

# ELIEF NEV

India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecasted above-average monsoon rains in the country this year in its Updated Long Range Forecast Outlook on Monday, confirming its April forecast of a good monsoon. The IMD defines average or normal rainfall as between 96 per cent and 104 per cent of a 50-year average of 87 cm (35 inches) for the June-Sept season.



## Team Absolute New Delhi

MD has based the forecast of the good monsoon on the fact that the strong El Nino conditions which tend to disrupt the monsoon have weakened rapidly into weak El Nino conditions and are currently transitioning into ENSO-neutral conditions.

The latest climate model forecasts indicate ENSO-neutral conditions are likely to establish during the beginning of the monsoon season and La Nina conditions, which result in good rains, are likely to develop during the later part of the monsoon season.

IMD has announced that this year the southwest monsoon is likely to set in over Kerala on May 31. A good monsoon augurs well for the country's agricultural sector which was hit by erratic weather last year. The monsoon plays a key role in the Indian economy as close to 50 per cent of the country's farmland does not have any other

source of irrigation. The monsoon rains are also crucial for recharging the country's reservoirs and aquifers from which the water can be used later in the year to irrigate crops.India has emerged as a key exporter of foodgrains but had to resort to curbing

"Quantitatively, the southwest monsoon seasonal rainfall over the country as a whole is likely to be 106 per cent of the Long Period Average (LPA) with a model error of 4 per cent. Thus above normal rainfall is most likely over the country as a whole during the monsoon season from June to September 2024."

overseas shipments of sugar, rice, wheat and onions in order to increase domestic supplies and keep prices in check due to the erratic monsoon last year which hit farm production.

## **NO RESPITE FROM** HEAT WAVE

New Delhi: A heat wave will sweep across most of the states in the country in June, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecast on Monday.

"Above-normal monthly maximum temperatures are likely over most parts of the country in June, except many parts of the southern peninsular India, where normal to below-normal temperatures are most likely," the IMD said. Abovenormal heat wave days are likely over most parts of northwest India and adjoining areas of central India during the next month.Above-normal monthly minimum temperatures are also likely across most parts of the country in June, except for the extreme northern parts of northwest India and a few pockets of east and northeast India, where normal to below-normal minimum temperatures are most likely, the IMD said.

# 'Indian voters mature, external forces can't influence them'

PM MODI ON PAK SHOUT-OUT FOR RAHUL, KEJRIWAL

#### Team Absolute New Delhi

rime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday expressed shock and surprise

over Pakistani voices of endorsement and praise for a select few Indian counterparts (Rahul Gandhi and Arvind Kejriwal) in the middle of Lok Sabha elections and asserted that Indian voters are mature enough to see through their gimmicks.

PM Modi, speaking exclusively to a news agency, said that India's voters are mature in their thoughts and can't be influenced by any external factor.

On questions of Pakistani politicians' support to Congress leader and AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal amid polls, PM Modi said: "I don't understand why some select group of people, apparently those who harbour animosity against us, get endorsements from Pakistan, why voices of support emanate from there, for certain individuals.'

He further said that India is a mature democracy and boasts of rich and well-established electoral principles and traditions and such 'provocation' was a matter of grave concern and calls for a thorough investigation.

Notably, both Rahul Gandhi and Arvind Kejriwal received admiration from Pakistani

## Prajwal Revanna to appear before SIT on May 31, releases video

## Bengaluru Agencies

n his first appearance after the alleged sex video scandal surfaced, prime accused -fugitive Janata Dal-Secular (JD-S) MP Prajwal Revanna -- released a video on Monday claiming that he would appear before the Special Investigation Team (SIT) for questioning on May 31.

In the 2.57-minute video, Prajwal Revanna refuted allegations against him and called them part of a political conspiracy.

"No one should take me wrong. I am appearing before the SIT on Friday, May 31 at 10 a.m. I want to answer in connection with the allegations against me by fully cooperating with the SIT and answering all ques-



tions," he said.



politician Fawad Chaudhry this month, apparently for their diatribe against Modi dispensation.

On May 1, Fawad Chaudhry, erstwhile minister in ex-Pakistan PM Imran Khan-led cabinet wrote on X, "Rahul on fire" while tagging his video, where the Wayanad MP was criticising the BJP, particularly targeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

On May 25, the same Pakistani politician posted a message for Arvind Kejriwal, while replying to his X post and wrote: "May peace and harmony defeat forces of hate and extremism.

#MorePower#IndiaElections2024."

## INDIA bloc will not allow BJP to change the Constitution: Rahul Gandhi

## Patna Agencies

ongress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday said that the INDIA bloc will not allow the BJP to change the Constitution.

"The 2024 election is an election to save the Constitution. These people (BJP) want to tear the Constitution and throw it away. They want to end the Constitution which was given to us by Babasaheb Bhim Rao Ambedkar and Jawahar Lal Nehru. I want to promise you that as long as we (INDIA bloc) are here, we will not allow them to change it." Rahul Gandhi said while addressing a rally in Khusrupur in Patna Sahib Lok Sabha constituency along with RJD Chief Teiashwi Yaday.

He said that before the Constitution was drafted, the



Gandhi said.

Dalits, backward and tribals had no rights. "Whatever rights people got, they got it because of this Constitution," Rahul Gandhi said.

Attacking PM Modi over his speeches, Rahul Gandhi said that he (PM Modi) should stop giving speeches and he is trying to "divide" the country.

"He should talk about how many jobs he has provided to

the people in Bihar. You had promised to give two crore jobs in a year but did not give a single job. There were many opportunities for jobs earlier but by implementing demonetisation and GST, he closed all the jobs," Rahul Rahul Gandhi also taunted

PM Modi for his interviews given to various media organisations. "Have you seen interviews

of PM Modi. it looks like a case of question paper leak. The questions were given to him in advance. Prime Minister Modi says in the interview that he is not biological. God has sent him and

he is taking decisions on His orders," he said. Rahul Gandhi added that the INDIA bloc would scrap the Agniveer scheme after they would form the government at the Centre.

## Kolkatai Agencies

t least four people were killed in West Bengal after cyclone Remal hit the state causing widespread disruption and devastation.

Sundarban Affairs Department Minister Bankim Chandra Hazra said that heavy rains uprooted the trees which fell on electric wires. "To repair the wires, two people died as they came in contact with the live wire. One more died after a wall of a dilapidated building fell on him."

He said that the first two deceased were residents of Memari in the East Burdwan district of West Bengal. The deceased persons have been identified as Fore Singh (64) and his son Tarun Singh (30).

Kolkata Mayor Firhad Hakim said that Kolkata Municipal Corporation has been regularly reminding the owners and residents of dilapidated buildings to repair them. "But they conveniently ignore our advice," Hakim said. Heavy rain lashed Tripura on Monday under the influence of cyclonic storm Remal while 11 flights



CYCLONE REMAL LEAVES FOUR DEAD IN BENGAL, FLIGHTS-TRAINS CANCELLED

were cancelled from Agartala airport due to bad weather, officials said. The Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR), which operates in the northeastern states, seven districts of West Bengal, and five districts of north Bihar, cancelled 44 trains on Monday and Tuesday in view of the cyclonic storm "Remal". Most of the cancelled trains are passenger trains, including DEMUs and express trains.

The cancelled trains were supposed to connect Malda, Siliguri, Alipurduar Junction, New Jalpaiguri (West

Bengal), Jogbani (Bihar), Guwahati. Silchar (Assam), Bhairabi (Mizoram), and Agartala and Sabroom (Tripura). Meanwhile, India Meteorological Department (IMD) Director General Mrutunjay Mohapatra said in New Delhi that the "Remal" is progressing towards Assam and Meghalaya. As per the weather office, it was moving north-northeastwards and gradually weakening into a deep depression, while light to moderate rainfall was recorded in most of the northeastern states.

## **HEAVY RAINS, GALES CLAIM 13 LIVES IN TELANGANA**

Hyderabad: As many as 13 people were killed in separate incidents as heavy rain accompanied by thunderstorms and lightning lashed several parts of Telangana on Sunday night.

Heavy rains coupled with strong gales wreaked havoc in several districts including state capital Hyderabad.The downpour along with thunderstorms under the impact of severe cyclonic storm Remal in Bay of Bengal claimed 13 lives, uprooted trees, damaged electricity and communication towers and disrupted transport and power supply.Nagarkurnool district alone accounted for seven deaths. Four deaths were reported from various parts of Hyderabad and two from Medak.The strong gales left a trail of destruction in Nagarkurnool, Medak, Ranga Reddy, Medchal Malkajgiri and Nalgonda districts.

## Delhi hospital fire tragedy: Owner, co-accused sent to 3-day police custody

#### Team Absolute New Delhi

Delhi court on Monday sent the owner of the Baby Care New Born Hospital, where seven children were killed in a massive fire late on Saturday, and a co-accused, to three-day police custody.

Hospital owner Dr Naveen Khichi was arrested in the wake of the tragedy at the private neonatal hospital, along with employee Akash, who was on duty at that time.

Police probe into the hospital fire has revealed that the licence issued to the hospital by the Delhi Government Health Services (DGHS) had expired on March 31, and also that the doctors at the hospitals were not qualified to treat newborn babies, who needed neonatal intensive care, as these doctors were only BAMS degree holders.

"In the hospital, there were 12 new-



born babies admitted and one was already dead before the fire incident. All the newborn babies were rescued from the hospital with the help of other people and shifted to East Delhi Advance

NICU Hospital for treatment," police had said. Delhi Fire Service chief Atul Garg said that seven children were declared dead at the hospital while five newly born babies are undergoing treatment

DCP, Shahdara Surendra Chaudhary further said that after dousing the fire, burst oxygen cylinders were found.

Further, the hospital was thoroughly inspected by police, fire brigade staff and crime team, and the nursing staff examined and it was also found there were no fire extinguishers, improper entry and exit, no emergency exit, and deployment of a BAMS doctor. Police said that even as per the expired licence, the hospital was allowed for five beds only, but at the time of the incident, 12 newborn babies were admitted to the hospital

The probable cause of the fire is stated to be a short circuit.

## **MUMBAI COPS RECEIVE** HOAX MESSAGE **THREATENING TO BLOW UP TAJ HOTEL, AIRPORT**

fied person on Monday threatened to blow up Hotel Taj and Mumbai airport claiming bombs are planted at these places, which turned out to be a hoax after police conducted a search but no suspicious object was found, an official said.

The mobile number on which the message was posted in the Mumbai Traffic Police's Whatsapp helpline number has been traced to Agra, according to the official.

Police have registered an FIR against an unidentified person under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code and conducting the investigation, he said.

## Archaeologists discover 2,300yr-old gold ring in Jerusalem Mumbai: An unidenti-

Tel Aviv Agencies

rchaeologists in erusalem have discovered a 2,300-year-old gold ring believed to have belonged to a child living in the city's Hellenistic period. The Israel Antiquities

Authority (IAA) said in a statement that the ring, set with a red gem, was "exceedingly well-preserved" with no signs of rust or weathering.

It was unearthed recently at the City of David archaeological site by Tehiya Gangate, a member of the excavation team.

"I was sifting earth through the screen and suddenly saw something glitter," Gangate



find every day," she added.

Researchers believe the

ring probably belonged to a

It was "manufactured by

hammering thin pre-cut gold

child due to its small size.

leaves onto a metal ring

base," the IAA statement

around 300 BC.

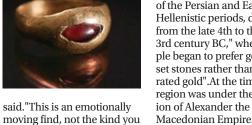
said.The ring was dated to

"reflects the common fashion of the Persian and Early Hellenistic periods, dating from the late 4th to the early 3rd century BC," when "people began to prefer gold with set stones rather than decorated gold".At the time, the region was under the dominion of Alexander the Great's Macedonian Empire.

The statement said it

Alexander's conquests "helped spread and transport luxury goods and products," the statement said.

The latest finding reveals that Jerusalem's residents "were open to the widespread Hellenistic style and influences," the researchers said.





# nation



# THIS IS AN ELECTION BETWEEN RAM 'BHAKTS' AND RAM 'DROHIS': HM AMIT SHAH

Lucknow Agencies

nion Home Minister Amit Shah slammed the Samajwadi Party and its INDIA bloc partners during an election rally in Uttar Pradesh's Kushinagar, saying that this was an election between the Ram 'bhakts' and Ram 'drohis'.

Home Minister Shah said that if the INDIA bloc came to power, they would, in their first year, reimpose Article 370 in Kashmir and in the second year, they would lift the ban on triple talaq.

