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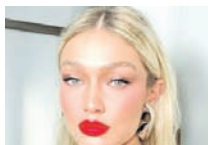
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## ISRAELI SPECIAL FORCES UNIT READYING TO RESCUE HOSTAGES SHIFTED TO GAZA

London | Agencies

Soldiers from a celebrated Israeli special forces unit are readying to rescue hostages shifted to Gaza, reports said.

The Sayeret Matkal, modelled on the British Special Air Service (SAS) regiment, has been placed on standby due to its expertise in hostage recovery, according to the Telegraph UK.

Its commandos were involved in previous Israeli rescue missions, including the famous 1976 Entebbe airport raid in Uganda, when its troops saved 100 Israelis from Palestinian terrorists, 9News reported. But even with the Sayeret Matkal's elite soldiers and the Yamam special forces unit of Israel's national police to call on, bringing home the hostages safely is an extremely risky task. Commanders of the Hamas military group claim they are holding at least 130 people, including non-Israelis, as human shields to deter Israeli attacks. It is believed the locations of the hostages



include tunnels and apartment buildings as well as military bases, 9News reported.

One glimmer of hope for Israel's government is that the large number of hostages means leaks about where they are being held will be likely, according to experts. The locations of some of them may even be known by Israel. But even with this information, casualties appear unavoidable, 9News reported. "When you have 100 to 130 hostages, it's not easy to hide them. I believe we will find information about the locations," Avner Avraham, a former officer with Israel's Mossad intelligence service, said. "But it's very complicated, very difficult. It will take time and we will lose people, unfortunately." One scenario for a potential rescue mission is special forces units hunting the hostages and their captors, while Israel diverts Hamas' focus with a major ground invasion using conventional troops, 9News reported.

"The operations that we're going to see in Israel in my opinion will be conducted via the smokescreen which will be connected to the major offensive Israel is preparing for right now,"

Aaron Cohen, an Israeli special forces expert, told Fox News in the US.

### INDIAN CRYPTO LINKS EMERGE IN HAMAS FUNDING AMID ISRAEL-PALESTINE CONFLICT: REPORT

New Delhi: The severe attacks of Palestinian militant group Hamas from Gaza in Israel over the weekend, causing significant damage and casualties, has led to questions about the funding source for the operation, with some suggesting the potential involvement of cryptocurrency, media reports said.

Investigations into Israeli government seizure orders and blockchain analytics reports prior to the assaults have revealed large amounts of money going to three organisations - Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, and the Lebanon-based Hezbollah militia, according to media reports.

A Wall Street Journal report claimed that between August 2021 and June of this year, the Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ)'s Bitcoin wallets received an astounding \$93 million in cryptocurrencies. In the midst of this, an Indian investigation into a crypto heist uncovered surprising revelations. As per the media reports, a complainant reported the illicit transfer of Bitcoins, Ethereum, and Bitcoin Cash, amounting to approximately Rs 30 lakh, from their cryptocurrency wallet. Initially lodged at Delhi's Paschim Vihar police station, the case was subsequently handed over to the Cyber Crime Unit, Special Cell, Delhi, following directives from the court.

## Now, polling in Rajasthan Assembly elections on Nov 25, not Nov 23

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Two days after announcing the schedule for the five Assembly elections, the Election Commission on Wednesday said that the polling for the 200-member Rajasthan Assembly will take place on November 25, instead of November 23, as it has received several representations for changing the date due to large scale weddings and social engagements.

In a notification, the poll panel said that the it had announced the schedule for Rajasthan polls on October 9 along with other states wherein the date of poll for Rajasthan was fixed on November 23. "Subsequently, representations have been received in the Commission from various political parties, social organisations and also



issues raised in various media platforms for change of date of poll considering large scale wedding and social engagement on that day which may cause inconvenience to large number of people, various logistic issues and may lead to reduced voters participation during poll," it said. "The Commission, having considered these factors and representations, has decided to change the date of poll from

23rd November, 2023 (Thursday) to 25th November, 2023 (Saturday)," it added. However, all the other dates for various stages of the poll process, including filing of nominations, etc. will stay the same. The Election Commission on Monday announced the poll schedule for five states - Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, Mizoram and Chhattisgarh on Monday.

## GAZA'S ONLY POWER STATION RUNS OUT OF FUEL

Gaza: Electricity has gone out in Gaza after its sole power station ran out of fuel, according to a media report. Since Hamas' attack at the weekend, Israel has imposed a siege of Gaza, cutting its supplies of electricity, fuel, food, goods and water. It means people in Gaza will rely on generators for electricity - if they have the fuel to run them, BBC reported.

Earlier this week, Israel had announced to cut supplies of electricity, fuel and water to the Gaza Strip. The Israeli military says hundreds of thousands of troops are near Gaza "ready to execute the mission we have been given". The death toll in Israel from the Hamas attacks has reached 1,200 - while more than 1,000 people have been killed by Israeli air strikes in Gaza, BBC reported.

At the other end of the country, Israel has attacked Lebanese territory in response to an attack from Hezbollah. Seventeen UK nationals are feared dead or missing since Hamas launched its attacks on Saturday, BBC reported. Meanwhile, Egypt's top diplomat Sameh Shoukry held talks with the head of the UN agency for Palestinian refugees on Wednesday about how to help civilians in Gaza, BBC reported. Shoukry warned of the "dangerous humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip" and said Egypt "fully supports UN agencies" in ensuring the delivery of humanitarian aid. Israel has closed its crossings with the Gaza Strip, meaning the Rafah crossing controlled by Egypt, which is the only possible route for civilians in and out. Egypt closed the crossing on Tuesday after Israeli air strikes in the area, BBC reported.

## Monu Manesar sent to judicial custody in attempt to murder case

Gurugram | Agencies

Monu Manesar alias Mohit Yadav, a self-proclaimed cow vigilante, was sent to judicial custody for 14 days on Wednesday in an attempt to murder case, officials said.

Monu was in four-day police custody in the attempt to murder a case registered against him in Gurugram.

The Gurugram police had registered a separate case against Monu at the Pataudi police station under Sections 147, 148, 149, 120B, 307 and 201 of the Indian Penal Code in February this year. On October 7, Haryana police had brought Monu, who was lodged at a jail in Rajasthan, on a production warrant in an attempt to murder case in Pataudi.

Gurugram Police had arrested Monu on September 11 in connection with the Nuh violence and after he was produced at a local court, Rajasthan Police took him on production remand in the murder case of two



Muslim youths -- Nasir and Junaid. Since then, Monu had been lodged at the Bharatpur jail in Rajasthan. The Pataudi court had ordered the Superintendent of Bharatpur Jail to produce Monu in the court on September 25, but by the time the warrant arrived, Monu had been transferred from Bharatpur to Ajmer jail. Due to this, the Haryana police could not bring Monu to the Pataudi court on September 25.

## AAP ALLEGES CONSPIRACY TO KILL ARRESTED MP SANJAY SINGH

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Delhi's ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Wednesday alleged that the Enforcement Directorate, on the instructions of the BJP, is conspiring to kill its arrested Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Singh as he was taken to an unknown place twice without informing the court.

Addressing a press conference at the party headquarters, AAP MLA Dilip Pandey said: "During the production of Singh before a Delhi court on Tuesday, the truth that has come to light has unveiled the dirty politics and revengeful intentions of the BJP. In court, it became clear that the ED was conspiring to kill Singh at the behest of the BJP."

"This is a significant question, and both the BJP and the ED should answer this question. BJP and ED are working together to hatch a conspiracy



in which the life of Singh is in danger." Pandey, providing detailed information about the case, said that in

the custody of the ED there were two instances where attempts were made to take Singh to an unknown location

without informing the court. "When he (Singh) opposed this and asked who had ordered this and whether the court had been informed about taking him to that unknown place, the ED responded that they had orders from above. Therefore, the question arises as to who is giving orders to the ED over and above the rules and regulations," Pandey asked. The AAP leader claimed that it is against the rules to take the person in custody to an unknown place without informing the court and without the person's consent.

"The question arises as to who is sitting at the top and motivating the ED to bypass the rules," he asked. Pandey also said that even after subjecting Singh to 10 hours of interrogation, not a single piece of evidence was found. He also alleged that the family of Singh is being mentally harassed.

## Delhi court summons BJP leader Shahnawaz Hussain in rape case



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Delhi court has summoned Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Syed Shahnawaz Hussain in a case of alleged rape and threats.

The judge took cognisance of the offences of rape (punishable under

Section 376 of the Indian Penal Code) and criminal intimidation (section 506).

The court was hearing the complainant's protest petition against the police's cancellation report.

The complainant relied on the Supreme Court judgments, which showed the court that the sole testimony of the prosecutrix, if reliable, is sufficient to convict the accused. "... so it is safe to say that the consistent sole testimony of the prosecutrix is sufficient to summon the accused and to take the case to trial," the court noted.

Earlier, the Delhi High Court had set aside a session court's order to register a First Information Report (FIR) against Shahnawaz and his brother Shabbaz Hussain.

Justice Amit Mahajan remanded the matter back to the session's court for a fresh decision after giving an opportunity of hearing to the petitioners. The bench noted that Hussain

and his brother were not heard by the trial court while directing the registration of FIR under Sections 420, 376, 295A, 493, 496, 506, 509, 511 and 120B of the Indian Penal Code.

The court noted that earlier the Metropolitan Magistrate by June 25, 2018 order, in an application filed by the woman under Section 156(3) of Code Of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), had refused to direct the police to register an FIR.

Later the Sessions Judge by the impugned order on May 31, 2022, while setting aside the said order, directed the SHO Mandir Marg to register an FIR. The complainant had alleged that while she was running an NGO, she encountered Shabbaz, who introduced himself as the brother of Shehnawaz Hussain, a member of Parliament and after being highly impressed by the former, she developed intimacy with him.

He promised her that he would marry her and allegedly raped her,

the complainant said.

She did not highlight the matter at first as she was concerned about her dignity and reputation, but was shocked on knowing that Shabbaz was already married and was a father of two children.

She then visited his brother's residence seeking support and justice from him, and narrated the entire story to him.

The complaint stated that Shahnawaz had asked her not to highlight the matter and raise a hue and cry as it would be detrimental to both parties.

She has alleged that Shabbaz married her in the presence of a Maulavi and some other persons, and that she was forced to sign a certificate of marriage post which, she was abandoned by them. It later turned out that the maulavi and the certificate was fake.

She has alleged that she had received calls threatening her using foul language.

## Key conspirator of Pathankot attack Shahid Latif shot dead in Pak

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Shahid Latif, one of India's most wanted terrorists and a key conspirator of the 2016 Pathankot attack that claimed the lives of seven security personnel, was shot dead on Wednesday by unidentified gunmen near a mosque in Pakistan's Sialkot city, sources said.

According to the sources, the 41-year-old terrorist was killed near the Noor Madina Mosque after the Friday prayers. The assailants fled from the scene shortly after the murder.

The Pakistan police are yet to identify the gunmen. Latif who was associated with Pakistan-based terror organisation Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM), had guided the four terrorists to carry out the attack at the Pathankot airbase in 2016, according to Indian agencies.

In 2010, he was released by the Indian government along with 24 other terrorists. In 1999, Latif's name was also on the list of the JeM terrorists demanded for release along with JeM founder Maulana Masood Azhar in connection with the hijacking of the IC 814 Indian Airlines plane. According to an NIA charge sheet filed in court last year, Latif had transported and provided logistic support to



newly-infiltrated JeM terrorists, who entered into Indian territory to execute a suicidal attack on security forces and other vital installations in Jammu region.

In November 1994, Latif was apprehended in India on terrorism allegations, in accordance with the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). He underwent a trial and was subsequently incarcerated for a period of 16 years at Kot Balwal, Jammu prison, where he shared confinement with Masood Azhar. Upon completing his sentence in India, he was repatriated to Pakistan through the Wagah border in 2010



# SHARMILA'S PARTY TO CONTEST TELANGANA POLLS, MERGER WITH CONGRESS RULED OUT

Hyderabad | Agencies

YSR Telangana Party (YSRTP), headed by Y. S. Sharmila, is set to contest the next month's Assembly elections in Telangana as its merger with the Congress is now ruled out.

