

absolute india

VOL. 7, ISSUE 178, NEW DELHI | WEDNESDAY, MAY 01, 2024 | ₹5 | PAGE 08

PUBLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM NEW DELHI, MUMBAI AND BHOPAL

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T20 WC: ROHIT TO LEAD INDIA'S 15-MAN SQUAD, HARDIK VICE-CAPTAIN



New Delhi: Rohit Sharma will lead the 15-member squad that will represent India at the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 in the West Indies and USA, scheduled from June 1 to 29.

All-rounder Hardik Pandya will be Rohit's deputy in the showpiece event. India will begin their T20 World Cup campaign against Ireland on June 5 at the Nassau County International Cricket Stadium, New York, followed by the marquee clash against Pakistan on June 9 at the same venue. India will then play USA and Canada on June 12 and 15 respectively. India Squad for T20 WC: Rohit Sharma (Captain), Hardik Pandya (Vice Captain), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, Rishabh Pant (WK), Sanju Samson (WK), Shivam Dube, Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Yuzvendra Chahal, Arshdeep Singh, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohd. Siraj.

Reserves - Shubman Gill, Rinku Singh, Khaleel Ahmed and Avesh Khan

AstraZeneca admits Covishield jab raises TTS risk. Should you be worried?

COVISHIELD IS FATAL

Thrombosis Thrombocytopenia Syndrome (TTS) -- a blood clot disorder -- is a rare side effect of AstraZeneca's Covid vaccine, and the benefits far outweigh the risks of the jab, said doctors here on Tuesday. The Oxford-AstraZeneca Covid vaccine, sold as Covishield in India and Vaxzevria in Europe is a viral vector vaccine developed using the modified chimpanzee adenovirus ChAdOx1. Covishield manufactured and marketed in India in partnership with Serum Institute of India (SII), was widely administered in the country -- to almost 90 per cent of the Indian population.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

This comes after reports said that AstraZeneca has for the first time accepted in court documents that its vaccine, developed in partnership with Oxford University, can raise the risk of a rare and serious blood clot. "Thrombotic Thrombocytopenic Syndrome (TTS) is one of the rare but

What is the case?

The British-Swedish multinational pharmaceutical company has admitted for the first time in the UK court documents that its Covid vaccine can cause a rare blood clot risk, the Telegraph reported. About 51 cases have been lodged in the UK High Court against the pharmaceutical giant over claims that its Covid vaccine caused death and serious injury.

The victims and grieving relatives have sought damages, estimated to be worth up to 100 million pounds, the report said.

Although AstraZeneca is contesting the claims "it has accepted, in a legal document submitted to the High Court in February that its Covid vaccine 'can, in very rare cases, cause TTS'", the report said. TTS causes people to have blood clots and a low blood platelet count.



AstraZeneca's Covid vaccine and link to TTS?

In India, almost 90 per cent of people who received Covid vaccine, received the AstraZeneca vaccine which in India is called Covishield. It is made from a harmless cold virus, which is from chimpanzees and is called adenovirus. "Once this virus is genetically modified or engineered to match the SARS-CoV-2, a causative organism for Covid-19, this works on a spike protein. So, the vaccine is incorporated with the S spike protein genetic sequence," said Dr Gilada, Secretary General People's Health Organisation-India, Mumbai. Explaining the mechanism of potential TTS risk, he said that the vaccine is injected in the arm which is in the deltoid muscle. However, "sometimes instead of just getting into muscles, it also enters the bloodstream. Once it enters the bloodstream, the adenovirus in the vaccines acts like a magnet, with a special affinity to a type of protein in the blood called platelet factor 4 (PF4)," the doctor said. "While PF4 is normally used by the body to promote coagulation in blood, in rare instances, the body's immune system confuses it as a foreign body or foreign invader and then releases antibodies to attack it -- called mistaken identity. "It is theorised that such antibodies then react and clump together with PF4, forming the blood clots that have become so heavily linked with the vaccine. Such clots in the brain and heart can cause disastrous adverse effects," the doctor said.

very serious adverse effects that has happened as part of Vaccine-induced Immune Thrombotic Thrombocytopenic Purpura (VITP). The incidence has been as low as one in 50,000 (0.002 per cent), but in a huge population, the number becomes sizeable," infectious disease expert Dr Ishwar Gilada, told correspondent.

"TTS is a very rare condition resulting from an abnormal immune response. Although it has several causes, it has also been linked with adenovirus vector vaccines and the WHO published a report on May 27, 2021 about it," Dr Rajeev Jayadevan, co-chairman of the Indian Medical

Association's National Covid-19 Task Force, told correspondent.

SHOULD ALL COVISHIELD VACCINE TAKERS BE WORRIED?

"No, we need not because it has happened to a very few people," Dr Gilada said. "The difficulty is to distinguish between the complications that are caused by Covid itself or long-Covid or the vaccine. That remains debatable and indistinguishable for the scientific community as also the legal fraternity," he added.

Importantly, Dr Jayadevan said: "People who are vaccinated have an overall lower risk of death from Covid as well as complications such as post-Covid heart attacks and strokes afterwards." "Although there are extremely rare serious side effects for vaccines, the benefits far outweigh the risks. Covid vaccines have prevented hundreds of thousands of people from dying. For example, in the US, 232,000-318,000 people have died from Covid, due to refusal to vaccinate from disproportionate fear of vaccination," he added.

Cong has only one identity, betrayer: PM Narendra Modi



Dharashiv (Maharashtra): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday asked if a weak government can make a strong nation and if the Congress government can take India to new heights. He also accused the party of being a betrayer.

"Can a weak government make a strong nation? The Congress has only one identity, i.e. betrayal," said PM Modi in his speech at a campaign rally for NCP nominee, Archana Patil from Dharashiv constituency.

Patil is pitted against the Shiv Sena (UBT) nominee Omraje Nimbalkar. Stepping up his attack against the Congress party, PM Modi

claimed that it had failed to provide water for agriculture.

He said that the Union government took a slew of steps to help farmers and boost agriculture. In his speech PM Modi countered Nimbalkar's criticism against the government's apathy towards soybean farmers. "Before 2014, the government had procured pulses and oil seeds worth Rs 12,000 crore in 10 years. However, the government through the Minimum Support Price has procured and supplied pulses and oil seeds worth Rs 1.25 lakh crore in 10 years. This is just a trailer as the mission is still to be achieved. The government is resolved to make the country self-sufficient in pulses and oil seeds," he added.

"The Congress is now eyeing your money and keeping an eye on your wealth. They intend to raid your house and loot half of your wealth. The Congress is preparing to grab mangalsutras and ornaments from women," PM Modi alleged.

Modi government insulted the army: Rahul Gandhi

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has launched a scathing attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP over the Agniveer scheme implemented in the Army.

In a public meeting organized in support of Congress candidate Phool Singh Baraiya from Bhind parliamentary constituency of Madhya Pradesh, Rahul Gandhi said that the Modi government has insulted the country's army through the Agniveer scheme. Most of the people from here join the army. Modi government has created two types of soldiers. One will get pension, canteen and good training and the other jawan will neither get canteen, pension nor good salary. One is called Agniveer and the other is an ordinary soldier. One will be given facilities for martyrdom, the other will not even get the status of martyr.

Rahul Gandhi alleged that



he had insulted the army. Soldiers and common people do not want Agniveer, if only anyone wants it then it is PM Modi. This is not a trivial election, it is a fight between two ideologies.

He alleged that BJP wants this book to be thrown away. This election is an election for democracy and the fight for the rights of tribals. There is no power in the world that can change the Constitution. But, people of BJP are dreaming. The Congress Party fought the British along with Ambedkar and made this Constitution with the voice of the people of India. We will not let it disappear like this.

SP LEADER BOOKED FOR 'VOTE JIHAD' SPEECH

Farrukhabad (UP): A

case has been filed against SP leader Maria Alam Khan and Congress leader Salman Khurshid under Section 188 and Section 295A of the Indian Penal Code and the Representation of the People Act for attempting to create communal polarisation through inflammatory statements. This meeting was organised by Salman Khurshid and videos of the controversial speech have now gone viral on social media. The Election Commission has taken a serious view of the call for 'vote jihad' given by SP leader Maria Alam Khan, niece of former Foreign Minister Salman Khurshid, at the public meeting held in support of the INDIA bloc candidate in Kayamanj. The FIR has been filed by Flying Squad Magistrate Dr Manoj Kumar Sharma. According to reports, Maria Alam Khan had said in her speech that in the current situation facing the minority community, 'vote jihad' is necessary. Maria said that every woman, every man will fight the war of 'vote jihad' to save the Constitution. On Maria Alam Khan using the word 'vote jihad' in the public meeting, Salman Khurshid said, "Generally we avoid using such words because its literal meaning is misinterpreted. Jihad means to fight against a situation. This must have been her intention that 'vote jihad' should be carried out to protect the Constitution."



SC asks ED to explain 'timing' of CM Kejriwal's arrest

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to explain the timing of the arrest of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal after the Model Code of Conduct for the Lok Sabha polls came into force.

Observing that liberty is exceedingly important, a bench, headed by Justice Sanjiv Khanna, asked Additional Solicitor General S.V. Raju, representing the ED, to get prepared on the questions raised around the timing of arrest on the next date of listing. The Bench, also comprising Justice Dipankar Datta, was hearing the plea filed by CM Kejriwal challenging his arrest and subsequent custody by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in the excise policy case. It also asked ASG Raju to explain the gap between the date of arrest and the initiation of the investigation. Further, it queried the ED regarding Kejriwal's role, particularly when no attachment proceedings have been taken against him by the federal anti-money laundering agency so



far. The matter will be taken up for further hearing on May 3.

On Monday, the top court had queried Kejriwal as to why he did not move a bail application before the trial court. In response, senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, appearing for Kejriwal, said: "We have not filed a bail application because the arrest is 'illegal' and the width of Section 19 (of Prevention of Money Laundering Act) is much much wider when the arrest is per se illegal". The ED is required to demonstrate the "necessity to arrest" on the "materials available" with a "reason to believe" that the accused has been guilty of an offence under the anti-money laundering law, he said, arguing that documents, including CBI's FIR and ED's ECIR, did not connect Kejriwal remotely with the alleged scam.

Indian Ocean Likely To See Near-Permanent Heatwave: Study

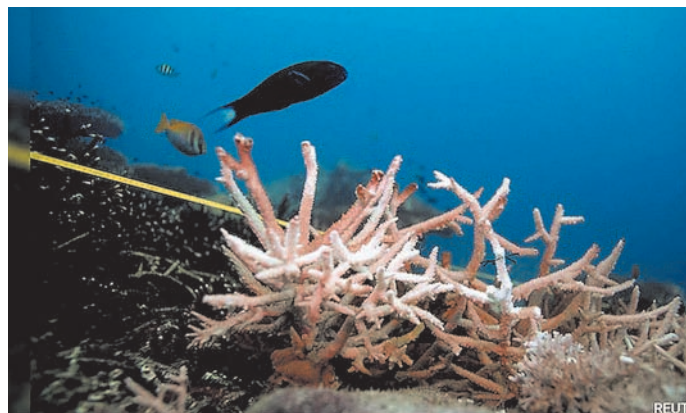
The Indian Ocean Dipole, a climate pattern that affects the monsoon and cyclone formation, is also predicted to change. The study says that the frequency of extreme dipole events is predicted to increase by 66% whereas moderate events will decrease by 52% by the end of the 21st century. This could spell bad news for monsoon-dependent India.

While the Indian Ocean warmed at a rate of 1.2 degrees Celsius per century in the 70 years between 1950 and 2020, the study said climate models predict the warming will accelerate and go up to between 1.7 and 3.8 degrees Celsius until 2100.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Sounding a massive warning bell, a study has revealed that the warming of the Indian Ocean is going to lead to the worsening of severe cyclones and heavy rainfall events and that the world's third-largest water body is heading towards a near-permanent heatwave state.

