

# absolute india

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Mahua Moitra, Cong & Sena (UBT) leaders allege Centre trying to 'target' their phones

## SNOOPING... GHOST!



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Several opposition leaders, including Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra, Congress leader Pawan Khera on Tuesday alleged that their mobile phones were being targeted by the Centre.

In a post on X, Moitra said, "Received text and email from Apple warning me that the government is trying to hack into my phone and email. Home Minister's Office - get a life. Adani and PMO bullies - your fear makes me pity you."

Shiv Sena (UBT) Rajya Sabha MP Priyanka Chaturvedi was to flag it on Monday night. In a post on X, she said, "Wonder who? Shame on you. Cc: Home Minister's Office for your kind attention."

In another post, she tagged Union Ministers and said, "Kind attention

Ashwini Vaishnav and Rajeev Chandrasekhar." Khera, who is a Congress Working Committee (CWC) member of the grand old party too came forward and said, "Dear Modi Sarkar, why are you doing this?" He also attached the screenshot of the message. Multiple MPs, also includ-

ing the Congress' Shashi Tharoor, posted screenshots of the messages/emails they received from Apple. Sources said, three people in Congress MP Rahul Gandhi's office received similar messages. Moitra also claimed Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav and the Aam Aadmi Party's Raghav Chadha, as well as CPM General Secretary Sitaram Yechury and the Congress' Pawan Khera were also warned of hacking attempts.

### GOVT TO INVESTIGATE 'STATE SPONSORED ATTACK NOTIFICATIONS'

New Delhi: Union Minister for Electronics and Communications Ashwini Vaishnav on Tuesday came down heavily on the US phone maker Apple after several opposition MPs made allegations of state sponsored attack on their iPhones and said that much of information by the company on the issue seemed vague in nature and the government will investigate to get to the bottom of these notifications, and also asked it to join the probe. In a series of posts on X, Vaishnav said, "We are concerned by the statements we have seen in the media from some MPs as well as others about a notification received by them from Apple. The notification received by them as per media reports mentions 'state-sponsored attacks' on their devices."



### Maybe false alarm: Apple

New Delhi: Amid outrage over the alleged alert of "state sponsored hacking" attempt on Apple phones of several of the Opposition MPs in India, the iPhone maker on Tuesday clarified that "it does not attribute the threat notifications to any specific state-sponsored attacker".

It also said that it's possible that some Apple threat notifications may be false alarms. The iPhone maker, in a statement, said: "State-sponsored attackers are very well-funded and sophisticated, and their attacks evolve over time". "Detecting such attacks relies on threat intelligence signals that are often imperfect and incomplete. It's possible that some Apple threat notifications may be false alarms, or that some attacks are not detected," it said. "We are unable to provide information about what causes us to issue threat notifications, as that may help state-sponsored attackers adapt their behavior to evade detection in the future," it added.

## Iran's Quds Force head in Lebanon to coordinate possible widening of war with Israel

Tel Aviv | Agencies

Esmael Qaani, commander of Iran's expeditionary Quds Force in the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, is said to be in Lebanon to coordinate a possible wider confrontation with Israel, media reported.

According to the UK-based Amwaj.media, Qaani arrived in Beirut one day after Hamas's October 7 assault on Israel and has been there since then with the exception of a visit to Tehran October 16-20 for consultations, Times of Israel reported.

Over the past ten days, Qaani is said to have met with Palestinian terror group leaders as well as the leadership of Hezbollah, to whom he conveyed messages from Iranian leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Iranian proxy groups in Lebanon, Syria, Iraq and Yemen have been accused of carrying out attacks against Israel and US service-members stationed in the region, Times of Israel reported.

Security sources quoted by Amwaj say that while the Quds Force coordinates Iran's allies in the Middle East in a "joint operations room," Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah has decision power over attacks from Lebanon against Israel, the report said.

Meanwhile, Israeli fighter jets have killed the Hamas commander, who engineered the deadly attacks on the bor-



ders on October 7, in the first hours of the expanded ground attacks and incursion into Gaza, reports citing Israeli authorities said.

Nasim Abu Ajina, who previously led Hamas' Aerial Army, and helped them develop drone and paraglider warfare, was killed in the air strikes, Israel Defense Forces said in a statement.

"His elimination significantly harms the efforts of the Hamas terrorist organization to disrupt the IDF's ground activities," USA Today reported quoting the statement. He was commander of the Beit Lahia Battalion of Hamas' Northern Brigade, suspected to be behind the brain behind the border attacks.

### WILL TURN FULL ATTENTION TO HEZBOLLAH AFTER HAMAS, VOWS ISRAELI SECURITY ADVISOR

Tel Aviv: Israel's National Security Advisor, Tzachi Hanegbi, has said that Israel will focus its full attention on Hezbollah after dealing with Hamas.

Speaking to mediapersons in a briefing on Tuesday, Hanegbi said the Israeli army is taking a defensive posture in Lebanon not to over stretch its forces as it is in the middle of a waging a war with Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

Hanegbi said that after dealing with Hamas, Israel would apply the lessons learnt against Hamas on Hezbollah, adding that it would have operational effects. Israel has fired several missiles into the Lebanon region to thwart the attack by Hezbollah. IDF spokesman Daniel Hagari has also said that the force is presently waging a war against Hamas terrorists in the Gaza Strip.

## Manipur govt bans tribal outfit speaking about 'possible war', arms procurement

Imphal | Agencies

Soon after the killing of a Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) by suspected militants, the Manipur government on Tuesday banned the World Kuki-Zo Intellectual Council (WKZIC), as an unlawful association/organisation under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.

Police said that the suspected militants on Tuesday gunned down SDPO Chingtham Anand Kumar at Moreh in Manipur's Tengnoupal district border-



ing Myanmar.

The suspected extremists attacked a police team when they were supervising the proposed construction site of a helipad at the Eastern Shine School ground at Moreh, injuring the SDPO, who was immediately taken

to a primary health centre, where he succumbed to his bullet wounds.

Immediately after the incident, an urgent meeting of the cabinet, chaired by the Chief Minister, was held.

An official statement after the meeting said that the cabinet noted that the WKZIC had issued a press release on October 24 calling upon the Kuki-Zo community that during this November, before the harvesting season, the community would face another war, and arms and ammunition should therefore be in sufficient stock.

## POLICEMAN SHOT DEAD IN J&K'S BARAMULLA

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Srinagar: Terrorists shot dead a police head constable in J&K's Baramulla district on Tuesday.

The deceased head constable has been identified as Ghulam Mohammad Dar. He was shot outside his residence in Tangmarg area of Baramulla district Tuesday evening.

"The area has been cordoned off for searches," sources said.

Terrorists had shot and critically injured a police inspector, Masroor Ahmad Wani on Sunday in Eidgah area of Srinagar city.

The injured inspector is battling for life in the hospital.

## MAHA CABINET APPROVES MARATHA PANEL REPORT FOR RESERVATIONS

Team Absolute | Mumbai

On anticipated lines, the Maharashtra Cabinet has accepted a preliminary report submitted by the retired Justice Sandeep Shinde Committee on the prickly issue of Maratha quotas, here on Tuesday.

The Justice Shinde Committee had, on Monday, given its report on the process to determine the Kunbi-Maratha caste certificates based on the Nizam period after it found 11,530 such certificates from over 1.72 crore documents it scrutinized in the past one month.

Accordingly, the Marathas shall be issued the 'Kunbi Caste' certificates which will make them eligi-



ble for quotas, as demanded by the Shivba Sanghatana leader Manoj Jarange-Patil, whose indefinite hunger strike entered the seventh day in Jalna.

The Cabinet was chaired by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde with Deputy CMs Devendra Fadnis and Ajit Pawar participating and other issues pertaining to the Maratha quotas were also discussed.

The process to issue the 'Kunbi Caste' certificates to the Marathas as per the old records has been initiated, and the Backward Classes Commission will collect fresh empirical data to ascertain the social-educational backwardness of the Marathas.

## BJP General Secretary and assembly candidate from Indore 1 may be in trouble

BJP GENERAL SECRETARY KAILASH VIJAYVARGIYA'S TROUBLES MAY INCREASE IN A CASE RELATED TO CHHATTISGARH COURT OF 1999.

Team Absolute | Indore

He is the BJP candidate from Indore-1 constituency in the 2023 Madhya Pradesh Assembly election. A Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC) court in Durg, Chhattisgarh had declared Vijayvargiya a 'fugitive' and issued a permanent arrest warrant against him in 2019. This action was taken against him for repeatedly not responding to



court notices in a criminal case.

The complainant in the case is senior advocate Kanak Tiwari, former Advocate General of Chhattisgarh.

There is no mention of any pending case in Chhattisgarh in the affidavit filed by Vijayvargiya along with his nomination on Monday. He has definitely mentioned five pending cases in West Bengal.

Tiwari further said that he also complained to the Lokayukta, but no investigation was done. He said, 'I am not aware whether Vijayvargiya has mentioned the details of this matter in the election affidavit or not.

## Chandrababu Naidu released from jail after 52 days

Rajahmundry | Agencies

After spending 52 days in jail in an alleged skill development scam, former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Tuesday came out of Rajahmundry Central Prison following interim bail granted by the Andhra Pradesh High Court.

His family members and Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leaders and hundreds of party



workers welcomed him after he emerged from prison. Addressing people outside the jail, he said that in his 40-year-long political career, he had done nothing

wrong. "Neither did I do anything wrong, nor did I allow anyone to do anything wrong," he said. Naidu thanked the Telugu people in both Andhra Pradesh and Telangana and other parts of the country and abroad for their support and solidarity.

He said he would always remain indebted to them for their support and for highlighting the development works he had undertaken as the Chief Minister.

## Declared 'dead' by CBI one-and-a-half years ago, woman dies in Bihar on Monday

Patna | Agencies

A key witness in a journalist's murder case, who was declared dead by the CBI a year-and-a-half ago, passed away in Bihar's Siwan on Monday.

Badami Devi (81) was the key witness in the murder of Rajdeo Ranjan that took place on May 13, 2016.

The land mafias of Siwan were applying pressure on Badami Devi to grab her properties, while Rajdeo Ranjan was raising his voice against them pertaining to this case.

government transferred the case to the CBI.

On May 24, 2022, the CBI filed a death report of Badami Devi in the CBI court in Muzaffarpur and informed that the main witness has died. After learning about the development, Badami Devi appeared before the CBI court and said that she is alive. Following that incident, the court issued a show-cause notice to the CBI for messing the investigation.

"The CBI is just doing formality in the case and not doing any kind of investigation.

## HUMAN ACTIVITIES MAKING EARTH'S AIR, SOIL AND FRESHWATER 'SALTIER'

New York | Agencies

The new study considered a variety of salt ions that are found underground and in surface water. Salts are compounds with positively charged cations and negatively charged anions, with some of the most abundant ones being calcium, magnesium, potassium, and sulphate ions.

When dislodged in higher doses, these ions can cause environmental problems. The study showed that human-caused salinisation affected approximately 2.5 billion acres of soil around the world -- an area about the size of the US.

Salt ions also increased in streams and rivers over the last 50 years, coinciding with an increase in the global use and production of salts. Salt has even infiltrated the air.

Humans are disrupting the natural "salt cycle" on a global scale, and the influx of salt in streams and rivers is causing an "existential threat", according to an alarming study, led by an Indian-origin researcher.

Geologic and hydrologic processes bring salts to Earth's surface over time, but human activities such as mining and land development are rapidly accelerating the natural salt cycle.

