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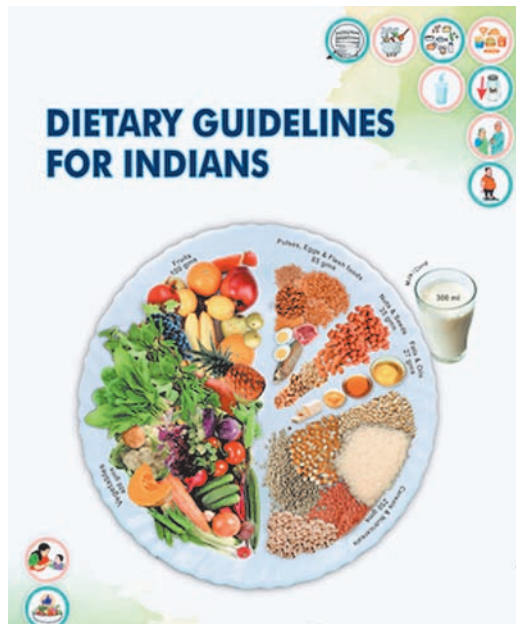
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ICMR-NIN revises dietary guidelines to check nutrient deficiencies, obesity and diabetes

STAY HEALTHY

The Indian Council of Medical Research and National Institute of Nutrition (ICMR-NIN) on Wednesday released a set of 17 dietary guidelines to prevent nutrient deficiencies, as well as address the rising risk of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as obesity, diabetes, and cardiovascular diseases in India.

▶ THE GUIDELINES FOCUS ON EATING A BALANCED DIET; VEGETABLES AND LEGUMES; NUTRITION FOR PREGNANT AND LACTATING MOTHERS; FOOD FOR INFANTS, CHILDREN, AND ADOLESCENTS; INCLUDING NUTRIENT-RICH FOODS FOR THE ELDERLY; EATING SAFE, CLEAN FOOD; AND DRINKING ADEQUATE AMOUNTS OF WATER.



On handling food safety, choosing minimally processed foods, the importance of food labels and physical activity". The Hyderabad-based ICMR-NIN revises dietary guidelines for Indians from time-to-time based on emerging scientific evidence and the changing food landscape. The most recent nutrient requirements for Indians were released by ICMR-NIN in 2020.

"The dietary habits of Indians have undergone significant changes over the past few decades, leading to an increase in the prevalence of non-communicable diseases while some of the problems of undernutrition continue to persist."

Rajiv Bahl, Director General, ICMR

"Through the dietary guidelines, we emphasise that the most logical, sustainable, and long-term solution to all forms of malnutrition is ensuring the availability, accessibility, and affordability of nutrient-rich foods while promoting consumption of diverse foods."

Hemalatha R., Director, ICMR-NIN

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The top research bodies said that the new guidelines, which include evidence-based food and lifestyle-related recommendations "underwent rigorous academic and scientific review".

They "are designed as easily understandable and practicable approaches for ensuring diet diversity to meet the requirements of essential nutrients and prevent NCDs among people of all age groups across India".

It also calls for avoiding protein supplements for building body mass, restricting salt intake, moderating intake of oil and fats, adopting a healthy lifestyle to prevent obesity, maintaining proper exercise, minimising ultra-processed foods, and reading information on food labels to make informed and healthy food choices.

Rajiv noted that the guidelines have been made "very relevant to the changing food scenario in India with the addition of practicable messages and sugges-

Sam Pitroda Embarrasses Congress Again

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Senior Congress leader Sam Pitroda - whose comment last month about an inheritance tax in the United States sparked a massive fight with the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party - has triggered another row in his attempt to make a pitch for national unity. In an exclusive interview with The Statesman, Pitroda described India as a "... diverse country... where people on East look like Chinese, people on West look like Arab, people on North look like maybe White and people in South look like Africa".

The Congress has distanced itself from the remark. The BJP had hit back fiercely, with several of its leaders taking aim at Pitroda over his comments and allegations of the Congress' "wealth redistribution" plans, which the party firmly denied.

"A diverse country, where people on the East look like Chinese, people on the West look like Arab, people on the North look like maybe White, and people in the South look like Africa."

Sam Pitroda

"The analogies drawn by Sam Pitroda in a podcast to illustrate India's diversity are most unfortunate and unacceptable. The Indian National Congress completely disassociates itself from such analogies."

Jairam Ramesh, General Secretary, Congress



Punish Congress 'racial' comments: PM Modi

Rajampet (Andhra Pradesh): Terming Sam Pitroda's 'racial' comments as shameful, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday urged people to punish the Congress for such remarks. Addressing a public meeting, the Prime Minister said the Congress should not be spared for the remarks made by a top leader of the party close to the Gandhi family. Alleging that the Congress' mindset is to see the country break into pieces, he said its leaders refuse to accept India as one nation, and even talk of dividing the country.

"Another big leader of the Congress displayed this divisive thinking of the party. He is close to the Gandhi family and the biggest advisor to the 'prince'," he said.

Pitroda quits Congress

New Delhi: Veteran Congressman Sam Pitroda, facing fire over a string of controversial statements in the recent past, stepped down as the Chairman of the Indian Overseas Congress on Wednesday.

Congress communications in-charge Jairam Ramesh took to X to inform about Pitroda's decision and said that he did it of his own accord. He also said that the Congress has accepted Pitroda's resignation.

Pitroda, said to be the political mentor of Rahul Gandhi, found himself in the eye of the storm over his statements, the latest being a "racial slur" on the country's citizens.

SC to deliver its order on Kejriwal's interim release on Friday

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court said it will pronounce its order on Friday on the interim bail plea of incarcerated Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in the excise policy case.

On Wednesday, a bench, headed by Justice Sanjiv Khanna, said in open court that it will deliver its decision on May 10 on the question of granting interim bail to Kejriwal.

A day prior, the bench, also comprising Justice Dipankar Datta, indicated that it may consider granting interim bail to the AAP leader in view of the ongoing general elections. It said that this is an extraordinary situation and that it is not like CM Kejriwal is a habitual offender. The federal probe agency opposed the grant of interim relief, saying that it would set



a wrong precedent and that politicians have no special rights as compared to normal citizens.

Kejriwal had moved the apex court against the Delhi High Court's April 10 judgement, which dismissed his plea challenging the ED arrest. The AAP chief was

arrested on March 21 and has been in custody since then.

Meanwhile, Delhi's Rouse Avenue Court on Tuesday extended Kejriwal's judicial custody till May 20 on the expiry of his previously granted 14-day judicial custody.

TERRORIST KILLED IN ENCOUNTER WITH SECURITY FORCES IN J&K'S KULGAM

Srinagar: A terrorist was killed in a fresh gunfight with security forces on Wednesday near the site of an encounter in Jammu and Kashmir's Kulgam district where two ultras were killed a day earlier.

During search of houses near the encounter site in the Redwani area of the district, the fresh exchange of fire took place with a terrorist hiding there, officials said. One terrorist was killed today, the officials said and added that his identity was being ascertained. He said firing was going on till last reports came in. Two ultras, including wanted terrorist of Lashkar-e-Toiba Basit Dar, were killed in the encounter with security forces on Tuesday.

According to the report, the adoption of technologies such as 5G, IoT, and artificial intelligence (AI) is expected to significantly augment demand for data and, in turn, data centres. "Per MW cost in India for setting up data centres has witnessed escalation due to incremental land, equipment and other soft costs with new capacities now being set up at a cost of Rs 60-70 crore/MW," the report mentioned.

When will Shiv Sena-UBT merge with Congress', asks BJP & Shinde camp

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The BJP and the Shiv Sena led by Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Wednesday targeted the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena (UBT) in the wake of NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar's remark that regional parties will move closer to the Congress, and some may also merge with it. The ruling alliance members asked when will the Shiv Sena (UBT) merge with the Congress.

The development came after former Maharashtra Chief Minister Pawar told a prominent daily: "In the next couple of years, several regional parties will associate more closely with the Congress. Or they may look at the option of merging with the Congress if they believe that is the best for their party."

When asked about the stand of the NCP (SP), its chief said, "I don't see any difference between the Congress and us... Ideologically, we belong to the Gandhi, Nehru line of thinking."

Taking a cue from the senior politi-



cian's remarks, BJP legislator Prasad Lad said, "Will the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena merge with the Congress now?"

"The Shiv Sena (UBT) has associated with the Congress which opposes V.D. Savarkar. Its chief Uddhav Thackeray no longer begins his speech with 'All my Hindu brothers and sisters'. It has resorted to appeasement politics following Congress' advice," said Lad, adding that in such a situation, will the Shiv

Sena (UBT) merge with the Congress now? The BJP legislator also asked if Uddhav Thackeray agrees with Congress leader Vijay Wadetiwar's remarks on the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks and the Congress' opposition to the Ram Temple in Ayodhya.

Shiv Sena spokesperson advocate Susiebin Shah also claimed that Maharashtra will soon see the Uddhav Thackeray camp merge with the Congress.

India's data centre capacity to double to 2,000 MW by 2026, green energy is the key

- The growth plans have also created substantial investment prospects, with a likely capex of Rs 50,000 crore in this space over the next three years till 2026, according to the report by CareEdge Ratings.
- The data centre industry is expected to clock a revenue growth of 32 per cent during FY24-FY26.
- While India generates about 20 per cent of global data, in terms of data centre capacity, it has a share of just 3 per cent.



rise in 'green energy' solutions, a report showed on Wednesday. However, the wave of digitisation, driven by the expansion of e-commerce, fintech platforms, online streaming, and gaming services, is anticipated to increase the number of internet users and boost internet penetration - generating a robust demand for data centres.

"The capacity addition of 1.1 GW in data centre space needs to be corroborated with increased absorption in future/medium term, as cashflow stability is an important consideration for the debt-funded investments," explained Puja Jalan, Associate Director, CareEdge Ratings.

In India, AdaniConneX aims to build an environmentally and socially conscious 1GW data centre infrastructure platform by leveraging the complementary capacity of the Adani Group and EdgeConneX, one of the largest private data centre operators.

Last month, AdaniConneX established the country's largest sustainability-linked financing to raise up to \$1.44 billion.

According to the report, the adoption of technologies such as 5G, IoT, and artificial intelligence (AI) is expected to significantly augment demand for data and, in turn, data centres. "Per MW cost in India for setting up data centres has witnessed escalation due to incremental land, equipment and other soft costs with new capacities now being set up at a cost of Rs 60-70 crore/MW," the report mentioned.

CCTV pictures of suspected terrorists behind Poonch attack surface

Jammu: Images of three suspected terrorists, taken out of a CCTV clip, who purportedly carried out the May 5 attack on an Indian Air Force (IAF) convoy in J&K's Poonch district were doing the rounds on social media on Wednesday.

In the attack on the two-vehicle IAF convoy at Surankote tehsil in Poonch district, one air warrior named Corporal Vikky Pahade was killed, while four other IAF personnel were injured. The police earlier released sketches of two terrorists suspected to be behind the attack, besides announcing a reward of Rs 20 lakh for any information that can lead to their arrest. There is no official confirmation if the three terrorists seen in the images on Wednesday were behind the Poonch terror attack, or whether the security forces released the pictures.

Opposition will put 'Babri lock' on Ram Temple, warns Amit Shah

Lakhimpur Kheri | Agencies

Union Home Minister Amit Shah, on Wednesday, said that a 'Babri lock' will be put at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya if the coalition of opposition parties comes to power.

Addressing a rally in Lakhimpur Kheri, Shah referred to SP leader Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav's statement in which he said that the Ram Temple issue is "bekar" (useless).

"Ram Gopal says the temple is useless. Remember me, though it is not going to happen, if the opposition parties come to power, they will put a 'Babri naam ka tala' (Babri lock) at the Ram Temple," he said during his speech.

He further attacked the Congress party over delaying the Ram temple issue for 70 years.

"When you made Modi the Prime Minister for the sec-



ond time, he not only won the legal dispute involving the Ram Jannabhoomi but also performed the 'bhoomi puja' (groundbreaking ceremony) of the Ram Temple with its 'pran pratishtha' (consecration) being held in January."

He claimed that the opposition parties avoided attending the Ram Temple ceremony out of fear of losing votes. "All of you know who comprises their vote bank. Uttar Pradesh will never support those who shy away from Lord Ram's work," said Shah.



Air India Express row

'CONCERN GENUINE', SAYS DELHI REGIONAL LABOUR COMMISSIONER TO TATA SONS CHAIRMAN

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Delhi Regional Labour Commissioner Ashok Perumalla has written an email to Tata Sons Chairman N. Chandrasekaran stating that the concerns raised by the union and cabin crew members of Air India Express are genuine and a high-level committee should inquire about the grievances of the employees.

