



# absolute india

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## Diwali firecrackers for only 3 hours, orders Bombay HC

# MAHA POLLUTION WARNING

- The Maharashtra government has urged people in 17 major cities, including Mumbai, to avoid ordinary outdoor activities like morning-evening walks on days with poor air quality index (AQI), officials said.
- The warning, issued in view of the unabated pollution levels in urban centres, has cautioned people against activities like walks, jogs, runs, physical exercises outdoors, opening windows during mornings or late evenings.
- In case people suffer from pollution-related problems like breathlessness, cough, chest pains or discomforts, giddiness, irritation in eyes, etc, consult their physician, and have also recommended the use of N95 face-masks.



make a choice now, either for a disease-free environment or burning fire-crackers to celebrate Diwali.

It urged the state government to take a decision

as it has become difficult even to walk on the footpaths with the entire city being affected by air pollution and "we cannot depend only on nature".

Besides the restrictions on firecrackers, the high court has ordered a temporary halt to movement of construction debris to and from construction sites in the city till Diwali. It further said that if the AQI does not improve by Friday, the court would consider even barring construction materials going in or out of sites.

The judges also ordered the implementation of the BrihanMumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC)'s recent measures under the Mumbai Air Pollution Mitigation Plan, like erection of metal sheets around construction sites, sprinklers to suppress dust, traffic norms and other regulations to control air pollution.

The court has said that the BMC Ward Officer concerned would be personally held responsible for any lapses and all the Municipal Commissioners of the MMR should not only supervise on the steps being taken but also identify the errant officers.

The court ordered forming a two-member committee comprising the Director of Public Health Services and Director, National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) to monitor and supervise daily on the actions taken by the MMR municipal corporation authorities.

## MORNING-EVENING WALK MAY BE INJURIOUS TO HEALTH

**Mumbai:** The state government has directed all districts in the state to prepare action plans to combat air pollution in their regions.

Besides Mumbai, 16 major cities in the state, would have designated surveillance sites to monitor acute cases of respiratory or coronary conditions reported in emergency wards and align the data with daily AQI readings. These statistics on air pollution related illnesses or deaths would be regularly reported and districts as well as municipal authorities will identify the hotspots in their jurisdictions based on the AQI levels vis-à-vis the local affected populations. This is the government's first major initiative towards battling the ill-effects of poor air quality that has been reported in many parts of the state, particularly cities like Mumbai, Thane, Pune, Nagpur, Aurangabad, Nashik, and others.



ABP-CVoter Survey

## High levels of anger against incumbent MLAs, governments

Team Absolute | New Delhi

An exclusive opinion poll conducted by CVoter for ABP News for the current round of the Assembly elections due in five states reveals high levels of dissatisfaction and anger both against sitting MLAs and the incumbent governments in all the five states.

While high levels of anger often lead to electoral losses for sitting MLAs as well as state governments, Assembly elections in the last few years suggest it is not always the case.

According to the survey, the voter anger against sitting MLAs seems to be the lowest in Mizoram with 22 per cent saying that they are angry and want to change the MLA.

The highest level of anger against MLAs is visible in Telangana where 53 per cent of the voters seem to have decided to change the MLA. The corresponding figures for the

other three states are: Chattisgarh (46.1 per cent), Rajasthan (46 per cent) and Madhya Pradesh (44.5 per cent).

It has been noticed in Assembly elections in recent times that ruling parties contain anti incumbency to a significant extent when sitting MLAs who are perceived to have not done good work in their constituencies are dropped from the candidates list.

Anger against ruling governments also seems to be quite high in most states.

The highest level of dissatisfaction at 57 per cent among votes is seen in Telangana.

The least level of dissatisfaction has been witnessed in Chattisgarh at 48.5 per cent which itself is a high percentage.

Dissatisfaction levels in other states are: Madhya Pradesh (55.4 per cent), Mizoram (50 per cent) and Rajasthan (49.2 per cent).

In all, members of CVoter interviewed about 63,000 registered voters across the five states.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In some significant directions, the Bombay High Court on Monday directed that during Diwali festival, firecrackers can be burst only between 7-10 p.m. in view of the heavy air pollution and poor AQI in the city.

A division bench of Chief Justice D.K. Upadhyaya and Justice Girish Kulkarni have asked all the municipal corporations in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region to adhere to the directives to immediately tackle the AQI problem.

The bench was hearing a suo motu PIL pertaining to the deteriorating air quality in Mumbai which has become a matter of huge concern in the past few weeks, and seeking remedial measures. The judges observed that there is a need to

## MP polls: Viral video shows Narendra Tomar's son discussing multi-crore transactions

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Alleged viral video showing Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar's son Devendra Singh Tomar discussing transactions of bribe money worth crores has sparked a political controversy in Madhya Pradesh, which goes to the polls on November 7.

In the video, Devendra could be seen talking on a video call with a man, seeking transfer of crores of rupees from an unidentified person. The conversation mentions five different accounts for the transactions.

The video purportedly showed Devendra engaging in a conversation over video call with a person regarding separate transactions of Rs 100 crore, Rs 18 crore and Rs 21 crore.

While the state police or the Election Commission (EC) are yet to make any official statement regarding the authenticity of the video, the opposition Congress has trained its guns on Narendra Singh Tomar and the ruling BJP.

Notably, the video has surfaced just two weeks before the Assembly elections, and senior BJP leader Narendra Tomar is contesting from his home turf Dhimini in Morena district.



The Congress has demanded Devendra's arrest and immediate action by the Election Commission, Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in the matter.

Meanwhile, after the video went viral, the Union minister's son has submitted a written complaint at a local police station in Morena, terming it as 'fake' and a conspiracy to tarnish the image of his father.

He has also sought removal of the video from social media and blocking of relevant URLs under the provisions of Information Technology (IT) Act.

## MUMBAI POLICE NAB THREE FOR LIVE-STREAMING PORN ACTS ON MOBILE APP

**Mumbai:** The Mumbai Police have busted a pornographic live-streaming racket through a mobile app and nabbed three, including two women, officials said on Monday.

The Versova police said they received a tip-off on the app called 'Pihu Official' which charged users between Rs 1,000-Rs 7000 to watch their live-sex shows streamed through the app.

After confirming the information, a police team swooped on a flat in the posh Four Bungalows area of Versova early on Sunday and nabbed the culprits. They are identified as the two women -- Tanish R. Kanojia, 20,

Tamanna A. Khan, 24, both of Andheri east, and Rudra N. Raut, 27, of Bhayander (Thane) who was allegedly accepting subscriptions from the viewers of the app. The police have also recovered the videos that were being shot at the residence of Kanojia, and in some, the accused trio were also the actors, with plans to telecast a major live sex show later this month. The trio was charged under the various sections of the IPC and IT Act, and the police are on the lookout for app creator, and investigating the number of subscribers, etc.

## Odd-even scheme in Delhi from Nov 13 to 20: Minister

Team Absolute | New Delhi

In bid to combat the worsening air quality in the national capital, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal chaired a high-level meeting on Monday, focusing on addressing the air pollution crisis, and decided on various measures, including launching the odd-even scheme next week.

Expressing his deep concern about the situation, Kejriwal and his cabinet colleagues, including Environment Minister Gopal Rai, Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot, Health Minister Saurabh Bhardwaj, and Education Minister Atishi, deliberated on key decisions to mitigate the issue.

Addressing the media on the government's strategy after the meeting, Rai said that the government has decided to implement the Odd-Even scheme from November 13 to 20, post-Diwali, in response to the anticipated surge in pollution levels.

Under this scheme, vehicles with licence plates ending in odd num-



bers (1, 3, 5, 7, and 9) will be allowed to operate on odd days, while vehicles with even-numbered plates (0, 2, 4, 6, and 8) will be permitted on even days.

"A comprehensive action plan, developed in collaboration with relevant departments, including Transport and Traffic Police, will be formulated during a meeting on Tuesday," he said.

"Furthermore, the government has extended the closure of schools for students in Classes 6, 7, 8, 9, and 11 grades until November 10, in addition to the existing closure of

schools up to Class 5. Notably, board exams for Classes 10 and 12 will proceed as scheduled," said Rai.

In response to concerns raised about the efficacy of pollution control efforts, Rai said that the Delhi government's continuous year-round commitment to reducing pollution through various long-term initiatives, such as the Summer and Winter Action Plans.

The Environment Minister further said that in Delhi, there is a complete ban on fireworks.

"Last time, despite the ban, fireworks were set off in various places. In this regard, the police have been instructed to keep their teams on alert, as Diwali is just a few days away. Additionally, there are World Cup matches, and Chhath Puja is also approaching."

The Environment Minister urged the BJP governments in Uttar Pradesh and Haryana to impose a ban on fireworks in their states as well and monitor the situation to prevent it from deteriorating further.

## We shall oppose Sanatana Dharma forever, ready to face legal action: Udhayanidhi Stalin

Chennai | Agencies

Stirring a huge controversy yet again, Tamil Nadu Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin on Monday reiterated his stand that the Sanatana Dharma should be opposed forever.

Youth Welfare and Sports Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin, the son of Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, was talking to reporters following the Madras High Court's rap for the state police over its inaction over his comments against Sanatana Dharma. "No individual has the right to promote divisive ideas or the abolition of any ideology," the court observed.

Udhayanidhi Stalin had compared Sanatana dharma to dengue and malaria, sparking off a row. "We have been speaking about Sanatana for several years. National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) is a recent issue. Sanatana Dharma issue dates back to hundreds of years. We shall oppose it forever," he said.



He maintained that he didn't say anything wrong. "What I said was right and will face legal consequences. I will not change my statement," he underlined.

Stalin had held rather than opposing Sanatana, it should be eradicated. "The Sanatana name is derived from Sanskrit, which is against social justice and equality, he said. "We can't oppose corona, dengue, and mosquitoes. We have to eradicate them and likewise Sanatana has to be eradicated," he stated.

## If India's economic growth normalises, corporate India will find it hard to continue its stellar sales and profit growth

- If India's economic growth normalises, corporate India will find it hard to continue its stellar sales and profit growth, the report said.
- India's real GDP has grown by 12 per cent on an absolute basis from December 2019 to June 2023, at a 33 per cent CAGR. The growth in nominal GDP and GST collections have been exceedingly healthy.
- This is in line with topline growth trends across the economy. All the headline numbers like tax collection, corporate sales, non-oil imports, transaction values and nominal wage increases have grown sharply after the Covid bust.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

India's economic growth momentum is normalising and core inflation is now at 4.6 per cent, which is typical of a disinflationary cycle, DSP Mutual Fund said in a report.

Take the case of corporate sales growth which has grown at a CAGR of 12 per cent since the December 2019 quarter. Corporate India during this period did massive costs savings and enjoyed low raw material costs, thereby witnessing tremendous profitability and EPS growth.

Corporate profits are driven by topline (sales) growth, margin expansions and investment efficiencies. All three are getting undone gradually.

"We have seen how inflation has been gradually declining globally and now the delayed impact of elevated interest rates is beginning to show up in consumer demand and growth," it said.

This is likely to take the shape of a decline in sales growth for corporates, not just in India, but globally. A decline in sales growth can exert negative pressure on a company's profitability by reducing its topline revenue, squeezing profit margins, and challenging its ability to capitalise on economies of scale.

"The edifice of a global equity rally post pandemic has been built on a strong earnings growth and a large valuation (PE



ratio) multiple expansion. A slower sales growth & high interest rate combination can lead to a de-rating across equity markets", the report said.

When small-caps delivered returns far above base rates (more than 35 per cent) over three years, the next seven-year forward returns were abysmal (less than 5 per cent CAGR). For mid-caps, it appears mixed with a period of sustained outperformance and muted returns. Small and mid-caps need to undergo price or time correction, or both to once again become attractive for investors, the report said.

## Rs 1,481 crore fake GST invoicing racket busted

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Directorate General of Goods and Services Tax Intelligence (DGGI), Meerut Zonal Unit, has busted a large-scale racket involving fake invoicing to the tune of a whopping Rs 1,481 crore, resulting in passing on of fraudulent input tax credit to the tune of Rs 275 crore.

As many as 102 fake firms were created to rake in the money through 1,000 front companies.

"Through meticulous data mining, the DGGI Meerut Zonal Unit has successfully dismantled a major syndicate operated by four masterminds," the Finance Ministry said on late on Monday evening.

One of them, working in a placement consultancy firm, was responsible for arranging PAN, Aadhaar, electricity bill, address proof, and other documents required for GST registration. To achieve this, the mastermind enticed candidates with modest financial perks



in exchange for surrendering their KYC documents which were used to carry out the fraud.

The operations were carried out through a secret office where crucial operational activities, such as invoice generation, e-way bill creation, GST returns filing, and maintaining sale-purchase ledgers of the fraudulent firms, took place. To aid in their operations, the syndicate recruited several assistants. The syndicate maintained connections with numerous middlemen who provided essential information for generating counterfeit invoices to benefit the ultimate beneficiaries. As the investigation unfolds, it has also revealed the involvement of bank officials in the establishment of bank accounts under the names of fictitious firms.



