

# absolute india

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## Delhi's Air Quality Index slightly improves at some places

# STILL 'VERY POOR'

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The air quality in Delhi on Wednesday evening slightly improved with an overall Air Quality Index at 398, in the 'very poor' category, according to data from the System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting And Research (SAFAR).

In the national capital, the Anand Vihar station entered in the 'very poor' category with PM 2.5 at 367 at 6 p.m while the CO was at 108, under 'moderate' category, as per the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

The AQI between 0 and 50 is considered 'good'; 51 and 100 'satisfactory'; 101 and 200 'moderate'; 201 and 300 'poor'; 301 and 400 'very poor'; and 401 and 500 'severe'.

The station at Dwarka sector 8 recorded PM 10 at 459 and PM 2.5 at 429 ('severe'), while CO was at 128 and NO2 was at 107, under moderate category.



The air quality at the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport T3 area was in the 'severe' category with PM 2.5 at 440 and PM 10 at 404 while the CO reached 84 in the 'satisfactory' category.

The PM 2.5 at ITO was recorded at 377, in the 'very poor' category while PM 10 reached 292, under 'poor' category. The CO was recorded at

117 ('moderate') on Wednesday evening.

At Lodhi Road, the AQI with PM 2.5 concentration was at 396 under the 'very poor' category, while PM (particulate matter) 10 was recorded at 349, also in the 'very poor' category while CO was at 116 in moderate category.

At Punjabi Bagh, the PM 2.5 reached at 367 and PM 10 at 305, both under 'very poor category' while NO2 was at 82 and CO at 90, in the satisfactory category.

## DELHI GOVT MULLS IDEA OF ARTIFICIAL RAIN BY NOV 20

New Delhi: In a bid to curb the air pollution in the national Capital, the Arvind Kejriwal-led Delhi Government is mulling the idea of artificial rain through cloud seeding by November 20.

The idea of artificial rain was discussed during a meeting of Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai with IIT-Kanpur experts here on Wednesday. According to Delhi government officials, the artificial rain could be brought through cloud seeding by November 20 as IIT-Kanpur has submitted a plan to the Delhi Government.

The government said that it will submit the entire plan to the Supreme Court on Friday and will also seek its permission to get the help of the Centre for the same.

Rai took to X and said, "Important meeting with experts from IIT-Kanpur and CII regarding artificial rain to reduce pollution in Delhi in winter." He also shared a picture of his meeting with the experts of IIT-Kanpur. Apart from Rai, Delhi Minister Atishi was also present in the meeting.

Speaking to the media after the meeting, Rai said, "We held a meeting with the experts of IIT-Kanpur to discuss bringing artificial rain through cloud seeding if there were 40 per cent clouds or moisture in the atmosphere." He said that experts anticipate that such conditions could develop around November 20-21.

"If we get the proposal by tomorrow then we will present it to the Supreme Court as there are a number of permissions required," he said. "Even if we see the clouds before November 20 then they can do the pilot project," he added.

The air quality in the national Capital has dipped to the 'severe' category.

## Maharashtra govt to buy iconic Air India building for Rs 1,601 cr

Quaid Najmi | Mumbai

The Maharashtra government will soon become the new landlord of the landmark Air India building at Nariman Point on the shores of the Arabian Sea, months before its Golden Jubilee next year.

A Cabinet meeting presided over by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Wednesday cleared the proposal to buy the Air India building for Rs 1,601 crore - 10 years after the erstwhile Air India vacated it and moved its headquarters to New Delhi in November 2013. "The government is taking all steps to secure early possession of the building, and a decision has been taken to waive all the lost incomes and other penalties of AI due to the state government to expedite the process," said an official, declining to comment on a specific timeline.

Located strategically at the western end via Marine Drive to Nariman Point and flanked by prestigious addresses, the building is barely 100 metres away from the Mantralaya and the Maharashtra Legislature building. A unique aspect of the building is a one-floor private lift leading to the grand top-floor office of the then AI Chairman, when the airline



was previously owned by the government.

The doyen of Indian aviation, the late J.R.D. Tata was among the last of the occupants who would sit in that exclusive well-appointed office in the building that will celebrate its golden jubilee in 2024.

After it becomes the new owner, the state government is likely to get around 46,500 sq mt build-up space for its offices in the building.

Owned by Air India Assets Holding Ltd (AIAHL), the 23-storey white building has some nine vacant floors, where the state government departments shall be housed.

Earlier, AI was eyeing to retain the two top floors but the state government refused to play ball, and now it will be the master of the entire building which

has a two-level underground parking, a tunnel drive-way, a commanding view of Marine Drive up to Malabar Hill and beyond, and other striking features.

Constructed in 1949, the Air India building was built on a state government plot when the entire Nariman Point complex was developed as a commercial hub on the lines of Manhattan in New York.

The Nariman Point has two five-star hotels, headquarters of several national and international banks, multinational companies, foreign consulates, many Indian corporates, a couple of media houses, a few diamond companies, brokerage firms, etc.

Incidentally, the building was one of the prime targets of the 1993 serial bomb blasts in Mumbai.

## IDF enter Gaza city, civilian evacuation to south Gaza continues

Tel Aviv | Agencies

The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) have in a statement said that it has entered Gaza city and a fierce fight is continuing with the Hamas terrorists.

The Prime Minister's Office has also confirmed that the IDF has entered Gaza city.

The Israeli Army has asked the civilian population in Gaza city to relocate to southern Gaza to avoid civilian casualties and has opened the road to southern strip for a few hours on Monday and Tuesday.

The IDF said that 8,00,000 people have already moved southward. Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said that the IDF is tightening the noose



over Hamas and that the Army has destroyed several Hamas centres and rocket launching pads. He added that IDF destroyed several Hamas tunnels and eliminated many terrorists within these spiralling tunnels. Netanyahu while visiting

the Tzelem base told the Israeli soldiers that they were saving the nation.

The Prime Minister also warned the Hezbollah that if they attack Israel, the response would be much more than what was expected.

## ODISHA ASSEMBLY BY SPEAKER RESIGNS

Bhubaneswar: Odisha Assembly Deputy Speaker Rajanikant Singh resigned from his post to devote more time to strengthen his party BJD's base in his constituency in Angul district.

The BJD MLA submitted his resignation letter to Speaker Pramila Mallik at her chamber in the state Assembly on Wednesday.

Rajanikant Singh, a four-time MLA from Angul constituency, has been serving as the Deputy Speaker of the Assembly since June 2019. He had also served as Minister Steel and Mines from August 2012 to May 2014 in Naveen Patnaik's Cabinet.

While speaking to media persons, Rajanikant Singh said, "It is not an instantaneous decision. I could not participate in party events by remaining on a constitutional post for the last five years. Had I taken this decision during the Assembly session, you could have termed it an instantaneous decision. The election is around the corner and I can now meet the party workers wholeheartedly and freely."

## Four convicts sentenced to three to four years rigorous imprisonment

Gwalior | Agencies

A special CBI Court in this Madhya Pradesh city has sentenced candidate Jitendra Singh and impersonator Jaideep Singh to four year rigorous imprisonment in a case related to police constable recruitment examination, 2012 conducted by Vyapam.

A fine of Rs 14,100 each was slapped on them.

Middleman Amit Sachan and Narendra Singh, the brother of candidate, were sentenced to three years imprisonment with a fine of Rs 1,000 each. The Central Bureau of Investigation had registered the case on August 1, 2015 in compliance with the Supreme Court's July 9, 2015 order and took over the investigation of FIR, earlier registered at Police Station Dehat, in Madhya Pradesh's Bhind

district. It was alleged that Jitendra Singh of Bhind had filled two application forms for the police constable recruitment exam 2012 with different residential addresses and was allotted two different examination centres.

"The appearance in the written test was registered on both the examination centres on the same date and time," a CBI official said. It was also further alleged that the candidate had arranged for an impersonator to appear on at least one of the examination centres. It was also alleged that this candidate had passed the written examination on both the roll numbers and was called for a physical proficiency test on both the roll numbers.

"CBI investigation revealed that Jaideep Singh, Narendra Singh, and Amit Sachan entered into a conspiracy to get the candidate Jitendra Singh

selected in the PCRT- 2012. In furtherance of the conspiracy, two application forms were filled; one by the candidate himself from a kiosk at Gwalior and the other by Sachan for which Jitendra Singh shared his personal details for filling the application form," said the official. "Further Sachan provided the Test Admit Card of the second roll number for the said examination to the impersonator Jaideep Singh, who appeared in the examination at the Bhind Center in place of the candidate. The impersonator in pursuance of the conspiracy knowingly substituted, pretended and represented himself as the candidate Jitendra Singh in the said examination," said the official. "After investigation, the CBI filed a charge sheet in the Court of Special Judge, CBI (Vyapam Cases), Gwalior against the said accused on August 16, 2017.

## Nitish Kumar apologises for his 'vulgar' remarks on women in Bihar Assembly

Patna | Agencies

A day after making bizarre remarks on the role women's education in population control in Bihar Assembly, which received widespread condemnation, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Wednesday apologised and withdrew his statement.

"If I have said something and it is condemned by every section of society then I apologize for that statement and also withdraw it. I want to condemn myself for such a statement," Kumar said while interacting with media persons in Patna on Wednesday.

Kumar on Tuesday while explaining his population control theory of Bihar, said how the education of women has helped the state to control the population. His explanation turned into an awkward situation for the female legislators during the proceedings. The words were too shocking, said several women legislators.



When Kumar was making the shocking statement in the House, some of the legislators sitting behind were laughing.

Following his statement, leaders of opposition parties -- Samrat Choudhary, Giriraj Singh, Vijay Kumar Sinha, Nevedita Singh and many others heavily criticized the CM.

## 40% Indian workers set to quit due to poor technology at work

Team Absolute | New Delhi

As poor technology tools are costing companies up to six months of working hours a year, about 40 per cent of Indian employees are considering quitting their jobs in the next six months because of work technology holding back productivity, a new report revealed on Wednesday.

According to the software major Adobe, leaders (93 per cent) and employees (87 per cent) both believe that poor technology tools can hurt productivity. Most workers in India also stated that access to technology heavily influences their decision to accept a job offer, with the majority saying it's critical (34 per cent) or a top consideration (50 per cent).

When it comes to artificial intelligence (AI), about 98 per cent of Indian workers said that generative AI is helpful and miraculous, and 94 per cent said the same thing about automation. While the majority of knowledge workers (88 per cent) and leaders (94 per cent) believe their companies should leverage generative AI, 6 per cent still remain hesitant. The top barriers hindering its adoption



include security concerns, executives' resistance, and a lack of. Moreover, the report mentioned that 94 per cent of workers believe that their companies should use generative AI,

however, only 59 per cent of companies use it currently.

The report surveyed 626 leaders in the Director or more senior positions and 1,385 employees.

## Last Metro on all lines to run at 10 p.m. on Diwali: DMRC

Team Absolute | New Delhi

On the occasion of Diwali, the last Metro train service will begin at 10 p.m instead of the usual 11 p.m. from terminal stations on all lines, a DMRC official said on Wednesday.

According to officials, on account of the Diwali festival, the last Metro train service on November 12 (Sunday) will start at 10 p.m. from terminal stations of all lines, including the Airport Express Line.

As per the revised schedule, the Metro train services will commence from 6 a.m. onwards on all lines and stations and from 4:45 a.m. on the Airport Express Line on Diwali, said the official.

Meanwhile, on Wednesday, train services on the Pink Line were affected briefly on the Down line (going from Majlis Park towards Maujpur) from 8:25 a.m. to 10:09 a.m. owing to a technical fault observed in a train as it approached the Durgabai Deshmukh Metro Station.



"Train services on the remaining section of the Pink Line from Majlis Park to Mayapuri and Lajpat Nagar to Maujpur were running normally during this period through both Up and Down tracks," said the official.

"During this period, centralised announcements were done at station premises and inside the trains to inform the passengers," said the official.

"The faulty train was taken and stabled in the stabling line (siding) at Durgabai Deshmukh Metro station at 10:09 a.m. and thereafter, normal train services were resumed on the entire Pink Line through Up and Down tracks," said the official.





# 'HOW LOW WILL YOU STOOP?' PM MODI SLAMS NITISH KUMAR FOR HIS DEROGATORY REMARKS

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday slammed Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar for his objectionable remarks about women in the state assembly. Without mentioning his name, Modi said, "He has no shame".

Kumar's derogatory remark made in the state assembly gave ammo to the BJP to hit at the Opposition's bloc 'INDIA'.

