

# absolute india

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India successfully flight tests crew escape system, module for human space mission

## The Gaganyaan

After some twists and turns and suspense, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on Saturday successfully flight tested the crew escape system, crew module that would carry the country's astronauts sometime in 2025. The mission was called Flight Test Vehicle Abort Mission-1 (TV-D1).

The deceleration of the crew module was done with parachutes with pyro systems when it was at about an altitude of 17 km.

The crew module finally splashed down on Bay of Bengal at about 10 km from the launch pad at Sriharikota.

This Test Vehicle mission with this crew module is a significant milestone for the overall Gaganyaan programme as a near-complete system is integrated for a flight test.

The success of this test flight has set the stage for the remaining qualification tests and unmanned missions, leading to the first Gaganyaan mission with Indian astronauts.



Measuring about 35 tall and weighing about 44 tonnes, the test vehicle/rocket uses a modified Vikas engine which is powered by liquid fuel.

The ISRO had modified the L40 booster Vikas engine used to power the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) formerly called GSLV-Mk2.

The crew module and crew escape system are mounted at the fore end of the rocket.

Five seconds to lift off and while one was able to see some fire and some smoke from the rocket's tail, the full fledged ignition did not happen and the automatic launch sequence was put on hold.

This in turn brought the memories of the first flight of GSLV-D1 way back in March 2001. Then, the rocket was held back just one second before it was to lift off carrying communication satellite GSAT-1.

Even then some initial ignition was noticed but soon

it stopped.

The rocket was subsequently launched on April 18, 2001. Be that as it may, with the lift off on hold, Somanath had announced postponement of the TV-D1 launch to a future date.

However the ISRO team quickly checked and sorted out the reason for the launch put on hold. The test rocket finally lifted off from the first launch pad here at 10 a.m. and the whole mission got completed in about nine minutes.

"It was a big training for the Gaganyaan mission," Somanath said.

The entire flight sequence -- from the test rocket's lift off to the crew module touchdown at the sea with the deployment of parachutes - took about nine minutes.

According to ISRO, the mass of the crew module is 4,520 kg and is a single walled unpressurised aluminium structure.

At about 61 seconds into the flight and at an altitude of 11.9 km, the test vehicle/rocket and the crew escape system got separated. Soon after that the crew module and crew escape system got separated.

Subsequently, the abort sequence was executed autonomously commencing with the separation of crew escape system and deployment of the series of parachutes, finally culminating in the safe touchdown of the crew module in the sea, about 10 km from the coast of Sriharikota.

The crew module will house the astronauts in a pressurised earthlike atmospheric condition during the real human space mission.

Currently the crew module for the Gaganyaan mission is in different stages of development.

The TV-D1 is an unpressurised version but has an overall size and mass of actual Gaganyaan crew module and would house all the systems for the deceleration and recovery.

The avionics systems in the crew module are in a dual redundant mode configuration for navigation, sequencing, telemetry, instrumentation and power.

According to ISRO, the crew module in this mission is extensively instrumented to capture the flight data for evaluation of the performance of various systems.

Venkatachari Jagannathan | Sriharikota

Announcing the mission's success ISRO Chairman S.Somanath said: "The TV-D1 mission was to demonstrate the crew escape system for Gaganyaan (the name for Indian human space mission)."

He said the parachutes opened and the crew module touch down on the Bay of Bengal at the required velocity.

The crew module will be recovered from the sea by the Indian Navy ship and brought to the Chennai Port. The space agency will then study the data.

On the twists and turns, Somanath said owing to the weather and poor visibility conditions the launch which was originally slated at 8 a.m. was postponed to 8.45 a.m. And just five seconds before the lift off from the first launch pad, the computer systems held back the rocket due to a non-conformance in the system.

He said the issue was identified and sorted out quickly.

The rocket had to be filled with gases and then the mission happened.



## 20 aid trucks enter Gaza from Rafah crossing for 1st time since conflict

Gaza | Agencies

For the first time since the raging Israel-Hamas conflict erupted on October 7, 20 trucks loaded with humanitarian aid entered Gaza on Saturday through the Rafah crossing, the only border crossing between the besieged coastal enclave and Egypt, after a two-week blockade. The trucks were loaded with medical aid donated by Egypt's institutions of the National Alliance for Civil Development Work and the Egyptian Red Crescent, Aya Ahmed, public relations officer of Life Makers Foundation, told Xinhua news agency. While Israel has agreed to allow 20 trucks carrying aid into Gaza through the Rafah crossing, it has refused to allow fuel to cross the border.

Earlier in the day, the US embassy in Israel said that it had received information that the Rafah crossing will open at 10 a.m. (local time) on Saturday morning. "If the border is opened, we do not know how long it will remain open for foreign citizens to depart Gaza. We anticipate that many people would

attempt to cross should the border open," CNN quoted the mission as saying "US citizens attempting to enter Egypt should expect a potentially chaotic and disorderly environment on both sides of the crossing." The Embassy added that the situation remains "dynamic and fluid," and the security environment is "unpredictable," advising people to "assess your personal safety and security before choosing to move toward the border or trying to cross." Humanitarian aid has been stuck in Egypt for days as Gaza plunges into a worsening humanitarian crisis amid the raging Israel-Hamas conflict. Gaza is fast running out of food, water, fuel and medical supplies, while electricity blackout and ban on fuel imports have had "devastating consequences" on the healthcare system and access to clean water, the UN's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) warned on Saturday. It added that about 1.4 million people had been displaced in Gaza - more than 60 per cent of the entire strip's population of 2 million.

## Will use social media, not advertisement banners for campaigning during 2024 LS polls: Gadkari

Team Absolute | Nagpur

Minister for Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari has said that he will use social media platforms and not the advertisement banners for campaign during the next year's general elections. He said that his work for the social upliftment and down to earth attitude will help him to win his constituency.

He said that he will seek blessings of people in his constituency through mobile network and social media platforms.

He said that the voters are smart. "Husband votes for one party while the wife votes for the other. But they accept

gifts and benefits from all political parties," Gadkari said during an interview to noted Marathi actor Prashant Damle. He said that he will use social media platforms and reach out to the people to seek votes and put his good work for the development ahead of them. He said that his family members are not his political heirs.

"My workers are my real political assets and not my family workers. Of course, my physical property will go to family members," he said.

He said that a suggestion by party colleagues to make his elder son an office bearer of the party was politely rejected by himself.

"I won't allow my son to sit next to me," he said.

Gadkari also disclosed that during his youth days, he would dream to marry 'Dream Girl' Hema Malini.

"After becoming a minister, one day when Hema Malini visited our house, I confessed to her about my dream. To my surprise, Hema Malini said she would have considered the decision. But I thought this would not have been possible during those days. I considered my wife as Hema Malini but my favourite heroine has always been Rekha," he confessed.

Gadkari also admitted that he still loves to eat light foods from roadside eateries.

## DRUNK KERALA MAN COMES TO PETROL PUMP WITH PYTHON, WANTS TO BE CLICKED



Team Absolute | Thiruvananthapuram

The staff at a petrol pump near Kannur was startled to see a man in an inebriated state, and carrying a python, come up and request them to take his photo, as per reports.

Abhishek, the sales person at the Valapattanam petrol pump, said Chandran was drunk and came to them with a python.

"He wanted us to click a picture of him with the python around his neck. Since he was drunk, he did not probably understand the seriousness of what he was doing. Soon things

turned worse as the python had started to circle his neck and this led him to fall down," he said.

"I have never encountered a snake but seeing Chandran struggling, I quickly got a gunny bag and ran towards him. He was struggling and with great difficulty, I managed to forcefully pull the tail of the snake and soon it relaxed its grip and crawled away," said Abhishek, who added that even though he was scared, he did not think anything else as a life was in danger and he somehow got the strength to perform a rescue mission.

## Now improve your speaking skills via Google Search in India

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Google has announced a new feature in Search for select countries, including India, that will help the users practice speaking and improve their language skills. Within the next few days, Android users in Argentina, Colombia, India (Hindi), Indonesia, Mexico, and Venezuela can get even more language support from Google through interactive speaking practice in English. The feature will expand to more countries and languages in the future.

"Now, learners translating to or from English on their Android phones will find a new English speaking practice experience with personalized feedback," the company said in a statement. With the new feature, learners are presented with real-life prompts and then form their own spoken answers using a provided vocabulary word.



They engage in practice sessions of 3-5 minutes, getting personalized feedback and the option to sign up for daily reminders to keep practicing. The company has partnered with linguists, teachers, and pedagogical experts to create a speaking practice experience that is effective and motivating. The company said it is working with several language learning partners to surface content they are helping create and to connect them with learners around the world.

The key technology piece that enables this functionality is a novel deep learning model developed in collaboration with the Google Translate team, called Deep Aligner.

## Beach soccer set to make its debut in National Championships

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The All India Football Federation's decision to host the first-ever Men's National Beach Soccer Championships at Dumas Beach, Surat, in January-February early this year has proved to be a game-changer for the sport in the country. Beach Soccer, which remained a fringe sport in India all these years even though FIFA has hosted 11 editions of the Beach Soccer World Cup so far, is now a part of the National Games in Goa beginning October 26, 2023.

The top seven teams from the Men's National Beach Soccer Championships and hosts Goa, will fight for the title at Goa's picturesque Colva Beach, with the final on November 1.

Bruno Coutinho, the former India football team captain and Arjuna awardee, has been closely associated with beach soccer ever since he decided to hang up his boots. His skills in this five-a-side game played barefoot on the sand are well known; in 2007, Bruno was the India coach in the pre-World Cup.

"I was really surprised to see that beach soccer has been included in the National Games for the first time. Previously, it was just normal football, but now they have not only included beach soccer,



but beach handball as well, so it will be interesting," said Bruno. He is now the coach of the hosts Goa team in the National Games. A star footballer dur-

ing his playing days, Bruno is pleasantly surprised by the inclusion of beach soccer in the National Games.

## PAPIYA SENGUPTA SHARES JOY OF DURGA POOJA CELEBRATIONS

Team Absolute | Mumbai

actress Papiya Sengupta, who is known for her roles in shows like 'Pyaar Kii Ye Ek Kahaani', 'Anamika', and 'Gauna Ek Pratha', opened up about her childhood memories of Durga Pooja, and shared how it is the most cherished festival in her life.

Talking about the festivities, Papiya said: "As a Bengali, Navratri takes on a unique flavour for us-it's 'Durga Puja', the most cherished festival in our lives. During this festive season, our mornings begin early, and we fast until we offer our worship to Maa Durga."

"The joy of partaking in the 'bhog' is something we look forward to. In the evenings, we gather at the pandal, where we reunite with friends and family, savouring the delicious Bengali cuisine," she shared.

Reflecting on the childhood memories, the actress said: "Back then, celebrations were intimate, with close-knit gatherings of friends and family."

"In our show 'Gauna: Ek Pratha,' we've curated a special Navratri track that I'm sure the audience will cherish. I won't reveal much, but I



invite you to join us and savour this unique storyline. These tracks are special for us too, as they bring our on-screen family together, making it a full house of talent and entertainment," she

added. Papiya is also known for her roles in 'Savdhaan India', 'Fear Files: Darr Ki Sacchi Tasvirein', 'Yeh Kahan Aa Gaye Hum', 'Brahmarakshas', and 'Qayamat Ki Raat'.





# DENGUE RAGES ON IN UP, HOSPITALS PACKED TO CAPACITY

Lucknow | Agencies

Hospitals in major cities in Uttar Pradesh are brimming with fever patients, mostly vector-borne diseases like dengue.

Lucknow has accounted for 1,845 cases so far, the highest in the state, while Kanpur has 1,068 and Moradabad 1,050 cases.

The urban development department has also stepped up efforts to control the spread of vector-borne diseases.

While the health department is responsible for ensuring treatment of the infected persons, urban development department takes preventive measures to check the outbreak of such diseases.

Dastak, a statewide special programme, was launched on October 3 under which volunteers and civic body staff are reaching out to the urban areas to create awareness.

However, in the last fortnight, thousands of cases were reported



across the state.

Ten districts -- Lucknow, Kanpur, Moradabad, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Meerut, Ghaziabad, Rampur, Bareilly, Aligarh and Kannauj -- have been flagged as sensitive districts where cases are on the higher side.

Between October 3 and 17, the local bodies were briefed about

18,621 cases, including nine deaths from 10 districts.

Officials said that the actual number of dengue cases and casualties could be more as the complete picture pertaining to admissions in the private hospitals and healthcare centres is not yet known.

Principal secretary, urban devel-

opment department, Amrit Abhijat, said that during the review, Kanpur and Moradabad were found lagging in cleaning the drains and fogging drives. In Lucknow Municipal Corporation areas, cleaning, fogging and antiviral activities are being carried out effectively, while Banda, Sambhal, Ghazipur, Mainpuri were found lacking. Meanwhile, patients complaining of prolonged fever are now making a beeline to private hospitals since government hospitals have expressed their inability to cope with the rush.

B K Agarwal, a senior citizen, said, "My son and wife have been suffering from high fever for over a fortnight and now that their condition shows no signs of improvement, I have got them admitted in a private hospital where charges are exorbitant. We have been turned back from three government hospitals because they have no beds and even stretchers for patients."

