

Maha Cong sends 4 women MPs to Lok Sabha, BJP 2, NCP(SP) 1

Team Absolute | Mumbai
The Maharashtra Congress has sent the highest, four, women MPs to the Lok Sabha followed by two from the BJP and one from the NCP(SP). It's a far cry from the proposed 33 per cent reservation for women in legislatures or the Parliament, and the 2024 Lok Sabha election tally has come down by one - from 8 women elected in the 2019 LS polls - from the total 48 in the state. A total of 17 women were fielded by the ruling Mahayuti of Shiv Sena-BJP-NCP and the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi of Congress-Shiv Sena (UBT)-NCP(SP).



Shinde (Solapur-SC), Professor Varsha Gaikwad (Mumbai North Central), Pratibha Dhanorkar (Chandrapur) - all of whom are also sitting Congress MLAs - besides, Shobha Bachhav (Dhule).

Women MPs elected from the BJP are Smita Wagh (Jalgaon) and Raksha N Khadse (Raver); and NCP (SP)'s Working President Supriya Sule (Baramati) - the last two being sitting MPs. In six LS seats, the women

(Mumbai North Central) and Dr. Pritam Munde (Beed) who was replaced by her sister Pankaja Munde who was trounced. Interestingly, in Osmanabad, Sunetra Ajit Pawar's half-brother Padamsinh Patil's daughter-in-law Archana R Patil - the wife of BJP MLA Rana Jagjitsinh Patil - lost out to her cousin brother-in-law and SS(UBT)'s sitting MP Omprakash P Raje Nimbalkar. Though the BJP's women MPs won on two seats, it also got a rude shock in Dindori (ST) where its sitting Union Minister Dr Bharti Pawar lost, as also Dr. Heena Gavit lost her bid for a hat-trick in Nandurbar. Meanwhile, all over India, 74 women were elected to the Lok Sabha, a tad lower than the figure of 78 in 2019, with highest 11 from West Bengal and seven each from Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra.

4 medical students from Jalgaon drown in Russian river

Quaid Najmi | Jalgaon
Four medical students from Jalgaon studying at the Yaroslav-the-Wise Novgorod State University in Russia drowned while attempting to rescue another student in the Volkhov river there, Indian and Russian authorities said on Friday. The university is located in Veliky Novgorod city of Russia and the incident happened there on June 6 (Thursday). The victims were identified as -- Harshal A. Desale, siblings Jishan A. Pinjari, Jia P. Pinjari and Malik Gulamous Mohammed Yakub -- all aged between 19-21. According to a report submitted to the Indian Ambassador in Russia, Vinay Kumar, by the University's Acting Rector Yury V. Daneykin, who quoted the local authorised agencies, five Indian students were taking a walk on the river-



front that evening during their free time from studies. Though details are not clear, one student, identified as Nisha B. Sonawane, apparently slipped and fell into the river, and the others rushed in an attempt to rescue her. Luckily, she survived but her four colleagues perished in the gruesome tragedy that has shaken the university authorities and the Indian student fraternity in Russia. Jalgaon Collector Ayush Prasad said that upon learning of the tragedy, the university authorities called up and broke the devastating news to the concerned families, most of them living here. The MEA said on Friday that the Indian Consulate in St. Petersburg is in constant contact with the university and local authorities to provide all possible assistance and two bodies have been recovered so far. Prasad said that though the Jalgaon Collectorate has no direct role to play in the matter, it has conveyed the bereaved families' desire to bring back the mortal remains of their children back home for the last rites.

