



## Pakistan desires 'Shehzada' as India's PM"; Modi takes veiled swipe at Rahul Gandhi

**RNS I Gujrat:** In a rally held in Gujarat's Anand, Prime Minister Narendra Modi took a veiled dig at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, suggesting that Pakistan is eager to see 'Shehzada' become India's prime minister. Modi described the Congress party as a 'mureed' (follower) of Pakistan, stating, "The Congress is languishing here and Pakistanis are shedding tears." The Prime Minister's comments came after former Pakistani minister Chaudhry Fawad Hussain expressed admiration for Rahul Gandhi in a video shared on X, where Gandhi criticized the BJP and Modi. Modi further criticized the Congress party's governance, contrasting it with the BJP's achievements. He claimed that under Congress's 60-year rule, 60% of the rural



population lacked access to toilets, a feat the BJP accomplished in just 10 years. Accusing the Congress of aiming to amend the Constitution to extend reservations to Muslims, Modi challenged them to give written assurance that they will not do so.

He highlighted the BJP's achievements, such as providing tap water connections to 14 crore households in the last 10 years, compared to the Congress's 3 crore households in 60 years. Modi reiterated his commitment to making India a developed nation by 2047,

emphasizing his dedication to serving Gujarat and the nation. He expressed his aspiration for India to stand as a developed nation by the time the country celebrates its 100 years of Independence in 2047, pledging to work tirelessly towards this goal.

## Ranchi Police Arrest Three JBKSS Leaders in Dhanbad; Chief Jairam Mahto Absconding, Police on Search

**RNS I Dhanbad:** Three leaders of the Jharkhand Bhasha Khatiyani Sangharsh Samiti (JBKSS) were arrested by a Ranchi police team late on Wednesday night from their residence in Topchachi, approximately 40 km from the district headquarters in Dhanbad. The arrested leaders include Farjan Khan, the chief general secretary of the JBKSS central committee, Sanjay Mahto, and Rijwan Krantikari, the president of the minority cell central committee. JBKSS, a regional outfit led by Jayram Mahto, is contesting from several Lok Sabha seats in Jharkhand, including Ranchi, Dhanbad, Giridih, and Dumka. Jayram Mahto himself, the JBKSS supremo, is a candidate from the Giridih seat. Earlier on Wednesday afternoon, Ranchi police arrested Jayram Mahto immediately after he filed his nomination for the Giridih seat at the Bokaro collectorate. Jayram Mahto, who faces pending cases in Ranchi and other districts, took two hours to surrender after addressing a scheduled rally.



However, he managed to escape from the spot after the rally, evading the police. The arrest of Farjan Khan, Sanjay Mahto, and Rijwan Krantikari followed their guarantee that Jayram Mahto would surrender after the rally. Police picked them up late at night from Topchachi, where Jayram Mahto is also a resident. Topchachi police station officer in-charge Vivekanand Srivastava denied information about any arrests when contacted in the morning. However, Topchachi Panchayat chief Sarwar Khan stated that police raided his house at 3 am on Wednesday and took away his nephew Farjan Khan without providing a reason for the arrest.

JBKSS vice-president Dipak Rajak alleged that the state and central governments were displeased with Jayram Mahto's popularity. Rajak accused the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) of getting JBKSS leaders arrested on false charges due to the fear of their candidate's potential defeat. Farjan Khan was arrested from his residence in Topchachi Bazar, while Sanjay Mahto was arrested from Chitarpur village. Bokaro Police have registered an FIR after the disappearance of youth leader Jairam Mahato, who filed a nomination from the Giridih Lok Sabha constituency and is currently absconding. Police are actively searching for him.

## Supersonic Missile-Assisted Release of Torpedo system successfully tested



**RNS I Dhanbad:** The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully conducted a flight test of the Supersonic Missile-Assisted Release of Torpedo (SMART) system off the coast of Odisha. The test took place at around 0830 hrs on May 01, 2024, from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island. SMART is a state-of-the-art missile-based lightweight torpedo delivery system developed by DRDO to enhance the Indian Navy's anti-submarine warfare capability. It is designed to operate far beyond the range

of conventional lightweight torpedoes. The canister-based missile system features advanced subsystems, including a two-stage solid propulsion system, electromechanical actuator system, and precision inertial navigation system. It is equipped with an advanced lightweight torpedo as payload and a parachute-based release system. During the test, the missile was launched from a ground mobile launcher, validating several state-of-the-art mechanisms such as symmetric separation, ejection, and velocity control.

## Delhi Police issues notice to Jharkhand Congress State President for sharing 'fake' video of Amit Shah



**RNS I Ranchi:** The Delhi Police has issued a notice to Jharkhand Congress State President Rajesh Thakur in connection with the uploading and sharing of a fake video of Union Home Minister Amit Shah's speech on social media. According to the notice, Thakur has been asked to appear before the investigating officer of Delhi Police Special at 10:30 am on May 2.

He has also been directed to bring along his mobile phones, laptops, tablets, or any other electronic device that may have been allegedly used to share the fake video. The notice has been sent to Rajesh Thakur under section 160/91 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC). Thakur, in response, stated that he received the notice from Delhi Police yesterday evening, requesting his laptop. He expressed the opinion that before issuing such notices, Delhi Police should gather complete information about all the facts. "I am consulting with my legal advisors on the issue and looking forward to how we can seek relief in appearing before the Delhi Police on May 2, as I am currently engaged in election works," Thakur added.

## Anupama Singh, Congress candidate files nomination for Dhanbad LS seat



**RNS I Bokaro:** Anupama Singh, the Congress nominee and wife of Bermo MLA Jayamangal Singh (Anup Singh), along with two other candidates, submitted their nomination papers for the Dhanbad Lok Sabha seat on Wednesday. Accompanied by Jharia Congress MLA Purnima Neeraj Singh, senior Congress leader and INTUC national secretary AK Jha, Rani Devi (mother-in-law) and Alpana Tiwari, Anupama Singh filed her nomination papers. The polling for the Dhanbad Lok Sabha seat is scheduled for May 25. The seat has been allocated to the Congress under the INDI Alliance. The other two candidates who filed their nomination papers were Jagdish Rawani of the Marxists Coordination Committee (MCC) and Dipak Kumar Das of the People's Democratic Party (P).

