

# absolute india

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► The estimated cost of Shri Mahakal Lok Kshetra Vikas Project is Rs.800 crore. In the first phase of the scheme, small and big Rudrasagar, Harsiddha Temple, Char Dham Temple, Vikram Tila etc. have been developed in the courtyard of Lord Shri Mahakaleshwar at a cost of Rs.350 crore. In which the work of Mahakal Plaza, Mahakal Corridor, Mid-way Zone, Mahakal Theme Park, Ghat and DAC Area, Nutan School Complex and Ganesh School Complex are included.



## Shri Mahakal Lok Inaugurated

Team Absolute | Ujjain

Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated the Mahakal Lok built in the Mahakaleshwar complex of Ujjain, the religious city of Madhya Pradesh, to the nation. He removed the cover of Shivling made of Raksha Sutra through remote. Prime Minister Modi

reached Indore by Indian Air Force aircraft and then from there by helicopter to Ujjain, where he offered special worship after reaching the court of Mahakal. After that, reaching the Mahakal Lok, Prime Minister Modi removed the cover remotely with a replica of the 15 feet high Shivling made of Raksha Sutra amidst Vedic chanting. After that he took stock of Mahakal Lok along

with Governor Mangubhai Patel and Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan. In the first component of the Mahakal corridor, a 200 meter long walkway has been made suitable for walking. It has a 25 feet high and 500 meters long mural wall. In addition, 108 Shiva pillars have been built with different postures of Shiva, which are spreading different

shades. These pillars depict the Ananda Tandava form of Lord Shiva. Religious idols depicting Lord Shiva have been installed along the Mahakal path. The wall paintings along the path are based on stories from the Shiva Purana. Lotus Pond, open air theater and lake front area and routes for e-rickshaws and casual vehicles have also been made. The big Rudra Sagar lake is

filled with clean water. The second phase works will be completed in the year 2023-24. Maharajwada complex will be developed in this phase. In which the historic Maharajwada building will be reused as a heritage, the old relics will be included in the form of Kumbh Museum and this complex will be integrated with the Mahakal temple complex.

## India's GDP projection 6.8% : IMF

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Tuesday slashed India's economic growth projection in 2022-23 to 6.8 per cent. Earlier, in July, it had projected a growth of 7.4 per cent for India in the current financial year. Reasons like contraction in US economy in the first half of 2022, a fall in Euro, lockdowns in China and continued Coronavirus outbreaks, have been listed by IMF for trimming India's growth projection. In 2021-22, India's economic growth was 8.7 per cent. "The global economy continues to face steep challenges, shaped by the lingering effects of three powerful forces - the Russian invasion of Ukraine, a cost-of-living crisis caused by persistent and broadening inflation pressures, and the slowdown in China," said Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas, Economic Counsellor and IMF Director of Research.



## 'THE WORST IS YET TO COME'

London: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has predicted a tough 2023 as it cut growth predictions and forecast economic contraction in a third of the world, media reports said. "The worst is yet to come", the global financial institution's World Economic Outlook report said, Sky News reported. "For many people, 2023 will feel like a recession", it

said. A downward revision of the global growth rate for 2023, from the amount the IMF said it expected in July, has been made in the report, Sky News reported. Now, 2.7 per cent growth is expected next year. It's down from the 6 per cent growth experienced last year and the 3.2 per cent growth forecast for this year. This is the "weakest growth profile" since

2001, excluding the acute phase of Covid-19 pandemic and the global financial crisis, the IMF said, Sky News reported. It reflects "significant slowdowns" for the largest economies as America's gross domestic product (GDP) contracted in the first half of 2022, followed by the Euro area's contraction in the second half of 2022, and prolonged

Covid-19 outbreaks and lockdowns in China with a growing property sector crisis. "The world is in a volatile period: economic, geopolitical, and ecological changes all impact the global outlook," the report says. About a third of the world economy faces two consecutive quarters of negative growth, the IMF also forecast, Sky News reported.

## CJI names Justice D.Y. Chandrachud as his successor



New Delhi: Chief Justice of India U.U. Lalit, who will retire on November 8, on Tuesday named Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, the senior-most judge in the Supreme Court, as his successor. After the Centre clears his name, Justice Chandrachud would become the 50th CJI. Chief Justice Lalit, in presence of all Supreme Court judges, handed over the letter of recommendation to Justice Chandrachud. He will retire on November 10, 2024. Justice Chandrachud is son of former Supreme Court judge Y.V. Chandrachud who was the longest serving CJI for being in office for about seven years and four months between 1978 to 1985. During his tenure, Justice D.Y. Chandrachud overturned two judgments of his father - which were related to adultery and the right to privacy. Justice Chandrachud obtained a PhD from Harvard Law School and is known as a non-conformist judge. He has played a key role in introducing virtual hearings during the Covid time, which has now become a permanent feature. He has been part of the landmark judgments on Ayodhya title dispute, decriminalisation of homosexuality, adultery, privacy, entry of women into Sabarimala etc.

## Railways plans to replace fuel-based fleet with Electric Vehicles by 2025

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The railways has floated a policy under which it plans to replace its entire fleet of vehicles that run on diesel, biofuels or even natural gas with electric vehicles by December 2025, in a big boost to the Centre's ambitious plan to make India a 100-per cent electric vehicle nation by 2030. Under the policy, a vast charging infrastructure would be created at major railway stations, office buildings and parking lots. India needs to set up 46,000 EV charging stations by 2030 to match the global benchmark. According to the timeline proposed by the railways for the zones, the target for installing EV-charging stations and phasing out 20 per cent of its fleet is by December 2023, 60 per cent by 2024 and 100 per cent by 2025. The replacement of the inspection vehicles in the divisional offices and the attached units would not be mandatory in the initial phase of three years since the vehicles would be required by officials for frequent visits to far-flung areas where adequate charging infrastructure may not be available. The railways will also create an affordable and accessible charging infrastructure for the users,



including passengers, visitors and the general public, on its premises. The general managers of the zonal railways have been asked to advise their officers to identify and demarcate parking spaces in office complexes and station premises for the installation of EV-charging facilities, reports NDTV. Charging point operators (CPOs) would be invited to set-up EV-charging stations at these locations. A parking fee for using the charging infrastructure, as decided by the railways, shall be applicable. The CPOs would ensure access to all compatible EV owners and have a mobile application for the EV users to locate and book the chargers and pay for the services digitally. The chargers would be installed in accordance with the safety guidelines issued by the Central Electricity Authority or other competent agencies and departments.

## Lord Hanuman gets notice from Rly in Dhanbad, asked to remove temple in 10 days

Dhanbad | Agencies

Describing a temple as an encroachment, the Railways has sent a notice to Lord Hanuman in Dhanbad city of Jharkhand. In the notice, Lord Hanuman has been asked to remove the temple within 10 days and hand over the vacated land to the Railways section engineer. This notice has been pasted on the wall of the temple located near the waste dam of the city. Directly addressed to Hanuman ji, the notice says that "you have illegally occupied the railway land. This is a legal offence. If this place is not vacated within 10 days, legal action will be taken against you." The last line of the notice says that "consider it very necessary". The local people have opposed the Railways notice. The Railways has sent notices against encroachments to about five dozen people living in Khatik



Basti located near the temple. During this time, the Hanuman temple has also been described as an encroachment. The people who got the notice to remove the encroachments say that they have been living here since 1921. They earn their living by doing small businesses like selling fruits, fish, vegetables. The railway team has pasted a notice to vacate all the houses in the locality as illegal occupation. On Monday and Tuesday, a large number of people gathered near the temple and protested against the railways notice.

## 5G TRANSITION

Telecom dept to meet mobile handset makers, service providers

Team Absolute | New Delhi

With 5G services having been launched in the country earlier this month, the government has convened a meeting of handset manufacturers and telecom service providers on Wednesday to ensure a smooth transition towards the new technology.