After debacle in LS polls, NCP to increase outreach with Muslims, Dalits, Marathas

Team Absolute | Mumbai
NCP legislators at a meeting chaired by party chief Ajit Pawar on Thursday were told to step up outreach with the Muslim and Dalit communities and also increase communication with the politically influential Maratha community in the run-up to the state Assembly elections. The instructions came following the party's debacle in the just concluded Lok Sabha elections. The legislators were also asked to take the farming community into confidence on the issues relating to onion, soybean, and cotton, which impacted the poll prospects of the MahaYuti (the BJP-NCP-Sena alliance) in the general elections. The NCP won one seat while the MahaYuti bagged 17 seats against the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA)'s 30. A senior party functionary said, "The legislators shared the factors that went against NCP nominees and also against the MahaYuti candidates. The anti-incumbency against sitting MPs and also against the Central government was one of the major factors. This apart, the MahaYuti nominees



were hit badly due to the narrative set by the Opposition that the Constitution will be changed if BJP voted to power for the third time. Muslims, Dalits and tribals voted against the NCP and the MahaYuti in general. The protests over Maratha and OBC reservations created a divide between the two which went against the MahaYuti. The legislators pressed the need for corrective steps to avoid further damage in the Assembly polls." The legislators suggested that the state government needs to roll out schemes with hefty financial

allocation to help the Maratha, Dalit and Muslim communities apart from allaying their fears about the change in the Constitution. Meanwhile, at least six MLAs were absent from the meeting. However, the party claimed that all MLAs had informed the leadership about the reasons for their absence from the meeting. The meeting was held amid speculations that a set of MLAs planning to switch to Sharad Pawar's NCP. The meeting lasted for more than three hours as all MLAs were asked to explain their experiences of the recently held Lok Sabha elections and plans for the upcoming Assembly elections. MLAs who were absent from the meeting include Sunil Tingre, Rajendra Shingne, Anna Bansode, Babandada Shinde, Deputy Speaker Narhari Zirwal and Minister Dharmarao Atram. According to party spokesperson Umesh Patil, Shinde and Atram were ill while Shingne and Bansode had conveyed their inability to attend the meeting due to prior commitments. Zirwal is presently in Russia on an official tour. Tingre, who chose to not come in front of the media, was discussed during the Pune hit-and-run case.

ECI relaxes MCC except in graduates & teachers' constituencies in Maharashtra

Team Absolute | Mumbai
The MahaYuti government in Maharashtra on Thursday hailed the Election Commission's notification to lift the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) in the state except in the Graduates and Teachers' constituencies where biennial elections to the Legislative Council are slated for June 26. The ECI's notification released on Thursday has given a major relief to the state government, which is striving to effectively tackle the drought situation in various parts of Maharashtra. The notification came hours after the state Cabinet chaired by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde reviewed the water scarcity issue and pressed for the lifting of



MCC. The state government had earlier urged the ECI to relax the MCC for the five-phase polling in Maharashtra ended on May 20. However, the ECI rejected the state government's plea, saying the MCC will remain in place till the publication of the notification for the formation of the new Lok Sabha. The office of the state Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) had said that a scrutiny committee has been constituted under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary to recommend to the Election Commission the cases in which it is necessary to take action for exemption from the MCC on an urgent basis during this period.

Porsche Crash: 2 Doctors, Hospital staffer, middleman sent to 14-day judicial custody

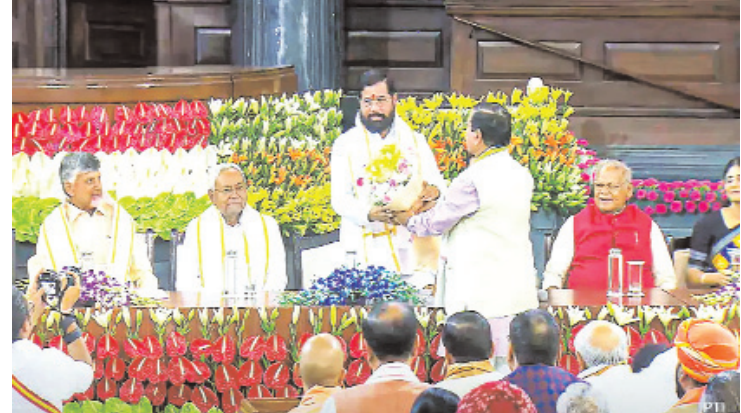
Team Absolute | Pune
Pune court on Friday remanded two doctors and a staffer of Sassoon General Hospital as well as one more person in 14-day judicial custody in connection with the May 19 Porsche crash case. Two IT professionals hailing from Madhya Pradesh were killed after their motorcycle was hit by a speeding Porsche car allegedly driven by a drunk minor boy in the early hours that day in Kalyani Nagar here. Dr Ajay Taware, Dr Shrihari Halnor and Atul Ghatkamble, all attached to Sassoon General Hospital, and Amar Gaikwad were produced in the court of district additional sessions judge VR Kachare, who remanded them in judicial custody for 14 days. Taware, Halnor and Ghatkamble are accused of conspiring with the juvenile's parents to replace blood samples meant for tests