# DRAFT NATIONAL POLICY FOR SUPPLY, DISPOSAL OF SANITARY NAPKINS READY, CENTRE TELLS SC

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Centre on Monday informed the Supreme Court that a draft National Policy on menstrual hygiene for ensuring the supply and safe disposal of sanitary napkins in schools has been already formulated and is available in the public domain.

The bench comprising CJI DY Chandrachud, Justice JB Pardiwala, and Justice Manoj Misra heard a petition seeking directions to the Centre, the States, and the UTs to ensure menstrual hygiene for school-going girls by providing for sanitary napkins to girl children in class 6-12.

The plea also demanded separate toilets for girls in all government, government-aided schools, and residential schools.

The Centre has asked for four weeks time to get public opinions on the policy from the top court.

Senior Advocate Vibha Datta



Makhija, appearing for the petitioners, raised the issue of delay and told the court that necessary infrastructure funding had already been allocated to schools.

However, the Supreme Court, noting that the Union had already formulated a draft policy, granted Union the four weeks as requested to receive

public opinions on the scheme.

"We are informed that a draft policy is ready and it has been circulated to get views of all stakeholders and a final policy shall be ready in four weeks. We direct that the Union shall ensure a national model is in place to set up girls toilets across government-aided schools and residential schools and

the modalities are in place for the distribution of sanitary napkins. The court shall be apprised of the policy on the next date of hearing. Union shall consider practices of different states so that optimum supply of sanitary napkins are there for girl students in that age group," the CJI said.

Citing example of northeast states, the CJI directed the Centre to take into consideration practices of different states in order to ensure adequate supply of sanitary napkins and that modalities for distribution are favourable. The petitioners highlighted that the inadequate Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) options were a major barrier to education that lead to many girls dropping out of school due to lack of access to sanitation facilities and menstrual products.

The petitioners further asked for creating awareness around menstrual health and doing away with the taboo surrounding it.

# SC set to function at full strength as collegium recommends elevation of 3 HC CJs

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court Collegium on Monday recommended names of three High Court Chief Justices to be elevated as judges to the top court.

The three are the Chief Justice of Delhi High Court Satish Chandra Sharma, the Chief Justice of Rajasthan High Court Augustine George Masih, and the Chief Justice of Gauhati HC Sandeep Mehta.

When these proposals are cleared, the Supreme Court will function with a full strength of 34 judges.

Justice Sharma was appointed as a Judge of the Madhya Pradesh High Court on January 18, 2008. He was elevated as Chief Justice of the High Court of Telangana on October 11, 2021 and thereafter, transferred to High Court of Delhi on June 28, 2022. Justice Sharma has served as a judge of the High Court for more than 15 years and as Chief Justice of the High Court for more than 2 years.

Justice Masih was appointed as a Judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court on July 10, 2008. He was elevated as Chief Justice of the Rajasthan High Court on May 30, 2023. Justice Mehta was appointed as a judge of the Rajasthan High Court on May 30, 2011.



Having attained seniority in his parent High Court, he was elevated as Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court and is serving there since February 15, 2023. He has served as a High Court judge for more than 12 years.

# Govt launches sale of Atta under Bharat brand at Rs 27.50 per kg

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Piyush Goyal on Monday flagged off 100 mobile vans for sale of wheat flour (Atta) under 'Bharat' brand, from Kartavya Path, New Delhi.

The atta will be available at an MRP not exceeding Rs 27.50 per kg.

The launch of retail sale of 'Bharat' brand Atta will increase supplies in the market at affordable rates, and will help in continued moderation of prices of this important food item, official sources said. 'Bharat' Atta will be available at all physical and mobile outlets of Kendriya Bhandar, NAFED and NCCF from Monday (November 6) and will be expanded to other co-operative and retail outlets.

Around 2.5 lakh metric



tonnes of wheat at Rs 21.50 per kg has been allocated for semi-government and cooperative organisations i.e. Kendriya Bhandar, NCCF and NAFED under open market sale scheme (OMSS (D)) for converting to atta and offer it for sale to the public under 'Bharat Atta' brand at an MRP not exceeding Rs 27.50 per kg.

Speaking on the occasion,

Goyal said that Centre's intervention has stabilised price of essential commodities.

He said that various measures were taken in the past with regard to tomato and onion to cool off prices.

In addition, the Centre is also providing Bharat Dal at Rs 60 per kg through Kendriya Bhandar, NAFED and NCCF to provide relief to consumers.

# 5.6 earthquake in Nepal within 3 days, mild tremors felt in Delhi-NCR

New Delhi: Tremors were felt in Delhi after an earthquake measuring 5.6 on the Richter Scale struck Nepal on Monday evening, said the National Centre for Seismology (NCS).

According to the NCS, the epicentre was in Nepal and the depth was 10 km.

"Earthquake of Magnitude: 5.6, occurred on 06-11-2023, 16:16:40 IST, Lat: 28.89 & Long: 82.36, Depth: 10 Km, Region: Nepal," it said in a post on X. Delhi and its peripherals felt mild tremors, lasting for several seconds. Monday's tremors follow the November 3 earthquake of magnitude 6.4 that struck Nepal at 11.32 pm. The strong tremors resulted in the death of over 150 people in the hill country, which lies within one of the world's most active tectonic zones (seismic zones IV and V), making it highly susceptible to seismic activity.

# 'Biggest alliance between BJP, ED': Congress rues denial of 'level playing field' in elections

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Congress on Monday hit back at the BJP alleging that there appeared to be an alliance between the saffron party and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and ruded the refusal by the Election Commission to meet its delegation, even after granting time for the purpose.

Addressing a press conference at the party headquarters here, senior party leaders including Abhishek Manu Singhvi, Salman Khurshid, Pramod Tiwari, and Ranjeet Ranjan trained their guns at the BJP, saying that a party delegation was scheduled to meet the poll panel but the appointment was cancelled at the last moment.

Singhvi said the appointment had been postponed to November 8 or 9, when the first phase of elections in Chhattisgarh will already be over on November 7.

The Congress leaders



alleged that the BJP's defeat in Chhattisgarh was certain and that is the reason the BJP was trying to malign the image of the Chief Minister. They said, there appeared to be the biggest alliance between the ED and the Bharatiya Janata Party as the financial probe agency had turned out to be the "election department" of the BJP. They said they wanted the Commission to take note of it and ban the objec-

tionable statements of the ED, which are clearly aimed at disrupting the free and fair elections.

The Congress leaders said that the ED's press notes levelling all sorts of allegations went against the basic structure of providing a level playing field to all the parties in the elections. They contended that the BJP and the ED appeared to be working in close coordination, as first it is

the BJP that issues a video, which is followed by a press release by the ED.

"It is definitely an attempt to obstruct free and fair elections, it is definitely an attempt to muddy the field because the BJP knows that they are losing badly, it is definitely an attempt to paint a black picture where they know that the janata realise the achievements of the Congress government," Singhvi added.

# With deteriorating air quality, online classes in all Delhi schools till Nov 10 barring Classes 10, 12

Team Absolute | New Delhi

In view of the deteriorating air condition in the national capital, Delhi government on Monday said that all the physical school classes except Classes 10 and 12 will remain suspended till November 10.

An order issued by the Delhi government said: "In view of the implementation of Stage IV Graded Response Action Plan order issued by CAQM, it is ordered that all classes - except the Board Classes i.e. X and XII in all schools of Delhi shall be held online upto November 10."

It said that teachers shall come to school and conduct classes online.

The order further read: "As for the Board classes i.e. X and XII, the HoSs (Head of Schools) shall have the option to either conduct the same online or call the students to school for physical classes."

HoSs must inform the parents



about these arrangements immediately, the order read.

In view of rising air pollution in the national capital, Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai on Monday said that the odd-even vehicle system will be implemented for a week in the city from November 13 to 20. Earlier in the

day, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal called a meeting at with the Environment Minister and other senior ministers along with several officers of the Delhi government to curb the air pollution in the national capital. The air quality in the national capital has remained 'severe' for the last few days.

# Rahul offers prayers to Adi Shankaracharya, serves food at langar in Kedarnath on day 2 of his visit

Kedarnath: Former Congress President Rahul Gandhi, who is on a three day visit to the Kedarnath shrine, on Monday offered prayers at the samadhi of Adi Shankaracharya.

Rahul Gandhi arrived in Kedarnath on Sunday afternoon and in the evening he had offered prayers at the temple. He then also served tea to the pilgrims coming to Kedarnath.

On Monday afternoon, he also participated in distributing food in the langar at Kedarnath. Many people were also seen clicking selfies with the Congress leader. He will return to Delhi on November 7.

This will be for the first time that Rahul Gandhi will stay in Kedarnath for three days. Earlier this year, he had stayed at Amritsar's Golden Temple and offered his services at the gurdwara. He had also cleaned the shoes, and the temple premises.

Rahul Gandhi had trekked to the holy Kedarnath shrine in April 2015 and paid tributes to the victims of the 2013 Kedarnath floods.

# Over 600 minors rescued by RPF under NF Railways

Guwahati | Agencies

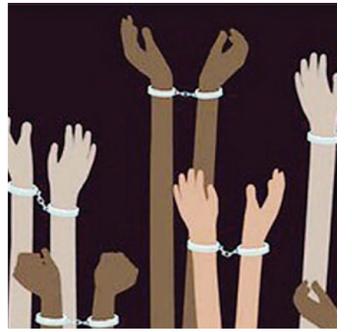
In its bid to check human trafficking in the northeast, the Railway Protection Force (RPF) under the Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has rescued more than 600 minors so far this year, officials said on Monday.

According to an official statement, from January to October, the RPF successfully rescued 623 minors (427 boys and 196 girls) during checking and drives at different trains and railway stations under the NF Railway.

The RPF also apprehended 16 persons involved in human trafficking during this period, the statement added.

The drives were conducted at many major railway stations of the region such as New Bongaigaon, New Jalpaiguri, Guwahati, Agartala, Rangiya, Katihar, Dimapur, New Cooch Behar, Alipurduar, Rangapara North, Mariani etc.

Sabyasachi De, CPRO of NF Railway, said, "The RPF of NFR has also taken initiatives to reunite the rescued children with their fami-



lies. All the procedures of verification of minors are done as per norms before handing them over to their respective parents."

Childline and NGOs which worked closely with the RPF also provided great assistance in identifying the minors, who either ran away from their homes or fall prey to human traffickers, he added.

# Customs officials nab two with gold worth over Rs 2 cr at IGI airport



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Customs officials have apprehended two passengers at Indira Gandhi International (IGI) airport and recovered over five kg gold worth over Rs 2 crore from their possession, an official said on Monday.

The accused were identified as Gautam Kishore, a resident of Maharashtra and Naresh Kumar Jain, a resident of Andhra Pradesh.

According to officials, the duo was nabbed on

November 4 after their flight landed at Terminal-3 and during checking 5,198 grams of gold was recovered, equivalent to total value of Rs 2,81,25,573.

"The said recovered gold has been seized under section 110 of Customs Act, 1962 on the reasonable belief that the same is liable for confiscation under Section 111 of the act," a senior Customs official said, adding that the passengers have been placed under arrest in terms of Section 104.

# INDIA MOST TARGETED COUNTRY WITH 13.7% CYBERATTACKS: REPORT

Team Absolute | New Delhi

India is the most targeted country, with 13.7 per cent of all cyberattacks, followed by the US with 9.6 per cent, Indonesia and China with 9.3 per cent and 4.5 per cent, respectively, a new report revealed on Monday.

According to the cybersecurity firm Cyfirma, India was the most targeted country in 2022, as attacks on government agencies more than doubled.

In the second half of 2022, there were 95 per cent more cyberattacks on government agencies than in the same period in 2021.

The number of state-sponsored cyber attacks in India increased by more than 100 per cent in 2022 compared to 2021.

Healthcare is the most targeted sector by hackers, followed by education, research, government and military sectors, according to the report.

"India's growing prominence at the world stage and push from Western economies to favour India over other large countries, a young and tech-savvy population with low cybersec maturity has played a key role in hackers coming after critical assets, govern-



ment agencies with an intent to breach them and harm India's strategic interests," said Kumar Ritesh, CEO & Founder, Cyfirma.

Moreover, the report showed that an organisation in India was attacked 1,866 times per week on average in 2022.

The most common types of cyberattacks are phishing attacks, malware attacks, and ransomware attacks.

About 78 per cent of Indian organisations experienced a ransomware attack in 2021, with 80 per cent of those attacks resulting in data encryption, the report mentioned.

Between January to July 2023, the report observed 39 campaigns targeting various industries in India. Known groups like FancyBear, TA505, Mission 2025, Stone Panda and Lazarus Group were suspected to be behind these campaigns.

Of these 39 campaigns, 14 have been directed by China State-sponsored groups with the intent of espionage.

About 11 of these campaigns were planned by North Korea-backed hackers as part of HaaS.