Leading the attack, PM Modi while addressing a poll rally in Guna district in Madhya Pradesh said, "His (Nitish Kumar) remark in the state assembly has shamed the entire country." PM Modi also slammed the INDIA bloc for maintaining silence on a shameful remark made by a Chief Minister, who insulted India before the world.

Slamming Kumar over his remarks, PM Modi said, "A politician who is acting as the flag bearer of the 'INDI' alliance and is playing several games to uproot the current central government; this leader said some-



thing unimaginable inside the assembly in front of women politicians. He made obscene remarks. Koi sharm nahi hai unko (He has no shame). Not even a single leader of

INDI alliance was ready to say even one word against this insult to women."

The PM continued his attack on the Opposition saying those who

keep such views about women; they can go to any extent. "Can these people do any good for you? Can they save your honour?" Modi asked people while addressing a rally.

"How low will you stoop? You are defaming India before the world. Mothers and sisters, to ensure your honour, I will do whatever I can," he added.

Nitish Kumar, while speaking on the importance of education among women to control the population in the state, elaborated on how a woman can restrain her husband during sexual intercourse. "The husband's acts led to more births. However, with education, a woman knows how to restrain him. This is the reason the numbers (of births) are coming down," Kumar had said on Tuesday. However, after his remark triggered a massive political row, Kumar apologised for his remark inside the assembly and said he was taking his words back. The Opposition members, however, continued their protest inside the House and demanded his resignation.

## Delhi HC refuses to entertain petition challenging Chhath Puja ban

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Delhi High Court has declined to entertain a petition challenging the Delhi Government's decision to prohibit devotees from performing Chhath Puja on the banks of the Yamuna River.

Justice Subramonium Prasad noted that the prohibition was imposed to prevent pollution in the river. The counsel representing the petitioners -- societies, the Chhath Pooja Sangharsh Samiti and Purwanchal Jagriti Manch -- chose to withdraw the plea in response to the court's inclination to dismiss the plea.

The petition contested an order issued by the Delhi Government's Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) on October 29, 2021, which prohibited the celebration of Chhath Puja in public places, public grounds, river banks, and temples due to COVID-19. The societies also sought



permission to perform Chhath Puja at different ghats and along the banks of the Yamuna River.

However, the impugned order only allowed celebrations at designated sites and explicitly excluded the banks of the Yamuna River.

The societies argued that the order was illegal and arbitrary, affecting millions of

devotees and infringing upon their constitutional rights. They contended that Chhath Puja, as a religious festival, falls under the purview of constitutional rights, and any restrictions on its celebration could potentially be challenged as a violation of the right to practice and propagate one's religion.

## Mumbai's Sir J.J. Hospital opens OPD for air pollution patients

Team Absolute | Mumbai

As air pollution bogs down Mumbai for the past couple of months, the state-run Sir J.J. Hospital here has opened a separate OPD ward to provide emergency treatment to patients suffering from respiratory problems, Minister of Medical Education, Hasan Mushrif, said here on Wednesday.

Besides, all medical colleges have also been directed to take suitable measures in this regard with the possibility of a spike in the number of people suffering from respiratory disorders due to the air pollution, Mushrif said.

The hospital will treat such patients in the OPD daily from 8 a.m. to 12.30 p.m., and later in the casualty or emergency wards for treatment of respiratory-related issues.

Mushrif has also asked the



concerned authorities to set up a separate Respiratory Disorders Unit and ensure necessary measures at the institutional level for availability of all medicines, masks or equipment and other requirements for such patients at the hospital. The medical authorities

would compile daily data of patients with respiratory ailments and submit them to their higher departments, and in case the number of patients is found to be increasing, more facilities would be created in the hospital to accommodate them, said Mushrif.

## Tension in Manipur district as two missing teenagers remain untraced, two held

Imphal | Agencies

Tension prevailed in Manipur's Imphal West even as the security forces have arrested two suspects on Wednesday in connection with the reported abduction or disappearance of two teenage boys from the district on Sunday.

Police said that two suspects, Lhunkhosei Chongloi, 30, and Satgohin Hangsinh, 28, were apprehended following an intensive investigation by the police in connection with the reported abduction or disappearance case of Avinash Maibam, 16 and Ningthoujam Anthony, 19 from Akham Awang Leikai in Imphal West.

Police suspect that the detainees are to be cadres of the militant outfit under Suspension of Operation (SoO) with the government.

The family members of the missing students said that the two boys had gone towards Sekmai on Sunday in the morning on a two-wheeler and



did not return home. They filed a missing complaint at the local police station after there was no response from their mobile phones also.

BJP MLA S. Rajen Singh and missing youths' families met Manipur Governor Anusuiya Uikey to discuss

the disappearance of the two boys and submitted a memorandum seeking her intervention.

They also spoke to Director General of Police Rajiv Singh and requested him to conduct a combined search operation by security

forces. Sources said that the families suspect the hand of militants in the incident. A combined force of police, Assam Rifles, and CRPF are conducting search operations at Khengiang, Langnom and Gampiphai in Kangpokpi district to locate the youths. Police recovered the mobile handsets used by two missing youths from Senapati district.

Manipur witnessed massive students' agitations in September to protest the killing of 17-year-old girl student Hijam Linthoingambi and 20-year-old Phijam Hemjit, who had gone missing on July 6 during the height of ethnic violence in Manipur and photographs of their bodies were circulated in various social media on September 25. In view of the students' agitations, the state government on September 26 re-imposed the ban on mobile. On September 23, the internet ban was lifted after more than four months of imposition on May 3 when the ethnic riots began.

## NIA searches in 10 states, arrests 44 in connection with 4 illegal human trafficking cases

Team Absolute | New Delhi

In a bid to dismantle the illegal human trafficking, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Wednesday carried out searches in 10 states and arrested 44 people in connection with four cases related to human trafficking.

An NIA spokesperson here said that the NIA, in close coordination with the Border Security Force (BSF) and state police forces, conducted a comprehensive operation across multiple states since Wednesday morning.

The official said that the operation aimed at dismantling illegal human trafficking support networks involved in infiltration and settlement of illegal migrants across the Indo-Bangladesh border into India.

The official said that following registration of four Human trafficking



cases at the NIA branches in Guwahati, Chennai, Bangalore, Jaipur, simultaneous and synchronised raids and searches were carried out at a total of 55 locations across the following States and union territories -- Tripura, Assam, West Bengal,

Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Haryana, Rajasthan, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and Puducherry.

The official said that the initial case, was registered on September 9 by the Assam Police's Special Task

Force (STF) and pertained to a human trafficking network responsible for the infiltration and settlement of illegal migrants across the Indo-Bangladesh border into India, including those of Rohingya origin.

The operations of this network extended into various parts of the country, including regions along the Indo-Bangladesh international border.

"Recognising the international and inter-State linkages of the case and its complexity, the NIA formally took charge of the investigations on October 6 by registering a case at the NIA Police Station in Guwahati," the official said. The official said that its probe revealed that different modules of this illegal Human Trafficking network were spread over various states, including Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Haryana and Jammu and Kashmir and operating from there.

## Demonetisation was a well thought out conspiracy to destroy employment: Rahul

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Former Congress President Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday took a jibe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the seventh anniversary of demonetisation, saying it was a well thought out conspiracy to destroy employment, to break unorganised economy. "Demonetisation was a well thought out conspiracy to destroy employment, to stop the income of workers, to eliminate small businesses, to harm farmers, to break the unorganised economy," Rahul Gandhi wrote on X.

He said, "Attack on 99 per cent common Indians, benefit to one per cent capitalist Modi 'friends'. This was a weapon to pick your pocket - to fill your best friend's bag and make him the second richest person in the world by 609."

The Prime Minister on November 8 in a television address to the nation announced the decision of spiking the Rs 500 and Rs



1,000 currency notes to curb black money, terrorism.

## BCCI seeks copy of FIR in World Cup 2023 ticket black marketing case

Kolkata | Agencies

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has sought the copy of an FIR filed by Kolkata Police in the case of Cricket World Cup 2023 match ticket black marketing case in the city.

The BCCI has sought the copy of the FIR in reply to the Kolkata Police's notice to the board on November 5 seeking information on the process followed in online marketing of tickets.

"The BCCI has replied to our notice on Tuesday evening seeking the copy of the FIR registered in the matter. The board authorities have claimed that going through the contents of the FIR will make things easier for them to reply to the queries made by us in the matter. We have sent them a copy of the FIR in the matter on Wednesday morning," he said.

The Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB), whose offi-



cialers were questioned by the officers at the Maidan Police Station last week, denied any kind of responsibility in the matter, since the association is in no way involved with the marketing of tickets which is being done through an online agency.

The city police also questioned the officials of the online ticket marketing entity and they said that they would need more time to reply to the queries on this count in detail.

The matter of ticket black marketing first surfaced after the police on November 1 evening arrested an individual red-handed while trying to sell tickets for the India-South Africa match scheduled on November 5.

## 4 jailbirds hoodwink Maha prison staff to escape from cell in waiting car

Ahmednagar (Maharashtra) | Agencies

In a bizarre getaway, four undertrials lodged in a sub-prison here made a daring pre-dawn escape from the Sangamner Sub-District Jail in a pick-up car waiting outside, officials said on Wednesday.

The four undertrials bolted from the sub-jail lock-up where they were lodged, and the incident came to light at around 6.30 a.m. on Wednesday, sending the district and local police into a tizzy.

The undertrials have been identified as Rahul D. Kale, Roshan R. Dadhel, Machhindra M. Jadhav and Anil C. Dhoke, who managed to cut the iron rods of a window in the barrack, climb out and then drive off in a car, said to be a Maruti Swift, waiting for them outside the sub-jail.

On learning of the shocking incident, senior officials like SDPO Somnath Vakchaur and others rushed to the spot.

The Sangamner City police station has formed three special teams which have fanned out in different directions to hunt for the escaped undertrials, and



vigil has been tightened at all the check-posts on the district border, said an official. Messages to keep a lookout for the escaped accused have also been relayed to police control rooms in the neighbouring districts in a desperate bid to trace and nab them, while people have been asked to inform the police if they see any of them. While Kale was nabbed in a murder case, Jadhav was caught in

an attempt to murder case. Dhoke and Dadhel were apprehended in separate rape cases, at various times in the past four years, said an official.

Local sources claimed that the operation appeared to be well-planned with the possibility of inside or outside help not ruled out, as they had a getaway car waiting for them and they disappeared without a trace.

## RBI issues new directions to banks, NBFCs on IT governance & cyber security

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The RBI has issued a new comprehensive Master Direction to banks and NBFCs on Information Technology Governance, Risk, Controls and Assurance Practices which spells out the role of Directors of these regulated entities to discharge their duties in order to safeguard the interests of customers.

These directions incorporate, consolidate and update the guidelines, instructions and circulars on IT Governance issued earlier and will come into effect from April 1, 2024.

The guidelines have directed all regulated entities to keep a close watch on:

'Cyber events' defined as any observable occurrence in an information system. Cyber events sometimes provide indication that a cyber incident is occurring.

Cyber security -- Preservation of confidential-

ty, integrity and availability of information through the cyber medium. In addition, other properties, such as authenticity, accountability, non-repudiation and reliability can also be involved. 'Cyber incident' -- which is a cyber event that adversely affects the cyber security of an information asset whether resulting from malicious activity or not.

'Cyber-attack' -- Malicious attempts to exploit vulnerabilities through the cyber medium to damage, disrupt or gain unauthorised access to assets.

'Demilitarized Zone' or 'DMZ' is a perimeter network segment that is logically between internal and external networks.

'Information Asset' -- Any piece of data, device or other component of the environment that supports information-related activities. Information Assets include information system, data, hardware and software.





## WILL TAKE INDIA'S ECONOMY AMONG TOP THREE IN MY THIRD TERM: PM MODI

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said that his government made India the world's 5th largest economy in the last 10 years and assured that during his third tenure the country's economy will be among the top three.

"When we (BJP) formed the government in 2014, I punctured all the tyres of Congress' corrupt machinery. We created a 'trishakti' of Aadhaar, bank accounts and mobile that Congress' corrupt machine could not bear," he said while addressing a poll rally in Damoh district of Madhya Pradesh.

He said that from ground to space, India is applauded everywhere. "Today, praises are being heaped on India across the globe. India's Chandrayaan-3 has reached where no other nation have reached. The G20 summit held in India is being talked about by all. Our sports persons are setting new records every day," he said.

