

# absolute india



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## REFRAIN DIGITALLY ARRESTED

► These scams have a certain modus operandi where the fraudsters impersonate as officials of the law enforcement agencies and use video calls to convince victims that they are involved in criminal activities and hence accountable to the law. Fearing action, they give in to the hollow threats of these scammers.

► Typically, these scams begin with an automated message, projecting it as a call from the Telecom - Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). The phone calls are usually made via WhatsApp voice or video call.

► The scammers, posing as officials give the victim two options: either report to a police station or court within a few hours or provide a statement via phone. Unsuspecting victims usually opt for the latter, which sets the stage for the scam.

► In recent incidents, these scammers also show fabricated government documents letters to justify their identity, thereby leading the former to believe they are under threat.

► Fearing false charges, many victims transfer large sums of money to the scammers.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

As the world becomes increasingly interconnected, cyber-crimes are on the rise, and digital arrest and other online scams are emerging as a new threat.

One recent case involved an elderly man from Ahmedabad who was duped of Rs 1.2 crore. The fraudsters posed as high-ranking judiciary officials and falsely accused the senior citizen of being involved in a money laundering case.

Fearing arrest, the man liquidated his fixed deposits and transferred the amount to the scammers, who promised it would be refunded within 48 hours after "verification" by the Supreme Court. However, the fraudsters cut off all contact after receiving the money. Fortunately, the Ahmedabad Cyber Crime Cell has since arrested four individuals involved in the scam.

In another case, an 85-year-old retired army officer, Major General Prabodh Chander Puri (Retd), from Panchkula, was defrauded of Rs 83 lakh. The scam began with a call informing him that his mobile phone number was allegedly being used to threaten people and would be deactivated within hours.



The scammers coerced him into withdrawing his savings and transferring the money to an account they provided, assuring him that the amount would be refunded within six hours. They even falsely promised that he would be recognised with an award for cooperating with the authorities. Despite the scam being reported, the fraudsters have yet to be arrested.

In a third case, a 36-year-old woman fell victim to a similar scam, losing Rs 44 lakh. The fraudsters claimed her phone number was being used for illegal advertising and harassment and that an FIR had been filed against her in Andheri.

Frightened, she followed their instructions to transfer money in exchange for a "clarification letter" to avoid further legal complications. The police have registered a case and are investigating the incident. These cases highlight the growing menace of digital arrest scams, where people are tricked into believing they are under legal threat, leading to significant financial losses.

Authorities are urging the public to remain vigilant and report any suspicious calls or messages to the police immediately.

## Two soldiers, two porters killed; 3 soldiers injured in terrorist attack in J&K's Baramulla

Srinagar | Agencies

In a major terrorist attack, two soldiers and two porters were killed and three other soldiers injured when an army vehicle came under fire in J&K's Baramulla district on Thursday, officials said.

Official sources said that terrorists fired at a vehicle of Rashtriya Rifles (RR) at Nagin Chowk of Botapathri area near Gulmarg ski resort in the evening.

"Two soldiers and two civilian porters were killed and 3 soldiers injured in this attack. The area has been cordoned off and reinforcements have been rushed to the area," an official said.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah condemned the attack.

"Very unfortunate news about the attack on the army vehicles in the Boota Pathri area of North Kashmir which has resulted in some casualties & injuries. This recent spate of attacks in Kashmir is a matter of serious concern. I condemn this attack in the strongest possible terms & send my condolences to the loved ones of the people who lost their lives. I also pray that injured make a complete & swift recovery," he said in a post on X.

Thursday's attack on an army vehicle comes in from a usually militancy-free area of the Valley. Gulmarg and its upper reaches like Botapathri are thronged by tourists and the place has been a choice destination for nature lovers.

In an earlier update, the Baramulla police had said that "some exchange of fire took place between forces and terrorists" in the Boota Pathri sector, around Nagin post and further details will be shared after verifying facts.

Earlier on Thursday, terrorists fired at and



injured a labourer from UP in Tral area of Pulwama district. The labourer sustained a minor injury. On Sunday, terrorists attacked a private infrastructure company's workers' camp in the Gagangir area of the Ganderbal district. In that dastardly attack carried out by two foreign terrorists, seven people were killed including six non-local workers and a local doctor. The attack was carried out on innocent, unarmed workers engaged in building a tunnel at Z-Morh on the Srinagar-Leh national highway, which, once completed, would make the Srinagar-Sonamarg road an all-weather road and also make the tourist resort of Sonamarg an all-season tourist destination. The tunnel from Z-Morh to Sonamarg would help the local economy stand and also generate employment for the local youth.

The Gagangir attack was widely condemned by everybody including Union Home Minister, Amit Shah, Union Minister for Roads and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, & K Lt Governor Manoj Sinha, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and former Chief Ministers, Dr Farooq Abdullah, Mehbooba Mufti, and Ghulam Nabi Azad.

## Human Rights Body Takes Action After Boy Dies At Delhi's Open Air Gym

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has taken suo motu cognizance of a media report that a four-year-old boy died after a part of a machine in an open-air gym fell on him in a municipality-run park in West Delhi's Moti Nagar on 13th October 2024.

Reportedly, the people present on the spot suspected that the nuts and bolts of the equipment were loose which led to the incident.

The Commission has observed that the contents of the media report, if true, raise a serious issue of violation of

human rights due to alleged negligence by the authorities in the maintenance of the equipment, installed in the public park.

The incident raises serious concerns about the condition of equipment in other public parks governed, managed and maintained by the local government bodies in Delhi.

Accordingly, it has issued notices to the Chief Secretary, Government of NCT of Delhi, Vice-Chairman, Delhi Development Authority (DDA), Commissioner, Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) and Secretary, New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) calling for a detailed

report in the matter within four weeks.

The authorities are also expected to inform whether any compensation has been paid to the aggrieved family.

The report should also include the status of the maintenance and safety audit of the swings and gym equipment, etc. installed in the public parks under their jurisdiction in Delhi.

The Commission has also asked the Commissioner of Police, Delhi to submit his comments on the subject along with the status of the police investigation being conducted in the instant case.

## AADHAAR, PER SE, NOT PROOF OF DATE OF BIRTH: SC

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Thursday observed that an Aadhaar card, which can be used to establish identity, is not, per se, proof of date of birth.

A bench of Justices Sanjay Karol and Ujjal Bhuyan was hearing an appeal filed by legal representatives of a deceased victim in a road accident challenging the reduction in award amount. The impugned decision reduced the award amount observing that the multiplier applicable would be 13, since the victim was aged 47 at the time of death, as per the Aadhaar card record. The claimant-appellants contended that the multiplier applicable would be 14 as the School Leaving Certificate recorded October 1970 as the date of birth of the deceased and



he was 45 years old at the time of the accident. In view of the contentions raised, the SC framed the legal question of which of the two is to be taken authoritative in case of conflict of the dates of birth between the School Leaving Certificate and the Aadhaar

Card. It noted that a School Leaving Certificate has been accorded statutory recognition under Section 94 of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015. "The Unique Identification Authority of India, by way of its Circular No. 08 of 2023, has

stated, in reference to an Office Memorandum issued by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology dated 20th December 2018, that an Aadhaar Card, while can be used to establish identity, it is not per se proof of date of birth," it said.

After citing several decisions of diverse high courts across the country, the apex court concluded that it has "no hesitation" in accepting the calculation of the age of deceased based on the School Leaving Certificate. Allowing the appeal, the SC ordered that the "total amount, i.e., Rs 14,41,500, in the interest of just compensation is rounded off to Rs 15,00,000 with 8 per cent interest from the date of filing of the claim petition to be released to the rightful claimants in the manner directed by the Tribunal".

## Khalistani terrorists trying to radicalise Indian students in Canada, reveals recalled Indian envoy

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Senior diplomat and India's recalled High Commissioner, Sanjay Kumar Verma on Thursday advised Indian students in Canada to remain "aware of their surroundings" and resist radicalisation attempts by Khalistani terrorists and extremists in the country.

Last week, India had decided to withdraw High Commissioner Verma and "other targeted diplomats and officials" from Canada following Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's continued "hostility" towards India.

Ottawa had insisted that the Indian High Commissioner and other diplomats are "persons of interest" in a matter related to the murder investigation of Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar.

The move was termed as "preposterous imputations" by New Delhi.

"At this time in Canada there is a threat from Khalistani terrorists and extremists to the larger



Indian community, including outreach to students. Given the condition of the country's economy, there are few jobs so students are offered money and food and this is how Khalistani terrorists influence them with their nefarious plans," Verma told to a news channel in an interview after returning to India. He revealed that some students are also persuaded to hold protests outside the Indian diplomatic buildings in Canada and post their photographs and videos of insulting the Indian flag and raising anti-India slogans on social media platforms.

"Then they are told to go and seek asylum because their version will be, 'If I go back to India now, I will be punished... and there have been cases of such students being given asylum,'" he said. He said that it was instead India which had shared with the Trudeau government a detailed evidence of radical and extremist groups operating on Canadian soil though no action was taken on it.

## MP: Cash incentive under 'Ladli Bheha Yojana' to increase upto Rs 3000

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The extensive campaign for the upcoming by-elections in Madhya Pradesh has started a debate on the popular flagship - 'Ladli Bheha Yojana' again in Madhya Pradesh.

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav said that when he releases the monthly instalment of 'Ladli Bheha Yojana', the Congress criticises the government. But, the BJP government will continue to fulfil its promises made to the people.

He said when the scheme was launched, Congress had accused the BJP of making fake promises. The scheme was launched by former Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan a few months before the Assembly elections held in November 2023.

"The scheme was launched with Rs 1000 per month, and later the amount was increased to Rs 1250. We have promised to take this amount up to Rs. 3000 per month,



and are committed to doing it in the coming days," Yadav said.

CM Yadav made an announcement addressing a public rally to seek support for BJP candidate Ramniwas Rawat for the Vijaypur bypolls, who filed his nomination papers on Thursday. It was CM Yadav's first public rally in view of the upcoming by-elections.

## Gujarat: Victims seek justice in gold loan scam

Vadodara | Agencies

Customers of the Manjalpur branch of Canara Bank in Gujarat's Vadodara have alleged that the bank has withheld their gold deposit to meet loan targets.

The customer held a protest demonstration outside the bank head office and blamed bank employees Vishal Gajjar and Preeti Bala Mali for the scam, accusing them of being complicit.

Reportedly, both bank offi-



cial are absconding.

The protesting customers allege that bank officials have failed to return gold worth approximately Rs 2 crore since last year. "We came here seeking answers. I have deposited 3.4 kg of gold in the bank. Initially, they promised the return of our gold, but for

the past year, we have been unable to access our gold," said Dipali. Dipali accused the branch manager of soliciting gold from customers to meet loan targets, which she termed as unethical. "We trusted Canara Bank. However, they have betrayed our trust," she added. Another victim, whose gold has also been withheld, said: "We have been receiving false notices from the bank. If anything happens to my husband, Canara Bank will be responsible.

## JUSTICE SANJIV KHANNA APPOINTED AS NEXT CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Centre on Thursday cleared the appointment of Justice Sanjiv Khanna as the next Chief Justice of India (CJI).

"In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (2) of Article 124 of the Constitution of India, the President is pleased to appoint Shri Justice Sanjiv Khanna, Judge of the Supreme Court, to be the Chief Justice of India with effect from 11 November 2024," a notification issued by the Union Ministry of Law and Justice said.

Incumbent CJI D.Y. Chandrachud is due to retire on November 10 on attainment of the age of 65 years. He had recommended Justice Khanna as his successor earlier this month.

Justice Khanna will be the 51st CJI and will have around 6 month tenure in office.

He held the post of Chairman, Supreme Court Legal Service Committee. He is presently the Executive Chairman of the National Legal



Services Authority and a member of the Governing Counsel of the National Judicial Academy, Bhopal.

Before elevation to the Supreme Court, Justice

Khanna served as a judge in the Delhi High Court till January 2019. As a judge of the Delhi HC, he held the position of Chairman/Judge-in-charge, Delhi Judicial Academy, Delhi International Arbitration Centre, and the District Court Mediation Centres.

Justice Khanna, born in May 1960, obtained his law degree from the Campus Law Centre, Delhi University. He enrolled as an advocate in the Bar Council of Delhi in 1983 and primarily practised taxation, arbitration, commercial law, environmental law, medical negligence law, and company law in the Delhi High Court. He had a long tenure as the Senior Standing Counsel for the Income Tax Department. In 2004, he was appointed as the Standing Counsel (Civil) for the Delhi government. He had also appeared and argued in a number of criminal cases at the Delhi High Court as an Additional Public Prosecutor and as an amicus curie (friend of the court).



# 'COMPLY WITH ORDERS METICULOUSLY': SC TELLS NCP'S AJIT PAWAR FACTION ON CLOCK SYMBOL DISPUTE

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Thursday asked the NCP's Ajit Pawar faction - which has been recognised by the Election Commission as the "real" NCP - to meticulously comply with earlier orders requiring the addition of disclaimers in party advertisements that the allocation of the party's "clock" symbol is subject to the outcome of proceedings pending before the top court.