Agriculture, construction, water and road treatment, and other industrial activities can also intensify salinisation, which harms biodiversity and makes drinking water unsafe in extreme cases. "If you think of the planet as a living



organism, when you accumulate so much salt, it could affect the functioning of vital organs or ecosystems," said Geology professor Sujay Kaushal, from the University of Maryland.

"When people think of salt, they tend to think of sodium chloride, but our work over the years has shown that we've disturbed other types of salts, including ones related to limestone, gypsum and calcium sulphate," Kaushal said. In some regions, lakes are drying up and sending plumes of saline dust into the atmosphere. In areas that experience snow, road salts can become aerosolised, creating sodium and chloride particulate matter.

"There's the short-term risk of injury, which is serious and something we certainly need to think about, but there's also the long-term risk of health issues associated with too much salt in our water," Kaushal said. "It's about finding the right balance."



# CONGRESS RELEASES 4TH LIST FOR RAJASTHAN, CUTS TICKETS OF 6 MLAS, FIELDS GAURAV VALLABH, MANVENDRA SINGH

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Congress on Tuesday announced its fourth list of 56 candidates for Rajasthan and has fielded senior party leader and spokesperson Gaurav Vallabh from Udaipur, BJP veteran leader Jaswant Singh's son Manvendra Singh from Shivana assembly seats.

The party has denied ticket to six sitting MLAs in its fourth list.

The fourth list for Rajasthan came after the party chief Mallikarjun Kharge chaired the second round of Central Election Committee (CEC) for second consecutive day to finalise the candidates.

The party has named Vallabh from Udaipur, Manvendra Singh from Shivana, Badriram Jakhar from Bali, Yogendra Singh Parmar from Kumbhalgarh assembly seat.

The party has fielded Badri Lal Jat from Bari Sadri, Ankur Badlani from Ganganagar in place of independent MLA Rajkumar Gaud.



The party has cut the tickets of Khiladilal Bairwa from Baseri (SC) seat, MLA Bharat Singh Kundanpur from Sangod, who had got his head shaved earlier this year, Hindon MLA Bharosilal Jatav, Rajgarh-Laxmangarh MLA Johrilal Meena, Bilada MLA Hiram Meghwal and Kathumar MLA Babul Bairwa.

The Congress has now announced 151 candidates out of 200 for Rajasthan.

On October 26, party had named 19 candidates in its third list. The Congress has earlier released two lists for Rajasthan with 33 and 43 candidates respectively on October 21 and 22.

Polling for the 200 member Rajasthan assembly is rescheduled on November 25 and counting of votes will take place on December 3. The Congress is eyeing for a second consecutive term in Rajasthan and has launched several pro-people schemes in the desert state and also announced seven guarantees on Friday.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Tuesday issued notice to the Centre on a plea filed by student activist Umar Khalid challenging the provisions of the stringent Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA).

A bench of Justices Aniruddha Bose and Bela M Trivedi called for response of the Centre and others on the plea instituted by Khalid - who is behind the bars under the anti-terror law in connection with the Delhi riots' 'larger conspiracy' case.

The bench said that it will hear the batch of petitions challenging the constitutionality of the UAPA along with the bail plea filed by Khalid on November 22. Khalid has instituted a special leave petition before apex court against a decision of the Delhi High Court denying him bail last



year. In the previous hearing, the top court had tagged the writ petition filed under Article 32 of the Constitution by the former JNU scholar with other existing petitions challenging UAPA. Khalid has been behind bars for more than three years in con-

nection with the Delhi riots larger conspiracy case. He is facing charges under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act for his alleged involvement in the larger conspiracy for Delhi communal violence that broke out in February 2020.

## Sachin Pilot files nomination from Tonk with a show of strength

Jaipur | Agencies

Former Rajasthan Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot filed his nomination for the forthcoming Assembly elections in Tonk on Tuesday.

Before filing the nomination papers Pilot told the media, "I have been asked to forgive everyone and move ahead, I am moving ahead on this line. We have no differences of opinions, no differences, and no factions."

In a major show of strength Pilot arrived with thousands of workers to file his nominations for the elections.

He offered prayers at the Bhuteshwar Mahadev temple before kicking off the rally at around 11:30 am from the Sawai Madhopur intersection in Tonk.

Thousands of workers including MLA Dr. Raghu Sharma, Prashant Bairwa, Rakesh Pareek, Khiladi Lal Bairwa, Tonk in-charge Anil Chopra were present in Pilot's nomination rally.

Welcome gates were made at various places in the market for the rally. Sharma sprung a surprise by remaining present in the rally as he comes from the Ashok Gehlot camp.

Pilot spoke to the media before filing his



nomination and answered questions regarding the Congress' choice for the Chief Minister's post after winning the elections. Pilot said, "The Congress never announces all this in advance. After getting the majority, the party high command decides who will lead. The party stands with every candidate."

He added that there was no groupism in the party and "there is only one group of Sonia Gandhi, Kharge and Rahul Gandhi."

## Make prenuptial agreements mandatory to prevent marital legal battles: Delhi court

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Delhi family court judge has said that prenuptial agreements should be made mandatory before entering into marriage to reduce law-induced mental cruelty.

The judge, Harish Kumar, made this observation while granting divorce on a no-fault basis to a couple who had been embroiled in legal disputes for seven years.

He stressed on the need for mandatory prenuptial agreements, which would be executed before an appointed authority after counselling the parties about the potential risks of a marriage breaking down for various reasons.

Breaches of these agreements should be reported promptly, and if not reported, the party at fault would not be heard later, he said.

The court granted divorce without determining which party was at fault for the marital breakdown.



Instead, the judge inferred that both spouses desired the divorce since

they had levelled allegations against each other while seeking the

divorce.

The judge recognised that matrimonial cases have seen a significant increase, with many not involving actual cruelty. Yet, if one party chooses to end the marriage for any reason, they must approach the court and make allegations against the other, which often leads to counter-allegations, it said, stressing that forcing parties to continue such marriages, even if one party cannot prove the fault of the other, would constitute law-induced mental cruelty. Regarding custody of the child, the court named both parents as legal guardians for academic, and extracurricular purposes and directed the mother to add the father's name to the daughter's school records. The court also granted the father regular access to the child, both daily and on weekends. On the matter of maintenance, the court ordered both parents to share 50 per cent of the daughter's reasonable expenses.

# Sonia condemns India abstaining from voting for ceasefire in Gaza

Team Absolute | New Delhi

In her editorial piece published in a leading daily on Monday,

Congress Parliamentary Party (CPP) chairperson Sonia Gandhi condemned India abstaining from voting in the UN for a ceasefire in Gaza, saying the grand old party's stand on the issue of Israel and Palestine has been consistent over the years.

The Congress shared the editorial on its official X platform.

"Contrary to some mischievous suggestions, the position of the Indian National Congress has been long-standing and principles: it is to support direct negotiations for a sovereign independent, viable and

secure state of Palestine coexisting in peace with Israel.

"This is also the stand taken by the Ministry of External Affairs on October 12, 2023. It is noteworthy that the reiteration of India's historic position on Palestine came only after Israel began its assault on Gaza. The Prime Minister had made no mention of Palestinian rights in the initial statement expressing complete solidarity with Israel," Sonia Gandhi wrote.

"The Indian National Congress is strongly opposed to India's abstention on the recent United Nations General Assembly Resolution calling for an 'immediate, durable and sustained humanitarian truce leading to



a cessation of hostilities' between Israeli forces and Hamas in Gaza," she wrote in the piece titled 'A war where humanity is on trial now'.

On both Israel and Palestine sides, many want dialogue and consider it to be the only way forward, she wrote, calling it unfortunate that many influential countries are being wholly partisan. "It is unfortunate that many influential countries are being wholly partisan when they should be trying utmost to end the war. The loudest and most powerful voices should be for a cessation of military activity. Otherwise, this cycle will continue and make it difficult for anyone in the region to live in peace for a long time to come," she wrote.

## WhatsApp rolling out message reaction filtering feature for channels

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Meta-owned WhatsApp is reportedly rolling out a message reaction filtering feature for channels on iOS, making it easier for administrators to see which of their contacts have reacted to channel updates.

According to WABetaInfo, this feature will help channel owners promptly identify which of their contacts have reacted to their channel content using an emoji, simplifying their understanding of which updates are most popular. This feature might enhance interaction and feedback for channel administrators when sharing a new update.



It can also be considered a valuable tool to help them understand which updates grab the attention of their contacts, the report said.

The message reaction filtering feature for channels is available to some beta testers who install the latest version of WhatsApp beta for iOS, according to the report.

Meanwhile, WhatsApp is reportedly testing a new

"quick action bar" feature on its Business app for Android, which will let users "quickly perform different actions".

A new icon may now appear above the microphone button, allowing the app to display a new quick action bar above the chat bar, allowing users to perform various actions quickly and easily. With this feature, users can promptly create orders, access their quick replies, and easily send products from their catalogue.

This update aims to improve and simplify the process of interacting with customers, ensuring that these key features are always visible, saving the business time and effort when interacting with the app.

## Cyber-security researcher claims data leak of 81.5 cr Indians 'fake'

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Cyber security researcher on Tuesday claimed that the data leak of 81.5 crore Indian citizens, containing crucial information such as Aadhaar card and passport details, along with names, phone numbers, and addresses, seemed "fake".

Independent cyber security researcher Rajshankar Rajaharia posted on X, saying, "Aadhaar data is safe. Data leak of 81.5 crore Indians Aadhaar card seems fake. It seems the leaked data belongs to the mobile operators, and the source might be some third party".

According to him, there might be data of a few lakh people compromised, and no evidence shows that the data of 81.5 crore people leaked.

"The hacker 'pwn0001' reputation is also negative on the dark web, who claimed to leak this data and one other hacker group 'Lucius' who posted similar data a few days back, was also blacklisted on the dark web," Rajaharia mentioned.



The data breach was noticed by the US-based cybersecurity and intelligence firm Resecurity, mentioning that the threat actor 'pwn0001' on October 9, posted a thread on Breach Forums brokering access to 815 million 'Indian Citizen Aadhaar and Passport' records. The analysts managed to connect with the threat actor and learned they were willing to sell the entire Aadhaar and Indian passport dataset for \$80,000 (over Rs 66 lakh). However, the threat actor declined to specify how they obtained the data. Last month, cybersecurity researchers found that the official website of the Ministry of AYUSH in Jharkhand had been breached, exposing over 3.2 lakh patient records on the dark web.

## Krishna Janmabhoomi-Shahi Eidgah dispute: 16 civil suits were transferred to the High Court, SC told

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A total of 16 civil suits have been transferred to the Allahabad High Court by the Mathura District Judge in respect of the Krishna Janmabhoomi-Shahi Eidgah dispute, the Supreme Court was told.

In an affidavit, the Registrar General of the Allahabad High Court said that these cases were assigned to Justice Mayank Kumar Jain by the Chief Justice of the High Court and will be taken up for hearing on November 7.

"Two more original suits ... were received, vide letter dated 26.08.2023 of the District Judge, Mathura, and the same was placed before the Hon'ble Chief Justice on 26.10.2023 and it has been directed to be placed before the Bench concerned," it added.

Further, the Registrar tendered an unconditional apology for inconvenience caused to the apex court and



said that he will "ensure to remain more vigilant in future, in every matter".