to detect alcohol consumption. Gaikwad worked as the middleman between the accused doctors and the juvenile's father, as per police. Investigating officer (IO) Sunil Tambe told court the police custody of Gaikwad and another alleged middleman Ashpak Makandar was ending on June 10 but the magisterial custody remand (MCR) of Gaikwad was being sought since crucial information regarding his role was being generated.

No Break Up: Eknath Shinde's assurance to BJP

Team Absolute | New Delhi/Mumbai
Short of a majority for the first time since Narendra Modi became Prime Minister in 2014, the BJP got strong assurances of support from its allies at an NDA meeting on Friday. Backing a proposal to make Modi the Prime Minister again, Eknath Shinde, Maharashtra chief minister and head of the fourth-largest party in the NDA this time, said the Shiv Sena's bond with the party was a strong one and would not break easily. The Shiv Sena chief used a line from a popular advertisement and said, "Yeh Fevicol ka jod hai, tootega nahin (this is a Fevicol bond, it's not going to break)". For the uninitiated, Fevicol is one of India's leading adhesive brands and ran a series of popular advertise-



ments on its strong adhesion properties. One of the ads showed two pieces of wood stuck with Fevicol getting the better of a few people and even an elephant tugging at them. Addressing the NDA meeting after senior BJP leaders and some alliance members extended their support to PM Modi, Shinde said in Hindi, "Today is a historic and golden day."

(Senior BJP leader) Rajnath Singh has proposed making Prime Minister Narendra Modi the head of the NDA parliamentary party and, as a party that follows (Shiv Sena founder) Bal Thackeray's ideals, we support this fully." "In the past 10 years, PM Modi has contributed to the development of this country and ensured that India's stature has risen globally. The economy has also been strengthened. No matter how many rumours or false narratives the opposition spreads, they have been rejected by the people and PM Modi has been accepted... What I will say about the Shiv Sena is that the party and the BJP share a common ideology and the alliance, which was formed by Bal Thackeray, is a Fevicol bond and will not break," he added.

Congress May Hit 100 In Lok Sabha With Maharashtra Rebel's Return

Team Absolute | New Delhi/Mumbai
The Congress, which vastly improved its performance but stopped short of a century in Lok Sabha results announced on Tuesday, has added one more MP to its tally. Vishal Patil, a Congress rebel who won as an independent candidate from Maharashtra, extended support to the party on Thursday. The Congress won 99 seats in the election. "With Vishal Patil's support, the Congress' strength will go up to 100 in Lok Sabha," Congress MLA Vishwajit Kadam, who had fought for him within the party, said. The grandson of former Maharashtra chief minister Vasantdada Patil, Vishal Patil won the Lok Sabha election from the Sangli seat, defeating the BJP's Sanjaykaka Patil. He had rebelled and contested as an independent after the Sangli parliamentary seat was assigned to the Shiv Sena-UBT in the seat-sharing arrangement among



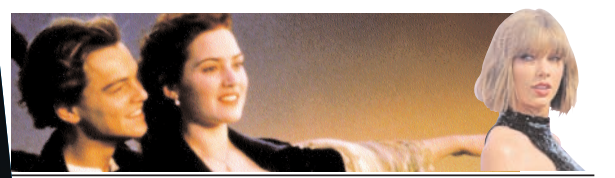
the Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi (MVA) partners. In a post on X, Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge said, "Welcoming the support of elected MP from Sangli, Shri Vishal Patil (@patilvishalp) to the Congress party". The Uddhav Thackeray Sena faction's move to announce its own candidate even before a seat pact had caused some friction in the Maharashtra opposition alliance. The Congress had repeatedly appealed to the Sena to