## IIT-ISM Dhanbad, Launches Rs 1.92 Cr. Tribal Empowerment Center

**RNS I Dhanbad:** A Center of Excellence (CoE) dedicated to empowering tribal communities has been inaugurated at the Indian Institute of Technology (Indian School of Mines), Dhanbad, with the backing of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) of the Government of India. The center has secured a project valued at Rs 1.92 crore from MoTA for a 'Capacity Building Program for Basic and Advanced Level Information Technology and Computer Training for Tribals in Jharkhand'. Under the leadership of Professor Rashmi Singh, Assistant Professor of the Department of Management Studies and Industrial Engineering, the CoE will concentrate on formulating capacity-building and skill-enhancement initiatives for tribal populations in Jharkhand. These initiatives aim to boost their job prospects, income levels, livelihoods, and overall economic status. Functioning as a nexus for collaboration among academia, industry, and government, the center intends to further the welfare of tribal communities in Jharkhand. This endeavor



resonates with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of integrating tribal communities into the mainstream societal framework of India. Acknowledging the significance of social inclusion, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has designated November 15 as Jan Jatiya Gaurav Divas, marking the birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda. Moreover, the CoE will forge partnerships with various industries in Jharkhand, including BCCL, CCL, Tata Steel, SAIL, NTPC, JSPL, Adani Power, Tata Power, among others, to create employment avenues for trained tribal students. Professor Rashmi Singh emphasized that the first project under the center, focusing on information technology and computer training, has secured

funding of Rs 1.92 crore. The program will initially cater to tribal students in grades 10 to 12 at Eklavya Model Residential Schools in Jharkhand, followed by students from Ashram schools and government schools in the subsequent phase. The CoE team, led by Professor Singh, has already embarked on visits to several Eklavya Model Residential Schools in Jharkhand to kickstart the program. Prof. Singh is also engaged in a similar project funded by the Department of Science and Technology, which focuses on enhancing the economic well-being of Scheduled Tribe communities in Jamtara District, Jharkhand, through game theoretic and operations research techniques.

## PM Modi all set to arrive in Chaibasa on Friday

**Siddharth Pandey I Chaibasa:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to arrive in Chaibasa on Friday, May 3, to bolster the campaign for Singhbhum MP Geeta Koda in the Lok Sabha elections. The Prime Minister will participate in an election rally organized by the Bharatiya Janata Party at Tata College grounds, scheduled for 3 p.m. After the event in Chaibasa, he will return to Ranchi, the capital of Jharkhand, before proceeding to Palamu for a

meeting on the following day. The district administration has made elaborate arrangements for the Prime Minister's visit, with tight security measures in place. The Special Protection Group (SPG) has taken control of the event venue, and a meeting was held on Thursday with magistrates and police officers from different districts to ensure law and order during the Prime Minister's visit. The BJP has completed its preparations

for the event, anticipating a turnout of more than 50,000 people. A large pandal with a capacity exceeding 50,000 has been erected, and identity cards have been issued by the administration for attendees. Separate entry gates have been set up, including a designated gate for officials on duty and another for attendees coming from afar. Seven entry gates and separate exit gates have also been constructed to manage the crowd efficiently.



**RNS I Bokaro:** A delegation led by social activist D K Sah recently conferred at the residence of Dulu Mahato in Baghmara. Mahato, a seasoned three-time MLA representing the Baghmara Vidhan Sabha constituency, has been named as the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) contender for the Dhanbad Lok Sabha constituency in the impending 2024 LS elections. During the interaction, luminaries including Gudu Sahu, Praladh Sahu, Nabnit Sahu, Dilip Sahu, and others conveyed their heartfelt wishes for Mahato's success in the upcoming LS polls.

## JMM's Tabarak Khan Endorses Joba Majhi for Singhbhum LS Seat



**RNS I Chaibasa:** Senior JMM leader Mohammad Tabarak Khan has urged Kolhan, known as the land of martyrs, to support former minister and JMM candidate Joba Majhi for the Singhbhum Lok Sabha seat. Under Khan's leadership, a Jharkhand Mukti Morcha program and meeting were held in Nuiya and surrounding villages, as well as in Jaitgarh. Khan highlighted Joba Majhi's popularity among villagers, noting her husband, the late MLA Devendra Manjhi, who was revered for his efforts in conserving water, forests, and land in Kolhan's Saranda, Kolhan, and Podahat regions.

### Ways to protect yourself from Dengue

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# It's Shiv Sena vs Shiv Sena In 3 Out Of 6 Lok Sabha Seats In Mumbai

**Mumbai Election Date:** The six constituencies in Mumbai are Mumbai South, Mumbai South-Central, Mumbai North, Mumbai North-Central, Mumbai North-East, Mumbai North-West. These are among the 13 seats in Maharashtra that will go to polls in the fifth and final phase on May 20.

**Mumbai:** Battle lines have been drawn in six parliamentary constituencies in Mumbai, where Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena and the Uddhav Thackeray led outfit will battle it out in three seats.

While two seats will witness fights between the traditional rivals - the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Congress, in one seat the Shiv Sena (UBT) and BJP will fight it out. The six constituencies in Mumbai are Mumbai South, Mumbai South-Central, Mumbai North, Mumbai North-Central, Mumbai North-East, Mumbai North-West. These are among the 13 seats in Maharashtra that will go to polls in the fifth and final phase on May 20.

Mumbai South, Mumbai South-Central and Mumbai North-West will see a fight between the two Senas, while Mumbai North-East will be a BJP versus Shiv Sena (UBT) face-off. In Mumbai South, sitting MP Arvind Sawant of the Uddhav Thackeray will take on Yamini Jadhav of the Shinde-led Sena. Jadhav represents the



Byculla assembly constituency in Mumbai. Sena (UBT) leader Anil Desai is pitted against Rahul Shewale of the Shinde-led Sena in Mumbai South-Central. While Desai was a Rajya Sabha member till recently, Shewale is the sitting Lok Sabha member. Amol Kirtikar of the Thackeray camp will take on Ravindra Waikar of the ruling Sena in Mumbai North-West. Waikar who was earlier with the Sena (UBT), joined the Shinde camp recently. He currently represents Jogeshwari East assembly constituency in

Mumbai. Congress MLA Varsha Gaikwad, who is the party's Mumbai unit president will fight it out against noted lawyer Ujjwal Nikam fielded by the BJP in Mumbai North-Central, while Union minister and BJP veteran Piyush Goyal will take on Bhushan Patil of the Congress in Mumbai North. While Gaikwad represents the Dharavi assembly segment in Mumbai, Goyal is a Rajya Sabha member.

In Mumbai North-East, BJP's Mihir Kotecha will fight against Sena UBT's Sanjay Dina Patil. Kotecha is the MLA from Mulund assembly constituency in Mumbai. After filing her nomination form, Gaikwad called on Uddhav Thackeray, who promised his support to her, saying she will be sent to Delhi as an MP. It will be for the first time that Thackeray will vote for a Congress candidate as his residence in Bandra comes under the Mumbai North-Central constituency. Congress and Shiv Sena have traditionally been political opponents in Mumbai till 2019.

## "Why Waste Time Here, Go To Italy": Yogi Adityanath Targets Rahul Gandhi

**Sangli, Maharashtra:** Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath criticised Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, saying that whenever the country is facing a tough time, he runs away to Italy. CM Yogi also suggested that Rahul Gandhi should not campaign for elections here as he went to Italy during the pandemic, earthquake and floods. Addressing a public meeting in Maharashtra's Sangli, CM Yogi said, "You have seen Rahul Gandhi, whenever the country faces tough times, he is the first one who leaves the country and runs away. When covid came, he went to Italy. Be it an earthquake, flood or any other disaster, he left for Italy".