Though 5G has been unveiled, mobile handsets in India are not yet compatible with the new technology and their softwares need to be upgraded, sources said. During Wednesday's meeting, which has been convened jointly by Secretaries of telecom and IT departments, mobile handset companies like Apple, Samsung and others are likely to be asked to push over the air (OTA) upgrades for 5G handsets, sources aware of the development said. Prioritising software upgrade would enable early adoption of 5G in India, sources added further. Enabling mobile handsets to be 5G ready for 5G services launched in the country is an important agenda for the October 12 meeting.

## One fourth Information Commissioners' posts are vacant: Report

Team Absolute | New Delhi

While one fourth of the Information Commissioners posts are vacant, there are only 5 per cent (only 8) women Information Commissioners in the country. Out of the total 165 posts, 42 are vacant including 2 Chief State Information Commissioners. A report by Transparency International India, 'State Transparency Report' on the implementation of RTI said that more than 4.2 crore RTI and 26 lakh second appeal or complaints have been filed before the Information Commission. It said that while the RTI regime is yet to adapt to the pace of technology and digitalization, the website of the state information commissions of UP, Bihar and Kerala improved in the last two years. The report stated that Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu state information commissions get more appeals/complaints than the central government CIC.

From average waiting of 2 years at information commissions due to huge pendency of appeals/complaints, one-fourth post of Information Commissioners post vacant, commissions are becoming parking lots for retired bureaucrats, casual attitude by PIO/First Appellate Authority while rejecting RTI Applications are major challenges in the 17-year journey of RTI in India.

Rama Nath Jha, Director, Transparency International India

while the RTI regime in order to ensure that information flows throughout the democracy while establishing in-built mechanisms of accountability, transparency, and proactive disclosure within the government system," observed Prof Madhu Bhalla, chairperson, Transparency International India.



# 'PATEL WAS NOT AVERSE TO J&K JOINING PAK', CONG COUNTERS MODI'S CLAIMS ON NEHRU

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Congress on Tuesday countered the claims of Prime Minister Narendra Modi that the issue of J&K was not resolved by India's first PM Jawaharlal Nehru. Even though PM Modi did not take the name of Nehru, the Congress said he should check the facts first. The party blamed Maharaja Hari Singh, the then ruler of the J&K for not acceding to India soon after Independence, but took the decision only after invaders from Pakistan tried to take over the place. Jairam Ramesh, the Congress General Secretary in-charge of the Communication department cited Rajmohan Gandhi's book and said, "The PM has once again white-washed REAL history. He overlooks the following facts only to castigate Nehru on J&K. All this has been documented well in Rajmohan Gandhi's biography of Sardar Patel. These facts are also known to the PM's new man in J&K." Jairam was referring to Ghulam Nabi Azad, who resigned from the Congress and formed a new political party. Jairam further said, "Maharaja Hari Singh dithered on accession. There were dreams of independence.



But when Pakistan invaded, Hari Singh acceded to India. Sardar Patel was okay with J&K joining Pakistan till Sept 13 1947 when the Nawab of Junagadh acceded to Pakistan." But Jairam pointed out that, "Sheikh Abdullah championed accession to India entirely because of his friendship with and admiration for Nehru, and his respect for Gandhi." Jairam quoted from Rajmohan Gandhi's book -- 'Patel: A Life' by

Rajmohan Gandhi page 439 and page 591 (1991) "Vallabhbhai's lukewarmness about Kashmir had lasted until September 13 1947. That morning, in a letter to Baldev Singh, he had indicated that "if (Kashmir) decides to join the other Dominion," he would accept the fact. His attitude changed later that day when he heard that Pakistan had accepted Junagadh's accession". In the book Rajmohan writes

that, "If Jinnah could take hold of a Hindu majority State with a Muslim ruler, why should the Sardar not be interested in a Muslim majority State with a Hindu ruler. From that day Junagadh and Kashmir, the pawn and the Queen, became his simultaneous concerns. He would wrest the one and defend the other. He would also defend Hyderabad, to him the King on the chessboard. Had Jinnah allowed the King and the pawn to go to India, Patel, as we have seen, might have let the Queen go to Pakistan, but Jinnah rejected the deal." Rajmohan Gandhi quoted this from, "Sardar Patel's Correspondence Volume I page 37 (66) Sardar Patel Correspondence Volume I page 74, and Jinnah remarks to Mountbatten 1.11.47." PM in a veiled attack on Nehru on Monday said Sardar Patel resolved issues of merger of other princely states, but "one person" could not resolve the Kashmir issue. While addressing a rally in Gujarat, Modi targeted the first PM without naming him, and said, "Sardar saheb managed the merger of all the princely states with India but another person handled this one issue of Kashmir," he said, and added that is why it still is unresolved and he is following Patel footsteps.

# Surge of emotions as Mulayam's mortal remains consigned to flames



Saifai | Agencies

The air reverberated with chants of 'Netaji amar rahein', emotions ran high and the surging crowds broke down barricades as the mortal remains of Samajwadi patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav were consigned to flames in his native village Saifai on Tuesday. The last rites were performed by Samajwadi president Akhilesh Yadav, who lit the pyre in an emotionally charged atmosphere. The body of the socialist leader was kept at his residence till this morning when it was shifted to a specially erected pandal where people came to pay their respects. Around 2 p.m., the mortal remains of the leader were shifted to the cremation site where the last rites were performed with full state honours. Huge crowds were seen in Saifai and all roads were completely blocked as people jostled with each other for a glimpse of the late leader. Mulayam Singh's younger

brother Shivpal Yadav repeatedly appealed to the people to maintain order and allow the traffic movement. Several VIPs had to leave their cars and walk to the venue. Almost every SP leader, worker, legislator and member from all corners of the state was seen in Saifai to offer tributes to the late leader. Several Uttar Pradesh ministers, including deputy Chief Ministers Keshav Maurya and Brajesh Pathak, Suresh Khanna, Jitin Prasad were seen offering floral tributes to the late leader. The Yadav clan stood together in their hour of grief. Akhilesh, Shivpal and Dharmendra Yadav broke down several times and were seen consoling each other. Senior SP leader Mohd Azam Khan, despite poor health, also came to Saifai late last night to pay respects to his long-time friend and associate. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, NCP leaders Sharad

Pawar, Praful Patel and Supriya Sule, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, Kamal Nath, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, Bihar deputy Chief Minister Tejaswi Yadav, Union Minister S.P. Singh Baghel, Congress MPs Mallikarjun Kharge, Pramod Tiwari were among those present. Reliance chairman Anil Ambani, a close friend of the Yadav clan, was present. SP MP Jaya Bachchan and Abhishek Bachchan were also present. Earlier in the day, former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu arrived in Saifai and termed the loss as 'irreparable'. RLD president Jayant Chaudhary and BJP MP Varun Gandhi were also present. It was an emotional moment when Varun hugged Akhilesh and spoke to him briefly. Yoga Guru Baba Ramdev accompanied the mortal remains of Mulayam Singh to the cremation site.

# 2 women killed in suspected case of human sacrifice in Kerala

Thiruvananthapuram | Agencies

In a suspected case of human sacrifice, two women were found murdered and buried by a couple in Thiruvalla in Kerala's Pathanamthitta district, the police said on Tuesday. They were earlier reported to be missing. The couple, identified as Bhagaval Singh and his wife Laila, used to run a massage centre near Arammula in Pathanamthitta district at their house. Kochi Police Commissioner C.H. Nagaraju confirmed that the two women were killed and buried by the couple. "This was done as part of a ritualistic human sacrifice. The couple was taken into custody on the statement of one Shihab and

all the three are now being taken to the house of the couple. The man is a 'vaidiyar' (traditional physician) and this is a very complicated case and there are several layers in the case." "The body of the woman who disappeared last month will be exhumed and will be sent to forensic experts. The motive of the crime has been confessed as human sacrifice and we confirmed it from the statement given by the couple which was done for financial betterment," said Nagaraju. According to reports that have emerged, Shihab alias Mohammed Shafi has been identified as the mastermind behind the murders of the two women. He first created a fake social media account in the name of Sreedevi and became friendly with the couple, Bhagaval and Laila.

