

Western Times

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News Brief

CM Stalin cuts short his holiday in Kodaikanal, to return to Chennai today

Chennai, May 2 (IANS) Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, who has been on a six-day holiday trip to Kodaikanal hill station with family since April 29, has cut short his visit and will return to Chennai on Thursday.

The Chief Minister's Office confirmed that CM Stalin and his family will return from the hill station on Thursday.

The CM and his family will leave Madurai airport at 4 p.m. and arrive in Chennai by 5 p.m.

It may be recalled that CM Stalin had after the 2021 Assembly election campaign stayed in Kodaikanal. In 2021 DMK returned to power and Stalin became the Chief Minister. After this, Kodaikanal is considered lucky for CM Stalin.

J&K: One killed, 11 injured in Jammu-Srinagar highway accident

Jammu, May 2 (IANS) One person was killed and 11 others have been injured in a road accident on Jammu-Srinagar highway in Jammu & Kashmir's Ramban district.

Officials said that a Tempo carrying the passengers collided with a truck in Sherbisti area of Ramban district, late on Wednesday evening.

"One person was killed on the spot while 11 were shifted to hospital for treatment. Police has taken cognizance of the accident," officials said.

Maneka Gandhi's assets worth Rs 97.17 crore

Sultanpur (Uttar Pradesh), May 2 (IANS) The total assets of eight-time MP, Maneka Sanjay Gandhi are worth Rs 97.17 crore.

This was revealed in the affidavit filed by her on Wednesday in Uttar Pradesh's Sultanpur while filing a nomination from the Sultanpur Lok Sabha seat.

Out of the total assets, Rs 45.97 crore was movable assets and Rs 51.20 crore was immovable. Her bank had Rs 17.83 crore, which was Rs 18.47 crore in 2019. Her earnings showed growth in debentures, shares and bonds which she stated to have gained revenue worth Rs 24.30 crore, which was Rs 5.55 crore in 2019. Similarly, her post office savings also saw growth as she earned Rs 81.01 lakh.

BSP announces six more candidates in UP

Lucknow, May 2 (IANS) The Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) has announced six more candidates for the Lok Sabha elections in Uttar Pradesh.

The party has declared Saurabh Mishra as its candidate for the Gonda Lok Sabha seat and Mohd Nadeem Misra from the Dumariaganj seat. In the Kaiserganj Lok Sabha seat, the BSP candidate will be Narendra Pandey while in Sant Kabir Nagar, Nadeem Ashraf will contest on party symbol.

So far the BSP has announced around 50 candidates in Uttar Pradesh. The party, however, has changed candidates in over a dozen seats in the state.

Congress is dying and Pakistan is crying: PM

Anand (Gujarat), May 2 (UNI) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday took a dig at the Congress for claiming to defend the Constitution and mocked the grand old party's fortune which he said bears its reflection in Pakistan's fate. Addressing a huge public gathering in Anand, Gujarat, the PM said: "Look at the coincidence, today Congress is getting weaker in India. The funny thing is that here Congress is dying and there Pakistan is crying. Now Pakistani leaders are praying for Congress." "Pakistan is eager to make the 'prince' the Prime Minister. And the Congress is already a fan of Pakistan. This partnership between Pakistan and Congress has now been completely exposed."

He said while Modi has been busy 'realising Sardar Saheb's dream of uniting the country, the Congress is busy dividing the country. Congress wants to create fights in the society'. "Before the arrival of Modi, there were 2 constitutions and 2 flags in this country," he said, adding a jibe at Rahul Gandhi without taking his name, "The prince's party Congress and his family members did not allow the Constitution to be implemented in the country. 'The Constitution of India was not applicable in Kashmir. Article 370 was sitting like a wall," he said reminding the audience of the Congress' rule, when the country faced the fate of two Constitutions and two flags one for Jammu and Kashmir and the other for rest of India. Taking full credit of the abrogation in 2019, Modi said: "This son from Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's land demolished Article 370 and paid tribute to Sardar Saheb. Sardar sahab left



PM Narendra Modi addresses a public meeting for Lok Sabha elections, in Surendranagar on Thursday.

too early, and the country has suffered a great loss because of him. I have it in my mind that I should try to fulfil Sardar Saheb's dreams. He targeted the Congress and its "prince" for "dancing with the Constitution on their heads", and said that the party should answer: "Why the Constitution was not implemented in all parts of India for 75 years?" Because of Congress, PM Modi said there were various kinds of tamperings with the Constitution for decades. Modi said while Congress' decades-long rule was a "reign", Modi's decade has been one of "service to the nation". "That was the reign, this is the decade of service. Today the whole country is saying with confidence — Modi government once again," said the prime minister to a rousing crowd as he counted his government's achievements since 2014.

UP CM Yogi slams Kharge's statement on Ram and Shiva

Lucknow, May 2 (IANS) Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on Thursday, slammed Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge for his statement on Lord Ram and Shiva and said that the Congress party is now resorting to insulting the beliefs of the Hindu community to vent its frustration over impending defeat in the Lok Sabha elections 2024.

Yogi Adityanath said that in the Sanatan Dharma, Lord Ram and Lord Shiva hold great reverence. He pointed out that in the epic Ramcharitmanas, there are instances where Lord Ram worships Lord Shiva and vice versa, illustrating their mutual respect and complementarity. The chief minister condemned the attempt

to pit Lord Ram against Lord Shiva in speeches of Congress leaders. He further said, "Our scriptures bear testimony to the fact that betrayal of either Lord Shiva or Lord Ram inevitably leads to defeat and downfall." He remarked the Congress president's recent derogatory remarks are a "new beginning of the party's downfall."

Addressing the media at his official residence, he said, "The Congress history is replete with such actions. Yet, during elections, such tactless behaviour becomes conspicuous. By bringing up such issues, the Congress is not only disrespecting the faith of India, but also hurting the sentiments of the majority community." He further said, "The

Congress carries forward the British legacy of 'Divide and Rule'. It sows the seeds of discord in society based on caste, region, and language for petty political gains. The party will continue its divisive agenda in future also to stay relevant in Indian politics."

Yogi Adityanath highlighted the pledge made by the Congress in its manifesto to include Muslims also among the beneficiaries of the reservation meant for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Classes.

The CM criticised the party leader for not only undermining the Hindu faith but also steering Congress towards oblivion through such divisive actions.

SC orders bar association to reserve minimum 1/3rd posts for women

New Delhi, May 2 (IANS) The Supreme Court on Thursday directed the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) to reserve at least 1/3rd posts for women in its executive committee.

Asking SCBA to implement the quota henceforth, a bench presided over by Justice Surya Kant said that the post of treasurer will be reserved for women in the ensuing 2024-25 elections.

The Bench, also comprising Justice KV Viswanathan, added that one post of the office-bearers will be reserved for women on a rotation basis.

It clarified that the directions issued by the apex court would not exclude women from contesting other SCBA posts. In effect, one post of the office-bearers, two senior executive members and three executive members will be mandatorily reserved for women. Earlier in February this year, the Delhi High Court was apprised by SCBA that the General Body Meeting (GBM) will be convened within two months to discuss the nomination of women advocates as Executive Members. A bench of Justice Sudhir Kumar Jain was dealing with a plea filed by advocate Yogamaya MG seeking to convene the meeting to address the issue of gender representation within the SCBA.

The petitioner had urged the SCBA to consider a representation signed by 270 members addressing the issue of lack of female representation in the executive committee.

16.7 kg tumour 'hanging like a gunny bag' removed from man's back

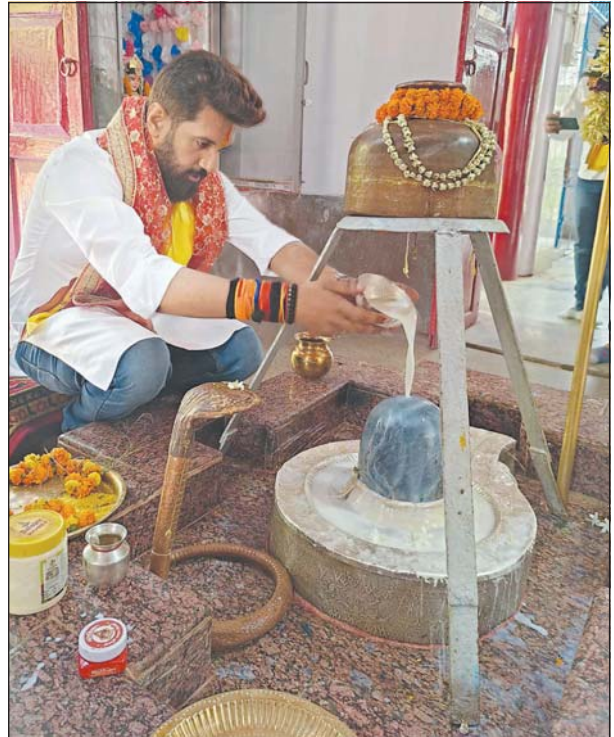
Gurugram, May 2 (IANS) A massive tumour weighing 16.7 kgs and "hanging like a gunny bag" on the back of a 27-year-old man has successfully been removed in a 10-hour lasting complex surgery.

The man hailing from the Pacific Islands has been carrying the non-cancerous tumour sized 58x50 cms since 2008, said the doctors at the Fortis Memorial Research Institute (FMRI), Gurugram.

"Giant neurofibroma is a type of peripheral nerve tumour that forms soft bumps on or under the skin which can grow to very large size gradually over a longer period," said Niranjan Naik, Senior Director, Surgical Oncology, FMRI.

Genetic abnormalities lead to such tumours, "which can hamper the quality of life of the patient by restricting mobility, causing cosmetic disfigurement, discomfort or pain and occasionally heavy bleeding due to bed sore formation", the doctor said.

Due to the high risk associated with the tumour's size and complexity of the case, the young patient was denied surgery at several hospitals in different countries.



PATNA, Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) President and NDA candidate for Hajipur constituency Chirag Paswan offering prayer at a temple at Khagaul before filing nomination for the Lok Sabha elections, in Patna on Thursday. UNI

Gehlot says Congress manifesto most impressive since Independence

Ahmedabad, May 2 (IANS) Former Chief Minister of Rajasthan Ashok Gehlot said on Thursday that the Congress has prepared the most impressive manifesto since Independence.

Gehlot was in Ahmedabad campaigning for Congress and expressed concern over the current political discourse. He criticized Prime Minister Narendra Modi for allegedly making "unfounded comments about the Congress manifesto without having read it."

"The Congress has prepared the most impressive manifesto since Independence, and the Prime Minister has no right to criticize it without fully understanding it," Gehlot said. He commended Rahul Gandhi's efforts, which he said were reflected in the manifesto, to address the

needs of every class. Highlighting the broader implications of the government's actions, Gehlot pointed to the misuse of enforcement agencies, claiming, "In the country, the ED and CBI are working illegally, which is a risk to our democracy." He also referred to international concerns, noting, "The UN has spoken about what is happening in India."

Gehlot said in a direct attack on the BJP's electoral promises. "Promises were made but not fulfilled. Modi's guarantee was there in 2014 about black money, Rs 15 lakh in accounts, and doubling farmers' income, but whose guarantee was that?"

Gehlot's speech ended on a critical note regarding the recently introduced Agniveer scheme, questioning the prospects for the youth involved after four years.

Earlier, while leaving for Gujarat, Ashok Gehlot said in Jaiपुर that Congress will win the LS polls with a double-digit score in Rajasthan.

"I went to 22 constituencies during the LS polls and hence am aware that Congress will win with a double-digit score in Rajasthan."

TN quarry blast: 12L compensation for victims' families

Chennai, May 2 (IANS) The management of the Kariapatti stone quarry in Tamil Nadu's Virudhunagar district will pay a compensation of Rs 12 lakh each to the family members of the persons who were killed in an explosion in the storage room of the quarry on Wednesday. The explosion resulted in thick clouds of smoke engulfing the quarry, leading to the collapse of a nearby warehouse. The residents in the vicinity of the quarry also felt the tremors of the blast.

According to the district officials, the management of the quarry has announced that it would hand over Rs 50,000 in cash to the families of each of the deceased, along with a cheque of Rs 11,50,000. The police said that after the explosion, the bodies of the victims were found buried under the debris.

HM doctored video case: Police team visits Congress office in Telangana

New Delhi, May 2 (IANS) In its ongoing probe into Home Minister Amit Shah's doctored video case, a team of Delhi Police's Special Cell on Thursday visited 'Gandhi Bhawan', the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee headquarters in Hyderabad, sources said.

The sources also said the team met local police in Telangana and sought details about a few leaders, who were served notices.

Recently, after the end of the second phase of Lok Sabha polls, a doctored video of Union Home Minister Amit Shah went viral on social media, where his statement indicating a commitment to abolish reservation quotas for Muslims in the state was changed to make it

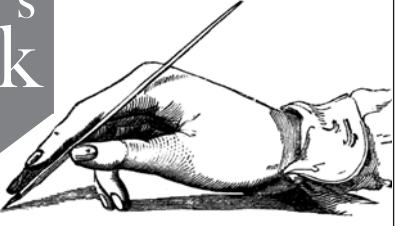
seem that he was advocating the scrapping of all reservations. On Sunday, Delhi Police registered an FIR after two complaints were received by it, one from the BJP and another from the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). The case has been registered under Sections 153, 153A, 465, 469, and 171G of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Section 66C of the Information Technology (IT) Act. Meanwhile, the investigators are yet to receive any response from social media giants X and Meta in connection with a doctored video, a source in the Delhi Police's Special Cell told IANS.

