

**NATION** > 02  
"INDIA Didn't Win As Many Seats As BJP Alone Did": PM Modi.....



**HOLYWOOD** > 06  
It felt like I had hit rock bottom : Demi Lovato...



**SPORTS** > 07  
French Open: Djokovic rallies from the brink to beat Cerundolo...



## PM Modi Set For Historic 3rd Term, INDIA Springs Surprise

# INDIA UNITED FOR HUNG MANDATE

The BJP, which was aiming for 370 seats, and set the NDA a target of 400-plus, appears to be running way behind, let down by Uttar Pradesh, which sends a whopping 80 lawmakers to the Lok Sabha. At 8 pm, the BJP was ahead on 241 seats, the NDA on 291. The INDIA bloc is ahead on 232 seats, the Congress on 100, till the time of going for print. The BJP appcart appears to have been upset by the heartland state of Uttar Pradesh, which has pushed the INDIA bloc -- Samajwadi Party and the Congress -- ahead in 44 of 80 seats at 7 pm. The BJP is leading on 32. The BJP had swept Uttar Pradesh in 2014 and held of its ground in 2019. This time most exit polls had predicted an edge for the party.

# NDA: 291 - INDIA: 234

### BIGGEST MARKET FALL IN 4 YEARS

Mumbai: Jitters of counting day led the Indian indices to experience their biggest fall in the last four years on Tuesday with the investors losing nearly Rs 30 lakh crore in a single session. As the counting for the Lok Sabha polls entered the final phase, Sensex closed 4,389 points down, or 5.74 per cent, at 72,079, while Nifty shed 1,379 points, or 5.93 per cent, to close at 21,884 on Tuesday.



Nifty Bank suffered a loss of over 4,051 points, or 7.95 per cent, to close at 46,928. Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL), Hero MotoCorp, Britannia, Nestle, and Divis Labs were among the top gainers on Nifty, while ONGC, Coal India, and SBI suffered the most. Except for FMCG stocks which outperformed on a poor day for investors, all other sectoral indices traded in deep red, with realty, telecom, metal, oil & gas, power, and PSU bank down more than 10 per cent each.

The BSE midcap and smallcap indices were down 7-8 per cent. Experts said that the market, which had begun to price in a landslide victory for the NDA, witnessed a significant correction due to margin calls, as the retail investors were carrying heavily leveraged positions.

"Immediate support is visible at the psychological level of 22,000, below which the index might fall further towards 21,400-21,500. Recovery looks possible once the trend moves in favour of the BJP winning the elections comfortably," said Rupak De, senior technical analyst at LKP Securities. The unexpected outcome of the general elections sparked a wave of fear selling in the domestic market, reversing the recent substantial rally.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A third term for Prime Minister Narendra Modi appears certain with the NDA hovering around the 300 mark. But the day belongs to the resurgent Opposition, which performed way over the modest expectations raised by exit polls.

Addressing the nation from the BJP's HQ in Delhi after it became apparent the party will form the new government - albeit with much-needed support from NDA partners - Prime Minister Narendra Modi thanked voters and said, "Today's victory (is) a victory of world's biggest democracy."

In Bengal, the party's big hope, it could fare worse than

### INDIA HAVE BROKEN THE BACKBONE OF BJP: MAMATA BANERJEE

Kolkata: The people of India, especially those in West Bengal, have broken the backbone of the BJP, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee claimed on Tuesday after the trends coming out of the Election Commission data showed that the Trinamool Congress is heading for victory in 29 out of the 42 Lok Sabha seats in the state.



According to the Chief Minister, had the BJP got majority without the help of its allies, the country would have ceased to exist. "The NDA is a lost case now. Some other parties might still be considering supporting the BJP, but I will request them not to do so. I think the Modi magic is finished, and he should resign," the Chief Minister said.

Speaking to mediapersons here, the Chief Minister said that since the BJP has not secured an absolute majority on its own, the coming days will be tough for the party.

"They have already committed enough excesses on us for which we will never forgive them. I think the other allies of the INDIA bloc will also not forgive them" CM Banerjee said.

2019, leading in only 11 seats at 3 pm. Mamata Banerjee's Trinamool Congress appears to have recovered much of the lost ground and is ahead in 31 seats.

Maharashtra appears to have made its disapproval clear of the political manoeuvrings in Shiv Sena and the Nationalist Congress Party. The Uddhav Thackeray faction is ahead on 11 seats to Shinde Sena's 5. The Ajit Pawar faction of NCP is ahead on just one seat and his uncle Sharad Pawar on 7. The BJP and the Congress are neck and neck

with 12 and 11 seats.

The BJP's losses, as expected, are being offset from Odisha, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and to an extent, Telangana. In Andhra Pradesh, Chandrababu Naidu is heading for a landslide victory, with a clear lead in 158 of 175 constituencies. Sources said the oath ceremony will be on June 9. In Odisha, the BJP won a resounding victory, ending the 25-year run of Naveen Patnaik's Biju Janata Dal.

## 'INDIA bloc will take a final call'

### RAHUL GANDHI ON SITTING IN OPPOSITION OR TAKING SHOT AT GOVT FORMATION

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Giving his first reactions on the impressive numbers achieved by his party and the INDIA bloc partners in the Lok Sabha elections, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said on Tuesday that it was a fight to save the Constitution and the Constitutional institutions from the persistent onslaught of the ruling party.

On whether to sit in the Opposition or initiate a move towards government formation at the Centre, Rahul Gandhi said that the INDIA bloc meeting slated for Wednesday will decide the next course of action. Addressing a press conference on Tuesday evening, Rahul Gandhi said that "The election results have unanimously and unambiguously given a message that people do not want the leadership of PM Modi and HM Amit Shah." Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge described the election results as a 'political and ethical loss' for the 'person' (Narendra Modi)



who sought votes in his name.

"Congress fought the elections under highly adverse situations. Our bank accounts and funds were blocked while those raising their voices against the oppressive regime were silenced. Yet, we kept up the fight and put up a strong opposition against the oppressive regime," Kharge said.

Heaping praise on Rahul Gandhi's energetic and spirited campaign ahead of the elections, the Congress chief said, "Rahul Gandhi's twin Yatras proved instrumental in not only reviving the fortunes of the Congress, but also in restricting the BJP's march to power."

## INDIA bloc makes big gains in UP

Lucknow | Agencies

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has won the Varanasi Lok Sabha seat for a third time even though his National Democratic Alliance (NDA) was staring at a shocking result in politically important Uttar Pradesh, the BJP's big bastion in the past two general elections.

PM Modi defeated Congress' Ajay Rai by over 1.5 lakh votes, but the state is currently witnessing an epic neck-and-neck battle between the ruling NDA and the opposition INDIA bloc comprising Samajwadi Party and Congress. According to the latest Election Commission figures, the NDA has so far won 26 seats and is leading in 10.

The INDIA bloc, on the other hand, made big gains and secured 29 seats and was ahead in 14.

Chandrashekhar of the Azad Samaj Party (Kanshiram) was won from the Nagina constituency.

While the Akhilesh Yadav-led Samajwadi Party contested 62 seats, the Congress fought 17. The BJP stuck to its old ally, Apna Dal (Sone Lal), and also brought in Jayant Chaudhary's RLD and OP Rajbhar's Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party into the NDA front. In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, the BJP alone won 62 of the 80 seats, while the BSP and Samajwadi Party, then allies, won 10 and five seats, respectively.

## BSP DRAWS BLANK IN UP

New Delhi: Mayawati, the four-time Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh and a Dalit powerhouse, is unlikely to open account in Uttar Pradesh in this Lok Sabha Election. Her Bahujan Samaj Party, which contested 80 seats in Uttar Pradesh, is not ahead in a single one - a circumstance that could not have been imagined in the heady '90s. Back then, the firebrand Dalit leader, who along with mentor Kanshi Ram, had come with the famous "Tilak Tarazu aur Talwar" slogan, was courted by the BJP. The 68-year-old had been Chief Minister of UP in 1995, 1997, 2002 and 2007 and was also a Member of Parliament.



## PARTIES HIGHEST VOTE SHARE TILL NOW?

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Defying last week's exit poll predictions, the Congress-led INDIA bloc gave tough competition to the incumbent BJP-led NDA government. However, the BJP-led NDA is ahead on 292 seats and is set to form government from a third consecutive term.

Despite counting of votes still underway, the picture of parties who got a major share of votes in this election is fairly clear.

According to the election commission of India, BJP is running ahead with the biggest share of votes at 36.76%, followed by the Congress at 21.46%.

Both the leading parties have more or less maintained their vote shares as compared to 2019. The BJP has almost held on to its 2019 vote share of 37%. The Congress has so far made a slight improvement of 1.46% as compared to 2019's 20% vote share.

The BJP has so far won 239 seats and is eyeing a third term in the power, a decline from 2019's 303 seats. The Congress, on the other



hand, has made a big gain by almost doubling its standing in the Lok Sabha since the last time. The Congress has won 100 seats as compared to 52 seats in 2019.

The vote share this year has dropped sharply following BJP and Congress. The other three parties that made a place for themselves in the top five are - Samajwadi Party (4.63%), All India Trinamool Congress (4.33%) and Bahujan Samaj Party (2.06%).

## CHANDRABABU NAIDU, NITISH KUMAR HOLD KEY, NDA MEETING TODAY

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Contrary to nearly all exit poll predictions, the BJP is set to fall short of the majority mark of 272 Lok Sabha seats and will have to depend on its NDA allies, primarily Chandrababu Naidu's TDP and Nitish Kumar's Janata Dal United, to make up for the shortfall - a situation it hasn't found itself in since 2014.

As of this afternoon, the BJP is leading in 245 Lok Sabha constituencies, including victories in five, the TDP in 16 and the JDU in 13. The TDP is also leading in 135 of Andhra Pradesh's 175

seats. The other two big parties in the NDA are Eknath Shinde's Shiv Sena, which is leading in six seats, and Chirag Paswan's Lok Janshakti Party, which is ahead in five.

Moves for government formation have already begun and sources have told a channel that BJP President JP Nadda has called a meeting of the NDA today. Both Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah have also spoken to Naidu and the PM has also told the TDP leader that he will attend his swearing-in ceremony as the Andhra Pradesh chief minister on

Sunday.

A BJP meeting is also underway at Nadda's residence, with Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and other senior leaders in attendance. PM Modi is also expected to visit the BJP headquarters around 7 pm.

On the other side, the INDIA bloc, which is leading in 232 constituencies, is also likely to hold a meeting today, NCP (Sharadchandra Pawar) chief Sharad Pawar said.

There have been reports that Pawar had spoken to Naidu and Nitish Kumar, but the Maharashtra leader refuted them.