The study said that the Indian Ocean and its surrounding countries face the highest risk of natural hazards. This is particularly important because the ocean is bordered by 40 countries, which are home to a third of the global population, and climatic changes in the region have major societal and economic impacts. The effects are expected to be more severe in and around India as the rise in sea-water temperatures has been highest in the Northwestern Indian Ocean, including the Arabian Sea.



Measured as 'maximum basin-average temperatures' the temperature in the Indian Ocean between 1980 and 2020 was between 26 degrees and 28 degrees Celsius throughout the year and the study has warned that, in a high emission scenario, even the minimum temperature by the end of this century will be above 28 degrees Celsius -

between 28.5 degrees and 30.7 degrees. Marine heatwaves cause a rapid intensification of cyclones, where a cyclone goes from a depression to a severe category in just a few hours. They also lead to coral bleaching and the destruction of seagrass and kelp forests, which can have a major negative impact on the fisheries sector.

India Recorded 79 Million Cyber Attacks In 2023, Ranks 3rd Globally

Team Absolute | New Delhi

India ranked as the third-largest country globally for phishing attacks after the US and UK, with its technology sector facing nearly 33 per cent of all such strikes, marking it as the most targeted industry, according to a report.

The report by cybersecurity firm Zscaler showed a 60 per cent rise in global phishing attacks over the past year.

The ThreatLabz 2024 Phishing Report gathered insights from 2 billion blocked phishing transactions between January and December 2023. "In 2023, India ranked as the third-largest country globally for phishing attacks, following behind the US and UK. The technology industry in India faced nearly 33 per cent of all phishing attacks, marking it as the most targeted sector among industries," the report



said. The finance and insurance sector has become the prime target for cyber attackers and witnessed the highest number of phishing attempts in 2023, it added.

It was followed by the manufacturing industry, which saw a 31 per cent

uptick in phishing attacks between 2022 and 2023. Increasing adoption of AI technology by these sectors makes them even more 'lucrative targets' for phishing schemes, given the increased reliance on data, the report said.



PRAJWAL REVANNA 'SEX VIDEO' CASE: CONGRESS, BJP CONTINUE TO TRADE BARBS AHEAD OF LS POLLS IN K'TAKA

Bengaluru | Agencies

The Congress and the BJP in Karnataka continued to spar over the alleged sex video scandal involving JD-S leader Prajwal Revanna, the grandson of former Prime Minister and H.D. Deve Gowda, ahead of the third phase of Lok Sabha polls to be held on May 7.

On Tuesday morning, the JD-S suspended Prajwal Revanna, the sitting party MP and Lok Sabha candidate from Hassan, after the Congress government in Karnataka formed a special investigation team (SIT) to probe allegations of sexual abuse against him. Speaking to the media in Hubballi, Union Minister Pralhad Joshi questioned the state government for not lodging an FIR against Prajwal Revanna immediately after the alleged scandal came to light.

"People are saying there is an internal adjustment between Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and H.D. Reavanna (JD-S MLA and father of Prajwal Reavanna). The Congress is resorting to levelling allegations with utter irresponsibility," he said.

"The police should have filed the FIR immediately... Why did the police let him fly off to a foreign country. The state government is trying to pass the blame on the Centre," Joshi said.

The Minister also said that JD-S is an independent party, which has now



expelled Prajwal Revanna.

"There is no opposition from the BJP to the action taken by the JD-S in this regard. Former CM and JD-S state unit chief H.D. Kumaraswamy has said that those who commit crime must be punished. Neither the JD-S nor the BJP are opposed to the expulsion of Prajwal Revanna," he said. Joshi also slammed the Congress for alleging that the BJP is helping Prajwal Revanna to go into hiding.

"Allegations should not be levelled with an ulterior motive. The case has become more sensitive since Prajwal Revanna is the grandson of former

Prime Minister Deve Gowda. If he has made a mistake, he should be punished as per the law," the Union Minister said. Meanwhile, the Congress candidate from Bangalore Rural Lok Sabha constituency, D.K. Suresh, who's the brother of Deputy CM D.K. Shivakumar, told the media in Kanakapura that the case involving Prajwal Revanna is not only an insult to the Deve Gowda family, but to the entire state.

"This is an insult to Kannada people. The scandal needs to be condemned by all. A complaint has been lodged against Prajwal Revanna,

who's an NDA candidate, and there should be an impartial probe against him. The victims must be protected by the state women's commission," he stated. "After coming to know about the case, the Deve Gowda family tried to hush up the matter. Attempts were also made to threaten the victims. We have to wait and see what advice the former Prime Minister will give now," he said. Meanwhile, Karnataka DGP Alok Mohan said that an SIT has been formed to probe the matter and nothing could be said at this stage as the investigation is underway.

BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha wins global applause for humanitarian, spiritual activities

Team Absolute | New Delhi

BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Sanstha has received global applause and appreciation for its commendable work in the field of humanitarian assistance and spirituality.

The Commonwealth of Virginia General Assembly on Tuesday recognized and appreciated the commendable work by BAPS temple as well as the Sanstha, in presence of all delegates.

Kannan Srinivasan, the House patron in effusive praise for the organization said, "Bochasanwasi Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha (BAPS) is a social spiritual organization and temple. Their volunteer-driven fellowship is dedicated to improving society by promoting individual growth and fostering Hindu values of faith, service and global harmony."

"BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir has enriched the lives of its members through spiritual guidance and abundant opportunities for worship, fellowship and community outreach," the Commonwealth of Virginia said in a press note.



It further said that BAPS Mandir actively supports the local community through presentations on health care and wellness, walkathons to benefit local and national organizations and agencies and conferences to empower

and uplift the women. "BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir connects with and nurtures the youth through various activities, preparing them to upright citizens and the leaders of tomorrow," the statement read.

Shiv Sena fields Eknath Shinde loyalist Yamini Jadhav from Mumbai South

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena on Tuesday named party legislator from Byculla, Yamini Jadhav, as its candidate for the Mumbai South Lok Sabha constituency against Shiv Sena (UBT) nominee and sitting MP Arvind Sawant.

The two Shiv Sena factions are now pitted against each other after the BJP left its claim over the South Mumbai seat.

In her first reaction, Yamini Jadhav said, "We will fight as MahaYuti and win the seat." Yamini Jadhav's candidature was announced days ahead of the last date for filing of nomination on May 3, while the polling will take place in Mumbai South on May 20. Names of Rajiya Sabha member and former minister Milind Deora and



Jadhav's husband and ex-BMC Standing Committee Chairman Yashwant Jadhav were doing the rounds for the South Mumbai seat in the Shiv Sena circles.

On the other hand, Assembly Speaker Rahul Narwekar and BJP Minister Mangal Prabhat Lodha were the frontrunners for the BJP.

Drop in poll percentage in first 2 phases scared BJP: Mamata Banerjee

Kolkata | Agencies

The drop in the polling percentage in the first two phases of the Lok Sabha elections has made the BJP scared which is evident in the body language of its leaders, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee claimed on Tuesday.

"The BJP got information from the Election Commission of India that the polling percentage has declined. So they are scared. They are realising that the public appeal in the name of the Prime Minister is not the same anymore. So their tone has softened to a great extent," the Chief Minister said while addressing an election meeting in Malda on Tuesday.

CM Banerjee also claimed that since the BJP is jealous of the progress made by West Bengal



under the leadership of Trinamool Congress, it is resorting to spreading negative propaganda against the state government.

The Chief Minister also expressed pain that her party candidates never got elected from any of the two Lok Sabha constituencies in Malda district.

"We never got elected from Malda district. Can you change the trend this time? Will you dishearten us this time as well," the Chief Minister asked the gathering.

She also claimed that the elected public representatives of the BJP do not stand beside the people for five years after the polls are over.

"So the time has come for a change and to dethrone the BJP from Delhi," the Chief Minister said.

CM Arvind Kejriwal is fine, getting insulin regularly, says Punjab CM after visiting Tihar jail

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann met his counterpart Arvind Kejriwal in Tihar jail on Tuesday, a prison official said.

He arrived at Tihar at 12.30 p.m. and left the premises around 1.10 p.m.

After meeting the incarcerated Delhi Chief Minister, CM Mann, while talking to reporters said that CM Kejriwal asked about the latest developments in the health and education spheres in Punjab.

"He also enquired about the board results in Punjab. He has assured Delhiites that he is fine and getting insulin



and medical check-ups regularly," said CM Mann. The Punjab Chief Minister

said that CM Kejriwal has urged everyone to go and vote. The meeting comes a

day after Sunita Kejriwal and Delhi Minister Atishi met Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in Tihar jail on Monday, said a prison official.

CM Kejriwal, who was arrested on March 21 by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in the alleged excise scam, is lodged in Tihar's Jail No-2.

The jailed Delhi CM has provided a list of six individuals with whom he wants to meet in prison.

The ED has termed CM Kejriwal the "kingpin and the key conspirator" of the alleged excise scam in collusion with other ministers of the Delhi government, AAP leaders, and other persons.

NURSING STUDENT COMMITS SUICIDE AT AIIMS HOSTEL

New Delhi: A

"depressed" 21-year-old Bachelor of Science (B.Sc) Nursing student committed suicide at the All India Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS) hostel on Tuesday, police said. Police said that at around 11.30 a.m., a police control room call regarding the suicide of a girl at an AIIMS hostel was received and a police team reached the spot. The student, a resident of Sheikhpura, Bihar, who was in B.Sc (Nursing) second year, was found hanging to the ceiling fan with a dupatta," a senior police official said. "The crime team inspected the place. No foul play is suspected so far.

Poster featuring Yasin Malik, ex-PM Manmohan Singh & seeking votes for Cong removed by Delhi Police

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A controversial poster featuring jailed Kashmiri separatist leader Yasin Malik and former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and 'urging people to vote for Congress' was taken down by Delhi Police on Tuesday.

The poster was put up in the Mandi House roundabout area.

"Vote for Congress to support freedom of speech and release of Yasin Malik," read the poster. There was no mention of the printer's name on the poster.

A senior police officer said they had removed the poster from the area and no similar posters were detected elsewhere.

"We are probing who had put the poster here," said the official. In 2022, Yasin Malik was sentenced to life imprisonment by a special NIA court in a terror funding case, and was convicted of offences under Sections 120B, 121, 121A of



the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Sections 13 and 15 of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) read with 120B of the IPC besides Sections 17, 18, 20, 38 and 39 of UAPA.

Six killed after truck overturns on car in Bihar's Bhagalpur

Patna | Agencies

Six persons were killed and three others critically injured after a dumper (HIWA) laden with stone chips overturned and fell on a Sports Utility Vehicle (SUV) in Amapur village Bihar's Bhagalpur district.

The incident occurred on Monday at around 11.30 p.m. and the victims remained trapped under the HIWA for over an hour. A team of Ghogha police outpost reached the spot and initiated the rescue operation. "Six persons, including two children, died on the spot. The impact of the accident was such that the SUV was completely mangled," a police official said. "We have used an earth-mover machine (JCB) to remove the debris and rescue the injured. They were admitted to Bhagalpur Medical College and Hospital. The bodies were also recovered



and sent for post-mortem," he said.

The victims were on the way to attend a wedding ceremony in Khidmatpur village from Haveli Kharagpur block in Munger district. When they reached Amapur village, the driver of a speeding HIWA lost control over the vehicle and hit the SUV coming from the opposite direction. The HIWA belongs to a private construction company and was coming from the Kahalgao side.

Kailash Das, one of the survivors said: "We were trapped under the debris for over an hour and were unable to breathe properly. Then I became unconscious.

