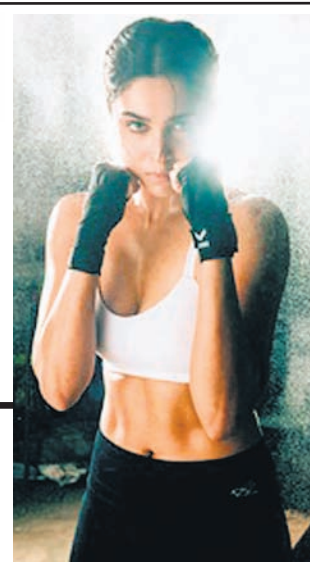


# absolute india



VOL. 10, ISSUE 08, BHOPAL | SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2024 | ₹5 | PAGE 04

PUBLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM BHOPAL, MUMBAI AND NEW DELHI

**CITY** > 02  
Bhagwan Birsa Munda made the tribal society stand against ...



**MAHARASHTRA** > 03  
MahaYuti will come back to power with a thumping majority...



**ENTERTAINMENT** > 04  
I always wanted to do action as an actor: Sharvari ...

## ICC HALTS PCB'S PLAN TO CONDUCT CHAMPIONS TROPHY TOUR IN POK TERRITORY

# 'NO INTERFERENCE'

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has decided to cancel the planned trophy tour of the Champions Trophy 2025 in Skardu, Murree, and Muzaffarabad - areas that fall within Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). The decision comes after objections from the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) regarding the tour itinerary shared by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB). A nationwide trophy tour was announced by the PCB from November 16 to 24. However, ICC has decided to leave the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) areas out of the tour. This decision came amid the ongoing controversy surrounding India's participation in the Champions Trophy after ICC informed the PCB that India will not be travelling to Pakistan for the matches.



sources told Geo News, adding that the ICC would then have to take a final decision about India after reviewing those reasons.

The sources also informed Geo News that if India fails to provide "proper reasons" for not travelling to Pakistan, then they would be asked to travel to the country to participate in

the tournament.

In case India refuses to travel to Pakistan for any reason, then another team may come in as a replacement for the mega event, the sources further added.

Pakistan are the defending champions of the upcoming edition of the Champions Trophy. Amid the uncertainty over India's participation and the schedule of the tournament, PCB revealed that the trophy tour for the upcoming ICC Champions Trophy 2025 will kick off from Islamabad on November 16.

India has firmly held the stance of not travelling to Pakistan for the ICC Champions Trophy, citing 'security concerns'.

Earlier this year, BCCI vice-president Rajeev Shukla stated that India would travel to Pakistan only if the Government of India permitted it.

Last year, Pakistan hosted the Asian Trophy, but it was held in a hybrid model, with India playing its matches in Sri Lanka. Hosting the Champions Trophy in a hybrid model is also on the cards, but last week, PCB chairman Mohsin Naqvi claimed that there have been no talks about hosting the tournament in such a fashion.

Earlier this week, sources reported that South Africa and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) emerged as possible venues for hosting the Champions Trophy in 2025 if Pakistan pulled out at the last moment. If the tournament is shifted, there are also chances that Pakistan could withdraw from the tournament if ICC moves the tournament to a neutral venue, according to recent reports.

## JAY SHAH SLAMS PAK

New Delhi: Citing concerns over "territorial integrity and political interference in sports", BCCI Secretary Jay Shah on Friday launched a sharp attack on Pakistan Cricket Board's announcement to conduct the Champions Trophy tour in Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (PoK) areas, say reports. The International Cricket Council (ICC), the sport's governing body, has decided to cancel the planned trophy tour of the Champions Trophy 2025 in Skardu, Murree, and Muzaffarabad - areas that fall within PoK. "BCCI secretary Jay Shah strongly condemns the Pakistan Cricket Board's announcement to conduct the Champions Trophy tour in PoK, reiterating India's objection to the move," news agency reported citing unnamed sources. "Jay Shah has raised the matter with the International Cricket Council (ICC), urging the body to take appropriate action in light of the BCCI's concerns over territorial integrity and political interference in sports," the news agency added. The ICC informed the PCB last week that India would not tour Pakistan for the eight-team tournament, leaving the fate of the event hanging in the balance.

## Delhi Schools Mandate Face Masks For Students Attending Classes Offline

Team Absolute | New Delhi

With primary schools across Delhi switching to online mode in the wake of rising air pollution, authorities are taking measures to safeguard the students of class six and above who would be attending their classes offline.

Sudha Acharya, Principal of ITI Public School in Dwarka, said, "We've implemented guidelines for students attending school. Outdoor activities are restricted. We are encouraging indoor activities such as reading, painting, crafting and games like chess and carrom." Acharya issued an advisory in the school highlighting efforts to promote eco-friendly habits, such as carpooling, staying hydrated, and maintaining a diet rich in antioxidants. "We have mandated the use of N95 masks, kept all doors and windows closed and take extra care of students with pre-existing respiratory issues like asthma," she said. She added that the school strictly avoids common allergens and chemical irritants, including fragrances and strong cleaning agents, to maintain a safe indoor environment.

The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) has imposed GRAP 3 measures as the national capital recorded the worst pollution levels in the country, with the air quality



remaining in the "severe" category for two consecutive days. On Friday the city's air quality was in the severe category with an AQI of 411 at 9 am. In response, Chief Minister Atishi announced on Thursday that all schools up to Class 5 would switch to online learning until further notice. The Directorate of Education (DoE) has instructed government and private schools Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), and New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC)-run schools to suspend offline classes for these students.

Rajiv Hassija, principal of Indraprastha International School in Dwarka, said that teachers will continue to deliver lessons on campus using Microsoft Teams and smartboards equipped with the full syllabus to facilitate online learning effectively.

"We will also share recorded sessions with students who can rewatch them and

those who miss classes due to any reason can catch up. Students are asked to wear school uniforms during their online classes, and they also have 15 15-minute gap between two classes to walk around and hydrate themselves," said Hassija.

He added that all the outdoor activities especially before 10 am have been suspended for secondary class students.

"We also ensure our campus remains green and consult parents who are doctors to introduce healthy diet suggestions for students. Additionally, we advise families to incorporate home remedies, such as taking steam," he said.