# COVID-19 ANTIDOTE VINCOV-19 READY FOR PHASE-3 TRIALS, MARKET AUTHORISATION

Hyderabad: The University of Hyderabad (UoH) and the Centre for Cellular Molecular Biology (CCMB) in collaboration with VINS Bioproducts Limited, a leading immunological company based in Hyderabad, announced the successful completion of the Phase-two clinical trials of VINCOV-19, India's first antidote and a cure against SARS-CoV-2 virus. VINCOV-19 is now ready for market authorisation and for simultaneous phase-three clinical trials, UoH said on Tuesday. Phase-two clinical trials were conducted across multiple centres in India and included more than 200 patients. The Phase-two clinical trials also included testing the antidote against the Omicron variant to ensure maximum coverage against the virus and its known mutations. The Phase-two clinical trials were completed successfully in September 2022. In this phase, VINCOV-19 was administered to patients with moderate severity of Covid-19.

# Dalit youth dragged out of home, murdered

▶ A DALIT YOUTH WAS DRAGGED OUT OF HIS HOUSE AND MURDERED IN PACHDA VILLAGE IN KEREDARI POLICE STATION AREA OF HAZARIBAGH DISTRICT OF JHARKHAND. HIS BODY WAS TIED WITH HIS SHIRT AND HUNG FROM AN ELECTRIC POLE. THE VICTIM HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS SITAN BHUYIAN.

Hazaribagh | Agencies

The body was seen hanging on Tuesday morning by the villagers. The Keredari police reached the

spot and brought the body down and had to face the villagers' opposition while sending it to Hazaribagh for post-mortem. The villagers protested that they will not allow the police to take the body until the accused were arrested. This argument went on for around three hours. The police were able to take the body after assuring of assistance as per the government provisions. The victim's wife, Paro Devi, has accused 8-10 people of the village, including Shankar Sahu, Janardan Sahu, Suresh Sahu and Deepak Sahu of murder. Late at night on October 10, some people came to our house and forcibly took my husband away, said Devi in her complaint. Devi, in the statement to the police said that the accused entered her house

and locked her and her children in a room. Their cries for help couldn't be heard due to the loud noise of the DJ playing in the village. Bhuyan was 35 years old and worked as a labourer. He is survived by his wife and four children. The motive behind the murder is not known yet but the villagers are linking it to a love affair. Keredari police station in-charge, Sadhan Chandra Gorai has said that an FIR has been registered against 10 people in this case. Raids are being conducted to nab the culprits involved in the murder. Keredari Block Pramukh Sunita Devi, Pachda Panchayat Mukhya Mahesh Prasad Sahu and local social worker Prem Ranjan Paswan have demanded the arrest of the accused and compensation from the administration to the family members.

# 'Will follow JP till my last breath', says Nitish

Patna | Agencies

Chief Minister Nitish Kumar said that he will continue to follow Loknayak Jayaprakash Narayan till his last breath, and will work according to his ideology and wishes to develop Bihar. "We believe in the ideology of Jayaprakash Narayan and implementing the policies which he was wishing for Bihar. We are following him to develop Bihar and it will continue till my last breath. We cannot forget him," Kumar said, while celebrating the 120th birth anniversary of Jayaprakash Narayan. Nitish Kumar also paid floral tributes at his statue in Patna. During the occasion, Vijay Kumar Chaudhary, the finance minister of Bihar, cabinet minister Sheela Mandal and Vidhan Parishad speaker Devesh Chandra Thakur also present there. After the event, Nitish Kumar went to Dimapur in Nagaland to participate in an event organized there to respect Jayaprakash Narayan. Nitish Kumar will return to Patna on Tuesday evening and will



go to Uttar Pradesh to meet the family of former chief minister and Samajwadi Party founder Mulayam Singh Yadav, who passed away on Monday. The JD(U), in the last few years, is performing well in the northeastern

states like Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur. The party, particularly in Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur has had some impressive shows. It has also bagged one seat in Nagaland Assembly election, however, later the MLAs of all three

states merged into the BJP. Jayaprakash Narayan has an old connection with Nagaland. He went there in 1964 and stayed there for three years when Nagaland was a disturbed state. He visited every village in Nagaland and appealed to the people for peace. This is the reason why a large number of followers still exist in Nagaland. Nitish Kumar realized that it was a good opportunity to go there and take advantage of the sentiments of the people. The Assembly election of Nagaland will be scheduled in 2023. On the other hand, Union Home Minister Amit Shah is coming to Bihar's Sitab Diara to celebrate the birth anniversary of Jayaprakash Narayan. Sitab Diara is the birthplace of Jayaprakash Narayan. Nitish Kumar, while reacting to Amit Shah's visit, said: "Anyone can go anywhere. It is not a big deal. I am going to Nagaland after people of that state invited me on the occasion of Jayaprakash Narayan's birth anniversary. I will also go to Saifai to pay respect to Uttar Pradesh's former chief minister Mulayam Singh Yadav."

# HEROIN WORTH RS 47 CR SEIZED IN ASSAM

Silchar/Agartala: Border Security Force (BSF) troopers accompanied by the Assam Police on Tuesday seized 9.477 kg of heroin worth Rs 47.4 crore in Karimganj district and arrested one person in connection, officials said. A BSF spokesman said the joint team intercepted a Tripura-bound truck near New Karimganj Railway Station. Upon searching the vehicle, 764 soap cases containing the heroin were recovered from a cavity made in the ceiling of the truck cabin. The spokesman added that the driver of the truck which was coming from Mizoram, has been arrested. BSF officials suspect that the drugs were smuggled from Myanmar. On October 8, Union Home Minister Amit Shah held a meeting in Guwahati with the Chief Ministers, Chief Secretaries and Director Generals of Police of all northeastern states on 'Drug Trafficking and National Security'. It was revealed during the meeting that since 2014, drugs worth of Rs 20,000 crore have been seized and 4,888 drug peddlers were arrested in the northeastern states.

# BKS demands removal of GST on agricultural equipment

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Bharatiya Kisan Sangh (BKS), the RSS-affiliated farmer union, has demanded the government to completely remove Goods and Services Tax (GST) imposed on agricultural equipment, and also raise the financial assistance under PM Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-Kishan scheme) in proportion to the increase in inflation. The BKS activists are trying to create a mass movement in all the provinces of the country through programmes like communication in villages, sit-in demonstrations and padyatras to press their demands. To press the government regarding their demands, BKS is also going to organise a rally of farmers - 'Kisan Garjana Rally' - in Delhi on December 19 this year, aimed at mobilising lakhs of farmers from across the country. The roadmap of the movement was discussed in detail in the recent meeting of the All India Executive Committee of the BKS and the chief office bearers of the provinces in



Delhi. Speaking on the decision taken in the two-day meeting, All-India secretary Sai Reddy and General

Secretary Mohini Mohan Mishra said, "Along with the security of foodgrains, the safety of farmers is also very important. Farmers have

ensured the food security of the country by producing abundant crops but the condition of the farmer still remains the same.

# HIGH-ALTITUDE DESTINATIONS IN HIMACHAL GET SEASON'S HEAVIEST SNOWFALL

Shimla: High-altitude tourist destinations in Himachal Pradesh on Tuesday witnessed season's heaviest snowfall while the state capital and Manali experienced overnight rains, pushing the mercury down by several notches, the weather office here said. Hoteliers cheered up in the hope of arrival of winter tourists with the timely onset of snowfall. The high-altitude Spiti and Lahaul valleys experienced moderate snowfall, making hill stations Kaza, Losar and Chicham more picturesque. Hills overlooking the picturesque tourist destinations of Chitkul, a village close to China border, in Kinnaur district and the majestic Rohtang Pass (13,050 feet), located 52 km from Manali, experienced snowfall. "High-altitude areas of Lahaul and Spiti, Chamba, Kullu, Kinnaur and Shimla districts have been experiencing light to moderate snow since Monday night, while mid and lower hills getting widespread rain," an official of the Met department told reporter. The majestic Dhauladhar ranges of the Himalayas surrounding Dharamsala wore fresh blanket of snow. Shimla, which received 19.2 mm rain, recorded the minimum temperature at 9.4 degree Celsius.