Around 300 crew members of Air India Express, which is owned by Tata, have called in sick, claiming that despite promises of job security, salary preservation, and recognition of seniority and expertise, there has been a noticeable deviation from these assurances. Over 100 international and national flights have been impacted since Tuesday.

The email sent by Perumalla on May 3, which was also marked to Air India Express CEO Alok Singh and Air India CEO Campbell Wilson, stated that the concerns of the Union are genuine and the management of the



airline has not sent any responsible decision-makers to any of the conciliation proceedings. "Mismanagement and blatant violations of labour laws were apparent. The HR department tried to mislead the conciliation offi-

cer with the wrong information and an idiotic interpretation of legal provisions," read the email by Perumalla. Perumalla further in the mail suggested to send a high-level committee to inquire into the grievances of the

employees and the functioning of the HR department and take corrective measures at the earliest to maintain harmonious industrial relations.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Civil Aviation has requested a detailed report from Air India Express regarding the cancellation of flights and urged them to address the issues promptly. Additionally, the airline has been instructed to ensure that passenger facilities adhere to the norms set by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

The Air India Express Employees Union (AIXEU), representing a segment of cabin crew members, had also earlier written to Chandrasekaran, addressing employee grievances and expressing concerns about the ongoing situation within Air India Express Limited, especially after its acquisition by Tata.

The union has accused the airline of mismanagement and unequal treatment of staff, claiming that these issues have adversely impacted employee morale.

Congress joined hands with anti-national forces: JP Nadda

Bilaspur (Himachal Pradesh) | Agencies

In a scathing attack on the Congress, BJP president JP Nadda on Wednesday said the grand old party is "anti-Sanatana" and it joined hands with anti-national forces.

He was speaking at the Panna Pramukh conference in his hometown Bilaspur in Himachal Pradesh amid the presence of party national Vice-President Saudan Singh, Union Minister and Hamirpur BJP candidate Anurag Thakur, state party President Rajeev Bindal and former chief minister Jai Ram Thakur, among others.

JP Nadda said all other parties compromised with the ideology but the BJP is the only party that has remained firm on its ideology since its inception as Jan Sangh. "On August 5, 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi took a visionary decision to abrogate Article 370.



After abrogation of Article 370, peace and normalcy have returned to Jammu and Kashmir. Today we have 'Ek Pradhan, Ek Nishan, Ek Vidhan' (One Prime Minister, one flag and one Constitution) in the country," JP Nadda said.

Saying that 34 years ago, the party had passed a resolution in Palampur town,

demanding the construction of Ram Mandir in Ayodhya, the BJP president said: "For us, Ram temple is not an issue of politics but an issue of faith. Prime Minister Modi enshrined Ram Lala in the grand temple after 10 days of rigorous rituals on January 22." He said the BJP workers should feel proud that they are members of the party.

After Maha polls, Sharad Pawar to campaign in other states from May 20

Ahmednagar | Agencies

Nationalist Congress Party-SP President Sharad Pawar on Wednesday announced that after the polling in Maharashtra for the Lok Sabha elections ends on May 20, he will undertake extensive campaign tours in other parts of India.

Addressing a rally here, Pawar, 83, said that after the completion of elections for the remaining 24 of 48 LS seats in the state, he will embark on a tour of several other states where the parliamentary elections shall be in the final two phases on May 25 and June 1.

As per the Election Commission of India (ECI) schedule, elections for 57 LS constituencies each (total 114) - spread across 15 states - shall be conducted in the two final phases. These include



Bihar (16), Haryana (10), Himachal Pradesh (4), Jharkhand (7), Odisha (12), Punjab (13), Uttar Pradesh (27), West Bengal (17), Chandigarh (1), and Delhi (7). A party leader said that as per tentative plans, Sharad Pawar is likely to

address a few INDIA bloc rallies or public meetings of various individual allies in states like Bihar, Haryana, Jharkhand, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, and Delhi for the final two phases of elections.

Fast-tracking probe not possible until Prajwal Revanna turns up, says K'taka Home Minister

Bengaluru | Agencies

Karnataka Home Minister G. Parameshwara said on Wednesday that until the prime accused in the sex video scandal, JD-S MP Prajwal Revanna, turns up for investigation, fast-tracking the probe is not possible.

Prajwal Revanna is the grandson of former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda, and son of JD-S MLA H.D. Revanna, who has been arrested for his alleged role in the kidnapping of a victim of the sex scandal involving his son. The sitting MP from Hassan, Prajwal Revanna has been renominated from the seat by the NDA for the ongoing Lok Sabha elections.

Speaking to reporters here, Parameshwara said, "Prajwal Revanna has left the country. The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the case has already sought cooperation from the CBI and a Blue Corner notice has been issued against him.



"Prajwal Revanna's father H.D. Revanna has been arrested in a kidnapping case involving one of the victims of the sex scandal. The SIT is

gathering more information in this matter." On the demand to hand over the case to the CBI, Parameshwara said, "There is no need to hand over

the case to the CBI. Former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy has said that he doesn't have trust in the SIT probe. However, Kumaraswamy knows about the SIT, which is conducting the probe efficiently.

"The Chief Minister, the Deputy CM, or myself are not interfering in the investigation. No case was handed over to the CBI during the tenure of Kumaraswamy as the CM."

When asked about a complaint registered against Deputy CM D.K. Shivakumar, the minister said the SIT will take a call on issuing a notice to him. "We trust him... Let the SIT report come out first," he said.

On a purported audio clip of Shivakumar over the release of the alleged sex videos by BJP leader Devaraje Gowda, Parameshwara said the SIT will take note of the development. "Shivakumar is the Deputy Chief Minister. He is in a responsible position, but that does not mean he can't be punished," Parameshwara noted.

BJP ACCEPTED DEFEAT IN SONIPAT, SAYS CONGRESS LEADER HOODA

Sonipat | Agencies

Veteran Congress leader and two-time Haryana Chief Minister Bhopinder Hooda on Wednesday said the BJP has accepted its defeat in the state's Sonipat Lok Sabha seat with his party announcing Satpal Brahmachari as its candidate.

"It seems the BJP is now just completing the formalities of contesting elections because all communities have united and decided to enable Brahmachari's win," Hooda said while addressing election meetings in Gohana, Kharkhoda, and Murthal in the constituency.

Brahmachari, belonging to the Brahmin community, returned to state politics after spending two decades in politics in Uttarakhand.

Hooda, in his address, claimed that the BJP does not have a single public-friendly promise in its manifesto, and the public has, anyway, lost confidence in its election announcements and that is why BJP leaders always talk about Congress'



manifesto instead of their own manifesto. "BJP leaders are continuously spreading lies about the Congress

manifesto, while the Congress has promised 30 lakh jobs in the Central government, the guarantee of the

MSP (minimum support price) to farmers, the guarantee of one-year apprenticeship for the educated youth...The Congress manifesto is a roadmap to benefit every section," Hooda, who is also the Leader of the Opposition, said.

Brahmachari said the Congress victory in the Lok Sabha polls and later in the Assembly elections is certain.

"The Congress has announced to provide two lakh jobs in Haryana. Besides, promises like Rs 6,000 pension to the elderly, OPS (old pension scheme) benefit to employees, a cooking gas cylinder for Rs 500 to every housewife and 300 units of free electricity are being made by the Congress, while the BJP neither has any plans nor any report card of its past performance," he said.

Both the Congress and the BJP are heading to a straight contest on this seat. The BJP has pitted Rai Assembly legislator Mohan Lal Badoli against Brahmachari. Both belong to the same community.

Gold worth Rs 4.3 cr seized at India-Bangladesh border in last 24 hrs

Kolkata | Agencies

The South Bengal Frontier of the Border Security Force (BSF) has seized nearly 5.9 kg of gold worth more than Rs 4 crore that was being smuggled into India along its border with neighbouring Bangladesh in the North 24 Parganas district of West Bengal between Tuesday and Wednesday.

This massive seizure is significant as Parliamentary elections are underway and four Lok Sabha constituencies in the state went to the polls on Tuesday.

The first seizure took place around 3:45 p.m. on Tuesday when personnel of the 145 Battalion BSF, deployed at ICP Petrapole, acted on specific information provided by the Intelligence Cell and searched an Indian truck returning after delivering goods to Bangladesh.

A search of the cabin of the truck (WB25E-8484) led to the seizure of 30 gold biscuits in which truck driver Ujjwal Mandal was apprehended.

During questioning, Mandal claimed that he had received the gold from one Monu Sk at



Benapole and handed it over to an unknown person at the Bongaon hospital, in return for which Mandal was due to receive Rs 10,500.

On Wednesday morning, the BSF personnel at ICP Petrapole received another alert and started frisking people crossing over from Bangladesh. Women constables detected some metal substance hidden in the body of a woman following which a thorough search revealed two gold biscuits.

The woman, identified as Dilruba Akhtar of Shariatpur in Dhaka claimed that she was travelling to Kolkata for treatment.

Gold medalist wrestler arrested in Delhi in attempt to murder case



Team Absolute | New Delhi

State-level two-time gold medalist wrestler, who was wanted in an attempt to murder case, was arrested from the city's Mukarba Chowk bus stand, police said on Wednesday.

The accused was identified as Sumeet, a resident of the national capital.

His arrest comes after Sumeet along with his four associates Sagar, Nikhil, Dev and Aniket tried to murder one Vishnu on April 21.

In this incident, Sagar had opened fire on Vishnu but the bullet missed the target. After this, they all fled from the spot.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime Branch) Satish Kaushik said that based on manual inputs, it was established that Sumeet was trying to abscond from Delhi to Haryana by bus from Mukarba Chowk bus stand.

"A raid was conducted at Mukarba Chowk bus stand and Sumit was apprehended," said the DCP.

Elected members of municipalities can't be removed at whims and fancies of civil servants or their political masters: SC

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court has said that elected members of municipalities cannot be removed at the whims and fancies of the civil servants or their political masters only because some of such elected members are found to be inconvenient within the system.

Observing that a municipality is an institution of "grass-root level democracy", a bench presided over by Justice Surya Kant stressed that the elected representatives of a municipality deserve due respect and autonomy in their day-to-day functioning.

The Bench, also comprising Justice PS Narasimha, made the above observations as it quashed the decision of the Urban Development Minister in Maharashtra disqualifying the elected councillors/office-bearers of the municipalities, holding the action to be "unfair, unjust and founded upon irrelevant considerations." Against one of the appellants, there were allegations of violation of provisions of the Maharashtra Municipal Councils, Nagar Panchayats and Industrial Townships Act, 1965 and



alleged illegal construction of the house in excess of the permission granted.

In an enquiry held by the Collector, the allegations were determined to be correct and he was served with a show-cause notice.

While the show-cause proceedings were pending, the Minister-In-Charge, in an order passed in December 2015 suo moto, disqualified the appellant Makarand @ Nandu from the post of Vice-President of the Osmanabad Municipal Council and he was also debarred from contesting election for six years. Similarly, the President of the Naldurga Municipal Council was removed and debarred from contesting election for six years on the complaint

that a particular company was given a tender for garbage collection and disposal, overlooking the lowest bid.

Earlier in 2016, the Bombay High Court (Aurangabad bench) had declined to interfere with the disqualification orders passed by the state government.

In its judgment, the apex court said that the impugned action does not satisfy the doctrine of proportionality, and the removal of the appellants with a ban to contest the election for six years is highly excessive and disproportionate to the nature of the so-called misconduct attributed.

"The manner in which the proceedings, while pending before the Collector at the stage of show-cause notice, were suo moto transferred to the State Government and the Minister-In-Charge coming forward to hastily pass an order of removal, are sufficient for us to infer that the action was unfair, unjust and founded upon irrelevant considerations," it said. Also, it is noted that the tender for garbage collection and disposal was accepted after due negotiation, ensuring no financial loss was caused to the Municipality.

13-year-old girl, boyfriend held for murder of landlord in Lucknow

Lucknow | Agencies

The Lucknow police have solved a three-month-old murder mystery with the detention of a 13-year-old girl and her boyfriend.

The minor girl and her 19-year-old boyfriend are guilty of killing her landlord, who had been harassing her for a long time in the Wazirganj area.

"The accused were identified as Bunty Kashyap and his minor girlfriend. They will be presented before the court. A case of murder under Indian Penal Code (IPC) 302 was already registered in the matter," said ADCP West Zone, Vishwajeet Srivastava.

"Police have also seized a weapon which they used in the killing," said the DCP, and added that the case was worked out by a team of ACP Chowk, Raj Kumar, sta-

tion house officer (SHO) Chowk, Dinesh Mishra, and the crime branch.