While 10 attacks originated from Russian threat actors, of which only four were state-sponsored, the report said.



## ABP-CVOTER SURVEY: IT IS ADVANTAGE CONGRESS IN MADHYA PRADESH

Team Absolute | New Delhi

An exclusive CVoter opinion poll conducted for ABP News reveals that the Congress enjoys a small but significant edge over the BJP in the Assembly elections due in Madhya Pradesh. Interestingly, it is advantage Congress more because of voter "fatigue" with the BJP than any strong anti-incumbency sentiments against the government. The other factor that seems to be helping the Congress have an edge is that the induction of Jyotiraditya Scindia and his supporters to the BJP in March 2020 doesn't not seem to have changed the voter tilt towards the Congress in the Chambal-Gwalior region. According to the CVoter survey, the Congress is projected to get a vote share of 44.3 per cent in the current polls, up from 40.9 per cent in the 2018



Assembly elections.

The BJP vote share is also projected to go up from 41 per cent in 2018 to 42.1 per cent in the current elections.

The BSP that once had a formidable presence in pockets of the state bordering Uttar Pradesh is witnessing a collapsing support base with projected vote share dropping to 5 per cent in 2018 to

2.2 per cent this time.

According to the CVoter survey, the Congress is projected to win between 118 to 130 seats in the current elections compared to the 114 it had won in 2018.

The majority mark in the 230 member Assembly is 116.

On the other hand, the BJP is projected to win between 99 to 111 seats in the current elections.

In 2018, the party had won 109 seats when the Congress had formed a government with Kamal Nath as Chief Minister. However, a revolt by Jyotiraditya Scindia and more than two other MLAs in March 2020 had led to the fall of the Congress government and Shivraj Singh Chouhan returned as Chief Minister of the state. A total of 28,223 registered voters were interviewed by members of CVoter. The margin of error is 3 per cent.

## Narendra Tomar should be dismissed from the Council of Ministers: Supriya Sunet

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The video of Devendra Tomar, son of BJP Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar, is going viral. In this video, he seems to be talking about transactions worth crores of rupees. In this video, Devendra can be heard investigating the arrangement of multiple bank accounts to collect crores of rupees from mining businessmen through a middleman in Lucknow. Congress's social media chief Supriya Sunet, in a press conference today, demanded a judicial inquiry into the matter and dismissal of the Union Minister from the post.

She said that a middleman is also seen asking him for details of different bank accounts. Remember that Narendra Singh Tomar had been the Union Steel and Mining Minister between 2014 and 2019. He is the BJP candidate from Dimani seat of Morena. In the viral video, it is being said that some party is ready to give Rs 100 crore through a retired RBI commissioner with the surname Tyagi. There is also talk of taking money from one Harpreet Gill and the operator of a firm named DHL. The middleman is addressing Devendra sometimes as Guruji and sometimes as Bhaiya.



When it comes to sending money to someone named Rohit Bhaiya.

A deal worth Rs 39 crore is being made with a party from Rajasthan-Punjab, which is said to be a trading firm and mining businessman, in which Rs 18 crore is to be paid upfront and Rs 21 crore more is being given later. From what is being said, it seems that this money will come through some land trader from Mohali.

In this viral video, the middleman is also mentioning about a parcel which was

delivered at Delhi Airport in the name of Devendra Tomar's wife.

In this, there is talk of asking for the address of Krishna Menon Marg in Delhi and passport information, the address proof is of his own house instead of Krishna Menon Marg.

It is known that Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar lives in Bungalow 3, Krishna Menon Marg, just opposite to Home Minister Amit Shah in Delhi. Sunet asked, what is this money,

from whom it is to be taken, why is it to be taken, what will happen to this money? One thing is clear, this money belongs to the people of Madhya Pradesh, it belongs to the farmers here, it belongs to the unemployed youth, it is the right of the women here, by looting which Tomar and his family are probably filling their coffers. He said that the PM is very fond of playing ED-ED, but here it seems that there is talk of bribes worth hundreds of crores of rupees and the ED, CBI and Income Tax keeps mum here.

## Voters benefited in BJP-Congress election battle

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Assembly elections are to be held in Madhya Pradesh on 17 November. Meanwhile, the voters of the state, especially the women voters, have started getting worried due to the election announcements of all the political parties including BJP and Congress. To woo voters in the assembly elections, Congress had announced to provide gas cylinders for Rs 500. Immediately after this, in response to Congress, the BJP government has announced to give gas cylinder worth Rs 450.

Congress had announced two months ago in view of the elections that if its government is formed in



Madhya Pradesh, it will provide gas cylinders at Rs 500 to more than 5 crore people of the state. In response to this populist announcement of Congress, the BJP government, playing on the pitch of

announced to provide gas cylinders to the people of the state for Rs 450. However, the benefit of Rs 450 gas cylinder scheme of the BJP government has been given only to the dear sisters. The BJP government has also implement-

ed this scheme in the state from September 1. More than 1 crore dear sisters of the state will benefit from this scheme, it is being claimed by the government. The eligibility rules are explained in the guidelines issued by the Food and Civil Supplies Department. According to this, the cylinder will be given for Rs 450 only to the consumers having gas connection of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana and those women registered under Mukhyamantri Ladli Brahmin Yojana in non-Ujjwala scheme, in whose name the connection will be made. Along with this, the woman eligible for Ladli Brahmin Yojana should have a connection in her own name.

## Even in the modern era, Ayurveda has the utmost importance: Prof. (Dr.) Ajai Singh

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Department of AYUSH, AIIMS, Bhopal in collaboration with Regional Ayurveda Research Institute, Gwalior organized a free Ayurveda medical camp at the Mahatma Gandhi IPD gallery of AIIMS on the 8th National Ayurveda Day. Executive Director, Prof. Dr. Ajai Singh inaugurated the camp by garlanding the picture of Lord Dhanwantari and lighting the lamp. Congratulating the AYUSH department, he said that even though Ayurveda has lagged behind modern medicine in the rush of the modern era, its importance is still the highest. Solutions are available in Ayurveda for the treatment of complex diseases, which gives Ayurveda a unique status. He said people to take benefit of the treatment in the camp. Only by adopting Ayurveda will you be able to believe how effective it is. He also encouraged the faculty to keep pace with AYUSH.

A total of 111 patients suffering from



various diseases were provided free medicines in the Ayurveda medical camp. Dr. Anil Mangal, Research Officer from Regional Ayurveda Research Institute, Gwalior, Dr. Danish Javed, Dr. Ranjana Pandey, Dr. Bhavana Sharma (SRF), Priyanka Patel, Shankar Lal Verma, Kavita, Vaishali, Rameshwar

from the AYUSH Department of AIIMS, helped in the smooth conduction of medical camp. Dr. Anil Mangal and Dr. Ranjana Pandey also provided information to the patients coming to the camp about dincharya, ratricharya, ritucharya, diet, lifestyle, good conduct etc. according to Ayurveda.

## Department of Computer Science Recognizes Outstanding Talent in Python Internship Program

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Department of Computer Science at Sant Hirdaram Girls College successful Internship on Python Module for BCA and BSc (CS) I year students, commencing from 11th September 2023. The intensive program aimed to equip students with essential skills in Python programming, a language crucial in today's technology-driven world.

The training sessions were conducted by Mr. Bhupendra Khilrani, an esteemed professional from Technology Developers, renowned for his expertise in Python programming. Mr. Khilrani's engaging teaching style and in-depth knowledge captivated the students, making the learning experience both insightful and enjoyable.

On this occasion, Dr. Dalima Parwani, the Principal expressed her appreciation for the outstanding efforts put forth by the subject expert. She



remarked that Mr. Bhupendra Khilrani's dedication and proficiency were evident throughout the internship. His ability to simplify complex concepts and engage students effectively ensured a fruitful learning experience for all.

The internship program witnessed exceptional performances from numerous students, and their hard work

and dedication were duly recognized.

The Department of Computer Science took the opportunity to honor these talented individuals with the prestigious Best Performer award. This accolade not only acknowledges their achievements but also serves as a testament to their commitment to excellence in the field of Python programming.

The Department of Computer Science extends its heartfelt congratulations to all the participants and commends their enthusiasm and passion for learning. The success of this internship program underscores the department's commitment to providing high-quality education and fostering a culture of innovation and skill development among its students.

## Seizure action taken for more than Rs 288 crore 38 lakh

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Electoral Officer Anupam Rajan said that after the Model Code of Conduct for Madhya Pradesh Assembly Elections 2023 came into effect, continuous action is being taken actively by the enforcement agencies in the state. Illicit liquor, narcotics, cash, precious metals, gold, silver, jewelry and other materials are being seized by the joint team of monitoring teams of FST, SST and police that have been formed to conduct the Assembly elections 2023 in an independent, fair and transparent manner.

Joint teams have taken seizure action for Rs 288 crore 38 lakh 95 thousand 49 from October 9 to November 4. This includes cash amount of Rs 31 crore 82 lakh 65 thousand 813, more than 25 lakh 6 thousand 234 liters of illicit liquor worth Rs 52 crore 22 lakh 43 thousand 636, narcotics worth Rs 14 crore 58 lakh 84 thousand 331, precious metal, gold-silver, jewelry worth Rs 81 crore 29 lakhs, 25 thousand 884 and other materials worth Rs 108 crore 45 lakh 75 thousand 385.

During the Model Code of Conduct in the 2018 assembly elections in the state (between October 6 and November 28), action worth Rs 72 crore 93 lakh was taken by the enforcement agencies, while this year in the 2023 assembly elections, seizure action of more than Rs 288 crore 38 lakh has been taken between October 9 and November 4.

## 3 Dead, 5 injured as SUV overturns during poll campaign in Sagar

Team Absolute | Sagar

Three persons were killed and five injured when an SUV engaged in campaigning for a BJP candidate in the upcoming assembly polls overturned in Madhya Pradesh's Sagar district, police said on Monday.

Eight persons were travelling in the SUV when it overturned between Bargron Barkheda and Joon villages on Saturday evening, Rehli police station in-charge Manish Tripathi said.

Three of the victims suc-

cumbed to their injuries at a hospital on Sunday, while five are undergoing treatment, he said.

The deceased have been identified as Rajesh Ahirwar (40), Santosh Ahirwar (59) and Lakhanlal Ahirwar (65), the official said, adding that a case has been registered in this regard.

A purported video shot after the accident showed pamphlets and other campaign materials of BJP candidate Gopal Bhargava from the Rehli assembly constituency scattered on the road.

## SP, AAP, BSP and independent candidates are spoiling the game of BJP-Congress

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Apart from BJP-Congress, SP, AAP and BSP are trying their best to win the assembly elections to be held on November 17 in Madhya Pradesh. However, this time no wave is visible in the elections. But according to the trends received from across the state after the withdrawal of nominations, there is a face-to-face contest between BJP and Congress in 159 seats of the state. Whereas there are 64 seats in the state, where SP, AAP, BSP and independent candidates have made the contest triangular.

Veteran BJP leader and Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar is in the fray for Dimani assembly seat in Morena district. BSP has fielded former MLA Balveer Dandautiya here. Whereas Congress has given ticket to sitting MLA Ravindra Singh Tomar. Here Narendra Singh Tomar's reputation is at stake. But BSP candidate Balveer has made the contest triangular. Similarly, in Bhind, BJP has made Narendra Singh, who came from SP, its candidate. Whereas Congress has given ticket to Rakesh Singh who came from BJP. Angered by not getting the ticket from BJP, Sanjeev Singh made the electoral contest triangular by jumping into the fray on BSP ticket.

Beyond Morena Assembly seat, BJP has fielded Scindia supporter Raghuraj Singh Kansana. Congress has given ticket to Dinesh Gurjar. Whereas Rakesh Singh, son of former BSP minister Rustam Singh, is leading the charge. Those who are angry with BJP and have joined BSP. BSP has made the contest triangular on this seat. Similarly, BJP has fielded Andal Singh Kansana on Sumawali seat of Morena. Congress had earlier fielded Kuldeep Singh Sikarwar as its candidate here. Later Congress declared Ajab Singh Kushwaha as its candidate. Angered by being denied ticket, Kuldeep Singh has come into the



election field as a BSP candidate. Kuldeep has made the competition triangular here.

The reputation of former Assembly Speaker and Congress candidate NP Prajapati is at stake in Gotegaon seat of Narsinghpur district. Here BJP has given ticket to Mahendra Nagesh. Congress had earlier fielded former MLA Shekhar Chaudhary as its candidate. But after changing the ticket, Shekhar rebelled and jumped into the election as an independent candidate. With Shekhar's entry into the field, the contest in Gotegaon has become triangular.

BJP has fielded Ramniwas Shah on Singrauli seat. Whereas Congress has given ticket to Renu Shah. On this seat, AAP has made the electoral contest triangular by fielding Mayor Rani Aggarwal. With this, AAP's national convener Arvind Kejriwal has made this seat a matter of his prestige.