He said the people need to beware of the party that snatches money which belongs to the poor. "Congress president is controlled by a remote. He can't do much. When the remote works, he abuses Sanatan (Dharma). Yesterday, when the remote was not working, he spoke about Pandavas and said there are five Pandavas in BJP. We are proud that we are walking on the path laid by the Pandavas," he said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has



launched a scathing attack on Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's statement on population control. PM Modi said in the election rally in Guna that the leader of Indi alliance spoke in such language to his mother and sister inside the assembly...he has no shame. He said, the leaders of Indi alliance are roaming around with the flag.

Who are playing various games to overthrow the present government. No one can imagine that the leader of that Indi alliance would cause insult in the world by talking dirty in such language inside the assembly, in the meeting where mothers and sisters were present.

PM Modi said, not only this...not even a single leader of the alliance is ready to say a word against the statement given

on mothers and sisters. What good can they do for you there? What misfortune has befallen you...how low you will stoop...you are dishonoring the country in the world...I will do whatever I can to honor you.

PM Modi targeted Congress and said that they only worry about their sons and daughters. Congress does not think of others.

Modi said his guarantee is not about looting the country's treasures but taking the country forward.

"Our guarantee is not about getting votes, but making the countrymen more capable," he said.

Elections to the 230-member Madhya Pradesh Assembly are scheduled for November 17.

## PM Modi snatches livelihood of youths by selling govt-run industries to select businessmen: Priyanka Gandhi

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi on Wednesday hit out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, accusing him of snatching the livelihood of the youth of the country by selling Government-run industries and institutions to select businessmen.

Priyanka Gandhi said the Congress governments set up industries to provide jobs to the youth of the nation, but the BJP Government at the Centre sold all public industries, which is their (BJP) policy to hand over the control of Government-run companies to industrialists.

Addressing a poll rally in Sanwer seat in Indore district of Madhya Pradesh, the Congress leader said the country's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru's idea behind setting up institutions like the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) and the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) was to take the country forward.

"The Congress brought IIM and big hospitals like AIIMS, but it has become the



BJP's policy to hand over Government-run companies to industrialists and take out the money from people's kitty," Priyanka Gandhi said, adding that "people should evaluate between the BJP and the Congress' policies."

Targeting the BJP-led Centre over the condition of Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL), Priyanka Gandhi said that government-run companies have been given to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's industrialist friends.

"There is privatisation of jobs, pension of the govern-

ment employees has been stopped and employees wonder what happened to their money," she said.

"PM Modi says nothing has happened in the last 70 years (of Congress rule). The school attended by Modi ji was built by the Congress. I don't know if Modi ji went to college but at least the certificate of his degree in - entire political science - must have been printed by the computer given by the Congress," she added.

The Congress General Secretary said that at that time, her father Rajiv Gandhi was the prime minister and he wanted to bring computers in the country. "But such people had opposed it," she said, apparently targeting Modi.

While addressing the rally, Gandhi reiterated the poll guarantees given by the Congress. She said that if the party came to power in the state, the Congress would provide Minimum Support Price (MSP) of Rs 2,600 for wheat and Rs 2,500 for paddy, farm loan waiver, free electricity up to 100 units and half the tariff up to 200 units of usage, old pension scheme for government employees, Rs 500 for LPG cylinder and 27 per cent reservation for Other Backward Classes (OBC).

## Electoral onion now Rs 35 per kg



Team Absolute | Bhopal

Onion showed its colors amid the assembly elections of five states and onion which was being sold at Rs 15 to 20 per kg suddenly reached Rs 70 to 80 and Rs 100 per kg. Seeing this, the central and state governments got scared and hurriedly found a way to sell onions at Rs 25 per kg. At some places in Madhya Pradesh, 2 kg onion was sold at the rate of Rs 25 per person from vehicles by the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED). Now the same election onion is being sold in the market at Rs 35 per kg. In Bhopal city, onion prices had reached Rs 80 per kg in the last 15 days. Politics also became heated regarding this. In such a situ-

ation, the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED) opened its stores and its effect started becoming visible in the wholesale and retail onion market. Within no time the price of onion reduced by Rs 10 to Rs 20 per kg, but as soon as NAFED started giving onion at Rs 25 per kg at various places, the arrival of onion also started increasing.

Due to this, the skyrocketing price of onion then came down to Rs 35 per kg. It is being told that as the availability of onion increases, the price will go down and onion will again be seen being sold at its old rate i.e. Rs 15 to 20 per kg, but by then the voting for Madhya Pradesh Assembly elections will have taken place on 17th November. That's why people have named it election onion.



## Two Dhritarashtras in Congress, says Shivraj; 7 days left: Kamal Nath

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan reached Barwani to hold a meeting. As soon as his helicopter started landing, the barricades fell in the strong wind. The security personnel deployed at the helipad also fell. Addressing the gathering in Sendhwa, Shivraj said that Kharage ji accepted that he was a Kaurava, in the Mahabharata there was only one Dhritarashtra who was fighting to get the kingdom for his son and became the reason for the end of Kauravas, but there are two Dhritarashtras in MP Congress, who will pay tribute to the entire Congress in installing their sons.

In the same evening, former Chief Minister Kamal Nath said that investment comes from trust. We had our government for 15 months. I could also make a deal. If the chair goes, it may go, but I did not make the deal. Introduced policy and intentions. Farmers' loans waived off. Forgive the electricity bill, what sin did you commit? now is the time. BJP is left with police, money and administration. 7 days left. Then Kamal Nath will see where the money and police administration will go. After Kamal Nath, Priyanka Gandhi addressed the gathering.

## Will the history of independent victory in Gotegaon change?

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Gotegaon seat of Narsinghpur district has become a matter of prestige for both Congress and BJP in the assembly elections to be held on November 17 in Madhya Pradesh. Especially whether former Assembly Speaker Congress candidate NP Prajapati will win the election or not, these questions are being raised seriously in political circles. On this seat, Shekhar Choudhary has become a problem for both Congress and BJP as he rebelled against Congress and contested the elections as an independent candidate. He is defeating both Congress and BJP candidates. Congress had earlier made Shekhar Choudhary its authorized candidate on this seat. Later the party declared NP Prajapati as its candidate in place of Shekhar Choudhary. BJP has made Mrigendra Nagesh its candidate on this seat.

Gotegaon Assembly seat voting pattern has remained the same since 1972. Just like rotis turn on a pan, in the same way the MLA who was once elected from this seat has not been able to win the election again. Since 1972, rarely has any Congress-BJP candidate been

able to win elections from this seat consecutively. Apart from this, another special thing is that the politics of Congress on this seat has revolved around the current Congress candidate NP Prajapati and Shekhar Choudhary, who has contested as an independent candidate. This is not the first time that Congress has ignored Shekhar Choudhary and given importance to NP Prajapati.

According to the reports received from Gotegaon, Congress candidate NP Prajapati has become a bigger threat to Congress candidate NP Prajapati than BJP candidate Mrigendra Nagesh and Shekhar Choudhary, who is contesting as an independent candidate. Congress candidate NP Prajapati is in bad condition. He has to fight with BJP on one side and Shekhar Choudhary on the other.

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## Anupam Rajan released the folk music of Sarika's Loktantra Parv

Bhopal: Sweep icon Sarika Gharu has prepared a new collection of video songs for maximum participation in the great festival of democracy coming after Diwali festival. These songs were released by Chief Nirvana Officer Anupam Rajan in the Election House. On this occasion, Sarika told that she is explaining the voting process to the new voters by demonstrating the model VVPAT, control unit and ballot unit under the sweep activities organized under the guidance of Chief Electoral Officer Shri Anupam Rajan. For this, interesting mediums like songs, folk music etc. is being used. Sarika appealed in the SVEEP program to prepare now to fulfill your duty, your turn to vote is coming on 17th November.

## AIIMS Bhopal Celebrates World Radiology Day

Team Absolute | Bhopal

On the occasion of World Radiology Day, AIIMS Bhopal came together to celebrate the invaluable contributions of radiology in healthcare. The event, jointly organized by the Department of Radiation Oncology and Radio diagnosis, was graced by Prof. (Dr.) Ajai Singh, Executive Director of AIIMS Bhopal as the chief guest.

Prof. (Dr.) Ajai Singh, paid homage to Sir C V Raman's pioneering work in the field of radiology and unveiled a portrait of the renowned physicist Sir C V Raman. Oncology block and Cancer Treatment Center of AIIMS, Bhopal is named after the Nobel Laureate Dr. C V Raman.

Prof. (Dr.) Ajai Singh emphasized the significance of X-Rays in cancer



treatment and underscored the importance of cancer screening as a vital tool in cancer prevention. These speeches aimed to raise awareness and help patients better understand the pivotal role that radiology plays in their healthcare journey.

As a special treat for the audience, a short skit was performed by senior members and dedicated staff, shedding light on the day-to-day operations and challenges faced in radiology departments. This informative and engaging skit highlighted the dedica-

tion and hard work of the entire radiology team.

Prof. (Dr.) Ajai Singh also felicitated radiographers and radiology technicians for their unwavering commitment and diligence in delivering quality healthcare through radiology. The event concluded with a symbolic gesture of care and compassion. Fruits were distributed to patients and their attendants, reaffirming the commitment of AIIMS Bhopal to the health and well-being of the community. On this occasion, Prof (Dr) Shashank Purwar, Prof Rajesh Malik, and Dr. Manish Gupta were also present. World Radiology Day serves as a reminder of the indispensable role that radiology plays in modern medicine, and AIIMS Bhopal is proud to be at the forefront of healthcare innovation and patient care.

## Various Programs were organized to mark Voters Awareness at Sant Hirdaram Girls College

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Sant Hirdaram Girls College organized various programs under the sweep campaign for voter awareness on Wednesday, November 8, 2023. The NSS unit of Sant Hirdaram Girls College conducted these programs to ensure maximum utilization of voting rights for establishing a healthy democracy in the Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly elections, 2023.

The program commenced with a voter awareness rally, inaugurated by Dr. Dalima Parwani, the Principal of the college, who also actively participated in the rally. The rally was attended by the three program officials Prof. Vibha Khare, Dr. Meena Barse,

and Prof. Deepika Saxena, Mrs. Jyoti Singh, the Sports Officer, all the teachers, college volunteers, NCC cadets, and a large number of students. Dr. Dalima Parwani, the Principal of the college, urged everyone to vote, emphasizing the importance of exercising their voting rights, and encouraged them to vote on the upcoming elections on November 17, 2023. Other events included a face painting competition held in the first category, where the first place was secured by Ms. Anushree Namde, BCA I Year. In the second category, a rangoli-making competition took place, and the first place was secured by Ms. Suhani Jain BCA I Year, the second place by Ms. Vanshika Jain BBA I Year, and the third place by Ms. Poonam

Sahu BBA I Year. In the third category, a mehndi competition was organized, and the first place was secured by Ms. Maheen Naem, B.Sc I Year, and the second place by Ms. Pinky Kushwaha, BCA III Year and the third place by Ms. Neha M.Com III Sem. Another Competition Tattoo Making Ms. Archi Jain of BCA I Year stood first.

With a 100% voter turnout, students inspired everyone to vote by chanting slogans that uplifted Bhopal's pride during the rally. Through rangoli, tattoo, mehndi, and face painting competitions, students demonstrated the importance of voting. The college management congratulated the NSS unit for the successful organization of this event.



## EVEN IF I DIE, I WILL RISE FROM THE HEAP OF ASHES AND SERVE THE SISTERS: CM

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Campaigning for the assembly elections is going on in full swing in Madhya Pradesh. There is a close contest between BJP and Congress in the state, hence both the parties have put in full force in the campaign. Meanwhile, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said that even if I die, I will rise again from the heap of ashes and serve the



poor sisters. In Chhindwara, the stronghold of former Chief Minister and Congress state president Kamal Nath, Shivraj Singh Chouhan said, "Kamal Nath ji curses me every day with every sip. Once, Congressmen had performed

Shraddha for me on social media. He said, uncle, your Shraddha is over. I said, even if I die, I will rise from the heap of ashes and serve the poor sisters." During this, the CM said, I have decided that in the next five years I will make every sister a Lakhpati Didi. This means one who earns one lakh rupees in a year. This will happen when you earn Rs 10,000 per month. Today 15 lakh Didas have been created.





