



LENGTHY ELECTION SCHEDULE PLANNED TO SERVE PM MODI'S SELF-PROPAGANDA: MAMATA BANERJEE

Kolkata | Agencies

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday accused the Election Commission of India (ECI) of deliberately preparing such a long schedule for the Lok Sabha elections to facilitate Prime Minister Narendra Modi's self-propaganda.

"The current caretaker Prime Minister will become the former prime Prime Minister after the polls. But I am sorry to say, such a long election schedule was prepared to facilitate PM Modi's self-propaganda over this extended period of time," the Chief Minister said while addressing an election meeting in the North Kolkata Lok Sabha constituency in support of Trinamool Congress candidate and sitting MP, Sudip



Bandopadhyay.

Banerjee also accused the CPI-M of helping the BJP spread its base in West Bengal.

"The CPI-M is helping the BJP to gain strength in West Bengal. This is the only reason why the CPI-M should not be shown any mercy. They are responsible for destroying the state," the Chief Minister said. Banerjee also said that although she is not afraid of the 'slandorous' campaigns launched against her by the opposition, she is worried about being misunderstood by the people. "Throughout my life, I have faced abuse. But I am not bothered about those abuses anymore. I will be sad if I am misunderstood by the people. If such a day comes and the people ask me to leave, I will humbly obey and quit silently," the Chief Minister said.

'Shehzade' have already booked tickets for vacation abroad after June 4: Amit Shah

Domariyaganj | Agencies

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday said that the two "Shehzade" (Princes) -- Rahul Gandhi and Akhilesh Yadav -- have already booked tickets for their "vacation" abroad as they want to escape the heat here.

"They (Rahul Gandhi and Akhilesh Yadav) are aware that in the five phases of elections, the BJP has already won 310 seats and will cross the 400 mark in the remaining two phases," the Home Minister said.

Speaking at a rally here, Amit Shah said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has not taken even a single day's leave in the past 23 years.

"Now you know the difference. Hum kahan jayenge -yahin jiyenge, yahin marenge," he said. He further said that the INDIA bloc is a congregation of corrupt elements who have done a scam worth Rs 12 lakh crores.

"But there is not a blot on the character of PM Modi," he pointed out. Listing the welfare schemes launched by the Modi government, Amit Shah said that the BJP had fulfilled the demand for 'one rank one pension' in the army. "During the Samajwadi regime, criminals were indulging in extortion, land grabbing, kidnappings etc. But when Yogi



Adityanath's government came to power, he turned all such elements upside down," he said. Referring to the reservation issue, the Home Minister said that the West Bengal High Court has already struck down the reservation given illegally. "I promise you that there will be no cut in the quota of SC/ST, OBCs and Muslims. It is the INDIA members who want to appease their vote bank," he added.

Home Minister Amit Shah underlined the importance of the region and said that the BJP government is working to develop the Buddhist circuit.

Some Delhi colleges receive hoax bomb threats

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Some colleges in the national capital, including Lady Shri Ram (LSR) College, received bomb threats on Thursday, which later turned out to be a hoax, a Delhi Police official said.

A senior Fire Department official said that a call regarding a bomb threat at LSR College was received at 4.38 p.m. Subsequently, two fire tenders were dispatched to the spot.

"Some calls were received regarding bomb threats in colleges. All are bogus calls," said Deputy Commissioner of Police (Southeast) Rajesh Deo. This comes a day after a bomb threat in the North Block was received via email on Wednesday. The email, which was ultimately



deemed a hoax, prompted a thorough search by multiple agencies. Recently, several Delhi hospitals, along with the Indira Gandhi International Airport and Tihar prisons, also received bomb threat emails.

However, subsequent investigations by police revealed the threats to be false alarms. On May 1, more than 150

schools across Delhi-NCR received hoax bomb threat emails, prompting a wide-spread police response. Investigations suggested that the emails originated from Budapest, Hungary. Official sources indicated that the Delhi Police will soon reach out to their Hungarian counterparts to further the investigation.

VARUN GANDHI CAMPAIGNS FOR MOM MANEKA IN SULTANPUR

Sultanpur : BJP leader and Pilibhit's sitting MP, Varun Gandhi, reached Sultanpur on Thursday to campaign for his mother Maneka Gandhi who is contesting from the seat.

Addressing a rally Varun Gandhi said, "Elections are going on everywhere in the country... but there is only one region in the country where people don't call their MP, sansad ji, mantri ji, or by her name, but call her mata ji, and that is Sultanpur."

This is the first time that Varun Gandhi has addressed any rally this election season. Varun Gandhi has remained out of public space ever since he was replaced by the BJP, which chose Jitin Prasada to fight the Lok Sabha election from the Pilibhit constituency. Pilibhit went to polls in the first phase of the elections.

Bengal CM's 'no' to HC order is judicial contempt, says Rajasthan CM

Jaipur | Agencies

Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma on Thursday said that West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee's open defiance of the court's order is judicial contempt.

He said, "We welcome the High Court's order on the issuance of OBC certificates to Muslims. Mamata ji has now proved to the whole country that her government is biased, it does the politics of appeasement and is against the interests of backward communities."

The Rajasthan CM further said, "declaration to disrespect the High Court order is judicial contempt, which is extremely reprehensible and unfortunate. It proves that she has no respect for the dignity of democracy and the dignity of law. For her, only Muslim appeasement is paramount."

"The Hon'ble Court has also cancelled all OBC certificates issued to Muslims in West Bengal from 2010 to



2024. Both these decisions show that Mamata Banerjee's government was unconstitutionally pursuing the politics of appeasement. Overall, it is clear that for Mamata Banerjee, appeasing the Muslim vote bank and furthering the agenda of the Muslim League are her top priorities," he said.

The Calcutta High Court on Wednesday cancelled all certificates to OBCs issued in the state since 2011 under the Trinamool Congress administration, calling them "illegal". In reaction, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said she "will not accept" the order.

Tension escalates in Nandigram over BJP activist's murder; locals block roads, burn tyres



Kolkata | Agencies

Tension has escalated in Nandigram under Tamluk Lok Sabha constituency in East Midnapore District in West Bengal over the murder of a woman BJP activist Rotibala Ari on Thursday morning by unknown miscreants. Nandigram residents have started staging protests against the murder by blocking roads and burning tyres.

Some of the shops owned by local ruling party activists were also set on fire.

At several places villagers cut down trees and used them to block roads. The epicentre of the tension is

Sonachura area where unknown miscreants, allegedly having links with the Trinamool Congress, attacked local BJP supporters with sharp weapons, in which one woman activist was killed and several others were injured.

A huge police contingent including personnel from the Rapid Action Force (RAF) have been deputed there to keep the situation under control.

At some places police had to resort to lathi-charge to bring the situation under control. However, till the time of the filing of this report there was no official reaction from the district police administration there. Similar tensions were wit-

nessed at Nandigram in 2007 and 2008 following the protest movements by the villagers against a proposed land acquisition by then Left Front government for setting up a chemicals hub there.

In fact the Nandigram movement is considered a milestone for influencing the end of the Left Front rule in 2011 and the beginning of the Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress regime in the state. Incidentally, Tamluk is one of the eight Lok Sabha constituencies going for polls in the sixth phase on Saturday and the legislator from Nandigram is the Leader of Opposition in West Bengal Assembly, Suwendu Adhikari.

