



**Bombay HC dismissed a plea of  
UBT Sena MLA Ravindra Waikar for**

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# Afternoon

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## CM candidates lined up in Maharashtra across the political parties



### AV Team

The BJP has dismissed the growing assertion within the ruling combine over the CM's post as natural. State BJP president Chandrashekhar Bawankule said on Thursday, "Every party is bound to project its own leadership for the CM post...". In the last few days, ministers and MLAs from the ruling alliance in Maharashtra have been projecting their leaders as the next CM of the state, with even Sharad Pawar chiming in. The Assembly elections in Maharashtra are almost a year away. However, political parties have already begun chalking out various permutations and combinations that could help them win big in the elections likely to be held in November 2024. The pre-poll hullabaloo has also not stopped politicians from debating who will be the next chief minister

of Maharashtra. Though premature, the issue has taken centre stage in the state this month.

In the context of Sharad Pawar's remark, Bawankule was quick to point out, "Nobody should underestimate Ajit Pawar. Anybody dismissing him or questioning his merit is making a mistake." It was on July 2 that Ajit Pawar along with 40 NCP MLAs joined the Shiv Sena- BJP coalition government in Maharashtra and took charge as deputy chief minister. According to political strategists in the BJP, when Eknath Shinde joined the BJP along with 40 Shiv Sena rebels to form the government, the BJP central leadership promised him the CM's post. Similar discussions were also held with Ajit Pawar. Sharad Pawar waded into the debate when he said that his estranged rebel nephew Ajit Pawar's ambition to become the chief

minister would remain a dream. While differences between the uncle and nephew following the split in the NCP are understandable, many within the Ajit Pawar-led NCP were quick to argue.

Meanwhile, after hearing arguments for three hours from the lawyers of both the factions of Shiv Sena (led by Uddhav Thackeray and Chief Minister Eknath Shinde) yesterday on whether the 34 disqualification petitions against the 54 MLAs should be clubbed or not, Speaker Rahul Narwekar has decided to give his verdict on the next date on October 20. To date, Maharashtra has had 20 chief ministers, including Eknath Shinde, and in a majority of these cases, cutting across party lines, the chief minister was decided after the results were declared. The 2024 elections are unlikely to be any different.

Ironically, Sharad Pawar's remark came at a time when his daughter and NCP working president Supriya Sule said, "If Ajit Pawar became the CM, being his sister, I would be the first person to garland him." It was when the media raised this observation before Sharad Pawar that he delivered his rebuke. Political managers within the Sharad Pawar faction are quick to draw attention to how Pawar Senior's observations come from his vast experience. "If he has hinted something, there must be some valid reason. It is not out of anger against his nephew. His words are based on pragmatism," a party insider said. In the past few days, party workers of all three ruling parties have made different statements on the issue.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 04

## Sam Manekshaw, a Bahadur Jawan of India

Editoritis



Dr. Vaidehi

A Parsi boy Sam Manekshaw was born in Amritsar, Punjab. His parents Hormizd Manekshaw was a successful doctor, and mother Hilla, née Mehta was social worker. Both of his parents were Parsis who moved to Amritsar from the city of Valsad in the coastal Gujarat region. Manekshaw's parents had left Mumbai in 1903 for Lahore, where Hormizd had friends and where he was to begin practising medicine. However, by the time their train halted at Amritsar, Hilla found it impossible to travel any further due to her advanced pregnancy. The couple had to pause their journey to pursue help from the station master, who advised that in her condition, Hilla should not attempt any journey. By the time Hilla recovered from the delivery,

the couple had found Amritsar a decent place to settle. Hormusji soon ventured into a clinic and pharmacy in Amritsar. The couple had six children over the following decade, numbering four sons and two daughters (Fali, Cilla, Jan, Sheru, Sam and Jami). Sam was their fifth child and third son. Sam's parents were rich and reputed people of Punjab. They gave the best education to their children.

As a boy, Manekshaw was naughty and hyperactive. His early ambition was to study medicine and become a doctor like his father. He completed his primary schooling in Punjab, and then went to Sherwood College, Nainital.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 02

# Editoritis

# Sam Manekshaw, a Bahadur Jawan of India

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*Manekshaw was one of the fifteen cadets to be selected through open competition. Manekshaw placed sixth in the order of merit. Manekshaw was selected as part of the first batch of cadets. Called "The Pioneers"*

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In 1929, he left the college at the age of 15 with his Junior Cambridge Certificate, and In 1931, he passed his Senior Cambridge with distinction. Manekshaw then asked his father to send him to London to study medicine, but his father refused on the grounds that he was not old enough; in addition, he was already supporting the studies of Manekshaw's two elder brothers, both of whom were studying engineering in London. Instead, Manekshaw entered the Hindu Sabha College and in April 1932 appeared for his final exams passing with a third division in science.

In the meantime, the Indian Military College Committee, which was set up in 1931 and chaired by Field Marshal Sir Philip Chetwode, recommended the establishment of a military academy in India to train Indians for officer commissions in the army. A three-year course was proposed, with an entry age of 18 to 20 years. Candidates would be selected on the basis of an examination conducted by the Public Service Commission. On 1 October 1932, Manekshaw was one of the fifteen cadets to be selected through open competition. Manekshaw placed sixth in the order of merit. Manekshaw was selected as part of the first batch of cadets. Called "The Pioneers", his class also produced Smith Dun and Muhammad Musa Khan, future commanders-in-chief of Burma and Pakistan, respectively. Although the academy was inaugurated by Chetwode on 10 December 1932, the cadets' military training commenced on 1 October 1932.

