

Security of 20 Shinde Sena MLAs slashed as Mahayuti tussle intensifies: Sources

The Y-security cover for these 20 MLAs was provided after their defection from the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena in 2022, which eventually led to the fall of the Maha Vikas Aghadi government.



security cover for some MLAs from the BJP and the Ajit Pawar-led NCP has also been reduced, the number is much less than those from the Shiv Sena. This move is being seen as part of the Fadnavis-led government's initiative to curb the misuse of state resources. Sources said the Y-security cover was granted to these MLAs as an additional perk, despite not being ministers. It was provided to these MLAs after their defection from the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena in 2022, which eventually led to the fall

of the Maha Vikas Aghadi government. This decision is likely to intensify the ongoing tensions between the Shinde Sena and the BJP, with the latest move being perceived as a strategic manoeuvre by Fadnavis to assert his authority. Taking a dig at the apparent discord among the ruling allies, months after securing a thumping win in the Assembly polls, Sena (UBT) MP Priyanka Chaturvedi tweeted, "Mahayuti celebrating valentine month. Not."

The standoff between the BJP and the Shinde Sena, which began over guardian minister posts for Raigad and Nashik -- an issue still unresolved, has spilled on to other areas as well.

Last month, before leaving for the World Economic Forum summit in Davos, Fadnavis named NCP's Tatkare (Shrivardhan) as Raigad's Guardian Minister. This, however, did not sit well with Shinde, already sulking at being denied the Chief Minister's post. Shinde wanted a leader from his party for the post as the Shiv Sena wields considerable influence in the district. However, Tatkare's appointment was withheld in an apparent bid to pacify Shinde.

Sources said Shinde also seems to be avoiding sharing the stage with Fadnavis. Last month, Shinde skipped a meeting of the Nashik Metropolitan Regional Development Authority called by Fadnavis. He was also absent at the inauguration ceremony of Pimpri-Chinchwad Police Commissionerate.

Mumbai. Amid speculation of a widening rift within Maharashtra's ruling Mahayuti alliance, the Home Department under Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has withdrawn the Y-security cover for as many as 20 MLAs of the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena, sources said. While the

Shashi Tharoor Deletes Post Calling CPI(M) "Cannibals" Amid Ongoing Row

Thiruvananthapuram. Amid ongoing controversy over his article praising the Left government in Kerala, Congress Working Committee (CWC) member and MP Shashi Tharoor on Monday withdrew a poster, reportedly from the KPCC, that he had shared on his Facebook page, which referred to the CPI(M) as "cannibals".

Hours after sharing the controversial poster commemorating Kripesh and Sarathlal, the Youth Congress workers who were killed in Periya in Kasaragod district, by CPI(M) workers five years ago, Mr Tharoor made another post, sharing their photos but without any reference to the CPI(M). The deleted poster had featured the photos of the two Youth Congress workers and read: "Our brothers who were murdered by CPI(M) cannibals." In the replacement post, alongside the victims' photos, the

Thiruvananthapuram MP wrote: "I bow in tribute to the memories of Sarath Lal and Kripesh. In a democratic political system, we must remember that violence can never be a solution to differences in opinion." The development comes as he has been under attack from the rank and file of the Congress in Kerala for his article praising the state's entrepreneurial growth under the Left government.

As the controversy over Mr Tharoor's article continued, KPCC chief K Sudhakaran said that he had spoken directly to the MP and given him "good advice." "Individuals can have their own opinions, but the party decides its official stance," Mr Sudhakaran told reporters in Kasaragod, responding to a question about Mr Tharoor's article.

When asked about certain leaders' demanding Mr Tharoor to step down from the CWC, Mr Sudhakaran said: "Let the party decide." "It is up to the high command to make that decision. The party is in the hands of capable leaders. There is no rebellion within the Congress," he added.



Rs 6 lakh crore temple economy drives india's growth: Andhra Chief Minister

New Delhi. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu underscored the significance of India's temple economy, valuing it at Rs 6 lakh crore and calling it the country's largest economic activity. Speaking at the International Temples Convention and Expo (ITCX) in Tirupati on Monday, Naidu highlighted how temple-related activities run year-round, making them a continuous driver of economic growth.