ANJALI MURDER CASE: ACCUSED HANDED OVER TO CID FOR 8 DAYS BY K'TAKA COURT

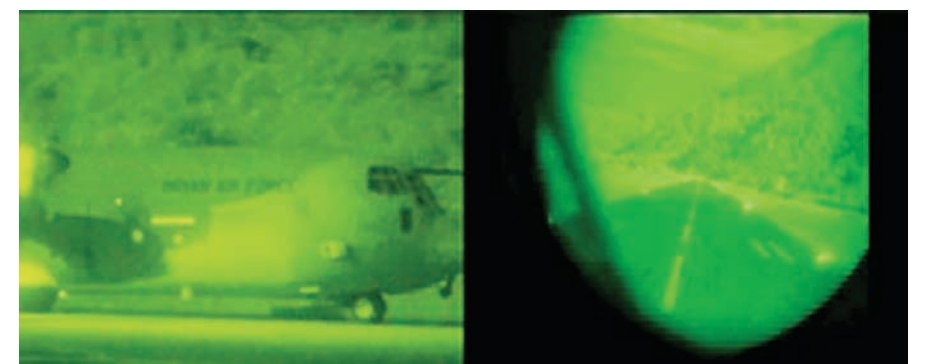
Hubballi: The Hubballi First Civil and JMFC Court on Thursday gave the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) eight days' custody of Vishwa, who is an accused in the Anjali Ambigera murder case.

The 20-year-old woman was stabbed to death in front of her family by the spurned lover at her residence in Hubballi city.

Though the CID had sought custody of Vishwa for 15 days, Judge Nagesh Naik passed the order giving eight days' remand.

The horrific murder had taken place close on the heels of MCA student Neha Hiremath's killing by a jilted lover. It had resulted in a furore over the law and order situation in the state and a lack of proper police action in Anjali's case as her family had informed the cops about the threat to her life by the accused.

IAF carries out successful night vision goggles-aided landing in Eastern sector



Team Absolute | New Delhi

In yet another significant milestone, an Indian Air Force (IAF) C-130J aircraft carried out a successful night vision goggles-aided landing at an Advanced Landing Ground in the Eastern sector.

Sharing two videos of the night landing on X, the IAF said on Thursday that it continues to expand capabilities and reinforce its commit-

ment to safeguard the nation's sovereignty by enhancing operational reach and defence preparedness.

Earlier this year, an IAF C-130J aircraft carried out a night landing at the Kargil airstrip by employing a terrain masking enroute in an exercise that also dovetailed a training mission of the Garud commandos.

According to the Ministry of Defence, IAF's C-130J is a

medium-sized, all-weather transport aircraft capable of inter-theatre and intra-theatre airlift operations.

It is capable of delivering combat troops, personnel or cargo by air-drop or air-landed operations.

IAF has significantly enhanced the night operational capability of the aircraft by procuring the latest generation of night vision goggles.

Priyanka Gandhi, Dimple Yadav to hold roadshow in Varanasi on May 25



Varanasi | Agencies

Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi and Samajwadi Party MP Dimple Yadav will hold a joint roadshow in support of the INDIA bloc candidate Ajay Rai in Varanasi on May 25.

UP Congress President and INDIA bloc candidate Ajay Rai said, "Priyanka and Dimple will address a pub-

lic rally in Kashi on May 25 where they will talk about women's issues."

The roadshow will start from the Seer Govardhan area after the two leaders offer prayers at Ravidas temple. Rai said that Congress MP Rahul Gandhi and SP president Akhilesh Yadav are also expected to hold a roadshow in Varanasi on May 28 or 29. He said that the details are being finalised.

EVM smashing case: Absconding Andhra MLA moves HC seeking anticipatory bail

Amaravati | Agencies

YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) legislator Pinnelli Ramakrishna Reddy, whom the police are searching after he was caught on camera smashing an EVM inside a polling booth in Andhra Pradesh, has approached the high court seeking anticipatory bail.

The MLA from Macherla Assembly constituency in Palnadu district filed a petition before the Andhra Pradesh High Court through his lawyer.

Ramakrishna Reddy is the accused No. 1 in the case registered by the police after a video of him smashing the EVM went viral two days ago.

The incident occurred at a polling booth in Macherla on May 13 during the simultaneous polling for the Assembly and Lok Sabha in Andhra Pradesh.

Meanwhile, at least eight police teams continued their search for the ruling party MLA for a second day on Thursday after the Election Commission



of India ordered his immediate arrest.

On Wednesday, the police found a couple of vehicles part of the MLA's convoy near Hyderabad. The MLA's driver and security guard have been detained for questioning.

Meanwhile, the Chief Electoral Officer, M.K. Meena, has ordered the suspension of the polling officer and assistant polling officer of the booth where the MLA smashed the EVM for

failing to provide information about the incident.

Ramakrishna Reddy, who is seeking re-election from Macherla as a YSRCP candidate for a fifth consecutive term, has been booked by the police under the relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), Representation of the People Act, 1951, and Prevention of Damage to Public Property (PDPP) Act, 1984. According to Meena, under these sections, the MLA could be jailed for up to seven years.

He also said the case was initially registered against unknown persons, but after going through the video footage, the MLA has been named as the main accused. The CEO said the police went to Hyderabad on the night of May 21 and raided the house of the accused, but he was not found there.

Ramakrishna Reddy had allegedly fled from Macherla while he was under house arrest, and was reportedly staying in Hyderabad since then.

Woman sits in pothole to flag poor condition of roads in Hyderabad

Hyderabad | Agencies

In a unique protest to highlight the poor condition of roads in the city, a woman in Hyderabad sat in a pothole filled with muddy water on Thursday.

The woman, a resident of Anandnagar Colony in Nagole, staged the protest on Thursday to draw the attention of the municipal authorities to the problems faced by the people due to potholes on the road. Vexed with the failure of the municipal authorities to respond to her pleas to fill the potholes, the woman sat in a pothole filled with muddy water. The woman claimed that her children suffered injuries after falling into potholes, adding that the stretch from Nagole to Uppal has as many as 30 potholes.

"Where is our road tax and municipal tax," read a placard she was holding.

A couple of residents from the area also joined her in highlighting the problem.

She said instead of silently suffering, people should join her in the protest. She also said that her repeated requests to the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) to fill the potholes failed to yield any response.

Later, a couple of traffic police officers persuaded the woman to end her protest.

She told mediapersons later that the local corporator facilitated a telephonic conversation between her and the municipal commissioner, who told her that a budget has been allocated (to resolve the issue).



