

# absolute india

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Israeli forces 'more or less' restore full control over border fence with Gaza

## MASSACRE CONTINUES



Jerusalem | Agencies

The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) have "more or less" restored full control over the border fence with Gaza, after it was breached by Hamas militants following its October 7 surprise attack, a military official said.

Addressing a briefing, IDF spokesman Lt. Col. Richard Hecht said: "Looking towards the south, we have more or less restored full control over the border fence. Hopefully in the next few hours it will be final." Hecht said Israeli forces have secured communities around the border and have nearly completed evacuations in the area, adding that there were two small firefights

overnight in the Sa'ad and Kissufim communities. "We are focusing our offensive in the Gaza Strip and our airstrikes," CNN quoted the spokesperson as saying. In his address, Hecht also advised any Palestinians leaving Gaza to go to Egypt. "I am aware that the Rafah crossing is still open," the BBC quoted

the IDF official as saying. "Anyone who can get out, I would advise them to get out". On Monday, the IDF said that the military had regained control over all the communities in southern Israel. In a separate statement on Tuesday morning, the Israeli Air Force (IAF) claimed that it has hit 200 Hamas and other militant group targets in Gaza in overnight airstrikes. In a social media post, the IAF said dozens of fighter jets launched strikes on the Rimal and Khan Yunis areas, destroying targets, including command and control, a weapons storage site they say was inside a mosque, and the home of an alleged Hamas commander.

### INDIA STANDS FIRMLY WITH ISRAEL

New Delhi: Following a phone call with his Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu on Tuesday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that the "people of India stand firmly" with the Jewish nation amid the ongoing conflict with the Hamas militant group. Thanking Netanyahu for making the call and "providing an update on the ongoing situation", Modi said in a post on X: "People of India stand firmly with Israel in this difficult hour. India strongly and unequivocally condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations." This is the Prime Minister's second post after the conflict broke out on October 7 when the Palestinian militant group launched the unprecedented attack against Israel from the Gaza Strip.

## Cong makes caste survey poll issue in MP; BJP calls it appeasement politics

Team Absolute | Bhopal

With the demand for a caste-based survey growing in the opposition INDIA bloc ahead of next year's Lok Sabha elections, a new kind of caste politics is taking shape in the country. The subject got momentum after the Nitish Kumar-led Bihar government released its caste survey report on October 2.



The Congress, which is an integral part of the INDIA bloc, has taken a step further and announced that caste survey will be one of its key agendas for the upcoming Assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh to be held on November 17. Importantly, Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, while addressing a public rally in MP's Sagar district in August, had announced that the party will conduct a caste survey if it forms government in the state. Subsequently, caste census was included in the 11 poll guarantees of the grand old party in poll-bound MP, which, as per the May 2022 state backward class report, houses 48 per cent OBC population, while many in the political circles believe that the total OBC voters may be around 52 per cent in the state.

The Congress' pitch for caste census and OBC quota in women's reservation comes as a strategic move to corner the BJP, which over the years has been the biggest beneficiary of OBC votes, reflected by the party's last three CMs in the state -- Uma Bharti, Babulal Gaur and current CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan, all OBC leaders.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, while addressing a poll rally in the tribal dominated Shahdol district, said on Tuesday said that the "OBCs, SCs and STs are not getting their due in the country's decision making and development process". Mentioning specifically about tribals, the Congress leader said that out of every Rs 100 spent by the Central government, the share of tribal decision makers is just 10 paise. "This amounts to utter disrespect for tribals. Owing to this, we are only demanding caste census in the country to first know the actual numbers of OBC, SC and ST population, and then we can render them their share in the nation's prosperity based on their numbers," he said. On the other hand, the BJP, which is facing anti-incumbency after its nearly two-decade rule in Madhya Pradesh, maintained that the Congress is doing appeasement politics since it has lost everything. Union minister Prahlad Singh Patel, who is contesting the Assembly elections from Narsinghpur in his home district Khandwa, said, "The Congress has ruled the country for decades, but what did it give to the backward classes? Even the constitutional status to the OBC Commission was rendered by the PM Modi-led government. Not only is our Prime Minister from the backward caste, but the list of OBC CMs from BJP too is long."

### HAMAS ATTACKS ISRAEL'S ASHKELON CITY AFTER WARNING RESIDENTS TO LEAVE

Jerusalem: Hamas is attacking the Israeli city of Ashkelon with rocket fire, the media reported. Earlier, the militant group warned civilians to leave within hours. Ashkelon is around 15 km away from Gaza. Hamas' armed wing spokesman, Abu Ubaida, told residents of Israel's port of Ashkelon to leave the area by 5 p.m. (local time) without giving any further details. The Guardian reported. Hamas had threatened specifically to attack the Israeli city of Ashkelon in response to Israel's attacks on Gaza, the BBC reported. In a post on Telegram, Hamas said the residents of the city, just to the north of the Gaza Strip, have within hours to leave. More than 1,000 people were killed in an attack by Hamas on Israel over the weekend, according to the Israeli Embassy in the US, CNN reported. The death toll now stands at 1,008, with at least 3,418 injured, the embassy said on X. The Israel Defense Forces has said it "cannot confirm or deny" these reports from the embassy. An IDF spokesperson told CNN that it is aware of over 900 deaths. More than 4,500 rockets have already been fired from Gaza into Israel since Saturday, the Israeli military says. Two foreign workers have been killed and another seriously injured in a rocket attack in the Eskhol region that borders Gaza, Israel's emergency services have just said, the BBC reported.

## Vasundhara Raje 'may contest' Raj Assembly polls despite exclusion from BJP's 1st list

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Former Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje is likely to contest the upcoming Assembly elections in the state even as her name was not included in the first list of candidates released on Tuesday by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), sources said.



The first list of 41 candidates released by the BJP features seven MPs, including former Union minister and MP Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, Diya Kumari, Baba Balaknath, Narendra Kumar, Kirodi Lal Meena, Bhagirath Chaudhary and Devji Patel. However, Raje's exclusion from the first list has raised several questions in the state's political circles. According to sources, the BJP is not keen to make the forthcoming Assembly elections look like an "Ashok Gehlot versus Vasundhara Raje" affair. In fact, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been playing a leading role in strengthening the support base for the BJP in Rajasthan.

Meanwhile, a BJP source has said that the decision to contest the upcoming Assembly elections has been left to Vasundhara Raje, adding that it's being believed that in the next lists of candidates, the former Chief Minister's name may be included. Raje, who is also the national vice-president of the BJP, has won the elections from Jhalrapatan Assembly constituency of Rajasthan four times -- in 2003, 2008, 2013 and 2018.

### BALASORE TRAIN ACCIDENT: BMC STARTS CREMATION OF UNIDENTIFIED BODIES

Bhubaneswar: The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) on Tuesday started the cremation process of 28 unidentified bodies four months after the tragic train tragedy at Bahanaga in Balasore district on June 2. "We have deployed three dead body carrier vehicles on behalf of BMC. We have now started taking over those bodies for cremation. We have the capacity to finish the cremation task within the next one or two days," said BMC commissioner Vijay Amruta Kulange. The AIIMS authorities said all the processes for the handing over of bodies have been completed. BMC began the cremation of some of the bodies at the designated crematorium at Bharatpur in the city Tuesday. The DNA samples of the 28 bodies being handed over for cremation have been stored for matching in future.

## Do not encroach on properties of displaced people: Manipur govt

Imphal | Agencies

Citing the Supreme Court's order, the Manipur government on Tuesday asked people not to encroach the properties of those who had fled because of the ethnic violence since May 3 in the state, as this could aggravate the law and order situation.



Amid the five-month long ethnic strife in Manipur, approximately 70,000 men, women and children belonging to Meitei, Kuki-Zo, and other communities have been displaced and are now sheltered in 350 camps set up in schools, government buildings, and auditoriums in Manipur while several thousand sought refuge in the neighbouring states including Mizoram. Commissioner, Home, T. Ranjit Singh in an order said that the Supreme Court after a Special Leave Petition (Civil) on September 25

asked the state to protect the religious buildings from encroachment and the buildings be protected from damage or destruction. "The Government of Manipur should ensure the protection of the properties of the displaced persons as well as the properties which have been destroyed or burnt in the violence and prevent their encroach-

ment. In case any property has been encroached, the encroachers are directed to forthwith remove their encroachment, failing which the person concerned would be liable for contempt of court for non-compliance of the orders of the Supreme Court of India," the government order said quoting the apex court direction. Singh, in his order, said that respective Deputy Commissioners and Superintendents of Police of all districts have been advised suitably to take action to implement the directions of the Supreme Court. "No individual or organisations without any exception shall violate the orders passed by the Supreme Court under any circumstances. Anybody found violating the same shall be booked under relevant provision of law of the land for the time being in force and shall be liable for contempt of the Supreme Court," the order said.

### 'SIKHS FOR JUSTICE' GIVES CALL TO HOLD RALLIES AT INDIAN EMBASSIES

Vancouver: Amid the row over India's hand in the assassination of Khalistan-backer Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Canada, banned secessionist group "Sikhs For Justice" (SFJ) gave a call to hold rallies on October 21 at the Indian embassies in G7 countries asking the host governments to shut down Indian diplomatic missions. Parallel to the call for October 21 rallies, the SFJ also launched an email campaign through which members can send a pre-drafted email to the G7 governments. Citing the history and evidence of agents operating from Indian missions in the guise of diplomats and executing operations challenging the sovereignty of host nations and threatening the life and liberty of pro Khalistan Sikhs, the email urges the G7 governments to support Khalistan Referendum; and dismantle Indian Spy Network Operating from Diplomatic Missions In G7 Countries.

## Mukesh Ambani reclaims richest Indian tag, Ratan Tata has most followers on X

Chennai | Agencies

Billionaire Mukesh Ambani, Chairman, Reliance Industries Ltd, has reclaimed the top spot as the richest Indian after a year, as per the '360 One Wealth Hurun India Rich List 2023'. Ambani was ranked at the top with a wealth of Rs 808,800 crore with 2 per cent appreciation over the previous year. Industrialist Gautam Adani, despite a 57 per cent erosion in wealth, was ranked second in the list with a wealth of Rs 474,800 crore. Last year, Adani was ahead of Ambani by Rs 3 lakh crore and in 2023, the latter is ahead of the former by Rs 3.3 lakh crore. The top two industrialists are followed by vaccine maker Cyrus S. Poonawalla (Rs 278,500 crore), HCL Group's Shiv Nadar (Rs 228,900 crore), Hinduja Group's



Gopichand Hinduja (Rs 176,500 crore) and Sun Pharmaceuticals' Dilip Shangvi (Rs 164,300 crore). According to the report, the Rs 1,000 crore rich individuals' club went up by 216 to 1,319.

The cumulative wealth of India's rich list stood at Rs 109 lakh crore, more than the combined gross domestic product (GDP) of Singapore, the UAE and Saudi Arabia.

The youngest rich Indian title went to 20-year-old Kaivalya Vohra, the Founder of Zepto. On the other hand, 94 year old Mahendra Ratilal Mehta, Founder, Precision Wires India, made his maiden entry into the rich list in 2023. According to the list, 84 start-up founders with a cumulative wealth of Rs 423,600 crore with an average age of 41 years figure in the 2023 rankings. Radha Vembu (50) of Zoho became the richest self-made woman in the 2023 list, overtaking Falguni Nayar. Tamil Nadu's hosiery town Tiruppur debuted in the top 20 cities producing the most number of entrants with 328 individuals. As regards the number of followers on the social media platform X, Tata Group's Ratan Tata has the largest number of followers at 12.6 million and is followed by Mahindra & Mahindra Group's Anand Mahindra with 10.8 million followers.

### Construction in glacial areas causing disasters: Experts

Lucknow | Agencies

Scientists at the ongoing 'Earth Science Week' at the Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences (BSIP) in Lucknow, have said that construction in glacial areas is causing disasters in Himalayan regions. Dr Navin Juyal a former scientist at the Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad, said, "The tragedy in Sikkim was not only due to flash floods, it was due to the Teesta hydro power project as it was not designed to accommodate or handle the extra water of the glacial lake." "In 2013, Lhonak lake in Sikkim's Lhonak glacier was predicted to be unstable. But we never took cognisance of it. The hydro projects are being made only for carrying water and electricity but are not flood-friendly," he said. He expressed these views at a special lecture titled

'Significance of geoscience and its societal implications in the Himalayan region' at the BSIP's centre for promotion of geoheritage and geotourism (CPGG) on Monday. On the challenges being faced in the hilly regions in Sikkim and Uttarakhnad's Joshimath, Dr Juyal said that global warming was knocking on the door of the Himalayan region. "We do not know how the Himalayan region is going to respond. We must be prepared for this. One of the important and sensitive areas there is the periglacial zone. "Periglacial zone are those sensitive zones that used to be glacial. They are sensitive as they contain high amount of sediments which were brought by the glaciers and which are waiting for the extreme weather to mobilise and then destroy the development structures and habitats in the lower altitude regions," said Dr Juyal.



