comment, saying he "will observe a three-day fast as penance".

Speaking to media persons in Puri, senior Congress leader Pawan Khara said, "PM Modi should show courage and sack Sambit Patra from the party to show respect to the faith of the devotees. The Prime Minister should have apologised to the devotees of Lord Jagannath across the world."

He also said that had Patra been in Congress, he would have been expelled from the party immediately for insulting Lord Jagannath.

TN POLICE USE AI TO TRACE GIRL MISSING SINCE 2011



Chennai: The police in Chennai are using Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the hope of cracking a missing girl child's case.

The girl, Kavitha, had gone missing 13 years ago and the police are now using AI to determine how she would look now.

A composite image of Kavitha when she was two years old and a new picture of how she would look now has been generated using AI. The police have printed pamphlets containing the pictures which will be distributed among the public to gather information on the missing girl. Kavitha had gone missing while playing outside her home near the Valampuri Vinayagar temple at Saligramam on September 19, 2011.

Heavy rainfall in TN, ten SDRF teams deployed

Chennai | Agencies

Heavy rain was lashing southern and western regions of Tamil Nadu on Tuesday following which the state government deployed ten SDRF teams to meet any eventuality.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted heavy to very heavy fall for the next three days in these areas.

As the heavy rain continued, several areas in the southern region of the state faced waterlogging. SDRF and local people were jointly conducting the rescue operations to bring people to safety in low-lying areas.

People have been asked not to venture out to the beach areas.

Ramasamy (46), a businessman from Kanniyakumari told reporter



that heavy rain was lashing the area and tourist inflow has been affected heavily.

The state disaster department has issued an alert for travelling in Kanniyakumari, Tirunelveli, Tenkasi, Dindigul, Coimbatore, the Nilgiris, Virudhunagar, and Theni districts. According to the state disaster management

department SMS alerts have been sent to 2.44 crore mobile phones in the above districts on the rain alerts through Common Alert Protocol.

Advisories have also been sent to tourists not to visit these destinations at present due to the heavy and very heavy rain prediction. The heavy and very heavy rain is likely to continue for three more days in these regions and this is due to a cyclonic formation above these areas, said the IMD.

The Tamil Nadu Revenue Department has deployed 10 State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) teams in Kanniyakumari, Coimbatore, Tirunelveli, and Nilgiris districts. A total of 296 personnel are part of the SDRF teams that have reached these areas.

LG Saxena condemns assault on Swati Maliwal at CM's residence, AAP hits back

Team Absolute | New Delhi

In the wake of the assault on AAP Rajya Sabha member Swati Maliwal, Delhi Lt Governor V.K. Saxena on Tuesday said that if such an incident happened in any other Chief Minister's residence, external forces with vested interests, inimical to India, would have unleashed a scathing global narrative around women safety in the country.

"I have been deeply distressed over the unfolding media narrative over the last few days on the issue of alleged assault on AAP MP Maliwal at the residence of the Chief Minister, when she went there to meet him all alone. Yesterday, she called me out of sheer anguish, describing at length her traumatic experience, and the subsequent intimidation and shaming that she is being subjected to by her own colleagues. She also expressed concerns over reported tampering of evidence and coercion against her," he said.

Saxena said that although Maliwal has been "vociferous, hostile and blatantly partisan" towards him and his office, often criticising him unjustifiably, any physical violence and hounding perpetrated on her is inexcusable and unacceptable.

"It is most disturbing to note that the alleged scene of the crime was the drawing room of the Chief Minister, even while he was present in the house, and the same was carried out by his closest aide on a lady who was alone," he said.

The LG said that her fellow Rajya Sabha member confirmed her narrative in full media glare, and



assured that the CM would take firm action against his aide - the culprit.

"Subsequently, a total U-turn was done in the matter, apparently at the behest of the highest functionary. This too is inexplicable and baffling. I would have expected that at least for the sake of propriety, my CM would have come clean, rather than being evasive and dodgy. His deafening silence speaks volumes of his stance on the safety of women," he said, adding that such shameful incidents and the insensitive and conspiratorial contemptuous government response, on an issue of women's safety, tarnishes India's image world-

wide. "Delhi Police is investigating the matter and I assure that the matter will be brought to its logical conclusion," the LG added.

Responding to the LG, AAP leader and Delhi Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj raised the issue of the women wrestlers who were protesting against then WFI chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh.

"Saxena Saab (Delhi LG) Perhaps you have forgotten, the wrestler daughters who won medals for the country were sitting on a 'dharna' at Jantar Mantar in Delhi. They were sitting in the sun and rain," he said in a post in Hindi on X.

"They had to file an FIR that BJP MP Brij Bhushan had repeatedly sexually exploited them. Then the Delhi Police under you did not even register an FIR. Tell me why it was not registered? The FIR was only registered after the orders of the Supreme Court..."

"But despite the case under Section 354, the BJP MP was not arrested even for a day. Delhi Police is under you, tell me why he was not arrested? Why did you remain silent on the whole issue? Why didn't you go to meet him? Then were you not worried about the international image of Delhi and India? The police under your command brutally beat these daughters at midnight. Tell me what action you took? The same night Swati Maliwal was also dragged on the road by the police. Tell me what action you took? 'Thoda girebaan mein jhankiye' (Introspect on your actions)," he added.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Delhi's Rouse Avenue Court on Tuesday extended till May 31 the judicial custody of AAP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi Manish Sisodia and others accused in the alleged liquor policy scam.

Sisodia has been in custody since February 26, 2023, after arrest by the CBI. Subsequently, he was arrested by the ED.

On May 15, the Delhi court had extended his custody till May 30 in the same case.

Meanwhile, a bench of Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma of the Delhi High Court is slated to pronounce later in the day its verdict on the bail plea filed by Sisodia, who remains behind bars on corruption and money laundering charges.

Last week, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) filed its eighth charge



sheet before a special court, naming Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and its national convenor Arvind Kejriwal as accused. A total of 18 persons have

been arrested in the case so far, including Arvind Kejriwal, Manish Sisodia, several AAP leaders, BRS leader K. Kavitha, and others.

Pune Porsche crash: Rahul Gandhi asks why preferential treatment to a rich brat

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has questioned why "preferential treatment" was meted out to a wealthy, 17-year-old drunken boy who killed two persons zooming in his Porsche car, sparking an uproar in public and political circles, here on Tuesday.

In a video statement, Rahul Gandhi said that when any autorickshaw drivers and cabbies or Ola or Uber drivers or bus drivers or truckers kill anybody unintentionally, they are dumped in jail for 10 years and the (jail) keys are thrown away.

"However, when a teenage kid from a rich family consumes alcohol and kills two people in his Porsche, he is told to pen an 'essay'. Why



are the other bus, truck autorickshaw drivers or cabbies not asked to write such essays," said Rahul Gandhi sharply. When Prime Minister

Narendra Modi was questioned about dividing the country into two 'Hindustans' - one of the poor and the other of billionaires, he responded by asking whether all should be made poor.

"The question is of justice - the poor and the prosperous. All should be entitled to equal justice. That's why we are fighting. We are fighting for equality of justice and against injustice," declared Rahul Gandhi.

The Congress leader's statement came amid a massive public outcry following the tragic incident in which two techies from Madhya Pradesh were killed in a speeding Porsche driven by the teenage son of a prominent Pune builder, Vishal Agarwal early on Sunday morning.

Indian-descent Nimesh Arora 2nd highest paid CEO in US, says report

Washington | Agencies

Nimesh Arora, the India-born CEO of Palo Alto Networks, has been ranked America's second-highest paid CEO in 2023.

A total of 17 Indian-descent CEOs are in the top 500 rankings, according to an analysis published by The Wall Street Journal on Tuesday.

Shantanu Narayen of Adobe is the second-highest paid Indian-descent CEO, ranked 11 overall. Arora and Narayen earned \$151.43 million and \$44.93 million, respectively, more than Tesla's Elon Musk, who did not receive any compensation in 2023, according to the report.

Meta's Mark Zuckerberg earned \$24.40 million, while Alphabet's India-born head Sundar Pichai earned \$8.80 million during the period under review.

A product of Delhi's Air Force Public School, Arora first drew international attention as the chief business officer at Google, which he left in 2014 to head SoftBank with a reported compensation that



was said to be a record for Japan.

Arora has been heading Palo Alto Networks, a cybersecurity company, since 2018. His compensation at Palo Alto Networks consists mostly of equity awards that include shares granted over three years.

Narayen, who was born and raised in Hyderabad, has been the CEO of Adobe since 2007 after joining the company in 1998.

Hock Tan of Broadcom topped the list with an

earning of \$162 million.

Ranked third, fourth, and fifth among Indian Americans were Sanjay Malhotra of Micron Technology (63rd, \$25.28 million), Ajei Gopal of Ansys (66th, \$24.63 million), and Reshma Kewalramani of Vertex Pharmaceuticals (118th, \$20.59 million).

Others included Arvind Krishna of IBM (123rd, \$20.40 million), Badrinarayn Kothandaraman of Enphase Energy (135th, \$19.53 million), Sanjiv Lamba of Linde (143rd, \$19.20 million), Surendralal Karsanbhai of Emerson electric (158th, \$18.32 million), Anirudh Devgun of Cadence Design Systems (172nd, \$17.34 million), Shankha Mitra of Wellflower (174th, \$17.20 million), Sumit Roy of Realty Income (268th, \$13.13 million), Satish Dhanasekaran of Keysight Technologies (319th, \$10.75 million), Prahlad Singh of Rewity (357th, \$9.13 million), Sundar Pichai of Alphabet (364th, \$8.80 million), Udit Batra of Waters (367th, \$8.74 million), and Sundarrajan Nagarajan of Nordson (389th, \$6.98 million).