HEAVY RAIN IN J&K: FOUR KILLED, OVER 350 FAMILIES RELOCATED

Srinagar | Agencies

Four people, including three minors, were killed in floods caused by incessant rain in J&K during the last four days.

Over 350 families have been relocated, several cattle/sheep perished and dozens of houses were damaged, said officials here.

Authorities have closed schools in the Valley and the University of Kashmir has postponed all exams scheduled for Tuesday. Landslides and flash floods have killed four people while dozens of houses have been damaged by incessant rain/lightning/thunder in the hilly districts of Doda, Reasi, Kishtwar and Ramban in Jammu division and Kupwara district in Kashmir.

Several heads of cattle and over four dozen sheep perished at different places due to flash floods and the collapse of cattle sheds.

Authorities in Kupwara district have relocated over 350 families from flood-affected areas to safer places.

Over two dozen houses in J&K have been damaged in heavy rain during the last four days. Floods have damaged some major infrastructure in the



Kupwara district, including Shumryial Bridge, Khumryal Bridge, Shatmuqam Bridge, Sohporora-Hayhama Bridge, Farkyan Bridge, two rural development department buildings at Kupwara and assistant director Handicrafts office building, Shumryal-Gundajhanger road got cut off due to scouring and a breach in the Doban Kachama dam. Major roads and various link roads have come under water in Baramulla, Pulwama, Anantnag and other districts in Kashmir, and Samba and Kathua districts of Jammu division.

All major and minor highways and roads have been closed due to fresh snowfall and landslides in J&K. Srinagar-Jammu, Srinagar-Leh and the Mughal Road have been closed.

Parts of the Srinagar-Jammu highway have come under water in south Kashmir districts. Waterlogging has affected many residential areas in Srinagar city and other low-lying areas of the Valley. All rivers, including Jhelum and the Sindh stream, are swollen and people living close to rivers and mountain streams have been asked to remain vigilant. Authorities have drawn contingency flood evacuation plans in Srinagar and other districts by designating places of relocation in case the residential colonies get inundated due to flood waters. All mountain streams like the Vishow Nallah, Rambiyara Nallah, Lidder and Doodganga Nallah are running high. Higher reaches like Gulmarg, Gurez, Machil, Baltal and Zojila Pass areas have received fresh snowfall today.

The Met department has said, "Nowcast for J&K at 6.50 am on 30-04-24. Current Satellite image showing Generally cloudy over most parts of Kashmir Division and mainly clear to Partly cloudy in Jammu Division.

Kanpur man celebrates daughter's homecoming after divorce

Kanpur | Agencies

All fathers send off their daughters with great fanfare after the wedding but a father in Uttar Pradesh's Kanpur brought his daughter home after her divorce with a band in tow.

"We brought her back just like we had sent her off after her wedding. We want her to begin afresh with her chin up," said her father Anil Kumar, who works for BSNL. Anil's daughter Urvi, 36, an engineer at the Palam Airport in New Delhi, was married to a computer engineer in 2016. The couple lived in Delhi and had a daughter.

Allegations are that Urvi's in-laws were harassing her for dowry after which she moved court for a divorce. The court granted the couple a divorce on February 28.

"I tried hard to save the



relationship after enduring eight years of torture, beatings, and taunts, but in the end, it broke down," she said. "While bringing her back home, I made arrangements for 'band baaja' so that a positive message would be sent to the society and people would try and understand their daughters rather than ignore them after marriage," Anil said. Urvi's mother Kusumlata said, "I look forward to being with my daughter and granddaughter. And it is a great feeling."



SIX-TIME CONGRESS MLA RAMNIWAS RAWAT JOINS BJP

Team Absolute | Bhopal

On a day when senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi arrived in Madhya Pradesh to campaign for the ongoing Lok Sabha elections, a sitting party MLA, Ramniwas Rawat, switched sides to the BJP.

Rawat (64) was one of the prominent Congress leaders in the Gwalior-Chambal region, who won six Assembly elections from Vijaypur between 1990 and 2023.

The Vijaypur Assembly segment falls under the Morena Lok Sabha constituency, the home district of BJP veteran and Assembly Speaker Narendra Singh Tomar.

Polling in Morena and Bhind Lok Sabha seats in the Gwalior-Chambal region along with Vidisha, Bhopal, and two other seats will be held in the



third phase on May 7.

Rawat is the second sitting Congress MLA to quit the party and join the BJP since the announcement of the Lok Sabha elections on March 16. On March 29, Congress MLA from the Amarwada Assembly segment in Chhindwara, Kamlesh Shah, who was considered close to ex-CM Kamal Nath, joined the BJP. Sources told IANS that Rawat was upset with the state Congress leadership under Jitu Patwari. Taking a jibe at the Congress, former CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan said, "We welcome Ramniwas Rawat into the BJP family. No one wants to stay in Congress anymore."

The fresh jolt came a day after the Congress candidate from the Indore Lok Sabha seat, Akshay Kantilal Bam, withdrew his nomination, giving almost a walkover to the BJP candidate and sitting MP, Shankar Lalwani.

Congress party will disappear like dinosaur: Rajnath Singh

Team Absolute | Khandwa

Defense Minister Rajnath Singh compared Congress to dinosaurs and said that just as dinosaurs have become extinct, in the same way Congress will become extinct in the coming times.

While advocating simultaneous elections of Lok Sabha and Assembly, he said that the next elections of Assembly and Lok Sabha will be held simultaneously.

In a public meeting organized in support of BJP candidate Dnyaneshwar Patil in Punasa of Mandhata assembly of Khandwa Lok Sabha constituency, he said that now only Congress candidates are leaving the field and joining BJP. After 10 years, if you ask a child whether it is Congress, he will ask which Congress. It is disappearing from the entire country. You may not have seen a dinosaur, but you must have seen its film, just as dinosaurs have disappeared from this earth, in the same way Congress will also disappear from this earth.

He said that during the Congress era, when 100 paise was sent from Delhi, only 14 paise reached the public. There used to be a



scam of 86 paise. Now the situation is that if Rs 6,000 is sent to the Kisan Samman Nidhi, the entire amount reaches the farmer's account. Double engine government is running in Madhya Pradesh. One thing that saddens me is that assembly elections were held four months ago and Lok Sabha elections are being held after four months. We say that this trend should be stopped, whatever assembly and Lok Sabha elections are to be held, they should be held once in five years.

Congress and INDIA bloc making every effort to save Constitution: Rahul Gandhi

Team Absolute | Bhind

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday said that his party and the INDIA bloc are making every effort to save the Constitution while the BJP, PM Narendra Modi and the RSS are bent on destroying it.

"Today there is a fight between two ideologies in the country. On one side are the Congress Party and the INDIA bloc, which are engaged in saving the Constitution. On the other side are Narendra Modi and RSS, who are trying to destroy the Constitution. Whatever you have got is from this Constitution, but BJP wants that the Constitution book be thrown away and the country be run by 20-25 people," he said while addressing a public rally in Madhya Pradesh's Bhind. "BJP leaders have said that if they win the elections, the Constitution will be changed. But I want to tell



you -- the Constitution is the soul of the poor, no power can erase it," he added.

The Congress MP also alleged that the BJP government privatised public sector companies in order to end reservation. "If the BJP is not against reservation, then why have all the public sectors been privatised by PM Modi's

government," he questioned.

Congress has fielded Phool Singh Baraiya from Bhind Lok Sabha seat which the BJP has retained since 1989.

The election in Bhind along with six other Lok Sabha seats including Guna, Morena Bhopal and Vidisha will be held in the third phase on May 7.

Congress nominee from Indore joining BJP raises questions on Jitu Patwari's leadership

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh witnessed yet another political twist ahead of the third phase of polling scheduled on May 7 after the Congress candidate from the Indore Lok Sabha constituency, Akshay Kanti Bam, withdrew his nomination and joined the BJP on Monday.

Importantly, the grand old party suffered the jolt in the home district of state Congress President Jitu Patwari, who replaced veteran leader Kamal Nath after the debacle in the Assembly elections held in November last year.

Patwari, a former state minister, had lost the Assembly elections from Mhow in Indore district. However, he was promoted as the state unit chief of the Congress after the party's defeat in the Assembly polls under Kamal Nath's leadership.

Now Akshay Bam joining the BJP has raised questions about the leadership of Patwari, considered close



to Rahul Gandhi, in his home district.

Madhya Pradesh is among those states where the two big political parties -- the BJP and the Congress -- are locked in a direct contest. The Congress has given one seat -- Khajuraho -- to its INDIA bloc partner Samajwadi Party (SP).

The SP first fielded Manoj Yadav from Khajuraho before replacing him with Meera Yadav. However, Yadav's nomination papers were cancelled on the last date.

Akshay Bam withdrawing his nomination from Indore is also being viewed as a walkover for the BJP.

Madhya Pradesh BJP chief V.D. Sharma, who is contesting the Lok Sabha polls from Khajuraho, said, "MP Congress chief (Jitu Patwari) questions the BJP, but the Congress candidate from his home district has now withdrawn his nomination. This is the real situation of Congress in Madhya Pradesh. The BJP will win all the 29 seats in the state this time."

DEFECTION IN MADHYA PRADESH IS A NIGHTMARE FOR CONGRESS

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Congress, which is in trouble due to party defection in Madhya Pradesh, has lost sleep due to its leaders switching to BJP during the Lok Sabha elections. This trend is going to continue further. Congress is not able to find a way out of this situation.

The biggest shock for Congress during the Lok Sabha elections was in Indore, from where party candidate Akshay Kanti Bam left the field on the last day of withdrawal of nominations and joined BJP.

Earlier, the alliance of opposition parties 'India' had suffered a setback in Khajuraho, where this seat was given to Samajwadi Party due to mutual agreement. The nomination of Samajwadi Party candidate Meera Deepak Yadav was rejected. In this way, out of the 29 Lok Sabha seats in



the state, there are two - Khajuraho and Indore from where Congress is not even in the contest.

If we look at the situation of Congress in the state in the last four years, the party has suffered continuous losses. In the year 2020, 22 MLAs of the party had joined BJP under the leadership of Jyotiraditya Scindia, due to which the government led by Kamal Nath fell. This trend continues till now. Many party stalwarts, MLAs, mayors and many officials have joined BJP.

There is talk in the political circles that Congress will get a big blow in Gwalior Chambal area on Tuesday. Veteran leaders here can join BJP at a time when Rahul Gandhi will be addressing a public meeting in Bhind. Every possible effort is being made by the Congress to stop this veteran leader. But it is unlikely that he will succeed in this.

Modi government insulted the army by bringing Agniveer scheme: Rahul Gandhi

Team Absolute | Bhind

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has launched a scathing attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP over the Agniveer scheme implemented in the Army.

In a public meeting organized in support of Congress candidate Phool Singh Baraiya from Bhind parliamentary constituency of Madhya Pradesh, Rahul Gandhi said that the Modi government has insulted the country's army through the Agniveer scheme. Most of the people from here join the army. Modi government has created two types of soldiers. One will get pension,

canteen and good training and the other jawan will neither get canteen, pension nor good salary. One is called Agniveer and the other is an ordinary soldier. One will be given facilities for martyrdom, the other will not even get the status of martyr.

Rahul Gandhi alleged that he had insulted the army. Soldiers and common people do not want Agniveer, if only anyone wants it then it is PM Modi. This is not a trivial election, it is a fight between two ideologies. The Constitution has given rights to the poor, tribal, Dalit and general category people of the country. To save this, Congress Party and India

alliance is in the fray. At the same time, BJP has made up its mind that if it wins the elections, it will tear the Constitution book and throw it away. Whatever the people have got in the country, everything will be lost.

