

absolute india

VOL. 9, ISSUE 13, BHOPAL | WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2023 | ₹5 | PAGE 08

PUBLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM BHOPAL, MUMBAI AND NEW DELHI

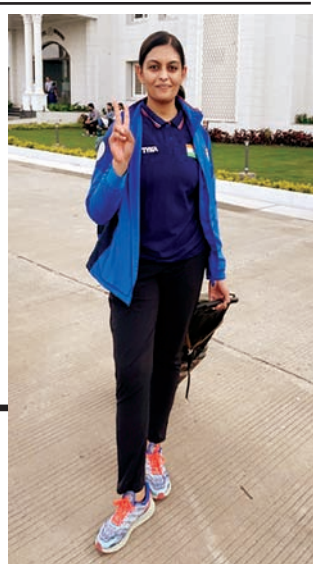
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Uttarakhand tunnel collapse

RESCUE TEAM TO BEGIN VERTICAL DRILLING

Under the current five-point plan, two tunnels are being drilled horizontally from the right and left sides of the main tunnel, while a vertical shaft will be drilled from the top.

Uttarkashi | Agencies

The fresh five-point rescue plan for the 41 men trapped in a tunnel in Uttarakhand is focussing on the horizontal drilling that will create a shaft, Lt Gen Syed Ata Hasnain, a member of NDMA (National Disaster Management Authority), told reporters today. He, however, refused to set a time frame for the rescue.



"This is not an easy challenge, so we are exploring every option. All the teams are working on it, that is the only assurance I can give. Can't establish the time-frame," he said.

A tunnel-boring machine is being used from the front, and they are also trying to use blast to expand the mouth of the tunnel to insert a micro-boring machine inside, he said, underscoring that the focus right now is on "saving lives". But the delay, he assured, will not pose a danger to the men, who have been trapped in the tunnel following a landslide on November 12.

"There is sufficient water and oxygen inside. Power and ration were made available," he said. "There's ample space inside. There is approximately 2 km space. Lighting is available inside. A 4-inch pipe was available which didn't get destroyed so we had a lifeline," he said at the press conference. Through this pipe,

survival ration was pushed through air compression. Efforts have been to push medicine, he said. To ensure the workers' emotional well-being, the families of a few workers have been brought in also. "The families have been accommodated in the hotels in a built-up area. In one or two cases, they were even able to talk through it... the more the families talk to them, the better morale will be," he said. The men have been trapped after a portion of the 4.5-km tunnel on the Brahmkhal-Yamunotri National Highway collapsed. The tunnel -- meant to join Silkyara and Dandlgaon in Uttarkashi -- is part of the Char Dham project. The workers, who managed to escape unscathed, are in a 400-meter buffer zone that lies behind 200 meters of rocky debris. Packages of food and

water are being passed to them through a pipe. Yesterday, after a wider pipe was installed, the men got their first hot meal in days. Kichdi in bottles were passed down the pipe through air compression.

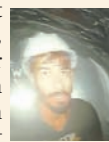
The rescue efforts, though have been hitting repeated roadblocks.

Over the last week, several plans to cut through the 40-meter rock wall fell through. They also backfired twice, bringing down more rocks and rubble from the unplastered roof, extending the depth of the rock wall from around 40 to over 70 meters. The last rock-fall took place on Friday, when attempts were made to use an American Auger drill flown in from Delhi. The drill machine that was being used, had broken down and work had to be stopped till a new one reached. The authorities, however,

are pushing on with the Auger drill which cuts rock faster.

FIRST IMAGES OF TRAPPED WORKERS OUT, ALL SAFE

Uttarkashi: First images of labourers, who were trapped for more than a week in under construction Silkyara Bend - Barkot tunnel in Uttarakhand's Uttarkashi district, have emerged on Tuesday and show all of them are safe.



The video was shot with the help of endoscopic flexi camera. In the video, it can be seen that all workers are safe, providing relief to all, especially trapped labourers families. The workers were contacted via WiFi walkie talkie in which they demanded evacuation as soon as possible. Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami has also spoken to officials working at the site.

On November 12, it was reported that a portion of the under-construction tunnel from Silkyara to Barkot collapsed due to debris falling in the 60 metre stretch on Silkyara side of

Manipur conflict needs political solution: Eastern Command Army Chief

Guwahati/Imphal | Agencies

Lt Gen Rana Pratap Kalita, Army's Eastern Command Chief on Tuesday stressed upon the political solution to the Manipur's ethnic conflict and said that for many years there have been traditional legacy issues among the communities in Manipur with both communities are entirely polarized. Lt Gen Kalita, who was in Guwahati in connection with the Rising Sun Water Fest-23 at Deepor Beel, told the media.

While talking on the several month long ethnic strife, the Eastern Command Army Chief said that more than 4000 looted weapons are still with the hands of people and these arms are being used and intermittent incidents continue.

Lt Gen Kalita said on Monday two people including a security personnel were killed.

Noting that there is some legacy with three communities which live in Manipur, he said that earlier also there was conflict between Kukis and Nagas in the 1990s and a large number of people were killed. "Both the communities in Manipur are completely polarised. Incidents of violence have come down. More than 5,000 weapons were taken away from police stations out of which 1,500 were recovered and around 4,000 weapons are still with the people. Until the remaining weapons are not recovered or deposited to the authorities, sporadic incidents will continue." Lt Gen Kalita said that



amidst the Russia-Ukraine war and Israel-Hamas conflict there is also a lot of instability in India's neighbourhood. "So, the whole geo-politics is changing, impacting not only our country but our armed forces as well," he added.

As there are "changes" all around, a technological development is taking place and it is making an impact on the art of warfare, said the Eastern Army Command Chief.

He said that the five verticals are force restructuring and optimisation, modernisation and technology infusion, processes and functions, human resource management, and jointness and integration.

"There has to be a political solution to the ongoing conflict in Manipur. Initially our plan was in Manipur to carry out rescue and relief operations for the displaced people who were forced to flee from their houses. We have been trying to contain the violence and motivate both sides of the communities to come for peaceful resolution of the differences. Largely we have been successful but because of the polarisation between the Meiteis and Kukis some sporadic incidents are now taking place. Finally there has to be political resolution to this conflict."

Middle East crisis: Hostage release deal likely on Tuesday, say officials

Washington | Agencies

A comprehensive deal to release Hamas held hostages in Gaza in barter for cessation of hostilities could be struck even as the Prime Minister's office in Tel Aviv will hold a meeting on Tuesday to thrash out the details of such an agreement with the militant outfit.

A deal to release hostages held in Gaza in exchange for a pause in the fighting could be struck as soon as today (Tuesday), multiple officials told CNN.

"Israel's war cabinet will meet Tuesday... amid developments on the issue of freeing



the hostages," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office

said on Tuesday.

Netanyahu indicated on Tuesday that progress was made on the possible release of Hamas held hostages in Gaza.

Israel, Hamas and the US are on the brink of announcing a deal for Hamas to free the hostages, mainly women and children, abducted on October 7 attacks in exchange for a four-to-five day truce.

This would also include three Palestinian prisoners in Israeli prisons for every hostage released, according to people involved in the negotiations.

The deal could be announced on Tuesday.

DEATH THREATS TO PM, YOGI AND TO BLAST MUMBAI HOSPITAL

Mumbai: An anonymous person called up the Mumbai Police Control Room and allegedly issued death threats to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, an official said here on Tuesday.

The caller, who had dialled the police control number late on Monday night, also threatened to blow up the government-run Sir J. J. Hospital in Mumbai.

Moving into action, the Azad Maidan Police managed to track the caller and picked him from the Sion area of south-central Mumbai early Tuesday.

The youth, identified as one Kamran Khan, has been booked under various sections of the Indian Penal Code.

Further investigations including the motives behind the threat calls, are underway, said the official.

At last, Bihar Governor gives nod to Reservation Amendment Bill, 2023

Patna | Agencies

After a long wait, Bihar Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar passed the 75 per cent Reservation Amendment Bill, 2023 for implementation on Tuesday. The Bihar Governor has also issued a notification in this regard.

Earlier, the Bihar Government presented the Bill based on the caste-based survey in Bihar Assembly and Council and both the Houses passed the Bill and recommended it for the Governor's approval.

All the other Bills passed by the state legislature during the Winter Session were approved by the Governor and returned to the Government. But the Nitish Kumar Government in Bihar was awaiting the Governor's assent to the legislation that sought to increase reservations in state government jobs and admissions to educational institutions.

With Tuesday's development the people of Bihar who come under the Extremely Backward Caste (EBC), Other



Backward Caste (OBC), Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) will get the benefit of reservation of up to 75 per cent from the earlier 60 per cent. This will help candidates get admissions to various educational institutions as well as in government jobs.

NATIONS MUST GO FURTHER THAN CURRENT PARIS PLEDGES OR FACE GLOBAL WARMING

Nairobi | Agencies

As global temperatures and greenhouse gas emissions break records, the latest Emissions Gap Report from the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) finds that current pledges under the Paris Agreement put the world on track for a 2.5-2.9 degrees Celsius temperature rise above pre-industrial levels this century, pointing to the urgent need for increased climate action.

Released ahead of the 2023 climate summit in Dubai, the Emissions Gap Report 2023: Broken Record -- Temperatures hit new highs, yet world fails to cut emissions (again), finds that global low-carbon transformations are needed to deliver cuts to predicted 2030 greenhouse gas emissions of 28 per cent for a two-degree pathway and 42 per cent for a 1.5-degree pathway.

"We know it is still possible to make the 1.5 degree limit a reality. It requires tearing out the poisoned root of the climate crisis: fossil fuels. And it demands a just, equitable renewables transition," said Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary-General.

Maintaining the possibility of achieving the Paris Agreement temperature goals hinges on significantly strengthening mitigation this decade to narrow the emissions gap. This will facilitate more ambi-



tious targets for 2035 in the next round of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and increase the chances of meeting net-zero pledges, which now cover around 80 per cent of global emissions. Until the beginning of October this year,

86 days were recorded with temperatures over 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels. September was the hottest recorded month ever, with global average temperatures 1.8 degrees above pre-industrial levels.

- ▶ THE REPORT FINDS THAT GLOBAL GREENHOUSE GAS (GHG) EMISSIONS INCREASED BY 1.2 PER CENT FROM 2021 TO 2022 TO REACH A NEW RECORD OF 57.4 GIGATONNE OF CARBON DIOXIDE EQUIVALENT (GTCO2E).
- ▶ GHG EMISSIONS ACROSS THE G20 INCREASED BY 1.2 PER CENT IN 2022. EMISSION TRENDS REFLECT GLOBAL PATTERNS OF INEQUALITY. BECAUSE OF THESE WORRYING TRENDS AND INSUFFICIENT MITIGATION EFFORTS, THE WORLD IS ON TRACK FOR A TEMPERATURE RISE FAR BEYOND THE AGREED CLIMATE GOALS DURING THIS CENTURY.
- ▶ IF MITIGATION EFFORTS IMPLIED BY CURRENT POLICIES ARE CONTINUED AT TODAY'S LEVELS, GLOBAL WARMING WILL ONLY BE LIMITED TO THREE DEGREES ABOVE PRE-INDUSTRIAL LEVELS IN THIS CENTURY.
- ▶ FULLY IMPLEMENTING EFFORTS IMPLIED BY UNCONDITIONAL NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTIONS (NDCS) WOULD PUT THE WORLD ON TRACK FOR LIMITING TEMPERATURE RISE TO 2.9 DEGREES.
- ▶ CONDITIONAL NDCS FULLY IMPLEMENTED WOULD LEAD TO TEMPERATURES NOT EXCEEDING 2.5 DEGREES ABOVE PRE-INDUSTRIAL LEVELS.
- ▶ ALL OF THESE ARE WITH A 66 PER CENT CHANCE. THESE TEMPERATURE PROJECTIONS ARE SLIGHTLY HIGHER THAN IN THE 2022 EMISSIONS GAP REPORT, AS THE 2023 REPORT INCLUDES A LARGER NUMBER OF MODELS IN THE ESTIMATION OF GLOBAL WARMING.
- ▶ CURRENT UNCONDITIONAL NDCS IMPLY THAT ADDITIONAL EMISSIONS CUTS OF 14 GTCO2E ARE NEEDED IN 2030 OVER PREDICTED LEVELS FOR TWO DEGREES.

