



Delhi Pollution: Air quality moves into 'severe' category, records 392

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# Afternoon

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## Bursting Firecrackers: Maximum people violated rules but only few got caught



AV Team

People who let off firecrackers in Mumbai during Diwali were supposed to face up to six months in jail, as many as 806 people have been booked by the Mumbai Police for violating the Bombay High Court (HC)'s orders. Booked were those people made complaints. In most of the areas people were bursting firecrackers beyond the permitted time slots, for high deci-

bel firecracker bursting and for running fireworks shops, in violation of Mumbai HC rules and no fear for law but police failed to monitor these areas, besides people also did not make any complaints that is the reason these cases were not reported.

Ahead of Deepavali, the police had issued an advisory for the bursting of firecrackers during stipulated time periods 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Also, as per the orders of the Supreme Court, only green

crackers made of permitted chemicals that are environmental-friendly, can be sold and burst. According to Rule 89 of The Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986, no firecrackers that generate over 125 decibels of sound can be manufactured, used or sold.

Over the past two days, the Fire and Rescue Services control room received several calls from city for assistance to put out fires that had broken out due to the bursting of crackers. The police said

the violators were booked over three days, between November 10, when the HC issued the revised timings for bursting crackers, and November 12 during which 784 cases were registered.

Over the years, celebratory fireworks during Diwali have become a sensitive topic in India, with many Hindus arguing that a cracker ban is discriminatory. Several celebrities, who have done anti-cracker campaigns, have been also accused of hurting religious sentiments.

## Madhya Pradesh Assembly elections on 17th November 23

Editoritis



Dr. Vaidehi

Madhya Pradesh is all set to see a close-fitting electoral contest between the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Congress. Shivraj Singh Chauhan ruled the state for a long period and there is definitely an anti-incumbency, till previous month people especially the business class and government employees were not in favour of him, but somehow frequent Modi rallies and visits of Amit Shah has changed the scenario in favour of BJP. The BJP has been in power for almost 20 years since 2003, except for a brief 15-month period between December 2018 to March 2020. Eighteen years and eight months is a pretty long enough period for developing anti-incumbency. Shivraj Singh Chauhan, who has been Chief Minister for most of this period, is suffering from voter fatigue as per analysts, this fact admitted by the party too,

which is shying away from declaring him as its CM face.

Four opinion polls conducted for the Madhya Pradesh elections so far have predicted contradictory outcomes for the political parties. While two have predicted a clear win for the Congress, two predict a repeat of the BJP government under CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan. The magic figure needed to form a government is 116. According to the ABP-CVoter survey, the Congress could win 108-120 seats out of the 230 seats, while the BJP is projected to finish at a marginally lower tally of 106-118. Another pre-poll survey conducted by IBC24 predicts that the Congress will appear as the clear winner, bagging 119 seats, while the BJP may end up with 101 seats, lower than its 2018 tally of 109.

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# Editoritis

# BJP to checkmate Chhattisgarh govt. with Mahadev Betting App

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*In the meantime, a survey by Times Now, the BJP will have a landslide victory, winning 153 seats in the 230-member Assembly, and the Congress might just get 58 seats.*

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*In the last Assembly elections that were held in 2018, the Congress had stormed to power in the state, along with two other states – Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan.*

In the meantime, a survey by Times Now, the BJP will have a landslide victory, winning 153 seats in the 230-member Assembly, and the Congress might just get 58 seats. The pre-poll survey by News Nation also gave a thumbs up to BJP with a huge majority. While the BJP has maintained that it is going to contest the Madhya Pradesh Assembly elections under the leadership of Shivraj Singh Chouhan, it remains unclear who will be the CM candidates for the other parties – Congress, BSP, Samajwadi Party as well as Aam Aadmi Party. However, for the Congress, the name of former Chief Minister Kamal Nath is speculated. Earlier, BJP national general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya confirmed that Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan will be the face of the party for 2024 Lok Sabha elections. Though Kailash is aspiring to be a Deputy but this is a remote possibility. Kamalnath winning his seat is also very tricky because he has a very strong Congress contender to deal against him. So, the mandate in his constituency is for Congress.

For the Congress, Rajya Sabha MP and former chief minister Digvijaya Singh had said that the Madhya Pradesh Assembly elections will be fought under the leadership of state Congress president Kamal Nath, who will be the CM face. Digvijay Singh has given up his aspirations for the top post and this time rigorously making efforts to bring Congress to power. In 2018, when Nath took over as CM in December following Congress' victory, he was then a Lok Sabha MP from Chhindwara. To continue as chief minister, he had to become an MLA within six months. For this purpose, a by-poll to the Chhindwara assembly seat was held after its MLA Deepak Saxena, a close lieutenant of Nath resigned from the state assembly. The Chhindwara Assembly constituency by-poll was held along with the Lok Sabha elections, which Nath won and later took oath as an MLA.

