

absolute india



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2024 May Was Hottest On Record Globally, 12 Month In A Row: EU Monitor

► **N MAY, THE GLOBAL AVERAGE TEMPERATURE WAS 1.52C ABOVE THE PRE-INDUSTRIAL AVERAGE.**

► **MAY WAS ALSO THE IITH CONSECUTIVE MONTH SINCE JULY 2023 AT OR ABOVE 1.5C COMPARED WITH THE PRE-INDUSTRIAL ERA, COPERNICUS SAID.**

► **THE EL NINO NATURAL WEATHER PHENOMENON, WHICH INCREASES GLOBAL TEMPERATURES AND HAS ACCENTUATED THE EFFECTS OF GLOBAL WARMING FOR THE PAST YEAR, "IS SHOWING SIGNS OF ENDING", THE WMO SAID MONDAY.**

► **THE OPPOSING CYCLE, LA NINA, WHICH LOWERS GLOBAL TEMPERATURES, IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN LATER THIS YEAR, ACCORDING TO THE WMO.**

Paris | Agencies
Last month was the hottest May on record and was the 12th consecutive month of historic heat on Earth, the EU climate monitor announced Wednesday.

It is the latest red flag in a year already hit by climate extremes and rising greenhouse gas emissions, spurring fresh calls for more rapid action to limit global warming.

"The global average temperature for the last 12 months (June 2023-May 2024) is the highest on record... and 1.63 degrees Celsius above the 1850-1900 pre-industrial average", EU monitor Copernicus said, referring to the period before human-caused greenhouse gas emissions began warming the planet. Copernicus made the announcement in a coordinated publication with the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) and a speech by UN secretary-general Antonio Guterres in New York, in which he called for a ban on advertising of fossil fuels.

This doesn't mean the 1.5C warming limit agreed by world leaders in Paris in 2015 has been breached -- that is measured in decades, not individual years. But scientists have warned the cooling effect could be minuscule compared to the effect human-caused global warming, which is already responsible for raising global temperatures by at least 1.2C since the end of the 19th century.



NDA passes key resolution, elects Narendra Modi as leader of alliance; stands

INDIA BLOC MEETING

UNITED AND FIRM

Mallikarjun Kharge welcomes 'all parties with similar values'

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) on Wednesday unanimously passed a resolution to elect Narendra Modi as the leader of the alliance and hailed the government's efforts and endeavour in nation building.

Hailing the trend-setting works during Modi 2.0, the alliance partners congratulated Narendra Modi for his visionary leadership and credited him for putting the nation on a fast track growth.

They also admired PM Modi's hardworking approach and efforts towards nation-building and also his vision for the Viksit Bharat while also giving a nod to their active participation in this journey, those privy to the discussion at NDA meeting said.



The resolution further said: "Under the leadership of Modi ji, the NDA government is committed to serving the poor women, youth, farmers and

the deprived class. The NDA government will continue to work towards improving the living standards of the people of the country by preserving the heritage of the country and also for all-round development of the country."

The NDA allies also lauded Modi government's role in elevating the pride of India across the world.

The alliance partners who met at Prime Minister's official residence to discuss the modalities for government formation included including Bihar CM Nitish Kumar and Telugu Desam Party (TDP) chief Chandrababu Naidu, Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde, LJP (Ram Vilas Paswan) leader Chirag Paswan.

Notably, the election of Narendra Modi as leader of the alliance sets the stage for his return as Prime Minister

for a third consecutive term.

According to reports, the BJP Parliamentary Party is likely to meet on June 7 to elect Narendra Modi as its leader.

"WINNING, LOSING PART OF POLITICS, NUMBERS GAME GOES ON": PM MODI

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the last cabinet meeting of the current tenure said winning and losing are part of politics. PM Modi's BJP, which won 282 seats in 2014 and 303 in the 2019 election, won 240 seats this time - 32 short of the 272-majority mark. It will now depend on the 53 seats won by members of the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) to form government. "We have done good work for the last 10 years. We will continue doing so," PM Modi told NDA leaders at the last cabinet meeting.

On the Lok Sabha election results - the NDA will stake claim to form government for a third time, calling the results a victory of the world's largest democracy - PM Modi said, "Winning and losing are part of politics. The numbers game will go on."

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Amid speculation of the INDIA bloc sending feelers to the Nitish Kumar-led JD-U and the Chandrababu Naidu-led TDP, the 'kingmakers' of the 2024 polls, Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge on Wednesday welcomed 'all parties with similar values' in its strategy meet ahead of the next government formation at the Centre.

"The INDIA bloc welcomes all parties which share its fundamental commitment to the values enshrined in the Preamble to our Constitution and to its many provisions for economic, social, and political justice," Kharge said at the INDIA bloc meeting on Wednesday.

In his opening remarks, he also extended congratulations and thanked the INDIA bloc allies for putting up a valiant fight against the BJP-led NDA, saying, "We fought well, fought unitedly, fought resolutely." Kharge also took the opportunity to hit out at



Narendra Modi and his style of politics and said the people's mandate indicates that it was a clear 'moral defeat' for him.

"The mandate is decisively against Mr. Modi, against him and the substance and style of his politics. It is a huge political loss for him personally apart from being a clear moral defeat as well," he said.

The INDIA bloc meeting was attended by top Congress leaders including Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi, K.C. Venugopal. Party chiefs of many alliance partners including Sharad Pawar,

M.K. Stalin, Sitaram Yechury, Champai Soren, Akhilesh Yadav, and Tejashwi Yadav also attended the meeting.

Others who joined the meeting included Supriya Sule, T.R. Balu, Ramgopal Yadav, Abhishek Banerjee, Arvind Sawant, Sanjay Yadav, Sanjay Raut, D. Raja, Kalpana Soren, Sanjay Singh, Raghav Chadha, Dipankar Bhattacharya, Omar Thiru Thol. Thirumavalavan, N.K. Premachandran, M.H. Jawahirullah, G. Devarajan, Thiru E.R. Eswaran, and D. Ravikumara.

MODI GETS WRITTEN SUPPORT FROM NAIDU, NITISH, OATH ON SATURDAY

New Delhi: The BJP-led National Democratic Alliance will form the new government Saturday, when Narendra Modi will be sworn in as the Prime Minister for a historic third consecutive term, sources said.

That delegation was to include Telugu Desam Party boss Chandrababu Naidu and Janata Dal leader Nitish Kumar, whose combined 28 seats are needed to ensure the BJP's coalition stays above water.

Naidu's TDP won 16 Lok Sabha seats in Andhra Pradesh (and a simultaneous Assembly election to return as Chief Minister) and Nitish Kumar's JDU picked up 12 seats in Bihar. There has been speculation Naidu and Nitish Kumar could be approached by the opposition INDIA bloc, which finished with 232 seats (40 shy of majority) and is exploring a government formation bid. To offset that, the BJP has secured written letters of support from the TDP and JDU bosses.

Investors gain Rs 12 lakh crore as stock markets shrug off poll jitters

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Indian indices shrugged off election jitters and massively rebounded in a sharp rally on Wednesday, as the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) prepared to stake fresh claims for government formation.

The investors gained Rs 12 lakh crore in a single session -- after losing nearly Rs 30 lakh crore on Tuesday amid political uncertainty -- as banks, automobile, and FMCG stocks led the gains in Nifty.

The Sensex closed 2,303 points, or 3.2 per cent, up at 74,382, while the Nifty zoomed 730 points, or 3.36 per cent, to close at 22,620 on Wednesday. Bank Nifty went up 2,126 points, or 4.53 per cent, to close at 49,054.

Experts said that in the current market scenario, investors should remain cautious about investing in momentum stocks or smallcap stocks which have remained overheated for the past two years.

"Any sustained period of sideways or downward movement in momentum stocks can trigger a sell-off in these shares. Investors, therefore, should consider the risk involved before making such investments," said Vaibhav Porwal, Co-founder, Dezerv.

However, "we believe that the investors should capitalise on this opportunity for fresh



investments in equity", he added.

As the speculative trades built around Lok Sabha election results unwind and as clarity around the new government emerges, markets will find their ground, experts noted.

With elections around the corner in several major global economies, including the US, the stock markets will watch out for the likely stand of the US Federal Reserve and other central banks.

"We believe portfolio allocations and future policies of the NDA government will be a key determinant of market movements," said Amnish Aggarwal, Director (Research), Prabhudas Lilladher.

Indian-Origin Sunita Williams flies to space aboard Boeing-NASA Starliner spacecraft

New Delhi: Creating history, Indian-Origin NASA astronaut Sunita Williams, along with Butch Wilmore, have become the first to fly to space aboard the Boeing Starliner's first-ever crewed mission.

The 59-year-old Williams created history by becoming the first woman to fly on the maiden mission of a new human-rated spacecraft.

The crew was launched at 10:52 a.m. ET to fly aboard the United Launch Alliance's Atlas V rocket from the Space Launch Complex-41 at the Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida. "Liftoff! Go #AtlasV! Go Centaur! Go #Starliner!" Boeing Space said in a post on X. "Godspeed, Butch Wilmore and @Astro_Suni!" It added.

The flight comes after several delays over the years. The first human flight was slated on May 7, but was delayed over a helium leak and later due to an issue with the ground power supply at the ULA.

This is the third attempt and the weather was 90 per cent favourable for the launch. Butch, 61, will be commanding the flight, and Williams, will be piloting the flight. The duo will stay at the International Space Station for about a week before returning to Earth aboard the reusable crew capsule.

'People have won, not the rulers', Akhilesh thanks 'sensible' voters of UP



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav on Wednesday expressed his gratitude to the people of Uttar Pradesh and assured that the party will not let them down and "fulfil the trust" they reposed on the party.

In a post on his official X handle, Akhilesh Yadav wrote, "Dear sensible voters of UP... It is also a victory of the trust of the Dalit-Bahujan community, which, along with its backward, minority, tribal, and all the neglected, exploited, and oppressed sections of society, fought shoulder to shoulder to save the Constitution, which gives the right to equality, respect, self-respect, dignified life, and reservation." The post came after Akhilesh

Yadav led the Samajwadi Party to its best-ever show in a general election, clinching 37 seats in Uttar Pradesh to emerge as the third-largest party in the 18th Lok Sabha. While the SP won 37 seats, the Congress also bagged 6 seats to restrict the BJP to 33 seats in Uttar Pradesh.

Asserting that this was a victory for the "protectors of the Constitution", the SP chief said, "Dear voters, you have proved that no one's power nor anyone's deceit is greater than the power of the people. This time, the people have won, not the rulers."

Thanking the people of Uttar Pradesh and the country, SP spokesperson Fakhruul Hasan Chaand said, "SP has become the third-largest party in the country, and the credit goes to the people of UP and the nation. We thank all the minorities, backward people, Dalits, and farmers."

He also told reporter that the party would finalise its roadmap for the next course of action by Wednesday evening.

DELHI COURT DENIES INTERIM BAIL TO CM KEJRIWAL



New Delhi: A Delhi court on Wednesday dismissed a plea filed by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal seeking seven days interim bail on medical grounds, in connection with a money laundering case related to the alleged excise policy scam.

Special Judge Kavari Baweja of the Rouse Avenue Court will now hear the matter on his regular bail plea on June 7. The court indicated that directions had been issued for specific diagnostic tests for Kejriwal, who appeared via video conference from Tihar Jail. Judge Baweja remanded Kejriwal to judicial custody till June 19. Solicitor General (SG), Tushar Mehta, and Additional Solicitor General (ASG), S.V. Raju, representing the Enforcement Directorate (ED) had last time argued that the bail plea was not maintainable as they criticised CM Kejriwal's conduct, citing 'misuse' of interim bail for campaigning.