On October 3, the Supreme Court had sent a firm reminder to the Registrar to send the required information and documents pertaining to the Krishna Janmabhoomi-Shahi Eidgah Mosque dispute. It had asked the Registrar concerned to remain personally present on the next date of

listing. The Allahabad High Court in May had transferred to itself a clutch of petitions seeking various reliefs with respect to the dispute.

The Hindu devotees in their transfer petition had said that the Krishna Janmabhoomi case in Mathura holds national importance and should be heard in the high court. The mosque management com-

mittee has appealed the decision of the HC to transfer the suits to itself saying that it deprives the appellate jurisdiction of the parties and all the parties do not have the wherewithal to travel to the High Court.

The Supreme Court will take up the matter for hearing on November 10.

In an earlier hearing, the top court had opined that it will be a better alternative if the case is tried by the high court itself to avoid delay and multiplicity of proceedings. It had called information from the Registrar General of all pending suits ordered to be clubbed and transferred by the high court to itself.

Multiple suits had been filed in the Krishna Janmabhoomi-Shahi Eidgah dispute in different courts of Mathura, with a common claim that the Eidgah complex was built on the land believed to be the birthplace of Lord Krishna and where a temple had existed.

## DGCA amends regulations for single engine turboprop aeroplanes to fly at night

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The aviation watchdog, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has amended its regulations to include a provision for Scheduled Commuter Airlines to fly at night on Single Engine Turbine (SET) aeroplanes.

This gives access to enhanced connectivity to remote parts of the country in a phased manner on approved routes.

These operations introduced in the year 2018 for Scheduled Commuter Airlines were until now restricted to day operations and Visual Flight Rules (VFR).

"The Operations Circular has also been amended to incorporate the guidance material and detailed guidelines in order to modify the assessment of routes, their continued assessment, qualification, experience, training and assessment requirements of the crew; operational, certification and airworthiness requirements to ensure that safe operations are carried



out on single engine aeroplanes," said a senior DGCA official.

The official said that the grant of such approval would be based on the assessment of Operators meeting these requirements.

"These requirements have been incorporated based on the report submitted by an expert committee constituted by the DGCA. The expert committee reviewed International regulations and global best practices for such SET scheduled commuter operations at night, world-wide safety data, India safety data and operational experience gained over a period of time," said the official.

The committee also carried out safety risk assessment and practical flight trials with the industry to identify deficiencies/hazards and incorporate safety enhancement measures.



# Maharashtra declares 'drought' in 40 talukas with scanty rainfall

Team Absolute | Mumbai

After the opposition clamour in the past few weeks, the Maharashtra government on Tuesday decided to declare a drought in 40 talukas which recorded low rains in the first phase of the Kharif season.

With this, the Centre will be requested to provide urgent help in the drought situation in those 40 talukas, as per a decision of the state cabinet presided over by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde.

The CM and Deputy CM Devendra Fadnis also directed that a cabinet sub-committee headed by the Relief & Rehabilitation Minister should take the decision on priority to declare a 'drought-like' situation in the other talukas in the state with scanty rain and to provide the appropriate relief measures there.

The Relief & Rehabilitation Department also



informed the status of the drought declaration in the review of the crop water situation taking into account the provisions of the Drought Management Code, 2016.

A delegation of the opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi had called on Governor Ramesh Bais on

Monday and submitted a memorandum listing various issues including the drought-like situation confronting large parts of the state that had led to distress in farmlands.

This year, the state had a rainfall shortage of 13.4 percent of the total annual average and now the Rabi season sowing has gradually begun, with around 12 percent of the work completed so far, according to the Agriculture Department.

In another important decision, the state will now provide assistance to victims of natural calamities to the extent of three hectares, up from the existing two hectares under the State Disaster Response Fund criteria. This year, between June-Oct. 2023, several natural calamities in the form of heavy rains and floods caused huge agricultural losses and assistance was provided up to two hectares, which has now been hiked to three hectares, proving a relief to the farmers.

# For 3rd day Marathas' pro-quota protests, arson & roadblocks rock Maha

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maratha groups continued their protests for the third day across several districts in the state to press for reservation for the community here on Tuesday. Alarmed by the spread of agitation, Chief Minister Eknath Shinde has convened an all-party meeting in Mumbai on Wednesday to discuss and resolve the issue. Maratha legislators from all political parties staged a protest near the Gandhi statue outside Mantralaya in Nariman Point and are likely to meet Governor Ramesh Bais later demanding a special legislative session to finalise the community quotas. The great grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, Tushar A. Gandhi said that the Centre had very successfully engineered violence in New Delhi to scuttle the anti-CAA-NRC protests that had become a big embarrassment for the government. "Now the same modus operandi has been employed in Maharashtra to defame and derail the Maratha reservation agitation," said Tushar Gandhi sharply. Another incident of arson on a government office was reported from Jalna where a village panchayat office was torched by some unknown persons raising pro-quota slogans. Scores of Maratha activists lay down on the railway tracks in Solapur and blocked the passage of at



least one long-distance train even as police attempted to clear the railway lines. A local office of the Bharatiya Janata Party was set ablaze at Naiknagar in Hingoli district, while a large number of Maratha activists got down in a stream in Pune for a 'jal-samadhi' protest. Public bus services remained shut for the second day in parts of Parbhani district and in Malkapur, Buldhana district, protestors smeared black paint on posters of the CM on a vehicle. Scores of Marathas launched relay hunger strikes at Chunabhatti in Mumbai and Mungse village in Nashik district demanding immediate announcement of quotas. Schools and colleges remained shut on Tuesday in Shevgaon, Ahmednagar district and students participated in the protests. In Pune, protestors blocked the Pune-Bengaluru Highway by throwing burning truck tyres on the Navale Bridge and squatting on the road, raising anti-government slogans, as 10-km long traffic snarls developed on both sides of the important thor-

oughfare. A large number of activists took out a symbolic 'funeral' procession of the state government in Tembhurni, Solapur district, while half a dozen services of the Nagpur-Pune sleeper bus services were suspended for the day. In Beed, which was rocked by large-scale arson and violence on Monday, a Nationalist Congress Party (SP) activist Yogesh Kshirsagar alleged that the torching of his MLA brother Sandeep R. Kshirsagar was "a pre-planned conspiracy". "Before setting our house on fire, someone had snapped off the power supply here, the miscreants who indulged in stone-pelting were carrying bottles filled with petrol, and the police proved totally incapable of stopping them," claimed Yogesh Kshirsagar. The Shivba Sanghatana President Manoj Jarange-Patil, whose indefinite hunger strike entered the seventh day on Tuesday, again appealed to his supporters in the state to refrain from any violence and carry out a peaceful agitation.

# Kangana blasts rapper Shubh for celebrating 'cowardly killing' of Indira Gandhi

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood actress Kangana Ranaut, who plays the titular role in the recently released movie 'Tejas', has come down heavily on the Punjabi-Canadian rapper Shubhneet Singh, known by his stage name Shubh.

Shubh has again found himself surrounded in a fresh controversy after the alleged 'distorted map of India' controversy. This time, the rapper while performing on stage in one of his shows was handed over a hoodie by a fan among the audience.

Shubh looked at the hoodie before flaunting it to the live audience. It's being alleged that the hoodie has the graphic print of the events of India's former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's assassination by her bodyguards, Satwant Singh and Beant Singh.



An Internet user shared a low quality video of the event where Shubh was flaunting the hoodie. The user wrote in the caption: "Khalistani singer Shubh glorified Indira Gandhi's killers in London by wearing hoodie with pic and date of her assassination on the map of Punjab. Earlier, when he posted distorted

map of Bharat, Congress and the leftist ecosystem defended him tooth and nail (sic)".

Retweeting the video, Kangana blasted Shubh as she wrote, "Celebrating the cowardly killing of an old woman by those who she appointed as her saviours. When you are trusted to protect but you take

advantage of the trust and faith and use the same weapons to kill the ones were suppose to protect then it's a shameful act of cowardice not of bravery (sic)".

"One must be ashamed of such a cowardly attack on an elderly lady who was disarmed and unaware, a lady who was the chosen leader of a democracy, nothing to glorify here Shubham ji. Shame," she added.

Shubh has been at the centre of controversies for a couple of months now. It all began when Canada accused India of killing Khalistani leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar in the Canadian province of British Columbia which led to escalated diplomatic tensions between the two nations. Amid the row, Shubh was accused of supporting Khalistani separatists as he allegedly shared a distorted map of India on his social media handle.

# AEML to supply power to Mumbai SEEPZ at low prices today

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Adani Electricity Mumbai Ltd (AEML) has won a bid to supply power at competitive prices to the SEZ, Santacruz Electronic Export Processing Zone (SEEPZ) in Mumbai, starting November 1, officials said here on Tuesday.

With this, around 500 big and small companies in SEEPZ, which require around 40-45 MW power daily, shall get slashed tariffs from Adani Electricity, proving to be a boost to the trade and industry centred here. The move culminates several years of efforts on the part of SEEPZ, with AEML joining as a co-developer in the AEML SEEPZ Ltd (ASL) as a dedicated utility for the SEZ in Andheri East, which is among India's oldest, and currently in its 50th year of operations. SEEPZ-SEZ Zonal Development Commissioner Rajesh Kumar Mishra and Joint



Development Commissioner C.P.S. Chauhan said that after tireless efforts of more than two-three years, the ASL has come into being and will provide power with reduced tariffs of 25-30 percent to the industries here. "Reduced electricity cost will be a great boost to the Trade and Industry, while manufacturing or providing services to the international

markets at competitive rates. This will be helpful to the business and, in turn, helpful in boosting the economy of our country," said Mishra. SEEPZ Gems & Jewellery Manufacturers' Association Vice-President, Premkumar L. Kothari, termed it is an example of the public-private cooperation essential to foster economic development, which would have a transformative impact on their members to reduce power costs and become more competitive in global markets. Besides, the ASL will make focused investment in the electricity distribution network within the SEZ to improve reliability and efficiency, and ensure topnotch customer services and seamless experiences for SEEPZ businesses. Spread over 110 acres, the central entity SEEPZ has a variety of export oriented units, but the gems and jewellery units here account for the lion's share of over 40 per cent of the country's total exports.

Team Absolute | Jalna

Striking Shivba Sanghatana leader Manoj Jarange-Patil on Tuesday demanded a special session of Maharashtra Legislature to finalise the Maratha quotas, a day after the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) made a similar plea to Governor Ramesh Bais. He made the demand after having a 30-minute telecon with Chief Minister Eknath Shinde this morning where he made it clear that the Marathas would not accept partial or half-hearted reservations. On the 7th day of his indefinite hunger strike, Jarange-Patil said that the Marathas will not back out now as the government-appointed retired Justice Sandeep



Shinde Committee has ample evidence, and said Kunbi Caste certificates must be given immediately to those who want it, as indicated by the CM on Monday. "The government must convene a special session of the legislature, accept the Committee's report and clear the quotas for us... I appeal to all MPs, MLAs not to leave

Mumbai till the reservation issue is resolved," said Jarange-Patil. Referring to the resignations of at least two MPs and two MLAs in support of the Marathas, Jarange-Patil said that the Marathas are grateful and the society will "never forget their sacrifice" to the community's cause. Jarange-Patil added that "no matter how many excuses are made, we will not listen till the reservations are given to the entire community", and again appealed to the community to carry on the agitation in an absolutely peaceful manner. Meanwhile, Deputy CM Devendra Fadnis met the Governor on the quotas issue, a day after Shinde had gone to meet and brief him (Governor).