# 72 out of 118 MLAs in Telangana face criminal charges, 59 from ruling BRS

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Out of the 118 MLAs in Telangana analysed, 72 of them face criminal cases against them while 46 have serious criminal cases, a report revealed on Saturday. The report also said that 59, which is 58 per cent of the 101 MLAs of the ruling Bharat Rashtra Samithi faces criminal cases.

The report was published by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) and Telangana Election Watch that analysed the criminal, financial and other background details of 118 out of 119 sitting MLAs. In the current assembly one constituency Secunderabad Cantt is vacant.

The analysis is based on the affidavits submitted by the candidates prior to the 2018 Assembly elections and bye elections conducted thereafter.

The report said that Out of 118 sitting MLAs analysed, 72 (61 per cent) sitting MLAs have declared criminal cases against themselves, while 46 (39 per cent) sitting MLAs have declared serious criminal cases against themselves. Cases related to attempt to murder under IPC section 307 and four MLAs have declared cases related to crimes against women. "Out of 4 sitting MLAs, one MLA had declared case related to rape under IPC Section-376," the report highlighted

The report said that 59 (58 per cent) out of



101 MLAs from the ruling BRS have criminal cases against them.

While six (86 per cent) out of seven MLAs from AIMIM, four (67 per cent) out of six MLAs from Congress, two MLAs from BJP and one out of two Independent MLAs have declared criminal cases against themselves in their affidavits. The report further said that 38 (38 per cent) out of 101 MLAs from the ruling BRS have declared serious criminal cases against them. While two (29 per cent) out of seven MLAs from AIMIM, three (50 per cent) out of six MLAs from Congress, two MLAs from BJP and one out of two Independent MLAs have declared serious criminal cases against themselves in their affidavits.

The polling for the Telangana Assembly election is scheduled on November 30. Counting of votes will take place on December 3. The BRS government led by Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao is eyeing a third consecutive term whereas the Congress is also campaigning aggressively in the state come to power.

# Cong appoints ex-Maha CM Chavan, K'taka minister Boseraju as spl observers for T'gana polls

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Congress on Saturday appointed former Maharashtra chief minister & senior party leader Ashok Chavan, and Karnataka Cabinet Minister NS Boseraju as special observers for the upcoming Telangana Assembly election.

In a notification, Congress General Secretary (Organisation) KC Venugopal said: "Congress President (Mallikarjun Kharge) has approved the proposal for the appointment of Chavan and Boseraju as Congress Special Observers for the ensuing Assembly Elections in Telangana - 2023, with immediate effect."

The Congress has been campaigning aggressively in Telangana to come to power



for the first time in the southern state after its formation in 2014.

The Congress has already announced several guarantees for Telangana.

Even former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi has par-

ticipated in the 'Vijayabheri Bus Yatra' in the state from October 18 to October 20.

Polling for the 119-member Assembly is scheduled on November 30 and counting of votes will take place on December 3.

# TEJASHWI IS LIKE MY SON AND I AM DOING EVERYTHING FOR HIM, SAYS NITISH

Patna | Agencies

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar claimed that Tejashwi Yadav is like his son and the CM is doing everything for him in Bihar.

Nitish Kumar's clarification came after he earlier expressed his deep friendship with BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He also claimed that his friendship with them will not end until he is alive.

"A section of the media misinterpreted my statement. There were some BJP leaders sitting in Motihari and hence I said that but that does not mean I am with BJP," Kumar said.

"My statement was published in newspapers and media channels with wrong narratives. I underwent pain. Hence, I told the officers to



release my full statements in the public domain. They do not publish my statement properly," Kumar said.

"When BJP was with me, they were saying good things about me and the government. Now, they are in opposition and hence making statements against us. In

2020, I was in pain when they did not make Sushil Modi as a deputy chief minister of Bihar. Now, he is talking against me. I have no objection to it. I do not want anything. This child Tejashwi Yadav is with me and hence I am doing everything for him," Kumar said."

# RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD ATTACKS NITISH OVER HIS REMARKS ON TEJASHWI

Patna: After Nitish Kumar claimed he is doing everything for Tejashwi Yadav, former law minister and BJP MP Ravi Shankar Prasad said that Bihar Chief Minister makes statements according to the situation.

"A father (Lalu Prasad Yadav) wants his son to become chief minister but when the 'uncle' leaves the chair of chief minister is not clear. I am listening for quite some time that Tejashwi is like his son and he will have to rule the state in future but when he will hand over the chair of the chief minister is not clear," Prasad said during his visit to a Durga Puja pandal at Dak Bungalow Chowk in Patna on Saturday.

Clarifying his friendship with BJP leaders and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Nitish on Saturday hinted that Tejashwi will be his successor. Pointing to some BJP leaders present in the front row during the convocation programme in Motihari, he said that has a close friendship with them and it will stay till he is alive. He further said that it does not mean he is going with BJP.



# Rajasthan: 30 MLAs, 5 ministers in Congress first list of 33 candidates

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and his ministers and former deputy chief minister Sachin Pilot have found place in the first list of 33 candidates released by the Congress on Saturday.

The list also includes the names of the 30 sitting MLAs.

The party released the first list of the candidates on Saturday, three days after the Central Election Committee (CEC) met and finalized the list on Wednesday.

The party has named Gehlot from Sardarpura assembly seat while Pilot has been fielded from his Tonk assembly seat.

Besides Gehlot, the four ministers who have found place in the first list include Bhanwar Singh Bhati, Tikaram Julie, Mamta Bhupesh, Ashok Chandna.

The party has named Speaker CP Joshi from Nathdwara assembly seat.



The party has this time fielded Archana Sharma, chairman of the Social welfare Board from Malviya Nagar assembly seat, Pushpendra Bharadwaj from Sanganer assembly seat and Lalit Kumar Yadav from Mundawar assembly seat.

All three had lost to the BJP in the 2018 assembly polls.

The Congress has also given ticket to Pilot camp MLAs - Indraj Singh Gurjar from Viratnagar assembly seat, Mukhesh Bhakar from Ladnun seat, Ramniwas Gawaria from Parbastar

seat.

The party has fielded state unit chief Govind Dotsara from Lachhmangarh assembly seat, Harish Choudhary from Baytoo assembly seat, Divya Maderna from Osian assembly seat, Olympian Krishna Poonia from Sadulpur assembly seat.

Polling for the 200 member Rajasthan assembly is rescheduled on November 25 and counting of votes will take place on December 3.

The Congress is eyeing for a second consecutive term in Rajasthan and has launched several pro-people schemes in the desert state.

Meanwhile, the BJP also released second list of 83 candidates for the Rajasthan Assembly elections, which also includes the name of former Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje.

While Raje will contest from her home town of Jhalrapatan, the Leader of Opposition Rajendra Rathore has been given a ticket from Taranagar instead of Churu.

# Fresh X battle between Nishikant Dubey and Mahua Moitra in 'cash for query' issue

Kolkata | Agencies

A fresh verbal battle on X (formerly Twitter) broke out on Saturday between BJP Lok Sabha member Nishikant Dubey and Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra over the recent "cash for query" controversy that has rocked the political circles in the country.

On Saturday morning, Dubey wrote on X, without naming Moitra, claiming that the Parliamentary IDs of an MP were opened from Dubai, when the MP concerned was in India.

"An MP mortgaged the country's security for some money. Parliamentary IDs were opened from Dubai, at that time the alleged MP was in India. The NIC gave this information to the investigative agency. Do @AITCOfficial and the opposition still want to do politics," he said. Hours after that Moitra came out with a series of posts, challenging the claims of Dubey and requesting NIC to release related details in the matter.

"Request NIC to please release ALL details of MPs publicly to show they were physically present in place from where IDs were



accessed by their PAs & researchers/interns/staff. Don't use Fake Degree wala for leak, make this public NOW," she said.

The Trinamool MP from Krishnanagar constituency in West Bengal's Nadia also claimed that she is aware of the impending raids by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in the matter. "Also got message about impending CBI raid. I am busy with Durga Puja. I invite CBI to come home & count my pairs of shoes. But first please file FIR into ?13,000 crore coal money Adani stole from Indians," she said in her message.

# BJP releases second list of 83 candidates for Raj Assembly polls

Jaipur | Agencies

The BJP on Saturday released the second list of 83 candidates for the Rajasthan Assembly elections, which also includes the name of former Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje.

While Raje will contest from her home town of Jhalrapatan, the Leader of Opposition Rajendra Rathore has been given a ticket from Taranagar instead of Churu.

Previously, he had contested from Taranagar.

Vishvaraj Singh Mewar, a member of the former royal family of Udaipur, has been given a ticket from Nathdwara. He he had joined BJP a few days ago.

Narpat Singh Rajvi, MLA from Vidyadhar Nagar seat of Jaipur and son-in-law of Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, has now been given ticket from Chittorgarh.

In the first list, the BJP had cancelled his ticket and gave it to Rajsamand MP Diya Kumari from Vidyadhar Nagar. The BJP has also



given tickets to many former ministers, including Pratap Singh Singhvi, Srichand Kripalani, Narpat Singh Rajvi, Otram Dewasi, Pushpendra Singh Ranaut, Anita Bhadel, Vasudev Devnani, Kaicharan Saraf, Rajendra Rathore.

Singhvi, Kriplani, Saraf and Anita Bhadel are from Raje's camp.

The BJP has also canceled the tickets of 7 MLAs in the second list -- Suryakanta Vyas from Sursagar, Ashok Lahoti from Sanganer, Chandrabhan Singh Akya from Chittorgarh, Subhash Poonia from Surajgarh, Mohan Ram Chaudhary from Nagaur, Ruparam from Makrana and Lalit Kumar Ostwal from Badi Sadri.

# Sidelining of Raje: Is BJP dancing to Congress' tune in Rajasthan?

Jaipur | Agencies

BJP's politics in Rajasthan seems to be becoming more like a cobweb as things are getting entangled in different nets. The more the high command tries to clean these cobwebs, the more they are getting entangled. This seems to be clear after the release of the first list of BJP candidates on 41 seats where the party has sidelined the followers of former chief minister Vasundhara Raje Scindia camp.

Leaders like Rajpal Singh Shekhawat, former minister in Raje's government, has not been given the ticket. So have Anita Singh from Bharatpur and Narpat Singh Rajvi (former CM Bhairon Singh Shekhawat's son-in-law) been denied the tickets.

Eventually, massive protests are seen on streets against the ticket distribution.

Anita Singh has announced to contest as independent, one Rohitashva Sharma from Raje camp has joined another party. One Vikas Chaudhary of Raje camp from Kishangarh, who was hoping to get ticket, has also been denied ticket and he too is searching for options.

Eventually, the top leaders in Delhi are brainstorming on names of remaining candidates by calling back-to-back meetings.

Sources said that the idea is to prevent such protests after the names of remaining candidates are out. Meanwhile, there are silent whispers that

Raje and her followers are being sidelined.

Surprisingly, at the same time, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has been mentioning Vasundhara Raje in his address again and again.

Are the two incidents being related; with Raje being sidelined and Gehlot bringing her reference again and again forcing BJP to 'push' aside Raje?

This is the question being exchanged in political corridors.

Leaders from Vasundhara Raje camp opined that Gehlot laid a trap and BJP now seems to be playing into Congress' hands. "Vasundhara has given a major defeat to Gehlot two times. Now Gehlot knows that this competitor is strong and can ruin his dreams so he doesn't want the same competitor and is slowly, trying to remove this competitor strategically by bringing her in his discussions as he knows that the more his competitor is dragged into controversies, the more he will benefit, said political expert Tribhuvan.

In fact, he has been successful in this initiative to some extent. Questions are being



raised on Raje ever since he spoke that Raje helped him in saving his government, added Tribhuvan.

It won't be wrong to say that big BJP leaders have fallen in a trap laid by Gehlot, the political expert said.

It needs to be mentioned here that two days back, Gehlot again took a dig at the BJP with a show of support to rival Vasundhara Raje Scindia, telling the media that she should not be victimised by her party for refusing to bring down

his government at a vulnerable moment. Gehlot had expressed his gratitude to Raje earlier as well on this issue, bringing a caustic comment from the younger leader.

Asked about the alleged sidelining of Raje in the BJP, Gehlot told reporters that it was an internal matter of the BP and he would not like to comment on it.

"But I would like to state that she should not be punished because of me... This would be an injustice to her," he said, implying that the BJP's former chief minister is above her party's tactics to dislodge opposition governments. In May this year, Gehlot claimed that Raje and two other BJP leaders had helped save his government during the revolt by

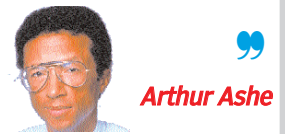
Sachin Pilot and his loyalists in 2020.

Raje reverted back saying that the veteran leader's remark was "not a sign of goodwill but malice". "Ashok Gehlot has never got a majority since 2003. That's why he considers me his biggest enemy and a thorn in his path. That's why there is no goodwill for me in his praise, there is only malice," Raje said.