He alleged that BJP wants this book to be thrown away. This election is an election for democracy and the fight for the rights of tribals. There is no power in the world that can change the Constitution. But, people of BJP are dreaming. The Congress Party fought the British along with Ambedkar and made this Constitution with the voice of the people of India. We will not let it disappear like this.

ANURADHA SHANKAR APPOINTED AS SPECIAL DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE



Bhopal: Purushottam Sharma, posted as Special DG in the state, is retired. ADG Anuradha Shankar Singh will work as Special DG Training from May 1 on his vacant post.

Orders to make her Special DG have been issued by the Home Department. She will be able to remain Special DG only for one month. She is retiring on 31 May. After this, ADG Rajesh Gupta will get a chance to become Special DG. ADG BB Sharma will also retire tomorrow, so Sonali Gupta's name is senior to become ADG in her place, but she is on deputation in BSE. Therefore, IG Ravi Kumar Gupta will be promoted to the post of ADG.

BJP attacks Congress candidate for campaigning from helicopter, says aerial leadership

Team Absolute | Sagar

Heavy campaigning is going on for the Lok Sabha elections. Candidates are doing unique experiments in the political field to woo the voters. Some are flaunting their achievements in public while others are exposing the shortcomings of their rivals.

The name of Congress candidate from Sagar Lok Sabha seat, Guddu Raja Bundela, suddenly came into the headlines. He is doing unique experiments to woo voters in the elections.

Leaving aside Union Ministers, common candidates generally campaign in vehicles only, but Guddu Raja Bundela has worked to change this trend. In this election, he is campaigning not by vehicles but by helicopter.

Till now, he has conducted not just one or two, but more than two dozen meetings in his helicopter. People are seen flocking to his meetings, due to which he is fully confident that he will hoist the flag of victory in this electoral battle. People are coming less to see them and more to see the helicopter.

In view of the huge crowd of people attending election meetings, the administration has refused permission for helicopters. The reason given is that it becomes difficult to control the crowd.

When the Congress candidate was asked about the reason behind campaigning by helicopter, he said that he had less time. In such a situation, it is difficult to campaign in all the assembly con-



stituencies by vehicle, so he took the help of helicopter, so that maximum number of people could be reached in less time.

He said that because of his helicopter he is able to hold 6 to 8 meetings in a day. While this is saving their time, they are also able to reach more and

more people.

On the other hand, BJP has reacted to the Congress candidate campaigning from helicopter and termed it as 'air-air leadership'. BJP candidate Lata is campaigning in auto in Wankhede city. He says that only a grassroots leader can understand

the problems of the people.

The contest on Sagar Lok Sabha seat has become interesting, where on one hand Congress candidates are campaigning by helicopter, while on the other hand BJP candidates are trying to woo voters by auto.



EDITOR'S SPECS

Allahabad is crucial for Congress this time

Two sons will fight against each other to save their father's legacy in this historic constituency -- Allahabad. They are also fighting for their parties. Neeraj Tripathi, a well-known lawyer is making his political debut on a BJP ticket. He is the son of former Speaker and Governor, the late Kesri Nath Tripathi. He has replaced the sitting BJP MP Rita Bahuguna Joshi. The BJP cadres in this constituency are excited over Neeraj's candidature and his father's immense popularity is a major advantage. Ujjwal Raman Singh, on the other hand, is the son of Samajwadi Party veteran and former MP Reoti Raman Singh. He crossed over to the Congress from SP to contest the Allahabad seat. A two-term MLA, Ujjwal Raman Singh is working hard to wrest back the seat of the Congress which has not won Allahabad in the past 40 years. The Congress last won Allahabad in 1984 when the country witnessed a heart-stopping electoral battle between Amitabh Bachchan and former UP chief minister Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna. Bachchan got a 68.21 per cent record vote share. The Allahabad seat has been known for sending stalwarts like P D Tandon, Lal Bahadur Shastri, Janeshwar Mishra, Vishwanath Pratap Singh and Dr Murli Manohar Joshi to the Lok Sabha. Once a Congress stronghold represented by the country's two former Prime Ministers Lal Bahadur Shastri and VP Singh among others, the constituency has eluded the party for the last four decades. Incidentally, Allahabad is one of the few seats in Uttar Pradesh that the Congress is confident of winning. The Allahabad Lok Sabha constituency still known as Allahabad and not Prayagraj was formed in 1952 and is made up of the five Assembly segments, including Meja, Karchhana, Allahabad South, Bara, and Koraon.

Rahul Gandhi's 'revolutionary' ideas may adversely impact Cong prospects

Deepika Bhan

It was a moment of distress for 79-year-old Rajni Dhar when the cacophony over the inheritance tax during a news show took her back several decades to the painful memories of her birthplace, Kashmir. Her family and many others from the Hindu community were significantly affected by the 'Land to Tiller Law', meticulously enacted in 1950 by then J&K Prime Minister Sheikh Abdullah.

The law restricted the ownership of landlords, and extra land was taken over by the state and given to tillers. The latter did not pay any compensation for the land received. The Hindu landlords were especially targeted in both Jammu and Kashmir, rendering them economically weaker. Now in 2024, the buzz about Congress promising to take away all that 'extra' wealth of a section of the population brought back memories of the pain that Dhar and many others had to endure.

Kamlesh, a 47-year-old house help, whose family resides in a dwelling built with government funds in her village in Uttar Pradesh's Moradabad district, is confused today. After hearing about the Congress' wealth distribution plan, she feared that her family might lose the new house as the joint family had an ancestral dwelling in the same village. She is also apprehensive since her family is worried about talks regarding the reservation rights for Backwards being snatched away and given to the Muslims by Congress.

These fears have become a topic of discussion among the general populace. The fact that Congress has a history of doing such things has made people take Rahul Gandhi's statement critically this time.

In 1953, then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru's government brought the inheritance tax under the Estate Duty Act as it found that there were inequalities in wealth. The Act, also known as 'Death Tax' was imposed on the principal value of movable and immovable property, including agricultural land, which a person inherited after the death of the owner of the property. The Act was abolished in 1985 by the Rajiv Gandhi government when he became Prime Minister after the death of Indira Gandhi. The BJP has accused that he did so to escape from the said tax on inheritance.

With this piece of history being resurrected, people feel that this is Rahul Gandhi's plan for a new 'INDIA'.

What has given credence to this is the statement by Sam Pitroda, a close aide of the Gandhi



family and Chairman of the Indian Overseas Congress, who highlighted the importance of wealth redistribution policies, citing the US laws. Though the Congress later distanced itself from Pitroda's comments, the cat is already out of the bag.

Rahul's pledge to pursue 'jiti abadi utna haq' and his X-ray plan to detect peoples' wealth have set the middle-class thinking. Amit is an IT pro-

fessional in Delhi, who bought an apartment on EMI. Recently his loan ended and he got the ownership paper from the bank. Rahul Gandhi's wealth distribution plan has worried him as now he owns the flat and has also inherited property from his late father. There are millions of Amit-like stories in the middle class.

The voices may or may not

reflect the sentiment of the whole nation, but hint at the churn that has started, especially among the middle class. They work hard, take loans to build new nests and create assets after paying taxes.

It is not just the lands and houses; the fear is also about Rahul Gandhi's Congress/INDIA bloc government -- if voted to power -- sneaking into the lockers and cabinets of millions of women who keep their valuable 'stree dhan' hidden away. It is also about the attack on the tradition of hidden savings done by women in all households. Women in India are highly sensitive and emotive about stree dhan and their hidden treasures in the lockers. These are things passed on from generation to generation. But Rahul Gandhi seems to have other plans for this 'hidden' wealth.

What he wants the Congress to do is what is at the core of Communist philosophy, which believes in redistribution of wealth. Communists all over the world have failed in their deeds. The crumbling of the erstwhile Soviet Union is the best example of this failure. China, another communist power, was forced to adopt changes and has space for private capital. The East European bloc, too, has suffered immensely. But in 2024, Rahul Gandhi wants to pick up from the Communist Manifesto, a political pamphlet written by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels in 1848.

While releasing the party's election manifesto at a public meeting in Tukkuguda in Telangana on April 6, he stressed: "Jiti aabadi, utna haq". He said: "First, we will conduct a caste census to know the exact population and status of backward castes, SCs, STs, minorities. After that, the financial and institutional survey will begin. Then, we will take up the historic assignment to distribute the wealth, create jobs."

The Congress party's manifesto and Rahul Gandhi's plan to map everyone's assets and then equally divide them have provided vital ammunition to the BJP. The BJP has called it divisive and a reflection of the Congress' appeasement politics.

The Congress may believe that inheritance, redistribution, and reservation could be its three mantras for progression. But, at the moment and as the election progresses, the grand old party seems to be only widening its gap from the masses. People like Rajni Dhar, Kamlesh, and Amit are not just a few individuals but reflect a growing sentiment.

international

South Korea's medical schools to spike admission seats by over 1,500 next year

Seoul|Agencies
Medical schools in South Korea are expected to push to increase their admission slots by 1,500 to 1,600 next year, as most of them have finalised their academic plans for the year 2025, education and university officials said on Tuesday. The government allocated an additional 2,000 medical school admission seats to universities across the nation last month amid protests from both junior and senior doctors, Yonhap news agency reported.



aggregate increase to between 1,500 and 1,600, the officials said.

For instance, Kangwon National University's medical school in Chuncheon, 76 kilometres east of Seoul, decided to increase its admission slots by 42, compared with the government's allotment of 83, while Chungbuk National University's medical school in Cheongju, 112 km south of Seoul, settled on an increase of 76 seats, compared with the government's allotment of 151.

Over 90 per cent of the country's 13,000 trainee doctors went on strike in late February to protest the planned increase in medical school admissions.

quota increase but have decided to reduce their admission seats allocated by the government by up to 50 per cent.

But most private universities have decided to nearly fully accept the government-allotted new slots, rendering the

Two dead, eight injured after Russian air strikes on Ukraine

Kyiv|Agencies
At least two people have been killed by Russian missile attacks in the southern Ukrainian port city of Odesa, while a further eight were injured, the Governor of the region, Oleh Kiper, said on Telegram. Civilian infrastructure, including several residential buildings, was damaged.



of recently announced military aid.

Stoltenberg highlighted Spain's decision to supply Ukraine with Patriot missiles. He said he expected further announcements of support for Ukraine to follow soon.

NATO allies fail to deliver weapons and ammunition to Ukraine on time, "Ukrainians are paying the price." "The lack of ammunition has enabled the Russians to push forward along the front line," Stoltenberg said in Kyiv, singling out the United States for Washington's protracted process to send more military aid. "European allies have not delivered the amount of ammunition they promised," Stoltenberg added, referring to the European Union's failure to deliver one million artillery shells to Ukraine in a year. Secretary General Stoltenberg was speaking at a

press conference alongside Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky on an unannounced visit when he voiced his criticism.

"Lack of air defence has made it possible for more Russian missiles to hit their targets," Stoltenberg said.

"And the lack of deep strike capabilities has made it possible for the Russians to concentrate more forces, and we see the consequences of that now," he said.

Zelensky thanked the top NATO official for his support and stressed that he expected no further delays in the delivery

Nine killed as military helicopter crashes in Colombia



Buenos Aires|Agencies

All nine occupants of a military helicopter that crashed in northern Colombia have died, the South American country's army said.

The Mi-17 helicopter crashed near the town of Arenal del Sur in the department of Bolivar in northern Colombia, the military said on Monday.

"I regret the death of the nine soldiers in the military helicopter that was supposed to supply troops in the fight against the Clan del Golfo in the south of Bolivar," wrote Colombian President Gustavo Petro on social media platform X.

The Clan del Golfo (Gulf Clan) is the most powerful criminal organisation in Colombia. The crime syndicate recruits its members primarily from former right-wing paramilitaries and is said to have around 6,000 men under arms.