Meanwhile, Kuldeep Khatri, president of Shiksha Nyay Manch said that online classes would be conducted in MCD-run schools.

However, the teachers would have to come to school to take the classes.

## High-Speed Race With BMW Killed 6 Friends in Dehradun

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A party, a high-speed car chase and a grisly collision summarise the events that led to the death of six friends in Dehradun on the intervening night of Monday and Tuesday. The Toyota Innova that was reduced to a mangled mess after the accident was allegedly racing with a BMW at a speed of more than 100 km/hour moments before it rammed a truck.

During the chase, the SUV with seven on board - all under 25 - approached the ONGC intersection but didn't slow down, according to sources. When the truck appeared on the road and was almost through the intersection, the car rear-ended it. The police have yet to comment on the chase angle but they confirmed that the car was seen speeding in the last 500-700 meters before the accident.

The impact was such that it tore off the roof of the SUV and the heads of two of the victims. The others were found crushed inside the damaged cars with some body parts scattered around the road.

The victims were identified as Kunal



Kukreja (23), Atul Agrawal (24), Rishabh Jain (24), Navya Goel (23), Kamakshi (20), and Guneet (19). The five of them were Dehradun residents. Kukreja was from Himachal Pradesh. A few unverified videos showed the victims drinking. The only survivor of the accident, Siddhesh Agrawal (25), allegedly hosted the party to celebrate his new car. He has been admitted to the Synergy Hospital in the city and is in critical condition.

The bodies of the students and the injured were taken out by cutting the cars.

The victims are said to be students of a private college.

## Amit Shah's chopper inspected by EC officials

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Home Minister Amit Shah's helicopter was inspected by the Election Commission officials on Friday, while he was on a campaign trail in the poll-bound Maharashtra.

The move comes on back of a barrage of complaints and grudges from Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray's camp over the frisking of his aircrafts by poll officials, some days ago. The Home Minister himself took to social media to share information about the frisking of his helicopter during an election campaign in Hingoli Assembly constituency of Maharashtra. Sharing the video, Amit Shah wrote on X, "BJP believes in fair elections and healthy election system and follows all the rules made by the Election Commission. We all must contribute to a healthy election system and perform our duties in keeping India as the strongest democracy in the world." In the video, the EC officials could be scanning his bags, suitcases and other materials inside his chopper, while on a campaign trail in



poll-bound state. The entire inspection of his plane was videographed on camera as per the EC's standard operating procedure (SOP). Days ago,

Uddhav Thackeray and his supporters got riled up as the poll panel officials frisked his helicopter and personal belongings in Yavatmal, where

he landed for a slew of election rallies. The irked SS (UBT) camp claimed that Uddhav was being 'singled out' and specially targeted by the poll panel to 'harass and defame' the former Chief Minister in the election season. Their claim was however strongly contested by the Election Commission as it rebuffed the 'selective frisking' charge and said that all the star-campaigners including those from BJP and NCP were under its radar.

A few days ago, many MahaYuti leaders also shared a video of their chopper being frisked. Maharashtra chief minister Eknath Shinde as well as NCP-SP chief Ajit Pawar posted videos of frisking. "While on the way to campaign, the EC conducted a routine check of my bags and helicopter. I fully cooperated and believe that such measures are essential for free and fair elections," wrote Ajit Pawar on X. Shiv Sena too shared video on X and informed that Maha CM Eknath Shinde's bags were checked at Palghar police ground helipad, when he reached there for campaign.

## Non-Consensual Intercourse With Minor Wife Is Rape: Bombay High Court

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Non-consensual intercourse with a wife who is below 18 years of age constitutes the offence of rape, the Bombay High Court said while upholding the conviction of a man sentenced to 10 years for the crime.

The Nagpur bench of Justice G A Sanap, in an order passed on November 12, dismissed the 24-year-old man's appeal challenging the 2021 judgment of a sessions court holding him guilty under the provisions of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act and the Indian Penal Code for sexually assaulting his under-age wife. The man, who was sentenced to 10 years in jail by the sessions court, claimed since the victim was his wife, their sexual relationship cannot be termed as rape. The high court, however, said the defence of consensual sex with the wife cannot be taken when the age of the wife is below 18 years.

"Sexual intercourse with a girl below 18 years of age is rape regardless of whether she is married or not. The



non-consensual intercourse with a wife, who is below 18 years of age, is rape," the bench held.

The woman, in her complaint lodged in 2019, said she was in a relationship with the man and that, despite her refusal, he raped and impregnated her. The duo then lived together and got married. However, the man insisted on an abortion. She alleged that the

man made a farce of the marriage and repeatedly raped and physically assaulted her.

The court noted that the woman gave birth to a baby boy, and as per the DNA analysis, the accused and her were the biological parents.

The man, in his appeal, claimed innocence and said the complainant was his wife and hence, their physical

relation cannot be termed as rape and that it was consensual.

He also claimed that the woman was not a minor at the time of the alleged incident. The court, however, refused to accept this contention. It noted that as per documentary evidence, the complainant was born in 2002 and was a minor in 2019 when the alleged incident occurred.

## BIHAR LIQUOR BAN GAVE RISE TO UNAUTHORISED TRADE, MEANS 'BIG MONEY' FOR OFFICIALS: PATNA HC

Patna | Agencies

The Patna High Court has said the liquor prohibition in Bihar gave rise to unauthorised trade of liquor and other contraband items.

A bench of Justice Purnendu Singh said that the "draconian provisions" of the Bihar Prohibition and Excise Act, 2016, have "become handy for the police, who are in tandem with the smugglers" and innovative ideas have evolved to hoodwink law enforcing agencies and deliver the contraband.

The Justice Singh-led Bench said that while Article 47 of the Constitution mandates raising standards of living and improving public health at large, the 2016 law, enacted with the said objective, for several reasons, finds itself on the wrong side of history.

"Not only the police official, or the excise official, but also officers of the state Tax Department and the Transport Department love liquor ban, for them it means big money."

The Patna High Court said that the number of cases registered against the kingpins/syndicate operators is fewer in comparison to the magnitude of the cases registered against the poor who consume liquor.