Sharmila has called for a meeting of YSRTP leaders in Hyderabad on Thursday to take a decision on the number of seats to contest and chalk out election strategy, party sources told reporter.

The party is likely to contest 100 out of 119 Assembly seats in Telangana.

Sharmila, the daughter of Congress leader and former Chief Minister of undivided Andhra Pradesh late Y. S. Rajasekhara Reddy (YSR), may contest from two seats - Paleru and Miryalaguda. Her mother Y.S. Vijayamma is also likely to enter the fray from Secunderabad.

The YSRTP took the decision to go alone after the Congress leadership insisted that Sharmila take up the responsibility of leading the party in Andhra Pradesh, where her brother



Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy is the Chief Minister.

Sharmila made it clear to the Congress leadership that she will not go to Andhra Pradesh as she is determined to build her political career in Telangana.

Differing with her brother Jagan

Mohan Reddy, who was not in favour of entering Telangana politics, Sharmila had floated the YSRTP in 2021. A bitter critic of Chief Minister K. Chandrababhan Rao, she had also undertaken padyatra in the state.

The talk of YSRTP's merger with the Congress had started in May after

Congress victory in Karnataka elections. Sharmila, who had met Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi in New Delhi on August 31, had reportedly demanded a key position in the party and 15 Assembly tickets in return for the merger. She was reportedly keen to get the position of AICC General Secretary.

Earlier, Sharmila had a couple of meetings with Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar, with whom the YSR family has close friendship. Sharmila had also held talks with Congress General Secretary K. C. Venugopal. However, there was no progress in the merger talks even after her meeting with Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi.

Telangana state Congress president A. Revanth Reddy was reportedly not in favour of Sharmila's entry into the party's Telangana unit. He had suggested to the leadership to send her to Andhra Pradesh. Sources say several Congress leaders in Telangana were in favour of the merger as they believed that YSR's legacy will benefit the party in the elections.

# EC shunts out 4 Collectors, 3 Police Commissioners in Telangana

Hyderabad | Agencies

In a major administrative shakeup ahead of November 30 Assembly polls in Telangana, the Election Commission on Wednesday ordered transfer of four District Collectors, three Police Commissioners, 10 district Superintendents of Police and some other officials.

The poll panel has asked the state government to send a panel of officers by Thursday evening for making alternate appointments.

It has also directed the state government not to assign any election related works to these officers till the completion of the ongoing poll process. The Election Commission on Wednesday issued orders transferring Rangareddy Collector M.V. Bhoopal Reddy, Medchal Malkajgiri Collector D. Amoy Kumar, Yadadri Bhuvanagiri Collector Vinay Krishna Reddy, and Nirmal Collector Varun Reddy.



It has also ordered transfers of Hyderabad Police Commissioner C.V. Anand, Warangal Commissioner A.V. Ranganath, and Nizamabad Commissioner V. Satyanarayana.

Superintendents of Police of 10 districts have also been transferred. They are Sangareddy's M. Ramana Kumar, Kamareddy's B. Srinivas Reddy, Jagtial's A. Bhaskar, Mahabubnagar's K. Narasimha, Nagarkurnool's K. Manohar, Jogulamba Gadwal's K. Srujana, Mahabubabad's G. Chandramohan, Narayanpet's N. Venkateswarlu, Jayashankar Bhupalapally's P. Karunakar, and Suryapet's Rajender Prasad.

Director of Excise and Prohibition Musharrarf Ali, Transport Secretary Srinivasa Raju, and Commercial Tax Commissioner T.K. Srivevi has also been transferred.

The poll panel has also asked Chief Secretary Santhi Kumari to appoint full time Principal Secretaries for Excise and Commercial Taxes. Currently she is holding the additional charges of both the departments.

The Election Commission ordered the transfer following certain complaints against the officials. A full team of EC headed by Chief Election Commission Rajiv Kumar had visited the state early this month for three days.

# 12 German nationals offer 'pind daan' in Gaya

Patna | Agencies

Twelve German nationals, including 11 women, on Wednesday offered 'pind daan' (a Hindu ritual to offer prayers to the departed soul for its peace and salvation) at Falgu river in Gaya district.

A large number of foreign nationals are visiting Gaya where the Pitru Paksha fair is currently underway.

The German nationals performed the worship following all the rituals of Sanatan Dharma at Sangat Ghat near Rabar dam. The women performed the rituals donning Indian costumes.



After that, they reached Vishnupad temple and offered pind on the feet of Lord Vishnu.

Earlier, Ukrainian physiologist Yulia Jito offered

pind daan for his parents who had lost their lives in the Russia-Ukraine war. She also offered pind daan for the people who lost their lives in both the countries.

# RS 5.1 CRORE, 7 KG GOLD SEIZED IN HYDERABAD IN THREE DAYS

Hyderabad | Agencies

Hyderabad Police has seized Rs 5.1 crore in cash, over 7.7 kg of gold worth Rs.4.2 crore, 11.7 kg of silver worth Rs 8.77 lakh and 110 litres of liquor since Monday, after the Model Code of Conduct came into force for the November 30 Assembly elections in Telangana.

The city police said that in order to ensure free, fair, and peaceful election, it has intensified its efforts to seize illegal money, drugs, liquor, freebies and other inducements.

The police also seized two kilograms of Ganja, 23 mobile phones and 43 quintals of PDS rice.

Local police, flying squad teams, the Commissioner's Task force and other wings are monitoring and maintaining a tight vigil round-the-clock.

The police have requested all citizens to promptly report any suspicious activities in their localities.



Meanwhile, City Police Commissioner, CV Anand on Wednesday conducted a comprehensive Video Conference to assess the state of preparedness.

He underscored four pivotal facets that demand immediate attention i.e. adherence to established procedures, timely compilation of reports, vigi-

lant monitoring, and thorough training and briefing of the police force.

Furthermore, he urged the enforcement of stricter measures, including intensified surprise checks. Anand issued directives to all DCs, ACPs and nodal ACPs to convene meetings with political parties at their respective levels. He instruct-

ed them to activate round-the-clock election cells within their offices.

Anand also urged all officers to take resolute action against any instances of illicit cash, liquor, narcotics, or other prohibited inducements.

He stressed the importance of preventing political parties from interfering during campaigns, factoring this into route planning and permission issuance, meticulously allocating time slots to avoid any untoward incidents.

An important decree was that all registered firearms must be surrendered, and no new licences should be issued until the conclusion of the polls.

The meeting also discussed executing Non-Bailable Warrants, monitoring social media platforms, surveillance on Hawala operators and other operational matters. The commissioner stressed that 100 per cent of the city police force cast their votes through the facilitating centres.

# Elevate Your Festive Vibes at Amazon Great Indian Festival Sale 2023

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Sennheiser, a German audio giant, has unveiled enticing discounts across its premium audio product range during the Amazon Great Indian Festival Sale 2023. Prime users gained early access starting from midnight on October 7th, 2023, while the sale officially kicked off on October 8th. Customers now have a golden opportunity to seize incredible deals and discounts on Sennheiser's extensive lineup of professional audio products, including the Sennheiser MKE 200, Sennheiser XS Lav USB-C, Sennheiser HD 280 PRO, Profile USB microphone, Sennheiser E835 Vocal Microphone, Sennheiser XS-1, Sennheiser HD25 headphones, and Sennheiser XS Lav Mobile.

Sennheiser Profile USB microphone tailored for podcasters, streamers, and gamers, is now offered at an enticing price of INR 7,790 for the Base set and INR 12,499 for the Streaming set. The Profile USB Microphone seamlessly combines performance with accessibility. Powered by USB-C, this microphone features a cardioid condenser capsule, prioritizing audio quality and a sleek design. Specifically crafted for podcasting and streaming, the Profile incorporates three essential controls:



Gain Control for microphone level adjustment, Mix Control to balance microphone and device audio, and Volume Control for headphone monitoring level settings.

Sennheiser Professional Audio XS-1 Dynamic XLR Unidirectional Cardioid Microphone, crafted

to deliver superior sound quality and will be available at an attractive price of INR 2,390. This versatile microphone is designed for those embarking on their professional live sound journey, featuring excellent feedback rejection and a silent mute switch for enhanced flexibility and control. Housed in a durable all-metal casing, the XS-1 stands as a reliable companion on any stage.

The Sennheiser MKE 200, crafted to deliver exceptional sound quality will be up for grabs at an enticing price of INR 5,190. This remarkable microphone surpasses the constraints of built-in mics, enhancing videos with high-quality audio. The microphone features built-in wind protection and integrated shock absorption, ensuring compactness and versatility for various recording scenarios.

XS Lav mobile omnidirectional condenser microphone is the perfect companion for enhanced dialogue applications will be available at an attractive price of INR 1,999 and XS Lav C Type at INR 2,995. The Sennheiser XS Lav is an ideal choice for content creators, YouTubers, vloggers, or customers looking to enhance their home videos. With its high-quality sound and ease of use, this microphone helps take the audio experience a notch higher.

# Registration Now Open for the Third Edition of India's Regional PR Awards (IRPRA) 2023

Team Absolute | New Delhi

India's Regional PR Awards (IRPRA) is proud to announce the highly anticipated return of its 3rd Edition, celebrating excellence in the field of regional public relations with PR 24x7 as its official regional PR partner. IRPRA continues its mission to honor and acknowledge the outstanding contributions of PR professionals in India who have transformed regional communication and brand recognition. The awards serve as a prestigious platform, spotlighting innovative campaigns and strategies that have redefined influence and engagement within the regional communications industry. The registration period for IRPRA 2023 commenced on October 9, 2023, and is scheduled to conclude on November 20, 2023 and all nominations and registrations are free of cost and must be submitted digitally. Applicants need to be 40 years of age or below as of the event date and should be practicing PR and Corporate communication within the geographical territory of India. IRPRA 2023 is scheduled to be held on December 9th, 2023, marking a significant date in the calendar of India's regional PR



industry. Talking about this, Pawan Tripathi, Organizer of IRPRA cited, "We are delighted to announce the return of India's Regional PR Awards (IRPRA) for its highly anticipated 3rd Edition. IRPRA has continually honored the exceptional contributions of PR professionals who have reshaped regional communication and brand recognition. This year, we look forward to showcasing and celebrating innovative campaigns and strategies that have redefined influence and engagement in the regional communications industry."

# Pink booths to come up in nine UP cities for women safety

Lucknow | Agencies

The Uttar Pradesh government has identified 20 religious places, spanning nine districts, for the establishment of Pink Booths under the 'Safe City' project.

Within the next three months, 1,100 women beat constables in 17 municipal corporations and Gautam Buddha Nagar will receive electric two-wheeler scooters as part of the same initiative.

The Safe City project is set to be executed in three phases within the state, as outlined by the state government. The initial phase will encompass 17 municipal corporations and Gautam Buddha Nagar.

Subsequently, the second phase will extend to 57 district headquarters and municipal corporations, while the third phase will involve the incorporation of 143 municipal corporations



into the Safe City Project.

B. P. Jogdand, the additional DG of Women and Child Safety Protection, said that in the initial phase of the Safe City Project, Pink Booths will be erected at 20 religious sites in nine cities across the state.

These cities include Varanasi, Ayodhya, Prayagraj, Mirzapur, Mathura, Gorakhpur, Agra, Balrampur, and Chitrakoot.

A proposal of Rs 1.66 crore has been submitted by the Home Department for the establishment of these Pink Booths.

# Colleges must disclose their fee, hostel facilities, scholarships and accreditation: UGC

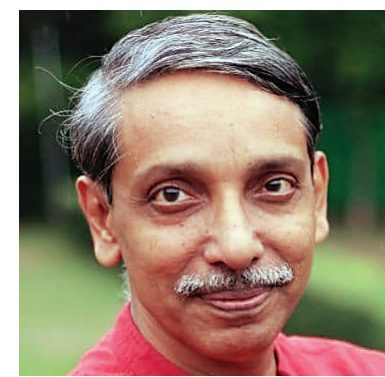
Team Absolute | New Delhi

From now on, all universities, colleges and Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) across India will have to disclose their fee structure, national ranking, fee refund policy, hostel facilities, scholarship programs and other details on their official website.