In Nagaud, BJP has fielded sitting MLA Nagendra Singh. Whereas Congress has given ticket to Dr. Rashmi Singh Patel. Angered by being denied ticket by Congress, former MLA Yadendra Singh, who had fielded as a BSP candidate, has made the contest triangular here.

BJP has fielded MP Reeti Pathak on this seat which was in news due to urination scandal. Congress has made Gyan Singh its candidate. Here, angry over being denied ticket by BJP, MLA Kedarnath Shukla, who jumped into the fray as an independent candidate, has made the election contest triangular.

On this tribal seat, BJP has placed its bet on Union Minister Faggan Singh Kulaste. Whereas Congress has given ticket to Chain Singh Varkade here. On this seat, Gondwana Republic Party has made the contest triangular by fielding Devendra Maravi.



EDITOR'S SPECS

## Andhra Pradesh to take up caste-based census

The Andhra Pradesh government has decided to take up a comprehensive caste-based census in the state. The decision was taken on Friday at a meeting of the state Cabinet, presided over by Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy. During the discussion on the issue, the Chief Minister observed that the caste-based census would be helpful for alleviating the lives of oppressed classes and taking their social empowerment to the next level. The decision has come amid the national debate over the issue after the Nitish Kumar government in Bihar recently released the findings of the caste-based survey. The Cabinet took several key decisions. According to a statement issued by the Chief Minister's Office, it appreciated the Jagananna Aarogya Suraksha as 11,700 camps have been conducted so far in which 6.4 crore medical tests were carried out. More than 8,72,000 eye tests were also conducted with around 11,300 persons undergoing eye surgeries, while eye glasses were distributed to more than 5,22,000 persons. The Chief Minister suggested that all ministers should actively participate in Aarogya Suraksha, which would be conducted again from January 1. The Cabinet decided to undertake another public awareness campaign about the YSR Aarogyasri programme from November 15 to December 15 to help people download the Aarogyasri App and educate them about free medical treatment of various diseases being provided at the listed hospitals. The Cabinet has ratified the State Investment Promotion Board's approval of fresh investments worth Rs 19,037 crore that would provide employment opportunities to 69,565 persons. It also decided to implement a new land allotment policy for setting up industries.

# Each Delhiite loses 11.9 years thanks to living with air pollution

Shekhar Singh

Delhi has been grappling with a sudden and alarming spike in air pollution levels, shortening the lives of its residents by 11.9 years. According to this year's air quality life index, compiled by the University of Chicago's energy policy institute, the residents of Delhi are on track to lose 11.9 years of life expectancy due to the detrimental air they breathe.

The city's residents are once again finding themselves in the midst of a hazardous smog. This troubling development has left many wondering about the causes behind this sudden deterioration in air quality.

Delhi witnessed a harrowing surge in air pollution, with a thick and toxic smog engulfing the city. This alarming development signifies the beginning of the annual pollution season, which has now become a recurring catastrophe for the national capital. In response to the deteriorating air quality, authorities took several precautionary measures, including the closure of schools and a ban on non-essential construction activities in the city. The air quality index in Delhi soared to 500, the highest possible reading, surpassing the World Health Organization's (WHO) recommended healthy limit by a staggering 100 times. One of the primary factors contributing to this perilous situation is the recent surge in farm fires in the neighbouring state of Punjab, where a 740 per cent increase in such fires was reported in just a single day. These agricultural fires release a substantial volume of pollutants into the atmosphere, exacerbating Delhi's air quality problems. Despite the presence of pollution, early warning systems in Delhi reportedly failed to predict the rapid deterioration in air quality that unfolded late on Thursday (November 2), catching both authorities and residents off guard. Delhi, a sprawling metropolis housing approximately 33 million people, consistently garners the dubious distinction of being the world's most polluted city. Several factors have contributed to the surge in air pollution, including a combination of meteorological conditions, vehicular emissions, industrial activities, and crop burning.

**Stubble burning**  
One of the primary culprits behind the sudden surge in air pollution is the practice of stubble burning in the neighbouring states of Punjab and Haryana. Farmers in these regions burn the remnants of their paddy crops after the harvest season, releasing large volumes of particulate matter and greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.

"This annual phenomenon has become a significant contributor to Delhi's worsening air



quality during the post-monsoon period. Despite government efforts to discourage this practice and not using the tools provided on subsidies to cut the paddy, enforcement remains a challenge," said former Haryana scientist Chandra Veer Singh.

**Meteorological factors**  
Delhi's geographical location also plays a crucial role in the sudden spike in air pollution. The region experiences atmospheric stagnation during the winter months, which traps pollutants close to the surface.

Calm winds, temperature inversions, and reduced vertical mixing of the atmosphere further exacerbate the problem. This stagnant air acts as a lid, preventing pollutants from dispersing and diluting, resulting in the accumulation of harmful particulate matter and gases.

"The onset of winter brings temperature inversions, trapping pollutants closer to the ground. These stagnant atmospheric conditions prevent the dispersion of pollutants, leading to the accu-

mulation of smog in the region," said a senior India Meteorological Department (IMD) official.

**Traffic emissions**  
Delhi's ever-increasing vehicular population continues to be a major source of air pollution. The high density of vehicles on the city's roads contributes to the release of pollutants like nitrogen oxides (NOx) and particulate matter (PM).

"The problem is compounded by outdated and heavily polluting vehicles still plying on the roads. Although the government has made efforts to transition to cleaner fuels and promote electric vehicles, the transition is gradual, and the impact on air quality is not immediate," say the experts.

**Industrial emissions**  
Delhi is home to a sizeable number of industries, and their emissions are another significant factor contributing to the city's worsening air quality. Several places in the city are also hub to illegal factories contributing to

pollution and working under the nose of government with no restriction or check on them.

"While there are regulations in place to control industrial emissions, enforcement remains a challenge, and some industries may not be adhering to pollution control norms. This contributes to the overall air pollution burden in the city," say the experts.

**Construction dust**  
Rapid urbanisation and construction activities in Delhi result in a substantial amount of dust and particulate matter being released into the air. Construction dust contains fine particulates that can easily become airborne, adding to the already polluted atmosphere.

**Efforts to mitigate air pollution**  
Recognising the urgency of the situation, both the Central and state governments have taken steps to address the problem. Measures such as the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), banning construction activities, restrictions on industrial operations, and the promotion of cleaner fuels have been implemented to mitigate the effects of air pollution. Additionally, the introduction of electric public transportation and the promotion of cycling and pedestrian-friendly infrastructure are steps towards reducing vehicular emissions.

**Public awareness**  
Public awareness and individual responsibility also play a pivotal role in tackling air pollution. Citizens are encouraged to take steps such as reducing personal vehicle usage, carpooling, using public transport, and adopting sustainable waste management practices. Adopting eco-friendly Diwali celebrations by refraining from firecrackers can make a significant difference in reducing air pollution during the festive season. "The Central and state governments have also worked to incentivise farmers in Punjab and Haryana to adopt alternative methods for crop residue management. Financial incentives and subsidies are being offered to reduce stubble burning and encourage the use of crop residue in a more environment friendly manner," said an expert. While these efforts are important, a long-term solution to Delhi's air pollution problem will require sustained commitment from all stakeholders, including residents, industries, and the agricultural community. "Reducing air pollution necessitates a holistic approach that involves not only local but also regional and national coordination," the expert added.

## international

## IDF strikes 450 Hamas targets in Gaza, key militant killed

Tel Aviv | Agencies

The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) on Monday announced that fighter jets struck 450 Hamas targets overnight in Gaza during which a key member of the militant group was killed. In a statement, the military said that Jamal Musa, who was responsible for Hamas's special security operations, was killed along with several other terrorists.

The IDF also said that it took control of a Hamas military compound in the Gaza Strip. "IDF ground forces took control of a Hamas outpost in Gaza. In this outpost, the terrorist organisation Hamas had observation posts, training facilities for terrorist operatives, as well as terrorist tunnels. In this operation, a number of terrorists were eliminated," the military said in a post on X. The statement also said that the



Israeli Navy had struck Hamas command centres, anti-tank launch posts and many observation posts.

The developments come as the Israeli military claimed on Sunday that its 36th Division had reached "positions along the coast of Gaza", and the troops were "encircling" Hamas forces in the city.

The military added that their goal is "to strike and destroy select targets, including significant assets and com-

mand and control centres belonging to the Hamas".

"The forces divided the Strip to Gaza-north and Gaza-south and control the shoreline," IDF spokesperson Daniel Hagari said in a briefing earlier on Sunday. "Massive attacks are currently being carried out in the northern Gaza Strip, including the killing of Hamas commanders," he added. Hagari repeated the calls to Gazans to evacuate themselves from northern Gaza through "a one-way corridor for civilians" to the south as more Israeli strikes are expected in the Gaza City. In a separate briefing, the IDF spokesperson presented audio footage and images that he said were evidence that the Hamas underground infrastructure was embedded beneath hospitals located in the northern enclave.

## RUSSIA TESTS NEW NUCLEAR SUBMARINE WITH BULAVA MISSILE

Vladivostok | Agencies

The new nuclear-powered submarine Emperor Alexander III successfully carried out a test launch of a Bulava ballistic missile, the Russian Defence Ministry has said. The test launch was conducted from the White Sea to a target on the Kamchatka Peninsula, the ministry said on Sunday in a statement published on its social media channel, Xinhua news agency



reported. "The missile firing took place in normal mode from an underwater position. The missile's warheads arrived at the designated area on time," the statement said. The ministry added that

the test launch was the final element of the state testing programme for the new submarine, which will soon join the Russian Navy. The Emperor Alexander III is the fourth submarine of the Borey-A project, which aims to build eight nuclear-powered submarines armed with the Bulava missile. These submarines belong to the fourth generation and are part of the underwater forces of the Northern and Pacific fleets.

## N.Korea claims to build world's strongest nuclear force



Seoul | Agencies

North Korea has successfully built the world's strongest nuclear force under the guidance of its leader Kim Jong-un, as the secretive regime has been bolstering the development of its nuclear and missile programs, Pyongyang's state media said on Monday. The claim came amid speculation that the North is in the final stage of its preparations to make a third attempt to launch a military spy satellite following two failed attempts in May and August, respectively. "With the power of the revolutionary industry of the ruling Workers' Party of Korea, the country's nuclear force has sharply increased and firmly reached the world's strongest level," Yonhap News agency quoted Tong Thae-gwan, an editorial writer of the Rodong Sinmun -- the North's main newspaper -- as saying in an editorial piece. In a bid to tout Kim's achievements for this year, he cited the North's major provocations and events, such as the test-firing of Hwasong-type intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) and the summit between the North's leader and Russian President Vladimir Putin in September in Russia's Far East. On Sunday, North Korea had announced that it designated November 18 as a "missile industry day" to celebrate last year's successful launch of the Hwasong-17 ICBM.

## Hostage freed 18 hours after gunman broke into Hamburg Airport



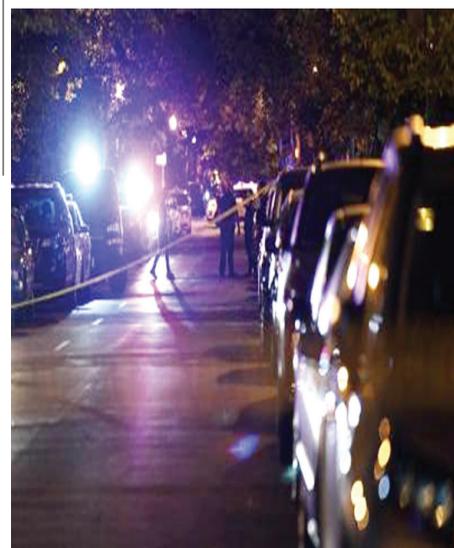
Berlin | Agencies

The armed man breaking into the premises of the Hamburg Airport on Saturday has been detained, and his daughter was freed from his vehicle, Germany's Hamburg police said on Sunday afternoon.

On social media platforms, local police said the man was detained without resistance and his 4-year-old daughter seemed to be unharmed after 18 hours of confinement.

On Saturday evening, while the man broke into the premises of the airport with his daughter, he fired two gunshots into the sky. With the police carrying out operations at the airport, all flights from and into Hamburg Airport had been cancelled, Xinhua news agency reported. The airport said on Sunday afternoon that it is making preparations for a resume of flight operations. The case is under investigation by local police.

## 2 dead, 3 injured in Washington shooting



Washington | Agencies

At least two people were killed and three others injured in a shooting incident in the US state of Washington, police said.

In a statement on Sunday, the Tacoma Police Department said that officers responded to a report of multiple shots fired inside a business in the city in the early hours of the day, CNN reported.

The officers found four people who had suffered gunshot wounds, including one who was pronounced dead at the scene, the state-

ment said, adding that the three others "suffered serious injuries" and were taken to hospitals.

"The suspect is still outstanding. It is believed the suspect interacted with one of the victims before the shooting, but it is not known if he knew the victim," CNN quoted the police department as saying.

No arrests have been made so far and the investigation is ongoing.