Monsoon likely to reach Mumbai by June 9-10

Team Absolute | Mumbai
On Thursday, the monsoon marked its arrival in Maharashtra by moving into the southern Konkan region, according to the DDG of the Mumbai Regional Meteorological Centre. "The monsoon rains arrived in Maharashtra on June 6 by entering from the southern Konkan region and it will advance up to Ratnagiri and Solapur by the morning of the day," the DDG of the Regional Meteorological Centre of Mumbai told media. Addressing the question about monsoon arrival in Mumbai, the official stated, "The next four days are quite favourable for the advancement of the monsoon in Maharashtra and it is expected to arrive in Mumbai by June 9-June 10." Telangana witnessed early monsoon and will have good rainfall compared to the previous year, said Hyderabad Meteorological Centre on Thursday. Sravani, a scientist at Hyderabad Meteorological Centre, said that the monsoons have already hit Southern India from May 30 starting from Kerala. It is moving very fast towards Maharashtra. Telangana has received a good amount of rainfall in the last two days. On Wednesday morning, however, a number of Mumbai neighbourhoods,



including Dadar, Chembur, Kandiwali, Goregaon, Borivali, etc., were battered by intense pre-monsoon rains. The premonsoon showers brought much-needed relief from the heat for the people of the city. According to the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), Dadar and Kandivli received about 4 millimetres of rain on Wednesday. Meanwhile, areas of Chembur and Gandhi Market in Matunga experienced waterlogging due to the heavy rains. The India Meteorological Department (IMD), in its latest Mumbai weather update, has predicted a partly cloudy sky with light rainfall and thundershower for Mumbai on Monday. The weather department has forecast a partly cloudy sky with the possibility of light rain and thundershower in Mumbai and its suburbs on Friday. Amid the expected arrival of monsoon, a high tide of about 4.67 metres is expected to hit Mumbai at 12.50 pm today, stated Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC). The civic body also said that a low tide of about 1.75 metres is expected at 6.55 pm today. The minimum temperature in the city is likely to be recorded at 29 degrees Celsius and the maximum temperature is expected to settle at 35 degrees Celsius. Last month, Mumbai witnessed unseasonal rain with gusty winds during which a hoarding collapsed in the Ghatkopar area, claiming several lives.



Why Khloe Kardashian Hasn't Dated in Two Years

Los Angeles | Agencies

Khloé Kardashian isn't rushing back into the dating pool, she clarified during the latest episode of *The Kardashians*. While speaking with Scott Disick in the Thursday, June 6, episode, the 39-year-old mom of two made it loud and clear that she doesn't want to date yet.

"Everyone has been really judgy about how I spend my time because I'm not dating," Khloé said during a confessional, before referring to her last relationships with ex Tristan Thompson. "I stopped dating Tristan when Tatum was in utero. Two and a half years is not that crazy!"

While noting, "This is life, we all gotta grow up and move on," in her confessional, the *Good American* founder doubled down on her reasoning while discussing it with Scott, 41.

"I don't want to," she told Scott. "Once I'm done with the kids at 9 [p.m.], I have limited time. I have to be up at 4:30 [a.m.], 9 p.m. to 4:30 a.m. - that's my time. I'm not sharing it with a man. I'm not sharing my TV. I'm not sharing my bed."

"I have no idea how you're supposed to date when you have kids," she explained. "Because I'm not bringing you to my home where my kids are, and I'm not going to your home where you're gonna chop me up in your basement and kill me. And I'm also not going to a public restaurant or space where people can take pictures and you're gonna be another notch on my belt in the public's eye. I don't f**king think so!"



American Idol's Mandisa's Cause of Death Revealed

Los Angeles | Agencies

Late singer-songwriter Mandisa's cause of death has been revealed, according to a new autopsy report released on Wednesday, June 5. Per PEOPLE, Mandisa died from "complications of class III obesity." The outlet further reported that she was found dead on April 18 in her home and "was last known alive approximately three weeks" beforehand.

According to the Cleveland Clinic, class III obesity was formerly known as "morbid obesity." It is a chronic condition when a person has a body mass index of 40 or higher or 35 or higher along with obesity-related health issues. Class III obesity can lead to heart disease and other conditions but is manageable.