## 'UP Ke Ladke' Works For INDIA, Ram Temple Doesn't For BJP

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Uttar Pradesh, which had accounted for a lion's share of the BJP's tally since 2014, has proved to be a tough challenge for the party in the 2024 election. The INDIA alliance of Samajwadi Party and Congress is winning in 43 out of 80 Lok Sabha seats, comfortably more than the NDA tally of 36.

In the 2014 and 2019 elec-

tions, the BJP scooped up 71 and 62 seats. Exit polls predicted a repeat of the trend this time, but the trends hold true to the warning - exit polls don't always get it right.

Among the biggest talking points in this election were the construction of the grand Ram temple in Ayodhya, a BJP poll promise since the 1980s, which BJP supporters claimed would be the decisive factor in the Lok Sabha election results.

## Who won by highest margin, who gave a close fight?

Team Absolute | New Delhi

At least four BJP leaders have recorded the highest victory margin in the Lok Sabha polls, with Indore MP Shankar Lalwani winning with a margin of over 11.72 lakh votes.

The large margin is followed by Home Minister Amit Shah, former Madhya Pradesh chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and BJP Gujarat leader CR Patil who are all leading with over seven lakh votes each from their constituencies.

A three-term MP from Gujarat's Navsari, Mr CR Patil broke his record for the second-highest margin and was leading by 7.67 lakh votes.

Former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Chouhan led with over 7.96 lakh votes while Home Minister Shah led in Gandhinagar by a margin of more than 7.37 lakh votes.

Congress's Rakibul Hussain is also leading from Dhubri in Assam by a margin of more than 7.36 lakh votes.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, who has been contesting from Raebareli and Wayanad, won by over 3.5

lakh votes on both seats -- even bettering his mother Sonia Gandhi's victory margin in Raebareli.

BJP's Hemang Joshi was leading by more than 5.82 lakh votes in Vadodara while the party's Mahesh Sharma was leading by 5.57 lakh votes in Noida.

On the other hand, in several Lok Sabha constituencies, candidates won with a margin of less than 1,000 against their competitors.

On Mumbai Northwest seat, Shiv Sena candidate Ravindra Waikar won by just 48 votes against rival Shiv Sena faction's Amol Gajanan Kirtikar

In Aonla, Muzaffarnagar, Hatkanangale, and Kanthi constituencies, the winning margins are within a narrow range of less than 1,000 votes. While BJP candidates are currently ahead in these constituencies, the Shiv Sena candidate leads in Hatkanangale.

Similarly, Salempur, Attingal, Mumbai North Central, and Mumbai North West witnessed tight races, with winning margins of less than 2,000 votes separating the victors from their closest competitors.



# "INDIA DIDN'T WIN AS MANY SEATS AS BJP ALONE DID": PM MODI

## The list of Mahayuti winners and losers

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi today thanked the people of the country, for "restoring their faith" in the BJP as the party looks set to form the government at the Centre for a third successive term.

Here are PM Modi's top quotes: I thank everyone for their love. I am indebted to all Indians. The citizens of India have affirmed their faith in the BJP and the NDA once again.

Today's victory is the victory of the world's biggest democracy. This is the victory of faith in the country's constitution. This is the victory of 'sabka sath sabka vikas' mantra. This is a victory of 'Viksit Bharat'. This is the victory of 140 crore Indians.

I congratulate the Election Commission of India (ECI) too for holding the world's biggest election. Nearly 100 crore voters, 11 lakh polling stations, 1.5 crore polling workers, 55 lakh EVMs. Every employee did their job in this intense heat.

Every Indian is proud of the country's election process and its credibility. There is no other example anywhere in the world. I tell the influencers and opinion makers that in India's democracy, this is the efficiency of the election process.

This mandate has many aspects. This was the first time after 1962, that a government returned to



power after completing two terms. In states, where Vidhan Sabha elections were held, NDA scored victories - be it in Arunachal, Andhra, Odisha, or Sikkim

Congress has been wiped out in these states. I don't have details, but I think it was hard for them to even save their deposits.

INDIA bloc did not win as many seats as the BJP alone did.

This is the first time the BJP will have a Chief

Minister on the land of Lord Jagannath (Odisha). BJP won a seat in Kerala too. Our Kerala workers have made a lot of sacrifices but kept serving the public. The moment they waited for generations is here. In Telangana, our numbers have doubled. In Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Uttarakhand, Himachal, and many other states, our party almost made a clean sweep.

I assure the people of these states (four that went to assembly polls) that the Centre will not leave any stone unturned for their development. Under Nitish babu, NDA did well in Bihar.

Ten years ago, there was a mandate for a change. That was the time when the country was into depression and was counted among the 'fragile five'. Newspaper headlines were about corruption. The youth were concerned about their future. At that time, the country gave us the responsibility to bring back hope.

The second term was for development and guarantees. The blessing that NDA got for the third time, I bow before the public.

I want to tell BJP workers your efforts, your sweat in this heat inspires Modi to work. If you work 10 hours, Modi will work 18 hours. If you take two steps, Modi will take four steps. We Indians together will take the country forward. We will write a new chapter, and this is Modi's guarantee.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Mahayuti has won 18 seats in Maharashtra. However, the BJP, which had contested 28 seats, has faced a major drubbing as it could win only 9 seats so far.

The counting is still underway in Beed where the party nominee Pankaja Munde is locked in a direct fight against NCP(SP) nominee Bajrang Sonawane.

On the other hand, the Shiv Sena has bagged seven seats while the recount is still underway in Mumbai North West.

The NCP fought four seats but won one seat while the BJP ally Rashtriya Samaj Paksha lost Parbhani.

The list of winners from the BJP include Union Minister Nitin Gadkari (Nagpur), Union Minister Narayan Rane (Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg), Union Minister Piyush Goyal (Mumbai North), Anup Dhotre (Akola), Udayanraje Bhosale (Satara), Smita Wagh (Jalgaon), Raksha Khadse (Raver), Muralidhar Mohol (Pune) and Hemant Savara (Palghar).

The list of losers from the BJP comprises Union Minister of State Raosaheb Danve (Jalna Union Minister of State Kapil Patil

(Bhiwandi), Union Minister of State Dr Bharati Pawar (Dindori), Ujjwal Nikam (Mumbai North Central), Sunil Mendhe (Bhandara-Gondia), Ashok Nete (Gadchiroli-Chimur), Navneet Rana (Amravati), Pratap Chikhalkar (Nanded), Sudhar Shrangare (Latur), Sujay Vikhe-Patil (Ahmednagar), Dr Subhash Bhamre (Dhule), Dr Heena Gavit (Nandurbar) and Mihir Kotecha (Mumbai North East).

The list of winners from Shiv Sena consists of state Cabinet minister Sandipan Bhamre (Aurangabad), Naresh Mhaske (Thane), Dr Shrikant Shinde (Kalyan), Prataprao Jadhav (Buldhana), Dhairyashel Mane (Hatkanangle), Ravindra Waikar (Mumbai North West) and Shrirang Barne (Maval).

The list of losers from Shiv Sena include Raju Parwe (Ramtek), Rajashree Patil (Yavatmal-Washim), Baburao Kadam (Hingoli), Sanjay Mandlik (Kolhapur), Sadashiv Lokhande (Shirdi), Yamini Jadhav (Mumbai South) and Rahul Shewale (Mumbai South Central).

As far as the NCP is concerned, the party has won the lone seat that is Raigad where the state unit chief Sunil Tatkar emerged victorious.

## Jagan Mohan Reddy quits as Andhra CM, sends resignation to Governor

Amaravati | Agencies

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Tuesday resigned from his post following the landslide victory of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in Assembly elections.

Jagan Mohan Reddy sent his resignation to Governor S. Abdul Nazeer, the YSR Congress Party said on Tuesday.

The Governor may ask him to continue as the caretaker Chief Minister till his successor takes oath.

Jagan Mohan Reddy sent his resignation a few minutes after addressing a press conference. He stated that the results were unexpected for the party. He wondered why the YSR Congress suffered defeat despite implementing several welfare schemes, benefiting crores of people.

Conceding defeat, Jagan Mohan Reddy vowed to rise again with courage and declared that his party would continue to fight on behalf of the people.

He wished all the very best to the new government. TDP-Jana Sena-BJP alliance was



heading for landslide victory as it won 106 seats and was leading in 57 seats. The tripartite alliance was also leading in 21 out of 25 Lok Sabha seats.

YSRCP has won only three Assembly seats and was leading in eight segments. It was also leading in four Lok Sabha constituencies.

In 2019, YSRCP had bagged 151 Assembly and 22 Lok Sabha seats.

## CONGRESS WINS BOTH LS SEATS IN VIOLENCE-HIT MANIPUR

Imphal | Agencies

In a significant political development, the Congress candidates wrested both the Lok Sabha seats in Manipur from the ruling BJP and its ally Naga People's Front (NPF) on Tuesday.

Despite trailing after the initial rounds of counting, Congress' Angomcha Bimol Akoijam won the Inner Manipur Lok Sabha seat after defeating BJP candidate and state Education Minister Thounaojam Basanta Kumar Singh by a margin of 1,09,801 votes.

In the tribal reserve Outer Manipur parliamentary seat, Congress' Alfred Kanngam S. Arthur defeated NPF nominee Kachui Timothy Zimik by a margin of 85,418 votes.

Akoijam is a professor at the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) in Delhi, while Arthur is a former MLA from the Ukhrul Assembly constituency. Both were consensus nominees of the 10-party alliance in Manipur.



Arthur (50) belongs to the Tangkhul-Naga community, while Akiomjam (57) belongs to the Meitei community.

Soon after getting elected to the Lok Sabha for the first time, Arthur celebrated his birthday at the

Congress Bhavan in Imphal where former Chief Minister Okram Ibobi Singh, state Congress President Keisham Meghachandra Singh, and senior party leaders wished him.

Six candidates contested the Inner Manipur seat, while four aspirants

were in the fray for the Outer Manipur seat, which is dominated by people belonging to the Naga and Kuki-Zomi tribes.

The two Lok Sabha seats in violence-ravaged Manipur were held in two phases on April 19 and April 26.

### Odisha Assembly Election:

## BJP wins 24 seats, leading in 56; BJD gets 18

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The BJP won 24 assembly seats in Odisha on Tuesday and was leading in 56 other constituencies, according to the Election Commission data.

Odisha chief minister and BJD supremo Naveen Patnaik was trailing BJP's Laxman Bag by 10,460 votes in the Kantabanji assembly seat in Bolangir district.

The BJD supremo was leading by 4,355 votes over his BJP rival Sisir Kumar Mishra in the Hinjili seat, the other seat he is contesting in Ganjam district.