According to police, the body of Shyam Chandra Gupta, 56, was found in a drain in the River Bank Colony in the Wazirganj area on March 3. The deceased's son, Ankur Gupta, had lodged a missing complaint, following which police got involved in the case.

Police said that Shyam Chandra Gupta used to prey on the minor girl and even sexually harass her as he was a frequent visitor to her room. "Fed up with his actions, the minor told everything to her lover Bunty and the two decided to eliminate him. The minor girl slashed his throat, and then the body was stuffed in a bedsheet cover and thrown into the drain behind the house, said the ADCP.



RE-POLLING IN 4 POLLING STATIONS OF MULTAI ASSEMBLY OF BETUL PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA ISSUED ORDERS, VOTING WILL BE HELD FROM 7 AM TO 6 PM ON MAY 10.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Electoral Officer Anupam Rajan has said that re-polling will be held at four polling stations falling under Multai Assembly constituency of Betul Lok Sabha constituency. Orders in this regard have also been issued by the Election Commission of India on Wednesday. He said that polling station number 275-Rajapur, falling under assembly number 129, no. 276-Dudar Raiyat, SI. Orders have been given to re-poll in 279-Kunda Raiyat and No. 280-Chikhlimal on 10 May 2024 (Friday). This voting will take place on May 10 (Friday) from 7 am to 6 pm. The process of mock poll will start on May 10 at 5:30 am. For this, the polling team will leave on May 9 along with the material. In re-polling, indelible ink will be applied on the middle finger of the left hand of the voter.

The Election Commission of India has also instructed the



Collector and District Election Officer, Betul to give proper training to the presiding officer of the polling party and polling officers before

conducting re-polling. The Election Commission of India has also given instructions to the Collector and District Election Officer, Betul to compulsorily give information about re-polling to all the candidates and political parties including observers and to give wide publicity by beating Drum (Munadi) in the polling station area.

It is noteworthy that the bus returning after voting on May 7 was the victim of a fire accident. The information of which was sent by the Collector and District Election Officer Betul to the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer. The Commission was informed about the incident by the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer immediately after receiving the information. After which the Election Commission of India has issued orders for re-polling at four polling stations falling under Multai Assembly constituency under Betul Lok Sabha constituency.

Two people died due to unknown disease in Dewas, 70 sick, three teams arrived from Bhopal-Indore

Team Absolute | Dewas

An unknown disease has spread in Kheda Madhavpur village of Tonk Khurd tehsil of the district. So far two people have died due to this disease. 70 people are sick. Congress leader and media advisor to PCC Chief KK Mishra gave this information on social media late on Tuesday night. After this the government came into action. On the instructions of CM Dr. Mohan Yadav, three teams have reached Kheda Madhavpur village.

In the camp, 120 patients were examined and treated by doctors and 16 blood samples were collected. Three teams were formed and a door-to-door larval survey was conducted and fever patients were examined. Continuous monitoring is being done by the team. According to health department sources, the girl was first treated at the local level and later, when her health



deteriorated, she was taken to a private hospital in Dewas. From there he was taken to

Indore, but his life could not be saved. The cause of death has not been revealed yet.

"Information regarding the girl's illness or death is not yet clear. On receiving information about people falling ill in the village, the team went and set up a camp and treated the patients. Larva, fever survey, fogging etc. have been done. Samples of suspected patients have been taken and tested, but dengue or malaria has not been confirmed in any of them."

Dr. Shivendra Mishra, CMHO, Dewas

BJP intends to snatch reservation by changing the Constitution: Kamal Nath

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Constitution and reservation have become a big issue in the Lok Sabha elections. Former Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Kamal Nath has accused BJP of snatching reservation by changing the Constitution.

Former Chief Minister Kamal Nath wrote on Twitter on Wednesday, "BJP wants to change the Constitution so that it can end reservation and take away the rights of the deprived section of the society. Congress will not let this happen. Congress has brought 'Share Justice' in its Nyay Patra. Under which every person and every class will be counted for social and economic equality.

Kamal Nath further said, "They will get the right to reservation, by removing the



50 percent limit through constitutional amendment, SC, ST and OBC will get full right to reservation. Not only this, SC, ST will get legal guarantee of sub plan, as much as the population of SC, ST. That much budget means more share. The leases for

water, forest and land under the Forest Rights Act will be decided within a year."

He further said, "Under Apni Dharti, Apna Raj, Congress will notify those settlements in Scheduled Areas where tribals are the largest social group."

REGISTRATION FOR SUMMER NATURE STUDY PROGRAMME - GREEN CUB

Bhopal: Regional Museum of Natural History, Bhopal (A Regional Centre of National Museum of Natural History, New Delhi) has planned to organize Summer Nature Study Programme - Green Cub from 15th May to 5th June, 2024 for the students of class 5th to 7th to create positive attitude towards various components of environment. Maximum 20 students will be selected on "First come, first serve" basis for this programme. Students may send their name, present class, T-shirt size, photo and image of latest marksheet through e-mail rmnhbhopal@gmail.com on or before 11th May, 2024 for registration.

Man prays at temple, then throws bombs at house in Jabalpur

Team Absolute | Jabalpur

A man in Madhya Pradesh's Jabalpur threw bombs and fired shots at a house to threaten the residents who refused to pay him 'security money', police said. The incident was recorded in the CCTV camera which was installed in the area.

The incident occurred near the Bharat Krishi Samaj School in the Ghamapur area of Jabalpur on Tuesday, where the man identified as Anand Thakur attempted to spread panic by throwing bombs at a house. The CCTV footage capturing this incident shows the suspect carrying bombs in both hands as he walks, and upon reaching the residence, he throws bombs one after the other. While one bomb failed



to detonate, the other exploded, emitting clouds of smoke that spread from inside the house to its surroundings. Before the bombing attempt, Thakur paid homage at a nearby temple. Following the ritual,

he proceeded to pass by the residence of Maan Singh Thakur, where he threw one bomb after another. According to the police, Thakur is notorious in the area for extorting protection money, intimidat-

ing not only residents but also businessmen. A formal complaint was lodged at Ghamapur Police Station by the residents, and a search operation is underway to track down Thakur.

AIIMS Bhopal's ICTC Center Earns NACO Accolade

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Prof. (Dr) Ajal Singh, Executive Director of AIIMS Bhopal always strives for excellence. National AIDS Control Organization (NACO) has recently bestowed the prestigious title of Center of Excellence upon the ICTC center at AIIMS Bhopal, awarding it with a distinguished 5-star rating for consistently upholding exceptional standards in HIV testing. This recognition underscores the unwavering commitment of the center towards ensuring top-notch quality in healthcare services. Professor Ajal Singh expressed his pride in the center's accomplishment, emphasizing the significance of setting high standards in healthcare provision. "At AIIMS Bhopal, we are committed to excellence in every aspect of our operations, especially in critical areas like HIV testing and counseling," stated Professor Singh. "This recognition from NACO reaffirms our commitment to providing



top-notch healthcare services to our community."

Functioning round the clock, the center offers vital HIV testing services catering to patients of AIIMS Bhopal

while also overseeing the operations of 10 Facility-based HIV screening ICTC (F-ICTC) centers across Bhopal. Its pivotal role extends further as it stands as the sole center in Bhopal

elevated to the esteemed status of a "Sampoorna Suraksha Kendra (SSK)" by the Madhya Pradesh State AIDS Control Organization (MPSACS).

Beyond its institutional duties, the center is deeply engaged in conducting peripheral camps, outreach activities, and awareness campaigns, aimed at enlightening the public about HIV/AIDS, other Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs), and adolescent health. These endeavors are pivotal in extending healthcare services to a broader spectrum of potentially affected individuals.

Functioning within the Department of Microbiology of the institute, the center is under the supervision of Drs. Debasis Biswas and Shashwati Nema. The attainment of this esteemed recognition is also a reflection of the dedicated efforts of Sarojmani Nandey, Arun Vishwakarma, Jais Raj Bhargava, and Narendra Mishra, whose unwavering commitment has been instrumental in this achievement.

Now queue for general ticket at Bhopal railway station

Passengers can book unreserved tickets. Facility to issue and renew season tickets. R-Wallet can be recharged through Debit Card, Net Banking, UPI or UTS. Recharge through counter.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Good news for railway passengers! Now there is no need to stand in long queues at stations for general tickets. Bhopal division has started the facility of ticket booking through ATVM and UTS mobile app, through which passengers



can book their tickets easily

and fast. Through the UTS app, passengers can book unreserved travel tickets, platform tickets and monthly season tickets from their mobile phones in a matter of moments. Even during the summer season, passengers can travel conveniently by taking tickets to their destination without standing in queues. Through the UTS app, passengers can book tickets in a paperless and cashless manner, thereby saving time and paper.

DOWNLOAD THE APP:

- Download the 'UTS' app from Google Play Store, Windows Store or Apple Store.
- Register by signing up on the app.
- Book tickets using R-Wallet by logging in.

ABSCONDING ACCUSED WHO COMMITTED FRAUD IN THE NAME OF JOB NABBED IN BHOPAL

Bhopal: The police station crime branch has arrested an accused who was absconding for a year, who is accused of fraud of Rs 60 lakh in the name of job. The accused had cheated people under the guise of a government job.

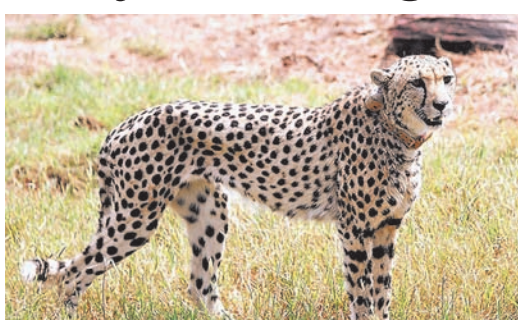
Applicant Ganpat Singh accused non-applicants Pramod Mishra, Arun Mishra and Prakash Mishra of committing a fraud of Rs 30 lakh on the pretext of getting a government job. When the applicant asked for his money back, he was given a bounced cheque. Other associates of the accused have already been arrested in this case. Under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner of Police Akhil Patel, Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police Crime Shailendra Singh Chauhan and Assistant Police Commissioner Mukhtar Qureshi, Police Station Incharge Crime Branch Ashok Maravi and his team launched an operation in search of the absconding accused. Accused Arun Mishra was arrested near the court and presented in the court. Police station in-charge Ashok Kumar Maravi, SI Rajkishore Mishra, ASI Anil Kumar Tiwari, ASI Anil Tiwari, Constable Shivpratap, Constable Sandhya Sharma played an important role in this action. This arrest shows the activeness and commitment of the police towards controlling crime and criminals in the city. This incident is a strong message to other criminals that the law has a long arm and those who commit crimes ultimately have to bow before the law.



Why are Cheetahs going from Madhya Pradesh to Rajasthan again and again?

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Leopards from Kuno National Park of the state have entered the border of Rajasthan a few days ago. In such a situation, the Forest Department of Rajasthan is thinking of settling these leopards there. There is every possibility that after June 4, when the election code of conduct ends, the Forest Department of Rajasthan will send a proposal in this regard to the Central Government and Madhya Pradesh Government. Actually, a few days ago two leopards from Kuno had gone to Rajasthan. One cheetah has reached the forests of Baran district, about 70-80 kilometers away from the border of Madhya Pradesh, and the



other has reached the forests of Karauli, about 100-110 kilometers away. Experts say that these cheetahs are trying to find their own territory. In April, a cheetah from Kuno had reached Jhansi (Uttar Pradesh). At the same time, a cheetah had reached Morena, another district of Madhya Pradesh. Pawan Upadhyay, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,

Rajasthan Forest Department, says that the department is keeping an eye on the movement of leopards towards Rajasthan. It is possible to take some steps in this regard only after the code of conduct is removed. Regarding leopards, a steering committee has also been formed at the central government level. His decision will be final.

EXPERT'S VIEW

Experts say that a cheetah cannot travel from Kuno in Madhya Pradesh to the forests of Baran and Karauli in a day or two. Must have hunted and drank water at some places. Must have crossed rivers, streams, mountains, fields, mines and forests.

In such a situation, wildlife experts believe that the forests of Rajasthan are friendly for leopards. Meanwhile, they did not have any conflict with wild animals like Tiger, Panther, Wild Boar, Wolf, Hyena, Crocodile etc. Experts believe that if they are able to move 100-110 kilometers from Kuno, it has become their natural area. They have become familiar with it. Their movement in the entire area under Jhansi to Baran, Kuno, Sheopur, Karauli, Morena shows that they will not stay in a fixed area of Kuno for long.