The initiative is being taken by the University Grants Commission (UGC) to bring more transparency and ensure that students are not misled.

For this, the UGC has made a 'Minimum-Mandatory Disclosure' regulation under which the HEIs will also disclose their National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) and National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) rankings.

Professor M Jagadesh Kumar, Chairman, UGC told IANS, "Of late different stakeholders in the higher education system like prospective students, parents, research scholars, government officials, alumni and the public at large desire to seek certain basic information from the websites of different Universities/HEIs.



"We have found that the websites of several universities lack basic minimum information related to their institute and many times their websites are not functional or updated.

"At this defining moment, when we are celebrating the third year of the National Education Policy 2020, it would be prudent to desire that HEIs provide basic minimum information and updated content on their websites.

"Hence, we have prepared a checklist of this information to be provided by the universities on their websites."

The UGC has prepared a detailed document on the information that needs to be disclosed on the websites of the HEIs, which it will make public in a few days for feedback. The UGC has sent this document to all institutions.

The document states that the 'Minimum Mandatory Disclosure' rule for HEIs will mandate that the institutions have an 'About us' page, Act and Statutes or MoA and information regarding the Institutional Development Plan, Annual Reports, Constituent Units, Affiliated Colleges, Off-campus and Off-shore campus.

According to the UGC the universities and colleges will also have to upload details of their accreditation and nation rankings, and have profiles of senior administrative officials like the Chancellor, Vice Chancellor, Pro-Vice Chancellor and Registrar, etc.

The institutions will also be required to upload details of academic programs, academic calendar, schools/departments/centres, faculty details with photographs, admissions and fee along with other important details, the UGC added.

# Goa party women's wing demands blocking of 'escort' websites

Panaji | Agencies

Contending human trafficking and prostitution is on rise in the coastal state, the Revolutionary Goans Party's women wing has demanded to blocking of "escort" websites defaming names of girls and the state.

Addressing a press conference here, RGP's women wing President Deodita Quadros said that human trafficking and prostitution is on rise in the state and hence, authorities should take action.

"We appeal to this double engine government to ban these escort websites. They should be blocked. If message parlours are found to be running the sex trade, then the local bodies (panchayat and municipalities) should take action," she said. Quadros said that as Goa is a hub of tourism, many people visit the coastal state and the illegal activities of flesh trade are tainting its image. "I request Chief

Minister Pramod Sawant, who also holds the portfolio of Home, to take action and block these websites along with action on prostitution," she said.

Last month, the Goa Police busted an international sex trade ring operating between Kenya and India and rescued five women with the arrest of three persons in Kenya and Nigeria. Referring to this incident, the RGP said that this proves that prostitution trade is taking place on a large scale in Goa. "This may be only one case exposed, but there may be many such cases yet to be identified. Flesh trade is taking place at a high level and the government is not taking any action," party leader Vaishnavi Chari said. "These websites are tainting image of Goa and hence they should be blocked. Government says that it is committed to the empowerment of women, but here we are not getting safety," she said.



## KAMAL NATH'S OPEN LETTER TO FIRST TIME VOTERS IN MADHYA PRADESH

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The dates for Madhya Pradesh Assembly elections have been announced. Meanwhile, former Chief Minister and Congress State President Kamal Nath has written a letter to the first time voters saying that there is a BJP government in the state and it has never thought about the youth.

In the letter issued to the youth, Kamal Nath has written that now your every decision will decide the country, Madhya Pradesh and your future. At this stage of life, every youth dreams that after completing his education, he gets a good job and can live a respectable and happy life with his family. You might also be thinking in the same direction, but you will be sad to know that today there are more than 2 crore youth in Madhya Pradesh and most of them are unemployed.

The reason for this condition of the youth is the BJP government of the state, which never made any youth-oriented, youth-friendly policies keeping in mind the future of the youth, whatever policies they made were flawed and that too fell victim to corruption.

Kamal Nath further wrote that the



BJP government which has been in power for 18 years has brought down the level of education and skills of Madhya Pradesh and due to this the youth of the state have become unemployed. Today Madhya Pradesh is known for its frequent recruitment scams. The state is known for the Vyapam scam. Recently there was a scam in Patwari recruitment and PESA recruitment also. Today the sit-

uation in the state is such that either the recruitment does not come out, if it does come out then the examination is not conducted, sometimes the paper gets leaked, sometimes the result does not come and even when the result comes, there is corruption and nepotism and rounds of courts. Appointments are often thrown into disarray. In Madhya Pradesh, posts from

Chief Minister to Patwari are being filled through bargaining. The government which can openly indulge in Patwari recruitment scam even four months before the elections, will that government not play with your future if it comes to power again?

Referring to the BJP government, Kamal Nath wrote that due to being in power continuously since 2003, the BJP government has become extremely insensitive towards the youth and is openly playing with the future of the youth by misusing power. That is why today we have to think that why are you not able to realize your family's dreams even after getting the education you have earned through the hard work of your parents?

The answer is that the BJP government is run not on merit but on deals and money power. The youth of the state and their future are not their priority. Citing the work done in Chhindwara, Kamal Nath has said that my aim has always been to increase employment opportunities by promoting employment-oriented education and establishing the state's identity as a hub of industries and now I am working for the youth of the state. I want to do all this for employment.

## Shivraj's son becomes aggressive about comments in social media, Kamal Nath said long live Shivraj...



Team Absolute | Bhopal

In the political summer, allegations and counter-allegations have started in Madhya Pradesh. A social media post regarding Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has become a topic of discussion. His son Kartikeya has expressed objection considering it to be from Congress. Whereas Congress has made it clear that this tweet was not made by Congress. State President Kamal Nath has wished for Shivraj's long life.

Actually, a post regarding Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan went viral on social media. It was written in it, Uncle's Shradha! Also put a

photo of CM Shivraj Singh and wrote below that BJP gave ticket to Shivraj uncle in Shradha.

CM Shivraj's son Kartikeya tweeted and wrote - I don't know whether I should pity you or get angry? After all, you are talking about the Shradha of my living father. I feel pity. At the same time, Congress also responded by tweeting.

Here PCC President Kamal Nath wrote:

Dear Shivraj ji, May God give you long life. I don't understand why you see Congress party behind everything? No such tweet has been made by the Congress Party as you are mentioning. If you really feel that some-

one has tweeted against you, then take legal action against him.

Accusing the Congress party without any facts is the lowest level of politics. Spreading false propaganda to gain sympathy is not ethical.

Your party has given you the ticket for Shradha Paksha, not the Congress party. You know very well that your personal enemies are sitting in your party and are leaving no stone unturned to harm you. It is better to establish discipline in your party rather than making false allegations against others.

May God grant you a healthy and long life.

## FST and police team became active as soon as Model Code of Conduct came into force

▶ THE CODE OF CONDUCT HAS BECOME COMPLETELY EFFECTIVE IN THE STATE FROM OCTOBER 9 REGARDING THE MADHYA PRADESH ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS 2023. AS SOON AS THE CODE OF CONDUCT CAME INTO FORCE, THE JOINT TEAM OF FLYING SQUAD (FST) AND POLICE FORMED IN THE DISTRICTS HAS INTENSIFIED THE ACTION TO CONDUCT A FREE AND FAIR ELECTION PROCESS.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The joint team took major action and seized cash, illicit liquor, drugs and precious metals worth Rs 1 crore 81 lakh 97 thousand 930.

The joint team has seized only Rs 14 lakh 90 thousand 320 in cash in one day. 5915.69 liters of illicit liquor worth only Rs 13 lakh 50 thousand 405, narcotics worth only Rs 22 lakh 68 thousand 910, precious metal worth only Rs 85 lakh, various materials worth only Rs 1 lakh 37 thousand 600 have been seized.

The Excise Department is taking major action regarding the seizure of illegal liquor and Mahua Lahan across the state. The department has also taken action against 3999 liters of illicit liquor worth only Rs 10 lakh 67 thousand 495 and Mahua Lahan worth only Rs 33 lakh 83 thousand 200.

## Unique millet workshop held at Sudarshan Chakra Corps of Military Station

Bhopal : It is being celebrated as 'International Millet Year-2023'. In this series, a millet workshop was organized for military families by Bhopal Military Station Chakra Corps.

In the workshop, many millet dishes were prepared and taught by Chief Chef of 'Phylfour Restaurant', Bhopal, Asif Rashid and her team. Everyone enjoyed the program and pledged to include millet in their daily lifestyle.

## Posters put up against Deepak Joshi in Khategaon, 'Outsider unacceptable'

Team Absolute | Bhopal

BJP has announced its candidates for 136 seats for the assembly elections to be held on November 17 in Madhya Pradesh. But Congress has not yet fielded its candidates. But still opposition from potential candidates has started. In Khategaon assembly constituency of Dewas district, posters have been put up at various places against the probable Congress candidate, former minister Deepak Joshi. It is written on this poster that outsider will not work.

Deepak Joshi, son of former Chief Minister Kailash Joshi and



former minister, left BJP and joined Congress a few months ago. He is considered a strong contender from Khategaon assembly. In such a situation, some local leaders have started opposing him. There are posters put up around Khategaon in protest against him, which are becoming a topic of discussion these days.

This poster has Deepak Joshi's photo and a cross mark on it. It is written on it, it will not work with Congress, it will not work. Although no one has any information about who has put up these posters and why, but discussion has started among the common people regarding such posters.

## RESERVATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO TRANSGENDER ALSO: HEERA NAYAK

Team Absolute | Narsinghpur

Eunuchs from different parts of the country gathered in Narsinghpur, Madhya Pradesh, are not happy with the governments of political parties. Their demand is that a commission should be formed for eunuchs and they should also be given reservation.

Former councilor of Jabalpur and Panch of Kinnar community, Heera Nayak, who came to participate in the Kinnar Conference of Narsinghpur, said that the governments break their promises, whether it is the Government of Madhya Pradesh or the Centre. They know that the eunuch community is progressing rapidly. There are many educated people in that too, some are becoming judges, some are becoming lawyers, some are teachers. We have received only deception,



deceit and broken promises from the government. We demand formation of a commission or board for the welfare of eunuchs.

More than 800 eunuchs from many parts of different states of the country came to participate in the All India Conference of Eunuch Society in Narsinghpur. Heera, who was a councilor from a ward in Jabalpur from 2001 to 2005, says that her demand in the House was to ensure space for the residence of eunuchs, but that too was not provided.

Heera says that we the eunuch community are the Ardhhanarishwar of India. Many people in the society are educated and many are illiterate. Talented people of the society became Mahamandaleshwar, joined Juna Akhara, pray for the society but the government does not pay attention to them. Whereas, the society has always supported them.

## Raids at many places in Madhya Pradesh regarding terror funding

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Like other parts of the country, the National Investigation Agency has raided many places in Madhya Pradesh regarding terror funding. In the capital Bhopal where two members of a family were interrogated. Meanwhile, ATS has detained a businessman in Neemuch.

According to the information received, NIA has raided many places apart from Bhopal. Interrogated two members of a family in Khanu village area of Bhopal.

The investigating agency suspects that he has a hand in funding the banned organization PFI. Due to this, the investigation team interrogated the family members for about 7 hours and also



searched the papers.

After that the investigating agency team left. Based on information from the Central Investigation Agency, ATS has detained a businessman in a terror funding case in Neemuch district. This busi-

nessman is accused of sending huge amount of money from one place to another through Hawala.

Apart from this, he has also resorted to fake GST bills. ATS has been interrogating him for the last three days.

## "Advancing Sports Medicine: Kinanthropometry three-day course begins"

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A three-day course was launched today in the Department of Anatomy, AIIMS Bhopal in collaboration with the International Society of Advancement in Kinanthropometry, Scotland. This course is important to teach the structure of the human body in a dynamic state. Kinanthropometry can predict appropriate mobility according to body shape. It is beneficial for diagnosing injuries caused by athletes or sports. This course was inaugurated by Prof. (Dr.) Ajay Singh, Director AIIMS Bhopal. The Medical Superintendent of AIIMS Bhopal, Dr. Shashank Purwar was also present. Prof. (Dr.) Ajay Singh emphasized the participation of doctors in this course and inspired them to work on sports medicine at AIIMS Bhopal. Anatomists, physi-



ologists and physiotherapists from different parts of the country have registered for the course.