The US has witnessed at least 586 mass shootings so far this year, according to the Gun Violence Archive.

## Indo-Canadian MP raises Hindu flag, hosts Diwali on Parliament Hill

Toronto | Agencies

Prominent members of the Indian diaspora were in attendance at the Diwali celebrations hosted by Indo-Canadian MP Chandra Arya who also raised a Hindu flag with sacred symbol 'aum' on the Parliament Hill.

The celebrations on Sunday coincided with the ongoing Hindu Heritage Month in Canada, which is held annually in November to acknowledge the significant contributions made by the community.

"I was pleased to host Diwali on parliament hill. We also used this opportunity to raise the flag of Hindu sacred symbol Aum on parliament hill. My sincere thanks to all those who attended, volunteers and artists of excellent cultural performances at the event," Arya wrote in a message posted on X.

The event was supported by 67 Hindu and Indo-Canadian organisations and saw participants from across the country, including Ottawa, Greater Toronto Area and Montreal.

Arya, a ruling Liberal Party MP, also hosted Himachal Pradesh's famed Kullu Dussehra for the first time in the country's Parliament Hill last month.

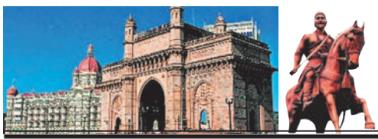
The celebrations come in spite of the tense diplomatic standoff between India and Canada in the wake of Khalistan leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar's killing this year in British Columbia province.



Arya has been a vocal critic of hate crime incidents targeting Hindus, and has strongly criticised and demanded action against the recent attacks on temples and Indian installations by Khalistan supporters.

Hinduism is the third-largest religion in Canada, which is followed by approximately 2.3 per cent of the nation's total population.

As of 2021, there are over 830,000 Canadians of the Hindu faith. "Hindu Canadians are the most peaceful, highly educated and hardworking community and hence a successful community. We have significantly contributed and continue to do so for the socio-economic development of Canada. We have immensely enriched Canada's multicultural fabric," Arya said, marking the second Hindu Heritage month in the country this year. The Karnataka-born MP had initiated a private members motion in May last year to mark November as the Hindu Heritage Month, which was later unanimously passed in the House of Commons on September 29, 2022.



# Eye on bigger piece of pie, KCR hoists BRS' flag in 10 Maharashtra gram panchayats

Quaid Najmi | Mumbai

The Telangana-based Bharat Rashtra Samithi, led by Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao, dug deeper into Maharashtra by bagging at least 10 gram panchayats in two districts in the elections held on Sunday, proving a heart-warmer ahead of the Assembly elections in its home state on November 30.

As per current indications, of the 2,359 gram panchayats which went to polls, the results of around 2,000 have been declared so far in which the BRS has won 9 gram panchayats in Bhandara district and one in neighbouring Beed district.

However, these figures are likely to change as many more gram panchayat elections results are yet to be declared and the final position may be known only later.

This is the third time this year that the BRS of KCR, as the leader is popularly known, has created political ripples in Maharashtra after it notched a first electoral victory outside Telangana by bagging a sarpanch seat in Ambehola village of Chhatrapati



Sambhajnagar district in May 2023, followed by another sarpanch winning in Savkheda village of Jalgaon district in June.

In the last week of June, KCR had created a flutter in political circles when he and his entire cabinet plus top party leaders drove down in buses and cars to pray at the famous Pandharpur Temple to mark the auspicious Ashadhi Ekadashi festival.

With the slogan of 'Abki Baar, Kisan Sarkar', KCR has addressed several public meetings in the state in recent months and vowed to expand the BRS in a big way in Maharashtra, with mega-plans to contest the upcoming 2024 Assembly elections and unseat all the existing alliances, the ruling or the Opposition.

The BRS has become the second major party from Telangana - after the All India Majlis-E-Itehadul Muslimen (AIMIM) - which is making electoral inroads into the already crowded and multi-coloured political scenario of Maharashtra, sparking concerns among the established national and local home-grown parties.

The AIMIM has successfully flown its 'Kite' and got its candidates elected in local civic elections in certain pockets, plus the Maharashtra Assembly and also won a Lok Sabha seat. But, KCR's 'Car' is unabashedly on a long drive in Maharashtra - where it fervently hopes to yank off the (current) saffron dispensation from and foist the BRS' pink flag on the state government headquarters in Mumbai - a veritable 'kisar sarkar' lording out of the country's commercial capital. Other outstation parties like Samajwadi Party, Janata Dal-U have one legislator each, plus representation in stray civic bodies, though some more like Bahujan Samaj Party have yet to make a mark in Maharashtra.

# Sena (UBT) says INDIA bloc's goal is to oust 'dictatorial regime' at centre



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Amid tensions with the INDIA bloc—the Opposition coalition, Shiv Sena (UBT) stated on Monday that the alliance's primary objective is to remove a 'dictatorial regime' at the Centre while acknowledging the nuances of state politics, stated a report.

In an editorial featured in the Sena (UBT) mouthpiece 'Saamana', the party said that the upcoming assembly polls in five states this month will serve as a "dress rehearsal" for the crucial Lok Sabha polls next year. The editorial, according to the report stated, the Congress' success in these state elections is important as it plays a significant role in all five poll-bound states, namely Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Telangana, and Mizoram.

The editorial, according to the agency report, asserted,

"It is crucial for the Congress to secure victory in these polls to curb the misuse of power and the arrogance of money. This will be pivotal for the INDIA alliance," expressing confidence that the alliance will prevail in the Lok Sabha polls scheduled for 2024.

The 'Saamana' acknowledged the concerns expressed by Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, who blamed the Congress' pre-occupation with the state assembly polls for hindering the INDIA coalition's momentum. It further suggested that Kumar, a key figure in forming the alliance that comprises 28 Opposition parties to challenge the Bharatiya Janata Party, not air the grievances publicly as it is perceived advantageous to BJP.

The editorial pointed out that the Congress has not formed alliances with the Samajwadi Party in Madhya

Pradesh and that the Aam Aadmi Party is contesting separately despite all three being constituents of INDIA bloc. It stated, "The INDIA alliance was formed to unseat the dictatorial regime at the Centre, and everyone agrees to it. Politics in states is different, and major political parties have to make decisions accordingly." The recent tensions between INDIA bloc allies like Samajwadi Party, the Congress arose after failure to reach seat-sharing arrangement for Madhya Pradesh assembly polls scheduled for November 17. Nationalist Congress Party chief Sharad Pawar too said that there are differing opinions among the parties about forming a united front in some state polls. However, he also stressed the importance of a united effort in fighting the upcoming Lok Sabha polls together.

# After 10 days' woes for commuters, WR readies 6th line between Goregaon-Khar

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Western Railway (WR) has completed a critical piece of infrastructural work - the 6th line on the 8.8-km-long Goregaon-Khar stretch - of the congested Mumbai suburban section, an official said on Monday.

The sixth line, which will help divert all long-distance trains in both directions to clear the suburban section, was completed after 10 days efforts at 6 stations, entailing cancellation of several hundred services daily that had proved a veritable torture for the commuters.

WR chief spokesperson Sumit Thakur said that the speed trials of 112 kmph were achieved on this new line, and now all the suburban services have been restored from Monday.

The entire work involved laying 12 turnouts and three trap-points on the existing 5th line and both the fast corridors in up and down directions.

It also saw laying of 8 turnouts on the new line and dismantling of existing 9 turnouts and 3 trap points from the existing lines.

Now, an independent connectivity to both the



5th and 6th lines has been provided with the Bandra Terminus Yard after slewing of 700-metres existing tracks and dismantling of five points

including a diamond crossing.

During the huge works, the WR had deployed heavy machinery at various locations like T-28, UNIMAT, Duomatic, UTV, hydraulic cranes, JCBs, etc to complete the work smoothly, said Thakur.

For the entire project, the WR has acquired government and private land, and built new 27 foot over bridges to replace existing FOBs that were infringing the alignment.

Thakur said existing railway structures that obstructed the 6th line were dismantled and new were built in their place, including 192 flats in the railway quarters, six new electronic interlocking buildings, two new traction sub-stations, three booking offices, etc.

In this effort, 607 project affected persons were rehabilitated in alternate homes, and around 1,000 trees were relocated and transplanted. Now, the work will start on extending the 6th line between Goregaon to Borivali that is likely to be completed mid-2024. Thakur said that the new 6th line will enhance the capacity of Mumbai suburban section by adding more train services and also improve punctuality.

# Maharashtra Minister demands special probe in Maratha quota violence

Team Absolute | Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar

Maharashtra Minister Dhananjay Munde has demanded that a special investigation team (SIT) be set up to probe the violence that broke out during the agitation for the Maratha reservation in Beed district last week.

The state agriculture minister, who is also the guardian minister for Beed, alleged that the violence that occurred in the district last week was a big conspiracy and said that an SIT needs to be formed to investigate and identify the mastermind behind the violence.

Incidents of vandalism and arson were witnessed in different parts of Beed during the Maratha quota agitation last week, with people setting fire to the houses of some legislators.

Munde on Sunday visited places where the violence occurred and the residences of MLAs Prakash Solanke, Sandip Kshirsagar, former minister Jaydatta Kshirsagar and other locations.



Speaking to the media after the visit, Munde said, "When Solanke's residence was set ablaze in Majalgaon and the mob could not be controlled, a force from the police headquarters was sent to the area. The violence then spread to Beed city and the force was not enough here."

Prima facie, this was an intelligence failure of the police, he said.

"The police have identified around 250-300 people who attacked Solanke's residence and were involved in the violence in Beed city. Though the investigation is on the right path, an SIT probe is needed to pace up the inquiry and identify the mastermind and culprits," the minister said.

Munde said he would meet Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and the deputy chief ministers and demand an SIT probe into the Beed violence.

The incidents will be probed thoroughly and the role of police will also be examined, as the violence lasted for eight hours, he claimed.

"This is a well-planned conspiracy, as numbers were given to the houses that were targeted. We have seen agitations where government offices were targeted. Even the freedom fighters never attacked the homes of the British. Torching residences of public representatives cannot be comprehended," he said.

# Body of teenager found hanging from tree

Team Absolute | Thane

In the early hours of Monday, the body of an 18-year-old boy was found hanging from a tree in a tribal locality in Thane district.

"Passersby found the body hanging from a tree in the Bamanpada locality of Vashind in Shahapur taluka around 7 am," an official from Vashind police station said.

The deceased has been identified as Sanjay Pundalik Pawar.

"A police team rushed to the spot and sent the body to a government hospital for post-mortem," the police official said.

According to the police, eyewitnesses have claimed that there was blood on the teenager's legs.

While speaking to media, the father of the

deceased said he suspected that some unidentified persons had killed his son.

Meanwhile, a 20-year-old man was killed by unidentified persons in Maharashtra's Thane city, police said.

"The victim, a vagabond, was found lying in a pool of blood with multiple wounds in Saiba Nagar locality of Kalwa area on Monday," an official at the police control room said.

The body was sent to a government hospital for postmortem. "The police suspect the incident took place in the early hours of Monday when the victim went out with some friends," the official said. The motive behind the killing was not yet known.

"A case of murder has been registered against unidentified persons and a probe is on into it," the police said.

# Pawar, Sule call on ailing NCP leader Khadse in Mumbai hospital

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Nationalist Congress Party President Sharad Pawar and Working President Supriya Sule called on ailing party MLC Eknath Khadse at the Bombay Hospital here on Monday afternoon, officials said.

The duo met Khadse, 71, who was rushed in an air ambulance to Mumbai from his native Jalgaon late on Sunday after he suffered a heart attack. His daughter and state NCP Women's Wing President Rohini Khadse had requested Chief Minister Eknath Shinde for an air ambulance which the later had readily agreed to provide. Pawar and Sule enquired after Khadse's health from Rohini, other relatives and doctors at the hospital where he is under treatment. Khadse had been suffering from mild chest pains since Thursday, but he dismissed it as acidity till a checkup in a Jalgaon hospital revealed a heart attack.

He was immediately put on medication there and after his condition stabilised, he was shifted to Mumbai as a precautionary measure. The present health status of Khadse



is described as 'stable' while his daughter also assured that there is no cause now for any worries. Khadse, a former senior Bharatiya Janata Party leader for over 40 years, quit the saffron party to join the NCP in 2020, and was elected as a Member of Legislative Council last year.

# Raigad factory fire: NDRF recovers 11 bodies, operations called off

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Days after a massive fire broke out at a pharma factory in Maharashtra's Raigad district, the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) on Monday said that it recovered a total number of eleven dead bodies till Monday evening and have now called off the search operations after finding the remaining persons.

According to the NDRF, "A total number of 11 dead bodies have been recovered from ongoing operations at MIDC Mahad. The Operations have been called off now."

Meanwhile on Saturday, the officials had said that as many as eight bodies were recovered, following the fire that broke out at a pharmaceutical company in, while the search for three missing persons were continued by the NDRF.