EDITOR'S SPECS

Battle of egos

An unusual battle of egos between two big leaders from eastern Uttar Pradesh has taken everyone by surprise. Apna Dal (S) leader and Union Minister Anupriya Patel and Kunda MLA Raghuraj Pratap Singh a.k.a Raja Bhaiya have been issuing statements against each other which have shaken the political alignments in the region. The two are not contesting against each other and neither are their parties locked in the electoral battle. Yet, this is on its way to becoming a 'mother of all battles' in the ongoing Lok Sabha elections in Uttar Pradesh. Apna Dal (S) leader and Union Minister Anupriya Patel -- normally known to be a non-controversial politician -- ruffled feathers when she slammed the "self-proclaimed kings who thought Kunda (an Assembly segment in Kaushambhi) was their fiefdom". The statement, apparently directed at Raghuraj Pratap Singh a.k.a Raja Bhaiya who is an influential politician in the region, was seen as Patel's aggressive posturing to consolidate Dalit and OBC votes in the region. Raja Bhaiya hit back saying that "EVMs give birth to Jan sewaks (public representatives) and not kings. His party workers are reaching Mirzapur to campaign for the SP candidate, Ramesh Bind, who is the outgoing BJP MP from Bhadohi but joined SP after being denied a ticket. Raja Bhaiya, the scion of Bhadri estate in Pratapgarh, has been a seven-time MLA from Kunda since 1993 and wields clout in Kunda and its adjoining areas. His popularity among the Pasi community is well-known in political circles. Till this war began, Anupriya Patel was comfortable in her constituency because Raja Bhaiya had maintained his neutrality. But with his supporters now aggressively campaigning for SP, the ground situation could change in the coming days.

Addressing the Challenges of Low Voter Turnout in Elections

Atul Malikram

Voting for the five phases of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections has concluded, with an average voter turnout of around 57.44 percent across 429 seats. The Election Commission views a turnout of less than 60 percent as concerning. In light of this, it is crucial to address the factors contributing to the declining voter participation and to identify measures that could improve turnout. To tackle this issue, we must first raise pertinent questions, seek solutions, and consider making certain facilities more accessible. For instance, why shouldn't any adult citizen be able to vote from any location within the country? Why not implement mobile polling booths for individuals over 75 years old or those who are unwell? Additionally, why can't there be a system to transport voters over 75 years old or those in need? Furthermore, why shouldn't voters who are traveling for tourism or essential work be able to cast their votes? Although elections incur costs amounting to thousands of crores of rupees, if increasing voter turnout can be achieved by investing a few crores more in such initiatives, then these measures should be taken into seri-



ous consideration. According to the rules of the Election Commission, you have the right to vote only in your constituency, and for this, you need to register yourself in the voter list. While this is understandable, why not develop a system that accommodates voters who, due to employment, business, tourism, or medical emergencies, are unable to be in their constituency on polling day? Arrangements could be made in private or government buildings in every city to allow these voters to exercise their right to vote.

We live in an era of advanced technology with new innovations emerging daily. Why not create a technology-based system that allows a voter from Indore to cast their vote even if they are in Kanpur? This could be done through an online mode, with the vote being registered at the Indore polling station. Although there may be some initial challenges, these can be addressed to solve the issue of low voter turnout.

Just as members of the Army, security forces, or employees on election duty can cast their vote on a ballot paper from their place of work, similar arrangements should be made for individuals who, for various reasons, cannot be at their polling station. Such measures would ensure that everyone has the opportunity to participate in the electoral process, regardless of their location on polling day.

In the current Lok Sabha elections, there are 2.18 lakh voters over the age of 100. Why not arrange for mobile booths to accommodate these elderly voters? Mobile booths could operate in every city, positioned near the homes of identified voters, making it easier for them to cast their vote. Additionally, arrangements could be made to transport elderly individuals over 75 years of age to the polling station.

LS polls: BJP wants to improve tally, SP & BSP keen to retain hold in UP

With the sixth phase of polling in Uttar Pradesh scheduled to take place on May 26, the Samajwadi Party (SP) and Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) face the onerous task of retaining their seats in the ongoing Lok Sabha elections in the state. BJP won nine seats in 2019 including Sultanpur, Pratapgarh, Basti, Allahabad, Domariyaganj, Sant Kabir Nagar, Bhadohi, and Machhlishahr. The BSP had won four seats - Ambedkar Nagar, Shrawasti, Lalganj and Jaunpur while SP won Azamgarh which it later lost to BJP in a by-election and now face an uphill task to retain this seat in the ongoing Lok Sabha elections. The constituencies going to polls in the sixth phase include Sultanpur, Pratapgarh, Phulpur, Shrawasti, Basti, Jaunpur, Allahabad, Ambedkar Nagar, Domariyaganj, Sant Kabir Nagar, Lalganj, Azamgarh, Bhadohi, and Machhlishahr. This time, BJP's Maneka Gandhi is facing Ram Bhual Nishad of the Samajwadi Party (SP) and Udraj Varma of the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP). Maneka has successfully steered her campaign towards local developmental issues and is placed comfortably. In Pratapgarh, the sitting BJP MP Sangam Lal Gupta is taking on the SP's Shiv Pal Singh Patel and Prathmesh Mishra of BSP. The prestigious seat of Allahabad is witnessing a close contest between Neeraj Tripathi of the BJP and Ujjwal Rewati Raman Singh of the Congress. Neeraj is the son of the former Speaker late Kesri Nath Tripathi and Ujjwal is the son of former MP Reoti Raman Singh, both are working overtime to carry forward their father's political legacy. In Ambedkar Nagar, two former BSP leaders are challenging each other, albeit from different parties. Former BSP MP Ritesh Pandey is contesting on a BJP



ticket while Lalji Verma, former leader of the BSP legislature party, is the candidate from the Samajwadi Party. In Domariyaganj, Jagdambika Pal, sitting BJP MP, is locked in a close contest with Bhisma Shankar Tiwari of the SP and Khwaja Shamsuddin of the BSP. In Basti, sitting BJP MP Harish Dwiwedi is being challenged by Ram Prasad Chaudhary of SP while in Machhlishahr, BJP MP B P Saroj is seeking his third term and is facing Priya Saroj who is the SP candidate and daughter of former MP Tufani Saroj. Lalganj features Neelam Sonkar from the BJP and Daroga Saroj representing the SP with a young professor Indu Chaudhary of BSP, making the fight triangular. It is the Azamgarh seat, a stronghold of the SP with a sizeable Muslim-Yadav electorate, that is witnessing a keen contest between Bhojpur actor Dinesh Lal Yadav 'Nirahua' of the BJP and former MP Dharmendra Yadav. All top SP leaders have been campaigning for Dharmendra Yadav

and are pulling out all stops to ensure his win. Nirahua is banking on the work of the double-engine government to get a second term. Jaunpur is another seat that is witnessing an interesting contest between former Maharashtra minister Kripa Shankar Singh of the BJP and Babu Singh Kushwaha of the SP. The sitting MP Shyam Singh Yadav is the BSP candidate again. Mafia don-turned-politician Dhananjay Singh, whose wife Srikala Reddy Singh was denied a BSP ticket at the last moment, is playing the role of a kingmaker in this constituency. The Trinamool Congress is making its debut in UP politics in this election. Laliteshpati Tripathi is the TMC candidate in Bhadohi. He is the great-grandson of veteran Congress leader, late Kamlapati Tripathi. He is being challenged by Vinod Kumar Bind from the BJP and Athar Ansari of BSP. "We are winning all 14 seats in this phase because the voters have consolidated in favour of BJP," said BJP spokesman Rakesh Tripathi. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has campaigned aggressively in this phase, pushing a UP-centric narrative. "In the election, our country has two models. Modi's model is focused on 'Santushikaran' (satisfaction) while the SP, Congress and 'Ghamandiya' (selfish) model is based on 'Tushikaran' (appeasement). The playbook of the SP and the Congress is dangerous. These people seek votes here, while in south India, their allies abuse and humiliate the people of UP," PM Modi said in Jaunpur.