Dr. Anoop Adhikari, a certified Kinanthropologist, is conducting this course. Dr.

Sunita Athawale explained the importance of this course in the welcome speech. Dr. Kusum Gandhi, Associate Professor of Anatomy, is conducting this course.

## SMALL PARTIES KEEPING AN EYE ON BJP-CONGRESS REBELS IN MADHYA PRADESH

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The temperature of assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh has slowly started rising. While BJP has released four lists of candidates, the first list of Congress is awaited. In these circumstances, the small parties have their eyes fully focused on the dissidents and rebels of both the major parties.

BSP has even started fielding rebels from BJP and Congress as candidates. Voting is to be held in the state on November 17 and the government will also be formed after the results are declared in December.

These days the process of selection of candidates is going on in political parties. There are 230 assembly seats in the state, out of which BJP has released four lists and announced candidates for 136 seats, while Congress is expected to release its first list on October 15.

There are a large number of people in BJP and Congress who are claiming to become candidates, but it is not decided whether they will get the ticket or not, whether the party will field a candidate or not, hence many leaders have already adopted a rebellious atti-



tude. Have taken. Bahujan Samaj Party has also started finalizing the names of the candidates and in the lists that have come, there are many rebel leaders who have left BJP and Congress and have now joined BSP. BSP has fielded Congress leader Deelmani Singh from Chhatrapur and BJP leader Ghasiram Patel from Rajnagar Assembly. Similarly, dissatisfied and rebel leaders of both the political parties are in touch with Samajwadi

Party, Aam Aadmi Party and will decide their path after the release of the lists of candidates.

If we look at the current assembly of the state, SP had only one MLA and BSP had only two, while four independents had won the elections.

This time small parties have prepared to exert more force. Political experts believe that this time in the state assembly elections, there will be more party changes than in the previous elections. The reason

for this is because the media survey reports that have come so far are telling that Congress has the lead but the contest is close. In this situation, many politicians want to increase their political status and power by reaching the assembly with the help of small parties. This is why there will be a lot of party changes. At the same time, small parties are trying to somehow get the keys to power in their hands and increase their influence in the politics of the state.



World Sight Day- October 12, 2023

# Empowering Lives through Vision: World Sight Day's Importance

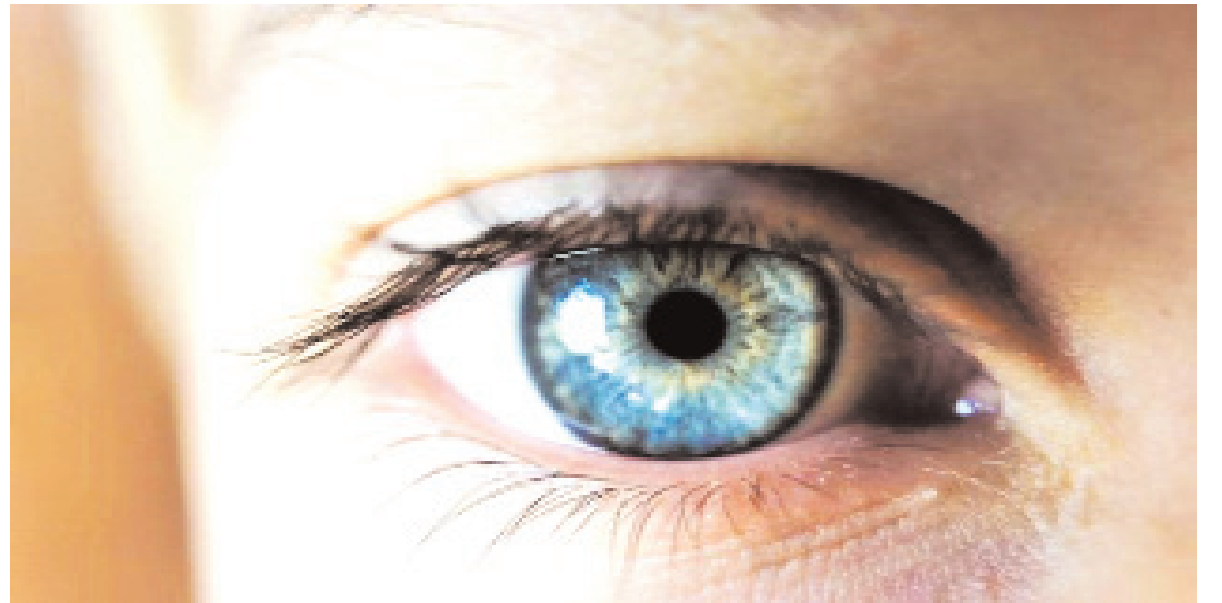
Lalit Garg

World Sight Day is celebrated globally on the second Thursday of October every year. This year it falls on Thursday, 12 October. The day is celebrated to create awareness about vision loss, blindness as well as vision related problems, highlighting the importance of good vision for all people. The theme of World Sight Day 2023 is "Love your eyes at work: Eye care in the workplace!" This theme underlines the importance of prioritizing vision health in the workplace as a fundamental aspect of overall well-being, as modern lifestyles and with the increasing use of computers, laptops, mobiles and other electronic devices at workplaces, the eyes get stressed the most.

In this way, people who spend too much time on the screen are at risk of developing many eye-related diseases over time. Blue light emitted from mobile-computer or television screens is very harmful for the eyes. World Sight Day promotes equal access to eye care services, especially for underprivileged and marginalized populations. This emphasizes the need to make eye care affordable and available to all.

World Sight Day is very important because eye diseases are on the rise across the world. Vision loss affects people of all ages and most affected people are above 50 years of age. The world is becoming blurry due to the increasing number of eye patients. According to WHO, there are more than a billion people who cannot see properly because they do not have access to glasses. Of these, one billion people suffer from preventable vision impairment. Blindness has a long-term impact on every aspect of life such as personal activities, travelling, schooling and work, daily routine, social interaction and conversation. Eyes and their visual acuity are very helpful in the beauty of the body. Poets have praised the eyes by giving similes in their poems, ghazals and songs. In their imagination, when there is a lack of words; the eyes speak, hence it is important to know about the eyes and protect them on Sight Day. Yes, every part of our body is very precious and important for us. If any of those organs become damaged or weak then we have to face many problems. Not only this, we are also not able to enjoy this life properly. Especially if we talk about eyes, it is the most important part of our body. This is a unique gift of nature, through which one can see the colours and good and bad things of the entire world. In such a situation, if something happens to the eyes, how colourless will the world become? This is a matter of grave concern for anyone; it is the incompleteness of life. The function of the eyes is to see and to convey the scene message to the brain. Eyes are the most delicate part of the body; hence it is important that we take special care of our eyes. To keep the eyes healthy, it is very important to eat right.

Eyes are that part of the body which makes us feel the beauty of the world. However, with time, the risks associated with it are increasing due to disturbances in lifestyle and eating



habits. Be it spending too much time on mobile and computer or diseases like sugar and BP, all these are having an adverse effect on eye health. The main causes of blindness and poor vision in the United States are diseases such as cataracts, diabetic retinopathy and glaucoma. Eye is that organ of living beings which is sensitive to light. Good vision has a profound impact on a person's quality of life. It enables people to perform daily tasks, receive education, and participate fully in society, contributing to overall well-being.

Sight Day is aligned with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which emphasize that ensuring good vision is an integral part of achieving broader global development objectives. World Sight Day promotes global collaboration, uniting individuals and organizations in a shared mission to prevent vision loss and blindness. Every year, the Lions Club Foundation becomes active in raising awareness about blindness and vision loss across the world. Its inspiration was the American writer, peace activist, anti-war political activist, social reformer and motivational speaker Helen Keller, despite being blind herself; she amazing things. In 1925, when Lions International was only seven years old, the famous Helen Keller challenged Lions members at their annual convention to become 'knights of the blind in the crusade against darkness', giving an inspiring address on the prevention of blindness. That speech set a new direction for Lions and since then the Sight First campaign has been eliminating blindness through the Netra-Kranti.

Millions of Lions members around the world are doing remarkable work to help visually impaired people. This effort

is being supported by the World Health Organization (WHO) as well as the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB). IAPB is a global organization in which various charitable organizations and NGOs from more than 100 countries work together to create a world in which awareness is raised on the issue of blindness, including blindness prevention and finding a cure, through various programs. Many people in some parts of the world are at higher risk of blindness and other optical problems because they do not have adequate access to eye care. World Sight Day provides a perfect inspiration to donate to a charity that helps people who are struggling to get the vision care they need.

Eye health is of utmost importance and vision loss and blindness affects education, employment, quality of life and much more. Therefore, world organizations and individuals must join hands to actively support universal access to eye health and ensure that this mission and vision makes sense for everyone. At the 74th World Health Assembly, Member States adopted two global targets: a 40 percent increase in effective coverage of refractive errors for eye care and a 30 percent increase in effective coverage of cataract surgery by 2030. The above goals will not only increase global eye care coverage but also provide quality services. Along with taking a pledge to donate eyes, we should extend our helping hand to give improved vision to eye patients and strengthen humanity and develop balance and equality in the world.

international

## OUSTED LAST YEAR, RUSSIA LOSES BID TO GET REGAIN SEAT ON UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Arul Louis | United Nations

Russia lost its bid to regain a seat on the Human Rights Council, failing to get enough votes in elections on Tuesday after having been ousted from it last year.

China and Cuba, however, were elected to the Council by the General Assembly in secret ballots despite their questionable human rights records. Both countries are on the Council with terms ending this year and will serve another three-year term starting next year till 2026 end.

The 15 seats that came up by rotation for election this year to the 47-member Geneva-based Council were distributed according to its regional quotas, although all the 193 UN members vote on them.

There were contests only in the East European and the Latin American and Caribbean groups while the number of contestants matched the vacancies in the Asian and Western groups making their contests only a matter of formality, although reflecting on the popularity of the countries in the race.

Russia polled only 83 votes, the lowest of any country, and lost to Bulgaria which received 160 votes and Albania which got 123 for the two vacancies in the East European



Group.

In the Latin American and Caribbean group, Cuba was elected with 146 votes, Brazil with 144, and Dominican Republic with 137. Peru, which polled only 108 votes lost.

China was elected to one of the four vacancies in the Asian group with 154 votes, along with Indonesia that received 186 votes - the highest of any country, Kuwait that polled 183 votes, and Japan that got 175.

In other uncontested elections, the Netherlands and France were elected

for the Western Group, and Burundi, Ghana, Malawi and Cote d'Ivoire for the African Group.

After it invaded Ukraine, the General Assembly voted to remove Russia from the Council in April last year.

At that time 93 countries voted to remove it, while 58 countries abstained, and only 24 voted against its removal. Russia has increased its support to 83, which is only one vote more than those who abstained and those who voted against ouster.

Ahead of Tuesday's election, Moscow prepared a defence of its defeat when its Permanent Representative Vassily Nebenzia asserted the US's "main phobia" is his country's election to Council and was campaigning against it. He was speaking at Monday's Security Council meeting on Ukraine, which turned into a campaign spot for the election. US Deputy Permanent Representative Robert Wood said that it would be an "ugly stain" on the UN if Russia was elected while Albania's Permanent Representative Ferit Hoxa urged against voting for Moscow as a matter of credibility.

China's election was not controversial as it had the unanimous support of the Asia Group and no one opposed it. India was re-elected to the Council in 2021 after completing a three-year term, but when its tenure ends next year, it is barred by Council rules against serving more than two consecutive terms.

Pakistan completes its term at the end of this year and could not run for re-election because it is serving its second consecutive term, having been elected in 2017 and 2020. Nepal will be ending its term on the Council at the end of this year and Bangladesh in 2025.

## Death toll in Israel-Hamas conflict increases to more than 2,100

Jerusalem/Gaza | Agencies

The death toll in the ongoing Israel-Hamas conflict in the Gaza Strip has increased to more than 2,100, with more fatalities expected as the violence continued for a fifth day on Wednesday.