STATE GOVERNMENT WILL BRING BACK 1200 MEDICAL STUDENTS OF MP STRANDED IN KYRGYZSTAN

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Along with Pakistan, Bangladesh, more than 1200 medical students from Madhya Pradesh are also trapped in the ongoing violence and unrest in Bishkek, the capital of Kyrgyzstan. They are afraid. In such a situation, CM Dr. Mohan Yadav talked to these students through video call to know about their condition.

Students told CM- Sir, get the exam done online. On this the CM said, 'The government is worried about you. The government is with you. You study by staying in the hostel. Exam is going to happen soon. After this there will be a break of two and a half months. Then we will call you home.

CM said- talking to Kyrgyzstan government. On Tuesday, Chief Minister Yadav asked Rohit Panchal, Ravi Sarathe and Vivek Sharma studying in Kyrgyzstan about the situation



there. Assuring full help, he talked about returning to India. CM said, 'Pakistani students had a dispute with the local people in Kyrgyzstan. The children of India are also worried. I have talked to children from Ujjain, Mandasaur, Neemuch and other places of Madhya Pradesh. They are safe. The Government of Madhya Pradesh is continuously talking to the Government of Kyrgyzstan while contacting the Government of India.

CM Yadav said, 'It has been decided that the children should be called back only after their examination. Otherwise they will suffer losses for the entire year. There is also a question of children's lives, so we have talked to the administration there that in any case, the exams should be conducted on time. Full care should be taken for their safety. It is hoped that the situation will become normal as soon as possible. I am in touch with the parents of the children.

Madhya Pradesh has become crime capital in case of crime against women: Jitu Patwari

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Congress State Unit President Jitu Patwari has targeted Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav regarding the increasing crime against women in Madhya Pradesh. He said that the state has become the capital of the country in terms of crime against women.

Jitu Patwari wrote a letter to the Chief Minister on Tuesday saying that today the situation is such that there is neither a chairperson nor a member in the Women's Commission, 24 thousand cases related to women are also pending. This is the biggest proof and result of the inaction of the BJP government.

Referring to the recent incidents, she wrote in her letter, 'If it is a rape victim from Malwa or a cyber crime victim from Indore, the police is not able to provide justice to anyone, that is why they approached the Women's Commission, but Now there is no one to listen. Is this the policy of your women's justice commission, but your government's personal interest is beyond

the rules and regulations? The intention is to file an FIR against the leaders and impose POCSO Act.'

Referring to the cases registered in the State Women's Commission, Congress State President Patwari said, 'According to the figures, 3,500 women come to the Women's Commission every year to lodge complaints, that is, 9 to 10 women every day, the government is responsible for not getting justice to these women. 'Regarding crimes against women in the state last year, Patwari said, 'The highest number of cases of harassment of women have been reported in 2023-24. It is surprising that till now BJP's Mandal President Narayani Baretha has not been booked for caste based abuses and indecency. No action has been taken, however, as he is from a scheduled society and that is why he has talked about committing suicide by releasing the video. It can be understood from this situation that when you are not able to provide justice to the women of your own party, then how will you be able to provide justice to the women of the entire state?'

Grandson of BJP MLA commits suicide in Indore

Team Absolute | Indore

Vijay Dangi, grandson of BJP MLA Hazarilal Dangi from Khilchipur in Indore, Madhya Pradesh, has committed suicide. He was studying law and the police have found a two-page suicide note.

According to the information received, Vijay Dangi, who was 19 years old, lived in Gandhinagar area of Indore. He committed suicide late on Monday night. He was studying law in a private college. Police also found a two-page suicide note from the spot. The police have not made any official disclosure.

According to the information received, Vijay, grandson of BJP MLA from Khilchipur Hazarilal Dangi, committed suicide on Monday night. His body was taken to the hospital and post-mortem is being conducted. Vijay's father Babu Lal Dangi is a builder and has a large agricultural land along with ancestral land in Khilchipur.

In the suicide note found by the police from the spot, he has apologized to his parents and other family members and has written to his brother to take care of his parents. Apart from this, he has also written many things about his friends. He has not

clearly mentioned the reason for committing suicide in his suicide note. The police is investigating the entire matter.

It is told that Vijay has two brothers. The elder brother is studying MBA, while the younger Vijay had taken admission to study law this year. Girls were also paying guests at the place where he lived. Regarding Vijay, it has been told that he did not talk to anyone much, but what happened that he took such a step as suicide, the police is investigating from different angles.

2 KILLED, 40 INJURED AFTER BUS FALLS FROM FLYOVER

Team Absolute | Rajgarh

Two persons were killed and 40 injured when a private bus fell from a flyover in Madhya Pradesh's Rajgarh district in the wee hours of Tuesday, police said.

The accident occurred near Pachore town around 1.30 am when the bus, carrying 55 passengers, was crossing the flyover, an official said.

The bus driver lost control of the vehicle, causing it to plummet to the ground below, Pachore police station in-charge Akansha Sharma said.

Two passengers died on the spot, and 40 were injured, she said.

Of the injured, 19 suffered critical wounds and were referred to Indore, while the rest are undergoing treatment in different hospitals in Shajapur, Biora and Pachore, the official said.

One of the deceased was identified as Harjat Singh (28), and the identity of the other victim is yet to be ascertained, she said. The bus was on its way to Pichhore town in Shivpuri district from Indore, she said.



The police have launched a search for the bus driver and conductor who fled the scene after

the accident, and a case has been registered against them, the official said.

MADHYA PRADESH CONGRESS WILL BE REORGANIZED AFTER THE LOK SABHA RESULTS

Team Absolute | Bhopal

After the defeat in the Assembly elections and amid the stam-pede in the party during the Lok Sabha elections, PCC Chief Jitu Patwari has now started the effort to improve the organization of the Congress. All the big leaders will brainstorm with the workers to rebuild the Congress organization in MP for four months. The brainstorming program of Congress will start from June 5, the very next day after the results of Lok Sabha elections.

In the brainstorming that will continue till August 15, all the workers from booth level to district level will listen to the workers and prepare a report for improvement.

Congress got only 66 seats in the assembly elections. After this crushing defeat, many defeated candidates had described the organization at the booth as weak. Many candidates had held those responsible for not working after taking up posts in the organization.

Under the brainstorming program, senior leaders of the Congress Party like Kamal Nath, Digvijay Singh, Kantilal Bhuria, Dr. Govind Singh,



Vivek Tankha will be given the charge of the Lok Sabha. After this, the District President and District Incharge will hold meetings with workers from booth level to Mandalam and Sector level at the block level. In the meeting, the leaders will listen to the workers instead of giving speeches.

On the instructions of Congress state in-charge Bhanwar Jitendra Singh and PCC Chief Jitu Patwari, the leaders who will hold the meeting at the block level in the Manthan program will identify the challenges from

among the workers. A full report will be made on the issues raised by the workers. After this there will be a big meeting of all the leaders at the district level. In this meeting, a document will be prepared on the weaknesses and challenges of Congress across the district.

Across the state, District President, District in-charge, Lok Sabha in-charge and candidates contesting assembly elections will hold meetings of workers in every block. If there is a problem at the local level, what is the solution to it at the local level? This

will be discussed. Under the Manthan programme, these meetings will be held starting from the block to the district level. Then there will be a meeting at the state level. A document will be made of the things received from all over the state. Then a core group will be formed by combining Mahila Congress, Youth Congress, NSUL, ST Congress, SC Congress. After meetings across the state, there will be a three-day session of Congress in the last week of September or the first week of October. This entire process will last for four months. Meanwhile, PCC will be formed. The vacant posts of District Presidents will be filled. We will listen to the workers. After that the proposals will be passed again in the session. Congress session has not been held for a long time. About one and a half thousand leaders and officials including PCC delegates, District President MLAs, MPs, defeated candidates, AICC delegates, Lok Sabha in-charges, district in-charges will participate in the convention to be held this year. All national level officials including the National President of Congress will participate in this session.

AIIMS Bhopal inaugurates road for the people of Pipaliya Pende Khan village



Team Absolute | Bhopal

Professor (Dr) Ajai Singh Executive Director AIIMS Bhopal today inaugurated the road for the people of Pipaliya Pende Khan Village. In fact, till now the people of Pipaliya Pende Khan village located near AIIMS had to go through AIIMS Bhopal.

With the start of this facility,

the villagers will now get a lot of benefit and they will not have to go inside the AIIMS campus. This 765 meter long and about 6 meter wide RCC road has been prepared at a cost of about Rs 1 crore 35 lakh. This road has been prepared from Gate No. 4 of AIIMS Bhopal to the main boundary of IPD.

Apart from this, a two and a half meter high and 965

meter long wire mesh has also been installed between AIIMS Bhopal and the road towards Pipaliya Pende Khan Village. So that there can be safe and smooth traffic. Professor (Dr) Singh said that with the start of this facility, the people of Pipaliya Pende Khan village will now be greatly benefited and they will have a means of commuting without entering into the AIIMS campus.

'Treasure' found from donation box of temple, took 36 hours to count 55 people

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The counting of the amount of donation boxes was started on Friday by the public Shri Hanuman Maharaj Temple Trust located in village Muhas of Reethi under Katni district. The donation amount kept in 9 boxes was counted under the leadership of SDM Pradeep Mishra. It is being told that after the calculation completed after 36 hours, a donated amount of Rs 34 lakh 54 thousand 240 has been found from all the boxes. The Trust says that now the work of beautifying this Dham of Lord Hanuman (Lord Hanuman Dham) will be done with this amount.