In the last Assembly elections that were held in 2018, the Congress had stormed to power in the state, along with two other states – Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan. In the 230-member Madhya Pradesh Assembly, the Congress party had emerged as the single largest party with 114 seats against BJP's 109 seats, overthrowing the BJP of its 15-year rule. The schedule for the 2023 Madhya Pradesh elections is yet to be announced by the Election Commission of India (ECI). As soon as the ECI announces the dates of the elections, the Model Code of Conduct

will come into force with immediate effect. The last elections in Madhya Pradesh in 2018 took place in a single-phase for all 230 seats on November 28, 2018. The counting of votes took place on December 11, 2018. There are 230 Assembly seats in Madhya Pradesh. In the 2018 elections, the Congress had bagged 114 seats, short of a majority of 116 seats, and the BJP finished a close second with 109 seats. The Bahujan Samaj Party had won two seats and the Samajwadi Party one seat. Four seats were bagged by Independents. Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan had won his traditional Budhni seat by a margin of 58,699 votes, defeating Congress' Arun Yadav.

Congress leader Kamal Nath was sworn in as the Chief Minister of the state in 2018. However, 15 months later, stumped by the resurgence of party colleague Jyodiraditya Scindia, who joined the BJP and the resignations of 22 Congress MLAs, Kamal Nath had stepped down and resigned as the Chief Minister, following which BJP leader Shivraj Singh Chouhan returned as the CM of the state for the fourth time. There are 74 seats in Madhya Pradesh that Congress hasn't won in the last three assembly elections, while the corresponding number of BJP is only 11. The weak organisation in these 74 seats burdens Congress with having to win the remaining 156 seats at an unrealistically high strike rate. Along with that the polls have suggested a very tough fight there between the BJP and the Congress Kamal Nath Vs Shivraj Singh Chauhan. But after the polls The Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan will have to look over his shoulder and perhaps see other potential chief minister candidates. This year Congress and BJP are locked in a close battle in Madhya Pradesh with most surveys predicting a photo finish similar to the one witnessed in 2018 when BJP won 109 seats and Congress 114 in a house of 230. This year MP assembly election will be a very surprising because we will be able to see both major parties in the same words according to the opinion polls. Lastly, one has to believe "jo jitega vahi Sikandar" who ever wins makes to power.

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## Dealing With Diabetes



- C.K. Subramaniam

**D**iabetes Mellitus is a major growing health problem in India. Its prevalence has been steadily rising and by the year 2025, India would have the world's largest population of diabetics.

Diabetes mellitus is a disorder in which the transport of glucose from the bloodstream to the cells does not function properly. This leads to much higher levels of glucose or sugar in the blood than is normal or on a healthy body. The reason for this could be that your pancreas is not producing enough quality or quantity of insulin or the insulin being produced is not being utilised properly by the body. KAWASAKI an Ayurvedic medicine control diabetes to the normal level if taken along with the prescribed medicines by an allopathic physician.

Thus your body cannot properly use the energy from the food you eat resulting in an increase in thirst, more tiredness and lassitude, changes in weight and frequent passing of urine etc. You will have to live with diabetics so you will have to follow ways and means to control diabetes.

- a. eat a balanced diet and small and regular meals
- b. eat more high fibre foods
3. Reduce intake of fatty foods and alcohol
- d. Avoid all forms of sugar/sweets

The best option is to do regular exercise, which makes insulin work better and this keeps your blood glucose more stable. Exercise burns calories of food you eat and helps you to reduce your excess body weight considerably.

You will have to live with the medicines prescribed by the family doctor and regular monitoring of the sugar level in the blood is most important. Self-monitoring means measuring your blood glucose/urine glucose at regular intervals either at home or in a pathology. Self or home monitoring and consequent control

can result in less frequent visits to the doctor.

It can help to prevent the onset of low blood sugar reaction. It can help to identify the type of food that causes changes in blood sugar levels. Self-monitoring can be done using urine test strips.