On April 19, Mandisa's family confirmed her death to the outlet in a statement.

"We can confirm that yesterday Mandisa was found in her home deceased," they wrote in the statement. "At this time we do not know the cause of death or any further details. We ask for your prayers for her family and close knit circle of friends during this incredibly difficult time."



JENNIFER ANISTON NEVER IMAGINED 'FRIENDS' WOULD BE SUCH A HUGE SUCCESS

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Jennifer Aniston, who found international fame as Rachel Green in *'Friends'*, said that she "never thought" the sitcom would become such a huge success and still be popular 30 years on from its debut.

Speaking during an interview at Variety's *'Actors on Actors'* series, Aniston said: "The fact that it's had this long, wonderful life and it still means a lot to people is one of the greatest gifts I think all five of us -- all six of us -- we never could imagine."

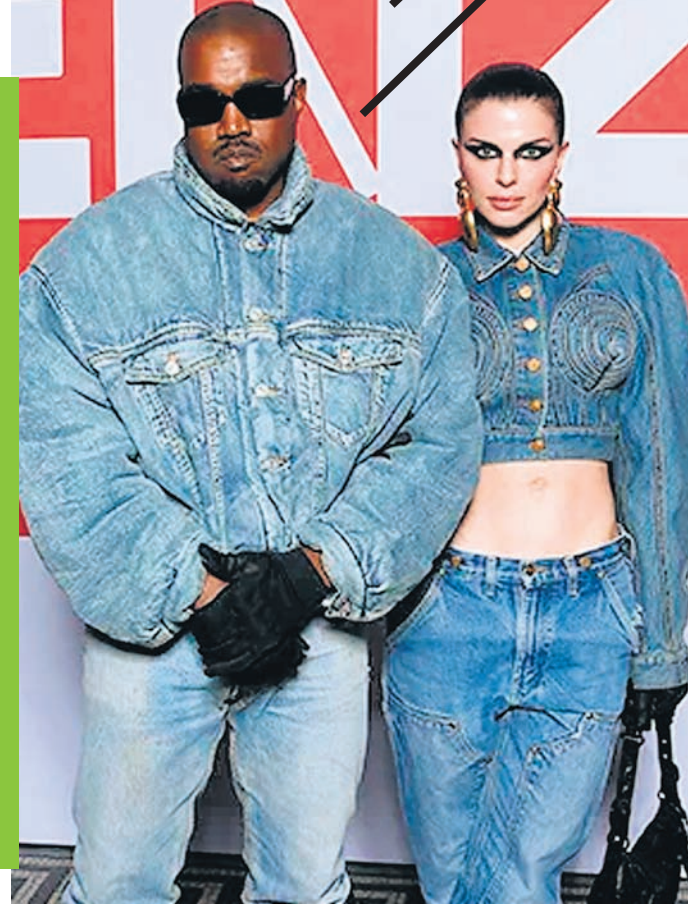
Aniston starred alongside names such as Lisa Kudrow, Courteney Cox, Matt LeBlanc, David Schwimmer, and the late Matthew Perry, who passed away in October 2023 at the age of 54, in the show.

"And we see each other. I talked on FaceTime with Court (Cox) last night for an hour, and Lisa and the boys, and we just have a really -- it's a family forever."

'Friends' ran for 10 seasons from 1994 until 2004, and Aniston reminisced about that on the day the first episode premiered, she and Perry went to play a prank on Kudrow, who was getting her hair coloured in a nearby salon, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

She said: "Matthew Perry and I were having lunch somewhere, and we knew Lisa (Kudrow) was getting her hair coloured. So we ran into the hair salon, and I snuck up -- she was in the sink -- and I took the nozzle from the guy that was supposed to be doing it and just started washing her hair. It definitely flew out of control, and that was unfortunate. But the excitement we had, it feels like yesterday."

ANYTHING I REALLY WANT TO DO, THEN I'LL DO IT. I DON'T CARE THAT I'M FAMOUS : DOLLY PARTON



Los Angeles | Agencies

Country music icon Dolly Parton shared that one of the few things that would make her "pull way back" would be if her husband "needed" her.