A bench, headed by Justice Surya Kant, was hearing an application filed by the Sharad Pawar faction alleging that the Ajit Pawar side has engineered a "large scale confusion" in the minds of voters by using the "clock" symbol without any disclaimer.

The apex court said that it expects the parties to comply with its orders and asked both sides not to violate the March 19 interim direction. In that order, the Supreme Court had asked the Ajit Pawar-led party to



issue a public notice in English, Marathi, and Hindi editions, stating that the usage of the 'clock' symbol reserved for NCP is subject to the final outcome of proceedings pend-

ing before the Supreme Court. "Such a declaration shall be incorporated in every pamphlet, advertisement, audio, or video clip to be issued on behalf of the respondents (Ajit

Pawar-led party)," the SC order had said.

It had clarified that the Nationalist Congress Party-Sharadchandra Pawar (NCP-SP) - having the 'Man Blowing Turha' symbol - will also follow court orders and not use the "clock" symbol.

Further, it had asked Ajit Pawar's side to sensitise NCP workers, office bearers and candidates to not defy the top court's direction.

Issuing notice on Sharad Pawar's faction application that the Ajit Pawar camp be temporarily allotted a new symbol for the November 20 Maharashtra Assembly elections instead of the clock, the apex court asked the latter to file a fresh undertaking that it was complying with earlier SC orders.

In another plea filed before the Supreme Court, Sharad Pawar group leader Jayant Patil has sought disqualification of Ajit Pawar faction MLAs for defecting and joining the Sena-BJP government.

# Gurugram: Five including Delhi Police cop arrested for kidnapping youths

Gurugram | Agencies

The Gurugram Police have successfully rescued two youths from the clutches of kidnappers who had demanded a ransom of Rs 1 crore.

The youths were identified as Aman and Ganesh, the duo were abducted from Sector-15 Part-2 area under the Civil Lines police station area of Gurugram on Wednesday.

At the time of the incident, the victims were on their way to Galleria Market, Gurugram in their Scorpio car.

According to the police, the arrested individuals include Delhi Police constable Sunil (32) a resident of Jind district in Haryana, Rishi Pal (35) a resident of Sonapat district, Kuldeep alias Monu (31), a resident of Jind, Deepak alias Dumbbell (21), of Jind district and Sonu (21), a resident of Bhiwani district in Haryana. The victim's father told the police that Aman and Ganesh had gone to Galleria Market in their Scorpio car but did not return. Around 3.30 pm on Wednesday, he received a call from Aman's friend who informed him about his kidnapping, and the abductors were demanding Rs 1 crore ransom.



He immediately informed the police about the incident.

During prompt action, police quickly mobilised resources from the police station teams and different crime branch teams. The police engaged in an intensive search, combing through analysing CCTV footage, and conducting surveillance.

Police then laid a trap and kept a bag with money at a disclosed location given by the accused persons when the accused came to collect the bag the police reached the spot and the police team clashed with the accused which Sub-Inspector Sumit Kumar, Incharge Crime Branch Palam Vihar also suffered a fracture in his hand.

# Ayodhya's ADM Surjit Singh found dead under mysterious circumstances

Lucknow | Agencies

Ayodhya's Additional District Magistrate (ADM) Law and Order, Surjeet Singh was found dead at his official residence in Sursari Colony Civil Line on Thursday. The dead body was found by his housemaid, who later alerted the authorities.

According to reports, bloodstains were found on the floor of his room, however, the cause of his death remains unclear as yet. Senior police officials and forensic teams are at the spot and examining the site.

The cops have launched a detailed investigation and are enquiring the nearby residents, however, it is yet to release any official statement regarding the cause of his death. The incident has sent shockwaves through the district administration. Divisional Commissioner, District Magistrate, Inspector General, and other senior officials have rushed to the



spot. According to several reports, the deceased ADM was reportedly unwell for the past few days. His family, residing in Kanpur, has been informed of the tragic incident. The police have taken custody of the body and are conducting further investigations. Originally from Farrukhabad, Singh was in Jaunpur before being posted to Ayodhya. Surjit Singh, reportedly took charge as the ADM Law and Order in Ayodhya on 25 Oct 2023, after being promoted from the

post of SDM. On receiving the information about the incident, the family left for Ayodhya from Kanpur.

Meanwhile, the police have taken the body into its custody. As of now, it remains unclear whether it was a case of suicide or homicide. Police said the cause of death would be clear once the investigation and post-mortem report are completed. ADM Surjit Singh was going to retire in December.

# All INDIA bloc candidates to fight UP bypolls on 'cycle' symbol: Akhilesh Yadav

Lucknow | Agencies

Samajwadi Party (SP) President Akhilesh Yadav has said that the candidates of the INDIA bloc are set to contest all nine Assembly seats in the upcoming bypolls in the state on his party's election symbol, 'cycle'.

He claimed that the opposition bloc's pursuit of victory, not any seat-sharing calculations, guided its decision.

"Congress and the Samajwadi Party are united and stand shoulder to shoulder for a big victory. The INDIA bloc is going to write a new chapter of victory in this by-election," Yadav said in a post on X.

"With this unprecedented cooperation and support, every worker of 'INDIA bloc' on all nine Assembly seats is filled with new energy with the resolve to win," he added.

"It is not about seats but about winning. Under this strategy, the joint candidates of the INDIA bloc will contest all the nine seats on the Samajwadi Party's election symbol 'cycle'."

"Congress and Samajwadi Party are united and standing shoulder to shoulder for a big victory. INDIA bloc is going to write a new chapter of victory in the Uttar Pradesh by-election, the SP President wrote on X.



"Samajwadi Party's strength has increased manifold with the support of Congress party's top leadership and booth level workers. With this unprecedented cooperation and support, every worker of the INDIA bloc in all the 9 Assembly seats has been filled with new energy with the resolve to win."

"This is an election to save the country's constitution, harmony and the honour of the PDA. That is why our appeal to everyone is: not even a single vote should be reduced, not even a single vote should be divided," Yadav further wrote on X.

This unity and solidarity of the INDIA bloc filled with harmony in the interest of the country will

write new history today and tomorrow as well, he added. Speaking about the Uttar Pradesh bypolls, the former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister asserted that the upcoming election will be fought for the protection of the country's Constitution, peace, and the honour of "Pichhde (backwards), Dalit and Alpsankhyak (Minorities)".

Bypolls in Uttar Pradesh will be held on November 13 on nine seats: Katehari (Ambedkar Nagar), Karhal (Mainpuri), Meerapur (Muzaffarnagar), Ghaziabad, Majhawan (Mirzapur), Sishamau (Kanpur city), Khair (Aligarh), Phulpur (Prayagraj), and Kundarki (Moradabad).

Eight of these seats in the state fell vacant after their MLAs were elected as MPs in the Lok Sabha, while a bypoll was held on the Sisamau seat following the disqualification of SP MLA Irfan Solanki, who was convicted in a criminal case.

The Election Commission has announced a by-election on nine seats, leaving out Milkipur (Ayodhya).

The last date for filing nominations is October 25. The counting of votes will take place on November 23.

The SP has already declared its candidates from Karhal, Sisamau, Phulpur, Milkipur, Katehari, Majhawan, and Meerapur.

# J&K govt to bring Article 370 resolution in Assembly, restore 'Darbar Move'

Srinagar | Agencies

The J&K government will bring a resolution on Article 370 in the upcoming session of the Legislative Assembly and also restore the practice of 'Darbar Move', NC MLA and party spokesman, Tanvir Sadiq said on Thursday.

Tanvir Sadiq, NC MLA from Srinagar's Zadibal constituency and party spokesman said today that the government will bring a resolution on Article 370 in the upcoming Assembly session and the government will also restore the practice of six-monthly shutting of top government offices between the twin capitals of Jammu and Srinagar. J&amp;K L-G Manoj Sinha has called a session of the Legislative Assembly on November 4. The practice called the 'Darbar Move' was started by the Dogra



Maharajas and was abandoned by the L-G administration to cut the huge costs involved in shifting top offices including those of the chief minister, council of ministers, chief secretary, all other senior administrative officers and the police headquarters between Srinagar and Jammu. Speaking to media persons, Tanvir Sadiq called the

abrogation of Article 370 'unconstitutional'. He hoped that opposition parties, including the BJP, would support the resolution on Article 370 in the Assembly. "The government also plans to revive the Darbar Move practice, benefiting Jammu traders. Whatever, we have promised in the election manifesto, will be fulfilled," he

said. Tanvir Sadiq alleged that the BJP was trying to divide Jammu and Kashmir by fuelling communal tensions for electoral gains.

"NC instead prioritises unity and inclusive representation. The Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah is currently in Delhi, engaging with ministers to address the people's pressing issues. Omar Abdullah means business this time and people will witness a sea of change," he said. Articles 370 and 35A were abrogated on August 5, 2019. by the Parliament and the state was divided into two union territories of J&amp;K and Ladakh. NC made the restoration of Article 370 and 35A hood its main electoral plank. NC won 42, BJP 29, Congress 6, PDP 3, CPI (M) 1, Aam Aadmi Party 1, Peoples Conference (PC) 1 and independents 7 seats in the assembly elections.

# Cabinet okays 2 railways projects worth Rs 6,798 crore

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on Thursday approved two railway projects with an estimated cost of Rs 6,798 crore.

The projects will be completed in five years to provide connectivity, facilitate ease of travelling, minimise logistics costs, reduce oil imports, and lower CO2 emissions, said the CCEA, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The approved projects are the doubling of the Narkatiaganj-Raxaul-Sitamarhi-Darbhanga and Sitamarhi-Muzaffarpur Sections covering 256 km, and the construction of a new line between Eruppalem and Namburu via Amaravati covering 57 km. The projects will generate direct employment for about 106 lakh human-days.

Covering eight districts in three states -- Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Bihar, the new rail projects will increase the existing network of Indian Railways by about 313 km.

"These will improve logistical efficiency connecting the unconnected areas, increase



the existing line capacity and enhance transportation networks, resulting in streamlined supply chains and accelerated economic growth," according to the Cabinet.

The doubling of the Narkatiaganj-Raxaul-Sitamarhi-Darbhanga and Sitamarhi-Muzaffarpur Sections will boost the connectivity to Nepal, northeast India and border areas, while facilitating the movement of passenger trains, along with goods trains, resulting in the socio-economic growth of the region. The multi-tracking project would enhance connectivity to two aspirational districts (Sitamarhi and Muzaffarpur), serving 388 villages and about 9 lakh population.

# GRIHA Council to Host 3rd Regional Conclave: Driving Climate Action through Sustainable Building Practices

Lalit Sharma | Jaipur

The GRIHA Council is all set to organize its 3rd Regional Conclave in Jaipur, Rajasthan, on 25th October 2024. The theme of this event follows under "Accelerating Climate Action in the Built Environment." This event will gather policy-makers, government officials, industry experts, and academia to discuss and promote sustainable practices in building and construction.

The Conclave is organized in partnership with Design2Occupancy Services LLP as the Knowledge Partner and ASA as the Event Partner. It follows the success of the previous conclaves held in Lucknow and Hyderabad, and is part of a series of regional events aimed at enhancing grassroots understanding and implementation of sustainable building practices across India. These regional events are also a precursor to the

16th GRIHA Summit scheduled in New Delhi on 4th and 5th December 2024.

The Jaipur Conclave is designed to act as a platform for discussing the interdependence between communities and organizations in creating inclusive and climate-resilient infrastructure. With India's ambitious target to become a Net Zero nation by 2070, this Conclave will address decarbonizing the built environment by 2050, aligning with the nation's vision of "Viksit Bharat @2047." The Key topics will include economic growth, social progress, environmental sustainability, and governance, emphasizing the mitigation and adaptation strategies needed to create climate-resilient infrastructure.

The event will also feature prominent voices from the government, policy think tanks, academia, and industry, who will share insights on building low-carbon, sustainable infrastructure. In addition

to these key officials, the event will host senior representatives from central and state governments, as well as industry experts from sectors such as renewable energy, pollution control, and information technology. Prominent academics, including Professor Jyotirmay Mathur from MNIT Jaipur, will also participate, offering insights on sustainable infrastructure in India.

The building and construction industry currently accounts for a substantial 34% of global energy consumption and 37% of global greenhouse gas emissions, according to UNEP. The Jaipur Conclave will tackle these challenges by exploring innovative solutions to combat climate change.

A highlight of the Conclave will be the Green Building Tour on 24th October 2024. Participants will visit the KM Trans Logistics Headquarter in Jaipur, a building that has earned a prestigious 5-Star SVA GRIHA rating for its.

# Cyclone Dana set to be severe; Armed Forces on high alert in Odisha, Bengal

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Cyclone Dana is expected to severely impact the coastal regions of Odisha and West Bengal. In response, the Indian Navy has launched extensive preparations for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) operations.

The Eastern Naval Command has activated its disaster response mechanism in coordination with naval officers stationed in Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, and West Bengal. Two ships from the Eastern Fleet have been deployed with essential supplies, including rescue and diving teams, to support relief efforts by sea.