# Bombay HC takes suo motu cognisance of "deteriorating" AQI in Mumbai, seeks response from authorities



Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Bombay High Court on Tuesday expressed concern over the "deteriorating" air quality index (AQI) in Mumbai while taking suo motu (on its own) cognisance of the issue.

A division bench of Chief Justice D K Upadhyaya and Justice Arif Doctor sought a response from the Central and Maharashtra governments, Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) and Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) on the matter.

The court was hearing a public interest litigation (PIL) filed by three city residents raising the issue of poor air quality in Mumbai. "The air quality index in the city every day is deteriorating like anything...everywhere... not a single area in Mumbai the air quality is better," Chief Justice Upadhyaya said. The court said it wants all the concerned authorities to inform what measures they have taken and what steps they are supposed to have taken under the existing laws. The court posted the matter for hearing on November 6.

The petitioners, Amar Baban Tike, Anand Jha, and Sanjay Surve, in their PIL had sought directions to the government and civic authority to curb pollution in the city and to take immediate steps to enhance green cover by undertaking a plantation drive of fast-growing trees and plants in public spaces in the city. The high level of air pollution is being caused by the reckless construction activity and lack of sufficient green cover in Mumbai and it was adversely affecting residents, especially children, the plea stated.

# Air India to start non-stop flights between Mumbai and Melbourne from Dec 15

Team Absolute | New Delhi/Mumbai

Tata-owned Air India on Tuesday said that it will operate thrice a week between Mumbai and Melbourne starting December 15, becoming the only non-stop operator between Mumbai and Australia currently. According to the airline, the new Mumbai-Melbourne services will add nearly 40,000 seats per year into the Australian state of Victoria, where the Indian community is estimated at over 200,000, constituting about 40 per cent of the total Indian diaspora in Australia. "We look forward to launching the only non-stop flight between Mumbai and Melbourne. This is a great



step forward in our ongoing transformation programme, which among other aspects aims at connecting India to more of the world with non-stop flights. We are excited to showcase the positively changing Air India flying experience to travellers on

this route, of which great Indian hospitality will remain a cornerstone," said Nipun Aggarwal, Chief Commercial & Transformation Officer, Air India. "We're very excited that the first direct flight from Mumbai to Australia will land in Melbourne. This new route will boost tourism, create local jobs and open more pathways for Victorian businesses to reach one of the world's fastest growing economies," said Natalie Hutchins, Minister for Jobs and Industry, Victoria State Government, Australia. The airline spokesperson said that the passengers from 17 Indian cities can take convenient, one-stop connections to and from Melbourne via Delhi or Mumbai.

# Maha on security 'alert', CM talks to fasting Maratha leader

Team Absolute | Mumbai

After violence and arson gripped certain districts, the Maharashtra Police went on 'alert' mode across the state, while Chief Minister Eknath Shinde spoke with Shivba Sanghatana leader Manoj Jarange-Patil whose indefinite hunger strike for Maratha reservations entered the seventh day on Tuesday. In the wake of targeting of several elected leaders and politicians, the state police have also beefed up security outside the homes and offices of MLAs, MPs, Ministers, etc., as a precaution, and the offices of government departments and political parties in some locations in Mumbai, Thane, Nagpur, Pune and other parts of the state. The epicentre of violence, Beed



district remained tense for the third day after it witnessed widespread stone-pelting, arson, torching of vehicles of the Majalgaon Nagar Parishad, NCP (SP) MLA Sandeep R.

Kshirsagar, NCP (AP) MLA Prakash Solanke, a Shiv Sena (UBT) leader's office was also burnt down in Beed, while BJP MLA Prashant Bamb's office was torched in Chhatrapati

Sambhajnagar. Taking serious cognisance of the violence, the Beed and Osmanabad collectorates late on Monday slapped prohibitory orders banning assembly of five or more persons in the districts for an indefinite period, and on Tuesday Internet services were suspended in Beed for 24 hours. Beed bore the brunt of the violence with more than a 100 buses, government and private vehicles badly damaged or burnt down, though there have been no casualties of any kind. During their telecon, the CM is understood to have apprised Jarange-Patil on the government's decision of Monday, the preliminary report of the caste panel of retired Justice Sandeep Shinde, and also appealed afresh to the Maratha leader to take care of his health and take medication/water.



## EDITOR'S SPECS

## BRS GOES INTO OVERDRIVE TO LURE DISGRUNTLED CONGRESS LEADERS

After losing some leaders to the Congress party in the last few weeks, the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) is hitting back by luring disgruntled leaders from the opposition to its camp. With the distribution of tickets by the Congress to turncoats angering senior and loyal leaders, the ruling party is taking advantage of the situation. Whenever any key leader resigns from Congress, the BRS leadership loses no time in reaching out to them and inviting them to join the ruling party. This strategy is paying the BRS dividends with the followers of these leaders also switching loyalties in their respective constituencies. This is expected to bolster the BRS position ahead of the November 30 election. BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao and senior leader T. Harish Rao are personally leading this effort to lure disgruntled Congress leaders to their camps. They are then inviting the leaders to meet BRS president and Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao. After succeeding in winning back the support of those who had left TRS (now BRS) during the Telangana movement, both the top leaders personally visited the houses of the Congress leaders soon after they resigned from the party. As BRS has already announced candidates for almost all 119 constituencies, the party is assuring these leaders that they will be accommodated in suitable positions in future. On October 29 when former Minister Nagam Janardhan Reddy resigned from Congress over denial of ticket from Nagarkurnool constituency, KTR and Harish immediately rushed to his house and invited him to join BRS. Nagam, a six-time MLA, was enraged after Congress fielded K. Rajesh Reddy, son of BRS MLC K. Damodar Reddy. Rajesh had joined Congress party recently. The BRS also succeeded in luring Muslim leader Shaik Abdullah Sohail and some other prominent leaders to join the party after he quit Congress.

# 2023 Assembly polls will be first test of Cong's caste census pitch

Anand Singh

Even as the Congress is all geared up for the poll battle in the five states of Mizoram, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, the grand old party's plank of "social justice" for the 2024 election will face its first test here.

On October 9, the four-hour meeting of the Congress Working Committee (CWC), the party's highest decision-making body, held at the party headquarters announced that it was unanimous in making "social justice" the main plank for the 2024 election.

The CWC made three announcements to this effect, which included that a government led by the Congress would conduct a caste census to find the number of other backward classes (OBCs), remove the cap of 50 per cent reservation for OBCs, Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) through an Act of Parliament, and finally, offer 33 per cent quota to women lawmakers, including a separate quota for OBC women, at the earliest.

Even former party chief Rahul Gandhi argued that the "rights of a community should be proportional to its population in society".

However, the party leaders feel that the caste census is required to find the number of other backward classes (OBCs), remove the cap of 50 per cent reservation for OBCs, SCs and STs through an Act of Parliament for ensuring justice for the people and to give them their rights.

According to party leaders, in Telangana there are over 52 per cent voters from the OBC community. "In Telangana, Congress is attached with the people through former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and former party chief Sonia Gandhi, who gave it statehood in 2014. However, with no government at the Centre and in the state the party needs to connect with the OBCs and the SC and ST communities to defeat the BRS and the BJP," a leader wishing not to be named said.

The party leader said that the Congress did not have big faces in the state as in the last 10 years, several senior leaders could not ensure the party's victory in the state in last two elections. Thus the promises of the caste census, OBC, SC and ST reservation and the six guarantees by the party are the main big poll plank, he added.

However, the situation is a bit different in Rajasthan, where the Congress is hoping on its seven guarantees.

In Madhya Pradesh, where the Congress gov-



ernment was toppled in 2020 just 14 months after it came to power, the party has fielded 62 out of 230 candidates from the OBC community.

The party leaders feel that the Congress guarantees and the OBC representation are a major hit among the public, thus it is hoping to make a comeback in the state polls.

Similarly in Chhattisgarh, which is a tribal dominated state, the grand old party is hoping to return to power on the work of the Bhupesh Baghel government in the last five years.

A party leader here said that the Congress is hoping to ride its welfare "guarantees" and caste census promise to ensure that it enters the "finals" in 2024 as a formidable challenger to the BJP by winning in all the five states.

The party had won the Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh assembly elections in 2018, however, it was unable to bank on the nar-

rative in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls.

Thus, through the caste census promise it wants to enter the 2024 finals not as a minnow, the party leader added.

In the 2023 assembly polls, the Congress is looking to retain power in Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh while seeking to come to power in the other three states going to the polls -- Madhya Pradesh, Telangana and Mizoram.

Meanwhile, another party leader said that traditionally the "forward castes" have been supporting the BJP and thus the grand old party needs to expand its base among the OBCs, SCs, STs and minorities.

Congress leader Supriya Shrinete had earlier told IANS that the Congress is not raising this issue so that it helps it politically.

"I think it's an issue that should be raised. It's a vast majority of our

people - almost over 50 per cent who are not represented fairly. When Rahul ji speaks about 90 secretaries in the government with only three being OBC, it should concern us all. We should question that why only 4% Professors across central universities are from the OBC community, we must ask why are only nine per cent of faculty in the IITs and 6% in IIMs from the SC, ST, OBC communities?"

"How can we ensure equitable growth when in the last 10 years the literacy rate and purchasing power parity of OBCs has gone down? These are serious questions of representation, and not some political points to be scored," Shrinete said.

The counting of votes in the five states will take place on December 3.

## international

## ISRAEL CONTINUES GAZA OFFENSIVE, HITS HUNDREDS OF HAMAS TARGET

Tel Aviv | Agencies

The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) on Tuesday said that Israeli military attacked "hundreds" of Hamas targets overnight. Israel said it's focusing on northern Gaza but continues to strike all parts of the Strip, IDF spokesperson Rear Adm Daniel Hagari said at a briefing Tuesday, CNN reported.

On Monday, Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had rejected calls for a ceasefire in Gaza, saying "this is a time for war".

Israel has been bombing Gaza since the October 7 Hamas attacks in which 1,400 people were killed and at least 239 people kidnapped as hostages.

More than 8,500 people have been killed since Israel's retaliatory bombing, Hamas-controlled health ministry in Gaza said.

The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) demolished the home of senior Hamas leader Saleem al Arouri in Arura town near Ramallah in West Bank.

However, Al Arouri had escaped from the place, the IDF said in a statement on Tuesday.

Al Arouri is based out of Lebanon and is the deputy political head of the group and is considered the leader of the military unit of Hamas in West Bank.

The IDF has displayed a banner hung on the rubble of the building which states, Hamas - IS in Arabic



along with flags of Hamas and IS.

Al-Arouri, according to IDF has been highly vocal since the war started and has been giving interviews that Hamas has not killed civilians even though there is enough proof on the brutality carried out by the organisation on October 7, targeting among others old people, children and women who were unarmed.

Israel intelligence believes that Al-Arouri was responsible for the kidnapping and murder of Gil Aad Shar, Eyal Yifrah and Naftali Fraenkel - all in their

teens. The IDF said that he is the most connected leaders of Hamas with the Iranian leadership and with Hezbollah in Lebanon.

### Over 400 kms tunnels underneath Gaza: Iranian Army Chief

Chief of Staff of Iranian Army Major General Mohammad Bagheri on Tuesday claimed that there are over 400 kilometers (248 miles) of tunnels underneath the northern section of the Gaza Strip, media reports said.

"Vehicles and motorcycles can pass through some of them," Major General Mohammad Bagheri said during a conference on civil defense in Tehran, according to the Iranian Tasnim News Agency.

He said that some of the tunnels have entrance inside Israel as well, Times of Israel reported.