Rajasthan polls

# BJP'S FIRST LIST EXPOSES FACTIONALISM, DISAPPOINTED CONTENDERS BREAK INTO TEARS, VOW PROTEST

Jaipur | Agencies

As the BJP released its first list for the November 23 Rajasthan Assembly elections, disappointed aspirants staged protests in various places, bringing factionalism in the state unit into the open.

In view of the increasing opposition, the party has formed a committee under the chairmanship of the Union Minister Kailash Chaudhary to look into the issue.

Dr. Vikas Chaudhary, a former MLA and 2018 candidate, started crying in presence of his supporters as he failed to get the nomination from Kishangarh.

"I have been politically murdered," he said. The BJP has given ticket to the seat to Ajmer MP Bhagirath Chaudhary.

After the announcement, Chaudhary's supporters started gathering at his house from Tuesday morning.

The leader started crying while addressing the workers. Wiping his tears, Chaudhary said: "I was working hard in the field for the last 5 years, I have been politically murdered. He (Bhagirath Chaudhary) never supported me, despite me supporting him in every election."

Chaudhary alleged that this ticket was purchased on the basis of money power. At this time, he left the decision of contesting the elections to his supporters.

"Shradh is going on now, hence no auspicious work should be done. As soon as Navratri starts, we will decide to contest the elections with the support of our supporters."

Earlier, Chaudhary had posted on social media that: "I had worked hard honestly".

In the Jat-dominated Kishangarh Assembly seat, the BJP has fielded Bhagirath Chaudhary, who has won elections from here in 2003 and 2013.



Akin to Chaudhary, former MLA Anita Gurjar has alleged that she has not given ticket in Bharatpur as she is from former CM Vasundhara Raje's faction.

Angered by the denial of ticket from the city assembly, Gurjar expressed her displeasure on her Facebook page. BJP has declared Jawahar Singh Bedam as its candidate from the city.

Meanwhile, Rajpal Singh Shekhawat, who was a minister in the Vasundhara Raje government, has also been not fielded. Angered by this, his supporters had gathered at the bungalow of Vasundhara Raje on Monday night. It is said that Shekhawat also met Raje.

Many councillors are threatening to resign in his support. Rohitashv Sharma, a staunch supporter of Vasundhara Raje and the

Transport Minister in her government, is currently expelled from the BJP, but was seeking a ticket from Bansur. After not getting the ticket, he has announced to contest the elections as an independent candidate.

In a video released on social media, he asked the public that will they send to the Assembly those people who get tickets on the basis of money? He told the public that if the public blesses him, he will contest elections for the development of Bansur.

Mukesh Goyal, who was the BJP candidate in the last Assembly elections, openly protested against the denial of ticket from Kotputli.

"The person who burnt the party flags was given the ticket. We are hurt by this decision. I have always been against contesting elections as an independent. This decision will give

strength to the Congress candidate. Together we will prepare further strategy," he said.

After the BJP has given ticket to MP Devji Patel from Sanchoore, protests started there also. Supporters of Danaram Choudhary, who was the BJP candidate in 2018, held a protest, saying Patel's security money will also be forfeited and they will not even allow his meetings to take place in the villages.

Choudhary's supporters allege that the party's decision to give ticket to the MP is completely wrong.

From Deoli-Uniara in Tonk district, the BJP has given ticket to Vijay Bainsla, son of Colonel Kirori Singh Bainsla, Convener of Gurjar Reservation Sangharsh Committee.

This sparked protests in Uniara area, terming him an outsider candidate. Many BJP workers raised slogans and demanded to make a local worker the candidate.

Everyone reached BJP state office Jaipur in support of Rajendra Gurjar, who was the BJP candidate from this seat in the last elections. Here his supporters opposed giving ticket to Bainsla, calling him an outsider. Supporters also raised slogans of 'drive out outsiders, save Deoli-Uniara'.

Former MLA Master Maman Singh Yadav organised a mahapanchayat in Tijara on Tuesday, saying that his name was finalised on the basis of the survey and the Central Committee also assured him of getting the ticket. However, on Monday, the party announced Baba Balaknath as the candidate.

Yadav said that Baba Balaknath should get only one vote from each booth and that too for his status. He should not get any votes in the entire Tijara area, he added.

In view of all-round opposition, the BJP has formed a committee under Union Minister Kailash Chaudhary, comprising many senior leaders who will talk and try to pacify the angry leaders.

# Traffic advisory issued ahead of India and Afghanistan cricket match in Delhi



Team Absolute | New Delhi

In view of the match between India and Afghanistan of ICC World Cup at Arun Jaitley Stadium here on Wednesday, the Delhi Traffic Police has issued an advisory for the traffic restrictions imposed in and around the venue.

According to the advisory, there will be diversion/restriction on Bahadurshah Zafar Marg and JLN Marg.

No heavy vehicles and buses shall be allowed on the roads, from Daryaganj to Bahadurshah Zafar Marg and from Guru Nanak Chowk to Asaf Ali Road.

"Commuters are requested to avoid Rajghat to JLN Marg, JLN Marg from roundabout Kamla Market to Rajghat, Asaf Ali Road from Turkman Gate to Delhi Gate and Bahadurshah Zafar Marg

from Ramcharan Aggarwal Chowk to Delhi Gate from 12 noon to 12 midnight on the day of match as congestion is expected," read the traffic advisory. The traffic cops further said that limited parking is available for labelled vehicles in the proximity of the stadium.

"Display of car parking labels on the windscreen is mandatory. Vehicle number must be written on the parking label. The vehicles without valid parking labels shall not be allowed in the proximity of the Stadium," they said.

The advisory stated that no vehicle shall be allowed to be parked on Bahadurshah Zafar Marg, JLN Marg, and Ring Road from Rajghat to L.P. Flyover (both carriageways) on the match day. "Vehicles parked on these roads shall be towed away and prosecuted as per law," said the advisory.

# Maha govt to give Rs 1L assistance to poor girls under 'Lek Laadki' scheme

Team Absolute | Mumbai

As part of the aim to empower girls, Chief Minister Eknath Shinde has unveiled 'Lek Laadki' incentive scheme for poor girls from ration-card holding families entitling them to total assistance worth Rs One-Lakh till they attain the age of 18, here on Tuesday.

This is in tune with the 2023-2024 state budget announcement by Deputy CM Devendra Fadnis in March, to implement the scheme with retrospective effect from April 1, 2023.

Under the scheme, the state will give an incentive of Rs 5,000 after the birth of a female child to yellow and orange ration card holding families.

When the girl joins the first standard in school, she would get Rs 6,000, Rs 7000



in the Class VI, Rs 8000 in Class XI, and Rs 75,000 when she turns 18.

In total, under the 'Lek Laadki' initiative, the girl will get Rs 100,000 till she turns 18 years old, said the government and will be available to a girl child born after April 1,

2023. People working in the social fields and women's issues have welcomed the scheme which would benefit girls born in poor families in urban and rural areas, and serve as an incentive to educate them properly.

# BOTH, RULING TMC, OPP AGAINST CASTE CENSUS IN BENGAL

Kolkata | Agencies

In West Bengal, caste census seems to be an issue which has brought the ruling Trinamool Congress and the Opposition BJP on the same platform, with both opposing it.

Although Trinamool Congress leaders avoided comments on record on the issue, stating that either Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee or the party's National General Secretary Abhishek Banerjee will comment on it, they did admit, on condition of anonymity, the party's reservations about the caste census.

The Trinamool Congress' reasons for opposing this issue are almost the same as that of the BJP. "First it might lead to demands of self-governance in certain areas. Second such a census might lead to the division of the people. Hence, our party leadership is extremely cautious about this matter," said a member of the state cabinet.

Political observers feel that in a situation where the thought processes of the ruling and principal Opposition parties in a state are identical, there is slim chance of that issue



taking a contentious shape. Political observers feel that while the official logic for the Trinamool Congress opposing the caste census has a national perspective, there might be some state-specific reasons behind the ruling party's reservations in the matter.

The first reason, according to them, might be the rising allegations relating to the issuance of false caste certificates in the state. The issue had sky-rocketed before the recently-concluded panchayat polls in the state where several candidates allegedly presented forged caste certificates so

that they could contest from reserved seats. The second reason, according to political observers, is that since caste-based politics had never been a major factor in West Bengal like in the con belt, it is an alien area for the Trinamool Congress, which the party leadership might try to avoid.

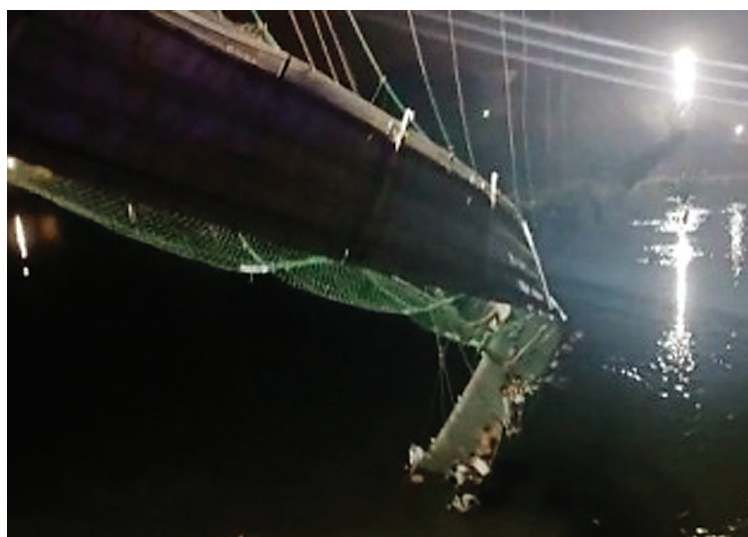
# Morbi bridge collapse: SIT submits 5,000-page report, blames pvt company

Ahmedabad | Agencies

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) has submitted an exhaustive 5,000-page report to the Gujarat High Court in the Morbi bridge collapse incident in which 135 people died.

The report released on Tuesday blames the key personnel of the Orevia company which was responsible for the bridge's operation and maintenance.

The suspension bridge over the Machhu River in Morbi had plunged into the water on the fateful evening of October 30, 2022. The state government had constituted a committee to conduct a thorough inquiry into the matter. Notably, the maintenance and oversight of this critical bridge had been entrusted to the Orevia Group.



According to the compiled SIT report, Orevia's Managing Director, Jaysukh Patel, Manager Dinesh Dave, and Manager Deepak Parekh bear direct accountability for the incident.

The investigation's findings reveal a series of lapses in the bridge's management and safety protocols.

The report highlights that there were no restrictions imposed on the number of individuals permitted on the bridge at any given time.

Additionally, it notes the absence of a fitness report conducted prior to the bridge's inauguration, and the Orevia company's failure to seek input from local municipal authorities.

Moreover, ticket sales operated without any limitations. Equally concerning was the insufficient provision of security equipment and personnel on the bridge.

# 5 Independent MLAs quit to contest Nov 7 Mizoram Assembly polls as ZPM nominees

Aizawl | Agencies

Five independent MLAs in Mizoram resigned from the Assembly on Tuesday in line with technical formalities to contest the November 7 elections as nominees of the Zoram People's Movement (ZPM).

Mizoram Assembly Secretary Lalhmahruaia Zote, in separate notifications, said that Lalthuanthanga (Aizawl South II constituency), V. L. Zaitanzama (Aizawl West-III), Vanlalhlana (Aizawl North-I), C. Lalsawvunga (Aizawl South-I), and Vanlalhlana (Aizawl North-II) resigned from the Assembly and the five constituencies have fallen vacant with effect from Tuesday. All the five MLAs



originally belonged to the ZPM but contested the 2018 Assembly as independents as the ZPM was not a registered political party by the Election Commission at that time.

As the five Independents MLAs are now going to contest the November 7 assembly elections as candidates of ZPM, which is now a registered party, they are liable to

be disqualified if they do not resign, an assembly official said. Their leader Lalduhoma was elected in a by-poll in 2021 as ZPM candidate and does not require to resign, the official said adding that the five legislators are now able to file nominations on the ZPM tickets. With this, seven MLAs quit the Assembly this month.

# SAMAJWADI PARTY SEEKS CBI PROBE INTO DEORIA CARNAGE

Deoria (UP): A Samajwadi Party delegation led by former minister Brahma Shankar Tripathi on Tuesday visited the house of Prem Prakash Yadav, one of the victims of the Deoria carnage in which six persons were killed on October 2.

Tripathi also demanded a CBI probe into the incident which was apparently a fallout of property dispute. "It is clear that certain facts are being concealed. A CBI probe will unravel the whole truth behind the incident," he told reporters. Several delegations have visited the victims of the incident but SP chief Akhilesh Yadav has stayed away, saying that some people want to give a casteist colour to the incident. Meanwhile, tension continues to prevail in Fatehpur village where the incident took place last Monday.