**The repercussions/complications of diabetes uncontrolled by medicines leads to**

- a. Leads to partial or total blindness
- b. Leads to heart ailments/or heart attacks
- c. Leads to kidney failure/or the renal failure as per the medical term
- d. Leads to feet amputation

Good diabetes control will reduce the risk or delay the onset of diabetes complications. There is hue and cry about the disease and the number of cases increases day by day in India. However, when you look at the sitting job done by Indians for hours together without proper exercise this is not unusual. Further, the Indians tend to eat too much and used to have protruding pot bellies by the time they reach 40.

One should have the awareness after reading the write-ups on news dailies on Diabetics. Even juvenile diabetics are very common. The wise way of thinking is to have small meals, exercise well and keep the weight under control all the time.

To reduce the weight one must curtail intake of sugar totally, do not consume oily items and Potatoes. With this one can reduce 1 kg in a week and that will lead you to a normal life even with dreaded disease. Even if you ask for a share of the property from your father you may not get as you wish but at the same time both BP and Diabetics will be passed on to you by your parents without asking. Diabetics is totally hereditary and one must know how to forget unnecessary worries. There lies your will power.

## Letters to the Editor

### Plea for a safe Diwali

Every year we waste crores of money on bursting crackers during Diwali. It would be better if we would use the same money for the upliftment of the poor. There are millions of people all over the world who don't even have two square meals of food to eat a day. Instead of spending money on bursting crackers which goes up in smoke, we should donate the same money to an orphanage or a home for the aged. At least the people who are left there to die by their ungrateful children will feel happy.

On the other hand, firecrackers create a lot of noise pollution and cause a lot of distress to animals and birds. We should avoid them if possible, or localise their use in a community to an open field. We should also clear up the mess once the festivities gets over.

The light of Diwali should be within us. It should symbolise our personal relationship between God and our families. Let the light of Diwali penetrate inward, for only then it will have the lasting benefit. A piece of cotton soaked in ghee lit with a pure heart, a conscious mind and a desire to be free from ignorance is far brighter than a thousand expensive electric bulbs or earthen lamps.

A cracker-free Diwali will save the lives of many people. Hence, I would request my fellow citizens to celebrate Diwali without harming the environment.

Jubel D'Cruz

### Delhi's AQI on Top

Air pollution worsened in Delhi amid unfavourable meteorological conditions on Tuesday morning and a relief is unlikely soon. According to IQAir, a Swiss company that specialises in air quality monitoring, Delhi was the most polluted city in the world on Monday, followed by Lahore and Karachi in Pakistan. Mumbai and Kolkata ranked fifth and sixth among the most polluted cities in the world. It's evident that the spike in pollution levels

post Diwali is due to two factors -firecracker bursting and farm fires - with fireworks being the predominant reason in this case. Govt should control over it, before it being out of control, otherwise, many difficulties will have to be faced

TKR.Noori

### Collegium Matter

The CJI, in an informal discussion, told reporters about the multi-stage, difficult process of selecting judges by the Collegium. On the other hand, the Supreme Court has expressed its objection to the arbitrary attitude of the government in the appointment after their recommendation from the collegium. However, the government has once again started putting pressure on changing the current system of the 'Collegium', an institution formed 30 years ago for the election, transfer and promotion of judges.

The government said that a new memorandum of procedure should be made for these three processes and a search and evaluation committee should also be formed, in which a government

representative would also be included. The Supreme Court does not want to involve government people in this process. The senior most judge is in the two-tier (three-member High Court and five-member Supreme Court) collegium.

There are two concepts of political science behind keeping the government away from this process - first, the government formed on the basis of public opinion should be an eternal seeker of votes and second, the government should be the biggest plaintiff in the course. Therefore, his involvement may affect the independence of the judiciary. The CJI said that a large team collects facts related to appointments and promotions and then names are selected after reviewing the quality of judges' decisions.

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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)

## Shiv Sena UBT leader Aaditya Thackeray questions about delay of Mumbai Trans Harbour Link, says "Gives scope to corruption"

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader and former Maharashtra minister Aaditya Thackeray on Wednesday questioned the delay in completion of the Mumbai Trans Harbour Link (MTHL) project and inauguration of the fully completed Navi Mumbai Metro, saying it is adding to their costs and giving scope for corruption.

He alleged the completion and inauguration of these key infrastructure projects are being delayed purposefully. Thackeray said the MTHL, the 6-lane, 21.8km road bridge between Sewri (Mumbai) and Chirle (Navi Mumbai), is now likely to be inaugurated by the end of December.