At the time of Manekshaw's commissioning, it was standard practice for newly commissioned Indian officers to be initially attached to a British regiment before being sent to an Indian unit. Thus, Manekshaw joined the 2nd Battalion, Royal Scots, stationed at Lahore. He was later posted to the 4th Battalion, 12th Frontier Force Regiment, stationed in Burma. On 1 May 1938, he was appointed quartermaster of his company. During the Second World War, Hormusji Manekshaw served in the British Indian Army as a captain in the Indian Medical Service. Of the Manekshaw siblings, Sam's two elder brothers Fali and Jan qualified as engineers, while Cilla and Sheru became teachers. Both Sam and his younger brother Jami served in the Indian Armed Forces, with Jami becoming a doctor like his father and serving in the Royal Indian Air Force as a medical officer. As the first Indian to be awarded the air surgeon's wings from the

Naval Air Station Pensacola in the United States, Jami joined his elder brother in becoming a flag officer, and retired as an air vice marshal in the Indian Air Force.

After the war, Then the Prime Minister Gandhi decided to promote Manekshaw to the rank of field marshal and appoint him as the Chief of the Defence Staff (CDS). However, after several objections from the commanders of the navy and the air force, the appointment was dropped. It was felt that, because Manekshaw was from the army, the comparatively smaller forces of the navy and air force would be neglected. Moreover, bureaucrats felt that it might challenge their influence over defence issues. Though Manekshaw was to retire in June 1972, his term was extended by a period of six months, and "in recognition of outstanding services to the Armed Forces and the nation," he was promoted to the rank of field marshal on 1 January 1973. The first Indian Army officer to be so promoted, he was formally conferred with the rank in a ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhavan on 3 January.

Manekshaw died of complications from pneumonia at the Military Hospital in Wellington, Tamil Nadu, in 2008 at the age of 94. He was buried in the Parsi cemetery in Ootacamund (Ooty), Tamil Nadu, with military honours, adjacent to his wife's grave. Owing to the controversies in which Manekshaw was involved post-retirement, it was reported that his funeral lacked VIP representation, and no national day of mourning was declared which, while not a breach of protocol, was not customary for a leader of national importance. He was survived by his two daughters and three grandchildren. After 16 years of his death, a film is made on him and his bravery, that brings back the glorious period of his brave acts as brave defence person of our nation.

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# Voices



## The first skyscraper of India - LIC Building



- C.K. Subramaniam

**L**IC Building is a 15-storied building in Chennai, India, serving as the southern headquarters of the Life Insurance Corporation of India. It is the first skyscraper built in India and an important landmark in the city. Back when Chennai was still Madras, people would tell in a jiffy that the tallest building in the whole city is the LIC building. The building came as a perfect amalgamation of creativity and urbanization. It was the beginning of an era for the rise of tall rise buildings in Chennai that provided state-of-the-art infrastructure. The building symbolized the region's switch from lime-and-brick construction to concrete columns. The building is also known for using pile foundation technique for the first time. It was the tallest building in Chennai for over 35 years before being surpassed by the Hyatt Regency Building on Anna Salai in the mid-1990s.

Everyone admires Skyscrapers. Let's rewind and walk through the journey of how and when some of these famous Skyscrapers were made in Chennai. The photograph shows the "LIC Building" on Mount Road, Madras. It was the tallest building in India when it was finished in 1959. This LIC building was the tallest in India when it was inaugurated on August 23, 1959. The construction of the building, designed by London-based architects H.J. Brown and L.C. Moulin, began in 1952. The architects withdrew in 1957 and the work was overseen by Chennai-based architect L.M. Chitale. The building stands 54 meters tall and is located on the busy Anna Salai (formerly Mount Road) in Chennai. but it was overtaken in 1961 by Mumbai's first skyscraper, the Usha Kiran Building, which is around 80 meters high.

For almost 35 years LIC stood as the tallest building in Chennai. Although Chennai saw several modernized architectures, it did not construct anything like LIC until the Hyatt Regency

hotel took shape. The luxury hotel building is nearly 71 meters. They started the design of the building in 1986, and in 1989 the construction of the building commenced. First, the building was constructed by the Oberoi group and was halted as they stepped back. Then the construction of the 18-storeyed building was completed in the year 2011. After that, the building was acquired by the Saraf group, it was opened as Hyatt Regency. One of the main features of the building would be the sun-filled atrium. The hotel has almost 325 rooms in total along with several event rooms and convention Centre. Now, it stands as one of the best five-star luxury hotels in Chennai.

Bayview tower by the house of Hiranandani in Navallur, OMR; it is one of the tallest buildings in Chennai with a rise of almost 140 meters. The new addition to Anchorage by the house of Hiranandani is located in Egattur, and the residential complex rises to 160 meters; it is a 45 story building. Uruguayan architectural firm Carlos Ott designed the TCS Signature tower in Siruseri. The building itself is an aesthetically designed one with a tall tower rising to 102 meters. The Aerial view of the building resembles butterfly wings intertwined with a central spine. It can accommodate up to 30,000 employees and is built with energy-efficient measures.