Parton has been married to Carl Thomas Dean since 1966, has released almost 50 studio albums since beginning her career in the late 1960s and has starred in a string of movies.

Asked if she has any plans to retire, Parton told *'Entertainment Tonight'*: "Not today. Maybe someday I may have to. I've always said

that if my husband was in ill health or needed me, I would most definitely pull way back."

Her comments come days after the *'Jolene'* hitmaker said that she doesn't really "care" about being world-famous.

"Anything I really want to do, then I'll do it. I don't care that I'm famous."

She was asked what "scares" her in life and admitted that she finds it difficult to live in a world where some people are "nuts and crazy" while the population has to figure out how to navigate that, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

"It scares me that people are not better to one another and that we have to live in a world where people are nuts and crazy and you have to try to figure out how you're going to manoeuvre all around that."

Parton also shared that had she not "made it" in showbiz, she would've followed a career in beauty.

She said: "Had I not been in showbusiness, if I hadn't made it, I probably would have been a beautician because I still would've had all that hair and makeup."

Los Angeles | Agencies

Reality TV star Kim Kardashian, who is a mother of four children, seemed to have had a breakdown after hiding in the bathroom from her kids during a work call. In an episode of *'The Kardashians'*, Kim had a tough time balancing her work with caring for her children Psalm, Chicago, Saint and North, whom she has with her former husband and rapper Kanye West, reports people.com.

While going for her jury duty, Kim speaks about how chaotic her household was that day.

"Oh my God. No, what I wanted to say was that I had a Zoom interview at the house with all my kids there banging on the door, just screaming. And I was literally hiding in a bathroom with the door locked. And I was just like, 'I can't believe this. I mean, I can believe it.'"

"I'm open to anything at this point because I can't live like this. I ran out of patience and that's what my superpower was, being calm and patient," she added. She then says that she wants to try to be more strict like her sister Khloe Kardashian.

"Sometimes it gets just a little intense. I want to be more strict like Khloe but I don't know why I have a hard time just saying, 'No is no.' I think I also don't want to deal with the whining and the tears of not getting their way."

"They know when to come and when to throw the little, you know, start with the tears so that I like, 'Stop, stop. Sure. Take your iPad, you know, just stop,'" Kim revealed.

"I just have to be like, 'I don't care if you're gonna throw a tantrum in front of everyone. The answer is no.'"

Kim then shared that parenting often takes an emotional toll on her.

"Managing four kids in a household when they're like, not getting along and they all want different things. And I'm only one person," Kim shared.

"This always shuts them up. I always say, 'Okay guys, do you want me to just cut myself in half or in fours and a part will go with you, a part would go with you,' and they look at me like, 'No, don't ever do that!'"

"And I'm like, 'Well, that's the only option if you all want me at the exact same time, you've got to chill. I'll put everyone to bed at a different time. We have to space this out,'" she said.



KIM KARDASHIAN HAS BREAKDOWN AFTER HIDING FROM KIDS DURING WORK CALL

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Barbara Palvin



My life became robotic and monotonous : Kartik Aaryan

Team

Absolute | Mumbai

Actor Kartik Aaryan, who has undergone a major transformation to play India's first Paralympics gold medalist Murlikant Petkar in the upcoming sports drama, shared that the entire process was terrible, and his life became robotic and monotonous. For Kartik, transforming physically for Kabir Khan's directorial biopic took a lot of time.

Kartik talked about why he chose this as his first biopic, whether the transformation was exhausting, and more. The actor, who is known for his work in 'Pyaar Ka PUNCHAMA', said, "In terms of physicality, it took a lot of time. At that time, I did 'FREDDY' and started the shoot of 'SATYAPREM KI KATHA', so there was no requirement of physicality there. So it was my habit-- I was a big foodie, I was eating anything and everything without any restrictions." But the character of Sattu from 'SATYAPREM KI KATHA' was different from playing a character like Murlikant sir, as it is a real-life story -- his achievements, goals, dreams. This was very new for me. Second was dialect. He had Marathi dialect, along with his thought process. For all these things, Kabir sir helped me as he had spent time with Murlisir," said Kartik. Kartik shared that he used to just blindly follow Kabir Khan. "I followed him like a student. And I would like to say that it is 'before Chandu' and 'after Chandu' for me. It's so much of a change that this film has brought into me and in my life," he said.