Israel has touted the underground sensors of the Gaza barrier, officially completed in 2021, as having the ability to detect digging under the border, though the fence aboveground flaws were exposed on October 7.

During Israel's war with Gaza in 2014, the armed groups cross-border tunnels to stage a number of small-scale attacks.

## US 'responsible' for Middle East crisis, global instability: Putin

Moscow | Agencies

Russian President Vladimir Putin has said the US and its allies are behind the Middle East crisis and other regional conflicts, and benefit most from global instability.

"Those, who are behind the conflict in the Middle East and other regional crises will exploit their devastating consequences to sow hatred, and sow dissent among people worldwide," said the Russian leader at a meeting with top security and law enforcement officials on Monday. It is important to understand who is behind the Middle East conflict and who is responsible for organising and benefiting from "deadly chaos" in different regions, Putin said, Xinhua news agency reported.

"It is the current US ruling elites and their satellites that are the main beneficiaries of global instability," he said.

Putin said that attempts have been made to use the dramatic situation in the Middle East and other regional conflicts against Russia, with



the aim of destabilising the country and splitting its diverse and multi-religious society.

The US is becoming weaker and losing its status as the world's sole superpower and hegemon. This world order is slowly becoming a thing of the past, said Putin. Washington wants to maintain and extend its dominance and global leadership, he said, adding that this is more convenient in times of global instability when it is easier to restrain competitors and geopolitical opponents.

## Robbers break-in at Hindu temple in California; donation box stolen

New York | Agencies

Two suspects broke into a Hindu temple in California's Sacramento city and stole its donation box, police said.

Officers from the Sacramento Police Department reached Hari Om Radha Krishna Mandir in La Mancha Way at about 2:15 am after receiving reports of a burglary early on Monday morning.

Surveillance videos captured two thieves racing to the altar and going right through to the donation box, the CBS News reported.

The footage showed them taking the box, which weighed close to 100 pounds, behind the temple building and shoving it in a getaway car before fleeing off.

Temple keeper Guru Maharaj told CBS News that the box contained thousands of dollars.

"Looks like whoever has done it, it was premeditated," Maharaj told the channel.

"The first thing I saw was the curtains blowing and I said, 'Oh, my God. Somebody is in the building,'" Maharaj's wife



said, adding that they tried to break-in via the front, back and side doors.

"It's a very big hit to our community and we're here to help people out," Maharaj said.

"We have this land here. We are about to build 40 rooms of a homeless center so we can help people out, and if these things happen - if they continue to happen - how can we help other people?"

No arrests have been made so far and investigators are asking people who may recognise the suspects or have infor-

mation related to the theft to call the Sacramento Police Department.

Condemning the incident in a message posted on X, US-based advocacy organisation Coalition of Hindus of North America (CoHNA) asked the Sacramento Police "to take this issue very seriously and investigate it as a potential hate crime and the violation of a sacred space".

Earlier this year in January, burglars targeted Shri Omkarnath Temple at Brazos Valley in Texas and stole its donation box.

## Ex-assistant of Bill Gates now world's 5th-richest person, close to overtaking him

San Francisco | Agencies

Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates' ex-assistant Steve Ballmer is now ranked as the world's fifth-richest person on the Bloomberg Billionaires Index and close to surpassing his former boss in wealth.

Ballmer's fortune has increased by an estimated \$29 billion this year to about \$115 billion, trailing Gates -- who is in fourth position with \$121 billion -- by only \$6 billion, compared to \$17 billion three months ago, reports Insider.

As per the index, Ballmer is currently wealthier than CTO of Oracle Larry Ellison (\$114 billion), ace investor Warren Buffett (\$111 billion), Google's co-founder Larry Page (\$110 billion), founder and CEO of Meta Mark Zuckerberg (\$108 billion), and Google's co-founder Sergey Brin (\$105 billion).

Ballmer joined Microsoft in 1980 as Microsoft co-founder's assistant, however, he was more of a business manager than a personal assistant. According to a report by Forbes, he initially negotiated a \$50,000 base pay plus 10 per cent of profit growth, but when his portion of earnings became too large, he decided to swap it for a sizable equity position.

The recent increase in Ballmer's fortune can be linked to the advancement of Artificial Intelligence, which has caused Microsoft's share prices to skyrocket.

The company's investment in OpenAI, the maker of AI chatbot ChatGPT, has raised hopes for the company's ability to fight Alphabet, Google's owner, for dominance in internet search.

As a result, Microsoft stock has risen 38 per cent in the last ten months.



### Policeman among 5 killed in Balochistan attack

Islamabad | Agencies

Five people -- four labourers and a policeman -- were killed in an attack on a police station in Pakistan's Balochistan province early on Tuesday, local media reported. Around 20 miscreants attacked Naseerabad Police Station, Kech District Police Officer (DPO) Muhammad Baloch was quoted as saying by Dawn. The slain policeman was deployed at the security of the labourers, and the attackers entered the compound after shooting him dead. It is the second incident of target killing of labourers in the district this month. Earlier on October 14, six labourers were killed and another was injured in firing by unknown assailants inside a compound in Turbat. Balochistan Caretaker Chief Minister Ali Mardan Domki condemned the attack and directed police to bring the culprits to books.



## SHIVRAJ CHOUHAN'S "JAI-VEERU" TWIST IN DIG AT KAMAL NATH, DIGVIJAYA SINGH

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan took a swipe at Congress leaders Digvijaya Singh and Kamal Nath, referring to them as 'Jai' and 'Veeru' from the iconic film "Sholay" and alleged they were fighting between themselves over the distribution of plundered booty.

His criticism came days after Congress general secretary Randeep Surjewala equated Kamal Nath, who is the party's Madhya Pradesh president, and Digvijaya Singh, its Rajya Sabha member, with 'Jai' and 'Veeru' - characters played by actors Amitabh Bachchan and Dharmendra in the 1975 classic. Sources in the Congress said Digvijaya Singh and Kamal Nath are in Delhi on Tuesday to meet the party leadership.

Reacting to the Congress leaders' Delhi visit, Shivraj



Chouhan, in a video statement on X, said, "Jai-Veeru were called to Delhi. As newspapers reported, they are saying that the BJP is creating confusion (about differences between the two leaders). Why has Delhi called them?"

"Jai and Veeru are fighting between themselves over the 'loot ka maal' (plundered booty)," he alleged.

"Even before 2003, Mr Bantadhar (as the BJP calls Digvijaya Singh) looted and destroyed the entire state.

Even during the 15-month rule, Kamal Nath ji turned Madhya Pradesh into a centre for plunder. Now the dispute is only about who will be the next to loot and how and who will get what type of share in it. Delhi is also involved in this," he alleged.

Earlier, Randeep Surjewala said the relationship between Singh and Nath was the same as it was between Dharmendra's "Veeru" and Amitabh Bachchan's "Jai" in "Sholay".

"... Neither Gabbar Singh

(the film's lead villain) could get them into a fight (in the movie) nor will the BJP's Gabbar Singh be able to get it done here," Surjewala said in Bhopal on Saturday speaking about the alleged conflict over Congress's ticket-distribution in the state.

Earlier this month, a video of Kamal Nath surfaced in which he purportedly asked his party men to "tear" the clothes of Mr Singh over the denial of a ticket to a leader from Shivpuri. This fuelled talks of a rift in the party over the selection of candidates.

However, the former Chief Ministers sought to make light of the episode and put up a united front. The BJP on Friday again alleged that Digvijaya Singh has distanced himself from the campaigning following the "dispute" over ticket distribution.

Elections to the 230-member Madhya Pradesh assembly will be held on November 17.

## 3 KILLED, 10 INJURED IN BLAST AT FIRECRACKER UNIT IN DAMOH

Team Absolute | Damoh

(Madhya Pradesh)

Three persons were killed and 10 others sustained injuries after an explosion occurred at an illegal firecrackers manufacturing unit in Madhya Pradesh's Damoh district on Tuesday, an official said.

The illegal firecrackers manufacturing unit was situated in a residential area near Purana Pool locality in the city. On getting information about the incident, the police rushed to the spot and began the rescue operation.



Superintendent of Police (SP, Damoh) Sunil Tiwari told media, "A factory was being operated illegally here in

Purana pul area in which firecrackers were being manufactured. On Tuesday, a blast occurred here as a result of

which the roof of the building collapsed and some people were buried in its debris. Three persons have died and 10 others sustained injuries in the incident who were undergoing treatment."

The rescue operation is still going on at the spot. The factory was totally illegal because licences were never given to allow the manufacturing of the firecrackers in the middle of the colonies, he added.

The officer further said that Damoh Collector Mayank Agarwal ordered a magisterial inquiry into the matter and further action would be taken accordingly.

## 3,832 candidates file nominations for Assembly Polls

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A total of 3,832 candidates have filed the nominations for elections to the 230-member Madhya Pradesh assembly to be held on November 17, an official said.

The process of filing the nominations began on October 21 and the deadline ended on Monday, Chief Electoral Officer Anupam Rajan said.

Till Monday, 4,359 nominations filed by 3,832 candidates have been received, he said.

On the last day of filing the nomination papers, 2,489 candidates filed 2,811 nomination forms, the official said.

The scrutiny of forms will be held on Tuesday and the candidates can withdraw their nominations till November 2, he said. Polling for the 230 assembly seats in Madhya Pradesh will be held on November 17 and votes will be counted on December 3.



## Big meeting of Congress leaders in Delhi, Kamal Nath-Digvijay included

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Amid reports of rebellion and differences in Madhya Pradesh, Digvijay and Kamal Nath have reached Delhi on the call of the high command. There is news of meeting Mallikarjun Kharge late night. Today a big meeting is being held in Delhi, in which Mrs. Sonia Gandhi, Kharge, Randeep Surjewala, State Congress President Kamal Nath and former CM Digvijay Singh will attend. Further strategy will be discussed in this.

Monday was the last date for submitting nomination forms for the state assembly elections. After this, former CM Digvijay Singh and PCC Chief Kamal Nath reached Delhi. There both the leaders discussed the election strategy with senior leaders. Both will reach Bhopal from Delhi on Tuesday by a plane. This is being said to be a strategy to show unity amid speculations of differences between the two. Party sources say that after nomination, both



the leaders will discuss the election strategy with senior leaders. Congress is starting a mass contact campaign in the coming days. In this, senior leaders of the party will

come together in different areas. In this, the public will be assured of fulfilling the guarantees of the party's promissory note. We will also count the scams and

corruption of the BJP government. Party leaders say that both the leaders will finalize the upcoming election strategy after discussing with senior leaders.

## Brain tumour surgery in full consciousness done at AIIMS Bhopal

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Awake craniotomy of brain tumor was done at AIIMS Bhopal in the Department of Neurosurgery in male patient from Distt. Buxar in Bihar. The 28 years old male presented with recurrent seizures in Neurosurgery OPD and was admitted for complete evaluation. Functional M.R.I of brain was done in the Radiology Department and discussion was done with Dr. Radha Gupta (Additional Professor) which showed that surface of the tumor was very close to the Motor Area which makes it extremely challenging to operate. Intradepartmental meeting

was held by Prof. Amit Agrawal, Dr. Adesh Shrivastava, Dr. Sumit Raj and Dr. Pradeep Chouksey and it was decided to do an Awake craniotomy to minimize the risk of weakness of extremities. Dr. Sumit Raj carried out the surgery with assistance of Dr. Amol Mittal and Dr. Ranjith. Patient was conscious during the surgery. After Craniotomy, tumor was seen. When the tumor was excised, the same time patient was asked to play a piano. There was a continuous talk with the patient during the procedure. At the end of the procedure patient was moving his limbs and the aim of surgery was achieved. Anesthesia team played an

important role for carrying out the procedure which comprised of Dr. Ashutosh Kaushal and Dr. Anupama.