The Indian Navy remains on high alert, closely monitoring the situation, and has assured full support to those affected by the cyclone.

The Ministry of Defence has also stated that medical aid will be provided upon request from state authorities. For this, the Navy is in



coordination with units such as Base Victualling Yard (BVY), Material Organisation, and Naval Hospital INHS Kalyani.

As part of the preparedness, the Navy has stockpiled essential items such as clothing, drinking water, food, medicines, and emergency supplies. Disaster response pallets have been strategically positioned on roads and key areas likely to face damage from the cyclone.

In addition to naval efforts, flood

relief and diving teams are on standby, ready for coordinated rescue and relief operations.

The Indian Air Force and Coast Guard have also taken precautionary measures to safeguard life and property in the region. The Indian Air Force has airlifted 150 NDRF personnel and 25 tonnes of relief supplies to Bhubaneswar using IL-76 and AN-32 aircraft. Moreover, marine vessels, aircraft, and remote-operating stations in West Bengal

and Odisha have been activated to address any emergency situation.

The Ministry of Defence said that all necessary precautions have been taken by the Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard to mitigate the impact of Cyclone Dana.

The severe cyclonic storm Dana is expected to hit the Odisha coast between Bhitarkanika in Kendrapara district and Dhamra in Bhadrak district on October 24 night and October 25 morning. After landfall, it is expected to slightly recurve towards the west and west-south direction triggering heavy rainfall in South Odisha districts on October 26.

Several coastal districts in Odisha have been receiving rainfall since Wednesday afternoon and the wind speed has been continuously increasing in the districts. As per reports, trees were uprooted at some places in the coastal districts and the fire services personnel and other rescue teams were busy clearing the roads on Thursday.



## SAINTS AND SEERS PRAISE CM'S DECISION TO BUILD A PERMANENT ASHRAM IN UJJAIN

Swami Avadheshanand ji thanks the Chief Minister for his sensitivity towards the saints. Akhara Parishad said the decision is development-oriented.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The state government has already started preparations for the Global Simhastha to be held in Ujjain in 2028. Ujjain has always been known for saints coming from all over the country to take part in Simhastha. Sadhus, saints, Mahants, Akhara heads, Mahamandaleshwar, etc. from all over the country have expressed happiness over Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav's announcement of the construction of a permanent ashram in the interest of the saints and have appreciated his announcement.

Chief Minister Dr. Yadav has said that just as proper permanent ashrams for saints have been built in Haridwar, efforts will be made to build similar ashrams for saints in Ujjain. The plan will be given shape through the Ujjain Development Authority. Along with the development of all the basic facilities, the construction of the ashrams for saints will be done in parallel. Priority will also be given to running public activities like Anna Kshetra, Dharamshala,

Ashram, medical center, Ayurveda center etc. through Sanatan Dharma followers of the society interested in the work.

The Sant Samaj from Ujjain to Haridwar has welcomed this important initiative taken by Chief Minister Dr. Yadav. President of Akhil Bharatiya Akhara Parishad, President of Maa Mansa Devi Trust, Haridwar, Secretary of Panchayati Niranjani Akhara, Mahant Ravindra Puri Maharaj, described the decision of Chief Minister Dr. Yadav as very important and said it will set new dimensions for development. Mahamandaleshwar and heads of Akharas have expressed happiness over this initiative. Acharya Mahamandaleshwar Swami Avadheshanand Ji of Juna Akhara said that it is the saints and good men who are the sustainers of the divine sentiments like "Sarvam Khalvidam Brahma Neh Nanasti Kinchan" and "Atmavat Sarva Bhuteshu", which have been inherent in the Sanatan Dharma culture for a long time, and propagandists of public welfare

schemes and spiritual concepts.

Swami Avadheshanand ji said that as per the decision taken by Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Dr. Yadav, permission to saints, Mahants, Akhara heads, Mahamandaleshwar etc. to build permanent ashrams in Ujjain like Haridwar is highly commendable. He thanked the Chief Minister for his sensitivity towards the development of Ujjain pilgrimage and saints.

Peethadhishwar Acharya Mahamandaleshwar Sri Sri 1008 Anand Sri Vibhushit Avadhoot Baba Arun Giri Ji Maharaj (Environment Baba) said that there is great joy among the saints. Simhastha Kshetra in Ujjain, a place of Akharas, the land of saints, the saint community welcomes him for the permanent ashram construction which will save the environment. With this, Ujjain will also develop like Haridwar where ashrams will be built for saints and great personalities.

Rajya Sabha MP Bal Yogi Shri Umesh Nath Ji Maharaj, Peethadhishwar Valmiki Dham said

that Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Dr. Yadav has taken an unprecedented and historic decision with his wisdom and prudence. Kumbh Mela is held at four holy places in India, one of which is Avantika Puri, Ujjain. It is a matter of happiness that in the history of Kumbh, Avantika and the reign of Madhya Pradesh, the great Mahatmas of the country will not live in tents but will stay in permanent ashrams due to the decision of Dr. Yadav, in Kumbh-2028.

Bal Yogi Shri Umesh Nath Ji Maharaj said that Chief Minister Dr. Yadav has taken this decision because a grand temple of Lord Shri Ram has been built in Ayodhya. Dr. Yadav has pledged that in the Kumbh that will be held in 2028, all the designated Akharas in the country will be made concrete. For this, a building would be constructed on 25 percent area on a plot of one hectare. The remaining land will remain open for other necessary arrangements. Being a sanyasi, he wished and blessed a bright future for Chief Minister Dr. Yadav on behalf of all the saints of the country.

## Foreign policy is in national interest, no contradiction there: Vivek Tankha on former J&K CM's remark

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Senior advocate and Rajya Sabha Member from Congress Vivek Tankha on Thursday said that there should be "no contradiction in foreign policy" as it is in the interest of the country.

He said that the foreign policy is decided by the Parliament and that there is no contradiction between the ruling and Opposition parties when the subject is national interest.

Tankha made this statement in response to PDP President Mehbooba Mufti's assertion that the Centre should initiate dialogue with Pakistan. On Wednesday, she had said the citizens of J&K are suffering due to hostility between the two neighbours.

Responding to the former J&K CM's statement, Tankha said that she might have made this statement to take advantage of the ongoing situation as Indian Foreign Minister S. Jaishankar has recently visited Pakistan. "I think



Mehbooba Mufti must be aware of the ongoing situation (S. Jaishankar's visit to Pakistan) and as a representative of the party, she might have made such a statement to take advantage of the situation," Tankha told reporter.

He added that the statement of any individual, however, is not going to affect J&K's situation. "J&K is a very complicated and historical issue and individual leaders' statement

is not going bring any change in it," he added.

Tankha also said the political parties will come and go, but the country's foreign policy will remain in the interest of the country. "Foreign policy is always in the interest of country and there is no contradiction on it," Tankha stated.

On Wednesday, former J&K CM Mufti, who visited the residence of Dr. Shah Nawaz Dar, who was killed by terrorists in Kashmir's Ganderbal district on October 20, said that the people of Jammu & Kashmir are stuck between the enmity of the two countries.

"The people of Jammu and Kashmir are stuck between the enmity of two countries, their lives, property, everything is getting ruined. Our poor labourers have also become victims of this. Till the time these countries do not sit together and adopt the path of reconciliation with each other, as happened during the time of Vajpayee ji, such incidents will keep happening," she had said.

## BJP will win both the seats in Madhya Pradesh: Minister Rakesh Shukla

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Rakesh Shukla, Cabinet Minister for New and Renewable Energy in the Madhya Pradesh government, had a special conversation with IANS on Wednesday. During this, he claimed that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will win both the assembly seats in Madhya Pradesh.

He said that all the party workers, including the Chief Minister of the state Mohan Yadav, are ready for the election to be held on the Vijaypur seat. Attacking the Congress, he said that they are making false claims about the victory. He clarified that the victory of the BJP is certain and the party is ready to contest the elections along with all the workers.

Talking about the election strategy of the BJP regarding the by-election to be held in Vijaypur assembly, the minister said that all the people of the organization and power are engaged in the election with full force. He also mentioned Priyanka Gandhi's nomination rally and said that the results will be positive for the BJP there too.

During this, he shared an important information and said that the government will achieve the target of installing solar plants for solar energy on government buildings as soon as possible. He said that the country's Prime



Minister Narendra Modi has set a target that by 2024 all government buildings will be equipped with solar energy. The government has worked continuously in this direction and is committed to achieving this target.

He said that we are constantly moving forward in the field of renewable energy and we will seriously try to achieve this important target of 2024.

## Always disrespect Dalits: Sarang after Kharge's video outside nomination venue goes viral

Team Absolute | Bhopal

As a video clip went viral on social media showing Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge waiting outside as General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi filed her nomination for the Wayanad Lok Sabha constituency in Kerala, BJP leader Vishwas Sarang on Thursday slammed the party and said they "always disrespect Dalits."

Talking to reporter, Vishwas Sarang professed, "What Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadera did to Kharge is a big insult to a Dalit leader. They indulge in drama and pretend that they respect Dalits, but the way Kharge was treated, it is clear that the Congress treats Dalits badly."

"Kharge is the National President and insulting him like this, as if he was unwanted. But, this is the history of Congress. They insulted Sitaram Kesri, PV Narasimha Rao. They have always done this," he added.

The BJP leader further claimed that former Congress President Sitaram



Kesri was locked inside a bathroom for hours until Sonia Gandhi took over the party.

"Kesri was locked inside a bathroom and later they threw him on a footpath before hoisting Sonia

Gandhi as the new party President in 1988. They also tried to insult him by tearing his clothes. This is the tradition of Congress," he alleged.

"Sonia Gandhi didn't allow the dead body of Narasimha Rao to be

placed inside the AICC headquarters," he stated. He claimed that whatever happened on Wednesday during the nomination filing was quite disrespectful and painful.

"It is not only his insult. They have insulted the whole Dalit community," he concluded.

On Wednesday, when Priyanka Gandhi filed her nomination for the Wayanad Lok Sabha bypoll, she was accompanied by Congress leader Sonia Gandhi, Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi, Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, her husband Robert Vadra and other national and state leaders of the party.

Priyanka Gandhi would be contesting against the LDF's Sathyan Mokeri and BJP's Navya Haridas.

The bye-election for the Wayanad Lok Sabha seat became necessary after Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, who won the polls from there and the Raebareilly constituency in Uttar Pradesh, decided to vacate the Wayanad seat.

## Political battle over fertilizer in Madhya Pradesh; Agriculture Minister said, 'Sufficient fertilizer stock is available in the state'

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Sowing of Rabi crops is going on in Madhya Pradesh. Farmers need fertilizer at this time.

While farmers need fertilizer, it has become a political issue for political parties. Congress is constantly accusing the state government of not providing sufficient fertilizer to the farmers, while the government claims that there is more availability of fertilizer than last year.

Sowing of Rabi crops is going on in the state. This work started from October 1 and will continue till December 30. During this time, farmers need fertilizer. Pictures of long queues of farmers for fertilizer are coming from some places in the state. At the same time, cases of fertilizer not being easily available to farmers are also coming to the fore.

Former Chief Minister of the state Digvijay Singh has said that favoritism cannot be accepted in the distribution of DAP fertilizer. Collector of Guna should please find out which farmers have been given more fertilizer than the prescribed quantity in the last one week. Farmers are being threatened of being shut down under section 151 if they complain to the administration. Former Chief Minister Digvijay Singh



will meet the Collector on October 26 regarding the fertilizer related problems of farmers. He has said that after meeting the Collector, he will visit Guna, Aron, Raghogarh, Chachoura, Madhusudangarh fertilizer distribution centers and mandis. Demanding an increase in the support price of soybean, the former Chief Minister said that the price of soybean crop should be Rs 6,000 per quintal. Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan had promised government procurement of soybean at Rs 4,892 per quintal. Government procurement has not started yet, farmers have to buy fertilizer and seeds and sow. Diwali is coming, due to compulsion, they have to sell soybean

at Rs 3500-4000 per quintal. On the other hand, State Agriculture Welfare Minister Aidal Singh Kanshana has said that farmers do not need to worry about fertilizers. The state government has sufficient fertilizers available. The fertilizer ministry of the Central Government issues allocation of fertilizers month wise and company wise and the state is getting this fertilizer. He further informed that 4.67 lakh metric tonnes of urea was sold in October 2023, while 8.53 lakh metric tonnes are available in October 2024 including transit. Out of this, 2.40 lakh metric tonnes of urea has been sold and 6.13 lakh metric tonnes are available in stock. Last year, from October 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024, 10.36 lakh metric tonnes of DAP and NPK were sold. An allocation of 14 lakh metric tonnes has been provided by the Central Government for Rabi 2024-25.

He further said that similarly, 4.37 lakh metric tonnes of DAP and NPK were sold in October 2023, while 5.58 lakh metric tonnes are available in October 2024 including transit. Out of this, 2.20 lakh metric tonnes of DAP and NPK have been sold and 3.36 lakh metric tonnes are available in stock. Racks of urea and DAP, NPK are being continuously received in the state. Racks are being made available as per the demand of the districts.