The blaze at the factory located in MIDC Mahad in Raigad district, some 170 kilometres from Mumbai had started at around 11 am on Friday, the NDRF official had earlier said.



As per the primary investigation, the fire broke out due to a short circuit.

On Friday, the officials stated that the blaze erupted following a blast at the pharmaceutical factory. The fire then led the barrels containing chem-

icals to explode. At the time of the incident, workers were present inside the factory. Seven of them suffered severe burns and were swiftly taken to a hospital for medical treatment, the report stated. Firefighting operations involved

ten vehicles from the fire brigade, and they successfully extinguished the blaze.

The police and fire brigade teams are actively engaged in the search operation.

While conducting the search and rescue operation, the NDRF had found that at least eleven individuals who were on the premises when the incident occurred are currently missing.

The fire quickly spread, engulfing chemicals and other inflammable materials within the factory, which dampened the search and rescue efforts, stated the report.

Firefighting operations involved ten vehicles from the fire brigade, and they successfully extinguished the blaze. However, the exact cause of the fire is yet to be ascertained.

Both the police and fire brigade teams are actively engaged in the search operation. Additionally, a unit from the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) was deployed to assist in the ongoing efforts.

# Amitabh Bachchan demands action against morphed video of Rashmika

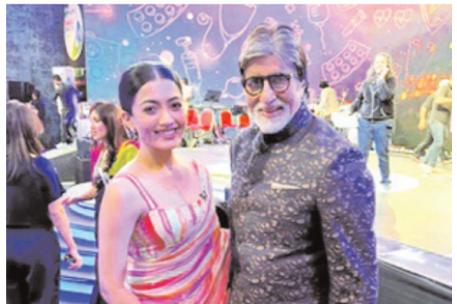
Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood megastar Amitabh Bachchan has demanded a legal action over a reported morphed video of his 'Goodbye' co-star Rashmika Mandanna.

Reportedly, a short objectionable video of the actress went viral in the social media.

In response to post on X by a user highlighting the alleged misuse of the video, the 'Piku' star said: "Yes this is a strong case."

"There is an urgent need for a legal and regulatory framework to deal with deepfake in India. You might have seen this viral video of actress Rashmika Mandanna on Instagram. But wait, this is a



deepfake video of Zara Patel," a user named Abhishek wrote on the microblogging site.

Along with the post, he also shared the 'actual' video as claimed by him. Meanwhile, on the work

front Big B is currently seen as the host of 'Kaun Banega Crorepati 15'. He next has 'Kalki 2898 AD', 'Butterfly' and 'Thalaivar 170' in the pipeline. While, Rashmika has 'Animal', 'Pushpa 2: The Rule' in her kitty.

## Kylie Minogue frustrated by idea that she's 'unlucky in love'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Singer Kylie Minogue wants fans to "move on" from the idea that she is "unlucky" in love.

The 55-year-old pop superstar has never tied the knot and called off her relationship with Paul Solomons in February after five years of dating and while she would like fans to forget about her love life, has acquiesced that there is a need for "gossip" amongst them.

"There's a level of acceptance that that's the way it is, and I think mostly it's driven by, we all love a bit of gossip. It's kind of like, what would've happened over the fence forever ago." "But it would be great to move on from the 'she's lucky in love, she's unlucky in love', because it's just not that simple," she told Vogue Australia, reports aceshowbiz.com.

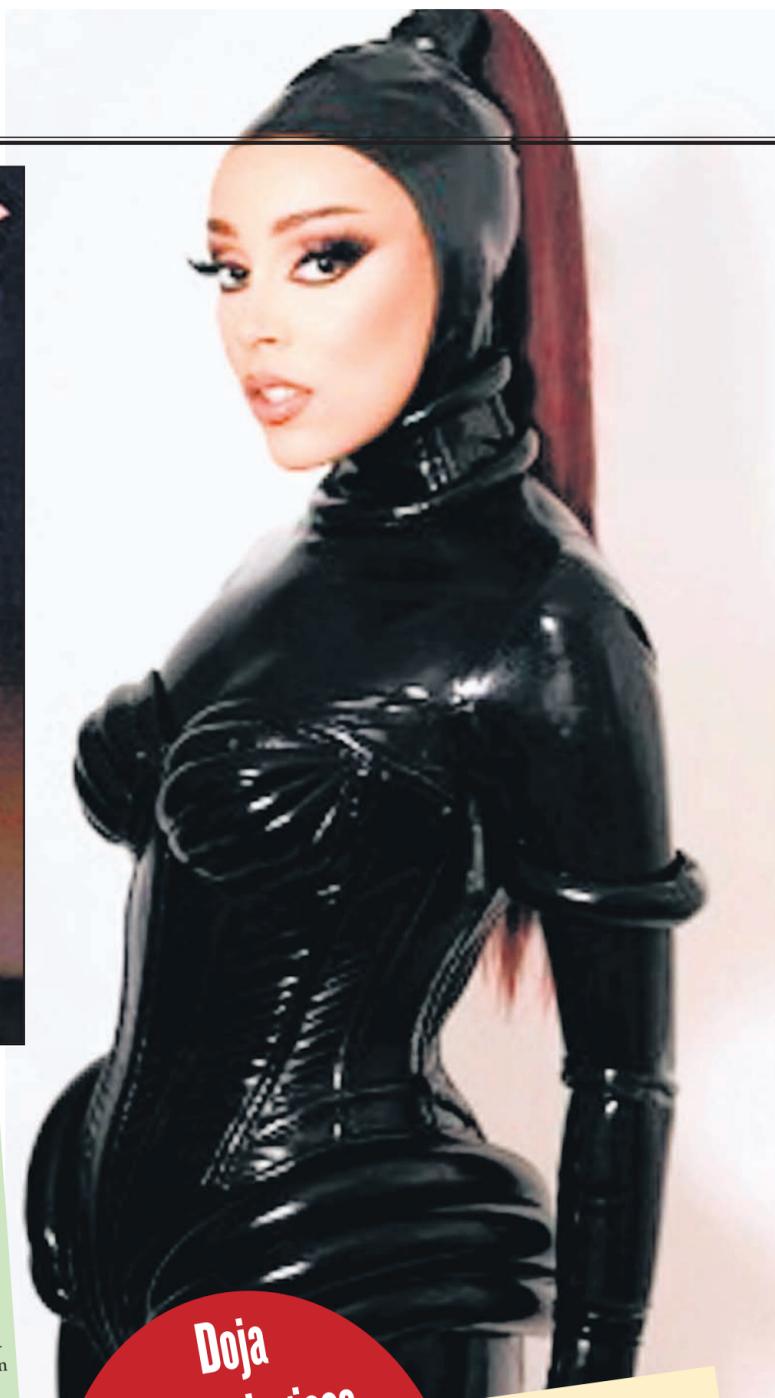
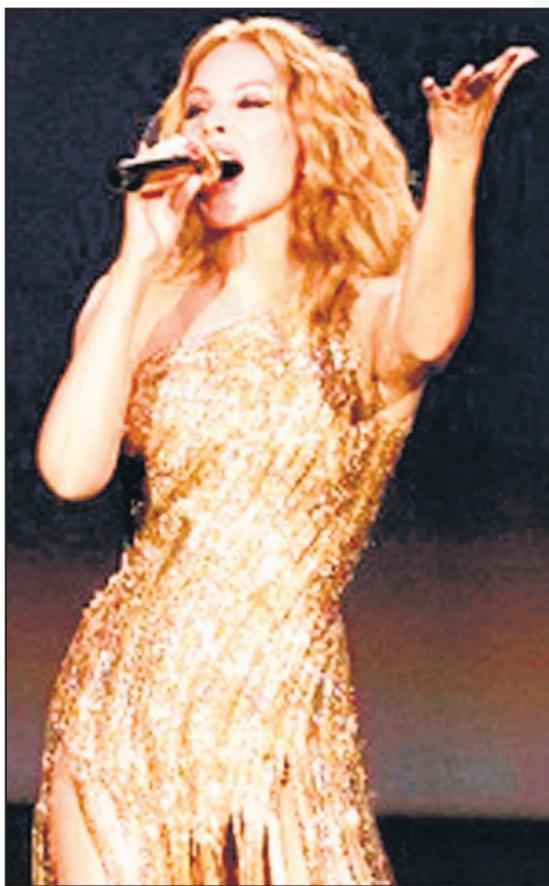
The 'Spinning Around' legend famously dated her 'Neighbours' co-star Jason Donovan in the 1980s

- with whom she tied the knot on-screen in one of the soap's most memorable moments - and she went on to speculate that the public's supposed fascination with her love life stemmed from the life of her fictional counterpart.

She added, "I wonder if a lot of that started with the fact that I was Scott and Charlene or Kylie and Jason. It seems slightly disproportionate to me, where [public interest] is disproportionate to the other stuff that you do."

After her relationship with Jason, Minogue dated late INXS rocker Michael Hutchence before dating Stephane Sednaoui, Olivier Martinez, James Gooding, and called off her engagement to Joshua Sasse in 2017.

She noted that her fans intentions are usually "well-meant" but insisted that she is "happy" being single right now. She said, "When it's good, it's well-meant, good intentions. But I'm happy where I am - I just will state that!"



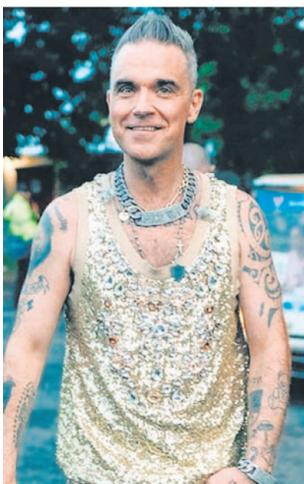
## Robbie Williams claims to have slept with over 100 women

Los Angeles | Agencies

Singer-songwriter Robbie Williams was addicted to food and drugs for years and has bedded a string of Nineties stars, and has now finally put a number on his conquests. "It's probably higher than the average guy but lower than you would expect," Robbie told The Sun when asked how many women he had bedded. When asked if it was 65, the singer added, "Oh! Well it's more than that!" And when quizzed on whether it was 110, Robbie declared, "Yeah, let's go with that."

Robbie is now happily settled with his wife Ayda Field, 44, with whom he has four children.

But the singer also told The Sun he is enduring the "menopause" which has led to his sex drive plummeting. Robbie also said he was suffering from insomnia, lethargy and baldness due to the condition, which can hit men in their 40s and 50s, reports aceshowbiz.com. The singer confessed to The Sun the only action he now gets from other females is "women playing with their bits" over Instagram direct message. Robbie said: "The first thing I do is show Ayda and say, 'F\*\*\*\*\* look at this!' We are sickeningly cheesy with each other. I'm happy, Ayda is amazing. I know I have a big life, and I do feel lucky to have my family. Right now I'd describe myself as a very happy hermit... I'm a Coca-Cola-lite agoraphobic. And that works for me." He has previously told how he had sex with his drug dealer on the night he met his wife, and said he was hooked on "having sex with strangers." He also once "begged" a porn star for sex.



## Doja Cat apologises after taunting her followers in 'disturbing' video

Los Angeles | Agencies

Singer Doja Cat has annoyed social media users after she made use of her Instagram account to taunt her haters with a bizarre video posted over the weekend.

For an unknown reason, the 28-year-old uploaded the clip to her Story on November 5. It featured her sticking her tongue out repeatedly and saying 'bleah!' to the camera in a mocking manner.

Doja, whose real name is Amala Ratna Zandile Dlamini, quickly followed up the clip with another to express her apology, reports aceshowbiz.com.

"Guys, I'm so sorry. I didn't mean that. I feel like it's mean for me to do that," she said in the second clip. Admitting that "that was really disturbing," she added, "I'm serious." However, Doja seemingly wasn't serious with her apology as she later uploaded another video that showed her repeating her bizarre action. The 'Paint the Town Red' rapper then posted a picture of her smiling widely, seemingly showing no remorse for her action.

## SCHWARZENEGGER CAUGHT KISSING MYSTERY WOMAN AMID HEATHER MILLIGAN ROMANCE

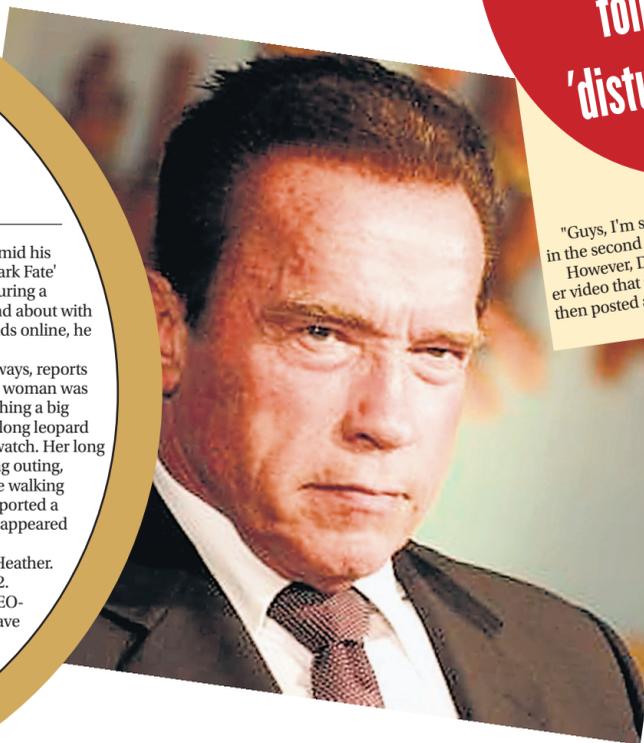
Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Arnold Schwarzenegger has been caught kissing a woman amid his brewing romance with his girlfriend Heather Milligan. The 'Terminator: Dark Fate' actor appeared to have packed on the PDA with an unidentified woman during a recent outing in California. The 76-year-old actor on November 5 was spotted out and about with the seemingly much younger woman in Santa Monica. In pictures making their rounds online, he appeared to have kissed the woman as she placed one of her hands on his shoulder.

