

News Brief

Rajasthan Health Minister smells scam worth crores in fake NOCs for organ transplant cases

Jaipur, May 10 (IANS) Rajasthan Health Minister Gajendra Singh Khimra said that the fake NOCs issued in organ transplant cases seem like a scam worth crores, and those accused will not be spared.

Speaking to the media, he said that Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma had given him seven days to probe the issue and that he submitted a thorough report to the Governor on Thursday.

Khimra added that he has also raised a demand to the CM to order an SIT probe in the matter, close on the heels of the paper leak case so that those who indulged in the crime can be put behind bars.

Delhi HC seeks EDs reply on BRS leader K. Kavitha's bail plea

New Delhi, May 10 (IANS) Delhi High Court on Friday issued a notice to the ED on bail plea of Bharat Rashtia Samithi (BRS) leader K. Kavitha, an accused in a money laundering case related to the alleged excise policy scam. Kavitha moved the high court after a special court here on May 6 turned down her regular bail pleas in cases being probed by both -- the CBI and the Enforcement Directorate (ED). Special Judge Kaveri Baweja of the Rouse Avenue Court had cited the gravity and seriousness of the offence, the nature of the allegations against her, and the offences invoked in the case to turn down her pleas.

Akali Dal will take up pending issues of Punjab, if voted to power: Sukhbir Badal

Sangrur, May 10 (IANS) Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) President Sukhbir Badal on Friday appealed to voters to send the Akali Dal representatives to Parliament so that the party could take up all pending issues of the state and resolve them once and for all.

The SAD president, who led the 'Punjab Bachao Yatra' across Bhadour, Mehal Kalan and Barnala assembly segments of this parliamentary constituency along with party candidate Iqbal Singh Jhoondan, said "this is the reason we have decided to contest alone."

Congress will win from both Amethi and Raebareli: KC Venugopal

Thiruvananthapuram, May 10 (IANS) AICC General Secretary (Organisation) K. C. Venugopal, on Friday, said that the Congress party will win from both Amethi and Raebareli seats in Uttar Pradesh. "I have been to both the constituencies and the response is hugely positive. The Congress party will win from both Amethi and Raebareli seats," said Venugopal. "K. L. Sharma, contesting as the Congress candidate from Amethi, is a person who knows both these constituencies like the back of his palm, as for the past 35 years, he has been working there," added Venugopal.

PM Modi replies to Raut's 'bury' remark dares 'nakli sena' in its backyard

New Delhi, May 10 (IANS) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday ripped into Maha Vikas Aghadi

alliance of Maharashtra for their politics of opportunism and also gave a strong rejoinder to Shiv Sena leaders for demeaning and threatening statements against him.

PM Modi took on Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut's statement on burying him and dared the 'nakli sena' to accomplish their evil motives. He added that he has the blessings of 'matri-shakti' and they will save him from abuses.

Prime Minister assailed the Cong-NCP-Shiv Sena coalition while addressing a public rally in Nandurbar in Maharashtra.

Addressing the mega

gathering, PM Modi said, "On one side, there is Congress which says 'Modi teri kabr khudegi' and on the other hand, there is this nakli Shiv Sena that talks about burying me alive. Even while abusing me, they take full care of their vote bank politics."

PM Modi further said that the soul of Balasaheb Thackeray would be writhing in pain seeing how a party that he founded, has gone haywire and is now seen siding with the anarchists and terrorists.

He also assailed the members of the INDIA bloc for keeping the corrupt leaders on a high pedestal and setting a bad precedent in the public sphere.

"It's because of their association with criminal

elements that they talk about burying me," he pointed out.

Further hurling a challenge to the 'nakli sena', he said that it can never succeed in its 'evil designs'.

"They can't bury me either alive or even after death," said PM Modi, evoking loud cheers from the crowd.

Notably, Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut slammed the Prime Minister at a recent public rally and drew comparisons with Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb and also made threatening statements.

Following this, the Shiv Sena leader came under heavy backlash from the BJP, which also lodged a police complaint for threatening remarks against PM Modi.

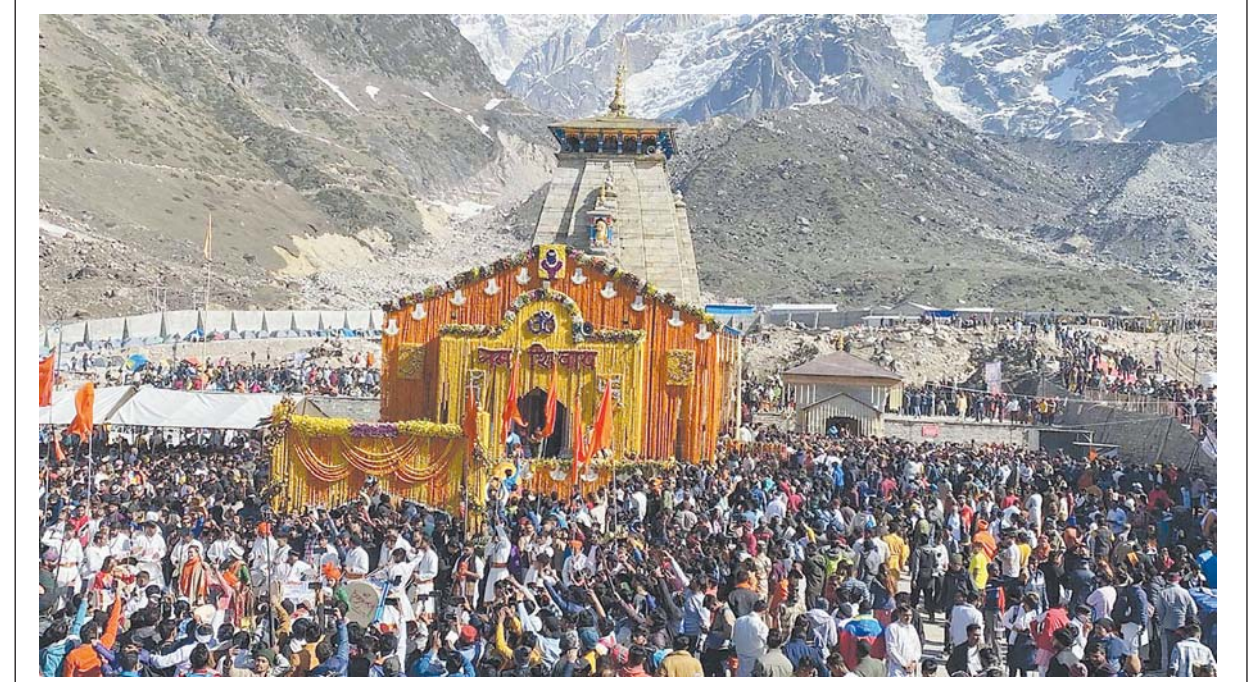
First set right your house: K'taka Dy CM tells ex-CM Kumaraswamy on sex video scandal

Bengaluru, May 10 (IANS) Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar slammed former CM HD Kumaraswamy on Friday and said that he should set right his house before making allegations against others. The state Congress President was answering media questions regarding Kumaraswamy accusing him of targeting former Prime Minister, HD Deve Gowda's family in the sex video scandal.

The leak of the videos

allegedly showing JD(U) leader Deve Gowda's grandson and Kumaraswamy's nephew Prajwal Revanna sexually abusing women, has taken Karnataka by storm and triggered a political slugfest in the state. Kumaraswamy has even demanded the sacking of Shivakumar from the Cabinet. When asked about Kumaraswamy's demand to remove him from the Cabinet, Dy CM Shivakumar maintained, "I wish him all

the best and good luck to him." Dy CM Shivakumar further maintained that 12th Century social reformer Basavanna preached that people should first set things right in their homes before trying to fix problems in society. "Likewise he should first set right things in his home and address his shortcomings," he stated. When asked about the National Commission for Women (NCW) receiving a complaint from a woman alleging that she



KEDARNATH, Devotees arrive to offer prayers at Kedarnath temple after portals opened, marking the start of the 'Char Dham Yatra', in Rudrapur district on Friday. UNI

Police book Navneet Rana for 'vote for Pakistan' jibe against Congress

Hyderabad, May 10 (IANS) Telangana Police registered a case against former actress and BJP leader Navneet Rana for her remarks against the Congress party during an election campaign in the state.

A case under Sections 171C (undue influence at elections) r/w

171 F (Punishment for undue influence), 171 G

(False statement in connection with elections) and Section 188 (Disobedience to order duly promulgated by a public servant) Indian Penal Code (IPC) was registered against her at Shadnagar Police Station in Rangareddy District.

Navneet Rana, who is a BJP candidate from the Amravati constituency in Maharashtra, had made the remarks while campaigning in Shadnagar town on May 8.

Police said the case was registered on a complaint by the Election Commission's Flying Squad.

The MP had allegedly remarked that a vote for Congress party will be a vote for Pakistan.



PATNA, BJP candidate from Patna Sahib constituency Ravi Shankar Prasad with his family before he filed his nomination for Lok Sabha elections, in Patna on Friday. UNI

Maha Cong Chief calls for purification of Ram Temple, gives fresh ammo to BJP

New Delhi, May 10 (IANS) Maharashtra Congress Chief Nana Patole on Friday stoked a fresh controversy as he made a call for the purification of the Ram Temple if the Maha Vikas Aghadi alliance comes to power.

Patole's remarks on Ayodhya's Ram Temple have given fresh ammo to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), besides escalating the conundrum that the party already finds itself steeped in.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi didn't follow the right rituals before performing Pran Pratistha ceremony. The Shankaracharyas also vented their disagreement with it. People also want purification of the temple," Patole told media persons.

When probed further on the mode of purification, Patole said that the Shankaracharyas, the biggest priests in the Hindu religion will lead the Pran Pratistha ceremony in a way that is acceptable as per Hindu customs.

He claimed that the Shankaracharyas had opposed the Pran Pratistha ceremony then also but the BJP and Prime Minister ignored it.

The remarks by the Maharashtra Congress Chief are set to trigger a fresh row and invite stern backlash from the BJP.

Pramod Krishnam,

who quit the grand old party recently over its anti-Sanatana stand also slammed Nana Patole for insulting and derogatory remarks.

"This is an absurd and ridiculous statement. By taking Lord Ram's name, one becomes pure. All our sins get washed away by taking his name. What does Congress want to say by purification?," Krishnam asked.

He also advised the Congress to first get rid of their hatred against Lord Ram before talking about purification.

"If Congress pursues such rhetoric, this will spell doom for the party," he added.

Pramod Krishnam,

Hindu population decline is most worrying: Joshi

Bengaluru, May 10 (IANS) Union Minister Pralhad Joshi on Friday said that the trend of decline of the Hindu population in the country is the most worrying development.

Speaking to the media, Union Minister Pralhad Joshi said that the state and central governments should wake up and initiate action immediately to prevent this trend.

He said that there should be a comprehensive study regarding the decline of the Hindu population in the country.

"If the number of Hindus decline then over a period of time the democratic system itself will change."

Man stabbed to death by robbers in Delhi

New Delhi, May 10 (IANS) A man was stabbed to death by three youths in a robbery bid in northeast Delhi's Harsh Vihar area, an official said, adding that they have arrested the trio accused.

The accused were identified as Suraj (19), Rohit a.k.a. Rayata (18), and Major (18).

The officials said that they have also recovered the stolen mobile phone of the deceased identified as Jagatpal, a resident of Milan Garden and weapons of offence, which is a button-actuated knife, from their possession.

According to police, on the intervening night of Tuesday and Wednesday, a Police Control Room (PCR) call regarding stabbing, was received at Harsh Vihar police station.

Upon reaching the spot, it was revealed that Jagatpal was already taken to GTB Hospital by his neighbour.

"He has been stabbed in the chest and left hand. Later, the victim succumbed to his injuries during treatment," said Deputy Commissioner of Police (northeast) Joy Tirkey. During the probe, technical surveillance was mounted and intelligence was also collected from the local deployed sources.

"On the basis of gathered information, teams identified the suspected persons and checked their residences but they were found absconding. The teams conducted various raids at possible hideouts of the suspected persons and succeeded to nab Major and Rahul from the area of Shalimar Garden," said the DCP, adding that the teams traced the location of the third accused and nabbed him from

Sonapat, Haryana.

On interrogation, they admitted to their crime and disclosed that they were jobless, and to meet their daily expenses, they committed petty crimes.

"On the fateful night, they were wandering in search of some target, during midnight they noticed a person going alone, near Milan Garden. They immediately cornered him at knife point and robbed his mobile

phone but he strongly resisted on which they stabbed him and fled from the spot," the DCP added.

Kerala BJP wants EC to take action against KPCC

Thiruvananthapuram, May 10 (IANS) The State BJP President K. Surendran, on Friday, asked the Election Commission (EC) to take action against the Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) for coming out with a fake video which compromises the security of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Surendran said that the video came out on the official X account of the KPCC. "Incidentally, this same video first came out in 2019 on the official account of KPCC. It says that money is being carried in helicopters which accompany PM Modi. Then it was proved that it is a fake video, but instead of apologising for the wrong, they (KPCC) have resorted to it again," said Surendran.

"We request the EC to intervene as not only does this compromise the security of the PM, but also portrays the defence forces in a poor light as these helicopters belong to the Indian Air Force," added Surendran.

Kerala court asks CBI to reinvestigate Jesna missing case

Thiruvananthapuram, May 10 (IANS) A court in Thiruvananthapuram on Friday ordered the CBI to reinvestigate the Jesna missing case.

The directive came after the father of Jesna approached the court with "fresh evidence" in the case.

Earlier, the CBI had submitted their final report on the case as they failed

to find out what happened to her.

Father of Jesna had submitted in a sealed cover what he claims to be fresh evidence and wanted the court to order a re-investigation.

After the CBI had pointed out that they were ready for a relook if there was new evidence and hence the court asked the CBI to reinvestigate the

case and gave the necessary orders.

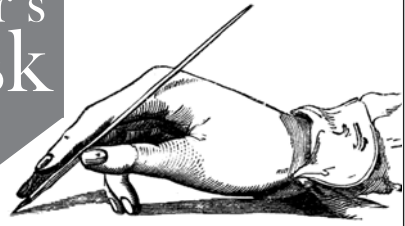
Jesna went missing from her home district in Pathanamthitta on March 22, 2018, while she was a second-year B.Com student.

The case was first probed by the Kerala Police, after which it was handed over to the Crime Branch wing and later to the CBI.



AMETHI, Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra meeting locals at an election rally in support of party candidate for Parliamentary election-2024 in Amethi on Friday. UNI

From Editor's Desk



AstraZeneca withdraws vaccine: No need to panic

Covid vaccines helped save lives. Rare adverse reactions to them should be seen from scientific lens, not alarmist ones.

Ten days after AstraZeneca admitted side effects of its Covid vaccine in rare cases, the company has withdrawn the shots, renamed Vaxzveria in 2021, from the global market. It has cited a "surplus of available updated vaccines" that target new variants of the virus as the reason for its decision.



New Delhi, May 10 (IANS) Female sex hormone oestrogen and the X chromosome play a significant role in making women more vulnerable to the autoimmune disorder lupus, said experts on World Lupus Day on Friday.

World Lupus Day is observed every year on May 10 to raise awareness of the life-changing autoimmune disease, in which the body attacks its organs by producing certain substances called antibodies.

Why autoimmune disorder lupus affect women more than men

worldwide. In India, 3.2 cases of SLE are documented per 100,000 people. However, globally women in the reproductive age range disproportionately account for up to 90 per cent of cases of the SLE.

Despite recent progress in the understanding of lupus, the striking female-to-male ratio of disease incidence remains largely unexplained.

"But some studies point out that sex hormones play a major role in causing genetically predisposed women more vulnerable to lupus; oestrogen specifically is likely to contribute more to the development of lupus," Dr Anu Daber, Sr Consultant Rheumatology, Paras Health Gurugram, told IANS.

connection between X chromosomes in women and the development of lupus, meaning in females, having two active X chromosomes would overwhelm the cellular machinery. To prevent this, one X chromosome is inactivated in each developing cell. This process, called X-chromosome inactivation, might influence how the immune system learns to identify threats.