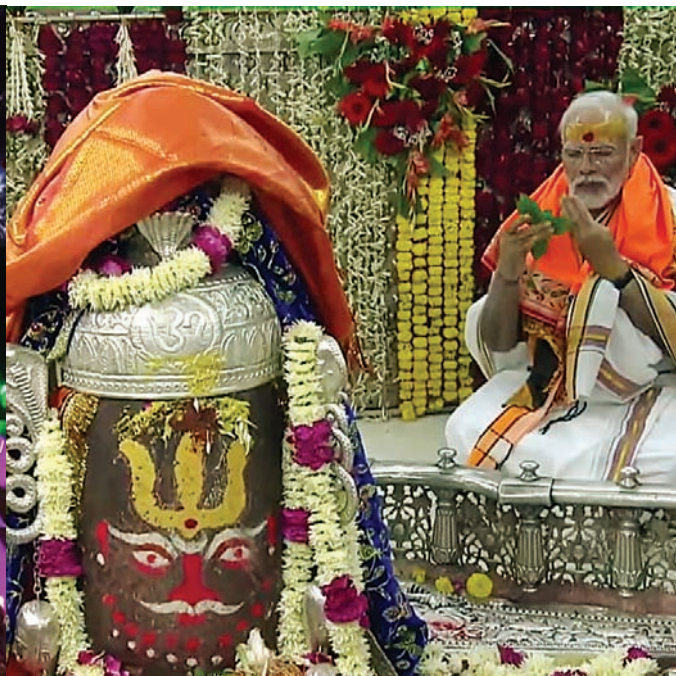


# PM MODI OFFERS PRAYERS AND PERFORMS AARTI AT SHRI MAHAKALESHWAR TEMPLE

Ujjain, also called Mahakal's Nagari after the ancient Mahakaleswar temple here, witnessed the grand inauguration of the newly developed 'Mahakal Lok' on Tuesday, which was live-streamed across 40 countries. Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled the first phase of the mega project. In Madhya Pradesh, all prominent temples of Lord Shiva were decorated with hundreds of earthen lamps. Over 1,000 giant screens were installed across the state to facilitate the public viewing of the event as part of the BJP's efforts to draw more people to the party. The party workers had been exhorted to organise 'Diwali-like events' at the booth level to celebrate the



Team Absolute | Bhopal



Ujjain is witnessing a historic moment: PM Modi

Ujjain, the holy city of faith and spirituality, is going to witness a historic moment. Will have the privilege of dedicating the grand and divine Shri Mahakal Lok to the nation this evening. Har Har Mahadev



Heartily welcome Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his visit to the holy land of Ujjain, the divine and unique place of energy. We are all overwhelmed that Shri Mahakal Lok is getting the privilege of witnessing this unique moment of dedication to Baba Mahakal. Jai Mahakal!  
Shivraj Singh Chouhan, CM, MP

## CM will transfer the amount of Sambal Yojna to the accounts of workers

15 thousand 948 worker families of the state will get support of Rs. 345 crore

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan will transfer ex-gratia amount of Rs. 345 crore 59 lakh to 15 thousand 948 labour families of the state with a single click under Sambal Yojana in a state-level programme at Dussehra Maidan in Raisen on October 12. The amount to be transferred includes Rs. 310 crore 40 lakh to 14 thousand 298 labour families and Rs. 35 crore 19 lakh to 1650 families of construction workers. Chief Minister Chouhan will also interact with the beneficiaries of 5 districts of the scheme.



In the programme, selected workers under the Uttam Shramik Puraskar Yojana of Madhya Pradesh Labour Welfare Board will also be honoured with awards.

Sambal (2.0) Yojana is an important scheme for lakhs of workers working in the unorganised sector in the state. Under the Anugrah Sahayata Yojana, ex-gratia assistance of

Rs. 4 lakh is given in case of accidental death of the worker, 2 lakh on normal death, 2 lakh on permanent disability, one lakh for partial permanent disability and Rs. 5 thousand as funeral assistance.

Under the Sambal Yojana, Rs 16thousand is provided to women labourers for maternity assistance and scholarship for free education to the children of labourers. Under the scheme, financial assistance is given to the worker from birth till death.

Labour Minister Brijendra Pratap Singh, President of Workers' Board and public representatives will also be present in the virtual programme.

## IN GWALIOR, THE LADY COP SLAPPED THE COMMUTER

Gwalior: In Madhya Pradesh these days, the attitude of the police against those who ride two wheelers without helmets is strict and due to this there was an argument between a rider and the lady subedar in Gwalior. The driver threw the note towards the lady Subedar, she slapped the driver. This video is going viral on social media.

This incident is being told of Motel Tansen Tiraha on Gandhi Road, where women police subedars and traffic police personnel were checking vehicles. Meanwhile, the two-wheeler driver came out without a helmet, which was stopped by the police personnel. On this the driver of the vehicle got into an argument with the lady Subedar. Then the driver took out a 500 note from his purse and threw it towards the woman, which hit her in the face, then the lady Subedar got angry and slapped the driver. Not only this, the other bike rider was also slapped by the lady Subedar, the people present there intervened. After this video went viral on social media, the police officers are saying that the whole matter should be investigated. It is to be known that strict action is being taken against the two-wheeler drivers driving without helmet on the orders of High Court Jabalpur and challans of hundreds of drivers are being deducted every day.

## Congress Presidential candidate Kharge in Bhopal on Wednesday



Team Absolute | Bhopal

The activity for the election of the President of the All India Congress Committee is increasing. Two candidates are in the fray in this election, Mallikarjun Kharge and Shashi Tharoor. Kharge is coming to Bhopal, the capital of Madhya Pradesh, on October 12 to interact with voters. According to the information provided by the Congress,

Presidential candidate Mallikarjun Kharge will stay in Bhopal on Wednesday. They will reach Bhopal by special plane at 3.30 am. State Congress General Secretary-in-Charge Administration Rajiv Singh has told that after reaching Bhopal, Kharge will discuss with senior leaders and elected State Congress representatives in the State Congress office at 12.30 pm, will leave for Delhi at 3 pm.

## Woman paraded half-naked in Satna CM Chouhan plants saplings of Peepal, Gulmohar and Khirni

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A woman was pulled out from her home and paraded in half-naked position for hours by a group of men hailing from a family in Madhya Pradesh's Satna district, police said on Monday. The shameful act of men was executed in revenge on broad daylight, more ironically, people of the village (Khera village where incident took place on Saturday) witnessed the helpless woman being paraded and abused on street as mute spectators. The village, where this incident hap-

pend, falls under Maihar Police station in Satna district, around 500 km from the state capital Bhopal. Three persons, who have been identified as Rishi Patel, Shivkumar Patel and Mahendra Patel, on Saturday barged into the woman's house, pulled her out and started parading her naked while abusing her. As per the police, the accused (Patel family) did it in revenge of a police complaint made against them by the woman few days back. "Earlier on October 6, the three had come to the house of the victim in an inebriated state and created a ruckus on

some issue. The woman complained about it to the Dial-100," said a police official. They were detained on the basis of woman's complaint but released on bail soon. After getting bail, the trio again reached the house of the woman and committed the crime in revenge. "During the parade, the sari of the victim fell down and she was in her petticoat and blouse. One of the accused Mahendra kept the sari in his hand and proudly flaunted it. The kin of the woman tried to intervene but the miscreants kept on thrashing her," said a senior police official.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted saplings of Peepal, Gulmohar and Khirni in the Smart City Garden along with the workers of Valmiki Yuva Ekta Sangathan, Bhopal. On behalf of the organisation, Anga-Vastra, a copy of Valmiki Ramayana and a picture of Maharishi Valmiki Ji were presented to Chief Minister Chouhan. Valmiki Yuva Ekta Sangathan is active in the field of social service and environmental protection. Various activities are conducted by the organisation with the aim of motivating the people for plantation.