MP High Court's order Include the students in the examination of nursing colleges whose CBI investigation has been banned by the SC

Team Absolute | Jabalpur

The double bench of Justice Sanjay Dwiwedi and Justice AK Paliwal of Jabalpur High Court has issued instructions that the students of 56 nursing colleges where the Supreme Court has banned the CBI investigation, should be included in the examination. Fixing the next hearing on the petition on July 1, the double bench has directed the CBI to present the investigation report of the Nursing Diploma College.

A petition was filed in the High Court on behalf of the Law Students Association challenging the fake nursing colleges. While hearing the petition, the High Court had handed over the investigation of nursing colleges running in the state to CBI. Based on the investigation report of CBI, detailed orders were earlier issued regarding the operation of nursing colleges and inclusion of stu-



dents in the examination. On behalf of the petitioner, an application for amendment in the petition was presented by the state government challenging the Nursing Educational Institution Recognition Rules 2024. In the new rule, the requirement of 20 thousand to 23 thousand square feet academic building for recognition of new college or renewal of recognition of old colleges was abolished and reduced to only eight thousand square feet.

On behalf of the petitioner, the couple was told that in the last two years, 66 nursing colleges of the state have been found ineligible in the CBI investigation, which also includes government colleges.



EDITOR'S SPECS

AstraZeneca recalled Covid-19 vaccine

In a significant move, pharma giant AstraZeneca has recalled its Covid-19 vaccine, made in collaboration with Oxford University, worldwide, months after admitting in the UK court about its potential rare blood clot side effect. The company voluntarily withdrew its "marketing authorisation" of its Covid vaccine, sold as Covishield in India and Vaxzevria in Europe. It can now no longer be used in the European Union, the Telegraph reported. While the company made the application to withdraw the vaccine on March 5, it came into effect on Tuesday. Credited for saving more than six million lives, AstraZeneca "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. Thrombotic Thrombocytopenic Syndrome (TTS) is a rare side effect that can cause people to have blood clots and a low blood platelet count, linked to at least 81 deaths in the UK as well as hundreds of serious injuries. The British-Swedish multinational pharmaceutical is also being sued by more than 50 alleged victims and grieving relatives in a High Court case in the UK. However, AstraZeneca noted that the vaccine is being withdrawn for "commercial reasons" and is "not linked to the court case", and that "the timing was pure coincidence". The company noted that it will collaborate with global regulatory authorities "to initiate marketing authorisation withdrawals for Vaxzevria, where no future commercial demand for the vaccine is expected".

Pak's misstep in stirring controversy with India's election speeches

Deepika Bhan

As Lok Sabha elections in India progress, it is not surprising to see Pakistan nose around. Like a quarrelsome neighbour, the country is whining about the election speeches being made in India by various political leaders. Pakistan is going to various forums crying over the political speeches being made in India, particularly by the ruling BJP leaders. A section of its leaders is attacking Prime Minister Narendra Modi, showering praises on Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, and talking about the CAA, Ram Temple in Ayodhya, etc. These leaders seem to be more excited about the election in the neighbourhood than worry about their own democratic institutions and processes which were exposed during the electoral exercise in February. Unable to maintain the sanctity of its own democratic institutions, Pakistan is trying to raise and project political speeches and debates in India as policy statements on various platforms. Recently, Pakistan raised concerns regarding a particular election speech at the UN. During a UNGA session on 'Culture of Peace', Pak envoy to the UN, Munir Akram, cited a US media report. The report referenced Prime Minister Narendra Modi's election speech, wherein he stated that the 'new India' is capable of entering enemy territory and striking. India slammed Pakistan at the UN meeting, saying that it is Pakistan that harbours the "most dubious track record" in all aspects. Pakistan not only is manipulating the election speeches of various Indian leaders on international forums, but some of its



leaders are openly coming out in support of the Congress and opposing PM Modi. Chaudhary Fawad Hussain, Pakistan's former Information Minister and a close aide of Imran Khan, wants Rahul Gandhi to be the winner. Recently, he posted on his X handle a video showing Rahul Gandhi attacking PM Modi with the comment "Rahul on fire." Hussain also said: "Pakistanis should support Rahul Gandhi because Modi's policies do not suit Pakistan." Taking a dig at the Pakistani leader's support for Rahul Gandhi, PM Modi was quick to lash out, and said in an election rally: "Congress was dying here and Pakistan was crying," and the "partnership between the two has been completely exposed." The former Pakistan Minister is not the only Pakistani leader to openly express a preference for Rahul Gandhi, there are others, including experts and media outlets, who are eagerly pitching for Congress. The voices emanating from Pakistan have intensified the attacks and

counter-attacks in the electoral battle between BJP and Congress. BJP's IT cell head Amit Malviya posted: "From a manifesto that has imprints of the Muslim League to a ringing endorsement from across the border, Congress's dalliance with Pakistan can't get more obvious." The Congress may be finding itself on a sticky wicket on the issue of support from a section of Pakistani leaders. The party, however, has neither distanced itself nor said elections are internal matters and Pakistan need not interfere. It is not the first time that Congress has been accused of dalliance with Pakistan. In 2015, a former minister in the Congress government, Mani Shankar Aiyar, during a panel discussion with a Pakistani anchor said that PM Modi has to be removed. "The first and the foremost thing is to remove Modi. Only then can the talks move forward. We have to wait for four more years... Bring us back to power and remove them..." Again, very recently Aiyar took potshots at the Modi government during an event in Lahore. He said: "We have the courage to conduct surgical strikes against you, but we don't have the courage to sit across the table and talk." The neighbour with a long history of anti-India state policy, will never want a strong and stable government in India. So, when Pakistani leaders root for Rahul Gandhi, PM Modi's statements come out as a clarion call for people to see through the designs. As India moves on to the next phase of elections and the battle becomes intense, the neighbour's curiosity is only going to grow. Pakistan's democracy is a failure and they should focus inward, but then, the owner's pride is always the neighbour's envy.

Mayawati killed two birds with one stone by axing political heir Akash Anand

Mistakes - minute or monumental - are unacceptable and unpardonable in the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), particularly if they have the potential to harm party chief Mayawati's political interests. In the past, innumerable BSP leaders have been shown the door by Mayawati for making mistakes. Party supremo Mayawati's decision to axe nephew, Akash Anand from all posts in the BSP on Tuesday night is designed to send a clear message to her voters that when it comes to punishment, she will not differentiate between party workers and family members. Akash Anand's removal is all the more significant because the former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister had designated him as her political successor. However, whatever criticism Mayawati faced from rivals for promoting nepotism in the BSP by bringing in Akash Anand, has been washed away by her decision to punish him for his 'immaturity'. Akash Anand's 'immaturity' was evident when at an election rally in Sitapur on April 28 the 29-year-old went hammer and tongs at the BJP, which has often propped up his aunt Mayawati. In his enthusiasm, he crossed all limits of political propriety. "This BJP government is a bulldozer government and a government of traitors. The party that leaves its youth hungry and enslaves its elderly is a terrorist government. Taliban runs such a government in Afghanistan," he had said at the rally. Akash Anand was promptly booked for violating the Model Code of Conduct and



for allegedly using objectionable language at the Sitapur poll rally. The case was registered under Sections IPC 171C (undue influence at elections), 153B (imputation, assertions prejudicial to national integration) and 188 (disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant) and Section 125 of the Representation of the People Act. The impact of his speech was also felt among the BSP cadres and voters, particularly non-Jatav Dalits who are aligned with the BJP now. They were upset at Akash Anand's speech and this was conveyed to his aunt through some coordinators. Mayawati moved swiftly to control the damage done by her protégé and cancelled Akash Anand's rallies and asked him to avoid public appearances. When public anger did not subside, Mayawati

finally removed her political heir from all posts. With the removal of Akash Anand, Mayawati has killed the proverbial two birds with one stone - she has crushed all charges of nepotism and also pacified Dalits, who did not appreciate his diatribe against the BJP. "Parties like the Congress, SP and RJD that thrive on nepotism can no longer accuse the BSP of following in their footsteps. The BSP supremo is not dependent on her family and does not promote nepotism, unlike the Gandhis and Yadavs. Behenji (Mayawati) has proved it," said a BSP functionary. By sacrificing her nephew, Mayawati ensured that she did not burn her bridges with the ruling BJP. After all, she had formed the government with the BJP's support in Uttar Pradesh thrice (1995, 1997 and 2002). Mayawati cannot risk her chances of another alliance with the BJP in the future, whether at the Centre or in Uttar Pradesh. BJP leader Rakesh Tripathi said, "Because of Akash Anand's irresponsible remarks and his statements against the BJP, there was anger among the people (against the BSP), and that is why Mayawati relieved her nephew of his responsibilities as the party's National Co-ordinator."

international

After hearing testimony by porn star in New York case, Trump gets reprieve in Florida

Arul Louis | New York
After having been made to sit through a salacious narrative by a porn star in a court here about her alleged tryst with him, former President Donald Trump received a reprieve in the secret document litigation in Florida where the judge indefinitely postponed the case. The trial in the Florida case - or a verdict in it - may be delayed beyond the November election. The judge in the case, Aileen M. Cannon, who was appointed to the bench by Trump, cited on Tuesday the complicated nature of the case accusing him of mishandling top secret documents that he allegedly retained illegally after leaving office. She said that it would not be proper for the court to set a date for the trial because of "the myriad and interconnected" matters that include pretrial motions by Trump's lawyers



and dealing with secret documents as the trial proceeds. Of the four criminal cases against him, only the New York case accusing him of falsifying business records to cover up payment to the porn star Stormy Daniels, who alleged that she had a sexual encounter with him while his current wife Ivana was pregnant, has gotten underway. Trump has denied that he had sex with Daniels. Prosecutors say that he arranged the payment before the 2016 election because he was afraid it would create a scandal during the campaign. Daniels took the witness stand on Tuesday and sprinkled her testimony with such tawdry details like her undressing, the "missionary position" they used on the hotel bed during the alleged tryst, Trump not wearing a condom, his saying afterward it was "great", and before that she reminded him of his daughter, hitting him with a rolled-up magazine with him on the cover, and about her having her period during another encounter. As Daniels babbled on, Judge Juan Merchan said some

of it was "unnecessary narrative". He told the prosecution lawyer, who had made her their witness, to ensure that Daniels "stays focused on the question, gives the answer and does not give any unnecessary narrative". Trump was "cursing audibly" and "shaking his visibly" during her testimony, the judge observed his lawyers and asked them to request him to tone down his behaviour as it could be seen as intimidating the witness and affect the jurors. Trump's lawyers asked the judge to declare a mistrial because Daniels' testimony was "extraordinarily prejudicial" and it constituted a "high risk" of turning the jury's attention away from the substance of the case. While Merchan denied the request, it could open the way for Trump's lawyers to appeal to higher courts introducing delays.

US delays arms supply to Israel amid Rafah offensive



Washington | Agencies
The US is delaying arms supply to Israel, a sign of Washington's objection to Israel's offensive on the Rafah city in southern Gaza, the media reported. The Biden administration is putting the sale of at least two arms shipments to Israel on hold, The Washington Post reported on Tuesday, citing a US official as saying that the move was a "shot across the bow" to make it clear to the Israeli side that Washington is seriously concerned about an ill-planned ground operation in Rafah, which will lead to a dramatic increase of death toll and deteriorate the humanitarian disaster in the ongoing war in Gaza, Xinhua news agency reported.

China's Chang'e-6 enters lunar orbit after near-moon braking



Beijing | Agencies
China's Chang'e-6 lunar probe has successfully entered its circumlunar orbit, the China National Space Administration (CNSA) said on Wednesday. According to the CNSA, at 10:12 a.m. (local time) on Wednesday, Chang'e-6 successfully performed a near-moon braking procedure before entering the circumlunar orbit, Xinhua news agency reported. The near-moon braking procedure is a key orbital control for Chang'e-6 during its flight. The braking makes its relative speed lower than the lunar escape velocity so that it can be captured by the Moon's gravity and fly around the Moon. Supported by the Queqiao-2 relay satellite, Chang'e-6 will later adjust the altitude and inclination of the orbit around the Moon and choose a proper time to carry out the separation of the orbiter-returner combination and the lander-ascender combination. Later, the lander-ascender combination will conduct a soft landing on the South Pole-Aitken Basin to carry out the sampling and return mission on the far side of the Moon as planned, the report said.