The Congress won two seats and was ahead in 12 Assembly segments.

Odisha, traditionally a stronghold of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's BJD, is witnessing a fierce contest as the BJP seeks to make significant gains in both



the Assembly and General elections. Reflecting on the 2019 Lok Sabha

results, the BJD won 12 seats, the BJP secured 8, and the Congress managed to win just 1 out of 21 seats. This year's exit polls indicate a potential shift, with ABP-CVoter predicting 17-19 seats for the BJP and India Today-My Axis forecasting 18-20 seats for the party.

Key candidates from the state include Pratap Sarangi (Balasore), Manju Lata Mandal (Bhadrak), Sarmistha Sethi (Jajpur), and Rajashree Mallick (Jagatsinghpur). Prominent BJD figures in the fray are Odisha Assembly Speaker Pramila Mallik, Government Chief Whip Prashant Kumar Muduli, and state ministers Sudam Marandi, Ashwini Patra, Pritiranjjan Ghadai, Atanu S Nayak, Pratap Deb, and T K Behera.

The voting for the Odisha assembly polls was conducted in four phases from May 13 to June 1, simultaneously with the Lok Sabha elections.

### BJP SUFFERS SHOCK DEFEAT IN FAIZABAD DESPITE AYODHYA PUSH

Lucknow: In a massive setback to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the party lost in the Faizabad Lok Sabha seat that includes Ayodhya -- the abode of Lord Ram.

Samajwadi Party candidate Adwadesh Prasad got 5,54,289 votes, defeating BJP nominee Lallu Singh who got 4,99,722 votes.

Ram temple had been the focal point of the BJP campaign and it was felt that the issue would play a decisive factor in the elections.

Adwadesh Prasad told reporters that his lead reflected the local people's disenchantment with the BJP.

## Reprieve to Congress govt in Himachal as party wins four out of six bypolls

Shimla | Agencies

In a major reprieve to the Congress government led by Sukhvinder Sukhu in Himachal Pradesh, the party on Tuesday won four out of six bypolls.

However, it lost all four Lok Sabha seats to the BJP for the third time in a row.

The bypolls were necessitated as the sitting Congress MLAs cross-voted in the Rajya Sabha polls and were later suspended from the party. They resigned from the house and joined the BJP and were fielded by it.

With four new legislators,

the Congress has stabilised its government in the state.

Two sitting legislators won their seats again. They were Sudhir Sharma from Dharamsala and Inder Dutt Lakhnawal from Barsar, both once loyalists of Congress stalwart and six-time Chief Minister Virbhadra Singh, who passed away in 2022.

Apart from them, the Congress' Anuradha Rana won the Lahaul-Spiti Assembly constituency, Rakesh Kalia the Gagret seat, Captain Ranjit Singh Rana from Sujampur, and Vivek Sharma from Kutlehar. The entry of four new Congress legislators

into the Assembly comes just a day after Speaker Kuldeep Pathania accepted the resignation of three Independent MLAs, who too had voted along with six Congress legislators in favour of the BJP candidate in the recently held Rajya Sabha election.

The resignations of Hoshiyar Singh (Dehra), Ashish Sharma (Hamirpur), and K.L. Thakur (Nalagarh) were accepted and their seats fell vacant from Monday, a notification by the Assembly Secretariat said.

Currently, the Congress has 34 legislators, while the BJP has 25.

# MAHARASHTRA: CONGRESS RISES LIKE A PHOENIX; MVA CRUSHES MAHAYUTIA

Team Absolute | Mumbai

After a decade on the political pavements, the Maharashtra Congress unexpectedly resurrected itself to emerge as the single largest party in the state, and with Maha Vikas Aghadi allies, crushed the ruling MahaYuti in the Lok Sabha 2024 results declared on Tuesday.

As per the latest trends/results for the 48 Lok Sabha constituencies officially available, the MVA has secured 29 seats, the MahaYuti bagged 18 and one went to a Congress rebel-turned-independent Vishal P. Patil in Sangli.

Among the two blocs, the MVA's Congress has bagged 12, up from two in 2014 and one in 2019, Shiv Sena (UBT)'s 10, Nationalist Congress Party (SP)'s 7; and the MahaYuti's Bharatiya Janata Party managed 11, Shiv Sena's 6 and Nationalist Congress Party's just one.

Those who bit the dust from the ruling alliance at the hands of the MVA-INDIA bloc comprised three union ministers, one state minister and around 17 sitting MPs.

**Ahmednagar:** NCP (SP)'s candidate Nilesh D. Lanke has defeated sitting BJP MP Dr. Sujay Radhakrishna Vikhe-Patil.

**Amravati:** Congress' Balwant B. Wankhede trounced BJP's sitting MP Navneet Kaur-Rana.

**Baramati:** NCP (SP)'s Supriya Sule vanquished her 'bhabhi' and NCP's nominee Sunetra Ajit Pawar.

**Bhandara-Gondia:** Congress' Dr. Prashant Y. Padole defeated BJP's sitting MP Sunil B. Mendhe.

**Bhiwandi:** NCP (SP)'s Suresh G. Mhatre a.k.a. Balyamama trounced BJP's Union Minister and sitting 2-time MP Kapil M. Patil.

**Chandrapur:** Congress' Pratibha S. Dhanorkar vanquished the BJP's state minister Sudhir Mungantiwar.

**Dindori:** NCP (SP)'s Bhaskar M. Bhagare defeated BJP's Union Minister Bharati P. Pawar.

**Gadchiroli-Chimur:** Congress' Namdeo D. Kirsan trounced BJP's two-time sitting Ashok M. Nete.

**Hingoli:** Shiv Sena (UBT)'s Nagesh B. Ashtekar-Patil vanquished Shiv Sena's Baburao K. Kohalikar.

**Jalna:** Congress' Vijnath V. Kale defeated BJP's



Union Minister and 5-time MP Raosaheb Danve.

**Kolhapur:** Congress' Chhatrapati Shriman Shahu Maharaj trounced Shiv Sena's sitting MP Sanjay S. Mandlik.

**Madha:** NCP (SP)'s Dhairyashel R. Mohite-Patil vanquished BJP's sitting Ranjitsinh H. Naik-Nimbalkar.

**Mumbai North Central:** Congress' Varsha Eknath Gaikwad defeated BJP's Ujjwal Nikam.

**Mumbai North East:** SS (UBT)'s Sanjay D. Patil trounced BJP's Mihir C. Kotecha.

**Mumbai North West:** SS (UBT)'s Amol G. Kirtikar vanquished Shiv Sena's Ravindra D. Waikar.

**Mumbai South:** SS (UBT)'s Arvind Sawant defeated Shiv Sena's Yamini Y. Jadhav.

**Mumbai South Central:** SS (UBT)'s Anil Y. Desai trounced Shiv Sena's 2-time sitting MP

Rahul R. Shewale.

**Nanded:** Congress' Vasant B. Chavan-Patil vanquished BJP's sitting MP Pratap G. Chikhalkar-Patil.

**Nandurbar:** Congress' Gowaal K. Padavi defeated BJP's sitting 2-time MP Heena V. Gavit.

**Nashik:** SS (UBT)'s Prakash R. Waje trounced Shiv Sena's sitting MP Hemant T. Godse.

**Osmanabad:** SS (UBT)'s Omprakash B. Rajenimbalkar vanquished NCP's Archana R. Patil.

**Parbhani:** SS (UBT)'s Sanjay H. Jadhav defeated RSP (MahaYuti)'s Mahadev J. Jankar.

**Ramtek:** Congress' Shyamkumar D. Barve trounced Shiv Sena's Raju D. Parwe.

**Shirdi:** SS (UBT)'s Bhausaheb R. Wakchaure vanquished Shiv Sena's sitting 2-time MP Sadashiv Lokhande.

**Shirur:** NCP (SP)'s sitting MP Amol R. Kolhe defeated NCP's Shivajirao A. Patil, a former 2-time MP.

**Solapur:** Congress' Praniti Sushilkumar Shinde trounced BJP's Ram V. Satpute.

**Wardha:** NCP (SP)'s Amar S. Kale vanquished BJP's sitting 2-time MP Ramdas C. Tadas.

**Yavatmal-Washim:** SS (UBT)'s Sanjay U. Deshmukh defeated Shiv Sena's Rajashri H. Patil.



# BJP SWEEPS LOK SABHA ELECTION IN MADHYA PRADESH



Team Absolute | Bhopal

The victory of Bharatiya Janata Party in the Lok Sabha elections across the country including Madhya Pradesh was celebrated

in the state BJP office. On this occasion, Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav, BJP State President and MP Vishnudutt Sharma, former Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan and State Organization General Secretary Hitanand ji

along with party workers presented the pictures of Bharat Mata, Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee and Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay. He expressed his gratitude to the public by garlanding and bursting fireworks. During this, former State

President Prabhat Jha, co-in-charge of Maharashtra Jaibhan Singh Pawaiya, former Union Minister Suresh Pachauri, State Government Minister Vishwas Sarang, Krishna Gaur, State Vice President and MP Alok Sharma,

State General Secretary and others were present on the stage. MLA Bhagwandas Sabnani, Mayor Malti Rai, MLA Rameshwar Sharma, Vishnu Khatri, State Media Incharge Ashish Aggarwal were present.

## BJP RETAINS VIDISHA AS SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN WINS AGAIN

Team Absolute | Bhopal

BJP veteran and four-time chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan won the Lok Sabha election from Madhya Pradesh's Vidisha with a margin of 8.20 lakh votes. He defeated veteran Congress leader and two-time MP Pratap Bhanu Sharma.

Notably, Pratap Bhanu Sharma of Congress won from Vidisha in two general elections -- 1980 and 1984.

While the BJP has retained this high-profile Vidisha Lok Sabha seat since 1989. Former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and another BJP stalwart Sushma Swaraj had represented this seat.

Before becoming the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh in 2005, Shivraj Singh Chouhan won four terms from Vidisha.

After the BJP won the assembly election in November last year, the BJP replaced Chouhan with Mohan Yadav as Chief Minister. Subsequently, Chouhan was fielded



from Vidisha again and he won.

After winning the election, Chouhan said, "I express my gratitude to the people of Vidisha for sup-

porting the BJP. People of Madhya Pradesh and from the entire country have shown faith in Prime Minister Narendra Modi."

Chouhan further said he was happy to receive a massive mandate and promised that he would continue to serve the people of Vidisha.

## BJP wins big in Kamal Nath's bastion Chhindwara

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Celebrations have begun in the Madhya Pradesh unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) as the party is set to sweep all the 29 Lok Sabha seats in the state.