Prof. (Dr.) Ajai Singh, Executive Director, AIIMS, Bhopal congratulated the team for this rare surgery.

Awake craniotomy is an intracranial surgical procedure where the patient is deliberately awake during the surgery, usually for mapping and resection of the lesion. During the last few years, this procedure has become increasingly popular with wider indications prompted by accumulating evidence that patients receiving awake craniotomy have better outcomes in many aspects. Awake craniotomy is used for

any intra-axial mass lesion residing adjacent to or in eloquent brain based on pre-operative imaging, including motor, and language cortex, and also cortex responsible for other functions, for example, frontal lobe-executive functions. The lesions are primarily gliomas, cortical, and subcortical, both high and low-grade, as the survival rate is related to the extent of resection. The management of awake craniotomy is challenging. Success depends on the coordination between Neurosurgeons, Neuro-anesthesiologist, Neurophysiologist and a cooperative patient. Patient is awake for functional and electrophysiological testing.

## Advertisements published 48 hours before voting will have to be pre-certified

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Electoral Officer Anupam Rajan said that advertisements published 48 hours before voting in the state will have to be pre-certified. For this, instructions have also been issued by the Election Commission of India. The voting process for the Assembly elections 2023 in Madhya Pradesh will be completed in a single phase on November 17.

The Election Commission of India has fixed the time limit for pre-certification of political advertisements published in print media on the date of voting and the day before voting. For pre-certification of advertisements for publication in print media, applicants will have to get pre-certification done by applying to the Media Certification and Monitoring Committee (MCMC) two days before the proposed date of publication of the advertisement on the day of poll and on the day before poll.

## Nomination papers of BJP candidate Surendra Patwa from Bhojpur held; Accusation of hiding information in affidavit

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The nomination papers of BJP candidate Surendra Patwa from Bhojpur, a high profile assembly seat in Raisen district, have been put on hold. On Tuesday, Congress candidate Rajkumar Patel and Sanyam Jain, including Ganesh Malviya, who rebelled against BJP and submitted his nomination, have lodged objections to Patwa's nomination. He has accused Patwa of hiding some information regarding the criminal case in the affidavit.

In a complaint it is written that, The Election Commission of India wants to conduct fair elections. With this intention he has made rules and regulations. Model code of conduct for elections has also been made. But against the intention of the Commission, it has been openly violated in Bhojpur assembly constituency number 141 of Raisen district. This is a violation of the Election Commission of India Rules 1961.

In the affidavit, BJP candidate from Bhojpur assembly constituency number 141, Surendra Patwa, son of Sundar Lal Patwa, has not given details of his income in the format prescribed by the commission.

According to the provisions of the Commission, the annual income of five years, movable and immovable assets had to be shown in the affidavit in the format decided by the Commission. But BJP candidate from Bhojpur assembly constituency number 141, Surendra Patwa, son of Sundar Lal Patwa, did not do so. Information related to income of only one financial year has been given. This is against the commission's rules.

501 criminal case is pending against Surendra Patwa, son of Sundar Lal Patwa. But he did not give information about these cases on factual and case number basis.



The criminal case number mentioned in the affidavit by BJP candidate from Bhojpur assembly constituency no. 141, Surendra Patwa, son of Sundar Lal Patwa, is actually registered against other persons and not the candidate. An example of this is case number 7/22. This case is registered in the name of six Congress leaders. Surendra Patwa, BJP candidate from Bhojpur assembly constituency number 141, is not directly or indirectly related to this case, but it was deliberately told so that the cases registered against him remain hidden and do not come before the commission in any form from a legal point of view. These acts and conduct are also criminal.

## Shah-Bhupendra also failed to convince rebel BJP leaders



Team Absolute | Bhopal

When Union Minister Amit Shah took over the Madhya Pradesh BJP two months ago for the Madhya Pradesh Assembly elections, it seemed that the old leaders and workers who were angry with the BJP power and organization would be convinced and everything would be fine. But nothing like this happened and the internal situation of BJP worsened.

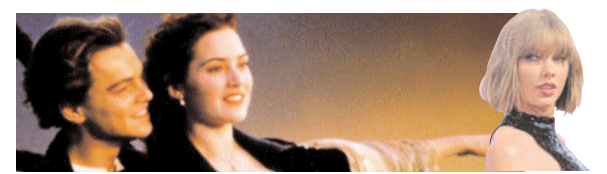
During the ticket distribution for the assembly elections, the manner in which the angry leaders created a ruckus and filed nominations in bulk, showing rebellious attitude, gave sleepless nights to the BJP high command. All the central leaders and officials including Union Minister Amit Shah, BJP

President JP Nadda and Bhupendra Yadav, who came for damage control, are proving unsuccessful in convincing the angry and rebel leaders of the party. According to reports, there is no such district in Malwa-Nimar, Vindhya, Mahakaushal, Bundelkhand and Gwalior-Chambal region, where angry and rebel leaders of the party did not contest against the authorized candidates of BJP in the form of AAP, BSP and independent candidates. You have hit it.

The situation is so bad in some seats that Rebel leaders are now not even ready to talk to stalwarts like Union Ministers Amit Shah, Bhupendra Yadav, Narendra Singh Tomar, Shivraj Singh Chouhan and VD Sharma. In Mahakaushal and Bundelkhand, many leaders,

unhappy with the ticket distribution, have resigned from the responsibilities assigned by the party. He has distanced himself from the election campaign and sat at home. BJP is facing huge embarrassment due to rebel leaders in many seats of Malwa-Nimar. The attitude of the rebels is so sharp that party leaders are struggling to convince them. However, the leaders engaged in persuasion believe that everything will be fine by the time the last date for withdrawal of nominations of the candidates approaches.

According to BJP sources, many of the party leaders who are angry with the ruling organization are also angry because they were hopeful that the party will listen to them after Shah takes charge in Madhya Pradesh. There will be a change in the attitude of the ruling organization. But nothing like this happened. On the contrary, leaders from other parties were imposed on them. Now it is being said that discipline is paramount, BJP and the party should concentrate on making the authorized candidates win. There is also strong resentment among BJP workers that instead of the leaders of Madhya Pradesh who should have talked to the workers and rebels, big leaders from the Center are talking. They are giving the same assurance as they give to the public. After the elections are over, he will leave from here, then with whom will he talk. Therefore, the moralizing efforts being done by the central leaders do not seem to have any impact on the rebels.



# Heidi Klum leaves little to imagine as she poses nude

Los Angeles | Agencies

Supermodel Heidi Klum stripped down to her birthday suit for a new photo before holding a Halloween party. On Saturday (October 29), the 50-year-old TV personality made use of Instagram to release a photo of herself going completely naked. In the picture, she could be seen wearing nothing while strategically placing one of her hands on her chest to cover it. In the picture, the former model was striking a pose when she was lying on a sofa that was covered in light pink fur.

The snap also showed a huge painting, which was placed on a wooden wall, and her skin glowing from the sunlight, reports [aceshowbiz.com](#).

Along with the photo, Heidi wrote, "The Calm before the storm," seemingly describing the massive painting. She went on to tease her party for the upcoming Halloween.

"3 days to #heidihalloween2023. My Motto this Halloween GO BIG OR GO HOME," she penned, and added a partying face emoji.

The new post came a few days after she talked about her costume for the spooky holiday.



# MATTHEW PERRY'S ASSISTANT FOUND HIM UNDERWATER IN HOT TUB



Los Angeles | Agencies

Actor Matthew Perry was found underwater but was "repositioned" by his assistant.

The Los Angeles Fire Department has released a statement with regards to the same.

A spokesperson for the Los Angeles Fire Department told [Mirror.co.uk](#), "Los Angeles City Firefighters responded to the 18000 block of West Blue Sail Drive at 4.07 p.m.

on October 28, to find an adult male unconscious in a stand-alone hot tub. A bystander had brought the man's head above the water and gotten him to the edge, then Firefighters removed him from the water upon their arrival."

They further mentioned, "A rapid medical assessment, sadly, revealed the man was deceased prior to first responder arrival. The circumstances are under investigation by LAPD and the LA County Medical Examiner. We mourn with families and friends who lose a loved one unexpectedly." The reported bystander is Matthew's assistant, who is supposedly the one who found him according to past reports.

As per [Mirror.co.uk](#), The 54-year-old actor played Pickleball for two hours before coming home and sending his assistant out on an errand. Reportedly when she returned she found him underwater and called first responders.

As he was found underwater, he was found to have drowned but no official cause of death has been made, as an initial autopsy was "deferred" while the state performs a toxicology report.

Investigators said they believed there was no foul play involved in his death and no illegal drugs were found at the scene.

Matthew was best known for playing Chandler Bing on the beloved sitcom 'Friends'.

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Christina Ricci yearned to "marry" 'Friends' star Matthew Perry when she was a teenager.

The actress revealed she cried when she heard the actor had passed away at his Los Angeles home on October 28 because although she had never met the 'Whole Nine Yards' star, she "loved" him and credited his sitcom 'Friends' for always giving her comfort during difficult times.

"I burst into tears when I read the news today. I never met Matthew Perry, but I loved him," she wrote on Instagram alongside a picture of the cover of Matthew's memoir, 'Friends, Lovers, and the Big Terrible Thing'.

"'Friends' saved me numerous times during hard and lonely times in my life. I adored his character and wanted to marry Chandler Bing as a teenager. I watched all his movies. He was a genius."

The 43-year-old actress praised Matthew for being candid about his addiction woes in his memoir and called for people to read it if they need help with similar struggles, reports [aceshowbiz.com](#).

The actress added: "I downloaded his book and read the whole thing on my cross country flight today. I'm heartbroken this man suffered so much in life while giving us so much of himself. Read his book. It's another gift he gave us. If you're struggling with addiction issues it might just save your life. May he finally rest in peace."

Matthew died on October 28 after being found unresponsive in the jacuzzi at his home in the Pacific Palisades area of Los Angeles.

# 'AVENGERS: ENDGAME' DIRECTOR TAKES JAB AT MARTIN SCORSESE TOUTING MARVEL FILMS' BO SUCCESS

Los Angeles | Agencies

'Avengers: Endgame' co-director Joe Russo, is playfully taking a jab at filmmaker Martin Scorsese after the 'Killers of the Flower Moon' director took a dig at Marvel films.

Martin weighed in on the transformation at the box office following the success of films based on comic books, reports [Deadline](#).

"The danger there is what it's doing to our culture," Martin told [GQ](#).

"Because there are going to be generations now that think movies are only those - that's what movies are."

Martin continued, "They already think that. Which means that we have to then fight back stronger. And it's got to come from the grassroots level. It's gotta come from the filmmakers themselves."

"And you'll have, you know, the Safdie brothers, and you'll have Chris Nolan, you know what I mean? And hit 'em from all sides. Hit 'em from all sides, and don't give up. Let's see what you got. Go out there and do it. Go reinvent. Don't complain about it. But it's true, because we've got to save cinema."

After Martin's comments were picked up by the media, Joe made a TikTok reaction video that has now gone viral.

In the original clip, Martin is seen asking his dog named Oscar to "show me sadness."

Joe then stitched the video and introduced his own dog whom he called "Box Office," touting the results of Marvel films motivating moviegoers to go to the theater.