## BOY, GIRL, TEENS, FOUND DEAD, THROATS SLIT ON WAY TO SCHOOL IN MADHYA PRADESH, COPS PROBE

Panna: A teenage boy and girl were attacked and murdered with sharp-edged weapons in Madhya Pradesh's Panna district, police said. The bodies of the 18-year-old boy and 16-year-old girl were found on the road to school in the district on Monday, an official told Press Trust of India. The two were found on the road leading to the girl's school. The police have interrogated villagers and families of the two to find out the reason for the killings, Superintendent of Police Dharmaraj Meena said. Initial investigation reveals injuries by sharp-edged weapons on the necks of the boy and girl. While the autopsy report is awaited, other forensic evidence has been collected from the scene of the crime, the police said. According to the police, the teens were neighbours. The boy had recently returned to the village, while the girl was a Class 9 student.

## 'Can't abandon victims of Bhopal gas tragedy', Centre to SC

Team Absolute | New Delhi/Bhopal

The Centre on Tuesday told the Supreme Court that it is keen to pursue its curative petition seeking enhancement of compensation to Bhopal gas tragedy victims -- over the \$470 million, which has already been paid by Union Carbide. Attorney General (AG) R. Venkataramani submitted before a five-judge bench headed by Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul that it is a tragedy unfolding everyday and victims can't be abandoned. Advocate Karuna Nundy, representing the victims, contended that the victims have to be given an opportunity to give a representation before the court comes to a conclusion in the matter and appreciated the AG's heartening statement. The AG said there are various challenges in reopening this matter, but we cannot abandon the victims,



because the tragedy is unfolding every day. He added that the government wants to proceed and he has gone through considerable literature on the reopening of settlement. The AG said he will be able to place a note. Nundy said first there is the civil aspect, and then there is the criminal aspect and the matter must be investigated. The Union Carbide Corporation's counsel questioned the locus standi of NGOs. The bench -- also comprising Justices Sanjiv Khanna, A.S. Oka, Vikram Nath, and J.K. Maheshwari -- noted that a review was not filed

then and a curative petition was filed after a gap of 19 years, and asked the victims' counsel, in what capacity they will be heard? The bench, in its order, noted that the AG has taken a stand before the court that the government would like to press its curative petition and a number of NGOs would like to be impleaded, however, counsel for respondent has questioned the maintainability. The bench said a compilation needs to be prepared by the AG and the company, and it did not allow the counsel representing the victims to file any pleadings.

However, the top court clarified that it did not foreclose their rights to be heard by it. The top court has scheduled the hearing after eight weeks and sought a joint compilation by then. In the previous hearing, senior advocate Sanjay Parikh, representing the victims, said that over the years, the tragedy's intensity has increased fivefold -- deaths, the number of victims, and the extent of injuries. On September 20, the Supreme Court asked the Centre's counsel to get instructions whether it wants to pursue its curative petition seeking enhancement of compensation to Bhopal gas tragedy victims -- over the \$470 million, which has already been paid by Union Carbide. In 2011, a five-judge bench of the top court had issued notice to the Union Carbide Corporation, now a wholly owned subsidiary of Dow Chemicals Co., US.

## CM CHOUHAN PAYS FLORAL TRIBUTE TO BHARAT RATNA NANAJI DESHMUKH ON HIS ANNIVERSARY

Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan paid homage to the great social worker, Bharat Ratna Nanaji Deshmukh on his birth anniversary. Chief Minister Chouhan garlanded his portrait at the CM residence. Late Deshmukh was a social worker and leader of Bharatiya Jana Sangh. In 1972, Nanaji established the Deendayal Research Institute to give shape to the concept of Integral Humanism of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay. The Central Government awarded him the Padma Vibhushan for his exemplary contribution in the field of education, health and rural self-reliance. He was awarded the Bharat Ratna in the year 2019. Nanaji was born on 11 October 1916 in Kadoli town of Hingoli district of Maharashtra. Nanaji devoted his entire life in the service of the nation. India's first rural university - Chitrakoot Rural University was established by Nanaji Deshmukh. He breathed his last on 27 February 2010 in the university itself.





EDITOR'S SPECS

Star of Millennium

**M**egastar Amitabh Bachchan, who turns 80 on Tuesday, has shared that another 365 days have begun for him and thanked everyone for showering him with love and care. The cine icon took to his blog and wrote: "And another 365... and another begins... as do many other begins... beginnings are required... they provide ends... and ends need love and grace and care to be accomplished..." He then thanked all his fans, whom he lovingly calls his extended family or EF, for showering him with all the love he has received. "It is impossible for me to even attempt what your love and affection means to me... so I fold my hands and pray for all in the spirit of generous gratitude." Known as the Shehenshah of Bollywood, Amitabh is regarded as one of the most successful and influential actors in the history of Indian cinema. He has worked in over 100 films and has even lent his iconic baritone voice for several songs in Hindi movies. Big B has seen his popularity soar with the TV show at an age when most of his counterparts have very little work on hand or the common 80-year-old crowd has almost no dreams to pursue. He had his share of initial ups and downs, but 'Zanjeer' in 1973 catapulted him out of nowhere to the big league and the youth discovered their agitative emotions in him. The 'Angry Man' became the symbol of the then restless youth. The 1970's, '80's and a bit of 1990's were his, but it was the 2000s that saw him again come up after a series of failed ventures and miserably flopped movies. When all had written him off, he was again catapulted from the depths of failures to the national stage. Amitabh Bachchan was back in the new Avatar, the Big B of Bollywood.

DESTRUCTION CAUSED BY CLIMATE CHANGE

Asad Mirza

**V**arious reports highlight the fact that Climate Change has been caused by the rich nations and thus poor countries have started demanding compensation for the climate changes, which have adversely impacted them.

The forthcoming COP27, UN climate talks due to be held in Egypt in November, may highlight the compensation system for poorer countries known as "loss and damage", caused by the Climate Change. It is a fact, corroborated by various UN and independent reports that Climate Change over the last 25 years particularly has caused costly damages, including drought, rising heat, less or more rains, tropical cyclones and more gradual changes, such as desertification and rising sea levels across the globe.

It has been proven that these changes could be attributed to the presence of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. The rich industrialised countries are responsible for most of the emissions causing these phenomena.

**Loss and Damage**

The poorer countries, as they are unable to take timely corrective measures to mitigate these changes caused by others in the past, face the negative affects of Climate Change first. Thus, the new concept of "Loss and Damages" has started taking roots amongst them. Under this new concept they are demanding adequate financial help to take corrective measures to mitigate these changes, caused by the richer, industrialised nations, in the past. Now they are redefining it as a matter of liability and compensation, rather than aid after a particular natural disaster.

Loss and damage is also referred to as the "third pillar" of climate change politics, after mitigation (tackling the root cause of the problem by reducing emissions) and adaptation (preparing for current and future impacts).

However, developed countries have pushed back against this since 1990s when the text of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change was being drawn up, terming it completely implausible.

Meanwhile, a group of island countries had proposed that an international insurance fund be created to compensate low-lying countries for the damage caused by rising sea levels. The Economist magazine reports that in 2015, at the talks, which culminated in the adoption of the Paris



Agreement, developing countries again sought a strong clause on loss and damage financing. But they ended up with only a vague reference to the issue. And concrete action was left for future discussions, thus the Egypt Summit offers a chance again to hammer out a concrete policy and action plan on the issue.

**Positive actions**

Denmark has recently pledged just over \$13m to developing countries that have suffered damage from climate change and more developed countries may follow suit.