WHY D FADNAVIS WANTS TO RESIGN? SANJAY RAUT POINTS TO UP, YOGI ADITYANATH

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis' offer to resign over the BJP's performance in the state is just a ruse to bring pressure on Yogi Adityanath, Shiv Sena UBT leader Sanjay Raut told NDTV today. He also claimed that the days of the new NDA government will be numbered. "Let Narendra Modi take oath, we will suggest the sweets (to be distributed). This government will not last long," he told NDTV in an exclusive interview.

"Fadnavis' offer to resign is a step to put pressure on Yogi. If the BJP is defeated in Maharashtra under Fadnavis' leadership, then in Uttar Pradesh it is defeated under Yogi's leadership. That is why Fadnavis is talking about resignation," Raut said, reiterating the demand that PM Modi should resign, taking responsibility for the BJP results. The BJP performance in Maharashtra has taken a huge hit after the political turmoil the state has seen. The verdict was firmly in favour of Uddhav Thackeray and Sharad Pawar -- whose parties were split, their names and poll symbols given to the rebels who joined the BJP's alliance gov-



ernment in the state.

The BJP, who Chief Minister Eknath Shinde said had helped chalk out the split plan, also did not escape unscathed.

In 2019, the BJP - allied with the undivided Sena led by Uddhav Thackeray - won 23 of 25 Lok Sabha seats it contested in Maharashtra. The Shiv Sena contested the other 23 and won 18. This time, the BJP won just nine seats. Its allies -- the splinter units of the Sena led by Eknath Shinde and NCP led by Ajit Pawar -- won eight of the 19 seats they fought.

But seen in terms of scale, the rampage in Yogi Adityanath's Uttar Pradesh was much worse. The setback in the 80-seat state ensured that the BJP was not able to achieve majority on its own -- something they

managed in 2014 and 2019.

This time, the BJP could only win 33 seats in the state -- down from its 2019 score of 63 seats. Akhilesh Yadav's Samajwadi Party won 37 seats and its ally Congress six.

It is seen as a huge setback for Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. The outlook gets worse once the BJP sweep in the neighbouring states of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh are considered. The BJP has suffered huge losses in eastern Uttar Pradesh, seen as an area of influence of Yogi Adityanath. His stronghold Gorakhpur is located in the east. The party also lost Faizabad, the seat Ayodhya comes under, despite the huge Ram temple initiative.

Major castes like Jats, Rajputs, Meenas and Gurjars boycotted BJP in Rajasthan leading to loss of 11 seats

Jaipur | Agencies

The BJP, which was aiming for a hat-trick in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, lost 11 seats in Rajasthan. The major loss has left all senior party leaders shocked and surprised and they are refusing to comment on it. However, off the record, they are engaged in significant discussions.

Party leaders confirmed that the senior leaders failed to balance the Rajput and Jat equations in the state. They were overconfident and considered that Rajasthan has become a major BJP dominated state and hence claimed that the party will win all 25 seats.

Due to this over confidence, the personal fight between Rajendra Rathore, a seven-time MLA from Sikar, Jhunjhunu, Barmer and Ganganagar, a two-time sitting MP from Churu, was brought into the party fold and the party denied a ticket to Kaswan. This became a game changer in Rajasthan politics and left the Jat lobby annoyed.

The consequences were also manifested in other parts of the state like Barmer and Jhunjhunu and Sikar and were also felt in parts of Haryana as the Jats boycotted the BJP.

Surprisingly, no senior leader could be seen who could have checked the deteriorating equations between the BJP and the Jat leader.

Satish Poonia, ex BJP state president who was removed from that post before the assembly elections, had left the Jats infuriated for he came



from the Jat lobby.

The party lost a major vote bank in the form of Jats and the party lost in Sikar, Jhunjhunu, Barmer and Ganganagar.

The Rajput community was equally angered by the BJP. They complained that they had not been given adequate representation in the assembly polls. Also they were annoyed saying that ex-royal families were given a chance to represent the state but the common Rajputs had been left out.

Further, the statement of Gujarat leader and Union Minister Parshottam Rupala provoked the Rajputs to boycott the saffron party and the BJP lost a big chunk of votes here. Rupala had said, "Erstwhile maharajas (Kshatriya kings) had succumbed to foreign rulers like the British and forged family bonds with them. Princely families broke bread

with the British rulers and also married their daughters to them."

The Meena voters were annoyed after veteran leader Kirodial Meena was not given a decent portfolio after the assembly polls. Eventually the party lost the Dausa seat as the Meenas voted in support of the Congress. The Meenas, Gurjars and Jats boycotted the BJP and voted for the Congress making it victorious on the Bharatpur and Tonk Sawai Madhopur seats.

Thirdly, a leadership crisis was seen in the state. The entire election in Rajasthan was led by Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma. Besides him, no other leader was active in the state. Sharma's total political experience in the state is of five months. He is a first time MLA who was anointed as Chief Minister. Senior leaders like Vasundhara Raje were stuck in their

own areas. Raje was seen campaigning for her son Dushyant in Jhalawad throughout the elections. The BJP's state president CP Joshi was contesting the election himself and former Leader of Opposition Rajendra Rathore was stuck in Churu. The lack of an experienced leadership in the BJP became the reason for the big defeat, said sources.

The party workers banked on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and did no ground work on their own. While the Congress changed 22 faces for the polls, the BJP could not change that many candidates. In fact, the people which it brought were also questioned. Also there were no young faces driving the youngsters, party leaders said.

Senior journalist Manish Godha said, "Caste equations went against the BJP in these elections, Major castes like Rajputs, Jats, Meenas and Gurjars boycotted the BJP. Kirodi became a factor for Meena, Gurjars were lured to Sachin Pilot, Jats boycotted due to the farm laws and the Kaswan issue and the Rajputs due to a Gujarat leader's comments. These were four major castes which were a big vote bank for the BJP but did not favour the saffron party this time. The other major factor was that a strong leadership and a crowd puller face were missing. The BJP relied on general caste votes and the OBCs but these castes did not turn up for voting. Overdependence on PM Modi is yet another factor which came up."

HC directs Delhi govt to formulate fire safety norms for smaller hospitals

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Delhi High Court has directed the Delhi government to decide within four weeks on a representation to formulate basic fire safety norms, including the installation of sprinklers, for smaller hospitals and nursing homes in the national capital.

This directive came in response to a public interest litigation (PIL) filed by Yugansh Mittal.

A division bench of Acting Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Manmeet P.S. Arora ordered the Delhi government to treat the PIL as a representation and issue a reasoned decision in accordance with the law.

The court also mandated that an Action Taken Report be filed within eight weeks. The PIL was prompted



by the tragic incident on May 26 at the Baby Care New Born Hospital in Vivek Vihar, where a massive fire killed seven newborns.

Mittal's petition urged the authorities to inspect the smaller hospitals and nursing homes to ensure compli-

ance with the fire safety norms established under the Delhi Fire Service Rules, 2010.

Mittal cited a news report indicating that out of nearly 1,000 hospitals registered with the Delhi government, only 196 possess a fire no-objection

certificate (NOC).

He argued that basic fire safety measures, such as fire extinguishers and automatic fire alarms, should be mandatory for all buildings under nine metres in height, as their absence pose a significant threat to human life.

The Delhi government's counsel expressed willingness to incorporate fair and just suggestions into the fire safety norms, acknowledging the non-adversarial nature of the proceedings. Consequently, the court disposed of the petition with a directive to treat the plea as a representation and to decide the same by way of a reasoned order in accordance with the law within four weeks.

The next hearing for the monitoring of the Action Taken Report is scheduled for August 9.

Adani Skill Development Centre completes 8 years of operations

Team Absolute | Mumbai

With an aim to create an ecosystem that empowers young minds by making them job ready or by encouraging them to start businesses of their own, the Adani Skill Development Center (ASDC) has become a force for change across India. The skill-building arm of the Adani Foundation, which is aligned with the central government's Skill India Mission, recently completed eight years on 16 May, 2024.

It is one of the vital components of the Sustainable Livelihood programme, which runs under the collaboration of the Adani Foundation and the National



Skill Development Corporation. It provides a platform for the underprivileged, the marginalised, and the weaker members of society to revitalise and transform their livelihood through skill development - a need of the hour in every sphere of life.

Till date, Saksham, the

Adani Foundation's skill development project, has trained over 1.5 lakh youth across the country in the more than 40 ASDCs in 15 states. Today, youth trained in the ASDCs are generating an annual revenue of nearly Rs. 1,300 crore through entrepreneurship and employment.

THE JAIPUR CHAPTER OF ROUND TABLE INDIA

Lalit Sharma | Jaipur

Jaipur United Round Table 272, organized a special event for 125 children from a Government School who had only dreamed of flying in an airplane. They were taken on a flight early morning at 6:25 from Jaipur to Delhi, where they were shown the Iconic India Gate, the Prime Minister's Museum and the Nehru Planetarium.

These children were then brought back to Jaipur by 10 p.m. Chairman Jeevesh Agarwal stated that the aim of Round Table is to make the future of the country capable and competent, and they want to teach these young Indians that as much as they



can, they should always strive to give back to society. Round Table India has been building 1.5 classrooms every day for over the past 10 years.

On this "Flight of Fantasy", the team from Round Table included Jeevesh Agarwal,

Vaibhav Agrawal, Satish Lashkari, Anirudh Dewan, Nimish Arora, Shubham Nagpal, Anuj Jain, Akash Agarwal, Aryan Nagpal, Yashwant Dhamani, Divyank Vaswani and Ankur Gupta apart from school teachers.

SWITCHING PARTIES ON POLL EVE COST TURNCOATS DEARLY IN UP

Lucknow | Agencies

For those who switched parties at the last minute, these elections have not brought good news and most of the turncoats have lost.

A major upset among the turncoats was that of Ritesh Pandey from Ambedkar Nagar. The sitting BSP MP moved to BJP on the eve of the elections but lost his seat by 1.37 lakh votes to Samajwadi Party's Lali Varma.

Another MP to lose his seat was Danish Ali, who moved from BSP to Congress. Ali lost the contest for the Amroha seat by about 30,000 votes.

Bhadoli MP Ramesh Bind, who was denied a ticket by the BJP, switched to SP at the last minute to contest from Mirzapur seat and lost



by 38,000 votes.

Other candidates who shifted

from BSP to BJP include Suresh Singh, Hitendra Kumar, Nand Kishore Pundhir, Sarika Singh Baghel, Sacchidanand Pandey and Rajendra Singh Solanki. All of them ended up losing the elections.

Those who also faced defeat included Vijendra Singh Bijnore (who switched from RLD to BSP); Abid Ali (who moved from SP to BSP); and Majid Ali (who switched to BSP from Azad Samaj Party).

The two candidates, who could retain their seats despite changing parties are Afzal Ansari from Ghazipur and Ram Shiromani Verma from Shravasti. Both the leaders had moved from BSP to SP before the elections. Afzal Ansari managed to retain his Ghazipur seat while Ram Shiromani Varma defeated BJP's Saket Mishra from Shravasti.

Karnataka Minister blames 'overconfidence' of party leadership for less LS seats in state

Belagavi | Agencies

In the wake of the failure of Karnataka's ruling Congress to reach double digits in Lok Sabha seats from the state, PWD Minister Satish Jarkiholi on Wednesday blamed the "overconfidence" of the party leadership for the reduced count.

Speaking to reporters in Belagavi, he indirectly pointed fingers at Deputy CM and state President D.K. Shivakumar, saying that had it not been for this overconfidence, the party would have secured more seats. The Congress won 9 out of 28 Lok Sabha seats in the state, while the leaders were expecting 15 to 20 seats.

"This kind of result is expected when the 'director' and 'producer' fail in their attempt. There is less time for the preparation of the election. One needs to be alert during that specific period. If not, the phase of the election is over. We need to work during that specific time," Jarkiholi, who is considered a close associate of Chief Minister



Siddaramaiah, said.