# 'You have created history', PM tells Asian Games contingent

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday interacted with the Asian Games contingent, which won a record 107 medals, including 28 gold, at the recently-concluded Asiad in Hangzhou, China, and said that the entire country is proud of their achievement as they have created history.

"The whole country is feeling proud of your (athletes') performance in the Asian Games. I also thank the trainers and coaches of the athletes on behalf of the nation," Modi said while interacting with the athletes at the Dhyana Chand stadium here.

He said India's medal tally in the Asian Games is an indication of the country's success.

"It is India's best performance in Asian Games till date, and personally, I am satisfied that we are moving on the right track," the Prime Minister said. "Because of your hard work and achievements, there is an atmosphere of celebration across the country," Modi added.

"I am proud that our 'Nari Shakti' performed very well in the Asian Games. It tells about the capability of the daughters of India," he said.

The Prime Minister said that though there is no shortage of talent in the country, due to various obstacles, Indian athletes could not convert their efforts into medals.

This is the first time that India crossed the tally of 100 medals in Asian Games. India had won 70 medals at the Jakarta Games in 2018.

"In many events, decades long wait for a medal

got over because of your efforts," the Prime Minister said. "In many disciplines, you not only opened an account but blazed a trail that will inspire a generation of youth," he added.

Modi also gave credit to the Centre's TOPS and Khelo India schemes as game-changers for the boost in medals tally. "Our players are the 'GOAT', i.e., Greatest Of All Time, for the country," Modi said.

He also urged the athletes to help in fighting drugs and in promoting the millets and POSHAN missions. The Prime Minister assured the athletes that lack of money will never be a hindrance to their efforts. "Our faith in the youth was the basis of the slogan '100 paar', and you have lived up to that faith," he concluded.





## MP ASSEMBLY POLLS: FOR NOW, BJP LEADERS WILL HAVE TO WAIT FOR 'SON' SHINE

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The BJP's fourth list for Madhya Pradesh Assembly elections, which retained most of its senior sitting legislatures, including veteran politician and Assembly Speaker Girish Gautam, made it clear that the next generation of the saffron party aspiring to pursue their career in politics will have to wait.

The 230-member Madhya Pradesh Assembly will go to the polls on November 17, while the counting of votes will be taken up on December 3.

The BJP's election screening committee on Monday announced the names of 57 candidates, of which 24 are state ministers and the remaining 32 are those who won the Assembly elections in 2018 or the bypolls in 2021.

Importantly, around a dozen senior BJP leaders in Madhya Pradesh wanted to field their children in the elections, but the saffron party, which is known to corner other political parties over the politics of 'dynasticism', refrained from fielding the children of its active leaders.

Until the fourth list was released on Monday, the political gallery was filled with murmurs that CM Chouhan's elder son Kartikey Chouhan may be fielded.



Kartikey, who recently completed his LL.M from an US-based university, would often be seen active in his father's constituency -- Budhni in Sehore district.

Home Minister Narottam Mishra's son Sukarn Mishra has been managing the poll strategy from behind the curtains. Sources said that Sukarn also held meetings with the people in his father's home district Datia.

BJP national General Secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya's son Akash Vijayvargiya is an MLA from Indore-3.

However, he has not been given ticket this time.

Annoyed with the party's decision to field senior Vijayvargiya instead of his son Akash, a large group of his supporters had staged a protest at the party headquarters in Bhopal recently. Senior BJP leader and Union minister Narendra Singh Tomar's son Devender Pratap Singh has been active in the party's district level activities in Morena.

Being the election convener, Tomar has to give time for formulating poll

strategies for the party, while his son, Devender Pratap Singh, is preparing the ground for his father in Dhimini.

PWD Minister Gopal Bhargav's son Abhishek Bhargava, Agriculture Minister Kamel Patel's son Sandeep Patel and Transport Minister Govind Singh Rajput's son Akash Rajput along with Water Minister Tulsi Silawat's son Nitish Silawat and former MP Prabhat Jha's son Tushmul Jha are all standing on the threshold of politics.

The other senior BJP leaders whose sons or daughters are waiting to enter politics include Santosh Sahu's daughter Parul Sahu, ex-minister Manvendra Singh's son Kamkshya Singh, Gaurishankar Bisen's daughter Mausam Bisen, and Umashankar Sharma's daughter Jyoti Sharma, among others. Most of them had earlier secured organisational posts in the party or are active in managing poll strategies for their fathers from the backend. Abhishek Bhargav held various posts in the organisation but his work was limited to his father's Assembly area. He remains in constant touch with the public.

Agriculture Minister Kamal Patel's son Sandeep Patel focuses on sports activities more than politics. He had recently organised a sports festival, while Tushmul Jha is active in social activities, more than politics.

## BJP's laboratory did not even leave 'Mahakal Lok' corridor: Rahul Gandhi in poll-bound MP

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Congress MP Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday, while referring to former deputy Prime Minister Lal Krishna Advani's remarks 'Madhya Pradesh is the laboratory of the RSS-BJP', said that the BJP-led government in Madhya Pradesh has been indulging in corruption and did not even leave the 'Mahakal Lok' corridor.

"L. K Advani once said that Madhya Pradesh is the laboratory of RSS-BJP. The BJP's laboratory has been indulging into corruption, killing the farmers and we see one scam after the other. This is what the BJP's laboratory is," Rahul Gandhi said.

He highlighted the multi-layer Vyapam exams of 2013, Patwari and other recruitment exams under BJP government in Madhya Pradesh in the past two decades. He also recalled the Mandasaur incident when five farmers were killed during a protest in 2018.

Addressing the first public rally a day after the election schedules were announced, Rahul Gandhi talked about caste-based survey and tried to corner Prime Minister Narendra Modi reiterating that the latter was running away from conducting the caste-based census.

He said that Congress will keep building pressure on the Centre leadership of the BJP for the caste-based census in the country. "The Congress party will keep demanding the caste-based census in the country. How long PM Modi will run away from it?" Gandhi said while addressing a public rally in Shahdol district.

He also criticised the BJP and PM Modi for



using the word 'vanvasi' for tribal people. Rahul Gandhi claimed the BJP and RSS uses the word 'vanvasi' instead of 'adivasi' because the saffron party wants to confine the tribals in jungles.

"What rights should be given to Adivasis today, what part should be given to the OBC and ST categories, this is the question in front of the country and that is why we are talking about caste census, we will get it done," he added. He said that the Congress has always worked for development of tribals and poor people in the country, while the BJP was working for some selected business houses.

The elections for 230-seat assembly in Madhya Pradesh are scheduled on November 17, while the result will be announced along with four other poll-bound states - Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Telangana and Mizoram on December 3.

## Channel takes note of 'KBC' video making derogatory remarks against MP CM, calls it 'misleading'

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Taking note of an objectionable video of 'Kaun Banega Crorepati' that went viral on social media, Sony TV termed it misleading and said it is taking up the matter with the cyber-crime cell.

"We have been alerted to the circulation of an unauthorised video from our show, 'Kaun Banega Crorepati'. This video misleadingly overlays a fabricated voice-over of our host and presents distorted content. Upholding the show's integrity and our viewers' trust is paramount, and we are actively addressing this matter with the cybercrime cell. We strongly condemn such misinformation, urge our audience to be vigilant, and refrain from sharing unverified content."

The makers said upholding the show's integrity and viewers' trust is paramount. "We are actively addressing this matter with the

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cybercrime cell. We strongly condemn such misinformation," read the statement issued by Sony TV.

The makers also urged the audience to be vigilant, and refrain themselves from sharing unverified content.

In the "misleading" video, the KBC host Amitabh Bachchan can be seen asking the contestant which Chief Minister is dubbed as "Ghoshna Machine" (announcement machine)

because of his "false" announcements.

The contestant gave the answer option B which is Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

Meanwhile, the Public Relations Department of Madhya Pradesh termed the video fake and said it was done with the intention of tarnishing the image of the Chief Minister. 'Kaun Banega Crorepati 15' airs on Sony.

## CELEBRATION OF WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY-2023 AT AIIMS BHOPAL

Team Absolute | Bhopal

On 10th October, The World Mental Health Day-2023 was organised by Department of Psychiatry and Nursing College at AIIMS Bhopal. This programme was inaugurated today by Prof. Dr Ajai Singh, Executive Director & CEO AIIMS Bhopal; in the presence of Prof. Dr Rajesh Malik, Dean (Academic), Prof. Dr Amit Aggarwal, Dean (Nursing & Paramedics) Prof. Dr Shashank Purwar, Medical Superintendent, and other dignitaries and beneficiaries.

Prof. (Dr.) Ajai Singh, Executive Director lauded the initiatives taken by department of psychiatry and Nursing College to create awareness about mental illnesses and he encouraged the department of psychiatry to expand its services to community levels. Speaking on the occasion Dr. Singh said that we need to break the stigma prevailing in the society related to mental health. The



situation is worst in rural areas. By creating awareness we must break the shackles of superstition and give a better life to the people.

Dr. Rajesh Malik, Dean (Academics) emphasized on the need of programmes on mental health for health professional as they work under immense pressure. Earlier, welcoming the guests Dr.

Vijender Singh, Prof. and Head, Department of Psychiatry, detailed about the various activities to be organized for next 2 days. The activities to be carried out will include a session with the students of Sagar Public school, Gandhi Nagar Bhopal for creating awareness about mental health issues and spreading positive message to deal with the stigma of

mental illnesses, stress management and positive mental health. Apart from this Debate Competition on "Can Movies be a Powerful Medium for Public Mental Health in India?" Theme Photography competition on "Embracing Hope in Turbulent Times" and Poster Competition on "Colors of Human Emotions" will also be organized. On this occasion a Nukkad Natak was performed by nursing student of AIIMS Bhopal to promote awareness about mental illnesses among the general public and patient populations visiting AIIMS Bhopal. The programme also included sharing of experiences by recovered patients of mental illnesses and their families, in order to spread the positive message about availability of treatment and better prognosis of mental illness and success stories of recovered patients. For any mental or emotional problem toll free service is also available at AIIMS, Bhopal 24X7, call 14416 or 18008914416 "Baat karne se banegi baat"

## Rahul Gandhi rejected 12 names of Kamal Nath? 150 candidates finalized

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Big news is coming from the Delhi headquarters of the Congress Party in the context of Madhya Pradesh Assembly Elections 2023. It is being told that Rahul Gandhi has rejected the 12 leaders sent by Kamal Nath, to whom strong recommendations were sent to declare him as the official candidate of the Congress Party in the elections.

Sources in All India Congress Committee Delhi say that single names have been sent to some assembly seats by the scrutiny committee of Madhya Pradesh Congress Committee. This means that State President Kamal Nath and Madhya Pradesh Congress Committee are saying with full confidence that the Congress Party does not have any better leader in the above mentioned Assembly.



Rahul Gandhi has rejected 12 of these names. That is, the contenders of the Congress Party in Madhya Pradesh till now were feeling proud that their single name has been sent. Now the tickets of 12 of them have been cancelled.

Kamal Nath had conducted several rounds of surveys to select candidates for the Congress Party in Madhya Pradesh. Many private agencies were given different tasks. Apart from this whole process, Rahul Gandhi's agency was also conducting the survey. He not only prepared the horoscope of Congress Party leaders in the area but also prepared a report on whether Kamal Nath's team is active in the districts of Madhya Pradesh outside Bhopal or not, and what type of survey is being conducted by Kamal Nath's agency.

## Congress is with Jihadis, British genes are in its blood: VD Sharma

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The people of the country are shocked by the barbaric attack by terrorists on Israel. PM Narendra Modi has expressed grief over this attack and expressed solidarity with Israel in this time of crisis. But it is unfortunate that only because of appeasement politics, Congress is moving away from the country's official stand in this matter and the Congress Working Committee has passed a resolution in support of terrorists.

This attitude of Congress is not new, but Congress has always had a hand in supporting terrorists, Naxalists and Jihadis. BJP state President VD Sharma said this during a discussion with journalists at the media center located in Bansal one. Sharma strongly condemned this attitude of Congress and said that only the people will solve this problem of Congress in the coming elections. State BJP President Sharma said that Rahul Gandhi, who insults Mother India by going abroad, is calling our tribal brothers, forest dwellers and tribal brothers different in the meeting of Shahdol. He says, they were not born on this



land, they have come from outside. Sharma said that this thinking of Rahul Gandhi shows that the genes of the British are still alive in the blood of Congress, that is why Congress is still following the policy of divide and rule.

Sharma said that Rahul Gandhi did not consider it appropriate to mention any tribal revolutionary in Shahdol's Nukkad Sabha, who had sacrificed his life for the freedom of the country. He did not talk about the upliftment of the tribal brothers, he just kept trying to create a divide. We should be engaged in efforts to create a divide among our tribal brothers and this is the basic character of the Congress.