Research also highlights the connection between X chromosomes in women and the development of lupus, meaning in females, having two active X chromosomes would overwhelm the cellular machinery.

skin, kidney, heart, brain joints, lungs, and blood vessels.

There are no vaccines available to prevent lupus as it's an autoimmune condition and most of the time it's genetic. There are also no preceding signs to identify its early onset, Dr Prasad told IANS, noting that malar rashes can, to some extent, be identified as an early sign.

Further, people with lupus are more susceptible to infection, cancer, and bone tissue death, since the disease and its therapies can impair the immune system. Lupus also raises complications in pregnancy problems. Dr. Prasad said that women who have lupus are more likely to miscarry.

Constituency Watch: NCP(SP) brings new Maratha face, Raksha Khadse faces twin challenges in Raver

Mumbai, May 10 (IANS) Political equations in the Raver Lok Sabha constituency from Jalgaon District in North Maharashtra have changed drastically after veteran leader Eknath Khadse's decision to re-join the BJP which he left in October 2020.

Khadse had left the BJP while blaming the local leadership of injustice and neglect.

Though Eknath Khadse is yet to be formally re-inducted into the BJP, he has a clout in the constituency due to his political journey of over 40 years.

Now, with Khadse at her side, the BJP nominee Raksha Khadse hopes to score a hat-trick from Raver constituency which has been represented by the party since 2009 after it was created in February 2009 during the delimitation process.

Raksha Khadse is pitted against NCP (SP) candidate Shriram Patil who is a leading industrialist and comes from the Maratha community. Significantly, Eknath Khadse is Raksha Khadse's father-in-law. The NCP(SP) had explored the option of fielding Khadse senior against his daughter-in-law but Khadse's move to re-join the BJP changed the equation.

With NCP(SP)'s move to nominate a new face, Raksha Khadse faces the twin challenge of battling the anti-incumbency factor and winning the seat with a higher margin.

During the 2019 elections, Raksha Khadse polled 6,55,386 votes against Congress nominee Dr Ulhas Patil who got 3,19,504 votes.

In the 2014 elections, Raksha Khadse had defeated NCP nominee Manish Jain when she

had polled 6,05,452 votes against 2,87,384 votes by Jain.

NCP(SP) hopes to cash in on the anti-incumbency factor against Raksha Khadse and also against the BJP.

There are 4 lakh Marathas, 3.30

after the Congress party held its national convention in Faizpur from Raver.

Eknath Khadse's rivalry with BJP Minister Girish Mahajan and Independent Legislator Chandrakant Patil is well-known.

Chandrakant Patil had defeated Khadse's daughter Rohini Khadse in the 2019 Assembly election from the Muktanagar seat.

Girish Mahajan has dared Eknath Khadse to first resign from the NCP(SP) and be part of the poll campaign after his formal 'ghar wapsi'.

However, the BJP's state and central leadership has asked party leaders including Mahajan and others from Jalgaon District not to target Eknath Khadse as the party is keen to retain the seat.

With the intervention of DCM Devendra Fadnis, the BJP's poll machinery has been activated for Raksha Khadse's victory.

Raksha Khadse is riding on Modi's guarantee as well as her performance in the two terms for the transformation of the constituency.

However, low procurement price for bananas, lapses in the banana crop insurance scheme and neglect of banana processing units are big

negatives for Raksha Khadse.

On his part, NCP SP candidate Shriram Patil is banking on strong support from party chief Sharad Pawar and Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray and also on the network of both the parties and the Congress party's poll machinery.

Shriram Patil is approaching the voters with an appeal for a change while exposing inaction on the part of incumbent MP Raksha Khadse over lack of substantial efforts to boost banana exports and development of mega recharge plant.

Apart from this, Shriram Patil is promising to actively pursue with the Centre the issue of construction of a four-lane Berhampur-Ankaleshwar National Highway, bringing in more industries to create more jobs and more railway stops in the constituency.

Further, former Legislator from Bhusawal, Santosh Chaudhari's move to opt out of the fray has come as a major relief for Shriram Patil.



lakh Muslims and 2.59 lakh Leva-Patils in the constituency.

Incidentally, Leva-Patils play a crucial role in the elections and therefore both Raksha Khadse and Shriram Patil have stepped up their efforts to woo them.

Of the 18,21,750 voters, 9,41,732 are males and 8,79,964 are females. The constituency is slated to go to polls on May 13 and there are 24 candidates in the fray.

Raver is also known as the major banana growing area and it hogged the headlines in the past

Odisha: BJD releases election manifesto with focus on youth & farmers

Bhubaneswar, May 10 (IANS) The ruling Biju Janata Dal (BJD) in Odisha on Thursday released its poll manifesto for the upcoming elections in Odisha.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik through a video message announced the release of the manifesto that contains nine promises focusing on youth, Women Self Help Groups, farmers, etc.

Patnaik termed his party's manifesto as people-oriented and said it will lead Odisha to become the number one state in India in the next 10 years.

"With the blessings of Lord Jagannath and citizens of Odisha, the guarantees presented in this people-oriented manifesto will be implemented through 5T governance model and will make Odisha the number one state in terms of economic growth and development by 2034, two years before the centenary celebrations of formation of Odisha state, with the cooperation of people and a strong leadership," CM Patnaik said.

Among the major promises made in the manifesto, the party has

promised to present a first of its kind 'Youth Budget', earmarking Rs 1 lakh crore for 10 years.

BJD claimed that Rs 1,000 crore out of the Budget will be spent annually on the basis of the suggestions given by the youth.

The party also announced to provide 2 lakh government jobs.

In a move to pre-empt the opposition's poll plank of Odia Asmita (Odia Self-Identity), the ruling BJD has declared the creation of Rs 1,000 crore corpus fund as 'Heritage Development Fund' for the preservation of temples, heritage places and places related to eminent personalities in the state.

It also promised to earmark Rs 100 crore for the development and promotion of Odia as a classical language.

"The state has received zero funds from the Centre for the propagation, promotion and research on Odia language as a classical language. We will again request the union government to confer classical tag for Odissi music and include Ho, Mundari and Bhumija into the eighth schedule," added CM Patnaik.

naik.

The party also promised in its manifesto that a centre of excellence with Rs 25 crore corpus fund will be established at Sambalpur university for studies, research and development on western Odisha languages.

The party in its sixth term would confer Kalinga Shri and Kalinga Bhushan awards like Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan to eminent personalities in the state.

BJD also assured that free electricity up to 100 units while families consuming power between 100 to 150 units will get a rebate of 50 units.

The ruling party also tried to woo the middle class families through the announcement of sops like inclusion in Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana, interest subvention on house loans up to Rs 20 lakh, scholarships for their wards etc.

The party has also declared to enhance financial aids provided under different flagship programmes being run by the BJD government.

It has announced interest-free loans up to Rs 15 lakh for the SHGs.--IANS

Sex video scandal: No involvement of DyCM or myself in SIT probe, says CM Siddaramaiah

Bengaluru, May 10 (IANS) Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has clarified that there was no involvement of Deputy CM D.K. Shivakumar or himself in the probe of the alleged sex scandal involving Prajwal Revanna, the JD(S) MP and Lok Sabha candidate from Hassan.

Former CM H.D. Kumaraswamy had alleged that the SIT was trying to force victims to file complaints by threatening to fix them in prostitution cases. He had also met the Governor and demanded the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe.

The National Commission for Women (NCW) said on Thursday that one of the woman complainants in the case had claimed that she was forced by a group of people claiming to be police, to lodge a false complaint after being threatened with harassment.

Speaking to reporters in Mysuru on Friday, CM Siddaramaiah said, "We believe in our police and we also trust them. Let the SIT conduct a probe lawfully and submit its report." "I had handed

over the probe of many cases to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). The BJP government in its tenure had not handed over any case to the CBI. The BJP addressed the CBI as the 'Corruption Bureau of Investigation'. Former PM H.D. Deve Gowda called it the 'Chor



Bachavo Investigation'. Now, they are preferring the CBI," CM Siddaramaiah stated.

"We are not interfering in the probe. I have trust in the SIT investigation. It is going on the right track. Earlier, our police handled the cases efficiently. But, I won't tell them to go against the law," he stated.

"The scandal does not have any international link. The link is being

brought to demand the CBI probe. SIT comprises our police. We should have faith in our police officers. All the criminal cases in the state are being investigated by them," said the CM.

"I handed over the cases such as IAS officer D.K. Ravi's suicide case, Lottery scandal, Minister K.J. George's case and Hindu activist Paresh Mesta's death case to the CBI. In no case, conviction has happened. That does not mean I don't trust the CBI agency. In this sex video scandal case, I trust the local police," CM Siddaramaiah stated.

When asked about JD(S) claiming that its MLA H.D. Revanna has been fixed even as he had no role, CM Siddaramaiah asked, "If there was no case why did H.D. Revanna apply for anticipatory bail?"

Why did the court reject his anticipatory bail if there is no case against him? If the FIR is false, why was the plea for anticipatory bail moved? I am an advocate. Are you one? CM Siddaramaiah told the media.

'Sanatan Dharm' row: SC issues notice on Udhayanidhi Stalin's plea for clubbing of FIRs and complaints

New Delhi, May 10 (IANS) The Supreme Court on Friday issued notice on a plea filed by Tamil Nadu minister Udhayanidhi Stalin seeking directions to consolidate various FIRs and complaints lodged against him over his controversial statements on 'Sanatan Dharm'.

Agreeing to examine the plea, a bench presided over by Justice Sanjiv Khanna sought responses from various state governments in the matter.

On April 1, the Bench, also comprising Justice Dipankar Datta, had granted time to bring all the subsequent events by way of filing an application seeking amendment in the petition.

The petition highlighted that except for one complaint case instituted before the Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Bangalore, all other FIRs/complaints are pending before the states of Maharashtra, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and the Union Territory of Jammu ; Kashmir which are currently ruled/administered by the Bharatiya Janata Party which is the ruling party at the Centre. "The plea contended that

the DMK leader has been receiving threats to his life and will encounter great difficulty in appearing before different police stations and courts in different regions.

Udhayanidhi Stalin had spoken at a function of Tamil Nadu Progressive Writers on the eradication of Sanatan Dharma, saying that it was against social justice. He also said that Sanatan Dharma must be eradicated like mosquitoes, dengue, malaria or corona.

Tamil Nadu minister for sports and youth affairs had said, "It (Sanatan Dharma) has to be eradicated, rather than opposing it."

Later, he refused to apologise for his remarks and justified himself by stating: "I will say this continuously."

Earlier, the top court had said that it would not entertain a plea seeking contempt action against Stalin Jr. over his controversial statements saying that it would be "impossible" to hear individual cases across the country. "If we start entertaining contempt, we will be flooded with it. We will not go into individual cases," it said.

LS polls: 23 candidates in fray for Gurgaon seat; 3 withdraw nomination

Gurugram, May 10 (IANS) A total of 23 candidates are in the fray for the Gurgaon Lok Sabha seat after three candidates pulled out of the electoral race on the last day of withdrawal of nominations on Thursday, an official said.

A single-phase polling will be held in all 10 Parliamentary constituencies in Haryana, including Gurgaon, in the sixth phase of Lok Sabha elections on May 25.

Gurugram District Election Officer and Deputy Commissioner Nishant Kumar Yadav allotted election symbols to all the candidates on Thursday.

Yadav said 14 candidates from registered parties and 9 Independents would be contesting the election from Gurgaon Parliamentary constituency. Among the nominees, the key candidates are BJP's Rao Inderjit Singh (Union Minister and sitting Gurgaon MP), Congress' Raj Babbar, Jannayak Janta Party nominee -- singer-rapper Rahul Yadav -- popularly known as Fazilpuria, Vijay Kumar from Bahujan Samaj Party, and Sohrab Khan from the Indian National Lok Dal. Balwan Singh, Rahul Thakran and Soni Hemlata are the ones who withdrew nominations on Thursday.

Major row breaks out between BJP, SS(UBT) over 'nakli santaan' jibe at Uddhav; Mahayuti ally also takes umbrage

Pune (Maharashtra), May 10 (IANS) Ruling Mahayuti's ally Prahar Janshakti Party (PJP) on Friday took umbrage at a statement made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi against former Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray.

During an election campaign in Maharashtra on Thursday, PM Modi allegedly referred to the 'nakli santaan (fake children)' of Balasaheb Thackeray while alluding to Uddhav Thackeray and reiterated his earlier statements on the 'nakli party' Shiv Sena (UBT).

Reacting to the statements, PJP President Omprakash Babarao Kadu, alias Bachchu Kadu said on Friday, "This should not have happened... Electioneering has plumeted to new lows... This is like a village panchayat-level poll campaign. If the PM has indeed said it, then it's not in the right spirit."

Referring to the statements by the PM, Home Minister Amit Shah and other senior BJP leaders label-

ling the Shiv Sena (UBT) an imitation of the original founded by the late Balasaheb Thackeray, Kadu said, "We can understand this up to the party level. However, it's no proper to drag family members and relatives into it while campaigning just to get votes."

However, another Mahayuti ally

calls Balasaheb Thackeray's children "fake", then "they are directly insulting the people of Maharashtra, and the people will teach them a lesson." Uddhav Thackeray also vented his ire late on Thursday night and promptly hit back saying, "Modi calls us 'nakli santaan', but he is 'beakli' (brainless). This is a direct insult to my revered parents Balasaheb Thackeray and Meena Thackeray. The people of the state will not rest till they give the BJP a fitting reply for this slur."

After the SS(UBT)'s sharp retort, Fadnis hit back on Friday saying that "it is Thackeray who has completely lost his mental balance and needs urgent treatment for making such statements"

and Deputy CM Devendra Fadnis said that the PM would never make such a statement disrespecting Balasaheb Thackeray. Taking offence to PM Modi's statement, SS(UBT)'s senior leader Sanjay Raut said that if someone





Abdu Rozik set to get married on July 7

Mumbai, May 10 (IANS) Social media sensation and former 'Bigg Boss' contestant, Abdu Rozik, has found the love of his life and is all set to tie the knot on July 7. The 20-year-old social media sensation took to his Instagram and dropped a surprise video of himself sharing the big news. He wrote in the caption, "I never imagined in my life that I would be so lucky to find a love who respects me and is not burdened by the obstacles in my life. 7th of July save the date!! I cannot express to you in words how happy I am ment #life #wedding #romance #lifepartner #engaged (sic)."

Vignesh Shivan praises Elan for 'Star': 'Honest film without conventional compromises'

Mumbai, May 10 (IANS) Filmmaker Vignesh Shivan has showered praise on 'Star' director Elan and called the Tamil romantic drama an "honest film without any conventional compromises." Taking to his Instagram stories, Shivan shared a still from the film and wrote: "Star is a movie that will make you feel hopeful and dream freely! The film features Kavin Lal, Aaditi Pohankar, Preity Mukhandan, and Geetha Kailasam and narrates the story of Kalai, a youngster who strives to fulfil his dream of becoming an actor but goes through various obstacles."

Bhuvan Bam recalls collaborations with SRK, calls superstar 'epitome of reinvention'

Mumbai, May 10 (IANS) YouTube sensation and actor Bhuvan Bam has paid tribute to Shah Rukh Khan, whom he deeply admires as an icon of reinvention in the Indian film industry. Bhuvan said: "Shah Rukh Khan has always been the epitome of reinvention, effortlessly transitioning from plays to television, from romantic hero to experimental roles, and now to an action star."



Recalling his collaborations with Shah Rukh Khan, the YouTuber described the experience as mesmerising.

Their first encounter took place on Bhuvan's show 'Titu Talks', where

ration for me, showcasing the power of resilience and adaptability in the face of challenges."

On the work front, Bhuvan will be seen in 'Taaza Khabar 2', directed by Himank Gaur and written by the duo Hussain and Abbas Dalal.

The series also stars Mahesh Manjrekar, Deven Bhoyani, Shilpa Shukla, Prathamesh Parab, Nitya Mathur, and others in pivotal roles.

'Taaza Khabar 2' will soon drop on Disney+ Hotstar.