It is being told that all these donation boxes were opened five years ago. During that time, Rs 27 lakh 50 thousand were taken out from the boxes as donations. It is being told that the calculation of the amount of donation boxes of the temple started at 11 am on Friday, in



which 20 Patwaris, 10 teachers were on duty, along with this, employees of 25 other departments were also deployed to calculate the amount. In this way, a total of 55 member team was deployed to calculate the amount, which took about 36 hours to calculate the amount. In this regard, SDM Pradeep Mishra says that a total of Rs 34 lakh 54 thousand 240 has been found in the donation boxes of the

temple. It is being told that the employees engaged in counting the amount had to face a lot of difficulty in counting the coins taken out from the donation boxes. Information has also come to light that the temple trust received donations of Rs 5 lakh 71 thousand in the form of 5 and 10 rupee coins, while the number of 10 rupee notes was the highest. Rs 20 lakh has been collected from Rs 10 notes.

Wheat transportation scam of Rs 93 lakh, FIR registered, Satna district manager suspended

Team Absolute | Satna

The District Manager of Warehousing Corporation has been suspended in connection with the disappearance of wheat worth Rs 93 lakh in Satna. In this matter, the police (Satna Police) have registered a case against a total of eight people including the group president. In this much talked about case, Dharkundi police have made a total of eight people accused including the chairperson of the group, the broker, the transporter and three operators.

Police have registered sections 406, 417, 420 against group president Sitagiri, group operator Abhilasha Singh, committee broker Shiva Singh, transporter manager Samrat Singh, Civil Supplies Corporation operator Narendra Pandey, Dhananjay Dwivedi, Satish Kumar Dwivedi and Rakesh Singh. A case has been registered under sections 467, 468, 471 and 120 (B).

The group had loaded eight trucks of wheat on May 8 and five trucks on May 13 and sent it to Unit Number 2 warehouse of Lucknow for storage. A total of 2360 quintals of grain was claimed to be sent in eight trucks and



1500 quintals of grain was sent in five trucks. TC of these trucks was diverted and sent to the railway rack point and payment was made in the name of the farmers fraudulently. The investigating officers said in their report that it was mentioned that the

billets of 13 trucks were not made, and it was also told in the report that the billets of these trucks were made by hacking the transporter login ID.

President of Jaitmal Baba Mahila Self Help Group, Sitagiri was in charge of procurement. Abhilasha

Singh was appointed as operator. According to the information, here the group president and operator work only as dummies. The operator's brother-in-law Shiva Singh was looking after the entire business. On one hand, Shiva Singh was working as an operator and on the other hand, he also took all kinds of decisions in the committee. Overall, he was the mastermind of the fraud in the entire episode. Wheat was faked shown ready for transport and then a game of fake loading and unloading took place.

The MD of Warehousing Corporation has suspended the District Manager, Satna. In the order issued, it has been told that under the support price for wheat procurement 2024-25 prevalent in Satna district, 8 trucks of wheat quantity 2360 were procured from the procurement center Karigohi on 08/05/2024, quintal and on 13/05/24, 5 trucks of wheat quantity 1500 quintals were transported. The said trucks did not reach the warehouses but those trucks were passed by the surveyor and approval letters were issued from the supply centers of the corporation and payments were made to the concerned farmers.



EDITOR'S SPECS

Disappointing election

Voting in the crucial fifth phase of the Lok Sabha polls, spanning 49 seats in 8 states/UTs, ended on Friday with an estimated 60.09 per cent polling, spanning from a high of 74.65 per cent in West Bengal (7 seats) to a low of 54.29 per cent in Maharashtra (13 seats), though the Bollywood brigade and top business honchos were out in full force to set an example for the electorate. The figures for the other states/UTs, as of 11.30 p.m., were 69.62 per cent for Ladakh (1 seat), 67.59 per cent in Odisha (5 seats as well as 35 Assembly seats), 63.07 per cent in Jharkhand (3 seats), 57.79 per cent in Uttar Pradesh (14 seats), 56.73 per cent in J&K (1 seat), and 54.85 per cent in Bihar. The voting percentage "shall continue to be updated by the field level officers as polling parties keep returning and will be available PC wise (along with respective AC segments) live at VTR App, as was the case in the earlier phases," the Election Commission said. It also said that the "data displayed here are as per the information being filled in the systems by the field officers. This is an approximate trend, as data from some polling stations (PS) takes time and this trend does not include Postal Ballot. The final account of votes recorded for each PS is shared in Form 17 C with all polling agents at the close of polls". Baramulla, witnessing a multi-cornered contest, saw a multitude of enthusiastic voters, and the turnout, provisionally pegged at 56.73 per cent, was the highest since 1984 in the pre-insurgency era, and the 46.65 per cent recorded in 1996, as per the EC. Election officials of the UT said that it could touch 59 per cent.

Third generation Hooda clan aims Congress revival in Haryana

Vishal Gulati

The third generation of the Hooda clan in politics, Deepender Hooda, who is in the fray from the Jat-dominated Congress bastion Rohtak, which was won by his family nine times and three consecutive terms by him, is aiming the revival of the Congress with the parliamentary polls. He's extensively campaigning in a blistering heatwave in this parliamentary constituency that spreads over nine assembly segments to ensure his return to the lower house of Parliament. He is currently a member of the upper house. Deepender's father Bhupinder Hooda, who is campaigning aggressively across all 10 parliamentary constituencies, has represented the Rohtak seat, the state's political capital, four times, while his grandfather Ranbir Singh Hooda twice. Predicting that people now want to change the government in the state too, Deepender, who on average covers 25-30 villages in a day by holding public meetings and face-to-face interactions, told IANS the Lok Sabha election has set the ball rolling for the assembly elections in Haryana too that are less than five months away now. "People want change in the state government too. First, the Congress-AAP alliance will root out the BJP from the state in the Lok Sabha polls by ensuring a win on all 10 seats. Later, we will show the exit door to the BJP from the state's helm," said a confidant Deepender, who believes anti-incumbency is banking high on the 10-year helm of the saffron party in the state. Out of the 18 parliamentary polls in Rohtak, the Congress has won 11 times. In the 2019 general elections BJP's Arvind Sharma, a surgeon by profession, defeated Deepender by a slender margin of 7,503 votes. Deepender's major loss was in the Ahir-dominated Kosli constituency, despite major gains from his family's pocket borough, Garhi Sampla Kilo. Deepender and Sharma are in a straight contest again. In his campaign to reach Parliament for the fourth time, the 46-year-old Deepender speaks of the development done during his three stints. Also in his speeches, he tries to drive home the point that winning from the Rohtak Lok Sabha not only ensures a ticket to the Parliament but also to Chandigarh, the state's capital. "I am focusing on the development works done by me and the previous Congress governments in the state. I am telling the people that only the Congress can bring them back on the path of overall growth," said a soft-spoken Deepender, who completed an MBA from the US, known to be an easy access to the public. During his campaign, the junior Hooda was seen making crispy and crunchy "jalebi" at a roadside stall. In his public meetings, women with their faces covered in a ghunghat (veil) are coming in strength to raise issues concerning them and the treatment meted out to wrestlers. His rival Arvind Sharma, 62, a dental surgeon by profession, has been promising to bring the Metro to Sampla in Rohtak district and announced to quit politics, if he failed to do so. His vote percentage was 47 per cent in 2019, just .6 per cent higher



than his nearest rival Deepender. Four-time MP Sharma, who largely banks on PM Modi's wave, previously represented the Sonapat and Karnal Lok Sabha seats. Two-time chief minister Bhupinder Hooda, the father of Deepender, rose to fame by defeating former deputy prime minister Devi Lal thrice. "It is only the Hoodas who are emotionally attached to grassroots. Deepender Hooda, as an MP of the Rajya Sabha, provided funds from his discretionary funds for constructing toilets in our village school. Our MP (Arvind Sharma) was not visible in the past five years, even amidst tough times of Covid-19," octogenarian farmer Naib Rathi in the Badli assembly constituency in Jhajjar district told correspondent. "If Rohtak has been developed so far, it is because of Bhupinder and Deepender," he said while admitting the farmer protests weigh heavily on the minds of the electorates in rural areas. Echoing similar sentiments, another villager Ram Yadav, while pointing towards bad roads, said, "Yeh chhora hamara hai, hum isko vote karenge, aur yeh kaam bhi karenge (He is our son, we will vote for him and he will work for us)." The Hooda junior was the only Congress candidate among 10 in the state to make it to the 2014 Lok Sabha despite being bedridden then. "The victory of Deepender Hooda will mean the revival of the Congress just ahead of the assembly elections," a political

analyst who wished to remain anonymous told correspondent. The stakes are high for Hooda senior in these elections as he is trying to prove that he is still a mass leader and could lead the party in the forthcoming assembly polls also, a senior party leader said. Hooda was marginalised after the party's two consecutive defeats in the assembly polls. Still, he remains the Congress' top leader, despite an ongoing struggle with a rival camp comprising former Union minister Kumari Selja and Randeep Surjewala, who owes proximity to the Gandhis. The Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) has not fielded a candidate for Rohtak, while its offshoot Jannayak Janta Party (JJP) has given a ticket to its youth wing state chief Ravinder Sangwan. As per the INDIA bloc's seat-sharing pact, the Congress is contesting nine seats in the state, while the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) is in the fray from Kurukshetra. The BJP and its former coalition partner JJP are contesting on 10 seats each and the INLD on seven seats. 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, while the results will be out on June 4.

international

EU set to give final sign off for artificial intelligence law

Brussels | Agencies European Union (EU) ministers are set to give the final approval to stricter rules governing artificial intelligence (AI) in Brussels on Tuesday. The legislation aims to make the use of AI in the EU safer and is based on a proposal made by the European Commission in 2021. Negotiators from the European Parliament and EU countries reached an agreement on the regulation of AI in December after marathon negotiations. The regulations aim to ensure that AI systems are as transparent, comprehensible, non-discriminatory and environmentally friendly as possible.