"The pertinent question



is why this delay? When the MVA government was in office, then-CM Uddhav Thackeray had launched its first girder (of MTHL) and as a minister it was my duty to visit the site every month to track its progress," he

said. "By the time our MVA government was toppled by immoral means (in June 2022), the project was 85 per cent complete. Now, it's taken them almost a year and a half to complete the rest?," the former minister said. Same

is the case with the Worli-Sewri Connector and Coastal Road (South-bound), which were to be completed by October and December 2023, respectively," said the MLA from Worli in central Mumbai.

The state government's "hated" for the metropolis has led to deliberate delay in these projects, causing increase in cost, corruption and inconvenience to Mumbaikars, he alleged. "The Navi Mumbai Metro (11km-long) is awaiting inauguration since the last five months. They (ruling coalition leaders) have time for campaigning in other states (where assembly polls are being held), but don't have time for inauguration of a project in the illegal CM's home district (Thane)," he said, hitting out at Chief Minister Eknath Shinde. "Party first, people last" policy of the ruling Shiv Sena-BJP is damaging Maharashtra, the opposition legislator said. PTI

## CM Eknath Shinde talks about benefits of cycling, says "ensures good health and sustainable environment"



Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde has launched registration for the second edition of HindAyan Cycle Expedition and Race 2024. "Cycling has twin benefits of ensuring good health and sustainable environment," Shinde said while launching the registration from his official residence here on November 13. HindAyan will surely become a symbol of our heritage and national unity, the chief minister added.

Vishnudas Chapke, organiser

of the expedition, said the second edition will be a mix of expeditions. "This year, it is open to the public. General public can participate in HindAyan by doing registration," he said, adding that the expedition will kickstart from Delhi on February 10, 2024, and will travel to Pune via Agra, Jaipur, Gandhinagar, Thane and Mumbai. HindAyan has also organised three stage races, each of 110 km, in the Sindhudurg district of Maharashtra from March 1 to 3 and registration for that too has commenced. PTI

## BJP president Ashish Shelar says, "Special train to Ayodhya will run in January"

Mumbai BJP president Ashish Shelar has said that a "special" train to Ayodhya will run after January 24 next year for Mumbaikars to visit the newly constructed Ram temple. Consecration ceremony

will be held at the Ram temple in Ayodhya on January 22, 2024. Speaking at a function on Tuesday, Shelar said Mumbaikars will be able to take the special train from Dadar to Ayodhya for "darshan" of Lord Ram. PTI

## Cylinder blast: Fire broke out in a three-storey shop at byculla, No injuries reported

At least five persons were rescued from an adjacent structure after a fire broke out in a three-storey shop and resulted in the explosion of two cooking gas cylinders in Mumbai's Byculla area on Wednesday, said an official. Nobody was injured in the incident, but the cylinder blasts caused a few portions of the ground floor to collapse, he said. Earlier, an official had said that the fire was reported from a two-storey building. The blaze started around 7.20 am in a shop on Sakhali Street in Byculla west. After being alerted about the fire, authorities sent at least nine fire engines to the spot.

The fire spread over an area of 5,000-6,000 square feet gutting footwear, leather stock,



garments, glue solution drums, plastic raw materials, household articles and electrical installations in various "galas" (sub-sections) in the shop were gutted, he said. Two LPG cylinders exploded due to fire which further led to flames spreading to the

second and third floors, the official said. Though no injuries were reported, fire brigade officials rescued two men and three women stranded on an adjacent three-storey structure, he said, adding that the fire was put out by 12.30 pm. PTI

## World Cup semi-final match at Wankhede stadium, Police launched probe over "potential disruption"

The Mumbai police have launched a probe after receiving a message on social media about "potential disruption" during the World Cup semi-final match between India and New Zealand in the city on Wednesday, an official said. The threat was posted on X on Tuesday, tagging the Mumbai police's official handle. It also contained the image of a gun, hand gre-



nades, and bullets, the official said. After the threat, the police are maintaining a strict vigil at the Wankhede stadium, where the match is scheduled to start at 2 pm on Wednesday, and surround-

ing areas, the police official said. Mumbai police have launched a probe into the matter and the crime branch has also been roped in the investigation, he added. PTI

# Nation

## Delhi Pollution: Air quality moves into 'severe' category, records 392

The poisonous haze blanketing Delhi thickened on Wednesday with the air quality standing close to the "severe" category amid unfavourable meteorological conditions. The national capital's Air Quality Index (AQI) stood at 392 at 8 am. The 24-hour average AQI, recorded at 4 pm every day, was 397 on Tuesday. It was 358 on Monday and 218 on Sunday.