RAHUL GANDHI CALLS PM "PANAUTI" OVER WORLD CUP LOSS



New Delhi: The BJP has slammed Rahul Gandhi and brought up the "maut ka saudagar" remark made by his mother after the Congress leader appeared to blame Prime Minister Narendra Modi for India's loss in the cricket World Cup final and said PM stands for "Panauti Modi".

Addressing a rally in election-bound Rajasthan on Tuesday, Rahul Gandhi accused PM Modi of trying to distract from the issues. "He comes on TV and says 'Hindu-Muslim' and sometimes goes to a cricket match... Our boys would have won the World Cup but the panauti (bad omen) lost us the match," he said in Hindi. In a tongue-lashing, senior BJP leader and former Union minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said the former Congress president's remarks about the Prime Minister were "shameful, condemnable and disgraceful". Union Minister Rajeev Chandrashekar also hit out at Gandhi and said the comments were signs of desperation and mental instability.



CONG MANIFESTO FOR RAJASTHAN: CASTE CENSUS, MSP LAW, RESERVATION FOR MINORITIES

Jaipur | Agencies

Congress on Tuesday released its manifesto for the Rajasthan Assembly elections promising caste census, MSP law for farmers, Right to Housing Law, law for Old Pension Scheme (OPS) and reservation for minorities.

Under its minority welfare measures, the Congress has mentioned in its manifesto that it will give reservation according to population. "After caste census, we will undertake to provide reservation as per their population. The other key points of the manifesto, as released by party president Mallikarjun Kharge, are -- MSP law for farmers as per the recommendations of Swaminathan Committee. Caste census will be conducted. Law to keep the Old Pension Scheme going on. The amount of Chiranjeevi insurance will be increased from Rs 25 lakh to Rs 50 lakh. Four lakh youth will be given government jobs. 10 lakh youth will be given employment.

A new cadre of government jobs will be created at the Panchayat level.

Gas cylinder is currently available for Rs 500, it will be reduced to Rs 400 for



BPL, NFSA and Ujjwal beneficiaries. By bringing RTE law in the state, education up to 12th will be made free in private educational institutions also.

MNREGA and Indira Gandhi urban employment will be increased from 125 to 150 days.

Merchant Credit Card Scheme will be started to provide interest free loans up to Rs 5 lakh to small traders and shopkeepers. Government employees will be

given fourth pay scale series along with 9,18,27 and officers will be given apex scale.

Villages and hamlets with a population up to 100 will be connected by road.

Security guards will be deployed in every village and urban ward.

Housing will be given to everyone by bringing a Right to Housing law.

The schemes already running will be further strengthened.

Kharge said that all points of the manifesto will be implemented. Attacking BJP, he said, "Those (BJP) people promised 15 lakh jobs. Did you get it?"

He also questioned the BJP government over ignoring farmers' needs.

Repeating his stand, he called PM Narendra Modi as the "head of lairs" and said that he has been making false claims but Congress has been practicing what it says.

Congress turning Kota into terror haven: PM Modi

Jaipur | Agencies

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday slammed the Rajasthan government for allegedly turning the Kota region of the desert state into terror haven.

"Congress is turning Kota into a terror haven," PM Modi said while addressing an election rally in Dussehra ground in Kota.

He said that the Congress has turned this land of warriors into an open ground for rioters.

"PFI is a terrorist organisation. The government has banned it. But PFI rallies and processions take place in Kota and Congress government is doing nothing about it. Are you sleeping? The Congress government is a slave to appeasement. It is afraid of terrorists. They only take action against those who should be respected," Modi said.

He said that the Kota is a city of education and fulfills the dreams of youth.

"Congress has repeatedly broken the dreams of the youth of Rajasthan. There is no examination or paper which the Congress government has not sold. Congress's paper leak mafia overshadowed the dreams of the youth. Rajasthan is leading in the country in terms of unemployment. I assure you. Whoever has filled his lockers by looting the exam papers, his lockers will break, and he will be put behind bars. This is a Modi guarantee," the Prime Minister said. He said that if BJP come to power they will investigate the Kota riverfront accident



where an engineer and a labourer died following being allegedly pressured by the Gehlot government, who was forcing the duo to open it on November 25. An attempt was made to forcibly open the bell by putting pressure on the people where a poor laborer and an engineer lost their lives. People are openly alleging that the Gehlot government pressured them to open the bell on November 25. We will not only get this accident investigated but will also ensure justice to everyone," Modi said. He said that the Congress government does not allow the processions of Ram Navami and Hanuman Jayanti in the state. hat BJP's priority is women empowerment. "There is insult and oppression of women under Congress. The Chief Minister says that the women of the state make false allegations of rape. I ask the mothers and sisters, is it possible for a sister to go out in the open to make such a complaint? This is a serious allegation on the self-respect of the mothers and sisters of the country.

'Rahul will return to contest Amethi seat in 2024 Lok Sabha polls'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi will contest the 2024 Lok Sabha elections from his previous Amethi constituency in Uttar Pradesh, a top leader said here on Tuesday.

UP Congress President Ajay Rai reiterated that the Gandhis have been working very hard for the people of Amethi since generations, and Rahul-ji will definitely contest from the seat in the 2024 polls.

In the 2019 parliamentary polls, in an embarrassing upset for the Congress, Rahul Gandhi had lost the Amethi seat to BJP's Smriti Irani by a margin of over 55,000 votes.

However, he had bagged the Wayanad seat in Kerala with a handsome margin of over 4.31 lakh votes to enter the Lok Sabha from South India for the



first time.

This is the second time that Rai spoke about Rahul Gandhi's possibility of returning to his old bastion Amethi after his previous statement to the effect in August in Lucknow. Accompanied by Mumbai Congress President Varsha Gaikwad and others, Rai slammed the ruling BJP at the Centre and state for

attempting to cash in on the opening of the Ram Temple by turning it into a political event.

"The construction of Ram Temple is a matter of faith and not for making it into a mega event. If there is enough faith, even a single lamp and solitary flower is sufficient. The BJP is indulging in all this to fool the people in an election year," said Rai.

SC asks Cabinet Secretary-led panel to consider withholding MSP for farmers burning stubble

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked the Union Cabinet Secretary-led Committee to consider excluding farmers burning stubble from the minimum support price (MSP) category.

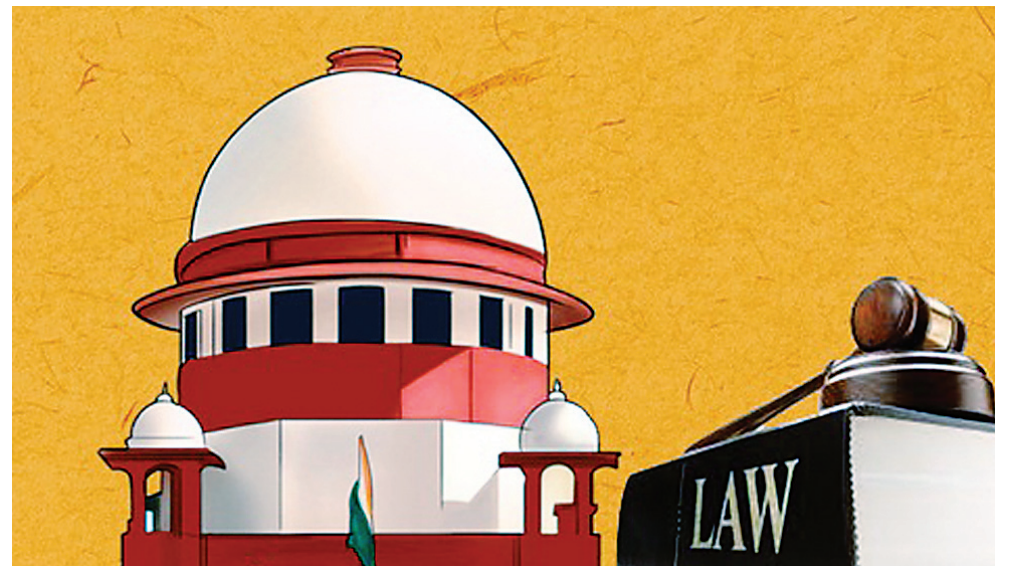
A bench of Justices S.K. Kaul and Sudhanshu Dhulia said that States and Centre must forget politics and find a "lasting solution" to the menace of air pollution.

"Why should people who, despite all observations of the court, despite counselling, continue violating the law (by burning stubble) be allowed to benefit monetarily," questioned the bench.

It said that the government should consider giving 100 per cent subsidy or financial incentive on the purchase of baling machines.

However, the apex court asked the Union Cabinet Secretary-led panel to examine the "long term impact" of paddy cultivation and asked how alternative crops requiring less water may be encouraged.

During the hearing, Punjab's Advocate General Gurminder Singh stated that around 1,000 FIRs were lodged against farm owners in the state while more than 600 "red entries" have been lodged against errant cultivators in the revenue records.



The state government apprised that it was able to recover a fine of Rs 18 lakh out of a total imposed more than Rs 2 crore.

But, the top court called for another affidavit detailing the status of recovery of environment compensation imposed on farmers burning stubble.

DELHI GOVT NOTIFIES PREMIUM BUS AGGREGATOR SCHEME

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Delhi government on Tuesday notified the Delhi Motor Vehicles Licensing of Aggregator (Premium Buses) Scheme, 2023, tailored exclusively for premium buses.

The scheme aims to encourage a modal shift in public transportation, offering high-quality, comfortable, and reliable services to reduce congestion and air pollution.

It defines a "premium bus" as a luxury public bus with a seating capacity of not less than nine passengers, fully air-conditioned, equipped with pre-preserved reclining seats, WiFi, GPS, and CCTV.

Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot on the occasion pointed out the significance of the scheme and hailed Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's leadership in "fostering a greener and smarter future for Delhi".

As per the scheme, licence applicants must have a minimum of three years of experience in operating and



managing vehicles in public or shared transportation. They are required to maintain a fleet of a minimum of 100

passenger buses annually or 1000 passenger cars annually, or a mixed fleet. Further, onboarded buses must not be

more than three years old, and buses joining the service after January 1, 2025, must be electric.

Aggregator licences can be obtained upon payment of Rs 5 lakh and are valid for five years.

Under the scheme, no licence fee will be levied on electric buses to promote clean and sustainable transportation.

"Licence holders must operate and maintain a fleet of at least 25 premium buses of various sizes, to be made operational within 90 days from the date of licence grant," a Transport Department spokesperson said.

The spokesperson also said that the licence holders will have the flexibility to determine potential routes for operating their premium buses.

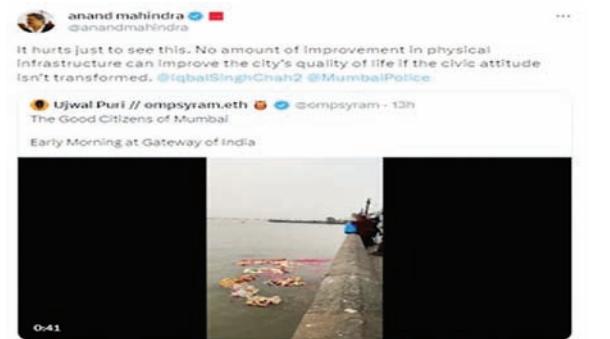
Only pre-booked digital ticketing is permissible, with all charges collected exclusively through electronic or digital payment modes. Fares would be dynamic and should not be lower than the peak fare of Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) AC buses, he added.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Hours after industrialist Anand Mahindra expressed pain to see some persons dumping garbage from bags in the Arabian Sea near Gateway of India, the BrihanMumbai Municipal Corporation cracked the whip on the culprits, here on Tuesday.

Earlier on Tuesday, a video surfaced showing four unknown persons who arrived in a taxi, unloaded at least four large blue plastic bags filled with garbage -- apparently dried flowers, garlands -- and brazenly emptied them into the sea waters, as some stunned locals watched silently.

Some pedestrians quietly made a video and posted it on the social media, which went viral and grabbed the attention of industrialist Anand



Mahindra to the grimy incident. "It hurts just to see this. No amount of improvement in physical infrastructure can improve the city's quality of life if the civic attitude isn't transformed," an exasperated Mahindra said in a social media post.