"In their third year, they will lift the ban on PFI and in the fourth year, they will initiate talks with terror groups. In the fifth year, they will put a lock on Ram temple. This is an election between Ram bhakts and Ram-drohis," he said.

HM Shah slammed the Samajwadi Party and said that the Rs 85,000 crore scam in Sahara had taken place during his regime.

He said that people who had suffered in this scam were now getting back their money.

The Union Minister further said



that it was only Prime Minister Narendra Modi who could give a befitting reply to Pakistan. "PM Modi alone could have saved you during Covid and he countered all threats to the country. The INDIA bloc wants to appease its vote bank and will even cut the quota of SC/ST and OBCs for this. But Modi will never allow this," he

Amit Shah said the BJP government had cleared the cane dues of farmers and even reopened closed sugar mills. The cultivated area of sugarcane had also increased. He said that unlike INDIA bloc

members, there was not a single blot on Prime Minister Narendra Modi who had not taken even a day's leave in 23 years. "Modi comes from a humble

background and understands your pain. These 'Shehzades' have lived in the lap of luxury and go for vacations abroad when it gets hot here. They will never understand your pain," he added.

The minister further said that on June 4, "The Congress will blame the EVMs for their defeat and the scapegoat will be its president Mallikarjun Kharge.'

## Swati Maliwal assault case: Delhi court dismisses bail plea of CM Kejriwal's aide

Team Absolute New Delhi

Delhi court on Monday dismissed the bail plea of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's aide Bibhav Kumar, who is accused of assaulting AAP Rajya Sabha member and former DCW chief Swati Maliwal.

On May 24, the court had sent Kumar to four-day judicial custody till Tuesday.

During the hearing, Maliwal broke down in the courtroom alleging character assassination and life threats being given to her.

Delhi Police opposed Kumar's counsel's submission that Maliwal went to the CM's res idence with the intent to malign his aide, while his counsel alleged a three-day delay in filing an FIR.

His counsel further argued that Bibhav was not present at the CM's residence and that Maliwal had no appointment.

The court had earlier in the day reserved its order on Kumar's bail plea.

Kumar was arrested on May 18 in connection with the assault on Maliwal on May 13 and produced late at night before a local court which sent him to five days under police custody.

During this period, he was also taken to the CM's residence where the crime scene was recreated. Bibhav Kumar was taken to three locations in Mumbai, said police sources privy to the probe."Kumar had formatted his phone on one of the locations, which was revealed after technical investigation," said the source.



According to police, he had formatted his phone on May 17, citing a malfunction. Delhi Police registered a case against

Kumar after he allegedly assaulted Maliwal at the Chief Minister's residence.

The FIR at the Civil Lines police station includes charges under Sections 308 (attempt to commit culpable homicide), 341 (wrongful restraint), 354(B) (assault or use of criminal force to woman with intent to disrobe), 506 (criminal intimidation), and 509 (word, gesture, or act intended to insult the modesty of a woman) of the Indian Penal Code.

## Those Who Betray Also Remain In Congress: Ashok Gehlot's Dig At Sachin Pilot

elections. He referred to

"worthless" and "traitors".

He said those who left the

party and joined the BJP are

"This is opportunism.

people. The one who betrays

forming assets".

said.

#### Jaipur Agencies

ongress leader Ashok Gehlot on Monday called leaders who left the party ahead of the Lok Sabha elections "nakara" and "nikamma", adding that some such people are still within the ranks of the organisation.

The former Rajasthan chief minister did not take names in the Congress ranks, Gehlot but his remarks recalled the asked the young party memrow when he used the terms bers to become assets rather meaning "worthless" - to than liabilities.He hit out at describe Sachin Pilot, who the party leaders who had rebelled against his leadswitched to the BJP by leavership but remains within the ing the Congress ahead of the organisation. them as "opportunists",

Gehlot and former deputy chief minister papered over their differences ahead of Lok Sabha polls. The former chief minister's remarks came when reporters asked him whether the Congress leaders who left the party to join the BJP ahead of the elections

should be taken back. Noting that even traitors and backstabbers linger with-



is a traitor," he told reporters at the PCC office here.

He said it was the time to work for the Congress at the time of crisis but after being in rule for five years, they left the party.It may be noted that several senior leaders of the party, including three former ministers Mahendrajeet Singh Malviya, Lal Chand Kataria, and Rajendra Yadav, joined the BJP ahead of the

'opportunists" and "non-per-Lok Sabha elections. Before this, Gehlot had Whether you say 'nikamma', used these words for party leader Sachin Pilot during 'nakara' or 'gaddar', all these words are brothers and sisthe political crisis in 2020 when he was the chief ministers. These are used for such

# Social media influencer Bobby Kataria arrested over human trafficking charges

Gurugram Agencies

🗖 ocial media influencer Balwant Kataria alias Bobby Kataria was arrested on Monday for allegedly human trafficking of two Uttar Pradesh youths, police said.

The case has been registered against Kataria under section 370 of the IPC at the Bajghera Police Station Gurugram, police said.

The complainants, Arun Kumar, a resident of Fatehpur in Uttar Pradesh and Manish Tomar, a resident of Hapur, said that they were unemployed. They were in touch with Kataria via Instagram.

The complainants told the police that on Bobby's YouTube channel MBK, they saw an advertisement about abroad abroad-based job. Following this they called Bobby Kataria on on his WhatsApp. Bobby called them to meet his office in Sector 109 on the pretext of getting them a job in a foreign country.

The complainant then met Kataria in his office on 1 February 2024 and paid Rs 2,000 for registration. After this, on the request of Bobby Kataria, on February 13, Rs 50,000 was transferred to his official account which was registered in the name of MBK Global Visa Private Limited.

Thereafter, on Bobby's instruction on March 14, another amount of Rs 1 lakh was transferred to the account of a person named Ankit Shaukeen. Kataria sent the tickets of Vientiane (Laos) through

ents Koteswara Rao and

the Centre and the state

Telangana Minister

body back to India.

governments to bring her

Komatireddy Venkat Reddy

expressed condolences to

Sowmya's family. He said

efforts were being made to

bring back her mortal

remains.

Balamani have appealed to



Shaukeen's WhatsApp. On March 28, as per the instructions of Bobby Kataria, Kumar got Rs 50,000 converted into USD at the airport and boarded the flight to Vientiane.

Similarly, lakhs of rupees were taken from his friend Manish Tomar on the pretext of sending him to Singapore, but he was also made to board a flight to Vientiane. When both of them landed at Vientiane airport, they met a young man named Abhi, who described himself as a friend of Bobby Kataria and a Pakistani agent. He dropped them off at the Hotel Mican Son in Vientiane, where they found a young man named Ankit Shaukeen and Nitish Sharma alias Rocky. They took the victims to an anonymous Chinese company. There both the friends were severely beaten and their passports were snatched.

At the same time, they were forced to commit cyber fraud against US citizens. Both of them were threatened that if the work was not done as per their instructions then they would not be able to return to India and they would be killed there.

"About 150 Indians including women were brought into that company through human trafficking by brokers like Bobby Kataria on the pretext of jobs. Somehow, we escaped from there and reached the Indian Embassy and came back to India and filed a police complaint against Kataria," the complainant told the police.



# Telangana woman dies in road accident in US, family distraught

ter and Pilot was his deputy.



Hyderabad Agencies

25-year-old woman from Telangana was killed after being hit by a car in the US's Florida state, her family said on Monday.

Guntipalli Sowmya died on the spot after she was hit by a speeding car while she was crossing the road on Sunday night, according to

information received by her family.

Sowmya, a native of Yadagaripalli in Yadadri Bhongir district, had gone to the US for higher studies. She had completed her Masters from the Florida Atlantic University and was trying to find a job. Sowmya's family was shocked upon receiving the news of her death. Her par-

## 3 INJURED IN MYSTERIOUS EXPLOSION IN J&K'S SAMBA

Jammu: Three people were injured in a mysterious explosion in J&K's Samba district on Monday evening, officials said. The incident occurred in the Madana area of Veerpur in Samba."The injured persons have been shifted to hospital and the area has been cordoned off to find out the exact nature of the explosion," an official said.

# touching 76,000 for first time

Mumbai Agencies

ndia equity benchmarks closed flat on Monday following sideways sentiment in the Market.

Sensex was closed at 75,390, down 19 points.

During the session, Sensex touched the 76,000 mark for the first time and made a new all-time high of 76,009. The BSE benchmark has gained 1,000 points in just 31 trading sessions.Nifty was down 24 points, at 22,932. During the session, the NSE benchmark crossed the 23.100 level for the first time. More action was seen in midcap and smallcap compared to largecap. The Nifty Smallcap 100 index was up 136 points or 0.81 per cent at 17,019 points and the Nifty



Midcap 100 index was up 337 points or 0.64 per cent at 52,761 points.18 out of 30 Sensex stocks closed in the red

election. The near-term out-IndusInd Bank, Axis Bank, look remains positive, with Bajaj Finserv, HDFC Bank, the index staying above the crucial moving averages. L&T, and HCL Tech were Support lies at 22,900, below the top gainers. Wipro, NTPC, Sun Pharma, M&M, ITC, which the index might slip and Reliance were the top lostowards 22,800. On the higher ers.Rupak De, Senior end, bears are active around Technical Analyst, LKP 23,000-23,050."

## Gurugram: MCG to carry out campaign for removal of illegal advertisements

Gurugram Agencies

unicipal Corporation of Gurugram (MCG) will soon start a special campaign for the removal of illegal advertisements across the city.

Joint Commissioner, MCG Pradeep Kumar on Monday gave instructions to the officers of the advertisement branch and enforcement branch that they will ensure the removal of illegal advertisements in their respective areas within 7 days.

The officer said that he would personally visit the area after seven days and if any irregularity is found, necessary action will be taken against the concerned officials.

The MCG Commissioner also asked the officers of the advertisement branch to run a special campaign to remove posters, hoardings, and unauthorised signboards, unipol put up at various places in the city.

He said that the agencies that are not applying for advertisement permission should be asked to apply within a week. If the application is not made in between, then along with the removal of the advertisement of the concerned agency, a letter should be written



to the companies whose advertisements are engaged. "A mega campaign will be launched against illegal advertisements. Nobody will be allowed to disobey orders. Illegal display of advertisements will not be tolerated under any circumstances," Kumar said.

He said that due to illegal advertisement, the civic body suffers loss of revenue. Before displaying the advertisement, it is mandatory to get approval by paying the prescribed fee.

## 'Not true': Ajit Pawar on his uncle's claims of NCP split if Bhujbal made CM in 2004

#### Team Absolute Mumbai

CP Chief and Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar on Monday rebutted his estranged uncle and NCP SP President Sharad Pawar's claim that had Chhagan Bhujbal been made the Chief Minister in 2004 the NCP would have split.

Ajit Pawar, at the party's meeting to review the Lok Sabha election management and discuss the roadmap for the upcoming state assembly elections slated for October, said that had Bhuibal been made the Chief Minister in 2004, the NCP would have retained the Chief Minister's post for as many years as the Congress-NCP alliance government remained in power in Maharashtra.

"If the NCP had taken the post of Chief Minister in 2004, the party would have been in a position to keep

the Chief Minister's post as long as the Congress and NCP alliance remained in power. Chhagan Bhujbal, R. R. Patil and other leaders could also have become Chief Minister," he said

Ajit Pawar said that he was part of the discussion with Sharad Pawar when NCP won 71 seats and Congress won 69 seats in the 2004 assembly elections.

"All the senior leaders like Chhagan Bhujbal, Praful Patel, and Sunil Tatkare were of the opinion that NCP should get the CM's post. I also thought that Chhagan Bhujbal should become the Chief Minister because he had worked hard to take the party to every nook and corner of Maharashtra," Ajit Pawar said.

He said that many in the party thought that Chhagan Bhujbal should become the Chief Minister. "After making Sudhakarrao Naik

the Chief Minister, he stopped listening to Sharad Pawar within only one year. He also removed 17 people from the cabinet. All this mess started from there, Ajit Pawar said.

Food and Civil Supply Minister Chhagan Bhujbal said that there should be no delay in the seat-sharing agreement with the BJP and Shiv Sena for the upcoming state assembly elections

"Like the Lok Sabha, there should not be a fight in the grand alliance on the seat allocation for the Assembly elections. There should also be no delay in the seat-sharing arrangement. NCP must get its due share of seats," Chhagan Bhujbal said.