international

Recognising Palestinian state is a 'reward for terrorism', says Netanyahu

Tel Aviv | Agencies
Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has warned against the intended recognition of an independent Palestinian state as announced by Norway, Ireland, and Spain. "The intention of several European countries to recognise a Palestinian state is a reward for terrorism," Netanyahu said in a statement on Wednesday. "Eighty per cent of the Palestinians in Judea and Samaria (the West Bank) support the terrible massacre of October 7," he asserted. "This evil cannot be given a state." "This would be a terrorist state. It will try to repeat the massacre of October 7 again



and again; we will not consent to this," the Israeli Prime Minister asserted. "Rewarding terrorism will not bring peace and neither will it stop us from defeating Hamas," Netanyahu added.

state solution, as does the Palestinian Islamist Hamas movement. The Israeli Prime Minister would have little support from his ultra-right coalition partners for a more conciliatory approach to relations with the Palestinians. Critics have repeatedly accused Netanyahu of having tolerated or even encouraged the rise of Hamas in the Gaza Strip. As a rival to the more moderate Fatah of President Mahmoud Abbas, it has served to divide the Palestinian people to prevent a Palestinian state. Many right-wing Israelis consider a Palestinian state to be an intolerable security risk for Israel.

Teen boy among three dead after stabbing in Canada

Ottawa | Agencies
Three people, including one teenager, died after being stabbed during a fight in Montreal, Canada, two days ago, local media reported. According to the report, Montreal police received numerous 911 calls at 7 p.m. on Wednesday about the fight between at least 15 people in an alleyway on Rachel Street between Saint-Andre and Mentana streets in Plateau-Mont-Royal borough. Police said the suspect or suspects fled the scene before officers arrived and confirmed that the dispute was not related to organised crime or gangs, CTV News reported. The conflict unfortunately led to the deaths of three people, including a 15-year-old teenager as quoted by Xinhua news agency report. The people who died participated in the conflict, said the report. There have been seven homicides in Montreal in the last ten days. The deaths have been confirmed as the city's 14th, 15th and 16th homicides, CTV News reported.



standing by allies and partners in the reactions against Russia's illegal war of aggression against Ukraine," said Minister of Justice and Public Security Emilie Enger Mehl in a government press release. The only legal crossing point is the Storskog border station. The Norwegian authorities are monitoring border traffic there closely and taking the necessary measures, according to the government. Finland indefinitely closed its entire border with Russia in April.

Tough times ahead for Sharif govt as Oppn plans grand alliance, long marches to Islamabad

Islamabad | Agencies
A grand opposition alliance is in the making in Pakistan which plans to "topple" the coalition government of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif by holding massive rallies, protest sit-ins and forming a combined joint resistance. The current government, formed after the February 8 elections, has been on thin ice as political instability in the country remains a damaging constant. Important meetings have already begun between the top leadership of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), which is the largest opposition party in the National Assembly under the umbrella of Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC), and formidable Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazl (JUI-F). The opposition plans to assert pressure on the government to call an early election in the country. Interestingly, JUI-F leader Maulana Fazlur Rehman was the Chairman of the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM), an opposition coalition alliance of political parties, which joined hands against the then-ruling government of former Prime Minister Imran Khan and later



ensured his ouster through a successful no-confidence vote in the parliament. Fazlur Rehman has accused PTI and Imran Khan of being funded by India and Israel, accusing party leaders of being foreign agents who were working to spread chaos and instability in Pakistan. On the other hand, PTI and its Chief Imran Khan have labelled Fazlur Rehman as "diesel" and "maulana diesel" during various political rallies and campaigns in the past. However, with both sides sitting in the opposition benches now, it seems that they have buried their differences and joined hands to "topple" the ruling government.

Experts believe that a stronger opposition alliance can make life difficult for the Sharif government which is already facing massive criticism due to the charges of manipulation and deliberate rigging taking place during the February elections. Sources said that the opposition parties including PTI and JUI-F are gearing up to start an anti-government campaign by holding rallies, protests and multiple long marches towards the capital Islamabad. It is believed that Imran Khan has also called on his party leadership to start a campaign of protest rallies across the country. As the opposition parties join hands, top PTI leadership, including Imran Khan, has also started to get some relief in its ongoing legal cases. Khan has given a call to his leaders, who have been hiding for a long time, to come out and join consultations on the formation of an opposition alliance. Analysts say that the current situation and the ongoing open war between the country's judiciary and establishment work massively in Khan's favour.

Norway bars entry to most Russian tourists

Copenhagen | Agencies
Norway will bar entry to Russian tourists starting next week, the government said on Thursday, as Oslo continues to tighten its 198-kilometre Arctic land border with its neighbour. The Norwegian government began making it difficult for Russians to obtain entry visas for non-essential purposes in May 2022, in the wake of Russia's all-out invasion of Ukraine. The border region also became subject to stricter controls to prevent illegal crossings of Russians trying to escape military conscription or those who fear Moscow could impose an exit ban on its citizens. Starting next Wednesday, Norwegian police will have the power to expel Russians who are in the country on a tourist visa that was issued before May 2022. Such visas allow access to Europe's passport-free Schengen travel area. The new measures also apply to Russians in Norway who have a visa issued by other Schengen member countries. There will be exceptions to the new rules, however, including those visiting close family members living in Norway. Russians working or studying in Norway will not be affected. "The decision to tighten the entry rules are in line with the Norwegian approach of

Haley will vote for Trump, triggers V-P slot talk

Washington | Agencies
After running a spirited primary challenge to former US President Donald Trump, Nikki Haley, the former Ambassador to the UN, said on Wednesday that she will vote for him. "I will be voting for Trump," the Indian-descent politician said in a speech at Hudson Institute, a think-tank where she will hold a chair. "She went on to explain her reasons. As a voter, I put my priorities on a President who's going to have the backs of our allies and hold our enemies to account. Who would secure the border, no more excuses. A President who would support capitalism and freedom. A President who understands we need less debt, not more debt." "Trump has not been perfect on these policies. I have made that clear many, many times. But Biden has been a catastrophe." Haley's endorsement triggered talk of joining the Trump ticket as running mate. Trump, who has stoked speculation about his running mate naming those in consideration, has ruled out Haley. But if Haley can change her mind



about Trump, so and Trump about her. Running against him for the party's nomination to run for the White House, she had called him "unhinged" and chaos followed him wherever he went. She had even suggested a mental acuity test for candidates running for President citing some of his many fumbles, which included mistaking Haley for Nancy Pelosi, a former Democratic Speaker of the House of Representatives. A key reason Trump could change his mind on Haley is her supporters in the Republican Party, who remain so deeply hostile to him that they have continued to vote for her in the ongoing primaries even though she is no longer in the race. And these are not a handful of voters. She won 21 per cent of the votes in

the Indiana primary earlier this month even though she has been out of the contest for weeks now. Haley reminded Trump about her supporters. "Trump would be smart to reach out to the millions of people who voted for me and continue to support me and not assume that they're just going to be with him. And I genuinely hope he does." Even President Joe Biden's campaign has been eyeing Haley's supporters and has been wooing them as a sizable voting block. Trump has a tight grip on the core of the Republican Party, which ensured his victory in the primaries and grants him an extortionist's hold on the lawmakers of his party who fear the support of his base if they upset him. But Trump will need to carry his party to come within striking range of the White House and he needs Haley's supporters. None of the other Vice-President aspirants who Trump paraded at a recent fundraiser at his Mar-a-Lago resort, have anything similar to offer to the former President. She has secured 14 per cent in the Republican primaries even after exiting the race.