An important aspect is that AI systems are monitored by humans and not just by other technological systems. AI systems are to be categorised into different risk

risk and used in critical infrastructures or the education and healthcare sectors, will have to fulfil strict requirements. AI applications that violate EU values are to be banned altogether. This includes the evaluation of social behaviour, otherwise known as "social scoring". In China, this is used to rate citizens' behaviour, allowing them to unlock benefits for good behaviour. Additionally, emotion recognition will be prohibited in the workplace and educational institutions in the EU. The hope is that the rules will be replicated in other legal systems around the world.

Indonesia's Mount Ibu erupts again, sending 5 km of volcanic ash



Jakarta | Agencies Ibu volcano in Indonesia's Halmahera Island erupted again, sending volcanic ash as high as 5,000 metre to its peak, the Center for Volcanology and Geological Hazard Mitigation said. The eruption occurred at 11:36 a.m. local time on Monday for more than two minutes, and the thick ash column leaned towards the southwest and west, said Ibu

Volcano Observation Post Officer Ridwan Djali on Monday as quoted by Xinhua news agency report. The center raised its hazardous status from level three to four, the highest, on May 16, following a significant increase in the mountain's recent activity. Local people are asked to avoid the danger zone within a 4 km radius and 7 km in the northern sector of the crater.

Missiles strike oil facility in Russian-held Ukrainian town



Moscow | Agencies Rocket attacks on a town in the Russian-occupied Luhansk region in eastern Ukraine have caused a fuel depot to catch fire, according to the occupation authorities. "As a result of a missile strike with cluster munitions on Sverdlovsk, a fuel and lubricants storage facility was damaged," wrote Leonid Pasechnik, the head of pro-Russian separatist forces in the Luhansk region, on Monday on his Telegram channel. Ukraine renamed the small town of Sverdlovsk, which has been occupied by Russian forces since 2014, and Dovzhansk in 2016.

According to Ukrainian media, a Russian military base was also hit in the missile attack. Videos on social networks show heavy clouds of smoke, but also a burning multi-storey barracks-style building. The Russian authorities on the ground have not officially released any information on casualties or injuries. Ukraine has been fending off a full-scale Russian military invasion for more than two years. Kiev has recently fired missiles at oil processing plants and fuel depots in addition to purely military targets to hamper the Russian military's logistics.

Biden asserts what's happening in Gaza 'is not genocide'



Washington | Agencies US President Joe Biden has rejected accusations against the Israeli leadership that it is committing genocide in its fight against the Palestinian militant organisation Hamas in the Gaza Strip. "Contrary to allegations against Israel made by the International Court of Justice, what's happening is not genocide. We reject that," Biden said on Monday in the Rose Garden of the White House at a Jewish American Heritage Month event. On Monday, International Criminal Court (ICC) chief prosecutor Karim Khan applied for arrest warrants for Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defence Minister Joav Galant for alleged crimes against humanity. The request for warrants for Netanyahu and Gallant relates to alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in the Gaza Strip beginning on October 8, a day after Hamas militants launched their unprecedented attack on Israel. Among the allegations are "starvation of civilians as a method of warfare" and "intentionally directing attacks against a civilian population," a statement from Khan's office said. Arrest warrants were also requested for the leader of Hamas in the Gaza Strip, Yehya al-Sinwar, and other representatives of the militant organisation. South Africa has repeatedly called on the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague to take action against Israel and accused the country of genocide. In urgent rulings, the UN judges have obliged Israel to do everything possible to prevent genocide and to allow humanitarian aid into the Gaza Strip.

Iran to hold presidential election on June 28

Tehran | Agencies Iran's government has decided that the country's 14th presidential election will be held on June 28, the media reported. The election date was determined in a meeting attended by Iran's First Vice-President Mohammad Mokhber, currently assuming the presidency, Judiciary Chief Gholamhossein Mohseni-Ejei and Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, as well as Vice-President for Legal Affairs Mohammad Dehqan and representatives of the Iranian Constitutional Council and Interior Ministry, the report said on Monday.



Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and some members of his accompanying team, including Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, were confirmed dead on Monday morning as the wreckage of the helicopter carrying them was found following its crash in bad weather on Sunday near Varzaqan County, nearly 670 km away from Tehran. According to Article 131 of Iran's Constitution, the first Vice-President will take the helm of the executive branch if the President is unable to perform duties. Also, the interim President is duty-bound to make arrangements for the election of a new President within a maximum of 50 days, Xinhua news agency reported. During the meeting, the participants also set the schedule for the election processes, including the formation of executive delegations, the registration of candidates, and the launch of electoral campaigns, according to IRNA. Based on the schedule, the registration would be conducted from May 30 to June 3, following which candidates would have to conduct electoral campaigns from June 12 to 27, the report said. According to IRNA, the Constitutional Council has initially consented to the schedule.

UN resolution tabled by Russia against arms race in space fails

New York | Agencies A UN resolution tabled by Russia against an arms race in space failed in the UN Security Council. The draft resolution received seven votes in favour, seven countries, including the US, voted against it while Switzerland abstained. The measure failed on Monday as it did not obtain the nine votes necessary to pass it in the powerful 15-nation council. In view of a US resolution against nuclear weapons in space that failed last month due to Russia's veto, US representative Robert Wood accused Moscow of manipulative tactics.



The debate at the United Nations follows US reports in February about Russia's nuclear ambitions in space.

Several major US media outlets reported findings about Russia attempting to develop an anti-satellite nuclear weapon based in space, which could pose a threat to national and international security. In response, the US government stated that Russia was developing military capabilities for use against satellites. However, no details were provided on the specific nature of this threat. Russian President Vladimir Putin rejected the accusations, saying that Russia was against the deployment of nuclear weapons in space. Moscow labelled the US draft resolution in the UN Security Council as propaganda.



Pune Porsche crash: CM orders probe, 3 more nabbed; CP denies 'pressures'

Team Absolute | Pune

Under fire from the Opposition, Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde has ordered the Pune Police to probe the Porsche crash driven by a drunken teen which left two killed, even as police arrested three more persons, here on Tuesday. Simultaneously, the Maha Vikas Aghadi's Congress Leader of Opposition (Assembly) Vijay Wadettiwar demanded a judicial probe into the incident and Shiv Sena (UBT)'s Sanjay Raut alleged that the police were acting under certain pressures, a fake medical report was given and demanded sacking of Commissioner of Police (CP) Amitesh Kumar. Moving swiftly, the Pune Police arrested a prominent city realtor Vishal Agarwal -- the father of the 17-year-old boy who killed two IT techies with his speeding Porsche -- from Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar (Aurangabad) early on Tuesday. On his part, CP Amitesh Kumar dared the opposition and others to prove their charges that the police acted under pressure or went soft on the accused minor whose father is a reputed realty developer in the city.



laws against the minor accused.

He said that two applications filed in the court were rejected -- one to treat the juvenile driver as an adult, and another for his remand, but the police will appeal in a higher court.

"This is a very serious offence and attracts a jail term of at least seven years. We said that since the accused is over 16 years old, he should be treated as an 'adult', and secondly to remand him to a juvenile home for 14 days till the police plea was decided, but both the appeals were rejected," said Kumar. Agarwal was absconding for the past two days after his son knocked down two IT professionals from Madhya Pradesh, early on Sunday morning, in an alleged case of underage, drunken driving in an unregistered vehicle, sparking a furore in Pune. Tracked and caught by a Pune Crime Branch team in Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar, he will be brought to Pune later in the day (May 21) and produced before a court, officials said.

Soon after the gruesome accident around 2.15

a.m. on Sunday (May 19), the Pune Police had booked Agarwal for handing over the car without a registration to his son who did not have a driving licence, and it was plying on Pune roads for around two months.

The police had also booked the owners/managers Bhutada, Katkar, Sangle and Jayesh Bonkar -- of the prime hotel in Mundhwa, for allegedly serving liquor to a group of minors and keeping the establishment open beyond the permissible hours.

The two deceased were later identified as Ashwini Koshta and Aneesh Awadhiya, both 24, hailing from Madhya Pradesh, and were returning on a motorcycle after attending a friend's get-together.

As the boy's gleaming silver-grey Porsche crashed into the motorcycle, Koshta was flung at least 20 feet high and fell on the road, while Awadhiya fell on a parked car.

Both succumbed instantaneously in the sudden mishap, even as the incident sparked a massive furore on social media networks with people demanding exemplary stringent punishment for the boy and others.

The boy was produced on Sunday before the Juvenile Justice Board which granted bail to the accused as he was 17 years and 8 months old, rejecting the police plea to treat him as an adult in view of the heinous crime.

The verdict created more outrage as the JJB asked the boy to write a 300-word essay on the accident, work two weeks with the Yerawada Traffic Police authorities and take medical treatment/counselling to quit drinking.

Flamingos flock hits Emirates flight near Mumbai Airport, plane grounded

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A flock of at least three dozen Flamingos flying above the Pant Nagar area in Ghatkopar hit an incoming Emirates flight minutes before it landed at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, official sources said here on Tuesday.

The incident happened late on Monday night. The flight EK-508, with around 310 passengers, made a safe landing around 9.15 p.m., at the CSMIA, the sources said.

The airline team had already informed the airport authorities about the incident and a check by the airport teams did not find any carcasses of the majestic pink birds on or around the runway and airport premises.

Later, a team of forest officials recovered the carcasses of around 37 Flamingos in the Laxminagar area of Pant Nagar, outside the airport boundaries, and a search is on for more.

Though the aircraft is grounded, officials declined to reveal the details of the purported damage suffered by the Emirates plane but said a statement is likely to be issued later.

Wildlife experts like Vanshakti NGO's D. Stalin said that the cause of the birds flying into the Emirates aircraft is being probed, but surmised that the new power lines passing through the flamingo sanctuary in Thane Creek may have resulted in disorientation to the birds.

According to experts of the Forest Department and Bombay Natural History



Society, the remains of the dead birds were found strewn in the vicinity of Laxminagar which were collected and taken away for autopsy.

BNHS Director Kishor Rithe said it could have been a major risk for the flight and the passengers on board, adding that the BNHS would assist the concerned authorities in probing the issue.