## CONGRESS DEMANDED TO REMOVE THE CHIEF SECRETARY THE FROM ELECTION COMMISSION

STATE CONGRESS HAS SAID THAT IN ORDER TO CONDUCT FAIR AND TRANSPARENT ELECTIONS IN MADHYA PRADESH, CHIEF SECRETARY IQBAL SINGH BAIS, WHO HAS BEEN SITTING ON EXTENSION FOR TWO TERMS, SHOULD BE REMOVED FROM HIS POST BY THE ELECTION COMMISSION, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT. WILL FAIR ELECTIONS NOT BE HELD DURING THEIR TENURE?

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh Congress Media Department Chairman KK Mishra has tweeted ... In the seventh point of the letter written by the Election Commission of India regarding the guidelines for the assembly elections on June 2, 2023, instructions have been



इकबाल सिंह बैस  
मुख्य सचिव



अमनवीर सिंह  
कलेक्टर बैतूल

clearly given that there should be no contractual or contractual agreement in election related work. No officer employee with extension should be appointed.

Bains is a very close officer of CM @ChouhanShivraj ji and has been working with him continuously for many years. He has also been the Secretary and Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister. Bains will also write the confidential profile i.e. CR of the collectors of the districts of the state. For this reason, the Collectors will work only in favor of the Bharatiya Janata Party at the behest of Bains.

There have been many instances of him spoiling the CR of many IAS officers because they did not act on the instructions of Bains! There is a strong possibility that if they do not work in favor of BJP, they will spoil the CR of the collectors?

It has also been argued by the government that the Chief Secretary has no role in the assembly elections, but if he had no role then the Election Commission of India would not have done all the correspondence with the state government with the Chief Secretary.

The present Chief Secretary has also made his son Amanbir Singh the Collector of Betul district for almost three and a quarter years. They should also be immediately removed from the district, so that fair and fearless voting can take place as per the intention of the Commission.



## EDITOR'S SPECS

## RAJ ASSEMBLY POLLS: BJP TRIES TO MAKE IT EASY BY FIELDING STRONG MPS

The first list of the BJP for the Rajasthan Assembly polls has put an end to all speculation. As expected, seven MPs have been fielded on different seats to counter reports that the BJP is facing a tough fight against the Congress in these elections due to the strong social welfare policies announced by the Congress. Sources said that the BJP's surveys mentioned that there was a tough fight even though the party had an upper hand in the state. So, the party has not taken any risk and is aiming at getting a good number of Assembly seats this time. The BJP has tried to put the Congress on the back foot by fielding big names in the form of seven MPs. It has also become clear from this list that there will be other MPs in the forthcoming lists. Now, there are questions being raised if there will be a challenge for the MPs on these seats. However, sources said that three out of seven MPs have never contested Assembly elections. In such a situation, the performance of Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore from Jhotwara, and Devji Patel from Sanchoore will be tested in the desert state. Baba Balaknath from Tijara enjoys a strong fan following and is a strong CM face too. Further, the party has fielded Bhagirath Chaudhary (MLA from Kishangarh seat of Ajmer in 2003 and 2013) and Narendra Khichar (MLA from Mandawa seat in 2018) due to lack of strong candidates on those seats. MP Diya Kumari has been given the easy seat of Vidhyanagar. MP Kirodi Lal Meena, too, has a strong leadership and hence can emerge a winner. Further, the BJP has also given consideration to the Gurjar community which has been considered the vote bank of the party.

# With BJP projecting no CM face, CM Gehlot is up against PM Modi

Archana Sharma

A direct narrative of a Prime Minister Narendra Modi versus Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot contest has been created in Rajasthan, which is making it different from the earlier Assembly elections of 2013 and 2018. In those elections, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi led from the front, but this time, Ashok Gehlot himself is playing on the front foot.

The other differentiating factor is that the elections of 2013 and 2018 were projected as a Vasundhara versus Gehlot contest, however, this time Raje is not in the picture. So it's clearly evident that this time, it shall be Modi versus Gehlot.

Modi has come to the state eight times and meetings of the BJP's National President JP Nadda and Home Minister Amit Shah are also held at regular intervals. Further, the BJP has fielded central ministers along with local leaders in the desert state.

Nadda, Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and more than 10 Union Ministers have visited Rajasthan to participate in the BJP's 'Parivartan Yatra'.

On the Congress' side, Rahul Gandhi has had three meetings and the Congress' National President Mallikarjun Kharge and Priyanka Gandhi have had one meeting each. Further, Sachin Pilot has held some meetings at his level.

But Gehlot has held 100 meetings till now. In fact, he had come into election mode soon after presenting the state budget and started touring the districts.

With many populist announcements, including free mobile phones in the budget, an attempt was made to change the political narrative by announcing new districts on the day the budget was passed.

Now let's understand how the narrative of Modi versus Gehlot was created.

The BJP contested polls from 2003 till the last elections by declaring its chief ministerial face. In such a situation, it was seen as a Raje versus Gehlot or Raje versus Congress fight. This time the BJP is going to contest elections on a collective leadership.

Modi has declared that the BJP's symbol 'lotus' will be the face of the party during elections. It is clear from this that no single leader from Rajasthan will be the face in these polls. The PM will be the face while other leaders will have side roles. With the BJP not declaring any leader of Rajasthan as its chief ministerial face, the Modi versus Gehlot narrative is now visible in the elections.

Also Modi, in his eight meetings in Rajasthan so far, has fiercely attacked the Gehlot government by taking the CM's name. He has also made political attacks on Gehlot in every meeting, raising issues like the Gehlot-Pilot feud, paper leak, corruption and the Lal Diary.

After Modi's blitz, the BJP also started carrying out political attacks with the same force. After the PM targeted Gehlot, the political narrative was seen as PM versus CM.

On September 27, in the public dialogue programme of 'Mission 2030' in Jaipur, Gehlot said, "Next time the Prime Minister comes to Rajasthan (he must) give a guarantee that if your (BJP) government comes, none of our schemes will be



stopped."

"He should guarantee that the Old Pension Scheme will be there. The insurance of Rs 25 lakh that we gave will remain. We have made laws, they will remain in place, if the Modi government comes back," said Gehlot.

Meanwhile, Modi took a swipe at Gehlot in the meeting in Chittorgarh and said, "Some people sitting in Delhi do not believe it, but I am saying that Gehlot knows that this government is going."

"Gehlot himself is saying that as soon as the BJP government comes to power, the schemes of the Congress government will be stopped. I assure the public that we will not stop any scheme. Instead, we will make those plans better. Action will definitely be taken against those who have looted the money of the poor."

On October 3, Gehlot hit back at Modi and said, "We will keep the welfare schemes implemented. What is your definition of welfare schemes?"

"Who can trust that what you are saying will be implemented? First apply it at the Centre."

"I had told the Prime Minister that he should guarantee that if the (BJP) government is formed, he will keep our plans intact, but the Prime Minister gave an evasive answer," Gehlot said.

Rajasthan is not the only state where there is a PM vs CM poll battle. In West Bengal, Bihar, Karnataka and Himachal

Pradesh polls, too, a local face was not put forward by the BJP.

However, the BJP faces more risk in choosing a PM vs CM narrative. If the results are not in favour of the BJP in the elections, then the prestige of the Prime Minister is at stake.

This has happened in Karnataka, Bengal and Himachal. Although the BJP turned the issue in a different direction and put the responsibility of the defeat on other leaders, the risk factor cannot be denied.

A PM vs CM poll battle in Rajasthan will be a big challenge for Gehlot no doubt. The aggressive manner in which Modi is creating a narrative by raising issues of failures of the Congress government in the state is a big challenge for the CM.

However, the seasoned politician Gehlot is also making a sharp counterattack on the issues raised by Modi. In an election with a PM vs CM narrative, there is an opportunity for Gehlot to increase his stature while the political risk is lesser.

If the election results are in his favour then Gehlot's stature will increase and he will get a chance to say that he defeated the PM on the strategy front.

If the election results are not in Gehlot's favour then it will be said that his fight was with the Prime Minister of the country and the big machinery. So what if he lost!

## international

# BODIES OF 1,500 HAMAS MILITANTS FOUND IN ISRAELI TERRITORY: IDF

Jerusalem | Agencies

The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) on Tuesday said that the bodies of some 1,500 Hamas militants were found inside Israeli territory as fighting rages between the two sides since the October 7 unprecedented attack. In its latest update, the IDF also said that 900 Israelis have been killed since the attack, including 123 soldiers whose names have been released to the media, Sky News reported. Dozens of Israeli fighter jets struck more than 200 targets in Gaza's densely populated Rimal and Khan Yunis neighbourhoods overnight, the military said. The IDF said it struck an Islamic Jihad terror infrastructure in Khan Yunis, a weapons storage site of Hamas militants located inside a mosque, and "operational terror infrastructure used by Hamas terror operatives," among other targets, CNN reported. The jets also struck a number of "operational residences" belonging to Hamas operatives, as well as a Hamas operational command center located inside a mosque, it added. Addressing a briefing on Tuesday morning, IDF spokesman Lt. Col. Richard Hecht said: "Looking towards the south, we have more or less restored full control over the border fence (in Gaza). Hopefully in the next few hours it will be final." Hecht said Israeli forces have secured communities around the border and have nearly completed evacuations in the area, adding that there



were two small firefights overnight in the Sa'ad and Kissufim communities. "We are focusing our offensive in the Gaza Strip and our airstrikes," CNN quoted the spokesperson as saying. On Monday, the IDF said that the military had regained control over all the communities in southern Israel. In a separate statement to CNN on Tuesday, IDF spokesman Lt. Col. Jonathan Conricus said the military has also amplified its presence along the border with Lebanon, adding that tens of thousands of additional troops have been deployed. "The situation (on the Lebanon border) is volatile. We are vigilant. We have added tens of thousands of additional troops along the border - reservists as well as regular units - in anticipation of a Hezbollah attack. "We have strongly urged them to think twice before they embark on any such attack against Israel," he said. "So far in the last few hours, the sit-

uation has been quiet. Let's hope it remains like that," Conricus told CNN. An Israeli deputy commander was killed on Monday in a clash with infiltrating militants near the country's northern border with Lebanon. Deputy Commander of the 300th Brigade, LTC Alim Abdallah and other troops fought several militants who crossed from Lebanon into northern Israel, killing at least two of them, according to the military. Israeli rescue services reported that at least six Israelis were injured by shrapnel, reports Xinhua news agency. The Palestinian Islamic Jihad militant group claimed responsibility for the infiltration. In response to the infiltration, Israel Air Force helicopters launched airstrikes on Hezbollah posts in Lebanon, the IDF said. At least three Hezbollah fighters were killed in the strikes, the Iran-backed militant group said. In retaliation to the unprecedented attack launched on southern Israel by the Hamas on October 7, the Jewish nation has formally declared war and green-lighted "significant military steps". As a result, the Gaza Strip is still being bombarded by Israeli airstrikes. Since the conflict erupted, more than 1,600 people have been killed on both sides, while tens of thousands have been displaced and injured. According to Israeli authorities, the Hamas is currently holding up to 150 people, including senior army officers and foreign nationals, as hostages in Gaza.

## Won't negotiate on hostage issue under Israeli airstrikes: Hamas

Gaza | Agencies

Hamas will not negotiate with Israel on the hostage issue while under continued airstrikes by the Jewish nation, a spokesman for the Palestinian militant group said. "It has become clear that the enemy's hostages are at risk to the same extent as our people in light of the aggression against the Gaza Strip," CNN quoted Abu Obaida, spokesman for al-Qassam Brigades -- the armed wing of Hamas, as saying on Monday night. "We affirm that we will not deliberate or negotiate on the issue of hostages under fire, in light of aggression, or in light of battle." Abu Obaida added that al-Qassam Brigades were holding a very large number of hostages in detention sites, adding that some of them had been killed. The spokesman also said that the Hamas launched its unprecedented attack on southern Israel on October 7 "after years of planning and preparations". "(Al-Aqsa flood) came after the Zionist tyranny reached its peak in the desecration of the blessed Al-Aqsa and the aggression against it and against our people everywhere," Abu Obaida said, referring to the Al-Aqsa com-



pound in Jerusalem, one of the most revered places in Islam and Judaism. "Israel killed hundreds and injured thousands of Palestinians over the past two years, yet still has a seat at the UN and receives weapons from the US to kill children and destroy houses." The Hamas said that more than 100 hostages were being held in Gaza, including high-ranking Israeli army officers. On Monday, it warned civilian hostages would be executed if Israel targets people in Gaza without warning. Meanwhile, Israel's ambassador to the UN said late Monday that authorities believe there were up to 150 hostages. Several countries have also reported on missing or dead nationals.