Israeli public broadcaster Kan reported on Wednesday that at least 1,200 people have died as a result of the Hamas attacks on the Jewish nation.

The Health Ministry said that the fatalities included foreign nationals, while at least 2,806 people were injured.

According to Israeli sources, between 50 and 100 members of the Israeli forces and civilians, including women and children, have been captured and forcibly taken into Gaza.

Palestinian armed groups in Gaza claim to have captured and forcibly taken over 150 people. Meanwhile, the Health Ministry in the Hamas-run coastal enclave has claimed that the total number of deaths due to Israeli attacks on the Gaza Strip reached 900, while 4,500 others were injured, including 15 paramedics and 20 journalists.

It also said the fatalities include 260 children and 230 women, as well as 22 families who were killed in their entirety.

The health system in the Gaza Strip is cur-



rently suffering from a severe shortage of 44 per cent of medicines, 32 per cent of medical consumables, and 60 per cent of laboratory and blood bank supplies, in addition to the collapse of electrical generators and the lack of fuel, according to the Ministry.

UN agencies have said that mass displacement has continued over the past 24 hours across the Gaza Strip, with the total number now at 263,934.

This number is expected to rise further. Among the displaced, over 175,486 people are seeking shelter in UN Relief Works Agency (UNRWA) schools, while about 3,000 Palestinians in Gaza remain displaced due to previous escalations.

## German police arrest more right-wing extremists

Berlin | Agencies

German police have arrested several members of a right-wing extremist group that had plotted to violently overthrow the government and kidnap the Health Minister last year, prosecutors said. The five arrested persons are believed to have taken on important tasks for the group called Vereinte Patrioten (United Patriots), including providing servers for conspiratorial communi-

cations and obtaining firearms, Xinhua news agency quoted the prosecutors as saying.

The group's primary suspects have been on trial since May. The new arrests made it clear "that our security authorities have learned from past mistakes and are quite capable of recognising right-wing extremist networks", Misbah Khan, a Green Party MP, told the German Press Agency on Tuesday.

## Indian-American ex-Google exec to lead Microsoft's generative AI efforts

New Delhi | Agencies

An Indian-American tech industry veteran and former Google executive with over 20 years of experience in product development, design, and strategy, has joined Microsoft as its corporate vice president.

Aparna Chennapragada, who stepped down as chief product officer of stock trading app Robinhood, will be leading generative AI efforts in Microsoft 365 and Microsoft Designer -- a software product that competes with Adobe and Canva.

"With generative AI, there is an opportunity to build



products that instantly and easily bring your intent and imagination to life. That's why I am super excited to

share that I am joining Microsoft as Corporate VP leading efforts on AI-first creation experiences," Chennapragada said in a LinkedIn post.

An IIT Madras graduate, Chennapragada said that throughout her conversations with Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella in the last several months, she has come to "deeply appreciate his vision to empower people and organisations across the world using AI".

"I'm looking forward to diving in and putting AI to use to unleash our collective creativity!" Chennapragada wrote in the post.

## First US plane carrying ammunition arrives in Israel



Jerusalem | Agencies

The first American aircraft carrying ammunition arrived in Israel on Tuesday night to help the country in its ongoing conflict with Gaza's ruling faction, Hamas, and militants in Lebanon, Israel's military said. The plane landed at the Nevatim Airbase in Israel's southern Negev Desert, carrying "advanced ammunition",

Xinhua news agency reported, citing a statement by Israel Defense Forces (IDF) Spokesperson Daniel Hagari.

Also on Tuesday, the USS Gerald R. Ford Carrier Strike Group arrived in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea "in order to deter any actor seeking to escalate the situation or widen this war", the US Central Command said in a statement.



# 30K PALGHAR TRIBALS BLOCK HIGHWAY TO MARK 78TH ANNIVERSARY OF REVOLT AGAINST BRITISH

OVER 30,000 TRIBALS TOOK OUT A PROTEST PROCESSION TO MARK THE 78TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DAY WHEN FIVE WARLI ADIVASIS WERE SHOT DEAD BY THE BRITISH RULERS HERE DURING A REVOLT ON OCTOBER 10, 1945, NOW OBSERVED AS THE MARTYRS DAY, WITH A ROADBLOCK, SAID THE ORGANISERS HERE ON WEDNESDAY.



AARM, the marchers blocked the Mumbai-Ahmedabad National Highway near Dahanu town and later submitted a list of their demands to the Palghar Collector.

Palghar | Agencies

The procession was led by the All India Kisan Sabha, CPI(M), CITU, AIDWA, DYFI, SFI, and

The demands included implementation of vesting forest rights, transferring old landlords' lands in the names of the cultivating farmers, food secu-

urity, proper electricity, education, health, improving the PDS and MGN-REGA schemes, etc., within two months, said Dr. Dhawale.

The protest was called off and the Collector office issued a signed letter pledging to fulfill all the demands within two months, he

added. October 10 was also the 27th death anniversary of the legendary tribal leader Godavari Parulekar, who was cremated at Talasari in the district, said AIKS leader Dr. Ashok Dhawale.

The protest was later converted into a massive victory rally at the Charoti village site and top leaders like Vinod Nikole, MLA, Dr. Dhawale, Dr. Uday Narkar, Mariam Dhawale, Kiran Gahala, Radka Kalangda, Laxman Dombre, Chandu Dhangda, Bharat Walamba, Lahani Dauda, Prachi Hatiwlekar, Chandrakant Ghorkhana, Yashwant Budhar, Amrut Bhawar, Sunil Surve, Bhaskar Mhase, Rajesh Dalvi and others, addressed the gathering.

The speakers recalled the legacy of the Warli Adivasi Revolt 78 years ago against British Rule and slammed the anti-people and pro-corporates policies of the current Bharatiya Janata Party governments in the Centre and state.

The public meeting ended with a call to defeat the BJP in the 2024 Parliament and Assembly elections and to strengthen the farmers, tribals, workers movements for boosting the INDIA bloc performance in the polls.

# Celebrating Big B's 81st b'day, Anand Pandit dedicates 8,100 trees to megastar

Team Absolute | Mumbai

As Amitabh Bachchan turns 81, film producer Anand Pandit has partnered with an environmental organisation to create 'Amitabh Bachchan Grove' in celebration of the legend's birthday on October 11.

Pandit has dedicated 8,100 trees to mark the cine icon's 81st birthday on October 11. This tribute to the legendary actor has been ideated in synergy with environmental organisation GrowTrees.com and the trees will be planted in the Ramtek region of Maharashtra.

The green cover will be called the 'Amitabh Bachchan Grove' and will be integrated into the organisation's 'Trees for Tigers' project. An e-certificate with details of the project was also presented to Bachchan by Pandit, a close friend and fervent admirer of the actor.

The certificate reads: "Your towering presence has taught us how to stay rooted while reaching for the skies. Named after you, the Amitabh Bachchan Grove will contin-



ue to remind the world of your evergreen legacy."

As a tribute to the actor, a board has also been installed in the project area, located in the Nagpur district. It reads: "Like a tall, sheltering tree, he too has a towering presence, deep roots, and an evergreen vibrance. He demonstrates how to stay connected with the earth, celebrate various cycles of life, and reach out for the sky effortlessly."

"On the 81st birthday of this iconic superstar, veteran producer, and a dear friend of the legend himself, Anand

Pandit has planted this tree grove of over 8,100 trees. This gift, much like Mr Bachchan's legacy, will remain eternal and timeless."

Pandit said that the grove consists of indigenous species and will be carefully nurtured in collaboration with local communities.

"Amit Ji's life's work has touched millions and now the 'Amitabh Bachchan Grove' will help nourish biodiversity and provide shelter to tigers; a precious species that is struggling for survival," he concluded.

# Man arrested for molesting co-passenger on Pune-Nagpur Flight

Nagpur | Agencies

Maharashtra police have arrested an accused for molesting a female passenger in the plane during the journey from Pune to Nagpur on Monday.

According to the Police, the accused molested a 40-year-old woman while landing and has been identified as Firoz Sheikh Noor Mohammad Sheikh (32). He is a resident of Durrani Complex, Mithanagar, Kondhwa. Sheikh is an engineer who is set to be married next month. He was travelling to an industrial water plant at Koradi, near Nagpur, for work.

Nagpur police said, "A 40-year-old woman was sitting next to him. While the plane was landing at Nagpur airport, Firoz first looked at the woman, made obscene gestures and then sexually assaulted her. The woman first informed the flight staff about this and land-



ing at the airport, she filed a complaint at the Sonegaon police station. The police have registered a case of outraging a woman's modesty (Section 354 of the IPC), sexual harassment (354A), and insult (509). He was taken into jail custody on Tuesday."

# After NIA 'knocks', targeted activist complains to Mumbai Police of 'harassment'

HOURS AFTER THE NATIONAL INVESTIGATION AGENCY (NIA) RAIDED MULTIPLE LOCATIONS IN MUMBAI AND THANE, AN ACTIVIST NAMED ABDUL WAHID SHAIKH COMPLAINED TO THE MUMBAI POLICE ALLEGING 'HARASSMENT' BY THE SLEUTHS OF THE CENTRAL AGENCY, HERE ON WEDNESDAY.

Mumbai | Agencies

The NIA's pan-India raids - in connection with the action against the outlawed Popular Front of India (PFI) - included Shaikh's residence at Vikhroli suburb in Mumbai, where a team landed in a pre-dawn operation. Arrested in connection with the July 2006 serial



bomb blasts in Mumbai suburban trains which claimed the lives of 209 commuters, Shaikh was

acquitted in 2015 after spending over nine years in custody. The human and prisoners' rights activist has claimed several times that despite the acquittal, state or central probe agencies continue to harass him. At around 5.30 a.m. on Wednesday morning, high drama was witnessed near Shaikh's home as he did not open the door for the NIA sleuths, but after they identified themselves as 'police', he asked them to come later.

"Some people claiming to be police came to my house at 5 a.m. They did not give any notice nor did they identify themselves. They broke one door and destroyed a (CCTV) camera. My wife and kids are unwell and we are all trapped at home, I have not opened the door for over three hours," he said in a video post uploaded later. Shaikh said that he has complained to the local police station, the Mumbai Police Commissioner and also the media even as a huge police posse was posted outside his home.

Since Wednesday morning, the NIA swooped on multiple locations in several states including Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh as part of the anti-PFI probe, and reached to search Shaikh's home in Mumbai and other locations in Thane.

# Western Railway to run superfast special train for India vs Pakistan cricket match

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Western Railway on Wednesday said that it will run a superfast special train on a special fare for the upcoming India vs Pakistan cricket match in Ahmedabad.

According to the Western Railway, with a view to clear the extra rush of cricket fans attending the India - Pakistan Cricket Match at Ahmedabad, Western Railway will run one pair of superfast special train on special fare between Mumbai Central and Ahmedabad.

A press release issued by Sumit Thakur - Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway shared the details of the special train are as under: Train No. 09013 / 09014



Mumbai Central - Ahmedabad Superfast Special Train No. 09013 Mumbai Central - Ahmedabad Special will depart from Mumbai Central at 21.30 hrs, on Friday, 13th

October, 2023 and will reach Ahmedabad at 05.30 hrs, the next day. Similarly, in return direction Train No. 09014 Ahmedabad - Mumbai Central Special will depart from

Ahmedabad at 04.00 hrs, on Sunday, 15th October, 2023 and will arrive Mumbai Central at 12.10 hrs, the same day, the Western Railway said.

Enroute this train will halt at Dadar, Borivali, Palghar, Vapi, Valsad, Navsari, Surat and Vadodara Jn. stations in both directions, the Western Railway said. This train comprises of AC 2 - Tier, AC 3 - Tier, Sleeper Class and General Second class coaches.

The booking for Train No. 09013 and 09014 will open from 12th October, 2023 at all PRS Counters and on IRCTC website. The above train will run as special train on special fare. For detailed information regarding timings of halts and composition, passengers may please visit www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in, the Western Railway said.

# Gang of 6 arrested for abducting and selling babies in Mumbai

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A gang which allegedly sold babies to needy couples has been busted with the arrest of five persons from Mumbai and one from Nashik, police said.