Ukraine reports overnight Russian air attacks on energy system

Kiev | Agencies
Russia has once again attacked Ukraine's energy system from the air, Ukrainian officials said on Wednesday. Ukrainian Energy Minister German Galushchenko took to his Facebook account and said that power generation and distribution facilities in six regions were attacked overnight on Tuesday. He named the regions of Poltava, Kirovohrad, Zaporizhzhya, Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, and Vinnytsia. He further said that the technicians are working to repair the damage, and the exact extent is still being determined. "The enemy wants to take away our ability to generate and transmit electricity in sufficient quantities," the Minister wrote. He called on the people to save electricity as a "contribution to victory". According to the Ukrainian Air Force, night-time air alerts sounded in large parts of Ukraine as Russian combat drones and missiles flew over the country, and one of them was aimed at Kiev. The capital's military command later said that all approaching objects had been intercepted. In the suburb of Brovary, an unspecified civilian infrastructure object caught fire, according to Mayor Ihor Saposchko, in which a man and a woman each were injured. According to the Ukrainian Air Force, a Kinzhal hypersonic missile was fired at western Ukraine. Russia has been firing at targets in the Ukrainian hinterland



almost every night in the war it started more than two years ago. Moscow is not only trying to hit military targets but also to disable Ukraine's energy system. Purely civilian targets are also repeatedly hit.

TikTok sues US govt to block potential ban

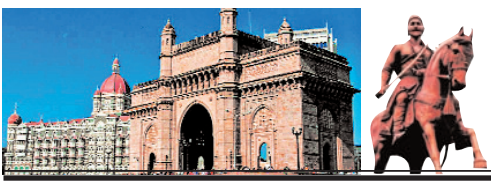
Washington | Agencies
TikTok, an online video entertainment platform, and its Chinese parent company ByteDance have filed a legal challenge against the US government over a law forcing ByteDance to sell off the ultra-popular app or face a nationwide ban in the country. US President Joe Biden signed a TikTok ban bill into law last month after it was passed by both houses of US Congress. "Congress has taken the unprecedented step of expressly singling out and banning TikTok: a vibrant online forum for protected speech and expression used by 170 million Americans to create, share, and view videos over the Internet," said TikTok in the petition filed on Tuesday in the Court of



Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, adding that "For the first time in history, Congress has enacted a law that subjects a single, named speech platform to a permanent, nationwide ban, and bars

every American from participating in a unique online community with more than 1 billion people worldwide." TikTok pointed out in the petition that the law -- the Protecting Americans From Foreign Adversary Controlled Applications Act -- is "unconstitutional", Xinhua news agency reported. "Banning TikTok is so obviously unconstitutional, in fact, that even the Act's sponsors recognized that reality, and therefore have tried mightily to depict the law not as a ban at all, but merely a regulation of TikTok's ownership," said TikTok. The law only gives ByteDance 270 days to sell TikTok to a non-Chinese buyer, with the possibility of a 90-day extension if the US President determines it necessary.





Elected members of municipalities can't be removed at whims and fancies of civil servants or their political masters: SC

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court has said that elected members of municipalities cannot be removed at the whims and fancies of the civil servants or their political masters only because some of such elected members are found to be inconvenient within the system.

Observing that a municipality is an institution of "grass-root level democracy", a bench presided over by Justice Surya Kant stressed that the elected representatives of a municipality deserve due respect and autonomy in their day-to-day functioning.

The Bench, also comprising Justice PS Narasimha, made the above observations as it quashed the decision of the Urban Development Minister in Maharashtra disqualifying the elected councillors/office-bearers of the municipalities, holding the action to be "unfair, unjust and founded upon irrelevant considerations."

Against one of the appellants, there were allegations of violation of provisions of the Maharashtra Municipal Councils, Nagar Panchayats and



Industrial Townships Act, 1965 and alleged illegal construction of the house in excess of the permission granted.

In an enquiry held by the Collector, the allegations were determined to be correct and he was served with a show-cause notice.

While the show-cause proceedings were pending, the Minister-In-Charge, in an order passed in December 2015 suo moto, disqualified the appellant Makarand @ Nandu from the post of Vice-

President of the Osmanabad Municipal Council and he was also debarred from contesting election for six years.

Similarly, the President of the Naldurga Municipal Council was removed and debarred from contesting election for six years on the complaint that a particular company was given a tender for garbage collection and disposal, overlooking the lowest bid.

Earlier in 2016, the Bombay High Court (Aurangabad bench) had

declined to interfere with the disqualification orders passed by the state government.

In its judgment, the apex court said that the impugned action does not satisfy the doctrine of proportionality, and the removal of the appellants with a ban to contest the election for six years is highly excessive and disproportionate to the nature of the so-called misconduct attributed.

"The manner in which the proceedings, while pending before the Collector at the stage of show-cause notice, were suo moto transferred to the State Government and the Minister-In-Charge coming forward to hastily pass an order of removal, are sufficient for us to infer that the action was unfair, unjust and founded upon irrelevant considerations," it said. Also, it is noted that the tender for garbage collection and disposal was accepted after due negotiation, ensuring no financial loss was caused to the Municipality.

It may be recalled that the Supreme Court, in both cases, had permitted the appellants to continue to hold their respective offices during the pendency of proceedings.

At 4,500 feet, officers trek to highest polling booth in Maharashtra

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A team of the Election Commission reached the highest polling booth in Maharashtra's Baramati constituency during the third phase of Lok Sabha polls on Tuesday. The polling party drove to the foothills of the Raireshwar Fort to reach the polling station situated at a staggering height of 4,491 feet. After travelling 30 kilometres from Pune, the polling team trekked for an hour and climbed down an iron ladder to reach the polling station set up for 160 voters. In a video, the team of over seven polling officials can be seen descending a steep iron ladder while carrying poll materials on their backs. The officials trekked to the fort carrying voting machinery including Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs), control units and Voter Verifiable Paper Audit



Trail (VVPAT) devices. Despite the difficult terrain, polling staff successfully transported all necessary materials to the polling station. The Raireshwar

polling booth is located in the Baramati constituency and comprises six assembly seats -- Indapur, Baramati, Purandar, Bhor, Khadakwasla and Daund.

Fearing ED-CBI, Shinde wanted to join BJP in 2022, claims Sanjay Raut

Team Absolute | Thane

The Shiv Sena (UBT) has claimed that Shiv Sena leader and Chief Minister Eknath Shinde was "scared of going to jail" and wanted to ally with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in June 2022, but the undivided party did not respond to his plea.

Launching a blistering attack on CM Shinde in his hometown Thane, SS(UBT) MP Sanjay Raut and candidate for Lok Sabha elections Rajan Vichare made the revelations at a major INDIA-MVA combined election rally late last night, here.

"On June 14, 2022, Shinde spoke with me, saying that 'it would be better to join the BJP and PM Narendra Modi'. He said he was not keen on going to jail," claimed Raut.

When Raut sought details from him, CM Shinde said that he was being probed by the CBI-ED, and when asked to elaborate, he appeared perturbed and



did not reveal more, but barely a fortnight later, he broke the Shiv Sena and subsequently became the CM.

"When I said that the ED-CBI will not just start probing unless they have something in hand, he did not specify... and all the political developments followed," pointed out Raut, referring to the vertical split in the Shiv Sena in June 2022 which toppled the Maha Vikas Aghadi's then CM, Uddhav Thackeray.

Vichare said that much earlier in

2013, CM Shinde along with four (undivided) Shiv Sena MLAs was planning to switch over to the Congress ahead of the 2014 Assembly elections.

"However, at the last minute, the four SS legislators reneged and the plan collapsed. Look at his track record as a destroyer and party-breaker... Shinde has earlier broken up the party units in Thane, then the Shiv Sena, the Maharashtra Navnirman Sena, the Congress, Nationalist Congress Party, etc.," said Vichare.

He claimed that even in 2013, CM Shinde's sole aim was to break the Shiv Sena but he failed and finally did it after another 10 years.

Present at the huge rally were SS(UBT)'s Priyanka Chaturvedi, Jyoti Thackeray, Anand Dubey, the party's Uttar Pradesh leader Brijesh Tiwari, Congress' Amin Qureshi, Vikrant Chavan, NCP(SP)'s Suhas Desai, AAP's Dhananjay Shinde, Dharmaraj Party's Rajan Rajee and others.

Phase-3 LS polls: Maharashtra's 11 constituencies record around 61 pc voter turnout

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra's 11 constituencies, which went to the poll on Tuesday in the third phase of the Lok Sabha elections, recorded around 61 per cent voter turnout, according to the provisional figures released by the Election Commission of India. In the 2019 elections, these constituencies witnessed 63 per cent voting.

Maharashtra's Chief Electoral Officer's office said that the voting percentage will increase as the information from the 11 constituencies is still being gathered.

In the third phase, 258 candidates have been in the fray. With 38 contestants, Baramati has the highest number of candidates in the fray while Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg with 9 has the lowest.

There were 1.07 crore male and 1.02 crore female and 929 transgender voters in these constituencies. The ongoing heat wave and summer vacations also adversely impacted the turnout. Of the 11 constituencies, the much debated



Baramati constituency where it was a high-intensity political battle between Sharad Pawar and Ajit Pawar reported the lowest turnout of 50.80 per cent. Of the other 10 constituencies, Kolhapur reported the highest turnout at 68.03 per cent, Hatkanangale (65.10 per cent), Satara (63.05 per cent), Madha (62.17 per cent), Dharashiv (Osmanabad) (60.41 per cent), Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg (59.23 per cent), Raigad (58.01 per cent) and Solapur (57.61 per cent). In Kolhapur, the Congress has fielded Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj against Shiv Sena nominee Sanjay Mandlik while in Hatkanangale the Shiv Sena has renominated Dhairyasheel Mane against Shiv

Sena-UBT nominee Satyajit Patil. In addition, the Swabhimani Shetkari Sanghatana founder Raju Shetti and Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi nominee D.C. Patil are also in the fray. In Satara, Chhatrapati Shivaji's descendant and BJP nominee Udayanraj Bhosale is pitted against NCP-Sharadchandra Pawar nominee Shashikant Shinde; in Dharashiv, there is a direct fight between Shiv Sena-UBT nominee Omraje Nimbalkar and NCP nominee Archana Pawar while in Madha, BJP's sitting MP Ranjit Singh Naik Nimbalkar is taking on NCP-Sharadchandra Pawar candidate Dhairyasheel Mohite-Patil. Maharashtra NCP chief Sunil Tatkar is contesting against former Union Minister and Shiv Sena-UBT nominee Ananta Geete in Raigad while Congress nominee Praniti Shinde faces a direct contest from BJP nominee Ram Satpute. In Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg, Union Minister and BJP nominee Narayan Rane is contesting his maiden Lok Sabha elections against the Shiv Sena's two-term MP Vinayak Raut.

What Mumbai school Principal said after being fired over Palestine post

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A top school in Mumbai has stirred controversy with its decision to terminate the services of its principal, Parveen Shaikh, in the wake of allegations that Shaikh engaged in social media activity deemed inconsistent with the values upheld by the school. Shaikh's dismissal followed reports that she had endorsed pro-Palestine content on social media platforms.

In a statement released by the Somaia School management, Shaikh's termination was attributed to concerns that her personal social media activities



were at odds with the institution's principles of unity and inclusivity. However, Shaikh contested the decision, labelling it as "wrongful and unjust".

"I was shocked to know the news of my termination from social media even

before receiving a termination notice from the management," Shaikh told a news channel. "The termination notice is completely illegal and based on defamatory lies peddled against me."

"My work as a school principal has been exceptional and my termination for such reason is wrongful and unjust. I am disappointed that in spite of my hard work, dedication and sincere contribution to the school's growth over 12 years, the management chose not to stand by me in the face of this vitriolic public vilification campaign run against me, and instead fell prey to it and took this drastic and unwarranted action," she added.

Mumbai's water stock dips to 16 per cent, will last till July-end, says BMC

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Mumbai civic administration has said its planning has been such that the stock in the seven reservoirs supplying water to the city will last till July-end and hence the residents should not be worried.

In a release issued on Tuesday, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) said the reservoirs currently have a stock of over 2,37,552 MLD (million litres of water per day), which is 16.48 per cent of the city's annual requirement of 14,47,363 MLD, less than the stock on the same date the previous year.

Mumbai receives 3,800 MLD of water everyday from the seven reservoirs - Bhatsa, Upper Vaitarna, Middle Vaitarna, Tansa, Modak Sagar, Vihar and Tulsli, located here and in Thane and Nashik districts.

Mumbai's water stock: Residents should not worry, says BMC

The monsoon usually arrives in Mumbai in the second week of June.

The civic body has not yet announced any water cut in the city.

After a review meeting chaired by municipal commissioner Bhushan



Gagrani on the water issue in Mumbai, the BMC said it is keeping a "very keen eye" on the stock and the residents should not worry, but they should use the water judiciously.

The Maharashtra government has already assured 1,37,000 MLD and 91,130 MLD of additional water for Mumbai from the Bhatsa dam in Thane and the Upper Vaitarna dam in Nashik, respectively, the release said.