"The decision of our leaders to neglect many Lok Sabha segments is also a reason for getting fewer seats. The over-

confidence in winning in some segments prevented the expected campaigning. Due to our negligence, the Congress was defeated by thin margins in many seats," he added.

Jarkiholi's daughter, Priyanka Jarkiholi, registered a thumping victory against senior BJP leader Annasaheb Jolle in the Chikkodi Parliamentary constituency.

One of the prominent mass leaders of oppressed classes in the state, Jarkiholi has advocated the creation of more Deputy CM posts in the state to check the influence of Shivakumar. He has also voiced his support for a Dalit CM candidate in case the decision is made to change CM Siddaramaiah.

He is also said to be upset with the prominence given to Women and Child Welfare Minister Laxmi Hebbalkar, a close associate of Shivakumar.

Both Hebbalkar and Jarkiholi hail from the Belagavi district. Hebbalkar's son, Mrinal Hebbalkar, lost to former CM Jagadish Shettar in the Belagavi seat.

Sweet Revenge: 25-Year-Old Beats Candidate Who Defeated His Father

Team Absolute | New Delhi

In 2019, the Samajwadi Party fielded a five-time MLA and former minister in the UP Cabinet, Indrajeet Saroj, from the Kaushambi Lok Sabha Seat in Uttar Pradesh. Saroj lost to BJP's Vinod Kumar Sonkar. Five years later, Saroj's son, Pushpendra Saroj, who turned 25, was appointed the Samajwadi Party candidate from the same seat. The junior Saroj defeated Mr Sonkar by over 1 lakh votes, taking sweet revenge.

Twenty-five years and three-months-old Pushpendra Saroj is India's youngest Member of Parliament ever and has set the record for the highest win by a margin by the youngest parliamentarian. In an exclusive interview to NDTV, Saroj said, "My father contested the seat in 2019 and lost to BJP's Vinod Kumar Sonkar. This time, I was appointed, and the BJP candidate said I defeated your father last time and now I'll defeat you. The people of Kaushambi took it upon themselves and voted for me."

In 2019, Indrajeet Saroj lost the seat to Sankar by over 38,000 votes. The youngest-ever MP told channel that



he thought of entering politics when his father lost in 2019.

"I knew in 2024, I'd turn 25. I decided to enter politics. I met our party President, Akhilesh Yadav. After speaking to me, he was convinced and suggested that I contest from the seat instead of my father," Saroj told channel.

BJP TO DECIDE ON ODISHA CM SOON

Bhubaneswar: Odisha BJP President, Manmohan Samal, said on Wednesday that the party's Parliamentary Board would soon decide regarding the state's chief minister.

Samal also reiterated the BJP's poll promise that only an Odia would be made the chief minister of Odisha.

Speaking to media persons Samal said, "The Parliamentary Board will decide soon and an Odia will take oath as the chief minister on June 10 as announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. It will take one or two more days to decide."

During the poll campaign, PM Modi had assured that a son of the soil, who could understand and speak Odia language, would be chosen by the BJP to helm the affairs of the state.

The names of several senior leaders like Dharmendra Pradhan, Pratap Chandra Sarangi and Baijayant Panda are doing the rounds for the top post.



BJP'S CLEAN SWEEP IN MP TO STRENGTHEN CM MOHAN YADAV'S PROMINENCE

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The BJP's clean sweep in the Lok Sabha elections in Madhya Pradesh on Tuesday would give a sense of relief to Chief Minister Mohan Yadav as well as strengthen his position among several high-profile politicians in the state.

It is more because Yadav has replaced an established politician and four-time former CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan. His governance will be judged later as his government is at an early stage right now, but in a short period of time, he earned what his predecessor Chouhan could not do.

BJP won Chhindwara, the last bastion of the Congress in Madhya Pradesh. Although it was the second victory of the right-wing in Chhindwara, the BJP cherished a first-ever victory on its own.

Last time, Jan Sangh leader Sunderlal Patwa, who later became the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, had won Chhindwara Lok



Sabha in 1997.

Chhindwara has been a Congress stronghold since the first general election held in 1951. Congress leaders like Raichand Bhai Shah, Bhikulal Chandak and Gargi Shankar Mishra represented Chhindwara between

1951 and 1977.

Kamal Nath, who was close to the Nehru-Gandhi family, was sent to Chhindwara, from where he won nine elections. Kamal Nath vacated the seat in 2018 for his son Nakul Nath, who won Chhindwara despite a mas-

sive wave in favour of Primer Minister Narendra Modi.

The BJP, which was struggling to find even a suitable candidate against Kamal Nath or his family members in Chhindwara, tested Vivek Banti Sahu, who succeeded in crushing the Congress in its bastion.

Sahu had earlier contested two Assembly elections on BJP's symbol against Kamal Nath in 2019 (bypoll) and 2023, but lost.

Senior BJP leader Kailash Vijayvargiya, who was cluster in-charge of Chhindwara, has broken several trusted allies of Kamal Nath, including the most trusted - Deepak Saxena, which probably paved the way for Sahu's victory.

Soon after the results were out, state BJP President V.D. Sharma and CM Mohan Yadav celebrated the victory by offering sweets to each other at party headquarters in Bhopal. Former CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan and former state BJP chief Prabhat Jha also joined them later.

Women power shown in Lok Sabha elections in Madhya Pradesh

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The full strength of half the population was seen in Madhya Pradesh in the Lok Sabha elections. Women candidates have won six out of 29 seats in the state. All the women elected are from Bharatiya Janata Party.

This opportunity has come in the state after almost a decade and a half when 6 out of 29 women have been elected to the Lok Sabha. This time BJP had fielded Lata Wankhede from Sagar, Sandhya Rai from Bhind, Himadri Singh from Shahdol, Bharti Pardhi from Balaghat, Savitri Thakur from Dhar and Anita Nagar Singh Chauhan from Ratlam. All of them gave results as per the expectations of the party. Balaghat has become such a parliamentary constituency where a woman MP has been elected for the first time. At the same time, Sagar has got a woman MP after 44 years. If we look at the previous elections held in the state, in the year 2009 also, six women MPs were elected to the Lok Sabha. Of these, two were from Congress and four from Bharatiya Janata Party. Apart from this, two women won in the 2004 elections and five women won in the 2014 elections. Similarly, there were four women MPs in the 2019 elections. In the 2024



elections, BJP gave another chance to Himadri Singh from Shahdol and Sandhya Rai from Bhind. At the same time, four new female faces were fielded. The results on all six seats have come in favor of BJP. Many women elected from the state are being celebrated at the national level. Sumitri Mahajan, who was elected eight consecutive times from Indore, became the Speaker of the Lok Sabha. At the same time, Uma Bharti got a place in the government of Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Apart from this, Pragya Thakur has represented Bhopal.

This time BJP has created history in Madhya Pradesh. The party won all the 29 seats here. About six months ago, BJP had formed the government by winning the assembly elections with an overwhelming majority and now it has made a clean sweep in the Lok Sabha elections also.

Railway employee, wife jump in front of train with 2 children



Team Absolute | Jabalpur

Railway trackman and his wife along with their two children jumped in front of a moving train in Madhya Pradesh's Jabalpur district this morning, police said.

The incident took place in Sihoda village under Bhedaghat police station limits, City Superintendent of Police Sunil Nema said, adding the reason behind it

was not yet known.

The bodies of Narendra Chadhar, resident of Sihoda village, his wife Reena, and two daughters aged 6 years and 3 months, were found on the railway track while his motorcycle was found parked nearby, he said.

It seems they died by suicide, the official said, adding the incident was being probed from all angles.

The bodies have been sent for a forensic examination, he

said. Narendra Chadhar's father-in-law Shankar Lal Chadhar told reporters that his daughter Reena called on Tuesday and told him about a dispute between her and her mother-in-law but he did not pay heed as it was a usual and internal family matter.

The man said he has no information what led his son-in-law and daughter to take the extreme step and that he came to know about it in the morning.

NOW PREPARATIONS FOR BY-ELECTIONS IN MADHYA PRADESH!

Team Absolute | Bhopal

As soon as the Lok Sabha elections are over in Madhya Pradesh, discussions about by-elections have gained momentum. Former Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has turned from MLA to MP and Rajya Sabha member Jyotiraditya Scindia has now won the Lok Sabha elections from Guna.

Who will replace these leaders is a big question. Efforts to capture these places have also started.

Five Congress MLAs and one Rajya Sabha member have faced defeat in this election. Bharatiya Janata Party has created history by winning 29 Lok Sabha seats in the state.

Elected members of two houses have also been elected in this election. One of them is former Chief Minister and Budhni MLA Shivraj Singh Chauhan, who won the Lok Sabha elections from Vidisha. Rajya Sabha member and Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia has won the Lok Sabha elections from Guna.



If former Chief Minister Chauhan wins the Lok Sabha elections, Budhni Assembly seat will become vacant, similarly if Scindia is elected from Guna, Rajya Sabha seat will become vacant.

As soon as the results came, many leaders started scrambling to find their chances at both these places. After these two leaders take the membership of Lok Sabha member and resign from the membership of

Assembly and Rajya Sabha, the names of the contenders will also start gaining momentum in the political circles.

Six MLAs and two Rajya Sabha members had tried their luck in the Lok Sabha elections in the state. Of these, only two, Chauhan and Scindia, were successful, while the other Rajya Sabha member and Congress candidate Digvijay Singh had to face defeat from Rajgarh.

Apart from this, 5 MLAs and Congress candidates Siddharth Kushwaha from Satna, Fande Lal Marco from Shahdol, Omkar Singh Markam from Mandla, Phool Singh Baraiya from Bhind and Mahesh Parmar from Ujjain had to face defeat.

It may be noted that Bharatiya Janata Party has won all 29 seats in the Lok Sabha elections held in the state. This is the first time that BJP has got such a big success. Earlier, BJP had won 27 seats in the 2014 elections and 28 seats in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

Plant a tree for future generation on your birthday- Professor Ajai Singh

Team Absolute | Bhopal

On the occasion of World Environment Day, AIIMS Bhopal organized a significant tree plantation event. The Executive Director, Professor (Dr.) Ajai Singh, spearheaded the initiative by planting trees alongside a large contingent of participants from various walks of life. With a profound emphasis on environmental conservation and community welfare, Prof. Ajai Singh reiterated the importance of maintaining cleanliness and greenery within not only the premises of AIIMS Bhopal but also its surrounding areas. Recognizing the invaluable benefits of a greener environment, Prof. Singh highlighted how it significantly contributes to the enhancement of public health.

Tree plantation drive symbolizes



our commitment to fostering a healthier and more sustainable

environment stated Prof. Ajai Singh. Trees play a crucial role in providing

us with oxygen, absorbing water, and mitigating pollution. By planting trees, we not only contribute to our immediate surroundings but also to the well-being of future generations. Professor Singh called upon the people to plant a tree on their birthday and urged all participants to extend the spirit of tree plantation beyond institutional boundaries and take the initiative to plant trees around their residences. He emphasized that individual efforts in planting and nurturing trees can collectively make a substantial difference in promoting environmental conservation and combating climate change. The event witnessed an enthusiastic participation from various stakeholders, including staff, students, and local community members, reaffirming the shared commitment towards a cleaner and greener tomorrow.

No compromise on quality in construction works

STATE MINISTER SMT. GAUR REVIEWED THE DEVELOPMENT WORKS

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Minister of State for Backward Classes and Minority Welfare (Independent Charge) Smt. Krishna Gaur has said that there can be no compromise on the quality of construction works. She expressed displeasure over the poor quality of the road under construction in Sundar Nagar Basti in Piplani area and directed the construction agency to work with quality. Minister of State Gaur was reviewing the development works of Govindpura area at the residence office on Tuesday.

State Minister Gaur said that the construction agencies should complete the work within the time limit.