For effect, he tagged the Mumbai Police and BMC Commissioner I.S. Chahal -- and it did have the desired

effect. Later, the BMC did some successful sleuthing to track down the culprits who had sullied the sea from the taxi number and the A Ward slapped a hefty fine of Rs 10,000 on them. The BMC said that photos and videos of the trash being emptied into the sea near the world-renowned tourist attraction drew strong reactions from citizens and celebs, and announced the punitive action.

BJP MP Brij Bhushan's invitation withheld for 'Kambala' sports event in Bengaluru

Bengaluru | Agencies

The organisers of the Kambala event (buffalo race) have withheld the invitation to BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, following opposition for the move.

The event, which came to be known throughout the country after the release of the 'Kantara' movie, is being organised in the state capital for the first time on November 25-26.

Sources said that Brij Bhushan himself had also written to the organisers, explaining that he won't be able to attend the event.

Brij Bhushan, the former President of Wrestling Federation of India (WFI), was called for the event following the demand to invite him by the State Wrestling Association and Siddhi community members. Ashok Rai, Congress MLA and one of the organisers of Kambala, stated that Brij Bhushan has written a letter explaining that he won't attend



the event.

"The name of Brij Bhushan was printed on the invitation letter. New invitations are being printed now. Brij Bhushan had trained the Siddhi and Kudubi community members in Goa and as a token of respect to that, he was invited," said MLA Ashok Rai.

The event is organised on the backdrop of Bengaluru Tulu Association completing 50 years. The organisers have built a 151m long Kambala track. The arrangements have been made for 8,000 people to watch the event. Around 150-160 buffalos are expected to take part in the event.

Atishi sounds alert for water crisis in Delhi, writes to L-G seeking suspension of Finance Secy

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Delhi Minister Atishi on Tuesday sounded an alert for severe water crisis in the national capital, citing the paucity of Delhi Jal Board (DJB) funds which have been halted since August on the instructions of Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar and Finance Secretary Ashish Verma. She has written to L-G V.K. Saxena in connection with the matter, and sought Verma's suspension and disciplinary action.

Atishi, who was given the charge of the Water Department in place of Saurabh Bhardwaj, wrote to Saxena, saying the national capital might plunge into a "man-made" severe water crisis.

In the letter to Saxena, Atishi mentioned that Finance Secretary has stopped all funds of DJB since August on the Chief Secretary's advice.

"Because of this, funds aren't being released, no money for salaries and routine work is being sanctioned, and all contractors have refused to work," the letter mentioned.

She also pointed out that this might lead to a severe water crisis, dirty water, and sewer overflow in many areas, as well as threat of epidemic and emergency-like conditions in the national capital.

Water Minister and DJB Chairperson Atishi in her letter said: "It is a very alarming turn of events that the Finance Department of the Delhi government has refused to release the funds that have already been



allotted to the DJB in the Budget 2023-24 passed by the Delhi Legislative Assembly. This is a routine governance procedure and never in the past has the Finance department raised so many objections to stall the release of routine instalments of the grant-in-aid and loan to DJB. Yet, this time, the Finance and Planning departments have been repeatedly posing new and different objections each time the previous objection is resolved. It is clear as day that Verma has malafide intent and plans to prevent the release of the second instalment of the grant-in-aid and loan to the DJB," Atishi wrote in her letter.

She also stated that Verma's "obstructionist tactics" have led to a severe resource crunch in the DJB. "Due to this, the vendors of DJB have not been paid

and have now refused to do even routine maintenance and cleaning work essential for maintaining the water supply and providing a functional sewerage or drainage system in the national capital. Water tankers are refusing to ply and provide water to the slums of Delhi. This is bound to lead to a public health crisis and an epidemic-like situation in Delhi," she warned.

She also informed the L-G that the responsibility for this public crisis rests squarely on Verma's shoulders.

"It is shocking how an officer alone is holding the whole of Delhi to ransom with his shameful obstructionist tactics," she asserted.

Atishi mentioned that this is not the first instance when complaints have come up against Verma. "I have myself previously complained about his insubordinate behaviour in the past, and his unwillingness to follow clear, written instructions of the Minister-in-charge. Verma is a very senior officer of the Delhi government who heads the Finance and Planning departments, which in turn impact the functioning of every single arm of the Delhi government," she said. "It is a matter of grave concern that he has adopted this alarming obstructionist attitude. This unnecessary delay in releasing routine Grant-in-aid, however, is the most shocking of his actions and has far-reaching consequences for people of Delhi," she said.

Atishi also said that the release of grant-in-aid to the DJB is a pressing matter which impacts all people.



THIS TIME THE VOTER TURNOUT WAS 2.10 PERCENT MORE THAN THE PREVIOUS ELECTION IN THE STATE

90.10 percent voting in Sailana Constituency of Ratlam District in Vidhan Sabha 2023, 88.35 percent voting in Vidhan Sabha 2018

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The voting process for the Madhya Pradesh Vidhan Sabha Election 2023 has been completed peacefully in the state on 17th November. Now counting of votes will be done on December 3. On the day of polling, voters participated with enthusiasm and enthusiasm in this great festival of democracy and voted in large numbers. The excitement of the voters could be seen at the polling stations since morning.

In comparison to Vidhan Sabha Election 2018 in the state, there was an increase in voting percentage in this year 2023 Vidhan Sabha Election. Leaving aside the voting percentage of postal ballot, it was 77.15 percent voting in the state this year, while in the 2018 assembly elections, the state had 75.05 percent voting. This means there is an increase of 2.10 percent voting in the 2023 Vidhan Sabha elections.

Sailana Vidhan Sabha of Ratlam district had the highest polling



Sailana Vidhan Sabha of Ratlam district has the highest voting in the 2023 Vidhan Sabha elections. This time the voting percentage is 90.10, while in the 2018 election, the voting percentage was 88.35 percent.

The lowest voter turnout was 54 percent in Jobat Assembly of Alirajpur district. Jobat Assembly Constituency

Alirajpur District had the lowest voter turnout of 54 percent in the state. However, the voting percentage in the 2023 Vidhan Sabha election has increased by 2.06 percent as compared to the last Vidhan Sabha election 2018. In the 2018 assembly election, the voting percentage of Jobat assembly was 52.31 percent, while in the year 2023 it

has increased to 54.37 percent.

Lakhnadaun Assembly Constituency has the highest voter turnout compared to Vidhan Sabha Elections 2018 in the state

In Vidhan Sabha Election-2023, the highest increase in the voting percentage of Lakhnadaun Vidhan Sabha Constituency of Seoni district of the state. In the year 2018, the voting percentage here was 77.98, while in the year 2023 assembly elections, it has increased to 84.71. Here the voting percentage increased by 6.73 percent.

Out of 230 Vidhan Sabha constituencies of the state, women have higher voting percentage than men in 34 constituencies

There are 34 such constituencies out of the 230 Vidhan Sabha constituencies of the state in the 2023 Vidhan Sabha elections, in which the percentage of female voters has been higher than that of male voters. In Sinhawal Vidhan Sabha Constituency No-78 of Sidhi District, the vote percentage of women is 11.91 percent more than that of men.

Adequate availability of fertilizer and proper distribution system should be ensured : Chief Minister Chouhan

Chief Minister reviews Kharif fertilizer system and Rabi sowing



Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that as per the forecast of the

Meteorological Department, there is a possibility of rain in the state in the next two-three days, after which the demand for fertilizers will increase. Therefore, adequate availability of fertilizer and proper distribution system should be ensured at all the centres. Chief Minister Chouhan said that the system of monitoring the internal dis-

tribution of fertilizers should continue smoothly with caution. Chief Minister Chouhan was reviewing the status of Kharif fertilizer system and Rabi sowing in Mantralaya.

It was informed in the meeting that till now Rabi crop has been sown in 81 lakh 71 thousand hectare area, which is 5.33 percent more than last year. Chief Minister Chouhan sought information about division-wise availability, sale and remaining stock status of Urea, DAP, NPK, SSP. It was told that sufficient stock of fertilizers is

available. There are 422 sales centers of marketing associations operating in the state, cash fertilizer sales have been started from 154 sales centers of marketing cooperative societies. 92 additional sales centers have been started by marketing cooperative societies and arrangements are being made to distribute fertilizer through tokens to save farmers from long queues. Additional Chief Secretary Rajesh Rajoura, Principal Secretary Sanjay Dubey, Umakant Umrao and other officers were present.

Exit poll will be completely prohibited till November 30

Violation of the provisions shall be punishable with imprisonment for two years or with fine

Bhopal : Model Code of Conduct for Madhya Pradesh Vidhan Sabha Election-2023 is effective. The Chief Electoral Officer Anupam Rajan said that during the code of conduct of any kind of exit poll in connection with the election from 7th November 7 am to 30th November 6:30 pm and its results through print or electronic media. The publication

or dissemination of the same by any means or in any other manner shall be prohibited. A notification to this effect was issued by the Election Commission of India on 31 October 2023.

Rajan pointed out that Section 126A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 provides that no person shall conduct any exit poll and the result of any exit poll

during such period as may be notified by the Election Commission in this regard, shall not be disseminated by any means other than publication or publicity through print or electronic media. If any person contravenes the provisions, he shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years or with fine, or with both.

MADHYA PRADESH LEADERS MOVE TOWARDS RAJASTHAN AND TELANGANA

Team Absolute | Bhopal

After voting for the assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh, the leaders of major parties BJP and Congress have been put on duty for the elections in Rajasthan and Telangana. Prominent senior leaders of both the parties are going to visit both the states in the coming days. Many have already reached.

Voting took place in the state on November 17 and counting of votes is scheduled to take place on December 3. Voting is taking place in Rajasthan and Telangana in the coming days. After getting a break from the elections in Madhya Pradesh, leaders are being sent to both these states. Congress leader and former minister Jitu Patwari has already reached Rajasthan and is participating in public meetings and party meetings. The party is also preparing to



use leaders like Kamal Nath, Digvijay Singh, Arun Yadav in the elections of both the states. At the same time, BJP is working on the strategy of using Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan, State

President Vishnu Dutt Sharma and Union Ministers in the elections of both the states. The party has decided to send 22 state leaders to Telangana. Voting for 119 seats here is to be held on

November 30 and the campaign will end on November 28. The leaders who are going to campaign from the state include seven ministers of Shivraj government, three MPs, four MLAs etc.

Woman kidnapped from petrol pump in Gwalior found at Guna Hotel

Team Absolute | Gwalior

A college student from Datia in Madhya Pradesh who was kidnapped on Monday, has been found at a lodge, the police official said.

According to Senior Superintendent of Police of Gwalior Rajesh Singh Chandel, one, out of two accused has been caught from Lahar.

"The 19-year-old woman who was abducted near Naka Chandravadni petrol station in Gwalior yesterday has been found at a lodge in Guna. She was abducted by two motorbike-borne men. One of the men has been nabbed from Lahar," the SSP said on Tuesday.

Two police teams were formed to investigate the case.

The woman was kidnapped by two bike-borne persons while disembarking from a bus in broad daylight in the Jhansi Road area of Gwalior on Monday morning. The incident occurred near a petrol pump under the jurisdiction of Jhansi Road police station in the district at around 9:30 am on Monday.

The whole matter was captured in the CCTV camera installed at the petrol pump. Two youths arrived on a two-wheeler, made her sit on the bike and escaped from the spot.



As per the police, the woman is a resident of Bhind district and she came there with her family via bus. "She stepped down from the bus at the Jhansi Road bus stand and during this, two youths on a motorcycle

arrived there and took her away from the spot. The incident was captured in the CCTV footage and youths were seen making the girl sit on their bike in it," the official said.

Election Commission received more than 11 thousand complaints in Madhya Pradesh

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Commission has received more than 11 thousand complaints during the Madhya Pradesh Assembly elections. Two and a half times more complaints have been received so far compared to the last assembly elections.

According to official information, in the Assembly Elections 2023, 11 thousand 257 complaints of violation of the Model Code of Conduct were received from the C-Vigil app, which were promptly resolved. In the last 2018 assembly elections, 3,990 complaints of violation of the model code of conduct were received through the C-Vigil app.