In addition to drug trafficking, the organisation is involved in illegal mining and protection rackets and is responsible for numerous murders and dispossessions. Last year, the former head of the cartel, Dairo Antonio Usuga, commonly known as Otoniel, was sentenced to 45 years in prison in the US.

German foreign minister pushes for two-state solution and Gaza aid

Berlin|Agencies

Germany's Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock has spoken out in favour of more humanitarian aid for the Gaza Strip and a two-state solution, during the talks with counterparts from Western and Arab countries in Riyadh.

During the talks, Baerbock emphasised that an independent Palestine state as a part of a comprehensive peace process and a two-state solution remains a clear goal of German policy, according to reports from German delegation circles on Monday evening.

Baerbock took part in a meeting of Arab and European foreign ministers in Riyadh, initiated by Saudi Arabia and Norway, at which the prospect of a two-state solution and the recognition of Palestine was on the agenda.

A two-state solution foresees the peaceful co-existence of Israel and a Palestinian state based on the borders of the Palestinian Territories occupied by Israel since 1967 - the West Bank, East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip.

However, Israel's government rejects such a two-state solution outright, whereas, the Palestinian militant organisation Hamas has said it wants an independent Palestinian state but will not officially recognise the state of Israel.

Baerbock also made it clear "that there is now an urgent need for



improved humanitarian access to Gaza and the release of the hostages," it was reported after the talks.

She also held confidential talks with Arab and Western colleagues in Riyadh on the specific steps needed to end the fighting and find a sustainable solution to the conflict.

The ministers, including Baerbock's US counterpart Antony Blinken and UK Foreign Secretary David Cameron, met in Riyadh on the fringes of a two-day World Economic Forum (WEF) conference. Israel did not take part in the talks.

King Charles III returns to public duties after cancer treatment

London|Agencies

King Charles III is set to return to public duties after the positive effect of his cancer treatment. King Charles has been receiving care as an outpatient since early February, and sources have said that despite the welcome news the king still has cancer and will continue to be treated for the undisclosed form of the disease.

Charles and Queen Consort Camilla will visit a cancer treatment centre on Tuesday to meet medical specialists and patients.

The event aims to raise awareness of the importance of early diagnosis and to highlight innovative research, supported by Cancer Research UK, taking place at the hospital.

King Charles's diary of events will not be a full summer programme, and attendance will be announced nearer the time and "subject to doctors' advice," with "adaptations made where necessary to minimise risk" to his recovery.

It is understood the warmer weather would allow events to be staged outside



and lessen the risk posed by other people that many cancer patients face.

In January, King Charles spent three nights in hospital for a procedure on an enlarged prostate, during which his cancer - not prostate cancer - was discovered.

After his diagnosis was announced on February 6, he postponed all public engagements but continued with his duties as head of state behind palace walls, conducting audiences and Privy Council

meetings. Meanwhile, William, the prince of Wales, is to carry out engagements in the North East on Tuesday, visiting an Earthshot Prize finalist firm that makes low-carbon construction materials in Seaham, and opening James's Place - a centre offering free, life-saving treatment to suicidal men in Newcastle.

A previously unseen portrait of the prince and Kate, Princess of Wales, was released by Kensington Palace on Monday in celebration of the couple's 13th wedding anniversary.

Kate, who is undergoing chemotherapy for an undisclosed cancer, married future king William in 2011.

The photograph by Millie Pilkington - who took the most recent picture of the King and Queen to mark Charles's return to public duties - shows William and Kate on their wedding day.

The black and white image was posted on the Waleses' social media accounts on Monday, captioned "13 years ago today!"



PM's 'bhakti atma' jibe in Maha spooks Ajit Pawar, Opposition

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's comment that a 'bhakti atma' (wandering soul) is creating problems in Maharashtra for 45 years seems to have spooked both Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar as also the opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) on Tuesday.

Addressing his maiden Lok Sabha rally in Pune on Monday evening, the Prime Minister said that "there is a 'bhakti atma' in Maharashtra... When it is not successful, it ruins the good work of others. The state is a victim of it".

Without taking names, PM Modi added: "The game was started by the same leader 45 years ago... It was just because of his self-ambitions that Maharashtra has remained politically unstable. Due to that, many CMs could not complete their full terms."

The PM's comments triggered a guessing game as he did not identify the 'bhakti atma', and this led to fingers being pointed at Nationalist Congress Party (SP) President Sharad Pawar, a political veter-



an of over 55 years, and his nephew and Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) President Ajit Pawar, politicking for nearly 45 years now.

A visibly annoyed Ajit Pawar told mediapersons on Tuesday that at his next meeting, he would seek a clarification from PM Modi as to who exactly he was implying as the 'bhakti atma'.

"I am not an astrologer... So I cannot say who the PM was referring to. But during our next rally, I

shall ask him who is this 'bhakti atma' he spoke about and what was the reason behind it," Ajit Pawar said.

Meanwhile, the MVA leaders attacked the Prime Minister for his remarks with state Congress President Nana Patole, NCP (SP) national spokesperson Clyde Crasto, and Shiv Sena (UBT) chief spokesperson and MP Sanjay Raut leading the charge.

"That 'bhakti atma' is the Prime Minister himself... He has been restless for the past 10 years. Show a single PM from the past who has always been in a campaign mode like PM Modi, changing clothes and organising photo sessions, and going around everywhere," Patole said in a swipe at the PM.

Crasto said, "When a person who has made India's future go astray for the past 10 years blames someone else as a 'bhakti atma', it's indeed laughable."

Raut dismissively said that the 'bhakti atma' is PM Modi himself, which has been roaming around all over the state for the past few days.

4 killed, 35 hurt in bus-truck collision on Mumbai-Agra highway in Nashik

Team Absolute | Nashik

At least 4 passengers were killed and 35 others injured, including 9 critically, when a state transport bus they were travelling collided with a truck on the Mumbai-Agra Highway in Maharashtra's Nashik on Tuesday morning, officials said.

Among the dead are 2 men, a woman and a 14-year-old boy who were killed instantly in the accident that occurred on the outskirts of Chandwad town around 9.45 a.m.

The Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation (MSRTC) bus was en route from Bhusawal in Jalgaon district to Nashik town and the crash is said to have occurred when it tried to overtake a goods truck on the highway.

So severe was the crash



that more than half of the left front portion of the ST bus was crushed and ripped apart by the impact, trapping many of the victims sitting there, said the official.

The local police and fire brigade were summoned for help and rushed the injured passengers to the Chandwad

government hospital and other private hospitals, where the condition of 9 victims was described as serious.

The accident led to a massive traffic snarl on the busy national highway, which was cleared after shifting the two vehicles aside in a couple of hours.

Shiv Sena nominee Rahul Shewale files nomination from Mumbai South Central seat



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Shiv Sena nominee Rahul Shewale from Mumbai South Central LS seat on Monday filed his nomination after putting a massive show of strength on the road approaching the Mumbai District Collector office.

Shewale, who is pitted against the Shiv Sena (UBT) nominee Anil Desai, was accompanied by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, Education Minister Deepak Kesarkar others.

A veteran party leader and sitting MP Gajanan Kirtikar was also present at the rally that took place before Shewale submitted his nomination papers to the polling officer.

Shewale, who was among 13 MPs who had joined Shinde after the June 2022 coup, visited the memorials of B.R. Ambedkar, Shiv Sena supreme late Bal Thackeray and Veer Savarkar. He also visited the mosque at Mahim before joining the padyatra.

Four injured after massive fire breaks out at hotel in Nalasopara



Team Absolute | Mumbai

At least four people were injured after a massive fire broke out on Tuesday at a hotel in Nalasopara area of Palghar district in Maharashtra, the officials said. According to the officials, a hydraulic machine being operated by the civic body accidentally uprooted a gas pipeline while widening a drain on Tuesday afternoon. The gas leakage engulfed the Dwarka Hotel on Achole Road, injuring four people.

The injured have been identified as Sundar B. Shetty (62), Gopal S. Bangera (70), Chandra Magarkar (45) and Raja Kumar Shah (27). All the injured have been rushed to a nearby hospital with serious burn injuries, an official said.

The condition of 70-year-old Bangera is

critical, said a source at the hospital. The fire, followed by terrific blast-like sounds, triggered panic among the local passersby. The hotel runs on the ground floor whereas there are flats on the first floor.

Considering the sensitivity of the issue, the VVCMC officials immediately swung into action and multiple fire engines were pressed into service to douse the inferno.

Local sources said that the VVCMC officials have been recklessly been digging out roads, widening drains without following the guidelines, as 'the private contractors violate all the rules and regulations because the civic bus remain absent from the spot where such developmental work takes place in Vasai taluka,' said a source.

It is not immediately known if any FIR is registered or not.

Woman falls to death from overcrowded train

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A 26-year-old office goer from Dombivli died after she slipped from the footboard of an overcrowded suburban train between Kopar and Diva station on Monday. The deceased has been identified as Riya Shyamji Rajgor, who stayed with her parents and brother at Shri Sanket Building in Dombivli East. Rajgor used to work with a construction firm in Thane and commuted daily by train from Dombivli to Thane. "The woman had boarded an overcrowded train at Dombivli. After the train left the platform of Kopar and travelled some distance, Rajgor lost her balance and slipped from the footboard," said a police officer. The Dombivli Government Railway Police have registered an accidental death report and are investigating the matter.

There was no compulsion or compromise: Ajit Pawar on joining NDA

Team Absolute | Pune

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar on Tuesday said that his decision to join the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance was not a compulsion or a compromise, adding that his idea of development aligns with the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. In a candid conversation with the news agency during which he shared his thoughts in the lead-up to his floating a rival NCP alliance with his loyalists and eventually joining the ruling NDA in the state as the deputy chief minister, Pawar said, "There was no compulsion and neither was it compromise. I always think about development. Who is driving the country's development today? It is PM Modi. I worked against him in 2014 and 2019 (Lok Sabha elections), but if you see today, and as PM Modi, himself said yesterday (on the campaign trail in Maharashtra), we accomplished the same amount of work in one year as was done in the 10 years under (former PM) Manmohan Singh. He has also been working for the upliftment and well-being of the poor and backward sections. In the last 10 years, not one allegation has been levelled against PM Modi." Triggering another seismic event in the landscape of Maharashtra politics on July 2 last year, the nephew of NCP patriarch Sharad Pawar floated a rival faction, which joined the BJP-led NDA. Ajit Pawar took oath as the deputy chief minister for the fifth time.



Claiming that the Opposition bloc -- INDIA -- had no prime ministerial face, he said there was no one who could rival PM Modi on the yardsticks of leadership and popularity. "More than 65 per cent of people in the country are saying that they want PM Modi to return for a third term. There was a lot of talk around Nitish Kumar (rivaling PM Modi for the country's most powerful post) in 2019 but he is with the NDA now. Presently, the Opposition has no one to take on PM Modi. There is simply no comparison between him and Rahul Gandhi," the NCP leader said. The deputy CM said the ruling 'Mahayuti' (alliance of the BJP, the Shiv Sena under Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Ajit Pawar's NCP) was formed to take the agenda of 'development' of the state forward.

"Everyone (in his NCP faction) took the decision (to join the NDA) collectively. It wasn't motivated by a desire to be ministers but to take the agenda of the development of Maharashtra forward. I have said this time and time again that the decision was for the sake of development and nothing else," Ajit Pawar said.

Mumbai court issues summons to cricketer Prithvi Shaw on social media influencer's plea

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Mumbai sessions court on Tuesday issued summons to Prithvi Shaw on a plea filed by social media influencer Sapna Gill, challenging orders of a magistrate in connection with her complaint against the cricketer. A metropolitan court in Andheri earlier this month ordered a police enquiry on Gill's plea seeking an FIR against Shaw for allegedly molesting her at a pub.