Also, full attention should be paid to quality. During the review, the councillor of Piplani Ward 67 told that the quality of the road under construction in Sundar Nagar Basti in his area is not good.

On this, she instructed the construction agency to build the road with quality. In the review meeting, Gaur reviewed the progress of development works ward-wise.

District Hospital of Bhopal Silence in the evening shift, patients kept wandering for two hours

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The district hospital of the capital is continuously making records. Whatever facilities are claimed to be provided in Jaypee Hospital, an atmosphere of negligence and anarchy seems to be created there. Whatever happens in the morning shift, happens, in the evening there is no one in charge of the hospital.

The incident happened on Tuesday. Showed a patient in the afternoon, the doctor said that the surgeon will come in the evening, see him and then take the medicine. Now in the evening, when the family went with the girl, they found that there was silence in the hospital. Doctors were visible only in the dental department, only wandering patients were seen elsewhere. Called the hospital superintendent, who casually replied that the doctor would be on his way. You call them your-



self and disconnect the phone. Then a call was made to CMHO Dr. Prabhakar Tiwari. He did not pick up the phone even after calling twice. Then the Health Minister's bungalow was discussed. A phone number was given from there. When called from the hospital on that phone, found out that he too did not pick up the phone.

The condition of the

CMHO is such that he has not picked up even once all the calls made to him from the newspaper office during the last six months. And the government has continuously posted him in Bhopal. Overall, the patients and their families left Jaiprakash Hospital at 6 in the evening, when it was raining, after wandering for two hours. He could not get treatment.

On World Environment Day, Chief Minister launched Jal Ganga Sanvardhan Abhiyan

GANGA DUSSEHRA CAMPAIGN WILL RUN TILL JUNE 16, 990 WATER CONSERVATION WORKS WILL BE DONE UNDER THE CAMPAIGN AT A COST OF RS 3 THOUSAND 90 CRORE

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav has said that it is believed in Indian culture that there is life in the earth, mountains, rivers, trees and plants and they are worshipable for us. Just as blood circulates through arteries in the human body, similarly rivers circulate life on earth. Therefore, uninterrupted continuous flow of rivers is necessary for all of us. Polluting the flow of rivers or creating obstructions in them is like creating obstructions in life. From this point of view, conservation of water sources is necessary for human life. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav was addressing on the occasion of the launch of Jal Ganga Sanvardhan Abhiyan at the origin of Betwa river located at Jhiri Baheda in Raisen district on World Environment Day. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav inaugurated the Jal Ganga Sanvardhan Abhiyan by worshipping the origin of Betwa river and planting a banyan tree. The campaign will conclude on June 16 on the occasion of Ganga Dussehra in Ujjain.

Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that Betwa river originates near Bhopal and its water meets the Ganga basin. When Chief Minister Dr. Yadav reached the venue, local women welcomed him by



taking out a Kalash Yatra with the tunes of traditional musical instruments. Tribal brothers and sisters planted 108 saplings along with Chief Minister Dr. Yadav. Panchayat and Rural Development Minister Prahlad Patel, former minister Dr. Prabhuram Chaudhary, former minister and MLA Surendra Patwa were present on this occasion.

Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that natural resources are God's gift. The tradition of celebrating World Environment Day on 5th June every year started with the objective of accepting their importance and continuously making efforts for their conservation. Famous scientist Shri Jagdish

Chandra Basu, who proved that plants have life, had said that Indian culture considers plants as living beings and they are considered worthy of worship with the same sensitivity. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that under the campaign, 990 water conservation works worth Rs. 3 thousand 90 crores are starting in the state from today. Activities will be conducted with public participation for repair of water structures, environmental protection and plantation at every district, development block and panchayat level. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi started Namami Gange Abhiyan for the conservation of rivers. Similarly, on his initiative, 45 thousand crore rupees were made available to Madhya Pradesh and 45 thousand crore rupees to Uttar Pradesh for Ken-Betwa-Link Project. With this great initiative of river linking campaign, the entire area of Bundelkhand will be irrigated and the drinking water problem of the people of the region will also be solved. Similarly, for Parvati-Kalisindh-Chambal river linking campaign with Rajasthan, activities will be conducted with 35 thousand crore rupees in Madhya Pradesh and 35 thousand crore rupees in Rajasthan. We are all grateful to Prime Minister Shri Modi for this initiative.



EDITOR'S SPECS

Debacle of BJD in Odisha

The Biju Janata Dal (BJD) has suffered the first poll defeat since its formation after splitting away from the erstwhile Janata Dal in 1997. The party remained invincible for over two decades after coming to power riding on the popularity of Biju Patnaik in the 2000 Assembly elections. BJD President and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik ruled the state for 24 years earning the honour of the second longest-serving Chief Minister in India. A strong anti-incumbency against the BJD is the most important factor behind the party's poll debacle. After the alliance talks failed to materialise, the BJP immediately resorted to an aggressive campaign with the party heavyweights from across the country making a beeline to the state. The campaign was led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi who launched scathing attacks on the BJD government on various issues. The BJP attacked Patnaik's close aide Pandian by accusing him of using Patnaik in the poll campaign despite his poor health conditions. The party accused Pandian of ruling the state as a proxy by holding a frail CM Patnaik hostage. The poll results suggest that the BJP has succeeded in convincing the voters regarding the probable takeover of the government in Odisha by non-Odia Pandian and the alleged threat to Odia Asmita. The BJP also raised other issues such as the "mismanagement" in Shree Jagannath Temple -- the "missing keys" of Ratna Bhandar (treasure of the 12th-century shrine), and migration of labourers to other states played a major role in the defeat of an "invincible" BJD. Another factor that led to BJD's defeat was the failure on the part of the party to create a strong and able second-rung of leadership.

TIME FOR US TO TAKE EXTRADITION OF TERRORISTS RANA AND HEADLEY TO INDIA SERIOUSLY

Rahul Pawa

While both Washington and Ottawa take an aggressive stance on alleged Indian clandestine operations, are they equally committed to extraditing American and Canadian terrorists like David Coleman Headley and Tahawwur Rana? Or is there a deeper disregard for India's legitimate national security and criminal justice concerns?

India has recently become the focus of intense Western scrutiny, facing allegations from the United States and Canada, along with routine rhetorical accusations from Pakistani military officials, regarding its supposed involvement in eliminating terrorists in North America and Pakistan.

Raising a critical question: While both Washington and Ottawa take an aggressive stance on alleged Indian clandestine operations, are they equally committed to extraditing American and Canadian terrorists like David Coleman Headley and Tahawwur Rana?

Or is there a deeper disregard for India's legitimate national security and criminal justice concerns?

Fifteen years have passed since the devastating 26/11 Mumbai attacks, a series of coordinated terrorist assaults that shocked the world. Meticulously orchestrated by Pakistan, ten terrorists from the Pakistan-based group Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) crossed the Arabian Sea to unleash terror on Mumbai.

The 60-hour siege that followed claimed 166 lives and injured over 300 civilians and security personnel, leaving an indelible mark on the city's history.

Central to the reconnaissance efforts leading to these vicious terrorist attacks were David Coleman Headley a.k.a Daoud Sayed Gilani, an American citizen of Pakistani origin, and Tahawwur Rana, a former Pakistan Army Captain and Canadian citizen.

Headley, who conducted extensive surveillance and gathered crucial information on the targets, played a pivotal role in the planning and execution of the attacks. He made multiple trips to Mumbai and provided detailed videos and sketches of the locations to the attackers. Rana, an old friend of Headley from their days in a Pakistani military school, who also visited Mumbai facilitated these reconnaissance missions by providing Headley cover through his Chicago based immigration business.

Following the devastating attacks, Headley and Rana were both apprehended and prosecuted for their roles in planning and executing these terrorist activities, as well as for conducting reconnaissance of a Danish daily in Denmark.

American terrorist Headley was arrested by the US Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) in Chicago on October 3, 2009. In March 2010, he pleaded guilty to being terror trained in Pakistan, 12 terrorism-related charges, including aiding and abetting the 26/11 attacks which included six American victims.

Headley cooperated with US authorities, providing intelligence and testimony that significantly advanced the investigation including key tip offs regarding Rana.

In January 2013, he was sentenced to 35 years in prison. Around the same time, Canadian terrorist Rana, was arrested on October 18, 2009.

He was charged with providing material support to terrorist plots, including the Mumbai terrorist attacks and a planned terror attack on Jyllands-Posten in Denmark.

In June 2011, Rana was convicted of conspiracy to provide material support to Lashkar-e-Taiba, the terrorist group



responsible for the Mumbai attacks, and for supporting the plot against the Danish newspaper. However, strikingly, he was acquitted of direct involvement in the Mumbai attacks. Rana was sentenced to 14 years in prison in January 2013.

For over 11 years, India has been diligently pursuing the extradition of David Headley and Tahawwur Rana from the United States under the India-US Extradition Treaty of 1997, seeking justice for their roles in the 26/11 Mumbai terrorist attacks.

The extradition request for Headley was sent on December 7, 2012.

Headley's cooperation with US authorities and his plea agreement, which precluded his extradition to India, Pakistan, or Denmark, India remains steadfast in its efforts to hold him accountable under Indian law.

The plea agreement, which spared Headley from the death penalty and barred his extradition, has been a point of contention, with Indian authorities further feeling that the US has not fully cooperated in providing access to Headley.

Although officials from India's National Intelligence Agency (NIA) were able to interrogate Headley in Chicago in June 2010, they could do so only in the presence of FBI agents, leading to concerns that the information obtained was restricted. Importantly, while the plea agreement limits Headley's extradition for the crimes he confessed to, the US Secretary of State holds the authority to potentially extradite Headley for offenses other than those related to the 26/11 attacks or if he violates the plea agreement.

The Secretary of State's cooperation is crucial in this matter. Similarly, India has been pursuing the extradition of Tahawwur Rana.

Following his conviction in the US, India requested his extradition, submitting a formal request with accompanying evidence on August 13, 2020.

On May 16, 2023, a US court concluded that Rana was extraditable for the offenses related to the Mumbai attacks and certified this finding to the US Secretary of State.

In May, Rana had filed a writ of habeas corpus, challenging the court order that agreed with the US government's request for his extradition to India.

On August 2, 2023, Judge Dale S. Fischer of the United States District Court, Central District of California, denied Rana's petition for a writ of habeas corpus, paving the way for US Secretary of State to issue a certification for his extradition to India.

However, Rana has filed an appeal against the order and sought a stay on his extradition to India until his appeal in the Ninth Circuit Court is heard, leading to his extradition being stayed on August 18, 2023. His extradition remains pending.

Moreover, terrorists like Hardeep Singh Nijjar, trained by Pakistan's notorious Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and funded to carry out terrorist activities in India, pose significant threats.

Similarly, Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, the face of the proscribed entity Sikhs for Justice (SFJ), is another example.

The SFJ has been declared an unlawful association under Sub-Section (1) and (3) of Section 3 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.

Numerous scholars of terrorism and international relations, as well as the Indian government, recognise both Nijjar and Pannun as terrorists.

They frequently expose the so-called "Khalistani Movement" as a front for Pakistan, recently furthered by Communist Party of China (CPC) to engage in anti-India activities in the West. Despite this, such entities, along with dozens of other ISI and CPC fronts, operate with impunity in Canada and the United States.

While India steadfastly adheres to legal methods and has made monumental strides in a zero-tolerance approach to terrorism, the United States and Canada share an equal moral responsibility.

Failure to act against these so-called "separatists" risks facing terrorism similar to the Kanishka bombings and the 9/11 attacks, executed by Pakistan-trained terrorists in the West.

Despite the legal and diplomatic challenges, India continues to press for accountability, emphasizing the importance of global solidarity in addressing the scourge of terrorism.

The US handling of the Headley and Rana cases raises significant concerns about its commitment to justice and human rights.