"Considering all the reserve, the administration has planned in such a way that, likewise every year, the water will last till July 31. Overall, the municipal

administration is keeping a constant and very keen eye on the status of water stock," it said.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted that conditions are favourable for the timely arrival of monsoon, besides 106 per cent rainfall in the country. Based on it, the civic body will review the situation and take necessary steps, the release said.

Gagrani also appealed that the city residents as well as professional and commercial establishments should work to save water.

Constable on election duty dies of cardiac arrest in Mumbai

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Amid ongoing Lok Sabha elections 2024, a 38-year-old police constable died of a cardiac arrest on Wednesday while he was on election duty at Dadar in central Mumbai, an official said, reported news agency. The incident occurred at 7.40 am and the victim was identified as Vilas Yadav, a resident of Dombivli in neighbouring Thane district, he said.

Yadav, who was attached to the Shivaji Park police station in central Mumbai, was posted on duty at a strong room

(where electronic voting machines or EVMs are stored) for the last couple of days.

"This morning, he went for duty at the D'Silva High School strong room, where he was part of a flying squad. But after reaching the spot, he started feeling uneasy, following which he was rushed to a private hospital," he said.

He was declared dead on arrival at the medical facility, the official said. A case of accidental death was registered at the Shivaji Park police station, he said, adding that the exact cause of the death will be known once the post-mortem report is made available.

Passenger arrested for smoking on Vistara flight to Mumbai

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A 51-year-old passenger was arrested for smoking in the lavatory of a flight during his journey from Muscat to Mumbai, an official said today.

The incident occurred on board Vistara's UK234 flight, which took off from Muscat for the Maharashtra capital at 11.56 pm on Monday, he said. The passenger, Balakrishna Rajayan, who was on board the flight, went to the lavatory at the rear side of the aircraft and smoked a cigarette, the official said.

Rajayan hails from Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu, he said.

The incident came to light when the pilot of the aircraft noticed it with the help of a smoke detector, he added.

The pilot informed the crew members about it, following which they checked the lavatory and found a cigarette bud in the wash basin, the official said.

After the flight landed at the Chhatrapati

Shivaji Maharaj International Airport in Mumbai on Tuesday morning, the crew members informed the security supervisor on the ground about the unruly behaviour of the passenger, he said.

The security officials then took the passenger to their office and enquired about his act. He admitted that he had smoked inside the lavatory, he said, adding that Rajayan also produced a matchbox used for lighting the cigarette.

He was later taken to the Sahar police station in the city, where a complaint was filed against him by the security supervisor.

As per the complaint, Rajayan had deliberately violated the safety-related rules by smoking inside the plane, putting all the travellers of the flight at risk.

A case was registered against the passenger under section 336 (act of endangering life or personal safety of others) of Indian Penal Code and section 25 of the Aircraft Rules, he said.

India-Taiwan trade may reach \$25 billion via investments, tech sharing

Team Absolute | Mumbai

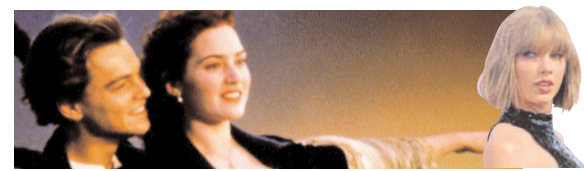
As India-Taiwan economic partnership grows significantly in recent years, the trade between the two countries may reach \$25 billion via investment and technology sharing, industry leaders have said. Peter Huang, specialist of South Asia section (Market Development Department), Taiwan External Trade Development Council, who led a high-level delegation here, said that India is a friendly and hospitable country for Taiwanese industry. "Our commercial relation is growing from strength to strength and this is our 15th business delegation to India," Huang said. "India is still an untapped market for Taiwanese firms and there is huge trade and investment potential in India, especially in electronics, auto-components, machineries, food processing, med-



ical devices and other sectors," he emphasised. Taiwan has considered India as a critical partner under its 'New Southbound Policy' and both

countries have also signed migration agreements to allow Indian workers to be employed in Taiwanese industries.

Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, MVRDC World Trade Center Mumbai, said that India-Taiwan economic relation is at an inflection point. "For the first time, India conferred Padma Bhushan award to CEO of Foxconn, Young Liu, which is testimony to the strengthening of our bond," he mentioned. The Taipei Economic and Cultural Centre (TECC) is also planning to set up a third office in India. "Both the countries should grow bilateral trade to \$25 billion, from the current level of \$8 billion through partnership in investment and technology cooperation," industry leaders noted. Of the \$8 billion bilateral trade, Taiwan exports \$6 billion and imports hardly \$2 billion from India. "In future, we are committed to facilitating our commercial partnerships in electronics, shipbuilding, and other sectors of mutual interests," Kalantri said.



French actress, BAFTA winner Isabelle Huppert named Venice film fest jury head

Los Angeles | Agencies

BAFTA-winning French actress Isabelle Huppert is set to head to Italy as she will preside over the main jury of the upcoming edition of the Venice Film Festival.

The actress has a longstanding rapport with the festival as she has won Venice's Coppa Volpi for best actress twice, first with 'Story of Women' in 1988, and subsequently with 'La Ceremonie' in 1995, both directed by Claude Chabrol, reports Variety.

The actress has made a total of eight films with Chabrol, and also has a close bond with the Cannes Film Festival where in 1978, she won the best actress statuette for Chabrol's 'Violette'.

Venice Film Festival is the oldest film festival in the world and is included in the 'Big Three' European film festivals and 'Big Five' film festivals across the world.

As per Variety, in 2001, she won her second best actress award at Cannes for her tour-de-force performance as a sadomasochistic music professor in Michael Haneke's 'The Piano'. In 2005, Huppert was honoured by Venice with a Special Golden Lion for her titular role in 'Gabrielle', Patrice Chereau's costume drama about an imploded marriage.

"Isabelle Huppert is an immense actress. Demanding, curious and of great generosity," said Venice artistic director Alberto Barbera in a statement. Alberto added: "The muse of numerous great filmmakers, she has never shirked the invitation of young or not-so-famous directors who have seen in her the ideal interpreter of their stories."

Taylor Swift's beau Travis Kelce lands maiden big role in Ryan Murphy's 'Grotesquerie'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Football player Travis Kelce, who is rumoured to be dating singer Taylor Swift, has joined the cast of Ryan Murphy's new horror series 'Grotesquerie'. He has been cast opposite Niecy Nash-Betts, Courtney B. Vance and Lesley Manville in the series, reports variety.com.

Details about his role are still under wraps, but this marks Kelce's first major acting role.

Kelce confirmed the news on Instagram Story. "Guys, guess who I am working with in 'Grotesquerie'?" Nash-Betts asked in the video before panning over to Kelce.

"Stepping into new territory with Niecy," Kelce added. He has earlier acted in multiple sketches during his hosting stint on 'Saturday Night Live' in March 2023. He also appeared in one episode of the Showtime series 'Moonbase 8', starring Fred Armisen, Tim Heidecker and John C. Reilly.

Along with breaking into acting, Kelce made his debut as a film producer on the 2024 indie film 'My Dear Friend Zoe'.



Kevan Lannister of 'Game Of Thrones', Ian Gelder, passes away at 74

London | Agencies

British actor Ian Gelder, popular for playing Kevan Lannister in 'Game of Thrones', passed away due to complications from bile duct cancer. He was 74. Gelder's partner, Ben Daniels, confirmed his death in an Instagram post on Tuesday.

"It is with huge huge sadness and a heavy heart broken into a million pieces that I'm leaving this post to announce the passing of my darling husband and life partner Ian Gelder," Daniels wrote, reports variety.com.

"Ian was diagnosed with bile duct cancer in December and yesterday he passed at 13.07. I'd stopped all work to be his carer but neither of us had any idea that it would all be so fast."

The actor essayed the younger brother of Lord Tywin Lannister played by Charles Dance in 12 episodes of the series.

He had also featured in several television series, including 'Doctor Who', 'Snatch', 'Fifteen-Love', 'Casualty', 'Edward the King', 'I Thought You'd Gone' and 'His Dark Materials' among many others.

Hilary Duff Gives Birth to Her Fourth Child

Los Angeles | Agencies

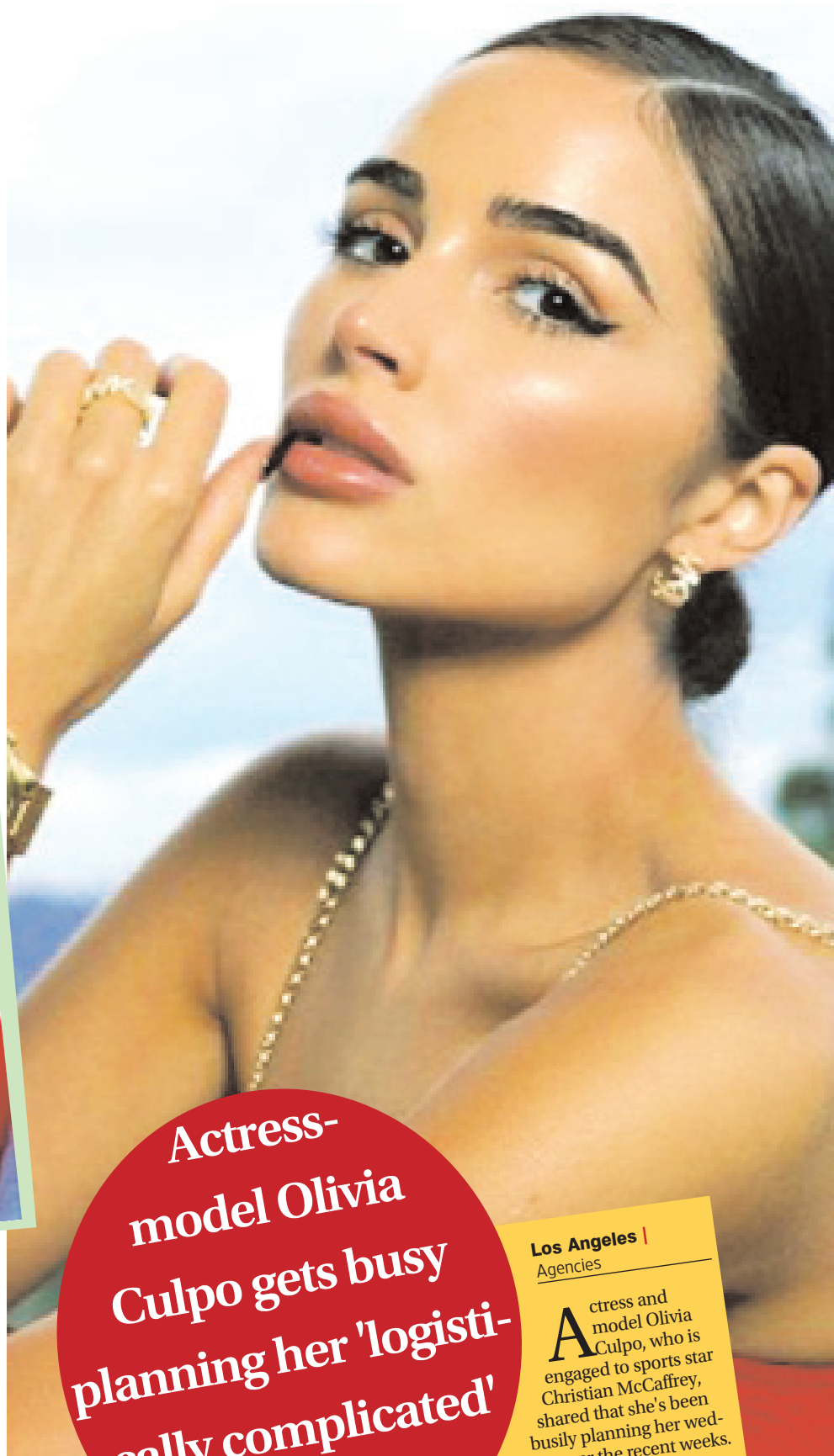
Hilary Duff is now a mom of four! The 36-year-old actress gave birth to her third child with husband Matthew Koma — her fourth altogether — in a new Instagram post shared on Tuesday, May 7. Hilary announced that their baby girl was born last week on May 3 and revealed the name they chose for their daughter.

"Townes Meadow Bair, now we know why she made us wait so long ... She was perfecting those cheeks!" the former How I Met Your Father star captioned her post, which featured a black and white image of her newborn. "I have been dreaming of holding you in my arms for months and the past 5 days of getting to know you, stare at you and smell you has been pure moments of magic. We all love you like you've been here all along beauty. "Hi friends — this is meant in the kindest tone (I promise)," she began



in her note posted on April 22. "I am no longer responding to texts or dm's about 'when baby is coming'. I know everyone is checking in with love and humor, however, trust me ... nobody wants it more than me!!!!"