"With India's temple economy valued around Rs 6 lakh crore, I can say that compared to any other economic activity, this is the biggest. It happens 365 days a year—temple darshan or temple town activities. That is the biggest activity. We are all involved

in it," he said. He stressed that donations made by devotees must be used in line with their aspirations. "There is no doubt about it; any government has to abide by and do justice to this," he asserted. This focus on governance and transparency was reflected in his praise for ITCX, which he said promotes AI-driven solutions, fintech, ethical donations, sustainability, security, and financial accountability—aligning with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Viksit Bharat-2047 vision for national development.

Despite advocating for technological integration in temple management, Naidu made it clear that technology could never replace faith.



"Technology is one thing, and God is another. There is no replacement for God... we are all instrumental and ultimately, we have to depend on God. At the same time, we must do our duty," he stated. Shifting focus to India's economic trajectory, Naidu lauded Modi as "the right leader for India at the right time," predicting that the country would become the

world's third-largest economy by 2029 and could claim the top spot by 2047. He also expressed confidence that Indians would emerge as the most influential global community.

As part of his vision, Naidu proposed building Lord Venkateswara Swamy temples in every state capital and in every country with a Hindu population. He noted that Andhra Pradesh alone manages 27,000 temples and sees an annual footfall of 21 crore pilgrims, the highest in the country. The event saw the participation of Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, highlighting the national relevance of temple-driven economic initiatives.

Congress's big rejig with Rahul Gandhi's imprint after Assembly poll setbacks

The Congress appointed new in-charges of 13 states and four Union Territories (Uts), two state presidents and two new general secretaries in a major organisational reshuffle following setbacks in the Assembly polls in Haryana, Maharashtra and Delhi.

New Delhi. After biting the dust in the Assembly polls in Haryana, Maharashtra and Delhi, the Congress has undergone a major organisational reshuffle, bearing the imprint of party MP Rahul Gandhi and his core pitch of social justice. The party has appointed new in-charges of 13 states and four Union Territories (UTs), two state presidents and two new general secretaries in the recent rejig, clearly indicating that the hand-picked people by the high command have got prominence.

Apart from this, a major emphasis has been to bring in people who have experience of building organisational structures from scratch.

REPRESENTATION FROM SCs, STs, OBCs, MINORITIES

The core plank of Rahul Gandhi - ensuring proportional representation to SCs/STs/OBCs/minorities - is seen in the rejig of



the Congress's organisational structure. Out of two newly-appointed general secretaries, Syed Naseer Hussein is a Muslim face from Karnataka, while the other one is prominent OBC leader and former Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel.

Similarly, out of nine new states in-charges, three

are from the OBCs - Harish Chaudhary, Ajay Kumar Lallu and BK Hariprasad. One belongs to the Scheduled Caste category - K Raju, while another is from the tribal background - Saptagiri Ulaka. The recent two appointments of two state unit presidents also amplify similar sentiments - Maharashtra Congress President Harshwardhan Sapkal, an OBC, and Odisha Congress chief Bhakt Charan Das, a Dalit face.

According to party insiders, with the new appointments, the party's decision-making mechanism now has over 70 per cent representation from the marginalised sections. This is in sync with the Udaipur Declaration, which advocates for reservation of party's posts for such sections. Many leaders believe that this social composition in the organisation will give sharpness to Congress's attacks on the BJP-led Centre.

'Accusations Or Unparliamentary Conduct Cannot Solve Problems': UP CM Adityanath

New Delhi. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday expressed hope that the opposition, frustrated by electoral defeat, would not disrupt the Budget Session but rather contribute positively to the smooth conduct of legislative proceedings. Speaking to reporters ahead of the start of the Budget Session (2025-26), Adityanath said the governor's address and the presentation of the budget are crucial events where every member, including the opposition, can put forth their views effectively.

The chief minister assured that the government is fully prepared to respond factually to any issue the opposition raises. He said that the assembly should serve as a platform for meaningful discussions rather than being marred by baseless accusations or unruly conduct.

Adityanath expressed confidence that the governor's address would mark the beginning of a disciplined and constructive approach from the opposition.

"We hope to see the opposition and all members conduct themselves in a manner that strengthens public faith in democratic values," he said.

The chief minister stated that the session would commence with the governor's address followed by discussions on it. The Uttar Pradesh Budget for 2025-26 will be presented on February 20. He said that the session, scheduled from February 18 to March 5, would cover key legislative business, including the passage of the state budget, deliberations on grants, and discussions on public welfare and development issues. Adityanath highlighted that rarely in Uttar Pradesh's history has the assembly been convened for such an extended duration. He stressed that ensuring the smooth conduct of proceedings is not just the ruling party's responsibility but also that of the opposition. "The House should be a platform for discussion and debate," he asserted. The chief minister also pointed out the significant transformation in Uttar Pradesh's perception on a national and global scale under the BJP-led double-engine government over the past eight years.