He said that the BJP promised to allocate 80 to 90 seats to NCP in the Assembly elections when the party ioined the BIP-Shiv Sena government in July 2023. Ajit Pawar added that the BJP has promised that everyone will

be respected in the Assembly elections.

Securities, said: "Nifty

remained mostly volatile dur-

ing the day as India awaits the

final phase of the general

NCP Working President Praful Patel said that the seat-sharing agree ment during the Assembly elections will not be the same as it was in the Lok Sabha elections.

"There will definitely be an increase in the number of seats for NCP in the Assembly elections. All of us will be involved in the seat allocation discussions," Praful Patel said.

Meanwhile, Deputy Chief Minister and BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis in his reaction to Bhujbal's statement said that the leaders of all three parties will sit and determine the appropriate seat-sharing formula for the state assembly elections.

"All the three parties will get seats. BJP being the largest party will get more seats," Deputy Chief Minister Fadnavis said.



# Madhya Pradesh

## State government has turned its back on the AYODHYA'S 'JOY' HAS ARRIVED, NOW MATHURA'S truth, active in false branding: Kamal Nath 'JOY' SHOULD COME: MOHAN YADAV Team Absolute Bhopal of people's development fallen out of priority for the government? It seems that the

Team Absolute Patna

adhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav said here on Monday that there was joy in Ayodhya with the smile of Lord Shri Ram, now there should be joy in Gopal Krishna's Mathura too. Addressing an election rally in support of BJP candidate Ram Kripal Yadav in Maner of Patliputra Lok Sabha constituency, he said that in a democracy, there is a need to see both the parties in the elections.

He said that the Prime Minister talks about Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, whereas Congress and its allies are so stingy that they do not even want to give party posts to people from outside the family. He said in a clear tone that till date we have been kept away from our gods and goddesses. First the British kept them away, then when Congress came, they also did not give respect to Ram and Krishna. Taking aim at the opposition, Chief Minister Mohan Yadav said



that these people also tell lies clearly. Today these people are saying that form our government, we will remove poverty. He said sarcastically that his father, mother, grandmother and grandfather ran the government for years to remove this poverty, but poverty was not removed, now they are saying that they will remove povertv. He said that there was only trouble in the life of Lord Krishna. Beat Kansa, but did not sit on the chair and went to get education. Today, biographies of Lord Shri Ram and Krishna have been made a part of text books in Madhya Pradesh. The Chief Minister further said that these people consider even taking the name of God as a crime and

make fun of Sanatan culture. He appealed to the people to make BJP candidate Ram Kripal Yadav victorious and said that he is Ram and is also kind.

Voting is to be held in Pataliputra on June 1. Here Ramkripal is contesting against RID's Misa Bharti.

C enior Congress leader and former Chief Minister Kamal Nath has made a big attack on the state government of Bharatiya Janata Party regarding the decline in various sectors of Madhya Pradesh. He alleged that the state government is busy patting itself on the back by false branding.

Former Chief Minister Kamal Nath wrote on X on Monday regarding the falling ranking of the state, "Has the BJP government of Madhya Pradesh sworn to make the state last on every front?"

Kamal Nath further wrote, "First the news came that the Education Board of Madhya Pradesh has reached the worst performing states in the country and now the news is that Madhya Pradesh has fallen from 13th place to 15th place in terms of exports." Referring to other areas, Kamal Nath said, on the other hand, Madhya Pradesh's record in matters



of women safety, Dalit and comparison to previous tribal safety has become years. Congress is attacking worse. The condition of on this issue. health education is such that Madhya Pradesh has started being identified with scams like Vyapam and Nursing. Former Chief Minister Kamal Nath asked Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav why so much failure is being achieved on every aspect of society, security, education,

health and economy. What is

Minister Kamal Nath and State President Jitu Patwari have also attacked the government on the report regarding board examinations. Not only this, the nursing college scam has also come to light. CBI officials involved in the investigation of this scam have also become suspicious. The

Madhya Pradesh government

has completely turned its

back on the ground reality

and is busy patting itself on

leaving the state to fend for

itself. It may be noted that in

the reports that have come

out recently at the national

Pradesh has declined in

Earlier, former Chief

level, the situation in Madhya

the back with false branding,

more worrying is that the Madhya Pradesh government investigating officer is also in is completely silent on all jail along with the people associated with the college these subjects. Have these most important parameters involved in this scam.

## Mini truck falls from culvert An attempt was made to burn the file of Simhastha in Guna, 4 dead scam: Leader of Opposition Umang Singhar

## Team Absolute Guna

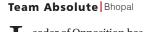
mini truck went out of control and fell down from a culvert in Guna district of Madhya Pradesh. Four people have died in this accident, while four people are injured. The injured are undergoing treatment in the hospital.

According to the information received from the police, on Monday morning, a mini truck going from Kanpur towards Karnataka went out of control, broke the railing and fell down the culvert in Myna police station area.On receiving information about the accident, the police team reached the spot and relief work was started. In this accident, three people traveling on the truck died on the spot, while the fourth died during treatment in the hospital. Four other people have been injured in this accident.It has been told that



laborers were also traveling these, four have died. It has in this truck and Vishnu, been told that the workers were going from Kanpur to Mir, Vikas and Ranveer Singh died in the accident. Karnataka for work in this Four people, including the truck. All the belongings of truck driver and the cleaner, the workers and motorcyhave been seriously injured cles were also kept in this and are undergoing treattruck. The police has ment in the hospital. informed the families of the

The laborers are said to be residents of Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh. According to Sanjeev Mavai, in-charge of Myana police station, apart from 6 laborers, there were also a driver and a cleaner in the truck in which the accident took place. Of



eader of Opposition has expressed fear of conspiracy regarding the fire that broke out in the Lokayukta office complex in Bhopal on Sunday. Leader of Opposition in the Assembly in Bhopal, Umang Singhar, while discussing with the media at his residence, said - There is a file of investigation of Simhastha scam in the Lokayukta office. In which hundreds of acres of land was misappropriated. There are names of people close to many leaders and companies. Was there any attempt to burn that file of Simhastha in the fire that broke out in the Lokayukta office? Singhar has demanded a judicial inquiry into the fire case.

The Leader of Opposition said that there is a fire going on in government offices in the state. First it was installed in Satpura Bhawan and Vallabh Bhawan. Now the fire in the Lokayukta office is also important. There are many excuses to say that there was a short circuit, the transformer got burnt. But, the way the Lokayukta was appointed. The order was passed on Saturday and the oath was administered on Sunday. A new Lokayukta was immediately appointed. What is the reason behind this? Because, I have also gone to the Supreme Court regarding this. Somewhere, the government is afraid that the Supreme Court may give a decision against them.

Umang Singhar said that according to my information, there was a file of Simhastha also in the



Lokayukta office. Hundreds of acres of land was misappropriated in Simhastha. The names of those companies were also included in it. Is it possible that this fire was set to burn those files? There were officers who were worried that if there was an investigation into this, we would also get caught in this.

The way the Chief Minister forms the structure and whitewashes it. Whatever investigations have been done so far, I do not think that it will be a fair investigation. But, I want to say on behalf of the Congress Legislature Party that this will be raised in the Assembly. And there have been many scams in

the state, there is a long list of them. Why is the true and clear investigation regarding these scams not coming before the public till now?

The Leader of Opposition also raised questions on the appointments of Deans in the government medical colleges of Madhya Pradesh and the purchases made by the Health Department in the Kayakalp campaign last year. Umang Singhar said that I saw in the news that fake recruitment of deans has been done against the rules. Before this, crores of rupees were spent in the Kayakalp campaign. The Health Department had indulged in horse trading on a large scale. There was no demand in the hospitals of the districts, yet every one was given furniture. This is also a big scam. All these files were in the queue of Lokayukta. The fire there is the main reason why the government is trying to suppress these cases. A separate committee should be constituted especially if there is a judicial inquiry. I want the government to act impartially.

The Leader of Opposition said that there is a phase of mischief in the summer season. I have raised this issue in the last assembly session and will raise it this time also that there was a scam of Rs 20,000 crore in Jal Jeevan Mission. Pipelines worth Rs 2 crore burst. Within 6 months, the contractors withdrew the money after paying 40-50% commission. Why has the government not conducted an investigation yet? It is a serious matter that today there is water crisis in the state. Women have to walk many kilometers to get water.



# Former Chief Secretary Mohanty's name comes up in honey trap

workers who were victims of

morning time and the driver

It is feared that it was

might have fallen asleep.

Due to this, the truck went

breaking the railing of the

out of control and fell down,

the accident.

culvert.

#### Team Absolute Bhopal

earing has started once again in the most talked about scandal of Madhya Pradesh politics, Honey Trap. There is a place in this high profile case, where the name of IAS SR Mohanty, who was once the administrative head of Madhya Pradesh i.e. Chief Secretary (cs), has also appeared.

Four accused were present in the hearing on Saturday while exemption from appearance applications were submitted on behalf of accused Aarti Dayal, Omprakash and Abhishek. The court accepted the applications. Accused Shweta Swapnil Jain neither appeared in person nor any application was submitted on her behalf. On this, the court issued his arrest warrant and asked the police to arrest him before July 27.

After the honey trap case was registered in

## Action continues in local bodies on illegal sale of meat and fish

A fine of Rs 76 thousand 400 was collected on Monday.

## Team Absolute Bhopal

ll the urban bodies of the state are taking action on a large scale against the meat and fish vendors who sell meat and fish in the open and violate the rules. On Monday, action was taken against a total of 651 sales centers in all 413 urban bodies including 16 municipal corporations, 99 municipalities and 298 municipal councils of the state.

The urban bodies took action against the concerned and also collected a fine of Rs 76 thousand 400. The maximum fine of Rs 28 thousand 250 was collected by the urban bodies of Jabalpur division. Apart from this, legal action was taken against



illegal sale of meat and fish on a large scale in all the divisions.It is noteworthy that on the instructions of the Principal Secretary, Urban Development and Housing Department and the

Departmental Commissioner, after taking action against those violating the rules and illegal sale of meat and fish, its information is being updated daily in Google Sheet by all the urban bodies.

Palasia police station in September 2019, a case of human trafficking was also registered in CID Bhopal. Monica Yaday, an accused in Palasia police station and complainant in the CID case, has taken Mohanty's name at one place in her statement. In her statement before Judge Bharat Kumar Vyas in Bhopal District Court, Monica Yadav had said that after August 15, her next meeting with her father was The meeting took place when I had gone to the village during the investigation along with Ruchivardhan Mishra (then SSP Indore) and Shashikant Chaurasia (STF investigating officer).

During the investigation, I came to hear the name of RS Mohanty (actually SR i.e. Sudhi Ranjan Mohanty, RS Mohanty is written in the statement). I did not know that Mohanty was the Chief Secretary of MP Government. I heard the name from the police. It is not known who had said this to my father in front of the Sarpanch.

## Tampering with electricity meter can lead to imprisonment of up to 3 years

## Team Absolute Bhopal

f any consumer has any complaint about the meter, its reading, billing or power interruption, they can immediately lodge a complaint on the call center phone number 1912, Upaya app and online website https://portal.mpcz.in/web/.

You can lodge a complaint at the electricity distribution center/zone office. Appropriate arrangements have been made to resolve consumer complaints. If consumers, under the influence of mischievous elements, vandalize or uproot the meter and install it elsewhere or damage the service line, then action will be taken against them under Section 136 of the Electricity Act 2003. There is a provision to punish with imprisonment up to 3 years or a fine of Rs 10,000 or both for tampering with an electricity meter.

Section 136 of the Electricity Act 2003 provides that 'Without the consent of the licensee



or owner, no person removes or moves or relocates any electric line, material or meter, whether the act is done for profit or gain or Otherwise, it will be termed as the offense of theft of electrical lines and material and will be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years or with fine or with both.

## AIIMS Bhopal Takes Special Measures to Combat Rising Temperature and Patient Influx

#### Team Absolute Bhopal

s the mercury soars, Executive Director of AIIMS Bhopal Professor (Dr.) Ajai Singh has directed to take proactive steps to ensure the well-being of patients amidst the sweltering heat. With tem peratures rising steadily over the past few days, there has been a notable surge in patients presenting with symptoms such as dehydration, fever, fatigue, weakness, vomiting, and diarrhea. Statistics from the Medicine Department's Outpatient Department (OPD) paint a concerning picture, with 653 patients on 24th, 462 on 25th and 723 on 27th May seeking medical attention alone. In response to the escalating patient numbers, the dedicated medical professionals of the Medicine Department at AIIMS Bhopal are working tirelessly to address the needs of every individual. To ensure seamless patient care from



the moment of arrival, the hospital staff is extending their support, guiding patients through the registration process and assisting them in reaching the appropriate healthcare provider promptly. Professor (Dr.) Rajneesh Joshi, Head of the Department of Medicine, underscores the importance of preventive meas-

ures during this scorching summer season. He emphasized on staying covered while outdoors, staying hydrated, engaging in light physical activity, and avoiding unnecessary sun exposure, particularly crucial for individuals with co-morbidity conditions such as diabetes or hypertension.

