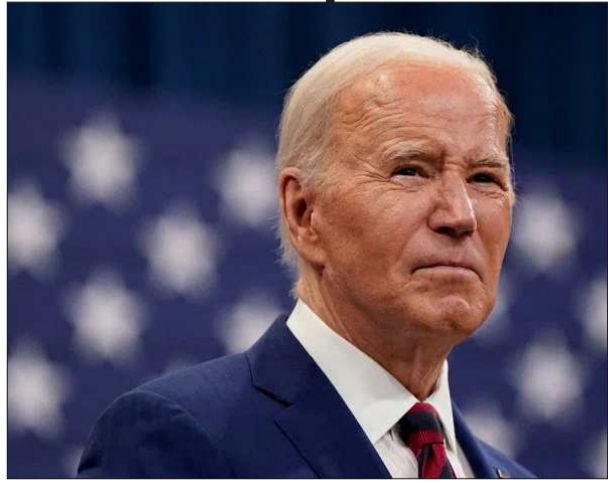


Biden signs into law ban on Russian nuclear reactor fuel imports



The International Press : The ban on imports of the fuel for nuclear power plants begins in about 90 days, although it allows the Department of Energy to issue waivers in case of supply concerns. Russia is the world's top supplier of enriched uranium, and about 24% of the enriched uranium used by US nuclear power plants come from the country. The law also unlocks about \$2.7 billion in funding in previous legislation to build out the US uranium fuel industry. "Today, President Biden signed into law a historic series of actions that will strengthen our nation's energy and economic security by reducing, and ultimately eliminating, our reliance on Russia for civilian nuclear power," Jake Sullivan, the national security adviser, said in a statement. Sullivan said the law "delivers on multilateral goals we have set with our allies and partners," including a pledge

last December with Canada, France, Japan and the United Kingdom to collectively invest \$4.2 billion to expand enrichment and conversion capacity of uranium. The waivers, if implemented by the Energy Department, allow all the Russian uranium imports the US normally imports through 2027. Anatoly Antonov, Russia's ambassador to the United States, said that Washington's decision is leading to shocks in global economic relations, but will not bring the desired results. "The delicate balance between exporters and importers of uranium products is being disrupted," the Russian embassy in Washington cited Antonov as saying in a post on its Telegram messaging channel. "Life has confirmed that the Russian economy is ready for any challenges and quickly responds to emerging difficulties, even extracting dividends from the situation. It will be so this time too."



Vice-President urges citizens to prioritize the nation's interests above all

The International Press : The Vice-President, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar today urged citizens to prioritize the nation's interests above all, taking guidance from the eternal teachings of the Bhagavad Gita.

■ The Vice-President, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar today urged citizens to prioritize the nation's interests above all, taking guidance from the eternal teachings of the Bhagavad Gita.

Underscoring the timeless wisdom of Gita as a guiding light amidst uncertainty, Shri Dhankhar emphasized that Gita illuminates the path of sublimity, spirituality, religiosity, commitment to your duty, and distancing yourself from self. Addressing the gathering at the release of Dr. Subhash Kashyap's Commentary on the Bhagavad Gita at Parliament House, Shri Dhankhar drew attention to the 22 miniatures or mini paintings in the original copy of the constitution, drawing inspiration from Gita. With a focus on Part 4's Directive Principles of State Policy, he draws a profound comparison to the teachings of Bhagavad Gita, where Lord Krishna imparts wisdom to Arjuna on the battlefield of Kurukshetra. Highlighting the vast experience of Dr Kashyap in Indian Parliamentary Democracy, Shri Dhankhar stated

that Dr. Kashyap has witnessed the plight of coalition, the relief from which that coalition came in 2014. He further added that with the end of coalition government, the nation conferred upon Dr. Subhash Kashyap well earned Padma Bhushan. Admiring Dr Kashyap's his constitutional morality, propriety, high ethical values, Shri Dhankhar stated that he never looked at issues from a political prism, instead held his views with conviction and uprightness. Reflecting upon the time when world bodies like IMF, World Bank used to dictate India regarding conducting national affairs, Shri Dhankhar drew attention to the shifting global economic landscape where India has become the 5th largest global economy surpassing economies like France, the UK, Canada, Brazil. Highlighting the transformative shift occurring in Kashmir's tourism landscape, Shri Dhankhar further reflected on the remarkable influx of tourists in the scenic valley of Kashmir, marking a significant departure from past trends.

India Lok Sabha polls: Modi files nomination from Varanasi



The International Press : Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi today filed his nomination papers from the Varanasi Lok Sabha constituency in the most populous state of Uttar Pradesh. Voting in Varanasi will be held on June 1 in the seventh and last phase of the Lok Sabha elections in India. Modi, seeking a rare third consecutive term, filed his nomination papers to the returning officer, who is the district magistrate at the Collectorate, our New Delhi correspondent reports. Modi has secured wins with big margin in the Hindu pilgrimage town of Varanasi in the last general elections in 2014 and 2019. Just ahead of filing the nomination, Modi offered prayers at Dashashwamegh ghat on the banks of the Ganges in the constituency visited the Kal Bhairav temple. He also performed 'aarati' at the ghat amid chanting of Vedic mantras. While filing his nomination, Modi was accompanied by senior leaders of his party BJP and its regional allies. Yesterday, Modi had held a six-kilometre roadshow in Varanasi after which he said, "The love and blessings showered by my family members of

Kashi during the road show has become an unforgettable moment of my life." Media reports said Modi chose the timing of nomination filing 11:40am as the auspicious time hour as per the almanac of Abhijit Muhurat and Anand Yog. According to Hindu astrology, Abhijit Muhurat is the eighth muhurat of the day, occurring between the sunrise and the sunset. Pushya Nakshatra is also considered an auspicious time in Hindu astrology as it is believed that performing activities during this time brings good luck and blessings.