EDITOR'S SPECS

## TV stars to campaign for road safety in UP

Characters from the popular TV show 'Bhabhi ji Ghar Par Hai', including Vibhuti, Angoori Bhabhi, Manmohan Tiwari and others, have been roped in by the Uttar Pradesh Police for the road safety campaign as part of the Road Safety Month being marked in November. "We are channelling the influence of these characters to echo the importance of road safety in the lives of our citizens, for their own protection and the welfare," said Director General of police, Vijaya Kumar. "Our new campaign titled 'Aapka Uttar Pradesh, Surakshit Pradesh' is a unique blend of entertainment and education that we believe, will strike a chord and spread the critical message of road responsibility across the state," said BD Paulson, ADG, traffic & road safety. "The campaign with short videos will involve the show's character Vibhuti (played by Aasif Sheikh) playing a traffic cop and speaking a UP dialect while warning the riders about road safety and even penalising with challan in case of traffic violation," said Vishnu Shankar, chief cluster officer, & TV. "These videos will be put up across the state, across intersections and important places," he added. "As we mark the Road Safety Month in November, Uttar Pradesh Police is committed to bringing down road accidents in the state by 50 per cent in the next few years," said the DGP. Sharing the number of road accidents in the state and deaths due to it in the three years, he said, "As many as 37,729 accidents took place in 2021, which went up to 41,746 in 2022. As many as 32,684 accidents have been registered this year till September. A total of 21,227, 22,599 and 17,507 deaths were recorded in these years."

# In Chhattisgarh ED is BJP and BJP is ED, but Cong will form govt: CM Bhupesh Baghel

Anand Singh

With the first phase of voting underway in Chhattisgarh on 20 out of 90 Assembly seats, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, the face of Congress in the mineral-rich state, on Tuesday expressed his confidence in the party easily achieving its 75 seat target on the basis of the past five years' developmental works.

In an interview to IANS over phone amid his busy campaigning schedule, Baghel, who is facing the Enforcement Directorate (ED) heat in connection with Mahadev online books money laundering case, also said that the "ED is BJP and BJP is ED in Chhattisgarh".

Question: As elections are underway for the 20 seats and rest 70 seats to go to polls on November 17, how do you look at and assess your work in the last five years?

Baghel: Last Assembly elections witnessed an undercurrent of support for Congress. However, this time people are openly backing it. We are sure of repeating our victory again this time.

Question: The Congress had won 68 seats in the last Assembly polls and went on to win three more in the by-elections and also gave a slogan of winning 75 seats this time. Do you think achieving the target will be a cakewalk?

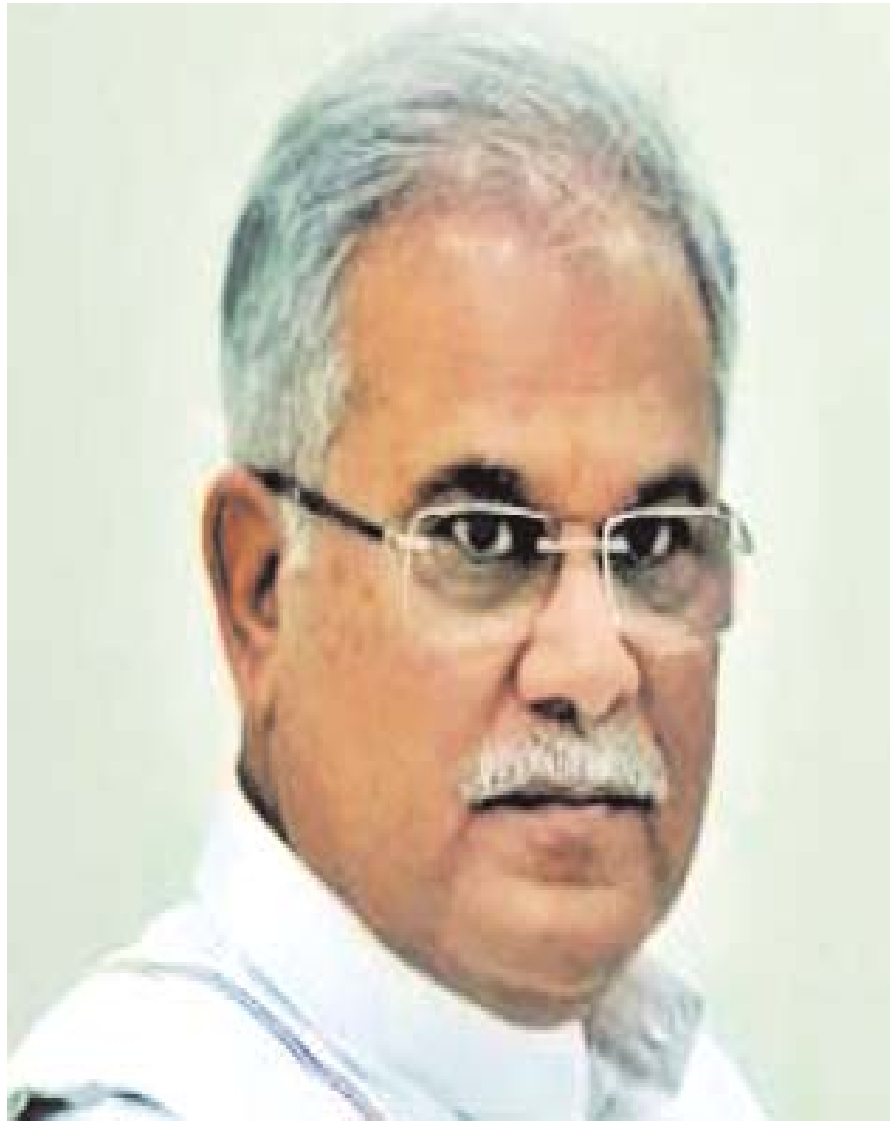
Baghel: It does not seem tough at all as we have done a lot for the farmers and labourers in the past five years and are going into polls only on the basis of our developmental work. Schemes have been launched for every section of society be it tribals, marginalised, women, farmers. We have also worked for the employment generation and maintained the culture of Chhattisgarh which emphasizes the 'Chhattisgarhiya', which was never done before.

Hence all the sections of society are happy with our work and this appreciation will translate into votes in our favour for sure.

Question: Any comments on Enforcement Directorate (ED) charges that you were paid Rs 508 crore by an accused in the alleged Mahadev betting app scam?

Baghel: The accused who has been arrested is a BJP councillor friend of the Mahadev APP promoters. And the vehicle in which he was caught belongs to a big BJP leader's brother.

A man sitting in Dubai claims that I was paid through hawala and the same was put in a note by the ED saying that he is an official of the Mahadev app. And the ED says that it has been stated by him. In support of its claim, a video has been released from Dubai by the BJP in which



the same person claims to be the owner of the Mahadev app. So a man becomes an owner from a normal worker.

What is more surprising is that the central agency had said that the directors of the Mahadev app Saurabh Chandrakar and Ravi Uppal are no more owners and that a person named Shubham Soni had replaced them as the owner.

This is for the first time that the owners of any

company spent Rs 200 to 250 crore in the lavish wedding of its worker Chandrakar.

Chandrakar's marriage ceremony was held in Dubai and attended by many Bollywood celebrities. Can you cite any other example from around the world where an owner spent Rs 200 to Rs 250 crore for its worker's wedding?

I feel that these are planted stories as ED has issued a press statement. So the ED is BJP and

BJP is ED.

Question: BJP has alleged that you never made a request for banning the Mahadev app, whereas Jairam Ramesh has defended you. What do you have to say?

Baghel: In a press conference on August 24 in Delhi, I had spoken extensively on the issue. Even Abhishek Manu Singhvi, K.C. Venugopal and Jairam Ramesh exposed the false narrative on Saturday during a presser.

Ramesh had clearly said though the ED has been investigating the 'Mahadev App' case for several months, it is surprising that it took so much time to ban it. He said that the demand to ban Mahadev App was also first made by me on August 24, 2023.

Question: Coming back to the Assembly polls this year, the Congress has launched its manifesto with a lot of promises for farmers and students in the state, which were also announced by Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra during her poll schedule.

Please elaborate.

Baghel: Yes, for the first time the state government will take care of the children's education from KG to PG, whether it is engineering or medical education, all the costs will be borne by us and the students will get free education.

There won't be any discrimination on the basis of caste or religion. This is for everyone. We will also waive off the farmers' debts and they would receive Rs 3,200 per quintal for paddy, which includes the current input subsidy provided under the Rajiv Gandhi Nyay Yojna.

Additionally, the rate for tendu leaf collection will rise to Rs 6,000 per standard sack, and tendu leaf collectors will receive an annual bonus of Rs 4,000.

Notably, the Congress has promised several guarantees for the state which include gas cylinders for Rs 500, 200 units of electricity free, free treatment up to Rs 10 lakh housing for Rs 17.5 lakh families, and caste-based census among others.

It is eyeing to form the government for the second consecutive term in the state riding high on the developmental works in the past five years.

While in the first phase, 20 Assembly seats are going to the polls, voting in the remaining 70 seats will take place on November 17.

The votes will be counted on December 3.

## international

## 5 Indians, including two children, die in Australia pub crash

Melbourne | Agencies

Five Indians, including two children aged nine and 11, were killed and several others injured after a car driven by an elderly man ploughed into the beer garden of a pub in the Australian state of Victoria, police said.

Vivek Bhatia (38), his son Vihan (11), Pratibha Sharma (44), her daughter, Anvi (nine), and partner Jatin Chugh (30) died after an SUV mounted a kerb and hit patrons on the front lawn of the Royal Daylesford hotel on Sunday evening.

Five other people, including Bhatia's wife, Ruchi (36), younger son Abeer (six) and an 11-month-old child, are in hospital being treated for injuries.

While addressing a news conference on Monday, Victoria Police Chief Commissioner Shane Patton said the victims were all visitors to the area, and described the incident as "an absolute tragedy".



Patton said the driver of the white BMW, a 66-year-old man from Mount Macedon, was taken to hospital with non-life-threatening injuries, where he was breath tested and did not have alcohol in his system.

The police chief said it was too early to determine if speed was a factor in the fatal crash.

Gurjit Singh, secretary of the Australian Sikh Support group, confirmed to The Age that Pratibha Sharma and her partner, both from Point

Cook, died on the spot. Her daughter was taken to hospital where she succumbed to injuries.

Singh said Sharma joined the group as a volunteer in 2020 during the pandemic and helped deliver food and groceries to people in quarantine.

She also ran for Victorian parliament and local council and, according to friends, was involved in multiple charities in the communities, the Melbourne-based newspaper reported.

Bhatia's parents are now reportedly on their way to Victoria from India to watch over Ruchi and her son as they recover in the Royal Melbourne Hospital intensive care unit after suffering broken legs and internal injuries.

Meanwhile, hundreds of members from the Daylesford community turned up for a vigil for those who met with a tragic end.

Expressing his condolences, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese wrote on X: "We are all shocked by what happened in Daylesford, and so deeply saddened -- for those whose lives were so cruelly cut short, and for those who can never be the same again. The hearts of all Australians go out to everyone affected, including loved ones, friends, first responders and the Daylesford community."

A total of 204 people have reportedly died on Victorian roads so far this year.

## Average of 160 kids dying per day in Gaza: WHO

Geneva | Agencies

The World Health Organization (WHO) said that as the raging Israel-Hamas conflict has completed a month since it erupted on October 7, more than 10,000 people, or some 0.5 per cent of the total population in the besieged enclave, have reportedly been killed, with an average of 160 children dying per day.

So far, 16 health workers have been killed on duty, and the WHO is working to support health workers in Gaza and once again pleading for their safety, Xinhua news agency quoted the world body's spokesperson Christian Lindmeier as saying at a press briefing here.

Lindmeier said 102 attacks against healthcare had been recorded in Gaza, 121 in the



West Bank, and 25 in Israel.

At the moment, 14 hospitals in Gaza were not functioning, due to the lack of fuel or the damages, he added.

Noting that Tuesday marked a month since the Hamas waged its war against

attention.

He also said that some doctors in Gaza have been performing operations, including amputations, without anaesthesia.

"Nothing justifies the horror being endured by civilians in Gaza," Lindmeier said, stressing their "desperate need for water, fuel, food and safe access to health care to survive". The WHO spokesman reiterated the UN's calls for "unhindered, safe and secure access" for some 500 trucks of aid a day - not only across the border but also "all the way through to the patients in the hospitals", where surgeries including amputations were being performed without anaesthesia. The level of death and suffering is "hard to fathom", he added.