Musician King is all set to make his debut at the 77th Cannes Film Festival

Mumbai, May 10 (IANS) Singer-songwriter and rapper King is all set to make his debut at the prestigious 77th Cannes Film Festival, gracing the red carpet along the French Riviera.

King has belted out hit tracks such as 'Maan Meri Jaan'.

'Tu Aake Dekhle', 'Oops', and the recent track 'Bumpa', featuring global pop sensation Jason Derulo, who said that King and he co-wrote the song, blending styles to ensure the vibe connects with listeners worldwide.

The Queens Of Heeramandi share their experience on Netflix's Kapil Show



Mumbai. After the sensational Deol Brothers - Sunny and Bobby, who were at their candid best, The Great Indian Kapil Show will see the queens of Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar this Saturday. The recently launched series has won the hearts of the audience not just in India but all over the world marking its debut as the most-viewed Indian series in its first week of launch. From the sheer opulence to rich narrative and lasting performances, Sanjay Leela Bhansali's debut outing on Netflix is hard to miss. Manisha Koirala, Sonakshi Sinha, Richa Chadha, Aditi Rao Hydari, Sharmin Segal and Sanjeeda Sheikh share some behind the scenes anecdotes on working with the auteur Mr. Bhansali and the prep that went into the making of the series along with many other kisses from their personal lives.

Talking about their experience, the ladies mentioned the meticulous detailing and precision followed by Sanjay Leela Bhansali on the set. Every prop used on the set has character and a story to tell. No wonder he is known to do what he does - and the result is for everyone to see! Sonakshi rightly said, "Jo wo (Sanjay Leela Bhansali) dekhte hain, I don't think ko aur dekh pata hai!"

Sharing more on their best and worst days on the sets, Manish Koirala says,

"We never felt that we were exhausted. I mean we were all tired, but there was always a sense of fulfillment. There is a sense of 'we have done good work'. I don't think I have returned home without feeling good about the work."

Adding to this, Richa Chadha shares "Mera jo best day tha, wo mera worst day bhi tha! My worst day became the best day of the shoot." (WHAT!) She explains this further, "My score is the highest when it comes to retakes - during the dance sequence."

Tamannaah's 'toxic trait': 'Telling people I'm down for anything, when in reality I mean not after 8 pm'

Mumbai, May 10 (IANS) Actress Tamannaah Bhatia has revealed her hilarious toxic trait through a meme, involving

anything when in reality, I mean not after 8 p.m., food should be involved, and it also depends on the weather, the parking situation, and how tired I am."

The actress added a sticker featuring a girl nodding her head in agreement.

Talking about her work, Tamannaah's latest release is the Tamil horror comedy 'Aranmanai 4' directed by Sundar C.

The film also stars Raashii Khanna, Santhosh Prathap, Ram-



food, weather, and parking situations.

Tamannaah took to her Instagram stories and shared a meme that stated:

Tamannaah took to her Instagram stories and shared a meme that stated: "My toxic trait is telling people I'm down for

achandra Raju, Kovai Sarala, Yogi Babu, VTV Ganesh, Delhi Ganesh, and K. S. Ravikumar.

It marks the fourth instalment in the 'Aranmanai' series.

The actress next has 'Odela 2', a Telugu-language supernatural thriller film directed by Ashok Teja.--IANS

Neha pens anniversary note for Angad Bedi: 'Would do it over and over again with you'

Mumbai, May 10 (IANS) Actress Neha Dhupia, on her sixth marriage

would live her "adventurous life" over and over again with him.

Neha took to Instagram on Friday and shared a series of pictures from her beautiful married life with Angad and their children. The actress shared the pictures with the caption: "To the love of my life... look how far we have come thru the friends open waters... thru the laughs, the victories, and the losses... thru the impulsive travels, the unplanned date nights, and the late-night chats till the wee hours of the morning..."



anniversary, penned a romantic post for the "love" of her life, actor Angad Bedi, saying that she

Huma Qureshi reflects on life: It is a massive canvas, throw in all the paint

Mumbai, May 10 (IANS) Actress Huma Qureshi imparted some words of wisdom on Friday morning, stating that "life is a massive canvas, throw in all the paint."

Taking to Instagram, the actress shared a picture holding a canvas while clad in a navy blue co-ord set and a white crop top. She completed

her look with natural makeup and sneakers. "Life is a massive canvas... Throw in all the paint... But who said you got to paint between the lines... Disrupt," she captioned the post.

Huma has started working on 'Jolly LLB 3', starring Akshay Kumar and Arshad Warsi.

The first instalment of

the 'Jolly LLB' franchise directed by Subhash Kapoor, was released in 2013. It told the story of a lawyer locking horns with a senior lawyer regarding a hit-and-run case involving a prominent figure's son.

The second part of the dark comedy courtroom drama had Akshay playing the title role in 2017.

From 'Kalki 2898 AD' to 'Pushpa: The Rule' & 'Vettaiyan', South to dominate second half

Mumbai, May 10 (IANS) The first half of 2024 is nearly coming to

an end, with only a handful of films like 'Shaitaan', 'Teri Baaton Mein Aisa Uljha Jiya', 'Laapataa Ladies', 'Article 370', and 'Crew', among others, making their mark. However, the second half of the year appears to be more promis-

ing with the release of films such as 'Pushpa: The Rule', 'Kalki 2898AD', and 'Vettaiyan'.

Prabhas, Kamal Haasan, Allu Arjun, Dhanush, and Dulquer Salmaan are all set to captivate fans with their acting prowess in the upcoming months.

Here's a look at the films that are set to release: 'Kalki 2898 AD':

The upcoming sci-fi epic 'Kalki 2898AD', which is set in a post-apocalyptic world, is scheduled to hit screens on June 27. Inspired by Hindu mythology, the film stars Prabhas, Kamal Haasan, Amitabh Bachchan, Deepika Padukone, and Disha Patani.

The film is reportedly to be released in Telugu and Hindi, with dubbed ver-

sions in Tamil, Malayalam, Kannada, and English.

'Lucky Baskhar': Starring actor Dulquer Salmaan, the film, which is directed by Venky Atluri, is reportedly releasing in July. Dulquer plays the lead role, opposite actress Meenakshi Chaudhary. Apart from Telugu, the film will be released in dubbed versions in Tamil, Malayalam, and Hindi.



AHMEDABAD * MARKET * GUIDE

परिमल होस्पिटल

NABH CERTIFIED

पुनीत मार्ग, मधडीया द्विजनी बाजुमां, मणीनगर, अमदावाद-380002. 079-2546 7145, 84600 65008

४० वर्षी (Estd.-1982) पारंगत पारदर्शक आधुनिक टेकनीक द्वारा होस्पिटल सेवा

सर्जरी : पथरी तथा प्रोस्टेट सर्जरी दूरबीनशी (PCNL-URS RIRS V-LAP), सारधागांठ, हरस-मसानी स्टेपलर पध्दति द्वारा सारवार, पिताशय, ओपेन्डीकुस तथा आंतरडाना तमाम ओपरेशन दूरबीन-लेप्रोस्कोपी द्वारा सारवार.

मेडीकल: डायलीसीस, हृदयरोग, ईईसा, आंतरडा, लीवर, ज्ञानतंतु तथा अन्य गंभीर डिमारीओनी निष्ठांत डोक्टर द्वारा सारवार

CASH-LESS (विना रोऊड) सारवार उपलब्ध

तमाम इन्श्योरन्स TPA द्वारा मान्यता प्राप्त

निष्ठांत तबीओ अने आधुनिक उपकरणशी सज्ज ISO: Certified Hospital

H.K. TRAVELS

New Launched Luxury

डेईली सर्विस

पार्सल सर्विस उपलब्ध

H.O.: शेडाली शोपिंग सेन्टर, पालडी अरबन्ट डीवेवरी online booking www.hktravel.in

फोन बुकींग ओईस 9979881489 9429893289

सुभा वसुंधरा

सी-पुरुषोत्तम लॉन्जवन्ने लगता कोईपन्न ज्ञानता गुप्तरोग (सेक्स समस्याओ) माटेनुं भारतभरमां पोतानी डेपनुं ओकमान गवन्नेन्ट रज्ज्स्टई सायंटीकिक सेक्स क्लीनिक

स्वस्व सेक्स क्योर

"नोपल" नटेरओीव सामे, आश्रमरोड, अमदावाद- 380 002 www.swaropsexecure.com

फोन : : समय : २६५८ ६००० सवावे ११ वी २ २६५८ ३००० सावे ४.३० वी ३ ४८०० ०००६ रविवारे रजा

५४ सुवर्ष

WESTERN TIMES Disclaimer

Advertisement appeared in this News Paper have not been verified factually and "WESTERN TIMES" does not stand responsible for the sales proposition.

धंदाकिय BUSINESS

शेर & स्टोक

धंदांमां १ लाभनुं शेकाण

करी, मासिक ४०००/- आवक भेजवो

7600800601

Patel Chem Specialities P. Ltd.

A Consistent Quality / Innovative Solutions A GMP & ISO 9001:2015 CERTIFIED COMPANY

Plot No. 272/4-5, Phase-II, GIDC Estate, Vatva, Ahmedabad - 382 445. Gujarat, INDIA, Phone : +91 79 2970 9854 / +91 97129 99854, E-mail: info@pcspl.net • Website : www.pcspl.net

Manufacturer & Exporter of Pharmaceutical Excipients & Speciality Chemicals

<p>Super Disintegrants</p> <p>Disolwell® Croscarmellose Sodium IP, BP, EP, USP-NF</p> <p>Blow Tab® Sodium Starch Glycolate IP, BP, EP, USP-NF</p> <p>Swellcal® Carboxymethylcellulose Calcium, (Calcium CMC) JP, BP, EP, USP-NF</p>	<p>Binders & Fillers</p> <p>Hindcel® Microcrystalline Cellulose IP, BP, USP-NF Pregelatinized Starch IP Potato & Maize Starch IP</p> <p>Viscosity Modifier</p> <p>Rheollose® Sodium Carboxymethyl Cellulose IP, BP, EP, USP-NF</p> <p>Lubricants</p> <p>Magnesium Stearate</p> <p>API Intermediates</p> <p>Sodium Monochloro Acetate</p>
---	--

कोमो ओईर्स मां अक ५ नाम

MAHESHWARI
Sherwani | Indo-Western | Blazers & Suits | Kurta Sets | Formals

<p>DULHA PACKAGE</p> <p>इकत 1,999/-</p> <p>देवी रोवानी वर्क सेट (सावे + दुपट्टे + मोचडी + माण)</p> <p>+ २कसीओ सुट (कोट + पेन्ट + शर्ट + शर्ट + इकवीन्स + हेन्डी)</p> <p>ईन्डो वेस्टर्न सेट</p>	<p>SIDER PACKAGE</p> <p>इकत २,999/-</p> <p>सुट (कोट + पेन्ट + शर्ट)</p> <p>+ कोटी - कूर्ता सेट</p> <p>+ पेन्ट - शर्ट</p>
---	---

3 Pant + 3 Shirt
रयामाणे DIGJAM Arvind
₹ 6,199/- ONLY Fabric + Stitch

बुकींग पर लकी ड्रो
मां अकस्टू डिस्काउन्ट लेवालु चूकशो नदीं.

पेकेज प्राइज इकत रविवार सुधी ५ रडेशे.

<p>PALDI 5, Vardhaman Complex, Opp. Honest, Under Anjali Bridge. 079 - 2660 7614</p>	<p>NARANPURA 2/29, Sunernagar Society, Beside Manish Hall, Nr. Kameshwar Mahadev, +91 9173-0-8282-7</p>	<p>BOPAL 110, Satyamev Elite, Below Vakli Saheb Bridge, Bopal - Ambli T. Junction. +91 8686-8-8282-7</p>
---	--	---

दिवानी वेकेशन इमीली कपल पेकेज

शुरावाला टुरिज्म

गोवा महाबलेश्वर लोनावाला	हेदरगाह तीरुपती एटी-मेसुर	सप्त:थ्योर्तीलींग ए.भारत रामेश्वर कन्याकुमारी
नेपाण पोभरा अनारस	हरद्वार आगा मथुरा	सीमला मनाली डेलहाउसी

BY AIR / RAIL / BUS / INDIVIDUAL PACKAGE
Kerala-Darjiling-Nainital

"हाईटेक निडोईंग", म्युजियमनी सामे, दिवान भल्लुभाई स्कुलनी बाजुमां, पालडी, अमदावाद. Ph. : 26587922 / 23 (M) 9408777333, 94267 55909
ओई/४३, पुवण कोमवेड, राजहंस सिनेमा पासे, शुक्ल चार रस्ता पासे, निडोल. Ph. : (M) 9409625111, 9408777333

Rajasthan Speaker demands apology from Ajmer cleric for his remark on Jain saints

Jajpur, May 10 (IANS) Rajasthan Assembly Speaker Vasudev Devnani on Thursday condemned the statement made by Syed Sarwar Chishti, the Secretary of Anjuman Committee, an organisation of Khadims in Ajmer Sharif Dargah, against Jain saints and demanded an apology from him. He said that "Sarwar Chishti has insulted the Indian Sanatan culture by commenting on the Jain saints and hence should apologise".

The Speaker added: "Sarwar Chishti has commented on Jain saints calling them "those without clothes". Asceticism and ascetics have the highest place in Indian Sanatan culture. Jain saints' pure conduct is a symbol of purity and chastity in society. The statement made by Anjuman Committee Secretary Syed Sarwar Chishti against Jain saints is "extremely disgusting, unfortunate, and indicative of their distorted mentality". The comment he has made regarding the clothes of Jain saints is an insult to the entire Jain society and Sanatan culture. "Sarwar Chishti should apologise to the entire Sanatan culture and the Jain community, he added. A group of Jain monks and several leaders of the Visva Hindu Parishad on Tuesday visited 'Adhai Din Ka Jhonpra', an ASI-protected mosque in Rajasthan's Ajmer, and claimed that originally a Sanskrit school and a Jain temple existed there.

Community Rallies to help Law Student to Recover from Her Accidental Brain Injury

Vadodara, 22-year-old Nancy Tushar Bavishi, a final-year law student at MSU Vadodara, is battling for her life after sustaining severe injuries in a traffic accident on March 7, 2024. Nancy was struck by a speeding high-speed sports bike while riding her scooter at a normal speed. The collision resulted in a traumatic head injury, multiple fractures, and a prolonged period of unconsciousness. Currently in a semi-conscious state, Nancy faces a long and challenging road to recovery that includes extended hospitalization and intensive therapy spanning 12-18 months.

The Bavishi family has already exhausted their resources covering the initial medical expenses, exceeding Rs. 8.5 lakhs. To ensure Nancy receives the best possible care, they are seeking to raise Rs. 15,00,000 through an online medical fundraiser campaign hosted on Milaap, India's leading crowd funding platform for medical and social causes.

"Every contribution, whatever the amount, will make a difference in Nancy's journey toward recovery," pleads Raksha Tushar Bavishi, Nancy's mother. "Your generosity will alleviate the financial burden on our family and provide us with the strength to support Nancy throughout

Agra lawyer claims temple below Fatehpur Sikri dargah, files case

Agra, May 10 (IANS) An advocate from Agra has filed a court case, claiming the presence of a Hindu temple within the premises of a dargah (shrine) in Fatehpur Sikri.

According to advocate Ajay Pratap Singh, a civil court in Agra has accepted his claim. He has identified the Dargah of Salim Chishti in Fatehpur Sikri as the temple of Goddess Kamakhya, with the adjacent mosque forming a part of the temple complex. The advocate said that the disputed property, currently under the purview of the Archaeological Survey of India, was originally the sanctum sanctorum of Goddess Kamakhya.

He also challenged the belief that Fatehpur Sikri was founded by Akbar, asserting that references to Sikri, also known as Vijaypur Sikri, appear in Baburnama, indicating its earlier significance. Citing archaeological evidence, the advocate pointed to excavations conducted by former Superintendent Archaeologist D.B. Sharma, which revealed Hindu and Jain artefacts dating back to around 1000 A.D.

