

News Brief

Rajasthan DGP vows strict action against cops in uniform uploading videos on 'non-police issues'

Jaipur, May 14 (IANS) Strict action will be taken against policemen in uniform who upload videos, reels or stories, etc., on 'non-policing issues' on various social media platforms, Rajasthan police chief U.R. Sahu said on Tuesday.

Director General of Police (DGP) Sahu said that it is against police rules for cops to post or upload their videos, reels, etc. in uniform on social media, which have no connection with police work.

Such acts have an adverse effect on the dignity and image of the department, he said.

14 trapped as lift collapses in Rajasthan's Kolihan mine, rescue efforts underway

Jaipur, May 15 (IANS) At least 14 people were trapped after a lift used for transportation of personnel at Hindustan Copper Limited's Kolihan mine in Rajasthan's Neem Ka Thana district collapsed on Tuesday night.

According to initial reports, a vigilance team along with senior officials of the company had gone down for an inspection of the site. When they were coming back after conducting the inspection, the rope of the lift broke, due to which they stuck at a depth of several hundred metres.

Nine killed in two road accidents in TN

Chennai, May 15 (IANS) At least nine people were killed in two separate road accidents in Tamil Nadu, said officials on Wednesday.

Five youths died when the car in which they were travelling lost control while trying to save cattle and hit a tree. The tragedy occurred at Kalpakkam and the five men were returning from Pudukcherry. Four of the deceased were identified as Ezhumalai, Rajesh, Vignesh and Yuvaraj. The identity of the fifth person was not known.

Mammootty will always be held closely by Keralites: KC Venugopal

Thiruvananthapuram, May 15 (IANS) Coming to the defence of actor Mammootty after a cyberattack from Right Wing forces, AICC General Secretary, KC Venugopal on Wednesday said that Kerala would always hold the legendary superstar tightly and closely.

"Mammootty is always seen as one who has taken Malayalam cinema to greater heights due to his hard work in the last five decades and all who know him are aware of what material he is made of. We condemn the present needless cyberattack on the highly-decorated actor," said Venugopal.

The legendary actor has come under attack on account of his 2022 film 'Puzhu' that has been perceived as being anti-Brahminical.

Fight over free ration

Kharge promises 10 kg against NDA's 5kg if INDIA bloc forms govt

New Delhi, May 15 (IANS) Amid the high-decibel campaign and fierce competition between BJP and the INDIA bloc to woo new voters, the free ration to the country's 80 crore citizens has become a new rallying point for the latter.

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, addressing a joint press conference with Samajwadi Party (SP) supreme Akhilesh Yadav on Wednesday, said that the INDIA bloc will provide 10 kg free ration to people, as against NDA's 5 kg.

"You are giving 5 kg ration to poor, we will provide 10 kg free ration," Kharge said while scoffing at Modi gov't's assertions on feeding the poor. Kharge cited the examples of Karnataka and Telangana and said that Congress governments have implemented the same, there. He also accused the Modi government of taking 'undue credit' over free ration and said that this was brought out by the Congress-led UPA government under the Food Security Act.

Notably, the Congress manifesto for the 2024 elections didn't mention free ration and now has suddenly popped up after the culmination of the fourth phase of elections. The major thrust of the Congress poll manifesto was on empowering wom-

en with Rs 1 lakh yearly assistance and apprenticeship to unemployed youth, under which they can avail assistance upto Rs 1 lakh.

Interestingly, the Congress President's promise comes a day after Home Minister Amit Shah's assertions that the BJP has already won 270 seats and the next three phases will only add numbers to its kitty.

The free ration to peo-

ple started during the Covid pandemic to feed the poor and needy, has continued since then. Prime Minister Narendra Modi also declared before the polls that this scheme would continue for another five years, in his third term. According to estimates, the average yearly cost of this scheme comes at around Rs 2 lakh crore. If Congress forms the next government and imple-

ments it, the budget will shoot up and by rough estimates, it would accrue an expense of Rs 4 lakh crore per year. The slew of promises in Congress' Nyay Patra including assistance to women and the unemployed and the formula to achieve it has already come under scrutiny from experts. If free ration also gets included in the list, it will add further burden on the taxpayers.

Fake Facebook profiles of two BJP MLAs surface in Vadodra

Vadodra, May 15 (IANS) Two BJP MLAs in Vadodra have been targeted with bogus Facebook accounts, following which both have urged the public through their official accounts not to engage in any way with these fake profiles and report them.

Former state minister Manisha Vakil, the BJP MLA from Wadi, and Sayajiganj legislator Keyur Rokadia have reported that their official social media accounts have been duplicated.

Cyber expert Mayur Bhusawalkar said that political leaders often connect with their constituents through social media, making it a prime target for those looking to exploit their popularity.

"Creating fake profiles of leaders is easy as all their details, including photos, are readily available online. However, these fraudulent attempts are quickly recognised due to their public presence." This incident is not isolated, as similar attempts to create fake social media accounts of political leaders in Vadodra have occurred before as well.

Odisha: Rahul urges people to save Constitution

Bhubaneswar, May 15 (IANS) Senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday urged the voters in Odisha to save the Constitution by voting in large numbers for the INDIA bloc.

While addressing a public gathering at Bolan-gir constituency, Gandhi said that the biggest issue in this election is to save the Constitution and the ideas propounded by B.R. Ambedkar, and Mahatma Gandhi.

He said if the constitution ends then the rights of common people, their land, the reservation system, and public sector firms will also come to an end.

Gandhi warned the people that the country would be controlled by 22



RANCHI, Congress Leader Jai Ram Ramesh along with Jharkhand Pradesh Congress Committee (JPCC) President Rajesh Thakur addressing a press conference in Ranchi, Jharkhand on Wednesday. UNI

billionaires following the "destruction" of the Constitution.

"For the first time, a political party has said to the country that if it wins then it will destroy the Constitution. Whatever the poor, Dalits, minorities, tribals, farmers and labourers have secured, it was given because of the Constitution. BJP senior leaders are saying that they will tear this book (Constitution). I want to say to every BJP worker and leader that none in the world can dare to touch the Constitution," said Gandhi.

He said that the BJP leaders also boast about ending reservation, the weapon provided to Dalits, Adivasis, and backward people by Ambedkar,

Mahatma Gandhi, and Jawaharlal Nehru.

Gandhi said that as soon as the INDIA alliance forms the government at the Centre on June 4, wages under the MGN-REGS will be increased to Rs 400, salaries of Anganwadi and Asha workers will be doubled, 30 lakh vacant government sector posts will be filled by the Congress.

He also reiterates the party's promise to ensure a guaranteed job to every fresh graduate and diploma holder in the first year. Besides, a total of Rs 1 lakh, Rs 8500 every month, will be deposited in the account of unemployed youths along with world-class skill training facilities, and the loans of farmers will be waived off.

"After the INDIA bloc forms government, a list of poor people including Dalits, Adivasis, minorities, poor general caste people, farmers, and labourers will be prepared. One woman member will be selected from each of the poor families from the list and the woman member of the family will find Rs 8,500, as monthly instalments of a total of Rs 1 lakh, deposited in their bank accounts from July 4 onwards," he said. The senior Congress leader said that the 50 per cent backward class people, 15 per cent Dalits, eight per cent adivasis, 15 per cent minorities, and five per cent poor general caste people don't have any share in any sector, business, media, or government.



GUWAHATI, All Assam Students Union (AASU) raising slogans during a demonstration in protest against the price hike of essential commodities, in Guwahati on Wednesday. UNI

Woman stabbed to death at busy Howrah railway station

Kolkata, May 15 (IANS) A woman was stabbed to death in broad daylight at the busy Howrah railway station on Wednesday. The woman, Rivu Biswas, was shifted to the Howrah District Hospital and on arrival there the doctors declared her brought dead. The killer, Mungesh Yadav, after stabbing Rivu Biswas also tried to attack the RPF personnel and other passengers as they attempted to snatch the knife from his hand. However, finally, he was overpowered and handed over to the police. The police took him into custody and interrogated him. It is learnt that Yadav was known to both the deceased woman and her husband, Pintu Biswas. Both Pintu and Yadav used to work at the same office in Mumbai. District police officials said that on Wednesday afternoon, Yadav and the Biswas couple came together to Howrah station. After some time, Yadav requested Pintu Biswas to buy some medicines for him from a nearby shop.

ED 'eye' on key Sena Vs Sena battle for supremacy in Mumbai

Mumbai, May 15 (IANS) The coveted Mumbai North West (MNW) Lok Sabha constituency is a fight between the two rival Senas - Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's Shiv Sena and ex-CM Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena (UBT) - and the dreaded Enforcement Directorate (ED) lurking around the candidates of both parties.

Barely hours after the SS(UBT) named Amol Kirtikar as Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) nominee for the seat, the ED popped a notice on him for his alleged role in the Brihan-mumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC)'s 'khichdi scam'.

In fact, ruling Shiv Sena's sitting MP Gajanan Kirtikar - father of Amol G. Kirtikar - even publicly expressed his strong displeasure on the purported 'misuse' of the ED, embarrassing the Mahayuti allies.

As Amol Kirtikar complied with the ED notice and went for a probe, a prominent SS(UBT) leader Ravindra D Waikar suddenly defected to the Shiv Sena - and was rewarded with a LS ticket.

Just a few days ago, Waikar let the cat out of the bag when quizzed on his abrupt party-hopping, as he morosely replied, "I had only two avenues - go to jail, or change sides... Besides, there was no support from my party..." Leaving the Mahayuti

stunned, Waikar said that he and his wife were falsely implicated in the alleged luxury hotel scam in Jogeshwari, in which he is accused of flouting BMC agreements as the plot was reserved for a public park. Accordingly, he decided to join the Shiv Sena and was named a Mahayuti candidate for MNW LS seat, against Amol G. Kirtikar the son of his close associate Gajanan Kirtikar. The INDIA-MVA leaders beat the Mahayuti-BJP-NDA allies with

Waikar's statement, saying this confirms the Opposition parties' allegations on how the ED, CBI, IT, and other central investigation agencies are being used to target political opponents.