In her lengthy note, the former Lizzie McGuire actress added, "Babies come when they are ready. I am trying my best to be patient! The days are long and uncomfortable. Promise I will let you know!"



Actress- model Olivia Culpo gets busy planning her 'logisti- cally complicated' wedding

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress and model Olivia Culpo, who is engaged to sports star Christian McCaffrey, shared that she's been busily planning her wedding over the recent weeks. Culpo told people.com:

"The countdown is on. It's happening."

They announced their engagement in 2023, and Culpo can't wait for the "next

chapter" in her life. She shared: "I'm looking forward to marrying my best friend. I'm very excited for that next chapter, and I feel very lucky. He's a great guy."

Culpo has enjoyed the experience of planning her wedding. She is also determined to please all of her wedding guests.

She said: "It's just logistically complicated. Figuring out what everyone's going to wear, figuring out, figuring out where everyone's going to stay, making sure that everybody's happy."

"I feel like as a people pleaser, I want to make sure that everybody else is having the best time ever, but I know that everything will fall into place. I feel really good about it."

50 Cent Sues Ex Daphne Joy for Defamation Over Sexual Assault Allegations

50 Cent has reportedly filed a lawsuit against his ex Daphne Joy for defamation. According to a new report, the 48-year-old "In da Club" hitmaker is suing Joy, 37, for "falsely and publicly" accusing him of "rape and physical abuse" from their former relationship. The exes — who were together from 2011 to 2013 — are also in a custody battle over their son, Sire.

Per court documents obtained by Us Weekly on Tuesday, May 7, 50 Cent (real name: Curtis Jackson) alleged that Joy made a "purposeful attempt to, on information and belief, destroy his personal and business reputation, harm Jackson's commercial and business interests, negatively affect his custody case, and prevent him from seeing his minor son." Jackson filed the lawsuit against Joy on Monday, May 6. Elsewhere in the court documents,



he claimed he has been "subjected to extensive public ridicule, hatred, and contempt" because of Joy's "false and defamatory statements." Furthermore, the rapper is seeking to "vindicate his rights and protect his reputation" from Joy's "calculated attack," and 50 Cent wants punitive and exemplary damages for "severe harm" brought on by Joy's allegations, the outlet reported.

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Shakira



IPL 2024

SRH THRASH LSG BY TEN WICKETS

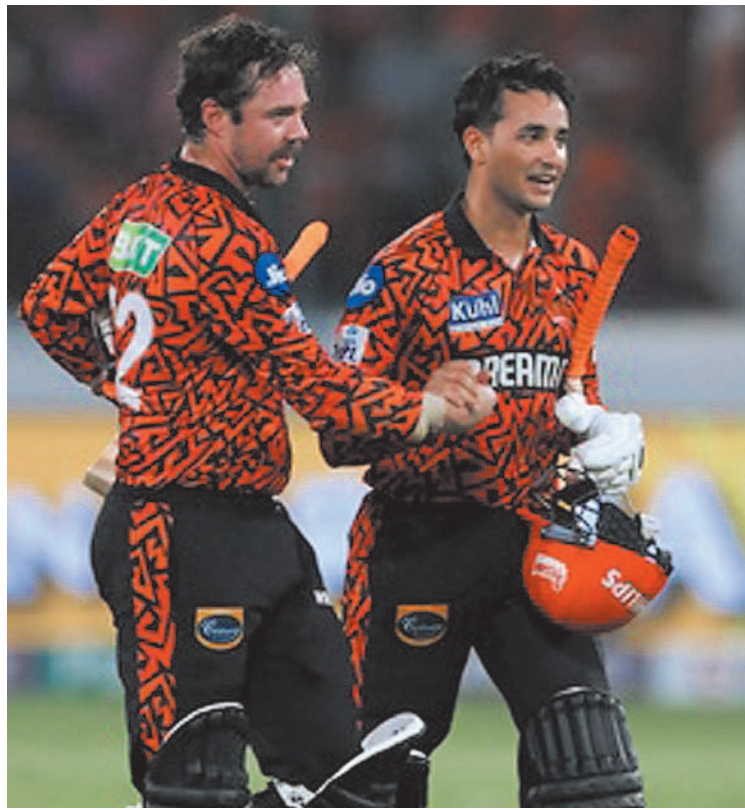
Hyderabad | Agencies

Travis Head hammered 30 balls 89 and Abhishek Sharma slammed 75 off 38 as Sunrisers Hyderabad thrashed Lucknow Super Giants by ten wickets and chased down the target of 166 runs in just 9.4 overs over at Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium, here on Wednesday.

Abhishek and Travis completely destroyed the LSG bowling attack. SRH in this season of IPL have scored with an economy of 11.37 in the power play overs, and yet again reached 100 under six overs only. LSG opened their bowling with Krishnappa Gowtham and Yash Thakur expectedly, but SRH got off to a flyer.

Travis hits Gowtham for 22 runs followed by Abhishek taking four fours off Thakur.

The hitting never stopped even after the fifties, as both batters were on a destructive mode to help SRH chase down the target in less than 10 overs. Head smashed a half-century and this time in just 16 balls. It was some astonishing hitting from Head, who was just picking his spots and sending them there no matter where the ball is pitched, no matter the pace. One of the incredible was a



back-foot off-drive off Ravi Bishnoi for a huge six over long-off.

wicket straight of mid-off off Naveen-ul-Haq. He was 58 off 18 now, and went past 500 for the tournament,

and also had hit the most fours in this IPL. SRH were 87 for 0 in five overs. That was four times what LSG were at this point.

In all T20 cricket, only seven times have 100 or more been scored in the powerplay, SRH have the top two scores, both in this year of IPL. It seemed slow by comparison, but Abhishek Sharma reached his fifty in 19 balls with a straight six off Ayush Badoni as SRH reached 120 for 0 in 6.3 overs. As many as 14 sixes and 16 fours were hit in the chase which meant every second ball reached the boundary. Earlier, Bhuvneshwar Kumar led the way with figures of 4-0-12-2, conceding only in denominations of one, completely shutting down the LSG top order, which scored just 66 in the first 11.2 overs. The unbeaten 99-run stand between Ayush Badoni and Nicholas Pooran guided LSG to a respectable total.

Brief scores

Lucknow Super Giants 165 for 4 in 20 overs (Ayush Badoni 55 not out, Nicholas Pooran 48 not out; Bhuvneshwar Kumar 2-12, Pat Cummins 1-47) lost to Sunrisers Hyderabad 167 for 0 in 9.4 overs (Travis Head 89 not out, Abhishek Sharma 75) by ten wickets

Neeraj Chopra confirms participation in first domestic tournament

Bhubaneswar | New Delhi

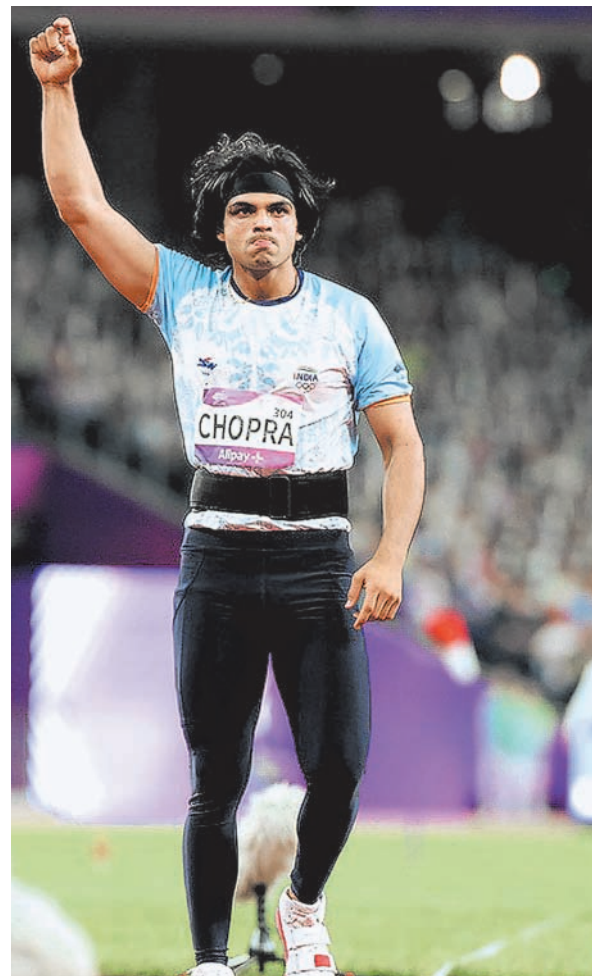
Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra has confirmed his participation in the Federation Cup, starting from May 12, which will be his first domestic tournament in three years.

Neeraj last competed in the 2021 Federation Cup which was held before the Tokyo Olympics, the javelin thrower made his mark by becoming the first Indian to win an Olympic gold in athletics.

He will be making his way back to India for the Federation Cup after the Doha Diamond League which is scheduled to take place on May 10 in Qatar, UAE.

The Doha meet will be the beginning of the 2024 season for Neeraj, who will be in action for the first time since winning gold in the 2023 Asian Games.

The 26-year-old javelin thrower is setting his eyes on defending his Olympic gold at the 2024 Paris Olympics slated to begin in July.



Anant Jeet best Indian in Baku on day one of Skeet qualifications

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Indian skeet shooters had a tough day one of qualifications at the ISSF World Cup Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun in Baku, with Anant Jeet Singh Naruka in the men's event, returning as the best Indian on the show with a three-round total of 72 giving him 20th spot in the standings currently.

In women's skeet, all three Indians finished with identical scores of 69 to be in 13th, 15th and 19th spots respectively. Ganemat (25,22,22) began with a perfect 25 even as Raiza (22,22,25) ended with one while Maheshwari (22,23,24) could not get to it eventually, as the trio finished at least a couple of hits less than what they would



have liked, going into the final day. Georgia's Elizaveta Boiarshinova leads the field with a 73 on the opening day and nothing less than two perfect rounds will get them into the top six, one gets the feeling. The three women are also

in an intense battle to pick up crucial ranking points ahead of the Paris Olympics cut-off date, to not only grab one of the two available spots in the event but also to ensure an additional start as the mixed team skeet makes its Olympics debut.

SURYAKUMAR YADAV REVEALS THE SECRET BEHIND THE 'SUPLA' SHOT

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Mumbai Indians batter Suryakumar Yadav broke down the arsenal of batting shots he has deployed throughout his career when he scored an unbeaten 102 off 51 deliveries which propelled the struggling Mumbai Indians side to secure a seven-wicket victory against Sunrisers Hyderabad at Wankhede Stadium.

From the iconic 'offside scoop' to his popular 'Supla' shot, the 33-year-old showed a glimpse of a multi-dimensional shot-playing ability against SRH. Yadav shared the story behind the origins of the shots in his repertoire. Yadav's 'Supla' shot has become familiar with each and every inning that he has played, something he now revealed that he picked up playing tennis ball cricket in Mumbai.

"I suppose the name of the shot comes from the local tennis ball cricket that is played in Mumbai. And from there, when I started playing that shot because people have played a lot of it in tennis ball cricket, they started connecting with this shot and gave it a name. When the shot is played and is referred to as a 'Supla' shot, it feels good to hear," Suryakumar Yadav said to JioCinema.

Yadav got into the details of how he perfected the shot while playing rubber ball cricket with his school friends while demonstrating how the shot is executed.



"The story behind the shot is beautiful. I used to play cricket on hard cement tracks with my school friends. We used to play with rubber balls in the rainy season and make the ball wet before bowling it hard. They used to bowl from my knee to my head, so if you want to score runs while not getting

hit by the ball, that's where the shot comes from. Whenever people ask me if I have practiced this or not, I have used this shot so many times in rubber ball cricket that it's now in my muscle memory."

Hitting the 'Supla' shot is tricky, but Yadav has figured out when and how to use the shot when the situation demands it. "I actually try to take the ball on the body when I play the 'Supla' shot. Whenever I stand and hit, I try to be in the line of the ball. If you miss the line of the ball, it's very difficult to play that shot... I try to take the ball in line with the body and time it... There's no premeditation in this... Even if it's the first ball, if I want to use it, I'll do it because I go with the intent to bat, enjoy, and entertain as much as I can, as much as I have practiced. Even if it's the first ball, if it's in the arc, it will go. So, the fielder at the back is actually irrelevant for me. I don't see if he is there or not. If I want to play a shot, I have to play it."