Ktaka sex scandal: Victims threatened with prostitution by SIT, claims Kumaraswamy; Cong backs SIT probe

Bengaluru, May 10 (IANS) In a twist to the sex video scandal in Karnataka involving JD-S MP Prajwal Revanna, the National Commission for Women (NCW) said on Thursday that one of the woman complainants in the case has claimed that she was forced by a group of people claiming to be cops to lodge a false complaint after being threatened with harassment. Taking a cue from the NCW's allegation, former Chief Minister and JD-S state President H.D. Kumaraswamy on Thursday night accused the Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the case of threatening the victims with prostitution to extract false statements. The SIT officers are threatening the victims that if they don't make statements in favour of the Congress government, they will be charged with prostitution, the JD-S leader claimed. "The investigating officers are going to the doorsteps of the victims and threatening them. Tell us, isn't it a fact that the SIT officers are threatening the victims with false prostitution cases against them? Is this how the probe is being conducted," Kumaraswamy questioned Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda, who earlier described the sex video scandal as the biggest sex scandal in the world.

ASUS strengthens pan India retail strategy with the launch of an Exclusive Store in Ahmedabad

As a step towards strengthening the brand's retail footprint across the country, ASUS India, Taiwanese tech giant today announced the launch of an exclusive store in Ahmedabad. The exclusive store is spread across 325 sq. ft. and is set to host an extensive range of electronics and computer hardware, including the ASUS flagship products such as Vivobook, Zenbook, Republic of Gamers (ROG) laptops, Gaming Desks, All-in-One Desks, and accessories. This is the brand's 7th exclusive store located in Ahmedabad making it a total of 24 exclusive stores in Gujarat. Talking about the expansion, Arnold Su, Vice President, Consumer and Gaming PC, System Business Group, ASUS India, said, "It is with immense pride that we announce the expansion of our retail presence in India. Recognizing the significance of Ahmedabad as a key market, the unveiling of our new AES store in the noteworthy city represents a key milestone in our commitment to delivering unparalleled experiences to consumers throughout the country. Through a meticulously planned retail expansion strategy, we aim to provide our customers with hands-on experiences and foster valuable connections with them."



EC orders repoll tomorrow at polling booth from where man live-streamed voting in Dahod

By Staff Reporter, Ahmedabad, The Election Commission of India (EC) on Thursday ordered fresh voting on May 11 at Prathampur polling station under the Dahod Lok Sabha seat in Gujarat from where a man live-streamed voting on May 7, the video of which went viral. Two persons associated with the BJP have been arrested in the case.

The presiding officer, assistant presiding officer, two polling officers and a police constable deployed at polling station 220, where the incident took

place, have been suspended. "As soon as the irregularities were reported, a report was sought from the returning officer regarding the incident, which was put before the EC," the Gujarat Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) said in a statement. Taking into account the report of the returning officer and observer regarding irregularities in the polling, the EC had declared the polling held on May 7 at Parthampur polling station at Santrampur taluka in Mahisagar district as "null and void", under sub-section 2 of Section 58 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, the CEO added. Also read | Lok Sabha elections: At 59.51%, voter turnout dips in Gujarat; Banaskantha bucks the trend

According to the FIR, two persons identified as Vijay Bhabhor (28) and Manoj Magan (38) were booked for alleged bogus voting after one of them live-streamed from inside the Prathampur polling booth, claiming to cast multiple votes and "influencing" others to vote for a particular party.

Pak connection detected in Ahmedabad school bomb threat case

Ahmedabad, May 10 (IANS) The Crime Branch has uncovered a Pakistani link to the bomb threats which targeted 38 schools in Gujarat's Ahmedabad on May 6, officials said on Friday.

The officials said that this incident has links in Pakistan and a Russian server was used to create a sense of panic and fear in the city.

The threat mail was sent from a Russian domain (.ru). More information is awaited.

The threatening emails received a day before the

May 7 Lok Sabha polls caused widespread panic among the public.

The Crime Branch, Cyber Crime unit, Special Operations Group, and Ahmedabad Police launched an investigation soon after the threats. Despite the alarming nature of the threats, no suspicious or explosive materials were discovered after thorough inspections by bomb disposal squads and canine units.

Director General of Police Vikas Sahay has said that the threats were a hoax and encouraged

voters to proceed to the polls without fear.

This incident follows a trend of hoax threats similar to those received by over 130 schools in the Delhi-NCR area.

Officials said that the threatening emails which prompted heightened security measures across Delhi-NCR on May 1 originated from a Russian domain. The email address used, sawarim@mail.ru, indicated its Russian origin. However, officials said that the perpetrators may have used a masked IP address.--IANS

Far away from Gujarat's lion territory of Gir forest, lioness carcass found buried in limestone mine in Jamnagar

By Staff Reporter, Ahmedabad, An Asiatic lion that had been roaming in Jamnagar district far away from established lion territory was found dead in an abandoned limestone mine on Friday, with forest officers saying that prima facie the big cat was electrocuted.

Forest officers started scanning wasteland in Hansthal village of Kalavad taluka in central Jamnagar early on Friday morning and found a carcass of a lioness buried in an abandoned limestone mine.

"We had got an alert

that something untoward had happened and our staff started scanning the area in Hansthal village. During the scanning drive, our staff noted a foul smell emanating from an abandoned limestone mine. Eventually, we discovered that the stench was emanating from the carcass of a lioness which was buried in the quarry," K Ramesh, Chief Conservator of Forests (CCF), Junagadh territorial forest circle, told Indian Express.

Ramesh said the lioness was believed to be five to nine years old and had been ranging areas of Kalavad taluka, some 40 km from Barda Wildlife Sanctuary.

"The lioness which was roaming in this area was a solitary animal in Kalavad. After getting due permission from the chief wildlife warden of Gujarat, we had radio-collared the lioness," the CCF said.

Hansthal is some 100 km from Girnar Wildlife Sanctuary, the known established territory of Asiatic lions, an endangered species of big cats.

The Gujarat forest department has also set up an Asiatic lion gene pool centre in Barda Wildlife

Sanctuary as part of efforts to conserve the species. In this centre set up inside the sanctuary, lions are kept in large enclosures.

In January this year, a lion and a lioness were spotted in Sadodar village in Jamjodhpur taluka adjoining Kalavad.

A lion had also visited Barda Wildlife Sanctuary last year. A sub-adult lion had ventured into Kalavad taluka in 2013 but it was caged and transported back to Gir forest. Forest officers said that Hansthal village has lots of wasteland which can be a suitable habitat for lions.

Clash after graves of Sufi saint, kin razed in Ahmedabad, 37 held

By Staff Reporter, Ahmedabad, Removal of graves at a Sufi shrine in Ahmedabad on May 7 led to communal clashes, followed by alleged incidents of stone-pelting on Wednesday.

While 37 people were arrested on charges of attempt to murder and rioting, another 10 were detained on Thursday, said Ahmedabad rural SP Om Prakash Jat.

The police said the graves were removed "subtly" when police personnel were absent at the shrine owing to deployment on election duty on May 7.

Two cross-FIRs have been lodged at the Aslali police station based on complaints filed by two trustees of the dargah — Sirajhussein Saiyed and Praveenbhai Rajabhai Patel — on Wednesday.

While the complaint by Saiyed names 14 people and "other unknown" persons, Patel's complaint names 43 as accused, in addition to "other unknown" persons. The incident occurred near the Pir Imamshah Bawa dargah, run by Pir Imamshah Bawa Trust and situated in the sensitive Pirana village on outskirts of Ahmedabad.

Two elderly couples die by suicide at Surat home, Bharuch farmland

By Staff Reporter, Ahmedabad In separate incidents, two elderly couples — one in Surat and another in Bharuch — allegedly died by suicide.

The Surat couple, identified as Chunilal Gedia (66) and his wife Muktaben (60), allegedly died by hanging themselves early morning on Sunday upset over their inability to repay the money they had borrowed for their elder son, who later cut off ties with them.

The incident came to light when police broke open their bedroom door of their house in Sarthana area after their young-

er son Sanjay Gedia alerted the cops that nobody was answering the door. The police also recovered a five-page note allegedly written by Chunilal in Gujarati and addressed to his son Piyush who lives in Canada, daughter-in-law Payal and his brother Mansukhbhai. Piyush has been living in Canada since the past four years, while his wife Payal stays in a separate house in Surat with their son Krish.

The youngest son Sanjay, employed in a private factory, and his wife lives with his parents in the same house.

According to the police, Chunilal, who hails

from Amreli, was into financial business. He retired during the pandemic after facing a great debacle in his business. Chunilal had taken a loan of Rs 40 lakh from relatives and friends to send Piyush to Canada, but the son has now allegedly cut off ties with his parents.

"Piyush had assured his parents that once he goes to Canada he will earn and pay the debts. However, in the past four years, Piyush has not sent a single rupee. Chunilal has also mentioned that his son had not talked to him or to his mother in the past four years.

Election to IFFCO board: Ex-minister Jayesh Radadiya wins battle of two BJP coop leaders

By Staff Reporter, Ahmedabad, Jetpur BJP MLA and former minister Jayesh Radadiya defeated Bipin Patel alias Bipin Gota in a tight battle between two cooperative leaders of the BJP in the election to board of directors of Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) on Thursday. This is second time that Radadiya has been elected a member of board of directors of IFFCO, the cooperative fertiliser giant of the country.

Polling for some of the seats of the board of directors was conducted at IFFCO headquarters in Delhi and counting was held in the evening. In the election from the seat of primary agricultural cooperative societies (PACS) of Gujarat, Radadiya — member of the outgoing IFFCO board of directors as well as chairman of Rajkot District Cooperative (RDC) Bank — and Gota, vice-chairman of Gujarat State Cooperative Marketing Federation Limited (Gujcomasol), were the two rivals. "Jayesh Radadiya secured 113 votes while



Gota could muster only 67. There were 184 representatives of general body (RGB) eligible to vote for the Gujarat PACS seat. These RGBs were in turn elected by Gujarat's 3,000 PACS, which are member PACS of IFFCO, in February," Dilip Sanghani, the outgoing chairman of IFFCO and a cooperative leader from Gujarat, told The Indian Express.

Sanghani said that 184 RGBs from Gujarat are among the 1,000 RGBs of IFFCO and 180 of them voted on Thursday. Average 150 PACS elect one RGB, he added. Interestingly, Gota is a member of board of director of Gujarat State Cooperative (GSC) Bank. He is representative of

GSC Bank in Gujcomasol. Radadiya and Sanghani are both members of board of directors of GSC Bank. RDC Bank is one of the member banks of GSC Bank, the umbrella organisation of district cooperative banks of Gujarat.

The showdown between Radadiya, the son of late cooperative leader Vitthal Radadiya, and Gota was on the cards after Radadiya filed his nomination on April 24. Gota did the same three days later. This, despite the BJP having introduced a system of issuing party mandate to its cooperative leaders for contesting polls in cooperative bodies. Polls in such bodies are not fought on party symbols. "This was a result of lack of coordination by the BJP leadership. If the BJP wanted to enforce its policy of party leadership choosing candidates for election to cooperative bodies by issuing mandates, it could have called Radadiya and Gota for discussion. But that didn't happen and Radadiya ran for a re-election and won," said a BJP insider.

Actor Rakesh Bedi, wife get back money they lost to cyber fraudsters

By Staff Reporter, Ahmedabad, Popular film and television actor Rakesh Bedi and his wife Aradhana, who became victims of cyber fraud have received the money within a week of losing it, the police said. The prompt action by the Mumbai Police team in the golden hours helped prevent Rs 4.98 lakh from reaching the fraudster.

According to the police, Aradhana received a call from an unknown number on May 3 in which the caller told her that by mistake she had trans-

ferred Rs 4.98 lakh to his account and that he wished to transfer back the sum. Aradhana, however, hung up the call, saying that she has not sent money to anyone when the person requested her to check out the OTP sent to her phone so that he could send back the money into her bank account, the police said. Later, when she checked her bank balance she was shocked to discover that Rs 4.98 lakh had been debited from her account, the First Information Report (FIR) stated.

She informed her actor

husband and the couple wasted no time to inform the Oshiwara police the same day. The police, while tracking the money trail, discovered that the fraud money was transferred to an eWallet of a third party app. The police contacted the nodal officer of the third party app and directed them to freeze the money in the said eWallet and transfer it back to the source account, pointing out a fraudulent case. Case details were also sent to the administrator of the said third party app.

Vidyakul Breaks Records as 1400 Students Secure A1 in Gujarat Board Inter Exams



Ahmedabad, Vidyakul, India's premier e-learning platform focused on providing quality state board education, has announced the outstanding performance of its students in the Gujarat State Board Inter Examinations 2024 (GSEB). Among the total 3.7 lakh commerce students who appeared for the exam, 1.2 lakh students prepared through the Vidyakul app. 1400 Vidyakul students have secured A1 grade in the commerce stream. Additionally, 86% have scored top grades corresponding to 80-99 percentile. For four consecutive years, Vidyakul has accomplished this historic feat by giving a pass rate of 98.47%.

Commenting on stu-

dents' remarkable performance, Tarun Saini, Co-founder and CEO of Vidyakul, said, "We are immensely proud of our students' extraordinary performance in the Gujarat Board Inter Exams. Notably, Vidyakul has empowered 41% girls to clear the inter exams with 440 girls achieving A1 grade. We congratulate our students, their families, and our dedicated team of educators for this achievement. We have gained this success through our commitment of providing affordable and quality education to state board students of Gujarat in their own language."

Founded in 2019, Vidyakul is an edtech platform that provides affordable, accessible, and vernacular education to state

board students of classes 9 to 12. All the learning resources on the platform are available at a fee as low as Rs 200/month. The company operates in UP, Bihar and Gujarat.

Vidyakul is the first after-school online tuition app to introduce virtual labs which has helped students score good grades in their practical exams. The company has also launched an AI bot- Drona- which facilitates real-time doubt-solving. The company has impacted the lives of over 5 million students through its revolutionary 'Bharat Padhao Sankalp' and recently launched 'Sankalp Yatra 2024' to establish free Digital Study Rooms in 500 remote villages of UP, Bihar and Gujarat.

BJP is making people 'nirbhar, not 'atmanirbhar': Priyanka on BJP's free ration

By Staff Reporter, Ahmedabad, Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Thursday alleged that the BJP government was making people "nirbhar" (dependent), and not "atmanirbhar" (self-sufficient), through its free ration scheme.

On the second day of a public campaign in Rae Bareilly in support of party candidate and her brother Rahul Gandhi, Vadra claimed that "this 5-kg ra-

tion would not fill anyone's stomachs".

She asked the crowd what would they choose between free 5-kg ration or employment, the Congress leader said that the present policy is such that the youth would never become "atma nirbhar". "While no work was done to generate employment, inflation has increased. No one understood the problems of women, who work for hours outside and at

home. Women reservation has been turned into mere election slogan as it will not be implemented for the next 10 years," she said.

Students of Saurabh English School aced the class 12 boards



Students of Saurabh English School aced the class 12 boards with 100% pass results. The students, who were from the General stream, had opted for subjects like Psychology and History. The school focuses on providing quality English medium education to their students through a variety of pedagogies aimed at making learning more interesting and fun. Managed by the Kalorex group, students enjoy the benefits of belonging to the prestigious group of schools which emphasizes teacher training, focus on Sustainable Development Goals and career counselling.

The school provides ample opportunities which makes them confident speakers of the English language, capable of taking on the challenges of the future, as the world goes global and online. Students are able to make career choices as they know what each choice involves through their experiences. Students are eager to learn new things and express themselves easily in debates or discussions.

After more than 10 years and eight months since the murder of Dr Narendra Dabholkar, a Special UAPA Court in Pune pronounced its verdict on Friday in the trial against five person linked to Sanatan Sanstha

The court acquitted ENT surgeon Dr Virendrasinh Tawade, Mumbai-based lawyer Sanjeev Punalekar and his aide Vikram Bhavare for the lack of evidence. The court convicted the two alleged assailants Sachin Andure and Sharad Kalaskar and convicted them to life imprisonment.

Speaking to reporters outside the Shivajinagar court complex, Dabholkar's son Dr Hamid said, "On one level we are satisfied that the two assailants have been convicted and sentenced to life. Rationalist, anti-superstition crusader and founder of Maharashtra Andhashradha Nirmoolan Samiti (MANS), Dr Dabholkar, who was 67 at the time, was shot dead by two bike-borne assailants on the VR Shinde bridge in Pune on the morning of August 20 in 2013.