The MNW seat created upheaval even elsewhere with former Congress leader Sanjay Nirupam dumping the party to join Shiv Sena after he was denied a ticket, even as Shinde briefly toyed with the idea of fielding Bollywood actor Govinda.

Helicopter crash kills one, injures 12 in Afghanistan

Kabul, May 15 (IANS) One person was killed with 12 others injured as a helicopter crashed in Firoz Koah, the provincial capital of west Afghanistan's Ghor province, on Wednesday, provincial government spokesman Abdul Wahid Hamas said.

"The Mi-17 model helicopter of the air force, which was busy in a rescue operation to recover bodies from a river in Firoz Koah city this morning, made an emergency landing due to technical problems," Hamas said, reports Xinhua news agency.

He added: "As a result, one on board was killed and 12 others were injured." Without providing more details, the official added that an investigation has been initiated into the incident.

Sisodia's judicial custody extended

New Delhi, May 15 (IANS) A Delhi court on Wednesday extended till May 30 the judicial custody of AAP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi Manish Sisodia in the liquor policy case.

Special Judge Kaveri Baweja of the Rouse Avenue Court passed the orders upon the expiry of the previously granted judicial custody.

On Tuesday, a bench of Justice Swarna Kanta Sharma of the Delhi High Court reserved its verdict on the bail plea filed by Sisodia, who remains behind bars on corruption and money laundering charges. During the hearing, ED counsel advocate Zoheb Hossain submitted before the high court that the probe agency will soon file a supplementary charge sheet in the excise policy case arraying the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) as an accused.

In its probe, the probe agency found that the proceeds of crime to the tune of Rs 45 crore, which was part of the 'bribes' received from the 'South Group', were used by the AAP for campaigning in the 2021-22 Assembly elections in Goa.

Earlier, the trial court had refused to grant bail to the former deputy CM. Sisodia's bail application has been pending since February.

Sex video scandal: SIT on high alert amid reports of Revanna's return from Germany

Bengaluru, May 15 (IANS) Special Investigation Team (SIT), probing the sex video scandal, is on high alert following reports that the prime accused JD(S) MP Prajwal Revanna is planning to return to Bengaluru from Germany on Wednesday.

Sources said that Prajwal Revanna had booked a Rs 3.5 lakh business class ticket for a Deutsche Lufthansa flight which will depart from Germany.

The SIT has also received information that he

cancelled the ticket, but did not request a refund. This leaves open the possibility for Prajwal Revanna to board the flight at the last moment, as per SIT sources.

On Wednesday, Prajwal Revanna again re-booked the ticket from Munich to Kempe Gowda International Airport in Bengaluru. He is likely to board and the flight will depart from Munich at 2 p.m. and land in Bengaluru between 1 a.m. and 2 a.m.

The flight is likely to arrive at Terminal 2 while the SIT is preparing to take him into custody.

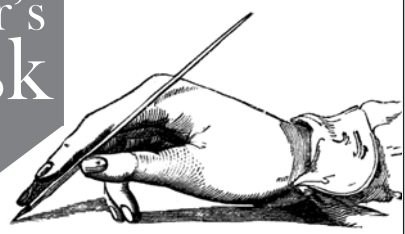
The SIT has also gathered information about Prajwal Revanna booking flight tickets to Bengaluru twice and subsequently cancelling them.

On Tuesday, Prajwal Revanna's father, JD(S) MLA H.D. Revanna was released from jail on conditional bail. He was arrested on charges of kidnapping a victim of the sex video scandal.

The SIT has registered cases under IPC Sections 376 (2) N (committing rape repeatedly on same woman), 506 (criminal intimidation), 354 (A) (1) (behaving in unwelcome way, explicit sexual behaviour, demanding sexual favours), 354 (B) (using criminal force on woman) and 354 (C) (voyeurism, capturing image of a woman in a private act without her consent) and Under Sections of the Information Technology Act.



GAZA, People gather at the site of an Israeli airstrike in the Nuseirat refugee camp, central Gaza Strip, on May 14, 2024. At least 40 people were killed and others injured after midnight Monday by Israeli bombardment in the Nuseirat refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip, the Palestine TV reported. UNI

From
Editor's
Desk

View on Chabahar contract with Iran: Looking West

It is an indication of India's diplomatic maturity, ability to negotiate complex global landscape

The 2003 visit to Delhi by the then-president Syed Mohammad Khatami was hailed as a landmark moment for India-Iran ties. The centrepiece of the slew of agreements was cooperation on the development of Chabahar Port, which could open up access to the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan, Central Asia and Europe. In the 21 years since, as animosity deepened between Washington and Tehran, and Delhi grew closer to the former, the development of the port slowed down. Since 2015 — to the credit of the current government — there has been consistent forward movement. While the coordination between Iran, India and Afghanistan may have been dampened by the Taliban's return in Kabul, the strategic importance of Chabahar is intact. In this context, the announcement of a 10-year contract between the government's India Ports Global LTD (IPGL) and the Ports and Maritime Organisation of Iran for the operation of a terminal at Chabahar is significant and welcome.

IPGL will directly invest about \$120 million while India has offered credit in rupees equivalent to \$250 million. There is concern over US sanctions on Iran affecting India's strategic bet with Chabahar, but these may be exaggerated. It was, after all, under Donald Trump's tenure in 2017 — the former US president took a hawkish stance on Iran — that Delhi was able to get a waiver from sanctions on the Chabahar project, citing access to Afghanistan. On the commercial front, however, things are more complicated. Which products can be traded with and through Iran, and at what volume, may become a bone of contention for some of India's friends in the West. Then there's the fact that China is deeply entrenched in Central Asia and its markets, including through its Belt and Road Initiative.

The Chabahar project is a potential component of the International North-South Transport Corridor, envisioned by Russia, Iran and India to link South Asia with Central Asia and Europe. Tensions within Europe, as well as between Iran and the West, make this important project a challenging one. The India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor, announced at the G20 summit in Delhi last year, has great potential as well. Formulated as a counter to BRI, it seeks to build road, rail and shipping networks through India's near-West to Western Europe.



New Delhi, May 15 (IANS) Extreme temperatures above 40 degrees Celsius that impacted billions of people across Asia in April were made hotter and more likely by human-caused climate change, according to rapid attribution analysis by an international team of leading climate scientists from the World Weather Attribution group.

The study highlights how heatwaves intensified by climate change are making life much tougher for people living in poverty across Asia and the 1.7 million displaced Palestinians in Gaza.

Asia was hit by severe heatwaves this April. In South and Southeast Asia, Myanmar, Laos and Vietnam broke records for their hottest April day, and the

Climate change made extreme April temperatures hotter affecting billions in Asia: Study

Philippines experienced its hottest night ever. In India, temperatures reached as high as 46 degrees.

The heat was also extreme in West Asia, with Palestine and Israel experiencing temperatures above 40 degrees. The month was the hottest April on record globally and the eleventh consecutive month in a row a hottest month record was broken.

Heat-related deaths were widely reported, with at least 28 in Bangladesh, five in India and three in Gaza during April, while surges in heat deaths have also been reported in Thailand and the Philippines this year.

These are only preliminary figures and because heat-related deaths are notoriously underreported, it is likely there were hundreds or possibly thousands of other heat-related deaths in Asia during April.

The heat also led to crop failure, loss of livestock, water shortages, mass die-off of fish, widespread school closures, and the heat has been linked to low voter turnout in Kerala. Climate change, caused by burning oil, coal and gas, and other human activities like deforestation, is making heatwaves more frequent, longer and hotter around the world. To quantify the effect of human-caused warming on the extreme temperatures across Asia, scientists analysed weather data and climate models using peer-reviewed methods to compare how these types of events have changed between today's climate, with approximately 1.2 degrees of global warming, and the cooler pre-industrial climate.

The analysis focused on the periods when the heat was most dangerous in two regions: the three-day average of maximum daily temper-

atures in a region of West Asia that included Syria, Lebanon, Israel, Palestine and Jordan, and the 15-day average of maximum daily temperatures in the Philippines. The scientists also analysed the possible influence of the El Niño-Southern Oscillation, a naturally occurring climate phenomenon that shifts between El Niño, neutral and La Niña conditions.

The study also analysed historical weather data for a region of South Asia that includes India, but the researchers did not carry out a full attribution analysis for this region as the World Weather Attribution conducted similar studies in 2022 and 2023, and the data from weather observations showed that the attribution results would not be significantly different.

Lok Sabha polls: PM Modi held 8 public meetings, 2 roadshows in MP; Rahul Gandhi addressed 5 rallies

Bhopal, May 15 (IANS) In the last two months, BJP and Congress leaders have campaigned extensively in Madhya Pradesh for the Lok Sabha elections. Now as the voting in the state has concluded, everyone is waiting for the results to see whether the ruling BJP will repeat its performance of the previous two parliamentary elections or the opposition Congress will manage to increase its seat tally in the state.

The state witnessed high-voltage campaigns by both national parties to seek the support of over 5.6 crore eligible voters in the elections.

In 57 days (from March 16 to May 13), Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the state seven times and addressed eight public meetings for BJP candidates in different constituencies.

He also held two mega roadshows — one in Jabalpur and another in Bhopal. In 57 days (from March 16 to May 13), Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the state seven times and addressed eight public meetings for BJP candidates in different constituencies. He also held two mega roadshows — one in Jabalpur and another in

Bhopal.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP President J.P. Nadda addressed four public meetings each in the state. Besides them, Union

leader Rahul Gandhi, who led the party's Lok Sabha poll campaign from the front, addressed five public rallies while his sister and Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra addressed just one public meeting in Madhya Pradesh.

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge also addressed just one public rally in the state.

The state leadership of both parties proactively participated in the campaigning.

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav topped the list of leaders who addressed maximum public meetings in the state.

He held 139 public meetings and 49 roadshows.

Former Chief Minister and BJP's Vidisha candidate Shivraj Singh Chouhan addressed 66 public meetings and held 16 roadshows while state BJP chief V.D. Sharma, who is contesting from Khajuraho, addressed 72 rallies and held 18 roadshows.