Last month, a cropped photo of the two leaders seated together was widely circulated online, reviving their partymen's allegation that they were going soft on each other. Raje's office finally released the complete photo. Meanwhile, Congress leaders said that the party is clearly worried about the threat that Vasundhara Raje poses and is evicting from CM Gehlot's comments on her 'alleged' support during attempts to topple his government. Further, C Voter/ETG Times Now surveys have given BJP an edge but have also shown Raje as the most prominent and relevant leader from the BJP. BJP's victory by this measure seems synonymous with Raje's activity in the poll-bound state, said a worker from Raje camp on anonymity.

"Also, Raje is the No. 1 choice among women in Rajasthan and women-centric schemes launched by her during her tenure as the Chief Minister including Bhamashah, Bhamashah Swastha Bima, Mahila Thane, Women helpline, Nirbhaya Helpline, Shubh Shakti and 50 per cent reservation for women in Panchayati Raj provided them with an equal opportunity. "Raje is one





## MANIPUR HIGH COURT ALLOWS APPEAL AGAINST CONTROVERSIAL ST STATUS ORDER

**▶ THE MANIPUR HIGH COURT HAS ALLOWED AN APPEAL AGAINST ITS CONTROVERSIAL MARCH 27 ORDER WHICH DIRECTED THE STATE GOVERNMENT TO SEND A RECOMMENDATION TO THE UNION TRIBAL AFFAIRS MINISTRY TO CONSIDER THE SCHEDULED CASTE STATUS FOR THE MEITEI COMMUNITY, COURT SOURCES SAID ON SATURDAY.**



the Meitei community seeking that the state government be directed to act on their pleas for inclusion in the ST list.

The division bench said: "Taking into consideration the nature of arguments of counsel appearing for the parties which needs to be examined and decided on the basis of the materials available in the connected writ appeal and writ petition and taking into consideration the grievances raised by the applicants, we are inclined to grant leave sought by the applicants in the present application."

Lawyer Collin Gonsalves, appearing for the tribal bodies, argued that "if the Meitei community is wrongly granted ST status, then this will adversely affect the existing tribal ST in employment and education where reservation for STs exist and that the Meitei community being dominant and advanced politically, economically and educationally will grab majority of the ST reserved seats".

Advocate M. Hemchandra, appearing for the respondents, said that "in spite of having records of

Meitei community as Meitei tribes", they "had been left out at the time of preparation of ST list under the Constitution of India" and that "Meitei tribes have approached authorities concerned for the last many years but failed to consider for initiation of process for inclusion into the ST lists."

The high court on March 27 had directed the state government to submit the recommendation to the Union Tribal Affairs Ministry to consider inclusion of Meitei (Meetei) community to ST list by May 29. This had snowballed into major controversy with thousands of tribals on May 3 turned up for the 'Tribal Solidarity March' called by ATSUM in all the ten hill districts of Manipur to oppose the demand for inclusion of the Meitei community in the ST category causing large-scale violence afterwards.

According to Manipur Police, as many as 175 people were killed, 1,108 others injured while 32 are missing in the ongoing ethnic strife which started on May 3.

## 'Served country with loyalty': Nawaz Sharif tells supporters at Lahore rally after return to Pakistan

Islamabad | Agencies

PML-N chief and former Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif returned home on Saturday after a four-year-long self-imposed exile, and said that he served the country with loyalty whenever he was given a chance, resolved its issues, and never hesitated from any sacrifice.

Addressing a rally in Lahore, hours after his return - months before the next general elections, expected to be held early in 2024, he said that his relationship with the nation is the same as when he left the country and he was proud to see "loyalty in the eyes of people", Geo TV reported.

He recalled making Pakistan a nuclear power and "ending" load shedding during his time as the Prime Minister.

"Do you remember those 18 hours of load-shedding? Who ended it?" he asked, noting that it was under his leadership that the power issue was resolved.

He then showed an electricity bill from 2016 as the current rate has spiralled due to the falling rupee value and a rise in fuel prices. Sharif also questioned why his governments were toppled as he recalled that he had stood up to then US President Bill Clinton on the issue of nuclear tests.

"Clinton had offered \$5 billion to me in 1999 for not carrying out nuclear tests, but my conscience did not allow me to accept the thing which was against the interest of Pakistan," he said.

"Are our (PML-N) governments toppled down and rulings are issued against us (for refusing the US and taking a stance for the interest of Pakistan)?" he asked.

He asserted that no one in Pakistan would be unemployed if his party was allowed to continue the "1990s momentum".

"I was ousted because I didn't allow the dollar rate to fluctuate," he alleged.

Sharif lamented that due to the ongoing economic crisis, "one has to decide whether to pay electricity bills or take care of one's children" and said in his time in power, the poor had enough money to avail of medical treatment.

"This didn't start in Shehbaz's tenure. It started way before that. The dollar was out of control, bills were going up, and rates of daily



utilities and petrol were also surging."

"During our tenure sugar was 50 rupees per kilogram, today it is at 250."

"This is why you ousted Nawaz Sharif?" the former prime minister said while criticising his disqualification in 2017.

"Pakistan was on its way to becoming an Asian tiger, we were preparing to ensure Pakistan's inclusion in the G20."

Sharif landed in Islamabad in the afternoon, where he completed legal and biometric formalities. Addressing journalists in Dubai on his way home from London, Sharif said that he is returning to Pakistan after "vindication" and that his party is "competent enough" to steer the country out of crisis, Geo TV reported.

"I am returning to Pakistan after being vindicated with the grace of Almighty Allah," he said. The former PM said his party is in a position to resolve the masses' woes if elected into power. From Islamabad, he left for Lahore and reached after 5 p.m. He was welcomed by his younger brother and former PM Shehbaz Sharif and other party leaders at the airport.

From there, he left for Minar-e-Pakistan, the venue for the grand rally of the PML-N to welcome him, in a helicopter. Shehbaz Sharif and former federal minister Ishaq Dar accompanied him.

The helicopter landed on a special helipad created at the Diwan-e-Khaas near the Lahore Fort, from where Nawaz Sharif was escorted to Minar-e-Pakistan in a caravan of vehicles.

His daughter Maryam Nawaz and Shehbaz Sharif addressed the rally before him.

Imphal | Agencies

A High Court official said that a division bench of Justice Ahanthem Bimol and Justice Guneshwar Sharma, in its Friday order, allowed the four tribal bodies to appeal against the order, saying: "The main grievances raised by the applicant is that they will be prejudicially affected if they are not given a chance to have a say or to raise objection in the matter of granting ST status to the Meitei community."

The tribal bodies include All Tribal Student Union Manipur (ATSUM) and All Manipur Tribal Union.

Justice M.V. Muralidharan, who was acting Chief Justice of Manipur High Court and recently been transferred to the Calcutta High Court, had passed the earlier order on a petition filed by members of

## Delhi air quality dips to 'poor' category, likely to deteriorate further



Team Absolute | New Delhi

The air quality in the national capital dipped to "poor" quality as the overall Air Quality Index (AQI) of the city reached 266 on Saturday evening, according to the System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR).

The AQI at Dhirpur entered into "severe" category with PM 2.5 at 342, under "very poor" category.

Experts said that the air quality may also remain in a very poor category on Monday.

AQI between zero and 50 is considered 'good', 51 and 100 'satisfactory', 101 and 200 'moderate', 201 and 300 'poor', 301 and 400 'very poor', and 401 and 500 'severe'. In Pusa, the AQI recorded PM 2.5 at 200 or 'very poor' category. At Lodhi Road, the Air Quality Index with PM 2.5 concentration was at 173 under the

"moderate" category and the PM 10 stood at 135, which is also under the moderate category.

At IIT Delhi station the PM 2.5 was at 228 or "poor" category while the PM 10 reached 134 or "moderate" category.

The Air Quality Index at the city's Mathura Road was under "moderate" category with PM 2.5 at 162 and PM 10 concentration at 132.

According to the forecast from the SAFAR, the air quality of the city will deteriorate further under "poor" category with PM 2.5 reaching 297 and the PM 10 concentration at 161 under "moderate" category on Sunday.

The Air Quality Index of Delhi's neighbouring cities of Noida stood at 290 and the PM 10 concentration at 258, both under "poor" category, while Gurugram's AQI was reported at 152 and the PM 10 concentration at 126 or "moderate".

## PM MODI LAUDS 'RELENTLESS DEDICATION' OF POLICE PERSONNEL ON POLICE COMMEMORATION DAY



New Delhi: Lauding their relentless dedication, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday termed the police personnel "pillars of great support", adding that their unwavering commitment to service embodies the "true spirit of heroism".

The Prime Minister took to 'X', formerly Twitter, to pay his tribute to police force on the occasion of Police Commemoration Day. In his post the PM said, "On Police commemoration Day, we laud the relentless dedication of our police personnel."

## BJP bends: Raje, 10 MLAs of her camp, given tickets in Rajasthan

Jaipur | Agencies

Even as protests across the streets of Rajasthan, that began after the release of the BJP's first list of candidates for 41 constituencies, haven't stopped, the party on Saturday released a second list with 83 candidates.

This time, the BJP has given a ticket to Vasundhara Raje who will contest from Jhalrapatan for the fifth time, while the seat of Leader of Opposition Rajendra Rathod has been changed. He has been given a ticket from Taranagar instead of Churu. He has already contested elections from Taranagar.

At the same time, Vishwaraj Singh Mewar, a member of the erstwhile royal family of Udaipur, who joined the BJP a few days ago, has been given a ticket from Nathdwara. He will face Assembly Speaker Dr. CP Joshi.

Meanwhile, the BJP has cancelled the tickets of eight MLAs in the second list. They include Suryakanta Vyas from Sursagar, Ashok Lahoti from Sanganer, Chandrabhan Singh Akya from Chittorgarh, Subhash Poonia from



Surajgarh, Mohan Ram Chaudhary from Nagaur, Ruparam from Makrana, Lalit Kumar Ostwal from Badi Sadri and Harendra Ninama from Ghatol.

The 10 MLAs who have got party tickets from the Raje faction are Kalicharan Saraf from Malviya Nagar, Pratap Singh Singhvi from Chhabra, Gurdeep Singh Shahpini from Sangaria, Srichand Kripalani from Nimbaehra, Abhishek Matoria from Nauhara, Kalulal Meghwal from Dag, Narendra Nagar from Khanpur, Govind Ranipuriya from Manoharthana, Prem Singh from Neemkathana and Kailash Chand Verma from Bajaur, Bagru.

Narpat Singh Rajvi, MLA from Vidyadhar Nagar seat of Jaipur, has now been given a ticket from Chittorgarh. In the first list, the BJP cancelled his ticket and gave ticket to Rajsamand MP Diya Kumari from Vidyadhar Nagar. The ticket of sitting MLA Chandrabhan Singh Akya has been cancelled for Rajvi, although opposition to this decision has also started.

Chandrabhan in his tweet said, "Your Chandrabhan will once again live up to your trust. Chittorgarh Assembly constituency is my family and the bright future of the family is my only concern..."

## Congress slams govt for transferring CAG officers who highlighted corruption

Accusing the BJP-led central government of being habitual in strangulating the institutions, the Congress on Saturday said that Comptroller Auditor General of India (CAG), which used to release reports independently under the UPA era, is now hardly publishing any reports.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Addressing a Press conference at the party headquarters here, Congress leader Pawan Khera said, "The CAG doesn't come out with the reports under this (BJP) regime. We have seen only 14 reports in 2023. Some very startling brazen corruption charges came up on the projects like Bharatmala

Project, Ayushman Bharat project and others.

He alleged that 10 years ago we saw how then CAG chief Vinod Rai would leak draft reports to the media and Ramlila Maidan would see activities. "And on the basis of those reports, they trapped the whole country by doing drama and the media called it a mass movement. All these charges of corruption were based on the CAG reports. All these reports and cases proved to be baseless in the last 10 years. The aim of these people was just to tarnish the clean image of then Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh and defame the UPA government," he said.

He also said that the same CAG which had brought out 55 reports earlier, is able to bring out reports with great difficulty in 2023.

"In Bharatmala Project, work worth Rs 1 was done for Rs 14. And one km road was measured in different ways to show that the work for four km of road was done. Scams of Ayushman scheme came to light,



where lakhs of people were connected to the same mobile number. But nothing was shown in the media on the CAG report, no 'movement' was seen even in Ramlila Maidan," he charged.

Targeting the government, Khera, who is also the Chairman of the Media and Publicity department of the party said, "That has resulted into more brazenness in the government because after the startling revelations in the reports, many officers were transferred."

"The most shocking thing is that an e-mail was sent to the CAG, Mumbai office, in which it was said

that all audit and field work should be stopped. That means Modi government is strangulating CAG in this way," he claimed while showing the copy of the email.

He also named the three CAG officers who exposed the scams of Modi government and were later transferred.

He said that Atoorvo Sinha was in charge of the report of Bharatmala Project, he was sent from Delhi to Trivandrum. Similarly, Dattaprasad Shirsat was in charge of audit related to Ayushman Bharat scheme and he was sent to the legal cell.

Even Ashok Sinha, who had started the audit of Ayushman Bharat scheme was sent to other department.

Firing salvos at the BJP government, Khera said, "Our questions to Prime Minister Narendra Modi are that on whose orders was CAG ordered to stop all field work? Why were the CAG officers who exposed the scams transferred? And on whose instructions is CAG being strangled?"