## Armed man arrested near US Capitol

Washington | Agencies

A man armed with a gun was arrested near the US Capitol, law enforcement authorities said, adding that the suspect is in custody and police were searching the suspect's belongings. In a post on X on Tuesday, the US Capitol Police (USCP) said: "USCP Officers just arrested a man with a gun in the park across from Union Station. At this time we have no reason to believe there is an ongoing threat. We are working to gather more information and will put out more details when they are confirmed. We just searched the area in the park that we secured. Out of an abundance of caution, we going to search the suspect's belongings. Again, the



suspect is in custody. Investigation ongoing."

Addressing reporters later in the day, Capitol Police Chief Tom Manger said the man will be charged with unlawfully carrying a firearm on Capitol grounds and could face additional counts, CNN reported. "There is some indication that he may be dealing with some mental health issues," Manger said, adding that the police approached the man after an individual alerted the officers. After falling orders to drop his weapon, an officer deployed a taser in his back, the police chief added.

## 7.2-magnitude quake jolts Indonesia, no tsunami alert issued

Jakarta | Agencies

A massive earthquake measuring 7.2 on the Richter scale jolted Indonesia's Maluku province on Wednesday, but did not trigger a tsunami, the country's meteorology agency BMKG said.

Having centered at the shallow seabed, the earthquake occurred at 11.52 a.m., Xinhua news agency quoted BMKG as saying.

The location of the epicentre was 251 km northwest of Maluku Tenggara Barat (Tanimbar Islands) district, with a depth of 10 km under the sea floor, it said.

The intensity of the quake was felt the strongest at IV to V of the MMI (Modified Mercalli Intensity) scale in Saumlaki town and the Banda Sea, and weaker in



other parts of the province, the BMKG added.

The meteorology agency did not issue a tsunami warning as the tremor did not have the potential to trigger giant waves.

There were no immediate reports of injuries or damages.

## Blast kills 7, wounds 20 in Kabul

Kabul | Agencies

Seven people were killed and 20 others injured as a blast rocked the Dasht-e-Barchi area of Afghanistan's capital Kabul, Kabul's police spokesman Khalid Zadrani said.

The blast ripped through a mini-bus on Tuesday evening, claiming the lives of seven civilians and injuring 20 others, Zadrani said, adding that all the victims were civilians.

Security forces have reached the site of the blast and initiated an investigation, the official added as quoted by Xinhua news agency report.

On October 26, a blast in the area destroyed a sports club and killed four people, for which the terror group Islamic State later claimed responsibility.

## Our mission is to dismantle each and every stronghold of Hamas: IDF

Tel Aviv | Agencies

Jonathan Conricus, the acting spokesperson for Israel Defense Forces (IDF), on Wednesday said that their mission is to dismantle each and every stronghold of Hamas in Gaza, media reports said.

"The mission [inside Gaza] is to engage with Hamas and simply to dismantle each and every Hamas stronghold that is buried underground in bunkers. We are doing that in slow and meticulous order according to plan. Our advances are good and solid. It is a very challenging battlespace to be in. Hamas has prepared the battlefield, unfortunately, very well. It is totally enmeshed with tunnels," The Guardian reported. He said that many of them short tactical tunnels that are basically fighting positions which allow Hamas to move from one ally to



another. "To emerge and then submerge and some are longer and deeper and wider. But we are slowly getting to all of them and there are gains achieved each day of the fight," he said.

He said that the directive is definitely to kill or capture all the leaders of Hamas.

"Those who planned, facil-

itated, and executed the murderous 7 October massacre in Israel. We've said so clearly. All of them are dead men walking," he said.

He said that it's only a matter of time inside Gaza and outside of Gaza, until these Hamas leaders will either be captured or killed by Israel, The Guardian reported.





# Maha students pledge for 'pollution-free' Diwali celebrations this year

Team Absolute | Mumbai

As pollution levels rise all over, Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde administered a pledge to students to celebrate a 'pollution-free' Diwali and play an environment-friendly role, here on Wednesday.

The pledge came at an event by the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board and Department of Environment & Climate Change's 'Pollution-free Diwali Sankalp Abhiyan-2023'.

Chief Minister Shinde said that everyone must make efforts to make the state pollution-free and though all mechanisms are in place to curb the rising pollution levels, it is the duty of all to play an environment-friendly role and help control pollution.

"The environment is currently a serious issue in the world with discussions on the rising global temperatures, warming and their harmful effects are a



matter of concern for entire humanity. Hence, it is necessary for us also to play a positive role to save our environment," urged Shinde.

In this context he noted that the state government has encouraged large-scale tree plantation drives, recently given subsidies for bamboo cultiva-

tion and environment consciousness and conservation through other activities like the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.

"However, when school students take something to heart, then even elders and parents in the family follow suit. Therefore, if the students resolve to celebrate a pollution-free Diwali, its impact will certainly reach everyone," Shinde pointed out.

The CM was accompanied in the oath ceremony by Deputy CM Devendra Fadnis, Ministers Deepak Kesarkar, Girish Mahajan, Atul Save, Abdul Sattar, Chief Secretary Manoj Saunik, Principal Secretaries Praveen Darade and Ranjitsinh Deol and other dignitaries. Explaining the aim behind the campaign, Darade said that through wide-spread awareness created the amount of bursting fire-crackers has reduced in recent years, but there is still an urgent need to create an awakening among the school students and youth to reduce air and noise pollution.

# BMC acts against gold and silver smelting units as city air quality continues to deteriorate



Team Absolute | Mumbai

In response to the escalating air pollution in Mumbai, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has taken action to dismantle four chimneys of gold and silver smelting units in the Kalbadevi and Zaveri Bazar areas of South Mumbai, officials said on Wednesday.

The BMC's C-ward initiated these measures due to concerns that these units were contributing to the city's air pollution levels. On Wednesday, Mumbai's average air quality index (AQI) was recorded at approximately 150, placing it in the "moderate" category, according to official data.

Smelting units, primarily small-scale factories engaged in the production of ornaments and related activities, melt gold and silver in furnaces. During this process, gaseous byproducts

are released through chimneys into the atmosphere, which can become a health hazard when not properly treated. The release of such unprocessed fumes adds to the overall pollution in the city, prompting the BMC to launch a crackdown on those violating air pollution standards, according to civic officials. The BMC's buildings and factories department has taken action against four such smelting units located on Dhanji Marg and Miza Marg in C-ward, confirmed an official. In line with the directives of Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde to curb air pollution and dust in Mumbai, the BMC has begun implementing measures across all 24 civic wards. This includes a comprehensive effort to cleanse approximately 650 kilometers of roads with water to control dust, as stated in a BMC release issued on

Wednesday. Additionally, the civic body has recently issued new guidelines to reduce air pollution in the city. Developers and those involved in infrastructure projects have been given a one-month deadline to procure sprinklers and fogging machines for their construction sites, with stern action threatened in cases of non-compliance.

Meanwhile, Mumbai's air quality has deteriorated, with a health alert being issued in the CST (Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus) area. On Wednesday, the overall Air Quality Index (AQI) for Mumbai was measured at 149, categorizing it as 'Moderate' according to data provided by the System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR)-India. However, many areas in the city experienced 'poor' and 'very poor' air quality.

# J&K Lt. Governor, Maharashtra CM unveil Shivaji's statue in Kupwara

Team Absolute | Srinagar

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde unveiled the statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji in Kupwara, officials said.

Officials said here that Lt. Governor Sinha and Chief Minister of Maharashtra Eknath Shinde accompanied by Maharashtra's Cultural Affairs Minister Sudhir Mungantiwar unveiled the statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji at Kupwara on Tuesday.

The Lt. Governor congratulated the 'Amhi Punekar' and 41 Rashtriya Rifles for their historic initiative.

"Great Shivaji's statue will be a source of inspiration for people and the bravehearts of the Army. He was a great warrior and founder of Swarajya. Shivaji was a born leader, who scripted a new history of India through his mesmerising victory against the enemy."

"Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj was also fountain-



head of high standards of morality, right conduct and respecter of all religions and sects. Youth must follow his ideas and ideals and selflessly serve the poor and weaker sections of society and contribute to nation-building."

"By unleashing his military genius and moral force, Shivaji mobilised millions of Indians and achieved sovereignty for Maratha empire. His universal and eternal values continue to be relevant today and guiding us on the path of social equality and peaceful co-existence," the Lt. Governor said.

He called for celebrating the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj festival in Kupwara on November 7 every year. The Maharashtra Chief Minister said that Chhatrapati Shivaji is an inspiration for every Indian.

"Maharashtra has a great tradition of sacrifice and bravery. It is indeed commendable that this statue is being erected at Kupwara in the same year as the 350th anniversary of the coronation of Chhatrapati Shivaji," Shinde added.

# RPI activist, two kin killed as SUV plunges from bridge on moving train in Maha

Team Absolute | Raigad (Maharashtra)

In a freak mishap, a Republican Party of India (A) worker and two of his cousins were killed when their SUV plunged off a bridge and crashed onto a moving goods train, police said here on Wednesday.

The accident happened on Tuesday.

The SUV carrying the RPI activist, Dharmanand Gaikwad, 40, who was also a journalist, and his kin Nitin Jadhav, 48 and Mangesh Jadhav, 46, was speeding towards Neral town on the Mumbai-Panvel Road when the accident took place around 4 a.m.

An official said that en route, the car apparently lost control and



rammed into a highway barricade, smashing it before hurtling down onto the moving goods train passing below the bridge on the single-line freight route between the Panvel-Karjat stations.

The impact of the fall was so strong that it snapped the coupling between two coaches and hit the railway tracks.

Following the tragedy, the Central Railway services on the Panvel-Karjat section were suspended for nearly four hours, and at least one long-distance train was diverted.

Meanwhile RPI(A) President and Union Minister of State for Social Justice Ramdas Athawale condoled the demise of his party colleagues and demanded a probe into the tragedy.

# Cops bust sex racket run by 17-yr-old girl; 4 rescued

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Navi Mumbai Police have busted a flesh trade racket allegedly run by a 17-year-old girl at a hotel in Navi Mumbai and rescued four women who were forced into sex work, an official said on Wednesday.

Acting on a tip-off, the police's anti-human trafficking cell team raided the hotel located in Yashi area on Tuesday after sending a decoy customer there, the official from APMC police station said.

The accused girl, from Malad in neighbouring Mumbai, would give some part of the money received from prostitution to the vic-

tims and keep the rest for herself, he said quoting the FIR.

After the raid at the hotel, the police rescued four women, all aged around 20 and including one from Nepal and two from Bihar. They have been sent to a rehabilitation home.

The police also seized a mobile phone, a watch and cash collectively worth Rs 84,030, besides bogus currency notes with a face value of more than Rs 1.5 lakh, the official said. A case has been registered against the accused under Indian Penal Code section 370 (buying or disposing of any person as slave) and provisions of the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act-1956, the police added.

# Today, Six-hour block on Mumbai-bound corridor of Expressway

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation (MRVC) announced a six-hour-long block on the Mumbai-bound corridor of the Mumbai-Pune Expressway on Thursday for the Panvel-Karjat double line railway project.

Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation (MSRDC) said in a release that the roadblock will be implemented from 11 am to 5 pm on November 9.

Light and heavy vehicles won't be allowed on the Mumbai-bound carriageway at Chikhale near Kalamboli where a Rail Over Bridge (ROB) is being erected as part of the railway project, news agency reported quoting an MRVC official. The roadblock has been mainly



undertaken for launching girders, he added.

Motorists travelling towards Mumbai can exit on the old Mumbai-Pune Highway (MH-48) at Khopoli and Panvel, the release said.

Meanwhile, the Western Railway has said that it will run five more pairs of festival special trains and almost 6 lakh passengers are likely to benefit by these special trains. In an official statement, the Western Railway said that till date 344 trips of festival special trains are being run by the Western Railway to various destina-

tions in the country.

It said, for the convenience of passengers and with a view to meet the travel demand during the upcoming festive season, Western Railway is running 344 trips of Festival Special Trains on Special Fare to various destinations.

According to a press release issued by Sumit Thakur - Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, five pairs of Festival Special trains that have been notified include Sabarmati - Danapur, Vadodara - Haridwar, Vadodara - Gorakhpur, Dr. Ambedkar Nagar - Patna and Ahmedabad - Samastipur Festival Special trains. With running of these Festival Special trains, almost 6 lakh passengers will be benefitted especially during this festive season.