When you (Rahul Gandhi) have to go to Italy, why waste time here in elections, go to Italy. When he is outside India, he criticises it and when in India, he behaves as if the country has been inherited by his forefathers," CM Yogi added. He also lashed out at the previous

Congress-led United Progressive Alliance, saying "This is not India of Congress period where after one slap, they used to say wait, Let the peace does not vitiate anywhere. ...If anyone dares to slap, today we dare to punch back with all our strength..." he added, referring to India's rising. Maharashtra, with its 48 Lok Sabha seats, is the second-largest contributor to the Lower House of Parliament after Uttar Pradesh. In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, the BJP won 23 out of 25 contested seats, while the undivided Shiv Sena secured 18 out of 23 seats. The polling in the state is being held across five phases. Polling for 11 seats in Maharashtra will be held in the third phase on May 7. Of the 48 seats in the state, voting in 13 was conducted across the first and second phases. Polling for the first phase and the second phase was held on April 19 and April 26, respectively. The next round of voting will be held on May 7.

## PM Modi's 3rd Term Will Eliminate Terrorism From Country: Amit Shah

He also claimed that top Congress leaders including party chief Mallikarjun Kharge, Sonia Gandhi, and Rahul Gandhi did not attend the Ram Lalla's Pran Pratistha ceremony fearing they would lose their vote bank.



**Hubballi:** Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday said that the third term for Prime Minister Narendra Modi will eliminate terrorism, and Left Wing Extremism from the country. "The third term for Prime Minister Modi means the success of Chandrayaan, Mangal Yaan and Aditya Yaan missions," he said during a public rally in

Karnataka's Hubballi. "During the rule of the Congress government under Sonia Gandhi and Manmohan Singh, infiltrators from Pakistan used to explode bombs here and escape. They thought they could get away in the same manner and staged the Uri and Pulwama attacks. They didn't realize that Prime Minister Modi is in charge and within 10 days surgical and air strikes were conducted," the Home Minister added.

He accused the Congress of delaying the Ayodhya Ram temple case and dragging it for 70 years. "When Prime Minister Modi took charge for the second term, the case was won, a groundbreaking ceremony was conducted and the temple was inaugurated," Home Minister Shah said.

He also claimed that top Congress leaders including party chief Mallikarjun Kharge, Sonia Gandhi, and Rahul Gandhi did not attend the Ram Lalla's Pran Pratistha ceremony fearing they would lose their vote bank. The Home Minister appealed to voters of the Dharwad Parliamentary Constituency to ensure the victory of Union Minister and BJP candidate Pralhad Joshi by a huge margin. He said that Union Minister Joshi ensured that the maximum number of Corona vaccines reached Hubballi-Dharwad cities. Besides this, 19 lakh houses were constructed in Dharwad. "Don't make the mistake of losing him," the Home Minister asserted.

## Lok Sabha Elections: Maneka Gandhi Files Nomination From Sultanpur Seat

**Sultanpur:** Bharatiya Janata Party candidate from Sultanpur Lok Sabha seat, Maneka Gandhi, filed her nomination papers on Wednesday.

Maneka Gandhi is also the sitting MP from the Sultanpur seat. The BJP has again chosen to go with her in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. Nishad Party chief and Uttar Pradesh minister, Sanjay Nishad, accompanied Maneka Gandhi while filing the nomination.

The Samajwadi Party has fielded Bheem Nishad from this seat. Sultanpur will vote on May 25, in the sixth phase. After filing her nomination, Maneka Gandhi said, "It is always a competition, but I think we will win. This time, there is less challenge. Responding to Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's candidature from Amethi and Raebareilly, Maneka said, "Only 2 days are left for nomination, I don't know when they will reveal (the names)." In the 2019 general election, Maneka Gandhi got 4,59,196 votes, while Bahujan Samaj Party candidate, Chandra Bhadra Singh



got 4,44,670 votes. Earlier, Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya took a swipe at the Opposition INDIA bloc saying that they are in ICU and people are not ready to give them oxygen. "The Opposition is nowhere in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. They are lying in the ICU and the public is not ready to give them oxygen."

There is only one slogan in the entire country, that is, 'Abki Baar, 400 Paar' and once again the Modi government with a huge majority is going to be formed in the country," Maurya said. He polling in Uttar Pradesh is happening in all seven phases. The counting is scheduled for June 4. Voting for eight seats in the state was concluded in the first phase on April 19 and another eight seats in the second phase on April 26. In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections in Uttar Pradesh, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) emerged as the winner by securing the majority of seats available.

## "Some People Have Made Me A Stranger In My Own Party": BJP's Anil Vij

**Without taking any name, Anil Vij said, "Maana kuch logo ne mujhe meri hi party mein begana bana diya hai, parantu kayee baar begane apno say bhi zyada kaam kar jaate hai."**

**Ambala, Haryana:** Former Haryana Home Minister Anil Vij and BJP leader who was excluded from the cabinet after its recent reshuffle, said on Wednesday that some people have made him a "stranger" in his own party.

Addressing a public rally in Ambala, the BJP leader, without taking any name, said, "Maana kuch logo ne mujhe meri hi party mein begana bana diya hai, parantu kayee baar begane apno say bhi zyada kaam kar jaate hai, (It may be true that some people have made me a stranger in my own party, but sometimes strangers do more work than those we consider our own)."

Anil Vij was dropped in the newly formed cabinet, leading to disquiet in the state party unit. Mr Vij had not attended the swearing-in ceremony of the new cabinet and left the Legislature Party meeting midway. State BJP chief Nayab Singh Saini replaced Manohar Lal Khattar



as the Chief Minister just weeks before the Lok Sabha polls. As many as eight Cabinet members, including the CM, were new faces. Seven out of eight ministers,

who were inducted on March 19, are two-term MLAs.

However, the former state home minister could not find a place for himself in the new cabinet. The omission of Anil Vij, who was the Haryana home minister, was even more surprising because there was speculation that he would be one of two deputy chief ministers appointed by the BJP after the post was vacated by Dushyant Chautala of the Jannayak Janta Party. A visibly upset Anil Vij left midway from the BJP Legislature Party meeting, which elected Mr Saini as its new leader, and did not attend his swearing-in ceremony held later in the day. When the BJP won a majority in the 90-member

Haryana Assembly in 2014 for the first time, Anil Vij was seen as a front-runner for the chief ministerial position. But, the party picked first-time MLAML Khattar for the job.