The tallest building in Chennai as of today is the SPR High-living District Tower – H – SPR city, located in Perambur. The architectural marvel rises to 161 meters. It is built across 63 acres of land and raises to 45 floors. The gated arena offers space for both residential and commercial purposes. It is an epitome of luxury with almost 60+ world-class amenities. The tallest building in the Tamil Nadu capital Chennai stands tall and provides a picturesque landmark for the city.

## Letters to the Editor

### Stop the 'toll'

The subject of toll has once again come to the fore in the state. Why exactly is toll taken? How many years toll is taken? Common people don't know much about this. Raj Thackeray's party MNS has kept this issue up. Protests have been made on occasions. Toll is not a simple issue. There is a big financial politics behind it. People's anger should be directed against this toll. The possibility of this issue increasing in the future cannot be ruled out. Therefore, it is time for people to decide whether to 'cry or fight'

Uday Waghvankar

### The war needs to stop

The ongoing war between Israel and Palestine seems unstoppable. The continuous bombing in these two cit-

ies needs to stop. While the two million people of Gaza are witnessing the worst time of their lives, the UN remains silent. It has failed to handle the situation and seems toothless. European countries, the UK, and the US are also not showing any concern to stop these attacks.

Jubel D'Cruz

### Dress code for devotees

Jagannath Temple in Odisha's Puri will enforce a dress code for devotees from next year. The dress code will be strictly enforced inside the temple from January 1, 2024. Security personnel deployed at 'Singha Dwar' of the temple, and Pratihari servitors inside the temple have been assigned the responsibility to enforce the code," Shree Jagannath Temple Administration chief Ranjan Kumar Das, reported. It is our responsibility to maintain the dignity and sanctity of the temple. Unfortunately, some people have been found visiting the temple without caring about the religious sentiments of others," Das said. Such changes have to be made in every temple of the country now. Temple is not a place of tourist attraction.

Devotees visiting temples should wear traditional clothes. A temple is a place of faith; everyone's faith is associated with it. Hence, it is necessary to take care of such things. This is being done so that people should adopt Indian culture and not a foreign one.

Aparna Jagtap

### Festival is losing its sanctity

Garba means worship of the Goddess. But without considering the religious, spiritual and social causes underlying the celebration of festivals, majority of people view it as a mere reason of fun and frolic. According to a survey, it was observed that condoms are most demanded during Navratri. Often in movies, the scenes of physical relationship between hero-heroine are shown through 'Garaba'. Many people who are drunk participate in the Garba dance. Most of the dancers wear footwear. In this way, the festival is losing its sanctity. The main motive behind Garba is to worship the Goddess and to receive Her blessings. However due to the malpractices that have crept in, the

aim underlying celebration of festivals is certainly not fulfilled.

Ramchandra Lugade

### Ban on Firecrackers

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Tuesday ordered a ban on bursting conventional firecrackers during processions and marriages while announcing a slew of other safety measures. It is a good step taken by Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, that's admirable. The government is banning bursting of firecrackers during political functions, rallies, processions, religious fairs, marriages. However, Firecracker pollutes the environment that causes different types of deases. Therefore, it must be applied and if the ban is violated, then the cases should be booked against organisers of such events.

Tauqueer Rahmani

Readers are requested to mail Letters to the Editor only at

[afternoonvoicedesk@gmail.com](mailto:afternoonvoicedesk@gmail.com)

No postal letters will be entertained

(The views expressed are authors' own)

## The government should take decisions in the cabinet and not at someone's house: Atul Londhe

- Why MNS cameras along with government cameras at toll booths?
- Inflation, unemployment, people's door on the farmer issue but the toll issue is 'the door of the government MNS'!



It is unconstitutional that the government goes to Raj Thackeray's house as soon as the MNS is agitating on the toll issue in the state. The Shinde-Fadnavis-Pawar government has crossed all limits. Govt goes to Raj Thackeray's house means it is like running a parallel government. State Congress Chief Spokesperson Atul Londhe has criticized that if the opposition party presents an issue of the people to the government, the government should take a decision on it in the cabinet and not

by sending ministers and officials to someone's house.

Reacting in this regard, Atul Londhe further said that since the Yedda government in the state has lost confidence, the minister of Shinde government, Dada Bhuse, went to Raj Thackeray's house and held a press conference to convey the message that anyone can come and run a parallel government. Corruption is happening, the government itself has accepted that we are corrupt. Also, MNS cameras are going to be installed at the toll booths

along with the government cameras, it is out of this constitution. Why MNS cameras with government cameras?

MNS President Raj Thackeray held a meeting with Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Thursday evening regarding the toll issue and immediately in the morning Road Development Board Minister Dada Bhuse went to Raj Thackeray's house as per orders. Minister Bhuse and government officials attended Raj Thackeray's residence. The Yedda government has never been so prompt and serious on the issue of unemployment, farmers, and inflation, but the government went to the door of the MNS regarding Raj Thackeray's demand. The Shinde government has no right to stay in power. This government has a lot of work to do. It is a system where the government is at its door and the people are at their house, and corruption is at their house. People should have faith in the government but this government has completely lost its credibility and has no right to remain in power, Londhe said.

## BMC issues termination notice to contractor

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has issued a notice of termination of contract to one of the five contractors who were awarded the ambitious Rs 6,000 crore project that aimed to concretise 397 km of roads in Mumbai. A senior civic official confirmed to The Indian Express that the BMC has sent a letter to 'M/s Roadway Solutions Infra Limited' (RSIL) and has given them 15 days to file a reply. However, officials maintained that a decision on whether to re-appoint a new contractor would be taken up only after the termination is sanctioned.