Scotland's First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon, at COP26 in Glasgow last November, promised 2 million pounds (\$2.7 million) as a one-off loss and damage payment, apparently hoping that other rich countries might follow suit, however, they did not.

But the pressure for them to do so is increasing. Last month ministers from an alliance known as the 'Least Developed Countries Alliance' (LDCA) having 46 members, called the creation of a financial mechanism for loss and damage a "fundamental priority" for COP27. At the UNGA last month, Secretary-General Antonio Guterres suggested that windfall taxes on fossil fuel companies might provide the funding for one.

But it is easier said than done and may not happen at all. There is an utter lack of enthusiasm among the developed countries for such a pay out. Some developing countries are tentatively seeking redress through international law. On September 22, the UN Human Rights Committee ordered the Australian government to pay compensation to indigenous people living on the islands of the Torres Strait, which are being eroded by rising seas. Perhaps it is for the first time that such a payment has been ordered. The Australian government seemed sympathetic to the islanders' plight. But whether it will translate into hard cash, let alone a costly acceptance of liability - remains to be seen. Hence, a global framework for loss and damage still looks like a distant prospect.

**Disasters in the developed world**

Meanwhile, the developed world is also not safe from the Climate Change vagaries. Natural disasters such as Hurricane Ian, which recently left behind a trail of damages running in billions of dollars, are on the rise in the United States.

Hurricane Ian, which battered parts of Florida and South Carolina, is estimated

to be the latest in a growing trend of billion-dollar disasters in the United States.

As compared to between 1980 and 2021, when the average of such events happening was 7.7, the past five years have witnessed an increase to 17.8 of such events per year. Last year marked the seventh consecutive year in which ten or more billion-dollar disasters pummeled the US. By July of this year there had already been nine such disasters.

It has been reported that the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere in May 2022, reached a level that has not been seen in millions of years, and that is over 50 percent higher than in the pre-industrial era. The heat trapped by carbon dioxide and other human-produced greenhouse gases has increased the world's average temperature. Climate change is "supercharging the increasing frequency and intensity" of weather extremes, according to the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. It spawns greater rainfall variability, lengthens the wildfire season in the American West, increases drought vulnerability, and drives bigger storm surges as sea levels rise. Given the relentless accumulation of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, 2022 is likely the harbinger of a more violent weather in future.

To reduce such natural mishaps happening again and again, both developed and developing nations need to adopt practices, which rapidly reduce and remove heat-trapping emissions from the atmosphere to limit warming extremes.

In addition, they'll have to look towards greener sources of energy instead of fossil fuels, which have contributed to a large extent to green gas emissions.

But at the same time, they'll also have to adopt and put into practice policies, which mitigate the damages in the poorer countries, instead of just offering one time aid to ease off their burden.

The forthcoming Egypt Summit should strive to find a new feasible approach to counter the Climate Change disasters, instead of just hollow promises and no real ground work, as has happened at previous COP conferences.

*(Asad Mirza is a political commentator based in New Delhi. He writes on Indian Muslims, educational, international affairs, interfaith and current affairs)*

international

HALF OF WORLD'S POOREST NEED URGENT DEBT RELIEF: UNDP

United Nation|Agencies

**F**ifty-four developing economies accounting for more than half of the world's poorest people need urgent debt relief as a result of "cascading global crises", the UN Development Program (UNDP) said on Tuesday.

It warned of the risks of inaction in a new paper, noting that if these countries do not get access to effective debt restructuring, poverty will rise and desperately needed investments in climate adaptation and mitigation will not happen, reports Xinhua news agency.

The 54 countries with severe debt problems include 28 of the world's top-50 most climate vulnerable nations, the paper said. "The international community should not wait until interest rates drop or a global recession kicks in to take action," it said.

"The time to avert a prolonged development crisis is now."

For wealthy countries, debt relief would be "a small pill" to swallow, yet the cost of inaction is brutal for the world's poorest, said Achim Steiner, administrator of the program.



"We cannot afford to repeat the mistake of providing too little relief, too late, in managing the developing economy debt burden," Steiner said in a statement. The paper laid out a number of policy actions for debt restructuring that could help stop the debt crisis in its tracks, proposing a way forward for the G20's Common Framework for Debt Treatments with the focus on key areas including debt sustainability analysis, official creditor coordination and private creditor participation.

The Common Framework is the main international debt relief offer open today to some countries suffering from debt distress, it said.

Effective debt restructuring is only one vital element of ensuring that developing economies have the finances they need to make progress on sustainable development, the paper said, adding that new sources of funding are urgently needed.

British Sikh MP seeks 'urgent action' on rising hate crimes

London|Agencies

**P**reet Kaur Gill, an Indian-origin British Sikh MP, in a letter to Home Secretary Suella Braverman, has sought protection and urgent action against rising crimes against the community in the UK.

Quoting hate crime statistics 2021-22, Gill, an MP from Birmingham, said hate crimes against Sikhs rose by 169 per cent in comparison to a 38 per cent increase in reported religious hate crimes overall.

"I am deeply concerned by these new statistics. 301 hate crimes against Sikhs were reported in 2021-22, up from 112 in 2020-21. The 169 per cent increase is compared to a 38 per cent increase in reported religious hate crimes overall", Gill said in the letter, which she released on Twitter on Monday.

The 2001 census recorded 336,000 Sikhs living in Britain. Gill said 301 hate crimes against Sikhs were reported in 2021-22, up from 112 in 2020-21.

The letter, which was also addressed to Simon Clarke, secretary of the department for levelling up, housing and communities

(DLUHC), comes as 28 year-old Claudio Capos from Manchester was awarded a three year jail term recently for attacking 62-year-old Avtar Singh in broad daylight this June.

Singh had suffered a severe traumatic brain injury, a stroke caused by bleeding on the brain and multiple fractures to his cheek, jaw and eye socket as a result of the attack, the BBC reported.

Gill, in her letter, urged Braverman to implement the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) report on British Sikhs, which was published in 2020.

The report found that the lack of an official term was a contributing factor as to why crimes against Sikhs go largely "unnoticed, unreported and unrecorded".

This report, Gill said, was shared with both the home secretary and communities secretary at the time and was an attempt to consult the government on the definition of Anti-Sikh hate.

"However, despite multiple promises of substantive response and offers of a meeting, the home office and DLUHC, between them, have failed to respond," she added.

US strongly condemns Russian missile strikes across Ukraine: Biden

Washington|Agencies

**U**S President Joe Biden said that that Washington "strongly condemns" Russian missile strikes across Ukraine, including at the centre of Kiev, adding that they once again demonstrated the "utter brutality of Putin's illegal war on the Ukrainian people".

In a statement issued by the White House on Monday, Biden said: "These attacks killed and injured civilians and destroyed targets with no military purpose... These attacks only further reinforce our commitment to stand with the people of Ukraine for as long as it takes."

The President added that the US and its allies will "continue to impose costs on Russia for its aggression, hold Putin and Russia accountable for its atrocities and war crimes, and provide the support necessary for



Ukrainian forces to defend their country and their freedom".

"We again call on Russia to end this unprovoked aggression immediately and remove its troops from Ukraine," Biden was quoted as saying in the statement. The President's statement came just hours after multiple missile strikes targeted

Ukrainian cities, including the capital which was hit for the very first time since the war broke out on February 24.

According to Ukrainian officials, 83 missiles were launched of which more than 43 were shot down.

At least 14 people were killed and scores more were injured, the BBC

2 back-to-back mass whale strandings on NZ's Chatham Islands

Wellington|Agencies

**T**here have been two mass strandings of pilot whales on New Zealand's Chatham Islands in the past two days, according to an organisation that specialises in the protection and conservation of marine animals.

"Sadly, there has been a second mass stranding of pilot whales on the Chatham Islands, this time on Rangiauria/Pitt Island, about 40 km south from the stranding over the weekend," Xinhua news agency quoted Project Jonah New Zealand as saying on Tuesday.