However, what is more important for the BJP is that it has wrested Chhindwara from the Congress, the only seat in MP the BJP could not win since 1997.

In Chhindwara, BJP's Vivek 'Bunty' Sahu has won by over 1.3 lakh votes against his nearest rival and sitting Congress MP Nakul Nath, the son of party veteran Kamal Nath. A low-profile BJP leader, Sahu had unsuccessfully contested his first elections against Kamal Nath



in the Assembly bypoll from Chhindwara in 2019.

The BJP had fielded him again against Kamal Nath in the Assembly elections held in November last year, but he lost again.

However, despite two consecutive defeats, the BJP reposed faith in him to take on the Kamal Nath family from Chhindwara by fielding

him against Nakul Nath. Sahu got an edge after Kamal Nath's close aide Deepak Saxena left the Congress and joined the BJP a few days before voting was held in Chhindwara.

Chhindwara has been the bastion of Kamal Nath since 1980. The family won as many as 13 elections from the seat since then (11 Lok Sabha and 3 Assembly polls).

Kamal Nath represented Chhindwara for a record nine times, while his wife Alka Nath won this seat in 1996. The Jan Sangh's Sundar Lal Patwa (ex-CM) had won Chhindwara in 1997, which was the only win for the BJP from this seat, before Sahu helped the party wrest the seat from the Congress.

## BJP's Shankar Lalwani wins Indore LS seat with 10.8 lakh votes

Team Absolute | Bhopal

BJP won the Indore Lok Sabha seat of Madhya Pradesh with a margin of 10.08 lakh votes, probably, the biggest victory of any BJP candidate in Madhya Pradesh.

BJP's sitting MP Shankar Lalwani is a close aide of senior party leader Kailash Vijayvargiya.

Interestingly, NOTA remained at the second position with over two lakh. Congress' nominee from Indore, Akshay Kanti Bam withdrew his nomination papers at the last minute.

In the absence of a candi-



date from Congress, it was a walk-over for Shankar Lalwani and BJP in Indore. The Congress supporters had campaigned for NOTA during the election.

The BJP has been retaining the Indore seat since 1989. Before Lalwani, BJP member Sumitra Mahajan, who also served as Speaker of the Lok Sabha from 2014 to 2019, held the position for an exceptional eight consecutive terms.

Counting is still underway in the remaining 27 LS seats of Madhya Pradesh but the BJP is leading on all the seats with a margin of over 50,000 to 1.50 lakh votes.

## Alok Sharma wins in Bhopal by big margin

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The results of Lok Sabha Elections-2024 have come. BJP candidate Alok Sharma has won from Bhopal parliamentary seat. This time the main contest for Bhopal Lok Sabha seat, one of the 29 constituencies of Madhya Pradesh, was between Congress and BJP. Talking about the last Lok Sabha elections, in 2019, BJP had won by a huge majority by fielding Sadhvi Pragya Thakur against veteran Congress leader Digvijay Singh. But in 2024, both the parties changed their candidates from here. Voting on this Lok Sabha seat was held in the third phase on 7 May. 62.29 percent voting took place in Bhopal.

Even after changing the candidate on the high profile seat of MP, BJP's



Alok Sharma has won the election by 501499 votes. He has got a total of 981109 votes whereas Congress candidate Arun Yadav has got 479610 votes.

People living in Bhopal Lok Sabha seat come from different religions, castes and communities. This constituency has more than 60 per cent youth voters, with the largest population being people under 30 years of age. In which the number of people of Hindu community is considered decisive. It can decide the victory or defeat of any candidate. There are 21 lakh voters in Bhopal. Out of which male voters are approximately 11 lakh and female voters are 10 lakh. This was seen in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. BJP's Pragya Thakur defeated Congress's Digvijay Singh by a margin of 3 lakh votes.

## More than 1000 People Served Daily at Annakshetra of AIIMS Bhopal



Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Annakshetra of AIIMS Bhopal is making a significant impact by serving over 1,000 people every day. This vital service, which pro-

vides meals to the relatives of patients undergoing treatment, has been continuously operating for the past six years. Today, Professor (Dr.) Ajai Singh, Executive Director of AIIMS Bhopal, visited the Annakshetra to review the services and personally

experience the operations. During his visit, he distributed food to the attendees and ensured the quality of the meals being served. Expressing his satisfaction, Professor Singh praised the Annakshetra, run by Karuna Dham, as a remarkable initiative in the service of humanity. "Providing medical treatment alone is not sufficient," he stated. "By supporting the patients and their families emotionally, we can contribute to building a stronger nation."

In addition to providing nutritious meals three times a day - in the morning, afternoon, and evening - the Annakshetra also offers accommodation for those traveling from distant regions for treatment at AIIMS Bhopal.

This comprehensive support system alleviates the stress and burden on patient families, ensuring they can focus on the care and recovery of their loved ones.

Professor Singh's visit underscores the institution's commitment to holistic patient care and community support.

The Annakshetra exemplifies AIIMS Bhopal's mission to extend its compassion and services beyond medical treatment, fostering an environment of care and emotional strength.

## At over 1.8 lakh votes, Indore registers highest NOTA count ever



Team Absolute | Bhopal

While the BJP has won all the 29 Lok Sabha seats in Madhya Pradesh, an interesting phenomenon is being observed in Indore where 1,82,766 voters opted for the NOTA (None of the Above) option (till 1.10 p.m.), setting a new record.

While the BJP's Shankar Lalwani has taken a decisive lead of over 8 lakh votes in Indore, the second-highest

votes so far have been counted in favour of NOTA.

NOTA, or the option to express one's displeasure with every candidate in the fray, was introduced in most Indian elections since 2013.

It should be mentioned here that after the Congress candidate from Indore, Akshay Kanti Bam, withdrew his nomination at the last minute, giving a virtual walk-over to the BJP, the grand old party had carried out a campaign urging the voters to

press the NOTA button on polling day.

Not only the Congress, but several BJP leaders were also of the view that having no candidate from the opposition was setting a wrong precedent.

However, across Madhya Pradesh, the BJP is upbeat as their candidates are in the lead in all the 29 seats in the state, including in Chhindwara, the only constituency it lost to the Congress in 2019.



EDITOR'S SPECS

Shift in Dalit politics

The Bahujan Samaj Party has sunk and a new Dalit leader has risen in the Lok Sabha elections in Uttar Pradesh. This is the biggest takeaway of these elections from the state. Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) has failed to win even a single seat in Uttar Pradesh while Chandrashekhar of Aazad Samaj Party (Kanshi Ram) and founder of Bhim Party was leading massively in the Nagina seat without any support from any political party or leader. His victory with a margin of over one lakh votes in Nagina, a reserved seat, signifies a clear shift in Dalit votes. The BSP had also fielded its candidate in Nagina and Akash Anand, when he campaigned there, targeted Chandrashekhar and warned his voters to beware of 'woh aadmi'. Chandrashekhar fought a lonely battle but he was confident of his victory. "All parties have positioned themselves against me but the people are with me and I am confident of their support," he said two days ago. Though Chandrashekhar carefully avoided any criticism of Mayawati, he ensured that the voters realised the difference between the two. A Bhim Army supporter explained, "Chandrashekhar has always made sure to visit every Dalit home where any member has been targeted. Mayawati has never bothered to reach out to families who suffer. People, especially youth, in our community are slowly gravitating towards the Bhim Army, also known as the Azad Samaj Party." Buoyed up by its leader's victory in Nagina, the Bhim Army now plans to build up its organisation across the state. As per the Election Commission data, Chandrashekhar was leading with a margin of 1,45,053 over his nearest rival, BJP's Om Kumar. Chandrashekhar polled 4,91,045 votes while the BSP's Surendra Pal Singh secured 12,864 votes so far.

SANITY IS A PREREQUISITE FOR PEACE

DC Pathak

All conflicts -- interpersonal, social and political -- are traceable to lesser thoughts afflicting the human mind at the cost of sanity. Sanity is broadly the gain accruing from a combination of 'awareness' with 'acceptance' of the larger realities of life and a certain capacity to relentlessly follow the path of duty without the fear of failure. Life is not a journey entirely free of turbulence and these two precepts by and large provide a level of peace of mind that was the prime requisite for successfully negotiating that journey.

Indian spiritual thought upheld the primacy of mental peace over any other form of advantage in life and even prepared the individual to face the journey's end with calm and a healthy sense of 'surrender' to the higher order. This is what imbues the Indian mind with a sense of wisdom -- this was particularly true of the women of India -- and sees an individual preferring peace over want. It goes without saying that India surely is one country where this kind of intrinsic wisdom should come into play to make governance people-oriented going beyond what was done in a so-called 'welfare' state. The state has to nurse the spiritual gift of Indians that got them to opt for peace. We have changed our penal codes to free them of the colonial hangover. Of equal importance is the need for giving a suitable orientation to our national civil services to enable them to serve the larger objective of giving all citizens fair treatment within the firmness of the administrative ethos and contributing to policy-framing for the larger good of the nation. India upholds sanity in international relations as well which is why it has in a short period of time risen to become a major power in the world espousing the cause of global peace and human advancement. India's foreign policy of opting for bilateral and even multilateral friendships based on mutual security and economic benefits that did not prejudice global peace has in a way helped the country to reinforce its position as an independent-looking power in the comity of nations. Projection of the strategy of making India self-dependent in economy and defence has added to this image.

On the Ukraine-Russia military confrontation and more recently in the Israel-Hamas conflict India took a stand that seemed to indicate an approach of sanity befitting a world leader who could see things in the wider perspective of the good of humanity. In both these developments of geopolitical importance, India was upfront in suggesting negotiations for peace -- the initial condemnation of the 'terrorist' attack of Hamas on Israel on October 7 was in line with India's declared policy of zero tolerance towards 'terrorism' of all kinds.

Even in the Ukraine-Russia armed confrontation, India had reached out to the two countries at the highest levels to call for the cessation of hostilities and return to talks on the basis of the willingness of the mediators to understand the 'security concerns' of both sides. All this enabled India to continue with its bilateral friendship with both Russia and Israel without running into any problems with the rest of the international community. In handling geopolitical developments, India has apparently made the point that what was right from the point of view of the interests of humanity, was the correct policy for the simple reason that the voice of sanity would ultimately find



the widest global support.

In the governance of a large country like India, it becomes equally important that democratic dispensation prevails in all areas of domestic life like the execution of welfare schemes, the development of all regardless of caste, creed or region and access to the same justice for the high and the low. This is again because this was the approach of sanity and people never failed to see the merit of such a pathway. The areas where the government at the Centre had still to work were to ensure that a uniform level of law & order maintenance was available to the citizens through the length and breadth of the country regardless of the federal polity prescribed by our Constitution, to provide for a satisfactory medical care facility all across the country and to organise free education up to the school level mandated by the Constitution.