It is noteworthy that the Model Code of Conduct is in force in the state from October 9 for the Madhya Pradesh Assembly elections. Meanwhile, so that the Model



Code of Conduct can be strictly followed and citizens can also immediately complain about the violation of the Model Code of Conduct, C-Vigil App was prepared by the Election Commission of India.

Since the Model Code of Conduct became effective in

the state from October 9, 11 thousand 257 complaints have been received so far, which were resolved promptly. Through the C-Vigil app, any citizen can make any complaint about violation of the Model Code of Conduct through photo or video.

Villagers are being made to take oath before filling water, asking- who did you vote for?



Team Absolute | Ashoknagar

Even though the administrative officials in the district may have conducted the voting in a peaceful manner. But two days after voting, the picture that has emerged from Nayakheda village of Mungawali assembly of Chanderi tehsil is really surprising.

NayaKheda village is located just 12 kilometers away from Chanderi tehsil headquarters, which comes under Mungawali assembly. This is the area of PHE Minister Brijendra Singh Yadav. After visiting the villagers here are yearning for every drop of water. Rural women suffering

from water shortage say that since the day the elections were held. Only after that people are not allowing us to fill water... Whenever we go to fill water, they make us swear and ask, who did you vote for? Only after that we will allow water to fill.

When he was asked which party's people were talking like this? They told that people say that you did not vote on the flower...so we will not let you fill the water. If we look at this whole matter, only people of a particular community are being harassed in this way. They are not being allowed to collect water from public places, due to which a lot of anger is rising among the villagers.

Digvijay Singh's activities increased after voting in Madhya Pradesh, Meaning...

Team Absolute | Bhopal

After the assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh, the activism of former Chief Minister and Rajya Sabha member Digvijay Singh has increased. They are reaching those areas where the Congress candidate or his supporters are facing some kind of problem. Now the meaning of his activism is also being explored in the political corridors.

Voting for 230 assembly seats in the state has taken place in a single phase on November 17. The voting percentage was higher than the 2018 assembly elections. Overall, the percentage of voting in the state is much higher than till now. Due to this, both the ruling party BJP and the opposition party Congress are excited and they feel that only they will get the benefit of increased voting percentage. On one hand, while the political equation is being understood, complicated questions and equations are being solved, on the other hand, senior Congress leader and former Chief Minister Digvijay Singh is in touch with the workers. On the day of voting, Congress supporter Salman Khan was crushed to death by a vehicle in Rajnagar assembly constituency of Chhatrapur district. In this



case, BJP MLA Arvind Pateria and his associates were not only accused of instigating the murder, but a case was also registered. After this Digvijay Singh reached Rajnagar with his wife Amrita Rai. Here the former Chief Minister staged a protest in front of the police station demanding the arrest of the murder accused and even slept there the whole night. After this, on receiving information about the attack on the Congress candidate and his supporters in Rahli of Sagar district, the former Chief

Minister reached there. Besides, questions were also raised on the working style of BJP workers along with BJP candidate and minister Gopal Bhargava.

Apart from this, he reached jail and met BJP rebel and now Congress leader Rajendra Dhanora. Political speculation continues regarding former Chief Minister Digvijay Singh becoming active after voting. Its meaning is also being explored.

According to experts, Digvijay Singh is preparing to play an important role after the election results, as he had played after the victory of Congress in the 2018 assembly elections. It is a different matter that it was because of the working style of the former Chief Minister that Jyotiraditya Scindia left the Congress and joined the BJP.

Political experts believe that if the Congress government is formed, the Chief Minister will be Kamal Nath and he will be free from the responsibility of the organization, in such a situation, his opinion should be important in who should be handed over the command of the President, for this he has already taken steps for political gathering. Have increased. Not only this, if Congress does not come to power, there is a question whether Kamal Nath leader will take the responsibility of the opposition.

The driver along with two friends had conspired to rob himself

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Awadhपुरi police station of the capital has busted the incident of robbery from a driver and arrested three accused within 5 hours. The accused turned out to be none other than the complainant driver and his two associates who had conspired and carried out the incident.

According to the police station, on November 21, complainant Rahul Nayak's father Mansingh Nayak (24) had complained that he lives in slum Kanha Saiya Bilkhiriya, and drives the Eicher loading truck of a person named Najakat Khan.

On November 18, he had loaded pipes in a truck from Najakat Khan's transport Kanha Saiya Bilkhiriya and went to leave Chaurai district Chhindwara. After unloading the pipe from the vehicle, he reached Bangaon Chhindwara with Rs 1 lakh 97 thousand and after unloading the pipe of another party, he took Rs 1 lakh 95 thousand nine hundred from there. He was returning back to Bhopal by car after taking the

money received from both the parties. As soon as he reached village Jhagaria bypass road at around 1 o'clock on the night of 21st November, two unknown youths riding a black bike came in front of his truck, stopped the bike by placing it in front of the truck, hit the glass of the car with a stick and opened the gate. They beat him up and snatched a cash bag containing Rs 3 lakh 93 thousand and two mobile phones kept near the seat and ran away. On receiving the complaint, police officers registered a report against the unknown and formed a team for investigation. When the investigation team investigated the spot after interrogating the complainant Rahul Nayak in relation to the incident, the incident of robbery looked suspicious and the driver Rahul himself came under suspicion. After this, the police interrogated Rahul Nayak in police style, then he revealed that he had planned the robbery along with his two friends Abhishek Thakur and Sanjay Nayak, and due to the plan, both his friends committed the robbery along with him.



EDITOR'S SPECS

International Humanitarian Law and Israel's Al-Shifa seige

The "precise and targeted operation" by the Israeli special forces inside Gaza's Al-Shifa Hospital has again drawn criticism from many corners of the world for violating the International Humanitarian Law. The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) claimed that it found weapons and Hamas assets inside the premises while it interrogated people at the enclave's largest hospital. Israel believes that the Hamas militant group operates a subterranean network of tunnels and IDF special forces backed by additional troops conducted an 18-hour-long operation - which lasted until November 15 evening - against Hamas terror infrastructure at the site. The International Humanitarian Law (IHL), also known as 'law of war', is a set of rules governing conduct of parties involved in armed conflict. IHL regulates the behaviour of parties once armed conflict has commenced and does not go into question of legitimacy of such a conflict. Many articles under the Geneva Conventions provide for protection of civilian hospitals and their staff, and call for establishment of hospital and safety zones for groups such as the injured, sick and pregnant women. The UN Security Council has finally adopted a resolution calling for an extended humanitarian pause in the war in Gaza. The symbolic resolution - as it does not include any penalties for ignoring it - was adopted on Thursday in fifth attempt after the US under growing international dismay at the inaction over the tragedy in the territory withheld its veto. Russia and the UK joined the US in abstaining from voting on the resolution allowing it to be adopted with the support of the other 12 Council members, including France and China, the other permanent members. The Israeli army said that the troops conducted a "focused" operation "in a defined area" of the hospital and the military was "not overrunning" the hospital.

South African solidarity with Palestinians

Asad Mirza

After October 7 following Hamas's unprecedented surprise attack on Israel, much of the international community rushed to voice its concern about the escalation in tensions, but few took a moment to condemn Israel's aggression against the Palestinians.

However, as Israel continues to bomb Gaza and attack Palestinians in the occupied West Bank, several governments have started to turn critical of Israel's actions - some more directly than others. Surprisingly, even the number of nations, condemning Israel's brutal military oppression in Gaza, doesn't exceed a two-digit list.

In contrast there are some nations like South Africa, which have vociferously condemned the Israeli brutalities in Gaza on unarmed Palestinian children, youth and aged.

On November 17, the prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) said he had received a joint request from five countries to investigate the situation in the Palestinian territories.

Prosecutor Karim Kahn said the referral had come from South Africa, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Comoros and Djibouti. South Africa said the request was made to ensure that the ICC pays urgent attention to the grave situation in Palestine.

Though, Israel is not a member of the court and does not recognise its jurisdiction, the ICC can investigate nationals of non-member states in certain circumstances, including when crimes are alleged to have been committed in the territories of member states.

The Palestinian territories have been listed among the ICC's members since 2015.

Perhaps the emotional connect between S Africa and Palestine exists because of the two prominent leaders of the non-aligned movement i.e. Nelson Mandela and Yasser Arafat, from these two countries respectively, and recalling the experience of apartheid themselves, the South African leaders could better understand the plight of the Palestinians and raise their voice in their support.

The South African government has made its position clear expressing support for the Palestinians amid the on going attacks by Israel in the Gaza Strip, though also condemning resistance group Hamas for attacking and kidnapping Israeli civilians.

"We, who enjoy the freedom from Apartheid,



can never, ever be the ones who agree to an apartheid form of oppression. This cannot be tolerated. This brutality should not be accepted." Foreign Minister Naledi Pandor said in parliament on November 14 while delivering a ministerial statement on the raging conflict.

"These actions remind us of our experiences as Black South Africans living under Apartheid. This is one of the key reasons South Africans, like people in cities all over the world, have taken to the streets to express their anger and concern at what is taking place in Gaza and the West Bank," she said.

Taking a proactive action last week, South Africa withdrew all its diplomats from Tel Aviv for consultation over Israel's assault in Gaza.

The South African government also instructed the Foreign Ministry to take the necessary diplomatic measures to deal with the conduct of the Israel ambassador to South Africa, Eliav Belotserkovsky, whose conduct, they said is becoming very untenable. Belotserkovsky is accused of disparaging comments against people raising their voices against attacks on Palestinians. South Africa is among a handful of African countries maintaining diplomatic ties with both Israel and Palestine. Yet, it has strongly advocated for Palestinian freedom and has called

for a two-state solution.

Lesiba Teffo, a political scientist at the University of South Africa, commenting on the South African government's response told Anadolu news agency that South Africa and Palestine have had historic relations for decades and that it is important for them to support the Palestinian cause for freedom.

"Palestine was with South Africa during the struggle against apartheid, while Britain and America never supported us but they were ever supporting Israel. This context is important," he told Anadolu.

Teffo also said South Africa has been consistent in supporting Palestine over the years.

Dirk Kotze, another professor of politics at the same university, told Anadolu that South Africa's ruling African National Congress (ANC) has had historical links with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) since the time of late anti-apartheid hero and first Black South African President Nelson Mandela.

Siyabulela Mandela, the great-grandson of Nelson Mandela in an interview said that despite South Africa being liberated from the senseless violence and oppression, he (Nelson Mandela) was able to recognise

the fact that our freedom is not complete until the people of Palestine are free.

Siyabulela, an independent consultant on human rights, peace and conflict resolution, spoke with Global National's Farah Nasser while in Toronto where he was interviewed on stage at the Journalists for Human Rights annual gala.

He said that his great-grandfather, the first Black president of South Africa, was considered idealistic for thinking that there was a solution to apartheid in his country and people would consider it a miracle if it happened - and then it did.

Last week, President Cyril Ramaphosa joined a growing chorus of international voices against what many has termed "the genocidal operation" of the IDF in Gaza.

The South African Parliament also last week debated whether to cut diplomatic ties with the Jewish state.

Leading parties in parliament, notably the ruling ANC and the third largest party, Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF), favour cutting diplomatic ties with Israel.

In recent years, human rights organisations and legal experts have increasingly described Israel's policies toward Palestinians as apartheid, adding to a longstanding debate about whether this is an accurate way to categorise the country's practices.

Human rights groups have argued that the Israeli government's policies on land access, restrictions on movement, and limitations on the right to vote meet the ICC's standard and that it has institutionalised racism against Palestinians in order to ensure Israeli Jews remain the dominant group across Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories (OPT), which includes the West Bank and Gaza. Israel and its allies, including the U.S. and the European Commission, have rejected this assessment.

Overall, it makes one wonder what is holding back the so-called Islamic states from taking any firm step against the Israeli aggression, like South Africa?

Their own selfish interests and their lust for power, as most of them are monarchies and in no way are obligated to uphold the wish of their people, which recent demonstrations in some Arab states have shown. It would not be wrong to surmise that the current conflict has shown the leopard's true spots.

international

Israel designates LeT as terror organisation

Tel Aviv | Agencies

To symbolise the marking of the 15th year of commemoration of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks, Israel on Tuesday announced to list Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) as a terror organisation.