## Largest Hindu temple outside Asia to open for public in New Jersey on Oct 18



Robbinsville (New Jersey) | Agencies

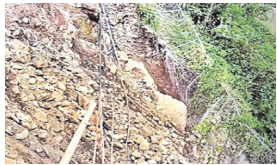
The largest Hindu temple outside Asia -- Swaminarayan Akshardham -- will be thrown open for public in New Jersey on October 18. It is claimed that the temple is larger than the Bridgewater Lord Venkateswara temple in New Jersey and the Pittsburgh temple of the same name. The Swaminarayan Akshardham temple was inaugurated on October 8. Sitting on a massive 185-acre plot in Robbinsville county of New Jersey, the temple was built by 12,500 volunteer workers from all over the world. The temple was in the works since 2011, but hit the headlines only a decade later for the wrong

reasons, media reports said. Swaminarayan Akshardham was built with 2 million cubic feet of stone, a spokesperson of the Bochasanwasi Shri Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha, known as BAPS, which has temples around the world, told NBC Asia news. Placing 2 million cubic feet of stone in Robbinsville township was no small feat. And the temple itself is a cultural mix with materials sourced from all over the world. It also gives historical nods to American history on its walls, a spokesperson said. For Indian Americans, it's a massive milestone of an achievement, the spokesperson said.

## 30 killed in Cameroon landslide, rescue efforts underway

Yaounde | Agencies

Rescuers pulled out three more bodies later Monday after landslides in Cameroon's capital of Yaounde buried homes and buildings Sunday, bringing the death toll of the disaster to 30, officials said. National Fire Fighting Brigade in charge of the rescue efforts said that rescue operations were still underway at the disaster site where dozens more are feared trapped under the rubble, Xinhua news agency reported. The landslides occurred at 8 p.m., local time, Sunday in the hilly neighbourhood of Mbankolo in Yaounde after a persistent downpour. It is estimated that 25 houses were swept away by the floods. The country's Minister of



Territorial Administration Paul Atanga Nji visited the disaster site earlier Monday and said some of those rescued in the tragedy were receiving treatment in the hospital. "The government extends condolences to the bereaved families," Nji told reporters. Yaounde is one of the wettest cities in Africa, with dozens of steep hills. Heavy rains have triggered several devastating floods throughout the country this year. In November last year, 14 people attending a funeral in Yaounde were killed in a landslide.

## Climbers safely descend Tibet mountain after avalanches

Lhasa | Agencies

Climbers have safely descended Mount Shishapangma in Tibet after avalanches left four dead or missing and two injured, according to the authorities on Tuesday. A total of 19 alpine rescue professionals were sent by the regional sports bureau soon after the avalanches occurred on October 7, reports Xinhua news agency. The two injured were out of danger and sent back to Nepal as of Tuesday. Two avalanches occurred at 7,600 meters and 8,000 meters in altitude. One American climber and one Nepalese climber were killed, and another American and Nepalese



climber are missing. All climbing activities in the area have been suspended. Mt. Shishapangma, the 14th highest mountain in the world, stands at 8,027 meters

above sea level. Located in south-central Tibet about 5 km from the border with Nepal, it is the only eight-thousander entirely within Tibet.



# ADB, HUDCO TO FINANCE MAHA PLANS FOR 34 NEW SUPERSPECIALITY HOSPITALS

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In a follow-up of the recent spate of deaths in several government-run hospitals, Maharashtra will create new super-speciality hospitals and upgrade other health-care infrastructure under the 'Vision-2035' initiative, with help from HUDCO, Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Centre.

Chief Minister Eknath Shinde made the announcement after a high-level meeting with Deputy Chief Ministers Devendra Fadnavis and Ajit Pawar, the concerned ministers and departments, collectors and health authorities across the state, late on Monday.

Under the new plan 'Vision-2035' which will be ready in a fortnight, the government plans to change the face of public health-care in the next 10-12 years, to make it more people-centric and efficient, on par with global standards, said an official.

For financing the ambitious venture, the state government will seek Rs 8,331 crore through additional budgetary allocation, HUDCO has sanctioned Rs 3,948-crore, the Asian Development Bank will give a loan of



Rs 5,177 crore, and the Central government will provide whatever more funding is necessary, said Shinde.

Presently, after the series of deaths in government-run hospitals in Nanded, Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar, Nagpur and Thane, the state has come in severe flak owing to shortages of medicines, staff, infrastructure, etc, and even the Bombay High Court took suo motu cognisance of the serious issue. Shinde reiterated

that the district collectors have been empowered to buy medicines, a dashboard in Mantralaya will monitor demand and supply of medicines and other requirements regularly by the hospitals, all collectors have been instructed to visit state-run facilities within their jurisdiction frequently to check on basic and other requirements including drinking water, sanitation, etc. Under the proposed plan, the government aims to upgrade the

existing healthcare infrastructure as well as create 34 super-speciality hospitals at the district levels, and all government hospitals will get state-of-the-art modern operation theatres.

The Chief Minister said that whenever a new medical college would be announced the work on an attached hospital will also begin, and since some of the district civil hospitals presently attached with medical colleges are inadequate, they would be upgraded or redeveloped with more beds and specialised treatment.

Shinde assured that the budget for these would be doubled and a recruitment drive on a war-footing will be taken up to fill medical, para-medical and other vacancies, with the Collectors authorised to initiate the recruitment. A few years ago, the government had announced a medical college for almost all districts, but they faced challenges like finding teachers and other academic staffers, with even existing colleges grappling with shortages, with many unwilling to work in non-urban or rural areas.

To a suggestion by Fadnavis to provide a 'telemedicine facility' for rural or remote areas, Shinde has directed the government to create and implement a system for this on priority.

# NCP's 100 days in power: Ajit Pawar invokes icons, promises to solve issues

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The breakaway Nationalist Congress Party President and Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar marked his faction's 100 days in power with an open letter, invoking icons and resolving to work for solving the problems of the masses, here on Tuesday.

A group led by Ajit Pawar joined the ruling Shiv Sena-Bharatiya Janata Party alliance on July 2, and has completed 100 days today in the MahaYuti government of Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis.

He said that employment, economic empowerment of all social strata, education, health, effective implementation of public welfare schemes are the state government's objectives and the NCP will "work more vigorously on these through power".

Ajit Pawar also invoked icons like Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, Mahatma Jyotirao Phule, Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's ideology and Y.B. Chavan's dedication to public welfare, as his guiding principle in public life.

Ostensibly justifying his moves to break off from the NCP founded by his uncle Sharad Pawar, Ajit Pawar said that at various times in the state's political history, many big leaders have taken critical decisions depending on the prevalent political and social situation.

Getting inspired by the legendary leaders of the past and adhering to the late Y.B. Chavan's motto of supporting the masses through power and accountability to the peo-



ple, Ajit Pawar said that fast-paced, people-centric development has been undertaken for public welfare in the state.

Referring to criticism, Ajit Pawar said it's a part of any political leader's life and he always appreciated 'constructive criticism', but made it clear that he abhorred criticism just for the sake of politics.

"I am a political worker who believes in positive, developmental politics... My aim is to take up public oriented work and bring positive changes in peoples' lives through service," said Ajit Pawar. He expressed his commitment to work for the interests of the farmers, youth, women and other social groups, and to forge ahead on the same path as he had been doing for the past 100 days in office.

# 'Poor attendance': 305 Mumbai MBBS students barred from one exam

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Failing to fulfill minimum attendance requirements, a total of 305 MBBS students from two BMC medical colleges in Mumbai have been debarred from appearing for at least one university examination, a civic official said here on Tuesday.

The students are attached to the HinduhrdaySamrat Balasaheb Thackeray Medical College, attached to Dr. R.N. Cooper Hospital, Juhu, and Lokmanya Tilak Medical College, linked to the Sion Hospital.

The move is likely to hit the students badly and many could forfeit a year, though they were given repeated warnings and their names displayed on notice boards, said the official. Contacted by



reporter, BMC's Director, Medical Education Dr. Neelam Andrade said that the other higher authorities and herself would take a decision in the matter in a day or two, on permitting these students to write the crucial examinations or not.

As per the rules, the student must have minimum 75 per cent classroom attendance for theory and 80 per

cent for practical, but a majority of the students have not met the attendance targets, many less than 50 per cent and some an abysmal 35 per cent attendance.

These students have already filled up their examination forms, but the two colleges have not given them their exam hall tickets, for the exams starting later this month.

# Artist Chintan Upadhyay sentenced to life for abetting estranged wife's murder

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Mumbai sessions court on Tuesday sentenced famed artist Chintan Upadhyay to life imprisonment after he was found guilty of criminal conspiracy and abetment to the sensational double-murder of his estranged wife Hema Upadhyay, an equally renowned artist, and her lawyer in December 2015.

Along with Upadhyay (50), three of his associates -- a tempo driver named Vijay Rajbhar and helpers Pradeep Rajbhar and Shivkumar Rajbhar -- were also awarded life terms in jail. The Rajbhar trio, working for an art fabricator named Vidyadhar Rajbhar, were found guilty and convicted for committing the actual crime of the murder and destruction of evidence in the double-murder of artist Hema Upadhyay and her lawyer Haresh Bhambhani.

The prosecution, led by special public prosecutor Vaibhav Bagade, had sought death penalty for Upadhyay and the Rajbhar trio for the double-murder as it was 'barbaric' and falling



in the 'rarest of rare' category. Upadhyay's lawyer, Raja Thakare, strongly argued against death penalty and pointed out that not a single circumstance pertaining to the offender was placed before the court, adding that Bhambhani's death could not be attributed to his client (Upadhyay) who was found guilty of abetment to the crime and not for having participated in the double-murder. On December 11, 2015, Hema and Bhambhani were smothered to death at her

studio in Kandivali West by the convicted Rajbhars. Their bodies were packed in brownish boxes and then dumped into a ditch in the vicinity. The bodies hidden in the floating boxes in the gutter waters were discovered after four days on December 15, sending shockwaves in the city's artworld. After a bout of prompt police investigations given the celeb status of the victim and the furore it created, Upadhyay was arrested 10 days after the double-murder.

He remained in jail till he was granted bail by the Supreme Court in September 2021.

The four were found guilty last Friday by the sessions court and Upadhyay has now been taken into custody again following the life sentence. A painter and sculptor hailing from Rajasthan, Upadhyay had a love-marriage with Gujarat-based artist and sculptor Hema Hirani (43) in 1998, but after some 16 years of marriage, they divorced in 2014. After their divorce, Upadhyay settled in Delhi while Hema continued staying in Mumbai till her murder a year later.

# Row erupts after private footwear stalls razed outside Kolhapur Mahalaxmi Temple

Team Absolute | Kolhapur

A massive row erupted after the Kolhapur civic body swooped on nearly two dozen private footwear caretaker stalls outside the famed 1,400-year-old Shree Karveer Nivasini Ambabai/Mahalaxmi Temple here on Tuesday.

A team of the Kolhapur Municipal Corporation (KMC) arrived with a bulldozer and a posse of police to raze the footwear caretakers' stalls lining the external boundary walls of the temple and surrounding areas.

A temple official claimed that the stalls are illegal and were making money from the thousands of pilgrims who throng here daily for a darshan of Goddess Mahalaxmi daily, one of the 'three-and-half Shakti Peethas' as per Hindu Puranas.



"We have already constructed a new, much bigger footwear caretaker area offering free services through our volunteers, near the parking lot outside the temple. The private stalls claim to be 'free' but they actually fleece the public," said the official. The KMC action came after a pur-

ported complaint by the temple authorities who are now making all-out preparations for the massive crowds expected for the upcoming Navratri festival starting on October 15. While the KMC, temple and police have declared the private stalls as 'illegal', local Maharashtra

Navnirman Sena (MNS) activists alleged that some people demanded 'illicit gratification' leading to the sudden demolition drive.

Some of the stall-owners, mostly women, were in tears and claimed that their premises were demolished despite a court stay, no notice was served by the civic body and high-handed behaviour by the police, and demanded action against such cops.

One of the women said that they have been running their stalls without problems for more than 25 years, but after the temple constructed its new stand, the private owners were abruptly targeted, and they have lost their livelihood. The civic body has termed these private stalls as 'encroachers' who were obstructing the pathway to the main temple, posing difficulties to the pilgrims.

# Swiggy delivery workers in Mumbai remain on strike for 3rd day over change in pay

SWIGGY DELIVERY WORKERS IN MUMBAI HAVE CONTINUED THE STRIKE FOR THE THIRD DAY DUE TO A CHANGE IN PAYOUTS, CAUSING DELAYS AND UNAVAILABILITY OF SERVICES IN SEVERAL PARTS OF THE CITY, MEDIA REPORTS SAID ON TUESDAY.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

According to the reports, Swiggy riders have been protesting due to recent changes to their rate cards and an increase in delivery radius.

Employees who deliver orders on Swiggy are gig workers, who are paid per order and are not employed by the company.

Initial protests were started by workers belonging to the Rashtriya Karmachari Sena in Bandra, but other groups also joined in quickly,

resulting in sporadic protests across Mumbai, a crucial market for Swiggy.

Delivery executives claim their base pay remains at Rs 20 while their delivery radius increased from 4 km to 6 km, as per the reports.