The 4th Technology Innovation in Cyber-Physical Systems (TIPS) workshop organised at the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay



The International Press : The 4th Technology Innovation in Cyber-Physical Systems (TIPS) workshop organised on 13th May at the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay. It is a bi-annual workshop wherein each of the 25 Technology Innovation Hubs TIHs demonstrates the progress and achievements made. It is a platform for all the stakeholders including the government, startups, investors, academia, and industry, to interact, exchange ideas and witness the cutting-edge technology development in Cyber-Physical Systems domain. Prof. Abhay Karandikar, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology speaking at the inaugural ceremony said "The cyber-physical systems represent an area that is becoming more and more important in the increasingly pervasive digital world and will drive all sectors of our economy in the near future." He further highlighted that "The 25 Technology Innovation Hubs are generating disruptive technologies through unique initiatives." The Technology Innovation Hubs are housed within premier academic institutes. Offering a flexible environment for R&D, these TIHs are dedicated to advancing technology development and translation, fostering human resource and skill development, promoting entrepreneurship and start-ups, and facilitating international collaborative research endeavours in cyber physical systems (CPS). Stellar technologies from some of the hubs were showcased in a compendium released on the occasion. These included smart IoT solutions for monitoring crop and soil health & smart patch for early warning and management of diabetes, from TIH of IIT Bombay; IT-OT Security Operation Center for 24x7 monitoring of cyber threats & Blockchain Technology-based System for secure, transparent, & tamper-proof storage and management of Development Rights Certificates (DRCs) in cities, from C3 Hub of IIT Kanpur; 5G Lab and Standardization Effect Lab & Optimized Mobile Surgical Unit for Cataract Surgeries in Remote Areas from Pravartak Technologies Foundation of IIT Madras; Autonomous Vehicles – Map-based Navigation from TIHAN Foundation of IIT Hyderabad; Biodiversity Sensor & AI-powered livestock management CPS to monitor behaviour of livestock, Of Awadh Foundation of IIT Ropar. The hubs learnt from each other's success stories and failures through the two-day workshop. The workshop also included an investors pitch for showcasing products and technologies to venture capitalists and angel investors for funding and a tech expo in which cutting edge disruptive technologies developed by the hubs were displayed. Secretary, DST categorically mentioned that "This unique model to bring the industry, faculty, students and investors in this area together can help catalyse an ecosystem of deep-tech startups. It can set the template for such hub and spoke models for successfully driving innovations in new & emerging areas and make India a world leader in the area." Dr. Kris Gopalakrishnan, Chairman, Mission Governing Board, NM-ICPS defined the need for a cultural change to create products and technologies in the institutions so that the R&D of the industries can be shifted to these institutions. Prof Ramgopal Rao, Chairman, Scientific Advisory Committee, NM-ICPS; Prof Shireesh Kedare, Director IIT Bombay, Senior Officials of Department of Science and Technology, Technology Innovation Hub along with faculty and students of IIT Bombay as well as venture capitalists also graced the inaugural ceremony of the two-day workshop.

Defence Secretary joins in celebration and releases commemorative coin on MDL's completion of 250 years



Mumbai, May 14, 2024 : The International Press : Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL) today celebrates the completion of 250 years, commemorating an extraordinary journey, spanning over two and a half centuries. From a humble beginning as a small dry dock in 1774, to its incorporation in 1934, and subsequently, its stewardship under the Government of India since 1960, completion of 250 years of MDL is a milestone that marks a testament of resilience, growth and enduring legacy. To mark this occasion of immense significance MDL today organized a series of events including inauguration of adjacent land acquired from MPA, launch of prototype of indigenous midget submarine 'Arowana', commissioning of Solar Electric Hybrid boat, release of MDL's

Commemorative Coin which marks the 250 years completed and conducting a daylong technical seminar. Defence Secretary Shri Giridhar Aramane was the chief guest on the occasion. The Defence Secretary formally inaugurated the contiguous piece of land acquired from the Mumbai Port Authority. This facility would be developed for simultaneous construction & outfitting of New Builds, Repairs / Refits of various types of vessels. The new infrastructure will give adequate bandwidth to MDL for simultaneous execution of various projects. MDL has successfully completed platform design and hull of the midget submarine named 'Arowana' which was launched by Defence Secretary today. MDL has been building submarines since 1984 with

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Principal Scientific Adviser to the GoI Chairs Meeting to Discuss Biomass Cultivation on Degraded Land for Green Biohydrogen Production

Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) to the Government of India, Professor Ajay Kumar Sood, convened the first meeting to discuss biomass cultivation on degraded land for green biohydrogen production and bioenergy generation today (May 14,



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Editorial

Ministry of Tourism participates in IMEX, Frankfurt 2024 to showcase India as a premier global hub for MICE activities

Ministry of Tourism, Government of India is participating in IMEX, Frankfurt from 14th-16th May 2024. The Ministry of Tourism aims to showcase the strengths of India as a leading MICE destination to the global market and to act as a catalyst to bring forth greater number of Conferences and Conventions to be hosted in the country. IMEX is a hub for the global events industry, which offers a valuable and lucrative opportunity for professionals to enhance businesses, foster genuine connections, and gain invaluable insights. Ministry has identified MICE as a niche sector to address the issue of seasonality and showcase India as a 365-days destination. In line with this effort, Ministry has introduced 'Meet in India' as a specialized sub-brand within the 'Incredible India' campaign. This sub-brand aims to enhance promotional initiatives, showcasing India as an appealing MICE destination equipped with top-tier connectivity, cutting-edge infrastructure, a vibrant knowledge hub, and a plethora of distinctive tourist attractions. The India Convention Promotion Bureau along with other MICE planners, Conference organizers and Destination Management companies participated in the Pavilion. The India pavilion was inaugurated

by Shri M. R. Synrem, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, in presence of other officers of Ministry of Tourism, GOI. During India's G20 Presidency, over 200 meetings were convened in 56 cities nationwide, resulting in increased tourism both domestically and internationally. This platform effectively spotlighted India's robust MICE infrastructure and its rich cultural and natural heritage on a global scale. Following this momentum, the Ministry of Tourism is actively engaged progressing to firmly position India as a premier global hub for MICE activities. With huge progress made in internal connectivity by air and roads, ease of travelling within the country, opened up new infrastructural facilities for organizing conferences and conventions, India is poised to be a leading destination. India is positioned at rank 9 in the ICCA (International Congress and Convention Association) ranking of countries in the Asia Pacific region, in 2022.