"The life of a majority of the poor section of the state who are facing the wrath of the Act are daily wagers who are only earning members of their family. The Investigating Officer deliberately does not substantiate the allegations made in the prosecution case by any legal document and such lacunae are left and the same allows the mafia scot free in want of evidence by not conducting search, seizure and investigation in accordance with the law," it added.

The above observations were made as the Patna High Court dealt with a plea filed by an Inspector challenging his demotion after "illicit foreign liquor" was recovered in a raid by the Excise Department conducted in a warehouse located 500 metres from the police station.

In its judgment, the Patna High Court after perusal of the charge memo, said that it was framed on the direction of Bihar's Director General of Police, who had directed the SSP Patna that in case of recovery of illicit liquor from any police station's territorial jurisdiction, the Station House Officer (SHO) concerned would be held guilty and strict action will be taken against him.



# Bhagwan Birsa Munda made the tribal society stand against the atrocities of the British : Chief Minister Dr. Yadav

Tribal society still keeps our culture and traditions alive. A campaign is going on in the country to bring forward the glorious history of the tribal society. People of Shahdol district will also get water from Bansagar Dam. Permanent helipad will be built in Shahdol. State level program of Tribal Pride Day organized in Shahdol

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh Governor Mangubhai Patel along with Chief Minister Mohan Yadav inaugurated the event organised on the occasion of the 150th birth anniversary of tribal icon Birsa Munda in Shahdol on Friday.

Deputy Chief Minister Rajendra Shukla and some other BJP leaders also joined them in lighting the lamp to mark the beginning of the cultural programme.

On the occasion, Mohan Yadav inaugurated development works worth Rs 68.15 crore and performed the bhoomi puja of various development works worth Rs 161.51 crore in Shahdol.

To commemorate the birth anniversary of legendary tribal leader Birsa Munda, Madhya Pradesh government has organised two major events -- one in Shahdol and another Dhar districts.

The cultural programmes will also be organised in all tribal districts, prominently Chhindwara, Jabua, Dindori and Balaghat.

On this occasion, artists from tribal communities will perform their traditional arts to celebrate the birth anniversary of Birsa Munda, whom they worship as God.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi while



addressing the National Tribal Pride Day organized in Jamui district of Bihar on the 150th birth anniversary of Lord Birsa Munda has said that the birth anniversary of Lord Birsa Munda is being celebrated as National Tribal Pride Day across the country. Tribal Pride Day is an honest effort to rectify a great injustice of history. After independence, the contribution of the tribal class was not given the place in history, which they deserved. Tribal society is the one who made Prince Ram a God. It led the fight for hundreds of years to protect India's culture and independence. In the decades after independence, an attempt was

made to erase the invaluable contribution of the tribal class. There was selfish politics behind this. The Prime Minister said that for the overall welfare of the tribal society, many schemes are being run and work is being done for their economic and social development.

Governor Mangu Bhai Patel said that it is a matter of good fortune for the state that the resolution of Sickle Cell Eradication Mission was taken from the land of Madhya Pradesh. The central and state governments are carrying out tests and awareness campaigns on an intensive level towards the elimination of sickle cell. So far, sickle cell screening of 82

lakh people has been completed in the state. Governor Shri Patel, while taking information about the sickle cell tests in Shahdol district, directed the officials to complete the work of sickle cell card distribution soon.

Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav has said that the right to water, forest and land is the fundamental right of tribal society. The British wanted to snatch it from them. Bhagwan Birsa Munda raised the tribal society against the atrocities and misconduct of the British and fought against the British on two levels. On one hand, he protected the fundamental rights of the tribal society and on the other hand, he demolished the nefarious attempts of Christian missionaries to convert our tribal brothers into Christians by tampering with our religion. Today, on the birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda, we remember and salute him from the bottom of our hearts.

Besides the celebration of Birsa Munda's birth anniversary, the state government will also pay tribute to local freedom fighters and their families, celebrating the rich heritage and contributions of the tribal communities.

Before reaching Shahdol, Mohan Yadav visited a Gurudwara in Bhopal to offer his prayer on the occasion of Guru Nanak Jayanti. Guru Nanak is the founder of the Sikh faith and community.



# Effect of cold intensifies in the capital, big drop in temperature

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Cold has knocked in the entire state including Bhopal. The minimum temperature of the capital Bhopal was recorded at 13.6 degrees Celsius, which indicates a drop a week earlier than last year. The temperature is falling sharply due to icy winds coming from the north.

Temperature remain below 14 degrees in 10 cities.

Night temperature was recorded below 14 degrees Celsius in 10 cities of the state. Especially, the effect of cold is even more in the hill station Pachmarhi, where the minimum temperature has reached 8.8 degrees Celsius.

Reasons for increasing cold:

Effect of icy winds coming from North India.

Night temperature dropped before average.

The Meteorological Department says that the cold may increase further in the next few days.

Weather experts believe that the temperature is falling due to strong winds coming from the north and clear skies. The effect of cold may increase further in Bhopal and other areas of Madhya Pradesh soon.

# Disorder in Bhopal Railway Workshop Canteen, caterpillar found in breakfast

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A serious incident of mismanagement came to light again today in the Railway Workshop Canteen located in Bhopal. The discovery of caterpillars in breakfast this morning has raised major concerns about hygiene and food safety. This incident is another example of the ongoing mismanagement in the Railway Workshop Canteen, which is causing resentment among consumers. Questions are being raised on the negligence of the administration. Will the administration become alert only after a major accident or loss of life, or will these serious problems be resolved in time? Answers are also expected from the railway officials in this



matter. Keeping in mind the safety and health of citizens and employees, strict action is required from the administration. This incident demands a review of the safety and hygiene standards of the railway canteen, so that such problems can be avoided in future and employees can get safe and quality food.

# Strategy will be made in Indore to stop terror funding and money laundering: Vivek Agarwal

Team Absolute | Indore

The 41st Eurasian Group Plenary and Working Groups meeting will be held in Indore between 25 and 29 November. About two hundred representatives from different countries will participate in it. Along with them, Union Minister of Government of India Nirmala Sitharaman, Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav and state ministers will also be present. The government is preparing for this meeting organized at the Brilliant Convention Center.

Additional Secretary of Government of India Vivek Agarwal held a review meeting at the Brilliant Convention Center. A strategy will be made in the meeting against money laundering and funding of terrorism.