Air pollution levels entered the severe category (AQI above 400) at many places within the city, including ITO (427), RK Puram (422), Punjabi Bagh (432), IGI Airport (404), Dwarka (416), Patparganj (417), Sonia Vihar (413), Rohini (421), Nehru Nagar (434) and Anand Vihar (430). Neighbouring Ghaziabad (362), Gurugram (322), Greater Noida (312), Noida (364) and Faridabad (369) also recorded



very poor air quality. An AQI between zero and 50 is considered 'good', 51 and 100 'satisfactory', 101 and 200 'moderate', 201 and 300 'poor', 301 and 400 'very poor', 401 and 450 'severe' and above 450 'severe plus'.

According to IQAir, a Swiss company that specialises in air

quality monitoring, Delhi was the most polluted city in the world on Tuesday, followed by Dhaka, Lahore and Mumbai. According to a system developed by the Pune-based Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology to identify the contribution of different pollution sources, stubble-burning

accounted for 12 per cent of the air pollution in the capital on Tuesday. It is likely to be 14 per cent on Wednesday and six per cent on Thursday.

An official of the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) said stringent measures, including a ban on construction

work and the entry of polluting trucks in the national capital, under the final stage of the central government's air pollution control plan called the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) will continue until further orders. "Stubble burning incidents are rising again and the meteorological conditions are not favourable (for dispersion of pollutants). We will review the situation and act accordingly," the official added.

Doctors say breathing in the polluted air of Delhi is equivalent to the harmful effects of smoking approximately 10 cigarettes a day. Prolonged exposure to high levels of pollution can cause or exacerbate respiratory problems such as asthma, bronchitis and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and dramatically raise the risk of cardiovascular disease, they said. PTI

### Assam Satra Mahasabha lodged the FIR against Ajmal for disrespecting a traditional scarf

A police complaint was lodged against opposition AIUDF chief Badruddin Ajmal on Wednesday for allegedly disrespecting 'cheleng', a traditional Vaishnavite scarf. Assam Satra Mahasabha lodged the FIR against Ajmal at Morigaon police station for allegedly throwing away the 'cheleng' from his shoulder when he was presented with it at a meeting in Lahorighat in Morigaon district on Tuesday, police said. The matter came to light when a purported video of the meeting was shown by TV channels. The Dhubri MP, however, claimed that he was passing the scarf to people seated below the dais.

Bimal Chandra Borkakoti, sec-

retary of the Mahasabha, said, "Such disrespect to our honoured 'cheleng' will not be tolerated. We have filed the police complaint against Ajmal." An officer of the Morigaon police station said they are looking into the allegations raised in the complaint and necessary action will be taken according to the law. "There were people seated below the dais and they asked me for the 'cheleng'. So, I passed it on to them. If one looks at the video, one can see that I was not throwing the 'cheleng' but was handing it to them with love," he said. "This controversy is being stirred created by elements that are against the Assamese people," the AIUDF supremo added, without naming anyone. PTI

### Priyanka Gandhi her former party colleague Jyotiraditya Scindia for betraying people's faith

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Wednesday accused Union minister and her former party colleague Jyotiraditya Scindia of betraying people's faith and 'upholding his family's tradition'. Speaking at an election campaign rally in Datia assembly constituency of Madhya Pradesh, she also mocked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for always complaining about how opposition leaders called him names. Scindia quit the Congress and joined the Bharatiya Janata Party in March 2020, toppling the Congress government in Madhya Pradesh in the process.

She had worked with Scindia in Uttar Pradesh, Gandhi said, adding that he has a small physical stature but possesses a big ego.

Congress workers used to complain that they had to address Scindia as 'Maharaj', otherwise he would not do their work, she claimed. "In a way he (Scindia) has upheld his family tradition well, but he has betrayed the trust of the people of Gwalior and Chambal region. He stabbed you in the back. Toppled a govern-



ment which you had voted into power," the Congress general secretary said. Notably, detractors of the Scindia family have claimed in the past that their ancestor and then ruler of the Gwalior princely state did not help Rani Laxmibai of Jhansi when she sought Gwalior's help against the British during the uprising of 1857.

Gandhi further said that prime minister Modi is "top class" in recognising people. "He has gathered traitors and cowards from all over the world in his party. I pity the good workers of the

RSS and BJP, who have struggled for their party for years, because who knows, this army of cowards may take over their party," she added.