The country should move towards declaring health and education as strategic sectors where the writ of the Centre would be equally important. The framing of the National Education Policy should have come earlier and its implementation was insisted upon because the responsibilities of the state in respect of education were supposed to stand above party politics. In fact in education and health, the Centre should have primary accountability just as was the case with the maintenance of internal security. Strategic affairs did not admit any political divergences in interpretation. Indian voters are a shrewd judge of the performance of the government at the Centre or in the states and they have exercised their electoral power effectively over the decades. They accept what makes sense to them and make an un-tinted evaluation of the rulers of the day. India is lucky to have people who value sanity on the issues of governance.

India is a land of multiple faiths and modes of worship but its governance does not carry any stamp of religion. This makes it so much superior to the fundamentalist regimes in its neighbourhood with a declared system of treatment of minorities that allowed the latter less than equal rights compared to Muslims. India houses more Muslims than what their number

was in Pakistan but has secularism built into its governance by way of the grant of an equal voting right under the Constitutional mandate of 'one man one vote', development policies of the state being open to all regardless of community and the same protection of law being provided to all citizens. Any flaws in this regard noticed locally can be fiercely opposed in the exercise of the freedom of lawful protest.

Political parties may be tempted to rely on communal appeals but beyond a point, this would attract adverse notice of law enforcement. Notions of supremacism of faith that lead to an attitude of 'rejectionism' towards other religions have often caused political separatism but that too was largely because of the manipulation by leaders. Indian democracy has passed the test of the validity of its electoral process -- what has made it possible is the vigilance of the electorate that was always very clear about the merits and inadequacies of the government of the day. The average Indian has enough sanity to retain his or her political judgment by even rising above the individual's personal concerns and recording his or her preference for stability and security of the country.

Indians have the civilisational legacy of living in harmony with others respecting their faiths and social practices -- this is the reason why the narrative of 'majoritarianism' built by interested lobbies had not brought many converts and the faith in the Constitution had held on. However, the legacy of politics of 'minorityism' keeps on getting revived from time to time though without making too much headway. All communities in India have the uncanny realisation that this was a practising democracy where a party would succeed only on genuine performance. This is a great tribute to the sanity of Indian voters.

The maxim of sanity for peace applies to the personal life more than it does to the social and political spheres of the individual's existence. It would be of great help if three civilisational learnings were put to good use while traversing through the journey of life -- a conscious effort to see that there was not too much serious 'unfinished business' at any point of time, a certain degree of awareness that excessive 'attachments' would not work and a willingness to have 'forgiveness' of all those one had dealt with perhaps not fairly. This is not a very big call to make for a sane mind that sees the importance of having an environment of goodwill around oneself. It is important to realise that a sane mind is a rational mind and that rationalisation is the gift of logic. A logical mind is thus the best evidence of sanity and also an instrument of right decision-making in all situations. It brings in peace when it is most needed -- in difficult moments of life. A rational thinking helps to keep away clogging thoughts of the 'after-life' and makes it easy to believe that life had a beginning and an inevitable end -- nothing more. In a strange way, a sane mind will thus bring in peace when it is most needed -- at the final destination. Values of sanity can be cultivated and practised in the lifetime and in fact, should be adopted as the guide for purposeful living.

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

international

South Korea to use loudspeakers near North Korean border after suspension of military pact

Seoul | Agencies South Korea's military on Tuesday said it remains ready to immediately operate mobile loudspeakers near the border with North Korea as Seoul took steps to fully suspend a 2018 inter-Korean military pact. Earlier in the day, the Cabinet endorsed the suspension of the Comprehensive Military Agreement in response to the North's trash-carrying balloon campaign and jamming of GPS signals in recent days, Yonhap news agency reported. The motion will be sent to President Yoon Suk Yeol for signing, and the suspension will allow South Korea to resume large-scale military training near the border and restart loudspeaker propaganda broadcasts toward the North. Joint Chiefs of Staff spokesperson Lee Sung-jun said various measures could be taken after the suspension, noting that the military has operated both fixed and mobile loudspeakers on the



front lines. "Fixed loudspeakers need to be connected to power, and installing them could take hours to a few days," Lee told a regular briefing. "Mobile loudspeaker operations can be conducted right away." The loudspeakers used to blare criticism of the Kim Jong-un regime's human rights abuses, news and K-pop songs, drawing angry responses from Pyongyang.

A government source said there appears to be no plan to immediately install the fixed equipment as such activities could heighten military tension, noting that the military will likely operate the mobile equipment first if such broadcasts are resumed. Meanwhile, Lee declined to elaborate on the measures the military could take after the pact's suspension but noted that they would depend on North Korea's

actions. "There are things that we can immediately do, and we could make them public, and a lot of those things can be seen as largely depending on North Korea," he said. The 2018 deal included setting up buffer zones around the border to suspend large-scale military drills, as well as banning "hostile" acts between the two Koreas, which restricted the loudspeaker broadcasts.

Russia imposes entry ban on some UK politicians, journalists and experts

Moscow | Agencies Russia has announced entry bans on several British politicians, journalists, and experts, the country's Foreign Ministry said on Monday. "In response to the hostile actions of the UK, it was decided to include a number of representatives of the political establishment, the journalistic corps, and the expert community of the United Kingdom on Russia's entry ban list," the ministry said in a statement, Xinhua news agency reported. The ban was due to their "implementation of London's anti-Russian policy" or "covering important social-political events in Russia in a negative way", it added. The ministry also urged Britain to stop providing military support to Ukraine.

Australian Defence Force recruitment to be opened to non-citizens

Canberra | Agencies Foreigners who have lived in Australia for at least 12 months will be eligible to join the nation's armed forces from 2025, the federal government has announced. Richard Marles, the minister for defence and deputy prime minister, and Defence Personnel Minister Matt Keogh announced the initiative on Tuesday in Canberra, saying it would help grow the Australian Defence Force (ADF), Xinhua news agency reported. Under the expanded eligibility criteria,



ria, New Zealanders who are permanent residents of Australia and have lived in the country for at least 12 months will be able to join the ADF from July 1. Starting in 2025, citizens from all other countries who meet the same criteria will become eligible to serve in the ADF. Applicants must not have

served in a foreign military in the previous two years and will be subject to ADF entry standards and security requirements. Keogh said in a joint statement with Marles that expanding eligibility would help reverse ADF recruitment shortfalls. According to the National Defence Strategy, which was launched by Marles in April, the ADF is currently facing a shortage of 4,400 enlisted personnel after achieving 80 percent of recruitment targets between 2020-21 and 2022-23.

Over 300 Afghan refugee families return home from Pak, Iran in two days

Kabul | Agencies More than 300 Afghan refugee families have returned home from Pakistan and Iran over the past couple of days, reported the state-run Bakhtar news agency on Tuesday. A total of 303 families who used to stay as refugees for years in the two neighbouring countries returned to their homeland a couple of days ago, added the state-controlled media outlet in its report without revealing the exact number of the returnees, reports Xinhua news agency. More than one million Afghan refugees, with the majority of them undocumented migrants, have report-



edly returned home from the two countries since last November. The Afghan caretaker government has been repeatedly calling upon Afghan refugees to end living abroad as refugees and return home to contribute to the rebuilding process of their war-torn homeland.

Israel announces deaths of another 4 hostages in Hamas captivity

Jerusalem | Agencies The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) has said that they have confirmed the deaths of another four Israeli hostages taken to the Gaza Strip by Hamas on October 7, 2023, claiming the Gaza-ruling group is still holding their bodies. IDF spokesman Daniel Hagari said on Monday that the Israeli forces estimate "that the four were killed together in the Khan Younis area several months ago" when the Israeli forces were operating there. He noted that the confirmation of their deaths was based on intelligence information and was approved by an expert committee at the Health Ministry, Xinhua news agency reported. He added that the IDF is conducting a thorough investigation into the circumstances of their death and is examining all possibilities. The IDF identified the four victims as Amiram Cooper, Chaim Peri, Yoram Metzger and Nadav Popplewell. Cooper, Peri and Metzger, in their 80s, were residents of Nir Oz near the Gaza Strip border



and were seen alive in a video released by Hamas in December. Popplewell, 51, was from the village of Nirim near Nir Oz. He was last seen alive in a video released by Hamas in early May. Earlier on Monday, the IDF announced that it had located and identified the body of 36-year-old medic Dolev Yehud in his village Nir Oz. Yehud, who had been considered taken hostage until Monday was killed by Hamas on October 7, according to the army. Currently, 124 Israeli hostages remain held in the Gaza Strip, with Israel declaring 43 of them dead.

Microsoft faces complaints in EU over violating children's data privacy

London | Agencies Privacy rights organisation noyb on Tuesday lodged two complaints with Austria's data protection authority against tech giant Microsoft for allegedly violating children's data protection rights. The non-profit organisation said that Microsoft's '365 Education' services violate children's data protection rights. When pupils wanted to exercise their General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) rights, Microsoft said schools were the "controller" for their data. "However, the schools have no control over the systems," said noyb. Microsoft, alleged the complaint, is trying to contractually dump most of its legal responsibilities under the GDPR on schools that provide Microsoft 365 Education services to their pupils or students.



"This means, for example, that access requests to Microsoft go unanswered - while schools have no realistic way of complying with such requests because they don't hold the necessary data," the

non-prift mentioned. Maartje de Graaf, data protection lawyer at noyb, said that this take-it-or-leave-it approach by software vendors such as Microsoft is shifting all GDPR responsibilities to schools. "Microsoft holds all the key information about data processing in its software, but is pointing the finger at schools when it comes to exercising rights. Schools have no way of complying with the transparency and information obligations," de Graaf said. Microsoft provides such "vague information" that even a qualified lawyer can't fully understand how the company processes personal data in Microsoft 365 Education. "It is almost impossible for children or their parents to uncover the extent of Microsoft's data collection," said de Graaf.

Six railway workers dead after being hit by freight train in China

Harbin | Agencies Six workers have been confirmed dead after they were hit by a freight train in northeast China's Heilongjiang Province on Tuesday morning, according to China Railway Harbin Bureau Group Co., Ltd. The accident occurred around 1:55 a.m. when the workers were on the track of a railway section on the outskirts of Jiamusi City, sources with the company said. Two of them died on the spot, while the other four died after rescue efforts failed, reports Xinhua news agency. The cause of the accident is not known yet, and the investigation continues.



# MahaYuti set to 'miss' its Mission 45 plus target in Maharashtra

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The MahaYuti, comprising BJP, Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena and Ajit Pawar-led Nationalist Congress Party, is set to miss its Mission 45 plus in Maharashtra. BJP, which contested 28 seats (five seats more than 2019 elections), is leading only in 13 seats against 23 seats which it had won in the last general elections.