The total compensation for delivery executives includes the base pay as well as additional amounts to account for travel expenses and other factors.

Due to the protests, many users in the city have been facing issues with orders on the Swiggy app.

# Randeep Hooda joins locals in Arunachal for traditional dance

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor Randeep Hooda, who is known for his work in 'Sarbjit', 'Sultan', 'Jannat 2', 'Extraction', 'Laal Rang' and 'Highway', recently stopped his cavalcade in Arunachal Pradesh's Tawang and joined the locals of Monpa tribe for their traditional dance.

In the video shared on Instagram, the actor can be seen dressed in a black coloured sweatshirt, beige coloured pants and grey boots.

The actor was also treated with a welcome drink called 'aara'. Towards the end of the video, a lady honours and showers love on the actor as she offers him a shawl -- a Khada. Talking about the incident, Randeep said: "Tashi Delek. Dancing with the beautiful Monpa tribe people of Arunachal Pradesh along



with the CM (Pema Khandu) and MP from the east Gao (Tapir Gao) saab as witness."

He further mentioned, "They descended from the hill village near by and waited on the road for our arrival greeted everyone with the 'Khada' around the neck and

the welcome drink 'aara' which puts you in a good mood straight away... and... you got to have 3 of them called 'Timrey'. The bonhomie and the love they showed their leaders and me was so enriching and heartening to see 'kharanche'."

# Both Sena factions request BMC approval for Dussehra Rally at Shivaji Park

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Both factions of the Shiv Sena are seeking approval from the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) to conduct their annual Dussehra rally at Mumbai's iconic Shivaji Park.

The BMC recently confirmed that applications were submitted for the Dussehra rally by both factions of the Shiv Sena (led by CM Eknath Shinde and Uddhav Thackeray).

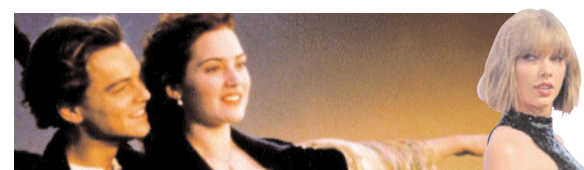
On October 1, MLA Sada Sarvankar, a leader of Shiv Sena led by Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde, submitted an application for the event. Later, on October 7, the Shiv Sena (UBT) central office too submitted their application for the Dussehra rally at Shivaji Park. "We have received two applications for the Dussehra rally at Shivaji Park," stated a BMC official. This year, the Dussehra festival is scheduled to be celebrated on October 24. In the previous year, both factions, led by CM Eknath Shinde



and former CM Uddhav Thackeray, had sought permission to organise the annual Dussehra rally at Dadar's Shivaji Park. However, the BMC denied permission to both factions, citing concerns related to law and order. Later, the Bombay High Court

granted permission to the Uddhav Thackeray-led faction to hold their Dussehra rally at Shivaji Park on October 5 last year. Simultaneously, the Shinde camp held their rally at the MMRDA ground in Bandra-Kurla Complex (BKC). Dadar's Shivaji Park

holds significance for Shiv Sena leaders and workers, as it is the resting place of the late Bal Thackeray, where his memorial stands. Shiv Sena members often refer to Shivaji Park as 'Shiva-tirtha', signifying its status as a sacred place.



# Madonna, Gal Gadot, U2, Josh Gad support Israel amid Hamas attacks

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood stars such as Madonna, Gal Gadot, band U2 and many more are showing their support for Israel, after Hamas launched a surprise attack, firing thousands of rockets from Gaza that have reportedly killed at least 900 people with more than 100 civilians kidnapped and held hostage. The attack on Shabbat coincided with the Jewish high holiday of Simchat Torah, is being called "Israel's 9/11" and the deadliest day in Israel in 50 years.

Hamas' attack included a massacre at a music festival where Israeli rescuers say they have found 260 bodies, reports Variety.

Israel ordered a "complete siege" of Gaza on Monday, cutting off all electricity, food and water to the area. More than 500 Palestinians have been killed by Israel airstrikes, in response to the Hamas attack.

Some of Hollywood's biggest stars are speaking up to lend their support to Israel.

Stars such as Gal Gadot, Madonna, Natalie Portman, Andy Cohen, Jamie Lee Curtis, Debra Messing, Amy Schumer, Sarah Silverman, Kris Jenner and Meghan McCain are among the celebrities who have taken to social media to stand alongside Israel.

"I stand with Israel you should too," Gadot posted.



The 'Wonder Woman' star, who is Israeli, has been posting daily about Israel being under attack. "The world cannot sit on the fence when these horrific acts of terror are happening!" On Sunday evening, U2 changed lyrics during a performance in Las Vegas to honour those murdered in Israel.

"In the light of what's happened in Israel and Gaza, a song about non-violence seems somewhat ridiculous, even laughable, but our prayers have always been for peace and for non-violence," the band posted. "But our hearts and our anger, you know where that's pointed. So sing with us... and those beautiful kids at that music festival."

Bruno Mars cancelled a show in Tel Aviv, Israel, that was planned for Saturday evening, after he had put on one show earlier in the week. The show cancellation was announced by concert organizer Live Nation. Bruno Mars has not made any statement regarding Hamas' attack in Israel.

Natalie Portman, who is Jewish, posted: "My heart is shattered for the people of Israel. Children, women and the elderly have been murdered and abducted from their own homes. I am in horror at these barbaric acts and my heart is pounding with love and prayer for the families of all affected."

Madonna posted a video on her Instagram showing footage of rockets and slain bodies on the streets of Israel.

# Drake vows to pay fan's medical bills

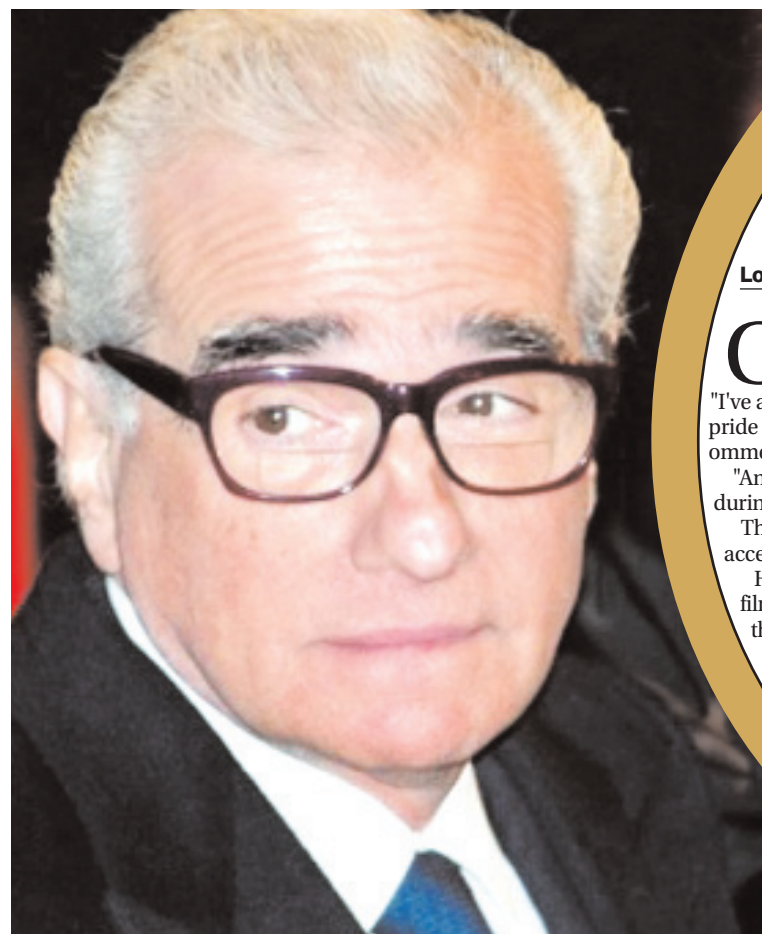
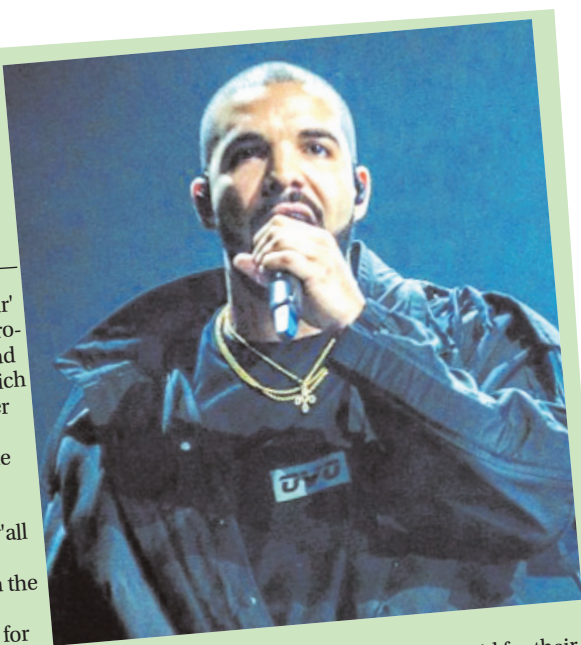
Los Angeles | Agencies

Rapper Drake when performing in Toronto, Canada for his 'It's All A Blur Tour' publicly vowed to pay medical bills for a fan who suffers from multiple sclerosis. The 36-year-old hip-hop artist made the promise to a fan, who just found out about her health problem. In a video recorded during his latest tour stop which was uploaded via X (formerly Twitter), he stated, "This ones important to me. Her sign says, 'I just found out I have MS. Will you help make my night?'"

Drake went on to say, "You know, my brother '40' is one of the strongest people on Earth, and he fights through a lot of things." He was referring to his longtime music producer Noah "40" Shebib, reports aceshowbiz.com.

"So, what I'm gonna do is, I'm gonna connect you with 40, first of all. Maybe y'all can have a conversation," the 'One Dance' spitter continued.

"And second of all, I'm gonna pay whatever it takes to get you the best help in the world. I promise you that. You got my word. And you can come back tomorrow night!" Aside from paying the medical bills, Drake offered to pay college tuition for other fans who came to his Toronto gig. In another video from the same concert, he could be heard stated, "Tonight I want to do a bunch of things. First and foremost, I saw somebody that had a sign that said they paid for their ticket with 'OSAP (Ontario Student Assistance Program) money'." "Somebody else had a sign that said, 'Pay for my tuition.' This is what I'm going to do," he went on explaining.



# Martin Scorsese was not welcomed in Hollywood during early career

Los Angeles | Agencies

Celebrated filmmaker Martin Scorsese is pleased with the influence he has had on other filmmakers, not just through his own work but by recommending movies made by other people, and in turn he is inspired by them too. "I've always considered myself a teacher more than a filmmaker. I've felt a sense of pride that I've influenced a couple of people not necessarily with my work but by recommending films."

"And then from their films, I get inspired. It opens up a whole new world," he said during a Q+A session at the London Film Festival hosted by Edgar Wright.

The 'Killers of the Flower Moon' filmmaker also told how he struggled to be accepted in the industry even when he tried "to be a Hollywood guy."

He said: "They asked me to leave around 1978/79. And not just because of the filmmaking. We were younger, and I was going through teenage rebellion at the age of 27," reports aceshowbiz.com. The 'Taxi Driver' director insisted he doesn't want to be seen as the "last line of defence" for cinema in the digital age and encouraged the industry to embrace the "extraordinary time" we live in due to technological advancements.

He said: "I didn't want to be the last line of defence. I don't know where cinema is gonna go. Why does it have to be the same as it was in the last 90-100 years? It doesn't. Do we prefer what's been happening for the last 90 years? I do but I'm old. Younger people are

# Eminem makes rare public appearance with daughter Hailie at football game

Los Angeles | Agencies

'Lose Yourself' hitmaker Eminem was spotted with his daughter Hailie Jade Scott supporting Detroit Lions at the recent football game in the US.