Additional Secretary of the Centre Vivek Agarwal said that this meeting is being held in India after almost 16 years. All preparations should be made as per the standards in this prestigious event. He told that this meeting is being held mainly with the aim of making a strategy against money laundering and terror financing. Along with the country's Finance Minister Mrs. Nirmala Sitharaman, two hundred representatives from all over the world will participate in this meeting. Agarwal told that this group has been formed in view of the speed at which terror funding and money laundering is increasing across the world. One of its parts is the Eurasia Group, which has a meeting twice a year. Countries from Europe and Asia are included



in this group. This time it is being held in Indore. We will discuss the type of terror funding and money laundering risk in the world and in this region and will make a strategy to counter it. When India was evaluated, it came on top in the FATA ranking. India has been considered better in the way we are working through our agencies in the cases of money

laundering and terror funding. If the meeting is being held in Indore, then this city will be able to tell its specialties. People coming here will get acquainted with Indian and city culture. Give as much information about Indore to the people of the world as you can. This will be a matter of pride not only for Indore but also for Madhya Pradesh. We

chose Indore for this meeting because it is not only a historical city, but it has its own branding in the country and the world regarding cultural heritage and cleanliness.

He said that if the countries around India make mistakes, then we can put pressure on them through FATF. If the financial system of the country is strong, then more foreign investment will also come. Financial security is the most important in matters of investment. When a meeting is held in the country, then the people of that country come here and see the system here, then they go to their country and discuss it. This creates a favorable environment there regarding the system and environment of our country and people from there come here and invest more.

# Government Committed to Free Tribal Community from Sickle Cell Anemia: Dy CM Shukla

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Deputy Chief Minister Rajendra Shukla stated that the government is committed to freeing the tribal community from sickle cell anemia. On the occasion of Tribal Pride Day and the birth anniversary of Birsa Munda, he inaugurated the state's first "Center of Excellence for Prenatal Diagnosis of Hemoglobinopathies" at sanjay Gandhi Memorial Hospital, Rewa. He mentioned that this important center is dedicated to research, diagnosis, and clinical testing of blood-related genetic disorders, especially for citizens of the Vindhya region, including tribal groups.

Deputy Chief Minister Shukla remarked that establishing this center is an effort to elevate healthcare facilities in the state, providing precise and dedicated medical services to those affected by blood-related disorders, especially within vulnerable groups. Recognizing the prevalence of these



disorders among the Vindhya region's citizens, particularly within the tribal community, this center was deemed essential. It will conduct in-depth research on blood-related genetic disorders and provide timely diagnostic and medical services. The event was attended by senior physicians from Gandhi Memorial Hospital and other distinguished guests.

Madhya Pradesh has made significant strides in controlling sickle cell anemia. With a total of 80 Lakh 67 Thousand 135 screenings conducted, Madhya Pradesh holds the top position in the country. In the first phase of the Sickle Cell Anemia Eradication Mission, over 46 Lakh genetic counseling cards have been distributed, with Madhya Pradesh leading the country in this initiative. Based on the successful pilot project for controlling sickle cell anemia in Madhya Pradesh, the nationwide Sickle Cell Anemia Eradication Mission 2047 has been launched, covering 17 states.

# Bhopal will soon be slum free, 6534 people identified

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Work is going on at a fast pace on the plan to make the capital

Bhopal a slum free city. The government has identified 6534 people in 6 settlements, who will be benefited under the rehabilitation scheme. The work of removing the slums will be started in the next three months. The first phase will start from the slums located in front of Vallabh Bhawan. For this, the tender and estimate file will be prepared within a week. Under the scheme, alternative housing or other facilities will be provided to the identified families.

On the instructions of Chief Minister Dr.



Mohan Yadav, a review meeting is being held every week regarding the 'Slum Free Bhopal' campaign. The administration and the Urban Development Department are together engaged in implementing this scheme in a timely manner.

Key points: 6534 slum dwellers will be rehabilitated in 6 colonies.

Process of removing slums will start in the next 3 months.

Work of removing slums from Vallabh Bhawan will be done in the first phase.

Tender process and estimate file will be ready in a week.

# AIIMS BHOPAL CONDUCTS SUCCESSFUL AWARENESS CAMPAIGN ON DRUG ADHERENCE IN RAISEN DISTRICT

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Under the leadership of Executive Director Prof. (Dr.) Ajai Singh, the Pharmacology and Community & Family Medicine departments of AIIMS Bhopal organized a successful awareness campaign on drug adherence at the Community Health Centre in Chiklod, Raisen district, Madhya Pradesh, on November 13, 2024. The aim of the campaign was to educate the local community about the importance of adherence to medications.

Approximately 25 local beneficiaries participated in the event, where AIIMS Bhopal health professionals engaged with them in discussions about the significance of following prescribed medications and the challenges associated with it. The team also visited a nearby school, where they conducted an awareness session for students and teachers on the importance of drug adherence.

Prof Singh, Executive Director of AIIMS Bhopal, emphasized the importance of this initiative, stating, "This awareness campaign is a significant step towards promoting health literacy in rural areas. It is crucial to under-

stand the challenges patients face in adhering to their prescribed medications, and such initiatives help bridge the knowledge gap between healthcare services and the community. The collaboration between AIIMS Bhopal and the local health center is an example of our commitment to improving health outcomes and enhancing patient safety. We will continue these programs to ensure that communities receive accurate information and improve their health and well-being."

This interactive program provided valuable insights into the challenges faced by the local community regarding drug adherence and the lack of awareness surrounding it. Around 70-80 participants took part in this campaign. The collaboration between AIIMS Bhopal and Chiklod PHC demonstrates a shared commitment to enhancing patient safety and improving the quality of healthcare services. The awareness campaign in Chiklod is a symbol of AIIMS Bhopal's ongoing efforts to reach local communities with healthcare services and to improve health outcomes. Such campaigns play a crucial role in promoting drug adherence and improving health outcomes.

# Dhirendra Shastri supports Yogi Adityanath's 'batenge to katenge' slogan

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Bageshwar Dham head priest Dhirendra Shastri on Friday supported Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's slogan "batenge to katenge" that has found strong resonance in the electoral discourse in both poll-bound states - Jharkhand and Maharashtra.