BJP condemns Karnataka government over delays in guarantee scheme payouts

The BJP accused the Karnataka government of a financial crisis over delayed Gruha Lakshmi and Anna Bhagya scheme payments, while the Congress insisted that funds will be released soon and denied any major lapses.

New Delhi. The Karnataka government's delay in releasing funds for the Gruha Lakshmi and Anna Bhagya schemes has the BJP attacking the Congress alleging a financial crisis in the state. The Congress, however, dismissed any major lapses. Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar dismissed allegations of a funds crunch, calling them a "bunch of lies". He insisted that government collections do not happen overnight and that year-end revenue is coming in as expected. "When the government gets money, we will release it. The government has the funds, and there are no issues," he said. On Anna Bhagya, he asserted that only the media and BJP were raising concerns, while beneficiaries had no complaints. "The money is pending for two to three months, but it will be released this month," he assured. Food and Civil Supplies Minister KH Muniyappa, on the other hand, admitted to a delay but rejected claims of a prolonged backlog. "There are no outstanding payments for four or five months; only two months' payment is pending, and even that will be cleared now. We have been disbursing funds once every two months, but going forward, we will ensure monthly



payments. If the opposition criticises us, it means we are doing our job properly," he said. Union Minister Pralhad Joshi, however, countered the claim, alleging that payments had been withheld for five months. "As far as I know, in lieu of ration reimbursements, the government has not been paying people for the last five months. Lakshmi funds have also not been released for three to four months, and this has now become a pattern for the entire government," he said during his visit to Dharwad district. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah defended the

government, stating that there was "no question of stopping the schemes." He said he was not aware of payments being pending for three months and would verify the details. BJP MLC Ravi Kumar hit back, alleging that the government was struggling financially and unable to fulfil its guarantee scheme commitments. "I want to make it clear that the government has no money left. The state was supposed to provide five kilos of ration every other month, but it has stopped because of a lack of funds. Meanwhile, the central government continues to provide five kilos of rice every month," he said. He also claimed that faculty members in high schools and junior colleges had not been paid for four to five months due to the financial crunch. Kumar further alleged that nearly Rs 1 crore in Gruha Lakshmi payments remained pending for beneficiaries, adding that the government was now contemplating tax hikes to bridge the shortfall. "They are thinking about increasing taxes on electricity, drinking water, milk, and other essential items due to a lack of funds. The budget in March will certainly include tax hikes," he predicted.

BJP claims Karnataka government has no funds left
Congress says welfare payments will be cleared soon
Political battle intensifies over guarantee scheme delays

Being a soldier's wife

Last weekend was my birthday, February 8. It also happens to be the month of love, the Valentine's month. It seemed to be the perfect day to offer this tribute of true love to my husband, the late Brig LS Lidder, who lost his life in the CDS chopper crash in December 2021. The tribute was in the form of a book, straight from my heart.

The book is titled 'I Am a Soldier's Wife'. Well, we got married in 1996 and I have been a soldier's wife since that glorious day... but these words were spoken right after the last rites of my husband, when I was asked by the media, and I said, "I am a soldier's wife, I must give him a smiling sendoff." Never ever have I felt this more profoundly that I need to be the soldier's wife than at that time, when the soldier was gone. This has started on a serious note, so does the book. It starts with the day when we lost him along with the others in the crash. However, like the subtitle of the book — 'The life and love of Toni Lidder' — the book is merely that. An eternal romantic at heart, I love love stories. My own is my favourite. The book is a simple story of true love — a life well lived with precious memories and moments. I always believed that Toni was special. It was after he went that I realised that he was so special to so many people... and that gave me reason to recall and record my life with him. It is a simple, no-fuss book. In fact, you will find yourself in any of the chapters. It is like the Jane and John next door. They are all relatable to any couple, especially the Army ones, for it has glimpses of life as it passes us by, station to station, box to box. Remember, I said the life and love of Toni Lidder, nowhere did I say loss. Yes, we lost him in the physical form, but three years after that day, I can say that he is always with me. These years have taught me that love may not mean togetherness. How else can you explain Radha-Krishna, or Meera-Krishna... true love is faith and devotion, something I can never be short of where Toni was concerned. True love is in the form of Nandi, who has patience, complete surrender and faith as he waits at the door of the Shiv temple, unquestioning about the appearance of the lord. True love is in the form of Hanuman, who is pleased only by the mere mention of Ramji... do you know how many times you say Ram when you chant the Hanuman Chalisa? So, love is independent of physical presence. These analogies are only to justify my faith in the universe and the plan it has for everyone.