## Union Minister Bhupendra Yadav faces BJP workers' wrath in Jabalpur soon after 5th list announced

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Union Minister Bhupendra Yadav, who is in-charge for Madhya Pradesh

Assembly elections for the ruling BJP, faced wrath of a section of party workers in Jabalpur on Saturday after the party released its fifth list of candidates.

Soon after the central BJP leadership released the list of party's 92 candidates for the November 17 elections, a group of party workers, all of a sudden, barged into the party office in Jabalpur and staged a protest over denial of ticket for their candidate from Jabalpur North Assembly seat.

In the fifth list released on Saturday, the BJP has fielded Abhilash Pandey from Jabalpur North seat.

Enraged with denial of ticket for their preferred candidate, the protesters cornered the Union Minister and shouted slogans against the state BJP President V. D. Sharma.

The protesters also tried to reach the Union Minister, however, other party workers managed to bring him out from the party office.

A video surfaced on social media showed that the minister almost cornered by the enraged protesters even as he tried to calm them down but to no avail. Yadav's security personnel was also seen to be manhandled.

However, the state BJP unit was yet to make any official statement on this incident far.



In its fifth list of candidates, the BJP has retained 37 sitting MLAs, while facing huge anti-incumbency after nearly two decades of its rules in the state, has denied tickets for 29 sitting MLAs, including three state ministers and national General Secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya's son Akash Vijayvargiya.





# Maha cardiologist on patient-visit stripped at knife-point, beaten, robbed of Rs 8.5 lakh

Quaid Najmi | Buldhana (Maharashtra)

In a chilling incident, a prominent cardiologist, who was called home to visit a patient, was assaulted, stripped at knife-point, filmed and Rs 8.5 lakh extorted from him, police said on Friday.

It was on October 12 around 3 pm, when reputed cardiologist Dr. Saurabh R. Sancheti, 37, got a call on his mobile while attending to patients at his Sancheti Hrudayalay in Buldhana.

"The caller identified himself as Dikshant Navghare and claimed that he had a very sick cancer patient who could not travel to the hospital and requested me to go for a medical check-up at their home," Dr. Sancheti told correspondent, recounting the harrowing incident.

More so, because the caller had given the name of a close acquaintance of Dr. Sancheti - Ajay Nagpure - and he did not doubt their antecedents, so he agreed to rush there on his scooter immediately, to a location on Khamgaon Road.

However, as soon as Dr. Sancheti reached the place, there were around 9-10 youths already present at the location, who - he initially presumed - were relatives of the patient.

And the then horror started - suddenly, without any warning, some of the youngsters, caught Dr. Sancheti and started brutally hammering him, pointed a knife at him, removed all his clothes, filmed the entire episode on mobiles and threatened to make it viral if he did not pay up Rs 20 lakh to them.

After the brutal assault, Dr. Sancheti was taken to an open ground nearby where some other unknown persons arrived in a car. They warned the doctor to pay up the Rs 20 lakh or his minor son and other family members could also come to harm, plus they would make his videos viral.

The badly injured and helpless Dr. Sancheti somehow managed to contact a friend and arranged for a sum of Rs 8.50 lakhs of the demanded amount, and they allowed him to go after he paid up.



Again on October 18 one of the accused persons landed at the hospital to collect the balance amount, but this time Dr. Sancheti was bolder and did not pay up, but rushed to lodge a police complaint with his wife and a friend.

Following the complaint, the Buldhana police lodged a FIR and swung into action to trace the 8 accused from different cities, Buldhana Superintendent of Police Sunil Kadasne said.

Moving swiftly, within less than 24 hours, the police tracked and nabbed 5 accused from Buldhana town and at least one wanted accused Deep N. Ambore, 21, is absconding, with police teams deployed on the lookout for him, even as further investigations are underway.

SP Kadasne said that the accused nabbed are: Dikshant B. Navghare, 23, Ajay N. Nagpure, 30, Vishal M. Gaikwad, 24, Adesh S. Rathod, 19, Suraj M. Pasarte, 20, all from Buldhana, and a city court sent them to police custody.

# Dagdi Chawl's ex-don Arun Gawli dances to 'dandiya' tunes

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Former mafia don-turned-politician Arun Gulab Gawli, the 'Daddy' of Dagdi Chawl, visited his old lair to celebrate the ongoing Navratri festival, during which he was accorded a warm and rousing welcome by the tenants. Presently undergoing a life-term in prison, Gawli, 67, was released on a 28-day furlough on Thursday from Nagpur Central Jail. He reached here on Friday evening and was virtually mobbed by his followers, admirers and associates, as he alighted from a swank white car outside the Dagdi Chawl. Appearing cheerful but fatigued after the Nagpur-Mumbai journey and the weather change, Gawli managed to smile, waved out to his followers, acknowledging them with folded hands, and clad in his trademark white kurta-pyjama-cap, mingled with all freely. After greeting and meeting his old neighbours, friends, and family at the once-shady neighbourhood, Gawli headed for the impressive marquee housing a large idol of Goddess Durga with folded hands, in one corner of the tenements complex. There, assisted by a Hindu priest, Gawli performed an 'aarti' of 'Aai Mauli', bowed before the Goddess and then joined the revellers performing 'dandiya', happily shook a leg with them for some time before leaving the venue. Launched in 1973, this is the golden jubilee of the Dagdi Chawl Navratri Utsav Mandal (DCNUM), and also its final, as post-navratri, the entire chawl complex will go under a redevelopment project, said the Vinayak Narawade, the Chairman of the proposed Dagdi Chawl CHS. Sources close to the former don said that



during his sojourn, Gawli has chosen to live in the secure comforts of his well-appointed fully air-conditioned, top-floor homes in one of the chawl buildings, comprising plush interiors, a home-theatre system and other luxuries befitting a man of his means.

During the four-week-long 'break' from jail, Gawli will take part in certain legalities pertaining to the Dagdi Chawl revamp project, attending meetings with the proposed society office-bearers, probably even the builders, signing certain documents and completing other formalities, hinted Karawade.

With politics flowing in the family's blood, Gawli is likely to take an overview of the political prospects of his daughter Geeta Gawli, a former BMC corporator, who may again contest in the upcoming civic polls and possibly spread her wings higher in the 2024 Maharashtra Assembly elections, too, according to a source.

Gawli, who had launched the Akhil Bharatiya Sena (ABS) has traditionally sympathised with the Shiv Sena founded by the late Balasaheb Thackeray, who had once hailed him as a 'Hindu don'.

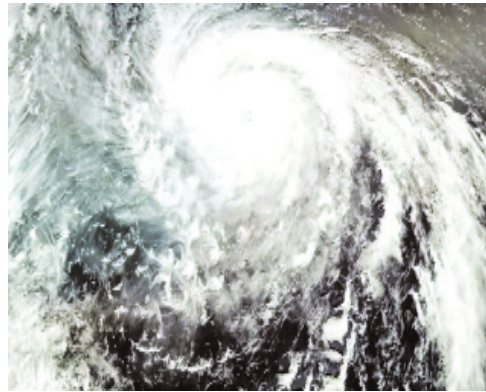
# Low-pressure system in Arabian Sea to intensify into cyclonic storm

Team Absolute | New Delhi/Mumbai

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has reported that a low-pressure system in the southeast and adjoining southwest Arabian Sea has evolved into a depression. Forecasts suggest that it will further intensify into a cyclonic storm by the morning of October 21, and potentially escalate into a severe cyclonic storm by October 22. The trajectory of the storm is projected to move north-north-westwards, ultimately heading toward the South Oman and adjoining Yemen coasts.

Earlier, the IMD had issued a weather warning for Mumbai in light of the developing cyclonic storm in the Arabian Sea. However, the latest updates indicate that the city may not experience significant impacts, as the cyclonic storm is expected to gain strength and veer towards the southern coasts of Oman and adjoining Yemen, rather than affecting Mumbai.

According to the IMD, the depression over the southwest Arabian Sea has shifted westwards and is



currently situated about 900 kilometres east-southeast of Socotra, Yemen, and approximately 1,170 kilometres southeast of Salalah Airport in Oman. Over the next 24 hours, it is likely to transform into a cyclonic storm, posing potential challenges to regions in its path.

IMD's alert for Mumbai

IMD had previously issued a warning about weather changes in Mumbai due to a possible cyclonic storm which is developing in the Arabian Sea. The IMD's weather update, released on Monday on social media, indicated the possible formation of a low-pressure area in the southeast and adjoining east-central Arabian Sea within the next 48 hours. The period from October to December is considered favourable for the development of cyclones in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea, primarily due to the warmer ocean temperatures during this time.

Should a tropical storm emerge in the Indian seas, it will be designated as "Tej," adhering to the naming conventions for cyclones in the Indian Ocean region. According to the weather office, "A low-pressure area has formed over the Southeast and adjoining East-central Arabian Sea on the morning of 18th October. It is expected to move in a West-Northwest direction and intensify into a Depression around 21st October."

# Pune-Delhi flight makes emergency landing in Mumbai over bomb hoax

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Delhi-bound Akasa Air flight carrying 185 passengers from Pune made an emergency landing at the Mumbai Airport after a passenger claimed that he had a bomb in his bag, officials said on Saturday. The flight, which was diverted to the Mumbai airport, landed in the early hours of today after some 40 minutes following takeoff from the Pune airport, the airlines said in a statement today. The flight finally departed for its original destination around 6 am today after the bomb claim turned out to be a hoax. "At around 2.30 am today a CISF officer informed the Mumbai Police Control, after which the luggage of the passenger of that flight was searched in the presence of Bomb Detection and Disposable Squad (BDDS) team, as well as police officers. But during an investigation the police did not find any suspicious object," a police officer said. The passenger who claimed there was a bomb in his bag was taken to the hospital in an ambulance after the plane landed at the Mumbai airport as he complained of chest pain. According to police a relative accompanying the passenger on the



flight told police that he had taken medicine due to chest pain. In a statement, Akasa Airlines confirmed the incident. "Akasa Air flight QP 1148, flying from Pune to Delhi at 00:07 hrs on October 21, 2023, and carrying 185 passengers and six crew members on board, received a security alert shortly after take-off. As per safety and security procedures, the plane was diverted to Mumbai. The Captain followed all required emergency procedures and landed safely at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport at 00:42 hrs," Akasa Airlines said. After receiving police clearance, the flight left for Delhi from Mumbai airport around 6 am. Mumbai Police is further investigating the matter.

# Opposition spread false information on contractual recruitment GR, alleges Ajit Pawar

Team Absolute | Pune

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar on Saturday accused the opposition parties of spreading false information over the government order meant for recruiting staff on a contract basis, which the Eknath Shinde dispensation has now scrapped, reported news agency.

On Friday, Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis announced scrapping of the government order meant for recruiting staff on a contract basis by nine private agencies, saying that it was the previous Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) dispensation which had taken a decision to hire workforce on a short-term basis.

GRs (government resolutions) related to contractual hiring were issued when Congress leaders Ashok Chavan and Prithviraj Chavan helmed the government during the 15-year rule of the Democratic Front (DF) coalition (1999-2014), Fadnis claimed. But the Congress leaders refused the claim.



Fadnis' announcement of scrapping the GR came in the wake of opposition parties targeting the Eknath Shinde dispensation over the issue of contractual recruitment.

Talking to reporters here during his visit here, Ajit Pawar said, "The GR was right, but the opposition deliberately spread false propaganda over it. Misunderstanding was created among the youth about this (recruitment) process. Many things were

spoken about this GR like people will not get jobs and some will lose their jobs which was incorrect."

Pawar, who leads the rebel faction of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), was in Pune to review ongoing projects in the city. He visited the proposed site of Mutha riverfront development project in Yerawada at 6 am before going to an Oxygen Park in Kharadi and a water purification centre in the same area.

When asked why he prefers to visit project sites in the morning time, the Pune district guardian minister said, "The only reason I undertake visits to review projects very early in the morning is that people should not get disturbed due to my visit. Whenever I visit any destination, office-goers, school-going students may face problems due to my convoy."

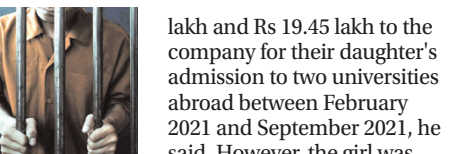
"Hence, I think the early morning visits are beneficial," he said.

Talking about the riverfront project, Ajit Pawar said, "The riverfront project in Pune would be better than any other such project in the country."

# Career guidance company booked for cheating woman of Rs 32.4 lakh

Team Absolute | Thane

The police in Maharashtra's Thane district have registered an offence against a couple owning an overseas career guidance company for allegedly cheating a woman of Rs 32.4 lakh on the pretext of helping her travel abroad for higher studies, police on Saturday. The police have registered a case under section 409 (criminal breach of



trust by public servant) of the Indian Penal Code against Rakesh Mehta and his wife Stella, who are the CEO and managing director respectively, of the company, an official said. As per the complaint, the girl's parents had paid a deposit of Rs 12.98

lakh and Rs 19.45 lakh to the company for their daughter's admission to two universities abroad between February 2021 and September 2021, he said. However, the girl was admitted to another university and sought a refund from the company. The alleged accused did not return the money and kept giving them evasive replies, the official said, adding that a probe is underway and no arrests have been made.