It had, however, rejected another plea of Gill seeking action against police for failing to register a case on her complaint against Shaw and his friend.

Aggrieved with both the orders, the social media influencer filed a review application before a sessions court in Malad here.



The order passed by the metropolitan magistrate on April 3 is irregular and illegal and that court has "gravely erred" in passing it, claimed Gill's review application, filed through advocate Ali Kaashif Khan. On Tuesday, additional sessions judge D G Dhole issued summons to Shaw.

The court also issued summons to the airport police here, who did not register a case when Gill had first approached them.

The matter will be next heard on June 6. Gill was arrested in February 2023 along with some others in

connection with an attack on Shaw following an argument over clicking selfies at a suburban hotel. She is currently out on bail. After being granted bail in the case, Gill had approached the airport police station in Andheri with a complaint of molestation against Shaw, his friend Ashish Yadav and others.

She later moved the magistrate court after the police did not register a case against the cricketer. In her complaint, Gill had sought registration of an FIR under Indian Penal Code sections 354 (molestation), 509 (word, gesture or act intended to insult the modesty of a woman) and 324 (voluntarily causing hurt by dangerous weapons or means) against Shaw and his friend Ashish Yadav for allegedly assaulting her with a bat.

Girl Has Become A "Nymphomaniac" Due To Repeated Rape Since Age 10: High Court

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Bombay High Court has denied bail to a man accused of repeatedly raping a girl since she was 10 years old, noting that the survivor has become a "nymphomaniac" due to the ordeal of the horrendous crime. A single bench of Justice Prithviraj Chavan in the judgment on Monday, while dismissing the bail plea filed by the accused, said the crime is not only shocking to the conscience of a prudent man but also obnoxious.

The high court in its order verbatim quoted the 27-page diary written by the survivor describing her ordeal and said "words will fall short to describe her mental, psychological and physical state and the impact of the ordeal she had undergone at the hands of the accused."

"The crime alleged to have been committed by the applicant is not only shocking to the conscience of any prudent man but is also obnoxious. Due to such horrendous crime,



the survivor has turned out to be a nymphomaniac," the high court said.

The parents of the survivor claimed the accused and his wife took advantage of the fact that the girl's father was working in Dubai.

They claimed that they learnt of the crime only when they discovered the

survivor's diary from her room in 2021, when she was 17 years old.

The girl had eloped with a boy following which her parents had rummaged through her room.

In the diary, the survivor claimed the accused man started raping her since she was in the 4th standard and

his wife was aware of it. She had claimed that the accused used to give a tablet that would apparently sexually arouse her.

The girls' parents, after going through the diary, lodged a police complaint against the man and his wife in 2021. The wife was granted bail by a special court. But the man's bail was rejected, following which he approached the HC seeking bail.

The high court noted that the wife of the accused had intentionally aided and abetted the illegal acts and appears to be equally guilty.

The high court bench also noted that as per the girl's diary, she informed about the alleged rape to her mother long back but due to social stigma, the latter had not taken any action. In most cases, sexual abusers are persons well known to the child, the high court observed.

The high court said granting bail to the accused would tantamount to further aggravating and festering the survivor's wounds which are still fresh in her mind, body and soul.

Fraudster poses as govt official, defrauds businessman of Rs 2 crore

Team Absolute | Navi Mumbai

A 42-year-old businessman from Navi Mumbai was duped into handing over Rs 2 crore to a person posing as a government official, stated police reports on Tuesday. The victim, a native of Nerul in Navi Mumbai, was experiencing financial troubles during the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to the report, the Nerul police officials stated that he met the accused in January 2021, a resident of Parel in Mumbai who claimed to be a high official in the central government's Health Ministry. The imposter offered to arrange a loan for the victim and boasted of contacts to a bank CEO. He proposed using a property as collateral for the loan, the report added.

However, because the victim did not possess any property, the accused suggested involving another individual who was reportedly looking for a loan. It was advised that this person mortgage their property, with the loan amount shared between them.

Enticed by the proposition, the victim gave over Rs 2 crore to the imposter, which he had earned from a contractor in Telangana for the Pune Metro



project, the news agency report further stated.

According to the news report, when the victim wanted to meet with the alleged loan seeker and a bank representative, the fraudster evaded him and eventually vanished.

Following the victim's complaint, Nerul police filed a case against the imposter on Sunday under sections of the Indian Penal Code for defrauding and forgery, the report added. An investigation into the matter is currently underway.



Did Julia Fox Shade 'Embarrassing' Ex Kanye West?

Los Angeles | Agencies

Fans think that Julia Fox may have been shading her ex-boyfriend Kanye "Ye" West in a new interview for Cosmopolitan's "Cheap Shots" video series, released on Monday, April 29. During the video, the actress, 34, didn't hold back in spilling details about her personal life, but when it came time to discuss her past romances, she seemingly took a shot at Ye, 46.

One of the questions was which of her exes was the "most cringe," and while she didn't name The Life of Pablo rapper, some fans believe that she was making a reference to him in her response. "All of them, guys. They're all really embarrassing. From my baby daddy to the other one," she said in the clip. While she didn't say Ye outright, the mention was seemingly a reference to her short-lived romance with the rapper.



HAILEY BIEBER REACTS TO HUSBAND JUSTIN'S TEARFUL PHOTO WITH EMOTIONAL COMMENT

Los Angeles | Agencies

Justin Bieber may have scared a few of his dedicated fans over the weekend by sharing pictures of himself crying. The 30-year-old posted a series of pictures of himself on Sunday, April 28, including a handful of tearful selfies. Justin's wife, Hailey Bieber, reacted to his Instagram carousel by calling him "a pretty crier."

Fans swarmed the comments section by asking the "Baby" hitmaker what had made him cry in the first place. "I hope you are doing okay, i hate to see tears running down your face [sic]," one Instagram user wrote. "Are you okay bro?" another asked. Justin's social media activity comes after he and Hailey, 27, became the subject of breakup rumors. In March, the model's dad, Stephen Baldwin, posted — then deleted — a cryptic request for fans to send "prayers" to the spouses. He didn't reveal the reason behind his since-deleted post, but many were convinced that this pointed to trouble in paradise between Justin and Hailey.



JERRY SEINFELD BELIEVES HE COULDN'T CRACK HIS SIGNATURE JOKES IN CURRENT SOCIAL CLIMATE

Los Angeles | Agencies

Comedian-actor Jerry Seinfeld believes that some of his old jokes from 'Seinfeld' have not aged well and thinks they won't fly in current times. The 70-year-old 'Seinfeld' alum candidly discussed how the current political climate has restricted the creative process for many comedians on television, reports 'People'. The actor told 'The New Yorker': "Nothing really affects comedy. People always need it. They need it so badly, and they don't get it."

As per 'People', Seinfeld elaborated that "most people" would go home at the end of the day to watch comedy on television. "You just expected, There'll be some funny stuff we can watch on TV tonight. Well, guess what -- where is it? This is the result of the extreme left and P.C. crap and people worrying so much about offending other people," he said. Seinfeld said that the public has now flocked to stand-up comics "because we are not policed by anyone." "The audience polices us," he added.

"We know when we're off track. We know instantly, and we adjust to it instantly. But when you write a script and it goes into four or five different hands, committees, groups -- 'Here's our thought about this joke'. Well, that's the end of your comedy."

When asked whether the same applies to his 'Seinfeld' co-creator Larry David and his HBO series 'Curb Your Enthusiasm', Seinfeld suggested that "Larry was grandfathered in".

"He's old enough so that -- 'I don't have to observe those rules, because I started before you made those rules'," Seinfeld remarked. As an example, the comedian recalled an episode of 'Seinfeld' with a storyline that might not fly today, saying, "We did an episode of the series in the nineties where Kramer decides to start a business of having homeless people pull rickshaws because, as he says, 'They're outside anyway.' Do you think I could get that episode on the air today?"



Where Is Britney Spears Now? Inside Her Post-Divorce Life

Los Angeles | Agencies

Britney Spears' life has intrigued her fans, even before her conservatorship finally came to an end. The 42-year-old pop princess has lived her life in the public eye for decades, and now, rumors have spread about her finances. Despite the fact that the "Gimme More" hitmaker has not responded to the reports, her social media followers are wondering why she changed her Instagram profile name to "Maria River Red." Not only that, but many are also wondering how she's doing following her divorce from ex-husband Sam Asghari.

Keep reading for updates on Britney's life post-divorce and more. On April 29, 2024, TMZ reported that Britney was in "danger of going broke" and was "completely dysfunctional." However, multiple outlets shut down the rumor, as Entertainment Tonight reported that she was "far from going broke," as "While Britney flies private and enjoys vacations, she's far from going broke," an insider told the outlet. "In fact, she's about to achieve recoupment from the ongoing successful sales from her memoir [The Woman in Me] and audiobook. Major producers are also vying for the rights to her memoir."

Benny Blanco Professes His Love to Selena Gomez

Los Angeles | Agencies

Benny Blanco gave Selena Gomez a super cute note to wake up to on Monday, April 29. The producer, 36, revealed that he prepared a super cute meal for his girlfriend, 31, in a new TikTok video, and Selena shared a photo of the super sweet note that he left for her on her Instagram Story. It was definitely a cute message for her to wake up to.

The note that Benny wrote for the "Love On" singer was impromptu, and he simply scribbled it down on a piece of tissue paper with a black marker. "I love you! Sleep well! I made you steak!" Benny wrote on the paper, while also drawing a heart. Selena posted the note on her Story, tagging her beau with a white heart emoji.

Benny actually walked fans through the



process of preparing the steak for Selena in a hilarious TikTok video. "I woke up early this morning, and I was like, 'I want to do something nice for my girlfriend! I was thinking whenever I want to put a smile on her face or get laid, I just make her steak,'" he said at the start of the clip, before walking fans through his recipe for the ultimate steak dinner. "I'm going to make her the best f**king steak dinner she's ever had." Benny had said that Selena was working, and he was simply going to slip in and deliver the steak for her, but once he was finished making it, he found out that she had the rest of the day off. Unfortunately, after Benny arrived to deliver the dinner to the "Wolves" singer, she had gone to bed. "I literally walked in and she's sleeping. So, I'm going to write a cute little note and then leave it by her bed so she can eat it later," he said.



Anny Hathaway





IPL 2024: Marcus Stoinis guides LSG to third spot, MI's playoffs hope all but over

Lucknow | Agencies

After restricting Mumbai Indians to paltry 144, Lucknow Super Giants huffed and puffed to victory in a rather dull match of the IPL 2024 so far.

Marcus Stoinis was the star of the day as his all-round performance of 62 with the bat and 1 for 19 with the ball helped LSG register a crucial four-wicket win over MI at the Ekana Cricket Stadium, here on Tuesday.

In the chase of below par score of 145 at the slow wicket, Nuwan Thushara landed an early strike, dismissing Arshin Kulkarni for the golden duck. KL Rahul dropped the anchor role as he was 5 off 13 after three overs and already set up to stay there till the end, giving up the responsibility of making a play to the other batters.

Thushara and Gerald Coetzee had given KL Rahul two freebies down leg side and he was unable to connect with either of them. But Coetzee was smoked for 15-runs in the second over courtesy of back-to-back boundaries from Stoinis.

LSG lost skipper Rahul on 28 to a wonderful catch by Mohammad Nabi off Hardik Pandya which pulled Mumbai back in the game as both added 58 off 40 deliveries for the second wicket. Stoinis was looking good and Deepak Hooda was decent in the four balls he had faced. It was an uphill task for MI as they needed a few



wickets to script a turn around on a wicket which looked slightly sluggish.