Three persons have been arrested for circulating the fake video so far, two in Gujarat and one in Assam.



RAMGARH, Dr.Vimal Kumar, Superintendent of Police (Ramgarh District) with other police officers addressing media-persons during a press meet soon after arrest of 3-culprits with two country-made pistols and several cartridges during a massive raid in the election period under Patratu PS in Ramgarh district of Jharkhand on Thursday. UNI

From Editor's Desk



One year after Manipur violence, what the state needs

Manipur requires a combination of economic, political and administrative remedies.

A year after it was jolted by ethnic violence, Manipur continues to be on the edge. The state has not seen large-scale violence in the last eight months. However, lives continue to be lost in clashes between Meiteis and Kuki-Zomis, belying Chief Minister Biren Singh's repeated claims of peace "gradually returning" to the strife-torn areas. The scars created by the conflict are admittedly deep - more than 200 people have lost their lives, families languish in refugee camps and there have been reports of gruesome violence against women. Vigilante groups continue to take the law into their hands. But great harm has also been done by the state government's lack of will to initiate a meaningful dialogue between the warring communities. That much needs to be done to repair the broken trust between neighbours was underscored by an incident two days after the conclusion of round two of the Lok Sabha polls. One person lost his life and two others were injured after residents of two adjoining villages waged a gun battle in the early hours of Sunday. A day earlier, two CRPF personnel were killed and two others sustained injuries following a blast at the paramilitary force's outpost in Bishnupur district - one of the most brazen attacks on security forces in the past year. Violence against security forces has, in fact, been one of the recurring features of the conflict, highlighting that force alone cannot quell a situation that requires sensitivity and compassion in equal measure.

After the first conflagration on May 3 last year, Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced the formation of a committee with representatives from different ethnicities, political parties and civil society, to begin the process of healing. That the committee ran into internal differences soon after does have much to do with the complexities of Manipur's society. The situation is also made more fraught by landholding patterns and the continuing impact of colonial policies that segregated the state's tribal-dominated hill areas from the Meitei-dominant Imphal Valley. But in the past year, Singh's government has done very little to assure communities, especially the hill tribes, that his administration is above the identity politics that has pushed the state to the brink.



Seoul, May 2 (IANS) Six out of every 10 South Korean school children spend more hours studying than recommended, a survey by a children's welfare foundation showed on Thursday.

ChildFund Korea released the result after surveying 10,140 students from elementary freshmen to high-school sophomores in December, Yonhap news agency reported.

Of those surveyed, 65.1 per cent were spending longer hours studying than deemed appropriate, while nearly 13 per cent of the middle and high school students surveyed thought the time they normally spend

65 pc of children in South Korea spend 'excessive' hours on studies: Survey

studying to be "excessive."

The survey showed the average study hours outside schools reached two hours and 17 minutes for lower-year elementary schoolers and two hours and 47 minutes for higher-year elementary school students.

The corresponding figures for middle and high school students were three hours and 12 minutes and three hours and 33 minutes, respectively.

Based on relevant data, the foundation recommended study time, except for school hours, to be less than an hour for lower-year el-

ementary schoolers and less than two hours for higher-year elementary schoolers.

Up to two-and-a-half hours of studying was recommended for middle school students, and up to three hours for high schoolers.

The survey also noted that 18.8 per cent of children slept less than recommended.

Elementary schoolers slept nine hours on average, while the corresponding averages for middle and high school students stood at seven hours and 51 minutes and six hours and 32 minutes, respectively. More than 60 per cent

of those surveyed were found to spend their free time watching videos on smartphones at home alone, rather than spending time with friends or family.

Some (over 13 per cent) also suffered from insomnia, attributable, most of all, to late-night smartphone use, noise, or other environmental reasons and unfinished tasks, according to the survey. The foundation urged the government to provide national guidelines to guarantee sleep hours and reduce study time for children to help them achieve a balanced lifestyle.--IANS

Several multimillionaires in the fray in Andhra Pradesh

Amaravati, May 2 (IANS) Several multimillionaires are in the fray for simultaneous elections to the Andhra Pradesh Assembly and Lok Sabha with Telugu Desam Party (TDP) candidate from Guntur Lok Sabha constituency, Pemmasani Chandra Sekhar leading the list.

With family assets of more than Rs.5,705 crore, the NRI medical professional may be the richest candidate in the country.

Founder and CEO of 'UWorld', he is making his electoral debut in the May 13 election.

Hailing from Burrupalem village of Guntur district, Chandra Sekhar did MBBS from Osmania Medical College in Hyderabad in 1999. Later, he moved to the US and completed post-graduation.

The 48-year-old has done M.D. in internal medicine at Geisinger Medical Centre in Danville, Pennsylvania. He served as a faculty at Johns Hopkins University and practices as a physician.

Andhra Pradesh is heading for simultaneous elections to the 175-member Assembly and all 25 Lok Sabha seats. The list of wealthy candidates has only gone up.

The majority of the rich candidates are from the main opposition TDP. The list includes industrialists, businessmen and actors.

TDP president and former chief minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, who is seeking re-election from Kuppam Assembly constituency in Chittoor district, has declared his family assets at Rs 931.83 crore. His wife Bhuvaneshwari accounts for the lion's share of this property - Rs. 895.47 crore.

The couple's assets grew by 39 per cent in the last five years. Their assets were valued at Rs 668 crore in 2019.

The 74-year-old, who served as chief minister of united Andhra Pradesh and residuary Andhra Pradesh for 14 years, is once again aspiring to occupy the top post.

Chandrababu Naidu's son and TDP general

secretary Nara Lokesh has declared family assets of Rs 542 crore. His assets have gone up by 45 per cent in five years.

After unsuccessfully contesting for Assembly from Mangalagiri constituency, he is again testing his electoral fortunes from the same segment.

Chandrababu Naidu's brother-in-law and Tollywood actor N. Balakrishna has declared family assets of about Rs 483 crore. His assets



grew by 67 per cent since 2019.

Balakrishna, son of TDP founder and former chief minister N. T. Rama Rao, is seeking re-election for Assembly from Hindupur for a third consecutive term.

The 63-year-old is also father-in-law of Naidu's son and TDP general secretary Nara Lokesh.

TDP leader P. Narayana, who is contesting for Assembly from Nellore City, owns family assets of Rs. 824.05 crore. The former minister is the founder of Narayana group,

which has educational institutions in both the Telugu states. He had declared family assets of Rs 669 crore in 2019.

Jana Sena Party candidate for Nellore constituency in Vizianagaram district Lokam Naga Madhavi has declared family assets worth Rs. 898.73 crore. Most of the assets are in the name of her husband V. N. V. Prasad. Both are entrepreneurs.

Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy is one of the richest candidates with declared family assets of 757.65 crore.

The YSR Congress Party chief's family assets grew by more than 48 per cent in the last five years. In 2019, he had declared family assets of Rs 510.35 crore.

Jagan Mohan Reddy's own assets increased from Rs 375 crore in 2019 to Rs 529.87 crore while that

of his wife Bharti Reddy mounted to Rs 176.30 crore from Rs 124 crore five years ago. Jagan Mohan Reddy's sister and Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee president Y. S. Sharmila Reddy and her husband own assets of Rs 181.79 crore. TDP's Vemireddy Prabhakar Reddy, who is contesting for Lok Sabha from Nellore, has declared family assets of Rs 716.31 crore.

Jana Sena leader and Tollywood actor politician Konidala Pawan Kalyan has family assets of Rs 164.52

crore, up by over 215 per cent during the last five years.

Pawan Kalyan, who filed his nomination for Pithapuram constituency in Kakinada district, had assets worth over Rs 52 crore in 2019.

He has declared assets in his name and the name of his wife Konidala Anna (formerly known as Anna Lezhneva) and four dependent children.

Pawan Kalyan had made an unsuccessful electoral debut in 2019. He had lost both Assembly seats he contested.

TDP candidate from Visakhapatnam Lok Sabha Sribharat Mathukumili, has declared assets of Rs 296 crore. He is the son-in-law of Balakrishna and co-brother of Lokesh. He had narrowly lost to MVV Satyanarayana of YSRCP in 2019.

TDP candidate from Undi Assembly seat Raghu Rama Krishna Raju has assets of Rs 2,21.9 crore. State minister and YSRCP candidate from Punganur Assembly constituency Peddireddy Ramachandra Reddy is estimated to be worth Rs 235.39 crore. His son and YSRCP candidate from Rajampet Lok Sabha seat, P. V. Midhun Reddy, has assets of Rs 211.33.

YSRCP's Mekapati Vikram Reddy, contesting from Atmakur Assembly seat, has assets worth Rs 209.22 crore.

Why the BJP in UP is confident in the midst of elections

Lucknow, May 2 (IANS) The Ram Temple, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's charisma, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's magic, organisational skills, the loyalty of 'labharthis' (beneficiaries of government schemes), focus on OBCs and bulldozer politics -- the BJP's recipe for the 2024 Lok Sabha polls in UP seems to be working perfectly.

Even as PM Modi's charisma and CM Adityanath's popularity continue to be the BJP's mainstay in politics, the BJP is adding on factors to ensure that it maintains its successful run in UP in the General Elections.

The party knows that with 80 seats, UP will play a crucial role in the formation of the next government at the Centre.

BJP cadres are confident that CM Adityanath's growing stature as a Hindu leader, his tough image as an administrator and his all-pervasive charisma will ensure a resounding victory for the BJP in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

After the 2022 Assembly win, it is the 'Yogi factor' that has been working overtime in bye-elections and the recent municipal polls, to ensure a sweeping win for the BJP.

The BJP in UP, so far, has only one strategy and that is to keep the cadres mobilised for elections and to revisit each booth with regular frequency - especially after the dip in the polling percentage in the first two

phases. "We have charismatic leaders like PM Modi and CM Yogi and all we need to do is prevent our foot soldiers from becoming complacent. Our 'panna pramukhs' and 'vistaraks' are on the job and our leaders are working on the seats where the party seems comparatively weak," said a party functionary.

The BJP, meanwhile, has already changed candidates in some seats to counter the anti-incumbency factor.



For the BJP, the tone of the campaign highlights the failures of the Opposition, nepotism and corruption.

A fragmented Opposition, with the BSP forcing a triangular contest, is making things easier for a saffron wave.

The BJP is focusing on the 'labharthi' vote bank, of which the minorities and Dalits form a large chunk.

"These are the groups that have benefitted from the schemes of the

Central and state governments and we are reaching out to them. It is not a question of caste or religion but a question of have-nots receiving benefits," the party functionary said.

For the middle class and the upper castes, CM Adityanath's bulldozer campaign against the mafia is also a part of the party's election strategy.

"Traders and builders are no longer complaining of extortion and land is not being usurped by the mafia. This is being used to advantage in the campaign," the functionary added.

The BJP, despite the factors weighing in its favour, is not allowing complacency to creep in.

The party has already brought back its estranged ally - the Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party (SBSP) - and also leaders like Dara Singh Chauhan who had left the party last year.

SBSP leader Rajbhar is now singing paeans to the BJP which is also confident of making inroads in OBC votes, particularly in eastern UP.

The party's social media team has been rebooted to challenge the Opposition and counter critics.

As for star campaigners, the BJP is not looking towards film stars and cricketers.

"Who needs celebrities when we have Modi and Yogi?" asked the functionary--IANS

Non-bailable warrants cannot be issued in a routine manner: SC

New Delhi, May 2 (IANS) In the latest judgment, the Supreme Court has said that non-bailable warrants cannot be issued in a routine manner unless the accused is charged with a heinous crime and is likely to evade the process of law or destroy/tamper evidence. A bench presided over by Justice Sanjiv Khanna said that while there is no comprehensive set of guidelines for the issuance of non-bailable warrants, the apex court has observed on several occasions that non-bailable warrants should not be issued, unless the accused is charged with a heinous crime, and is likely to evade the process of law or tamper/destroy evidence.

Quashing the summoning order, the Bench, also comprising Justice SVN Bhatti, said, "It is a settled position of law that non-bailable warrants should not be issued, unless the accused is charged with a heinous crime, and is likely to evade the process of law or tamper/destroy evidence." "The observation that there is no provision for granting exemption from personal appearance prior to obtaining bail, is not correct, as the power to grant exemption from personal appearance under the Code (of Criminal Procedure) should not be read in a restrictive manner as applicable only after the accused has been granted bail. It asked the trial court to re-examine the entire matter in terms of the observations made in its judgment and thereupon proceed in accordance with the law.

Congress chief writes to PM Modi, says our votebank is every Indian

New Delhi, May 2 (IANS) Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Thursday wrote a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi in reply to the PM's letter to Phase 3 candidates, saying that their 'guarantees are simple and votebank is every Indian.

Posting his letter on X, Kharge said, "...In your letter, you claim that reservation will be taken away from SC, ST and OBC and given to 'our (Congress's) votebank. Our votebank is every Indian - the poor, the marginalised, the women, the aspirational youth, the labour class, the Dalits and the Adivasis."

Kharge said that voters are intelligent enough to read and understand by themselves what the Congress has written in its manifesto and what guarantees they have promised. "Our guarantees are so simple and clear, that we don't have to explain it to them," he said.