# Ambedkar's contribution not restricted to just Constitution: Sharad Pawar

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) president Sharad Pawar on Saturday said B R Ambedkar's contribution to the country is not restricted just to the Constitution but also taking crucial and futuristic decisions over water resources and power, reported news agency.

Speaking at an event to commemorate the 100 years of his book 'The Problem of the Rupee: Its Origin and Its Solution', Sharad Pawar said Ambedkar deserves credit for preserving parliamentary democracy in the country.

Ambedkar was a member of the Viceroy's Executive Council from 1942 to 1946, which was responsible for labour, water and power.

The NCP chief said, "The current generation is only aware of his contribution (as the chairman of the drafting committee) towards the Constitution."

The four-time Maharashtra chief minister said Ambedkar also took crucial decisions on how to use water and build its infrastructure. He said the key decision to construct the Bhakra Nangal dam, built over the Sutlej river, and the Damodar Valley Corporation, a public sector power generator operating in



West Bengal and Jharkhand, was taken during Ambedkar's tenure. The Bhakra Nangal dam played a crucial role in the irrigation sector for Punjab and Haryana, spurring agricultural growth in the two states, said the former Union agriculture minister. "While taking these decisions (on building dams), he also realised how important it was to generate power from these dams," Pawar said.

The NCP leader also credited Ambedkar for laying the foundation of the state electricity boards to enable power generation at the state level and founding the Transmission Corporation of India to take electricity to states that did not produce power.

"People are still reaping the benefits of the decisions that Ambedkar took," Pawar added.

# Ten properties gutted in fire in Vasai industrial estate, no casualties

Team Absolute | Palghar

A massive fire broke out in an industrial estate in Vasai, Palghar district. According to the civic official, the fire engulfed ten properties, including workshops and storage facilities, within an industrial estate located in Vasai.

As per the official, the incident took place on Friday at approximately 8:30 pm, and continued to rage until 6:30 am on the following Saturday.

The Vasai Virar Municipal Corporation (VVMC) official stated that there were no reported injuries.

"Around seven fire engines rushed to the spot to carry out the firefighting operation. It wasn't until the following morning that the fire was successfully contained. At present, a cooling operation is in progress at the site to ensure that any residual



embers are extinguished," the official from Vasai Virar Municipal Corporation informed. "The exact cause of the fire is currently under investigation," according to statements made by the civic body's fire officer.

Meanwhile, a fire broke out at Dadar's Kirtkar Market, near Kabutarhkhana, in the early hours of Saturday.

According to the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) official, the incident was reported at 01.39 am by the Municipal Fire Brigade (MFB).

Further, the official stated that the fire was extinguished by 04.40 am. No injuries have been reported due to the fire incident.

The fire broke out in two commercial blocks within

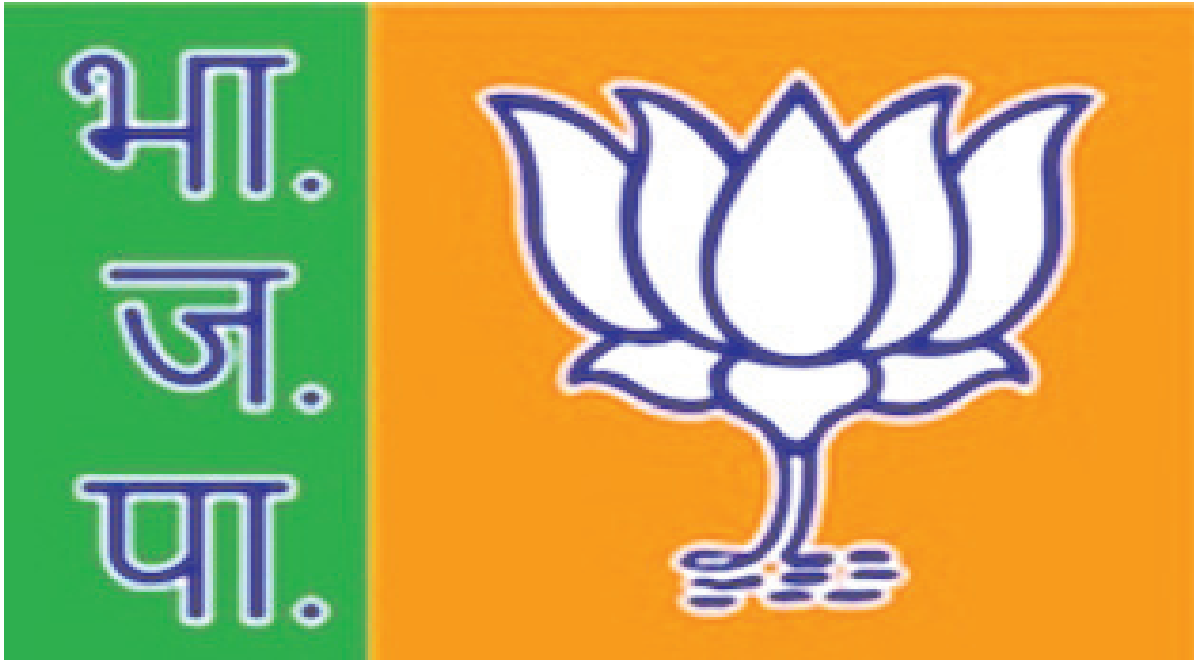
Kirtkar Market, the civic official said. According to the civic official, it was reported to be Level-1 fire.

Multiple agencies, including BMC's MFB, the local police, BEST (Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport), and ward staff, quickly mobilised to the scene to combat the blaze and ensure the safety of the area.





## BJP RELEASES 5TH LIST OF CANDIDATES FOR MP ASSEMBLY POLLS



The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Saturday released the fifth list of 92 candidates for the Madhya Pradesh Assembly elections scheduled to be held on November 17. With this, the saffron party has announced 228 candidates for a total of 230 Assembly seats in the state. According to the 5th list, 92 candidates have been given tickets. The party has held Guna and Vidisha seats. Let us tell you, the decision on the candidates was taken in the meeting of BJP's Central Election Committee in New Delhi on October 20.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

In the fresh list, the BJP has also cleared the air around the candidature of Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia. After his aunt and state minister Yashodhara Raje Scindia announced not contesting the upcoming election citing health issues, the political circle in the state was abuzz with speculation that she might have vacated the Shivpuri seat for her nephew. However, the Union Minister won't be contesting the

upcoming election.

The BJP has fielded Devendra Kumar Jain from Shivpuri, and Maya Singh from the Gwalior East constituency.

The party has fielded Narayan Singh Kushwaha from Gwalior West.

Also, the BJP has fielded Siddharth Tiwari from Teonthar assembly constituency of Rewa district, replacing its sitting MLA Shyamal Dwivedi. Siddharth, who is the grandson of former Madhya Pradesh Assembly Speaker (late) Srinivas Tiwari and son of former Congress MP Sundarlal Tiwari, left the grand old party a few days ago. With Siddharth switching to the BJP after getting denied ticket from Teonthar, the Tiwari family's five decades-long association with the grand old party came to an end. The BJP has fielded senior BJP leader Gaurishankar Bisen's daughter Mausam Bisen from the Balaghat seat, which was her father's political stronghold for the last few decades. A total of 12 women candidates have been fielded out of 92 candidates announced on Saturday.

## Take 1 day leave and get 4 days leaves

Team Absolute | Bhopal

In Madhya Pradesh, employees have the opportunity to get 4 days leave. Will have to take only one day leave. According to the calendar, there is an optional Dussehra holiday on Sunday 22nd, Monday 23rd, Tuesday 24th and local holiday on Wednesday 25th.

If employees take voluntary leave on 23rd Mahanavami, they can remain on leave for four consecutive days. Let it be known that at present the time of assembly elections is going on in the state.

Because of which the code of conduct is in force. Therefore, it is not easy to get 4 days leave because the Election Commission has put a freeze on everyone's leave.

## Congress trapped in pressure politics: Had to change candidates on three seats



Team Absolute | Bhopal

Pressure politics continues in Congress for the Assembly elections 2023. The party has released the second list of its candidates late on Thursday night. Due to pressure in this list of 88 names, three names have been changed from the first list. Of these, two seats are from Gwalior Chambal region and one from Mahakaushal. Earlier, Congress had released its first list of 144 names on the first day of Navratri. In this, tickets were given to Awadhesh Nayak from Datia assembly seat, Shailendra Singh from Pichor and Shekhar Chaudhary from Goteagaon, but as the controversy increased, Congress has changed its candidates on these three seats. Now tickets have been given to Rajendra Bharti from Datia, Arvind Lodhi from Pichor and NP Prajapati from Goteagaon. Congress has so far announced names for 229 seats out of 230, only one Amla seat has been held. It is being told that out of the 229 declared seats, some seats are still under dispute. Protests are continuing here and demands for changing

the candidate are being raised. On Datia assembly seat, Congress had given ticket to Awadhesh Nayak in front of BJP Home Minister Narottam Mishra. Which was being described as a kind of walk over. While Rajendra Bharti, who had contested the last election, was continuously active here, he lost by only 2900 votes. When Nayak's name surfaced, Bharti and her supporters opened a front due to which Congress had to change its decision and candidate.

From Pichore seat, Shailendra Singh was also considered a weak candidate. He was also facing a lot of opposition on the seat. BJP has given ticket to Pratim Lodhi here. In such a situation, Congress has also fielded Arvind Lodhi to solve the caste equation. Before this, Congress's KP Singh Kakkaju has been continuously winning from here. In 2018 also he defeated Pritam Lodhi. But due to less victory margin, Congress has changed its face this time. Shailendra Singh was given a chance in place of KP Singh but as the controversy escalated, he too had to be replaced.

Congress had to change its candidate on Goteagaon seat

also. Congress had fielded Shekhar Chaudhary here by cutting the ticket of former Assembly Speaker NP Prajapati, but due to controversy, now once again NP has been made the candidate. Actually, no MLA is elected for the second time on this seat reserved for SC, hence the party had changed the candidate as per its strategy but sitting MLA Prajapati finally convinced the party for his ticket. In 2018, NP had defeated BJP's Kailash Jatav from here. Earlier in 2013, Jatav had defeated NP.

Protests against the Congress candidate continue on Indore-4 seat as well. The party has made Raja Mandhwani its candidate from here. Earlier in the 2018 elections, it had fielded Surjit Singh Chadda, who was defeated by BJP's Malini Gaur by a huge margin. This time Congress has played the Sindhi card but Mandhwani is facing huge opposition. Even his effigy has been burnt. However, even before this, Nandlal Mata from the Sindhi community had been a Congress MLA. Congress once again has hope from Sindhi vote bank. Sindhi community is present in large numbers here.

## 93 MLAS IN MADHYA PRADESH HAVE CRIMINAL CASES: REPORT

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Ahead of Madhya Pradesh assembly polls, Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) has released its report in which it revealed that 93 out of 230 sitting MLAs in the state have criminal cases registered against them.

ADR is a non profit organisation which discloses criminal, financial, and educational background of the candidates contesting elections.

According to the ADR report, of these 93 MLAs having criminal cases, 39 belong to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), 52 belong to the Congress Party, one from Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) and the remaining one is independent.

Apart from this, among the 93 MLAs, 47 have serious criminal cases, one MLA has a case of murder (IPC section 302) registered against him,



six MLAs have cases of attempt to murder (IPC 307) and two MLAs have cases of crime against women (IPC 354), the report added.

Meanwhile, another interesting data surfaced in the report stating that 186 out of 230 sitting MLAs in the state are 'crorepati'. Of these, 76

out of 97 MLAs of Congress are crorepati in the state.

Sanjay Shukla is the richest MLA from the Congress party and total wealth is over Rs 139 crore. Shukla is MLA from Indore 1 assembly constituency and this time he will be contesting against the senior BJP leader Kailash

Vijayvargiya.

On the other hand, 107 out of 129 MLAs of the BJP are crorepati in the state. The richest MLA from the BJP is Sanjay Pathak and his total wealth is over Rs 226 crore. Pathak is MLA from Vijayraghavgarh assembly constituency in Katni District. The report further stated about the educational qualification of the sitting MLAs in the state. 62 MLAs have declared their educational qualification to be between Class 5th and 12th, while 158 MLAs have declared to be graduate and above. Apart from this, four MLAs have declared themselves as diploma holders. Five MLAs have declared them as literate and one MLA has declared as illiterate, the report added.

Madhya Pradesh is scheduled to undergo assembly polls on November 17 and the counting of votes will take place on December 3.

### 7th ICTR Conference

## AIIMS BHOPAL'S CONTRIBUTION TO PIONEERING MEDICAL RESEARCH

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The 7th ICTR Conference, titled 'Innovations in Translational Research,' took place from October 16 to 18, 2023, at AIIMS, New Delhi. It featured numerous outstanding scientific contributions from both India and abroad. Eminent speakers like Padmashri Prof (Dr) N.K Ganguly, Prof (Dr) Balram Bhargava, Dr. V.K. Paul, Prof M. Srinivas, and Prof Sujata Mohanty graced the event. Notably, Vrushali D. Patil, a PhD student of Biochemistry at AIIMS Bhopal, presented groundbreaking research on "Detecting SARS-CoV-2 in the clinical stool of symptomatic patients and sewage samples to study wastewater-based genetic epidemiology and monitor the virus's circulation." Her work underscored the significance of



environmental surveillance in tracking SARS-CoV-2's silent spread in communities. Ms. Patil's research received high acclaim and recognition. Dr. Rashmi Chowdhary, an Additional Professor in Biochemistry, delivered an invited national speaker talk, sharing insights into her ongoing project aimed at developing an early detection prototype for

cervical cancer. The focus is particularly on improving primary and rural health-care centers in India. Dr. Jitendra Singh, Assistant Professor in the Department of Translational Medicine at AIIMS Bhopal, presented his work on "Exploring the Evolution and Range of Key Omicron Strains through Genomic Surveillance". He also participated in a pre-conference workshop on "CRISPR-based technologies for Cell, Virus, and Animal Genome Editing".