If the US Secretary of State so chooses, the administration can extradite 26/11 accused and David Headley accomplice, Tahawwur Rana, to India, demonstrating a strong stance against West-based terrorist groups. However, persistent delays in extraditing these key figures involved in the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks, coupled with a soft approach toward India's security challenges, suggest a dismissive attitude toward India's concerns.

Such oversight hampers a relationship that should be rooted in equality, respect, and a reciprocal commitment to eradicating global terrorism. Canada is widely believed to need significant improvements in shaping its society.

This includes addressing issues such as the controversial acceptance of Pakistani war criminals as immigrants, navigating polarising local politics, or taking a strong stand to uphold its professed values of freedom, justice, and liberty.

Meanwhile, the US must start taking the extradition of Rana and Headley seriously. The delay in their extradition not only impedes justice for the victims but also disregards India's national security concerns.

Such neglect is not conducive to a friendship that has stood the test of time and is preparing for future challenges.

It risks undermining the mutual trust and cooperation that form the bedrock of US-India and Canada-India relations.

(The author is an international criminal lawyer and director of research at New Delhi-based think-tank Centre for Integrated and Holistic Studies - CIHS).

international

US won't send military advisors to Ukraine for training purpose: White House

Washington | Agencies

The US will maintain its policy of not sending military advisors to Ukraine, a top US national security official said. "As we've said several times on the record, we are not planning to send US military advisors or troops, trainers to train Ukrainians in Ukraine," said US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan on Tuesday.

Sullivan made the remarks to reporters en route to Paris, France, where he will accompany US President Joe Biden to attend a ceremony commemorating the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings along the Normandy coast during World War II, followed by the president's state visit to France, Xinhua news agency reported.



He said the US has been offering training to Ukrainian soldiers outside of the Ukrainian territory. Such practice, he said, is being carried out in Germany, where "thousands of Ukrainian soldiers" are being trained on how to operate Western-made military equipment.

"We stand ready to continue and, in fact, expand that training," Sullivan said.

"We will have the opportunity to speak with the French president and the French team on the ground about what they are thinking, and obviously, I'm not going to get ahead of any announcements they make," he said, in light of recent media reports saying that French President Emmanuel Macron is mulling the dispatch of his country's military instructors into Ukraine.

Two killed, three injured in Israeli airstrikes in Lebanon

Beirut | Agencies

Two Hezbollah members were killed and three others injured in Israeli airstrikes on southern Lebanon, the media reported. An Israeli drone on Tuesday fired three air-to-surface missiles at a motorcade on a road linking Naqoura to Tyre in southern Lebanon, Lebanese military sources told Xinhua.

The strike set the motorcade ablaze, killing the two riders, identified as Hezbollah members. In a separate incident, an Israeli drone



launched two air-to-surface missiles at a truck at the western entrance to Libbaya village in eastern Lebanon, wounding three Hezbollah

members, the sources added. Hezbollah announced it had attacked 14 Israeli targets on Tuesday, causing unspecified damage.

The Israeli Air Force has conducted intensified air raids over the past four days, exceeding 15 strikes per day. These strikes have targeted ten towns and villages along the southern Lebanon border and four deeper within southern and eastern Lebanon. In response, Hezbollah launched several attacks using assault drones and various missiles, targeting command headquarters, artillery positions, and Israeli armoured vehicles along the border and in the occupied Syrian Golan Heights.

CIA chief in Doha to lead indirect ceasefire talks between Israel-Hamas

Tel Aviv | Agencies

The chief of the American spy agency, Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), William Burns is in the Middle East and will head the indirect peace talks between Israel and Hamas.

The CIA chief, who has been instrumental in several back-to-back talks between Hamas and Israel, again reached the Middle East at the behest of Qatar and Egyptian mediators.

The American representative to the Middle East, Brett McGurk is also accompanying William Burns.

Sources in the Israel Defence Minister's office told IANS that Burns will be meeting Qatar Prime Minister, Mohammed Bin Abdulrahman al-Thani and the Egyptian Intelligence Chief, Major General Abbas Kamel in Doha and Cairo to work on the ceasefire between the two warring factions.

The top American officials will also reach Israel after meetings in Doha and Cairo. Burns and McGurk will meet Israel Prime Minister



Benjamin Netanyahu and Defence Minister Yoav Gallant.

As per the US-brokered ceasefire deal, the first phase would see the remaining female, elderly and sick Israeli hostages being released for a six-week truce. The second phase would lead to a permanent end to the war. The third phase would lead to the release of the mortal remains of those hostages who died in captivity. During the release of the Israeli hostages, Palestinian prisoners would also be released from Israeli prisons.

US President Joe Biden has stated that after the permanent end to the war, Hamas would not be in power in Gaza.

Biden signs executive order to curb unlawful border crossings by immigrants

Washington | Agencies

US President Joe Biden has signed an executive order that would immediately turn down requests for entry into the country by asylum-seekers crossing the southern border illegally, in the event that officials deem the border is overwhelmed. The long-awaited measure, which Biden has been contemplating for months, would kick in once the seven-day average for illegal crossings between ports of entry along the US-Mexico border hits 2,500 per day, effectively shutting down the border. Xinhua news agency reported, citing senior administration officials.

Given that the daily encounters are already above the threshold now, the order could take effect right after being signed, empowering border officials to repatriate migrants within "days, if not hours," the officials told reporters during a press call.

Prior to Tuesday's order, an illegal immigrant seeking asylum in the US would typically be allowed to temporarily enter the country, where the individual will wait for a court appearance to present a compelling case for the



request. Under the new guidance, the border will reopen to those seeking asylum in the US two weeks after the daily crossings stay at or below 1,500 for seven consecutive days. Unaccompanied children and victims of human trafficking are exempt from the newly-announced restrictions -- a key part of the executive order which Biden boasted as out of humanitarian considerations.

Immigration advocates, however, worry that such an exemption would potentially lead to a drastic increase of children who make the dangerous journey to the border on their own. In remarks at the White House announcing

the executive order, Biden on Tuesday said his measure, the product of weeks of negotiations between Democrats and Republicans, was opposed by some GOP members of Congress because the former president and his election rival, Donald Trump, "told them to".

"He didn't want to fix the issue" of illegal immigration, Biden said of Trump. "He wanted to use it to attack me," the president said, lashing out at his political foe by claiming that Trump was engaging in an "extremely cynical political move" that amounted to "a complete disservice" to Americans aspiring their leaders to not weaponize but fix the border.

In Afghanistan, a history of 'lost opportunities': UN humanitarian official

United Nations | Agencies

In Afghanistan, where the Taliban rules with an iron fist and human rights violations, is marked by a history of "lost opportunities", according to Under-Secretary-General Marting Griffiths.

"I think we have lost we've lost some opportunities to engage further" with the Taliban, Griffiths, who holds the humanitarian affairs portfolio and is the emergency relief coordinator, said on Tuesday.

"There is a certain way of engaging with them, taking into account I think the appalling edicts", he said.

"We haven't been able to craft a formula which allows us to have across-the-board engagement" with the Taliban, he said.

Investments and attention to the economy would provide an entry to Afghanistan and it is for "key member states to take that forward", he said.

Griffiths said that he hoped the meeting the UN is organising in Doha on June 30 will set the agenda for coordinating the international approach to Afghanistan.

When the Taliban took over in 2021 after the United States withdrew its troops from Afghanistan, "we had some hopes then, we had indeed some written commitments", he said.

"And those hopes have been dashed. The edicts against women and girls have come one after the other", he said of the Taliban edicts against education for girls and women working outside the home.

These were the culmination of 20 years of lost opportunities, he said.

Griffiths, who is leaving the UN at the end of this month after more than 30 years of



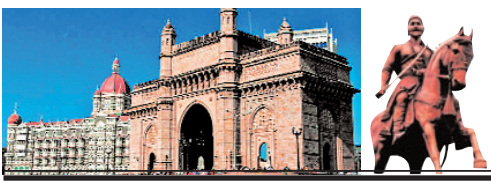
humanitarian work, said the world situation is worse now than when he started.

"God knows it's a bad world", he said of the impunity with which violence and humanitarian disasters continue despite resolutions by the Security Council.

Although the UN was founded to end the "scourge of war", he said, "We're not winning on ending conflict".

"It's essentially because the attention and commitment to the use of negotiation and dialogue to end conflict is a trait, a norm, a commitment which is now no longer an essential component of international diplomacy", he said.

At the same time, he saw hope for humanity in the basic kindness he had witnessed among the poor, for example, when impoverished people shared their meagre food resources with refugees.



After poll debacle, Fadnavis to urge leadership to relieve him from Dy CM's post

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In a significant development, Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister and senior BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis on Wednesday said he would request the party leadership to relieve him from the ministerial responsibility so that he can fully focus on the preparations for the upcoming assembly polls slated for September-October this year.

Fadnavis' statement came in the wake of BJP's dismal performance in the Lok Sabha elections as its tally reduced to nine from 23 in 2019.

"I will request the senior leaders to accept my resignation and give me an opportunity to work full-time for the assembly elections," said Fadnavis at a Press conference after the BJP-led MahaYuti failed to achieve Mission 45-plus target in Maharashtra despite riding on Modi's guarantee.



The MahaYuti was restricted to 17 against 30 seats won by the Maha Vikas Aghadi comprising Congress, NCP (SP) and Shiv Sena (UBT).

"All the responsibility for the defeat is mine. It seems I fell short in my efforts. BJP workers have done a great job. I am not a defeatist but I want to work full time for the assembly elections. Even if I live outside, I will work. But

now I want to focus full-time on the assembly," said Fadnavis who was accompanied by the state party chief Chandrashekar Bawankule.

Earlier, he chaired a meeting of senior party leaders and took stock of the situation in the wake of the BJP's lacklustre performance in the Lok Sabha elections in the state.

"We did not get the expect-

ed success in Maharashtra. In fact, we got very less seats than we expected. In Maharashtra, our fight was not only with Maha Vikas Aghadi but also with the narrative set by the opponents that if BJP-led NDA is voted to power again, the Constitution would be changed," said Fadnavis. He further added that "We could not stop this narrative."

Poll results show BJP can be defeated: Uddhav Thackeray

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray said on Wednesday that the Lok Sabha election results have shown that the Bharatiya Janata Party can be defeated. Uddhav met his party candidates who won the polls.

Shiv Sena (UBT) winners Rajabhau Prakash Waje (from Nashik seat) and Sanjay Dina Patil (Mumbai North East) met former Maharashtra chief minister Thackeray at his residence in Mumbai on Wednesday, a day after the announcement of the poll results.

"The elections have shown that the BJP can be defeated. The myth (that it cannot be defeated) has been broken," Thackeray said.

As per the report, Thackeray met his party's Mumbai South seat winner Arvind Sawant and Mumbai South Central seat winner Anil Desai on Tuesday.

In polls to the 543-member Lok Sabha, the BJP won 240 seats, falling short of a majority on its own.

The BJP is poised to form the government with the support of its allies.

The Shiv Sena (UBT) won nine seats in the Lok Sabha polls.

All newly elected party leaders from outside Mumbai are expected to meet Thackeray on Wednesday, as per the report.

From Arvind Sawant to Naresh Mhaske, check big winners from Sena (UBT), BJP & more

Voters witnessed a neck-to-neck fight between Maha Vikas Aghadi and Mahayuti in Mumbai and Mumbai Metropolitan



region as they vied for political supremacy. The results for all 10 seats of the Mumbai and MMR region are out with the Maha Vikas Aghadi winning big in the Mumbai Lok Sabha Elections 2024.

Maharashtra recorded a voter turnout of 61.33 per cent in the Lok Sabha Elections 2024 in five phases from April 19 to May 20.