Israel to continue Rafah operation as Gaza truce talks collapse: Official

Jerusalem, May 10 (IANS) The Israeli army will continue its operation in the southern Gaza Strip city of Rafah "as planned," after the talks on the Israel-Hamas truce held in Egypt's Cairo collapsed, an Israeli official told the media.

Meanwhile, a Xinhua news agency covering the developments reported mass Israeli troops stationed on the border with Rafah.

The unnamed Israeli official confirmed on Thursday that the Israeli delegation has left Cairo after talks with Hamas, the US, Egyptian, and Qatari negotiators on a deal to end the hostilities and secure the release of hostages in Gaza, Xinhua news agency reported.

The official did not elaborate on whether Israel will expand the offensive to more areas in Rafah at the southern end of Gaza, where about 1.2 million in-

ternally displaced Palestinians were taking refuge. According to Israel's state-owned Kan TV news, the talks were halted due to Israel's ongoing ground assault on Rafah.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's war cabinet was scheduled to meet later on Thursday to discuss the continuation of the Rafah operation.

Commenting on US President Joe Biden's decision to pause some shipments of weapons to Israel if it deepens its assault on Rafah city, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) said it has enough weapons to continue operations in Gaza.

"The US has so far provided security assistance to Israel and the IDF in an unprecedented manner," Hagari added, noting that "even when there are disagreements between us - we resolve them in closed rooms".--IANS



There were widespread reports that the Duke of Sussex planned to see his father during this week's visit to London - and surprise, even shock, when no such get-together happened. As Prince Harry's newly appointed British spokesman explained on Tuesday: 'In response to the many inquiries and continued speculation on whether or not the Duke will meet with his father while in the UK this week, it, unfortunately, will not be possible due to His Majesty's full programme. The duke, he continued, 'is understanding of his father's diary of commitments and various other priorities and hopes to see him soon'.

Netanyahu vows to continue attacks in Gaza despite Biden's threat to halt weapon shipment

Jerusalem, May 10 (IANS) Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said in a video statement that the Israeli forces will continue their attacks in Gaza despite the US threat to halt some weapon shipments.

"If Israel is forced to stand alone -- Israel will stand alone," said Netanyahu in a public speech made on Sunday's Israeli Holocaust Memorial Day and posted on his official

X account on Thursday. The Israeli Prime Minister added that "no



amount of pressure" will stop Israel from "defending itself" as quoted by Xinhua news agency report. During a CNN inter-

view on Wednesday, US President Joe Biden said that he would halt some shipments of US weapons to Israel if Netanyahu launches a major invasion of Rafah, the southernmost city of the Gaza Strip where more than one million Palestinians are taking refuge.

"We're not walking away from Israel's security. We're walking away from Israel's ability to wage war in those areas," Biden added.

The US President admitted that Israel used US bombs on civilians in Gaza.

"Civilians have been killed in Gaza as a consequence of those bombs and other ways in which they go after population centres," Biden said.

US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin said on Wednesday that the US had already paused "one shipment of high payload munitions" to Israel.

Delegations leave Cairo, fail to reach Gaza truce deal

Cairo, May 10 (IANS) The delegations of Hamas, Israel, Qatar and the US left Egypt after talks for reaching a truce in the Gaza Strip hit an impasse, the media reported.

"The delegations participating in the Cairo talks left for consultations, while



some points of disagreement remained unresolved," Egypt's state-affiliated Al-Qahera News TV channel report quoted an unnamed senior official as saying on Thursday.

The delegations arrived in Cairo on Tuesday to achieve a comprehensive truce in the conflict-stricken Gaza. Yet, no agreement has been reached despite some

progress in the negotiations, Xinhua news agency reported.

Among the major disputes between the conflicting parties are the number and lists of Israeli hostages and Palestinian prisoners to be released under a swap deal, as well as issues regarding Israel's partial withdrawal from Gaza to allow free movement of Palestinians in the enclave.

The talks stalled when the Israeli military launched an operation in Gaza's southernmost city of Rafah crowded with more than one million internally displaced Palestinians and took control of the Palestinian side of the key Rafah crossing.

On Thursday, an Israeli source told Xinhua news agency that the Israeli army will continue its operation in Rafah "as planned" since the truce talks have collapsed.

Man shoots two officers in Paris police station

Paris, May 10 (IANS/DPA) Two police officers were shot by a man in custody, who grabbed one of their service weapons, at a police station in Paris, local media reported.

The man was arrested on Thursday evening for domestic violence, as the BFMTV channel and the

newspaper Le Parisien reported citing police sources. The man grabbed the weapon and shot the two officers while police were trying to search him at the station, according to the reports. One of the police officers was hit in the upper body and the other in the thigh.

Iraqi Shia militia claims drone, missile attacks on Israel

Baghdad, May 10 (IANS) A Shia militia in Iraq has claimed responsibility for drone and missile attacks on three sites in southern Israel.

The militia, known as the Islamic Resistance in Iraq, said on Thursday in two online state-

ments that its fighters launched at dawn a drone attack "on the Nevatim (military) base in Be'er Sheva" and two drones toward a vital site in Eilat, without providing additional details about the specific location targeted or any resulting casualties.



President Joe Biden made an awkward gaffe while paying tribute to the 2023 WNBA champions, the Las Vegas Aces, during the team's visit to the White House. On Thursday, he congratulated the Aces for their back-to-back championships, as he celebrated a 'banner year' for women's basketball amid the rise in popularity in the sport thanks to the likes of Caitlin Clark and Angel Reese. Alongside Vice President Kamala Harris, Biden gave a gushing speech in front of the Aces players and was later given his own personalized jersey.

Germany ready to play leading security role: Defence Minister Boris Pistorius

Washington, May 10 (IANS/DPA) German Defence Minister Boris Pistorius has assured Washington that Berlin is prepared to play a leading security policy role in Europe and will provide the military capabilities to do so.

"Let us - the US and Germany together - shape a future with all those who stand up for freedom, peace and the rules-based international order," Pistorius said in a keynote speech at the Johns Hopkins University in Washington on Thursday.

Germany is a steadfast ally and is able and willing to fulfill its role in the alliance and global politics, Pistorius said.

The Minister said that Germany was in the midst

of a military build-up process and had abandoned the restraint it had long cultivated - as in the supply of weapons to war zones. He said he wanted to address the fact that Germany had abandoned compulsory military service and said that "times have changed." He spoke of a "mistake" and said: "I am convinced that Germany needs some kind of military conscription."

The Europeans are also aware that the US is focussing its attention on the Indo-Pacific and must respond to China's armament, aggressive economic policy and striving for geopolitical dominance. Germany is determined to make a contribution to a rules-based order

there too, he said.

"I am convinced that only together, America and Europe can keep the West strong, defending it against Russia's expansionist ambitions and other actors' hunger for power and supremacy," said Pistorius. "My message to you today is: Just like we did in other key moments in our transatlantic partnership, such as the Berlin airlift, the Marshall Plan or the reunification of Germany, let us seize this transatlantic opportunity, once more," he added.

The Marshall Plan was a US programme that helped European nations rebuild their economies after World War II. Germany particularly benefited from it.

Lebanon requests Qatar's assistance to evacuate Lebanese women from Gaza

Beirut, May 10 (IANS) Lebanese Foreign Affairs Minister Abdallah Bou Habib has said that his country has asked for assistance from Qatar to evacuate Lebanese women from Gaza through the Rafah crossing.

"We requested Qatari assistance to get Lebanese women and their families out through the Rafah crossing, as they have been stuck since the start of the aggression on Gaza, despite all our previous attempts to bring them home," Bou Habib added on Thursday, according to a report by Lebanese National News Agency. The Lebanese Foreign Minister made the

remarks after meeting with Qatar's Ambassador to Lebanon, Saud bin Abdul Rahman Al-Thani, Xinhua news agency reported.

Meanwhile, Bou Habib praised Qatar's constructive role in helping Lebanon emerge from its presidential crisis. Qatar is working through the five-nation group on Lebanon, which comprises Qatar, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, France, and the US, to help the country accelerate its presidential election and financial and economic reforms. The position of Lebanese President has been vacant since the end of the term of former President Michel Aoun in October 2022.

Nuclear envoys of South Korea, China discuss Korean Peninsula issues in Tokyo

Seoul, May 10 (IANS) The top nuclear envoys of South Korea and China discussed issues related to the Korean Peninsula on the margins of a multilateral security dialogue in Japan earlier this week, Seoul's foreign ministry said on Friday.

According to the ministry, the talks between Lee Jun-il, Director General for North Korean Nuclear Affairs, and Liu Xiaoming, China's special representative on Korean Peninsula affairs, took place Thursday in Tokyo on the sidelines of the Northeast Asia Cooperation Dialogue (NEACD),

an annual public-private security dialogue forum, Yonhap news agency reported.

They "exchanged their



assessments on the recent situation on the Korean Peninsula and opinions on ways to address" the peninsula issues, the ministry said in a press release, without providing

further details.

North Korea's evolving nuclear and weapons developments and its growing military cooperation with Russia were most likely high on the agenda at their talks. China is the North's longtime ally and largest economic benefactor.

The NEACD is a Track 1.5 security forum that brings together government officials and civilian experts from the two Koreas, the United States, China, Japan and Russia.

It was not immediately known whether the North or Russia attended this week's NEACD. The last

time North Korea attended the meeting was in 2016, represented by Choe Son-hui, now serving as the North's foreign minister.

On Friday, Lee held talks with his US counterpart, Jung Pak, who was also in Tokyo to attend the NEACD, and had a broad discussion on North Korea's nuclear and other related issues, Seoul's ministry said.

They "agreed to continue close coordination as they stand firmly by the shared goal towards the complete denuclearisation of North Korea," the ministry said.

US: Hundreds of faculty, staff demand UCLA chancellor's resignation

Los Angeles, May 10 (IANS) Nearly 900 members of the University of California (UC) faculty and staff have been calling on Gene Block, chancellor of the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), to resign over the university's response to pro-Palestinian protests on campus.

"We will not stand by as our students are assaulted and silenced," said the group in an on-

line petition, Xinhua news agency reported. "We remain committed to protecting our students' safety and their right to protest, assemble, and speak freely."

A total of 895 people from the 10-campus public university system have signed the petition as of Thursday night. Of them, 642 are from UCLA.

In the petition, the group said that they de-

mand that UCLA recommend all legal charges be dropped and grant full amnesty to all students, staff and faculty involved in the encampment and peaceful protest.

"Following the violent and aggressive police sweep of the Palestine Solidarity Encampment on May 2, 2024, resulting in more than 200 students, faculty, and staff arrested while peacefully protesting, it has be-

come obvious that Chancellor Block has failed our university," said the petition.

UC faculty and staff members also demand that UCLA issue a report within 30 days to fully disclose all investments so that students may understand how the university prioritises their finances and call on UCLA to divest from all military weapons production companies and support-

ing systems.

In a message to its members earlier this week, the UCLA Academic Senate, representing the university's faculty, said: "Recent events that transpired on our campus deeply dismayed and disappointed many faculty, staff, students and alumni."

The UCLA Academic Senate said it will hold an emergency meeting on Friday to consider a no-

confidence resolution and a censure resolution of Block, who has been chancellor of UCLA since 2007. UCLA's Undergraduate Students Association Council also passed a resolution on Tuesday night calling for the resignation of Block if he does not meet the demands of the Palestine Solidarity Encampment, according to Daily Bruin, the university's student newspaper.

Egypt, Jordan warn against humanitarian catastrophe of Israeli attacks in Rafah

Cairo, May 10 (IANS) Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi and Jordan's Prime Minister Bisher Khasawneh have warned against the humanitarian catastrophe of the ongoing Israeli military operation in the Palestinian city of Rafah, according to the Egyptian Presidency office's statement.

The two leaders made the remarks during a meeting in Cairo, where they reiterated the two countries' "full rejection" of the Israeli invasion of Rafah, the southernmost city of the besieged enclave, said the statement on Thursday as quoted by Xinhua news agency report.

"The Israeli operation impedes the only safe exit of the wounded and sick Palestinians and hinders the delivery of humanitarian and relief aid," they emphasised.

The ongoing conditions require the international community to take its responsibilities for reaching an immediate and sustainable ceasefire and to push forward for the recognition of an independent Palestinian state which will help in achieving regional security and stability, the statement added.

Russian attacks damages 2 hydroelectric power plants in Ukraine

Kiev, May 10 (IANS) Russian missile and drone attacks two days ago heavily damaged two hydroelectric power plants in Ukraine, Ukraine's state-run hydropower generating company Ukrhydroenergo said.

"Two hydroelectric power plants are out of operation," Ukrhydroenergo said on Thursday in a post on Telegram, not specifying locations.

Ukraine's overall hydroelectric power generation has suffered big losses in the recent attacks, it added as quoted by Xinhua news agency report.

The company said it would take "considerable efforts" and "significant financial resources" to repair and restore the destroyed facilities. On Wednesday, Russia fired 55 missiles and 21 drones in an attack that targeted power generation and transmission facilities in six Ukrainian regions, according to Ukrainian authorities.

Turkish minister dismisses claim of easing ban on trade with Israel

Ankara, May 10 (IANS) Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz's claim that Turkey eased its ban on trade with Israel is "fictional and has nothing to do with reality," a Turkish Minister said.

"The statements of the Israeli Foreign Minister are absolutely fictional and have nothing to do with reality. We stand behind the decision we have taken as a government regarding trade with Israel. This decision remains valid," Turkish Trade Minister Omer Bolat said on Thursday on social media platform X. The Minister stressed that the trade ban would be in effect until "conditions are met to stop Israeli attacks on the Gaza Strip, to achieve a permanent ceasefire and to ensure the uninterrupted delivery of humanitarian aid" to Palestinians in the strip, Xinhua news agency reported.

Zelensky, European Parliament chief discuss Ukraine's European integration, security

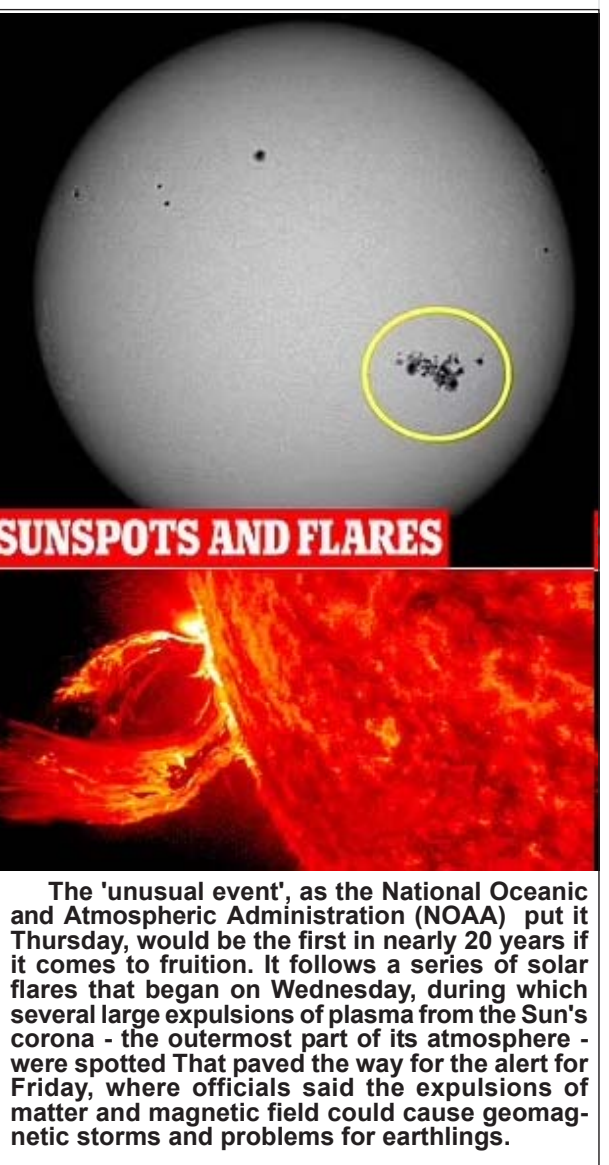
Kiev, May 10 (IANS) Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and visiting European Parliament President Roberta Metsola have discussed Ukraine's European integration and security issues. At the talks, Zelensky said on Thursday that Ukraine has fulfilled all the necessary conditions for starting accession talks with the European Union next month, according to the Presidential press service.