Principal Scientific Adviser to the GoI Chairs Meeting to Discuss Biomass Cultivation on Degraded Land for Green Biohydrogen Production

The International Press : Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) to the Government of India, Professor Ajay Kumar Sood, convened the first meeting to discuss biomass cultivation on degraded land for green biohydrogen production and bioenergy generation today (May 14, 2024) at Vigyan Bhawan Annex, New Delhi. The meeting brought together key stakeholder government ministries, knowledge partners, and research institutes to explore the utilization of degraded, barren, and uncultivated lands for biomass cultivation. This biomass will be used to produce green biohydrogen, initiating a

comprehensive discussion series among stakeholders to prepare an action plan for enhancing green hydrogen production from biomass. In his opening address, Prof. Ajay Kumar Sood said that one of the objectives of the National Green Hydrogen Mission is to initiate focused pilots for biomass-based green biohydrogen production. Therefore, it is important to understand the biomass cultivation ecosystem of the country. Prof. Sood highlighted that the meeting aims to gather inputs on biomass and degraded land availability, identify gaps and challenges in biomass cultivation, and

strategize a roadmap for using degraded land for green hydrogen production. Dr. Rajesh Gokhale, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology (DBT), presented prospects for seaweed cultivation as biomass for bioenergy production and fostering a start-up ecosystem to boost marine biomanufacturing, aligned with India's Deep Ocean Mission. This was followed by a presentation from Dr. A. Velmurugan, Additional Director General (Soil & Water Management), Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), on biomass production for green energy using various

plants, including algae, molasses, and sugarcane. Dr. Sangita M Kature, Adviser, Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE) highlighted the various programs at the ministry for bioenergy and also talked about National Biomass Atlas for agri-residue surplus data. Dr. G. Sridhar, Director General, Sardar Swaran Singh National Institute of Bio-Energy (SSS NIBE), MNRE, highlighted the role of agri-residual biomass in the context of green hydrogen, discussing the availability of surplus biomass and its potential for energy production. Dr. Prakash Chauhan, Director, National Remote

Sensing Centre (NRSC), Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), delivered a presentation on 'Bhuvan portal for data on biomass availability from agri-residue and data on degraded Land Mapping. Dr. Chauhan emphasized the need for data on characterization of biomass for understanding the potential of biomass. Sh. Neelash Kumar Sah, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, highlighted government policies and programs addressing land degradation neutrality. Sh. Nitin Khade, Joint Secretary, Department of Land Resources, focused on using spineless cactus for green hydrogen production. The final presentation by Sh. Hrushikesh Barve from Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics discussed the 4F-BioEconomy framework for land restoration and biomass cultivation. Industry experts and key government officials from various ministries, including the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas; Ministry of Mines; Ministry of Power; Ministry of Road Transport & Highways; Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways; Ministry of Railways; Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare; and Department of Land Resources provided their

inputs on various schemes under their departments for biomass cultivation and production of hydrogen. Dr. Parvinder Maini, Scientific Secretary, Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India, summarized the meeting's outcomes, emphasizing the need for biomass cultivation in land as well as in marine ecosystems. Dr. Maini highlighted the importance of R&D on generating more biomass with less resources like water, specifically in the context of Napier grass, energy cane, and cactus. Prof. Sood concluded by re-emphasizing the need to identify biomass for cultivation and identification of government-owned land available with ministries/ departments for cultivating biomass for the purpose of enhancing hydrogen production in the country. Prof. Sood mentioned that this approach of utilizing both public and private land for sustainable biomass cultivation would meet the country's energy demand, reduce dependency on fuel imports, generate revenue, and significantly contribute to bioenergy production. He stressed that biomass cultivation for bioenergy should be sourced and processed sustainably and cost-effectively while maintaining local environmental biodiversity.

Alert against incidents of 'Blackmail' and 'Digital Arrest' by Cyber Criminals Impersonating State/UT Police, NCB, CBI, RBI and other Law Enforcement Agencies

The International Press : A large number of complaints are being reported on National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (NCRP) regarding intimidation, blackmail, extortion and "Digital Arrests" by cyber criminals posing as Police Authorities, Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), Narcotics Department, Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Enforcement Directorate and other Law Enforcement Agencies. These fraudsters typically call a potential victim and inform that the victim has sent or is the intended recipient of a parcel, which contains illegal goods, drugs, fake passports or any other contraband item.

Sometimes, they also inform that a near or dear one of the victim has been found to be involved in a crime or an accident and is in their custody. A demand for money is made to compromise the "case". In certain instances, unsuspecting victims are made to undergo "Digital Arrest" and remain visually available over Skype or other video conferencing platform to the fraudsters, till their demands are met. The fraudsters are known to use studios modeled on Police Stations and Government offices and wear uniforms to appear genuine. Across the country, several victims have

lost large amounts of money to such criminals. This is an organized online economic crime and is learnt to be operated by cross-border crime syndicates. The Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C), under the Ministry of Home Affairs, coordinates activities related to combating cybercrime in the country. MHA is closely working with other Ministries and their agencies, RBI and other organizations to counter these frauds. I4C is also providing inputs and technical support to Police Authorities of States/UTs for identifying and investigating the cases. I4C has also blocked

more than 1,000 Skype IDs involved in such activities, in collaboration with Microsoft. It is also facilitating blocking of SIM cards, Mobile devices and Mule accounts used by such fraudsters. I4C has also issued various alerts through infographics and videos on its social media platform 'Cyberdost' for e.g. X, Facebook, Instagram and others. Citizens are advised to be alert and spread awareness about these types of frauds. On receipt of such calls, the citizens should immediately report the incident on cybercrime helpline number 1930 or www.cybercrime.gov.in for assistance.

IndiaSkills 2024: India's Biggest Skill Competition to Commence in New Delhi

The International Press : The IndiaSkills Competition 2024 - the country's biggest skill competition designed to demonstrate the highest standards of skilling is all set to commence on 15th May 2024. The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) has organised an inauguration ceremony at Yashobhoomi, Dwarka, New Delhi which will witness the participation of over 900 students from more than 30 states and Union Territories and over 400 industry experts. The four-day-long IndiaSkills will allow participants to showcase their diverse skills and talent on a national platform across 61 skills - from traditional crafts to cutting-edge technologies. While 47 skills competitions will be held onsite, 14 will be held offline in Karnataka, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Gujarat keeping in mind the availability of best infrastructure. The students will also participate in 9 exhibition skills such as Drone-Film making, Textile-Weaving, Leather-Shoemaking, and Prosthetics-makeup. The students participating in the national-level competition have been trained in ITIs, NSTIs, Polytechnics, institutes of engineering, institutes of nursing, and institutes of biotechnology. This is a testament to the international-standard training Indian youth are receiving in the existing skill