RSIL was awarded the work to carry out concretisation of roads covering eight municipal wards. In May this year, a pen-



alty of Rs 10 crore was imposed on this contractor for delaying the start of the work. The work orders for this project were issued in January this year, but the works did not start even by the beginning of monsoon. Civil works are not usually carried out during the rains. The Indian Express had previously reported the issue on June 22. Civic officials stated that even though monsoon withdrawal has

taken place, the contractor is yet to start the works on the ground. The BMC's action came after former BJP corporator Makarand Narwekar raised a complaint. "For the past six months, the roads have been barricaded but the real works are yet to start. Meanwhile, this issue has been causing sheer inconvenience to citizens who are already suffering due to bad roads," he said.

## Bombay HC dismissed a plea of UBT Sena MLA Ravindra Waikar for seeking equal allocation of MLD funds



The Bombay High Court on Friday dismissed a plea by Shiv Sena (UBT) MLA Ravindra Waikar seeking equal allocation of Maharashtra Local Development (MLD) funds, claiming the same were allocated to many constituencies represented by ruling parties in a discriminatory manner. "We have found there is no sufficient material to test the fairness of the government's allocation decision of carrying out works and allocating funds as an administration function. There is no merit and the petition stands dismissed," the court said on Friday.

A division bench of Justice Sunil B Shukre and Justice Rajesh S Patil had concluded the hearing and reserved its verdict on July 17, which it pronounced on Friday. The MLD funds are allocated to each MLA and MLC to develop their respective constituencies and are allocated through the District Planning Commis-

sion for various purposes, including reallocation of slum dwellers, their rehabilitation, development of basic infrastructure in municipal corporations, and urban development in slums.

The high court on March 30 had granted interim relief directing the state government to not disburse any balance amount under MLD funds with respect to the plea by the MLA from Jogeshwari (East) and the same was extended from time to time. Waikar, in his plea filed through advocates Satish Borulkar and Sidhasen Borulkar, had claimed the Maharashtra Housing and Area Development Authority (MHADA) had allotted Rs 11,420.44 lakh for 'Slum Dwellers Re-allocation and Rehabilitation Plan of 2022-23', Rs 26,687.2 lakh for 'Development of Slums in Other than Backward Class' and Rs 7,000 lakh for 'Development of Basic Infrastructure' for areas in Mumbai suburban district.

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## CM candidates lined up in Maharashtra ...

The Shiv Sena (Shinde faction) workers are increasingly asserting the leadership of Chief Minister Eknath Shinde. A few days ago, party MLA Sanjay Shirsat said, "Considering his vast ability and experience, [deputy chief minister] Devendra Fadnavis should play an important role in the Centre." Maharashtra can be left to Shinde's leadership, he added. The Shiv Sena is not the only party battling for the coveted post. Dharmarao Atram from the NCP faction led by Ajit Pawar proclaimed last week, "In politics, anything is possible. Ajit Pawar will become the next CM."

In August 2023, at a func-

tion in Pune, Union Home Minister Amit Shah had said, "Ajit Pawar, you have now come to the right place. But you came a little late." This, many say, was an indication that the BJP central leadership was likely to reward Ajit Pawar post-2024 elections – provided he delivered the results in the Lok Sabha 2024 polls likely in April-May.

In the past, Assembly elections in Maharashtra were always contested on the election manifesto and the CM candidate was always kept under wraps. It was only after the elections that the party which was voted to power convened a meeting and chose its chief ministerial candidate.

# Nation

## Delhi Liquor scam case: MP Sanjay Singh moves to Delhi HC challenging his arrest



**A**m Aadmi Party leader and Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh on Friday moved the Delhi High Court challenging his arrest in the Delhi Liquor scam case and has also challenged the remand granted by the trial court. After Sanjay Singh's lawyer mentioned the matter before the bench headed by the Chief Justice of the Delhi court, it agreed to hear the matter today itself.

Delhi's Rouse Avenue Court had on October 10 had extended the Enforcement Directorate's (ED's) remand by a further three

days till October 13. He was later produced in court after five days of ED custody in the Delhi Excise policy money laundering case. The ED's counsel earlier submitted that a bribe was demanded to clear the liquor licences. ED's Special Counsel also submitted that the statement of a businessman has been recorded during the investigation. Multiple searches have been conducted in Chandigarh. During arguments, the ED said that it had recorded the statement of a businessman but could not disclose the content of the statement. ED also said that a

bribe was demanded to clear the liquor licences.

The agency also said that Sarvesh Mishra, an alleged associate of Sanjay Singh was not cooperating in the investigation and has been summoned afresh by the ED for questioning. Senior advocate Rebecca John argued for Sanjay Singh and submitted that in the five days, no confrontation with the witness took place. The senior advocate submitted that to make a case for further ED remand is saying that a bribe was demanded. She added that arguments of non-cooperation violate my fundamental rights. "I will not plead guilty," senior counsel said.