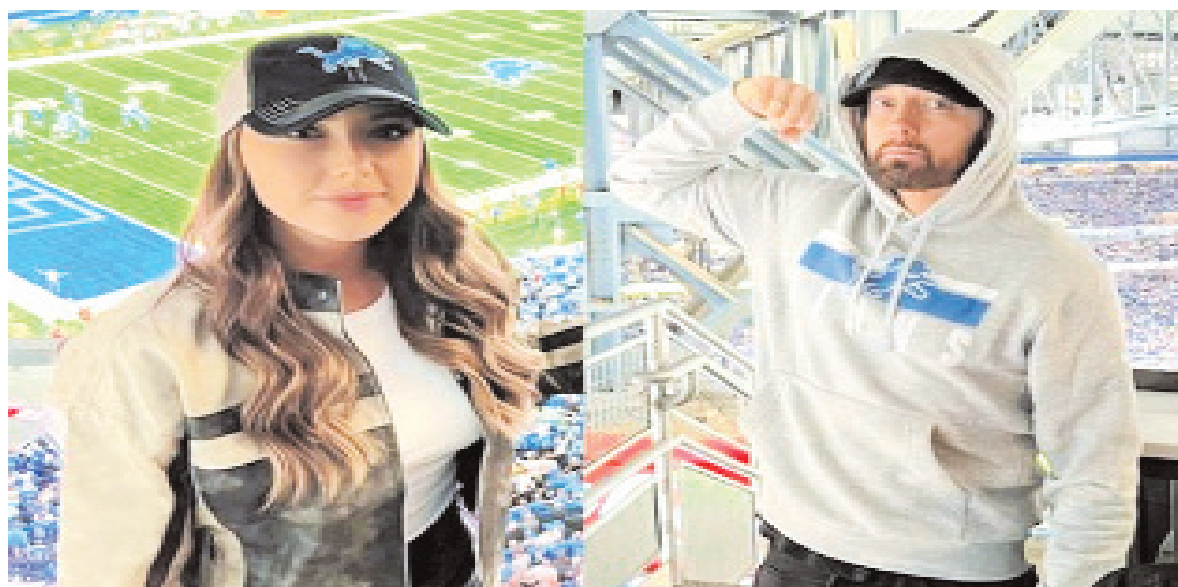
The father-daughter duo stepped out together at Ford Field, where they watched their beloved football team beat the Carolina Panthers, 42-24, reports People magazine.

The 'Mockingbird' rapper, 50, shared a photo of himself at the game that featured him flexing his arm muscles from inside his suit, and also posted a video of him cheering on the team set to his 2002 hit 'Lose Yourself'.

In the video, Eminem leans over in his seat at one point to chat with Hailie, 27. "Detroit strong!!! let's f---in goooooo!!!!" he captioned the post.

As per People, Hailie, meanwhile, shared moments from the game to her own Instagram feed, including a solo shot of her standing in a Lions hat with the field in the background.

The 'Just a Little Shady' podcast host, whom Eminem shares with ex-wife Kim Mathers, also posted a video of her fiancé Evan McClintock waving a Lions flag - and poked fun at a recent viral Taylor Swift moment in her caption.



Gwyneth Paltrow clears claim about using Oscar trophy as doorstep

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Gwyneth Paltrow, who made headlines for saying that she uses her Oscar trophy as a doorstep, has come out with a clarification for the same.

The actress portraying Pepper Potts in 'Avengers: Infinity War' through her representative, did not take long to explain the truth about the matter. The actress portraying Pepper Potts in 'Avengers: Infinity War' through her representative, did not take long to explain the truth about the matter. The actress portraying Pepper Potts in 'Avengers: Infinity War' through her representative, did not take long to explain the truth about the matter.

The 51-year-old actress' representative spoke to Variety to set the record straight on her remarks. The representative stated: "Of course, it's a joke."

To make it clearer, the representative mentioned a previous interview with The New York Times wherein she shared where she put the golden statuette, reports aceshowbiz.com. During the chat, which was published on September 30, the actress had revealed that she put the trophy in an adjoining room in her house in Amagansett, New York. The magazine also noted that her home "has a great deal of security, including a guard dog, a house manager and a room of security cameras," which could keep the trophy safe.

The clarification from Gwyneth's representative came after she joked about the golden statuette, which she received for winning the Best Actress for her role in 'Shakespeare in Love'. In the October 9 episode of Vogue's "73 Questions" video series, her wooden door could be seen being held open by the golden statuette. The clip further showed interviewer Joe Sabia's comment. "What a beautiful Academy Award," Joe told the actress. In response, the actress said, "(It's) my doorstep!" Not stopping there, she jokingly added, "It works perfectly."



Bella Thorne



## Men's ODI World Cup

# MOHAMMAD RIZWAN, SHAFIQUE'S CENTURIES INSPIRE PAKISTAN'S BIGGEST-EVER CHASE

Hyderabad | Agencies

Mohammad Rizwan and Abdullah Shafique scored superb centuries to guide Pakistan to the biggest-ever successful chase in ICC Men's Cricket World Cup history, beating Sri Lanka by 6-wicket here at Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium on Tuesday.

Sri Lanka, sparked by a brilliant Kusal Mendis (122) and anchored by Sadeera Samarawickrama's (108) century, posted a big total of 344/9 after being put into bat first.

Chasing the total, Shafique (113) and Rizwan (131 not out) set the platform with a 176-run partnership for the third wicket, after Babar Azam departed in the eighth over with the score at just 37/2, and wrapped up their superb six-wicket, completing the highest-ever chase in the tournament's history.

This was the first time in men's Cricket World Cup history that four centuries have been hit in the same match, with Pakistan coming out on top in a high-scoring thriller.

Pakistan's chase began on a disappointing note as both Imam-ul-Haq (1) and Babar



(10) were dismissed during a slow start in the initial powerplay, Dilshan Madushanka claiming both the wickets.

However, the men-in-green stabilized their innings and set a foundation, with Shafique achieving a hundred for the first time in his early ODI career. He reached this milestone with a powerful four through the leg side, one of the 13 times he hit the boundary in his impressive 113 off 103 balls. Then, it was wicketkeeper-batter Rizwan, who collapsed with cramp at one stage during his brilliant innings, fittingly struck the winning runs to finish on unbeaten 131 from 121 balls and steered Pakistan to six-wicket win. Earlier, Kusal Mendis was the star of the show for Sri Lanka for the

second successive game, slamming a majestic century to get his side off to a phenomenal start to the innings.

However, Mendis was taken to the hospital after he suffered cramps upon returning from the field after his brilliant knock of 122 runs from 77 balls. Dushan Hemantha replaced him in the field, while Sadeera Samarawickrama has taken over the wicketkeeping duties in his absence.

Sri Lanka's innings began in troubling fashion as Hasan Ali dismissed Kusal Perera for a duck, the second duck for a Lankan opener at the tournament.

Mendis countered the Pakistani attack, hitting an impressive total of 20 boundaries, including six maxi-

mums, in his outstanding innings, propelling his side towards a substantial total.

Pathum Nissanka (51) batted well at the other end, before Samarawickrama joined Mendis out in the middle. It was Samarawickrama, who steadied the ship as Hasan returned to pick up the key wicket of Mendis and Charith Asalanka (1) in his next over to dismantle Sri Lanka's lower to middle order.

Samarawickrama then reached his century as Sri Lanka accelerated in the final overs. However, he fell victim to Hasan, who claimed his fourth wicket, attempting a reverse pull to locate a gap in the outfield. Hasan finished with figures of 4/71, and Pakistan did well to keep the scoring in check late on as wickets fell at useful and regular intervals.

### Brief scores

Pakistan 345/4 in 48.2 Ov (Abdullah Shafique 113, Mohammad Rizwan 131; Dilshan Madushanka 2-60) beat Sri Lanka 344-9 (Kusal Mendis 122, Samarawickrama 108; Hasan Ali 4-71) by 6 wickets.

# Malan, Topley star in England's big win over Bangladesh

Dharamshala | Agencies

Rece Topley's sensational bowling followed by David Malan's exceptional helped the defending champion England to secure a huge 137-run win over Bangladesh in their second 2023 ODI World Cup match here at Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association Stadium, on Tuesday.

After putting to bat first, England posted 364/9, their third-highest total in World Cup, thanks to Malan's 140 runs from 107 balls, Joe Root's 82 off 68.

In reply, Bangladesh's batting fell apart, barring some brave batting from Litton Das (76) and Mushfiqur Rahim (51), as they were all-out 227 in 48.2 overs. Topley was the destroyer-in-chief with a fine 4/43 in his quota of overs.

Chasing 365, Bangladesh had a dismal start as Topley showed top skill with the new ball to pick three crucial wickets in the Powerplay. Tanzid Hasan was the first to go, caught behind. The left-arm pacer then had Najmul Hossain Shanto off the very next ball. In the sixth over, he cleaned up skipper Shakib Al Hasan for merely one to derail the chase.

Chris Woakes took out Mehidy Hasan, leaving Bangladesh four down within nine overs. Litton Das stood out, finding



his rhythm and scoring a stylish 38-ball half-century by the 11th over, boosting Bangladesh's scoring rate.

Das and Mushfiqur Rahim together pushed Bangladesh past 100 run mark. However, the former's dismissal in the 21st over by Woakes marked a turning point, virtually ending Bangladesh's chances in the chase. Rahim (51) and Hridoy (39) battled for Bangladesh, but England's target ultimately proved insur-

mountable.

Earlier, England showed aggression with Malan's exceptional century leading the charge, well-backed by Joe Root (82 runs from 68 balls) and Jonny Bairstow (52 runs from 59 balls).

Bairstow, who was playing his 100th ODI, made a scintillating start alongside Hasan, while trying to push the scoring along but by then England were 266/2 and eyeing off a huge total.

Malan continued to punish the Bangladesh bowlers as Root joined him at the crease and their partnership pushed the defending champions to 149/1 at the halfway mark.

Malan, who hit 16 fours and five sixes during his impressive knock was eventually dismissed in the 38th over by Mahedi Hasan, while trying to push the scoring along but by then England were 266/2 and eyeing off a huge total.

However, the Bangladesh bowlers managed to pick a number of crucial wickets, picking six wickets for 66 runs in the final Powerplay. However, by this time England had managed to get to 364/9. For Bangladesh, Mahedi Hasan's 4/71 and Shoriful Islam's 3/75 stood out.

# Satwik-Chirag conquers number 1 spot in BWF Men's Doubles ranking

Team Absolute | New Delhi

India's top men's doubles pair Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty jumped up two spots to achieve their best-ever career-high rank of World No. 1 in the latest BWF World Rankings on Tuesday.

The Indian duo sealed the top spot in the rankings after securing gold in the Men's Doubles in the 2022 Asian Games in Hangzhou.

They are the first Indian duo and fourth national athletes after legendary Prakash Padukone, Saina Nehwal, and Kidambi Srikanth to achieve this feat.

Satwik-Chirag beat South Korea's Choi Solgyu and Kim Wonho in straight games, 21-18, 21-16 to win India's first-ever badminton gold in the Asian Games.

Earlier, the Indian pair defeated Malaysia's Aaron Chia Teng Fong and Soh Wooi Yik in straight games in the semifinal. This was



India's best-ever result in Asian Games badminton as the men's team won the silver medal and HS Prannoy won the bronze, India's first medal in men's singles since Syed Modi in 1982. From 1962 to 2018, India won only one silver and nine bronze medals in badminton at the Asian Games. In Hangzhou,

they added gold, silver, and bronze medals each to the tally, making it the most successful Asian Games ever for India. Satwik and Chirag have now aggregated 92,411 points from 18 tournaments this year, 2,000 points ahead of second-placed Fajar Alfian and Mohammad Rian Ardianto.

# Bangladesh fined for slow over-rate against England

Dharamshala | Agencies

Bangladesh have been fined 5 per cent of their match fee for maintaining a slow over-rate against England in a league match of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup on Tuesday.

Shakib Al Hasan's side was ruled to be 1 over short of the target after time allowances were taken into consideration and Javagal Srinath of the ICC Elite Panel of Match Referees imposed the sanction.

In accordance with Article 2.22 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which relates to minimum over-rate offences, players are fined 5 per cent of their match fees for every over their side fails to bowl in the allotted time.

Shakib pleaded guilty to the offence and accepted the proposed sanction, so there was no need for a formal hearing. On-field umpires Ahsan Raza and Paul Wilson,



third umpire Adrian Holdstock and fourth umpire Kumar Dharmasena leveled the charge.

Bangladesh lost their second 2023 World Cup encounter against England at Dharamshala by 137 runs.

Their next game takes place against New Zealand at the MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai on Friday.

# Winning debut for Sai Sanjay in his first GT Cars race weekend in England

Snetterton (UK) | Agencies

Indian racing star Sai Sanjay made his international debut winning a race in the GT Cup Championship 300 finale here on Tuesday, at the GTH class.

During the weekend, Sai won two races and finished P2 in the second feature race. For his stellar performance, he was also awarded the 'Driver of the Day' in a grid of seasoned competitors.

On Day 1, teammate Davies put the car on the pole with a best timing of 1:55:744 and won the first Sprint race in 25:39.518. In the first Feature race of the weekend, Davies started as the first driver and after the pit stop, Sai did a creditable job to keep the lead and finish the race with ease and grace. The Racelab pair clocked 51 minutes, 45.513 seconds in the 25-lap race.



They clocked a best lap of 1:58.009. On Day 2, Sai, who hails from Salem, proved the pace in the #13 Racelab McLaren Artura by putting in a storming 3rd lap with a timing of 1:55:472 to qualify 1.4s ahead of Hart's Morpheus Racing Mercedes-AMG GT4

in Group GTH. Sai won the 13-lap second Sprint race of the weekend from pole-to-finish in 25:40.512 and with a more than 30-second gap. The team managed a second place with a time of 51:31.167 in the Feature (Pit-Stop) race.