network. Winners of IndiaSkills, with the help of the best industry trainers, will get prepared for the WorldSkills Competition scheduled to take place in Lyon, France in September 2024, which will bring together 1,500 competitors from over 70 countries. Talking about the event, Shri Atul Kumar Tiwari, Secretary, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) said that the IndiaSkills Competition opens new avenues of opportunity for the skilled youth, empowering them to dream beyond conventional boundaries and showcase their skills on the global stage. It also celebrates the invaluable role of skills and craftsmanship in nation building, while also symbolising the intrinsic value of skill development in shaping the future of the nation amidst rapid technological advancements and dynamic global trends, he said. This year the participants will have the opportunity to earn credits within the National Credit Framework. All skills showcased in both the WorldSkills and IndiaSkills Competitions are meticulously aligned with the National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF), empowering participants to creditise their learning outcomes and lead a thriving career in their chosen fields. It is also the first time that IndiaSkills has incorporated a competition

information system called Qrenica. About 2.5 lakh candidates registered for the competition on the Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH) Portal, out of which 26,000 were shortlisted through a process of pre-screening. This data was shared with the states for organising the state- and district-level competition, out of which over 900 students were further shortlisted for the IndiaSkills National competition. The entire process of selection not only generates a spirit of competition among the participants but also plays a pivotal role in building aspirations for skill development and vocational training among the youth. By showcasing diverse opportunities and creating a competitive yet collaborative environment, such skill competition with active participation from States/UTs, Industry, and Academia lays a solid foundation for a skilled workforce that can drive national progress and innovation. IndiaSkills is expected to not only create aspirations among the youth but also give India its real skill heroes who later serve as ambassadors for 'New India'. This year, IndiaSkills is supported by more than 400 Industry and Academic Partners such as Toyota Kirloskar, Autodesk, JK Cement, Maruti Suzuki, Lincoln Electric, NAMTECH, Vega, Loreal, Schneider Electric, Festo India, Artemis, Medanta, and Cygnia Healthcare.

News Continue

Contd. from P/1

Defence Secretary joins in celebration and releases commemorative coin on MDL's completion of 250 years

foreign design. MDL has also commenced the design and development of an indigenous conventional submarine. Midget Submarine is being developed as a proof of concept. The team is parallelly working on development of design of a full-scale conventional submarine by 2028. The Defence secretary also commissioned the Solar Electric Hybrid boat with top speed of 11 Knots designed and co-developed with indigenous technology partner. The running cost is almost 1/10th of a diesel boat and also has a very low maintenance cost. In addition, a 24 pax Fuel Cell Electric Ferry named "SUCHI", conceptualized by MDL & co-developed with indigenous technology partner, was also commissioned by the Defence Secretary. Its advanced technology has zero emissions, low acoustic signatures, leading to cleaner waterways and contributing to environmental conservation. Shri Aramane also inaugurated the Technical Seminar on "Emerging Technologies and Future of Shipbuilding". To commemorate 250 years of MDL's existence, the Defence Secretary also released a coin, issued by RBI, crafted to honor the rich history & enriching legacy of MDL. While congratulating MDL, the Defence Secretary stated that MDL is a precious jewel in the crown of India and has contributed immensely in building capacities for naval and commercial purposes. He further added that MDL is the biggest shipyard in the country contributing most to the assets of the Indian Navy. This occasion not only symbolizes MDL's journey but also serves as a testament to their commitment to excellence in maritime endeavours.

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Commission's second Suo motu report on two month's enforcement of MCC during GE 2024

The International Press : The Commission, in its firm commitment to transparency and disclosures, has decided to update the status of actions taken under MCC, based on complaints of political parties, on the completion of two months of its operation. This is in continuation of Commission's transparency initiative of giving out MCC updates after first month of its coming into effect. Certain details of action taken, were also given out so that misgivings, however small or limited, are addressed and stopped.

Commission has chosen to put this information in public domain so that the most important stakeholders, the voters and the political parties get real time information on measures taken to maintain level playing field, that India is rightly proud of.

The Commission led by CEO Shri Rajiv Kumar along with ECI Shri Gyanesh Kumar and Shri Sukhbir Singh Sandhu monitors countrywide pending cases of alleged violations of MCC daily and actions are taken in timebound manner and on top priority. Many of these actions during the last two months have had teaching and systemic implications in cleaning up the campaign space in the long term as against only in an episodic prescriptive manner.

At the outset, Commission expects top leaders of political parties, especially of the major national parties, most of whom are star campaigners, to set good examples of campaign discourse expected of them in the current elections. It is primarily their responsibility to correct the course of their statements/utterances in the remaining phases to avoid any permanent dent on the delicately balanced social fabric of the country.

The following are some of the decisions taken during two months of enforcement of MCC:

1. The Model Code came into effect on 16th March 2024 with the announcement of the general elections to the Lok Sabha and four phases are over.
2. With about two months completed since the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) came into effect, campaign by various political parties and candidates at constituency level has largely remained violence free, less noisy, less cluttered and intrusive, free of inducement and ostentatiousness.
3. Election Commission of India is broadly satisfied with the core functioning of conduct of peaceful, inducement free elections with enthusiastic participation of voters.
4. Peaceful voting in enthusiastic and festive spirit across the country till phase 4, especially in Manipur, Tripura, LWE areas, WB, Jammu and Kashmir, far flung and inaccessible areas show deep roots of democracy. Commission invites citizens to view glimpses of vibrancy of Indian elections in specially created photo gallery at it's this link: <https://www.eci.gov.in/ge-2024-photogallery>
5. Commission has issued 63 press notes so far from the day of announcement as a measure of enhanced level of transparency.
6. So far, 25 delegations from 16 political parties have met the Commission to lodge their grievances/complaints on alleged violations of Model code. Apart from this, many delegations have met at the level of Chief Electoral Officer in the States.
7. All political parties have been promptly allocated time even at short notice and their grievances patiently heard.
8. Approximately 425 major complaints, excluding canvassing related or clarificatory complaints have been filed by various political parties and candidates at the level of ECI and CEOs. Of these, action has been taken (or matter disposed) in 400 cases. Approximately 170, 95 and 160 complaints were filed by INC, BJP and Others respectively. Most of these complaints have been acted upon.
9. A few complaints of INC and BJP against each other are pending alleging violation of MCC inter alia broadly in the genre of divisive statements by top Star campaigners on communal, caste, regional language divide, or on sanctity of Constitution of India. In the past, the Commission has been issuing notices to individual leaders who had committed violations of MCC. Commission has adopted a new course with its advisory dated 01st March 2024 to Party Presidents/Chairpersons/General Secretaries of all recognised political parties urging them to ask their leaders/candidates/star campaigners not to make speeches/utterances which are in direct or indirect violation of MCC. The Commission has taken a view that while the individual star campaigner/leader/candidate would continue to remain responsible for speeches made, the Commission will address Party President/Head of the political party, on case-to-case basis, as the Parties have prime responsibility to rein in their star campaigners from committing such violations. The purpose is to raise the accountability of the political party in compliance of MCC by all their cadres. Notices have been issued to presidents of both the parties in case of these pending complaints. Response from both parties has been received. Appropriate action on complaints/courtesy complaints is under examination/consideration of the Commission. Some prominent actions taken under MCC framework are given in following paras.
10. On INC complaint, CEO of Zila Parishad of a district in Haryana was transferred on receiving complaint for involvement in election campaign for a candidate.
11. On INC complaint of capturing of a polling booth and tampering of EVM in Dahod Parliamentary Constituency of Gujarat, re-poll was ordered and entire polling and police parties were placed under suspension, and concerned State authorities have been directed to initiate departmental proceedings against them.
12. On TDP complaint, the Commission censured President, YSRCP for violation of provisions of Model Code of Conduct and Commission's advisories relating to unverified allegations.
13. On complaint from Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee, President, BRS was barred for 48 hours from holding any public meetings, processions, public rallies, shows and interviews and public utterances in media for making statements violating MCC during a press meet.
14. On complaints from BRS, a Minister in Telangana was censured for making unverified allegations and maligning the image of opposition party leader.
15. On complaint of INC, a post from BJP/Karnataka Twitter 'X' account was taken down on being found violative of MCC. A FIR was also registered in the matter.
16. On INC's complaint that the morphed images of Congress leaders are being put up with a mala fide intent on a social media site, ECI directed to lodge FIR against the Instagram handle 'Bol Himachal' and directed to take necessary statutory action for removal of alleged objectionable social media posts.
17. On BJP's complaint, FIR lodged under Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 against Madhya Pradesh State INC President for making objectionable remarks against a former lady Minister.
18. On complaint of AAP, CEO Delhi was directed to sensitize all the concerned officers/officials/authorities, to be more vigilant against anonymous handbills/pamphlets/hoardings at authorized/unauthorized sites, which may have potential to vitiate the electoral space and negatively impact the campaign discourse. It was certified by field officers that there are no hoardings at authorised sites without name of publisher.
19. On complaint of AAP, CEO Delhi was directed to re-examine and clear the song submitted by AAP for clearance.
20. A FIR under provisions of Section 171F, 506 of IPC and Section 135 (c) of RP Act 1951 was ordered against an MLA of AITC for threatening local voters and opposition party workers about consequences after CAPF is withdrawn from West Bengal in an election rally in Chopra at North Dinajpur.
21. DGP (HoPP) of Andhra Pradesh removed four DySPs/SPOs and 5 Police Inspectors/SHOs/ Sub Inspectors were also shifted/ suspended in Andhra Pradesh.
22. Managing Director of Andhra Pradesh State Beverages Corporation Limited was removed for inability to contain liquor indulgence and involvement in other unverified activities.
23. Secretary-cum-Commissioner Mission Shakti Department Government of Odisha was removed for inputs on not effectively controlling SHGs' platform being used for the purpose to influence election.
24. Based on complaints / inputs, five O/S/Os of Police Stations of Sakripur, Balakrishna, Dhanuri, Dhanuri and Behrampur in west Bengal were shifted for failure to control violence, partial actions, etc.
25. Two FIRs against BJP candidate in Hyderabad PC in Telangana were filed on poll day for canvassing and influencing voters in 100 meters vicinity of polling station on poll day.
26. On complaint of National Platform for the Rights of the Disabled (NPRD), TDP leader Shri Chandrababu Naidu was censured for his statements calling Shri Jagannath Mohan Reddy 'psycho' in behaviour and claiming that his 'mental condition' is not good. He was directed to remain careful and respectful towards PwDs in his public utterances in the future.
27. A complaint was filed on 22.04.2024 in Tura Police Station, West Garo Hills, Meghalaya under Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 against Shri Kitenberh Marak who forced a PwD person to wear a scarf of NPP and participate in a video without his consent.
28. Taking a serious view of issuance of pamphlets by political parties and candidates seeking details of voters and seeking registrations under the guise of various surveys for proposed beneficiary schemes, as a corrupt practice of bribery under Section 123(1) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, all national and state political parties have been advised to immediately cease and desist from any activities that involve registering individuals for post-election beneficiary-oriented schemes through any advertisements/survey/App.
29. A total of 4,22,432 complaints have been filed on C-Vigil App/Commission's portal on violations for citizens as on May 14, 2024. Of these, action has been taken in 4,22,079 (99.5%) cases and of these, 88.7% of complaints were resolved in average time of less than 100 minutes. Because of the robustness of C-Vigil App, there is substantial reduction in illegal hoardings, defacement of property, campaigning beyond permissible time, deployment of vehicles beyond permitted ones.
30. Similarly, 2,31,479 permissions have been given on Suvidha portal as on May 14, 2024 leading to elimination of discretion in grant of entitlements by using F1/B1 (First-In-First-Out) and ease of election related facilitation for candidates / political parties.

Actions taken under MCC during first month and as released by Press note available at: (<https://tinyurl.com/dpeukfh>)

Suo motu removal of officers holding dual charges as Principal Secretaries to Chief Ministers in six states namely Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand, as they were holding charge of Home / General Administration department also. This was to distance election-related senior officers with control over DMs/DEOs/SROs and SPs, from Chief Minister's offices.