Rithe said that the BNHS has earlier stressed the need to protect the high-tide roosting places in and around the coastal areas of Mumbai to prevent any disturbances to the migratory flocks of birds.

An important wetland reserve, the Thane Creek Wildlife Sanctuary comprising the Flamingo Reserve was declared a Ramsar Site in August 2022. The 65 sqkm sanctuary, among the biggest in Asia, is spread from Vashi in Navi Mumbai to Bhandup and attracts lakhs of Flamingos plus other migratory birds for food and nesting, besides tourists and nature lovers.

How Can Juvenile Board Give Such Order? Fadnavis on Pune Porsche Crash

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has promised strong action against the teen who crashed his high-end car into a motorbike, killing two people on the spot. Fadnavis condemned the "lenient" punishment given to the boy by the Juvenile Justice Board - a 300-word essay on accidents, working with the traffic police for 15 days and undergoing counselling for his drinking - in contrast with the heinous crime. "How can the Juvenile Justice (JJ) Board give such an order," he asked.



The Porsche car allegedly driven by the 17-year-old, who the police claim was drunk at the time, knocked down two IT professionals in Kalyani Nagar area of the city in the early hours of Sunday. Witnesses said Ashwini was thrown 20 feet in the air and Aneesh was flung into a parked car.

"We have appealed to the district court against the Juvenile Justice (JJ) Board order. There is a huge public outrage. I have taken stock of the investigation updates till now," Fadnavis said.

The minor, son of a prominent realtor in Pune, was seen drinking with his friends at a bar hours before the crash. The police have arrested the owners of the bar for allowing underage drinking. The legal drinking age in Maharashtra is 25.

The boy had gone to "two restaurants with 10-12 friends on Saturday night, where they were served alcohol", the police said. "The minor is 17 years and 8 months old and as per the Nirbhaya case, anyone above 16 years old should be considered an adult in cases of heinous crimes," stressed the Deputy Chief Minister.

The teen was caught but granted bail within 15 hours of the incident, sparking massive public outrage. The father has now been arrested under sections 75 (willful neglect of a child, or exposing a child to mental or physical illnesses) and 77 of the Juvenile Justice Act (supplying a child with intoxicating liquor or drugs).

Fadnavis also detailed the government's steps to avoid similar incidents in future: "Administration has been alerted to take closure action against those pubs where violations are found and drink driving checks by police on important places."

Hotel owners' association moves HC against full day ban on sale of liquor on counting day

Team Absolute | Mumbai

An association of the owners of hotels, restaurants and bars on Tuesday moved the Bombay High Court, challenging the orders passed by the Mumbai city and suburban Collectors, declaring the entire day on the counting day, reported news agency. The votes of the Lok Sabha elections 2024 will be counted on June 4 which is declared as a dry day.

A dry day means the purchase and consumption of alcohol are completely restricted at stores, restaurants and other places.

The Indian Hotel & Restaurant Association filed two separate petitions through advocates Veena Thadani and Vishal Thadani, claiming that it was arbitrary to ban the sale of liquor for the entire day as the counting of votes is likely to be completed and the election results would be declared by afternoon, according to the agency.



The plea is likely to be heard on Wednesday by a vacation bench. As per the plea, the petitioner association had in April approached the Mumbai City Collector and the Mumbai District Suburban Collector, requesting

them to review their decision declaring the whole day of June 4 as a dry day. However, the collectors said no such review could be done as the orders were passed pursuant to the directives from the Election Commission of India (ECI).

NRI Cheated Of Rs 32 Lakh; Navi Mumbai Police Files FIR Against 3

Team Absolute | Thane

An 82-year-old NRI staying with his son in Maharashtra's Navi Mumbai after return from Dubai has been allegedly cheated of Rs 32 lakh by three persons who threatened to get him arrested for various offences, police said. The accused contacted the victim several times between May 12 and 18, claiming offences had been

registered against him on charges of involvement in anti-national activities, drug peddling and in the Pulwama attack, an official from Navi Mumbai's cyber police station said on Monday. The accused told the victim that he would be arrested for these crimes. They sent fake documents claiming to be from the Narcotics Control Bureau and a confidentiality agreement to him on WhatsApp

and forced him to deposit Rs32,13,305 in different bank accounts, he said. Based on complaint by the victim on Sunday, the police registered an FIR against the three persons under relevant Indian Penal Code sections for cheating, forgery, criminal conspiracy, personation and criminal intimidation as well as provisions of the Information Technology Act, the official said.

Maharashtra HSC 12th Result 2024: 93.37 pc students pass; girls outperform boys

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Maharashtra State Board for Secondary and Higher Secondary Education announced the Class 12 (HSC) results on Tuesday, with 93.37 per cent of students passing the exams. According to the report by news agency, the Board chairperson Sharad Gosavi, speaking about the Maharashtra HSC 12th Result 2024, said that 95.44 per cent of girls cleared the examination compared to 91.60 per cent of boys.

According to the report, out of the 14,33,371 students who were set to appear for the examination held in March, only 14,23,970 had appeared for the examination and out of that 13,29,684 cleared the examination.



Per the Maharashtra HSC 12th Result 2024 data, cited in the report, the Konkan division achieved the highest pass rate at 97.51 per cent, followed by Nashik with 94.71 per cent, Pune 94.44 per cent, Kolhapur

94.24 per cent, Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar 94.08 per cent, Amravati 93 per cent, Latur 92.36 per cent, Nagpur 92.12 per cent, and Mumbai with the lowest at 91.95 per cent.

In the science stream, 97.82 per cent of students passed. The pass rates for other streams were 85.88 per cent for arts, 92.18 per cent for commerce, and 87.75 per cent for vocational courses, the report stated.

The Maharashtra HSC exam in 2024 was held at 10,388 centres and the highest registration was for the Science stream followed by Arts and Commerce. Starting this year, the students appearing for board exams were given 10 extra minutes to write their papers.

The Maharashtra board circular issued earlier this year stated that the question paper would not be distributed 10 minutes before the commencement of the exam given the increased instances of cheating, and paper leaks on social media.

Minor girl allegedly kidnapped, raped in Goregaon; case filed



Team Absolute | Mumbai

A 15-year-old girl was allegedly kidnapped and raped, said Amboli Police. The cops are looking for the unidentified accused and have registered a case against him under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code and POCSO Act. According to the information received, the minor is a person with mental and speech disability. She went missing on May 20 and when she could not be traced, her mother filed a complaint with Amboli Police who filed a case of kidnapping and a search operation was launched.

Concurrently, the Goregaon Police had spotted the minor and they tried to trace her

family. While they questioned her about her family, using sign language, she informed the police about the sexual assault.

Taking cognisance of the issue, the police took her to Cooper Hospital for medical examination and the doctor revealed she was raped.

An official from Amboli Police told mid-day, "We have registered an FIR against unknown accused under Sections 363, 376 (2) (I) (L) of the Indian Penal Code and Sections 6, 10 and 12 of the POCSO Act."

"We are trying to identify the accused, however, we are encountering difficulties. We are investigating the case with every possible angle and analysing CCTV footage to trace the accused," the officer added.

BJP files complaint with EC against Uddhav Thackeray's press conference

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Monday wrote to the Election Commission of India alleging that Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray violated the model code of conduct by holding a press conference here even as voting for the fifth phase of the India general elections 2024 was underway in Mumbai and elsewhere in Maharashtra, reported news agency.

Thackeray spoke to reporters about 5 pm, alleging that the polling process was facing delays at several places in Mumbai and the Election Commission was doing this deliberately at the behest of the Narendra Modi government. Voting was slow especially in the areas where the opposition was strong, he claimed.

Mumbai BJP chief Ashish Shelar stated in his letter to the ECI that Thackeray's press conference was in violation of the model code of conduct as voting was taking place all over Mumbai when he spoke.

Thackeray made baseless allegations against PM Modi and tried to mislead the electorate into believing that the government or the ruling party was influencing the ECI, Shelar said.

"Such statements are blatantly false, mischievous and defamatory in nature," he added.

Shiv Sena (UBT) president Uddhav Thackeray alleged on Monday afternoon that voting was



delayed at several places in Mumbai and the Election Commission of India was doing this deliberately at the behest of the Narendra Modi government.

Delay was taking place at the polling booths in areas where his party expects more votes, he said at a press conference here while urging electors to stand in queues as long as early morning if the process was slow.

"Dirty games are being played through the Election Commission. There is a lot of enthusiasm among voters, but the Election Commission is acting in a partisan manner. There is a delay by EC's representatives in certain areas," Thackeray alleged.

Officials were cross-checking names several times, and women and senior citizens were facing problems at polling booths, the former Maharashtra chief minister said.

There was no drinking water at many places, he claimed.

"The Modi government is using the EC as its handmaiden due to its fear of losing. This is a ploy of the Modi government to ensure that voting against it is minimized," Thackeray alleged.

Mumbai recorded a turnout of 52.27 per cent, lower than that in 2019, in the India general elections 2024 on Monday amid sultry weather and complaints of delays in the polling process.

The constituency of Mumbai South, home to industrialists as well as high-ranking government officials, fared the worst with 47.7 per cent voting.

In 2019, the polling percentage across the six Lok Sabha constituencies in the city was 55.38 per cent.

Mumbai North constituency witnessed 55.21 per cent polling on Monday, Mumbai North Central 51.42 per cent, Mumbai North East 53.75 per cent, Mumbai North West 53.67 per cent, Mumbai South 47.70 per cent and Mumbai South Central 51.88 per cent, as per the Election Commission's data.



Scarlett Johansson was 'shocked' to see OpenAI's using voice 'eerily' similar to hers

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Scarlett Johansson shared that she turned down OpenAI's request to lend her voice to ChatGPT system, and added that she was "shocked" and "angered" that the company went ahead and used a voice that sounded very similar to hers anyway. Johansson said that her lawyers contacted OpenAI to have the voice of Sky, one of the new voices in the GPT-4o chatbot, pulled down, reports variety.com.