State Congress chief Jitu Patwari, who replaced former Chief

Minister Kamal Nath after the party's stunning defeat in the Assembly elections in November last year, addressed 130 public rallies.

Kamal Nath, who campaigned extensively for his son Nakul Nath from Chhindwara until the first phase election on April 19, remained out of the scene in other parts of the state. Veteran Congress leader and former Chief Minister Digvijaya Singh, who was also a candidate, campaigned in a couple of Lok Sabha seats.

"Low voter turnout despite extensive campaign indicated that people have voted for a change in Madhya Pradesh and the Congress will give a good fight in nearly a dozen Lok Sabha seats," said Abbas Hafeez, the Vice President of Madhya Pradesh Congress media cell.

Polling in Madhya Pradesh was held in four phases between April 19 and May 13 to elect 29 members of the Lok Sabha. Results will be declared on June 4.



Ministers Rajnath Singh and Nitin Gadkari and Chief Ministers of BJP-ruled states also campaigned in Madhya Pradesh.

"BJP's campaign was focussed on Prime Minister Modi's guarantee and the government's achievements

India, UAE hold talks on strengthening cooperation in consular matters

New Delhi, May 15 (UNI) India and the UAE held wide-ranging discussions on mechanisms to strengthen coordination and co-operation on consular issues covering labour, visa, migration, citizenship and extradition, among others.

The UAE side gave a detailed briefing on various steps taken by the government to ensure the welfare of the Indian workers in the UAE. Both sides reiterated their commitment to continue to work towards



citizen-centric consular mechanisms. The two sides also discussed other issues of mutual interest including visa facilitation for promoting greater people-to-people exchanges and early conclusion of agreements related to migration and mobility. Outcomes from the meeting also included regular exchange of statistics related to the citizens of

each others' countries and best practices on consular matters.

The two sides agreed to follow-up on the agreed decisions of the meeting and review them at the next Consular Dialogue, which will be held in Abu Dhabi at a mutually convenient date, it said.

According to a UAE readout, during the meeting, the two sides discussed a number of common consular matters, plans to follow up and develop them, and means to enhance joint consular cooperation.

Belhoul praised the historical relations between the UAE and India. He also expressed the UAE's appreciation for the efforts made by the Indian side to strengthen bilateral relations between the two countries in light of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership since 2017.

Belhoul stressed that the UAE and India have succeeded in establishing an advanced and sustainable

model for their strategic relations, which has yielded many qualitative achievements in several sectors. The achievements attained within the framework of bilateral relations between the two countries constitute an incentive to move forward towards further success to achieve joint development goals between the two friendly countries and their peoples and to develop mechanisms and solutions for a future rich in cooperation and partnerships in the consular field.

Belhoul conveyed the greetings of Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and his praise of the positive developments between the two countries. He stressed the UAE's keenness and interest in strengthening and developing relations between the two countries in a way that reflects the ambitions and directions of the wise leadership, it said.

The relationship between the United Arab Emirates and the Republic of India is characterised by a remarkable path of growth and deepening cooperation, especially since bilateral relations were upgraded to a comprehensive strategic partnership in 2017.

The implementation of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) on 1st May 2022 has greatly bolstered trade relations. The two sides seek to achieve a bilateral trade volume of up to US\$100 billion before the target year of 2030, it added.

Bomb threat emails to Lucknow schools originated from Russia

Lucknow, May 15 (IANS) The emails with bomb threats to four private schools in Lucknow allegedly originated from Russia, police said on Wednesday.

The FIR also mentioned that the emails are not solely focused on threats to schools and the sender also discussed drawing inspiration from Abdelhamid Abaaoud, who is accused of orchestrating terror attacks in Paris in 2015.

The sender also expressed opposition towards the Indian government. The FIR was lodged in Gombi Nagar police station based on the complaint of Sub-Inspector Dharmendra Kumar against two websites, one originating from Russia and another from Gmail.

The case has been registered under IPC sections 505 (2) (causing rumours), 507 (intimidation by anonymous communication), and 120 B (criminal conspiracy).

Kumar, stated in his FIR, that on May 12 at 6.46 p.m., an email was sent from the email ID ashushashushu90@gmail.com to the Gombi Nagar-based private school's email ID, threatening an explosion. Another email was received on May 13 at 7.58 a.m., from the email ID instrumentt@inbox.ru to the

same school email ID, mentioning the threat of a bomb explosion while claiming inspiration from Abdelhamid Abaaoud and referencing incidents in Paris and Gujarat. The email also warned the Government of India. Similar threatening emails were reported to be received by other schools in Lucknow, including a school in Vrindavan Colony, another in Viraj Khand 2, and various schools in Vastu Khand, Vibhuti Khand police station.

"All the threats have been included in one FIR only," said Kumar. Prabal Pratap Singh, Deputy Commissioner of Police (east zone), Lucknow, stated that they were collaborating with their counterparts in Delhi to probe the case.

"Prima facie, we have learned that similar emails were used to issue threats to schools in Delhi as well as Lucknow," he said. Meanwhile, units of the UP-ATS and the STF are working on the case. On Monday, four private schools received bomb threats but teams of Bomb Disposal Detection Squads (BDDS) and anti-sabotage teams found no suspicious items. The entire school premises were thoroughly checked, and parents who wished to take their children home were allowed to do so.

86% of Executives have already deployed AI to enhance revenue, reveals TCS Global AI Study

MUMBAI, A new study by Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) (BSE: 532540, NSE: TCS), a global leader in IT services, consulting, and business solutions, reveals that more than eight out of 10 (86%) of senior business leaders have already deployed artificial intelligence (AI) to enhance existing revenue streams or create new ones. The "TCS AI for Business Study", a comprehensive report on the state of AI adoption and its impact on businesses, also finds that 69% of businesses are more focused on using AI to spur innovation and increase revenue than on productivity improvement and cost optimization.

Executives are generally positive about the impact of AI, with 57% reporting excitement or optimism about the potential impact of AI on businesses. Among respondents in the study, 45% expect up to half their employees will need to use generative AI capabilities to do their job in three years' time — and another 41% think even more will do so. Most (65%) believe AI will augment and enhance human capabilities,

enabling people to focus on higher-value activities that require creativity and strategic thinking.

Dr Harrick Vin, Chief Technology Officer, TCS, said, "2023 was a year of exuberance, with every enterprise experimenting with AI/GenAI use cases. We are now entering an era of wide-and-deep enterprise AI adoption. Enterprises, however, are realizing that the path to production for AI solutions is not easy, and that building an AI-mature enterprise is a marathon, not a sprint. Our AI study has confirmed this sentiment; it has also highlighted that enterprises feel underprepared to deploy AI solutions at scale as well as to manage the profound shifts in the roles of people and ways of working resulting from such deployments."

Business leaders are less certain about the path to transformation. Only 4% use AI in a way that has transformed their business and nearly a quarter (24%) haven't even moved beyond the initial exploratory phase. Top barriers to business success include current corporate

IT infrastructures and customer expectations. Organizations also recognize the need to move beyond existing metrics to measure the success of AI implementations; nearly three-fourths (72%) say they don't have the right metrics. The survey also highlights the need for businesses to take a strategic approach to AI adoption and develop the right performance indicators to measure the impact of the technology on their business.

Sivaraman Ganesan, Head, AI, Cloud Business Unit, TCS, said, "When calibrated for accuracy and harnessed responsibly, GenAI makes the computational power of the data, cloud, and AI come alive. Add in human ingenuity and organizations can create a new paradigm for the modern marketplace. As a result, today's enterprises will deliver new stakeholder and customer value like never before — incrementally, through assist and augment efforts, and exponentially as transformation initiatives. Our rich heritage in the business domain, engineering, consulting, services,

and solutions allows us to take advantage of this new paradigm, offering a unique value proposition to all our customers and partners."

TCS was one of the first organizations in the industry to bring together the capabilities of cloud computing and artificial intelligence under the AI.Cloud unit to cater to the emerging needs of customers. The unit drives TCS' multi-layered AI architecture to help strategize AI deployment for customers across their value chains, enable deployment and govern thereafter.

The TCS Thought Leadership Institute surveyed nearly 1,300 CEOs and other senior executives with P&L responsibilities, across 12 industries and 24 countries. About half the companies had \$1 billion to \$5 billion in annual revenue and the other half had over \$5 billion in revenue. Other key results from the report, which can be found at on.tcs.com/2024-global-AI-study, include:

Executives believe the impact of AI will be greater than or equal to that of the internet (54%) and smart-

phones (59%)

Corporate functions with the most completed AI projects: Finance/comptroller (completion rate of 29%); HR (completion rate of 28%); Marketing (completion rate of 28%)

65% of senior executives say their competitive advantage will still come from humans — with their creativity, intuition, and strategic thinking unleashed by AI's augment and assist capabilities

40% of executives say that in the future they have a lot of changes to make to their business before they can take full advantage of AI

Over half (55%) said they were actively making changes right now to their business or operating models, or to their products and services, due to the potential benefits and risks of AI

81% of executives highlight the need for global AI standards and regulations

93% of executives surveyed in the United Kingdom & Ireland said they have AI projects aimed at growing revenue. Executives in other

regions are equally enthusiastic with 89% in North America, 88% in APAC, 83% in Continental Europe, and 80% in Latin America

Nearly two-thirds of BFSI (64%) and manufacturing (63%) industry executives surveyed say they are excited or optimistic about the impact of AI on businesses

"Since our inception in 1968, TCS has always been leading change in embracing new technologies, helping decipher the opportunities behind them and execute transformational projects for our clients to rapidly unlock business value. Through our TCS Thought Leadership Institute, we have brought in new insights on every key technology development and how various industries and personas (CEOs, CFOs, CIOs etc.) are leveraging them. Through this new, data-driven, and unique global AI study, we hope to further deepen the dialogue and perspectives on how AI can be used to build stronger, more sustainable, and adaptable businesses for the future," said Abhinav Kumar, Chief Marketing Officer, TCS.