"His (dog) is named Oscar ... that's really cute ... (meet) Box Office," Joe says in the video.



# Selena Gomez 'concerned' Taylor Swift is 'moving too fast' with Travis Kelce

Los Angeles | Agencies

Singer Selena Gomez is worried her best friend Taylor Swift is "moving too fast" with her new found flame Travis Kelce.

"Selena thinks Taylor going to games and galavanting through New York immediately after just meeting Travis is something that is very unlike her," a source told [Page Six](#).

"Historically, Taylor's always been super private about everything, and now with this (relationship), she's so open about it that it's just very odd for Selena." Prior to Travis, Taylor's most recent long-term relationship was with Joe Alwyn, whom she dated for six years. The two were considered to be "strangely private" because of how rarely they were snapped together.

Selena, 31, has taken notice of how differently Taylor, 33, has dealt with her new romance with the Kansas City Chiefs tight end, 34, and has found some aspects "alarming."

Selena is said to have been caught off guard when she saw Taylor hanging out with Travis' mom, Donna Kelce, in a public suite after having just met her.

She also thought that the 'Love Story' songstress holding hands with Travis in public in clear view of the paparazzi within less than a month of dating was also strange.

The source claims Selena has turned down invitations to a few Chiefs games because she didn't want to be part of the



"media frenzy."

The insider points out, though, that Selena and Taylor are "not in a fight" over the former's opinions, as evidenced by their recent sushi outing in West Hollywood, California, earlier this month.

"Selena just doesn't want to be part of the media frenzy because it's really chaotic," the source explains.

"It didn't come from a malicious place, and it's not that she doesn't like them together. She's just concerned about the way it's being navigated."

The insider claims that Selena is not the only friend who has concerns, noting that the Haim sisters "think this way as well." "That's why the people she normally has these amazing relationships with weren't (at Taylor's girls' night out with Blake Lively, Brittany Mahomes and Sophie Turner)," the source further added.

# ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Jessica Alves



## Men's ODI WC

# EMBATTLED PAKISTAN BOUNCE BACK WITH A SEVEN-WICKET WIN OVER BANGLADESH

Kolkata | Agencies

Besieged by problems on and off the pitch, Pakistan returned to winning ways in the ICC Men's ODI World Cup at the Eden Gardens here, with a seven-wicket win against Bangladesh with 105 balls to spare.

Pakistan's troubles in the field were manifested in their defeat in four successive matches while the problems out of the ground came through various allegations, one of which resulted in the chief selector Inzamam-ul-Haq putting in his papers over conflict-of-interest charges. Babar Azam's team put all these issues on the back burner as it came up with a clinical performance to register their third win in seven matches and moved to fifth place in the standings, tied on six points with Afghanistan but with a better Net Run Rate.

Fakhar Zaman (81) and Abdullah Shafique (68) were the stars of Pakistan's batting efforts with authoritative fifties after Bangladesh won the toss and elected to bat first.

In the first innings, Shaheen Shah Afridi (3-23), Mohammad Wasim (3-31), and Haris Rauf (2-36) were the pick of Pakistan bowlers, as the pacers rallied together for the Men in Green to bowl



Bangladesh all out for a paltry total of 204.

For Bangladesh, seasoned batter Mahmudullah (56), who struck a half-century after a century against South Africa, and Shakib Al Hasan (43) showed a fight with the bat.

In reply, Pakistan reached 205/3 in just 32.3 overs -- fourth time that they have won a men's ODI World Cup game with over 100 balls to spare. Fakhar Zaman showed relentless form in

the first Power-play. The southpaw smacked four boundaries for Pakistan in this period. This included two exemplary sixes off the bowling of Taskin Ahmed and Mehidy Hasan Miraz, respectively.

He got good support from his partner, Abdullah Shafique, who garnered four stylish fours of his own in the first 10 overs.

Mehidy Hasan Miraz finally brought a breakthrough for Pakistan in the 22nd over, when he trapped Abdullah Shafique leg before for 68. However, Fakhar and Babar Azam ensured that Pakistan were right on track.

After the mid-innings mark, Mehidy struck twice to remove both Fakhar and Babar, but by then Pakistan were already well set to overtake the Bangladesh target.

### Brief scores

Bangladesh 204 all out in 45.1 overs (Mahmudullah 56, Shakib Al Hasan 43, Litton Das 45; Shaheen Shah Afridi 3-23, Mohammad Wasim 3-31, Haris Rauf 2-36) lost to Pakistan 205/3 in 32.3 overs (Abdullah Shafique 68, Fakhar Zaman 81; Mehidy Hasan Miraz 3-60) by 7 wickets.

# Messi wins record 8th Ballon d'Or, Bonmati claims women's award

Paris | Agencies

Lionel Messi won his record-extending eighth Ballon d'Or, while Spain's Aitana Bonmati claimed the women's award.

The Argentine soccer great won the award for his exceptional performance at the Qatar World Cup last year when he led Argentina to the trophy with seven goals and was named the best player of the tournament, Xinhua reports.

Messi has won the most significant individual football award in the years of 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2015, 2019, 2021, and now 2023.

"This is a gift to the whole Argentina team for what we achieved," said Messi, paying tribute to his teammates. "Becoming world champion was the title we were missing. I'd like to thank everyone who helped make Argentina the world champion team."

He also dedicated the trophy to legendary Argentine footballer Diego Maradona, who passed away in 2020



and would have celebrated his 63rd birthday on Monday. "Happy birthday Diego. This is for you too," he said. Norwegian forward Erling Haaland came second for winning the UEFA Champions League, Premier League, and FA Cup title with Manchester City, while Qatar World Cup golden boot winner Kylian Mbappe was third. Bonmati lifted the women's Ballon d'Or, ahead

of Australia's Sam Kerr and compatriot Salma Parallelo, for winning Spain's first Women's World Cup title in August. In other awards, England's Jude Bellingham was named the best under-21 player, while Haaland won the prize for the best striker of the year. Messi's national team teammate Emiliano Martinez won the Lev Yashin Award for best goalkeeper.

# Shaheen Afridi becomes fastest pace bowler to claim 100 ODI wickets

Kolkata | Agencies

Pakistan left-arm pacer Shaheen Shah Afridi became the fastest pace bowler to take 100 ODI wickets during the ICC World Cup 2023 league match against Bangladesh here at Eden Gardens, on Tuesday.

The 23-year-old reached the milestone in 51 matches, surpassing Australia's Mitchell Starc's record of 52 ODIs. He also became the fastest Pakistani bowler to reach the milestone of 100 ODI wickets, overtaking the record of Saqlain Mushtaq, who took 53 matches. Afridi trapped Bangladesh lead-batter Tanzid Hasan in front of the wicket with a beautiful in-swinging deliv-



ery swinging back on the pads. In the very next over, he removed Nazmul Hasan Shanto, courtesy of a ripper

by Usma Mir, fielding at the backward square leg, who dived at full length to complete the catch.

## AUSTRALIA WITHDRAWS BID FOR 2034 FIFA WORLD CUP; SAUDI ARABIA SET TO WIN HOSTING RIGHTS

Sydney: Football Australia on Tuesday opted out of the 2034 FIFA Men's Football World Cup bid, paving the way for Saudi Arabia to potentially host the tournament.

After successfully hosting the record-breaking FIFA Women's World Cup in 2023, which saw almost two million attendees, Australia's chances of hosting the 2034 Men's World Cup seemed bleak when the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) endorsed the Saudi bid.

"We have explored the opportunity to bid to host the FIFA World Cup and - having taken all factors into consideration - we have reached the conclusion not to do so for the 2034 competition," Football Australia said in a statement.

FIFA has invited bids from the Asia and Oceania regions for confederation rotation and of securing the best possible hosting conditions for the World Cup earlier this month.

Australia, however, will aim to secure the hosting rights for the 2029 Club World Cup and the 2026 Women's Asian Cup, with Saudi Arabia also bidding for the latter tournament.

# Erling Haaland wins Gerd Muller Trophy at 2023 Ballon d'Or

Paris | Agencies

Erling Haaland has been awarded the prestigious Gerd Muller Trophy in recognition of his incredible debut season for Manchester City alongside his exploits for Norway.

The trophy is named in honour of the late, great German strike legend Gerd Muller and is awarded to the top striker of the past European season for club and country.

Introduced in 2021 as part of the Ballon d'Or ceremony which recognises and celebrates the continent's elite footballing talent, Haaland becomes only the second player to lift the prestigious prize following in the footsteps of 2021 and 2022 recipient Robert Lewandowski.

Having joined City from Borussia Dortmund in the summer



of 2022, Haaland went on to enjoy a stunning inaugural campaign at the Etihad with his goals proving pivotal in the Club's historic Treble campaign.

Arguably, no player has made a bigger instant impact on the Premier League with Haaland

breaking a host of records along the way to helping City claim a third successive league title along with securing the FA Cup and Champions League.

Haaland's total of 52 goals in a season was the most in all competitions by a player at a Premier League club and the most by any City player in our illustrious 129-year history.

The 23-year-old also set a new Premier League record by registering 36 goals, claiming six hat-tricks along the way, while he was also the top scorer in the Champions League, scoring 12 goals as City won the prized European trophy for the first time.

In addition to his record breaking exploits for City, Haaland also hit four goals for Norway in their international programme across the 2022/23 campaign.

# INDIA'S ROHAAN MADESH RARING TO MAKE HIS F4 DEBUT AT CHENNAI

Bengaluru | Agencies

The talented Indian teenage driver Rohaan Madesh, a multiple-time National champion in karting, is raring to go at the maiden FIA Formula 4 Indian Championship, which begins at the Madras International Circuit in Chennai on Saturday. Rohaan Madesh will be making his F4 debut after two constructive days of testing.

Rohaan, the 16-year-old from Bengaluru who won the senior class Rotax Max Indian National Karting Championship 2022, will be one of the three Indian racers in the F4 Indian championship.

After making his karting debut in a full season in 2017, Rohaan dominated the karting scene and took a podium finish in the Asia Max Championship in Malaysia.

Later in 2018, he represented India at the X30 World Championship in France, and the next year he took part in the Rotax



World Finals, also in France.

In 2021, Rohan won the X30 National Championship and went on to win the Rotax Max Nationals in 2022. The highlight of his career

came at the Rotax Max World Finals at Portimao, Portugal, where he won a heat and also qualified for the finals, a proud achievement for an Indian karter.

"I am really excited and looking forward to competing in the Indian F4 Championship. India is where I started racing and it's a privilege to continue doing so right here at home with the Indian F4," he said after his name was announced for the event.

"I would like to thank the sponsors and organisers for making this dream possible. I am honoured and I am very proud to be part of the maiden F4 in India," the Peregrine Racing product concluded.

The F4 Indian Championship is a single-seater motorsport series based in India. The series is run according to the FIA's Formula 4 regulations and is organised by Racing Promotions Private Limited.

The inaugural season's first race was originally scheduled to be held at the Hyderabad Street Circuit which hosted the Formula E last season, but was shifted to MIC as the Telangana Elections were announced.

Paris | Agencies

Dominic Thiem of Austria saved a match point at 3-5 in the third set before rallying past his fellow former World No. 3 Stan Wawrinka 3-6, 6-3, 7-5 for a place in the second round at the Paris Masters.

The tantalising encounter between two of the best one-handed backhands in recent memory ultimately ended after two hours and 31 minutes at 2:22 a.m. Tuesday morning, ATP reports.