It was last week, when OpenAI introduced the Sky voice, which sounded very much like that of Johansson's AI companion in Spike Jonze's 2013 movie 'Her' in a demo of GPT-4o.

The company shared that it would "pause" the use of the Sky voice. "We believe that AI voices should not deliberately mimic a celebrity's distinctive voice — Sky's voice is not an imitation of Scarlett Johansson but belongs to a different professional actress using her own natural speaking voice," a statement from OpenAI read.

Johansson said that she had been contacted by OpenAI CEO Sam Altman in September 2023. She added that she declined for "personal reasons."

"When I heard the released demo, I was shocked, angered and in disbelief that Mr Altman would pursue a voice that sounded so eerily similar to mine that my closest friends and news outlets could not tell the difference," Johansson said.

"Mr Altman even insinuated that the similarity was intentional, tweeting a single word 'Her' — a reference to the film in which I voiced a chat system, Samantha, who forms an intimate relationship with a human."

Johansson called for legislation that would protect individuals from having their name, image or likeness misappropriated.

Another statement OpenAI from Altman read: "The voice of Sky is not Scarlett Johansson's, and it was never intended to resemble hers. We cast the voice actor behind Sky's voice before any outreach to Ms Johansson. Out of respect for Ms Johansson, we have paused using Sky's voice in our products. We are sorry to Ms Johansson that we didn't communicate better."

The Johansson-soundlike ChatGPT voice was the basis of a joke on the season finale of 'Saturday Night Live' aimed at her husband, Colin Hanks, co-host of Weekend Update.



ADELE REVEALS SHE WANTS CHILDREN WITH RICH PAUL

Los Angeles | Agencies

Adele revealed she wants to have another baby with Rich Paul during a recent Las Vegas residency concert. The "Someone Like You" singer, 36, admitted that she wants to have her next child with her long-time partner, 42, when she has a little bit more downtime. She also revealed that she hopes the next child is a daughter.

While speaking to the crowd between songs, Adele revealed her hopes for her second child when she has some time. "Once I am done with all my -obligations and all of my shows, I want to have a baby," she said, according to Daily Mail. Adele is already a mom to her son Angelo, 11, with her ex Simon Konecki, but she said that she hopes that she could have a daughter. "I want a girl because I've already got a boy. I feel like she might be like the person I love the most in the world," she said.

Jason Momoa confirms dating actress Adria Arjona

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Jason Momoa, who was previously married to Lisa Bonet, has confirmed that he is dating actress Adria Arjona. The 44-year-old star took to Instagram, where he shared photos from a trip to Japan. Some pictures feature actress Arjona. In the photos, the 'Aquaman' star can be seen cuddling up to the 32-year-old actress in an image from a restaurant. Arjona also appears by Momoa's side in one photograph that shows their hair blowing in the wind while they smile. She shared it on Instagram Stories with red heart emojis, reports people.com.

"Japan, you are a dream come true you blew my mind. We're so thankful for everyone who opened their homes, making memories with new friends and old friends, sharing another amazing adventure with mi amor," Momoa wrote in the post, also tagging Arjona's Instagram account.

"ON THE ROAM motorcycles and mayhem. All my aloha j," Momoa added.

On May 11, at an event, a fan had asked him whether he was single.

"I'm very much in a relationship," he said at the time, per video of the event shared on X. "You'll find out very soon," Momoa added, after the fan asked if he would share whom he is dating.

Arjona, the daughter of Guatemalan-Mexican singer-songwriter Ricardo Arjona, is best known for roles in movies like 'Pacific Rim: Uprising' and the 'Star Wars' series 'Andor'.

Talking about her upcoming work, she will be seen starring alongside Glen Powell in 'Hit Man', and as part of the cast of 'Blink Twice', directed by Zoe Kravitz.

Momoa was married to Bonet from 2017 until they announced their split in January 2022. The former couple share two children: daughter Lola and son Nakoa-Wolf.



JENNIFER LOPEZ ATTENDS 'ATLAS' PREMIERE SOLO AMID BEN AFFLECK BREAKUP RUMORS

Los Angeles | Agencies

Jennifer Lopez was flying solo while attending the Monday, May 20, premiere of Netflix's Atlas at the Egyptian Theatre in Hollywood. Although the 54-year-old multi-hyphenate has been to events without her husband, Ben Affleck, in the past, the 51-year-old actor's absence took place amid ongoing split rumors between the spouses.

For the red carpet premiere, Jennifer wore an elegant black and white ensemble: a white strapless crop top with a long, black mermaid-styled skirt. She accessorized with a black clutch and a green necklace with a set of matching earrings.

Over the weekend, the "On the Floor" hitmaker was photographed in a car alongside Ben in Los Angeles. According to multiple outlets, the Good Will Hunting co-writer was picking Jennifer up at the Aero Theatre in Santa Monica on May 19. As paparazzi swarmed the famous pair, Ben and Jennifer flashed smiles for the cameras before driving away.

Although they've been spotted together over the past few days Jennifer shocked fans when she "liked" a social media post that described the downfall of a relationship. The post's message read that people "cannot build a healthy relationship with someone who lacks integrity & emotional safety," who "lacks effective communication skills" and "doesn't know who they are or what they want."



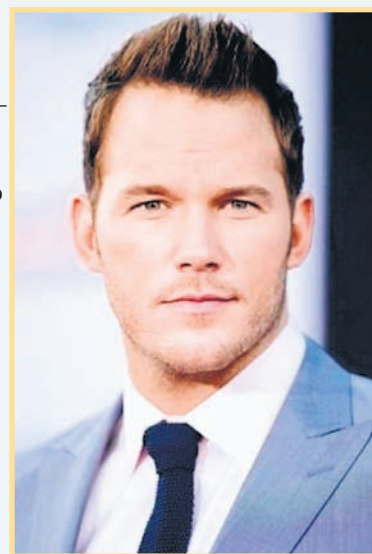
Chris Pratt says his 2 daughters know 'exactly what to do to control' him

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Chris Pratt has said that his daughters know "exactly what to do to control" him, as he added that he wants them to know how to have "power over people" in life.

The 44-year-old actor, who has Lyla and Eloise with Katherine Schwarzenegger, said: "Katherine does an amazing job planning parties... We had bunnies and chickens and ducks, an amazing cake and balloons and a bouncy house. All her friends came." "It was so cute, it was so sweet — they ate pizza and listened to music. It was so fun! They got my number. They know exactly what to do to control me, and that's good. I want them to be able to have the power over people."

"Katherine is very good; she can get what she wants out of them, they get what they want out of me," he told US TV show 'Extra', reports femalefirst.co.uk.



CAMILA CABELLO RECALLS 'BEAUTIFUL' FIRST TIME WITH EX-BOYFRIEND MATTHEW

Los Angeles | Agencies



Camila Cabello is looking back on her first relationship with ex-boyfriend Matthew Hussey. While appearing on the "Armchair Expert with Dax Shepard" podcast on Monday, May 20, the 27-year-old pop star recalled losing her virginity to the dating coach, 36.

"That was my first time having sex," she told host Dax Shepard. "First lovemaking was at 20, 21... It was literally lovemaking. It was beautiful."

Camila recalled how she first met Matthew on the set of TODAY in 2018. "I was outside where they had the TV with the scripts," the "Havana" hitmaker said. "I had actually listened to his podcast before... because he had, like, a dating podcast."

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Kylie Jenner



INDIAN PREMIERE LEAGUE 2024

KKR enters the final after an eight-wicket win over SRH

Ahmedabad | Agencies

Unbeaten half-centuries by captain Shreyas Iyer (58*) and Venkatesh Iyer (51*) guided Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) to a crushing eight-wicket win over Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) in Qualifier 1 and place in the final of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024 at Narendra Modi Stadium here on Tuesday.

Hyderabad will have another chance to face KKR in the final as they will next take on the winner of the Eliminator match between Rajasthan Royals and Royal Challengers Bengaluru in Chennai on Friday. Chasing 160, openers Rahmanullah Gurbaz and Sunil Narine gave KKR an electric start in the Powerplay overs as the duo scored runs at a run rate of over 10 runs per over. The first-wicket part-



nership lasted for 44 runs in 20 balls before T. Natarajan made inroads in the fourth over.

Venkatesh Iyer joined Narine in the middle and kept the momentum going as they added 23 runs before Pat Cummins got Narine (21) in his

first over into the attack just after the powerplay. Shreyas (58*) and Venkatesh (51*) accumulated an unbeaten 97-run partnership for the third wicket and also smashed their individual fifties during the successful run-chase. Both players hit four sixes

and five fours each as they went berserk to take their side to the final.

Earlier, KKR restricted Sunrisers Hyderabad to 159 all out in 19.3 overs after the latter decided to bat first.

Pacer Mitchell Starc was on a roll as he got three of the four wickets in the powerplay. Abhishek Sharma (3), Nitish Reddy (9), and Shabbaz Ahmed (0) were picked cheaply as Hyderabad's batters faltered in the high-pressure game. SRH were 45/4 after six overs.

Brief scores

Sunrisers Hyderabad 159 all out in 19.3 overs (Rahul Tripathi 55, Heinrich Klaasen 32; Mitchell Starc 3/34, Varun Chakaravarthy 2-26) lost to Kolkata Knight Riders 164/2 in 13.4 overs (Shreyas Iyer 58*, Venkatesh Iyer 51*; T. Natarajan 1-22) by eight wickets.