Shastri said the slogan is perfectly alright from Indian perspective. "If it is political issue, then I won't make any comment, but from the Indian perspective, the slogan is very correct. If we get divided, the Chinese will kill us," he said during an interaction with the press in Bhopal on Friday.

Shastri, known for courting controversy with his statements, said that in the next 20-25 years, Hindu population will come down from 80 per cent to 60 per cent, whereas Muslim popu-



lation will continue to grow in the country. "Once the Muslim population reach 50 per cent, there will be a mosque at every Hindu temple in country.

Muslim population have increased to 22 per cent from 6 per cent in the country. Rohingyas and Muslims from Bangladesh and other countries are being given shelter here for the

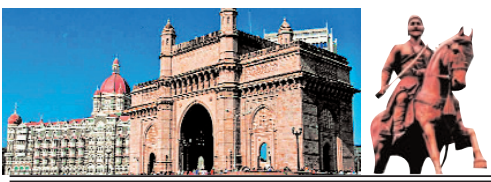
vote bank," Shastri claimed.

He also supported Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for "ek rahenge to safe rahenge" (unity will keep us safe).

"Hindus are being divided in the name of caste and community. Therefore, from this prospective, 'batenge to katenge' slogan is correct," Shastri added.

Yogi Adityanath's 'batenge to katenge' slogan has become a war cry in the Assembly elections as the BJP leaders are increasingly pitching for it to woo the majority vote bank while the Opposition bloc is accusing the ruling BJP of using it to drive a wedge between two communities.

The assembly elections in Maharashtra will be held in a single phase on November 20, with voters set to decide the fate of 288 assembly seats. The results will be announced on November 23.



# MAHAYUTI WILL COME BACK TO POWER WITH A THUMPING MAJORITY DESPITE OPPN'S TIRADE: EKNATH SHINDE

Sanjay Jog | Mumbai

**M**aharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde said that MahaYuti will come back to power with a thumping majority in the upcoming Assembly elections despite the opposition's tirade.

MahaYuti is locked in a fierce battle against Maha Vikas Aghadi in Maharashtra.

In an exclusive interview with correspondent, Shinde spoke on a range of issues including the state Assembly polls to be held on November 20.

Question: Shiv Sena UBT President Uddhav Thackeray is firing salvos against you while urging the voters not to give power in the hands of traitors. What is your take?

Eknath Shinde: Uddhav Thackeray may level any allegation as the people know who did the backstabbing. People are smart. Who joined Congress in 2019 by giving up Balasaheb Thackeray's thoughts? Who put a dagger on the voters' back? Who mortgaged the symbol and party to Delhi? Who compromised for the Chief Minister's post? Who betrayed the thought of Hindutva and the teachings of Balasaheb Thackeray? They should ask questions to themselves.

To carry forward the thoughts of Balasaheb Thackeray, we rebelled to preserve the self-respect of Shiv Sena and achieve the development of Maharashtra. If we had not done the uprising, they would have fin-



ished the Shiv Sena and Maharashtra would also have suffered.

Question: Although you are heading the MahaYuti during the elections, who will be the CM's face if MahaYuti comes back to power?

Eknath Shinde: Our primary objective is to bring the MahaYuti government to power and not who will be the Chief Minister after re-election of the grand alliance. Our focus is also on expediting the development process. When anti-Maharashtra and anti-development Maha Vikas Aghadi ruled the state for two and half years, the state had gone back for a decade. If MVA comes back to power, the state and people will lose heavily.

I want to make it clear that so far there is no decision on who will become the chief minister. We are in no hurry. After the election, the leaders from BJP, Shiv Sena and NCP and BJP's central leadership

will sit together and take a decision on the CM's post after due deliberations. We have come together not for any post but for an overall development of Maharashtra.

Question: You have been targeting the opposition for winning more seats in Lok Sabha due to the fake narrative but what is the scenario during this election?

Eknath Shinde: The opposition won seats in the general elections by spreading fake narratives like change in the Constitution and cancellation of reservation. The MVA thereby divided castes, religions and communities against each other.

On the other hand, the MahaYuti government took decisions without targeting any religion or caste but they were aimed for the development of all. It will not be proper to create a division and tension among various communities as it will not be conducive for

social harmony. The Prime Minister's message is Ek Hai Toh Safe Hai. If we stay united as a society, we will be safe and more capable. We are conveying this positive thought to people.

Question: MahaYuti has offered 10 guarantees against MVA's 'Panchsutri' (Five guarantees). Will MahaYuti be able to fulfil them considering present financial constraints? Are they not an election Jumla?

Eknath Shinde: The opposition has consistently criticised the MahaYuti government's schemes during this election. The opposition accused us of giving freebies to women. However, the opposition copied and pasted MahaYuti's guarantees while announcing 'Panchsutri'. If the opposition is saying the financial aid of Rs 1,500 is a handout then what is Rs 3,000 that they have assured under the Mahalakshmi scheme. They should clarify first.

The government has not only announced but implemented various schemes. However, in the states where the opposition governments are in power, their announcements have remained on the paper. Our manifesto focuses on inclusiveness as every element is considered. The voters will not vote for MVA and make any mistake.

Question: How confident are you to win elections on Ladki Bahin Yojana and other welfare and development schemes as the opposition is questioning their sustainability?

Eknath Shinde: Ladki Bahin

Yojana will be a game changer in the elections predicted by the political observers. Let me clarify that women's welfare is not limited to the election as the MahaYuti government, after coming to power, took a firm stand to provide equal opportunities to them. The government has implemented a slew of schemes including free education, the Lek Ladki scheme, Lakshmi Didi, Drone Didi and travel in state transport buses at a discounted fare. Ladki Bahin Yojana is a part of the process of empowering women.

Along with the welfare of women, the government also focused on varied sections including the poor, youth and farmers. The government took steps to increase the pace of development by removing the speed breakers put by the previous government, especially for the creation of jobs and boost the economy.

The government implemented the Samruddhi Highway, Coastal Road, Atal Setu and the concretisation of roads. A number of welfare and development schemes launched are not ad hoc but backed with sufficient financial resources. They were planned within the framework of rules and laws. Let the opponents allege, none of the schemes we come up with will be closed.