While Thiem hit highlight-reel shots throughout the match, especially with jaw-dropping passing shots, it was Wawrinka who was first on the verge of victory. The Swiss held match point at 5-3, 40/30 in the decider, but double-faulted long. It was one of six double faults he hit



in the match.

Thiem took full advantage of the small opening, getting back on serve when Wawrinka missed a forehand long. In what turned into a battle of wills, the Austrian broke again in his next return game and did not let slip his opportunity to close out the match. The victory was Thiem's first at a hard-court

ATP Masters 1000 event since the 2019 Rolex Paris Masters.

The Austrian, who is continuing his pursuit of top form after suffering a wrist injury in June 2021, will next play defending champion Holger Rune of Denmark.

The pair met earlier this year in Monte-Carlo, where the Dane prevailed in straight sets.

# WTA Finals Gauff dominates Jabeur to set Swiatek showdown

Cancun (Mexico) | Agencies

Playing her first tournament since splitting with coach Pere Riba, no.3 seed American Coco Gauff kicked off her WTA Finals singles campaign with a bang after defeating No.6 seed Ons Jabeur 6-0, 6-1 here.

Monday's win was Gauff's first at the season-ending championships, having gone 0-6 in singles and doubles last year in Fort Worth. It is also her eighth Top 10 win of the year. Only her next opponent, Iga Swiatek, has tallied more, WTA reports.

Gauff has now won 50 matches this season, with eight coming against Top 10 opponents. She is the first teenager to win 50 or more matches in a single season since Caroline Wozniacki in 2009. She is also the first teenager to tally a singles victory at the WTA Finals



since Wozniacki and the first American teenager to do so since Venus Williams in 1999.

Gauff will face No.2 Swiatek next in what will be the 10th career meeting between the two young champions. Swiatek opened play in the Chetumal Group with a resilient comeback win over Marketa Vondrousova, rallying from 5-2 down to win 7-6(3), 6-0. In a meeting of 2023 major champions, Swiatek's deep, forceful strokes bested Vondrousova's customary

# Wankhede Stadium to get maiden statue of Sachin tomorrow

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The famous 49-year-old Wankhede Stadium at Churchgate will get a first-ever statue of a cricketer icon on its sprawling premises - that of none other than Sachin Tendulkar -- in his familiar 'lofted drive' shot.

The larger-than-life-size statue of Tendulkar shall be unveiled by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, the cricketer himself, and other dignitaries at the 'Sachin Tendulkar Stand' in the stadium, which is all decked up to host some of the ICC ODI World Cup matches this week.

The statue was commissioned by the Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) and promises to be an eye-catcher at the prime spot inside the stadium - which has been virtually Tendulkar's cricketer home turf. Planned around June-July, the statue is billed as the MCA's tribute to the 50th birthday (April 24) of Tendulkar, being celebrated by his fans and cricket lovers world over this year. Tendulkar, a resident of Bandra, not



only played some of his best matches and set or broke many records at the Wankhede Stadium, it was also the venue for his swansong Test match here 10 years ago - in November 2013 - before he retired. Designed and built by well-known sculptor from Ahmednagar, Pramod Kamble, in gleaming dark bronze metal, with a glittering finish - the

statue will bring glory to the stadium as its first-ever 'permanent residential statue' of any cricketer hero till date.

According to Kamble, the Tendulkar statue measures 10 feet in height plus 4 feet - a total of 14 feet tall - in the classic pose he's known for, hitting a sixer that drove the crowds raging wild wherever he played.

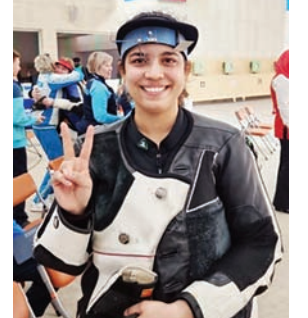
# Asian Shooting C'ships Shriyanka Sadangi wins India's 13th Paris Olympic quota with fourth place finish in 50m rifle 3P event

Changwon | Agencies

Shriyanka Sadangi, secured India's 13th Paris 2024 Olympics quota place, finishing fourth in the women's 50m rifle 3 positions (3P) event at the on-going Asian Shooting Championship, here on Tuesday.

Shriyanka shot 440.5, to bow out after the 43rd shot of the 45-shot final, equally distributed between the kneeling, prone and standing positions. Experienced Korean Lee Eunseo won gold while reigning air rifle world champion Han Jiayu of China won silver. China also took the bronze through Xia Siyu.

All Indian women shooters in the 3P competition were on top of their mark from the qualification stage itself. Sift Kaur Samra, India's number one, shot 592 play-



ing for ranking points only (RPO) to soar to the top of the field.

Ashi Chouksey shot 591 to take the first qualifying spot among contenders and second overall. Shriyanka Sadangi and Ayushi Podder also made the top-eight with scores of 588 and 587 respectively. Manini Kaushik, shooting RPO as well, was 10th overall with a tally of 586.



## Nora Fatehi roped in for Remo D'Souza's untitled film

Team Absolute | Mumbai

**A**ctress-dancer Nora Fatehi will be collaborating with choreographer-director Remo D'Souza once again, for a yet-to-be-titled film. This will mark yet another collaboration between them, as Nora will next be seen in Remo's next film 'Be Happy', where she will star alongside veteran Bollywood megastar Amitabh Bachchan.

While there are next to no details available on this upcoming venture, the dancing sensation quickly took to the idea after her 'Hip-Hop India' colleague gave her the details.

One of the film's developers said: "There were several discussions for the next step after 'Be Happy' and Remo had an idea which Nora instantly took on. We hope it culminates because that will definitely be an exciting project, very different from 'Be Happy'." In Remo's film 'Street Dancer', her song 'Garmi' became the go-to song for people to groove to. Even to date, 'Garmi' is still quite the strong party track, though her acting was actually what impressed Remo more than her dancing.

As the two share a strong synergy, their chemistry on screen and stage was able to make their reality rap-based show 'Hip Hop India' a big success, and was able to take a spot in the Guinness Book of World Records for organising the largest on-ground hip-hop activity.

The journey of Nora and Remo from 'Street Dancer' to 'Be Happy' was not just a story of professional collaboration but also a testament to the strength of her friendship with Remo, their shared love for dance, storytelling, and their commitment to pushing the boundaries of their art.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

**A**ction star Vidyut Jammwal hilariously introduced a "filmy anaconda" present on the sets of his upcoming film 'Crakk-Jeetega toh Jiyega', which tickled the funny bone of many.

The actor took to his Instagram story, where he shared a video from his shooting location in Mumbai. In the clip, he walked towards a long vent throwing cold air into the sets, which he in the end revealed is called an "anaconda". In the video he is heard saying: "When we shoot we usually keep finding unique things and your find it only here. How does action happen in scorching heat? This is the unique thing. It is called anaconda. This is an AC duct and you can put it anywhere and get cold air."

Vidyut captioned the clip: "This is the filmy anaconda. #Behindthescenes #crakk" 'Crakk-Jeetega toh Jiyega' is a sports film, directed by Aditya Datt, based on two brothers who are set to perform daring stunts mixed with extreme sports to win.

It is written by Sarim Momin and Rehan Khan. It also stars Nora Fatehi, Arjun Rampal, Ankit Mohan among others.

**VIDYUT**  
INTRODUCES  
'FILMY ANACONDA'  
ON SETS OF HIS  
UPCOMING FILM



is the filmy Anaconda & behindTheScenes #Crakk

## Uorfi Javed receives death threats for recreating Rajpal Yadav's 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa' look for Halloween

Team Absolute | Mumbai

**S**ocial media sensation Uorfi Javed, who is often in the news for her unique fashion statement and also for her controversies, has now stirred up the pot yet again. The cause for the controversy this time is her recreation of actor Rajpal Yadav's iconic look from the Akshay Kumar-starrer movie 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa'.

Uorfi has claimed that she has received a death threat for recreating the 'Chhote Pandit' character.

She took to her Instagram on Tuesday, and shared a screenshot of the threat online, which accused her of offending religious sentiments.

Uorfi wrote in the caption: "Rajpal Yadav se kisi ko koi problem nahi hua but maine jab ye look recreate liya toh sabko mujhse problem hai. I've received so many death threats, rape threats for no reason. All these so called dharm ke rakshak suddenly woke up after I wore this outfit 10 years of 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa' movie! No colour belongs to any religion, no agarbatti belongs to any religion, no flower belongs to any religion (sic)."

She also shared a clip of a threat that she received from a fringe lady on the story section of her Instagram.

For the unversed, Uorfi recreated Rajpal Yadav's 'Chhote Pandit' look from 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa' for Halloween.

She painted her face red and sported a dhoti with a sheer red top to achieve the look.

## Bobby Deol turned alcoholic during low phase of career

Team Absolute | Mumbai

**A**ctor Bobby Deol, who has graced the couch of popular chat show 'Koffee With Karan' season 8, has opened up about how he withdrew from the industry when his films didn't work, adding that he started self-pitying himself, and became negative about everything.

Bobby was accompanied by his brother Sunny Deol on 'Koffee With Karan', hosted by filmmaker Karan Johar.

The 'Badal' fame actor has made one of the strongest comebacks with crime drama web series 'Aashram'.

Talking about his low-phase of career, Bobby said: "I gave up, I started self-pitying myself. I just took on drinking a lot, I was sitting at home. I used to keep cursing and saying, why don't people take me? I am good, why don't they want to work with me? I think I became so negative about everything, that there was no positivity coming from me. I used to sit at home, my wife works."

"Suddenly I heard my son saying, 'you



know Mom, Papa sits at home and you go to work everyday'.

Something snapped in me. I just said, no I can't. It was a slow process, when I got out of it, it took me time to get into the right mind frame to become okay. It can't happen overnight. My brother, my dad, my mom, my sisters, they were always there," he shared.

The 'Ajnabee' actor said: "You cannot always do anything holding someone's hand. You have to walk on your two feet. Then things started changing. I became more focused, more serious and when you focus and you have that energy in you. I mean I have gone and met so many people, I said to myself, I will go and meet people, tell them I want to work with you all. I came to you also, you still haven't worked with me."

'Koffee with Karan 8' is streaming on Disney+ Hotstar.

Meanwhile, on the work front, he next has 'Animal', and Telugu movies 'Hari Hara Veera Mallu', and 'Kanguva'.

## From Sidhu Moosewala to Bengali, Latin and Turkish music: Richa Chadha has a diverse playlist

Team Absolute | New Delhi

**A**ctress Richa Chadha says her diverse music playlist reflects her gypsy taste.

The actress revealed that she listens to a lot of Karan Aujla, Sidhu Moosewala, Beyonce and Bossa Nova.

Asked what's her playlist sounds like, Richa in a conversation with IANS shared: "My playlist is very diverse. I listen to a lot of old Hindi music, trance, electronic, 90s and 2000s hip-hop, listen to the latest Punjabi pop music with Karan Aujla, Sidhu Moosewala, Beyonce, Bossa Nova which is very different vibe to the music one of my favourite band is the Gotan Project."

The actress then revealed that currently she is vibing on African music.

Richa said: "My playlist is very diverse. I have Bengali songs, Marathi songs, and Turkish songs... Assamese, Latin, Portuguese music. So I think I am a citizen of the world and my music reflects my gypsy taste."

Does her taste in music match with her husband Ali Fazal's taste?

The actress said: "It is very different from the music Ali listens to. Ali listens to a lot of melodies and I can almost predict what he listens to but I don't think he can predict what I listen to."



Sharvari