Reports suggest up to 250 whales in this second stranding event.

A Department of Conservation (DOC) team is being mobilized from the Chatham Islands in response.

The Chatham Islands are a challenging spot for stranding response, known for great white sharks, remote beaches, and a resident population of fewer than 800 people.

These factors sadly meant the whales alive on discovery were euthanised by the DOC, according to the Project Jonah New Zealand.

This incident followed a mass pilot whale stranding on the Chatham Islands



on Sunday when 215 whales were involved, many of which had died.

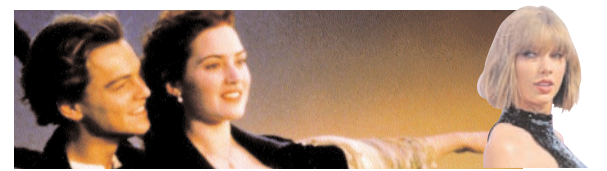
In March this year, at least 31 pilot whales died after a mass stranding at a beach near Farewell Spit on the South Island.

Last year, rescuers were able to save 28 long-finned pilot whales of a pod of about 50 who had stranded on the beach, but the rest died.

The worst stranding occurred in February 2017, when almost 700 whales beached, resulting in 250 deaths.

The area has seen at least 11 pilot whale strandings in the past 15 years.





# 'I kind of became objectified': Scarlett Johansson

Los Angeles | Agencies

Scarlett Johansson described feeling 'hypersexualized' and 'pigeonholed' in the early stages of her acting career in Hollywood. The *Black Widow* star, appeared on Dax Shepard's podcast, *Armchair Expert*, and shared how people in the industry saw her as older than what she was, leading to her not getting the roles she wanted. 'I kind of became objectified and pigeonholed in this way where I felt like I wasn't getting offers for work for things that I wanted to do. I remember thinking to myself, "I think people think I'm 40 years old," she revealed. 'Because I think everybody thought I was older and that I'd been [acting] for a long time, I got kind of pigeonholed into this weird hypersexualized thing,' the beauty remarked. 'The runway is not long on that. So it was scary at that time. In a weird way, I was like, "Is this it?"' she added. However, the New York native noted that things in the industry appear to be changing for the better. 'Now, I see younger actors that are in their 20s. It feels like they're allowed to be all these different things,' she expressed.

'It's another time, too. We're not even allowed to really pigeonhole other actors anymore, thankfully, right? People are much more dynamic,' Johansson added. The blonde bombshell started out her career as a child actor, but came to prominence when she was 17-years-old, while playing Charlotte in the 2003 Sofia Coppola film, *Lost in Translation*, alongside Bill Murray (then 52, now 72) for which she won a BAFTA Award for Best Actress.

New York | Agencies

Victoria and David Beckham looked in good spirits as they departed the Langham Hotel in New York City. The couple was seen chatting with a group of friends on a late night outing just days after David spent time in Miami. Victoria looked incredible for the evening as she donned a semi-sheer midi dress with a green print. The former Spice Girl added height to her frame with a pair of burgundy heels while she styled her brunette locks into loose curls. Wearing a light palette of makeup, she completed her look for the evening with a bright green handbag.

David cut a dapper figure in a black blazer and matching trousers which he paired with a light blue shirt.

The outing comes after Victoria reached out to son Brooklyn and daughter-in-law Nicola Peltz with a heartfelt message after they



## VICTORIA AND DAVID BECKHAM ENJOY NIGHT OUT IN NYC

squashed feud rumours earlier this month with a reunion with a reunion at her PFW show. The fashion designer took to Instagram to share a picture of the couple alongside the message: 'I love you all so much', which Nicola went on to re-share.

Victoria also uploaded an image of her parents Jackie and Anthony Adams with the couple, with the star seemingly delighted to have things back on track with her loved ones.

It came just days after Brooklyn and Nicola attended Victoria's debut Paris Fashion Week show on Friday where they finally put to bed speculation that they had fallen out with the Spice Girl.



## JUSTIN BIEBER SAYS KANYE WEST 'CROSSED THE LINE' WITH HIS HAILEY INSULT

Los Angeles | Agencies

Singer Justin Bieber thinks rapper Kanye West "crossed a line" with his recent comments about his wife Hailey Baldwin. The pop star is said to be angry with Kanye after he recently spoke out against the model.

A source said: "Justin is very protective about Hailey. He is upset by Kanye's attack on her where he said hurtful and untrue things." Hailey was targeted by Kanye after she voiced her support for Vogue editor Gabriella Karefa-Johnson, who publicly blasted Kanye's White Lives Matter apparel.

Justin is now "distancing himself from Kanye" and he's keen to offer support to his wife. The insider told 'Entertainment Tonight': "He feels like he has been a true friend to Kanye, and tried to empathise with him in the past, but this crossed a line that he's not OK with."

"Being there for Hailey and supporting his wife is Justin's main priority, and he's doing that and distancing himself from Kanye."

The 'Stronger' hitmaker has been widely criticised for his provocative new fashion line, which the Vogue editor described as "pure violence". And after Kanye rubbished Gabriella's criticism, Hailey took to social media to offer her some support.

Hailey, who has modelled for the likes of Guess, Ralph Lauren, and Tommy Hilfner, wrote on Instagram: "My respect for you runs deep my friend! To know is to adore you and to work with you is an honor!"

The blonde beauty - who married Justin in 2018 - added: "The most kind, the most talented, the most fun, the most chic."

Kanye responded to the post by calling the model "nose job Hailey Baldoose".

The outspoken star told Justin: "Get your girl before I get mad. You spose to be my friend right."

# Tina Fey, Jamie Dornan, to star in 'A Haunting in Venice'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actors Tina Fey, Jamie Dornan, Michelle Yeoh, Kyle Allen, Camille Cottin, Jude Hill, Ali Khan, Emma Laird, Kelly Reilly and Riccardo Scamarcio have been roped in for director Kenneth Branagh's third effort in the Hercule Poirot film 'A Haunting in Venice' based on Agatha Christie novels.

Set in post-WWII Venice on All Hallows' Eve, the film follows another mystery featuring the celebrated sleuth Poirot. Inspired by Christie's "Hallowe'en Party," the now retired and living in self-imposed exile Poirot reluctantly attends a seance at a haunted palazzo when one of the guests is murdered, and the former detective must once again find out who did it.

"This is a fantastic development of the character Hercule Poirot, as well as the Agatha Christie franchise," Branagh said of the new film. "Based on a complex, little known tale of mystery set at Halloween in a pictorially ravishing city, it is an amazing opportunity for us, as filmmakers, and we are relishing the chance to deliver something truly spine-chilling for our loyal movie audiences."

Alongside Branagh, the team of creatives behind the 2017 film 'Murder on the Orient Express' and this year's

'Death on the Nile' will return for the third entry in the Poirot franchise. This includes screenwriter Michael Green, producer Judy Hofflund and executive producers Louise Killin and James Prichard, in addition to filmmakers Ridley Scott, Simon Kinberg and Mark Gordon who also produce.

"We are enormously privileged to continue our long collaboration with the incomparable Sir Kenneth

Branagh and couldn't be more excited by the bold new creative direction Ken, Michael, and the rest of the film-making team have taken with this latest film," Steve Asbell, president of 20th Century Studios, said of continuing the trilogy with Branagh.

Production on the film will begin in November, with filming locations including Pinewood Studios in London and location work in Venice. The film will open in theatres nationwide in 2023.



## Madonna appears to come out as gay on TikTok

Los Angeles | Agencies

Queen of pop Madonna seemingly came out as gay in a playful video posted to TikTok.