Priyanka shares throwback picture with Katrina when they were 'babies'



Mumbai, May 15 (IANS) Indian actress Priyanka Chopra Jonas took a walk down memory lane as she shared a throwback picture with actress Katrina Kaif and said she cannot recall when the photograph was taken. Priyanka took to Insta-

gram stories, where she shared the photograph. In the image, the two are wearing corsets with jeans. To complete the look, they wore a maang teeka and jhumkas. It is a picture from their younger days. For the caption, Priyanka wrote: "Woah... dun-

no who took it and when this picture was taken... but babies Katrina Kaif."

Priyanka and Katrina were supposed to star together in Farhan Khan's film 'Jee Le Zara', which, according to reports, has been shelved.

The 'Quanticos' star has just wrapped up shooting for her next film 'Head Of State', an action comedy, which also stars Idris Elba and John Cena. The film is directed by Ilya Naishuller.

Katrina was last seen in 'Merry Christmas', a neo-noir mystery thriller film directed by Sriram Raghavan and starring Vijay Sethupathi.

Kajol shares 'Wednesday wisdom', shows 'depth' of her character

Mumbai, May 15 (IANS) Actress Kajol, on Wednesday, shared a wisdom quote about being "deep", saying she has decided that the weight on her scale simply shows the depth of her character.

An avid social media user, Kajol, who has 16.9 million followers on Instagram, took to the Stories section and shared a 'Wednesday Wisdom' quote: "I've decided today that the weight on my scale simply shows the depth of my character! Tomorrow I may decide to be

a super shallow person but today I am DEEP! #wednesdaywisdom."

In another Story, the 'Baazigar' fame actress shared a quote which is an ode to a fearless woman. The post read: "An Ode to a fearless woman. Defined by no man, you are your own story. Blazing through the world, turning history into herstory. And when they dare to tell you about all the things you cannot be, you smile and tell quote: 'I've decided today that the weight on my scale simply shows the depth of my character! Tomorrow I may decide to be



them 'I am both war and we stop me' - Nikita Gill." She next has 'Sarzaameen', 'Do Patti', and 'Maa' in her kitty.

Arjun Kapoor wraps up 20th film: 'Feels like significant achievement in my journey as actor'

Mumbai, May 15 (IANS) Bollywood actor Arjun Kapoor has wrapped up his 20th "mass entertainer" film 'Singham Again', where he will be seen playing the role of a villain. He said: "This is the stuff you dream of when you watch masala films growing up!"

Talking about wrapping up his shooting schedule for the film, Arjun said: "Wrapping up my part of the shoot for my 20th film

and a mass entertainer like 'Singham Again' feels like a significant achievement in my journey as an actor."

"This is the stuff you



dream of when you watch masala films growing up!! Working alongside Rohit Shetty sir has been an absolute privilege."

Talking about his director Rohit Shetty, Arjun said: "To see him and his team mount this mega film day in and day out makes you feel proud of being a part of this journey."

"Together with him and

myTrident to introduce latest campaign starring Kareena and Sharmila Tagore

Delhi, Setting new standards in the home décor industry, myTrident is excited to introduce its latest campaign starring their enigmatic brand ambassador Kareena Kapoor Khan alongside the iconic Sharmila Tagore. This extraordinary collaboration highlights the harmonious and elegant relationship between a mother-in-law and daughter-in-law, marking a notable shift from the traditional narratives typically portrayed in brand campaigns. This initiative sets a new standard in creative storytelling, celebrating the evolving dynamics of modern family relationships.

Crafted with cinematic finesse, the campaign unveils an enchanting televi-

sion commercial produced by Dharma 2.0 under the leadership of Punit Malhotra, that showcases the exquisite chemistry between Kareena and Sharmila Tagore.

"This campaign embodies a jubilant tribute to the contemporary Indian family, transcending stereotypes to embrace a tapestry of inclusivity. At myTrident, we firmly believe that every home deserves the transformative touch of elegance and comfort that our offerings bring. Through the harmonious union of Kareena Kapoor Khan and Sharmila Tagore in our latest campaign, our mission is to ignite a spark within families, urging them to embrace the inherent

beauty of their bonds and curate living spaces that authentically reflect their distinctive dynamics", says Neha Gupta Bector, Chairperson, myTrident.

"Working with Sharmila Tagore, for this campaign has been a deeply fulfilling experience. Together, we're delighted to celebrate the essence of family bonds and the beauty of shared moments at home with myTrident, a brand that resonates deeply with both of us. It's a brand we genuinely love and admire for its commitment to enhancing the warmth and unity within households. We are excited to inspire families across India in their living spaces through this campaign," said Kareena.

Akshay Oberoi is open to going nude for a role if 'necessary for a character'



Mumbai, May 15 (IANS) Actor Akshay Oberoi is open to being typecast as long as the roles offered to him are integral. He went on to say that he can go nude if the script demands it.

Akshay said: "As an actor, my foremost priority is to serve the narrative and bring authenticity to my characters. Whether it means being typecast or taking on unconventional

roles, I am willing to make bold choices that serve the story." "If going nude is necessary for a character and adds depth and authenticity to the portrayal, then I am open to exploring that aspect of my craft."

Akshay was lauded for his role in Siddharth Anand's 'Fighter'. His upcoming projects reflect his commitment to diversity and excellence, including 'Tu Chahiye', 'Dil Hai Gray', 'Two Zero One Four', 'Illegal 3', 'Broken News 2', 'Varchasva', and more. "I am grateful for the opportunities that have come my way and the chance to collaborate with talented filmmakers and artists." --IANS

Prophecy' cast

Emperor's own Truth-sayer and confidant. Reverend Mother Kasha occupies a position of great influence in the Imperium. But when a new challenge leads her to question the Sisterhood's intentions, she finds her role increasingly difficult to navigate.

After Tabu, 'Succession' star Alum Jihae joins 'Dune: Prophecy' cast

Los Angeles, May 15 (IANS) South Korean actress and musician Alum Jihae, who is known for her work in the series 'Succession', has been added to the prequel series 'Dune: Prophecy' in a recurring guest star role.

The series was originally commissioned in 2019 under the title 'Dune: The Sisterhood' and is inspired by the novel 'Sisterhood of Dune' written by Brian Herbert and Kevin J. Anderson, reports variety.com. The official logline reads: "From the expansive universe of 'Dune,' created by acclaimed author Frank Herbert, and 10,000 years be-

fore the ascension of Paul Atreides, 'Dune: Prophecy' follows two Harkonnen sisters as they combat forces that threaten the future of humankind, and establish the fabled sect that will become known as the Bene Gesserit."

It is reported that Jihae will play Reverend Mother Kasha, described as "the

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German politician fined over use of banned Nazi slogan

Halle (Germany), May 15 (IANS/DPA) A leading member of Germany's far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) party, Bjorn Hocke, has been fined for using a prohibited Nazi slogan, a regional court has ruled.

The regional court in the eastern German city of Halle on Tuesday evening sentenced Hocke to a fine for using symbols of unconstitutional and terrorist organizations.

The court imposed a fine of 13,000 euros (\$14,000) to be paid in 100 daily instalments.

The public prosecutor's office had accused the leader of the Thuringian state AfD of having knowingly used a banned slogan of the Sturmabteilung (SA), or Storm Troopers, a Nazi paramilitary group commonly referred to as the "brownshirts."

The case was sparked by a speech delivered by Hocke in Merseburg in May 2021, during which he employed the phrase "Everything for Germany!" (Alles für Deutschland!) which is banned in Germany. A former history teacher, Hocke denied that he had knowingly used the slogan. The defence had called for Hocke

to be acquitted of the charge on the grounds that he did not know it was forbidden.

The prosecution had earlier called for a suspended six-month sentence and asserted that he was aware of its historical origin.

The presiding judge agreed and stated in the judgement that the court was convinced that Hocke knew that the SA slogan was banned but used it anyway.

"You are an eloquent, intelligent man who knows what he is saying," the judge said.

After the judgement was handed down, the public prosecutor's office said that it would consider an appeal. If the judgement is upheld, Hocke will have a criminal record. The Thuringian AfD is categorized and monitored by the state's domestic intelligence service as a confirmed right-wing extremist party, and Hocke is its state leader. The AfD's signature issue is a hard-line anti-immigration stance, and the party is profiting from increased concern among many German voters over the rising numbers of people seeking asylum in the country.



OUT OF AFRICA

The couple, who left Abuja yesterday following a three-day visit, were pictured being whisked away by a car at Los Angeles International Airport's 'Private Suites' facility. The Duke and Duchess have called the semi-royal tour 'fantastic' and said it will be the 'first of many memorable trips' - which included a moment where Meghan hailed Nigeria as 'her country' after a DNA test suggested she was part-Nigerian. They landed back in the United States a few hours before Californian authorities confirmed a 'delinquency' row involving their charitable endeavour, the Archewell Foundation, had been resolved following confusion over an unprocessed cheque.

Chinese warplanes harass Taiwan before presidential inauguration

Taipei, May 15 (IANS/DPA) Taiwan's Defence Ministry on Wednesday said it had registered 45 Chinese warplanes in Taiwan's airspace within 24 hours. The number marked a recent record high in the number of Chinese daily sorties this year. This new record number comes just days before the presidential inauguration of Lai Ching-te from the independence-leaning Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), to take place on May 20.

Among the detected aircraft, 26 of them crossed the median line of the Taiwan Strait and entered Taiwan's northern and south-western air space, the ministry said on Wednesday. Taiwan had monitored the situation and tasked Combat air patrol aircraft, Navy vessels, and land-based missile systems to respond to these activities, the ministry said.

US agency releases preliminary report on Baltimore bridge collapse

Washington, May 15 (IANS) The cargo ship Dali that hit and destroyed the Francis Scott Key Bridge in Baltimore, Maryland, in March had experienced a loss of electrical power and propulsion before the incident, according to a preliminary report released by the US National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB).