WHEN INVESTIGATORS TURNED SCAMSTERS: MADHYA PRADESH NURSING SCAM EXPLAINED

Inspector Rahul Raj, who was the leader of the CBI gang which took bribes from nursing colleges and declared them suitable, has been dismissed by the Home Ministry without any delay. But, Rahul's role is not limited to nursing scam only. Senior CBI officials have confirmed that Rahul Raj was also entrusted with the investigation of several important cases related to the Vyapam mega scam.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A new team from the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is likely to take over the investigation into Madhya Pradesh's nursing colleges scam after members of the agency's earlier team allegedly became a part of it. Four CBI officers, including a Deputy Superintendent-rank officer, have been named in the FIR and three have been arrested.

The Enforcement Directorate, it is learnt, can register a separate case under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act against the officers. Also, the colleges tagged "suitable" earlier could be re-examined.

The Case

An investigation by a news channel last year found gross irregularities in the functioning of nursing colleges in Madhya Pradesh. Top officials in the health education department were found running nursing colleges that did not even have a campus. Some "colleges" were found running from a few rooms. In the aftermath of the shocking revelations, the state nursing council cancelled the affiliation of 19 colleges. Following a high court order, the CBI investigation started a probe into the functioning of 670 colleges registered in 2020-21.

The CBI Twist

In its report on 308 nursing colleges, the CBI tagged 169 colleges "fit", 66 "unfit" and 73 "deficient". But there were questions. A government college in Rewa was declared "unfit". On the other hand, a college that was tagged "fit" had the address of a rented building from which a school was running. It is



alleged that CBI officers were providing "fit" tags in exchange for bribes. The agency's team would charge between Rs 2 lakh and Rs 10 lakh to tag an "unfit" college "fit". The investigation has revealed that the bribery cartel functioned through Rajasthan. A middleman would send the bribes to Jaipur and it would then be routed to a CBI officer, the probe has found. CBI officers Rahul Raj, Sushil Kumar Majoka and Rishi Kant Asathe have been arrested. Deputy SP Ashish Prasad is also an accused.

The CBI has searched 31 locations across Madhya Pradesh and Jaipur and found over Rs 2.3 crore in cash, 4 gold bars and incriminating documents. Rahul Raj, it is alleged, would coordinate with middlemen and share schedule of CBI inspections, fix and collect bribe amounts, and provide suitability report. He was caught red-handed while accepting Rs 10 lakh as bribe, it is learnt. Rahul Raj has

now been terminated from service.

Codewords such as "Chaach Glass", "Achar Ki Barni" and "Kilo Aam" were used to relay messages about bribe amounts and their collection, it is learnt.

The Rule Change

The gross irregularities coming to the fore in the functioning of nursing colleges in the state are playing out against the backdrop of the changes in the state government's guidelines for such institutions earlier this year. Earlier, such a college could only function if it had an area of at least 23,000 square feet. This minimum area requirement was reduced to 8,000 square feet. Also, the 10:1 ratio of assistant professor and students was tweaked to 20:1. The minimum area for a nursing lab was revised from 1500 square metres to 900 metres.

Channel's investigation had earlier found that many nursing colleges were running

without proper faculty or infrastructure. One faculty member was found teaching in at least 10 colleges across three cities -- as principal in some and associate professor in others. NDTV also found colleges that have no faculty hand out "certificates".

The Politics

The shocking findings in the case and the scale of corruption has prompted the Opposition to target the Mohan Yadav-led BJP government. Congress's Hemant Khatre, deputy leader of Opposition in the Assembly, has said a Supreme Court-monitored probe was required. "We have lost faith in CBI. The agency is functioning as a tool of the BJP. We will question the government in the Assembly, but if it does not reply convincingly, we will hit the streets," he said.

Asked about the matter, Chief Minister Dr Mohan Yadav had said the government "has to learn from past mistakes" and added he had issued several directions to ensure such irregularities do not happen. He had refused to elaborate, saying that the matter is sub-judice.

The Casualty

Trapped in the web of corruption and the politics surrounding the matter are the students, who stare at an uncertain future. Amid allegations of irregularities, about a lakh students waited for four years for their exams. The exams have finally started now, but the 12,000 students of colleges that were declared "unfit" have been left in the lurch. With the buzz of a relook at all the colleges after the fresh charge against CBI officers, these students are now wondering when they will begin their careers.

EC begins preparations for vote counting in MP



Team Absolute | Bhopal

After elections in all 29 Lok Sabha constituencies in Madhya Pradesh concluded on May 13, preparations for vote counting, which is scheduled for June 4, have begun.

Madhya Pradesh Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Anupam Rajan is visiting the strong rooms in different Lok Sabha constituencies in the state for the inspection.

On Thursday, the CEO visited the counting rooms, assembly-wise, and reviewed the preparations. Necessary guidelines have also been issued for inspecting the security arrangements and the monitoring of the strong rooms through CCTV.

District election in-charges have also been directed to review preparations and submit reports to the CEO.

Meanwhile, the Congress

and the BJP are also preparing for the counting.

MP Congress leadership has called for a meeting in Bhopal on Thursday, during which the party's polling agents will be given training.

As the state BJP leadership is busy campaigning for the remaining two phases, a meeting of polling agents will be called in the coming days.

Last week, the state Congress leadership held a meeting with all Lok Sabha candidates to take stock of the situation in each constituency. The meeting was chaired by MP unit head Jitu Patwari and the state in-charge, Bhanwar Jitendra Singh.

Notably, in the previous two general elections, the BJP had won 27 (2014) and 28 (2019) out of 29 seats in Madhya Pradesh. The Congress in the last election could only win Chhindwara.

Shivraj Singh Chauhan's son Kunal got engaged to the daughter of Jain family of Bhopal

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Former Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Shivraj Singh Chauhan got his son Kunal engaged to the granddaughter of Indermal, a Jain family of Bhopal. After the engagement, the family of former CM Shivraj is filled with happiness. After the engagement, there is an atmosphere of happiness in both the families.

It is noteworthy that Shivraj Singh Chauhan has two sons, the name of the elder son is Kartikeya and the name of the younger son is Kunal. Let us tell you that Shivraj's elder son Kartikeya Chauhan is very active in politics like his father. It is said that Shivraj's political legacy will be carried forward



by his son Kartikeya. Kartikeya has been campaigning for his father Shivraj since 2013.

Kunal Singh Chauhan is the younger son of Shivraj Singh, whose engagement remains a topic of discussion. In such a situation, if we talk about his personal life, Kunal remains far away from poli-

tics. Kunal is currently the Managing Partner of M/s Sundar Foods and Dairy. At present, his entire focus is on Sundar Foods and Dairy, where along with milk, ghee, paneer, lassi, curd and water are also available. The company says that since Kunal became partner, our company has progressed a lot.