The advocate also argued, "If I wanted to destroy the evidence I would have done it in one and half years. She also argued that I (Sanjay Singh) reside in government accommodation, which is under CCTV. Who has come to my house with the packet?" "They have the CDR of my phone, what more evidence do they want," the senior advocate asked. ANI

## Delhi: Man held for his father's murder after crematorium, officials calls cops



**A** man who allegedly killed his father by slitting his throat in the national capital's Punjabi Bagh area was arrested after the crematorium official dialled police suspecting a murder, Delhi Police said on Friday. Personnel from Punjabi Bagh Police Station reached the Paschim Puri cremation ground, whose incharge Sanjeev Chauhan stated that one Rinku Yadav from Village Madipur in Punjabi Bagh was there with the body of his father Satish Yadav for his last rites.

Chauhan said he noticed some surgical cuts on the neck and forearm of the body and hence made a call to the police control room. Upon sustained questioning by Delhi Police, Rinku Yadav confessed that he had used a blade to slit his father's throat on Thursday morning. According to Rinku his father was a habitual drinker and was causing trouble for the family. A case of murder has been registered and Rinku has been arrested, police said. ANI

## Indian Navy informed INAS 316 Squadron has completed over 5,000 hours of operational flying



**T**he Indian Navy on Friday informed that the Indian Naval Air Squadron (INAS) 316 has completed more than 5,000 hours of operational flying. Commissioned on March 29, 2022, the squadron operates with 4 LR anti-submarine warfare (ASW) P8I aircraft.

"INAS 316 commissioned on 29 March 2022, Goa, with 4 LR ASW P8I aircraft completed more than 5000 hrs of Ops Flying in less than 2 yrs, exemplifying the Squadron's (Condors) motto

- Glory Through Valour, which also symbolises the unwavering spirit of men and women beneath the wings," Indian Navy posted on X (former Twitter)

Currently, INAS 316 and INAS 312 are the two squadrons operating the P8I aircraft. "INAS 316 and INAS 312 are the 2 squadrons operating the P8I aircraft, besides spreading the wings over the Indian Ocean and beyond, have been augmenting the surveillance along the northern and western borders," the Navy said. ANI

## SC seeks report from AIIMS medical board of condition of the 26-week foetus for termination of pregnancy

**T**he Supreme Court on Friday sought a report from the medical board of the AIIMS on whether the 26-week foetus of a married woman, who is seeking permission to undergo termination of pregnancy, is suffering from any abnormality. A bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud was hearing arguments on the Centre's application seeking recall of the apex court's October 9 order permitting a 27-year-old woman, a mother of two, to undergo termination of pregnancy at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS). "Though the earlier report which has been submitted by AIIMS does mention that the foetus is normal, nonetheless, in order to place the matter beyond doubt, we request that a further report be submitted on the above aspect," said the bench, also comprising Justices J B Pardiwala



and Manoj Misra.

The bench noted the submissions of petitioner's counsel that the woman was undergoing treatment for symptoms of postpartum psychosis since last year. It asked the medical board to apprise the top court whether there was any evidence to indicate that continuance of pregnancy of the petitioner would be jeopardised by the drugs prescribed for the alleged conditions from which she is stated to be suffering.

It said the doctors at the AIIMS would be at liberty to carry out their own independent evaluation of the

mental and physical condition of the petitioner. "On doing so, we request the doctors to apprise this court, if the petitioner is found to be suffering from postpartum psychosis, whether any alternate administration of medication consistent with the pregnancy would be available so as to neither jeopardise the well-being of the petitioner or the foetus in that regard," the bench said. The apex court said this exercise may be carried out during the course of the day and report of the medical board be placed before it on October 16, the next date of hearing.

Under the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act, the upper limit for the termination of pregnancy is 24 weeks for married women, special categories including survivors of rape, and other vulnerable women such as the differently-abled and minors. PTI

World

## Israel-Hamas tensions: IDF armed tanks are positioning themselves on the country's southern border with Gaza



Israeli defence forces armed with tanks are positioning themselves on the country's southern border with Gaza after the Israeli military on Friday called for the evacuation of all civilians from Gaza City.

The Israeli Defence Forces has asked civilians to relocate from their homes and move to the area south of the Wadi Gaza for their own safety. The IDF stated

that citizens should return only when advised to do so. It also asked citizens to not approach the area on the security fence with Israel.

In a statement shared on X, IDF stated, "The IDF calls for the evacuation of all civilians of Gaza City from their homes southwards for their own safety and protection and move to the area south of the Wadi Gaza, as

shown on the map. The Hamas terrorist organization waged a war against the State of Israel and Gaza City is an area where military operations take place. This evacuation is for your own safety." "Civilians of Gaza City, evacuate south for your own safety and the safety of your families and distance yourself from Hamas terrorists who are using you as human shields," the military said. "Hamas terrorists are hiding in Gaza City inside tunnels underneath houses and inside buildings populated with innocent Gazan civilians," it said.

The Israeli Defence Forces asserted that in the following day they will continue to operate with significant force in Gaza and make extensive efforts to avoid harming civilians. ANI

## Japan: Govt asks court to revoke legal status of the Unification Church

Japan's government asked a court Friday to revoke the legal status of the Unification Church after an Education Ministry investigation concluded the group for decades has systematically manipulated its followers into donating money, sowing fear and harming their families. The request submitted to the Tokyo District Court asks for it to issue a dissolution order revoking the church's status as a religious organization. Education Ministry officials submitted 5,000 pieces of documents and evidence in cardboard boxes to the court to support its request.