Notwithstanding the opposition's tirade, the MahaYuti will win the elections with a thumping majority based on our track record of two and half years of rule. Our development and welfare works have been a game changer.

## BJP loots Rs 90000 per Marathi family, gives back dole of Rs 1500: Congress



Team Absolute | Mumbai

**T**he Congress has accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of looting Rs 90,000 from every Maharashtra home owing to sky-high inflation and giving back Rs 1500 by way of 'Ladki Bahin' dole.

Congress Spokespersons Pawan Khara and Anant Gadgil said the BJP government at the Centre and state has fueled massive food inflation which has seen prices of all commodities skyrocket.

Citing instances, Khara said that items of daily use like onions sell for Rs 100/kg, and garlic is Rs 500/kg, besides unaffordable other essentials like edible oil, ghee, grains, vegetables, etc.

"The domestic budgets of the commoners and even middle-class families have collapsed due to the rising costs of all essential items of survival. By this route, the BJP government is robbing every Marathi family of Rs 90,000/year. The government must account for it," said Khara.

"In a compensation of sorts, Maharashtra (the MahaYuti) is doling out Rs 1,500/month (Rs 18000/annum), but instead of tackling these burning issues, the BJP is diverting the peoples' minds with slogans like 'batenge to katenge', 'vote-jihad' or 'ek hain to safe hain'," he said. He accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of lecturing on every topic in the world "but doesn't utter a word on the problems of the masses", but the people are not stupid, and the BJP will pay for all its follies.

Gadgil said the BJP leaders and the PM have been making misleading speeches during the Maharashtra polls campaign with a complete distortion of facts and figures.

Referring to the PM's statement that FDI has shot up in the past two-and-half years of the BJP's stress on investment, infrastructure and industry, Gadgil said that on October 1, 2024, Rs 1.18 lakh crore of investments was withdrawn by foreign investors, along with other setbacks for the country.

## RAJ THACKERAY RELEASES MNS ELECTION MANIFESTO WITH A 'KEY' TO IMPLEMENTING IT

Team Absolute | Mumbai

**J**ust five days before the November 20 state Assembly elections, the Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) President Raj Thackeray released the party Manifesto, but with a difference, here on Friday.

Waving the inaugural copy of the new poll Manifesto, entitled 'We Will Deliver', Raj Thackeray said that all parties are promising what they will do, but the MNS is also saying "how" it would fulfil its promises, if elected to power.

Besides, he released a booklet on 'What We Did' in the nearly 19-year-long history of the MNS founded on March 9, 2006, after Raj Thackeray had quit the (undivided) Shiv Sena. "Several points included in our Manifesto are picked up from our 'Blueprint for Maharashtra' released in September 2014. Ten years later, the issues are the same, the peoples' problems remain the same and we continue discussing them even today," said Raj Thackeray.



The MNS Manifesto speaks of four different phases that would cover all aspects of the state and its people, he added. The first phase will include all basic needs, quality of life, adequate food and water, law and order, women's security, sports, childcare, primary education and jobs.

The MNS Manifesto speaks of four different phases that would cover all aspects of the state and its people, he added. The first phase will include all basic needs, quality of life, adequate food and water, law and order, women's security, sports, childcare, primary education and jobs.

Team Absolute | Hingoli

**U**nion Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday said the Assembly election is going to decide whether Maharashtra will follow the path of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and Veer Savarkar or the path of Aurangzeb.

"Our Mahayuti has chosen the path of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and Veer Savarkar without any confusion and these Aghadi people are Aurangzeb fan club," he claimed at a poll rally for BJP and MahaYuti candidates.

Shah targeted the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena saying that they were sitting in the lap of the Aurangzeb fan club.

"Uddhav Babu, you are sitting with those who call Hindutva hypocrisy. You are sitting with those who oppose the name Sambhaji



Nagar. You are sitting with those who fed bribery to Kasab and you are sitting with those who oppose Ram temple. Just remember which path your father took Maharashtra on and which path you are walking on," he said.

Shah accused Maha Vikas Aghadi of being an army of liars. He dared Congress leader Rahul Gandhi to say good words for Veer Savarkar.

"Today, I want to clearly tell Rahul Baba from Hingoli that right now Sharad Pawar has silenced you by explaining things to you (not criticising Veer Savarkar). But Rahul Baba, if you are speaking the truth then say two good words for Veer Savarkar. Please praise your friend Uddhav Thackeray's father, the great Balasaheb Thackeray for two minutes... Uddhav Ji, if you have the courage then say two good words for Veer Savarkar," he said.

## Mumbai airport records over 4.42 million passengers in October during the Diwali 2024 festive season

Team Absolute | Mumbai

**T**he Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) recorded a footfall of more than 4.42 million passengers in October. In a press release, CSMIA stated that the festive season saw a marked surge in both domestic and international traffic. Of the 4.42 million people, more than 3.16 million were domestic passengers while over 1.25 million were international flyers.

On October 26, CSMIA recorded the highest number of ATMs (air traffic management) with 939 flights on a single day, marking it the busiest day in October. The airport also saw a remarkable rise in ATMs last month, with 19,848 domestic and 7,222 international ATMs. It attributed the rise to an expanded number of travel options for passengers.

According to CSMIA, the top three domestic destinations for October were Delhi, Bangalore and Goa, with



0.58 million flying between Mumbai and the national capital. The top international destinations included

Dubai, Abu Dhabi and London. International passenger traffic from CSMIA was led by Middle Eastern,

Asian and European regions. The Middle East had the highest share of 51% of the total international traffic, followed by Asia (23%) and Europe (17%). According to CSMIA, the traffic growth to Asia and Europe was also fuelled by flight additions by Nok Air to Don Mueang, Thailand, and Virgin Atlantic to London, United Kingdom.

"Throughout October and especially during the Diwali weekend, CSMIA demonstrated its efficiency to manage high passenger volumes, enabling a smooth and seamless journey for travellers. Committed to maintaining the highest standards of service and safety, the Airport offers world-class facilities for a delightful passenger experience. As it enters the final quarter of 2024, CSMIA continues to strengthen its position as a premier international hub, delivering unparalleled connectivity to destinations across the globe," the press release stated.