MANU BHAKER STRIVING FOR GOLD IN PARIS AFTER TOPPING AIR PISTOL SELECTION TRIALS

New Delhi | Agencies



Olympian Manu Bhaker, after emerging as the most successful shooter in the Olympic selection trials, is aiming to pocket a gold at the Paris Olympics. Manu won the women's 10m Air Pistol OST T4 match on the concluding day of the trials across two events, with the other being the women's 25m sports pistol. After the conclusion of the Olympic Selection Trials, the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) will make a final decision on the Paris squad after a selection committee meeting, which is expected to take place soon. After an impressive show at the selection trials, Manu has set herself for the second successive Olympic appearance. The 22-year-old pistol ace said that she is "working really hard to strive for gold".

She further praised the Central government's sports policy, saying the players have got huge support while adding that Haryana does not have a good shooting range.

"The facilities provided to shooting players by the Haryana Government are not sufficient and the state government needs to provide more facilities to the players," she added.

ASIAN RELAY C'SHIPS: INDIAN MEN'S, WOMEN'S 4X400M TEAMS SETTLE FOR SILVER MEDALS



Bangkok (Thailand) | Agencies

Already qualified for the upcoming 2024 Olympic Games in Paris, the Indian men's and women's 4x400m relay teams could only finish with silver medals in the inaugural edition of the Asian Relay Championships 2024 on Tuesday. After the Mixed Relay Team's record-setting run here that fetched it a gold medal, expectations were

high that the men's and women's teams would also emerge as champions ahead of the Paris Olympic Games. Heavy rains in Bangkok also seem to have had an impact on their run. The men's relay quartet of Muhammed Anas Yahiya, T. Santosh Kumar, Mijo Chacko Kurian, and Arokia Rajiv clocked 3:05.76 amidst heavy rains in Bangkok to finish behind the Sri Lanka team, which ended with a time of 3:04.48. The Vietnam (3:07.37)

edged out Qatar to secure the bronze medal. The quartet of Muhammed Anas Yahiya, Aroj Jacob, Muhammed Ajmal, and Rajesh Ramesh hold the existing Indian national record of 2:59.05 in the event. It is also the standing Asian record. Meanwhile, India's challenge in the women's 4x400m relay race was fronted by Vithya Ramraj, MR Poovamma, Rupal, and Prachi Choudhary. The four timed their run at 3:33.55 seconds only to be outdone by the Vietnamese quartet, who created a new national record of 3:30.81 seconds to win the gold medal. Japan bagged the bronze after finishing the course in 3:36.56. The Indian men's and women's relay teams bagged their berths in the Olympic qualifiers by finishing second in their heats in the World Relays in the Bahamas.

T20 World Cup: New York to host India's only warm-up match against Bangladesh on June 1

Dubai | Agencies

The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Tuesday revealed that New York's Nassau County International Cricket Stadium will host India's sole warm-up clash against Bangladesh on June 1 ahead of the T20 World Cup, which is incidentally starting on the same day.

The ICC had released the official schedule of the warm-up matches last week but the decision on India's preparatory match venue was left to be decided later. The warm-up matches are scheduled to be played from May 27 to June 1 across the USA and at two venues in Trinidad and Tobago in the West Indies.

The venues to host the 16 warm-up matches are the Grand Prairie Cricket Stadium, Grand Prairie, Texas; Broward County Stadium, Broward



County, Florida and Queen's Park Oval and Brian Lara Cricket Academy in Trinidad and Tobago.

The venue for India's match will open doors for spectators and the tickets can be purchased online and offline via ICC's official ticketing platform.

"Early access to tickets will be made available to Nassau County residents, existing World Cup ticketholders, and fans who have registered for access to the pre-sale on Wednesday at 10:00 am EST. A full public release of remaining tickets will be available on Thursday at 10:00 am EST," the

ICC said in a statement. "For the general public, tickets will be available at tickets.t20worldcup.com and will go on sale at 10 a.m. on Thursday, May 23," it added.

Brett Jones, CEO, T20 USA, said, "We're pleased to be able to open this warm-up match to the public, and especially glad to be able to provide another opportunity for local residents to see first-hand what's happening in their backyard."

"Importantly, tickets and/or hospitality remain available for every match at Nassau County International Cricket Stadium, and we'd encourage fans to get them while they can to ensure we have a full venue while hosting these incredible athletes from all over the world."

India are scheduled to play Ireland in their opening match of the T20 World Cup at the same venue on June 5.

Real Madrid legend Toni Kroos to retire from football after 2024 Euros

New Delhi | Agencies

In a shocking turn of events, Real Madrid legend Toni Kroos has announced his intentions to retire at the end of the season via a letter posted on Instagram.

The German international will be playing his last game at the 2024 Euros that are being held in his home country which will be the perfect ending fitting for a player of Kroos' stature.

"July 17th, 2014 - the day of my presentation at Real Madrid, the day that changed my life. My life as a footballer - but especially as a person. It was the start of a new chapter at the biggest club in the world. After 10 years, at the end of the season this chapter comes to an end. I will never forget that insolent successful time! I would particularly like to thank everyone that welcomed me with an open heart and trusted me."

Kroos wrote in an Instagram post.

"But especially I would like to thank you, dear Madridistas, for your affection and your love from the first day until the last one. At

the same time this decision means that my career as an active footballer will end this summer after the Euro championship."

"I am happy and proud, that in my mind I found the right timing for my decision and that I could choose it by my own. My ambition was always to finish my career at the peak of my performance level. From now on there is only one leading thought: a por la 15!!! HALA MADRID Y NADA MAS!" the post further read.

The 34-year old midfielder joined Real Madrid way back in 2014 and has been a vital part in four Champions League victories for the Los Blancos alongside 4 La Liga titles.

"Real Madrid wants to express its gratitude and affection to Toni Kroos, a player who is already part of the history of Real Madrid and who is one of the great legends of our club and world football..."

"During the ten seasons in which he has defended our shirt and our shield, he has won 22 titles in 463 games to date: 4 European Cups, 5 Club World

Cups, 4 European Super Cups, 4 Leagues, 1 Copa del Rey and 4 Super Cups from Spain.

"In addition to his titles with Real Madrid, Toni Kroos became world champion with the German team at the 2014 World Cup in Brazil," read the statement posted by Real Madrid.

Over the course of his tenure at Madrid, the 'German Sniper' has played 463 games so far and will be playing his last club game at the Wembley stadium in the UEFA Champions League final against Borussia Dortmund on June 2 in what could once again be the fairytale ending of his club career.

"Toni Kroos is one of the great players in the history of Real Madrid and that this club is and will always be his home," Real Madrid president Florentino Perez said.

It is also worth noticing that Kroos had previously retired from International football but recently made a comeback into the national team for the upcoming European Championship.



Ex-Germany captain Philipp Lahm picks France as favorites to win 2024 Euros

Team Absolute | New Delhi

German footballing legend Philipp Lahm has picked France as the favorites to win the 2024 Euros, terming the current squad "well-equipped and full of gifted talents."

Lahm, who is the 2024 UEFA Euro tournament director, is excited to see how his team fares in their first tournament as hosts since the 2006 World Cup. He went on to praise head coach Julian Nagelsmann and director of football Ruud Voller.

"They have got a remarkably well-equipped squad full of gifted talents," said the former Bayern Munich defender to Xinhua. "Voller is an identification figure for all fans and a people catcher," said Lahm as he went on to describe Nagelsmann as "a young talented coach" having found a tactical approach the recently struggling national team "is getting along with perfectly."

Lahm was the captain of Germany during the 2014 FIFA World Cup, the last time the team won a major trophy. He believes the most challenging part of an international tournament is "to get the power on the pitch as a team over the entire tournament."

"The Qatar World Cup delivered several



examples of teams performing beyond expectations such as Morocco. Argentina lost their first group encounter but fought back and everyone in the team was willing to provide his best for the benefit of the team," added the former wing-back.

"The Euro is a great opportunity to bring people together, especially in times like this as we need optimism to create a promising future for all," concluded the 40 year old.



BADMINTON: SATWIK-CHIRAG CLAIMS TOP SPOT IN LATEST MEN'S DOUBLES BWF RANKINGS

Team Absolute | New Delhi

India's Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty ascended to the top of the Badminton World Federation (BWF) men's doubles rankings on Tuesday after a remarkable victory at the Thailand Open Super 500 in Bangkok last week.

Before the tournament, Satwik and Chirag (96,670 points) were ranked third but managed to surpass China's Liang Wei Keng and Wang Chang, who now trail by a mere 52 points with a total of 99,618. South Korea's Min Hyuk Kang

and Seung Jae Seo hold the third position with 98,015 points.

Satwik and Chirag showcased impeccable form throughout the tournament, winning all their matches in straight games. Their dominant performance was highlighted in the final where they defeated China's Chen Bo Yang and Liu Yi 21-15, 21-15 in just 46 minutes, securing their second Thailand Open men's doubles title.

Their dominance was evident as they averaged less than 35 minutes on the court per match. This victory also marked their second World Tour title of

the year, following their French Open Super 750 triumph in March.

The Indian pair first rose to the pinnacle of the world rankings on October 10, 2023, after their groundbreaking gold medal win at the Asian Games in Hangzhou, China. However, their reign was short-lived as Liang and Wang reclaimed the top spot three weeks later.

The Chinese pair's runner-up finishes at the Malaysia Open Super 1000 and India Open Super 750 earlier this year briefly put them to the top, but their subsequent poor performances allowed Satwik and Chirag to regain their posi-

tion. Elsewhere in the rankings, Lakshya Sen dropped three places to 14th following his absence from the circuit since the Thomas Cup in April. H.S. Prannoy continues to hold the highest rank among Indian men's singles players at ninth. In women's singles, P.V. Sindhu slipped to 15th but will be looking to bounce back at the Malaysia Masters this week. In women's doubles, Tanisha Crasto and Ashwini Ponnappa rose to world No. 19 after reaching the semi-finals of the Thailand Open, while Treasa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand are ranked 29th.