Congress, TMC and Indi alliance want to end away Dalit, tribal and OBC reservation: Krishna Gaur

Team Absolute | Bhopal

State Government Minister Krishna Gaur, while addressing a press conference at the State Media Center of the Bharatiya Janata Party on Thursday, said that the Kolkata High Court has given a historic decision on Wednesday, in which the OBC certificates made after 2010 have been cancelled. Orders have been given. This decision of the High Court has awakened the confidence of the OBC community of West Bengal in justice and protection of their rights.

Bharatiya Janata Party welcomes it and demands from the West Bengal Government that this decision of the High Court should be implemented immediately. Gaur said that due to the temptation of Muslim appease-



ment, Mamata Banerjee is contemptuous of this decision of the court and is saying that she will not accept it.

Bharatiya Janata Party condemns this arrogant attitude of Mamata Banerjee. Backward Class Morcha workers protested against this attitude of Mamata Banerjee today by demonstrating and burning effigies in the entire state.

Krishna Gaur said that due to this action of Mamata Banerjee government, it had become ingrained in the minds of the OBC class of the entire country that Congress, TMC and Indian alliance are robbing the rights of OBCs. They want to end away the reservation of Dalit, tribal and OBC brothers and sisters. They want to violate the rights of backward classes by snatching reservation from these classes and giving it to Muslims.

MP LS POLLS: CONGRESS IN HIGH HOPES, BJP HAS WRINKLES ON FOREHEAD

Team Absolute | Bhopal

BJP, which held 29 to 28 seats in Madhya Pradesh in the last Lok Sabha, is facing the possibility of a major reshuffle this time. Amidst the difficulties faced by Malwa-Nimar, clouds of loss are also looming from Gwalior-Chambal. Everyone's eyes are on the results to be declared on June 4 and a period of speculation is also going on.

The assessment of political critics is going against BJP's unilateral victory. Their assessment says that there could be major upsets on five seats in Madhya Pradesh. According to their opinion, there is a close contest in Chhindwara, Rajgarh and Morena. Also, shocking results can be found in Ratlam and Mandla also. It is being said that there is a close contest between Nakulnath and Bunty in



Chhindwara. This assessment is saying that Diggi's magic can work on Rajgarh seat. Whereas in Morena, Congress and BSP can spoil the game of BJP. These political pundits say that BJP has hope in Ratlam only because of Modi factor. Whereas a triangular

contest in Satna can spoil the game. Similarly, BJP's Faggan Singh Kulaste may face a big challenge in Mandla. Election commentators believe that BJP may face a tough challenge in Gwalior, Chambal Malwa and Vindhya. They say that there is resent-

ment among the workers for BJP candidates in Gwalior-Chambal. Bharat Singh Kushwaha, who had lost the assembly elections in Morena, was made the Lok Sabha candidate. Similarly, in Vindhya too, there was resentment among local workers regarding the candidates. Rajesh Mishra from Sidhi and Janardan Mishra from Rewa were BJP candidates. Here in the Lok Sabha elections, there is a tough fight between BJP and Congress.

Here, tough competition has been seen in Dhar Ratlam and Khargone in Malvanchal. It is noteworthy that Congress has maximum seats in Dhar, Ratlam and Khargone. Out of total 66 assembly seats in Malwa-Nimar, Congress has 47 seats. The feedback received from the visit of party leaders to these areas after the elections has increased the concern of BJP.

ENVIRONMENTAL GAME IN RMNH

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Regional Museum of Natural History, Bhopal (A Regional Centre of National Museum of Natural History, New Delhi) is organizing various programmes under Summer Nature Study Programme-Green Cub for the students of class 5th to 7th. In continuation of the programmes 'Environmental Game' was organized for the participants on 23rd May, 2024 to make them understand the importance of various components of Environment. Dilip Kumar Chakravarty, Environmental Education Officer from EPCO arranged



various interesting environmental games like Tree Ecosystem, Build the Pyramid, Know your

National Parks and Sanctuaries, Segregation of Waste, Dripping Tap, Wishing Tree etc.

BJP LEADER WAS RUNNING A BETTING HOUSE, POLICE RAIDED, LEADER THREATENED OFFICERS

Police from Khajrana police station area raided a betting base and arrested Salim Mansoori, a supporter of BJP MLA Mahendra Hardiya, and his son. This henchman was betting in his house. Here betting on numbers and cards was being conducted 24 hours a day. DCP was receiving information for a long time. He even warned TI, yet the betting booth was not closed.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

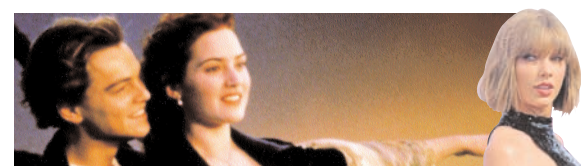
On this, the DCP formed two teams of IPS officers from two other areas and conducted the raid. During the action, the police seized Rs 11 lakh 77 thousand in cash, 8 mobiles, 9 bundled rolls, ATM and credit cards. TI can also be punished after being caught betting because, this raid was conducted by the police team of another police station area.

Zone-2 DCP Abhinav Vishwakarma had received information that betting was being done on a large scale in Khajrana area. On receiving information, DCP gave the responsibility of action to Pardeshipura ACP Narendra Rawat. They raided the concerned house along with heavy police force including Vijaynagar ACP Krishna Ramchandani, Pardeshipura police station incharge Pankaj Dwivedi, Sub Inspector Kamal Singh Raghuvanshi. Suddenly, seeing the police, the bookies started running away, but due to the promptness of the police, they could not succeed.



Abhinav Vishwakarma told that the raid was carried out in a three-storey house located in Ashrafi Nagar. This base belongs to Salim Mansoori, a leader associated with BJP Minority Morcha. Mansoori operated the betting booth through his son Alam. There were separate rooms for betting on all three floors. Some time ago, in the meeting of police station in-charges, the DCP had warned the station in-charges regarding betting. Khajrana TI still did not take action. Now the role of the entire police station staff including TI is being explored.

Sources said that Khajrana police was aware that betting was being conducted, but due to the setting it did not take any action. When the accused were arrested, many BJP leaders came to rescue them. The matter quickly went viral, so pressure on the police did not work. Despite Khajrana TI Sujit Srivastava having information about the betting den, he did not consider it appropriate to take action. This was the reason why the senior officer handed over the responsibility for action to the ACP of another police station.



Tiffany Haddish insists she is 'still dating' despite being celibate for months

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Tiffany Haddish said that she has not stopped dating but is still celibate amid her sobriety. "I didn't stop dating. I'm just not having intercourse, girl. I love a free meal," she told Extra, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

Haddish shared that her sobriety is "going pretty good" after she decided to quit booze after being arrested on suspicion of DUI in November 2023.

The 'Girls Trip' star quipped that the only time she'll drink again is if she gets engaged and wants to let her partner see "how crazy I get just for one day."

The actress said: "Not drinking any alcohol. Never doing that again unless I get engaged and I can show him how crazy I get just for one day."

"I don't want to do it because it feels good to wake up in the morning and my elbows ain't aching, my knees ain't burning, and the crooks of my ankles ain't on fire. No inflammation."

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Cate Blanchett is getting mocked for calling herself "middle class" despite her estimated \$95 million fortune.