The report pieces together a detailed timeline of the events that occurred in the time leading up to the Dali striking pier no. 17 of the Key Bridge, the bridge's subsequent collapse and initial search and rescue and recovery efforts for the road maintenance crewmembers, reports Xinhua news agency. The Singapore-flagged steel-hulled general cargo vessel was 0.6 miles (0.96 km) -- or three ship lengths -- from the Key Bridge when electrical

breakers that fed most of the vessel's equipment and lighting unexpectedly opened. This caused the first blackout to all shipboard lighting and most equipment, including the main engine cooling water

board bow struck pier no. 17 of the Key Bridge at 6.5 knots. Six spans of the bridge subsequently collapsed into the water and across the ship's bow, it said. On March 25, about 10 hours before leaving Baltimore, the Dali experienced a blackout during in-port maintenance when a crewmember mistakenly closed an inline engine exhaust damper. According to the report, the crewmembers restored vessel power before a second blackout occurred, which was related to insufficient fuel pressure for the online generator. "Of the 4,680 containers on board the vessel at the time of the accident, 56 were identified as containing dangerous goods," it said. The US Coast Guard classified the accident as a major marine casualty. Six road maintenance workers on the bridge were killed in the tragic event.



US plans \$1 bn Israel arms delivery despite Rafah assault: Reports

Washington, May 15 (IANS/DPA) The United States is planning a new arms delivery to Israel worth more than \$1 billion, local media reported.

US President Joe Biden's administration has informed Congress of this, the Wall Street Journal reported on Tuesday, citing unnamed sources.

According to the report, the package contains tank ammunition, tactical vehicles and mortar shells.

According to other US media reports, the government has also initiated the authorisation process in Congress,

which is still at an early stage, according to television channel CNN.

The US government is currently withholding delivery of so-called heavy bombs due to Israel's actions in Rafah, in the south of the Gaza Strip.

The White House subsequently endeavoured to make it clear that the US government would not abandon Israel and that only this one delivery had been paused.

On Monday, Biden's security advisor, Jake Sullivan, said Washington would continue to provide military assistance to Israel.



Two guards died, one of them leaves a widow five months pregnant while the other was a father of two. The gunmen fled with prisoner Mohamed Amra, 30, known as La Mouche or The Fly. Several hundred police, including France's elite anti-terror unit, joined the nationwide search for Amra and his accomplices, who were described as 'armed and very dangerous'. French Prime Minister Gabriel Attal called the ambush 'despicable' and an attack on the nation and vowed to hunt down the gang.

Russia-China relations continue to develop despite challenging international situation, says Putin

Moscow, May 15 (IANS) On the eve of his two-day state visit to China, which starts on Thursday, Russian President Vladimir Putin stated in a written interview with Xinhua that Russia and China are promoting the prosperity of both nations through expanded equal and mutually beneficial cooperation in economic and cultural fields.

In the interview, Putin emphasised that the coordination of foreign policies between the two countries is propelling the establishment of a fair multipolar world order, which underpins the future success of the Russia-China comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination for the new era.

Putin highlighted that contemporary Russia-China relations transcend ideology and are a strategic choice made independently by the two countries regardless of the political situation. This choice is grounded in the extensive common interests, deep mutual trust, strong public support, and genuine friendship between the people of the two countries. Both nations are jointly committed to safeguarding sovereignty, territorial integrity, and security. "In a broader sense, we are working to

contribute to the development and prosperity of Russia and China by enhancing equal, mutually beneficial economic and



humanitarian cooperation and strengthening foreign policy coordination in the interests of building a just multipolar world order. All this is the key to the future success of our comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination for the new era," said Putin.

He noted that the partnership between Russia and China is always based on equality and mutual trust, mutual respect for sovereignty, and consideration of each other's interests.

President Xi Jinping, a wise and visionary leader, plays a special and prominent role in the development of bilateral relations, he added. "We first met back in March 2010, and we have been seeing and calling each other regularly ever since. President Xi maintains a respectful, friendly, open and at the

same time business-like style of communication," Putin said, adding that each meeting was not only a dialogue between old friends but also a fruitful exchange of views on bilateral and international agendas. Putin recalled that in 2013, President Xi chose Russia as the first destination of his state visit as China's head of state. After being re-elected as Chinese President in March last year, his first state visit was again to Russia. They spent nearly five hours together, holding one-on-one in-depth talks, followed by a day of substantive official events.

South Korea to regulate synthetic nicotine as tobacco through legislation

Seoul, May 15 (IANS) The government of South Korea plans to amend tobacco-related laws to designate synthetic nicotine as a type of tobacco to regulate the product category seeing growing popularity among young smokers, according to officials on Wednesday.

The officials said that the Ministry of Health and Welfare and the Ministry of Economy

and Finance plans to push for a revision of the law to include synthetic nicotine in the definition of tobacco under the Tobacco Business Act, Yonhap



news agency reported. In South Korea, tobacco-related laws are mandated under the National Health Promotion Act, under the jurisdiction of the Health Ministry, and the Tobacco Business Act, governed by the Finance

Ministry. They stipulate a tobacco product is "what is manufactured in a state suitable for smoking, sucking, inhaling steam, chewing or smelling, by using tobacco leaves as all or any part of the raw materials."

According to such language, the liquid of synthetic nicotine e-cigarettes is not classified as tobacco.

As such, synthetic nicotine is currently not subject to oversight measures, such as requiring warning labels of potential health issues.

BAPS Swaminarayan Akshardham Honors Our Veterans

[Robbinsville, NJ] - On May 11, 2024, the BAPS Swaminarayan

Akshardham hosted its second annual Veterans Appreciation Day with more than 140 veterans from four branches of the United States Armed Forces and their families in attendance. It was a day of remembrance and appreciation for the dedication and commitment of the U.S. Armed Forces to the nation.

BAPS and the local community celebrated and appreciated the service, courage, and commitment of the current and former members of the U.S. Military. They gathered to



honor the brave men and women who have selflessly served the nation. The ceremony was led by Capt. Medina Wilson, Director of the Mercer County

Veteran Services and proud veteran of the United States Army. The event commenced with a Hindu Vedic prayer

for peace and a beautiful duet of the American national anthem by BAPS youths. This was followed by the presentation of colors, a traditional military ceremony where the American flag is carried and displayed, conducted by Master Sergeant Joshua Strouse and the Color Guard from McGuire Air Force Base.

Both BAPS and our U.S. Military are rooted in the spirit of service and greatly value selflessly giving back to society. Command Chief Master Sergeant, Mike Ferraro shared deep gratitude to BAPS for giving him the

opportunity to commemorate his fellow Veterans at the Veterans Appreciation Day at Akshardham.

A highlight of the event was a heartfelt pinning ceremony performed by Staff Sergeant Harish Rao as a token of BAPS' appreciation for Veterans' unwavering dedication. The presentation also recognized and acknowledged the role of families of veterans and active-duty U.S. Armed Forces. Families are the foundation of our nation's strength and resilience that enable our armed forces to serve with purpose.

Israel's Foreign Minister calls for resignation of UNRWA Chief

Tel Aviv, May 15 (IANS) Israel Foreign Minister Katz has called for the resignation of the Commissioner General of UNRWA Philip Lazzarini following the presence of Hamas members at the UN agency in Gaza.

The Israel Foreign Minister said that while Philip Lazzarini is denying the presence of Hamas members at the UNRWA compound however there is clear proof that the militant outfit was using UNRWA

premises and its vehicles. "There is proof of Hamas members firing at civilians within a UNRWA facility next to UN vehicles in Rafah. No lie from Antonio Guterres and Philip Lazzarini will hide the truth: UNRWA is an arm of Hamas," Katz said.

On Tuesday, the Israel Defense Force (IDF) said that during an operation in the eastern Rafah region, Hamas members were identified in the UNRWA compound.

6,600 evacuated in wildfire-hit Canada

Ottawa, May 15 (IANS) Up to 6,600 residents have been evacuated in Canada's western province of Alberta due to a raging wildfire, local media reported. The Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo issued the evacuation order Tuesday afternoon after declaring a state of local emergency, CBC News reported.

The evacuation order is in effect for the neighbourhoods of Beacon Hill, Abasand, Prairie Creek and Graying Terrace. Several

areas in Fort McMurray are being evacuated to make way for firefighters, Xinhua news agency reported. All residents in the evacuation zone were ordered to leave by 4 p.m. Mountain Time (2200 GMT), the municipality said. According to CBC Newgional fire chief, said that the order would affect up to 6,600 people in the evacuation zone. Local roads and highways were choked with vehicles Tuesday afternoon as residents fled south, the re-

port said. According to the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre, a total of 134 fires were actively burning nationwide on Tuesday, with 43 fires categorised as out of control.

Canada's wildfire season in 2023 is the most destructive on record. According to the Canadian National Fire Database, there were 7,131 fires recorded nationwide in 2023, burning a record 1,72,03,625 hectares of land.



Premier League: Haaland's brace puts Man City on brink of title

London, May 15 (IANS) Erling Haaland's second-half brace saw Manchester City secure a 2-0 victory against Tottenham Hotspurs and ensured Pep Guardiola's side back to the top of the Premier League table.

With Haaland's two goals, City are now on 88 points while Spurs' Champions League hopes are over with a loss.

The win sent City two points clear of Arsenal and which means if they beat West Ham on Sunday then Guardiola's men will secure a fourth successive league title, something no English side has ever achieved before.

City brought substitute keeper Stefan Ortega Moreno on for Ederson midway through the second half after the Brazilian hurt his head in a collision with Cristian Romero. The German made his impact immediately felt with a series of outstanding saves, including one stunning block to deny Son Heung-Min - to keep the hosts out.

La Liga: Real Madrid score five, Mallorca close in on safety

Madrid, May 15 (IANS) La Liga champions Real Madrid continued their preparations for the Champions League final with a 5-0 win at home to Deportivo Alaves.

The game kicked off after Madrid celebrated their 36th league title in front of their fans and the celebration continued with three goals before halftime.

Jude Bellingham chipped home only 10 minutes into the game. Then, Vinicius Jr tapped home after good work from Eduardo Camavinga, and Fede Valverde scored with a powerful shot in first half injury time to make it 3-0 at the break, reports Xinhua.

Vinicius Jr added a fourth in the 69th minute after a pass from Bellingham and Arda Guler netted his third goal in recent weeks after getting on the end of Rodrygo's wayward shot.