## License issued for fireworks shops in Bhopal, instructions for safety and inspection

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Keeping in mind the upcoming festivals, licenses have been issued for wholesale and retail fireworks shops in Bhopal district. Strong security arrangements have been ensured at these shops, in which facilities like fire brigade, cleanliness, and parking are being provided by the Municipal Corporation. If any lack of arrangement is seen in any shop or area, then citizens are requested to inform the ADM office or SDM of the concerned area by 28 October 2024. The Municipal Corporation and the concerned departments are actively inspecting to ensure the sale of fireworks in various areas of Bhopal.



The SDM office will take immediate action on receiving information about any disturbance. Arrangements have also been completed by deploying the fire brigade. By providing licenses to fire-

works sellers in Bhopal, compliance of safety standards has been ensured. The administration has also appealed to the public for cooperation so that a safe environment can be maintained during the festivals.

### OUTSOURCED EMPLOYEES WILL CELEBRATE BLACK DIWALI IF BONUS IS NOT RECEIVED, WILL PROTEST AFTER DIWALI

Bhopal: State President of Outsourced Employees Federation Anil Bajpai and Chief Advisor Arun Verma said that despite the order of the Labor Commissioner, bonus has not been paid to outsourced, part-time and daily wage workers in corporations, divisions, boards, councils and cooperative institutions. There is great dissatisfaction among these employees including watchmen and peons regarding this neglect. In protest against this, more than 10,000 outsourced, contract and daily wage employees across the state will celebrate black Diwali this year.

Anil Bajpai and senior employee leader Arun Verma have urged all the concerned managing directors to ensure payment of bonus to the employees before Diwali by following the instructions of the Labor Commissioner. He warned that if the bonus is not given by Diwali, the employees will launch the "Neend Haram Andolan".

## Ratlam's CM Rise School declared world's best school

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Vinoba CM Rise School of Ratlam, Madhya Pradesh has been declared first in the 'Innovation' category of 'World's Best School Awards, 2024'. London-based T-4 Education Institute today announced the world's best schools in various categories. Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav has congratulated the school's team and the School Education Department on this achievement. School Education Minister Shri Uday Pratap Singh has congratulated all the colleagues of CM Rise Vidyalaya Ratlam and the School Education Department for this achievement. The School Education Minister said that this historic achievement is an important achievement not only for the state but for the whole of India. This is because CM Rise Vinoba has won this title by leaving behind schools of the world. Apart

from India, about 1000 schools from countries like America, UK, Spain, Brazil, Kenya and Thailand were involved in the race for this award. CM Rise Vinoba School Ratlam will be given 10 thousand US dollars (about 8 lakh 40 thousand rupees) under the honor fund of this award by T-4 Institute.

This award has showcased the capabilities of Indian government schools at the global level. Also, it has proved that world-class education is possible even in remote tribal areas. CM Rise Vinoba School has proved through its bold and innovative methods in the "Innovation" category that the level of education can be the highest anywhere and under any circumstances.

School Education Secretary Dr. Sanjay Goyal said that the World's Best School Awards organized by London-based T-4 Education provide

a global platform to those schools that have made a positive impact on their students and communities by leading in education. This global recognition of CM Rise Vinoba is the result of the visionary thinking, unwavering dedication and exemplary efforts of its teachers, school leaders and community.

We have received this achievement after going through many stages. First of all, three of our schools had nominated for this award. After several rounds of interviews, 2 of them, CM Rise Vidyalaya Jhabua in the "Healthy Lifestyle in Educational Process" and CM Rise Vidyalaya Vinoba Ratlam in the "Innovation" category, were selected in the top 10. Subsequently, one of our schools, CM Rise Ratlam, made it to the top three as well as the finals and ultimately topped its category against schools from the United Kingdom and Thailand.

- ▶ WEEKLY TRAINING SESSIONS FOR CONTINUOUS DEVELOPMENT OF TEACHERS.
- ▶ USE OF ONLINE TEACHING MATERIAL WHICH NOT ONLY EMPOWERS THE DEVELOPMENT OF TEACHERS BUT ALSO THE EDUCATION OF STUDENTS.
- ▶ VIRTUAL DIALOGUE TO ENSURE THE INVOLVEMENT OF PARENTS IN THE EDUCATION OF CHILDREN.
- ▶ TECHNOLOGY TO TRACK DAILY ATTENDANCE THROUGH GOOGLE FORM.
- ▶ STRUCTURED RECOGNITION SYSTEM FOR TEACHERS, WHICH ENCOURAGES EXCELLENCE.
- ▶ REGULAR TEAM BUILDING ACTIVITIES, TO PROMOTE COLLABORATIVE AND POSITIVE CULTURE AMONG TEACHERS.



EDITOR'S SPECS

**BJP mocks INDIA Bloc divide over bypolls**

**B**haratiya Janata Party (BJP) National Spokesperson on Thursday ridiculed the INDIA Bloc over the divide within for the upcoming Uttar Pradesh bye-elections and said that it was a 'wake-up call' for the Congress party. After months of a deadlock over seat-sharing for the UP bypolls, the Akhilesh Yadav-led Samajwadi Party (SP) recently offered just two seats to its national ally and on Wednesday night declared that all the INDIA Bloc nominees will contest elections on the 'Bicycle' symbol. The Congress is yet to react on being cold-shouldered but the general perception is that it may stay away from the elections rather than accepting the 'insult' meted out to it. The bypolls got necessitated because seats fell vacant after sitting legislators got elected as MPs in the recent Lok Sabha polls. The bye-election is being held for the Sisamau seat, due to the disqualification of the Samajwadi Party MLA Irfan Solanki because of his conviction in a criminal case. A total of nine Assembly seats are set to go for voting in the bye-election slated for November 13. They are Meerapur, Khair, Katehari, Sishamau, Majhawan, Ghaziabad, Kundarki, Karhal and Phulpur. The bypoll date for the Milkipur Assembly seat has not yet been announced because of an election petition pending in court. In the recently held Lok Sabha elections, the Congress and SP contested together and put up their best-ever show in UP by winning six and 37 seats respectively. BJP taunted the Congress party and the Gandhi family in particular for allegedly insulting party President Mallikarjun Kharge during Priyanka Gandhi's nomination filing for the Wayanad Lok Sabha seat.

# INDIA AT BRICS AND THE CURIOUS CASE OF IRAN

Nishtha Gautam

**A**ll eyes have been on Iran for more than a year. Naturally, the first BRICS summit with Tehran's membership is bound to breed speculation about what the prospective new world order would look like. At home, there needs to be an examination of India's bilateral ties with a country that is seen firmly anti-West in its outlook. Iran and India are sailing in the same boat, at least momentarily: of the West's castigation. The temptation may be high on both sides to form a joint front against Western hegemony in the security space. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has held bilateral talks with the new Iranian President, Masoud Pezeshkian, with a focus on strategic cooperation in and beyond the Middle East. It can be endlessly debated without inching anywhere close to a resolution whether multi-lateral global groupings make any difference to realpolitik either domestically or internationally. The signalling, however, remains crucial. To begin with, the West is already perceiving the summit as Russia's show of strength. Headlines like 'Putin Gathers Allies' and 'Putin Hosts Global South Leaders at BRICS Summit Meant to Counterbalance Western Clout' in Western media outlets expose apprehension. A complex interplay of sectarian interests and regional dynamics shapes Iran's geopolitical strategy. It is in the direct line of fire, thanks to Israel's unchecked belligerence. Already reeling under economic pressure owing to the UN sanctions of 2011, the post-October 7 reality for Tehran is even grimmer. Iran blames the US for almost all of its problems. As such, during the last summit, former president Ebrahim Raisi had anointed Iran's proposed BRICS membership as one of the ways of getting even with the US and the West at large. "Iran's membership in the bloc is opposition to American unilateralism." Russia and China share this sentiment of BRICS emerging as a counterbalance to the West. But what about India? India has lauded and endorsed Iran's presence in BRICS, but will New Delhi also endorse Tehran's oppres-



sive domestic policies in the name of this cooperative alliance? India has not stopped buying oil from Iran despite the sanctions and disapproving remarks from the West. Yet, bilateral trade between the two countries has dropped by 26% in one year. Geoeconomics informs Iranian perceptions of the bloc as a critical driver. Iran aims to secure increased volumes of oil and non-oil exports to fellow BRICS members, bypassing the dollar. Like Russia, Iran is engaged in a high-stakes battle with the West. China doesn't particularly enjoy a friendly status, either. New Delhi's balancing act, therefore, is set to be tested on many tricky issues in the near future, including the Israel-Palestine issue. India has been an outlier in a manner. At the last UN General Assembly vote on a resolution calling for the end to Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories, India was the only founding BRICS country to abstain, along with the newcomer Ethiopia.

During the Modi-Pezeshkian bilateral, India was urged to play a more substantial role in the Middle East peace process. But what are New Delhi's realistic options? Calling for peace does not usher in peace; arm-twisting the stakeholders does. Any BRICS decision mandates unanimous agreement. In that sense, it is even trickier than the domestic coalition politics that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has found itself in the midst of after a decade. What will, for example, be India's stand should Iran want a revival of its nuclear plan? India's past tussles with the West over its own nuclear programme may trigger another round of strategic unpleasantness over New Delhi's stance. India has a long-standing policy of strategic autonomy, and the complexity of its relations with the West is par for the course. The question is only of degree. The scope of India's support to its alliance partners in any overtures, real or perceived, against

the West needs to be clearly defined, if not announced. While BRICS has achieved precious little in tangible terms in the past 15 years, the symbolism of grouping may have consequences for India as ongoing conflicts stretch into the future and new challenges around them emerge. On the other hand, the internal dynamics of the expanded coalition politics that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has found itself in the midst of after a decade. What will, for example, be India's stand should Iran want a revival of its nuclear plan? India's past tussles with the West over its own nuclear programme may trigger another round of strategic unpleasantness over New Delhi's stance. India has a long-standing policy of strategic autonomy, and the complexity of its relations with the West is par for the course. The question is only of degree. The scope of India's support to its alliance partners in any overtures, real or perceived, against

**international**

## 'WIDESPREAD ANXIETY' THAT WEST ASIA CONFLICT WOULD SPREAD FURTHER: EAM JAISHANKAR

Kazan | Agencies

**E**xpressing concerns over the situation in Middle East and West Asia, External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar on Thursday said that there remains a "widespread anxiety" that the ongoing conflict would spread further in the region. "The situation in the Middle East, West Asia for us, is an understandable concern. There is a widespread anxiety that the conflict would spread further in the region. Maritime trade has also been deeply affected. The human and material consequences of further escalation are truly serious. Any approach has to be fair and durable, leading to a two-state solution," the EAM said at the BRICS Outreach session in Kazan. Representing Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the segment, Jaishankar emphasised that conflicts and tensions have to be handled effectively. "Prime Minister Modi has emphasised that this is not an era of war. Disputes and differences must be settled by dialogue and diplomacy. Agreements, once reached, must be



scrupulously respected. International law should be adhered to, without exception. And there should be zero tolerance for terrorism," he said. Citing that as the old order changes while inequities of the past continue, the EAM mentioned that BRICS is a statement in itself and can make a real difference. He made five key points to ensure that the benefits of change reach those who are currently left behind

and a more equitable global order is created. It included strengthening and expanding platforms of an independent nature to widen choices and avoid being leveraged; Reforming established institutions and mechanisms, especially the UN Security Council in the permanent and non-permanent categories; Democratizing the global economy through creating more production hubs to build

resilient, redundant and shorter supply chains; Correct distortions in global infrastructure through connectivity options that enhance logistics and mitigate risks; and, sharing experiences and new initiatives that hold relevance and are of common interest. "India's Digital Public Infrastructure, its Unified Payments Interface and the Gati Shakti infrastructure, all hold a larger relevance. The International Solar Alliance, the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, the Global Biofuel Alliance, Mission LiFE and the International Big Cat Alliance are similarly initiatives of common interest. As a First Responder, be it for natural calamities, health emergencies or economic crises, we seek to do our fair share," he mentioned. The plenary session of the 16th BRICS summit in the outreach/BRICS-plus format on Friday was attended by leaders of the CIS countries, delegations from Asian, African, Middle Eastern and Latin American countries, as well as heads of executive bodies of a number of international organisations.