The process involves hearings and appeals from both sides and would take a while. If the order is approved and its legal status is stripped, the church could still operate but would lose its tax exemption privilege as a religious orga-

nization and would face financial setbacks. The request was made a day after Education Minister Masahito Moriyama announced a panel of experts had endorsed the revocation request based on the findings of the ministry's investigation into the church's fundraising tactics and other allegations.

The Japanese branch of the South Korea-based church, which officially calls itself the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification, earlier condemned the government's decision. "It is our deepest regret that the Japanese government made the serious decision based on distorted information provided by a leftist lawyers' group formed for the purpose of destroying our organization, the church said in a statement late Thursday. It will be a stain in Japan's Constitutional history." PTI

## Hamas attacks Israel: 254 Nepali students rescued, returned to Kathmandu on Friday



A group of 254 Nepali students, rescued from the strife-torn Israel and led by Foreign Minister N P Saud, arrived in Kathmandu on Friday. A Nepal Airlines flight that took off from Israel's Ben Gurion International Airport on Thursday landed at Tribhuvan International Airport here this morning after a stopover in Dubai. Speaking to the media at the airport, Foreign Minister Saud, who flew to Israel a day before to facilitate the rescue mission, said the remaining Nepalis who have requested repatriation would be rescued soon.

The minister said 557 Nepalis had provided their details in response to a request from the Embassy of Nepal in Tel Aviv to those wishing to return to Nepal or relocate to safer places. "Out of the 557 Nepalis, 503 had applied to return to Nepal and among them 254 have returned home today with us," he was

quoted as saying by the Himalayan Times newspaper. Minister Saud also said that 54 Nepalis who had requested to be relocated from risky areas have been shifted to safer zones in Israel.

Palestinian militant group Hamas carried out a barrage of air strikes in Southern Israel on Saturday which killed 10 Nepali students. Six students were rescued and one went missing. "A search continues for Bipin Joshi who has gone missing following the attacks. We will share the information as soon as we get additional information on this," Saud said. "The Israeli side has stated that it will take some time for handing over the bodies as it is required to complete the legal process and keep separate details of each and every deceased, and the number of bodies in Israel is currently very high," he said, requesting the families and relatives of the deceased Nepalis to have patience. ANI

## WHO warns health facilities that Gaza Strip at a breaking point

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has warned that the health system in the Gaza Strip is at a breaking point. A release issued by the WHO said that time is running out to prevent a humanitarian catastrophe if fuel and life-saving health and humanitarian supplies cannot be urgently delivered to the Gaza Strip. "Hospitals have only a few hours of electricity each day as they are forced to ration depleting fuel reserves and rely on generators to sustain the most critical functions. Even these functions will have to cease in a few days, when fuel stocks are due to run out," the release added.

The impact, it said, would be

devastating for the most vulnerable patients, including the injured who need lifesaving surgery, patients in intensive care units, and newborns depending on care in incubators. As the war between Israel and Hamas entered Day 7, acute shortages of medical supplies are compounding the crisis, limiting the response capacity of hospitals. "The situation has also gravely disrupted the delivery of essential health services, including obstetric care, management of noncommunicable diseases such as cancer and heart diseases, and treatment of common infections, as all health facilities are forced to prioritize lifesaving emergency care," it said.

Access for emergency medical teams in the field is severely hampered by infrastructure damage. WHO said it has documented 34 attacks on health care in Gaza since last Saturday that have resulted in the death of 11 health workers on duty, 16 injuries, and damages to 19 health facilities and 20 ambulances. "Without the immediate entry of humanitarian aid into Gaza -- especially health services, medical supplies, food, clean water, fuel, and non-food items -- humanitarian and health partners will be unable to respond to urgent needs of people who desperately need it. Each lost hour puts more lives at risk," it said. ANI

## Amid ongoing conflict between Israel-Hamas, X removes Hamas-affiliated accounts, says "No place for terrorist organisations"

In the aftermath of the recent Hamas attacks on Israel, the social media platform X, formerly known as Twitter, has removed hundreds of Hamas-affiliated accounts, stating "there is no place on X for terrorist organisations". "X is committed to serving the public conversation, especially in critical moments like this and understands the importance of addressing any

illegal content that may be disseminated through the platform. There is no place on X for terrorist organisations or violent extremists groups and we continue to remove such accounts in real time, including proactive groups," said the social media platform's CEO, Linda Yaccarino.

The swift response from X was prompted by a 24-hour ul-

timatum issued by European Union industry chief Thierry Breton to Elon Musk, urging him to combat the spread of disinformation on X and ensure compliance with new EU online content regulations. Breton voiced concerns over the platform's alleged use in distributing illegal content and disinformation within the European Union. ANI