Despite not being requested by the government of India to do so, the state of Israel has formally completed all necessary procedures and has satisfied all required checks and regulations to the result of introducing LeT into the Israeli list of illegal terror organisations, the Israeli Embassy in New Delhi said in a statement.

While Israel only lists terror organisations who are actively operating against it from within or around its borders, or in a similar manner to India -- those globally recognized by the UN Security Council (UNSC) or the US State Department; the Israeli ministries of Defence and Foreign Affairs have jointly worked in the last few months towards an expedited and extraordinary listing of the LeT organisation on this date, to highlight the importance of a Unified Global Front in combatting terrorism.

It said that LeT is a deadly and reprehensible terror organisation, responsible for the murder of hundreds of Indian civil-



ians as well as others.

Its heinous actions on November 26, 2008, still reverberate in force, through all peace seeking nations and societies.

The state of Israel offers its sincere condolences to all victims of terrorism and to the survivors and bereaved families of the Mumbai attacks, including those in Israel.

"We stand with you united in the hope for a better peaceful future," the Embassy added.

Trump campaign releases note from doctor, says he's in 'excellent' health

Washington | Agencies

The campaign of Donald Trump has released a note from the latter's doctor, saying that he is in "excellent" health and that his cognitive exams "were exceptional" amid several verbal slips that have brought the former US President's age to the forefront as he is seeking a second term in office.

The note released on Monday is written by Bruce Aronwald, who describes himself as "Trump's personal physician since 2021", CNN reported. Aronwald writes that the former President's most recent "comprehensive examination" was September 13, and that his "cardiovascular studies are all normal and cancer screening tests" were negative, and that Trump had "reduced his weight".

The letter, however, does not include



information about the types of tests that Trump took or what the results were.

It also does not include basic information that Trump's physicians have shared in the past, such as his height and weight, cholesterol level or blood pressure. In 2015, Trump's then-campaign had released a similar letter written by Harold Bornstein, which said that "his physical strength and stamina are

extraordinary". But Bornstein later said that Trump dictated the letter to him. Monday's letter came a day after Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, a Republican candidate for the 2024 presidential election, said that incumbent President Joe Biden and Trump were too old to run for the White House for another term. Speaking to CNN on Sunday, the 45-year-old DeSantis said the presidency is "not a job for somebody that is pushing 80". "I just think that that's something that has been shown with Joe Biden. Father Time is undefeated. Donald Trump is not exempt from any of that," the Republican said. When Biden, who turned 81 on Monday, entered the White House in January 2021, he became the country's oldest President at the age of 78.

illegal migrants were rescued and returned to Libya, it said, adding that 940 died and 1,248 went missing on the Central Mediterranean route off the Libyan coast, Xinhua news agency reported. Libya has suffered violence and insecurity since the fall of Muammar Gaddafi in 2011. Many migrants chose to cross the Mediterranean Sea to European shores from Libya.

662 illegal migrants rescued off Libyan coast: UN agency

Tripoli | Agencies

Up to 662 illegal migrants were rescued off the coast of Libya in the past week, the International Organisation for Migration said. On November 12-18, 662 migrants were intercepted and returned to Libya, the UN migration agency said on Monday in a statement. So far this year, 14,894

Hamas leader claims close to reaching truce agreement for hostage release

Tel Aviv | Agencies

Hamas's politburo leader Ismail Haniyeh on Tuesday claimed that it militant group is "close to reaching a truce agreement" with Israel regarding the release of hostages captured on October 7 following the assault on the Jewish nation. Haniyeh's remarks came after Hamas communicated its desire for the truce to mediators in Qatar. "The movement delivered its response to the brothers in Qatar and the mediators, and we are close to reaching a truce agreement," Haniyeh said. The senior Hamas leader however,



did not provide any other details on the said agreement. According to the Israel Defense Forces (IDF), around 70 per cent of the militant group's top leadership has been killed in the military's

ongoing ground offensive in Gaza. But it is yet to be seen if Israel agrees for a truce, including the swapping of Palestinian prisoners. The Israeli government is also under pressure from the families of the hostages. According to authorities, 237 people are held captive in Gaza, including Israelis and foreign nationals. On Monday, the Israeli military spokesperson said that 40 of the hostages are children. So far, four civilian hostages have been released by Hamas; one Israeli soldier was rescued by the forces; and three bodies of hostages have reportedly been retrieved.

Number of journos, media workers killed in Gaza spikes to 50

Gaza | Agencies

Since Hamas launched its massive assault against Israel on October 7, at least 50 journalists and media workers have been killed in the Gaza Strip in the ensuing violence, the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) said in a report. In a report on Monday, the New York-based nonprofit also said that the second-deadliest day for journalist deaths amid the raging conflict occurred on November 18, with five killed, while the deadliest day of the war was its first day, October 7, with six journalists killed. Among the 50 fatalities, 45 were Palestinian, four Israeli, and one Lebanese. According to the CPJ, 11 journalists were injured, three remain miss-



ing and 18 journalists were reportedly arrested. The nonprofit said that it was also investigating numerous unconfirmed reports of other journalists being killed, missing, detained, hurt, or threatened, and of damage to media offices and journalists' homes. "CPJ emphasizes that journalists are civilians doing important work during times of crisis and must not be targeted by warring

parties," said Sherif Mansour, CPJ's Middle East and North Africa program coordinator. "Journalists across the region are making great sacrifices to cover this heart-breaking conflict. Those in Gaza, in particular, have paid, and continue to pay, an unprecedented toll and face exponential threats.

"Many have lost colleagues, families, and media facilities, and have fled seeking safety when there is no safe haven or exit," he was quoted as saying in the report. As of Tuesday morning, the death toll in Gaza stood at 11,078, of whom 4,506 were children and 3,027 women. Israel's had reported more than 1,200 fatalities, while in the West Bank, the number has increased to 213.

Foreign workers will need salary of over 30,000 pounds to enter UK: Report

London | Agencies

Foreign workers will need a salary of more than 30,000 pounds to come to Britain as ministers set out proposals to reduce net migration levels by raising the salary threshold for skilled professionals, according to a media report. The proposal, which is yet to be finalised, comes ahead of Thursday's net migration data for the year ending June 2023, which is expected to stick at around 500,000, The Telegraph reported. Presently, workers outside shortage occupations currently require a salary of at least 26,200 pounds to take up jobs in the UK, which is significantly lower than the median wage of 33,000 pounds.

The number entering the UK minus those leaving, that is the net migration,



hit a record peak of 637,000 in the year ending September 2022 before falling to 606,000 in the year ending December 2022. Experts anticipate it may be around 500,000, significantly surpassing the government's 2019 pledge to reduce net migration overall, the UK-based daily reported. The surge has been fuelled with the UK granting visas to

more than 1.4 million migrants per year to work, study or escape conflict or oppression. The proposals to reduce net migration were pushed within government by Immigration Minister Robert Jenrick and Suella Braverman, who was recently sacked as Home Secretary.

"Net migration is far too high. For more than 30 years, the British public have been voting for controlled migration. But politicians of all stripes have failed to deliver the migration system that they're seeking," Jenrick told The Telegraph last week. The report did not specify whether the proposals will include restrictions on the number of foreign care workers -- currently 120,000 a year -- and on migrants bringing their families to the UK.



Angry Dhangars smash cars, pelt stones at Jalna Collectorate for quotas

Team Absolute | Jalna (Maharashtra)

A large group of agitating Dhangar community members who marched to the Jalna Collectorate to submit a memorandum allegedly smashed vehicles and pelted stones there after the Collector refused to meet them, their leaders claimed here on Tuesday.

The Dhangar community which is also agitating for including them as Scheduled Tribes to get quotas and other demands, were halted at the collectorate building gates by the police security.

The protesters turned aggressive and demanded that Collector Shrikrishnanath Panchal should come to meet them and accept their memorandum of demands.

Despite repeated pleas and waiting for quite some time, the leaders said that the Collector did not come down to meet them, after which the restless crowds attempted to barge into the



premises.

Some persons were seen rushing inside the collectorate building, others pelted stones and broke several window panes, and targeted some five vehicles parked in the area,

smashing flower pots and vandalising the premises, sparking huge tensions even as additional police forces were rushed to the spot.

The Dhangars took out a huge procession around noon which passed

through several areas of the town, then converged into a rally addressed by the local leaders, after which a group went to meet the Collector.

The memorandum listed demands like ST reservations should be implemented, conducting a Caste Census, a plot should be given for a memorial to the legendary Queen Ahilyabai Holkar in the town.

Other demands include: arms licence should be issued to shepherds who graze their flock in the forests, free hostel facilities for Dhangar community students in all district of the state, at least one government job per Dhangar family, giving loans at concessional rates through the government and setting up a corporation for Dhangar welfare with a corpus fund of Rs 10,000-crore.

The Dhangar community took out protest marches in several districts across the state today with no reports of any untoward incidents from anywhere.

VBA praises Congress, invites Rahul Gandhi for 'Honour Constitution' Mumbai event

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi (VBA) President Prakash Ambedkar on Tuesday lavished praises on the Congress and extended an olive branch with a formal invitation to Rahul Gandhi for its 'Honour Constitution' Mahasabha scheduled here on November 25.

In a warmly-worded letter to Gandhi, Ambedkar appreciated him and the Congress' endeavour in the ongoing elections to the five states, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Telangana and Mizoram.

"Your resurgence in contemporary politics reminds me of your mother (Sonia Gandhi)'s emergence in active politics and her role in reviving the Congress after she assumed the party's presidency in 1998, when it was down to three states and facing rebellion from its own leaders, which resulted in divisions," said Ambedkar.

He pointed out that it was during that very turbulent phase that the Bharipa Bahujan Mahasangh (the earlier avatar of VBA) had supported the Congress under Sonia Gandhi though some prominent leaders



endorsed misgivings over her 'foreignness'.

Requesting Rahul Gandhi to address the planned mammoth VBA event at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Park this weekend, Ambedkar said that the Constitution of India has always safeguarded the interests of the discriminated, marginalised and minority communities of the country.

He reiterated the opening and the final sentences "We, the people..." and "...adopt, enact and give to ourselves this Constitution" signified the power it vested in the hands of the Indian people.

"To celebrate these very Constitutional Rights, which would not have been possible without the Constitution of India,

Mahasabha (rally) has been organised to honour and celebrate both the Constitution and India's founding ideals, which my grandfather, B. R. Ambedkar, and your great-grandfather Jawaharlal Nehru and other founding fathers had envisioned for our country," urged Ambedkar. The VBA has been making frantic efforts to join the national opposition I.N.D.I.A. alliance for the upcoming Lok Sabha and Assembly elections, but so far it has not succeeded, ostensibly due to reservations of certain parties. Earlier, Ambedkar had warned that if it was denied entry to the I.N.D.I.A. bloc, then the VBA would contest all the Lok Sabha seats in the upcoming 2024 elections.

SEBI Chairperson unveils Investor Risk Reduction Access platform

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Chairperson of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), Madhabi Puri Buch has launched the Investor Risk Reduction Access (IRRA) platform at the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE).

Risk Mitigation in financial markets is an evergreen subject and constant efforts are made by regulators to address risks of various kinds.

The IRRA platform is one such initiative conceptualised and implemented by Market Infrastructure Institutions (MIIs) under the guidance of SEBI to reduce risks faced by investors in the eventuality of technical glitch at Trading Member end at both Primary site and Disaster Recovery site.

MIIs soft launched IRRA platform with effect from October 3, 2023 and officially launched IRRA platform on Monday for the benefit of



investors at large.

The platform is available to the trading members supporting Internet-based trading and Security Trading through Wireless Technology for their investors.

IRRA however would not be available for algo trading and Institutional clients.

IRRA can be invoked by Trading Members when they are faced with a technical glitch at their end impacting their ability to service clients across exchanges from both

- Primary site and Disaster Recovery site, where relevant. On invocation, after basic checks, the platform downloads trades of Trading Member from all the trading venues and sends SMS/email to investors using internet trading or wireless technology along with a link to access IRRA.

Investors using this link can review of status of their investment, orders etc., and place orders for squaring off or closing positions.

MURDER CONVICT SERVING LIFER FLEES FROM MAHA JAIL, MANHUNT LAUNCHED

Team Absolute | Pune

A dreaded gangster convicted of murder to serve life imprisonment escaped from the Yerwada Central Jail in Maharashtra's Pune, officials said here on Tuesday.