The Congress chief said, "We have heard you and the Home Minister say that Congress is practising appeasement politics. The only appeasement policy that we have seen in the last 10 years is the appeasement of Chinese by you and your ministers. Even today, you refuse to call China as 'Ghushpaihiye', instead on June 19, 2020, you said Na Koi Ghusha Hai, Na Hi Koi Ghusha Aaya hai, insulting the supreme sacrifice of 20 Indian soldiers in Galwan. Your

public 'Clean Chit' to China, has weakened India's case and made it more belligerent. Even as tensions escalate due to repeated Chinese transgressions and construction of military infrastructure near LAC in Arunachal Pradesh, Ladakh and Uttarakhand, the imports of Chinese goods to India has (sic) increased by 54.76 % in the past 5 years alone and has crossed 101 billion dollar in 2023-24."

He said in his letter, "I saw the letter written by you to all the NDA candidates about what they need to communicate to the voters. From the tone and content of the letter it seems that there is a lot of desperation and worry in you which is leading you to use language that does not suit the office of the Prime Minister. The letter makes it look like the lies in your speeches are not having the effect you intended and now you want your candidates to amplify your lies. Repeating a lie a thousand times will not make it the truth."

"He further said, "Your letter lies that Congress wants to bring Inheritance Tax when it is your former Finance Minister and your party leaders who have repeatedly mentioned they want Inheritance Tax. The letter also mentioned, "I see from your letter that you are worried by the low turnout of voters in the first two phases of the elections."

Doctors say that parents should safeguard their children by following the proper immunisation schedule

Ahmedabad, 30th April: This World Immunisation Week (24th-30th April) marks the 50th anniversary of the World Health Organization's Expanded Program on Immunisation (EPI) [1]. This milestone commemorates the legacy of global immunisation efforts and serves as a reminder of the countless lives saved and communities protected through vaccination over the past five decades. In India, the Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP) has been successful in expanding immunisation coverage to more than 90% children [2]. Although coverage in the first year is high, dropout rates after 1st birthday increase. A significant number of children in the country remain partially vaccinated [3].

Vaccination plays a critical role in safeguarding children between the ages of 1-2 against multiple diseases. Vaccination averted 37 million childhood deaths in lower and middle-income countries between

2000 and 2019 [4]. The Indian Academy of Pediatrics (IAP) recommends seven vaccinations* for children of this age group, first and second dose of varicella and hepatitis A, second dose of meningitis# and MMR, booster doses of PCV and DTP Hib IPV, and annual dose of flu [5].

Speaking on the importance of immunisation, Dr. Raju C Saha, MD, D Ped, FIAP, FRCPCH(UK), National President, IAP (2005), President, Pediatric Association of SAARC (2005-8), Ankur Institute of Child Health, Ahmedabad says, "Immunisation is not just about protecting individuals, it's about safeguarding entire communities against preventable diseases. Children below the age of 5 years, particularly those with asthma, kidney disease, or heart disease, face a higher risk of complications and hospitalisation from vaccine-preventable diseases. Vaccination can protect children from complications of serious infec-

tions."

A child's developing immunity is often unable to fight against multiple infections. Complete immunisation protects children against serious infections and their complications. The burden of hospitalisation is reduced. Immunised children can achieve their physical and cognitive milestones on time. Immunisation also helps to develop 'herd immunity' and prevents community outbreaks. Complete compliance with the Immunisation schedule is an effective tool to create a blanket of safety [6]. This World Immunisation Week, parents are encouraged to speak to their doctor to know more about the complete immunisation schedule recommended by the IAP to provide their children with the best shield against vaccine-preventable diseases. By vaccinating children on time, parents contribute to the collective effort to eradicate vaccine-preventable diseases and create a healthier future for all.

2,500-year-old 'yagya kund' found during excavation in Rajasthan's Braj region

Jaipur, May 2 (IANS) The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has found a 2,500-year-old 'yagya kund', along with metal tools and coins among other ancient articles during the excavation of a mound in Bahaj village of Deeg Tehsil in Rajasthan's Bharatpur division.

This excavation is being done in Deeg after 50 years, as earlier, it was done in Mathura. It is done at two different places on the mound of Bahaj village under the supervision of officials of the Archeology Department in Rajasthan's Braj region.

Evidence of religious rituals like Yagya being performed thousands of years ago has also been found in the excavations. The soil taken out from the Havan Kund is kept separate, considered to be of special significance.

Vinay Gupta, Superintendent of Archeology with Jaipur Division, said: "After a long gap of 50 years,

excavation work has been started on a large scale in Braj area. The evidence found during the excavation is very unique. Such evidence was not found in the earlier excavations."

The work will continue for some more time and there is a possibility of finding other evidence including some remains."

During the excavation, tools made from bones and ancient baked clay sculptures from the Mauryan period have also been found.

A pair of statues of Ashwani Kumar, also known as twin Hindu gods associated with medicine, health, dawn, and the sciences, have been found which belong to the Sunga period. The names of Ashwini Kumar in Mahabharata are Dstra and Nasaty.

Till now, no evidence of the twin gods has been found in India before 700 BC. However, for the first time, this evidence from 200 BC has

been found in Bahaj village, said officials. Idol plates of Ashwani Kumar of Sunga period and tools made from bones and fragments of pottery believed to be from Mahabharata period have also been found.

Excavation has been going on for four months at a mound in Bahaj village by the ASI's Survey Board, Jaipur. Even before Jaipur

for the excavation, the team of the Archeology Department, after investigating the mound, confirmed that there are remains of ancient times here and requested to carry out excavation to discover human civilisation, following which the Government of India approved the budget and gave permission for excavation. Pits contain sacrificial soil, which is natural sandy soil, along with offering of miniature pots in different shapes, sometime containing copper coins wrapped in cloth, and also copper and iron objects have been discovered.

Omar Abdullah files nomination for J&K's Baramulla LS seat

Srinagar, May 2 (IANS) Former J&K Chief Minister and vice president of National Conference (NC), Omar Abdullah on Thursday filed his nomination for Baramulla Lok Sabha constituency. Omar Abdullah accompanied by senior party leaders and supporters filed his nomination papers before the district development commissioner Baramulla who is the returning officer of the constituency. Sajad Gani Lone of the People's Conference (NC) and the incarcerated former legislator, Engineer Rashid have already filed papers for this Lok Sabha seat. Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) headed by Mehbooba Mufti has fielded former Rajya Sabha member, Fayaz Ahmad Mir from the constituency. The constituency goes to polls on May 20.

Wanted criminal arrested after brief encounter in Delhi

New Delhi, May 2 (IANS) After a brief exchange of fire, a 24-year-old man, who was wanted and absconding in a murder case, was nabbed near Delhi's Signature Bridge on Thursday, police said, adding that the accused sustained a bullet injury on his right leg. The accused was identified as Umar, a resident of Chauhan Banger, Deputy Commissioner of Police (northeast) Joy Tirkey said that on Thursday, Seelampur police station received information about accused Umar in the Khadar area. "A trap was laid and at about 7.15 a.m. Umar arrived on a motorcycle. When he was signalled to stop, he fired upon the police party. In police retaliatory firing, Umar sustained a bullet injury on his right leg. He was apprehended at the spot and taken to Jag Pravesh Hospital. He was discharged after treatment," said the DCP. A 7.65 mm pistol was recovered from his possession. "He had fired two rounds, while the magazine still had two more bullets. Police fired a single round which hit him in the leg. None from the police team was injured," said the DCP, adding that a case of attempt to murder and resisting police action is being registered against Umar.

King of Cool Oil, Navratna Gets COOLER this summer with King of Humour Kapil Sharma & his gang

Mumbai, 2nd May 2024: Navratna, the ayurvedic cool oil market leader from the house of Emami Ltd throws up a laughter challenge this summer as Kapil Sharma comes on board the brand along with his eccentric family members Kiku Sharda, Gaurav Gera and Sumona Chakravarti. In a series of new TV ads and digital content, Navratna Oil introduces a burst of cool comic relief with the irrepressible Kapil Sharma and his band of quirky accomplices. Together, they tackle the everyday chaos and challenges encountered by common man as they present Navratna Oil as "Thandak Ka Badshah, Raahat Ka Raja." A two-minute champi (head massage) with Navratna Oil offers relief and relaxation leaving one "thanda thanda cool cool". Commenting on this unique endorsement association, Mr. Harsha V. Agarwal, Vice Chairman and Managing Director, Emami Limited, said, "We are delighted to onboard Kapil Sharma and his quirky team for our brand Navratna Ayurvedic Oil. Humour is well known for being a stress buster and Kapil's brand of humour has been doing just that for over a decade across demographics. The pairing of Kapil Sharma & team with Navratna, which is India's #1 cool oil that provides relief from daily stress to its millions of consumers, is one of the best fits that a brand can envisage."

Summer Fun Starts Here: Dive into Amazon.in's Great Summer Sale from May 02, 2024!

Bengaluru, With the onset of summer, Amazon India is back with its much-awaited Amazon Great Summer Sale starting from May 02, 2024. Here's your chance to grab great deals and offers and have #FunInTheSunWithAmazon. Customers can look forward to a wide range of affordable finance options from 10% instant bank discount on ICICI Bank, BOBCARD and OneCard Credit/Debit Cards & Credit EMI transactions; no-cost EMI on Debit & Credit cards and Bajaj FinServ, exchange offers, exciting offers from other leading Credit/Debit cards and lots more. This year, customers will get exciting deals on millions of products by sellers, including artisans & weavers, women entrepreneurs, startups, brands, and local neighborhood stores across categories, including Smartphones, Consumer Electronics, Grocery, Fashion & Beauty essentials, Home & Kitchen, Large Appliances, TVs and more.

Maruti Suzuki commences pre-bookings for the much-awaited Epic New Swift

New Delhi, Maruti Suzuki India Limited, the country's leading carmaker, announces the commencement of pre-bookings for the highly anticipated 4th generation Epic New Swift for INR 11,000/- . In this All-new generation, the Epic New Swift builds on its much-loved signature sporty design while enhancing its dynamism and fun-to-drive quotient. Maruti Suzuki's Swift has been India's No. 1 premium hatchback with over 29 lakh proud owners since its launch. With a cult fan following, this sporty premium hatchback has constantly redefined the segment benchmark for sporty and dynamic driving performance. Now, the Epic New Swift is poised to build on this rich legacy in a truly Epic manner! Commenting on the announcement, Mr. Partho Banerjee, Senior Executive Officer, Marketing & Sales, Maruti Suzuki India Limited, said, "The Swift has been an iconic brand for Maruti Suzuki, one that has evolved with changing times to redefine customer expectations."

Explore Summer Flavors with Amazon Fresh Super Value Days till 7th May

Bengaluru, 2nd May 2024: This summer, replace the bustling restaurant scene with the warmth of a home-cooked, hearty meal. Beat the heat and long lines at restaurants with a hearty meal at home. Whether you want to surprise your loved ones with breakfast in bed, host a lavish brunch buffet for friends or the perfect dinner, stock up on all essentials with Amazon Fresh's Super Value Days, presented by Surf Excel and Tata till 7th May. Enjoy up to 45% off on everything from fresh fruits and vegetables to snacks, beverages, and daily essentials. Customers can enjoy great offers like Super Saver deals on Grocery, Under99 Store and a minimum of 30% off across top categories. Choose your preferred delivery slots and shop from popular brands such as Vedaka, Sunfeast, Haldirams, and Daawat to create the ultimate dining experience at home. Prime repeat customers can enjoy a cashback of up to INR 200, and new Amazon customers can receive a cashback of up to INR 400 on their first four Amazon Fresh orders. Enhance your summer cooking experience with a specially curated Summer Store.

Lok Sabha Elections 2024: Congress a fake factory, distributing fake goods, slogans & promises, says PM Modi

By Staff Reporter, Ahmedabad, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday accused the Congress and the INDIA bloc of being a "fake factory" that distributes "fake goods, fake slogans and fake promises". The comments come two days after Modi accused the Opposition of conspiring to disrupt the peaceful electoral process by circulating fake videos of the BJP leaders, including him and Home Minister Amit Shah. "Congress and its INDIA bloc have become a fake factory. They call themselves mohabbat ki dukaan. But their mohabbat ki dukan is into making fake goods, fake slogans and fake promises. They are trying to defame Modi," the PM said. "But I have full faith. Wherever I have gone in India, people are not accepting their fake talk. They (Cong) have lost balance after voting in the first two phases (of ongoing Lok Sabha elections)," he added. At another rally in Deesa at Banaskantha, Modi dared the Opposition to attack him "from the front and stop this game of fake

videos". "They started off by claiming that they will open mohabbat ki dukan. In that mohabbat ki dukan, they have set up a market of fake videos. No one listens to them, so they are now spreading fake videos... Just imagine the party that ruled the country for 60 years, had so many PMs, ministers but (when they) go to the people, they don't speak the truth... fake factory is working in place of mohabbat ki dukan," he said.

Jodhpur Congress LS candidate booked for flouting MCC norms

Jaipur, May 2 (IANS) A case has been registered against Congress candidate from Rajasthan's Jodhpur Lok Sabha seat, Karan Singh Uchiyarda, on Wednesday for flouting the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) by staging a protest in front of a police station on April 28. Uchiyarda gathered at the Jodhpur intersection in Phalodi town despite the clamping of Section 144, and surrounded the police station.