## Bangladesh interim govt bans student wing of ex-PM Sheikh Hasina's party



Dhaka | Agencies

**T**he Bangladesh interim government has banned Bangladesh Chhatra League, the student organisation of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's party Awami League, after a demand by a student group that led the July-August uprising under the Anti-Terrorism Act of 2009. The government, under the powers provided in sub-section (1) of Section 18 of the "Anti-Terrorism Act 2009", banned Bangladesh Awami League's fraternal organisation "Bangladesh Chhatra League", said the Bangladesh Home Ministry in an official notification. "At various times since the independence of Bangladesh, especially during the last 15 years of dictatorial rule, the Bangladesh Chhatra League, the fraternal organisation of Bangladesh Awami League, has been involved in various public security-related activities including killings, torture, harassment in

common rooms, trading of seats in dormitories, gangs, rape, and sexual harassment," said an order issued by Bangladesh Home Ministry. Earlier on Tuesday, the Anti-discrimination Student Movement, the group led to oust Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, announced five-point demands, including the resignation of Bangladesh President, Mohammed Shahabuddin. The demands also included banning Awami League's student organisation, Bangladesh Chhatra League. "Documentary information regarding these have been published in all the major media of the country and some terrorist incidents, the leaders and workers of the organisation have also been proved in the criminal court," the order issued on Wednesday evening said. According to the official order, Bangladesh Chhatra League leaders attacked the protesting students and the general public with frenzied and reckless armed attacks during the anti-discrimination student movement from July 15. The official order said, "During the anti-discrimination student movements from July 15, 2024, Bangladesh Chhatra League leaders-workers attacked the protesting students and general public with frenzied and reckless armed attacks and killed hundreds of innocent students and persons and endangered the lives of many more people."

## Israel strikes Hezbollah weapon facilities in Beirut's southern suburb: IDF

**J**erusalem: The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) said in a statement on Thursday that its Air Force struck overnight Hezbollah weapons storage and manufacturing facilities in Beirut's southern suburb of Dahieh. The statement added that the attack was conducted with intelligence guidance, and that all targeted sites were situated under or within civilian buildings in densely populated areas, Xinhua reported. This is "another example of Hezbollah's systematic abuse of civilian infrastructure and willingness to endanger the population in the area," the IDF noted.

## Sri Lanka on high alert after intelligence info on potential terror attack targeting foreigners

Colombo | Agencies

**S**ri Lankan Foreign and Public Security Minister Vijitha Herath revealed on Thursday that three suspects have been arrested in connection with the security threats to Israeli nationals in the Arugam Bay area of the island nation's Eastern Province. The action follows after several countries have issued travel alerts over the past 24 hours considering intelligence information received about a possible terror attack targeting foreigners, especially Israelis, across popular tourist locations in coastal Sri Lanka. Some reports cited that the intelligence has been provided by India, like it was also reportedly done before the horrific 2019 Easter Sunday bombings which the Lankan security agencies



had failed to act on in time. The suspects, all Sri Lankan nationals, caught on Thursday are currently being questioned regarding the incident, Herath said at a special media briefing. "Minister Herath said Sri Lankan authorities received intelligence information from foreign intelligence services about a potential attack on Israeli nationals earlier this month. He said

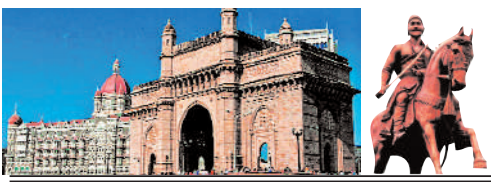
that similar information had also been received by the authorities during the previous government," Sri Lanka's Daily Mirror reported. He asserted that the new government didn't inform the public until the information was confirmed, but took security measures as soon as the information was received. Herath also urged the public not to fall victim to misleading reports and

assured that comprehensive security measures are in place to protect tourists. On Wednesday, the United States issued a security alert, strongly advising US citizens of a potential attack on tourist locations in a coastal area of Sri Lanka. "The Embassy received credible information warning of an attack targeting popular tourist locations in the Arugam Bay area. Due to the serious risk posed by this threat, the Embassy imposed a travel restriction on Embassy personnel for Arugam Bay effective immediately and until further notice. US citizens are strongly urged to avoid the Arugam Bay area until further notice," stated the US Embassy in Colombo. Similarly, Israel's National Security Council (NSC) called on Israeli citizens to immediately leave Arugam Bay and the south and west coastal areas of Sri Lanka.



## Kyrgyzstan exports over 8.7 tonnes of gold in 8 months

**B**ishkek: Kyrgyzstan had exported over 8.72 tonnes of gold worth 639.6 million US dollars from January to August this year, the country's National Statistics Committee reported on Thursday. The main buyers of its gold were Britain, which bought 5.89 tonnes, Switzerland with 971.5 kg and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) purchased 13.5 kg, Xinhua News Agency reported. Kyrgyzstan had exported 8.717 tonnes of gold worth 545.2 million US dollars over the same period last year.



# MAHA ASSEMBLY POLLS: FAMILY FIRST IN PLAY AS MAHAYUTI, MVA FIELD CANDIDATES

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Even as dynasty politics or familism was hotly debated, it was in play in the Maharashtra Assembly elections, scheduled to be held on November 20.

Ruling MahaYuti and Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi, which were leaving no stone unturned to grab the power, preferred "family first" while announcing candidates.

Shiv Sena (UBT), MNS, Shinde faction, NCP and BJP, which always targeted Congress for dynasty politics, nominated candidates from their families.

Interestingly, if another person from the same family failed to get a party nomination, instances have come to the fore, in which switching to other parties helped.

The BJP, which follows the principle of 'one family, one candidate', has fielded relatives of its leaders in its first list of candidates.

Mumbai BJP President Ashish Shelar will contest from Bandra West while his brother Vinod Shelar was picked up and nominated from Malad West. BJP Rajya Sabha member Ashok Chavan had succeeded in getting a nomination for his daughter Shriyaya from the Bhoyar constituency.

The BJP nominated Pratibha Pachpute, wife of the sitting legislator and former minister Babanrao Pachpute from the Shrigonda constituency. The party leadership turned down the Pachpute family's request to field their son Vikram.

Moreover, BJP legislator Ganesh Naik was renominated from the Airoli constituency while his son Sandeep Naik two days ago joined the NCP-SP. While Ganesh will be busy campaigning for MahaYuti, Sandeep will seek votes for



Maha Vikas Aghadi. Sandeep had made a strong case for getting a nomination from the Belapur seat but BJP did not consider his request as it renominated the sitting legislator Manda Mhatre.

On the other hand, former union minister Narayan Rane, who was elected from Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg seat to the Lok Sabha, and his son and sitting MLA Nitesh Rane got the nomination again from Kanakavali Assembly constituency.

However, Rane's other son and former MP Nileshe Rane has switched to the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena and will contest from Kudal. Nileshe Rane, who has played a crucial role in his father's victory, will take on Shiv Sena-UBT nominee and Uddhav Thackeray's close confidant Vaibhav Naik. It was a coincidence that Vaibhav, as a nominee of the "united" Shiv Sena, defeated Narayan Rane, who was then Congress nominee and industry minister, in the 2014 Assembly election from the Kudal constituency. After a decade now, Vaibhav will fight against Narayan Rane's son.

Another prominent leader from the Shinde faction who was the beneficiary of dynasty politics was State Industry Minister Uday Samant. Uday was nominated from Ratnagiri but his brother Kiran Samant also hit the lottery by getting a nomination from the adjoining Ratapur constituency.

Kiran, a leading industrialist, hogged the headlines after he changed his profile photo during the Lok Sabha elections hinting that he may switch his loyalty to Shiv Sena (UBT). Although Kiran Samant remained with the Shinde faction, he did not hide his ambition to enter electoral politics.

"The number of major contender parties increased due to splits in the last five years. Due to the one-upmanship between the Mahayuti and Maha Vikas Aghadi, a lot of aspirants tweaked their plans for getting nominations. Instead of taking any risks, all party leaders took all precautions to keep candidates within the family like children, wives, daughters, sons-in-law and brothers. The winnability was considered as the leading factor for the selection of nominees even though they are from the families," said a

Mahayuti minister. He, however, admitted that it will have to be seen how the cadres and supporters of ruling and opposition parties react and vote. Shiv Sena MP Ravindra Waikar, who deserted Uddhav Thackeray ahead of the Lok Sabha election and won from the Shinde faction, was another beneficiary of dynasty politics. Waikar's wife Manisha was nominated from the Jogeshwari Assembly constituency. Shiv Sena legislator Lata Sonawane was replaced by her husband Chandrakant Sonawane from the Chopada (reserved) constituency. Similarly, Shiv Sena sitting legislator Chimanrao Patil withdrew from electoral politics, paving the way for his son Amol Patil nomination from the Erandol constituency.

In Ajit Pawar led-NCP, a senior minister Chhagan Bhujbal was renominated from the Yevala constituency and his son Pankaj Bhujbal was recently nominated to the Maharashtra Legislative Council from the Governor's quota. Incidentally, Bhujbal's nephew and former MP Sameer Bhujbal was expected to contest as an independent from the Nandgaon seat against Shiv Sena nominee and sitting legislator Suhask Kande. Similarly, the NCP was expected to nominate Nawab Malik from Mankhurd Shivajinagar and his daughter Sana Malik from the Anushaktinagar constituency. The NCP was yet to announce the duo's nominations in the wake of BJP's strong objection against fielding Nawab Malik.

Shiv Sena-UBT renominated Aaditya Thackeray, the son of party president Uddhav Thackeray, from Worli constituency.

The Maharashtra Navnirman Sena chief Raj Thackeray's son Amit will debut in electoral politics by contesting from the Mahim constituency.

## Three workers killed as water tank crashes in Pune, more feared trapped

Team Absolute | Pune

At least three contract labourers were crushed to death and six more are feared injured when a huge water tank in a public toilet in Bhosari's Sadguru Nagar, suddenly crashed here on Thursday morning, officials said here.

The tragedy was reported around 7.30 a.m. when many of the local workers were hurriedly going about their morning ablutions, washing clothes, bathing, etc., in the big toilet complex. When around a dozen workers were taking baths near the taps, the water tank abruptly gave way and collapsed into a heap inside the toilet complex, leading to several casualties. The Pimpri-Chinchwad Police and Fire Brigade rushed to the spot along with other disaster relief agencies to help with the rescue and relief operations. Local eyewitnesses said they had heard some peculiar sounds just before the massive water tank filled to capacity to handle the morning peak hour rush, crashed, with huge quantities of water gushing out in the vicinity. While three bodies have been recovered from the site, the rescue teams are searching for some more feared to



be buried under the debris, and the victims were working at the nearby private construction sites. Senior civil and police officials as well as local volunteers have reached the tragedy site and are engaged in searching for those trapped below the rubble, and the area has been cordoned off. An eyewitness informed the rescuers of the exact spots inside the public facility where the people were going about their chores and are now feared buried under the debris. The rescuers have focused their attention on clearing up the specific spots in an effort to reach the trapped victims soon, and further details are awaited.

## RUMBLINGS IN SHIV SENA-NCP OVER NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A day after the release of the first list of candidates by Shiv Sena and NCP, the aspirants from both these parties have expressed their displeasure over the decisions taken by their party leadership.

After the NCP announced the nomination of Nirmala Vitekhar, who is the mother of party legislator Rajesh Vitekhar from Pathari constituency in Parbhani district, Shiv Sena leader Saeed Khan has vowed to contest as an Independent and expressed his anger at Rajesh Vitekhar.

"I have been preparing for the Pathari Assembly for the last two years and was also given a word by the party. Also, when Rajesh Vitekhar was contesting the Legislative Council elections, I helped him. During that time, Rajesh Vitekhar had promised me that he would help me in the Assembly elections. But eventually now he has gone back on his word," alleged Khan.

Khan announced that he would file his nomination papers on October 29 and added that party office bearers have decided to resign in protest against Nirmala Vitekhar's nomination. However, Rajesh Vitekhar downplayed Khan's outburst saying, "My mother's nomination has been decided after a series of dialogues with the people from the NCP."



A senior Shiv Sena leader said that Khan may not cross the party line after Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's intervention.

Disagreements between the NCP and Shiv Sena surfaced in Ambegaon constituency from Pune district after the NCP renominated the minister and seven-term legislator Dilip Walse-Patil. Shiv Sena's tribal leader Vijay Adari objected to Walse-Patil's nomination and announced that he would leave Shiv Sena to protest against the renomination of Walse-Patil by the NCP, which is the Shiv Sena's ally in the Mahayuti.

Adari argued that the tribal dominated areas from Ambegaon constituency were still neglected and there was a need to pay more attention to expedite the development process.

Meanwhile, the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly Deputy Speaker and NCP nominee from Dindori constituency Narhari Zirwal said although there are two factions of the NCP, Sharad Pawar will bless him for his victory. "Despite two factions of the NCP, Sharad Pawar will bless me. Dhanraj Mahale has decided to go alone and fill the nomination form. But I am going to request Dhanraj Mahale and I am confident that he will withdraw his nomination", stated Zirwal before filing his nomination papers on Thursday. Zirwal's statement started a political buzz that he might go back to the Sharad Pawar faction after the elections. "The voters of Dindori will elect me on the issue of development. I am 100 per cent sure that I will get elected from the Dindori Assembly constituency," said Zirwal.

## "People Know BJP, Eknath Shinde Looted Maharashtra": Aaditya Thackeray

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The people of Maharashtra have realised that the BJP and Chief Minister Eknath Shinde make hollow promises and have looted the state, Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Aaditya Thackeray told a TV channel.

The 34-year-old leader today filed his nomination from Worli seat in Mumbai that he currently holds. He led a massive rally of Shiv Sena (UBT) supporters in a show of strength ahead of the November 20 polls.