The convict has been identified as Ashish Bharat Jadhav, with the jail tag of C-949, originally hailing from Maval and booked by the Warje-Malwadi Police for killing a man in 2008.

He was later sentenced by a Pune Court to undergo life imprisonment and had been lodged in the barrack No. 4 at the famed YCJ Open Prison.

Presently assigned the duties of handling the ration department in the prison, Jadhav was 'missing' in the prisoners' head count on Monday evening.

After a frantic search at several locations inside the YCJ campus, the authorities finally concluded he had 'escaped' and lodged a complaint with the nearby Yerwada Police Station.

An official said that a manhunt has been launched to trace Jadhav in Pune city, Maval and other areas and also probe is on to ascertain the involvement of any insiders or outsiders in his daring escape.



Mumbai Police arrest one suspect after woman's body found in suitcase

EKNATH SHINDE SAYS ARTIFICIAL RAIN COULD HELP CONTROL MUMBAI AIR POLLUTION

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Tuesday morning visited parts of Mumbai to review steps taken to control dust and air pollution and said the city civic body has been directed to do cloud seeding if required.

The civic body has already approached a Dubai-based company, which has 100 per cent accuracy in cloud seeding and a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) will be signed with it, Shinde said.

"The government and the civic corporation will do whatever they can to reduce Mumbai's pollution. The civic body has been directed to do cloud seeding if required," he said.

The CM was replying to queries by mediapersons at the Jogger's Park in suburban Bandra during his early morning inspection of various works undertaken in the city as a part of the dust and air pollution control measures.

Cloud seeding is an artificial technique aimed at enhancing the probability of rains. Shinde reviewed various road and

footpath cleaning and washing works undertaken as a part of dust control measures in some areas at Pedder Road, Bandra, Kalanagar, Milan Subway, Juhu and Santacruz.

The chief minister said he has directed the municipal commissioner to hire 1,000 tankers on rent and wash the city roads on alternate days.

"If all the roads in Mumbai are washed on alternate days, dust will be greatly reduced and air pollution will also go down," he said.

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) on Monday said 584 km of roads in 24 civic wards of the metropolis are being regularly washed and cleaned using 121 tankers and other machines to control dust as part of efforts to curb air pollution.

A release from the Chief Minister's Office said he also inspected advanced machines used for the removal of dust on roadsides as well as fogger machines, and also gave necessary instructions to the civic personnel.

BMC Commissioner Iqbal Singh Chahal and Additional Municipal Commissioner Dr Sudhakar Shinde along with other senior civic officials accompanied the CM during this review visit in the morning.

Mumbai Police arrest one suspect after woman's body found in suitcase



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Mumbai Police arrested a person in a murder case of a woman whose body was found in a suitcase in the Kurla area.

Mumbai Crime Unit 5 arrested a

suspect in this case. The woman has been identified and is a resident of the Dharavi area.

Earlier, a woman's body was found in a suitcase in Kurla in central Mumbai, the police said on Sunday.

According to the Mumbai Police,

the discovery of the body was made after the police were informed around 12.30 pm about a suitcase lying abandoned.

"The discovery was made after the police were informed around 12.30 pm about a suitcase lying abandoned on the CST Road at Shanti Nagar, where work for a Metro project is underway, an official said.

The police reached the spot and found a woman's body inside the suitcase, the official said. The body was sent to a civic hospital for autopsy, police said, adding that the woman's identity is yet to be established.

"The woman has not been identified yet, but looking at her body, it is being estimated that her age could be between 25-35 years, the woman was wearing a T-shirt and track pants," they added.

Moreover, police are also examining footage of CCTV cameras installed in the area.

The case has been registered under Indian Penal Code (IPC) Section 302 (murder) and a search is on to track those who killed her, police added.

More information is awaited.



Technical glitch forces Air India Mumbai-NY flight to return from Iran airspace

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A technical glitch reportedly forced an Air India Mumbai-New York flight to return from Iranian airspace early on Tuesday morning, official sources said.

The flight, AI-119, bound for JFK Airport in New York took off around 2.20 am and returned after a few hours.

The sources said that there were certain 'minor' technical issues in the aircraft and the decision to fly back to Mumbai was taken to con-

duct precautionary checks in the interest of passengers and crew safety.

The flight landed safely at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA), this morning and was sent for the technical checks, while the AI authori-

ties made arrangements to look after all the passengers.

An alternative flight was being arranged to fly out the stranded passengers expeditiously even as they were given hotel accommodation, flight options, cabs, meals, etc., said the sources.



BAILABLE WARRANT ISSUED AGAINST BJP'S NITESH RANE IN DEFAMATION CASE

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A local court on Tuesday issued a bailable warrant against BJP MLA Nitesh Rane in connection with a defamation complaint lodged against him by Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut.

The Mazgaon Metropolitan Magistrate Court issued the bailable warrant of Rs 15,000 as Rane failed to appear before it on Tuesday.

The court had last month issued a process (summons) to Rane directing him to appear before it.

The court on Tuesday noted that Rane was absent and that no lawyer was present for him.

Raut's lawyer then filed an application seeking the issuance of a warrant against the MLA.

The court accepted the application and posted the matter for further hearing on December 15. Rane would have to appear before the court on that date and get the warrant cancelled.

In May this year, Rane, son of Union minister Narayan Rane, had allegedly called Raut a "snake" who would ditch Uddhav Thackeray and join the NCP by June 10, 2023.

Raut, a Rajya Sabha member, filed a complaint before the magistrate's court seeking action against Rane for the alleged "defamatory and blatantly false" remarks.

Disqualification pleas: Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sunil Prabhu cross-examined

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Uddhav thackeray-led Shiv Sena (UBT) leader and party's chief whip Sunil Prabhu was cross-examined on Tuesday in the case related to disqualification of MLAs of the undivided Shiv Sena.

Sunil Prabhu was cross-examined by the lawyers representing the Shiv Sena led by Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde.

Talking to reporters after the hearing at the state legislature in Mumbai, Shiv Sena (UBT) MLC Anil Parab said the cross-examination will continue on Wednesday.

"Cross examination of Sunil Prabhu took place today. He gave appropriate answers to all the questions," Shiv Sena (UBT) MLC Anil Parab said.

Sunil Prabhu had demanded that his statement be recorded in Marathi. He also sought an official translator who could record his state-



ment after alleging that it was not being done

correctly, Shiv Sena (UBT) MLC Anil Parab

said.

"We felt that many questions were not needed and there was a delaying tactic. They have to give judgment by December 31. There is a possibility that they could seek further time and we don't want to give that," Anil Parab added.

The Supreme Court last month directed Maharashtra assembly speaker Rahul Narwekar to give the judgment on disqualification of rebel Sena MLAs by December 31.

The apex court had come down hard on the speaker over the delay in deciding the pleas filed by former Maharashtra CM and Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray faction for disqualification of Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde and several MLAs loyal to him, saying the speaker cannot defeat the orders of the top court.

Similar disqualification petitions have also been filed by the Shinde bloc against lawmakers owing allegiance to Uddhav Thackeray.

On September 18, the top court directed the speaker to spell out the timeline for adjudication of the disqualification petitions against CM Eknath Shinde and Shiv Sena MLAs owing allegiance to him who had tied up with the BJP to form a new government in June 2022.

The Thackeray faction moved the apex court seeking direction to the state assembly speaker to expeditiously adjudicate the disqualification petitions in a time-bound manner. The plea by Sunil Prabhu alleged that the speaker was deliberately delaying the adjudication despite the verdict of the apex court.

The Shiv Sena suffered a split when a group of MLAs led by Shinde revolted against the party leadership and joined hands with the BJP to form the government.

The revolt led to the collapse of the three-party Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government headed by Uddhav Thackeray. CM Eknath Shinde later took over as chief minister.



Shakira avoids jail as she settles tax evasion

Los Angeles | Agencies

Singer-songwriter Shakira has slammed the Spanish government as she resolved her alleged tax fraud case the day the trial was due to begin. The 46-year-old chart topping star had been accused by Spanish authorities of failing to pay 14.5 million euros (\$15.8 million) in Spanish income tax between 2012 and 2014, reports 'Mirror.co.uk'. But the singer had argued she was living a "nomadic life" during the years of 2012 and 2014 and was not based in Spain. The Colombian star was in a relationship with Spanish footballer Gerard Pique from 2011 until 2022 and together they welcomed sons Milan, born in January 2013, and Sasha, born in January 2015. As per 'Mirror.co.uk', authorities claimed the megastar bought a property in Barcelona in 2012 that served as their family home -- and have been pursuing her over alleged missing taxes since 2017. A high-profile court case had been due to begin in Spain on Monday, but ahead of the trial -- which had been due to run through to mid-December -- the singer released a statement to declare that the case had been resolved. She did not, however, hold back on her scorn for the Spanish authorities. In a statement, Shakira said: "Throughout my career, I have always strived to do what's right and set a positive example for others. That often means taking the extra step in business and personal financial decisions to procure the absolute best counsel, including seeking the advice of the world's pre-eminent tax authorities PricewaterhouseCoopers International Limited and Ernst & Young Global Limited who have been my advisors during this whole process." She added, "Unfortunately, and despite these efforts, tax authorities in Spain pursued a case against me as they have against many professional athletes and other high-profile individuals, draining those people's energy, time and tranquility for years at a time. While I was determined to defend my innocence in a trial that my lawyers were confident would have ruled in my favour, I have made the decision to finally resolve this matter with the best interest of my kids at heart who do not want to see their mom sacrifice her personal well-being in this fight."



Jamie Lee Curtis, Woody Harrelson, Emma Mackey tapped for James L. Brooks directorial

Los Angeles | Agencies

Fans of director James L. Brooks have a reason to rejoice as after almost 13 years since his last film, the Oscar-winning writer-director is set to start his next project as it nears production.

20th Century come on to Brooks' next film 'Ella McCKay', and Emma Mackey, Jamie Lee Curtis, Woody Harrelson, Ayo Edebiri, Albert Brooks, Kumail Nanjiani and

Spike Fearn are in negotiations to star in the movie, reports Deadline.

"As one of the most empathetic dramatists of our time, James Brooks has set the bar across film and television for decades," said Steve Asbell, President, 20th Century Studios. "From Broadcast News to The Simpsons, Jim is also a foundational element in the bedrock of 20th and we couldn't be more proud to support him in his long awaited return to the director's chair".

The film will follow an idealistic young politician who juggles familial issues and a challenging work life while preparing to take over the job of her mentor, the state's longtime incumbent governor.

As per Deadline, Brooks will also produce along with his producing partners Julie Ansell, and Richard Sakai, who will produce the film through their Gracie Films banner. Seth Meier will be executive producer.

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actor Nicholas Hoult may play the Man of Steel's arch nemesis - Lex Luthor in 'Superman: Legacy', completing the core cast for the superhero reboot, with David Corenswet and Rachel Brosnahan already set to play Clark Kent and Lois Lane. Nicholas was one of the actors who was reportedly in the running for the titular role, instead, Gunn -- the co-chief of DC Studios and the writer-director of the film -- picked Nicholas to play Luthor, the industry titan with a bald head and an abiding fixation on bringing down the

NICHOLAS HOULT IN TALKS TO PLAY LEX LUTHOR IN 'SUPERMAN: LEGACY'

With the actors strike over, Gunn has been busy filling out his cast. He confirmed on social media that Maria Gabriela de Faria was recently cast as another villain, the Engineer. On the superhero side, Superman will be backed by Green Lantern, Hawkgirl (Isabela Merced), Mister Terrific (Edi Gathegi) and Metamorpho (Anthony Carrigan).

As per Variety, 'Superman: Legacy' is the inaugural feature film in DC Studios' relaunch of the DC universe in film and television, which Gunn and fellow co-chief Peter Safran announced in January.

On November 11, Gunn posted that due to the work of his production team during the strikes, the film is still set to make its originally scheduled release of July 11, 2025.

Nicholas has had a busy docket of late: He's starring in Clint Eastwood's upcoming legal thriller 'Juror #2', he's in the animated film 'Garfield' as the voice of Jon, the titular cat's owner; and he's in Robert Eggers' production of 'Nosferatu' opposite Emma Corrin, Aaron Taylor-Johnson and Bill Skarsgard.