# UEFA confirms UK, Ireland as host for Euro 2028; Turkey, Italy to host 2032 edition

Nyon (Switzerland) | Agencies

The United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland will host the 2028 Men's European Football Championship, the governing body of European football, UEFA, announced on Tuesday.

The UEFA also confirmed Turkey and Italy as the hosts for the Euro 2032 after the joint bid was submitted.

The UEFA Executive Committee has appointed the host associations for UEFA EURO 2028 and UEFA EURO 2032 at a ceremony in the UEFA Headquarters here.

The football associations of England, Northern Ireland, Republic of Ireland, Scotland and Wales submitted a joint bid to stage UEFA EURO 2028. Matches are set to take place at ten different stadiums, including Glasgow's Hampden Park and Dublin's Aviva Stadium. Belfast's Casement Park and Everton's Bramley-Moore Dock stadium.

On the other hand, The Italian and Turkish football associations, which started as individual bidders, decided to join forces and submitted



a joint bid to stage EURO 2032. Turkey had initially bid to host both Euro 2028 and 2032. But later withdrew from the running to host Euro 2028 after their bid with Italy for 2032 was approved by European football's governing body.

# INDIA EYE CHANCE OF ADDING ANOTHER VICTORY TO THEIR KITTY AGAINST AFGHANISTAN

Niharika Raina | New Delhi

When one touches down to New Delhi, they are greeted by the nip in the morning, followed by the sun shining brightly throughout the day, before the evening and night takes a cool turn. With monsoon in retreating mode, India's national capital is having its first brush with changing weather in October.

Amidst this confusing backdrop, the Indian team sans an ill Shubman Gill, is in the city with an eye on adding another win to its kitty when they face Afghanistan in its second game of the 2023 Men's ODI World Cup at a new-look Arun Jaitley Stadium on Wednesday, which is again expected to be a sea of blue.

The last game at the stadium in the tournament was a rampaging run-fest between South Africa and Sri Lanka, which saw 754 runs being plundered in 94.5 overs - the highest ever runs aggregate in an ODI World Cup match, including 31 sixes. With small boundaries and the outfield being fast, one can expect for another run-fest on the centre wicket pitch being used in the competition for the first time.

Though India are heading into the competition with a six-wicket win over Australia in Chennai, they will be aware that Afghanistan are no pushover. Plus with their World Cup caravan moving to Delhi from Chennai, India's ability to adapt quickly to different conditions and pitches will be tested too.

"Just looking to focus on the process. That is the message that has been given to the team again and again that we just look to play our game well, we just look to do our



things right and I am sure we have the team with the results. If we do our things right, the results will be taken care of. So that is what the focus is on," stated batting coach Vikram Rathour in the pre-game press conference.

With the bat, India would want for the trio of captain Rohit Sharma, Ishan Kishan and Shreyas Iyer to get runs with the bat, after bagging ducks in quick succession against Australia. What India would also be keen to see is how Kishan and Iyer go about their shot selection, after rash strokes led to their downfall in Chennai.

An aspect which would have pleased India hugely was how Virat Kohli and KL Rahul

weathered the early storm to share a match-winning 165-run stand under extreme pressure. While Kohli added another date to his list of acing chases, Rahul enhanced his reputation as a solid middle-order batter, who can bat in any gear and can handle pressure situations in a sorted manner.

From a bowling perspective, all Indian bowlers were amongst the wicket-takers. But with conditions in New Delhi completely different from Chennai, India can look to bring in a fast-bowler in Mohammad Shami or a batting all-rounder in Shardul Thakur in place of veteran off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin.

India have a 2-0 lead over Afghanistan in head-to-head record in ODIs, including a tied Asia Cup clash in 2018. But the last time India faced Afghanistan, it was in 2019 World Cup, where Shami's hat-trick gave the hosts a narrow 11-run win at Southampton. But Afghanistan recently did something which India hasn't done in a long time: an ODI series win in Bangladesh.

But the Hashmatullah Shahidi-led side's opener ended in a losing note to Bangladesh in Dharamshala. At 83-1, Afghanistan were poised to get a big total before a capitulation to spin of Shakib Al Hasan and Mehidy Hasan Miraz meant they crashed to 156 all out, setting themselves up for a six-wicket loss. In New Delhi, they would be itching to put up a better batting performance to break their six-match losing streak, especially when facing a highly experienced and formidable spin bowling challenge from India, after losing six wickets for 62 runs against the Bangladesh spin department.

"You know, we play better spin in the nets sessions. Rashid, Nabi, Noor and Mujeeb, we play them every day. So, I think our team is far better in playing spin bowling. So that game (against Bangladesh) we struggled but you can't say that you are not good enough (on the basis of) one game," said Shahidi.

Apart from Shahidi, Rahmanullah Gurbaz also holds the key at the top. They would also want for their spin attack of their trump card Rashid Khan, along with Mohammad Nabi and Mujeeb Ur Rahman, plus combine with Fazalhaq Farooqi and Naveen-ul-Haq to test the Indian batters when the stadium will be painted blue and would be experiencing another day of changing weather.



## Samantha does oil pulling for oral hygiene: 'Doesn't look cool but works'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu, who is an avid social media user and keeps her fans updated with her day to day life updates, now shared her daily oral hygiene routine, saying how it plays an important part to maintain one's health. Taking to Instagram stories, Samantha shared a video wherein she can be seen using cute dog filter, and doing oil pulling. The actress is wearing a tie-dye T-shirts, with her pet dog playing behind her. Along with the video, she wrote: "Some of the things that have become a part of my daily routine.. Doesn't look particularly cool but works." "Pulling oil is part of my daily oral hygiene plan and an important part to maintain your health. It supports and improves the excretion of toxins caused by numerous troubles and dis-



orders," shared Samantha. She further jotted down: "It is especially helpful with the following. Indisposition of the jaw, loosening of the teeth, Periodontitis, gum bleeding, Aphthae in the mouth, decay, Headache, migraine, Chronic sinusitis, digestive problems. Exposure to environmental toxins.

Non-specific exposure to toxins. Fatigue, faintness, abnormal fatigue." On the work front, she was recently seen in 'Kushi', alongside Vijay Deverakonda. The romantic comedy is directed by Shiva Nirvana. She will next be seen in the Hindi adaptation of 'Citadel', which also stars Varun Dhawan.

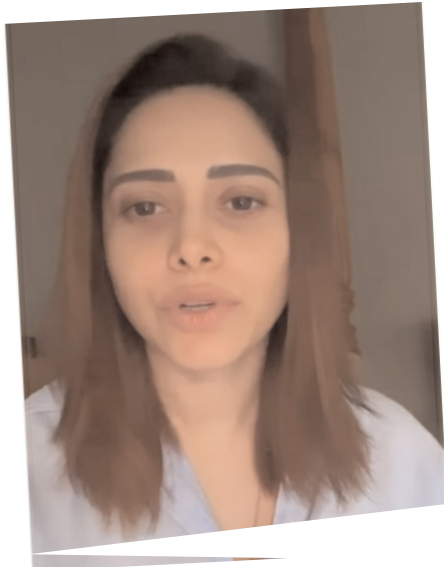
## Nushratt woke up with bomb sounds, was taken to basement for safety

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Nushratt Bharuccha, who recently flew back to India after being stranded in the attack over Israel by Hamas, has detailed her experience of being stuck in the turmoil. Taking to her Instagram on Tuesday, the actress shared two different posts, one a video in which she expressed her gratitude to the government, the Indian embassy and the Israel embassy for ensuring her safety and making it possible for her to return to her homeland safe and sound.

The actress said in the video, "Hi everyone, I just want to take a moment and say thank you to everyone for their messages, for their prayers and for their wishes. I am back, I am home, I am safe and I'm fine. But just two days back, I woke up in a hotel room in Tel Aviv with bomb sounds around me and sirens blaring and we were taken to a basement. Main pehle aise situation mein kabhi rahi nahi hoon (Never have I been in such a situation)." The actress went on to thank the government and the embassies for their swift action and making sure that she gets home safely.

Nushratt said: "But aaj jab main apne ghar mein uthi hoon with no sounds, feeling safe and fine toh mujhe realise ho raha hai ki kitni badi baat hai ki hum kitne fortunate hain ki hum is country mein hain, ki hum protected hain aur hum safe hain (Today, when I woke up in my house safe with no sounds around me, I realise how fortunate we are to live in this country and be so protected)."



"So, I want to take the moment and say thank you to the government, thank you to the Indian Embassy and to the Israel Embassy for guiding us, for advising us and making it possible for me to come back home to my country safe and sound. I also want to take a moment and extend my prayers wishes to the people who are still stuck in the war and I really hope for peace very soon," she added. In the next post, she detailed her ordeal and shared bit by bit what all she experienced in those moments of nerve-wracking tension when the Hamas rockets were battering the city of Tel Aviv.

## SONAM KAPOOR REVEALS WHAT SHE DOES WHEN SHE'S NOT SHOOTING OR WORKING

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood actress Sonam Kapoor has talked about what she does in her free time when she is not working or shooting.

Sonam is a voracious reader and she reveals how her love for books has kept her creatively satiated since her childhood.

Sonam said: "Books transport us to a world of imagination. When I am not shooting or working, I am constantly reading and getting sucked into a world where everything is possible!"

Sonam loves when a good book turns into a great cinematic adaptation. She said: "Some of my most favourite movies are adaptations of brilliant books. The love I have for books and cinema is in equal measure and it's amazing when good books turn into good movies."

The actress feels books provide great material for writers to harness brilliant plots for cinema.

"Books provide the perfect source material for developing engrossing and entertaining screen content. I've always believed that a good story will be loved by all and also transcend all boundaries," said the actress.

On the work front, Sonam was recently seen in 'Blind', a crime thriller film directed by Shome Makhija.

The film features Sonam in a leading role with Purab Kohli, Vinay Pathak and Lillete Dubey in supporting roles.

'Blind', a remake of the 2011 Korean film of the same name, centres around a blind police officer in search of a serial killer.



## Amit Trivedi: Tried to bring out the best of all genres in new album 'Songs of Trance 2'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

National Award-winning music composer and singer Amit Trivedi has finally dropped his new album titled 'Songs of Trance 2 (SOT 2)' post the success of his previous album 'Songs of Trance' which was released in 2020.

Out now on the musician's independent label, Amit Trivedi Azaad, 'Songs of Trance 2' (SOT 2) album has a total of six songs named 'Jhoom Nain', 'Puttha Paasa', 'Bairi Birha', 'Shariyat-E-Dil', 'Fursat' and 'Jhumme Raat'.

Talking about the 'Songs of Trance 2' album, Amit said: "With 'Songs of Trance 2', I've tried to surprise my fans yet again. It was truly wonderful collaborating with like-minded artists to bring out the best of all genres in this album right from ghazal trance to deep house vibes and so much more."

"I'm confident that audiences will like it and enjoy the album. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone's response."

'Jhoom Nain' is an uplifting and euphoric love song with rolling basslines and electronic deep house vibes, on the other hand, the second song from the album 'Puttha Paasa' is an anti-love anthem offering Punjabi-electronic fusion with a heavy bassline that challenges conventional notions of love. The third song titled 'Bairi Birha' is a groovy electro number that narrates a story of longing and miscommunication.

'Songs of Trance 2' fourth song 'Shariyat-E-Dil' is one of a kind Ghazal-trance fusion that celebrates the idea that love knows no limits.

The album's fifth song 'Fursat' is an Indian classical-electro fusion celebrating love and companionship in a groovy, easy-listening composition.



# Shubhangi Atre turns stylist for Angoori bhabhi

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Shubhangi Atre, who is known for her role as Angoori Bhabhi in the sitcom 'Bhabiji Ghar Par Hain', disclosed that she handpicks and purchases all her desi yet glamorous outfits for her character in the show.

The actress also shared insights into the extensive effort invested in picking her costumes in the show, including her recent visit to Indore City, where she effortlessly made a striking style statement.

Speaking about the same, Shubhangi shared: "Every saree or lehenga that Angoori wears in the show is meticulously thought out and crafted with a genuine passion. I dedicate significant effort to choosing, picking, or designing each outfit that graces my character in the show."

"I take great pride in sharing that all the attire I sport on the show is personally styled by me, resulting in a sizeable and diverse collection. Styling Angoori not only brings me immense joy but also a profound sense of satisfaction. Whenever I shop for Angoori's outfits, I wholeheartedly immerse myself in the process," she said.

Shubhangi said that from Angoori's traditional accessories to the sparkling lehengas and even her floral hairbands, she carefully select every element, always mindful of her character's evolving appearance.

"The transformation in my overall look and makeup is noted, as Angoori resonates with numerous viewers, particularly women and homemakers. The jewellery I choose seamlessly blends elegant designs, merging traditional and modern aesthetics to achieve a complete look," said the actress.



Jennifer Winget