Stoinis was impressive with another fifty, but LSG stumbled toward the end, taking the game until the last over. The experience of Nicholas

Pooran came in handy as the home team successfully went past the finish line with 4 balls to spare.

Before that Mohsin Khan dismissed skipper Rohit Sharma for four runs in the second over of the inning. Tilak Varma got run out in the chaos of an lbw appeal by Ravi Bishnoi guiding the backward point, as he forgot about where the ball was. Then walked skipper Hardik Pandya in the crease. He got out for a first-ball duck. Mumbai were in serious trouble with 28 for 4 on the scoreboard in the powerplay. Mayank Yadav, on return from injury bowled the seventh over of the innings and was a fairly long first over and got smoked for eight runs in the over. And once the field spread and LSG went to their spinners, it became harder to score boundaries for ML. Five boundaries in eight overs and Kishan trying to go for more was out caught for 32 off 36. Ravi Bishnoi, nominally a leg spinner, took out another left-hander with his googly. Nehal Wadhwa and Ishan Kishan added run-up ball 53 for the fifth wicket.

Brief scores

Mumbai Indians 144 for 7 in 20 overs (Nehal Wadhwa 46, Tim David 35; Mohsin Khan 2-36, Naveen-ul-Haq 1-15) lost to Lucknow Super Giants 145 for 6 in 19.2 overs (Marcus Stoinis 62, KL Rahul 28; Hardik Pandya 2-28, Nuwan Thushara 1-30) by four wickets.

IPL 2024: 'WE WILL TAKE CONFIDENCE FROM OUR WIN IN THE LAST GAME,' SAYS PBKS CHARL LANGEVELDT

Chennai | Agencies

After a brilliant win over the Kolkata Knight Riders, the Punjab Kings will gear up for their next IPL match against the five-time champions Chennai Super Kings, set to take place on Wednesday at the MA Chidambaram Stadium.

Addressing the pre-match conference on Tuesday, Punjab Kings fast bowling coach Charl Langeveldt said that his side will take confidence from their record win in the last game. The Kings chased down a total of 262 at the Eden Gardens with eight wickets in hand to beat the Kolkata Knight Riders at the Eden Gardens, with a blistering ton from the opener, Jonny Bairstow.

"In sports, you always take confidence from the last game. And our last game was a good one for us. But Chennai is always a tricky wicket to play, so we will be prepared for that," Langeveldt said.

Chennai Super Kings and Punjab Kings have faced each other 28 times in IPL history so far, out of which the former have won 15 games while the latter have won 13 matches. Over the past few years, the Punjab Kings have maintained a good record against Chennai and will hope to replicate the same on Wednesday. "It's always a tricky wicket. It looks like we will be playing on a fresher wicket with extra bounce for the bowlers, seamers especially. Over the last 3-4 years, we have done well against them. But it's always hard when you are playing against the Chennai Super Kings at their home. They bowl really well here," the former Proteas speedster said.



"We don't think about statistics or records. We treat every game as a new one for us. But it does build confidence that we have a good record against the Chennai Super Kings," he added. Sam Curran has been the stand-in captain for Punjab over the last four games due to skipper Shikhar Dhawan's injury. Langeveldt also gave an update on skipper Dhawan and Zimbabwe star Sikandar Raza. "Sikandar Raza has gone to represent his country. We will have an update on Dhawan by tomorrow," he said. Chennai have a formidable batting lineup, including the likes of Ruturaj Gaikwad, Shivam Dube, and Rachin Ravindra, who have been in good form. Asked about the Punjab Kings' plans against the opposition, Langeveldt kept the cards close to his chest.

"I will not reveal much. But we have plans for each individual. Everyone has strengths, and everyone has weaknesses. We have had meetings to discuss the same for each batter individually," he signed off.

Nadal battles into fourth round in Madrid; faces Lehecka next

Madrid | Agencies

Five-time champion Rafael Nadal continued his comeback from injury at the Madrid Open when he progressed to the fourth round in the Caja Magica.

The Spaniard battled past Pedro Cachin 6-1, 6-7(5), 6-3 to reach the fourth round at a tour-level event for the first time since 2022.

Nadal found himself ensnared in a battle of wits with Argentina's Cachin. After waltzing his way through the first set, the Mallorcan was forced to endure a marathon that surpassed the three-hour mark. However, whenever his game abandoned him the Spaniard refused to back down.

After dropping the second set, Nadal found extra whip and power off the forehand wing in the decider, while he looked physically strong to secure a hard-fought victory after three hours and four



minutes.

The 37-year-old is competing in his third tournament of the year, having lost in the second round in Barcelona last week. With his victory against World No. 91 Cachin, Nadal improved his clay-court record against players outside the Top 50 in the ATP Rankings to 162-1 since 2005. His only defeat in that 19-year period came against No. 73 Horacio Zeballos in Vina del Mar, according to ATP

stats.

Nadal's gaze will immediately shift to his next challenge. With barely a day to recover, in the last sixteen at the Caja Magica on Tuesday against World No. 91 Cachin, Nadal improved his clay-court record against players outside the Top 50 in the ATP Rankings to 162-1 since 2005. His only defeat in that 19-year period came against No. 73 Horacio Zeballos in Vina del Mar, according to ATP

Nadal holds a 59-14 tournament record in Madrid and will aim to reach his 10th consecutive quarterfinal in the Spanish capital when he plays Lehecka.

LaLiga: Lewandowski hat-trick puts Barca back to second ahead of Girona showdown

Madrid | Agencies

A second-half hat-trick from Robert Lewandowski helped FC Barcelona come back from a goal down to beat Valencia 2-1 in the former Olympic Stadium in Montjuic.

The result sees Barca move back above Girona in La Liga ahead of its game in Girona next weekend and also means that Real Madrid can't assure the La Liga title in its match at home to Cadiz next week.

Barcelona opened the scoring in the 21st minute when Fermin Lopez again showed his intelligence around the penalty area when he darted in between two defenders to head home Raphinha's pinpoint cross, reports Xinhua.

Barca's lead didn't last long in a rainy Montjuic after Hugo Duro leveled five minutes later.

Valencia's top scorer chased down a long ball over the top and although Marc Andre Ter Stegen got to the ball with time to spare, he tried to clip the ball over the striker's leg, only to give Duro the gift of an open goal to put the ball into.

Another ball over the top saw Peter Gonzalez through on goal before



being wiped out by Ronald Araujo in the Barca area, with Pepelu stepping up to put Valencia ahead from the spot.

The game took another dramatic turn in the last minute of the half when Valencia goalkeeper, Giorgi Mamardashvili's control let him

down and he committed handball outside his area as Lamine Yamal looked to beat him.

Referee De Burgos Bengoetxea had no option but to send Mamardashvili off, leaving Valencia to play the second half with 10 men.

Barcelona levelled three minutes into the second half when Lewandowski flicked home a near-post corner, with Valencia claiming a positional offside from Fermin.

The second half was one-way traffic, with Barcelona playing in the Valencia half, although defended with two ordered lines to deny them spaces. The visitors should have gone back ahead with 17 minutes left to play when Peter and Diego Lopez combined to leave the latter through on goal, only for Pedri to make a last-gasp challenge as Lopez looked certain to score.

Lewandowski headed in his second of the game in the 82nd minute after Araujo won a challenge against substitute keeper Jaume Domenech, leaving him with a simple finish.

Lewandowski completed his hat-trick in injury time with a free kick into the top-corner that gave Domenech no chance.

HARSHIT RANA SUSPENDED FOR ONE MATCH FOR BREACHING IPL CODE OF CONDUCT

Mumbai: Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) bowler Harshit Rana has been fined 100 per cent of his match fees and suspended for one match for breaching the IPL Code of Conduct during the match against Delhi Capitals at the Eden Gardens, in Kolkata on April 29.

Rana committed a Level 1 offence under Article 2.5 of the IPL's Code of Conduct. He admitted to the offence and accepted the Match Referee's sanction. For Level 1 breaches of the Code of Conduct, the Match Referee's decision is final and binding.

The player was earlier penalised under the same level and article of the IPL Code of Conduct.



Archer named in Buttler-led England's 15-man squad

London | Agencies

Fast-bowler Jofra Archer has been named in the Jos Buttler-led 15-member preliminary squad that will represent defending champion England in the ICC T20 World Cup 2024 in the West Indies and United States of America starting in June.

Archer will be marking his return to international cricket for the first time in a year after recovering from his right elbow injury. Since 2021, he has faced several injury setbacks, ranging from stress fractures and recurring elbow issues to undergoing surgery following a mishap involving a fish tank.

The 29-year-old pacer's last appearance at the international level came over a year ago on England's tour of Bangladesh in March 2023.

Left-arm spinning all-rounder Tom



Hartley is the sole uncapped player and, along with batter Will Jacks, the only player not to feature at an ICC World tournament previously.

All teams are allowed to make changes to their squads until May 25, after which any alteration will require approval from the ICC's Event Technical Committee.

Moreover, this squad will also take on Pakistan in the preceding four-match T20I series next month in Leeds.

INDIA'S VISHVANATH, AKASH, PREET STORM INTO SEMIS AT ASIAN U-22 & YOUTH BOXING

Astana (Kazakhstan) | Agencies

Indian boxers Vishvanath Suresh, Akash Gorkha and Preet Malik progressed into the men's U-22 semi-finals with convincing victories at the Asian U-22 & Youth Boxing Championships 2024, here on Tuesday. Reigning youth world champion Vishvanath (48kg) led the charge for India as he dominated Iran's Hassani Seyedarsham in what turned out to be a one-sided affair as he clinched a comfortable 5-0 win. Senior national champion Akash (60kg) followed the similar suit as he outclassed Ebadi Arman of Iran with an identical 5-0 scoreline. Meanwhile, Preet (67kg) also didn't take much time before finishing the bout with a Referee Stopping the Contest



(RSC) decision in the first round itself against Vietnam's Nguyen Duc Ngoc Kunal (75kg), however, bowed out after losing 0-5 against Iran's Mahshari Mohammad in the quarter-finals. The U-22 semi-finals will be played on Saturday. Jugnoo (86kg), Rhythm (+92kg), Tamanna (50kg), Preeti (54kg) and Priyanka (60kg) will play their U-22 quarter-finals later on Tuesday.

Late on Monday, Rahul Kundu (75kg), Lakshay Rathi

(+92kg), and Laxmi (50kg), Tamanna (54kg), Yatri Patel (57kg) and Shrushti Sathe (63.5kg) emerged victorious as they enter the semi-finals in the youth category. On Wednesday, nine youth Indian boxers will compete in their respective quarter-finals bouts: Aryan (51kg), Jatin (57kg), Yashwardhan Singh (63.5kg), Priyanshu (71kg), Sahil (80kg) and Aryan (92kg) in the men's category whereas Nisha (52kg), Akansha Phalasal (70kg) and Rudrika (75kg) in the women's section. The prestigious tournament has been witnessing high-voltage action with the presence of 390-plus boxers from more than 24 countries, fighting for the medals across 25 weight categories. The finals for the youth and U-22 category will be played on May 6 and 7 respectively.

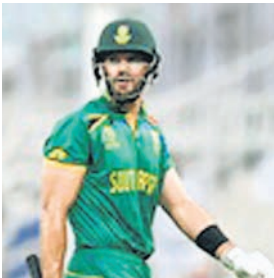
Markram to captain as South Africa name 15-man squad

Johannesburg | Agencies

Aiden Markram to lead the charge as South Africa on Tuesday announced the 15-member squad for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 to be played in the USA and West Indies from June 1-29.

This will be Markram's first World Cup assignment since being named T20I captain.