Girona's chances of finishing second suffered a major setback as they lost 1-0 to Villarreal, in only their second home defeat of the season. Girona had a couple of decent chances in the first half, with Artem Dovbyk guilty of missing both, and they were punished in the 58th minute by Bertrand Traore's angled shot that went in at the fat post.

Adani Sportsline's athletes shine in Gujarat State Jr Basketball Championship

Ahmedabad, May 15 (IANS) Adani Sportsline Academy's players shone in Gujarat State Junior Basketball Championship for Ahmedabad district girl's and boy's teams, clinching gold and silver, respectively.

Vanisa helped the girl's team win gold while another trainee Taksh Patel was part of the boys' team that clinched second spot in the same tournament.

In less than five years of its launch, the Adani Sportsline Academy has emerged as a cradle of budding sports stars with its trainees making quite a splash. Chief Business Officer of Adani Sportsline Sanjay Adesara said, "I am happy to see students of Adani Sportsline begin to make a name for themselves."

3rd T20I: Rizwan, Babar, Shaheen Afridi excel as Pakistan beat Ireland, win three-match series 2-1

Dublin (Ireland), May 15 (IANS) Skipper Babar Azam slammed his 39th half-century and Mohammad Rizwan struck fifty after pacer Shaheen Shah Afridi claimed a three-fer as Pakistan defeated Ireland by six wickets with 18 balls to spare in the third T20I and won the three-match series 2-1 here on Tuesday.

Babar struck a 42-ball 75 while Rizwan blasted a 38-ball 56 as Pakistan reached 181/4 in 17 overs after Shaheen Afridi claimed brilliant figures of 3-14 off four overs and his namesake Abbas Afridi bagged 2-43 after the visitors had won the toss and elected to field first. After Pakistan lost opener Saim Ayub for 14 off 11 balls with the total at 16 runs, Rizwan and Babar a 139-run partnership for the



second wicket. Rizwan was the first to reach his half-century off 30 balls, his knock studded with four boundaries and three sixes. Babar crossed the half-century mark off 31 balls, hitting five boundaries and two maximums. Rizwan was the next to go, bowled by Mark Adair as he moved way too far across and was bowled by a brilliant yorker in the blockhole. Babar fell next, just three runs later when he was caught by Curtis Campher off Craig Young. By that time, Pakistan were cruising towards victory and Azam Khan en-

suired they reached the target with an unbeaten 18. Earlier, Ireland managed a below-par 178 thanks to a superb 41-ball 73 by skipper Lorcan Tucker, who hammered 13 boundaries and one six. Seasoned batter Andy Balbirnie contributed a 26-ball 35 and Harry Tector scored a 20-ball unbeaten 30. Ireland lost Ross Adair for seven with the team's total at 15. Balbirnie and Tucker took the score to 100 runs at the halfway stage when the former fell, caught by Rizwan off Abbas Afridi. This eventually proved insufficient under the assault of Rizwan and Babar Azam despite a three-fer by Mark Adair (3-28)

Sakshi Malik accords warm welcome to Nisha Dahiya in Delhi after wrestler earns Paris 2024 quota

New Delhi, May 15 (IANS) Former Olympic medalist wrestler Sakshi Malik on Wednesday welcomed fellow grappler Nisha Dahiya at the Delhi airport upon her return from Istanbul, Türkiye, where she sealed the Paris Olympics quota in the women's 68kg category.

Taking to Facebook, Sakshi posted pictures of receiving Nisha at the IGI airport, where the latter was given a grand welcome from family and friends.

On Friday, Nisha secured the berth for the quadrennial showpiece after reaching the final of the Wrestling World Olympic Qualifiers to become the fifth woman wrestler to board the flight for France.

Before defeating Czech Republic's Adela Hanzlickova 7-4 in the semifinals, Nisha had defeated individual neutral athlete Alina Shauchuk, former silver medalist at the U23 world championships, 3-0 in the Round of 16.



Completing a treble of trophies - Premier League North, Premier League Cup and the national title - Adam Lawrence's side had Ethan Wheatley and Ethan Williams to thank after their goals sealed a 2-1 win. Wheatley and Harry Amass have been mainstays with the first team squad in recent weeks and it was agreed with Erik ten Hag that they would be involved here, even with both set to be in the first team squad against Newcastle on Wednesday night.

Limca Book of Records recognizes the remarkable achievements of Indian sportspersons

Mumbai, Within the vast landscape of human endeavor, there exists a realm of athletics, where ordinary individuals transcend the constraints of the mundane to become extraordinary champions of motion. Athletics, in its purest form, is not merely a collection of sports or a series of events, it is a testament to the boundless potential inherent within the human form.

Within its pages lie tales of remarkable feats, showcasing the rich history of talent across diverse athletic domains.

Among the many incredible achievements recorded in the Limca Book of Records, here are just a few noteworthy examples that exemplify the pinnacle of athletic excellence:

Ruchira Bhattacharya, Senior Director, Marketing for Hydration, Sports, and Tea at The Coca-Cola Company's India and South-West Asia Operating Unit, remarked, "At Coca-Cola India, we believe in the transformative power of sports to inspire, empower, and create real positive impact. To celebrate the accomplishments of Indian Athletes and continue to build pride amongst audiences, we pay homage to their feats through the Limca Book of Records."

It is the sprinter who races against the wind, the high jumper who defies gravity's pull, and the marathon runner who conquers the limits of endurance. Each athlete, a living embodiment of dedication and discipline, dares to challenge the impossible and redefine the boundaries of human achievement. But beyond the world of competition and medals, athletics is a journey of self-discovery and self-mastery.

In 2023, Neeraj Chopra etched his name in history as the first Indian gold medalist at the World Athletics Championship, achieving a monumental throw of 88.17 meters in the men's javelin final. Jyothi Yarraji scripted history by clinching India's first-ever gold in the women's 100m hurdles at the Asian Athletics Championships in Bangkok, July 2023. Her remarkable performance, clocking 13.09 seconds, marked a significant milestone in Indian athletics.

On this World Athletics Day, Limca Book of Records proudly honors the extraordinary triumphs of athletes etched in its pages of sports history. Since its inception, the Limca Book of Records has been a beacon of hu-

man aspiration and accomplishment, capturing the essence of unparalleled dedication and grit. Within its pages lie tales of remarkable feats, showcasing the rich history of talent across diverse athletic domains.

Dutee Chand continues to break barriers and redefine norms in Indian athletics. As the current national champion in the women's 100m event, she became the first Indian sprinter to win gold at the Universiade in 2019.

High jumper Nishad Kumar focuses on 'excellence' at Para Worlds, records can follow!

New Delhi, May 15 (IANS) Para Asian Games champion Nishad Kumar, who holds an Asian record in the Men's High Jump T47 category, is not mulling over setting a world record. Instead, he aims to give his best at the upcoming World Para Athletics Championships, which will be held from May 17 to 25 in Kobe, Japan.

This year's training has been significantly better compared to previous years. I'm not focused on breaking any records; it depends on the day, but I will give it my all." Nishad told IANS when asked if he would be aiming for a world record in Japan.

Nishad bagged a gold medal in the Men's High Jump T47 category, a classification for athletes with unilateral upper limb impairment, at the Asian Para Games last year in China. He claimed the gold medal with a best jump of 2.02m. "I haven't given it much thought; time will tell how it turns out. However, my preparation has been excellent. I won the bronze medal at the 2019 World Championship, and in the 2023 World Championship in Paris, I earned the silver.

The 24-year-old made his first Paralympic Games appearance in Tokyo 2020, where he went on to claim a silver medal with an Asian record of 2.06m. "I recorded a jump of 2.06m at the Tokyo Paralrat Bengaluru SAI. I've spent about 5-6 months training in the USA. Now, I've returned from the US for the world championships. My performance in Paris 2024 will surpass my Tokyo results. I can't predict the colour of the medatod the mark," said the Asian Games champion on bettering his performance at the Paris Paralympics.



Business & Technology



StepTrade Share Services launches PMS vertical, unveils the Strategies

Ahmedabad, StepTrade Share Services, a leading investment management company, launched its SME focussed Portfolio Management Services (PMS), marking a major milestone in its journey, in Ahmedabad on Saturday.

The launch of PMS services comes just over two months after StepTrade Share Services received the PMS license from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

Commenting on the landmark, Kresha Gupta, Director, StepTrade Share Services, and one of the youngest fund managers in India, said, "We are thrilled to introduce Portfolio Management Services as a new vertical of StepTrade Share Services. The launch of PMS reflects our commitment to excellence in financial services and allowing additional investment avenues for our clients.

StepTrade Share Services marked the milestone occasion with the launch of StepTrade PMS by unveiling StepTrade SME Fund strategy, which eyes alpha returns in companies listed on SME exchanges, and the StepTrade Rising Star Fund, focusing on small & micro-cap companies.

Yash Bhanushali, Fund Manager, PMS, StepTrade Share Services, said, "We are excited to introduce our Portfolio Management Services, a culmination of extensive research and expertise in the financial markets. With a clear focus on transparency, innovation, and client-centric approach, we are committed to redefining the investment experience for clients."

30 Remarkable years of partnership - Mercedes Benz and ExxonMobil India

Bengaluru, India; May 14, 2024, ExxonMobil, a global leader in synthetic motor oils, recently commemorated 30 years of successful partnership with Mercedes-Benz India. The milestone event held at the Mercedes Benz India facility at Chakan, Pune, highlighted the enduring collaboration between the two pioneers, and their commitment to furthering innovation and mutual growth in the sector.

ExxonMobil has worked closely with Mercedes Benz to develop and supply synthetic motor oils meeting the evolving needs of their growing luxury portfolio in India comprising the A-Class Limousine, Mercedes Maybach S 580 limousines and SUVs like GLE

Pvt. Ltd., said: "Our long partnership with Mercedes-Benz India is testimony to the cutting-edge lubrication technology, trusted by global automobile majors, and our unwavering focus on ensuring supply chain security and reliability to the Mercedes-Benz dealers across India. As Mercedes-Benz India charts their next era of growth, we are committed to supporting their journey by providing best-in-class engine oils designed for their cars and enabling their dealers to delight the customers. It is a very proud moment for us to celebrate our 30-year association in India as we also celebrate the 50 years of Mobil 1™, our flagship synthetic engine oil providing the ultimate engine protection.