The singer put her spin on a new viral trend by attempting to throw a pair of bright pink underwear into the trash can and purposely missing. "If I miss, I'm Gay," text over the video read. The singer, who was rocking a cream-coloured corset over a white tee with matching pants and pink hair, seemed to accept the outcome, staring into the camera while proudly throwing one arm into the air. However, the video has left many fans confused, with some questioning whether Madonna was just jumping on the trend for fun or was serious about coming out. While the 'Vogue' songstress - who has alluded to her sexuality in the past - has mostly dated men in the public eye, she famously kissed Britney Spears and Christina Aguilera at the 2003 MTV Video Music Awards. She was also reportedly romantically involved with model Jenny Shimizu in 1996. "I think everybody has a bisexual nature. That's my theory. I could be wrong," she said in a 1991 profile for Advocate. The new TikTok video also comes weeks after Madonna was spotted packing on the PDA with rapper Tokischa in a series of pics posted to Instagram. While the two were promoting the music video for "Hung Up on Tokischa," many fans wondered whether more was happening behind the scenes. The singer and Tokischa, also made out while performing at a concert together during a New York City Pride event in June. "It was instant - we connected right away," the Dominican rapper said on "Ebro in the Morning" last month. "We were doing this together and rehearsing for the show and talking all the time, so we got really close." She added: "We were in the mic recording and all of a sudden we were kissing already, and it's so natural for both of us."



## ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Kaia Gerber





## Akshay Kumar goes on epic adventure, walks on water in upcoming movie

Team Absolute | Mumbai

"Duniya main Shri Ram ke lakhon mandir hai par Setu sirf ek" is a line that actor Akshay Kumar is heard saying while he's seen walking on water in the trailer of the upcoming film 'Ram Setu'.

The makers unveiled the over two-minute long trailer, where Akshay seems to be saving what his character claims to be an ancient treasure - a bridge built by Lord Ram in the Ramayana. It starts with an explanation of the story where the antagonist wants to destroy 'Ram Setu'.

As Akshay and his team set out to prove the existence of the structure, they get embroiled in a big scheme where they are the targets. The action-adventure filled video also shows Akshay walking on water at the end of the

trailer.

Jacqueline Fernandez and Nushratt Bharuccha have a blink-and-miss appearance. According to the description on YouTube, the film is about an atheist archaeologist turned believer, who must race against time to prove the existence of the legendary Ram Setu before evil forces destroy the pillar of India's heritage.

An action adventure with a strong serving of twists and turns, Ram Setu promises to keep the viewer engaged and entertained, making it the perfect festive film to be enjoyed with the entire family in cinemas.

'Ram Setu' has been directed by Abhishek Sharma and co-produced by Cape of Good Films along with Amazon Prime Video, Abundantia Entertainment, and Lyca Productions. The film also stars Satya Dev, Nasser, Pravesh Rana, Jennifer Piccinato.

## Samantha returns to social media with a selfie

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Samantha returned to social media a few days ago after being missing for a month or so. Today, the actress posted a selfie without revealing her face while wearing a t-shirt with the powerful message "you will never walk alone." "In case you needed to hear this as well," the actress captioned the photo. "YOU'LL NEVER WALK ALONE."

Samantha's friends Neeraja Kona and Kresha Bajaj commented, writing 'Never' and 'More power to you.' Samantha Ruth Prabhu has been absent from social media platforms for an unknown period of time. According to social media reports, the actor has fallen ill and is receiving treatment for a skin disease in the United States. Soon after, it was reported that she travelled to the United States to prepare for her role in the Hindi series 'Citadel', in which she co-starred with Varun Dhawan.

Meanwhile, Samantha Ruth Prabhu is in the midst of a busy work schedule, with back-to-back films in both South and Bollywood. She is preparing for Yashoda's release. The film, directed by Hari and Harish, will be her first appearance in Hindi theatres with Yashoda.



## Shahrukh Khan arranges a special meet for his fans in a 5-star

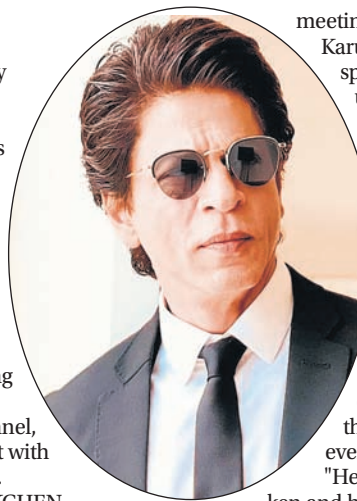
Team Absolute | Chennai

Shah Rukh Khan is widely regarded as one of the most talented actors in Indian cinema. The superstar is set to make a big comeback on the big screen with some exciting projects.

After wrapping the filming schedule for his upcoming project Jawan in Chennai, SRK hosted a special meet and greet with his fans. SRK's fans asked his team to arrange a meet-up at his hotel during his stay.

According to a leading news channel, Shah Rukh Khan has agreed to meet with approximately 20 fans on October 8.

Sudhir Kothari, who runs the SRKCHEN-NAIFC fan account on Twitter, revealed the details of the



meeting. "I reached out to Pooja Dadlani ma'am and Karuna (Badwal) ma'am who manage sir. They spoke to sir, who said that he would like to meet us once he finishes the shoot," he said adding, "After a few days I got a call that sir will meet us on October 8 which was the day when he wrapped up the Chennai schedule of Jawan," he said.

He went on to say that SRK had invited them to a five-star hotel and that he had booked two rooms for them as well as taken care of all of their needs. Later, they were assigned a manager and two butlers, with whom they could order anything from the menu. According to Kothari, Shah Rukh met each of them individually in his suite and gave them enough time to interact, take photos, and even present their gifts.

"He didn't rush and was very gentle and soft-spoken and heard everyone and interacted really sweetly. While leaving he told us to have dinner and go," he added.

## IT IS A STORY ABOUT EMPOWERING WOMEN: AISHWARYA LEKSHMI

Team Absolute | Chennai

The makers of director Charukesh Sekar's upcoming Telugu Movie 'Ammu', featuring actress Aishwarya Lekshmi in the lead, have now released the trailer of the film.

The film depicts the journey of a woman who, like a phoenix, rises from the ashes of her fairytale marriage-turned-nightmare.

The trailer gives a glimpse into the life of the eponymous character, played by Aishwarya Lekshmi.

The movie revolves around Ammu who thinks marriage is a fairytale - full of love and magic. It all changes when her cop-husband Ravi (Naveen Chandra) hits her for the very first

time. What Ammu thinks is a one-off incident turns into a never-ending cycle of abuse, trapping her and breaking her soul and spirit. Pushed to her limits, Ammu teams up with an unlikely ally (Simha) to break free.

"Ammu is very close to my heart. Ammu's journey in the film as she learns to take a stand against her oppressor is one that will leave the viewers thrilled and moved," says writer-director Charukesh Sekar.

"Ammu' at its core, is a story of empowerment," says actress Aishwarya Lekshmi.



## SIDDHARTH NIGAM PLAYS RANVEER SINGH ON COMEDY SHOW

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Stand-up comedian Siddharth Nigam is a huge admirer of Bollywood star Ranveer Singh's look and style and he said he always wanted to play him on screen.

Siddharth talked about fulfilling his dream by doing an act depicting the 'Band Baaja Bाराat' actor.

Wearing a pink coloured coat and trousers, Siddharth entertained the audience and the 'Code Name Tiranga' cast including Parineeti Chopra, Hardy Sandhu, Sharad Kelkar, Rajit Kapur and director Ribhu Dasgupta with his conversation and entire performance.

He said: "I dearly admire Ranveer Singh for his acting and the energy he carries wherever he goes. So I have been observing his on-screen and off-screen activities for a long time as I really wanted to play him on-screen."

He expressed his excitement as his act was liked by the host Kapil Sharma and also Archana Pura Singh.

"I was really taken away by the reactions of kapil bhai, archana ji, the special guests and the audience, which made my day. I am looking forward to the episode going on-air and I know people would love it as much as the live audience did," he added.

"The Kapil Sharma Show" airs on Sony Entertainment Television.

## INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Anupama Parameswaran