For her part, Metsola said she was optimistic that EU member states will adopt the negotiating framework for Ukraine in June, Xinhua news agency reported.

Iran condemns US pressure campaign against ICC

Tehran, May 10 (IANS) Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Nasser Kanaani has condemned the threats by a group of US lawmakers against the International Criminal Court (ICC) intending to prevent the tribunal from issuing arrest warrants against senior Israeli officials.

He made the remarks on Thursday in a post on social media platform X while reacting to warnings by pro-Israel US Congressmen that any arrest warrants for senior Israeli officials would encounter US retaliation, Xinhua news agency reported.



SUNSPOTS AND FLARES

The 'unusual event', as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) put it Thursday, would be the first in nearly 20 years if it comes to fruition. It follows a series of solar flares that began on Wednesday, during which several large expulsions of plasma from the Sun's corona - the outermost part of its atmosphere - were spotted that paved the way for the alert for Friday, where officials said the expulsions of matter and magnetic field could cause geomagnetic storms and problems for earthlings.

Jyothi Yarraji wins 100 hurdles gold in Holland, misses Olympic berth by 0.10 secs

Mumbai, May 10 (IANS) Indian athlete Jyothi Yarraji won the women's 100m hurdles event at the Harry Scholting Games 2024 athletics meet in Vught, Netherlands on Thursday. However, she was unlucky to miss the qualification mark for the Paris Olympic Games by one-tenth of a second.

In her first event of the outdoor season in Europe, Asian Games silver medallist Jyothi clocked 12.87 seconds to win the gold medal, finishing ahead of Dutch hurdler Mira Groot, who ended second in 13.67 seconds with another Dutch runner Hanna van Baast who finished in 13.84 seconds.

In finishing first and clocking 12.87, Yarraji missed the entry standard for the Olympics, set at 12.77s, by 0.10 seconds. Earlier in the day, Jyothi had qualified for the final of the 100m hurdles by clocking 13.04 seconds. This is the second time that Jyothi, who trains at the Reliance Foundation High-Performance Centre in Bhuvaneshwar, after falling short of the qualifying mark by one-hundredth of a second when she set the national record of 12.78 for a bronze medal at the World University Games in Chengdu, China.

NZ's Colin Munro announces retirement from international cricket

Christchurch, May 10 (IANS) New Zealand batter Colin Munro has decided to draw curtains on his international career that spanned 123 matches. A white-ball specialist, who featured at two previous T20 World Cups, was hoping to reignite his New Zealand career at next month's ICC Men's T20 World Cup, but the 37-year-old missed out on earning a recall and decided to call time on his international career.

"Playing for the BLACKCAPS has always been the biggest achievement in my playing career. I never felt prouder than donning that jersey, and the fact that I've been able to do that 123 times across all formats is something I will always be incredibly proud of." Although it has been a while since my last appearance, I never gave up hope that I might be able to return off the back of my franchise T20 form.

Funding boosted for Australian Institute of Sport ahead of 2032 Brisbane Olympics

Canberra, May 10 (IANS) The Australian government has announced a funding boost for the nation's high-performance sports institute ahead of the 2032 Brisbane Olympics.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said on Friday that a 249.7 million Australian dollar (165 million U.S. dollar) upgrade for the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) in Canberra will give Australian athletes the best chance of winning gold at the 2032 Games.

An independent review of the AIS handed to the government in February recommended that it should remain in Canberra rather than relocate to Brisbane in the lead-up to the Olympics but found its facilities were in need of an upgrade before the Games.



OLYMPIACOS 2-0 ASTON VILLA (agg 6-2) - TOM COLLOMOSSE AT GEORGIOS KARAIKAKIS STADIUM: All week Aston Villa had been urging supporters to keep the faith with a catchy hashtag but in the end, they came face to face with cold reality. There will be no chance to emulate the European Cup winning heroes of 1982, after Ayoub El Kaabi's double took Olympiacos to the Final of the Europa Conference League. Not many teams can recover from a two-goal deficit away from home in Europe, no matter how much they might #Believe. Olympiacos will face Fiorentina in this city later this month and Aston Villa must now turn their attention to securing a spot in next season's Champions League. That would be richly deserved reward for an outstanding campaign, in which Unai Emery's men have dealt superbly with injuries to key players.

IPL 2024: RCB keep Playoffs hopes alive as PBKS are eliminated after 60-run defeat

Dharamshala, May 9 (IANS) Virat Kohli's majestic 92 off 47 balls, coupled with a collective bowling effort helped Royal Challengers Bengaluru get a 60-run win over Punjab Kings at the HPCA Stadium here on Thursday. The result means RCB keep their playoffs hopes alive with their fourth win on the trot, while PBKS join Mumbai Indians as the second team to be eliminated from the tournament.

After Kohli's knock, along with Rajat Patidar's 55 took RCB to 241/7, their fourth-highest overall total in the tournament, PBKS had a glimmer of hope of reaching the target following a 65-run partnership between Jonny Bairstow and Rilee Rossouw. Though Rossouw made 61, none of PBKS' batters stood up to the challenge as they were bowled out for 181 in 17

overs. RCB had a superb start to their defence as Swapnil Singh trapped Prabhshir Singh lbw on the fourth ball. Bairstow hit four boundaries and a six in his 16-ball 27, before falling to Lockie Ferguson on the second-last ball of the powerplay.

Rilee Rossouw kept PBKS in the hunt by smashing boundaries at will to hit his first fifty of the competition, which he reached by thumping a six over Cameron Green's head. After getting some attention from the physio for an injury, Rossouw holed out to long off against Kam Sharma, who went on to castle Jitesh Sharma.

Though Shashank Singh was smashing boundaries, it wasn't enough for PBKS as Liam Livingstone was caught at cover for a duck, off a leading edge against Swapnil.

Shashank himself needed attention from the physio for a shoulder injury and was run out by a direct hit fired by Virat Kohli from deep mid-wicket on the very next ball, falling for 19-ball 37. After that, PBKS never recovered as Ashutosh Sharma was trapped lbw by Mohammed Siraj, followed by Lockie Ferguson knocking over Sam Curran. Siraj came back to take out the remaining two wickets and finish with 3-43 as RCB managed another clinical win.

Brief scores: Royal Challengers Bengaluru 241/7 in 20 overs (Virat Kohli 92, Rajat Patidar 55; Harshal Patel 3-38, Vidwath Kaverappa 2-36) beat Punjab Kings 181 in 17 overs (Rilee Rossouw 61, Shashank Singh 37; Mohammed Siraj 3-43; Swapnil Singh 2-280 by 60 runs - IANS)

Leverkusen hold Roma in four-goal thriller to book Europa League final

Berlin, May 10 (IANS) Bayer Leverkusen survived a scare against Roma and set a new unbeaten European record of 49 games after snatching a late 2-2 draw to advance 4-2 on aggregate in the UEFA Europa League semifinal second leg.

The Werkself went into the game having won the first leg 2-0, and controlled proceedings for most of the first 45 minutes. Adam Hlozek and Exequiel Palacios tested Roma goalkeeper Mile Svilar from distance while Palacios rattled the woodwork at the half-hour mark.

Leverkusen remained on the front foot but neither Jonas Hofmann nor Amine Adli could beat Svilar from promising positions as the match progressed. However, the opener was scored at the other end, as Jonathan Tah fouled Sardar Azmoun inside the box, allowing Leandro Paredes to slot home the subsequent penalty to halve the aggregate deficit to 2-1 just before the break.

After the restart, both sides traded attacks, Adli shot just wide of the target while Leverkusen keeper Matej Kovar denied efforts from Azmoun and Stephan El Shaarawy.

Leverkusen remained dangerous but Hofmann couldn't beat Svilar with time and space at the hour mark. Things went from bad to worse in the 66th minute as the visitors restored parity in the tie after Paredes converted a penalty.

Leverkusen made it 2-1 with great assistance of Gialluca Mancini, who cleared a corner from Alejandro Grimaldo into his own net with 83 minutes gone. The hosts weren't done with the scoring, as substitute Josip Stanisic made it 2-2 in the seventh minute of injury time to extend Leverkusen's unbeaten streak to a new European record of 49 games.

SETVI & Gaurav Natekar together launch World Pickleball League

The inaugural edition, to witness six franchise teams compete for the title; organisers set to announce global expansion plans soon.

Mumbai, India's growing reputation as a potential racquet sports hub is all set to get a massive boost with the launch of the World Pickleball League (WPBL), the first-ever professional pickleball league, envisaged by Natekar Sports and Gaming (NSG) and Sony Entertainment Talent Ventures India (SETVI).

NSG is a company promoted by former Davis Cup star and Arjuna Awardee Gaurav Natekar and his wife, 'Arati Ponnappa Natekar, also a former India #1 in Tennis'. SETVI is a joint venture between Sony Music Entertainment and Sony Pictures Entertainment.

NSG will have SETVI as their strategic investor and partner in the league which will be conducted under the aegis of the All India Pickleball Federation and International Pickleball Federation.

Using his extensive experience of over 35 years as a player, consultant, entrepreneur, and administrator, Gaurav Natekar, Founder and CEO of Natekar Sports and Gaming, said: "We are proud to unveil the inaugural global professional pickleball league in India and are excited that SETVI has chosen to invest with us. At NSG, we have always looked to fostering a vibrant sports culture and constantly explore opportunities to grow the sporting ecosystem in India and pickleball has emerged as the perfect embodiment of that ethos. Its easy-to-

learn-and-play nature coupled with it being age and gender agnostic makes it the ideal sport for people to come out and play there by democratizing sports participation like never before.

Arvind Prabhu, President of All India Pickleball Federation and International Pickleball Federation too, welcomed the professional pickleball league and said this initiative could change the future of the sport in the country. Speaking about their partnership with NSG Nachiket Pantvaia, CEO of SETVI said, "The alliance between NSG and SETVI ignites a new era for Pickleball's growth story. With its inherent potential to serve as a dynamic growth vehicle for sports, both in India and on a global scale, Pickleball stands poised for an unprecedented ascent."



Business & Technology



Birla Fertility & IVF announces the acquisition of ARMC IVF Fertility Chain

New Delhi: Birla Fertility & IVF, one of India's leading IVF networks, a part of the USD 2.9bn C K Birla Group, announced its acquisition of ARMC IVF Fertility Centre, marking the network's entry into South India. Currently, Birla Fertility & IVF operates 30 centres and with this acquisition, it will expand its presence across Kerala, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu, now operating a total of 37 centres across the country.

The acquisition marks Birla Fertility & IVF's reach as a leading partner, meeting the growing nationwide demand for people looking for a trustworthy and proficient partner to go to for their fertility needs.

Speaking on the occasion, Avanti Birla, Founder, Birla Fertility & IVF, C K Birla Healthcare, said, "At Birla Fertility & IVF, our

proposition of 'All Heart. All Science' means bringing care into the science of conception, and we believe in a multi-disciplinary approach where fertility specialists, andrologists, and counselors come together. We have a holistic approach to promote good fertility health and treatment and partner with people on a variety of topics, like fertility preservation, including ovarian tissue freezing for cancer patients. ARMC IVF and its Founder and Medical Director, Dr. K.U. Kunjimoideen, have served the patients in the southern region with the highest level of fertility care, and through this partnership, we will continue to uphold this commitment."

Commenting on this strategic move, Akshat Seth, Vice Chairman, C K Birla Healthcare, said,

"With this step, Birla Fertility & IVF moves closer to its vision of building the world's most clinically reliable and renowned institution in reproductive medicine. We aim to raise awareness and provide reliable fertility treatments, and with this acquisition, we will expand and strengthen our presence in the South, enabling us to address a larger audience and reaffirming our commitment to becoming a leading fertility and IVF provider in India.

Speaking on the occasion, Abhishek Aggarwal, Chief Business Officer, Birla Fertility & IVF, said, "We will leverage our global expertise, state-of-the-art equipment, and exceptional success rates to deliver premium reproductive care and advanced fertility treatments that adhere to international standards."

MG celebrates its centenary year; launches '100-Year Limited Edition' in India

Gurugram, MG (Morris Garages), a British automobile brand with a 100-year-old legacy, today, launched the '100-Year Limited Edition' featuring the iconic 'Evergreen' colour synonymous with British racing history spanning over 110 years.

These Editions will come in an 'Evergreen' exterior with a starry black finished roof and dark finished elements along with the '100-Year Edition' badge on the tailgate. Additionally, the interior has an all-black theme with '100-Year Edition' embroidered in the front headrests imparting sporty character to honour the history of the world of racing. The Limited Edition will also come with an 'Evergreen' themed head unit along with the customisable widget colour.

Commenting on the launch, Santinder Singh Bajwa, Chief Commercial Officer, MG Motor India, said, "The launch of our 100-Year Limited Edition is a testament to our enduring legacy and passion for automotive excellence. The 'Evergreen' colour holds a special place in our hearts, embodying the spirit of performance and heritage that define the brand. MG aims to establish itself as a brand renowned for its rich legacy, one that continues to resonate with customers for years to come." Over the past few years, the automotive landscape has undergone significant evolution, reflecting a dynamic shift in motoring legacy. This special edition reverberates MG's legacy and domination in the world of motor racing, showcasing commitment to become an international car brand at the forefront of delivering a range of vehicles that lead future of advanced mobility.

Amity University Mumbai Showcases At Bombay Times Fashion Week 2024

Mumbai: Amity University Mumbai's School of Fashion Design and Technology (ASFT) showcased 'Tarang' The Collection at the Bombay Times Fashion Week 2024. 18 student designers featured 20 garments portraying a vibrant mix of textures and colour coordinates enabling multiple surface ornamentation possibilities.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. (Dr.) A.V. Santhosh Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, Amity University Mumbai, said "Amity University Mumbai is proud to be associated with the Bombay Times Fashion Week, a magnificent show, showcasing the talents of our students' excellence in comparison with seasoned Fashion industry icons in the fields of Design, Choreography, Fashion display and theme. Amity School

of Fashion Technology has a hands-on approach and industry collaborative model, which, is why our students excel in many such fashion shows around the country and bring laurels to the Institution."

Prof. (Dr.) Bhawana Chanana, Director, Amity School of Fashion Technology, Amity University Mumbai, said "Tarang" The Collection defines the institute's broader initiative to rejuvenate India's cultural essence and global design concepts. The designs move between digital garment structures and traditional handicrafts, focusing on sculpting, fluid drapery, layering, surface embellishments, ombre effects, and geometric patterns. The themes are influenced by the finest young design talent in the country, displaying

their technical prowess and creative genius through various themes. It explored avant-garde ensembles that fuse luxury fashion with modern styles, like a wave of change that carries the spirit of tradition into the cutting-edge embrace of the future.

The showstopper, Ms. Esha Velankar, winner of Miss CocoaBerry Diva, Miss Unity International 2021-2022, and Miss India Global 2020 runner-up is set to compete in the Miss Universe pageant. She didn't only walk the ramp during Fashion Week; she also showcased her collection and wore a garment with "wings" that depicted a sense of freedom through the "Kirigami" design, by natural elements and theatrical expressions, representing an evolution of creative ideas."

Flipkart introduces an all-new competitive and simplified rate card policy to enhance the seller experience

Bengaluru: Flipkart, India's homegrown e-commerce marketplace, announced an all-new simplified rate card policy aimed at revolutionizing the seller experience on the platform and enabling greater settlement clarity.

Key highlights of the new rate card, effective May 18, 2024, include a Simplified Rate Card Structure, Economical FB rates offering a competitive edge to streamline operations at a larger scale, and an Updated Shipping Policy, enabling sellers to provide enhanced customer value. This transformative change through a simplified rate card will foster equitable growth opportunities, reflecting Flipkart's commitment to empowering sellers.