Participation in this conference has provided an excellent platform to showcase the ongoing research at AIIMS Bhopal, under the guidance of Prof (Dr) Ajai Singh, ED, and CEO of AIIMS Bhopal. It has also paved the way for collaborations with the Stem Cell Department at AIIMS Delhi, opening doors to future research endeavors.

## ED files charge sheet against businessman Sanjay Vijay Shinde, his wife, his offshore company in money laundering case

Team Absolute | New Delhi/Bhopal

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has filed a charge sheet against businessman Sanjay Vijay Shinde, his wife Aparna Shinde and Venus Bay Offshore Ltd.

Shinde's name figured in Panama Paper leaks and is also involved in the import-export business. The financial probe agency filed a charge sheet on October 18 against them under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, (PMLA) 2002 before the Special PMLA Court in Bhopal, which took cognisance of the same on Friday.

The ED investigation is based on the basis of case filed by Income Tax Department under section 51 of Black Money (Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets) And Imposition of Tax Act, 2015 against Shinde and others.

The ED probe revealed that Sanjay Vijay Shinde had established an offshore company in tax haven British Virgin Island (BVI) in the name of Venus Bay



Offshore Ltd and received huge sum amounting to Rs 21.87 crore in the bank accounts of the said company maintained at UBS-AG Bank, Singapore.

"The accused was the sole director, shareholder and beneficial owner of the said company. Since, the interest in the foreign company and the assets in the form of money received in the foreign bank account was not disclosed by the accused in his Income Tax Return, the proceedings under Black Money Act, 2015 were initiated against him and a charge sheet was filed by Income Tax Department," it said.

The ED said that its investigation also revealed that he brought the money to India from BVI Company through NRE or NRO accounts route and invested in

into FCNR-FD account.

"By liquidation from the above FDs, the amount was invested into various movable and immovable properties," the agency said, adding that he had purchased properties across Bhopal, Goa, Vadodara and Mumbai using the proceeds of crime.

He also invested in mutual funds, shares, FDs, LIC policies and as capital investment in businesses. "During the investigation, it was established that he has derived profits from utilisation of proceeds of crime amounting to Rs 12.40 crore and thus his total PoC was calculated as Rs 34.22 crore," the ED said.

The ED conducted searches at various premises of Shinde and cash amount of Rs 88.30 lakh were seized along with various incriminating documents. ED has also attached 18 immovable properties across Bhopal, Goa, Vadodra and Mumbai and movable properties in form of investment in MFs, shares, FDs, LIC policies, and vehicles worth Rs 29.59 crore.

DEARNESS ALLOWANCE SHOULD BE PAID TO EMPLOYEES FROM JULY 1, 2023

Team Absolute | Bhopal

State Secretary of Third Class Employees Union, Umashankar Tiwari has demanded from the state government that like the central officer employees, 4% dearness allowance and relief should be provided to all the 7.50 lakh working and retired working and retired officer employees of the state from July 1, 2023. This cannot be stopped due to elections. Approval should be taken by sending the file to the Election Commission so that the officers and employees of the state can celebrate the festival of Diwali with enthusiasm and enthusiasm. At present the working and retired employees of the state are getting 42% dearness allowance and/or dearness relief.

## As veteran leaders get sidelined in MP's Vindhya region, Cong & BJP's troubles mount

Team Absolute | Bhopal

As the candidates for the Madhya Pradesh Assembly elections are being declared, resentment is brewing among the established politicians of the BJP and Congress in the Vindhya region and is threatening to become a major headache for both. Disappointed after being denied tickets, the leaders from both sides are readying to jolt their parties at the last moment. Senior BJP leader and four-time MLA from Sidhi, Kedarnath Shukla, who was denied ticket this time, has announced to take a rebellious step and will contest the election against the party's candidate. After a two-week long wait, Kedarnath Shukla while addressing a gathering of his supporters in Gauhani village, said, "I will contest the election from Sidhi to give a befitting reply to the BJP's editorship." Importantly, the BJP has replaced Shukla with two-time Lok Sabha MP Riti Pathak. Despite being a strong leader and having a strong base among the Brahmin voters in Sidhi, Shukla was denied ticket due to the pee-gate controversy that broke out after a video surfaced on social media in July. Pravech Shukla, who was seen urinating on a tribal man Dashmat Rawat's face, was then a representative of BJP MLA Kedarnath Shukla. Sensing anger from the tribal community, the BJP booked Pravech Shukla under NSA and replaced the candidate from Sidhi. Kedarnath Shukla made all efforts to get a ticket from the Congress, however, sensing that inducting him in the party may upset



the ST/SC voters, the Congress was yet to make any decision on him. And, the Congress is yet to announce its candidate from Sidhi. The Congress also witnessed a jolt from Rewa district of Vindhya region as former Speaker Srinivas Tiwari's grandson Siddharth Tiwari (Raj) joined the BJP on Tuesday. Siddharth, who was preparing for the election from Teonthar Assembly seat, located in the bordering area of Prayag (Uttar Pradesh), however, was denied ticket at the last moment and the Congress fielded Ramashankar Patel. Siddharth had even held a mega rally on the occasion of his grandfather's birth anniversary on September 17 and several state party leaders, including former minister P. C. Sharma had attended the event in Teonthar. He was preparing from Teonthar because of two reasons -- his grandfather Srinivas Tiwari had won two elections from that particular seat before he shifted to Mangavan. Secondly, the Teonthar Assembly seat has nearly 70 per cent Brahmin voters. Srinivas Tiwari, who died in 2018 at the age of 93, was the Assembly Speaker during the Digvijaya Singh-led Congress government in

Madhya Pradesh. His political rivalry against former Chief Minister Arjun Singh was much publicised. Srinivas' son Sundarlal Tiwari (Siddharth's father), who died in 2021, was an MP from Rewa and also had been MLA from the Gurgu constituency. In other examples of twisting politics of Vindhya region, BJP MLA from Maihar (Satna) Narayan Tripathi was also denied ticket this time and he is trying to get a place in the Congress. The Congress also wants to give him another chance (before becoming MLA from BJP, Tripathi was in Congress in 2013). However, sources told IANS that state Congress President Kamal Nath barred his second time entry because of his alleged connection in a famous 'honey-trap' incident that broke out a couple of years ago. Beside all these leaders, one more ex-MLA from Vindhya region -- Abhay Mishra -- is running from one party office to another to secure a ticket for the Assembly election. Abhay and his wife Neelam Mishra had been elected MLAs from BJP's ticket. However, due to a rift with senior BJP leader and Minister Rajendra Shukla, Abhay and his wife shifted to the Congress in 2018. Two months ago, former MLA couple Abhay and Neelam joined the BJP again with the help of state BJP president V. D. Sharma and the state Home Minister Narottam Mishra. However, Rajendra Shukla, who has established himself as a strong Brahmin leader in the Vindhya region, opposed the development. Now, with the possibility of getting ticket minimizing, Abhay Mishra is making all efforts to get back into the Congress.





## Emily Blunt is 'appalled' by video showing her calling server 'enormous'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Emily Blunt has apologised in the wake of a resurfaced 2012 talk show appearance showing her using insensitive language. Fans of Blunt, 40, recently discovered a YouTube clip from the 'Oppenheimer' star's appearance on the U.K.'s 'Jonathan Ross Show' in September 2012, in which she referred to a restaurant server as "enormous" while recalling her time making the film 'Looper' in the United States, reports People. "I just need to address this head on as my jaw was on the floor watching this clip from 12-years ago," Blunt said in a statement given to 'People'. "I'm appalled that I would say something so insensitive, hurtful, and unrelated to whatever story I was trying to tell on a talk show."

"I've always considered myself someone who wouldn't dream of upsetting anyone so whatever possessed me to say anything like this in that moment is unrecognisable to me or anything I stand for," she added. "And yet it happened, and I said it and I'm so sorry for any hurt caused. I was absolutely old enough to know better."

As per People, in the video, Blunt recalls eating dinner at a local Chili's restaurant during filming, to which talk show host Jonathan Ross says: "If you go to Chili's you can see why so many of our American friends are enormous."

"Well the girl who was serving me was enormous," Blunt responds, before stating that the server in question recognized her during her visit to the restaurant.

Blunt co-starred with Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Bruce Willis and Paul Dano in Looper, which made for writer-director Rian Johnson's third feature-length film. The clip of Blunt's appearance also includes the actor describing how she learned to chop wood for the film and demonstrating her skills for Ross.

## Jonah Hill, Martin Scorsese step out for dinner

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood actor Jonah Hill was seen in Los Angeles with acclaimed filmmaker Martin Scorsese recently. The actor and director were seen together leaving a Brentwood restaurant after dining together.

After leaving the restaurant, Martin, 80, walked directly to a private car and was driven away, reports Mirror.co.uk.

Jonah, 39, spent some time talking to a group of friends outside the restaurant before crossing the street and walking to his car. Jonah was wearing a white shirt under a yellow and purple long-sleeved flannel.

As per Mirror.co.uk, the shirt was tucked into olive coloured pants which were fastened with a brown belt. He finished his look off with white slip-on trainers and aviator-style glasses.

The '21 Jump Street' star looked almost unrecognisable with a shaved head and full beard and moustache. Jonah underwent a dramatic weight



loss over the past few years and recently hired a personal trainer and nutritionist.

Martin will be directing an upcoming biopic on the Grateful Dead, with

Jonah playing Jerry Garcia, the band's lead guitarist and vocalist. Jonah previously worked with Martin in 2013 on the Leonardo DiCaprio led movie 'The Wolf Of Wall Street'



## BRITNEY 'DIDN'T MEAN TO OFFEND' PEOPLE WITH BOOK IN EMOTIONAL MESSAGE

Los Angeles | Agencies

Pop icon Britney Spears has spoken out about her memoir and has urged fans that she "didn't want to offend anyone" after a slew of revelations emerged this week.

"My book's purpose was not to offend anyone by any means," she has written in a statement posted online, reports 'Mirror.co.uk'.

The singer, 41, whose book is set to come out next week, continued: "This was me then... that is in the past!!!"

"I don't like the headlines I am reading... that's exactly why I quit the business four years ago! Most of the book is from 20 years ago... I have moved on and it's a beautiful clean slate from here."

"I am here to establish it that way for the rest of my entire life! Either way, that is the last of it and sh\*t happens! This is actually a book I didn't know needed to be written ... although some might be offended, it has given me closure on all things for a better future (sic)," she added.

Britney then touched on how she wants her book to "enlighten people" who feel alone, hurt or misunderstood.

As per 'Mirror.co.uk', she urged that her motive was "not to harp on my past experiences" before declaring that she has "moved on" since then.

Britney's hotly-anticipated memoir is due to be released on October 24.

Some snippets from the singer's book have already been unveiled, with fans shocked at what Britney dealt with in her private life when she was younger.

## 'IT'S ALL ABOUT HAVING POSITIVE OUTLOOK,' SNOOP DOGG

Los Angeles | Agencies

Rap maestro Snoop Dogg, who is known as one of the masters of gangsta-rap, turned 52 years old on October 20. Still looking very good and young, he shared the secret behind his good looks, simply saying that it is all about having a positive outlook. Talking to 'People' magazine, the 'Sexual Eruption' hitmaker said: "You gotta treat yourself, don't cheat yourself. Like fine wine, I'm aging better with time. But we really only got a short time here, so making the most of life and trying to be the best version of me every day, by surrounding myself with good people, positive energy and love."

The rapper who is fresh off his High School Reunion US Tour, which he co-headlined with the rappers Wiz Khalifa, Too Short, Warren G, and Berner, spoke about getting back on the road and performing again.

Elaborating, he said: "It was amazing. It's great getting to be on the road with my friends that have accomplished so much in this industry, and we got to see people of all ages and backgrounds come through, from grandmas to babies".

"I think that's a testament to not only the work I've put in, but the love I've shown the world. I've been able to evolve from generation to generation by being true to who I am," he added.

Describing his childhood and the values he was taught as a kid, he said: "My mom taught me to love everybody from all walks of life so I've continued to put that love out into the world."

Furthermore, in honour of his birthday and his accomplishments, SnoopDogg recently released a limited-edition flavour of his ice cream brand, Bombay. A mouth-watering new desert, this new item is a yellow cake flavoured with candy sprinkles, crushed pretzels and chocolate frosting swirls.