# Maratha quota, election preparedness discussed in Thackeray-Pawar meet: Sanjay Raut

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut on Wednesday said that in a recent meeting between Uddhav Thackeray and Sharad Pawar, the two leaders spoke in depth about the significant political issue affecting Maharashtra, stated a report.

The report further quoted Raut saying that the two leaders spoke about the matter of Maratha quota demand and the state preparedness of the Opposition for upcoming Lok Sabha and state assembly elections scheduled to take place in 2024.

The meeting, which happened at Pawar's Mumbai residence 'Silver Oak' on Tuesday, lasted for over one and a half hours, stated the report. Notably, Congress leaders were not present in the gathering as they were busy in election campaigns



in five states which will be voting this year.

"Congress leaders were not present for the meeting since they are busy with election campaigns in the five states. Uddhavji and Pawar saheb discussed the political situation in Maharashtra after the agitation over Maratha quota demand and the stand that the opposition needs to take," Raut said.

"If the assembly elections in Maharashtra are held simultaneously with the Lok Sabha polls, what should be the strategy of the opposition and its seat-sharing formula was also discussed," the Sena (UBT) MP added.

Raut confirmed that a final meeting to consolidate the discussions will take place in Delhi and he further emphasized that the Maha Vikas Aghadi allies has a consensus among them and that the decision-making process shall proceed smoothly.

The MVA alliance comprises the Shiv Sena (UBT), Sharad Pawar-led Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), and the Congress. Previously, these three parties, when Shiv Sena and NCP were undivided, were in power in Maharashtra from November 2019. However, Sena split vertically after Eknath Shinde's rebellion in June 2022 which also led to the fall of the MVA government led by Uddhav Thackeray. Shinde later ascended to the post of CM. Meanwhile, NCP leader Ajit Pawar and eight other MLAs also rebelled and joined forces with the Shinde government.

# Unnerving: Woman fan grabs minor son of Marathi actress in Pune market

Team Absolute | Pune

Marathi films and television actress Urmila Nimbalkar has narrated a nasty experience this week from a fan when she was out with her husband Sukirt and their two-year-old son Athang, for Diwali shopping in a Pune street market.

Speaking about it on social media, the actress said that as they walked around admiring and buying the sky-lanterns, a female fan suddenly came from behind, grabbed Athang and pulled his cheeks hard.

"He was very terrified and started crying... At his age, such a reaction was very natural..." said a shaken Nimbalkar, pouring her heart out.

She added: "This also is called 'Stranger Danger'. Its fine to show love for Athang after you have seen him in my videos but dragging the 25-month-old child against his will, taking pictures, and tugging him close to you as he cried, handling the kid with your dirty hands, then turning his back and calling names as he avoids you is inappropriate and unsafe".

"If you just request, why only photos, we can also come to your home for a meal, but such adamant behaviour with a child is not acceptable to me," said Nimbalkar sternly.

Nimbalkar acts in Marathi films and television serials, and was also seen in



the Hindi soap, "Diya Aur Baati Hum", plus is active on social media with her own YouTube channel that has notched over a million subscribers.

# Air purifier demand rises on Swiggy Instamart in Delhi, Mumbai as AQI drops

Team Absolute | New Delhi/Mumbai

As air quality continues to decline amid the worsening air pollution crisis in Delhi NCR and Mumbai, the demand for air purifiers increased on the quick commerce grocery delivery platform Swiggy Instamart. Last week, Swiggy Instamart saw a 3,233 per cent increase in the searches for air purifiers on the platform compared to the same time in October this year. "With the changing season, recurring concerns about pollution persist, affecting both our outdoor and indoor environments. While we may be aware of outdoor air pollution, awareness of indoor air pollution

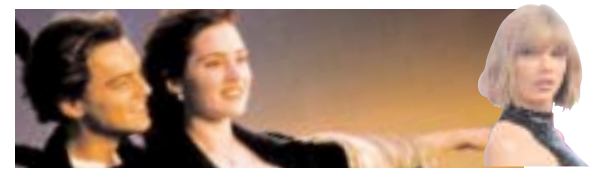


remains low which can be up to 10 times worse than outdoor air pollution," Ginger Lee, Senior Electronics Engineer, Dyson, told reporter.

"Whether we're sleeping, working, cooking, or exercising, we are potentially breathing dirty air. We can do little to control the quality of the air we

breathe outside. But there are ways we can protect our health and well-being in our homes. One such way is to invest in an air purifier as they are capable of sensing and capturing harmful pollutants," he added. Given the upcoming festivities season and winters, Instamart has stocked up on air purifiers in Delhi NCR and Mumbai, who have all been reeling under poor air quality conditions, at discounts of up to 33 per cent to make them more accessible to consumers. The air quality in Delhi-NCR on Wednesday morning continued to be in the 'severe' category, with several stations across the city recording a rise in PM 2.5 and carbon monoxide (CO).





# Selena Gomez's

Beauty brand to donate to Palestinian war victims after back-

Los Angeles | Agencies

**S**inger-actress Selena Gomez through her beauty brand has pledged to help Palestinian civilians amid the violence taking place in Gaza.

On November 6, Selena's beauty brand released a lengthy statement addressing the conflict in the Middle East.

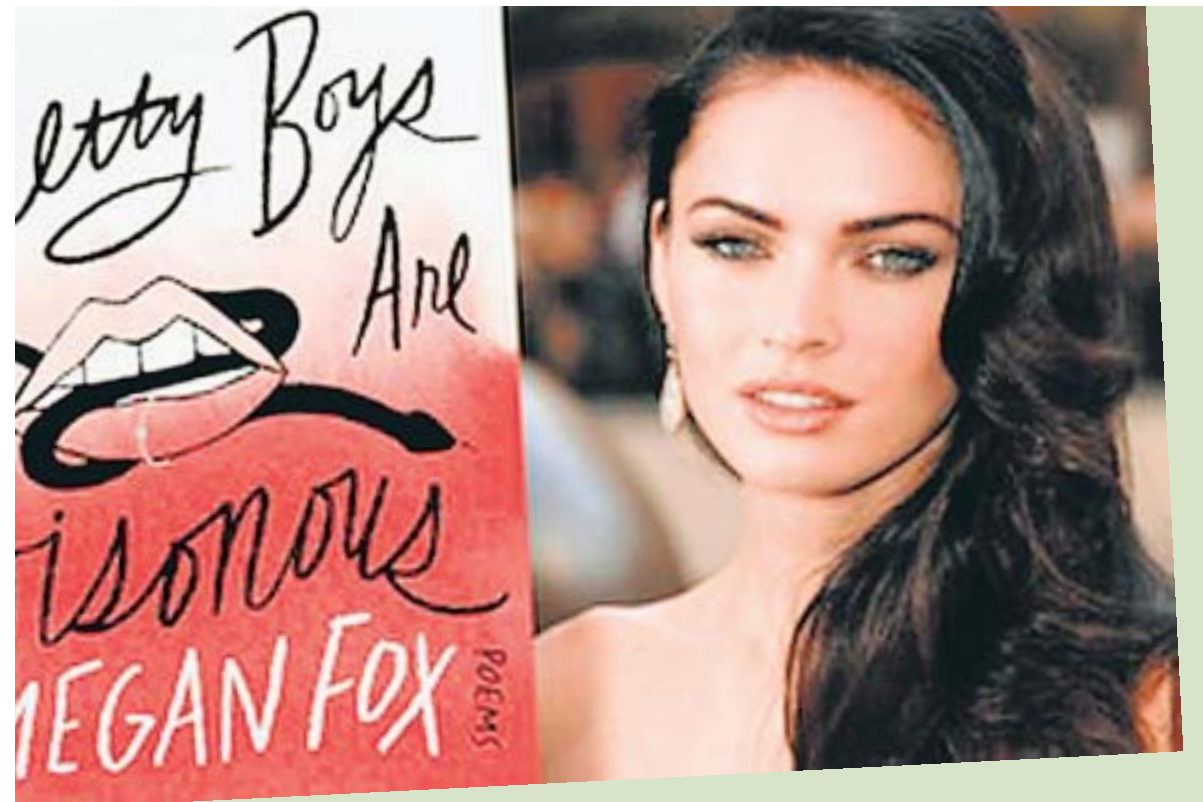
Showing support for Palestinian civilians, the company stated, "We are devastated by the images & reports coming from the Middle East."

It pointed out, "Thousands of innocent Palestinian civilians have been killed in Israeli airstrikes & millions of civilians have been displaced & left without access to food, water, medicine, or basic necessities for survival. A large number of these victims are children. Palestinian civilians must be protected, period."

"We remain heartbroken by the horrible terror attack against innocent civilians in Israel on October 7th, many of them also children. There is no situation where attacks on civilians are acceptable," they added. "We strongly denounce any & all forms of anti-Semitism and Islamophobia."

"We urge everyone to support humanitarian organisations working tirelessly to provide aid & relief to those in need. Every bit of help can make a difference," the statement continued to read. "Rare Beauty will be making donations to the International Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies - Magen David Adom, & Palestinian Red Crescent Society - who are providing urgent care on the ground. We will also be donating to UNICEF to help get urgent medical relief & resources to the children of Gaza."

The statement was issued several days after Gomez responded to the backlash over her neutral stance, reports aceshowbiz.com.



## Megan Fox reveals about miscarriage of baby girl in her new book

Los Angeles | Agencies

**A**ctress Megan Fox has opened up about suffering a miscarriage at 10 weeks in her new book 'Pretty Boys Are Poisonous'. The Hollywood star has given an insight into her life like never before in the collection of poems where she opens up about her private life, reports 'Mirror.co.uk'. Megan has described the book in a statement where she described her complex relationship with men. She said: "These poems were written in an attempt to excise the illness that had taken root in me because of my silence. I've spent my entire life keeping the secrets of men, my body aches from carrying the weight of their sins."

As per 'Mirror.co.uk', in the last two poems in the

book Megan appears to address feelings of grief following a miscarriage. The poems - titled I and II - detail the loss in several emotional lines.

She pens: "There is an ultrasound by your side of the bed, 10 weeks and 1 day. Do you think that if she could have, she would have left a suicide note? But now I have to say goodbye. I close my eyes and imagine holding you tight against my chest as they rip you from my insides."

An illustration of a woman holding a baby also appears on the final page of the book with the line: "I will pay any price, tell me please, what is the ransom for her soul?" Megan and fiancé Machine Gun Kelly - real name Colson Baker - have previously remained silent regarding rumours of a miscarriage.

## PATRICK DEMPSEY NAMED PEOPLE'S 2023 SEXIEST MAN ALIVE

Los Angeles | Agencies

**'F**errari' and 'Grey's Anatomy' actor Patrick Dempsey has been named as the People's sexiest man alive for 2023. He was revealed as this year's honoree during Tuesday night's broadcast of 'Jimmy Kimmel Live'. Prior to unveiling Dempsey as the sexiest man alive, the actor participated in a Q&A with the audience while wearing a realistic lizard face filter, followed by a donkey filter on the late-night talk show, reports 'Variety'.

"I'm glad it's happening at this point in my life," Dempsey told 'People' in the publication's article revealing him as this year's winner. "It's nice to have the recognition, and certainly my ego takes a little bump, but it gives me the platform to use it for something positive." Asked how he first reacted to the news, Dempsey replied with a laugh, "I was completely shocked, and then I started laughing, like, this is a joke, right? I've always been the bridesmaid!"

Pedro Pascal, Timothee Chalamet, Usher, Jamie Foxx, Lenny Kravitz and Philadelphia Eagles' star centre Jason Kelce were name-dropped earlier in the day as the "many, many sexy men" featured in the publication's 2023 sexiest man alive issue alongside honoree Dempsey. The sexiest man alive feature has been an annual event for People magazine since the award's inception in 1985 with inaugural winner Mel Gibson at age 29. Last year's honoree was Chris Evans, while other recent winners include Paul Rudd, Michael B. Jordan, John Legend and Idris Elba.



## Arnold Schwarzenegger has no desire to be chancellor in his native Austria

Los Angeles | Agencies

**H**ollywood star Arnold Schwarzenegger has shut down the idea of becoming Chancellor of Austria.

The 76-year-old actor became Governor of California from 2003 to 2011, and although he would have loved the chance to become President of the US, this is not possible due to being from Austria. Speaking on 'The Howard Stern Show', he said: "I do my things - I do my books, I try to make life better for people. I like to kind of improve the environment situation, to make people come together - Democrats and Republicans - and to fight pollution. To protect democracy, to make sure that people have the right to vote everywhere."