The Congress-ruled Chhattisgarh has the lowest unemployment rate while the job situation was very bad in the BJP-ruled Madhya Pradesh, Gandhi claimed. She also took potshots at MP home minister Narottam Mishra, the BJP candidate from Datia, saying he watches films the whole day to see the attire of actors. PTI

### Congress leader Rahul Gandhi questions Adani brothers over issue of "golden passport"

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday questioned why the brothers of the "param mitra" left India during "Amrit Kaal" after reports that some businessmen, including Gautam Adani's elder brother Vinod Adani, were among the 66 Indians who got the "golden passport" in Cyprus. "Why did the brothers of the 'param mitra' leave India during 'Amrit Kaal'? 'Golden passport' means a golden opportu-

nity for theft -- steal public money, form a shell company and spend abroad," Gandhi said in a post in Hindi on X. He said this following media reports that Vinod Adani and Pankaj Oswal were among the 66 Indians who got the "golden passport". The "golden passport" scheme was also called the "Cyprus Investment Programme" after it was introduced in 2007 thereby bringing in foreign direct investments (FDI) into the country. PTI

World

## Bangladesh: Foreign Minister says "Nobody would be allowed to create barriers for upcoming domestic polls"



In a veiled criticism of the US' effort to interfere in the domestic politics of Bangladesh, Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen on Wednesday said nobody would be allowed to create barriers to holding a "free and fair" general election in the country on January 7.

Momen said that the government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is committed to holding

a "free and fair" election and said, "If anyone wants to obstruct the polls, we will not allow that. Nobody can create a barrier; we will punish them." Momen was speaking with reporters at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, according to a report by the United News of Bangladesh. He did not name any country.

"Nobody will be allowed to create barriers to holding the na-

tional election," he added. Earlier, US Ambassador to Bangladesh Peter Hass urged all sides to de-escalate, eschew violence and try to figure out a way to have dialogue without pre-conditions to improve the election atmosphere. "Ambassador Haas has requested meetings with senior officials in all three major political parties to underscore the US position regarding the upcoming elections," the US embassy in Dhaka said in a statement on November 13, Somoy News channel said in a report.

However, responding to a question on Washington's call for a political dialogue, Momen said it is irrelevant what foreigners say. "We don't pay heed to them unless it is practical and reasonable," he was quoted as saying by the UNB. PTI

## Israel- Hamas war: Amid military operation inside the Al-Shifa Hospital, WHO Director says 'deeply concerning'



World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus has said the Israeli military operation inside the Al-Shifa Hospital is 'deeply concerning'. He also shared that the WHO has once again lost connection with the authorities at the hospital. Taking to X, Tedros said, "Reports of military incursion into Al-Shifa hospital are deeply concerning. We've lost touch again with health personnel at the hospital. We're extremely worried for their and their patients' safety."

Meanwhile, Israel Defence Forces have confirmed that they are carrying out precise, and

targeted operation in a specific region in Al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza. The operation is being carried out based on intelligence information and an operational necessity.

The IDF is conducting a ground operation in Gaza to defeat Hamas and rescue our hostages. Israel is at war with Hamas, not with the civilians in Gaza. "Forces include medical teams and Arabic speakers, who have undergone specified training to prepare for this complex and sensitive environment, with the intent that no harm is caused to the civilians being used by Hamas as human shields," the IDF said in an official statement. ANI

## US: Northern Illinois records a magnitude 3.6 earthquake

A magnitude 3.6 earthquake rattled parts of northern Illinois early Wednesday, awakening some residents and spurring reports to 911 about homes shaking, the US Geological Survey and police said.

The small earthquake was detected about 4:41 a.m. local time and was centred about six-tenths of a mile (1 kilometre) south-southeast of Standard, Illinois, the federal agency said.

The town is located about 100 miles (161 kilometres) southwest of downtown Chicago. The temblor occurred about 2.9 miles (4.6 kilometres) below the Earth's surface, the USGS said. Local police agencies said they had received no reports of damage due to the earthquake. Administrative Lt. Doug Bernabei with the Peru Police Department, located several miles north of

Standard, said he was up making coffee when his house shook. Suspecting it might be a quake, he turned on his police radio and heard numerous calls coming into 911 dispatch from residents. "We received voluminous amounts of 911 calls. It was literally one call after another," he said. "It shook my house. It wasn't a rattle, I thought something hit the house. A lot of people were waking up." Bernabei said he had not heard of any reports of damage because of the quake.