We barely ever had an argument and I would tease him — "I love you and you love you!" When we were courting, his classmates used to say: "Geetika talks like Lakhy. In fact, she says something and looks towards him for validation." When we got married, I was told by many elders of the paltan — "Humara sabse honhaar beta hai", until one day, our CO's wife told one of them: "Woh jaisa hai, yeh bilkul vaisi hai..." That was music to my ears.

Within 12 hours of his passing, I told myself, if I break down and shatter into pieces, it'll be pieces of him all around, so I have to collect him within me now and reflect him within me — heaven knows it that I have tried my best to live with that spirit of the soldier within me. He and his memories have ensured that I continue to live in the way that would make him proud, befitting of the Lidder way! He taught Aashna and me to grab moments, make them memories and live a life of meaning, purpose and gratitude. We continue to do that as well as we can. Yes, I have to reset my mind to think of a tomorrow without him in it, but the love we had will keep me warm forever. That love comes to Aashna and me in the form of all our friends who envelop us with their love. The purpose to each day comes from the institution where I serve — Shri Ram School gives me identity and relevance and impacting the children each day in my own small way is a humbling feeling which I am eternally grateful for. AWWA and its outreach and dependability is something that never ceases to amaze me. AWWA president Sunita Dwivedi and all other members make me feel so loved, respected and held.

A gaur-gantuan encounter in the Sahyadri reserve

We had a narrow escape when forest giant gaur attacked us in the Sahyadri Tiger Reserve

It happened on October 13, 2020, that unnerving encounter with one of those forest giants who I thought I had become quite familiar with. It happened in the Sahyadri Tiger Reserve, a little-known reserve in the northernmost frontiers of the Western Ghats. As part of my work with the Wildlife Conservation Trust (WCT), I have spent thousands of hours trekking through this beautiful landscape over the years. That morning was no different. It would be another usual survey for us. Or so we thought. We were staying at the Chandel Protection camp — five of us, a motley mix of forest staff and researchers. The morning started with the usual routine. There was a slight nip in the air that morning. Our team broke off into two. Along with forest guard Dynaneshwar Kale and forest watcher Krushna Wadan, I decided to survey an area reaching up to another camp called Siddheswar. It would be an hour's trek, up a slope, from the spot where we would park our vehicle in the forest.

The walk commenced as planned, and there onwards it was, as I said earlier, 'the usual' fare i.e. collecting data on animal signs as we came across fresh signs of gaur, wild pigs, multiple old droppings of dholes, and fresh scrape marks and scat of a leopard! Exciting, yes, but nothing out of the ordinary for me by then. We reached Siddheswar as planned, without event.

Then, once at Siddheswar, on a whim, we decided to continue our trek a bit further to a place called Siddhtek, a small grassy knoll at the crest-line of the mountain from where one can get a bird's-eye view Oh, and another thing — when you emerge from the Konkan region.

You can imagine the view. I always have thought of such views in the Sahyadri Tiger Reserve as my reward at the end of many an arduous trek. In the thick forests on to Siddhtek knoll, your phone buzzes incessantly! Yes, network coverage — that elusive elixir for all us researchers who spend most of our field stays completely cut off from mobile connectivity. When living in such remote camps inside the forests, the buzz of phone messages gives a long-lasting dopamine high, quite unlike the incessant and instant gratification we're used to in cities.

So, we walked. About 20 minutes into our ascent to



Siddhtek, everyone's phones started buzzing with messages, an indication that we were nearing the crest-line. However, since we were still on the survey, everyone desisted from viewing their phones. As we would soon find out, this proved to be a very sensible decision. We noted fresh hoof-marks of a gaur leading up along the trail. Since I was leading the walk, I momentarily stopped to look back and whisper to my teammates that we should tread carefully to the hilltop.