31. Suo motu removal of DGP West Bengal as he was barred from election duty in previous elections also.
32. Suo motu transfer of non-cadre officers who were posted at leadership positions as District Magistrate (DM) and Superintendent of Police (SP) in four states namely Gujarat, Punjab, Odisha and West Bengal.
33. Suo motu transfer of officers in Punjab, Haryana and Assam because of their kinship or familial association with the elected political representatives.
34. On complaint from INC and AAP, directive to MeTV to stop transmission of Government of India's Viskit Bharat Message on WhatsApp post announcement of elections.
35. On complaint from INC and AAP, directive to all States/UTs for compliance of ECI instructions on removing of defacement from Government/public premises with immediate effect.
36. On complaint from DMK, FIR was registered against BJP Minister for her unverified allegations on Rameshwar Café Blast.
37. On complaint from INC, directions to Cabinet Secretary for compliance of ECI instructions on removing of defacement from Government/public premises including hoardings, photos, and messages from DMRC trains and petrol pump, highways, etc.
38. On complaint from INC, directions to CBDT for verification of any mismatch in assets declaration by a Union Minister in his affidavit.
39. On complaint from AITMC, notice to BJP leader Mr. Dilip Ghosh for objectionable and disrespectful remarks towards Ms. Mamta Banerjee.
40. On complaint from BJP notice to Ms. Supriya Shrinete and Mr. Surjewala, both from INC for their derogatory remarks against Ms. Kangana Ranaut and Ms. Hema Malini respectively.
41. The Commission has specifically taken a stand in the matter of dignity and honour of women by issuing notices to leaders of parties who made derogatory and offensive remarks against women. The Commission went a step ahead in placing accountability on party chiefs/presidents for ensuring that their party leaders and campaigners do not resort to such disrespectful and derogatory comments.
42. FIR was lodged against remarks made by Shri Anitha R Radhakrishnan, DMK leader towards PM.
43. On INC complaint, directions have been issued to Municipal authorities in Delhi to remove cut-outs of star campaigners from various colleges,

Celebration of International Day of Plant Health by RCIPMC, Kolkata



Kolkata, May 14, 2024 : The International Press : Plants are the foundation of our ecosystem, providing us with food, clean air and countless other essential resources. However, they face numerous threats, including pests, diseases and the malice of climate change, which may have devastating consequences for agriculture, biodiversity and human livelihoods. Recognising the significance of the existence of plants, this year, International Day of Plant Health was celebrated on Sunday, (May 12, 2024) with a theme "Plant health, safe trade and digital technology".

To mark the importance of this day, the Regional Central Integrated Pest Management Centre (RCIPMC), Kolkata, Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine & Storage; Union Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare chalked out concerted programmes like:

1. Organising a one-day Kishan Ghoshtis on importance of Plant Health and IPM
2. IPM exhibitions
3. Organising activities involving school children about theme "save plants-save planet"
4. Webinars with Experts
5. Community engagement activities- Organising tree plantation drives; plant health awareness rally/campaigns; social media campaigns.

In this connection, the Regional Central Integrated Pest Management Centre, Kolkata, organised a Kishan

supporting sustainable economies and livelihoods. Sh. Priyabrata Mohanta, PPO(WS) discussed safe and judicious use of pesticides and effect of indiscriminate use of pesticides in agriculture and human health. Subsequently, other dignitaries discussed topics like: "save plants-save planet"; "Healthy plant means a healthy planet"; "Conserve natural bio-control agents for sustainable agriculture"; "Safe and judicious use of pesticides"; "Plant Quarantine Regulations". RCIPMC, Kolkata also put on a small exhibition of various cost effective and environment friendly IPM inputs to encourage farmers/ pesticide dealers toward alternatives of chemical pesticides. Various literatures viz; methods of seed treatment, production of Bio-pesticides, 5% NSKE, Concept of IPM, Safe use of pesticides etc. were also distributed. The programme concluded with tree plantation at the venue.

সুন্দরবনের স্বপ্নে দেখতে চান

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CINEMA

Sai Pallavi first appeared on screen with Kangana Ranaut, to work with Ranbir Kapoor next in Ramayana

The International Press : Sai Pallavi, the simple and elegant actress from South Indian cinema turns 31 today (May 9). The actress has kept her fans excited with news of her next project. She will be seen playing Mata Sita in Nitesh Tiwary's magnum opus Ramayana starring Ranbir Kapoor as Lord Ram. However, did you know which was her first ever on screen appearance? Check out lesser known facts about the popular South Indian actress that only true fans know.

Dance Reality Show Prodigy: Before her big-screen debut, Sai Pallavi showcased her dancing prowess on the dance reality show Ungali Yaar Adutha Prabhadhava in 2008 and later on Dhee 4. Her expressive performances caught the eye of

many and paved the way for her acting career. The Doctor Behind the Actress: Not many know that Sai Pallavi is a qualified doctor. She graduated in medicine from Tbilisi, Georgia, and if not for her acting career, she might have been a cardiologist today. A Self-Taught Dancer: Sai Pallavi's dance moves are self-taught. Inspired by Bollywood icons like Madhuri Dixit and Aishwarya Rai, she honed her skills without any formal training, captivating audiences with her natural flair.

Cultural Roots: She belongs to the Badaga community, an ethnolinguistic group from Kotagiri, Tamil Nadu. Sai Pallavi is proud of her heritage and is considered the first from her community to achieve such stardom.



Sikandar: Rashmika Mandanna joins Salman Khan starrer; Pushpa 2 actress reacts

The International Press : Who isn't waiting for Salman Khan's next movie? Well, we all are eagerly waiting for him to come back on the big screens. He is one of the biggest superstar in the Bollywood industry and everyone wants him to announce his movies soon. recently announced his next film, Sikandar on the occasion of Eid. Ever since he has announced the news, everyone wants to know more details about the same. Many were waiting to know who would be the film's leading lady. Salman has had many amazing pairings and now people want to know about his next heroine. Now, the announcement has finally been made. Rashmika Mandanna joins Salman Khan's

upcoming movie Sikandar with Sajid Nadiadwala and AR Murugadoss. The shoot of the film was supposed to start from May and now Rashmika has joined the team. Sikandar is all set to release in theatres on Eid 2025.

Badhon to make debut in Tollywood

The International Press : Acclaimed Bangladeshi actor Azmeri Haque Badhon is set to make her debut in the Indian Bengali film industry, popularly known as Tollywood. Badhon will be starring in one of the stories in the upcoming anthology film 'Fair and Ugly' directed by Prasenjit Biswas. According to Indian media reports, 'Fair and Ugly' comprises five different stories. The makers have already completed shooting for a few segments, featuring actors like Parno Mitra, Samrat, Rituparna Sengupta, Kaushik Sen, and Sayantani, among others. Now, the director is gearing up to shoot Badhon's portion of the film. While Badhon acknowledged her involvement in the project to the media, she refrained from making any detailed comments at this stage. She requested some more time before revealing further information, saying that she would share insights once she completes her full preparation and gets ready to start working.