Vadodara vendor 'assaulted' by cops, probe initiated

By Staff Reporter, Ahmedabad, Two days after an omelette vendor in Vadodara was allegedly assaulted by three personnel of a PCR (police control room) van following an altercation, a probe has been initiated into the incident, officials said on Wednesday. The vendor, identified as Mohamman Faizan Amiruddin Shaikh, 26, is currently admitted in a private hospital following the alleged assault, police said. According to the two FIRs lodged at Sayajigunj

police station, the incident occurred at 2:15 am on Monday when the PCR van of Sayajigunj police station was patrolling the area outside platform-6 of the Vadodara railway station. He was asked to shut shop, and give an explanation for violating prohibitory orders. According to eyewitnesses quoted in the FIR lodged by Faizan's older brother Mumtaz, the argument escalated into an assault. The FIR lodged by

Mumtaz Sheikh, quoting a neighbour who informed him about the injuries sustained by his brother, said, "Angered by the police abuse and assault, Faizan blocked the way of the PCR van by standing in front of the vehicle and preventing it from leaving. The policemen, who were in a hurry to escape the scene, as a crowd had gathered in support of Faizan, attempted to drive ahead, pushing Faizan back upto 100 feet before he fell under the van and sustained injuries."

18 cholera cases reported in month

Ahmadabad : As summer progress, water borne disease have increased in the city. Accordig to data reeased on tuesday by the health department of the Ahmadabad municipal Corporation (AMC), there were 1.366 cases of diarrhoea, 141 of jaundice, 323 of typhoid and 18 of cholera here from April 1 to 27. The cholera cases were from the western part of the city such as Amal-

wadi, vatva, Danilimada, Maninagar, Vastral, Gomitpur, Nikol, Lambh, Bhaipura and Indrapuri areas. There have been 40 choera cases in the city between Jan and April. Source in the health department said diarrhoea, typhoid and jaundice cases are on the rise due to unhygienic food and contaminated drinking water. There has been an increase in case caused by

drinking contaminated water in the city. The civic body conducted 15,400 chlorine tests across the city, of which 544 samples taken fr bacteriological examination, 134 samples failed. Vector-borne disease have decreased slightly. From April 1 to 27, there were 31 caes of malaria, 2 of falciparum, 36 of gabgue and 1 case od chikungunia in the city.

Four of family jump into river, saved be passersby

Ahmadabad : Fpur members of a family attempted suicide bu jumping into the sabarmati from the walkway near Ambedkar Bridge in vasna late on Monday night. The four, including six years old child, were rescued by teo policeman, forest guard developed at atgarden on the riverfront, four transgender person and other who hapened to br on the walkway at the time, a police officer said. At about 9pm on monday Meena Chavda, 32,

her sic years-old son, Meena's brother Atul jadhav, 29, and their mother Vaesha jadhav, 50, Il residents of Chandranagar in Vasana, jumped into the river. "Onlookers said meena first threw her child into the river and then she and her mother jumped in. Atul jumped in later. Two vasana policeman wer at the river and rescued the child first," a fire bridged officer said. A group of transgender person was also there.

they took off their saries and dived into the river to save the others. Two forest guard also plunged in to help with the rescue." the officer said. A Sabarmati rivrfront (west) police officer said Meena told police that naveen would beat her and the other members of her family over trivial matters. Tormented, she decided to end her life along with her child, brother and mother," an officer of Sabarmati Rivrfront (west) police said.

VS hospital runs out rabies vaccine stock

Ahmfabad: Over the past few days, victims of dogs bites going to the AMC run V S Hospital are being denied treatment. A rabies vaccine stock. Due to the vaccine unavailability, they are either being sent to LG hospital or advised to get the shot from a private hospital. Dog bite victims from the city's western and the walled city areas usually go to VS Hospital for teh vaccine, on Tuesday, a 50-years-old businessman living in jamalpur and his wife are shopping Manak

Chock when the woman accidentally stepped on a dog. Bitten on the foot, she was immediately taken to VS hospital, were the emergency ward staff refused to treat her saying that anti-rabies vaccinee was out of stock. "We went to the VS hospital's emergency ward around 2pm. The staf said that since the hospital had run out of the vaccine, patients are either sent to LG hospital or get treated at private health facilities. She was treated at a private facilties," the businessman said.

13-yr-old pulls off risky theft to buy smartphone

Entered house By Crawling Down pipe Surat: A 13years-old, captivated by his favourite TV serial C.I.D, pulled off a darling theft by crawling down two floors using the pipe and entering a flat to steal valuable worth Rs 10 lakh. The stuning details emergd on Tuesday as umra police detected the thief tat was committed in hment 26. Also, there ere little clues as the boy had used the common pipe of the building to enter the house but the case was racked based on the footprints founds in the bathroom.

High Court slams Lawer for vehemence

Ahmaadabad: The bench of Chif justice Sunia Agarwal and justice Aniriddha mayee got irritated by a lawyer's "vehemence to put across his argumants despite he judge repeatedly asking the quaries raised by them. As the young lawer was insstant on presenting his cases and not replaying to the court's questions in a PIL, the CJ rebuked the lawyer for his attitude

and told him, "This vehemence on prt of a young counsel is not acceptable. ou may make your submission but not in this mann". Criticing he lawyer's vehemence, the CJ said, "In the age of google, information echnology, you people just borrow something from somewhere and then put it in the pledings. Nobody reads, takes any kind of training and nobody is ready to listen to the court even... You people think that all courts fool, and they don't know anything and you can argue ehaever you want to rague. This is not a lecture hall." The bench the expressed its opinion to

some of the senior lawyers that the vourts liberal view towardsdrafting of petition has resulted in he junior lawyyers taking the liberty. later duing the hearing of a suo motu PIL on the issue of court etiquettes, the judges suggesed the Bar ccouncil of Gujarat that a group of lawyers and court may impact training to the lawyers. This was after the BCG n formed the HC that it will establishes an acaday for kawyer's training according to the HC's suggestion made earlier. The judges said that the HC would extend its facilities of auditorium and seminar halls for the traning.

Mevani's aide, AAP member hels for sharing fake video of Amit Shah

Ahmadabad : Cyber-crime police on Tuesday arrested Satish Vansol, in the personal assistant (PA) of Vongress MLA Jignesh Mevani and Aam Aadmi party (AAP) member Rakesh Barja for allegedly sharing a deepfake video purporyedlyshowing Union home minister Amit Shah promising that "When the BJ govermet is elected, it would end the unconstititonal reservation right of the Scs,Sts and OBSCs". The ahmadabad Cyber crime branch arrested Vansola, 36, from Limkheda in Dahod district. Vansola has been working with wadgam MLA Gignesh Mevani for he last

six years, while Baria has been theAAP's Dahod district president for four years. Vansola, who is from the dalit community, also serves as general secretary of the Banaskantha dirict Congress. The duo was booked under Section 153A (promoting enmity between groups) and 505(2) (statement creting or promoting enmity, hatred or ill- will between classes) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). Police officer said that duo posted an alterad video of Amit Shah's speench with the intention of creating enmity between reserved castes and unreserved castes in view of

the Lok Sabha election. The altered video shows Shah as sying, "If the BJP forms the government, we will abolish the unconstititonal reservation for Scs, STs and OBSCs." "Both of them shared this editor video of Amit Shah on their Facebook pages. They received this video on whatsapp and investigation are under way o nab the person who has the edited viedo," sid deputy commissioner of poice, Cybercrime, Lavna Shinha. Sinha said Cybercirm police field a separate complaint from the oher complaint firld with Delhi police agains anonymous persons. We have raced

them and named them in the case," said Sinha. Vansola aand baria were produced before a metropolitian court which remanes them in police custody till May 3. After vansola's arrest, Mevani said : "Satish is not just my assestent, he is like my brother: he BJP IT cell has been spreading fake viedo for a long time. Instead of acting against hem, police have arrested a common man like Vansola who posted a video by mistake : said mevani, who also holds chrg as working president of the Gujarat Congress. He said Dalits from Banaskantha and patn will keep this in mind when they vote.

Sabarkantha police crack loot and murder case involving of retired cop and his wife whose bodies were found in pool of blood

By Bhavesh Barot Himmatnagar, Sabarkantha police in a joint team operation succeeded in cracking loot and murder case involving retired cop and his wife within short span and arrested three persons including daughter in law of deceased A.S.I and one juvenile involved in dastardly crime. Day light brutal murder of retired cop and his wife had sent shiver down to spines of town residents and police acted swiftly to crack the crime. Preliminary investigation in crime aroused suspicion and involvement of someone known to deceased so police started pursuing case in that manner said Dy.Sp.A.K. Patel while talking to this Correspondent. After the brutal crime a daughter in



law of the deceased had first informed nearby residents who later informed police about occurrence of crime so police team in-

volved in cracking loot and murder case initially questioned and interrogated daughter in law Mittal Kumari who broke down dur-

Arrest four involved in brutal murder: Recover cash and gold jewellery worth of Rs.83.85 lakh from assailants.

ing interrogation and spilled the beans, on basis of revelation made by Mittal Kumari police arrested other three accused including juvenile and contract killer Het Atulkumar Patel, and Vipulsinh Nathusinh Vaghela resident of Limbodara near Mansa in Gandhinagar. Police recovered cash and gold jewellery worth of Rs.83.85 lakh from accused.

NGO seeks Law to uproot superstition

Ahmadabad: An NGO working for the erdiction of superstition aand campaigning against the practice of black magic has approached the Gujarat high court, pring for a legislation to prohibit such pactice. The Akhil Bhartiya Andhashradha Nirmoolan Samiti filed a PIL seeking legislation for Gujarat in line with the one that Mahaesashtra, Karnataa, Odisha and assam have enated to stop people from performing black magic and to promot rational thinking ammout them and make them aware about superstitions. The petitioner's lawyer submitted that such legislation is required to prevent certion evil practice

like branding of children, declaring woman as witches and excommunicating them. The bench questioned the prayer sought by the petitioner, which was bsed on the directions issued by the suprem court. The judges asked weather practice of black meggic can be curb by court's directions when it is already illegal. The judges opined that religious or superstitious practices, "which are there for a long time, a stop it. You go to them (sic)".The judges also apined hat any illegal practice can be take care of b the IPC and CrPC. The HC also said that for legislation , the petitioner can make a representation to the home minister.

MP Report Card: Gita Rathva, BJP Constituency Chhota Udepur

Ahmedabad, Constituency overview The ST (Scheduled Tribes) reserved constituency of Chhota Udepur has traditionally elected candidates of the Rathva community since 1977. Naranbhai Rathva has been among the most prominent MPs in the constituency. He held the seat as a Congress leader from 1989 to 1999 and again won in 2004. After 2009, tides largely turned in favour of the BJP. In February this year, Naranbhai Rathva switced to the BJP.MP

Profile Prior to being an MP, Gita Rathva had been a member of the district panchayat of Chhota Udepur for the past five terms. She joined the BJP in 1995 and went on to become the president of the BJP Mahil 1998, a post to which she was re-elected repeatedly till 2004. In 2019, Gita Rathva's nomination by BJP had left many within the party upset, including then MP Ramsinh Rathva and district president Jashu Rathva who were contending for a ticket.

Jordan condemns Israeli settlers' assault on Jordanian aid convoy to Gaza

Amman, May 2 (IANS) Jordan's Foreign Ministry has condemned the assault by extremist Israeli settlers on two Jordanian humanitarian aid convoys to the Gaza Strip.

The Ministry said on Wednesday in a statement that two of the convoys were attacked by extremists, and the Ministry considered Israeli authorities' failure to provide protection undermined all claims and commitments of the Israeli government to allow aid into Gaza, Xinhua news agency reported.

The Jordanian Ministry held the Israeli authorities fully responsible for this crime, calling on the international community to take a clear stance condemning it and to compel Israel to fulfill its legal obligations and ensure the protection of aid convoys and international organisations working to receive and distribute them.

Jordan's military and the Jordan Hashemite Charity Organisation dispatched a humanitarian aid convoy to northern Gaza earlier on Wednesday, marking the first time aid has entered through the Beit Hanoun crossing.

In a statement, the Jordan Hashemite Charity Organisation said that 31 trucks would cross into the area, with an additional 48 trucks set to pass through the Kerem Shalom crossing, totaling 79 trucks. The Beit Hanoun crossing, known to Israelis as the Erez crossing, played a crucial role in connecting the Gaza Strip and Israel before the conflict. It primarily facilitated pedestrian movement rather than the transport of goods.



THUNDER AND FRIGHTENING!

The Met Office said the downpours could flood homes, while there could also be power cuts and damage to buildings from strong winds. It comes ahead of what could be the warmest day of the year so far, as the Met Office has predicted some places could see their warmest temperatures of the year on Thursday. Temperatures are building this week with 22C (72F) highs expected for the South of England today, but experts predict a 'mixed bag' for this Bank Holiday weekend.

Pakistani workers play central role in national progress, prosperity: PM

Islamabad, May 2 (IANS) Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has said that workers play a central role in national progress and prosperity, highlighting that every worker in the South Asian country is valued, respected, and empowered to thrive.

"Workers work day and night in the fields, factories and elsewhere. They not only work hard to feed their families but also are the driving force behind Pakistan's progress," the Prime Minister said on Wednesday in his message on International Workers' Day.

He added that the country is committed to bolstering labour welfare and harmonising domestic labour legislation with global standards, stressing that the enhancement of occupational safety and health across various sectors remains a top priority for the incumbent government, Xinhua news agency reported.