## Hope Palestinian application for UN membership will be reconsidered: India at UN

**Speaking at the UN Security Council, India said it hopes that Palestine's bid to become a full member of the United Nations, blocked by the US last month, will be reconsidered and its endeavour to become a member of the world body will be endorsed.**

**New Delhi:** India has voiced hope that Palestine's bid to become a full member of the United Nations, which was blocked by the US last month, will be reconsidered and its endeavour to become a member of the world organisation will be endorsed. The US vetoed a resolution in the UN Security Council on a Palestinian bid to be granted full membership of the United Nations last month. The 15-nation Council had voted on a draft resolution that would have recommended to the 193-member UN General Assembly "that the State of Palestine be admitted to membership in the United Nations." The resolution got 12 votes in its favour, with Switzerland and the UK abstaining and the US casting its veto. To be adopted, the draft

resolution required at least nine Council members voting in its favour, with no vetoes by any of its five permanent members - China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States. "While we have noted that Palestine's application for membership at the United Nations was not approved by the Security Council because of the aforesaid veto, I would like to state here at the very outset that in keeping with India's long-standing position, we hope that this would be reconsidered in due course and that Palestine's endeavour to become a member of the United Nations will get endorsed," India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj said at the UN. India was the first non-

Arab State to recognise the Palestine Liberation Organization as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people in 1974. India was also one of the first countries to recognise the State of Palestine in 1988 and in 1996, Delhi opened its Representative Office to the Palestine Authority in Gaza, which later was shifted to Ramallah in 2003. Currently, Palestine is a "non-member observer state" at the UN, a status granted to it by the General Assembly in 2012. This status allows Palestine to participate in proceedings of the world body, but it cannot vote on resolutions. The only other non-member Observer State at the UN is the Holy See, representing the



Vatican. Addressing a General Assembly meeting on Wednesday, Kamboj underlined that India's leadership has repeatedly emphasised that only a two-state solution achieved through direct and meaningful negotiations between Israel and Palestine on final status issues will deliver an enduring peace. "India is committed to supporting a two-state solution where the Palestinian people are

able to live freely in an independent country within secure borders with due regard to the security needs of Israel," she said. Kamboj stressed that to arrive at a lasting solution, India would urge all parties to foster conditions conducive to resuming direct peace negotiations at an early date. On April 2, Palestine sent a letter to UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres requesting that its application for full UN membership be considered again. For a State to be granted full UN membership, its application must be approved both by the Security Council and the General Assembly, where a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting is required for the State to be admitted.

## To recoup life while it's still throbbing

In August 2022, Salman Rushdie was almost killed for being "disingenuous". That was one of the reasons put forth by the writer's would-be assassin, who confessed to having read only two pages of 'The Satanic Verses'. Rushdie's fourth novel was also his most controversial. Published in 1988, it had sparked a fatwa, launched a thousand protests, triggered numerous killings (including that of the Japanese translator of the book) and compelled Rushdie to live under the shadow of death. Though he had anticipated an attack in the decade after the fatwa, it had somewhat receded until the murderous attack on his "last innocent evening" in upstate New York, where Rushdie was to ironically give a talk on the safety of writers. Death, or rather the nearness of it, is what Rushdie reflects on in his new book 'Knife: Meditations After an Attempted Murder'.

How do writers under the shadow of death confront it, grapple with it every day, and yet make meaning out of it and use it as material? Is death a battle to be fought and won, an inevitability to be made peace with, or a fear that haunts till the last living breath? Poet John Donne throws a gauntlet of irreverence at "proud" death, when he says, "Mighty and dreadful, for, thou art not so/ For, those, whom thou think'st, thou dost overthrow/ Die not, poor death, nor yet canst thou kill me."

If death made several failed encounters with Rushdie, it was an "imposing itinerant visitor" for Paul Kalanithi, the young neurosurgeon who faced it with equanimity and courage. Diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer at the age of 36, Kalanithi writes in his memoir 'When Breath Becomes Air', "I began to realise that coming face to face with my own mortality, in a sense, had changed nothing and everything." Nothing, because he knew someday he would have to die though he didn't know when. Everything, because now he knew it more acutely. There was also the more profound realisation that "even when I'm dying, until I actually die, I am still living". In the case of both Rushdie and Kalanithi, it is love and language that illuminate their lives in their darkest phases. Both harness the power of literature to recoup life while it's still throbbing. "Language was my knife," Rushdie ruminates in 'Knife', "the knife I could use to fight back" and a tool to reclaim his world, while Kalanithi, "searching for a vocabulary with which to make sense of death", found it in writing. "Words," he writes, "have a longevity I do not."

Christopher Hitchens, the literary world's best known contrarian, too, became that "finalist in the race for life" when he was diagnosed with esophageal cancer and reflects how he had been in denial for long. "But I can't see myself smiting my brow with shock or hear myself whining about how it's all so unfair: I have been taunting the Reaper into taking a free scythe in my direction and have now succumbed to something so predictable and banal that it bores even me," Hitchens writes in his memoir 'Mortality' that documents a very public dying.

"I have more than once in my time woken up feeling like death" is how Hitchens begins the book. He details his diagnosis as "a very gentle and firm deportation" into the land of malady, a land that he says is quite welcoming, where "everybody smiles encouragingly and there appears to be absolutely no racism" though the humour in this new country is "a touch feeble and repetitive" and the cuisine the worst of any destination. Then comes the rather numbing realisation that "I don't have a body, I am a body".

More pervasive though is the wry Hitchensian humour, when he describes how "the novelty of a diagnosis of malignant cancer has a tendency to wear off... even to become banal. One can become quite used to the spectre of the eternal Footman, like some lethal old bore lurking in the hallway at the end of the evening, hoping for the chance to have a word". Are life and death therefore two mutually exclusive or mutually constitutive binaries? Philosopher Jacques Derrida, mining for some understanding of this quandary from science, philosophy and psychoanalysis, argued that death must be considered neither as the opposite of life, nor as the truth or fulfilment of it, but rather as that which both limits life and makes it possible.

## Navy women script sailing history

Lt Cdr Dilna K (left) and Lt Cdr Roopa A during the flag-in ceremony of INSV Tarini.

Amid the hype and hoopla of the IPL, a significant sporting achievement has been relegated to the margins. On April 21, Lieutenant Commanders Dilna K and Roopa A, two Indian Navy officers, completed a historic transoceanic voyage on the Indian Naval Sailing Vessel (INSV) Tarini. In the process, they became the first Indian women to achieve the distinction of undertaking a transoceanic expedition in double-handed mode. The two travelled by sea, to Mauritius and back, propelling on wind power alone. They spent nearly two months on a small sailing vessel braving rough seas, strong winds, high waves, treacherous currents and much else that nature throws at you in the wilderness of oceans. While India has in its ocean sailing catalogue feats of solo sailing and sailing by a group of people (usually six), this is the first time it has been done double-handed — crewed by only two — over such a long distance. Dilna and Roopa will now prepare for their next big challenge. The Navy is preparing to flag off the 'Sagar Parikrama IV' expedition, a circumnavigation of the globe, on INSV Tarini, scheduled to commence in September.

Interestingly, both have an armed forces background — Dilna's father was in the Army while Roopa's served in the Air Force. Both were also actively involved in the NCC before joining the Navy and have led Navy's Republic Day marching contingents. Dilna is a commerce graduate who joined the Logistics branch in the Navy. She has also been a national-level shooter. Roopa has been a university rank holder in aeronautical engineering who joined the Navy's Armament Inspectorate branch. She is an active marathon runner. Both have logged an impressive 38,000 nautical miles of sailing under their belt.