Reports suggest that Badhon's shooting for the film is expected to commence around mid-May. She will be joined by Sakib Ayub, who has previously worked in Bollywood films like 'Farzi' and 'Brahmastra'. Badhon's journey in the entertainment industry has been remarkable. In 2021, her film 'Rehana Maryam Noor,' directed by Abdullah Mohammad Saad, became the first Bangladeshi movie to be officially selected in the 'Un Certain Regard' section of the 74th Cannes Film Festival. Badhon's performance in the lead role garnered widespread acclaim from global cinephiles. The same year, Badhon portrayed a mysterious woman's character in the Indian OTT series 'Robindronath Ekhanee Kawkhono Khete Aashenni', directed by Srijit Mukherji. Her acting prowess was highly praised in both Bengal regions. In 2022, Badhon made her Bollywood debut with the film 'Khufiya,' directed by Vishal Bhardwaj, where she shared the screen with Tabu, although her screen time was limited. Badhon's upcoming Tollywood project marks another significant milestone in her illustrious career, further expanding her reach and showcasing her versatility as an actor across different film industries.



Head says IPL form no guarantee for T20 World Cup success

Travis Head has decimated bowling attacks in the Indian Premier League (IPL) this year but the Australian tempered expectations ahead of next month's Twenty20 World Cup in the West Indies and United



Rejuvenated Scamacca seeks Euro glory with Atalanta and Italy

Gianluca Scamacca will lead the line in Atalanta's bid to reach their first ever European final as the striker's hot form puts him firmly in the frame for Euro 2024. A classic centre-forward, Scamacca has had an up-and-down first season back in Italy with Atalanta



Kohli is the best batter of this generation: Yuvraj



The International Press : ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 ambassador Yuvraj Singh has hailed Virat Kohli as the best batter of this generation across formats and identified what sets him apart from the rest. Kohli's career hit new heights at the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023, where he topped the run charts with a record tally of runs. The stalwart batter walked away with the Player of the Tournament award despite coming into the event with his best years seemingly past him, and after an extended period where his frequency of making triple-digit scores reduced. Kohli has set his eyes on the coveted trophy at the upcoming ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 and will

be featuring for the sixth time in the tournament. His first-ever appearance at the T20 World Cup was in 2012, five years after India achieved their only title win in the format. Yuvraj said that Kohli deserved another World Cup medal after 2011, where he was part of the title-winning Cricket World Cup campaign. "He has definitely broken all the records in this era," Yuvraj said in a chat with ICC. "The best batter of this generation, I feel, in all formats. And I think he is also someone who needs a World Cup Medal. He has one. I'm sure he is not satisfied with one. I think he surely deserves that medal as well." Kohli's penchant for big knocks under pressure is

well known and the T20 World Cup has witnessed some of his most impactful knocks, most notably two years back at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, where he awed over 90,000 spectators with a finish like none other against arch-rivals Pakistan. But the tournament has witnessed Kohli at his peak way earlier. In the 2016 edition of the tournament, Australia bore the brunt of Kohli's ravishing form when he put on an exhibition at chasing targets down. An unbeaten 82 off 51 balls in a run-chase of 161 put India in the semi-finals of the tournament. "I think he understands his game really well," Yuvraj said. "He knows if he's there till the end, he is going to win

the game for India and he has done that on some big occasions - against Australia in Mohali as well. "Once he had the confidence of chasing and knowing the situation, he knows how to bat in these situations, knows which bowlers to attack, which bowlers to take singles off, when to attack again, handle the pressure and knows when to change his game." While 2016 and 2022 are memorable for two of the best knocks the tournament has seen, Kohli's best run came in the 2014 T20 World Cup, where he made the most runs he has made in any edition of the tournament. Kohli made four half-centuries in six matches in the tournament that year and Yuvraj, who witnessed

some of those knocks from the non-striker's end, hailed his ball-striking in the tournament as "unbelievable". "I think he was outstanding. He was in one of the best forms of his life. He was hitting the ball unbelievably. And I had a small partnership with him (in the final) and then he batted with Dhoni," Yuvraj recalled. Kohli's 77 in the final went in vain as Sri Lanka won by six wickets. A decade later, the maestro has another shot at a title win when India travel to the Caribbean Islands and the USA to create history. The Kohli of 2024 is not too different from his 2014 version. Currently the top-scorer in the ongoing edition of the Indian Premier League, the star batter declared his availability to play T20s for India in the lead up to the T20 World Cup and will once again be the lynchpin in the batting line-up as India seek glory. Kohli has had little trouble catching up with T20's rapid evolution, scoring 542 runs this IPL 2024 at an average of 67.75 and a strike-rate of 148.08. What really makes him one of a kind? Yuvraj has the answer. "Why I think he was so good was because every time in nets or a practice situation, he would not go and just slog balls," Yuvraj describes. "In the nets, he would always bat like he was batting in a match. He put that in repetition after repetition. I have not seen that in many players. I think that is the key to his success."

Head says IPL form no guarantee for T20 World Cup success



The International Press : Travis Head has decimated bowling attacks in the Indian Premier League (IPL) this year but the Australian tempered expectations ahead of next month's Twenty20 World Cup in the West Indies and United States, where turning tracks could make batting tougher. Sunrisers Hyderabad batsman Head has scored 533 runs in 11 IPL matches so far, with only Virat Kohli (542) and Ruturaj Gaikwad (541) above him, and the 30-year-old's aggressive approach has marked him out as one to watch at the June 1-29 World Cup. He hit an unbeaten 30-ball 89 as Hyderabad thumped Lucknow Super Giants by 10 wickets with 62 balls to spare on Wednesday, but Head said his blistering form on flat Indian wickets would not automatically translate to similar pyrotechnics elsewhere. "Whenever you're playing, you want to be as consistent as you can, you want to be getting runs. It's nice to be playing well (but) that's not going to guarantee anything in the West Indies," Head told reporters.