Executive Director, Professor (Dr.) Ajai Singh, urged the community to prioritize their health by embracing these simple yet effective precautions amidst rising temperatures. Through collective efforts and mindful actions, individuals can safeguard their wellbeing and contribute to a healthier community.



# absolute edit



## 'Ab ki baar, **10 lakh paar'**

he people of Varanasi have decided that they will gift Prime Minister L Narendra Modi his third-straight victory from the Lok Sabha seat with a bigger margin of votes and they have given the clarion call of 'Ab ki baar, 10 lakh paar.' A young BJP worker, Aditya Singh, sums up the sentiments of the people of the constituency when he remarks, "The political heavyweights who are flocking to Varanasi, actually need not do so. They are here only to mark their attendance. Prime Minister Narendra Modi does not need any campaigning. Unka naam hi kafi hai." In the last few days, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, Union Minister Piyush Goyal, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav, Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Ministers Brajesh Pathak and Keshav Maurya, along with BJP President JP Nadda have campaigned here. While these bigwigs have been interacting with students, traders, artisans, weavers etc. the people of Varanasi - on their own - are campaigning for PM Modi. The electoral battle in Varanasi, according to locals and political experts, is not about whether PM Modi will win for a third-successive time, but whether he will increase his share of the votes polled and his victory margin and to what extent. PM Modi had secured 56.37 per cent of the votes polled in Varanasi in 2014, while in 2019, his vote share increased to 63.6 per cent. The **Opposition campaign in Varanasi is** tepid. Their supporters claim that it was more vigorous in localities and nearby villages known to be supporters of the SP, BSP and the Congress. The INDIA bloc is also trying its utmost on a seat where the result appears to be a foregone conclusion.

# Raisi had built Iran as a key player in the Middle East

## **D C Pathak**

eactions of the world community to the demise of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and some other Iranian Adignitaries in a helicopter crash near the Azerbaijan border on May 19, threw light on the importance of Iran as a prime mover behind the recent developments in the Middle East and the geopolitical alignments that are shaping up in the region around the increasing polarisation between the US on one hand and the Russia-China axis on the other.

Raisi a hardliner conservative was appointed President of Iran in 2021 -- he had earlier succeeded over his pragmatic rival Hassan Rouhani in 2017 in a controlled election.

He soon became the driving power behind the execution of thousands of dissidents at home in 2022, the enforcement of strict rules of the Hijab and Chastity for women and the pursuit of a strong anti-Israel policy. Raisi was very close to Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the Supreme leader of Shiite Iran -who at 85 was not keeping well -- and was set to succeed the latter. Raisi as a leader had been put by the US under sanction.

Born in a religious family in the Shiite Muslim city of Mashhad, the Iranian President was educated at a religious seminary in the holy city of Qom and was known to have taken part as a student in the protests against the pro-West Shah of Iran in 1979. Raisi shared with Khamenei a deep antipathy towards the US -- part of this being rooted in the ideological rejection of capitalism by the fundamentalist Shiism.

He was an anti-corruption populist who stood for self-sufficiency in the economy and an aggressive foreign policy based on the strategy of using proxy forces across the Middle East.

An advisor of the Iranian regime made it clear that the poli cy framework of Iran would be maintained after President Raisi's death. Iran with the largest army in the Middle East is likely to continue with an assertive posture in the region and beyond in the geopolitical environment created by the Ukraine-Russia military confrontation and the Israel-Hamas conflict. Raisi pursued a hard line towards Israel and warned that any Israeli aggression against Iran could result in "there being nothing left of the Zionist regime". Iran-Israel hostility arises significantly from a faith-based contradiction that added to the political enmity Iran had towards the US-Israel axis. In the polarisation between the US and the China-Russia combine, Iran unsurprisingly supports the latter. In the long-drawn Ukraine-Russia military confrontation, Iran has actively sided with Russia's 'war effort' by supplying drones for the Russian offensive against Ukraine. Iran's comprehensive backing of Hamas against Israel is as much of an aggressive stand against the US as it is a reflection of the basic religious divide between Islam and Zionism. Hamas had been radicalised and its attack on Israel on October 7, 2023, was clearly a terrorist act -- radicalisation goes with the 'revivalist' call of the Wahhabis to return of Muslim world to the Puritan Islam of the 'Pious Caliphs' and in the process it would also turn intensely hostile to Shiites because of the historical memory associated with the origin of Shiism as a 'deviant' sect in the eyes of the mainstream Sunnis. In regard to the Taliban Emirate in Afghanistan however, it is said that Pakistan had helped to bring about an adjustment between China and the Taliban on the basis of a 'give and take' that enabled China to extend its Belt & amp; Road Initiative (BRI) to Afghanistan and got Taliban to give an assurance of non-interference in the affairs of the Muslim minorities of China. The reported participation of Taliban leaders of Afghanistan in the last prayers for Raisi in Tehran showed the primacy of the political opposition to the US that



put Iran and the Taliban on the same side of the fence.

Iran's political and ideological hostility towards Israel at the same time, led it to support Hamas and set upon its proxies like Lebanon's Hezbollah and Yemen's Houthis against Israel in the Israel-Hamas conflict. Responses of major powers to the demise of President Raisi of Iran give an idea of the geopolitical scene around the Middle East and the power play that was evident in the region. President Xi Jinping of China called the 'tragic death' of Raisi a great loss to the Iranian people and added that the Chinese people had lost a good friend. Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov offering condolences on the demise of the Iranian President lauded his role in strengthening mutually beneficial Russia-Iran cooperation. Russian President Vladimir Putin called Raisi an outstanding political leader who had made invaluable personal contributions in taking good neighbourly relations between Russia and Iran to the level of a 'strategic partnership'. The US conveyed 'official condolences' to Iran and reiterated its support to the Iranian people in their 'struggle for human rights and fundamental freedoms'. Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin clarified that the US had no insight into the cause of the helicopter crash that killed President Raisi. The EU expressed sincere condolences while Italy's Prime Minister Georgia Meloni noted that the crash was looked upon as an accident and no conspiracy theories had cropped up. She felt there would be no change in Iran's internal order and hoped that the future leadership would work for the 'stabilisation and pacification' of Iran. There was a report that Putin had offered to help Iran in the process of enquiry into the helicopter crash. These reactions amply showed the closeness Iran had developed towards Russia and China while a distinct lack of trust existed between Iran and the US-led West. The Arab states in the region conveyed their condolences to the people of Iran -- considering them more as part of Ummah and rising above the Shia-Sunni divide somewhat - which certainly reflected their desire to keep the Middle East free of violence and check radicalisation. Saudi Arabia had tense relations with Iran and there were proxy conflicts between them. Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman however, called Iran's Acting President Mokhber to express his condolences. UAE Prime Minister Sheikh Mohd. Bin Rashid Al Maktoum told the people of Iran "our hearts are with you in this difficult time" and more in line with the Islamic Brotherhood sentiment expressed that "the deceased would dwell in God's spacious Paradise". Jordan's King Abdullah conveying his deepest condolences expressed Jordan's solidarity with "our brothers in Islam" of Iran while Emir Sheikh of Qatar Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani expressed his condolences to the people of Iran saying "we belong to Allah and to Him we shall return"

Egyptian President Abdul Fateh Al Sisi expressed solidarity with the Iranian leadership and people on the terrible incident

that caused the death of the Iranian President and other lead ers. It is relevant to mention that the US had since 2020 mediated to bring about the Abraham Accord between UAE and Israel with the concurrence of Saudi Arabia and that China took a similar initiative in 2023 to secure the restoration of diplomatic relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia. The two big powers were apparently trying to strengthen their foothold in the Middle East without precipitating any serious conflict.

Outside the region, it is important to note the reactions of Pakistan, Malaysia and Turkey -- countries that have lately shown a marked convergence on accommodating Islamic radical forces and correspondingly striking a posture of independence towards the US. Pakistan's Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif recalled the 'historic' visit of Iranian President Raisi to Islamabad a month ago, described Iran as a good friend of Pakistan and announced a day of mourning during which Pak flags would fly half-mast as a mark of respect and solidarity with 'brotherly' Iran. Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim of Malaysia praised President Raisi for his dedication to "justice, peace and upliftment of the Ummah" and said that good Malaysia-Iran relations would lead to the "betterment of Muslim world". Turkey's Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan at a joint press conference with his Pak counterpart at Islamabad, expressed his condolences and gave credit to Raisi for building good Iran-Ankara relations. Iran under Raisi's presidency had apparently reached out to potential friends in the Muslim world who would be sympathetic towards Iran in the latter's tussle against the US. Also, since both Iran and Saudi Arabia are members of the OPEC, the world powers were compelled to keep the Middle East from serious conflicts for their economic interests. However, the two major players in the region, Iran and Israel with their differing alignments in the developing Cold War between the US-led West and the Russia-China axis, are likely to continue with their adversarial postures -- a close vigil by the international community on the Middle East seemed necessary. India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi was among the first to convey his condolences on a personal note saying that he was "deeply saddened and shocked" over Raisi's death. He stated that Raisi's contribution to the strengthening of bilateral Iran-India relations will always be remembered and added that "India stood with Iran in this time of sorrow". India has done well to independently maintain friendship with the three major players in the Middle East -- Saudi Arabia, Israel and Iran. This is consistent with India's foreign policy of building mutually beneficial bilateral friendships with the US and Russia without prejudicing the cause of world peace.

This is how Prime Minister Modi had reached out to the Presidents of both Russia and Ukraine at the outbreak of military conflict between them and advocated for cessation of hostilities and peaceful negotiations based on an understanding of the 'security concerns of both sides'. This independent stand won the approval of the international community and brought recognition to India as the promoter of the 'sane voice' of the world. This has enabled India to maintain strategic friendship with the US without giving up on the deep political and economic relations with Russia. There is little doubt that India's handling of international relations has been a success story so far.

(The writer is a former Director of the Intelligence Bureau. Views are personal)

# international

## 40 killed in Israeli bombing on camp in Rafah: Palestinian media

Gaza Agencies t least 40 people were killed and some others ured on Sunday

in which significant Hamas terrorists were operating". "The strike was carried out inst legitimate tar

using precise munitions and

on the basis of precise intelli-

gence that indicated Hamas'

Brigades, the Hamas armed

wing, launched a large rocket

barrage from Rafah towards

the coastal city of Tel Aviv in

use of the area," it added. The Israeli airstrike came

hours after Al-Qassam

in months.

under international law,

World Health Assembly meets in Geneva after pandemic treaty failure



Soldiers among 10 killed in terror attack on Pakistani outpost



evening in Israel's bombing of tents in northwestern Rafah, the southernmost city of the Gaza Strip, Palestinian media reported. Israeli forces fired about eight rockets toward the tents in a newly established camp crowded with thousands of displaced people near the warehouses of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), Palestinian official news agency WAFA reported.

Local sources told Xinhua news agency that it was a "severe and unprecedented" Israeli airstrike on the densely populated area of displaced families, igniting tents made of plastic and tin, as well as civilian vehicles.

Video clips circulated on Facebook showed flames ris-



ing intensively in the area and fires engulfing tents still inhabited by many, including children and women.

The sources mentioned that the Civil Defense and ambulance crews face significant obstacles in retrieving the bodies due to the difficult terrain. Palestinian security sources told Xinhua that crowded with Gazans, the

area had been classified by the Israeli military as a "safe

area" before the strike. In a statement released Sunday night, Hamas slammed the bombing as "complete defiance and disregard for the decision of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) that demanded it to stop its aggression against

> Rafah" The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) said in a statement that "an IDF aircraft struck a Hamas compound in Rafah

# Russian spy in German military sentenced to 3.5 years

**Dusseldorf** Agencies

54-year-old German army officer who confessed to spying for Russia has been sentenced to three and a half years in prison by a court in Dusseldorf. The man, a captain, had acknowl-

edged betraying sensitive military information to the Russian secret services. He also joined the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) political party around the same time he offered himself up to Russian intelligence.