Chunky Pandey is Bollywood's most 'kanjoos' person: Farah Khan

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Filmmaker-choreographer Farah Khan has opened up on Bollywood's "miser" in the upcoming episode of 'The Great Indian Kapil Show', hosted by comedian Kapil Sharma. Farah is accompanied by senior actor Anil Kapoor in the ninth episode of the comedy chat show. During the conversation, Kapil asked: "Who is 'jyada kanjoos' between Anil and Farah." While Farah confirms both of them are quite generous, she does



mention she can tell everyone who is the most 'kanjoos' in the entire industry. With her trademark candidness, Farah dialed the person live on the show, requesting him for Rs 500.

Farah shared: "I can tell you who is the most miser in the industry. There is only one person. Chunky Pandey. I swear. Bring me my phone. I will call him and ask for Rs 500."

She calls up Chunky and puts him on loudspeaker. On the call, Farah says: "Chunky, listen I need Rs 500." Chunky replies: "Then go to the ATM, no?" Farah then added: "Chunky at least give me Rs 50." Chunky then said: "Hello? Kaun chahiye?"

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Divya Khosla, who stars as a protagonist in the upcoming film 'Savi', has said that the film is a modern take on 'Sati Savitri'. In 'Savi', she essays the role

If a man is lauded for being ambitious then why not women? : Divya Khosla

of a housewife, who goes to any length to save her family and carries out a prison break with the help of Anil Kapoor's character to take her husband out of the prison given that there's a threat to her husband's life in the jail.

The actress attended the trailer launch of her film on Tuesday along with director Abhinav Deo and producer Mukesh Bhatt at a multiplex in the Andheri area of Mumbai.

Talking to the media at the multiplex, the actress said: "Savi" is a modernised version of Sati Savitri. In that story, Savitri brings her husband back from Yamraj. In this film, Savi, being a housewife, goes to the edge of the world to save her husband and her family."

The actress also spoke about women not getting their due for the kind of labour they carry out.

Talking about the subject of women not being recognised for their work and the unpaid labour of a housewife, Divya said: "It's not just a housewife. If a man goes out for a job, a woman nurtures their kids and takes care of the house in every possible way. If a man is lauded for being ambitious then why not women? Women too have dreams and aspirations. A woman's efforts shouldn't be undermined."



Team Absolute | Mumbai

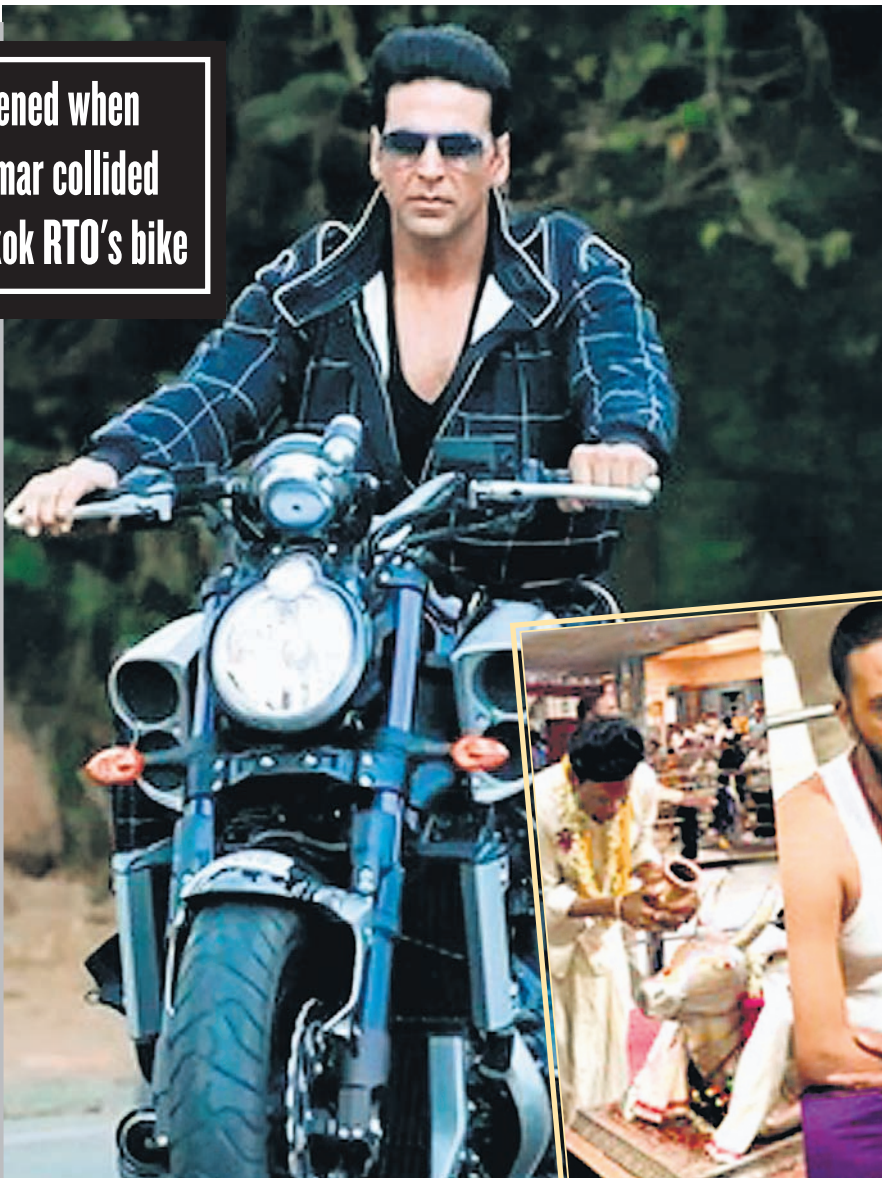
Akshay Kumar recounted his accident story in Thailand, sharing how the incident taught him the significance of humility.

Akshay, who was the first guest on the talk show 'Dhawan Kareng' hosted by cricketer Shikhar Dhawan, reminisced about a memorable incident from his visit to the exotic destination of Bangkok.

He shared: "My father realised my disinterest in studies and helped me move to Bangkok at an early age. I really liked the country. Right from the minute you leave the plane, you find everyone bowing down to you with their hands joined. It feels very nice and beautiful especially when you realise that it's actually taken from our culture and followed so politely there."

"I remember an incident that taught me the significance of humility and bowing down. When you humble yourself, you gain the resilience to navigate through any challenge or obstacle. Once, while driving, I accidentally collided with the bike of an RTO officer while making a turn, causing both of us to fall. Scared, I immediately apologised, bowing to him. The officer assisted me in getting my bike and helmet up and calmly advised me to drive slowly and carefully," added Akshay.

What happened when Akshay Kumar collided with Bangkok RTO's bike



I STOP TALKING TO A PERSON JUST BECAUSE MY ZODIAC SIGN DOESN'T MATCH! : JANHVI KAPOOR



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Bollywood actress Janhvi Kapoor says she believes in astrology and has checked her zodiac compatibility "many times."

During the press conference for her upcoming film 'Mr & Mrs Mahi', Janhvi was asked if she believed in astrology, considering that her character Mahima's "kundali" is matched for an arranged marriage.

Janhvi told media: "I think we all have checked our zodiac compatibility. I have done it so many times. I do believe in astrology a lot but not to the extent where I stop talking to a person just because my zodiac sign doesn't match!"

She revealed that her character Thangam in the film is interesting.

The actress added: "I love working on a film set where people do their work with love. The passion these guys have is amazing and their storytelling is beautiful. With conviction they showcase each character, it is very different. I am very lucky to get a chance to work (in the film with Jr NTR)."

Mammootty extends birthday greeting to Mohanlal as superstar turns 64

Team Absolute | Thiruvananthapuram

One of Kerala's most popular personalities, superstar Mohanlal is celebrating his 64th birthday on Tuesday.

Mohanlal was not born with a silver spoon, instead, went up the ladder of success through sheer hard work, dedication and commitment to his profession.

In a career that began in 1978 (his first film 'Thirananthapuram' was released a quarter century later) he had to wait another two years before he began his full-fledged film career, after which there was no looking back.

It was in 1980 that the biggest grosser then - 'Manjil Virinja Pookal' was released; but surprisingly, he was cast as a villain in it but that did not affect his career as in a short period, he rose to the status of a superstar.

Now, at 64, Lal is presently doing his 360th Malayalam film which is yet to be titled and the highlight of this film is that he is pairing with Shobana for the 56th time.

On Tuesday, the first wish came from his senior



colleague Mammootty, who shared a picture of the two with the latter giving Lal a kiss.

Birthday wishes have started to pour in from several quarters.

Lal, over the years, has been decorated with five national awards which includes two best actor, a special jury mention and a special jury award for acting and as producer for the best feature film.

Apart from national honors he has won nine state film awards as well.

Additionally, he became the first actor to be awarded the honorary rank of Lt Col in the Territorial Army.

MANOJ BAJPAYEE VISITS MAHAKAL TEMPLE, SEEKS LORD SHIVA'S BLESSINGS FOR HIS 100TH FILM

Ujjain: Actor Manoj Bajpayee, who is all geared up for the release of his 100th film 'Bhaiyya ji', on Tuesday paid a visit to Mahakaleswar Jyotirlinga in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh.

The Padma Shri awardee, who was on a visit to Indore for the promotions of 'Bhaiyya ji', worshipped in the Nandi Hall of the Mahakal temple, and offered prayers to Lord Shiva.

Manoj, who wore a beige-coloured shirt and a matching dhoti for his visit to the temple, told media persons: "I feel lucky that I have got the blessings and darshan of Lord Mahakal."

The video also shows Manoj posing for the lenses with the temple authorities.

Meanwhile, Manoj was last seen in 'Silence 2: The Night Owl Bar Shootout', and 'Joram'. He also has 'Despatch', and 'The Fable' in the pipeline.

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Shanaya Kapoor