Ever since they volunteered for 'Sagar Parikrama IV' in 2022, both women have made INSV Tarini their home. They often stay on the ship even when it is berthed alongside its home port in Goa and they are the ones who clean its decks and sweep its floors and do all the 'ship's husbandry' tasks. The Navy's Ocean Sailing Node in Goa gives them a full range of off-shore support, infrastructure and academic guidance. INS Mandovi acts as the mothership nurturing the vessel and the sailors, and the Indian Naval Sailing Association at Delhi handles the overall development of sailing in the Indian Navy.

The Navy has exhaustively trained these officers in all aspects of ocean sailing. Further, a full-fledged medical support team, which includes a psychologist



and sleep medicine specialist, monitors their health and medical fitness. Above all, they have an ace in the form of the legendary Abhilash Tomy, who joined them as a mentor in August 2023.

In praise of the sailors, Tomy says, "My job was tremendously reduced thanks to the willingness and effort that the women have put in... Personally, I think they have done well, especially in comparison to the other crew who have sailed the route. They have been safe and quite professional in dealing with

defects in the boat and navigating it, and have brought the boat back in an excellent state of preservation."

Quite fascinatingly, in Cowes, UK, on April 22, a sailing yacht appropriately called 'Maiden' won the McIntyre Ocean Globe Race, becoming the first all-women crew to win an around-the-world yacht race. The crew included two Indians who sailed in different legs. Lt Cdr Payal Gupta is a serving Navy officer and Dhanya Pilo is the daughter of a retired Navy officer. Their triumph needs a separate telling.

## Reviewing NOTA

Need to make it a potent option for voters

THE electoral no-show in Surat, where BJP candidate Mukesh Dalal was declared the winner unopposed, has reignited the debate on the NOTA (none of the above) option for voters. The episode underscores the need for reforms to ensure that the fundamental right of citizens to choose their representatives is not violated or denied. The introduction of NOTA in 2013 on the directions of the Supreme Court was a landmark step aimed at empowering voters and holding political parties accountable. However, the Surat fiasco highlights the limitations of NOTA in its current form. Lacking teeth, it has repeatedly failed to influence the poll result. The latest outcome has raised questions about the integrity of the electoral process and the centrality of voters in a democratic exercise. Should a candidate be declared victorious without having faced any opposition? Should NOTA necessitate a repoll if it gets more votes



than any contestant? The apex court has issued a notice to the Election Commission of India (ECI) on a plea seeking a repoll in

constituencies where NOTA receives the majority of the votes. This calls for a re-evaluation of NOTA's role in the electoral process. While NOTA serves as a symbolic gesture of dissent — a negative vote — its true potential lies in catalysing systemic change and deterring parties from fielding unsuitable candidates. Countries like Indonesia mandate a repoll if NOTA emerges 'victorious', thus ensuring that citizens' dissatisfaction is addressed comprehensively. The ECI must explore ways to enhance NOTA's effectiveness, including considering proposals to annul the elections in constituencies where it bags the highest number of votes. This will compel political parties to nominate candidates with an unblemished reputation. Promoting NOTA — or the right to reject — as a 'fictional' nominee can make it a potent tool of democratic expression.

## A strong case for corrective advertisements

Patanjali Ayurved has finally issued an "unconditional public apology" for its disobedience of the directions and orders of the Supreme Court, through large advertisements, but is it enough

Patanjali Ayurved has finally issued an "unconditional public apology" for its disobedience of the directions and orders of the Supreme Court, through large advertisements, but is it enough?

The apex court will obviously deliberate on this issue at its next hearing, but for consumers, who have been misled for years, nothing short of a series of court-directed 'corrective advertisements' to set right the erroneous impressions created by the company's campaigns and advertisements will do. Consumers have a right to information and informed choice and it is imperative that Patanjali informs, through corrective advertisements, that it advertised its products despite knowing fully well that it was violating the Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act and the Drugs and Cosmetics Act and also admits the misrepresentations. The prominence and duration of such advertisements should correspond to the original ones. Such advertisements would not only hold the company accountable for its misdeeds, but also send out a warning to all those businesses who unabashedly peddle lies and half-truths about their products and services, at the cost of consumers' health and safety. In fact, such misrepresentations strike at the very root of the citizen's fundamental right to life and flowing from it, right to health, safe food and drug. The concept of corrective advertisements may have its share of naysayers, particularly among businesses, but I have always been a strong votary of corrective advertisements as the most effective legal remedy for false and misleading advertisements. First, it cures the erroneous impression created by such advertisements in the minds of consumers. Second, if used effectively, it can be a very strong deterrent against misrepresentations because the perpetrator is forced

to invest heavily in advertisements that actually expose him and hold him accountable for misleading the public. Third, even when a false advertisement is pulled down, there is always a time lag between its appearance and its withdrawal, by which time it would have already conveyed the misinformation. It's for this reason that every law, regulation, irrespective of the sector, dealing with false and misleading advertisements should have a provision for corrective advertisement and it must be enforced extensively and effectively. I put particular emphasis on the enforcement because having successfully pushed for the corrective advertisement provision in the Consumer Protection Act as well as the Food Safety and Standards (Advertising and Claims) Regulations, I am extremely disappointed that most often, the provision is ignored. Even when applied by consumer courts, there is a lack of understanding of its objective and therefore, the corrective advertisement does not serve the intended purpose. One of the best examples of corrective advertisements can be found in the directions of a federal court in the United States in what is commonly known as the Civil Racketeering lawsuit against tobacco companies. Accordingly, in 2017, major tobacco companies had to issue corrective statements as full-page advertisements in at least 50 newspapers around the country once a



week for one year and also broadcast them as 30 and 45-second prime time shots on major TV networks. The corrective statements had to refer to the manipulation of cigarette design and composition to enhance nicotine delivery, adverse health effects of smoking, addictiveness of cigarette smoking and nicotine, absence of health benefits from smoking low tar, light, ultra-light, mild and natural cigarettes, and adverse health effects of exposure to secondhand smoking.

Patanjali's promotion of its drugs makes a strong case

for corrective advertisements because the company has constantly flouted laws with impunity and misled consumers for years. It cocked a snook at the enforcement authorities. It even tried that with the Supreme Court! The Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act prohibits advertising and promotion of any drug for the diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment and prevention of any disease, disorder or condition specified in the Schedule of the Act. And the Schedule covers almost all diseases, including diabetes, high or low blood pressure, glaucoma, and goitre. Yet, Patanjali advertised drugs for these diseases consistently, despite notices from the Uttarakhand licensing authority, following complaints.

The law also prohibits misleading advertisements, and many of its advertisements, forwarded by the Union Ministry of Consumer Affairs

to the Advertising Standards Council of India (on complaints from consumers), were found to be misleading. And such infractions have gone on for years. In fact, Patanjali's belligerence also speaks very poorly of the enforcement agencies and calls for strict action against officials who failed to act suo motu, and also on complaints. It also calls for more transparency in the working of enforcement agencies and regular scrutiny of their work through independent agencies.