The Maha Vikas Aghadi, which campaigned on the "threat to the Constitution narrative, lured voters against MahaYuti. Moreover, the BJP's move to leave 15 seats to the Shinde faction has gone completely against its poll plan of achieving Mission 45 plus as the voters have expressed their anger against Chief Minister Eknath Shinde for "aligning with the BJP to seek power".

Further, the transfer of votes between the two parties has not happened despite Shinde and his deputy Devendra Fadnis exhorting the respective party members and voters



to vote with the sole objective of making Narendra Modi the Prime Minister for the third successive term.

Despite putting in place an active and strong poll machinery up to the booth and panna levels, BJP could not bring the voters to the polling stations considering the voting percentage of 61.33 per cent in the five phases of polling against its target of 75 per cent.

Shinde's repeated attempt to strongly defend his decision to part ways with Uddhav Thackeray for the sake of Hindutva and to keep

Balasaheb Thackeray's thoughts intact has failed to create magic.

Contrary to expectations, the induction of Ajit Pawar-led NCP in the MahaYuti has failed miserably to bring in the desired change, especially in the cooperative-rich Western Maharashtra where NCP SP has gained further grounds.

Even though Ajit Pawar's faction got a paltry four seats against its desire of 10 to 13 seats, the party failed to convince the voters of its move to side with the BJP leaving Sharad Pawar.

Furthermore, Ajit Pawar's move to field his wife Sunetra Pawar against his estranged cousin and NCP SP nominee Supriya Sule from Baramati seems to have gone against him.

The Baramatikars have preferred to vote for Supriya to keep Sharad Pawar's legacy intact. The voters from Baramati have also voted Supriya for Lok Sabha while hinting that Ajit Pawar will be their first choice in the upcoming state assembly elections likely in October this year.

More importantly, the protests by Marathas and OBCs over politically crucial reservation issues have cost MahaYuti heavily. A visible divide based on caste and not on religion, especially in Marathwada has worked against MahaYuti. The state government's move to enact legislation providing a 10 per cent quota for the Maratha community did not yield positive results.

The trends have raised alarm for the MahaYuti ahead of the upcoming assembly elections as the MVA will certainly step up its efforts for its defeat.

# Rahul Gandhi's two Yatras 'heralded change in India': Maha Congress

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra Congress President Nana Patole attributed the party's spectacular show in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections to senior leader Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra and the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatras, here on Tuesday. "The winds of change started with Rahul Gandhi's BJY (September 2022-January 2023) and then the BJNY (January 2024-March 2024) crisscrossing the four corners of India, which got tremendous response from the masses over the country," said Patole.

The people have rejected the Bharatiya Janata Party's destructive and communal politics peacefully with the power of their votes and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's arrogance lies shattered, "which is a victory for the common man and the workers of the political parties who toiled for it," said Patole.

"An impression was sought to be created 'there is no alternative to Modi' for several years, but that has been effectively disproved in the LS results declared today. The masses have democratically exercised their vote and shown that nobody is above the people in a democracy," Patole pointed out.

He reiterated that this should serve as a lesson for those who have created "the



unconstitutional (Mahayuti) government in Maharashtra", flouting the rule of the law plus the teachings of Mahatma Jyotiba Phule, Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj and Dr B. R. Ambedkar.

After Nationalist Congress Party (SP) President Sharad Pawar, Patole's was the second important reaction from the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) which has put up a spectacular performance with leads/victories in 29 out of 48 Lok Sabha seats compared with 18 leads/wins for the ruling Mahayuti, besides one independent in Sangli.

# Rahul Gandhi could lead country: Sanjay Raut

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut claimed on Saturday that the INDIA bloc is set to bring a change in the country's political landscape given the manner in which it has performed all over.

Considering the Congress' strong run in the country, as per the early trends of counting of votes for the Lok Sabha elections, the party is likely to emerge as the single largest entity and Rahul Gandhi could be set to lead the nation, Raut told mediapersons here.

"The trends show that Congress is leading in more than 150 Lok Sabha seats... This is a three-time higher leap compared to 2019 when it barely bagged 50 seats. If the Congress wins more than 100 seats, a decisive change is possible in the country," Raut declared.

Raut added that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and the INDIA bloc have given a tough fight to the BJP-led NDA by arresting it



below the mid-way mark, as he cited the examples of Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, and other states where the INDIA group can win big.

"We have been consistently saying that the people of India want a change and the present leads/trends indicate that a change is likely," Raut told the media.

# Sharad Pawar says LS polls results 'harbinger of change'; INDIA bloc explores govt formation options

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Nationalist Congress Party (SP) President Sharad Pawar said that the Lok Sabha results being declared on Tuesday are "a harbinger of positive change" in the country, and the people have taught a lesson to the "BJP's politics of destroying parties".

The voters have given the country a new direction in Uttar Pradesh, and even restricted the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and its allies 'satisfactorily' in the Hindi belt, which was the BJP's forte, he said, adding "though more needs to be done there".

Pawar said that he is in touch with the (INDIA bloc) political parties to explore the government formation options, including with Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge and Communist Party of India (Marxist) General Secretary Sitaram Yechury

"I have not called up N. Chandrababu Naidu... whatever the outcome, after discussing it with colleagues in the other INDIA bloc, we shall share it



publicly on Wednesday," said Pawar.

The NCP (SP) supremo cautioned that results trending for the 48 Lok Sabha seats in Maharashtra -- the ruling MahaYuti with around 18 seats trailing behind the opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA)'s lead of 29, plus one Independent -- "the outcome

will impact the state Assembly elections" due in October.

He said that the three allies -- Congress-NCP (SP)-Shiv Sena (UBT) -- have performed well with full unity in the state, and "the people have rejected the BJP's politics of breaking up parties".

"I had been saying this from the start. The people have taught a lesson to the BJP's politics of destroying political parties. They have rejected the politics of 'mandir-masjid'. The masses have voted on issues like unemployment, inflation, farmers, and other basic concerns confronting them," said Pawar.

He also noted that the results could further change as the counting enters the final stages in several LS constituencies in Maharashtra, and will be positive in several constituencies like Solapur, Baramati and others.

Pawar's was the first major reaction to the LS results from the INDIA-MVA leadership, and later on Tuesday, other leaders like Thackeray, Congress state President Nana Patole, and others are likely to speak.

# Cobra rescued from near Chhatrapati statue outside Mumbai airport

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A snake expert successfully rescued a 4-foot-long Indian Spectacled Cobra from the small garden adjacent to the statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj outside the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport in Vile Parle East, here on Tuesday.

"At around 11.50 a.m., we got a call that a large snake was spotted around the statue near the airport following which we rushed to the spot," said the Secretary of Wildlife Animal Protection & Rescue Association (WAPRA), Atul Kamble.

He also contacted the Range Forest Officer Roshan Shinde and the local police who also reached there for the operation.

When Kamble and others arrived, they were informed that the unlikely visitor was spotted when a gardener had gone there to tend to the



plants. Shocked and scared, the gardener alerted others who contacted the WAPRA, while he kept an eye on the cobra until the rescue teams arrived.

Kamble, along with a police officer named Sachin More and others, carefully rescued the snake without causing any injuries, took it away, and later released it

into its natural habitat.

When asked how the venomous reptile managed to reach the crowded area with heavy traffic, Kamble said that some Mumbai Metro digging works are going on in the surroundings and the snake may have emerged from its hole to hide in the cool comforts of the garden, but was luckily spotted and saved.

# Anil Desai wins from Mumbai South Central



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Anil Desai has won from the Mumbai South Central seat. Desai, per the Mumbai Lok Sabha Election Results 2024, received 3,95,138 votes. He won by a margin of 53,384 votes.

Mumbai South Central, akin to Mumbai South, is witnessing a direct fight between the two rival factions of Shiv Sena led by former Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray and the present CM Eknath Shinde.

Rahul Shevale, who was pitted against Desai, per the Mumbai Lok Sabha Election Results 2024 data, received 3,41,754 votes. The third time was not a charm for Shevale.

Mumbai South Central, which predominantly comprises Marathi-speaking areas like Dadar, Mahim, and Sion along with Dharavi and adjacent regions, has seen different political parties represent the constituency.

The seat, which Congress won back in 2009 after 2014 was held by then-undivided Shiv Sena's candidate Rahul Shevale. The constituency, having undergone demographic changes in the last few decades, comprises a mix of urban, suburban and industrial areas with each dealing with a set of infrastructural issues and issues of pollution.

According to an official, postal ballots were counted first when the 48 Lok Sabha seats in the state were counted starting at 8 am.

Along with the ruling BJP and opposition Congress, the Shiv Sena and NCP factions are vying for political dominance in the state alongside the Sena (UBT) and NCP (SP).

In five phases from April 19 to May 20, Maharashtra held general elections with a voter participation of 61.33 per cent. Out of 9,29,43,890 voters, 5,70,06,778 voters used their right to vote in total during the five phases.

With 71.88 per cent of the vote, the Gadchiroli-Chimur constituency had the highest turnout, while Mumbai South had the lowest with 50.06 per cent.

In Maharashtra, there are 14,507 vote-counting personnel working in 289 counting rooms and 4,309 counting tables.

# Sukhoi Fighter Jet Crashes In Nashik, Pilot, Co-Pilot Eject Safely



Team Absolute | Mumbai

A Sukhoi-30MKI fighter jet crashed in a field in Maharashtra's Nashik today. The pilot and the co-pilot managed to eject safely but suffered minor injuries.

The plane crashed in a field near Shirasgaon village, a senior police officer said.

Visuals showed the plume of smoke billowing after the aircraft crashed in the field. The twin-engine aircraft was up in flames and a crowd gathered near the crash site.

The aircraft took off from Ozar in Maharashtra's Nashik and was on a test flight after being overhauled by the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), sources said.

The pilots reported a technical snag in the aircraft. The Su-30MKI was presently not in the inventory of the Indian Air Force, sources added.

The police and emergency

services have reached the spot and medical treatment is being provided to the pilots.

The Su-30MKI uses the zero-zero NPP Zvezda K-36DM ejection seat built by Russia.

The zero-zero capability was developed to help pilots escape from unrecoverable situations during low-altitude or low-speed flights as well as ground mishaps during take-off or landing. The feature is said to be one of the advanced ejection capabilities that allow pilots to leave the eject safely.

The ejection seat is part of the overall 'Egress' system, which means the "way to exit". The system includes explosives under the seat, the canopy, and parachutes. The angle of ejection is crucial. The fighter jet moves forward and the line of ejection is perpendicular to it to move

the pilot away from the aircraft.