Prosecutors accused him of serving as an agent for a hostile, ruthlessly aggressive foreign power.

German police officers arrested the man in Koblenz on August 9, and he has been held in custody since then. The incident was one of several Russian spy scandals that have rocked Germany in recent months and heightened concerns about security in the country.

He faced a shorter prison sentence because the information he offered to



the Russians was classified as official secrets. If he had also betrayed more sensitive state secrets, he could have faced more severe punishments, up to a life sentence.

The captain had claimed that he was driven by fear of a nuclear escalation during Russia's invasion of Ukraine. His defence lawyer argued that he began consuming fake news, propaganda and conspiracies on the social media platforms Telegram and TikTok during a difficult stretch of professional work.

"It's the biggest cock-up I've ever made in my life," the defendant said in a closing statement to the court. He said that depression caused by chronic overwork had impaired his rational thinking.

His defence lawyer said that the decision came during a four-day period in which he destroyed everything he had built over a years-long career as a professional soldier: "Four days of betrayal in which he crossed red lines. Four days of complete failure."

At times, he was far removed from reality, his defence lawyer said. He also noted that the man has since quit the AfD party

# World Health Organization

**Geneva** Agencies he annual meeting of

the World Health central Israel for the first time Assembly, the decision-making body of the

2030 and steps to combat

the alarming rise in antimi-

meeting -- the ceremonial

signing of a WHO pandemic

treaty -- was cancelled after

two years of global negotia-

tions ended last Friday with-

out an agreement.

crobial resistance. The

planned highlight of the

On May 7, the Israeli army World Health Organisation announced that it had taken (WHO), began in the Swiss control of the Palestinian side city of Geneva on Monday. The 194 member counof the Rafah crossing, situated south of the Gaza Strip on tries plan to establish guidethe border with Egypt and in lines for WHO priorities over the eastern area of Rafah, the next four years, including which resulted in a halt in aid a plan to eliminate malaria in numerous countries by

entering Gaza. Israel considers Rafah a last stronghold for Hamas, which has controlled the Gaza Strip since 2007.

#### jects such as the distribution of medicines, protective materials and vaccines in future pandemics. The Assembly now hopes to decide on the next steps towards achieving a global treaty. Lessons from the coronavirus pandemic are expected to be reflected in the Assembly's work. Amendments to the WHO's International Health Regulations are due to be adopted, with new rules to prevent the spread of diseases across national borders and obligations to report outbreaks to the WHO immediately. The theme of this year's Assembly is "All for Health, Health for All".

Negotiators failed to reach a

consensus on sensitive sub-

Islamabad Agencies

slamist terrorists attacked a Pakistani military outpost near the Afghan border, killing at least five soldiers in the ensuing fire exchange, officials said on Monday. At least five terrorists were also killed in the gun battle that lasted for hours, local official Attaullah Shah told dpa news agency.

The latest attack occurred in the mountainous region of Khyber that borders Afghanistan's Nangarhar province.

The Pakistani Taliban claimed responsibility for the early morning attack that came a day after five militants and two soldiers were killed in a shoot-out in the same region.

The Pakistani Taliban, a group that follows the same hardline interpretation of Islam as their Afghan counterparts but has a different organisation, have been behind an uptick in violence in recent years.

The group, responsible for the deaths of about 80,000 people over years of violence, has been seeking a resurgence since Kabul fell to their Afghan counterparts in 2021.

## Papua New Guinea confirm over 2,000 buried alive in landslide

Sydney Agencies he Papua New Guinea

(PNG) National Disaster Centre (NDC) has confirmed that more than 2,000 people were buried alive after a massive landslide disaster occurred in Enga province.

Serhan Aktoprak, the Chief of Mission for the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) in the Pacific island country, told Xinhua news agency that the UN migration agency received the statement on

Monday. According to the statement issued by the centre's acting



director Lusete Laso Mana, the disaster also caused major destruction to build-

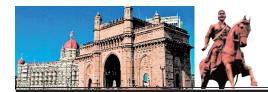
PNG, Xinhua news agency reported.

"The main highway to Porgera Mine is completely blocked. The situation remains unstable as the landslip continues to shift slowly, posing an ongoing danger to both the rescue teams and survivors alike," said Mana.

The Acting Director also noted that a joint government team inspected the affected village on Sunday and presented a cheque of 500,000 kinas (about \$128,796) to the Enga Provincial Government to provide immediate relief assistance

well as led to a major impact on the economic lifeline of

ings and food gardens, as



# maharashtra



## Porsche crash

## MVA shows 'bribes black list' of Pune officials, bars, pubs; dares action

#### Quaid Najmi Pune

mid the ongoing probe into the Pune Porsche crash, the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) on Monday alleged that bribes had changed hands between the officialdom and the bars and pubs in the city. Congress MLA Ravindra Dhangekar and Shiv Sena(UBT) Deputy Leader Sushma Andhare took a protest march to the State Excise Department Superintendent Charansing B. Rajput's office to register a complaint and highlight the corrupt practices prevalent there. The protest procession showed the two leaders and a social crusader Mohan Joshi, displaying wads of currency notes, a box (khokha, slang for crore rupees) with a minister's photo and a sack with '50 khokha' scrawled on it, against the backdrop of the Porsche car crash that killed two 24-year-old techies on May 19. The trio of Dhangekar-Andhare-Joshi accused the state excise officials of collecting huge bribes, over Rs 70-80 lakh per month, as 'hafta' (bribe instalment) from various big and small bars and pubs in and around Pune to operate unhindered and to ignore any illegalities perpetrated by them.

When Rajput vehemently denied the allegations, Andhare and Dhangekar produced a purported 'black list' of many of the bars-pubs, names of certain officials, plus the alleged amounts of bribes doled out by the bars-pubs to the concerned officers to wink at the shady goings-on.

"Don't deny this... Here is the list of the officers and the establishments which pay regular 'haftas' to your department ... Runs into Rs 70-80 lakhs per



month and into crores of rupees annually. You think you are very smart by destroying Pune. Don't you feel ashamed?" said Dhangekar.

"Whenever we raise such issues of corruption, the government threatens to file police and defamation cases against us... We have done our work thoroughly. We have the lists, many videos of bribery, and how some officials even take money through online apps," said Andhare.

Stoutly denying the accusations by the trio, Rajput told media persons: "The accusations are false. Nobody takes bribes from anybody. We take action regularly against the bars-pubs. We shall enquire and if anyone is found guilty, we shall take action against them.'

He added that in the past one month or so, the State Excise Department has swooped down on various bars-pubs indulging in illegalities and filed 108 cases. Besides, 54 bars-pubs have been sealed in the last week since the Porsche accident and

action is being initiated against many more establishments in the city, even as the government earned Rs 500 as State Excise Duty, higher than the previous year.

Dhangekar and Andhare produced a purported 'black list' and reeled off the names of officials, including some cops, who allegedly 'collected' bribes on behalf of the seniors and the bars-pubs which regularly cough out the illegal gratification amounts -- ranging from Rs 50,000 - Rs 5,00,000 per month. Quizzing Rajput, Dhangekar demanded to know if all the regulations are being followed, then why many of the bars-pubs in Pune remain open till 4 a.m., flouting the police and Pune Municipal Corporation rules.

Andhare pointed out that if drugs are being seized in Pune every 15 days or so, then "what are the concerned department officials doing, and whether the minister's orders are being ignored".

Targetting the government and a particular minister, Andhare said that whenever the Opposition highlighted these blatant irregularities, they were hounded with complaints and court cases and advised the ministers to rein in their lower officials instead of targeting opponents.

Last week, staffers and owners of various barspubs-restaurants had staged a sit-in protest against the police and leaders of Congress, Nationalist Congress Party(SP), Shiv Sena(UBT), CPI(M) and others for hounding them though they were doing their duty of serving the customers and were not responsible for any disasters that occur outside their establishments

## **BMC officials examine Monsoon** preparations in eastern suburbs of city

#### Team Absolute Mumbai

he Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has been making preparations ahead of monsoon in Mumbai and as part of its ongoing preparations, the senior officials on Monday examined the premonsoon related works in the eastern suburbs of the city. According to an official statement by the BMC, innovative solutions are being implemented to enhance drainage efficiency. Dr. Amit Saini, Additional Municipal Commissioner (East Suburbs), has directed that all necessary works be completed immediately before the onset of monsoon to prevent flooding and ensure smooth rain water flow in the area during the Mumbai monsoon. The civic body's statement said that Dr. Amit Saini, along with key officials, conducted a direct inspection of various locations in the Ghatkopar, Vikhroli, and Mulund (N, S, and T Wards) areas on Monday. The visit was followed by a review meeting held at the N Ward office in the eastern suburbs of the



city. "The focus of the inspection was on pre-monsoon preparations, including cleaning and maintenance of drainage systems, and addressing areas prone to waterlogging and monsoonrelated diseases," the statement said. It said that under the guidance of BMC

Commissioner and Administrator Bhushan Gagrani, silt removal from rivers and streams across Mumbai has gained significant momentum. The initiative aims to prevent blockages and ensure that water flows smoothly through the drainage systems during the monsoon in Mumbai Dr. Saini also visited waterlogging-prone areas

including Ram Nagar, Vikhroli complex. During his visit and inspection of the ongoing works, he highlighted the importance of public awareness and instructed officers to educate residents about the risks of natural disasters and the precautions they should take.

Meanwhile, to prevent accidents during monsoon, Dr. Saini inspected the installation of restrictive nets over manholes and ensured that manholes were properly covered. He checked the nets at several locations and established a system for expedited inspection and coverage of manholes wherever necessary, the statement said.

## Teen drives father's BMW on busy road with man on bonnet

## Team Absolute Mumbai

man has been arrested in Mumbai after a viral video showed him lying on the bonnet of a moving BMW which was being driven by a 17-year-old boy, the police said.

The video shows Subham Mitalia lying on the BMW bonnet as the teenager drives it around the Shivaji Chowk area in Mumbai's Kalyan on Saturday.

The video - which is in wide circulation on social media - was recorded by locals in the area.

While Subham Mitalia, 21, was arrested, a case has been registered against the teenag-



er and his father.

"The case has been registered against the official for allowing his underage son to drive without a driving license," officials said.

coming at a high speed from the wrong direc-

tion ran over them and also hit some other

persons, he said. Police reached to the spot

after being alerted and sent the bodies to a

government hospital for postmortem. The

injured persons were shifted to a nearby hos-

pital where they were undergoing treatment.

Some persons present at the spot caught hold

of the dumper driver and handed him over to

An FIR was registered against the dumper

driver under relevant sections of the Indian

Penal Code and the Motor Vehicles Act, the

police, the official said.

police said.

# Two doctors arrested for 'tinkering' with minor's blood reports

#### Team Absolute Pune

he Pune Police on Monday arrested two senior doctors of a government hospital for allegedly 'tampering' with the blood report of the minor accused who was involved in the drinkand-drive Porsche car crash which killed two techies.

They are Dr. Ajay Taware, head of the forensics team and Dr. Shrihari Halnor of the Blood Bank at the government-run Sassoon Hospital who were taken into custody after a swoop on their homes by the Yerawada Police Station.

The duo is suspected of allegedly manipulating the blood samples of the 17-year-old boy and submitting a misleading blood test report that could have repercussions on the prosecution case and the direction of the investigations.

However, Pune Commissioner of Police Amitesh Kumar said last week that the police had taken a



second blood test report which was sent to a private hospital, and the investigators plan to carry out a DNA test to match them, as the blood sample

reports had raised doubts.

The blood report of the accused minor boy, the son of a prominent realtor Vishal S. Agarwal, had sparked a huge row as it purportedly gave him a clean chit and enabled him to get bail within 15 hours of the fatal May 19 crash in Kalyani Nagar area that killed IT engineers Ashwini Koshta and her friend Aneesh Awadhiya, both 24 and hailing from Madhya Pradesh.

The boy is currently lodged in a Juvenile Correctional Home in Pune, his father is in judicial custody while his grandfather Surendra Kumar Agarwal is in police custody in the same case that has sparked a nationwide furore.

Besides the two government hospital medicos, the Pune Police on May 24 had suspended two cops -- PI Rahul Jagdale and API Vishwanath Todkari -- for alleged dereliction of duty and other lapses pertaining to the accident, as public anger continued to simmer.