As many as 5,70,06,778 voters out of 9,29,43,890 exercised their franchise in the five phases across Maharashtra. At 71.88 per cent, polling in the Gadchiroli-Chimur constituency was the highest, while Mumbai South registered the lowest turnout at 50.06 per cent.

We humbly accept the public mandate, says NCP

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Ajit Pawar-led Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) said that it humbly accepts the public mandate and concedes the defeat in Baramati and other Lok Sabha seats.

"We congratulate state president and MP of Raigad Lok Sabha constituency Sunil Tatkare on retaining the seat. It was expected that Sunetra Pawar would win the Baramati seat but we accept the people's verdict in Baramati and other constituencies. Public opinion is always respected in democracy," said NCP spokesperson Umesh Patil.

Patil thanked all the voters who supported the NCP in the Lok Sabha elections.

While congratulating all the elected candidates across the country, Patil said: "The criticisms against each other during the elections should not remain bitter. All the MPs should work in tandem in the Parliament and for the betterment of the country. I hope that they will work in the national interest without any party bias."

Patil also stated that despite the defeat from Baramati, Sunetra Pawar will continue the work with renewed vigour upon reflecting on the defeat and rectifying the errors.

"Victory and defeat are a part of the elections. We should accept it humbly. You don't want to be hysterical about the win or depressed about the loss. Our leader has a lion's heart and won't get bogged down by defeat. Therefore, all the NCP workers should



stand firmly behind their leader and prepare for the upcoming Vidhan Sabha Assembly elections," he said.

The NCP won only one Lok Sabha seat in Maharashtra.

Ahead of Assembly polls, MVA's two broken arrows wound Mahayuti

Quaid Najmi | Mumbai

The 2024 Lok Sabha election results may prove to be a double whammy for the ruling Mahayuti alliance, coming barely four months before the Assembly elections due in October. The aggressive, high-flying, ruling Mahayuti of SS-BJP-NCP was dealt an unanticipated but surgical maimer at the hands of the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi of the Congress-SS(UBT)-NCP(SP).

Among the two rival blocs, the MVA's Congress has bagged 13 seats, up from two in 2014 and one in 2019, SS(UBT) 9, NCP(SP) 8.

The ruling Mahayuti's BJP managed 9, SS got 7 and a single face-saver for NCP led by Deputy CM Ajit Pawar, besides a Congress rebel-turned-Independent winner in Sangli. Leaders from the MVA side claim that "obviously, this would have a direct bearing" on the prospects of the Mahayuti in the October Assembly polls.

"In the LS elections, we put up a united front and secured around 65 per cent of (48) seats. This was despite certain disadvantages like two broken parties (SS-UBT and NCP-SP), taking on the money and muscle



power of the ruling side," said a top Congress leader, preferring anonymity. An NCP(SP) leader pointed out that the victory on 30 LS seats would impact at least 180 out of 288 Assembly seats directly, and many others indirectly, considering the Mahayuti has bagged some seats with low margins.

These include Mumbai North West won by Shiv Sena's Ravindra Waikar with a victory margin of 48 votes - the lowest in the country - defeating SS(UBT)'s Amol Kirtikar.

The latter suspects something amiss and is likely to challenge the result.

Similarly, Akola was bagged by BJP's Anup Dhotre trouncing the

Congress' Abhay Patil by a small margin of 40,626 votes.

Buldhana was won by Shiv Sena's Prataprao Jadhav who vanquished SS(UBT)'s Narendra Khedkar by 29,479 votes.

Hatkanangale was bagged by Shiv Sena's Dhairyasheel Mane by trumping SS(UBT)'s Satyajit Patil-Sarudkar by a margin of 13,426 votes.

Satara was won by the BJP's Chhatrapati Udayanraje Bhonsle after defeating NCP(SP)'s Shashikant Shinde by a difference of 32,771 votes.

There are a handful of seats won by the MVA with similar narrow margins, overcoming the inherent handicap of being in the Opposition, he added. The MVA juggernaut

appeared to bulldoze the Mahayuti in almost all regions, even in its purported bastions. In the crucial coastal Konkan region comprising the country's commercial capital, of the 12 LS seats, the MVA bagged 5 (Congress 1, SS(UBT) 3, NCP(SP) 1); and the Mahayuti won 7 (Shiv Sena 3, BJP 3 and NCP 1).

Of the 10 LS seats in Western Maharashtra, the MVA won 5 (Congress 2, NCP(SP) 3); while the Mahayuti bagged 4 (Shiv Sena 2, BJP 2); plus one Congress rebel-turned-Independent winner in Sangli, who is likely to support the MVA.

In North Maharashtra, which has 8 LS seats, the MVA bagged 6 (Congress 2, SS(UBT) 2 and NCP(SP) 2); and the Mahayuti won 2 (both BJP).

The Marathwada region with 8 LS seats saw MVA getting 7 (Congress 3, SS(UBT) 3, NCP(SP) 1); and the Mahayuti got 1 (Shiv Sena) seat.

In the critical Vidarbha region, of the 10 seats, the MVA got 8 (Congress 6, SS(UBT) and NCP(SP) 1 each); and the Mahayuti got 2 (BJP and Shiv Sena 1 each). Among those who bit the dust from the Mahayuti were three Union ministers, one state minister and around 20 sitting MPs of the 17th Lok Sabha.

7 women of 17 contesting win seats; Congress secures 4 victories

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra Lok Sabha Election Results 2024 stated seven out of 17 women candidates fielded by major political parties emerged victorious. Notably, four of these winners were from the Congress party.

Among the prominent winners is Supriya Sule, who secured the Baramati seat for the fourth consecutive time, defeating Sunetra Pawar, the wife of her cousin and Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar. This was the first time two members of the Pawar family contested against each other in their home constituency. Sule won by a margin of 158,333 votes, slightly higher than her 2019 margin. The BJP fielded the most women candidates of any party, with six, but just two won, according to Maharashtra Lok Sabha Election Results 2024 data. Smita Wagh and Raksha Khadse won the Jalgaon and Raver seats, respectively. Khadse won with 287,183 votes, while Wagh had a 251,594-vote lead over her nearest challenger.

The Congress' four female candidates all earned their seats. Praniti Shinde, the daughter of former Union minister Sushilkumar Shinde, won the Solapur constituency by 74,197 votes over BJP MLA Ram Satpute.

Varsha Gaikwad, chief of the Congress' Mumbai branch, defeated BJP candidate Ujjwal Nikam in the Mumbai North-Central seat by 16,514 votes. Pratibha Dhanorkar won the Chandrapur seat, defeating BJP leader Sudhir Mungantiwar by 260,406 votes.

Shobha Dinesh Bachhav won the Dhule seat, defeating incumbent MP Subhash Bhamre by 3,831 votes.

The BJP's Pankaja Munde lost the Beed constituency to NCP (SP) candidate Bajarang Sonawane by 6,553 votes. Union Minister Bharati Pawar also lost her Dindori seat to NCP (SP) candidate Bhaskar Bhagare by 113,199 votes.



The BJP suffered significant defeats as its candidates, Heena Gavit and Navneet Rana, lost in Nandurbar (ST) and Amravati, respectively. Gavit lost to Congress's Gowal Padavi by 159,120 votes, while Balwant Wankhade defeated Rana by 19,731 votes.

The Shiv Sena (UBT) ran two female candidates, Bharati Kamdi and Kalyan, but failed to gain any seats. The NCP, led by Ajit Pawar, also failed to win, with

Archana Patil losing the Dharashiv seat to incumbent MP Omprakash Rajenimbalkar by 329,846 votes.

Rajshri Patil of Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's Shiv Sena was defeated by Shiv Sena (UBT) candidate Sanjay Deshmukh by 94,473 votes in the Yavatmal-Washim constituency. Yamini Jadhav, another Shiv Sena candidate, lost to Arvind Sawant of Shiv Sena (UBT) by 52,673 votes.

Pune Porsche Crash Case Lab Report Confirms Mother's Blood Samples Used

Team Absolute | Pune

A forensic laboratory report has confirmed that blood samples of the mother were used to replace those of the 17-year-old driver involved in the Porsche crash which claimed two lives in Pune, police told a court today.

The sessions court extended the police custody of the teen's parents till

June 10 on the police's request.

Two doctors and an employee of the Sassoon General Hospital were arrested last month for allegedly replacing the minor's blood samples following the accident on May 19 to show that he was not drunk at the time. It is alleged that one of the doctors was in touch with the teen's father. The teen's mother was arrested on the conspiracy charges on June 1. Police today pro-

duced the parents of the minor, the two doctors and the hospital employee before the court after their police custody got over. The court extended the custody of the doctors and the hospital employee till June 7.

Police have also moved an application before the Juvenile Justice Board seeking extension for 14 days of the remand of the 17-year-old who is lodged at an observation home.

Supriya Sule Defeats Sister-In-Law In Baramati Prestige Battle

Team Absolute | Pune

Overcoming the challenge posed by her estranged cousin, NCP (SP) candidate Supriya Sule on Tuesday retained her Baramati Lok Sabha seat by more than 1.55 lakh votes.

Sule triumphed over her sister-in-law Sunetra Pawar, wife of Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar and a political debutante, in the battle that had become the most high-profile contest in Maharashtra.

Sule polled 7,32,312 votes while Sunetra Pawar garnered 5,73,979 votes.

Ajit Pawar, Sule's cousin who rebelled against her father Sharad Pawar last year and split the party, is known to enjoy a lot of support in the family bastion of Baramati, and hence, many political observers felt that Sule would find it difficult to win the fourth consecutive term.

For Ajit Pawar, his wife's defeat would be a major setback. His son Parth Pawar had lost as the candidate of the undivided NCP from the Maval constituency in the 2019 general elections.

The high-octane contest in Baramati this time saw members of the Pawar family trading barbs.

Both factions did not leave any stone unturned as Sharad Pawar himself reached out to voters, while Ajit Pawar held numerous public meetings.

Sule led in almost all assembly segments, namely, Baramati, Indapur, Daund, Bhor and Purandar.

NCP (SP) workers started celebration much before the result was officially announced.

Speaking to reporters after it became clear that she was winning, Sule thanked the people of her constituency.

"I am thankful to the people of Baramati. After the victory,



our collective responsibilities have increased. Let bygones be bygones. Whatever happened during the elections did not benefit Maharashtra's politics and it should be avoided in the upcoming state elections, and for that we will take utmost precaution," she said.

It was everyone's responsibility to uphold the 'aan, baan, shaan' (honour, pride and prestige) and culture of Maharashtra during elections, Sule said, adding, "We upheld that tradition in these elections and will continue to uphold it in the upcoming elections." The workers who stood by her father in this critical phase were the party's real strength, she said.

Sharad Pawar said he was not expecting any other result in Baramati as he was associated with the constituency for the last 60 years.

"Whether I campaign or not, I know the mentality of the common voters here, as they take the right call," Pawar said.



Hailey Bieber flaunts baby bump in mirror selfie

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hailey Bieber, wife of singer Justin Bieber, showed off her baby bump at the headquarters of her beauty brand. Her skincare brand posted a carousel of pictures to their Instagram, featuring multiple photos of the pregnant founder, reports People magazine.

In a mirror selfie, Bieber, 27, can be seen showing off her belly and chic maternity style. She poses with her hand on her hip, wearing off-white, wide-leg pants and an elongated tube top set.

As per People, she completed the outfit with a brown Birkin bag and a pair of black sunglasses.

This is the first baby for Hailey and her husband Justin Bieber, 30. The couple announced in May that they are expecting, with a representative that the model was just over six months pregnant. Sharing a clip from their vow renewal on Instagram, Hailey sported a lacy white dress over her growing baby bump.

Photos also featured her and Justin standing in a field, with the musician placing his arms around his wife's belly. Since the announcement, the couple has posted many snaps of Hailey's baby bump.

In May, Justin shared a carousel post that featured photos of his wife's stomach. "They wish baby, they wish," his caption read as Hailey cradled her bump in a sheer black top.