Iraqi PM vows to diversify national economy

Baghdad, May 2 (IANS) Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani has said that his government is committed to bolstering the industry, agriculture, trade, and tourism sectors, to reduce the country's reliance on oil and transition to a diversified economy.

The Prime Minister made the remarks during the inauguration ceremony of the first phase of a continuous casting plant in the Taji area, nearly 20 km north of Baghdad, according to a statement by his media office on Wednesday.

"We have no choice but to support industry, agriculture, trade, and tourism to achieve the transition from a country dependent on oil revenues to a diversified economy," the statement quoted al-Sudani as saying.

"We have targeted industry as a major goal in economic reform ... as Iraq is an industrial country as much as it is an oil and agricultural country," the Prime Minister added as quoted by Xinhua news agency report.

The invasion of Iraq led by the US in 2003 resulted in the shutdown of numerous Iraqi factories due to security concerns.

UN General Assembly to resume emergency special session on Middle East

United Nations, May 2 (IANS) The UN General Assembly will resume its 10th emergency special session (ESS) on May 10, after Palestine's UN membership bid was blocked by the US at the Security Council in April.

UN General Assembly President Dennis Francis has informed member states that he will convene a plenary meeting of the ESS on May 10, said Monica Grayley, his spokeswoman, on Wednesday.

In a letter dated April 26, Francis told member states that the resumption of the ESS was requested by Saudi Arabia, Mauritania, and Uganda, in their respective capacities as chair of the Arab Group, chair of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation Group, and chair of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement, Xinhua news agency reported.

The US on April 18 vetoed a Security Council draft resolution that would have recommended to the General Assembly Palestine's full UN membership.

Riyad Mansour, the permanent observer of Palestine to the United Nations, expressed the hope that the General Assembly would ask the Security Council to reconsider the issue at the ESS.

"We will now bring the matter for consideration by the General Assembly on May 10 in a resumed 10th emergency special session and trust that this body representing the international community will unequivocally support the admission of Palestine to the UN and call on the Security Council to reconsider our application for admission favourably," he told a General Assembly meeting on Wednesday on the use of the veto by the US. Under UN rules, the admission of new members has to be recommended by the Security Council before a vote in the General Assembly.

The 10th ESS on the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territory was convened for the first time in April 1997.--IANS

Scottish government survives vote of no confidence

London, May 2 (IANS) The Scottish government has survived a vote of no confidence, just days after First Minister Humza Yousaf announced his resignation.

The Labour-led vote of no confidence in the Scottish government was defeated by 70 votes to 58 at Holyrood, the Scottish Parliament, on Wednesday, Xinhua news agency reported.

The vote was unlikely to pass without the support of the Scottish Green Party after the First Minister confirmed he would be stepping down.

Yousaf, leader of the Scottish National Party (SNP), announced his resignation on Monday.

He has been under immense pressure since he ended a power-sharing deal with the Scottish Green Party last week. Yousaf acknowledged that he had underestimated "the level of hurt and upset" caused by his decision to sever ties with the Greens.

1 killed, 3 injured in Israeli strikes on Lebanese villages

Beirut, May 2 (IANS) A Hezbollah fighter was killed and three civilians were injured in Israeli airstrikes on Lebanese villages in southern Lebanon, Lebanese military sources told the media.

The sources, who spoke anonymously, said on Wednesday that an Israeli warplane launched two missiles in Lebanon's southern village of Tayr Harfa, destroying a house and killing a Hezbollah fighter inside the house, Xinhua news agency reported. According to the sources, another airstrike targeted the southeast village of Adayssah, wounding three civilians.

The military sources added that Israeli warplanes carried out on Wednesday a series of airstrikes on three towns and villages in the eastern and central sectors of the border area in southern Lebanon.

Iran's Supreme leader condemns US Police's violence against pro-Palestinian protesters

Tehran, May 2 (IANS) Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei has reaffirmed the condemnation of US support for Israel's "crimes" in the Gaza Strip while commenting on the US Police's violent behaviour against pro-Palestinian protesters on college campuses.

He made the remarks in a meeting with a group of teachers and academics in the capital Tehran on the occasion of National Teachers' Day, according to a statement published on Wednesday on his website.

Khamenei said the US behaviour was indicative of its "partnership and complicity" with Israel in the latter's "horrific crimes and unforgivable sin". He highlighted the Gaza conflict as "the world's first issue," urging for more global pressure on Israel to stop its offensive in the Palestinian enclave, Xinhua news agency reported.

The pro-Palestinian rallies have spread to other academic centres across the world, including Europe, demanding an end to Israel's attacks on Gaza. Israel has launched a large-scale offensive against Hamas in Gaza since October 7, 2023, after Hamas carried out a surprise attack on southern Israel that killed about 1,200 people.



Just when you think Donald Trump can't outdo himself, he gives an explosive new interview to Time magazine and changes the landscape of the 2024 presidential election. In this profile, all-too-aptly-titled 'How Far Trump Would Go', the former and would-be next president left no key issue facing America untouched. But one exchange in particular might just have shifted everything.

Australian government failing to prepare for climate security risks: report

Canberra, May 2 (IANS) The Australian government is failing to properly plan for security risks from climate change, former military and intelligence leaders have warned.

In a report published on Thursday, the Australian Security Leaders Climate Group (ASLCG) said the federal government has fundamentally failed to accept the size and immediacy of climate risk, Xinhua news agency reported.

The ASLCG was formed in 2021 by a group of former senior military and security officials, including former Australian Defense Force chief Chris Barrie, who said they were concerned that the security implications of climate change were not being addressed by the government.

In Wednesday's report, they said that the 2024 National Defense Strategy released in April fails to recognise that the rapid acceleration of climate change requires a fundamental recalibration of security and defense thinking. The report said that the government's commitment of up to 18 billion Australian dollars (11.7 billion US dollars) to upgrade military bases in northern Australia will place many critical bases in areas that are projected to become near-unlivable if global warming reaches 2.7 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

In 2022, the federal government was handed a classified report from the Office of National Intelligence (ONI) on threats posed to Australian security by climate change.

Israel denounces Colombia for breaking diplomatic ties

Jerusalem, May 2 (IANS) Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz has denounced Colombian President Gustavo Petro for deciding to break diplomatic ties with Israel over the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza.

Katz accused Petro on Wednesday on social media platform X of being "a hateful anti-Semite".

"Relations between Israel and Colombia have always been warm," Katz wrote, adding that Petro "won't be able to change that". Earlier on Wednesday, Petro said in a public speech in Bogota, "Tomorrow we will break diplomatic relations with the state of Israel ... for having a government, for having a President who is genocidal."

The Colombian President had criticised Israel's military operations against Hamas in Gaza and requested to join South Africa's lawsuit at the International Court of Justice, which accuses Israel of genocide, Xinhua news agency reported.

Egyptian, French FMs discuss Gaza developments, truce proposal

Cairo, May 2 (IANS) Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry and visiting French counterpart Stephane Sejourne met here to discuss the situation in the Gaza Strip and an Egypt-brokered ceasefire proposed for the enclave.

The two Ministers briefed each other on the indirect truce talks between the Gaza-ruling Palestinian faction Hamas and Israel over reaching a ceasefire in Gaza and swap of Israeli hostages and Palestinian prisoners, said the Egyptian Foreign Ministry on Wednesday in a statement.

Shoukry said that Egypt has put forward "implementable" truce proposals to both parties, who are expected to show "necessary flexibility" to realise an agreement that would spare Palestinians bloodshed, Xinhua news agency reported.

For his part, Sejourne said France is willing to support Arab efforts for settling the Palestinian issue, according to the statement. He highlighted France's efforts to contain escalation between Israel and Lebanon on their borders, stressing that the potential truce in Gaza has to be accompanied by a similar truce in Lebanon, according to the Ministry's statement.

Shoukry and Sejourne reaffirmed their absolute rejection of any Israeli attempts to liquidate the Palestinian cause by displacing Palestinians outside the Gaza Strip.

US imposes further sanctions against Russia

Washington, May 2 (IANS/DPA) The US government is targeting Russia's weapons production with new sanctions, the US Treasury Department said.

Nearly 200 companies and 80 individuals in third countries such as China, Belgium, and Slovakia, which allegedly support Russia in the procurement of materials for its weapons programme, are affected, it added on Wednesday.

The sanctions are also aimed at Russia's production of chemical and biological weapons.

"Today's actions will further disrupt and downgrade Russia's war efforts by going after its military-industrial base and the evasion networks that help supply it," US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said.

On Wednesday, the US State Department accused Moscow of using various irritant gases during its all-out war against Ukraine, which violates the United Nations' Chemical Weapons Convention.

Three people who are reportedly linked to the death of Alexei Navalny are also being sanctioned. The Kremlin critic died in February. Navalny, a long-standing and staunch opponent of Putin, died in a prison camp in the Arctic Circle in Siberia in February. It has not been independently established whether the 47-year-old died naturally, as his death certificate says. However, his supporters say he was murdered. As a result of the new sanctions, any assets of those affected in the US will be frozen. US citizens or people who are in the US are prohibited from doing business with sanctioned companies and individuals.

Hamas not for temporary ceasefire, wants permanent end to war

Tel Aviv, May 2 (IANS) As the indirect mediatory talks between Hamas and Israel are progressing in Cairo, Hamas has expressed concern at temporary ceasefire and have informed the mediators that it wants a permanent end to the war.

According to Egyptian sources, Hamas has informed them that they want a total end to the war and rehabilitation of Palestinians who are displaced from north Gaza to southern Gaza region after the war broke out. Sources in Israel's Prime Minister's Office told IANS that they have received information that Hamas is not inclined for a temporary ceasefire.

Mediators had pushed for a six-week ceasefire and releasing a minimum of 33 Israeli hostages in exchange of around 600 Palestinian prisoners in Israel's jails. Prime Minister of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu, has clearly told visiting American Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Wednesday that Israel would attack Rafah and that they have already deployed the IDF unit in the region.

Surfer fatally stabbed in Australia, dies

Sydney, May 2 (IANS) A male surfer was stabbed to death in Australia's southwestern state of New South Wales (NSW) on Thursday.

At about 6:40 a.m. local time, emergency services were called to Ocean Parade in Coffs Harbour following reports of a man having been stabbed, Xinhua news agency reported. Upon arrival, officers found the victim in his 20s suffering stab wounds at the scene before he was taken to a hospital. "Officers attached to Coffs-Clarence Police District attended and established a crime scene. Police have now been advised the man has died," the NSW Police Force confirmed in a statement.

NSW police Chief Inspector Detective Guy Flaherty revealed to the Australian Broadcasting Corporation that the man was believed to have recently come out of the surf, as he was wearing a black wetsuit at that time.

Earlier, a spokesperson from NSW Ambulance told Xinhua that the injured man sustained wounds to his chest and neck.

North Korea dismantles South Korean building near shuttered Kaesong complex

Seoul, May 2 (IANS) North Korea appears to have taken down a building located near the now-shuttered inter-Korean factory park in the North Korean border city of Kaesong, the unification ministry said Thursday.

The dismantled building had been built outside the factory park by a South Korean company for investment purposes, a ministry official told reporters, without providing further details, Yonhap news agency reported. The official said the building had never been in use even when the Kaesong Industrial Complex was normally running before South Korea suspended its operation in February 2016 in response to the North's nuclear and long-range missile tests.

Earlier this week, the Voice of America, a Washington-based news outlet, reported that the building located some 50 meters from the factory park entrance had been dismantled, citing satellite imagery. Once a symbol of inter-Korean reconciliation, the Kaesong complex was home to more than 120 small South Korean plants that produced garments and other labor-intensive goods by employing more than 54,300 North Korean workers.

Amid frosty inter-Korean relations, North Korea blew up the joint liaison office in the Kaesong complex in June 2020 in anger over Seoul's failure to stop North Korean defectors from sending anti-Pyongyang leaflets across the border.



Airbnb launched its new 'Icons' collection on Wednesday where lucky guests will get the chance to live out their imaginations in movie-inspired homes, including one from Disney's UP. The UP house is located in Abiquiu, New Mexico and is hosted by none other than Carl Fredrickson. The experience to stay in the balloon-topped home is free, but guests will be 'randomly chosen.' According to the listing, Airbnb purchased Carl and Ellie's home to celebrate the 15-year anniversary of the movie

IPL 2024: Mayank Yadav likely to miss remaining league matches for LSG, say sources

Lucknow, May 2 (IANS) Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) pacer Mayank Yadav, who walked off the field due to abdominal soreness during the match against Mumbai Indians (MI) on Tuesday, is likely to miss the remaining league matches of the IPL 2024 as his recovery will take more time than earlier expected, sources told IANS.

"He is not in bad condition, but his participation in the remaining matches is in doubt even as the franchise wants to secure his service for the major part of the tournament. He went for the scans on Wednesday and the reports are still to come but the medical team has suggested a minimum of three weeks rest. Only then he will fully recover," sources close to the franchise told IANS.

Head coach Justin Langer had provided an update on Mayank's injury after Tuesday's match against MI, saying, "Looks like he's sore in the same spot, his rehab's been absolutely perfect, he bowled pain-free in the last few weeks or so, he's looked in great condition."

Dortmund beat PSG in Champions League SF first leg

Berlin, May 2 (IANS) Borussia Dortmund secured a crucial 1-0 lead over Paris Saint-Germain in the first leg of their Champions League semifinal, thanks to a decisive goal from Niclas Fullkrug.