## 2 killed, 4 injured as dumper hits Thane to face 24-hour water supply shut pedestrians, 5 vehicles in Palghar down for maintenance on May 29 way to their workplace when the dumper

### Officials said the car is registered in the name of the minor's father who is a government official

Team Absolute Palghar

wo women were killed and four others injured when a speeding dumper hit them in Maharashtra's Palghar district on Monday, police said, reported news agency

Before crushing the two women to death, the dumper also hit two buses and three other vehicles, causing damage to them, they said.

The accident took place at around 9.30 am at Sativali in Vasai area, an official from Valiv police station said, adding the dumper driver was detained.

The two women, both in their 40s, were on

Maharashtra Class 10 results declared; 95.81 per cent of students clear exam



#### Team Absolute Mumbai

he SSC result 2024 class 10 was released by the Maharashtra Board of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education (MSBSHSE) on May 27 at 1:00 PM. 95.81 per cent of pupils passed the SSC exam administered by the Maharashtra Board. 15,60,154 students from the state's nine divisional boards-Pune, Nagpur, Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, Mumbai, Kolhapur, Amravati, Nashik, Latur, and

Konkan-registered for the exam in total; 14,84,431 of them passed. Yet again, Girls

have outperformed boys with the pass percentage among girls this year being 97.21 per cent and 94.56 per cent among boys in the SSC result 2024. With 99.01 per cent, the Konkan division has once again won the best-performing district title. Mumbai comes in second with 95.83 per cent, and Kolhapur with 97.45 per cent. Nagpur has the lowest pass percentage in terms of division, with 94.73 per cent.

A solid 5,58,021 pupils

This year, the overall pass percentage improved from last year which was 93.83 per cent, with girls at 95.70 per cent and boys at 92.05 per cent. The highest pass percentage was during the covid year 2021 with 99.95 the Maharashtra SSC 2024 can now check their scores on the official websites at mahresult.nic.in, mahahsscboard.in, and sscresult.mkcl.org.

achieved distinction marks, which are higher than 75%.

per cent. Students who took

## Team Absolute Thane

he Thane Municipal Corporation (TMC) has declared a 24-hour water supply halt for necessary pre-monsoon maintenance and repairs. The shutdown will begin at 9:00 am on Wednesday, May 29, 2024, and continue until 9:00 am on Thursday, May 30, 2024. Both the TMC's water supply and the STEM Authority will be impacted. Ghodbunder Road, Lokmanya Nagar, Vartaknagar, Saket, Ritu Park, Jail, Gandhinagar, Rustamji, Siddhanchal, Indiranagar, Rupadevi, Srinagar, Samtanagar, Siddheshwar, Internity, Johnson, and sections of Mumbra and Kalwa have all been affected.

After the shutdown, households may experience low water pressure for one to two days before the supply is fully restored. The TMC has recommended individuals save enough water to meet their needs and to utilise it carefully at this time.

The TMC has asked citizens for their cooperation and understanding

## **Cleaner Killed In Dumper Truck Accident** In Navi Mumbai

#### Team Absolute Thane

olice have registered a case Dagainst the driver of a dumper truck in connection with the death of its cleaner following an accident involving the vehicle in Maharashtra's Navi Mumbai, an official said on Monday. The incident took place on May 23 evening when the accused was taking the vehicle for repairs, the official from Panvel Town police station said. At a road turning towards Kalamboli, the driver heard a scratching sound from the wheels. Upon checking, he found a stone was stuck in one of the wheels and sought help of the 54-year-old cleaner to remove it. While the cleaner was removing the stone from the wheel, the accused allegedly moved the dumper, crushing the former, the official said. The victim was badly injured and died on way to hospital, he said. After being alerted, the police reached the spot and sent the body to a local hospital for postmortem. Based on a complaint by a relative of the deceased, the police on Sunday registered a case against the dumper driver under Indian Penal Code sections 304 (A) (causing death by negligence), 279 (rash driving or riding on a public way), 337 (causing hurt by act endangering life or personal safety of others) and 338 ((causing grievous hurt by act endangering life or personal safety of others) and provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act, the official said.

work. "From 9 am on Wednesday,

Corporation and the STEM water

monsoon maintenance and repair

May 29, 2024, Thane Municipal



Ghodbunder Road, Lokmanya Nagar, Vartaknagar, Saket, Ritu Park, Jail, Gandhinagar, Rustamji, Siddhanchal, Indiranagar, Rupadevi, Srinagar, supply will be shut for necessary pre-Samtanagar, Siddheshwar, Internity, Johnson, and small areas of Mumbra and Kalwa were all part of Thane work until Thursday, May 30, 2024, at 9 am. During the 24-hour shutdown, Municipal Corporation area shall not

receive water," said the Thane civic body in her press statement.

The statement further read, "After the closure, there may be a low-pressure water delivery for one to two days until it is restored. However, the Thane Municipal Corporation has urged inhabitants to conserve water and use it sparingly.'

#### Mumbai to see water cut

Because lake levels are below 10 per cent, the BMC has finally decided to implement a water cut beginning May 30. The civic authority has agreed to undertake a 5 per cent water cut from May 30 and a 10 per cent cut from June 5 as a preventative step to ensure stock lasts as ong as possible.

On Thursday, May 23, a news story reported a potential water cut due to insufficient water stock in all seven dams. As of today, the dams hold a total of 1,40,202 million litres of water, accounting for only 9.69 per cent of the overall water stock of 14,47,363 million litres.





# hollywood



# **Kvlie**

## **DOESN'T OPEN HER WALLET DURING AN OUTING WITH FRIENDS**

#### Los Angeles | Agencies

eality TV star and make-up mogul Kylie Jenner doesn't always open her wallet during an outing with her friends, says her best friend Anastasia "Stassie" Karanikolaou.

In a video shared on TikTok, the two friends are seen inside a car. "Who pays when we go out?" Stassie said while taking out her wallet to buy cookies for both of them. "Kylie always forgets her purse somehow.

She never has a purse! So, me."

Kylie seemed to be unbothered. She was wearing a yellow jacket with a white tee underneath, and was seen happily dancing while waiting for their order, reports aceshowbiz.com.

While Stassie didn't seem to mind picking up the bill, fans were shocked by the information

The two's best friend Hailey Bieber (Hailey Baldwin) was also among the commenters.

"Perf activities for a pregnant gal I'm coming next time!!" the model, who is expecting her first child with her popstar husband Justin Bieber, wrote.

To that, Stassie said: "Yes yes yes come join the party!!!!!!

## LADY GAGA REVEALS HER **VERSION OF HARLEY QUINN IN 'JOKER: FOLIE A DEUX' IS VERY AUTHENTIC**

Los Angeles Agencies

ctress and singer Lady Gaga has talked about





Los Angeles | Agencies

ctor Johnny Wactor, known for his portrayal of Brando Corbin in the show 'General Hospital', was shot and killed during a suspected catalytic converter theft attempt here. He was 37 years old. Wactor's talent agent, David Shaul, confirmed the actor's death. "Johnny Wactor was a spectacular human being. Not just a talented actor who was committed to his craft but a real moral example to everyone who knew him. Standing for hard work, tenacity and a never give up attitude. "In the highs and lows of a challenging profession he

extract the catalytic converter from his car at about 3 a.m. in the area of Pico

Boulevard and Hope Street. The man was pronounced dead at a local hospital. Wactor appeared in more than 160 episodes of 'General Hospital', the longest-running television daytime drama in the US. He made his television

debut in the Lifetime drama series 'Army Wives' He also guest starred in the series 'Westworld', 'The OA', 'Station 19', 'Siberia', 'Agent X', 'Fantastic' 'Animal Kingdom', 'Hollywood Girl', 'Training Day', 'Criminal Minds', 'Struggling Servers', 'Age Appropriate', 'NCIS', 'The Passenger', and 'Barbee

always kept his chin up and kept striving for the best he could be," Shaul said in a statement, reports variety.com. The statement further read: "Our time with Johnny 'The Con-Artist', 'Flyover States', 'A Most Suitable was a privilege we would wish on everyone. He would liter-Applicant', 'The Interrogation', 'Anything for You, Abby', 'The ally give you the shirt off his back. After over a decade Relic', and 'We Won't Forget', among many others. In feature films, he starred in the 2016 film 'USS

together, he will leave a hole in our hearts forever." As per the Police Department in Los Angeles, a man was shot by one of three suspects attempting to

## NICKI MINAJ FREED AFTER PAYING FINE IN **AMSTERDAM POST ARREST FOR 'DRUG POSSESSION'**

## Los Angeles | Agencies

apper Nicki Minaj, who was arrested over drug possession, was freed after paying a hefty fine in Amsterdam. However, her gig has been postponed. Minaj was released from police custody in Amsterdam after being arrested on Saturday morning for allegedly carrying drugs. Minaj streamed her arrest on Instagram Live, which led to the postponement of her scheduled concert in Manchester, part of her Pink Friday 2 World Tour, reports aceshowbiz.com. The arrest occurred at Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport, where Dutch police reportedly found

pre-rolled marijuana joints in her luggage.

The raptress denied ownership of the drugs, saying that they belonged to her security personnel. The Netherlands classifies marijuana as "soft drugs," and exporting it is illegal despite its legal status within the country.

"They took my luggage without consent," Minaj posted on X.

"My security has already advised them those pre-rolls belong to him."

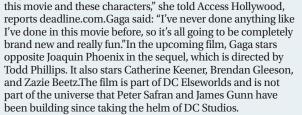
Minaj took to her social media accounts, accusing various parties of trying to sabotage her

al of Harley Quinn, a violent and fierce fighter, is different in the upcoming film 'Joker: Folie A Deux.

In a new interview to promote the Gaga Chomatica Ball film, the star teased how her version of the comic book character is different.

"You know my version of Harley is mine, and it's very authentic to





Gaga is taking on the role of Quinn, which was earlier portrayed by Margot Robbie in films like 'Suicide Squad', 'Birds of Prey', and 'The Suicide Squad'.



Claudia Jessie reveals she broke her wrist while filming third season of 'Bridgerton'

## Los Angeles | Agencies

ctress Claudia Jessie, who plays Eloise Bridgerton in the show 'Bridgerton',

revealed that the crew went to great lengths to cover up her cast after she broke her wrist while filming season three.Jessie, on an episode of 'The Late Show with Stephen Colbert', said:

'They had to make a muff.' The costume team made multiple versions of the circular cloth accessory, which Eloise would have used at the time to "warm her hands.'

Since puffs are typically worn in the winter, the crew made new lightweight styles of the fashion item to justify her character using it during warmer months, reports eonline.com.

"We just made it up," Claudia said. "We were like, 'It's the summer muff, of course!'

Jessie recounted that the injury occurred during an on-set celebration

gone wrong. "I did a high kick. I'm not a dancer,"

she recalled. "The circumference of the dress I had on, it ends at some point. So, when I put my leg up, I was restricted immediately and then I went back.'

After landing on her wrist, she initially thought it wasn't a major accident.

"Everybody was laughing, which I'm glad. I would've hated silence." She got the help she needed in the end.

"Obviously, we have medics on set for idiots like me," she added.



## **'13 REASONS WHY' STAR DYLAN MINNETTE SAYS ACTING STARTED TO FEEL LIKE A JOB**

#### Los Angeles | Agencies

ctor Dylan Minnette discussed why he paused his acting career to pursue his passion for music with his band Wallows and whether he plans to return to acting.

"I was fortunate to find success in (acting). I was on '13 Reasons Why' and it was really popular and definitely reached a peak in what I've had in acting," Minnette said on the Zach Sang Show. "But it also started to feel

like a bit of a job. I was in a very fortunate position, it was always fun for me, always really inspiring, but then it was just starting to feel like just a job."

The actor said that his band and music were another passion of his, and as a group, they dreamt of taking it "all the way as far as we can," reports deadline.com. "I feel like I'm in a position

now where I can just kind of like do that for a while and get this the farthest it can be," he said.

"The only way that's gonna happen is if I put my 100 per cent time and energy into it and take it very seriously and show the world that we all take this very seriously."

Minnette said pursuing his passion for music is "what feels natural and inspiring." Taking a break from acting,

Minnette said he is "starting

to have more inspiration" and "something to give artistically and creatively in other fields."

"I do feel like I have something to give, and that's probably acting... I feel like I'm starting to feel inspiration for that again," he added.

"At some point, when we've fulfilled our Wallows duties and we're all ready to take a break as a band, that's when I'll have the perfect inspiration to do something."

tour. She suggested that her bags were taken and searched without her consent. "They've been trying to stop me from coming to every show. Everything they've done is ille-

gal.

Following hours in custody, Minaj was released after agreeing to pay a fine, the amount of which will be determined by the Public Prosecution Service. However, the delay led to significant fallout for her Manchester show.