## Kotak Mahindra bank shares fall after joint MD KVS Manian resigns

**New Delhi** Shares of Kotak Mahindra fell almost 4% in early trade on Thursday after joint MD KVS Manian resigned from the private lender with immediate effect. The stock has declined by 11% over the past five days and was trading at Rs 1563.50, 3.72% lower on the BSE at the time this article was being written. Manian's resignation comes days after Kotak Mahindra Bank was barred by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) from onboarding new customers online or issuing new credit cards. The bank's board has approved his resignation, as disclosed in a regulatory filing to the exchanges.

Manian, previously a whole-time director at the bank, was promoted to the role of joint MD starting March 1, 2024, following the appointment of Ashok Vaswani as the new MD and CEO. The former joint MD said in his resignation, that he was exploring other opportunities in the financial sector. "The variety of assignments handled during my career with the company have enriched me as a professional. I was truly fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with colleagues with brilliant minds and unlimited passion to imagine and achieve things that are out of the ordinary. There are just too many of such people to be named in such a short letter," said Manian. Nomura India in a report said that Kotak Mahindra Bank could face reputational impact following the RBI's action. The brokerage will monitor how the situation unfolds, particularly given the stern tone of the RBI's press release. Manian mentioned that he briefly worked with CEO Ashok Vaswani but feels that the future direction of the bank "is truly transformational."

## Sensex, Nifty rise in volatile trade; Power Grid gains 3%

**New Delhi** Benchmark stock market indices opened the trading session on a positive note despite high volatility on Dalal Street. The S&P BSE Sensex was up 149.28 points at 74,632.06 at 10 am, while the NSE Nifty50 gained 38.85 points to 22,643.70.

The other broader market indices also gained momentum in early trade, taking cues from the benchmarks. Among sectoral indices, Nifty Auto was the top gainer, followed by Nifty Financial Services and Nifty Pharma. On the other hand, Nifty Realty fell over 1.1% and was the top loser among sectoral indices. The top five gainers on the Nifty50 were Power Grid, BPCL, M&M, Asian Paints and Grasim. The top drags were Kotak Mahindra Bank, Hindalco, Tata Consumer Products, Maruti and Wipro.

Kotak Mahindra Bank shares fell after its joint MD KVS Mani resigned from his position with immediate effect. His resignation comes days after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) took action against the private lender.

Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd, said, "Today's trading is expected to be volatile as the Federal Reserve maintains interest rates at a 23-year high due to inflation concerns."

"Positive factors include record-high GST revenue, FII and DII being net buyers, and WTI oil prices falling below \$80 a barrel," he added.

Tapse went on to say that investors anticipate a pre-election rally and Federal Reserve Chair Powell dismissing talks of 'stagflation'.

## Gold, silver price : Precious metals record hike on MCX

**NEW DELHI** Both gold and silver prices recorded a hike on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) on Thursday, May 2, 2024. Gold futures, maturing on June 5, 2024, stood at Rs 71,175 per 10 grams on the MCX, after recording a jump of Rs 450 or 0.64 per cent. The previous close was recorded at Rs 70,725.

Meanwhile, silver futures, maturing on July 5, 2024, witnessed a hike of Rs 159 or 0.20 per cent and were retailing at Rs 81,386 per kg on the MCX against the previous close of Rs 81,227. The gold and silver prices in India depend on several factors, including the value of the rupee against the dollar. Global demand also plays a key role in determining the trends observed in the rate of precious metals.

## Commercial LPG cylinder price cut Rs 19, ATF up 0.7%

**NEW DELHI** State-owned oil marketing companies (OMCs) on Wednesday reduced price of commercial LPG cylinders, used by businesses such as hotels and restaurants, by Rs 19 with immediate effect.

The price of a 19-kg commercial LPG cylinder will cost Rs 1,745.50 in Delhi. In April, the price of the same cylinder was reduced by Rs 30.5. However, there is no change in the price of the domestic LPG cylinder. But OMCs such as Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL), and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited



(BPCL) hiked aviation turbine fuel (ATF) prices by 0.7%. As per the price notification, ATF price in Delhi has been raised by Rs 749.25 per kilolitre to Rs 101,642.88 per kl. Earlier this year, on February 1 and March 1, commercial LPG prices had risen by Rs 14 and Rs 25.5 per cylinder, respectively, before the first reduction on April 1. The OMCs revise ATF and LPG prices on the first day of every month based on international fuel prices and exchange rates. In March, domestic cooking gas prices were cut by Rs 100 and extended Rs 300 subsidy for LPG cylinders for Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana beneficiaries.

# Questions over Adani's bid for Chennai-based power company Coastal Energen

**The Rs 3,500 crore resolution plan has been approved by lenders of Coastal Energen, and is due for approval by the NCLT.**

**NEW DELHI.** Former promoter of Chennai-based power company Coastal Energen Pvt Ltd has moved NCLT against the resolution plan submitted by the Consortium of Dickey Alternate Investment Trust (DAIT) and Adani Power Ltd. The plea submitted by suspended director MK Parmeshawaram in the Chennai bench of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has pointed out 'glaring irregularities' in the way the resolution plan was approved by the lenders. A copy of the plea is with the New Indian

Express. The Rs 3,500 crore resolution plan has been approved by lenders of Coastal Energen, and is due for approval by the NCLT. According to the plea filed by the promoters of the power company before the NCLT, Adani Power piggy-backed Dickey Alternate Investment Trust to get a backdoor entry into the bidding process after the Adani's expression of interest (EoI) was rejected by the resolution professional (RP) for delayed submission. As per the plea, the EoI terms required any entity submitting an EoI as a consortium to do so at the outset, submitting the required documents and annexures as a consortium and not in an individual capacity. "This raised the questions about the legitimacy of DAIT's involvement in a consortium with Adani Power, especially since DAIT has



already submitted a resolution plan in its individual capacity, and the Adani Power's EoI had been rejected for delayed submission," reads the plea submitted by the former promoter. The submission made by the promoter also highlights that there are no documented deliberations or discussions between the

RP and the lenders regarding the inclusion of Adani Power as prospective resolution applicant. It also says no justifications were given for condoning the delay in submission of EoI by Adani Power. The plea made by the promoter also points fingers at the possible conflict of interest 'undisclosed' by the RP and the Committee of Creditors (CoC).

An Adani Power spokesperson refused to comment on the issue. It must be pointed out here that the promoters of the company had offered a one-time settlement of debt with the lenders. The offer included a total payment of Rs 5,847 crore, including 15% ownership of the company to its lenders to settle its debts. Coastal Energen is promoted by Ahmed AR Buhari, and is undergoing a corporate insolvency resolution process since February 2022. The company owes Rs 2,000 crore to different lenders.