Last month, the gang allegedly kidnapped a two-year-old girl from Malad in Mumbai, took her to Malvani and later Nashik where they wanted to sell her for ₹ 2 lakh, an official from Kurar police station here said on Tuesday.

As the deal fell through, they returned to Mumbai and left the girl at Dadar railway station, he said.

While police reunited the girl with her family, that lived under a bridge, nine teams were formed to catch the accused, he said.

The arrested accused have been identified as Irfan Khan (26), Salauddin Sayyed (23), Adil Khan (19), Taukeer Sayyed (26), Raza Sheikh, all nabbed from Mumbai, and Samadhan Jagtap, arrested from Nashik.



They have been booked under Indian Penal Code sections 363 (kidnapping), 370 (trafficking of person) and 34 (common intention) and further investigation is underway, the official said.

# Mumbai-bound lane of Mumbai-Pune Expressway to remain shut for 1 hour for gantry erection

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Mumbai-bound lane of Mumbai-Pune Expressway will be temporarily closed on

October 12 for an hour to facilitate the erection of gantries (height barriers). According to a report in PTI, the closure is scheduled at 12 pm and it shall remain closed until 1 pm.

Reportedly, the erection of gantries is a part of the highway management system upgrade. The gantries will be erected at Deku village, Aadoshi tunnel and Amrutnjan Bridge. This project falls under the supervision of the Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation (MSRDC).

The Mumbai-Pune Expressway spans approximately 95 kilometres and stands as India's first access-controlled six-lane expressway. A similar two-hour lane closure was conducted the



day before on the Pune-bound side of the expressway to install overhead gantries at Amrutnjan Bridge and Khandala tunnel. The corridor was closed to traffic on Tuesday between 12 pm and 2 pm. The Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation officials had earlier reasoned that they chose the two-hour period since the traffic is sparse during noons and that a weekday had relatively lower volume than on the weekends.

Reportedly, the state highway police officials had said that vehicles on the corridor would be stopped at a place prior to the Amrutnjan Bridge and Khandala tunnel where the construction was carried out.

# Hit streets if Manipur-like incident happens: Sharad Pawar tells NCP's women wing

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) president Sharad Pawar on Wednesday said members of the women's wing of the party should take to the streets if a Manipur-like instance happens without worrying about the registration of cases against them, reported news agency.

Addressing members of the NCP women's wing, Sharad Pawar said the decision taken by his government earlier to allow a share for women in the ancestral property has not been implemented properly.

"We have an example of Manipur where women were paraded, faced personal attacks, and killed. If anything happens like this, NCP's women's wing should hit the streets. They will file cases against you but that should not bother you," the former



Union minister said. Sharad Pawar said the decision granting women a share in the ancestral property has not been implemented the way it should have been. "When we were in power, the 7/12 (land) document of farmers would have the names of the two (son as well as daughter). We implemented it in some places, but it has

not happened 100 per cent. We have to undertake this work and urge the government," he said.

This decision was taken by Pawar when he was the chief minister between 1993 and 1995. Sharad Pawar said when he was Defence Minister, he took a decision to give 11 per cent reservation to women in three wings of the

armed forces despite reluctance by the military.

Targeting the Shiv Sena-BJP-NCP (Ajit Pawar) government, Sharad Pawar said more than 19,000 women were reported missing in the state between January and May. A question in this regard was raised by Maharashtra's former home minister and Sharad Pawar's loyalist Anil Deshmukh during the monsoon session of the state legislature, Sharad Pawar also said government jobs are available but vacancies are not being filled.

"The government aims to hire workforce through contracts which will deprive poor people who are eligible for employment under quota," he added.

Sharad Pawar also slammed the government's policy of allowing private companies to adopt state-run schools.

# SC Collegium recommends elevation of three judicial officers as Bombay HC judges

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court Collegium, headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, has recommended the appointment of three judicial officers as Bombay High Court Judges.

The recommendation for appointment of judicial officers Abhay Jainarayanji Mantri, Shyam Chhaganlal Chandak, and Neeraj Pradeep Dhote as HC judges was made on June 27 this year by the Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court in consultation with his two senior-most colleagues.

"The Chief Ministers and the Governors of the States of Maharashtra and Goa have concurred with the recommendation," read the statement uploaded on the website of the apex court on Wednesday. The SC Collegium said that it has consulted "colleagues" conversant with the affairs of the



High Court of Bombay to ascertain the fitness and suitability of these judicial officers for elevation. It said that having regard to the fact that the High Court Collegium and the consultee-judges have found these judicial officers fit and suitable and inputs placed in the file do not contain any observation adverse to their integrity or reputation, the Collegium recommended for their appointment as a judge of the High Court of Bombay. It noted that two of these officers were previously overlooked for appointment as judges of the High Court as per the opinion rendered by one of the consultee-judges.

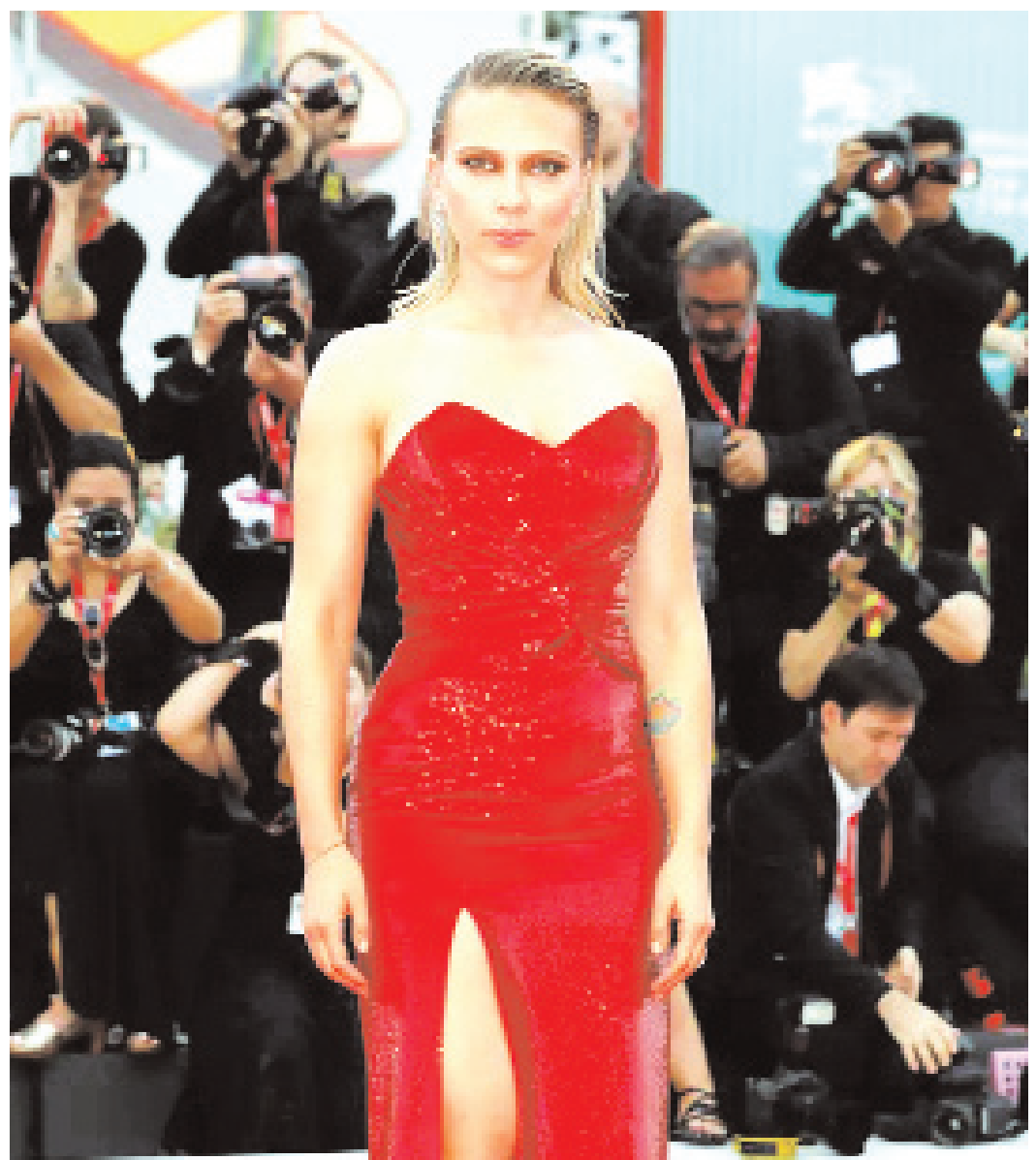


### Olivia Rodrigo shares her secret to coping with grueling schedule while on tour

Los Angeles | Agencies

Olivia Rodrigo sometimes sleeps for "14 hours" a night when she's on tour. The 20-year-old singer booked 77 shows for her Guts World Tour and Rodrigo has revealed how she'll cope with her gruelling schedule. "I sleep so much when I'm on tour, it's kind of crazy. There were some nights where I was just so exhausted from playing a show that I would sleep for 14 hours." "Eating healthy is important and also having people that you really love come on the road with you helps a lot - people who can replenish your energy and nurture you," the chart-topping star - who embarked on her Sour Tour in 2022 - told PEOPLE, reports aceshowbiz.com.

Rodrigo is keen to surround herself with her friends and family - including her mom and her best friend - while she's on tour. The singer - who released 'Guts', her latest album, in September, shared: "I brought my mom along last time and my best friend came along for a lot of the dates, so that was really helpful." It's nice to have a little piece of home with you wherever you go, because the people are what's really important."



### Scarlett Johansson opens up about 'painful memories' from her younger years

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Scarlett Johansson opens up about her struggle with skin issues when she was in her late teens and suffered from "painful memories" when recently looking at old pictures of herself. "I struggled with acne back then was probably 19 or 20, just showed me photos of myself at a family thing when I was probably 19 or 20, and my skin quality is completely different," she told Stylist, reports aceshowbiz.com. "When I saw that photo it just, you know, it brought everything back. All those painful memories. I just struggled with my skin for such a long time. I used to wear concealer to work in the morning, even though somebody was about to put make-up on my face." "But that was when I was younger and the messaging around acne back then was that your skin was grimy and dirty, and you'd get rid of the blemishes by washing it. It was all so negative - and also incorrect. At that point, I was using every product I was prescribed and that I saw in the media." The 'Black Widow' star has now launched skincare brand The Outset and explained that all of her friends were excited to hear about her new venture because they thought it was something she should have done years ago.

### Marilyn Manson to get his documentary series

Los Angeles | Agencies

The iconic shock-rocker and industrial metal artist Marilyn Manson, who is best known for his scary antics, appearance, and dark music videos, is now set to get his own documentary series titled 'Marilyn Manson: Behind The Mask'. The series comes after Manson, whose real name is Brian Warner, received a whole series of accusations related to sexual harassment and molestation in recent years. 'Westworld' actress Evan Rachel Wood accused the 'Beautiful People' hitmaker of sexual and physical violence, which later became part of a two-part documentary series called 'Phoenix Rising'. Subsequently, 'Game of Thrones' star Esme Bianco has also accused the 'This is the Sound' singer of sexual assault and sexual battery. This is only a few among the numerous allegations by various other women, all of whom have filed civil lawsuits against him as per Deadline. Due to these allegations, Marilyn Manson was dropped by his record label Loma Vista and also got axed from serials such as 'Starz's American Gods' and 'Shudder's Creepshow'. It was later reported by Deadline that these allegations among a plethora of accusations led to a police raid, and a criminal investigation. There have been no criminal charges but civil cases are still pending. Long before these accusations, Manson revelled in his place as one of the most controversial figures in music since the infamous punk rocker G.G. Allin, breaking out with the band's debut 'Portrait of an American Family', featuring songs such as 'Cake and Sodomy', before becoming a star with 'Antichrist Superstar' and its hit 'The Beautiful People'. The documentary series will examine the accusations and his ability to court controversy, while exploring how high-profile sexual assault allegations play out in the current #MeToo era. It will feature interviews with several of the accusers, fans, industry insiders, lawyers, a former band mate (there's been a few) and his childhood best friend.