The match started evenly, with both teams creating opportunities. Ousmane Dembele and Marcel Sabitzer for Dortmund had chances to open the scoring, but the deadlock persisted until the 36th minute. Nico Schlotterbeck delivered a precise cross into the PSG box, finding Fullkrug who drove the ball past PSG goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma to give Dortmund the lead.

Dortmund maintained pressure, with Donnarumma making a critical save from a Sabitzer volley just before halftime. PSG intensified their attack after the break, with Kylian Mbappe and Achraf Hakimi hitting the post within minutes of each other, narrowly missing equalizers, reports Xinhua.



JAMIE'S BOOZY SANCHO CHAT
Jamie Carragher's 'drunk' interview with Jadon Sancho (centre) after he downed eight pints on Borussia Dortmund's famous 'Yellow Wall' left the CBS studio in hysterics (left and right). The Liverpool legend turned pundit was sent to watch Dortmund's Champions League semi-final win over Paris Saint-Germain with the home fans. Carragher said he had no trouble getting a beer pre-match as he hailed his new Dortmund 'family and friends'. Viewers were then treated to a hilarious post-match chat between Carragher and Manchester United loanee Sancho, who enjoyed an impressive night.

IPL 2024: Mumbai Indians hope to script a miracle as they return home for KKR clash

Mumbai, May 2 (IANS) With their campaign in disarray following seven defeats in 10 matches, five-time winners Mumbai Indians return home after three successive away defeats in four games for their next three home matches in the IPL 2024, starting with a clash against Kolkata Knight Riders on Friday.

MI are currently tied for the bottom spot with Royal Challengers Bengaluru, both have six points from three wins -- they are placed ninth on NRR. Kolkata Knight Riders, on the other hand, are second in the points table with 12 points from nine matches with 10 wickets.

Though Mumbai have lost quite a lot of battles, the war is not over yet, they still have faint chances. They need a miracle to make it to the next stage this season.

Set to meet KKR twice within eight days (they will play them again at the Eden Gardens on May



11), Hardik Pandya's MI will hope to win their remaining four matches and hope other results go in their favour. Four wins in their remaining games will take them to 14 points and keep alive their hopes of making it among the top everything to play for as the tournament enters in the mad scramble for the playoff spots.

At this moment, table toppers Rajasthan Royals seem in a comfortable position with 16 points from nine matches.

Mumbai, on the other hand, have had an indifferent season so far, starting with three defeats and coming into Friday's clash with KKR after four to make it to the playoffs.

But considering their performance, they face a steep climb to the top as they face KKR twice besides Sunrisers Hyderabad and Lucknow Super Giants in their next four matches. All three teams are in contention for the playoff spots and have ev-

erything to play for as the tournament enters in the mad scramble for the playoff spots.

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the problem areas in the squad.

The batting unit, despite the presence of players like India captain and six-time IPL winner Rohit Sharma, Ishan Kishan, Suryakumar Yadav, considered the best player in this format, Tim David, Hardik Pandya and Romario Shepherd.

TUC 2024: Indian women finish campaign in QF after losing to Japan

Chengdu (China), May 2 (IANS) Indian women's badminton team finished their BWF Thomas and Uber Cup 2024 campaign in the quarterfinals after losing to former champions Japan 0-3 on Thursday, despite a splendid effort by the singles players.

In the absence of all the experienced campaigners, yet making it to the last eight stage with two convincing wins over Canada and Singapore is a huge shot in the arm for best... In the third game, I made some silly errors after 11-9 and that cost me the match."

The world no. 4 combination of Nami Matsuyama and Chiharu Shida then doubled Japan's lead with a 21-8, 21-9 victory over national champions Priya Konjengbam and Shruti Mishra.

Isharani Baruah then gave a good account of her abilities as she kept pace with former world champion Nozomi Okuhara and even lead 14-11 in the opening game before the experienced Japanese turned the tables by winning 10 of the next 11 points.

The second game went identical to the first as both players stayed neck and neck till 9-9 before Okuhara marched ahead for a 21-15, 21-12 win to seal the quarterfinals in Japan's favour.

The Indian men's team, which is defending the Thomas Cup title, will face China in a quarterfinal clash. Result: India lost to Japan 0-3 (Ashmita Chalihal lost to Aya Ohori 10-21, 22-20, 15-21; Priya Konjengbam/Shruti Mishra lost to Nami Matsuyama/Chiharu Shida 8-21, 9-21; Isharani Baruah lost to Nozomi Okuhara 15-21, 12-21)--IANS



the young contingent.

In the opening singles, Ashmita Chalihal saved a match point against World no. 11 Aya Ohori and led 11-9 at the interval in the decider. But Ohori used all her experience to raise the tempo immediately after to take five straight points and then went on to wrap the match 21-10, 22-24, 21-15 in an hour and seven minutes.

Speaking about her performance Ashmita said, "I had lost to her pretty badly in Syed Modi international and I came into the match with a mindset that I have to play my

'We've got all bases covered': Marsh clarifies why Fraser-McGurk missed out on T20 WC squad

New Delhi, May 2 (IANS) The newly-appointed T20I captain, Mitchell Marsh has clarified the reason behind leaving Jake Fraser-McGurk out of the 15-man T20 World Cup squad. He stated that Australia's squad has "all bases covered", and that the current openers, Travis Head and David Warner, have performed exceptionally well over the last 18 months, making them the preferred choice for the mega event. The 2021 T20

World Cup champions unveiled their squad for the 20-over showcase on Wednesday, and the absence of Fraser-McGurk and former skipper Steve Smith from the 15-player group was among the biggest surprises. Fraser-McGurk has been in excellent form for the Delhi Capitals in the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL), scoring three half-centuries so far. Many believe that the right-hander has demonstrated his abilities enough to be selected for the T20 World Cup in the Caribbean and USA, starting on June 1. "Jakey is an outstanding talent. I think you know the way he's taking on the IPL, he's taken it by storm, they're all loving him, and certainly, the Delhi crew are enjoying his company and enjoying what he brings to the team, and there's no doubt that he's going to have a huge future, wherever he plays," Marsh said on Australian radio station SEN.



Business & Technology



Samsung's 'Fab Grab Fest' is back with Unbeatable Offers on Samsung.com and Exclusive Stores

New Delhi, Samsung, India's largest customer electronics brand, has announced its biggest summer sale, 'Fab Grab Fest', which offers an array of extraordinary deals and exciting cashbacks across a wide range of products on Samsung.com, Samsung Shop App as well as at Samsung Exclusive Stores.

During the 'Fab Grab Fest', customers can avail up to 64% off on select models of the Galaxy S series, Galaxy Z series, and Galaxy A series smartphones. Select models of Galaxy tablets, accessories and wearables will be available at up to 77% off. On the purchase of select models of Galaxy Book4 series laptops, customers can avail discounts of up to 24% off.

Select models of Samsung TVs such as the flagship Neo-QLED 8K, Neo QLED, OLED, The Frame TVs, and Crystal UHD series will be available at up to 43% off. On purchase of select models of Neo QLED 8K, Neo QLED and OLED TVs customers can avail cashback of up to INR 20,000. Additionally, customers can avail benefits of up to INR 5,000 as exchange bonus on purchase of all TVs.

The 'Fab Grab Fest' 2024 will offer discount-unmatched prices on a host of digital appliances such as refrigerators, washing machines, microwaves, monitors and air conditioners.

With our 'Buy More Save More' platform, customers will be able to save an extra 5% on the purchase of two or more products through Samsung.com or Samsung Shop App.

The 'Buy More Save More' platform allows con-

sumers to enjoy bundled offers on a host of Samsung products. The excitement doesn't end here, customers can get up to 48% off on a wide range of premium appliances such as Side-by-Side Refrigerators, the elegant French-Door Refrigerators, and the versatile Frost Free Refrigerators. They can also enhance their kitchen experience with the Bespoke AI Package by purchasing three or more selected products and enjoy an extra 10% discount.

Select models of washing machines will be available at up to 50% off. Additionally, they will get a generous 20-year warranty on the Digital Inverter Motor for both Fully Automatic Front Loading and Fully Automatic Top Loading machines. For easy access, the affordable EMI option is also available starting at just INR 1,490 for Fully Automatic Front Loading, INR 990 for Fully Automatic Top Loading, and INR 756 for Semi-Automatic Washing Machines. "We are happy to bring back the most awaited summer sale on Samsung.com and Samsung Exclusive Stores. Through the Fab Grab Fest, we wish to bring the best deals and offers to our customers. We are witnessing an encouraging adoption of Buy More Save More, so in this Fab Grab Fest, we will extend flexibility to our customers to not only make bundles with the entire Samsung range but also enjoy an extra 5% off on the bundle. Adding to customer delight, we will also offer same day delivery on select models," said Sumit Walia, Vice President, D2C Business, Samsung India. Select models of monitors will be available at up to 61% off.

Scientists find potential treatment target for leading cause of blindness

New Delhi, May 2 (IANS) US scientists have found answers to why treatment for neovascular age-related macular degeneration (AMD) -- a leading cause of blindness -- does not benefit all; and also developed a potential antibody treatment. AMD is a condition characterised by abnormal blood vessel growth in the back of the eye. Older age, diabetes, obesity, and many other chronic metabolic diseases lead to excessive vascular growth and damage to the macula -- the part of the eye that translates light into image signals. The first line of defence is usually the Anti-VEGF therapy, which blocks vascular endothelial growth factor and keeps excessive blood vessel growth at bay.

Mega Winners increase by over 50% per match during TATA IPL Craze on My11Circle

New Delhi, My11Circle, a leading fantasy sports platform of Games24x7, India's most user-centric and scientific company, and the official Associate Partner of the TATA Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024, is celebrating a season of epic wins for its players.

Half-way through the tournament, My11Circle has witnessed an incredible number of players turning fantasy cricket passion into real-life rewards. As compared to last year, a staggering 50% more winners walked away with prizes, including cash prize of over INR 1 crore, SUVs and motorcycles. This growth is fuelled by a 4x increase in reward categories as compared to the last edition on the platform. Notably, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra witnessed the highest number of winners, followed by Bihar, Rajasthan and Gujarat. Jhark-

hand emerged as the biggest mover, witnessing a phenomenal 65% surge in mega winners, showcasing a surge in participation and cricketing passion.

This impressive surge is further amplified by a close to 45% increase in the total prize pool, solidifying My11Circle as a platform for extraordinary fantasy cricket rewards. These champions come from diverse backgrounds -- first-time employees, salespersons, homemakers, and individuals across various professions with a common thread - passion for cricket -- proving that anyone who follows the game and can comprehend player performances can win big on My11Circle.

My11Circle's captivating campaign, "My11Circle pe ek crore toh bas shuruwaa hai, soch... kitni badi baat hai!" encouraged fans to delve deeper into the game, analyse player performances, and truly enrich their cricketing experience. Its star-studded brand ambassadors, including cricket legends Saurav Ganguly and rising stars like Shubman Gill, Arshdeep Singh, Mohammed Siraj, Ruturaj Gaikwad, joined by exciting new additions Rinku Singh and Yashasvi Jaiswal resonated with fans across generations and brought fervour to engagements. Further strengthening its regional connect, My11Circle has partnered with popular influencers like Kiku Sharda, Rajpal Yadav, Aakash Chopra, Jatin Sapru, and more, ensuring the campaign reaches every cricket enthusiast.

As the Official Partner of the TATA IPL for the next five years and the title sponsor of the Lucknow Super Giants, My11Circle is at the forefront of cricketing action this IPL season.

Tourism Malaysia announced Direct Flights Connecting Ahmedabad to Kuala Lumpur

Ahmedabad, Tourism Malaysia is thrilled to announce the introduction of new AirAsia direct flights connecting Ahmedabad to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia's vibrant capital. With this strategic expansion, AirAsia aims to strengthen the air connectivity between India and Malaysia, offering more convenient travel options for tourists and fostering closer ties between the two nations.

"We are delighted to partner with AirAsia to enhance accessibility to Malaysia for travellers from Ahmedabad" said Noriah Jaafar, Director, Tourism Malaysia-Mumbai. "This new direct flight underscores our commitment to promoting tourism and strengthening bilateral relations between India and Malaysia. We are confident that this flight will facilitate increased tourist arrivals, providing visitors with unforgettable experiences in our beautiful country."

Traveller from Ahmedabad can now fly direct to Kuala Lumpur VISA FREE without having to change flight or transfers. With the introduction of these direct flights, travellers can now easily explore Malaysia's diverse offerings, from the iconic Petronas Twin Towers in Kuala Lumpur to the pristine beaches of Langkawi, the cultural splendour of Penang and participant in a unique cul-



tural attraction, historical landmarks and culinary delight of Malaysia.

"We are excited to launch direct flights from Ahmedabad to Kuala Lumpur," said Mr. Suresh Nair, GM, AirAsia. "These new routes reflect our commitment to providing affordable and convenient travel options for our passengers. We look forward to welcoming travellers aboard our flights and showcasing the warmth and hospitality of Malaysia."