He said Illinois Valley Regional Dispatch based in Peru and which covers several north-central Illinois communities received many dozens of calls from residents who felt the quake. A USGS earthquake map indicated that the shaking may have extended into parts southern Wisconsin, southeastern Iowa and northwest Indiana. PTI

## Japan: 9 people taken to hospital after consuming gummies containing substances derived from cannabis

Gummies allegedly containing substances derived from cannabis are under police investigation after nine people who consumed them in Tokyo were taken to the hospital recently, investigative sources said on Wednesday, Kyodo News reported. After eating the gummies, five people in their teens to 50s, fell ill and were taken to the hospital on November 4. The gummies were handed out by a man during a festival held at a park in western Tokyo, the sources said, adding that their symptoms included vomiting.

The man later admitted to handing out the gummies. He said: "Since I ate some myself and felt good afterwards, I wanted everyone else to eat them." The gummies were a product manufactured by a company based in Osaka City in western Japan. The ingredients included HHCH, or Hexahydrocannabinol, according to the Tokyo metropolitan and Osaka governments.



HHCH is a synthetic substance with a structure similar to tetrahydrocannabinol, or THC, a constituent of cannabis, and can cause effects such as hallucinations and memory impairment. According to the health ministry, while THC is banned in Japan, HHCH is not. In another case, four people in their 20s were taken to hospital on November 3

after falling sick at Oshiage Station, a railway station in Tokyo's Sumida Ward, police said. One of them was quoted by police as saying that they felt ill after "eating a cannabis gummy before riding the train." Although the two cases occurred on consecutive days, investigators suspect they are unrelated, police said, as per Kyodo News. ANI

## Expression

# Corruption in Haryana: Facts defy the CM claim



Jag Mohan Thakur

Columnist

The Central Vigilance Commission observed the Vigilance Awareness Week 2023 from 30th October to 5th November, 2023 with the theme: "Say no to corruption; commit to the Nation" with the administering of the integrity pledge to the officials of the Commission. Every year Vigilance Awareness Week is observed as an outreach measure to create greater awareness about the importance of integrity and ethics in public life. All the government departments follow the line, but whether the integrity pledge has any positive effect in eliminating corruption? The Chief Minister of Haryana always speaks on a high note when the issue of corruption is raised.

Almost on every Jan Samvad platform, Haryana Chief Minister, Manohar Lal Khattar claims that his government has eliminated corruption and nepotism. He frequently reiterates that there was corruption and nepotism in the previous government, which our government has eliminated. Earlier the rights of the poor person were snatched. I assure you that now the injustice done to any poor person will not be tolerated, everyone will get justice and everyone will get their rights.

He generally alleges on every stage that Congress during its tenure had promoted three Cs (crime, corruption, caste-based politics) but as soon as we came to power, our government improved these systems by cracking down on corruption and ending caste-based politics.

On completion of his government's nine-year term in office, Haryana Chief Minister, Manohar Lal Khattar, on October 26, 2023 said that in 2014, Haryana found itself in the grip of despair and mistrust. The state was grappling with myriad challenges, and a sense of disillusionment had settled among the people.

Addressing a press conference, the Chief Minister said that the state government's significant



achievements include a robust anti-corruption system that bolsters trust and redirects public resources for the people's betterment. He said that in these 9 long years, nepotism and regionalism were replaced by a commitment to equitable development; ensuring resources are allocated based on need, fostering balanced opportunities.

Supporting Mr. Khattar's claim of corruption elimination, the Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Amit Shah while addressing the 'Antyodaya Mahasammelan' organized on the occasion of completion of 9 years of the Government of Haryana, as the chief guest in Karnal on November 2, said that earlier there was a rule full of fear, hunger and corruption in Haryana and the law-and-order situation was bad. The previous governments here gave jobs to their own people by doing corruption in government recruitments, but the government led by Manohar Lal Khattar gave jobs on the basis of merit and without any kind of corruption.

He alleged that the previous government was a government of Cut, Commission and Corruption. But the present BJP government has eliminated Corruption, nepotism and

regionalism from Haryana during its two-tenure rule.

### What the opposition leaders allege?

The General Secretary of the All-India Congress Committee, former Union Minister and Ex- State President of Haryana Congress Committee, Kumari Selja in a statement released to the media on November 8, alleges that the corruption is rapidly increasing in the BJP-JJP alliance government, leading to a continuous rise in corruption records for the state government. In reality, the state government has failed to control the increasing corruption every day in the state.

Kumari Selja says that the Alliance Government is appointing 15 Chief Vigilance Officers simultaneously, which is an unusual process in a democratic system. The appointment of such a large number of officers indicates that corruption has reached its peak.

Kumari Selja further adds that even though there are vigilance officers in various departments in the state, corruption remains unchecked. Corruption is being encouraged in the state government based on the signals from the people present in the government. Revealing the recruitment of 15 CVOs in the Chief Secretary's

office is enough evidence to understand the current state of corruption in the state. Instead of appointing external CVOs, the state government should grant more power to its officers.