### Gigi Hadid condemns 'terrorising innocent people' after Hamas attacks

Los Angeles | Agencies

Supermodel Gigi Hadid has weighed in on the recent attacks by Palestinian militant group Hamas on Israel. The supermodel, who is of Palestinian descent, took to her Instagram account to comment on the matter, stressing that she takes the side of innocent people. In her statement, Gigi shared that her thoughts and condolences are with all those who have been affected by the "unjustified tragedy", reports aceshowbiz.com. She continued: "I have deep empathy and heartbreak for the Palestinian struggle and life under occupation; it's a responsibility I hold daily. I also feel a responsibility to my Jewish friends to make it clear, as I have before: While I have hopes and dreams for Palestinians, none of them include the harm of a Jewish person." The 28-year-old model went on condemning Hamas' attacks, saying: "The terrorising of innocent people is not in alignment with and does not do any good for the 'Free Palestine' movement." She added: "The idea that it does has fueled a painful, decades-long cycle of back-and-forth retaliation (which no innocent civilian, Palestinian or Israeli, deserves to be a casualty of) and helps perpetuate the false idea that being pro-Palestine = antisemitic." Gigi additionally sent her condolences "with my loved ones, both Palestinian and Jewish, I'm sending you my love and strength, whoever and wherever you are."

## Jonas Brothers belt out classic Eagles track with their dad on stage

Los Angeles | Agencies

The popstars Jonas Brothers whilst performing, unexpectedly ended up bringing their dad on stage to join them. The three brothers along with their dad Kevin Jonas Sr as a conclusion to their Nashville gig, belted out the classic Eagles track 'Desperado'. The concert was part of their massive tour that kicked off in August in support of their latest project titled 'The Album'. The concert video which went viral on social media, saw Nick Jonas prefacing his father's surprise arrival and gave a heartfelt description of him to the pumped crowd, as per People magazine. Taking the mic, Nick said: "This man is somebody who literally had at least 50 per cent to do with us being here tonight. Please welcome Kevin Jonas Sr!" Their father had also previously joined the band onstage to perform the Eagles classic

during a concert in Las Vegas back in 2022. The band's current tour list includes music from their entire catalogue, which Nick Jonas in an early interview had called their most 'ambitious record'. Talking to People, the rocker said: "It's our most ambitious show we've ever put on, in the sense that building out five albums in one night was a challenge that I don't think we fully understood after we'd already put it on sale. But it's amazing to just go back and look at the road that brought us to this moment now." Previously, Kevin Jonas had also elaborated on the role his family has played in the group's career, saying that "they're our big support, and we couldn't be here without them." "And I'm there to support them and everything they do, and special moments like this when the family could be together," he added.



Lily Moss





## Men's ODI World Cup

# INDIA BEAT AFGHANISTAN BY 8 WICKETS IN RECORD-BREAKING CENTURY BY ROHIT SHARMA

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Indian captain Rohit Sharma slammed a record-seventh century in an ODI World Cup as India defeated Afghanistan by eight wickets and 90 balls to spare in match no. 9 of the ICC World Cup 2023 at the Arun Jaitley Stadium, here on Wednesday. Rohit scored 131 after Jasprit Bumrah's spell of 4/39 limited Afghans to 271/8 despite a fighting 80 by skipper Hasmatullah Shahidi.

The firework-filled innings saw records galore by Rohit Sharma, who became the joint-fastest to 1000 runs in a World Cup (tied with David Warner at 19 innings each), surpassing Chris Gayle's record of most sixes (553), most centuries in a 50-over World Cup (7) and the fastest century by an Indian at the World Cup (63 balls) -- in that order -- during the course of his 31st ODI century.

Chasing the target, Rohit Sharma unleashed himself on the Afghan bowling line-up from the third over, when he clipped Fazalqah Farooqi for a boundary through the square leg region. Faroozi faced the wrath of Rohit in his next two overs as the Indian opener shot him for two sixes and four boundaries while India crossed the 50-run mark by the beginning of the seventh over.

Ishan Kishan was a mere spectator at the other end as Sharma reached his half-century with a single in the next over. There was never any respite on



the offer for the Afghan bowlers in the powerplay as India reached 94/0 by the end of the 10th over. The Indian captain was not out on 77 in just 43 deliveries. Rohit appeared to drop his intensity a bit after the first powerplay but soon wreaked havoc at spinner Mujeeb Ur Rahman, who was taken to the cleaners in the 14th over with three boundaries. The skipper soon entered the 90s and brought up his century in the 18th over while India crossed the 150-run mark with Kishan also closing on his maiden World Cup half-century.

Kishan, however, couldn't realise the mark on the day as he fell at 47 in a soft dismissal to Rashid Khan, who ended the 156-run stand in the 19th

over. The wicket was also a reminder that Afghanistan skipper Hasmatullah Shahidi missed an important trick in his book by not introducing his best bowler to the game early in the powerplay.

Rohit continued his onslaught with Virat Kohli as the duo added a further 49 runs for the second wicket to take India past 200 runs. The skipper's innings came to a fold at 131 runs off 84 balls (15 fours and five sixes) with Rashid Khan casting the batter in the 26th over. The damage, however, was already done as by the time Rohit went back to the pavilion, India needed mere 67 runs with 24 overs yet to be bowled. Former captain Virat Kohli and middle-order batter Shreyas Iyer no further harm came India's way as the duo added unbeaten 68 runs for the fourth wicket while India chased down 273 with eight wickets and 90 balls to spare.

Virat Kohli made his stay at the crease worth his while too with his 68th half-century as he scored 55\* off 56 balls while Shreyas Iyer held the other end at 25 not out. Earlier, Afghanistan managed to put 272/8 on the board after opting to bat first. Hasmatullah Shahidi (80) and Azmatullah Omarzai (62) added 121-run for the fourth wicket to lay the foundation for a big total before Jasprit Bumrah bowled 4/39 to take the momentum away from the Afghans. This was also the best bowling spell by the pacer in a 50-over World Cup.

## Virat Kohli surpasses Sachin Tendulkar to hit most runs ODI & T20 World Cup



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Virat Kohli breaks Sachin Tendulkar's record to hit the most runs in ICC World Cups (50-over and T20Is) during the World Cup 2023 match against Afghanistan on Wednesday. Batting in his

53rd World Cup innings, Kohli crossed Tendulkar's haul of 2278 runs with an aggregate average of more than 60. In his 28 ODI World Cup innings, with an average of 50.60, Kohli has scored 1164 runs with two Hundreds and 7 Fifties. Kohli is the

third-highest Indian run-getter in ODI World Cups, behind Sachin Tendulkar and Sourav Ganguly. Kohli has featured in five T20 World Cups and leads the batting charts with 1141 runs in 25 innings with 14 fifties and an average of 81.50.

## Hurkacz edges Zhang to reach Shanghai Masters quarterfinals

Shanghai | Agencies

Hubert Hurkacz defeated the home favourite Zhang Zhizhen 7-6(6), 4-6, 7-6(4) to make his way to the quarterfinals of the Shanghai Masters. Hurkacz next faces Hungarian Fabian Marozsan, who cruised with a 7-6(3), 3-6, 6-4 victory over the eighth seed Casper Ruud.

"It's never easy to finish the match. He's a Top 10 player and I tried my best. I tried to serve every forehand, maybe sometimes it was a little bit risky. I'm very happy to win the match," said Marozsan.

Sebastian Korda of the United States progressed into the quarterfinal with a 7-5, 7-6(6) victory over Francisco



Cerundolo of Argentina.

"I'm just super happy with the way I played in the tiebreak. I stayed calm when he was a couple of mini-breaks up and I'm just happy with how I played overall," Korda noted.

Korda will meet his compatriot Ben Shelton in the final eight.

Shelton celebrated his 21-year-old birthday by rallying past the sixth seed Jannik Sinner of Italy 2-6, 6-3, 7-6(5) to make his first quarterfinal appearance at a Masters 1000 event.

"I can obviously take a lot of confidence from that match, and belief. I think my toughness level and how resilient I was able to be on the court, I surprised myself a little bit," said Shelton.

## Two Indian javelin throwers will join 90m club in future: Neeraj Chopra

Team Absolute | New Delhi

World and Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra on Wednesday said domestic competition in javelin throw will be more exciting in future.

The 25-year old Indian star javelin thrower categorically pointed towards Odisha's rising javelin thrower and Asian Games silver medalist Kishore Kumar Jena.

"In future I see two Indian javelin throwers joining the 90m club," Chopra said on the sidelines of a felicitation ceremony of the Athletics Federation of India (AFI).

Chopra started his season with Doha Diamond League but pulled his groin and had to skip a couple of international events. However, he recovered from the niggle and bounced back to win gold at the 2023 World Athletics Championships held in Hungary and successfully defended his title at the Asian Games.

Chopra revealed that Jena's performance during the just concluded 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou acted as a catalyst to rekindle his energy.

"It was a healthy rivalry between me and Jena during the medal round in the men's javelin throw in Hangzhou," Chopra added.

While Chopra won the gold with a throw of 88.88m, Jena settled for silver with a throw of 87.54m.

But at one juncture of the javelin competition in Hangzhou, Jena took the pole position with a throw of 86.77m. While Chopra was trailing at second spot with a throw of 84.49m.

The lead was temporary as Chopra dug deep into his reservoir to hurl the spear to a distance of 88.88m to win gold. Jena's best throw of 87.54m



fetches him silver. At the 19th Asian Games, Indian athletics contingent won 29 medals, six of them gold, 14 silver and nine bronze. Adille Sumariwalla, president, AFI said the Indian squad could have enhanced the gold medal tally in Hangzhou but didn't capitalize on the chances. "I will say it was a bad miss in middle distance events and women's 4x400m relay at the Asian Games," Sumariwalla added.

Sumariwalla, who is one of the vice presidents at the World Athletics said the Indian athletes also gave a good account of their performance at the Budapest World Athletics Championship held between August 19

to 27. "While Neeraj Chopra was crowned world champion, Jena and Manu DP were in top six, which suggest the growing stature of Indian javelin throwers at the global stage," Sumariwalla added.

Besides the javelin throw, the men's 4x400m relay team was impressive and shattered the Asian record during heats at the World Athletics Championships. The national team eventually finished fifth in the final and clocked 2:59.92 seconds. "The outstanding performance in a packed 2023 season was a big boost to the confidence of the Indian athletes ahead of the 2024 Paris Olympic Games," Sumariwalla added.

## Japan's Sapporo confirms abandoning bid for 2030 Winter Olympics

Tokyo | Agencies

The northern Japanese city of Sapporo on Wednesday confirmed its withdrawal from the bid to host the 2030 Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games. The announcement was made by the Japanese Olympic Committee (JOC) and the city of Sapporo at a joint press conference held in Tokyo, which was attended by both JOC President Yasuhiro Yamashita and Sapporo Mayor Kazuhiro Akimoto. They confirmed



that the city will withdraw from the bidding and seek to host the event in 2034 or later. Sapporo, which in 2014

announced its bid for the 2030 Games, is facing sluggish support and growing public distrust over the bribery and bid-rigging scandals connected to the Tokyo Summer Olympics in 2021.

Having hosted the Games in 1972, Sapporo was once considered the front-runner to host the Winter Olympics for a second time. But the International Olympic Committee appears to have shifted its focus to other candidates after the scandals linked to the Tokyo Olympics, said local media.

## New York Strikers solidify their squad by picking Kusal Perera, Mohammad Haris at Abu Dhabi T10 player draft

Abu Dhabi | Agencies

Abu Dhabi T10 franchise New York Strikers have built a formidable squad for the seventh edition of the tournament through the Player Draft, with 11 out of the 17 player slots to fill, they've made strategic moves to bolster their team.

Before the Player Draft even commenced, the New York Strikers had already made significant additions to their roster. They retained former Windies captain Keiron Pollard as their Icon Player.

Joining Pollard are compatriot Sunil Narine (Platinum), former Pakistan captain Shoaib Malik (Asian Super Star), and the fiery left-arm pacer Mohammad Amir (Cat A), all of whom promise to be valuable assets to the team. Additionally, the team decided to retain Trinidadian spinner Akeal Hosein and UAE batter Muhammad Waseem, further strengthening their lineup.