HALSEY REVEALS SECRET HEALTH BATTLE 'I'M LUCKY TO BE ALIVE'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Halsey has been battling a secret illness, they revealed in an Instagram post while also announcing her upcoming album. While sharing videos from what appeared to be multiple hospitalizations, the 29-year-old "I'm Not Mad" artist revealed she is "lucky to be alive."

"Long story short, i'm Lucky to be alive," Halsey captioned her post, while tagging the Lupus Research Alliance and the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Instagram accounts. "Short story long, i wrote an album. it begins with The End. out now [sic]."

Multiple celebrities and fellow musicians sent their best wishes to the "Bad at Love" singer. Rita Ora commented under the post, "I hope your ok beautiful lady [sic]." Heidi Klum also showed her support, commenting with a simple red heart emoji.

The single "The End" describes Halsey's health journey. Throughout the dark track, she sings, "Every couple of years now, a doctor says I'm sick / Pulls out a brand new bag of tricks / And then they lay it on me / And at first, it was my brain, then a skeleton in pain / And I don't like to complain, but I'm saying sorry."

Cillian Murphy is set to return as the fearsome gangster

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Cillian Murphy is set to return as the fearsome gangster in the 'Peaky Blinders'. However, this time around, the narrative will be condensed into a film.

The film is set to be directed by Tom Harper, who directed episodes of the first season of 'Peaky Blinders' in 2013, reports Variety.

Cillian said: "It seems like Tommy Shelby wasn't finished with me. It is very gratifying to be re-collaborating with Steven Knight and Tom Harper on the film version of 'Peaky Blinders'. This is one for the fans."

Tom Harper shared: "When I first directed 'Peaky Blinders' over 10 years ago, we didn't know what the series would become, but we did know that there was something in the alchemy of the cast and the writing that felt explosive. 'Peaky' has always been a story about family - and so it's incredibly exciting to be reuniting with Steve and Cillian to bring the movie to audiences across the world on Netflix."



As per Variety, the continuation of the narrative, set in the lawless streets of Birmingham in the 1900s, has been written by the show's creator, Steven Knight, who will co-produce alongside Murphy, Caryn Mandabach and Guy Heeley. Executive producers include Harper, David Kosse, Jamie Glazebrook, Andrew Warren and David Mason.

SOFIA VERGARA'S 'CELLULITE' GOT HER CONSCIOUS WHILE FILMING SEX SCENES

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Sofia Vergara has shared that she was self-conscious and worried about filming sex scenes for her miniseries 'Griselda'. The Emmy-nominated actress shared that filming sex scenes for the crime drama stands out as one of the times she felt out of her depth, reports People magazine.

In the miniseries, Vergara starred as Griselda Blanco, the creator of one of the most profitable drug cartels in history, and followed the life and death of "The Cocaine Godmother."

She said, quoted by the 'US Sun', "I don't think I've ever done like a sex scene." She noted that she never had a sex scene during her 'Modern Family' tenure with co-star Ed O'Neill.

"I'm 50! I mean, when I was 30, I wouldn't have worried. I think I was worried that I was going to look horrific. I was like, 'Where are they shooting me? The cellulite? From the side.' Uh, I'm vain I guess. That one kept me awake I think," she added.

As per People, while she was apprehensive about the prospect of shooting sex scenes, she conceded that the scenes "came out good."

"It's really dark and Andy (Baiz), the director, is very artistic and he made me feel super comfortable and he's like, 'We're never going to stay like a long time on you (the camera).'"



'I Was Devastated': Olivia Munn

Los Angeles | Agencies

Olivia Munn revealed she felt "devastated" after undergoing a double mastectomy during the latest episode of SHE MD podcast. "I thought, 'Oh, there are so many styles, so many things that I'll never be able to wear...It just looked like someone took off my breasts and then took some tape and paper and stuff and Tupperware, and they're like, 'Here,'" expressed the 43-year-old.

"I was by myself in my bathroom, and I looked at them and I cried in a way that I don't think I've ever cried in my life. I cried...I was devastated. I didn't recognize myself. I didn't know how I would ever dress myself again," shared the actress.

After breast tissue was removed, she received "small and chick" implants to fill in the skin after specifying to the nurse that she did not want big breasts because it would "look like a boob job."

"I wanted to be able to hide the scars...I want to be able to hide the sides of the implant and feel comfortable like that. Maybe one day I'll get more comfortable with it," Olivia said.



Los Angeles | Agencies

MY RELATIONSHIP WITH DAN IS A VERY COMPLEX ONE: VICTORIA JUSTICE

Victoria Justice "slowed down" when it came to her career after her teenage stardom years in Nickelodeon. "I think I'd been so busy also for so much of my younger life, that it was kind of nice after all of that was kind of over to take some time to just focus more on what it is I want to do, slow down in certain ways and just kind of be more selective about what I want to do and when I want to do it," the 31-year-old shared to People in an interview published on Monday, June 3.

Her statements come shortly after she shared that she was thankful for her break into Hollywood, despite the allegations made toward Nickelodeon producer, Dan Schneider. "I'm not condoning any of his behavior...At the end of the day, my relationship with Dan is a very complex one: I met him when I was 12 years old, and he's the person that gave me this big break. He completely changed my life. Most likely, I wouldn't be here where I am today if it weren't for him, and for him seeing something in me. For that I will always be grateful," Justice said to Marie Claire.

Shortly after the Zoey 101 and Victorious days were over, Victoria

worked on very few projects such as Fox's The Rocky Horror Picture Show, Netflix's The Tutor, and MTV's Eye Candy but did not focus on music, which was a big part of her television years. "I definitely took a break from music. I had a deal that just wasn't working out anymore...for a lot of reasons. And so, I asked to be out of that deal," voiced the actress during her latest interview with People.

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Monica Barbaro



T20 World Cup

INDIA GOT EASY EIGHT-WICKET WIN OVER IRELAND

New York | Agencies

Captain Rohit Sharma top-scored with 52 before retiring hurt with a sore elbow, while Rishabh Pant remained unbeaten on 36 as the duo steered India to a comfortable eight-wicket win over Ireland in their first Group A game of the Men's T20 World Cup at the Nassau County International Cricket Stadium here on Wednesday.

Everything went right for India from the time they elected to bowl first on a bowler-friendly pitch which had some variable bounce too. The fast bowlers, led by Hardik Pandya's 3-27, dominated thoroughly by picking eight wickets collectively to bowl out Ireland for 96 in 16 overs. In reply, Rohit and Pant hung around to begin their campaign with a win by completing the chase with 46 balls remaining and getting their eighth successive victory over Ireland in men's T20Is.

India decided that controlled aggression would be the right way to go about a low chase. For Ireland, it was about latching on to the smallest chances coming their way to try to make a match out of it.



It became a bit tough when Andrew Balbirnie failed to hold on to a tough chance at second slip when Rohit threw his bat at a wide outswinger from Mark Adair. Rohit was lucky to have an inside edge off Joshua Little for four, followed by dispatching a full toss over long-on for six.

Rohit retired hurt on 52 due to a sore elbow caused by a previous blow sustained off Little. Though the leg-spinner had Suryakumar Yadav holding out to deep mid-wicket.

Pant finished off the chase in style with an astonishing trademark reverse paddle-scoop over the keeper's head for six to be 36 not out in his comeback international game and get India's campaign in the tournament off to a flying start.

Brief scores

Ireland 96 all out in 16 overs (Gareth Delany 26; Hardik Pandya 3-27, Jasprit Bumrah 2-6) lost to India 97/2 in 12.2 overs (Rohit Sharma 52, Rishabh Pant 36 not out; Ben White 1-6, Mark Adair 1-27) by eight wickets



NORWAY CHESS:

PRAGGNANANDHAA LOSES TO CARLSEN IN RD-8; VAISHALI WINS

Stavanger (Norway) | Agencies

Indian Grandmaster Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa lost to world number one Magnus Carlsen in Armageddon game in round eight of the Norway Chess tournament on Tuesday.

The win saw Carlsen extending his lead to a full point with 14.5 with Hikaru Nakamura sitting second 13.5 points followed by Praggnanandhaa on third with 11 points.

Hikaru Nakamura would defeat Firouzja in classical chess, but the young talent defended brilliantly and emerged victorious in the blitz showdown. Meanwhile,

world champion Ding Liren squandered two winning positions, ultimately losing to Fabiano Caruana in the Armageddon tiebreaker.

In the women's event, world champion Ju Wenjun took the lead in the standings after winning a classical game against Pia Cramling. Meanwhile, Lei Tingjie secured her first classical victory by defeating GM Koneru Humpy.

Previous leader Anna Muzychuk lost on time in armageddon to Vaishali Rameshbabu.

With two rounds to go, Wenjun sits on top of the standing with 14.5 points followed by Muzychuk on second with 13 and Vaishali on third with 11.5 points.

INDONESIA OPEN: SETBACK FOR INDIA AS SINDHU CRASHES OUT IN FIRST ROUND; TANISHA/ASHWINI WIN

Jakarta | Agencies

Two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu went down to World No. 10 Wen Chi Hsu of Chinese Taipei in the first round of the Indonesia Open BWF Super 1000 Series event here on Wednesday.

India had a mixed day in women's doubles as Tanisha Crasto and Ashwini Ponappa won 21-15, 21-15 against Jackie Dent and Crystal Lai of Canada while Rutaparna Panda and her sister Swetaparna went down to South Korean combine Kim So Yeong and Kong Hee Yong 12-21, 9-21 in 36 minutes.

The focus was on Sindhu as she started her campaign in the Indonesia Open. But things did not go down as she must have expected.

Sindhu, currently ranked World No. 20, fought back after losing the first game but could not ride the momentum in the decider and went down 15-21, 21-15, 14-21 to Wen Chi Hsu in a 70-minute battle on Court 2 at the Istora Senayan Sports Palace in the Indonesian capital.

Sindhu, who won a silver medal in the Rio Olympic Games in 2016 and a bronze in the next edition in Tokyo, took time to find her rhythm as her Chinese Taipei opponent took an early lead (10-2) and maintained it. Sindhu managed to reduce the margin to 8-17 and then 15-18 before Wen the next three points to win the first game 21-15.

Wen took the early lead in the second game also but Sindhu caught up with her regularly as the scores were tied at 4-4, 7-7, 13-13



before Sindhu opened up a 17-13 advantage. The 28-year-old Indian star maintained the advantage and went on to win the game 21-15 to force the decider.

Sindhu took the early lead in the decider as she opened up a 6-3 advantage. Wen Chi Hsu did cut down the lead to one point on a couple of occasions before she tied the scores 12-12 on her way to a 16-12 lead, winning five points in a row.

Though Sindhu won a couple of points, the Chinese Taipei player claimed four points in succession and had multiple match points at 20-13. Though Sindhu saved one match point, she eventually lost the game 14-21 and lost the match in 70 minutes.

T20 World Cup: Shahid Afridi calls India-Pakistan clash in New York as 'our Super Bowl'

New York | Agencies

Former Pakistan captain Shahid Afridi has called the upcoming India-Pakistan clash in the 2024 Men's T20 World Cup as cricket's version of the 'Super Bowl'. India will take on Pakistan in a highly anticipated Group A clash of the tournament at the Nassau County International Cricket Stadium here on June 9.

"For those Americans discovering the tournament, they should know that Pakistan's game against India is like our Super Bowl. I used to absolutely love playing India and I really believe it is the biggest rivalry in sport."

"When I played in those games, I got a lot of love and respect from the Indian fans, and it means so much to both sides. Against India, it is about handling the pressure of the occasion. There is so much talent in both teams, they just need to put it together on the day," wrote Afridi in his column for the International Cricket Council (ICC).