Taylor Swift's Thanksgiving plans undecided after 'traumatic experience' of fan's death at concert

Los Angeles | Agencies

Singer Taylor Swift is apparently giving a second thought to her Thanksgiving plans after a recent tragedy during her South American stop of her 'Eras Tour'. Taylor's plans for the holiday are reportedly undecided after one fan died at her Brazil concert, reports aceshowbiz.com. She doesn't know her holiday plans yet, "a source told Page Six on Monday. "The Brazil concerts... She is devastated about a fan dying. The weather is extreme. It's a mess she didn't expect. It's been a traumatic experience. It's been a lot," reports aceshowbiz.com.

While the 33-year-old star is expected to make the decision "today" following her concert on Monday night, the source speculated that traveling "could end up being too much," but she "could want to come home" to be around people during this difficult time.

It was previously reported that Taylor would jet back home to spend Thanksgiving on November 23, with her family. There were also rumours that she might see her boyfriend Travis Kelce for Thanksgiving, but it wasn't decided yet either.

Ana Clara Benevides died on November 17 ahead of Taylor's concert in Rio de Janeiro. She fainted while she was in the front row of the Estadio Nilton Santos after being exposed to the high temperatures. The 23-year-old was transferred to local Salgado Filho Hospital, where she passed away from cardiac arrest. In a statement addressing her fan's passing, Taylor said in a hand-written letter, "I can't believe I'm writing these words but it is with a shattered heart that I say we lost a fan earlier tonight before my show. I can't even tell you how devastated I am by this."

"I'm not going to be able to speak about this from stage because I feel overwhelmed by grief when I even try to talk about it," she added.



Bruce Willis' daughter Rumer 'misses her papa', shares tearjerking post

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Bruce Willis' daughter Rumer Willis shared a touching Instagram post after her father's dementia diagnosis.

The star was diagnosed with aphasia in Spring 2022 and in early 2023, his family shared that he was further diagnosed with dementia, reports Mirror.co.uk.

In a statement, they wrote: "Bruce has always found joy in life and has helped everyone he knows to do the same. It has meant the world to see that sense of care echoed back to him and to all of us." The actor was specifically diagnosed with Frontotemporal dementia which can alter a person's behaviour and personality. His daughter wrote in a caption: "Really missing my papa today." As per Mirror.co.uk, Rumer's post featured a sweet throwback picture of Bruce, shirtless, holding Rumer as a baby. She was dressed in a pretty white sundress with a matching headband in her hair. One person in the comments wrote: "I cannot even imagine. My heart and prayers go out to you. I'm also sending you a sincere tight hug. Blessings to you." Bruce's other daughter, Tallulah, also made a similar gesture with her own post.



ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Billie Piper



ICC INTRODUCES STOP-CLOCK IN WHITE-BALL CRICKET ON A TRIAL BASIS; 5-RUN PENALTY FOR DELAY IN BOWLING OVERS

Dubai | Agencies

Come December, international white-ball matches will have a stop-clock to regulate the amount of time taken between overs and a team taking more than 60 seconds between two overs will incur a 5-run penalty if repeats the mistake for the third time in a match.

The Chief Executives' Committee (CEC) of the International Cricket Council (ICC) has agreed to introduce the stop clock on a trial basis in men's ODI and T20I cricket from December 2023 to April 2024.

"The clock will be used to regulate the amount of time taken between overs. If



the bowling team is not ready to bowl the next over within 60 seconds of the previous over being completed, a 5-run penalty will be imposed the third time it happens in an innings," the ICC informed in a release on Tuesday. Meanwhile, changes to the pitch and

outfield monitoring regulations were also approved, including a simplification of the criteria against which a pitch is assessed and an increase in the threshold for when a venue could have its international status removed from five demerit points to six demerit points

EQUAL MATCH-DAY PAY FOR FEMALE MATCH OFFICIALS

Dubai: In a ground-breaking decision on Tuesday, the International Cricket Council (ICC) announced equal pay for female match officials, signalling its commitment to gender equality in cricket. The reforms include the equalisation of match-day pay for ICC umpires, regardless of whether they are officiating men's or women's cricket matches. The initiative, which is set to be implemented in January 2024, marks a pivotal moment in cricket's history, as it takes another stride towards equal opportunities in the sport. The Chief Executives' Committee (CEC) also recommended including at least one neutral umpire in every series of the ICC Women's Championship, in line with the long-standing practice in men's international cricket.

"The changes to the gender eligibility regulations resulted from an extensive consultation process and are founded in science, aligning with the core principles developed during the review," remarked ICC Chief Executive Geoff Allardice. The ICC Board also approved new gender eligibility regulation for women's cricket according to which male-to-female participants who have undergone male puberty will not be eligible to compete in the international women's game, irrespective of any surgical or gender reassignment treatment they may have undertaken. ICC will revisit these regulations within two years to align with the sport's evolving landscape. At the domestic level, though, these regulations will remain under the jurisdiction of individual member boards.



PARTICIPATION OF TRANSGENDERS BANNED

Dubai: The International Cricket Council on Tuesday decided not to allow participation in international women's cricket by transgender players and those who have undergone gender reassignment treatment from male to female. The decision to not allow anyone who has attained any form of male puberty came into effect after the ICC Board approved the new gender eligibility regulations for the international game.

Decided after a 9-month consultation process with the sport's stakeholders, the new policy is based on the following principles (in order of priority), protection of the integrity of the women's game, safety, fairness and inclusion. "This means any Male to Female participants who have been through any form of male puberty will not be eligible to participate in the international women's game regardless of any surgery or gender reassignment treatment they may have undertaken," the ICC said in a release on Tuesday. The review, which was led by the ICC Medical Advisory Committee chaired by Dr Peter Harcourt, relates solely to gender eligibility for international women's cricket, whilst gender eligibility at the domestic level is a matter for each individual Member Board, which may be impacted by local legislation. The regulations will be reviewed within two years, the ICC release said on Tuesday.

ISSF World Cup Final

India's Divya reaches final, finishes seventh eventually

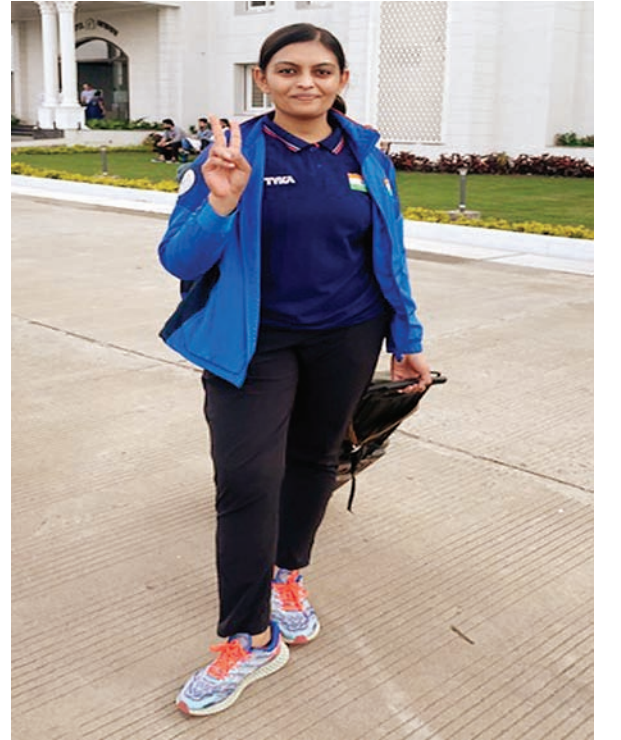
Team Absolute | New Delhi

India's Divya T.S. made the final of the women's 10m Air Pistol event on competition Day One of the season-ending International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup Final (WCF) in Doha, Qatar, finishing seventh eventually.

It was a China 1-2-3 in the event at the Lusail Shooting Range, as Li Xue took gold over Zhao Nan even as Jiang Ranxin, the reigning world champion, took bronze. Germany's Robin Walter won the other medal event of the day, the Men's 10m Air Pistol.

Divya shot a score of 576 in the 60-shot qualification round, which gave her sixth place in the 14-strong field. In the final, she could not overcome a sluggish start which saw her in seventh place after the first 10 shots, bowing out after the 14th in the same position with a score of 137.8, the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) informed in a release.

Teammate Esha Singh shot 571 to finish 13th overall. In the Men's 10m Air Pistol, Sarabjot Singh looked in contention for a major part of qualification. However, he ended with a 581 to miss making it to the top-eight by a point, finishing ninth. Wednesday will see five



Indians in action at the Rifle and Pistol range as Rudranksh Patil, Hriday Hazarika, Mehuli Ghosh, Ramita Jindal and Elavenil Valarivan aim for the 10m Men's and Women's Air Rifle titles respectively.

men's trap and women's skeet on Wednesday.

A total of 179 athletes from 12 countries are participating in the ISSF World Cup Final Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun, Doha 2023. On the final day of the event on Saturday, November 25, three special events are also scheduled to be staged purely from an entertainment and competition perspective.

Honda Racing India's Rakshith Dave to represent India at Asia Talent Cup 2024

Gurugram | Agencies

Rakshith Srihari Dave, a 15-year-old rider from Chennai, has taken a significant stride towards global racing and is all set to represent India at the prestigious Asia Talent Cup 2024.

The selection event unfolded at the iconic Sepang Circuit in Malaysia where a group of 89 riders embarked on the journey to earn their spot in this challenging competition. Out of them, only 41 riders demonstrated remarkable skills, determination, and promise that took them to the final stage of the competition.

In a testament to his incredible talent and commitment to the world of motorcycle racing, Rakshith Dave earned his spot in the Asia Talent Cup 2024 along with 10 other riders from different Asia-Oceania Countries.

As many as 20 full-time riders are set to race in the 2024 season of IATC, hailing from ten countries: Australia, China, Chinese Taipei, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam. Rakshith was identified first at Idemitsu Honda India Talent Hunt program in 2018 at very young age and trained under Honda Racing Academy. He started his professional racing career in 2019 in CBR150R category and secured Second Runner-up & First runner up in 2020 & 2021 respectively.



He was upgraded to NSF 250R category for 2022 Season. This year too he has won First Runner up position in Honda NSF250R category.

"This has always been my dream, and I am excited that it has come true. I thank Honda Racing India for giving me this opportunity to represent our Indian team on the global platform. It will be a great platform as it will bring new experiences and learning to my career in motorsports. At this point, I am focusing on enhancing my skills along with our trainers.

"Now, I will be working on my techniques, understanding the NSF250R machine better, and testing all its capabilities to achieve better results in each round. As the solo Indian rider, I will give my best to bring laurels to our team and country," said Rakshith.

ITALY, CZECHIA AND SLOVENIA SEAL EURO 2024 QUALIFICATIONS

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Italy, Czechia and Slovenia became the latest teams to secure their places at UEFA EURO 2024 as 20 of the 24 teams that will be playing at the EURO 2024 finals are confirmed.

EURO holders Italy reached the finals ahead of Ukraine by sealing second spot in Group C with a point in Leverkusen. Luciano Spalletti's side had the majority of the chances during an end-to-end opening period, Federico Chiesa and Nicolò Barella among those going close, while Davide Frattesi was denied by goalkeeper Anatoliy Trubin after breaking clear inside the area.

Ukraine repeatedly threatened from counterattacks, Georgiy Sudakov seeing his drive tipped away by Azzurri No1 Gianluigi Donnarumma.

In an intense but less frenetic second half, Donnarumma's vital save prevented Mykhailo Mudryk from changing the course of qualification. Ukraine now enter the play-offs. Notably, Ukraine became the first side since Northern Ireland in 2010 to stop Italy from scoring in EURO qualifying - a run of 34 matches. On the other hand, Czechia claimed second place in Group E after a comprehensive 3-0 victory over ten-man Moldova and qualified for their eighth successive EURO finals.



David Doudera put the hosts ahead with a deft close-range finish after just 14 minutes, having collected Tomas

Chory's pinpoint pass. Moldova's hopes of a comeback were dented when Vladislav Babogov was sent off in the 55th minute for a second bookable offence. Czechia took full advantage in the closing stages, adding

further goals via Chory's emphatic post header and Tomas Souček's precise effort. Slovenia defeated Kazakhstan 2-1 to qualify for the UEFA EURO finals for just the second time, previously doing so in 2000.