He continued, "So many people come up to me and go, 'Oh, I wish you could be our president' or something like that. So then of course you think about it. There are so many people out there in America who need help, so I think we should all concentrate on that ... and not just think about ourselves," reports aceshowbiz.com.

Meanwhile, Danny DeVito recently revealed he and his "Twins" co-star have a



"little project" in the pipeline. The "Matilda" actor, 78, and the action legend portrayed fraternal twin brothers separated at birth in the 1988 comedy, and whilst a sequel is no longer said to be on the cards, DeVito can't wait to work with his pal again on their secret project.

## GWYNETH PALTROW SAYS ROBERT DOWNEY JR. CAN CONVINCE HER TO BREAK ACTING HIA-



Los Angeles | Agencies

**A**ctress Gwyneth Paltrow, who has been on an acting hiatus with her last on-camera work being in 2020's Season 2 of 'The Politician', says her 'Iron Man' co-star Robert Downey Jr. can convince her to come back.

The Oscar-winning actor has been focused on her lifestyle brand but says there's one person who could convince her to unretire and it's her 'Iron Man' co-star Robert Downey Jr.

"It would be very hard for me to do any acting right at the moment, just because of my job," Paltrow told Entertainment Tonight in an interview, reports deadline.com.

"But, I guess Robert Downey Jr.

could probably always get me back." She added, "You know, to some degree."

Paltrow and Downey Jr. became really close during the filming of Marvel's Iron Man where the former played the character of Pepper Potts, the love interest of Tony Stark.

Following the 2008 film, Paltrow would go on to reprise her role in 'Iron Man 2' in 2010, 'The Avengers' (2012), 'Iron Man 3' (2013), 'Spider-Man: Homecoming' (2017), 'Avengers: Infinity War' (2018) and 'Avengers: Endgame' (2019).

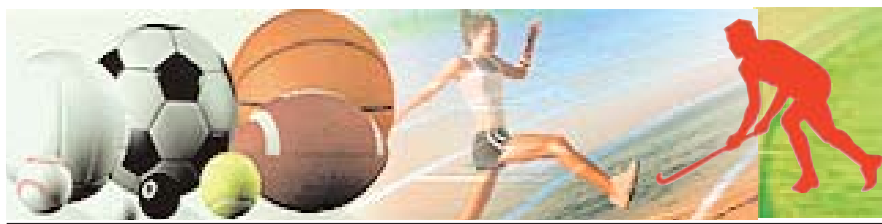
In 2007, Paltrow had said in an interview that her 'Iron Man' co-star was a major factor for her taking on the role in the superhero film.

## ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Kim Kardashian





## CRICKET WORLD CUP 2023: BEN STOKES POWER ENGLAND TO EMPHATIC WIN OVER NETHERLANDS *England defeat Netherlands by 160 runs*

Pune | Agencies

Ben Stokes' attacking century was well complemented by the bowlers as England cantered to a 160-run win over the Netherlands on Wednesday to stay in the hunt for a place in the 2025 Champions Trophy in Pakistan. Though England and Netherlands are out of reckoning for the semifinals, the contest between the two lowest-placed sides gain significance when it comes to qualifying for the Champions Trophy as only the top seven teams from the ongoing showpiece will qualify for the event.

England's batting finally clicked as they posted 339 for 9 and then the bowlers did the rest, dismissing Netherlands for 179 in 37.2 overs. The win took England to the seventh spot in the points table on account of better run rate.

Opting to bat, Stokes (108 off 83) initially provided the stability in the middle before opening up towards the end, while David Malan (87 off 74) got England off to a flier with his breezy knock during which he hit 10 fours and two sixes to power England to 339 for nine.

Stokes struck six fours and as many hits over the fence, while Chris Woakes too did his bit with a 45-ball



51.

Chasing a huge target of 340, Netherlands lost their first wicket in the fifth over when Max O'Dowd gave a simple catch to Moeen Ali at mid-on off the bowling of Chris Woakes.

In the next over, Netherlands were two down when Colin Ackermann nicked a David Willey delivery to Jos Buttler behind the stumps.

Wesley Barresi (37) and Sybrand Engelbrecht (33) tried their best to stabilise the chase with a 55-run stand for the third wicket before

Baressi was run out.

Engelbrecht was then holed out by Woakes at mid-on to hand Willey his second wicket of the day, while Bas de Leede played on an Adil Rashid delivery.

Willey dropped Teja Nidamanuru (41 not out off 34) at mid-on off Atkinson in 27th over and the batter grabbed the life with both hands, clobbering Adil Rashid and Atkinson for two huge sixes over mid-on and square-leg boundary in consecutive overs.

Netherlands skipper Scott Edwards and Nidamanuru then shared 59 runs for the sixth wicket before the former gave a simple catch to Willey at mid-off of Ali's bowling.

Thereafter, Netherlands wickets fell like nine pins as they were bowled out for 179 in 37.2 overs.

Earlier, Malan looked at his attacking best as he flicked and drove Logan van Beek for three consecutive boundaries in the second over. He continued his onslaught against spinner Aryan Dutt (2/67), sending him through the covers and gully for two more boundaries in the next over.

Boundaries came thick and fast for England as the next over from Logan Van Beek also witnessed two hits to the fence -- one each from Malan and Jonny Bairstow.

But two wickets in consecutive overs halted England's charge.

First Root was cleaned up by van Beek in the 21st over as the batter went for a reverse scoop and then Malan was run out in the next over with England slumping to 139 for three in 22 overs.

Harry Brook didn't last long as he pulled a short delivery from Bas de Leede (3/74) to Colin Ackermann at deep square-leg as Netherlands pulled things back.

## WPL set to commence in February 2024 with home-and-away format: Report



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Women's Premier League likely to be played in home and away format and will commence on February 23 with venues Mumbai and Bangalore, as per reports.

The first edition of the tournament was held in Mumbai from March 4-26 where Mumbai Indians lifted the trophy by beating Delhi Capitals, by seven wickets in the final at the Brabourne Stadium. Although the fixtures

haven't been finalized yet, the competition will be held in a caravan fashion, with each team finishing its set of matches in one city before moving on to the next, according to a report in Women's CricZone.

As per reports, the board will hold an auction in December 2023 where teams will be able to add players to their squad. The BCCI (Board of Control for Cricket in India), on October 19, published a list of players and of those, the five WPL franchises

retained 60 players and released 29.

The Mumbai Indians, led by Harmanpreet Kaur, the captain of the Indian women's team, outplayed the Meg Lanning-led Delhi Capitals, in the summit clash in Mumbai to become the first-ever champions of the tournament. The two teams that have had a forgettable season were the Royal Challengers Bangalore and Gujarat Giants who placed fourth and fifth in the points standings, respectively.

## It wasn't all just chaotic swinging but there was a bit of planning to it, says Maxwell

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Australia all-rounder Glenn Maxwell has revealed his record-breaking innings of 201 not out off 128 balls against Afghanistan at the 2023 Men's ODI World Cup on Tuesday wasn't all about swinging in a chaotic manner, and added that there was a bit of planning involved in taking the five-time champions over the line.

Australia were reeling at 91/7 in a run-chase of 292 at the Wankhede Stadium, when Maxwell joined hands with Pat Cummins to put on a 202-run stand. The skipper contributed only 12 runs as Maxwell took centrestage, battled cramps in calf, shin, hamstring and toes while battling back to single-handedly win the match through smashing the greatest ODI innings of all time.

Maxwell also revealed that thoughts of retiring hurt had crossed his mind. "It was cer-



tainly in our discussions. We talked about coming off, trying to get some work into my back and trying to loosen up my legs a little bit."

"Jonesy (Australia physio Nick Jones) said it would be really hard to come back out down the stairs after that so probably made the job a little bit more simple and then we came up with let's just stay at the same end for as long as we can until you sort of feel like you can at least walk at the other end or if there's an easy single here and there."

Maxwell, who dealt in boundaries through staying still at the crease, appreciated

Cummins for giving him the desired support from the other end. "I think when Patty was pretty calm, I think when it got to about maybe 60 or 70 (runs required), I thought two more, maybe half decent overs of around 15 and it's right in the balance."

"We knew Rashid (Khan) had about 18 balls left and that it was going to happen in the last 13 overs or something like that. So, as long as we sort of kept him out of game, I felt like I could hit boundaries off the others."

At Mumbai, Maxwell also became the first non-opener in men's ODIs to make a double hundred. It caps off a remarkable time where Maxwell had missed Australia's previous win over England in Ahmedabad due to concussion suffered after falling off a golf cart and he was pleased over getting the side in semi-finals, with their final league match against Bangladesh happening in Pune later this week.

## Shubman Gill replaces Babar Azam as new top-ranked men's ODI batter

Team Absolute | New Delhi

India opener Shubman Gill has replaced Pakistan captain Babar Azam as the new top-ranked men's ODI batter in the latest ICC men's batting rankings released on Wednesday.

He has now become just the fourth player from India after Sachin Tendulkar, MS Dhoni and Virat Kohli to hold the top-spot in the ODI batter rankings. India now have top-ranked players in men's ODI batting and bowling rankings in the form of Gill and Mohammed Siraj.

After missing first two matches of the World Cup due to dengue, Gill has amassed 219 runs from six innings, with his recent scores being 92 against Sri Lanka at Mumbai and 23 against South Africa at Kolkata.

Babar has amassed 282 runs from eight knocks at the World Cup and drops six rating points below Gill into second place as his reign of more than two years as the top-ranked men's ODI batter in the world comes to an end.

Talismanic batter Virat Kohli, who recently equalled Sachin Tendulkar for most number of men's ODI centuries in Kolkata, jumps three places to fourth place and is within one rating point of third-placed South Africa opener Quinton de Kock, who has made 543 runs at the World Cup so far.



Middle-order batter Shreyas Iyer also jumps an impressive 17 places to 18th overall on the list for ODI batters, with Pakistan opener Fakhar Zaman (up three spots to 11th) and Afghanistan counterpart Ibrahim Zadran (up six spots to 12th) also making progress. In the ODI bowling rankings, Kuldeep Yadav (up three places to fourth), Jasprit Bumrah (up three spots to eighth) and Mohammed Shami (up seven places to 10th) are joining Siraj in top ten rankings.

South Africa left-arm spinner Keshav Maharaj (up two spots to second) and Australia counterpart Adam Zampa (up six places to third) are other big movers inside the top 10, while Pakistan's Shaheen Shah Afridi drops four places to equal fifth alongside fellow seamer, Australia's Josh Hazlewood.

Sri Lanka pacer Dilshan Madushanka, the leading wicket-taker at the World Cup, jumps 31 places to 45th position, while India spinner Ravindra Jadeja (up eight places to 19th) and South Africa left-arm Marco Jansen (up nine spots to equal 24th) are other big movers in ODI bowling rankings. Bangladesh captain Shakib Al Hasan remains the top-ranked all-rounder despite his World Cup ending due to injury, with Australia all-rounder Glenn Maxwell improving two spots to sixth after his match-winning heroics of an astonishing 201 not out against Afghanistan in Mumbai on Tuesday.

## ATLETICO MADRID CRUSH CELTIC AS BARCA SLIP UP IN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Madrid | Agencies

Atletico Madrid got their Champions League campaign back on track with an easy 6-0 win at home against Celtic.

The Spanish side took an early lead on Tuesday night thanks to an impressive strike from Antoine Griezmann in the sixth minute, and their task got much easier in the 23rd minute when Celtic forward Daizen Maeda was sent off for a studs-up challenge, reports Xinhua.

Alvaro Morata doubled Atletico's lead in the first-half injury time, and it was plain sailing for the Spanish side after the break.

Griezmann netted Atletico's third in the 60th minute, while Samuel Lino made it 4-0 six minutes later.

Morata netted his second of the night with 14 minutes left to play, and Saul Niguez rounded off the rout from close range with six minutes left.

The result means Atletico move to



the top of their group with a one-point lead over Lazio and two more than Feyenoord, whom Atletico visit on Nov. 28. FC Barcelona still have

work to do to reach the last 16 of the tournament after a 1-0 defeat against Shakhtar Donetsk in a game played in Hamburg.

Barcelona struggled to get into the game in the first half, and the Ukrainian side made them pay in the 40th minute when Danylo Sikan nodded them in front.

The forward beay Andreas Christensen in the air and gave Marc-Andre ter Stegen no chance with a powerful header.

Barca coach Xavi Hernandez looked for a reaction after the break, with Joao Felix, Alejandro Balde, Pedri, and Lamine Yamal all coming on with 30 minutes left to play.