## Andrew Garfield, Joaquin Phoenix, Cate Blanchette, Oscar Isaac appeal for ceasefire between Israel-Hamas

Los Angeles | Agencies

The current war between the state of Israel and the terrorist organisation Hamas has escalated to disastrous, and terrifying levels. Given the intensity of this conflict, various Hollywood celebrities such as Andrew Garfield, Joaquin Phoenix, Cate Blanchette, Oscar Isaac, among many more have appealed for a ceasefire from both sides.

They signed a letter to US President Joe Biden to de-escalate this conflict as 'devastating horrors' have taken place, according to Variety. "We ask that, as President of the United States, you call for an immediate de-escalation and ceasefire in Gaza and Israel before another life is lost. More than 5,000 people have been killed in the last week and a half - a number any person of conscience knows is catastrophic.

We believe all life is sacred, no matter faith or ethnicity and we condemn the killing of Palestinian and Israeli civilians."

The letter, accessed by Variety, also read: "Beyond our pain and mourning for all of the people there and their loved ones around the world we are motivated by an unbending will to stand for our common humanity. We stand for freedom, justice, dignity and peace for all people - and a deep desire to stop more bloodshed."

The war began when the Palestinian terrorist organisation launched its assault on Israel on October 7, by launching a barrage of missiles from the Gaza strip which led to the death of thousands.

This toll consisted of personnel from both the Israeli Defense Forces, Israeli citizens as well as many foreign citizens who were attending a music festival in the area.

Within 24 hours of the attack, Israeli Prime Minister declared war on Palestine and since then the IDF has engaged in massive conflict, neutralising many Hamas commanders, and flattening the Gaza strip completely with an onslaught of missiles.

After assaults from Hamas personnel, Israel also bombed the historic Church of Saint Porphyrius in Gaza, as well as a hospital. While the assault on the Church left several dead, with estimates ranging from dozens to even more, the attack on the Gaza Hospital left more than 500 dead including children.

While Palestine called this a war crime, the Israeli government countered the point by saying that the hospital was functioning as a weapons depot for Hamas soldiers who were using it as a base of their operations.

## ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Rhian Sugden





## ALL-ROUND JANSEN HELPS SOUTH AFRICA HAND ENGLAND THEIR WORST-EVER DEFEAT

Mumbai | Agencies

Asked to mount the biggest chase in their World Cup history, England's batting collapsed like a pack of cards as they succumbed to one of their biggest defeats against South Africa -- a 229-run hammering in Match 20 of the ICC Men's ODI World Cup at the Wankhede Stadium on Saturday.

Chasing a 400-run target, England's innings ended at 170 in 22 overs -- Reece Topley remained absent hurt after injuring his left index finger.

Gerald Coetzee claimed 3-35 and Marco Jansen completed a fine all-round display with a 2-35 haul for South Africa. Lungi Ngidi finished 2-26 to complete England's humiliation.

England skipper Jos Buttler asked South Africa to bat first after winning the toss and that proved the biggest mistake of this World Cup for England as they got hammered by the South African batters for 399/7 in 50 overs while the South African bowlers did not give them any chances as they bowled superb line and length to send back half of the England side back in the pavilion for 67 runs in the 12th over.

The match was as good as over for England by that time. Gus Atkinson (35 off 21) and Mark Wood (43 not out off 17) lived a charmed life as they blazed to a 70-run partnership off 33 balls for the ninth wicket, blasting nine fours and five sixes between them to give



England a semblance of respectability. Both of them enjoyed the tailenders' luck as some of their shots missed the fielders' grasp by centimetres at the boundary rope.

But it was small consolation for England as they succumbed to their worst defeat in ODIs.

England batters had to take their chances and Buttler had hoped that they would capitalise on the dew-laden ball to chase the big total. But that did not happen as Jonny Bairstow (10 off 12), Dawid Malan (6) and Joe Root (2) got out in quick succession as England batters, shell-

shocked by the walloping their bowlers received from the hands of Klaasen and Co found the going tough.

Ben Stokes, who was expected to be England's talisman and expected to lift them from the dumps after their humiliating 69-run defeat to Afghanistan, survived six balls for five runs, Harry Brook, who was included in the side after being overlooked in the first shortlist, lasted for 25 deliveries, scoring 17 runs while skipper Jos Buttler, who has played some memorable innings at the Wankhede

innings, scored 15 off seven balls before perishing to an edge behind after hammering Gerald Coetzee for four, four and six in three balls. England were reduced to 68/6 in the 12th over and the South Africans were cruising to victory save for a few lusty blows by David Miller (12 off 12) and Adil Rashid (10 off 14) as England crawled past the 100-run mark.

### Brief scores

South Africa 399/7 in 50 overs (Heinrich Klaasen 109, Reeza Hendricks 85, Marco Jansen 75 not out, Rassie van der Dussen 60; Reece Topley 3-88, Adil Rashid 2-61) beat England 170 in 22 overs (Mark Wood 43 not out, Gus Atkinson 35; Gerald Coetzee 3-35, Lungi Ngidi 2-26, Marco Jansen 2-35) by 229 runs.

## McKeown shatters 50m backstroke world record at Swimming World Cup in Budapest

Budapest | Agencies

The 2023 World Aquatics Swimming World Cup in Budapest kicked off on Friday with a resounding splash as Kaylee McKeown broke the world record in the women's 50m backstroke.

The 22-year-old Australian sensation's time of 26.86 seconds not only secured her first place but also her lead in the women's rankings of the tournament. It also made McKeown the new record holder in all women's backstroke events, including the 50m, 100m, and 200m distances.

The women's 200m butterfly event saw China's Zhang Yufei secure first place in two minutes and 05.65 seconds, a new World Cup record. Zhang's compatriot Qin Haiyang proved his dominance in the men's 100m breaststroke in a winning time of 57.82 seconds, with the victory also solidifying his lead in the men's rankings.

In a nail-biting men's 200m backstroke final, Roman Mityukov of Switzerland narrowly won in 1:56.96, edging out Italy's Thomas Ceccon by just one-hundredth of a second.

Other opening day winners in the women's events included Tes Schouten from the Netherlands, who set a



new World Cup record in the 200m breaststroke with 2:21.52. Sweden's Sarah Sjoestroem clinched the top spot of the 50m freestyle in 23.97 seconds.

On the men's side, Noe Ponti of Switzerland emerged as the champion in the 100m butterfly with 51.38 seconds, while Britain's Benjamin Proud took first place in the 50m freestyle with a time of 21.77 seconds.

The relay events added an extra layer of excitement to the competition. Australia secured first place in the men's 4x100 freestyle relay in 3:14.54, followed by Italy and host Hungary.

The Swimming World Cup features three legs, with all taking place in October. Following the competitions in Berlin and Athens, the Budapest leg runs through Sunday.

## Pramod Bhagat and Sukant Kadam kick off their Para Asian campaign with a win

Hangzhou | Agencies

Ace shuttlers Pramod Bhagat and Sukant Kadam kicked off their Para Asian Games campaign with a win. Pramod Bhagat defending his Asian medal Gold started his campaign with an easy win over Chinese Taipei's Hsing Chih Huang.



The game lasted 31 minutes and Pramod looked in control right from the first point as the final scoreline read 21-9, 21-18, he will now face Maldivian Abdul Latheef Mohamed. In the mixed doubles event, Pramod Bhagat and Manisha Ramdass defeated Thailand's Chanida Sirnavakul in straight sets for a match lasting only 19 minutes with the final score 21-08, 21-14. Meanwhile, Sukant Kadam also registered

a win against Chinese Taipei's Yeh En-Chuan to open his tournament. In the first set Sukant was pushed by his opponent but eventually won the first set with a score of 25-23, in the second set Sukant showcased his experience and overpowered the opponent with a score of 21-5. He will now face Maldivian Ahmed Fayaz.

In other results Nitesh Kumar & Murugesan Thulasimathi defeated Syria's Sheiha Feras & Matar Altaf by 2-0 in Mixed Doubles SL3-SU5 Group stage match. Krishna Nagar defeated China's Qingtao Zeng by 2-1 in Men's Singles SH6 Group stage match.

Abu Hubaida and Ale Prem Kumar defeated Sumpradit Aphichat and Kompeekanok Chatchai by 2-0 in Men's Doubles WH1-WH2 Group play.

In the Group D Match Sarkar Manoj defeated Pakistan's Gohar Zeeshan by 2-0, in Men's Singles SL3 Group play - GP D Match 3.

Nitesh Kumar defeated Indonesia's Dwiyoiko by 2-0 in Men's Singles SL3 Group play GP B Match 3 and Ale Prem Kumar defeated Vietnam's Hoang Manh Giang by 2-0 in Men's Singles WH1 Group play GP F Match 5.

## Kuldeep Yadav credits Indian pace attack for the success in World Cup

Dharmshala | Agencies

Indian chinaman spinner Kuldeep Yadav credits the Indian 'pace attack' for a bright start to the Cricket World Cup on home soil with four clinical victories to be one of only two teams to remain undefeated.

India have taken 36 wickets in their four matches so far, after bowling out both Australia and Pakistan for less than 200 and taking eight scalps against Afghanistan and Bangladesh.

"It's very important to start off very well with the first Powerplay. Jasprit and Siraj have done really well," Kuldeep told the ICC.

"Not just giving us wickets, but probably just containing the runs as well (for) when me and Jaddu bhai (Ravindra Jadeja) come to bowl.

"We've always got one or two wickets, only today (against Bangladesh) we felt that they got a very good start."

While batters including skipper Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli have blasted big scores as India chased down their four targets, the bowling attack has been just as crucial to setting up each triumph.



Bumrah coming back after an injury has been surreal with his performance in the World Cup after

the Asia Cup, he has claimed the second-most wickets at the tournament so far with 10, while Siraj and all-rounder Hardik Pandya have both picked up five. Concerns are over Hardik Pandya return to the team as he developed an ankle injury bowling against Bangladesh, Mohammad Shami is likely to take his place which will both Indian pace attack combined with Bumrah and Siraj.

"We're just working on length and we're keeping it very simple, me and Jaddu bhai," Kuldeep said. "We're getting the good wickets as well, but it's very important to keep it very simple and just maintain that in every game, that's very important."

"If you pick an early wicket in the middle overs, definitely it gives you confidence and it just controls the run rate as well." Jadeja has played both roles while taking seven wickets and bowling at the fourth-best economy rate in the tournament with 3.75. Kuldeep is also among the tightest bowlers with five scalps while having the seventh-best economy rate of 4.1 runs an over.

India are set to face New Zealand next in a top-of-the-table blockbuster on Sunday at Dharmshala.

## Diksha lurks in 4th place as German Aline Krauter keeps lead with one day to go at Women's Indian Open

Gurugram | Agencies

Diksha Dagar salvaged her third round with a birdie-birdie finish as she carded 1-under 71 to keep her hopes alive of winning the US\$ 400,000 Hero Women's Indian Open at the DLF Golf and Country Club.

The 22-year-old, Diksha, who called her round a roller-coaster, was lying fourth but was five shots behind Germany's Aline Krauter (68), who after a fine 3-under front nine was unable to maintain that momentum.

Aline, looking at trying to make it a back-to-back win for Germany, stretched her lead from one to two shots. While it was Vani Kapoor who was second after two rounds, occupying that position after round three is Sweden's Sara Kjellker, who has been in fine form with five top-10 finishes in last six starts. Sara recovered from a double bogey on the first to bring home a 4-under 68 and vaulted to the second place at 9-under.

Lying third was the first round leader and Sara's close friend, Norway's Madelene Stavnar (69). Stavnar also started with a double while playing



with Sara, but rebounded to shoot 69. She had 66-74 on the first two days.

Diksha had three birdies on the front nine and three on the back with two bogeys on the front and back halves of the course.

India's top contender Diksha, who is currently fourth on the Race to Costa Del Sol, can get to the top of the Order of Merit with a finish in Top-2. Feeling she can still make some ground on Sunday, she said, "It was a roller-coaster of a round. Today, I could have definitely done better. The greens were

very fast today, probably two times faster than yesterday."

She added philosophically, "I have to accept this, this is what golf is. I'm just going to enjoy myself tomorrow. Today I had lot of lip outs and I made some silly mistakes. So it was going a lot up and down in this round for me." Local star Vani Kapoor, despite a disappointing 74 was tied fifth with England's Hannah Burke (72). Without being fluent, Vani seemed to be managing alright through the front nine with two birdies against a bogey. She then lapsed into a disastrous stretch with a bogey on 10th and three bogeys in a row from 13th to 15th. She did pick a birdie on 17th, but was left seven behind the leader at 4 under after the third round.

Krauter, who is looking for a maiden win on LET, said, "It's different being at the top. I haven't really been in this position this year at all. I think it will be a challenge tomorrow for sure. But I'm very excited for tomorrow and I'm glad I came to India! It was a lot of fun playing out there - a lot of crowds. They were all cheering for me as well which was really nice."

## Tennis: Asian Games gold medallist Rutuja Bhosale eyeing Paris Olympic appearance

Pune | Agencies

Riding on a high after winning the mixed doubles gold with Rohan Bopanna in the Hangzhou Asian Games, Indian tennis star Rutuja Bhosale is now aiming to secure a place in the 2024 Paris Olympics and breaking into the top 200 to ensure more Grand Slam appearances.

Bhosale, who partnered Bopanna to a victory over Liang En-Shuo and Huang Tsung-Hao of Chinese Taipei in a Super Tiebreaker, had reached the third round in women's singles before losing to Alex Eala of the Philippines.