And then, it happened! No sooner had I whispered those words and turned back to look forward towards the trail, a huge gaur metamorphosed in front of us, barely 15m away, peering from the dense Karvi bush! In a matter of seconds, even before I could fully register what was happening, this bull charged at us at full throttle. His aim was clear — knock these intruders down! Involuntarily, I screamed to my teammates to jump to the side of the trail. We leaped immediately, almost mindlessly, even as the ground thundered under this gaur's hooves, almost as if a train engine

was hurtling towards us. They say when accidents happen, in that critical moment, time slows down almost like it does in those movies. In that moment, I realised what that felt. Time slowed down, and all I saw was this startled gaur speed past me with its massive horns, barely a few centimetres away from tearing through my flesh. And then, suddenly, that slow motion reel ended and there were sounds of great commotion and crash as the gaur, having missed his target, thankfully, sped away on the trail through the bushes.

My heart was almost bursting through my chest. I remember sitting on my knees to calm myself. The others were in a similar state. We had literally just dodged death, or severe injury, at the very least. No one said a word for a few minutes. Then, and some of you may find this to be strange, we burst into laughter. We were certain the gaur was as spooked as we were. We gathered our wits, took a breather and then forged ahead — after all, the stunning view and the scores of unread messages awaited us!

Sajjan guilty

40 years after 1984 riots, it feels like injustice

The conviction of former Congress MP Sajjan Kumar for his role in the 1984 anti-Sikh riots is a grim reminder of the excruciatingly slow pace of justice in India. Over four decades after the horrific violence that claimed the lives of thousands of Sikhs, legal proceedings continue to stagger forward, offering little solace to the victims' families. A Delhi court has found Kumar guilty of murder in connection with the killings of Jaswant Singh and his son Tarundeep Singh in Delhi's Saraswati Vihar. He has also been convicted of rioting, dacoity and other crimes. Yet, this verdict, while significant, does little to erase the anguish of those who have spent a lifetime fighting for accountability. Kumar is already serving a life sentence for another 1984 case and has managed to evade justice for decades. His political influence, coupled with institutional apathy, ensured that the victims' cries were drowned in legal complexities and adjournments.



The 1984 riots were not spontaneous acts of violence but a well-orchestrated pogrom enabled by political and police complicity. The involvement of prominent Congress leaders in inciting mobs was widely alleged, yet accountability was scarce. Investigative commissions were formed, cases were reopened, but convictions remained elusive. While Kumar's sentencing may appear as a step forward, it also underscores the systemic failures that allowed perpetrators to roam free for so long.

For survivors and their families, justice delayed is justice denied. Many have passed away waiting for closure, while others live with the trauma of reliving their loss every time a long-overdue conviction makes headlines. The judiciary's role in delivering justice is crucial, but without political will and institutional reform, such delayed verdicts serve as bitter reminders of how the system protects the powerful while failing the victims.

Universe: True essence of Buddhist practice

The true heart of Buddhism lies in transformation of the mind

In my many years of sharing Buddhist teachings, I have often observed that people are drawn to the external practices of our tradition — the colourful ceremonies, the peaceful monasteries, and the rhythmic chants. While these aspects hold their own beauty and significance, I must emphasise that the true heart of Buddhism lies in something far more subtle: the transformation of the mind. Let me share with you why this is so essential. In their unique ways, all religions aim to help humans become better, more refined, and more creative. Some traditions emphasise prayer, others physical devotion. In Buddhism, we focus on the mind itself — that ever-flowing stream of thoughts, emotions and consciousness that shapes our entire life experience.

Think of it this way: these actions are relatively straightforward when you move your hand or speak a word. You can see them, measure them, and correct them quickly. But the mind? Indeed, the mind can be challenging to control. It is subtle, quick, and often seems to have a will of its own. This is why mental transformation is both the most challenging and crucial aspect of spiritual practice. I am deeply heartened to see a growing interest in Buddhism worldwide. However, what matters most is not the spread of Buddhism as a religion, but the genuine understanding of its essential teachings. Without this understanding, even the most elaborate temples or the most dedicated recitation of scriptures may miss the true purpose of Buddhist practice. Let me offer an example

from everyday life. Imagine someone walking around a temple, performing the traditional circumambulation. From the outside, it appears to be a perfect act of devotion. But what is happening in their mind? Perhaps they are chatting with a friend about mundane matters, simply passing time on a long day. Or, more troublingly, they might be harbouring thoughts of revenge, planning deception, or nurturing anger. In such cases, though the body moves in circles around the sacred space, the mind moves in circles around negativity. Similarly, one may recite the holiest of mantras, but harmful thoughts may consume their mind. The mouth speaks of compassion while the heart holds onto hatred. This is why I often say that actual Dharma practice — true spiritual practice — takes place not in the monastery, but in the mind.