Isuzu Motors India presents its enriched 'Lifestyle Pick-up' Models in the segment it pioneered in India

Chennai: In its pursuit to offer the dynamic and enthusiastic Indian customer, a stylish product range to boost the 'Spirit of Lifestyle', Isuzu had introduced its enriched personal passenger pick-ups, that are Made-in-India which are Made-for-India. Today's launch highlights ISUZU's commitment to set a trend in the lifestyle pick-up segment, it pioneered in India. The latest V-Cross Z Prestige variants up the style quotient with a host of elegant yet classy elements on the exterior. This timeless appeal has been achieved with styling elements finished in Dark Grey. These subtly adds to the visual dynamism and a differentiated road presence that the vehicles now project, making them more aggressive yet sporty.

With the host of over

a dozen bold styling elements, add character to the vehicle's original design inspired by the 'Cyborg - Orca'. The refreshed persona flows from the dominating wedge shape fascia and blends aerodynamically in profile with muscular and flared arches seamlessly flowing to the rear.

The Active Safety Systems of Traction Control System (TCS), Electronic Stability Control (ESC), Hill Descent Control (HDC) and Hill Start Assist (HSA) have now been introduced in all the manual transmission models also. Traction Control Systems (TCS) that automatically apply brakes upon identifying the wheel losing grip on the road, Electronic Stability Control (ESC) which helps prevent the vehicle from spinning out due to the loss of road traction, Hill

Descent Control that maintains the vehicle range of 4 to 30 km/h to avoid over-speeding while driving downhill and Hill Start Assist which reduces chances of the rear collision on slopes.

Commenting on the launch, Mr. Toru Kishimoto -- Deputy Managing Director, Isuzu Motors India, said, "We are proud to have set the benchmark in presenting India with its first ever lifestyle adventure utility vehicle and our passenger vehicles range of pick-ups have been consistently well-received since launch. We are happy to carry forward this success story. We are confident that with this enriched range of aspirational products, we shall be able to address the needs of the emerging progressive Indian customers and further strengthen our pole position in the segment."

Airbnb introduces Icons -- Jahnvi Kapoor opens the door to her legendary, never-before-seen family home in Chennai

Mumbai, Airbnb is introducing Icons, a new category of extraordinary experiences hosted by the world's greatest names in music, film, television, art, sports, and more. Icons take you inside worlds that only existed in your imagination -- until now. Sleep in the Ferrari Museum. Stay in Prince's Purple Rain house. Spend a day at Bollywood Icon Jahnvi Kapoor's coastal abode.

Today, we're unveiling the first 11 Icons on Airbnb, with new experiences dropping around the world throughout the year. "Icons bring to life experiences that are magical and truly beyond imagination," said Amanpreet Bajaj, General Manager, Airbnb India, Southeast Asia, Hong Kong and Taiwan. "As part of the Icons launch, we are thrilled to partner with Jahnvi Kapoor for this special campaign, which will offer an unprecedented glimpse into Jahnvi's coastal beach home," he added.

As part of the launch, Bollywood superstar Jahnvi Kapoor is opening the doors to her family's estate in Chennai for an experience unlike any other. Known for her charming performances on screen, Jahnvi will welcome two sets of two guests each at her coastal abode as a part of this special promotional campaign. Nestled on four acres of serene beachfront, Jahnvi Kapoor's coastal home is a sanctuary of tranquility and warmth. The home has been the stage for many childhood summers spent with her dear family and will now be available to select Airbnb guests for the first time ever. Guests will have the privilege of immersing themselves in the rich tapestry of the Kapoor family legacy and be able to unwind like their favorite Bollywood star during their stay.

POCO Reveals Irresistible Deals on Best selling Smartphones for the upcoming May Sale

Mumbai, POCO, one of the fastest-growing consumer technology brands in India, unveils compelling offers for its top-selling smartphones during the May sale, running from May 1 to May 10, 2024, exclusively on e-commerce giants Flipkart and Amazon.

Boasting a 5000mm² VC Cooling system and Wildboost 2.0, it ensures optimal gaming performance. Its impressive 6.67-inch AMOLED display offers a smooth 120Hz refresh rate and supports Dolby Vision®.

With a resolution of 1.5K ensuring sharp and vibrant visuals and is the only device under INR 20K to offer these features. The smartphone is powered by the Snapdragon® 7s Gen 2 Mobile Platform. It is protected by Corning® Gorilla® Glass Victus®.

Microsoft to invest \$2.2 bn to fuel Malaysia's cloud, AI transformation

New Delhi, May 2 (IANS) Microsoft on Thursday announced to invest \$2.2 billion over the next four years to advance new cloud and artificial intelligence (AI) infrastructure in Malaysia. The investment will allow Microsoft to meet the growing demand for cloud computing services in the country.

innovation across the country," said Satya Nadella, Chairman and CEO, Microsoft. This investment will create AI skilling opportunities for an additional 200,000 people in the country.

CHANGE OF NAME: I have changed my old name from MAHAMADSOUBAN SAIDURAHMAN CHAUDHARI to new name MAHAMADSOUBAN SHAHIDURAHMAN CHAUDHARI.

CHANGE OF NAME: I have changed my old name from SHAH BHUMIKABAHEN MUKESHKUMAR to new name SHAH BHUMIKA RITESH.

CHANGE OF NAME: I have changed my minor daughter old name from PRIYA NIKUNJ CHOUHARY to new name PRIYA NIKUNJ CHAUDHARY.

CHANGE OF NAME: I have changed my old name from ZAKIYA MAHAMADSOUBAN CHAUDHARI to new name JAKIYABAHEEN MAHAMADSOUBAN CHAUDHARI.

CHANGE OF NAME: I have changed my old name from THAKOR RAVIDRASINH to new name VIRPARA RAVIDRASINH MAHENDRASINH.

CHANGE OF NAME: I have changed my old name from MODI KINULKUMAR KAUSHIKKUMAR to new name MODI KINUL KAUSHIKKUMAR.

CHANGE OF NAME: I have changed my old name from SAIDURAHMAN HABIBULLAH CHAUDHARI to new name SHAHIDURAHMAN HABIBBHAJ CHAUDHARI.

CHANGE OF NAME: I have changed my old name from KIRTIKUMARI BHARATKUMARAGRAWAL to new name KIRTI DIPENKUMARAGRAWAL.

CHANGE OF NAME: I have changed my minor son old name from ARMAN ALIAKBAR GAJJIPURWALA to new name DANIEL ALIAKBAR GAJJIPURWALA.

CHANGE OF NAME: I have changed my old name from FATMABEN SAIDURAHMAN CHAUDHARI to new name FATMABEN SHAHIDURAHMAN CHAUDHARI.

CHANGE OF NAME: I have changed my old name from PATEL JINAL DINESHKUMAR to new name PATEL JINALKUMAR DINESHBHAI.

CHANGE OF NAME: I have changed my old name from TIKABEN SHANKARJI CHAUHAN to new name TIKABA SHANKARJI CHAUHAN.

Avaada Energy Secures Green Financing of 1,190 Cr for New Solar Project in Gujarat

Mumbai, Avaada Energy, the renewable energy arm of Avaada Group, is pleased to announce that it has secured Green Financing of about INR 1,190 crore (~USD 143 million) from India's largest public sector lender, the State Bank of India (SBI).

This financing will support the development of a 400 MWp utility-scale solar PV power project in the Surendra Nagar district of Gujarat. This project underlines Avaada's commitment to expanding its footprint in renewable energy.

Mumbai, Avaada Energy, the renewable energy arm of Avaada Group, is pleased to announce that it has secured Green Financing of about INR 1,190 crore (~USD 143 million) from India's largest public sector lender, the State Bank of India (SBI).

GUJARAT LEASE FINANCING LTD. (CIN: L65990GJ1983PLC006345)

Regd. Office: 6th Floor, Hasubhai Chambers, Opp: Town Hall, Ellisbridge Ahmedabad-380 006. Ph: 079-26575722, E-mail: gflfho_ahm@vahoo.co.in, Website: www.gujaratleasefinancing.co.in

EXTRACT OF THE STATEMENT OF AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2024

Table with 5 columns: Sl. No., Particulars, Quarter ended 31.03.2024, Year Ended 31.03.2024, Quarter ended 31.03.2023, Year Ended 31.03.2023. Rows include Total Income, Total Expenses, Net Profit, etc.

Note: The above is an extract of the detailed format of Annual Financial Results for the quarter and year ended March 31, 2024 filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulation, 2015.

INDO US BIO-TECH LIMITED (CIN: L01122GJ2004PLC043550)

Regd. Office: 309, Shanti Mall, Satadhar Cross Road, Sola Road, Ahmedabad-380 061, (Gujarat) India Website: www.indousagrisseeds.com E-Mail ID: indouscs@gmail.com

Extract of Statement of Audited Financial Results "for the Quarter and Year ended 31st March, 2024

Table with 6 columns: PARTICULARS, Quarter ended 31-03-2024 (Audited), 31-12-2023 (Unaudited), 31-03-2023 (Audited), 31-03-2024 (Audited), Year ended 31-03-2023 (Audited). Rows include Total Income, Total Expenses, Net Profit, etc.

Note: The above is an extract of the detailed format of Financial Results for the Quarter and Year ended March, 2024, filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015.

CHANGE OF NAME: I have changed my old name from MAHAMADSOUBAN SAIDURAHMAN CHAUDHARI to new name MAHAMADSOUBAN SHAHIDURAHMAN CHAUDHARI.

CHANGE OF NAME: I have changed my old name from THAKOR RAVIDRASINH to new name VIRPARA RAVIDRASINH MAHENDRASINH.

CHANGE OF NAME: I have changed my old name from PATEL JINAL DINESHKUMAR to new name PATEL JINALKUMAR DINESHBHAI.

CHANGE OF NAME: I have changed my old name from TIKABEN SHANKARJI CHAUHAN to new name TIKABA SHANKARJI CHAUHAN.

CHANGE OF NAME: I have changed my old name from MODI KINULKUMAR KAUSHIKKUMAR to new name MODI KINUL KAUSHIKKUMAR.

CHANGE OF NAME: I have changed my old name from SHAH BHUMIKA RITESH to new name BHUMIKABAHEN MUKESHKUMAR.

CHANGE OF NAME: I have changed my old name from RUKMINI NIKUNJ CHOUHARY to new name RUKMINI NIKUNJ CHAUDHARY.

CHANGE OF NAME: I have changed my old name from RUKHMINI NIKUNJ CHOUHARY to new name RUKHMINI NIKUNJ CHAUDHARY.

CHANGE OF NAME: I have changed my old name from MOHIT NIKUNJ CHOUHARY to new name MOHIT NIKUNJ CHAUDHARY.

CHANGE OF NAME: I have changed my old name from NIKUNJ HIRALAL CHAUDHARY to new name NIKUNJ HIRALAL CHAUDHARY.

CHANGE OF NAME: I have changed my old name from PRIYA NIKUNJ CHOUHARY to new name PRIYA NIKUNJ CHAUDHARY.

CHANGE OF NAME: I have changed my old name from MAHAMADSOUBAN SAIDURAHMAN CHAUDHARI to new name MAHAMADSOUBAN SHAHIDURAHMAN CHAUDHARI.

CHANGE OF NAME: I have changed my old name from RUKHMINI NIKUNJ CHOUHARY to new name RUKHMINI NIKUNJ CHAUDHARY.

CHANGE OF NAME: I have changed my old name from MOHIT NIKUNJ CHOUHARY to new name MOHIT NIKUNJ CHAUDHARY.

CHANGE OF NAME: I have changed my old name from NIKUNJ HIRALAL CHAUDHARY to new name NIKUNJ HIRALAL CHAUDHARY.

CHANGE OF NAME: I have changed my old name from PRIYA NIKUNJ CHOUHARY to new name PRIYA NIKUNJ CHAUDHARY.

CHANGE OF NAME: I have changed my old name from MAHAMADSOUBAN SAIDURAHMAN CHAUDHARI to new name MAHAMADSOUBAN SHAHIDURAHMAN CHAUDHARI.

CHANGE OF NAME: I have changed my old name from THAKOR RAVIDRASINH to new name VIRPARA RAVIDRASINH MAHENDRASINH.

WESTERN RAILWAY - VADODRA DIVISION CORRIGENDUM 3 Tender Notice No. EL-TRD-2023-24-EPC-01 (Open Tender) Closing Date : 16/05/2024 at 15:00 hrs.

PUBLIC NOTICE It is informed to the General Public that the Bank of Baroda, Station Road Branch, Godhra intends to accept the unmentioned property standing in the name of M/s Radhakrishna Brick Industries and its Partners Mr. J. T. Katiya and Mrs. R. J. Katiya as a security for a loan/credit facilities requested against it.

Details of Properties to be Mortgaged 1. Land and Building at Revenue Survey No. 43 Paiki 14, Revenue A/c No. 181, New Revenue Survey No. 71, admeasuring 18,211 Square Meters, at Mouje Village Rupanpura, Taluka Godhra, District Panchmahals.