The Oscar-winning actress made this statement during a United Nations press conference at the 2024 Cannes Film Festival.

Talking about her experience as a UN goodwill ambassador and giving refugee filmmakers a platform, she said: "I'm white, I'm privileged, I'm middle class, and I think, you know, one can be accused of having a bit of a white saviour complex, but to be perfectly honest, my interaction with the refugees in the field and also in resettled environments has totally changed my perspective on the world."

Blanchett has been a long-standing activist for humanitarian causes, and she stressed how "utterly grateful" she was for the experience and encouraged others with a platform to create a "dialogue with these people."

She added: "I've met some extraordinary people with extraordinary creative talents and amazing perspectives."

However, this did not go down well with netizens, who immediately started to troll her over the "middle class" claim on social media, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

One said: "You think you're middle class, Cate Blanchett?"

"I love Cate Blanchett, but in what world is she 'middle class', she's been in two major franchises and is worth an estimated \$90 million," said another.

A user said: "Under no circumstances is a net worth of \$95 million middle class!!!"

There were some who defended the actress, saying she may have meant she was "middle class" compared to billionaire showbiz figures.

CATE BLANCHETT GETS TROLLED AFTER DESCRIBING HERSELF AS 'MIDDLE CLASS'



Kate Hudson reveals she 'took a year off' men to stop negative dating patterns

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Kate Hudson shared that she once took a year long break from dating as per her therapist's recommendation.

"I took a full year off. I was like, 'What?' I couldn't floor no, yea, none of it. But it was great," Hudson said on the Call Her Daddy podcast.

The actress said she decided to go through the process when she was "thirty-something."

"I was at that place where I was, like, I don't wanna keep repeating any patterns anymore. I have a great therapist who was, like, 'I can help you, but you have to do it'," she said.

The actress said she got off track during the process because she likes to flirt.

"Basically, I was like, OK. Well, I guess I can't even text guys," Hudson said, adding that she stopped giving men her number, reports people.com. The actress said that while the process was "strangely empowering,"

it got "very uncomfortable" after it started affecting her mojo and was "not fun." "Because we were going through various specific types of therapy, it was really about figuring out certain things that were happening with me," she said. "And then I had this one sort of breakthrough that was very emotional that I don't think I would have been able to access if I had any distraction."

Hudson said she began to "see things much more clearly" and, within six months, stopped worrying about things like her phone or who she was going out with.

"There was no desire for me to be doing anything that had anything to do with potential, you know, flirtation," she said. "So, then, when I was doing that, I remember my therapist a year later was like, 'Okay, I think you can flirt again!'"

The actress said that while men began messaging her again, she didn't have the "same attachment" to flirting anymore. She also credited being single during that period with helping her end up with her now fiance, Danny Fujikawa.



James Lafferty insists he never got used to fame

Los Angeles | Agencies

'One Tree Hill' star James Lafferty said he "never got used" to fame, even though he first rose to prominence almost 20 years ago when he started off in the show. The actor told E! News: "It's surreal for everybody involved, including me. I never get used to (it) but in the best way."

The star recently got together with fellow co-stars Bryan Greenberg, Stephen Colletti, Paul Johansson, and Craig Sheffer for a charity basketball game and raised money for cancer, and he noted it was such a "gift" to be able to reunite with some of his former castmates for the event, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

James said: "It feels great to play a small part in supporting the (foundation's) progress. It means the world for us to be drawn back together. It means the world for us to be able to interact personally with the best fans in the world and to be able to do it all for a good cause."

"Just being back in this gym in particular, where we actually shot the show, and being with all the guys who originally played on the Ravens basketball team, it's surreal and it's wonderful," he said.

"Some of these guys, I haven't seen for a very long time. Some of them I have. But to have all of us together again, it's incredible. It's a gift," he added.



I AM PROMOTING WOMEN BEING SEEN AS PEOPLE: ANYA TAYLOR

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Anya Taylor-Joy revealed she was bullied at school and grew up feeling she was "wrong", which she believes is because her intensity and passion can be "frightening" for some people.

"The message I was getting at school was that everything about me was wrong. I think the way that I looked played into it, and then the extremes of my personality definitely played into it," she told Britain's GQ magazine's Heroes issue.

"If I loved something, I loved something. I have no chill in any regard, and that can be frightening for people, I guess."

The actress learned to "bury" herself as a defence mechanism in response to the bullying she faced.

"As a survival mechanism, you learn to be self-effacing and self-deprecating. You bury yourself before anybody else does," she said.

"What I'm coming to understand is: as long as you're not causing anyone



else harm, you have to stand your ground."

The 28-year-old actress has developed a "reputation for fighting for feminine rage," reports femalefirst.co.uk.

"How do I say this? I've developed a bit of a reputation for fighting for feminine rage, which is a strange thing because I'm not promoting violence -- but I am promoting women being seen as people. We have reactions that are not always dainty or unmessy," she said.

Jeremy Renner recalls how his muscle memory kicked in during the shooting of action sequences

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Jeremy Renner is back doing stunts after he nearly died in a snow-plough accident. The actor said that his muscle memory kicked in during the shooting of action sequences.

The 53-year-old actor, who suffered blunt chest trauma and orthopaedic injuries when he was crushed by the 14,000-pound vehicle in January 2023, didn't expect to be shooting action scenes again, reports 'Female First UK'.

However, he's got stuck in during filming of the upcoming third season of his show 'The Mayor of Kingstown' and expects to be fitter than ever in the coming months.

During an appearance on 'The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon', the host asked the



'Avengers: Endgame' actor if he was "back up to 100 per cent", to which he replied: "I don't know what that is. But I expect to be, like, 150 per cent by maybe the end of the year."

He further mentioned, quoted by 'Female First UK': "And doing stunts was like not on the docket for me because I was barely kind of walking around. But you know I went up and just said 'I'll just try it' and put on these tennis shoes. Let me try it. Muscle memory just kind of happened."

Jeremy admitted he wasn't "confident" in performing the stunts, but was pleased to have "got it done".

The actor added that performing the stunts was another sign he was "moving forward" from his accident.

He said: "It's moving forward. And it's always nice to get a little pat on the back of progress, right? And progress is great fuel to keep progressing."

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Bella Thorne



Telugu actresses Hema and Ashi Roy's blood samples test positive for drug use after rave party raid

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Telugu actresses Hema and Ashi Roy's blood samples have tested positive for the consumption of drugs at a rave party in Bengaluru.

The rave party bust happened near Electronics City in Bengaluru. The blood samples of the attendees at the busted rave party were sent to a laboratory for testing, as per Bengaluru City Police Commissioner B Dayananda.

The blood samples of 59 men tested positive for drugs while the blood samples of 27 women tested positive.

Both Hema and Ashi Roy were present at the party. Hema, who was detained by the cops, used the excuse of going to the washroom to record a misleading video. She reportedly pleaded with the police not to arrest her and to keep her identity concealed.

The rave party case, which was initially handled by the Electronic City Police, was transferred to the Hebbagodi Police station before being taken over by the Central Crime Branch. The rave party reportedly had MDMA pills, crystals, hydro cannabis and cocaine at the venue.