So, how do we train the mind? Let us consider a common human experience: anger. Anger can feel overwhelming, akin to a fire that requires nourishment. In these moments, the practice of mind transformation begins. Instead of letting anger dictate your actions, pause. Reflect rationally on the situation. Consider that the person who has sparked your anger, just like you, wishes to be happy and free from suffering. They too have known pain, confusion, and the struggle to find peace.

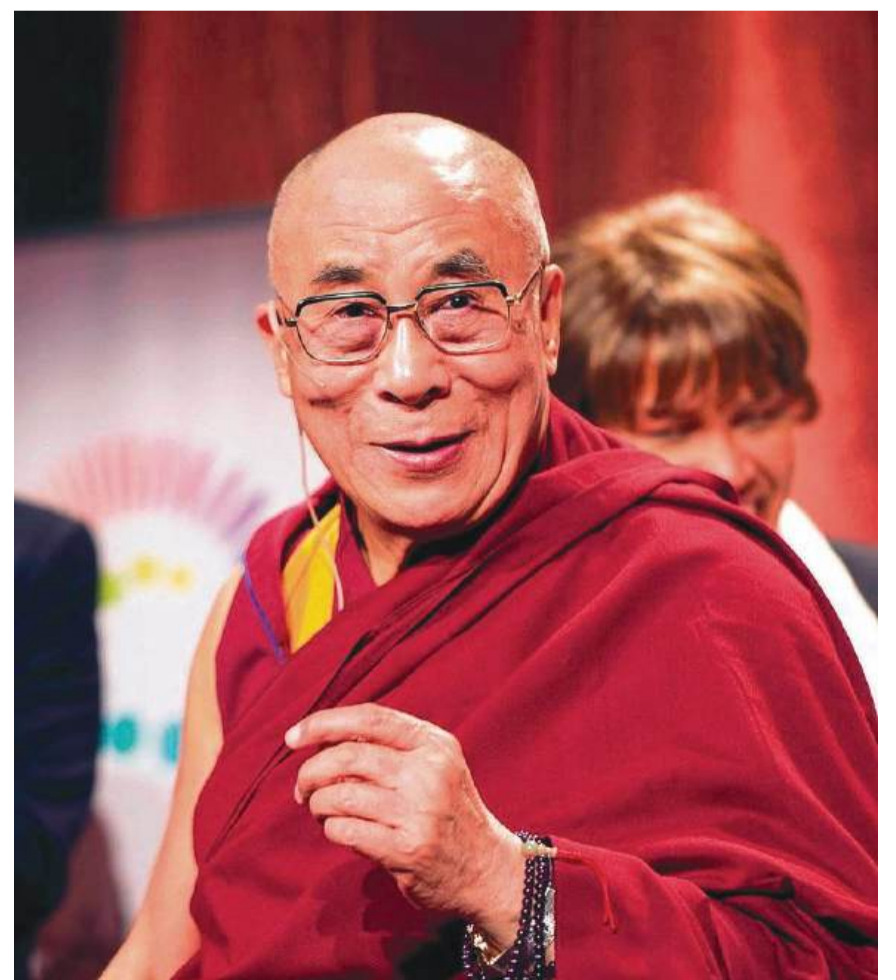
Ask yourself, "If I claim to follow the path of Buddhism, if I begin each day with prayers for the welfare of all beings, how can I now harbour thoughts of harm? How can I face the teachings of compassion while nursing

grudges and plotting revenge?" This self-reflection is not about guilt or self-condemnation but gentle, honest awareness. Through such contemplation, you can gradually dissolve harsh attitudes and angry feelings. Like ice melting in warm water, negativity naturally subsides when exposed to the warmth of compassionate understanding. In its place, gentleness and kindness can arise naturally, born from the wisdom that sees the fundamental interconnectedness of all beings.

This is the true meaning of Dharma practice — not the external actions, but the internal transformation. When the mind is filled with virtuous thoughts, there is no room for negativity. It is like turning on a light in a dark room — the darkness cannot persist in the presence of light.