At that time, the two were standing next to his black car before they went separate ways, reports aceshowbiz.com. While actor was later seen getting into the car and driving away, the woman was photographed riding a black bike. In one of the photos, the woman could be seen flashing a big smile to photographers. She was pictured wearing a long-sleeved black top, a pair of long leopard pattern pants, black sunglasses, matching sneakers, a matching backpack and wrist watch. Her long blonde hair was let loose and parted in the middle. At one point during their morning outing, Arnold and the unidentified woman were spotted leaving a building while they were walking next to each other. The former California's 38th governor from 2003 to 2011, who sported a short-sleeved dark gray tee and a pair of long black sweatpants, was holding what appeared to be a cup of drink in one of his hands while she was carrying a book.

The new sighting came amid Arnold's romance with his longtime girlfriend Heather. He met the Los Angeles-based physical therapist for the first time back in 2012.

About their first meeting, he recalled his conversation with his surgeon to PEO-PLE, "I said, 'I got to go do this movie, and I bring a lot of punches and I have fights with (Sylvester Stallone) and I want to have my act together.' The star and 48-year-old Heather have been together for more than ten years. He was previously married to Maria Shriver from 1986 to 2021. She filed for divorce in 2011. The former couple shares Katherine, Christina, Patrick and Christopher together.



## Andy Cohen wants the Duchess of Sussex for 'Real Housewives'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Television personality Andy Cohen has said that Duchess of Sussex Meghan is at the top of his wish list to become a 'Real Housewife'.

Asked if he was dreaming about future additions to the franchise at BravoCon 2023, rather than list a city, Cohen said: "If we can get Meghan Markle, that would be interesting."

However, Meghan, who has Prince Archie, four, and Princess Lilibet, two,

with Harry, may have to move house before she's eligible for a permanent role in the series because Andy is currently happy with the current crop of 'Real Housewives' shows, Orange County, New York, Atlanta, New Jersey, Dubai, Beverly Hills, Miami, Potomac and Salt Lake City, as well as 'Real Housewives Ultimate Girls Trip', reports femalefirst.co.uk.

The 'Watch What Happens Live' host told Entertainment Tonight: "Every time Bravo calls and says, 'What do you

think about developing here or there, I do feel like we're very good right now."

"You might laugh at me if I say we don't want to oversaturate the market because there are 10. I think we're very good right now. It's a good moment in 'Housewives' world."

Meanwhile, Andy confirmed he is currently single and focused on his two children, Ben, four, and 18-month-old Lucy, but is hopeful of finding a partner.

## ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Katy Perry





## Women's Asian Champions Trophy

# WE CAME TO SET RECORD STRAIGHT, SAYS SAVITA AFTER INDIA WIN GOLD MEDAL

Ranchi | Agencies

After failing to win the gold medal in the Hangzhou Asian Games, the Indian women's hockey team lifted the Jharkhand Women's Asian Champions Trophy Ranchi 2023 on Sunday night after a stunning 4-0 victory over Japan in the Final, claiming the prestigious title for the second time and fulfilling an aim it has started with.

The Indian women's hockey team will now aim to return to Ranchi and repeat this performance in the Women's FIH Hockey Olympic Qualifiers, scheduled to be held at Marang Gomke Jaipal Singh AstroTurf Hockey Stadium in Ranchi, Jharkhand from January 13-19, 2024.

Speaking on the big win, Indian women's hockey team captain Savita Punia explained why the title victory here is crucial for the team.

"We came with a target. We wanted to set the record straight after the team fell short in the recent Asian Games. We wanted to claim the gold medal here, especially since it was being held in India for the first time. We always take it one game at a time in every tournament. This time, the whole team had a point to prove and I am glad we were able to do so," Savita said.



In recognition of their exceptional title-winning performance, which was marked by an unbeaten streak, Hockey India declared a reward of Rs 3.00 lakh for each member of the Indian team and Rs 1.50 Lakh for each member of the support staff.

India faced China, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, and Thailand in the round-robin stage of the tournament and won all five games to finish on top of the table with 15 points. In the semifinal, India defeated Korea

2-0 to book a date with Japan in the Final.

"The team played a lot of attacking hockey. We took the initiative as we have the players suited for it and everyone gave their best to make sure we stand on top of the podium," she said. "The aim has always been to bring our performances from practice to the pitch. Now, for the Women's FIH Hockey Olympic Qualifiers, we have time to prepare and ensure we come back and perform to the best of our abilities," Savita added.

The final against Japan saw Sangita Kumari, Neha, Lalremsiami, and Vandana Katariya score to ensure India's massive win. Moreover, for their impressive performances Sangita Kumari, the highest goalscorer for India with five goals in the tournament, won the Rising Star of the Tournament Award.

Savita won the Women Leader of the Tournament Award, Salima Tete won the Jharkhand Player of the Tournament Award, and Deepika won the Fan Choice Award for Best Goal. Janneke Schopman, Chief Coach of the team, expressed appreciation for the performance and mentality of the team throughout the tournament.

"As a team, we played very well and the intent to be better was seen in every player. We played some scintillating hockey. I am really pleased with the team's decision-making on the field," she said.

"The players chose to try variations on penalty corners depending on the situation. Neha risked a referral in the first quarter but she was confident and all those decisions worked in our favour. I like to see the decision-makers taking ownership," she elaborated.

India scored a whopping 27 goals in the seven games they played during the tournament to clinch the Maximum Team Goals Award as well.

## 14-year-old Delhi girl sets powerlifting world record

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A 14-year-old Delhi girl has set a new powerlifting world record in the recently-held WPC World Championships at Manchester in the UK.

Ishti Kaur, a Class 10 student of GD Goenka School in Delhi, has registered the record by pulling a 95-kg deadlift in the 44 kg weight class in the Teenage category.

The World Powerlifting Congress (WPC) world championships were held in Manchester from October 31 to November 5. A total of 20 countries, including India, and around 600 players (10 from India) participated in the event.

Ishti is trained by her father, Daljeet Singh (45), who is also a multiple-time powerlifting world champion.

Ishti said she trains for an hour daily under her father's guidance and sticks to a disciplined diet.

Her achievement has not just made her teachers and classmates proud, but once again proved the cliché -- weight and strength training are not safe for girls -- wrong.

Powerlifting consists of three main lifts -- squat, benchpress and deadlift, with the participants getting three



attempts to lift the weight. The final numbers of each lift are compiled and the one registering the heaviest lift secures first position, while the second and third heaviest lifts get second and third place, respectively.

## Angelo Mathews becomes first cricketer to be dismissed 'timed out'

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Sri Lanka batting all-rounder Angelo Mathews on Monday became the first cricketer to be dismissed 'timed out' in international cricket, during the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 match against Bangladesh here at Arun Jaitley Stadium.

Following Shakib Al Hasan's dismissal of Sadeera Samarawickrama at 41, Angelo Mathews, Sri Lanka's No.6 batter, prepared to enter the field. However, he encountered a delay as he faced issues with his helmet. It appeared that he may have inadvertently brought the wrong helmet and consequently requested a replacement.

This prompted Shakib and Bangladesh to appeal for a 'time-out' dismissal. After an



animated chat with Mathews and the Bangladesh team, the on-field umpires declared the Sri Lankan batter 'Timed Out'.

As per MCC's rules: "After the fall of a wicket or the retirement of a batter, the incoming batter must, unless

Time has been called, be ready to receive the ball, or for the other batter to be ready to receive the next ball within 3 minutes of the dismissal or retirement. If this requirement is not met, the incoming batter will be out, 'Timed out'."

## Men's ODI World Cup BANGLADESH WIN AGAINST SRI LANKA DESPITE LATE HICCUP

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Najmul Hossain Shanto (90) and Shakib Al Hasan (82) missed their centuries but helped Bangladesh record their second win in the ICC Men's ODI World Cup 2023, beating Sri Lanka by three wickets with 53 balls to spare here on Monday.

Najmul Hossain and Shakib Al Hasan stitched together a 169-run partnership for the third wicket as Bangladesh scored 282/7 in 41.1 overs after bundling out Sri Lanka for 279 in 49.3 overs at the Arun Jaitley Stadium.

With this win, Bangladesh moved to seventh position with four points from two wins while Sri Lanka remained on four wickets from eight matches and in eighth position.

Chasing 280 for a win, Bangladesh lost openers Tanzid Hasan and Litton Das early in the Powerplay to Madushanka, who continued his impressive new-ball spells.

But having raced off the blocks early, Bangladesh only needed to consolidate and Shakib Al Hasan and Najmul Hossain Shanto did just that forging a strong partnership to keep the run rate on par with the required rate. With the pitch easing under lights and dew in abundance,



the ball came onto the bat and the two left-handers made merry, scoring at a brisk rate and piling the pressure on Sri Lanka. But Angelo Mathews exacted revenge for a first-innings mishap that saw him timed out by sending back Shakib with a cutter that found the leading edge and promptly gave him a send-off.

He went on to find seam movement with the scrambled ball and forced an inside edge off Shanto to clean him up next over.

With Bangladesh less than fifty runs away from a win, it didn't seem like a huge blow until

Madushanka and Maheesh Theekshana sent back Mushfiqur Rahim and Mahmudullah in quick succession. Mehidy Hasan Miraz was out with Bangladesh 11 runs away but Bangladesh got home with more than enough balls to spare to register their first-ever win over Sri Lanka in the men's Cricket World Cup. Earlier, opting to bowl first Bangladesh made an early breakthrough when Mushfiqur Rahim pulled off a sensational catch behind the wicket to dismiss Kusal Perera in the first over.

Kusal Mendis, who got off to a rather sedate start in uncharacteristic fashion, was dismissed by Shakib in his first over with the batter playing a mistimed stroke straight to mid-on.

### Brief scores

Sri Lanka 279 all out in 49.3 overs (Charith Asalanka 108, Sadeera Samarawickrama 41, Pathum Nissanka 41, Dhananjaya de Silva 34; Tanzim Hasan Sakib 3-80, Shoriful Islam 2-51, Shakib Al Hasan 2-57) lost to Bangladesh 282/7 in 41.1 overs (Najmul Hossain Shanto 90, Shakib Al Hasan 82; Dilshan Madushanka 3-69, Maheesh Theekshana 2-44, Angelo Mathews 2-35) by three wickets.

## Sri Lanka Cricket Board sacked, Sports Minister Roshan Ranasinghe appoints interim committee: Reports

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Sri Lanka's Sports Minister Roshan Ranasinghe has sacked the entire staff of the National Cricket Board following a dismal 2023 ICC Cricket World Cup campaign and has appointed an interim committee led by Arjuna Ranatunga.

The 1996 World Cup-winning captain Ranatunga will be joined by three retired judges in the seven-member interim committee. This decision to sack the cricket board followed the resignation of the board's secretary, Mohan de Silva, who stepped down on Saturday as fans protested in front of its headquarters.

The sports minister has appointed an interim committee until the upcoming Sri Lanka Cricket election or until further notice, exercising powers granted under Section 33 of the Sports Act No. 25 of 1973, according to Daily Mirror report. The interim committee is tasked with conducting a formal investigation into the alleged irregularities of the SLC board and submitting a comprehensive report on



legal principles, the report said. Furthermore, the committee is empowered to propose relevant recommendations and develop procedures to prevent the recurrence of corruption, misconduct and irregularities within the Sri Lanka Cricket Board. Sri Lanka have lost five out of their seven matches in the round-robin league stage and are out of the semifinal race. The 1996 champions will be hoping to end their campaign in top eight in order to qualify for the 2025 Champions Trophy to be held in Pakistan.

## Premier League Liverpool draw away at Luton after Luis Diaz scores injury-time equaliser

Luton (UK) | Agencies

Luis Diaz scored an equaliser in the fifth minute of stoppage time as Liverpool denied Luton Town a first home win in the Premier League.

Tahith Chong's 80th-minute goal had Luton on course for a historic victory but substitute Diaz scored deep into injury time to give Liverpool a 1-1 draw. The Colombian stepped off the bench and headed in Harvey Elliott's cross in the 95th minute to earn the Reds a point at Kenilworth Road.