## Expression

# Marriage: Increasing pretense - decreasing intimacy



Vijay Garg

Retired Principal Educational  
Columnist Malout Punjab

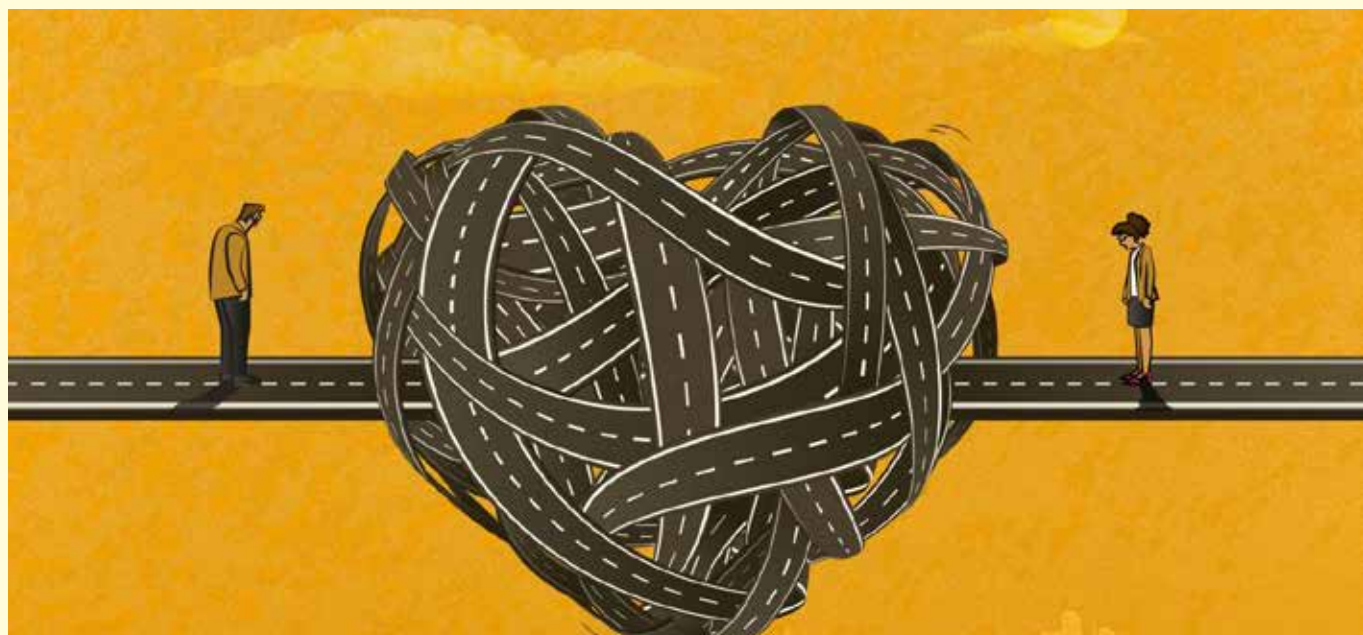
In a time of extreme materialism, every work and relationship is being built on the foundation of money. And that is proving to be a fatal step for the entire human race. The ways in which wealth has started being displayed in marriages is beyond imagination.

Today, man sees marriage as an opportunity to prove the abundance of his wealth and he does so. Believed that there is no better occasion than marriage where money can be spent whereas marriage is a sacrament in which human and social It is expected to be completed while following the limits of values. That is why marriage has got a place among the sixteen sanskars.

Today, if some youth are showing the way to the society then it should be appreciated. But no matter how much someone protests, it cannot be meaningful unless the majority of the society agrees. Time will tell when this will happen in today's age of show off. We will talk about the huge arrangements made in wedding ceremonies and the misuse of the huge amount of money spent in them. Social buildings are no longer in use Well, all these have become useless for marriage ceremonies.

Till some time ago, the tradition of holding marriages in marriage halls within the city continued, but that era is also coming to an end! Now weddings have started taking place in expensive resorts away from the city. It is also becoming a tradition to book big renowned seven star hotels for organizing weddings. Lakhs of rupees have been spent in setting up wedding sets in these hotels. This resort is booked two days before the wedding and the wedding family shifts there visitors and guests directly they come and depart from there.

In a ceremony held at such a distance, only those who have their own four-wheelers are able to reach there and believe it, it is the heartfelt wish of the host of the ceremony that only the guests with cars should come to the reception hall and he



also gives invitations according to that category. There are two or three types of categories that are being kept these days. Seeing such marriages, even the middle and lower classes are not hesitating to spend money on marriages like water. People even focus on their level, status and false glory in marriage.

To perform, they are also organizing expensive weddings by taking loans. There is one more interesting thing. The marriage which was called dream wedding, does not take two moments to break. Where till yesterday divorces were heard of only a few, today they have increased hundreds of times. Who wants to invite only ladies to the sangeet? Who has to be invited only to the reception? Who to invite to the cocktail party? And which VIP family to invite to all these programs. The feeling of belonging has gone away in this invitation. Invite only mean individuals or families is done. In the times of extreme materialism in which every work and relationship has started to be built on the foundation of money and it is proving to be a fatal step for the entire human race, the ways in which money is being displayed in every marriage is beyond imagination. Yes, today a person sees marriage as the only opportunity to prove his abundance of wealth and he believes that there is no better occasion than marriage where money can be spent whereas marriage is a sacrament in which the limits of human and social values are followed. I do is expected to be completed. That is why marriage has got a place among the sixteen sanskars. It is considered

auspicious to meet relatives in this ritual, but in today's weddings, each family stays in a separate room, due to which the eagerness to meet relatives who have come from far away places after years has almost vanished. Because everyone has become rich and has money. Reconciliation and mutual affection has ended.

On performing the rituals, they come out of the rooms when called from mobiles. Everyone considers themselves richer than each other. and this The arrogance of nobility is also reflected in their behaviour. It is said that they have come to a relative's wedding, but their ego does not leave them even here. They spend most of their time in their rooms instead of meeting close ones. Today everything is going against the grain, neither the customs nor the social values are cared for, if it is there then how many types of dishes are there in the menu, how many beverages are there, how is the external decoration, if there is anything missing then the relatives, Friends do not delay in making their adverse comments while Vivalt is a medium to promote social harmony and to avoid the criticism of people who are short of money, wedding ceremonies are becoming more pretentious than ritual.