Not every batting inning is flawless, but Suryakumar Yadav knows how to create magical moments, regardless. That is precisely what he did in 2020 while facing Jofra Archer, executing an incredible 'offside scoop' shot after taking a knock to the head.

"On the previous delivery, it hit me on my head and my head was spinning! After that, I thought I had to hit a different shot. I haven't used this shot again since."

Football: Atletico Mineiro stay perfect in Copa Libertadores

Rosario | Agencies

Former Bayer Leverkusen forward Paulinho Sampaio struck late as Atletico Mineiro kept their perfect record intact with a 1-0 win at Rosario Central in their Copa Libertadores group match.

Paulinho broke the deadlock three minutes from time by sweeping home a first-time effort from 10 yards after Eduardo Vargas' clever lay-off.

The result leaves the Brazilian club with four wins from as many outings in Group G, six points clear of second-placed Penarol. Argentina's Rosario Central are third, two points further back, reports Xinhua. Atletico Mineiro manager



Gabriel Milito, who replaced former Brazil national team boss Luiz Felipe Scolari in March, lavished praise on his players after the match.

"I want to make the most of being at this extraordinary club and having these players," the Argentine told a news conference. "I accepted the position dreaming of this."

He added: "I've always said that football is very dynamic. We can't stop being humble and must keep our ego under control."

We know that we can improve in some areas and we have to keep working hard to do that." In other Copa Libertadores group-stage fixtures on Tuesday, Penarol won 1-0 at Caracas FC, River Plate drew 2-2 at Club Nacional, Deportivo Tachira were held to a 1-1 home draw by Libertad, Palestino prevailed 1-0 at home to Flamengo and Junior Barranquilla drew 1-1 at Universitario.

Thailand Open: Satwik-Chirag to lead Indian challenge, PV Sindhu and Lakshya Sen pull out

Team Absolute | New Delhi

PV Sindhu and Lakshya Sen have pulled out of the Thailand Open Super 500, scheduled from May 14 to 19, as the draws for the BWF World Tour event were announced on Wednesday.

Following a month-long break caused by the Thomas and Uber Cup, the World Tour returns with the Thailand Open. Sindhu, who had previously chosen not to participate in the Uber Cup, is taking a leave of absence in

order to concentrate on getting ready for the July-August 2024 Paris Olympics.

The World No. 3 men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty will lead the Indian contingent and will kick off their campaign against Malaysia's Nur Mohd Azriyn Ayub and Ta Wee Kiong, who are ranked World No. 71.

Vimalraj Annadurai and Mauryan Kathiravan are the other men's doubles duo who will play in the qualifiers. In the men's singles, HS Prannoy, Kiran George, and

Sathish Kumar Karunakaran will represent India. The world number nine, Prannoy, will start his campaign against a qualifier, and Kiran will face Weng Hong Yang of China.

India's prospects in the women's singles would be dependent on young players like Malvika Bansod, Ashmita Chaliha, Samiya Imad Farooqui, Aakarshi Kashyap, and Unnati Hooda, in the absence of Sindhu.

The first round of the women's mixed doubles match will feature two Indian

PSG's Mbappe walks off when asked about Real Madrid after Champions League loss

Paris | Agencies

The final whistle blew at the Parc Des Princes and it was Borussia Dortmund, that jumped with joy as Mats Hummels' goal made all the difference in the second leg of the semifinals of the UEFA Champions League.

It was a bittersweet day for football fans as although the black and yellow fans around the world were ecstatic, it also felt like the end of PSG's hopes of winning a Champions League in the foreseeable future.

PSG forward Kylian Mbappe more probable than not played his last CL game for the club as his contract is reaching completion. During the post-game interview, Mbappe was asked if he would be supporting Real Madrid in the second semifinal of the tournament, to which the French World Cup winner did not reply and walked off with a look of disappointment.

Mbappe to Real Madrid is by far the biggest transfer saga that football has ever seen. The 25-year-old has spent the better part of a decade being linked to the record



Champions League winner.

The earliest link between the two parties dates back to 2017 when Mbappe was making a name for himself with his blistering pace at Monaco. PSG hijacked Madrid's interest and signed the young Frenchman on loan before securing his services for a whopping 180 million euros.

If there is one thing we know about Florentino Perez is that he gets what he wants, as the president of Real Madrid continued his pursuit of the 2022 World Cup top scorer.

With Mbappe only having a year remaining on his contract, Real Madrid made reportedly made an offer of 160 million Euros in 2021 which was rejected by PSG in hopes of Mbappe staying with the club. Disaster seemed imminent for the Parisian club as it was reported that Mbappe had signed a pre-contract agreement with Madrid allowing the Frenchmen to join the club in 2022.

The Los Blancos were once again left with nothing but dust in their hands as Mbappe went on to sign a new contract with PSG that kept him in the fashion capital of the world till the end of the 2023/24 season, making him one of the highest paid players in the world.



It was one of the dreams I had for myself: Madhuri Dixit

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Madhuri Dixit Nene has spoken about her decision of taking a break professionally to start a family with her husband Shriram Nene. Madhuri spoke about her decision and said: "For me, it was one of the dreams I had for myself." Madhuri got married in 1999 with Shriram, a cardiovascular surgeon from Los Angeles. They welcomed their first born named Arin, in 2003. It was two years later, when they had their second son Ryan.

Madhuri shared that having a family and having children was always something she looked forward to. Talking about whether she was worried about her time off, the actress shared her thoughts: "I am going to have kids, and this is going to be fun."

Madhuri, who made her comeback in acting in 2022 with 'The Fame Game', emphasised the fact that choosing to have a family was a no-brainer for her.



Varun Dhawan showers his good wishes on Natasha as she turns 36

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor Varun Dhawan made his wife Natasha Dalal's 36th birthday extra special by sharing a small lovey-dovey note.

Varun took to Instagram, where he shared a video of him and his wife, whom he lovingly called his "caretaker", at an international location and enjoying some music on the street.

In the clip, they are seen posing for a selfie, while Varun keeps panning the camera for a 180-degree view. He is heard saying: "Private concert going on." He captioned the clip: "Happy birthday to my caretaker. Love you forever."

Varun and Natasha are childhood sweethearts. They got married in 2021 in Alibaug. The two are expecting their first bundle of joy.

To make the announcement, Varun, who made his debut in Hindi cinema with 'Student Of The Year' in 2012, had shared the news on Instagram in February.

He wrote: "We are pregnant. Need all your blessings and love #myfamilymystrength."



Deepika reveals Big B loves telling everyone about how much she eats



Team Absolute | Mumbai

As their film 'Piku' marks nine years since its release, actress Deepika Padukone shared a picture featuring herself, megastar Amitabh Bachchan and late star Irrfan Khan from its sets. Deepika took to Instagram to share the picture, where the three are seen having a conversation. The image also has a team member serving them some food on a plate.

The actress captioned the image: "He loves telling everyone how much I eat! @amitabhbachchan."

She also shared that she misses Irrfan, who passed away in 2020 due to cancer in Mumbai.

"@Irrfan oh how much we miss you (heart emojis)," she added.

Directed by Shoojit Sircar, the film is about a father and daughter. It showcases the quirky nature of the duo and their eccentricities.

Deepika, who is all set to welcome her first bundle of joy with her husband Ranveer Singh, was last seen on screen in 'Fighter'. She will once again be seen sharing screen space with Amitabh in the upcoming movie.

I see myself on screen I still get shivers:

Ashutosh Rana

Team Absolute | Mumbai

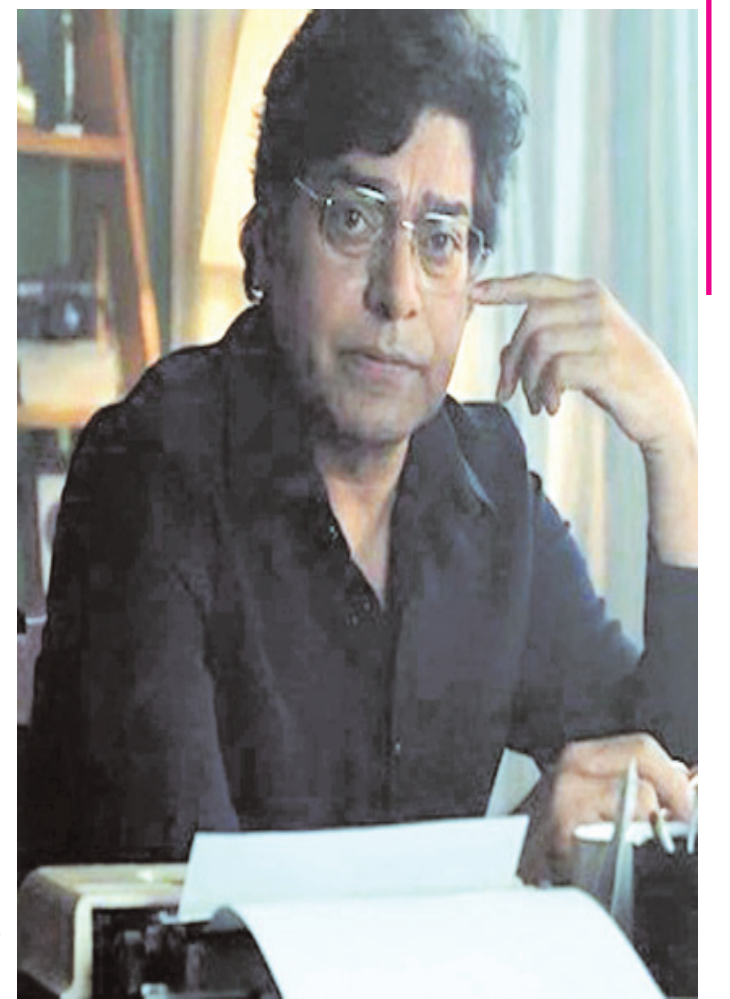
Actor Ashutosh Rana, who has been in the industry for over three decades shared that he still gets the shivers when he sees himself on screen, calling it an "extraordinary" feeling.

The actor, who is set to play Peter in the upcoming psychological thriller 'Murder in Mahim', shared: "I have always been passionate about acting and I strive to live up to my potential; and whenever I see myself on screen I still get shivers. It's an extraordinary feeling. It's a feeling that makes peace with my being."

On his upcoming show, Ashutosh added: "I feel that OTT platforms have changed the way of looking at content. I have been fortunate to play some compelling and hard-hitting characters."

The social commentary series explores the chilling murder mystery and the underbelly of Mumbai, highlighting the reconciliation of a lost friendship between Peter (Ashutosh) and Jende (Vijay Raaz).

Adapted from a critically acclaimed book by author Jerry Pinto, the gripping series is helmed by Raj Acharya, and created by Tipping Point Films and Jigsaw Pictures. It also stars talented actors Shivani Raghuvanshi and Shivaji Satam in pivotal roles.



'Best decision of my life': Sonam Kapoor

Team Absolute | Mumbai

As they complete six years of marital bliss, actress Sonam Kapoor penned a heart-warming note for her husband Anand Ahuja and even shared some unseen pictures featuring the couple and their son Vayu.

Sonam took to Instagram on Wednesday morning, where she shared a motley of pictures and videos featuring her and her family.

In a clip shared by the actress, Sonam called Anand, a businessman, "cute". Some images also show their son Vayu, but without revealing his face.

She captioned it: "To the love of my life, My everything, happy anniversary. Your unconditional love and support is my anchor and safe space. Getting married to you was the best decision of my life. We live in heaven. I love you more than I can express #everydayphenomenal."

Sonam and Anand got married in 2018 after dating for nine years. The two welcomed their first bundle of joy, Vayu in 2022.



A song that is about hope... love... and loss KJo describes 'Kal Ho Na Ho'



Team Absolute | Hyderabad

Bollywood producer-director Karan Johar, who last directed 'Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani', took a stroll down memory lane with regard to one of the iconic songs of Hindi cinema -- the title track of 'Kal Ho Na Ho'. On Wednesday, KJo took to his Instagram and shared a video comprising of different scenes from films belonging to his production. The title track of 'Kal Ho Na Ho' plays in the background. KJo expressed his gratitude to the veteran lyrics and screenwriter Javed Akhtar, singer Sonu Nigam and the composers Shankar, Ehsaan

and Loy. He wrote in the caption: "A song in the @dharmamovies repertoire that will always be so personal to me for so many reasons."

Will always be eternally grateful to Javed sahab SEL and Sonu for giving us this immortal melody." He further mentioned: "A song that is about hope... love... and loss... As much a song for a broken heart as it is for hopeful romance. The inherent quality of this song to transcend a gamut of emotions makes it the 'go to' audio soothing support. Emotions are universal and here are some moments from our movies that hopefully have struck a chord."

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Manushi Chiller