Kumari Selja alleges that the leak of HPSC and HSSC papers, corruption in jobs, and officials accepting bribes are all evidence that jobs are not being given without money. Investigations related to the commission in PWD are ongoing. Scams like the paddy and wheat scandal in the Food and Supply Department, the liquor scandal in the Excise Department, the embezzlement of funds meant for the welfare of laborers in the Labor Department, and the registry scandal in the Tehsil have been discussed continuously.

The Aam Aadmi Party is also noticing corruption at its peak in Haryana. Its Haryana State President, Dr. Sushil Gupta, in a statement issued on October 24, alleges that the first evil of the Haryana government is corruption, which is at its peak today and is continuously increasing. The Khattar government has broken all records in the matter of corruption.

# Entertainment

## Bollywood celebs cheers Virat Kohli's 50th ODI century, calls it 'Legend'

Star cricketer Virat Kohli's 50th ODI century was a moment of national pride for the entire country. Virat completed this accomplishment during India's World Cup semifinal match against New Zealand at Mumbai's Wankhede Stadium.

Several celebrities also cheered up Virat and celebrated his Virat Kohli after his 50th ODI century. Actor Arjun Kapoor took to Instagram stories and wrote, "When hard work meets pure talent. What a player !! legend."

Actor Anupam Kher posted a video of Virat making the century moment on Instagram. He captioned the post in Hindi, "And this is how @virat.kohli created history. And we all Indians rejoiced with pride! Be victorious! Long live!! #WorldCup2023 #Cricket." Actor Bhumi Pednekar wrote on his Instagram story, "Legend."

Actor Sunny Deol posted a picture of Virat and wrote, "The king conquers! Wankhede stands witness to history as King Kohli secures his 50th ODI century, setting a world record. Phenomenal feat by @Virat Kohli."

Actor Soha Ali Khan posted a video from the stadium and wrote, "Legend! Most ODI centuries record !!" **ANI**



## Actor Katrina Kaif talks about 'Tiger 3' success at the box office

'Tiger 3' is roaring at the box office and Katrina Kaif could not be more happier. "It's truly delightful to witness the widespread entertainment that Tiger 3 is bringing to people across the nation this Diwali. It's amazing to see audiences from all corners of the country joyfully dancing in the theatres! The enthusiasm, cheers, and whistles from the audience reflect the incredible time they are having at the cinemas during this festive season," Katrina expressed her happiness.

Helmed by Maneesh Sharma, 'Tiger 3' stars Salman, Katrina Kaif and Emraan Hashmi in the lead roles. In the film, Katrina reprises her role of Zoya. The film minted Rs 44.50 crore on the release day i.e. November 12. It has collected Rs 148.50 crore so far. On this huge success, Katrina further said, "As someone dedicated to providing entertainment, this holds immense significance for me. I take great pride in Tiger 3 and I am elated that each film in this franchise has created enduring memories for the audience to cherish. This year has been phenomenal for Hindi cinema, and I am thrilled that Tiger 3 is being enjoyed by audiences in the theatres." **ANI**

## Actor Alia Bhatt shares pictures of her new stunning look on sets of Koffee with Karan



Actor Alia Bhatt is all set to appear on the sets of Koffee with Karan Season 8 alongside Kareena Kapoor Khan. Alia took to Instagram to share a series of images revealing the attire she wore for the show. She hilariously wrote in the caption, "And that's the tea... I mean Koffee."

Alia looked stunning in a full-body sequined brown gown that she accessorized with platform heels. She chose a glam makeup look with no jewellery. Actors Kareena Kapoor Khan and Alia will be seen gracing Karan Johar's 'Koffee with Karan' couch.

On Monday, Karan unveiled the promo of the upcoming episode in which Kareena and Alia are seen in a candid mood. Karan spoke with the actresses on several topics. **ANI**

Nana Patekar on Wednesday trended on the internet after a video showed the veteran actor smacking a selfie-seeking fan but filmmaker Anil Sharma said it was all part of a scene from his upcoming film "Journey". The video circulating on social media is from Varanasi where the 72-year-old actor is shooting for "Journey" with Sharma and his actor-son Utkarsh Sharma. In the 10-second clip, Patekar is seen dressed in a suit and wearing a hat, getting ready to shoot a scene when the fan comes close to him and tries to click a selfie. **PTI**

## Nana Patekar's viral video: Filmmaker reveals truth of the clip