## "MY MISTAKE TO PUT UP WIFE AGAINST SUPRIYA SULE": AJIT PAWAR

Team Absolute | Mumbai

**M**aharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar admitted that it was a mistake to field his wife Sunetra Pawar against his cousin Supriya Sule in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. Sule, daughter of NCP patriarch Sharad Pawar, had defeated Sunetra Pawar, representing the Ajit Pawar NCP faction, in the Baramati Lok Sabha seat by a margin of over 1.5 lakh votes.

"It was my mistake to field her against Supriya Sule. I have told you again and again. It is over now. On November 20 there is an election in Maharashtra and the voters will decide in whose hands Maharashtra should be given for five years. We are paying more attention to that," Pawar told to a news channel.

Pawar said that his primary focus remains on campaigning in the constituencies allotted to the NCP under the Mahayuti (Grand Alliance). The 65-year-old said that despite occasional calls from alliance partners like the BJP and Eknath Shinde's Shiv Sena faction to join their campaigns, he is prioritising NCP seats. "Right now, with only a few days left, I

am concentrating on our constituencies and holding public rallies," he said.

Pawar said that political families have played a role in all major parties, from Congress to the BJP, Shiv Sena, and even the Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS). He argued that ultimately, it is the voters who decide whether a candidate from a political family deserves their support.

"The BJP speaks against nepotism, but in this election, both the Mahavikas Aghadi and the Mahayuti alliances have numerous candidates from political families. This trend has been part of Indian politics for decades. After we gained independence in 1947, the families who initially entered politics continued to hold influence. The Congress party dominated government for many years, bringing successive generations into its ranks," Pawar said.

"Now, across all parties - whether Shiv Sena, Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), BJP, or even the MNS - family members of political leaders are running for office. However, it's ultimately the voters who decide. Regardless of family ties, voters support candidates they believe will work for the people," he added.

# Devendra Fadnavis Snubs Ajit Pawar Ahead Of Polls

Team Absolute | Mumbai

**D**eputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar's remark that there is no place for the "batenge toh katenge (division is destruction)" slogan in Maharashtra has drawn a fierce backlash from his colleague Devendra Fadnavis. Angered by his ally's defensive remarks, Mr Fadnavis suggested Mr Pawar's understanding of the slogan was still influenced by his former allies.

The "batenge toh katenge" slogan was coined by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister and the BJP's star campaigner Yogi Adityanath at one of his recent rallies in Maharashtra. The opposition has alleged communal overtones in the slogan while Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweaked it earlier this month to "ek hai toh safe hai", repackaging its message of unity.

The slogan sparked discomfort among a section of BJP leaders and allies who are working together in the Maharashtra government.

NCP's Ajit Pawar - the nephew of Sharad Pawar whose undivided party enjoyed considerable backing among the Muslims - did not mince his words. "I am not supporting it. I



have said this several times. It will not work in Maharashtra. This may work in Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, or some other places," he said in a recent interview.

His remark did not go down well with the state BJP leadership, with his colleague Mr Fadnavis issuing a stern reaction.

"Ajit Pawar stayed with such ideologies - which are secular and anti-Hindu - for decades. There is no real secularism amongst those who call themselves secularists. He stayed with people for whom opposing Hindutva is secularism. It will take some time for him to understand the mood of the public," said Mr Fadnavis.

He said his former allies did not understand the underlying message in the slogan. "These people either did not understand the sentiment of the public or did not understand the meaning of this statement or while speaking they probably wanted to say something else," he added.

Two prominent BJP leaders - Pankaja Munde and Ashok Chavan - have also shared their differences regarding the slogan.



## Tamannaah Bhatia flaunts hour-glass figure in 'fit check' pictures

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Actress Tamannaah Bhatia looked jaw-dropping good as she posted pictures for a "fit check" dressed in a cutout outfit. The actress took to Instagram, where she shared pictures and videos from her photoshoot, where she was seen sporting Australian designer Christopher Esber's twisted lever dress in shades of olive. In the pictures from the photo-shoot the actress has light make-up and completed her look with a splash of gold in the form of jewelry.

"Posting a fit check," she wrote as the caption. Tamannaah will next be seen in 'Sikandar Ka Muqaddar', helmed by Neeraj Pandey. It is set to premiere on Netflix on November 29.

The film also stars Jimmy Shergill, Avinash Tiwary and Rajiv Mehta in pivotal roles. "Sikandar Ka Muqaddar" unfolds a gripping tale of a heist, a relentless police officer, and a pursuit that spans 15 years, offering a thrilling mix of high-stakes drama. The film also stars Divya Dutta and Zoya Afroz. The forthcoming thriller delves into crime, obsession, and the pursuit of justice.

The project marks Jimmy Shergill's first onscreen collaboration with Tamannaah. The actress also has "Odela 2". On November 3, Tamannaah wished everyone "happy Navratri" along with a glimpse from her upcoming film. Tamannaah took to her Instagram stories, where she shared a picture of herself praying in front of the temple dressed in her "Odela 2" costume. She wrote: "Happy Navratri #Odela2."

'Odela 2' is the sequel to the 2022 digital release 'Odela Railway Station', which was based on the real incidents that happened in Odela, India.

Directed by Ashok Teja, "Odela 2" also stars Hebah Patel, Vasishtha N. Simha in lead roles, alongside Yuva, Naga Mahesh, Vamsi, Gagan Vihari, Surrender Reddy, Bhupal and Pooja Reddy. Meanwhile, Neeraj's most recent directorial venture was "Auron Mein Kahan Dum Tha", starring Tabu and Ajay Devgn. Tamannaah Bhatia was last seen in a cameo role in the hit film "Stree 2." Jimmy Shergill was most recently seen in "Phir Aayi Hasseen Dillruba" on Netflix, while Avinash Tiwary appeared in Kunal Kemmu's "Madgaon Express."

## Winning Best Film Award at Leeds is a proud moment for Indian cinema: Manoj Bajpayee

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Manoj Bajpayee's 'The Fable' by Raam Reddy has become the first Indian film to win Best Film at the 38th Leeds International Film Festival UK. Acclaimed actor says it's a proud moment for Indian cinema.

Manoj said: "I am incredibly honored to be a part of The Fable and to see it resonate with audiences globally. Working with director Raam Reddy, whose thoughtful storytelling and unique blend of magical realism added such depth to this project, alongside Pratap Reddy, Juhi Agarwal, and later, Guneet Monga Kapoor and Achin Jain, has been a profound experience.