Whether the transformation took a toll on him mentally, Kartik shared, "This entire process was terrible in a way. As I said I am a big foodie, so for me, not to have food-- mujhe jab tak roti, rice, khane ke baad meetha... ye saari cheezein chahiye... mere saare shauk sab hata diye gaye the. My sleeping pattern was so bad before this. So when we started this, I had to get a proper eight hours of deep sleep." He continued saying, "I started counting calories, burning calories, so there was an automatic shift... my life became robotic and monotonous. Because I used to eat the same food - the meal that was decided. For 1.5 to 2 years, I used to have soup at night and sleep and had no social life. I used to go to my home, gym, swimming pool, and then return to my home."



'KYA KARUN HAI KUCH KUCH HOTA HAI': KAJOL

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Kajol seems to love gorging on donuts

as she said "Kya karun haye kuch kuch hota hai" in her latest post she shared on the occasion of World Donut Day.

World Donut Day is celebrated on the first Friday of June each year in the US and some other countries, succeeding the doughnut event created by The Salvation Army in Chicago in 1938 to honour those of their members who served doughnuts to soldiers during World War I.

Kajol took to her Instagram, where she shared a boomerang video, where she is seen taking a big bite of the chocolate-flavoured donut. To add an extra effect to the video, she added the title track of the 1998 film 'Kuch Kuch Hota Hai' starring Shah Rukh Khan.

For the caption, she wrote, "Kya karun haye kuch kuch hota hai #donutworry-behappy #world donut day."

The musical romantic drama 'Kuch Kuch Hota Hai' marked the debut of filmmaker Karan Johar in 1998. The film also starred Rani Mukerji, Anupam Kher, Archana Puran Singh and Salman Khan in a special appearance. It told the story of two love triangles set years apart. Kajol has been in the industry for almost 32 years.

MARY KOM SHARES HER CHILDHOOD STORY WITH KAPIL



Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Indian women athletes -- Mary Kom, Saina Nehwal and Sania Mirza have opened up about their inspiration, and revealed inspiring tales about their sports journey in the new episode of the comedy chat show 'The Great Indian Kapil Show'.

The 11th episode witnessed the 'Pride of India' -- Mary, Saina, Sift Kaur Samra and Sania. When asked by show host Kapil Sharma who was Sania Mirza's idol, she replied, "I always wanted to be a Tennis player. Back then Steffi Graf was my favourite and I aspired to play and be like her."

During the candid conversation, the Indian Olympic boxer Mary Kom talked about her childhood days, sharing, "I was always enthusiastic about sports. Just like Sania, looking at Steffi Graf, even I liked lawn Tennis a lot as a kid. I wanted to play it once."

"However, I come from a poor family and couldn't afford anything. I really wanted to play lawn tennis in my childhood but I did not have anyone to guide me. But, still, I played sports at my school and in my village with mostly boys. I used to play football and marbles and used to challenge the boys," added Mary.

Continuing the conversation, when Kapil asked how Saina chose Badminton, she said: "Well, I didn't choose badminton. Badminton chose me. Had I not moved to Hyderabad, I wouldn't have got the opportunity. Hyderabad made me into a badminton player and I am happy that I became one. And today, everyone wants to become a badminton or tennis player, and that's because of us."

"RAISE YOUR RACKET!!! ONWARDS TO THE CONTINUED MADNESS!" LARA DUTTA'S BIRTHDAY WISH FOR MAHESH

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Former Miss Universe and actress Lara Dutta on Friday wished her husband and Grand Slam champion Mahesh Bhupathi on his 50th birthday, saying "onwards to the continued madness".

Lara, who featured in Akshay Kumar-starrer action thriller 'Bell Bottom', took to Instagram, where she has 1.4 million followers, and shared a series of unseen pictures with the former Tennis player.