Maharashtra's political landscape has changed between the 2019 state polls and the upcoming election. In 2019, the BJP and Shiv Sena alliance scored a thumping victory. The alliance fell through due to a disagreement over rotational chief ministership. Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray then tied up with Sharad Pawar's NCP and the Congress to



form the government. This government was toppled two years later due to a mutiny led by Sena leader Eknath Shinde, who then became Chief Minister with BJP's support. The Sena split and the NCP followed. Currently, the BJP, Eknath Shinde-led Sena and Ajit Pawar's NCP are part of

the ruling coalition. They are up against the alliance of Congress, Shiv Sena (UBT) and Sharad Pawar's NCP.

Asked how this election is different, Thackeray replied, "The biggest difference, if you look at the Lok Sabha polls too, is that people have realised that the BJP is a party of hol-

low promises. Maharashtra will stand against Eknath Shinde and BJP, who have looted the state."

The BJP-Sena-NCP alliance suffered a setback in the Lok Sabha polls earlier this year, winning just 17 of the 48 seats in the politically significant state. The Maha Vikas Aghadi, on the other hand, put up a stellar show by winning 30 seats.

On whether the state government's recently launched schemes will give a poll advantage to Mahayuti, he said, "They have woken up in the last month, we have been working on the ground for years. BJP and Eknath Shinde have looted Maharashtra like never before. Jobs and industries have gone away, and farmers' distress is at its highest. This is what we are fighting against."

To a question on the seat-sharing within the Maha Vikas Aghadi, he said, "Everything will be sorted out today."

## MahaYuti partners arrive at consensus on 278 seats after meeting Amit Shah

Team Absolute | Nagpur

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Thursday said that MahaYuti partners BJP, Shiv Sena and NCP have reached an understanding over 278 seats after meeting Union Home Minister Amit Shah Fadnavis was speaking after the meeting held Thursday between the Union Home Minister Amit Shah and MahaYuti leaders comprising Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar and himself to discuss over 30 seats where three parties had differences.

"Our meeting was positive. There is understanding over 278 seats and talks are underway for 10 seats. We will reach a consensus on those 10 seats soon. We will tell you (media) once the MahaYuti's seat-sharing formula is settled on 10 seats," he said.

BJP has released its first list of 99 seats, 45 by Shiv Sena and 38 by NCP. Together three MahaYuti partners have so far declared 182 candidates while the 106 are still to be announced. BJP, which has projected itself as a big brother in the MahaYuti, is pressing for 150 seats while Shiv Sena is not ready to settle below 80 seats. NCP, which was initially demanding 90 seats, is expected to get about 55 to 58 seats in its quota.



Meanwhile, Fadnavis took a dig at the Maha Vikas Aghadi for announcing its seat-sharing formula of 270 seats with Congress, Shiv Sena UBT and NCP SP getting 85 seats each. "However, 85+85+85=270, whatever Maha Vikas Aghadi's math, supercomputer and math experts are trying to understand," he taunted.

Even though Maha Vikas Aghadi leaders said that the three parties will get 85 seats each the total comes to 255 seats but they have not given details about 33 seats.

Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut on Wednesday said that of 33 seats, 18 will be left for other smaller parties like PWP, CPI, CPM and Samajwadi Party. "Congress has announced a candidate against me, I wish him all the best. We have finalised seat-sharing arrangements for 278 seats. Our agenda is the development work that the MahaYuti government has done," said Fadnavis.

## School Project Made Using Electronic Devices Triggers Alarm In Nagpur

Team Absolute | Nagpur

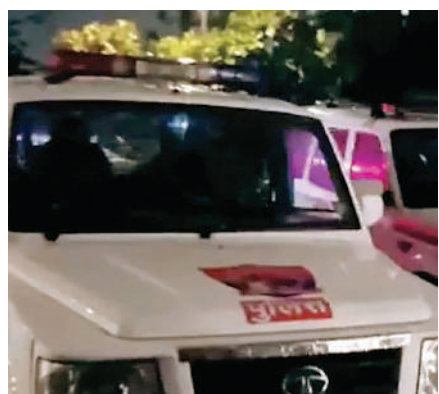
A science project prepared by a Class 10 student in Nagpur inadvertently triggered an alarm at his home and among local residents on Wednesday, leading to the summoning of police and even its Bomb Detection and Disposal Squad (BDDS).

Everyone heaved a sigh of relief when nothing suspicious was found.

Devendra Nayak, a student of Mahatma Gandhi School, prepared the science project with help from a friend and it included some electronic devices and jewellery kept in a box. In a rush to reach school on time, the teenager forgot to inform his parents about the project, which he left at home, officials of the MIDC police station said.

When the student's mother discovered the box containing the electronic items, she got suspicious and alerted her husband Dhaniram Nayak, a driver, they said.

Dhaniram Nayak, suspecting the box may have dangerous materials, immediately took it



in an open area and called the police, attracting attention of local residents, said the officials.

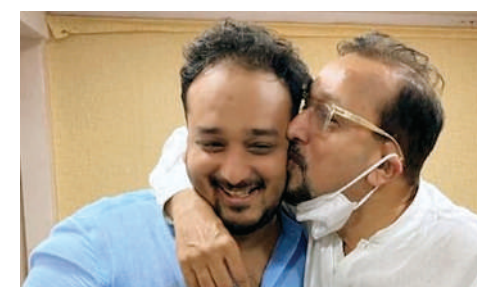
Police and BDDS quickly responded with DCP Lohit Matani dispatched to the scene. They examined the box in a nearby forest using a bomb detector, ultimately finding no explosive materials inside it, said police.

## "Old Friends...": Baba Siddiqui's Son Jabs Congress Over Mumbai Seat Pick

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Former Congress leader Zeeshan Siddique has slammed the party after the Maha Vikas Aghadi named a candidate from Mumbai's Vandre East seat, which he won in the 2019 state polls. The 34-year-old leader has said "old friends" have announced their candidate from the seat and added that "supporting was never in their nature". The Congress expelled the 32-year-old leader earlier this year after he was accused of cross-voting during the Maharashtra legislative council election. Mr Siddique had denied the charge. The young leader is the son of NCP (Ajit Pawar faction) leader and former Maharashtra minister Baba Siddiqui, who was shot dead earlier this month.

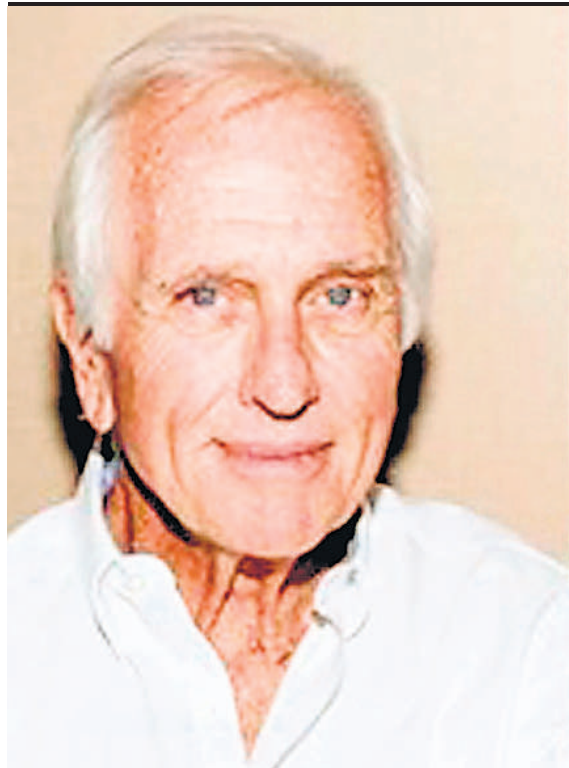
"I heard old friends have announced their candidates from Vandre East. Supporting was never in their nature," he said in a post on X. "Maintain rela-



tions with those who give respect, no point in surrounding yourself with a crowd, now the people will decide." In the 2019 polls, Zeeshan Siddique defeated the Shiv Sena's Vishwanath Mahadeshwar, former Mayor of Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation, to win Vandre East.

The Vandre East seat has gone to Congress ally Shiv Sena (UBT) as part of seat-sharing within the

Maha Vikas Aghadi. The Shiv Sena (UBT) has named Varun Sardesai as its candidate. Varun Sardesai is the nephew of party chief Uddhav Thackeray. On the other hand, the Vandre East seat has gone to NCP's Ajit Pawar faction as part of seat-sharing within the BJP-led Mahayuti bloc. While the NCP is yet to announce its candidate, it is likely to field Zeeshan Siddique to benefit from the sympathy wave in the aftermath of his father's murder. Baba Siddiqui, 66, was shot dead outside Zeeshan Siddique's office in Bandra on October 12. A total of 14 people have been arrested and police are probing different angles, including contract killing and business rivalry, to establish what was behind the murder. A former Maharashtra minister, Baba Siddique was Congress MLA from Vandre from 1999-2009. After the seat was dissolved and bifurcated, he represented Vandre West from 2009-14. Earlier this year, he quit the Congress and joined the Ajit Pawar faction of NCP.



# Ron Ely of TV series 'Tarzan' fame dead at 86

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood actor Ron Ely, popularly known for starring in the 1960s television series "Tarzan", died aged 86. Ron Ely's daughter Kirsten confirmed to tmz.com. She shared that her father passed away peacefully at his home surrounded by family on September 29. Kirsten shared an emotional tribute to her father on Instagram, reports deadline.com. "The world has lost one of the greatest men it has ever known - and I have lost my dad," she wrote. "My father was someone that people called a hero. He was an actor, writer, coach, mentor, family man and leader. He created a powerful wave of positive influence wherever he went." Kirsten added: "The impact he had on others is something that I have never witnessed in any other person - there was something truly magical about him. This is how the world knew him. I knew him as my dad - and what a heaven sent honor that has been. To me, he hung the moon. She shared that her father was her world. "And what an incredible world he created. He was strong and protective. He was brilliant and ridiculously funny. He was stoic and sensitive. He was dynamic and

powerful. He was my role model and inspiration. He was humble and inherently received respect - the respect he so deserved. "My father's life story was one of relentless perseverance, unending dedication to his family and friends, courage to do what was right, and willing sacrifice to facilitate the dreams of those he loved. It was also a story of joy and love - something everyone close to him had the privilege of experiencing. Once you knew my father's love, the world grew to be a brighter and more meaningful place." Kirsten shared that she is doing her best to walk this path of loss with the strength and grace that she knows he would want for her. "I picking up the pieces of my heart that feel like pieces of him - and cementing those firmly in place before I pick up the rest of the broken bits. It makes me feel like part of him is still here - and I need that - and the world needs that." "My greatest comfort is knowing that my dad is with my momma and my brother. It is also my greatest sadness because I miss them all so much that it's etched into my soul. I will proudly carry all of my favorite pieces of them - lovingly cemented into my heart - until we all meet again."

# NICOLE KIDMAN SAYS SHE DID NOT 'WANT TO ORGASM ANYMORE'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Nicole Kidman is opening up about filming her new movie Babygirl, for which she is receiving wide acclaim. The actor plays a successful businesswoman who has an affair with a new intern played by Harris Dickinson in the film. Filming the scenes was often too much for the actor, she admits in a new interview. During the interview, Nicole opened up about the challenges of playing a sexually



charged character: "There was an enormous amount of sharing and trust and then frustration. It's like, 'Don't touch me.' There were times when we were shooting where I was like, 'I don't want to orgasm anymore. Don't come near me. I hate doing this. I don't care if I am never touched again in my life!' I'm over it. It was so present all the time for me that it was almost like a burnout."

# Liam Neeson to retire from action movies at the end of 2025

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Liam Neeson, who gained the action icon title with the blockbuster "Taken" franchise, has talked about his retirement from the genre by the end of next year. After his action movie breakthrough in 2008 with "Taken", Neeson went on to headline many movies in the nail-biting genre. He was front and center for two "Taken" sequels and also fought like hell in action films such as "Unknown" (2011), "The Grey" (2012), "Non-Stop" (2014), "Run All Night" (2015), "The Commuter"

(2018), "The Ice Road" (2021) and more, reports variety.com. Neeson continues to perform his own fight scenes even in his 70s, with a little help from longtime stunt collaborator and friend Mark Vanselow. "I'm 72 - it has to stop at some stage," Neeson told people.com. "You can't fool audiences. I don't want Mark to be fighting my fight scenes for me." Neeson has not yet set a specific date for his last action movie role, he did say that it will likely be in 2025, adding: "Maybe the end of next year. I think that's it." Neeson's latest action project,



"Absolution," arrives in November and reunites him with his "Cold Pursuit" director Hans Petter Moland. "When he's immersed in the character he is, you see the hurt, you see the pain," Moland told People about what makes Neeson such an enduring action hero. "He becomes that man." While Neeson is eyeing a retirement from action movies sometime in 2025, he's continuing to film them for the time being. He was cast earlier this year opposite Zachary Levi in the "Hotel Tehran," a new action-thriller from Guy Moshe.