Heading into the 2023 edition of the Abu Dhabi T10, the New York Strikers have chosen to retain Carl Crowe as their head coach, a seasoned mentor who previously led the Deccan Gladiators to victory in the 2021 edition of the tournament.

Crowe's coaching expertise extends to various cricket franchises globally, including his stint with the Kolkata Knight Riders in the IPL. He will be assisted by former South Africa all-rounder Albie Morkel, who will continue to serve as the team's bowling coach, adding a wealth of experience and knowledge to the coaching staff.

Notably, the New York Strikers made some strategic selections in the draft, bringing on board a blend of international talent and emerging prospects. From Sri Lanka, they secured the services of four promising players - Lahiru Kumara (Cat C), Chamika Karunaratne (Cat C),

Kusal Perera (Cat C), along with young Lasith Croospulle (Emerging), who is a top-order batter.

Adding to their firepower, they acquired the explosive Afghan batter Rahmanullah Gurbaz (Cat A), and the hard-hitting Pakistani sensation Mohammad Haris (Cat B).

Furthermore, the team expanded its Caribbean influence by recruiting Odean Smith (Cat B), and also made some noteworthy selections from other regions, including Muhammad Jawadullah (UAE-RES), Chundangapoyil Rizwan (UAE-RES), Will Jacks (Opt 1) from England, and Ali Khan (Opt 2) from USA. This diverse and talented roster sets the stage for an exciting season ahead for the New York Strikers.

After the successful completion of the players draft, head coach Crowe expressed his enthusiasm, saying, "We got the players we were looking for. We are excited and eagerly anticipating the upcoming season and have full confidence in our squad's ability to leave a significant mark in the tournament, much like we did in the previous season. While we fell short of clinching the trophy last time, it serves as motivation for us to identify and enhance the areas where we can improve. This season, our sole aim is nothing less than claiming the prestigious title."

Interestingly, the New York Strikers played their maiden season of Abu Dhabi T10 last year and finished as runners-up. The team will target to go all the way this year.

With a strong squad, experienced coaching staff, and enthusiastic leadership, the New York Strikers are poised for an exciting season in the Abu Dhabi T10, which will commence on 28th November and go on till 9th December.

## Potentially adverse conditions a good opportunity for Blue Tigers, says Sunil Chhetri

Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) | Agencies

The Blue Tigers are eager to utilise the unique opportunity of playing in an 87,000-seater arena as an away team, as they gear up for their match against Malaysia in the Pestabola Merdeka 2023.

India, who are placed 102 in the FIFA Rankings, will take on hosts Malaysia, ranked 134, on Friday, October 13, 2023, at the Bukit Jalil Stadium in Kuala Lumpur, at 6.30 pm IST.

Chhetri, who joined the national team on Tuesday night, said, "It feels good to be back in the national team after winning the Intercontinental Cup and SAFF Championship. It will be different here, we are playing away from home, and we've heard of the hostile reception we could get on matchday.

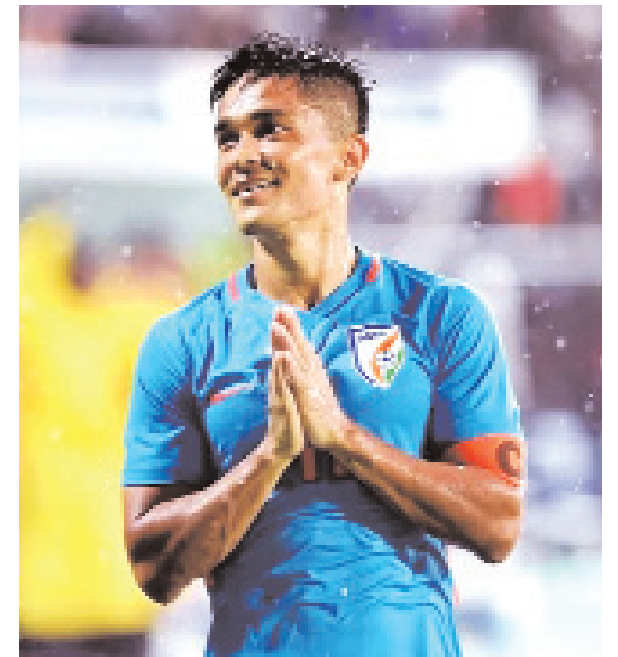
"But it's not common for us to get to play such matches away from home, and this will be a very good opportunity for us to better our away record. It's a good test, and we are all looking forward to it," he said.

The 39-year-old mercurial striker is aware of the history and weight that the name Merdeka carries, but is solely focused on the road ahead.

"I know our past teams have done well in the Merdeka, and the more recent ones have not done as well. It's an extremely important tournament for Malaysia, but we are only thinking about our first game right now. We need to focus on it and win the game, before thinking about other things," he said.

Malaysia is well known for its Indian diaspora, with around two million persons of Indian origin residing in the country. Chhetri hopes that out of the packed 87,000 fans at the Bukit Jalil, a sizeable number would be rooting for the Blue Tigers.

"I've heard it would be a jam-packed stadium when we play, but I hope a few Indian fans are also there. Being Indians, we tend to get fans wherever we travel, so I hope all the Indian



fans, whoever can afford the tickets, can make it to support us against Malaysia," said Chhetri.

The Blue Tigers travelled to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on Monday, October 9, 2023, with a squad of 21 players, while defender Sandesh Jhingan and striker and captain Sunil Chhetri joined the team on Tuesday, October 10, 2023.



## Amitabh Bachchan rings in 81st b'day at midnight with fans outside Jalsa



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Fans gathered in large numbers in front of his home Jalsa in Juhu here at midnight to ring in megastar Amitabh Bachchan's 81st birthday on Wednesday. Big B lovingly calls his fans his extended family, and came out and celebrated his birthday with them.

A video shared by celebrity paparazzi Viral Bhayani, shows that Amitabh stepped outside barefoot and stood at

the podium, which he religiously does to greet his fans on Sunday.

In the clip, he is seen with folded hands, thanking fans for their wishes. He then waved to his fans with a bright smile. The thespian was dressed in powder pink and mint-coloured printed jacket. He paired it with a pair of grey track pants. He also wore a colorful bandana cap and wore eyeglasses.

To celebrate the cine icon's birthday, fans were seen wearing t-shirts with his

photo, holding banners of iconic characters and dressed in costumes of the roles he has portrayed.

On the work front, Big B will be seen next in 'Ganapath', helmed by Vikas Bahl. The film also stars Tiger Shroff and Kriti Sanon in lead roles.

He will also be seen in 'Kalki 2898 AD', starring Prabhas, Deepika Padukone, and Kamal Haasan. Amitabh will also feature in Rajanikanth-starrer 'Thalaivar 170'.

## ADAH SHARMA SAYS SHE GOES BY INSTINCT TO SELECT HER ROLES

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Adah Sharma, who has garnered great success with her film 'The Kerala Story', was most recently seen in the feature film 'Kofuku', a simple but emotional short movie. Talking about how she picks her roles, Adah said that she just goes by instinct and will do so in the future as well.

Elaborating on this as well as her future plans, she said: "I trust my instincts while choosing scripts and that is something that will always continue, may it be before, during or after the success of 'The Kerala Story'. I am very proud of all the works I have been a part of and it has never changed. I would like to."

Detailing her journey from her debut to the present, she said that she was initially always touted for horror movies after her debut, though 'The Kerala Story' changed all that, allowing her to diversify.

She said: "My debut film was in the horror genre, and after that, I kept getting horror roles. However, after 'Kerala Story', I started receiving different types of roles, and I'm happy that filmmakers can see my potential. For example, my next upcoming project will be completely different from my role in 'Kerala Story'."

'Kofuku' is based on the story of two different yet similar individuals who are finding comfort in the company of each other whilst learning a new perspective of life.

Actor Jatin Sarna who co-stars in the short film with the 'Kshanam' actress, speaking about the actress called her an inspiration. Detailing his point, he said: "Adah is truly an inspiration. I watch Adah's videos, and sometimes I'm left in awe watching her excel in martial arts."



He added: "When she effortlessly wields a stick and twirls it around... I can't help but wonder when I'll be able to achieve such action-packed feats in my own life. She serves as an inspiration and propels me toward positivity in this way."

## 'I would love to do roles which have shades of grey,' says Varun Sharma

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Known for his innocent smile and for portraying the endearing character of Choocha, actor Varun Sharma said that he would love to play grey shades.

In a conversation with IANS, Varun said: "I would love to do roles which have shades of grey. Interestingly, before Fukrey, when I used to do theatre, I had never attempted comedy. I used to always do Anton Chekhov's plays and others like Andha Yug and Ashwathama."

Varun, who made his debut a decade back in 2013 with 'Fukrey', shared that he attempted serious and dramatic roles during his theatre journey.

"My entire theatre journey was about playing serious and dramatic roles. I never thought that I could attempt comedy. Fukrey was my first outing and then with the grace of God, it became my forte."

But he loves to make people smile and hence, loves starring in comedies.

"It became the genre that I started doing more films in because I absolutely love doing comedies. I love the genre. I love to make people smile. I love to make people laugh." However, he wants to explore.

"But having said that, I am also on the lookout for an interesting script that helps me showcase other aspects of me as an actor. But, I will also continue to do films in the genre of comedy as I love doing them."



## Aparshakti's turning point of life: Shifting from Delhi High Court to radio station

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor Aparshakti Khurana, who is known for 'Dangal', 'Stree', 'Luka Chuppi', 'Badrinath Ki Dulhania' and the more recent 'Jubilee', has shared what he considers a turning point in his life. The actor is set to be seen in the second episode of the reality cooking show 'Star Vs Food Survival', where he joins celebrity chef Ranveer Brar on a heart-pounding adventure 14,000 feet above the sea level in the Spiti Valley. Over a 25-km trek filled with thrilling challenges and breathtaking vistas, the duo's camaraderie shines through, brimming with humour and brotherly affection. During the course of the episode, their conversation takes a deep dive into their personal journey, discussing how they navigated their careers.

Reflecting on his life's turning point, Aparshakti says, "Audiences feel 'Dangal' or 'Jubilee' is the turning point of my life. But honestly, the day I shifted from Delhi High Court to a radio station in Delhi. That was the turning point in my life. The work I was putting in didn't feel like work. I used to work 15-18 hour shifts without cribbing. I got my calling that day, that this is what I want to do in life."

The actor studied law for five years in Chandigarh. After that he landed his first job under senior lawyer Amarjit Singh Chandhok at the Delhi High Court and worked with him for three months before he got his calling.

Aparshakti also draws parallels between cooking and acting, highlighting that delicate balance is required in both crafts.

He says, "Cooking and acting are very similar to each other. Halka sa mirch masala idhar se udhar hua, halka sa emotion idhar se udhar hua, toh na swad bigad jaata hai (a small disproportion in spices or emotion can make it all go to waste)."



## Salman Khan gives a death stare in new poster

Team Absolute | Mumbai

This Diwali, Bollywood superstar Salman Khan is coming with his highly-anticipated third installment of the 'Tiger' franchise, 'Tiger 3'. On Wednesday, the poster of the superstar from the film was unveiled, and it has 'Swag' written all over.

The poster features Salman as a locked target of what seems to be the scope of a gun. The superstar stares into the scope with his head tilted down a little though his eyes are fixated at the sniper behind the scope. Behind him there are police cars.

The superstar also promised that the trailer of the film will be unveiled on October 16.

The actor can be seen sporting cargo pants, a leather jacket with a gun in his hand. His look is rounded up with the scarf which is his signature from the franchise.

Sharing the poster on his Instagram, Salman wrote in the caption: "Tiger aa raha hai. 16th October. #Tiger3Trailer Ready ho jao! #5DaysToTiger3Trailer #Tiger3 arriving in cinemas this Diwali. Releasing in Hindi, Tamil & Telugu."

Earlier, Katrina's poster from the film was unveiled on Tuesday. It features the actress hanging from a rope and wearing a leather body hugging suit as she fires an assault rifle.

'Tiger 3' has been produced by Aditya Chopra and has been directed by Maneesh Sharma. It releases during Diwali holiday this year.



Sonali Saigal