During ejection, the pilots experience high g-forces reaching up to 20 times the force experienced on earth, which can cause severe injuries and can even bar them from flying.

The extent of injuries suffered by the Su-30MKI pilots in today's crash is unclear.

The Su-30 form the mainstay of the Indian Air Force, with over 200 aircraft operating in several squadrons in the country.

The Sukhoi fighter jet is a twin-engine, twin-seater, fourth-generation fighter aircraft built by Russia. The aircraft is built under license by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL). It has been operating in the Air Force for over 20 years and has undergone several upgrades with the MKI version being the latest.

# Opposition's propaganda, delay in announcing candidates cost some seats: CM Shinde

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Tuesday claimed that the opposition's propaganda that the BJP-led NDA would change the Constitution and the delay in announcing candidates cost the Shiv Sena and its allies some seats.

Talking to reporters, CM Eknath Shinde said that the vote bank politics of the opposition had affected the Bharatiya Janata Party-led NDA's performance.

"The opposition parties ran relentless propaganda that we would change the Constitution. We failed to clear the doubts among voters. Our losses are also due to vote bank politics," he said.

The chief ministers also attributed delays in announcing candidates in some seats to the setbacks in some constituencies.

CM Shinde was apparently referring to the Nashik Lok Sabha seat, where the Shiv Sena fielded Hemant Godse despite opposition from the BJP and NCP. Godse is trailing against the Shiv Sena (UBT) candidate.

Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde also changed his sitting MPs from the Hingoli and Yavatmal-Washim constituencies, and the party candidates are trailing in both seats.

"The vote bank politics also affected us. I want to tell them (the opposition) that people



have never liked vote bank politics. Late Shiv Sena founder Balasaheb Thackeray never liked it," he said.

CM Shinde has managed to clinch his stronghold Thane, where he fielded his close aide Naresh Mhaske.

"People voted for the work my government has done in the last two years and 10 years of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. People of Thane have stood with us for our work," he said.



# It felt like I had hit rock bottom: Demi Lovato

Los Angeles | Agencies

**S**inger Demi Lovato says she found "hope" and "light" after her fifth stint of inpatient treatment amid her addiction and mental health struggles. Lovato has checked into rehab five times to treat her substance abuse issues, eating disorder, and other mental health problems.

Talking at the Center for Youth Mental Health at New York Presbyterian's annual benefit, People magazine reports, she said: "I have been to inpatient treatment five times, and it has something that every single time I walked back into a treatment centre, I felt defeated."

"And I know that experience firsthand, but I think the glimmer of hope was when I started putting in the work and I started to, whether it was work, a programme, or talk to my treatment team and build relationships there."

"I think the glimmer of hope started to change when I started to find joy and the little things in life. And that was something that was so foreign to me before because I was so used to, so used to not seeing hope," she said.

The singer said things "definitely felt different" during her fifth stint of treatment as she finally accepted she needed to change, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

Lovato said: "It felt like I had hit rock bottom, and I just knew what I needed to do, which was to live a life in recovery. And that was something that I pushed off for so long."

The singer spoke about how medication has played a part in her recovery and has helped her "tremendously".



# Miley Cyrus Reveals Her Thoughts on Having Children

Los Angeles | Agencies

**M**iley Cyrus revealed how she feels about the possibility of having children during a new interview with W magazine. "I'm 31 now, and I still don't know if I want kids or not," the "Flowers" hit-maker told the publication on Monday, June 3.

"I feel like my fans kind of are my kids in some way," Miley added. "I love being an adult. I have a rule that I don't look up or don't look down at anyone. I just look, which allows me the clarity to see the world for what it really is and people for who they really are. I look at myself almost every day in the mirror, and I say, 'I am a woman.'"

Miley's fans have supported her since she landed her role in Hannah Montana. Throughout the 2000s and 2010s, Miley became a music and pop cultural icon. After her Disney Channel show wrapped in 2011, the Tennessee native released multiple albums and appeared in several films, including The Last Song with her ex-husband, Liam Hemsworth.



# JENNIFER LOPEZ & BEN AFFLECK STEPPED OUT TO SUPPORT SON, SAMUEL



Los Angeles | Agencies

Jennifer Lopez and Ben Affleck are shutting down split rumors once again. The couple — who have recently been the focus of baseless breakup speculation — reportedly stepped out to support Ben's son, Samuel, at his basketball game. Not only that, but the Good Will Hunting co-writer's ex-wife, Jennifer Garner, was in attendance, a new report claims. However, it's unclear if she crossed paths with J. Lo, 54.

Per E! News, the 13 Going on 30 actress, 52, was seen at Samuel's game. In addition to their 12-year-old son, Jennifer and Ben share Violet, 18, and Seraphina, 15, who introduced themselves as Fin earlier this year. As seen in a social media video, J. Lo and

Ben were spotted walking into a YMCA in Los Angeles on Sunday, June 2. They even shared a quick kiss before walking into the building as cameras flashed. For the outing, Ben wore a dark red corduroy jacket, a matching tee and jeans, while Jennifer rocked a brown long-sleeved shirt and jeans. The pair's outing comes amid ongoing speculation over their relationship status. Multiple reports surfaced over the past few weeks claiming that Jennifer and Ben have been living separately and are hashing out marital issues.

# JEREMY RENNER REVEALS WHY HE REFUSED STAR IN HIS THIRD 'MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE' MOVIE

Los Angeles | Agencies

**H**ollywood star Jeremy Renner, who featured in two 'Mission: Impossible' franchises, including 'Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol' in 2011 and 'Mission: Impossible - Rogue Nation' in 2015, has spoken about why he refused to star in 'Mission: Impossible - Fallout'.

Renner, who was asked to reprise the character of IMF agent William Brandt in the 2018 sequel 'Fallout', spoke during an interview on the 'Happy Sad Confused' podcast.

He was offered a role that required him to shoot for one week so that his character, Brandt, could be killed off. "I remember they tried to bring me

over (seas) for a week so they could kill my character, and I was like, 'No, you don't get to do that. You're not going to drag me over there and just kill my character', like get out of here!" Renner said, reports variety.com.

"If you're going to do this and you're going to use my character, you're going to do it right."

"I yelled at (director Christopher McQuarrie)," Renner added.

"Dude, you're not going to do this to me like that; you're not going to do me wrong."

The actor never returned to the 'Mission: Impossible' franchise after 'Rogue Nation', although he said in an interview that he would be open to coming back.



# ALEX GIBNEY TO DIRECT SALMAN RUSHDIE DOCUMENTARY

Los Angeles | Agencies

**A** documentary centred around Indian-born British-American novelist Salman Rushdie, based on his memoir 'Knife: Meditations After an Attempted Murder', will be directed by Oscar-winner Alex Gibney.

Gibney is known for making films such as 'Taxi to the Dark Side' and 'Going Clear: Scientology and the Prison of Belief'.

Tentatively titled 'Knife', the documentary is inspired by Rushdie's memoir 'Knife: Meditations After an Attempted Murder', a

gripping account of surviving an attempt on his life 30 years after a fatwa was ordered against him.

The book, released in April, not only details the author's life and career but also recounts the 2022 assassination attempt against the Indian-born, British-American novelist and the long recovery that followed.

Rushdie was stabbed 15 times in Chautauqua, New York, by a 24-year-old New Jersey man with a knife.

The attack targeted Rushdie's neck, eye, and chest, causing him to collapse on stage during a talk he was giving at Chautauqua's amphitheater stage.

He lost vision in one eye and was left incapacitated in one hand.

Through Rushdie's wife Rachel Eliza Griffiths' personal footage, which has never been seen by the public, the documentary will follow the writer during not only his physical recovery but also the recovery of his spirit and hope for the future, reports variety.com.

In 'Knife', Rushdie writes, "it's a story in which hatred, the knife as a metaphor of hate, is answered, and finally overcome, by love."

"I'm delighted we have Alex working with us on this film," said Rushdie.



# LUPITA NYONG'O INFORMED ALL ABOUT HER SPLIT TO AVOID TELLING PEOPLE

Los Angeles | Agencies

**O**scar-winning actress Lupita Nyong'o shared that she chose to publicly announce her split from her beau, Selemu Masekela, to avoid telling people about the break-up "one at a time". The couple, who had been together since 2022, announced their breakup on Instagram ten months into their relationship. Talking about why she decided to take to social media to share the news in October, Nyong'o told Glamour magazine: "Honestly, the thought of having to update people one at a time was going to be harrowing."

"I had made the choice to share the relationship with the world, and I wanted to make the choice to share the end of it with the world. I knew that announcing it or sharing it with the world would mean there would be a reverberation, and I would have to deal with the onset of that," she said. "There is a time to be open, and there's a time not to be, and I chose that time to be open."

The actress asserted that she intends to be a lot more secretive about her private life in the future, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

Nyong'o added: "I'm very happy with what I did, and I don't want to do it anymore. I don't want to share that part of myself anymore."



# ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Cara Delevingne



## Sonakshi

### On heat wave: the damage cannot be reversed

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Sonakshi Sinha said that intense heat waves across the nation are the direct consequence of human activity, and the damage cannot be reversed. The actress said that now is the time to act to reverse the change by prioritising education and raising awareness.

Sonakshi told: "The recent heat wave and abrupt temperature spike serve as a stark reminder that global warming is undeniably real. In fact, we are experiencing what can only be described as global heating. This dire state of our planet is a consequence of human activity, and while the situation is severe, I believe it's not too late to make a positive change and protect our environment."

India is currently witnessing a surge in temperature in the majority of its parts. While the monsoon arrived in Kerala, it's yet to provide respite in other parts of the country, especially the north, where the mercury is touching 52 degrees Celsius.

The actress further mentioned that although we may not be able to reverse the damage entirely, we can certainly work to mitigate its effects.

"We must prioritise education and awareness about climate change among both children and adults."

The actress also shared tips on how to battle the intense heat, as she told: "Additionally, it's crucial to take care of ourselves during extreme heat. I stay hydrated and seek shade whenever possible, and I urge everyone to do the same."

"Let's take responsibility for our well-being, support each other, and commit to preserving our planet," she added.



## Aamir Khan son Junaid sheds 26 kilos in two years for his new character

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor Junaid Khan, the son of Bollywood superstar Aamir Khan, who is awaiting the release of his debut film 'Maharaj', underwent an intense physical transformation for his part in the film. The actor lost 26 kg in a span of two years for his debut movie.

Junaid has been quite busy, of late as he juggles multiple projects.

He will be seen sharing the screen with Jaideep Ahlawat in 'Maharaj'.