Speaking about the development, Rakesh Krishnan, Vice President and Head - Marketplace, Flipkart, said, "As a homegrown e-commerce company, we recognize that navigating the ever-evolving landscape of e-commerce can be challenging for sellers. These changes are a direct reflection of our ongoing dialogue with our sellers. By reducing complexities and ensuring clearer settlements, we aim to make doing business on Flipkart seamless and more rewarding."

This rate card redesign is part of Flipkart's broader initiative to streamline operations and offer robust support to our vast network of sellers across India. These changes will improve the ease of doing business and amplify potential market reach and consumer engagement. With enhanced benefits, we are confident that this initiative will unlock new opportunities for sellers to thrive and transform the selling experience on our platform."

Pearson PTE's successful Partner Meet in Ahmedabad; unveils plans for growth

Ahmedabad, Pearson (FTSE: PSON.L), the world's leading learning company conducted an exclusive partner meet in Ahmedabad, to unveil its growth plans for the Pearson Test of English (PTE) in the state. Attended by 110+ partners, in the presence of Steve Hickling, British Deputy High Commissioner Ahmedabad, the event brought together key partners, stakeholders, and industry leaders to discuss strategic collaborations. The focus was on expanding the partner ecosystem through exceptional customer service, comprehensive training programs, and raising awareness about market trends and opportunities. This gathering aimed at a significant stride toward empowering partners to achieve greater growth and success.

At the event, Pearson



announced the launch of Premium Partner Support (PPS), the new customer support service for select partners in India for PTE to demonstrate its commitment to staying at the forefront and delivering value to its partners and customers. PPS will provide the best-in-class customer experience for PTE's high-volume partners and agents, providing them with a premium level of service tailored to their unique needs, focusing on first-time resolution and delivering quality and efficiency.

Pearson Test of English (PTE) is gaining and growing fast as the preferred test of English proficiency in the state. Earlier this year, Pearson announced the bookings open for PTE Core, its newest English language proficiency test for Canada Economic Migration. Alongside this, PTE Academic was accepted from August 2023 by IRCC as an approved English proficiency test for all Canada Student Direct Stream (SDS) visa applications - it is already recognized by more than 97 percent of

universities and 95 percent of colleges in Canada. The UK, Australian, and New Zealand governments also accept PTE tests for all visa applications. PTE Academic is also accepted by 100 percent of Australian, New Zealand, and Irish Universities and 99 percent of UK universities.

Steve Hickling, British Deputy High Commissioner Ahmedabad, said "I am a great believer in the power of education. Pearson has been making a difference on education in India for 30 years."

Hester Biosciences Net Profit up 12% to Rs. 6.40 crore in Q4FY24

Ahmedabad: Hester Biosciences Limited, one of India's leading animal health company, manufacturing vaccines and health products has reported consolidated revenue from operations of Rs. 79.26 crore for the Q4FY24, growth of 18% Y-o-Y from revenue of Rs. 67.30 crore in Q4FY23.

Operating profit during the quarter ended March 2024 was reported at Rs. 16.40 crore, 37% growth Y-o-Y from Rs. 11.97 crore in Q4FY23. Net Profit of the company for Q4FY24 was up 12% to Rs. 6.40 crore as compared to the net profit of Rs. 5.71 crore in Q4 FY23. Company has recommended dividend of Rs. 6 per equity share of Rs. 10 each (60%) for the financial year 2023-24, subject to approval of members at the ensuing Annual General Meeting.

1. Overall gross profit margin in Q4 FY24 increased by 1% compared to Q4 FY23, primarily due to the increase in the proportion of vaccines from 60% to 75% in Q4 FY24.

2. In Q4 FY24, EBITDA increased by 14% in alignment with a growth in sales, resulting in a 19% increase in PAT for the quarter.

3. The total borrowings of the Company has reduced by Rs.30.76 Crore (19%) during the year.

4. The cash generated from operations has increased by Rs.9.45 Crore (28%) during the year. We are repurposing and transitioning our BSL 3 facility (which was built to manufacture the drug substance of the COVID-19 vaccine), towards commercial production of veterinary vaccines, thereby further enhancing our manufacturing capacity.

Hester Nepal aims to increase the poultry vaccine manufacturing, to cater to the domestic, as well as export needs of Middle and Central Asian countries.

Indel Money enters Gujarat; opens its 300th branch in Ahmedabad

Ahmedabad, Indel Money, a leading gold loan non-banking finance company (NBFC), marked its entry to Gujarat with the opening of its 300th branch at Naroda in Ahmedabad.



This significant event marks a key milestone in the company's journey, heralding its relentless efforts to provide customer-focused gold loan solutions across the country. Indel Money offers a comprehensive suite of gold loan services to the customers who have diverse financial needs.

expansion in the state reaffirms the company's strategy to tap Gujarat's thriving business potential for its growth. The company aims to strengthen its

Director and CEO of Indel Money, said: "Gujarat is one of the top industrialised states in India. People have entrepreneurial skills and the credit demand in the state is always very high. Our specialised gold loan products will have a prominent role to play in helping people meet their credit demand. The state offers huge business potential and that is the reason for us to choose Ahmedabad as the destination for inaugurating our 300th branch. It underscores our dedication in expanding our footprints across the country and serving people and businesses with innovative gold loan solutions. With the opening of new branches, we are aiming to deepen our presence in the western region and contribute to the growth and economic prosperity of the country."

gold loan business in the state with an ambitious target of opening 26 branches this FY and achieving a business of Rs 250-crore in the current financial year.

Commenting on this significant milestone, Mr Umesh Mohanan, Execu-

Hanooman India's largest Groundbreaking GenAI Platform Now Live in 98 Languages!

Mumbai, 3AI Holding Limited and SML India, today announced the launch of 'Hanooman', India's homegrown largest multi-lingual and most affordable GenAI platform in 98 global languages, including 12 Indian languages, to build Gen AI ecosystem for India by leveraging the country's diverse linguistic and cultural heritage.

Derived from the name of Lord Hanuman, it symbolises the platform's commitment to using the power of GenAI for greater good. Hanooman, with all his knowledge, power and strength always served Ram loyally and we want Hanooman to bring the same GenAI power to humanity. Hanooman has been developed by SML India in partnership with 3AI Holding. The platform aims to reach 200 million users within its first year of launch. As part of the

launch, SML India announced its partnership with leading technology stalwarts and innovators like HP, NASSCOM, and Yotta. Through the partnership, Yotta will provide GPU cloud infrastructure to bolster SML India's operations. Additionally, SML India's partnership with NASSCOM is aimed at several initiatives, like supporting AI startups, fostering fintech innovation, engaging with 3000 colleges, and participating in research programmes. The company has also collaborated with the Government of Telangana and the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), to facilitate seamless translation between English and Telugu, enhancing accessibility and understanding of crucial documents like court orders.

ing Director of 3AI Holding, said, "Our mission is clear: to ensure that AI is not just a privilege for a few, but a tool accessible to every Indian. Hanooman embodies this commitment of democratising access to cutting-edge technology to every Indian. What sets Hanooman apart is that it is built in India, built for India, and stored in India (data). Dr. Vishnu Vardhan, Co-Founder & CEO, SML India, said, "Hanooman represents a new era of AI innovation in India. With its launch, we aim to impact the lives of 200 million users within the first year alone. 80% of Indians can't use English, hence, Hanooman's capabilities to support Indian languages will bring Gen AI to the reach of everyone in India and open massive opportunities for companies and startups bringing Gen AI products to the market.

Business Brief III

Audi India launches Audi Q3 and Audi Q3 Sportback Bold Edition

Mumbai, Audi, the German luxury car manufacturer today announced the launch of the Audi Q3 Bold Edition and Audi Q3 Sportback Bold Edition. The Bold Edition versions get distinctive styling and are designed to captivate Audi enthusiasts with their exclusivity and unique design elements. Mr. Balbir Singh Dhillon, Head of Audi India said, "The Audi Q3 and Audi Q3 Sportback are currently our best-selling models and have always been loved by our customers. A perfect blend of luxury, performance and versatility, both these models are now being offered with a Bold Edition - a more exclusive and sportier variant packed with distinctive styling elements. The Bold Editions are designed for those who want to make a unique statement on the road. With limited units available, we are positive that these will be sold out in no time."

Post full-length movies on X, 'AI Audiences' coming soon: Elon Musk

New Delhi, May 10 (IANS) Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk, on Friday, said that subscribed users can post movies, TV series or podcasts on the platform and earn money via monetisation. Repling to his sister Tosca Musk who co-founded the streaming service Passionflix, the tech billionaire said that users can now post their full-length movies on X. "Post your movies, TV series or podcasts on this platform and monetise by turning on subscriptions," said Elon. Tosca posted: "Love that people are watching my movies here on X." A user even suggested that X should let them post films and charge a one-time fee. "This way people can buy the movie without having to buy a subscription. X becomes a genuine movie platform," the user commented. "X would need a seriously revamped video-playing mechanism though. Would love to see that happen," another posted. Meanwhile, Elon also informed his followers that 'AI Audiences' feature is coming soon. "Briefly describe the target audience for your ads and our AI systems will generate a pool of the most relevant X users to target in seconds," he elaborated.

How 10-minute delivery platforms struck a chord with young Indian consumers

New Delhi, May 10 (IANS) As quick commerce (QC) companies strike a chord with consumers in the country, particularly the urban digital

and towns in a calibrated manner, experts said on Friday. Currently, three major quick delivery platforms -- Zomato's Blinkit, Swiggy's

Instamart and Zepto -- compete head-on with each other and the market-share gap is not so wide. According to industry

experts, such quick grocery platforms have seen limited success globally but in India, there are a couple of key variables driving their success.

"Population density and high prevalence of unorganised retail/local kirana stores enables QC companies to exercise relative buying power with scale, along with cheap labour costs," according to a report by Emkay Global Financial Services.

GenZs and millennials have started ordering everyday needs across product categories via online apps, which are delivered within minutes.

These platforms started with grocery deliveries and soon expanded their total addressable market (TAM) by entering into newer categories.

"This shift will drive frequencies, average order value (AOV), and contribution margin. Overall, the value proposition hinges on both convenience and value (better experience at cost, lower than alternatives, mainly convenience/kirana stores), which is driving more clicks and wallet share gain," according to the Emkay Global report.

Blinkit has sustained industry-leading AOV on the back of higher SKU

APOLLO INSTITUTE OF ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY (AIET)

(PROMOTED BY DIVABA EDUCATION TRUST) SNME Campus, Anasan, Near S. P. Ring Road Circle, Naroda-Dehgam Road, Naroda, Ahmedabad-382330, website: www.aiet.edu.in

AICTE Approved and GTU Affiliated Self Financed Degree and Diploma Engineering Institute, Managed by Divaba Education Trust, Invites Applications for following Departmental Positions.

Last date for accepting the applications is: 26/05/2024, Sunday

Table with columns: Sr. No., Branch, Diploma Engineering, Degree Engineering. Lists various engineering branches and staff counts.

Interested Candidates may send their Applications with detailed resume, copies of testimonials, copy of school leaving certificate, PAN card & passport size photo on admin@aiet.edu.in or at above mentioned postal address.

SUVIDHA INFRAESTATE CORPORATION LIMITED

[CIN: L70102GJ1992PLC016978] Registered Office: A-305,306 Krishna Complex, Opp. Devashish School, Bodakdev, Ahmedabad - 380 054

EXTRACT OF STATEMENT OF STANDALONE AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER/ YEAR ENDED ON 31ST MARCH, 2024 (Rs. In Lakh)

Financial results table with columns: Particulars, Quarter ended on 31-03-2024, Year ended on 31-03-2024, Quarter ended on 31-03-2023.

NOTES: 1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Annual Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (LODR) Reg., 2015.

Date: 10th May, 2024 Place: Ahmedabad

CHANGE OF NAME

I have changed my old name from SUVANA VAJU RAIYABHAI to new name CHAUNAN VAJUBHAI RAIYABHAI

WESTERN RAILWAY - BHAVNAGAR DIVISION

SUPPLY, INSTALLATION COMMISSIONING OF SIGNALING MATERIALS NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER The Notice Railway, Manager (S&T), Western Railway, Bhavnagar invite e-tenders on behalf of President of India for the following works: Tender No. 05-2024

CHANGE OF NAME

I have changed my old name from SHAH MIT MAHESHKUMAR to new name SHAH MIT MAHESH

PUBLIC NOTICE ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE

It is hereby informed that the Ministry of Environment Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India has accorded Environmental Clearance to M/s Pentaphos Industries Pvt Ltd, Plot No 803/4, Jhagadia, GIDC Estate, District - Bharuch, Gujarat vide EC Identification no EC24021G127796 dated 06-05-2024 for setting up of expansion of manufacturing plant for 'Synthetic Organic Chemicals'.

Airbus' defence, space arm to launch research centre in S. Korea

Seoul, May 10 (IANS) The industry ministry here said on Friday that it has signed a memorandum of understanding with Airbus SE for the European aerospace giant to launch a new research and development (R&D) centre in South Korea. Industrial Policy Director General Lee Seung-yeol reached the agreement during his meeting with Francisco Segura, the chief operating officer at Airbus Defence and Space, in Seoul, according to the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy. The envisioned International Technology Center came after South Korea formally asked the defence and space arm of Airbus to establish an R;D centre in the country in November 2022, reports Yonhap news agency. The new centre will serve as the platform to expand the cooperation between Airbus and South Korean firms in the civil aircraft and helicopter industries as well, it added. Airbus plans to select the region for the new centre within this year. The government and Airbus also discussed ways to expand bilateral ties in the aviation, space, and defence sectors, the

ministry said. "The Airbus ITC is expected to serve as the hub for South Korea's global cooperation in the aviation, space and defence sectors," Lee said. "South Korea aims to promote ties with global R;D projects with Airbus, as the country intends to invest around 400 billion won (\$292 million) in the development of materials, parts and equipment in five major areas of defence, including in artificial intelligence, chips and space," Lee said.

India on the cusp of becoming a global tech powerhouse: Industry leaders

New Delhi, May 10 (IANS) With its burgeoning tech ecosystem and emphasis on harnessing the power of artificial intelligence (AI), India is on the cusp of becoming a global tech powerhouse, industry leaders said on Friday, ahead of the National Technology Day that falls on May 11. "From startups to established firms, the integration of AI technologies is unlocking unprecedented efficiency, innovation, and scalability.

(stock keeping unit) availability, order fulfilment rates, better customer insights, and superior execution, which also aided profitability.

According to the latest Goldman Sachs report, Blinkit has become more valuable than Zomato's core food delivery business.

CHANGE OF NAME

I have Changed my old name from SHEIKH SHAHEEN SHAUKATALI to new name SHAHEEN SHAUKATALI SHAIKH

CHANGE OF NAME

I have changed my old name from FALGUNI ANANDKUMAR AKHANI to new name AKHANI FALGUNEEN ANANDKUMAR

CHANGE OF NAME

I have changed my old name from BHAKTITANAYDAS to new name SADHU BHAKTITANAYDAS

CHANGE OF NAME

I have changed my old name from ALEX BALWANTSINH ZALA to new name ALEX DENISH TURNER

CHANGE OF NAME

I have Changed my old name from SHEHNABAHEN SHAHEEN SHEIKH to new name SHAIKH SHAHNAZBEN SHAHEEN

CHANGE OF NAME

I have Changed my old name from SHAIKH SEHNAJBANU SAHINBHAI to new name SHAIKH SHAHNAZBEN SHAHEEN

CHANGE OF NAME

I have changed my old name from SHAIKH MOHAMMED YASIN HAMIDBHAI to new name SHAIKH MOHAMMED YASIN HAMID

CHANGE OF NAME

I have Changed my old name from SAHIN SHAUKATALI SHAIKH to new name SHAHEEN SHAUKATALI SHAIKH

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP (CMG), SPACE APPLICATIONS CENTRE (SAC), JODHPUR TEKRA, AMBAWADI VISTAR P.O., AHMEDABAD -380015 Ph. No: (079) 26914953 / 4933 / 4901

BRIEF e-TENDER NOTICE Tender Notice No.: SAC/ CMG / CPHD / C / e / 09 to 15 / 2024-25 & Dated: 09.05.2024

Table with columns: Tender No., Title of Work, Estimated Cost put to tender, Period of Completion, Earnest Money Deposit, Period during which the tender document can be downloaded, Due date and time of Submission of tender.