ICC allows suspended Sri Lanka to compete internationally; withdraws U19 World Cup 2024

Dubai | Agencies

Teams from Sri Lanka can continue to participate in international events despite the International Cricket Council suspending the country's membership.

While allowing Sri Lanka to compete in both bilateral series and ICC events, the ICC on Tuesday took control of funding of Sri Lanka Cricket and also reallocated the ICC U19 Men's Cricket World Cup 2024 from the country to South Africa.

These decisions were taken by the International Cricket Council (ICC) Board, which met on Tuesday and confirmed the terms of the suspension of Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC).

"After hearing representation from SLC, the ICC Board decided



that Sri Lanka can continue to compete internationally both in bilateral cricket and ICC events after being suspended recently for breaching its obligations as a member in particular the requirement to manage its affairs autonomously and without government interference," the ICC said in a statement.

"However, funding to SLC will be controlled by the ICC and the ICC Board confirmed Sri Lanka will no longer host the ICC U19 Men's Cricket World Cup 2024, which will now be held in South Africa," the release said.

The ICC suspended Sri Lanka Cricket's membership because of interference in the governance of the sport by the country's government.

David Warner to skip India T20Is after Australia's World Cup triumph

Vizag | Agencies

Australia will miss one of their most formidable batters during their T20I series against India, as veteran opener David Warner will head back home after the country's ODI World Cup victory.

Warner, who was Australia's leading run-scorer with 535 at 48.63 during their successful World Cup campaign, was expected to stay in the sub-continent and take part in the T20I series against India, starting from November 23, but has instead opted to head home ahead of his final Test summer.

"Selectors decided Warner would return home on the back of a successful yet demanding World Cup campaign," Cricket Australia said in a statement.

Emerging all-rounder Aaron Hardie joined the Aussie squad as a replacement for Warner.

Warner's withdrawal means just seven of Australia's World Cup-winning ODI squad will remain in India for the series - Sean Abbott,



Head, Josh Inglis, Glenn Maxwell, Smith, Marcus Stoinis and Adam Zampa - as well as reserve spinner Tanveer Sangha. Steve Smith appears as a possible contender to step into Warner's position at the top of the order for the upcoming five-match series commencing in Visakhapatnam on Thursday. Additionally, the touring party includes Travis Head and Matt Short, both incumbents in consideration for the role.

The first T20I of the five-game series commences in Vishakhapatnam on Thursday.

China Masters: HS Prannoy, Chirag-Satwik pair sail into second round

Shenzhen (China) | Agencies

World Championships bronze medallists HS Prannoy and men's doubles pair Chirag Shetty-Satwiksairaj Rankireddy sailed into the second round of the China Masters Super 750 badminton tournament after registering straight games wins here on Tuesday.



Prannoy defeated Chou Tien Chen of Chinese Taipei 21-18, 22-20 in 50 minutes. The Taipei shuttler had defeated Prannoy last week in the second round of the Kumamoto Masters Japan. The Indian was off to a slow start, trailing 6-9 in the opening game and went into the break with 11-10 lead. He then opened up a four-point lead at 17-13 and saw off the challenge at the later stage of the first game. The second game was a tight battle, with both players deeply involved in intense rallies. Throughout the game, neither

player managed to secure a lead of more than two points. Chen pulled slightly ahead of Prannoy right after the mid-game break, holding a narrow 18-16 lead. However, Prannoy made it 18-18 and sealed the contest on his second match point opportunity.

Record-Breaking 1.25 million spectators turn out for ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023

Ahmedabad | Agencies

The ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 has made history by being the most attended ICC event ever, after 1,205,307 fans passed through the turnstiles to witness the biggest Cricket World Cup, culminating in Australia winning a remarkable sixth title.

With six games to go the spectator figures had already surpassed the one million mark with the momentum escalating as the World Cup culminated in front of a packed crowd at the Narendra Modi Stadium on Sunday.

The event which ran from October 5 to November 19 and promised to place fans at the centre of the action recorded the biggest attendance for a Men's



Cricket World Cup opening match when England faced New Zealand in a repeat of the 2019 final, followed by the most attended India against Pakistan fixture in ICC World Cup history when fans flocked through the turnstiles on October 14. The figure of

over 1.25 million fans is a new benchmark in the history of cricket, surpassing the attendance figures of any other ICC event. The ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2015, held in Australia and New Zealand, witnessed 1,016,420 spectators, while the 2019 edition in England and Wales saw 752,000 fans come through the turnstiles. The 13th edition of the Men's Cricket World Cup held in India has eclipsed these figures as well as breaking multiple broadcast and digital viewership records, proving the global reach and ever-growing popularity of the sport.

Chris Tetley, ICC Head of Events said, "The ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 has been a great success, showcasing the best aspects of the game and capturing the hearts of hundreds of millions of fans across the world."



MEGHNA GULZAR EXPLAINS HOW ICONIC PHOTO WITH WAS RECREATED FOR 'SAM BAHADUR'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Director MFeghna Gulzar is leaving no stone unturned to ensure maximum historical authenticity for her upcoming biopic 'Sam Bahadur'. Recreating an iconic picture of him standing with Gorkha soldiers, she went to great lengths just to create that specific shot and got teary-eyed when it happened successfully. The photo is an iconic one and it is from the third India-Pakistan war (Bangladesh Liberation War, 1971) which saw the Indian Armed Forces emerging fully victorious against their war with Pakistan. This led to the separation of the erstwhile East Pakistan and resulted in the creation of what is now called People's Republic of Bangladesh. Belonging to Gorkha regiment, Sam Manekshaw was very well acquainted

with them and the iconic photo was taken during the war. It is believed that he was instructing the troops to prevent harassment of any Bangladeshi refugee as an order, request, and motivation. Talking about recreating the photo, Meghna Gulzar, going behind-the-scenes, said: "This is one of the most iconic photos of Sam Manekshaw, where he could be seen meeting a Gorkha soldier standing amidst tall grass. I have had this picture as my wallpaper on my laptop for over 4-5 years, so suddenly when I had to recreate this exact scene it was something very personal for me." She added: "On the second last day, I had picked the location to shoot and it was very overwhelming to recreate that very image which you've had in front of you for so many years. We found the location, we found the grass, but there was always

this doubt that how will it go, will it go well, will we be able to do it all, or whether it could be done, maybe bit by bit?"

"Then to suddenly see that shot on the monitor in front of me was very emotional for me. I think we came pretty close," she said.

The film is a biopic on the legendary Field Marshal who led the Indian Army to victory during the '71 war. It covers his life, upbringing, and his military career from his days in the Indian Military Academy during the British Raj and his fighting in World War-II to the 1948 India-Pak war, 1962 India-China war, 1965 India-Pakistan war, 1967 India-China skirmish, and the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation. Starring Vicky Kaushal, Sanya Malhotra, Fatima Sana Sheikh, among others, 'Sam Bahadur' will hit theatres on December 1, 2023.

Charrul Malik finds fulfilment in worlds of journalism & acting

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Charrul Malik, who has been a journalist before venturing into the acting career, shared that she is proud of two aspects of her life within the television industry, and finds fulfilment in both the roles.

On the occasion of World Television Day on Tuesday, Charrul said: "I am extremely proud of two aspects of my life within the television industry. Firstly, I am proud to be a part of a news channel, where I serve as an anchor, editor, and journalist, contributing to the news content on MSR TV. It is a role that involves conducting interviews and presenting information accurately."

"Secondly, I am equally proud to be involved in 'Bhabhiji Ghar Par Hain' which adds another dimension to my TV career. This show, being a part of a general entertainment channel, allows me to engage with a different audience through a distinct form of content. I find fulfilment in both roles, as they offer diverse experiences," she shared. The actress further commented: "Conducting interviews, whether for news or entertainment, provides me with the opportunity to connect with various personalities and share their stories. The richness of these experiences has made me appreciate and feel blessed to be a part of both sides of the television spectrum."

Charrul said TV is a guiding force today.

"I believe Television Day is significant as it recognises and appreciates the value of television in our lives. Television plays a crucial role in educating, guiding, and shaping public opinion. As someone involved in the media industry, especially in news broadcasting, I understand the responsibility we carry," she said.



FALAQ NAAZ TO RETURN TO SCREENS IN WEB SERIES

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Falq Naaz, who was recently seen in 'Bigg Boss OTT 2', will return to screens in a web series. The actress now has revealed that she will be next seen in a web series that will release in February 2024.

Falq acquired a huge fan following with her appearance in 'Bigg Boss OTT 2'. In a candid chat, the actress opened up on this season of 'Bigg Boss' and her excitement for the upcoming project.

Talking about her upcoming project, Falq said: "Very soon my fans will see me on the screen. I am very excited for my next project which is a web series. It will be released in February 2024. We are still shooting for the same. Hopefully it will finish soon. I am very excited for the project and I am hoping the audience will also enjoy it."

Talking about this season of 'Bigg Boss', the actress said: "Till now I have not seen anyone being real in the show except

Munawar. He is the most sensible contestant this time.

"I believe, in that show you can pretend for a while but sooner or later your real personality shows off. So that still has to come out. But as of now I feel Munawar might win the show," she said.



KJo narrates funny story when Varun Dhawan first came to his office

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Director-producer Karan Johar, who hosts the streaming chat show 'Koffee With Karan', narrated the story of actor Varun Dhawan walking into his office for the first time. In the upcoming episode of the show, KJo chats with two of his 'Students', Varun and Sidharth Malhotra, both of whom debuted with his film 'Student of the Year'. During the course of the episode, KJo shared a funny story when Varun along with his mom walked into the office of Karan's Dharma productions for the first time. The director went down the memory lane and shared his first impressions and thoughts of Varun and Sidharth when they became his assistant directors. Talking about this, Karan said: "The journey started on 'My name is Khan', we know that Sid was actually doing a feature film which didn't happen, then he decided to become an AD, the chief assistant on the film was Karan Malhotra, the director of 'Agneepath' and 'Shamshera'. Varun's story is of course famous in Dharma". "First I had met his mom and she said that you know, he wants to assist you. When he had come to meet me. I decided to show him the office, because he was David ji's son. When we went in, the head of production was Manoj Mitra. We walked in together, Varun was ahead of me so Manoj stood up because he saw me but Varun said baitho baitho. Like Manoj Mitra has got up to see Varun, who no one knows," laughed Karan. 'Koffee with Karan' season 8 streams on Disney+ Hotstar.



Salman Khan: 'Tiger' franchise will always make my filmography shine brighter

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood superstar Salman Khan, who is enjoying the response to his latest Diwali release 'Tiger 3', has said that the 'Tiger' franchise is very close to his heart and will always make his filmography shine brighter. 'Tiger 3', which is the latest film from the spy universe after the Shah Rukh Khan-starrer 'Pathaan', is set to hit Rs 400 crore worldwide, as per the makers. Talking about the franchise, Salman, who plays the role of the Indian spy, Avinash Singh Rathore, said: "Three 'Tiger' films, three success stories. The 'Tiger' franchise sits dearly in my heart, and I'm glad that it has also found its place in the hearts of the audience." " 'Tiger' franchise is one of my most loved and is definitely a legacy brand that will always make my filmography shine brighter," he said. The actor further mentioned that he didn't expect his first 'Tiger' film to pave the path for not only a blockbuster 'Tiger' franchise but also create the stepping stone for the YRF Spy Universe. "When I was doing 'Ek Tha Tiger', I had no idea that we will have a sequel, forget about the fact that we now have a threequel in 'Tiger 3'. It's now a franchise that has been entertaining audiences worldwide since 2012. The proof of the success for any film or a franchise is in the success story it scripts," said Salman, who is the son of legendary Indian screenwriter Salim Khan. The actor added: "I think the 'Tiger' franchise has given audiences a desi spy like no other that people have showered heaps of love on. I have lived and breathed Tiger and I thank everyone for their warmth and appreciation for me and the films".

Produced by Aditya Chopra and directed by Maneesh Sharma, 'Tiger 3' is playing in cinemas in Hindi, Tamil and Telugu.



Aahana Kumra