# Billie Eilish suffers injury after dangerous fall on stage

Los Angeles | Agencies

Singer-songwriter Billie Eilish recently had a mighty fall off stage while performing in New York. The singer showed an enormous bruise in the light of the injury. The 22-year-old lost her footing and crashed to the floor in Madison Square Garden, reports 'Mirror UK'. Fortunately, the staircase on the stage was partially obscured from the audience and the lighting was low, so the songstress' embarrassment was somewhat spared. As per 'Mirror UK', after the sold-out 'Hit Me Hard And Soft' gig, the 'Bids of a Feather' star took to X, sharing a snap of her leg with a huge purple bruise. Captioning the injury, she simply wrote: "But literally" as her fans expressed their concern. Responding to the post, one wrote: "Ow that looks so painful." Another said, "That's bad! Get well soon, Billie". While another shared: "Sending you all the healing vibes, Billie. Take care of yourself." Billie's fans were over the moon earlier this year when she revealed the release date of her third studio album, Hit Me Hard And Soft. The album, which dropped on streaming platforms and in stores on May 17, is being followed by a comprehensive world tour this year, much to the excitement of her fans.



# Liam Payne's girlfriend Kate Cassidy reveals they had plans to marry

Los Angeles | Agencies

In a recent post on Wednesday, Liam Payne's girlfriend Kate Cassidy expressed her profound heartbreak following her partner's unprecedented death. In a post-mortem examination, it was reported that the former One Direction star passed away due to multiple traumas and both internal and external hemorrhage after falling from a third-floor balcony at the Casa Sur hotel in Buenos Aires, Argentina. She said, "I don't even know where to begin. My heart is shattered in ways I can't put into words. I wish you could see the huge impact you've had on the world, even as it feels so dark right now. You brought so much happiness and positivity to everyone - millions of fans, your family, friends, and especially me. You are so incredibly loved. You are - because I can't say were - my best friend, the love of my life, and everyone you touched felt just as special as I did. Your energy was contagious, lighting up every room you walked into. None of this feels real, and I can't wrap my head around this new reality of not having you here. I'm struggling to figure out how to live in a world without you

# Sutton Foster files for divorce from Ted Griffin

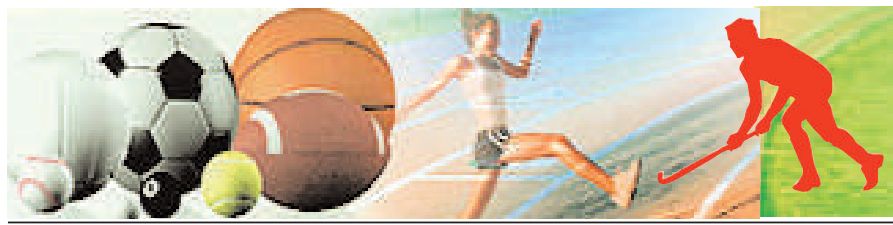
Los Angeles | Agencies

Sutton Foster, the Tony-winning Broadway star, has filed for divorce from her husband, Ted Griffin, after nearly 10 years of marriage. According to court records reviewed by PEOPLE, Foster, 49, filed the paperwork in the New York County Supreme Court on October 22. Ted Griffin, 53, is a screenwriter, and the couple share a 7-year-old daughter, Emily. Back in October 2020, Foster spoke with PEOPLE about spending time with her family during the COVID-19 pandemic. She shared how she, Griffin, and their daughter had been sheltering in place outside of New York City. "It was the first time that we've all been together for this amount of concentrated time without one of us travelling or having to leave for work every day," Foster said. She described how the family had made it a tradition to sit together for breakfast and dinner. "We're all sitting at the table, and now my daughter will ask everyone, 'How was your day?'" she shared. Foster explained how they had made this family time an important part of their day.



ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY

Kim Kardashian



## 2nd Test

# Washington Sundar's career-best seven-fer gives India upper hand on Day One

Pune | Agencies

There is a special link that connects Pune and Washington Sundar. When the city had a franchise in the Indian Premier League (IPL), Washington came in as a replacement player for injured Ravichandran Ashwin and grabbed the attention of onlookers by picking eight wickets in the side's runners-up finish in 2017. It was his abilities to take out wickets and contain the run-flow through his off-spin which impressed everyone. Cut to now, and India sprang a surprise in its second Test against New Zealand at Pune by picking Washington, who was added to the side hours after the team's defeat in Bengaluru, ahead of Kuldeep Yadav and Axar Patel. But Washington justified his selection in the playing eleven after a gap of three and a half years by picking career-best figures of 7-59 in his 23.1 overs as New Zealand were bowled out for 259. In reply, India are 16/1 in 11 overs and trail by 243 runs at the stumps. Yashasvi Jaiswal (6 not out) and Shubman Gill (10 not out) are holding the fort for India after Rohit Sharma was dis-



missed for a nine-ball duck when Tim Southee got one to nip away a bit and hit the top of the off-stump.

Thursday totally belonged to Washington, who displayed an exhibition accuracy mixed with drift and dip, while varying his pace and seam position well to turn the game on its head for India on a slow black-soil pitch and keep New Zealand to one below 260, after they were 197/3 at one point.

Ashwin chipped in with 3-64 as the innings marked the first-ever instance of all ten wickets taken by India's right-arm off-spinners in a Test match. In the morning, Devon Conway and captain Tom Latham hit five boundaries between themselves, before the latter fell early to Ashwin, who got the length ball to straighten after pitching on leg-stump and

trapped the left-handed batter lbw. Conway and Will Young got some easy singles while hitting boundaries occasionally to stitch a 44-run stand for the second wicket, with India's spinners bowling quicker through the air. Ashwin strangled Young down the leg, and Sarfaraz Khan, stationed at short leg, prodded captain Rohit Sharma to take a review.

Replays justified Sarfaraz's conviction as there was a spike detected on the ultrage when the ball passed off the gloves, before being pounced by Rishabh Pant, as Young was dismissed for 18. Conway was solid like a rock, especially in his sweeps, while Rachin Ravindra survived a few close brushes till lunch came. Post lunch, Conway started with a cracking cover drive off Jasprit Bumrah to get his fifty. He

then capitalised on width from Bumrah's deliveries by punching off the backfoot and opening the face of the bat late to get back-to-back boundaries. From the other end, Ravindra began to find his groove by using Bumrah's pace to run through the gap between slip and gully for four. Conway continued to be impressive with his drive and reverse sweeps, before poking at a short and spinning away ball from Ashwin, with the edge caught by Rishabh Pant. Ravindra took over the run-scoring mantle by lofting Jadeja for six, before beautifully flicking off Akash Deep for four more. After getting his fifty with a stylish flick going through the hands of short mid-wicket for four, Ravindra had two more boundaries coming off Akash's cut and outside edge.

The 59-run stand for the fourth wicket between Ravindra and Daryl Mitchell was brought to a halt by Washington, who turned the tide in favour of India at the fade end of the second session with his dip, drift, and turn. Washington got a tossed-up delivery to turn away sharply from the middle stump and hit the top of the off-stump with a peach of a delivery.

At the stroke of tea, Washington again brought

joy to himself and the Indian team by getting a length ball to grip and turn sharply into Blundell, who aimed for a flick but was castled through the gate. Post-tea, Washington asked for a review after rapping Daryl Mitchell on the pads with a sharp turning delivery, which proved to be a good review as replays showed the ball going on to clip leg-stump. Mitchell Santner tried upping the ante by hitting boundaries, but Washington continued to hurt New Zealand.

A struggling Glenn Phillips holed out to long-off off him, while Tim Southee and Ajaz Patel were castled by the young all-rounder, and Washington wrapped up the New Zealand innings in style by rapping Santner with grip and turn to take out the off-stump, as the visitors lost their last seven wickets for 62 runs, on a day where Washington was back in prominence via Pune, yet again.

**Brief scores:**  
New Zealand 259 all out in 79.1 overs (Devon Conway 76, Rachin Ravindra 66; Washington Sundar 7-59, Ravichandran Ashwin 3-64) lead India 16/1 in 11 overs (Shubman Gill 10 not out; Tim Southee 1-4) by 243 runs

# Ashwin becomes leading wicket-taker in World Test Championship history



Pune | Agencies

India's star all-rounder Ravichandran Ashwin became the highest wicket-taker in the history of the ICC World Test Championship (WTC) during the second Test against New Zealand at the Maharashtra Cricket Association (MCA) Stadium in Pune on Thursday. Ashwin achieved the milestone in the opening session of Day 1 after dismissing New Zealand captain Tom Latham, opener Will Young and Devon Conway. With these three wickets, Ashwin moved to 189 wickets in 39 matches in the WTC history from 2019 to

2024, surpassing Australia's Nathan Lyon, who had 187 wickets in 43 Tests.

Australia's Test captain Pat Cummins is in third place with 175 wickets in 42 matches. India pacer Jasprit Bumrah placed seventh with 124 wickets from 30 matches.

Ashwin has so far taken 530 wickets in 104 matches at an average of under 24, which places him second on India's all-time Test wicket-taking list, behind only the legendary Anil Kumble, who claimed 619 wickets.

Besides his bowling heroics, the all-rounder has 3,438 runs at an average of 26.44, with six centuries and 14 half-centuries to his name.

# Rani Rampal calls curtains on historic career

New Delhi | Agencies

India's veteran women's hockey player Rani Rampal announced her retirement in front of a big crowd at the Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium here on Thursday. The former captain took the time to recall the fondest memory of her 16-year career and acknowledged the significance of the venue where she got to announce. "My fondest memory (of my career) is the Tokyo Olympics when we beat Australia in the quarterfinals, that was the first time when the women's team finished in the top four," Rani Rampal told reporter after the second match of the India v Germany bilateral series. "It is truly an honour that my retirement has come at the venue named after our hockey wizard Major Dhyanchand," she added. Rani's impact on Indian hockey has



been nothing short of extraordinary. Over her career, she played more than 250 matches for India and scored over 100 goals, leading the team to several historic victories. She was a driving force behind India's silver medals at the 2017 Women's Asian Cup and the 2018 Asian Games, where she also had the honour of serving as India's flag-bearer during the closing ceremony.

# 1ST ODI: CLINICAL INDIA HAND NEW ZEALAND A 59-RUN DEFEAT

Ahmedabad | Agencies

A disciplined performance by the bowlers led by left-arm spinner Radha Yadav helped India hand New Zealand a 59-run defeat in the first match and take a 1-0 lead in the three-match women's ODI series at the Narendra Modi Stadium here on Thursday.

Asked to bat first by the visitors, the Indian women's team rode on decent batting efforts by Tejal Hasabnis (42), Deepti Sharma (41) and Yastika Bhatia (37) before being restricted to 227 all out in 44.3 overs. Jemimah Rodrigues (46) and Shafali



Verma (33) were other major contributors for India as the Kerr sisters, Amelia (4-41) and Jess (3-49), did the maximum damage for New Zealand.

in the three-match series against the recently-crowned ICC T20 World Cup winners. Radha Yadav (3-35) and Saima Thakur (2-26) were the main wicket-takers for India.

Saima Thakur struck the first blow for India in the second over, inducing a dangerous Susie Bates (1) to edge behind with the score reading 7/1. Georgia Plimmer was the next to go, caught by Deepti Sharma of her own bowling and it became 46/3 when skipper Sophie Devine was run out.

Brooke Halliday and Lauren Down (25) stitched together a partnership and took the score to 79 before

the latter was out. Halliday and Maddy Green (31) kept New Zealand's hopes alive by taking the score to 128, raising 49 runs for the fifth wicket partnership.

Earlier, India's batting faltered as they were bowled out for 227 all out with 33 balls remaining at the Narendra Modi Stadium. The Kerr sisters, Amelia and Jess, were exceptional with the ball, combining to take seven wickets.

Eden Carson and Suzie Bates chipped in with two and one wickets respectively, helping the White Ferns restrict India in the series opener.

# India beat Germany 5-3, but lose series in a shootout

New Delhi | Agencies

The Indian men's hockey team defeated Germany 5-3 in regulation time but lost the bilateral test series to the reigning world champions after coming short in the shootout. Germans triumphed 3-1 in the shootout to bag the series.

In the regulation time in the second test match, Sukhjeet Singh (34', 48') and Harmanpreet Singh (42', 43') scored a brace each while Abhishek (45') contributed one goal to India's tally. Elian Mazkour (7', 57') and Henrik Mertgens (60') were successful for Germany.

Though India began the match with a penalty corner in the fourth minute, it was Germany who drew the first blood following a quickfire counter-attack launched in the 7th minute. Abhishek had made a circle entry from the left flank, but his shot on goal was unsuccessful. The Germans took this opportunity to strike.



The reigning world champions entered the match riding on a 2-0 win in the first match and bagged another opportunity to score in the 12th minute through a PC, but failed to convert. Though India had an opportunity to score in the 14th minute through a PC too, Danneberg made a fine save.

In the second quarter, Vishnu Kant and Shamsher played tag-team to trouble the German defence but couldn't find an equaliser. In the fol-

lowing minutes, both India and Germany won PCs but neither could convert. While India hunted for a goal in this quarter, the German defence stayed resolute, particularly in PC defence.