9 Unicorns launches Fund II with a Target of \$200M & rebrands itself to 100 Unicorns

New Delhi, May 14th 2024: India's leading early-stage accelerator fund 9Unicorns has announced the launch of its second fund following a major rebranding exercise. As a result of this rebranding exercise, 9Unicorns will now be known as 100Unicorns.

100Unicorns, a part of India's largest multistage investing firm Venture Catalysts Group, launches its second accelerator fund called 100Unicorns Fund II with a target size of \$200 million including a green-shoe option of \$100 million. The launch highlights the fund's robust commitment to nurturing the growth of the next wave of 200 challenger startups emerging out of India. This strategic move demonstrates 100Unicorns' vision to fuel innovative companies and also marks the beginning of a paradigm significant

shift in the Indian startup ecosystem by reducing dependency on international funding sources. Indian startups and entrepreneurs can now have early access to capital within their own ecosystem to boost the country's entrepreneurial landscape.

Rajesh Mane, Partner at 100Unicorns highlights, "100Unicorns has proved its model of identifying best founders & enabling them with the right support at every step of the journey. We have institutionalized support for startups with focus on growth & fundraising." 100Unicorns has played a crucial role in the startup ecosystem with initiatives such as DDay and ProStar serving as catalysts for over 80 startups that have collectively secured upwards of \$400 million in funding. Ankit Jain, Partner at

100Unicorns highlights "100Unicorns' early vision of supporting startups from Tier2/3 Cities, backing founders solving local problems with global vision, and focus on climate-tech/sustainability has proven right over the past 4 years. With the upcoming fund, we strive to create an integrated ecosystem & build a full-stack growth portfolio for early-stage startups to navigate a seamless journey to become a category leader." In its first fund, 100Unicorns Fund I (formerly 9Unicorns) had invested in several innovative startups that went on to becoming multi-bagger success stories. Notable examples include Videoverse, Trunativ, Zyppelectric, Renee Cosmetics, and IGP, which have all emerged as leaders in their respective domains.

Cairn Oil & Gas R&R Grows 19% YoY to 1.4 BBOE

New Delhi, Cairn Oil & Gas, India's largest private oil and gas exploration and production company, part of Vedanta Ltd., has announced that its Reserve-and Resources (R&R) portfolio has recorded a year-on-year increase of 19% reaching 1.4 billion barrels of oil equivalent (Boe) underpinning its expertise in resource evaluation and development planning. In addition to this robust portfolio, Cairn has a promising exploration portfolio that holds over 5 Bboe of prospective resources, to help drive India's energy self-reliance.

growth of 33%. This signifies larger pool of potentially recoverable oil and gas, fueling future production and cash flow generation for the company, and increased domestic production for Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

Commenting on the achievement, Dr. Steve Moore, Deputy CEO, Cairn Oil & Gas, said: "With our growing resource base, now at 1.4 Bboe, and world-class technology expertise, we are underlining our commitment to creating long-term value for our stake holders. This is reflected in our strategic management plan, which ensures sustainable future for our company to continue driving our vision of a self-reliant India for its energy requirements. By focusing on exploration success and resource conversion, we are building a robust reserve base for continued growth and share holder value."

Cairn's total Reserve plus Resource additions have exceeded production, leading to a Resource Replacement Ratio (RRR) of 533%, a five-fold increase over the RRR of 108% in the previous fiscal year. Cairn has recorded a substantial increase in its Gross Contingent (2C) resources to 1.126 Bboe, a year-on-year

MobiKwik launches Daily Gold Savings Plan

Gurugram, Gold is traditionally one of the most preferred means of savings, deeply rooted in Indian culture. ONE MOBIKWIK SYSTEMS LIMITED (MobiKwik), a fintech company, announced the launch of Daily Gold Savings Plan. The newly introduced Daily Gold Savings Plan empowers users to save small amounts daily, fostering a culture of financial prudence and facilitating gradual wealth accumulation.

Get Ready to Dive into Summer with Arrow's 'Sun, Style, and T-Shirt' Festival

Mumbai, Arrow, a professional menswear brand from Arvind Fashions Limited, proudly presents "Sun, Style & T-shirts: Dive into the summer," a t-shirt festival that captures the essence of the season in every thread. The brand is all set to dive into the warmth of summer, embracing the vibrant colors, refreshing designs, and the joyous spirit of community. But this isn't just about style; it's about making a difference too. For this t-shirt festival, Arrow has entered into a tie-up with NGO Atypical Advantage, one of India's largest livelihood platforms for Persons with Disabilities (PWD). With each purchase of 5000 or above, customers can contribute to societal well-being.

Growington Ventures aims for a strong growth going forward

Mumbai, Mumbai based BSE listed company Growington Ventures India Limited (BSE - 539222) promoted by CA Vikram Bajaj aims for a strong growth momentum in the time to come. Company has posted excellent results for the Q3 & nine months of FY24 ended December 2023 is expected to continue the growth momentum going forward.

For Nine months of FY24, company posted total revenue of Rs. 23.81 crore, 163% growth Yo-Y as compared to revenue of Rs. 9.04 crore in nine months of FY23. Net Profit during nine months of FY24 surged 328% to Rs. 1.75 crore as against net profit of Rs. 40.88 lakh in the corresponding period last year.

For the FY23, company has reported multi-fold growth in the business. Sales for FY23 grew to Rs. 19.63 crore as compared to sales of Rs. 1.23 crore in FY22. Company earned

net profit of Rs. 1.26 crore as compared to loss of Rs. 3 lakh in FY22. Company has performed well post covid and also declared bonus shares (24:100) in March 2023.

In November 2023, Company was migrated to main board of BSE Ltd from SME Platform of BSE. Company also received the shareholders' approval for the same. Company in the board meeting dated July 15 had approved the migration of listing/trading of equity shares of the company from SME platform of BSE to main board of BSE Ltd. The resolution was passed through postal ballot by the shareholders.

Company has sub-divided its equity share having face value of Rs. 10 each, fully paid-up into 10 equity shares having face value of Rs. 1 each fully paid-up, as approved by the shareholders through Postal Ballot on January 17, 2024.

News

in a Nutshell

SC orders release of NewsClick editor in UAPA case

New Delhi, May 15 (IANS) The Supreme Court on Wednesday ordered the release of NewsClick founder and editor-in-chief Prabr Purkayastha, who was arrested by the Delhi Police under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act over allegations that the media outlet received money to spread pro-China propaganda.

"There is no hesitation in the mind of the court to reach a conclusion that a copy of remand application in the purported exercise of communication of grounds of arrest in writing was not provided to the accused-appellant or his counsel before the passing of remand order dated October 4, 2023, which vitiates the arrest and the subsequent remand of the appellant. As a result, the appellant is entitled to a direction for release from custody...Accordingly, the arrest of the appellant followed by the remand order and the impugned order passed by the Delhi High Court are hereby declared to be invalid in the eyes of law and are quashed and set aside," said a bench presided over by Justice B.R. Gavai.

Jyotiraditya Scindia's mother Madhavi Rajee Scindia dies at Delhi AIIMS

Bhopal, May 15 (IANS) Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia's mother Madhavi Rajee Scindia died on Wednesday morning at AIIMS, Delhi.

The erstwhile Rajmata of the Gwalior Royal Family, died at 9.28 A.M. and had been on ventilator support for the last few days, Union Minister Scindia's media cell confirmed the report.

Madhavi Rajee Scindia was undergoing treatment at the premier hospital for the last three months and was suffering from pneumonia along with sepsis. A press statement said, "With great sorrow, we wish to share that Rajmata is no more. Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia's mother and the Rajmata of the Gwalior royal family, Rajmata Mment at AIIMS Hospital in Delhi for the past two months. Her condition had been extremely critical for the past two weeks. This morning at 9:28 A.M., she took her last breath at AIIMS Hospital in Delhi. Om Shanti."

CM Vijayan cuts short Singapore leg of private visit; to reach India on May 20

Thiruvananthapuram, May 15 (IANS) The now controversial private visit of Kerala Chief Minister, Pinarayi Vijayan and his family was cut short and on Wednesday morning they reached Dubai, UAE. CM Vijayan had left India on May 6 for a three-nation tour of Indonesia, Singapore and UAE and was scheduled to return to the country on May 22. However, on Wednesday while chairing the online weekly Cabinet meeting from Dubai, he informed his colleagues that he would reach Kerala on May 20.



LUCKNOW, Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge and Samajwadi Party President Akhilesh Yadav addressing a joint press conference, in Lucknow on Wednesday.UNI

Bihar: Pawan Singh turning out to be a challenge for NDA candidate in Karakat

Patna May 15 (IANS) Bhojpuri Star Pawan Singh is turning out to be a big challenge for NDA on the Karakat Lok Sabha seat after he made his intention clear that he will not withdraw his nomination despite the "pressure" from the BJP leaders.

Union Minister R.K. Singh and Bihar Minister Prem Kumar have openly asked Pawan Singh to withdraw the candidature or the BJP will take action against him.

Prem Kumar said that the party would expel Pawan Singh if he would not withdraw the nomination. Pawan Singh is a member of BJP but he is contesting the Lok Sabha election as an independent candidate from Karakat.

On Tuesday, Pawan Singh's mother Pratima Singh also entered the electoral battle of Karakat Lok Sabha constituency and filed her nomination as an independent candi-

date. Without any fanfare, Pawan Singh's mother reached Sasaram Collectorate, filed her nomination form and left quietly. Even the media was not aware of the nomination of Pawan Singh's mother.

The polling on the Karakat seat will be held in the seventh phase on June 1.

Sources said that Pawan Singh is apprehensive that his nomination will be cancelled. "If it happens then his mother will contest the election on this seat. Scrutiny of nomination papers will take place on Wednesday and the last date for withdrawal of nominations is May 16.

Pawan Singh's presence is a worrying factor for the NDA candidate.