Remember, even seemingly negative situations can yield positive results when approached with a mind of kindness and wisdom. This is the profound potential of mind transformation. It is not about suppressing our thoughts or forcing ourselves to be 'good'. Instead, it is about cultivating a more profound understanding that naturally leads to compassionate action.

As you practice this transformation, be patient with yourself. The mind's habits are deep and formed over many years, but they can be changed through consistent, gentle effort. This is the journey of Buddhist practice — not a destination to reach, but a continuous awakening to our true nature of wisdom and compassion.



Katrina Kaif

Is Impressed With Vicky Kaushal's Performance In Chhaava, Says 'You Truly Are Outstanding'

Vicky Kaushal and Rashmika Mandanna starrer Chhaava has finally released today. The periodical drama has been creating a buzz for a long time. Well, the film has been getting an overwhelming response from the audience. Katrina Kaif has also reacted and praised Vicky's performance in the film. She has penned a long note and called the actor 'outstanding'. Taking to her Instagram handle, Katrina Kaif shared the poster of Chhaava featuring Vicky Kaushal and wrote, "What a cinematic experience and what a monumental task to bring to life the glory of Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj, @laxman.utekar tells this incredible story in the most brilliant way, im in awe, the last 40 min of the film will leave you speechless. I've spent all morning wanting to go and rewatch it again. I'm lost for words at the impact of this film @vickykaushal09 you truly are outstanding, every time you come on screen, every shot, the intensity you bring on screen, you are a chameleon the way you transform to your characters, effortless and fluid, I'm so proud of you and your talent... #DineshVijan what is there to say you are a true VISIONARY... you support and put your conviction in what you believe in and a carving a new trail of brilliance. The entire cast are phenomenal.... This is a film for the big screen ... so proud of the whole team."

At the premiere of Chhaava, Vicky Kaushal made a striking entrance, flanked by his wife Katrina Kaif, by his side. The couple, hand in hand, walked down the red carpet, immediately becoming the cynosure of all eyes. Vicky looked dashing in a sleek black suit accented with subtle sequin embroidery along the shoulders. Meanwhile, Katrina was resplendent in a powder blue sequin saree.

Vicky Kaushal and Katrina Kaif are one of the most adored couples in Bollywood. Recently, the diva took to her Instagram stories and shared a video of her husband Vicky Kaushal. The clip shows Vicky Kaushal having a small laugh. After this, he tells his "Vichitra kintu satya praani hai aap (You are a strange but honest creature)." The 'Namaste London' actress captioned the clip, "My dear hubbys description of me", along with an angel emoji.

Directed by Laxman Utekar, "Chhaava" will see Kaushal in the role of Maratha emperor Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj, who was the son of Maratha empire founder Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. It is produced by Dinesh Vijan of Maddock Films. For Kaushal, the movie marks the third time he is stepping into the shoes of a historical character, after playing revolutionary Udham Singh in "Sardar Udham" and India's first Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw in "Sam Bahadur"



Nick Jonas Shares An Unseen Pic Of Daughter Malti Marie Enjoying Piano With Grandfather Kevin Jonas



Priyanka Chopra and Nick Jonas's daughter Malti Marie is one of the most famous star kids. Her photos have always gone viral on social media. Today, also Nick Jonas shared another unseen photo of his daughter to wish his father Kevin Jonas happy birthday. Taking to his Instagram stories, Nick shared a photo in which we can see Malti sitting on Kevin's lap and enjoying the piano. She is happy and wears all winter wears. Nick wrote alongside, "Happy birthday @papakjonas, we love you so much." Earlier, Priyanka Chopra posted an adorable photo of the birthday boy embracing Indian culture. In the photo, he is seen donning traditional attire from Chopra's brother, Siddharth Chopra's wedding while he poses with his hand on his chest. "Celebrating you and your big 60 today. Keep shining brighter than ever. Lots of love, always," read the caption.

Priyanka Chopra was recently in India along with her family to attend her brother Siddharth Chopra's wedding festivities. Priyanka Chopra and Nick Jonas opted for a pastel-coloured ethnic ensembles. The couple posed for the cameras and greeted the paparazzi with folded hands. They gave a couple of adorable poses before they headed to a family event in Mumbai. Priyanka Chopra is currently shooting for her next film SSMB29 with Mahesh Babu. The film shooting is going on in Hyderabad. The official pooja ceremony for this SSMB29 was held on January 2. The ceremony was held strictly private, and no pictures or glimpses from the same were released by the makers.