The first snap shows Lara wearing a white and orange floral bikini, with minimal make-up and tied her hair in a top bun. She accessorised the look with funky orange sunglasses and gold hoop earrings.

On the other hand, Mahesh is donning a black and blue printed shirt. The couple is standing close to each other while they pose for the lenses.

The rest of the two photos show the duo posing with their loved ones, while they are on a vacation. Lara penned a sweet birthday note, saying, "Raise your racket!!! Onwards to the continued madness!"

Actress Celina Jaitley commented, "Happy



birthday Biyara Hubby". Lara married Mahesh in February 2011 in Mumbai. The couple have a daughter named Saira. Lara was last featured in the war drama web series 'Ranneeti: Balakot & Beyond'. It stars Ashutosh Rana, Ashish Vidyarthi, Jimmy Shergill and Prasanna in pivotal roles.

Our girl is here Thank u for all the good wishes for the mama and the baby : Varun Dhawan



Team Absolute | Mumbai

New daddy and actor Varun Dhawan on Friday took his newborn daughter and wife Natasha Dalal home from the Hinduja hospital in Mumbai. A video shows Varun, who is dressed in a mustard coloured T-shirt paired with brown pants paired with sunglasses, cradling

his baby girl in his arms as he makes his way to his car from the hospital. Natasha is seen walking behind. The couple went straight into the car. It was on June 3, when Varun and Natasha welcomed their first bundle of joy. Varun took to Instagram on June 4, to make the announcement of the arrival of his first child.

Varun shared on Instagram an e-card featuring his beagle Joey hold-

ing a placard that read, "Welcome Lil' Sis... June 3, 2024." He captioned it: "Our girl is here. Thank u for all the good wishes for the mama and the baby. Hare Rama, Hare Rama, Rama Rama Hare Hare, Hare Krishna Hare Krishna, Krishna Krishna Hare Hare."

Varun and Natasha announced that they were expecting their first-born in February along with a maternity photoshoot.

18th Mumbai International Film Festival opens on June 15

Team Absolute | Mumbai

At a time when young Indian documentary filmmakers, notably Payal Kapadia, Shaunaq Sen, Sushmit Ghosh and Rintu Thomas, are winning international accolades, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) has announced that the 18th edition of the Mumbai International Film Festival (MIFF) will be held from June 15 to 21.

Established in 1980, MIFF is South Asia's oldest running showcase of documentary, short fiction and animation films. The highlight of this year's event, organised, as always, by the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC), will be the first-ever DOC Film Bazaar, or a marketplace for documentary filmmakers to make contacts with potential sponsors and collaborators.

The international jury, according to a communique issued by the ministry, will include eminent film personalities from across the world, such as Keiko Bang, Barthelemy Fougere, Audrius Stonys, Bharat Bala and Manas Choudhary.

The jury will award the 'Golden Conch' for the best documentary film, the 'Silver



Conch' for the best international short fiction film and best animation film, and the 'Prasad Pati Award' for the most innovative/experimental film.

The national jury for the festival includes Adele Seelmann-Eggebert, Dr Bobby Sarma Baruah, Apoorva Bakshi, Munjal Shroff and Anna Henckel-Donnersmarck. The jury members will select the best among the Indian submissions in the documentary, short film, animation, debut film and student film categories.

An award will also be given to the best short film on the theme of 'India in Amrit Kaal'.

MIB Secretary Sanjay Jaju said that while venue for the festival will be the Films

Division-NFDC Complex, Mumbai, MIFF screenings will also be held in Delhi (Siri Fort Auditorium), Chennai (Tagore Film Centre), Pune (NFAI Auditorium) and Kolkata (Satyajit Ray FTI Auditorium).

MIFF has received a record number of submissions -- 1,018 films in 65 languages from 38 nations for the competition sections.

The annual festival will also present packages of award-winning shorts from the Oscars and the Berlinale, and also host eight world, six international, 17 Asian and 15 Indian premieres.

The opening film of the festival will be 'Billy & Molly: An Otter Love Story'. And it will close with the film that wins the Golden Conch.



Rasha Thadani