## **ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY**

Rehab'.

Indianapolis: Men of Courage', directed by Mario Van

Peebles and starring Nicolas Cage, among many other films.

He even worked in short films such

as 'The Grass Is Never Greener', 'GoldenBox',





# 'Pleased with the way I performed': Kohli on winning IPL Orange Cup

#### New Delhi | Agencies

oyal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) star Virat Kohli said he is happy with the way he performed for his side after bagging the Orange Cap for the IPL 2024 season.

Kohli finished the tournament as the highest run-getter with 741 runs in 15 matches including a century and five fifties. He scored at an average of 61.75 and with a strike rate of 154.69 as an opener along with captain Faf du Plessis."Extremely honoured to receive the orange cap for this season. It was a roller-coaster of a ride, I was really pleased with the way I performed for my team throughout the season but more importantly in the latter half where we needed to win every game to qualify," Kohli said in a recorded message after the final as Shreyas Iyer collected the accolade on his behalf in Chennai on Sunday. The righthand batter added that he is eager to replicate his form in the



upcoming T20 World Cup for India in the USA and the West Indies."Something that I hope to replicate in the 2025 season of the IPL as well. Thank you everyone for your support," he said.The 35-year-old became the first Indian to win the Orange Cap twice in IPL history.

Punjab Kings pacer Harshal Patel was awarded the Purple Cap for finishing the season with 24 wickets, the most in the tournament."Deeply honoured to be presented with the purple cap.

It's been a very rewarding journey. I want to thank everyone who was part of my journey - my teammates, my coaches and especially my family, my wife and my son. Without their support, it wouldn't have been possible. I look forward to the 2025 season," he said. Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR)

lifted their third IPL title after thrashing Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) in the final at MA Chidambaram Stadium.

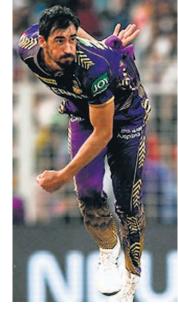
# 'One format may drop off': Starc hints ODI retirement

#### Chennai Agencies

ustralia fast-bowler Mitchell Starc hinted on his ODI etiement after lifting the IPL trophy with Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR). The left-arm pacer said with a long wait before the next one-day World Cup, he might shift focus to more franchise cricket around the world.

Starc's return to the IPL has been nothing short of spectacular, culminating in a title win with Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR). After years of prioritising international cricket, Starc's decision to rejoin the cash-rich league paid off, and he now contemplates altering his cricketing commitments, potentially stepping away from ODIs. Starc, who had largely stayed

away from the IPL during his peak years to focus on his national duties and manage his workload, revealed his thoughts on this shift at a press conference following KKR's emphatic win over Sunrisers Hvderabad (SRH) in the IPL 2024 final by eight wickets. KKR secured their third IPL title, with Starc playing a pivotal role



"The last nine years, I've prioritised Australian cricket. I have given myself a chance to give my body a break and spend some time away from cricket with my wife as well, so that's certainly been where my head's been for the last nine

years," Starc said at a press conference "Moving forward... look, I am

certainly closer to the end of my

career than the start. One format

may drop off. There is long time

before the next one-day World Cup

and whether that format continues

for me or not ... it may open doors

"I've thoroughly enjoyed this

season," he said. "It's been great, it

leads into the World Cup, that's the

here against some amazing players

other side of the benefit of being

in an amazing tournament. It's a

schedule exactly - but I've enjoyed

next year and hopefully be seen in

Starc's consideration of drop-

ping ODIs from his cricketing cal-

endar could mean more appear-

expensive player in IPL auction

history, fetched for Rs. 24.75 crore

by KKR, Starc had a tough start to

the season. He conceded 100 runs

ances in franchise cricket, includ-

ing the IPL. Despite being the most

great lead-up to a World Cup. "Next year - I don't know the

it, I look forward to being back

purple and gold [KKR's colours]

again."

for more franchise cricket.'

in his first two games without tak ing a wicket, but his performance dramatically improved as the tournament progressed.

Starc's match-winning figures of 3-34 and 2-14 in Qualifier 1 and the final, respectively, against SRH showcased his ability to perform under pressure. His efforts were instrumental in KKR's dominant campaign, ending with a resounding victory in the final.

"I've thoroughly enjoyed this season," Starc said. "It's been great, it leads into the World Cup, that's the other side of the benefit of being here against some amazing players in an amazing tournament. It's a great lead-up to a World Cup. Next year - I don't know the schedule exactly - but I've enjoyed it, I look forward to being back next year and hopefully be seen in purple and gold (KKR's colours) again," he said.

"I've played a lot of cricket, so I know how to manage myself. I haven't played a lot of T20 cricket in the last few years, so for me, it was trying to find that rhythm of [the] T20 format, and trying to stay ahead of batters," Starc concluded

# KKR played like 'invincibles' throughout the season, : Shreyas Iyer

#### Chennai Agencies

Volkata Knight Riders' (KKR) skipper Shreyas Iyer lauded his side for playing "like invincibles throughout the season" after a comprehensive eight-wicket victory over Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) in the IPL 2024 summit clash to lift their third title, ending a decade-long wait.

This is what we demanded from the team and every individual, they stood up on the right occasion," Iyer said after the final. "It is hard to express how we are feeling right now. The wait was so long. We played like invincibles throughout the season. There is so much to cherish right now.'

KKR's bowlers, led by stellar spells from Andre Russell (3-19), Mitchell Starc (2-14) & amp; Harshit Rana (2-24), bowled out SRH for just 113, the lowest total in an IPL final. In reply, the batters, led by Venkatesh Iyer's 52 not out off 26 balls, chased down the total in just 10.3 overs to make it the second time the side won an IPL title



Oualifier 1 by eight wickets with 38 balls to spare, and upped their game in the final with another eight-wicket victory, this time with 57 balls remaining.

"It is pleasing and the performance through out I am

way - they have been playing phenomenal cricket, SRH, throughout the season. Today, we were lucky enough to bowl first and, at the same time, every situation went in our favour. Thanks to SRH (for) the way they have played throughout the

stump. This wicket initiated a collapse; Vaibhav Arora removed Travis Head for a first-ball duck with an excellent away-swinger, and Starc struck again to dismiss Rahul Tripathi, leaving SRH at 21 for 3 inside five overs.

"That (big games) is when all the big players stand up," Iyer said of Starc. "It was a high-pressure game. He has been so good off the field. He has never shown any sort of complacency in his work ethic. Every time we used to go for the plunge pool, he used to be there... something for everyone to learn."

Starc's performance in the playoffs was pivotal. Despite a rough start to the season, where he conceded 100 runs in his first two games without taking a wicket, Starc rebounded to become the Player of the Match in both of KKR's playoff games, a first in IPL history.

Another standout performer was Andre Russell, who picked up 3 for 19 in 2.3 overs in the final, ending the season with his best wicket to

## FRENCH OPEN: AUSTRALIAN OPEN CHAMP SINNER MAKES WINNING START ON RETURN FROM INJURY

#### Paris | Agencies

ustralian Open champion Jannik Sinner A ustralian Open champion Jannik Sinner of Italy advanced to the second round of men's singles at the French Open here on Monday, easing past Christopher Eubanks of the United States in his first competitive match after a three-week injury layoff due to a right hip injury.

Sinner struck the ball cleanly and moved well throughout his two-hour, nine-minute match to win 6-3, 6-3, 6-4 against Eubanks and set up a second-round clash with home favourite Richard Gasquet in Paris.

The second-seed Italian's problematic hip held fine as he entered Roland Garros as a Grand Slam champion following his Melbourne Park heroics in January and maintained his chances of winning a second successive Grand Slam title and also increased the pressure on top seed and World No.1 Novak Djokovic.

Sinner was tested on serve several times on Court Suzanne-Lenglen. The second seed consistently produced big serves at crucial moments, however, and he finished the match having saved nine of 10 break points he faced, according to Infosys Stats.

"Honestly, I'm just happy to be back on ourt" said Sinner in his court interviev today's performance."

The Italian kept the pressure for the No.1 ranking on the Serbian and in reaching the second round helped him make it more difficult for his 37-year-old rival at the pointier end of the tournament.

Before Monday, Djokovic needed to reach at least the semifinals to stand any chance of retaining the top spot. He now needs to at least reach the final, while Sinner would take matters into his own hands should he make a run to his second straight major final, even if he fell there to Diokovic.

The 22-year-old Sinner is not dwelling on his big breakthrough though, which included back-to-back wins over 10-time champion Djokovic and Daniil Medvedev in Melbourne. He accepted that his success in the Australian Open was no guarantee of further success. "I'm obviously happy about what I have achieved in the last months this year, but our goal is to improve every day," Sinner said. "That is for me more important. I know that I have to improve some things.

"Let's see what I can achieve in the future and also be happy on the court, which is maybe the most important. I truly enjoy playing tennis so I'm very happy to be here.'

In late April, Sinner withdrew before his uarterfinal in Madrid due to his hip injur

in Chennai.

KKR's 2024 campaign was one of the most dominant in IPL history, equaling the record for the fewest losses in a season, set by Shane Warne's Rajasthan Royals in 2008, with just three defeats. Topping the league table, KKR beat SRH in

running out of words right now. We have been tremendous right from game one, and when we stepped [out], all we demanded from ourselves was to back each other no matter the situation," Iyer said of KKR's campaign.

"The game could have gone either

son. They have been simply phenomenal," he added.

The final saw KKR dominate from the outset, starting with Mitchell Starc's stunning dismissal of Abhishek Sharma with a ball that pitched on middle and leg and zipped past the outside edge to hit off IPL. "He has got that magic wand, which he is hiding somewhere on the field. Russell has been lucky for us. Almost in a majority of the games, whenever he has bowled, he has picked up the wickets and he has given us the breakthrough," he said.

"I was injured, so I'm very happy to be back here. It's a very special tournament for me. It's where I reached the quarterfinals at a Grand Slam for the first time, so I have some great memories. The last years I didn't play my best, so I'm just trying to go day by day, building every day, and I'm just happy about

and he later missed his home ATP Masters 1000 event in Rome for the same reason. The No. 2 in the ATP Rankings was happy with how his body had held up during his return to competitive action.

He is now looking forward to extending his run in Paris and going all the way.

## Golf: Riley wins Charles Schwab Challenge, Scheffler tied second

## Fort Worth (US) Agencies

avid Riley kept World No. 1 Scottie Scheffler at bay despite a closing even par 70 to win the Charles Schwab Challenge. He won by five strokes over Scheffler and Keegan Bradley for his first individual victory on the PGA Tour.

Riley finished at 14-under 266 after rolling in a 6-foot par putt on the final hole at Colonial Country Club, while Bradley had a closing 67, and Scheffler shot 71. Scheffler had his first birdie on the 13th and hit only half the fairways.The top Asian was Sungjae Im (72) in Tiedninth, while Tom Kim, also from Korea, shot 74 and was T-24. CT Pan (74) was T-37.



Indian-American Akshav

Bhatia had missed the cut.

Riley picked up his second PGA Tour victory in his 90th start and it was his first individual victory on TOUR with the previous one being the 2023 Zurich Classic of New Orleans with Nick Hardy. He now gains entry in the two remaining Signature Events this season - the Memorial Tournament presented by Workday and Travelers Championship and also

moved from No. 250 to No. 78 in the Official World Golf Ranking

Six-time PGA Tour winner Bradley finished runner-up for the 11th time in his TOUR career and second time this season - he lost in a playoff to Grayson Murray at the Sony Open in Hawaii.

With a 71, Scheffler record ed his first over-par final round since the 2023 Arnold Palmer Invitational. It marked ninth runner-up finish on TOUR and 11th top-10 of the season, most of any player. He was T-8 at the PGA Championships at Valhalla.

Collin Morikawa, the only player in the field to finish all four rounds under par, was fourth at 8-under after his closing 68.

#### New Delhi | Agencies

ormer world youth champion Ankushita Boro prevailed over Namuun Monkhor of Mongolia in the 60kg category while

Abhimanyu Loura went down against Ireland's Kelyn Cassidy in the second round of the 80kg weight category in the 2nd Boxing World Qualifiers for Paris Olympics in Bangkok, Thailand, on Monday.

Boro, the first Indian woman in action in what is the final chance for pugilists to book Paris Olympic berths, began strongly against her young Mongolian opponent. She effectively blunted Monkhor's speedy movements by tactically shifting gears to carve out a 4-1 win after three keenly contested rounds.