The team includes experienced batters Quinton de Kock, Reeza Hendricks, Heinrich Klaasen, David Miller and the promising Tristan Stubbs. Also, the squad features two uncapped T20I players; wicket-keeper batter Ryan Rickelton and fast bowler Othniel Baartman. Rickelton finished as the leading



run-scorer of the second edition of the SA20 with 530 runs at an average of 58.88 for MI Cape Town, while Baartman took 18 wickets in eight matches for defending champions Sunrisers Eastern Cape and is currently with Indian Premier League (IPL) franchise Delhi Capitals.

Kagiso Rabada and Anrich Nortje will be leading the pace attack. They will be supported by Marco Jansen and Gerald Coetzee.

Other notable selections include three front-line spinners; Bjorn Fortuin, Keshav Maharaj and Tabraiz Shamsi.

Pace pair Nandre Burger and Lungi Ngidi have been named as the travelling reserves.

Mumbai | Agencies

Former Australia cricketer Aaron Finch expressed his "surprise" over the selection of four spinners in the Indian squad announced by the BCCI on Tuesday for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup.

Yuzvendra Chahal, Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel and Kuldeep Yadav have been picked in the 15-member squad that will represent India in the World Cup in the West Indies and USA, scheduled from June 1 to 29. Sharing his thoughts, Finch



said, "I was surprised by the four spinners as well. I had Rinku in there and only two spinners."

"In my initial squad, I had the extra quick because I think, because of the inconsistency that we have seen with everyone bar Jasprit Bumrah with the ball, especially in the powerplay, I wanted the extra cover of that quick. And if they want to play three spinners in the game, one of them has to be prepared to bowl in the powerplay, and I don't see any of those guys doing it consistently, so I think they've

backed themselves into a corner slightly," he told Star Sports.

However, former West Indies cricketer Ian Bishop was impressed with the selection, eyeing how the pitches may behave in the West Indies and the US in the T20 World Cup and stated that it will be a luxury to have four spinners rather than it being a necessity.

"I guess spin will play a part in the tournament. The only concern I have is that the pitches for the World Cup may be slightly different from the ones we have seen in bilateral series or domestic tournaments. So I think it's a luxury to have four spinners rather than it being a necessity."



Rashmika Mandanna does 100 kg deadlift

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Rashmika Mandanna, who is gearing up for the release of her upcoming films 'Pushpa 2: The Rule' and 'Kubera', is hitting the gym and feeling like a 'beast'.

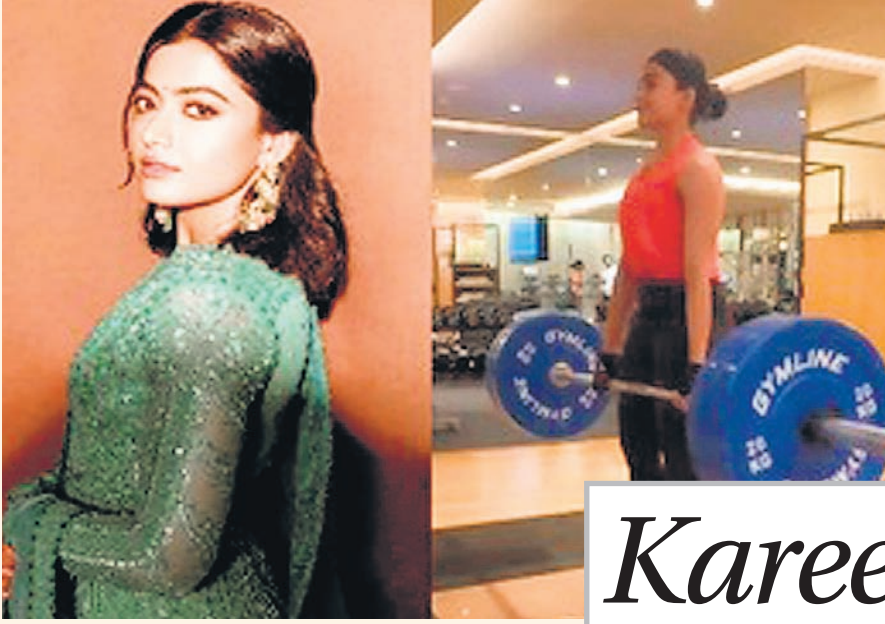
The actress took to the Stories section of her Instagram and shared a glimpse from her fitness routine, revealing to her followers that she had successfully completed a 100 kg deadlift.

Despite a hectic schedule and long shooting hours, the actress remains dedicated to her fitness regimen.

In her latest Instagram post, Rashmika shared a heartfelt message with her fans, offering them a peek into her daily routine and shooting schedule.

The actress can be seen doing the deadlifts in the video, which she shared on her Instagram Stories.

She wrote in the video, "Dear diary, hmmm... shooting nights for so long that I don't know where to begin. Came back to my room at 8 in the morning after the night shoot, had my meal, but couldn't sleep at all. So, I read a book and went to bed around 12 noon.



Woke up at 6 in the evening, wanted to do some cardio but didn't feel like it. Instead, I did some work on the phone and read a book. However, my body kept craving for some food (as usual), so I had a few snacks here and there."

The actress further mentioned: "Around 1 in the night, I went for a workout... did 100 kg deadlifts today and some legs... felt like a powerful beast. Also, I

watched a movie while at it. Oh, and now my knee is also well-rested, so I can't wait to start running again. Came up to the room, had dinner, and headed to shoot. Shooting with Dhanush sir, Shekar sir, Niketh, and the Kubera team is so much fun. It's the 30th today, and it's 7 in the morning, nowhere close to being sleepy. My sleep cycle is so messed up."

KAJOL'S CRYPTIC REPLY AFTER SHE'S TROLLED FOR OLD POST



I love my brother so much, he is in the autism spec so life has been really hard for him, until a few years ago. People finally began accepting him for who he was, he got to work at a high-end restaurant in Juhu where people encouraged him to work. He had been really happy with his job for the past few months till yesterday.

He is a huge fan of Kajol. And usually sees a single film of hers on repeat (either 'Dilwale' or 'My Name Is Khan') and that brings him joy. Yesterday, Kajol came with a couple of friends to the restaurant where he worked, and he was overjoyed. He usually gets back-end duties because he is good with numbers, but they allowed him to handle the bill once the dinner was finished.

All he wanted to say was that Kajol brought him a happiness and that he wished the best for her future. My brother was overwhelmed and started crying, but all she did was say, 'hogaya? Ab nautanki ban karo aur bill loh'. And she complained to the manager about employing people like him.

With the bottom of my heart, F*** you Kajol. You couldn't even say a thank you. It's not like he interrupted you while eating. I hope and pray no one treats you like you treated my brother and you shall have more awareness about what my brother is going through in the future. A lot of celebrities have come to the restaurant, some even bigger than you, but guess what? A large number of them might have demands but are at least not insufferable like you.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Kajol, who is being recently trolled on social media for allegedly being rude to an autistic boy, shared a cryptic post on Tuesday, saying 'when you aren't ready for that level of nonsense and need a minute to recalibrate'.

The backlash stemmed from a viral post on Reddit, where a user recounted an incident involving his/her brother.

The post, which was posted years ago, read: "I love my brother so much, he is on the autism spectrum, so life has been really hard for him, until a few years ago. People finally began accepting him for who he was, and he got to work at a high-end restaurant in Juhu, where people encouraged him to work. He had been really, really happy with his job for the past few months, until yesterday. He is a huge fan of Kajol. And usually sees a single film of hers on repeat (either 'Dilwale' or 'My Name Is Khan') and that brings him joy. Yesterday, Kajol came with a couple of friends to the restaurant where he worked, and he was overjoyed. He usually gets back-end duties because he is good with numbers, but they allowed him to handle the bill once the dinner was finished."

The note further read: "All he wanted to say was that Kajol brought him a lot of happiness and that he wished the best for her future. My brother was overwhelmed and started crying, but all she did was say, 'hogaya? Ab nautanki ban karo aur bill loh'. And she complained to the manager about employing people like him. From the bottom of my heart, F*** you Kajol. You couldn't even say thank you. It's not like he interrupted you while you were eating. I hope and pray no one treats you like you treated my brother, and you will have more awareness about what my brother is going through in the future. A lot of celebrities have come to the restaurant he works in, some even bigger than you, but guess what? A large number of them might have demands but are at least not insufferable like you."

"For once in my life, my brother felt good about having a job in a society like India, which doesn't even understand or respect my brother's condition. Now he feels really shy about talking to anyone else. I am super pissed at you and you alone," it added.

In response to the online trolling and the viral post, Kajol shared a quirky photo of herself making a confused face.

Along with the picture, she wrote a cryptic note, which read: "When you aren't ready for that level of nonsense and need a minute to recalibrate #honestyday #givemeaminute."



Lyricist Kausar Munir comes on board Anupam Kher directorial 'Tanvi the Great'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Veteran actor Anupam Kher has roped in lyricist Kausar Munir to pen the songs for his upcoming directorial, 'Tanvi the Great'.

Kausar is renowned for her work in films like 'Ishaqzaade', 'Ek Tha Tiger', 'Bajrangi Bhaijaan', and the streaming series 'Rocket Boys', among others.

The film already boasts Oscar-winning music composer M. M. Keeravani and Keiko Nakahara as the Director of Photography (DOP).

On Tuesday, Anupam took to his

Instagram to inform his 7.3 million followers about the new development on his film.

He shared a picture of himself with Kausar and the Oscar-winning music composer M. M. Keeravani.

The actor wrote in the caption: "Happy, Delighted, and Honoured to present Kausar Munir, the hugely talented lyricist of my directorial film #TanviTheGreat. She has added magic to the songs composed by #MMKeeravani with her soulful lyrics. Thank you, Kausar, for your warmth and brilliance during and after the

making of our songs. I am fortunate to have you on our team of remarkable technicians. Jai Ho."

Expressing her gratitude, Kausar said: "Tanvi the Great' is that rare film which combines the opportunity to convey a wonderful message, with an unforgettable working experience. I am honoured to be a part of the 'Tanvi the Great' family led by our amazing director, Anupam Kher. Thank you, Anupam, for the most fun, most warm, and most memorable music-making experience with you and the maestro M. M. Keeravani."

Preity Zinta is 'on top of the world'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Preity Zinta has shared behind-the-scenes (BTS) glimpses from her recent fashion shoot and said she is "on top of the world".

Preity, who is currently busy with the ongoing season of the Indian Premier League (IPL) with regards to her team 'Punjab Kings', took to Instagram and shared a Reel video.

In the video, she is seen posing on the terrace of a high-rise building for a fashion photoshoot.

Wearing a backless halter neck purple and orange colourblock long gown, the 'Kal Ho Naa Ho' fame actress exudes elegance. She accessorised the look with silver earrings.

The post is captioned: "On top of the world #fashion #shoot."

Fans couldn't help but shower her with compliments. One user commented: "Pretty girl!", while another fan said: "Beauty queen".



Kareena sets Insta on fire in an Anarkali suit

Mumbai: Kareena Kapoor Khan has set the internet on fire with her latest photoshoot, where she adorned an Anarkali suit, earning praise from fans who called her the 'original Mastani'.

The diva, who enjoys 12.3 million followers on Instagram, shared a series of pictures showcasing her attire, an off-white and golden Anarkali suit paired with matching churidar and a heavy dupatta.

The actress completed the ensemble with golden juttis.

For makeup, Kareena, also known as Bebo, opted for a glamorous look, sporting nude pink lips, her signature kohl-rimmed eyes, thick brows, and contoured cheeks. She adorned a maroon bindi and styled her hair in a neat bun. Chunky golden earrings complemented her look perfectly.

The post is captioned in Hindi: "Kajra Mohabbat Wala."

Fans flooded the comments section with admiration, with one user declaring her the "original Mastani". Another praised her as an "absolutely gorgeous diva". One fan noted, "Being traditional is being classy".



INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Nidhi Agerwal