The spin all-rounder also said it's hard to predict a side favourite to win the ongoing T20 World Cup in the West Indies and the USA. "That will be the case in that game and the tour-



name overall. The team that can hold its nerve will come out on top." "T20 cricket is so unpredictable, and teams can bat so deep now. You can have a batter coming in at No.8 and smashing the ball at a strike rate of 150 to win a game. I hope that will be Pakistan this time around, but it is hard to pick a favourite."

Afridi also thinks Pakistan, the 2009 T20 World Cup winners, have the capabilities to challenge any team on a given day in the tournament. "Even though their form has been inconsistent in 2024, I believe they have all the

ingredients to put it all together in the West Indies and USA."

"Over the last two ICC Men's T20 World Cups, they have made one final and one semi-final and there is no question of the talent in the squad. The conditions in the Caribbean will definitely suit them. There is so much talent in the side, particularly when you look at the bowling attack which should thrive over there. The fast bowlers are as good as any team in the world and there is so much depth as well," he wrote.

Afridi further wishes to see the

local American population warm up and embrace cricket in its way of living - a sporting life, apart from seeing a global event be back in the Caribbean. "This is also a huge tournament for American cricket. I have always had a great time when playing in the USA and for those who have not experienced it, the conditions are similar to playing in the West Indies. People are going to love the support in the States."

"There is a great expat community over there which absolutely loves cricket. The Americans absolutely love their sport, whether it is American football, basketball, or baseball. I really believe that cricket will hit the mainstream over there in the next few years, which is very exciting for up-and-coming cricketers."

"I am really excited to see the tournament return to the Caribbean. I captained Pakistan in 2010 when the West Indies last hosted and have great memories of that tournament. As an all-rounder, I loved the fact that the pitches support both batters and bowlers, so it will be up to the players to acclimatise quickly. For the batters, shot selection is vital, while bowlers need to find their line and length."

Winning the World Cup is my only dream: Kuldeep Yadav

New Delhi | Agencies

India spinner Kuldeep Yadav has expressed his strong desire to secure the trophy for India in the ongoing T20 World Cup, stating, "If you're playing for India for a long time, you've got to win a World Cup." Kuldeep Yadav has played a significant role in India's last two ODI World Cups in 2019 and 2024 but has yet to participate in the T20 showpiece. He will mark his debut in the mega event when India take on Ireland on Wednesday at the Nassau County International Cricket Stadium, New York.

"It's my dream to win the World Cup for India. This is my first T20 World Cup. I'm 29 years old and expect to play for as long as possible. Winning the World Cup is a long-term goal, and there's a bigger process behind it. If you're playing for India for a long time, you've got to win a World Cup. I think trophies do matter in the end, and you're playing to win the trophies. So winning the World Cup is my only dream," said Kuldeep in a

Delhi Capitals' podcast.

The Chinaman bowler further shared his dreams beyond cricket and said, "Beyond cricket, I'm hopeful of getting a license in football coaching. I'm not perfect, but I need to work on it a lot. Hopefully, when I leave cricket, I can invest time in it and take proper training. I've got friends who are associated with the game, and after cricket, if I want to do something, I would certainly like to contribute to football," he added.

The leg-spinner delivered sensational performances leading to his inclusion in the T20 World Cup squad. However, a couple of years ago, he faced a rough patch. Before joining Delhi Capitals in 2022, he struggled with no Indian Premier League (IPL) opportunities, and his international career suffered as well.

He also revealed how DC head coach Ricky Ponting, skipper Rishabh Pant, and (then) assistant coach Shane Watson helped him in his revival to bring out the Kuldeep 2.0 version. "I never thought I'd



change drastically over the last couple of years. When I joined DC in 2022, I did come in with changed skills, but I needed that confidence. I still remember when I met Ricky on the first day, he hugged me properly and said, "We wanted to have you on our team. I know your skills. Don't worry about anything, and I will ensure you play all the games." "So, Ponting helped me

gain confidence, he used to give me ideas in training sessions. Rishabh as well, he is my brother, has always trusted me, and gave me full support," said the 29-year-old spinner.

He also recalled spending hours chatting with Watson in the dressing room during the 2022 and 2023 IPL, adding that he still has notes from those conversations saved on his phone. "However, I worked

a lot with Watson. I bonded strongly with him; I used to share everything, even when I wasn't playing well. I used to talk for hours with him in his room during the IPL (2022/2023). He used to ask me about everything I was uncomfortable with, and I used to open up freely to him. He has played a big role in this.

"I still have notes from those conversations on my phone, and I rewind those before I play matches. I share an excellent bond with him. He has played a huge role in my revival," said Kuldeep.

Further reflecting on his bond with veteran spin duo Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep said Ashwin has helped him try new things in his bowling.

"My friendship with Jaddu bhai is straightforward; we talk less about cricket. However, with Ash bhai, we talk a lot about the game. He brings in a lot of new ideas about bowling. Earlier, I didn't try new things, but Ash bhai pushes me to try new things," he said.

T20 World Cup: Warner is 'natural winner' you want to have in team, feels Ponting

New Delhi | Agencies

As the Australian opener David Warner will draw curtain to his international career after the ongoing T20 World Cup, former captain Ricky Ponting hailed the veteran as a 'natural winner' and said he will be missed for more than just the runs he scores after the 37-year-old retires.

Warner, who already bid farewell to ODI and Test cricket, earlier this year confirmed that the T20 World Cup 2024 will mark the culmination of his illustrious career. His final ODI appearance was in a World Cup victory against India in 2023, while his Test career concluded with an impressive home series against Pakistan, highlighted by a century and a half-century.

Warner's stage-by-stage retirement from national duty will be complete when Australia's T20 World Cup campaign ends.

"He's the sort of character you want to have around your team, especially in big tournaments like World Cups. And he's just one of those natural winners. Everything he does, he wants to win. You can see that with his attitude in the field and the way he goes about his cricket."

"So there's more than just the runs that we'll be missing when Warner finally is gone. But hopefully the depth of Australian cricket is good enough to find someone to come in and fill that void," Ponting told ESPNcricinfo. Warner came into the World Cup on the back of an injury-hit IPL for Delhi Capitals, where Ponting was the head coach, The Franchise saw a blistering form of youngster Jake Fraser-McGurk, who turned selectors' heads in a dis-



cussion of finalising a T20 World squad and was named as one of the travelling reserves.

Speaking on Warner's replacement, Ponting expressed faith in Fraser-McGurk's ability to slot in at the top of the order. "It's going to be a really big set of shoes to fill, there's no doubt about that. They have got a lot of depth there. I'd be very surprised if he [Fraser-McGurk] doesn't go straight into the T20 team when David's finally done."

"And for that matter, we saw Jake debut for Australia in the one-day stuff in the last Australian summer. I was lucky enough to coach him at the Delhi Capitals this year as well. He's got extreme talent."

If Australia emerged victorious in the T20 spectacle to hold trophies in all three formats at the same time, Warner could be one of just four players - alongside Pat Cummins, Mitchell Starc and Travis Head - to have played in all three finals.



Allu Arjun urges fans to make the planet a 'better place together'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

National Award-winning actor Allu Arjun, who is awaiting the release of his upcoming film 'Pushpa: The Rule', has urged his fans and followers to do their bit for the planet. On the occasion of World Environment Day on Wednesday, the actor took to the Stories section of his Instagram and shared an image of planet Earth.

He wrote on the picture: "Let's all make our home a better place together." Allu Arjun is deeply committed to the cause of environmental conservation. He is known to ensure that film shoots don't cause any damage to the environment. The Telugu superstar is also the brand ambassador of the Telangana Forest Department responsible for promoting and protecting the state's biodiversity.

Meanwhile, on the work front, he is gearing up for the global release of 'Pushpa 2: The Rule'.



'Don't throw rubbish on roads, beaches': Pooja Hegde On World Environment Day

Team Absolute | Mumbai

On the occasion of World Environment Day, actress Pooja Hegde shared the small steps she takes to be environmentally conscious, revealing that she carries a trash bag in her car whenever she travels.

Pooja, who recently participated in a beach clean-up initiative at Mumbai's Juhu beach, shared: "In life, if we can take some small steps then we can see good change in society. What I usually do is I always carry a trash bag in my car whenever I travel and I don't throw things on roads, beaches etc. So, I think if we follow these small little things we can make a big change."

The diva, who was last seen in the movie 'Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan' said: "We just need to encourage the culture of not throwing things here or there. I think we need to make these conscious decisions, and we need to take planet Earth as our home. We should do what we do at home."

On minimal use of plastic, Pooja said: "I think we can use reusable plastic, and or we can try to use the same plastic bag again rather than throwing it."



PRIYANKA SHARED ADORABLE PICTURES OF HER DAUGHTER MALTI FROM HER MAKE-UP SESSION

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Priyanka Chopra Jonas, who is currently in Australia for the shoot of her upcoming film, shared adorable pictures of her daughter Malti Marie Jonas from her make-up session on Wednesday.

The actress was joined by her daughter in the make-up trailer. Priyanka took to the Stories section of her Instagram on Wednesday, and dropped several pictures from her make-up session featuring her daughter.

The 1st picture shows her daughter doodling over a mannequin's face kept on the table. Priyanka wrote on the picture: "When MM is in the HMU trailer."

In the second picture, Priyanka's daughter is seen holding the hair brush, and the next picture has her "Practising her sailor knots," as Priyanka mentioned. The last picture showed Malti holding the head of the mannequin while smiling at her.

Priyanka held it in front of her daughter as she wrote: "I think 'Diane' is coming home with us."



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor Ram Charan's wife, Upasana Kamineni Konidela has been appointed the National Ranger Ambassador for World Wide Fund for Nature-India (WWF-India) for four years.

With this collaboration between WWF-India and Apollo Hospitals Charitable Trust (AHCT), Upasana, who is the Vice Chairperson CSR - Apollo Hospitals, will provide specialised medical treatment at Apollo Hospitals for forest staff injured in and around protected areas, forest divisions, and tiger reserves.

Talking about the initiative, Upasana, who is the granddaughter of Prathap Reddy, Founder of Apollo Hospitals said in a statement: "Forest rangers are the unsung heroes who work tirelessly to protect our wildlife and natural habitats. I am committed to supporting their well-being and ensuring that they receive the care and support they deserve."

The treatment will also be provided to the members of local communities in cases of injuries due to human-wildlife conflict.

Ram Charan and Upasana tied the knot in June 2012. They have a daughter named Klin Kaara Konidela.

Ram Charan's better half Upasana Konidela becomes WWF-India's National Ranger Ambassador

ALAYA F SHARES HER 'MOST PAINFUL FAIL' DURING GYM SESSION

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Alaya F, has shared a blooper from her fitness training session. On Wednesday, the actress took to the Stories section of her Instagram, and shared a video of herself in which she can be seen trying to get on a gym ball. As she tried to get on the top of the ball, she lost her balance and tumbled down. Fortunately, there was no injury as such but the actress did feel the pain after the fall. She wrote on the video: "My most painful fail yet. (This is why it's important to NOT try this at home without trained supervision and crash mats). Watch this with sound on (sic)."

The actress is a fitness enthusiast and believes in a healthy lifestyle. In view of rising temperatures, Alaya had earlier spoken about the changes in her diet for the summer. The actress said that she makes it a point to stay hydrated with a minimum water intake of about three litres during the day. In the morning, she likes to have an avocado toast with egg with a small bowl of mangoes and also some nice cold watermelon on the side.

The actress shared that "the most important part of my diet," especially during the summers is water intake. She had told: "I do most of my exercises without any fan or AC, in the summer that means I end up sweating a lot! So hydration is super important for me."

"I drink a lot of water in the day and to keep track of it and maximise it, I like to infuse my water with healthy substances. In the morning, while I'm exercising, I finish about 750ml of cucumber, mint, lemon water and I also add my collagen powder into it," she added.



INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Mukti Mohan