Divya Khosla recounts how she shot for 45 days at 6 degrees Celsius in the UK

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Divya Khosla, who is gearing up for her upcoming thriller movie, has shared that the team shot for 45 days at -6 degrees Celsius in the UK.

She also recollected how she had to wear heavy winter clothing in Mumbai in order to maintain continuity while shooting certain parts of the film.

The actress said: "The whole movie was shot in 45 days at -6 degrees Celsius temperature. When you watch the movie, you will feel cold. I personally enjoy working in cold weather and don't prefer working in the summer."

She further mentioned, "We had to do a small bit of shoot here in Bombay also when I had to wear the layered jackets and everything and shoot in this hot weather and that was actually more difficult than shooting in the cold."

The trailer of 'Savi' gives a glimpse of a riveting story where Divya's character carries out a prison break to save her husband (Harshvardhan Rane) from a potential threat to his life after he is framed in a case.

The trailer features several intense sequences including gun fights, hand-to-hand combat, and planning and execution of the jail break.



I was brought up in an environment that boosted my moral compass : Neha Sharma

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Neha Sharma, who will soon be seen in the third season of 'Illegal' alongside Akshay Oberoi, said that she knows many people who operate in the gray area, but she was raised by her parents to firmly see things as either black or white.

While speaking about the plot development in season 3, Neha said: "This season, Niharika will be seen in a new form. Of course, you will still see glimpses of the old Niharika, but now that she has built her own firm with Punnet, she has changed."

"We see a bit of resemblance



her and JJ (Janardhan Jaitley) as her goals have shifted. She takes on many interesting cases this season, all inspired by real-life incidents."

The actress added: "I was brought up in an environment that boosted my moral compass. I know many people who operate in the gray area, but my parents raised me to firmly see things as either black or white."

"I can't relate to Niharika in this season, as she ventures into the gray zone a lot. However, I do understand our writers and director's intention for Niharika's character development and consider it necessary."

Rashmika Mandanna

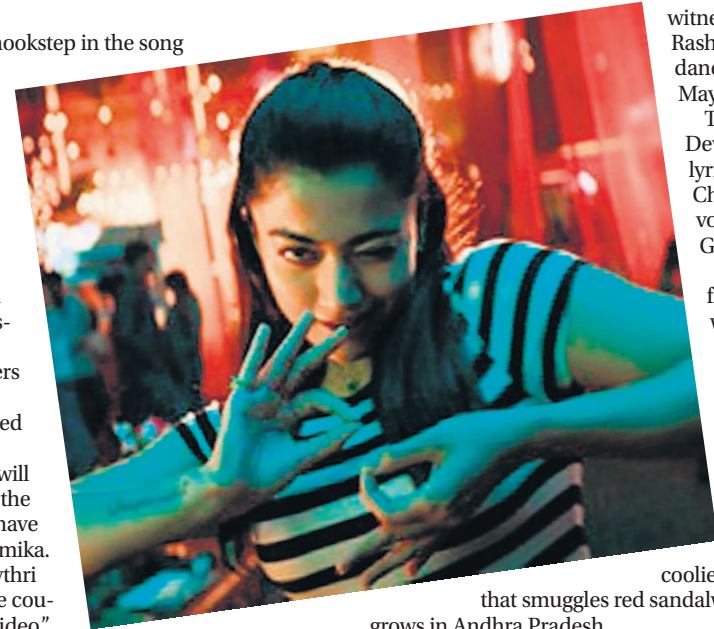
showcases new hookstep for song 'Sooseeki'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

After giving the viral hookstep in the song 'Saami Saami' from 'Pushpa: The Rise', actress Rashmika Mandanna is all set to showcase her dancing prowess with another catchy step in the upcoming track 'Sooseeki' in the second instalment of the Allu Arjun-starrer 'Pushpa 2: The Rule' as per the teaser.

On Thursday, the makers of the film Mythri Movie Makers took to X and shared the teaser of the song and announced that the track will drop on May 29. Calling it the 'Couple Song', it will also have Allu Arjun alongside Rashmika.

Dropping the teaser, Mythri Movie Makers, wrote: "The couple song announcement video." On YouTube, the song was



that smuggles red sandalwood, a rare wood that grows in Andhra Pradesh.

described as: "Get ready to witness the true 'Sooseeki'! Rashmika is coming with a dance step! Song releasing on May 29. Stay tuned!"

The song is composed by Devi Sri Prasad, and the lyrics are written by Chandra Bose, with the vocals given by Shreya Ghoshal.

The first track from the film titled 'Pushpa Raj' was released in Telugu, Hindi, Tamil, Kannada, Malayalam, and Bengali and centred around Allu Arjun.

The first instalment 'Pushpa: The Rise', was released in 2021. It revolved around Allu Arjun's character, a

coolie, who rises in a syndicate

I just like to experience my life through people and their reactions : Nimrat Kaur

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Nimrat Kaur, who started her acting career with the music video 'Tera Mera Pyar' in 2005, has reflected on her two decades of journey in the industry, sharing that she has tried to enjoy the moments, and not rest on past laurels.

The actress featured in Kumar Sanu's song 'Tera Mera Pyar' before doing a few commercials for television.

She made her film debut with a small role in the English movie 'One Night with the King', before starring in the 2012 crime thriller 'Peddlers' directed by Vasana Bala.

Nimrat said, "So much has

happened. I have learned so much. And I have enjoyed every bit of it. 'Tera Mera Pyar' was my first work on camera. I had just come to Mumbai... I was very fortunate that it came my way, and opened the advertising world before me. I did a lot of ads after that. Then I did a lot of theatre."

She added, "I have always been a student of life as an actor, and tried to learn every medium that I have explored. When I did 'The Test Case', it was one of the few web series to be made in India. I enjoyed every turn of this journey. I have tried to enjoy the moments, and not rest on past laurels or 'ki wo experience jo

tha wahi hona chahiye dubara'.

"The Lunchbox waisi thi, waise hi dubara ho'. No experience is ever repeated in life."

Nimrat, who last featured in the movie 'Sajini Shinde Ka Viral Video', said she enjoys life's reality, adding that everything comes with its own set of problems and excitement. "I don't feel like it's been 20 years... It feels like a lot, sounds like a lot. What happens with actors is when you are essaying a part, a part of your life and your years are gone. Time keeps passing by... It's very interesting when you look back, I just like to experience my life through people and their reactions, and understandings," she added.



SHIRISH SPEAKS SO MUCH THAT ALL OF US HIDE BEHIND THE COUCH : FARAH KHAN

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Filmmaker-choreographer Farah Khan has spilled the beans on who wears the pants in the family and how it's a role reversal at home with her husband, Shirish Kunder, being the boss. Farah appeared along with senior actor Anil Kapoor on the new episode of 'The Great Indian Kapil Show', hosted by comedian Kapil Sharma.

During the conversation, Farah revealed that at home, her husband-filmmaker and film editor Shirish, is the more talkative one.

Kapil asks Farah what the situation is like at home with Shirish, saying, "When she is the director, she scolds everyone. The audience wanted to know this. Have you ever scolded Shirish at home?"

Farah replies, "It's the opposite for me. Shirish is the boss in the house. He doesn't speak when he is out. At home, he speaks so much that all of us hide behind the couch. Thinking that he'll come and start giving us lectures. So at home, I am very calm, and polite."



INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Chahatt Khanna