Mahesh Babu and SS Rajamouli's highly anticipated film SSMB29 is officially underway. While the spotlight has been on this exciting pairing of Mahesh Babu and Priyanka Chopra, the film promises to bring together a diverse array of talented artists from around the world. However, the full list of cast and crew is yet to be revealed, leaving fans eagerly awaiting more updates. SSMB29 is set to be produced in two parts, with the first instalment expected to release in 2027 and the second instalment by 2029. Mahesh Babu will be playing the male lead.

Bipasha Basu, John Abraham Had 'Lots Of Issues' During Billo Rani Shoot, Broke Up Days Before: Vivek Agnihotri



Bipasha Basu and John Abraham used to be in love with one another and starred in films like Jism, Goal and Madhoshi among others. The song, Billo Rani, from Goal, is among their most remembered songs together. Recently, director Vivek Ranjani Agnihotri took to X and recalled the song's shoot and 'history'. Vivek wrote, "This song has a history. Producers didn't want it. Javed Saab was against the hook 'Billo Rani', Pritam wasn't sure about the qawwali style. John and Bipasha had a break-up just a couple of days before it so there were lots of issues. But only the Late Saroj Khan believed in me. She said this will become the biggest hit and it did. Big salute to Pritam, Javed saab and Saroj ji."



Bipasha and John dated for nine years. Their relationship reportedly started around the time they were shooting for the 2003 film Jism, which had become quite controversial during the time of its release for its bold content. Fans were almost certain that the relationship would culminate into marriage, as they were always seen together at several events. But, after almost nine years of dating, they decided to mutually part ways. The exact time or reason behind their split is still not known, with most reports claiming they had parted ways in 2011. The reason behind the split has also given rise to speculations, as the estranged couple never elaborated on it publicly. Bipasha, in an interview with TOI, had said that the break-up was "definitely not amicable." John, in an interview, claimed that it was "very amicable and there was nothing ugly about it." Meanwhile, John Abraham is all set to be seen in a politically intense thriller The Diplomat. The trailer has finally been released and looks like it has also impressed fans. The film also stars Sadia Khateeb, Sharib Hashmi, Revathy, and Kumud Mishra. The trailer pays homage to her pivotal efforts in 2017, supporting Indian diplomat JP Singh in bringing 'India's daughter' back home.

Diana Penty

Channels Her Inner Shehzadi Zinat-un-Nissa For Chhaava Screening

The much-awaited period drama Chhaava has hit the screens, and the team hosted a special screening recently in Mumbai. The event was attended by many popular faces from the industry along with the cast members of Chhaava. Diana Penty, who plays the role of Shehzadi Zinat-un-Nissa in the film, was also seen at the screening. Her character was revealed a day before the film's release and fans have been looking forward to seeing her in this new role. For the screening, Diana Penty opted for a silk sharara set. The kurta featured a V neckline with embroidery on the edge and red floral print on the hem. She paired it with a matching flared bottom. The dupatta had a similar floral pattern and was left loose on one side. The actress accessorised the dainty look lightly and left her hair open.

Just a day before the release of Chhaava on the big screen, Maddock Films surprised fans by revealing the cast members' appearances. One of the posters showed actress Diana Penty looking lovely in a royal outfit. Dressed in a pink Anarkali suit and traditional jewelry, the actress exuded a graceful charm with passion in her gaze. "Grace, intellect, and quiet rebellion—meet Shehzadi Zinat-un-Nissa," read the caption. The historical drama Chhaava stars Vicky Kaushal, Rashmika Mandanna, Ashutosh Rana, Divya Dutta, Akshaye Khanna,

Vineet Kumar Singh, and Santosh Juvekar in pivotal roles. The film is based on the life of Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj, the eldest son of the Maratha Empire's founder. The film, directed by Laxman Utekar and produced by Dinesh Vijan, promises to tell a captivating story about the valour and legacy of one of India's most respected



kings. Next, Diana Penty has Mithun Gangopadhyay and Nishant Nayak's project Daring Partners. The series, which stars Tamannaah Bhatia and Nakuul Mehta, will be available for streaming on Prime Video. She will also appear in Diljit Dosanjh and Boman Irani's film Detective Sherdil. Before this, she was seen in Azaad with Ajay Devgn, Rasha Thadani, Aaman Devgan and others. The film was released last month and received mixed reviews.