In addition to 'Maharaj', Junaid has been working on another significant project with actress Sai Pallavi. The film was shot in the picturesque locales of Japan.

Currently, Junaid is busy with an untitled project with Khushi Kapoor. Recently, he spent his birthday working on the film. A source close to the actor shared that Junaid shot the whole day for the film. The film is helmed by Advait Chandan, who is known for 'Secret Superstar' and 'Laal Singh Chaddha'.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Shivangi Verma has opened up on the bold scenes in the show 'Tera Ishq Mera Fitoor', sharing how it was comfortable and not 'zabardasti', and how they executed it smoothly and beautifully.

Shivangi shared that executing bold scenes depends a lot on the co-actor, and she did not face any problems as far as being comfortable was concerned.

"I was very comfortable because it totally depends on your co-actor, and I was totally blessed with it. Sehbhan Azim was really comfortable to work with; in fact, he made me comfortable, and the director, the producer, and everybody else were there on the set, and they kind of created an environment to make both of us feel comfortable, so it was not like a 'zabardasti', but it was part of the story, and we did it smoothly and beautifully, and I am sure the audience will love it," she said.

Calling the show a passionate love story, Shivangi said: "It's an intense love story. It is deep, it's all about love. It's basically a musical love story, and it's just about love."

The actress further shared that the shooting went like a breeze.

Shivangi said: "It was really interesting to meet the cast; it was interesting to shoot the story with them, and we did the entire shoot outdoors, so we were in Igatpuri, Maharashtra, and we had a great time; we had a blast. We used to shoot, and then we used to chill together. I think all these were really interesting for me."

## BOLLYWOOD CELEBRITIES CONGRATULATE VARUN, NATASHA AS THEY WELCOME BABY DAUGHTER



Team Absolute | Mumbai

After Bollywood star Varun Dhawan announced the arrival of his baby girl on social media, congratulatory messages started pouring in from friends, including Arjun Kapoor, Samantha Ruth Prabhu, and Priyanka Chopra Jonas.

Varun shared the news on Instagram, posting an e-card featuring a picture of his beagle Joey holding a placard that read: "Welcome Lil' Sis... June 3, 2024."

The actor captioned the post: "Our girl is here. Thank you all for the good wishes for the mama and the baby."

Friends from the industry took to the comments section to congratulate the actor.

Samantha, who will share the screen with Varun in the Indian adaptation of 'Citadel', called it the "best news."

The actress wrote: "The best news, congratulations to both of you."

Priyanka Chopra Jonas, who starred in the Russo Brothers' thriller series 'Citadel', wrote: "Congratulations woohoo."

Filmmaker Karan Johar wrote: "My baby had a baby girl!!!! I am over the

mooooooooooooo!!!! Congratulations to the proud mama and papa!!! Love you Natasha and Varun." Actress Rakul Preet Singh said: "Congratulationsssssssss... so much love for three of you."

Kareena Kapoor Khan: "God bless all of you... wonderful news."

Actress Dia Mirza expressed her excitement, saying: "Yayyyyyy, congratulations."

Abhishek Bachchan wrote: "What wonderful news. Congratulations."

Actresses Esha Gupta and Nushratt Bharuccha simply wrote: "Congratulations."

Varun's 'Dishoom' co-star, Parineeti Chopra, wrote: "Congrats!!!"

Neil Nitin Mukesh wrote: "Congratulations to the entire family and blessings to the little one."

Actor Arjun Kapoor, a close friend of Varun, wrote: "Baby John had a baby!! Papa number 1 casting is now locked finally!!"

Congratulations Natasha and Varun Dhawan. Niyara, Abheer, and Joey have a sister."

In other news, Varun will next be seen in the action thriller 'Baby John', directed by A. Kaleswaran. The film also stars Keerthy Suresh, Wamiqa Gabbi, and Jackie Shroff.



## Shivangi Verma opens up on shooting bold scenes

## Aditya Roy Kapur spotted at Dance Rehearsal Hall embracing summer cool

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In the bustling streets of Andheri, Aditya Roy Kapur brought his signature charm and laidback style to the Dance Rehearsal Hall, capturing the attention of onlookers and paparazzi alike.

Arriving in his sleek SUV, Aditya exuded effortless elegance, dressed in white shorts, cotton shirt and leather slippers -- an appropriate ensemble to beat the summer heat while maintaining an aura of sophistication.

As cameras flashed and admirers clamoured for a glimpse of the handsome actor, Aditya graciously paused to pose for photographs. With an air of understated confidence, he effortlessly channelled a relaxed summer vibe, embodying the epitome of casual chic.

## INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Sonam Bajwa



## Sonakshi

### On heat wave: the damage cannot be reversed

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Sonakshi Sinha said that intense heat waves across the nation are the direct consequence of human activity, and the damage cannot be reversed. The actress said that now is the time to act to reverse the change by prioritising education and raising awareness.

Sonakshi told: "The recent heat wave and abrupt temperature spike serve as a stark reminder that global warming is undeniably real. In fact, we are experiencing what can only be described as global heating. This dire state of our planet is a consequence of human activity, and while the situation is severe, I believe it's not too late to make a positive change and protect our environment."

India is currently witnessing a surge in temperature in the majority of its parts. While the monsoon arrived in Kerala, it's yet to provide respite in other parts of the country, especially the north, where the mercury is touching 52 degrees Celsius.

The actress further mentioned that although we may not be able to reverse the damage entirely, we can certainly work to mitigate its effects.

"We must prioritise education and awareness about climate change among both children and adults."

The actress also shared tips on how to battle the intense heat, as she told: "Additionally, it's crucial to take care of ourselves during extreme heat. I stay hydrated and seek shade whenever possible, and I urge everyone to do the same."

"Let's take responsibility for our well-being, support each other, and commit to preserving our planet," she added.



## Aamir Khan son Junaid sheds 26 kilos in two years for his new character

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor Junaid Khan, the son of Bollywood superstar Aamir Khan, who is awaiting the release of his debut film 'Maharaj', underwent an intense physical transformation for his part in the film. The actor lost 26 kg in a span of two years for his debut movie.

Junaid has been quite busy, of late as he juggles multiple projects.

He will be seen sharing the screen with Jaideep Ahlawat in 'Maharaj'.

In addition to 'Maharaj', Junaid has been working on another significant project with actress Sai Pallavi. The film was shot in the picturesque locales of Japan.

Currently, Junaid is busy with an untitled project with Khushi Kapoor. Recently, he spent his birthday working on the film. A source close to the actor shared that Junaid shot the whole day for the film. The film is helmed by Advait Chandan, who is known for 'Secret Superstar' and 'Laal Singh Chaddha'.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Shivangi Verma has opened up on the bold scenes in the show 'Tera Ishq Mera Fitoor', sharing how it was comfortable and not 'zabardasti', and how they executed it smoothly and beautifully.

Shivangi shared that executing bold scenes depends a lot on the co-actor, and she did not face any problems as far as being comfortable was concerned.

"I was very comfortable because it totally depends on your co-actor, and I was totally blessed with it. Sehbhan Azim was really comfortable to work with; in fact, he made me comfortable, and the director, the producer, and everybody else were there on the set, and they kind of created an environment to make both of us feel comfortable, so it was not like a 'zabardasti', but it was part of the story, and we did it smoothly and beautifully, and I am sure the audience will love it," she said.

Calling the show a passionate love story, Shivangi said: "It's an intense love story. It is deep, it's all about love. It's basically a musical love story, and it's just about love."

The actress further shared that the shooting went like a breeze.

Shivangi said: "It was really interesting to meet the cast; it was interesting to shoot the story with them, and we did the entire shoot outdoors, so we were in Igatpuri, Maharashtra, and we had a great time; we had a blast. We used to shoot, and then we used to chill together. I think all these were really interesting for me."

## BOLLYWOOD CELEBRITIES CONGRATULATE VARUN, NATASHA AS THEY WELCOME BABY DAUGHTER



Team Absolute | Mumbai

After Bollywood star Varun Dhawan announced the arrival of his baby girl on social media, congratulatory messages started pouring in from friends, including Arjun Kapoor, Samantha Ruth Prabhu, and Priyanka Chopra Jonas.

Varun shared the news on Instagram, posting an e-card featuring a picture of his beagle Joey holding a placard that read: "Welcome Lil' Sis... June 3, 2024."

The actor captioned the post: "Our girl is here. Thank you all for the good wishes for the mama and the baby."

Friends from the industry took to the comments section to congratulate the actor.

Samantha, who will share the screen with Varun in the Indian adaptation of 'Citadel', called it the "best news."

The actress wrote: "The best news, congratulations to both of you."

Priyanka Chopra Jonas, who starred in the Russo Brothers' thriller series 'Citadel', wrote: "Congratulations woohoo."

Filmmaker Karan Johar wrote: "My baby had a baby girl!!!! I am over the

mooooooooooooo!!!! Congratulations to the proud mama and papa!!! Love you Natasha and Varun." Actress Rakul Preet Singh said: "Congratulationsssssssss... so much love for three of you."

Kareena Kapoor Khan: "God bless all of you... wonderful news."

Actress Dia Mirza expressed her excitement, saying: "Yayyyyyy, congratulations."

Abhishek Bachchan wrote: "What wonderful news. Congratulations."

Actresses Esha Gupta and Nushratt Bharuccha simply wrote: "Congratulations."

Varun's 'Dishoom' co-star, Parineeti Chopra, wrote: "Congrats!!!"

Neil Nitin Mukesh wrote: "Congratulations to the entire family and blessings to the little one."

Actor Arjun Kapoor, a close friend of Varun, wrote: "Baby John had a baby!! Papa number 1 casting is now locked finally!!"

Congratulations Natasha and Varun Dhawan. Niyara, Abheer, and Joey have a sister."

In other news, Varun will next be seen in the action thriller 'Baby John', directed by A. Kaleswaran. The film also stars Keerthy Suresh, Wamiqa Gabbi, and Jackie Shroff.



## Shivangi Verma opens up on shooting bold scenes

## Aditya Roy Kapur spotted at Dance Rehearsal Hall embracing summer cool

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In the bustling streets of Andheri, Aditya Roy Kapur brought his signature charm and laidback style to the Dance Rehearsal Hall, capturing the attention of onlookers and paparazzi alike.

Arriving in his sleek SUV, Aditya exuded effortless elegance, dressed in white shorts, cotton shirt and leather slippers -- an appropriate ensemble to beat the summer heat while maintaining an aura of sophistication.

As cameras flashed and admirers clamoured for a glimpse of the handsome actor, Aditya graciously paused to pose for photographs. With an air of understated confidence, he effortlessly channelled a relaxed summer vibe, embodying the epitome of casual chic.

## INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Sonam Bajwa