However, it was not an outing to remember for Loura. The National



Boxing World Qualifiers: Ankushita Boro wins

Championships bronze medallist came into the second-round clash against two-time Irish champion Cassidy, high on confidence after beating Bulgaria's 10-time national champion Kristiyan Nikolov in a thrilling encounter.

But Cassidy was well prepared for the long reach of his opponent and went on to win 0-5 despite Loura giv-

ing his all in the final round. On Tuesday, Sachin Siwach (57kg), Abhinash Jamwal (63.5kg), and Nishant Dev (71kg) will look to continue their march towards their quest for an Olympic quota.

Sachin will face Frederik Jensen of Denmark, Jamwal will take on Colombia's Jose Manuel Viafara Fory and Nishant Dev will meet Otgonbaatar Byamba-Erdene of Mongolia.

India has already secured three quotas for the Paris Games with Nikhat Zareen (women's 50kg), Preeti (54kg), and Tokyo Olympics bronze medallist Lovlina Borgohain (75kg) confirming their berths by winning bronze medals at the 2022 Asian Games. India has fielded seven men and three women boxers in the 2nd world qualifiers and five of them have received an opening round bye.

#### Chennai | Agencies

he FMSCI Indian National Rally Sprint Championship 2024 (2Wh) is set to kick off next month in Chennai, promising an exhilarating season of high-speed action and innovative features. Spanning six rounds across India, the championship is set to captivate motorsport enthusiasts and competitors alike.

The marquee competition will be held on June 1 and 2 at the Madras International Circuit, while Round 2 will follow on July 20-21 in Bengaluru to complete the South Zone qualifiers. The action then moves to Chandigarh (North Zone) for Round 3 on October 05-06

Round 4 will take place in Guwahati (East Zone) on November 23-24 and Round 5 unfolds in Goa (West Zone) on December 07-08. The Top 5 riders from each qualifier will feature in the Finals on December 15-16 in Pune. The event introduces several firsts that set it apart. For the first time, a



Veterans' Class has been introduced, celebrating the enduring passion and skill of competitors over the age of 50.

Additionally, the championship will now feature a Team and Manufacturers Trophy, encouraging teamwork and recognising the efforts of teams and manufacturers in building competitive spirit and innovation.

Starting from Round 3, each event will also include a novice training session on the day before the competition, aiming to identify and nurture new talent and ensure that riders across the country can experience the thrill of rally stages

Commenting on the initiative, FMSCI Vice President Gautam Shantappa said, "We are immensely proud to support the Indian National Rally Sprint Championship 2024, an event that truly embodies the spirit of motorsports."By providing opportunities for amateur riders and introducing the Veterans' Class, we are making this championship more inclusive and accessible to enthusiasts of all ages and skill levels. Hosting this prestigious event is a significant responsibility, and we are

looking forward to working with FB Motorsports," he said. "We are thrilled to bring these exciting new elements to the Indian motorsports enthusiasts - the National Rally Sprint Championship," said Farad Bhathena, Director- FB Motorsports.

"Our goal is to make this championship more inclusive and supportive of all levels of competitors while continuing to deliver the high-octane rallying that fans love," he added.

The 2024 season promises to be an unforgettable journey through the varied terrains of India, showcasing top-tier talent and contributing to the growth of motorsports in the country. Fans, riders, and teams are invited to join for a landmark series in 2-wheeler rallying in India. Encouraging a diverse range of participation, the competition will comprise 12 championship classes, with cash prizes awarded to the top three berths in each category. In addition, there will be a special class for local, novice riders from each zone.



absoluteindia

Bhopal, Tuesday, May 28, 2024

# I DIDN'T MANAGE TO BECOME A **STAR, BUT I SURELY BECAME A ROCKSTAR : PIYUSH MISHRA**

entertainment

**Second Front Page** 



Team Absolute Mumbai

iyush Mishra, an alumnus of the National School of Drama (NSD), reflected on his four-decade-long acting journey, sharing how he became 'blindly ambitious to make it big' in the industry.

Piyush, who will soon be seen in the courtroom drama 'Illegal 3', said: "I came to Bombay in 2010 and wanted to be a part of the cinema industry. For one year, I became blindly ambitious and did a few Tamil films, thinking I would make it big, but it took time."

'Matrubhoomi' was one of my first big films. I have worked 20 years in film and 20 years in theatre. Throughout the years, my contacts have increased, and I am not as blindly ambitious now, not that it's wrong. I don't reach out purposefully to find work," he said

Mishra made his acting debut in 1998 with Mani Ratnam's directorial romantic thriller 'Dil Se', starring Shah Rukh Khan, Manisha Koirala, and Preity Zinta.

He then went on to star in movies like 'Maqbool', '1971', 'Gulaal', 'Rockstar', and Tamasha,' among others.

The 'Gangs of Wasseypur' actor further said: "The industry is not a bad place, and there are many hardworking people here. I didn't manage to become a star, but I surely became a rockstar."

"I have become morally rich after staying in the industry for so long. This is what it gives you, and you get to learn a lot about the world," he added.





John, Jacqueliene, Sunny, Raveena call for stricter laws to end cruelty against animals

#### Team Absolute New Delhi

nimal abuse has reached a crescendo, with many cases remaining unreported. Ardent animal lovers such as John Abraham, Sunny Leone, and Jacqueliene Fernandez have voiced their opinions and called for "stricter laws" to safeguard the four-legged friends.

From February to May, numerous cases of animal abuse have been reported, including running over animals, throwing them from great heights, starving, beating, and using them for entertainment.

The most recent case was reported from a society in Greater Noida, where a stray dog was thrown from the 15th floor of a residential tower. The remains were found outside the building by a resident on May 11.

Bollywood star John Abraham, who is a doting dad to his fur babies, Sia and Bailey, stated that the surge in "cruelty to animals deeply wounds our collective conscience.

"It's a stark reminder of the urgency to take action. Let's unite in vigilance, reporting every instance of animal abuse and supporting grassroots organisations at the forefront of the fight for animal rights," John told .

Stricter laws must be implemented for the perpetrator, he said.

"Governments must not falter; they must implement stringent penalties to deter perpetrators and invest in comprehensive educational programmes to foster empathy and reverence for all life forms, and we all must do what we can to safeguard our community animals," he said.

In India, the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, outlines punishments for animal cruelty, including penalties such as a maximum fine of Rs 50 for convicted first-time offenders (although the IPC prescribes stronger punishments), according to People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA). However, enforcement of these laws varies, as many cases go unreported.

Actress Sunny Leone s

alarming rise in animal abuse cases is an affront to shared humanity. "The government holds the key - it

room for impunity. As individuals, we can each play our part by reporting any acts of cruelty to the police," she told IANS. Empathy should be taught to children at

who will be kind to everyone. Together, we

Jacqueliene Fernandez told : "We, as individuals, have a great deal of power to create change by using our voices to stand up for animals by opening our doors to animals in need. The government must also prioritise animal protection by introducing legislation to safeguard animals and ensuring its robust enforcement to build a future where all members of our society, whatever the species, is able to live in peace."

Actress Raveena Tandon, who is vocal about animal rights, told that, as a society, we must not turn a blind eye when animals are suffering at human hands.

"We must be vigilant neighbours, keeping a watchful eye and speaking out against any form of abuse. By reporting acts of cruelty, we send a clear message: animal abuse will not be tolerated," she told

Raveena added: "Research shows that people who commit acts of cruelty to animals are often repeat offenders who move on to hurting others, including humans, so it's imperative for the safety of all of society - humans and other animals alike - that perpetrators are caught and punished to the greatest extent of the law."

On how to minimise abuse, Sachin Bangera from PETA India, said: "We collaborate closely with local enforcement agencies, offering rewards, registering first information reports, and mobilising our activist network to identify and apprehend those who hurt or neglect anir

## **"I AM A VERY BAD DANCER**,": ANUPAM KHER

Team Absolute Mumbai

nupam Kher, who is well-known for his versatile performances in mainstream cinema as well as international productions, admitted at an event here on Monday that he is "a very bad dancer", but he does "dance with emotions"

He also went down memory lane and talked about his first outing as an actor when he was in Class V in school -he played a monkey in Lord Hanuman's army.

The memory was triggered by the 'gada' (mace) he was carrying at the launch of the live-action film 'Chhota Bheem and the Curse of Damyaan', where he will be seen along with Makarand Deshpande and Navneet Kaur Dhillion. The film will be released theatrically on May 31.

Talking about his poor dancing skills, Kher said, "That is why the audience has not seen me dancing quite often."

Two songs from the film, 'Jamboora' and 'Zara Muskura', were unveiled at the event in the presence of the cast and crew. It was in the context of the songs that the actor was asked about how it felt to dance to the songs.

"I am a very bad dancer," Kher said. "That is why the audience has not seen me dancing that often. But very soon ou will see me in a surprise avatar in this film. I wish l a great dancer too. Actually, I dance with emotions. I believe I dance through my acting. The senior actor then shared his experience of working with children in the film. "It was very difficult to match with the energy levels of the kids," he averred. "Their questions, their spontaneity were unparalleled. A very famous director from Hollywood once said to me that when children are in the frame, don't act, because nobody is looking at you.'

must enforce strict laws that leave no

an early age.

"Children should be taught to be kind to animals to help them grow into adults can build a world where every animal is treated with the dignity and respect they deserve," she said.

He went on to note: "I believe that is very true. Working on this film was like a crash course for me. It was a learning experience. I had great fun."

Holding the 'gada', Kher said, "Can you believe it? I am holding a 'gada' right now, and my first-ever role, the firstever, was of a monkey in Lord Hanuman's. I was then in the fifth standard. This is the first time after school that I am holding a 'gada'. I feel like a 'Bada Bheem'."

Looking very happy to be in the company of child artistes, Kher spoke about what he learnt from them.



Absolute Mumbai

ctress Juhi Parmar, shared that saris are her comfort outfit and can be draped within a few moments. Juhi said: 'Saris are my comfort outfit! I can easily change a sari and drape it within a few minutes because of all the practice that happened during my 'Kumkum' days. I still love wearing saris, and bringing them back onto my social media with iconic songs was a lot of fun."

The 43-year-old actress said that Yash Raj Chopra's quintessential actresses in a saree are "picture perfect".

"For me, the songs, the attire, all of it is very relatable because they are popular Bollywood melodious tracks, and then to add the Indian garb to it is just special. If you ask me, I have loved watching the Yash Raj quintessential heroine in Switzerland in a sari because everything is so picture perfect," she said.

Juhi, after becoming a sensation as Kumkum, featured in several shows such as 'Karmaphal Daata Shani', 'Sanjivani', 'Yeh Chanda Kanoon Hai', and 'Tantra', among many others.

In 2012, she lifted the winner's trophy in the controversial reali ty show 'Bigg Boss 5' hosted by Salman Khan. Juhi married actor Sachin Shroff in 2009. They got divorced in 2018. The two have a daughter named Samaira, who was born in 2013.



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## PRIYANKA CHOPRA CON ERS AT CANNES FOR SCRIPTING HISTORY

#### Team Absolute Mumbai

ctress Priyanka Chopra Jonas, congratulated the Indian talents that scored huge victories at the recently concluded 77th edition of the Cannes Film Festival.

On Monday, Priyanka took to the Stories section of her Instagram and sent her best wish-

es to the winners, Anasuya Sengupta, Payal Kapadia, and

Chidananda S Naik While Anasuya won the Best Actress Award at Cannes, Payal's film 'All We Imagine as Light' was feted with the 'Le Grand Prix' award, and Chidananda's short film 'Sunflowers were the first ones to know' was honoured with the La Cinef Award for Best Short

#### Film.

The actress shared three different stories, one each for Anasuya, Payal, and Chidananda.

Lauding Anasuya, Priyanka wrote, "Congratulations @cup\_o\_t on your incredible performance and the history you've created! Onwards and upwards."

For Payal, she wrote that it was a moment for Indian cinema at

#### the Cannes Film Festival

The actress wrote: "Biiiig shout and congratulations to you all #PayalKapadia @kantari kanmani @divya prabha @chhaya.kadam.75 @hridhuharoon.'

Priyanka wrote for Chidananda, "Congratulations @chidananda\_s\_naik So well deserved."

India had one of its best years at the Cannes Film Festival this time. Payal's film was screened at the Palme d'Or (main segment) of the Cannes Film Festival, becoming the first Indian film in 30 years to compete in the main segment after 'Swaham', which was released in 1994.

## **INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY**



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