It was an end-to-end game for the last half-hour, but Shakhtar also had chances, and Newerton had the ball in the Barca net again in the 87th minute, only for it to be disallowed for a tight offside.

Barca did pin Shakhtar in their own half in the seven minutes of injury time, but the Ukrainians defended bravely to claim a well-deserved win that keeps their qualification hopes alive.

## Diana Puketapu-Lyndon first woman to become chair of New Zealand Cricket

Mumbai | Agencies

Diana Puketapu-Lyndon will replace Martin Snedden as chair of New Zealand Cricket, the first woman in the history of the organisation to fill the role, country's cricket board said on Wednesday.

The change follows a decision from Snedden, who still has a year to run as a director on the Board, to stand down as the chair to allow deputy chair Puketapu-Lyndon a smooth transition into her new position.

Snedden, a former CEO of NZC who has served three terms as a director on its Board, said stepping down to accommodate a new chair was "simply the right thing to do".

"I've taken the decision to step down from the role of Board chair, as well as NZC's representative on the ICC Board. Both these decisions have been taken in the name of ensuring good, sound governance succession planning, as well as taking advantage of what is an excellent opportunity for a leadership refresh," he said.



Snedden said NZC Board member Roger Twose would take over as NZC's representative to the ICC from the end of this month.

## Shami slams former Pakistan player over "DRS manipulation" claims

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Indian bowler Mohammed Shami on Wednesday slammed former Pakistan cricketer Hasan Raza for his bizarre claims against India of using a different set of balls.

Raza while speaking on a Pakistani channel had alleged that India were being given a different set of balls by the ICC and BCCI allowing them to have better effect than anyone else with the ball in the ongoing ODI World Cup 2023.

"We are seeing that when



they are batting, they bat really well and suddenly the ball starts doing things when India bowl. There have been 7-8 close DRS calls that have gone in their favour," Raza was quoted as saying.

"The way Siraj and Shami

were swinging the ball, it seemed like the ICC or the BCCI were giving them different and suspicious balls in the second innings. There needs to be an inspection done on the ball. There could also be an extra layer of coating on the ball for swing," he had further added.

Shami took to Instagram to slam the Hasan Raza stating that he should have some shame and further added that if Raza did not want to listen to anyone, he should be listening carefully to legendary Pakistan pacer Wasim Akram.

## Champions League AC Milan come from behind to beat PSG 2-1

Milan | Agencies

Milan completed an impressive comeback with goals from Rafa Leao and Olivier Giroud to beat Paris Saint Germain 2-1 in their first Group F win in the Champions League 2023-24.

Milan fell behind when PSG defender Milan Skriniar converted a stooping header. The hosts hit back in style via Leao's close-range overhead kick, after former Milan keeper Gianluigi Donnarumma had denied Giroud.

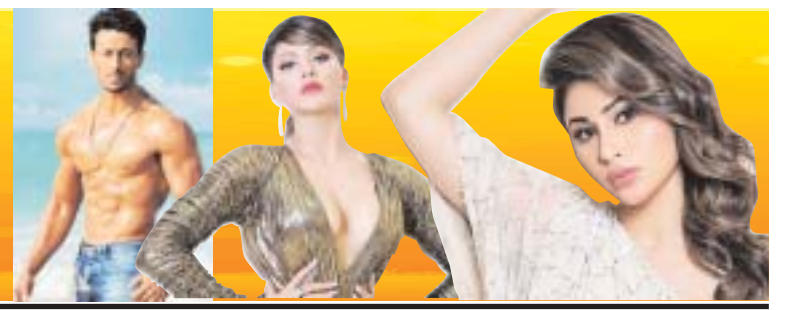
The game started off with a high intensity, and the first chance came to us inside six minutes through Loftus-Cheek's left-footed strike that flew just over the bar. Maignan had to be alert to keep out Mbappe's effort in the 8th minute, but just a minute later PSG broke the deadlock through Skriniar's header following a corner-kick. Milan hit back immediately,



though, finding the equaliser on twelve minutes: Loftus-Cheek broke away quickly, fed Giroud but his left-foot shot was saved and on the rebound Leao acrobatically turned it home with a delightful bicycle kick to send San Siro wild. The game remained enter-

taining despite the number of chances declining somewhat. Two in quick succession did come about, though, after 27 minutes: first Demele hit the bar with a left-footed curler from the edge of the box, and then on the break Giroud's attempt hit the side netting from a tight angle. Just after the half-hour mark, Tomori hit a lovely free-kick that Donnarumma palmed away, while on 37' it was Leao again who cut inside from the left, but his shot went just wide at the near post. Milan started off the stronger after the break, and took the lead in the 50th minute when Theo's cross was perfectly met by Giroud, who rose above Skriniar to power home his header from close range to make it 2-1. There was bedlam around San Siro as PSG tried to play some different cards by making several changes. But it was AC Milan who came close to scoring again through Theo's superb free-kick from distance on 63 minutes, which was once again saved by Donnarumma.





# Salman Khan has a 10 minute entry sequence in upcoming



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Superstar Salman Khan has a 10-minute entry sequence in the upcoming actioner 'Tiger 3' with best action, stunts, grips and effects to do justice to the scene, says director Maneesh Sharma. Maneesh Sharma said: "Salman Khan has given us countless memorable intro sequences, it's one of those iconic moments that Salman fans and Hindi film lovers wait for. And his entry as Tiger in the previous installments have been mind blowing!"

"So, it was imperative that we devised something unique, true to Salman Khan's style and yet make it out of this world as an action spectacle for his entry in Tiger 3!"

He added: "Bunch of talented and enthusiastic minds - Some of our best action, stunts, grips and effects people came together to craft a 10 minute block that does justice to Tiger's entry. An entry that does Tiger justice."

"This intro sequence is a highlight of the film and which includes an exciting action sequence that reminds Bhai's fans exactly how cool Tiger is."

Maneesh added: "It's going to be so exciting to see the audience react to this sequence on Sunday - I remember how much audiences roared and whistle when Salman Khan enters on screen and I can't wait to celebrate along with them when Tiger 3 hits cinema this Sunday!"

Produced by Aditya Chopra, 'Tiger 3' is set to release on November 12 in Hindi, Tamil & Telugu. The film also stars Katrina Kaif and Emraan Hashmi.



**Kareena calls voicing Black Widow for 'Marvel's Wastelanders Hindi dub 'a surreal experience'**

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Expanding on the world of audio podcasts for different storytelling, now after the Marvel character Hawkeye, Black Widow has got her own audio podcast series titled 'Marvel's Wastelanders: Black Widow' in Hindi dubbed by Bollywood star Kareena Kapoor. Talking about her experience in getting to voice the iconic spy-assassin-superhero, Kareena called it a surreal experience. Elaborating on her experience, she said: "Breathing life into a character as iconic as Black Widow has been a surreal experience. Taking listeners on an action-packed journey in 'Marvel's Black Widow', using only my voice, has been a unique challenge. I hope that listeners are able to envision the story using their imagination and resonate with her unyielding spirit like I did."

Marvel Comics is now investing a lot into the world of audio podcast recently as they are expanding their universe and storytelling, introducing dark, alternative concepts in the style of MCU's 'What If...?' series.

Introducing new timelines, alternate futures, and stories, 'Marvel's Wastelanders: Black Widow' takes place in a far darker future where the villains have won.

Almost thirty years after their victory,

the character of Helen Black arrives at her new apartment in 'The Onar', which is a complex that the spy-organisation S.H.I.E.L.D. owns and operates.

However, now it is the pinnacle of dystopian wealth and inequality, as S.H.I.E.L.D. in itself is no longer the intelligence agency backing up superheroes, rather now they are the villains.

Moving into this new compound, Helen doesn't know that on the day she arrived, Lisa Cartwright also moved into the Onar. Hired by a private security company, she quickly realises that Helen Black is not who she says she is.

The Hindi dub of 'Marvel's Wastelanders: Black Widow' features a strong cast with the voices of Kareena Kapoor Khan as the voice of Black Widow/Helen Black, Masaba Gupta as Lisa Cartwright, Vihaan Samat as Jordan Temple, Adah Sharma as Yelena Belova, Nitu Chandra as Judy Kratz, and Aditi Bhatia as K.I.M.

The English language version of 'Marvel's Wastelanders: Black Widow' is written by Alex Delye, directed by Timothy Busfield, with sound design and original music by Daniel Brunelle.

## Chahatt Khanna reveals Raghurir Yadav's hidden musical talent while working on film

Team Absolute | Hyderabad

As the anticipation builds for the release of the upcoming film 'Yaaris', featuring a stellar ensemble cast including Chahatt Khanna, Raghurir Yadav, Seema Pahwa, and Jamie Lever, an intriguing tale of camaraderie and musical talents behind the scenes emerges.

During the shooting of the film, Chahatt Khanna and her co-stars found a unique way to bond, post-wrap, through jamming sessions.

The unexpected revelation of Raghurir Yadav's musical prowess left everyone in awe. Chahatt goes on to describe the special bond she shares with the veteran actor, "The equation that we share is that of a father and daughter. He is so creative that he can make a flute out of any kind of pipe, be it a plastic straw or a bamboo stick. It was fun listening to stories from my other co-actors who would swear by Raghurir sir's talent for crafting flutes out of everyday items. The first time I saw him convert a plastic straw into a flute and play it, it was a magical moment. I have had such a fantastic experience working with him. He is a brilliant, creative, and beautiful soul. I've also learned so much from him as an actor, and I would love to learn singing from him in the future."

Raghurir Yadav's hidden musical talents add yet another layer of intrigue to 'Yaaris', promising a delightful fusion of performance and artistry that goes beyond the silver screen.



## Utkarsh Sharma embarks on a new 'Journey' after historic success of 'Gadar 2'!

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Utkarsh Sharma, the talented actor who recently tasted historic success with 'Gadar 2', is all set to embark on an exciting new journey in the world of Indian cinema. The actor is eagerly preparing to start shooting for his next project, aptly titled 'Journey', in the holy city of Benaras.

The mahurat ceremony for the film took place recently, marking the official commencement of the film. 'Journey' features an ensemble cast, with the legendary actor Nana Patekar and other talented performers in pivotal roles, promising an engaging and memorable cinematic experience.

Expressing his enthusiasm about this new chapter in his career, Utkarsh Sharma shared, "I'm genuinely thrilled that my new journey has begun, and the film itself is titled 'Journey.' This script has been in the works for a few years, and it has evolved beautifully. The story is not just close to my heart but also resonates with the essence of every Indian. I'm confident that they will enjoy this beautiful journey, and as we embark on this adventure today, I humbly seek their blessings and love. That's all I could ask for. We are setting off on our journey, and I hope the audience joins us on this exciting ride."

What makes the start of this new journey even more special is that the film's shooting has commenced in Varanasi, one of India's holiest and oldest cities. Utkarsh believes that the positive vibrations and the spiritual aura of the city will infuse the project with a unique energy and create a cinematic masterpiece.

Utkarsh Sharma's transition from the blockbuster success of 'Gadar 2' to 'Journey' promises to be an exciting journey in itself. With Utkarsh's dedication, talent, and a promising storyline, 'Journey' holds the potential to become another significant milestone in his already impressive career.



## Vicky reveals he has 275 pics of Sam Manekshaw

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Actor Vicky Kaushal revealed he has over 200 pictures of the first field marshal Sam Manekshaw in every posture and that till now he hasn't come across any image of him anywhere which is not on his phone.

Talking about prepping for the character, which he has aced completely, Vicky told the media: "I have an album in my phone, which says 'Sam', which has about 275 pictures of him in every posture of him -- sitting and standing, and till now I haven't come across any picture of him on Google or anywhere which is not on my phone." "But that was the fun of it that we were just obsessed to create him as it was once in a lifetime opportunity for me to play a man like him. I wanted to give everything that I could," he said.

The actor shared more anecdotes about the film and his preparation to nail the look. "When you are in the thick of the storm of preparing for a character, sometimes you don't realise all the things that you are doing but the things I remember are of course how would I walk, talk, how much he would bend and sit, in everything and every scene." "Three months before we started shooting, Meghna and I would sit at least 5-7 hours together, and just read the script over and over again, watch his videos, read about him, and just discuss Sam everyday for 5-6 hours. There were no Sundays and off days. In my bedroom I would walk like Sam, and Meghna Gulzar used to look at me through the zoom call."

Vicky shared that "there was a constant prep so that by the time we reached the floor."

## INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Aamna Sharif