"I think we'll face a fair bit of spin in the Caribbean and the wickets might become tougher as the tournament goes on. "I'm very pleased I was able to play spin tonight and the things I'm working on in training are somewhat working at the moment. But I'm trying to stay relaxed as I have done for the last couple of years and be ready to go." Hyderabad, who posted the biggest IPL total earlier this season with 287-3 against Royal Challengers Bengaluru, chased down Lucknow's total and finished with 167 for no loss - the highest 10-over score in men's T20 cricket. Head's opening partner Abhishek Sharma made an unbeaten 75 from 28 balls, with the duo smashing a combined 14 sixes and 16 fours. "I'm lost for words," Lucknow skipper KL Rahul said. "We've watched that kind of batting on TV, but this was unreal." Third-placed Hyderabad's seventh win in 12 games kept them firmly in the hunt for the playoffs, while the result ended the hopes of five-times champions Mumbai Indians.

Rejuvenated Scamacca seeks Euro glory with Atalanta and Italy



The International Press : Gianluca Scamacca will lead the line in Atalanta's bid to reach their first ever European final as the striker's hot form puts him firmly in the frame for Euro 2024. A classic centre-forward, Scamacca has had an up-and-down first season back in Italy with Atalanta but is in the form of his life on the eve of Thursday's second leg of their Europa League semi-final with Marseille. The 25-year-old has scored 10 times and set up another in his last 12 matches, and his fizzing low finish last week ensured Atalanta came away from the Stade Velodrome with a 1-1 draw after having their backs to the wall for large parts of the first leg in southern France. He will be the focal point of Atalanta's exciting attack in front of passionate home fans in Bergamo who have once again seen their traditionally provincial club punch way above its weight. Scamacca has scored 18 goals in all competitions this term with the bulk of those strikes coming after he was left out of the Italy squad for March's friendlies with Venezuela and Ecuador. He was dumped by Luciano Spalletti after the Azzurri coach, in a February interview with the Gazzetta Dello Sport, blasted footballers "playing on the PlayStation until four in the morning". Spalletti named no names in an unexpected tirade against modern players' apparently flagging commitment to football but eyes immediately turned towards Scamacca, who was left out despite Italy having a long-standing problem of finding reliable strikers. Scamacca, from Rome, has a roughneck presence due to his size and array of tattoos and has had to deal with embarrassing headlines involving his family. In March 2021 his estranged father smashed up cars - including one belonging to the police - outside Roma's training ground for no apparent reason and a few months later his grandfather burst into a bar in Scamacca's childhood neighbourhood of Fidene and threatened people with a knife. "I've had to deal with prejudice since I was 16-years-old but I know what kind of person I am, and I only need to show it to the people who care about me," Scamacca said after scoring in Atalanta's 3-0 win at Napoli in March. "I don't give any importance to chit-chat and rumour." Scamacca's form has come at a perfect time for both club and country, as Italy defend their European Championship title in Germany this summer after missing out on a second consecutive World Cup. Atalanta meanwhile, whose trophy cabinet contains seven lower league titles and the 1963 Italian Cup, are looking to go one better than in 1988 when they reached the last four of the Cup Winners' Cup as a Serie B team. Gian Piero Gasperini's side have, like Scamacca, been inconsistent for much of the season but are eyeing a historic climax to the campaign, with an Italian Cup final with Juventus coming up next week and Champions League qualification also up for grabs. Scamacca netted in Atalanta's hard-fought win at relegated Salernitana on Monday which moved his team into Serie A's fifth and final spot for Europe's elite club competition. The next fortnight will decide whether Atalanta finally win a trophy which would be just reward for years of investment and development which have taken Atalanta from nowhere to the brink of European glory.

My sweetest dreams not as big as this: Madrid hero Joselu



The International Press : Real Madrid striker Joselu was over the moon after his last-gasp brace snatched a 2-1 win over Bayern Munich on Wednesday and sent his team into the Champions League final. The 34-year-old journeyman forward came on as a substitute with Bayern leading and struck after 88 and 91 minutes to snatch record 14-time winners Madrid a 4-3 aggregate victory. "Not even my sweetest dreams are as big as what happened today,"

Joselu told Real Madrid TV. "I don't know about hero, but I am very happy... it was incredible, something spectacular. "This team never gives up, it's in their blood to fight until the end and that's what we did." Former Stoke City and Newcastle United striker Joselu is on loan at Real Madrid from second-division Espanyol. Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti relies on him mainly from the bench, but the striker has 16 goals across all

competitions this season. His equaliser came after Bayern Munich goalkeeper Manuel Neuer spilled a shot into his path. "The first goal is about being smart, they were tired, in a low block, and you could see that," said Joselu. The striker faced a nervous wait before his second was validated after it had initially been flagged offside. "(I was thinking) don't rule it out," he continued. "I was praying and asking whoever was out there for them not to rule it out."

Absolute disaster': Bayern coach Tuchel slams late offside call



The International Press : Bayern Munich coach Thomas Tuchel slammed a late offside call, calling the decision an "absolute disaster" as Real Madrid eliminated his side in the Champions League semi-finals on Wednesday. With Real 2-1 up having come from behind with two late goals, Joshua Kimmich put in a long pass which was headed centrally by Thomas Mueller for defender Matthijs de Ligt to score in the 12th minute of stoppage time. Real, who drew the Munich tie 2-2, went through 4-3 on aggregate. The goal did not stand after the linesman raised his flag earlier

in the move before the ball went in the net, therefore ruling out a VAR review. An animated Tuchel ran down the sideline after the decision. After the match, he told broadcaster DAZN the decision was "a disaster, an absolute disaster". "We have to let the action play out until the end. That's the rule, especially since it's so close to the goal, and it's so limited. "The first error is made by the linesman, the second comes from the referee," Tuchel said. The 50-year-old coach told broadcaster TNT the decision "felt like a betrayal". Bayern Munich's

Harry Kane remonstrates with the linesman at the Santiago Bernabeu on May 8, 2024. Photo: AFP Speaking at the press conference, Tuchel said the referee apologised but added: "It doesn't help to say sorry. "Everyone has to go to their limit, everyone has to suffer, everyone has to play without making mistakes. So the referee has to be at that level too. "It just doesn't help to make excuses after the fact. "You are on the field for this reason, because you are the best there is. And we have the right to expect that until the end."

The goalscorer De Ligt agreed with his coach, calling the decision decisive in the match. "The scene at the end, I find it incredible. I can't understand why he (the referee) doesn't let the action play out. "He apologised. I wouldn't want to say that Real are always lucky, but that decision makes the difference today," De Ligt told DAZN. A disappointed Bayern captain Manuel Neuer said: "We're in the Champions League semi-finals... I think he knows it was a mistake and that you shouldn't make a decision like that so quickly."