People remain engrossed in worship, chanting mantras and dancing for more than seven rounds. No one thinks about what problem this is causing to anyone. Now the trend of theme wedding has increased. Due to this, wrong and ostentation is starting to happen in the society. Pictures of the pre-wedding

embrace of the new couple at the main reception gate of the wedding ceremony, directly on our distorted culture. She is seen slapping. Inside, on a man-sized screen at the entry gate, songs, music and dance are playing on film lines filmed during the pre-wedding outdoor shooting of the new couple. Blessing ceremonies do not take place anywhere; the entire family is happy with the deeds of their children.

There is a stage set up nearby where the newlywed couple is seen performing live galas with intoxicated friends and friends, demonstrating the values they have inherited from their family. Friends, man is a social animal. We become the bridge of each other's life It is a human religion. If we have abundance of money. So, understand your destiny and at the same time put a stop to its indiscriminate wastage, and try to support your religious brothers by connecting them with the main stream of society who are victims of economic poverty today. Your money is there, you have earned it, your home is an occasion for happiness.

Celebrate happiness, but do not destroy the honor and respect of yourself and your family by taking a loan against someone else. Spend as per your capacity. 45 hours People invest their lifetime in receptions and no matter how well you do, people will praise you as long as you are in the reception hall. And they will leave after giving you the envelope and paying the price for your hospitality.

# Entertainment

## Aankh Micholi Movie: Actor Abhimanyu Dassani talks about his experience while working for this film, says "Got to learn a lot from them"



Actors Abhimanyu Dassani and Mrunal Thakur are currently gearing up for the release of their upcoming comedy film 'Aankh Micholi'. Helmed by the 'OMG: Oh My God' director Umesh Shukla the film stars Mrunal, Abhimanyu, Paresh Rawal, Sharman Joshi, Divya Dutta, Abhishek Banerjee, Darshan Jariwala, Grusha Kapoor and Vijay Raaz in the lead roles.

Abhimanyu and Mrunal recently shared their experience of working with director Umesh Shukla and actor Paresh Rawal in the upcoming comedy flick with ANI Abhimanyu said, "Got to learn a lot from them. We've been a fan of Umesh Shukla's films like '102 Not Out' or 'OMG: Oh my God'. His films are funny, come with a message and are family films so it's a great combination of everything. We were just students on the film's set, we got to learn a lot from Paresh sir, Sharman Sir and Vijay Raaz sir, everyone is so talented."

Mrunal Thakur said, "Paresh Rawal and Umesh Shukla's combination is so deadly that they do not even need a script, their one-liners start coming on the set itself. And working with them was very interesting because the chemistry between them was so good. To just learn from them was just unique and different because for me this is a genre that I have never explored before. So when you have comedy legends like them in front of you the process becomes smooth." ANI

## Sam Bahadur movie's official teaser out now starring actor Vicky Kaushal impressive dialogues



Makers of the upcoming highly anticipated biopic film 'Sam Bahadur' on Friday unveiled the film's official teaser. Taking to Instagram, director of the film Meghna Gulzar shared the teaser which she captioned, "Zindagi unki. Itihas hamaara. #SamBahadur Teaser out now. In cinemas 1.12.2023."

The film is based on the life of India's First Field marshal and military might, Sam Manekshaw. Helmed by Meghna Gulzar the film stars Vicky Kaushal, Sanya Malhotra and Fatima Sana Shaikh in the lead roles. In the teaser, Vicky is seen as the Field marshal and leading his team of soldiers, motivating them to fight for their country. He also delivered some powerful dialogues like "Ek soldier ke liye uski jaan se zada keemti hoti hai uski izzat... uski wardi...aur ek soldier apni wardi ki izzat ke liye apni jaan bhi de sakta hai." The teaser also featured a glimpse of Sanya Malhotra and Fatima Sana Shaikh. At the end of the teaser Vicky as 'Sam Manekshaw' said, "Soldiers ki duty hai desh ki raksha ke liye dushman ki jaan lena." ANI



## Actress Parineeti Chopra was snapped with new look on airport after wedding

Newlywed Parineeti Chopra on Friday morning was snapped at the Mumbai airport. Several pictures and videos of the 'Uunchai' actor surfaced on social media in which she could be seen flaunting her sindoor.

She kept her airport look stylish yet comfortable as she donned a white sweatshirt and blue jeans. She accessorized her look with big black shades and was seen carrying a luxurious handbag.

The actor was also seen interacting with the paps at the airport. Parineeti and Raghav got married in Udaipur on September 24 in a lavish wedding ceremony. ANI

## Actors Pooja Hegde and Shahid Kapoor to be seen in an upcoming action thriller project

Actor Pooja Hegde will play the female lead in an upcoming action thriller film, headlined by Shahid Kapoor, the makers announced on Friday. Filmmaker Rosshan Andrews, known for Malayalam blockbusters like "Salute" and "Kayamkulam Kochunni", will direct the movie. The as-yet untitled film is about a brilliant yet rebellious police officer investigating a high-profile case. As he delves deeper into the case, he uncovers a web of deceit and betrayal, leading him down a thrilling and dangerous path. PTI