"My co-stars Priyanka Bose, Deepak Dobriyal, and Tillotama Shome brought extraordinary talent to this journey. Winning the Best Film award at Leeds is not just a triumph for our film but a proud moment for Indian cinema. I hope The Fable continues to inspire and touch people around the world," the show added.

The award follows The Fable's recent success, including its world premiere at the Berlinale Film Festival 2024, and the Special Jury Prize at the 2024 MAMI Mumbai Film Festival.

The Fable competed alongside acclaimed international films like Simon of the Mountain (Best Film at Cannes Critics Week from Argentina), Toxic (Best Film in Locarno Festival from Lithuania), and Lovable (Karlov Vary Award Winner from Norway).

Set in the Indian Himalayas, 'The Fable' tells the story of a family living on an orchard estate whose peaceful life is upended by mysterious events. The film stars Manoj Bajpayee as Dev, with notable performances by Priyanka Bose, Deepak Dobriyal, Tillotama Shome, and Hiral Sidhu.

The Fable is an India-US co-production between Prspctvs Productions and Maxmedia and has Academy Award-winning producers Guneet Monga Kapoor and Achin Jain of Sikhya Entertainment serving as Executive Producers.

## WHEN SAIF ALI KHAN SPOKE ABOUT HIS AREAS OF INTERESTS AND CRACKED EVERYONE UP

Mumbai: Bollywood actor Saif Ali Khan, who was recently seen in 'Devara: Part 1', once spoke about the kind of content he consumed during his youth.

An old video that has resurfaced on the Internet shows the actor talking about his interests.

He said that he has read a lot of Western poetry. However, what caught the attention of the audience was the hilarious manner in which the actor answered the questions.

He said, "Faiz and Ghalib. No, I am talking rubbish. My grandmother used to read them and my father reads them. Is this the age to read these things? No, I have read a lot of western poetry. Because I was studying there, what could I do? But my father says that Faiz is a phenomenal poet. And if you go to read, the Quran is also a wonderful poetry." He further mentioned, "When I don't shoot, I am interested in a lot of things. I play guitar and music. Computer games, surfing the internet, reading books, and watching movies. I go to Bombay Gymkhana. Everything is happening there. In the shooting club, I am very interested in target shooting. In Worli, that's a great thing I do. And at home, I am interested in computers, books, all these things."

The actor also spoke about the kind of cinema that he liked to consume.

He said, "There are a lot of foreign movies like 'The Godfather'. But foreign movies are so different from Hindi movies, that there is no point in comparing them. There was a time when I used to think that I should make this movie. But I couldn't make it. Because, in reality, the way heroes speak has changed. Like a normal person speaks on the street."

"If your character speaks like that, everyone will listen carefully. The special thing about Hollywood movies is that they are well-written. There are different dialogues in every movie. In our country, we have been using the same style of dialogue for years. And that is changing in today's world. And naturally, people are appreciating it," he added.

## I always wanted to do action as an actor: Sharvari

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Sharvari shared that her favourite genre is action and that she is getting to live her dream through "Alpha".

"I love action as a genre and I binge watch action movies with my sister! So, when I was offered Alpha, I jumped! In my head I always wanted to do action as an actor. So, I'm getting to live my dream," said the actress, who will be seen starring alongside Alia Bhatt in the film.

She shared that she always believed that action stars have a really fun shooting experience because of all the stunts that they get to do.

"I'm now experiencing this feeling first hand and I have to admit that it's supremely fun but physically so taxing. I'm putting in my 200 percent and I hope people love me in Alpha! I want to become an action star in the near future and so, I'm going for it in Alpha!"

"Alpha" is directed by Shiv Rawail of the blockbuster global streaming series "The Railway Men fame", which was also produced by YRF. Created by producer Aditya Chopra, the YRF spy universe is the biggest IP of Indian cinema today.

Recently, Sharvari got a chance to watch the series "Freedom At Midnight", with the maker Nikhil Advani, whom the actress said is a "forever fan" of. Sharvari took to Instagram stories, where she shared a glimpse from the preview of the series. In the monochrome picture, Nikhil's silhouette could be seen with the show playing in the background with a packed audience.

For the caption, she wrote: "Watched #FreedomAtMidnight this evening, alongside @nikhiladvani Sir. I'm a forever fan of your work you know that already.. I can't wait to binge watch the show! Big congratulations to the incredible cast & crew! Terrific! @malay-prakash @ayasha\_dasgupta @shwvencat @keyaadvani."

The show is adapted from Dominique Lapiere and Larry Collins' historical book of the same name, the show explores the events surrounding India's partition. The trailer of the series was unveiled on November 9 and it began with Clement Attlee, the then Prime Minister of the UK declaring the independence of India.



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor Abhishek Bachchan will be seen joining his father and megastar Amitabh Bachchan on the sets of "Kaun Banega Crorepati". The father-son duo will be seen having some chuckle-worthy moments on the quiz-based reality show.

A promo shared by the channel on Instagram, showed Abhishek narrating a dinner table conversation intertwined with "Kaun Banega Crorepati."

Abhishek said: "Humare ghar main sab parivaar mil baat kar khaana khaate hai aur koi sawaal poochta hai toh saare jitne bacche hai... woh sab ek saath bol jaate hai 7 crore. (In our house, the entire family gathers to eat together. And if someone asks a question, all the kids scream together, '7 crore')."

## Big B says 'big mistake' to call son Abhishek on 'Kaun Banega Crorepati'

This leaves Amitabh in splits. He is later seen saying: "Bahut badhi galti kardi inko bulake yahaan (It was a big mistake to call him here)."

Abhishek then mimics his father and screams "7 Crore" and filmmaker Shoojit Sircar is seen laughing. Abhishek and Shoojit grace the show to promote their upcoming film "I Want To Talk", which narrates the story

of a father-daughter relationship, where Arjun (played by Abhishek) is fighting against an illness that changes his life completely tagged along with internal battles. The film also stars Johnny Lever, Jayant Kriplani and Ahilya Bamroo.

For the film Abhishek shared that there were no prosthetics involved, and he actually gained weight for the film.

## INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Niharica Raizada