## Google lays off 200 'core' team employees, to shift jobs to India, Mexico: Report

**New Delhi,** Google has laid off at least 200 employees from its 'core' team, just ahead of its blowout first-quarter earnings report on April 25. According to a report with CNBC, the tech giant will also move some roles to India and Mexico. This comes nearly two days after Google fired employees from its Flutter, Dart, and Python teams just weeks before its annual developer conference. At least 50 of the positions eliminated were in engineering at the company's offices in Sunnyvale, California, the report claimed. The layoffs were announced by Asim Husain, vice president of Google Developer Ecosystem, who sent an email to his employees last week. He also spoke at a town hall and



told employees that this was the biggest planned reduction for his team this year, it said. "We intend to maintain our current global footprint while also expanding in high-growth global workforce locations so that we can operate closer to our partners and developer communities," the email by Husain read. According to Google's

website, the 'core' team builds the technical foundation behind the company's flagship products.

The team is responsible for underlying design elements, developer platforms, product components, and infrastructure at Google. In April this year, news agency Reuters reported that Tesla plans to lay off 6,020 employees in Texas and California as part of its strategy to address declining demand and decreasing profit margins. This came amid increasing pressure on the company due to a decrease in sales and increased competition in the electric vehicle market.

The EV manufacturer saw a decline in its quarterly profits for the first time since 2020.

## Waning demand, high base effect pull down car sales

**NEW DELHI:** Impacted by waning pent-up demand over a very high base, passenger vehicle (PV) wholesales are estimated to have grown by a meagre 1.50% year-on-year in April 2024 to about 340,000 units. Sales of the three top players - Maruti Suzuki (MSIL), Hyundai Motor (HMIL) and Tata Motors - barely managed to remain in green last month.

"The relatively subdued growth partly stems from waning pent-up replacement demand, which supported the industry over the past couple of years, and also the effect of a higher base," said Srikumar Krishnamurthy, Senior VP & Co-Group Head - Corporate Ratings, ICRA Limited.

"The domestic PV industry reached an all-time high volume of 4.2 million units in FY24, with retail sales being

aided by healthy replacement demand. Even as the underlying demand drivers remain supportive, the volume growth for the PV segment is likely to moderate to 3-6% (from an elevated base) during FY2025," added Krishnamurthy.

The industry is now pinning hopes on new launches, a normal monsoon and a favourable elaaaaction outcome to generate fresh demand and push sales growth numbers higher. The country's largest carmaker Maruti Suzuki's (MSIL) domestic PV sales stood at 137,952 units in April 2024 compared to 137,320 units sold in April 2023 - a flat growth. This is a big slump sequentially given the carmaker had sold 152,718 units in March 2023.

MSIL sales were lifted by the utility vehicle segment as demand for its mini and compact cars continued to remain under tremendous pressure.

The carmaker is now betting big on the new Swift to revive its fortune in the compact segment.

Hyundai Motor India (HMIL) registered total sales of 63,701 units (Domestic 50,201 units and exports 13,500 units) in April 2024, posting a YOY growth of 9.5%. HMIL's domestic sales, however, grew by just 1% YoY to 50,201 units last month.

"In the first month of the new financial year, it looks like industry sales grew about 1.5%. This is because of the high base of the last two years.

Hoping for recovery  
The industry is now pinning hopes on new launches, a normal monsoon and a sfavourable election outcome to generate fresh demand and push sales growth numbers higher. Maruti Suzuki's domestic PV sales stood at 137,952 units in April 2024 as against 137,320 units sold in April 2023

MUMBAI: The dominance of Maharashtra continued unabated with its share in assets under management touching a tad less than 41% in March, mutual fund body Amfi data showed on Wednesday. The next top four states' contribution is a little over half of this western state, which rose from Rs 22.41 lakh crore in February this year to Rs 22.52 lakh crore in March. With Maharashtra controlling nearly 40.93% of the industry, the top 5 states corner 68% of the market that has 44 fund houses with a combined AUM of Rs 55.01 lakh crore as of March, as per an analysis of the state-wise spilt of mutual fund investments. The next four are New Delhi at 8.41%, Karnataka at 6.92%, Gujarat at 6.89% and Bengal at 5.20%. During the past fiscal the MF industry grew 37%, taking the assets under management to Rs 55.01 lakh crore, driven by the massive inflows into open-ended equity schemes, which clipped past 10% in March to Rs 22,633 crore from Rs 20,534 crore in March 2023. Despite the industry notching up 37% more in FY24, as many as five of the 37 states and Union Territories saw a sequential decline in

AUM in March as against just two in February. Andhra, Goa, Kerala, the Lakshadweep and Sikkim saw sequential declines in the reporting month with the Lakshadweep seeing the highest contraction of 57.90%, followed by Sikkim at 3.22% and Kerala at 0.59%. Interestingly, the top 5 states in terms of sequential growth are Daman & Diu, Manipur, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Meghalaya, and Tripura. The Union Territory of Daman & Diu saw the highest sequential growth at 3.60% followed by Manipur at 3.09% and Dadra & Nagar Haveli at 2.62%. Equity-oriented schemes continued to get the maximum share from all the states for third consecutive month contributing the most towards AUM at 51.96%.



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# India's manufacturing growth remains strong despite slight easing in April

**The HSBC final India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), compiled by S&P Global, dipped to 58.8 in April from a 16-year high of 59.1 in March.**

India's manufacturing sector growth remained strong in April even as it eased slightly compared to the previous month.

The performance was primarily attributed to sustained demand, prompting businesses to increase their procurement of raw materials at a near-record pace, according to a recent business survey.

The HSBC final India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), compiled by S&P Global, dipped to 58.8 in April from a 16-year high of 59.1 in March. While this decrease was below the preliminary estimate of no change, it still



indicated solid expansion, marking the 34th consecutive month of growth.

The PMI, which separates growth from contraction, remained comfortably above the 50-mark. Pranjal Bhandari, Chief India Economist at HSBC, highlighted that April's manufacturing PMI recorded

the second-fastest improvement in operating conditions in three-and-a-half years, buoyed by robust demand. Despite the slight easing in output and new orders sub-indexes from March, they still represented the second-best readings in over three years, signaling strong demand

both domestically and internationally. Business optimism also saw an uptick as firms anticipated sustained demand and increased production volumes in the next 12 months. This positive sentiment translated into increased hiring for a second consecutive month, potentially addressing the concerning issue of lackluster job growth in the country. As businesses geared up for higher production levels, they increased their stocks of raw materials at the third-fastest rate since the survey's inception over 19 years ago. However, the surge in demand led to a modest uptick in both input and output prices, although inflation remained within the central bank's target range of 2-6%. "On the price front, higher costs of raw materials and labour led to a modest uptick in input costs, but inflation remains below the historical average," said Bhandari. "However, firms passed these increases onto consumers through higher output charges, as demand remained resilient, resulting in improved margins," she added.