Diaz's goal was Liverpool's 24th and final shot of a fantastic match,



with Darwin Nunez accounting for nine of Liverpool's attempts, the most by any player in a match this season, and somehow missing a big chance from just three yards out.

## Paris Masters Djokovic beats Dimitrov for 40th Masters 1000 title

Paris | Agencies

World no 1 Novak Djokovic eased past Grigor Dimitrov to claim a record-extending seventh ATP Masters 1000 title at Paris Masters.

Djokovic delivered a typically resilient all-around performance to clinch a 6-4, 6-3 triumph, becoming the first player to win 40 Masters 1000 crowns on Sunday.

The win means World No. 1 Serbian will now head to the season-ending ATP Finals on an 18-match winning streak, dating back to his Wimbledon final defeat to Carlos Alcaraz, ATP



Tour reports "Its incredible. To be able to win it after quite challenging circumstances for me this week. Basically, coming back from the brink of losing three matches in a row, on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. I was very close to losing those matches and somehow managed to find an extra gear when it was needed," said Djokovic.

"I think we both were quite tight at the beginning, and I could see that he was running out of gas a little bit. Myself as well, but I somehow managed to find an extra shot over the net. I think the match was closer than the scoreline indicates, but another amazing win for me. I'm very proud of this one, considering what I've been through this week," he added. By lifting the Paris trophy, Djokovic extended his lead over the Spaniard in the ATP Live Race To Turin to 1490 points, making it highly likely he will claim the ATP Year-End No. 1 honour for a record-extending eighth time.



## WTA Finals Swiatek downs Sabalenka to set summit clash with Pegula

Cancun (Mexico) | Agencies

World no 2 Iga Swiatek of Poland defeated No.1 Aryna Sabalenka 6-3, 6-2 WTA Finals, setting up a summit clash with Jessica Pegula.

The 22-year-old Swiatek has dropped a total of only 19 games in Cancun, the fewest by any player to reach the WTA Finals championship match since Justine Henin in 2007.

She has now won a total of 67 matches this year, equaling her marvelous 2022 campaign. The Pole is also the youngest player to reach the WTA Finals championship match since

Petra Kvitova and Victoria Azarenka in 2011.

If Swiatek wins Monday's championship match against Pegula, she'll regain the top spot she relinquished two months ago and finish as the year-end No.1 for the second straight time. If Pegula prevails, Sabalenka will finish on top for the first time in her career, WTA reports.

The semifinal between Sabalenka and Swiatek was suspended because of rain on Saturday, with Sabalenka serving down 2-1, 30-30, on serve.

The match resumed on Sunday, with 18 minutes elapsed and Sabalenka serving

to level the first set at 2-all, 30-all. Swiatek needed only two points to break her serve, setting a tone for the rest of the match.

Swiatek secured the set with a precision backhand down the line that Sabalenka couldn't quite track down, ultimately forcing her into a running forehand long.

The third game of the second set was a test of wills, won by Swiatek. She converted her fourth break point with another error from Sabalenka. Later, in the seventh game, Swiatek broke Sabalenka for the third time in the match before serving out the win.

## Formula 1 Verstappen seals record 17th win of the season in Sao Paulo Grand Prix

Sao Paulo (Brazil) | Agencies

Max Verstappen clinched a dominant victory in the Sao Paulo Grand Prix, making it a record-breaking 17th win for the world champion in 2023 Formula 1 season.

There was drama before the race had got underway when Charles Leclerc went off on the formation lap after losing the hydraulics, forcing him to retire, F1 reports.

When the lights went out, Verstappen made a clean start into the lead, but a heavy collision between Alex Albon and Kevin Magnussen behind



resulted in the red flags being thrown. It was another strong getaway from Verstappen at the restart, who resisted a challenge from Norris to hold P1 before going on to clinch his second win of the weekend after coming out on top in Saturday's Sprint.

Norris claimed a solid second place, while Fernando

Alonso completed the podium after holding off Sergio Perez in a thrilling battle to the line. Lance Stroll added to Aston Martin's tally by taking fifth, ahead of the sole Ferrari runner of Carlos Sainz in sixth. Pierre Gasly was the lead Alpine in seventh, while Lewis Hamilton ended a tough day for Mercedes in P8. Yuki Tsunoda and Esteban Ocon rounded out the top 10. There are now just two races remaining on the 2023 F1 calendar, with the first of those being the inaugural Las Vegas Grand Prix, which will take place from November 17-19.



## Sara Ali Khan

Clarifies she's not dating Shubman Gill

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Sara Ali Khan, who is known for films like 'Zara Hatke Zara Bachke', 'Atrangi Re', 'Kedarnath' and 'Simmba', has clarified that she is not dating Indian cricketer Shubman Gill, who is currently busy with the ongoing World Cup.

Sara is set to appear on the popular chat show 'Koffee With Karan' in its season 8 along with actress Ananya Panday. Sara issued a clarification during the course of the episode as per the latest promo of the show.

The promo 'the show host Karan Johar telling Sara: "There were alleged rumours about you dating Shubman Gill."

To which she quipped: "You have got the wrong Sara, guys. Sara ka saara duniya galat Sara ke peeche pada hai."

The actress was referring to Sara Tendulkar, the daughter of the India cricketing legend Sachin Tendulkar, whose record of the most centuries in One Day International was recently equalled by Virat Kohli who has been in terrific form during this World Cup. Kohli made a stellar comeback as he smashed his 49th ton during the recent match between India and South Africa during the ongoing World Cup.

During the match, Shubman was also teased by the spectators with Sara's name to which Kohli jumped and asked them to call the cricketer by his name pointing to his name written at the back of his jersey.

Meanwhile, the upcoming episode of 'Koffee With Karan' promises a fun ride as the conversation will centre on ex-partners of the actresses. A whole lot of laughter, revelations and candid conversations will fill up the episode as the show host Karan Johar reveals: "You both have ex-boyfriends in common."



## FARAH KHAN JOINS THE JUDGING PANEL REALITY SHOW

Team Absolute | Mumbai

'Jhalak Dikhhla Jaa,' a celebrity dance reality show that has grown to become a household name in India, is set to make a highly anticipated comeback on Sony Entertainment Television. The show's popularity has grown season after season, given its unique format that pairs celebrity contestants with professional choreographers, giving viewers a sneak peek into the lives of their favourite stars, but in a new light.

What adds to the charm of this season of the show is the addition of celebrated choreographer and filmmaker Farah Khan, as one of the judges. Farah Khan's credentials in the world of dance and choreography are undisputable, having worked with top Bollywood stars and directed iconic dance sequences. Her presence on the judging panel not only adds immense experience and expertise, but also a refreshing energy

that will resonate with the stars on the dance floor and with viewers. As Farah Khan puts it, "Joining 'Jhalak Dikhhla Jaa' again as a judge is as exciting for me as it was when the very first season began! This show has a special place in my heart, and I have vivid memories of its earlier seasons. It's a show that not only elevates the level of dance but also turns non-dancers into dancers. The journey of celebrities who every week surprises us is what makes this show so endearing to me. As a choreographer, I've always believed that one should dance from one's heart. I'm looking forward to witnessing the fusion of different dance forms, the raw passion of the celebrity lineup and the transformative power of dance. My goal as a judge is to encourage, nurture, and guide our stars on their journey while sharing my own experiences and insights."



## Tamannaah, Vijay walk hand in hand as they exit Manish Malhotra's Diwali bash

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The new love-birds of Bollywood town -- Tamannaah Bhatia and Vijay Varma, were seen shelling couple goals at the grand pre-Diwali bash at ace fashion designer Manish Malhotra's residence, here.

The couple made separate entries to the party, however, during the exit both can be seen walking hand in hand, and having a happy conversation.

In the video that went viral on the social media shows Vijay opening the door for his ladylove.

Tamannaah looked radiant and gorgeous in a lavender and pastel blue coloured sequined saree, and paired it with a matching tube blouse.

The actress opted for a nude makeup,



and no-accessories look. While, Vijay looked dapper in white ethnic ensemble.

While making their exit from the party, the two flashed their blushed smiles for the cameras. Fans took to the comment section

and wrote: "Hand in hand is love", "aww", "love this jodi", "sweet couple", "the duo" etc.

Meanwhile, on the work front, Vijay next has 'Murder Mubarak', 'Suriya 43'. Tamannaah was last seen in 'Bhola Shankar'. She next has 'Bandra', and 'Vedaa'.

## RASHMIKA SEEKS IMMEDIATE ACTION AGAINST VIRAL DEEPPAKE VIDEO: 'EXTREMELY SCARY'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Rashmika Mandanna has reacted to a reported mothed video of herself which has went viral on the social media, and called it "extremely scary", adding that we must address this as a community urgently before anyone else gets affected by such identity theft.

Taking a strong stance against the viral deepfake video of her, Rashmika penned a long note on social media: "I feel really hurt to share this and have to talk about the deepfake video of me being spread online. Something like this is honestly extremely scary, not only for me,



but also for each one of us who today is vulnerable to so much harm because of how technology is being misused."

"Today, as a woman and as an actor, I am thankful for my family, friends and well wishers who are my protection and support system. But if this happened to me when I was in school or college, I genuinely can't imagine how could I ever tackle this. We need to address this as a community and with urgency before more of us are affected by such identity theft," she added.

Earlier in the day, megastar Amitabh Bachchan took a stand for his 'Goodbye' co-star Rashmika, and demanded legal action over the matter.

In response to a post on X by a user highlighting the alleged misuse of the video, the 'Piku' star said: "Yes this is a strong case."

# This week, full Diwali entertainment on Television



Team Absolute | Mumbai

In &TV's Doodh Maa, Happu Ki Ultan Paltan and Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai, the characters will be seen celebrating Diwali with captivating twists and turns in the storyline. About &TV's Doodh Maa track, Yashoda shares, "Dada Ji (Sunil Dutt) instructs Krishna (Aayudh Bhanushali), Noopur (Anya Galvan) and Aastha (Advika Sharma) to collect mud to make diyas. They head to the pond, but unfortunately, Randheer's (Darshan Dave) henchmen abduct Krishna. Yashoda (Neha Joshi) senses something is amiss at home and rushes to check on her children, only to discover Krishna is missing. Yashoda, Dada Ji, and Malti (Anita Pradhan) search for Krishna with assistance from the police. And finally, rescue Krishna. Later, as Krishna lights diyas

in the temple, the neighbours raise an objection instigated by Arvind (Mayank Mishra), Bansal, and Kamini (Priety Sahay). To settle the dispute, Yashoda takes a bucket filled with water and douses the diyas, leaving everyone stunned."

About &TV's Happu Ki Ultan Paltan track Rajesh, shares "Katori Amma (Himani Shivpuri) asks the family and Happu (Yogesh Tripathi) to celebrate Diwali with great pomp and show as it could be Khodi's (Sharad Vyas) last Diwali. Meanwhile, the Commissioner (Kishore Bhanushali) makes Happu the face of a campaign against bursting firecrackers during Diwali. However, Hrithik (Aryan Prajapati), Chamchi (Zara Warsi), and Ranbir (Somya Azad) purchase firecrackers for home, resulting in a heated argument between Katori Amma and Rajesh (Geetanjali Mishra)



as Amma favours their action while Rajesh opposes it. Meanwhile, somehow, the kids manage to convince Happu to join them in bursting crackers, but Hrithik accidentally sets off a rocket that burns a woman's hair. The Commissioner demands Happu to arrest the culprit and arrange the CCTV footage from the area. To protect Hrithik, Happu takes the blame and surrenders to the authorities." About &TV's Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai track, Angoori shares, "Ammaji (Soma Rathod) invites Pandit Aaramphal, the guruji of Pandit Ramphal (Saurabh Kaushik), to read horoscopes of Angoori (Shubhangi Atre) and Tiwari (Rohitashv Gour). After examining their nakshatra, Guruji advises Angoori to befriend her neighbour while Tiwari cleans up their colony. In the modern colony, Tika (Vaibhav Mathur), Tilu (Salim Zaidi), Master

(Vijay Kumar Singh), Doctor (Jeetu Gupta), and Prem (Vishwajeet Soni) discuss plans for cleaning and decorating the colony for Diwali. Anita (Vidisha Srivastava) reprimands Vibhuti (Aasif Sheikh) for joblessness, and to lift his spirit, Angoori suggests consulting their pandit to find a solution, who in turn advises Vibhuti to distance himself from his neighbour. Following the pandit's guidance, Angoori tries to flirt with Vibhuti, but he resists her advances. Tiwari diligently tackles the task of cleaning the colony. Meanwhile, to impress Goddess Lamxi, Anita is on a cleaning spree and disposes of a lot of waste, resulting in Tiwari getting exhausted cleaning it."

Watch Doodh Maa at 8:00 pm, Happu Ki Ultan Paltan at 10:00 pm, and Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai at 10:30 pm, airing every Monday to Friday only on &TV!



Kiaara Adwani