Bhosale is taking a lot of confidence from her performance in Hangzhou and



hoping to use it as a stepping stone for the Olympic Games next year.

"I have trained my eyes on the Paris Olympics. In tennis, one cannot book an Olympic quota despite winning at the Asian Games like other sports. I have to better my ranking and make my way up from 320 to top-200 to ensure a berth as well as secure entry in Grand Slams," Bhosale commented after being felicitated by her sponsors Punit Balan Group (PBG) Chairman Punit Balan.

The 27-year-old Bhosale has made significant progress in her world ranking, with assistance from PBG, resulting in a career-high ranking of 313 in singles. She has also clinched seven ITF titles in the last two years including six in the doubles category.

"It was a proud moment for me and Rohan (Bopanna) to represent India and win an Asian Games gold medal in mixed doubles after 13 long years. I am thankful for all the help and support that has gone into making us stand at the podium," Bhosale said.

Bhosale said the financial assistance made her more relaxed and helped her to focus on her game rather than worrying about a shortage of funds and various other challenges.

## Kavin Quintal, Rakshith S Dave, Vivek Rohit Kapadia secure 1-2-3 positions in Race 1

Chennai | Agencies

Igniting the racetracks of Madras International Circuit in Chennai on Saturday, the Honda Racing India team showcased an exceptional talent and racing prowess in Round 5 of Race 1 of IDEMITSU Honda India Talent Cup NSF250R.



Chennai who started the race from grid 1 and clocked an impressive total time of 11:17:416 in six lap races. His unique riding technique and strategic manoeuvres enabled him to maintain the commanding lead throughout the race, ultimately cross-

ing the chequered flag in the top position.

Following closely behind Kavin was Rakshith S Dave, who secured the second position at 11:23:929. The battle for third place was intense and Vivek Rohit Kapadia for the first time clinched the third spot with a total time of 11:26:456.

Kavin Samaar Quintal said, "This victory holds immense significance. The competition was intense, and I had a bad start yet I pushed myself to the limit to secure the top position. The strategic maneuvers and riding technique played a crucial role in today's win."

## Rahul's really kept superbly in this tournament; batted really well, says Rahul Dravid

Dharmshala | Agencies

India head coach Rahul Dravid lavished rich praise on KL Rahul's performances with the bat and gloves in the ongoing Men's ODI World Cup, saying that his wicket-keeping has been superb in the tournament and has also batted really well.

Rahul has taken five catches in the tournament so far, with his catch of Mehidy Hasan Miraz, made with an outstretched left hand, being the highlight in Pune. With the bat, Rahul was instrumental in rescuing India from 2-3 against Australia at Chennai with an unbeaten 97 and sharing a match-winning 165-run partnership off 215 balls with Virat Kohli.

Dravid also knows a thing or two about batting as well as keeping wickets, having donned the dual role during 2003 World Cup. "It's certainly



not easy and I think he is doing a fantastic job of it. I thought Rahul's really kept superbly in this tournament and then batted really well whenever he's got the opportunity to do that, especially in the first game." But it is challenging, because for

someone like him who, and having had that experience myself, he's not someone who keeps regularly at all. But he's probably kept a little bit more than I have. As a youngster, he kept probably up to his under-19 days, and he's kept in a few T20 games, as well for Karnataka and all that," said Dravid in the pre-match press conference.

He also elaborated on how Rahul had to work hard on both of his skills due to right thigh injury sustained in IPL 2023 and needed surgery, plus a niggle unrelated to original injury which kept him out of Asia Cup group stages in September.

"So, he kept a little bit more than I did, but certainly not easy, considering he was also out with injury for four or five months. When we first decided that he would keep and we wanted to have that kind of option with him as one of the options of being able to keep in and bat in the middle order."





Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Katrina Kaif, who is gearing up for her upcoming Diwali release 'Tiger 3', will be seen sporting seven different looks in the first song from 'Tiger 3'.

The song titled 'Leke Prabhu Ka Naam' will hit the airwaves on Monday, October 23. The actress has called the song one of her most favourite songs of her career.

Talking about the song, Katrina said: "Leke Prabhu Ka Naam' stands out as a visually captivating song. Set against the

**KATRINA KAIF TO DON 7 DIFFERENT LOOKS IN A SONG FROM HER UPCOMING**

brehtaking backdrop of Cappadocia, Turkey, this song has to be visually one of my favourites. Teaming up once more with my favourite Vaibhavi Merchant after 'Mashallah' and 'Swag Se Swagat'."

"Styled by one and only Anaita Shroff Adajania who has truly excelled in curating a stunning array of looks for me. In Leke Prabhu Ka Naam, Anaita has crafted seven remarkable looks, each exuding an undeniable sense of glamour and unique silhouettes," she added.

The track has been composed by Pritam and sung by Arijit Singh and Nikhita Gandhi. The actress maintained that the songs from the 'Tiger' franchise have always been iconic chartbusters and she expects 'Leke Prabhu Ka Naam' to meet the expectations of the audience.

The actress said: "Songs have always been one of the highlights in the 'Tiger' films. I love how Vaibhavi captured the vibe and dynamic between Tiger and Zoya in this song in a new way. It embodied the vibrant and energetic feel of the song that fans anticipate from both of us."

Katrina admitted that she loves dancing with Salman Khan as she said: "Dancing with Salman is always amazing and I take away so many wonderful memories of shooting for 'Leke Prabhu Ka Naam'. Just as 'Swag Se Swagat' was received with so much love, we hope 'Leke Prabhu Ka Naam' will raise the bar even higher."

Produced by Aditya Chopra's YRF, 'Tiger 3' is a part of the YRF spy universe, and has been directed by Maneesh Sharma. The film will debut in theatres on Diwali, November 12.



**Karan Johar, Guneet Monga Kapoor unite for Hindi adaptation of French dramedy**

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The French buddy-comedy, 'The Intouchables' is set to be adapted in Hindi, and Academy Award-winning producer Guneet Monga Kapoor and director-producer Karan Johar are joining forces for this.

The Hindi adaptation will be helmed by Collin D'Cunha, and aims to recreate the magic of the original while adding a unique touch that resonates with Indian audiences.

Director Collin D'Cunha shared his enthusiasm, saying: "Directing 'The Intouchables' adap-

tion is an incredible honour for me as a filmmaker. The original film left an indelible mark on audiences worldwide, and I am honoured to have the opportunity to bring this story to life for Indian viewers. Working with Karan Johar, Guneet Monga, and the entire team is something I'm greatly excited for and looking forward to."

Sharing her excitement, Guneet Monga Kapoor said in a statement: "'The Intouchables' is iconic and one of the most celebrated films around the world. It is very exciting to be able to bring that to India and Hindi audiences. After a high-octane, action packed, 'Kill' we are laying our hands at dramedy which signifies the range of the spectrum

of our collaboration with Dharma which we are incredibly excited about." 'The Intouchables' was originally released in 2011 and was directed by Eric Toledano and Olivier Nakache, received widespread acclaim for its touching narrative and outstanding performances by Francois Cluzet and Omar Sy in the lead roles.

This marks the fourth collaboration between KJo's Dharma Productions and Guneet's Sikhya Entertainment, following the success of their maiden production 'Kill', which made waves following its World Premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival last month.



**Rashmeet Kaur's biggest project of her life fuses Hip-Hop, Pop, with 25 artistes on board**

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Singer-songwriter Rashmeet Kaur, who is known for the viral hit song 'Bajre Da Sitta' and has lent her voice to the song 'Dil Hai Ranjhana' from the Kangana Ranaut-starrer 'Tejas', has shared that she is currently working on her next project which will be the biggest project of her life. Her ambitious project is an album which fuses the elements of Hip-Hop and Pop. Talking about her future plans, the singer told IANS: "In the future, I'll be singing in more films, definitely, and there will be more playback numbers coming out, this year and next year, in the beginning. Also, I'm working on the biggest project of my life. It's a Hip-Hop album, it's both Hip-Hop and Pop. I'm looking forward to it. There are around 25 artistes featuring on this album, including the music producers and the collaborators."

She continued: "So yes, it's something that I've been working on for the last three years now. And I'm super excited and super stoked to be announcing it very soon. It's very close and very precious to me. Let's see. Looking forward to all the releases; this year and next year are going to be a banger, I feel."

Sharing her experience of singing the track for the Kangana Ranaut-starrer, Rashmeet said that singing for 'Tejas', especially a very prominent and inspirational, high-tempo, high-energy track, is an incredible experience for her.

"This is the first time I'm singing something so patriotic in this space. Whoever listens to this song is instantly going to be amped up. I think it's a great opportunity that I got, and it sounds beautiful. Also, Kangana Ranaut is doing proper justice to it. So yes, I'm looking forward to it," she said.

The singer shared that it was quite a new zone for her as she knew beforehand that the song will be picturised on Kangana.

**AASTHA SHARMA SAYS FEMALE AUDIENCE WILL FIND INSPIRATION IN HER CHARACTER**

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Aastha Sharma, who essays the titular role in the show 'Neerja... Ek Nayi Pehchaan' opened up about her character's transformation, and called it an inspiring journey.

Celebrating the recognition, she has received, Aastha spoke about her character's graph. From a naive girl in Sonagachi, oblivious to its harsh realities, she has evolved into a fearless, self-assured young woman challenging stereotype.

Talking about the same, Aastha said: "I'm grateful for the opportunity to play Neerja, a character with a wide range of emotions and growth. Initially, she was innocent and gentle, but as she confronted harsh realities, she became rebellious and took a stand for Protima and herself against Didun."

"Portraying Neerja has been an inspiring journey for me, and I hope our viewers, especially the female audience will find inspiration in Neerja's character as she grows stronger," she shared.

Aastha added: "I hope they learn to take a stand for themselves, support each other, and emerge as strong as Neerja. I'm thrilled about the transformation my character is going to experience, from innocence to rebellion."

With Maa Durga's blessings, Neerja is determined to overcome obstacles, confront Didun, and assert her identity. The social drama storyline revolves around Neerja's quest for dignity and freedom from



Sonagachi. In the current track, viewers are witnessing Neerja's transformation into a symbol of redemption, as she confronts Didun for her past wrongdoings against her and Protima.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor Utkarsh Sharma has revealed that during the rehearsals of the iconic song 'Main Nikla Gaddi Leke' from the movie 'Gadar 2', he had attempted to perform some stunts, but broke his right leg just a day before the actual shoot of the track, which led to him executing most of his dance steps, using his left leg.

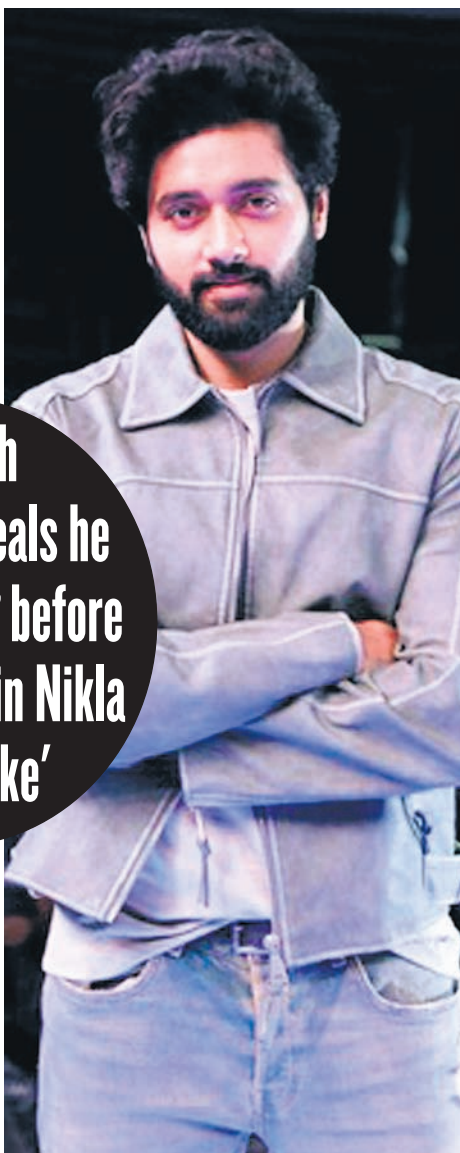
This weekend, the show 'Sa Re Ga Ma Pa' promises to be a delightful one as Utkarsh, and Simrat Kaur made a special appearance at the 'Gadar 2 success party' special episode.

One of the highlights of the shoot was when Utkarsh and the show's host-Aditya Narayan took over the stage to recreate the iconic song 'Main Nikla Gaddi Leke' from 'Gadar 2'.

The song is known for its electrifying energy, and Utkarsh's dance to the song certainly left the audience spellbound.

However, it was Utkarsh's shocking revelation that left everyone astonished. He revealed how he broke his right leg just a day before the actual shoot of the song. Talking about the same, Utkarsh said: "During the shoot of 'Main Nikla Gaddi Leke', we were all aware that it was a reprise of the iconic song, and our aim was to stay true to the original vibes like how it was in 2001."

**Utkarsh Sharma reveals he broke his leg before shoot of 'Main Nikla Gaddi Leke'**



**Tashveen Sehgal**