Tender documents can be downloaded from web site www.tendervizor.com/ISRO by registering with tender wizard and paying tender processing fee. The procedure for tender registration is displayed in the above web site.

CHANGE OF SURNAME I have changed my old surname from AKHIYANIYA AMULAKH BHUPENDRABHAI to GAJJAR AMULAKH BHUPENDRABHAI

CHANGE OF NAME I have changed my old name from MADHUKANTA MANILAL SHAH to new name MADHUBEN MANILAL SHAH

SANBLUE CORPORATION LTD.

Reg. off: 22-A, Government Servant Society, Near Municipal Market, C.G. Road, Ahmedabad-380009. Email : inquiry@sanbluecorporation.com • Website : www.sanbluecorporation.com

Intimation of Board meeting for the Quarter and year ended on 31st March, 2024

NOTICE is hereby given that the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company will be held on Wednesday, 22nd May, 2024 at the Registered office of the Company at 04:00 PM.

Further pursuant to SEBI (Prohibition of Insider Trading) Regulations, 2015 and in compliance with the terms of Code of Conduct for Prohibition of Insider Trading, the & "Trading Window" for dealing in the securities of the Company has already been closed for all Designated Persons and their immediate relatives w.e.f. 1st April, 2024 and it will continue to remain close till 48 hours after declaration of financial results for the quarter and financial year ended on 31st March, 2024.

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors Sanblue Corporation Limited Sd/- Jekil Pancholi Company Secretary- FCS: 12329

FINAL AUCTION CUM SALE NOTICE FOR GOLD ORNAMENTS The borrower(s) (whose details are provided in the table herein below), in particular, and the public, in general, are hereby informed that the below mentioned accounts are overdue, and the borrower(s) account holders have not responded/complied with the communication, and notice sent by HDB Financial Services Limited (the "Company") requesting the borrower to clear his/her/their dues as per the documents in respect of the below mentioned loan signed/accepted by the borrower(s) (such documents, collectively "loan agreement") and therefore defaulted in terms thereof. The Company has in exercise of its rights as a pledgee, decided to enforce the pledge and therefore hold a public auction of the gold ornaments pledged to the company as security for the loan for the purpose of selling the same and realising/recovering the dues owned by the borrower(s) to the company. The auction will be conducted on/after 16-05-2024 at the below mentioned local branch of HDB Financial Services Limited from 11.00 am onwards on the date and branches mentioned in the below table:-

Table with columns: Loan No, Customer Name, Date of Loan, Overdue Amount ₹, Branch Name. Lists various loans and branches.

The auction shall be conducted on an "AS IS WHERE" and "AS IS WHAT IT" basis and the Company is not making and shall not make any representation or warranties as regards the quality, purity, caratage, weight or valuation of the said gold ornaments. It shall be the sole and absolute responsibility of the potential purchaser to verify, examine and satisfy themselves about the quality, purity, caratage, weight or valuation of the said gold ornaments prior to placing their bid and for such purpose it shall be open to potential purchasers to examine, at their sole cost and expense, and at the address set out herein above, the gold ornaments whether with or without expert advice 45 minutes prior to the time stipulated for the conduct of the auction. All the bid shall be subjected to such minimum reserve price as the company may deem fit to fix in this regards. The auction process and sale (if any) pursuant to such auction shall be subjected to such further terms and conditions as the company may at sole discretion deem fit to impose.

News

in a Nutshell

TN Class 10 results announced, 91.55 pc students pass

Chennai, May 10 (IANS) The Directorate of Government examinations on Friday announced the results of the Class 10 state board exam 2024. The pass percentage for this year is 91.55. Students can check their results on the official website tresults.nic.in.

The state board examinations for Class 10 tenth were conducted between March 26 and April 8. There were 4,107 examination centres across the state for the conduct of the exams.

A total of 9,10,024 students appeared for the examination out of which 4,57,525 were boys and 4,52,498 girls. One transgender student also appeared for the examination. A total of 235 students appeared for the examination from various prisons in the state.

Narendra Dabholkar murder case: Pune Court gives life term to 2 sharpshooters; 3 acquitted

Pune (Maharashtra), May 10 (IANS) A Sessions Court here on Friday pronounced two persons guilty and acquitted three others accused in the sensational daylight killing of medico and rationalist Narendra Dabholkar in Pune on August 20, 2013.

Delivering the verdict in the 11-year-old case that grabbed national headlines, the court slapped a life sentence on the two sharpshooters, Sharad Kalaskar and Sachin Andure plus a fine of Rs 5-lakhs each.

Three others accused in the same case, Sanjeev Punhalekar, Dr Virendra Tawade and Vikram Bhawe, have been acquitted for lack of evidence, said a lawyer from the legal teams. A prosecution lawyer representing the Dabholkar family said that they would challenge the verdict in the Bombay High Court and also the Supreme Court.

Rahul, Akhilesh, Sanjay Singh address first joint rally of INDIA bloc

Kanauj (UP), May 10 (IANS) Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, Samajwadi Party President Akhilesh Yadav and AAP MP Sanjay Singh addressed their first joint rally of the INDIA bloc in Kanauj on Friday.

The leaders appealed to the people to vote INDIA bloc to power and listed all that they proposed to do for the people if they win.

Rahul Gandhi said that one woman in every family would get Rs 1 lakh every year till the family rises above the poverty line. He promised to increase MNRGA wages and ensure apprenticeships for the youth in different streams.

Rahul warned the people that the BJP may try to divert their attention in the next few days but asked people to beware. "INDIA is turning into a storm and Uttar Pradesh is showing the way. This is an election to protect the Constitution and the rights of the people," he said.



PATNA, Bihar Deputy CM Samrat Chaudhary along with LJP (Ramvilash) chief Chirag Paswan and BNP In-charge Vinod Tawde and party candidate from Patna Sahib constituency Ravi Shankar Prasad at an election rally before he filed his nomination for Lok Sabha elections, in Patna on Friday. UNI

PM panel report brings back focus on changing nature of demography in Rajasthan cities

Jaipur, May 10 (IANS) A working paper released by the Economic Advisory Council (EAC) to the Prime Minister has again brought the focus back on the changing nature of religious demography in the desert state.

According to the working paper released recently, India's Hindu population decreased by 7.82 per cent between 1950 and 2015, from 84.68 per cent to 78.06 per cent, while the Muslim population went up from 9.84 per cent to 14.09 per cent during this period, marking a 43.15 per cent rise.

Vikrant Singh from the NGO Jansankhya Foundation told IANS that a few years back, the BSF released a report that flagged concerns over increasing radicalisation of Muslim population in the border district of Jaisalmer.

The report released in December 2018 found rising prevalence of "Arab customs" in the bordering

villages, Singh said.

Now it's not the border cities alone, but the demography is changing in almost all the cities in Rajasthan as one particular community can be seen residing in the older pockets of the cities and towns, he claimed.

Earlier, there used to be diversity in the older parts of the towns, which seems to be changing now with the Hindus migrating to the newer pockets in many cities in the state, he said.

"This trend can be spotted in cities like Barmher, Jaisalmer, and Pokhran and other border areas," he told IANS.

The BSF report also found a high growth rate - 22-25 per cent - in Muslim population as compared to 8-10 per cent among other communities in the areas bordering Pakistan in the state.

Singh claimed it is a fact that extremism is rising and hence there is a need to implement policies

on a secular basis and bring in popular control measures, irrespective of religion. Rules such as those with more than two kids cant contest panchayat elections should be implemented through out the nation, he said.

Nimisha, a BJP leader in Jaipur, also told IANS that there is a lack of diversity in the pockets of the state where the two communities used to live

together before.

However, Rajasthan Congress General Secretary Swarnim Chaturvedi argued that the figures released in the PM panel report are not based on population census.

He also questioned the intention of the government, saying it wants to benefit from polarisation and hence comes the report in the middle of the Lok Sabha elections.

AAP objects to ED opposing Kejriwal's bail plea, files complaint in Supreme Court

New Delhi, May 10 (IANS) The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) said on Thursday that the legal team of Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday raised strong objection to the affidavit filed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in the Supreme Court opposing the interim bail plea moved by the Delhi Chief Minister.

A formal complaint has

been lodged in this regard with the Supreme Court's registry denouncing the ED's affidavit as "blatant disregard of legal procedures", especially considering that the matter is already slated for a final decision in the top court on Friday. It also claimed that the affidavit was submitted without obtaining the SC's approval. Questioning the

ED's objection to the interim bail of Kejriwal, the AAP said it is well known that even after two years of investigation by the ED in the alleged liquor policy scam, not a single rupee or piece of evidence has been recovered incriminating anybody in the Aam Aadmi Party. Further, the grounds of the arrest of Kejriwal are based on

statements made by other implicated persons in the case, viz. Magunta Sreenivasulu Reddy, Sarath Reddy, Satya Vijay Naik, and a close aide of an ex-BJP CM, the AAP claimed. The ED has relied solely on the statements of these accused-turned-witnesses with direct links to and benefiting from the BJP, it said.



HYDERABAD, AICC, President Mallikarjuna Kharge, addressing a press conference, in Hyderabad on Friday. UNI

Drone show highlighting Kashi's development wins applause

Varanasi, May 10 (IANS) A drone show where 1,000 drones showcased the developments that have taken place in Kashi in the past 10 years, above the river stream, through light formations took Varanasi by surprise on Thursday night.

Minutes after Ganga Aarti in the Dashashwamedh Ghat, people from across the globe witnessed local MP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's campaign through the drone show.

People were awestruck as drone lights started making patterns to showcase the iconic Kashi

Vishwanath Dham. The gathering began chanting 'Har Har Mahadev'.

The show began with a countdown in the air showcasing many government works, including semi-high-speed Vande Bharat, which was launched from Varanasi, and a cruise service.

The 15-minute show was marked by applause and slogans of Prime Minister Modi's campaign like 'Abki Bar 400 Paar' and 'Fir Ek Baar Modi Sarkar'.

BJP's Kashi region media in-charge, Navratan Rathi, said that this show will be held every day now at 7:45 p.m. till Sunday.

India should respect Pak as it has atom bomb, says Cong veteran Mani Shankar Aiyar

New Delhi, May 10 (IANS) After Sam Pitroda's controversial statements, another veteran Congress leader Mani Shankar Aiyar has triggered a fresh row by saying that "India should give respect to Pakistan as it has atom bomb".

In an interview that has gone viral now, Aiyar says, "India should give respect to Pakistan as it has an atom bomb! If we don't give them respect, they'll think of using an atom bomb against India. India showing muscular policy should not forget that Pakistan also has muscle (atom bomb) at

Kahuta (Rawalpindi)."

BJP spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla launched a blistering attack on Aiyar's remarks on India's relations with Pakistan. Accusing the Congress of maintaining close ties with Pakistan, he said, "Despite Pakistan's involvement in terrorist activities against India, Aiyar talks about respecting them."

He asserted that Aiyar's remarks exemplify Congress' ongoing affinity toward Pakistan, a nation known for harbouring and supporting terrorists targeting India.

The BJP spokesper-

son said, "When support came from Pakistan for the Congress, their leaders gave a clean chit to Kasab and Pakistan for 26/11."

Shashi Tharoor used words with a language similar to Pakistan's for Kashmir. Many Congress leaders made statements regarding the Pulwama and Poonch terrorist attacks, and now Mani Shankar Aiyar, by standing with terrorists and supporting Pakistan, shows the Congress' hand with terrorists and Pakistan, and now another evidence of this has come to light.

Vice Admiral Sanjay Bhalla assumes charge as chief of personnel of Indian Navy

New Delhi, May 10 (IANS) Vice Admiral Sanjay Bhalla assumed the charge as the Chief of Personnel of the Indian Navy on Friday.

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) said that he was commissioned in the Indian Navy on January 1, 1989. In a career spanning 35 years, he has held several operational appointments, both afloat and ashore.

"After completing his Specialisation Course in Communication and Electronic Warfare, he served as a specialist onboard several frontline warships. He subsequently had the

privilege of holding challenging, fulfilling and eventful Commands at sea, which include, INS Nishank, INS Taragiri, INS Beas and the coveted appointment of Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet (FOCEF)," said the ministry.

During his tenure as FOCEF, he was the Officer in Tactical Command for the prestigious President's Fleet Review (PFR - 22) and the Sea Phase of the Indian Navy's flagship multinational exercise MILAN-22, which witnessed an unprecedented participation from Friendly Foreign Countries.

He has also held important staff appointments at the Naval Headquarters, including Assistant Chief of Personnel (Human Resource Development); headed Officers training at the Naval Academy, and has held a diplomatic assignment overseas, said the MoD.

Before assuming charge as the COP, he was the Chief of Staff of the Western Naval Command and oversaw operations.

Viral Sandeshkhali video: BJP leader approaches Calcutta HC

Kolkata, May 10 (IANS) A local BJP leader, Gangadhar Koyal, in West Bengal's Sandeshkhali on Friday approached a single-judge bench of Calcutta High Court claiming that a fake sting-operation video involving him was being circulated.

Koyal said in the video he was seen and heard claiming that the protests staged by the women against alleged sexual harassment by local Trinamool Congress leaders were orchestrated by the

BJP. The single-judge bench of Justice Jay Sengupta has admitted the petition. The matter is likely to come up for hearing on May 14, the day after the fourth phase of Lok Sabha polls.

The video surfaced on May 4, Koyal, a Mandal president of BJP at Sandeshkhali, approached the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) claiming that in the video modulation of his voice was done through the use of Artificial Intelligence.

Rains, thunderstorm expected in next 24 hrs in Rajasthan: MeT

Jaipur, May 10 (IANS) As the heat wave continues across Rajasthan, the MeT has predicted rains and thunderstorm in the state in the next 24 hours. "A circulation system is formed over western Rajasthan due to which there is a strong possibility of light rain, strong gusty winds (storm) 40-50 Kmph in the afternoon in some parts of Jodhpur, Bikaner, Ajmer, Jaipur, Bharatpur, Kota and Udaipur divisions in the afternoon," Jaipur MeT Centre Director R. S. Sharma said.

He said that on Saturday as well there is a

strong possibility of thunderstorms (strong winds 40-50 Kmph) and rain in some parts of Bikaner, Jodhpur, Ajmer, Udaipur, Kota, Jaipur and Bharatpur divisions.

"Thunderstorm activities are likely to continue at isolated places on May 12-13," Sharma said.

He said that the maximum temperature is likely to be recorded near 45 Degrees Celsius at some places on Friday.

Rajasthan sizzled under the heat wave as almost all districts recorded temperatures above 40 degrees.

Congress dissociates itself from Mani Shankar Aiyar's remarks on Pakistan

New Delhi, May 10 (IANS) The Congress has distanced itself from party leader Mani Shankar Aiyar's remarks that 'India should respect Pakistan as it has an atom bomb'.

In an official statement on Friday, the party said, "The Indian National Congress dissociates itself completely from and disagrees totally with some remarks made by Mani Shankar Aiyar a few months back which have been revived today by the BJP in its attempt to deflect attention from Prime Minister Modi's daily goof ups.

Aiyar does not speak for the party in any capacity whatsoever."

Congress spokesperson Pawan Khara shared the statement and said, "The Congress and indeed the entire nation recalls with pride that in December 1971 Pakistan was broken and an independent Bangladesh emerged thanks to Indira Gandhi's decisive and determined leadership and the valour of our armed forces."

The statement read that almost exactly 50 years ago on May 18,

1974, under the leadership of Indira Gandhi, India's nuclear capability was announced to the world.

"The Indian National Congress has always believed that our decision-making should be guided by supreme national interest.

The Congress spokesperson shared a video and said if old videos are to be used, here is a not-so-old video where the External Affairs Minister is publicly advising India to be afraid of China," the statement mentioned.



KHUNTI, Union Home Minister Amit Shah at an election campaign rally in favour of Union Agriculture and Tribal Affairs Minister and BJP Lok Sabha candidate Arjun Munda from Khunti seat, on Friday. UNI