The candidature of Pawan Singh may hurt Upendra Kushwaha who is contesting as an NDA candidate on Rashtriya Lok Morcha (RLM) ticket. He is challenging Rajaram Singh Kushwaha (CPI-

ML) of the Grand Alliance. Upendra Kushwaha and Rajaram Singh come from the Kushwaha community which has a sizable number of voters in this constituency. Pawan Singh belongs to an upper caste and he has a big fan following in the rural areas of Bhojpur, Rohtas, Aurangabad, Kaimur and other areas. Upper caste people are considered core voters of BJP and the entry of Pawan Singh may hurt Upendra Kushwaha.

Karakat Lok Sabha seat has around 3 lakh Yadav voters, around 2 lakh Rajput voters, 3.5 lakh Kushwaha voters, and 2 lakh Gupta voters. Besides them, Bhumihar, Dalit, Mahadalit and Kurmi also have a sizable number of voters in this constituency.

Karakat Lok Sabha seat came into existence in 2008 after delimitation. Earlier, it was known as Vikram Lok Sabha constituency. It has Karakat, De-

hri and Nokha assembly constituencies come under the Rohtas district and Nabinagar, Obra and Goh come in the Aurangabad district.

In 2014, Upendra Kushwaha won the election on this seat but he lost the election in 2019 after contesting as a grand alliance candidate. The JD-U candidate Mahabali Singh defeated Upendra Kushwaha in 2019.

Congress attacks CPI(M) in Kerala over RS ticket distribution row

Thiruvananthapuram, May 15 (IANS) Amid a row in the Left Democratic Front on the Rajya Sabha ticket distribution, veteran Congress leader Cheriyan Phillip on Wednesday taunted the ruling CPI(M)-led LDF over the way it treats its allies in comparison to the United Democratic Front (UDF).

Phillip said the CPI(M)'s big brother attitude towards its allies is "deplorable". The Left allies like Kerala Congress (Mani) and the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) are entitled to a Rajya Sabha seat. When they were with the Congress-led UDF, they were always treated with respect and given

their due share of the Rajya Sabha seats by the Congress, even foregoing their due and giving seats to their allies," said Phillip. Phillip's statement comes at a time when a row both the KC(M) and CPI staking their claims for one of the two Rajya Sabha seats which will fall vacant soon.



MUMBAI, Union Minister and BJP candidate from North Mumbai seat Piyush Goyal at a campaign road show for Lok Sabha polls, in Mumbai on Wednesday UNI

Questions galore on Mamata Banerjee's prediction on INDIA bloc's performance

Kolkata, May 15 (IANS) While West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has predicted the INDIA bloc's "impressive" performance in the ongoing Lok Sabha election, however, she has been avoiding talking about the performance of her party Trinamool Congress, which raises some questions.

The Chief Minister has claimed that the INDIA bloc will win 300 to 315 seats while the BJP will win only 195 seats.

Her predictions are also in complete contrast to the opinion polls conducted by different top media houses in association with specialised agencies, which have indicated a majority for the BJP.

Political observers also believe that such predictions by the Chief Minister are a calculative chapter in Trinamool Congress's perception-oriented campaigning, which the party is heavily banking in the ongoing elections.

The first reason is to spread a counter-narrative in the midst of a massive anti-incumbency wave in West Bengal on issues like corruption and the Sandeshkhali among others, where the BJP is perceived to be the biggest electoral beneficiary.

It is also a subtle message that while the BJP may be "ousted" at the national level, there is no point in increasing the BJP seats in West Bengal.

The second reason is

to counter the repeated campaigning by the Left parties and the West Bengal unit of Congress that it is Mamata Banerjee alone who is responsible for creating hurdles for the INDIA bloc from taking a concrete shape.

The Congress and CPI(M) leaders are also saying that while Arvind Kejriwal and Hemant Soren decided to strengthen the INDIA bloc by going to jail, on the other hand, Mamata Banerjee saved her seat and dear ones which weakened the opposition unity. A political observer said that the Chief Minister is trying to build up a perspective that she continues to be a well-wisher and an integral part of the opposition bloc.

Heavy rain likely in Tamil Nadu till May 20

Chennai, May 15 (IANS) The Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC) has predicted heavy rain in Tamil Nadu till May 20. Fifteen to 20 districts will receive heavy rain from May 16 to 18. The Nilgiris, ghat areas of Coimbatore, Salem, Dharmapuri, Krishnagiri, Tirupattur, Dindigul, Namakkal, Karur, Tiruchy, Madurai, Sivaganga, Virudhunagar, Tiruvallur, Thanjavur, Nagapattinam, Mayiladuthurai, Pudukkottai, Theni, Tenkasi, Tirunelveli and Kanniyakumari districts and Karaikal area will receive heavy rains till May 20.

The weather department also forecast that in Chennai, the sky will be partly cloudy with the possibility of light rain.

Maximum temperature will be 36-37 degree Celsius and the night-time temperature will be around 28-29 degrees C for the next two days.

Makkinaipatti in Coimbatore received the highest rainfall of 8 cm followed by Pollachi and Thoothukudi port weather stations at 7 cm. Several other weather stations in Virudhunagar, Dindigul, Theni, Nilgiris, Kanniyakumari and Tiruppur received moderate rainfall.

Senior citizens in Lucknow want a 'decent' old-age home from Rajnath Singh

Lucknow, May 15 (IANS) Senior citizens in Lucknow have a request for the sitting MP and Union defence minister Rajnath Singh -- good old-age home in the state capital.

"It is about priorities. The government spends thousands of crores on big projects. It can also establish a good old-age home where the elderly can choose to live at their own will. The government gives subsidy on land for businesses, it can very well do that for setting up such facilities," says B N Sarup

(78), a retired doctor who is looking for a decent old age home after the demise of his wife. His two sons and daughter are settled in Canada.

There are an estimated 60,000-odd citizens in the state capital in the 80 years and above age group, left to the care and concern of the family, in particular, and society, in general. They want an old age home with amenities, facilities and aid for their ease of living from the government.

"I am even willing to pay a particular amount

every month for such a facility because living alone after a certain age is difficult as well as insecure," said Sriia Prakash, a single woman, who is unwell and aged about 68 years.

"I have a car but cannot drive at this age. Cab services only pick and drop from point to point but there is no assistance beyond that. So, if there is any trusted government-backed system where we can just call and get someone to help us get basic things done or go out occasionally that would help," she said. These se-

nior citizens tried to meet the Lucknow MP Rajnath Singh but could not succeed. "We have decided to send a memorandum to him so that he can consider this facility for us after the polls," said Atul Varshney, another 80-year-old who has no one to support him here. A voracious reader and a compulsive writer, he said he yearns for a circle where he can share his love for art. Besides old-age homes, recreational centres/clubs, parks and community centres, the elderly feel there should be

dedicated government helpline numbers where they can connect to get their issues resolved.

"Broadly, we need a right policy push to help create a benevolent society which could ensure a dignified living to the elderly, especially the octogenarians," he said. As per the government data, the population of 60 years and above has more than tripled in India in the past 50 years. Further estimates reveal that the country expects 19 per cent of its population, to be above 60 years of age by 2050.

SC nixes plea seeking extension of deadline for filing of nominations for Varanasi constituency

New Delhi, May 15 (IANS) The Supreme Court on Wednesday dismissed a plea seeking to extend the May 14 deadline for filing nominations for Varanasi constituency.

Termining the plea as "publicity interest litigation", a Bench headed by Justice Vikram Nath refused to entertain the petition filed by P Ayyakannu, Tamil Nadu unit President of the National South Indian Riv-

er Interlinking Farmers' Association, alleging that he and his associates were "illegally, deliberately and arrogantly" prevented from proceeding to Varanasi constituency for filing their nominations.

The plea, filed through advocate S Mahendran alleged that Ayyakannu and other farmers were illegally boarded from the train and detained by the police on May 10. The plea said

that they were only released in the evening, for the sole reason that the Prime Minister was contesting from the same constituency. The plea added that the group of about 100 farmers, proceeding to Banaras from Tiruchi in Kashi Tamil Express to contest against PM Modi in the Lok Sabha elections, was boarded from the train at Chengalpattu and sent back to Tiruchi.

No one can defeat PM Modi, says Assam BJP MP

Guwahati, May 15 (IANS) Rajya Sabha MP and BJP candidate in Assam's Kaziranga Lok Sabha seat, Kamakhya Prasad Tasa has said that no leader in the country can challenge and defeat Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

He told reporters here on Tuesday, "No one can defeat PM Modi. In India, the Prime Minister does not have any challengers."

No other political leader in the country can contest against him."

Tasa fought the recently concluded polls from the Kaziranga parliamentary constituency. This Lok Sabha seat was formed after last year's delimitation exercise for redrawing the boundaries of Assembly and Parliamentary constituencies in the state.

The senior BJP leader contested the Jorhat Lok Sabha seat in 2014 and won it. In the 2019 general elections, he was not given a ticket and was instead sent to the Upper House of Parliament.

BLS International ex-employee alleges sexual harassment at workplace, FIR lodged

New Delhi, May 15 (IANS) A former employee of BLS International Service Limited (India), a leading visa consultancy provider, has alleged sexual harassment by the company's Chief Human Resource Officer (CHRO), police said on Wednesday.

Police said that they have lodged an FIR in the connection and it is underway.

from May 2022 to May 1, 2024.

"In my working period, no complaints were received by the Human Resource Department or by the Admin Department or by my seniors against me. That between me and CHRO Gautam Aggarwal had professional relations with each other for a substantial period of time," she said in her complaint.

"I left my workplace BLS International Services Ltd on 1/1/2024 by writing a mail to the Chairman, Diwakar Aggarwal. The reason for my resign-

ing from the above-said company is physical and mental harassment done by Gautam Aggarwal CHRO of the company," she said. "For the last many months Gautam Aggarwal has been making an inappropriate gesture towards me, where Gautam Aggarwal used to touch me in a very inappropriate way on my back and on my breast and he used to invite me to come within personal spaces to have drinks with him and he used to ask me to make physical relations with him," the FIR stated.



CANNES, Greta Gerwig (C), jury president of the 77th Cannes Film Festival, and other members of the jury pose at a photocall before the opening ceremony of the 77th Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, southern France. UNI