PUBLIC NOTICE In the court of Honble Additional Civil Judge Shri G. S. Pawar At Danta, Dist. B.K. (Gujarat), Exh. 15, Regular Civil Suit No. 17 of 2024

Plaintiff : Tejpal Chuni Lal Joshi, Residing at : Ambaji, Ta. Danta, Dist. B.K. V/s. Defendant (7) Vinay Somnath Panchal Residing at : Gopaladas Khemchan Chali Opp. Hajipura Garden, Shahibaug, Ahmedabad-380004, 8/2, Bakul Bhogilal Panchal, 8/4 Ramaben Rasiklal Panchal, 8/5, Ambikaben Rasiklal Panchal, 8/6, Mandaben Bhogilal Panchal, 8/7, Nandaben Bhogilal Panchal 8/2 to 8/7 residing at Radhesyam Bhavan, Nr. Avishkar Flat, Keshavnagar, Oneway, Subhash Bridge, Ahmedabad, 11/1, Bhaminiben Popatlal Panchal Residing at B/10, Vandana Apartment, Opp. Vikrant Circle, Ghatkopar West, Mumbai-400077. The aforesaid plaintiff have given an application in the Hon'ble court at danta to serve the public notice by publishing them in the daily newspaper which is being published and circulated at the place where the aforesaid Defendants are residing as the said application is granted by this public notice the aforesaid Defendants are informed that by giving this notice you are hereby informed that you should personally remain present or through you conversant advocate on dt. 9-5-2024 at 10-30 in the Hon'ble court showing the reason that why the order should not be passed in favour of aforesaid plaintiff in property related shop no. 3, of Ambika Bhuvan & Panchal Bhuvan Dharmashala of Ambaji City Survey No. 155 to 162.

MENA MANI INDUSTRIES LIMITED Regd. Office : 4th Floor, "KARM" Corporate House, Opp. Vikramnagar, Nr. Newjumar Timber Mart, Ambli Bopal Road, Ahmedabad - 380 059, Gujarat. Phone : 079-26936006 · CIN : L29199GJ1992PLC018047

STATEMENT OF STANDALONE AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2024 (Rs. in Lakhs). Table with 4 columns: Particulars, Quarter Ending 31/03/2024, Year to date Figures 31/03/2024, Corresponding 3 months ended in the previous year 31/03/2023.

GUJARAT CONTAINERS LIMITED CIN: L28120GJ1992PLC017081 Regd. Office: Plot no. 488, Baroda - Savli Highway, Vill. Tundav, Tal. Savli, Dist. Vadodara - 391 775, Tel. (2667) 262084, 262220 Email: cs@gujaratcontainers.com Website : www.gujaratcontainers.com

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 that the Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company is re-scheduled to be held on Saturday, the 11th May, 2024 at 11.00 a.m.onwards at its Corporate Office at 201-202, Alkapuri Arcade, "B" Wing, R.C. Dutt Road, Opp. Welcome Hotel, Vadodara - 390 007, to consider inter alia, I. To consider and approve the Audited Financial Results of the Company for the Quarter and Year ended 31st March, 2024 and ii. to consider to recommend payment of dividend for the financial year 2023-24.

News in a Nutshell

Yercaud bus accident: FIR filed against missing bus driver

Chennai, May 2 (IANS) A case has been filed against the driver of the tourist bus that toppled in Yercaud in Tamil Nadu's Salem district, leaving five dead and 64 injured, police said on Wednesday. Police said that the bus, going from Yercaud to Salem on Tuesday, had a suspected break failure at a hairpin bend and toppled over at a subsequent hairpin bend and they accused the driver of overspeeding.

Hena Shahab targets RJD leaders for ignoring Shahabuddin family

Patna, May 2 (IANS) Hena Shahab, the wife of late Siwan MP Mohammad Shahabuddin and an independent candidate from Siwan Lok Sabha seat, criticised the RJD for ignoring his family, saying that if the party leaders could not respect her, then how would they respect anyone else? Her statement came as her family and supporters organised a prayer meeting to pay tribute to Shahabuddin on his death anniversary on Wednesday.

Another jolt to BRS as ex-Telangana minister joins Congress

Hyderabad, May 2 (IANS) In another setback for the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) ahead of Lok Sabha elections, former Telangana minister Allola Indrakaran Reddy quit the party and joined the Congress on Wednesday. Indrakaran Reddy, who was the forest minister during the BRS regime from 2018 to 2023, joined the Congress after sending his resignation to BRS president K. Chandrasekhar Rao. Congress' in-charge for Telangana Deepa Dasmunshi welcomed him and his supporters into the party. Indrakaran Reddy's defection came less than two weeks before the Lok Sabha polls and this may give a boost to Congress in Nirmal Assembly segment, which is part of Adilabad Lok Sabha constituency.



UDINE, The Italian Freccie Tricolori aerobatic squad performs during an airshow organized on the occasion of the 64th aerobatic season of the aerobatic squad, at Rivilto Air Force Base in Italy, May 1, 2024. The Italian Freccie Tricolori aerobatic squad will perform in many locations in Italy from May 5. UNI

Sanjay Raut questions increase in Maha voting percentage after 11 days

Mumbai, May 2 (IANS) Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut on Thursday questioned the Election Commission of India (ECI) about the increase in the voting percentages of Phase 1 and Phase 2 Lok Sabha elections, and asked how it suddenly shot up after so many days. Speaking to the media here, he said that the hourly and daily voting percentages in all the Lok Sabha constituencies that have voted so far, provided on the Maharashtra Chief Electoral Officer and ECI websites were the latest current data.

"However, after 11 days from the Phase 1 (April 19) and a week after the Phase 2 (April 26) polling, the ECI has released the voting percentages which are much higher than the live data given on the polling dates. Where did the extra votes come from?" demanded Raut. He pointed out that the voting percentages have changed by 7-10 per cent in many constituencies, though in Nagpur it has reportedly reduced by some points, and the low turnout had rattled the Bharatiya Janata Party. Pointing a needle of suspicion, he said that after the low voter turnout, many people had taken note and expressed concerns over the considerable drop in the voting percentages as compared with the 2019 polling data. The very same people

are now surprised that the low percentage has shot up in 11 days and has nearly equalled the 2019 poll tally, raising questions. "This is the digital era in a digital India... Does it take them 11 days to give the voting percentages? We can understand a difference of half or one per cent in the final calculations, but such a huge gap of 7 or 10 per cent or more is difficult to digest," said Raut.

Congress partnership with Pakistan exposed, says PM Modi

Anand (Gujarat), May 2 (IANS) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday launched a scathing attack on Congress, saying that the grand old party's partnership with Pakistan has been exposed. Addressing an election rally at Shastri Ground in Gujarat's Anand, PM Modi said, "Today, when Congress is weakening in India... the Pakistan leaders are praying for Congress

to revive. Pakistan and Congress have a partnership and it is now completely exposed. Pakistan wants a weak government, not a strong one -- a weak government like it was during the Mumbai blast. "Modi ki majboot sarkar Pakistan ko chubhti hai (Modi's strong government hurts Pakistan)." He criticized the past dealings of the Congress

Excise policy case: Manish Sisodia moves Delhi HC against trial court order denying bail

New Delhi, May 2 (IANS) Former Deputy Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party leader Manish Sisodia on Thursday moved the Delhi High Court challenging a trial court's order denying him regular bail in cases by CBI and ED related to the excise policy case. Special Judge Kaveri Baweja of Rouse Avenue Court had on April 30, refused to grant bail to Sisodia who was seeking regular bail a second time.

12.30 p.m. on Thursday. During the trial court's decision to deny bail, it was noted that delays in the case proceedings were largely due to actions attributable to Sisodia himself, dismissing his claims of undue delay. Before the court, prosecutor Pankaj Gupta for the CBI had last time said that Sisodia does not satisfy the rigours of grant of bail under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). Claiming that the AAP leader has political clout, the prosecutor had said that he was influential and also not entitled to parity. Arguing that he hasn't gotten bail from the High Court and the Supreme Court earlier, Gupta had said that if he gets bail now when the probe is at a nascent stage, it will solve his motive. Sisodia's bail application has been pending since February. Recently, his judicial custody was also extended in both cases.



BOLANGIR, Odisha Chief Minister and Biju Janata Dal (BJD) President Naveen Patnaik files his nomination papers for State Assembly elections, in Kantabnaji of Bolangir district, two days after he filed his nomination from Hinjili constituency. UNI

CBI submits preliminary report in Calcutta HC on Sandeshkhali land grabbing, sexual harassment cases

Kolkata, May 2 (IANS) The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), on Thursday, submitted a preliminary status report on its investigation into the cases of illegal land grabbing, extortion and harassment of women in West Bengal's Sandeshkhali to the division bench of the Calcutta High Court's Chief Justice T.S. Sivagnanam and Justice Hiranmay Bhattacharya. After submitting the preliminary status report in a sealed envelope, the CBI counsel also complained of non-cooperation from the state government in providing the Central agency officials with the land records at Sandeshkhali. The CBI counsel said that the Central agency through its dedicated portal has received around 900 complaints relating to illegal land grabbing in Sandeshkhali. He argued that without the cooperation of the state government in accessing the original land reports it will be difficult to carry forward the investigation process in the matter. After hearing the argument of the CBI counsel, the division bench directed the state government to hand over all the documents sought by the CBI officials to the latter within one week. The division bench also directed the state government to extend all necessary cooperation to the CBI so that the latter could carry forward its investigation into the matter smoothly. On Monday, the Chief Justice also referred to the development of the Supreme Court's decision of not interfering in the earlier order by the Calcutta High Court directing a CBI probe in the matter.

PM Modi's third term will eliminate terrorism from country: Home Minister Shah

Hubballi, May 2 (IANS) Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday said that the third term for Prime Minister Narendra Modi will eliminate terrorism, and Left Wing Extremism from the country. "The third term for Prime Minister Modi means the success of Chandrayaan, Mangal Yaan and Aditya Yaan missions," he said during a public rally in Karnataka's Hubballi. "During the rule of the Congress government under Sonia Gandhi and Manmohan Singh, infiltrators from Pakistan used to explode bombs here and escape. They thought they could get away in the same manner and staged the Uri and Pulwama attacks. They didn't realize that Prime Minister Modi is in charge and within 10 days surgical and air strikes were conducted," the Home Minister added. He accused the Congress of delaying the Ayodhya Ram temple case and dragging it for 70 years. "When Prime Minister Modi took charge for the second term, the case was won, a groundbreaking ceremony was conducted and the temple was inaugurated," Home Minister Shah said. He also claimed that top Congress leaders including party chief Mallikarjun Kharge, Sonia Gandhi, and Rahul

Boating on Ganga river in Varanasi prohibited after 8:30 p.m.

Varanasi, May 2 (IANS) Boating on the Ganga river in Varanasi has been prohibited after 8:30 p.m., officials said. The decision has been taken keeping in view the safety of the tourists, said Water Police In-charge Mithlesh Yadav. According to the Water Police In-charge, drowning incidents increased in May and June. For the safety of tourists and visitors, security has been increased in the Ganga by Jal Police and arrangements have been made to increase vigil on weekends. Yadav added that four teams, including two of NDRF and two of Water Police on two boats, have been deployed to keep a vigil on the Ganga.

On Owaisi's home turf, Amit Shah calls for joining Hyderabad with mainstream

Hyderabad, May 2 (IANS) Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday alleged that the 'representatives of Razakars' from Hyderabad sat in the Parliament for the last 40 years, as he appealed to the people to vote for the BJP to join Hyderabad with the mainstream. The Home Minister was speaking after a roadshow in the Old City area of Hyderabad in support of BJP candidate K. Madhavi Latha. Giving a call to "liberate Hyderabad from Razakars", Amit Shah said without naming Asaduddin Owaisi, the sitting MP and President of the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM), "For 40 years, the representatives of Razakars sat there (Parliament). But you have an opportunity this time, so elect Madhavi Latha by a huge majority." Razakars were the paramilitary volunteers who tried to help the Nizam government in keeping the Hyderabad State independent after India gained independence in 1947. The Hyderabad State merged with the Indian Union on September 17, 1948, following Operation Polo, popularly known as 'Police Action'. The roadshow was held from the Mahankali Temple in Lal Darwaza to Sudha Talkies in the Shalibanda area.

K'taka CM writes to PM Modi seeking cancellation of Prajwal Revanna's diplomatic passport

Bengaluru, May 2 (IANS) Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi urging the latter to cancel the diplomatic passport of Prajwal Revanna, the grandson of former PM H.D. Deve Gowda, over the alleged sex tape scandal in Karnataka. On Tuesday morning, the JD-S suspended Prajwal Revanna, the sitting party MP and Lok Sabha candidate from Hassan, after the Congress government in Karnataka formed a special investigation team (SIT) to probe the allegations of sexual abuse against him. In the letter, CM Siddaramaiah said, "Urge you to kindly move the Ministries of External Affairs and Home Affairs to take swift action and cancel the diplomatic passport of Prajwal Revanna and take steps using the diplomatic and police channels of the Government of India as well as international police agencies to ensure the swift return of the absconding MP to face the law." The SIT will provide all the necessary details and fulfil all the legal formalities required in this regard, the CM added. "You must be aware of the serious case of alleged sexual exploitation of innumerable women by the sitting Hassan Lok Sabha MP and JD-S candidate Prajwal Revanna. The allegations that Prajwal Revanna is facing are horrible and shameful and these have shaken the conscience of the country. "Our government constituted an SIT on April 28, under the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) and the investigation has begun in earnest. The SIT was formed as soon as the true nature of the alleged crimes against several women emerged, and the victims came forward to file a complaint against Prajwal Revanna," the letter read. The Chief Minister also said that according to reports, sensing his impending arrest, Prajwal Revanna travelled abroad using his diplomatic passport on April 27.

Advertisement for the 2024 Indian general elections featuring PM Narendra Modi. It includes the slogan 'Ekamraaj' and 'Modi Sarkar' and lists the dates of the elections: May 16-17 (Lok Sabha) and May 19-20 (State Assemblies).