With the scoreline reading 1-0 at half-time, India had to align their attack and come up with an improvised tactic to score. And that's exactly what they did in the third quarter. Shilanand Lakra's backhand pass to Sukhjeet inside the circle was brilliantly deflected to equalise.

This first goal by India gave them the momentum they were looking for and pumped two more goals in this quarter. It was Harmanpreet Singh who found success in PC when he struck back-to-back in the 42nd and

43rd minute to help India take a strong 3-1 lead.

India ended the third quarter with another goal. This time it was Abhishek who scored a fine field goal. In the 48th minute, India extended their lead to 5-1 when a counter-attack saw Sukhjeet make a solo run with no defenders near him, as he pushed the ball past Danneberg.

The thrilling action continued with Mazkour scoring his second goal. Germany ended up scoring their third goal in the 60th minute through Henrik Mertgens, taking the match into a shootout.

"We analysed our opponents carefully after yesterday's game and tried to minimise errors to bounce back today. I am proud of the way the team played today. We found success in field goals and PC attack but unfortunately couldn't win the Series," expressed India skipper Harmanpreet Singh, who was also awarded the Player of the Match award.

# Tennis: Zheng, Boulter reach quarterfinals in Tokyo

Tokyo | Agencies

Top seed Zheng Qinwen began her 2024 Pan Pacific Open campaign with a commanding victory over Japan's Moyuka Uchijima, winning 7-5, 6-0 in just over an hour. Zheng, the reigning Olympic gold medallist, had a slow start but regained her form in the second set, claiming the last nine games to seal a quarterfinal clash with No. 8 seed Leylah Fernandez.

Life has come full circle at the Pan Pacific Open for the Chinese star, now ranked among the elite. Back in 2022, Zheng was a promising 19-year-old when she reached her first WTA final at the same tournament, ultimately falling to Liudmila Samsonova.

Two years later, she's coming off a deep run in Wuhan, which secured her spot in the prestigious WTA Finals Riyadh next month. After a closely contested first set, she found her rhythm and cruised to victory, dropping no games in the second set.



Elsewhere, British No. 1 Katie Boulter also progressed to the quarterfinals with a dominant 6-1, 6-2 win over Japan's Kyoka Okamura. No.9 seed Katie Boulter dropped just three games against lucky loser Kyoka Okamura to reach her fourth tour-level quarterfinal of 2024.

# Champions League: Man City thrash Sparta 5-0; Barca beat Bayern, Inter win

New Delhi | Agencies

Erling Haaland scored an audacious back-heel volley as Manchester City eased to a comfortable 5-0 win over Sparta Praha in the Champions League.

Phil Foden took less than three minutes to fire City ahead with his first attack, but it took until just before the hour for Haaland's acrobatics to extend the lead further.

John Stones' header then made it three before a fine second from Haaland - his 44th Champions League goal in 42 appearances -- and a late Mathes Nunes penalty rounded off a handsome victory.

Pep Guardiola's side have now won two of our three Champions League

matches so far, as we keep our place in the top-eight sides that qualify automatically for the last-16.

On another match, Raphinha's stunning hat-trick helped secure an emphatic 5-1 victory over Bayern Munich to end Barcelona's losing run in this fixture.

The Blaugrana, beaten in their last six meetings against the Bavarian side, got off to a dream start in the opening minute when the Brazilian international rounded Manuel Neuer after latching onto a Fermin Lopez through ball.

Harry Kane levelled via an acrobatic volley before former Bayern forward Robert Lewandowski applied a cool finish to Lopez's deft touch. Barca skipper Raphinha put the result beyond doubt, claiming the match ball in the process,



with two impressive strikes in the space of 11 minutes either side of half-time.

Elsewhere, substitute Marcus Thuram struck three minutes into added time to earn Inter 1-0 win over Young Boys. The Nerazzurri saw Marko Arnautovic brilliantly denied from the penalty spot by David von Ballmoos after the break, with the Young Boys keeper leaping to block the rebound from Denzel Dumfries.

In response, Joel Monteiro's fine solo run ended with the home forward striking against the foot of a post. But on a night where the sides shared over 35 attempts on goal, Thuram stole in to connect with Federico Dimarco's cross, denying Young Boys a first point of the league phase and securing Inter's second win.

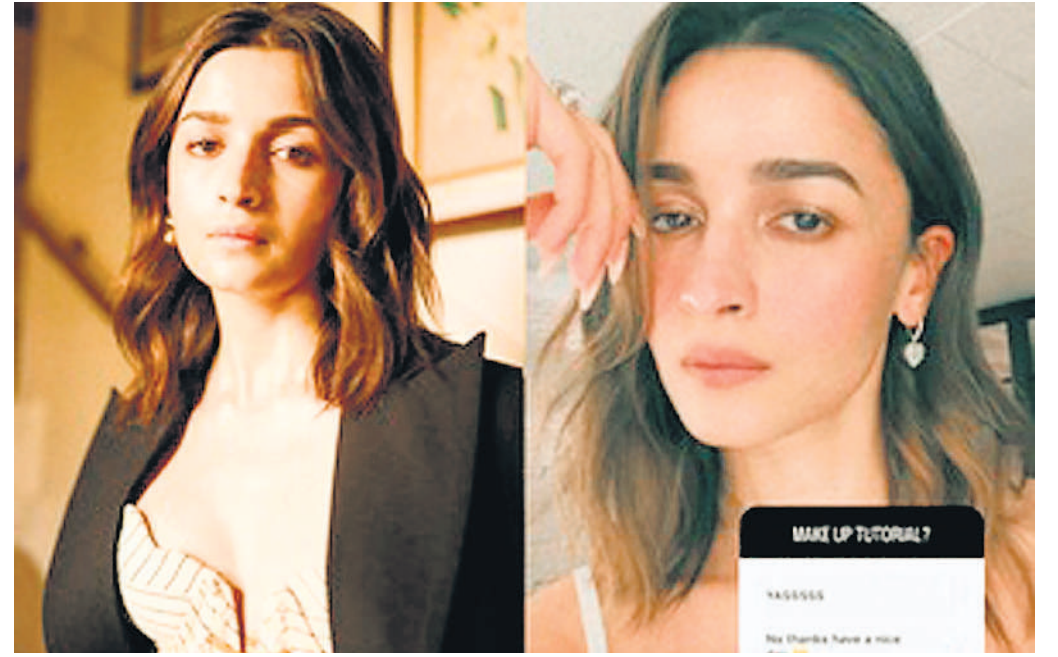


# Legal troubles mount for Nawazuddin Siddiqui

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor Nawazuddin Siddiqui has found himself at the center of controversy following the release of a recent advertisement. In the commercial, the actor is seen dressed as a Maharashtra police officer, encouraging people to play poker on the app. According to the latest reports, a Hindu organization claims that this depiction harms the reputation of the Maharashtra Police by linking law enforcement to gambling. The Hindu Janjaguti Samiti has sent a letter to the Mumbai Police Commissioner and the Maharashtra Director General of Police, urging them to take action against Siddiqui and Ankur Singh, the owner of Big Cash Poker. In a formal complaint, Abhishek Murukate, the Maharashtra state coordinator for the organization's social welfare campaign, Surajya Abhiyan, raised the issue in a letter to the Mumbai Police Commissioner and the Maharashtra Director General of Police.

The letter demands strict action against both Siddiqui and Singh under the Maharashtra Civil Services (Discipline and Appeal) Rules of 1979 and the Maharashtra Police Act of 1951. The letter states, "This is alarming because the same police department files cases against such people and arrests gamblers. The Hindu Janjaguti Samiti's 'Surajya Abhiyan' strongly condemns this, as it tarnishes the image of the Maharashtra Police. Ignoring this could lead to more illegal and unethical advertisements using police uniforms." "The Maharashtra police are trained through hard work, but this advertisement attempts to suggest that online gambling gives them skills. It is disappointing that no police officer has been compelled to take action against this application and it is unfortunate that complaints have to be made by others. We also wish that Maharashtra's home minister also takes cognizance of the matter," the letter adds.



## Alia Bhatt turns makeup artist, asks fans, "Kisko tutorial chahiye?"

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Alia Bhatt is not only a talented actress but also a style icon. Recently, she showcased a new talent that left her fans excited. In a fun and candid moment on social media, the actress turned makeup artist and playfully asked her followers, "Kisko tutorial chahiye?" (Who needs a tutorial?), hinting at sharing her beauty skills with her fans. Taking to her Instagram stories, the 'Raazi' actress posted a gorgeous photo where she is seen flaunting her flawless makeup. She wrote in the caption, "Makeup by me. Kisko tutorial chahiye???" In the selfie, Alia is seen striking a perfect pose with her makeup and hair looking on

point. Yesterday, the actress posted cherished memories with her mother-in-law Neetu Kapoor.

Bhatt shared several throwback candid images from her vacation in Paris and wrote, "mirrors & memories." In the first image, she exuded elegance in a stylish denim dress. In one of the photos, she was seen sitting and posing with Neetu. The 31-year-old actress was recently spotted at designer Manish Malhotra's star-studded Diwali party.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The release date for Allu Arjun-starrer "Pushpa: The Rule" has been changed again and will now be released on December 5.

Originally set for December 6, the film is now expected to hit theaters a day earlier, on December 5. The film went through several ups and downs related to the release date as it was initially planned for the screens in April 2024 and later was pushed for August 15. Allu Arjun took to Instagram, where he shared a new poster of the film. In the poster, the star is seen smoking a pipe and looking at his gun very seriously. He captioned the post: "#Pushpa2TheRuleOnDec5th".

The producers of "Pushpa: The Rule" on Thursday held a press conference to announce the new date. Directed by Sukumar, "Pushpa: The Rule" also stars Rashmika Mandanna, who will be seen reprising her role of Srivalli. The first installment "Pushpa: The Rise" released in 2021. The Telugu action drama had Allu Arjun as Pushpa Raj, a coolie who rises in a syndicate that smuggles red sandalwood, a rare wood that grows only in the Seshachalam Hills of Andhra Pradesh.

Allu Arjun-starrer "Pushpa: now release on December 5"



## Ananya Panday turns metallic mermaid

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Ananya Panday made a splash on social media as she shared her stunning photoshoot where she transformed into a metallic mermaid. The actress took to Instagram to share her breathtaking shots and wrote in the caption, "Metallic mermaid." In the images, Panday is seen wearing a stylish sparkling metallic bralette, and skirt set. Her makeup game looked on point. She accentuated her look with kohl-rimmed eyes, dark brows, and glossy lips. Her outfit included a metallic gold bralette with thin straps, a deep neckline, and a curved hem that beautifully highlighted her midsection. The coordinating skirt had a high waist and a fitted silhouette that elegantly transitioned into a dramatic floor-length train.

Fans quickly flooded the comments section, expressing their admiration for her creativity and beauty. One fan wrote, "Love the outfit eye makeup slay!" Another said, "So proud of you baby girl." Last night, the 'Student of the Year 2' actress showcased her mermaid-inspired ensemble from LaQuan Smith's Fall 2023 collection, a prestigious designer label based in New York City at the Vogue Forces of Fashion event in Mumbai.

Ananya was recently spotted attending ace fashion designer Manish Malhotra's star-studded and grand Diwali party. Work-wise, the actress is set to appear alongside Akshay Kumar in Karan Johar's upcoming untitled film, which draws inspiration from the life of C. Sankaran Nair.

The makers revealed the release date of the film by sharing a poster, writing, "An untold story, an unheard truth. Starring Akshay Kumar, R. Madhavan & Ananya Panday - this untitled film is releasing in cinemas on 14th March, 2025."



## Jeet shares his 'movie was supposed to be a web series'

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Actress Shraddha Kapoor, who is currently riding high on the success of her latest release "Stree 2", has spoken about what makes her one of Bollywood's most loved stars. Speaking to IANS, Shraddha said: "I believe my growth in the industry is attributed to a combination of factors. Choosing diverse roles has allowed me to showcase my versatility and connect with a wide audience."

Authenticity is the key ingredient, says the actress, who walked the runway for the label Kalki at the Lakme Fashion Week recently. "Maintaining authenticity in my performances and interactions has helped build a genuine rapport with fans. Additionally, my dedication to continuous learning and self-improvement has enabled me to evolve both as an actor and an individual," added the actress, who is the daughter of actor Shakti Kapoor.

"Stree 2", which crossed the Rs. 600 crore benchmark, is the fifth installment from the Maddock Supernatural Universe and is the sequel to the 2018 blockbuster "Stree", which also stars Rajkumar Rao, Pankaj Tripathi, Aparshakti Khurrana and Abhishek Banerjee.

The 37-year-old actress recently pulled a hilarious prank at the shutterbugs to avoid getting clicked and used Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan's name as bait.

A video of Shraddha walking out of designer Manish Malhotra's Diwali party along with Raveena Tandon's daughter Rasha. The two were surrounded by a sea of paparazzi, who wanted to capture a glimpse of Shraddha.

The actress hilariously is heard taking Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan's name loudly to distract the shutterbugs so that she could run to the car.



INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Kriti Kharbanda