# Katrina Kaif

Says Rajneeti, ZNMD Played A Big Role In Her Career: 'I'd Call Them Moments In My Life'

Even after more than 21 years in Bollywood, Katrina Kaif feels she still has a long way to go and more to achieve. Currently, she's busy trying to work with her favorite directors. Recently, she got to work with Sriram Raghavan for the first time on their film Merry Christmas, which was released earlier this year. The film, also featuring Tamil actor Vijay Sethupathy, was based on Frédéric Dard's French novel Le Montecharge (Bird in a Cage). Speaking to Variety, Katrina expressed her love for the book, praising its tender, poetic, and mysterious qualities, reminiscent of Hitchcock, and its mix of drama, mystery, and murder presented in a unique way. Praising Raghavan, she said that his characters on screen have a realness and depth to them. "There's a certain rawness and realness to the characters in his films when you watch them on screen. They're very flawed, they're very imperfect, but



there's like a tangible, humane quality about them. They feel very real, like I've seen this person or I know this person. He has a certain grip on having something relatable to what he depicts on screen, even though sometimes the situations are so outlandish, but yet the characters are so you can feel you can understand what they're going through, and you relate to their emotions," she said. However, Merry Christmas isn't the

only movie she's proud of. Katrina Kaif also mentioned a few titles that played a big role in her career. These include Namaste London (2007), Welcome (2007), Singh Is King (2008), New York (2009), Ajab Prem Ki Ghazab Kahani (2009), Rajneeti (2010), and Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara (2011). She also said she doesn't just see them as movies but like top moments in her life. "I wouldn't call them films, I would call them moments in my life. They were surrounded by an entire emotion, an entire feeling. It wasn't just playing a character and going home, it seeped into my life at that time, the film would become my entire life. That film, that crew, that moment, that environment would become my whole life. I'd be consumed and then the film would release and there would be a moment of emptiness and loss. And then you would go on to the next one. These are all incredible moments for me as an actor, as a performer," added Katrina.



Aamir Khan To Have A Cameo Appearance As Don For Imran Khan's Comeback Film Happy Patel: Report



After a hiatus of almost 9 years, Bollywood actor Imran Khan is all set to make his comeback in cinema. The actor is all set to star in a comedy venture produced by his maternal uncle Aamir Khan's production house. However, Buzz says that Aamir will also be starring in the film. According to a report by peepingmoon.com Aamir Khan will be making a brief cameo appearance in the movie. Reportedly, Aamir will be playing the role of Don, which will add more thrill to the plot. If these reports are true, this will mark Aamir and Imran's first on-screen appearance in a film together. The upcoming film is said to be a satirical spy comedy based on the popular American film series, Austin Powers. A source close to the production house revealed, "It's a spy film with a dash of comic touch and explores an untapped and brand new terrain in Bollywood cinema. Imran will be playing a secret agent in this film, alongside Vir Das, who is also directing, writing, and co-producing it. This is a fun entertainer packed with comedy, action, drama, and lots of twists, much like their highly acclaimed black comedy, Delhi Belly." Described as a laughter-filled riot, the film embraces a blend of familiar elements and a unique, refreshing setting that harks back to Imran's past works. According to an industry insider, filming has already begun in Goa for this eagerly anticipated movie. The source revealed, "Imran has finally locked in his comeback project, nearly eight months after he hinted at the possibility of returning to movies last year. He will star in and play Happy Patel in a quirky comedy produced by Aamir Khan Productions. The film is a laugh-riot and is set in a familiar yet uniquely fresh world, reminiscent of Imran's previous works. Shooting has already commenced in Goa.

Actress Kranti Redkar Shares She Lost 5 Kg In 10 Days



Actress Kranti Redkar is one of the popular actresses in the Marathi cinema. She often shares pictures and videos that set the internet on fire. Recently, she dropped a video and shared about losing 5 kg in 10 days. The video is now gaining traction on social media. In the viral video, the actress is seen taking a weight loss challenge. She wore a traditional ensemble as she recorded a video for her fans. Keeping it minimal, she wore perfectly drawn eyebrows, bindi, mascara-laden eyelashes, and a brown lip shade. In the video, she was also seen pairing her outfit with a pair of exquisite earrings.

So far, the video has garnered over 7,59,000 views and is still increasing. Several social media users have commented on the video. One user wrote, "We don't want to name anyone else, we want what we have". Another user added, "You look very beautiful". "Don't lose weight for anyone," wrote one person. Some time back, she posted a similar video sharing a quick way to lose weight. The clip generated a huge noise on the internet. In the video, Kranti revealed the secret to losing two and a half kilos in a short period. She jokingly suggested, "I lost two and a half to three kilos in the last one and a half weeks. Now, how did I do it? What's the secret? Well, there's no secret. It's quite simple. Just apply white nail polish on your right hand. If it's a gel and a bit pricier, even better."

Kranti Redkar is well-known for her performances in films such as Gangaajal, Shikshanachya Aaicha Gho and Majha Navra Tujhi Bayko. Her notable projects also include movies like Karaar, Rocky, Baalaa, Murder Mestri and Yudh. Astitvachi Ladai. She made her directorial debut with Kaakan in 2015.

Kranti Redkar, who is married to IPS officer Sameer Wankhede, became a mother to twins named Zyda and Ziya a few years after their wedding. During a challenging time when Sameer faced criticism from Maharashtra politicians for his role in the narcotics case involving Shah Rukh Khan's son, Aryan Khan, on a Mumbai cruise, Kranti remained supportive of her husband.

## Ranveer Singh

Teams Up With Prasanth Varma For A Mythological Thriller 'Rakshas'

Ranveer Singh is gearing up to team up with 'Hanuman' director Prasanth Varma for his upcoming film. Buzz is that the film that he has signed is set against the backdrop of Indian mythology and that the film has been tentatively titled Rakshas. Reportedly, Ranveer's character will also have shades of negative forces in the film. A source close to the development informed Pinkvilla that "it's a part of the Prasanth Varma Cinematic Universe, where the director is introducing several characters before bringing them all together in the finale. Ranveer is blown away by the vision and long-term plans that his director has for the universe and is excited to embark on the journey of Rakshas soon." Reportedly, the script and the pre-visualisation of the film have been in place, and the makers are now figuring out the timelines of the shoot. The source added, "Ranveer has met

Prasanth Varma and the team multiple times over the last few weeks and has already done a pooja for the film on the occasion of Hanuman Jayanti in Hyderabad. Rakshas is positioned as a historical drama unfolding in the pre-independence era, enriched with mythological elements. Ranveer's role in the film is rumoured to embody a complex character with shades of negativity and darkness. While the specifics of his character are remain undisclosed, the narrative promises to delve into the realm of Indian mythology.

Ranveer Singh is also slated to appear in Rohit Shetty's 'Singham Again', featuring an ensemble cast including Deepika Padukone, Ajay Devgn, Akshay Kumar, Tiger Shroff, and Kareena Kapoor Khan. Additionally, he is involved in Farhan Akhtar's 'Don 3'. Last year, Farhan Akhtar unveiled Ranveer Singh as the new Don in the teaser for Don 3: The Final Chapter. The teaser included Ranveer's voiceover, resonating with the awakening of a lion: "Sher jo so raha hain woh jagega kab, puchte hai yeh sab. Unse keh do phir jaag utha hoon main, aur phir samne jald aane ko."

